

# Oregon Historic District Society News

Volume 41, Issue 1

Spring Renewal Edition

## It's time to renew your membership and vote!

### Submitted by Leslie Gonya

Newsletter Editor

As you may be aware, current members of the Oregon Historic District Society will be electing 3 trustees to the OHDS board in April. Are you a member for 2014? If not, a membership form is included in this very newsletter, with easy to follow instructions, whether you are renewing or joining for the very first time, so make sure you register in order to have voting privileges.

The election takes place at the Annual Dinner being held on Saturday, April 26th at the Dayton Woman's Club, located at 225 N. Ludlow St. Voting takes place during cocktail hour at the beginning of the event, and there are several ways you can cast your vote:

- Attend the Annual Dinner and Vote!

But if you can't attend the Annual Dinner, there are still two options available to you:

- Stop down to The Dayton Woman's Club between 6 and 7pm to vote. There is a cash bar, in case you wish to quench your thirst after working very hard to circle three names on the ballot, and vote on amendment to the OHDS constitution.
- You can request an absentee ballot from our membership chair, Todd Crawford:

Absentee Ballots for the 2014 OHDS election may be obtained by submitting a written request by April 12th to the Membership Chairman, Todd Crawford. Requests can be sent via email to [todd.crawford@pnc.com](mailto:todd.crawford@pnc.com), or in person at 8 Van Buren Street. Requests sent to the PO Box must be post-marked no later than April 12th.

You must be a dues paid member in order to request an Absentee Ballot. Completed ballots must be received by the Membership Chairman by April 26, 2014. All Ballots will remain sealed until voting begins at the Annual Dinner on April 26th.

And now a word from the 5 alphabetically-ordered candidates for trustee...

# Trustee Candidate Bios

## Deborah Burger

My name is Deborah Burger and my husband and I own and live in the condominiums at 26 - 28 1/2 Green St. We have been married for 43 years, have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. I am a Registered Nurse and also have a Bachelor's in Health Services Administration. I was the Program Developer for Health, Disabilities and Nutrition for Head Start for Montgomery, Clark and Madison counties. My husband and I have been life long residents of the Dayton area and were thrilled when Mike Martin found us a property in the Oregon Historic District that needed restoration. We have restored two of the three units and currently working on the third. In all of the units we used salvaged materials when possible and when needed replicated architectural features to match the period. The architectural integrity of the home was always utmost in our minds. This past summer we were asked to participate in the Garden Tour and were amazed how interested visitors were in the architecture of not only our home but of the entire Oregon Historic District.

I would like to serve on the Board of Trustees to continue to foster the sense of community that exists and to preserve what has been started by others many years ago. Keeping the integrity of the Oregon Historic District is important to me not only for the present but for others who will come and appreciate its beauty as I have. I hope you will consider me for the Board.

## Jeffery Gonya

Leslie and I moved to the Oregon District in July 2002 with the wide-eyed idea of opening a Bed and Breakfast. We figured that if we could make enough from the B&B to offset the difference in expenses and it allowed us to live in a bigger house, then we would call it a success. Twelve years and two additional properties later, we think we are doing OK.

I graduated from the University of Dayton with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. When it comes to home improvement and restoration, that degree translates to theoretically knowing what to do. Actual execution is another story. I have found that I am very good at demolition and grunt work. I am willing to try, and to help, but I have learned where my skills are limited.

Over the past 12 years, I have volunteered in a number of positions. After being residents just a couple of months, we volunteered our kitchen for the caterer and our electricity for the band at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. I've been alley sweep organizer, picnic host, holiday tour guide, gazebo decorator, Priority Board Rep, wheel barrow pusher for park planting, assistant gazebo painter, and pretty much whatever else anyone has asked me to help with. I ran for trustee several years ago and lost. Undeterred by defeat, I am running again.

If elected, I will serve to the best of my ability. If not, I'll keep doing what I've been doing. Our great neighborhood has many opportunities for service. Whether as a trustee or clearing sidewalks, I will serve wherever I'm needed.

