



# Jane Austen Society of North America Southwest July 2016 Newsletter



Although the British pound has taken a bit of a beating since the Brexit vote, its value is sure to increase in 2017 with the much-anticipated release of the Jane Austen note!

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## Jane Austen in the News!



[Jane Austen  
Weekends in](#)

[Vermont will present  
the final installments  
of Series 9 on  
\*Persuasion\* September  
9-11, 2016, and  
January 6-8, 2017. An](#)

## 2017 AGM Update



*Intimations of Immortality*  
JASNA AGM 2017 October 6-8  
HUNTINGTON BEACH CA

In anticipation of our 2017 AGM, here's our own BuzzFeed-style list (courtesy of Erika Kotite) of why you should mark your calendars for October 6-8, 2017.

#6 The Huntingtons. Henry E. Huntington was a railroad magnate hailing from Oneonta, New York, who also happened to be a collector of art and rare

In Character Weekend  
is coming August 5-7,  
with Series 10 on  
*Pride and Prejudice*  
beginning in January  
2017.



["10 of the best lines  
from \*Pride and  
Prejudice\* and what  
they can teach us,"](#)  
from the  
[Independent.](#)



[Bill Maher](#) turned to  
Austen to explain  
Britain's vote to leave  
the European Union.  
"They voted for *Pride*  
and *Prejudice* over  
*Sense* and  
*Sensibility*."



Tickets are now on  
sale for the production  
of *Sense and  
Sensibility* at the [Old  
Globe theatre](#) in San  
Diego (run is July 6-  
August 14).

books. This is fortunate for us, as Huntington not only made it possible for a suburban town like Huntington Beach to exist in the early 20th century -- thanks to the laying of miles of electric railway lines -- but he also did us the favor of building a vast mansion in nearby San Marino. Therein lies a research library, with a collection of books and manuscripts of British and American history that is "nothing short of extraordinary." Come early to enjoy the wonders of The Huntington Library, its books, art collection and vast botanical gardens.

#5 The Sea. A natural phenomenon makes the city's 9.5 mile stretch of sandy beach recipient to some of the world's most glorious surf waves, contributing to the city's official title as "Surf City." The water in October is a bracing 64.5-degree average -- brisk and invigorating! Your stay will be punctuated by delightful vistas of surf, surfers and sunshine.

#4 The Hyatt. You saw Jane Austen herself sampling the warm bathwaters and spa services at Huntington Beach's famed Hyatt Regency Resort and Spa. The hotel is designed in a Spanish-inspired style with generous-sized rooms, some with an unparalleled view of the ocean. Sitting high above Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), the hotel is an oasis unto itself. Outstanding restaurants, organic and rejuvenating spa treatments, a large pool with poolside café service and easy access to the beach via an over-PCH bridge make staying here a true vacation.

#3 The Theme. "Jane Austen in Paradise: Intimations of Immortality" -- what does this mean? Our theme this year is an incredibly exciting one, as it allows us to explore the depth and breadth of Austen's influence on many facets of modern culture. With the beach and the sunshine as an enjoyable backdrop, we will be treated to important, provocative ideas from some of the best minds in literature, academia, theatre and digital media. This is the first time that Austen's enduring influence on modern civilization will be studied in such a holistic way.

#2 The Activities. Woven throughout the program will be opportunities to explore this beautiful, laid-back corner of Orange County. If you ever wish to leave the Hyatt, a short bicycle ride or shuttle takes you to historic downtown Huntington Beach. Sip coffee or an ice-cold beer outside, get addicted to acai bowls and walk the pier like a local. Pre- and post-conference

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

activities include trips to the Huntington Library and the tall ships of San Diego Harbor, among many others.

#1 For Jane Austen. On this 200th year of Austen leaving this mortal plane to promenade the spa rooms of Paradise, we've created a world swathed in sand and sea that allows us to feel that she is once again here with us -- indeed, that she has never left. You will certainly sense her spirit of playfulness, of true regard for a life well lived, in the environs of Huntington Beach. We daresay that she has taken up residence in this bright and sunny place, just as she has in each of our minds and hearts.

## 2017 AGM Volunteer News

The Washington, D.C. AGM was an immediate sellout! Will you be attending? If so, the JASNA Southwest Promotions & Publicity Committee needs you! Please contact [Erika Kotite](#) to discover how you can take part in our own AGM 2017 publicity campaign during the D.C. AGM this October.

The next AGM Steering Committee meeting on Saturday, July 16, will focus on Special Events, tours and program activities. What have you most enjoyed at past AGMs? Dance classes, millinery workshops? We would love your input regarding exciting events that highlight our unique Southern California lifestyle and/or further our theme -- Jane Austen in Paradise/Intimations of Immortality. Please contact [Nancy Gallagher](#) to share your thoughts.

## Dear Jane Project



JASNA-Southwest is pleased to help spread the word about the Dear Jane Project, which aims to bring a community of Jane Austen lovers together. It is a way for fans from all over the world to share their stories and connect with others to celebrate the beloved author.

We received the following from the project's creator, Gabrielle Lesage:

You may submit a sentence, a letter, an essay or other written piece in which you wish to express how Jane Austen has affected your life. It is a way to pay tribute to one of history's timeless authors.

I had the idea for this project when I wrote a piece about why Jane is so important to me. I wanted to hear other people's stories and what their thoughts and feelings were.

If you are interested in participating, submit your story to [dearjaneproject@gmail.com](mailto:dearjaneproject@gmail.com). Submitted texts will be uploaded to a blog. You may include your name and country or remain anonymous. There is no compensation for submitting a post; rather, this free project allows fans to share their stories and create a community with people around the world.

Each one of us has a story, and my goal is for us all to be able to share them. I think it is a great way to commemorate the life of Jane Austen as we approach the 200th anniversary of her death.

What would you write to Jane?

## Reading Groups Upcoming Meetings/Info



*Members of the San Gabriel Valley Reading Group  
at the May 2016 meeting*

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

Saturday, July 16, 11:30 a.m.

### **Ventura Reading Group**

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

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*Jane Austen's Letters* (Deirdre Le Faye, ed.):  
Letters 1-7 and 70-80.

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

Sunday, July 17, 12:30 p.m.

### **Orange County Reading Group**

Alfresco reading of Tracy Neis' play *Box Hill Picnic*, complete with lemonade and fresh strawberries

Location: TriCity Park, Fullerton

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

Sunday, July 17

**Pasadena Area Reading Group**

*Miss Buncle's Book* by D. E. Stevenson

This group is at capacity and cannot accept members. Current members may contact [Susan Ridgeway](#), 626-357-1397, for information on upcoming meetings.

*The San Gabriel Valley Reading Group is accepting new members. Contact [Kelly Duir](#), 909-967-6630.*

Sunday, July 17, 1 p.m.

**NEW Riverside Reading Group**

*Emma* by Jane Austen; *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld

Location: Home of Cristi Hendry

For more information, contact [Cristi Hendry](#).

Sunday, July 17, 2-4 p.m.

**San Fernando Valley Reading Group**

*The Prime Minister* by Anthony Trollope

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

Sunday, July 24, 2-4 p.m.

**South Bay Reading Group**

*Lady Susan* by Jane Austen

The film *Love and Friendship* also will be discussed.

New and returning members are welcome.

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

Saturday, July 30, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**

*Middlemarch*, by George Eliot

Location: MSAG meeting room in Claremont

The group will host a potluck lunch.

For more information, contact [Kelly Duir](#), 909-967-6630.

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.

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.

*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!

