

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – July 2015

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Follow the Oberlin Heritage Center on   

Oberlin Women's History Walk: Local Stories of our Nation's Progress

The very popular **One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk**, offered **each Wednesday evening in July at 6:30 p.m.**, presents stories of powerful Oberlin women who used the Oberlin founders' promises of education and equality to shape what it meant to be a woman in Oberlin and in the United States. Oberlin women like Lucy Stone, Marianne Parker Dascomb, Adelia Field Johnston, Mary Church Terrell, and Lucy Stanton Day helped lead the discussion and shape the future of many women's issues such as education, marriage, public image, moral reform and public health. The dynamics and progress happening in Oberlin throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries offer a fascinating case study for examining the larger national movement towards women's rights. This 75-minute history walk in and about downtown Oberlin is \$6 per adult; free for children, college students and OHC members. Other history walk themes offered this summer include the **Freedom's Friends (Underground Railroad) History Walk** (offered Saturdays at 11 a.m. through the end of August), **Scholars & Settlers (Tappan Square) History Walk** (offered the first Sundays of July and August at 1 p.m.) and **Radicals & Reformers (Westwood Cemetery) History Walk** (offered Saturdays at 11 a.m. in September). To make reservations for any OHC tour or history walk, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

DIY: A History Tour Where YOU Take the Lead

Select a date and time most convenient to you, move at your own pace, hit just the highlights or delve into the fun facts beneath the surface – do it all YOUR way when you enjoy the Heritage Center's new **Picture the Past** tablet tour of historic downtown Oberlin! The tour covers a one block radius extending from the corner of Main and College Streets and is filled with “now and then” comparisons, historic photographs, and more! To experience the tour, come to the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street) Tuesday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and borrow one of the Heritage Center's iPads at \$5/hour or \$20/day (OHC members receive a 20% discount). We're working on a similar do-it-yourself tour with an abolition theme – stay tuned for more details later this summer. These new digital tours are made possible in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Museums for America program.

It's Summer Camp Season – Register Now!

The Oberlin Heritage Center's Summer Camp registration is underway for boys and girls ages 8-13 with three great offerings to choose from: Walk in the footsteps of ordinary Oberlinians who did some pretty extraordinary things in the **Oberlin Changed the World** camp (**July 27-31**). Explore the basics of building and design in our ever-popular hands-on **Architecture** camp (**August 3-7**). Learn about master artists from world history and how their life and culture influenced their artwork in the new **Artists in Their Time** camp (**August 10-14**). Camps are held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Fee is \$110 for the week; \$100 for children

and grandchildren of OHC members; scholarship assistance is available to those who qualify for schools' free lunch programs. Register at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Looking Ahead: Save the Date of August 8!

Oberlin's long-time summer tradition of Family Fun Fair takes place **Saturday, August 8**, beginning at **10 a.m.** with free activities designed for families with young children offered throughout downtown and on the grounds of the Oberlin Heritage Center. Try your hand with old-fashioned games at the Little Red Schoolhouse, or step back in time and explore the first floor of the 1866 Monroe House on a self-guided tour.

At the end of the day's Fun Fair festivities, all are invited to a casual, come-as-you-are community farewell gathering taking place at the Heritage Center's Little Red Schoolhouse from **3-4:30 p.m.** to express best wishes to **Patricia Murphy** for an exceptional 22-year span as OHC's first professional executive director. Light refreshments will be served, and brief remarks will occur at 3:30 p.m. Questions: contact members@oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

More B&B Volunteers Needed for Waiting List!

All of the Heritage Center's current host homes are booked full with reservations from parents bringing their first-year students to Oberlin College at the end of August, and we are looking for additional volunteers to help accommodate our waiting list! Bed-and-breakfast volunteer hosts are needed for **one or more nights between Monday, August 24 and Wednesday, August 26** (with the greatest need being on Monday and Tuesday nights). If you can provide a single or double room in your home (with a private or shared bathroom) and a simple breakfast the following morning, please let us know. The annual B&B fundraiser provides much-needed income to help stretch the Heritage Center's general operating budget. To volunteer as a host, or to learn more, e-mail OHCbnb@gmail.com.

A New Look for OHC Website

Check out the fresh, user-friendly appearance of the Oberlin Heritage Center's website at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org. The simple, clean lines of the new home page and subsequent inside pages were developed in collaboration with **Emerge, Inc.** (Avon Lake), through funding provided in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Museums for America program. The layout should be easier and quicker for viewers to find the information they need, and the new design also works better for mobile devices. We are lucky that the timing has been excellent in making these changes since Google recently announced intentions to rank mobile-friendly WebPages higher in search results. OHC is ahead of the times! In coming weeks, we'll continue to add photos and work out a few "bugs" in the new format. Visit the Heritage Center's website one day soon on your PC or mobile device and let us know what you think!

Preservation Close to Home

Staff and volunteers at the Heritage Center are seeing preservation-in-action all around them this summer. The restoration experts at **Grunwell-Cashero Company** are undertaking two big projects on the grounds of the Monroe House during the next few weeks. Repairs will be made to the existing sandstone sidewalk to the north (front side of Monroe House) with new reinforced concrete replacing the presently deteriorating curb. Meanwhile, to the rear of the house, major work will be

done to excavate and waterproof the southwest corner to stop water seepage in the Monroe House basement. The work is funded in part by a bequest made by former trustee **Sara Carter Balogh**.

