

*Comments from previous
Summer Conversational Series
and Teacher Institute attendees ...*

- ☞ “This historic meeting room echoes with over a century of voices and ‘Conversations’ ...”
- ☞ “What a wonderful exchange of ideas!”
- ☞ “We’re scholars, historians, teachers, fans -- all equal here ... and all anxious to learn.”
- ☞ “I feel so fortunate to be a part of this -- everyone was so pleasant and hospitable.”
- ☞ “It’s the best, most stimulating conversation of each year!”

*Don’t miss a minute of
this year’s proceedings!*

Registration materials available
by phoning 978.369.4118 x105 or
on-line at www.louisamayalcott.org



Louisa May Alcott’s
ORCHARD HOUSE
P.O. Box 343
Concord, MA 01742-0343

2007
SUMMER CONVERSATIONAL SERIES
AND TEACHER INSTITUTE
in
Bronson Alcott’s
Concord School of Philosophy

*The Alcotts:
A Never-Ending Conversation*

*Lively presentations and discussion in the spirit
of lifelong learning as espoused -- and lived --
by A. Bronson Alcott!*



THREE-DAY CONVERSATIONAL SERIES
Monday - Wednesday July 16 - 18, 2007

FIVE-DAY TEACHER INSTITUTE
Monday - Friday July 16 - 20, 2007

*Massachusetts Professional Development Points
available for teachers!*



Sponsored by
Louisa May Alcott’s
ORCHARD HOUSE
Home of Little Women

399 Lexington Road Concord, Massachusetts
978.369.4118 www.louisamayalcott.org

About the proceedings ...

THREE-DAY CONVERSATIONAL SERIES

Each summer, Alcott scholars, enthusiasts, and newcomers meet to echo the lively conversations which took place in the historic Concord School of Philosophy over a century ago. This year's Series will explore the relationships in the lives of the Alcotts: their interactions with each other, their friends, their work, and their community.



FIVE-DAY TEACHER INSTITUTE

The Teacher Institute combines the Summer Conversational Series with additional sessions focused on bringing the 19th Century and the Alcotts into the classroom. The Institute's focus this year will be on 19th Century one-room schoolhouses, and specifically Bronson Alcott's progressive teaching techniques. Teachers will have the opportunity to tour Orchard House, use the on-site library, and see a special exhibit of Alcott artifacts. Furthermore, with the help of Prof. Cathlin Davis, teachers will explore how the talents and experiences of Louisa May Alcott and her family can be creatively used in a classroom setting. Incorporating these sessions, as well as discussions from the three-day Series, participants will work together to devise fun, multidisciplinary, standards-based activities which they can bring back to their own classrooms.

All are welcome for all or part of the three-day Series; teachers and home educators of all subjects and grade levels are encouraged to attend the five-day Teacher Institute

For more information or to register, please phone 978.369.4118 x105 or visit www.louisamayalcott.org

Featured presentations for the Series include ...

“*The Children's Friend*’: Why We’re Still Reading Louisa May”

Cathlin Davis (*CSU-Stanislaus*), author of an upcoming anthology of favorite Alcott short stories

“Louisa’s Sensation Stories and American Imperialism”

Sarah Elbert (*SUNY-Binghamton*), author of several books on Louisa May Alcott, including *A Hunger for Home: Louisa May Alcott's Place in American Culture*

“Excerpts and Illuminations: A Stroll through *Eden's Outcasts*”

John Matteson (*John Jay College*), author of the new book, *Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father*

“Louisa, Me, and Daniel Make Three: Reflections on Editing Alcott”

Joel Myerson (*USC-Columbia*), co-editor with Daniel Shealy of Louisa May Alcott's *Journals and Selected Letters*

“Daughters of American Radicalism: The Alcotts and the John Brown Family”

Sandy Petrulionis (*Penn State*), author of the recent book, *To Set This World Right: The Antislavery Movement in Thoreau's Concord*

“*Shawl-Straps* and Sisterhood: Louisa and May in Europe”

Daniel Shealy (*UNC-Charlotte*), co-editor with Joel Myerson (*see above*), and author of the recent book, *Alcott: In Her Own Time*

“*That's Why I Do It*’: The Gender of Jo March and the Genre of *Little Women*”

Mary Shelden (*Northern Illinois U*), assistant editor of the recent book, *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*

“*Influence is Better Than Precept*’: Abby May Alcott as Mother-Teacher”

Lisa Stepanski (*Emmanuel College*), author of an upcoming book on the Alcotts, education, and literacy

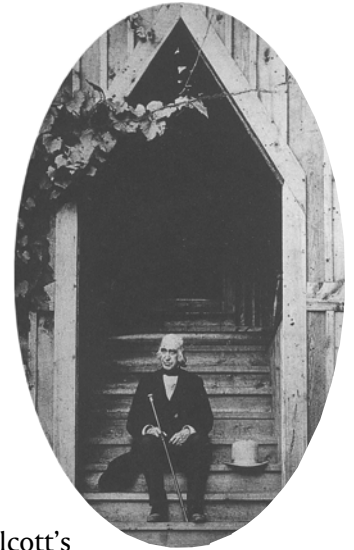
For full biographies of our presenters, please phone 978.369.4118 x105 or visit www.louisamayalcott.org

PRICING AND OTHER INFORMATION

Conversational Series: Monday - Wednesday July 16 - 18, 2007 \$50 per diem; \$125 for all three days
(Orchard House Members - \$40 & \$100 respectively)

Teacher Institute: Monday - Friday July 16 - 20, 2007 \$150 for educators; \$250 for non-educators
(Orchard House Members - \$120 & \$200 respectively)
50% discount offered to High School & College Students!

