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Conversations About OHC's Future

Tell Us How YOU Connect with History!



What kinds of history do you feel are important to preserve for future generations? How do you find out about what's going on in your community? These and other prompts will be presented to the community in a series of public meetings taking place in January as part of the Heritage Center's preparation for its next long-term strategic plan. OHC members and non-members, youth and adults, long-time supporters and first-time participants, Oberlinians and regional residents -- all are invited to attend an upcoming

75-minute meeting to share thoughts and ideas. Choose from among identical meetings to find one that best fits your schedule:

- **Monday, January 15 from 4-5:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Education Center (600 Kendal Drive). *FULL – please choose another date*
- **Thursday, January 18 from 5:30-6:45 p.m.** at House of Zion Fellowship Hall (81 Locust Street)
- **Saturday, January 20 from 2-3:15 p.m.** in the Oberlin Public Library's Community Room (65 South Main Street)

There will be snacks and refreshments served at each session. Those who plan to attend can send a quick e-mail to OHC Executive Director Liz Schultz at director@oberlinheritage.org or call her at (440) 774-1700 and indicate which date you prefer.

Oral History Mini-Workshop Hosted by OHC

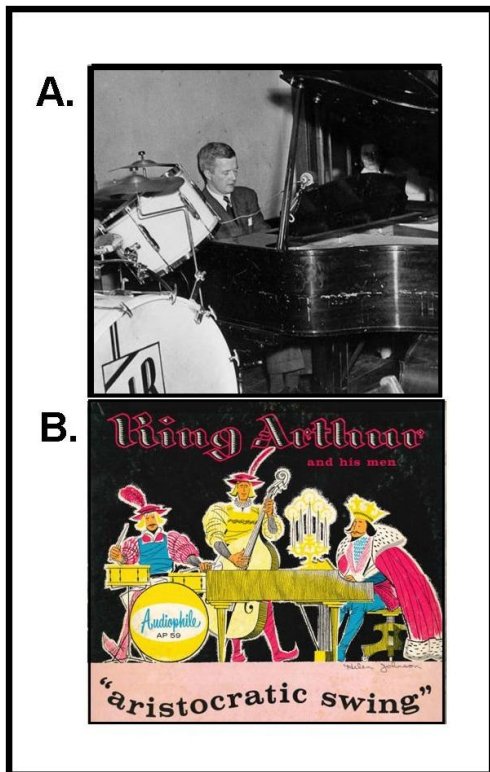
Saturday, January 13 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)



Volunteers of the Oberlin Oral History Project will host a FREE training/refresher course at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) on how to prepare for and conduct oral history interviews. If you are interested in getting involved in this ongoing project, or just want to learn about the basics of oral history for your own interests, please join us! RSVP to committee chair Carl Jacobson at obicarlo@gmail.com so that sufficient handouts can be prepared.

The A Side and B Side of Arthur Dann

Tuesday, January 23 at 7:15 p.m.



Local historian **Sid Comings** presents an engaging program about Arthur Dann (1913-1979), a professor of classical piano for over 40 years at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, who also performed in a popular jazz trio known as “King Arthur and His Men.” Dann was one of the most active and versatile performers in the Oberlin community, playing venues both locally and in New York City. This multifaceted musician was on the one hand a recognized expert on the music of Frederic Chopin, while on the other, his gift for improvisation made him a highly respected performer in the world of jazz (an area relatively untouched by classical musicians of his era). Comings' lively program provides an opportunity for audience members to learn more about Dann and to listen to several brief recordings that reflect both sides of the maestro! For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Side "A" photo of Arthur Dann courtesy of Oberlin College Archives.

Salute Those Who Make Oberlin Special

Last Call for Community Awards Nominations



A few minutes are all it takes to nominate someone who is doing good work in local history, historic preservation or service to the community. The Heritage Center's Community Awards program, now in its 17th year, recognizes individuals, businesses, or organizations whose accomplishments are in keeping with OHC's mission to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make the

community a better place to live, learn, work and visit. Categories include:

- *Community Historian
- *Heritage Guardian
- *Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award
- *History Teacher or Community Teacher of the Year
- *OHC Volunteer of the Year
- *Youth Community Service Award

Nominations may be brief and you're likely to discover that the process of writing a paragraph or two about someone who inspires you is rewarding in itself -- try it and see! **Submit your nomination by February 1, 2018.** Award recipients will be honored at the Heritage Center's Annual Meeting, which takes place at The Hotel at Oberlin on Wednesday, April 4, 2018. Download a nomination form at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 and request that an awards brochure is sent to you.

Spring Break Camp Registration Underway

What a Wonderful World! – Learning & Fun for Boys and Girls ages 8-13



Area schools have different spring breaks, so the Heritage Center is offering TWO weeks of mini-camp: choose either Tuesday through Thursday, **March 27-29 or April 3-5** from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In this exciting exploration of the marvels of nature and the creativity of humans, campers will learn about the seven wonders of the ancient world, along with the "new" seven. We'll discover how people throughout history created immense and architecturally impressive structures, the science behind geological formations, and why cultures create, all through engaging hands-on activities.

