

2010 Summer Conversational Series and Teacher Institute
“*In Heaven’s Name, Give Her a Chance! - Defining the Sphere of Women in 19th Century America*”

Brief Biographies of Our Esteemed Presenters

MICHAEL BARNETT - Moravian College

A theologian, educator, and poet, Michael earned his Master of Divinity *magna cum laude* at Moravian Theological Seminary in his hometown of Bethlehem, PA, and his MEd at Gwynedd-Mercy College, where he taught Religious Studies. His History Seminar paper, “Margaret Fuller Shapes the Consciousness of America through *The New York Tribune*,” was presented at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education (SEPCHE) conference at Immaculata University in 2007. For nine years, Michael has taught and spoken on the Transcendentalists in Unitarian-Universalist and liberal churches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and New Mexico. He has also been speaking and teaching on Margaret Fuller locally and regionally for her Bicentennial. Michael’s article, “The Awesome Pen of Sarah Margaret Fuller,” has been published in the Winter 2010 issue of *The Universalist Herald*. He also teaches poetry writing, journaling, and the writings of the Transcendentalists at Montgomery County Community College. Michael also serves as a teaching artist with the Lehigh Valley Arts Council, and has had tanka poetry published in the January 2010 issue of *red lights*.

PHYLLIS COLE - Penn State-Brandywine

Phyllis is the author of *Mary Moody Emerson and the Origins of Transcendentalism: A Family History*, published by Oxford University Press in 1998. Since then, her work has focused primarily on Margaret Fuller, and this year she is contributing to the Fuller Bicentennial with both a paper on Fuller’s place in feminist history and a journal collection of essays on women and transcendentalism. Having lived in Concord and given her first lecture on Mary Moody Emerson at Orchard House, she is delighted to return again to this lecture hall full of echoes from the past. She now lives in the Philadelphia area, where she is Professor of English, Women’s Studies, and American Studies at Penn State-Brandywine.

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 sixth year participating in our Summer Series and Teacher Institute.

HELEN DEESE - Tennessee Tech University/Massachusetts Historical Society

Professor Emerita of English at Tennessee Tech University, Helen is also the Caroline Healey Dall Editor for the Massachusetts Historical Society. She has published *Selected Journals of Caroline Healey Dall, Volume 1* (Massachusetts Historical Society, 2007), a general reader’s edition of Dall’s journals as *Daughter of Boston: The Extraordinary Diary of a Nineteenth-Century Woman, Caroline Healey Dall* (Beacon Press, 2005), and *Jones Very: The Complete Poems* (University of Georgia Press, 1993). She is preparing additional volumes of Dall’s selected journals for publication by the Massachusetts Historical Society. She lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

~continued

STERLING DELANO - Villanova University

Professor of American Literature, Emeritus, at Villanova University, Rick received a BS from Villanova University, his MA from Northeastern University, and a PhD from Southern Illinois University. His recent book, *Brook Farm: The Dark Side of Utopia*, is considered the definitive study of this celebrated Transcendental community, while his earlier work, *The Harbinger and New England Transcendentalism: A Portrait of Associationism in America*, was the first comprehensive scholarly account of the journal that was the official organ of Associationism and Fourierism in 1840s America, as well as a major forum for Transcendentalist writers. He was a recipient of the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, and is currently involved in the fourth year of a National Endowment for the Humanities funded workshop, "Concord, Massachusetts: Transcendentalism and Social Action in the 19th Century."

ANNE-LAURE FRANÇOIS - Université Charles-De-Gaulle Lille 3

Currently a doctoral student at Université Lille 3 and a teaching assistant in the English Department there, Anne-Laure graduated from the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. She received her MA from the Sorbonne and is a member of the French Association for American Studies. Anne-Laure re-discovered *Little Women* while an undergraduate through Gillian Armstrong's 1994 screen adaptation of Alcott's bestseller. In part because of the film, she decided to focus her doctoral research on Transcendentalism and its presence in the fiction of Alcott, an author still largely unknown to French academics. While maintaining a strong interest in Women's Studies and both American and English Literature Anne-Laure is also, at heart, an educator. Inspired by the depiction of Plumfield Academy, she and her fellow educators and friends are establishing an alternative high school near Montpellier as a living homage to Alcott's pedagogical theories.

REED ABIGAIL GOCHBERG - Harvard University

A graduate of Harvard University, Reed specialized in British and American literature and received a grant from the Harvard College Research Program to conduct independent research on the Alcott family collection at Houghton Library. She is currently an Editorial Assistant at *Parnassus: Poetry in Review*, an Archives Assistant for the Henry Clay Frick Collection, and a Special Projects Intern at the New York Historical Society, doing research for an upcoming exhibit on Alexander Hamilton and Washington Irving. Reed is also an accomplished flautist and singer who performs with the *Camerata Notturna* and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus.

KAREN GOODNO - Salem State College/Orchard House

Professor of History at Salem State College, Karen is a Historic Interpreter at Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House as well. With dual Master's degrees, Karen studies history and literature hand-in-hand, especially through the memoirs of women, and especially during times of war. She has spoken at conferences around the country regarding the British WWI nurse and writer, Vera Brittain, and is now thrilled to turn her literary historian's microscope on Louisa May Alcott, another one of her "historical best friends!"

