

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette November 2018

MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440)774-1700

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Community Trivia Night - Come One, Come All!

Friday, November 2 (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)



Emceed by
WOBL / WDLW's
Super Dave

Community Trivia Night

FOOD FUN SIDE GAMES
RAFFLES PRIZES

Sponsored by

H
HERRICK JEWELRY
On the Square in Oberlin since 1913

HARMON'S
Automotive Service

It's not too late to get a team together -- or plan to come on your own -- for a lively and entertaining evening with friends, food and fun. The Heritage Center's second annual **Community Trivia Night**, a friendly competition for all ages and skills, takes place from 6-8 p.m. at The First Church of Oberlin, U.C.C.'s Fellowship Hall (106 North Main Street). Tickets are \$12/adults and \$6/kids in advance or \$15/\$7 at the door. Admission includes pizza, beverage and dessert.

Local radio personality "**Super Dave**" **Andrews**, morning show host on **WOBL** (1320 AM / 107.7 FM) returns to 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 co-sponsors **Herrick Jewelry** and **Harmon's Automotive Service**, both of Oberlin. For more information, call (440) 774-1700 or visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

One Last Hurrah! History Walks & More Offered During BIG Tour Weekend

All are Welcome Friday through Sunday, November 9-11



As the days get shorter and cooler, the Heritage Center offers visitors one final opportunity this year to enjoy a variety of guided tours taking place in the community. The weekend coincides with Oberlin College's Parents and Family Weekend, although the Heritage Center's tours will be open to any out-of-town visitors and local residents alike. Choose among several ways to explore Oberlin history:

- **Freedom's Friends Underground Railroad & Abolitionist History Walk** - Friday and Saturday, November 9 and 10 at 3 p.m. 90 minutes.

History Walks & More Offered During BIG Tour Weekend...continued

- **"One Step More": Oberlin Women's History Walk** - Sunday, November 11 at 1:00 p.m. 75 minutes.

Tight on time? The **Oberlin Origins/Sneak Peek Tour** hits highlights of Oberlin's first century in just 30 minutes. The mini-tour is offered every half hour at the Monroe House on Friday, November 9 from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, November 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday, November 11 from 11 a.m. -3 p.m. (Last tour begins a half-hour before the afternoon's ending time.)

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 9 and 10 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, November 11 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Reservations are requested for all but the Sneak Peek mini-tours where walk-in visitors are 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. To find out more or to make a reservation, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Bells of Peace Observe Historic Centennial Anniversary

World War I Ended at the 11th Hour on the 11th Day of the 11th Month



On November 11, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. local time, Americans across the nation will toll bells in honor of all veterans, and commemorate the sacrifice of those who served in World War I. This year's Veteran's Day marks the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War I. Armistice Day began as a day to remember all who served in the Great War, and continues to be a national holiday in many Allied nations. The Heritage Center will participate in the national "Bells of Peace"

observance with a gathering at the Little Red Schoolhouse (behind 73 South Professor Street) that includes brief remarks and a bell-ringing ceremony. Learn more about the World War I Centennial at www.worldwar1centennial.org.

Time & Treasures on Tour

December Exhibits Offer Something Special for Tour-goers

Plan to visit the Oberlin Heritage Center next month for two special holiday treats. Come on any regularly-offered Upstairs/Downstairs tour or Sneak Peek tour and see a mini display of historic artifacts and photographs that were donated to the Heritage Center in the past two years, including an antique trumpet from the Gayters family and many historic photographs. Walk-ins are welcome.

Time & Treasures on Tour...continued



And set your watches now for the Heritage Center's special ***Tour Through Time*** where you'll learn more about the clocks and watches in the museum's collection, including an ornate Empire-style clock gifted to Charles Grandison Finney. This one-hour tour will be offered every Saturday in December at 11:00 a.m. Fee: \$6/adults (\$4/OHC members; free for college students and youth). Advance registration is requested at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

A glimpse into the inner workings of a gold pocket watch (ca. 1880) that was carried by Oberlin College professor Frank Jewett.

Like What OHC Does to Preserve and Share Local History? Make a Gift to the Annual Fund to Keep a Good Thing Going!

