




Oberlin Heritage Center February 2024 Gazette

OHC PRESENTS:
**BLACK BUSINESS OWNERS &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN OBERLIN**



TUESDAY, FEB 20
6:30 P.M. AT OBERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Education & Tour Manager, Amanda Manahan, will present a free public program in the community room of the Oberlin Public Library on Tuesday, Feb 20 at 6:30 p.m. featuring several of Oberlin's Black business owners of the 19th century through today. This updated presentation, which originally premiered in 2018, will highlight the long, remarkable history of these Oberlinians, including their accomplishments, struggles, and the legacies they left behind. This program will include an opportunity for the audience to share their own memories and stories of Black businesses of Oberlin's past and present.

Upcoming Events

The Fifth Star: Ohio's Fight for Women's Right to Vote *Thursday, March 14 at 7:15 p.m.*

Dr. Jamie Capuzza will present a 45-minute illustrated program about Ohio's contributions to the historic women's suffrage movement. The presentation will draw from her 2023 book, with the same name as this program. The title was inspired by Ohio being the fifth state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment. Highlights of the program will include pivotal state conventions, leaders of the movement, and the perseverance the movement required. Be sure to listen for some Oberlin connections as well. Dr. Capuzza is a professor in the Department of Literature and Communication Arts at the University of Mount Union in Ohio.



We are delighted to be back at Kendal at Oberlin for this program and appreciate being able to use the Heiser Auditorium. The program is free and open to all, including

individuals who do not live at Kendal. Address: Kendal at Oberlin - 600 Kendal Drive. Feel free to contact the Heritage Center for specific directions if you have not visited Kendal before. Parking is available in front of the Community Center (the main entrance on the one-way circle, with the drive-through porch), and also in the rear lot.

Photo: Woman suffrage headquarters on Upper Euclid Avenue, Cleveland in 1912, courtesy of The Library of Congress



Prepare for an extraordinary experience this April in Oberlin! On Monday, April 8th, the 2024 Solar Eclipse will cast its shadow over northeast Ohio, creating a once-in-a-lifetime event. The Oberlin Heritage Center invites you to join the celebration at Mill on Main (95 S. Main Street) starting at 1:00 p.m. Experience the eclipse's peak around 3:15 PM, and don't worry about Ohio's unpredictable weather – the festivities continue indoors with live streams from sunnier locations if the eclipse itself isn't visible when the time comes! Dive into celestial-themed fun with a mocktail social, interstellar snacks, and mingling with fellow eclipse enthusiasts. As a special souvenir, each registered attendee will receive a unique art print, serving as your pass in and out of the party.

The event runs from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a cost of \$25. Eclipse glasses are complimentary with registration, and extra pairs are available at the OHC store for \$2.50 each. Don't miss this opportunity to make memories under the celestial spectacle in Oberlin!

OHC is also looking for volunteers to open their homes as bed and breakfast accommodations for travelers visiting Oberlin during the week of the eclipse. Proceeds Support OHC. If you have an interest in being part of OHC's Bed and Breakfast program please contact us by calling 440-774-1700 or emailing OHCbnb@gmail.com.

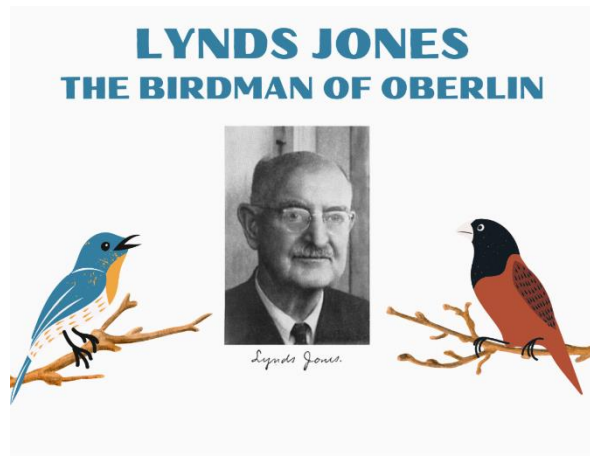
OHC Annual Meeting, Program, and Awards

Wednesday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m.

