

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette November 2019

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

To subscribe to the free E-Gazette, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org
or send e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org.

Trivia Night – Fun for all Ages!

Friday, November 15, 6 – 8:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Trivia Night



Round up a team of players – or plan to come on your own – and test your knowledge of pop culture particulars, sports specifics, musical mysteries, and much more at the Oberlin Heritage Center's third annual Trivia Night. **WOBL/WDLW's** morning show host **Super Dave Andrews** once again serves as emcee for the event that takes place in the Fellowship Hall of **The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C.** (106 North Main Street). The evening features a friendly night of competition, plus food, side games, raffles, prizes, and special supervised activities for young children.

Tickets include pizza, beverage and dessert; advance reservations are just \$12/adults and \$6/children (or purchase tickets at the door for \$15/adults and \$7/kids). Proceeds support the ongoing work of the nonprofit Oberlin Heritage Center.



Special thanks go to Oberlin business co-sponsors **Herrick Jewelry** (www.herrickjewelry.com) and **The Ohio Educational Credit Union** (www.ohecu.com).

Register single players or an entire team online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or download a registration form to complete and mail back to the Heritage Center. Meantime, get your trivia juices flowing with this sample question:

What book features main characters named Old Green Grasshopper, Miss Spider, and Aunt Sponge? (Answer appears at the end of this newsletter)

BONUS Weekend of History Walks & More

All are Welcome Friday through Sunday, November 8-10



If you meant to -- but just didn't have the chance to -- take one of the Heritage Center's history walks this past summer, here's one last opportunity to do so this year. The November 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:

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

- **Freedom's Friends Underground Railroad & Abolitionist History Walk** - Friday and Saturday, November 8 and 9 at 3 p.m. (90 minutes)
- **Scholars & Settlers (Tappan Square) History Walk** - Saturday, November 9 at 11:15 a.m. (75 minutes)
- **Oberlin Architecture History Walk** - Sunday, November 10 at 11:00 a.m. (60 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 8 from 1-4 p.m.; Saturday, November 9 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, November 10 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 8 and 9 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, November 10 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Reservations are requested for all but the Sneak Peek mini-tours when 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 make a reservation, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

From Milling to Manufacturing: The Modernization of Oberlin Industry **Tuesday, November 19 at 7:15 p.m.**



Black and white aerial photograph (circa 1930s) of South Main Street in Oberlin including the Freight Station, the Oberlin Elevator Co., Hixson-Peterson Lumber Co., the Gas Holder House, the passenger depot, the many tracks of the railroad, houses on Edison Street and South Street.

Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** offers an illustrated program on Oberlin's industries from the early 20th century up through the present day. This is a continuation of a program on early Oberlin industry that she presented in the fall of 2018 and picks up where the last one left off -- from the small mills of early Oberlin to today's modernized industries. Amanda's research includes selections from the Oberlin Heritage Center's Oral History collection. Read on in this month's *History Minute* for a glimpse into one of the stories that this program will include.

All are welcome to OHC's free, public program that takes place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). Learn more at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

History Minute

Amanda Manahan Previews Oberlin's Mid-Century Industrial Growth



Photo courtesy of the City of Oberlin.

Administration was eyeing property in Oberlin to build a new air traffic control facility. Around this same time, a local businessman by the name of **Saul Gilford** was prospecting local sites to build his newly-formed medical instrument company. Promise abounded, yet in order for it to be realized, Oberlin needed the right people to be in the right place at the right time.

What eventually resulted from these coinciding events was the creation of a corporation called the Oberlin Improvement and Development Company (OID) in 1959 to begin the development of land to be used for industry. OID, led by **Bill Long**, **Charles Mosher**, **Kenneth Roose**, **David Anderson**, and **Samuel Goldberg**, sold local stock and began purchasing property to create the Oberlin Industrial Park. In addition to these efforts, the group also was concerned with the improvement of residential areas and the downtown business district, and thus they purchased land throughout town as well. Once the group started, however, growth was slow. But by 1978, six manufacturers moved into town, building the foundation for the Industrial Park in northeast Oberlin that we know today.

If you worked for or were associated in any way with Oberlin's growing industrial park, we'd love you to share memories, stories, photos or other memorabilia from those businesses. Contact **Amanda Manahan** (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) or Collections Manager **Maren McKee** (history@oberlinheritage.org) or call the Heritage Center's main office at (440) 774-1700.

Like What OHC Does to Preserve and Share Local History? Your Gift Helps Connect People with Oberlin History

Why support the Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Fund? Remember, membership dues and tour fees provide *less than 10%* of the nonprofit's annual budget. The rest must come from other sources such as income from endowments, grants, fee-for-service projects, and fundraising efforts such as the Annual Fund. Last year, OHC's Annual Fund alone supported *12%* of the Heritage Center's annual budget. Your gift of any size helps make a critical difference to the organization's bottom line each year. Make an Annual Fund gift today by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and clicking on the "Make a Gift" button at the top of the home page.

