

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – April 12, 2010

Oberlin Heritage Center Celebrates Earth Day with “Green” Program

Museums have been at the forefront of many environmental education initiatives over the years, and the Oberlin Heritage Center urges members and friends to renew those efforts in 2010 in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day (April 22). Owners of heritage homes (built 50 years ago or more) and others interested in preservation and sustainability in older homes are encouraged to attend **The Greenest House is Already Built** presented by **Kerry Adams, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist of the Cleveland Restoration Society** (www.clevelandrestoration.org) on **Wednesday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). Adams illustrates many simple things that homeowners can do to make their houses more energy-efficient and environmentally sensitive. Discover how you can be “green” without changing the historic character of your home or breaking your budget. This free, public program is sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center, the Cleveland Restoration Society, the City of Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission, and the Lorain County Preservation Network.

OHC Is Looking for a Few Good Volunteer Docents!

If you enjoy Oberlin history and would like the opportunity to share it with others as a volunteer docent/tour guide, consider attending one (or both) of these upcoming training workshops to learn more about the Heritage Center’s themed history walks in and around downtown Oberlin. No previous training is needed; all that is required is a commitment from docents to lead at least four history walks within the coming year. Both training sessions are free and each begins at the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street in Oberlin) and will move on from there. The **Freedom’s Friends History Walk training** session takes place on **Sunday, April 25** from **1-4 p.m.** Volunteers will learn about Oberlin’s role in the history of abolition and the Underground Railroad and how to present a 75-minute walking tour through historic neighborhoods surrounding downtown Oberlin. Registration is requested by April 22. The **Tappan Square History Walk training** session takes place on **Sunday, May 2** from **1-4 p.m.** Volunteers will gain a new appreciation for the fascinating history and architecture surrounding Oberlin’s Tappan Square as they learn how to present it in a 60-minute walking tour around the Square. Registration is requested by April 29. You may make an online reservation at www.oberlinheritage.org, or contact Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) for more information.

Historic Preservation Around the Globe

Madagascar is widely known for its outstanding biodiversity and especially its charismatic lemurs. On **Tuesday, April 27 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium, **Karen Schoonmaker Freudenberger** leaves the lemurs in the forest and turn our attentions to the secondary city of Fianarantsoa where a dynamic but very poor urban community is working together to save the architecture of their historic neighborhood. In Madagascar, before 1830, commoners were not allowed to live in permanent structures (which were reserved for the royalty). When that rule changed, people started building homes from mud brick and tiles. This is the period when the Old City of Fianarantsoa was constructed. Once a thriving royal city, by the 1980s, the Old City was in a state of collapse. In Freudenberger’s illustrated presentation, **Pride, Progress and Historic Preservation: Reviving a Historic Community in Madagascar**, the Oberlin native tells the story of how she worked with this neighborhood to turn around its fortunes, rebuilding not only houses, but the pride of the community. Please plan to join us for this free, public program and learn more about historic preservation efforts in other parts of the world.

Oh, to be a Kid Again!: (Virtual) Glimpses of Camp

The Oberlin Heritage Center's first ever Spring Break camp was a huge hit with kids and parents alike. Campers enjoyed an array of creative and fun history-based hands-on activities, so much so that at least one cried when the week-long camp came to end. The campers made signs announcing "Miss Liz is the Best" referring to camp teacher, **Liz Schultz**, the Heritage Center's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator. Visit the Oberlin Heritage Center's website and see all the fun in photos and hear a first-hand account of each day's activities on their spring break camp [blog](#). Better yet, sign up your own child or grandchild for one of our upcoming summer camp programs. Early bird discounts are now available. Check out the children's camp and summer activities schedule (click [here](#)) and register online or download a registration form to mail to the Heritage Center.

Heritage Center Annual Meeting Draws Huge Crowd

Oberlin College President **Marvin Krislov** addressed a crowd of 185 guests at the Oberlin Heritage Center's annual meeting at the Oberlin Inn on April 7th. His remarks on "The College and The City: What Lies Ahead" set forth ambitious new plans for the greening of Oberlin, the proposed Green Arts District, and much more. The 9th annual Community Awards were presented to **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 **Jerry Anderson** of Watson's Hardware (Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award). (See the [photo](#) on our website Flickr page.) The business meeting included the election of new Board President, **Walter Edling**, First Vice President, **Nicholas Jones**, and Treasurer **Cathe Radabaugh**. Newly elected to the Board of Trustees are **Scott Broadwell**, **Daniel Clark**, **Ronnie Rimbart**, **Kurt Russell**, **Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick**, and **Gail Wood**. Those in attendance also saluted outgoing trustees **Eugenia Bobo**, **Jeanne McKibben** and **Gail Wood** and gave a round of applause to outgoing Board President **Jim White** who will serve on the Board for another year as Past President. Visit our website for a [fun peek](#) at what Jim White's fans presented him at the close of this year's Annual Meeting.

