



# Oberlin Heritage Center September 2022 Gazette

## Root Beer & Yesteryear

*Saturday, September 24, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.*



Join friends old and new at the Oberlin Heritage Center for this family-friendly (and FREE!) event featuring live performances, a historic portrayal, old-fashioned games, exhibits and best of all -- root beer floats for everyone! Why root beer? Throughout most of its history Oberlin was a "dry" town, meaning you couldn't buy alcohol within city limits. Times have changed but a fondness for this summer treat hasn't. The floats are generously provided by Oberlin IGA, while free popcorn is made possible by the Oberlin Athletic Boosters Club and Bethany Hobbs.

### Entertainment Schedule:

- Outdoor music by "Parsh," a band featuring Tom Somsak, Craig Zacharyasz Dave Mann Wolf, Rick Hetsko, and Dave Parsh.
- 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. "Storytime with Mrs. Evans" in the Little Red Schoolhouse. Dr. Camille Hamlin Allen will portray Sarah Jane Leary Evans and share stories of her family and their home still standing at 33 East Vine Street. Each free mini-performance will be ticketed to ensure social distancing within the Schoolhouse.
- Historic games at the Little Red Schoolhouse for the young and young-at-heart.
- The return of a popular antique phonograph demonstration by OHC Trustee Fr. Brian Wilbert.
- A display of vintage cameras, arranged by OHC Communications Coordinator Steven Rice.
- Free self-guided tours of the 1866 Monroe House.

### **Volunteers are still needed!**

Please contact Liz Schultz at [director@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:director@oberlinheritage.org) or (440) 774-1700 if you can help make this event possible! We need volunteers in 2-hour shifts between 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. to serve root beer floats and popcorn, greet guests at the information table, and supervise games at the Little Red Schoolhouse. We could also use set-up helpers at 11:30 a.m. that morning.

Photo: A Phonograph from Root Beer & Yesteryear 2021

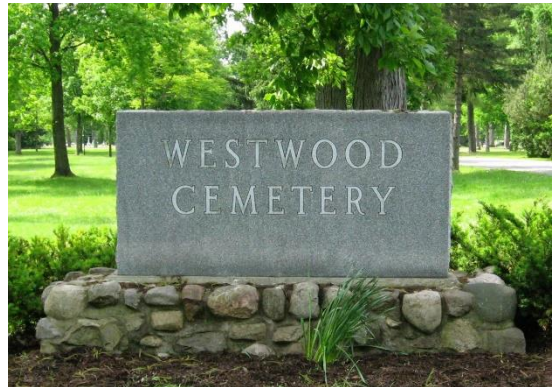
## Upcoming Events

### **September's History Walk: Radicals & Reformers**

September 3, 10, & 17 at 11:00 am

This September, OHC is offering our **Radicals & Reformers walking tour** on Saturdays at 11:00 a. m.

This guided tour promises a pleasing balance of Westwood's scenic landmarks and stories of some of the many spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo. Find out which resident was remembered as "gentle, soft-spoken, tolerant and yet nobody's fool." Visit the headstone of the man who escaped from slavery (twice!) and later served on the Oberlin village council. Note: this tour begins at the entrance of Westwood Cemetery (Morgan St.).



Admission is \$6 for adults and free for children, students, or members. **Advanced registration is strongly recommended.** To register, please visit our website [oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://oberlinheritagecenter.org)

### **Free Self Guided Tours of OHC for Ohio Open Doors Program**

Saturday, September 10, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



The Oberlin Heritage Center is participating in the statewide Ohio Open Doors initiative which highlights the history and unique nature of some of Ohio's most treasured historic places. Visitors can enjoy free self-guided tours of the Monroe House and explore the Little Red Schoolhouse on September 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**“Celebrating 100 Years: Latino History in Lorain” special exhibit**

Open Sept 24 - Oct 8 during Oberlin Public Library hours

The Oberlin Heritage Center and Oberlin Public Library are excited to host the guest exhibit "Celebrating 100 Years: Latino History in Lorain, Ohio." The exhibit, created through a partnership of El Centro, the Lorain Historical Society, and Oberlin College, highlights the initial work of the Latino Lorain History Project and features photographs and oral histories, particularly focused on the history of Vine Avenue in Lorain. The exhibit will be available for viewing any time the Oberlin Public Library is open between September 24 and October 8, which also falls during National Hispanic Heritage Month. Interactive elements will be incorporated for people to share comments and connect with the Oberlin Heritage Center to share memories about Oberlin Latino history as well.

