



# Oberlin Heritage Center April 2024 Gazette

## OHC Annual Meeting, Program, and Awards *Wednesday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m.*



We look forward to celebrating with you as the Oberlin Heritage Center hosts its 2024 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 10. All are invited, whether OHC members or not, to come for fellowship. The event, held in the second floor ballroom of the Hotel at Oberlin, will begin with an optional social hour and cash bar starting at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m., and then a brief business meeting, keynote program, and volunteer awards recognition.

We are delighted to welcome Christina Hartlieb, Executive Director of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Cincinnati, as the keynote presenter. Her illustrated program, "Why did the Lane Rebels move from Cincinnati to Oberlin?" will tie together the history of our two communities, the historical figures whose stories intertwined, and the momentous events of the 1830s that shaped the anti-slavery movement in Ohio.

The Stowe House is open on select dates while it is being renovated, so visit their website at [stowehousecincy.org](http://stowehousecincy.org) for more information. Christina has been the Executive Director since 2017 and helped its programs and collaborations grow as the restoration continues. She is a graduate of Hanover College in Indiana and holds a Master's degree in history with a graduate certificate in Women's Studies from the University of Cincinnati. Prior to joining the museum field she was a high school social studies teacher.

We will also have a laptop displaying the student documentary "Chernobyl: The Last Straw in the Collapse of the Soviet Union" by Andrew McKee and Nate Miller, which won the Hubbard Prize and competed in the Group Senior Documentary category at Ohio Region 3 National History Day. We would like to thank members Ned and Gail Hubbard for their support of programs like this one.

OHC is excited to be proposing three members to its board (Kathleen Jaffee, Connie Schubert, George Wright) and honor two new honorary trustees (Ebony Johnson, Paul "Bud" Spierling). We are also welcoming Evageline McFarlin as a new board member.

We send our deepest thanks and congratulations to these OHC Volunteers of the Year, who will also be honored that evening:

- Kathleen Jaffee
- Anne Montoya

All are welcome to attend this event and **registration is due by April 3**. Tickets are \$35 for OHC members and \$40 for members of the public. To register please click the button below, visit [oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://oberlinheritagecenter.org), or contact [ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org) to request a paper registration form.

[Register Here](#)

## Upcoming Events

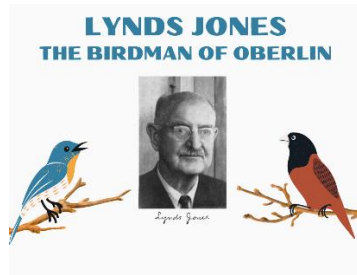


There are only a few days left to sign up for OHC's eclipse event at Mill on Main (95 S. Main Street) on Monday, April 8 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Don't be left in the dark at the peak of the eclipse at 3:15 p.m. We will have livestreams from sunnier locations in case of inclement weather!

The event is \$25 and includes eclipse glasses, mocktails, and a unique Oberlin eclipse themed art print. **Extra pairs of eclipse glasses are available at the OHC store for \$2.50 each.** Don't miss this opportunity to make memories at this once in a lifetime event.

Additionally, OHC will have special open hours of the Monroe House and self-guided tours for people coming into town on **Sunday, April 7** from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Stop on by to buy your last-minute eclipse glasses, souvenirs, or get free maps and guides to Oberlin!

**Lynds Jones - The Birdman of Oberlin**  
*Free Program on 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.

**The Antebellum Exodus from North Carolina:  
Sell Out, Pack Up, and Get Out**

*Free Zoom Program on Sunday, April 21 at 2:00 p.m.*

Wilson Bruce Evans (1824-1898) was part of a migratory stream of free people of color who left North Carolina in the 1840s and 1850s for northern destinations, especially Oberlin. Kathleen King has been invited by The Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society, the Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group, and the Oberlin Heritage Center to explore this exodus in a special Zoom presentation on Sunday, April 21 at 2:00 p.m.



Ms. King's presentation is drawn from her University of Colorado doctoral dissertation in history, "Forced to Fight: How North Carolina's Black Exiles Transformed Abolitionism and Tipped the Nation toward Civil War." Ms. King's Summer 2023 Roaring Fork Internship brought her to Oberlin where she worked with the Evans Home Historical Society while researching more about Oberlin's early migrants of color from North Carolina.

A National Board Certified social studies/history teacher, a James Madison Memorial Foundation Fellow, and self-proclaimed “Conservator of Effective Citizenship,” Kathleen

has two decades of experiences in middle & high school and collegiate classrooms in Colorado and Washington.

Follow this link on the date of the event: <https://tinyurl.com/2emzh7m6>

## 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 Walking Tour will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2023 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](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org).

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](mailto:director@oberlinheritage.org).



*Photo: Oberlin College track team grounds volunteers, 2023.*

## 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, the founding of Oberlin, and civil rights. You do not have to be affiliated with the college to participate.

### Guided Tours:

#### Friday, May 24

- Jewett House Tour - 2:00 p.m.
- Scholars and Settlers Tour - 4:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, May 25

- Freedom's Friends - 10:30 a.m.
- Architecture Tour - 1:30 p.m.
- Civil War to Civil Rights - 3:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, May 26

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

Plus, self-guided indoor and outdoor [tablet tours](#) are available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday during open hours 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. **Advance registration is required for history walks Commencement Weekend.**

### **Teen Museum Summer Workshop** *July 15-17 (Mon-Wed, 12:30pm to 3:30pm)*



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 camp is held in the Jewett House of the Oberlin Heritage Center, 73 S. Professor St.

