



Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

April 2017 Newsletter



Join JASNA-Southwest at the Festival of Books April 22-23

The nation's largest book festival, the *Los Angeles Times Festival of Books*, will be held April 22-23 on the University of Southern California's University Park Campus. For the seventh year, JASNA-Southwest will host a booth at the festival -- Booth 913, located in the center of campus, between Doheny Library and the Tommy Trojan statue.

Los Angeles Times
FESTIVAL
OF BOOKS
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The booth will feature a wide range of Austen novels, including Spanish translations, as well as Austen-related books and merchandise -- from totebags to t-shirts.

Authors of Austen-related books will be on hand to sign their works during the festival. Syrie James (*The Lost Memoirs of Jane Austen*, *The Missing Manuscript of Jane Austen* and *Jane Austen's First Love*) and Dori Salois (*Mrs. Bennet's Sentiments*) will sign copies of their books on Sunday. Check our [Facebook](#) page for updates.

Our own Emily Bergman has once again agreed to serve as coordinator for this event. But she can't do it alone.

We always need a team of volunteers to help staff the booth, and assist with setup and breakdown of the tent. You'll also have the opportunity to share your love of Jane Austen with like-minded visitors, or help introduce her to new ones. If you'd like to help, please email [Emily](#) and sign up as a volunteer. Indicate which day and which two-hour slot you are available: 10-noon, noon-2, 2-4, 4-closing. You're welcome to volunteer for multiple slots!

The [Expo Line](#) provides easy rail access to the festival. Use the Expo Park/USC exit.



Spring Meeting Set for Sunday, May 21

JASNA-Southwest has confirmed the date and location for our Spring 2017 Meeting. The event will be held on Sunday, May 21, from 1:30-4 p.m. at the [University Club of Pasadena](#), 175 North Oakland Avenue, Pasadena 91101. Note that this is on a Sunday instead of our usual Saturday meetings.

Our featured speaker is Dr. DiAnn Ellis, who will discuss "Historical, Cultural and Social Links from Jane Austen to *Downton Abbey*." Among the topics covered will be the British empire, landowners, the peerage, the entail, the real Highclere Castle/Chawton, entertainment, presentation at court, the London season, servants, the Industrial Revolution, the Buccaneers, the suffragette movement, fashionistas, war and much more. It promises to be an illuminating and engaging afternoon, with tea!

Mark your calendar and look for your registration email soon!

2017 AGM Update

Jane Austen in Paradise: Intimations of Immortality

By Erika Kotite

In a letter dated July 1817, Jane Austen's sister, Cassandra Austen, writes to her niece, "I have lost a treasure, such a Sister, such a friend as never can have been surpassed." Jane Austen's early death at the age of 41 might have closed the books on a lesser writer. That is not the case here.

This October, at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Twin Dolphins Way, a very special AGM-by-the-sea will show that no matter the year or the fashion, Jane Austen stands immortal. Come make haste to Huntington Beach, California, for a momentous and event-filled meeting.

Be sure to update your settings in the JASNA Member Portal! Stay current on JASNA and AGM news, including a notification that tells you the minute you can register online for this year's AGM. Simply log into the Member Portal, go to "View/Update My Profile" and, at the bottom of the page, select "Join the JASNA Email List" (selecting "JASNA Email and AGM Updates") and indicate that you do not want to receive a paper brochure. (Postage for AGM mailings costs thousands of dollars, an expense we can easily erase. Go paperless!)

Plenary Speakers



Gillian Dow

Gillian Dow, the Carol Medine Moss Keynote Lecturer, takes us on a journey through Austen's continued life in the imaginings and creations of latter-day artists. The executive director of Chawton House Library and an associate professor at the University of Southampton, Dow edited *Uses of Austen: Jane's Afterlives* with Clare Hanson in 2012. The book centers on how Austen's life and work is being re-framed and reimagined in 20th and 21st century literature and culture.



