

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette



**April 2017**

MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074

(440)774-1700

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

## Can You Call Someone's Bluff?

**Saturday, April 1 at 10 a.m.**

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



Come test your skills on the Oberlin Heritage Center's new 75-minute tour which mixes fact and fiction in celebration of April Fool's Day. This out-of-the-ordinary guided tour takes participants through the Heritage Center's three beautifully preserved buildings and includes some lesser-known (yet true) stories of Oberlin's past, interspersed with tales that some may not know are simply popular myths. Tour-goers will have the chance to try to identify fact from fiction as the tour moves along. By the end of the tour, the myths will be busted, truth prevails and fun rules the day – no one leaves *this* tour feeling like an April Fool! Fee is \$6 for adults and free for OHC members, children and college students. The tour

begins at the Monroe House (73 1/2 South Professor Street), and because of limited space, advance reservations are recommended even if you qualify for a free tour. Find out more or make a reservation at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## Don't Miss this Musical Finale

**Music in the Home Tour – Saturday, April 1 at 1 p.m.**



*Tour participants will enjoy listening to one of ten delightful tunes produced by this late 19th-century music box.*

If you've been thinking about taking part in one of the Heritage Center's first-Saturday Music in the Home tours this winter, April's offering will be the last opportunity for this season. Inspired by neighboring Oberlin Conservatory's recent 150th anniversary, this one-hour guided tour features musical artifacts and sounds of the times. Tour-goers will learn how music was used for entertainment, fellowship and teaching in 19th and 20th century homes. Fee is \$6 per adult and is free for OHC members, children and college students. The tour begins at the Monroe House (73 1/2 South Professor Street) and reservations are recommended even if you qualify for a free tour. For more information or to make a reservation, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## A Merry Evening of Song and History

Tuesday, April 11 at 7 p.m.



Music is in the air this spring as the Heritage Center hosts an intimate parlor concert at the Jewett House (73 South Professor Street) featuring Oberlin Conservatory students **Abigail Hakel-Garcia** on violin and **Collin Sterne** on classical guitar. A limited number of tickets are available for the performance of 19th and 20th century tunes ranging from tango to classical to old-fashioned sing-along! A reception with light refreshments will follow the one-hour performance.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and seating will be on a first-

come, first-served basis. Purchase tickets in advance for \$12 (general public), \$10 (OHC members) or \$5 (college students or children under 18). If tickets remain prior to the concert, they will be sold at the door (please call ahead to check availability). All proceeds from the event will benefit the general operations of the Heritage Center. Find out more or make a reservation at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## Annual Meeting Welcomes New Board Members

### New Program Format Introduced at Wednesday April 5 Event



Those attending this year's Annual Meeting will notice the Board and staff mixing up the traditional format of the evening so that business and fun flow together seamlessly in the quick-paced celebratory event. New this year is a festive basket raffle,

and one complimentary raffle ticket has been included with each banquet ticket purchase.

Additional raffle tickets will be sold at the event. All proceeds from the evening will benefit the Heritage Center's Endowment fund. In another change-of-pace, the annual business meeting will start the evening as the membership votes to elect Board Officers and new Board Members.

Joining the Board this year will be: **Dr. Mann-Mann Amy Chuang** (pictured at far left), retired physician specialist in allergies, asthma, and immunology; **Erik A. Breunig** (center), attorney and owner of The Breunig Law Firm in Elyria; and **Marlene Merrill** (near left), local historian, researcher, author, and retired educator. The evening's featured speaker will be **Joseph Sober**, President of Oberlin's Mercy Allen Hospital, whose remarks will focus on *The History and Future of Oberlin's Community Hospital*. The evening includes plenty of good food, good company, and a surprise announcement, before concluding with the presentation of the 16th Annual Community Awards.

## Intern With Us!

### Part-Time Summer Job Opportunities Available at the Heritage Center

The Oberlin Heritage Center is hiring a college student intern this summer. The paid position will run for approximately 10 weeks at 25 hours a week. Responsibilities will include leading tours of OHC's three historic buildings, helping at fun community events, and working on a variety of behind-the-scenes projects, such as historical research, administrative tasks, and youth programs. Learn more by contacting Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org). To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to Amanda's email by the end of the day Saturday, April 29. This position is funded by grants from **Nordson Corporation** and the **Community Foundation of Lorain County**. OHC members – please share this with college students you know!

