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

## Thank You to OHC Members and Volunteers! April is National Volunteer Month



Heritage Center Board, staff, members and volunteers gather at the annual holiday breakfast in December 2018.

Members and volunteers are the heart of the Oberlin Heritage Center. They are the movers and shakers who keep the organization moving forward preserving and sharing Oberlin history in many different ways. *All are appreciated for the differences they make.* If you are not involved (yet) with OHC, make this the year you connect with the Heritage Center -- by joining as a member at any level, or by lending your time and talents as a volunteer. New supporters always are needed to keep the organization a vibrant community resource for everyone.

Upcoming volunteer opportunities at the Heritage Center include:

- \* **Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. - Noon. Freedom's Friends Docent Training workshop.** Learn about Oberlin's role in the history of abolition and the Underground Railroad and how to present it in the format of a 90-minute walking tour through historic neighborhoods surrounding downtown Oberlin.
- \* **Saturday, May 4, 11 a.m. Oberlin's Big Parade.** Walk with other Heritage Center volunteers and staff in our group of suffragettes and their supporters as we salute the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage -- adding a bit of history to the community's colorful parade that celebrates the arrival of spring. (Line-up begins at 10:30 a.m. at Oberlin's Prospect School, 36 South Prospect Street.)
- \* **Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. - Noon. OHC Grounds Clean-up Day.** 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.
- \* Volunteers are needed for these 30-minute-per-week responsibilities around the Heritage Center grounds (you can vary the times you help as long as they coincide with any of the hours that the Heritage Center is open for business). **"Librarian" for Little Free Library** to change out books (provided) and keep library tidy. **Perimeter Publicity Helper** to keep current the upcoming event displays located along the boundaries of the OHC grounds (materials provided).
- \* Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts to staff the Heritage Center's welcome/information table at these community events:

*continued on next page...*

## *Volunteer Opportunities at the Heritage Center continued...*

*Saturday and Sunday, May 25-26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oberlin College Commencement / Reunion Weekend.*

*Saturday, June 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Juneteenth community-wide celebration.*

*Saturday, June 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 14th Annual Oberlin Chalk Walk.*

*Saturday, August 3 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oberlin Family Fun Fair.*

Find out more about Heritage Center volunteer opportunities by calling (440) 774-1700 or visiting [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and clicking on "Get Involved" on the home page main menu bar. Join or renew your membership today by visiting the website and clicking on the "Please Join" button at the top of the home page.

## **Annual Meeting Welcomes New Board Members**

### **Thank You to Northwest Bank for Sponsoring This Year's Event**



The April 2 Annual Meeting includes a membership vote to confirm several new Trustees including **Carl Jacobson** (*retired director of the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association*), **Julie Min** (*independent project manager and exhibit developer*) and **Nikki Smith-Hignite** (*Information Technology Project Manager at Ross Environmental, Elyria*).

The Board Governance Committee will recommend that outgoing Board members **Stephen Johnson, III** and **Edward J. Wardwell** be appointed Honorary Trustees as they end their terms of active service.

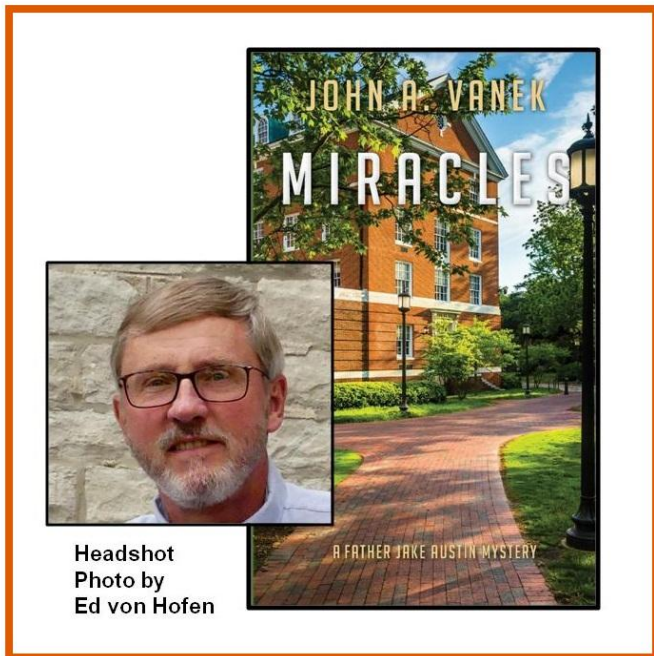
Johnson joined the Board in 2011 and has served as Vice President since 2017. Wardwell joined the Board in 2009 and has served as Treasurer of the organization since 2013. Both men have been outstanding volunteers and plan to continue serving the organization in many other ways.

