

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – April 2011

MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440)774-1700 www.oberlinheritage.org members@oberlinheritage.org

Oberlin Heritage Center’s Annual Meeting and Dinner: April 6

April 1 is the deadline for registering for the Heritage Center’s Annual Meeting and Community Awards Presentations taking place at the Oberlin Inn on **Wednesday, April 6**, with featured speaker **Burt Logan**, CEO of the Ohio Historical Society. This year’s awards will go to **Charlotte Bosch** (Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year), **Anna Ernst** (Community Historian Award), **Victoria Hardnett** (Youth Service Award), **Bill Roniger** (History Teacher of the Year) and **LorMet Community Federal Credit Union** (Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award). Trustees to be welcomed to the Board include **Ken Grossi**, **Stephen Johnson, III** and **Donna Marie Shurr**, while those appointed to Honorary Trustee are **Brad Hayes**, **Carol Lasser**, **Betty Mahjoub**, **Jean Foggo Simon**, and **Jim White**. Please join members and friends of the Oberlin Heritage Center for a fun, upbeat evening! Register at www.oberlinheritage.org.

Docent Training Introductory Workshop: April 17

If you love Oberlin and its history and want to help share it with others, consider becoming an OHC volunteer docent. Talk to Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, Liz Schultz (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) and make arrangements to take a complimentary tour of our three historic buildings before the next docent training session to see whether docenting is your “cup of tea.” The introductory workshop for new docents (which also is a great refresher for current docents) will be held at the Monroe House on **Sunday, April 17 from 1-5 p.m.** The class is free, although you must register by April 13. Volunteers are asked to pledge to lead at least 4 tours per year. The Heritage Center’s docent team is a welcoming and diverse group of all ages and backgrounds, which meets periodically for informational gatherings, field trips and more.

Oberlin Heritage Center Hosts Community Conversation: April 27

Join fellow Heritage Center members, board members, volunteers and staff to take part in a one-hour facilitated “**Community Conversation**” to help the **City of Oberlin** shape its new strategic plan. The city’s new plan is being developed with the assistance of The Public Services Institute of Lorain County Community College and Management Assistance for Nonprofit Agencies of Kendal. The gathering is one of a number of such discussions happening around town this spring. Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, April 27 at 7 p.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library. Reservations are not necessary. Come and voice your opinions about future priorities for our community.

Summer of History Kick-Off!

Karyn Norwood, our AmeriCorps volunteer, has been assisting with a regional historical collaborative being hailed as “The Summer of History 2011.” Twenty-one historical organizations have events planned for this upcoming summer, including the Oberlin Heritage Center, as part of this joint endeavor to celebrate the history of the Western Reserve through 1865. The “Summer of History” initiative launches with a Travel Rally on May 10th at Tower City in Cleveland at 11:30 am.

As part of kick-off week festivities, the Oberlin Heritage Center will offer free tours of its three historic buildings at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, May 10, 12, and 14. A free Freedom's Friends Underground Railroad history walk also will be offered on Saturday, May 14 at 11:00 a.m. Registration for all tours is requested; go to www.oberlinheritage.org and click on "Reserve a Tour." Watch for news of other activities being offered statewide in this wonderful warm-weather celebration of local history.

Early Bird Discount Offered to Summer Camp Registrants

Register by June 10 for the Heritage Center's summer camps for kids to receive \$5 off per child for each full week camp and \$2 off for the Junior Docent camp. This year's schedule kicks off with the **Junior Docent Workshop** for teens (13-17 years) on June 20-21 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Jewett House. Boys and girls ages 8-13 can attend three week-long camps including: **Soldiers & Civilians: Civil War Era Camp for Kids** the week of July 25-29; **Kids & World Cultures Camp** the week of August 8-12; and **Architecture Camp** the week of August 15-19. Kids' camps run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and are held at the Oberlin Depot. Register online or find out more at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 to request a summer camp flyer. Camps are reasonably priced at \$95 for the week, or \$50 for the Junior Docent workshop, and keep in mind that children and grandchildren of OHC members receive an additional members' discount.

Endowed Life Members

Contributors (individuals or couples) whose past and/or present giving to the endowment total \$2,000 or more are recognized as *Endowed Life Members*. A commitment may be payable over five years and benefits the Endowment for History Education. In appreciation, the Oberlin Heritage Center extends to these donors life membership in the organization. Life Members no longer pay yearly membership dues, and continue to receive all of the benefits of annual membership. The names of Endowed Life Members are permanently displayed at the Oberlin Heritage Center and published in our Annual Report each year, unless the donor wishes to remain anonymous. We salute new "Aluminum" Endowed Life Members **Bruce & Sue Simonson** and **Tom & Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick**, and we're grateful also to **Nicholas & Susan Jones** who recently made a pledge that will move them up from the "Copper" to the "Aluminum" level of Endowed Life Membership. Presently there are 79 individuals or couples who are Life Members at the Heritage Center – please consider joining this wonderfully supportive group! For more information, visit the Oberlin Heritage Center's [website](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) and click on the "Join" tab, call the office at (440) 774-1700, or contact Patricia Murphy (patm@oberlinheritage.org) or Mary Anne Cunningham (members@oberlinheritage.org).

Oberlin Heritage Center Inscribed Bricks Make Great Gifts!

