February 2019 Meeting
Jane Austen: Working Woman

We are nearly sold out for our event on Saturday, February 23, at 11 a.m., at the newly renovated Brand Library & Art Center in Glendale. Our topic will be “Jane Austen: Working Woman,” presented by Liz Philosophos Cooper in her first speaking engagement as JASNA’s new president.

Register now! Cost is only $20. Parking is free.

A free docent-led tour of the library's new exhibit Valley Girl Redefined will be held for any interested attendees at 10 a.m. Check-in for the JASNA Southwest program is at 11 a.m., with the program beginning at 11:30 a.m. and concluding at 1 p.m.

Attendees will have the option of driving together to nearby Kenneth Village or Burbank restaurants for lunch on their own following the meeting. A list of area restaurants will be sent to all registrants.

To avoid disappointment if you plan to pay by check, please complete the online registration process to secure your spot, but choose “pay by check” and then download the payment form and mailing instructions to complete your registration. That way we will be able to hold your spot while your check is pending.

Program overview
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.

Venue
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.

Speaker
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 the 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.

Save the Date:
June 1, 2019, at the Huntington

Our second meeting of 2019 will be held at the Huntington Library's Haaga Hall, on Saturday, June 1, 2019, with an estimated start time of 10 a.m. Please mark your calendar! Registration materials will be emailed in late March, and more details on registration will be included in the March newsletter.

It's All Relative: Relationships in Austen

Featured speakers will be:

- Ted Scheinman, author of Camp Austen: My Life as an Accidental Jane Austen Superfan, and his mother, noted Austen scholar Deborah Knuth Klenck on mothers in Austen's novels
- UCLA Professor Charles Lynn Batten, on other relationships in Austen's novels

Afternoon tea will be served for lunch and attendees will have the opportunity to view the Jane Austen bench, dedicated by JASNA Southwest in October 2017 as part of JASNA's Annual General Meeting.
Deborah Knuth Klenck
Deborah Knuth Klenck is Professor of English at Colgate University, where she has taught courses in the long 18th century (historians typically define this period as extending from the revolution of 1688 to the Battle of Waterloo in 1815) for 40 years. She has directed Colgate’s London Study Group program for seven semesters. Her original scholarly focus was on the satire of Alexander Pope, but she soon turned to Jane Austen, on whose work she has published more than 10 essays and book chapters.

A frequent JASNA Annual General Meeting and regional speaker, she also has enjoyed being part of the Jane Austen Summer Program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and serves as one of the judges of graduate-student entries in the annual JASNA essay contest.

Ted Scheinman
Ted Scheinman is senior editor at Pacific Standard magazine, where he directs special projects and climate coverage.

Among other duties, he reported from the United Nations climate summits in Paris and Marrakesh in 2015 and 2016. A graduate of Yale University, with an MA in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he is the author of Camp Austen: My Life as an Accidental Jane Austen Superfan (2018), and his essays and reporting have appeared in the Atlantic, the Chronicle of Higher Education, The New York Times, the Oxford American, the Paris Review, Playboy, Slate and elsewhere. He is also a contributing editor at the Los Angeles Review of Books.

Lynn Batten
A longtime JASNA Southwest favorite, UCLA Professor Emeritus Charles Lynn Batten won numerous teaching awards throughout his career. Although his research interests focused on British literature from 1660 to 1800, he taught a wide range of courses, including the Bible as Literature and graduate courses in bibliography and literary criticism.

He is the author of Pleasurable Instruction: Form and Convention in Eighteenth-Century Travel Literature and appeared in two episodes of A&E’s Mysteries of the Bible.
A Room With a View: JASNA Discounts

Los Angeles Theatre Works is offering JASNA Southwest members discounted tickets for its production of E. M. Forster's *A Room With a View*, with performances March 1-3 at UCLA.

Biting social satire and passionate romance take center stage in this new radio theatre adaptation of Forster's acclaimed novel. A chance encounter in Florence leads to a pitched romantic rivalry that forces Lucy Honeychurch to examine what it truly means to love fearlessly in this original commission world premiere.

The production is directed and adapted by Kate McAll, starring Edita Brychta, Darren Richardson, Julian Sands and Eugene Simon.

Get $15 off Friday and Saturday performances with code DUOMO. Visit the LATW website to purchase tickets.

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.

Inaugural Film Group Meeting

Hosted by Teresa Chien, the inaugural meeting of the JASNA Southwest Film Group was held on January 19 with a screening of *Emma: The Musical*. Attendees were enthusiastic about both the production of *Emma* and the formation of the Film Group. New members are welcome and suggestions for other films to screen are welcome.

The group will meet again on March 16 for another film screening (to be determined).

