

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette ♦ January 2017

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2017 Begins with BIG THANKS!

OHC Grateful to Generous Donors and Grantmakers



The Heritage Center operates each year on a very lean yet well-managed budget, and the 2017 calendar faced a real threat of cuts if the organization didn't achieve its grant and fundraising goals for the past year. Thankfully, the year ended with great news as support came from donors and grantmakers to help the nonprofit begin the new year on solid footing.

We are deeply appreciative of the more than 300 donors whose combined generosity raised over \$45,000 for general operations through the 2016 Annual Fund campaign. This year-end effort reached new highs in terms of *both* donors and dollars! The campaign received the support of 42% of the organization's membership, with 100% of the OHC Board and Staff contributing.

The Heritage Center also was grateful and proud to receive two grants in December. The first was \$3,267 from the **National Endowment for the Humanities** for adding proper collections storage supplies, such as stainless steel racks, archival boxes, and tissue paper, to a climate-controlled room in the Jewett House. The grant application,

which was written by Collections Manager **Maren McKee**, will result in better storage for historic textiles and expanding collections to include objects that tell Oberlin's more recent history.

The second grant received was \$25,000 from the **Community Foundation of Lorain County**. This grant will support essential activities of the Oberlin Heritage Center, including staff hours for operating the museum, internship support, educational programs, website hosting, and publicity. Operating support from donors and grantmakers is critical to the Heritage Center's ability to continue offering innovative, community-oriented programming while protecting historical resources. Thank you one and all for your generosity!

Music in the Home Tour

First Saturday at 1 p.m., January through April

Enjoy an up-close look at the Heritage Center's musical artifacts and listen to sounds of the time in this melodious one-hour guided tour that begins at the 1866 Monroe House. Participants will Learn how music was used for entertainment, fellowship and teaching in 19th century homes.

Music in the Home Tour continued...



Advance registration is recommended; call (440) 774-1700, stop by the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street) or visit the OHC website at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on the Events Calendar to choose the date you wish to reserve your tour. \$6 per adult, free for OHC members, children and college students.

A close-up of the circa 1800 Astor piano, at left, is a rare treasure in the Heritage Center's collection.

Treasures of the Conservatory's Special Collections

Tuesday, January 24 at 7:15 p.m.



Did you know that the Oberlin Conservatory of Music's special collections contain more than 700 instruments, including a triple Welsh harp and more than 100,000 jazz recordings? **Jeremy Smith**, Special Collections Librarian and Curator of the James and Susan Neumann Jazz Collection, will give an illustrated program revealing the breadth of the collection, from 16th century European musical theory, to 18th century American music, to modern jazz. The program is free and open to the public. Location: Kendal at Oberlin, Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). Thank you to **Northwest Savings Bank** for sponsoring this program. For more information, call (440) 774-1700 or visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.



Top photo credit: Oberlin Conservatory

Behind-the-Scenes in the Piano Shop!

Friday, January 27 at 4:00 p.m. / OHC Members-Only Tour



Photo credit: William Rieter / Oberlin Conservatory

Continuing the Heritage Center's "musical theme" of programs and tours this month, OHC members will have the opportunity to discover a terrifically in-tune space that is among the hidden gems of Oberlin. **Robert Murphy**, Assistant Director of Piano Technology and Curator of Fortepianos of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music (*pictured at left*), will lead a one-hour private tour for 12 OHC members through the Conservatory's busy piano shop and performance spaces. Murphy will discuss the wide array of pianos owned by the Conservatory and explain how technicians keep them in Tip-top condition throughout the year. Fee: \$8/person (recommended for ages 12 and up). Registrants must

Behind-the-Scenes in the Piano Shop continued...

be current OHC members. For reservations, or to learn more, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Dig Deeper into the Mudd

Friday, February 3 at 4:00 p.m. / OHC Members-Only Tour



*Photo credit: Ken Grossi /
Oberlin College Archives*

Oberlin College was founded in 1833 and has been collecting documents and artifacts ever since, which are now carefully housed on the fourth floor of the campus hub of Mudd Library. OHC members have the opportunity to learn more about this treasure trove as Archivist **Ken Grossi** shares highlights of the Oberlin College Archives, including historical film. Special Collections and Preservation Librarian **Ed Vermue** discusses what is contained in "the vault" and encourages guests to try their hand in the letterpress studio. The private tour is limited to the first 25 registrants. Fee: \$5 person (recommended for ages 12 and up). All participants must be current Oberlin Heritage Center members. For reservations, or to find out more, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Salute Those Who Make Oberlin Special