If you're looking for a unique gift for Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, weddings or other special occasions this spring or summer – look no further! The Oberlin Heritage Center offers two- and three-line inscribed bricks placed along the criss-crossing brick pathways on the beautiful Heritage Center grounds. Each line accommodates 12 characters including lettering, punctuation and spacing. Make your brick request soon, as we will be submitting our next order with the local stonemason in late April, so that bricks can be installed by mid-May. This is a wonderful way to

honor someone you love or admire, or to mark a milestone in a lasting manner! More than 325 inscribed bricks now line the Heritage Center walkways, and what stories they tell of the people and events important to OHC members and friends! For information, visit the Heritage Center's [website](#) and click on "Make a Gift" to purchase a brick online or download a mail-in brick order form.

Out and About: Staff News

Mary Anne Cunningham attended a two-day membership marketing and planning seminar presented by Membership Consultants (St. Louis & Chicago) that took place in Cleveland on March 28 and 29. **Karyn Norwood** will take part in a panel presentation on bringing community commemorations to classrooms at the Ohio Local History Alliance (formerly OAHSM) regional meeting in Hinckley on April 2 and will attend the Northern Ohio Library Chapter Conference in Independence on April 28. **Liz Schultz** is presenting "Oberlin and the Underground Railroad" for the Elder College at Bowling Green State University's Firelands branch on April 7, and plans to attend the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) Project Management for History Professionals Program, a three-day workshop taking place in Pittsburgh, at month's end.

Welcome New Members

The Oberlin Heritage Center extends a warm welcome to new members **Richard & Priscilla Hall** (Cambridge, MA), **Deloris Harper, Paul Lockwood, Jerry & Diane Loftis**, and **John Petersen & Nancy London**. (All members are from Oberlin, unless otherwise indicated.) The folks at the Oberlin Heritage Center smile from ear to ear whenever a new member joins the organization 😊. If you are not yet a member, please join by visiting www.oberlinheritage.org or calling (440) 774-1700 or e-mailing members@oberlinheritage.org to request a membership brochure.

Kudos Corner

Eight Oberlin High School and Langston Middle School students represented Oberlin at **District 3 National History Day** held at Case Western Reserve University on March 19. The students researched and presented a wide array of topics under this year's History Day theme "Debate and Diplomacy in History," including: "Roe vs. Wade: The Life Saving Debate" – an original, individual performance by **Katherine Cavanaugh** (OHS Senior); "Emma Goldman" – a dramatic group performance by **Madeline Geitz** and **Hannah Kim** (OHS Sophomores); "Passion: John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry" – a research paper defended by **Julia Robinson** (OHS Freshman); "American Isolationism before WWII" – a group documentary presented by **Max Annable** and **Schuyler Coleman** (LMS 8th graders); "The Hetch Hetchy Dam Debate" – an individual documentary by **Ian Sweet** (LMS 8th grader); and "Nanking Massacre, the Forgotten Holocaust" – an individual exhibit by **Tong Li** (LMS 8th grader). Geitz and Kim received the Early Settlers Award at the district competition in recognition of their research into local history. LMS teacher Alison Smith and OHS teacher Donna Shurr are the History Day advisors for Oberlin district students. Applause, applause all around for these young historians!

Read about Oberlin College Senior **Brittnei Sherrod** (also a graduate of Oberlin High School and long-time OHC intern and volunteer) and her work combining her love of geology and her affinity

for teaching youngsters in a news article on the Oberlin College website titled “Oberlin Student Helps Elementary School Students Experience Geology First Hand.” Click [here](#) for the full story, or visit www.oberlin.edu and look for the “News at Oberlin” heading.

A tip of the hat to Board Past President **James W. White**, named this year’s recipient of the **Distinguished Service Award**, and who will be feted during Oberlin College’s Commencement/ Reunion Weekend activities, Friday, May 27 through Monday, May 30.

Congratulations to OHC member **Bonnie Cutcher** who was inducted into the Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame on March 12!

Also of Interest

Know a Senior Citizen Who Is Seeking a Paid Part-Time Training Opportunity? The Senior Employment Center, a division of Mature Services, Inc., offers paid part-time training positions with local non-profit agencies, including the Oberlin Heritage Center. Lorain County positions are available in office and clerical, maintenance, warehouse, food service, and janitorial capacities. Applicants must be 55 or over and income restrictions apply. For more information or to request an application, please call 440-324-3588.

The Oberlin, Ohio Project is a new feature of the Cleveland Memory Project presented by Cleveland State University Libraries. Compiled by Kent State University School of Library and Information Science graduate student (and Oberlin Heritage Center member) **Jonathan D. Herr**, the Oberlin project got underway earlier this year as part of Herr’s culminating practicum experience. History researchers, teachers, students and local history buffs all will enjoy this treasure trove of historic photographs with accompanying narrative, found at www.clevelandmemory.org/oberlin/.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s **Diversity Scholarship Program** is now accepting applications for the **2011 National Preservation Conference**, to be held in Buffalo, NY, **October 19-22, 2011**. The program provides financial assistance to community leaders from diverse social, economic, racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds to attend the National Preservation Conference. For program and application information, please visit <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/diversity-scholarship-program/> or contact scholarship@nthp.org. Applications must be submitted electronically by Wednesday, June 1, 2011.

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