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Oberlin's Historic Links to Faith Healing

Tuesday, December 10 at 7:15 p.m.



Historian **Matthew Hintz** presents an illustrated program about faith healing, a religious movement that was particularly prevalent in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The talk highlights Oberlin residents connected to the movement and their impact on its regional organizational structure and revivals. Hintz, a native of Elyria, is a doctoral student at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro where his work focuses on faith healing and alternative medicine at the turn-of-the-century. He presented a very well-received program, *Paradise Found: Religiosity and Reform in Oberlin*, for the Heritage Center in 2013. As an undergrad, Hintz was a Heritage Center intern and volunteer for

the organization. The program takes place in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) and it is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Bring It On: Trivia Night Crowns New Champions

Annual Competition Grows Bigger Each Year



The Heritage Center's third annual Trivia Night took place last month in the Fellowship Hall of The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C. with more than 110 players participating (almost 40 more than last year!) All enjoyed a lively, friendly competition accompanied by pizza and snacks, side games, raffles and fun for all ages. The event brought in nearly \$1,300 for the Heritage Center's ongoing programs and operations (about \$300 more than last year), and it made many new friends for the organization as well. The First Church team of **Bring It On** took home top honors (*pictured above, from left* Miranda Estanek, Brandy Bring, J.J. & Anne Schaum, Jessica Dakos, Anne Sprague, Anne Conway and Amanda & Kim Nagy), while **Trebek's Rejects** leap-frogged in the final round to second place (*pictured lower left*, OHC staff member Maren McKee congratulates Melissa Smith-Hignite, accepting a prize bag on behalf of her teammates Nikki Smith-Hignite and Chris & Randy



Community Trivia Night...continued

Smith). Wrapping up third place was **Shansis** (pictured lower right, with Eli Fisher, Dalila Yunardi, Gavin Tritt, Ted Samuel and Jessica Cotter).

*Note that the Trivia guidelines this year required teams to have no more than 8 adult players (with any number of kids coming along and not counting in that group total). Some eagle-eyed observers might see 9 smiling faces on this year's champion team, yet one of those players is under 18, so **Bring It On** did indeed bring it right to the allowable limit.*

Special thanks go to the events' co-sponsors **Herrick Jewelry** and the **Ohio Educational Credit Union**. **Dave Andrews**, morning deejay on **WOBL** (1320 AM/107.7 FM), kept things moving with great humor and energy as the evening's emcee. Prizes and supplies were donated by **A David Anthony Salon** (Lorain), **On The Rocks Climbing Gym** (Amherst) and Oberlin businesses **Adeva Salon & Spa**, **Advance Auto Parts**, **Blue Rooster Bakehouse**, **Dave's Cosmic Subs**, **Green Circle Growers** and **Northwest Bank**, plus many OHC Board, staff and volunteers.

Save these Dates in 2020!

Full Event Calendar to be Sent to OHC Members Early in New Year



Ric Sheffield
(above) photo
credit: *Ohio*
Humanities;

Jen Graham
(at right, above)
photo credit:
Cleveland
Metroparks;

Dr. Amy Margaris
(at right) photo
credit: *Oberlin*
College/Tanya
Rosen-Jones



Heritage Center staff members are busy planning the 2020 line-up of new original programming that explores many different aspects of local history. Here's a sampling of what's in store:

Saturday, February 1 at 11:00 a.m. *A History of Race and the Right to Vote in Reconstruction Ohio* presented by **Ric Sheffield**, Professor of Legal Studies and Sociology at Kenyon College (Gambier, Ohio). The free, public program is a joint collaboration with the **Oberlin African American Genealogy & History Group (OAAGHG)**, and it takes place at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). The event is supported by the **Doug & Shirley R. Johnson Endowment Fund** and **Ohio Humanities**, the state-based partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Tuesday March 10 at 7:15 p.m. *Females in the Field* presented by **Jen Graham** (OC '12), Historical Interpreter with the Cleveland Metroparks and a former local history

AmeriCorps member at the Oberlin Heritage Center (2013-2014). Graham discusses women's contributions to the development of field guides and the rise of the amateur naturalist in the early 20th century including historic Oberlin connections. The program will be held in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, April 1 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. (with optional Social Hour beginning at 5:00 p.m.) *Oberlin Heritage Center Annual Meeting & Banquet*. This evening of history, fellowship and recognition features Oberlin College Associate Professor of Anthropology **Amy Margaris** (OC '96) sharing insights about the ***Oberlin College Ethnographic Collection***, including roughly 1,600 ethnographic objects collected during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Watch for

Save the Dates of Upcoming Events...continued

more program details in the new year. The event also includes the presentation of the Heritage Center's 19th Annual Community Awards (*see feature below*). Invitations will be sent to all OHC members in mid-February. Location: The Hotel at Oberlin (10 East College Street).

