



LEHIGH VALLEY **npr**® 93.9 FM Easton/Phillipsburg
COMMUNITY PUBLIC RADIO 93.7 FM Fogelsville/Trexlerstown

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PRESS RELEASE
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WDIY Presents "Lore and Legends"

Lehigh Valley, PA -- WDIY 88.1 FM is pleased to announce a new weekly feature segment, "*Lore and Legends*" with Lehigh Valley historian, Frank Whelan. The segment will air May 20 and be featured every Wednesday at 5:44 pm during "*All Things Considered*."

WDIY Operations Director, Neil Hever explains that "*Lore and Legends*" will examine "politics, culture and connections that Lehigh Valley people have made worldwide."

A native of Orange, NJ, Whelan was raised in Livingston, NJ, went on to graduate with honors from Blackburn College in 1973, and obtained his Masters Degree in history in 1978 from the University of Missouri. From 1978 to 1981 Whelan worked as assistant archivist for the state of Missouri. In 1981, he joined the staff of the Allentown Morning Call. In his 26 years with the newspaper, Whelan wrote over 2,000 articles on local history and interviewed most prominently: James Earl Ray, assassin of Martin Luther King, and Ray Bolger who played the Scarecrow in the "Wizard of Oz." He has published four books on local historical figures and events, and spent two years at the Lehigh County Historical Society where he served as the Director of Community Outreach and the Special Projects Director. He is currently working on several free-lance writing projects including a "History of Lehigh County."

The topics of the first two "*Lore and Legends*" segments will include information about Lizzie Stride, the first woman to play professional baseball in 1898, and Asa Packer, renowned businessman, founder of Lehigh University and also the 1868 Democratic nominee for president.

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