

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – May 2012

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Oberlin History Comic Book Shines in Ohio Museums Association Competition

Oberlin: Origins and Onward! the history comic book created by **Bentley Boyd** and published by the Oberlin Heritage Center in December 2011, was honored recently with a Visual Communication Award presented by the **Ohio Museums Association**. Since 1984, the OMA has recognized creative excellence in printed and digital publications by bestowing “Gold” and “Silver” awards in six categories based on organizational budget size. The Heritage Center received the “Silver” in the open competition, and **Liz Schultz**, the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, was on hand to accept the award at the Ohio Museums Association’s annual conference held in Cincinnati in mid-April. For more on the award-winning comic book, read on...

The Creative Magic (and Hard Work!) Behind the Oberlin History Comic Book

Historian and author **Bentley Boyd** visits Oberlin in late May to talk to students and the community and provide the inside scoop on how he wove almost 200 years of Oberlin history into a fun and colorful 24-page comic book appealing to all ages. The creator of more than 30 history comic books in his Chester Comix series, Boyd’s unique style engages readers and sparks their interest in various aspects of American history. The public is invited to meet and greet Bentley Boyd at a **book-signing at Oberlin’s Ben Franklin/Mindfair Books** (13 West College Street) on **Tuesday, May 22** from **3:30 to 5:00 p.m.** followed by a **free community program at 7:15 p.m. in Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium** (600 Kendal Drive). Earlier in the day, Boyd plans to stop by Prospect School and visit with third-grade students as they learn more this semester about Oberlin’s nationally significant history. A copy of *Oberlin: Origins and Onward!* will be provided to each of the students later this year (and for many years to come) when making their annual visit to the Heritage Center’s Little Red Schoolhouse in the spring as a culmination of a unit of study on local history. Funding for the comic book was provided by generous donations to honor the memory of Oberlin Heritage Center trustee Nicholas Stevenson.

Soldiers & Civilians History Walk Training

Help the Oberlin Heritage Center commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War by learning how to present our new Soldiers & Civilians History Walk. Volunteers are invited to learn more about Oberlin’s perceptions of the War, both on the battlefield and at the home front by attending this free training workshop on **Sunday, May 6, from 1-4 p.m.** at the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street). No previous tour experience is necessary, although trained docents will be asked to make a commitment to help with at least four tours in the coming year as part of the Oberlin Heritage Center’s volunteer program. 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.

Oberlin Pride Day at the Heritage Center

You are invited to drop by to volunteer with Pride Day activities at the Oberlin Heritage Center on **Saturday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon**. Meet at the brick crossroads (behind 73 South Professor Street) to work throughout the Heritage Center’s grounds to get it ready for the summer visitor season. Wear your work clothes and gardening gloves and bring your favorite weeding tools

if you wish. This annual clean-up, spruce-up effort is one of many events taking place on Lorain County Pride Day. Oberlin-area Pride Day events kick off at the courtyard of the East College Street project (65 East College Street) at 9 a.m. with breakfast provided courtesy of the City of Oberlin. Those wishing to help beautify public spaces throughout town should contact Sharon Pearson, Program Coordinator at The Oberlin Project at spearson@oberlinproject.org or (440) 775-6473.

Commencement/Memorial Day Weekend at the Heritage Center

Looking for something memorable and out of the ordinary for your family or out-of-town guests to do this Memorial Day and Oberlin College Commencement/Reunion Weekend? Explore historic Oberlin and the Oberlin Heritage Center by enjoying a guided tour or history walk during extended hours **Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 25-27**. The Museum Store in the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street) will be open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. each of those days. Tours and history walks are \$6 per adult; free to OHC members, college students, and children (most likely to be enjoyed by children ages 9 and up). Advance reservations are required, unless indicated otherwise. Here's what will be happening:

Friday, May 25

Scholars & Settlers (Tappan Square) History Walk 3 p.m.

Saturday, May 26

Freedom's Friends (Underground Railroad) History Walk 11 a.m.
Oberlin Heritage Center tour at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. (walk-ins welcome)
Soldiers & Civilians (Civil War) History Walk 3:30 p.m.
OHC Museum Store open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 27

Soldiers & Civilians (Civil War) History Walk 11 a.m.
Freedom's Friends (Underground Railroad) History Walk 3 p.m.
Museum Store open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Save the Date for these Special Events

We'll have more details on these next month, yet we thought you might want to mark your calendars now and plan to attend three quilt-related events offered in conjunction with FAVA's fifteenth biennial juried *Artist as Quiltmaker* exhibition (www.favagallery.org) at New Union Center (39 South Main Street) from May 13 to July 29. The Heritage Center invites you to attend:

The Quilt as Story Teller, presented on **Tuesday, June 5 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium. Collections Assistant **Prue Richards** discusses how quilts tell stories using historic quilts from the OHC collection. Free and open to the public.

Quilt as Story Teller Tours, offered on **Fridays at 10:30 a.m. and Saturdays at 3 p.m.** for three weeks only from **June 8 – 23**. This 90-minute guided tour features some of the Heritage Center's rarely exhibited historic quilts on display at this time. Fee is \$10 per person; \$6 per OHC member. Reservations required; visit www.oberlinheritage.org or contact Prue Richards for more information at history@oberlinheritage.org.

