



Oberlin Heritage Center December 2024 Gazette



Join the Oberlin Heritage Center for a festive day at the Little Red Schoolhouse on Saturday, December 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. This is a free family-friendly event with some holiday fun, activities, and sweet treats for everyone. Fanny Jewett, a figure from Oberlin's past, will be in the Jewett House ready to talk about her family and what Oberlin was like during the Progressive Era over 100 years ago. We also heard a rumor that Santa Claus will be in the OHC's Little Red Schoolhouse. Don't miss the chance to meet Santa, snap a memorable picture, and create lasting holiday memories.

Thank you to our premier sponsor Grunwell-Cashero Building Restoration and supporting sponsor Cowling Funeral Home!

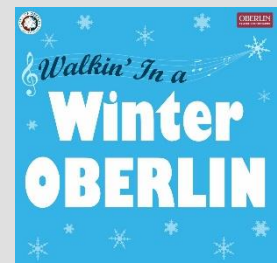


Upcoming Events

Walkin' in a Winter Oberlin

Saturday, December 7 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The City of Oberlin along with Oberlin College and other local organizations and businesses have come together to put on Walkin' in a Winter Oberlin. The event will run on Saturday, December 7 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. all over downtown Oberlin. OHC will be co-hosting a holiday ornament decorating table with the Firelands Association for the Visual Arts on Tappan Square. The event will



kick off with a lights parade at 6:00 p.m. followed by the tree lighting on Tappan Square and much much more.

For additional information about this event please visit <https://cityofoberlin.com/winter-oberlin/>.

That same evening A dedication ceremony for the new clock donated by Larry Funk will take place at 7 p.m. in front of the Huntington bank building.

OHC Winter Closure December 22 to January 20



The Oberlin Heritage Center will be closed to the public from Sunday, December 22 through Monday, January 20, 2025. This time will help OHC's staff focus on end-of-year reporting, behind-the-scenes collections projects, and a host of events to come in the new year. We will still offer tours and have regular open hours from now through Saturday, December 21.

We appreciate the understanding of our patrons.

Community Awards Nominations Now Open



The Oberlin Heritage Center's Community Awards Program celebrates and recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses whose outstanding accomplishments in serving the community are in keeping with our mission: To preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work and visit.

Award categories include:

- Community Historian
- Heritage Guardian
- Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year
- Community Educator of the Year
- Business Leader Service
- Youth Community Service

Nominations are due by February 1, 2025.

The Award Winners will be recognized at OHC's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 as special guests of the Oberlin Heritage Center.

OHC is now hosting Community Awards every two years - so get your entries in this year!

Seeking Holiday Images of Oberlin



Do you have pictures of family holiday traditions or community events that you would like to share? We want to see them! This season OHC is hoping to expand its photograph collection with images of Oberlinians celebrating the holidays. If you would like to donate images, either physical or digital, to this community archive, please contact Collections Manager Maren McKee at history@oberlinheritage.org.

Copies of submitted photos will be on display during OHC's Holiday Open House, Saturday, December 14th.

Photos: Left, an image of Christmas at the Weltzheimer/Johnson House from the Close Family Collection. Right, A Christmas Program at Centennial School, 1946. Gift of Claudia Jones

OHC Resources for Bicyclists

We know the weather is changing, but we wanted to let our fans know that we created a new Bicycle Resources page as part of a grant from Lorain County Public Health. We also created a new self-guided digital tour on izi.travel that takes people to monuments all over town. Get some fresh air with family and friends this holiday season and explore some places in Oberlin you've never seen or looked twice at before!

[OHC Bicycle Resources Page](#)
[Oberlin Monuments & Marvels IZI Biking Tour](#)

Holiday Gift Ideas from OHC

The [Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store](#) is a great source of holiday gift-giving ideas. The store is stocked with history-themed books including those from John Vanek's Father Jake Austin series, OHC tote bags, Oberlin afghans, Anti-Saloon League beverage glasses, and DVD copies of the documentary "A Higher Law," all of which are available online or at the gift shop located just inside the front door of the Monroe House (73 1/2 South Professor Street, at the back of the Conservatory parking lot).



Or, consider gifting an [OHC Membership](#), which comes with free admission to many OHC events and tours as well as a discount on gift shop items and entry to special social and paid events.

News From OHC

It's not too late to make a difference for OHC in 2024!

Although small, OHC works daily to make history available to all – through classroom outreach, online videos, in-person presentations, printed and digital media, research requests, self-guided tours and guided experiences, community events, and more. Your donation allows OHC to continue offering unique and important local history programming to community members of all ages. Please make a tax-deductible gift to our 2024 Annual Fund campaign TODAY. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Oberlin Heritage Center!



Caroline Newhall Program on YouTube



If you missed "Everything but death", Caroline Newhall's recent program about African-American soldiers who became prisoners of war in the Confederacy, a video of the program has been uploaded to OHC's YouTube Channel and is viewable there.

