



EVE Notes



We're 40 years old!

Yep, you read that right — Eden Valley turned 40 years old on January 7, 2017! It barely seems possible but in the intervening years we've created about 70 new programs (frankly, I quit counting!) from living history presentations to music programs to murder mysteries and, of course, our first documentary. For a company that hardly anyone has heard of, we've kept ourselves pretty busy!

Those of you who were around back in 1977 (I understand if you don't want to admit to it) know that we started out in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (now the Cuyahoga Valley National Park) with a living history program called Johnnycake Village. Ahead of its time, the Village presented a day in the life of this mythical canal town on the Western Reserve in the early 1800s. Running for three summers and two Christmas seasons, we told the story of the Ohio-Erie Canal to several thousand people. (For a trip down memory lane visit our Johnnycake Village photo album at <http://edenvalleyenterprises.org/movie/Johnnycake%20Village.pdf>)

When the Village closed due to cuts in the National Park Service budgets, we began doing smaller living history programs that could go into schools and libraries. Then in the early 1990s we began working with The Cleveland Health Education Museum and The Western Reserve Historical Society on specialized programming to go with their exhibits. By 1992/93, the Western Reserve Historical Society had commissioned several storytelling programs (OHIO GHOST STORIES and STORIES FROM A CHRISTMAS PAST — still two of our most popular programs). This marked the beginning of what remains our most popular programming option with groups like libraries, historical societies and other clubs.

But a trip down our "past lane" wouldn't be complete without mentioning our years working with the Great Lakes Historical Society and the Steamship *William G. Mather* Museum. During that time we put together some of our most memorable and creative programs. Who could forget our Lake Erie Monster (Ten Feet of Green "Monster" who rose up out of Lake Erie next to the *Mather* to get his treat of tasty carrot) or the premier of our most moving program to date, LETTERS IN THE MARGINS, at the Great Lakes Historical Society? (What!? You missed these programs? Well, you can still catch LETTERS IN THE MARGINS occasionally, but LEMMY has retired to a pond in Valley City.)

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who's been a part of our history as a presenter, an audience member or a staff member! We look forward to continuing "To Tell The Stories That Others Forget."

So what's your favorite Eden Valley story? Share your memories with me and I'll start posting them on our website and facebook page — send me an e-mail or a snail mail.

— Judith —

Be sure to check our website for information on upcoming programs — or better yet, sign up for our e-news and get the information delivered right to your inbox! To sign up, send us your e-mail address or fill out our form at <http://tinyurl.com/evemailinglist>

Plenty of stories to tell



It takes a lot of people to get a company to a 40th Anniversary. Board Member Jo Davis and Production Assistant Shirley Wolfe join me in being with the company since the beginning! Our Board has been made of great people willing to take chances with unusual topics for presentations. We've had presenters who allowed our staff to get CREATIVE including Holly Tomasch and Bill O'Brien who were instrumental in pushing us to create new and unique programs. With special fondness we remember Bob Davis, Michael Higgins and Sandy Hines who continue to watch over our endeavors from above.

But where do we find these stories? Well, usually it starts with a request from a group that wants to have a special event. They'll commission us to research and write a program about whatever topic they're interested in — from famous people, to historic events, to a wedding or a 50th Anniversary celebration. Sometimes one of our audience members tells us about a person or event that they're interested in and sometimes it's just an accident of timing! We've been lucky enough to have talented staff members to work with over the years including Foster & Estelle Brown, Susan Brewer, Tina Crawford, Rosemary Kubera Goodburn, Peter Huston, Rod & Barb Knight, Anne McEvoy, Shelley Pearsall, and Kelly Boyer Sagert along with the great staff members at the various organizations we've partnered with. (If your name's not here — it's not that you've been forgotten only that 40 years of people won't fit in this little space!).

We like to concentrate on the little-known and obscure people and events from our past. Everyone knows about Edison and the Battle of Lexington and Concord, but how many people know about Charles Brush or the Dakota Conflict? (What?! You don't? — watch for the next presentation of WHOSE IDEA WAS THAT? or AMERICAN SPIRITS.) These are the types of stories that Eden Valley likes to tell. Currently, we're working on a brand new program about the history of the Cleveland Metroparks for their 100th Anniversary. Kelly Boyer Sagert has again worked her magic to bring a fun program about the park's history to the stage. It will open this April and be offered at several Park locations the rest of the year. Watch our calendar for times and places.

