



Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – March 2013

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Reserve Now for OHC's Festive Annual Meeting and Get the Early Bird Rate!

The always-upbeat Oberlin Heritage Center Annual Meeting and Banquet takes place at the Oberlin Inn on **Wednesday, April 3**, beginning at 5 p.m. with a Social Hour (cash bar), followed by dinner at 6 p.m., and an entertaining first-person presentation by **Charlene Connors** of the Lakewood (Ohio) non-profit, *Women in History*. She will portray early 20th century Cleveland area con artist, **Cassie Chadwick**, whose targets included the Citizens' Bank of Oberlin – find out how her deceitful actions both hurt and helped this community. A brief business meeting, including the presentation of the 12th Annual Community Awards, will round out the evening (*read further on in this newsletter to find out who are the 2013 recipients*). Reservations are \$33 per person (\$28 for OHC members) until March 21; after that date, reserve your place for \$38 (\$33 for OHC members). RSVPs are requested by March 28 and may be made online at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 to request a reservation form.

Spring Break Camps for Kids: Explore the Past with Friends Old and New!

You say you can't wait for Spring Break to arrive, but you may be wondering what you will do to fill up a whole week of not seeing your school friends? Here's the answer: Come to the Oberlin Heritage Center's Spring Break Mini-Camps for Kids ages 8-13, and take a journey into the past that's fun, creative and a great way to hang out with friends old and new. Choose one or both: **Pony Express and Printing Press (March 25 & 26)** to find out more about the different ways people sent messages to each other in the "old days," or **Gods and Glory: Ancient Greece (March 27 & 28)** to see if you have what it takes to become a Greek Legend! Each two-day camp will be held at the Oberlin Depot (140 South Main Street) from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee: \$45 (\$40 for children/grandchildren of OHC members). Register by March 9 to receive an additional "early bird" discount. Register online at www.oberlinheritage.org or contact Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) for more information.

Religion and Reform Share Historic Partnership in Oberlin

Former Oberlin Heritage Center intern and volunteer, **Matthew Hintz**, recently completed a master's thesis in American History at Clemson University. His illustrated presentation "**Paradise Found: Religiosity and Reform in Oberlin**" takes place on **Wednesday, March 27 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium. Intense spiritual revival flourished on the 19th century "frontier" where traditions were weak, cooperation a necessity, and egalitarian democracy reigned. Hintz discusses how religious fervor spearheaded Oberlin's progressive push for human rights and various social changes such as temperance and abolition. The event is free and open to the public.

Docents Learn Ins and Outs, Upstairs and Down

The Oberlin Heritage Center's docent team is looking for volunteers interested in learning how to lead the "**Upstairs/Downstairs Tour – Small Town, Big Stories**," which includes stops in the

Monroe House, the Little Red Schoolhouse and the Jewett House, all located on the Heritage Center's grounds on South Professor Street. Docents are marvelous ambassadors who share stories as they guide guests in and out of the three beautifully preserved historic buildings, and acquaint visitors with Oberlin's founding in 1833 and the events, themes and people who shaped the community during its first one hundred years. The spring docent training workshop takes place **Saturday, March 16 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.** starting in the Monroe House. Participants should experience a guided tour at the Heritage Center prior to the workshop. Contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Elizabeth Schultz to make arrangements for a complimentary ticket. The workshop is free and open to the public, and docents will be asked to commit to helping with at least four OHC tours or open house events during the coming year. Register at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 by March 12 to reserve your place.

Saluting OHC Community Awards Recipients

Congratulations to the honorees who will be feted at the **Oberlin Heritage Center's 12th Annual Community Awards** presentations next month: **Beth Blissman** (Community Teacher of the Year), **Rudd Crawford** (Heritage Guardian Award), **Rebecca Lahetta** (History Teacher of the Year), **Patricia Ann Gorske Price** (Community Historian Award), **Dina Schoonmaker** (Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year), **Anna Sekulic** (Youth Community Service Award), and **Lorain County JVS World Trade Center Memorial** (Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award). To learn more about each of these award recipients, plan to attend the Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Meeting at the Oberlin Inn on April 3 or contact members@oberlinheritage.org.