Devoney Looser

North American Scholar Lecture Devoney Looser's talk is titled "After Jane Austen." Her new book, *The Making of Jane Austen* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017) looks at the images, performances and people who made her an icon. Looser's essays have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The TLS*, *The Independent* and *Entertainment Weekly*. A professor of English at Arizona State University, Looser is the author or editor of six books on literature by women.



Richard Knight

Richard Knight is the great, great, great grandson of Jane Austen's brother Edward. They both inherited the Chawton Estate in Hampshire, England -- Edward in the 1780s and Richard 200 years later in a rather dilapidated state. Richard will talk about Chawton and its history with the Knight family since their ownership began in the 1580s, and Edward's extraordinary



Whit Stillman

Whit Stillman is the writer-director of five films, *Metropolitan*, *Barcelona*, *The Last Days of Disco*, *Damsels in Distress*, and the recent *Love and Friendship*. He is a longtime admirer of Jane Austen, and his work often includes allusions to her writing. His films and novels share many of the virtues he values in Jane Austen's work -- witty dialogue, sharp observation of

inheritance that enabled him to offer his mother and two sisters, Cassandra and Jane, accommodation in Chawton village in 1809.

character and mores. The AGM will feature a conversation between Stillman and Peter Graham, as well as a screening of *Love and Friendship*, based on Austen's *Lady Susan*.

New! Young Filmmakers Contest

[Entry forms and full guidelines](#) are now available for the new Young Filmmakers Contest. Deadline is July 21, 2017. Please help spread the word!

Students in high school, college or graduate school are eligible to compete. Judges will include film industry professionals as well as faculty from Southern California film schools, and up to three winners will be chosen in the three divisions. A "crowd favorite" award will be bestowed on the favorite submission selected by JASNA members. You'll have a chance to vote online or at the AGM.

Winning entrants will receive a small cash prize, a year's membership in JASNA and paid admission to the AGM on Friday, Oct. 6, when a special filmmakers dinner will honor their efforts. The top submissions will be screened at the AGM.

Works must be five minutes or less in duration, shot in widescreen format and adapted from or inspired by Jane Austen's writing or life, and relate in some way to the theme "Jane Austen in Paradise."

Central California Region Event: Music and Jane Austen

The JASNA Central California region is hosting an event, "Of All Things My Delight" – Music and Jane Austen, on April 8 from 2-4 p.m. in Fresno at the Vista Theater. The event will include a live concert and discussion of music from Jane Austen's era, as well as music that's been influenced by her work. For more info or tickets, visit the [JASNA Central California website](#).



Reading Groups

Sunday, April 2

Pasadena Area Reading Group

Sisters of Fortune by Jehanne Wake

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

Sunday, April 9, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

West Los Angeles Reading Group

Mansfield Park by Jane Austen

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

Saturday, April 15, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

San Gabriel Valley Reading Group

Matters of Fact in Jane Austen by Janine Barchas

Location: home of Alison Standley, Claremont

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

Saturday, April 15, 11:30 a.m.

Ventura Reading Group

Belle by Paula Byrne

Location: E.P. Forster Library, Ventura

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

Saturday, April 29, 1 p.m.

Westside/405 Reading Group

Forever Amber by Kathleen Winsor

Location: home of Syrie James

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

Sunday, April 30, 6 p.m.

Santa Monica Reading Group

Selected Letters of John Keats (based on the texts of Hyder Edward Rollins, Revised Edition)

Location: home of Diana Birchall

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

Saturday, May 20, 11:30 a.m.

Ventura Reading Group

Mansfield Park by Jane Austen

Location: E.P. Forster Library, Ventura

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

May TBD

Orange County Reading Group

Eligible: A Modern Retelling of Pride and Prejudice by Curtis Sittenfeld

Location: home of Jennifer Garcia, La Mirada

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

May TBD

Riverside Reading Group

Persuasion by Jane Austen

Location: home of Amy Sausser

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

Late May TBD

San Fernando Valley Reading Group

Sisters of Fortune by Jehanne Wake

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

San Diego Region

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.



Visit our website!



Stay Connected