



## Tours & More Tours: Warm-Weather Options for Everyone Guided, Self-Guided, Even Some with a Side of Tater Tots!



Local residents and long-distance visitors alike will have many opportunities to explore the community's history this month as the Heritage Center offers a full schedule of guided tours and history walks during Oberlin College's Commencement/Reunion Weekend, puts the spotlight on a special self-guided salute to Oberlin service men and women buried in Westwood Cemetery for Memorial Day, and helps launch several free *izi.TRAVEL* Smartphone self-guided tours in collaboration with the Coalition for Oberlin History.

On **Saturday, May 11 from 2-3:30 p.m.**, drop by the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) to learn how to download the free *izi.TRAVEL - City Guides* app to your iPhone or Android to access seven free self-guided history tours of Oberlin. Ask questions, chat with fellow history enthusiasts, register for door prizes, then try out a tour or two. Topics include *Oberlin College History*, *African-American Community History*, *Oberlin Schools' History*, and even *A Kid's Tour of Oberlin!* At 4 p.m., gather with other participants on the second floor of The Feve (30 South Main Street) for tater tots, fellowship and feedback. The **Tours & Tots** event is hosted by the Coalition for Oberlin History, an alliance open to any local resident interested in history initiatives, which includes representatives of the Oberlin Heritage Center, the Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group, and Oberlin College & Archives. Contact Gary Kornblith ([gary.kornblith@oberlin.edu](mailto:gary.kornblith@oberlin.edu)) for more about the tours, how to make your own Oberlin tour, or to learn about the Coalition.

The Heritage Center also offers a wide array of guided tours that are open to the public during **Oberlin College's Commencement/Reunion Weekend (May 24-26)**. Each day throughout the three-day weekend, **Sneak Peek mini-tours** (30 minutes) highlighting Oberlin's founding and early years will be offered at the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street) every half-hour.

For those who want to spend more time on a topic, guided outdoor history walks (60-90 minutes) will focus on several different themes in Oberlin history, including:

From top to bottom:  
*Oberlin Women's History Walk* led by volunteer docent Angela Heilman (left);  
*Freedom's Friends History Walk* pauses for a chance to sit and discuss what they've heard from Trustee/Docent Carl Jacobson (facing); Sid Comings (left), Kitty Denny-Smith and Bruce Colbert lead the *Peek Through the Portal* tour;  
Join us for **Tours & Tots** and the launch of the new *izi.TRAVEL* self-guided phone tours of Oberlin.

## **Oberlin College Commencement/Reunion Weekend continued...**

**A Peek Through the Portal** - A look back at the original Oberlin Conservatory, Warner Hall (Friday, May 24 at 3 p.m.)

**One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk** (Saturday, May 25 at 11 a.m.)

**Freedom's Friends: Underground Railroad & Abolition History Walk** (Saturday, and Sunday, May 25 and 26, at 3 p.m.)

**Oberlin Architecture History Walk** (Saturday, May 25 at 5 p.m.)

**Scholars & Settlers Tappan Square History Walk** (Sunday, May 26 at 5 p.m.)

Learn more about registration, fees, and starting locations by visiting [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or calling (440) 774-1700.

**Tablet tours** (for touring at your own pace) are available for rent Friday through Sunday. Topics include *Freedom's Friends: Underground Railroad & Abolition History Walk* and *Picture the Past: Downtown Oberlin*. Find out more about tablet tours at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and click on the "Visit" tab on the main menu bar.

The Memorial Day holiday is an ideal time to salute Oberlinians who served in the military and took part in war relief efforts. Download the free izi.TRAVEL tour *Oberlin Service Men and Women* created by the Heritage Center which allows you to explore historic Westwood Cemetery and learn about local involvement in various wars and conflicts dating back to the Civil War. For more, go to [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and click on the link in the Upcoming Events box.

Too busy to enjoy a guided history walk this month? The Heritage Center will offer the **Freedom's Friends: Underground Railroad & Abolition History Walk every Saturday at 11 a.m. during the months of June, July and August**. Advance reservations are necessary and may be made at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or by calling (440) 774-1700.

Find out more about all of the Heritage Center's year-round tour options at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and click the "Visit" tab on the main menu bar.