OHC's Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Wednesday, April 10 at the Hotel at Oberlin. Food and refreshments will be provided. The program "Why did the Lane Rebels move from Cincinnati to Oberlin?" will be presented by Christina Hartlieb of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Cincinnati. Watch for more registration details in the March newsletter. Registration flyers will be mailed to all OHC members in the coming weeks.

Lynds Jones - the Birdman of Oberlin Program

Tuesday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m.



Join Oberlin's Diana Steele, an avid birder and former Northeast Regional Director at the Ohio Ornithological Society, as she explores the life and times of Lynds Jones (1865-1951) on April 30 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend this free illustrated program in the Community Room of the Oberlin Public Library at 65 South Main Street.

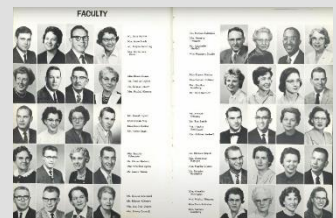
Jones, who graduated from Oberlin College in 1892, began teaching ornithology at his alma mater — the first course of its kind ever offered at an American college or university. Not only was he a professor at Oberlin for

nearly four decades, Jones also had a tremendous impact on the fields of ornithology and recreational birding. He founded both an ornithological society (The Wilson Ornithological Society, 1888) and a journal (now the Wilson Journal of Ornithology, 1889) that remain active today. Jones is also responsible for many of the common practices that recreational birders take for granted as “standard practice” in the field, more than a century later.

Diana Steele has been a science writer for nearly 30 years, both at the University of Chicago and as a freelance writer for newspapers, magazines, and radio. She is an avid birder, and has birded in all 50 U.S. States and six continents, including South America, Asia, Europe, Australia/New Zealand, and Antarctica. She monitors Eastern Bluebird and American Kestrel nest-boxes in Oberlin, and volunteers as a driver/guide for the Biggest Week in American Birding in Northwest Ohio. Steele has also served as the coordinator for the Black River Audubon Society's Jack Smith Outstanding Speaker Series and a volunteer banding assistant for Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

New Early Oberlin Educators of Color Documentary Short Available on YouTube

As part of Black History Month, we are delighted to share the new mini-documentary researched and created by Lillian Gibson (Oberlin College Class of 2025). This video features the first educators of color in the Oberlin public schools, including Betty Glenn Thomas, Adora Godette, and Eva Mae Parker Crosby.



Thank you to all who contributed stories or information to this project, including the Oberlin City Schools, and the Community Foundation of Lorain County for supporting initial project research. It has already been brought to our attention that Easter Spotts is another early educator who can be featured. Please feel free to share memories or images with us!

To View the video please visit the Oberlin Heritage Center's YouTube channel.

Summer Internship



Do you know anyone looking for an interesting summer internship? The Oberlin Heritage Center has exciting history opportunities for people interested in getting first-hand experience in the education and history fields. Work with children and help make history!

The Oberlin Heritage Center is hiring an Education and Research Intern for 40 hours a week, during 10 weeks this summer at \$12/hr. This position is open to graduating high school seniors and current college students.

In this internship students will help with youth summer camps, help develop educational activities, conduct research, and learn to give tours to museum visitors. For more information, please email the Museum Education & Tour Manager at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org. This position is funded by the Nordson Corporation with support from the Community Foundation of Lorain County.

Volunteer Positions Available - Join Us!

As part of its new strategic plan the Oberlin Heritage Center is trying to make it easier for volunteers to become involved with the organization in exciting and impactful ways. Below are new descriptions for fulfilling roles volunteering with our energetic team. If you are interested in helping, please contact Amanda Manahan or the supervisor listed with each position. And please note that although not promoted in this newsletter, OHC is always seeking volunteers interested in becoming tour guides.

