

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – June 2013

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

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## Newsflash – Save the Date: It’s a Celebration!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 8, 2013** and plan to attend the **Oberlin Heritage Center’s Anniversary Celebration!** Join OHC members and friends in a salute to our past and a commitment to our future at this fun, festive and unforgettable gathering on the Monroe House grounds from 5-7 p.m. This fundraiser for the Endowment for History Education will honor 20 years of leadership by **Pat Murphy**, Executive Director, and **Mary Anne Cunningham**, Assistant to the Director, as well as celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Oberlin Village Improvement Society, the early predecessor of OHC. It promises to be a very special occasion that you absolutely won’t want to miss! Invitations will be mailed to members later this summer, or you may contact [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org) to add your name to the mailing list.

## Lessons from the Past – Early Education in Ohio



If you think the education system was simple back in the “good old days,” think again! **Liz Schultz**, the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, presents a look back at early schooling as Oberlin and other communities throughout Ohio were being settled by westward-moving pioneers. Teachers’ days were overflowing keeping six or more grade levels on task, while students juggled lessons with many chores and responsibilities at home. James Fairchild, third president of Oberlin College, quite succinctly summed up school shopping in the 1820s Ohio frontier: “*There was no money to buy books, and the books*

*were not in the country to be bought.*” Hear more local school day reminiscences in this enlightening program that spans the early 1800s to the early 1900s. The event takes place **Wednesday, June 12 at 7:15 p.m.** in Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium and is free and open to the public.

## Teens Get In-Depth Look at Museums and their Treasures

The Oberlin Heritage Center and Allen Memorial Art Museum are teaming up once again to offer teens a unique opportunity to experience the inner workings of museums in a one week camp presented **June 24-28 (9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.)**. Participants in the “**Behind the Scenes at the Museums**” camp will learn about daily museum operations, in the galleries and in the collections by talking with professionals, trying activities just like the pros, and working on a mini project that family and friends can see at the end of the week. Campers will visit the Heritage Center and Art Museum as well as the Oberlin College Archives and the Special Collections department of the Oberlin College Library (including a hands-on letterpress studio). Youth can even volunteer at the museums following camp, if they wish, and earn service hours (and a rebate on the camp fee!). Cost is \$75 per teen; \$65 for children or grandchildren of members of OHC or AMAM. Register by June

15 and receive an additional “early bird” discount. For reservations, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700 and request a camp flyer.

## **Seeking Volunteer B&B Hosts**

One of the biggest fundraisers of the year for the Oberlin Heritage Center (as well as other Oberlin nonprofits) is the Bed & Breakfast program that provides overnight accommodations during peak times when out-of-town guests visit the college community. The Oberlin Heritage Center is the local nonprofit that benefits from visitors planning to stay in town during Oberlin College’s Freshman Orientation. We’re looking for volunteers to host first-year parents and college-age students on one or more nights between Monday, August 26 and Wednesday, August 28 (with the greatest demand being on Monday and Tuesday nights). If you can offer a private bedroom (double or twin beds) and a private or shared bathroom, with a simple breakfast in the morning, please let us know. It’s a great opportunity to be an Oberlin community ambassador, and support the Heritage Center as well! All proceeds from the Bed & Breakfasts help stretch OHC’s general operating budget. For more information, or to volunteer as a host, please contact OHC Honorary Trustee **Ann Livingston** ([alivingston@oberlin.net](mailto:alivingston@oberlin.net)) or Bethany Hobbs ([ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org)) To make it easier to reference your e-mail, please make your subject line “**B&B – Your Last Name**”.

## **History on the Go!**

Take part in one of the Oberlin Heritage Center’s popular history walks this summer and combine learning with a leisurely stroll in and around downtown Oberlin. Beginning June 1 two themed history walks will be offered on alternating Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. You can find out more about Oberlin’s famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom when you take part in the **Freedom’s Friends Underground Railroad History Walk** offered June 1, 15, and 29; July 13 and 27; and August 10 and 24. Or, hear fun stories about Oberlin’s earliest residents and the triumphs, debates, and scandals linked to the landmarks around Tappan Square in the **Scholars & Settlers History Walk** offered June 8 and 22; July 6 and 20; and August 3, 17 and 31. The fee is \$6 for adults; free for OHC members, children and college students. Visitors give the history walks high marks indeed. “*We found the Freedom’s Friends History Walk an interesting, enjoyable combination of fact, folklore, and material reference points, presented with vivacity,*” commented one recent guest. Make a reservation today at [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## **Be a History Spy – You Don’t Even Have to Wait ‘Til You Grow Up!**

Looking for something new to try as a Saturday afternoon activity for kids? Take part in the Oberlin Heritage Center’s special history walk for the younger set. The “**I Spy Oberlin: History & Architecture Scavenger Hunt**” is offered the first Saturday of summer months at 3 p.m., departing from the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street on *June 1, July 6, August 3, and September 7*). This one-hour walk is particularly designed for children ages 5-11 with an adult companion. It’s a delightfully engaging time for all as families are guided through historic Oberlin keeping their eyes peeled for historic markers, decorative details, and Oberlin oddities. (The event takes place rain or shine; we “spy” inside the Heritage Center’s historic building if inclement weather.) Just \$3 per child (and accompanying adults are free); reservations are encouraged. For more information, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## **Heritage Center Out and About (and Volunteers Needed!)**