Camps are held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Register by March 9 and receive an early bird discount. Scholarship assistance may be available for those who qualify for free or reduced school lunches. Find out more or register now at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 and request a registration form be sent to you.

OHC Winter/Spring Events Calendar on its Way to Members Get Ready to Connect with History in Many Exciting Ways!

The Heritage Center's 2018 Events Calendar will soon be mailed to members. There's a great line-up in store: free community programs, tours, workshops, field trips, kids' camps, volunteer opportunities and more! The calendar also will be posted to the OHC website later this month. Save these upcoming dates:

Sunday, February 11 at 2:00 p.m. Museum Education & Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan presents a free, public program on *African American Business Owners of Oberlin* at the House of Zion Fellowship Hall (81 Locust Street).

February 15, 7:15 p.m. Kendal resident John Matsushima shares his story of *Internment at the Minidoka War Relocation Center*. This is part of a month-long series of events associated with the national travelling exhibit *Courage & Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American WWII Experience*, hosted by Oberlin College's Department of History in the Richard D. Baron '64 Art Gallery (65 East College Street), with the Oberlin Heritage Center being a supportive partner. Matsushima's talk will be held at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public.

March 10, 2:00 p.m. Also as part of the Courage & Compassion series long-time Oberlin resident Roy Ebihara presents a free, public program on *Internment: A Survivor's Story*. Location: The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C. (106 North Main Street).

March 14, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. *Painting Conservation Seminar* for small history and arts organizations in Lorain County. The workshop is free and offered as OHC collaboration with The Nord Family Foundation, the Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA), and the Allen Memorial Art Museum. Register by contacting Ohio History Service Corps/AmeriCorps member Sara Fisher at sara.fisher@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700.

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OHC Winter/Spring Events Calendar on its Way to Members...continued...

April 4, 6:00-8:30 p.m. *OHC Annual Meeting, Dinner and Community Awards Presentations.*

This always upbeat evening features a fascinating visit with Oberlin historical figure and internationally acclaimed sculptor Edmonia Lewis, portrayed by actress Sherrie Tolliver of the Cleveland area nonprofit **Women in History**. The event is held at The Hotel at Oberlin (10 East College Street), and invitations will be sent to all OHC members in mid-February. Special thanks to the evening's program sponsor **Northwest Bank**.

Thank You OHC End-of-Year Donors and Grantmakers!

BIG THANKS to 310 donors who contributed to the Oberlin Heritage Center's annual fund campaign! You helped raise \$41,373 (just a bit shy of our \$43,000 goal, and quite fantastic!). Your support is critical as we look ahead to another great year of public programming, classroom outreach, youth camps, research assistance and much more.

The Heritage Center also is very grateful to the **Community Foundation of Lorain County** for a \$20,000 grant received last month to partially support staff salaries, program expenses, printing the bi-annual events calendar, and costs associated with website hosting.

We also extend special thanks to the **Nordson Corporation** for its generous \$4,750 education grant that will support programming in local schools and help to hire a summer college intern and high school intern at the Heritage Center.

OHC Board and Staff are tremendously grateful for the widespread support received from members and friends as the year came to a close. Your generosity allows the organization to end 2017 healthy and strong and ready to launch another wonderful year of exploring history together!

City of Oberlin Now Part of Heritage Home Program



Have you been pondering what to do about your home's crumbling chimney? Trying to decide if you should repair or replace your windows? Lying awake at night thinking about that strange noise coming from your furnace? The Heritage Home Program might be just what you need.

The City of Oberlin has contracted with the Cleveland-based Heritage Home Program to provide Oberlin residents with assistance and peace-of-mind. Owners of homes that are 50

years or older can get FREE, objective advice about repairs, improvements, maintenance, energy efficiency, how to evaluate contractor bids, and more. Qualified homeowners can also apply for a low-interest loan for projects over \$10,000. Don't hesitate to reach out to the HHP at (216) 426-3116 or hhp@heritagehomeprogram.org. Learn more about the local program at <http://www.cityofoberlin.com/city-government/departments/housing/heritage-home-program/>.

Oberlin Community Calendar Keeps You in the Know A One-Stop Date Book at Your Fingertips!



Students and staff of the Environmental Dashboard program of Oberlin College have created an easy-to-use, free community calendar for organizations to share information about local events. Bookmark the page and stay up-to-date on all the wonderful events going on around town! Spread the word to your club and community leaders to let them know about this news-sharing opportunity as well. Check out the community

calendar at <http://environmentaldashboard.org/calendar/>.

Heritage Center Members Update

The Oberlin Heritage Center welcomed 60 new members to the organization in 2017, more than one-third of whom lived outside of Oberlin, throughout Ohio and across the country. Some of OHC's newest members include: **Jody & Bill Kannen**, **Xiaoja Li**, **Nancy MacRae**, **Laura Slocum**, **Elaine Vukov**, and **Thomas Weisbarth** (North Ridgeville). All are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.

