

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette August 2019

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## Local Activism, National Impact: Women's Suffrage in Oberlin Presentation Offered Two Dates at Different Local Venues



AmeriCorps/Ohio History Service Corps member **Riley Thomas** discusses the Oberlinians who fought for women's suffrage, working against discrimination on the basis of both race and sex. Drawing from newspaper accounts and historical records, the presentation takes a look at activism in a small town, and how it connected to the larger national movement and events that led up to Ohio's ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1919, and national ratification in 1920. Plan to attend this free, public program either on **Thursday, August 1 at 6 p.m.** presented at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) or on **Tuesday, August 13 at 7:15 p.m.** in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive).

A native of Avon Lake, Thomas received her undergraduate degree in Art Conservation and Anthropology from the University of Delaware in 2018. She will complete her year of service as an AmeriCorps member in August and will begin a six-month internship in conservation techniques later this fall in Washington, DC through the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

Find out more about both programs at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## Oberlin's 27th Annual Family Fun Fair Saturday, August 3 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Oberlin's summer tradition of the Family Fun Fair & Classic Car Show coordinated by the Oberlin Business Partnership features FREE activities all over town designed for families with young children. New this year: the Oberlin Heritage Center will bring its historic games and activities north to join the festivities in Tappan Square. We'll have historic books and games for sale, too. Be sure to stop by OHC's booth for a fun visit! Enjoy music, vintage automobiles and sidewalk sales galore -- all part of the Fun Fair. Plan to make a day of it in downtown Oberlin.

For more information, visit [www.oberlin.org](http://www.oberlin.org).



# Enjoy Outdoor History Fun Before Summer Ends

## History Walks and Old-Fashioned Games Continue through August 31



Docent (and OHC Trustee) Carl Jacobson begins the Freedom's Friends History Walk in the beautiful and historic setting of the Meeting House of The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C.

If you've been meaning to take the Heritage Center's Freedom's Friends History Walk this summer -- now is the time. This popular history walk, offered the five Saturdays in August at 11 a.m., guides visitors through the community to see landmarks up-close, hear stories of local figures who once walked the same pathways, and view historical images that connect both past and present. Advance reservations are required for history walks. Visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) for tour fee information and starting location.

The waning days of summer also are a great time to make sure you fit some "play" time into your life! Enjoy the Heritage Center's outdoor Old-Fashioned Games by inviting a friend or family member to join you in some fresh-air-and-fun on the OHC

grounds; FREE for all ages. Sign-out games such as hoops & sticks, jump ropes, quoits, and more at the Monroe House (at 73½ South Professor Street) Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Looking Ahead -- Save the Dates

### OHC's September Calendar Has Something for Everyone!



Coming up in September are all kinds of opportunities for preserving your own history or learning more about events and themes connected to local history:

**September 5-21: Guest Exhibit *Mexican Icons of Our Lady of Guadalupe*.** Learn more about one of the most significant figures of Catholicism and the patroness of the Americas, and how she is tied to Mexico's religious and social history. This special exhibit

is presented at the Heritage Center's Monroe House by **The Museum of Hispanic and Latino Cultures** (Lorain, Ohio) and may be viewed as part of the Upstairs/Downstairs tour offered every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., or during 30-minute drop-in Sneak Peek tours. (Normal tour fees apply; visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) for details.)

**September 14 at 1 p.m.: Parlor Chat *Our Lady of Guadalupe Special Exhibit*.** Guillermo Arriaga, president of The Museum of Hispanic and Latino Cultures offers a free one-hour parlor talk in the Monroe House. Limited seating; reservations required.

**September 14 and 28 by appointment: Scanning Saturdays.** The Heritage Center will assist you to preserve and share your special photographic memories by helping to archive them digitally. Sign up for a 30-minute time slot to receive a high-quality scan of photos up to 11 x 17 inches. Bring up to 10 items to scan at \$1 each (\$.50 for OHC members). Contact Collections Manager **Maren McKee** at 440-774-1700 or [history@oberlinheritagecenter.org](mailto:history@oberlinheritagecenter.org) for details.