Why support the Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Fund? There are as many reasons as there are donors – here is a brief sampling of what this year's donors are saying:

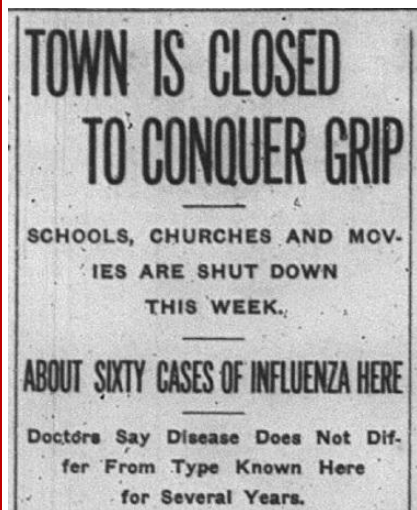
- The work they do to connect the Oberlin community of the past with our community today is vital.
- As an Oberlin College alum, I feel that Oberlin is a part of my heritage.
- [OHC] brings the community together.
- It's a well-run organization.
- I grew up [in Oberlin] and I appreciate the work you are doing! (*from a donor who now lives out-of-state*)
- Oberlin's history is unique and progressive, and I want its story to continue to be told.
- You keep educating...

Tell us why YOU support the Heritage Center when you make a gift to this year's Annual Fund. Each and every gift, regardless of size, is needed to keep the good work going as together we preserve and share Oberlin's nationally significant history. Make a gift today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on the "Make a Gift" button at the top of the home page) or send a check made payable to the Oberlin Heritage Center to MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074-0455.

History Minute: Remembering the 1918 Influenza Pandemic How Did the Spanish Flu Impact Oberlin?

One hundred years ago this autumn Oberlin and the world were in the final days of World War I and suffering from a particularly devastating strain of influenza that was commonly called Spanish Flu. Although Oberlin doctors saw an increase in cases, including in the Student Army Training Corps and Children's Home, they commented that what swept through Oberlin didn't seem to be

History Minute: 1918 Influenza Pandemic...continued



as virulent as what was reported in other areas, or even as severe as what was seen in previous years in Oberlin. Even so, locals followed the instructions of the state health board and on October 16, 1918, Oberlin shut down all public assemblies, including schools, meetings, Oberlin College, the Business College, churches, and theatres. This “influenza ban” lasted until November 6, but was reinstated at Oberlin College when cases spiked again after students returned from winter break. Check out our November Facebook posts created by volunteer **Brittany Craig** and AmeriCorps member **Riley Thomas** or stop by OHC's South Main Street kiosk for more information about how Oberlin weathered the epidemic.

Photo: announcement in the *Oberlin News*, October 16, 1918.

Preservation and Improvement Happenings at OHC



It's easy to get used to maintenance problems that creep up, like peeling paint, rot, and sun-weathered wood, but these before (*on far left*) and after (*to the right*) photos clearly show both the dangers of waiting too long and what a difference some TLC can have. Volunteer efforts and funds from the growing Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation allowed the Heritage Center to tackle two overdue maintenance projects this fall. Thanks to **Tim Cottom** and his team for washing and painting over 280 feet of fencing. (We're also grateful to Oberlin College Safety & Security for clearing the way for the paint crew in the adjacent Conservatory parking lot.) A HUGE thanks to volunteer **Scott Broadwell** for re-finishing the original 1884 doors of the Jewett House. They turned out beautifully!

The Lost Streets of Oberlin

Oberlin Officer Delves into Local History Mysteries



City of Oberlin Police Officer **Bashshar Wiley** recently wrapped up an investigation into Oberlin's changing landscape. Combining his knowledge of Oberlin's current street layout with some detective work using historic atlases, Officer Wiley tracked changes to streets over time and documented streets that have disappeared off the map entirely. He shared his findings in a recent blog post on the Heritage Center's website. Officer Wiley, you may recall, was the recipient of the Oberlin Heritage Center's Community Historian Award in 2018 for his work educating the public about local police history. Read more about the history of Oberlin's roadways at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog/2018/10/the-lost-streets-of-oberlin/>.

