



Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette

August 2014

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

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

Summer Evenings are Perfect for “After Hours” History Walk

Learn about local influences on women’s rights and the fight to secure them in “**One Step More**” an **Oberlin Women’s History Walk**, one of the newest offerings from the Heritage Center which is receiving great reviews! 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 helped shaped what it meant to be a woman in Oberlin and in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This 75-minute guided walk will take place **each Wednesday evening in August at 6:30 p.m.** and will begin at the flagpoles on the southeast corner of Tappan Square. Reservations are needed and may be made at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or by calling (440) 774-1700. Fee is \$6/adult; free to OHC members, college students and children (best suited for ages 9 and older). (Please make a reservation even if you are enjoying a *free* tour.)

You Are Invited: Potluck Picnic for Prue

Come celebrate and thank Collections Assistant **Prue Richards** as she retires after 15 years of amazing service at the Oberlin Heritage Center. Plan to bring a dish to share and enjoy an outdoor picnic in Prue’s honor on the OHC grounds **from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday, August 23** (rain date: same time on Sunday, August 24). The Heritage Center will provide tables & chairs, plates, utensils and beverages. To RSVP, contact (440) 774-1700 or members@oberlinheritage.org.

Family Fun at the Oberlin Heritage Center!

Oberlin’s long-time summer tradition of **Family Fun Fair** takes place throughout the downtown and on the Heritage Center grounds on **Saturday, August 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Try your hand at old-fashioned games on the lawn at the Little Red Schoolhouse, or step back in time to explore the first floor of the 1866 Monroe House on a self-guided tour. In addition to the free Fun Fair activities, the Heritage Center will host its regular Saturday morning **Freedom’s Friends (Underground Railroad) History Walk** at 11:00 a.m. Rounding out the day at 3 p.m. is the **I Spy Oberlin: History & Architecture Scavenger Hunt** designed for children ages 5-11 with an accompanying adult. Reservations and fees apply to the History Walk and I Spy tour; visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org for more information.

Bonnets to Boardrooms Book Signing

Eugenia (Geni) Poporad Vanek, author of the Heritage Center’s new oral history publication ***Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women’s Stories from a Historic College Town*** will sign books at the Heritage Center during Family Fun Fair festivities, **Saturday, August 2, from noon to 2 p.m.** The book features 52 Oberlin women born between 1893 and 1958 whose recollections provide insight into changing economic and social conditions that altered women’s roles within the family, the community, and society during the 20th century. Marvin Krislov, President of Oberlin College, refers to the book as “an extraordinary gift for future generations.” Pick up an extra copy or two at the OHC Museum Store and have them signed for a great gift-giving idea!

OHC Fall Calendar Offers Something for Everyone!

The Heritage Center's autumn line-up of programs includes free community presentations on local ties to abolitionist history, Civil War military history, architectural history, and emerging trends in history museum leadership. Join us for an old-fashioned hymn sing or come and meet the Heritage Center's energetic and inquisitive college student interns who talk about their international roots and studies abroad. Youngsters can take part in OHC's Winter Fun Days while parents can use the kids' time away to finish shopping, wrapping or baking for the coming holiday season. While the weather remains warm, explore historic Oberlin through a variety of outdoor history walks or the fun new Amazing Oberlin Smartphone Race. And no matter what time of year, you can always enjoy the Upstairs/Downstairs guided tour (and the Sneak Peek/Oberlin Origins mini-tour) to learn more about Oberlin's nationally significant history. Event and tour details are available at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or contact the office to request a copy of the latest events calendar.

How Observant Are You Really?

Test your eagle-eyes by trying the Heritage Center's new **Windows of Oberlin Scavenger Hunt**. All ages will enjoy searching for 20 notable windows scattered throughout campus and town. Download the hunt at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on the What's New sidebar tab), or contact the OHC office to pick up a form. Return your completed answer sheet **by September 1** to receive two free tickets for the Upstairs/ Downstairs tour of the Oberlin Heritage Center's three historic buildings. Participants also will be entered into a drawing for a free membership and a book of their choice from the Museum Store. The window hunt was created by OHC intern and Oberlin College architecture student **Rand Zalzala**.

B&B Volunteer Hosts Needed!

The Heritage Center has a growing waiting list of incoming first-year families looking for a simple, convenient place to stay during one or more nights of Oberlin College's New Student Orientation, that takes place **Monday, August 25 through Wednesday, August 27**. Presently, there are 14 OHC volunteer host homes, and we still could use several more. This is a fundraiser for the Oberlin Heritage Center and a great way to be an Oberlin community ambassador as well. If you can offer a private bedroom (double or twin beds) and a private or shared bathroom, with a light breakfast in the morning, let us know. If you can host, please e-mail OHCbnb@gmail.com or call B&B coordinator Gail Wood at (440) 775-0876.

