Jane Austen in the News!

"The real reason Jane Austen never married," according to BBC History Magazine.

Join Us for the JASNA-SW Winter Meeting

Will and Jane:
Learn what two of the most popular authors of all time have in common.

Join us on
Saturday, December 3
Registration/Coffee/
"These real-life Jane Austen-inspired vacation spots need to go on your bucket list ASAP," from verilymag.com.

The Valley Area English Regency Society welcomes JASNA-SW members to its Third Sunday English Regency Dancing program in Pasadena on Nov. 20 from 1:30-5:30 p.m. The event will include light refreshments, conversation and Regency dancing, including a Cotillion. Suggested donation is $8, and bringing a snack to share is appreciated. Costumes admired but never required. No experience or partner required.

Continental Breakfast/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

Registration email coming soon!
$65 -- JASNA-Southwest members
$80 -- Nonmembers
$45 -- Students with ID

We also will hold a 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
Barchas joined the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin, and previously taught at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. She recently co-curated the exhibition "Will & Jane: Shakespeare, Austen, and the Cult of Celebrity" at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. In 2013, she unveiled the first installment of the "What Jane Saw" website, which offers digital reconstructions of two Georgian museum blockbusters as they looked to Austen in 1796 and 1813. Her books include Graphic Design, Print Culture, and the Eighteenth-Century Novel (Cambridge University Press, 2003) -- which won the SHARP book prize -- and Matters of Fact in Jane Austen: History, Location, and Celebrity (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012).
Sarah Raff -- Comparing Mansfield Park to Measure for Measure

Raff is an associate professor of English at Pomona College. Her scholarship seeks to define how authors foresee and shape their influence upon readers. Her first book, *Jane Austen’s Erotic Advice* (Oxford University Press, 2014), interprets didacticism as a seductive rhetorical mode and shows how Austen's narrators use didactic speech-acts to elicit readerly devotion. Her current book-in-progress, supported recently with grants from the Lewis Walpole Library and the Huntington Library, tracks the rise of the novel in England against the cultural and legal history of guardianship. Tentatively called *Author-Guardians in the English Novel*, it identifies a strand of novels running from the 18th century to the end of the 19th century in which fictional guardian/ward interactions prefigure novelist/reader relations.
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.

Beyond the Bonnet
Fall Meeting Recap
A record number of members and guests attended JASNA-Southwest's Fall 2016 Meeting, "Beyond the Bonnet," on October 1 at the Pasadena Central Library. Guest speaker Robert Rodi, author of the Bitch in a Bonnet blog and books, enthralled the audience with his witty enthusiasm for Austen and deep engagement with her works.

He began by sharing his inspiration for the blog, which began with the 2005 film version of Pride and Prejudice starring Keira Knightley. "I think it is fair to say I did not like this movie," he said. "So much about it just alarmed me. Lady Catherine de Bourgh showing up at Longbourn in the middle of the night. Lizzy and Darcy being pelted by rain on the moor like they're Heathcliff and
What troubled him most of all, he said, was the reduction of Austen's dialogue. "To me, Jane is all about the language," he said. "It is the weapon that she wields against society. In this movie, it was just completely flattened out."

He compared dialogue from the novel to its transformed lines in the film. One example he shared was the scene when Charlotte informs Lizzy she has accepted Mr. Collins' proposal of marriage. First, he quoted from the novel: "Why should you be surprised, dear Eliza? Do you think it incredible that Mr. Collins should be able to procure any woman's good opinion because he was not so happy as to succeed with you?" And then from the film: "Don't judge me, Lizzy. Don't you dare judge me."

Rodi told the audience that he is usually able to shrug off a film adaptation of a favorite novel that doesn't please him. "In this case that was impossible because, in the ensuing weeks, I kept seeing reviews saying, 'Finally, someone has captured the spirit of Austen.' I could not let it pass," he recalled.

"In Jane Austen, we have one of the great social satirists of all time. Because she was a woman, living in a time when marriage was the only means by which a woman could alter the condition of her life, that's what she wrote about. To call her, for that
reason, a writer of romances is the kind of cloddish thinking that she would take relish in eviscerating," he added.

"Despite her admittedly limited palette, her psychological acuity easily matches Shakespeare's, and her wit as well," he wrote in the "manifesto" that serves as an introduction to his blog.

At first, he began writing a book to support his thesis that Austen is actually the most unsparing social satirist of her century. Eventually he came up with the idea of doing a blog. He started with *Sense and Sensibility* and would re-read a few chapters and then post about them, trying "to make them as amusing as possible."

