

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette ♣ March 2017

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Oberlin Reacts to World War II

Tuesday, March 14 at 7:15 p.m.



Oberlin Heritage Center Trustee, retired Oberlin High School band instructor, and Army veteran **Steve Johnson** will present a two-part series this spring about World War II and its local impact. This first program focuses on Oberlin's reactions to the war and its precursor events as told through newspaper accounts, oral histories, and social programs created during the war years. (A follow-up program takes place on May 9 and focuses on the stories of local men and women who served.) The series is free and open to the public and takes place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). Northwest Savings Bank is the sponsor of both programs in the series. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Learn to Share Oberlin History!

Docent Training Workshop Saturday, March 11, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



Volunteers are invited to this free introductory workshop with tips and techniques for presenting an engaging 75-minute tour through the Heritage Center's three historic buildings. Share stories of the community and college in its first century, from the 1833 founding through the turn of the 20th century. If you have not yet had an opportunity to take a tour, you can arrange for a complimentary tour in advance of the workshop to see what being a docent is all about. Register for the workshop by March 3. Learn more, reserve a free advance

tour or register for the workshop by contacting Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700.

Around the World in 3 Days!

Spring Break Camp: Tuesday, March 21 through Thursday, March 23

Boys and girls ages 8-13 will enjoy this lively hop around the globe exploring a variety of different cultures through games, hands-on activities, photographs and cooking. Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** and AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning**

Around the World in 3 Days continued...

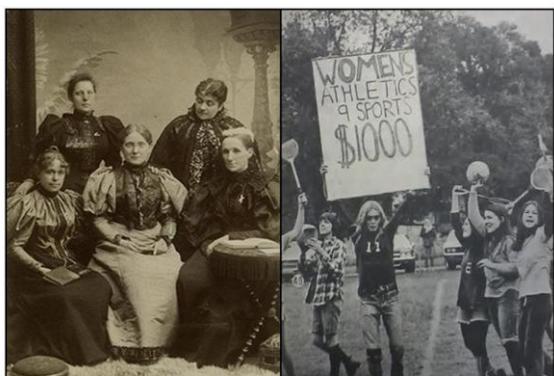


will lead adventures through the lands of the Arctic Peoples, Australia, West Africa, India and more!

The camp runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day and is held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Advance registration required; scholarship assistance is available to those who qualify for free or reduced school lunches. Learn more or register by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or calling (440) 774-1700 and requesting a registration flyer.

Celebrate Women's History Month

Oberlin Women's History Walk / Saturday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m.



Courtesy of Oberlin College Archives

In 1883, on the occasion of Oberlin College's 50th anniversary celebration, Lucy Stone, a well-known crusader for equal rights and a member of the College's Class of 1847, urged her alma mater to take *one step more* in the fight for justice. The Oberlin Heritage Center's **One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk** is a 90-minute guided tour in and around downtown Oberlin that shares stories and images of Stone and other Oberlin women who made a difference in efforts to gain rights and respect. The tour fee is \$6 for adults; free to

OHC members, any college student and children under 18. Reservations required.

Consider learning how to be a docent for this tour by registering for the Heritage Center's free training workshop taking place on Saturday, April 29 from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, beginning at the Monroe House (73 1/2 South Professor Street in Oberlin). Prospective docent volunteers can receive a *complimentary* tour for the history walk on March 25 by contacting Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org. Register for the March 25 tour at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Truth Twister or Myth Buster?

Test Your History Sense on Saturday, April 1 at 10:00 a.m.

**Historically
Inaccurate:**
*A Special
April Fool's Day Tour*



History is dotted with urban legends. How well do you know your facts from fiction? Can you call someone's bluff? Come test your knowledge on this new 75-minute tour created for fun just because it's April Fool's Day! The tour of the Heritage Center's three historic buildings includes some Oberlin myths along the way, and we'll sort out what's real and what's rumor. You'll end your visit with fresh insights and a better understanding of local history all the way around. The fee is \$6 for adults; free for OHC members, children and college students. Registration required; make your reservation at

www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Annual Meeting Spotlights Oberlin Medical History