## Save the Date (continued)

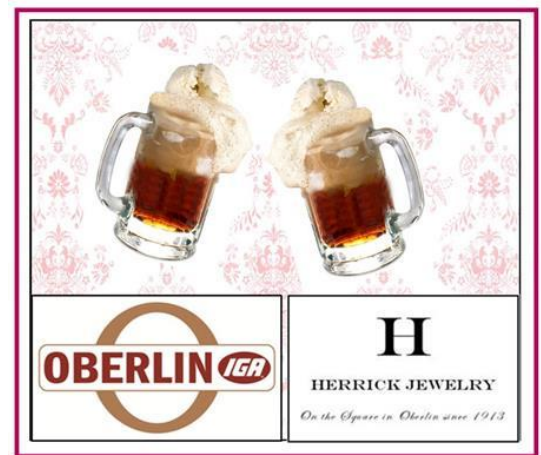
**September 21: Smithsonian Museum Day.** In honor of Museum Day's *Celebrate the Year in Music* theme, the Heritage Center will offer FREE *Music in the Home* tours at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. with the Museum Day Admission Card available at [www.Smithsonianmag.com/museumday](http://www.Smithsonianmag.com/museumday) Listen and learn how music was used for teaching, fellowship, and entertainment in 19th century homes on this one-hour guided tour that features musical artifacts and sounds of the times.

**Upstairs/Downstairs tour training is offered October 3 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Docents receive training on how to present an engaging 75-minute tour through the Heritage Center's three historic buildings while sharing stories of the community and college in its first century. Register by September 25. (Talk to Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at 440-774-1700 or [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) to take a free tour ahead of time to find out what being a docent is all about.)

## **Root Beer & Yesteryear**

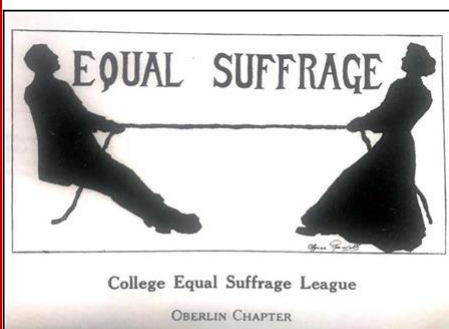
**Sunday, September 8 from 1 - 4 p.m.**

Visitors of all ages will enjoy this fun afternoon of historical games, music, re-enactors, and exhibits on the Heritage Center grounds. Mini-presentations will be offered on the half hour, and guests can tour the historic buildings or relax with a refreshing root beer float. All activities and treats are free. Special thanks to **Oberlin IGA**, root beer float sponsor, and to **Herrick Jewelry**, event co-sponsor. Look for further details to appear in the September issue of the E-Gazette.



## **History Minute**

### **AmeriCorps Member Riley Thomas Provides a Sneak Peek at Upcoming Women's Suffrage Program**



**Image: Oberlin College Hi-O-Hi Yearbook, 1911**

Among the many clubs and extracurricular activities at Oberlin College in the early 20th century was the Equal Suffrage League. In 1908, Maud Wood Park, the Vice President of the National College Equal Suffrage League (NCSL) gave an address at Oberlin College promoting the NCSL and urged Oberlin to found their own chapter. Students Irene Merrick and Miss Scott along with faculty members Mary E. Sinclair and Antoinette B. P. Metcalf formed a committee to draw up a constitution and thus, the Oberlin College Equal Suffrage League began, with Merrick as its first president. According to the League's notes in the annual Hi-O-Hi, there initially was disinterest or opposition to women's suffrage

when the league began, however by the latter half of the 1910s, they noted a spike in membership and support.

## *History Minute (continued)*

The Equal Suffrage League held open meetings and was known for bringing speakers to campus including Sylvia Pankhurst, an English militant suffragist. A popular topic of discussion was how granting women the right to vote influenced society in places such as New Zealand and Australia. As the fight for suffrage picked up, members of the College Equal Suffrage League began to volunteer for the town and county leagues by campaigning and organizing joint meetings and events. In 1917, the official purpose of the Equal Suffrage League changed, and student officers and faculty advisors announced they would no longer be bringing speakers to campus. What initially began as an effort to raise awareness and encourage discussion about women's suffrage evolved into a group that would be a medium for organization during times of "political unrest" and serve as an initial point of contact for students interested in getting involved with local and state suffrage organizations.

For more information about Oberlin's involvement in the suffrage movement join us for the free public program *Local Activism, National Impact: Women's Suffrage in Oberlin* on either:

- **August 1 (6:00 p.m.)** at the Oberlin Public Library or
- **August 13 (7:15 p.m.)** at Kendal at Oberlin.

