



Oberlin Heritage Center May 2024 Gazette

Commencement Weekend Tour Schedule

Friday, May 24 to Sunday, May 26



This Commencement Weekend OHC will be offering several exciting public tour options that will explore diverse topics such as abolitionism, architecture, the founding of Oberlin, and civil rights. You do not have to be affiliated with the college to participate. **Advance registration is required for history walks during Commencement Weekend.**

Guided Tours:

Friday, May 24

- [Jewett House History Walk](#) - 2:00 p.m.
- [Scholars and Settlers History Walk](#) - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 25

- [Freedom's Friends History Walk](#) - 10:30 a.m.
- [Architecture History Walk](#)- 1:30 p.m.
- [Civil War to Civil Rights History Walk](#) - 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 26

- [Architecture History Walk](#) - 10:00 a.m.
- [Freedom's Friends History Walk](#) - 1:30 p.m.

Plus, self-guided indoor and outdoor [tablet tours](#) are available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday during open hours 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Click the tour you are interested in to register.

Upcoming Events

Preserving the past involves planning for the future!

We are nearing our fundraising goal - donate today!



The Oberlin Heritage Center Board of Trustees established the Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation in May 2015 with the goal of raising \$1,000,000. Through donation and pledges, we have already raised \$935,000 and we hope to fully fund the endowment before the end of 2024. Once complete, the endowment will provide an annual distribution of \$50,000 to fund ongoing preservation projects of the buildings, grounds, and collections, protect them against the ravages of time, and help avoid future deferred maintenance challenges.

This year we have welcomed 8 new Endowed Life Members (ELMs / those who have contributed \$2,000 or more to OHC endowments) and 10 current ELMs who have upgraded to the next ELM level. We have received \$44,000 in donations and \$37,000 in pledges. At April's Annual Meeting, the Development Committee shared an update with those in attendance including a visual presentation on our Elm Tree "goal thermometer" (pictured). Development and Business Manager Bethany Hobbs announced a challenge grant of \$15,000 from her mother Eloise Pulsifer's estate to aid in the completion of this endowment. Bethany asked those present plus the community to donate what they can to match this gift and get OHC to the finish line. OHC is now \$65,000 from its \$1 million goal.

To make a secure online donation, please visit <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E12598&id=4>. For more information about the Endowment for Heritage Preservation or becoming an Endowed Life Member, please contact Development and Business Manager Bethany Hobbs at ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700.

Freedom's Friends History Walk Training

Saturday, May 11 at 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Love history and museums? Being a tour guide for the Oberlin Heritage Center is a great way to learn about Oberlin's local history and its national significance today. You can also meet many interesting people from near and far who visit Oberlin to take part in our guided tour. Training for the Freedom's Friends History Walk will be held on Saturday, May 11 at 3:30 p.m. If you are interested in this or other volunteer opportunities, please reach out to our Museum Education and Tour Manager

Amanda Manahan at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org by May 8.

Tour guides will meet on the front steps of First Church at the corner of Lorain St. (Rt. 511) and Main Street (Rt. 58). Training is free and open to the public. Volunteers need no previous experience; all that is required is a commitment to assist with tours within the coming months.

Grounds Day

Saturday, May 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join us the morning of Saturday, May 18 to help spruce up the grounds of the Heritage Center for summer visitors! Projects include trimming, weeding, and general yard clean up. Tools and supplies are provided, or volunteers are welcome to bring their own. (Volunteers can park in the lot behind the Monroe House, off of Vine Street.) For more information or to sign up, contact Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 or director@oberlinheritage.org.



Photo: Oberlin College track team grounds volunteers, 2023.

Oberlin Juneteenth 2024

Saturday, June 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

This year, Juneteenth will be held at the George A. Abram Pavilion on Edison Street. Juneteenth programming will include a reading of the Emancipation Proclamation by Oberlin College alum Donnay Edmund, and comments by Dr. Mary Ann Harris. Children's activities and a live DJ will be offered all day along. Food vendors and other vendors will be on site for the celebration.

The Juneteenth Parade will take place at 12:00 p.m. and follow the same route as last year beginning at Spring Street Park and moving along Pleasant Street to the Roundhouse and the Pavilion on Edison Street. The parade will feature a band led by Oberlin College alum Daniel Spearman, horsemen, a clown, candy, dancers, and other fun features.

The Maafa commemoration will be held at Westwood Cemetery in Oberlin from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Daniel Spearman will play the trumpet for a rendition of 'Lift Every Voice and Sing.'

