



Summer is a Great Time to Connect with Local History! OHC Summer/Fall Events Calendar to be Mailed to Members Soon; Consider Becoming a Docent Volunteer and Learn to Lead History Walks



OHC Honorary Trustee Michele Andrews (far left) is one of four docents who lead the Freedom Friends History Walks – OHC is looking for more volunteers to join this docent team.

New original programming, field trips, tours, kids' camps and more -- the busy summer visitor season is underway at the Heritage Center. There are many ways to experience local history in the coming months! Stay informed through the new calendar of events that soon will arrive in OHC members' mailboxes. Not yet a member? Join now at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on the "Join Now" button at the top of the home page).

Volunteer docents are needed especially as guides for the Freedom's Friends Underground Railroad & Abolitionist History Walk. This is a wonderful opportunity to delve more deeply into Oberlin's history and learn to share it with others. Training can be scheduled at convenient times, and new volunteers receive lots of support from OHC staff and seasoned docents as well. Contact Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700 for more information.

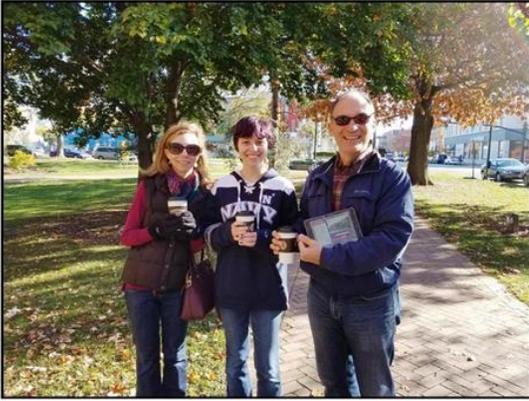
History in Motion

Try a Guided History Walk or Self-Guided Mobile Tour

Warmer weather brings with it several outdoor tour opportunities:

Learn about Oberlin's famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom by taking part in the **Freedom's Friends: Underground Railroad & Abolitionist History** walk offered **each Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in June, July and August**. The 90-minute tour begins at The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C. and winds its way across town and through the Heritage Center before the last story is shared at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Fee is \$6/adult; free to OHC members, any college student and children accompanied by an adult. Reservations are required (even if tour is free). The Heritage Center also offers other walking tours that focus on different themes in Oberlin's history available to groups of eight or more by appointment. Descriptions of all themed history walks may be found at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org. Register for a summer Freedom's Friends history walk online or call (440) 774-1700 for more.

History in Motion continued...



Exploring Oberlin through a history tour is a great activity for families to do together. This family is enjoying the outdoor sun while following the self-guided "Picture the Past" tablet tour.

For those who prefer a "do-it-yourself" format, borrow an iPad from the Heritage Center and move through Oberlin history at your own pace. The **Freedom's Friends: Underground Railroad** tablet tour is a self-guided version of the history walk that includes some added stories connected to Oberlin's early civil rights history. The **Picture the Past: Downtown Oberlin** tablet tour covers a one-block radius extending from the corner of Main and College Streets and is filled with fun facts, historic photographs and more. Each iPad tour may be borrowed at an hourly rate between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Learn more about the Heritage Center's tablet tours by calling (440) 774-1700 or visiting <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/visit/tablet-tours>.

Perfect for anyone -- near or far -- are seven new Oberlin history tours that you can follow from your own Smartphone. Now you can "tour" Oberlin even if you live at a distance by downloading the free *izi.TRAVEL* app available for both iPhones and Androids through your app store. The following tours are brought to you by the Coalition for Oberlin History:

- **Oberlin College: The First Century**
- **Oberlin's African-American Community: Historic Groveland**
- **Oberlin History Highlights: A Short Introduction**
- **More Oberlin History Highlights: The Struggle for Racial Justice**
- **History of the Schools of Oberlin**
- **Oberlin Service Men and Women in Westwood Cemetery**
- **A Kid's Tour of Oberlin**

The Coalition is an alliance of local residents from a range of institutions and diverse backgrounds who share an interest in Oberlin's many stories of the past and their public presentation. Supporters include members of the Oberlin Heritage Center, the Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group, the Oberlin College Archives and the Oberlin College community. The Coalition for Oberlin History is open to all who are interested in history initiatives. For more information, including help creating your own history tour, contact **Gary Kornblith** at gary.kornblith@oberlin.edu.



Unplug, Recharge with Old-Fashioned Games

Again this summer, the Heritage Center will make available its schoolyard games FREE to all ages. Choose from classic lawn games like ring toss, jump rope, the hoop-and-stick, or enjoy the great tree swing. For a slower pace, relax in the shade and practice your dexterity with hand games like the ball-and-cup toy. Stop by the Monroe House first (at 73½ South Professor Street) to sign games out Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. now through the end of August. Call (440) 774-1700 for more.