Preservation and Improvement Update

Another Project Accomplished with Endowment Gains



Local craftsmen **Scott Broadwell** and **Pat Ives** (*top photo*) worked throughout the summer to fix up the aging porch on the rear of the Monroe House. Ives replaced the deteriorated wooden floorboards and Broadwell scraped, cleaned, and painting the floor, ceiling, railings, and trim. Funds from the growing **Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation** allowed the Heritage Center to tackle this overdue maintenance project. To date, donations to this endowment have grown to \$565,000 -- more than halfway to its final goal. A professional assessment by a preservation architect estimated that the Heritage Center should budget \$50,000 annually for maintenance and preservation. When fully funded at \$1,000,000, this new endowment will provide an approximate payout of \$50,000 to address the ongoing maintenance, preservation and conservation needs of the buildings, grounds and collections.



To learn more or to make a gift to the Endowment for Heritage Preservation visit

<http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/getinvolved/makeagift/endowment-for-heritage-preservation> or call (440) 774-1700 and request a brochure.

MikelParis Makes Music with Oberlin History



Above photos courtesy of MikelParis.



MikelParis sits down to an early 19th century keyboard at the Monroe House.

O.A.R. band member and solo musician **MikelParis** is in the house -- the Heritage Center's Monroe House, that is. The artist is working on a new TuneTrek musical video that spotlights the Heritage Center and Oberlin history. MP is a multifaceted performer: he is part of the multi-platinum-album-producing band O.A.R., he's toured as keyboardist for Grammy-winning entertainer Pink and has traveled the globe as a past member of the off-Broadway touring company of Stomp, plus he's a singer-songwriter in his own right. With his side gig known as TuneTrek, he explores lesser known historic landmarks and tells their stories through photography, film and an original song that he writes and then performs at each location. Check out a sample video at <https://vimeo.com/343505444/fcc45ef441>. Some of his TuneTrek episodes have been used as content to bridge between scheduled programming on PBS stations, and a full-length version is currently being

MikelParis...continued

pitched to networks. How fun it has been to listen to MikelParis weave local history, contemporary music and the vintage sound of the 1800 Astor piano during his visit to the Heritage Center. When his Oberlin video is completed, we'll be sure to share it with OHC members and friends! Meantime, visit www.mikelparis.com to learn more about this talented artist.

Local fans can hear MikelParis live and in concert at the unique Riverdog venue (13818 Gore Orphanage Road in Wakeman) on **Saturday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$15 at the door, and advance reservations are encouraged. Visit Riverdog's website at <https://riverdogmusic.weebly.com/events.html> or e-mail riverdog@centurytel.net.

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 of great holiday gift-giving ideas. The store is stocked with 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). Or, consider a truly one-of-a-kind and lasting gift by ordering an inscribed century-old brick to honor a special person or occasion in your life. A gift card announcement will be provided to the recipient for the holidays, and a photo of the installed brick will be sent when it is installed along the Heritage Center's brick pathway next summer.

Support the Oberlin Heritage Center through <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



Although the Heritage Center will be closed Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving Day, plan to visit on Friday, November 29 or Saturday, November 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring your out-of-town guests 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. OHC 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 the holiday, 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.



A warm welcome goes to new OHC members **Michelle Belanger, Felicia Christian, Bruce & Linda Fowler, Susan Sarhan and Dr. & Mrs. Thomas T.K. Wu** (all of Oberlin). We're so glad you are part of the Oberlin Heritage Center!

We mourn the passing of Endowed Life Member **Carol Ganzel** who was a long-time supporter of the Heritage Center and even posed at one time (*left*) for an OHC book mark that saluted the history of Oberlin as a bicycling community. Carol's active participation in matters of local history and historic preservation will leave a lasting impact on this organization as well as in the Oberlin community.

OHC Staff, Board and Volunteer News



Business Manager **Bethany Hobbs** and Executive Director **Liz Schultz** (*pictured here*) presented ***Human Resources for Small Museums*** at the 2019 Annual Meeting & Conference of the Ohio Local History Alliance in Dublin, Ohio last month. The well-attended session focused on the paperwork, policies, and above all, the people, of small history organizations.



A warm welcome goes to **Katrina Walker** (*left*), the newest AmeriCorps/Ohio History Corps member based at the Oberlin Heritage Center. Katrina, from Lakewood, Ohio, is a 2017 graduate of Sarah Lawrence College (Bronxville, NY) where she majored in Theater and History. She has been an education intern for the Cleveland Botanical Gardens and the Cleveland Museum of Art and also has more than a dozen years of theater experience in both professional and community theaters across northeast Ohio. Katrina is the eighth AmeriCorps member based at the Heritage Center where she will work half of her time assisting with tours and special projects, and half-time for other local history organizations in Lorain County and neighboring communities

Staff, Board and Volunteer News...continued

in a five-county region. Check out one of Katrina's first OHC projects at the South Main Street kiosk where she recently created a new mini-exhibit on Thanksgiving traditions. (*The kiosk is located just south of the Oberlin Post Office, 68 South Main Street*).

