



Jane Austen Society of North America Southwest December 2016 Newsletter



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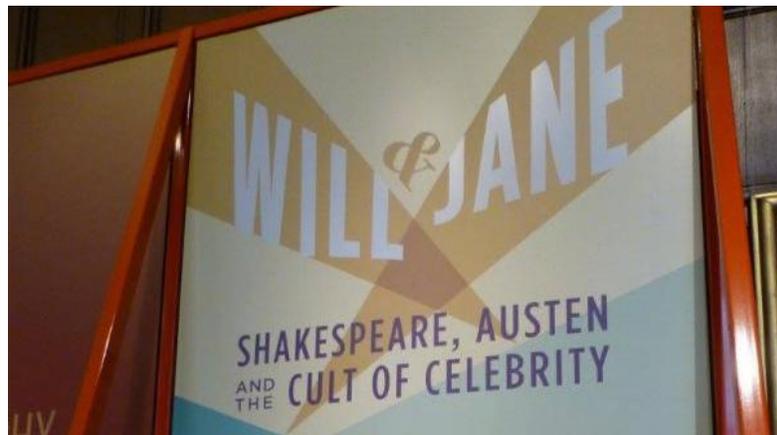
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Jane Austen in the News!



The Jane Austen Society told [The Guardian](#) there is no evidence that Wentworth Woodhouse served as the inspiration for Pemberley.

JASNA-SW Winter Meeting Preview



We look forward to seeing you on Dec.
3 at our Winter Meeting!

Will and Jane:

Learn what two of the most popular authors of all time have in common.

Coffee, Continental Breakfast



[The Wall Street Journal](#) recently published a piece on seven women writers who deserve shelf space next to Austen.

Join Our Mailing List!



Visit the [JASNA-Southwest](#) website for more about programs, reading groups and more.

And look for our brand-new website coming soon!

and Shopping:
9-10 a.m.

Program:
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Luminarias Restaurant
3500 W. Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park CA 91754

Free parking adjacent to restaurant.

Don't forget our **White Elephant Sale**.
Members are invited to donate books and other items of interest to JASNA-SW members.
Proceeds will support JASNA-SW.

Speakers:

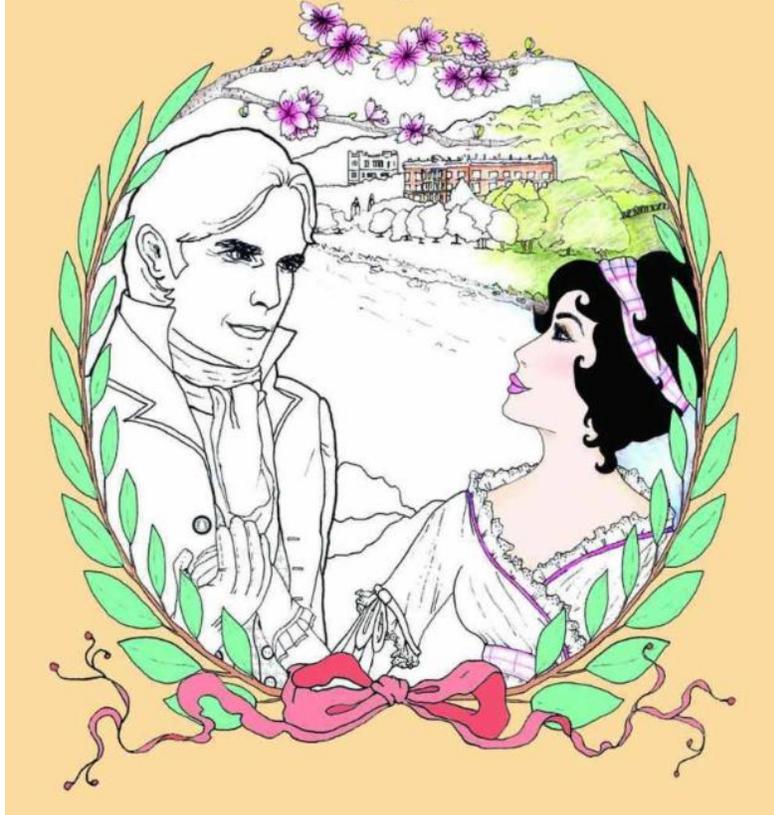
Janine Barchas -- *Will and Jane*
University of Texas at Austin
Co-curator of the exhibition "Will & Jane: Shakespeare, Austen, and the Cult of Celebrity" at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.
Author of *Graphic Design, Print Culture, and the Eighteenth-Century Novel* and *Matters of Fact in Jane Austen: History, Location, and Celebrity*

