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Jane Austen in the News!

Buzzfeed recently ran a piece on "23 items perfect for a Jane Austen wedding."

"From Jane Austen to George RR Martin, the novella is making a comeback." from the Independent.

JASNA-SW Fall Meeting
Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 1, from 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the Donald Wright Auditorium in the Pasadena Central Library for JASNA-Southwest's Fall Meeting.

Registration information coming soon

The [Jane Austen Festival](http://jasna-southwest.org) attempted breaking the Guinness World Record on July 9 for most people in Regency attire gathered in one location.

Visit the [JASNA-Southwest website](http://jasna-southwest.org) for more about programs, reading groups and more. And look for our brand-new website coming later this summer!

Our guest speaker will be Robert Rodi, author of the *Bitch in a Bonnet* blog (and two books of the same name). He has authored nine novels, including *Baby* (2012) as well as numerous works of nonfiction. He currently is working on his first Austen-inspired fiction, which takes the three-page *Edgar and Emma* Austen wrote in her teens and expands it into a full-length comedy of manners.

Here's a taste of his perspective -- from his "manifesto" that inspired his blog on Austen:

"Jane Austen was -- is -- a sly subversive, a clear-eyed social Darwinist, and the most unsparing satirist of her century. She's wicked, arch, and utterly merciless. She skewers the pompous, the pious, and the libidinous with the animal glee of a natural-born sadist. She takes
sharp, swift swipes at the social structure and leaves it, not lethally wounded, but shorn of it prettifying garb, its flabby flesh exposed in all its naked grossness. And then she laughs.

"Despite her admittedly limited palette, her psychological acuity easily matches Shakespeare's, and her wit as well; like him, she's also violently allergic to sentimentality of any stripe. ... Her tongue could kill at twenty paces.

"How did someone whose vision is so darkly, even bleakly, comic -- whose work brims with vicious, gabbling grotesques, most of whom are never adequately (or even minimally) punished for their sins (as Dickens, not so many years later, felt compelled to punish his) -- become the patron saint of the turgid, chest-heaving, emotionally pornographic genre called 'Regency Romance'?

"I don't know, and I don't care. I only care to stop it -- to fire the opening salvo that will, I hope, ignite the barrage of indignation that brings this travesty to a halt and restores, once and for all, the spit and vinegar to Jane Austen's public profile, raising her to the pantheon of gadflies that she might take her place beside Voltaire and Swift, Twain and Mencken. My goal is to make the world acknowledge, at long last, the bitch in the bonnet."

Reading Groups
Upcoming Meetings/Info
Our fledgling new Riverside group; new members welcome!

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

Sunday, August 7, 6 p.m.
**Santa Monica Reading Group**
*Blood Upon the Snow* by Hilda Lawrence
For more information, contact Diana Birchall, 310-394-2196.

Saturday, August 13, 12:30 p.m.
**Long Beach Reading Group**
*Clarissa: Or the History of a Young Lady* (letters 1-257) by Samuel Richardson
For more information, contact Gerda Kilgore, 562-496-4452.

Sunday, August 14, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
**West Los Angeles Reading Group**
*Emma* by Jane Austen
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.

The Westside/405 Reading Group is accepting new members. See below.

Saturday, August 20, 1:30 p.m.
**Westside/405 Reading Group**
*The Making of a Marchioness* and *The Methods of Lady Walderhurst* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Location: home of Syrie James
The group will hold a tea as part of the
Sunday, September 11, 2-4 p.m.
**South Bay Reading Group**

*What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew* by Daniel Pool

New and returning members are welcome.

For more information, contact *Karen Berk*, 310-477-6753.

Saturday, September 17, 11:30 a.m.

**Ventura Reading Group**

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

*The Romance of the Forest* by Ann Radcliffe

*Jane Austen's Letters (Deirdre Le Faye, ed.): Letters 130-145*

For more information, contact *Jeanine Holguin*, 805-444-8999.

Sunday, September 18, 12:30 p.m.

**Orange County Reading Group**

"Painting Jane Austen's Emma"

Hands-on painting workshop, guided by Annmarie Thomas

*Location: Home of Viki Barie*

For more information, contact *Viki Barie*, 714-309-6702, or *Annmarie Thomas*.

Sunday, September 18, 2-4 p.m.

**San Fernando Valley Reading Group**

*Emma* by Jane Austen

For more information, contact *Cheryl Cole*, 310-422-5475.

*Additional Reading Groups*

**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 more information, contact San Diego JASNA.
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!