

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – September 2015

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Follow the Oberlin Heritage Center on   

Westwood History Walk Combines Spirited Stories with Colorful Backdrop

Enjoy stories of some of Oberlin's most intriguing residents of days gone by, amidst the autumn beauty of Westwood Cemetery, on the **Radicals & Reformers History Walk** offered **Saturdays, September 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 11:00 a.m.** The guided 75-minute tour promises a pleasing balance of Westwood's scenic landmarks and stories of some of the many determined men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo. \$6 per adult; free to OHC members, college students, and children under 18 accompanied by an adult. (The walks are recommended for ages 9 and up.) Participants gather near the Westwood Cemetery entrance (455 Morgan Street) to begin the historic journey; parking is available nearby. Advance registration is necessary; visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

OHC Celebrates Smithsonian Museum Day with FREE Tours

The Oberlin Heritage Center takes part in *Smithsonian Magazine's* 11th **Annual Museum Day** by providing free tour admission on **Saturday, September 26 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.** to visitors plus one guest who present the Museum Day Admission Card. Museum Day involves hundreds of museums around the country and allows for one day only the free-admission policy of the Smithsonian's Washington, D.C.-based properties to be emulated throughout America. Don't miss this great opportunity to take a tour of the Oberlin Heritage Center or to visit another participating museum that day. Find out which museums nationwide are part of Museum Day and download your Admission Card at www.Smithsonianmagazine.com/museumday.

Introducing: New Tablet Tour About the Underground Railroad!

Borrow an iPad from the Oberlin Heritage Center between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and do this **Freedom's Friends: Abolition/Underground Railroad** tour yourself! Move at your own pace through town and campus to learn about local monuments and discover new stories connected to Oberlin's abolitionist history. The main tour covers about a mile, and participants can go farther afield (within Oberlin) on foot or by car if they wish to do more in-depth exploration. This new self-guided tour, along with the **Picture the Past/Historic Downtown Oberlin** tablet tour, have been made possible in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Fees for tablet tours are \$5/hour or \$20/day with a 20% discount for OHC members. For more, call (440) 774-1700 or stop by the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street) for a free up-close look to see what it's all about.

OHC's Fall Line-Up: Save these Dates!

The [Heritage Center's fall calendar](#) of events recently was mailed to members – you can also review upcoming programs online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on the "Events & News" tab in the main menu bar, scroll to Events Calendar, and click on the prompt offering a more detailed description of upcoming events). Below is a sampling of October events:

October 16 (Friday, 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) **NEOEA Teacher Workshop: Alternate Sites of Learning (Grades K-12)**. The Allen Memorial Art Museum and the Oberlin Heritage Center pair up for this free workshop focused on engaged learning outside of the classroom. Learn about teaching strategies and techniques used to stimulate student and visitor interactions with works of art, historic artifacts, and

buildings, and explore multidisciplinary approaches to using the collections. For further information, contact **Jason Trimmer**, the AMAM's Eric & Jane Nord Family Curator of Education, at (440) 775-8671 or jtrimmer@oberlin.edu. Deadline for registration is October 2 (limited to 20 participants).

October 17 (Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.) **Lorain County Preservation Network Open House**. All are welcome to stop by to learn more about local preservation efforts through a variety of displays, updates and opportunities to make connections with others involved in preservation work around the county. Location: Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). Some organizations, including the Oberlin Heritage Center, the Oberlin College Library's Special Collections, and the Oberlin Underground Railroad Center Implementation Team (OURCIT), will host individual open houses at their sites as well (watch for more information in the October E-Gazette).

October 28 (Wednesday, 7:15 p.m.) **Frederick Douglass One Man Show**. Dramatist and educator **Wesley Williams** presents a compelling, thought-provoking and informative first-person performance. The one-hour program introduces you to Douglass's life and famous speeches, while providing a powerful interpretation of how the American abolitionist's prolific words speak to humanity in the 21st century. Free/open to the public. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive).

Treasured Notes, Delightful Toasts, and Memories from A-Z

More than 100 Oberlin Heritage Center members and community friends gathered on the grounds of the Little Red Schoolhouse on a sunny **Saturday afternoon, August 8**, to bid a warm farewell to Executive Director **Pat Murphy**. Pat was presented with a lovely vintage "treasure chest" that overflowed with cards and notes sent from fans around the country wishing her well in retirement. The following **Friday, August 14** at Kendal at Oberlin, Pat received a marvelous ABC Memory Book of photos reflecting an alphabet of topics and special moments from her 22 years at OHC. This special breakfast celebration also saluted new Executive Director **Liz Schultz** and was attended by 85 Board members, Honorary Trustees, Endowed Life Members (ELMs) and staff. Board President (and OHC's own Poet Laureate) **Nick Jones** welcomed guests with a buoyant toast to both outgoing and incoming directors:

Good morning, all, and welcome here
to Kendal's breakfast and festive cheer.

Just look around you and you'll see
so many friends of OHC!

Current trustees, and honorary, too,
the former presidents and the new...

You generous ELMs, the ones
who built up our endowment funds!
And then our staff, retired and working,
whose steady work, no effort shirking,
whose careful skill, you will confess,
have made for us such great success!

