

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – June 2011

MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440)774-1700 www.oberlinheritage.org members@oberlinheritage.org

New History Walk Up and Running (err...Walking)!

This month, the Heritage Center launches its new **Soldiers and Civilians History Walk** which will be offered **every Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in June and July**. Focusing on Oberlin during the Civil War, this guided neighborhood walk highlights local perspectives, notable figures, and interesting stories from both the battlefield and the home front. From Luman Tenney and Henry Chester, who with the Second Ohio Cavalry, travelled 22,000 miles and fought in over thirty battles and skirmishes, to Sarah Merion and Russell Hall, both of whom offer unique views into college student life on the home front, to O.S.B. Wall, an African-American recruiter who was one of the first African-Americans to receive a commission as a Union officer, there are plenty of memorable stories to be heard. Find out what happened when Abraham Lincoln visited a fort in Washington where Oberlin students were stationed, what Oberlin was like in the 1860's, and who from Oberlin bravely carried the 54th Massachusetts Infantry's state flag in the famous battle at Fort Wagner! More information, including online registration, may be found at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Junior Docent Camp: History Isn't Just for Grown-Ups!

The Oberlin Heritage Center invites teens age 13-17 to a two-day **Junior Docent Camp** on Monday and Tuesday, **June 20 and 21 (9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)**. Junior docents will learn about greeting visitors and the keys to great museum experiences, proper museum artifact handling and care, fun historic games, the highlights of Oberlin history, research, and the occasional surprises that pop up on tours (e.g. "Sorry, no, the cat cannot come into the schoolhouse!"). Teens will tour the Oberlin Heritage Center's buildings, and receive a behind-the-scenes peek into the collections, offices, and archives. Each will choose and learn about a room at the museum and then lead friends, family, and interested others on a mini-tour at 3:00 p.m. on June 21. You'll be amazed what these young people learn in two days! This is a great workshop for students who like stories from the past, enjoy meeting new people, and want to receive service hours while having fun. Students also can earn back part of their registration fee if they volunteer fifteen hours at the Oberlin Heritage Center's summer programs, including youth camps, community events, and tours. For more information or to register for the camp, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or contact the Museum Education and Tour Coordinator and camp instructor Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

Say "Hello" to OHC's Leadership Lorain County Summer Intern

Kaylie Marie Smith is the newest addition to the Oberlin Heritage Center team, coming to the Oberlin Heritage Center through the **Leadership Lorain County** public service internship program. Kaylie's home is Elyria and she is pursuing a degree in Psychology from Ohio State University. She is an ideal candidate for the leadership program, having participated in many service organizations locally and during college, including the Mount Leadership Society, Columbus Metropolitan Library Homework Help Center, and Literacy Social Justice Group. We are very excited that as an Ohio State University Scholars Ambassador she has given campus tours to visitors from all over the country. We hope the skills she learned there will make her a tour favorite during the Oberlin Heritage Center's busy summer tour season! The intern position is co-funded by Leadership Lorain County and the Oberlin Heritage Center. As part of the ten-week program, Kaylie also will visit other organizations, parks, and businesses to learn more about the varied and wonderful resources of Lorain County and how students and residents can get involved in community projects. Please make Kaylie feel welcome when you meet her this summer.

Microsoft Community Blog Features Oberlin Heritage Center

Remember earlier this year when the Oberlin Heritage Center posted in the E-Gazette that our organization had received \$5,000 worth of Microsoft software from the nonprofit organization known as **TechSoup Global**? (To refresh: **TechSoup** offers donation and discount programs through its mission to provide nonprofit and social benefit organizations with the technology resources and knowledge they need to operate at their full potential.) Following an OHC thank-you note to TechSoup, its Communications office got in touch with **Pat Murphy** to talk about featuring the Oberlin Heritage Center in a future marketing campaign. As a result of those conversations, the Heritage Center recently appeared on **The TechSoup Blog** in a feature titled “**Connecting With the Past Through Technology: Oberlin Heritage Center.**” The blog goes out to 20,000 TechSoup readers and countless others on the Microsoft community blog. To read more, visit the [blog](http://blogs.technet.com/b/microsoftupblog/archive/2011/04/28/connecting-with-the-past-through-technology-oberlin-heritage-center.aspx) at <http://blogs.technet.com/b/microsoftupblog/archive/2011/04/28/connecting-with-the-past-through-technology-oberlin-heritage-center.aspx>.

