



May 2019 Newsletter

2019 Festival of Books Recap



Anna Raya Rivera, Syrie James and Melissa Buell

"What dreadful hot weather we have!
It keeps one in a continual state of inelegance."
Letter to Cassandra Austen, 18 September 1796

The 2019 *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books took place April 13-14, with JASNA Southwest participating for the ninth straight year. For two sunshine-filled days, some 150,000 people descended on USC to attend the nation's largest literary festival.

A record-breaking total of 1,748 people -- 20 more than the previous record set last year -- visited our booth and answered one key question, "Are you a Jane Austen fan?" The answer was typically a resounding "Yes!" and to the visitors' delight they were given a free I'm a Jane Austen Fan fan, which helped keep the inelegance away while demonstrating to other book lovers across campus how many Jane Austen fans were in attendance!

Authors Syrie James and Melissa Buell talked with visitors and signed copies of their works. Jan Fahey, Jane Boltz, Anna Raya Rivera and Syrie James all wore their Regency attire -- which helped attract even more people to the booth.

Janeites of all ages and backgrounds stopped by to shop for Jane Austen merchandise and talk with other Austen lovers. They received a postcard with our upcoming events, along with a membership brochure. Some 335 individuals signed up on the spot for our monthly newsletter. The booth bustled with talk of all things Austen -- from film adaptations to literary criticism and children's literature. As Sunday afternoon wore on, we eventually ran out of fans!

We owe the success of this event, our largest annual outreach, to our very own, hard-working Festival of Books program chair Emily Bergman, whose long hours of planning and organizing made our participation possible.

"Your warmth in your interactions with our visitors was obvious in how they stayed to talk, wanted more information and came into the booth," Emily told the volunteers after the weekend concluded. "Eden Gabbai greeted visitors with her mom, Talia, on Saturday morning, and I think it was great having an 11-year-old show that Jane Austen is for all ages. We had another mother/daughter team and four wife/husband teams. I love that JASNA is a family affair."

Member Lynn Morris, who volunteered at the booth along with her husband (also a member) reports: "Both Stan and I enjoyed meeting all of the already devoted fans who signed up and all the young potentials. There were so many exciting unexpected exchanges, including several young enthusiasts who wanted to know if Jane was actually present and one Russian fan who repeated and then translated into English the famous opening sentence of *Pride and Prejudice*. Such fun and such promise for the future."

Among the young visitors was a fourth-grader who came to the booth with her father to choose her second Austen novel (she'd already read *Pride and Prejudice*). Based on Emily's recommendation, she chose *Persuasion* as her followup.

Alison Morea, who worked the event with her husband (and fellow JASNA member), Alfred DiGrazia, says: "JASNA may have run out of fans, but we hope Jane Austen never does!"

Many others deserve thanks for their hard work at the event, but special gratitude goes to Carlyne Bardeleben, who cashiered all day Saturday with nary a break, and Nancy Ramsey and Carla Washburn, who worked all day Saturday as well. Jane Boltz stayed far beyond her Sunday shift. Other volunteers included Cheryl Cole and her husband, Chris; Consuelo Garcia; Amber Lotspeich and her mom, Julie Herzog; Stephen Kwok; Glenda Pinney; Karen Rueda (who also created flowers to decorate the booth); and Susie Wampler.



Carlyne Bardeleben and Emily Bergman, event coordinator



Our limited-edition 40th anniversary fans helped everyone beat the heat.



Austen fans flocked to the booth to learn more about our upcoming events and to purchase books.



Register Now for Huntington Library Event



[Registration](#) is still open for the June 1 event at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. Seats are going quickly. You have until May 24, or until the event sells out, to secure your spot.

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 "Those Who Chose To Be Idle Certainly Might: Mothers as Teachers in Jane Austen's Works"
- UCLA Professor Charles Lynn Batten, on "Failed Marital Relationships: Causes and Solutions in Jane Austen's Novels"

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 *Hermesprong* 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.

