

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette ♦ May 2016

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Explore Historic Oberlin during College's Big Weekend

OHC's "Music in the Home" Tour Salutes Conservatory Sesquicentennial



The public is invited to explore historic Oberlin and the Oberlin Heritage Center as part of Oberlin College's Commencement/Reunion Weekend **Friday through Sunday, May 20-22**. Discover the history surrounding Tappan Square, learn more about Oberlin's role as a major stop on the Underground Railroad, and be inspired by stories of progressive Oberlin women who helped shape the concept of femininity in the 19th and 20th centuries. A variety of 90-minute themed history walks will be offered throughout the

weekend for those who wish to delve more deeply into Oberlin's architectural, Underground Railroad, or women's history. Others with more limited time can still hit the highlights with the Heritage Center's 30-minute **Oberlin Origins: Sneak Peek** mini tour offered at the Monroe House every half hour. In honor of Oberlin Conservatory's 150th Anniversary, a one-hour music-themed guided tour will be offered this weekend only at the Heritage Center's main site. The **Music in the Home** tour highlights musical artifacts and sounds of the times as participants learn more about how music was used for entertainment, fellowship and teaching in 19th century homes. The weekend also is an ideal time to experience the Heritage Center's self-guided tablet tours that are convenient and adaptable to individual interests. Choose from one of two options: **Picture the Past: Historic Downtown Oberlin** or **Freedom's Friends Underground Railroad & Abolition** and move at your own pace around town and campus. For details on dates and times as well as tour fees and reservations, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

The Turbulent Times of the 1930s & 1940s

Free Community Program on May 25 at 7:15 p.m.



Sharing stories from Oberlin's Oral History Project, **Eugenia (Geni) Poporad Vanek** offers insights into the local response to some of the most devastating events of the 20th century. Hear stories of the varied impacts felt by the Great Depression, the onset of World War II, and the resulting changes to individuals and the nation in this illustrated program that takes place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). The event is open to the public.

The Oberlin Oral History Project is an ongoing community effort presently overseen by the Heritage Center that includes more than 100 interviews of long-time Oberlin residents collected by volunteers over the past three decades. Many women's stories from the project were

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included in the Heritage Center's 2014 oral-history-based publication *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town*, researched and compiled by Vanek, now an OHC Honorary Trustee. She also is a past recipient of the Heritage Center's Volunteer of the Year award.

OHC Presents FREE Memorial Day Cemetery Tour

All are Welcome – Monday, May 30 at 1 p.m.



Enjoy stories of some of Oberlin's most intriguing residents of days gone by, amidst a colorful backdrop of spring blooms, on the **Radicals & Reformers History Walk** through Oberlin's Westwood Cemetery. The guided 90-minute tour promises a pleasing balance of Westwood's scenic landmarks and stories of some of the many spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo.

No reservations are needed. Participants should gather near the Westwood Cemetery entrance (429 Morgan Street) to begin the historic journey. Parking is available along the paved pathways within the cemetery. Following the walk, at 2:30 p.m. the **Friends of Westwood** invite guests to join them near the cemetery pond for a brief memorial ceremony and refreshments.

Historic Windows Repair Workshop

Do-It-Yourself and Reap the Rewards!



Window painted shut? Sashes falling apart? Putty getting loose? The Oberlin Heritage Center will host a three-day workshop for participants who want to learn the basics of wood double-hung window repair and restoration. Instructor **Lorri Sipes** (*pictured at left*), an Ann Arbor, MI area preservation architect and a member of the National Association of Window Restoration Specialists will lead the hands-on workshop **June 3-5** at the Heritage Center. Carpenters, contractors, students and homeowners are invited to attend -- all skill levels are welcome.

The advantages to repairing rather than replacing original windows are many; experts agree that repairing old wood windows is a less expensive, more energy-efficient, greener, and longer-lasting path to follow, while also maintaining the architectural integrity of the building.

Registration deadline is May 20. The workshop fee is \$225 and is limited to 10 participants. For more information or to reserve your place, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Hands-on-History Summer Camps

OHC Offers Two NEW and One Returning Favorite Camp for Kids ages 8-13



Look through the lens of history to see the world in new and creative ways! This year's camps offer kids a chance to dream big, practice new skills, learn from the past, and envision what the future may hold. Camps are held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily, with some walking field trips nearby. The cost is \$110 per child (\$100 for OHC members). **Register by June 25 to receive an early-bird discount!** This year's topics include:

Out of this World! Aerospace and Aviation – July 25 through 29.

All Work, All Play (Historic Trades and Games) – August 1 through 5.

Architecture Camp – August 8 through 12.

For more information or to register for a camp, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Preservation in Action at the Heritage Center

Monroe House Parging Project Completed



May is National Preservation Month and what better time to celebrate the completion of the Monroe House parging and brick work project funded by a grant from **The Nord Family Foundation**. The parging, or cement-like coating, was originally put on the back of the house after it was re-located from its original site in 1960 to allow space for the construction of the Conservatory of Music building. A rear extension of the Monroe House was not moved and parging over the entire wall covered the gaps left by its removal. The house now has two fresh coats sealing off the south wall, protecting staff, visitors and irreplaceable collections from the elements. Work this spring also included identifying and sealing bricks that had been damaged over the house's 150-year history. Thank you to the fellows from the **Grunwell-Cashero** building restoration company for all their hard work!