LUANE DAVIS HAGGERTY - Rochester Institute of Technology/ National Institute of the Deaf

Luane is co-founder of the Interborough Repertory Theater (IRT), a non-profit Actors' Equity Association Off-Off Broadway Company dedicated to inclusion and outreach to women, the disabled, and other minorities. She has been a Public Education Specialist for the New York State Department of Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities, and is now an Assistant Professor at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology in the Department of Creative and Cultural Studies. Luane is also the creator of the "Del-Sign" acting technique, and Artistic Director of the Del-Sign Project in New York City, most recently profiled in *Theatre Week*, *The Village Voice*,

and *Time Out* magazines. She has also performed on Broadway at Radio City Music Hall in Symphony Space, as well as Off Broadway. A member of the Dramatists Guild, Luane was awarded the Women's Midwestern Arts Council Award for her play, *Women of the American Revolution*, and received a Pulitzer Prize nomination for *Windows of the Soul*.

LYNN HYDE - The Old Manse

A New England expatriate who, after 30 years in the Pacific Northwest, has been re-patriating in Massachusetts, Lynn began her academic career in 19th century Russian literature at the University of California at Berkeley, where she received her MA in 1982. She taught Russian and coached lacrosse in Seattle, and ultimately made the switch to teaching high school English, receiving her BA in English from the University of Washington in 2000, and her MEd from Western Washington University in 2001. Since her move back to New England, Lynn has been both a docent and independent researcher at The Old Manse, where she is currently working on a history of the site. She also spearheaded a movement to preserve the historic Elizabeth Peabody Book Room in Boston, which served as a Transcendental Clubhouse during the 1840s. Her first book, a biography of Northwest outdoorsman and conservation legend Wolf Bauer entitled *Crags, Eddies & Riprap*, was published in March 2010

ADRIANA LANZI - Universidad Nacional De Córdoba

Adriana is from Facundo Quiroga, a small town near Buenos Aires. She began her teaching career in primary and secondary schools in Argentina, also ran a Kindergarten, and later conducted a teacher training program at the Instituto Superior de Formación Docente. A former English Literature professor, she now teaches Language and Culture and is working on her Master's in Anglo-American Literature at the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba. Adriana recently co-authored and published the book, *Quiroga: Pueblo de Inmigrantes*.

MEGAN MARSHALL - Emerson College/Radcliffe Institute at Harvard

Megan's biography, *The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism* (2005), won the Francis Parkman Prize, the Mark Lynton History Prize, the Massachusetts Book Award in non-fiction, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Biography and Memoir. She has published numerous essays and reviews in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Slate Online*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The London Review of Books*, *The New Republic*, *The Boston Review*, and elsewhere. Megan has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Massachusetts Artists Foundation, and has been a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society since 1991. During 2006-07, she was a Fellow in creative non-fiction writing at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, where she began researching a biography of Ebe Hawthorne, Nathaniel's brilliant and reclusive older sister. Megan is currently at work on a biographical study of Margaret Fuller, and teaches narrative non-fiction writing and the art of archival research in the MFA program at Emerson College.

JOHN MATTESON - John Jay College/Pulitzer Prize Winner

A Professor of English and Legal Writing and former litigation attorney, John received his AB in History from Princeton, PhD in English from Columbia, and his 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 book, *Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father*, won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Biography. He is currently at work on a new book tentatively entitled *The Lives of Margaret Fuller*. This is John's sixth year participating in our Summer Series.

~continued

EVELYN NAVARRE - SUNY-Buffalo

Evelyn earned her Doctoral degree in American Studies from SUNY-Buffalo. Her dissertation, "In Labor Her Best Teacher: Nineteenth-Century Women's Work as a Transcendentalist *Bildungsroman*," examines the role of work as a vehicle for coming of age in novels by Louisa May Alcott, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, and others. Before, during, and just after earning Master's degrees in English and Women's Studies, Evelyn held a variety of positions in non-profit health, literacy, and women's organizations.

JANET NORTHRUP - Chautauqua Institution

Founding Women, Janet's recently published history of 135 years of women's influence at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York, discusses the accomplishments of twenty Chautauqua Women's Club Presidents from 1874 to 2010. The book also includes information about influential Chautauqua speakers such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O'Connor, Amelia Earhart, Gail Sheehy, Jane Pauley, Jane Addams, Frances Willard, and Susan B. Anthony. Janet taught English at a suburban Rochester, NY high school for thirty-four years, and is a fourth generation participant of Chautauqua lectures, theater, recreation, and music programs. She is also a member of America's oldest book club, the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle.

DEBRA RYALS - Pensacola Junior College

A Superadjunct Professor teaching literature and composition at Pensacola Junior College, Debra received her BS from Pensacola Christian College, MA from Westfield State College, and PhD from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Nominated for a Teaching Excellence Award, Debra is a frequent presenter at conferences on Alcott, Hawthorne, and Tolkien, and is a published reviewer in *The American Tradition in Literature, Volume Two*, 12th edition, and in *Sentences, Paragraphs, and Beyond With Integrated Readings*, 5th edition.

LISA STEPANSKI - Emmanuel College

An Associate Professor of English at Emmanuel College, Lisa teaches courses in American literature, New England culture, and writing. She was recently awarded a second summer fellowship at the Mary Baker Eddy Library in Boston to continue her research into the friendship between Bronson Alcott and Mary Baker Eddy, as well as the use of emerging technologies by Mrs. Eddy and her followers in the Christian Science Church. Lisa is also interested in children's serial fiction of the late 19th/early 20th century. Her most recent article, "'Like Sportive Birds': The Girl Aviators Series and the Culture of Flight in America, 1911-1912", is forthcoming in the *Journal of Popular Culture*. She is currently working on a manuscript about the Alcott family and their home literacy practices.