

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – March 13, 2010

Gold Rush Program a Great Adventure!

No Blarney – there’s a Pot O’Gold to be found in the Heritage Center’s **March 16** program by **Dr. Charles E. “Eddie” Herdendorf** as he brings to life “**The Gold Rush of 1849: Adventures of Lorain County’s Buckeye Company on the California Trail.**” Herdendorf recalls the travel log and letters of his great-great-uncle, Henry Garfield, of Sheffield, Ohio, who embarked with several other men from northeastern Ohio on a six-month overland adventure to the gold fields of California. Professor Herdendorf and his wife, Ricki, repeated Uncle Henry’s journey in 2007. Join them in re-living the ’49-ers venture which included steamboat explosions on the Missouri River, Native American encounters in Nebraska, buffalo hunts, rattlesnake dinners, torturous deserts and rugged mountains to cross, and for some – the ultimate reward of finding gold! Free and open to the public. 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium.

Take Advantage of Early Bird Discount for Spring Break Camp!

History Explorers Camp for boys and girls ages 8-13 takes place **March 29 through April 2** (Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Campers will enjoy the chance to experience local history through games, crafts, history walks, and using modern technology to help preserve the past. Fee is \$95 per child (\$85 for children and grandchildren of Oberlin Heritage Center members); **there is a \$5 discount for all who register by March 17, 2010.** Location: Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street), with some supervised walking trips around Oberlin as the weather permits. Register [online](#) or contact Liz Schultz (440-774-1700; tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) for more information.

Tips for Planning Your Heritage Home Rehab Project

Kerry Adams, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist at the Cleveland Restoration Society, will provide pointers to owners of homes built 50 years ago or more to help your next home improvement project go more quickly and smoothly. Join us for this one hour session at the Oberlin Public Library on Wednesday, **March 24** at 7 p.m. to learn more about planning your home rehab project, including what parts you should and should not undertake on your own, how to review bids, and how to choose the right contractors. Co-sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center, the Cleveland Restoration Society, the City of Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission and the Lorain County Preservation Network. Free and open to the public.

Easter Egg Hunt In Downtown Oberlin and at the Heritage Center

Two thousand four hundred (2,400) eggs will be hidden in three downtown Oberlin locations in this traditional community event for children that takes place this year on Saturday, April 3. The egg hunt for children aged infant (0) to three (3) begins at 10:45 a.m. on the front lawn of the New Union Center for the Arts, 39 South Main Street. The egg hunt for children aged four (4) and five (5) begins at 11:00 a.m. on the front lawn of the Oberlin Inn, 7 North Main Street. The egg hunt for children aged six (6) to eight (8) begins at 11:15 a.m. near the Little Red Schoolhouse on the grounds of the Oberlin Heritage Center, 73 South Professor Street. All egg hunts are free and open to children aged infant (0) to eight (8) and their families. Children must provide their own basket, bag, or container for collecting eggs. The Easter Egg event in downtown Oberlin is presented by Oberlin Main Street-Chamber and is sponsored and supported by Ben Franklin & MindFair Books, the Oberlin Bookstore, the Oberlin Heritage Center, the Oberlin Inn, the Oberlin Senior Center, the New Union Center for

the Arts, and Walmart. For more information about the Easter Egg event call Oberlin Main Street-Chamber at 440-774-6262. Families may enjoy combining the egg hunt with "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny," 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., at the Oberlin Inn, 7 North Main Street. The cost for the breakfast is \$6.75 per person. Reservations for the breakfast are accepted until Friday, April 2. For more information about the breakfast, call the Oberlin Inn at 440-775-1111.

Annual Meeting Features Marvin Krislov and Award Recipients

Make your reservation now for the **Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Banquet, Meeting and Community Awards Presentations** at the Oberlin Inn (7 North Main Street) on Wednesday, **April 7** (beginning at 5 p.m. with a Social Hour; 6 p.m. Dinner; and 7 p.m. Program and Brief Business Meeting). The evening's featured speaker is Oberlin College President (and Oberlin Heritage Center member) **Marvin Krislov** with an update on "**The College and the City: What Lies Ahead.**" Plan to applaud the Heritage Center's 2010 recipients of these community awards: **Scott Broadwell** (Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year), **Norman C. Craig** (Heritage Guardian Award), **Mary Enos** (Youth Community Service Award), **Ronald J. Gresco** (Community Teacher of the Year), **Phyllis Yarber Hogan** (Community Historian Award), and **Watson's Hardware/Jerry Anderson** (Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award). Tickets are \$30 for the general public (\$25 for Oberlin Heritage Center members). You may make your reservation [online](#) or call (440) 774-1700 to request a reservation form.

Volunteer, Make New Friends and Be a Great Community Ambassador!

Enjoy doing new things, helping others, and making new friends? And if you happen to love Oberlin history – or want to learn more about it – that's icing on the cake! Consider becoming an Oberlin Heritage Center volunteer docent – talk to Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, Liz Schultz, to make arrangements to take a complimentary tour first to see whether docenting is your "cup of tea." Our next **Docent Training Introductory Workshop** takes place Sunday, **April 11** (1 – 5 p.m.), and is free and open to anyone age 18 and older. We ask that docents commit to leading at least four tours per year. This fun and diverse group of all ages and backgrounds also meets periodically for informational gatherings, field trips, and more. [Register](#) by April 8. Location: Monroe House. (P.S. - If you are between 13-17 years of age, consider becoming a Junior Docent by attending our [Summer Camp](#).)

Oberlin Heritage Center Becomes New Owner of Downtown Property

The Oberlin Heritage Center has entered into an agreement to purchase the one-story downtown Oberlin building at 82-84 South Main Street through its newly formed Vineway Limited Liability Company (LLC). This property is adjacent to the Oberlin Heritage Center's complex of historic sites and currently houses three tenants: Lupita's Restaurant, the Mandarin Restaurant and the Oberlin Public Library facility called The Bridge. These tenants understand that we wish them to remain. The property will remain on the tax rolls. This property is strategically very important to OHC as its acquisition will help to better accomplish our mission by establishing a stronger presence in downtown and providing improved vehicular access and additional parking for the Heritage Center. We are able to purchase this property thanks to a major grant from the Richard R. Hallock Foundation, as well as another generous bequest. This purchase will bring additional revenue into the organization over time and diversify our investments. It will be managed by a professional property manager. As one Board member said, "We are investing in Main Street." For more information, visit the Oberlin Heritage Center [website](#) or contact Board President Jim White (440-774-6893; jdub@oberlin.net) or Vineway President Walt Edling (440-774-8527; margedling@oberlin.net).

Proud of Our Town

The National Trust for Historic Preservation celebrates the people and places that tell stories of the contributions of African Americans throughout our nation's history. Liz Schultz's [essay](#) on Oberlin as one of the "places that matter" in African-American history will make you proud of the community's role in the anti-slavery movement, the Underground Railroad, and the struggles for equality that continue to this day. Visit the "Issues / Diversity" section of www.preservationnation.org for more information.

Our Lorain County neighbors to the south in the Village of Wellington have much to be proud of for being named one of the top ten Best Old House Neighborhoods in the Midwest by *This Old House* magazine. For more, visit the magazine [online](#) or check out *The Chronicle-Telegram's* February 25, 2010 feature [article](#) for more in-depth local coverage. The nomination was made by Oberlin Heritage Center member and Wellington homeowner, **Nicole Hayes**.

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