All of these positions allow for flexible schedules, although recurring commitment is appreciated. All positions include the benefits of camaraderie and life-long learning. We can also work with volunteers to achieve required organizational or school service hours.

History Resource Assistant

- Time Commitment: 1-2 hours a week; flexible; some work can be done remotely
- Responsibilities: Help OHC continually augment its local history resource holdings from online and print newspaper articles and occasionally update collections data records.
- Must be: A perfectionist when it comes to writing down where and when something was published and similar key information.
- Must have: Enough computer skills to be able to copy horrendously formatted online news articles and then paste and reformat them into presentable print-outs and/or savable pdfs.
- Desirable: Takes joy in arguing with photocopiers and adjusting settings to make oddly shaped newspaper articles print on regular sized paper.
- Bonus: The opportunity to write short blogs or social media posts about historical topics encountered, if interested.

- Supervisors: Maren McKee (Collections Manager); with Liz Schultz (Executive Director)

Grounds Steward

- Time Commitment: 2-4 hours a week; flexible
- Responsibilities: Help maintain a pleasant and safe outdoor environment for the many people who visit OHC and community members who traverse its grounds. Weekly tasks might include branch and trash pickup and raking pathways. Monthly tasks might include strategic weeding and clipping, and cleaning off OHC signage. Optional: We are currently seeking a lawn mowing volunteer as well.
- Must be: Willing to do light grounds work at your own pace.
- Desirable: Willingness to chat with passersby who comment on the weather.
- Bonus: Fall walnut season is a great opportunity to practice your pitch or jumpshot.
- Supervisor: Liz Schultz (Executive Director)

Abolition Education Assistant

- Time Commitment: 1-2 commitments a month; more during February and the warmer months
- Responsibilities: Assist the Museum Education and Tour Manager with tours and outreach programs related to Oberlin's history of abolition and the Underground Railroad, OHC's most frequently-requested learning topic. Note that most requested programs and tours are during the day on weekdays and Saturdays.
- Must: Be willing to devote considerable time to learning about the social and racial history of Oberlin and attend Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training. Must also be able to commit to scheduled requested events at least a month in advance.
- Desirable: Lack of terror when in a classroom setting.
- Bonus: This is a wonderful path to better understanding Oberlin today.
- Supervisor: Amanda Manahan (Museum Education and Tour Manager)

Store Consultant

- Time Commitment: Flexible, with most devoted to an initial overhaul and evaluation
- Responsibilities: Evaluate OHC's product stock and work with vendors to create or source new products, in consultation with OHC staff and within OHC's resources. Much of this can be done from home.
- Must: Be organized, creative, and attentive to OHC's educational goals, even in the store, and willing to learn from (a.k.a. spy on) other successful museum and visitor center stores.
- Desirable: Bring a capitalistic counterpoint to the OHC tendency to run a "non-profit," even in the store. Experience working with vendors to order or create sellable items; experience evaluating Point of Sales systems

- Supervisor: Bethany Hobbs (Development & Business Manager)

For more information regarding these volunteer positions, please email the Museum Education and Tour Manager Amanda Manahan at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

News From OHC

"A Higher Law" documentary now available via digital "rental" or purchase

"A Higher Law", the recent documentary about the 1858 Oberlin-Wellington Rescue in which OHC was involved, is now available for \$5.99 as a digital rental or \$24.99 to purchase on the video streaming website Vimeo. You can purchase or rent the movie at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/oberlinfilm>. All purchases support the filmmakers. You will need to create a Vimeo account to purchase or download online.



Don't forget that you can also purchase a DVD copy for \$20 + tax in OHC's Monroe House gift shop or via our [online shop](#) which adds shipping and handling for a fee.

