

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette ♦ October 2016

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Liz Schultz to be Honored by Statewide History Organization Awards Luncheon takes place Saturday, October 8



The Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA) has announced that Oberlin Heritage Center Executive Director **Liz Schultz** will receive an Outstanding Achievement Award during the OLHA annual conference in Dublin, Ohio. Liz was nominated by OHC colleagues for her past work as Museum Education and Tour Coordinator from 2007-2015, which included the development of several themed History Walks, creating a broad-range of history-related programming for teens and youth, presenting at least one original educational program per year to the community, integrating technology into tours through the use of mobile devices, and building strong collaborative ties with schools, local nonprofits, and area business owners. As Executive Director, Liz has expanded OHC's outreach to new audiences, strengthened community partnerships, and devised ways to share more recent stories from Oberlin's past. Since 1999, nine members of the Heritage Center's professional or volunteer staff have received this award of excellence. Please join us in applauding Liz for such well-deserved recognition!

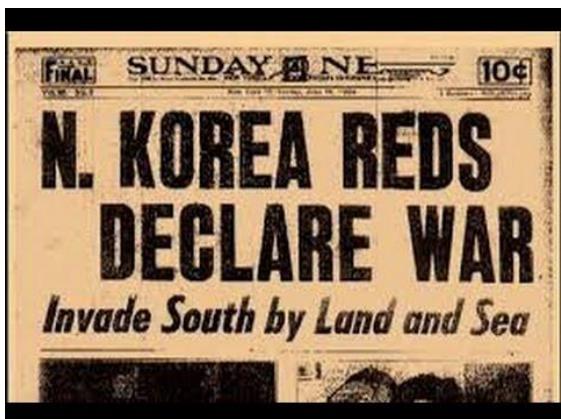
Watch History Unfold Right Before Your Eyes! Free Public Performance on Sunday, October 16 at 3 p.m.



The Oberlin Heritage Center and the members of Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Oberlin host a compelling dramatic production of **Not on My Watch: The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue of 1858** presented at the House of Zion Fellowship Hall (81 South Locust Street) in Oberlin. The one-hour theatrical program, created from accounts drawn from Nat Brandt's book, *The Town that Started the Civil War*, is performed by costumed actors from the Kelton House Museum & Garden (www.keltonhouse.com) in Columbus. The play tells the story of John Price, a fugitive living in Oberlin, who was captured by federal marshals intending to return him to slavery. The actions of local antislavery townspeople and students eventually freed the young man, while the rescuers' defiance of the law and their subsequent imprisonment and trial brought the country to the brink of war. Doors open at 2:30 p.m., and all are welcome. Find out more at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

The Korean War: How it Changed Our World

Tuesday, October 18 at 6:00 p.m.



Historian **Jiyul Kim** presents a thought-provoking discussion of the origins, the fighting, and the long-term impacts of the Korean War, which continue today and will for the foreseeable future. Kim retired from the U.S. Army after 28 years of service that took him to Korea, Japan, Germany as well as stations in the U.S. His most memorable day as a soldier was being in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. He presently is a faculty member in the history department at Oberlin College where he teaches courses on the role of war in the development of

civilization, and the use of history in formulating national security policy. Kim's illustrated presentation takes place in the Oberlin Public Library Community Room (65 South Main Street) and is free and open to the public. Learn more about this program at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Westwood Cemetery Event Livens Holiday Weekend

Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29 at 5:00 p.m.



Enjoy a fun, fascinating look at local history this Halloween season in **Every Good Story has a Plot**, which takes place in Oberlin's Westwood Cemetery (429 Morgan Street) and features stories of early Oberlin citizens as told by costumed interpreters of the past. Tickets for this family-friendly (and non-frightening) one-hour guided stroll are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (\$8 adults/\$4 children for OHC members). All ages (recommended for ages 7 and up) will enjoy this opportunity to hear from well-known individuals from Oberlin's history, as well as those who have stories not

often found in history books. Reservations are needed in advance and may be made at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or by calling (440) 774-1700.