Museum & Members Update



'Tis the season to be thankful, and the Oberlin Heritage Center is especially appreciative of the recent funding received by OHC from the Community Foundation of Lorain County and the Nordson Corporation. The Community Foundation awarded OHC a grant of \$12,000 to help pay for the cost of operating expenses in 2025. This type of grant is especially important to organizations like OHC because ongoing costs are often the most difficult for small organizations like this one to fundraise for and go a long way in helping us preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage.

The Nordson Corporation awarded OHC \$5,000 to offer free outreach programs and educational materials to 27 classrooms in the Lorain, Elyria, and Keystone school districts, which will directly impact around 600 students. The funding will also allow the museum to hire a summer intern and offset program costs for other schools and youth groups in the county. We are humbled by Nordson Corporation's continued support of and trust in our organization's educational mission to use history education to make a better world.

OHC would like to thank new member Nikolas Ruiz as well as members who recently increased their Endowed Life Member status: Thomas and Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick (increased from Aluminum to Silver) and Anne and Edward Wardwell (increased from Aluminum to Silver.)

Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Carl R. Gerber, Norma B. Gilbert, and Dr. Dale A. Petrill who recently passed. We appreciate their years of generous support.

Marlene Deahl Merrill, a dedicated teacher, writer, committee member, wife and mother of two children will be missed by all. Marly was an honorary trustee of OHC and involved in its strategic planning committee as well as the oral history committee, an initiative she still generously gave her time to years after founding it in 1981. Marly, in collaboration with others, researched and published groundbreaking works about Oberlin history, and Black women in particular, including "The Antebellum 'Talented Thousandth': Black College Students at Oberlin Before the Civil War," "The Three Sarahs: Documents of Antebellum Black College Women," "Soulmates: The Correspondence of Lucy Stone and Antoinette Brown, 1846-1859," "Friends and Sisters: Letters Between Lucy Stone and Antoinette Brown Blackwell, 1846-93," and "Sarah Margru Kinson: The Two Worlds of an Amistad Captive." She also researched and wrote about the history of the Nord family and Yellowstone National Park. Marly will be missed but her legacy will endure.



Also of Interest:



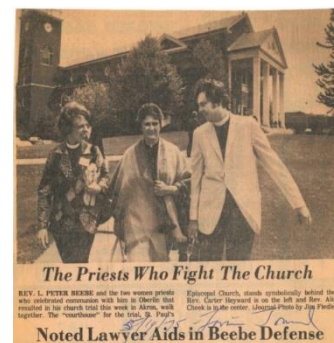
FAVA's Winter Art Market - Dec 14

Come out to FAVA for the Winter Art Market on Saturday, December 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the New Union Center for the Arts (39 S. Main Street) for a vibrant showcase of local artistry and handmade holiday gifts. Whether you're hunting for the perfect gift or simply want to support talented local artists, there's something for everyone at this event!

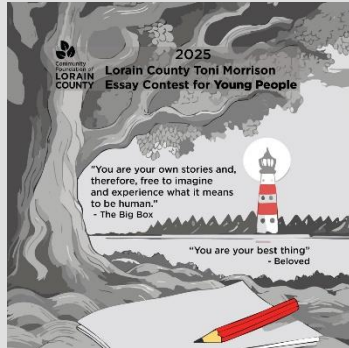
Artists and vendors: If you'd like to be part of this exciting day, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions to erin@fava.org.

Christ Episcopal Church Celebrates 50 Years of Women Priests

On December 8, 1974, Oberlin's Christ Episcopal Church made history by becoming only the second parish in the entire denomination to permit women to preside at a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The Revs. Carter Heyward (b. 1945) and Alison Cheek (1927-2019) were among 11 women "irregularly" ordained to the priesthood at the Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia, on July 29, 1974, two years before the General Convention of the Episcopal Church officially permitted women's ordination. Heyward, Cheek, and the Rev. Jeanette Piccard (who was unable to attend) were invited by the Vestry of Christ Church and the rector, the Rev. Peter Beebe,



to officiate at Christ Church, over the express objections of the Rt. Rev. John H. Burt, Bishop of Ohio. The event caused a media firestorm and led to an ecclesiastical trial, in which Beebe was convicted (later overturned). Fifty years to the day, the Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly, the first woman Bishop of Ohio (consecrated 2023) will preach and preside at a special celebration commemorating the occasion, at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, December 8, 2024 (open to the public).



The Toni Morrison Essay Contest is Open for Submissions

The Community Foundation of Lorain County's 2025 Toni Morrison Essay Contest for Young People is a unique opportunity for students to honor the legacy of hometown hero, Toni Morrison. This annual contest invites young writers to reflect on their personal stories and share how their identities are shaped by their connections to family, community, and culture.

This year, students can select one of the following prompts to inspire their narrative:

- "You are your own stories and, therefore, free to imagine and experience what it means to be human." — The Big Box
- "You are your best thing." — Beloved

Submission Deadline: January 24, 2025

Celebration Event: February 15, 2025

For questions, please contact us at essay@peoplewhocare.org.

Visit <https://bit.ly/34yNu2s> for more details and submission guidelines.

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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