

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – January 2016

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Ring in the New Year with Appreciation



The year 2015 ended on several high notes for the Oberlin Heritage Center! In November, OHC received notification that **Nordson Corporation** would give \$4,500 to support education programs and a new summer position for a local high school student. In December, **The Community Foundation of Lorain County's Jane and Eric Nord Fund** approved a grant of \$25,000 to support operating costs. And by the end of the year, OHC topped its \$40,000 **Annual Fund** goal with the support of more than 300 donors! Combined, this represents about 20% of the Heritage Center's annual budget for 2016. What do donors make possible? Children hearing inspirational stories about individuals who challenged stereotypes. New residents discovering the history of their houses. Business owners sharing their history with patrons. Letters and photographs being rescued from permanent damage and

loss. College students creating a home-away-from-home through service and learning. Families enjoying a fun day together. Researchers finding new leads. Museum professionals exchanging ideas for best practices. Volunteers continually learning and connecting. Many thanks to all who serve and support OHC's mission to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and make our community a better place to live, learn, work and visit.

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

The Oberlin Heritage Center launches its 2016 calendar with a newly researched and illustrated presentation focusing on the area's early 20th century history. AmeriCorps/Ohio History Service Corps member **Mary Manning** brings to light many important, intriguing and inspiring Oberlin connections to events that occurred during the First World War. Town and College alike had aided relief efforts to the Allied Powers since the war's beginning in 1914, and when duty called in the spring of 1917 as the U.S. entered the "Great War," Oberlin did not hesitate to send its finest young men and women to the battlefield. Manning traces the experiences of Oberlinians who went to war, examines how questions of race and gender influenced their military service, describes how those who stayed at home



supported the continuing war effort, and much more. The program will be presented at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) on **Saturday, January 16 at 2 p.m.** and repeated at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) on **Wednesday, January 20 at 7:15 p.m.** The presentation is free and open to the public at either location.

Collections Care and Preservation Basics



Come learn about the do's and don'ts of basic collections care and ask questions of an industry expert! This introductory workshop for students, local history staff/volunteers, and members of the general public, will introduce participants to museum standards, agents of deterioration, and the solid science behind preservation practices. Presented by **Jennifer Sours Chevraux**, the interim Executive Director and Education Outreach Officer of ICA-Art Conservation, this program is co-sponsored by ICA-Art Conservation, the Oberlin Heritage Center, and the Ohio History

Service Corps (funded by ServeOhio, Ohio's commission on Service and volunteerism). The event takes place on **Wednesday, February 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). Although the workshop is free, registration is required. Contact mary.manning@oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 to reserve your place.

Explore the World, Feel the Rhythm, Spark an Idea!



Home school families - mark your calendars for this year's **Cultures of the World** afternoon series when children can explore the cultures of the **Arctic Native Nations (March 1)**, **Japan (March 8)** and **Ireland (March 15)**. Discussions and hands-on activities are centered on art, architecture, food, geography, religion and more!

Area schools have different spring breaks, so OHC is offering **TWO** weeks of two-day mini-camps. **Feel the Oberlin**

Rhythm (March 21 & 22; March 29 & 30) features one of Oberlin's most well-known trademarks, **MUSIC! Spark an Idea! Power & Energy in Ohio (March 23 & 24; March 31 & April 1)** explores human ingenuity and how we create power to accomplish various tasks.

All of these programs are designed for boys and girls ages 8-13 and will take place at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). For fee and registration information, call (440) 774-1700 or visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

Why History is Important

On December 2 the OHC Board endorsed the History Relevance Campaign's Value Statement. A nationwide grassroots movement, the campaign is designed to help educators and museums demonstrate how both knowledge of the past and the practice of researching history is *not just nice, but essential*. Seven areas in which history impacts individuals and communities are identified by the campaign: Identity, Critical Skills, Vital Places to Live and Work, Economic Development, Engaged Citizens, Leadership, and Legacy. In supporting the statement, the Oberlin Heritage Center recognizes that history – written, spoken, passed down, preserved, challenged, photographed, and tweeted – has a profound impact on the present and the future, and that everyone is a part of that historical process. For more information, visit www.historyrelevance.com.