For more information, contact Teresa Chien, who organized the initial meeting and is taking the lead on making this a permanent JASNA Southwest group.
In Memoriam: Bill James

William A. James passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on January 7, 2019, at age 65 after a valiant 22-month battle with pancreatic cancer. His wife, Syrie James, held his hand as he took his last breath. January 10 would have been their 43rd wedding anniversary.

Bill was born on March 4, 1953, the fourth of seven children. His father, Arthur David James, was a white-collar crime investor for the Los Angeles County district attorney’s office. His mother, Mary, was a psychiatric social worker. At age 8, Bill obtained his first job as a paperboy for his hometown newspaper, the Azusa Herald, rising at dawn to deliver hundreds of newspapers on his bicycle. From that day on, he always had a job.

After 12 years of Catholic school, he earned his undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley, and his JD from Western State University College of Law, paying for his entire university education himself through student loans and income from a variety of part-time jobs.

Bill met Syrie at a chance encounter at the University of California, Davis. They were engaged within three weeks, and married soon after. They raised two sons, Ryan and Jeff. He helped coach his sons’ sports teams and never missed a game, concert or theatrical performance. He served as Syrie’s consultant for many of the books and scripts she wrote.

His career at Rockwell/Boeing spanned 36 years. He joined the company as a contract administrator in 1979 and spent the first half of his career in Contracts and Pricing, then moved into Financial Management. In his last position, he served as director of finance on the C-17 program at Boeing in Long Beach.

Bill was an avid supporter of the Jane Austen Society of North America. He was fascinated by history and loved to read, especially novels, biographies and Smithsonian magazine. He loved a good meal with a glass of fine wine and adored a shot of Macallan whisky. He also enjoyed golf, movies and travel.

Soon after he retired, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He fought bravely through two major surgeries, numerous other procedures and 18 months of chemotherapy.

Bill is survived by his wife, Syrie, their sons Ryan and Jeff, and their daughters-in-law Yvonne and Yakun. A Celebration of Life Memorial Tribute will be held on Feb. 7 at 11:30 a.m. at Temple Akiba in Culver City.

In lieu of sending flowers, the family suggests contributions to the William A. James Memorial Bonsai Fund, which will donate two bonsais to the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in Bill’s memory. More information is available at gofundme.
The Ventura Reading Group began 2019 with a potluck brunch (and lots of tea!). This year, in preparation for the AGM and the study of Northanger Abbey, the group will be delving into all aspects of the gothic novel. The group welcomes members from all corners of Ventura County (and beyond!) on the third Saturday of each month.

Sunday, February 10, 5 p.m.
**Santa Monica Reading Group**
*Jane and Dorothy* by Marian Veevers
For more information, contact [Kathi Stafford](mailto:kathi.stafford@vcu.edu).

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](mailto:clara.browda@wla.edu) for more information.

Friday, February 15, 7:30 p.m.
**Riverside Reading Group**
The group is attending a theatrical production of *Pride and Prejudice* at California Baptist University in Riverside.
For more information, contact [Vicki Broach](mailto:vicki.broach@cbu.edu).

Saturday, February 16, 10:15 a.m.
**North Orange County Reading Group**
*Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen (second half)
Location: Fullerton Public Library Café
For the latest news, visit the [North Orange County Reading Group's Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/northorangetrain/).
For more information, contact [Melissa Buell](mailto:melissa.buell@fpl.org).

Saturday, February 16
**Jane Austen Game Group** (West Los Angeles)
Join fellow Janeites to play Austen-related games.
For more information, contact [Teresa Chien](mailto:teresa.chien@wla.edu).

Saturday, February 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
**Ventura County Reading Group**
*Lady Susan* by Jane Austen and *Silas Marner* by George Eliot
Location: E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura
For more information, contact [Priscilla Diamond](mailto:priscilla.diamond@vcu.edu).
Saturday, March 2
Long Beach Reading Group
Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen
The Castle of Otranto by Horace Walpole
For more information, contact Shenwood Smith.

Saturday, March 2, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
San Gabriel Valley Reading Group
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Location: Mt. San Antonio Gardens, Gallery Room, 900 W. Harrison Ave., Claremont
Please bring an item for the group's buffet.
For information, contact Kelly Duir.

Sunday, March 3
South Bay Reading Group
Ross Poldark by Winston Graham
For more information, contact Jeanine Holguin.

Saturday, March 16
Jane Austen Film Group (West Los Angeles)
Join fellow Janeites to watch and discuss an Austen-related film (to be determined)
For more information, contact Teresa Chien.

Saturday, March 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Ventura County Reading Group
Beat to Quarters by C.S. Forester
Location: E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura
For more information, contact Priscilla Diamond.

Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m.
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.

Sunday, March 17
San Fernando Valley Reading Group
Agnes Grey by Anne Bronte
For more information, contact Cheryl Cole.

Sunday, March 17, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Orange County Reading Group
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
For more information, contact Maryann Pelensky.

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 Long Beach Reading Group (pictured below)