

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – February 2016

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

OHC Celebrates Black History Month

Freedom's Friends" Tablet Tour is FREE to Members during February



In honor of Black History Month, rental fees will be waived for OHC members who borrow a user-friendly iPad from the Heritage Center to explore the community's abolitionist and Underground Railroad history. The new tablet tour allows participants to move at their own pace through town and campus while learning about local landmarks and discovering new stories of sacrifice and freedom that occurred in and around historic Oberlin. The main tour covers about a mile with an option to go farther afield (within Oberlin) on foot or by car for those who wish to do

more in-depth exploration. Too cold for an outdoor adventure? The tablet tour can be just as engaging when browsed from the warmth of a favorite armchair!

A credit card is required for tablet loan, but no user charges will be made to OHC members this month. The iPad tour typically includes a rental fee of \$5/hour or \$20/day – non-members still can pay this fee to experience the tour or join as an OHC member and have the fee waived. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Collections Care and Preservation 101

February 3 Workshop Filled to Capacity!



Jennifer Souers Chevraux, Education Outreach Officer and Interim Executive Director of ICA-Art Conservation in Cleveland, will present the do's and don'ts of basic preservation practices to a FULL HOUSE at the Oberlin Public Library in early February. We're thrilled that 60 people have enrolled for this free workshop, and we look forward to a great session! If you'd like to put your name on a waiting list, or be notified of a possible repeat of this program, do let us know. You may also be interested in the Heritage Center's next free workshop, "Caring for your Historic Photographs" offered later this spring. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Resolve to Be Involved in 2016

Docent Training Workshops Presented February 20 and 27

Did you resolve to learn something new, make new friends, or give back to the community in this New Year? If so, then being a volunteer docent at the Oberlin Heritage Center may be just what

Resolve to Be Involved in 2016 (continued)

you're looking for. Take part in this free, two-part Saturday morning workshop (10 a.m. - Noon) and learn how to present an engaging 75-minute tour through the Heritage Center's three historic buildings while sharing stories of the community and college in its first century, from the 1833 founding through the turn of the 20th century. You can even arrange to take a free tour in advance to see what it's all about. The training is thorough, the support encouraging, and there's great fun to be had in working with other volunteers, meeting visitors from all over the map and even enjoying an annual museum field trip with fellow docents to see "how others do it." Register by February 15. For more, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700.

Camps & Classes for Kids

Igniting a Passion for History in the Next Generation



OHC's **Hands-on-History & Cultures of the World** series for home school families takes place Tuesday afternoons March 1, 8, and 15 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. This year's itinerary takes us to the Arctic Native Nations, Japan and Ireland.

Spring Break mini-camps jazz it up with themes of music and energy. **Feel the Oberlin Rhythm** is presented March 21-22 and repeated March 29-30. **Spark an Idea! Power and Energy in Ohio** is offered March 23-24 and March 31-

April 1. Mini-camps run from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Register by March 1 and receive a discount!

These original children's programs are geared to boys and girls ages 8-13 and are held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street).

Teachers, scout leaders, camp counselors, and families: The Heritage Center offers many other options for making history come alive in ways that capture a child's imagination and encourage further learning. Ask us about scheduling a field trip to the Heritage Center, booking a group program at your site or ours, or borrowing a themed history kit.

To learn more about youth outreach activities or to register for an upcoming children's event, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Save the Date for Upcoming OHC Events

Workshops, Free Tours, Annual Meeting and More!



Smithsonian Museum Day Live! Special Edition (Saturday, March 12, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.) honors Women's History Month with FREE Upstairs/Downstairs tours at OHC.

Caring for Your Historic Photographs (Saturday, March 12, 1-3 p.m.) A free, public workshop hosted by OHC staff at the Oberlin Public Library.

Upcoming OHC Events – Save the Date! (continued)

One Step More Women's History Program (Thursday, March 17, 7:15 p.m.) OHC Executive Director **Liz Schultz** presents a free community program at Kendal at Oberlin in collaboration with Kendal's Third Thursday lecture series.

