



Tombs and Blooms: Lake View Cemetery Field Trip

Guided Tour - Friday, April 20 at 10:00 a.m.



Stroll among the historic monuments and spring plantings of Cleveland's Lake View Cemetery on this special excursion co-hosted by **The Friends of Westwood Cemetery** and the **Oberlin Heritage Center**. Our guided walking tour includes the James A. Garfield Monument, Wade Chapel, and stories of some of the historic people buried in the cemetery. Participants can drive themselves to the cemetery and arrive in time for the group tour, or carpool with others from Oberlin. Following our tour, we'll picnic together at a nearby park (bring your own picnic basket) before returning home. Dress for the

weather! Fee is just \$5.00 per person. Advance registration is required. Learn more about this event at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

History Walk Docent Training Workshops

Making History Connections One Step at a Time



Being a docent is a great way to learn more about the nationally significant history of Oberlin and to meet many interesting people from near and far who visit Oberlin to take part in these warm-weather walking tours. Two history walk training workshops will be held in the coming month:

Freedom's Friends: Abolition and Underground Railroad History Walk training on Saturday,

April 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon (register by April 20). Training starts at the Monroe House (73 1/2 South Professor Street).

Radicals & Reformers: Westwood Cemetery History Walk training on Saturday, May 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon (register by April 27). Training begins at the cemetery entrance (429 Morgan Street).

Each workshop is free and open to the public. Volunteers need no previous experience in leading tours; all that is required is a commitment to assist with at least four history walks within the coming year.

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History Walk Docent Training Workshops continued...

In June, July and August of this year, the Freedom's Friends History Walk will be offered weekly to the public on Saturday mornings at 11:00 a.m. The Radicals & Reformers History Walk will be offered the first Sunday of those months at 11:00 a.m. Additional dates for either tour may be added for group requests by appointment.

Find out more or register today by contacting Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700.

Annual Meeting Includes Welcomes and Farewells

Evening Recognizes Incoming/Outgoing Board Members plus a Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



OHC's featured program is sponsored by



The April 4 Annual Meeting includes a membership vote to confirm several new Trustees including **Kaitlyn Donaldson** (*Collections Supervisor at the Lorain Historical Society*), **Eboni Johnson** (*Outreach & Programming Librarian of Oberlin College*), **Rebecca Lahetta** (*Oberlin High School Social Studies Teacher*), **Laura Slocum** (*Disability Resource Specialist at Oberlin College*), and **Annessa Wyman** (*Administrative Assistant at the Oberlin College office of Disability Resources at the Center for Student Success*).

The Board Governance Committee will recommend five Board members be appointed Honorary Trustees as they end their terms of active service. These include **Camille Hamlin Allen**, **Michele Andrews**, **Richard Baznik**, **Adam Freas**,

and **Rich Fredrickson**. Each joined the Heritage Center Board in 2012 and served two back-to-back three-year terms and is limited by the OHC bylaws to serve another consecutive term at this time. We applaud this group of outstanding volunteers and are very glad that they plan to continue serving the organization in many other ways.

The Heritage Center Annual Meeting will observe a brief intermission from 7 - 7:15 p.m. as bells ring across the nation in remembrance of the assassination of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** fifty years ago this night (*see related feature article further in this newsletter*). A community candlelight vigil and march will be getting underway at that time in Tappan Square, directly across the street from the OHC Annual Meeting. Those who wish to step out to listen to the bells or pay respects to the civil rights leader can do so. The Heritage Center's program resumes promptly at 7:15 p.m. with actress **Sherrie Tolliver** portraying 19th century internationally acclaimed sculptor **Edmonia Lewis** (*pictured above*). The evening will close with the presentation of the Heritage Center's 16th annual Community Awards.

Hands-on History Fun for Kids

Summer Camp Dates Announced



The Oberlin Heritage Center will offer one *new* and two returning favorites among its summer camp line-up this year. The schedule includes:

July 16-20: A fun new "foodie" camp, which focuses on cultural and historic themes including diverse traditions and simple ways to preserve foods.

