



## December 2018 Newsletter

# Jane Austen and Politics



*Especially fitting for our theme of Jane Austen and Politics during a presidential election year: Presidents Roosevelt, Taft, Hoover, Nixon, Reagan and Bush Jr. have all stayed at the Mission Inn, which includes a presidential lounge.*

*[Please take our three-question survey now!](#)*

JASNA Southwest is planning a very special all-day meeting for May 2, 2020, at the historic and beautiful Mission Inn Hotel and Spa in Riverside (a living museum and destination unto itself!) with the theme "Miss Austen Goes to Washington: Jane Austen and Politics." We have already booked two speakers: Congressman Mark Takano (D-Riverside) (who launched a Jane Austen reading group in Congress) and Austen scholar Sheryl Craig (author of *Jane Austen and the State of the Nation*).

The room we have booked holds only 100 people but if we know early enough that more people are interested in attending, we may have time to switch to a larger room. After our sold-out event at Sony, we want to make sure no one who wishes to attend is disappointed!

We are not seeking a firm commitment this early, but your answers to three quick questions will help us plan the best possible event and ensure that all interested members will be able to attend. We anticipate the registration fee will be approximately \$85 (plus parking – although limited free street parking is available).

Please take our short survey on the [Mission Inn event](#) now! It's only three questions. Thank you for your time and help!



### A Living Museum

Hour-long tours will be available for those interested following the meeting (you will need to pre-book a spot along with your registration).

The Mission Inn is home to priceless treasures and artifacts. The hotel features two on-site chapels, a collection of hundreds of bells and countless priceless paintings, including Henry Chapman Ford's oil paintings of the 21 California missions.



### Stay Longer

A block of rooms will be set aside for members who wish to spend one or two nights at the Mission Inn as part of the JASNA Southwest festivities.

"It is the most unique hotel in America. It's a monastery, a museum, a fine hotel, a home, a boardinghouse, a mission, an art gallery and an aviator's shrine. It combines the best features of all of the above. If you are ever in any part of California, don't miss the famous Mission Inn of Riverside."

--Will Rogers

## February 2019 Meeting Jane Austen: Working Woman

Join us on Saturday, February 23, at the newly renovated Brand Library & Art Center in Glendale for "Jane Austen: Working Woman," with presenter Liz Philosophos Cooper in her first speaking engagement as JASNA's new president.

Brand Library & Art Center has been a cornerstone for the arts in Southern California since 1956. This unique public library focuses on visual arts and music and provides services and programs for a diverse community.

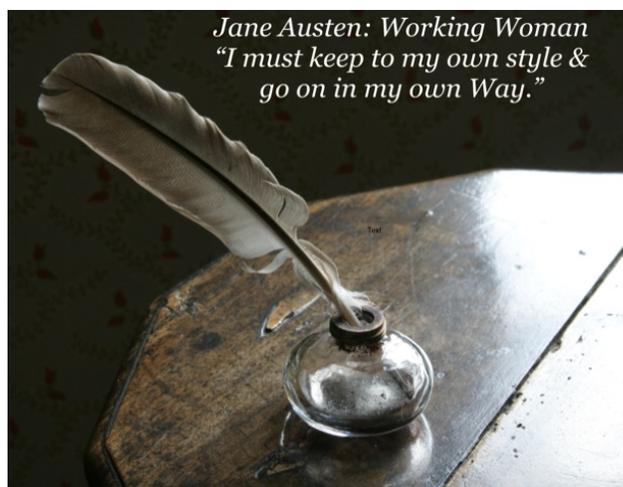


Attendees will have the option of driving together to nearby Kenneth Village or Burbank restaurants for lunch on their own following the morning meeting. We will provide additional information as part of the event registration materials coming your way in January. Mark your calendar for our first event of 2019!

### *Jane Austen: Working Woman*

"I must keep to my own style & go on in my own Way."

Jane Austen was a working woman and determined professional writer. This illustrated talk will explore Austen's involvement in the business of publishing novels during a time of rampant financial instability. The Austen family were active participants in both war and finance and these two sectors intertwined in the story of Jane Austen's writing and publishing.