Museum & Members Update



On OHC's first day of reopening we hosted a tour for the Practicum in Museum Education through Oberlin College's Winter Term. OHC thanks Jill Greenwood of the Allen Memorial Art Museum for requesting this tour. We also presented a program to seniors at the Oberlin Enrichment and Activity Center about abolitionism and the underground railroad. Now that we are open again, you too can stop by and say hello or take a guided tour on any Thursday or Saturday at 10:30 a.m. or 1:30p.m. or drop in during open hours for a self-guided tour. We are excited to be getting back into the swing of things!

OHC would like to thank newest members Thomas Riis as well as George Wright and Louise Hausman. Also, we extend our profound thanks to Elizabeth and Matt Elrod who have recently become Endowed Life Members.

It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of former volunteers Ed Schwaegerle and James Sunshine as well as Janet Ferguson, Pauline Freas, Marilyn Stock, and George Duncan Strom (Who owned a Jewett car that he once displayed near OHC's Jewett House).

Also of Interest:



"Ancestra" on the Main Stage at Wurtzel Theatre Feb 8, 9, 10, and 11

Inspired by the 1853 National Women's Rights Convention, *Ancestra* weaves a historical account of the pioneers for women's rights with the intimate biography of a contemporary journalism student who writes about reproductive healthcare. When Cora's methods take an unconventional turn, she is plunged into a crisis

through which past and present begin to converge, illuminating a long history of silencing women through intimidation and violence.

For more information or to purchase tickets please visit https://www.oberlin.edu/events/theater_mainstage_ancestra.

Become a judge for National History Day!

More judges are needed for the Region 3 History Day at the Cleveland History Center on Saturday, March 2. Judges help evaluate student projects across five categories - papers, websites, exhibits, performances, and documentaries. For more information, please email historyday@wrhs.org. If you would like to register to be a judge please visit the National History Day website [here](#).



Community Foundation
LORAIN COUNTY

Community Foundation Student Scholarship Applications Open

The Community Foundation of Lorain County administers scholarship funds for subjects like medical school, journalism, ministry, nursing, or engineering and high school and professional school students.

A large variety of scholarships are available and are based on a field of study, merit, financial need, and community involvement. Applications are open until March 2 at 11:59 p.m. You can learn more about this program or apply by visiting <https://www.peoplewhocare.org/apply/scholarships>.

Historical Marker Unveiling

Join the Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 17, at 33 East Vine Street where they will unveil the Ohio Historical Marker awarded to them honoring abolitionist hero Wilson Bruce Evans and his descendants. Attendance is open to the public and all are encouraged to join.



WILSON BRUCE
EVANS HOME
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Black History Month Gallery Exhibition & Public Art Display Feb 1 to March 3

FAVA will be hosting a public art display which includes work by Oberlin High School students that depict historical figures. Select works will also be featured in a public art display of light post banners in Downtown Oberlin throughout the month of February.

The opening reception and awards ceremony will take place on Saturday, February 3 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Fava's South Gallery at 39 South Main Street.

For more information please contact City of Oberlin Communications Manager Diane Ramos at Info@CityofOberlin.com or FAVA Gallery Director Tirzah Legg at Tirzah@fava.org.

Thanks Friends of Westwood and The City of Oberlin

Thank you to the Friends of Westwood Cemetery and the City of Oberlin for installing a new sign near the entrance to Westwood Cemetery with QR codes directing visitors to both the City and the Oberlin Heritage Center's databases of burials in the cemetery.

History Position Available

The Lakeside Heritage Society is seeking a full or part time Archivist and Manager of Operations, which is a public facing role that will work to maintain and complete the inventory of the Lakeside Heritage Society archival materials, catalog the records, and make appropriate materials accessible to the public.

If you would like more information or to apply for this position please visit <https://www.lakesideheritagesociety.org>.

Access Statement:

Our external events will be held in a wheelchair accessible space, T-coil broadcast systems are available at the Oberlin Public Library and Kendal at Oberlin, though none currently exist for the Hotel at Oberlin. 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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