Early Bird Gets the Summer Camp Savings

Register by June 8 and Save!



One of the field trips of the Heritage Center's Architecture Camp includes an in-depth visit to the Weltzheimer-Johnson House in Oberlin, an example of "organic architecture" pioneered by renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Hands-on-history learning and fun come together in the Heritage Center's week-long summer camps designed for boys and girls ages 8-13. This year our signature **Architecture Camp** will be held **July 8-12** and a **NEW Archaeology Camp** is offered **August 5-9** and again **August 12-16** (*same camp, two different weeks*). Camps run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and begin each day at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) with some walking field trips and activities occurring in places nearby. Scholarship assistance is available to students who qualify for schools' free or reduced lunch programs. Find out more at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

Explore Oberlin with the Heritage Center: Visit AgriNomix

Tuesday, July 2 at 9:00 a.m.



The Oberlin Heritage Center is coordinating a tour of **AgriNomix** (300 Creekside Drive, Oberlin), North America's largest supplier of automation products and support services to the horticulture industry. The visit is part of a series of behind-the-scenes tours that allow interested members and guests the chance to explore local businesses and services and learn more

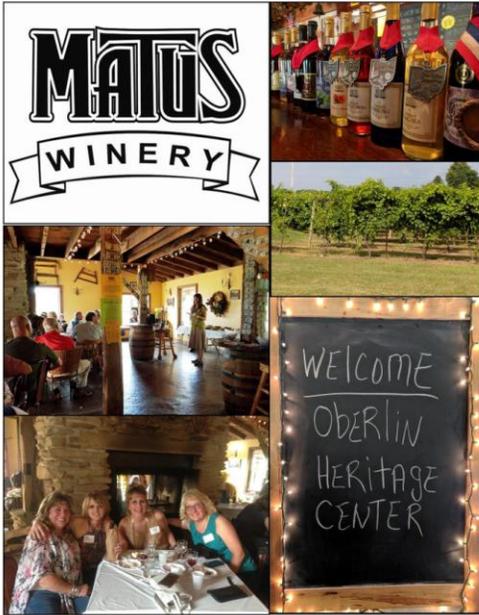
about what makes the community run. The 90-minute tour will feature company executives Rob Lando, CEO, Jack Ford, VP Sales, and Joe Smith, VP Manufacturing talking with the group about the North American Horticulture industry, automation products being used, and the impact of this local company to the wider industry. Participants also will have the opportunity to see machine building in action as we tour the facility. Preregistration is required and the \$12 field trip fee (\$8 for OHC members) supports the programs and services of the Heritage Center. Register online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Vintage & Vintner: Wine & History at Matus Winery

Tuesday, July 16 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.; Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

The Oberlin Heritage Center's fourth annual mid-summer soiree welcomes members and friends (21 and over) to the award-winning **Matus Winery** (15674 Gore Orphanage Road, Wakeman) for an evening of fine wines, good company, and a splash of history. Special thanks go to the event's premier sponsor **Kurt G. Sarringhaus Co., L.P.A.** (www.sarringhauslaw.com) and co-sponsor **Cowling Funeral Home** (www.cowlingfuneralhomeoh.com). As guests arrive, they'll be welcomed by the smooth jazz guitar of musician **Rich Holsworth** while they enjoy an array of finger foods along with a fun assortment of side raffles. During the evening, winery owner

Vintage & Vintner continued...



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Bob Matus will share some finer points about wine, followed by a mini history program on *The 50th Anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing* presented by OHC Executive Director **Liz Schultz**. Reservations are \$30 per person with all revenue from the event supporting the Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation.

Admission provides each guest with tickets for two glasses of wine (or non-alcoholic beverage), with more available for purchase. Make your reservations early as the event has sold out in previous years. Call (440) 774-1700 or register online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

Grant News!



The Oberlin Heritage Center is delighted to announce that the Ohio Humanities Council recently awarded the organization a \$2,000 grant to support OHC's project *Benchmarking Best Practices for Self-Guided Tours in Historic House Museums*. This funding will support Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan**'s time and travel to five historic house museums throughout Ohio to review their current tours.

The grant will also support bringing in a consultant to assess OHC's current tours and buildings in order to suggest new self-guided tour options for our site.

AmeriCorps Position Open at Oberlin Heritage Center Ohio History Service Corps to Assist in 8 Regions Across the State

The Oberlin Heritage Center is pleased to announce that the organization has been chosen as a host site for an Ohio History Service Corps/AmeriCorps member for the 2019-2020 program year. The selected participant will work part-time on projects at the Oberlin Heritage Center and part-time assisting other history organizations in the region. The program is managed by the Ohio History Connection in Columbus, and the year of service runs from September through August. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and a college graduate. In order to be considered for the position, all prospective members (including any current members interested in returning for an additional year of service) must apply through the My AmeriCorps website. Applicants are encouraged to submit materials early as application reviews and interviews begin immediately. Learn more at www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps.



