



**OBERLIN HISTORICAL  
AND IMPROVEMENT  
ORGANIZATION**

73½ South Professor Street

P.O. Box 455

Oberlin, OH 44074-0455

Phone: 440-774-1700

Website: [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org)

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**Contact: Mary Anne Cunningham, Assistant to the Director, 440-774-1700 or email to [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org)**

**O.H.I.O. Annual Meeting: Fun, Awards and Elections**

Over 160 attended the Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O.'s annual meeting at the Oberlin Inn on Wednesday, April 7, 2004. Following a welcome from Congresswoman **Marcy Kaptur**, guests enjoyed a program on "Fun in Oberlin, Past and Present," featuring excerpts from Oberlin Oral history project interviews and presented by **Elizabeth Goulding** and **Dan Goulding**.

Trustees **Jim White** and **Geni Vanek** announced the kick-off of the new Endowment for History Education campaign, and noted that for a limited time, contributions to the campaign will be matched twice - both by a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and by the Stocker Foundation. The purpose of the campaign is to establish a permanently restricted fund to support a new Museum Education Coordinator position that would expand the organization's educational outreach activities, programs and tours. The organization will be selling "Distinctive Destinations" T-shirts at Ben Franklin in Oberlin and at the Oberlin Heritage Center, is launching a series of "Fun, Friends and History" special events, and will be seeking contributions from individuals and businesses throughout the community and beyond to support the campaign.

The organization recognized four individuals who received the 3rd Annual Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. Community Awards:

**Community Historians of the Year Award: Alfred R. Goerlich and Robert W. Oliphant** for the O-High Alumni website

The text of the award certificate stated that: From their respective homes in Marion, Ohio and Westford, Massachusetts, Oberlin High School alumni and classmates Alfred R. Goerlich and Robert W. Oliphant together have dedicated many, many hours to creating a website ([www.oberlin-high.org](http://www.oberlin-high.org)) that is a treasure trove for anyone interested in Oberlin history and genealogy. It is also an amazing tool for bringing together alumni around the world through the power of the World Wide Web. Included on the site are class lists, obituaries, histories of the school buildings, a tool for finding "missing persons" for reunion planners and genealogists, and many other resources. It serves as a model for other communities to aspire to in terms of harnessing the power of the Internet to build community and to preserve and share local history. For their significant accomplishments and this lasting gift to everyone interested in the town of Oberlin's history, we are pleased to present them with the Community Historian of the Year Award.

**O.H.I.O. Volunteer of the Year : Richard Holsworth**

The text of the award certificate stated that: Certainly there can be no one more deserving as Volunteer of the Year than Richard Holsworth. No task is too large or too small nor too difficult nor too messy for him. From former trustee and Facilities and Grounds Committee Chairperson to snow shoveler and gardener, from photographer to T-shirt creator, from computer guru, to doorknob polisher, to installer of Heritage Trail bricks and provider of information to visitors strolling through the Oberlin Heritage Center – whatever is needed, Dick does it. Following in the footsteps of his predecessor and great friend Glenn Hobbs, Dick has a phenomenal understanding of O.H.I.O.'s historic buildings and cares for them lovingly. Always steady, always reliable, always cheerful, and seemingly always available to help O.H.I.O., Dick is the quintessential volunteer, on call and often on site, day and night. For all this and more, we are very pleased to present Dick with the Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. Volunteer of the Year Award.

**Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award: Dennis Greive** for his work on America in Bloom

The text of the award certificate stated that: Dennis Greive keeps Oberlin, college and town, beautiful both through his job as Oberlin College Grounds Manager and through his volunteer contributions in assisting the Oberlin Main Street Design Committee by planting and caring for flower planters throughout downtown. Working behind the scenes during the spring and summer of 2003 to help Oberlin with its nomination in the America in Bloom national competition, he devoted an entire weekend to helping to answer questions from the visiting judges. Dennis and his staff have also helped O.H.I.O. with various projects over the years. Thanks to Dennis, we can all be proud of Oberlin's beautiful plantings, the Japanese Garden at the Conservatory, the Underground Railroad medicinal garden, Tappan Square, the flowers at the Oberlin Inn, and more. We salute and applaud his accomplishments by presenting him with the Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award.

