JASNA Southwest’s December 2018 meeting, with the theme "Jane Austen in Hollywood," was held at Sony Pictures Studio in Culver City. Sony is home to the former MGM studios, where the 1940 version of Pride and Prejudice, starring Greer Garson and Laurence Olivier, was filmed. Our venue on the studio lot was the Rita Hayworth Dining Room, a beautiful and historic art deco space.

The day began with a few clips from the 1940 film, followed by a talk from fashion historian Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell (on Pride and Prejudice and Pelisses: Costuming Jane Austen), a moderated Q&A with Ashley Clements (star of The Lizzie Bennet Diaries) on The Modern Elizabeth Bennet, and Austen scholars Linda Troost and Sayre Greenfield on The Unfilmable Austen: The Case of Northanger Abbey.

The day concluded with a screening of JASNA Southwest's 2018 Young Filmmaker Contest winner, Mrs. Bennet's Plan, by Brigham Young University.
senior Ellyn Cardon, and a special thank you to our own Claire Bellanti, who stepped down as JASNA president at the end of 2018.

*Pride and Prejudice and Pelisses: Costuming Jane Austen*

Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell's informative talk covered how fashion is used in Austen adaptations to convey the passage of time, express a character's transformation, and signal differences in class, age and experience. She also dispelled myths about Austen and fashion, explored the importance of hairstyles for both men and women in the Regency era, and explained some of the challenges of creating historically appropriate costumes for film. In keeping with the meeting's location, she also provided some fascinating background on the creation of costumes for the 1940 *Pride and Prejudice*.


*The Modern Elizabeth Bennet: A Q&A With Ashley Clements*
JASNA Southwest Regional Coordinator Susie Wampler moderated a conversation with Ashley Clements, star of *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries*, on how she first became an Austen fan, the process of translating the book to a vlog/web series and what it was like to represent the iconic character to a new generation. The illuminating discussion, including numerous questions from the audience, covered everything from humorous encounters with fans to modernizing the Lydia/Wickham scandal and much more. Read the full transcript of *The Modern Elizabeth Bennet* conversation. If you've never seen the web series, you can catch up with *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries* anytime.

**The Unfilmable Austen: The Case of Northanger Abbey**

Linda Troost and Sayre Greenfield explored "The Unfilmable Austen: The Case of Northanger Abbey," focusing on Austen's interest in capturing modernity and
cultural shifts, and the challenges this caused not only for her in revisiting this early work, but also for filmmakers later attempting to adapt the novel.

"Austen uses the word modern more often in this book than in any other ... and considering this is her shortest novel, the density of usage is even more remarkable," Greenfield said. "To her, we think this was a book about modernity."

They compared Austen with Janus, the ancient Roman god of transitions, and Northanger Abbey "lives in Austen's past and future, being both the first novel accepted for publication in 1803, yet also the last to be published."

Read more about the Northanger Abbey talk on the JASNA Southwest website.

2018 Young Filmmakers Contest

Ellyn Cardon, a senior undergraduate at Brigham Young University, is the winner of the 2018 Young Filmmaker Contest for her entry, Mrs. Bennet's Plan. Both Ellyn (above) and her mother, Dana (right) -- the inspiration for Mrs. Bennet in the short film -- attended JASNA Southwest's December meeting at Sony, where the winning entry had its world premiere.

Ellyn intends to pursue a master's degree in ethnographic filmmaking, which she says is appropriate since this film is practically an ethnography of her life. This film is inspired by her mother, who has four unmarried children of her own and at one point or another has said something to inspire the content of each scene in the film. More importantly, Ellyn's mother has motivated her to be the kind of person that makes things happen, and to bring concepts from the world of ideas
Ellyn adds that the film is designed to remind us that Jane Austen wrote characters who are real and understandable, no matter what century we live in. We all know a Mrs. Bennet, and we love her for who she is.

The **2019 JASNA Southwest Young Filmmakers contest** is now open for entries, with a deadline of November 1, 2019.

