

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette November 2017

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

Expanded Tour Schedule during College's Parents Weekend

All are Welcome Friday through Sunday, November 3-5



During the first weekend of November, out-of-town visitors and local residents alike are invited to enjoy a variety of guided tours taking place at the Heritage Center and in the community. This weekend will be the last opportunity to participate in the out-of-doors themed history walks until warmer weather returns next spring. Choose among several ways to explore Oberlin history with this varied line-up of tour offerings:

Freedom's Friends Underground Railroad & Abolitionist History Walk - Friday and Saturday, November 3 and 4 at 3 p.m. and Sunday, November 5 at 1 p.m. 90 minutes.

"One Step More": Oberlin Women's History Walk - Saturday, November 4 at 11 a.m. 90 minutes.

Historically Inaccurate Tour - Sunday, November 5 at 11 a.m. 75 minutes. (*Puzzled by the tour's title? It's a fun and enlightening encore presentation of our indoor April Fool's Day tour, which includes some lesser-known, yet true, stories of Oberlin's past, interspersed with tales that some may not realize are simply popular historical myths. Tour-goers will have the chance to try to separate fact from fiction as the tour moves along.*)

Tight on time? The **Oberlin Origins/Sneak Peek Mini-Tour** hits highlights of Oberlin's first century in just 30 minutes! Mini-tours are offered every half hour at the Monroe House on Friday, November 3 from 1-4 p.m. and Saturday, November 4 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (last tour at 3:30 p.m.)

Rather do it yourself? Try a **Self-Guided Tablet Tour**, and rent an iPad that offers a digital tour with text and photos to guide you as you move about at your own pace. Choose from two themes: *Freedom's Friends* (abolitionist history) or *Picture the Past* (Oberlin's historic downtown). Tablet tours are available on Friday and Saturday, November 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Reservations are requested for all but the Sneak Peek Mini-Tours where walk-in visitors are most welcome. Fees range from \$3-\$6 for guided tours (children and college students tour free); the tablet tour may be borrowed at a rate of \$5 per hour. Make a reservation at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Fun, Food, Factoids & Falderol!

Community Trivia Night – Friday, November 10 (doors open 5:30 p.m.)



Emceed by
WOBL / WDLW's
Super Dave

Community Trivia Night

FOOD FUN SIDE GAMES
RAFFLES PRIZES

Sponsored by
PREMIER
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HERRICK JEWELRY
On the Upper in Oberlin since 1918

Get a team together – or come on your own – to a great night of trivia for all ages and skills! The Heritage Center's new community-wide event takes place from 6-8 p.m. at The First Church of Oberlin, UCC's Fellowship Hall (106 North Main Street). Tickets include an evening of friendly competition plus pizza and beverage; advance reservations are just \$10/adults and \$5/kids (or purchase tickets at the door for \$12/adults and \$6/kids).

Local radio personality “**Super Dave**” Andrews, the morning show host on **WOBL** (1320 AM / 107.7 FM) will emcee the festivities which include multiple rounds of trivia plus add-on side games and raffles. For small fry who may not find trivia particularly tantalizing, there will be

supervised on-site activities to keep them moving and happy. All proceeds support the nonprofit Heritage Center's ongoing community programs and services. Special thanks go to the evening's premier sponsor **Mercy Health/Mercy Regional Medical Center** and co-sponsors **Herrick Jewelry** of Oberlin and **Northwest Savings Bank**. Register in advance at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

The Diaries of Emilie Davis

Monday, November 13 at 7:15 p.m.



Alexia Hudson-Ward, Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries at Oberlin College, presents this illustrated program about Emilie Davis, a 19th century free black woman who worked as a seamstress in Philadelphia. Davis attended the Institute for Colored Youth and kept a diary from 1863 to 1865, during the height of the Civil War. A young woman in her late teens or early twenties at the time, Davis recorded in her diaries both everyday moments and larger events that would affect

the future of the entire nation. Her handwritten entries offer a rare glimpse into the life and reflections of someone who had much to say, yet little opportunity for her voice to be heard. This free public program takes place in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) and is sponsored by Joe and Susan Woodward and their **1830 Hallauer House Bed and Breakfast**. Learn more about Emilie Davis's diaries at the Penn State University Libraries website (<https://libraries.psu.edu/about/collections/emilie-davis-diaries>) and at the Villanova University website (<https://davisdiaries.villanova.edu/>).