Sarah Raff -- Comparing
Mansfield Park to
Measure for Measure
Pomona College
Author of *Jane Austen's Erotic Advice* and the forthcoming *Author-Guardians in the English Novel*

**Q&A with
Molly Maguire**

The
PRIDE and PREJUDICE

Coloring Book



JASNA-Southwest member Molly Maguire and her daughter, Kate Silverman, recently created the *The Pride and Prejudice Coloring Book*, and Molly will be on hand at the Winter Meeting to sign and sell her book. Here, she shares some of her thoughts on developing the book.

How long did it take you to produce the Pride and Prejudice Coloring Book?

MM: It took us two and a half years. We were planning my daughter Kate's wedding at the same time!

What were some of your inspirations?

MM: We modeled Elizabeth's face and expressions after my mother's. She was a Powers model in New York City during World War II and had a long modeling career. This turned into a three-generational tribute to Jane Austen. All three of us have been lifelong readers of her works.

How did you come up with the illustrations?

MM: They are all drawn free-hand and about half are based on original concepts, while the rest borrow from (but tweak, combine and re-dress) early *Pride and Prejudice* illustrations and other sources. Kate did all the costume research and confirmed and expanded upon other research for Regency interiors and exteriors. She is currently in the Public Affairs MBA program of the University of Colorado with a focus on museum management. Her hobby is hand-sewing historical costumes with authentic fabrics.

What was your biggest discovery in working on the book?

MM: I was actually amazed at the range, depth and variety of emotions Elizabeth goes through -- many of which I chose to draw. She's an extremely emotional person, full of enthusiasms, quick to anger (and then quick to mostly humorous resolution). She's also shy, embarrassed, hidden, skeptical, reactionary, protective, loving, bitter, warm, witty, devastated, ashamed, prideful -- oh my gosh, she runs the whole gamut! This was the greatest gift and source of wonder as we worked through the book.

What else did you learn in the process?

MM: I hadn't realized until I did this little book that the story takes place across a calendar year, so I did my best to emphasize the seasons.

Board Nominations

At our December 3 Winter Meeting, members will vote on the following 2017 JASNA-Southwest board nominations:

Regional Coordinator--Cheryl Cole
Secretary--Jay Scholl Bohlen
Treasurer/Meeting Concierge--Sonya Samuels
Membership/Meeting Concierge--Carol Krause
Newsletter/Webmaster/Social Media--Susie Wampler

Program Planners--Jan Fahey and Lynda Hall
Event Planner--Glenda Pinney
Press Liaison--Brittany Gash
Festival of Books Coordinator--Emily Bergman
Past Regional Coordinator--Nancy Gallagher
Assistant Treasurer--vacant
Archivist--vacant
Education Outreach--vacant

Board Advisors:

Claire Bellanti

Diana Birchall

Erika Kotite

Terry Ryan

Carla Washburn

Contact [Cheryl Cole](#) for more information.

2017 AGM Preview



by Erika Kotite

Whit Stillman Joins the Roster

The 2017 AGM in Huntington Beach is proud to present Whit Stillman, who will provide insights into his journey through reading Austen as well as some choice details about the making of the film *Love and Friendship* and its companion novel, *Lady Susan: In Which Jane Austen's Lady Susan Is Entirely Vindicated*.

A few years ago, Whit Stillman sent out a

tweet expressing his interest in writing a novel built around Austen's *Lady Susan*. An assistant at Little, Brown, and Company saw it, replied, and the rest is history.

Like others before him, Stillman came to Jane Austen half-dragged and fully skeptical. The American writer-director known for *Metropolitan* and *The Last Days of Disco*, read *Northanger Abbey* as a freshman at Harvard and declared it "overrated." However, a second chance with *Sense and Sensibility* at his sister's urging tilted him back to the enlightened side. Now, with the critically acclaimed film and companion novel notched on his belt, Stillman faces the logical next step in his career as a seasoned Austenophile: a JASNA AGM featured speaker.

