



Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette February 2021

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

Happy Valentine's Day from All of Us at OHC!



Like many holidays, Valentine's Day is rumored to have originated from an ancient Pagan festival that was transformed by Christian rulers. In this case, it was Lupercalia, a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome. Pope Gelasius I outlawed the festival at the end of the 5th century, replacing it with a more sedate feast day. Tradition claims he later decreed the day "Saint Valentine's Day," in honor of a Christian martyr, but scholars argue the coincidence to this day. We have the English poet Geoffrey Chaucer to thank, however, for the day's association with love. Like many medieval people, Chaucer believed that bird-mating season began in mid-February, and waxed romantic about the occasion in the 1375 poem

"Parliament of Foules:" "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day/Whan every foul cometh there to choose his mate."

From then on, the romantic celebration took place on February 14 each year. Americans were exchanging handmade cards as early as the 1700s to express their feelings for each other, but it wasn't until 1840 that mass-produced cards became popular. Esther Howland, who later became known as the "Mother of the Valentine," began creating elaborate pieces of art that included lace, ribbons, and colorful pictures known as scrap—and the card-sending ritual we are familiar with today was born.

Although Charles Finney most likely would not have approved of such frivolity, OHC does have an example of such a card in its collection. The card, which dates from the turn of the 20th century, lives within the Mildred Haines Collection, gifted by her family.

So, no matter what Charles Finney might think, the staff of OHC wishes you all a very Happy Valentine's Day! We hope you are able to celebrate, albeit virtually, with your loved ones.

OHC Remains Closed to the Public until Further Notice



OHC remains closed to the public, both for the safety of the staff and community. Although we can't welcome visitors to our campus right now, we look forward to seeing you virtually. We encourage you to connect with us on social media, or sign up for one of the new online programs that will be debuted this coming year.

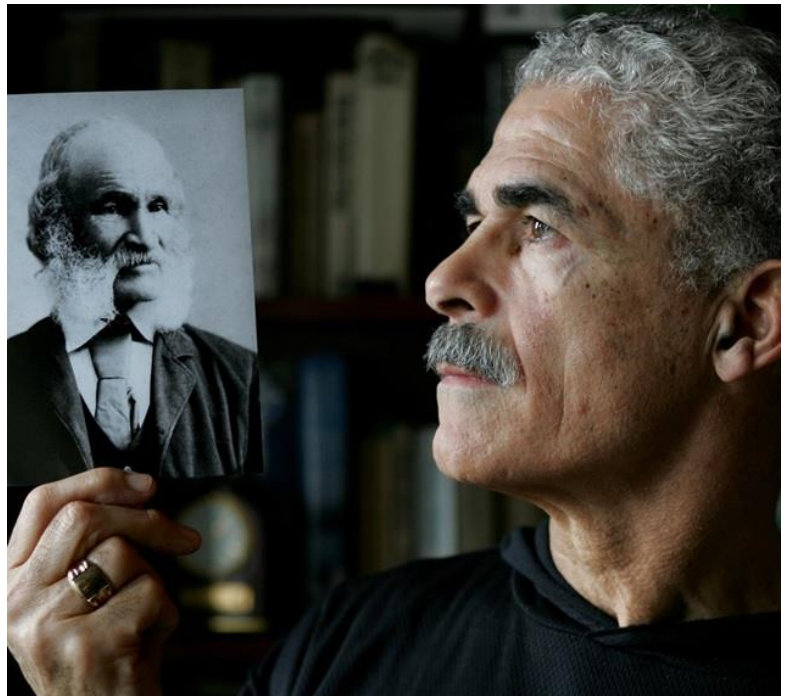
To learn more about upcoming events and online resources, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

When Owing a Shilling Costs a Dollar: February 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Join author and educator Carver Clark Gayton, PhD, during a presentation about his ancestor, Lewis G. Clarke, on February 23 at 7:00 p.m. Clarke's life, both in slavery and freedom, informed parts of Harriet Beecher Stowe's writing of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The discussion will address the continued legacy of Clarke, slavery, and racial injustice as well.

