

GSP Readers Group: *Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder*
by Caroline Fraser

Friday, January 10 from 9:30-11:00 am in the Bloom Room

Millions of readers of *Little House on the Prairie* believe they know Laura Ingalls—the pioneer girl who survived blizzards and near-starvation on the Great Plains, and the woman who wrote the famous autobiographical books. But the true saga of her life has never been fully told. Now, drawing on unpublished manuscripts, letters, diaries, and land and financial records, Caroline Fraser masterfully fills in the gaps in Wilder’s biography. The Little House books, for all the hardships they describe, are paeans to the pioneer spirit, portraying it as triumphant against all odds. But Wilder’s real life was harder and grittier than that, a story of relentless struggle, rootlessness, and poverty. Spanning nearly a century of epochal change, from the Indian Wars to the Dust Bowl, Wilder’s dramatic life provides a unique perspective on American history and our national mythology of self-reliance. With fresh insights and new discoveries, *Prairie Fires*, winner of the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Biography, reveals the complex woman whose classic stories grip us to this day.

*For more information, please contact **Victoria Stefani** at 520-661-6772.*