

WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Programs for Seniors



About our Programs

Our programs bring professional educators and reproduction, hands-on artifacts to your facility. The programs are adapted to the cognitive level of each audience, from those with Alzheimer's or dementia to active seniors. All were developed in collaboration with the Northeast Ohio Center for Creative Aging of the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging.

Touching the Past Series

Historical artifact-based ~Outreach & Distance Learning Programs

1 hour program- with 35-45 minutes interactive presentation, 15-25 minutes hands-on exploration of reproduction artifacts, photographs and documents.

Stories of the Civil War: Ohio's Soldiers

Ohio had the highest percentage of population enlisted in the military of any union state, totaling 320,000. Casualties numbered more than 10% of all the Buckeyes in uniform during the war. Using uniforms, equipment, photos, documents, and artifacts, participants learn what life was like for a Civil War soldier, and help reveal some of the individual stories of Ohio's soldiers.



Origins of the Western Reserve:

American Indians and Europeans on the Land that Becomes NE Ohio

How did Native Americans view the Ohio land compared to the earliest settlers? How did Moses Cleaveland and his crew survey this land? Maps and artifacts help describe land use and change in the Western Reserve area from the 1600s to Ohio Statehood in 1803.

Waves of Immigration: The Movement of Peoples into Our Area 1880-1930

Who came, how did they get here, what did they do, and how did they change Cleveland? Participants help answer these questions and more with authentic photos and documents that reveal the important story of Cleveland's immigrants.



Holiday Programs

Celebrations of Light: The Winter Holidays of Cleveland

Diwali, Ramzan, Hanukaah, Christmas, Santa Lucia, Rohatsu and Kwanzaa are all fall and winter holidays celebrated in some of Greater Cleveland's most sacred spaces. As culturally diverse as they may be, they all celebrate light in both literal and symbolic ways. This brief overview will introduce you to the many ways Clevelanders dispel the gloom of winter and seek to celebrate together. Filled with color and warmth, let these celebrations lift your spirits!

Thanksgiving Then and Now

The beginnings of one of America's favorite holidays started across the sea with the Pilgrims who came to our shores seeking freedom and prosperity. What was the first thanksgiving really like, and how has it become a national holiday? From Abraham Lincoln to Barack Obama, from turkey and cod fish, to turkey and football, follow images, stories and memories of this truly American feast day.



Valentine's Day in Cleveland

Learn about the history of St. Valentine's Day, experience a local story of true romance between Clevelanders Dawson and Anna Kelly, and remember your own February 14ths of years past. Examine a variety of valentines from the WRHS collection, and reminisce with Valentine's Day advertisements in up-close power-point slides. Then, share your own memories while making a valentine of your own!



Magic of Memories Series

Reminiscence-based ~ Outreach & Distance Learning Programs

1 hour program – with 30 minutes interactive presentation and 30 minutes hands-on exploration of reproduction artifacts and sharing of memories.

Custard, Coasters and Carousels: Remembering Euclid Beach Park

Who could forget Laughing Sal and Laughing Sam, the Rocket Ships, the Thriller and the beloved Carousel with its 56 horses and 2 chariots? For nearly 70 years, Euclid Beach Park was the scene for memories both fond and frightening. From the Fountain on the beach to the Penny Arcade, share your stories and be reminded of the wonder of the park.

The Golden Age of Shopping in Cleveland

Which was more glamorous- riding the elevator (with an operator!) or your first few tries on the escalator? Remember with us Halle Brothers, May Co., Higbee's and the Sterling Linder Christmas Tree! From trucks that delivered your purchases the next day, to dining in tea rooms, shopping downtown was definitely a dressy affair. Delight in this look back at the height of downtown elegance and elaborate holiday displays.

Help from the Home Front in WWII: Clevelanders Ration, Recycle, and Rivet

On the home front there was rationing of sugar, butter, gasoline and more. Production of cars was cancelled in favor of tanks. When you weren't recycling, Uncle Sam wanted you to buy war bonds. View images of the era and listen to the oral history stories of Clevelanders who experienced WWII right here. A short presentation is followed by handing around war posters, newspaper ads, ration books, war time recipes, photos and more. Sharing of experiences and memories is encouraged.

Cleveland Hits the National Scene: 1930s Events Bring the Crowds

The National Air Races, the Great Lakes Exposition, the opening of Severance Hall and Municipal Stadium all brought crowds to Cleveland. They could travel by train and arrive in the new Union Terminal Station in Terminal Tower! Revisit these great events and add your own memories.

Eliot Ness' Cleveland: Prohibition, Beer and the Torso Murders

Travel back to the time when Cleveland had bootleggers, speakeasies and unsolved crimes. Out of Chicago came Eliot Ness to save our city. As prohibition ended, the beer industry bubbled up. Enjoy a trip to the rip-roarin' 1930s in our own hometown.



Fab 50s Cleveland Style: Glorious Sports, Gory Murder, Glamour Girls, & Gas Guzzlers

Re-live 1954, the year the Indians, Browns and Barons were all in championships, Marilyn Sheppard was murdered and Marilyn Monroe was married. Remember cocktail parties, poodle skirts, Herbert Tareyton cigarettes, rayon shirts and Chrysler Imperials. A short presentation of life in Cleveland in 1954 is followed by guided informal discussion as hands-on souvenirs of life in the Fifties are passed around, offering the opportunity for sharing experiences and memories.

The Story of Tinkerbelle:

One man's Journey Across the Ocean in a Tiny Boat

Participants use Clevelander Robert Manry's hand-drawn map to trace his 1965 record-setting feat of daring sailing across the ocean in a 13.5 foot sail boat. His story is told in a short presentation with items similar to those he took with him. Manry, an employee of the Cleveland Press, became a world-wide star as his craft neared England, and 50,000 people witnessed his arrival.



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10825 East Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

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New programs are
being developed for 2012.
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Have us come to you! To make Reservations:

216.721.5722 ext. 251

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Hands-on Presentation/ Informal Discussions

(see descriptions inside)

Touching the Past Series

Magic of Memories Series

Holiday Programs

Fee \$130 or \$110 each for 2 or more programs.

Introduction to the Western Reserve Historical Society

A presentation about the history, resources, facilities, current exhibits, programs and events of the Western Reserve Historical Society is available for community groups. The program includes information about the History Center in University Circle and Hale Farm and Village in Bath, Ohio. It is available at no charge as a service to our community.

Distance Learning Video Conferencing

(see descriptions inside)

We connect live to your facility in a video conferencing format. Program topics are those in the Magic of Memories, Touching the Past, and Holiday series. Fee \$110 or \$98 each for 2 or more programs.

Speaker's Bureau Lecture Series

A wide variety of specialized programs on local history topics is available. Presentations are by the research, curatorial, exhibition, archival, library and education staff. Check our website for list of topics, www.wrhs.org, under Life-Long Learning. Fees vary.

Visit the History Center in Cleveland's University Circle

Come for a program, a guided tour, or to self-guide. Cost: Self-guiding groups \$7.50/person.

Guided tours available for additional fee.

Visit www.wrhs.org, Life-Long Learning, for a downloadable version of this brochure.