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**For immediate release:** November 28, 2011

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## **Elisabeth Severance Prentiss: Oberlin's "Forgotten" Angel**

The Oberlin Heritage Center and the Allen Memorial Art Museum will co-host a community program on Elisabeth Severance Prentiss, a generous, although often unheralded, philanthropist in Oberlin history. Award-winning journalist, **Diana Tittle**, presents the illustrated lecture on the life, times and motivations of this gracious patron of education, arts and medical causes. This free, public event takes place on **Wednesday, December 14 at 7:15 p.m.** in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive).

While Elisabeth Severance Prentiss's Oberlin legacy includes the Allen Memorial Art Museum and the Allen Memorial Hospital, her good work often has been overshadowed by that of her father, Louis, endower of Oberlin College's Severance Hall, and her brother, Cleveland Orchestra benefactor (and Oberlin College graduate) John L. Severance. The Severances' longstanding involvement with and allegiance to the Oberlin community has been traced by Tittle in her recent biography of this remarkable Western Reserve family, *The Severances: An American Odyssey, from Puritan Massachusetts to Ohio's Western Reserve and Beyond*.

Diana Tittle is a Cleveland-based writer, editor and publishing consultant with 35 years of experience in the fields of journalism and communications. She has worked for newspapers and magazines; launched a magazine and a small press; and written, edited or produced more than a dozen books. In 1997, she won the Cleveland Arts Prize for Literature for nonfiction reporting on urban affairs. For more information about the author or her book, visit [www.theseverances.com](http://www.theseverances.com).

The Allen Memorial Art Museum (AMAM), founded on the campus of Oberlin College in 1917, is recognized today as one of the five best college and university art museums in the United States. Since its beginning, the museum has always been free for everyone.

The Oberlin Heritage Center has been an integral part of the community in one form or another for more than 100 years and is widely recognized as a model small museum, historical society and historic preservation organization. Both the AMAM and the Oberlin Heritage Center are accredited by the American Association of Museums; this recognition is held by just 25 museums in the state of Ohio.

For more information about this program, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

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