



Oberlin Heritage Center July 2024 Gazette

July's History Walk: Civil War to Civil Rights

July 6, 13, 20, 27 at 11:00 a.m.



This 90-minute tour highlights historic events that reveal both Oberlin's progress and setbacks in race relations dating from early Oberlin all the way up to the 21st Century. Learn how Oberlin was a leader in abolition, participating heavily in events such as the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue, the Raid on Harpers Ferry, and the American Civil War, but also struggled with its own issues of equality and racism during these early years and later through Reconstruction, Jim Crow, Civil Rights, and today.

Advanced registration is strongly recommended.

This tour meets on the front steps of First Church (106 N. Main St.) at the corner of Main St. (Rt. 58) and Lorain St. (Rt. 511).

Upcoming Events

OHC Members-Only Sneak Peek of WOBL/WDLW

Want to see a radio station in operation? Come on a mini tour of the WOBL/WDLW station just south of town. This free experience is open to members ([Join Today!](#)) of the Oberlin Heritage Center. If you are interested, please contact OHC Executive Director Liz Schultz to get signed up on a first come, first served basis for either of these two dates:

- **Thursday, July 11 at 2:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, July 23 at 11:00 a.m.**

It's a small station with a lot going on, so the mini tour (the same content on both days) will last about 20 minutes and include time for questions. The station has been broadcasting since 1971 and currently holds both WDLW Kool Kat (98.9 fm 1380 am) and WOBL Lorain County Country (107.7 fm 1320 am). The station is owned and operated by Gary and Renee' Tollett.

To RSVP, contact: director@oberlinheritage.org or 440-774-1700. Registration will close by noon the day before each visit.

Photo: c. 1939 Stewart Warner "Campus" model radio that was once used by student boarders in the Monroe House during the Tanner family residency.



Teen Museum Summer Workshop

July 15 - 17 (Mon-Wed, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.) - Registration closes July 11



This three-day, behind-the-scenes workshop is designed for teens (grades 9-12) who are interested in community service, expanding their leadership and communication skills, and experiencing what it's like to work at a museum. Teens will learn techniques of greeting visitors, giving tours, teaching historic games, working with museum collections, and much more! Following completion of the workshop, participants are invited to volunteer with the Oberlin Heritage Center for various tours, special events, and programs as their schedules permit.

The fee is \$50 (\$45 for children and grandchildren of OHC members) with a \$25 reimbursement for students who complete at least 15 hours of volunteer service for OHC by the end of 2024.

This is a great opportunity to learn about local history, build up resumes and strengthen college applications, fulfill community service hours, and hang out with other students who have a passion for their communities.

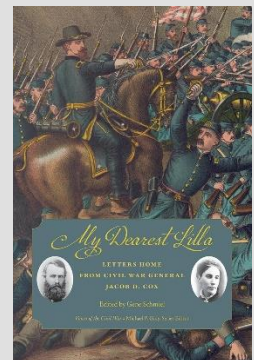
This workshop will be led by OHC Museum Education & Tour Manager Amanda Manahan, who is eager to share the behind-the-scenes fun of being involved with a museum.

Note: This workshop is held in the Jewett House of the Oberlin Heritage Center, 73 S. Professor St.

“Civil War Book Talk: An Oberlin Family, Jacob Cox and Helen Finney, and their wartime letters”

Wednesday, August 14 at 6:30 p.m. (Doors open 6:00 p.m. for book signing)

Civil War author/historian Gene Schmiel is returning to Oberlin to discuss his latest book, “My Dearest Lilla: Letters Home from Civil War General Jacob D. Cox.” Cox was an 1851 graduate of Oberlin College and later a General, Governor of Ohio, Secretary of the Interior, and Civil War author. His wife Helen, a fellow Oberlin College graduate whom he called “Lilla,” was a daughter of Oberlin President Charles Finney. Gene's new book is a companion to his 2014 biography of Cox, “Citizen-General.” This illustrated program will focus on the evolving relationship between the Coxes, especially during the stressful time of war, based on the over 200 letters Cox wrote home. Cox is memorialized in Oberlin via the college's Cox Administration Building. A few feet away, Helen's father is memorialized via the Finney Chapel.



This free program is co-hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center and Oberlin Public Library and will be held in the Community Room of the library, located at 65 South Main Street in Oberlin. Doors will open early at 6:00 p.m. for book sales and signing.

