It’s Virtual Trivia Time at OHC!

Are you ready for a fun night of trivia? If so, you’ll be happy to know that it’s almost here! The Oberlin Heritage Center is hosting its annual fall Trivia Night for all ages (via Zoom) on Friday, November 13, 2020 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Don’t be late to the party—we’re asking teams to register by November 6 if you’d like to participate. Just visit: https://bit.ly/33Akur0 or call the Oberlin Heritage Center to sign up and pay over the phone. (The cost per team is $40.) Once your team is signed up, the team leader will be sent a Zoom registration link to forward to their fellow team members—who can play from the comfort of their own homes.

We recommend that each team has 4-6 players, but the overall size is entirely up to you. However, we ask that you please follow all safe social distancing guidelines. Players should rely on themselves while playing—no internet searches or calling grandma for the answer (unless she is on your team). You’re on the honor system for the night! There will be raffles, as well as an image quiz. The top three placing teams will receive goodie gift bags, and the winning team will have their name added to the OHC Trivia Champions plaque.

One final note—since we’re going virtual that night, we won’t be able to enjoy Lorenzo’s pizza with you, as we have done in the past. But we do encourage you to support a local restaurant by getting takeout to celebrate a fun evening in! Questions? Contact Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 or director@oberlinheritage.org.

***November’s Trivia Night is generously sponsored by Kurt Sarringhaus Co., L.P.A.***
OHC Offers Safe Indoor Tours This Fall Season

Please note: Advance registration is required so that all visitors can be given a private tour. Is Charles Finney smiling? We’re not sure, but his mask is keeping others safe.

With the weather growing colder and the days growing shorter, OHC will no longer be offering the Freedom’s Friends and Oberlin Architecture history walks. Instead, we will be opening the doors of the Monroe House and the Little Red Schoolhouse to small tour groups as pandemic conditions allow. The details are below:

- “Oberlin Origins” Tours in the Monroe House (30 minutes) will take place Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tours are $3/adult; free for members, college students, and children under 18.
- “Oberlin Origins + Schoolhouse” Take a tour of the Monroe House and then have fun in the Little Red Schoolhouse (45 minutes) on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Tours are $4/adult; free for members, college students, and children under 18.

Please visit our website at [http://oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700 for up-to-date information regarding tours. Reservations can be made online at [https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/events.shtml](https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/events.shtml) or by phone.

Please note: All visitors must complete a COVID-19 screening survey on arrival. All visitors and tour participants are required to wear face coverings if they are physically able to do so. Disposable masks are available at the museum, as supplies last. We also encourage visitors to take advantage of our hand sanitizing station and/or restroom for hand washing before and after the tour. We ask all museum patrons to follow social distance guidelines by standing 6 feet apart from individuals not in their immediate familial or familiar group. Visitors who do not follow our safety protocols may be refused service and asked to leave.
Every Good Story Has a Plot: The Life of Helen Gorske Sperry

Take a trip through Westwood Cemetery with Pat Gorske Price, who portrayed her aunt Helen Gorske Sperry (1909-1978) in the Oberlin Heritage Center’s annual fall program, Every Good Story Has a Plot. Gorske Sperry was one of five past Oberlin business owners featured in the October 2019 program, and the dramatic re-telling of her story is a window into the life of two Oberlin families as well as a little piece of local history! We hope to revive this lively program with new stories in fall 2021.

To view the video of this event, visit: https://youtu.be/EOuQmjmSSZU.

Oberlin Celebrates Veterans Day on November 11

In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 “Armistice Day” as a day of commemoration to mark the end of World War I. In 1926, Congress added to Wilson’s proclamation, calling for a day of prayer and thanksgiving with appropriate ceremonies. The day became a legal holiday in 1938. In 1954, the holiday was further amended when veterans of World War II and Korea asked for the day to be
representative of all veterans, regardless of when they had served. On October 8 of that same year, President Eisenhower declared that the holiday would henceforth be known as Veterans Day.

Although there will be no official gathering in Oberlin to celebrate this year, there are many opportunities to remember the veterans from our community. A walk through Westwood Cemetery reveals many regulation military headstones. Some of these men and women were awarded medals for bravery; some were killed in combat. Most were unsung and unheralded, but served their country well. On the south side of Finney Chapel is a monument honoring the College men who fought and died during World War II. At the corner of Vine and Main Streets is the War Memorial which lists the names of the Oberlin men who died in battle from the Civil War to the present. Beside that monument is a small marker, in remembrance of Warren Scott and Gene White, who died in Vietnam. A monument to the Tuskegee Airmen has been installed in Martin Luther King Jr. Park, to honor the men from Oberlin who served in this distinguished unit of the Army Air Force.

So take some time on November 11 to visit the monuments of those Oberlinians who sacrificed of themselves to serve our country. - Steve Johnson, OHC Honorary Board Member and Volunteer

Elisha Gray: Oberlin Inventor and Electric Music Pioneer

Join us online on Tuesday, December 8 at 7:15 p.m. for a free illustrated program about Elisha Gray, presented by Roderic Knight, Professor Emeritus of Ethnomusicology at Oberlin College. Gray was an Ohio native, attended Oberlin College in the 1860s, left and became a successful inventor/entrepreneur, and returned as Professor of Dynamic Electricity from 1880 to 1900. While Knight will present an introduction to Gray's life and many accomplishments, the main focus of the evening will be on Gray's invention of the world's first electric
musical instrument and similar projects. The program will include a live demonstration of a reproduction of Gray's musical telegraph, as well as time for questions.

Advance registration is required for participation in this free 30 minute program. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtc-iprDoiGt0_raORacGIROHK8EzTtbEb.

