

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette



May 2017

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or send e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org.

Oberlin Serves in World War II

Tuesday, May 9 at 7:15 p.m.



Photo: Ferrier H. White, Tuskegee
Airman and Oberlin war hero.

Oberlin Heritage Center Trustee and community historian **Steve Johnson** continues his discussion of World War II in the second of a two-part original series on Oberlinians' participation in the war. Johnson has done months of research using newspaper archives, oral histories and other resources. This presentation focuses on service in the military – on the frontlines as pilots, infantrymen and medical personnel, as well as behind-the-scenes in research, intelligence and logistics. The program also includes a special tribute to those who lost their lives in the war. The series is sponsored by **Northwest Savings Bank**.

For information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Explore Oberlin History during College's Big Weekend

Friday, May 19 through Sunday, May 21, various times



Stories of Oberlin's rich history will be found at every turn through the College's Commencement/Reunion Weekend as the Heritage Center welcomes visitors from near and far. Whether you have an afternoon or only a half-hour to spare, the Heritage Center offers guided tours and history walks for a wide range of interests and schedules. Discover the history surrounding Tappan Square, learn more about Oberlin's role as a major stop on the Underground Railroad, and be inspired by stories of progressive Oberlin women

who helped shape gender roles in the 19th and 20th centuries. Take a step back in time to find out what it was like to live in Oberlin during its first century, or enjoy a special musically-enhanced tour to learn how music was used for entertainment, fellowship and teaching in historic homes. For those who prefer to move at their own pace, OHC has self-guided Tablet Tours -- borrow an iPad and explore Oberlin on your own! Take home a piece of local history with unique Oberlin-themed gifts and books from the Heritage Center's museum store which will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. throughout the weekend.

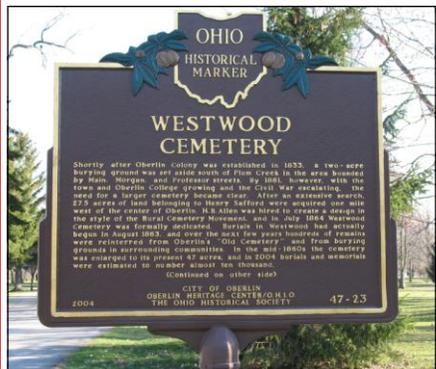
Explore Oberlin History during College's Big Weekend continued...

If you have never experienced an Oberlin Heritage Center tour or perhaps haven't taken one in a long while, this is a great weekend to stop by. Here's what one tour guest said about her visit to the Heritage Center in a 5-star review on TripAdvisor last month:

Alexandra our guide was excellent and provided a wonderful tour with great stories. She answered all our questions and found things that she knew we could connect to...The schoolhouse was a highlight. This is definitely worth a visit.

Advance reservations are required for most Heritage Center guided tours; find out more about tour fees (OHC members, children and college students are free) and a schedule of events, by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

OHC Celebrates Memorial Day with Free Cemetery Tour Monday, May 29 at 1 p.m.



The Heritage Center salutes Memorial Day with a free tour led through scenic Westwood Cemetery. This guided one-hour tour includes an introduction to the history of the cemetery with stories of Oberlinians who served in the military. Participants can meet near the entrance to Westwood Cemetery (429 Morgan Street). Following the tour, visitors will have the option to gather with members of the *Friends of Westwood Cemetery* for refreshments at the cemetery's front entrance. There will be opportunities to remember loved ones by writing special memories on "wish paper" and letting them fly!

Friends' volunteers also will be sharing news of the new Tranquility Garden being planned for the cemetery. Limited space is available, so advance registration is encouraged – call (440) 774-1700 or make a reservation online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

Heritage Center Grounds Clean-up Day Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon



Join a merry band of volunteers for an hour or two and help tidy-up the grounds of the Heritage Center for summer visitors. Projects include trimming, weeding and yard clean-up. Tools and supplies are provided, or volunteers also are welcome to bring their own. Meet at the crossroads of the brick pathways on the grounds of the Heritage Center (behind the Jewett House at 73 South Professor Street). Free parking is accessible off of 20 West Vine Street. Sign up to help by contacting Executive Director Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 or liz.schultz@oberlinheritage.org.