July 30 - August 3: OHC's signature "Architecture" camp offers the basics of design and construction of mini-buildings, with architectural inspiration coming

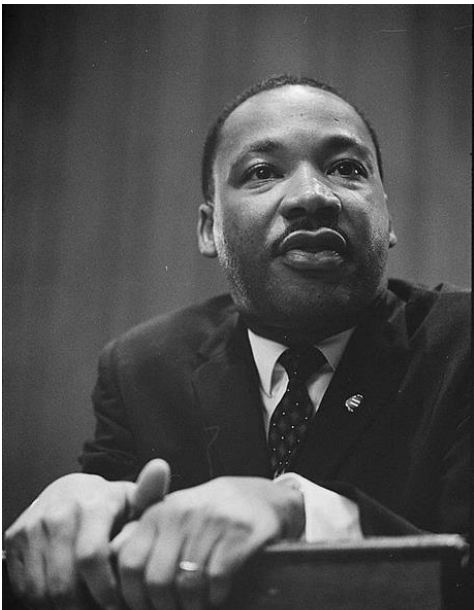
from visits to a few of Oberlin's own historic structures and cutting edge building projects.

August 6-10: This behind-the-scenes "Explore Oberlin" camp opens community "back doors" to campers and welcomes them to nose around to discover "how things work" in the realms of art, education, history, entertainment and city services.

Boys and girls ages 8-13 can take part in the camps, which run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Save the dates now, and more information will be available next month.

50th Anniversary Tribute

April 4, 1968: Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



MLK, 1964, by Marion Trikosko, Library of Congress

In 1968 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was visiting Memphis, Tennessee to support striking sanitation workers and tie their concerns to the Poor People's Campaign. The strike had begun in February of 1968 after the tragic death of two black workers and decades of unequal and unsafe job conditions. Dr. King visited Memphis several times to speak to audiences and meet with community leaders and strike organizers. On April 3 he gave what has been called his "*I've Been to the Mountaintop*" speech. The next day he was shot and killed while outside of his hotel room. Grief and outrage swept the nation as news of his assassination spread. The strike continued in Memphis until a deal was reached on April 16. James Earl Ray was arrested later that summer and tried and convicted for Dr. King's assassination.

Below are online resources where you can see, hear, and read more about these historic events:

- Podcast about the [**Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike**](#) (37 minutes; Stuff You Missed in History Class)

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50th Anniversary Tribute continued...

- Dr. King's *I've Been to the Mountaintop* speech delivered April 3, 1968 (43 minutes; American Rhetoric)
- Information about the **Poor People's Campaign** (Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Global Freedom Struggle; Stanford University)
- **Civil Rights in Memphis: A Timeline** (The Digital Archive of Memphis Public Libraries)
- Dr. King's *Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution* speech delivered at Oberlin College Commencement 1965. (Electronic Oberlin Group)

For more on Oberlin's participation in the 50th Anniversary Tribute, please see the feature on OHC's Annual Meeting in this same newsletter.

Courage & Compassion Series: Final Words

More than 1,600 Visitors View Traveling Exhibit



Liz Schultz welcomes Lorain City Schools' 5th graders to the exhibit.

Applause to Oberlin College Professor of History **Renee Romano** and Oberlin resident and project co-leader **Julie Min** who spearheaded the marvelous public history exhibit and program series on the Japanese-American World War II Experience. The exhibit, sponsored by the Go for Broke Foundation, included stories from a national perspective as well as those focused on Oberlin's response to the upheaval occurring at that time. In addition to the exhibit, the project included a program series of lectures, dialogue, film and music that hundreds more attended from near and far.

"It was incredible to have such great community partners," Romano stated as she summarized the success of the college and community collaboration. Oberlin Heritage Center Executive Director **Liz Schultz** responded that the Heritage Center was proud to be a partner in this project which addressed issues of the past that continue to be relevant today.

In case you missed it, check out this *Ideastream* feature on Alice Takemoto (OC '47) who was one of 40 Japanese-American students admitted to Oberlin College and Conservatory during the war: <http://www.ideastream.org/news/alice-imamoto-takemoto-recalls-her-journey-from-relocation-camp-to-oberlin-conservatory-student> .

