CFP: Lydia Maria Child Society

American Literature Association Conference in Boston, MA
26–29 May 2027 at The Westin Copley Place
https://americanliteratureassociation.org/ala-conferences/ala-annual-conference/

Fresh Thoughts for the Young: Teaching the *Juvenile Miscellany* or Children's Literature in the Age of AI

Lydia Maria Child launched the inaugural issue of her children's periodical, the *Juvenile Miscellany*, in September 1826, introducing audiences to stories, plays, dialogues, poetry, and essays written specifically for American youth. A year later, Samuel Griswold Goodrich introduced another American original, the persona Peter Parley, in his first children's book *Peter Parley's Tales about America*. What might these early American examples of children's literature suggest to us about teaching today's students, both the young and the young at heart?

The Lydia Maria Child Society welcomes new ideas about teaching the *Juvenile Miscellany* (*JM*) or children's literature in the 21st-century classroom, library, or community center. How might the contents of *JM*'s first issue inspire new ideas about mixing literary, artistic, and historical genres in unexpected ways? How might conversations between fictive characters help us reconceive dialogues between students in a class? What rhetorical strategies do children's authors use to spark interest and hold attention? If neither *JM* nor children's literature lie within your areas of expertise, how might your own work be in conversation with innovative ways to invigorate students, no matter the genre? What fresh surprises await us as we seek ways to connect with each other and elicit the fun in learning?

Please send 200-word abstracts, as Word documents, to lydiamariachildsociety@gmail.com by January 15, 2027. Early submissions welcome!

LMC Society
Melissa Gniadek, President
Sandy Burr, VP of Programs
Sarah Olivier, VP of Communications
Lori Robison, VP of Inclusive Excellence & Social Action
Gia Coturri Sorenson, VP of Membership & Records