

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – March 2014

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## The Oberlin Oral History Project: Looking Backward and Moving Forward

Find out more about a fascinating long-term project that has captured our community's history by interviewing local residents on a broad spectrum of topics. **Allan Patterson**, a beloved former Oberlin middle school social studies teacher, was among the key driving forces in a group of volunteers who began recording oral histories of long-time community residents more than 30 years ago. This evolving project continues today as the Heritage Center's Oberlin Oral History project. Joining in the presentation will be **Priscilla Steinberg** who has been involved in the project since its inception and **Elizabeth Schultz**, OHC staff, who will provide a brief update on work currently underway. This free public program takes place **Thursday, March 20 at 7:15 p.m.** in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). Co-sponsored with the Kendal Third Thursday lecture series.

## Detectives, Spies, Mummies and More/What's Not to Like?

Loads of fun and learning are in store for boys and girls aged 8 to 13 at OHC's two spring break mini-camps held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Sign up for either or both sessions.

**Undercover History: Spies, Detectives, and Police** will be held on **March 24 and 25**, and **Ancient Egypt** will take place on **March 26 and 27** from 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Spaces are limited and the fee is \$45 per two-day camp; \$40 for children and grandchildren of OHC members. Make reservations online at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

## 20th Century Oberlin Women's Stories to be Featured at Annual Meeting

Join us **Wednesday, April 9 from 5-8:30 p.m.** for the Heritage Center's annual meeting and banquet at the Oberlin Inn (7 North Main Street). It's an upbeat and fast-paced opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow members and friends, celebrate OHC's Community Awards recipients, learn about the highlights of the year just past and take part in a very brief business meeting. This year's featured presentation showcases stories selected from OHC's new book, *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town*, compiled and edited by **Eugenia Poporad Vanek** with the assistance of many volunteers and OHC's Oberlin Oral History project interviews. The program will be presented by OHC staff, board and volunteers. All in attendance are invited to join in the fun by wearing an article of vintage clothing or a costume from the 20th century decade of your choice (optional). Reservations required by April 4; early birds who reserve by March 28 receive a discount! For more information, call or e-mail our office or visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org).

## Under the Baton: Music at Old Cedar Point

A new 30-minute documentary film produced by the Sandusky Public Library chronicles the growth of Cedar Point amusement park through the rise and popularity of concert band music, which was especially enjoyed by park visitors in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Heritage Center will host a free, public screening of the film on **Wednesday, April 30 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). Some of the filming was done in the Monroe House and on the Oberlin campus and Oberlin Conservatory Professor **Steven Plank** was the humanities scholar for the

project. Following the presentation, the film's assistant producer, **Maggie Marconi** (curator of the Sandusky Library's Follett House Museum) will make brief remarks and answer questions. For more information, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## **Summer Kids' Hands-on-History Day Camps**

It's not too early to circle the dates on your family calendar for the Oberlin Heritage Center's Hands on History Fun Summer Day Camps for boys and girls ages 8-13. Each five-day camp runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Mail-in reservation forms and online registration will be available at the end of March, or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

**Oberlin Expedition (July 28 – August 1)** Each day we'll visit different museums, businesses, landmarks, and institutions in Oberlin to see what goes on behind the scenes and see the people, and machines, that make the town run.

**World Cultures (August 4-8)** Join us for an exploration of people around the world, including their music, dance, food, and history.

**Architecture (August 11-15)** Learn the basics of buildings and explore local architecture. Use your creativity to draw, construct, and engineer.

## **OHC in the Cleveland Spotlight!**

OHC was delighted to welcome some high-profile Cleveland visitors this month as well. **Leon Bibb** of **News Channel 5** came out to film clips for an upcoming feature about the Underground Railroad in Oberlin, parts of which will be aired the evening of March 1 and at noon on March 3. If you miss it (or would like to share it with others), check out the link at <http://www.newsnet5.com/news/local-news/my-ohio/oberlin-was-a-key-stop-on-the-underground-railroad-which-was-an-escape-route-for-slaves-in-the-1800s>. On February 24 fifteen kids from the Boys and Girls Club of Lorain County came on a tour of the Monroe House and then were joined by **Cleveland Cavaliers** players **C. J. Miles** and **Luol Deng** in the Little Red Schoolhouse to read a book about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as part of the Cavaliers' "Read to Achieve" program.