Volunteer Opportunities at the Heritage Center

Be a One-Time Helper, a Weekly Volunteer -- or Somewhere in Between!



Greeters are needed for the OHC Information Table (two-hour shifts) for these upcoming events:

* **Juneteenth.** Saturday, June 15 (9:30 am. to 4:30 p.m.) on Tappan Square

* **Oberlin Chalk Walk.** Saturday, June 22 (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) on South Main Street adjacent to the Vineway Building (82 South Main Street)

* **Family Fun Fair.** Saturday, August 3 (10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) on Tappan Square

Volunteers also are needed to help supervise old-fashioned games at Tappan Square during the **Community Picnic & Concert** on Friday, July 19 (6:00 - 9:00 p.m.). Games precede the concert, so plan to stay and bring along a lawn chair or blanket, then settle in to enjoy the high-energy sound of Oberlin's own Soul Proprietors band.

Front Desk Volunteers are needed Friday mornings (10:00 a.m. to Noon) or Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday afternoons (1:00 - 3:00 p.m.). Training is provided for answering phones and greeting visitors; volunteers are encouraged to bring a book to read when the office is quiet.

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. 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** (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.

Cemetery Program Volunteers and Historic Portrayals. The Heritage Center will offer a weekend of family-friendly cemetery programs on the afternoons of **October 11, 12 & 13**. We're looking for volunteers to dress and act the part of business owners and trades people of Oberlin's past. Prior experience in historical interpretation or acting is not necessary. Volunteers will speak for no more than 10 minutes each, and should plan to be available for all three programs. The Heritage Center will help with composing the historical figures' stories and costumes. Learn more about OHC's volunteer opportunities by contacting Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700.

History Minute

Executive Director Liz Schultz Offers a Glimpse of the Business College

As we approach the end of the academic year it might be of interest to readers to learn more about the school that is no longer in town – the Oberlin School of Commerce, also known as the Oberlin Business College. The school, which coalesced circa 1860 and closed in 1973, went through several physical, administrative, and academic transformations over the years. The following is an excerpt from a supplement in the June 17, 1875 issue of the *Oberlin Weekly News*. (It certainly has the ring of a paid supplement!)

History Minute continued...



Credit: OHC Resource Center

Top: hand-colored postcard of the Oberlin Business College published by E.A. Stevens, c. 1916. Gift of Mildred Haines.

Bottom: Black & white photograph of the student body of the Oberlin Business College, circa 1895. Gift of Wade Hallauer.

Students are taught book-keeping in all its various forms, by single and double entry in stock and partnership sets, wholesale and retail merchandising, commission, compound and joint stock businesses, banking, railroading, steamboating, arming, manufacturing, jobbing, brokerage, exchange, commercial arithmetic, showing its application to banking, commission, equation of payments, etc. lightning calculations in interest, problems by which the students can determine the interest on any amount for any time by a moment's inspection; also all kinds of commercial paper, and business documents belonging to above.

Commercial law is one of the prominent features of the course and is discussed with the thoroughness of a law college. Thorough drill is given in Spencerian penmanship, both practical and ornamental. In short, every department is complete in all respects. and the person who cannot learn how to keep books here and do all kinds of business, may well despair of his "faculties" and leave the business world all at once. No one wishing to secure a practical business education should fail to examine into the merits of this college. Circulars containing full particulars will be sent free upon application to the Principal, Prof. H. T. Tanner.

You can learn more about the Oberlin School of Commerce in the materials and oral histories located at the OHC Resource Center in the Monroe House. If you have stories, photos or artifacts to share, we'd love to hear from you -- contact OHC's Collections Manager **Maren McKee** at (440) 774-1700 or history@oberlinheritage.org.



AmeriCorps Member Riley Thomas (right) presents John "Pitt" Gorske of Oberlin's Sperry-Gorske Agency with a business panel for his insurance and real estate office at 21 South Main Street.

Watch for Downtown Business History Panels

Telling the Stories of Oberlin Commercial Buildings

Have you noticed snapshots of history popping up in local shops, restaurants, and other Oberlin businesses? AmeriCorps/Ohio History Service Corps member **Riley Thomas** has been putting together panels that describe the history of the buildings in which these businesses reside. Originally started in 2015 when it was funded in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, this project aims to give patrons of Oberlin businesses a peek into the past and help them discover and connect to the history they are surrounded by at any given moment.

