



Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

## July 2017 Newsletter



## Jane Austen 200th Anniversary

If you can't make it to England for the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's passing, we hope you enjoy some armchair travel to Hampshire and the author's last real home at Chawton Cottage. Check out our visual tour from a visit to [Jane Austen's House Museum and Chawton House](#) in April. And continue the celebration of the revered author this fall at the Annual General Meeting in Huntington Beach, Oct. 6-8, hosted by JASNA-Southwest. See the latest details on the AGM below.



*Austen's writing desk, at the museum in Chawton, Hampshire*

### AGM Update

Nearly 650 people have already registered for the Annual General Meeting being hosted by our region this October in Huntington Beach. Early [registration](#) ends July 14, so if you haven't already signed up to attend, be sure to register by this date for significant cost savings!

You won't want to miss this year's event. Not only is the AGM being held in an inspiring setting at the beautiful [Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort and Spa](#) (with direct access to the beach) but it also will feature an unprecedented number of breakout sessions and an incredible array of speakers and special interest events. Explore the [AGM website](#) to learn more.

Some of the special events -- including the wine and cheese event with Juliet McMaster and the 18th Century Printing demonstrations -- have already sold out. But a few spots remain for the following tours: a Day at the Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens (on Thursday, Oct. 5) (including the dedication of a new Jane Austen bench in the gardens); the post-conference Day in San Diego and San Juan Capistrano aboard three tall ships led by an expert guide on sailing in the Regency era (on Monday, Oct. 9); the sunset dinner cruise on Sunday, Oct. 8, aboard John Wayne's yacht, the *Wild Goose*; visits to the J. Paul Getty Museum or Hilbert/Bowers museums; and the post-conference tour of the Nixon Library and Birthplace. Visit the [AGM website](#) to learn more and if you want to add a tour or excursion to your already completed registration, email [AGMinParadise2017@gmail.com](mailto:AGMinParadise2017@gmail.com).



### Jane Austen UnScripted

Jane Austen wrote only six novels, but her wit and wisdom left readers pining for more. Impro Theatre's Jane Austen UnScripted gives audiences a chance to imagine the other books she might have written. The company deftly creates a world of love-struck girls, brooding noblemen and charming cads, and although hearts are sure to be broken, true love will win out in the end. It's not too late to book your spot for Thursday evening, Oct. 5, at the AGM. Either add the event to your [AGM registration](#) or if you have already registered, email [AGMinParadise2017@gmail.com](mailto:AGMinParadise2017@gmail.com). Cost is only \$30.



### Love & Friendship

Virginia Tech Professor Peter Graham will interview author and filmmaker Whit Stillman, touching upon his work as well as his particular regard for Jane Austen. The conversation will be capped by a screening of Stillman's film *Love & Friendship*, based on acclaimed adaptation of Austen's early novella *Lady Susan*.

The event will be held Friday, Oct. 6 from 8-11 p.m. and will be free to all registered attendees of the AGM. You won't want to miss this special evening!

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## Jane Austen Commemorative 2-pound Coin

The commemorative Jane Austen coin is now available from the Royal Mint in the UK.

The 2-pound coins will be released later this year into general circulation but collector's editions are now available and can be shipped to the U.S.

Learn more at the [Royal Mint](#) website.



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## Reading Is Good for Your Longevity!

From the Yale alumni magazine: "Although sedentary activities are not usually regarded as promoting health, a recent study by Yale researchers showed a significant link between book reading and longevity."



The study found that readers, regardless of health status, lived two years longer on average than nonreaders. While the scientists note that additional research is needed, reading involves two cognitive processes that provide a survival advantage -- the deep immersion required to absorb content and the "promotion of empathy, social perception and emotional intelligence."

So if you are not yet part of one of our Reading Groups, consider joining one today!



## Reading Groups

Sunday, July 2, 6 p.m.

**Santa Monica Reading Group** *The Poets' Daughters, Dora Wordsworth and Sara Coleridge* by Katie Waldegrave

Location: home of Diana Birchall

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

Sunday, July 9

**Pasadena Area Reading Group**

*The Belle's Stratagem* by Hannah Cowley

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

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

**Ventura Reading Group** *Cranford* by Elizabeth Gaskell

Location: E.P. Forster Library, Ventura

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

Saturday, July 15, 1 p.m.

**Westside/405 Reading Group**

*The Grand Sophy* by Georgette Heyer

Location: home of Syrie James

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

Sunday, July 16, 12:30 p.m.

**Orange County Reading Group**

*The Mysteries of Udolpho* by Ann Radcliffe

Location: private home, Dana Point

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

Sunday, July 16, 1 p.m.

**Riverside Reading Group**

*Persuasion* by Jane Austen

Location: home of Amy Sausser

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

Sunday, July 23, 2 p.m.

**San Fernando Valley Reading Group**

*The Duke's Children* by Anthony Trollope

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

Sunday, July 23, 2 p.m.

**South Bay Reading Group**

*Emma: A Modern Retelling*

by Alexander McCall Smith

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

Saturday, August 5, noon

**Long Beach Reading Group** *The Watsons, Sanditon and Lady Susan* by Jane Austen  
Location: Grounds Cafe, Long Beach  
For more information, contact [Sherwood Smith](#), 714-330-7856.

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

**West Los Angeles Reading Group**

*Daniel Deronda* by George Eliot (second half)

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

Saturday, August 26, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**

*Persuasion* (chapters 1-13) by Jane Austen

Location: Mt. San Antonio Gardens meeting room, 900 Harrison Avenue, Claremont  
Potluck

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

**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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