



**WESTERN
RESERVE**
PUBLIC MEDIA

1750 Campus Center Drive · PO Box 5191 · Kent, Ohio 44240-5191
330.677.4549 · programs@WesternReservePublicMedia.org

news release

Contact: Diane Steinert, Communications Coordinator
330-677-4549 or dsteinert@WesternReservePublicMedia.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Regionally Produced TV Programs to Premiere in April on Western Reserve PBS

Independent productions feature the community of Zoar, the Holocaust's effect on a Greek city, a reunion of World War II bomber crews and a failed attempt to free prisoners on Johnson Island

NORTHEAST OHIO — Tuesday, April 3, 2012 — Recognizing the importance of Northeast Ohio's independent TV productions, Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1) presents four new documentaries in April, including one of its own that explores the plight of the village of Zoar, Ohio. The independent producers, based in Akron, Cleveland and Youngstown, have created three diverse documentaries on topics ranging from local to international interest.

The Western Reserve production, **Zoar Levee: To Preserve and Protect**, discusses the predicament faced by Zoar because of a nearby levee that is failing. It will premiere on Monday, April 9, at 10:30 p.m. and repeat on Monday, April 16, at 1 a.m. The production offers background about the tiny village's unique history and explores the options being discussed regarding the levee: fix it at an estimated cost of \$100 million, move the village out of harm's way or destroy it following its purchase by the federal government. Approximately 75 families live in Zoar, many in historic homes that have been preserved or restored.

Ash and Smoke: The Holocaust in Salonika, is produced by Saul Friedman, Ph.D., and Robert Ault of Youngstown State University. It will premiere on Thursday, April 12, at 9 p.m. and repeat on Monday, April 23, at 1 a.m.

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According to records of the Greek government, 56,500 Jewish citizens lived in the city of Salonika, Greece, on the eve of the Holocaust. By the end of December 1944, only three citizens remained. **Ash and Smoke: The Holocaust in Salonika** examines the unique circumstances that contributed to this tragedy. Filmed on location in Thessaloniki (as Salonika is now known) and at the Auschwitz concentration camp, this documentary examines the factors that contributed to the demise of a Jewish community that had survived a thousand years.

Premiering on Wednesday, April 18, at 9 p.m., **The Restorers — They Were All Volunteers** is the work of Clevelander Adam White. Each year the famous Doolittle Tokyo Raiders from World War II reunite to remember their mission, their comrades and their heroic leader, Gen. James Doolittle.

In 2010, an extraordinary event took place. For the 68th anniversary of the Doolittle Raid over Tokyo, 17 B-25 bomber crews volunteered to meet in Dayton, Ohio, in honor of the Raiders. **They Were All Volunteers** is the first in Clevelander Adam White's series, **The Restorers**. In this episode, follow a B-25 bomber from Minnesota as its all-volunteer crew stakes time, money and lives to fly it to the Dayton event.

Finally, on Monday, April 23, at 10 p.m., Western Reserve PBS will air **Rebels on Lake Erie**, by University of Akron professor Kathleen Endres, Ph.D. In September 1864, a college-educated pirate from Virginia sailed out onto Lake Erie. He was intent on liberating Confederate officers imprisoned on Johnson's Island, near Sandusky, Ohio. **Rebels on Lake Erie** tells the story of young John Yates Beall and his abortive attempt to liberate the Confederate prisoner-of-war depot on Johnson's Island. The production will repeat on Sunday, April 29, at 7 p.m.

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population (4.9 million people) of Ohio's eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.9 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels, Fusion (WNEO45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.