

Don't forget to Vote !!!

Louisa May Alcott

The achievement of our nation's independence in the late 18th century provided an impetus for the development of a distinctively American culture. No one grasped this concept more clearly than Louisa May Alcott. One of our country's most gifted storytellers, Alcott was born in Germantown, PA in 1832. She grew up in Concord, MA where she was home-schooled by her father, Amos Bronson Alcott, a prominent Transcendentalist. She also studied with such family friends (and fellow Transcendentalists) as Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Between 1850 and 1862, Alcott worked as seamstress, teacher, governess, and domestic servant to support her family. At this time she wrote a slew of poems, short stories, thrillers, and juvenile tales under a couple of pseudonyms. During the Civil War, Alcott traveled to Washington DC to work as a nurse at a Union hospital, then wrote of her experiences in *Hospital Sketches* (1863).

Alcott went on to author several articles under her real name in the *Atlantic Monthly* and the *Lady's Home Companion*. National recognition — and financial independence — arrived in 1869 after she wrote *Little Women*. The novel is a classic, and describes the childhood adventures of the four Alcott sisters. Louisa May settled in Boston, and actively participated in both the women's suffrage and the temperance movements in the latter half of the 19th century. Then, in 1888, after nursing her youngest sister May (their mother's maiden name) back to health, Louisa May Alcott succumbed to mercury poisoning.

Essay by Bill Lounsbury

KRL has many of Louisa May Alcott's books, including *Hospital Sketches* and *Little Women* (including the film adaptation).

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Fall Reading Recommendation:

Blood & Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West by Hampton Sides (2006)

A compelling history of the American Southwest and the key players in the "Manifest Destiny"

Gardeners --Plant Collection at the Library Saturday November 16, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Please bring your surplus or divided plants, and volunteers will be available to help. We are happy to take most plants, but are unable to accept houseplants, invasive species, or plants over 5 feet tall.

Please consider gifting us those plants you no longer need, and you'll be supporting our wonderful Library.

 **Plant sale WINTER BREAK** 

The Sidewalk Sale will resume in the Spring.

BOOK WORMS (monthly, 7 pm)

On Monday, November 18, we will discuss *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher* by Timothy Egan. On December 16, *The Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys.

Learn Local: First Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8 pm

November 6th: **Genealogy**. Learn techniques and resources to capture family stories and oral histories. Bring your genealogy research questions.

Technology

Drop In Tech Help every Friday, 2:00-3:30 pm

Bring your device and your questions for one-on-one help from the library staff. All Ages

Open Positions with the Friends

Plant Sale Publicity Chairperson

Salmon Bake Chairperson (or Co-Chairpersons)

Interested? Email Thomas Uemoto progress2012@gmail.com

ONGOING BOOK SALE: Pre-owned books are ON SALE every day during normal library hours.