Salute Those Who Make Oberlin Special

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.* Award categories include:

- ***Community Historian***
- ***Heritage Guardian***
- ***History Teacher or Community Teacher of the Year***
- ***Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award***
- ***Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year***



Nominations may be brief and the process of writing a paragraph or two about someone who inspires you is rewarding in itself – try it and see! Download an entry form at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and **submit your nomination by February 1, 2016.**

Award winners will be announced and saluted at the Heritage Center's Annual Meeting, which takes place at the Oberlin Inn/The Hotel at Oberlin on Wednesday, April 6, 2016.

Board, Staff, Volunteer and Intern News

OHC volunteer docent, researcher and Board member **Ron Gorman** writes of the inspirational *Frances Jackson Coppin – From Slavery to Trailblazer* in his most recent blog posting. Don't miss it at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog.

Amanda Manahan, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, is featured in an excellent January 4 *Lorain Morning Journal* article written by Richard Payerchin about the Heritage Center's tour program. Read the article at <http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20160102/local-history-rooted-in-education-abolitionism>. Be sure to click on the splendid museum photos taken by MJ photographer Eric Bonzar, which accompany the article.

Executive Director **Liz Schultz** worked with four Oberlin College students in the fall semester's Environment and Society Class who were assigned to work on a community project in partnership with a local nonprofit. **Vincent Butler, Sloane Garelick, Laura McManamy** and **Emma Parsons** developed a delightfully informative Lorain County Ecological History Guide (*1833-present*) that is filled with ideas and images OHC staff can use in youth outreach programs.

How great it was to visit with former intern **Erin Swenson-Klatt** (Oberlin College, 2013) when she traveled through Oberlin on a drive east from her home state of Minnesota. Erin recently completed a year's internship with the North House Folk School in Grand Marais, MN. We also were happy to welcome back former volunteer **Matthew Hintz** (Hiram College, 2010) who stopped by between trips to the Oberlin College Archives. Hintz gave an OHC program in 2013 about the impact of religion on early Oberlin's idealistic practices and is currently expanding his research to local reactions to Reconstruction. He is a teaching assistant at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro while he continues studies and works on his dissertation. He also gives tours of the 1795 Blandwood Mansion in Greensboro.

Members Update

The Oberlin Heritage Center welcomed 65 new members to the organization in 2015 – one-half of whom lived outside of Oberlin (throughout Ohio, across the country, and even so far away as Canada!). In December, we welcomed new members **Walter Atwood, George & Gerry Blomgren, Bob & Ruth Brown** (New Haven, OH), **Angela Cecil** (Amherst), **Joe & Sue Colucci, Joseph Cross, Mike Demchak** (Akron), **Carver Clark Gayton** (Seattle, WA), **John Leinenweber, Dean & Juanita McKee** (Geneva, IL), **César Palacio, Marti R. Stuedle** (Wellington), **Jerry & Melva Tolbert** (Lorain), and **Ann Watkins** (Moline, IL). Welcome also to **Clifford Business Services** (Wellington) as a new OHC Business Member! And special thanks to **Charlotte Bosch** and **Max & Muriel Morgan** who increased their Endowed Life Memberships to the Aluminum level, as well as to **Eric & Cindy Severs** who moved up to the Silver ELM level. (Members listed here are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) If you are not yet an OHC member, make it your New Year's resolution to join at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org. You'll enjoy being part of a great community organization -- and the Heritage Center will value your support!



Straus the deer, which graces the front lawn of the Heritage Center's 1866 Monroe House, was manufactured around 1880 and first stood in the yard of prominent Oberlin businessman Marx Straus. It was donated to the Heritage Center in 2001 and extensively restored as a community service by McKay Lodge Fine Arts Conservation Laboratory of Oberlin. Over time, many family photos, personal memories and anecdotes featuring this cast iron stag have been shared throughout the community, proving the deer is and forever shall be a valued Oberlin resident.