



LIBRARY

*A Newsletter of the
Oberlin College Library*

PERSPECTIVES

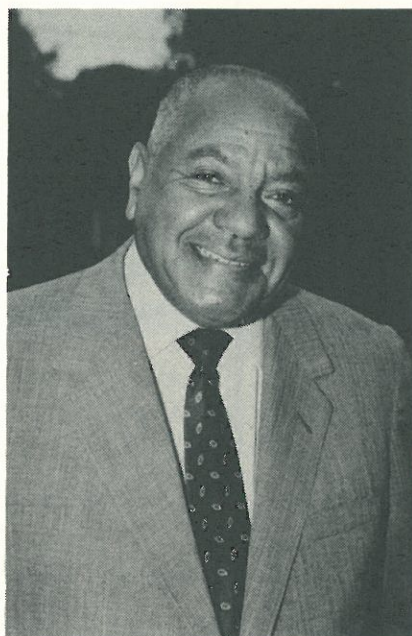
NUMBER FOUR

SEPTEMBER 1992

Carl Rowan to Speak at Friends Dinner

Nationally acclaimed syndicated columnist Carl Rowan '47 will be the featured speaker following the annual Friends of the Library dinner on Friday evening, November 6.

Rowan achieved national prominence in the early 1950's for his series of reports for the *Minneapolis Tribune* on the life of blacks in the South. He subsequently became the only journalist ever to win three successive Sigma Delta Chi awards from the Society of Professional Journalists—for his reporting on school desegregation in the South and for his foreign correspondence from India and Southeast Asia. In the 1960's he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs and later Ambassador to Finland in the Kennedy Administration and as Director of the U.S. Infor-



Carl T. Rowan

mation Agency in the Johnson Administration. In 1965 he became a nationally syndicated columnist for

the *Chicago Daily News* and the Publishers Newspaper Syndicate.

The author of seven books, his best-selling memoir, *Breaking Barriers*, was published in 1991 to widespread critical acclaim. His biography of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall will appear in January 1993. Rowan has been a permanent panelist for many years on the television show "Inside Washington;" he has also done a daily, syndicated radio commentary entitled "The Rowan Report;" and he has been a regular panelist on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The recipient of over forty honorary degrees and numerous prestigious awards, Rowan received a Doctor of Letters degree from Oberlin College in 1962 and he served as a trustee of the college from 1965 to 1971. He has recently donated his papers to the College Archives.

Roe and Sprague Offer Friends Membership Challenge

William G. Roe '64 and Wallace A. Sprague '38 have offered to match the total of all new membership contributions made to the Friends of the Oberlin College Library prior to the organization's annual meeting on November 7. This special challenge for the 1992-93 Friends membership drive will enable new members of the Friends to double the effect of their contributions.

As an additional aspect of their challenge, Roe and Sprague will also match the amount by which present members of the Friends increase their membership contribution above the amount they contributed in 1991-92.

Roe, who is a member of the Library Visiting Committee and chair of the upcoming Campaign for Oberlin College Library, offered a membership challenge that was

instrumental in the success of the inaugural Friends membership drive in 1991-92. Sprague, a retired New York City publishing consultant, is also a member of the Library Visiting Committee.

Professor of Chemistry Terry Carlton, chair of the Friends Membership Committee, stated that "We're excited about the membership challenge that William Roe

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From the Director

Library Perspectives is now entering its second year and I hope it's proving successful in conveying to our users and friends a sense of how the library serves the diverse needs of Oberlin's exceptional academic community. We also enjoy sharing with readers examples of the kinds of support that we receive from the Friends of the Library and many other generous donors — support that is essential in enabling us to fulfill our central role in the life of the College. Several articles in this issue illustrate both of these objectives.

Each year, as the academic year begins, the staff of the library stand ready to provide a wide range of services that are a fundamental part of academic life at Oberlin. The article entitled "The Reference Department Gears Up" gives you an inside look at the work of one department in preparing for the arrival of new students and organizing several services that make the library, and the broader world of information beyond our walls, accessible to students and faculty. Virtually every library department is engaged in similarly intensive activities as the new academic year approaches.

