



Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette

April 2020

PO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440)774-1700

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or send e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org.*

We're All In This Together Message from the Executive Director

Dear members and friends of the Oberlin Heritage Center and Oberlin community,

I wanted to write a quick message to let you know how OHC is responding to the current COVID-19 situation. The week of March 9 was an intense one, with OHC starting the week with a two-day visit from peer site reviewers as part of our reaccreditation process, then deciding to postpone the Annual Meeting midweek, and then closing to the public by the end of the week. We especially regret not having the opportunity to give proper farewells and thanks to our student interns before they left but understand the need for their sudden departure and wish them well. I'm sure many of you experienced similar events and difficult decisions and our hearts and thoughts are with you. Staff members are now working from home and taking every precaution to protect themselves, their families, and fellow community members. While working from home we have access to email and many resources, but please know that we may be delayed in responding to inquiries.

The following programs have been postponed or cancelled for the safety of all:

- Spring Break Camp (cancelled)
- Annual Meeting (moved to July 8)
- Smithsonian Museum Day (cancelled; pollinator garden activities moved to May 16)
- A History of Redlining and Housing Discrimination in Oberlin (postponed until OC student presenter Colby Fortin can return)
- Upstairs / Downstairs Tour Docent Training (cancelled; if interested in learning when it is rescheduled, contact Amanda Manahan: tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org)

As you will see in the following newsletter entries, we are still planning for programs in late April and beyond, but please know that we are prepared to make additional changes as needed.

Your support of the Heritage Center has been appreciated and will continue to be as we reassess our programs and services over the course of the coming weeks. This moment is truly historic and I think we are all more aware than usual of the impact our actions can have on the future. Please follow guidelines issued by Governor DeWine, Dr. Amy Acton, and medical experts. If there is one thing that rings true in Oberlin's past it is the positive impact of collective action in the face of hardship. We will have brighter news in our May newsletter. In the meantime, AmeriCorps member Katrina Walker is keeping our Facebook and Instagram feeds filled with historical tidbits and updates.

Be well, be kind, and be safe,

Liz Schultz

OHC Annual Meeting—Rescheduled!

Wednesday, July 8th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(Social Hour begins at 5 p.m.)

The evening of history, fellowship and recognition has been rescheduled. We will still feature Oberlin College Associate Professor of Anthropology Amy Margaris (OC '96) sharing the program “The Past, Present and Future of the Oberlin College Museum.” The museum, which no longer exists as a physical structure, used to contain a variety of natural and ethnographic objects collected by alumni, missionaries, and others. Professor Margaris is the primary steward of the ethnographic collections and will discuss the history of the museum as well as current and potential uses of these objects. The event will occur at The Hotel at Oberlin, 10 East College Street.



Photo by Tanya
Rosen-Jones

Presentation of the Heritage Center’s 19th Annual Community Awards will take place during the meeting as well. The categories for the awards are:

***Community Historian: David Ashenurst**

***Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year: Stephen Johnson III**

***Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award: Green Circle Growers**

***Youth Community Service Award: Emily Winnicki**

***History Teacher of the Year: Ja’Niece Whitehead**

If you have purchased your ticket and would like a refund due to the change in date, please contact ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.com. The public is encouraged to join in the meeting, and for additional information and registration, visit: www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or phone 440-774-1700.

Sponsored by:



The Nord Family Foundation Awards Grant

The Nord Family Foundation, located in Lorain County, has generously presented a grant of \$5,400 to OHC for repair of the crumbling support columns and foundation coating of the 1866 Monroe House. This grant assists in protecting the integrity of the historic home and will make the front entryway welcoming for guests and tour groups. So, watch for the work to be completed later this year.

Thank You to OHC Members and Volunteers!

April is National Volunteer Month

Members and volunteers are the heart of the Oberlin Heritage Center. They are the movers and shakers who keep the organization moving forward preserving and sharing Oberlin history in many different ways. Many hands make light work! If you are not involved (yet) with OHC, make this the year you connect with the Heritage Center -- by joining as a member at any level, or by lending your time and talents as a volunteer. New supporters always are needed to keep the organization a vibrant community resource for everyone.

Volunteer Opportunities!

Tentative Docent Training—Freedom's Friends History Walk Docent training, **April 25th from 9 a.m. to noon**

Share Oberlin's role in the history of abolition and the Underground Railroad and learn to present it in the format of a 90-minute walking tour through historic neighborhoods surrounding downtown Oberlin. Please register before April 21st. Training begins at The First Church on North Main Street.

* Could you find 30 minutes each week to help around the Heritage Center grounds? Contact Liz Schultz at director@oberlinheritage.org about scheduling.

*Perhaps you have time to be the Librarian for the **Little Free Library** at OHC. If you would change out books (provided) and keep library tidy, it would be lovely for all who use this charming kiosk.

History Minute



Got some free time? Help OHC identify the people in this photograph!

Andy Stofan snapped this picture of four unidentified individuals outside of Fazio's grocery store (now the Oberlin Public Library) sometime in the 1960s. Do you recognize anybody? Send your leads to Maren McKee at history@oberlinheritage.org.

