
Wistariahurst to present virtual staged reading of 'Failure is Impossible'

HOLYOKE – On Thursday, Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m., Wistariahurst will present *Failure is Impossible*, a staged reading performed by Holyoke Community College Students. Registration for this live, virtual program is open to all. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

Written to celebrate the anniversary of the 19th amendment, Rosemary Knower's *Failure is Impossible* dramatizes the debate for women suffrage by drawing on the Congressional Record, petitions to Congress, and other archival sources such as newspapers, personal letters, diaries, and memoirs. The cast of characters include Abigail Adams, Sarah Grimke, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Clara Barton, and Frederick Douglass among others.

The play *Failure is Impossible* was first performed on August 26, 1995, as part of commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the 19th amendment at the National Archives. To dramatize the debate for woman suffrage, playwright Rosemary Knower was commissioned to write this narrative script, drawing on the Congressional Record, petitions to Congress, personal letters within the

legislative records of the Government, and other archival sources such as newspaper editorials and articles, diaries and memoirs.

This program is open to all members of the public, but has been specially designed to address the needs of area seniors, many of whom continue to be socially isolated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is supported through a Community Development Block Grant - COVID-19 Grant to address, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic that is administered through the Holyoke Office of Community Development and has been planned in consultation with the Holyoke Council on Aging. Additional support has been provided through NEH CARES Act funding granted by Mass Humanities.

To register for *Failure is Impossible* or any future programs, please visit www.Wistariahurst.org or contact Eileen Maginnis at the Holyoke Council on Aging at maginnise@holyokey.org. If you have an idea for a topic you'd like to be considered for a future Wistariahurst session, please contact info@wistariahurst.org.