Looking for B&B Hosts

Volunteer for the Heritage Center without Leaving Home



In late August, Heritage Center members and friends can provide a single or double room in their home to an incoming college freshman's family as they arrive on campus for new student orientation. This effort is part of a community-wide consortium of nonprofits who all share the reward of this long-time unique fundraising tradition. The Heritage Center's B&B effort is led by Board members **Gail Wood** and **Barb Enos**, and all proceeds from the Bed & Breakfasts help stretch OHC's

Looking for B&B Hosts, continued from previous page

general operating budget. If you can offer a private bedroom (double or twin beds) and a private or shared bathroom, with a simple breakfast in the morning, please let us know. Hosts are needed for one or more nights **between Monday, August 22 and Wednesday, August 24** (with the greatest demand being on Monday and Tuesday nights). It's a great opportunity to be an Oberlin community ambassador, and support the Heritage Center as well! For more information, or to volunteer as a host, e-mail OHCbnb@gmail.com

This Place Matters

Send Us a Photo of Your Favorite Historic Site



This Place Matters is a campaign spearheaded by the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** that encourages people to shine a spotlight on the places that are meaningful to them and to their communities. The Heritage Center is joining the movement to raise awareness during May's National Preservation Month. YOU can take part, too! Download a **This Place Matters** sign (or make one of your own) and take a photo with your sign at places that matter to you. Encourage your friends and followers to do the same.

Share your photos with the Heritage Center and we'll post them on OHC's Facebook page. We want to see the places YOU love! To print your sign and submit your photos see the instructions at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/eventsnews/this-place-matters> or call (440) 774-1700.

OHC Staff, Board and Intern News



Collections Manager **Maren McKee** welcomed OHC members **Ned and Gail Hubbard** from Centreville, VA when they delivered a table that once belonged to Ned's grandparents, P.D. and Laura Hubbard, owners of the Jewett House from 1925-66. The table is now on display in the front hall of the Jewett House where it stood when P.D. and Laura resided in the house. Ned and Gail also donated several books that belonged to the elder Hubbards. We are so pleased that these items have come home to Oberlin! *Pictured at left: Gail and Ned Hubbard with Ned's grandparents' foyer table.*

Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** visited the Grafton Reintegration Center last month (part of the Grafton Correctional Complex) to present the program *Freedom's Friends: The Underground Railroad in Northern Ohio*, based off of the popular OHC history walk. About 75 attended the program, while many others will have the opportunity to learn and enjoy when it is broadcast widely through the Helping Ohio Prisoners Excel (HOPE) Channel.

Amanda also worked recently with the Grafton Correctional Institution's community service program to create a banner celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the 1866 Monroe House. The banner debuted during Oberlin's Big Parade on Saturday, April 30 and will be displayed outside of the Monroe House during special events throughout the remainder of the year.

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Don't miss OHC's kiosk exhibit celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Designed by AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning**, the display on South Main Street (between the Oberlin Post Office and the Vineway building) explains the difference between the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmark program, and identifies which buildings in Oberlin are recognized with each of these honors – do you know? (If not, be sure to check out this new display!)

Paleo? South Beach? Mediterranean? Oberlin College work-study intern **Rebecca Posner** has written a new website History Feature about diet restrictions in early Oberlin. Read about one of the first diet fads in the United States in *Sylvester Graham and his Influence on Daily Life in Oberlin* and learn about Graham precepts and the town's adoption -- and rejection -- of the diet. (Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on “Research and Learn” in the main menu bar, then scroll down to “History Features.”)

Former OHC intern **Matthew Hintz** was a presenter at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Association of Historians that was held on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University. Matt took part in a panel discussion on Early American Religion and Faith, sharing insights from his thesis "A Plan for the West: The Roots of Radical Egalitarianism on Ohio's Western Reserve."

Congratulations to OHC intern **Ava Nicolai** (OC '16) who received the Oberlin College Bonner Center for Service & Learning's *Excellence in Undergraduate Community-Engaged Research* for summer oral history research completed in collaboration with the Heritage Center and the Environmental Dashboard.

Members Update

Your Membership Does Make a Difference!

Welcome to new OHC members (all from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise) **Phylicia Bowman** (Washington, DC), **Cary Dell** (Cleveland), **Danielle Hawkins**, **Katherine Holderbaum** (Mentor), **Andrea Kalyn**, **Ava Nicolai**, **Cathy Sexton** (Lorain), and **Rand Zalzala**. Membership is a pulse-point upon which the organization measures its support near and far – **yours at any level** is tremendously important as an indicator to others, including grant-makers and foundations, that the Heritage Center is a valued asset in the community. Not yet an OHC member? Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on the “Join Now” button at the top of the home page.

Also of Interest



HERITAGE
OHIO

The second annual Old House Fair, presented by Heritage Ohio, takes place on Medina's historic Square and offers a full day of learning, networking and fun for owners of old buildings. Presentations include hands-on restoration and old-building

knowledge sessions, an Old House supplier trade fair, and the popular Old House Fair Olympics. DIY Network dynamo Bernice Radle will be the featured guest speaker, and will share her insights on home restoration. Admission is \$10 for adults, and children under 13 are free when accompanied by a paying adult. For more details, including ticketing information, visit www.heritageohio.org/2016-old-house-fair.