



Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette November 2021

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www.oberlinheritagecenter.org

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Join OHC for a Weekend of History Walks and Tours! Friday-Sunday, November 5-7, 2021



Join OHC staff members and docents for the final outdoor tour weekend of the year, which also incorporates Oberlin College's Parents Weekend! History walks are open to the public as well as to campus visitors, and include opportunities to participate in our three most popular outdoor walks, as well as self-guided tours of the Monroe House! Visit the Oberlin Heritage Center's website at <https://bit.ly/3nYCKyN> to find out more about fees and starting locations.

Friday, November 5

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: *Self-guided Tours - Oberlin Origins* (Explore OHC's Monroe House at your own pace; last entry at 2:30 p.m.)

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: *Tablet Tour of Historic Oberlin* (Call ahead for availability)

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: *Civil War to Civil Rights History Walk* (Tour begins in front of The First Church in Oberlin at 106 N. Main St.)

Saturday, November 6

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: *Self-guided Tours - Oberlin Origins* (Explore OHC's Monroe House at your own pace; last entry at 2:30 p.m.)

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: *Tablet Tour of Historic Oberlin* (Call ahead for availability)

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: *Freedom's Friends History Walk* (Tour begins in front of The First Church in Oberlin at 106 N. Main St.)

1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.: *Scholars & Settlers History Walk* (Tour begins at the flag poles on Tappan Square, at the corner of Main & College Sts.)

Sunday, November 7

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: *Self-guided Tours - Oberlin Origins* (Explore OHC's Monroe House at your own pace; last entry at 12:30 p.m.)

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: *Tablet Tour of Historic Oberlin* (Call ahead for availability)

1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.: *Scholars & Settlers History Walk* (Tour begins at the flag poles on Tappan Square, at the corner of Main & College Sts.)

Please visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org for OHC's latest COVID-19 policy updates. Masks are currently required for indoor tours. Please know that we may implement timed entry to the Monroe House if crowds are large.

Last Chance to Sign up for OHC's Annual Trivia Night!

Trivia Takes Place Friday, November 12 at 6:00 p.m. – via Zoom

If you want to participate in OHC's annual trivia contest, **the last day to register your team is November 8!** Don't miss out on this fun evening, which promises to be full of maddening minutiae and playful pondering. Get a team of family and friends (or both) together, and settle in for an evening of virtual entertainment and laughter with the Oberlin community (and beyond)!



This year's contest will take place on Zoom. Questions will be announced live by our special MCs: trivia veterans, OHC members, and father-and-son team Kevin and Max Greenwood After announcing a round of questions, teams will be sent to their own virtual break-out rooms to confer and then text a photo of their answer sheet to an answer checker using a smartphone. To register, please have your team captain visit <https://bit.ly/3u7ktqt> or call (440) 774-1700. The cost to play is \$40/team. The top three placing teams will receive goodie gift bags, and the winning team will have their name added to the OHC Trivia Champions plaque, prominently displayed in the Museum Store.

The evening will also include a 50/50 raffle, as well as raffle baskets to bid on prior to the event. The raffles are open for Ohio residents only.

Thank you to Kurt G. Sarringhaus for being the premier sponsor of Trivia Night!

**Kurt G. Sarringhaus
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News from the Second Floor: OHC is Seeking a Part-time Special Projects Assistant



Do you want to work behind the scenes in a museum, and contribute to long-term research projects concerning Oberlin's social history? If so, you're in luck! OHC is seeking a part-time special projects assistant to work for six hours on Saturday. The position is currently grant funded for January through December of 2022. Primary duties include assisting with special events and projects (including research and archiving items that are specifically related to the history of race in Oberlin), giving tours of the Heritage Center's buildings, greeting the public, and some light administrative work.

To apply, please mail a brief letter of interest, a resume, and two references to: **Oberlin Heritage Center, Attn: Liz Schultz, Executive Director, P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074** or email the documents to oberlinheritagecenter@gmail.com by the end of the day on Saturday, November 13, 2021.

OHC Welcomes Erin Robichaud

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to the OHC Ohio History Service Corps/AmeriCorps Member for the 2021-2022 program year, Erin Robichaud. Erin, who hails from Westerville, will be serving at the Oberlin Heritage Center this year while also assisting other local history organizations throughout Region 3 (Cuyahoga, Medina, Summit, Lorain, and Lake counties).

Before attending the College of Wooster and earning her degree in history and classical studies, Erin worked at an independent and assisted living facility where she enjoyed listening to the stories of past generations. At Wooster, Erin developed skills for sharing and preserving historical narratives. Two of her favorite projects involved building a website for the local Women's Advisory Board, to explore its history and significance within the community, and starting a COVID-19



collection in Wooster's archives to document how the campus responded and adapted to the pandemic. Erin is excited to bring her passion for storytelling and service to OHC and Region 3. When not serving, she looks forward to exploring and connecting with the Oberlin community!

