



Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette

Ides of May 2020

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or send e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org.

A reminder that during this time the Oberlin Heritage Center is still closed. Staff is completing tasks needed to ensure the safety of all personnel and visitors before we can open to the public, volunteers, and members. Please bear with us and watch for future announcements.

Underground Railroad Virtual Tour – May 16, 2:00 p.m.

Freedom's Friends: The Underground Railroad and Abolitionists in Oberlin, Ohio

Presented by Amanda Manahan, Museum Education & Tour Coordinator, Oberlin Heritage Center

Prior to the Civil War, as many as 3,000 African Americans passed through or lived in Oberlin after escaping from slavery. The town was once said to be second only to Canada as an asylum for freedom seekers. The Oberlin Heritage Center will present an illustrated program about the historic decisions that shaped Oberlin's growth as a station and highlight the individuals and events that marked Oberlin as one of the most active stations of the Underground Railroad. Stories will include Oberlin College's acceptance of African American students, the famous ship Amistad, men who volunteered for John Brown's violent raid on Harper's Ferry, and local efforts to thwart slave catchers.

This event is part of the Sutliff Museum's Nurturing Pathways to Freedom lecture series. Due to concerns regarding COVID-19, this event will take place via Zoom video conferencing and is free to the public.

Click to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85364656106?pwd=Y0RMS3VmMEVhaVBuRmxYRUI2SHNSQT09>

Virtual Architecture Camp

July 6 - 10 (Monday – Friday)

Designed for children ages 8-13. \$45 for members; \$50 for nonmembers

Children will love learning the basics of architecture in this hands-on camp brought into their own home. Campers will tour Oberlin architecture (virtually and hopefully in-person), explore building materials, try construction challenges, sketch designs, create mini structures, and envision buildings of the future. Scouts attending this camp will also complete some requirements for Architecture badges.

Please note that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the structure of this camp has changed from an in-person camp to a virtual one. We will provide pre-assembled material and activity packages for families to pick up in advance of the camp. Activities and lessons will be administered through live online platforms and pre-recorded videos. Children will need access to a computer, tablet, or smart phone for approximately 1-2 hours each day. If possible, OHC will organize a walking tour of Oberlin Architecture and a lunch outing during a two-hour period on one of the camp days.

Republic Recycling Tour

The tour on June 4th has been canceled but we hope to re-schedule at a later time. If you had signed up to attend, you will be contacted regarding your refund.

Annual Meeting Changes

With the continued uncertainty regarding any larger scale events, and many members reluctant to attend social gatherings, the Oberlin Heritage Center will not host a dinner meeting on July 8th. Please watch for future announcements about OHC's plans to move forward. Anyone who has previously registered will be contacted directly about their reservation.

Memorial Day Weekend Activities

Given the continuation of Ohio's stay-at-home order, we have cancelled most of our previously scheduled activities. We regret that we had to make these changes.

Please know that OHC also offers free self-guided tour content on its website, including a smartphone tour of the service men and women of Oberlin at Westwood Cemetery. Please visit: <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/visit/yourselftours>.

Memorial Day (Monday, May 25), an OHC staff member will be available from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Westwood cemetery to guide people on the use of the izi.TRAVEL tour smartphone app and the new mapping function of OHC's online gravestone database that can help visitors find specific monuments in the cemetery (weather permitting).

If you have questions or concerns relating to our upcoming tour schedule, please contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan by email at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or call 440-774-1700 to leave a message.

History Minute

In honor of National Preservation Month, and while we cannot currently share our historic buildings with you, we are happy to be sharing some of the history behind their preservation! Check out the newest kiosk display on Main Street to learn more about how the Monroe House was moved or how the Little Red Schoolhouse was repurposed for nearly a century before being restored! Consider sharing your images of Oberlin spaces you want to continue to preserve with the hashtag #ThisPlaceMatters and connect with us on our social media pages!

COVID-19 Collecting Project

History isn't just the past, so share your stories of this unprecedented time with the Oberlin Heritage Center as we collect tales of quarantine, toilet paper shortages, and crafters making masks for loved ones. We are actively collecting firsthand accounts of Oberlinian's experiences during the pandemic. As it grows, this resource will help future generations understand what life was like during the outbreak. We are currently looking for donations of writings and images that capture daily life during the pandemic. These can be as formal or as informal as you chose. For more information and some suggested writing topics, please visit OHC's website www.oberlinheritagecenter.org

If you are interested in learning more about this project or would like to donate, please contact OHC's Collections Manager, Maren McKee, at history@oberlinheritage.org. Include your full name and a phone number where you can be reached.

CARES Act Support

Would you like to show your support of the Oberlin Heritage Center? Consider donating today or in the future. The recently passed CARES Act allows up to a \$300 charitable donation to be tax-deductible on your 2020 taxes, even if you don't itemize. Consult with your tax advisor if you have any questions regarding this deduction.

* Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and use the "Make a Gift" link to donate today on your credit card or,

*Mail a check to: Oberlin Heritage Center, PO Box 455, Oberlin, OH 44074.

Please know your donation makes a difference in your community when you support the Oberlin Heritage Center. We are grateful that you believe in keeping history alive, as everyone navigates through our current uncertainty. OHC is lucky to have YOU!



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