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Jane Austen in the News!

The LifeHouse Theater in Redlands is staging a musical version of *Pride and Prejudice*.

JASNA-SW Winter Meeting: Reading in the Time of Jane Austen

**Saturday, Dec. 5**

**UCLA**

*The Circulating Library in Scarborough circa 1818*
Reading was an important pastime in Jane Austen's time and "suitable" reading was considered an excellent form of improvement for women. Indeed, reading was often the only source of education for a woman. Though the Bennet sisters lacked fashionable accomplishments, Elizabeth Bennet tells Lady Catherine that "we were always encouraged to read" and clearly the same was true of Austen herself and her sister, Cassandra. Mr. Darcy also asserts that a truly accomplished woman must engage in "the improvement of her mind by extensive reading." Join JASNA-Southwest at UCLA on Saturday, Dec. 5 as we learn all about reading during the Regency period, from circulating libraries to developments in book design, and also explore how reading Jane Austen can be a healing experience for us today.

Register here for our Winter Meeting at UCLA, set for Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Registration Fees:
$60  JASNA-Southwest Members
$75  Non-Members
$45  Students with ID
Presentations:

Claire Bellanti
"You Can Get a Parasol at Whitby's": Circulating Libraries in Jane Austen's Time
This presentation is an illustrated talk about an 18th century social institution that was very important to Jane Austen in her own life and her fiction, the Circulating Library. Claire will give us a brief history of the circulating library and citations from Austen's novels and letters to explain the centrality of the circulating library and other forms of sharing books in Regency England.

Emily Bergman and Alice Bergman
Bibliotherapy and Healing: "What Would Elizabeth Bennet Do?"
Reading is a healing experience and that experience is the core of Bibliotherapy, an expressive therapy that uses the patient's relationship to the content of books to assist with the resolution of complex problems. The treatment is based on the human inclination to identify with others as expressed in literature. In this presentation, which include audience participation, Alice and Emily will show us how "Pride and Prejudice" is used in therapy to assist patients and positively impact lives.

Rand Boyd
Pressman and Bookbinder: A Look at 18th Century Book Design and Printing
Rand Boyd, coordinator of Special Collections and Archives at Chapman University, will provide a broad overview of the developments in book layout, ornamentation and typography in North America and England during the 18th century. This special presentation will focus specifically on the novel.

Report from the 2015 AGM

The 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Jane Austen Society of North America, held in Louisville, Kentucky, was reportedly the best attended in the history of the AGM. (Perhaps we can break that record when we host the 2017 AGM in Huntington Beach!) Some 20 JASNA-Southwest members attended this year’s gathering.

Courtesy of our own Nancy Gallagher—who is spearheading our 2017 AGM effort—a few highlights of the Louisville conference were the following:

Regency Ball
A larger than ever crowd of dancers attended the Saturday evening Regency Ball, dressed in elegant period attire.
Attendees of the 2015 Regency Ball (photo courtesy Cheryl Cole)

The Kentucky Bourbon Lecture at Locust Grove
Locust Grove was the circa 1792 Georgian mansion of William and Lucy Clark Croghan, who welcomed a generation of American luminaries to the estate, including Presidents James Monroe and Andrew Jackson, John James Audubon, Cassius Marcellus Clay, and William Clark (nephew of the Lewis and Clark explorer), among many other notable figures of the day.

