

For Immediate Release – April 7, 2005

Contact: Patricia Murphy, Executive Director, at 440-774-1700 or [patm@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:patm@oberlinheritage.org)

## Local History Shines at O.H.I.O.'s Annual Meeting

**Dr. J. D. Britton**, of the Ohio Historical Society and the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums, praised the Oberlin Heritage Center's good work as a local historical society at the annual meeting of members and friends held at the Oberlin Inn on April 6. Britton talked about "The History of Historical Societies" and offered perspectives from national, state and local viewpoints about historic preservation and interpretation. About 150 guests enjoyed a pre-program social hour with music provided by members of the **Oberlin High School Orchestra** conducted by Harriett A. Thomas. The evening included dinner, Britton's enlightening and entertaining program, several presentations of Community Awards, and the organization's annual business meeting.

The third annual Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. Community Awards spotlighted several community historians, educators, and civic volunteers whose work had enhanced the lives of community residents, students, and visitors. **William E. Bigglestone** was recognized as the Community Historian of the Year, while **Bert Latran, Jr.** received the Keep Oberlin Beautiful award. Oberlin High School art teacher, **Lorna Kretchmar**, received the Community Teacher of the Year award, and the Prospect School third-grade teaching team of **Jan DeMarinis**, **Jean Ebosh**, **Christine Hohman**, and **Gail Wood** shared the History Teacher of the Year award. **Ruth Schwaegerle** was honored as O.H.I.O.'s Volunteer of the Year.

During the business meeting part of the evening, former Board members, **Dick Holsworth**, **Ann Livingston**, and **Thelma Quinn Smith** were recognized as new honorary trustees. Outgoing president, **Cathe Radabaugh**, was honored for her many years as a Board member, officer, and extraordinary volunteer. The organization elected new Board officers including: **James W. White**, President; **Eric Severs**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; **Eugene Simon**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; **Robert B. Calhoun**, Secretary; and **Donald R. Wozniak**, Treasurer. Joining the Board at this meeting were newly elected members **Eugenia Bobo**, **Bradley A. Hayes**, **Elisabeth M. Mahjoub**, and **Ruth G. Shaeffer**. Executive Director **Pat Murphy** concluded the evening with a report that highlighted many of the organization's accomplishments in the past year.

The Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. is a non-profit membership organization with nearly 700 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.

###