## **March with OHC in Oberlin's BIG PARADE**

**Saturday, May 4 at 11 a.m.**



Oberlin Heritage Center members and friends will march in celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage as part of Oberlin's colorful parade that signals the arrival of spring. (Ohio's ratification of the 19th amendment, which granted women the right to vote, occurred in 1919, while national ratification followed in 1920.) The OHC staff (*at left*) set aside an afternoon recently to make signs and placards to carry in the parade. Contact AmeriCorps Member **Riley Thomas** at (440) 774-1700 or

## OHC in The Big Parade continued...

[riley.thomas@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:riley.thomas@oberlinheritage.org) to add your name to the band of suffragettes and their supporters who plan to take part -- all are welcome. The parade route winds around downtown Oberlin and ends on Tappan Square. Participants will line up at 10:30 a.m. at Prospect School in Oberlin (36 South Prospect Street).

## Archaeologist Brings Award-Winning Film to Oberlin

Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m.



The Oberlin Heritage Center welcomes **George Wingard** (pictured, below left), Program Coordinator at the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program, in a special community event at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). *Discovering Dave - Spirit Captured in Clay* is a film that tells the story of an enslaved potter in early-19th century South Carolina who acquired the rare skills of reading and writing. Wingard co-produced the 2013 documentary which pieces together Dave's remarkable life and artistry. Following the 49-minute film, there will be an opportunity for asking questions and for examining one of Dave's original pots.

The program, which is free and open to the public, is an encore presentation of the film shown during a previous visit that Wingard made to Oberlin in 2016. The current visit is funded in part by the Oberlin Schools Endowment Fund and the Community Foundation of Lorain County, and also will include several educational programs in the Oberlin City Schools about archaeology and Dave the Potter. Find out more about the visit at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## Behind-the-Scenes at the Oberlin College Theater Department

OHC Members-Only Guided Tour: Wednesday, May 29 at 4 p.m.



Join us for a tour of the recently finished Eric Baker Nord Performing Arts Annex, Hall Auditorium, and the Hall Annex (67 North Main Street, Oberlin). Together these venues comprise the majority of the Oberlin College Theater Department's office, teaching, lab, and performance spaces. **Eric Steggall**, Managing Director for Theater, Dance, and Opera, will be our guide. Expect to see some hustling and bustling because rehearsals for the Oberlin Summer Theater Festival begin the very next day! ([www.oberlinsummertheaterfestival.com](http://www.oberlinsummertheaterfestival.com)) The tour is free, and you must be a member of the Heritage Center to take part; non-members are welcome to join prior to registration. Space is limited for this tour, so make a reservation soon at (440) 774-1700 or [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org)

## **A+ Summer Camps for Kids: Architecture + Archaeology**

### **For Boys and Girls Ages 8-13**



**In 2018, OHC member and Oberlin contractor Patrick Ives visited Architecture Camp to talk about different roofing materials. Here, campers try their hand at cutting pieces of slate.**

This summer, the Oberlin Heritage Center hosts the ever-popular **Architecture Camp** where children learn the basics of design, structure, materials, construction, and creating their own mini-buildings. Scouts attending this camp may also complete some requirements for their Architecture badges. The camp will be offered the week of **July 8-12**.

New this year will be a hands-on **Archaeology Camp**, introducing the basics of excavating, screening for artifacts, and preserving objects for the future. Kids will learn how archaeologists develop an understanding of cultures from the past, and even have several opportunities to work in an excavation site on the OHC grounds. Two separate, yet similar, sessions of this camp will be offered the weeks of **August 5-9** and **August 12-16**.

This is the 24th year that the Oberlin Heritage Center is offering original summer camp programming for children. The hands-on-history camps are a past recipient of the History Outreach Award for Public Programming, given by the Ohio Local History Alliance, a consortium of more than 300 history organizations from throughout the state.

OHC kids' camps run from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) with some walking field trips to places nearby. The fee is \$100 per camper per week for OHC members (\$110 for non-members), and any reservation made before June 8 also receives an "early-bird" discount. Scholarship assistance may be available to students who qualify for schools' free or reduced lunch programs.

Learn more about the camps or register now by visiting [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700 and request a summer camp registration form be sent to you.

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

### **Your Help is Needed this Summer and Fall**

**Grounds Clean-up. Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.** Join a merry band of volunteers for an hour or two to spruce up the grounds of the Heritage Center for summer visitors. Help with trimming, weeding, yard clean-up, and more. Tools and supplies are provided, although volunteers also are welcome to bring their own. Let us know you plan to join us by contacting Executive Director **Liz Schultz** at (440) 774-1700 or [liz.schultz@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:liz.schultz@oberlinheritage.org).

**Greeters Needed for OHC's Information Table** during the following summer community events. If you can help for a two-hour shift during the various times listed, please contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at (440) 774-1700 or [amanda.manahan@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:amanda.manahan@oberlinheritage.org).