This year's Annual Meeting features history educators **Gary Kornblith** and **Carol Lasser** sharing highlights from their new book *Elusive Utopia: The Struggle for Racial Equality in Oberlin, Ohio*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event or order/pick-up a copy in advance from the Heritage Center's Museum Store. The evening will close with the presentation of the Oberlin Heritage Center's 18th annual Community Awards.

The Heritage Center's Annual Meeting takes place at The Hotel at Oberlin (10 East College Street), beginning at 5 p.m. with an optional social hour and basket raffle, followed by dinner and the program. Limited tickets are available by calling (440) 774-1700. A *big thank you* is extended to **Northwest Bank** for sponsoring this evening's activities.

# Lorain County Physician-Turned-Mystery-Writer Sheds Light on New Book Series

Tuesday, April 9 at 7:15 p.m.



Learn more about mystery writing amidst the setting of Lorain County landmarks when author **John A. (Jack) Vanek** presents *The Father Jake Austin Mystery Series – Evolution of a Lorain County Sleuth*, a free public program offered at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). Vanek's three-part book series, which features the relatable spiritual gumshoe Father Jake Austin, was launched in 2018 with his first mystery novel *DEROS*. Vanek followed up this year with *Miracles*, in which Jake’s life is turned upside down by three intersecting plots that focus on the relationship between miracles and science, the clash of facts and faith, and the inexplicable production of unexpected miracles from disastrous events. The Father Jake Austin

series is set in Oberlin and Lorain County, and local readers will enjoy not only exciting page-turner stories, but also will be entertained by following the action that takes place in and around familiar territory. Both of Vanek's books are available for purchase in the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store. Learn more about this program at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

# Managing Your Collections Management Policy

Wednesday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to Noon



Oberlin Heritage Center AmeriCorps Member **Riley Thomas** will present a FREE interactive workshop that covers the essentials for creating or updating your organization's collections management policy, including best practices and how to comply with state and federal regulations. The event takes place at Lorain County Community College's Wellington Education Center (151 Commerce Drive in Wellington, Ohio). Make a reservation by April 1. Questions? Contact Riley at (440) 774-1700 or

[riley.thomas@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:riley.thomas@oberlinheritage.org). Register online at [bit.ly/cmpworkshop](http://bit.ly/cmpworkshop).

## New Resource for Local Genealogy & History Researchers

### Free Introductory Workshops Offered on Family Tree Maker Database



Learn how to use a new Oberlin-focused genealogy database that contains over 57,000 individuals. The database represents years of research by former OHC Business Manager and Board member **Pat Holsworth**, who carefully researched local census documents, tax listings, city directory entries and other records to produce this goldmine of information on early Oberlin families. A 30-minute workshop on the basics of the Family Tree Maker database will be offered at 3:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) on **Thursday, April 18** or **Saturday**

**April 27.** (Same half-hour workshop is scheduled for two different dates to accommodate all who are interested.) Group training also can be arranged by appointment. Find out more or register for a workshop at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

Thank you to the **Community Foundation of Lorain County** and OHC member **Anne Martin** for their support of the database project.

## Not Your Ordinary Spring Break Camp!

**April 22-26 from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.**



The first round of spring break camp was held this past week to accommodate some of the local schools' early spring breaks. Here, students are seen acting a scene as doctors with their patient who is a victim of the Middle Ages' *black death*.

