

“Does Genius Burn?” Unleashing the Creative Spirit

2026 Summer Conversational Series
Hybrid Adult & Teacher Education

Sunday - Thursday July 12 - 16, 2026

Sunday, July 12th

2:30 - 4:00 pm *Joint Session with The Thoreau Society Annual Gathering*

“Artificial Intelligence Could Not Make THESE Mistakes:
Creativity and the Correct Errors”

SPECIAL GUEST PANELISTS:

JASON GIANNETTI

Philosopher / Author / Academic

WILLIAM J. HEALEY III

Psychotherapist / Archdiocese of Boston / Framingham State University

ALICE KENNEY

Psychotherapist / Labouré Center (South Boston)

Monday, July 13th

10:00 - 11:00 am

JULIA DABBS *University of Minnesota - Morris / Art Historian / Author*
“May Alcott: Nurturing Creativity Through Community”

11:00 - 11:15 am *Break*

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

KRISTI LYNN MARTIN *Scholar / Author / Historical Consultant-Interpreter*
“Misadventure: The Alcott Family and Creative Failure”

12:15 - 1:00 pm *Break / Lunch & Informal Discussion*

1:00 - 2:00 pm

MARK OSTRANDER *Creative Technologist / Outdoor Educator / Public Historian*
“Apples for Pegasus: The Care and Feeding of a Creative Spirit”

Tuesday, July 14th

10:00 - 11:00 am

GABRIELLE DONNELLY *Journalist / Author*
“Jenny Has Gone For A Soldier”

11:00 - 11:15 am *Break*

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

CONNOR-MAY KELLY *Composer / Multi-Instrumentalist / Scholar*
“‘The Angel in the House’ –
The Life and Music of Elizabeth Sewall Alcott”

Tuesday, July 14th *continued*

12:15 - 1:00 pm *Break / Lunch & Informal Discussion*

1:00 - 2:00 pm

JULIE MORFEE *University of California - Berkeley / De Anza College (Cupertino)*
“Sculptures and Scraps: Learning from Louisa May Alcott’s
Models of Creativity” (*virtual presentation*)

Wednesday, July 15th

10:00 - 11:00 am

AIDA BENGOA *Master's Candidate*
“*Rose in Bloom: Creative Genius and the
Emersonian Philosophy of Vocation*”

11:00 - 11:15 am *Break*

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

ADRIANA LANZI *Universidad Nacional de Córdoba / Independent Researcher*
“*Jo March in South America: How a Massachusetts Attic
Inspired a Continent’s Pens*” (*virtual presentation*)

12:15 - 1:00 pm *Break / Lunch & Informal Discussion*

1:00 - 2:00 pm

KYOKO AMANO *Texas A & M University - Corpus Christi*
“*Alcott’s Genre-Fluid Creativity and the
Reinvention of Rosamund De Clifford*”

Thursday, July 16th

10:00 - 11:00 am

CATHLIN DAVIS *California State University - Stanislaus*

“Louisa May Alcott’s Creative Play”

11:00 - 11:15 am *Break*

11:15 am - 12:00 pm

LORRAINE TOSIELLO *Physician / Author*

“Father Isaac Hecker: Transcendental Missionary”

12:00 - 1:15 pm *Lunch & Informal Discussion*

5:00 - 7:30 pm “*Evening Edifications*”

Guided Tours *through* 6:15 pm

plus

Colonial Music Concert

by

THE CONCORD MINUTE MEN FIFE & DRUM CORPS

at 6:30 pm