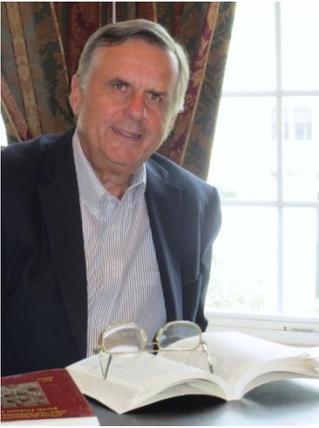
Caption for the photo: Gift of Jennifer Citron

Statehood Day 2020

Oberlin Heritage Center director Liz Schultz was at the Ohio Statehouse last month for Statehood Day! Statehood Day is the annual day when history advocates gather in Columbus to showcase the importance of Ohio's history and how history, historic preservation and the organizations that help provide access to Ohio's rich history benefit the Buckeye State. Liz teamed up with Lorain County Historical Society director Kerri Broome to meet with State Representative Joe Miller and legislative aides Kate Millen and Heather Plahuta of State Senator Nathan Manning's office to thank them for supporting local history in Lorain County. A short visit with State Representative Gayle Manning also took place.

Book Reading with Gene Schmiel, Civil War Historian and Author

A discussion, reading, and book signing with Gene Schmiel will be held on **Friday, April 24th from 4-5 p.m.** in the Monroe House parlor on the Oberlin Heritage Center grounds. Schmiel has written several books related to the Civil War, including an award-winning biography of Oberlinian and Ohio Governor



Jacob Cox, the namesake of Oberlin College's administration building. In 2019 he published two new books, one about the Battle of Antietam and another about the Battle of Franklin, in both of which Cox played a significant role. "Ohio Heroes of the Battle of Franklin" and "Lincoln, Antietam, and a Northern Lost Cause" are Schmiel's most recent books.

A Civil War historian, author and lecturer who did his doctoral research at the Oberlin College Archives, Schmiel previously presented programs in Oberlin about Cox's military and political careers. He holds a Ph.D. in History from The Ohio State University and his website is <https://civilwarhistory-geneschmiel.com/> will be available for purchase at the event. Space is limited for this free program, so please reserve ahead at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or phone 440-774-1700.

Region 3 Ohio History Day

Local Winners

Region 3 Ohio History Day was held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Cleveland History Center of the Western Reserve Historical Society and Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Ohio Region 3 consists of students from Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina and Summit Counties and this year's theme was "Breaking Barriers." Local winners are listed, some whom will advance to state competition. This event is sponsored by National History Day, Cleveland History Center, Ohio History Day and Case Western Reserve University. Congratulations to these students and all who participated.

Oberlin Heritage Center Hubbard Prize

Sponsor: Oberlin Heritage Center through the generous support of Gail and Ned Hubbard.

Senior Group Documentary Third Place

- *Breaking Barriers of Climate Change in Higher Education: Oberlin College's Approach to Sustainable Development*
 - by Emma Kim, Greta Arbogast, and Daria Martz
 - Senior Group Documentary
 - School: Oberlin High School
 - Teacher: Donna Shurr

Senior Group Website Third Place

- *Breaking Barriers: Flying High with Jacqueline Cochran*
 - Asher Cipinko and Ewan Inglis
 - School: Oberlin High School
 - Teacher: Donna Shurr

Junior Individual Exhibit Honorable Mention

- *Rebecca Lee Crumpler: First African American Doctor*
 - Grant Squires
 - School: Langston Middle School
 - Teacher: Alison Smith

Christian Community School, teacher Michael Hoehn, was also well-represented in the competition with several students receiving awards:

The Sensational Development of Eliminating Sensation by Kaden Drake, Junior Individual Exhibit Honorable Mention

Kursk: The Last Barrier on the Eastern Front by Sam Johnson, Senior Individual Exhibit Second Place

Manhattan Project (The Making of the First Atomic Bomb) by Grant Doeringer and Landon Wall-D, Junior Group Website Third place

Staying Steadfast in the Suffocating Space of Segregation by Brooke Williams, Senior Individual Exhibit Third Place

William J. Powell: Building a Course for the Future by Kat Moorman, Honorable Mentions

Harriet Quimby: Flying Past Barriers by Piper Kennedy, Junior Individual Performance Second Place

Ella!: Rags to Rhythm by Daisy Kennedy, Senior Individual Performance Second Place



OHC Grounds Day – Saturday, May 16 from 9:00am-12:00pm

Please join us for an hour or two and help us spruce up the grounds for our busy summer season. Projects include trimming, weeding, planting, and general yard clean-up. Tools and supplies will be provided; volunteers are welcome to bring their own. Please contact Liz at liz.schultz@oberlinheritage.org or at 440-774-1700 to RSVP.

Please a Pollinator, Befriend a Beekeeper, and Explore History Updated to OHC Grounds Day, May 16th!

The Oberlin Heritage Center looks to the future as much as the past. Come lend a hand for an hour or two as OHC volunteers build pollinator-friendly plant beds on the museum property. Tom Roth, a local beekeeper with more than 22 years of experience, will be on site to answer questions about bees and beekeeping from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



The Heritage Center will provide some gardening tools and gloves; participants may also bring their own favorites (please mark with your name).

If you have questions in advance or would like to let us know you're coming to help, please contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan at (440) 774-1700 or at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

Announcing Youth Summer Camps!

OHC is preparing for fun educational programs—

Architecture Camp—July 6-10

Campers will enjoy learning the basics of architecture in this hands-on experience!

Folk Camp: Arts, Trades, and Crafts—August 3-7

Tradition meets today as campers discover arts and trades!

Explore Oberlin—August 10-14

Find out what is behind the closed doors, as campers see how things work!

Camps are held at the Oberlin Depot, and registrations are first-come, first-served. Scholarships may be available. For additional information, please visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or email tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org



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