Wednesday, April 5 Festivities Also Salute OHC Award Recipients



Reservations are underway for an evening of camaraderie and celebration as Oberlin Heritage Center members and friends gather at The Hotel at Oberlin (10 East College Street) for the Annual Meeting and Banquet. The keynote presentation features **Joseph Sober** (*at left*), President of Mercy Allen Hospital, with remarks on the history and future of Oberlin's community hospital. **Dr. W. Jeanne McKibben**, OHC Honorary Trustee, also will display materials and videos from her chronicling of the medical history of Oberlin. The 16th Annual OHC Community Awards will honor **Sid Comings** (Community Historian); John G.W. Cowles Director of the Allen Memorial Art Museum **Andria Derstine** and Oberlin College Facility Planner **Leo Evans** / AMAM ceiling restoration

project (Heritage Guardian Award); Oberlin Schools Music Teachers **Robert Duerr**, **Len Gnizak** and **Audrey John Melzer** (Community Teachers of the Year); **Bud Spierling** (OHC Volunteer of the Year); Langston Middle School 6th grade teacher **Lisa Thacker** (History Teacher of the Year); and Radio Stations **WOBL/WDLW** (Business Leader Service Award). This upbeat evening is a fast-paced and feel-good opportunity to meet other Heritage Center supporters, review progress of the past year, look ahead to plans for the future, and take part in a brief business meeting. The event runs from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. (with an optional social hour and basket raffle beginning at 5:00 p.m.). Reservations must be made by March 30. Register now by calling (440) 774-1700 or visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

An Hour in the Parlor: Songs of the Turn of the Century

Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. – Special Museum Event



Join us for a merry evening of song and history as Oberlin Conservatory students **Abigail Hakel-Garcia** and **Collin Sterne** present an hour of music at the museum. The evening's entertainment, accompanied by some historical tidbits, will be performed in the 1884 Jewett House parlor, just as many homes were used for intimate concerts in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Abigail sings and plays violin and Collin adds classical guitar as the tune requires.

A few highlights of the evening include favorite

songs such as "Merry Oldsmobile" and "Moonlight Bay," as well as music by Paganini and Piazzolla. Guests are welcome to listen and enjoy, or join in a chorus or two. A reception with light refreshments will follow. Tickets are \$10 for OHC members and \$12 for the general public (\$5 for college students or children under 18). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited, so make your reservation early by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or calling (440) 774-1700.

Summer Internships at the Oberlin Heritage Center

Paid Positions: Oberlin College Student / Oberlin High School Student

The Heritage Center is pleased to be selected this year as one of five local organizations to host an Oberlin College student intern as part of the **President's Public Service Fellowship (PPSF)** program. This internship opportunity is coordinated through **Oberlin College's Bonner Center for Service and Learning** and provides funding for students to work full-time during the summer with a community partner. The Heritage Center's internship will focus on the development and implementation of youth and adult programming, including summer day camp activities, developing materials for a fall home school program, planning components for a future adult workshop about food preservation, and assisting with the coordination and research for a guest exhibit at the Heritage Center by the Museum of Hispanic and Latino Cultures in September 2017. Application deadline is March 6. Learn more about this application process by contacting the Bonner Center for Service and Learning's PPSF Program Director **Tania Boster** at tboster@oberlin.edu.

Thanks to funding from **Nordson Corporation**, the Heritage Center is able to offer an opportunity for the second year in a row to an Oberlin High School student to join the summer staff. This junior intern will assist with youth camps, greet visitors at community events, complete a mini research project, and assist in many other ways with the daily operations of the museum. Application deadline is April 15. Learn more about the application process by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/work.

History-in-a -Minute

Early Oberlin African-American Activism



Courtesy of Library of Congress.

Recently, AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** prepared a series of Facebook posts focused on black citizens of Oberlin speaking out for their rights, including this post:

African-American activists with Oberlin connections numbered among the earliest members of the NAACP at its founding in 1909, and some also helped, in 1905, to found the Niagara Movement (*see founders' photo at left*), its immediate and more radical predecessor that envisioned a “mighty current” of change for the world. Mary Burnett Talbert (OHS 1883 and OC 1886), then living in Buffalo, helped to pave the way for the initial 1905 meeting in nearby Fort Erie, Ontario, and she hosted movement leaders like W.E.B. DuBois (*pictured in middle row, 2nd from right*) in her home. In 1906, they held their Second Annual Meeting at Harpers Ferry, WV, and Henrietta Leary Evans, sister

to Lewis Leary and aunt to John Copeland, the Oberlinians who died in John Brown's raid, gave a stirring address to the crowd. In 1908, the Niagara Movement held its Fourth Annual Meeting in Oberlin, with assistance from a Northeast Ohio committee that included Oberlin residents Mrs. Blanche V. Jones and Henson Tuck. To see the Niagara Movement charted through original documents from W.E.B. DuBois's papers, visit <http://scua.library.umass.edu/digital/niagara.htm>

Very P(I)eased to Meet You!

