


EVE Notes —

Otherwise known as a letter from the Artistic Director



Well, it's finally spring — or so the calendar tells us! It's hard to be sure as we watch the snow outside the window one day and the pleasant breezes and sun come out the next. In any event — we're into the first change of seasons in this year and it seems a good time to catch everyone up on our activities over the past year (don't worry — it'll be the *Reader's Digest* version — I can barely remember what I did yesterday!).

2023 was clearly a recovery year from everyone's year (or two) of forced inactivity — we provided entertainment (AND information) for more than 2,000 people with some 30 performances of stories from **OHIO GHOST STORIES** and **FROM A CRASH TO A BANG** to **YOU CAN'T PLAY BALL IN A SKIRT!** and **PLEASE WELCOME, MR. & MRS AMERICA**. We introduced people to *Grandma Gatewood* with screenings of **TRAIL MAGIC** and an entry in the **Women's Storytelling Festival** in Fairfax, Virginia and told stories from the *Great Lakes*. Participants at the **Baldwin Wallace Institute for Learning In Retirement** program heard stories from "Around America, the Great Lakes & Ohio" in two different sessions. Lost Cleveland restaurant tours based on my book *Lost Restaurants Of Downtown Cleveland* took off at regular intervals throughout the year including fun podcasts and interviews with **Lisa Sands** on the **CLE FoodCast**, Ed "Flash" Ferenc on **FlashpointNOW/WERE-AM** and with **Mike Miller** at the **Music Box Supper Club**. It was a busy year and we're grateful to all our presenters who invited us to be a part of their year's festivities and to all our audience members who joined in the fun! Perhaps our most notable accomplishment for the year was completing the filming for our upcoming documentary **VICTORIA WOODHULL: SHATTERING GLASS CEILINGS!** The story about the first woman to run for president in 1872 will be told by **Kate Luke** portraying Victoria, **Debra Rose** as the narrator and **Aspen Bott** as young Victoria. Now the film has gone on to be edited and combined with interviews with historians **Hannah Brevoort** (Ohio History Connection), **Dr. Judith Dann** (Columbus State Community College), **Dr. Linda Schlossberg** (Harvard University), Professor **Stephen R. Taaffe** (Austin State University), and **Dr. Phyllis Thompson** (Harvard University) to become the final documentary. We anticipate a premier in September, 2024 — so be sure to check our website for more information as it becomes available. You won't want to miss it!

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In the meantime, we're off and running for 2024!

We opened the year on February 10 & 11 with a new program for the **Lorain County Historical Society's Valentine Tea — AROUND LORAIN COUNTY IN ABOUT 25 MINUTES**. In celebration of the county's 200th birthday this rapid trip through time looked at some of the unusual people, places and events from throughout the county. Both shows were sold out and the audience enjoyed the time traveling program which brought them back in time to have a wonderful serving of tea, sandwiches and desserts from the Historical Society staff!

We celebrated Valentine's day again on February 13th with a special presentation of **THE BEST SONGS I NEVER SANG — THE VALENTINE VERSION** for the residents of **Pioneer Ridge**. This storytelling program using the lyrics of love songs tells the story of various stages of love in our lives. The audience "sang" along to most of the songs while they thought about these musical memories from a different point of view.

We celebrated the opening of baseball season at League Park and the **Baseball Heritage Museum**. **Anne McEvoy** portrayed baseball phenom Alta Weiss in **YOU CAN'T PLAY BALL IN A SKIRT!** A large group of baseball fans came to the historical Cleveland field to see this first-person character program about Dr. Weiss who put herself through medical school playing professional baseball on a MEN's team in the early 19th century. Alta and her team actually played ball at League Park in 1907 so this was a truly special presentation.

From the park to the restaurant — March 27th found us on **A TOUR OF CLEVELAND RESTAURANTS IN 30 MINUTES — MORE OR LESS!** at the **Columbia Library**. Our trip took about 30 tourists back through 222 years of Cleveland restaurant history.