Oberlin High School Students – don't forget that the application deadline for OHC's high school Junior Internship is April 15 (for details read the March E-Gazette at [http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/files/egazettes\\_documents/files/2017/02/2017\\_March\\_E-Gazette.pdf](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/files/egazettes_documents/files/2017/02/2017_March_E-Gazette.pdf) or call (440) 774-1700 for information.

### Young Historians Stand Out at Regional History Day Competition OHC Hubbard Prize Goes to Oberlin High School Team



Front row, from left: *Lucy Cipinko, Eva Phillips, Madeline Hennessey, Donna Shurr, advisor; Back row, left: Ewan Inglis, Asher Cipinko*

**Asher Cipinko** and **Ewan Inglis** took home the Oberlin Heritage Center's Hubbard Prize at the National History Day Ohio Region 3 competition held in Cleveland on Saturday, March 4. The prize was created by OHC members **Gail and Ned Hubbard** to recognize student historians who live in Lorain County and who present an outstanding paper, documentary or website project. Cipinko and Inglis created a website *The League of Nations' Rise* (<http://56614441.nhd.weebly.com/>), which included the work of the Oberlin Peace Society, an organization founded in the aftermath of World War I to promote global peace.

**Lucy Cipinko, Eva Phillips, and Madeline Hennessey** wrote and acted in a group performance titled *As Goes Oberlin, So Goes the United States: How Protests at Oberlin College Change History*. The group received the

Cleveland Grays Armory Museum Special Prize for their work. This year's History Day theme was *Taking a Stand in History*, and Oberlin High School teacher (and OHC Trustee) **Donna M. Shurr** served as group advisor. Shurr praised all of the Oberlin participants in remarking "These students are amazing and spent countless hours outside the classroom for this extracurricular activity. They love local history and visiting the Oberlin College Archives where (Archivist and OHC Trustee) **Ken Grossi** and his wonderful staff are so welcoming to them." OHC Annual Meeting guests will have the opportunity to meet some of the student historians and discuss their projects during the event's social hour at The Hotel at Oberlin (Wednesday, April 5 from 5-6 p.m.)

## Come to the Fair!

**NE Ohio Local History Fair – Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

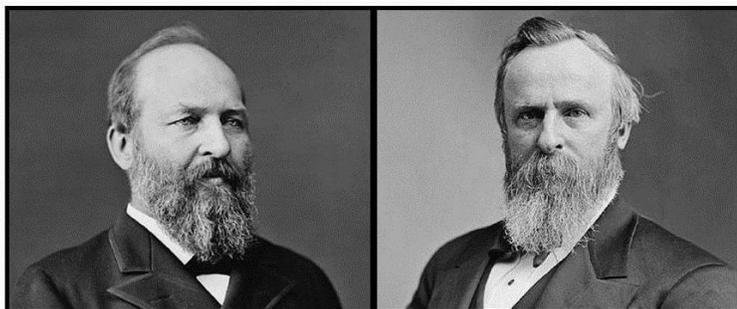


Discover the marvelous history that surrounds you in your own backyard! The 2nd annual Northeast Ohio Local History Fair is a collaborative effort to showcase local historical societies, museums and organizations in a free, public, one-day, educational event. The day includes exhibits, live first-person interpreters, crafts, music and a Genealogy Research Center -- bring your questions and get help with your own family research. The Fair is held at the Ellenwood Community Center in Bedford, Ohio, and is sponsored by the Bedford Historical Society, the City of Bedford, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture and partners among

many local history organizations, including the Oberlin Heritage Center. Special goodie bags will be given to the first 100 children and first 25 teachers attending the event. For more information including directions to the event, visit <http://www.neolocalhistoryfair.com/home.html>.

