

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – April 2014

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A “Treasure Trove” of Strong Voices

Hot off the press! *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women’s Stories from a Historic College Town*, compiled and edited by **Eugenia Poporad Vanek**, weaves together recollections from fifty-two women about changing economic and social conditions, experiences, and opportunities that altered women’s roles within the family, the community, and society during the 20th century. The book’s engaging and powerful stories were collected by Oberlin Oral History Project volunteers over the course of the past three decades. Tracy Chevalier (OC 1984), author of *The Last Runaway*, calls the book “a treasure trove of strong voices and intriguing details.” The book is available online (\$19.95) at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or can be purchased at the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Museum Store (73½ South Professor Street), Ben Franklin/Mindfair Books (13 West College Street), FAVA’s Uncommon Objects (39 South Main Street), or the Kendal Cardinal Shop (600 Kendal Drive). “You have a real winner on your hands!” exclaimed one OHC member who called us recently upon reading the book cover-to-cover. We think you’ll agree!

OHC Annual Meeting – Applause, Appreciate, Anticipate!

There’s still time to make a reservation and join us on **Wednesday, April 9 from 5-8:30 p.m.** for the annual gathering of members and friends to celebrate what we’ve accomplished together at the Heritage Center this past year and to look ahead to the future. Our featured presentation includes excerpts presented by OHC staff, Board members and volunteers from the new oral history publication *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town*. In keeping with that theme, guests are invited (as an option) to add to the event’s festive atmosphere by wearing an article of vintage clothing or a costume from the 20th century decade of their choice. A highlight of the evening will be recognizing the five recipients of the Heritage Center’s 13th Annual Community Awards: **W. Jeanne McKibben, MD** (Community Historian), **Allan Patterson** (Heritage Guardian), **Eugenia “Geni” Poporad Vanek** (OHC Volunteer of the Year), **Michaelene “Mickey” Walzer** (History Teacher of the Year) and **Mature Services/Elyria Office** (Business Leader Service Award). Reservations may be made through April 4 at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

OHC Promises a Toe-Tapping Good Time!

Smiles will abound and toes will be a-tappin’ at the Heritage Center’s upcoming free, public program taking place on **Wednesday, April 30 at 7:15 p.m.** in Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). Join us for a screening of **Under the Baton: Music at Old Cedar Point**, a 30-minute award-winning documentary chronicling the growth of Cedar Point Amusement Park through the rise and popularity of concert band music in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The film, a production of the **Sandusky Library**, will be followed by a Q&A with producer, **Dennis McMullen**, the Library’s Director of Reference Services and Museum Services. News flash: Kudos to Sandusky Library for being recognized with two big awards in recent days! *Under the Baton* won a Visual Communications Award from the Ohio Museums Association and received the “Give a Shout!” Award for Outstanding Program from the Ohio Library Council’s NW Chapter. Double great news!

Get Ready for the Amazing Oberlin Smartphone Race!!

Mix local history with a bit of hiking and add in a healthy dose of friendly competition and what do you have? A fresh new learning adventure is underway at the Oberlin Heritage Center! Friends, family, business colleagues, youth groups, students, or anyone who can put together a small team of participants (with at least one member per team having a smart phone) will enjoy the challenge. *How does it work?* Two teams, ideally with two-to-four people per team, begin at the Heritage Center and are texted the first clue leading them to a landmark in Oberlin. When a team figures out an answer, they send a text or a photo back and receive the next clue. There are 14 clues in all, and the race is two miles (assuming you make no false moves) and takes about 90 minutes (if you're quite clever, light on your feet, and don't stop for ice cream). Cost is \$20 per race when booked by an OHC member (the fee covers all participants) or \$25 for nonmembers. Contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) to check the availability of dates and start times. Reservations are taken from now through October.

