

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette ♦ December 2016

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or send e-mail to [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org).

## A Glimpse Across the Pond

Tuesday, December 6 at 7:15 p.m.



Oberlin College student interns at the Heritage Center share not only an interest in local history, but several have also brought a global perspective to their internships through recent studies abroad. This student-led presentation features first-year **Lucy Haskell** from Connecticut (*photo at far left*), reflecting on the months she

volunteered at a historic house near London and time dedicated to walking the notable Camino de Santiago across Northern Spain. **David Kaplovitz** (*center*), a senior History major from Michigan, shares insights gained from working on an active archaeological dig in the summer of 2015, excavating a medieval castle in rural Belgium. **Alexandra Nicome** (*near left*), a senior Art History major, Africana Studies minor from Minnesota, discusses her junior-year spring semester participating in the Oberlin-in-London program, where she studied national identities and museum narratives. The program takes place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## A YEAR IN REVIEW Collections Mini-Exhibit

At the Monroe House through December



*Richard Hanmer wore this helmet while a member of Oberlin's Volunteer Fire Department from 1955 to 1981.*

An eclectic sampling of collections items acquired in the past year is displayed at the Heritage Center this month in a special exhibit curated by Collections Manager **Maren McKee**. Highlights include a 19th century pharmacy chest, a mid-20th century check-writing machine used in the Ben Franklin store, vintage photographs of the town, a 1950's-era fireman's helmet and many other fascinating artifacts and documents with stories to tell of Oberlin in times past. Stop in during OHC's office hours 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday for a close-up look, or combine your visit with a 30-minute *Sneak Peek/Oberlin Origins* tour of the Monroe House's first floor.

# Who Will Be OHC's Next Community Award Recipients?

## Nominations Due by February 1, 2017



2016 Community Award recipients included (from left): Christine Hohman, Brandi Hicks-Watson, & Felicia Christian (Prospect School 3rd-Grade Team who shared the History Teacher of the Year award), Melissa Clifford & Eileen Telegdy (oral history transcribers who shared the OHC Volunteer of the Year award), Ken Stanley (Community Teacher of the Year), and Phyllis Yarber Hogan (representing the Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group, which received the Heritage Guardian Award).

Consider nominating an outstanding individual, organization, or business whose accomplishments in serving the community are in keeping with the Heritage Center's mission *to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work and visit.* Award categories include:

- **Community Historian** - an individual who adds to the knowledge of the history of Oberlin through research, writing, and/or educating others
- **Heritage Guardian** – an individual/group dedicated to the ideals of conservation and preservation and who serves our community as a leader in preserving history, historical records, or historic buildings
- **Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year** – a volunteer who makes extraordinary contributions of time and talent to the Oberlin Heritage Center
- **History Teacher of the Year** – an area educator who inspires students to learn more about history
- **Community Teacher of the Year** – an area educator who inspires students to get involved in community service

- **Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award** – an individual, business or organization that helps to enhance the aesthetics and appearance of the community
- **Business Leader Service Award** - a business that provided exceptional support to the Heritage Center in contributions or contributed services, and
- **Youth Community Service Award** - a young person who makes extraordinary contributions in time and talent to the Heritage Center.

Download a nomination form at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

## Save these Dates in 2017!

### Events Calendar Kicks Off with Music, Members-Only Trips, & More!

An exciting new events calendar will be sent to Heritage Center members and posted on OHC's website early in the New Year. Here's a glimpse of what's in store -- circle the dates now and plan to join us!

