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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 Saturday and Sunday, May 23 and 24. Discover the history surrounding Tappan Square, learn more about Oberlin's role as a major stop on the Underground Railroad, and be inspired by stories of ordinary Oberlinians who did some extraordinary things, many of which influenced our nation's history. New this year: a Spanish-language version of an Oberlin history tour! Advance reservations are required for most Heritage Center guided tours and may be made online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.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 the nationally significant impact of both community and college from their beginnings in 1833 through the next 100 years. Guided mini-tours of the first floor of the Monroe House will be offered every half hour from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 23 and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 24. Walk-ins are welcome. Admission is \$3 per adult; free to OHC members, college students and children.

Exploración Histórica is a special one-hour guided tour of the 1866 Monroe House presented in Spanish on Saturday, May 23 at 10:00 a.m. Whether fluent in Spanish – or just wanting to brush up on your conversational skills – you'll enjoy today's tour led by Heritage Center intern Monica Monsalve, a graduating Politics major at Oberlin College. Advance reservations are encouraged due to limited space. The fee is \$3 per adult; free to OHC members, college students and children under 18.

Reservations are required for the thematic neighborhood history walks led by Oberlin Heritage Center docents throughout the weekend. 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 23 and Sunday, May 24 at 3 p.m. If you miss taking part this weekend, this history walk will be

offered on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. beginning in June and continuing through the end of August.

The Scholars & Settlers History Walk focuses on the early history and architecture surrounding Oberlin's downtown 13-acre campus of Tappan Square. This guided walk will be offered Saturday, May 23 at 5 p.m. Should you be unable to attend this weekend, it also will be offered on the first Sunday of each month in June, July and August at 1 p.m.

The Oberlin Women's History Walk will be offered Saturday, May 23 at 11 a.m. and features powerful stories of 19th and early 20th century Oberlin women who helped shape what it meant to be a woman in a small town and across America. The Radicals & Reformers History Walk will be offered Sunday, May 24 at 11 a.m. This guided walk through the beautiful park-like setting of Westwood Cemetery will inspire you through stories of spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo.

Each history walk is \$6 for adults; free to OHC members, college students and children accompanied by adults (please note that even when walks are free, reservations still must be made in advance). The Heritage Center's guided walks are 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 and refunds provided.

The Heritage Center's Museum Store will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Stop by for a variety of Oberlin-themed and history-related mementos and gifts, including the popular, award-winning Oberlin History comic book, the Heritage Center's oral history publication *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town*, Oberlin afghans, Oberlin history playing cards, Apollo Theatre tee-shirts, and much more!

For more information about the Heritage Center or its summer calendar of tours, kids' camps, and community events, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org, or call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org.

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