

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – April 2012

MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440)774-1700

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Insider's Tip: OHC Annual Meeting Great Fun!

There's still time to make your reservation for the **Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Meeting** on **Wednesday, April 4** – always a fun, festive, feel-good evening! Join us at the Oberlin Inn beginning at 5:00 p.m. for a social hour (optional), with dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by the business meeting and program. This year's program goes behind the scenes as Oberlin Heritage Center staff and Board members share "*The Inside Story*," providing insights into what makes the Heritage Center an award-winning museum and a great place to be involved. Rounding out the evening of celebration, we'll recognize several local history educators and community leaders during the **Oberlin Heritage Center's 11th Annual Community Awards** presentations. Reservations will be accepted through March 30. [Download](#) a reservation form or register online at www.oberlinheritage.org, or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Collections Committee Provides Expert Help Behind-the-Scenes

Evolving from "community attic" to professional museum requires an organization to evaluate potential donations in terms of how objects and archival materials fit in with the organization's mission. Following best practices in museum standards, the Oberlin Heritage Center simply cannot accept everything that comes its way – some items do not tell community stories, while others realistically cannot be contained in the limited storage space available. "**Behind the Scenes at the Oberlin Heritage Center**" takes an up-close look at how the Heritage Center's **Collections Committee**, a group of talented, experienced, knowledgeable volunteers, together with Collections Assistant **Prue Richards** and Executive Director **Pat Murphy**, consider new donations to the museum. The careful assessment seeks to find the best outcome for the Heritage Center, for the donation, and for the donor – sometimes with surprising results! Hear stories about how the decision-making process has played out with recent donations at this free public program on **Wednesday, April 25 at 7:15 p.m.** at **Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium**. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Soldiers & Civilians History Walk Training

The Oberlin Heritage Center commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War with this new guided History Walk. We're looking for volunteers who wish to learn more about Oberlin's perceptions of the War, both on the battlefield and at the home front, and how to present it in the format of a 75-minute walking tour. Join us for this free training workshop on **Sunday, May 6, from 1-4 p.m.** Training begins at the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street) and moves on from there. **Register by May 2** online at www.oberlinheritage.org or by phone at (440) 774-1700 Questions? E-mail Elizabeth Schultz at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

There's Still Space Available for Spring Break Camps for Kids!

Limited space remains for both weeks of children's camps at the Heritage Center taking place during local schools' spring breaks – although reservations must be made pronto! Boys and girls ages 8-12 will enjoy *Legends, Tales, and History Camp* (**Monday and Tuesday, April 2-3**; repeated **Tuesday**

and Wednesday, April 10-11) where kids will have a chance to explore classic legends and fairy tales and learn a bit of history along the way. Or, they may prefer ***Innovations and Technology of the Civil War Era Camp*** (**Wednesday and Thursday, April 4-5**; repeated **Thursday and Friday, April 12-13**) where campers will investigate the workings of ironclad ships, the telegraph, camp cookery, and more through hands-on activities. Select one camp or both! To register, contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, Liz Schultz, at (440) 774-1700.

Plan Ahead for Summer Camp!

Registration is underway for four weeks of Summer Camp hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center, including:

A Week at the Museum, a camp for teens, co-sponsored with the **Allen Memorial Art Museum**. This camp is perfect for youth curious to know more about the ins-and-outs of museums (“*How do you choose what goes on the wall?*” and “*Where does all this stuff come from?*”). **June 25-29, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Kids & World Cultures: Italy through the Ages, for boys and girls ages 8-13. Explore Italy from its ancient roots to the modern era through a mixture of activities, food, games, pictures, mini-language lessons, and more. **July 30-August 3, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Architecture Camp, for children ages 8-10. An introduction to the basics of architecture. Learn about building materials, tour a variety of buildings and neighborhoods, try your hand at construction challenges, and envision buildings of the future. **August 6-10, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Architecture Camp, for children ages 11-13. Imagination, attention to detail, and teamwork are assets in the challenging activities of this camp. Tour buildings in town, sketch designs, construct mini-buildings, create floor plans, and explore digital architectural tools. **August 13-17, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

To register or learn more, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or contact Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org. Children and grandchildren of Oberlin Heritage Center members save \$10 on camp fees. An “Early Bird Discount” of \$5 per camp is available to anyone who registers by June 9.

Welcome New Members

The Oberlin Heritage Center extends a warm welcome to new members **James E. Bell** (Oberlin), **George Duncan Strom** (Elyria), and **Laurene Warfield** (Chagrin Falls). If you are not yet a member, we would LOVE to welcome **YOU**, too – **please join!** Members receive free admission to tours of the Heritage Center and two guest passes to share with family or friends; free admission to History Walks offered during warm weather months (reservations required); reduced prices on programs for which there is a fee; 10% discount in the Museum Store; and complimentary benefits at history museums around the United States through the Time Travelers Network. Visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 (members@oberlinheritage.org) for more information.

OHC Staff, Intern and Volunteer Update

Executive Director **Pat Murphy** recently returned from Washington, D.C. where she attended the American Association of Museums' Accreditation Commission meeting. She is one of eight

Accreditation Commissioners that meet three times a year to review museums seeking accreditation or re-accreditation. At this meeting, the group reviewed fifty-six museums. They also spent one day at the National Zoo learning about zoo accreditation and even got up-close-and-personal with the lions inside the cat house! While in D.C. Pat also attended a day-long convening of fifteen museum professionals from throughout the country to discuss aligning museum standards and best practices. Pat Murphy will be speaking about museum accreditation in several sessions at the American Association of Museums' national conference in Minneapolis on April 29th through May 2nd.