Last Call for Community Awards Nominations



The Heritage Center's Community Awards program, now in its 16th year, welcomes nominations of individuals, businesses, or organizations whose accomplishments are in keeping with OHC's mission to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make the community a better place to live, learn, work and visit. Categories include:

- * *Community Historian*
- * *Heritage Guardian*
- * *Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award*
- * *History Teacher or Community Teacher of the Year*
- * *Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year*

Nominations may be brief and you're likely to discover that the process of writing a paragraph or two about someone who inspires you is rewarding in itself -- try it and see! Submit your nomination by February 1, 2017. Award recipients will be honored at the Heritage Center's Annual Meeting, which takes place at The Hotel at Oberlin on Wednesday, April 5, 2017. To download a nomination form visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 to request a community awards brochure.

The World at Your Fingertips!

Kids Explore Cultures of the World this Spring at OHC



Home school families - mark your calendars for this year's **Cultures of the World** afternoon series when children can explore the cultures of **West Africa (March 1)**, **Iran (March 8)** and **Spain (March 15)**.

Discussions and hands-on activities are centered on art, architecture, food, geography, religion and more.

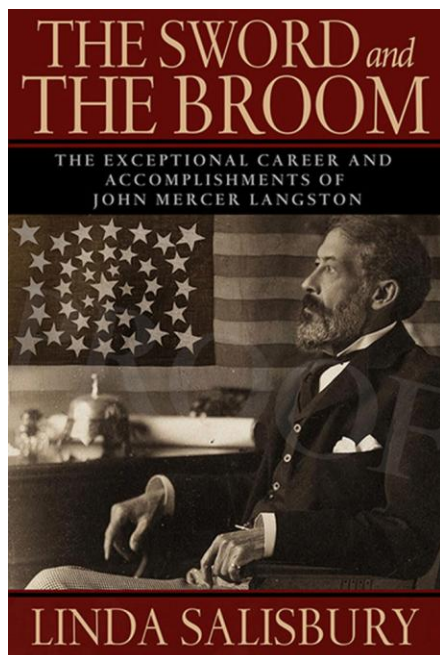
Spring Break Camp (March 21-23) features a lively hop around the globe and the cultures of the **Arctic Peoples, Australia, West Africa, India** and more!

All children's camps are designed for boys and girls ages 8-13 and take place at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Anyone may register a child; OHC members receive a discount. Take advantage of "early

bird" savings and register by February 1 for the Home School Series and by March 1 for the Spring Break Camp. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 and request a camp registration form.

History Connects in Surprising Ways!

Swapping E-mails Leads to More and More Overlapping Threads



We always love to hear a new book has been published relating to Oberlin history, so it was wonderful to receive an email from author **Linda Salisbury** introducing her latest book which tells the story of John Mercer Langston. *The Sword and the Broom* is a retelling of Langston's life based on his own autobiography, written for young adult and adult readers. The son of plantation owner Ralph Quarles and Lucy Langston, a free woman of color whom Quarles freed after receiving her in exchange for a debt, John Mercer Langston attended Oberlin College, following in the footsteps of his older brothers. He rose to prominence as Ohio's first African-American lawyer, one of the first African-Americans elected to public office (in Brownhelm Township, Ohio), an ambassador to Haiti, leader in higher education, and a Congressman from Virginia.

Salisbury lives in Virginia near Langston's birthplace, but her interest in Oberlin has deeper roots. She is a graduate of Oberlin College -- as is her grandmother, father, mother and son! Her father, **Allen Bailey**, was director of publicity at one time for Oberlin College. When Salisbury mentioned her father to Oberlin Heritage Center Executive Director **Liz Schultz**, his name rang a familiar bell. Coincidentally, the Heritage Center has a 1940 photograph of Bailey using a Dictaphone, as an accompaniment to the interpretation of the historic Dictaphone that is exhibited in the OHC's tour of the Jewett House! Salisbury also shared information about

History Connects in Surprising Ways continued...

her parents' home at 197 West College Street, as well as a scrapbook of her grandmother's time spent in Oberlin. Included in the Oberlin materials is a copy of a farewell speech Allen Bailey gave when leaving Oberlin during World War II. OHC is planning two community programs about World War II in the coming months, and we're thrilled to be able to include quotes from Bailey's poignant commentary about serving our country.

The interweaving of past and present, people near and far, is indeed often times amazing!