Boys and girls ages 8-13 are invited to take part in an intriguing new week-long camp offered by the Oberlin Heritage Center during area schools' spring break this year. This camp looks at people and events in history that made us shudder, yet also influenced society to improve and change in response. For instance, did you know that in colonial America a woman could be accused of witchcraft for having an argument with a neighbor? Or that more soldiers died from disease than from fighting during the American Civil War? Although the "foul facts" of history may be plentiful, the camp is also focused on thinking creatively to solve problems of the past and present. Camps are reasonably priced, with discounts for OHC members and scholarship assistance available if a child qualifies for free or reduced school lunches. Location: Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Find out more or register now at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## A New Way to Connect with Local History



The Oberlin Heritage Center is on Instagram! Find us under the username **@oberlinheritagecenter** for peeks behind the scenes at OHC and more of your favorites such as #WhatIsItWednesday and #PhotoFriday. Help us break 100 followers – we're almost there! Don't forget to "Like" the Oberlin Heritage Center on Facebook, too!

## Spotlight on Local Winners in History Day Competition



Several local high school students competed in the Region 3 Ohio History Day competition held Saturday, March 16 at the Cleveland History Center of the Western Reserve Historical Society and the Case Western Reserve University campus. Participants came from Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit counties with a variety of projects all fitting the theme *Triumph & Tragedy in History*. Did you know that this nationwide competition began in Cleveland, Ohio forty-five years ago as the brainchild of history professors at Case Western Reserve University? Today, National History Day involves hundreds of thousands of students from every state in the union.

Congratulations to Oberlin High School students **Leah Bratton**, **Noelle Ignagni**, and **Rosalie Turner**, who placed third in the Senior Group Website Division with *The Triumph and Tragedy of the*

*Oberlin-Wellington Rescue* (<http://64662990.nhd.weebly.com/>). The team also was awarded a special prize from the Early Settlers Association of the Western Reserve. The high school's History Day advisor is Oberlin teacher (and OHC Honorary Trustee) **Donna Shurr**. This group advances to the state level of competition on Saturday, April 27 in Delaware, Ohio on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University.

Applause goes to several other Oberlin High School students who received special awards for their entries in the regional competition. Receiving a prize from the Early Settlers Association of The Western Reserve was the team of **Emma Kim** and **Daria Martz** for their film documentary titled *Rust on Erie: How Economic Triumph and Tragedy Shaped a Nation*

(<https://www.amazon.com/clouddrive/share/J3WYEV7dU4cmNhsgGEN67R5sIOH3Tc96Yzt2dtvNWfh>).

**Asher Cipinko** (pictured at left with OHC Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan**) received the Heritage Center's Hubbard Prize for his Individual Website on *The King-Crane Commission: 100 Years of Triumph and Tragedy in the Middle East* (<http://88988247.nhd.weebly.com/>). This is Asher's second time receiving the Hubbard prize; in 2017 he took home the award as part of a group website team. The prize is funded by OHC members **Gail and Ned Hubbard**. You'll also want to check out **Ewan Inglis'** excellent website on *Destiny and Defeat: Richard the Lionheart, Saladin, and the Third Crusade* (<http://99296275.nhd.weebly.com/>). The Heritage Center salutes all of these hard-working young historians who represented the community so well at History Day.

OHC also gives a big shout out to **Christian Community School** in nearby North Eaton, Ohio for its fine showing in the regional competition. Known as a local History Day powerhouse, CCS students took home one first place (Senior Group Documentary), three third place (Senior Individual Exhibit, Junior Individual Exhibit and Junior Group Exhibit) and two honorable mention awards (Senior Group Exhibit and Senior Individual Exhibit). The History Day advisors are **Michael Hoehn** and **Mike Demchak**. Demchak will be honored at the OHC Annual Meeting this month with the History Teacher of the Year award.

