



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 EVENTS ANNOUNCED FOR 'ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY OF MONROE'

MONROE, Mich. – The One Book, One Community of Monroe County officially kicks off on March 11 at the Monroe County Historical Museum with a guided tour and discussion of the Civil War with Steve Alexander portraying General George Armstrong Custer. Local Monroe band *Fiddlesix* will also perform a re-enactment of historic 19th century music following the discussion. A full slate of more than 18 One Book, One Community events run through April 4.

One Book, One Community of Monroe County, modeled after a program developed by the American Library Association, 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 war and, specifically, slavery. This historical novel was chosen, in part, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

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Books are available for purchase at the Monroe County Community College Bookstore, Book Nook and Books-A-Million.

Major sponsors 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.

Below is the full One Book, One Community calendar of events. All events are free and open to the public.

- **March 11:** Kick-off, Monroe County Historical Museum, 2:00 p.m. Steve Alexander portrays General Custer in a Civil War discussion and tour of the museum collection. Local Monroe band *Fiddlesix* will also perform historic 19th century music.
- **March 12:** Film screening: HBO Miniseries “John Adams” – Episode Two, MCCC Little Theater, Building C, Room 3, 7:00 p.m. This episode, which focuses on the debates that resulted in the Declaration of Independence from British rule, is an informed and passionate presentation of the ideas that inspired the first American Revolution and laid the groundwork for the second American Revolution.

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- **March 14:** Film screening: “Glory,” Ellis Library & Reference Center, 6:30 p.m. This film depicts the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the first African American unit of the United States Army that fought during the Civil War.
- **March 15:** Book discussion: “March,” Ida Branch Library, 6:30 p.m.
- **March 18:** Film discussion: “Gone With the Wind,” Ellis Library & Reference Center, 1:00 p.m. Questions from the audience on the topics of strengths and inaccuracies of the classic 1939 film will be discussed at intermission and at the end of the screening.
- **March 21:** Producer/Writer Harriet Reisen presentation and film screening: “Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women,” Monroe County Community College, La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater, 7:00 p.m. Harriet Reisen portrays a writer as worthy of interest in her own right as her most famous character, Jo March. This film addresses all aspects of Louisa May Alcott’s life. Reisen’s in-depth biography explores Alcott’s life in the context of her works, many of which are to some extent autobiographical.
- **March 22:** Film discussion: “Ride With the Devil,” Ellis Library & Reference Center, 6:30 p.m.

This 1999 Ang Lee film is set during the Kansas-Missouri border war when two friends react to the murder of one of their fathers by joining Confederate-sympathizers. A discussion will follow the screening.
- **March 23:** Museum tour, Monroe County Historical Museum, 6:30 p.m. A private after-hours guided tour with special attention given to the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.
- **March 25:** American Girl Tea, Bedford Branch Library, 1:00 p.m.
- **March 26:** Book discussion: “March,” Carleton Branch Library, 7:00 p.m.
- **March 29:** MCCC Brown Bag Book Discussion, “March,” La-Z-Boy Center Atrium, 12:30 p.m.

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- **March 31:** Monroe Civil War Era Architecture Presentation and Walking Tour, Community Foundation of Monroe County, 1:00 p.m. This presentation will provide an opportunity to examine the practical application of various styles of architecture prominent during the mid-19th century in Monroe. A walking tour will follow the presentation.
- **March 31:** Open House, The Sawyer Homestead, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **April 1:** Film discussion: “Little Women,” Bedford Branch Library, 1:00 p.m. This 1933 film adaptation of “Little Women” stars a young Katherine Hepburn as Jo March. “Little Women” portrays the everyday life of four young New England women who face many challenges including economic hardship and having their father away in the Civil War. A short discussion will follow the screening.
- **April 2:** Reader’s Theater: American Civil War Writers, La-Z-Boy Center Atrium, 7:00 p.m. Readings from the works of the major writers of the American Civil War period will be performed by MCCC faculty, present and retired.
- **April 3:** Book discussion: “March,” Dundee Branch Library, 6:30 p.m.
- **April 4:** Book discussion: “March,” Bedford Branch Library, 7:00 p.m.
- **April 4:** Discussion panel: “War is Hell: Whether It’s the Civil War or the Iraq War,” La-Z-Boy Center Atrium, 7:00 p.m. This panel discussion will focus on when war is justified and how families are affected when their sons and daughters, husbands and wives, go off to war. The panel is expected to include a soldier who fought in the Middle East and returned, a family member who lived through the trauma back home in Monroe County and experts on war and faith from both the religious and academic communities.

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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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