*Note: **The Sword and The Broom** is available in the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store for \$14.95. OHC members receive a discount. Order a copy today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.*

Arconic Team Explores Birthplace of Aluminum

Visit Generates Ideas for Cleveland Plant's 100th Anniversary Celebration



Photo: Brian Jackson, Arconic Forgings and Extrusions Cleveland Operations Human Resources Manager, trades his cell phone for a telephone of a bygone era in the Heritage Center's Jewett House.

OHC was pleased to welcome visitors last month from the Arconic (formerly Alcoa) Forgings and Extrusions plant in Cleveland. The plant was built in 1917 and several staff members came to Oberlin to fuel their planning for a centennial celebration. Charles Martin Hall's invention of the aluminum reduction process in 1886 in Oberlin transformed the nation's manufacturing and electric industries, and his philanthropy changed campus and town through a significant endowment to the College, the clearing of Tappan Square as a community park, gifts that made possible the Arboretum, Hall Auditorium, art works in the Allen Memorial Art Museum, and much more. Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan**, Executive Director **Liz Schultz**, and Oberlin College emeritus professor of chemistry **Norm Craig** gave the seven Cleveland visitors a tour of the Jewett House and the re-created woodshed display of Hall working on his aluminum experiments. The party then moved to the Oberlin College Archives where archivist **Ken Grossi** discussed holdings related to Hall, including the original patents for the aluminum reduction process. We will be excited to hear more about the Cleveland plant's centennial in the coming year.

OHC Staff and Volunteer News

Applause for the Heritage Center's dedicated **Westwood Cemetery Committee** volunteers! The GPS project has logged coordinates for approximately 2,700 gravestones (with about 5,500 left to be done). This project will help visitors locate specific gravesites more quickly and assist with tracking the condition of headstones.

Congratulations to Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** who was recently elected to the Board of the Friends & Descendants of Johnson's Island (an organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the Civil War prisoner-of-war camp, which is a National Historic Landmark. Collections Manager **Maren McKee** was appointed to the Oberlin Historic

OHC Staff and Volunteer News...continued

Preservation Commission for a new three-year term. Executive Director **Liz Schultz** was named President-Elect of the Oberlin Rotary Club for the 2017-2018 year.

New in 2017 – Membership Offer for Educators

Teachers Receive Added Benefits to Enhance History Education

The Oberlin Heritage Center has launched a new membership category for current educators, including elementary and secondary school teachers, college professors, home school parents, and anyone who is actively involved in the teaching profession. The base membership for educators is \$25. Educator-members receive extra guest passes for tours, discounts on group visits, and added savings when purchasing books and other publications in the Museum Store. The Heritage Center has much to offer in terms of 19th and 20th century history resources, and we encourage educators to visit our website at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or 440-774-1700) to see how we can work with you to help meet classroom standards and goals. Become an OHC member today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on the “Join Now” tab at the top of the home page.

Members Update

The Oberlin Heritage Center welcomed **69** new members to the organization in 2016 – **one-half** of whom lived outside of Oberlin (throughout Ohio and across the country). Recent members include: **The Arbogast Family** (Amherst), **Shirley Chambers, Joyce Dudash, David & Nancy Finke, Patricia Latto** (Amherst), **Barry & Sharon Manahan** (Hamilton, IN), **Laura Peskin** (Cleveland), **Linda Salisbury** (Mineral, VA), **Rachel Somoskey, Loraine Stubbs** (Lakewood, CO), **Gavin Tritt, Charles Worcester** (Vermilion) and new business member the **Erik Breunig Law Firm** (Elyria). Members listed here are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.

Special thank to **Kristin Peterson** who became a new Endowed Life Member at the Copper Level as well as to **Max Morgan** who increased his Endowed Life Membership to the Silver Level.

If you are not yet an OHC member, make it your New Year’s resolution to join! You'll enjoy being part of a great community organization -- and the Heritage Center will warmly value your support! Join today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (and click on the “Join Now” tab at the top of the home page) or call (440) 774-1700 to request a membership brochure.

Also of Interest: Be a Judge for History Day!

Here's a marvelous opportunity to talk with and learn more about the interests and talents of our next generation of historians! Judges are needed in all levels (Grades 6-12) and categories (Exhibits, Documentaries, Websites, Performances, and Papers) for ten regional competitions that take place throughout the state during the month of March. Registration is quick and easy (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeBpeXGUXx8ahEMwZof4U7EnjdMfWUObsFtt0q4r3UeqZNgQ/viewform?c=0&w=1>). No previous judging experience is needed. Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or 440-774-1700) is happy to answer your specific questions about the process.