

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – February 10, 2010

Community Reception Honors Oberlinians of the Year

Erik and Michele Andrews, named by the *Oberlin News-Tribune* as the **Oberlinians of the Year**, will be saluted at a reception on **Sunday, February 21, from 2-4 p.m.**, hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center and the News-Tribune, in cooperation with First Church, U.C.C. and the Oberlin Schools. This free, community event will be held in the JFO Room of The First Church of Oberlin, United Church of Christ, located at the northwest corner of Main Street (SR 58) and Lorain Street (SR 511). Upon arrival, use the double-door entrance on the northwest side of the community building adjoining the original Meeting House. Plan to stop by, enjoy light refreshment, and help applaud and show appreciation to these Oberlin Heritage Center members, fabulous community volunteers, and all-around great citizens of Oberlin.

Freedom's Friends: Oberlin, the Underground Railroad, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument

This **Black History Month program**, hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center on **Tuesday, February 23, at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium, features **Elizabeth Schultz**, the Heritage Center's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, and showcases Oberlin's important role in the history of abolition and the Underground Railroad. Kendal resident, **Paul Arnold**, an Oberlin Heritage Center Honorary Trustee and Oberlin College Emeritus Professor of Art, also will take part in this illustrated presentation, commenting on Oberlin's Martin Luther King, Jr. monument, which he designed. The program is free and open to the public. There will be an **encore presentation** of the program (although without Professor Arnold's commentary) on **Thursday, March 4 at 7 p.m.** at the Lorain County Metroparks' Vermilion River Reservation (51211 North Ridge Road, Vermilion).

Winter Term: Hands-On Museum Work at the Oberlin Heritage Center

Find out what the Oberlin Heritage Center's Oberlin College student interns learned from their winter term museum experiences by reading their blogs on the Heritage Center's [website](#). Our great team of college student interns who were on-site for the month of January helped the OHC staff take big strides in tackling a broad span of research and collections care projects.

Save the Dates

Boys and girls ages 8-13 will have a great opportunity to learn about preserving and sharing local history in many forms during the Heritage Center's **Spring Break History Explorers Camp** the week of **March 29 through April 2** (Monday through Friday) from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Among the ways that campers learn to preserve the past will be through games, crafts, history walks, and using modern technology. The fee is \$95 per child (\$85 for children and grandchildren of Oberlin Heritage Center members) and there is a \$5 discount for all who register by March 17, 2010. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or contact (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, April 7**, when the Oberlin Heritage Center hosts its **Annual Meeting and Banquet, and Ninth Annual Community Awards Presentations** at the Oberlin Inn (7 North Main Street). The evening's featured speaker will be Oberlin College President (and Oberlin

Heritage Center member) **Marvin Krislov**, addressing “The College and the City: What Lies Ahead.” A reservation flyer will be sent soon to OHC members; you may also find out more by visiting www.oberlinheritage.org or calling (440) 774-1700.

Western Reserve Heritage Area Study

A feasibility study for designating the Western Reserve as a National Heritage Area has been requested by the U.S. Congress and is currently under the coordination of the National Park Service. The feasibility study includes an evaluation of the region’s unique historical, natural, recreational and cultural resources to determine their national significance, as well as an examination of local support and ability to coordinate a national heritage area should a designation be approved by Congress. The study area for the Western Reserve Heritage Area includes all or portions of present-day counties of Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, Portage, Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, Huron, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa and Ashland. Town Hall Gatherings are being held to present information about national heritage areas and the feasibility study, as well as to hear comments from those within the study area. “The Town Hall Gatherings are the most important components of the feasibility study,” said Rory Robinson, Study Team Leader with the National Park Service. “We look forward to listening to the citizens of the Western Reserve and learning about their stories, resources, and cultural traditions.” The Gatherings are scheduled throughout the Western Reserve through February 25. These informal meetings will be held 4-8 p.m. and include presentations by the National Park Service at 4:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. National Park Service staff and members of a Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Steering Committee will be on-hand to answer questions. These gatherings will provide opportunities for the public to provide input. Upcoming meetings include:

February 11: Sandusky City Services Center, 1024 Cement Avenue, Sandusky, OH

February 16: Reed Memorial Library, Jenkins Room, 167 East Main Street, Ravenna, OH

February 17: Kent State Trumbull Campus, Lecture Hall A, 4314 Mahoning Avenue NW (SR 45), Warren, OH

February 25: Medina County District Library, Room A, 210 South Broadway, Medina, OH 44256

There are currently 49 national heritage areas in the United States, including two within the State of Ohio: Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area in northeast Ohio and the National Aviation Heritage Area in southwest Ohio. Each national heritage area has a local organization responsible for working with local communities in setting and implementing activities and goals. To learn more about the Western Reserve Heritage Area Feasibility Study, visit <http://westernreserve.ning.com>, or call Rory Robinson with the National Park Service at (330) 657-2951.

Good Reading for Winter Evenings

Roland M. Baumann, emeritus archivist and professor of history at Oberlin College (and also an Oberlin Heritage Center member and Honorary Trustee) is the author of a new book, “**Constructing Black Education at Oberlin College**,” a comprehensive 175-year history of the education of African American students at the College. Reviews of the book suggest that historians, students and lay readers alike will find much value in Baumann’s documentary history. Available at Mindfair Books (440-774-6463) and the Oberlin Book Store (440-774-7722) or order online for a 20% discount at www.ohioswallow.com.

The American Association of Museum’s Center for the Future of Museums helps museums explore the cultural, political and economic challenges facing society and devise strategies to shape a better tomorrow. Subscribe to

the “**Dispatches from the Future of Museums**” by clicking [here](#) – the e-mail subscription is free and provides a lot of interesting articles on a variety of topics.

Follow **Nick Jones**’ blog “**The World’s Museum**” at <http://worldsmuseum.blogspot.com> and find yourself inspired to experience the whole world as a wonderful museum. Open your eyes to the fine art, film, music, literature and more that is all around you. Jones is an Oberlin College Professor of English and a Board Member at the Oberlin Heritage Center.

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Mary Anne Cunningham, Assistant to the Director
Oberlin Heritage Center
73 1/2 South Professor Street, MPO Box 0455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
(440) 774-1700; www.oberlinheritage.org

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