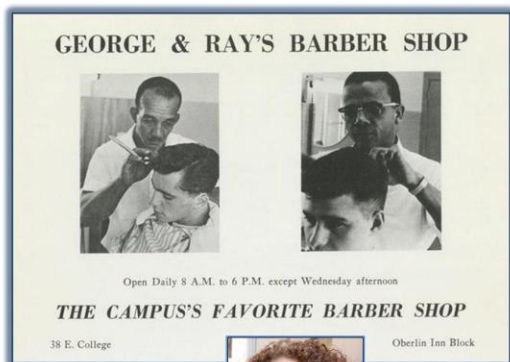


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or send e-mail to [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org).

## Stories of Oberlin African-American Business Owners Sunday, February 11 at 2:00 p.m.



Amanda Manahan  
Museum Education  
& Tour Coordinator



Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** discusses the accomplishments, struggles and legacies of early African-American business owners in Oberlin at a free community program taking place at the House of Zion Fellowship Center (81 Locust Street, Oberlin). Manahan's illustrated program focuses on the long remarkable history and diversity of businesses of the past, including Carter Nursing Home, Gayters' Skating Rink, Gigi's Barber Shop, Mason's Tea Room, Parker's Grocery, Pettiford Bakery and more. Attendees also will have the opportunity to share recollections and help the Heritage Center preserve more of the history of African-American

businesses in Oberlin. Learn more about the program by visiting [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or calling (440) 774-1700. Enjoy a "History Minute" further in this E-Gazette and be introduced to some of the African-American women who owned businesses in 19th and 20th century Oberlin.

## National Touring Exhibit Arrives in Oberlin Heritage Center is Supporting Partner of Accompanying Program Series



The Oberlin College Department of History hosts the national traveling exhibit **Courage & Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience** from mid-February to mid-March in the College's Richard D. Baron '64 Art Gallery in downtown Oberlin. The exhibit is sponsored by the Go For Broke National Education Center and is presently in the midst of a two-year tour visiting ten U.S. communities where citizens welcomed Japanese Americans during and after the turbulent days of WWII. The Oberlin exhibit is accompanied by an array of community programs including personal reflections,

panel discussion, music, film, lecture, and more. The exhibit and programs are free and open to the public. February dates include:

**February 12, 12:20 - 1:15 p.m. *What is Sanctuary? From International Historical Concept to Oberlin's Present.*** A panel featuring faculty from Classics, Comparative American Studies, History, and Africana Studies. Location: TBA

*Continued on next page*

## Courage & Compassion Exhibit and Program Series...continued...

**February 15, 7:15 p.m. *A Personal Story of Internment and Introduction to the Exhibit*** Kendal resident and former internee **John Matsushima** and “Courage and Compassion” co-director **Julie Min**. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive).

**February 16, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. *Opening Reception and Exhibit Preview***. Location: Richard D. Baron Art Gallery (65 East College Street, Suite 5). Public Viewing Hours of the exhibit are Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays, 12 noon to 5 p.m. from February 17 to March 18. The exhibit also is open by appointment (contact Professor of History **Renee Romano** at [rromano@oberlin.edu](mailto:rromano@oberlin.edu)).

**February 24, 7:30 p.m. *San Jose Taiko*** performance and lecture on the relationship between Taiko and internment. Location: Finney Chapel (90 North Professor Street).

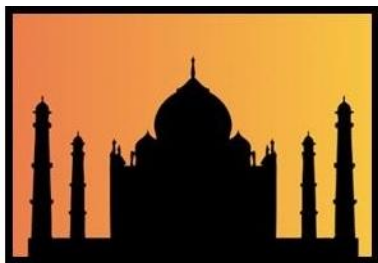
Learn more and also view the full schedule at <https://www.oberlin.edu/events/special-events/courage-and-compassion>

## Register Now: ICA Painting Conservation Seminar OHC Hosts Workshop for Local History and Arts Organizations



The Oberlin Heritage Center, in collaboration with **The Nord Family Foundation**, **ICA (Intermuseum Conservation Association)** and the **Allen Memorial Art Museum**, is hosting this educational program that discusses basic proper care, handling and display of paintings, the materials and methods used in the creation of paintings, and the condition issues that can be identified by a lay person. The event takes place on **Wednesday, March 14, 2018** from **9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). Attendees may bring one or two paintings from their organization's collection for assessment at the end of the presentation. The day concludes with lunch and a guided tour of the Allen Memorial Art Museum in Oberlin. Registration is just \$5 per person and space is limited; reserve your place by February 23 at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

