JASNA-Southwest Launches New Website

JASNA-Southwest has launched a completely redesigned website full of new content and resources, ready for you to explore and engage. We welcome your feedback and ideas for additional content!

Here you'll find:

- a new JASNA-Southwest blog
- news on the upcoming 2017 JASNA Annual General Meeting, hosted by our region this October
- info on all 12 of our reading groups, including the current meeting schedule and a list of past reading selections
- a comprehensive guide to film and television adaptations of Austen's work, including both traditional and modern/loose versions
- online polls in which you can vote for your favorite adaptations
- a quiz to test your knowledge of Austen adaptations
- upcoming events
- highlights of past events and an archive of event recaps, dating back to JASNA-Southwest's founding
- an archive of past newsletters
JASNA-Southwest’s history, the benefits of membership, and how to join/renew your membership online or via mail.

- information on volunteering with JASNA-Southwest or supporting our activities
- a list of books Austen is known to have read
- a host of resources and links to Austen-related organizations, exhibitions, digital texts, Regency history and dance groups, and more

A few sections are highlighted below. But we hope you will visit the new site soon!

Film Adaptation Guide
Revisit your favorites or discover new ones in our complete guide to Austen adaptations. Explore now.

Event Archive
Scroll through our comprehensive recaps and photos from past JASNA-SW events. Explore now.

Reading Groups
Examine reading list archives, histories and more from our dozen local reading groups. Explore now.

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Save the Date!
Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 21, for the JASNA-Southwest Spring Meeting. Details will be announced in the April newsletter, on our website and in an email update with registration information. We look forward to seeing you then!

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2017 AGM Update
Plans for the 2017 Annual General Meeting hosted by our region in Huntington Beach, California, October 6-8, are well underway. We received nearly 100 breakout session proposals and will be offering 48 such sessions to give you a wealth of options. Watch this space and JASNA's AGM page for details, and get a sneak preview now on the AGM website. In the meantime, learn more about our new filmmakers contest and some of the special things planned for the pre- and post-conference tours.

New! Young Filmmakers Contest
The Southwest Region of JASNA is accepting video submissions for a new Young Filmmakers Contest, part of the 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) "Jane Austen in Paradise: Intimations of Immortality."

Students at the high school, college and graduate-school levels are eligible to compete for the contest, a first for a JASNA AGM. Judges will include film industry professionals as well as faculty from Southern California film schools, and up to three winners will be chosen in the three divisions (high school, college and graduate school). A "crowd favorite" award will be bestowed on the favorite submission selected by JASNA members.

Winning entrants will receive a small cash prize, a year’s membership in JASNA and paid admission to the AGM on Friday, Oct. 6, when a special filmmakers dinner will honor their efforts. The top submissions will be screened at the AGM.
Works must be five minutes or less in duration, shot in widescreen format and adapted from or inspired by Jane Austen's writing or life, and relate in some way to the theme "Jane Austen in Paradise." Otherwise, contestants are encouraged to use their imagination. They may submit comedies, dramas or documentaries in live action or animation. They may be modernizations or mashups of Austen and another public domain author. They may be set any time from the Regency era to the present or even in the future. They may be cast with puppets, pets or people. We urge entrants to use their imaginations.

Please help us spread the word about this new competition.

Deadline is July 15, 2017.

Pre- and Post-Conference Tours

Pre-Conference at the Huntington
On Thursday, October 5, our pre-conference activities will include a special trip to the magnificent Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens in Pasadena, where we will unveil a bench in Austen's honor.

Learn More.

Jane 'Seas' San Diego
As part of the AGM post-conference options, JASNA-Southwest will offer a memorable day in San Diego and San Juan Capistrano on Monday, October 9, with tours of tall ships and the Maritime Museum Regency Dancers performing.

Learn More.

The nation's largest book festival, the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, will be held April 22-23 on the University of Southern California's University Park Campus. For the seventh year, JASNA-Southwest will host a booth at the festival, offering a wide range of Austen books and merchandise and the opportunity to share a love for Jane Austen with like-minded visitors or to introduce our favorite author to new audiences.

Authors of Austen-related books will again be on hand to sign their works during the festival. A full schedule of authors and activities for the festival is expected later this month. Check the Festival of Books website for more information.

We always need a team of volunteers to help staff the booth, and assist with setup and
breakdown of the tent. Emily Bergman is once again serving as coordinator of the effort. If you'd like to help, please email Emily and sign up as a volunteer. Please indicate times you are available: Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning or Sunday afternoon.

The Expo line provides easy rail access to the festival. We hope to see you there!

Central California Region Event: Music and Jane Austen

The JASNA Central California region is hosting an event, "Of All Things My Delight" -- Music and Jane Austen -- on April 8 from 2-4 p.m. in Fresno at the Vista Theater. The event will include a live concert and discussion of music from Jane Austen's era, as well as music that's been influenced by her work. For more info or tickets, visit the JASNA Central California website.

Reading Groups

_Jessica Khattar and Kelly Duir of the San Gabriel Valley Reading Group at the 2017 Jane Austen Evening_

Sunday, March 5, 5 p.m.
**Santa Monica Reading Group**
_Child of Light: Mary Shelley_ by Muriel Spark
Location: home of Deanna Bradshaw
For more information, contact Diana Birchall, 310-394-2196.

Saturday, March 11, 1 p.m.
**Long Beach Reading Group**
_Wives and Daughters_ by Elizabeth Gaskell
For more information, contact Gerda Kilgore, 562-496-4452.
Sunday, March 12, 12:30-3 p.m.
**Orange County Reading Group**
*Tea with Jane Austen* by Kim Wilson
New and returning members are welcome.
For more information, contact [Viki Barie](#), 714-309-6702.

Sunday, March 12, 2-4 p.m.
**South Bay Reading Group**
*Wives and Daughters* by Elizabeth Gaskell
New and returning members are welcome.
For more information, contact [Jeanine Holguin](#), 805-444-8999.

Saturday, March 18, 11:30 a.m.
**Ventura Reading Group**
*The Vicar of Wakefield* by Oliver Goldsmith
*Castle Rackrent* by Maria Edgeworth
Location: E.P. Forster Library, Ventura
For more information, contact [Linda Terry](#), 805-302-0855.

Sunday, March 19, 2 p.m.
**San Fernando Valley Reading Group**
*Atonement* by Ian McEwan
For more information, contact [Cheryl Cole](#), 310-422-5475.

Sunday, April 9, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
**West Los Angeles Reading Group**
*Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact [Clara Browda](#), 310-278-8759.

Saturday, April 15, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**
*Matters of Fact in Jane Austen* by Janine Barchas
Location: home of Alison Standley, Claremont
For more information, contact [Kelly Duir](#), 909-967-6630.

Saturday, April 15, 11:30 a.m.
**Ventura Reading Group**
*Belle* by Paula Byrne
Location: E.P. Forster Library, Ventura
For more information, contact [Linda Terry](#), 805-302-0855.

Saturday, April 29, 1 p.m.
**Westside/405 Reading Group**
*Forever Amber* by Kathleen Winsor
Location: home of Syrie James
For more information, contact [Karen Berk](#), 310-477-6753.

**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.