## Help Plant Historic Roots

**Sunday, April 28 from 1-4 p.m.**

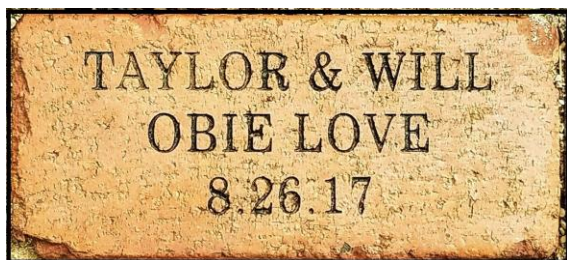
The **Black River Audubon Society** received a \$2,900 grant from the National Audubon Society to plant shrubs and bird-friendly trees on land owned by the **Western Reserve Land Conservancy** ([www.wrlandconservancy.org](http://www.wrlandconservancy.org)) on Hamilton Street in Oberlin. The Heritage Center is supportive of both the tree planting and of drawing more attention to the history of this property, which was once part of the Copeland Family Farm.

John and Delilah (Evans) Copeland migrated to Oberlin in 1843 from North Carolina. Delilah was born free while John was born enslaved and then freed in the will of his owner, who was also his father. They left among a group of fourteen people when it became increasingly difficult and dangerous to continue living free in North Carolina. For a time the Copelands lived on Morgan Street and then bought the farm on Hamilton Street, which previously had been owned by the abolitionist Pease family. For more history of the Copelands, including their son who participated in the raid on Harpers Ferry, see the books *They Stopped in Oberlin*, *Five for Freedom*, and *The Colored Hero of Harper's Ferry*.

If OHC members and friends are interested in being part of the tree-planting day, contact OHC Executive Director **Liz Schultz** for details at (440)774-1700 or [director@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:director@oberlinheritage.org).

## Pave the Way for Local History

**Order Your Inscribed Brick by May 1 for Installation in 2019**



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 summer; bricks ordered later will be installed in summer the following year. Proceeds from the Heritage Center's inscribed brick program help support grounds maintenance and landscaping projects. Order an inscribed brick by calling (440) 774-1700 or visiting [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and clicking on the "Make a Gift" button at the top of the home page.

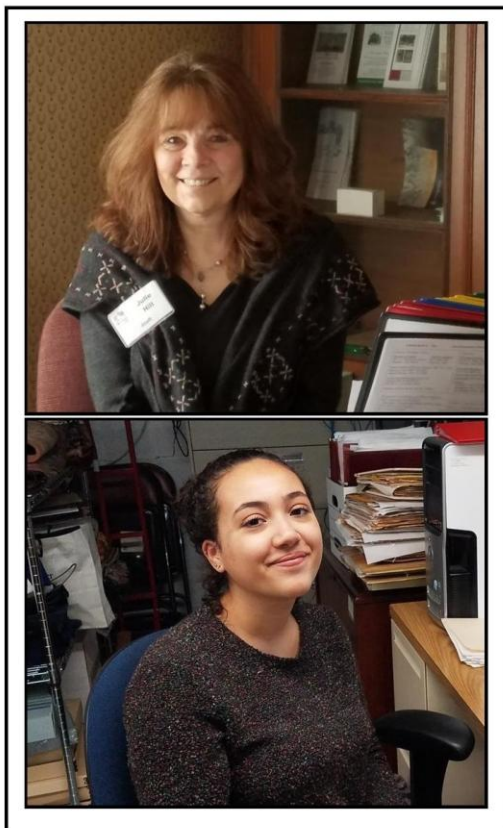
## Heritage Center Wish List

Do you have photographs or documents related to the following businesses or topics that you would be willing to donate or have scanned and returned?

**\*Carter Nursing Home \* Wiggins Nursing Home \* Rainbow Gas Station \* Oberlin Elevator Company \* Oberlin Canteen Company \* Lumber Yard near the Depot \* Taxi Companies \* Green Acres/Children's Home \* Telephone Company**

If you can help, please contact Collections Manager **Maren McKee** at (440) 774-1700 or e-mail [history@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:history@oberlinheritage.org).

## OHC Board, Staff and Intern News



Join us in extending a warm welcome to **Julie Ward Hill** (*top, left*), the Heritage Center's new part-time office assistant and greeter. Julie grew up in Oberlin and is an Oberlin High School alumna. She and her husband live in Amherst and are the parents of two grown children. In her spare time, Julie enjoys painting, playing the violin, and being a pond keeper. (Three of her fish outgrew her own small pond and now live happily in the scenic koi pond that graces the entrance to the Oberlin Conservatory.) You'll find Julie at the Monroe House front desk on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Also please welcome OHC's newest college student intern **Soleil Torres** (*bottom, left*), who is a second-year Oberlin College Bonner Scholar pursuing a degree in cinema studies and creative writing. Soleil hails from Reading, Pennsylvania, and came to the Heritage Center to learn more about historic narratives as a way of providing context for her film-making. At the Heritage Center, Soleil will be researching the history of Latinos in Oberlin as well as serving as a tour docent.