One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk (Saturday, March 26, 10:30 a.m.) Fee / Reservation (free to OHC members).

Old Secrets/New Stories of Oberlin's Underground Railroad (Saturday, April 2, 11:00 a.m.) Executive Director **Liz Schultz** and Board Member **Ron Gorman** reprise this popular program for the monthly meeting of the Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group at the Oberlin Public Library. Free; all are welcome.

OHC Annual Meeting and Community Awards Presentations (Wednesday, April 6, 6-8 p.m.) An evening of fellowship and celebration at The Hotel at Oberlin. Fee / Reservation.

ALCOA Field Trip (Monday, April 11, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Follow Charles Martin Hall's historic discovery to the present day with this **OHC members-only** visit to the Alcoa Forgings and Extrusions plant in Cleveland, followed by lunch and a mini-lecture on Oberlin's aluminum connections by Oberlin College Emeritus Professor of Chemistry **Norm Craig**. Fee/ Reservation (limited to 20 persons on a first-come, first served basis).

For more information, watch for news in next month's E-Gazette, keep an eye on the Heritage Center's website at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Board, Staff and Volunteer News



OHC staff recently received a sneak-peek "hard hat" tour of the under-construction Hotel at Oberlin (in photo, from left: Business Manager **Bethany Hobbs**, AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning**, Executive Director **Liz Schultz** and Assistant to the Director **Mary Anne Cunningham**). The Hotel's Director of Sales, Amanda Theberge, took the group behind the scenes to see the amazingly beautiful and energy-efficient structure taking shape! Heritage Center staff members are excited that OHC will be among the first to host a function within the Hotel's banquet facilities when members and friends gather for the Annual Meeting and Oberlin Community Awards presentations in early April!

Bethany Hobbs attended the Northeast Ohio Inter-Museum Council (NEOIMC) quarterly meeting in January at the Croatian Heritage Museum & Library in Eastlake, OH. Staff, board members, and volunteers from museums throughout the region gathered to learn about the history and heritage of Croatia while enjoying a family-style dinner. Attendees also took time to share news about the many programs and events going on at each of their locations.

Board, Staff and Volunteer News (continued)

Board member **Ron Gorman** is the program speaker at an event hosted by the Cleveland Grays Armory (1234 Bolivar Road, Cleveland) on Monday, February 15 at 7 p.m. Ron will discuss *Ohio's Resistance to the Fugitive Slave Law*, and his program is free and open to the public.

OHC Honorary Trustee **Eugenia (Geni) Poporad Vanek** will present *From Civil War to Civil Rights: Stories from the Oberlin Oral History Project* at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL on February 19 in celebration of Black History Month. Geni will address the Association of Senior Professionals with this program adapted from the Heritage Center's oral history publication [*From Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town*](#).

Don't miss **Mary Manning's** latest kiosk display on South Main Street (just south of the Oberlin Post Office) which features African-American business owners in Oberlin history. Mary continues the theme in Facebook posts for the Heritage Center throughout Black History Month. (If you are not an Oberlin Heritage Center [Facebook](#) friend, this is a good time to start following!)

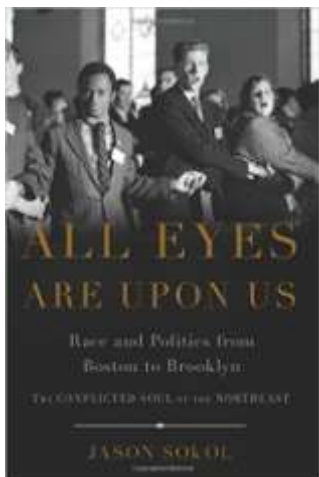
Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** helped facilitate a great article about the Heritage Center's tour program that appeared recently in the **Oberlin News-Tribune**. Reporter Valerie Urbanik wrote the piece ["Take a Tour Down Oberlin's Memory Lane"](#) following an Upstairs/Downstairs tour led by volunteer **Anne Elder**.