Pre-conference tour of Claiborne Farm
Conference attendees had the opportunity to visit the world-renowned Kentucky thoroughbred horse farm, which has bred such Triple Crown winners as Whirlaway, Gallant Fox, and Secretariat. Guests were allowed to pet several multimillion-dollar winning racehorses now let out to stud at exorbitant prices. They also visited the Keeneland racetrack, where they attended the Fall Race Meeting and enjoyed lunch on the fourth floor of the track building, with a panoramic view of the racetrack.
Plenary speakers
Inger Brody "Making Sense of Sensibility in Jane Austen's World"

Amanda Vickery "No Happy Ending? At Home with Miss Bates in Georgian England"

Rachel Brownstein "Age of Caricature"

Emporium
Most felt that the Emporium was the best ever, filling two rooms with vendors selling books, costumes, and every other Jane Austen or Regency paraphernalia you could imagine, including our own Suzi Oberman's lovely handmade earrings and other accoutrements.
Our 2017 AGM table in the emporium (photo courtesy of Cheryl Cole)

Riverboat cruise
Many attendees also enjoyed the Sunday night dinner riverboat cruise on the Belle of Louisville.

Preview of the 2017 AGM
At the Sunday brunch, Nancy Gallagher and Cheryl Cole presented a delightful promotional video created by Erika Kotite, starring Zabrina McIntyre and Kit Pearson. Look for it, coming soon, to our AGM website.

Reading Groups
Upcoming Meetings/Info

ANNOUNCEMENT:
A new South Bay Reading Group has formed! The first meeting will be on Sunday, January 10 in Redondo Beach. See details below.

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

Sunday, November 8, 2-4 p.m.
San Fernando Valley Reading Group
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See
Host: Nina Nazarian
Discussion leader: Brittany Gash
For more information, email Cheryl Cole or call her at 310-422-5475.
Sunday, November 8, 5 p.m.
**Santa Monica Reading Group**
*The Daisy Chain* by Charlotte M. Yonge
For more information, email Diana Birchall or call her at 310-394-2196.

Sunday, November 15, 1:30 p.m.
**Long Beach Reading Group**
*The Janeites* by Rudyard Kipling
For more information, email Gerda Kilgore or call her at 562-496-4452.

Sunday, November 15, 12:30 p.m.
**Orange County Reading Group**
Jane Austen's Game Day
For more information, email Annmarie Thomas or call her at 949-487-7028.

Saturday, November 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**
Location: MSAG meeting room, Claremont
Book: TBD
For more information, email Kelly Duir or call her at 909-967-6630.

Sunday, December 13, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
**West Los Angeles Reading Group**
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
Discussion leader: Dr. Charles Lynn Batten
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may email Clara Browda or call her at 310-278-8759 for more information on upcoming meetings.
A second Westside Reading Group has formed! To get on the mailing list, email Karen Berk or call her at 310-477-6753.

Sunday, January 10, 2-4 p.m.
**South Bay Reading Group (NEW!)**
*The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things* by Paula Byrne
Location: Redondo Beach (email/call for address)
This will be the first meeting of the new South Bay reading group! To RSVP or for more information, email Jeanine Holquin or call her at 805-444-8999.

Sunday, January 17, 12:30 p.m.
**Orange County Reading Group**
Emma by Jane Austen
For more information, email Annmarie Thomas or call her at 949-487-7028.

Saturday, January 30, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
San Gabriel Valley Reading Group
Location: Lamanda Library, 140 S. Altadena Drive, Pasadena
Book: TBD
For more information, email Kelly Duir or call her at 909-967-6630.

Sunday, February 21, 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
West Los Angeles Reading Group
Shirley by Charlotte Bronte
Discussion leader: Dr. Charles Lynn Batten
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may email Clara Browda or call her at 310-278-8759 for more information on upcoming meetings.

Additional Reading Groups
Pasadena Area Reading Group
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may email Susan Ridgeway or call her at 626-357-1397 for information on upcoming meetings.
The San Gabriel Valley Reading Group is accepting members. Email Kelly Duir or call her at 909-967-6630.

Riverside County Reading Group
Meetings are held at the Temecula Public Library, 30600 Pauba Road, Temecula, in Community Room B. For more information, email Rebecca Weersing or call her at 951-595-7046.

Ventura Reading Group
The group usually meets on the third Saturday of every month at 11:30 a.m. in the E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura, California 93001, 805-648-2715.

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,
email Jeanne Talbot or call her at 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!