## Katie Joseph

I received my BS-Accounting from the University of Dayton, and am currently the Payroll Manager for the Montgomery County Auditor.

In my youth, mom and I visited downtown Dayton often, and she would always drive through the Oregon District admiring the homes and dreaming that we would one day own one. My dream came true when my husband Russ and I moved into 443 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street on the hottest day of July, 2011, and haven't looked back!

I love the community spirit, the neighborhood activities, the liveliness of the business district and the close proximity to everything downtown has to offer. On any given day, you might see Russ, me and our son, Eli riding our bikes down to Riverscape, playing baseball in the park or walking to Blind Bob's for Friday night dinner.

I acknowledge that becoming a trustee on the OHDS is a big commitment but so is raising a family in an urban area such as the Oregon District. Because of that, I want to be able to do my part to make sure the neighborhood is safe and family friendly while maintaining the true spirit of the Oregon District. Part of that commitment is getting involved and being a voice for our neighbors to make sure that the property, affairs and finances of the Oregon District Historical Society are being managed in a manner that is in the overall best interest of our unique community.

## **Omar J. Peters**

My name is Omar Peters and I live at 33 Tecumseh in a small studio that is owned by my wonderful neighbors Jervis Janney and Sam Skidmore. Before moving to Dayton, I spent a large portion of my youth in Brooklyn, NY, where I attended a Catholic high school, then studied City and Regional Planning at the University at Albany, NY. During my studies, I grew passionate about the restoration of vibrant historic places. Therefore, when I moved here three years ago to begin my career as a Transportation Planner at the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC), it was a great pleasure to discover the gem that is the Oregon Historic District.

The Oregon District exemplifies everything I am passionate about because it's a walkable, diverse, vibrant and restored historic neighborhood. It is for those reasons that I've been an active volunteer in and around the neighborhood to help maintain its historic charm and vibrancy. I have volunteered for neighborhood events including as a guide for the Holiday Tour in 2013 and at Hauntfest in 2012. I've also assisted with the neighborhood's social media (like Nextdoor) and helped promote events such as the Garden Tour and Christmas Tour. I am a Board Member of UpDayton, and in 2012, helped organize the mural painting of the pedestrian bridge over US 35 that connects our neighborhood to South Park. I also volunteer for the Activated Spaces program, which fills vacant Downtown retail properties with "pop-up" stores such as Sew Dayton, Spice Paradise, and American Pi.

Although I'm not originally from Dayton, I have developed an immense love and passion for this city and our neighborhood. I want to continue doing work that helps foster the historic nature of our neighborhood, while also ensuring that it is an engaging and vibrant place for all its residents. I would be honored and excited to serve this wonderful community that has made me feel so welcomed.

## **Rachel Shock Brannon**

As a child, I thought, "When I grow up, I'll live in the Oregon District." Perhaps, these are the thoughts of an only child who grows up in an historic home, around countless remodels and radial arm saws set up in the dining room. My parents restored two historic homes in Miamisburg while I was growing up, so I've been starring in my own "This Old House" episode for as long as I can remember. My parents and I made frequent trips to the Oregon District to look at the homes, and living there always seemed like a dream. The dream started to come true in 2011 when I made an offer on a house on Green Street. Just a few days later, my husband John proposed to me on the front steps...in the rain. There would be no stopping my love affair with the Oregon District now! After I closed on the home, John and I began an extensive remodel, which ended with our wedding vows in the gazebo at Newcom Founder's Park. I've been proud to share my dream come true with others as we opened up our home for the Oregon District Christmas Tour, welcoming hundreds of guests into our home. It has always felt like home here, having graduated right down the street at the University of Dayton. I now work as a high school English teacher at Northmont High School and at Olive in the summer. We have two dogs, Sarge and Lola, who can be seen walking us around the neighborhood. I want to share the passion and enthusiasm I have for this neighborhood, and help it flourish and thrive. I want people to cherish it, love it, and protect it. I am excited to be here, and I want to do everything I can so everyone else is excited to be here - whether they are living here, they are visiting, or they are dreaming!

