

Memorandum

To: Members of the Louisa May Alcott Study Group #630

From: Linda Freeman

Date: 15 September 2020

About: Session #1, 21 September 2020

- 1) Here is some information about our first meeting. I hope you have had some experience with Zoom and, especially if not much experience, that you have attended one of the OLLI training sessions for study group members. The most important skill for you to master is the mute/unmute routine.
- 2) Our sessions start at 11:45 a.m. each Monday for eight weeks and end at 1:15 p.m. Please plan to check in to the Zoom invitation each time at 11:30 a.m. so that we can all settle into place and start on time. It also is important that we end on time, so that the next group can start right afterward.
- 3) I have received a request that we NOT meet on Monday, 28 September, as that is Yom Kippur. While that day is not an official OLLI holiday, I am planning to honor that request and not hold class then. This means that our final session will not be on 9 November, but on 16 November. Please adjust your calendars.
- 4) On the Tuesday before each session I will email you information about the next session. This email will include the Study Questions for the next gathering as well as the Agenda for the class. The study questions will help focus our up-coming discussion and perhaps also point out some of the important aspects of the scheduled reading for the week. The agenda will let you know what topics will be covered and in what order. Please print it out and have it ready for the session.
- 5) The general pattern for the class will be short bursts of lecture followed by pauses for questions, using the virtual hand-raising function in the participants panel of Zoom. Questions also can be asked through text in the chat function at any time and will be considered during the question pauses in the order in which they appear.
- 6) In my first message to you I asked for some brief information from each of you about yourself and your interest in this Alcott study group. Many of you have replied, and I want to thank for that. For those of you who were in the aborted spring 2020 Alcott group, I have your information already. For the rest of you, I would appreciate hearing from you before we gather on Monday.
- 7) As always, I am here for you if you have questions or concerns. Email is best. With all good wishes, Linda Freeman, LFREEMAN@umd.edu, 301-502-0904.

For Alcott Session #1

Study Questions: No study questions for this first session on 21 September. Try to round up the needed books if you have not done so already. Try dipping into Hospital Sketches to see how it is laid out.

Agenda for 21 September:

- I) INTRODUCTIONS: Welcome, Linda Freeman background, individual introductions
- II) SYLLABUS: Books, schedule, policies
- III) LITERARY GENRES
- IV) ALCOTT BIOGRAPHY
- V) FOR NEXT TIME: Watch for email with study questions and agenda
- VI) HOSPITAL SKETCHES: background
- VII) "LITTLE WOMEN" FILM: Some comments and suggestions for watching new (2019) film version
- VIII) ADJOURNMENT