

## Press Release

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### ***Race and Resistance, 1858 and 2008: Activists and Allies*** ***November 7-8, 2008*** ***Oberlin College***

Oberlin College, in conjunction with the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue Coalition, will host a two-day symposium, "Race and Resistance, 1858 and 2008: Activists and Allies," on Friday and Saturday, November 7-8, 2008, in the King Building (room 106) on the Oberlin campus. This symposium is part of a series of events marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue, a dramatic act of civil disobedience that underscored early Oberlin's commitment to African American freedom and antislavery mobilization. The symposium will bring together students, activists, and scholars, as well as community members and other interested individuals, to explore the history and legacy of struggles for racial justice before the Civil War and their resonance and relevance for our communities today. Scheduled for the first weekend after a history-making presidential election, the symposium will offer a timely opportunity to connect past, present and future as we explore together how concerned individuals can work to make our society more just and more equitable.

The symposium is free and open to the public. Funding has been provided by the Ohio Humanities Council, the Nord Family Foundation, and Oberlin College, including the Office of the President, Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Multicultural Resource Center, African American Studies Department, History Department, Sociology Department, and Comparative American Studies Program. For more information, please email gary.kornblith@oberlin.edu.

#### ***Friday, November 7***

***4:30 p.m.***

#### **Canaan's Children: Black Ohio's Revolutionary Legacy**

***Keynote Address by Robin D.G Kelley***

Dr. Kelley is Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity and History at the University of Southern California and the author of *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists during the Great Depression*, *Yo' Mama's DisFunkcional!: Fighting the Culture Wars in Urban America*, and *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*.

***8:00 p.m.***

#### **Special Screening: *Beloved*, with commentary by LisaGay Hamilton.**

Ms. Hamilton played younger Sethe in the film and has directed the documentary *Beah: A Black Woman Speaks*.

*Saturday, November 8*

*10:00 a.m.*

**Historical Reflections on the Antislavery Struggle**

Panel Participants: **Erica Armstrong Dunbar**, Associate Professor of History, University of Delaware; **Patrick Rael**, Associate Professor of History, Bowdoin College; **Jane Rhodes**, Dean for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Macalester College.

*1:30 p.m.*

**Contemporary Issues for Activists and Allies**

Panel Participants: **Lisa Brock**, Professor of African History and Diaspora Studies, Columbia College Chicago; **Scott Kurashige**, Associate Professor of American Culture and History, University of Michigan; **Salvador Vidal-Ortiz**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, American University.

*3:30 p.m.*

**Community Perspectives on Contemporary Activism**

Panel Participants: **Phyllis Yarber Hogan**, Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group; **Gloria A. Pickett**, Women's Re-Entry Network, Cleveland; **Jeff Stewart**, Immigrant Worker Project.

*5:30 p.m.*

**Closing Remarks, by Robin D.G. Kelley.**

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**On Sunday evening, November 9, the renowned women's vocal ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock will perform at 8 p.m. in Finney Chapel, concluding a weekend of discussion about the past, present, and future work of activists and allies for social and racial justice.**