

**NEWS RELEASE: BELLAIRE PUBLIC LIBRARY/GSV 2023 WINTER
LECTURE SERIES**

The Bellaire Public Library and the Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society forged a partnership in 2013 to sponsor public lectures during the months of February and March. The partnership was named the Winter Lecture Series. This year marks the 11th year of this partnership which now begins its second decade of service to the local area. Over the past decade, noted speakers have presented topics relating to the local heritage of the Tri-State area. The community room of the library has served as the venue for these presentations, and the lineup of speakers for 2023 on a variety of topics has been set for each Wednesday evening at 6:00 o'clock p.m. during February and March.

Since the inception of the program 10 years ago, audiences have enjoyed presentations by noted authors, educators, attorneys, judges, librarians, and skilled artisans who have discussed their craft. This year will once again be no different than in the past. The day, time and location remains the same. The presentations will be live streamed for the convenience of those who are not able to attend in person.

The Wednesday, February 1 presentation will kick off the 2023 Lecture Series drawing upon the photographic archives of the Bellaire Public Library. The title of this first lecture is "Thanks for the Memories" covering the November 1951 visit of the famous entertainer and comedian Bob Hope. The Bellaire Public Library is fortunate to have received a donation of dozens of black and white photographs that will chronicle the story of how Hope was drawn to the All-American Town to preview the movie "My Favorite Spy". While here, Hope and his entourage of movie stars were entertained by the late Michael and Anne Kuchinka at their Belview Heights home for the premiere of the movie. Hope also broadcast his radio show from the Bellaire High School auditorium following a parade through town which ended at Nelson Field. With Hope appeared actresses Jan Sterling, Gloria Graham, Marilyn Maxwell, Mary Murphy, Susan Morrow, and comedian Jerry Colonna. Les Brown and his "Band of Reknown" supplied the music during the

radio broadcast. Local author and attorney, Daniel Frizzi, Jr., will narrate this photographic nostalgia which will begin with a radio portrayal of the actual radio broadcast that was heard nationwide in 1951 telling how Bob Hope planned to premiere "My Favorite Spy" in the living room of some lucky American family. That family became Michael and Anne Kuchinka of Bellaire, Ohio.

The Bellaire Public Library will also be having a movie night where *My Favorite Spy* will be shown once again here in Bellaire, and the library has arranged to obtain the actual recording of the radio broadcast from the Bellaire High School Auditorium. Library Director Erin Rothenbuehler will be scheduling those events separate from the Winter Lecture Series on dates and times to be determined by library staff.

Other topics for the 2023 Winter Lecture Series include the following:

February 1 *"Thanks for the Memories--Bob Hope in Bellaire"*
Attorney Daniel L. Frizzi, Jr.

February 8 *"The Moonlight Mill Murders of Stuebenville, Ohio"*
Author Susan Guy

February 15 *"Belmont County-The Bedrock of Historical Preservation"*
Jon Smith, Jeffery Forster, and Sarel Zenter

February 22 (not confirmed) *"The Inception of the New Industrial Training Center"*
Jason Dean and Wendy Scatterday

March 1 *"Wheeling Secessionist-Recollections of two local women from the Civil War"*
Judi Hendrickson and Jeanne Finstein

March 8 " *The Steamboat Scioto* " Taylor Abbott

March 15 " *It all started in a Janitor's closet* " Tom Raticzak

March 22 " *The Willow Grove Mine Disaster* " Dr. Vincent Kolenich