The Heritage Center also welcomed 9 new Endowed Life Members (ELMs) this past year! This circle of OHC friends has been especially helpful in furthering the good work of the Heritage Center through their warm support. Special thanks to our most recent ELMs -- **Mae Alice Donner** and **Kathleen & Richard Nord**. We're thrilled to welcome you as new Endowed Life Members and are very grateful for your generosity.

If you are not yet an OHC member, make it your New Year's resolution to join! You'll enjoy being part of a great community organization -- and the Heritage Center will make sure you know how much you are appreciated! Join today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 to request a membership brochure.

OHC Staff News

Ohio History Service Corps/AmeriCorps member **Sara Fisher** researched and installed a new display at OHC's downtown kiosk on South Main Street next to the post office. Check out this delightful mini-exhibit on old-fashioned toys and other forms of childhood amusements.

Welcome to the Heritage Center's two winter-term students from Oberlin College: **Izzy Hannigan** (OC '18), a History/Latin American Studies double major from Chicago, will be researching and making historical costumes, while **Steven Mentzer** (OC '20), a Studio Art major from Oberlin, will develop a new Oberlin Architecture history walk for the Heritage Center.

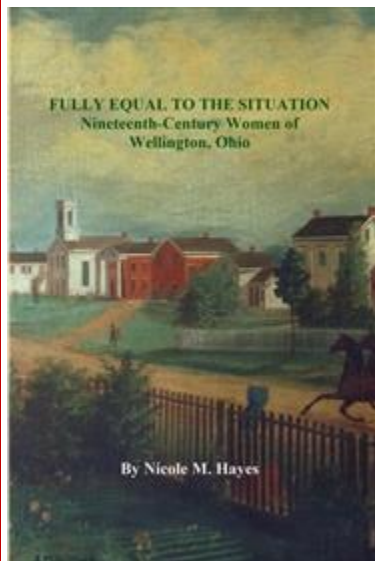
Last month's Toy Exhibit at the Monroe House, curated by Collections Manager **Maren McKee**, provided great hands-on holiday fun for many tour visitors of all ages. When not working with physical objects in the collection, Maren spends a lot of her time assisting with history research requests that come in to the Heritage Center. She will be speaking at the Oberlin Public Library on Saturday, January 6 with members of the Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History

OHC Staff News...continued...

Group sharing some of the resources that the Heritage Center has available for local history researchers and genealogists.

Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** recently joined the Board of the Friends of Westwood Cemetery.

Also of Interest



Fully Equal to the Situation: Nineteenth-Century Women of Wellington, Ohio is a new book by OHC member and popular 19th Century Wellington blogger (<https://19thcenturywellington.wordpress.com/>) **Nicole M. Hayes**. The book features stories of a dozen women who all lived and labored in early Wellington (and some also have Oberlin connections); each chapter presents an intimate portrait that is at once personal biography and American history. Autographed copies of the book are now available for sale at the Heritage Center's Museum Store (<https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/store.shtml>). Hayes will be sharing one of her beautifully researched and written stories in a free public program on **Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m.** (doors open at 6:00 p.m.) at the Patricia Lindley Center for the Performing Arts (627 North Main Street) in Wellington. The presentation, titled *Into the Wilderness: A Massachusetts Household Emigrates to Ohio*, is the

Inaugural Lecture of the 2018 Wellington Bicentennial Series.

Oberlin **Constable Frank Stone** (1835-1881), who was recently discovered to be the first Lorain County officer killed in the line of duty in 1881, will get his rightful place of honor on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington DC this spring. Stone's name will be dedicated during a candlelight vigil on May 13 during National Police Week. If you aren't familiar with Officer Stone's story in Oberlin history, read the OHC blog *It Happened in Oberlin* (<http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog/2017/10/it-happened-in-oberlin/>) written by **Officer Bashshar Wiley**, a current member of the Oberlin Police Department.

Here's a marvelous opportunity to talk with and learn more about the interests and talents of our next generation of historians. Judges are needed in all levels (Grades 6-12) and categories (Exhibits, Documentaries, Website, Performances, and Papers) for the **Region 3 Ohio History Day** contest in Cleveland on **Saturday, March 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** No previous judging experience is needed. If you like talking to kids, consider yourself a critical thinker or an avid reader/writer, and can give constructive feedback, then you are qualified to be a History Day judge. You'll work in teams of three and receive on-site basic training on the morning of the competition, which takes place at the Cleveland History Center of the Western Reserve Historical Society (10825 East Blvd., Cleveland) and at the Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Register online (<https://oh-rtwrhsrc.nhd.org/?f=9d56f012-f1f4-4dc0-88f1-6e2563e15def>) or contact **Mary Manning**, Region 3 History Day Associate, at historyday@wrhs.org or (216) 721-5722, ext. 1503, if you have any questions.