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*Greeters Needed for OHC Information Table for these events:*



\* **Oberlin College Commencement/ Reunion Weekend. Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26.** (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) on the front lawn of the Jewett House (73 South Professor Street)

\* **Juneteenth. Saturday, June 15** (10 am. to 4 p.m.) on Tappan Square

\* **Oberlin Chalk Walk. Saturday, June 22** (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) on South Main Street adjacent to the Vineway Building (82 South Main Street)



\* **Family Fun Fair. Saturday, August 3** (10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) on Tappan Square

**Bed & Breakfast Hosts** are sought to provide overnight accommodations in their homes to families of incoming college freshmen as they arrive on the Oberlin College campus for new student orientation. B&B donations from these out-of-town guests help support the general operations at the Heritage Center. Dates this year are **between Sunday, August 25 and Wednesday, August 28** (with the greatest demand being on Sunday and Monday nights). Contact OHC Board President **Gail Wood** at [ohcbnb@gmail.com](mailto:ohcbnb@gmail.com) if you can offer a private bedroom (double/twin bed) and a private/shared bathroom, with a simple breakfast in the morning.

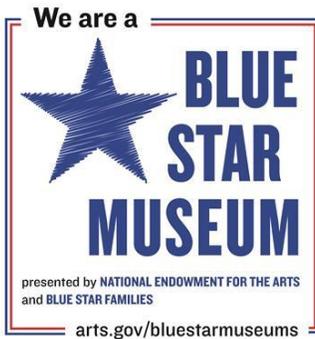


**Call for Cemetery Program Volunteers and Historic Portrayals**  
The Heritage Center will offer a weekend of family-friendly cemetery programs this autumn on the afternoons of **October 11, 12 & 13**. The program features stories of business owners and trades people as told by individuals who dress and act the part of these Oberlinians of the past. This is where we need YOU! Individuals of all ages who are interested in dressing and acting the part of a historical figure are encouraged to volunteer -- prior experience in historical interpretation or acting is not needed. Cemetery guides can expect to speak for no more than 10 minutes, and should plan to be available for all three programs. The Heritage Center will help with composing the historical figures' stories and costumes. We also welcome ideas from you on who you think should be portrayed in this program. All inquiries can be made to Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at (440) 774-1700 or [amanda.manahan@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:amanda.manahan@oberlinheritage.org)..

**OHC Volunteers from top to bottom: (1) Mary Rowland helps with Grounds Clean-Up 2018; (2) Melva Tolbert (left) and Glori-June Gyorfı greet visitors at the Heritage Center's table during Juneteenth festivities, and (3) Camille Hamlin Allen (left), Dennis Cook and Judy Cook portray Oberlinians of the past during the fall Westwood Cemetery living history tour.**

## OHC Offers Free Tours through Blue Star Museum Network

### Free Admission to Active Military and their Families



The Oberlin Heritage Center is among more than 2,000 museums across America that are committed to welcoming active military families this summer season. Now in its tenth year, the Blue Star Museum program is a collaboration begun by the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families (a national nonprofit founded to support and connect military families). Participating museums agree to provide free admission to active military and their families between Armed Forces Day (May 18) and Labor Day (September 2). Some museums, such as the Oberlin Heritage Center, extend their Blue Star welcome to service families all year round. Museums include children's, fine arts, history and science museums.

Find out more, including a full list of participating museums at <https://www.arts.gov/national-initiatives/blue-star-museums>.

## OHC Shout Outs

### Appreciation and Applause All Around



Oberlin High School Ohio History Day participants (from left) Leah Bratton, Noelle Ignagni and Rosalie Turner. Photo submitted by History Day advisor Donna M. Shurr.

The Oberlin Heritage Center is grateful to receive a promotional grant from the **Oberlin Business Partnership** ([www.oberlin.org](http://www.oberlin.org)) / Oberlin Community Promotions program. The \$640 grant will be used to get fresh promotional photographs, send a postcard mailing, and boost summer's biggest events at the Heritage Center on Facebook, all with the intention of drawing regional visitors to Oberlin and supporting local heritage tourism.

Congratulations to the Oberlin High School team of **Leah Bratton, Noelle Ignagni and Rosalie Turner** (*pictured at left*) who competed at the History Day state level contest recently at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. Noelle summarized her History Day experience (and first attempt at making a website) as a great opportunity to dive into a topic of history that interested her, which she might not otherwise learn about in the classroom. All of the Oberlin participants did their projects outside of class time, meeting on weekends and after school to do their research and put together their presentations. Noelle also appreciated that

History Day allowed students to focus on *local* topics, which enhanced their understanding of their own communities. The OHS students' group website, titled *The Tragedy and Triumph of the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue* (<http://64662990.nhd.weebly.com/>), focused on an important event in local history that had a significant impact on national history. The Oberlin Heritage Center salutes all History Day participants from Oberlin and elsewhere -- we're proud to see the next generation of historians so passionate about their research and enthusiastically sharing it with others.