- ☞ Morning repast provided each day; lunch included Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
- ☞ Comfortable attire and cushions for the wooden seats in The School of Philosophy recommended
- ☞ Sessions held in The Concord School of Philosophy on the grounds of Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House at 399 Lexington Road; parking in Hawthorne Lane Lot (one block away from Orchard House, opposite The Wayside)



2007 SUMMER CONVERSATIONAL SERIES SCHEDULE

Monday, July 16th

- 9:00-9:30** *Coffee & Registration*
- 9:30-10:45** *Joel Myerson, University of South Carolina-Columbia*
“Louisa, Me, and Daniel Make Three: Reflections on Editing Alcott”
- 11:00-12:15** *Mary Lamb Sheldon, Northern Illinois University*
“‘That’s Why I Do It’ - The Gender of Jo March and the Genre of Little Women”
- 12:15-1:00** *Lunch*
- 1:00-2:15** *Cathlin Davis, California State University-Stanislaus*
“‘The Children’s Friend’ - Why We’re Still Reading Louisa May”
- 2:15-2:45** *Conversation of the Day*
- 2:45-4:30** *Teacher Institute Proceedings*

Tuesday, July 17th

- 9:00-9:30** *Coffee & Registration*
- 9:30-10:45** *Daniel Shealy, University of North Carolina-Charlotte*
“Shawl-Straps and Sisterhood: Louisa and May in Europe”
- 11:00-12:15** *John Matteson, John Jay College of Criminal Justice*
“Excerpts and Illuminations: A Stroll through Eden’s Outcasts”
- 12:15-1:00** *Lunch*
- **1:00-2:15** *Sarah Elbert, State University of New York-Binghamton*
“Louisa’s Sensation Stories and American Imperialism”
- 2:15-2:45** *Conversation of the Day*
- 2:45-4:30** *Teacher Institute Proceedings*

Wednesday, July 18th

- 9:00-9:30** *Coffee & Registration*
- **9:30-10:45** *Lisa Stepanski, Emmanuel College*
“Influence is Better Than Precept”: Abby May Alcott as Mother-Teacher”
- 11:00-12:15** *Sandy Petralionis, Pennsylvania State University-Attoona*
“Daughters of American Radicalism: The Alcotts and the John Brown Family”
- 12:15-1:00** *Lunch*
- 1:00-2:00** *Conversation & Wrap-up*
- 2:00-4:30** *Teacher Institute Proceedings*

The Teacher Institute continues on Thursday & Friday, July 19th & 20th, from 9:00 to 4:30, with special presentation by Professor Cathlin Davis

**** - denotes schedule change**

BIOGRAPHIES of the ESTEEMED PRESENTERS for the 2007 SUMMER CONVERSATIONAL SERIES

CATHLIN DAVIS - CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY-STANISLAUS

Cathlin first read *Little Women* when she was 11 years old, and she hasn't stopped reading Alcott since. She received her BA in English from Oberlin College, and her MA and PhD in Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Cathlin's specialty is Alcott's juvenile fiction, and she is currently at work on an anthology of Alcott's short stories which will bring to modern readers many tales not published in over a century. Her concordant passion is assisting educators and students in understanding how to use historical materials to learn about the past; this is her third year participating in our Series and Teacher Institute.

SARAH ELBERT - STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK-BINGHAMTON

A Professor of History and Women's Studies, Sarah read *Little Women* as a young girl in the post-World War II era, and re-read it as a graduate student at Cornell University. This led not only to her dissertation, but her seminal work, *A Hunger for Home: Louisa May Alcott's Place in American Culture*. Sarah has authored/edited three books and numerous articles on Alcott and other 19th Century women authors, and has maintained a strong interest in researching rural women's lives, the history of women's education, and the nature of sex and race relations. She is a frequent presenter at the Summer Conversational Series, and resides in Ithaca, New York.

JOHN MATTESON - JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

An Associate Professor of English in New York City and litigation attorney, John received his BA in History from Princeton, a PhD in English from Columbia, and a law degree from Harvard. John currently teaches literature and legal writing, and has published articles and book chapters on a variety of 19th Century Americans, including Herman Melville, William James, and Louisa May Alcott. His first full-length book, *Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father*, will be published by W. W. Norton & Company in August 2007. (NOTE: Advance copies of *Eden's Outcasts* .. will be available for purchase and signing at the Summer Conversational Series!)

