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Photo available upon request

Five for Freedom: Oberlin's Connections to the Raid on Harpers Ferry

The Oberlin Heritage Center will host award-winning journalist, author and historian Eugene L. Meyer presenting a free, community program on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. Meyer discusses the five African American men who joined John Brown on his raid in 1859, a venture that they hoped would jumpstart a grassroots revolt and sweep across the country to end slavery. Two of those men, John Copeland and Lewis Leary, were from Oberlin and paid the ultimate price for their participation. Meyer conveys how they came to join Brown, the events and aftermath of that fateful day, and how the African American participants were treated differently both at the time and by historians. The event, which is supported in part by a grant from The Community Foundation of Lorain County, takes place at the Meeting House of The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ (106 North Main Street). All are welcome.

Meyer's book, *Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army*, was published in 2018 and will be available for sale at the Oberlin Heritage Center prior to the event, as well as that night. A brief question-and-answer session and book signing will follow the main program.

Eugene Meyer spent more than three decades at the *Washington Post* as a reporter and editor, and most recently has been a fulltime freelancer, receiving more than a dozen awards. He has had more than 50 bylines in *The New York Times* and written for numerous other publications, including *Bethesda Magazine*, where he is a contributing editor, U.S. News & World Report, Washingtonian, Columbia College Today and Maryland Life. Meyer also has served as the editor of the quarterly *B'nai B'rith Magazine* for the past ten years. Visit <http://eugenelmeyer.com/> for more.

The Oberlin Heritage Center is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is widely recognized as a model small museum, historical society and historic preservation organization. Learn more about this upcoming presentation and other ways to connect with local history by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or by calling the Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700.

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