

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette ♦ April 2016

MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440)774-1700

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## OHC Underground Railroad Program Hosted by OAAGHG

**Free Community Presentation on Saturday, April 2 at 11 a.m.**



The Oberlin African-American Genealogical and History Group (OAAGHG) offers this reprise of a highly-applauded Heritage Center program presented in the community last fall. OHC's Executive Director **Liz Schultz** and Board member/docent **Ron Gorman** share some of their most recent research on Oberlin's abolitionist history in *Old Secrets/New Stories of Oberlin's Underground Railroad*. Even those who know Oberlin history well may be surprised to find out about Oberlin's *first* rescue – 17 years *before* the well-known Oberlin-Wellington Rescue! The program brings together period accounts from newspapers,

autobiographies and letters, and sheds more light on Oberlin's unique and powerful role in this national movement. The event takes place at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) and is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.oaaghg.com](http://www.oaaghg.com).

## Heritage Center Grounds Clean-up

**Saturday April 23 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

Volunteers are needed to assist with the annual grounds clean-up at the Heritage Center. Helpers will meet at the brick crossroads (behind 73 South Professor Street); please wear work clothes and gloves and bring your favorite weeding tool if you wish. Stop by as your schedule permits that morning -- many hands will make light work!

Special thanks to members of the **Oberlin College Track Team** who will help with other grounds care projects on Sunday, April 24 as a day of service in the community. By the end of the weekend the Heritage Center should be in tip-top shape to usher in the busy summer visitor season!

## The Wright Brothers and Oberlin: A Mutual Adoption

**Professor Norm Craig Offers Free Program on Wednesday, April 27**



Many people know that the Wright Brothers were from Dayton, OH and made their famous first flights at Kitty Hawk, NC, yet fewer know they had strong ties to Oberlin as well. Oberlin College Emeritus Professor of Chemistry **Norm Craig** traces Wilbur and Orville's Oberlin connections, including the key role of the "Wright Sister," Katharine, a graduate of Oberlin College who later served as a College Trustee. The talk is prompted by the recent best-selling biography of the Wright Brothers by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough. The one-hour program takes place at Kendal's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Dr.) and begins at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome.

## Docents: Educate, Engage, Enjoy!

### Two Docent Training Opportunities at the Heritage Center this Spring



Oberlin Heritage Center docents love their work! They are knowledgeable and skilled at sharing stories of Oberlin's nationally significant history, they have the chance to meet many interesting visitors from near and far, and they enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow volunteers -- especially on docent field trips to museums in the region to "see how others do it." If docenting sounds like something you'd like, too, join us for one of these upcoming workshops:

◆ **One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk docent training on Saturday, April 23 from 1-4 p.m.** Learn how to present stories about powerful 19th and early 20th century Oberlin women who helped shape what it meant to be a woman in a small town and across America. Register by April 18.

◆ **Freedom's Friends: Underground Railroad and Abolition History Walk docent training on Saturday, April 30 from 1-4 p.m.** Learn how to share stories about Oberlin's most famous freedom seekers and people known to have helped them make their way to freedom. Register by April 25.

Each training workshop is free and gets underway at the Monroe House (73 1/2 South Professor Street) before moving on through a four-to-five block stretch of the downtown community. Following training, volunteers are encouraged to observe and participate in the summer schedule of history walks, with a goal of committing to help with at least four tour dates each year.

During June, July and August, the Freedom's Friends History Walk will be offered *every* Saturday at 11 a.m. while the Oberlin Women's History Walk will be offered the *first* Saturday at 2 p.m. History walks also are available to groups by appointment.

To register for training or for more information, contact **Amanda Manahan**, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator at (440) 774-1700 or [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org).

## Annual Meeting Highlights Past Year and Future Goals

### A Year of Transition, Planning, Outreach, New Stories



More than 160 of the Oberlin Heritage Center's members and friends will gather together at the annual dinner meeting on Wednesday, April 6 at the Oberlin Inn (7 North Main Street). The evening's featured speaker is Dean of the Conservatory of Music **Andrea Kalyn** in recognition of the historic occasion of the Conservatory's 150th anniversary. *Note that the event originally was planned to be held in the soon-to-be open Hotel at Oberlin, but has been shifted to the Oberlin Inn since the new Hotel is not yet ready for occupancy.*

*Photo by Rosen-Jones Photography*

## Join Us at the Fair!

**NE Ohio Local History Fair – Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**



Discover the marvelous history that surrounds you in your own backyard! History organizations from all over northeast Ohio are participating in this interactive event designed to connect the public to their local history in a new and engaging setting. The day will include exhibits, live first-person interpreters, crafts, music, and a Genealogy Research Center -- bring your questions and get help with your own family research! The event takes place at Ellenwood Community Center in Bedford, Ohio, and is sponsored by the Bedford Historical Society, the City of Bedford, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture and the

collaborative support of many local history organizations, including the Oberlin Heritage Center. Free and fun for all ages! For more information, visit [www.neolocalhistoryfair.com](http://www.neolocalhistoryfair.com). If you can help staff the OHC table at the Fair for 2-3 hours that day, please contact **Mary Anne Cunningham**, Assistant to the Director, at [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org) or (440) 774-1700.