More work is also underway at OHC's Vineway Building on Main Street. The south side is being repainted, following repairs to the block wall.

OHC's Most Recent Audit Available on Website

The independent auditors' final report, conducted by **Cohen & Company** of Cleveland, is now available for review on the Oberlin Heritage Center website. Click [here](#), or go to www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on "About" in the main menu bar, then scroll down to "Audit" to see the organization's consolidated financial statements for the years ending December 31, 2014 and 2013. This report comes after a three day on-site visit by members of the Cohen staff this past May and a presentation from Tina Dzik (Senior Manager) and Kerry Gubics (Partner) to the Board of Trustees in June.

OHC Board, Staff and Volunteer News

Volunteer **Eileen Telegdy** jumped in with both feet to help finish digitizing the Heritage Center's oral history interviews. She is one of many volunteers in recent years who assisted with the conversion of oral history interviews from their original cassette tapes to computerized WAV (sound) files for better preservation and availability to the public. What began for Eileen as a one-or-twice-a-month commitment to the project quickly shifted gears as she explains how she became "hooked." "I anticipated a mundane project but once I heard a couple interviews I found them to be so captivating and compelling and wanted to be in the basement at Monroe House every morning four days a week for the past few months with earphones in place! To be able to hear the interviews and listen to the voices added an invaluable dimension and increased understanding exponentially. As a new resident in Oberlin, listening to the tapes informed me that everything I see in this city started with an idea and much effort by caring citizens. I have also been able to hear the childhood memories of growing up in Oberlin, through the eyes of multiple generations who then went on to adulthood through the tumultuous times that have faced our nation. I think these interviews are a treasure and feel it was a privilege to hear them." Learn more from Eileen's new blog entry [Behind the Scenes: - Oral History Digitizing](#) at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

Board member and volunteer docent, **Ron Gorman**, has posted another new blog to the Heritage Center's website. In [Juneteenth – the "Extinction" of Legalized Slavery in America](#), Ron delves into the complicated ending to a complex system, how Oberlin reacted to it, and why Juneteenth has been chosen as the day to celebrate. For more, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog/.

The Heritage Center's Leadership Lorain County summer intern, **Maggie Bender**, is working on an LLC summer service project in her spare time and welcomes your help! LLC has partnered with the Nord Center, a nonprofit agency providing mental health services to Lorain County adults, adolescents and children. LLC interns will be creating a lending library at the Nord Center's main facility over the summer. Donated books of any kind are welcome, especially adult and young adult titles. Donations can be dropped off at the Leadership Lorain County offices on 201 Burns Road, Elyria. For questions, call (440)366-4700.

We're glad to have college-student volunteer **Emily Innes** of Vermilion helping with oral histories, scrapbooks and other projects at the Heritage Center during her summer break. Emily attends Centre College (Danville, KY) where she plans to double major in History and English. She also is volunteering some of her time this summer with the Thomas Alva Edison Birthplace museum in Milan.

Members' Update

Welcome to new OHC members **Steve Bates** (Columbia, SC), **Becky Bode**, **Ann Francis**, **Nancy Lombardi** and **Laurence & Marjorie Porter** (all are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise). OHC is grateful to new Endowed Life Members (ELMs) at the Copper level: **Erik & Michele Andrews**, **Jeff & Bethany Hobbs**, and **Liz Schultz** as well as current ELMs who increased their endowment commitments to reflect new levels of giving: **Don & Mary Anne Cunningham** and **Ed & Anne Wardwell** (moving to the Aluminum level), **Pat Murphy & Keith Koenning** and **Reid & Gail Wood** (increasing to the Silver level), and **Nick & Sue Jones** (stepping up to the Gold level). You, too, are invited to be part of a good thing! [Join](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) the Heritage Center today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org!

Also of Interest

The **Oberlin Summer Theater Festival's** mission is to serve Lorain County and the larger northeastern Ohio community by presenting free productions of meaningful theater classics. This year's repertory includes **Treasure Island** (a play by Ken Ludwig, adapted from the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson), **All's Well that Ends Well** (by William Shakespeare) and **Crumbs from the Table of Joy** (by Lynn Nottage). For more information, visit www.oberlinsummertheaterfestival.com or call (440)775-8169.

The **Oberlin Heritage Center** is this year's featured nonprofit organization in **Oberlin's 2015 Community Directory** published by the *Oberlin News-Tribune*. Take time to read this great introduction to Oberlin history and learn about all the different kinds of activities that take place at our model small museum, historical society and historic preservation organization!

Alta Weiss from Ragersville, Ohio put herself through college and medical school playing professional baseball on a men's team in the early 1900s. Come hear her story when Eden Valley Enterprises presents **You Can't Play Ball in a Skirt!** at the Huron Public Library (333 William Street) on **Tuesday, July 14 at 7 p.m.** The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (419)433-5009.

Make plans to attend the 21st annual **Women's Equality Day luncheon** in celebration of American women gaining the right to vote. This year's theme is *Laudable Lawyers: Women in Law* and takes place **Saturday, August 29 at 12 noon** at the Oberlin Inn (7 North Main Street). Reservations at \$12 per person (which includes lunch) may be made by contacting Ovidia Guaderrama, 191 Hollywood Street, Oberlin, OH 44074. For more information, call (440)775-3711.

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