Who Will be OHC's Next Community Awards Recipients? Nominations Due by February 1, 2020



2019 Community Awards Recipients: *Front row, from left, Rich Fredrickson and Judy Connolly* (representing the Westwood Cemetery GPS Team who received OHC's Volunteer of the Year award, along with other GPS team members not pictured, including **Camille Hamlin Allen, Amy Chuang, and Judy Cook**); **Ruby Denneen** (Youth Community Service Award); and **Marty Buck/Techies** (Business Leader Service Award). *Back row, from left, Mike Demchak* (History Teacher of the Year Award, from Christian Community School in Grafton); **Adam Freas** (also part of the Westwood Cemetery GPS Team who received OHC's Volunteer of the Year Award), and **John Elrod** (Youth Community Service Award).

Consider nominating an outstanding individual, organization, or business whose achievements in serving the community are in keeping with the Heritage Center's mission to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work and visit. Award recipients will be honored at OHC's Annual Meeting in April. Categories include:

Community Historian - an individual who adds to the knowledge of the history of Oberlin through research, writing, and/or educating others,

Heritage Guardian – an individual or group dedicated to the ideals of conservation and preservation, who serves as a leader in preserving history, historical records, or historic buildings in our community,

Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year – a volunteer who makes extraordinary contributions of time and talent to the Oberlin Heritage Center,

History Teacher of the Year – an area educator who inspires students to learn more about history,

Community Teacher of the Year – an area educator who inspires students to get involved in community service,

Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award – an individual, business or organization that helps to enhance the aesthetics and appearance of the community,

Business Leader Service Award - a business that provided exceptional support to the Heritage Center in contributions or contributed services, and

Youth Community Service Award - a young person who makes extraordinary contributions in time and talent to the Heritage Center.

Find out more or download a nomination form at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1863

A One-of-a-Kind Gift Returns to Oberlin



In November, the Heritage Center was delighted to accept a wonderful piece of calligraphy and flourishing (i.e., the fancy flair and embellishment) that was done in 1877 by **William Warren** (*top, right*), a writing teacher living in Oberlin, Ohio. This unique rendering of the Emancipation Proclamation was signed and dated by Warren in the lower right of the document, and in the lower left it was dedicated to **Roswell Ward** of Gorham, Maine. Warren presented the finished piece to **Ward** (*center, right*), a friend or perhaps a relative from Warren's home town of Gorham. William Warren attended the Oberlin College Preparatory Academy between 1845 and 1849, and later is listed in Oberlin City Directories as a writing teacher and a writing master. He died in 1896 and is buried in Westwood Cemetery.

Roswell Ward surely treasured his friend's gift, and the calligraphy remained in Ward's family through several generations. Relatives even had the piece cleaned and framed by a professional conservator

around the time of the drawing's 100th anniversary. Recently, this marvelous example of 19th century workmanship and artistry was donated to the Oberlin Heritage Center by **Emma Gillman**, whose husband, **Warren Gillman**, was the great grandson of Roswell Ward. For more information, contact OHC Collections Manager, **Maren McKee** at history@oberlinheritage.org.

Like What OHC Does to Preserve and Share Local History?

Make a Gift to the Annual Fund to Keep a Good Thing Going!



Why support the Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Fund? There are as many reasons as there are donors – here is a brief sampling of what this year's donors are saying:

- *We value local history and we think OHC does an excellent job of caring for and communicating it*
- *Its educational programs and activities connect the community*
- *I like the variety and unique history-themed events*
- *Because Oberlin will always be "home" to me -- a home I am very proud of (from a long-distance member)*

Tell us why YOU support the Oberlin Heritage Center when you make a gift to this year's Annual Fund. Each and every gift, regardless of size, is needed to keep the good work going as together we preserve and share Oberlin's nationally significant history. Make an online gift today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or send a check made payable to "Oberlin Heritage Center Annual Fund" to MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074.

Heritage Center Values Openness and Accountability

Business Manager **Bethany Hobbs** recently posted to the OHC website the organization's Form 990 for fiscal year 2018. The 990 contains information about the Oberlin Heritage Center's finances, governance, and program and service offerings. Tax-exempt nonprofit organizations are required annually to submit Form 990 to the IRS as well as complete the charitable registration with the Ohio Attorney General's office. Review the document at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on the "About Us" tab in the main menu, then scroll down to "IRS Form 990 2018"). Or, you may call (440) 774-1700 and request a copy of the document for review.

History Minute

Mary Anne Cunningham Looks Back on 26 Years at the Heritage Center



1993: I rang the bell at the Monroe House on a fall afternoon and was welcomed by then-Administrator **Pat Murphy** and Board Treasurer **Cathe Radabaugh**. Seated around the dining room table, we talked about the part-time position that "O.H.I.O." had advertised and what skills and interests I might bring to the organization. The conversation flowed easily and soon the two women were taking me on a tour of the Monroe House from top to bottom. The beautiful historic setting was about to become my "home away from home" for the next 26 years. It's been quite a journey as I learned much about Oberlin history and enjoyed being part of a hard-working team that presents history in ways that are accessible and engaging for many different audiences.

