



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LOUISA MAY ALCOTT BIOGRAPHER TO SPEAK AT
MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

‘One Book, One Community’ Event to Include Film Screening

MONROE, Mich. – As part of the month-long One Book, One Community celebration, biographer Harriet Reisen will make a presentation at Monroe County Community College on her book and documentary, “Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women.”

In addition to Reisen’s talk, there will be a screening of her movie.

The presentation and screening will take place at the La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21. It is free and open to the public.

One Book, One Community of Monroe County is modeled after a program developed by the American Library Association and promotes the value of reading by recommending a compelling book that links community members in a common conversation through readings, group discussions, programs and other events.

The featured novel, “March,” tells the story of John March, the absent father in Louisa May Alcott’s classic novel, “Little Women.” The story takes place during the Civil War, while Mr. March serves as a chaplain in the Union Army. Brooks’ novel compels readers to examine the harsh reality of

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war and, specifically, slavery. This historical novel was chosen, in part, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Reisen acknowledges she had a lifelong interest in Louisa May Alcott after reading Alcott's story of the March family depicted in "Little Women." She said she immediately identified with Jo March, Alcott's literary alter ego and the book's heroine. For many years she said she dreamed of writing an accessible and short biography of Louisa May Alcott. This desire to tell Alcott's story eventually led to the creation of a documentary on Alcott co-produced by Reisen and her friend, Emmy Award-winning producer Nancy Porter. The documentary premiered on the PBS American Masters series in December 2009.

Subsequently, Reisen, who researched and wrote the script for the documentary, proceeded to write her book, "Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women," following the production of the documentary. This biography was the first to be published on Alcott in more than 30 years. It received outstanding reviews and made the Wall Street Journal's "Best 10 Books of 2009" list.

Reisen has scripted dramatic and historical documentaries for PBS and HBO, co-produced the NPR series "Blacklisted," and contributed radio commentary to the network's shows, "Morning Edition," "Marketplace" and "Morning Stories."

She won regional Emmy nominations for Best Song (with Jeanie Stahl) and Best Composer. She has composed songs on Rounder Records (Mason Daring, producer) and an award-winning video, "Jersey Shore" (with Jeanie Stahl and Tony Kahn).

She has taught history and criticism at Stanford University and screenwriting at Harvard Summer School and published articles in Provincetown Arts, Tin House and the Philadelphia Inquirer.

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Major sponsors for One Book, One Community include Monroe County Community College, The Foundation at MCCC, the Monroe County Library System and the Monroe Publishing Company – Monroe Evening News. Major donors include, Siena Heights University, Eastern Michigan University, Books-A-Million, The MEEMIC Foundation, and the Monroe County Historical Society. Additional donors are *The Agora*, Dr. and Mrs. David Nixon, Diversity Committee of Monroe County Community College, Monroe County Community College Student Government, Monroe County Convention and Tourism Bureau, Monroe County Historical Museum, The Book Nook, and The Sawyer Homestead. Educational partners include, Airport High School, Meadow Montessori, St. Mary Catholic Central High School, and the Monroe Middle College.

For more information, including ways to participate in and support One Book, One Community of Monroe County, visit www.monroeccc.edu/onebook.

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