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*Photo Available Upon Request*

## **Women’s Stories Take Center Stage at Oberlin Heritage Center’s Annual Meeting**

More than 150 members and friends of the Oberlin Heritage Center were treated to excerpts from the organization’s new book *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women’s Stories from a Historic College Town* at the nonprofit organization’s Annual Meeting held at the Oberlin Inn on Wednesday, April 9. **Eugenia “Geni” Poporad Vanek**, who compiled and edited the new oral history publication, was applauded as the Heritage Center’s Volunteer of the Year. The book features recollections of 52 twentieth-century Oberlin women on an array of topics from everyday life to national events. Their stories are among many collected by Oberlin Oral History Project volunteers over the course of the past three decades.

Honored along with Vanek during the Oberlin Heritage Center’s 13th Annual Community Awards for outstanding dedication to history, service, and the Oberlin community were:

**Jeanne McKibben, M.D.** who received the Community Historian Award for preserving and sharing the history of medicine in Oberlin for many years;

**Allan Patterson**, who was recognized with the Heritage Guardian Award for being the driving force behind the start of the Oberlin Oral History Project thirty years ago;

**Michaelene (“Mickey”) Walzer**, who recently retired as a social studies teacher at Langston Middle School, and was saluted as History Teacher of the Year; and

**Mature Services/Elyria Office**, with Project Director **Louise Petrov** and several other Mature Services administrators and staff in attendance, who received the Business Service Leader Award.

Heritage Center Board outgoing President **Walt Edling** conducted the annual business meeting which included the election of new officers, including President: **Nicholas R. Jones**; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: **Robert B. Calhoun**; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: **Gail Wood**, and Secretary: **Ken Grossi**. Voted in as new Trustees were **Judy Cook** and **Brittnei Sherrod**. **Geni Vanek** was appointed an Honorary Trustee.

Executive Director **Pat Murphy** concluded the program by noting several major accomplishments made by OHC in the past 20 years since the organization transitioned from an all-volunteer group to one led by a small professional staff. She underscored that the completion of the Endowment Fund for History Education campaign remains a pressing need for the organization, and one which OHC will continue to focus on to raise \$158,000 needed to reach the History Education Endowment fund’s \$800,000 goal. Trustees Gail Wood and Barb Enos led a mini-fundraiser during the event to boost the Endowment in honor of Murphy’s upcoming marathon run in the 118<sup>th</sup> Boston Marathon. Contributions and pledges at the event totaled more than \$3,000 to go toward the Endowment Fund.

For more highlights from the Annual Meeting and Awards Presentations, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org).

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