

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette ♦ June 2016

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A Robust Pairing of Wine and History

Monday, June 27 from 7-8:30 p.m. (Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.)



Join us at **Vermilion Valley Vineyards** for an evening pleasing to the palate, ear, and mind. Arrival time will be accompanied by solo finger style and jazz guitar music provided by **Rich Holsworth**. Guests will then sample a "flight" of six wines as **Joe Juniper**, Vineyards co-owner, shares details about the wine and winery. Wine will be accompanied by light hors d'oeuvres and sweets. Following the tasting, the Heritage Center's AmeriCorps/Ohio History Service Corps member **Mary Manning** will share a short presentation about the *Great French Wine Blight of the mid-1800s*, which altered the course of the entire wine industry. Make your

reservation by June 22 at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700. \$13/OHC members; \$15/non-members (21 and up). We're proud that Vermilion Valley Vineyards is an active OHC business member; it is located at 11005 Gore Orphanage Road in Wakeman, OH.

History in Motion

Try a History Walk or a Tablet Tour this Summer



The Heritage Center offers several on-the-move learning opportunities through warm-weather guided history walks and self-guided tablet (iPad) tours.

Learn about Oberlin's famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom on the Underground Railroad by taking part in the Heritage Center's **Freedom's Friends History Walk** offered *each Saturday at 11 a.m. in June, July and August*. The 90-minute tour begins at The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C. and winds its way across town and through the Heritage

Center before the last story is shared at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Or choose to walk in the path of this community's impressive foremothers who helped shape what it meant to be a woman in Oberlin and across the country in 19th- and early 20th-century America. The **One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk** will be offered the *first Saturday at 2 p.m. during June, July and August*.

The Heritage Center also has something for those who prefer a "do-it-yourself" format. The **Freedom's Friends: Underground Railroad** tablet tour leads participants across town and campus to discover new stories connected to Oberlin's early civil rights history. The **Picture the Past: Historic Downtown Oberlin** tablet tour covers a one block radius extending from the corner of Main and College Streets and is filled with fun facts, historic photographs, and more!

History in Motion, continued from previous page

Borrow an iPad at the Monroe House for an hour or a day and move at your own pace through Oberlin history.

The **Scholars & Settlers (Tappan Square) History Walk** and the **Radicals & Reformers (Westwood Cemetery) History Walk** will be offered to the public later this summer. (And remember, each themed history walk is available to groups by appointment all summer long.) Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information about scheduling and fees.

Get in the Swim of Summer

Enjoy OHC's Historic Swimwear Mini-Exhibit!

Dive into summer by stopping by the Heritage Center to see this fun exhibit featuring four historic swimsuits from the museum's collection. The suits, which date from the 1900s through the 1950s, illustrate changes in swimwear over time. The chance to view these wonderful pieces not normally on display will be available as part of our regularly scheduled Upstairs/Downstairs tours throughout the months of June, July and August. For more information, contact Collections Manager Maren McKee at history@oberlinheritage.org.

Oberlin Chalk Walk 2016

Saturday, June 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout Downtown Oberlin



Join in the excitement of this festive colorful event that pays homage to the tradition of sidewalk painting that began in 16th century Italy. The 11th Annual Oberlin Chalk Walk showcases professional and local sidewalk "chalkers" and gives artists of any age the chance to create their own masterpieces. All are welcome; high quality chalk provided free. Be sure to stop by the Heritage Center's table on South Main Street for a fun break! This community event is a collaborative partnership among the Allen Memorial Art Museum, the Oberlin Business Partnership, FAVA, the Oberlin Heritage Center, and the Oberlin Public Library. For more information, visit www.oberlinchalkwalk.com.

Early Bird Gets the OHC Summer Camp Savings

Register by June 25 and Save!



Hands-on-history learning and fun come together in the Heritage Center's week-long summer camps designed for boys and girls ages 8-13. This year's topics include: **Out of this World! Aerospace and Aviation** (July 25-29), **All Work, All Play/Historic Trades and Games** (August 1-5) and **Architecture Camp** (August 8-12). Camps are held at the Oberlin Depot from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Register at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

I Found It in the Archives Contest Winner!

Young Local Historian Advances to State Competition



We are pleased to announce that the winner of Oberlin's *I Found It in the Archives* essay competition is Oberlin High School sophomore **Lucy Cipinko**. Lucy is no stranger to either of the hosts of the competition, the Oberlin Heritage Center and Oberlin College Archives, because she has done research for the National History Day competition and attended the Heritage Center's annual meeting. Her thoughtful essay focuses on the treasures she has discovered in doing research in the archives where she says "*even the tiniest*

handwritten letters can inspire a young woman like myself to make a difference in my world." Lucy's submission will be forwarded to the state *I Found It in the Archives* competition this summer, organized by the Society of Ohio Archivists. Congratulations and continued best wishes to Lucy! (Read her winning essay at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/research-and-learn/found-it-in-the-archives>.)

The Heritage Center is Looking for a Few Good Volunteers!

Helpers Needed for a Variety of Summer Activities



If you have a few hours to give to the Heritage Center, we have some "job openings" for volunteers this summer!

Do you like fresh air, sunshine, and historic landscapes? Our lawn care volunteer of many years, **Terry Hobbs**, would love to have some help mowing the historic site's grounds. OHC has a riding mower and push mower available, and volunteers can split the work however it works best. Please let Executive Director Liz Schultz know if interested (liz.schultz@oberlinheritage.org).