A special shout-out goes to volunteers from the **Oberlin College** track team who helped with grounds work on Sunday, April 23 and volunteers from **The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ** who took part in a Day of Service by doing more spruce-up work at the Heritage Center on Sunday, April 30.

History Walk Season Returns with Warm Weather

Check out the Weekly/Monthly Schedule of Themed History Walks!

As warm weather returns to northeast Ohio, so do the Oberlin Heritage Center's popular outdoor history walks. Join us for:

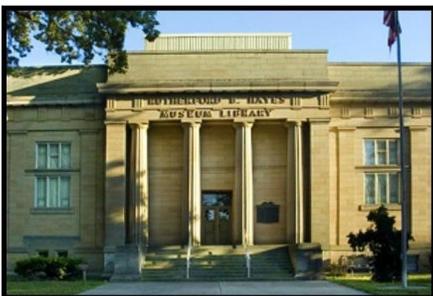
Freedom's Friends: Underground Railroad & Abolitionist History Walk offered each Saturday at 11 a.m. in June, July and August, which presents stories of Oberlin's famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

One Step More - Oberlin Women's History Walk offered the *first* Saturday at 1 p.m. in June, July, and August, which inspires with powerful stories of Oberlin women who helped shape what it meant to be a woman in Oberlin and in the United States.

History Walks are FREE to Oberlin Heritage Center members, any college student, and children under 18; \$6 for others. Advanced reservations are needed (even if you qualify for a free tour). Call (440) 774-1700 or register online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

Anyone Can Elect to Attend this Presidential Series!

Choose One or Both: Visits to Garfield and Hayes Historic Homesteads



Take a day trip (or two) this summer and learn more about northern Ohio Presidents -- and their connections to Oberlin. The Heritage Center's Presidential Field Trip Series includes motor coach transportation, guided tours, time to explore on your own, and lunch at a local restaurant. We'll visit the **James A. Garfield National Historic Site** (*photo at top left*) in Mentor, Ohio on **Friday, June 9 (8:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)** to be introduced to the 20th President of the United States who also served as a Major General during the Civil War and was a nine-term Ohio Congressman. Later in the summer, we'll travel to Fremont, Ohio on **Friday, July 14 (8:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.)** to explore the **Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museum** (*photo at bottom left*). Hayes, our nation's 19th President, rose to the rank of General in the Civil War, and also was a three-term governor of Ohio. Participants may register for a single trip or both; those registering for both receive a discount.

Tours are recommended for ages 10 and up (kids 10-18 receive a discount, too). Find out more or make a reservation at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Fun and Learning on Land, Sea and Stage!

OHC Offers Three Weeks of Summer Camps for Children Ages 8-13

The Oberlin Heritage Center will offer two *new* and one returning favorite among its hands-on history camps for kids this summer. The line-up includes:

Fun and Learning on Land, Sea and Stage continued...



Oberlin Ahoy! Pirates and Life on the High Seas (July 17-21) Campers will learn about famous pirates such as Blackbeard and Anne Bonny and explore how people navigated the seas, what a sailor's life was like, how to create maps, and much more!

Architecture Camp (July 31-August 4) The basics of architecture are presented through tours of Oberlin architecture, sketching designs, constructing mini buildings, and more. Scouts attending this camp will also complete some requirements for Architecture badges.



History of Theater (August 7-11) The camp focuses on how theater evolved over time and the influence of plays and musicals on culture. By the end of the week, campers will have created their own mini-theatrical production to perform.



Camps are held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) and run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Each session is taught by an experienced educator assisted by college student interns and community volunteers. ***Those who register by June 23 receive an early bird discount.*** Scholarship assistance may also be available to those who qualify for schools' free and reduced lunch programs. Find out more or make a reservation by visiting

www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or contacting Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan at (440) 774-1700.

Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation

Your Donation Today is Doubled Through the Nord/McClintock Challenge



OHC Board President **Gail Wood** announced at the 2017 Annual Meeting that the Heritage Center has quietly raised \$335,000 over the past 18 months toward the Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation. The announcement came as the Heritage Center Board kicked-off a community-wide public phase of the campaign, enhanced by a \$20,000 challenge gift recently contributed by OHC members **Jane B. Nord** and **T.K. and Emily (Nord) McClintock** that will match dollar for dollar any new gifts or pledges to the Endowment campaign.

Pat Murphy served as the organization's Executive Director from 1993 until her retirement in 2015, and throughout her tenure she was known as a passionate advocate for historic preservation. Pat's extensive knowledge and experience in the field always was complimented by a willingness to roll up her own sleeves and lend a hand wherever needed. This new endowment campaign will provide income for the maintenance and preservation of the Heritage Center's historic buildings, grounds and collections.

Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation continued...

Gifts of any size are needed and appreciated! Donors may sign up for automatic credit card payments to make it easy to contribute a significant gift over time. Remember, those 70 1/2 years of age or older can make a tax-free distribution directly from their traditional or Roth IRA to the Endowment for Heritage Preservation without incurring federal income tax on the withdrawal. To find out more, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Friends and fans of Pat Murphy will enjoy knowing that last month she successfully ran the 121st Boston Marathon as part of Kathrine Switzer's 261 Fearless Team. This group of just over 100 marathoners came together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of women's participation in the Marathon and raised funds for Switzer's non-profit organization, which empowers women as part of a global supportive social running community.

Preservation in Action at the Heritage Center

May is National Preservation Month



A building restoration specialist from the **Grunwell-Cashero** company was on-site at the Heritage Center in recent weeks to fix areas of crumbling brickwork on the Monroe House. The \$9,000 project was the first to be done using income from the Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation (mentioned above). Without benefit of this endowment fund, the much-needed brick, mortar, and chimney repair work would have remained on OHC's "deferred maintenance" list and would likely worsen over time. The new endowment will help in many similar ways to ensure that the

Heritage Center's century-old buildings and collections are properly maintained and preserved.

Check out the Oberlin Heritage Center's display at **Northwest Savings Bank** in Oberlin (49 South Main Street) throughout May to learn more about National Preservation Month and some of Oberlin's most historic building gems.

Looking for B&B Hosts

Volunteer for the Heritage Center *without* Leaving Home!



In late August, Heritage Center members and friends can provide a single or double room in their home to an incoming college freshman's family as they arrive on campus for new student orientation. This effort is part of a community-wide consortium of nonprofits who all share the reward of this long-time unique fundraising tradition. The Heritage Center's B&B effort is led by Board members **Gail Wood** and **Barb Enos**, and all proceeds from the Bed & Breakfasts help stretch OHC's general operating budget. If you can offer a private bedroom (double or twin bed) and a private or shared bathroom, with a simple breakfast in the morning, please let us know. **Hosts are needed for one or more nights between Monday, August 21 and Wednesday, August 23** (with the greatest demand being on Monday and Tuesday nights). It's a great opportunity to be an Oberlin community ambassador, and support the Heritage Center as well. Find out more or volunteer to host by sending an e-mail to ohcbnb@gmail.com.

Members Update

Your Membership Does Make a Difference!

Welcome to new OHC members (all from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise) **Kathleen Carothers, Sigrid Huenting, Michelle and Mary Minter, Jerry Russell** (Columbus), and **Amelia Woodward**. Special thanks to Endowed Life member **Jim Donovan** for increasing his support to the Aluminum Level.

Membership is a pulse-point upon which the organization measures its support near and far -- yours *at any level* is tremendously important as an indicator to others, including grant-makers and foundations, that the Heritage Center is a valued asset in the community. Not yet an OHC member? Become one today and let others know you like the work that the Heritage Center does in the community and throughout the region. Join or renew now if you are not a member or if your membership has lapsed. Visit 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.

Board, Staff, Intern and Volunteer News



Congratulations to OHC Intern **Alexandra Nicome** (OC '17) (*pictured between Amanda Manahan, at left, and Liz Schultz, right*), the recipient of the Oberlin College Bonner Center for Service & Learning's award for Student Excellence in Community Engagement for her work at the Heritage Center. Alexandra has been part of the OHC intern team since her first year in Oberlin, and we will be bidding her a fond farewell as she graduates at the end of the month. Graduation cheers also go to interns **David Kaplovitz** and **Joanna Wiley**, each of whom got

involved at the Heritage Center in their senior years. We wish all our graduating seniors well and hope they continue to stay in touch with OHC!