## Summer Field Trip Series Salutes Ohio Presidents

### Day Trips to Presidential Homes Slated for June and July



**James A. Garfield**  
20th U.S. President

**Rutherford B. Hayes**  
19th U.S. President

Join Heritage Center members and friends for one or both of these upcoming day trips to nearby Presidential sites. We'll visit the **James A. Garfield National Historic Site** in Mentor on **Friday, June 9 (8:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)**. Garfield is best known as a Major General during the Civil War, Ohio Congressman and skilled orator (and friend of Oberlin's own James Monroe), surprise nominee for the presidential election of 1880, and one of four presidents assassinated in office.

The following month, we'll visit the **Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums on Friday, July 14 (8:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.)**. Hayes is best known as a Civil War general, three-term Ohio governor, and "winner" of one of the most contested U.S. presidential elections in history, which led to significant changes in reconstruction policies. Each trip includes bus transportation, on-bus discussion of the president's visits to Oberlin, a guided tour and time to explore on your own, and lunch. Fee is \$65 for one trip (\$60 for OHC members) or \$110 (\$100 for OHC members) to take part in both trips. There is a \$5 discount for children ages 5-18.

Limited seating is available so register soon! Find out more by calling (440) 774-1700 to request a registration flyer, or visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org).

## **Volunteer Opportunities at the Heritage Center**

### **Consider Helping with Tours, Grounds Clean-up or Special Events**

**Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Docent Training Workshop for *Freedom's Friends: Underground Railroad & Abolitionist History Walk*.** Learn about Oberlin's role in the history of abolition and the Underground Railroad and how to present it in the format of a 90-minute walking tour through historic neighborhoods surrounding downtown Oberlin. Register by April 14.

**Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Docent Training Workshop for "*One Step More*": *Oberlin Women's History Walk*.** Learn how to present stories in the format of a 90-minute walking tour about powerful 19th and early 20th century Oberlin women who helped shape what it meant to be a woman in a small town and across America. Register by April 21.

**Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. *OHC Grounds Clean-up Day*.** Join a merry band of volunteers for an hour or two and help spruce up the grounds of the Heritage Center for summer visitors. Projects include trimming, weeding, and general yard clean-up. Tools and supplies are provided but volunteers also are welcome to bring their own. Sign-up in advance.

**Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Oberlin College Commencement/Reunion Weekend*.** Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts to staff the Heritage Center's welcome/information table. Sign-up in advance.

**Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Juneteenth community-wide celebration*.** Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts to staff the Heritage Center's welcome/information table. Sign-up in advance.

**Saturday, June 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *12th Annual Oberlin Chalk Walk*.** Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts to staff the Heritage Center's welcome/information table. Sign-up in advance.

Find out more about these or other volunteer opportunities by contacting Museum Education & Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan at [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) or (440) 774-1700.

## **Write it in "Stone" – Preserve a Bit of Your Own History**

### **Last Call for Ordering Inscribed Bricks to be Installed in 2017**



The Heritage Center will submit its annual request soon to our local brick engravers, so order now if you've been thinking about an inscribed brick on the Heritage Trail to honor a special person or occasion in your life. This brick pathway criss-crosses the grounds at the Oberlin Heritage Center and is lined with close to 450 bricks that feature one-of-a-kind

messages celebrating, remembering, and creating lasting legacies. Bricks ordered by May 1 will be installed later this spring; bricks ordered after that time will be installed in Spring 2018. For more information, call (440) 774-1700 and request a brick order form, or order online at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and click on the "Make a Gift" tab at the top of the home page.

## Members Update

### Members Benefit from All Kinds of Savings

Remember that members receive free tours and history walks plus complimentary guest passes for family or friends, a 10% savings on Museum Store purchases, and member discounts on events for which there is a fee. The NEW Educator level of membership provides additional guest passes and a **15%** discount on books purchased in the Museum Store. Business Members are heralded in various locations throughout the museum complex and on our website. All members are part of the Time Travelers Network and are eligible for reciprocal benefits at more than 300 history-related organizations around the country. We welcome **Evan & Ilana Kresch, Sharon Furrow, Mary Lee Orr, and Rachel Luczkowski** (Brooklyn, NY) as new members this month. (All are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) And we mourn the passing of a dear friend and Endowed Life Member, **Ernestine Evans King** (Topsham, ME), who passed away February 24, 2017. Join or renew now if you are not yet a member or if your membership has lapsed. Visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and click on the "Join Now" tab at the top of the home page, or call (440) 774-1700 and request a membership brochure.

