



Warren Heritage Center · Spring 2019 Report

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Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **February 18th & 25th** Special Guest Speakers for Warren Heritage Center's 3rd Annual Black History Month Event
- ◆ **February 23rd** Ghostly Gathering from 8pm-2am hosted by Researchers Investigating the Paranormal
- ◆ **March 3rd, April 7th, May 5th** Kinsman House open to the public (2pm-5pm)
- ◆ **March 5th, April 2nd, May 7th** Warren Heritage Center board meetings

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Celebrate Black History Month with the Warren Heritage Center

The Warren Heritage center will be hosting its third annual black history month speaker series and display at the Kinsman House. This year's speaker series will be held on Monday, February 18th and Monday, February 25th at 6pm on both nights. The first night will include presentations from Warren councilwoman, Helen Rucker, and former Warren Safety Service Director Fred Harris. The second night will be a presentation from local genealogist Stacy Adger who will discuss the importance of finding your roots through genealogy. Please join us as we celebrate the past, present, and future of Black History in Warren.

2019 Guest Speakers



Helen Rucker



Fred Harris



Stacy Adger

Honoring Warren's Leading Lady: Kay Fisher



Home is where the heart is, and Warren has been the luckiest city to have the heart of Kay Fisher for the last 80 years. As one of the city's leading ladies, Kay Fisher has put her heart and soul into the city and left her

mark for generations to come. She has not only left her mark in physical preservation of the city through her achievements with the Upton House, Women's Park, and Pagoda, but she has left an impression on everyone in the Warren community. As the Warren Heritage Center recognizes the importance of the past, present, and future of Warren we look to honor Kay Fisher as a forever part of Warren.

Kay was a natural born leader. On October 17th, 1925 Kay Lenore Wagner was born to Henry and Geraldine Wagner in Bel-laire, Belmont County Ohio. In the following years, she made her way up to Warren where she established her roots. Kay's desire to lead and make a difference began early as she was the president of her student body at Warren G. Harding where she later graduated as valedictorian in 1943. Kay was an instrumental leader to her high school class as she led volunteer activities including a large scrap drive for WWII. Nearly sixty-two years later in 2005, Kay was inducted into the Warren G. Harding distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. However, high school was just the start of her leadership in Warren.

After graduating high school Kay continued her education at Mather College of Western Reserve University. Kay was brought back to Warren when she married Gordon P. Fisher June 12, 1948. She helped her husband's dentist practice by managing the office in Warren for thirty years from 1951 to 1981. In that time Kay and Gordon had two daughters Holly and Heidi. Also, the two conducted multiple missionary trips to Puerto Rico and Central America. After her husband died in 1982, Kay propelled herself into community service.

At the end of the 1980s, Kay would begin her biggest project yet- The Upton House. It all started when Kay was inspired by her mother-in-law who was a 5th-grade teacher who taught Ohio history and first pointed out the Harriet Upton's house. Harriet Upton was an instrumental figure in the fight for Women suffrage rights which Kay took interest in. It became her mission to save the house and the vast history it embodied. Kay worked with Shari Harrell and Nettie Ashelman to save the house from demolition. Kay helped fundraise \$80,000 to match the donation made by Zel Draz to buy the house. It was a success and the house and history were saved. This was just the start of a huge project. Kay was involved in major interior structural renovations to restore the house back to its turn-of-the-century look. After the history was restored, in 1990 Kay initiated the Upton Speaker's Bureau. Kay took great pride in the history of the house and Warren. Throughout the years she gave hundreds of tours to fourth graders as an integral purpose to install pride in the community. Another big push for the Upton house came in 1998 when she co-chaired First Lady Barbara Bush's visit to the valley

and Upton House. As of today, Kay has been serving on the Upton Association board for twenty-eight years, house chair for eleven, and president for two of those years.



Upton Association Board of Directors photo with Barbara Bush, September 11, 1998. Via Trumbull Memorial Project

Kay continued to lay foundations of preserving Warren history into the 2000s. She served on the Steering Committee for the construction and financing of the Women's Park 2003. Kay secured \$90,000 in funds as well as overseeing the development of the park. She also chaired the preservation of the historic Woods House after the project was abandoned by the city of Warren. She has been a member of Trumbull 100 for nineteen years. She is a founding member the Historic Perkins Neighborhood Association. Kay was a force in restoring the Pagoda behind town hall. She did not stop there.

Kay has been a fundamental member of the Warren Heritage Center as she helped restore the Kinsman House. Kay was instrumental in securing and retaining \$300,000 grant which was about to expire for the installation of an elevator and handicapped-accessible restrooms in the Kinsman House. She was a driving force for fixing the pillars of the Kinsman House.

As we look to the future of Warren, Kay Fisher has left her mark in the founda-

tions of a growing community. Through all of her efforts to save and preserve the history of Warren she has inspired an entire community. Warren will always be Kay Fisher's home because her heart is forever with us as her Warren legacy strives in the seeds she has planted in our hearts.

Words from the Community

"Kay Fisher has been an integral part of this community for many years. If you wanted something done to improve our area, you asked Kay Fisher. She's a Grand Lady and will be deeply missed." (Dee Scerba)

"The many endeavors that Kay has selflessly donated her time and talent has made our Community a better place to live. The energy and commitment exhibited with every project Kay associated herself with has been a great example for all who follow." (Jim McFarland)

"Kay Fisher has been a great friend to our community and we have all benefited from her influence. If there ever was a designated Matriarch of Warren, Ohio it undoubtedly would be Kay Fisher." (Jim Valesky)

"I was blessed from the moment Kay entered my life. Not only did she work to help me win my election as Mayor, she became my friend and confidant. Kay shared her wisdom and her love for Warren. Because of Kay, I became a better person and a better Mayor. She truly cared about others!" (Hank Angelo)

Message from the Center's President...

Dear Warren Heritage Center Members and supporters

As the new year arrives, it brings with it much change.

Soon our dearest friend Kay Fisher will be leaving us to be with her daughters in Montana. Kay has been a driving force for this organization from its inception. Her vast knowledge, selfless dedication and love has helped us stay the course. When times were tough Kay would always cheer us on with her experience. I can say this with certainty that the Warren Heritage Center and Kinsman House would not be where it's at today without Kay Fisher.

As we are sad to say farewell to Kay we are happy to welcome our newest member and intern Alaina Sprockett. Alaina has hit the ground running and this newsletter is one of her first projects. Alaina is eager to meet with the members and work on upcoming projects.

This Newsletter is dedicated to our friend Kay Fisher.

James Valesky President Warren Heritage Center.

Upcoming House Project

As the new year begins we can look back and reflect on all that this organization accomplishes since the start. We take each new year as an opportunity to do even more in connecting the Warren community through preserving history to engagement the local audience. In 2019 there are a few project that we have planned for the Kinsman House as the site of the Warren Heritage Center to successfully engage the community.

Communication Intern

The Warren Heritage Center will be working with an intern this spring. Alaina Sprockett, an applied communication major at Kent State will be helping the center. With a growing education in journalism and visual design, Alaina will be helping with the seasonal newsletter and social media. A big project that Alaina will be working on this spring is creating a comprehensive website for the center. If you have any information that you would like to see featured in an upcoming newsletter or suggestions for a website you can contact Alaina at asprock1@kent.edu.

Mission Statement

The Warren Heritage Center is a not-for-profit educational institution. The Center preserves and uses its collections, historical site, and museum to engage and inspire a diverse audience to explore the history and culture of the City of Warren, Ohio and to relate the community's past to the present and its future.

Board of Directors

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I would like to donate to the Warren Heritage Center in the amount of _____

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