



## Oberlin Heritage Center March 2023 Gazette

### OHC Annual Meeting and Community Awards

*Wednesday, April 12 at 6:00p.m.*



Join with others as the Oberlin Heritage Center marks another year of creating connections through history and celebrates people and organizations who have bettered the community. The event, held in the second floor ballroom of The Hotel at Oberlin, will begin with an optional social hour starting at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. and then a brief business meeting, keynote program, and Community Awards.

This year's featured program, "Sharing the Stories and Impact of Women in Air & Space," will be **presented by Sara Fisher, Executive Director of the International Women's Air and Space Museum (IWASM)**. IWASM, located inside Cleveland's Burke Lakefront Airport, is free and open seven days a week and also offers guided tours and programs by appointment. (For more information, visit [www.iwasm.org](http://www.iwasm.org).) Sara earned a B.A. in History with a Women & Gender Studies Certificate from Ohio University and an M.A. in History concentrating in Public History from Wright State University. Many readers may remember Sara from her time as an AmeriCorps / Ohio History Service Corps member hosted by OHC 2017-2018.

OHC is delighted to recognize several individuals and organizations with Community Awards.

- **Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society:** Heritage Guardian Award, for their work preserving the home on East Vine Street and beginning to build a museum centered on the family and local and wider African American history and culture
- **Craig Enos** and **Glenn Hobbs:** OHC Volunteers of the Year Award, for their years of service as OHC's dedicated lawn mowing team
- **Chalk Walk founders Darren McDonough** and **Barry Richard:** Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award, for drawing so many collaborators together and bringing art and enjoyment to Oberlin
- **ThiNi Thai owners Jason** and **Matt Adelman:** Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award, for bringing more murals and whimsy (and delicious food) to downtown Oberlin

All are welcome to attend this event and registration is due by April 5. Tickets are \$35 for OHC members and \$40 for members of the public. To register please visit [oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://oberlinheritagecenter.org) or contact [ohcbiz@oberlinheritagecenter.org](mailto:ohcbiz@oberlinheritagecenter.org) to request a paper registration form.

## Upcoming Events

### Help OHC Make History! — Two Planning Sessions Remain!

We want to hear how OHC is serving you and what we can do better. All are welcome and encouraged to attend – OHC members and non-members, youth and adults, long-time supporters and first-time participants, Oberlinians and regional residents. **Each forum will last approximately 60-75 minutes and involve easy, open questions and conversation.** Refreshments will be provided and attendees will be eligible for an Oberlin gift certificate raffle. To register please visit [oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://oberlinheritagecenter.org).



#### Remaining forum dates:

- Thursday, Mar 2 at 5:30 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church Fellowship Center (81 Locust Street)
- Saturday, Mar 11 at 2:00 p.m. at Prospect Elementary School (36 South Prospect Street)

The forums will be facilitated by the Center for Community Solutions. If you are not able to attend but would like to share your thoughts or speak to an OHC strategic planning member, please email [director@oberlinheritagecenter.org](mailto:director@oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call 440-774-1700. In the coming weeks we will also be mailing a survey to a sample of area residents and sharing the same survey online so that everyone can provide feedback.

## Docent Training

*Saturday, March 11 at 11:30 a.m.*



Love history and museums? Being a tour guide for the Oberlin Heritage Center is a great way to learn about Oberlin's local history and its national significance today. You can also meet many interesting people from near and far who visit Oberlin to take part in our guided tour. Training for the Oberlin Origins Tour will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in this or other volunteer opportunities, please reach out to our Museum Education and Tour Manager Stephanie Bohnak at [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) by March 9. Training starts at the Monroe House (73 1/2 South Professor Street). Training is free and open to the public. Volunteers need no previous experience; all that is required is a commitment to assist with guided house tours and reserved house tours within the coming year. To register please visit [oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call 440-774-1700.

## Poor Toil for Mere Pittance: The ILGWU in Cleveland, Ohio 1911-1933

*Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 PM via Zoom*

On the morning of March 25, 1911, hundreds of garment workers, locked in on the 9th floor of the Asch Building in New York City, went about their normal day-to-day activities as a spare cigarette butt or match not fully put out began to burn in a bin of discarded fabric on the floor below. Within a half hour, the fire would kill one hundred and forty-six people, the majority being Italian and Jewish immigrant women, aged 14-23 years old. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire would be deemed the deadliest workplace disaster in New York History and have lasting repercussions for labor movements in the United States. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union sought fair wages, safer working conditions, union recognition, and even sexual harassment protections for its workers. The ILGWU found its place in Cleveland, Ohio as early as 1903 and by 1911 the ILGWU was thoroughly entrenched in Cleveland garment factories. The *Plain Dealer* reported in 1911: "A feature peculiar to strikes in the garment trade, is the number of women involved. Of the 1,500 women on strike or out of employment because of the strike are mothers young and old, young women and girls not yet out of short dresses." This program about The ILGWU in Cleveland is presented for Women's History Month by OHC's Museum Education & Tour Manager, Stephanie Bohnak, and will be available on Zoom on March 28 at 7pm. Advanced registration is required. If you have any further questions about this event, please visit [oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://oberlinheritagecenter.org) or contact us at [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) or by calling us at 440-774-1700



