

CLASS OF 1974

50th Reunion

May 24-27, 2024 | Tentative Schedule of Events

As of May 6, 2024:

Event details and locations are tentative and may change.

The below list includes 50th Reunion specific events taking place during the weekend. A dollar sign (\$) represents an event that has a cost to attend and that requires registration.

[Please make sure to register online and let us know you are attending.](#)

Friday, May 24, 2024

9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Archives Display for Milestone Reunion Classes of 1974 and 1999	Mudd Center, Goodrich Room (Room 410)
Noon-4:00 p.m.	Oberlin Libraries Letterpress Tour and Demonstration Ed Vermue will lead a tour and conversation about the Oberlin Library's letterpress. A demonstration will follow with a chance to print your own Mudd 50 momento!	Terrell Main Library, Letterpress Studio, 2 nd Floor, 148 W. College St.
3:00-6:00 p.m.	Reunion Check-in opens Make this your first stop on campus to check-in and pick up your nametag.	Wilder Bowl, Big Top Tent
3:00-11:00 p.m.	1974 Class HQs open hours A private space for informal gatherings and refreshments throughout the weekend.	StudiOC, 38 E. College St. (Located above the Admissions Office)
2:30 p.m.	Kendal at Oberlin Tour Are you planning to attend Commencement and Milestone Reunion Weekend at Oberlin College and interested in touring Kendal at Oberlin? Join us for a community tour. Kendal will be offering transportation to Kendal from Wilder. RSVP by May 17th to secure your spot.	Kendal at Oberlin, 600 Kendal Dr. Oberlin
3:00-5:00 p.m.	Visit Afrikan Heritage House (Lord-Saunders) Alumni are welcome to visit during this time for a tour from a current student, or to pop in for a quick visit.	126 Forest St. Oberlin
3:30 p.m.	Kendal at Oberlin Tour Are you planning to attend Commencement and Milestone Reunion Weekend at Oberlin College and interested in touring Kendal at Oberlin? Join us for a community tour. Kendal will be offering transportation to Kendal from Wilder. RSVP by May 17th to secure your spot.	Kendal at Oberlin, 600 Kendal Dr. Oberlin

Friday, May 24, 2024 (continued)

3:30-4:30 p.m.	<p>Private Tour of the Allen Memorial Art Museum</p> <p><i>No fee, but advance registration is required. Space is limited to 50 participants.</i></p>	Tour begins in the AMAM atrium
5:00-5:30 p.m.	<p>Welcome Back to Oberlin Reception</p> <p>Join your classmates for a kickoff reception to start the weekend.</p>	Wilder Bowl, Big Top Tent
5:30-7:00 p.m.	<p>Welcome Back to Oberlin! Dinner</p> <p>Share a casual buffet-style meal with other alumni under the Big Top Tent.</p> <p><i>No fee, but advance registration is requested.</i></p>	Wilder Bowl, Big Top Tent
6:00-8:00 p.m.	<p>Heisman Club Senior Parent & Alumni Happy Hour</p> <p>An open house and happy hour event hosted by the Department of Athletics and Physical Education.</p>	Knowlton Athletics Complex 210 Woodland St.
7:30-9:00 p.m.	<p>50th Reunion Program: What Impact has Oberlin had on our lives?</p> <p>All members of the Class of 1974 are strongly encouraged to attend this kick-off event.</p>	StudiOC, 38 E. College St. <i>(Located above the Admissions Office)</i>
8:00-10:00 p.m.	<p>\$ Grand Piano Extravaganza (\$25 pp)</p> <p>How many pianos can we get on a stage? This event, featuring conservatory piano faculty members and graduating seniors, is a great way to begin the weekend. Proceeds benefit piano department projects.</p>	Warner Concert Hall, 77 W. College St.

