Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

November 2018 Newsletter

Chawton House: Jane Austen Garden Trail

Chawton House was the home of Austen's brother Edward Knight, who offered nearby Chawton Cottage to his mother and sisters during what would become Austen's home during her final, most productive years of life. Now an important nonprofit center for the study of early women writers, Chawton House's unique collection is accessible to anyone who wishes to use it, and the manor house and grounds are open to visitors.

Chawton House recently lost the backing of its longtime benefactor, causing a shortfall of 65 percent of its income, and the organization has launched a major fundraising effort to ensure the long-term sustainability of this treasure.

To help in this effort, the North American Friends of Chawton House recently announced creation of a Jane Austen walking trail through the grounds, with 20 spots available for permanent naming. They are either vistas or other places of significance or beauty along the path. These 20 spots will be designated by a plaque along the path with the name of the donors and a quote from an Austen novel or letter.

We are delighted to inform you that JASNA Southwest has secured one of the 20 spots, and our plaque will be visible starting with the reopening of Chawton House in March 2019. Our location is the **Pride and Prejudice Rose Walk**, a gravel path flanked by Pride and Prejudice shrub roses, sitting centrally within the Walled Garden.

We had to act quickly to secure our naming opportunity and preferred location among the 20 sites. Now we are seeking support from interested JASNA Southwest members and friends who would like to contribute to the project.

Please support the long-term viability of Chawton House by making a donation now! Your gift is tax-deductible.

Winter 2018 Meeting at Sony Sells Out in Less Than 48 Hours

Jane Austen in Hollywood
Saturday, December 8
Sony Pictures Studio

JASNA Southwest's upcoming meeting at Sony Pictures Studio sold out soon after registration opened to members--in less than 48 hours. We anticipated this would be a popular event but did not expect it to sell out quite so quickly. We established a wait list for the meeting and have been able to register a number of those individuals but unfortunately will not be able to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend. The space cannot safely hold more people and Sony does not have a larger room available where we could move the meeting.

Please see information below about our upcoming meetings for 2019 and 2020 as well as tips to avoid missing a future meeting you'd like to attend.

If you're among those who cannot attend the Sony meeting, please accept our regrets that we cannot accommodate more people and our thanks for your understanding.

Additional speakers added!

Schedule

9 a.m.
Registration/Coffee, Tea and Pastries/White Elephant

10 a.m.
Program Start Time

10:15 a.m.
Pride and Prejudice and Pelisses:
Costuming Jane Austen
Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell

11:30 a.m.
The Modern Elizabeth Bennet:
A Conversation with Ashley Clements, star of
The Lizzie Bennet Diaries

12:30 p.m.
Buffet lunch

1:30 p.m.
The Unfilmable Jane Austen: The Case of *Northanger Abbey*

Linda Troost and Sayre Greenfield, editors of
Jane Austen in Hollywood, the first book to explore
the phenomenon of Austen filmed adaptations

Linda Troost

Sayre Greenfield

Ashley Clements

Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell

Linda Troost and Sayre Greenfield both hold their PhDs from the University of Pennsylvania, and together they edited *Jane Austen in Hollywood*, the first book about the Austen film phenomenon. Together and separately, they have published many articles on Jane Austen and lectured in the United States, Canada, England and Australia. In spring 2015, they spent several weeks at the Chawton Library as Visiting Fellows. Troost is chair of the English Department at Washington and Jefferson College and, until this academic year, Greenfield chaired the Humanities Division at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, where he teaches. They are both Life Members of JASNA and have been married to each other for 36 years.

Ashley Clements is best-known for starring in the Emmy Award-winning *Pride and Prejudice* adaptation *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries*, for which she also won a Streamy Award for Best Actress. Other series credits include Edgar Allan Poe's *Murder Mystery Dinner Party*, *Inside the Extras Studio*, *VGHS*, *BlackBox TV*, *Muzzled the Musical* and, most recently, *SONA*, a sci-fi series she created. Her feature film credits include *Non-Transferable*, *August Falls*, *Call of the Void* and the upcoming Christmas horror film *All the Creatures Were Stirring*. In regional theater, she has appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Sea of Tranquility*, *Since Africa*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Solve It Squad*. Follow her @TheAshleyClem.

Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell is an art historian specializing in fashion and textiles. She has worked as a curator, consultant and educator for museums and universities around the world. She is the author of *Fashion Victims: Dress at the Court of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette* and writes about fashion, art and culture for the *Wall Street Journal* and *The Atlantic*. She is former curatorial staff member at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens.

Don't Miss a Meeting!
Renew/Join JASNA Today

To make sure you don't miss a meeting of JASNA Southwest, renew your membership or join today! Annual membership in JASNA is only $30 ($18 for students) and ensures you have priority access to register for meetings like the one at Sony Pictures Studio, which sold out before we could open registration to nonmembers.

Other benefits of JASNA membership include:

- A subscription to *Persuasions*, JASNA's annual journal, as well as online access to the *Persuasions* archive
- A subscription to *JASNA News*, published three times a year
- An invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting, our members-only, three-day conference hosted by a different JASNA region each year
- The opportunity to register for exclusive tours of England designed specifically for and available only to JASNA members.

And by joining or renewing before December 31, you help maximize JASNA Southwest's available funding to support our regional meetings and outreach. At the end of every calendar year, JASNA calculates the amount of shared dues each region will receive the following year, based on total membership.

2019-2020 Meetings: Mark Your Calendars!

The JASNA Southwest board has been hard at work planning what we hope you will find to be interesting topics and venues as well as more geographic diversity in our meeting locations.

We also are pleased to announce we are launching a fourth annual meeting, beginning in February 2019!

Many of you travel a long way to attend our programs and--while we cover such an expansive territory and can't make every meeting convenient for all members--we hope that by giving you more advance notice, you can plan accordingly. Mark your calendars now!

Registration materials should appear in your inbox approximately six to eight weeks in advance of each meeting. Be sure to check your spam filter and/or work with your email provider to whitelist our newsletters and registration emails (which are sent through Constant Contact with the following address: susanwampler+mac.com@ccsend.com).

For those of you who prefer paying for registration by check, register online first to secure your spot and select the "pay by check" option. Then simply mail in your check to complete your registration.

Look for more information on upcoming events on the JASNA Southwest website and in our December newsletter.

February 23, 2019
Location: Brand Library, Glendale
Half-day event

Topic: "Jane Austen: Working Woman"

Featured speaker:

- Liz Philosophos Cooper, who is making JASNA Southwest her first speaking engagement as JASNA's new national president

Brand Library is newly renovated and many nearby venues are available for lunch on your own.

June 1, 2019
Location: Huntington Library, Haaga Hall
Full-day event (including afternoon tea)

Topic: "It's All Relative: Relationships in Austen"

Featured speakers:

- Ted Scheinman (*Camp Austen: My Life as an Accidental Jane Austen Superfan*)
- Deborah Knuth Klenck, Austen scholar and professor of English at Colgate University (and Ted's mother)
- Charles Lynn Batten, UCLA Professor Emeritus and longstanding member of the JASNA Southwest family as well as discussion leader for the West Los Angeles Reading Group

Attendees will also be able to view the Jane Austen bench dedicated by JASNA Southwest in October 2017 as well as explore the Huntington's grounds, art collections and library highlights.

September 14, 2019
Location: Chapman University, Orange

Topic: "Jane Austen Meets Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*"

Featured speakers:

- John Kessel--professor at North Carolina State University and author of numerous novels, novellas and short fiction--will discuss *Pride and Prometheus* (his mashup of *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein*)
- Anne Mellor--distinguished research professor of English at UCLA and the author of books on Mary Shelley, Romantic women writers (including Jane Austen), and William Blake and many other British Romantic poets--will speak on "Mothering Monsters: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*"

December 7, 2019
Location: USC Town & Gown
Full-day event

Topic: "What's Next in Austen?"