This event is hosted by Juneteenth Oberlin and OHC will be a participating vendor that day.

Save the Date for Chalk Walk

Saturday, June 22 (Rain Date 6/23) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Oberlin Chalk Walk is returning for its 17th year in 2024! Join families and friends for a day of artistic fun for people of all ages and skill levels!

Chalk Walk provides pastels and other supplies to participants at no cost (monetary donations are appreciated to help keep this event free for everyone). Registration and information tents can be found throughout downtown on the day of the event - no preregistration required.

Event Sponsors:

City of Oberlin - Allen Memorial Art Museum - Firelands Association for the Visual Arts - Oberlin Business Partnership - Oberlin Public Library - Oberlin Heritage Center - Ginko Gallery & Studios - Kendal at Oberlin - The Local - Oberlin Cable Co-op

The coordinators of the Oberlin Chalk Walk ask that everyone respect the community and artistic nature of this event, so please no vendor tables or solicitations.

"A Higher Law" Showing at The Palace Theater in Lorain

Wednesday, June 19 at 6:00 p.m.

There will be a free screening of "A Higher Law: The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue of 1858" on Wednesday, June 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Palace theater in downtown Lorain. The Rescue was a key event in the history of abolitionism leading up to the Civil War, when a group of 37 men were charged with violating the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. This is the first time that a 'higher law' defense was used in a federal court case.



This screening is sponsored by the YWCA Elyria Racial Equity Center of Lorain County and Oberlin Heritage Center, in collaboration with Interfaith Ministries of Lorain County, Lorain County Section NCNW, Lorain Historical Society, Lorain Public Library, AKA Sorority, and MainStreet Lorain.

Photo: The "A Higher Law" Premiere at the Apollo, 2023

Teen Museum Summer Workshop

July 15-17 (Mon-Wed, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)



This three-day, behind-the-scenes workshop is designed for teens (grades 9-12) who are interested in community service, expanding their leadership and communication skills, and experiencing what it's like to work at a museum. Teens will learn techniques of greeting visitors, giving tours, teaching historic games, working with museum collections, and much more! Following completion of the workshop, participants are invited to volunteer with the Oberlin Heritage Center for various tours, special events, and programs as their schedules permit.

The fee is \$50 (\$45 for children and grandchildren of OHC members) with a \$25 reimbursement for students who complete at least 15 hours of volunteer service for OHC by the end of 2024.

This is a great opportunity to learn about local history, build up resumes and strengthen college applications, fulfill community service hours, and hang out with other students who have a passion for their communities.

This workshop will be led by OHC Museum Education & Tour Manager Amanda Manahan, who is eager to share the behind-the-scenes fun of being involved with a museum.

Note: This workshop is held in the Jewett House of the Oberlin Heritage Center, 73 S. Professor St.

Join The Team

Museum Housekeeper (Part-Time)

The Oberlin Heritage Center is seeking a part-time, six-hour per week Museum Housekeeper to start in late August/early September. A work schedule, to be set during the museum's day-time open hours, will be determined by the employee in cooperation with the Executive Director and Collections Manager.

Position Summary:

The Museum Housekeeper works with other staff members and volunteers in cleaning and caring for the artifacts and interiors of the historic buildings at the Oberlin Heritage Center in accordance with accepted museum practices and standards for historic house museums.

Application Deadline: Friday, July 12

Special Projects Assistant (Part-Time)

Do you want to work 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 Saturdays starting in late August/early September. Primary duties include assisting with special events and projects, giving tours of the Heritage Center's buildings, greeting the public, and some light administrative work.

For more information and application details, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/work.

Application Deadline: Friday, July 12

News From OHC

2024 Annual Meeting Recap



We are grateful that so many were able to make it out to OHC's Annual Meeting! We had a great time seeing you all, presenting awards to our Volunteer of the Year Award winners, welcoming new board members, and listening to Christina Hartlieb's enlightening presentation. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Please enjoy this link to a recording of the full program and presentation from this year. Thank you for your ongoing support of OHC and its mission!



Eclipse Video

During the recent total solar eclipse, OHC's Communications Coordinator Steven Rice recorded a short, real-time, video of the Goodrich Block at the corner of Main and College Streets as the light dimmed for totality and came back to daylight. The video is about 10 minutes long and you can tell the moment of totality by the collective "Oohs" from spectators in Tappan Square.

Thelma Quinn Smith Celebration

Many OHC members and friends will remember Thelma Quinn Smith, a long-time Oberlin resident and history advocate. Thelma passed in 2023 at the age of 101 and her death was felt by many in the community.