**FREE EXHIBIT**  
at OBERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

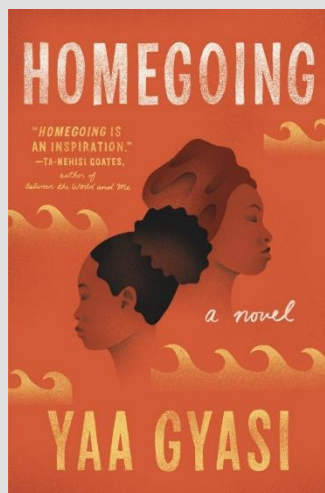


**SEPT 24 - OCT 8**  
During Open Hours of the Oberlin Public Library

An exhibit opening will be held at the library at 6:00 p.m. on September 23. Those interested in attending the opening presentation must RSVP to Liz Schultz at [director@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:director@oberlinheritage.org) by September 19.

*Exhibit Logo – credit Jesse Guardado*

## Free Freedom Friends Tours Offered for Big Read Oberlin



OHC is delighted to be a partner of the Big Read initiative kicking off this fall. This community reading program, coordinated by Oberlin College, is focusing on the book *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. Big Read events, which will take place throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, are meant to inspire meaningful conversations, artistic responses, and new discoveries and connections within the community.

As part of the initiative, the Oberlin Heritage Center is hosting two free offerings of its Freedom Friends History Walk. Register online at [oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://oberlinheritagecenter.org) for either **September 29 at 6:00 p.m.** or **October 8 at 11:00 a.m.**

Oberlin College was one of 62 organizations nationwide selected to receive an NEA Big Read Grant. Local partners include the Oberlin College Libraries, Oberlin Public Library, Oberlin Heritage Center, Friends of the Oberlin Public Library and others. Funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest.

**OHC Trivia Night - November 11**

*Save the Date!*

The Oberlin Heritage Center is pleased to announce that we will be hosting our annual fall Trivia Night on **Friday, November 11, 2022** in person at the First Church in Oberlin UCC. We will have more information to share about the specifics of the event in the near future so make sure to stay up to date with all our information streams.



*Premier Sponsor: Kurt G. Sarringhaus, L.P.A.*

*Co-Sponsor: Antwon McCray and ARRC One*

**Also Happening in November:**

**November 15** - "Mounds of Ohio" zoom program

**Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society Annual Meeting**

*Sept 17 – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m*

The WBEHHS will be hosting its annual meeting and gathering on Saturday, September 17. Everyone is invited to hear an update about the organization, enjoy a historical re-enactment of Sarah Jane Leary Evans by Dr. Camille Hamlin Allen, take a self-guided tour of Evans family gravesites in Westwood Cemetery, and celebrate awards being conveyed to Linda Robinson Isabel, Sandra Madison, Marlene Merrill, and Kurt Russell. Reports will include exciting developments with the building and plans to turn it into a museum and educational center that will memorialize the Evans family and honor the African American experience in Oberlin and beyond. It will also celebrate the National Park Service designation of the home as a site on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and its naming to the National Park Service African American Civil Rights Network.



The gathering will take place at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in Oberlin. In the event of rain, the meeting will be moved to the George Abram pavilion behind McDonald's. For more information, visit <https://evanshhs.org/>.

*Please note also that September is International Underground Railroad Month.*

**News From OHC**

## **\$10,000 Grant to OHC from Lorain County Commissioners**



OHC Business Manager Bethany Hobbs and Communications Coordinator Steven Rice were on site at the recent awards ceremony held by the Lorain County Commissioners to distribute American Rescue Plan Act funds to local nonprofits. OHC was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the program by the Lorain County Commissioners.

The funds will be primarily used by OHC to help upgrade our phone systems with any remainder slated to go toward restoration and maintenance projects that arise over the next year.

## **Say Hello to our New Museum and Education Tour Manager**

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our new Museum and Education Tour Manager, Stephanie Bohnak. Stephanie has a masters degree in History and Public History from Bowling Green State University and also holds an undergraduate degree in History, Anthropology, and Classics from The University of Akron. She grew up in Cuyahoga Falls and also studied culinary arts at Sullivan University prior to pursuing her passion for history. In her time as an undergraduate and graduate student she has been engaged in a number of research projects on topics ranging from "American Memory of the Civil War and Slavery at Historical Sites" to an exploration of the prohibition era in Cleveland.



Stephanie is an active volunteer in Keep Akron Beautiful as well as President of the Akron Alumnae Association of Kappa Kappa Gamma. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, baking, hiking, and spending time with her loved ones. She looks forward to engaging with the Oberlin community as well as developing new programming including some material related to culinary history.