## **OHC Staff, Board and Volunteer News**

Huzzah and Hip, Hip Hooray!! OHC's long-time Financial Assistant and Librarian, former Board President and current volunteer and Endowed Life Member **Pat Holsworth** will receive Oberlin College's 2014 Community Service Award at Commencement on May 26. OHC is planning an early summer community-wide celebration of Pat and this well-deserved award; please let us know if you'd like to help!

OHC's AmeriCorps Member **Jen Graham** will be among the panelists in a March 3rd Oberlin College Bonner Center discussion lunch for college students which will feature AmeriCorps members talking about their experiences in Oberlin and Lorain County. This month, Jen also will present a program on historic clothing for 2nd graders at Oakwood Elementary School in Elyria exploring different factors like climate, culture, age, gender, and occupation that affect sartorial choices as well as how fashions have changed over time.

OHC has an exceptionally strong group of multi-talented student volunteers and interns this semester, including: **Melissa Clifford** (Kent State University graduate student in the Masters in Library and Information Science/Museum Studies Program from Wellington); **Molly Copeland** (Oberlin College 2015 and a Bonner Scholar from Massachusetts who is interested in education, museum administration and research); **Katie Hirabayashi** (Oberlin College 2015 and a volunteer from Maryland who has

previously volunteered at the National Museum of Natural History; her interests include research and oral history); **Vishnu Neppala** (Oberlin College 2015 from New York who is studying history and is interested in preservation, outreach and education); **Alexandra Nicome** (Oberlin College 2017 from Minnesota whose interests include museums and research); **César Palacio** (Oberlin College 2016 from Texas who is a double degree Conservatory and College student and has been a valued member of the OHC team since 2011 assisting with tours, publicity, education and research); **Anna Sekulic** (Western Reserve High School class of 2016 who has volunteered at the Heritage Center for several years; she will be going to Finland next year through Rotary Youth Exchange and she is performing in her school's upcoming production of *The Music Man*); **Kelsey Voit** (Kent State graduate student in the Masters in Library and Information Science/Museum Studies program from Elyria); **Rand Zalzala** (Oberlin College 2016 and a Bonner Scholar from Baghdad, Iraq who is especially interested in architecture and the creative process).

Congratulations to the following community volunteers and students who completed docent training sessions in January and February: **Kay Rider, Tammi Minoski, Camille Hamlin Allen, Katie Hirabayashi, Sarah Khalil, Genny Soltow, Melissa Clifford, Kelsey Voit, Vishnu Neppala, and Rand Zalzala**. If you'd like to get in on the fun let us know; we'll offer two trainings for history walk guides in May.

Staff members **Liz Schultz, Jen Graham**, and Board member **Ken Grossi** (Oberlin College Archivist) visited Christian Community School in Grafton to judge and make suggestions for student exhibit and documentary projects prior to the regional National History Contest to be held on March 15th.

**Liz Schultz** gave several outreach programs during Black History Month, including a Freedom's Friends lecture at the Huron Public Library and a program about the Underground Railroad to over 250 eighth graders at Amherst Junior High School. A third program at The Bridge was foiled by bad weather and school closings but may be rescheduled in the future. Liz also recently led a program on Stone Age Britain, the first of four sessions in the Hands-on History series for home school students.

OHC Executive Director **Pat Murphy** and her husband **Keith Koening** enjoyed visiting the Usonian-style Frank Lloyd Wright designed Jonathan Rosenbaum House in Florence, Alabama, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and other historic sites and museums on a week-long February vacation.

Interns Abroad!: **César Palacio** just returned from the Conservatory's winter term Panama Project while **Hanna Van Reed** is spending the semester in London and **Monica Monsalve** is in Brazil.

