



January 2018 Newsletter



Recap Taking Jane Austen to School Winter 2017 Meeting

From Hampshire to Hollywood

At the 2017 Winter Meeting on December 2 at Luminarias restaurant in Monterey Park, Regulus Allen spoke on the topic "From Hampshire to Hollywood: Teaching an Austen Fiction and Film Course."

Allen discussed her use of both filmed adaptations and the novels themselves in



teaching Austen to college students at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. All English majors there read *Persuasion* as part of their degree program, and she also teaches a senior seminar that covers the other Austen novels.

During her talk, she explored the three types of film adaptation identified by Geoffrey Wagner in his 1975 book *The Novel and the Cinema* – transposition, commentary and analogy – and how they relate to adaptations of Austen's work.

Using *Sense and Sensibility* as an example, she said the 1971 television version is transpositional, meaning it is a fairly faithful telling of the novel set in the same time period. The 2008 mini series demonstrates more of a commentary on the novel, with more modifications, such as using the same means to convey a different message or a different means to convey the same message. She noted the way the 2008 version opens with a dramatization of Willoughby's seduction of Eliza, a scene not in the novel. She then referenced the 2000 Bollywood film *I Have Found It* as an example of analogy. "It is possible to watch the film and not know it's an adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility*," she added.

Her course covers a lot of ground in a short amount of time. Working in small groups, the students produce a short video and studio pitch for a new adaptation. They also write an individual paper on any other adaptation of an Austen novel. She's considering adding *Love & Friendship* and *Lady Susan* to the course in an upcoming term.

During her enlightening discussion, she addressed themes in Austen's work that remain highly relevant today. For instance, the message about Col. Brandon still being attractive despite his "advanced age" applies to the need to change views of older women, especially in Hollywood, she explained. "The marriageable age in the Regency era was 17 to 27, the same age range that actresses today are considered eligible as leading ladies."

Allen is an associate professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where she teaches Restoration and Eighteenth Century British Literature, British Romanticism and African American Literature. She earned her bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees in English from UCLA. Her publications include "Speculation in *Mansfield Park*: Approaches to Teaching Austen's *Mansfield Park*" and her current book project: *Vacant Spaces: Imaginings of the African Woman in British Literature: 1688-1838*.

She was president of the Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies from 2014 to 2015 and is a member of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, the Early Caribbean Society and the Modern Language Association.



WWJD: Who Would Jane Date?

Beth Parker shared her humorous insights into Jane Austen and how she might approach online dating today in her talk *WWJD: Who Would Jane Date?*

A graduate student at the Claremont School of Theology, Parker's presentation explored how she uses Jane Austen's wisdom in her theological research, her sermons and her online dating experiences, in which she categorizes the men she meets by the male characters in Austen's novels.



She gave the examples of Willoughby and Henry Crawford as some of Jane's "playboys" and described how Willoughby ignoring Marianne's letters mirrors "ghosting" in today's dating world.

Another category is the Nice Guy (TM), exemplified by the likes of Mr. Collins and Mr. Elton, who think they are doing you a favor by going out with you or buying you a drink at the bar. "When you turn them down, they 'Jekyll and Hyde' you, turning to insults," she said. "They start out with 'hey beautiful' and quickly go to 'I don't want to date a fat girl anyway,' or 'You can't do better than me.'" Even Mr. Darcy starts out as a Nice Guy (TM), using insult tactics in his proposal.

Parker concluded her talk by saying the best lesson she has learned from Austen is patience. "Eventually Mr. Darcy turns into a real "nice guy" and not a

Nice Guy (TM)."

Basket Drawings/Emporium

As usual, the beautiful raffle baskets created by Terry Ryan and Jaye Scholl Bohlen were a huge hit! And the Emporium and white elephant sale gave Janeites a chance to see beautiful works by artist Annmarie Thomas as well as pick up a host of Austen-related books and wares.