He struggled the most with *Mansfield Park*, his least favorite of Austen's works, and his posts became longer and longer as he justified his concerns about heroine Fanny Price. "This is where what started as a six-month project turned into a five-year project," he said. His favorite Austen novels, he told the crowd, are *Pride and Prejudice* ("I know I am not alone
(there.) and Northanger Abbey, which he likes to envision being performed entirely by members of the Monty Python troupe.

After finishing the blog in 2014 and collecting the essays into two self-published volumes, Rodi found he missed "being in the Austen sphere." He decided to return to the canon but do something different. "I wanted to try a novel, but not a sequel or prequel. I really love her Juvenilia. It's hilarious. It really gives you a sense of what a firebrand she was as a youth." So he took one of her early farces, the four-page Edgar and Emma, and turned it into a full-length comedy of manners in his best approximation of her style. He plans to publish the novel in December 2016.

Also at the Fall Meeting, member Susan Ridgeway demonstrated various methods of wearing the new silk scarves commissioned by JASNA-Southwest to promote the 2017 AGM our region is hosting next October.

The scarves are available as gifts with a minimum $30 donation to the 2017 AGM. They come in navy or a creamy yellow. Contact Nancy Gallagher for details.
Susan Ridgeway

Attendees at the 2016 Fall Meeting
Youngest attendee, J.J., who came with his mother, Marguerite Martins

2016 AGM Highlights

More than 800 people, including numerous JASNA-Southwest members, attended the 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Jane Austen Society of North America.
Society of North America, held in Washington, D.C., Oct. 19-22 and featuring the theme Emma at 200, "No One But Herself."

**Plenary speakers** Bharat Tandon
Labours Not Her Own: Emma and the Invisible World

Susan Allen Ford
Not What You Would Think Anything Of: Robert Martin and Harriet Smith

Juliette Wells
The 1816 Philadelphia Emma: A Forgotten Edition and Its Readers

**Will & Jane exhibition at the Folger Shakespeare Library**

This wonderful exhibit was a particular highlight for many conference attendees.
Stephen Fry’s student copy (circa 1977) of Mansfield Park, with his annotations (part of the Will & Jane exhibition at the Folger Shakespeare Library)

The Will & Jane exhibition also featured "The Shirt" from the 1995 adaptation of Pride and Prejudice, with Colin Firth and Jennifer Ehle

Regency Ball and attendee costumes
One attendee had this Clueless-inspired outfit specially made.

**Preview of the 2017 AGM**

At the Sunday brunch, 2017 AGM Coordinator Nancy Gallagher, Regional Coordinator Cheryl Cole and a flashmob of JASNA-SW members presented the delightful promotional
video created by Erika Kotite, encouraging attendees to come to Huntington Beach, Calif., next October for our very own AGM.

Reading Groups
Upcoming Meetings/Info

Dessert at the October meeting of the Santa Monica Reading Group
Saturday, November 5, 12:30 p.m.

Long Beach Reading Group
Clarissa: Or the History of a Young Lady (second half) by Samuel Richardson
For more information, contact Gerda Kilgore, 562-496-4452.

Sunday, November 6
Pasadena Area Reading Group
The Chronicles of Barsetshire by Anthony Trollope
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact Susan Ridgeway, 626-357-1397.

Sunday, November 6, 2-4 p.m.
South Bay Reading Group
Emma by Jane Austen
New and returning members are welcome. For more information, contact Jeanine Holguin, 805-444-8999.

Sunday, November 13, 12:30 p.m.
Orange County Reading Group
Emma by Jane Austen and review of the AGM
For more information, contact Viki Barie, 714-309-6702.

Sunday, November 13, 1-3 p.m.
NEW Riverside Reading Group
Lady Susan by Jane Austen
Love and Friendship by Whit Stillman
Location: home of Vicki Broach
Contact Cristi Hendry for more information.

Sunday, November 13, 2-4 p.m.
San Fernando Valley Reading Group
Dean's Watch by Elizabeth Goudge
For more information, contact Cheryl Cole, 310-422-5475.

Friday, November 18, 1-4 p.m.
Temecula Valley Reading Group
Lady Susan by Jane Austen
Pride & Prejudice & Zombies by Seth Grahame-Smith
Location: Grace Mellman Library, 41000 County Center Drive, Temecula
For more information, contact Rebecca Weersing, 951-595-7046.
Saturday, November 19, 11:30 a.m.
**Ventura Reading Group**
*Lieutenant Hornblower* by C.S. Forester
Jane Austen's Letters (Deirdre Le Faye, ed.): Letters 155-CEA/3
Location: E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura, California 93001
For more information, contact Linda Terry, 805-302-0855.

Saturday, November 26, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**
*Lady Susan* by Jane Austen
Location: Mt. San Antonio Gardens meeting room, Claremont
Bring an item for the potluck lunch.
For more information, contact Kelly Duir, 909-967-6630.

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.

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.

**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.
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