## **Re-Paving the Path to Education** **Preservation in Action at the Heritage Center**

One of the strategic goals of the Oberlin Heritage Center is to make its buildings and histories accessible to people with various needs, interests, and mobility devices. Unfortunately, the wheelchair accessible pathway to the Little Red Schoolhouse was starting to pothole, creating hazards for all of our visitors. OHC was able to address the problem this summer thanks to a \$5,000 grant from **The Nord Family Foundation**, a \$1,500 gift from **Gary Kornblith and Carol Lasser**, and funds from the Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation. Gary and Carol were happy to contribute to the project, having supported the construction of the very first accessible entrance to the schoolhouse, which is still named the IJK Freeway in honor of Gary's mother **Ina Jean Kornblith**, who utilized a wheelchair later in life. The work, which included new sandstone borders and a historic effect made possible through epoxy and pea gravel, was completed by Emil Ruth and his team from **Locke's GoGreen** of Oberlin. Check it out the next time you're on the Heritage Center grounds!



The Little Red Schoolhouse's pathway: before (upper left), during (upper right), and after restoration (below).

# Most Recent Annual Report and Audit Available on Website



The Heritage Center's 2018 Annual Report is expected to be in members' mailboxes this week. You may also view it online at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/eventsnews/annualreports>.

The report provides a marvelous overview of the organization's progress in the past year and salutes all the people who supported it so generously as donors and volunteers. We hope you enjoy looking over its pages.

The independent auditors' final report, conducted by Cohen & Company of Cleveland, is now available for review on the Oberlin Heritage Center website. The audit includes the organization's consolidated financial statements for the years ending December 31, 2018 and 2017. This report comes after a three day on-site visit by members of the Cohen staff this past May and a presentation from Tina Dzik (Senior Manager) to the OHC Board of Trustees in July. You may review the latest audit on our website at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/irsform990> or contact the Heritage Center's office at 440-774-1700 to request a copy be sent to you.

## Heritage Center Assessing Ways to Enhance Tour Program Interpretive Planning Consultant On-Site for Two-Day Visit

Ken Turino, Manager of Community Partnerships and Resource Development at **Historic New England** (<https://www.historicnewengland.org/>), spent two days in Oberlin last month talking with OHC staff, Board members and docents to learn all he could about Oberlin history and how the Heritage Center preserves and shares its stories. Turino is the co-editor of the forthcoming book *Reimagining Historic House Museums: New Approaches and Proven Solutions* expected to be released in fall 2019.

He was invited to the Heritage Center by Executive Director **Liz Schultz** and Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** to assess and discuss practical options for engaging visitors in new ways beyond those that are presently offered by the museum. National studies show that visitors today want experiences that are fun, social, interactive and relevant to their own lives.

Recognizing the trends in audience engagement, the Heritage Center has identified "strengthening public programming" as a major goal of its current strategic plan. Turino's visit is part of the Heritage Center's grant-funded work in *Benchmarking Best Practices for Self-Guided Tours in Historic House Museums* funded in part by the Ohio History Fund and Ohio Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Photo: Ken Turino (far right) looks over OHC tour materials with Collections Manager Maren McKee (far left) and Museum Education & Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan (center).

## Volunteer and Intern News



A big shout-out to **Glenn Hobbs**, 13, who is a fourth-generation volunteer at the Heritage Center. Glenn follows in the footsteps of great-grandfather **Glenn Hobbs** and grandfather **Terry Hobbs**, both of whom volunteered countless hours to mowing the broad expanse of lawns surrounding the historic buildings on the OHC site. Young Glenn's father, **Jeff Hobbs**, also regularly shows up to help with set up and take down of special events and presently serves on the (OHC-subsidary)

Vineway Board of Directors. This summer, Glenn (*pictured at left*) has begun assisting current lawnmower volunteer extraordinaire **Craig Enos** in keeping the grass trimmed. We are grateful to all of the terrific volunteers who keep the Heritage Center looking good in so many ways!

The Heritage Center college student interns have jumped right in with both feet and have been busy guiding tours for summer visitors. **Ruby Denneen** (OC '23) is getting ready to assist with two weeks of Archaeology Camps for kids (both camps are full!), while **Jennifer Gallagher** (OC '21) was a great asset to a lively Architecture Camp in July. Jennifer (an art history major at Oberlin College) also recently researched and wrote history features for the Heritage Center's website about two of Oberlin's most recognized outdoor sculptures. Take a minute to read and learn more about the **Streams Sculpture** in Martin Luther King Jr. Park on East Vine Street and the **Giant Three-Way Plug** on the grounds between the Allen Memorial Art Museum and Hall Auditorium at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/researchlearn/monuments>.