### Additional Sony Event Highlights

The day also featured a special tribute to outgoing JASNA national President Claire Bellanti, as well as a white elephant sale, lively audience Q&As after each presentation and another set of wonderful opportunity-drawing baskets created by Terry Ryan and Jaye Scholl Bohlen.

You might also want to take advantage of some special resources relevant to the event.

The 1940 version of *Pride and Prejudice* was filmed on the MGM (now Sony) lot. For some wonderful background and analysis of the film, check out these riveting and informative articles by noted Austen scholar Devoney Looser (*The Making of Jane Austen*) and Los Angeles Times film critic Ken Turan.

Linda Troost and Sayre Greenfield's talk focused on *Northanger Abbey* and why it's so difficult to adapt. But you might want to read some of their previous writing about Austen adaptations in their 2008 article in JASNA's journal *Persuasions* on "Appropriating Austen: Localism on the Global Scene." The article has embedded video highlights only visible in the original publication, so you will need to log in to the JASNA member portal to read the article.

Devoney Looser wrote another fascinating article, in *Jane Austen's Regency World* magazine, on what is probably the first Darcy to appear on film. No, it's not Laurence Olivier. Nor is it the 1938 London televised version with Andrew Osborn as Mr. Darcy. Helen Jerome's play (on which the 1940 film was based) was first performed by Colin Keith-Johnston on stage in 1935. The play was filmed in 1936 by an MGM crew to guide future film adaptations.

Finally, explore our comprehensive Austen Adaptations guide, from the traditional to the modern. If you know of any we are missing, please let us know at jasnasw@jasnasw.com.

Regional Coordinator Susie Wampler presented outgoing JASNA President Claire Bellanti with a gift from the region. Lively audience Q&A sessions followed each of the day's presentations. Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell signed copies of her book during the lunch break.
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.

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.

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 free 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 very soon. Mark your calendar for our first event of 2019!

Liz Philosophos Cooper is president of JASNA. A second-generation JASNA member, she fell in love with Austen's work as a high school student. A member of JASNA since 1992, she has actively participated in local JASNA activities and served as JASNA's vice president for regions from 2013-2018 and regional coordinator of Wisconsin prior to that. She is a contributing writer to Jane Austen's Regency World and co-edits A Year with Jane Austen calendar.

She holds an BA (Communication Arts) from the University of Wisconsin. Liz and her husband, Scott, own a marketing consulting company, Marketing Engine group, and have four sons, which has resulted in three new daughters and (oh joy!) three granddaughters and two grandsons.

Both the Jane Austen Society of North America and JASNA Southwest will celebrate their 40th anniversaries in 2019. Stay tuned for more information as we commemorate this landmark year.

2019 also marks the 70th anniversary of Jane Austen's House Museum opening to the public! If you will be in England on July 23, the anniversary of the 1949 official opening date,
the first 70 visitors will be admitted for the original 1949 ticket price (roughly 2.34 pounds today).

Quote Announced for Jane Austen Garden Trail

For our permanent plaque along the Jane Austen Garden Trail at Chawton House, JASNA Southwest has selected the following quote our location, the Pride and Prejudice Rose Walk:

"...though the love of a hyacinth may be rather domestic, who can tell, the sentiment once raised, but you may in time come to love a rose?"
--Henry Tilney, *Northanger Abbey*

The quote connects nicely with the rose theme and will introduce visitors to a lesser-known piece of Austen prose.

You can still support JASNA Southwest's fundraiser for the project (for our naming opportunity along the Garden Trail) and the long-term viability of Chawton House by making a donation now! Your gift is tax-deductible.

Watch the YouTube film to see some lovely aerial footage of Chawton House and the grounds in the opening scenes of a 20-minute documentary.

Jane Austen, Aristotle and the Perfect Plot
Free lecture at UCLA, February 7

A seminar with Professor Constance Walker on Jane Austen, Aristotle and the Perfect Plot, will be held Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the UCLA Law School, room 1457. Registration is free and open to the public. However, because capacity is limited, advance enrollment is necessary. Enrollment will be primarily on a first-come, first-served basis, though preference is given to UCLA students and faculty members. Readings will be identified and, if they are not readily available, will be distributed in advance to participants, who will be expected to read them and participate actively in the discussion. A pizza lunch will be delivered at the end of the seminar. To enroll, please e-mail Professor Daniel Lowenstein, director of the Center for the Liberal Arts and Free Institutions, at lowenstein@law.ucla.edu.