Introduction to Collections Management Workshop

AmeriCorps-Ohio History Service Corps Members Create Traveling Workshop Coming to a Location Near You

This one-day workshop (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) is ideal for organizations that are just starting out, refocusing, or wanting a refresher on best collections care practices. Using the American

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Introduction Collections Management Workshop continued...



Association for State and Local History Standards of Excellence Program (StEPs) as inspiration, participants will learn the fundamentals of collections management through both formal learning and hands-on activities. The registration fee of \$20 covers the cost of an archival starter kit of materials to take back with each participating organization. Find the workshop nearest you:

- **Northwest Ohio (May 12)** at the Wood County Historical Center & Museum
- **Central Ohio (June 2)** at the Ohio History Connection
- **Northeast Ohio (June 9)** at the Peninsula Foundation, G.A.R. Hall
- **Southeast Ohio (June 16)** at The Castle of Marietta
- **West Central Ohio (June 23)** at the Logan County History Center

For more information, e-mail either AmeriCorps Members and Presenters **Samantha Chase** (schase@ohiohumanities.org) or Sara Fisher (sara.fisher@oberlinheritage.org).

Register now at <https://www.ohiohistory.org/ameriCorps>.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities at the Heritage Center

One or Two Hours of Your Time Would Really Help!

Perhaps you don't have time to volunteer on a regular basis yet still would like to be "giving back" to the community in some way? Here is a sampling of upcoming activities where the Heritage Center could use volunteer helpers on a one-day-only basis, for as little as an hour or two of your time. Sign up to help in advance by sending an e-mail to **Amanda Manahan** at amanda.manahan@oberlinheritage.org or by calling (440) 774-1700.

Saturday, May 12 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. OHC Grounds Clean-up Day. Join a merry band of volunteers for an hour or two and help spruce up the grounds of the Heritage Center for summer visitors. Projects include trimming, weeding, and general yard clean-up. Tools and supplies are provided or volunteers also are welcome to bring their own.

Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oberlin College Commencement/Reunion Weekend. Volunteers are needed for 2-hour shifts to staff the Heritage Center's welcome/information table.

Saturday, June 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Juneteenth community-wide celebration. Volunteers are needed for 2-hour shifts to staff the Heritage Center's welcome/information table.

Saturday, June 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 13th Annual Oberlin Chalk Walk. Volunteers are needed for 2-hour shifts to staff the Heritage Center's welcome/information table.

Spotlight on Local Winners in History Day Competition

Heritage Center's Hubbard Prize Awarded to Oberlin High School Team



Lucy Cipinko's smile said it all. She (*pictured at far right in photo*) and her Oberlin High School classmates (*from left to right*) **London DeJarnette**, **Madeline Hennessey**, and **Eva Phillips** received third place in the Senior Documentary Category at the Region 3 History Day competition held in Cleveland on Saturday, March 3. The group also received the Oberlin Heritage Center's Hubbard Prize, making Lucy, an OHS senior, the third child in her family to receive this honor. (Sister Hannah participated in two different groups who were awarded the prize in 2015 and 2016 respectively,

and brother Asher's group received the prize in 2017.) The Hubbard Prize was created in 2014 by OHC members **Gail and Ned Hubbard** to recognize student historians who live in Lorain County and who present an outstanding paper, documentary or website project.

The young women and their short film titled *International Conflict & Individual Compromise: A Personal Narrative of Japanese Internment* will next compete at the state level at Ohio History Day, which takes place on Saturday, April 21 at Ohio Wesleyan University (Delaware). The team also will attend the Heritage Center's Annual Meeting where OHC members and friends will have the opportunity to view portions of the project and talk to the women about their work.

Receiving first place and a chance to compete at the state level in the Senior Group Website category were **Jonathan Turner**, **Asher Cipinko** and **Ewan Inglis** for their project titled *Bound to Respect: Conflict and Compromise in the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue*. Oberlin High School teacher (and OHC Honorary Trustee) **Donna M. Shurr** served as advisor for both OHS groups. Congratulations also go to Community Christian School (Grafton) advisors **Michael Demchak** and **Michael Hoehn** who had five student groups place in the regional competition. All of these students also will advance to the Ohio History Day competition later this month.

