



73½ South Professor Street  
P.O. Box 455  
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455  
Phone: 440-774-1700  
Fax: 440-774-8061  
Website: [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org)  
E-mail: [patm@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:patm@oberlinheritage.org)

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Contact: Pat Murphy, Executive Director, at 440-774-1700 or [patm@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:patm@oberlinheritage.org)

## Oberlin Memories of World War II

*I wouldn't give a nickel to go through it again, but I wouldn't take five million dollars for the experience that I gained from my military service.*

**Frank Zavodsky, who served 44 months in the Army's 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Europe during WWII**

*There was a great sense of purpose in the country. "This is a war that we have to win," was the underlying feeling in everyone's mind. It also was a time of intense purpose for living for everyone. It seemed that women who had never worked before were suddenly working in war factories building...planes or parts to help the war effort. It did seem like a time when everybody was pulling together.*

**Mildred Arthrell recalling life at home in Oberlin during WWII**

Learn and reminisce from first-hand experiences of the war effort and its impact on lives at home as the Oberlin Heritage Center's Oral History Committee presents its latest original program "Oberlin Memories of World War II" on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium. Themes of patriotism, honor, sacrifice, and unity are recalled with excitement, poignancy, and humor by men and women who served on the front lines or stepped up on the home front. Recollections cover topics such as Enlistment, the Draft Board, Military Service, Civilians at Home and at Work, Rationing, Discrimination, Pacifism, and War's End. In a casual format similar to that of a play-reading group, local residents Tad Cowling, Linda Donovan, Don Illig, Jessie Reeder and Russell Walker will present brief excerpts from more than two dozen transcribed oral history interviews. The one-hour program, which is co-sponsored by the Oberlin College Archives, is free and open to the public.

Among those area residents whose stories may be included are Millie Arthrell, Cliff Berry, Harold Gibson, Adora Godette, Don Illig, Maurice Ives, George Jones, Mary Hobbs Joy, Marion Bradley Kelly, Frank Locke, Margaret Maruschak, Charles Mosher, Evan Nord, Margaret Schauffler, Dorothy Smith, Margaret Smith, Pat Stetson, Betty Thomas, Florene Worcester, and Frank Zavodsky.

The ongoing Oberlin Oral History Project began in the early 1980s and community volunteers have spent years recording, transcribing, editing, and indexing over 100 interviews that portray many dimensions of our community's multi-faceted, rich and diverse history. The committee is chaired by Oberlin Heritage Center Board member Dina Schoonmaker assisted by staff liaison Pat Holsworth. Current oral history volunteers include Fran Baumann, Ann Fuller, Nancy Gray, Jeanne McKibben, Jean Simon, Priscilla Steinberg, Mary Van Nortwick, and Geni Vanek, assisted by a host of college student interns. Additional volunteers are always welcome.

For more information about the Oberlin Heritage Center or the Oberlin Oral History Project, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call 440-774-1700.

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