

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette ♣ March 2016

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In Honor of Women's History Month

OHC Offers Special Line-up of Tours and Programs – Many are Free!

Oberlin has a long and progressive history of women who stood up, stepped forward, and spoke out to define what it meant to be an American female during the 19th and 20th centuries. Learn more about these local leaders by taking part in one or more special Women's History Month events, including:



Saturday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., the Heritage Center will waive admission fees for the Upstairs/Downstairs tour as part of a free **Smithsonian Museum Day** event in honor of Women's History month.

This 75-minute guided tour highlights the ladies of Oberlin. Tickets for OHC or other participating venues are available at www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday.

Thursday, March 17 at 7:15 p.m., OHC Executive Director **Liz Schultz** presents "**One Step More**," an illustrated one-hour program featuring women's stories and landmarks from both campus and community. You'll hear tales of Oberlin's early years of co-education and its critics, female faculty and administrators, black feminism, women giving public presentations (heaven forbid!), a bit of scandal, and women leading social and public health movements. This free community program is sponsored by Kendal at Oberlin's Third Thursday lecture series and takes place at Kendal's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive).

Saturday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m., the Heritage Center offers the **One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk** in the format of a 75-minute guided walking tour in downtown Oberlin focusing on local women's continual efforts to gain rights and respect. This tour is free to OHC members, college students and children under 18; \$6 for others. Advance reservations required. (The Heritage Center also offers a **free docent training workshop** on **Saturday, April 23 from 1-4 p.m.** for volunteers interested in learning how to present the **One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk**. Prospective docent volunteers can receive a complimentary tour for the history walk on March 26 by contacting Amanda Manahan, Museum Education & Tour Coordinator at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.)

For more information about any of the Heritage Center's upcoming Women's History Month programs, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Caring for Your Historic Photographs

OHC Offers FREE Workshop Saturday March 12 from 1-3 p.m.

The Heritage Center's Collections Manager **Maren McKee** and collections volunteer **Kelsey Voit** share tips and techniques on identifying, dating, displaying and storing the aging photographs

Caring for Your Historic Photographs *(continued)*

in your collection. The program also provides pointers for starting a photo digitization project at home. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions about their own specific photographs. The event is designed for members of the general public and takes place at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). Reservations are not necessary, but will be appreciated at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or by calling (440) 774-1700.

Annual Meeting Celebrates Legacy of Oberlin Conservatory

Wednesday, April 6 Festivities Also Salute OHC Award Recipients



Reservations are underway for an evening of camaraderie and celebration as Oberlin Heritage Center members and friends gather together at The Hotel at Oberlin (10 East College Street) for the Annual Meeting and Banquet. The keynote presentation features **Dean of the Conservatory Andrea Kalyn on the Legacy and 150th Anniversary of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music**. The Heritage Center's 15th Annual Community Awards will honor **Melissa Clifford and Eileen Telegdy** (OHC's Volunteers of the Year), **Julia Elrod** (Youth Community Service Award), **Ken Stanley** (Community

Teacher of the Year), the **Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group** (Heritage Guardian Award), the **Oberlin IGA/Leo Braido** (Business Leader Service Award) and the **Oberlin Prospect School Third Grade Team of Felicia Christian, Brandi Hicks-Watson and Christine Hohman** (History Teachers of the Year). This upbeat evening is a fast-paced and feel-good opportunity to meet other Heritage Center supporters, review progress of the past year, look ahead to plans for the future, and take part in a brief business meeting. Reservations must be made by March 31, with an early-bird discount for those made before March 19. For more information, or to make a reservation, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Then and Now: Oberlin's Connections to Aluminum

Limited Space Remains for OHC Members-Only Alcoa Field Trip



The Heritage Center interprets Charles Martin Hall's 1886 invention of the aluminum extraction process on every guided tour; now OHC members have an out-of-the-ordinary opportunity to follow that historic thread up to the present day. The **April 11** visit (8 a.m. – 2 p.m.) to the **Alcoa Forgings and Extrusions** plant in Cleveland includes a tour of the plant, followed by lunch at Melt Bar & Grilled with a mini-lecture on Oberlin's aluminum connections by Oberlin College Emeritus Professor of Chemistry **Norm Craig**. The cost of the trip is \$40 (including transportation and lunch); and reservations

may be made online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or by calling (440) 774-1700.