## Spotlight on OHC Business Members

### Long History of Community Support among Local Businesses



The Heritage Center appreciates the warm support of some 70 businesses, including several that have been OHC members for 20 years or more! We particularly salute those listed below who have reached the 20-year milestone:

**Ben Franklin Store/Mindfair** (*Krista Long*), **Cowling Funeral Home** (*Tad Cowling*), **Dicken Funeral Home** / Elyria (*David Dicken*), **Douds Veterinary Hospital** (*John Douds, DVM*), **Herrick Jewelry** (*Malcolm & Mary Fowler*), **The Hotel at**

**Oberlin** (*Erika Todhunter*), **Lin-Barry Incorporated** / Amherst (*Barry and Linda Jones*), **Lorenzo's Pizzeria** (*Larry Cariglio*), **Manuel's Barber Shop** (*Manuel Espinoza*), **McKay Lodge Fine Arts Conservation Laboratory** (*Robert Lodge and Gina McKay Lodge*), **National Business Brokers** (*Mike Galbreath*), **Oberlin Foot & Ankle** (*Amanda Meszaros, DPM*), **Sperry-Gorske Agency** (*Pitt Gorske*), **Straight's Sharpening Service** (*Lloyd and David Straight*), **Subway of Oberlin** (*Jeff Linden*), **Turnbull Plumbing & Heating** (*Glenn Turnbull*), and **Turnbull Trucking & Excavating** (*Claud Turnbull*).

Through the years, the Heritage Center has done much work to preserve the history of Oberlin's downtown business district, which includes:

- Securing the designation of downtown Oberlin as a National Register Historic District (2003)
- Dedicating an Ohio Historical Marker at the corner of Main and College Streets in recognition of Oberlin's Historic Downtown (2008)
- Developing the *Picture the Past* tablet tour of historic downtown Oberlin for participants to move at their own pace on a self-guided tour that covers a one-block radius extending from the corner of Main and College Streets (2015)

## Spotlight on OHC Business Members, continued...

• Researching and designing history panels for area businesses with brief text and historic photographs to acquaint readers with the story of the building. The panels were partially funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and presently are displayed in the **Ben Franklin Store, Carlyle Shop, Herrick Jewelry, the Oberlin College Bookstore, the Vineway building** (home to The Mandarin, Lupita's and The Bridge), **Watson Hardware** and the **Woodshed Lesson Studio** (2016).

OHC appreciates the wonderful support of its business members and encourages Heritage Center members and friends to patronize the businesses that support our nonprofit organization. New businesses always are welcome to join! See OHC's full listing of business supporters, find out more about benefits of business membership, or join/renew as a business member by visiting [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and clicking on the "Join Now" tab at the top of the home page.

## Staff & Intern News



Sixteen young campers enjoyed "traveling the world" during the Heritage Center's Spring Break mini-camp last month. Led by Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan**, with assistance from Ohio Local History Service Corps/AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** and OHC volunteer **Anne Montoya**, the children enjoyed exploring a sampling of cultures across time and every continent. At left, the children are pictured at the Allen Memorial Art Museum looking for artifacts representing each culture that they explored at camp.

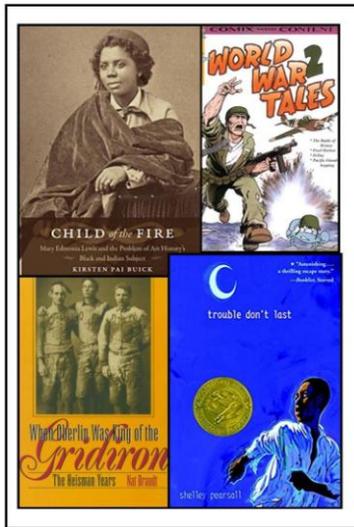
**Mary Manning** will present *Great City, Great War: Oberlin's Response to World War I* at the April 3 meeting of the Quincy Gillmore Civil War Round Table. The program takes place at Lorain County Community College (1005 North Abbe Road, Elyria) in the Spitzer Conference Center, Room 114 and begins at 7 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