Battle of Prague

The day concluded with a rousing reprise of the Battle of Prague re-enactment – the famous programmatic sonata by Frantisek Kotzwara that was found in Austen's own musical collection. Attendees were invited to participate (or observe) as the cannons roared, the bugles sounded and the cavalry charged! Pianist Lisa Davidson played the score.



Election of Officers

At the meeting, we also elected the 2018 JASNA Southwest Board. The new officers are:

President and Regional Coordinator: Susie Wampler
Event Planner: Glenda Pinney
Festival of Books Manager: Emily Bergman
Book Sales Manager/Archivist: Nancy Gallagher
Meeting Promotion/Membership Assistant: Brittany Gash
Membership/Meeting Concierge: Carl Krause
Press Liaison: Erika Kotite
Program Planners: Jan Fahey and Lynda Hall
Secretary: Jaye Scholl Bohlen
Treasurer/Meeting Concierge: Sonya Samuels
Assistant Treasurer: Priscilla Diamond
Parliamentarian: Terry Ryan
Past Regional Coordinator: Cheryl Cde
Board Members: Jane Boltz, Nancy Ramsey and Annmarie Thomas
Board Advisors: Claire Bellanti, Diana Birchall and Carla Washburn

Coming soon:
Be on the lookout for the JASNA
Southwest event survey early this
month! Share your opinions and
earn the chance to win a prize!

2018 JASNA Essay Writing Contest

Jane Austen's *Persuasion* was first published in 1818 and, to commemorate its 200th anniversary, JASNA invites essays that address the following:

The trio of faith, hope and charity all feature in Jane Austen's novel *Persuasion*. Discuss how possessing or lacking these qualities affects a character's behavior and drives the plot. You may focus on one quality or examine the interplay of two or all three. You may include more than one character in your discussion.



Deadline for submissions is May 20, 2018.

JASNA awards scholarships to winners in each of the three divisions (high school, college/university, graduate school):

First place: \$1,000 scholarship and free registration and two nights' lodging for JASNA's Annual General Meeting (transportation is not included)

Second place: \$500 scholarship

Third place: \$250 scholarship

Visit the [JASNA Essay Contest](#) submissions website for more information.



Reading Groups



Mr. Darcy paid a visit to the West Los Angeles Reading Group on December 17 to commemorate Jane Austen's birthday and to serenade the group. For videos, visit our [YouTube](#) page.

Sunday, January 7

Pasadena Area Reading Group

Sanditon by Jane Austen

The Price of Butcher's Meat by Reginald Hill

This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact [Susan Ridgeway](#), 626-357-1397.

Sunday, January 7, 2-4 p.m.

South Bay Reading Group

North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell

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

Saturday, January 13

Long Beach Reading Group

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

For more information, contact [Sherwood Smith](#), 714-330-7856.

Saturday, January 20, 11:30 a.m.

Ventura County Reading Group

What Regency Women Did For Us by Rachel Knowles

Location: E.P. Foster Library, Ventura

For more information, contact [Priscilla Diamond](#), 805-798-5622.

Sunday, January 21, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Orange County Reading Group

Persuasion by Jane Austen

Location: 20 Pergola, Irvine CA 92612

For more information, contact [Viki Barie](#), 714-309-6702.

Sunday, January 21, 1-4 p.m.

San Fernando Valley Reading Group

Jane Austen and Crime by Susannah Fullerton

Annual Jane Austen Birthday Tea

For more information, contact [Cheryl Cde](#), 310-422-5475.

Sunday, January 21, 5 p.m.

Santa Monica Reading Group

The Making of Jane Austen by Devoney Looser

Location: home of Diana Birchall

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

Sunday, February 11, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

West Los Angeles Reading Group

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen

This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact [Clara Browda](#), 310-278-8759.

Sunday, February 25, 1 p.m.

Riverside Reading Group

The Widow's Fire by Paul Butler

Location: home of Vicki Broach

For more information, contact [Vicki Broach](#), 951-907-3948.

Saturday, March 3, 1 p.m.

Westside/405 Reading Group

Defiance by Stephen Taylor

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, or to RSVP for, upcoming San Diego JASNA meetings, visit www.jasnasd.org.

Visit our website!



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