Featured speakers:

- Janine Barchas, Louann and Larry Temple Centennial Professor in English, University of Texas at Austin, author of *Matters of Fact in Jane Austen* and guiding force behind *What Jane Saw* and the Will and Jane exhibition at the Folger Shakespeare Library
- Devoney Looser, Foundation Professor of English at Arizona State University, author of *The Making of Jane Austen*, 2018 Guggenheim Fellow and plenary speaker at the 2017 Annual General Meeting in Huntington Beach

February 2020
A Day on Fashion and Dance (details coming soon)

May 2, 2020
Location: Mission Inn Hotel and Spa, Riverside
Full-day event

Topic: "Miss Austen Goes to Washington"

Featured speakers:

- Congressman Mark Takano (D-Riverside), taught British literature in public schools for more than 20 years before being elected in 2012 to Congress, where he established a Jane Austen reading group in Congress
- Sheryl Craig, Austen scholar and faculty member at the University of Central Missouri, longtime editor of *JASNA News*, author of *Jane Austen and the State of the Nation* and a plenary speaker at the 2018 Annual General Meeting in Kansas City

A tour of the historic Mission Inn for those interested will follow the meeting.

A block of rooms will be available at a reduced rate for those wishing to spend more time

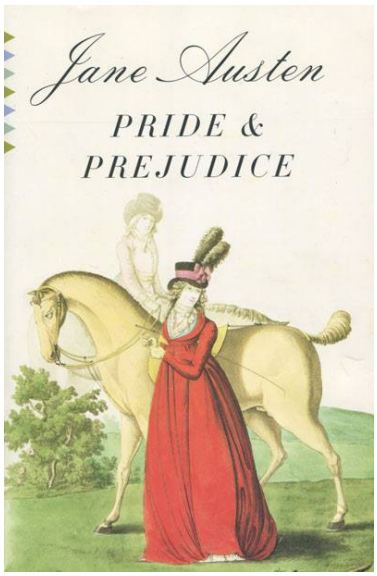
here, or who are traveling further distances. Those rooms must be booked by May 2019 for this in-demand location. We also will provide information on nearby hotels as an alternative.

Pride and Prejudice Voted 4th Best-Loved Novel

Pride and Prejudice placed fourth out of 100 books in PBS' Great American Read's nationwide voting for best-loved novel.

JASNA and *Pride and Prejudice* were featured in the What We Do For Love episode as well as May's launch special, both of which can be viewed online.

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.



Recap: Fall 2018 Meeting 200 Years of *Persuasion*

A capacity crowd of more than 130 people attended the Fall 2018 meeting of JASNA Southwest on Sept. 8 at the Pasadena Public Library for the topic "200 Years of *Persuasion*."

Collins Hemingway spoke on "*Persuasion* and the Art and Science of Austen's Fiction," examining the novel through the lens of Austen's original context. He posited that an author's actual words and intention can get lost over the years, diluted with each new generation of published criticism. He suggested, for instance, Googling "Austen" and "abolitionist" to find competing views on her thoughts but little evidence that points back to her actual writing.

"Austen wrote about people and relationships," he said. "Every relationship set in any time period is going to have a political context, but the question is whether that's what the writer intended or whether it's that she was writing about the real world and the political context is a part of that."

Hemingway explained that he is working on a series of essays that aim to get back to the source. "I'm looking at what Austen actually wrote, really going back and looking at the words very carefully," he said. "What did her characters think? What did they say? What did they do? Not what 200 years of criticism say about those words."

He gave the example of Mrs. Smith, asking the audience what the novelist directly tells us about the character. He read passages on Mrs. Smith's virtues and then noted: "But what does she actually do? She sells out her dear friend," recommending Mr. Elliot because of the good Anne's marriage to him might do for Mrs. Smith. But as soon as Anne reveals she could never marry Mr. Elliot, the truth comes out. "He is black at heart. Hollow and black." Hemingway then asked: "How does this character, who the narrator describes as a good person end up not being a good person?"

Hemingway attributed the disparity to continuity drift, when the writer gets off track without realizing it until the rewrite process. He referred to Lady Russell's treatment as another example of continuity drift in *Persuasion*, with the character playing a vital role early in the novel but disappearing for too long and never being fully resolved.

For his part, Hemingway said he considers *Persuasion* an unfinished novel. "Conventional wisdom says that Austen's health deteriorated precipitously in early 1817," he said. "But if you read what Henry Austen, her brother, said, "The symptoms of decay, deep and incurable, began to show themselves in early 1816," when she was still working on the novel. Hemingway also noted that the collapse of Henry's bank hurt many members of the Austen family, although the women were less affected. "Being a practical woman, Austen may have made a conscious decision to finish the novel as it stood so it could be sold to help the family," he added.