2017

<b>January</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>February</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	<b>March</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>April</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
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**January 24 at 7:15 p.m. *Treasures of the Conservatory's Special Collections* presented by Jeremy Smith, Special Collections Librarian and Curator of the James and Susan Neumann Jazz Collection. This**

## Save these Dates in 2017! continued...

program takes place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public. *Sponsored by Northwest Savings Bank.*

**January 27, from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. *Behind-the-Scenes in the Piano Shop!*** Join **Robert Murphy**, Assistant Director of Piano Technology and Curator of Fortepianos of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, for a private tour and discussion of the wide array of pianos owned by the Conservatory and how they are kept in tip-top condition throughout the year. An OHC Members-Only event. \$8/person. Space is limited, so register soon at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

**February 3, from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. *Dig Deeper into the Mudd.*** Connect with history as Oberlin College Archivist **Ken Grossi** shares highlights of the Mudd Library Archives and **Ed Vermue**, Special Collections/Preservation Librarian, discusses what is contained in "the vault" and offers participants an opportunity to try their hands in the letterpress studio. An OHC Members-Only event. \$5/person. Register at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

**February 11 at 7:00 p.m. *Oh! Freedom: Commemorating the Negro Spiritual and the Underground Railroad.*** One of OHC's all-time favorite presenters, **Wesley Williams** (who brought his one-man show about Frederick Douglass to Oberlin in 2015), returns with carefully selected prose narratives from historical scholars, poems and spirituals that combine to describe the evil, ugliness, and authentic beauty of this significant time in our nation's history. Williams is accompanied musically by fellow performer **H. LeArthur (H.L.) Wright II**. The event takes place in the Meeting House at The First Church in Oberlin, UCC (106 North Main Street) and is free and open to the public. (Donations gratefully accepted.) Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

## **Music in the Home Tour**

### **First Saturday of the Month at 1 p.m., January through April**



Listen and learn how music was used for entertainment, fellowship, and teaching in nineteenth century homes during this 60-minute guided tour of the historic properties at the Oberlin Heritage Center. Musicians and non-musicians alike will enjoy this opportunity to view musical artifacts up-close and hear sounds of the times. Tours begin at the Heritage Center's Monroe House. Reservations recommended. \$6/adult; free for OHC members, children and college students. Make a reservation at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and click on the preferred Saturday date for your tour.

*Enter the Monroe House front parlor and enjoy the unique sound of this pianoforte built in England circa 1800 by George Astor.*

## Looking Ahead: Spring Kids' Camps

### Home School Series and Spring Break Camps for Children ages 8-13



Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** has been busy developing ideas and activities for the 2017 *Cultures of the World Home School Series* and *Spring Break Camp*. Save the dates of March 1, 8 and 15 for a three-part home school series for young explorers who want to learn more about West Africa, Iran and Spain.

*Around the World in 3 Days!* is the theme of this year's Spring Break Camp (March 21-23) featuring a lively hop around the globe sampling a variety of cultures through games, hands-on activities, photographs and cooking. Our "trip" includes

activities and history of the Arctic Peoples, Australia, West Africa, and India. Register soon for the home school series and/or spring break camp at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) to receive an early bird discount! (Or call 440-774-1700 to request a camp flyer be mailed to you.)

## OHC's Annual Fund Progress

### Donors Share Why They Think It's Important to Support History

- *Oberlin has such a rich history that it is essential for it to be preserved for current and future generations.*
- *It connects us with the people who preceded us and their important actions – which become part of our history.*
- *In so many ways we can learn from the mistakes and solutions from the past, to make the future a better place to live.*

There are many excellent reasons to support history education and preservation. Show that you, too, believe in the value of history, by contributing to the Heritage Center's 2016 Annual Fund. To date, the Annual Fund has raised \$30,942 from 242 donors, on the way to this year's goal of \$41,200. Your gift of any size is needed and appreciated! Donate today at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or mail a check (made payable to the Oberlin Heritage Center) to MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074-0455.

## Members Update

A warm welcome goes to new OHC members **Derek Bosch** (Belmont, CA), **Joel Clancy** (Raleigh, NC), **Martin & Elizabeth David**, the **Christopher Frank Family**, **Carl Gerber**, **Margaret Hoag** (Concord, MA) and **Sylvan & Megan Long**. (All are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) This holiday season, consider an OHC membership for family and friends -- it's the perfect "one-size-fits-all" gift! If you wish a gift card to be sent to the recipient before December 25, purchase your gift membership by December 16. **Join OHC or purchase a gift membership today at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.**

## Holiday Hours at the Heritage Center



The Heritage Center will be closed December 24-26. The office and Museum Store are open usual hours and days during the rest of the holidays. 90-minute Upstairs/Downstairs guided tours are offered Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Sneak Peek/Oberlin Origins tours (a 30-minute introduction that "hits the highlights") are offered during regular office hours, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Walk-ins welcome!