Descendant of Early Oberlinian Visits the Heritage Center



We were excited to learn that one of our drop-in visitors in February was the great, great, great grandson of Hiram Pease. Peter Pindar Pease might be more widely known as the first settler of Oberlin, but his brother Hiram was equally noteworthy, both for his sense of humor (which was scarce in early Oberlin) and his staunch belief in full racial equality. Hiram's descendant, **Caleb Heineman** of Brooklyn, NY, stopped by the Heritage Center while visiting Oberlin with his wife and daughter, who is previewing Oberlin College. Here Caleb poses with his distant uncle Peter at the Heritage Center. If you want to see a portrait of

Hiram, check out the digital collections of the Oberlin College Archives at

<http://cdm15963.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/objects/id/620>. Both portraits were painted by Hiram's son Hiram Alonzo Pease.

Members Update

Remember there is a 10% savings for members' reservations for the upcoming Annual Meeting -- join today and save!

We welcome new OHC members **Hyun-Jung Kim** (Bronx, NY), **Robert Murphy** (Oberlin), **Annalee Sekulic** (Wakeman), **Mary Ann Serazin** (Oberlin), and **Wesley G. Williams II** (Alexandria, VA). Special thanks to Endowed Life members **Emily & T.K. McClintock** for increasing their support to the Silver Level. And we mourn the recent passing of Endowed Life Member **Betty James** and Endowed Life Members/Honorary Trustees **Ruth Schwaegerle** and **Martha Stacy**.

We are deeply grateful for OHC members' warm support of local history!

Staff & Intern News



Thanks to a generous contribution by **Nordson Corporation**, the Oberlin Heritage Center was able to provide free programming to all of the 4th graders in the Lorain City School District. Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** visited all 10 of the Lorain Elementary schools during Black History Month and interacted with some 375

students. The program *Northern Ohio and the Underground Railroad* featured stories about slavery and abolitionists in the United States and included activities to help students think critically about the struggles and difficult choices the freedom seekers faced. In the photo at left, Larkmoor Elementary students hold up sack drawings, which they did as an activity to think about what three items they would take with them if they had to travel on the Underground Railroad.

Staff & Intern News continued...

AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** must have cloned herself last month to accomplish so much in and around the region! She trained history volunteers in Vermilion to use collections archiving software, digitized collections items at the Lakewood Historical Society, updated the Brownhelm Historical Association website, reviewed the Lorain Historical Society's tour resources, checked-in on the Cleveland Grays Armory Museum's ongoing self-assessment, and created a mini history exhibit for Mercy Allen Hospital in Oberlin. She also took part as a workshop presenter at Youngstown State University's "History Across the Humanities" conference, where she spoke to undergraduate and graduate students on "Marketing Yourself and Your Historical Projects." Somewhere along the way Mary also found time to write a book review of the *Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums* (by Franklin D. Vagnone and Deborah Ryan) for the current issue of *The Local Historian*, the newsletter of the Ohio Local History Alliance. Whew! Mary is one of over 800 AmeriCorps members serving in the nation, and one of 13 Ohio History Service Corps members stationed throughout Ohio and tasked with assisting local historical groups with projects, programs, volunteer recruitment, and self-assessments.

OHC Executive Director **Liz Schultz** and Lorain Historical Society Executive Director **Barb Piscopo** will attend Ohio's Statehood Day together on March 1 at the Statehouse in downtown Columbus, joining history leaders from all over Ohio to advocate for local history projects and education. The two have meetings planned with Ohio's 56th District State Representative **Dan Ramos** and Ohio's 13th District Senator **Gayle Manning** to bring the officials up to date on recent successes in Lorain County history organizations as well as future challenges.

A warm welcome goes out to Oberlin College student intern **Linda Diaz** who is volunteering at the Heritage Center this semester as a component of her Comparative American Studies Field Based Research course. Linda will be helping with oral histories and also learning about the administrative side of nonprofit and museum management.

Also of Interest

If you missed OHC member **Roy Ebihara** and his wife, **Aiko**, on NPR's *StoryCorps* this past month, take a few minutes to listen at <https://storycorps.org/listen/roy-and-aiko-ebihara-170217/>. The Ebiharas' oral history was recorded in remembrance of the 75th anniversary of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which authorized the internment of Japanese Americans on the West Coast. The conversation originally aired February 17 on NPR's Morning Edition.

An Afternoon of Jazz with **Paul Samuels, Aidan Plank, Dan Wall, and Bobby Ferrazza**, will be presented **Sunday, April 2 at 3:00 p.m.** at The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ (106 North Main Street). All are invited to this special concert and reception that will benefit Family Promise of Lorain County, Inc.

Don't miss the **Oberlin Public Library's Spring Book Sale** (65 South Main Street), beginning **Wednesday, April 5** (pre-sale) from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. and continuing **Thursday through Sunday, April 6-9**, various times. Check out the great selection of books, music and movies! For more information, e-mail [**FOPL.Oberlin@gmail.com**](mailto:FOPL.Oberlin@gmail.com).

