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

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**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 Klench, 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
Sandition: 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
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Location: Hill Street Branch Library, Pasadena
For more information, contact Kelly Duiir, 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!

Stay Connected

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