

November 2009

Dear Colleague,

It is a pleasure to invite you to Concord, Massachusetts, home—as local Concordians like to say—of America’s “second Revolution” (as well as, of course, its first). Some sixty years after the “shot heard round the world” was fired at the North Bridge, an extraordinary confluence of literary and social forces brought together the likes of Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Amos Bronson Alcott and his soon-to-become more famous daughter, Louisa May, in the village of Concord. The result was a second “revolution” that forever changed the American literary and cultural landscape. This workshop provides the opportunity to spend one week in one of the most historic towns in America—a town that proudly reveres and celebrates its unique literary and cultural heritage.

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

Our workshop, “Concord, Massachusetts: A Center of Transcendentalism and Social Reform in the 19th Century,” is sponsored by the ‘Community College Humanities Association’ (CCHA) and is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of its ‘Landmarks of American History and Culture’ initiative. Each one-week workshop examines Concord’s role in the New England Transcendental movement, as well as in antebellum social reform activities, especially abolitionism and the women’s rights movement.

Participants will have the opportunity to work closely with five distinguished scholars, each of them actively engaged in teaching and research. Daily seminars, private guided visits to Concord’s many literary and historic sites, and stimulating interactions with colleagues from all over the country constitute the core of the one-week workshop. The unique holdings of the Concord Free Public Library are also available to participants interested in developing research projects.

Faculty participants, competitively selected nationally, will develop individual classroom teaching projects, or work on an individual research project intended for publication using workshop resources. Participants will be asked at the end of the week to report on specific teaching strategies inspired by the workshop that they anticipate bringing back to their classrooms.

Participants will be able to share teaching modules with other community college faculty by posting them on the CCHA web site. Five faculty participants will be invited to present their teaching modules or research in concurrent sessions at the five CCHA regional conferences in October and November 2010.

WORKSHOP DATES

JULY 11 – 17, 2010

OR

JULY 18 – 24, 2010

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday. Registration and Welcome Dinner/Colonial Inn

4:30-6:00 PM: Registration/Reception (**Colonial Inn** Reading Room)

6:00-8:30 PM: Introductions/Workshop Overview (Thoreau Room)

Welcome Dinner (Included)

Dr. Robert Gross, "Why Concord?"

Monday. Seminar: Concord: Center of Reform and Innovation

8:30-9:00 AM: **Concord Museum:** Bagels/Coffee

9:00-10:15: Dr. Gross, "Concord and Transcendentalism"

10:15-10:30: Break

10:30-11:30: Dr. David Wood, Director of the Concord Museum, "Emerson, Thoreau, and the Concord Museum"

Lunch on own

1:00-2:30: Leslie Wilson, Curator of Special Collections, **Concord Free Public Library**, "The Resources of the CFPL: Social Action and Transcendentalism." (Meet on front steps of Library @ 1:00 PM)

4:00-6:00: **Walden Pond.** Visit to site of Thoreau's cabin.

The Concord Free Public Library will be open until 9:00 PM

Tuesday. Seminar: Concord: Center of Anti-Slavery and Abolitionist Activities

8:30-9:00 AM **Concord Free Public Library:** Bagels/Coffee

9:00-10:30: Leslie Wilson, "Anti-Slavery Ferment in Concord: Special Materials in Special Collections" (Meet in Special Collections)

10:30-10:45: Break

10:45-12:00: Return to Special Collections

12:00-1:00 PM Lunch (provided)

1:00-3:00: Free time to work in Special Collections

3:00-4:15: **Old Manse.** Privately guided tour of Nathaniel & Sophia Hawthorne's first home in Concord, and the place where Emerson wrote the draft of his first book, *Nature*.

Afterward you may want to visit the North Bridge and/or Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

The Concord Free Public Library will be open until 9:00 PM

Wednesday. Seminar: Transcendental Utopias: Brook Farm and Fruitlands

8:30-9:00 AM **Concord School of Philosophy:** Bagels/Coffee

9:00-10:30: Dr. Sterling F. Delano, "Transcendental Utopias: Brook Farm and Fruitlands"

10:30-10:45: Board bus

10:45-5:00 PM Site visits to Brook Farm, Fruitlands, and the Harvard Shaker communities led by Dr. Delano.
Box lunch provided enroute.

The Concord Free Public Library will be open until 9:00 PM

Thursday. Seminar: “Let them all be sea-captains’: Transcendental Women”

8:30-9:00 AM: **Colonial Inn.** Bagels/Coffee
9:00-10:30: Dr. Phyllis Cole, “Transcendental Women and Social Reform”
10:30-10:45: Break
10:45-12:00: Continuation of Seminar.

12:00-1:00: Lunch (provided).

1:00-3:00: Free time to work in Special Collections
3:00-4:15: Emerson House. Privately guided tour.

The Concord Free Public Library will be open until 9:00 PM

Friday. Research Day.

8:00-8:30: **Concord School of Philosophy.** Bagels/Coffee
8:30-9:15: Private tour of Orchard House (where Louisa May Alcott wrote *Little Women* and other works)
9:30-11:00: Dr. John Matteson, “The Alcotts and Reform”
11:00-11:15: Break
11:15-12:00: Continuation of seminar.

