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# Jane Austen Society of North America Southwest
July 2016 Newsletter

**Jane Austen Banknote Concept**

Although the British pound has taken a bit of a beating since the Brexit vote, its value is sure to increase in 2017 with the much-anticipated release of the Jane Austen note!

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### Jane Austen in the News!

#### Jane Austen Weekends in Vermont

Weekends in Vermont will present the final installments of Series 9 on *Persuasion* September 9-11, 2016, and January 6-8, 2017. An

#### 2017 AGM Update

In anticipation of our 2017 AGM, here's our own Buzzfeed-style list (courtesy of Erika Kotite) of why you should mark your calendars for October 6-8, 2017.

#6 The Huntington's. Henry E. Huntington was a railroad magnate hailing from Oneonta, New York, who also happened to be a collector of art and rare
In Character Weekend is coming August 5-7, with Series 10 on *Pride and Prejudice* beginning in January 2017.

"10 of the best lines from *Pride and Prejudice* and what they can teach us," from the *Independent*.

Bill Maher turned to Austen to explain Britain's vote to leave the European Union. "They voted for *Pride and Prejudice* over *Sense and Sensibility*."

Tickets are now on sale for the production of *Sense and Sensibility* at the Old Globe theatre in San Diego (run is July 6-August 14).

#5 The Sea. A natural phenomenon makes the city's 9.5 mile stretch of sandy beach recipient to some of the world's most glorious surf waves, contributing to the city's official title as "Surf City." The water in October is a bracing 64.5-degree average -- brisk and invigorating! Your stay will be punctuated by delightful vistas of surf, surfers and sunshine.

#4 The Hyatt. You saw Jane Austen herself sampling the warm bathwaters and spa services at Huntington Beach's famed Hyatt Regency Resort and Spa. The hotel is designed in a Spanish-inspired style with generous-sized rooms, some with an unparalleled view of the ocean. Sitting high above Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), the hotel is an oasis unto itself. Outstanding restaurants, organic and rejuvenating spa treatments, a large pool with poolside café service and easy access to the beach via an over-PCH bridge make staying here a true vacation.

#3 The Theme. "Jane Austen in Paradise: Intimations of Immortality" -- what does this mean? Our theme this year is an incredibly exciting one, as it allows us to explore the depth and breadth of Austen's influence on many facets of modern culture. With the beach and the sunshine as an enjoyable backdrop, we will be treated to important, provocative ideas from some of the best minds in literature, academia, theatre and digital media. This is the first time that Austen's enduring influence on modern civilization will be studied in such a holistic way.

#2 The Activities. Woven throughout the program will be opportunities to explore this beautiful, laid-back corner of Orange County. If you ever wish to leave the Hyatt, a short bicycle ride or shuttle takes you to historic downtown Huntington Beach. Sip coffee or an ice-cold beer outside, get addicted to acai bowls and walk the pier like a local. Pre- and post-conference
activities include trips to the Huntington Library and the tall ships of San Diego Harbor, among many others.

#1 For Jane Austen. On this 200th year of Austen leaving this mortal plane to promenade the spa rooms of Paradise, we've created a world swathed in sand and sea that allows us to feel that she is once again here with us -- indeed, that she has never left. You will certainly sense her spirit of playfulness, of true regard for a life well lived, in the environs of Huntington Beach. We daresay that she has taken up residence in this bright and sunny place, just as she has in each of our minds and hearts.

2017 AGM Volunteer News

The Washington, D.C. AGM was an immediate sellout! Will you be attending? If so, the JASNA Southwest Promotions & Publicity Committee needs you! Please contact Erika Kotite to discover how you can take part in our own AGM 2017 publicity campaign during the D.C. AGM this October.

The next AGM Steering Committee meeting on Saturday, July 16, will focus on Special Events, tours and program activities. What have you most enjoyed at past AGMs? Dance classes, millinery workshops? We would love your input regarding exciting events that highlight our unique Southern California lifestyle and/or further our theme -- Jane Austen in Paradise/Intimations of Immortality. Please contact Nancy Gallagher to share your thoughts.

Dear Jane Project
JASNA-Southwest is pleased to help spread the word about the Dear Jane Project, which aims to bring a community of Jane Austen lovers together. It is a way for fans from all over the world to share their stories and connect with others to celebrate the beloved author.

We received the following from the project's creator, Gabrielle Lesage:

You may submit a sentence, a letter, an essay or other written piece in which you wish to express how Jane Austen has affected your life. It is a way to pay tribute to one of history's timeless authors.

I had the idea for this project when I wrote a piece about why Jane is so important to me. I wanted to hear other people's stories and what their thoughts and feelings were.

If you are interested in participating, submit your story to dearjaneproject@gmail.com. Submitted texts will be uploaded to a blog. You may include your name and country or remain anonymous. There is no compensation for submitting a post; rather, this free project allows fans to share their stories and create a community with people around the world.

Each one of us has a story, and my goal is for us all to be able to share them. I think it is a great way to commemorate the life of Jane Austen as we approach the 200th anniversary of her death.
What would you write to Jane?

Reading Groups
Upcoming Meetings/Info

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

Saturday, July 16, 11:30 a.m.
**Ventura Reading Group**
Location: E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura, California 93001
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
*Jane Austen's Letters* (Deirdre Le Faye, ed.): Letters 1-7 and 70-80.
For more information, contact [Linda Terry](mailto:Linda.Terry@805-302-0855).

Sunday, July 17, 12:30 p.m.
**Orange County Reading Group**
Alfresco reading of Tracy Neis’ play *Box Hill Picnic*, complete with lemonade and fresh strawberries
Location: TriCity Park, Fullerton
For more information, contact Viki Barie, 714-309-6702.

Sunday, July 17
**Pasadena Area Reading Group**
*Miss Bunce’s Book* by D. E. Stevenson
This group is at capacity and cannot accept members. Current members may contact Susan Ridgeway, 626-357-1397, for information on upcoming meetings.

*The San Gabriel Valley Reading Group is accepting new members. Contact Kelly Dui, 909-967-6630.*

Sunday, July 17, 1 p.m.
**NEW Riverside Reading Group**
*Emma* by Jane Austen; *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld
Location: Home of Cristi Hendry
For more information, contact Cristi Hendry.

Sunday, July 17, 2-4 p.m.
**San Fernando Valley Reading Group**
*The Prime Minister* by Anthony Trollope
For more information, contact Cheryl Cole, 310-422-5475.

Sunday, July 24, 2-4 p.m.
**South Bay Reading Group**
*Lady Susan* by Jane Austen
The film *Love and Friendship* also will be discussed.
New and returning members are welcome.
For more information, contact Jeanine Holguin, 805-444-8999.

Saturday, July 30, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**
*Middlemarch*, by George Eliot
Location: MSAG meeting room in Claremont
The group will host a potluck lunch.
For more information, contact Kelly Dui, 909-967-6630.
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.

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

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 Jeanine Holguin, 805-444-8999.

**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 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!

[Like us on Facebook]