

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – May 2014

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May is National Preservation Month with this year's theme,
"New Age of Preservation: Embark, Inspire, Engage!"

Read on to learn more about the many ways the Oberlin Heritage Center
enriches and preserves what makes the community of Oberlin so very special!

Historically Speaking: Oberlin Women Blaze the Way

In 1834, "founding father" John J. Shipherd pledged Oberlin's commitment to "the elevation of female character" through education. Little did he know, there was dynamite in that promise, and women carried the matches. **Jen Graham**, the Northeast Ohio Regional AmeriCorps member has been doing a lot of research on Oberlin women in history and will offer two exciting presentations to the public in May. On **Wednesday, May 14 at 7:15 p.m.**, she explores how Oberlin confronted and defined issues of femininity in the 19th and 20th centuries in "*Speak as though you had a right to!*" – *Oberlin & the Question of Womanhood*. Hear stories of powerful Oberlin women including Lucy Stone, Marianne Parker Dascomb, Adelia Field Johnston, Mary Church Terrell, and Lucy Stanton Day, and learn how they used John J. Shipherd's promise to shape what it meant to be a woman in Oberlin and in the United States. The illustrated program is free and open to the public and takes place in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). Later in the month (see dates and times below), Jen debuts for the Heritage Center a new **Oberlin Women's History Walk** featuring local landmarks and inspiring stories about Oberlin influences on women's rights and the fight to secure them. Advance reservations are required for the history walk and may be made online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or by calling (440) 774-1700 for more information.

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 guided mini-tours or neighborhood history walks during extended hours **Friday through Monday, May 23-26**. The "Oberlin Origins" mini-tour (first floor of the Monroe House) is a 30-minute introduction to Oberlin history; admission is \$3 for adults and reservations are not needed. Themed history walks (60-75 minutes) are scheduled throughout the weekend; fee is \$6 for adults and advance reservations are required. OHC members and their children, as well as all college students, can enjoy tours and history walks free (reservations still needed for history walks; all activities most likely to be enjoyed by ages 9 and up). Here's what's happening each day:

Friday, 5/23 Sneak Peek – Oberlin Origins Tours (Monroe House) every half hour, 12-6 p.m.
Freedom's Friends (Underground Railroad) History Walk at 3 p.m.
Oberlin Women's History Walk at 5 p.m.
OHC Museum Store open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, 5/24 Sneak Peek-Oberlin Origins Tours (Monroe House) every half hour , 10 am-6 pm
Oberlin Women's History Walk at 11 a.m.
Freedom's Friends (Underground Railroad) History Walk at 3 p.m.
Scholars & Settlers (Tappan Square) History Walk at 5 p.m.
OHC Museum Store open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, 5/25 Sneak Peek-Oberlin Origins Tour (Monroe House) every half hour, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Scholars & Settlers (Tappan Square) History Walk at 11 a.m.
Freedom's Friends (Underground Railroad) History Walk at 3 p.m.
OHC Museum Store open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday, 5/26 Freedom's Friends (Underground Railroad) History Walk at 1 p.m.

More information, including online-registration, may be found on the Events Calendar at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on the “Events and News” tab on the main menu bar).

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Learn how to lead one of OHC's History Walks! Free training takes place **Saturday, May 3** for the **Freedom's Friends (Underground Railroad) History Walk** and **Saturday, May 17** for the **Scholars & Settlers (Tappan Square) History Walk**. Each session is 1-4 p.m. and begins at the Monroe House (at the back of the Conservatory of Music parking lot) and moves on from there.

Roll up your sleeves and help prepare the OHC grounds for the busy summer tour season! Join us for our annual **Grounds Clean-Up** on **Saturday, May 10** from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring your work gloves and meet at the brick crossroads on the Monroe House lawn.

Join us as we honor **Pat Holsworth**, OHC Honorary Trustee, former Board President and retired Financial Assistant/Librarian at a reception at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) on **Saturday, May 31** from 3:30 to 5 p.m. We are delighted that Pat will receive Oberlin College's Community Service Award at commencement on May 26th. The event is free and open to the public; co-sponsored by OHC and the Friends of the Oberlin Public Library.

In observance of the 150th anniversary of the end to the notorious Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, Heritage Center member/volunteer **Ron Gorman** looks at the fervent crusade by Ohio Republicans to overturn the law. **Repealing the Fugitive Slave Law** is a free public program offered **Tuesday, June 3 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive).

