



Jane Austen Society of North America Southwest May 2016 Newsletter



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Jane Austen in the News!



[Love and Friendship](#) --
the new film based on
Austen's novella *Lady
Susan* opens May 13.

JASNA-SW Presents

Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest

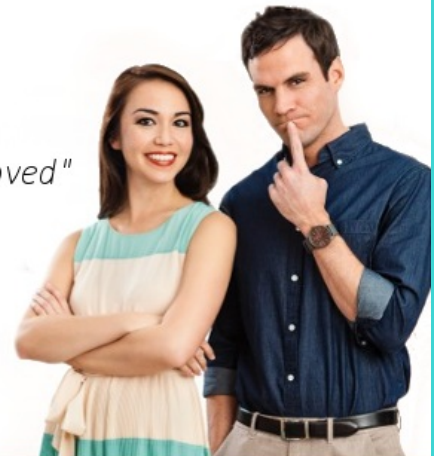


EMMA
APPROVED

Emma on Board
featuring

"The Making of Emma Approved"

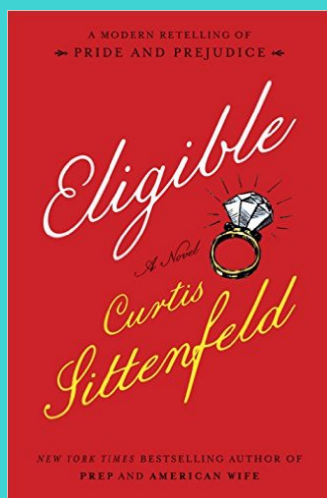
Joanna Sotomura
Brent Bailey
Dayeanne Hutton
James Brent Isaacs
Bernie Su



Saturday, May 14, 2016
The Queen Mary - Long Beach, CA

Register on www.jasnasw.org

JASNA-Southwest Spring Meeting: May 14



[Eligible](#), a modern retelling of *Pride and Prejudice* by Curtis Sittenfeld (*Prep and American Wife*), hit [bookstores](#) in April.



Jane Austen's World blog recently featured "[Emma Woodhouse's Surrey](#)," a contribution by Tony Grant.

Join Our Mailing List!



[Visit Our Website](#) for more about programs, reading groups and more.

It's not too late to register for our Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 14. Deadline is Tuesday, May 3! [Register](#) now.

We are looking forward to seeing you aboard the Queen Mary for a very special day.

Emma on Board

Jane Austen is known for her extraordinary ability to create captivating and likable characters, especially females. In *Emma*, we find some of Austen's most interesting and unique characters -- from Mrs. Elton and Miss Bates to Jane Fairfax and Harriet Smith.

For our 2016 Spring Meeting, we will dive into the characters of *Emma*, telling the stories of women and the female seafaring experience. Join us for "Emma On Board," taking place on the legendary Queen Mary as we learn about women on warships, analyze the life and perspective of Miss Bates, explore Austen's juvenilia, and discuss the 21st century Emma.



Atlantic Mutual Company

Juliet McMaster, a popular speaker at many JASNA Annual General Meetings, will present: "I Hate to Hear of Women on Board": Women Aboard Warships (by Rowland McMaster) and "Destined ... for the Sea": The Hero of Catherine, or the Bower.

Jane Austen lived during a time in Britain's history that was rife with war. Her writings reflect a period of time when the Navy (and the very appealing naval officers)

were a strong presence in everyday life, with the sea being a second home to the men who left their families to serve. McMaster will explore the female seafaring experience with a reading of her husband's paper "I Hate to Hear of Women on Board," which was published in *Persuasions*. She will also discuss her current work on Austen juvenilia, "Destined ... for the Sea."

Next, JASNA-Southwest member and Chapman University Professor Lynda Hall will discuss "Miss Bates: Superfluous Spinster or Sympathetic Spectator?"



