



Jane Austen Society of North America Southwest August 2016 Newsletter

In This Issue

[Jane Austen in the News](#)

[Fall Meeting: Save the Date!](#)

[Reading Groups](#)

[Connect on Social Media](#)

Jane Austen in the News!



Buzzfeed recently ran a piece on "[23 items perfect for a Jane Austen wedding.](#)"



"[From Jane Austen to George RR Martin, the novella is making a comeback,](#)" from the *Independent*.



KPBS highlights The

JASNA-SW Fall Meeting Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 1, from 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the Donald Wright Auditorium in the Pasadena Central Library for JASNA-Southwest's Fall Meeting.

Registration information coming soon

Old Globe's production of the [Sense and Sensibility](#) musical at San Diego's Old Globe, running through Aug. 14.



The [Jane Austen Festival](#) attempted breaking the Guinness World Record on July 9 for most people in Regency attire gathered in one location.

Join Our Mailing List!



Visit the [JASNA-Southwest](#) website for more about programs, reading groups and more. And look for our brand-new website coming later this summer!



Our guest speaker will be Robert Rodi, author of the *Bitch in a Bonnet* blog (and two books of the same name). He has authored nine novels, including *Baby* (2012) as well as numerous works of nonfiction. He currently is working on his first Austen-inspired fiction, which takes the three-page *Edgar and Emma* Austen wrote in her teens and expands it into a full-length comedy of manners.

Here's a taste of his perspective -- from his "manifesto" that inspired his blog on Austen:

"Jane Austen was -- is -- a sly subversive, a clear-eyed social Darwinist, and the most unsparing satirist of her century. She's wicked, arch, and utterly merciless. She skewers the pompous, the pious, and the libidinous with the animal glee of a natural-born sadist. She takes

sharp, swift swipes at the social structure and leaves it, not lethally wounded, but shorn of its prettifying garb, its flabby flesh exposed in all its naked grossness. And then she laughs.

"Despite her admittedly limited palette, her psychological acuity easily matches Shakespeare's, and her wit as well; like him, she's also violently allergic to sentimentality of any stripe. ... Her tongue could kill at twenty paces.

"How did someone whose vision is so darkly, even bleakly, comic -- whose work brims with vicious, gabbling grotesques, most of whom are never adequately (or even minimally) punished for their sins (as Dickens, not so many years later, felt compelled to punish his) -- become the patron saint of the turgid, chest-heaving, emotionally pornographic genre called 'Regency Romance'?

"I don't know, and I don't care. I only care to stop it -- to fire the opening salvo that will, I hope, ignite the barrage of indignation that brings this travesty to a halt and restores, once and for all, the spit and vinegar to Jane Austen's public profile, raising her to the pantheon of gadflies that she might take her place beside Voltaire and Swift, Twain and Mencken. My goal is to make the world acknowledge, at long last, the bitch in the bonnet."

Reading Groups Upcoming Meetings/Info



Our fledgling new Riverside group; new members welcome!

Send us photos from your reading group so we can share them here, on our Facebook page and/or the JASNA-SW website.

Sunday, August 7, 6 p.m.

Santa Monica Reading Group

Blood Upon the Snow by Hilda Lawrence

For more information, contact [Diana Birchall](#),
310-394-2196.

Saturday, August 13, 12:30 p.m.

Long Beach Reading Group

Clarissa: Or the History of a Young Lady
(letters 1-257) by Samuel Richardson

For more information, contact [Gerda Kilgore](#),
562-496-4452.

Sunday, August 14, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

West Los Angeles Reading Group

Emma by Jane Austen

Discussion leader: Dr. Charles Lynn Batten

This group is at capacity and cannot accept
new members. Current members may contact
[Clara Browda](#), 310-278-8759, for more
information on upcoming meetings.

The Westside/405 Reading Group is accepting
new members. See below.

Saturday, August 20, 1:30 p.m.

Westside/405 Reading Group

The Making of a Marchioness and *The Methods*
of Lady Walderhurst by Frances Hodgson
Burnett

Location: home of Syrie James

The group will hold a tea as part of the

meeting.

For more information, contact [Karen Berk](#), 310-477-6753.

Sunday, September 11, 2-4 p.m.

South Bay Reading Group

What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew by Daniel Pool

New and returning members are welcome.

For more information, contact [Jeanine Holguin](#), 805-444-8999.

Saturday, September 17, 11:30 a.m.

Ventura Reading Group

Location: E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura, California 93001

The Romance of the Forest by Ann Radcliffe
Jane Austen's Letters (Deirdre Le Faye, ed.):
Letters 130-145

For more information, contact [Linda Terry](#), 805-302-0855.

Sunday, September 18, 12:30 p.m.

Orange County Reading Group "Painting Jane Austen's *Emma*"

Hands-on painting workshop, guided by Annmarie Thomas

Location: Home of Viki Barie

For more information, contact [Viki Barie](#), 714-309-6702, or [Annmarie Thomas](#).

Sunday, September 18, 2-4 p.m.

San Fernando Valley Reading Group

Emma by Jane Austen

For more information, contact [Cheryl Cole](#), 310-422-5475.

Additional Reading Groups

Riverside County Reading Group

Meetings are held at the Temecula Public Library, 30600 Pauba Road, Temecula, in Community Room B. For more information, contact [Rebecca Weersing](#), 951-595-7046.

San Diego Reading Group

Although San Diego is a separate JASNA region, many JASNA-Southwest members are interested in San Diego JASNA events and vice

versa. For information on upcoming San Diego JASNA meetings, contact [Jeanne Talbot](#), 808-342-0666.

Join us on Facebook

Are you on Facebook? So is JASNA-SW! Stay connected in between our meetings and e-newsletter updates, share your Austen-related stories, favorites, travel and more with fellow Janeites!