JOEL MYERSON - UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA-COLUMBIA

A Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Research Professor, Joel's specializations include Ralph Waldo Emerson, Transcendentalism, textual editing, and biographical studies. With Madeleine Stern and Daniel Shealy, he co-edited *The Selected Letters of Louisa May Alcott, The Journals of Louisa May Alcott*, and, with Daniel, brought to light *The Inheritance*, Miss Alcott's first novel, in 1997. Joel has been highly praised and recognized for his scholarship in 19th Century American Literature, and participates in conferences around the world. He is also currently serving as Inaugural President of The Louisa May Alcott Society.

SANDY PETRUIONIS - PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY-ALTOONA

An Associate Professor of English and American Studies, Sandy is author of the recently published *To Set This World Right: The Antislavery Movement in Thoreau's Concord*. In addition to articles on Louisa May Alcott, Henry Thoreau, Herman Melville, and other 19th Century American authors, she is the editor of Thoreau's *Journal 8: 1854* and, with Laura Dassow Walls, co-editor of *More Day to Dawn: Thoreau's Walden for the Twenty-First Century*. Her current research includes a textual edition, in collaboration with Noelle Baker and Phyllis Cole, of *The Almanack of Mary Moody Emerson* and, with Joel Myerson and Laura Dassow Walls, *The Oxford Guide to Transcendentalism*. Sandy is also currently serving as Inaugural Treasurer of The Louisa May Alcott Society.

DANIEL SHEALY - UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA-CHARLOTTE

A Professor of English at University of North Carolina-Charlotte with a specialization in 19th Century American Literature, Daniel is author/editor of ten books on Louisa May Alcott, including the recently published *Alcott - In Her Own Time*. With Madeleine Stern and Daniel Shealy, he co-edited *The Selected Letters of Louisa May Alcott, The Journals of Louisa May Alcott*, and, with Joel, brought to light *The Inheritance*, Miss Alcott's first novel, in 1997. He is currently putting the finishing touches on his new book, *Shawl-Straps and Sisterhood: Louisa and May Alcott in Europe*, and resides in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

MARY LAMB SHELDEN - NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

A Visiting Assistant Professor of English and Women's Studies and NIU's External Credit Programs Coordinator, Mary's dissertation, *Novel Habits for a New World*, surveyed cross-dressing in 19th Century American novels, tracing the tradition back to European American, Native American, and African-American literary and folkloric origins. She has contributed the gender entry for *The Louisa May Alcott Encyclopedia*, cross-dressing entries for *An Encyclopedia of African-American Literature* and *American History Through Literature 1820-1870*, was assistant editor of *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*, and has reviewed Alcott works for *Children's Literature*. Mary is also currently serving as Inaugural Secretary for The Louisa May Alcott Society.

LISA STEPANSKI - EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Associate Professor of English and Chair of the English Department at Emmanuel, and also on the faculty of Boston College's Wood College of Advancing Studies, Lisa received her BA and MA from Boston College, and PhD from the University of New Hampshire. Her dissertation, *There is No School Like the Family School: Literacy, Mother-teaching, and the Alcott Family*, underscores her specialization in literacy, family, and education. Lisa has presented at numerous workshops and educational series, including past Summer Conversational Series, American Literature Association sessions, and the recent Girl Sleuths Conference. She is currently at work on her first book.

2007 Conversational Series & Teacher Institute Registration

TEACHER INSTITUTE

Monday - Friday, July 16th - 20th 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Educator Fee

Non-Educator Fee

_____ @ \$150 = \$ _____
_____ @ \$250 = \$ _____

CONVERSATIONAL SERIES

Monday - Wednesday, July 16th - 18th 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

_____ @ \$125 = \$ _____

MONDAY SESSION July 16th 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

_____ @ \$ 50 = \$ _____

TUESDAY SESSION July 17th 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

_____ @ \$ 50 = \$ _____

WEDNESDAY SESSION July 18th 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

_____ @ \$ 50 = \$ _____

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

High School/College Student discount (- 50%) -- \$ _____

Orchard House Member discount (- 20%) -- \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

I/We cannot attend, but wish to support these educational programs by a tax-deductible contribution

Enclosed is \$ _____ Check (payable to "Orchard House")

MC/VISA/AMEX No. _____ Exp. _____

CVV # _____ Signature _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I have dietary restrictions: _____

I am a Massachusetts teacher and would like to be awarded Professional Development Points

Notes of Note

- ❖ All sessions held in The Concord School of Philosophy, 399 Lexington Road (on the grounds of Orchard House)
- ❖ Morning repast provided each day; lunch included on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
- ❖ Comfortable dress and insect repellent strongly advised, as are cushions for the wooden seats used in The School
- ❖ Orchard House Members receive a discount on the Summer Conversational Series, as well as all our other programs! Join on-line at www.louisamayalcott.org or phone the Development Office at 978.369.4118 x104

Mail completed form to Orchard House, Attn: SCS 2007, P.O. Box 343, Concord, MA 01742-0343

Registrations via MC/VISA/AMEX may be phoned in to 978.369.4118 x105 or faxed to 978.369.1367