Membership in the Oregon Historic District Society, Inc. (OHDS) is renewable by April of each year. Each member of the OHDS receives a Membership Directory at no cost. Membership questions may be directed to Todd Crawford, Membership Chairman, at [todd.crawford@pnc.com](mailto:todd.crawford@pnc.com).

Last Name		First Name	
Spouse/Partner Last Name (if Family Membership)		First Name	
Business Name (if Business Membership)			
Address		City	State Zip
Phone Number 1		Phone Number 2	
Email Address 1		Email Address 2 or Website Address (if Business Membership)	

- Please include all information above in the OHDS Directory
- Please include my/our NAME(s) ONLY in the OHDS Directory
- Please advise me by email of neighborhood events and/or safety alerts

**1. Type of Membership (Circle One):**

*Individual \$20      Family \$30      Contributing \$100      Business \$50*

**2. Neighborhood Status (Circle All That Apply):**

**IMPORTANT-** All information must be completed to establish membership and voter eligibility.

*Resident Owner      Resident Tenant      Business*

**Non-Resident Property Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Oregon District Property Address*

*Commercial Owner      Commercial Tenant*

**3. I Would Like to be Involved (Circle All That Apply):**

*Working in the Park*

*Holiday/Garden Tour*

*Picnics in the Park*

*Membership Committee*

*Block Captain*

*Other* \_\_\_\_\_



Please send this completed form, along with a check for the appropriate amount, made payable to:

Oregon Historic District Society

P.O. Box 383

Dayton, Ohio 45401

# The 39th Annual OHDS Dinner and Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 26, 2014

6 o'clock

The Dayton

Woman's Club

225 N Ludlow St

Join your Oregon District neighbors for an evening of fine dining, live music, awards, and Board of Trustee elections.

The evening will begin with a cocktail hour at 6:00 pm featuring cash bar and live music by the Stivers School for the Arts student quartet. Ballots will be available during this hour for members to vote for new trustees.

Dinner and neighborhood awards will begin at 7:00 pm.

## REGISTRATION

- *Include cash or check. Make check payable to: Oregon Historic District Society*
- *Mail to: OHDS P.O. Box 383 Dayton OH 45401-0383 or drop off at the Brannon's, 34 Green Street*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$30 per guest**

by April 15th

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Choice of Entrée**

- { } *Herb Roasted Chicken*
- { } *Grilled Salmon w/Citrus Salsa*
- { } *Beef Tips Bourguignon*
- { } *Vegetarian Option*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Choice of Entree**

- { } *Herb Roasted Chicken*
- { } *Grilled Salmon w/Citrus Salsa*
- { } *Beef Tips Bourguignon*
- { } *Vegetarian Option*

# Oregon Historic District Society

## Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Submitted by Sara Vice

### Proposed Amendment to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting in April 2014

**Rationale:** The OHDS has not followed the procedure for a CPA audit in recent memory. When the current officers researched the issue, they found that using a CPA would be too expensive, costing up to \$5,000 per year but yielding little value, due to the small size of the organization. In fact, the CPA who assisted us in Ohio charitable registration said that neither the IRS nor the State of Ohio require a CPA audit.

For the past fiscal year, the board used an independent business reviewer to evaluate the accounting procedures and finances, which served the purpose of an independent review at the cost of only \$100 as an honorarium. The board recommends the adoption of the amendment to conform to actual practice and budget limitations, while still allowing for independent review.

### CURRENT LANGUAGE

#### ARTICLE IX - ACCOUNTING YEAR

1. The accounting year of this Society shall end on March 31st of each year. The fiscal affairs of the Society for each accounting year shall be reviewed and summarized by a certified public accountant. The Fiscal Audit by a Certified Public Accountant must take place at the end of each accounting year.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT

#### ARTICLE IX – ACCOUNTING YEAR

1. The accounting year of this Society shall end on March 31st of each year. The fiscal affairs of the Society for each accounting year shall be reviewed and summarized by one or more business professionals who are not members of the board of trustees. The Fiscal Audit by the independent reviewer/s must take place at the end of each accounting year.