Gayton is a retired academic administrator, corporate executive, and museum chief executive who will be joining us in this virtual program from his home city of Seattle.

In 2014, he published the biography *When Owing a Shilling Costs a Dollar: The Saga of Lewis G. Clarke, Born a "White" Slave*, which includes information about Clarke's time in Oberlin and which can be special ordered through Ben Franklin/MindFair Books.



This free, 40-minute Zoom program will end with a Q&A session. Advance registration is required using this link: <http://bit.ly/3pcp33v>. Registrants will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

Behind the Basement Door Program Offers Two Sneak Peeks into the OHC Collection This March



Join OHC's Collection Manager, Maren McKee, for a special look at some of OHC's rarely seen collections items. In honor of Women's History Month, this program will highlight a few of the amazing Oberlin women represented in the collection.

March 12, at 3:30 p.m. – *Oberlin Women's Clubs*: Explore the history, records, and photographs of Oberlin's many women's clubs.

March 26, at 3:30 p.m. – *Oberlin Women in the Arts*: Celebrate Oberlin women in the arts and view pieces from the fine art collection.

This program will be broadcast live on OHC's Facebook page in two 15-minute parts. You don't have to have a Facebook account to be able to view the Oberlin Heritage Center's page and watch this event. Just go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/oberlinheritagecenter> at the time of the program. (If Facebook asks you to join, you can just select "Not Now.")

Painting by Rebecca Nicodemus Kinney.

Leadership Lorain County Intern Program is Now Accepting Applications

OHC is delighted to announce it is offering a summer internship experience through Leadership Lorain County, along with several other nonprofits and organizations across Lorain County. Applications are now available on LLC's website for college students to spend their summer growing their knowledge of Lorain County, building a professional network, gaining experience in the workplace, and having fun, all during this **PAID** internship opportunity. The application deadline is March 5. To apply, please visit:

<https://www.leadershiploraincounty.com/programs/intern-program/>.

History Minute: Oberlin Women in Medicine

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, discrimination against women attempting to pursue a career was an unfortunate reality, especially in the medical field. Despite these barriers, women of the Oberlin and Cleveland areas were instrumental in developing local medical communities. They were not only practicing medical

professionals, but founders of hospitals and clinics who dedicated their lives to the field of medicine to improve medical conditions and access in their local areas.

This history feature was researched and written by a series of OHC interns and student volunteers over the past few years. Learn about these women, including Oberlin's own Julia Chapin Jump (pictured), by following the link to our website:

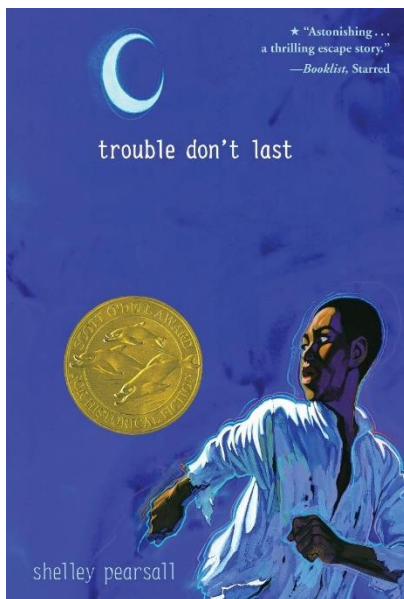


*From Truly:
Julia Chapin Jump, M.D.*

<http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/platform/cms/Women%20in%20Medicine%20History%20Feature.pdf>.

Picture Source: Commemorative Biographical Record of the counties of Huron and Lorain, Ohio.

Book of the Month: *Trouble Don't Last*



Are the young adults in your life tired of being stuck indoors, and more than just a little bored? Have they put together every puzzle in the house, finished their schoolwork early, and over-indulged in all things digital? Why not try an old-fashioned remedy—a book! Cleveland native Shelly Pearsall's award-winning novel, *Trouble Don't Last* takes young readers on the journey of eleven-year-old Samuel (who was born a slave on a Kentucky farm) as he travels north to freedom with a fellow freedom seeker, Old Harrison.