Saturday, May 25, 2024

8:00-10:00 a.m.	<p>A Hearty Breakfast for Reunion Alumni</p> <p>Alumni and guests are invited to enjoy a full breakfast at the Hotel at Oberlin. Vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options will be available.</p> <p><i>No fee, but advance registration is requested.</i></p>	Hotel at Oberlin 2 nd Floor Ballroom
9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.	<p>1974 Class HQs open hours</p> <p>A private space for informal gatherings and refreshments throughout the weekend.</p>	StudiOC, 38 E. College St. <i>(Located above the Admissions Office)</i>
9:00 a.m.-Noon	<p>Reunion Check-in opens</p> <p>If you were unable to check in on Friday, please visit us Saturday morning to check in for reunion and pick up your nametag.</p>	Hotel at Oberlin, 2 nd Floor
9:00-10:30 a.m.	<p>50th Reunion Program: Discussion Topics, Session 1:</p> <p>C123: Managing Physical, Emotional, Social Health as We Age C127: Finding Post-Career Purpose</p>	King Building, 10 N. Professor St. Classroom 123 & 127

Saturday, May 25, 2024 (continued)

10:30-11:45 a.m.	<p>50th Reunion Program: Discussion Topics, Session 2: C123: Managing Physical, Emotional, Social Health as We Age C127: The Arts in My Life</p>	King Building, 10 N. Professor St. Classroom 123 & 127
10:30-11:30 a.m.	<p>Private Tour of the Allen Memorial Art Museum <i>No fee, but advance registration is required. Space is limited to 50 participants.</i></p>	Tour begins in the AMAM atrium
12:00-12:20 p.m.	<p>Class of 1974 Group Photo</p>	Finney Chapel steps, 90 N. Professor St.
12:30-1:45 p.m.	<p>\$ 50th Reunion Lunch (\$20 pp) Join your fellow members of the Class of 1974 for a casual lunch at the Hotel at Oberlin.</p> <p>During this time Jeff Blakely '74 will present about the <i>Joint Archaeological Expedition to Tell el-Hesi</i> in the Lucy Stone Room located across from the 2nd Floor Ballroom.</p> <p>Kendal at Oberlin will also be present in the lobby for those who are interested in learning more.</p>	Hotel at Oberlin, 2 nd Floor Ballroom
12:30-2:30 p.m. <i>(Announcements and Welcome: 1:45 p.m.)</i>	<p>OSCA Alumni Picnic OSCA & OSCALums are excited to cooperatively host the 2024 OSCA Picnic!</p> <p>Join us to collectively honor graduating students & their families, current OSCA members who recreated OSCA after the pandemic & all OSCALums who have been part of OSCA's 75-year history. Please let us know you are coming with your RSVP. All are welcome!</p>	Harkness Bowl, 113 W. College St.
2:00-3:30 p.m.	<p>50th Reunion Program: Free Speech on Campus Panel Free speech on campus, a fraught and politicized issue in which colleges and universities have been wrestling for years, has become a particular flashpoint since the October 2023 onset of the Israel-Hamas War.</p> <p>The balancing of the values/principles of free expression and academic freedom with the mandate to foster and maintain a safe, respectful, and inclusive campus environment is ever more challenging.</p> <p>This forum is designed to fully explore the complexities of the hot-button topic from sundry perspectives.</p> <p>Coordinated by Steve Watter '74, Cindy Brown '74, Gwendolyn Morris '74.</p>	Science Center, Nancy Dye Lecture Hall, 119 Woodland St.

Saturday, May 25, 2024 (continued)