Help Spread the Word!

The Oberlin Heritage Center is one of more than 1,300 museums nationwide which are offering free tour admission to active duty military personnel and their families **between Memorial Day and Labor Day, 2011**. For a full list of **Blue Star Museums** nationwide, visit www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

The **Oberlin Heritage Center** is listed as #3 in the Traveler Recommended “Best Destinations for 2011” when readers search “Oberlin” in the British version of **TripAdvisor.com**. In the top spot is the Allen Memorial Art Museum, followed by Oberlin College, then the Heritage Center. What jolly good news! See for yourself at http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attractions-g50795-Activities-Oberlin_Ohio.html.

Welcome New Members

The Oberlin Heritage Center extends a warm welcome to new members **Betty O’Connor** (Oberlin), **Beatrice A. Skeens** (Amherst) and **Chase Stone** (La Jolla, CA). OHC members are like FAMILY, and we welcome you to join us if you are not yet a member – the more the merrier! Just visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org to request a membership brochure.

Endowment Campaign Update

The Endowment Fund for History Education has received \$42,540.50 in gifts and pledges from 41 donors, on its way to a goal of \$400,000. We salute **Ken Grossi and Sharon Sutherland** (Strongsville) and **Reid and Gail Wood**, both of whom became new **Endowed Life Members** this past month, joining 81 others (individuals or couples) whose past and/or present giving to the endowment totals \$2,000 or more. We’d love for YOU to consider becoming an Endowed Life member, too, by making a gift or multi-year pledge to the Campaign. Or, consider an IRA Rollover, which applies to charitable donors ages 70½ and older, and allows donations of up to \$100,000 in Individual Retirement Accounts assets (IRAs) to public charities without counting the distributions as taxable income. Ask your tax advisor for details about this popular tax provision that expired in 2010 and is now back for 2011. For more information about the Endowment Fund for History Education, contact Executive Director Patricia Murphy (patm@oberlinheritage.org) at (440) 774-1700 or Board Member Nick Jones (nrjones360@gmail.com) at (440) 774-3671.

Out and About: Staff and Intern News

Pat Murphy was among the speakers at the **American Association of Museums** annual meeting in Houston on May 22 through 25. One of the presentations Pat attended was given by Soong Shin Chao who is in charge of museums for the Chinese Government. He reported that it is official Chinese policy to support museum development and the country has expanded its number of museums from 350 in the 1980s to more than 3,000 today. Attendance is growing by leaps and bounds. Admission is free to nearly all museums. Where the government's original focus was on museums about Chinese heritage, today museums of all varieties have opened and are being developed at the rate of about 100 new museums each year, including eco-museums, museums devoted to ethnic minorities, and an underwater museum that showcases communities of the Yangtze River.

Oberlin Heritage Center student intern/Bonner Scholar **Tim Krumreig** has been selected to be the Oberlin College Bonner Center for Service & Learning's "Day of Service Coordinator" this summer! We're very happy he will continue to volunteer at the Heritage Center, too. College student intern **Rocio Leon** also will be staying in Oberlin this summer (and helping at OHC occasionally!) and doing research on transnational communities and Mexican immigrant networks between San Diego, California and Toyahua, Zacatecaz, Mexico. To support her work, Rocio was granted a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship and will be mentored by Gina Perez, Associate Professor/Chair of Comparative American Studies at Oberlin College. Congratulations to both Tim and Rocio!

Recent Oberlin College graduate, and former student intern, **Preston Sundin**, will head off to the National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan next fall to study Chinese Literature. Our best wishes go with him!