The book is available for purchase in the Monroe House Museum Store (we offer curbside service!) as well as online at:

<https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/store.shtml?category=18>.

OHC members receive 10 percent off the purchase price of this book, as well as all other books. Happy reading!

Become a Member of the Oberlin Heritage Center Today!

Members are the very foundation of the Oberlin Heritage Center, and key to its continued mission as a community-based nonprofit. We could not exist without you—in fact, it's in our Constitution! Your needs and interests direct and inform events, educational programs, community outreach, research projects, and more. Your feedback is critical to strategic planning and your participation and ambassadorship extends the impact of OHC's work. Membership fees and donations to the Annual Fund are also the most important sources of income for OHC. From student members to Endowed Life members, YOU are the heart of OHC.

Membership benefits include:

- Free admission to tours and history walks offered by the Heritage Center; two guest passes to share with family or friends. (Educators, businesses, and organizations receive additional passes.)
- Reduced prices on most events for which there is a fee, including workshops and children's camps. (Educators receive 10 percent off group visits as well.)
- 10 percent discount on shopping done online or at the Heritage Center's museum store. (Educators receive 15 percent off publications.)
- Complimentary benefits at 300 history museums nationwide through the Time Travelers Network (visit <http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/> for details).
- Satisfaction in knowing that you are making a difference and helping to preserve Oberlin's unique, nationally significant history.

If you are not yet a member of OHC, please join today! Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org, call (440) 774-1700, or email members@oberlinheritage.org for more information.

Also of Interest:



NAACP Establishes Scholarship in B.J. and Claudia Jones' Honor

The Oberlin NAACP Unit is proud to announce that it has established the Robert (B.J.) and Claudia Jones Scholarship Fund. The scholarship was officially accepted by the board of the Community Foundation of Lorain County at their December meeting. The fund has already reached the \$10,000 minimum to

become active. The scholarship will be awarded to an Oberlin High School student based on financial need, and a first-generation college student will be preferred (but not required).

Those interested in contributing to the fund should make checks payable to the Community Foundation of Lorain County with the fund name in the memo line. The Community Foundation's address is: The Community Foundation of Lorain County, 9080 Leavitt Road, Elyria, OH 44035-4210.

Robert (B.J.) Jones served as Oberlin's Police Chief for many years. After his retirement, he worked at Oberlin College, as the head of the Safety and Security Office. Claudia Jones is an Oberlin native, and worked at Oberlin College in the Office of Development. She is currently involved with the NAACP, the Girl Scouts, the Women's Club of Lorain, and Mt. Zion Church. Of the scholarship, she says: "I am truly delighted that the Unit chose to memorialize B.J.'s legacy with the scholarship fund and honored that my name was included."

Photo courtesy of Claudia Jones

Toni Morrison Essay Contest for Young People

Essays Due February 12, 2021



Toni Morrison now has her own day in her home state of Ohio. Governor Mike DeWine signed into law a bill designating February 18, the legendary novelist's birthday, as "Toni Morrison Day." To celebrate, the Toni Morrison Essay Contest for Young People was organized to harness the energy, creativity, and initiative of this hometown hero.

The theme for this year's contest is "The Site of Memory." In her narrative, *The Site of Memory*, Toni Morrison reflects upon the importance of people, places, family, and the familiar details of everyday people's extraordinary lives. Toni Morrison used her imagination to write stories about the lives of ordinary individuals in a unique way. This year's writing prompt is: **Reflect upon how have people and places informed and sustained you during this pandemic.**

For more information about the contest, and instructions on how to submit an essay,

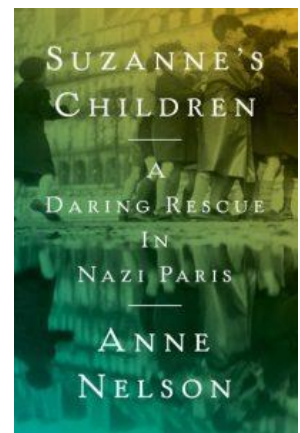
please visit: <https://www.peoplehocare.org/toni-morrison-essay-contest-for-young-people>.

