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## **Oberlin Heritage Center Presents “Stories from Oberlin in the 1930s and 1940s”**

Learn what it was really like living in Oberlin during the 1930s and the 1940s through the stories of people who lived here. The Oberlin Heritage Center’s Oral History Committee has put together an insightful array of first-hand accounts from people who lived in the Oberlin area during the Depression and its aftermath. Local residents Scott Broadwell, Glenn Hodge, Robin Jindra and Oberlin Oral History Committee member Nancy Gray will read brief excerpts from transcribed oral history interviews in a free one-hour program presented at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m.

The presentation includes such topics as helping others, public works projects, college-town relations, stores selling on credit, bank failures, Oberlin’s Centennial celebration, and living full lives when money was in short supply. Sound familiar? For example, a quote from Oberlin businessman Frank Locke reveals how some communities made it through the difficult times: “There was a time in those days when the farmers out in Pittsfield put on a...three-cent dinner. And they used wheat, they ground it up and fried it some way to make hamburg out of the wheat they had left and they tried to use up things that they had that they couldn’t sell...” Audience members will be transported back in time through the wisdom, the poignancy, and the candor of the memories and will discover some interesting parallels to today.

Among those area residents whose stories may be included are Millie Arthrell, Dorothy Boyers, Foster Bows, Mildred Locke Chapin, Harold Gibson, Adora Godette, Maynard Gott, Elmer Harris, Margaret Haylor, Glenn Hobbs, Maurice Ives, Gertrude Jacob, George Jones, Mary Hobbs Joy, Frank Locke, Marjorie Parker, Mildred Salo, Dorothy Smith, Pat Stetson, Jennie Tucker, Bob Thomas, Eugene Tresch, 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, Priscilla Steinberg, 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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