



Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

## April 2019 Newsletter

# Register Now for It's All Relative: Relationships in Austen

A Day at the Huntington, June  
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[Registration](#) is now open for the June 1 event at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens.

### Speakers:

- Ted Scheinman, author of *Camp Austen: My Life as an Accidental Jane Austen Superfan*, and his mother, noted Austen scholar Deborah Knuth Klenck, on "A Slave to Their Education? Mothers as Teachers in Jane Austen"
- UCLA Professor Charles Lynn Batten, on "Failed Marital Relationships:

The Huntington Library will include a special display -- just for JASNA Southwest members -- of a portion of its magnificent collection of Austen and Regency-era holdings in our meeting room, Haaga Hall. These will likely include Austen's signature in her copy of Robert Bage's *Hermisprong* as well as first editions of several of her novels. This will be a real treat!

We'll have scones and tea breads for breakfast, and afternoon tea will be served for lunch. Attendees will have the chance to view the Jane Austen bench, dedicated by JASNA Southwest in October 2017 as part of JASNA's Annual General Meeting.

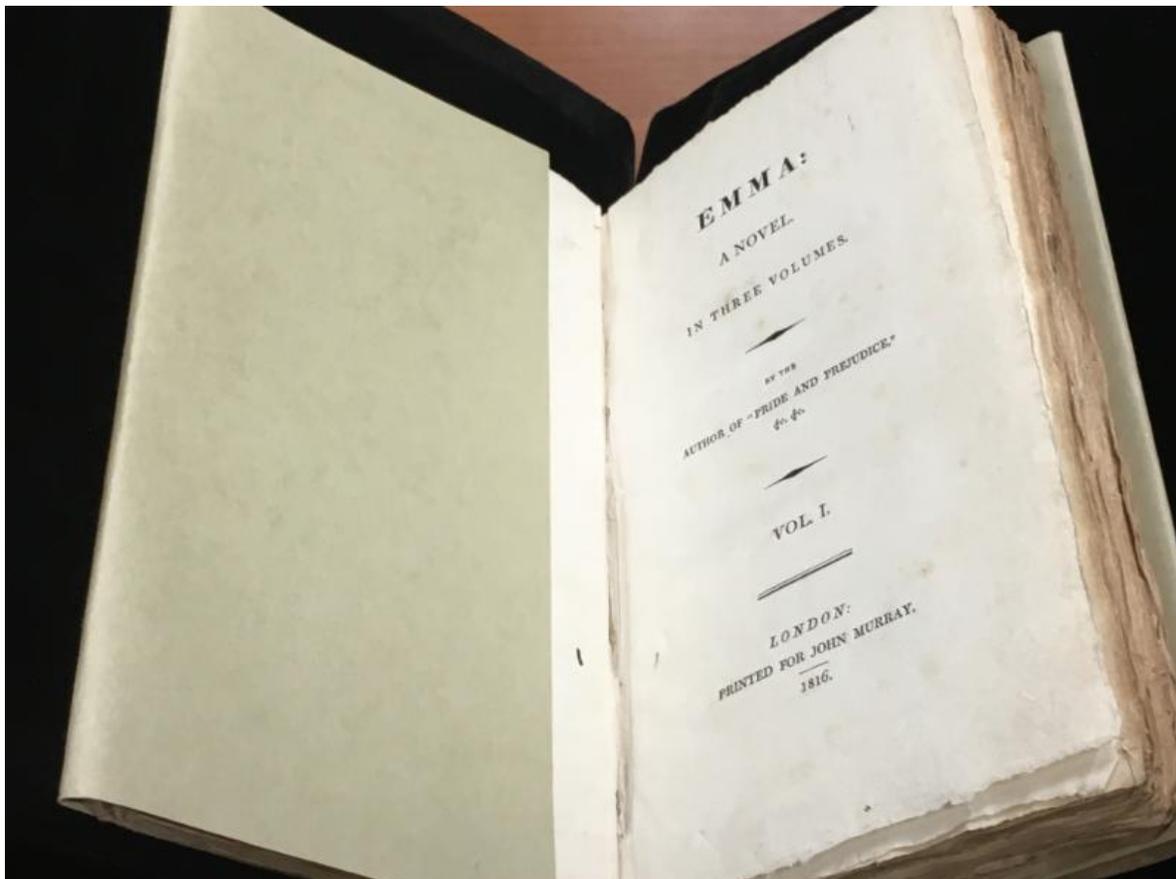
You also have the opportunity to purchase reduced admission to the Huntington grounds (\$10 instead of \$29) to explore on your own -- or in special docent-led tours -- after the meeting concludes.

