

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette



July 2017

MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074

(440)774-1700

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

Vintage & Vintner: An OHC Summer Soiree

Tuesday, July 18 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.



H

HERRICK JEWELRY

On the Square in Oberlin since 1913

Join us for an enjoyable social evening at **Vermilion Valley Vineyards** -- with a bit of history on the side. Jazz guitarist **Rich Holsworth** provides musical entertainment as guests arrive. Each participant will receive tickets for two wine tastings and a glass of wine; punch, lemonade and finger foods also will be served. OHC Executive Director **Liz Schultz** presents a mini program at 6 p.m. on Oberlin's historic, contentious relationship with alcohol. There will be fun raffles at \$1 per ticket (or if you prefer to remain "dry" at the event, you may use your wine tickets to increase your chances of winning). The evening is co-sponsored by **Herrick Jewelry** of Oberlin. Make reservations early as this event sold out last year! Proceeds will benefit the Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation. To make a reservation visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Ave Atque Vale

Ronald B. Gorman, 1960-2017



It is with heavy hearts that we share the news that **Ron Gorman**, a good friend, historian, OHC Board member and docent extraordinaire, died unexpectedly of natural causes on June 24, 2017. Ron lived in Columbia Station, Ohio, and worked as a software engineer -- though he often was seen surrounded by a crowd of people on the sidewalks of downtown Oberlin leading a tour along the route of the Heritage Center's Freedom's Friends History Walk. Discussing Antebellum America and the myriad ways people supported, lived with, or fought against slavery is no easy task, yet Ron handled the conversations and questions with an assurance that came from wide research, compassion, and respect for the people who faced struggles we can barely imagine today.

This zeal for history and his own generosity led him to do more than only those thought-provoking and memorable tours for the Heritage Center. In his five years of volunteering at OHC, he also researched and wrote 24 history features for the Heritage Center's blog, was elected a Trustee of the organization and served on several committees, and received the Oberlin Heritage Center's Community Historian Award. Ron and Executive Director **Liz Schultz** also were midway through researching and writing a new book about Oberlin's Underground Railroad history. Ron's laughter, camaraderie, and insights will be dearly missed by his friends and colleagues. For the full obituary and/or to leave a message for Ron's family, visit

Ron B. Gorman, continued...

<http://www.laubenthalmercado.com/obituaries/Ronald-Briggs-Gorman?obId=1980092#/obituaryInfo>. Take a look at Ron's blog posts at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog/tag/ron-gorman/>.

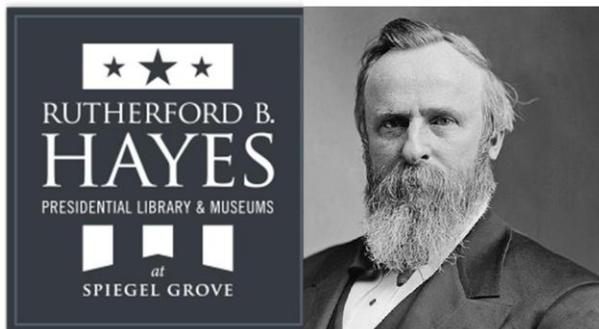
CANCELLED - Harper's Ferry Program

(Previously scheduled for July 25 and repeated August 13)

Ron Gorman was slated to present the Heritage Center's next community program on John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry and the Oberlin connections to this event. Sadly, Ron's sudden passing in late June causes us to cancel this program originally planned for Tuesday, July 25 at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium with an encore presentation on Sunday, August 13 at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Oberlin's House of Zion Fellowship Hall.

Next Stop: Spiegel Grove

It's a Full Bus for Tour of Rutherford B. Hayes Library and Museums



Registration is now closed for the second visit in the Oberlin Heritage Center's field trip series to presidential sites in Ohio. Thirty-two Heritage Center members and friends will enjoy the July 14 guided tour of the home of our nation's 19th president and the opportunity to learn more about Hayes' connections to Oberlin. If you didn't make a reservation for this trip, watch for announcements of future OHC excursions!