2019: A lot has changed at the Heritage Center and in the workplace in general since those "early days." Read more in a blog posted on the Heritage Center's website reflecting on some of the biggest changes (and consistencies) that I've seen through the decades.

What's Next: I'm looking forward to a new chapter where I plan to devote my energies to a long bucket-list that includes doing more volunteering in my church and in the community, exploring the U.S. and the world with my husband and favorite traveling companion, **Don Cunningham**, and learning to knit!

Read Mary Anne's blog post at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog/2019/11/change-is-the-only-constant-in-life/.

Holiday Hours at the Oberlin Heritage Center



The Heritage Center will be closed December 24-25 and January 1. The office and Museum Store are open usual hours and days during the rest of the holidays. 90-minute Upstairs/Downstairs guided tours are offered Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Sneak Peek/Oberlin Origins tours (a 30-minute introduction that "hits the highlights") are offered during regular office hours, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Walk-ins are welcome.

Staff and Volunteer News

We bid a warm farewell to part-time office assistant and greeter **Julie Hill** whose grant-funded temporary position came to an end in late November. And our best wishes surround **Linda Gates**, our long-time front office helper (first through Mature Services/Vantage Aging and later as a twice-a-week volunteer), who will be moving out-of-state to be closer to family.

It's great to welcome high school junior **Jack Page** to the volunteer team! Jack formerly participated in OHC's Homeschool Series for several years; we're delighted that he continues to have an interest in local history and will assist staff with a range of museum tasks and interpretive projects.

Last month, Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** worked with Oberlin College Associate Professor of Classics Chris Trinacty to develop an original local history tour for students in Trinacty's *Heroes and Villains* first-year seminar course. The tour was very well-received and may be considered for further development as a future history walk for the public.

Collections Manager **Maren McKee** and volunteer **Steve Johnson** are working together to archive recently donated materials from the Oberlin branch of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs. The donation will enhance the holdings of the OHC's Resource Center, which includes a wide variety of books, photographs, archival materials, and files on local and national history.

AmeriCorps member **Katrina Walker** plans a new mini-exhibit for the Heritage Center's South Main Street Kiosk recalling the 78th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Stop by this month to learn more about *Oberlin's Response* to that devastating event. (The kiosk is located just south of the Oberlin Post Office, 68 South Main Street.)

Members Update

A warm welcome goes to new OHC members **Alexandra Letvin**, **Joe McCormick**, **Ethel Muzilla** (Amherst), and **Erica Saunders**. (All are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) Thank you to **Amanda Manahan & Joe Cross** (Oberlin) who recently became the newest Endowed Life Members (ELMs) at the Heritage Center. OHC is grateful for all you do to help carry out the organization's mission.

We mourn the passing of **Dr. Warren N. Sheldon**, a long-time Endowed Life Member (along with wife, **Judy**, who survives). He will be remembered with deep gratitude for his investment in the Heritage Center's future.

This holiday season, consider an Oberlin Heritage Center membership for family and friends -- it's a great gift for anyone who loves history or likes supporting a well-managed nonprofit doing good work in the community. If you wish a gift card to be sent to the recipient before December 25, purchase your gift membership by December 16.

Also of Interest

Now through December 29, Fridays and Saturdays from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. and Sundays from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. The 8th Annual International Tree & Model Train Display is underway at the Black River Transportation Center (421 Black River Lane, Lorain). The event is free and open to the public; sponsored by the Lorain Port Authority and Main Street/Lorain Growth Corp.

Also of Interest...continued

Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m. The Allen Memorial Art Museum's last **Sunday Object Talk** of 2019 will be presented by **Lucy Haskell** (OC '20) whose talk reflects on the role of sugar in the transatlantic slave trade. Haskell discusses *Valicia Bathes in Sunday Clothes*, a 1996 photograph by Brazilian artist Vik Muniz, from his Sugar Children series. The piece is on view in the museum's special exhibit *Afterlives of the Black Atlantic*, which continues through December 23. Lucy's name may sound familiar to Oberlin Heritage Center members as she was a volunteer intern here during her first year at Oberlin College and has continued to volunteer for OHC on occasion since then.

Tuesday, December 10 from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. **Neighborhood Alliance Senior Enrichment Services** welcomes the public to the historic Jeanne Beattie Butts House (90 East College Street, Oberlin) for a holiday open house. The event is free and features holiday crafts, beverages and light appetizers. For more information, call (440) 775-1504.

Wednesday, December 18 from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. **Friends of Westwood Cemetery Annual Meeting** includes a review of the past year's events and discussion of future projects, including updates on the Zavodsky House Restoration Project. A short business meeting follows with the election of Board members and officers. Refreshments will be served. All are invited to attend the event which takes place at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). Follow the Friends of Westwood Cemetery on Facebook or e-mail friendsofwestwood@gmail.com for more information.



Warmest wishes from our houses to yours this holiday season!