

## Thursday Author Talk with Michelle Marchetti Coughlin

What exactly were the day-to-day details of the traditional female in Colonial America? Pretty much the same as they are now. There was heavy focus on family, both being part of one and raising one. Marriage and religion were also primary concerns, as were finances. Social, community, business and political connections were also vital.

There is truly little difference between women of the 1600s and today, except what society limited our foremothers in their roles outside of the family home. Historian and local author Michelle Marchetti Coughlin discovered many of the hidden details of a Colonial Woman's life while looking through the diary of Mehetabel Chandler Coit. She became fascinated in how well Mehetabel wrote about the daily minutia of the Colonial women's day and how closely it paralleled women of today. Michelle transcribed the journals and compiled them in a book *One Colonial Woman's World*. Michelle will share her book and research at the April 11 Thursday Author Series, a program of the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library.

Mehetabel, a Roxbury native, was born in 1673 and died in Connecticut 1758. Though more than 60 of those years, Mehetabel documented the finer details of her life in a diary.

Mehetabel wrote poems, recipes and even homeopathic remedies for everyday ills. She shared little stories about her day and her family. Though Mehetabel did not document everyday, her diary captures a lifetime of a Colonial women's America.

Michelle Marchetti Coughlin spent several years preparing *One Colonial Woman's World* which was released in December 2012 by The University of Massachusetts Press. It is receiving excellent press in its genre.

Marla Miller, author of *The Needle's Eye: Women and Work in the Age of Revolution* wrote: "This book will be a stunning development, the first deep examination of an unknown diary that affords a very rare glimpse into women's lives in this time and place. Coughlin's narrative places the diarist and the diary thoroughly in its context, situating each passage within broader patterns of local and regional history as well as the political, cultural, and social history of the era."

Michelle Marchetti Coughlin is an independent scholar and former editor who holds graduate degrees in history and English and American Literature. She will read from her book and answer questions on her work in the Periodicals Reading Room of the Main Library, 129 Main St., Concord. The program begins at 7:30 and runs through 8:45. Books will be for sale. Free admission.

(Provided by the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library)