## “What a Wonderful World” Awaits Spring Break Campers! All Who Register by March 9 Receive “Early Bird” Discount



The Heritage Center offers two weeks of Spring Break camps this year to accommodate area schools' calendars. Boys and girls ages 8-13 will "travel" far and wide exploring the many wonders of earth in each of the three-day camps which take place **Tuesday-Thursday, March 27-29** or **April 3-5** at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Camps run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and include hands-on activities, walking field trips to places nearby (weather permitting), snacks and more! Scholarship assistance may be available for those who qualify for free or reduced school lunches. Register at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700 to learn more.

## Building on OHC's Strengths for the Future

### Community Members Share in Strategic Planning Process



Over 100 people registered for the three public meetings hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center last month as part of the preparation for a new strategic plan. Facilitator Leslie Yerkes, founder of the Catalyst Consulting Group in Cleveland, guided pairs of participants as they informally interviewed one another about what the organization does well and how its strengths can provide momentum for the future. "This was actually quite fun!" seemed to be the overall consensus from volunteers as they parted ways following each of the 75-minute sessions that were held in

varied locations throughout the community. In coming weeks, the OHC planning team will compile and review all of the responses from each session and begin preparing a new plan that builds on OHC's strengths and sets targets for meeting community and organizational needs over the next five years. Highlights of these discussions will be shared at the Heritage Center's Annual Meeting on April 4.

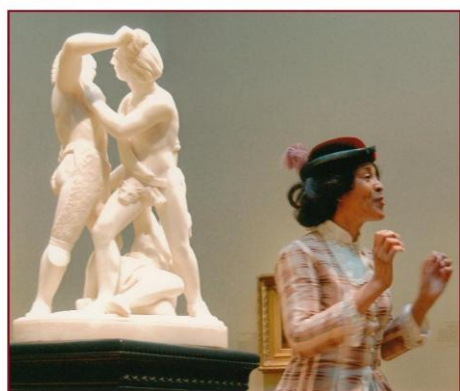
## OHC's 2018 Winter/Spring Calendar Now Online

### Check Out New Programs, Tours, Field Trips and More!

The Heritage Center recently sent members the new 2018 Winter/Spring Events calendar. Keep it handy so you don't miss the great line-up of free community programs, guided tours, history walks, workshops, kids' activities and more to be offered in coming months. You can find the calendar online at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) (click on *EVENTS* in the main menu, go to "Events Calendar" and click again, then scroll down to the link at "Detailed calendar of upcoming events") or call (440) 774-1700 to request a paper copy be sent to you. Don't miss all the good things happening at OHC!

## Save the Date for Annual Meeting and Community Awards!

Wednesday, April 4 from 6-8:30 p.m. (Social Hour begins at 5 p.m.)



OHC's featured program is sponsored by



Join us for a one-of-a-kind evening of history and camaraderie at The Hotel at Oberlin (10 East College Street). Our featured program introduces guests to renowned 19th century sculptor Edmonia Lewis, portrayed by actress Sherrie Tolliver of the Cleveland-based nonprofit Women in History. (See Sherrie at left portraying Edmonia in front of her sculpture, *Indian Combat*, at the Cleveland Museum of Art.) Lewis was of mixed African and Native American heritage and came to Oberlin as a college student in 1859. Her time at Oberlin was marked by discord that pulled away the veil of Oberlin's vaunted racial harmony. This special program is made possible by the generous support of Northwest Bank. The evening also includes a brief business meeting and the presentation of the

## Annual Meeting and Community Award Presentations...continued...

17th Annual Community Awards. Invitations with further details will be mailed to OHC members in mid-February. All are welcome. Add your name to the mailing list by sending an email to [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org).