Learn to Share Oberlin History as a Docent Volunteer

Free Training Workshop Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon



If you love Oberlin and its history and want to help share it with others, consider becoming a Heritage Center volunteer docent. Talk to Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** and make arrangements to take a complimentary tour of OHC's three historic buildings before the next docent training session to see whether docenting is your "cup of tea." The introductory workshop for new docents (which also is a great refresher for current docents) will begin at the Monroe House

Learn to Share Oberlin History as a Docent Volunteer continued...

located at 73½ South Professor Street, and move on from there. The Heritage Center's docent team is a welcoming and diverse group of all ages and backgrounds, which meets periodically for informational gatherings, field trips and more. (*See news of the most recent docent field trip in the Staff and Volunteer News further on in this newsletter.*) Register by October 10 for the docent training workshop by contacting Amanda Manahan at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700.

OHC Annual Fund Campaign Underway

Goal is \$41,200 by December 31

It's time for the once-a-year, end-of-the-year campaign for annual operating support. All friends of the Heritage Center are asked to make a donation to help the organization continue its good work keeping Oberlin's proud history alive. The Heritage Center's annual budget is about \$338,000, and much is accomplished with each and every dollar, including free public programs, school outreach, community events and ongoing research. You can make a secure online contribution at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (and click the "Make a Gift" button at the top of the home page) or mail your gift to the OHC Annual Fund, P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074. Thank you to 121 donors who already have contributed \$15,322 (37%) toward this year's goal. Your gift today of any size is needed and appreciated.

Reflections on the Monroe House's 150th Anniversary

Occasion Celebrated with Birthday Cake and Stirring Remarks



It's not often one is invited to a 150th birthday party, and OHC friends who gathered under the tent on the Monroe House front lawn last month on a warm Saturday morning were treated to a delicious piece of cake and thoughtful comments by Executive Director **Liz Schultz** and Board President **Nick Jones** reminding us all of what a remarkable milestone we celebrated.

Nick's remarks gave us 12 ways to think about 150 years: 7800 Saturday mornings / 1855 full moons / 300 occurrences of the Equinox / 150 Oberlin high school graduation ceremonies / 75 terms in the House of Representatives / 31 summer Olympic games / 27 U.S. Presidents / 25 terms in the U.S. Senate / 15 decades / 14 amendments to the U.S. Constitution / 12 presidents of Oberlin College / 5 human generations.

Liz's remarks connected us with people in the past who made this day possible: *It's one thing to read about history and another to talk about it. But it's yet another to be in a place where history happened -- to look out the same window, to walk the same floors, and experience the same sunlight through a doorway. There were times when this house was seen as old-fashioned, ugly, an eyesore, something not worth saving. It is very easy to get to that stage. It only takes a decade or two to go out of style. But the owners had visions of saving it, deeding it to the College. The earliest members of the Oberlin Historical Society had vision, saving it from demolition when the Conservatory was built. And Pat Murphy, former director of the Oberlin Heritage Center, had*

Reflections on the Monroe House's 150th Anniversary continued...

vision and passion, making it the beating heart of a local history museum. The Monroe House continues to stand here proudly. That takes dedication, passion, and forward-thinking, even though you are looking to the past. Houses like this become anchors that remind people that this community has history and that it is worth preserving.

Connecting Big Time with Local History!

Almost 1,200 Visitors Take Part in OHC Events Last Month



September was a very BUSY month for Oberlin Heritage Center staff and volunteers as they engaged 1,182 people of all ages in a broad spectrum of community history programs, outreach to youth and adults, and group tours. Among the many events connecting people with history was OHC's first Root Beer Float Friday, where Board members and other volunteers welcomed about 120 Oberlin College students to the Jewett House front lawn for cold, yummy treats. Many students took the opportunity afterward to explore the 1884 Victorian house to learn some local history, including the fun fact that Oberlin College Chemistry Professor Frank Jewett (1844-1926) occasionally enjoyed brewing his own homemade root beer!

OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News



Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** and Executive Director **Liz Schultz** led an adventurous group of docent volunteers on a field trip to Sandusky last month to explore neighboring history museums and see "how others do it." The group visited Johnson's Island Cemetery/Civil War Prison Site, The Merry-Go-Round Museum (*see photo at left*), and the Veteran's Home Museum.

Amanda Manahan and volunteer **Penny Jaffe** represented the Heritage Center at the Pioneer Craftsman Experience last month at Mill Hollow in the Lorain County Metroparks Vermilion River Reservation. The two presented hands-on-history sessions about the Underground Railroad to more than 300 third-through-fifth-graders during the two-day event.

Please join us in warmly welcoming the Heritage Center's newest Oberlin College student interns, including

- **Victoria Abraham**, a first-year student from Jacksonville, FL
- **Lauryn Countess**, a first-year student from Randallstown, MD
- **Lucy Haskell**, a first-year student from Guilford, CT
- **Olivia Hay** (OC '17), an anthropology major from Portland, OR
- **David Kaplovitz** (OC '17), a history major from Bloomfield Hills, MI
- **Joanna Wiley**(OC '17), a history major from Lewisburg, PA

OHC Staff and Volunteer News continued...

This year's incoming student interns join returning interns **Alexandra Nicome** (OC '17); an art history major from Minneapolis, MN **Nia Owen** (OC '18), a Studio Art (Photography) and Art History major from Crymych, Wales, UK; and **Rebecca Posner** (OC '18), an art history major from Chicago, IL. Interns assist with leading tours, doing research, and helping with a myriad of special projects.

AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** kicks off the fall season with an Oberlin-football-themed kiosk mini-exhibit on South Main Street. Stop by and find out many fun facts about Oberlin's exceptionally long football history at both the high school and college levels.

Shout -outs go to 16 volunteer hosts who provided Bed-and-Breakfast accommodations in their homes to new Oberlin College students and their parents during campus orientation this year. OHC's small-but-very-hospitable-band of volunteers raised more than \$4,000 through this annual fundraiser for the Heritage Center's operating budget. Three cheers also go to members of the Oberlin College Track Team who volunteered a Saturday afternoon at the Heritage Center picking up brush from the schoolyard, weeding the parking lot area, sweeping, scrubbing the fence, sprucing up the brick walkway, and uncovering a side path that was being overtaken by grass. Amazing!

We mourn the loss of the Heritage Center's 2011 Volunteer of the Year **Charlotte Bosch** who passed away on September 22, 2016. Thank you to the Bosch family for directing memorial gifts for Charlotte to the Heritage Center, where she was an Endowed Life member and volunteered each Tuesday as a docent and helped at other times all year round with many special children's tours and programs. We truly will miss our dear friend.

Members Update

Welcome new members: **Jane & Ron Bier** (Amherst), **Elizabeth Hamilton** (Oberlin), **Susan Edwards Harvith** (Syracuse, NY), **Amy Mitch** (Oberlin), **Sheila Ploger** (Oberlin), the **Starcher Family** (Wellington), **Maryann Watson** (Amherst), **Anna Vitek** (Oberlin), and **Milton Wyman** (Oberlin). OHC members hail from 156 different communities throughout the country, representing 32 states and the District of Columbia, as well as four foreign countries! If you are not yet a member, we invite you to join this worldwide circle of supporters who help to preserve Oberlin's powerful history. Become a member today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on the "Join Now" tab at the top of the home page.

Also of Interest

Maiden Flight: A Novel Book Talk – November 3 at 4:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Oberlin College Library, the Oberlin College Library and the Oberlin College Archives are sponsoring a book talk by author **Harry Haskell**, grandson of Henry J. Haskell, OC Class of 1896. Mr. Haskell's latest book, released in paperback on October 1, 2016, is about the relationship between Henry J. Haskell and Katharine Wright Haskell, OC Class of 1898, and sister of Orville and Wilbur Wright. Harry Haskell utilized personal letters, newspaper reports, and other contemporary documents to tell the story. This free, public program takes place in Moffett Auditorium, Room 050 in the Oberlin College main library, Mudd Center (148 West College Street). Find out more at <https://calendar.oberlin.edu>.