Estate Planning 101

Tuesday, August 20 at 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. with Q&A after

How does probate work? How do I name inheritors? [Can I leave it all to my cat?](#)

Have these questions and more answered at Estate Planning 101 with staff from Sarringhaus & Scott Co., LPA on Friday, August 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Oberlin Enrichment and Activity Center. While many people may feel uncomfortable discussing end-of-life issues, being proactive about planning can relieve a lot of stress, ease concerns your loved ones may have, and assure you that the impact you want to have both during and after your lifetime is honored and appreciated. Many people don't think they have enough money to worry about, but you probably have more assets than you realize and handling their distribution now will make things easier for your beneficiaries.

Topics discussed will include wills, designating people or organizations as beneficiaries, financial powers of attorney, healthcare documents, and what happens legally and financially when someone passes. OHC Collections Manager Maren McKee will also be present after the program for questions about caring for family historic heirlooms and records.

The event is free with no reservations required. Light refreshments will be provided. This event will be at the Oberlin Enrichment and Activity Center at 36 South Prospect Street.

Save the Date for These Upcoming Events

- Saturday, September 21 - Root Beer and Yesteryear - OHC's annual community event where we provide free root beer, ice cream and floats, sponsored by Oberlin IGA, to patrons and guests as they explore our grounds and historic homes.
- Saturday, October 19 - A Halloween themed costume party presented by the Oberlin SCAREitage Center!

Join The Team!

Museum Housekeeper (Part-Time)

The Oberlin Heritage Center is seeking a part-time, six-hour per week Museum Housekeeper to start in late August/early September. A flexible 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.

Special Projects and Tour Assistant (Part-Time)

Do you want to work in a museum, and contribute to long-term research projects concerning Oberlin's social history? If so, you're in luck! OHC is seeking a part-time special projects assistant to work for six hours on Saturdays starting now! Primary duties

include assisting with special events and projects, giving tours of the Heritage Center's buildings, greeting the public, and some light administrative work.

Apply online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/work

News From OHC

Say Hello to our Summer Intern



Callan Engstrom is a rising 4th year at Oberlin College, originally from Anaheim, California. She is majoring in History and Politics with a minor in Art History. She has joined the Oberlin Heritage Center's team as an intern for the summer and will be working on research, writing, and production for a history docuseries. After graduation she plans to spend a few years working in museums before entering grad school. In her free time she enjoys dancing and being involved in theater productions.

OHC Awarded America 250 Grant

The Oberlin Heritage Center was one of 61 recipients chosen from more than 170 statewide applications during the grant program's spring 2024 funding cycle. OHC received \$4,000 in support of the creation of a series of mini documentaries, "Local Leaders, National Impact". In total, America 250-Ohio awarded approximately \$600,000 in grants to communities and organizations across Ohio as part of the commission's second funding cycle. The America 250-Ohio Commission grants program has worked with [Ohio Humanities](http://OhioHumanities.org) to distribute \$1 million in grants to 84 organizations across the state. The grant program was designed to showcase the achievements, struggles, honors, innovations and significance of all people in Ohio since before its founding to the present day.



About America 250-Ohio

In 2026, the United States will celebrate its semiquincentennial, which is the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Each state has been encouraged to create a celebration and commemoration of this anniversary to reflect the unique character and contributions of each state to the nation over the past 250 years. Ohio is fully embracing this opportunity. The Ohio Commission for the Semiquincentennial (aka America 250-Ohio Commission or AM250-OH) was created by the Ohio legislature and launched on March 1, 2022. The charge of the AM250-OH Commission is "...to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States and the impact of Ohioans on the nation's past, present, and future."
— Ohio Revised Code (149.309). More information can be found at America250-Ohio.org.

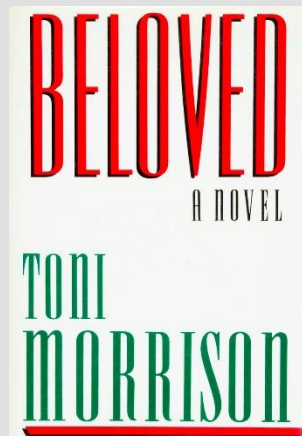
About Ohio Humanities

Ohio Humanities is a statewide nonprofit that shares stories to spark conversations and inspire ideas by hosting programs and awarding grants that support storytellers statewide, from museums to journalists to documentary filmmakers. For more information, please visit our website at OhioHumanities.org.

OHC Needs Shingles!

Do you have old sheets of shingles lying around? We'd be happy to take them off your hands. We're hoping to use them for some weed control on our property under the new accessibility ramp for Jewett House. We only need enough to cover an area of about 200 square feet.