Summer History Walks are offered regularly beginning the first weekend in June and continuing through the end of August. Hear stories of Oberlin's earliest residents and the triumphs, debates and scandals linked to the landmarks around Tappan Square in the **Scholars & Settlers History Walk** offered **Sundays at 1 p.m.** Learn about Oberlin's famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom on the Underground Railroad when you experience the **Freedom's Friends** walks that take place **Saturdays at 11 a.m.** Fee is \$6 for adults; OHC members, college students and children are free.

Youngsters (especially those ages 5-11) will enjoy the **I Spy Oberlin: History & Architecture Scavenger Hunt** offered the **first Saturdays of June through September** at 3 p.m. rain or shine. \$3 per child; adults accompanying children are free.

Reservations are required for history walks and their training sessions and can be made online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

OHC Summer Camps – Explore, Design, Create!

Registration is underway for the Heritage Center's summer camps for boys and girls ages 8-13. This year combines new adventures with back-by-popular-demand favorites. New this year: **Oberlin Expedition** (July 28-August 1), goes behind-the-scenes in local museums, businesses and landmarks to learn more about what makes our town run. Perennial favorites (designed with all new activities) include **World Cultures Camp** (August 4-8) and **Architecture Camp** (August 11-15). OHC's award-winning kids' camps are fun ways for youth to experience history, art, crafts, games and the tastes and sounds of diverse cultures. Camps run from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day and are held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Fee is \$110 (\$100 for OHC members); register at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org prior to June 21 to receive a \$5 "early bird" discount per camp.

History Hikes & Happy Hour

Break out of your weekly routine during the month of June and enjoy local history with a twist! Try the OHC's **History Hikes and Happy Hour**, a four-part series that introduces a different theme each week, with a walking tour led by a Heritage Center staff member, and the option to continue the discussion afterward at a local watering hole. The series is offered **Wednesdays in June at 3:30 p.m.** and includes the **Scholars & Settlers** (Tappan Square), **Freedom's Friends** (Underground Railroad), **Radicals & Reformers** (Westwood Cemetery) and the new **Oberlin Women's History Walk** where visitors will learn about local influences on women's rights and the fight to secure them. Fee is \$25 for the full series (\$20 for OHC members); cost of refreshments not included. Reservations may be made at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

The Little Red Schoolhouse Here, There and Everywhere!

The Heritage Center's popular and easily-recognizable one-room schoolhouse is getting out and about these days. On **Saturday, May 3**, look for a mini Little Red Schoolhouse to appear in Oberlin's 13th annual **Big Parade**. The little float was constructed by AmeriCorps member, **Jen Graham**. If you'd like to join Jen along the parade route, send her an e-mail at jen.graham@oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700. The Big Parade takes place from noon to 4 p.m. in and around Tappan Square.

Keep your eyes peeled for a fabulous **Little Free Library** replica of the schoolhouse to be installed soon on the grounds of the *real* Little Red Schoolhouse. The library is part of a global literacy project that is being implemented in Lorain County with funding from a grant made by The Stocker Foundation. Library boxes are being set-up countywide as "take a book, return a book" gathering places for neighbors to share their favorite literature and stories. The Oberlin Heritage Center is one of 55 sites in Lorain County that has volunteered to "steward" a Little Free Library. The appealing little library on the Heritage Center grounds, scaled to 1/12 the actual size of the original, was made by a Kendal Woodworkers team comprised of Heritage Center members and volunteers **Bud Spierling, Jim Sunshine, and Ed Wardwell**.

The Oberlin Heritage Center in 15 Seconds

Check out the new [video](#) that intern **César Palacio** made with help from his OHC friends to represent the Heritage Center in the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations' "15 Second Video Challenge" for Ohio Nonprofit Organization Week (May 11-17). You can find the video on the Oberlin Heritage Center's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/oberlinheritagecenter). OHC now has more than 600 Facebook friends – are you one of them? (We hope so!)

OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News

Jen Graham judged National History Day entries at the state level of competition, held in Columbus on Saturday, April 26. **Pat Murphy's** experience in the trauma of last year's Boston Marathon bombing was featured among the stories of several returning runners in the Official Program of the 2014 Boston Marathon. Pat successfully completed this year's 118th Boston Marathon with a time of 4:14 (slightly behind last year's time) and raised over \$5,700 from 56 donors for the Heritage Center's Endowment Fund for History Education (way out in front of last year's effort!) **Mary Anne Cunningham** (Assistant to the Director) and Board Member **Camille Hamlin Allen** attended a marketing planning workshop at Lorain County Community College last month, the first of a six-part series hosted by The Nord Family Foundation in collaboration with other local philanthropic organizations, designed for local nonprofits to explore what it means to be a high performing organization in the 21st Century.