Countdown to Kids' Camps

Hands-on-History Summer Camps Filling Up - Register Soon

Just one space remains for the Oberlin Heritage Center's popular **Architecture Camp (July 31-August 4)**, and a few more are available for each of the new camps offered this summer, including **Oberlin Ahoy! Pirates and Life on the High Seas (July 17-21)** and **History of Theater camp (August 7-11)**. Day camps are designed for boys and girls ages 8-13 and are held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main St.) with some walking field trips nearby. Reserve a spot soon for your child or grandchild (remember, OHC members receive a discount on the camp fee!).

Take a Walk through Time

OHC Offers Summer History Walks for Many Interests



Guided walking tours are available throughout the summer featuring several different themes. Tours vary from 60-90 minutes, and are reasonably priced (most are free for OHC members, children and college students). Reservations are recommended. Try one soon - and find out how fun it can be to experience learning in motion!

- **Freedom's Friends History Walk - every Saturday at 11 a.m. in July and August. Hear**

Take a Walk through Time, continued...

stories about Oberlin's most famous freedom seekers and people known to have helped them make their way to freedom.

- **One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk** - *first* Saturday of July and August at 1 p.m. Learn about Oberlin women who made a difference in efforts to gain rights and respect.
- **I Spy Oberlin tour** - Saturday, August 5 at 10:00 a.m. Fun and engaging for all ages, and especially designed for younger children (ages 5-11) accompanied by an adult. This guided scavenger hunt through historic Oberlin keeps you on your toes as you seek out historic markers, decorative details, and Oberlin oddities. FREE for everyone today.
- **Scholars & Settlers History Walk** - Saturdays, August 12 and August 26 at 2 p.m. Learn about the earliest residents of Oberlin and hear fascinating stories of the triumphs, debates and scandals linked to the landmarks around Tappan Square.
- **Self-Guided Tablet Tours** - Borrow an iPad from the Heritage Center and move at your own pace any Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tours include the popular *Freedom's Friends History Walk* as well as *Picture the Past: Historic Downtown Oberlin*.

Call (440) 774-1700 or visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org for fees and starting locations.

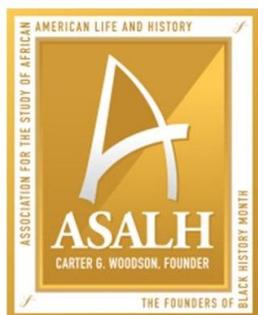
New Summer/Fall Events Calendar Available

History Connects Across Generations and Cultures

The Heritage Center's latest events calendar offers an exciting line-up of history-themed programs and activities for all ages including A Night at the Apollo with a special showing of the timeless favorite "*Back to the Future*," a Community Trivia Night, and a holiday vintage toy exhibit. We'll learn more about the history of America's Indigenous Peoples and the struggle for native rights in two August presentations, and celebrate "todas las cosas hispánicas" (including bi-lingual Spanish and English tours) through a special guest exhibit from the Museum of Hispanic and Latino Cultures during the month of September. Local history is still very much in the spotlight in several other programs and tours during the coming months. All are welcome, and most events are free (with discounts for OHC members when events include a fee). Find out more about upcoming events by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Interested in Creating an Area Chapter of ASALH?

No Commitment Necessary Yet - Just Curiosity!



Oberlin Heritage Center member **Raymond Jirran** recently approached OHC about local interest in creating an area chapter of the **Association for the Study of African American Life and History**. The mission of the non-profit ASALH is "to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community." If you are interested, please contact Executive Director Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 or liz.schultz@oberlinheritage.org, and she will start coordinating a contact list. Learn more about ASALH at www.asalh100.org.

Volunteer Needs at the Heritage Center



We continue to look for Bed-and-Breakfast volunteers to host parents bringing their first-year students to Oberlin College at the end of August. Hosts are needed for one or more nights between Monday, August 21 and Wednesday, August 23, with the greatest need being on Monday and Tuesday nights. If you can provide a single or double room in your home, with a private or shared bathroom, and a simple breakfast the following morning, please contact ohcbnb@gmail.com.