Hemingway has spent the last 11 years researching the broad social, political, military and scientific history of the Regency era along with Austen's own life and works. With degrees in English literature and a minor in science, he has had a career in which the two fields constantly intersect, such as co-authoring five nonfiction books on business and technology, including *Business @ the Speed of Thought* with Bill Gates.

In their talk, "A Room of Anne's Own: Homelessness and Female Spaces in *Persuasion*," JASNA Southwest board members Lynda Hall and Erika Kotite explored Anne's journey as she moved through the various spaces in *Persuasion*, seeking the happy ending to her story. They structured the presentation as a dialogue between Hall, an Austen scholar and professor, and Kotite, an editor and writer with expertise in small structures and the contemporary "she shed" phenomenon.

"Anne Elliot is a woman who is without a permanent home during most of the story, and a woman who is clearly seeking space in which to thrive," they noted. "She is moved from her ancestral mansion to her sister's cottage, to rented rooms in Lyme Regis and then in Bath. We might presume that she will eventually find her home on board her husband's ship."

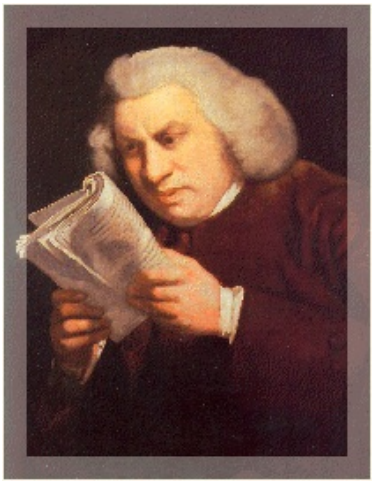
As Hall and Kotite explored the world of her last completed novel, they considered how Austen was writing it within the relatively cramped quarters of Chawton Cottage, how readers over the past two centuries have found the space to read and to imagine a life like Anne Elliot's, and how contemporary women are still seeking a "room of one's own."

Hall is an associate professor of English at Chapman University. Her research is in 19th century British literature: Jane Austen, the English Gothic novel, and the interaction of terror, traumatic memory and literature. She is currently working on a chapter for the MLA teaching series about *Persuasion*, as well as a chapter for a book on Jane Austen and William Shakespeare. Kotite is a home and lifestyle expert and the author of *She Sheds: A Room of Your Own* and the newly released *She Shed Style*.

Kotite and Hemingway signed copies of their books for members following the meeting.

Samuel Johnson Society Dinner: November 18, 2018

This year's annual dinner for The Samuel Johnson Society of the West will feature Claudia Johnson, the Murray Professor of English Literature at Princeton University. Her topic will be "Hard Reading: Austen (and Johnson)," and will explore the difficulty of Austen's style, its tendency to be self-negating and its relationship to Johnson.



The event will be held on Sunday, November 18, at Haaga Hall at the Huntington Library in San Marino, beginning with social hour at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. The event includes an 18th century-inspired meal as well as period harp music provided by Jerry Ripley. The evening generally concludes by 9:30 p.m. In addition to lively conversation and good food and drink, an exhibition of works from the Huntington collection will complement the subject of the talk. Dress is business casual.

Cost of the SJSW dinner meeting is $75 for nonmembers and $65 for members; special rates are available for graduate students ($30). To reserve your space, print and complete the SJSW Reservation Form and mail your check to Myron Yeager to arrive no later than November 12. Credit cards are not accepted. No tickets will be mailed. Your tickets will be held in your name at the dinner.

Austen Adaptations Come to Southern California

Persuasion
through Nov. 18

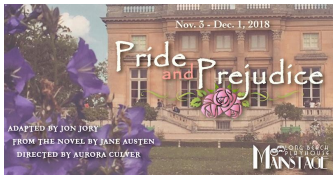
Lamb's Player's Theater is producing the California premiere of a new musical adaptation of *Persuasion*. Use the code JANE10 for $10 off a full-price ticket. The production runs Tuesday through Sunday evenings. Now in its 47th year, Lamb's is a leading professional nonprofit performing arts organization in San Diego.
Learn more.