Helpers are needed for 2-hour shifts between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to staff the Heritage Center's welcome/literature table for **Juneteenth** (June 18), **Chalk Walk** (June 25), **Family Fun Fair** (August 6) and the **Monroe House's 150th Anniversary Open House** (September 10). Room Monitors also are needed (in 2-hour shifts) to staff various rooms around the site for the Anniversary Open House to greet and speak with guests as they explore the Monroe House and Little Red Schoolhouse on their own. Volunteers also are needed for 3- or 4-hour shifts between noon and 11 p.m. staffing the Local History booth at the **Cuyahoga County Fair between August 7-14**. It's a fun opportunity to meet many history enthusiasts and invite them to visit Oberlin and explore the Heritage Center. For more information or to sign up, contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

Bed & Breakfast hosts are needed during Oberlin College's first-year student orientation for one or more nights between **Monday, August 22 and Wednesday, August 24** (with the greatest need being on Monday and Tuesday nights). We have a growing list of visiting families who need accommodations (and a larger than usual need for *pet-free* lodging due to many allergies among the guests). If you can provide a single or double room in your home (with a private or shared bathroom) and a simple breakfast the following morning, please contact ohcbnb@gmail.com. All proceeds from the B&B fundraiser help stretch the Heritage Center's general operating budget.

Wedding Bells Ringing on OHC's Facebook Page

You Could Be Our 1,000th Facebook Friend!



Don't miss this month's themed posts about the history of weddings along with photos of some of the most exquisite items in our collection. Ohio History Corps/AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** is the creative force behind the Heritage Center's Facebook page. At last count, the Oberlin Heritage Center had 995 Facebook friends -- if you are not yet an OHC follower, take a look and "LIKE" us now at www.facebook.com/oberlinheritagecenter/.

AmeriCorps Positions Open at Ohio Historical Sites

Heritage Center Will Serve as Host Site for Seventh Consecutive Year



The Oberlin Heritage Center was tremendously pleased to be approved once again as a host site for an Ohio History Service Corps/AmeriCorps member for 2016-2017. The program is managed by the Ohio History Connection in Columbus, and this year there are 14 history-related positions available around the state. Selected participants work part-time on projects at their host site and part-time assisting other history organizations in their regions. The new program year runs from September 7, 2016 through August 31, 2017. All ages are welcome to apply. The Heritage Center's All-Star lineup of former AmeriCorps members includes **Karyn Norwood**, **Richard Donegan** (two years), **Jen Graham**, **Kaitlyn Goss** and **Mary Manning**. They have developed programs and tours for the organization, expanded OHC's reach through social media, researched many aspects of Oberlin history, assisted with tours and summer camps, and generally helped the Heritage Center make many strides forward because of their service. For more information, visit www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-services/ameri-corps.

OHC Offers Free Tours through Blue Star Museum Network

Free Admission to Active Military and their Families



The Oberlin Heritage Center is among the more than 2,000 museums in all 50 states and the District of Columbia that are committed to welcoming active military families this summer season. Now in its seventh year, the Blue Star Museum program is a collaboration begun by the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families (a national nonprofit founded to support and connect military families).

Participating museums agree to provide free admission to active military and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Some museums, such as the Oberlin Heritage Center, even extend their Blue Star welcome to service families all year round. Museums include children's museums, fine arts museums, history and science museums. To find out more, and to explore the full list of participating museums, visit www.arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums.

Commencement Weekend Coincidence

Student Boarder's Story Brings Unique Twist to *Music in the Home* Tour



During Oberlin College's Commencement/ Reunion weekend, Collections Manager **Maren McKee** had the opportunity to show **Geoffrey Ithen** and his wife, **Wendy Fischer**, around the Jewett House. Geoffrey lived in the Jewett house while a student at Oberlin College during the 1966-1967 academic year. Geoffrey and his housemate, **Dick Hester**, would have been the first people to live in the house after the Hubbard family sold the property to the Heritage Center (then known as "O.H.I.O.") in 1966. Dick was a piano performance major and piano technician who often worked

on pianos in the room we now interpret as Professor Jewett's office. How fitting that as OHC's new *Music in the Home* guided tour debuted this weekend in recognition of the Conservatory's 150th Anniversary, we learned of this uniquely Oberlin aspect of music in the Jewett House! Thank you, Geoffrey, for sharing with us your memories of living in the Jewett House!

Members Update

Not Yet a Member? Do Join Us!

The Oberlin Heritage Center extends a warm welcome to new members **Bruce Laczko** (Oberlin) and **Diane Ramos** (Amherst). Members give the Heritage Center its vitality and energy and help make the organization an important community resource for all. If you are not yet a member, we would **LOVE** to welcome **YOU**, – please join! Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on the “Join Now” button at the top of the home page.

OHC Staff, Board and Intern News

Board Member/docent **Ron Gorman** and docent **Anne Elder** recently recorded several public service announcements to promote the Oberlin Heritage Center's summer history walks. Listen for Ron and Anne on OHC's business member radio station **WOBL 1320** and **WDLW 1380**.

Congratulations to volunteer **Annalee Sekulic** who graduates from Western Reserve High School this spring and plans to attend The Ohio State University in the fall. Her summer adventures include a month in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates. Applause, applause for volunteer **Julia Elrod** who was named a Valedictorian of the Oberlin High School Class of 2016. Julia will continue her studies at Kenyon College next year. We also bid a fond farewell to college student interns **Ava Nicolai** and **Rand Zalzala** who graduated with the Oberlin College Class of 2016.

We're so proud of former Leadership Lorain County Intern **Austin Spenzer** (Miami University 2015), who recently began a 27-month commitment as a Peace Corps volunteer serving in the country of Georgia.

Collections Manager **Maren McKee** has been appointed to Oberlin's Historic Preservation Commission.

AmeriCorps/Ohio History Corps member **Mary Manning** is a new Board member of the Young Non-Profit Professionals Network (YNPN), Cleveland chapter. Mary also will serve as Outreach Chair of this grass roots organization that connects and cultivates future leaders in the local nonprofit community.