3:00-4:30 p.m.	<p>Heisman Club Hall of Honor Ceremony The Oberlin College John W. Heisman Club will officially enshrine four new members into its Hall of Honor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Lee Drickamer '67, Author, Philanthropist, & Longtime OC Athletics Advocate • Dr. Billie Streets '86, Student-Athlete, Sports & Entertainment Executive & Heisman Club Board Member • Jeff Weltman '87, Student-Athlete & NBA Executive • Mirna Valerio '97, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Advocate, Author & Motivational Speaker 	Jesse Philips Physical Education Center, Lobby, 200 Woodland St.
3:30-4:30 p.m.	<p>Private Tour of the Allen Memorial Art Museum <i>No fee, but advance registration is required. Space is limited to 50 participants.</i></p>	Tour begins in the AMAM atrium
4:00-5:00 p.m.	<p>50th Reunion Program: Obies Wading into Journalism via an Obscure Newspaper in Arkansas Hosted by Tom Hamburger '74 and Carol Matlack '74.</p>	Science Center, Nancy Dye Lecture Hall, 119 Woodland St.
4:00-5:00 p.m.	<p>\$ Oberlin Baroque Performance (\$20 pp) The Conservatory of Music, a pioneer and leader in historically informed performance, presents a program of Baroque chamber music featuring graduating seniors and alumni of the Historical Performance Program. Funds raised support the Historical Performances program.</p>	Bosworth Hall, Fairchild Chapel 50 W. Lorain St.
5:30-7:00 p.m.	<p>50th Reunion Program: Music and Words Enjoy the talents of your classmates as they perform words, music, and more. All are welcome. Coordinated by Wendy Rolfe '74 and Penny Kemler '74.</p>	Warner Concert Hall, 77 W. College St.
7:15-8:30 p.m.	<p>\$ Class of 1974 Half Century Dinner (\$25 pp) Celebrate the Class of 1974 and this momentous achievement! This special dinner will welcome the class into the Half Century Club at Oberlin. Dinner, drinks, and dessert will be provided.</p>	Hotel at Oberlin, 2 nd Floor Ballroom
8:30-9:30 p.m.	<p>50th Reunion Program: Hallmarks of Oberlin Culture with Bob Fuller Immediately following dinner in the Hotel at Oberlin ballroom, all members of the Class of 1974 are <i>strongly</i> encouraged to attend this event.</p>	Hotel at Oberlin, 2 nd Floor Ballroom
10:30-11:30 p.m.	<p>Organ Pump: Late Night Music and Antics Enjoy a fun-filled musical spectacle! Hilarity guaranteed.</p>	Finney Chapel, 90 N. Professor St.

Sunday, May 26, 2024

<p>8:00-10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>State of the College Alumni Breakfast President Carmen Twillie Ambar will share the State of the College at a special breakfast for alumni with time afterwards for Q&A. This event will take place in the 2nd floor ballroom with the program starting at 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>A hearty breakfast buffet will be offered as you arrive. Vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available.</p> <p><i>No fee, but advance registration is requested.</i></p>	<p>Hotel at Oberlin 2nd Floor Ballroom</p>
<p>9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.</p>	<p>1974 Class HQs open hours A private space for informal gatherings and refreshments throughout the weekend.</p>	<p>StudiOC, 38 E. College St. <i>(Located above the Admissions Office)</i></p>
<p>9:45-10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>50th Reunion Program: Combatting the Bitterness Associated with the Chocolate Industry by Bringing Cocoa Farmers up the Value Chain The non-profit Project Hope and Fairness was founded in 2006 to study the lives of cocoa farmers who earn a pittance and live in grinding poverty, while the Global North blissfully scarfs down their Snickers Bars and M&Ms. In 2012, the first chocolate mini factory was built in Depa, Côte d’Ivoire. Now, 20 years later, the board of Project Hope and Fairness has five members and has funded three cooperatives that produce thousands of chocolate bars a year.</p> <p>Hosted by Tom Neuhaus '74.</p>	<p>Hallock Auditorium, Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies, 122 Elm St.</p>
<p>10:30 a.m.-Noon</p>	<p>50th Reunion Program: Creativity and the Arts This forum is designed to explore the inspiration(s) behind creativity.</p> <p>Renowned artists and scholars will discuss the catalysts setting them on their respective career paths with special shoutouts to Oberlin influences & influencers!</p> <p>Featuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vijay Seshadri, '74, Pulitzer Prize Winning Poet, Essayist & Critic ● Allyssa McCabe, '74, UMass/Lowell Professor Emerita of Psychology, Cross-Cultural Child Storytelling Expert ● Aimee Lee, '99, Visual/Textual Artist Specializing in Korean Papermaking <p>Coordinated by Casey Cook '74 and Gwendolyn Morris '74.</p>	<p>Hallock Auditorium, Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies, 122 Elm St.</p>
<p>10:30-11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>50th Reunion Program: Private Tour of the Weltzheimer/Johnson House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright <i>No fee, but advance registration is required. Space is limited to 30 participants.</i></p>	<p>534 Morgan St.</p>