**Mary Anne Cunningham**, O.H.I.O.'s Assistant to the Director, also received a certificate of appreciation for exceptional service, dedication and talents shared with the organization for ten years.

The organization appointed and presented certificates of appreciation to three new honorary trustees who have served on the board and in many capacities over the years: **Sigrid Boe**, **Ruth Schwaegerle** and **Jim Underwood**. Newly elected as Board Treasurer is **Donald R. Wozniak** of Lorain who joins continuing officers **Cathe Radabaugh**, Board President, **James White**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, **Eric Severs**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and **Eugene Simon**, Secretary. **Eric Severs** was re-elected to a three year term and **Cathe Radabaugh** was reelected for a one year term. Five new trustees were elected to the 18-member Board, each for a three-year term. They are:

**Robert B. Calhoun** holds B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Materials Science and Engineering from MIT. He and his wife are restoring the A.G. Comings House at 249 Elm Street. He is interested in combining traditional building materials with modern building technology to preserve historical appearance, while enhancing safety and energy efficiency. He developed the ShotsSpotter gunshot location system, used by police departments to reduce gunfire in violence-prone neighborhoods and used recently to track the Columbus turnpike shooter. He previously served as president of Cystic Fibrosis Online Resources, a non-profit organization that created the first website for people with Cystic Fibrosis.

**Ché S. González** is a graduate of Oberlin College who has lived in Oberlin for many years. She is a creative writing instructor at the Arts Academy in Lorain and Olmsted Township and a tutor who worked for Oberlin College in admissions and academic advising. She has also worked in alcohol and drug prevention education, as a substitute teacher, and as a mentor with the Lorain County Access Program. She is involved in many community activities and has served on a number of boards, including the Lorain County Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Program, and performed with Choral Spectrum. She recently participated in O.H.I.O.'s Guided Autobiography Writing Workshop.

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**David W. Mellott** is a partner with Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff in Cleveland where he specializes in insurance law. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Miami University and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from The Ohio State University. He is a lover of history, author of several articles, and is currently writing a book about the 7<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Civil War regiment. He resides in Bay Village and is a graduate of the United Way Leadership Development program.

**Louise Richards** moved to Oberlin from Cleveland Heights in 1993. She received a B.A. from Denison University and a M.A. from Oberlin College in art history. She began her career as assistant to Hazel King, Curator of the Allen Memorial Art Museum, and then served on the staff of the Cleveland Museum of Art for 34 years, retiring as Chief Curator of Prints and Drawings. She has served on O.H.I.O.'s Collections Committee for many years and is involved in many activities at Kendal at Oberlin.

**Donna Marie Shurr** is an Oberlin High School teacher, coordinator of History Day projects at Oberlin High School, and recipient of O.H.I.O.'s Community Teacher of the Year Award in 2002. She is an artist and has taught O.H.I.O.'s children's summer camps for several years and also had her high school students make Gingerbread Houses for the annual Extravaganza. She enjoys an interdisciplinary approach to teaching, encourages her students to get involved in community service, and has received many awards and grants. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Framingham State College (Mass.) and a Master of Science in Education from Nova Southeastern University (Florida). As a teacher in the Oberlin City Schools, she has completed 27 semester hours at Oberlin College through the Oberlin College/School Partnership.

Oberlin High School students **Jackie Bousek** and **Mona Patel** were recognized. They recently received an award at an Ohio History Day regional competition in Cleveland for their project, "Aluminum, Chemistry and Oberlin College."

Executive Director **Pat Murphy** thanked the many people who work so hard to preserve and share Oberlin's heritage in so many ways. Those in attendance toasted the designation of Oberlin as one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Dozen Distinctive Destinations for 2004.

The Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. is a non-profit membership organization with over 600 individual, family, and business members. Its mission is to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work and visit. All are welcome to join. The organization offers tours and public programs and educational activities year round which are open to the public. For more information, visit the organization's website at [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call 440-774-1700.

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