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. The store 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 the 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



The Heritage Center will be closed Thursday, November 22 (Thanksgiving Day) and open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, November 23 and Saturday, November 24. 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.

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 15. Find out more about gift memberships by sending an e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org or calling (440) 774-1700.

Members Update...continued

A warm welcome goes to new OHC members **Naomi & Willis Todd, Jr.** (Lorain) and **Paul Waller & Katie Sorokas** (Oberlin). We're so glad you are part of the Oberlin Heritage Center! Thank you to **Carl Gerber** (Oberlin) who became a new Endowed Life Member (ELM) at the Copper Level recently and to **Jack & Geni Vanek** (St. Petersburg, FL), current ELMs who moved up to the Silver Level of support. The Heritage Center is grateful for your strong belief in the organization's mission and your investment in its future.

We mourn the passing last month of OHC former Board member **Sharon Fairchild Soucy**. Sharon's commitment to the town and the people of Oberlin truly made this community a better place.

Join or renew as a member today by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on the "Join" button at the top of the home page) or by calling (440) 774-1700.

OHC Staff and Volunteer News



Heritage Center staff and volunteers enjoyed exploring some history events hosted by neighboring local history groups last month during the annual Docent Field Trip to see "how others do it." Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** led the group first to the Spirit of '76 Museum in Wellington to view its special bicentennial exhibit of Archibald Willard paintings. Later, everyone took the opportunity to relax on a fall foliage train ride through southern Lorain County via the Lorain & West Virginia Railway operated by the Lake Shore Railway Association. At left, the group poses in front of the train depot in Wellington, which originally had functioned as a freight depot in Oberlin. Before the day ended, the group also stopped by Brownhelm Cemetery to take part in the

Brownhelm Historical Association's 5th Annual *If Tombstones Could Talk* Cemetery Walk. At the end of the busy day, all agreed that local history preservation is alive and well in Lorain County.

Congratulations to former OHC AmeriCorps member **Sara Fisher** who has been named Community & Operations Manager for Co-Work Oberlin (www.coworkoberlin.org), a new initiative owned by the Oberlin Business Partnership and powered by LaunchHouse.

Former Oberlin Heritage Center intern **Alexandra Nicome** (OC '17) will be part of a panel discussion on *Oberlin and the Future of Museums* during a daylong symposium at Oberlin College focusing on **Creating Space: Curating Black Art Now**. The free event takes place on **Friday, November 2** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Allen Memorial Art Museum (87 North Main Street). For details, call (440) 775-8665 or visit

https://www.oberlin.edu/events/creating_space_curating_black_art_now

Also of Interest



The Oberlin African American Genealogy and History Group (OAAGHG) presents the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** speaking on *A History of African-American Business Owners of Oberlin*. The program takes place on **Saturday, November 3 at 11 a.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). The event is free and open to the public. For more information visit www.oaaghg.com.

Author (and OHC member) **Eugene Schmiel** and his wife, **Kathryn**, are pictured here after presenting a copy of Schmiel's book *Citizen-General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era* to Oberlin College President **Carmen Twillie Ambar** (at far left). The President's campus office is located in the Cox Administration Building, named for this Oberlin College graduate, Union army general, and Ohio governor. Gene Schmiel will return to the area on **Wednesday, November 14** to present a program for the **Western Reserve Civil War Round Table on Union General Cox & the West Virginia Campaign**. All are welcome to attend the event which begins with dinner at 6:15 p.m. at the Baldwin Wallace University Student Union (Colony Room) in Berea, Ohio. (You also may opt to attend just the program without dinner.) For ticket

and reservation information, call (440) 570-0009 or visit www.westernreservecwrt.com.

Calling all local historians and playwrights: **Caesar's Ford Theatre, Inc.** (Xenia, Ohio) is looking for short dramatic scripts based upon people or events in Ohio history to be presented as staged readings in the summer of 2019 as part of *History in Action*, an outdoor festival of new historic drama. Script submission deadline is February 1, 2019. Visit www.caesarsford.com for some suggested themes and further details.

