



EVE Notes —

Otherwise known as a letter from the Artistic Director

We at Eden Valley have a lot to be thankful for and so I wanted to reach out and say 'thanks' for supporting us this year as we continued to tell the stories that others forget. This year those stories included everything from *Grandma Gatewood* to *Alta Weiss*; from a *LIGHTNING FAST LOOK AT LORAIN COUNTY* to *A TOUR OF CLEVELAND RESTAURANTS IN 30 MINUTES -- MORE OR LESS!*; from stories of ghosts to the *Great Lakes*. We've entertained and informed more than 1,400 people at 32 programs — and we still have two more to go this year!

Of course the biggest event of the year was our premier presentation of our new documentary, *VICTORIA WOODHULL: SHATTERING GLASS CEILINGS*. This film was the culmination of our project to document the life of our first female Presidential candidate. We began our "campaign trail" in 2018 and we think Victoria was a winner! Read all about it on page 3.

What else has been happening?



We worked with Lake Erie Shores and Islands to update their Underground Railroad brochure that we put together years ago and presented programs from TRAIL MAGIC: THE GRANDMA GATEWOOD STORY to STORIES OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT and YOU CAN'T PLAY BALL IN A SKIRT. Of course, there were restaurants with A TOUR OF CLEVELAND RESTAURANTS IN 30 MINUTES - MORE OR LESS! and our normal Halloween specials of *Ghost Stories* from Bowling Green to McConnelsville, Ohio and places in between!

We were honored to be commissioned to create a new program for the Lorain County Historical Society. Director Kerri Broome requested a special program for their Valentine Tea to help celebrate Lorain County's 200th Birthday. 200 years has A LOT of history, so we created *A LIGHTNING-FAST LOOK AT LORAIN COUNTY*. The program was repeated at the Historical Society's Annual Meeting in May and then presented for the Lorain County Retired Teachers. It was great fun and a wonderful way to celebrate the bicentennial!

In May, we presented our *Grandma Gatewood* play, *EMMA GATEWOOD, ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR BLOOMIN' MIND?* for the Nathan Perry Chapter of the DAR. Priscilla Kaczuk was Emma in this play by Kelly Boyer Sagert that we hadn't had the opportunity to present for a number of years. The event was a successful fundraiser for the DAR. Emma continued her hike when the Buckeye Trail Association showed *TRAIL MAGIC: THE GRANDMA GATEWOOD STORY* at their TrailFest in September.

The rest of the year included programs at libraries in West Salem, Bainbridge, Columbia Station and historical societies and social groups like The Mayfield Historical Society, Valley City Historical Society, Beachwood Community Center, The Happy Wanderers, the Elyria Men's Fellowship, and The Garden Club of Ohio. The Ohio Business and Professional Women included presentations of *THE BEST SONGS I NEVER SANG* and *GREAT LAKES LADIES* at their conference in May and the residents at Pioneer Ridge enjoyed programs ranging from *STORIES OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT* to

STORIES FROM THE CIVIL WAR to ghost stories from around the country. A new story about one of Cleveland's most successful writers and florists, Ella Grant Wilson for the Garden Club of Ohio. Among Ella's accomplishments, she handled the decorations and floral arrangements for the funeral cortege of President Garfield and Anne McEvoy brought Alta Weiss back to League Park for the Baseball Heritage Museum.



What's next?

This next year promises to be busy:

🍏 I'm working on a new book and program for America's 250th Anniversary spotlighting Ohio's history -- OBSCURE OHIO. It'll be filled with unusual people, places and events from Ohio's past. If you have any suggestions for the book -- feel free to e-mail me with your ideas. I hope to have a story from each county in the state.

🍏 Our Victoria Woodhull staff continues to work to make the film available on DVD, streaming, at festivals and, hopefully, on PBS. We need to raise about \$8,000 to accomplish all this, so if you would like to be a part of "the movies" -- please consider a donation to help us make this story available to a broader audience. *(For information on making a donation, see page 4)*

🍏 We already have a number of programs booked for the new year, so please plan to join us for several of them over the next few months including additional screenings of our Victoria Woodhull film (see the article on page 3), lost Cleveland restaurant tours and OVER THE FALLS AND OTHER STORIES OF THE GREAT LAKES. You can find a full list at <https://edenvallejenterprises.org/calendar.htm>

In the meantime, as we close out this year, I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season filled with stories to share with friends and family! Know that all your support and help are truly appreciated. I and the rest of the EVE staff couldn't do it without your help. Here's to a 2025 filled with wonderful stories!

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and an EVEnt-filled 2025!

Always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Woodhull".

Artistic Director

A special "Thank You" to all our donors! You can find a full list on our website. We appreciate your help.

There's no such thing a "small donation"! You can find information about how to donate on page 4.

Eden Valley is a not for profit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

As such, Eden Valley gratefully accepts donations to help fund our educational programming.





VICTORIA WOODHULL: SHATTERING GLASS CEILINGS

On Sunday, September 15, 2024, our newest documentary about our first female presidential candidate premiered at the Lorain Historical Society. One hundred and sixty people attended the two screenings including our Victoria Woodhull, Kate Luke, and our Little Victoria, Aspen Bott! It was an exciting day. Director Peter Huston, writer Kelly Boyer Sagert and I led a Q & A after each showing. The audience had wonderful questions and there was much discussion about a woman president given the timing! We were lucky to get the rights to a wonderful clip of Kamala Harris' vice-presidential acceptance speech to close the film. Her tribute to the women who came before her was the perfect ending to our story. A special "Thank You" to Amy Huston for making this possible.

If you didn't get a chance to see VICTORIA WOODHULL: SHATTERING GLASS CEILINGS in September, you can catch it on **Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:30p.m.** at **The National First Ladies Library and Museum**, 205 S. Market Ave. in Canton, Ohio and on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at noon** at the **Lorain Public Library**, 351 6th St. in Lorain, Ohio. Other screenings are in the works, so check our calendar regularly so you don't miss it. If you'd like to schedule a showing of this or any of our programs for your group, simply e-mail us with your request and we can discuss programming options.

What the audience said:

"The film presented by Eden Valley Enterprises on the life of Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to run for President of the United States, was timely and eerily similar to what we are experiencing 150 years later with the candidacy of Vice President Kamala Harris. I was fascinated by the reactions of our audience. Many women over the age of 65 who were in the audience expressed their impatience and disgust with the fact that the role of women in the United States has not come very far since that time. Sexism and misogyny are as evident today as they were when Victoria Woodhull ran. Although perhaps less obvious, the efforts of the male patriarchy to keep women in "their place" is very real today." Barb Piscopo; Director — Lorain Historical Society

"A fascinating look back at a significant historical figure who was decades ahead of her time. From the confines of her prison cell, the Victoria Woodhull documentary shows us the power of an individual fighting against oppression — how her fight was a catalyst that brought significant change and advanced the rights of many while also showcasing the tactics of those in power to limit her voice." — Michael McConnell

"Watching the Victoria Woodhull movie was exciting ... learning what a patriotic, independent woman Victoria was. She was especially amazing given the time period." — Margy Huntley

"Victoria was quite an unusual woman. Especially in the days when women, in important matters, were not expected to be seen let alone heard. The visuals make bring this story to life! And the research was incredible." — Rod Knight



Kelly Boyer Sagert (Writer), Peter Huston (Director), Bette Lou Higgins (Producer) and Kate Luke (Woodhull)

at the premiere of

VICTORIA WOODHULL: SHATTERING GLASS CEILINGS

Photo by Tracy Boyer Isenberg



1250 East River St.
Elyria, Ohio 44035

**We tell the stories
that others forget!**

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