**History Minute: The Harpers Ferry Memorial**

If you take a walk in Oberlin’s Martin Luther King Jr. Park, you may come across a marble sculpture—or cenotaph—commemorating John A. Copeland Jr., Lewis Sheridan Leary, and Shields Green. The three men participated in John Brown’s Raid on Harper’s Ferry in October 1859. Leary was wounded and died during the raid, but Copeland and Green were captured, tried, and executed later that year. Oberlin residents took up a collection for the monument you see today, to honor these brave abolitionists and to care for the wife and infant daughter Leary left behind. The Harpers Ferry Memorial originally stood in Westwood Cemetery, but was moved to its present location in the early 1970s.

To learn more about this monument, you can visit our website to read a history feature by Alex Shaver, OHC’s Visitor Services Assistant. Follow the link here: https://bit.ly/3olHlPz.

**November’s Book Pick: Five For Freedom**

If this month’s History Minute piqued your curiosity, consider reading more about the raid on Harpers Ferry in *Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown’s Army* by Eugene L. Meyer.

The book explores the stories of the five African American men who participated in the raid on Harpers Ferry (three of whom were from Oberlin), and examines the circumstances in which they were born and raised, how they came together at this fateful time and place, and the legacies they left behind.

Pick up your copy of *Five For Freedom* in the OHC museum store today! (You can even visit our online store at:
And, when you are finished reading, take a walk through Martin Luther King Jr. Park to visit the Harpers Ferry Memorial with a new understanding of the role John Copeland Jr., Lewis Sheridan Leary, and Shields Green played in the history of both our town and nation.

**Do you like history? Become an OHC member today!**

If you like history and want to support OHC, consider becoming a member today. Members are the lifeblood of our organization and make OHC’s mission-driven work possible. An OHC member enjoys the following benefits:

- Free admission to tours and history walks offered by the Heritage Center, as well as two guest passes to share with family or friends. (Educators, businesses, and organizations receive additional passes.)
- Reduced prices for most events for which there is a fee, including workshops and children’s camps. (Educators receive 10% off group visits as well.)
- Ten percent discount on shopping done online or at the Heritage Center’s museum store. (Educators receive 15% off publications.)
- Complimentary benefits at 300 history museums nationwide through the Time Travelers Network. ([https://timetravelers.mohistory.org/](https://timetravelers.mohistory.org/))
- The enjoyment in knowing that you are making a difference and helping to preserve Oberlin’s unique, nationally significant history!

If you are not yet a member of OHC, please join. Visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org), call (440) 774-1700, or email [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org) for more information.

**Also of Interest:**

*More than a Laughing Matter on virtual display at the FAVA Gallery*

The Firelands Association for the Visual Arts (FAVA) is hosting *More than a Laughing Matter*, a virtual exhibition highlighting the graphic arts, from October 3-November 20 at [https://exhibitions.favagallery.org/more-than-a-laughing-matter](https://exhibitions.favagallery.org/more-than-a-laughing-matter).
Five Ohians are featured in this exhibition, which depicts superheroes, historical narratives, social and political commentary, and personal narratives. Each brings a particular vision to the ideas that are presented.

The exhibit features the work of Bentley Boyd, creator of OHC’s original comic *Oberlin: Origins and Onward*. Boyd, who grew up in Mount Vernon, used his talent to create a graphic history of Oberlin that celebrated its role in progressive movements such as the Underground Railroad, the women’s right movement, and the environmental and peace movements of the 20th century.

Since 2003, Boyd has been the creative mind behind Chester Comix LLC, and has published 32 books that make American history exciting for reluctant readers. To learn more about Boyd, visit his website at: [https://www.chestercomix.com](https://www.chestercomix.com).

**The Long Arc of Social Justice Movements: Harriet Tubman and the Fight for Black Life**

The Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries is hosting a *free, virtual presentation on November 7 at 7:00 p.m.* Erica Armstrong Dunbar, who is the current Charles and Mary Beard Professor of History at Rutgers University, will present on “The Long Arc of Social Justice Movements: Harriet Tubman and the Fight for Black Life.” Dunbar’s presentation will focus on her most recent book, *She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman*.

The event is open to the public, but registration is required. To register, please visit: [https://bit.ly/37CI8pj](https://bit.ly/37CI8pj). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the virtual event via Zoom.

**Celebrate the Season with an Old Fashioned Christmas Tree Lighting**

Join members of the Brownhelm Historical Association for a free, *old fashioned Christmas Tree lighting on Sunday, November 29 at 6 p.m.* The event will take place at the historic Brownhelm School and Museum, 1950 North Ridge Rd., Vermilion, OH 44089. Participants are asked to meet outside in front of the old school, around the large pine tree. Enjoy caroling around the tree and a merry start to the holiday season. Visit [www.brownhelmh历史上.org](http://www.brownhelmh历史上.org).
Lorain County Minority Business Directory is now live

The Lorain County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the debut of the Lorain County Minority Business Directory. To view the directory, please visit: https://2020.loraincounty.com/minoritybusiness. Help support local businesses today!

Make a Gift to Help Keep History Alive!

The Oberlin Heritage Center is working harder than ever to fulfill its mission: to preserve and share Oberlin’s unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work, and visit. And although we have faced challenges this year, we want you to know that history is not cancelled! Throughout the pandemic, we’ve been busy behind the scenes writing history features, inventorying our collection, giving virtual programs, working with the local schools, and re-opening our facilities to tours with extensive safety measures in place. Delivering history experiences that are educational, fun, interactive, and relevant to all of our members is our goal, and your financial support can help us reach it! Please consider making a gift to sustain OHC today. You can donate online at https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml today. Thank you!

*Please note—the CARES Act allows up to a $300 charitable donation to be tax-deductible on your 2020 taxes, even if you do not itemize. Consult with your tax advisor if you have any questions regarding this deduction.*