We look forward to finding more unique and unusual stories to bring to life over the next 40 years (!). If you would like to make your next event a little "livelier" with a special program to tell YOUR story, just let us know. We'd love to make a little history with you!

I would like to help Eden Valley to continue to tell the stories that others forget with my donation of:

Partner (\$100 +) \$ _____ Contributor (\$50 +) \$ _____
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___ I wish my gift to be ANONYMOUS (your name will not be listed in any materials listing donors)

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and click on the PayPal button at the bottom of the page

Eden Valley is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.

All gifts are tax deductible.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



UPC MING EVENTS!

***Tuesday, March 27, 2017; 7 p.m.:** Come meet some **GREAT Lakes Ladies** at the **Avon Branch Library**, 37485 Harvest Dr. in Avon, Ohio. Hear the stories of brave women of the inland seas in this storytelling program that is **FREE** and open to the public. For more information call the library at 440-934-4743.



TRAIL MAGIC: The Grandma Gatewood Story



Don't miss your chance to see the documentary, **TRAIL MAGIC: THE GRANDMA GATEWOOD STORY**, about the first woman to solo thru-hike the 2,050-mile Appalachian trail! Starring Anne McEvoy as Emma Gatewood, the film includes interviews with family members, AT thru-hikers and historians. Both screenings are **FREE** and open to the public.

***Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 2 p.m.** at the **Conneaut Public Library**, 304 Buffalo St. in Conneaut. For more information, contact the library at 440-593-1608.

***Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 4 p.m.** **Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 4:00 p.m.** at The School of Humanities at Baldwin-Wallace University. A reception will precede the screening at 4:00 p.m. in the Treuhaft Lounge; screening and discussion will be at 4:30 p.m. in Marting Hall Room 114. The presentation is **FREE** and open to the public. For more information contact Professor Michitsch or call 440-826-7337.

Our storytelling program, **GRANDMA GATEWOOD: OHIO'S LEGENDARY HIKER**, will be presented at the following Cuyahoga County Libraries. All presentations are **FREE** and open to the public, though registration is requested. Registration and information is available at <http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Events> (search by date and library)

Monday, April 17, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Solon Library — 440-248-8777; **Monday, May 8, 2017 at 7 p.m.** at the Olmsted Falls Library — 440-235-1150; **Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 2 p.m.** at the Mayfield Hts. Library — 440-473-0350 and on **Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 7 p.m.** at the North Olmsted Library — 440-777-6211.





1250 East River St.
Elyria, Ohio 44035

We tell the stories
that others forget!

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Send us an e-mail with your request —
blheve@edenvalleyenterprises.org



Meet our Board: *Jo Davis* | *Bette Lou Higgins* | *Margy Huntley* | *Bill O'Brien* | *Tracy Sluka* | *Rosemary Versaci*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, EDEN VALLEY!

It's our birthday and we're happy to say that we've been producing programs for 40 years! In that time we've worked with some wonderful presenters, board members, organizations, writers, singers, musicians, researchers, technicians, donors, actors, and funders — far too many to name. We've had GREAT audiences and numerous supporters in many areas. We've done living history programs, one-act plays, musical presentations, wedding and anniversary programs, storytelling shows, first-person character programs, murder mysteries and a documentary. We created a monster (LEM — the Lake Erie Monster) for the Steamship *William G. Mather*, made a lot of noise (sound effects for the "Grand Tour") at the Western Reserve Historical Society, taken apart a brain for the Cleveland Health Education Center, and populated a mythical canal town for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. We've told the story of Antony van Leeuwenhoek, Margaret Bourke-White and Emma Gatewood. We've played ball with Alta Weiss and Shoeless Joe Jackson and walked the Appalachian Trail with Emma Gatewood. We've traveled 50 STATES IN 40 MINUTES OR LESS and sung the BALLADS OF THE INLAND SEAS. We heard the songs FROM OHIO TO BROADWAY. We've covered the Civil War and WWII. We've told the story of a young Jewish couple helping to get other Jews to freedom while they were trapped in Nazi-controlled Europe and we've traveled back in time on the Underground Railroad. We've scared ourselves with ghost stories rooted in the past and enjoyed ourselves with Footlight Melodies. We've been living life in the past lane and we're so happy so many of you have come along for the ride!

Thanks to one and all who've helped make OUR History!