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## Oberlin Women “Speak Out” in New Heritage Center Presentation

**Jen Graham**, the Oberlin Heritage Center and Northeast Ohio Regional AmeriCorps member, explores how Oberlin confronted and defined issues of femininity in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in *“Speak as though you had a right to!” – Oberlin & the Question of Womanhood*. The illustrated program takes place on **Wednesday, May 14 at 7:15 p.m.** in Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium. The event is free and opens to the public.

In 1834, “founding father” John J. Shipherd pledged Oberlin’s commitment to “the elevation of female character” through education. Little did he know, there was dynamite in that promise, and women carried the matches. Hear stories of powerful Oberlin women including Lucy Stone, Marianne Parker Dascomb, Adelia Field Johnston, Mary Church Terrell, and Lucy Stanton Day, and learn how they used John J. Shipherd’s promise to shape what it meant to be a woman in Oberlin and in the United States.

Jen Graham is an AmeriCorps member serving in a one-year post on the Ohio Historical Society’s Local History Corps. Based at the Oberlin Heritage Center since September 2013, she acts as a resource for local history organizations in a five-county region in northeast Ohio. At the Oberlin Heritage Center, Graham provides assistance with tours, historical research, and special projects, and also manages social media content on the organization’s Facebook page. She presently is developing an Oberlin Women’s History Walk that the Heritage Center will introduce during the College’s Commencement/Reunion and Memorial Day weekend this year. Jen is a 2012 history honors graduate of Oberlin College.

For more information about this Oberlin Heritage Center event, or other upcoming OHC programs, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

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