Warm-Weather Volunteer Opportunities at the Heritage Center

Now that the long winter is behind us, come out of hibernation and consider getting involved “behind the scenes” at the Oberlin Heritage Center. We're looking for volunteers to lend a hand in a variety of ways this spring and summer. Do you have materials, skills, or just plain old enthusiasm for building a “Little Red Schoolhouse” float to be part of Oberlin's **Big Parade on Saturday, May 3**? Or, maybe you'd just like to march with our OHC team when the parade kicks off at 11 a.m.? If you love a parade, contact AmeriCorps member, **Jen Graham** (jen.graham@oberlinheritage.org). Perhaps you prefer the quiet camaraderie found in leading a tour and sharing your passion for Oberlin and its history. Register for one (or both!) of our upcoming History Walk docent training workshops: **Freedom's Friends History Walk docent training** takes place on **Saturday, May 3 from 1-4 p.m.**, while **Scholars and Settlers (Tappan Square) History Walk training** is slated for **Saturday, May 17, 1-4 p.m.** Contact **Liz Schultz** (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) if interested in knowing more. Don't mind rolling up your sleeves and getting your hands dirty? Mark your calendars for OHC's annual **Grounds Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. – noon**. For more information about these and other volunteer opportunities at the Heritage Center, call (440) 774-1700 or visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

OHC Staff, Board and Volunteer News

Jen Graham represents the Heritage Center at the Ohio Local History Alliance Region 3 meeting on **Saturday, April 5**, hosted by the Middleburg Heights Historical Society. Closer to home, Jen is a guest presenter on **Saturday, April 19** for an environmental digital photography class for middle schoolers, a fun learning collaboration between FAVA and several current Oberlin College students. Look for the group taking photos that day on Tappan Square as Jen helps them gain a better understanding of how the community's present-day landscape reflects and incorporates its historical landscape.

Pat Murphy is training to return to Boston to take part in the 118th Boston Marathon on **Monday, April 21**. Wish her luck, cheer her on, and if you'd like to sponsor her with a donation of any amount to the OHC Endowment for History Education, contributions are being gratefully accepted (visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on “Make a Gift.”) Last year Pat's run time was 4:06.13 and she raised \$1,700 for the History Education fund – she's looking to improve upon both this time around.

Welcome **Gary Jamison** (of Brunswick) who has been contributing volunteer hours each week as he works together with Honorary Trustee **Jeanne McKibben** to digitize the oral history interview collection. When not volunteering, Gary works in Human Resources Management for the Veterans Health Administration.

Preservation “Lessons” in the Little Red Schoolhouse

Work will soon begin to replace the badly deteriorated Little Red Schoolhouse roof. Oberlin contractor **Pat Ives** will remove the current wood shake roof and install a new and properly ventilated wood shingle roof in keeping with recommendations from preservation architect **Lorri Sipes, F.A.I.A.** This project has been funded by a grant from The Nord Family Foundation and the project has been approved by the City of Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission. Not to worry, the work underway will not interfere with tours and school groups. In fact, Pat Ives looks forward to explaining what he is doing to visitors as the work progresses. Preservation and education in action!

First Annual Hubbard Prize Awarded at Regional National History Day

The Oberlin Heritage Center awarded its first annual **Hubbard Prize** at the National History Day Ohio District 3 competition which took place **Saturday, March 15** in Cleveland. The prize was created by OHC members **Gail and Ned Hubbard** of Centreville, Virginia in honor of his grandparents, Pliny Deane and Laura Rote Hubbard, who were the second owners of the Heritage Center’s historic Jewett House and resided there from the mid-1920s to the 1960s, before the historical society acquired the property. The award is designed to recognize student historians who live in Lorain County and present an outstanding paper, documentary or website project. This year’s recipient was a team from Christian Community School in Grafton. **Alayna Doeringer, Jack Babet** and **Thaddeus Barnette** presented in the senior group documentary category. Their 10-minute film “*The Pentagon Papers: Patriotism or Espionage*” addressed the 1971 release of the Pentagon Papers concerning U.S. involvement in Vietnam and the resulting clash of opinions about the right to information versus national security. The project advances to the state level of History Day competition which will be held in Columbus on April 26. The students, and their advisor, social studies teacher **Mike Demchak**, will attend the OHC Annual Meeting on April 9 and have a chance to meet the Hubbards who also will be in attendance. The student team also will be available to talk one-on-one with interested Annual Meeting guests prior to dinner.

Other local students advancing to state competition are **Hannah Cipinko** (senior division) and **Lucy Cipinko** and **Nora Cavanaugh** (both in the junior division). In all 21 Oberlin area students presented their work in the 2014 contest with its overarching theme of “Rights and Responsibilities in History.” Oberlin advisors are **Alison Smith** (LMS) and **Donna Shurr** (OHS), and the Oberlin Heritage Center staff members **Liz Schultz** and **Jen Graham** along with volunteer **Ron Gorman** were among the judges at the regional event. The District 3 competition is open to students in grades 6-12 who attend schools in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina or Summit County.