Collections Manager **Maren McKee** recently attended the African American Family History Symposium in Westlake, which included a full day of programs and networking focused on best practices in researching African American family history.

Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan**, AmeriCorps member **Riley Thomas** and Board member **Eboni Johnson** served as judges for the Region 3 History Day competition in Cleveland this past month.

In addition to preparing a Collections Policy Workshop for local history groups in the region (*see feature elsewhere in this newsletter*), **Riley Thomas** also has been helping to plan a Hospitality Workshop for the Cleveland Grays Armory Museum and working on a SWOT analysis for the Cleveland Police Museum. As an Ohio History Service Corps/Local History Corps member, Riley spends half of her time assisting the Heritage Center and half with other local history organizations throughout northeast Ohio.

## Membership Update

### Members Benefit from All Kinds of Savings

Remember that members receive free tours and history walks plus complimentary guest passes for family or friends, discounts on Museum Store purchases, and reductions on events for which there is a fee. All OHC members also are part of the Time Travelers Network and are eligible for reciprocal benefits at more than 300 history-related organizations around the country.

## ***Membership Update continued...***

We welcome **Nikki Smith-Hignite** (Oberlin) as a new OHC member. Special thanks to **Edward (Ned) and Gail Hubbard** (Centreville, VA) who increased their life membership to the Aluminum level.

Memberships at any level always are needed to keep the organization healthy and strong. Every member is appreciated! Join or renew today at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) (click on the "Join Now" button at the top of the home page) or call (440) 774-1700.

## **Also of Interest**

**Wednesday, April 10 - Sunday, April 14, various times. Oberlin Book Sale.** The Spring Book Sale hosted by the Friends of the Oberlin Public Library will be held at the library (65 South Main Street) beginning with a special members' pre-sale on Wednesday evening. New members can join at the door. Questions? Call book sale co-chair Annette Grdijan (440-935-6056) or email [FOPL.Oberlin@gmail.com](mailto:FOPL.Oberlin@gmail.com).

**Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m.** Find out why *You Can't Play Ball in a Skirt!* when **Eden Valley Enterprises** (<http://www.edenvalleyenterprises.org/>) presents this storytelling program at the **Lorain County History Center** (284 Washington Avenue, Elyria). Bette Lou Higgins introduces you to Dr. Alta Weiss who put herself through medical school playing professional baseball on a men's team in the early 20th century. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call (440) 322-3341.

**Friday April 26 and Saturday April 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Grandma's Attic Sale.** The Brownhelm Historical Association hosts its 5th annual sale at the historic Brownhelm School & Museum (1940 N. Ridge Road, Vermilion). You'll find a plentiful assortment of antiques, household goods, furniture and more; admission is free. For more information, contact [brownhelmhistory@gmail.com](mailto:brownhelmhistory@gmail.com).

**Sunday, April 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Support local history and enjoy taking the family out for Sunday brunch at the Jackalope Restaurant (301 Lakeside Avenue, Lorain) in support of the Lorain Lighthouse Foundation's *Brunch for the Beacon*. Tickets are \$20 per person (\$10 for children 10 years old and under) and proceeds from the event will help with the annual operations and continued restoration of this 102-year-old "Jewel of the Port." For more information, visit [www.lorainlighthouse.com](http://www.lorainlighthouse.com) or call (440) 960-2301.

**July 26-28, 2019.** The 20th Conference of *The Society for Women and the Civil War* takes place in and around historic Williamsburg, Virginia this year and includes a full itinerary of learning and exploration. Register by June 25. Find out more at [www.swcw.org](http://www.swcw.org) or contact Mary Louise Daley, Conference Chair, at (216) 406-3036.



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