

# SPEAKING OF CLEVELAND

Forgotten Tales from Cleveland's Past



**CLEVELAND HISTORY CENTER**  
of the WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY





# SPEAKING OF CLEVELAND

Take a front row seat as the Cleveland History Center presents significant stories that capture the Cleveland spirit. Speaking of Cleveland features the intriguing, curious and oft-forgotten tales from Cleveland's past. Pulled directly from the nationally-recognized collections of the Western Reserve Historical Society, these stories showcase the innovation, the grit and the pride that characterize Cleveland's past, present and future.

**Our historians and museum professionals are eager to share Cleveland's stories with you. To book a Speaking of Cleveland engagement for your group or facility, please call 216-721-5722 x1502 or email [education@wrhs.org](mailto:education@wrhs.org). Programs can be delivered in person or over a digital platform online.**

## SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

*\$250 per program + mileage (if applicable)*

### JOHN GRABOWSKI, PhD | Senior VP of Research & Publications

#### Cleveland: A to Z

Author and historian John Grabowski presents his newest book on Cleveland – a city guide focused on the people, places, and events that define our city.

#### Immigration and Migration to Cleveland: An Historical Overview in National and Global Context

Today, Northeast Ohio is home to over 120 ethnic groups. How did our city and region, once an outpost of New England, become a global community? This program will explore the history and traditions of Cleveland's immigrant communities.

### REGENNIA N. WILLIAMS, PhD | Distinguished Scholar of African American History and Culture

#### Praying Grounds: African American Faith Communities

African American faith communities have long served as influential centers of social and religious activities. In this presentation, historian and author Regennia N. Williams will discuss the evolving role of religion in Black America, based on her ongoing research for the Praying Grounds Oral History Project and her books and other publications, including Cleveland, Ohio and "Race, Religion, and Reconciliation: Academic Initiatives, Leadership Development, and Social Change."



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## CONTENT EXPERTS

*\$150 per program + mileage (if applicable)*

### **ERIC RIVET | Curator of Collections & Exhibits**

#### **Cleveland at War**

Learn about how Cleveland's industrial power made key contributions to both world wars. Join Chief Curator Eric Rivet to hear the stories of prominent Clevelanders and local heroes who helped to achieve victory while seeing some of the treasures of the Western Reserve Historical Society's military collections.

#### **A Brief History of the Western Reserve**

Most people in Northeast Ohio know the term Western Reserve, but how many people really know what it means? Join Chief Curator Eric Rivet for a discussion about the fascinating history of the region and see some of the rarest treasures in the Western Reserve Historical Society's collection: early maps of the Western Reserve.

#### **Ohio's Presidential Past**

Ohio is sometimes called the Mother of Presidents, and it is claimed that the state has produced more U.S. presidents than any other state. Join Chief Curator Eric Rivet to learn about the truth behind this claim and to hear stories about the men from Ohio that have held the nation's highest elected office.

#### **Before They Were Famous: Celebrity Veterans of World War II**

More than sixteen million Americans served during World War II. Most of them would return home to a normal life, but some would go on to become beloved celebrities after the war. Join Chief Curator Eric Rivet for an audience participation presentation on how some of Hollywood's best known celebrities served their country.

#### **A Tale of Two Torpedoes: The Sinking of the German Battleship Bismarck**

The German battleship Bismarck was one of the deadliest ships afloat at the beginning of World War II. The story of the nine-day chase and destruction of the Bismarck was full of so many twists and turns that it could have been written by Hollywood. Join Chief Curator Eric Rivet to hear the saga of the Bismarck and learn how the epic story hinged on two torpedoes, one British and one German.

#### **The Battle of Leyte Gulf**

The Battle of Leyte Gulf in October 1944 was one of the largest naval battles in history. Actually five separate battles spread around the Philippine Islands, the American victory at Leyte Gulf effectively removed the Imperial Japanese Navy as a threat in the Pacific Theater. Join Chief Curator Eric Rivet to learn about this key World War II battle.

### **An Impossible Victory: The Battle of Samar**

In October 1944, a small U.S. navy task force came under attack by one of the most powerful Japanese fleets ever assembled. Unable to flee, the American ships attacked with a vengeance and, despite all odds, won an impossible victory. Join Chief Curator Eric Rivet to learn about the ships, the men, and the nearly unbelievable string of errors on the part of U.S. Navy leadership that allowed the battle to happen.

#### **The Apollo Program**

Between 1969 and 1972, twenty-one American astronauts left Earth's orbit and voyaged to the moon as part of NASA's Apollo Program. Twelve of those men walked on the lunar surface. Join Chief Curator Eric Rivet to discover the triumphs and tragedies of the Apollo Program and to learn about the men and machines that made it possible for us to leave Earth.

### **PATRICIA EDMONSON | Museum Advisory Council Curator of Costumes & Textiles**

#### **Wow Factor: 150 Years of Collecting Bold Clothes**

Clevelanders use fashion to stand out in a crowd. Share in the images and stories from our extensive costume collection to learn more about our city's trendsetters, who they were, and where they shopped.

#### **Tales from the Chisholm Halle Costume Collection**

Patricia Edmonson, Museum Advisory Council Curator of Costumes & Textiles, will highlight her most recent exhibit curated from the incredible Chisholm Halle Costume Collection. Topics rotate; please call for more information about the current exhibit.