So, welcome all! But there are two
amongst us here this morning, who
we need to single out for special note —
and, just for them, our rhymes devote.
First — no surprise! - - will be for Liz,
Who's taught us well what history is,
whose tours and camps and docent training
are only a few I could be naming,

and now, with no qualm or inhibition,
she takes on for us her new position!

And then there's Pat! What can I say?

our leader now for many a day...
well, many a year, or decade, too,
a visionary and a worker, who
took a small and dedicated group
and made them into such a troop
of volunteers, who hired a team
and led them to achieve a dream.

And now, as she moves on to other things,
with her our fondest thanks she brings!

So, staff and board, and volunteer,
ELMs, and all who hold this center dear,
raise now your glass in a collective toast:
to OHC, and all this host
of friends; to Liz; and most
to one whose leadership has made all that
a real and lasting thing — here's cheers to Pat!

Executive Director Schultz Plans to Build on Strong Traditions

Liz Schultz is excited about her new role at the Oberlin Heritage Center and the opportunity to build on the traditions of planning, accomplishment and excellence that have become hallmarks of the organization. Schultz recently paid special tribute to Murphy as she looked ahead to making the transition from Museum Education and Tour Coordinator to that of Executive Director. *“It has truly been an honor working with Pat Murphy and learning from her leadership,”* remarked Liz. *“The bar is set very high, and with good reason. Oberlin has much to be proud of, but it has never rested on its laurels. The community has been a leader in the nation in many movements, whether it was anti-slavery, equal education, prohibition (like it or not), or Civil Rights. And it continues to be a leader, and I look forward to being part of that tradition...working with the community to preserve and share its stories of leadership and struggle. OHC will continue to build its programming so that everyone can be inspired by this history, whether it is in the classroom, on a tour, reading a book, browsing online, listening to oral histories, or sharing stories directly with each other.”* Liz is eager to find out more about how OHC’s members and friends envision the Heritage Center of the future, and looks forward to continuing to work together to make that happen.

Oberlin Heritage Center 2014 Annual Report

Review highlights of the past year in OHC’s latest annual report mailed to members at the end of August. [*Celebrations, Renovations, Transitions, Awards, and More*](#) takes a look back – in words and pictures – at an array of accomplishments made possible by the marvelous support given to the organization throughout the year. You also may view this wonderful recap in stories and photos by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (select “Annual Reports” on the pull-down tab beneath the “Events and News” main menu heading). New readers may ask why does the 2014 Annual Report appear so late in the year? Each Annual Report is printed in the fall of the year that follows so that it may include a financial audit summary of the year just past (the audit always is finalized in the summer). We work diligently to list all donors and volunteers in the Annual Report. Apologies to anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted (and please let us know who you are!).

OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News

Among all the good wishes given to Executive Director **Liz Schultz**, retiring director **Pat Murphy** (a self-proclaimed running “nut” who is competing in three marathons in coming months) added these words of wisdom:

Running the Heritage Center for 22 years has been a bit like preparing for and running a marathon, or two or three. Running OHC and running a marathon require working hard and consistently to build a solid base of support, and preparing and adhering to a plan to accomplish your goal. I don't expect Liz Schultz to take up marathon running anytime soon but I will share... some basic running advice that may apply to being the executive director of OHC.

Pace yourself.
Don't listen when people say you cannot do it.
Watch out for potholes.
Remember to eat and drink.
Know when to push hard.
Know when to back off.
Be nimble.

If you fall down, pick yourself up and press on.
Don't get stuck in the mud.
Take a break when you need to.
Thank the volunteers.
Celebrate your success.
And, above all, run your own race.
I'll be cheering you on!

Volunteer **Beverly Miller** coordinated 10 student volunteers who spruced up the Heritage Center's grounds during Oberlin College's Day of Service to the community at the end of August. OHC appreciated all the great work that was accomplished through this "learning and labor" experience!

Congratulations to intern **Kelsey Voit** who volunteered regularly at the Heritage Center during the past two years while she pursued her Master's degree in Library and Information Science with an emphasis on Museum Studies at Kent State University. Kelsey recently accepted a full-time position with the Lorain County Metro Parks to work on digitizing LCMP's historic photo collection.

Kaitlyn Goss (former AmeriCorps member at the Heritage Center) will be a presenter at the Inaugural Conference of the Ohio River National Freedom Corridor taking place in Cincinnati next month. Kaitlyn will talk about the new Freedom's Friends: Abolition/ Underground Railroad Tour that she developed for the Heritage Center in a session titled [The UGRR Story: Engaging, Interactive & Digital](#). For more on the conference, including registration information, see the "Also of Interest" section at the end of this newsletter.

We were saddened by the passing of former Mature Services Buildings and Grounds Assistant **Theron Burnett** (August 26, 2015). Theron joined the Heritage Center team in 2000, retired in 2010, and continued on as an OHC volunteer for several more years. He regularly attended the organization's Annual Meeting and stayed in touch with staff and many OHC friends. He will be dearly missed.