Thank You for Making Root Beer and Yesteryear a Success!



Despite the cloudy skies, more than 230 people gathered to celebrate Root Beer and Yesteryear on the OHC campus on October 3—thank you! The day was a success, with attendees enjoying root beer floats and popcorn, phonograph demonstrations, historical interpreter Howard Carter, music by the Front Porch Swatters, and the chance to take a photograph in a Model T Ford. Congratulations to Robin Gnizak, who won the day's raffle and took home a goodie bag from Trader Joe's. OHC thanks its volunteers and sponsors for helping make the day special, and looks forward to celebrating with the Oberlin community again next year.

Special thanks to Oberlin IGA and the Oberlin Boosters for supporting this event.

Oberlin Honors Mary Burnett Talbert with Historic Marker

On Friday, October 22 the Oberlin community gathered to dedicate a historic marker to one of its own. The marker honors pioneering Civil Rights activist and suffragist Mary Burnett Talbert, who grew up in Oberlin and attended Oberlin College, and was a leader in the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Talbert was also a delegate to the International Council of Women conference in 1920, and championed voting rights as a suffrage advocate while serving as the vice president of the NAACP anti-lynching committee.



The marker, which is located at 9 S. Main Street, was made possible through the William G. Pomeroy Foundation's National Women's Suffrage Marker Program and the National Votes for Women Trail. The marker is a collaborative effort between the City of Oberlin, the Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group, the Oberlin Heritage Center, and the NAACP – Metro Central Unit 3183. OHC would like to thank Katrina Walker, a former AmeriCorps member through the Ohio History Service Corps program; FAVA, the Oberlin College Archives, and Madeline Scott of the Afro-Historical Association and Buffalo Branch of the NAACP for their assistance during this project. Special thanks to Jo-Anne Steggall and Girl Scout Troop 50349, for their help with set up and tear down during the dedication, and for serving lemonade to our guests after the marker's unveiling!

If you were not able to attend the marker's unveiling, you can still view the ceremony at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVhYJcbdqzU>.

Photo: Councilwoman Linda Slocum; OAAGHG President Jordann Sadler; NAACP Metro Central Unit Representative Claudia Jones; OHC Executive Director Liz Schultz.

OHC is Accepting Nominations for its Community Awards Program

The Oberlin Heritage Center's Community Awards program, now in its 20th year, is accepting nominations of individuals, businesses, or organizations whose outstanding accomplishments are in keeping with the Heritage Center's mission to "preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, work, and visit." Award categories include:



- **Community Historian**
- **Heritage Guardian**
- **Community Teacher of the Year**
- **History Teacher of the Year**
- **Keep Oberlin Beautiful**
- **Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year**
- **Business Leader Service**
- **Youth Community Service**

Please visit our website at <https://bit.ly/3B2QOR7> for more information on each award category, as well as a downloadable entry form. (Paper forms are available at the Monroe House during open hours.) The deadline for submitting a nomination is February 1, 2022.

Award recipients will be notified in mid-February and will be invited to attend OHC's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2022 to receive their awards. For more information on the Community Awards program, contact OHC at (440) 774-1700 or by email at: members@oberlinheritage.org. (Pictured: OHC 2021 Community Award Winners.)

WBEH added to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Listing

Earlier this fall, the National Park Service added the Wilson Bruce Evans Home to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The home was one of 17 other sites added this year to the already 698 listings that provide insight into the experiences of freedom seekers who bravely escaped slavery and those who assisted them.



“The stories of freedom seekers, who risked everything to claim their liberty, inspire us every time we review Network to Freedom applications,” said National Park Service Deputy Director Shawn Bengé. “The new listings remind us of the power Underground Railroad histories hold today and we are eager to work alongside our new members sharing Underground Railroad history with the public.”

The Wilson Bruce Evans House was the home of Wilson Bruce Evans and Sarah Jane Leary Evans, free people of color who moved to Oberlin in 1854 and built their home at 33 East Vine Street. In 1858 Wilson Bruce Evans joined in the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue to secure freedom for self-emancipated John Price. His nephew John Anthony Copeland and his brother-in-law Lewis Sheridan Leary participated in John Brown's Harpers Ferry uprising. The home has remained in the family since it was built. For more information about the Evans Home, please visit: <http://evanshhs.org/>.

