

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – December 2015

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#Giving Tuesday: Your Support Matters to OHC!

If you like knowing that your dollars are being carefully used and doing good work at a local level, consider the Oberlin Heritage Center when “giving back” on **Giving Tuesday 2015**. Your gift to the Heritage Center’s Annual Fund helps preserve and share Oberlin’s important place in our nation’s history. To date, 211 donors have contributed over \$27,000 toward the goal of \$40,000 for general operating support, which is needed to help the organization end the year in the black. You can make an online donation at

www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or send a check, made

payable to the Oberlin Heritage Center, to MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074-0455.

If you’ve already made a tax-deductible end-of-year gift to the Heritage Center’s Annual Fund, a special THANK YOU (filmed by OHC college student intern **César Palácio**, OC ’16) offers donors a behind-the-scenes glimpse at some of the many ways your contributions help! Check it out at

<http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/getinvolved/makeagift/annual-fund>.



Ansku: American in Suomi



Who is Ansku and what is Suomi?! You’ve just been introduced to **Annalee Sekulic** (aka Ansku) an Oberlin Heritage Center high school volunteer, who spent the past school year abroad in Finland (also known as “Suomi” in Finnish) as a student ambassador through the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Anna offers a free public presentation about her overseas adventure on **Tuesday, December 8 at 7:15 p.m. in Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium**.

Currently a senior at Western Reserve High School, and also enrolled in college-level classes at Lorain County Community College, Annalee’s future plans include pursuing a graduate degree in museum studies and one day to work in Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History. She has volunteered weekly at the Oberlin Heritage Center since 2012 and received the Heritage Center’s Community Youth Service Award in 2013. For more about her year in Finland, read Anna’s blog at

<http://annaleesekulic.blogspot.com/>.

Great City, Great War: Oberlin's Response to World War I



Mark your calendars for this new program which launches an exciting line-up of Heritage Center events in 2016! Join us when AmeriCorps/Ohio History Service Corps member **Mary Manning** traces the experiences of Oberlinians who went to war and examines how questions of race and gender influenced their military service, while also looking at how those who stayed at home supported the continuing war effort. The program will be presented at the Oberlin Public Library on **Saturday, January 16 at 2 p.m.** and repeated at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium on **Wednesday, January 20 at 7:15 p.m.** Both presentations are free and open to the public. OHC members will be mailed a 2016

Events Calendar with further details in early January.

Collections Care and Preservation 101

The Oberlin Heritage Center will host a free workshop on preservation "basics" in caring for your collections. This introductory session is designed for local history organization staff and volunteers, students, and members of the general public. The event takes place on **Saturday, February 3 from 10:30 a.m. to noon** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). Featured speaker **Jennifer Souers Chevraux**, Education Outreach Officer of the Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA) of Cleveland, will discuss industry standards, agents of deterioration, and the solid science behind preservation practices. To register, contact the Heritage Center's AmeriCorps member Mary Manning at mary.manning@oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Plan Ahead: Mark Your Calendars for Spring Kids' Camps!

Museum Education & Tour Coordinator, **Amanda Manahan**, has been busy developing ideas and activities for the 2016 **Cultures of the World Home School Series** and **Spring Break Camps**, both geared for boys and girls ages 8-13. Save the dates of March 1, 8 and 15 for a three-part home school series for young explorers who want to learn more about Japan, Arctic Native Nations and Ireland. A couple of two-day **Spring Break**



Camps with the themes *Feel the Oberlin Rhythm* and *Spark an Idea! Power & Energy in Ohio* will be offered the weeks of March 21 and March 29. For more information, or to get on the Heritage Center's mailing list to receive a registration flyer call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

Who Will Be OHC's Next Community Awards Recipients?