Textile Care and Preservation in Your Own Home Workshop, a day-long workshop offered at the Oberlin Depot on **Saturday, July 14**, which addresses the materials, techniques, conditions, practices and spaces available to us in our own homes that can help improve and extend the lives of

our textile treasures. Fee is \$50 (\$45 for OHC members) which includes a box lunch. Pre-registration is required.

Early Bird Discount For Summer Camp

Register by June 9 for the Heritage Center's summer camps for kids to receive \$5 off per child for each week-long camp. This year's schedule kicks off with the **Museum Camp** for teens, co-hosted with the Allen Memorial Art Museum, **June 25-29** from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Boys and girls ages 8-13 can attend **Kids & World Cultures: Italy through the Ages** the week of **July 30-August 3**. The ever-popular **Architecture Camp** will be offered in two sessions: **August 6-10** for children ages 8-10, and **August 13-17** for ages 11-13. Kids' camps run from 9:30 a.m. to 4 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 \$75 for the Teen Museum Camp (and note the latter camp's reimbursement incentive for volunteer hours worked later in the year). Keep in mind that children and grandchildren of OHC members receive an additional members' discount!

Members' Update

The Oberlin Heritage Center extends a warm welcome to new members **Heidi Thomann Tewarson** and **Donna L. Van Raaphorst** (both from Oberlin). Special thanks to current Endowed Life member **Catherine Wilber** who increased her support from the Copper to the Aluminum level of giving. Members give the Heritage Center its vitality and energy and help immeasurably in keeping the organization moving forward. If you are not yet a member, we would **LOVE** to welcome **YOU**, – **please join!** 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** will make two presentations at the 106th annual meeting and museum expo of the **American Association of Museums**, taking place in Minneapolis, MN April 29 to May 2. Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** will be part of a 6-member Rotary delegation from northwest Ohio traveling to Italy, May 15-June 13th. In the small world department, former Leadership Lorain County Intern **Laura Laubenthal** ran into Executive Director **Pat Murphy** at the Corning Museum of Glass last month. What are the odds?! Pat was en route home from running the Boston Marathon. She reports it was fun and a huge challenge in record-breaking heat. Laura presently is pursuing an advanced degree in museum studies at the Cooperstown Graduate Program in upstate New York. She also has a wonderful blog, [Mirror With a Memory – an Antiques Blog](http://mirrorwithamemory.wordpress.com). Check it out at <http://mirrorwithamemory.wordpress.com>.

Great Gift Ideas – How about a Brick!(?)!!

Not just any ordinary brick, but a century-old, thoughtfully inscribed brick with your own 2- or 3-line personal message...a gift that creates a lasting legacy for a special person or milestone. It's a one-of-a-kind way to celebrate upcoming graduations, Mother's Day, Father's Day, or other special occasions in your life. We'll be sending an engraving order soon to our stonemason, so order now for brick installation along the Oberlin Heritage Trail by the end of May. Nearly 350 inscribed bricks presently 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.

Kudo's Corner

Congratulations to Oberlin's Langston Middle School student, **Hannah Cipinko**, who excelled last month at the state History Day competition with her paper "*From Cincinnati to Oberlin: The History of the Lane Rebels*" and was chosen as a **National History Day** finalist! From June 10-14, Hannah will spend a week at the University of Maryland, College Park, with about 2,400 other students, parents and teachers for the final stage of the National History Day competition. Applause, applause to Hannah and her advisor, LMS 8th grade Language Arts teacher **Alison Smith**.

Also of Interest

The 1940 Census – National Service Project seeks volunteers to help Index the 1940 U.S. Census and make the "Greatest Generation" available to all on-line, free-of-charge. Last month, the National Archives released the Digital Images for the 1940 U.S. Census to the general public. Unfortunately, the images were indexed only by Census tract (i.e., neighborhood) and State. This means that to find someone in the Census record you must know where they were living when the Census was taken. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has begun the task of Indexing the 1940 U.S. Census Record, but significant manpower is required to complete this project by the end of 2012. It's simple and fast work; batches are small and can be completed in about 30 minutes. Volunteer at least 1 hour per week; start by going to www.FamilySearch.org

May is National Preservation Month! Since 2005, the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** has celebrated National Preservation Month to encourage the celebration of our nation's rich, diverse heritage and historic structures. This year's theme is "*Discover America's Hidden Gems.*" Take some time this month to explore significant places that help preserve our nation's stories, or volunteer to assist with a community preservation project. Applause, applause to the committed citizens in Geauga County, Ohio who are working to preserve the **South Newbury Union Chapel** on State Route 44. Sometimes referred to as the "Cradle of Equal Suffrage" and "Free Speech Chapel," this "Hidden Gem" recently was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for standing as a beacon for the women's suffrage movement and other progressive era ideals.

Mature Services is enrolling new participants from Lorain County. If you are a job seeker over 55 years or age and unemployed, you may be interested in this Title V job training program which provides paid work experience at non-profit and governmental agencies to low-income individuals. For more information, contact Sylvia Roldan, Project Director, at sroldan@matureservices.org or call 1-800-472-8832. The Oberlin Heritage Center has valued the assistance of Mature Services workers for more than ten years.

Introducing Gilder Lehrman's first online course. Civil War and Reconstruction, a five-day course led by historian Matthew Pinsky, includes free graduate credit from Dickinson College, live lectures and discussion, and virtual field trips to Gettysburg and other Civil War sites. Apply [online](#) by June 1, 2012. For more information, visit www.gilderlehrman.org.

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