## Members' Update

We note with sorrow the passing of Endowed Life members **Ricky Clark** and **Jean F. Wright** as well as long-time members **Elizabeth Bates** (who also was a former front desk receptionist and OHC volunteer), **Bobbie Carlson, Paulie Evans, Catherine Gorman** (mother of OHC staff member **Mary Anne Cunningham**), **Janet Hutchison**, and **Ron Rollins**. Members are very much like family at the Heritage Center. If you are not yet a member, please join this circle of friends who share a passion for local history by signing up at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org). Your support is needed and appreciated!

## Also of Interest

**César Palacio**, OHC Bonner Scholar and intern extraordinaire, will perform his junior clarinet recital at Warner Concert Hall from 8 to 9 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 4th**, featuring music by Leonard Bernstein, Shulamit Ran, Donato Lovreglio, and Franz Schubert.

The **Allen Memorial Art Museum** invites you to a lecture on **Thursday, March 6** presented by Philip Yenawine, a longtime museum and arts educator who developed the *Visual Thinking Strategies* (VTS) philosophy that is the principal technique used in all of AMAM's K-12 gallery tours, including the regular visits from the Eastwood first and second grade classrooms. Frustrated when data revealed visitors learned little from his talented teaching staff at New York's Museum of Modern Art, Philip Yenawine turned to Abigail Housen, a scholar who studied "aesthetic thought"—how people use what they know when looking at art—to try to determine and remedy the problem. Working with others, they created a method called Visual Thinking Strategies and spent over a dozen years studying to see if it nurtured the growth not seen to result from more conventional methods of teaching; it did! Moreover, from early in the research period, teachers reported on what was then found in data: VTS discussions of art can be used to teach visual literacy, language, thinking, and social skills valued in schools. This presentation will branch from philosophical (what is art for?) to theoretical (what does Abigail Housen's research into aesthetic thought tell us about viewing) to practical (how to create empowered viewers and effective thinkers). The discussion will offer a unique opportunity to exercise our brains - not to mention our hearts and spirits. This free presentation begins at 5:30 p.m. in AMAM's Sculpture Court.

The **Home Maintenance and Efficiency** program is your opportunity to make a list of spring and summer home repair projects as Margaret Lann of the **Cleveland Restoration Society** guides attendees through a top to bottom look at typical old house maintenance issues. You'll learn how to spot problems before they become headaches and get useful information on ways to make your older home more energy efficient without breaking the bank. This free public program is sponsored by the City of Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission and takes place **Sunday, March 16** at the Oberlin Public Library from 2 to 3 p.m.

**History of the Lorain County Infirmary** presented by local historian Jared W. Smith will include stories from his new book, *Just a Place to Stay out of the Rain: A History of the Lorain County Infirmary/1868-1967*. The program will be offered on **Sunday, March 30 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Grafton-Midview Public Library and information and reservations may be made by calling 440-926-3317 or by visiting [www.gmplibrary.org](http://www.gmplibrary.org).

The **Ohio Local History Alliance's Regional Meeting** is a great way to get inspired, educated and connected with fellow leaders and volunteers from local historical organizations from throughout Northeast Ohio. This year's all day meeting is hosted on **Saturday, April 5** by the Middleburg Heights Historical Society and details are available by calling 1-800-858-6878 and are online at [www.ohiohistory.org/register](http://www.ohiohistory.org/register).

Stop by the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) between now and mid-April to enjoy selections from **Denise White Field's** exhibit *From Africa to Eternity*, with its focus on Oberlin and local participation in the Underground Railroad. The multi-part display is located in the library's reference area and in the Ohio Room. Denise welcomes your feedback – leave her a note on the comment cards she has included with the exhibit.

**Recycling Helps Make Our Community A Greener Place.** The **City of Oberlin** has temporarily suspended curb-side recycling pickup in the aftermath of the February 15 fire at the city refuse garage. Alternatives to putting recyclables in the trash or storing them for future pick-up do exist and these include allowing residents of the city to temporarily drop off recyclables at Republic Services at 43650 Oberlin Elyria Road, putting paper in green and yellow Abitibi bins at public schools and other locations in town, and taking recyclables to the Lorain County Solid Waste District's Collection Center at 540 S. Abbe Road, Elyria. For more information, contact City of Oberlin recycling coordinator **Lori Sprosty** at 440-935-0096.

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