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Oberlin Heritage Center Welcomes Historic Women's Rights Advocate Antoinette Brown Blackwell

Oberlin native Beth Marshall portrays Antoinette Brown Blackwell (1825-1921), the first woman to be ordained a minister of a recognized denomination in the United States. The costumed historical presentation takes place Wednesday, April 24 at 7:15 p.m. in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). Sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center, the event is free and open to the public.

Antoinette Brown Blackwell studied theology at Oberlin College and, with her friend and future sister-in-law, Lucy Stone, she organized the first debating society for college women. Blackwell became a Congregationalist minister, and later, a Unitarian minister. A lifelong activist for women's rights, temperance, abolition, and other causes, she continued speaking and writing publicly about social issues well into her 90's.

Born in Oberlin, Beth Marshall graduated from Bowling Green State University with a BA in English and received her Masters of Divinity from the Meadville Lombard Divinity School in Chicago, Illinois. She was ordained a Unitarian minister in 2003 and initially served at the First Universalist Church of Southold, NY, where she organized a program for the homeless called Maureen's Haven. Beth returned to Ohio in 2006 as part-time minister of the UU Church of Blanchard Valley, and has been Parish Minister at the First Unitarian Church of Toledo since 2008.

For more information about this program or other upcoming events offered by the Oberlin Heritage Center, please visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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