## Lorain County Preservation Expo

**Saturday, April 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

The Oberlin Heritage Center will be one of several local preservation groups taking part in this year's event at the beautifully rehabilitated Lorain Historical Society's Carnegie Center (329 West 10th Street, Lorain). In addition to displays from LCPN member organizations, there will be two educational workshops offered. **Kathleen Crowther**, President of the Cleveland Restoration Society, will speak on "The Value of Heritage as a Community Revitalization Tool" at 1 p.m. **Thomas Starinsky**, Associate Director of the Historic Warehouse District Development Corporation and the Historic Gateway Neighborhood Corporation, both Ohio Main Street Communities, will follow at 2 p.m. The expo is free and open to the public.

## OHC Hubbard Prize Goes to Oberlin High School Historians

**Local Students Shine at National History Day Regional Competition**

Three Oberlin High School seniors took home the Oberlin Heritage Center's Hubbard Prize at the National History Day Ohio Region 3 competition held in Cleveland on Saturday, March 5. The prize was created by OHC members **Gail and Ned Hubbard** to recognize student historians who live in Lorain County and who present an outstanding paper, documentary or website project. This year's Hubbard Prize recipients, **Hannah Cipinko, Jullion Fenderson and Chris Schroth**, created a website titled *An Indelible Impression: Exchanging the Melody Of Peace During Oberlin College's Choral*



**Photo from left, back row: Hannah Cipinko, Chris Schroth; front row: Asher Cipinko, Lucy Cipinko, Donna Shurr and Jullion Fenderson**

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## OHC Hubbard Prize Goes to Oberlin High School Historians, continued from previous page

*Encounter with the Soviet Union.* (Take a look at their website at <http://14044856.nhd.weebly.com/>)

The trio also took home a first place award in the competition's Senior Group Website division. OHS sophomore **Lucy Cipinko** received a prize sponsored by the Early Settlers of the Western Reserve for her research paper *Not Raised in Vain: How Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange Shaped the Life of Anna Julia Cooper*. Langston Middle School 8th grader **Asher Cipinko** received third place honors in the junior paper category for his work on *Humility and Reverence: Robert A. Milliken's Exploration, Exchange and Encounters with Scientific Misconduct and the Elementary Charge*. **Donna M. Shurr** is the high school NHD advisor and **Alison Smith** guides the junior high students. All of these history projects and their creators will be present at the Heritage Center's Annual Meeting so that guests will be able to take a closer look and learn more about the students' work. The Heritage Center also salutes OHC member **Mike Demchak**, history teacher at the Christian Community School in Grafton, for CCS's superb showing -- with multiple honors -- at the Region 3 competition.

## Summer Job Opportunity at the Heritage Center

### **Junior Intern Spot Created for an Oberlin High School Student**

The Heritage Center is hiring an Oberlin High School teen for a 9-week paid summer internship. Candidates must be enrolled in the Oberlin City School District and be 16-18 years old by June 13, 2016. The Junior Intern will assist with Oberlin Heritage Center youth camps, greet visitors at community events, complete a mini-research project, and assist staff in the many different aspects of museum work. Application deadline is April 15, 2016. Thank you to **Nordson Corporation** for making possible the Junior Intern position this summer. For more information, including how to submit an application, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/work](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/work).

## History-in-a-Minute

### **Dr. Delphine Hanna – First Professor of Physical Education in the U.S.**



*Photo courtesy of Oberlin College Archives*

**Delphine Hanna** (1854-1941) was troubled by the lack of fitness she saw in the young women she taught in primary schools in New York. With her lifelong interest in anatomy, she began to develop a program to optimize physical fitness. No school would accept her program until **Adelia Field Johnston** invited Hanna to come to Oberlin College in 1885, where she began to teach physical education courses for men and women. Dr. Hanna established the nation's first four-year curriculum for physical education for women, and in 1903, she was granted the first professorship of physical education in the United States. Learn more about pioneering Oberlin women such as Dr. Delphine Hanna on the **One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk** which will be offered during Oberlin College's Commencement/ Reunion Weekend in May and the first Saturday of the month in June, July and August.

## OHC Staff, Board and Intern News

**Liz Schultz**, Executive Director, had a great audience at her March 17 community program about women's history. So many people had questions and comments afterward that she thinks OHC definitely will have to develop a program sequel--stay tuned for Oberlin Women's History Part II !

Intern **Ava Nicolai** and Collections Manager **Maren McKee** have been assisting four Oberlin College students in their search for historic photographs to display in the "Community Voices" section of the Environmental Dashboard website. The students, who are enrolled in the course *Environment and Society*, are looking for images that show campus and town life over time.

Assistant to the Director **Mary Anne Cunningham** will be a panel presenter at the Ohio Local History Alliance regional meeting in Westlake on April 9. The topic is "Fundraising for Your Organization" and includes presenters from the Bedford and Westlake historical societies as well.

Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** and AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** had plenty of fun at the end of the month leading two weeks of hands-on-history Spring Break camps for youngsters at the Oberlin Depot with field trips all over town!

Board member, researcher, docent and blogger **Ron Gorman** introduces us in his latest blog to the "ubiquitous" Almira Porter Barnes, a delightful dynamo of a woman -- one part traditional grandmother and two parts unconventional reformist mover and shaker. Find out more in [The Weary Feet and Willing Shoulders of Almira Porter Barnes](#).

Congratulations to former OHC AmeriCorps member **Kaitlyn Goss** who has been named the Collections Supervisor at the Lorain Historical Society. Warmest wishes as well to former intern **Erin Swenson-Klatt** (OC '13) who recently was hired by the Cook County Historical Society in Grand Marais, MN.

## Say It in Stone

### **Last Call for Ordering Inscribed Bricks to be Installed in 2016**



The Heritage Center will submit its annual request soon to our local brick engravers, so order now if you've been thinking about an inscribed brick on the Heritage Trail to honor a special person or occasion in your life. This brick pathway criss-crosses the grounds at the Oberlin Heritage Center and is lined with more than 400 bricks that feature one-of-a-kind messages celebrating, remembering, and creating lasting legacies. Bricks ordered by

May 1 will be installed later this spring; bricks ordered after that time will be installed in Spring 2017. You may place a brick order online or download a mail-in order form at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) (click on the "Make a Gift" tab at the top of the home page).

## Members Update

### **OHC Members are Like Family!**

Welcome to new OHC members **Suzanne McDougal** (Alexandria, VA), **Erica Todhunter** (Oberlin) and **Vern & Jill Wettersten** (Oberlin). Special thanks to **Dean & Susan Gibson** who increased their Endowed Life Membership to the Silver level of giving. We note with sorrow

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## Members Update, continued from previous page

the loss of Endowed Life members **Thomas A. Gayters**, **Elizabeth Goulding** (a former Board Member at OHC) and **Dan Merrill**. We also mourn the passing of former OHC Board Member, Oberlin College's first Archivist and the Heritage Center's 2005 Community Historian Award recipient, **William E. Bigglestone**.

If you are not yet part of the Heritage Center's family, become a member today! You'll be investing in this historic community and ensuring that important stories of Oberlin's past are preserved and shared with future generations. Join us at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700 for information.

## Also of Interest

**A Fugitive's Path: Escape on the Underground Railroad.** Presented Saturday evenings, April 2 and 9. The story of the Underground Railroad unfolds at Hale Farm & Village during the 90-minute re-creation of a journey of survival where guests take on the role of fugitive slaves struggling to reach freedom in the North. For more information, visit <https://oncampus.oberlin.edu/source/articles/2016/03/17>

**Who Do You Think You Are?** Sunday, April 3 at 9 p.m. Tune in to the TLC program to discover what brought actress and comedian **Aisha Tyler** (star of *Archer*, *Criminal Minds*, *Whose Line is it Anyway?* and host of *The Talk*) to Oberlin and how she is tied to the history of Oberlin College and Conservatory. The segment was filmed in the Oberlin College Archives last December with help from College Archivist (and OHC Trustee) **Ken Grossi**, and Visiting Assistant Professor **Christi Smith**, both of whom researched Tyler's family ties to Oberlin College. For more information, visit <https://oncampus.oberlin.edu/source/articles/2016/03/17>

**Men Who Don't Bite and Friends Benefit Concert.** Sunday, April 10 at 3 p.m. This bassoon quartet, featuring **James Howsmon** on piano, **Olivia Boen**, soprano, and **Raphael Jimenez**, conducting, present a uniquely exciting program that is free and open to the public. Donations gratefully accepted for Family Promise of Lorain County. The event takes place in the Meeting House of First Church Oberlin, UCC (101 North Main Street). For more information, visit <http://www.familypromiselorainco.org/events/>.

**Spring Book Sale.** Wednesday, April 13 from 5-8 p.m. (Pre-Sale); Thursday through Sunday, April 14-17, various times. The **Friends of the Oberlin Public Library** (65 South Main Street) invites you to check out a great selection of books, music and movies! For more information, visit <http://www.oberlinpl.lib.oh.us/friendssale.html>.

**Lakeview Cemetery Daffodil Weekend.** Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Enjoy a free drive-it-yourself tour and experience more than 100,000 blossoms of yellow. A must-see! For more information, visit [www.lakeviewcemetery.com](http://www.lakeviewcemetery.com).

***At the Edge of the Orchard*** is the newest novel by best-selling author and Oberlin College alumna **Tracy Chevalier**. Inspired by research she did for *The Last Runaway* (in which "Oberlin" played an important role), Chevalier's latest story begins in 1830s Ohio and focuses on a pioneer family as seen through its relationship to trees. Check it out at [www.tchevalier.com](http://www.tchevalier.com).