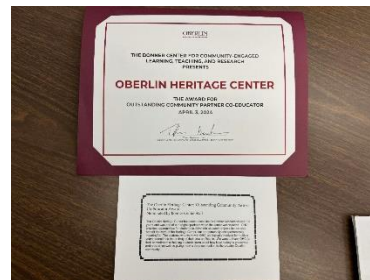
A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, May 18th at 2:00 p.m. at the First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C. More information about Thelma, her life and the celebration are available at www.tippyquinn.com.

OHC is a Blue Star Museum

OHC is happy to be offering free summer admission to active duty military and their families as part of the Blue Star Museum Program. This program allows for free access to OHC (as well as a number of other museums nationwide) for active-duty military, National Guard, and Reserve personnel and up to five family members from May 18, 2024 (Armed Forces Day) through September 2, 2024 (Labor Day). Thanks to a suggestion from an OHC member, we are delighted to also welcome active members of the foreign service and their families.



Museum & Members Update



OHC recently received a \$400 grant from the Bill Long Foundation in support of hiring re-enactors, musicians, and other performers who liven our community events. We sincerely thank the Bill Long Foundation for this grant and will put it to good use.

OHC was also surprised and honored to receive an award from the Bonner Center of Oberlin College for "Outstanding Community Partner Co-Educator." OHC has hosted Bonner student volunteers and work study students for over 30 years. OHC would literally not be the organization it is today without the many students who have contributed their time and talents. At that same end-of-year event, student interns Ellie Lane and Adrienne Sato (pictured) received Community Engagement Awards awards after being nominated by OHC.

OHC would like to thank new member Cheryl Brice, and new Endowed Life Members Bradley and Nicole Hayes, Robin Hoover Shaffer, KayEllen Sharp, Francine Toss, and Kevin and Susan Weidenbaum. We would also like to thank Carl Gerber as well as Stephen and Mary Ann Johnson for increasing their Endowed Life Membership levels. It is through donations and memberships like yours that OHC is able to act as a trusted steward of Oberlin's historical resources on behalf of future generations.

It is with great sorrow that we note the recent passing of Joylynn Illig and Shirley Coleman Wilson. Our sincere condolences go out to their families.

Also of Interest:



The Ohio Underground Railroad Whistle-Stop Poetry Tour will come to Oberlin May 4 at the Underground Railroad Center (the gas holder building behind the McDonalds) from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be time after the presentation to browse the Underground Railroad Center and purchase books from the poets.

The event will feature poetry by Chanda Feldman, associate professor of creative writing at Oberlin College and will be hosted by The Ohio Poetry Association, Poets Against Racism & Hate USA, and the Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society.

This program is free and there will also be a tour of Martin Luther King Jr. Park following the main event, at 4:30 p.m.



Big Parade on Saturday, May 4 at 12:00 p.m.

The date for the 2024 Oberlin Big Parade is Saturday, May 4 at 12:00 p.m. The theme this year will be "toy box" so create and wear your own toy themed costume to the event.

Be sure to stop by and join in the festivities!

Westwood Anniversary and Community Reunion Celebration - June 8

Save the Date! On Saturday, June 8, 2024 the Friends of Westwood Cemetery are organizing a "Westwood Anniversary and Community Reunion" at the cemetery. This afternoon event will include a brief program of welcome, blessings, and remarks, to be followed by time for family and friends to enjoy each other's company and that of so many ancestors. Free refreshments and additional activities will be provided. Please share with family and friends.



Additionally, beginning in May, Friends of Westwood will be running gravestone cleaning sessions on the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Just show up to volunteer.

Sandstone Village Car and Bike Show on Sunday, June 2 at 11:00 a.m.

The 2024 Sandstone Village Car and Bike Show is on Sunday, June 2nd from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Amherst's Sandstone Village (763 Milan Avenue).

If you would like to register your car for display, you can register on the day of the show from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on site. Admission is by donation.

There is no cost for the show for spectators and there will be free parking and shuttle service at Amherst Junior High School (548 Milan Avenue). Village buildings and shops will be open and there will be food vendors, a 50/50 raffle, basket raffles and more.



For more information, please call 440-988-7255 or email office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org.

Access Statement:

Our external events will be held in wheelchair accessible spaces, Restrooms at most venues are gender-specific and visitors are welcome to use their preferred restroom. For any additional queries about accessibility information please email director@oberlinheritage.org.



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