Kids Rock the Beat and Generate Some Heat!

Hands-on Learning in OHC's Spring Break Mini-Camps



You won't get any static from the Oberlin Heritage Center's mini-camps, which are being offered two different weeks of area Spring Breaks this year. Boys and girls ages 8-13 can take part in one or both of these new two-day experiences: **Feel the Oberlin Rhythm** (offered Monday and Tuesday, March 21 & 22, and repeated Tuesday and Wednesday March 29 & 30) or **Spark an Idea! Power & Energy in Ohio** (offered Wednesday and Thursday, March 23 & 24, and repeated Thursday and Friday March 31 & April 1).

The camps run from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day and are held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Reasonably priced, limited spacing – for more information, or to make your reservation, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Society of Ohio Archivists: “I Found It in the Archives”

OC Archives and OHC Host Local Competition of Statewide Contest



The Oberlin College Archives and Oberlin Heritage Center will host a local “I Found It in the Archives” contest this spring! Contestants should have visited the Oberlin College Archives or Oberlin Heritage Center to conduct research, and can submit either a 400-word essay or a 2-minute video describing their quest for information and how it has made a difference in their lives.

Entries should be sent by April 30 to **Ken Grossi**, Oberlin College Archivist, at kgrossi@oberlin.edu. Local winners will be announced in May and can then participate in the state contest, organized by the Society of Ohio Archivists. Contest rules and a registration form may be found at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/research-and-learn/found-it-in-the-archives>.

Save the Dates!

Don't Miss these April Events

Saturday, April 2 at 11 a.m. *Old Secrets/New Stories of Oberlin's Underground Railroad* presented by OHC Executive Director **Liz Schultz** and Board member **Ron Gorman** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). Free and open to the public. Hosted by the Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group.

Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. *OHC Grounds Clean-up Day*

Docent Training: Saturday, April 23 from 1 - 4 p.m. *Oberlin Women's History Walk*
Free; registration required at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Docent Training: Saturday April 30 from 1 - 4 p.m. *Freedom's Friends History Walk*
Free; registration required at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Saturday April 30 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. *Northeast Ohio Local History Fair* at the Ellenwood Community Center in Bedford (124 Ellenwood Avenue). Sponsored by local history organizations across northeast Ohio, Cuyahoga County Arts & Culture, the City of Bedford and the Bedford Historical Society. Free and open to the public.

Board, Staff, Volunteer and Intern News



Executive Director **Liz Schultz** attended Ohio's Statehood Day on March 1 at the Statehouse in downtown Columbus, joining history leaders from all over Ohio in celebrating Ohio's 213th birthday and having the opportunity to do some advocating for history projects and education. Liz met with **Dan Ramos** (at left) who serves the Oberlin area as State Representative for Ohio's 56th District, and spent some time bringing him up to date on the Heritage Center's latest successes as well as future challenges.

Please join us in welcoming three new Oberlin College student interns to the Heritage Center this semester who will be leading tours and helping with a variety of special projects. **Megan Letkeman** is a second year biology major from Nashville, TN. As an OHC intern, Megan hopes to develop her knowledge of the history of science and medicine in Oberlin and Ohio. **Nia Owen** is a Bonner Scholar at Oberlin College and a second year Studio Art (Photography) and Art History major who hails from Crymych, Wales, UK. She's looking forward to getting involved in some archival work as an OHC intern. **Rebecca Posner** is a second year Art History major from Chicago. One of her intern assignments has her working on an oral history presentation about Oberlin residents' experiences during the Depression and World War II. The new interns join returning Oberlin College student intern **Ava Nicolai** (OC '16), a double major in Environmental Studies and Studio Art from Seattle and **Rand Zalzala** (OC '16), from Baghdad, Iraq, a Bonner Scholar who has created her own major in Architecture and Design. Welcome one and all!

Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** has been on the go the past few weeks! Thanks to a generous show of support from **Nordson Corporation**, the Oberlin Heritage Center has been pleased to be able to offer free Underground Railroad outreach programs to Lorain City Schools during February and March. Amanda is visiting all of the school district's 4th and 8th grade classrooms, and when completed, OHC will have reached out with programming to 44 classes, serving up to 800 students. The Lorain City Schools intend to build culminating activities around the visits, and OHC is proud to collaborate with the district to achieve its goal to offer programs about cultural awareness and diversity.

Amanda also hosted Cleveland newscaster **Wayne Dawson** (Fox affiliate WJW-TV Channel 8) on a recent visit to the Heritage Center. Dawson was filming a feature on northeast Ohio connections to the Underground Railroad, which will air during the 10 p.m. news on Wednesday, March 9. The local story is part of a Fox 8 promotion for the much-anticipated 10-hour series "Underground" that debuts the same evening on WGN America.

Maren McKee, Collections Manager, attended a workshop at the Foundation Center in Cleveland last month entitled Funding for Conservation and Preservation. The presenter, Jennifer Souers Chevraux, Interim Director and Education & Outreach Officer at ICA - Art Conservation in Cleveland, had many great tips for developing preservation projects and securing the funding to accomplish them. Maren looks forward to implementing the things she learned in upcoming projects at the Heritage Center.

Board, Staff, Volunteer and Intern News (continued)

AmeriCorps/Ohio History Corps member **Mary Manning** has been spending much of her outreach time in Medina County, working to recruit new volunteers for the Brunswick Area Historical Society and presenting on issues related to museum management at the Liverpool Township Historical Society. She also attended Christian Community School's History Fair on February 11 to give students feedback on their projects.

Mary also will be judging at the National History Day District competition in Cleveland on March 5, along with staff member **Amanda Manahan**, Board member **Ken Grossi**, and OHC volunteer **Penny Jaffe**. Penny will serve as judge for this year's Oberlin Heritage Center Hubbard Prize. (We'll have more about the 2016 Hubbard Prize recipients in the April E-Gazette.)

The staff at the Oberlin Heritage Center is teaming up with Oberlin College students to create an energy and sustainability audit of the 1866 Monroe House. The students, as an assignment in an Environment and Society course, have chosen projects in collaboration with community partners. The project's goals are to examine the operations within the Monroe House, research ways that other museums and sites are becoming more sustainable while maintaining their historic integrity, and to propose solutions that are manageable for a small organization like OHC.

Congratulations to former OHC student intern and museum fellow, **Laurie Stein** (OC '10) and her husband Alex Hunt who recently celebrated the birth of their first child, Felicity Elizabeth Hunt!

Find Us on Facebook

Help OHC Reach 1,000 Likes!



The Heritage Center's Facebook page is nearing another milestone. If you are not yet following OHC on Facebook, this is a great time to like us! In March, our facebook page focus is on 19th and 20th century Oberlin Women in the Arts, including those in the visual arts, dance and theater. We also have great fun with our regular posts for "What is It Wednesdays" and "Photo Fridays." Visit <https://www.facebook.com/oberlinheritagecenter/>.

An offshoot of last month's Black History Month facebook features is AmeriCorps/Ohio History Service Corps member **Mary Manning's** enlightening new blog [Integrating Oberlin's Barber Shops: 1944-45](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog/). Don't miss it at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog/>.

OHC Members Update

New Members Needed and Appreciated!

We welcome new OHC member **Carl Jacobson** (Oberlin) and applaud **Bob and Carol Longsworth** as they become the newest Endowed Life members (ELMs) at the Heritage Center. **Remember members save about 15% when making reservations for the upcoming Annual Meeting.** Other benefits include free tours and history walks and a discount in the Museum Store. Most importantly, your support underscores the value you place on history as having a relevant role in today's world. Please help keep our local history connections strong for future generations. Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on the "Join Now" tab in the upper right corner of the home page to become an OHC member today!