For more information, or if you own a business in Oberlin and are interested in receiving a panel, call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail

Riley.Thomas@oberlinheritage.org.

Oberlin Community Calendar Keeps You in the Know

A One-Stop Date Book at Your Fingertips!



Just a reminder that students and staff of the Environmental Dashboard program at Oberlin College have created an easy-to-use, free community calendar for organizations to share information about local events. Bookmark the page and stay up-to-date on all the wonderful events going on around town! Spread the word to your club and community leaders to let them know about this news-sharing opportunity as well. Check out the community calendar now at <https://environmentaldashboard.org/calendar/>.

Membership Update

Welcome to new OHC members **Julia Cooke**, **Connie Ippolito** (Lakewood), **Dale Kiefer** (Kent), **Randy & Chris Smith** and **Thomas William Taylor** (Downers Grove, IL). (Members are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) Thank you for your warm support!

If you enjoy receiving this newsletter, and are not yet an OHC member, please show your support by joining the Heritage Center. Memberships at any level are always needed and appreciated. New and renewing members can take care of business online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

Staff, Intern and Volunteer News

OHC staff members are in the spotlight on Instagram! First up was Assistant to the Director **Mary Anne Cunningham**, not only the longest-time member of the staff but also the one whose name comes earliest in the alphabet ☺. Learn something new about each of the Heritage Center's staff members by becoming one of OHC's Instagram followers (now numbering 125 -- and growing!) Follow us under the username **@oberlinheritagecenter**.

Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** talked to Oberlin High School students about the Tuskegee Airmen and Oberlin connections when she recently visited the social studies classrooms of Kurt Russell and Bill Roeniger.

The Heritage Center bid a fond farewell to its fine team of college student interns at the end of May. Special congratulations and best wishes were sent with **Julia Cooke**, Oberlin College Class of 2019, who graduated with a double major in English and Environmental Studies.

AmeriCorps/Ohio History Service Corps member **Riley Thomas** is putting the final touches on a new Kiosk display about Oberlin's LGBT history as a salute to June being Pride Month. Stop by to see the mini-exhibit at the Heritage Center's kiosk just north of the Vineway Building (80-82 South Main Street).

Thank you to volunteers **Terry Hobbs**, **Ed Wardwell** and the **Kendal at Oberlin Woodworkers** who spruced up the Heritage Center's Little Free Library, a mini replica of OHC's Little Red Schoolhouse. Check it out (and borrow a book) at its location on the Schoolhouse grounds.

Staff, Intern and Volunteer News continued...

The Heritage Center enjoyed welcoming Elyria High School student **Cassidy Baker** for a day of visiting with staff to learn more about the work involved in museum administration, history education, collections care, and more. Cassidy spent time at the Oberlin Heritage Center as part of her high school final project which involved a month-long experience working with and learning from the **Lorain County Historical Society** and shadowing director **Kerri Broome**. Cassidy plans to attend Walsh University (Canton) in the fall and major in museum studies.



OHC staff and volunteers marched in Oberlin's Big Parade last month to celebrate the upcoming Centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote. *At left:* Executive Director Liz Schultz, Honorary Trustee Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, and volunteer Mary Lee Orr prepare to march down College Street. Liz is wearing a reproduction 1915-era woman's suit created by Oberlin College Winter Term students for the Heritage Center earlier this year. *At right:* A multigenerational group of suffragettes (photo courtesy of OHC member Betty Morris).

Also of Interest

Oberlin Heritage Center AmeriCorps member **Riley Thomas** presents *Black Women's Suffrage in Ohio* at the **Saturday, June 1** meeting of the Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group (OAAGHG). Also speaking that day is Officer **Bashshar Wiley** of the Oberlin Police Department on *The Lost Streets of Oberlin*. The presentations begin at **11:00 a.m.** and are free and open to the public. Location: Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street).

The Moreland Hills Historical Society presents *A Visit with Young James Garfield and His Mother Eliza* at President Garfield's Birthplace (4350 SOM Center Road, Moreland Hills) on **Saturday, June 1 at 12:00 noon**. For more information, visit www.mhsohio.org.

A new documentary film *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am* will be shown on **Friday, June 28 at 7 p.m.** and **Sunday, June 30 at 2 p.m.** at the Lorain Palace Theater (617 Broadway Ave, Lorain). The **Lorain Historical Society** will host an opening reception prior to the June 28 showing. Guests will have an opportunity to meet with the editor and producer of the film, Johanna Giebelhaus, who worked closely with the LHS and the Lorain Public Library while doing research for the film about Morrison, a Lorain native. A Q&A session with Giebelhaus will follow both showings of the film. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the Lorain Palace box office (440-245-2323) or online at <http://lorainpalace.org/schedulevents/>. Proceeds from this screening will be donated to charity in Lorain County.