Warm-weather months are some of the busiest of the year at the Oberlin Heritage Center! Visit the Oberlin Heritage Center's booth on Tappan Square during Oberlin's **Juneteenth** festivities taking place **Saturday, June 15**. And stop by the Heritage Center's table on South Main Street (just south of the Oberlin Post Office) during Oberlin's eighth annual **Chalk Walk** celebration on **Saturday, June 22**. OHC could use some volunteer power to staff our "out and about" booths this summer. If you can lend a hand for a two-hour time slot, we would be ever-so-grateful. It's a great opportunity for someone who doesn't have a lot of time to volunteer on a regular basis or for parents and kids to work together (and students can earn service hours, too!). Contact **Liz Schultz** ([tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) or 440-774-1700) if you can help at one or both events. For more information on Juneteenth's "Proclaiming Freedom" theme, visit [www.juneteenthoberlin.com](http://www.juneteenthoberlin.com). Visit [www.oberlinchalkwalk.com](http://www.oberlinchalkwalk.com) for more on colorful and creative Oberlin community event.

## **Members' Update**

New members at the Oberlin Heritage Center include **Anne Dillon** (Amherst) **Linda Gates** (Amherst), **Rocio Leon** (Oberlin/San Diego), **Larry Lepard** (Norwalk), **Vivian McCullough** (Sheffield Lake), and **Michael & Kelly Prill** (Oberlin), **Louise Shoemaker** (Oberlin) as well as new business member: **K-Kon, Inc.** (Keith Konnerth, Oberlin's Midas Muffler Service Expert). We extend to each of you a warm welcome and a big "Thank You" for joining OHC!

Our hearts are with the family of Endowed Life member, **Constance W. Boase**, who passed away on May 16, 2013. Connie was a great friend of the Heritage Center for many, many years.

## **OHC Staff, Intern and Volunteer Update**

OHC's Building & Grounds Assistant **Tommy Trice** will finish his term of service on June 22. Tommy joined the Heritage Center team in 2009 as part of Mature Services, Inc.'s division of employment and job training solutions. Tommy has left his mark on the Heritage Center through a number of painting and spruce-up projects, and he has many friends and fans among staff and volunteers who will miss his daily greetings and ever-friendly willingness to lend a hand. We're thrilled that in Tommy's "retirement," he plans to continue helping out regularly as a volunteer at the Heritage Center.

Warmest wishes go to two of our top-notch Oberlin College student interns, **Rocio Leon** and **Erin Swenson-Klatt**, who graduated with the Class of 2013 on Memorial Day. Rocio received a degree in History and Latin American Studies, while Erin was awarded a degree in History and Environmental Studies.

Former Oberlin intern and OHC Volunteer of the year in 2012 **Tim Krumreig** (OC 2012), is heading off to Boston at the end of the summer to join Massachusetts Campus Compact's VISTA Corps working with the Scott/Ross Center for Community Service at Simmons College.

**Pat Murphy** attended the American Alliance of Museums national conference in Baltimore last month where she spoke as part of several sessions pertaining to AAM accreditation and peer review and attended an Accreditation Commission Meeting. She also made a brief presentation to the AAM Board on Sustainability of Living History Museums and Historic Sites.

Congratulations to **Liz Schultz** for being selected as a recipient of a fellowship to attend the 2013 national conference of the Association for Living History Farm and Agricultural Museums

(ALHFAM) hosted by Hale Farm and Village in nearby Peninsula, Ohio. Liz's award, funded by the Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council, covers full conference registration and accommodations. While attending the conference, Liz will present a session on *Teen Volunteers: Recruiting, Supervising & Inspiring the Next Generation*.

**Mary Anne Cunningham** enjoyed welcoming Florida visitors, Mike and Dorene McAndrews to the Heritage Center recently and hearing the Oberlin "back story" of their restored 1940 DeSoto Coupe. The memorable visit turned into a new blog post, "[History Lesson on Wheels](#)" – find out more at [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) and click on the link in the "What's New" box on our home page.

Three cheers and best wishes to **Bethany Hobbs** who was recently elected as co-President of the Eastwood School PTO. Bethany also chaired the end-of-the-year school carnival which is a decades-old annual tradition and major fundraiser for the organization.

### **Also of Interest**

**OHC Salutes the Red, White and Blue!** The Oberlin Heritage Center is among more than 2,000 museums in all 50 states and the District of Columbia that are extending a warm welcome to active military families this summer. Now in its fourth year, the Blue Star Museum program is a collaboration begun by the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families (a national nonprofit founded to support and connect military families). Participating museums provide free admission to active military and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Some museums, such as the Oberlin Heritage Center, even extend their Blue Star welcome to service families all year round. Museums include children's museums, fine arts museums, history and science museums. For more information, including a full list of participating museums, visit [www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).

Congratulations to **Oberlin College** for being honored recently at the **Cleveland Restoration Society's** Celebration of Preservation held at the Allen Theatre in Cleveland. The awards program recognized exemplary projects and individuals who have made significant investments in the revitalization of northeast Ohio.

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