Docent-led tours will begin at 2 p.m. and conclude between 3 and 3:30 p.m., depending on the tour. Space will be limited for the tours (an email signup -- first come, first served -- will be sent to all registrants later this month). They include:

- [Art Collections](#) (where you can view paintings Austen herself saw in a London exhibition), led by docent Jean Uffelman
- [Chinese Garden](#), led by James Folsom, director of the Botanical Gardens
- [Bonsai Collection](#) in the Japanese Garden (including the trees dedicated in the memory of JASNA member William James), led by Ted Matson, curator of the Bonsai Collection

Ted Scheinman will sign copies of his book following his presentation.

We hope to see you on Saturday, June 1, at the Huntington! [Register now.](#)



# Jane Austen: Working Woman Recap

By Karen Rueda

JASNA Southwest kicked off 2019 by expanding to four meetings per year with its first-ever February meeting, on Saturday the 23rd, with 108 members and guests registering for the sold-out event at the Brand Library and Art Center in Glendale. JASNA's Immediate Past President Claire Bellanti introduced her successor, Liz Philosophos Cooper (pictured, right), who was making her first official speaking engagement as JASNA's new national president.



Cooper became a second-generation JASNA member in 1992 and has since dedicated many years of service to the organization, most recently as vice president for regions. Her witty lecture focused on Jane Austen as the dedicated professional writer whose work continues to delight and inspire new generations.

In her presentation, "Jane Austen: Working Woman," Cooper brought to light an often-overlooked aspect of Austen's life -- her efforts negotiating the publishing of her novels. Cooper made clear that "although more women were writing, there existed a belief that only severe financial hardship such as the need to support one's family could excuse a woman from the humiliation of publishing a book for profit." Thus, most women who published in that era did so anonymously.

Cooper posited that, in addition to being committed to her craft, Austen "had high ambitions" -- contradicting Austen's brother Henry's assertion that "neither the hope of fame nor profit mixed with her early motives" as an author. Cooper relied on several of Austen's letters to her sister, Cassandra, as evidence.

In 1799 Austen wrote: "I am tolerably glad to hear that Edward's income is so good a one. As glad as I can at anyone being rich besides you and me."

Read the full story on ["Jane Austen: Working Woman"](#) on the JASNA Southwest website.





## 2019 Festival of Books: April 13-14

Since 1996, the [Los Angeles Times Festival of Books](#) has become a world-renowned experience gathering writers, poets, artists, filmmakers, musicians and emerging storytellers. More than 150,000 people attend, making it the largest festival of its kind in the United States.

JASNA Southwest will celebrate a ninth year of participation at this year's festival, 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](#). We always need help! You can sign up for two-hour volunteer slots on Saturday, Sunday or both.

The [Expo metro line](#) drops you right by the Festival. Hope to see you there! You'll be able to pick up a free, limited-edition "I'm a Jane Austen Fan" fan!



# A Few Spots Remain for the Hotel Block for JASNA SW's May 2020 Event at the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa

Our first block of rooms sold out quickly but new rooms have been added for the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa in Riverside for our event on May 2, 2020, if you wish to spend the night instead of just commuting for the meeting. When booking, call the hotel's reservations department at 800-843-7755 or 951-784-0300, extension 850. Our discounted rates cannot be booked online. You must reference the Jane Austen Society, Southwest Region, Guest Room Block, to receive the group rates, which are available for both Friday and Saturday nights. If you encounter any difficulties, please email [jasnasw@jasnasw.com](mailto:jasnasw@jasnasw.com).

