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Oberlin Heritage Center Spotlights 20th Century Women's Stories

Eugenia (Geni) Poporad Vanek highlights Oberlin sites and events from the award-winning publication *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town* in an illustrated program presented **Thursday, November 20 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). The oral-history-based *Bonnets to Boardrooms* book, published earlier this year by the Oberlin Heritage Center, features the recollections of 52 Oberlin women whose lives span the 20th century. In this evening's program, aptly titled **20th Century Stories from Around Town**, Poporad showcases national figures and events in the news while also sharing vignettes of seemingly everyday occurrences that give vibrancy to life in a small town. Hear about the original Apollo Theater and Allen Hospital, memories surrounding a changing downtown, and efforts to renovate the New Union Center for the Arts and to build Splash Zone. The event is co-sponsored by the Heritage Center and Kendal's Third Thursday Lecture Series, and is free and open to the public.

The impetus behind the book and the program is the Oberlin Oral History Project, an effort presently overseen by the Heritage Center that includes more than 100 interviews of long-time community residents collected by volunteers over the past three decades. Vanek devoted more than five years to researching and writing *Bonnets to Boardrooms*, which was recognized with a History Outreach Award in early October from the Ohio Local History Alliance, a network of organizations and individuals throughout the state who are interested in all aspects of community history. Most recently, the book received a glowing [review](#) on The Story Circle Network (www.storycircle.org), an international not-for-profit organization for women with stories to tell. *Bonnets to Boardrooms* is available at the Heritage Center's Museum Store, Ben Franklin/Mindfair Books, FAVA's Uncommon Objects, and Kendal at Oberlin's Cardinal Shop, all located in Oberlin. It also is available through Amazon.com.

Dr. Vanek is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University and Boston University, and she received her Ed.D. from the University of Rochester. She spent more than thirty years as a teacher, administrator, and researcher in schools, health care institutions and nonprofit agencies in the Cleveland area. Vanek has served on the Board of the Oberlin Heritage Center as well as those of the Lorain County Board of Health, Oberlin City Council's Design Review Commission, and the Oberlin Seniors of Neighborhood House Association. Earlier this year, she was honored by the Heritage Center with the organization's "Volunteer of the Year" award.

For more information about this event or others hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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