## "FRED" the Ohio Traveler has Fun in Oberlin!

### And Learned Why We DON'T Slide Down the Banister at Monroe House!



*Ohio Traveler* ([www.ohiotraveler.com](http://www.ohiotraveler.com)) e-magazine, a monthly travel and tourism guide to Ohio attractions, recently promoted its #TourGuideToFun doll, inviting sites from throughout the state to host him for 3-4 days this spring. When the announcement came across the desk of OHC Executive Director **Liz Schultz**, she got right on it! In fact, Liz was the *first* to respond from across the state as she signed up the Oberlin Heritage Center to host the doll (à la the *Flat Stanley* project, which features a paper doll traveling the world and making connections among people and places). As soon as the dapper little fellow arrived, OHC staff nicknamed him "Fred," and headed out to show off the sights around town. Photos were taken and captions written to accompany "Fred" back home to *Ohio Traveler* magazine. It was great to see some of the OHC photos posted on the travel website ([www.ohiotraveler.com/tour-guide-to-oberlin-ohio/](http://www.ohiotraveler.com/tour-guide-to-oberlin-ohio/)) to encourage visitors to spend time exploring Oberlin this summer.

Sign up for a free subscription to *Ohio Traveler* by sending an e-mail to [ZoneFreePublishing@gmail.com](mailto:ZoneFreePublishing@gmail.com) and including the words "Free Subscription" on the subject line.

## OHC History Minute

### AmeriCorps Member Riley Thomas Reflects on a Favorite Museum Artifact



*Gift to the OHC museum collection from Richard L. Jewett.*

In the Jewett House Study, there is an ivory box tucked away on a Japanese lacquered curio cabinet. It's easy to miss, but it is one of the Oberlin Heritage Center's most stunning objects. The elephant ivory is skillfully carved, depicting detailed floral motifs and scholars in various landscapes. Its interior is lined with velvet. The box was a gift from Cheng Tsao Ju, His Imperial Chinese Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary – the equivalent to an Ambassador to the United States - to Kwai Pahn Lee (1857-1898) and Sarah Elisabeth Standish Jewett (1846-1904) in the mid-1880s. Sarah was the sister of Frank Jewett. According to

the *Trenton Evening Times* (12/7/1898), Lee was one of twelve students sent to the United States by the Emperor of China to receive an education. He met Sarah Jewett at preparatory school in Norwich, Connecticut and the two married in Oberlin on February 23rd, 1893. They are buried in Read and Herskell Cemetery in Lisbon, Connecticut. Historic house museums always have many interesting objects that you might pass by on first glance, so make sure to take a moment to stop and look more closely – you never know what you will find!

## Membership Update

### Saluting Long-Time and Brand-New Members!



Applause and appreciation to supporters who are celebrating 25 years of OHC membership this year! All who are part of this "quarter-century" club received special recognition on their name badges at the Annual Meeting last month. Last year the E-Gazette saluted two dozen OHC members who had achieved the 25-year milestone with the organization. In 2019, those reaching 25 years with the Heritage Center include: **Judith Appleton, Jack & Fran Baumann, Jeanne R. Bay, Barb Bickel, Sharon W. Blecher, Ellen & Scott Broadwell, Rick Bryant, Anita Buckmaster, Jack & Kathleen Clark, Ann & Norm Craig, Marsha Darcy,**

**Jan & Jerry DeMarinis, J.D. Donovan, Marion Drummond, Ann L. Fuller, Mrs. Richard R. Hallock, Sabra Henke, Karen & Terry Hobbs, Kathy & Mark Jaffee, Bert Latran Jr., Penny Locke, Bob & Carol Longworth, Al & Ann MacKay, Marilyn McDonald, Kathleen & Richard Nord, Barbara B. Patterson, Cate & Paul Schwaegerle, Ed Schwaegerle, Judy & Warren Sheldon, Shirley J. Shubert, Andrée & Jim Underwood, Gail & Reid Wood, Lee B. Wood** and Business Members **Ben Franklin Store (Krista Long), Lin-Barry Incorporated (Barry & Linda Jones), McKay Lodge Fine Arts Conservation Lab (Robert Lodge & Gina McKay Lodge), National Business Brokers (Mike Galbreath), and Turnbull Trucking & Excavating (Claud Turnbull)**. *(If you think your name should be on this list, please do let us know so we may update our records.)*

A very special thank you goes to **Marty Buck** who stepped up to become a new Endowed Life Member (ELM) at the Copper Level last month.

