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Explore Historic Oberlin During May Holiday Weekend!

Looking for something memorable and out of the ordinary for your family to do this Memorial Day and Oberlin College Commencement/Reunion Weekend? Explore historic Oberlin and the Oberlin Heritage Center by enjoying a guided tour or history walk offered Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 25-27. Discover the history surrounding Tappan Square, learn more about Oberlin's role as a major stop on the Underground Railroad, or commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War by hearing Oberlin stories from the battlefield and from the homefront. Advance reservations are required for most Heritage Center events and may be made online at www.oberlinheritage.org or by visiting the OHC office in the Monroe House at 73½ South Professor Street. Free parking is available near 20 West Vine Street in Oberlin.

The Oberlin Heritage Center's main site features three beautifully preserved buildings including the Monroe House (1866), the Little Red Schoolhouse (1836), and the Jewett House (1884). Together the buildings and the stories they hold within offer visitors a glimpse into Oberlin's past and tell how ordinary people in this community did some extraordinary things to influence the history of our nation. Guided tours take place Saturday, May 26 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended, although walk-ins are welcome. Admission is \$6 per adult; free to OHC members, college students and children. For more information or to make a reservation, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Visitors also will be able to reserve a space for one of several neighborhood history walks led by Oberlin Heritage Center docents. The Scholars and Settlers History Walk focuses on the early history and architecture surrounding Oberlin's downtown, park-like setting of Tappan Square. It will be offered Friday, May 25 at 3 p.m. This is the only time (other than to groups by appointment) that the Scholars and Settlers history walk will be offered to the public this year.

The Freedom's Friends History Walk includes stories of abolition and the Underground Railroad in Oberlin as visitors travel through the square and end at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. This history walk will be offered Saturday, May 26 at 11 a.m. and Sunday, May 27 at 3 p.m. If you miss taking part this weekend, the history walk will be offered Saturday mornings in July and August at 11 a.m.

The Soldiers and Civilians/Civil War History Walk offers guests a visual perception of the war through sites and photographs from the time while hearing stories of exhausting marches, the frustration of false news, the struggles for equal treatment, and the loss of friends and family, told in the words of those who lived it. It will be offered Saturday, May 26 at 3:30 p.m and Sunday, May 27 at 11 a.m. Should you be unable to attend this weekend, the Soldiers and Civilians history walk also will be offered each Saturday in June at 11 a.m.

Each of the Oberlin Heritage Center's tours is approximately 75 minutes and most likely to be enjoyed by ages 9 and up. In case of rain, the neighborhood history walks will be cancelled, while the Oberlin Heritage Center's main site tour takes place rain or shine.

The Heritage Center's Museum Store will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Stop by for a variety of Oberlin-themed and history-related mementos and gifts, including Oberlin afghans, Oberlin history playing cards, Apollo Theatre tee-shirts, and the award-winning Oberlin History comic book.

For more information about the Oberlin Heritage Center or its summer calendar of tours and events, visit www.oberlinheritage.org, or contact Patricia Murphy, Executive Director, at (440) 774-1700 or e-mail patm@oberlinheritage.org.

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