The Judaic Studies donation by Leo and Pearl R. Guzik is but the latest example of several fine gift collections the library has received in the past year. In addition to such gifts, the progress of the Friends of the Library continues to surpass our most optimistic expectations. The membership of the organization approached 500 in 1991-92, and substantial funds were raised to support the library. Purchases made by the Friends for the library's collections will be announced at the annual meeting in November. On behalf of the library, I want to express thanks to the many people — especially members of the Friends Council and committees — who took part in Friends activities last year and who are working to make the coming year an even larger success. The library owes special thanks to Wally Sprague '38 and Bill Roe '64 for their 1992-93 Friends membership challenge. Because of their generous support, the membership drive holds every promise of being a resounding success.

Ray English
Director of Libraries

Friends of the Library Fall Events

Friday, November 6

- 5:45 p.m. Reception, Root Room, Carnegie
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Root Room, Carnegie
- 7:30 p.m. Program, Root Room, Carnegie
- 8:05 p.m. Break
- 8:15 p.m. Carl Rowan Lecture
Root Room, Carnegie
(Lecture is open to the public)

Saturday, November 7

- 9:00 a.m. Main Library Tour
- 9:45 a.m. Refreshments
Goodrich Room, Main Library
- 10:00 a.m. Friends Annual Meeting
Goodrich Room, Main Library
- 11:30 a.m. Charles Tharp, Walking Tour of
*Campaigning by the Book: Two
Centuries of Campaign Biographies
and Related Materials*
Main Level, Main Library

Tharp Collection of Presidential Campaign Biographies

An exhibition titled "Campaigning by the Book: Two Centuries of Campaign Biographies and Related Materials" will be on display in the Main Library from October 27 through the month of November. Charles Tharp, Treasurer of Oberlin College and curator of the exhibition, defines presidential campaign biographies as materials written during a campaign year, with the intention of influencing the election. The exhibition will contain materials on Washington, Monroe, Webster, Clay, Lincoln, Douglas, Theodore Roosevelt, Coolidge, Hoover, Norman Thomas, and FDR, and will include paperback propaganda up to the present. The majority of the materials in the exhibition will be from Mr. Tharp's personal collection. He will give a walking tour of the exhibition on Saturday, November 7 at 11:30 a.m., following the annual meeting of the Friends of the Library.

Finney Bicentennial Exhibition

The Bicentennial of the birth of Charles Grandison Finney (1792-1875) is being celebrated all over the United States, including in Oberlin where he spent almost half his life. Finney was one of the best-known Christian evangelists of the nineteenth century and, in his Oberlin years, became an influential educator as well. He came to Oberlin as a professor in 1835, served as President from 1851 to 1865, and then returned to teaching until the year of his death. He simultaneously held the pulpit of First Church in Oberlin and conducted regular revivals throughout the eastern United States and Great Britain.

The library's contribution to this celebration is an exhibition entitled *Educator and Evangelist: Charles Grandison Finney 1792-1875* which is on display in the Main Library from August 14th to October 24th. The exhibition focuses on original Finney manuscripts from the College Archives, books written or owned by Finney, and the impact he had on his students and peers. Sonja Rice, Class of '92, planned and organized the exhibition and wrote an accompanying catalog