Sunday, May 26, 2024 (continued)

<p>Noon-1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>All Alumni Lunch Celebrating Alumni Awardees and Reunion Attendees Join your fellow alumni for a casual and fun lunch to celebrate the weekend and say thank you to those who made it possible. We will also honor the current Alumni Award honorees, with a special nod to the 2024 Alumni Medal winner. The Alumni Medal will be presented on stage during commencement on Monday, 5/27. <i>No fee, but advance registration is requested.</i></p>	<p>Wilder Bowl, Big Top Tent</p>
<p>1:00-2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Papermaking Studio Open House hosted by Aimee Lee '99 Visit the papermaking studio that Aimee built, a Library classroom that supports the Book Studies Program and hosts her Papermaking & Book Art Winter Term class. You can make paper in East Asian and European styles and learn about the plants, tools, and labor that make paper possible. All are welcome! <i>The Papermaking Studio is in the basement of Hales with robust signage. There are several Studio entranceways, but none are completely accessible as there is a half flight of stairs from any door.</i></p>	<p>Hales Art Studio 180 W. Lorain St.</p>
<p>2:00-3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>50th Reunion Program: Polarization, Politicization, and the Courts In the next few weeks, the Supreme Court will be issuing consequential decisions involving reproductive rights, gun control, the fundamental workings of the federal government, and criminal proceedings against a Presidential candidate. At the same time, public confidence in the courts, and particularly the U.S. Supreme Court, has fallen dramatically (although it still exceeds that of Congress). Are the polarizing forces we see at work in the political arena also changing the role of the federal and state courts, which we used to view as less “political”? Are we seeing the end of the independent judiciary? Or, as some on both the right and left believe, have the courts always been simply another forum for bareknuckle politics? Our panel will begin with a review of the historical context of the Framers' aspirations of an independent judiciary and its importance to a functioning democracy. We will then turn to a broader, interactive discussion of the current state of the American courts, federal and state, including a look at several upcoming Supreme Court decisions. Classmates Susan Richard Nelson, Tom Balmer, and Donn Ginoza will bring their deep experience in the judicial and executive branches to this critical topic. Nelson is a federal district court judge in Minnesota; Balmer served as a justice and as chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court; and Ginoza spent 34 years with the California Public Employment Relations Board, retiring as an administrative law judge. Coordinated by Steve Watter '74.</p>	<p>Science Center, Nancy Dye Lecture Hall, 119 Woodland St.</p>

Sunday, May 26, 2024 (continued)

4:00-5:00 p.m.	Class of 1974 Memorial Gathering An opportunity to remember and reflect on the friends we have lost. The event will end with a special dedication.	First Church, Fellowship Hall, 106 N. Main St.
6:00-7:30 p.m.	\$ 50th Reunion Farewell Dinner (\$25 pp) Wrap up your weekend with an evening filled with delicious food, refreshing drinks, and delectable desserts. You'll have plenty of time to share your favorite stories and reminisce with old friends before you head out to Tappan Square for Illumination and say "farewell!" to reunion weekend.	Hotel at Oberlin 2 nd Floor Ballroom
7:30-10:00 p.m.	Campus Illumination and Social on the Square See Tappan Square at its most beautiful, with hundreds of colorful Japanese lanterns strung across the green. Music from an Oberlin jazz ensemble, OSteel, OC Taiko, and food and desserts from local food trucks will be featured.	Tappan Square

Monday, May 27, 2024

8:00-9:00 a.m.	A Hearty Breakfast for Reunion Alumni Stop by before attending the commencement ceremony for a full breakfast at the Hotel at Oberlin. This event will take place in the 2nd floor ballroom. Vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available. <i>No fee, but advance registration is requested.</i>	Hotel at Oberlin 2 nd Floor Ballroom
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Academic Procession and Commencement Exercises Join the ceremony honoring the Class of 2024. More information about speakers and honorary degree recipients will be added as those details are announced.	Tappan Square