



The VOTER

Lavinia Goodell Play – Project synopsis

In 2012, the Director of State Courts Office and the Office of the Chief Justice won a \$2,000 grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council to develop an original play based upon the life of Lavinia Goodell, Wisconsin’s first woman lawyer.

Lavinia’s portrait has hung in the Wisconsin Supreme Court chambers for many years, not far from the marble bust of her nemesis, Chief Justice Edward Ryan. Both of these complicated individuals have stories that open a fascinating window on the social issues that Wisconsin grappled with in the late 1800s.

Until now, Lavinia’s story remained largely out of reach. But recently, her diaries were digitized - giving us the opportunity to re-live the public and private battles she fought and to examine her legacy.

The script is currently in development, in the capable hands of national-award-winning playwright Betty Diamond, an emeritus professor of English at UW-Whitewater. The very first public

reading of the script-in-development will take place at the Janesville Performing Arts Center on Friday, March 8 at 6 p.m. Reading Lavinia’s role will be Sarah Day, the celebrated American Players Theatre actress and the daughter of former Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Roland B. Day. The master of ceremonies will be Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend; light snacks will be served.



Lavinia Goodell’s History – in short

- 1871 moved to Janesville
- 1874 admit to bar
- 1876 denied petition to practice before Supreme Ct
- 1877 legislation passed
- 1879 petition granted & case heard
- 1878 formed law partnership with Angie King

Rhoda Lavinia Goodell 1839-1880

First woman lawyer in Wisconsin.

Lavinia Goodell, of Janesville, was admitted to the Rock County Circuit Court Bar in 1874. In 1876 her petition to practice before the Wisconsin Supreme Court was denied as “a departure from the order of nature” and “treason against it.” Goodell later persuaded the Wisconsin Legislature to remove the barrier the Court had erected and on March 22, 1877, they passed a bill prohibiting denial of admission to the bar on the basis of gender. She became the first woman to be admitted to practice law before the Wisconsin Supreme Court.



(Elizabeth Cady Stanton sent them large lithographs of herself and Susan B. Anthony to hang in their office)
1880 died



Library to Screen Aldo Leopold Documentary Green Fire

Janesville - Join us at Hedberg Public Library, 316 S. Main St., for a free screening of Green Fire on Thursday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m.

View and discuss the first full-length, high-definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold and his environmental legacy. Green Fire shares highlights from his extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation and the modern environmental movement. It also illustrates how Leopold's vision of a community that cares about both people and land continues to inform and

inspire people across the country and around the world, highlighting modern projects that put Leopold's land ethic in action in a multitude of ways.

The discussion will be facilitated by Lena Verkuilen, Director of the Welty Environmental Center and presented in partnership with the Rock County Parks Department.

For more information, visit www.HedbergPublicLibrary.org.



Health department seeks input on downtown development

Staff from the Rock County Public Health Department will make a presentation about redevelopment plans for downtown Janesville at a Lunch and Learn on Wednesday, March 6 at noon. The meeting, held at the BMO Harris Bank at 100 N Main St, Janesville, will explore how to make the city a healthier and happier place to live. (Re)energize Janesville is a cooperative effort between the city government and the Department of Health. Presenters will be Jenna Lovass, Health Educator, and Rick Wietersen, Sanitarian.

Attendees will be asked for their ideas on how to redevelop Janesville's riverfront and abandoned buildings. The gathering is co-sponsored by the Janesville League of Women Voters.

Contact: Neil Deupree, 752-8342



Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party



Enjoy the photos from the Susan B. Anthony birthday party held on February 10, 2013. This year's celebration was in Beloit, next year will back in Janesville. There were quite a few little girls attending, future league members? We hope so!

Carol Herzig, photos







Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party





Website: My Vote

Many of you are no doubt familiar with the “My Vote” website in Wisconsin where you can find out the polling location for any registered voter in the state. For those of you who are not, below is a link to this fabulous site. As long as you know the name and birthdate of a voter, you can find them on the site and see where their polling location is. Once the site opens, you click on “regular voter” unless another category applies.

There is a lot of information on this site, including voter history, at least in Wisconsin. Some of you may have gotten post cards in the mail last fall from a group urging you to vote, and displaying what your voting history is. (My husband got one from some group last fall that chided him for his voting record, saying that he had only voted in the most recent two elections out of the past five years – obviously the group did not have access to Minnesota voting records!)

Play around with the website – find your family members – this way when you are registering voters or otherwise just answering questions you will be comfortable with how the site works.

Enjoy!

LINK: <https://myvote.wi.gov/>

Lost and Found

If you left a pair of black leather gloves at the Susan B Anthony Brunch on February 10, please contact Mary Buelow at 754-0588 or buelow_m@msn.com



Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues: To check out the action go to: LWV-US <www.lwv.org> LWV-WI <www.lwvwi.org> JANESVILLE LEAGUE <www.lwvjvl.org>

Celebrate your Birthday with the League!

Remember you may still contribute to the State League with a birthday donation and half of your donation will be returned to our Janesville League.