Readers often want to ignore *Emma*'s Miss Bates since her seemingly random observations and effusions of thanks go on for several pages at a time, often without much formal punctuation. While Emma ignores and mocks her, Austen's text illuminates Miss Bates, revealing an important but often overlooked theme: Women who do not have high expressed (economic) value, and who do not happen to be "handsome, clever and rich," must imagine and create value to avoid fading into obscurity and sinking into poverty. Hall will focus her talk on this ridiculous but important character and show how she not only facilitates Emma's transformation but also illuminates the plight of the spinster in Jane Austen's time.



The final speakers of the day include Bernie Su, an executive producer and head writer for the award-winning *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries* and *Emma Approved* for Pemberley Digital, along with several actors from the latter series. Cast members Joanna Sotomura (Emma Woodhouse), Brent Bailey (Alex Knightley), Dayeane Hutton (Harriet Smith) and James Brent Isaacs (Robert

"BMart" Marin) will be on hand to discuss their characters and the production of *Emma Approved*.



***Sense and Sensibility* Debuts at San Diego's Old Globe**

The [Old Globe](#) in San Diego kicks off its new season with the West Coast premiere of a musical adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* (July 6-August 14, 2016), developed by Rick Boynton, with book, music and lyrics by Paul Gordon, orchestrations by Larry Hochman and Bruce Coughlin, and with additional arrangements by Curtis Moore. The production will be presented in association with Chicago Shakespeare Theater (CST), and will be directed by CST artistic director Barbara Gaines.

Tickets go on sale May 20.



Festival of Books

Despite a rainy Saturday, this year's JASNA-Southwest booth at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books welcomed nearly 700 visitors over the April 9-10 weekend, introducing many area Janeites to JASNA-Southwest. Wares available in the booth included Austen's complete oeuvre, of course, along with Spanish-language editions, tote bags, t-shirts, journals and a host of Austen-inspired books -- from gardening to Regency-era history.

Authors Kate Rorick (*The Lizzie Bennet Diaries* and *The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet*) and Syrie James (*The Missing Manuscript of Jane Austen* and *The Lost Memoirs of Jane Austen*) greeted visitors and signed copies of their works.

Emily Bergman again oversaw the effort, managing numerous volunteers. Nancy Gallagher organized the selection and delivery of books from Vroman's Bookstore and served as cashier for much of the festival.





**Reading Groups
Upcoming Meetings/Info**



*Diana Birchall at the April meeting of the
Santa Monica Reading Group*

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

Sunday, May 15, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Orange County Reading Group

The List Lover's Guide to Jane Austen by Joan
Strasbaugh

There will be quizzes and puzzles!

For more information, contact [Anmarie Thomas](#),

818-640-6372, or [Viki Barie](#).

Saturday, May 21, 1:30 p.m.

Long Beach Reading Group

Castle Rackrent by Maria Edgeworth

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

Saturday, May 21, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

San Gabriel Valley Reading Group *What Jane*

Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew by Daniel Pool

Location: La Manda Branch Library, Pasadena

The meeting will include a potluck lunch.

Contact [Kelly Duir](#), 909-967-6630.

Saturday, May 21, 11:30 a.m.

Ventura Reading Group

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

North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell

Jane Austen's Letters (Deirdre Le Faye, ed.): Letters 106-120

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

Sunday, May 22, 2-4 p.m.

San Fernando Valley Reading Group

Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott

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

Sunday, May 22, 2-4 p.m.

South Bay Reading Group

Longbourn by Jo Baker

Location: Redondo Beach (email/call for address)

New and returning members welcome! For more information, contact [Jeanine Holguin](#), 805-444-8999.

Saturday, June 11, 1:30 p.m.

Westside/405 Reading Group

The Shuttle by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Location: home of Syrie James

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

Sunday, June 12, 6 p.m.

Santa Monica Reading Group

Members' choice of book by one of the Mitford sisters (Nancy, Jessica or Deborah)

Location: Diana Birchall's Santa Monica home
For more information, contact [Diana Birchall](#), 310-394-2196.

Sunday, June 12, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

West Los Angeles Reading Group

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

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.

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.

Additional Reading Groups

Pasadena Area Reading Group

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

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

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!

 Like us on Facebook