Wall Woes

New Preservation Project Underway at the Heritage Center



It's certainly not Hadrian's Wall, the Berlin Wall, or the Great Wall of China, but the retaining wall just east of the Monroe House is both important and showing its age. Looky-loos, rubberneckerers, and wall flowers are invited to watch this April as **Grunwell Cashero Restoration Company** helps the Heritage Center right this leaning edifice. The capital safety project was made possible by a grant from **The Nord Family Foundation**. To prepare for the project, a line of arbor vitae had to be taken out of the ground directly above the wall. Thanks to **Larry Lane (Quality Tree Service)** and **Bert Latran, Jr.** for making quick work of the tree removal. The Heritage Center plans to replace the trees after the retaining wall is properly secured once again.

OHC History Minute

Abraham Lincoln DID Visit the Monroe House!



You may be as surprised as we were, but it has been recently discovered that Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, really did visit Oberlin before he was even elected to office. More so, there is evidence that he was welcomed by James Monroe and his family into their home (*see photo*)!

This would mean that Lincoln was POTUS #3 to visit the Heritage Center's historic Monroe House. And that would explain the crude "*A.L. was here*" carved into the first floor bathroom...*APRIL FOOLS!*

Well, to the best of our knowledge, Lincoln never did visit our little city. However, in 1861 James Monroe had the honor of accompanying President-elect Lincoln on part of his railroad journey from his hometown of Springfield, Illinois to his inauguration in Washington, D.C. Both James Garfield and William McKinley visited the Monroe House; Garfield stayed in the Monroe House during a visit in 1876 and McKinley dined at the residence in 1891.

Pave the Way for Local History!

Order Your Inscribed Brick by May 1 for Installation in 2018



The Heritage Center will submit its annual request soon to our local brick engravers, so order now if you've been thinking about an inscribed brick on the Heritage Trail to honor a special person or occasion in your life. This brick pathway criss-crosses the grounds at the Oberlin Heritage Center and is lined with nearly 500 bricks that feature one-of-a-kind messages celebrating,

remembering, and creating lasting legacies. Bricks ordered by May 1 will be installed later this spring; bricks ordered after that time will be installed in Spring 2019. For more information, call (440) 774-1700 and request a brick order form, or order your brick online at

www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click the "Make a Gift" button at the top of the home page).

OHC Board, Staff and Intern News

Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan**, assisted by AmeriCorps member **Sara Fisher**, led 17 spring break campers the last week of March to discover "*What a Wonderful World*" in which we live. Another dozen or more campers plan to attend the second week of camp at the Oberlin Depot in early April. The two weeks of camp were offered to accommodate different spring break schedules of area schools.

Sara and Collections Manager **Maren McKee** helped coordinate a special Painting Conservation seminar last month for local history and arts organizations in Lorain County. The half-day workshop featured **Andrea Chevalier**, Senior Paintings Conservator of ICA Art Conservation of Cleveland. The seminar was an OHC collaboration with **The Nord Family Foundation**, **ICA**, and the **Allen Memorial Art Museum**.

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Board, Staff and Intern News continued...

Executive Director **Liz Schultz** spoke to the Oberlin City Club about the *Earliest Industries of Oberlin* and gave a presentation about Oberlin's abolitionist history at a diversity and inclusion workshop for employees of Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

Business Manager **Bethany Hobbs** attended Oberlin's State of the City luncheon and has been busily preparing for the Heritage Center's upcoming Annual Meeting.

OHC Board and staff held a mini-retreat last month to discuss feedback received during the public strategic planning meetings. The Board is expected to approve the final version of the new five-year strategic plan at its May meeting.

It was wonderful to hear recently from some of OHC's former college student interns. **Olivia Hay** (OC '17) is entering her second year of an Oberlin College Shansi fellowship in India. **David Kaplovitz** (OC '17) is a first-year law student at Tulane University in New Orleans. **Alexandra Nicome** (OC '17) has a one-year fellowship in the Education Department at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis.