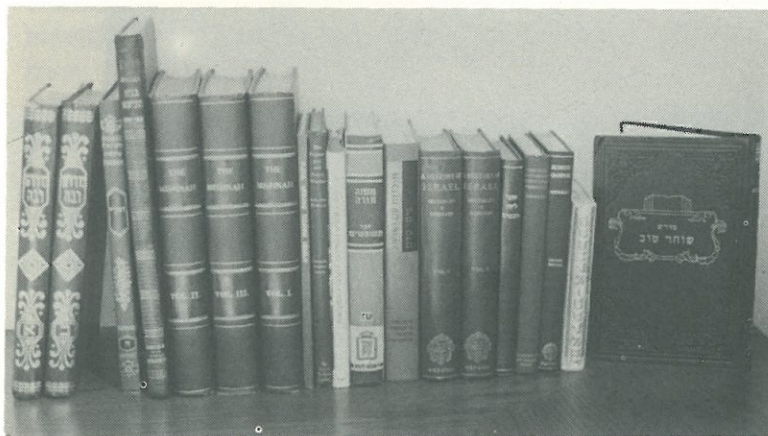


Charles G. Finney Exhibit

under the general direction of Dina Schoonmaker, Head of Special Collections. Guided tours of the exhibition may be arranged by contacting Dina Schoonmaker.

Oberlin began its celebration of Finney by hosting "The National Conference on Prayer and Revival" in mid-August, a week-long meeting organized by independent Baptist pastors. On September 10 and 11 the college held an academic conference entitled "Education, Evangelism, and Perfectionism: The Celebration of Charles G. Finney 1792-1875" with distinguished guest and local lecturers participating.

Guzik Gift of Judaic Studies Collection



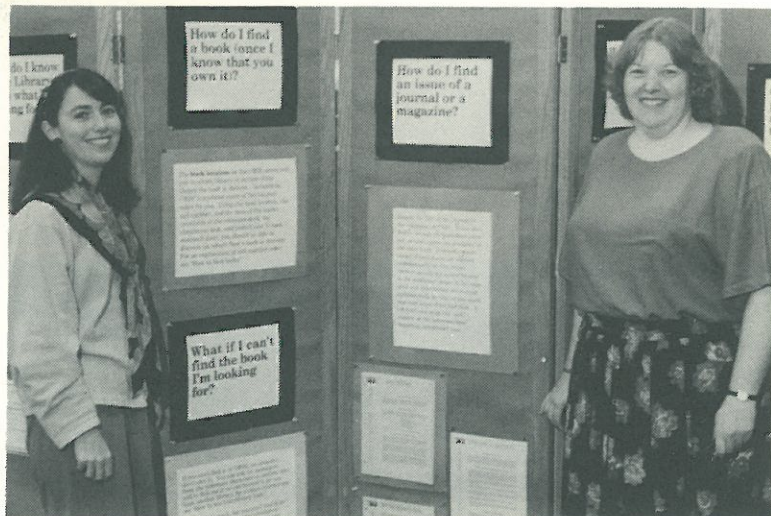
From the Leo and Pearl R. Guzik Collection

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Guzik of Pompano Beach, Florida have recently donated a major collection in the field of Judaic and Near Eastern studies to the library. Their gift of over 3,700 volumes is especially strong in Biblical and Jewish history, the Talmudic period, and Near Eastern and Egyptian archaeology. It includes many editions of the Bible and of the Talmud as well

as scriptural commentaries and related theological works. A significant portion of the collection is in Hebrew. Mr. Guzik, the son of a rabbi, assembled the collection during the course of his career as a lawyer in New York City. The donation also includes a number of musical scores, recordings, and videotapes collected by Mrs. Guzik.

Michael White, Professor of Religion, notes that "this varied, private collection is strong in its historical interests and concentration. It will be especially appreciated for its contributions in three areas related to Jewish studies: ancient Israel's scriptures, traditions, and society; Jewish religion and culture from social science perspectives; and Hebrew language texts and studies."

The Reference Department Gears Up



Reference Librarian Kerry Langan and Head of Circulation Allison Gould at New Student Orientation Display

As the beginning of the fall semester nears, the staff of the Main Library Reference Department is busy gearing up for the coming academic year. Although reference desk service is perhaps the primary responsibility of the department, there are many other services provided by the reference staff, not the least of which is orienting approximately 700 incoming students to the wide range of library services available to them.

