

Congratulations 2016 Alliance Award Winners!

By Wendy Zucal,
Executive Director,
Dennison Railroad Depot Museums System,
Dennison

Since 1960, the Alliance, in partnership with the Ohio History Connection, has led the state in recognizing excellent projects, programs, and publications produced by Ohio's historical societies and museums, as well as recognizing individuals who have contributed greatly to the field of history. On behalf of the Alliance Board, nine Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented at the annual Awards Luncheon on October 8, 2016. These projects and people have inspired, connected, and educated their audiences in Ohio

Public Programming

Delaware County Historical Society, Delaware for the project **Tote Bag Program for Third Grade Students**. This project targets third grade students, whose social studies curriculum focuses on local history, and emphasizes the concept of "Then and How" – how things change over time. The Education and Curriculum Support Committee of the Delaware County Historical Society developed major themes within the curriculum standards and matched archival materials to those themes. The tote bags also included relevant history books and DVDs. A grant allowed them to launch their program and hold a very successful back to school meeting with local teachers. Now in its fourth year, the program has accomplished the goal of connecting the society to teachers and historical collections to students.

Hoover Historical Society/Walsh University, North Canton for the project **British War Children, 75th Anniversary Commemorative Series**. The Hoover Historical Center, in partnership with the North Canton Heritage Society, Canton Palace Theater, North Canton Public Library, and North Canton City Schools presented series of 14 events honoring the 75th anniversary of the 84 British children who the Hoover Company brought to North Canton in 1940. The series included a variety of activities like tours, exhibits, book club discussions, films, speakers, and panel discussions. The programming exceeded estimated participation by 50%, with over 1,500 people attending. Not only did this series provide a wonderful opportunity to collect oral history and form relationships between five partnering organizations, but through their efforts, the entire community learned more about an often forgotten piece of world history with an important local connection.

Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College, Wilmington for the project **Underground Railroad History Day for Wilmington City Schools 4th Grade**. The Quaker Heritage Center created a brand new fourth grade experience focusing on the Underground Railroad to give new life to the Center's educational curriculum. The goal of every activity at the all-day event was to give students a chance to explore



The 2016 Outstanding Achievement Award winners received their certificates at the annual Awards Luncheon. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

local Underground Railroad History and Quakerism. Activities ranged from small hands-on learning groups to a mock college course covering the Underground Railroad timeline to a critical thinking discussion on the different ways Quakers responded to slavery. Follow-up included post-visit activities and books for educators' use in the classroom.

Shelby County Historical Society, Sidney for the project **Year of Valor**. During an emotional visit of the Vietnam Wall in 2010, the Shelby County Historical Society made a promise to bring that wall back in five years. Coincidentally, 2015 was a year of anniversaries ranging from the 240th anniversary of the Revolutionary War to the 45th anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War. The society decided to use this occasion to tell the story not of war, but of the common experiences of men and women who have served in combat, highlighting the belief that the characteristics we inherit from our ancestors are what make us the people we are today. The year's activities included exhibits, speakers, concerts, parades, wonderful ceremonies to honor veterans, and a return of the Traveling Vietnam Wall to Sidney.

Media and Publications

Foundation Park Conservancy, Mount Vernon for the book **Ariel-Foundation Park** by **Aaron Keirns**. This book tells the story of an Ohio town that preserved its history and transformed an abandoned industrial site into a world-class park. Ariel-Foundation Park is built on the former site of one of the largest window glass manufacturing facilities in the world, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Works No. 11, which operated from 1908-1976. This rich industrial heritage became the underlying theme of the park, as glass, steel trusses, and other industrial artifacts are preserved on the grounds. Mr. Keirns was brought in to photograph the process of creating the park for posterity, and he captured the area's important manufacturing history. The completed book features over 300 photographs and illustrations.

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Joann G. King for the book *Medina County: Coming of Age 1810-1900*. After being involved with the Medina County Historical Society, Joann King became aware that Medina County needed a new, comprehensive history. Nothing had been printed about the county as a whole since 1881. Her objectives were to create something that was easily readable, captured the spirit of the people and their times, and looked at local history within a broad perspective of national history. To accomplish that she incorporated resources from all over the county and beyond. She wrote how state, national, and world events affected the people of Medina County and how they responded to these events. In so doing, she has preserved the history of Medina County for generations.

Exhibits/Displays

Wood County Heritage Center, Bowling Green for the project *Be Your Own Museum: Our Community's Collection*. The Wood County History Center is a community organization that makes connections between past, present, and future by capturing stories and cultivating memories. Curator Holly Hartlerode was inspired to create an exhibit that allowed participants to feel ownership in local history by inviting collectors to share their collections in the exhibition. This project resulted in many positive outcomes, including attracting new audiences to the museum, creating new partnerships between museum staff and community members, and

providing an opportunity for museum staff to introduce collections care practices and a variety of interpretive perspectives.

Individual Achievement Awards

Randy L. Winland, Marion County Historical Society, Marion. Mr. Winland is a former history teacher and a very involved volunteer of the Marion County Historical Society. He is the current board president and has been a board member for over 20 years. His many roles have included: development, fundraising, community involvement, public speaker, special events, preservation, marketing, and archiving. He has also been chair of the society's publications committee and has written or co-authored books for the Arcadia Postcard History series, history activity books, and resource guides for teachers. As of July, Mr. Winland has contributed over 4,000 hours to the society.

Liz Schultz, Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin. Ms. Schultz has been with the Oberlin Heritage Center for nine years, first as Museum Educator and Tour Coordinator and now as Executive Director. Thanks to her creativity, dedication, and energy the educational opportunities at the Oberlin Heritage Center have found new heights. She has created innovative educational programs: scavenger hunts, iPad tours, classroom programs, history kits for teachers, and a junior docent program. She has also worked to form partnerships ranging from the Oberlin Public Library to the Allen Art Museum, which has brought the museum to new audiences. ■