Membership Update

Celebrating 25 Years of OHC Membership!

Applause and appreciation to several supporters who are celebrating 25 years of membership at the Heritage Center! **THANK YOU** for your extraordinary loyalty to this nonprofit organization -- you have had a big part in making the Heritage Center the strong and vibrant place that it is today.

Congratulations to: **Phyllis and Roland Baumann, Jane T. Blodgett, David & Sigrid Boe, Howard & Jean Broadwell, Catharina Meints Caldwell, Demaris A. Carrell, Marianne Cochrane, Don & Mary Anne Cunningham, Kimberlie & Stephen Fixx, Dick & Norma Gilbert, Nancy J. Gray, Richard R. Holsworth, Robin & William Jindra, Nicholas R. & Susan C. Jones, Gary Kornblith & Carol Lasser, Sharon LaRocca Miranda, Patricia Murphy & Keith Koenning, Cindy Nord, Cathe E. Radabaugh, Dina & Richard Schoonmaker, Eric R. Severs, Don & Mary Louise VanDyke, Jack & Geni Vanek, and Elizabeth B. Weinstock.** (If you think your name should be on this list, please do let us know! Our computerized records only go back to 1993, and record-keeping before that time was not consistently filed and saved.)

A warm welcome to OHC's newest members -- **Dan & Lynn Ayres** (Oberlin), **Judy D. Hahn** (Oberlin), **Nia Owen** (St. Clears, Wales) and **Kelly Boyer Sagert** (Lorain) -- we hope you will enjoy being part of the organization for many years to come!

We mourn last month's passing of Endowed Life Member **Don Illig** who had been a member of the Heritage Center since 2001.

Join or renew your membership today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on the "Join Now" button at the top of the home page), or call (440) 774-1700 and request a membership brochure.

Also of Interest



Roderic Knight, Professor of Ethnomusicology Emeritus at Oberlin College, has created a wonderful exhibit about American inventor *Elisha Gray "The Edison of Oberlin College."* Gray (1835-1901) taught physics at Oberlin College from 1880-1900, although perhaps is best remembered for inventing the telephone and challenging the claim of Alexander Graham Bell. The display (*pictured at left*) can be seen this spring near the first floor atrium in the Oberlin College Science Center (119 Woodland Street).

Oberlin Book Sale. The Spring Book Sale at the **Oberlin Public Library** (65 South Main Street) runs from **Thursday, April 12 through Sunday, April 15**. Members of the Friends of the Oberlin Public Library are invited to attend a special pre-sale the evening of Wednesday, April 11. New members can join at the door. Questions? Call book sale co-chairs **Liz Schultz** (440-935-3072) or **Annette Grdijan** (440-935-6056).

Oberlin's **Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee** presents the movie *Geronimo*, which will be screened at **6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). An Apache chief, Geronimo was seen by some of his followers as a stubborn troublemaker whose actions needlessly brought the enemy's wrath upon them. To his supporters though, he remained the embodiment of proud resistance, leading the last Native American fighting force to surrender to the United States government. Contact **Jean Foggo Simon** (foggo@oberlin.net) for more.

The **Lorain County American Association of University Women, Elyria Branch** invites the public to an Elegant Brunch on **Saturday, May 5 at 10 a.m.** at the Avon Oaks Country Club (32300 Detroit Road, Avon). The event, which benefits the AAUW Scholarship Fund, includes a presentation on *Ohio's First Ladies*, raffles and a display of vintage accessories. Reservations at \$30 per person must be made by April 27. For more information, or to register, contact **Janet Vitale** (440-960-2876).

The Brownhelm Historical Association is sponsoring a gravestone preservation workshop at Brownhelm Cemetery (3025 North Ridge Road, Vermilion) on **Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Participants will learn how to clean, restore and preserve gravestones during this two-day course led by Mark Morton of Gravestone Guardians of Ohio. Fee is \$50 and includes lunch provided each day by the Brownhelm Historical Association. Find out more or register now at <https://www.facebook.com/events/368125780266505/>.



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