



# Jane Austen Society of North America Southwest October 2015 Newsletter



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## Jane Austen in the News!



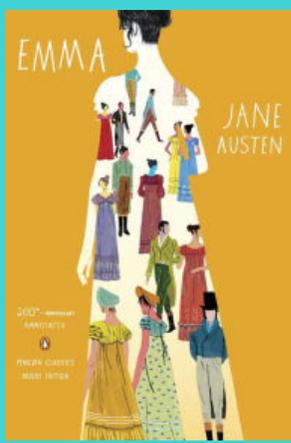
An academic believes  
he has found the [real  
inspiration for  
Mansfield Park.](#)

## Waterloo: The Folly and the Grandeur Fall Meeting Recap



*By Terry Ryan*

On Saturday, September 26, at Chapman University, we were immersed in the Battle of Waterloo and the Duchess of Richmond's ball that preceded it. The speakers put this epic conflict in context with maps and timelines, but the



A [new annotated edition](#) of *Emma* was released Sept. 29 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the novel's publication.



Jane Bennet and Mr. Bingley from the beloved 1995 adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* reunited at the Chawton House Library [conference](#) in September celebrating the mini-series' 20th anniversary.

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focus of both presentations was personal stories and experiences that brought history to life.

Peter Graham from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) started out the morning with a witty and informative exploration of the Duchess of Richmond's Ball, with a wealth of alternately touching and funny stories. The ball is the "most famous ball in history" only by happenstance. If it had been scheduled a few days earlier, it would have been just one of the many balls held in Brussels that year. If it had been scheduled the next day, as Wellington's own party was, it would have been canceled. Even so, it might have been just a footnote if the juxtaposition of frivolity and brutality had not captured the imagination of writers ever since, including Byron, Thackeray, and Edith Sitwell.



Professor Peter Graham

Professor Graham put the ball in context, explaining why so many British aristocrats were living in Brussels, how the Duke of Wellington used balls and society events as "political theatre" to bring confidence to the British and over-confidence to the French, and why balls were the center of women's power. He also shone spotlights on a number of the attendees, including

- Charles Lennox, the Duke of Richmond, who engaged in a duel with the Duke of York's son and, as a passionate athlete, encouraged the founding of Lord's Cricket Grounds
- Lady Sarah Lennox, the Duchess' daughter, who-- though her father forbade it--waltzed with an officer

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

- at the ball and two months later eloped with him
- Lady De Lancey, whose honeymoon was cut short when her husband, Colonel Sir William Howe De Lancey, was recalled to Wellington's army after Napoleon's escape from Elba, and who later searched the battlefield for her missing husband and found him dying in a farmhouse

Professor Graham also shared his [bibliography](#) for anyone interested in reading more about this historic event.

Fritz Bronner, director of the War Horse and Militaria Heritage Foundation, brought us onto the battlefield itself, sharing photos and video of his group's participation in the re-creation of the Battle of Waterloo in Brussels in June 2015. A reproduction of the famous painting of the Scots Greys' famous charge at Waterloo in *Life* magazine 50 years ago (see image above) ignited Mr. Bronner's lifelong interest in the history of cavalry and the use of war horses in famous battles. The Scots Greys were instrumental in holding off the French during the grueling hours of the Battle of Waterloo. Of the 425 Scots Greys who began the battle, only 26 were left mounted when the fighting was over.



Fritz Bronner

By sharing his enthusiasm for this history with the current Scots Greys, now a tank regiment that recently moved from their station in Germany to a permanent station in Scotland, Mr. Bronner's group of riders had the honor of representing the Scots Greys at the June 2015 re-enactment, charging across the battlefield and capturing the French Eagle to present to Wellington. Mr. Bronner also shared the practical challenges of mounting a cavalry campaign in a foreign country, with the need to raise funds, borrow European horses that were the correct color, create uniforms, and put mustaches on all of the riders including the women since all Scots Greys of the time were required to wear them! Through their skill and persistence, the Scots Greys were represented in the Waterloo re-enactment for the first time in 200 years, and their performance was immortalized with photos on the front pages of British newspapers.

The morning program also included a sneak preview of our promotional video for the 2017 AGM to be held in Huntington Beach that was enthusiastically received. The

video, created by Erika Kotite, is being shown at the 2015 AGM in Louisville, Kentucky. Jane Austen in Paradise was played by Zabrina McIntyre, who was there to take a bow!

## 2017 AGM Update

We're proud to announce two more plenary speakers have been added to our already impressive roster!

Richard Knight, freeholder and trustee of Chawton House Library, will speak at the Sunday brunch about "The Knight in Shining Armour," his great, great, great grandfather, Jane Austen's brother Edward. Preceding him, composer and playwright Amanda Jacobs, who shared with us some of her experiences as composer-in-residence at Chawton House Library at our May meeting, will lead a morning service based on her own musical settings of Jane Austen's prayers.