Little Free Library Up and Running at OHC

Don't miss the delightful mini-replica of the Little Red Schoolhouse on the OHC grounds, which is one of Lorain County's newest **Little Free Library** locations. The Little Free Library initiative offers a "take a book, return a book" gathering place where neighbors can share their favorite literature and stories. The Heritage Center's "mini-schoolhouse" library was built to scale by the great Kendal woodworking team of **Bud Spierling, Jim Sunshine** and **Ed Wardwell** (you'll just LOVE the shingled roof "miniaturized" from a few of the Schoolhouse's full-size shingles!). This charming little library has already seen a lot of activity with plenty of positive feedback inscribed in the visitor journal tucked inside. Stop by and "check it out."

Heritage Center Features Preservation-in-Action at Every Turn

Work continues at the **Vineway building** at 82 South Main Street with the latest project involving the removal of east- and south side storefront windows, replacing them with new frames and glass, with

transom windows going in above. The restoration is in keeping with the original design of the 1933 building that initially housed the H.G. Klermund Ford Dealership. Today's occupants include **The Mandarin** and **Lupita's** restaurants and the Oberlin Public Library's community technology center known as **The Bridge**. All of the businesses remain open during the renovation.

Out and about the grounds of the Heritage Center, recent passersby may have seen **Pat Ives** making repairs on the **Jewett barn**. The **Jewett House roof project** is done and looks amazing! The gleaming new roof coating should last at least 10 and perhaps as long as 25 years, and will help prevent further leaks that had been a regular occurrence due to the Jewett House's deteriorating standing seam metal roof. Nearby, **Art Brenner** and son are sprucing up the **South Professor Street Group Home**, owned by the Heritage Center and leased by the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Murray Ridge Center.

OHC Tour Receives Five-Star Salute!

Hats off to the Heritage Center's wonderful team of volunteer and college student interns who do such a tremendous job leading tours and history walks. Last month, OHC received its first review on our Facebook page – a Five-Star review at that! Here's what Jennifer S. had to say after her recent visit: *We were luckily visiting family in the area over Fourth of July weekend and able to make a tour. Thank you for a wonderful and informative tour of your historic buildings! We really enjoyed learning about the history of Oberlin. What a beautiful town with a fascinating history!* Keep up with all the happenings at the Heritage Center and delve into Oberlin history from an array of different angles by liking us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/oberlinheritagecenter).

Spreading the Word About Oberlin History

The Heritage Center has two new color brochures paid for in part by the award of a \$500 bed tax grant from the **City of Oberlin** administered through the **Oberlin Business Partnership**. One leaflet promotes OHC's Education and Outreach Programs (including the new History Kits, which teachers can rent for two weeks to build upon classroom lessons). The other is a "take away" brochure that reflects on highlights from the Heritage Center's Upstairs/Downstairs tour.

Hot off the press! The fifth edition of the Northeast Ohio Intermuseum Council **Discovery Guide** includes visitor information for 125 museums and parks in a seven-county area along Ohio's northcoast (including the Oberlin Heritage Center). How fun it was to meet OHC visitors last year who were using the Discovery Guide as a checklist to visit *all* of the guidebook's listings throughout the year. Included are internationally renowned museums in major urban centers as well as metro parks, nature facilities and small local history museums spread across parts of the Western Reserve. Pick up the new Discovery Guide at the Monroe House or call to request a copy.

College student volunteer **Madison Bishop** (OC '15) has been busy adding a collection of over 500 historical photographs to the Heritage Center's **Pinterest** page. See what she's done so far at <http://www.pinterest.com/oberlinheritage/our-common-center/>. (If you want to view the photos without creating an account, just click on any photo to start and continue to choose more using the menu on the right.) These great moments in time span over 100 years of Oberlin history, and recall such key events as the Blizzard of 1913, the construction of many familiar buildings and the celebration of special community milestones. The page is still under construction, but most photos should be up by the end of the summer. The photos, many owned and shared by community members and institutions, originally were part of the "Our Common Center" project.

The Oberlin Heritage Center's warm-weather history walks will be featured in an article in the August edition of Ohio Traveler at www.OhioTraveler.com. Don't miss it!

OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News

Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, will present Youth Camps 101 at the Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA) Annual Meeting and Conference in Worthington, Ohio this fall. Liz's session is designed to assist in planning kids' camps from A to Z, including selecting appropriate themes and activities for young audiences, staffing needs, promotion, registration, supplies, and more. The Heritage Center has been offering camps for over 15 years, and received an OLHA History Outreach Excellence Award for its camp programs in 2011.

Docent volunteer and blogger **Ron Gorman** has added another chapter to his growing library of Oberlin stories from our nation's Civil War history. Read Ron's latest blog entry about the **Battle of the Crater**, fought 150 years ago on July 30, 1864. This battle was of particular importance to soldiers of the United States Colored Troops, for many of whom this was the first real taste of combat. Some Oberlin men, including Perry Carter, were present at the disastrous Union loss. Last month, Ron also represented the Oberlin Heritage Center in relaying the story of the Oberlin-Wellington Slave Rescue at **Lorain County Community College** during an event sponsored by Totally Engaged Americans of Lorain County.