Karyn Norwood will complete her term of service as an AmeriCorps Volunteer with us in August. She then heads off to McGill University in Montreal where she will be studying for a Master of Library Science degree with a specialization in Archives. Among her many projects here has been a weekly feature on the Oberlin Heritage Center's Facebook page on "This Week in Oberlin in the Civil War." Find us on Facebook and check it out!

Kudos Corner

Congratulations to **LorMet Community Federal Credit Union** and their architect Mark Lesner for their latest award for the stunning restoration of the former AAA building on South Main Street in Oberlin! They received the *Restoration of the Recent Past* Award from the **Cleveland Restoration Society**, AIA Cleveland and AIA Akron at the Preservation Awards ceremony at the Hanna Theater on May 19th. **Pat Murphy** and the Oberlin Heritage Center were also recognized for providing assistance with the project.

Bravo, also to **Oberlin College, Clark and Post Architects**, and **Marous Brothers Construction** which received a Cleveland Restoration Society/AIA Award of Merit for the careful interior renovation of Asia House which was designed by Cass Gilbert and completed in 1931.

Applause, applause to the **Oberlin Bookstore** for putting the Oberlin Heritage Center in the spotlight this past month and featuring a display of books on Oberlin history alongside of information about the Oberlin Heritage Center! What a great neighbor you are!

An Important Tour Promotion Project That Awaits Funding:

The Oberlin Heritage Center wishes to produce, print and distribute a new color rack card to promote its history walks and tours and to distribute it at Ohio turnpike rest stops, **Visit Lorain County**, and other locations to help increase tourism. Total Cost: \$1,455 for 20,000 cards. If you know an individual,

organization or business who might like to make this project possible, please let us know! We will be happy to feature their support in the credits on the rack card.

Also of Interest

Did you or did your children attend one of the **Oberlin Schools' Open Rooms** at one point in the last four decades?! (Yes, four decades!). If so, you won't want to miss the celebration of their grand finale which will take place at The Eastwood School Open Room on **Sunday, June 5 at 7 p.m.**

Oberlin Heritage Center Honorary Trustee and volunteer docent **Betty Mahjoub** will share her stories and photographs in a free public presentation on "**My Experiences Teaching in Kenya**" on Thursday, **June 9th at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin.

The Ohio Humanities Council's **Ohio Chautauqua** travelling show makes its first stop of the summer in Lakewood with an array of first person historical characterizations and other activities from Wednesday June 22 through Sunday June 26th. The Heritage Center's docents already are planning an expedition. For details, visit <http://lakewoodhistory.org/chautauqua/>. Many of you will recall that Ohio Chautauqua was a big hit when it took place in Oberlin in 2003.

Take a **History Hike** in downtown Cleveland this summer. Four tours are offered and information is available at www.historicgateway.org or by calling 216-771-1994.

The Oberlin Heritage Center offers many opportunities for active learning for visitors and program participants of all ages, including hands-on history games, summer camps full of fun and learning, history walks and tours, self-guided bicycling/walking tours, and so much more. Did you know that many more museums are getting in on the action to combine experiential learning and exercise and promote healthy living? On Thursday, May 23rd First Lady Michelle Obama and Institute of Museum and Library Services Director Susan Hildreth announced the launch of **Let's Move! Museums & Gardens**. The national initiative will provide opportunities for millions of museum and garden visitors to learn about healthy food choices and will promote physical activity through interactive exhibits and programs. Mrs. Obama stated in a video address to attendees at the American Association of Museums conference in Houston that:

"Everyday, in museums, public gardens, zoos, and so many other places, you expose our children to new ideas and inspire them to stretch their imaginations. You teach them new skills and new ways of thinking. And you instill a love of learning that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Every day, you all make such a difference in the lives of our children. And that's why I'm so excited to work with you on an issue that is so critical to their health and well-being."

For more information, visit [Let's Move, Museums & Gardens](http://www.letsmove.gov) at www.ims.gov.

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

To subscribe to the free E-Gazette, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or send e-mail 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.