The rest of 2024 promises to be equally busy and entertaining and I hope you will join us for at least one of our upcoming EVEnts. We have more restaurant tours scheduled, a special presentation of **EMMA GATEWOOD, ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR BLOOMIN' MIND?!** (starring **Priscilla Kaczuk**), ghost stories and other looks at unusual historical topics planned throughout the rest of the year. Check our calendar for all the details (<https://edenvalleyenterprises.org/calendar.htm>). If you're interested in having us bring a program to your group, just send me an e-mail and we can make arrangements for your trip through the past lane! (FYI — it's not too early to book your program for 2025 or get on a waiting list to do a screening of our Victoria Woodhull documentary!)

Looking forward to bring the past to you in the near future!



Artistic Director

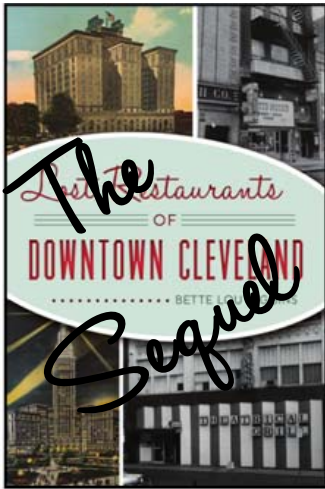


Happy Birthday, America, From Ohio



In case you didn't notice, our country's semiquincentennial (that's 250 years) is coming up in two years! And like any other party, it takes time to plan. We're planning to celebrate our country's big year with a new book and a new program — Obscure Ohio. This book will be published by Arcadia Press in time for the celebration and, of course, there'll be a new storytelling program to go with it. They will cover some of the more obscure people, places and events in Ohio history. I will be looking to move the spotlight from some of our more famous historical people, places and events like Thomas Edison or Wright Brothers to introduce the more unusual (odd?) people, places and events who have been lost in the past - like the John Parker (runaway slave who lived in Ripley, Ohio and worked on the Underground Railroad), Harriet Keeler (first female Cleveland School Board Superintendent), World's largest rocking chair (Austinburg); Cornhenge (Dublin), The Temple of Tolerance (Wapakoneta), etc. It'll be fun look at our past — perfect for a party.

The book and the program will be ready by late 2025 in time for the big celebration ... BUT I need your help! Do you know of any unusual stories from Ohio's history that you think I should consider including? Any ideas would be greatly appreciated (the funnier the better) — but, remember, they must be REAL — not just a rumor or tall tale. Send your suggestions to me at blheve@edenvallyenterprises.org



You asked for it — a sequel to the Lost Restaurants Of Downtown Cleveland! Though the book is being delayed until after 2025 in order to get the special Obscure Ohio book and program out in time for our country's 250th birthday bash, we're collecting ideas of what restaurants to include. This time we're looking beyond downtown Cleveland to include some of the neighboring suburbs in Cuyahoga County. If you have ideas and/or memories for this edition, send them to me at blheve@edenvallyenterprises.org

In the meantime, you can still get a copy of Lost Restaurants Of Downtown Cleveland at Amazon or at Arcadia Press or ask for it at your favorite bookstore!

UPC MING EVENTS — MAY, 2024

***Sunday, May 19, 2024; 2:00 p.m.:** A special performance of our one-act play, **EMMA GATEWOOD, ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR BLOOMIN' MIND?!** starring Priscilla Kaczuk as Emma will be presented for a fundraiser for the Nathan Perry Chapter, **DAR** at the Lorain Palace Theatre at 617 Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Tickets are \$15.00/person. For tickets and information call 440-245-2323 or online at <https://tinyurl.com/dargatewood>.

***Wednesday, May 22, 2024; Time -- 4:00 p.m.:** Take a trip **AROUND LORAIN COUNTY IN ABOUT 25 MINUTES** at the **Lorain County Historical Society Annual Meeting** at the YWCA Elyria at 318 West Avenue in Elyria. This storytelling program will give you a fast-paced trip in the past lane through Lorain County history. Tickets are \$35/person for society members and \$40/person for non-members. A social hour will start at 4:00 p.m., dinner is at 5:00 p.m. Afterward there will be a short business meeting followed by the program. For tickets and more information, contact the Historical Society at (440) 322-3341.



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that others forget!**

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**Your donation can help us with our two new projects about Victoria Woodhull and the lost
Cleveland Restaurants. Thank you for joining us in telling these stories!**

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