## Chawton House: Jane Austen Garden Trail

It's not too late to support JASNA Southwest's fundraiser for Chawton House – an important nonprofit center for the study of early women writers.

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. 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.

Please consider supporting the long-term viability of Chawton House by [making a donation](#) now! Your gift is tax-deductible.



## 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 dues in JASNA are only \$30 (\$18 for students) and ensure 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.

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. Thank you!



# JASNA Southwest's 2019 Meetings

Download a [digital postcard of our upcoming events](#) for easy reference, and mark your calendar for the additional following dates. We look forward to seeing you in 2019!

**June 1, 2019**

Location: Huntington Library, Haaga Hall

Full-day event

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

Featured speakers:

- Ted Scheinman (*Camp Austen: My Life as an Accidental Jane Austen Superfan*)
- Deborah Knuth Klensch, Austen scholar and Colgate University professor (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:

- North Carolina State Professor John Kessel on *Pride and Prometheus* (his mashup of *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein*)
- UCLA Professor Anne Mellor 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



Unofficial Jane Austen Day  
at The Huntington



The [Historical Tea and Dance Society](#) will host an Unofficial Jane Austen Day at The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens on Sunday, January 27, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Attendees will stroll the grounds, view magnificent works of art and enjoy the day in Regency style. Many participants will wear era-appropriate attire. The group will gather for a photo at 1 p.m. in the Rose Garden.

The Historical Tea and Dance Society is not affiliated with JASNA or The Huntington, but many of our members are active with the group.



## JASNA Student Essay Contest

JASNA's annual [student essay contest](#) is now open for submissions. The contest fosters study and appreciation of Jane Austen's work, with several hundred students competing for scholarship awards each year. The contest is open worldwide to students in three divisions: high school, college/university and graduate school. Deadline is June 3, 2019.

In honor of the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's novel *Northanger Abbey*, JASNA welcomes essays on following topic:

*Northanger Abbey* can be described as a book about books. There is, of course, the well-known "defense of the novel," but characters also discuss their reading habits, name specific novels and even consider history books. In her works, Austen often makes use of fiction, poetry or plays, either explicitly or indirectly. Explore how she does this in *Northanger Abbey*. High school students may bring in another Austen novel but are not required to do so; undergraduate and graduate students must bring in one or more additional novels.

Please help spread the word about this contest! And JASNA is always looking for judges with experience teaching Austen. Thank you!

*Photo above right: Reading Abbey Gatehouse, where Jane and Cassandra Austen*





## Reading/Game Groups

Saturday, December 1, time TBD

### **Jane Austen Game Group (South Bay)**

Want to take a crack at Jo Ann Staples' newly published Jane Austen's Card Games in time to order one for the holidays?

Join fellow Janeites to play Austen-related and Regency-era games.

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

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 was 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

### **Long Beach Reading Group**

Jane Austen birthday celebration

Location: Pamela's Tea Room, Garden Grove

RSVP required by December 12.

For more information or to RSVP, contact [Sherwood Smith](#).

Saturday, December 15, 10:15 a.m.

### **North Orange County Reading Group**

Book: *Emma* by Jane Austen (second half)

Jane Austen Birthday/Christmas tea

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](#).

Saturday, December 15, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

### **Ventura Reading Group**

Jane Austen birthday celebration

Location: Marie Callender's "Library" room, 1295 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura

For information, contact [Priscilla Diamond](#).

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

Location: Hill Street Branch Library, Pasadena  
For more information, contact [Kelly Duir](#), 909-967-6630.

Sunday, January 6

**South Bay Reading Group**

*Middlemarch* by George Eliot

For more information, contact [Jeanine Holguin](#).

Sunday, January 13

**Pasadena Area Reading Group**

*The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett

This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact [Susan Ridgeway](#) for more information.

Sunday, January 20, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

**Orange County Reading Group**

*Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen

For more information, contact [Maryann Pelensky](#), 949-218-4566.

Saturday, January 26, noon

**Long Beach Reading Group**

*A Memoir of Jane Austen* by James Austen-Leigh

For more information, contact [Sherwood Smith](#).

**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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