## Farewell to our AmeriCorps Member Erin Robichaud

In September we are giving a fond farewell to OHC Ohio History Service Corps/AmeriCorps Member for the 2021-2022 program year, Erin Robichaud. In her time at OHC, Erin's long-term work focused on adding census data from the 1940 census to [History Forge](https://www.historyforge.net) which was completed earlier this year and is available at [oberlin.historyforge.net](https://oberlin.historyforge.net). She also gave an online presentation in August going into detail about the 1940 census and how Oberlin changed from 1910 to 1940 which is accessible on the [OHC YouTube page](#). In addition to her work in History Forge she also helped several other local history organizations, recently completing a driving tour for the Lorain County Historical Society, which is available on [TheClio.com](https://www.theclio.com).

Erin has signed up for an additional year as an Ohio History Service Corps/AmeriCorps Member and will be spending the next year at the Cincinnati Art Museum. We at OHC are very excited to see what the future holds for Erin and look forward to her continued success!



## OHC Receives Money from Target Circle Giving Program

The Oberlin Heritage Center is excited to announce that it received \$1,125.92 from the Target Circle Giving Program to help us further our mission to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work, and visit. OHC was a featured organization in its area markets from April 1 to June 30 and Target customers who participated in the program cast 22,965 votes in support of OHC. This donation came from a larger pool of funds donated from Target to nonprofits tied to the local community. View all the results at [target.com/circle](https://target.com/circle). Thank you to Target and all of our area supporters!

## Members Update & News from the Second Floor



Be sure to keep an eye out for our 2021 Annual Report which should be arriving mailboxes as soon as next week!

In other news, Oberlin Weekly and the Oberlin Cable Co-op recently interviewed several of our volunteers in a group discussion and also had a one-on-one interview with our Executive Director, Liz Schultz. The full discussion is available on [Oberlin Weekly's Facebook Page](#). Anne

Montoya was also honored as our featured volunteer. Camp youth love her!

We are also getting ready to ship out our Annual Fund donation letters.

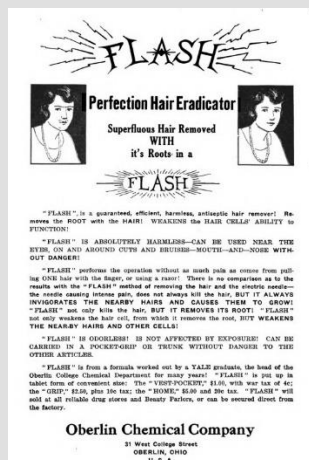
## A selection of testimonials from last year's Annual Fund:

- "OHC helps make Oberlin the kind of community we want to live in."
- "(OHC is an) essential part of the Oberlin community"
- "History and knowledge are so important for all ages."

OHC would also like to welcome our newest members Virginia Collings, Violet Haas, Jane Haylor, Pradnya Martz, Lauren Sands, and Emily Winnicki. We appreciate your support!

We note with sorrow the passing of OHC Members Gay Fischer and Jerry White. Jerry also worked with OHC through the Mature Services Program.

## Also of Interest:



### Frank Jewett's Hair Removal Product

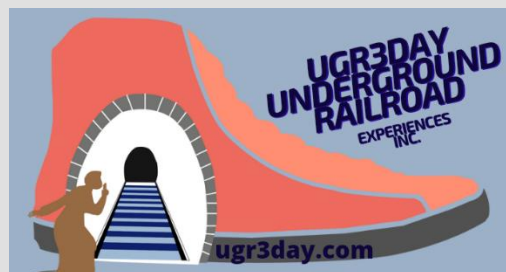
One of OHC's summer interns, Emily Winnicki, released a blog in early August covering one of the stranger pieces of ephemera to be found about former owner of the Jewett House, Professor Frank Jewett.

Apparently the professor and chemist invented and marketed a women's depilatory product named "Flash" that vowed "Superfluous Hair Removed WITH it's Roots in a FLASH". The product was marketed in the early 1920s and developed by Jewett at the age of 77. Eventually a second depilatory would arise in Oberlin named "Enzit" in 1926, developed by Philip H. Ohly.

If you would like to learn more about the story behind these dueling local hair removal products, you should read Emily's full blog post available on [oberlinheritagecenter.org](https://oberlinheritagecenter.org)

### [UGR3DAY Underground Railroad Experiences](https://www.ugr3day.com/)

We were excited to have Dionne Patterson, known on instagram as ugr3day, visit Oberlin as part of her ongoing work as a storyteller and conductor of Underground Railroad experiences. Not on instagram? Check out her website at <https://www.ugr3day.com/>. Thanks to OHC volunteer Angela Cecil for making this connection possible.





A photo from this summer of a smooth white violet flower taken on OHC grounds.

*Photo Credit: Damien Tyree; thanks to Sid Comings for sharing it with us.*

## Lorain County History Happenings

September 3 - Friends of Westwood Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning

September 3 - Dinner with Harry S Truman at the Amherst Eagles

Every Saturday - Sandstone Village Garage Sales in Amherst

Every Saturday - Christmas in September at the Garage Hall in Sandstone Village



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