OHC at the Apollo Theatre

1.21 Gigawatts of Fun at Back-to-the-Future Event!



More than 100 movie-goers enjoyed an evening of zany science, time travel and plenty of fun at the Heritage Center's "Night at the Apollo" last month. The authentic DeLorean turned heads as it was parked beneath the brightly lit Apollo marquee, while costume contest group winners led by **Colin Widmar** (dressed as Dr. Emmett Brown with his friends Marty McFly and a whole cast of characters) posed for photos, looking as if they had just stepped off the big screen! Congratulations to **Andy Tima** of Lakewood for winning the Back to the Future Trivia Contest, and **Kaitlyn Donaldson** of Lorain (dressed as a human flux capacitor!) for taking home the prize for best costume in the adult category. Raffle baskets winners included **Jeanne McKibben, Steve Johnson** and **Tanya Rosen-Jones**. Special thanks to our prize and raffle donors - **Advance Auto Parts, Cowhaus Creamery, Cleveland Cinemas** and **Ratsy's Store**, and the generous support of sponsors **Ratsy Jo Kemp** (our fabulous costume contest judge, too!) and **Kurt Sarringhaus LPA**.

All proceeds from the evening benefitted the nonprofit Heritage Center's ongoing community programs and services.

Follow-up to Dr. Jeanne McKibben's Medical History Program MOVIE NIGHT! Wednesday, November 15, 7-9 p.m.



Dr. Jeanne McKibben hosts an informal evening at the New Union Center for the Arts (39 South Main Street, Oberlin) presenting the original uncut video documentaries of Oberlin Medical History that she compiled for the 100th Anniversary of Oberlin's hospital in 2007. Join her in the FAVA South Gallery for popcorn and viewing, which includes:

1. *The Birth of a Hospital, the First Century of Medicine in Oberlin (1834-1934)*, with a timeline of events and people (21 minutes).

Medical History of Oberlin MOVIE NIGHT continued...

2. *The Growth of Oberlin Medicine (1934-1962)* featuring interviews of Drs. Jim and Jeanne Stephens and Dr. George Hoover (23 minutes).
3. *Thirty Years of the Oberlin Clinic (1962-1992)* with excerpts of interviews from 10 early physicians (29 minutes).
4. *The Crisis That Was 2000 (1992-2007)* with excerpts of interviews from doctors in the late 90s and key figures that helped save the local hospital (49 minutes).

Dr. McKibben's film/video journey installation titled *Lenses, Scopes & Views* will be exhibited in the South Gallery at the Firelands Association for the Visual Arts/FAVA from **November 12 to December 21**. The exhibit is free and all are welcome. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Mark your calendar now for the opening public reception and gallery talk on Sunday, November 12 from 2-4 p.m.

With Wide-Eyed Wonder: Toys & Amusements from the Past Holiday Exhibit Opens Saturday, December 2, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Plan to attend this special December exhibit at the Monroe House featuring children's toys and games from days gone by. Tours will be offered on the hour and will highlight some of the more entertaining objects from the Heritage Center's collection as well as provide hands-on experiences for all ages to enjoy. Admission is \$3 for adults; free for OHC members, children and college students. Reservations are encouraged. You won't want to miss this delightfully unique way to ring in the holiday season! Make a reservation at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

Why Do I Support the Heritage Center?

Trustee Ed Wardwell Explains “Four Pillars” Behind His Annual Giving



There are so many important causes worthy of support these days – how does one decide where to invest a charitable gift? OHC Treasurer **Ed Wardwell** has given a lot of thought to this question and identified what he calls his own "four pillars" for why he supports the Heritage Center. These reasons focus on *Children*, *Adults*, *Volunteers* and *Visitors*, and Ed explained more in a recent letter sent to members and friends:

- The Heritage Center benefits **CHILDREN** by giving them a sense of belonging to a community that values education, equality and progress. OHC operates much like the elders in ancient times, teaching children through the stories of earlier Oberlinians; stories of leadership and lessons of living as diverse but cooperative members of a group.
- The Heritage Center benefits **ADULTS** by giving them a sense of place and kinship within Oberlin. As a new resident years ago, I became more comfortable living in the community as I learned about its vibrant history. My gift to OHC enables individuals to develop new community connections and collaborations.