We have a need for a volunteer or two who can help with the task of installing our annual batch of newly inscribed century-old bricks along the pathways at the Heritage Center. Training is provided. Good knees and a strong back are requisites for this project as it involves bending, kneeling, digging out a current brick placeholder and inserting/tamping down the engraved brick. The work can be done an hour or two at a time over the course of several days that are convenient to your schedule (a total of 6-8 hours are needed for this project). If interested, contact members@oberlinheritage.org.

If you are comfortable with a drill, we need a handy volunteer who can attach new literature boxes to the OHC back fence and change our weather-beaten boxes on the Jewett House fence. The project likely involves 1-2 hours of volunteer time, whenever convenient. OHC can provide the drill, or bring your own. Interested? Contact members@oberlinheritage.org.

OHC is Hiring!

Seeking a Part-Time Museum Housekeeper

Want to work behind-the-scenes in a museum and contribute to the preservation of one-of-a-kind objects, documents, photographs, and furnishings from Oberlin's past? The 6-hour-per-week Museum Housekeeper works with other staff members and OHC volunteers to clean and care for the artifacts and interiors of the Heritage Center's historic buildings in accordance with accepted museum practices and standards for historic house museums. Primary duties include rotating weekly cleaning, periodic special cleanings, recordkeeping, and supply and equipment care.

Applications are due Thursday, July 27. Review the job notice and application details at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/work> or call (440) 774-1700 for information.

History Fund Grant Application Now Available

Application Deadline is September 1, 2017

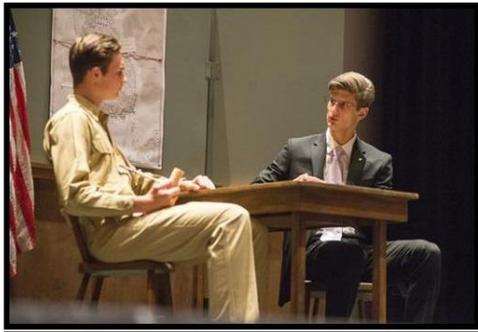


Happy recipients of last year's awards holding their "big checks."

Since March 2013, the History Fund grant program of the Ohio History Connection has made \$522,000 in grants to 53 organizations across Ohio. These funds support all kinds of history projects including museum collection storage, educational programs, exhibit development, digitization of archival materials and historic photographs, repairs and rehabilitation for National Register-listed historic buildings, archaeological surveys, oral history, and more. Grant recipients will be announced at the annual advocacy event Statehood Day on Feb. 28, 2018. More at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund.

Kudos Corner, Part 1

Local Youth Shine at National History Day Competition

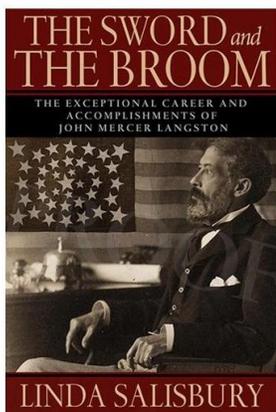


Congratulations to young historians **Micah Doane**, **Trevor Doeringer** and **Joseph Baldwin** for their superb showing at both the state and national levels of National History Day competition this year. The three students, who attend Christian Community School (Grafton), presented *President Truman vs. General MacArthur: Struggle for Command, Preserving the Power of the Presidency* in the Senior Group Performance division. The team won first place at the Ohio National History Day contest held at Ohio Wesleyan University at the end of April, which qualified them to travel to the national competition in late June. The students prepared for nationals by using the constructive comments received from earlier rounds of competition to redraft the script and improve their staging and transitions. The top level of History Day competition is a week-long event held at the University of Maryland in College Park and attended by nearly 3,000 students from around the country. The CCM students saved their very best performance for the finals and finished 2nd in the nation!! CCM history teacher and National History Day Advisor **Mike Demchak** praised the young men's initiative, research, and dedication in saying, "It is very rewarding to see students who pursue excellence being rewarded for their efforts." Applause, applause from the Heritage Center to all of these future historians!