Members’ Update

A warm welcome to new members who joined the Oberlin Heritage Center in March: **Robert & Marilyn Burns, Dwight Call, Carol Harvey** and **Mark & Kendra Petras** (all from Oberlin). We note with sorrow the passing of Endowed Life member **Linda Totzke Donovan**, who also was a long-time volunteer on OHC’s Membership Committee. Become a member at the Oberlin Heritage Center and know that you are invested in this historic community – your support really will make a difference now and in the future! Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and JOIN today.

Last Call for Inscribed Bricks at OHC This Year

We’ll be sending an engraving order soon to our local stonemason, so order now if you’ve been thinking about an inscribed brick at the Heritage Center to honor a special person or occasion in your life. The Oberlin Heritage Trail, which criss-crosses the grounds at the Oberlin Heritage Center, is lined with nearly 400 bricks that feature one-of-a-kind messages celebrating, remembering, and creating lasting legacies. Bricks ordered by May 1 will be installed in late spring; bricks ordered after that time will be

installed in Spring 2015. For more 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.

Also of Interest

History Close to Home: Visit the **Rust United Methodist Church**'s website at www.rustchurch.org and learn about some interesting Oberlin connections in special local history features saluting Black History Month and Women's History Month.

Feed your need for genealogy by planning to attend **Mind Feast 2014**, hosted by the **Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group**. The event takes place **Saturday, April 5 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library. The program features a number of speakers, networking opportunities, and more that will broaden participants' awareness of topics in American history about which little has been written or researched. Attendance is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required by **Wednesday, April 2** at http://oaaghg.com/activity_calendar/mind_feast_registration

The Friends of the **Oberlin Public Library** will host its annual **Spring Book Sale, April 24-27** (Thursday through Sunday, various times) with the Friends' Pre-Sale on Wednesday, April 23 from 5-8 p.m. Stop by the library at 65 South Main Street to check out a great selection of books, music and DVDs and stock up!

Lorain County's new **Little Free Library Initiative** is set to launch on **Saturday, April 26** with a free community event at the Lorain County JVS (15181 State Route 58, Oberlin) from 1 – 3 p.m. "Little Free Libraries," which are popping up all around the country, are being coordinated in Lorain County by The Stocker Foundation. The project is simple, creative, and inviting: in its most basic form, it's a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. The Oberlin Heritage Center grounds will be one of more than 40 Library sites coming soon to Lorain County! To learn more, "Like" the Lorain County Little Free Library Initiative on Facebook!

Oberlin College Architect and Project Manager **Pradnya Martz** is featured in the Allen Memorial Art Museum's First Thursday lecture series, presenting "Growing with the Times," on **Thursday, May 1 at 5:30 p.m.** at the Weltzheimer/Johnson House (534 Morgan Street, Oberlin). Pradnya, who has served as consulting curator for the Weltzheimer/Johnson House since 1998, will discuss the largely unrealized landscape plan that Frank Lloyd Wright designed for Oberlin's Usonian house, and at the conclusion of her talk, she will lead a tour of the surrounding landscape and grounds. Free and open to the public. For more information, call (440) 775-8665 or visit www.oberlin.edu/amam.

The **Oberlin Farmer's Market** returns to 69 South Main Street (behind the City Hall complex) on **Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning May 3 and continuing through October 25**. Plan to make this a regular start to your weekend, as you pick up fresh foods, sip a flavorful cup of hot coffee, and enjoy talented local musicians while greeting old friends and new at this great community crossroad.

The **Kelton House Museum & Garden** (586 E. Town Street, Columbus) will host **Recollections of the Wellington Rescue** on **Sunday, May 18 at 3:00 p.m.** The program commemorates the dramatic events that occurred in Wellington and Oberlin, Ohio in 1858, specifically drawn from Nat Brandt's book, *The Town that Started the Civil War*. Tickets are \$5/person and reservations are recommended. The event is part of the Kelton House's "Trails of Hope" series of historical re-enactments depicting the struggles for freedom on the Underground Railroad. For more information, contact (614) 464-2022 or keltonhouse@cs.com

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