Meanwhile, **Wesley Patterson** (OC '21) researched another side of Moses Fleetwood Walker (1856-1924) whose name you may know as that of a remarkable athlete (playing on the first varsity baseball team at Oberlin College in 1881 and later being recognized as the first African-American to play major league baseball). You may *not* have known, however, that "Fleet" also was an inventor who received four patents during his lifetime. Find out more when you read **Moses Fleetwood Walker: A Depiction of his Notable and Innovative Inventions** on our website where you can also find other history features and OHC's blog at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/researchlearn/features>.

## To Everything There is a Season...

### An Announcement from the Executive Director, Liz Schultz

While gratitude and happiness were foremost in my mind, I couldn't help but feel sorrow and terror when **Mary Anne Cunningham** told me that she intended to retire at the end of this year. Mary Anne has been with the Oberlin Heritage Center since 1993, when it was still known as the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization. Her twinkle of humor, attention to detail, and genuine caring for everyone she encounters has shown in every communication that goes out to members, the media, and so many more. She is at the heart of this organization and she will be missed but also wished many happy, fulfilling years to come. Be sure to check future newsletters because there will be much more to celebrate about Mary Anne in the coming months, as well as opportunities for all to share their appreciation.



Then and now ... 25+ years at the Oberlin Heritage Center

## Position Opening

### Communications and Development Coordinator

The Oberlin Heritage Center seeks a Communications and Development Coordinator to work 35 hours a week, with the position expected to start January 3, 2020. Applications are due by September 10. Primary responsibilities related to communications include creating a monthly electronic newsletter, press releases, bi-annual calendars, and annual report. Primary responsibilities related to development include preparing membership renewals and acknowledgements, processing gifts, overseeing the annual fund, coordinating closely with the Development Committee and Executive Director on major campaigns, and general member relations. The Communications and Development Coordinator reports to and works closely with the Executive Director and also works closely with three other professional staff members and a varied team of volunteers and student interns. This person will be a front-line employee and must be able to embody the community-oriented mission of the organization.

For full details about this position, benefits, and how to apply, visit <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/work>.

## Members Update

- Welcome to new member **Jan Brent** (Springfield, OR). So glad you are part of the Heritage Center!
- We note with sorrow the passing of Honorary Trustee and Endowed Life Member (ELM) **Alan Gage**. Our thoughts are with Alan's family and friends.

Join or renew as an OHC member at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) (and click on the "Join Now" button at the top of the home page), or call (440) 774-1700 to request a membership brochure. Learn more about the Time Travelers Network at <http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/>.

## Also of Interest

Explore Ohio's rich history in the Kent State University Museum's newest exhibit, *Ohio Quilts*, now through April 2020. The exhibit features an eclectic group of historical quilts, reflecting a variety of techniques including appliqué, piecework, crazy quilts, whitework and embroidery. For visitor information go to [www.kent.edu/museum/hours-visitor-information](http://www.kent.edu/museum/hours-visitor-information).

On **Thursday, August 8**, be the first to see the **Lorain Historical Society's** (<https://www.lorainhistory.org/>) new exhibits, featuring the Lorain Lighthouse and Lorain Industry! VIP Exhibit Preview 5 p.m. – 6 p.m., \$25/person; Member Only Exhibit Preview Reception 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (free for members); please secure your reservation by August 1. The General Public Grand Opening will be Sunday, August 11 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., \$10/person. For more information, call (440) 245-2563.

Traditional music -- bluegrass, old-time, blues, folk, Irish, and more -- will be the centerpiece of the **Raccoon County Music Festival** (<https://www.raccooncountymusicfestival.com/>) on **Saturday, August 10** at the Geauga County Historical Society's Century Village (14653 East Park Street, Burton, OH). Excellent local and regional musicians will perform on two stages, accompanied by square dancing, spontaneous jamming, food and fun from noon to 7 p.m. Bring chairs and blankets and a picnic if you wish, and plan to stay all day. Admission is \$10 for those 13 and older; \$5 for children ages 6-12 and free for children under 6.