“Four Pillars” Supporting Annual Giving continued...

- **VOLUNTEERS** share a vision and form a bond with one another as they support OHC’s mission to preserve and share Oberlin’s unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work and visit. Youth volunteers reap additional rewards from their training and responsibilities which help as they grow into self-assured and service-minded adults.
- The Heritage Center brings in thousands of **VISITORS** to the community each year who want to learn about Oberlin’s nationally significant history. While here, those visitors bolster Oberlin’s economy by spending dollars in many downtown businesses. My gift to OHC helps expand heritage tourism in the area.

Whether you reside in Oberlin or at a distance, whether you are actively involved or simply enjoy reading news from afar, **you** have a meaningful role in this nonprofit organization. Please consider an Annual Fund gift this year to help make a difference to many children, adults, volunteers and visitors. Every gift is needed and appreciated! We'd love to hear more about your own reasons for giving. Make a gift at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml> or mail a check (made payable to Oberlin Heritage Center) to MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074-0455.

Your Holiday Shopping Can Benefit the Heritage Center **Two Easy Ways to Raise Funds for OHC!**



**Shop at the
Museum Store...
or Shop from Home!**

Remember the Oberlin Heritage Center’s **Museum Store** (<https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/store.shtml>) as a source for great holiday gift-giving ideas. Coming soon - note cards featuring downtown Oberlin "*After the Blizzard*" and the charming artistry of Oberlinian Stella Mallory Dickerman. The store also is well-stocked with local history-themed books, anti-saloon league beverage glasses, Oberlin afghans and other mementos, all of which are available online or at the gift shop located just inside the front door of the Monroe House (73 1/2 South Professor Street, at the back of the Conservatory parking lot). Consider an inscribed century-old brick placed along the Heritage Center walkway to honor a special person or occasion in your life, or provide a gift of an OHC membership to family and friends who like to support a well-managed nonprofit doing good work in the community!

Support the Oberlin Heritage Center through *Amazon Smile* (<https://smile.amazon.com/>) and when you shop, Amazon gives to the charitable organization of your choice at no extra expense to you. The Heritage Center is listed under its legal name, the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization.

Thanksgiving Weekend Hours at the Heritage Center



Warmest thanks are sent to OHC's members and friends for all that you do to keep Oberlin's rich history alive for future generations. The Heritage Center will be closed Thursday, November 23 (Thanksgiving Day) and **open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, November 24 and Saturday, November 25**. Wondering what to do with out-of-town family and friends visiting for the holiday? Bring them to the Heritage Center to take part in a 30-minute Oberlin Origins/Sneak Peek tour, or rent an iPad and enjoy a "do-it-yourself" digital tour of downtown Oberlin or of the

community's abolitionist history. Guided "Upstairs/Downstairs" tours, which include OHC's three beautifully preserved historic buildings, will be offered on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The Heritage Center makes it easy and fun to entertain guests in Oberlin this holiday weekend.

Volunteer Needs

Calling all Cookie Bakers!



The Heritage Center is looking for bakers who are willing to supply a few goodies for dessert (cookies, brownies, and other easy-to-eat sweets) for **Community Trivia Night**, which will take place **Friday, November 10**. Treats may be dropped off at the Monroe House all day Friday before 5 p.m. (It will be helpful to note if the recipe is gluten free, or contains nuts, or any other information that would be useful to those with special dietary needs.) Call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org to let us know if you can help.

Members Update

Consider a "One-Size-Fits-All" Gift Membership for Your Holiday List



Stumped by what to give those folks on your list who already have everything? An Oberlin Heritage Center membership keeps giving all year long, and is a great gift for anyone who loves Oberlin or local history and wants to support an engaging and well-managed community nonprofit. If you wish a gift card sent to the recipient before December 25, purchase your gift membership by December 16. For more information about gift memberships, e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org.