*Photo: Women in an ILGWU affiliated union marching during the 1916 NYC May Day parade, courtesy The Library of Congress*

## Oberlin Wellington Rescue Documentary World Premier!

Sunday, April 23 at The Apollo at 4:00 p.m.

We are thrilled to announce the film premier of “A Higher Law: The Oberlin Wellington Rescue” on Sunday, April 23 at 4:00 p.m. at Oberlin’s Apollo Theatre. No tickets are required to attend this free showing and all are welcome. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. and the film runs just under 90 minutes. Filmmakers Scott Spears and Christina Paolucci will be present for a Q&A session after the showing.

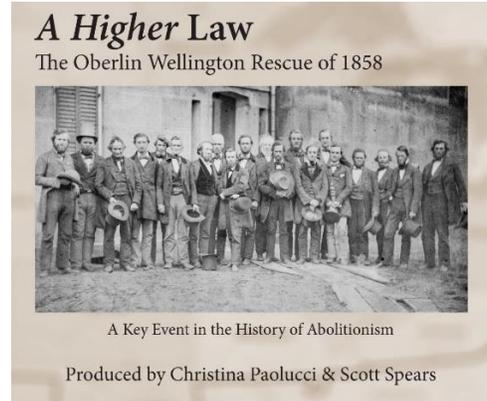
The documentary brings to life the events surrounding John Price’s rescue from slave catchers by community members from Oberlin and Wellington in 1858. The film follows Price’s journey from Kentucky to Oberlin, increasing tensions between pro- and anti-slavery factions in the years leading up to the Civil War, Price’s kidnapping and liberation, Oberlin’s connection to the raid on Harpers Ferry shortly after, and reflections on post-Civil War inequities.

Individuals interviewed include Margaret Christian, Ken Grossi, Rev. David Hill, Janet Hollingsworth, Gary Kornblith, Carol Lasser, Steven Lubet, Rev. A.G. Miller, Caroline Miller, Kurt Russell, Liz Schultz, Tim Simonson, Carl Westmoreland, and Annessa Oliver Wyman.

Filmmakers Spears and Paolucci began researching this story through a planning grant from the Ohio Humanities Council, through which they produced a short concept piece. They have since received over \$40,000 in grants from Ohio Humanities, the Ohio History Connection, and the Greater Columbus Arts Council, as well as donations from private individuals. Spears and Paolucci have produced numerous documentary projects together including *Zane’s Trace – A Road into the Wilderness* (2012), *The Legacy of Eastgate* (2012), *Historic Woodland Park* (2015) and *The Bourguignons: The Artist & The Anthropologist* (2019).

This film is made possible, in part, by: Ohio Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this film do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Ohio History Fund, a grant program of the Ohio History Connection. The Ohio History Fund is made possible by voluntary donations of state income tax refunds, sales of Ohio History “mastodon” license plates, and direct donations to the Ohio History Connection. [www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund)



This project was made possible in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Historic Preservation Fund administered by the Ohio History Connection, Historic Preservation Office.



## Foiled Again Returns in March!



Do you enjoy mysteries? Do you like science or puzzles? If so, Foiled Again! The Aluminum Mystery Experience is perfect for your families, friends, teams, or clubs! Join us at the Oberlin Heritage Center and book this private mystery experience where your group will have a chance to help Professor Jewett solve the mystery of where his aluminum science notes went inside the Jewett House. Immerse yourself in the late 1800s as he helped his student, Charles Martin Hall discover the Aluminum Reduction Process. This teamwork-based activity is

best suited for detectives over the age of 9. We recommend groups between 3-8 participants.