AmeriCorps Civil War 150 Leadership Volunteer, **Richard Donegan**, recently researched the Battle of Kessler's Cross Lanes (West Virginia), the first taste of war in the summer of 1861 for the Oberlin men of Company "C" of the 7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Visit www.oberlinheritage.org to read Rich's fascinating description of the terrain, the military strategizing, and the account of the conflict that "seasoned" these young men for the years to follow. (Click on "Research and Learn" in the main menu bar, scrolling to "History Features," then "19th Century" and then "[The Battle of Kessler's Cross Lanes](#)."

Bequests: Simple, Flexible Legacy Gifts

Have you considered including a gift to the Oberlin Heritage Center in your estate plans? A charitable bequest is a simple and easy way to leave a legacy and make a gift to preserve Oberlin's nationally significant history for future generations. Through your will or a living trust, a bequest provides that a specific amount or a percentage of your estate be given to the Heritage Center. For more information, including suggested [language](#) you can use in preparing your estate plans, visit the www.oberlinheritage.org and click on "Make a Gift." If you'd like to discuss making a bequest in person or need more information, please contact Executive Director Pat Murphy at (440) 774-1700 or patm@oberlinheritage.org.

Kudos Corner

The Oberlin Heritage Center salutes **Oberlin High School** junior **Madeline Geitz** and sophomore **Julia Robinson** for participating in **Ohio District 3's National History Day** at Case Western Reserve University on Saturday, March 24. The theme of this year's competition was "Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in History." Madeline defended her paper, "*A Public Health Revolution: The Fight to Conquer Smallpox*" before history experts, and Julia discussed her paper "*Strife: The Ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment*" with a panel of judges. Their advisor is OHS teacher (and Oberlin Heritage Center Board member) **Donna Shurr**. In the Junior Division, several **Langston Middle School** students submitted papers, including **Anna Geitz** ("*The Man who Freed Music: Ludwig Van Beethoven*"), **King Emeka** ("*The Genius that was Shaka Zulu*"), **Steven Mentzer** ("*Buildings Too are Children of the Earth and Sun*"), **Iris Arbogast** ("*Evolution Revolution*"), and **Henry Gardner** ("*The Steam Engine and its Effect on the Economy and the World*"). **Simon Perales'** paper, "*The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*" was honored with an award from the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage. **Hannah Cipinko** won second place in the Junior Division Historical Papers category for her paper "*From Cincinnati to Oberlin: The History of the Lane Rebels*" and she will advance to the state level of competition for National History Day which takes place in Columbus on April 28. LMS 8th grade Language Arts teacher **Alison Smith** advises the middle school students. Congratulations one and all for such fine History Day representation from Oberlin! Oberlin Heritage Center staff members, **Liz Schultz** and **Richard Donegan**, participated as judges in the "Website" and "Exhibits" categories respectively for District 3 History Day this year.

Also of Interest

Pulitzer-prize winning poet **Jorie Graham** will share her work in the dramatic setting of the Reid Gallery at the Cleveland Museum of Art (11150 East Boulevard) on **Sunday, April 1 at 1:30 p.m.** Following her reading and reflections, Graham will announce the winners of the **Poetry in the Museum** contest, which calls for a descriptive response to a work of art in the CMA collection. Contest winners will read their poems in proximity to described work of art. Free and open to the public. Registration recommended. Call (216)368-2242.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy's western field director, Andy McDowell, presents a free public program for landowners interested in learning more about the tax incentives available for preserving their land. The event takes place **Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m.** at the Lorain County JVS, Lecture Room B., 15181 State Route 58 in Oberlin. To RSVP, or for more information, please call (440) 774-4226 or e-mail Kate Pilacky at kpilacky@wrlandconservancy.org.

The **Oberlin Project** invites you to spend an evening with author **Michael Shuman** as he discusses "*Local Dollars, Local Sense*" on **Tuesday, April 10 at 7 pm** in Room 106 of the King Building at Oberlin College. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the Oberlin Project [website](http://www.oberlinproject.org) (www.oberlinproject.org) or call (440) 775-6473.

The **First Annual Oberlin Summer Programs Open House** takes place at Langston Middle School gymnasium (150 North Pleasant Street) on **Saturday, April 14th from 11:00am - 1:00pm**. It's a great opportunity to find out more about kids' camps and other youth activities being offered in Oberlin this summer and throughout the school year. For more information, contact Jessa New at jessa@slowtraincafe.com.

Summer Studies for Ohio Teachers. Ohio's K-12 educators can experience enriching professional development opportunities at summer institutes funded by the **Ohio Humanities Council**, including "*Ohio and the Spanish Civil War*," presented at Oberlin College June 17-22. All locales offer outstanding humanities faculties, exciting field trips and collegial surroundings to meet and work with other teachers. Continuing education or graduate credits may be available. Application deadlines vary – many are in April. For more information, visit www.ohiohumanities.org (click on "Programs" then scroll to "[K-12 Programs](#)").

"Claiming the Promise: A Retrospective on African Canadian History" takes place **June 14-16, 2012** in Chatham-Kent, Ontario, Canada. The international conference showcases the results of the five-year Promised Land Project, with expert speakers addressing a variety of topics from the historical to the contemporary, from social justice and modern day slavery to examples of early Canadian multiculturalism and community building. Highlighting the event is an evening with award winning and international best-selling Canadian author Lawrence Hill. For more information, visit <http://promisedland2012.inck.ca> or contact Devin Andrews at (519) 436-0119, x 351.

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