It's wonderful to welcome these new members to the Heritage Center: **Melanie Birchfield** (Wakeman), **Dick & Nancy Cecil, Joyce Daugherty, Stephanie Kramer** (Huron), **Philip Pritchett, Andy Ries** (Elyria), **A. V. Shirk, Karin Siddall-Hupala** (Lake Oswego, OR), **Barb Smith, Nancy Snyder,** and **Philip Thornton** (Petoskey, MI). All are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise. Your support helps keep the organization a strong and vital community resource for all!

Join or renew your OHC membership today and keep the 25-year-club growing! You can take care of membership dues at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) (click on the "Please Join" button at the top of the home page) or call (440) 774-1700 to request a membership brochure. And remember OHC also can set up an automatic credit card payment plan if you'd prefer to do a recurring monthly, quarterly or annual gift. (Keep in mind that this is a simple and easy way to become an Endowed Life Member, too -- several current ELMs are using the option to join this special circle of OHC friends.)

## Staff, Intern and Volunteer News

The Heritage Center staff enjoyed a recent afternoon visit from Rick Payerchin of the *Lorain Morning Journal* to find out more about our personal favorites among the people, places and

## *Staff, Intern and Volunteer News continued...*

events in local history. Check out Rick's newspaper feature to see our "Staff Picks" and discover some of the lesser-known stories in Oberlin history. ([www.morningjournal.com/news/lorain-county/oberlin-historians-share-favorites-of-forgotten-lore/article\\_6c285e56-614c-11e9-9b5e-77c3d52a9aa4.html](http://www.morningjournal.com/news/lorain-county/oberlin-historians-share-favorites-of-forgotten-lore/article_6c285e56-614c-11e9-9b5e-77c3d52a9aa4.html))

Hurrah to several members of the Oberlin College Track Team who spent a rainy Sunday morning volunteering at the Monroe House washing windows, sweeping out the attic, organizing supplies in the basement, and much more. Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** handed out assignments and treated the students to a free mini-tour of the historic house before they returned to campus.

AmeriCorps member, **Riley Thomas** has been working with several local history organizations including groups in Bedford, Broadview Heights, Chippewa Lake and Plymouth. At the Heritage Center, Riley is researching and developing two public programs to present in the near future, which coincide with the upcoming centennial of women's suffrage in America. Find out more about her June presentation in the "Also of Interest" section below.

Executive Director **Liz Schultz** will offer a mini-seminar on the Oberlin Genealogy Database for the upcoming Genealogy Lock-in at the Oberlin Public Library (see more about this event in the "Also of Interest" section below).

## **Also of Interest**

The **Oberlin Business Partnership** hosts a **Comedy Night Fundraiser** on **Friday, May 10 from 6:45 - 9:30 p.m.** at the New Russia Township Lodge (46300 Butternut Ridge Road, Oberlin). The event supports Oberlin's free Summer Concert Series on Tappan Square, a community tradition for more than 25 years. Enjoy live music, raffles, snacks, desserts and cash bar. The comedy show begins at 7:30 p.m. with three featured comedians. Tickets are \$20 per person now through May 3, and \$25 thereafter. Visit [www.oberlin.org](http://www.oberlin.org) or call (440) 774-6262 for more.

**Biennial Genealogy Lock-In. Friday, May 10 from 5:30 p.m. to Midnight. (doors locked at 6 p.m.)** Beginning and experienced genealogists are invited to an after-hours research event at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). Attend mini-seminars, get help from genealogy experts, and use genealogy databases and library resources to research your family. This free event is sponsored by the Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group (OAAGHG), the Wellington Genealogy Group and the Oberlin Public Library. Find out more or register in advance at [http://oaaghg.com/oaaghg\\_programs\\_events/2019\\_biennial\\_genealogy\\_lock-in](http://oaaghg.com/oaaghg_programs_events/2019_biennial_genealogy_lock-in).

The next meeting of Oberlin's **Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee** will take place on **Thursday, May 16 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). For more information, contact Jean Foggo Simon at [foggo@oberlin.net](mailto:foggo@oberlin.net).

OHC AmeriCorps member **Riley Thomas** will present at the **June 1 (11 a.m.)** meeting of the **Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group** (<http://oaaghg.com/home>). The topic focuses on *Black Women's Suffrage in Ohio and Beyond*. The program takes place at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) and is free and open to all.