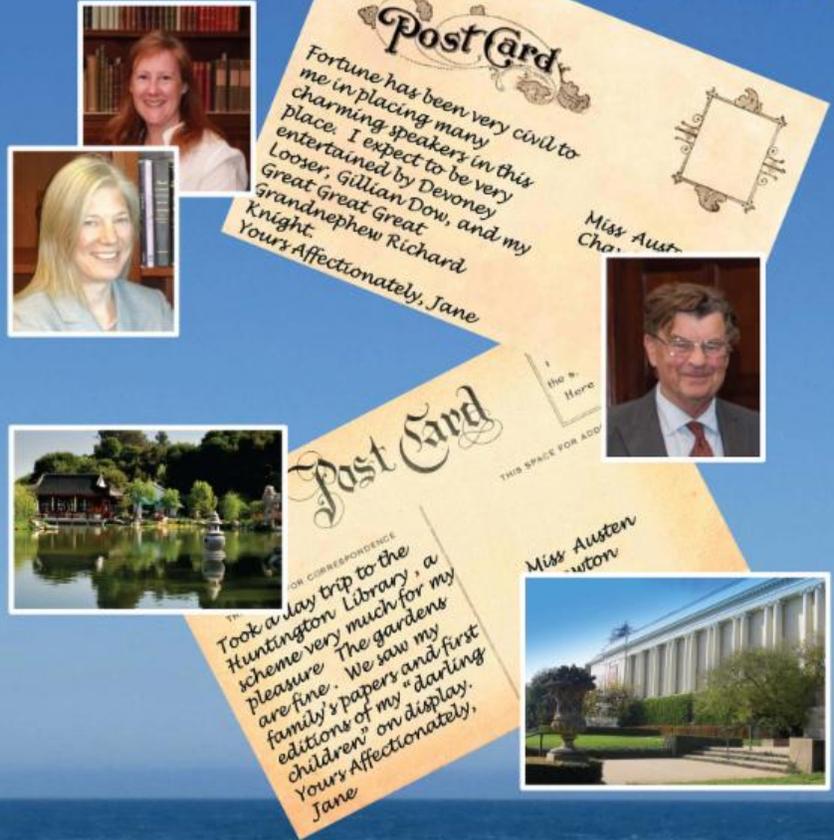
At this year's AGM in Louisville, JASNA-Southwest hosted a table in the Emporium to promote our conference, featuring enticing "Wish you were here" postcards created by Terry Ryan: "How charming Huntington Beach is, sweetly situated by the sea." "The beach fire pits are much admired for a delicacy called 'S'Mores.' What can they be?" or "A cold dip in the sea is fine but a soak in a hot spa is paradise." Who can resist these?

At the Sunday brunch, Cheryl Cole and Nancy Gallagher presented a delightful promotional video created by Erika Kotite, starring Zabrina McIntyre and Kit Pearson. Look for it, coming soon, to our AGM website.



Wish you were here!

JASNA AGM 2017 October 6-8  
HUNTINGTON BEACH CALIFORNIA



## Save the Date: JASNA-SW Winter Meeting

December 5  
UCLA Faculty Center  
*Reading in the Time of Jane Austen*



*The Circulating Library in Scarborough circa 1818*

More information coming soon!

## Reading Groups Upcoming Meetings/Info

Saturday, October 17, 1:30 p.m.

### **Long Beach Reading Group**

*Silas Marner* by George Eliot

For more information, email [Gerda Kilgore](mailto:Gerda.Kilgore@gmail.com) or call her at 562-496-4452.

Sunday, October 18, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

### **West Los Angeles Reading Group**

*First Impressions* by Charlie Lovett

Discussion leader: Dr. Charles Lynn Batten

This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may email [Clara Browda](mailto:Clara.Browda@gmail.com) or call her at 310-278-8759 for more information on upcoming meetings.

*A second Westside Reading Group has formed! To get on the mailing list, email [Karen Berk](mailto:Karen.Berk@gmail.com) or call her at 310-477-6753.*

Sunday, November 8, 2-4 p.m.

### **San Fernando Valley Reading Group**

*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See

Host: Nina Nazarian

Discussion leader: Brittany Gash

For more information, email [Cheryl Cole](mailto:Cheryl.Cole@gmail.com) or call her at 310-422-5475.

Sunday, November 8, 5 p.m.

**Santa Monica Reading Group**

*The Daisy Chain* by Charlotte M. Yonge

For more information, email [Diana Birchall](#) or call her at 310-394-2196.

Sunday, November 15, 12:30 p.m.

**Orange County Reading Group**

Jane Austen's Game Day

For more information, email [Annmarie Thomas](#) or call her at 949-487-7028.

Saturday, November 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**

Location: MSAG meeting room, Claremont

Book: TBD

For more information, email [Kelly Duir](#) or call her at 909-967-6630.

Sunday, December 13, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

**West Los Angeles Reading Group**

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

Discussion leader: Dr. Charles Lynn Batten

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

A second Westside Reading Group has formed! To get on the mailing list, email [Karen Berk](#) or call her at 310-477-6753.

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

**Orange County Reading Group**

*Emma* by Jane Austen

For more information, email [Annmarie Thomas](#) or call her at 949-487-7028.

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

**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**

Location: Lamanda Library, 140 S. Altadena Drive, Pasadena

Book: TBD

For more information, email [Kelly Duir](#) or call her at 909-967-6630. For more information, email Kelly Duir or call her at 909-967-6630.

*Additional Reading Groups*

**Pasadena Area Reading Group**

This group is at capacity and cannot accept new

members. Current members may email [Susan Ridgeway](#) or call her at 626-357-1397 for information on upcoming meetings.

*The San Gabriel Valley Reading Group is accepting members. Email [Kelly Duir](#) or call her at 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, email [Rebecca Weersing](#) or call her at 951-595-7046.

### **South Bay Reading Group**

A new group is in the process of being formed. If you are interested, email JASNA-SW President [Cheryl Cole](#) or call her at 310-422-5475.

### **Ventura Reading Group**

The group usually meets on the third Saturday of every month at 11:30 a.m. in the E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura, California 93001, 805-648-2715.

### **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, email [Jeanne Talbot](#) or call her at 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!