Emma the Musical
Nov. 23-Dec. 23

Chance Theater at the Bette Aiken Theater Arts Center in Anaheim is staging *Emma the Musical*. Book, lyrics and music are by Tony-nominated composer Paul Gordon.

The production is recommended for ages 4 and up.

Learn more.



Pride and Prejudice
Nov. 3-Dec. 1

Pride and Prejudice will be performed at the Long Beach Playhouse Mainstage, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

The adaptation was written by Jon Jory and the production is directed by Aurora Culver.

Learn more.

Jane Austen Evening Tickets

Tickets for the annual Jane Austen Evening go on sale Saturday, Nov. 3, at noon. The event typically sells out very quickly, so if you want to attend, be online Saturday!

The tea and dance will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26. Dance lessons are available. Check the organization's website for more details.

The event is not sponsored by JASNA Southwest, but many of our members enjoy attending.

Annual Victorian Masquerade Ball on Nov. 24

The Social Daunce Irregulars' 30th Anniversary Masquerade Ball will be held on Saturday, Nov. 24, at the Pasadena Masonic Lodge. The evening features a live orchestra, and dance lessons are offered the prior weekend.

The event is not sponsored by JASNA Southwest but may be of interest to members.

Reading/Game Groups

Friday, November 2
North Orange County Reading Group
The group will be attending the first performance of *Pride and Prejudice* at the Long Beach Playhouse.
For more information, contact Melissa Buell.

Sunday, November 4, 2-4 p.m.
South Bay Reading Group

Lady Audley's Secret by Mary Elizabeth Braddon
For more information, contact Jeanine Holguin, 805-444-8999.

Sunday, November 4, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Orange County Reading Group
Jane by the Sea: Jane Austen's Love Story by Carolyn V. Murray
For more information, contact Viki Barie, 714-309-6702.

Sunday, November 11
Pasadena Area Reading Group
The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling by Henry Fielding
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact Susan Ridgeway, 626-357-1397.

Sunday, November 11, 2-4 p.m.
San Fernando Valley Reading Group
Quartet in Autumn by Barbara Pym
For more information, contact Cheryl Cole, 310-422-5475.

Thursday, November 15
NEW GROUP: Janeites Reading Trollope
The Warden by Anthony Trollope
Location: West Los Angeles
For more information, contact Lora Walker.

Saturday, November 17
Long Beach Reading Group
Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things by Paula Byrne and *Jane Austen at Home* by Lucy Worsley
For more information, contact Sherwood Smith.

Saturday, November 17, 10:15 a.m.
North Orange County Reading Group
Emma by Jane Austen
Location: Fullerton Public Library
For more information, contact Melissa Buell.

Saturday, November 17, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Ventura County Reading Group
Horatio Hornblower: Hornblower and the Atropos by C.S. Forester
Location: E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura
For more information, contact Priscilla Diamond.

Sunday, November 18, 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.

Sunday, December 2, 2 p.m.
Riverside Reading Group
Sanditon: Jane Austen's Last Novel Completed and *The Making of Jane Austen* by Devoney Looser
Location: Mission Inn (high tea)
For more information and to make a reservation, contact Vicki Broach or Amy Sausser.
Please note that the deadline for reservations is November 28.

Sunday, December 9, 5 p.m.
Santa Monica Reading Group
Persuasion by Jane Austen
For more information, contact Kathi Stafford.

Saturday, December 15, 10:15 a.m.
North Orange County Reading Group
Book: TBD
Location: member home in Yorba Linda
For more information, contact Melissa Buell.

Saturday, December 15, 1-3 p.m.

Westside/405 Reading Group
Of Moths and Butterflies by V.R. Christensen
Location: home of Syrie James
For more information, contact Karen Berk, 310-477-6753.

Saturday, December 15, 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.

Sunday, December 16, 1:30-4 p.m.
West Los Angeles Reading Group
Howard's End by E.M. Forster
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact Clara Browda for more information.

Saturday, January 5, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
San Gabriel Valley Reading Group
The Younger Sister by Jane Austen and Catherine Hubbard (second half)
Location: Hill Street Branch Library, Pasadena
For more information, contact Kelly Duir, 909-967-6630.

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 JASNA San Diego's Facebook page.

Visit our website!

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