**Maren McKee**, Collections Manager, recently welcomed Oberlin College Assistant Professor of English Danielle Skeeahan and her class *Inventing America: Histories of the Book, Archive, and Empire*. The group experienced a Sneak Peek Tour of the Monroe House followed by a behind-the-scenes look at the museum's collections storage area. In addition to talking about the history of Oberlin, Maren discussed the Heritage Center's collecting practices with the students and how various pieces are used to tell Oberlin's unique story. The visit wrapped up with an exercise in artifact analysis using objects from OHC's collection.

The March/April edition of *The Local Historian* (newsletter for members and friends of the Ohio Local History Alliance) includes an article by OHC's Executive Director **Liz Schultz**. *Tablet Tours and Other Low Cost Digital Tools (a.k.a. A Cheapskate's Guide to Technology)* shares tips for bringing a bit of "high tech" to even the most resource-strapped museum. Liz's article is based on part of the session "High Tech Enrichment with Low Staff and Resources," that she presented at last year's annual conference of the American Association for State & Local History (AASLH) held in Detroit. Read Liz's tips at [http://www.ohiohistory.org/OHC/media/OHC-Media/Documents/the%20local%20historian/LocalHistorian\\_Mar-Apr2017.pdf](http://www.ohiohistory.org/OHC/media/OHC-Media/Documents/the%20local%20historian/LocalHistorian_Mar-Apr2017.pdf).

## New Books at the Museum Store

### Good Reads for All Ages



Stop by the Museum Store (in-house or online) to check out some books that make great gifts (after you've already read them yourself)!

**Child of the Fire: Mary Edmonia Lewis and the Problem of Art History's Black and Indian Subject** by Kirsten Buick: Buick considers the institutions and people that supported the 19th century sculptor's career - including her alma mater Oberlin College - and explores how their agendas affected the way they perceived and described the artist.

**Comix with Content: World War 2 Tales** by Bentley Boyd: Creator of the *Oberlin: Origins & Onward!* comic, Boyd's thoroughly researched and creatively designed series of history comics includes themes of the Civil War, Reconstruction Junction and Wonder Women.

**When Oberlin Was King of the Gridiron** by Nat Brandt: Author of *The Town That Started the Civil War*, Brandt again turns his attention to Oberlin and tells the story of player and coach Joe Heisman by tracing the origins of football at Oberlin College, the success of its students on and off the playing field, and the captivating stories of fans, players, heroes and rivals.

**Trouble Don't Last** by Shelley Pearsall: Eleven-year-old Samuel was born as Master Hackler's slave, and working the Kentucky farm is the only life he's ever known - until one dark night in 1859, that is. With no warning, cranky old Harrison, a fellow slave, pulls Samuel from his bed and, together, they run! (Youth fiction)

To make room for all the new titles in the Museum Store, we've put some older volumes on clearance. Check out more great reads at bargain prices at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and click on the "Shop" tab on the main menu bar (then click on the "Clearance" selections).

### Also of Interest

*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.

The *Oberlin Public Library's Spring Book Sale* (65 South Main Street) begins **Wednesday, April 5 (pre-sale) from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.** and continues **Thursday through Sunday, April 6-9**, various times. Check out the great selection of books, music and movies!

*Tex-Mex Joyride: El Paso to Veracruz on a bicycle* is an original movie and talk presented by Oberlinian **Michael Reynolds**, which takes place at The First Church in Oberlin (106 North Main Street). The program retraces Michael's 1,450-mile bike trip through Texas and Mexico taken in October 2016. In addition to being a cyclist extraordinaire, Michael is an art preparator for Oberlin College's Allen Memorial Art Museum, and he also volunteers for the Oberlin Heritage Center as a member of the Vineway Board. The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Reynolds at (440) 370-0413 or [michael.reynolds.email@gmail.com](mailto:michael.reynolds.email@gmail.com).