Give the Gift of an OHC Membership this Holiday Season



Do you have a history buff in your family? Are you having a hard time finding the perfect gift for the family member who is just so difficult to please? If you answered yes to either question, we have the answer for you—a year-long, gift membership to OHC! Members are the lifeblood of our organization and make OHC's mission-driven work possible.

An OHC member enjoys the following benefits:

- Free admission to tours and history walks offered by the Heritage Center, as well as two guest passes to share with family or friends.
- Reduced prices for most events for which there is a fee, including workshops and children's camps.
- Ten percent discount online or in-store.
- Complimentary benefits at 300 history museums nationwide through the Time Travelers Network at <https://timetravelers.mohistory.org/>.
- The enjoyment in knowing that you are making a difference and helping to preserve Oberlin's unique, nationally significant history!

To purchase a gift membership, visit

<https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/membership.shtml>, call (440) 774-1700, or email members@oberlinheritage.org for more information.

November's Memorial Minute

The staff members of the Oberlin Heritage Center extend their condolences to the families of Connie Bimber, Al Doane, Marcia Goldberg, Ilo Koenning, Marion Lott, Sue Meyer, Dick Schoonmaker, Tom Shoup, Don VanDyke, Linell Walker, and all others who have lost loved ones this year.

Also of Interest:

Neighborhood Alliance for Seniors Now Offering Mobile Options



Neighborhood Alliance Senior Enrichment Services has re-opened its doors. The organization has gone mobile, and will be offering services to patrons in various locations around Oberlin, rather than at the former senior center. This pilot program is open to all seniors, and is a collaboration between various organizations in town. First Church in Oberlin will provide activities such as cards, bingo, movies, and guest speakers as well as meals for seniors on **Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** (Support service staff will also be on hand to meet needs such as utility and rent assistance, benefit assessments, and loan medical equipment.) FAVA is setting up a space in their building that is dedicated to weaving, and the Oberlin Heritage Center now houses the famous Underground Railroad Quilt (which can be viewed by appointment).

For more information about the program, please call (440) 277-8269 or visit the Neighborhood Alliance website at:

<https://myneighborhoodalliance.org/index.php/mobile-senior-program/>.

Tuesday Tea at AMAM: The Arts and Activism of Maruki Toshi

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join Charlotte Eubanks and the Allen Memorial Art Museum for a free Zoom webinar on the artist Maruki Toshi, whose life spanned much of the tumultuous history of 20th-century Japan. Toshi lived through the Imperial Mandate in Micronesia in 1940, the American-led occupation circa 1950, and the global protest culture of the 1960s. This talk introduces her art and activism, providing context for two works by Toshi that are featured in the exhibition *Recent Acquisitions: Maruki Toshi, Toko Shinoda, Mayumi Oda*. Eubanks is a professor of comparative literature, Japanese, and Asian Studies at Pennsylvania State University. Following her talk, there will be an audience Q&A moderated by Kevin R.E. Greenwood, Joan Danforth Curator of Asian Art, and Ann Sherif, professor of Japanese at Oberlin College. This event is online only. Preregistration is required at: <https://bit.ly/3aTiUDG>.



Annual Wreath Sale Coming Soon to LCHS

The Women's Association of the Lorain County Historical Society is pleased to announce its annual Holiday Wreath Sale. Decorated by members of the Women's Association, this wreath makes a festive addition to your holiday decor and a lovely gift as well. Wreaths are priced at \$38 each and orders will be due by November 24. Look for more information to be available soon on the LCHS website at: <https://www.lchs.org/>.



OST Seeks Submissions for Upcoming Digital and Print Issues



Do you have a history-related final that you're really proud of, or maybe you just watched a historical fiction show and can't get it out of your head? Consider submitting a piece to *On Second Thought (OST)*, Oberlin College's undergraduate research history journal! *OST* publishes "innovative and accessible historical content that seeks to challenge common narratives and tell more expansive historical stories." Digital issues are published each month and a print issue each spring, and submissions can range from formal academic essays, book and TV/film reviews, to current events related to history and more. *OST* accepts

submissions from students, faculty and staff, and other community members in Oberlin. To submit a piece for an upcoming issue, please email historydesignlab@gmail.com. To see previous digital issues, visit *OST*'s website at: <https://oberlinost.wordpress.com/>.

Make a Gift to Support the 2021 OHC Annual Fund Today!

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. Thanks to **YOU**—our members and supporters—we have been able to continue sharing Oberlin's history, through both virtual programming and in-person community events. If you've enjoyed our programming this past year and want to help support OHC, **please consider making a tax-deductible gift to our 2021 Annual Fund campaign**. Your gift will help us deliver history experiences that are educational, fun, interactive, and relevant to all our members—virtually and in person. You can make a gift online at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml> today. Thank you!



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