



Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

July 2018 Newsletter

Spring 2018 Regional Meeting: "Spring Cleaning at Chawton" Recap



At the 2018 Spring Meeting on June 2 at the UCLA Faculty Center, JASNA Southwest members Jan Fahey and Terry Ryan gave enlightening presentations on bathing, hygiene, housekeeping and home remedies on the topic "Spring Cleaning at Chawton."

The event attracted a capacity crowd and concluded with a workshop led by Terry Ryan in which attendees made Captain Austen's recipe for Milk of Roses lotion, which participants were able to take home.

Clean and Decent: A History of Bathing and Hygiene

Jan Fahey's talk, Clean and Decent: A History of Bathing and Hygiene, provided a fascinating overview spanning ancient Greece to the modern-day bathroom, which is only about 100 years old (early 20th century).

As she was researching the topic, Fahey found, somewhat to her surprise, that bathing and hygiene for much of European history were considered completely unrelated, although the "early civilizations were great bathers and understood that bathing and hygiene went together," she said. "The ancient Greeks loved to get naked. The word gymnasium means naked place. After a good workout, they'd jump into the bath and clean up as mainly a hygienic plunge." She added that the ancient Roman baths were a daily refuge for people of all classes.



Early Christians, however, were uncomfortable with the idea of cleanliness -- contrary to the later maxim of cleanliness being next to godliness (a phrase coined in the Victorian era).

As Western Europe became dirtier and dirtier, she said: "Everyone had lice, fleas. Skin and other infections were extremely common."

Fahey recounted numerous famous historical figures who rarely bathed -- from Queen Elizabeth I ("who bathed once a month, whether she needed to or not") and French King Louis XIII ("the Sun King, who had his first bath at age 7) to King James I and American pamphleteer Thomas Payne.

[Read more.](#)

Jane Austen's Domestic Economy: Housekeeping and Home Remedies in Regency Times

In her presentation, "Jane Austen's Domestic Economy: Housekeeping and Home Remedies in Regency Times," Terry Ryan focused specifically on what housekeeping was like for the Austen family and their peers during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.



"Gentlewomen of their class did not do all of the housekeeping," she explained. "But they needed to know how it was done because they had to supervise and train those who did the work."

At Chawton Cottage, Mrs. Austen managed the poultry and gardens. Jane made breakfast daily and oversaw the stores of tea, sugar and wine. Cassandra did everything else.

Women like the Austens were very much responsible for managing the household budget and ensuring sufficient supplies were on hand. "That's why Jane kept the keys to the expensive items so they wouldn't be frittered away," Ryan added.

The Austens appear to have been very lucky in their servants, she said. And even when they moved to Chawton, they maintained a manservant and two maids.

Ryan then explained why a clean house was so important. "It was considered a moral duty," she said. "A clean house had a lot to do with your reputation and how you appeared to your neighbors. And there was some concern about health as well."

Bedbugs were rampant in Regency England. Ryan recounted one of the favorite recipes she found for dealing with the pests: "Take white arsenic, boil in water and wash the bedstands and walls, and then go and sleep in the beds."

[Read more.](#)



Milk of Roses complexion formula

Terry Ryan shared the following recipe from Martha Lloyd's Household Book:

- 1/2 pint rosewater
- 1/2 ounce sweet almonds
- 12 grains salt of tartar

Modern version:

- 8 oz. rosewater
- 1/2 oz. sweet almond oil
- 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar

Mix well!

The Pemberley Podcast

Hear Jan Fahey and Terry Ryan discuss their presentations and their love of Austen with Yolanda Rodriguez and Jillian Davis of The Pemberley Podcast on their [WordPress page](#) or on [Podbean](#).



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

IN BRIEF
Austen's beloved classic in a fresh, new and theatrical adaptation

Adapted by Jessica Swale from the novel by Jane Austen
directed by Casey Stangl
SEPTEMBER 1 - 29, 2018 • SEGERSTROM STAGE

South Coast Repertory theatre in Costa Mesa is kicking off its 2018-19 season with a production of *Sense and Sensibility*, adapted by Jessica Swale and directed by Casey Stangl. The play will run from September 1-29. The production is recommended for audiences age 12 and up.

Post-show discussions will be held on Wednesday, September 12 and Tuesday, September 18.

[South Coast Rep](#) is offering JASNA Southwest members discounted tickets. Use the code "JASNA" when ordering to receive the pricing below on the specified dates:

Sept. 1-6: \$25

Sept. 8-16: \$32

Sept. 18-29: \$40

(no discount available for opening night, Sept. 7)

Save the Dates: Fall and Winter Meetings

Fall Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 8

Pasadena Central Library

Persuasion and the Art and Science of Austen's Fiction

Collins Hemingway

Winter Meeting

Saturday, Dec. 8

Sony Pictures Studio, Culver City

Linda Troost and Sayre Greenfield

authors of

Jane Austen in Hollywood

More details on both events coming soon. And registration for the fall meeting will open later this month. Stay tuned!



2018 Young Filmmakers Contest



The Southwest Region of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA) is accepting video submissions for our second Young Filmmakers Contest.

Students at the high school, college and graduate-school levels (including spring 2018 graduates) are eligible to compete for the contest. The top submissions will be screened at our December 2018 regional meeting and a "crowd favorite" award will be bestowed on the favorite submission selected by JASNA Southwest members.

Winning entrants will receive a small cash prize, a year's membership in JASNA and paid admission to the Dec. 8 JASNA Southwest regional meeting at Sony Pictures Studios. 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. Otherwise, contestants are encouraged to use their imagination. You may submit comedies, dramas or documentaries in live action or animation. Your entries 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. Let your imagination and inspiration run wild!