Executive Director **Liz Schultz** is invited to participate in the **Oberlin African American Genealogy and History Group's (OAAGHG)** Genealogy Lock-In at the Oberlin Public Library on Friday evening, May 5. She will present a brief program about the Oberlin Oral History Project, share tips on doing interviews, and then play selections from some recordings in the collection, including a few that are over 30 years old.

Honorary Trustee and weekly OHC volunteer **Jean Foggo Simon** was interviewed by Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** in a WOBC *Community Hour* radio broadcast last month. Born in Bermuda, and an Oberlin resident for much of her life, Jean spoke eloquently about her Native American heritage and the work she is doing today to support the Native community.

As I See It, a photography exhibit featuring OHC Board member (and Kendal resident) **Dick Baznik's** favorite black-and-white images from the past 25 years, is displayed in the Kendal Friends Gallery (600 Kendal Drive) through May 15. The retrospective show is free and open to the public.

Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** participated in an educational planning session with staff and volunteers at the Hayes Presidential Library and Museum (Fremont) as part of their re-accreditation process.

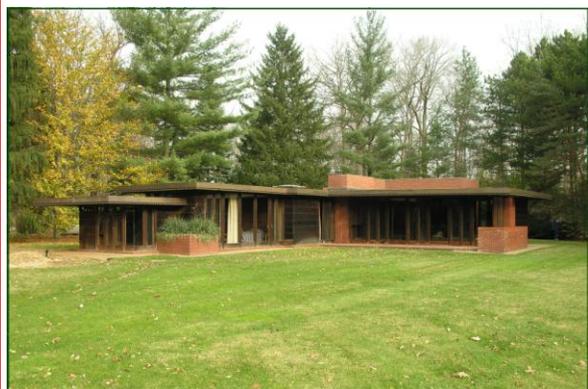
Board, Staff, Intern and Volunteer News continued...

Collections Manager **Maren McKee** was invited to take part in a forum organized by Oberlin College library staff for students interested in pursuing careers in libraries and archives.

AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** designed a display for the Heritage Center's South Main Street kiosk, which focuses on the new Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation. Stop by to learn more about some of OHC's past preservation challenges and also find tips to help preserve your own history treasures.

Former OHC intern **César Palacio** is excited to announce that he'll be moving to Toronto in the fall to study with Joaquin Valdepeñas at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory. César (OC 2015) was an intern at the Heritage Center for 4 1/2 years as he pursued a double major in history and clarinet at Oberlin College and Conservatory.

Also of Interest



Weltzheimer-Johnson House photograph courtesy of the Allen Memorial Art Museum.

The **Allen Memorial Art Museum**, which owns and oversees educational programs at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed **Weltzheimer-Johnson House** on Morgan Street, is looking for volunteer docents to assist in scheduled public open houses on the first Sunday of each month, from 12 noon - 5 p.m. from April to November. If you are interested, please contact Andria Derstine, AMAM director, at (440) 775-8665 or Andria.Derstine@oberlin.edu. Training will be provided. This is a great opportunity to meet others, and to serve our community while learning about an important part of Oberlin's architectural history.

The Spirit of '76 Museum in Wellington, Ohio has teamed up with the Wellington Masonic Lodge #127 to host *A Willard Initiative* featuring works by artist Archibald M. Willard who is best known for his American classic painting *The Spirit of '76*. The event takes place **Sunday, May 14 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** at the Wellington Town Hall (115 Willard Memorial Square) and will feature a presentation on the artist and his Masonic Masterworks at 3:00 p.m. by local historian and *19th Century Wellington* blogger (<https://19thcenturywellington.wordpress.com/>) **Nicole Hayes**. The event is free and open to the public with light foods served before and following the program. RSVP to Aaron Anderson at a.anderson2001@yahoo.com or (440) 812-2280 (text preferred).