In Loving Memory of Hans Petersen: Oberlin Heritage Center Intern and Museum Fellow

We note with great sorrow the passing of Hans Petersen, an adored and beloved member of the Oberlin Heritage Center extended family. He fell from a roof while installing solar panels in San Francisco on April 7, 2010. He was a 2002 graduate of Oberlin College who loved history, the environment and long-distance running. Hans had been studying to become a Lutheran minister. At the Oberlin Heritage Center, as a summer intern in 2002 and a Museum Scholar following that summer through 2004, he worked very, very hard on the historic site inventory and was an outstanding docent. His love for Oberlin, its history, its historic buildings, and its promise for the future was inspiring and contagious. Our many photos of him in action show his zeal and charm, including his role in the ensemble cast of the 2003 Ohio Bicentennial "From Here: Voices from Ohio" oral history production at First Church and in costume with other living history volunteers in Oberlin's annual Big Parade. We plan to honor his life by placing an inscribed brick along the heritage trail at the Oberlin Heritage Center. We look forward to working with others in Oberlin to plan a local commemoration/memorial service. We are so fortunate to have known him. He made Oberlin a richer place. Our deepest sympathies to his family and to his many friends. For more on Hans, go to the Oberlin Heritage Center's [website](#), or visit these two comforting and uplifting blogs posted by Hans' family and friends: <http://hansinmemoriam.blogspot.com/> and <http://www.hanspetersenmemorial.com/index.html>.

Save these Dates (details coming in next month's E-Gazette)

Bill and Bonnie Cutcher's presentation on the **History of Aviation in Lorain County** originally scheduled for Tuesday, May 4 has been changed to **Tuesday, May 11th at 7:15 p.m.** in Kendal's Heiser Auditorium.

Students of Conservatory Professor Colin Roust's American Art Music class will present their original archival research on **Oberlin's Musical Heritage in the 20th Century** on **Sunday, May 16th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.** in Kendal's Heiser Auditorium.

Also of Interest

Local historians from historical organizations throughout the area will gather and network at the **Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums' upcoming regional meetings**. Plan now to attend the Region 3 meeting in Fairview Park on Saturday, April 24th which will feature presentations on *Mobilizing for the Civil War 150: Ideas and Resources* and *Anniversaries as Opportunities: Community Collaborations to Promote Local History*. Or, if you prefer, the Region 2 meeting will be in Sandusky on Saturday, May 1 and will include presentations on *Shaking the Money Tree: A 'How to' Guide for Successful Fundraising* (speakers include Pat Murphy from the Oberlin Heritage Center) and *Innovative Ideas to Bring People to Your Door*. For more information or to register, please visit www.oahsm.org or call 1-800-858-6878.

"Should Your Old Wood Windows be Saved?" is the title of an excellent brief new article in *Fine Home Building* (May 2010). It outlines how to address problems with old windows and how to make them more energy efficient. It explains how simple repairs can be done that are much more economical than total window replacements. Total window replacement for a home can cost up to \$10,000. The article notes that by dividing the total cost of investing in new windows by the annual energy savings, the estimated payback period for the owner of a typical Northern U.S. home could be as much as 250 years. It also notes that wood windows built before 1920 were likely made of old growth lumber which is much more decay resistant and stable than lumber used today.

Who Should Stand for Ohio at the U.S. Capitol? Every state is allowed to provide two statues in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall commemorating historical figures of importance to their state. President James A. Garfield and William Allen have represented Ohio since the 1880s. The National Statuary Collection Study Committee is planning to replace the statue of William Allen with one of ten possible Ohioans. Now is your chance to vote on who you think should represent the great State of Ohio in Statuary Hall. For more information and to vote on-line, please visit www.legacyforohio.org

Please share this information by forwarding this e-mail to a friend.

To subscribe to the E-Gazette, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or send an email to members@oberlinheritage.org.

To remove your name from the Oberlin Heritage Center's e-news mailing list, please respond to this e-mail by clicking on the "REPLY" button and typing "UNSUBSCRIBE" on the subject line.

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

Please remember to use www.ShopForMuseums.com for online shopping at your favorite stores – each purchase helps to raise money for the Heritage Center with no additional cost to you!