## History Minute

### Oberlin African-American Women in Business

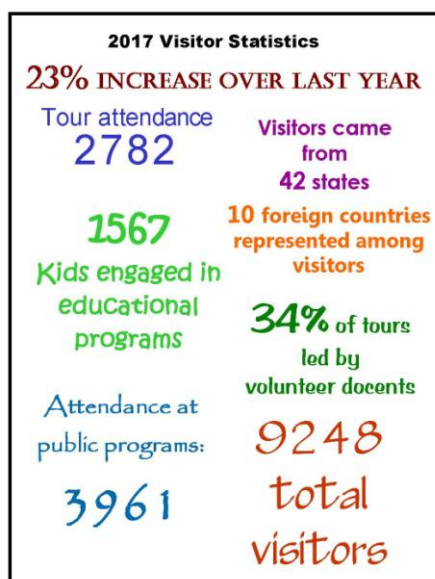


Dating back to its earliest decades, Oberlin has benefited from and been shaped by the entrepreneurial spirit of African-American citizens. We often remember and recount key businessmen such as Wallace Pettiford, John Watson, and Thomas Gayters, but what about the women who also provided vital services? Women such as Caroline Burnett, who maintained a boarding house and restaurant on Main Street during much of the second half of the nineteenth century? Or Marie DeFrance, a single black woman who operated her own millinery shop from 1896-1926? Then there was Annie Mason, a hospitable, hardworking, and business-savvy woman who opened the popular Mason's Tea Room (at left is an ad from the Oberlin Review, November 17, 1922). And perhaps you knew Gigi Jones, a pioneer female barber who was skilled and admired by

many in Oberlin and Elyria. If you are interested in hearing more and sharing your own memories, come to Museum Education & Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan's free history presentation on African-American Business Owners of Oberlin at the House of Zion Fellowship Center (81 Locust Street, Oberlin) on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

## OHC By the Numbers

### Tour Visitation Increases 23% in 2017



The number of tour visitors increased in 2017 to **2,782**, a new high total driven up by significant increases in group tours through the year. Group tour visitation increased by nearly 32% over 2016 statistics and by nearly 52% over 2015! Walk-in tour numbers stayed fairly consistent over the same time period. About one-third of all tour visitors came from nearby communities in Lorain County; 17% came from the Cleveland area, and 9% from other places within Ohio. A little over one-quarter of all tour visitors traveled from out of state. Oberlin-resident tour visitor numbers rose last year to 15% (up from 10% of all tour visitors in 2016). Travelers came to the Heritage Center from 42 states plus Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. Docents welcomed global visitors from Australia, Canada, China, England, Germany, India, Netherlands, Scotland, Taiwan, and Uganda.

OHC is grateful for volunteer docents who are tremendous ambassadors for the organization and the community. Volunteers led about one-third of all tours in 2017, with the rest being led by student interns/AmeriCorps members and staff.

## Collections Corner

### Frank Jewett's Pocket Watches Visit Local History "Roadshow"



Oberlin Heritage Center Executive Director **Liz Schultz** jumped at the invitation offered by the Solon Historical Society for the public to bring in their family clocks and watches to be assessed by volunteers from the Lake Erie Chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (N.A.W.C.C.). The free event offered an opportunity to find out more about two pocket watches owned by Professor Frank Jewett, whose 1884 Queen Anne style home is part of the Heritage Center's collection. OHC records indicated that a silver watch (which we thought to date to around 1860) belonged to Frank's father, Dr. Charles Jewett, who gave it to his son to use during his college days at Yale University. A gold pocket watch (ca. 1880) was carried by Frank Jewett until he moved to Hawaii. The timepiece specialists confirmed the date of the silver watch to the Civil War period, and also noted that at some point in time it had been re-cased. They thought it would likely work if we had a key to start the watch. The experts also confirmed the date of the gold watch to the late 19th century and suspected it might need a new gear to get it running again. The information

gleaned from the N.A.W.C.C. added new details to what is known about these two special artifacts in the OHC collection.

## Your Ohio Tax Return Continues to Make History

### State Tax Return Donations Can Fund Local History Projects



The Ohio History Fund is just one of a few grant programs in the state solely for history projects and it is almost entirely funded directly from Ohio taxpayer contributions on their state tax returns. To donate, just look for "Ohio History Fund" on your state tax return (line 26d) and designate a dollar amount. That's it! The average donation is \$9 – by giving that (or more), a donor can help repair a roof on a historic home, expand popular history tours at a local museum, preserve the stories of Ohio veterans or provide public

access to rare museum collections. To date, the Ohio History Fund has awarded \$522,000 in grants to 53 organizations in a third of the state's 88 counties. The Ohio History Fund generates local investment in community history, all made possible because of your donations. Even if you're not getting a refund, you can still donate by giving directly to the Ohio History Connection. Call (800) 647-6921 for more information about making a gift. Your tax-deductible donation in any form will strengthen local history throughout Ohio! Learn more at

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/about-us/ohio-history-fund>.