Our multi-talented Leadership Lorain County intern, **Austin Spenzer**, has been blogging *and* building among the many projects he has done for the Heritage Center this summer. Read Austin's recent blog **New and Old Faces** which talks about the research he has done on Sarah Frances Gulick Jewett (1854-1937), a strong national advocate of community hygiene and cleanliness (and a great campaigner against the common house fly, which she saw as the *ultimate* carrier of filth and disease!). See how Austin has conveyed Fannie Jewett's beliefs in a creative and thought-provoking display in the main hallway of the Vineway building at 82 South Main Street.

Former OHC Museum Fellow (2003-2004) **Maria Surovy** returns to Oberlin this month to lead the World Cultures camp for kids. Maria now works in teacher education for Lake Erie College and Kent State University. We are thrilled she sets aside at least one week per summer to teach in the Heritage Center's summer camp programs.

Western Reserve High School student and OHC volunteer extraordinaire **Annalee Sekulic** will spend her junior year abroad in Helsinki, Finland as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student (sponsored by the Oberlin Rotary club). Anna, who received the Oberlin Heritage Center's Youth Service Award in 2013, told us she would miss seeing her OHC Family every week, but promised to keep in touch with all as she embarked on the "adventure of a lifetime."

We extend a warm welcome to new part-time Collections Manager **Maren McKee** who begins at the Heritage Center on August 6. Maren is a recent graduate from the highly regarded Master's Degree program in Historical Administration at Eastern Illinois University (Charleston). In the small world department, Maren interned at the Lake Forest Lake Bluff Historical Society (Lake Forest, IL) with one of OHC's outstanding former interns and Museum Fellow, Laurie Stein (who is now Curator at the LFLB Historical Society). Maren will have the chance to work several weeks side-by-side with **Prue Richards** before Prue retires at the end of August. (And we're pleased that Prue plans to continue just as she began her association with the Heritage Center— as a volunteer — helping out whenever her schedule permits.)

We also bid a fond farewell to AmeriCorps member **Jen Graham** who leaves the Heritage Center at the end of August. During a very productive year as part of the Ohio History Connection's Local History Corps, Jen assisted many local history organizations with special projects and built bridges among area historians through her bimonthly newsletter, *The Present Past* (you can read the August issue at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org; click on the link at the "What's New" sidebar). At the Heritage Center, Jen filled our Facebook page with an array of creative posts and pictures, developed a new Oberlin Women's History Walk (presenting a community program on the topic as well) and served as a marvelous ambassador for local history. The Heritage Center's new AmeriCorps member will be introduced in next month's E-Gazette – stay tuned!

Members Update

A welcome "shout out" goes to new Heritage Center members: **Kim Gorman** (Oberlin) and the **Oberlin College Community & Government Relations Office**. Thank you for your warm support, and we look forward to seeing you often throughout the coming year! New members are *essential* to keeping the Oberlin Heritage Center a strong and vibrant community resource. If you are not yet a member, or if your membership has lapsed, we encourage you to support the Heritage Center by becoming a member today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/getinvolved/join.

Also of Interest

Mama June: A Different Perspective on AIDS. This award-winning documentary, co-produced and co-written by Oberlin native **Art Holbrook**, features the inspiring and unforgettable June Wilson, a 74-year-old, middle-class doctor's widow with HIV, as she returns to her beloved Kasulu, Western Tanzania, to try to break through the prejudice and denial that underlies the terrifying AIDS epidemic in Africa. *Mama June* is a personal look at the African situation, told from a rare perspective. This free public presentation takes place **Thursday, August 7 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive).

Re-Use from the Past is a Gift to the Present. Thank you to OHC Endowed Life Member **Demmie Carrell** for sharing this heartwarming story about the journey – through time and across town – that has been made by some beautiful old Oberlin sandstone pavers. As you may know, early sidewalks in Oberlin were made of sandstone, most likely acquired from nearby quarries. In 1995, when Demmie and husband Jep were planning a move to the new retirement community **Kendal at Oberlin**, Jep noticed a nice pile of large sandstone pavers curbside at the corner of Union and North Main Streets where local residents were upgrading neighborhood sidewalks. Jep purchased the pavers from one of the homeowners and had them installed in a patio at the Carrells' new Kendal cottage. For years, they enjoyed having a piece of Oberlin history right outside their new door. After Jep passed away, Demmie eventually moved to a Kendal apartment. Around this same time her old cottage neighborhood underwent a major re-design and renovation, so Demmie asked that the sandstone pavers be kept and stored so that they might someday be re-used and enjoyed again. Not long ago, Kendal volunteers began sprucing up the wetlands area at the entrance to the Heiser Community Center at Kendal. The group approached Demmie to see if they might incorporate the saved sandstone in their project. Demmie liked the idea, and today, you'll see an inviting sandstone patio gracing the wetland's northern rim. There's even a bench for relaxing, bird-watching, or simply enjoying the view. What a wonderful tribute to **Jep Carrell**, a longtime trustee of the Oberlin Heritage Center, and his original vision to hold on to the sandstone, re-use it, and preserve a lovely bit of Oberlin history.

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.