Top photo: Micah Doane, left, as General Douglas MacArthur and Trevor Doeringer as President Harry Truman; Middle photo: Micah, Joseph Baldwin (as Narrator) and Trevor; Bottom photo: An NHD official congratulates Micah, Trevor, Joseph and their advisor Mike Demchak

Kudos Corner, Part 2

Oberlin's John Mercer Langston Story Continues to Inspire



Congratulations to author (and OHC member) **Linda Salisbury** who recently received the Silver Medal in the young-adult-nonfiction category for her book *The Sword and the Broom*, a retelling of the life of John Mercer Langston based on his own autobiography. The announcement was made during the American Library Association's annual conference in Chicago by *Foreword Reviews*, a print book review journal, which sponsors the INDIES Book of the Year Awards. These awards recognize the best books published in 2016 from small, indie, and university presses, as well as self-published authors. Over 2,000 entries were submitted in 66 categories, with *Foreword's* editors choosing the finalists, and a panel of over 150 librarians and booksellers acting as judges to pick the winners.

Kudos Corner, Part 2, continued...

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. *The Sword and The Broom* is available in the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/store.shtml. Learn more about the INDIES awards at <https://awards.forewordreviews.com/winners/2016/young-adult-nonfiction/>.

OHC Members Update

Be Part of a Good Thing

Welcome to new OHC members **Joanne Douglas, Robert & Kass Hillard, Raymond Jirran** (Vermilion), **Elizabeth Mathias, Cathy & Jim Schultis**, and **Brenda Mikota** (Portland, OR). All are from Oberlin unless noted otherwise. Special thanks to **Cate & Paul Schwaegerle** who became new Endowed Life Members (ELMs) at the Copper Level as a tribute to the memory of their sister-in-law Ruth Schwaegerle. We mourn the passing of our great friend and fellow historian **Ron Gorman**, an OHC Board member, docent, program presenter, blogger, and recipient of the 2015 Community Historian Award. The members of the Oberlin Heritage Center care about preserving Oberlin's extraordinary history as well as care about each other. Be part of a good thing and become a member of the OHC community today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (and click on the JOIN NOW button at the top of the home page).

OHC Staff, Board and Intern News



Board, staff, members and many friends will greatly miss Museum Housekeeper **Deloris Bohn** (*at left*) who retires from the Heritage Center this month. Deloris has worn many hats since she first arrived at OHC in 2004 as a front office assistant through the Mature Services program. In 2006, Deloris transitioned into the role of part-time Museum Housekeeper, and has kept the Heritage Center's three historic buildings sparkling over the past 11 years. She took pride in her work and it showed -- it was not unusual for a tour visitor to comment on how beautifully kept the houses appeared. Deloris served as a volunteer docent at the Heritage Center for many years, and also was known as a master cookie baker by those who enjoyed her tasty treats at various OHC events through the years.

The Heritage Center welcomes three new interns this summer. **Kai Joy** is a rising senior at Oberlin College and comes to OHC as a President's Public Service Fellowship (PPSF) award recipient. The PPSF program, which is coordinated by the Bonner Center for Service and Learning, provides funding for Oberlin College students to work full-time during the summer with local organizations on intensive service projects. The Heritage Center is delighted to be among the five community partners selected to participate this year. **Isaiah Krugman**, of Elyria, is a rising sophomore who attends Williams College (Williamstown, MA). **Maya Vermue Peters** is OHC's Junior Intern, having graduated from Oberlin High School this past spring and attending Trent University (Peterborough, Ontario, Canada) in the fall. Special thanks to Nordson Corporation for providing funding for Isaiah and Maya's positions this summer. Each of the Heritage Center's interns will be busy working on projects to help support the organization's