## Membership Update

Welcome new Heritage Center members: **Bob Bruch & Ana Cara**, **Lynn A. Crivello** (Chicago), **Ryan & Meghan Riesterer**, and **Bill & Sandy Siebenschuh**. (All are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) We're so glad you joined OHC!

We mourn the losses of Endowed Life Members **Ellen Adams**, **Nancy Gayters**, and **Darlene Rae Krato** who passed away in recent weeks. These women were warm and wonderful supporters of the Heritage Center, and helped to enhance the organization's educational programs and collections. We are grateful for their friendship through the years and will miss them deeply.

We appreciate the generous support of all of OHC's members! If you are not yet a member, give yourself a sweet reward this Valentine's Day and join the Heritage Center – you'll love being part of this great community nonprofit that helps keep Oberlin history alive for future generations. (And we'll love you, too!)

## OHC Board, Staff and Intern News



The month of January flew by and the staff thoroughly enjoyed working with Oberlin College Winter Term students **Izzy Hannigan** (OC '18) and **Steven Mentzer** (OC '20). *Izzy (at left)* set up shop in the Jewett House, bringing along her own sewing machine, and spent the month creating some wonderful period clothing for future living history programs. Meanwhile, Steven was busy researching and drafting a history walk focused on the architecture of Oberlin. This new Heritage Center tour will make its debut during Commencement/Reunion Weekend in May.

History Day projects are underway at schools across the nation, and the Heritage Center will participate in two competitions close to home. Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan**, AmeriCorps member **Sara Fisher**, Board Member (and Oberlin College Archivist) **Ken Grossi** and former AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** will serve as judges for the Christian Community School's History Day on Thursday, February 8 in Grafton.

Sara and Amanda also will be judging at the Region 3 History Day contest in Cleveland on Saturday, March 3. OHC volunteer **Melissa Clifford** will serve as the Hubbard Prize judge. This award is supported by Oberlin Heritage Center members **Gail and Ned Hubbard** of Centreville, Virginia, in honor of his grandparents, Pliny Deane and Laura Rote Hubbard, who were the second owners of the Heritage Center's historic Jewett House. The prize recognizes an individual or team from a Lorain County school who presents an outstanding paper, documentary or website project at the regional competition. Stay tuned for an announcement of the Hubbard Prize recipient in a future E-Gazette!

The Oberlin Heritage Center has been fortunate to host several workers over the years through the **Mature Services** program. If you're looking to work about 20 hours a week in a community placement, contact the Elyria office at (440) 324-3588 and ask about The Senior Community Service Employment Program.

## Also of Interest

The Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group celebrates Black History Month with guest speaker **Eboni A. Johnson** presenting *Librarian as Field Archivist in Africatown: A Case Study*. Johnson, a reference librarian at Oberlin College, talks about her recent experience wearing different hats as both a librarian and "field archivist" on an NSF-funded research project in the Africatown area of Mobile, Alabama. The free program takes place **Saturday, February 3 at 11:00 a.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). All are welcome.

Oberlin residents **Michael Reynolds & Mari Kuroda**, along with good friend **Molly Johnson** (all of whom are OHC members, too!) traveled the Camino de Santiago across northern Spain in the autumn of 2017. A 37-minute movie documenting their experience, *Camino de Santiago to the End of the World*, will be shown on **Saturday, February 10 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Nancy Dye Lecture Hall of the Oberlin College Science Center (northeast corner of West Lorain Street and Woodland Street). Following the movie, there will be an opportunity to ask questions of the hikers about their 400-mile journey. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact [Michael.Reynolds@oberlin.edu](mailto:Michael.Reynolds@oberlin.edu).

Oberlin's Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee will host the movie *For the Next 7 Generations*, which takes place on **Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). The film takes viewers on a journey of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers as they travel around the globe to promote peace and share their indigenous ways of healing. Directed and produced by Emmy and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker Carole Hart (who passed away earlier this year), the film has a personal connection to this community. Carole Hart's nephew, Aaron Englander, is an Oberlin College alumnus (2006) who was instrumental in starting the Farmer's Market using local produce grown at the George Jones Farm in Oberlin. For more information about this event, contact Jean Foggo Simon at [foggo@oberlin.net](mailto:foggo@oberlin.net).



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