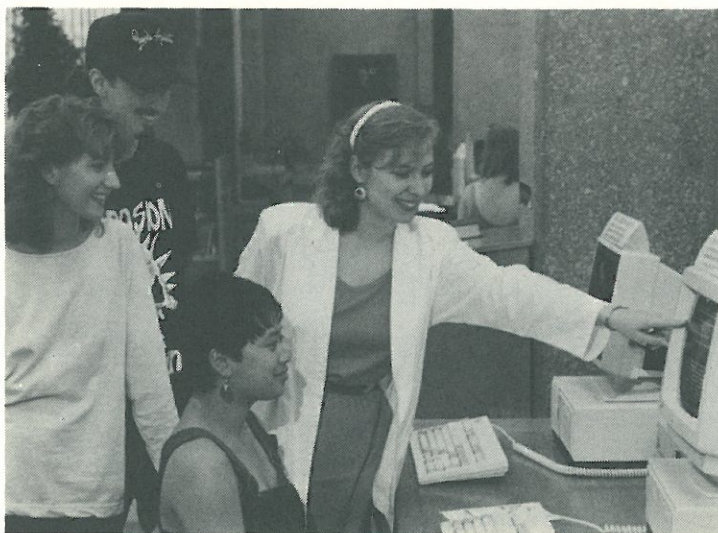
Each year, as part of the general college orientation program, the library provides orientation sessions for all new and transfer students, in groups of 20-40. The purpose of the orientation session is not only to acquaint new students with the main library and to let them know how to go about finding and checking out materials, but also to introduce to them the many different kinds of services provided by the various units within the library. For example, students learn where the Reserve Room is, and how to find and use materials which have been put on reserve for their courses; they learn

what sorts of resources are available to them through Audiovisual Services and Special Collections; they learn how to arrange for private study carrels; they receive brief introductions to OBIS (the on-line catalog), government documents, and computerized CD-ROM

tional question, or to provide assistance on beginning a complex research project.

In addition to orienting new students to the library, the reference staff makes sure numerous printed guides to its services are up-to-date; these include an OBIS brochure, a guide to using Interlibrary Loan, a guide to finding periodical articles, and many others.

Bibliographic instruction is another important component of the work done by reference librarians. At the start of each academic year, the reference department sends out notices to all College faculty, reminding them that the reference staff is available to give presentations, designed specifically for their courses, on relevant library resources and research methodology. In a typical year the department teaches approximately thirty to forty class sessions, helping hundreds of students to mas-



Reference Librarian Megan Mitchell with students using a CD-ROM station

indexes. And, perhaps most importantly, they learn that the library staff is there to help them, whether to answer a simple direc-

ter the complexities that characterize a modern academic library. In addition to teaching classroom

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Student Drama Wins National Honors



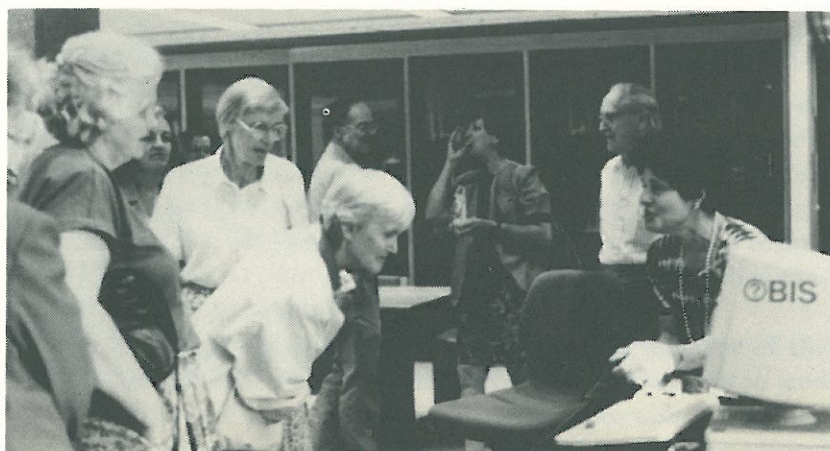
Jack Parrino, Aubrey Kufahl, and Melody Chu

the Friends of the Library, they performed their dramatization in the Main Library during Commencement 1992 weekend before an enthusiastic audience.