Email Prof. Lowenstein by January 11 for the best chance of getting into the seminar. Constance Walker, an English professor at Carleton, has written on a number of 18th and 19th century writers, including Jane Austen, Mary and Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Oscar Wilde. Her teaching interests include English Romantic poetry and British comedy.

2019 Festival of Books: April 13-14

JASNA Southwest will celebrate a ninth year of participation in the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books, to be held April 13-14 on the University of Southern California campus. Make plans to visit our booth that weekend, or if you'd like to volunteer to chat with other Janeites at the event, sign up for a slot in our booth by contacting program chair Emily Bergman.
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).

If you haven't already done so, please take our short survey on the Mission Inn event now! It's only three questions. Thank you for your time and help!
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 either JASNA or The Huntington.

Reading/Game Groups

Santa Monica Reading Group
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
Sunday, January 6

**South Bay Reading Group**
*Middlemarch* by George Eliot
For more information, contact [Kelly Duir](mailto:kellyduir@readinggroup.com).

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](mailto:susanridgeway@readinggroup.com) for more information.

Saturday, January 19, 10:15 a.m.

**North Orange County Reading Group**
*Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen (first half)
Location: Fullerton Public Library
For the latest news, visit the [North Orange County Reading Group's Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/NoOrangeCountyReadingGroup).
For more information, contact [Melissa Buell](mailto:melissa.buell@readinggroup.com).

Saturday, January 19, 10 a.m.-noon

**Ventura County Reading Group**
*The Castle of Otranto* by Horace Walpole
Location: member home in Camarillo
For more information, contact [Nina Ruhland](mailto:ninruhland@readinggroup.com).

Saturday, January 19, 2:30 p.m.

**NEW GROUP**

*Inaugural Film Group Meeting*
Screening of *Emma: The Musical*
Location: West Los Angeles member home or office (depending on attendance)
To RSVP or for more information, contact [Teresa Chien](mailto:teresachien@readinggroup.com).

Saturday, January 19, 6 p.m.

**Jane Austen Game Group (South Bay)**
Join fellow Janeites to play Austen-related and Regency-era games. We'll be using Jo Ann Staples' newly published *Jane Austen's Card Games*.
For more information, contact [David Poepoe](mailto:david.poepoe@readinggroup.com), 310-640-2985.

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

**Orange County Reading Group**
*Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen
For more information, contact [Maryann Pelensky](mailto:maryann.pelensky@readinggroup.com).

Saturday, January 26, noon

**Long Beach Reading Group**
*A Memoir of Jane Austen* by James Austen-Leigh
For more information, contact [Sherwood Smith](mailto:sershwood.smith@readinggroup.com).

Thursday, January 31

**Janeites Reading Trollope**
*Barchester Towers* by Anthony Trollope
For more information, contact [Lora Walker](mailto:lorawalker@readinggroup.com).

Saturday, February 9

**Westside/405 Reading Group**
*North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell
The group will discuss the novel and watch the 2004 BBC mini-series.
Location: Home of Syrie James
For more information, contact [Karen Berk](mailto:karenberk@readinggroup.com).

Sunday, February 10, 5 p.m.

**Santa Monica Reading Group**
*Jane and Dorothy* by Marian Veevers
For more information, contact [Kathi Stafford](mailto:kath Stafford@readinggroup.com).

Sunday, February 10, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

**West Los Angeles Reading Group**
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact Clara Browda for more information.

Saturday, February 16, 10:15 a.m.
**North Orange County Reading Group**
*Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen (second half)
Location: Fullerton Public Library
For the latest news, visit the [North Orange County Reading Group's Facebook page](#). For more information, contact Melissa Buell.

**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](#).

*Our new North Orange County Reading Group (pictured below)*