### **SEAN MARTIN, PhD | Associate Curator of Jewish History**

#### **Ethnicity & Local History**

How do local groups operate within larger, national ethnic groups? How do they help us negotiate our identities as citizens? Explore the variety of ethnic communities to which we belong and the local groups in which we live.

### **ANN SINDELAR | Research Library Reference Supervisor**

#### **Beginning a Family History Project**

Tracing your family history is a fun and compelling project. Find out how to research and add valuable information to your family tree. Learn how the WRHS Research Library collections, services, and classes can help you.

To book a Speaking of Cleveland engagement email [education@wrhs.org](mailto:education@wrhs.org).





## **JOHN FRATO | Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel Training & Volunteer Coordinator**

### **Euclid Beach Park's Grand Carousel**

This is the story of the Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel: its years at the park, its operation in Maine, and its journey back home to Cleveland. John Frato will recall the challenges encountered in the project to restore the 1910 carousel to full operation and tell the stories of carousel memories old and new.

### **The Story of Euclid Beach Park**

Food, rides, and attractions. Why is Euclid Beach Park so very memorable? Learn about its beginnings in 1895 and reminisce about its heyday, as well as its final days in 1969. Relive those special memories that Euclid Beach Park holds for Clevelanders.

## **PAMELA DORAZIO-DEAN | Associate Curator of Italian History**

### **Italian-American Life in Cleveland**

Today, Cleveland is home to a vibrant Italian-American community that has grown over decades of immigration. Explore Italian immigration to the city from the late 19th Century through the present day, with a focus on life in the Italian neighborhoods.

## **WHITNEY STALNAKER | Education & Public Programs Manager**

### **Built for Good: Cleveland State Hospital**

Built with good intentions, Cleveland State Hospital's patient practices quickly took a turn. How did a hospital built on progressive principles of compassionate care devolve into a national symbol of neglect and abuse? Drawn from manuscripts of investigative reporters sent to expose the hospital's practices, this program will discuss the state of mental healthcare in 1950s Cleveland and the community's efforts to keep up with the changing trends in the mental health field.

### **Ghosts of Christmas Past**

Enjoy a true Victorian holiday season and explore the ghosts and folklore that shaped 19th Century holidays in Cleveland. Whether you view them as creepy superstitions or tales with hidden wisdom, these stories are made to entertain and will leave you looking at holiday traditions in a whole new way.

## **CLEVELAND HISTORY FAVORITES**

*\$130 per program + mileage (if applicable)*

### **Battle for the Ballot: Cleveland's Suffragist Movement**

There is no complete record of the brave, often unnamed women who fought for their right to vote and finally triumphed in 1920. Learn about a band of women who dedicated themselves to the public interest and grew into an organization that won the respect and confidence of the nation. This program will tell the story behind the Cleveland women who advocated for suffrage and went on to help establish the League of Women Voters.

### **Eliot Ness & the Torso Murders**

While acting as Cleveland's Safety Director, Eliot Ness made great improvements in our infrastructure that created a lasting legacy for the city. However, in these same years, Ness would come head-to-head with a series of heinous crimes – the Torso Murders. Explore the famous case that is still considered unsolved to this day, and learn about the Cleveland of Eliot Ness.

### **The Golden Age of Shopping**

Explore the heyday of Cleveland's most glamorous department stores. From small grocers to giant palaces, companies like Higbee's, the May Company, and Halle Brothers grew with the city and came to define Cleveland fashion and shopping for decades.

### **Stories from Millionaires' Row**

Declared "the most beautiful street in America," Euclid Avenue was once home to powerful families who not only shaped Cleveland, but national politics and industry, as well. Hear their stories as you take a walk down Euclid Avenue in the 19th Century and learn about the beautiful art and architecture of their homes.

### **Car Capitol of the World**

At one time, Cleveland was the automobile capitol of the world. Take a ride through the Western Reserve at the turn of the 20th Century and discover a treasure of Cleveland-made vehicles.

## SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

*\$130 per program + mileage (if applicable)*

### Cleveland's Holiday Traditions

From early settler traditions to department store palaces, Cleveland has always embraced the holiday season in a big way. Share your memories of Mr. Jingeling and department store windows while learning about some of the lesser-known holiday traditions of Clevelanders both then and now.

## CUSTOM PROGRAMS

*Starting at \$170 per program*

Our curators' research interests cover a wide range of topics and time periods. If you are interested in a specific subject not covered by the programs above, please call the Education & Public Programs office to see if we can customize a program for your group! (Pricing dependent upon topic and preparation required.)

## TALK & TOURS

*\$250 (for groups up to 10)*

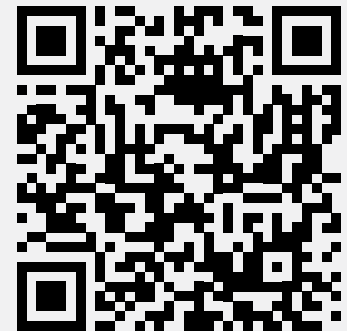
Pair your Speaking of Cleveland experience with a tour of our museum galleries! Come to the Cleveland History Center to enjoy highlights from any of the programs listed above, followed by a gallery tour to learn more about the real-life artifacts that inspired these programs!

# CLEVELAND HISTORY CENTER

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10825 East Blvd.  
Cleveland, OH 44106  
[www.wrhs.org](http://www.wrhs.org)

General Admission Tickets  
available at [cletix.com](http://cletix.com)



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WRITE A REVIEW



## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Western Reserve Historical Society gratefully acknowledges support from the State of Ohio and from the citizens of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.



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