Lunch on own

3:00-6:00: Colonial Inn. Participant Reports.

Saturday. Presentations & Conclusion.

8:30-11:45 AM: **Colonial Inn.** Continental breakfast.
Participant Reports
Program Evaluation; Final Business; Summary and Closing.

WORKSHOP SCHOLARS & PROJECT STAFF

Each one-week workshop provides an opportunity to work closely with five scholars who are intimately acquainted with literary and historic Concord, with the contours of New England Transcendentalism, and with antebellum social reform activities.

Dr. Phyllis Cole is Professor of English at the Pennsylvania State University. Her articles on different aspects of antebellum American literature have been published in all the leading journals in the field. Her groundbreaking book on *Mary Moody Emerson and the Origins of Transcendentalism* documented for the first time the pervasive and extensive influence that Emerson’s aunt had on the Concord Sage’s thinking and writing.

Dr. Sterling F. Delano is Professor of American Literature, Emeritus, at Villanova University. In 1996 Dr. Delano was the recipient of the University's "Outstanding Teacher" award. His recent book, *Brook Farm: The Dark Side of Utopia*, is considered the definitive study of America's most celebrated utopian community. Dr. Delano has participated in the workshop since its inception in 2006. Last year he served as co-director of the program, as he will again in 2010.

Dr. Robert Gross is the James L. and Shirley A. Draper Professor of Early American History' at the University of Connecticut. He is the recipient of numerous national awards, including fellowships from the Guggenheim, Howard, and Rockefeller foundations, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the American Antiquarian Society. Dr. Gross is the author of the widely acclaimed book, *The Minutemen and Their World*, as well as numerous articles having to do with Concord.

Martha Holder teaches English at Wytheville Community College in Wytheville, VA. In 1999 she received the 'Teacher of the Year' award at Wilkes Community College (VA) and was a Master Teacher recipient in 2003. Prof. Holder was a participant in the 2006 Concord workshop and she co-directed the program in 2009, as she will again in 2010.

Dr. John Matteson is Professor of English at John Jay College of Criminology. In 2008 he received the Pulitzer Prize for his book, *Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father*. He is currently writing a biography of celebrated feminist and Transcendentalist, Margaret Fuller.

Leslie Wilson is Curator of 'Special Collections' at the Concord Free Public Library. She is also the editor of the *Thoreau Society Bulletin*, and the author of *In History's Embrace: Past and Present in Concord, Massachusetts*, as well as numerous articles having to do with Concord. She is currently revising and editing *Historic Concord*, Allen French's classic history of and guidebook to Concord.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The workshop is intended to function as a stimulus to course and curriculum development and revitalized teaching, as well as individual research and publication. Perhaps the most important part of the completed application is an essay of **one or two double-spaced pages**. This essay should include information about your professional background and interest in the subject of the workshop; your special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the workshop; and how the experience would enhance your teaching or scholarship.

Additionally, applicants must include a letter of recommendation from their department chair, division head, or other faculty colleague in support of their application.

Your completed application should be postmarked **no later than March 2, 2010**, and should be addressed as follows:

Prof. David A. Berry
Project Director, Concord Workshop
Community College Humanities Association
Essex County College

303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102-1798

STIPEND AND COMMITMENT

Each selected participant will receive a stipend of \$1200 which is intended to cover housing at the Colonial Inn (double-occupancy), travel, meals not included in the program, and materials. Stipends will be distributed on the final day of the program.

Workshop participants are required to attend all scheduled meetings and to engage fully in all project activities. Any participants bringing family members or dependents to Concord must make their own arrangements for accommodations at the Colonial Inn in Concord, or elsewhere. However, participants are strongly encouraged to stay with their colleagues at the Colonial Inn. Informal group discussions and social interactions there are an important part of the workshop experience. Only selected participants may participate in workshop activities. NEH requires that any participant, who, for any reason, does not complete the full tenure of the project, must refund a pro-rata portion of their stipend.

TRAVEL, HOUSING, AND MEALS

Participants will arrange individual transportation to Concord, Massachusetts. Special double-occupancy room rates for the six nights of the workshop have been arranged at the historic Colonial Inn (part of which was once home to Henry David Thoreau and his family) on the green in Concord. A few single accommodations—for an additional charge—will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Some meals are included in the workshop. For those that are not, there are several restaurants within easy walking of the Colonial Inn (there are three dining venues at the Inn itself), ranging from fast food to family-style to fine dining. A list will be provided at registration.

We look forward to receiving your application. If you have any questions, please contact David A. Berry at berry@essex.edu, or call 973.877.3577. You may also contact either of the co-directors, listed below.

Sterling F. Delano
Co-Director/Concord Program
398 Dewsbury Place
Blue Bell, PA 19422

sterling.delano@villanova.edu

Martha Holder
Co-Director/Concord Program
Wytheville Community College
Wytheville, VA

wcholdm@wcc.vccs.edu