



Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

## May 2017 Newsletter



### From *Downton Abbey* to Jane Austen: JASNA-Southwest's Spring 2017 Meeting

[Register now](#) for JASNA-Southwest's Spring Meeting, to be held Sunday, May 21, from 1:30-4 p.m. at the University Club of Pasadena, 175 N. Oakland Avenue 91101.

In an illustrated presentation, retired San Francisco State University professor and passionate student of British history Dr. DiAnn Ellis will discuss "Historical, Cultural and Social Links from Jane Austen to *Downton Abbey*." Learn more about the Regency era and explore how Austen's novels foreshadowed issues relevant more than a century later.

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.

Highclere Castle, which stands in for *Downton Abbey* in the television series, is located just 10 miles north of Steventon, Hampshire, where Jane Austen grew up.

We hope you can join us for what promises to be an enlightening afternoon. Cost is only \$25 and includes parking.

## 2017 Festival of Books

More than a thousand visitors stopped by the JASNA-Southwest booth at this year's *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books the weekend of April 22-23.

For the seventh year, JASNA-Southwest hosted a booth at the event -- the nation's largest book festival. Visitors were able to chat with other Austen aficionados while scoring a wide variety of Austen-related books and merchandise.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who stopped by, as well as to all of the volunteers who made the event such a big success. This was the largest turnout at the JASNA-SW booth in several years.

Special thanks go to Emily Bergman (left, with Regional Coordinator Cheryl Cole), who once again spearheaded this major volunteer effort. Congratulations to Emily and everyone who took part.

Los Angeles Times  
**FESTIVAL  
OF BOOKS**  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



### Book Signings

Visitors were able to meet and chat with authors such as Dori Salois (*Mrs. Bennet's Sentiments*), pictured above, while having their books signed.

Author Syrie James (above, right) signed copies of her books *The Lost Memoirs of Jane Austen*, *The Missing Manuscript of Jane Austen* and *Jane Austen's First Love*.



## 2017 AGM Update

Registration is expected to open in early June for this year's Annual General Meeting, being hosted by our very own region!

Registration information with a complete list of breakout sessions, tours and special events is going to press early in May. To be sure you stay informed, be sure to sign up for email notifications at the [JASNA AGM site](#). The site also takes you to hotel registration (open now) as well as information on local attractions, speakers, the hotel and much more. You must be a member of the national

JASNA organization to be eligible to register for the Annual General Meeting, so be sure your membership is up to date before the end of this month. Visit the membership page at [jasna.org](http://jasna.org) for more information.

The AGM steering committee is deeply grateful to the numerous generous donors who are helping make this year's AGM the best ever. If you would like to donate, we can still use additional funds for a variety of special programs. Just visit the [Give](#) page on our website.

We also still need your help spreading the word about the new Young Filmmakers Contest taking place for the first time this year. [Entry forms and full guidelines](#) are now available and the deadline is July 21.

And be on the lookout for a call for volunteers later this month!



## Jane Austen at 200

For the 200th anniversary of Austen's death, numerous commemorative events are taking place in Hampshire, England, where she spent most of her life. At the Jane Austen House Museum in Chawton (and online) you can explore the [Jane Austen in 41 Objects](#) exhibit – which features one artifact for each of the 41 years she lived, including her writing table and a muslin shawl she reputedly embroidered. [Jane Austen 200: A Life in Hampshire](#) highlights other events being held this year.



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### Reading Groups

Sunday, May 7

**South Bay Reading Group**

*Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen

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

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.

Saturday, May 20, 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, May 28

**Pasadena Area Reading Group**

*Hermsprong* by Robert Bage

This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact

[Susan Ridgeway](#), 626-357-1397.

Sunday, May 28

**San Fernando Valley Reading Group**

*Sisters of Fortune* by Jehanne Wake  
For more information, contact [Cheryl Cole](#), 310-422-5475.

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

**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.

Sunday, June 11, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

**West Los Angeles Reading Group**

*Daniel Deronda* by George Eliot

This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact

[Clara Browda](#), 310-278-8759.

Saturday, June 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**

"Evelyn," part of Jane Austen's *Juvenilia*

Location: Hill Street Library, Pasadena

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

Sunday, July 16, 1 p.m.

**Riverside Reading Group**

*Persuasion* by Jane Austen

Location: home of Amy Sausser

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

**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.



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