"Crossroads at Oberlin College: Encounter and Exchange of the Male and Female Intellect," a dramatization written and acted by three seventh graders from Birchwood School in Cleveland, won second place in the National History Day competition held in College Park, Maryland in June. Melody Chu, Aubrey Kufahl, and Jack Parrino researched their drama about early co-education at Oberlin by working in the library and the College Archives last fall and winter. Prior to the national competition they had won first place at both the regional and state levels. Sponsored by

Moffett Videotape Available

"Standing Up For Intellectual Freedom: Opening Access to the Dead Sea Scrolls," a ninety-minute videotape of William A. Moffett's lecture delivered in Oberlin on March 10, 1991, is now available from the Friends of the Library. In this entertaining, spontaneously delivered talk, the former Director of Libraries at Oberlin describes the Huntington Library's widely-publicized decision to allow unrestricted access to its photographic negatives of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The cost of the videotape, including shipping and handling, is \$6.00 for Friends members and \$10 for nonmembers. You may request a copy of the tape from: Friends of the Library, Mudd Center, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH 44074. Please do not send payment with your request, as you will be billed when the videotape is shipped. Allow four weeks for delivery.



Dina Schoonmaker shows fore-edge painting during the Friends of the Library reception Commencement Weekend.

Volunteers Needed

The library needs part-time volunteers from the Oberlin area to assist in processing several large gift collections. Previous experience working in a library, while helpful, is not required. Training will be provided by the library staff. If you live in or near Oberlin and are interested in part-time volunteer work handling a variety of interesting materials, contact Eric Carpenter in the Main Library Acquisitions Department (phone: 775-8285).

Reference...

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sessions, the reference department staff offers an individual appointment service, which provides students with one-on-one instruction.

The reference staff, although it works on developing the collection year round, takes the opportunity of a new semester to look at whether we are offering the best array of print and electronic resources possible. This is particularly important when considering the many new CD-ROM indexes available. Because of their expense, these sources must be carefully considered for their usefulness to our faculty and students.

Finally, the start of the academic year means the hiring of student assistants and interns. Every year the reference department hires assistants to help with the day-to-day operations within the department, and to work in the Interlibrary Loan and Government Documents offices. Several Reference Interns will be hired also; these are students who have taken the winter term course on reference service offered by the department, and, as interns, assist the librarians at the reference desk.

The Friends of the Oberlin College Library have had an extraordinarily successful inaugural year. Our organization is providing significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the library fulfill its fundamental role in the academic life of the college.



MEET THE CHALLENGE. BE A FRIEND.

Membership contributions received by November 7 will be counted toward the special challenge offered by Wallace Sprague and William Roe. Contributions from new members will be matched — dollar for dollar! Increased contributions from renewing members will be matched by the amount of the increase.

Members receive the *Library Perspectives* newsletter, invitations to Friends programs, and other privileges. Most of all, Friends have the satisfaction of supporting Oberlin's outstanding library.

Annual membership categories:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Associate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Benefactor |

Please return this coupon with your membership contribution to:

**Friends of the Oberlin College Library
Mudd Center, Oberlin, OH 44074**

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please make checks payable to Oberlin College.
Friends contributions are tax deductible.

Roe and Sprague...
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and Wallace Sprague have provided — and very appreciative of their generous offer. It provides a tremendous opportunity for the Friends to build on the strong beginning that was made with the membership of the organization last year. We certainly encourage both continuing members of the Friends and those who are considering joining to take advantage of the challenge before November 7."

**Oberlin College
Library Book Sale**

Thursday, October 8, 1–8 p.m.
Friday, October 9, 10 a.m.– 5 p.m.

Non-Smoking Lounge,
A-Level, Mudd Center.

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