Save the Dates for OHC's Summer Camps for Kids and Teens

The Heritage Center will introduce two new camps this summer, while bringing back some long-time favorites. Before you book your family vacation, make sure you circle these dates on your summer calendar:

Behind the Scenes at the Museums Camp for Teens (June 24-28, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

hosted by the Heritage Center and the Allen Memorial Art Museum

Ancient Cultures Camp (July 29 – August 2, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) for ages 8-13

Architecture Camp (August 5-9, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) for ages 8-13

Pioneer Living Camp (August 12-16, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) for ages 8-13

Registration forms will be sent to members later this spring. Watch for more information at www.oberlinheritage.org or contact (440) 774-1700 (members@oberlinheritage.org) to be put on our Summer Camp mailing list.

Cleveland Cavs Visit Little Red Schoolhouse

Tuesday, February 12, found the Heritage Center hosting some very special guests who arrived at their appointed time via a long, shiny limousine. Who were these VIPS? More than 20 second graders from Cleveland's **Louis Agassiz Elementary School** took part in the Cleveland Cavalier's "Read to Achieve" program, which the Cavs front office arranged to host at OHC's Little Red Schoolhouse in honor of Black History Month. The youngsters, wearing colorful stove-pipe hats to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday, gathered with the Heritage Center's **Liz Schultz** and welcomed Cavs players **C. J. Miles** and **Tyler Zeller**, who sat down with the children to read aloud a story about our nation's 16th president. The visitors enjoyed learning a bit of Oberlin history, too, as the Cavs served up refreshments, led a round of "Happy Birthday," and showed the kids how easy it was for them to ring the ten-foot-high Schoolhouse bell! The Cleveland Cavaliers' Read to Achieve

program is designed to help children develop a life-long love for reading and encourage adults to read regularly with children. Check out the OHC Facebook page for fun photos from the visit!

Staff, Volunteer and Intern News

Prue Richards leads a Textile Workshop on Saturday, March 16 for the Brimfield Historical Society.

Congratulations to **Liz Schultz** upon her election as president of the Board of the Friends of the Oberlin Public Library. Liz will serve a two-year term.

Have you seen the new feature “This Week in Oberlin History” that now appears regularly in the **Oberlin News-Tribune**? Thank you to Board member and volunteer **Mary Van Nortwick** who prepared the entries for the Oberlin Heritage Center.

Oberlin’s Cool Connections

As OHC’s AmeriCorps member **Richard Donegan** continues his research on Civil War soldiers who lived in Oberlin or attended Oberlin College during the war, he has discovered an interesting offshoot of the project. When Rich comes across a well-recognized surname he likes to do a bit of sleuthing to explore family connections. Here’s an example of Rich’s work when the last name “Douglass” caught his attention in a post-Civil War college alumni directory. We now know more about **Rosetta M. Douglass**, daughter of **Frederick Douglass**, who attended the Oberlin Preparatory Department in the 1854-1855 school year.

Rosetta was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts June 24, 1839, the oldest child of Frederick Douglass and Anne Murray Douglass. As a child, Rosetta was cared for by Abigail and Lydia Mott, cousins of abolitionist and women’s rights activist, Lucretia Mott. As a young girl, Rosetta’s father provided for an education at home though she eventually attended public schools after her father argued that African-American children should be able to benefit from public education. When she was older, Rosetta worked as her father’s library assistant, addressing and mailing copies of his abolitionist paper *The North Star*. She married Nathan Sprague on December 24, 1863. Nathan had been enslaved like her father. As an adult, Rosetta wrote an article titled “What Role Is the Educated Negro Woman to Play in the Uplifting of Her Race?”