Consider nominating an outstanding individual, organization, or business whose accomplishments in serving the community are in keeping with the Heritage Center's mission *to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make the community a better place to live, learn, work and visit*. Nominate someone in one of several award categories, among them:

- ***Community Historian*** - an individual who adds to the knowledge of the history of Oberlin through research, writing, and/or educating others
- ***Heritage Guardian*** – an individual/group dedicated to the ideals of conservation and preservation and who serves our community as a leader in preserving history, historical records, or historic buildings
- ***Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year*** – a volunteer who makes extraordinary contributions of time and talent to the Oberlin Heritage Center
- ***History Teacher of the Year*** – an area educator who inspires students to learn more about history
- ***Community Teacher of the Year*** – an area educator who inspires students to get involved in community service
- ***Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award*** – an individual, business or organization that helps to enhance the aesthetics and appearance of the community.

Download an **entry form** at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and submit your nomination by February 1, 2016. For more information, call (440) 774-1700 or send an e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org.

Oberlin College Students Connect Studies with Local History

Maren McKee, Collections Manager, welcomed Assistant Professor of English **Danielle Skeehan** and her class on *The Archive: Theories and Practices* to the Heritage Center not long ago. The group experienced a Sneak Peek Tour of the Monroe House followed by a behind-the-scenes look at the museum's collections storage area. In addition to talking about the history of Oberlin, Maren discussed the Heritage Center's collecting practices with the students and how various pieces are used to tell Oberlin's unique story. The visit wrapped up with an exercise in artifact analysis using objects from OHC's collection.

Also this fall, Associate Professor of Africana Studies, **Yveline Alexis**, and students from her class *Saint Domingue / Haiti in the Atlantic World* took part in a Freedom's Friends History Walk guided by OHC Board member and docent **Ron Gorman**. The group was interested in learning about the Underground Railroad as a form of protest and resistance to slavery.

The Heritage Center welcomes college classes and is happy to tailor a visit to enhance classroom teaching. Contact Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

Holiday Hours at the Oberlin Heritage Center

The Heritage Center will be **closed December 24-26 and January 1**. The office and Museum Store are open during the rest of the holidays. 75-minute guided tours are offered Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Sneak Peek/Oberlin Origins tours (a 30-minute introduction that “hits the highlights”) are offered during regular office hours, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Walk-ins welcome!

Heritage Center Values Openness and Accountability

Business Manager **Bethany Hobbs** recently posted to the OHC website the organization’s Form 990 for fiscal year 2014. The 990 contains information about the Oberlin Heritage Center’s finances, governance, and program and service offerings. Tax-exempt non-profit organizations are required annually to submit Form 990 to the IRS as well as complete the charitable registration with the Ohio Attorney General’s office. To review the document, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and scroll down beneath the “About” tab. For more information, contact Bethany at (440) 774-1700 or ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org.

Members Update

Welcome to new OHC members **Deborah Carden** (Elyria), **Kenneth & Jane Cheek**, **Lyn Cope**, **Arne & Arlene Franzan** (Superior, WI), **Linda Lewis**, **Amanda Manahan**, **Amy Margaris**, **Delores Pananen** (Superior, WI), **Roger & Donna Pearson** (Superior, WI), **Eric & Rachael Reighley**, and **Jack & Kathleen Secrist**. (All are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) OHC also is grateful to new Endowed Life Member **Eloise Pulsifer** (Copper level) whose gift is made in memory of **Thomas Richard Pulsifer**. This holiday season, consider an OHC membership for family and friends – it’s the perfect “one-size-fits-all” gift! Shop online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information. If you wish a gift card to be sent to the recipient before December 25, purchase your gift membership by December 18.

OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News

Executive Director **Liz Schultz** will be part of a panel presentation on *Best Practices and Current Issues Affecting Nonprofits* at **Cohen & Company’s** free public seminar “Strengthening Your Nonprofit” taking place in Cleveland in early December.

Don’t miss AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning’s** new display in the Heritage Center’s Main Street kiosk featuring *Oberlin in Fiction*, which she developed in honor of November being National Novel Writing Month.

Various staff and interns have completed several downtown history panels presently on display at **Bead Paradise**, **Herrick Jewelry**, **Watson Hardware**, **Ben Franklin**, **Carlyle Flower Shop**, **Woodshed Lesson Studio**, and the **Oberlin College Bookstore**. Each panel includes brief text and historic photographs to acquaint the reader with the story of the building. More panels are in the works. Interested business owners can contact **Amanda Manahan** at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org for more information.