## **News From OHC**

### **OHC Receives A Major Grant from The Nord Family Foundation**

The Oberlin Heritage Center has received a grant from The Nord Family Foundation to help it cover the cost of maintenance for our nineteenth century buildings, the design and commissioning of new wayfinding signage, as well as a major overhaul of the OHC website. The grant received was for the amount of \$29,500 and will be put to use immediately for multiple projects. OHC is extremely grateful to The Nord Family Foundation to have received this funding.



### **Fourth Grade Students Free History Museum Admission with America 250**

The Oberlin Heritage Center has announced a new promotion for fourth grade students in partnership with America 250-Ohio, the official state commission responsible for

spearheading Ohio's celebrations around America's semiquincentennial in 2026. The 4th Grade History Pass, an official project of America 250-Ohio, is specifically designed for fourth grade students across the state. Beginning today, every fourth-grade student in Ohio will have the opportunity to visit participating history-related museums and sites free of charge when accompanied by a paying adult. The program aims to cultivate curiosity in young minds in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Fourth grade students can use the pass at many institutions throughout Ohio, including The Oberlin Heritage Center, Ohio History Center, Cincinnati Museum Center and Western Reserve Historical Society/Cleveland History Center. A comprehensive list of participating locations where the pass can be redeemed is available at [America250-Ohio.org/fourth-grade-pass](https://america250-Ohio.org/fourth-grade-pass). To participate, a pass can be acquired from the America 250-Ohio website where there is an option to select a printed or digital version for download. Regular admission fees apply for accompanying family members, and passes are not valid for field trips or group visits.

The program is for fourth grade students for the 2023-2024 school year. The pass is valid through August 31, 2024. Each school year on September 1 the pass for the fourth-grade students of that school year will be available and valid through the following August. The program will end on December 31, 2026. For more information please visit <https://america250.org/fieldtrip/>.

### **April is Volunteer Month - Thank You From OHC!**



April is Volunteer Month and the Oberlin Heritage Center would like to thank everyone who volunteers with the organization. Whether it is volunteers like Pat Price, Carl Jacobson, and Anne Montoya helping with tours or those like Steve Johnson, Kathy Jaffe, and Sue Weidenbaum helping with inventory and other research-based collections projects, we appreciate the contributions that every one of the volunteers at OHC provide to this organization and community. Thank you for all that you do!

(We don't mean to leave anyone out. We publish a full list of volunteers in our annual report every year.)

*Photo: Board member Elizabeth Elrod and Mark Jaffee volunteering at Root Beer and Yesteryear, 2023*

## **Museum & Members Update**



On Tuesday, March 26, OHC held a ceremony at which it received a grant from the Ohio History Fund to help with the acquisition and installation of a replacement HVAC system

upstairs in the Monroe House. We were joined by representatives of the Ohio History Connection, Green EDGE Fund, and the Office of US Representative Bob Latta. Ohio Representative Joe Miller also joined us personally for the event. This grant was given in conjunction with a grant obtained by OHC from the Green EDGE Fund of Oberlin College for the same project and will allow OHC to replace its aging upstairs HVAC system with a new dual fuel heat pump that will be more energy efficient. Readers may remember that the Monroe House's downstairs HVAC system was replaced with a heat pump last year and we have found that it has reduced our natural gas usage by 21%. Thanks to all who supported this project!

The project "Sustainable Climate Control for the Monroe House" is funded in part by the Ohio History Fund, a grant program of the Ohio History Connection. Your donations to the Ohio History Fund make this program possible. [www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund)



If you haven't filed your taxes yet, please consider contributing to the Ohio History Fund when you get to the donations section.

*Photos: (left) Andy Verhoff and Diana Welling of the Ohio History Connection; (right) State Representative Joe Miller, Diana Welling, Collections Manager Maren McKee, OHC Vice President Claudia Jones, and Executive Director Liz Schultz*

OHC would like to thank new member Evangeline McFarlin, and new Endowed Life Members George and Marlene Andrews and Emily Acton Phillips. We would also like to thank David A. and Susan Egloff, Bruce and Sue Simonson, John A. and Eugenia Poporad Vanek, Gail and Reid Wood, as well as James H. Young for recently 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 William "Claud" Turnbull and Nat Brandt (author of *The Town That Started the Civil War* and *When Oberlin Was King Of The Gridiron: The Heisman Years*). 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.

## 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 food and additional activities will be provided. Please share with family and friends.

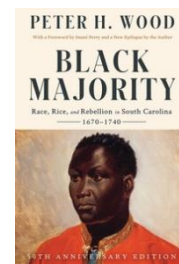


## Big Parade on Saturday, May 4 at 12:00 p.m.

Save the date for the 2024 Oberlin Big Parade. The theme this year will be "toy box" so create and wear your own toy themed costume to the event.

## Peter H. Wood's book *Black Majority* receives an update

The publisher W.W. Norton recently announced a new revised and updated edition of Peter H. Wood's groundbreaking history of Black Americans in colonial South Carolina, with a foreword by National Book Award Winner Imani Perry.



First published in 1974, *Black Majority* marked a breakthrough in our understanding of early American history. Today, Wood's insightful study remains more relevant and enlightening than ever. This landmark book chronicles the crucial formative years of North America's wealthiest and most tormented British colony. It explores how West African familiarity with rice determined the Lowcountry economy and how a skilled but enslaved labor force formed its own distinctive language and culture. While African American history often focuses on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, *Black Majority* underscores the significant role early African arrivals played in shaping the direction of American history.

### 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](mailto:director@oberlinheritage.org).



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