Pre-Conference: The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens

Because it is a well-known truth that if "adventures do not befall us in our own village, we must seek them abroad," we have fashioned a pre-conference excursion that will suit in every way. Thursday's trip to one of Southern California's pre-eminent cultural centers promises a day of discoveries about Austen's life, tastes and influences.

- Huntington President Laura Skandera Trombley, an expert on Mark Twain, will address the American humorist's putative disdain for Jane Austen.
- The Huntington's Director of Education and UC Riverside History Professor Catherine Allgor, a leading authority on first ladies, will speak about the political and social status of women in 18th century England and America.
- California Institute of Technology Dean of Students Kevin Gilmartin, who specializes in social and political developments in British literature and print culture, will guide visitors through the Huntington's collection of Austen-related books and letters, assembled by archivist Stephen Tabor.
- Huntington docent Jane Uffleman will lead

visitors on a tour of portraits that Jane Austen saw at a retrospective of the works of Sir Joshua Reynolds at the British Institution in Pall Mall, London in 1813, including the majestic "Sarah Siddons as the Tragic Muse."

New Garden Bench

And as a singular honor to Jane Austen, the Huntington Library has graciously underwritten the costs of a new garden bench, to be inscribed with an observation she made about gardens. We will be present at the dedication ceremony, which will take place in the late afternoon.

Reading Groups Upcoming Meetings/Info



The new Riverside Reading Group

Saturday, December 10, 1 p.m.

Westside/405 Reading Group

Evelina by Fanny Burney

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

Sunday, December 11, 5 p.m.

Santa Monica Reading Group

The Six: The Lives of the Mitford Sisters by
Laura Thompson

Location: home of Diana Birchall

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

Saturday, December 17, noon

Long Beach Reading Group

Bitch in a Bonnet by Robert Rode (*Pride and Prejudice* commentary)

Annual Jane Austen birthday tea

For more information, contact [Gerda Kilgore](#), 562-496-4452.

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

West Los Angeles Reading Group

The History of England 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.

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

South Bay Reading Group

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

New and returning members are welcome.

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

Sunday, January 29

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, February 26, 2-4 p.m.

Riverside Reading Group

First Congregationalist Church

3504 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside

Emma: A Modern Retelling by Alexander McCall Smith

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.

In Memoriam
Claire Merrill O'Connell
13 April 1931 - 24 July 2016

By Diana Birchall

Claire Merrill O'Connell was a founding member of JASNA-SW and an early officer of the group. Born in Utah in 1931, she was raised in Phoenix, the daughter of a prominent surgeon. She met her husband and love of her life, Richard "ROC" O'Connell, in 1950, at Stanford, where he studied psychology and she history. Her husband taught psychology at Cal State Northridge (CSUN) and Claire taught English at Santa Monica College. ROC predeceased Claire by 20 years. They are survived by their children, Caroline, Dan and Katie, son-in-law Bill, grandchildren Josh, Tim and Ben, as well as other beloved relations and cats.

Claire was a true Janeite, an active member of JASNA and passed her love of Jane Austen on to her daughter Katie. She attended many meetings of JASNA-SW and volunteered in many ways, including always taking Anita Fielding, our first newsletter editor, to meetings in Anita's older years. It was Claire who first warmly welcomed me to JASNA-SW and took my membership check when I first joined, around 1980. Through the years she was always an exceptionally supportive friend and wise adviser, but also with a great sense of fun. One of my own happiest memories of Claire was of going up to the top of Pike's Peak with her and her son, at the JASNA-AGM in Colorado Springs in 1999. Her delight was infectious and it was indeed a peak moment.

Claire had a wide-ranging intellect with many interests. She enjoyed following politics (was an enthusiastic Obama supporter), had an interest in Antarctic explorers (favoring Amundsen) and, after her husband died, she joined the CSUN Arts Council, served as president and received an Honorary Life Award. From 1976 to 2014 she traveled yearly to the Oregon Shakespeare festival with friends.

Claire was known for her love and generosity, and will be warmly remembered by her friends in JASNA. Two Jane Austen quotes were most aptly mentioned in her memorial. The first describes her marriage:

"There could have been no two hearts so open, no

tastes so similar, no feelings so in unison."
Jane Austen, *Persuasion*

And this quote about friendship, which sums up her character well:

"There is nothing I would not do for those who are really my friends. I have no notion of loving people by halves, it is not my nature."
Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey*

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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!