Board member **Julie Min** represented the Oberlin Heritage Center at the Museum Trustee Association's Friday Forum, which was hosted in Cleveland last month and included a full day of panels, presentations, Q&As, and networking. MTA is a national organization created to enhance the effectiveness of museum Board members. The fall event focused on current topics essential to museum trustees such as collections management, board diversity, and building transformation.

Heritage Center staff and volunteers enjoyed exploring history together on the annual **Docent Field Trip** last month. The group visited sites in and around Mansfield, Ohio, including the Ohio State (Mansfield) Reformatory and Malabar Farm State Park. Visiting neighboring history museums to see "how others do it" combines a great learning opportunity with the chance for docents (who tend to work "solo" in guiding tours) to become better acquainted with other OHC volunteers.

Also of Interest

Gary Kornblith and Carol Lasser, authors of *Elusive Utopia: The Struggle for Racial Equality in Oberlin, Ohio* will present **Temperance, Gender, and the Racialization of Respectability in Oberlin** at the monthly meeting of the Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group (OAAGHG) on **Saturday, November 2 at 11 a.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). All are welcome to this free public program.

Author **John Vanek** brings his book tour for the **Father Jake Austin Mystery Series** to northeast Ohio this month with appearances at several nearby locations including the Elyria Public Library West River Branch (1194 West River Road, North) on Saturday, November 2 from 12:30 - 4 p.m.; MindFair Bookstore (13 West College Street, Oberlin) on Sunday, November 3 from 1-2 p.m.; the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Library (1876 South Green Road, South Euclid) on Wednesday, November 6 at 7 p.m.; and the Westlake Porter Library (27333 Center Ridge Road, Westlake) on Thursday, November 7 at 7 p.m. The mystery series is set in Lorain County, Cleveland and northern Ohio; learn more at www.JohnVanekAuthor.com.

The Cleveland Public Library hosts author **Lauren R. Pacini** in a special presentation and book signing on **Saturday, November 9 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.** in the Special Collections (3rd Floor) of the Main Library (325 Superior Avenue). *Honoring Their Memory: Levi T. Scofield, Cleveland's Monumental Architect and Sculptor* looks at Civil War veteran Scofield's amazing body of work including downtown Cleveland's Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument and ten other projects that remain standing after nearly 150 years. The event is free and open to the public; for more information, call (216) 623-2818.

The Cleveland Restoration Society invites all to attend its book launch of *The Making of Cleveland's Black Suburb in the City: Lee-Seville & Lee-Harvard* on **Saturday, November 9 at 2 p.m.** in the Harvard Community Services Center (18240 Harvard Avenue, Cleveland). The book is the first-ever published history of these neighborhoods, documenting and celebrating this

Also of Interest...continued

success story in Black community-building. CRS, a regional historic preservation non-profit, has worked for several years collecting community history, interviewing and filming residents of the neighborhoods and scouring archives and private collections for historical images that help tell the story of this remarkable place. For more information, contact Stephanie Phelps at (216) 426-3106 or sphelps@clevelandrestoration.org.

Embedded in NORDson hiSTORY is the NORD STORY, a presentation by retired Nordson executive **Jerry Torma**, takes place on **Tuesday, November 12 at 7 p.m.** in the Grange Hall at Amherst Sandstone Village (763 Milan Avenue, Amherst). The first 50 attendees will receive a free copy of *Investing in Community: The History and Legacy of the Nord Family of Ohio*, a publication of the Oberlin Heritage Center/Oberlin Historical & Improvement Organization. The free community program is hosted by the **Amherst Historical Society** and reservations are encouraged. Call (440) 988-7255 to reserve a seat.

Don't miss **Kaleidosonic Music Festival**, created by **Tom Lopez**, Oberlin College Associate Professor of Computer Music and Digital Arts, on **Saturday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m.** in Finney Chapel (90 North Professor Street). The free public event is part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Conservatory's TIMARA program (Technology in Music and Related Arts) and features a special blend of music performed by Oberlin College and Conservatory students and community ensembles including the Oberlin High School Marching Band, Oberlin Choristers, Oberlin College Black Musicians Guild, OCTaiko, Oberlin Contra Dance Band, and the Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra Lab Group. Learn more at <http://timara.oberlin.edu/news/50>.

The **Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee of Oberlin** invites you to a free screening of the Emmy award-winning documentary, *Dawnland*, a film about cultural survival and stolen children. All are welcome (and dinner will be provided) in the Community Room at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) on **Thursday, November 21 at 6 p.m.** Questions? Contact **Jean Simon** at foggo@oberlin.net.

Answer to Trivia question from newsletter's page one: *James and the Giant Peach*