Deadline is November 1, 2018. View our [entry form](#) for more details and all rules and regulations. For any questions, contact [Erika Kotite](#).



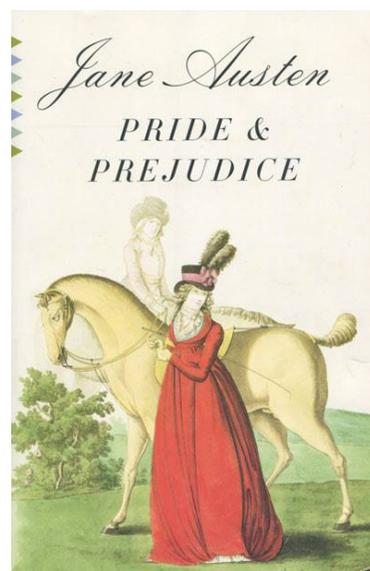
Vote for *Pride and Prejudice* in the
Great American Read on PBS

Don't forget: You can [vote for Pride and Prejudice](#) once a day on the PBS website as part of the Great American Read series.

Winner will be announced in September.

[The Great American Read](#) is an eight-part series that explores and celebrates the power of reading, told through the prism of America's 100 best-loved novels (as chosen in a national survey). It investigates how and why writers create their fictional worlds, how we as readers are affected by these stories, and what these 100 different books have to say about our diverse nation and our shared human experience.

Janeites represent!



New Film Group Update

Our new Jane Austen Film Group is still in the process of forming. We've received a fair amount of interest, but our group is spread out from one end of our region to the other. So please be patient as we try to sort out the logistics to make it convenient for everyone interested.

Contact Susie Wampler at jasnasw@jasnasw.com to learn more.



How to Hoot for AGM Roommates and Rideshares

If you are going to the 2018 AGM and want to find hotel roommates and/or rideshares to and from the airport, use our Hootboard. Here's how it works:



1. Email [Erika Kotite](#) to request an invitation to our Hootboard.
2. Once you get the "Join Hootboard" email, click on the link and sign up with your email and select a password.
3. Use the Community Code z72q2.
4. View the posts and reply – OR put up a new post of your own.

Questions? Contact [Erika Kotite](#).



In Memoriam: Robert Hansen

Robert Hansen, a longtime member of the San Fernando Valley JASNA Southwest reading group, passed away February 9, 2018 at the age of 91 following a long illness.

He was born in 1926 in Webster Groves, Missouri, to Jens Rasmus and Grace Hansen, one of three children. His grandparents were immigrants from Denmark. From a young age, he showed a talent for electronics, taking radios apart and putting them back together. He served in the Navy in World War II, where he taught electronics. He never saw combat due to his poor eyesight. He obtained his bachelor of electrical engineering from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy on the GI bill. Bob went on to obtain his master's and PhD in electrical engineering at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, where he met his late wife, Dorothy.

The couple married and moved to Southern California, where they had two daughters, Kathy and Peggy. Bob worked at Hughes Aircraft, NASA and TRW. He later established his own engineering consulting business. His expertise was microwave antennas (used for guided missiles) and spy satellites. He wrote several engineering textbooks that are still used today and have been translated into many languages.

In his spare time, he loved all things Austen, detective novels, opera and classical music, gardening and cats. He had a dry sense of humor, a big and generous heart, and will be missed by all who knew him.

Reading/Game Groups



South Bay Reading Group

North Orange County Reading Group

A new North Orange County reading group is forming. If you are interested, please contact [Melissa Buell](#).

Sunday, July 8

Pasadena Area Reading Group

A Secret Sisterhood: The Hidden Friendships of Austen, Bronte, Eliot, and Woolf by Emily Midorikawa and Emma Claire Sweeney

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

Saturday, July 14 or Sunday, July 15 (depending on interest/availability)

South Bay Gaming Group

Learn whist and other Austen-centric games.

For more information, contact [David Poepoe](#), 310-640-2985.

Sunday, July 15, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Orange County Reading Group

"Jane Austen's Sailor Brothers" by Brian Southam

Location: Windjammer Park (cross streets Blue Lake North and West Yale Loop), Irvine 92614

For more information, contact [Viki Barie](#).

Sunday, July 15

San Fernando Valley Reading Group

The American Senator by Anthony Trollope

For more information, contact [Cheryl Cole](#).

Saturday, July 21, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Ventura County Reading Group

Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence by Carla Berkin

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

Saturday, July 28, 2:30 p.m.

Jane Austen Game Group (West Los Angeles)

Join fellow Janeites to play Austen-related games.

For more information, contact [Teresa Chien](#).

Saturday, July 28, 12:30 p.m.

Long Beach Reading Group

The Rivals by Richard Sheridan

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

Sunday, August 5, 2-4 p.m.

South Bay Reading Group

Howard's End by E.M. Forster

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

Thursday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.

NEW GROUP: Janeites Reading Trollope

The Claverings by Anthony Trollope

Location: West Los Angeles

For more information, contact [Lora Walker](#).

Saturday, August 11, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

San Gabriel Valley Reading Group

Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys

Location: Lamanda branch library, 140 S. Altadena Drive, Pasadena

Potluck

For more information, contact [Kelly Duir](#), 909-967-6630.

Sunday, August 12, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

West Los Angeles Reading Group

Picnic at Hanging Rock by Joan Lindsay

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

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Saturday, August 25, 1-3 p.m.

Westside/405 Reading Group

Cry of the Peacock by V. R. Christiansen

Location: Home of Syrie James

For more information, contact [Karen Berk](#), 310-477-6753.

Sunday, August 26, 5 p.m.

Santa Monica Reading Group

Old New York by Edith Wharton

Location: home of Kathi Stafford

For more information, contact [Kathi Stafford](#).

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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