## Heritage Center Values Openness and Accountability

Business Manager **Bethany Hobbs** recently posted to the OHC website the organization's **Form 990 for fiscal year 2015**. The 990 contains information about the Oberlin Heritage Center's finances, governance, and program and service offerings. Tax-exempt nonprofit organizations are required annually to submit Form 990 to the IRS as well as complete the charitable registration with the Ohio Attorney General's office. Review the document at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/platform/cms/files/990/FY2015%20OHIO%20990.pdf>.

## OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News



We bid a warm-and-appreciative farewell to OHC Board President **Nick Jones** (*at far left*), who will hand over the president's gavel to First Vice-President **Gail Wood** (*at immediate left*) on December 15. Nick retires as Professor of English from Oberlin College at the end of this semester, and he and his wife, Sue, will be relocating soon to Berkeley, CA. Nick has lived in Oberlin for 43 years and has been an OHC member for more than half of those years!

He joined the Heritage Center's Board of Trustees in 2009 and became President in 2014. Gail Wood has been on the Board since 2010 and currently chairs the Development Committee. The Board's Executive Committee has planned for a very smooth and successful transition.

OHC volunteers will be celebrated at the annual Holiday Breakfast on Friday, December 2 in the Fox & Fell dining room at Kendal at Oberlin. Executive Director **Liz Schultz** and the OHC staff will host the breakfast and offer highlights of the myriad ways that volunteers assist at the Heritage Center all year round.

Staff and interns have put together a fun and informative display at **Northwest Savings Bank** (49 South Main Street in Oberlin) for the month of December. Learn about how the Christmas season was (or was not) celebrated in Oberlin's earliest years by reading our feature panels that include holiday excerpts from *The Oberlin Evangelist*, the town newspaper at the time.

## OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News continued...

Thank you to OHC volunteers **Camille Hamlin Allen**, **Erik Andrews**, **Steve Johnson** and **Annessa Wyman** who took part in a radio interview on the Oberlin College radio station WOBC (91.5 FM) last month. The one-hour oral history focused on growing up in Oberlin in the second half of the 20th century and was moderated by Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan**. We promise you'll enjoy this wonderful gem -- listen at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2GM9nyPiXE4NDI0VHFKTWlqVkk/view?usp=sharing>.

*(If the interview doesn't play immediately upon clicking the link, then download and proceed.)*

Docent, researcher and trustee **Ron Gorman** was prompted by the recent U.S. election to delve into history and write his latest blog on *The Election of 1857 and Oberlin's Dissent*. Find out how "the issues of the day were much more divisive than the issues we face today (as hard as that may be to believe!)" Visit <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog/> for more.

## **Ave Atque Vale / Hail & Farewell**

### **Patricia L. Holsworth (1937-2016)**



We mourn the loss of our dear friend and colleague **Pat Holsworth** who passed away quietly at home on November 16, 2016. Pat joined the OHC Board in 1997 and was elected President in 1998. Upon completing her Board term in 2001, she signed on to the OHC staff as a part-time Financial Assistant. All the while, Pat also was active in the Heritage Center's Resource Center as librarian, genealogist, researcher and oral history interviewer and transcriber. In 2006, she and her husband, Dick, who survives, each received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the statewide Ohio Association of Historical Societies & Museums for their many contributions to the understanding and appreciation of local history. Pat retired from the OHC staff in 2011 and was appointed an Honorary Trustee the following year. She and Dick were among the

first to become Endowed Life Members at the Heritage Center. The Holsworths' sons, Richard and Ed, also are OHC members. All of us at the Oberlin Heritage Center extend heartfelt condolences to the Holsworth family.



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