Canadian Students Visit Oberlin to Research Anti-Slavery Past

Students in Dr. Nina Reid-Maroney's American History Class at **Huron University College** in London, Ontario, Canada immersed themselves in a research project this past year to study their own community's involvement in anti-slavery activities in 19th century North America. The path they followed, both literally and figuratively, brought them to Oberlin for some of their research. In the fall of 2014, they visited the Oberlin Heritage Center to orient themselves to the abolitionism in the U.S. and specifically to the role that the community of Oberlin played in that movement. The students also spent considerable time in the **Oberlin College Archives** doing general research on the American Missionary Association (A.M.A.), a 19th century organization promoting abolitionist ideals that closely aligned with those of many Oberlinians, some of whom became leaders in the A.M.A. and the Underground Railroad. Learn more about the Oberlin-Ontario anti-slavery connection by visiting the student website at <http://huronantislaveryhistory.weebly.com/> (click on the Oberlin College Visit beneath the Community Research tab in the main menu bar) and listening in on some of the videotaped [interviews](#) done with local historians **Ron Gorman** (OHC Board Member/docent), **Ken Grossi** (Oberlin College Archivist/OHC Board 2nd Vice-President), **Roland Baumann** (Oberlin College Emeritus Archivist/OHC Honorary Trustee), and **Ed Vermue** (Oberlin College Special Collections and Preservation Librarian).

Shout Outs from OHC!

Youngsters in the Heritage Center's Architecture summer camp did a lot of projects the old-fashioned way: with pencil and paper. But they also had fun exploring digital design tools. **Desmond Bowen** of [The Bridge](#), the Oberlin Public Library's technology center, spent an afternoon teaching the campers how to digitally build walls, extrude shapes, paint surfaces, and even download entire building plans. Thanks to Desmond and **Stephanie Jones** for making this free field trip possible.

Congratulations to Oberlin College Professor of History **Carol Lasser** (also an OHC Honorary Trustee) who has been named president-elect of the [Society for Historians of the Early American Republic \(SHEAR\)](#) an association of approximately 1,000 members dedicated to exploring events in United States history between 1776 and 1861. Lasser will be inaugurated as president at SHEAR's next annual meeting which takes place in New Haven, Connecticut in July 2016.

How fun to see Oberlin recently named among **the 14 most beautiful, charming small towns in Ohio** at www.onlyinyourstate.com. Oberlin is described fittingly as a progressive little town with a close-knit community, a rich history and a lively arts and cultural scene.

Members' Update

Welcome to new OHC members **Maggie Bender** (Avon), **Kelsey Voit** (Elyria) and new business member **EcoSphere Associates** (Ricki Herdendorf/Sheffield Village). OHC is grateful to new Endowed Life Members (ELMs) at the Copper level: **Robert (B.J.) & Claudia Jones** and **Kurt & Donna Russell** as well as new ELMs at the Aluminum level, **Rich Fredrickson & Melanie Satterfield**. It's wonderful also to recognize several current ELMs who recently increased their endowment commitments to reflect new levels of giving: **John & Margaret Erikson** (moving to the Aluminum level), **Maxine Houck** as well as **Dayton & Ann Livingston** (increasing to the Silver level), and **Wuu-Shung & Mann-Mann Amy Chuang** and **Dick & Pat Holsworth** (stepping up to the Gold level). OHC members are committed to keeping the organization strong. New members always are needed to assure a bright future – **if you are not yet a member, please [join](#) today** by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org!

Also of Interest

Civil War in Bones & Bricks. Tour Cleveland's **Historic Woodland Cemetery** (6901 Woodland Avenue) on **Saturday, September 19 from 1-4 p.m.** Commemorate the end of the Civil War with a walk through Cleveland's only National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Site. Enjoy Civil War era and bluegrass music of The Federal Rebels Band. Free and open to the public. For more information, call (216) 337-9217 or e-mail dorothysalem@yahoo.com.

The Oberlin Heritage Center will be one of many local groups participating in the **Oberlin Community and Culture Festival** on **Saturday, September 26 from 1-4 p.m.** – stop by and say hello at OHC's booth on Tappan Square. The Festival celebrates diversity, creativity and commitment with a great mix of cultures, languages, food, music, dance, art, and more!

"I Walked with Bold Courage" Connecting Communities with Shared Stories of the Underground Railroad is the theme of the Inaugural Conference of the Ohio River National Freedom Corridor (ORNFC) taking place **October 16-18** in Cincinnati, Ohio. The ORNFC is a cooperative initiative involving historic sites, communities and individuals from across the tri-state area (Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio) in partnership with the National Park Service's Network to Freedom program. Early Bird Registration (\$70) ends September 15. To register, or to find out more, visit www.ohiorivernationalfreedomcorridor.org.

Young Ohio Preservationists (YOP) is a growing organization started just this year by **Heritage Ohio** for people under 40 who are interested in preservation and Ohio history. The group coordinates hands-on preservation workshops, field trips, networking, and more. Becoming involved with YOP helps to ensure the next generation of building huggers has a statewide voice to advocate and inform others about the exciting projects occurring in Ohio and the structures that still need to be saved. Check out the YOP Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Young-Ohio-Preservationists/220979118080499>.

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