OHC volunteer and docent and blogger **Ron Gorman** has posted a new entry about William Howard Day and Lucie Stanton, two pioneering African-American students at Oberlin College and activists in the abolition movement. Read their story, filled with hope and disappointment, at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog/.

Honorary Trustee, **Eugenia "Geni" Poporad Vanek**, was interviewed recently on Lorain County radio station's WEOL Morning Show about her new book [*Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town*](#). You can listen to the [interview](#) at <http://weol.northcoastnow.com/weol-morning-show/page/2/>. The oral-history based book, published by the Oberlin Heritage Center this spring, is selling well amidst great reviews.

Thank you to Honorary Trustee **Ann Livingston** as she "retires" from her post as coordinator of the Heritage Center's Bed-and-Breakfast annual fundraiser that takes place in conjunction with Oberlin College's new student orientation at the end of August. This is one of the many volunteer jobs Ann has done for the Heritage Center, which recognized her as Volunteer of the Year in 2008.

A warm welcome to **Peggy Loescher**, the Heritage Center's new front desk receptionist through Mature Services Inc. Peggy, of Wellington, will share the front office duties with **Linda Gates** (also from Mature Services), who just celebrated her one-year anniversary at the Heritage Center.

Congratulations to OHC former interns **Tim Krumreig** (OC '12) who just landed a new job in Boston as an AmeriCorps Vista Leader working for the Massachusetts Campus Compact, and **Rachel Luczkowski** (OC '12) who will be heading off to New York City this fall to pursue a master's degree in the Bank Street Museum Education: Childhood program.

Current intern **César Palacio** (OC '16) was excited at his high number in the college's recent housing lottery (for next year's living quarters) that allowed him to select an apartment in the East

College Street house once occupied by inventor, businessman, philanthropist and local history hero **Charles Martin Hall**. He promises to invite all the OHC staff over next year for a tour!

Kudos Corner

Congratulations to local History Day students who excelled at the State level of competition and are now heading to nationals in mid-June, which take place in College Park, MD. The Oberlin Heritage Center Hubbard Prize-winning team of **Thaddeus Barnette, Jack Babet, and Alayna Doeringer** (Christian Community School) will take their documentary on *The Pentagon Papers: Patriotism or Espionage* to nationals, as will their classmate at CCS, **Gabrielle Moorman**, whose entry *Oberlin Wellington Rescue: A Time When "Black Men Had No Rights That White Men Were Bound to Respect,"* will be judged in the exhibit category. Oberlin High School student **Hannah Cipinko** will present her paper *An Unjust Law is No Law at All: Civil Rights and the Responsibility to Disobey in the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue*. Langston Middle School student, **Nora Cavanaugh**, received a special prize – the American Founding Award – at the state level for her paper, *The Fight for the 19th Amendment: Women Taking Responsibility for Their Rights*. Nora is an alternate for the national competition.

Members' Update

A warm welcome to new members who joined the Oberlin Heritage Center in April: **Jane Currie** (North Ridgeville), **Eugene & Barbara Getty** (Medina), **Cheryl Peek-Ball** (Hamilton, Bermuda), and **Dave & Anne Rucker** (Oberlin). We note with sorrow the passing of Honorary Trustee and Endowed Life member **David Clark**. Members are the Heritage Center's most important resource and are vital to the continued preservation of Oberlin's nationally significant history. New members are welcome, needed and appreciated. Please JOIN TODAY at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

Also of Interest

Stop in at OHC business member **Lorain National Bank** (24 East College Street, Oberlin) later this month to see the Oberlin Heritage Center's display in the lobby. OHC appreciates the opportunity to spread the word throughout the community about all the good things happening at the Heritage Center this summer!

Ohio Courthouses Symposium, hosted by the Ohio Historical Society, Heritage Ohio, the Ohio Supreme Court, the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, and others, will be offered **May 15-16** in Columbus. The two-day event highlights some of the successful courthouse renovations that have been completed in recent years, and offers attendees the opportunity to learn from others by providing a number of resources and expertise relating to maintaining a historic courthouse. To register, or for more information, call (614) 220-7979 or visit www.ccao.org/ohio-courthouses-symposium.

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