This contest was organized by: the African American Community Fund, the Community Foundation of Lorain County, the Lorain Historical Society, the Lorain Public Library System, the Lorain County Alliance of Black School Educators, the Lorain County Urban League, and the Lorain County Section of National Council of Negro Women.

Suzanne's Children: A Daring Rescue in Nazi Paris: A Lecture with Anne Nelson

Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Join Classrooms Without Borders, in partnership with the Rodef Shalom Congregation and the Maltz Museum of Jewish History, as they host author and scholar Anne Nelson. Nelson is the author of *Suzanne's Children: A Daring Rescue in Nazi Paris*, which relays the story of Suzanne Spaak, a member of the Belgian Catholic elite who used her power and connections with Jewish and Christian resistance groups to save hundreds of Jewish children from deportation from Nazi Paris to the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

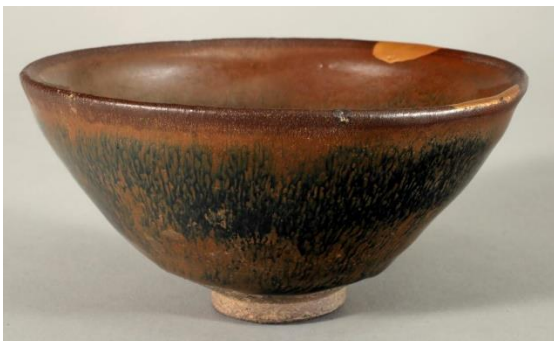


Nelson is a widely published author, and her dramatic narrative of Suzanne Spaak's life was named a finalist in the National Jewish Book Awards. To attend this free Zoom event, please visit:

<https://classroomswithoutborders.org/events/rsvp.php?353> and RSVP. A link to the lecture will be sent after registration.

Tea, Time, and Taste: Thoughts on Tea Bowls at the AMAM

Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.



Do old, weathered, and broken things have their own special beauty? What are *wabi-sabi* and *kintsugi*? In this brief video, Kevin R. E. Greenwood, Joan L. Danforth Curator of Asian Art at the Allen Memorial Art Museum, will describe the aesthetic principle and Japanese ceramic repair technique using examples from the museum's collection.

The video will appear on the AMAM Facebook feed at: <https://www.facebook.com/allenartmuseum> and on the museum's Vimeo page at: <https://vimeo.com/amam>. Contact the Education Department at (440) 775-8671 with any questions. The video is presented with support from a Freeman Asian Arts & Culture Initiative grant from the Freeman Foundation.

Photo courtesy of the Allen Memorial Art Museum.

The Artists Archives of the Western Reserve Present: *NewNow* 2021 (February 17 – April 17, 2021)



The Artists Archives of the Western Reserve (AAWR), in partnership with Cuyahoga Community College, is proud to present the *New Now 2021*, Northeast Ohio's premier biannual competitive art exhibition juried by Cat Sheridan, curator of the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery. This year, the exhibition will be held exclusively online. A virtual opening reception and awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. At that time, the winners of five Juror's Awards will be announced, and prizes presented. The event will also include a preview of the show, and remarks by Sheridan, Gallery East Coordinator Terri Patton, and AAWR Executive Director Mindy Tousey. To attend the free online reception, please register at: <http://www.artistsarchives.org/event/newnow-2021/>.

Painting by John A. Sargent III, As Above So Below, oil on canvas.

OHC is Keeping History Alive

The Oberlin Heritage Center is working harder than ever to fulfill its mission: to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work, and visit. Despite the challenges faced last year, we are excited to begin a new year and to bring our members even more ways to stay engaged with Oberlin's history, through virtual programming, newsletter features, and safe community outreach. We'd like to take a moment to thank you again, for supporting OHC's efforts and working with us to keep history current for our members.

Recently, however, we realized that the mail delivery to and from the Monroe House has been delayed—your membership renewals and gifts have not been arriving in a timely manner. If you have sent us a renewal or donation and have not yet received confirmation of its receipt, please feel free to contact us at (440) 774-1700 or members@oberlinheritage.org.

Our members are the foundation of this organization, and your support helps keep the lights on! We appreciate every single one of you.



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