Members are the Heart of the Heritage Center!

Thank you to **Dick Hasenpflug & Katie Nutter** (Scottsdale, AZ), **Margo Hirth** (Avon), and **Pat & Maureen Simen** (Oberlin) who joined as new Heritage Center members last month – we’re grateful for their warm support. If you are not yet a member, please join us! If your past membership has lapsed, please come back! Members are the Heritage Center’s most valuable resource, and we like to think of OHC members like family ☺. [Join](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) us today at www.oberlinheritage.org. Memberships at any level are needed and appreciated.

Also of Interest

Congratulations to Susan Kane for being recognized this year by the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) with its Presidential Award. She is Professor of Art History and Classical Archeology at Oberlin College and is being honored for her work to preserve Libyan archeological

sites and heritage. Kane and her husband, **Sam Carrier**, spoke before an Oberlin Heritage Center audience on February 27 about their collaborative work to preserve the extraordinary archeological heritage of Libya. The Presidential Award will be presented to Kane and three fellow award recipients on April 5 during the SAA's annual meeting in Honolulu.

Battle Scars: Stories of the Civil War. Saturday, March 9 at 1 p.m. at the Maritime Museum of Sandusky (125 Meigs Street). The storytelling program spotlights some lesser known stories from the War Between the States including the Escape from Libby Prison and the thwarted escape from Johnson's Island. A free, public program to all museum-goers (Museum admission is \$4/adults). For more information call the museum at: 419-624-0274.

The **Lorain County Historical Society** invites you to attend “**Ethnic Churches of Lorain County**,” an illustrated presentation by **David Simmer**, a volunteer with the Lorain County Sacred Landmarks Initiative. The program is part of the LCHS general membership meeting on **Sunday, March 17 at 3 p.m.** at the Lorain County History Center (284 Washington Avenue, Elyria). The event is free and open to Lorain County Historical Society members and guests. For more information, call (440) 322-3341 or lchs@lchs.org.

The **Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra**'s final concert of the season on **March 24 at 3:30 p.m.** recognizes **Dr. Joanne Erwin** for her years of dedication as NOYO's Artistic Director. She will be stepping down from her current role while continuing to be involved as an artistic advisor. The event takes place in Warner Concert Hall at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music (77 West College Street); tickets are available at the door. For more information, call (440) 775-3059.

The **Ohio Historical Society's Building Doctors** will be in **Vermilion April 11-12**. This is always a great opportunity to learn how to recognize and solve some of the most common sources of problems in maintaining older buildings and how to make informed decisions about repairs and improvements. Attend a free seminar at Ritter Public Library (5680 Liberty Avenue) on Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. When you register for the seminar (www.ohpo.org), you can also sign up to receive a “house call” from the Building Doctors the next day. (You'll be contacted in advance of the visit to set up an appointment.) For more information, call 800-499-2470.

The **Ohio Local History Alliance** Region 3 meeting for local historical society board, staff and volunteers from throughout Northeast Ohio will be held on **Saturday, April 13** at Old Stone Church in Cleveland. For more information call 1-800-858-6878 or register online at www.ohiohistory.org/register.

Don't miss the **Allen Memorial Art Museum**'s special exhibit “**Ritual and Performance in the Yorùbá World**” featuring art and instruments from Nigeria and the broader Yorùbá (West African) world. There are some fascinating Oberlin ties as acknowledged by Exhibit Curator **Ian MacMillen** in program notes introducing the collection. MacMillen thanks the Oberlin Heritage Center for sharing the oral history of pioneer dance educator **Marjorie Witt Johnson** (OC '35), founder of Cleveland's Karamu Dancers. He also expressed gratitude to the **City of Oberlin** for making accessible the records of Oberlin's sister-city partnership (since 1975) with Ilé-Ifé, Nigeria, the oldest town of the Yorùbá people and considered their holy birthplace. The exhibit runs **through July 31**.

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