

# the REEL SCOOP

## LOOKING BACK ON 2023



Our Starlite team worked hard behind the scenes in 2023 toward our goal of having a multi-use space in Sylvania. There was research to be done, reports to write, concrete plans to form, grants explored, important connections made and outreach to the community and local organizations. Three issues of Reel Scoop went out to a mailing list that is now over 200 recipients.



Our outreach efforts resulted in support from Red Bird Sylvania, Film Toledo, City Paper (Adams Street Publishing), and Heritage Ohio as well as new working partnerships with Heritage Sylvania and WGTE.

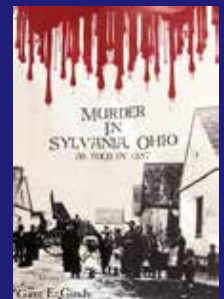
We continued our partnership with Outdoor Sylvania Community Parks and co-hosted two well-attended events — *The History of the Black Swamp* in May and *A Spirited Evening* on Oct 18. At the October event, guest speaker Harold St. John gave a presentation about

downtown Sylvania buildings that are believed to be haunted by the ghost of Olive Ward, the wife of Return Ward who brutally murdered her in 1857, as well as the ghost of Return himself and possibly Olive's children. That was followed by the documentary, *Legends of the Heartland, the Life and Crimes of Return Ward* by Haunted Toledo's, Chris Tillman and crew. The event was standing room only and prompted Outdoor Sylvania to book even more events for 2024!

We closed out the year with our first fundraiser which kicked off with Giving Tuesday, Nov. 28. While we were short of our goal, the donations will help offset operating costs in 2024 and expand events next year, so a big thank for your generosity.

## MURDER IN SYLVANIA?

Copies of local author, Gayleen Gindy's book, *Murder in Sylvania, Ohio*, as



told in 1857, can be purchased at the Heritage Center Museum in Sylvania or ordered through Amazon. It tells the story of the brutal murder of Olive Ward by her husband Return — but that's not where the story ends!

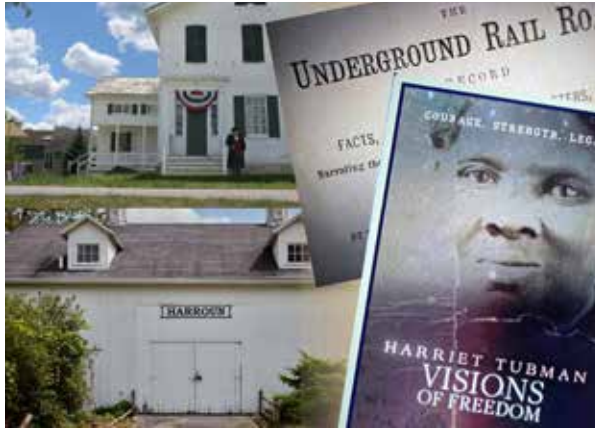
THANKS TO OUR PARTNER



OUTDOOR SYLVANIA  
COMMUNITY PARKS

# WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2024

Starlite will open our event season partnering with Outdoor Sylvania and Heritage Sylvania on Feb. 7 for *Step into History* with local speakers and experts plus staff members from WGTE-PBS Channel 30 joining us to present the documentary, *Harriet Tubman: Visions of Freedom*.



Northwest Ohio's underground railroad is a testament to the courage and resilience of individuals committed to the abolition of slavery in the 19th century. Two Sylvania families — the Harrouns and the Lathrops — played an important role in this clandestine network that aided escaped enslaved people on their journey to freedom, and their properties still stand here today.

WGTE will have free giveaways for attendees and we will raffle a beautiful handmade throw-sized quilt by award-winning quilter, Sheila Painter, valued at \$225, a Starlite Movie Night goodie-filled tote bag, and a year membership for Heritage Sylvania. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10.

In the planning for later this spring is a local nature documentary event with Outdoor Sylvania and WGTE honoring area Bloom Week and Green Week. We also hope to do an outdoor movie late summer, and, of course, our popular Halloween event next fall.

We are excited to continue dialogue with WGTE to expand that partnership this year. Other Starlite Movie Night events and partnerships are in the works too, so watch for them on our social media and in our newsletters. We hope you'll join us at this year's events! Until then. . .

## OUR BOARD

Linda Szyskowski,  
President, Executive Director

Ben Malczewski,  
Vice-President,  
Development Director

Jennifer Kellow-Fiorini,  
Programming &  
Social Media Director

Sharon Lange,  
Public Relations Director

Tom Burnworth,  
Board Member

[starlitetheatergroup.org](http://starlitetheatergroup.org)

*If you like receiving this newsletter, we hope you will share with friends and family and encourage them to sign up to receive it directly either by emailing us at [info.starlitetheater@gmail.com](mailto:info.starlitetheater@gmail.com) or signing up on our website.*

Consider donating what you can to Starlite Theater Group at [starlitetheatergroup.org](http://starlitetheatergroup.org) or use the QR code printed here. All donations are tax deductible.



## GROWING with SUPPORT!



FOLLOW US ON  
FACEBOOK  
& INTRAGRAM



**TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART**  
The Brilliance of Caravaggio, 1/20 - 4/14

**STRANAHAN THEATER**  
The Magic of Motown, 1/20

**TOLEDO OPERA**  
Romeo & Juliet, 2/16 & 18  
Valentine Theater

**MAUMEE INDOOR THEATER**  
Disney's Wish, Wonka, and The Holdovers, 1/12-1/18  
Teddy Petty & the Refugees, 1/20

**ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN THEATER**  
Boys in the Boat  
STATE THEATER  
Ferrari, The Color Purple  
Jigoku, 1/24

**ADRIAN, THE CROSSWELL THEATER**  
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, 1/27-2/4