A warm welcome goes to new OHC members **Marita Higgins** (Cary, NC), **Karen Reynolds** (Cleveland), and **Dhyana Shipley** (Grandville, MI) as well as to new business members **Advance Auto Parts** (Oberlin), **Cowhaus Creamery** (Oberlin) and **Tracey Jagielski, Realtor** (Sheffield Village). We're so glad all of you are part of the Oberlin Heritage Center! New members can join today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click the "Join Now" button at the top of the home page).

OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News



Welcome to new Board member, **Kaitlyn Goss Donaldson** (*top left*), who was appointed in October to fill the remaining months of the vacant seat left by the passing of member **Ron Gorman**. Kaitlyn, who lives in Lorain, is the Collections Supervisor at the Lorain Historical Society, and a former AmeriCorps member who was based at the Oberlin Heritage Center in 2014-2015.

Staff, Board and many, many friends bid a "soft" farewell to Front Desk receptionist, all-around helping hand, and cheerful OHC ambassador **Linda Gates** (*bottom left*) who completed her term of service through the Mature Services program in mid-October. Thank you, Linda, for four years of outstanding work at the Oberlin Heritage Center! We're delighted that Linda will still be a familiar face at OHC events where she'll continue to volunteer whenever she can.



Welcome to **Wesley Patterson**, a first-year Oberlin College student who is volunteering at the Heritage Center as a Bonner Scholar. Wesley hails from Georgia and will assist OHC staff with research and programs.

We also are delighted that OHC member **Nancy Harper** is back in the office volunteering two afternoons a week as a front desk receptionist and helping with special projects. Look for Nancy's smiling face brightening up the Heritage Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Thank you to volunteers **Angela Cecil** and **Sid Comings** and others for coming to the rescue and taking care of our over-abundance of black walnuts on the OHC grounds!

Collections Manager **Maren McKee** enjoyed talking with **Officer Bashshar Wiley** of the Oberlin Police Department when he stopped by the OHC Resource Center to add to his research on Constable Franklin Stone (1835-1881), one of two Oberlin officers to lose his life in the line of duty. Over time, Stone's story had disappeared from the history books, and thanks to dedicated sleuthing by Officer Wiley and others, Stone's sacrifice is now receiving honor and recognition in both Oberlin and Lorain County history. Maren invited Officer Wiley to write an OHC website blog about his quest; learn the rest of the story in *It Happened in Oberlin* (<http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog/2017/10/it-happened-in-oberlin/>).

AmeriCorps member **Sara Fisher** has settled in quickly to her new position at the Heritage Center. In addition to being trained as a docent and handling much of OHC's social media presence on Facebook, Sara is assisting several other history organizations in the region with various special projects. She recently began working with the Cleveland Grays Armory Museum on their collections assessment and care, picking up where last year's AmeriCorps member left off. She also is working with the Lorain Historical Society on disaster preparedness and the

Chagrin Falls Historical Society on developing a volunteer training program, while also helping CFHS complete the self-study in the Interpretation section of the American Association for State and Local History Standards of Excellence Program. Next month she will be working with the Amherst Historical Society on goal-setting and strategic planning and will be coordinating with the Museum of Hispanic & Latino Cultures on collections care.

Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** and several docent volunteers enjoyed their annual field trip to “see how others do it.” Early last month, the group toured Cleveland's historic Lakeview Cemetery, stopped for lunch at Tommy's Restaurant, then concluded the day at Woodland Cemetery.

Also of Interest

The **International Women's Air & Space Museum (IWASM)**, located inside Burke Lakefront Airport (1501 N. Marginal Road, Cleveland), will host a Veterans Day pasta dinner on **Friday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m.** to honor the women and men who have served our country. The event includes a chance to hear about some of the experiences of local veterans and to thank them for their service. Cost for the event is just \$15, and seating is limited. Museum volunteers also will be collecting donations of warm clothing and small items to be used as Christmas gifts (phone cards, gift cards, small alarm clocks, etc.) to be distributed to veterans in need through the Louis Stokes VA medical center and the Sandusky VA retirement community. To RSVP, call (216) 623-1111 or visit www.iwasm.org.



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