Please contact Liz Schultz at director@oberlinheritage.org or call 440-774-1700



Big Reads Grant from The National Endowment of the Arts

OHC in collaboration with Lorain Public Library, Lorain Historical Society, Oberlin Public Library, and the Community Foundation of Lorain County, were awarded a Big Reads Grant of \$10,000 for programming around and distribution of copies of Toni Morrison's "Beloved." The primary applicant for this grant was the Lorain Public Library and the theme of this year's program is "Where We Live". This project was one of four funded in the state of Ohio this year.

OHC is donating its time to this project.

Museum & Members Update



Thank you to everyone who came out for Chalk Walk and to the amazing volunteers who helped to staff OHC's chalk station. Nearly 900 brave chalkers came out to make beautiful

art on Oberlin's sidewalks despite temperatures in the mid-90s. Big congratulations to Amanda Manahan and Steven Rice as well as the rest of the Chalk Walk committee for all their work preparing for and setting up this vital annual event. Thank you also to volunteers who helped with summer tours and our info table at Juneteenth and Lorain County Pride.

Additionally, we would like to congratulate filmmakers Scott Spears and Christina Paolucci on their recent nomination for an Emmy in the Ohio Valley Region in the category of Documentary - Historical/Nostalgia for the documentary "A Higher Law" about the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue of 1858.

OHC would like to thank new members Mike Barnhart, Ellie Lane, Libni Lopez, Bill Rush and Ellice Forman.

Also of Interest:

Fair Housing Tester for the Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research

Because of OHC's interest in historical redlining in Oberlin and elsewhere, we wanted to share that the Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research is currently recruiting members of the public to work as testers to help detect and investigate housing discrimination throughout Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties.



**Fair Housing Center
for Rights & Research**

For more information please visit thehousingcenter.org/about-us/jobs/ or contact Testing Specialist Faith Rutledge at frutledge@thehousingcenter.org or 216-361-9240, Ext. 202.



Community
Foundation of
**LORAIN
COUNTY**

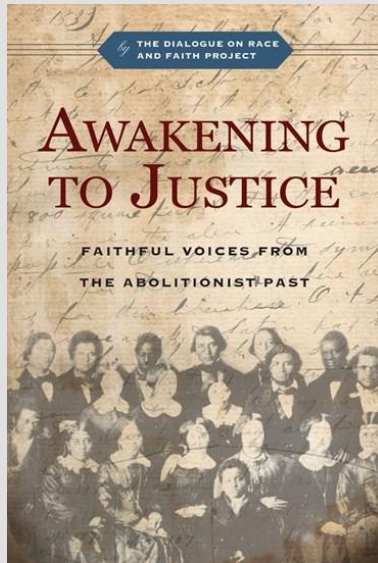
Neighbor Night

CONNECT WITH NEIGHBORS
SUPPORT COMMUNITY PROJECTS
ACT ON ISSUES THAT MATTER



The Community Foundation of Lorain County invites you to engage with fellow community members, share your ideas, and contribute to the ongoing dialogue about strengthening and uplifting our community. At Neighbor Nights, discussion items are determined by those in attendance, and they provide a discussion where everyone has something valuable to offer. Neighbor Night aims to foster connections, instill trust, and ignite positive initiatives within our community. Whether you are bursting with ideas or simply seeking to strengthen bonds with your fellow residents in Lorain County, Neighbor Night offers a warm and inclusive environment to kickstart your journey.

A neighbor night in Oberlin will be held Tuesday, July 16 at 5:30 p.m. in Mill on Main (95 S Main St) and a light dinner will be provided. Registration is free. For more information please contact Community Engagement Fellow Britney Ware at 440-984-7390 or bware@peoplewhocare.org.



New Book "Awakening to Justice" Released

The Dialogue on Race and Faith Project has recently released a new book, "Awakening to Justice: Faithful Voices from the Abolitionist Past." It presents the groundbreaking work of several scholars, including Oberlin Pastor A.G. Miller, in addition to reflections on the journal of a nineteenth-century Christian abolitionist and missionary, David Ingraham. Chapters also explore the life and writings of two of Ingraham's Black colleagues, James Bradley and Nancy Prince. Appendixes feature writings by all three abolitionists so readers can engage the primary sources directly.

The book is available for purchase on the [publisher's website](#) and also at MindFair books in Ben Franklin.

Access Statement:

Events are held in wheelchair accessible spaces unless otherwise noted. Restrooms at most venues are gender-specific and visitors are welcome to use their preferred restroom. For any additional queries about accessibility information please email director@oberlinheritage.org.



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