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## **The Turbulent Times of the 1930s and 1940s**

Sharing stories from Oberlin’s Oral History Project, **Eugenia (Geni) Poporad Vanek** offers insights into the local response to some of the most devastating events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Hear stories of the varied impacts felt during the Great Depression, the onset of World War II, and the resulting changes to individuals and the nation in this illustrated program that takes place **Wednesday, May 25 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). The event is hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center and is free and open to the public.

The Oberlin Oral History Project is an ongoing community effort presently overseen by the Heritage Center that includes more than 100 interviews of long-time Oberlin residents collected by volunteers over the past three decades. Many women’s stories from the project were included in the Heritage Center’s award-winning oral-history-based publication ***Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women’s Stories from a Historic College Town***, researched and compiled by Vanek, now an OHC Honorary Trustee. The book is available for purchase 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.

Geni 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 (now known as Senior Enrichment Services of Oberlin). She is a past recipient of the Heritage Center’s “Volunteer of the Year” award.

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

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