Detectives will meet at the Jewett House after booking their group online via our [events page](#) on [oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://oberlinheritagecenter.org). This experience is \$20 per group, but OHC members receive a 10% discount. Groups are private once booked. Inquiries regarding additional dates can be directed to the Museum Education and Tour Manager at 440-774-1700 or via email [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org)

See below the following dates available for booking:

Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:00pm  
Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 2:00pm  
Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 6:00pm  
Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 2:00pm  
Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 6:00pm

## Save the Date For these Upcoming events!

- **Grounds Day** - May 6 - Help spruce up the grounds of the Heritage Center for summer visitors! Projects include trimming, weeding, and general yard clean up. Tools and supplies are provided, or volunteers are welcome to bring their own. (Volunteers can park in the lot behind the Monroe House, off of Vine Street.) For more information or to sign up, contact Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 or [director@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:director@oberlinheritage.org).
- **Paired With History: Wine and Cheese Tastings** - May 9 and June 13 6:30 p.m. - Join Stephanie Bohnak, OHC's Museum Education & Tour Manager, as she takes us on a culinary and historical journey through a variety of international wines and cheeses. There will be a new selection of wines and cheeses at each tasting but each will have tastings of one Red, one White and one Rosè wine.

**Job Posting**

## Work with us!

The Oberlin Heritage Center is seeking a part-time, six-hour per week Museum Housekeeper. A work schedule, to be set during the museum's day-time open hours, will be determined by the employee in cooperation with the Executive Director and Collections Manager.

### Position Summary:

The Museum Housekeeper works with other staff members and volunteers in cleaning and caring for the artifacts and interiors of the historic buildings at the Oberlin Heritage Center in accordance with accepted museum practices and standards for historic house museums.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.** Apply on [oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://oberlinheritagecenter.org).

## News From OHC

### Museum & Members Update



Thanks to ICA for welcoming OHC members on a behind-the-scenes tour of their conservation facilities. It was a wonderful learning opportunity.

In other news OHC made a video recording of Eboni Johnson's program "Virginia Proctor Powell Florence: A Life, A Legacy," which covers the life and works of the second African American and the first African American woman to earn a professional degree in librarianship. This program and others are available on the [OHC YouTube Channel](#).

We would also like to highlight a recent article posted to OHC's website, [oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://oberlinheritagecenter.org) on the Monuments and Outdoor Sculpture page about Toni Morrison's "Bench by the Road" program. This article was authored by summer Junior Intern Violet Haas and edited by OC students Ellie Lane and Malena Glover.

A special thanks and welcome to our newest members, Northshore Properties (Larry Funk) and Tracy Sutherland of Oberlin as well as Bob Yun of Elyria.

### Also of Interest:

**Interactive Posters at Oberlin Public Schools**

The Journey for Civil Rights Interactive Posters will be displayed in the media centers of both Langston Middle School and Oberlin High School from Wednesday, Feb. 1 through Wednesday, March 15. Students will have the opportunity to utilize cell phones or iPads during their scheduled library times to learn more about the portraits on the posters. The interactive posters will feature influential persons such as Rosa Parks, President Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr.

The public is invited to interact with the posters from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Monday, March 6 at Oberlin Elementary School, 210 North Park Street, Oberlin.

### **Black History 101 Mobile Museum**

The Oberlin City School District has been chosen to house the Black History 101 Mobile Museum, founded by Dr. Khalid el-Hakim. The mobile museum is an award-winning collection of more than 10,000 original artifacts of African American memorabilia dating from the trans-Atlantic slave trade era to hip-hop culture.

The museum will be at the schools March 6 and March 7. The exhibit will be open to the public on Monday, March 6 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Oberlin Elementary School, 210 North Park Street. It will feature up to 300 artifacts while Oberlin High School Black Student Union students will be dressing up as notable/influential African Americans. The visit is made possible thanks in part to JB Thomas Fund at the Community Foundation of Lorain County. Mrs. Harriet Thomas is a retired orchestra teacher from Oberlin City School District and was instrumental in bringing the mobile museum to Oberlin.

### **Check Out the Tuck n Tuck Show**

Caleb and Ahmad Tuck started a weekly community interview show in 2022 that focuses on starting dialogues with local figures such as Elyria Mayor Frank Whitfield and OHC's 2nd Vice President and City Council Member, Eboni Johnson.



The show is currently on its 17th episode. Visit their website, [tuckntuck.com](http://tuckntuck.com), for links to their Facebook, YouTube and other social media outlets.



### **Oberlin Schools Alumni Association Meeting**

There will be an in-person meeting for the Oberlin Schools Alumni Association on March 13, 7:00 pm to discuss Board of Directors and Committee chairs/members at the Oberlin Senior High School, Media Center. This association was created to promote and encourage a continuing interest in OCSD through planned events. Their goal is to foster the importance of life-long educational opportunities for Oberlin students. Contact [alumni@oberlinschools.net](mailto:alumni@oberlinschools.net) or call 440-776-4608 for more info.



73 1/2 South Professor St., P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH  
44074

**Phone:** 440-774-1700

[www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org)



**Contact Us**