# Archive Project

Submitted by Janet Neu

Still have plans to send our archives to Wright State University's library...though the project's been a bit delayed due to issues unforeseen.

But now is the time...while you're spring cleaning... to dig out anything you might be willing to donate.

We are particularly interested in old photos or any house history you may have. You can drop them at 29 Tecumseh Street anytime between now and April 30th. Just leave them in a bag or box by the front door, and I will find them.

Thank you in advance for your contributions. They will be very much appreciated by generations yet to come!!!

# New Flag Flying in Canal Park

Submitted by Leslie Gonya

You may have noticed a new flag flying in Canal Park, by our Sixth Street entryway to the neighborhood. This is due to the kindness and generosity of our neighbor Janet Neu. She donated this flag that belonged to her husband Denny, who passed away in 2006. A former trustee and beloved longtime neighbor, Denny was one of the first neighbors we met when we moved to the neighborhood, and I can't help but think of him when I water my flower pots along the alley, as he always wheeled by with a cheerful greeting and the latest news to share. Janet included this in a recent e-mail:

“So....after next week....be sure to give Denny's flag a little salute as you pass by.... so he can see you from heaven, and know that he is still a part of his beloved little Oregon Community. And don't be surprised if you feel an extra little kick of wind whip that flag a bit. Cos' that'd be Denny waving back.....”

# Got a great idea?

Submitted by Burgess Gow

Do you have an idea for the neighborhood that you would like to make happen? The OHDS Trustees are in your corner and want to help! We can offer assistance in finding volunteers, city support, and even money. All we ask is that you contact a trustee (contact info on last page) and get them to champion the idea. A trustee can help make sure you get the support you need.

Now is a perfect time to make contact (it is always a good time). Some things to think about before you move forward:

- Does it bring our neighborhood together?
- Does it showcase our neighborhood outside the Oregon District?
- If it is an event, is there ample enough time to ensure success?
- Do you require any funding?

The more yes's and "bang for your buck" will ensure your idea becomes a reality.

Here are some projects that have used this process and benefited:

- +August Garden Tour
- +National Night Out Picnic
- +Welcome Committee Meet and Greet

What is your idea? Chat it over with a trustee!

### *Helpful Phone Numbers*

Abandoned Vehicles 333-1038	Fire//Ambulance 333-FIRE	Water Billing 333-3550	Bulk Waste Pick-up 333-4833	Street Cleaning 333-4808
Sidewalk/curb repair 333-3853	Landmarks Commission 333-3683	Police (non-emergency) 333-COPS	Zoning Administration 333-3887	Housing Inspector 333-3921
Southeast Priority Board 333-7373		Dayton View Post Office 278-9620		Historic Street Light Repairs 224-7858

## **OHDS INC. NEWSLETTER**

Oregon Historic District Society Inc.  
PO Box 383  
Dayton OH 45401-0383

## **OHDS Board of Trustees**

Amelia O'Dowd, President 617-953-9101  
Burgess Gow, Vice President 253-304-0577  
Ellen Havdahl, Treasurer 222-1319  
Sara Vice, Recording Secretary 222-4195  
Catherine Springer, Corresponding Secretary 789-7368  
Bethany Ramsey 513-549-1807  
Kate Archdeacon 223-5770  
Leslie Gonya 224-7678  
Sharon Smith 222-4408

## **Keep informed!**

**E-mail Alerts:** If you aren't receiving e-mail announcements, you're missing out on a lot of news. To add your e-mail to the distribution list, or to send out an alert, contact Bethany Ramsey at [Bramsey12@gmail.com](mailto:Bramsey12@gmail.com). Please note that replies to alerts cannot be received by the announcements g-mail address, but should be sent to Bethany directly.

**Newsletter:** To submit an item for the newsletter, call Leslie Gonya at 224-7678 or e-mail [LJGonya@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LJGonya@sbcglobal.net).

**Facebook:** Look for Oregon District news on Facebook, too.