Additional nearby hotel options will be shared in an upcoming newsletter as well as in the registration materials.

Our theme for the meeting will be "Miss Austen Goes to Washington: Jane Austen and Politics." We have already booked two speakers: Congressman Mark Takano (who launched a Jane Austen reading group in Congress) and Austen scholar Sheryl Craig (author of *Jane Austen and the State of the Nation*).



## Nominating Committee for 2020-21 Board

JASNA Southwest will vote on its new board at the December 7 meeting at USC Town & Gown. Whether you're a longtime or brand-new member, you are welcome to nominate yourself or another member for a position on the board. The board oversees everything from planning regional meetings and outreach to schools and from the newsletter and website to building the membership, and much more!

And if you're interested in helping on a less frequent basis, volunteers are always needed for regional meetings, project committees and more.

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity or would like to nominate yourself or someone else to the board, please contact nominating committee chairs [Jaye Scholl Bohlen](#) and [Nancy Gallagher](#).



## Reading/Game Groups

Sunday, April 7, 1 p.m.

### **Riverside Reading Group**

*Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen and the retelling by Joanna Trollope

For more information, contact [Vicki Broach](#).

Sunday, April 7, 5 p.m.

### **Santa Monica Reading Group**

*The Fashion in Shrouds* by Margery Allingham

Location: home of Kathi Stafford

For more information, contact [Kathi Stafford](#).

Sunday, April 7, 1:30-4 p.m.

### **West Los Angeles Reading Group**

*Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier  
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact [Clara Browda](#) for more information.

Thursday, April 11  
**Janeites Reading Trollope**  
*Ayala's Angel* by Anthony Trollope  
For more information, contact [Lora Walker](#).

Saturday, April 20, 12:30 p.m.  
**Long Beach Reading Group**  
*She Stoops to Conquer* by Oliver Goldsmith  
For more information, contact [Sherwood Smith](#).

Saturday, April 20, 10-11:30 a.m.  
**North Orange County Reading Group**  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (second half)  
Location: Panera Bread, downtown Fullerton  
For more information, contact [Melissa Buell](#).

Saturday, April 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Ventura County Reading Group**  
*Women in White* by Wilkie Collins  
Location: E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura  
For more information, contact [Priscilla Diamond](#).

Sunday, April 21  
**Jane Austen Game Group** (South Bay)  
Join fellow Janeites to play Austen-related games.  
For more information, contact [David Poepoe](#).

Saturday, April 27, 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, April 27  
**Westside/405 Reading Group**  
*North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell  
The day will include a screening of the 2004 BBC mini-series.  
Location: Home of Syrie James  
For more information, contact [Karen Berk](#).

Saturday, May 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**  
*Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen  
Location: 999 E. Washington, Pasadena  
Please bring an item for the buffet.  
For more information, contact [Kelly Duir](#).

Sunday, May 5  
**South Bay Reading Group**  
*Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen  
For more information, contact [Jeanine Holguin](#).

Saturday, May 11  
**Pasadena Area Reading Group**  
*Queen Lucia* by E. F. Benson  
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact [Susan Ridgeway](#) for more information.

Saturday, May 18, 2:30 p.m.  
**NEW Film Group**  
*Pride and Prejudice* (2003) (pending suggestions)  
For more information, contact [Teresa Chien](#). New members welcome!

Saturday, May 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Ventura County Reading Group**

*Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier

Location: E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura

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

Sunday, May 19

**Orange County Reading Group**

*Castle Rackrent* by Maria Edgeworth

For more information, contact [Maryann Pelensky](#).

Sunday, May 19

**San Fernando Valley Reading Group**

*Some Tame Gazelle* by Barbara Pym

For more information, contact [Cheryl Cole](#).

**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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