OHC Members Update

A warm welcome to **David and Darlene Eakin** (Frankfort, KY) and **Barb Piscopo** (North Ridgeville) who joined as new OHC members this past month! We are pleased that 40% of OHC's 735 members live outside of Oberlin, in 32 states, the District of Columbia, and three foreign countries! The breadth of the Heritage Center's membership underscores how important it is to many friends both *near and far* to be part of the ongoing efforts to preserve and share Oberlin's nationally significant history. Every member makes a difference to the Heritage Center's continued good work - please join today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org!

History in Many Forms: Books, Discussions, Music

Three Free Public Programs at Oberlin College



As part of the College's Black History Month celebration, **Jason Sokol**, OC Class of 1999, will speak about *America's Long History of Racial Hypocrisy* on **Tuesday, February 9 at 7 p.m.** at Lord Lounge, Afrikan Heritage House (126 Forest Street). Sokol teaches history at the University of New Hampshire and has authored two important books on race relations in the U.S. To learn more, visit www.jasonsokol.com or www.oberlin.edu.

Also mark your calendars for a historic and thought-provoking symposium that bridges the celebrations of both Black History Month and Women's History Month. *Complicated Relationships: Mary Church Terrell's Legacy for 21st Century Activists* takes place on **Friday and Saturday, February 26 and 27**. Terrell (1863-1954), Oberlin College Class of 1884, was a feminist and civil rights activist, a founding member of the National Association of Colored

History in Many Forms: Books, Discussions, Music (continued)

Women (NACW) and the NAACP, who worked tirelessly across lines of race and gender to achieve a more just and equitable society. Participants in the symposium include Terrell descendants **Ray and Jean Langston**, keynote speaker **Johnnetta Cole** (OC '57), and other prominent Oberlin College alumnae, as well as current Oberlin students. For more information, visit www.oberlin.edu/alumni/events.

Nkeiru Okoye received her degree in composition from the Oberlin Conservatory in 1992, and has since gone on to compose many works. Her most recent piece is a chamber opera called *Harriet Tubman: When I Crossed That Line to Freedom*. All are welcome to a free performance in Finney Chapel, Oberlin College on Saturday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. The music is deeply moving and the cast includes students as well as professionals from New York and Boston. Jonathan Field directs. For more about this program, visit https://calendar.oberlin.edu/event/harriet_tubman_when_i_crossed_that_line_to_freedom

Your Ohio Tax Return Can Make History

2016 is Crucial Year for Ohio History Fund

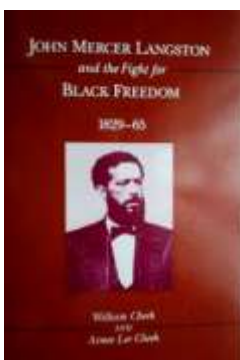


The Ohio History Fund tax check-off must generate \$150,000 in 2016 to remain on the state income tax return form. Since the Fund started in 2012, it has made grants to 33 history projects in 22 counties for a total of \$348,000. Proving that there is a great need for the History Fund, it has received 215 grant applications from 52 counties, totaling \$2.8 million in requests! As you may know, the Ohio History Fund is one of the few grant programs in the state just for history projects and it is almost entirely funded directly from Ohio taxpayers' contributions on their state tax returns. Small donations make a big difference: For just \$9 -- the average

donation -- you can help repair a roof, preserve rare color film footage, or stage a historical reenactment. Look for "Ohio History Fund" on your Ohio tax return (line 26b) and designate a dollar amount. That's all there is to it! Your tax-deductible donation will strengthen local history throughout Ohio.

Great Reading From OHC's Museum Store

Warm Up to a Good Book this Winter!



Remember the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store for its unique selection of books on Oberlin history and Oberlinians who made a difference both in the community and across the nation. All OHC members receive a 10% discount on any museum store purchases. Shop in person in the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Shop online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