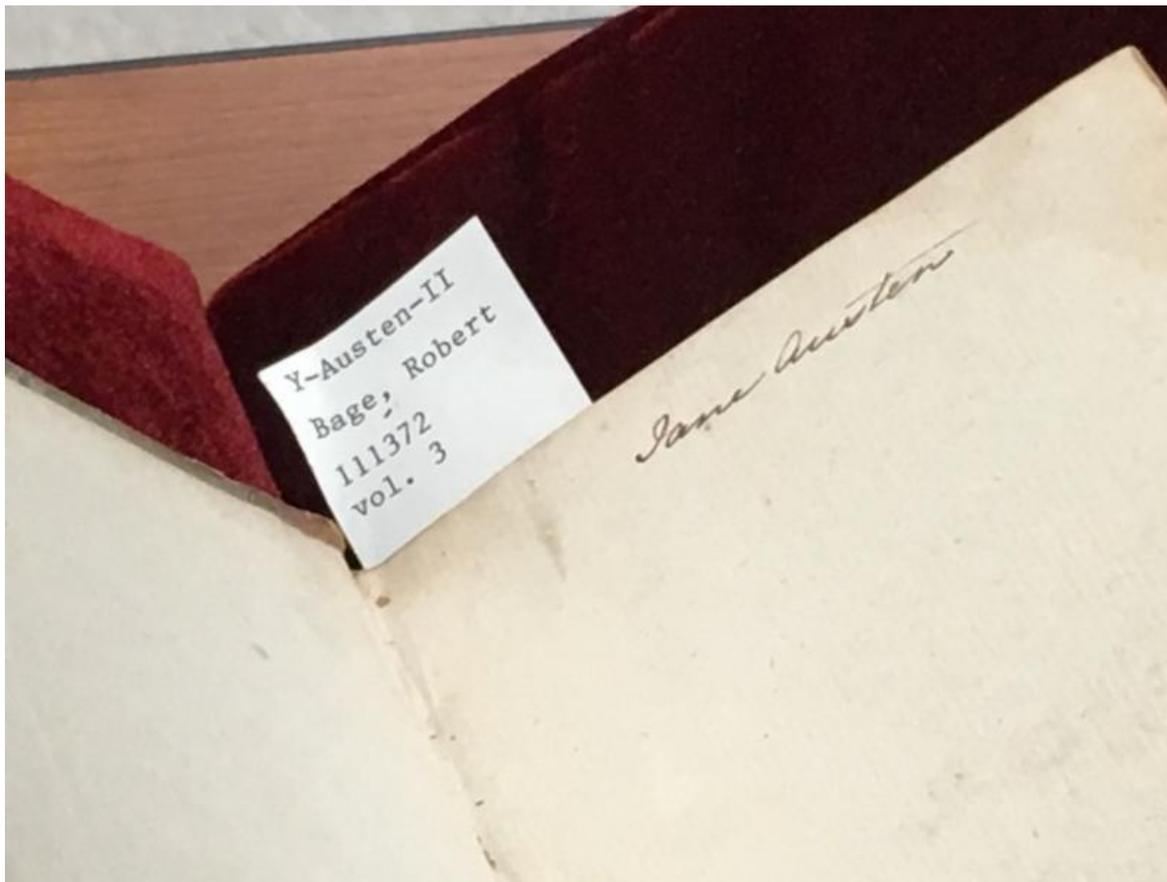
Docent-led tours will begin at 2 p.m. and conclude between 3 and 3:30 p.m., depending on the tour. Space will be limited for the tours (an email signup -- first come, first served -- will be sent to all registrants later this month). They include:

- [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.](#)



JASNA Celebrates 40 Years!

Both JASNA and JASNA Southwest are celebrating their 40th anniversaries in 2019. JASNA was established on October 5, 1979, and JASNA Southwest was among the first nine regions organized at that inaugural business meeting. JASNA Southwest's first meeting followed soon after on December 14, 1979. Since that first meeting, JASNA has become the largest literary society in the world devoted to Jane Austen.

If you have artifacts, old programs or photos, especially from the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, we would appreciate a digital copy (or the chance to borrow, scan and return your items to you) for our archives and for our 40th celebration in December at USC, where our region's first meeting was held. Please contact us at jasnasw@jasnasw.com.



JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY
OF NORTH AMERICA



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.

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*).



Reading/Game Groups

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](mailto:Kelly.Duir).

Sunday, May 5

South Bay Reading Group

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen

For more information, contact [Jeanine Holquin](mailto:Jeanine.Holquin).

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, 10 a.m.

North Orange County Reading Group

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen (first half)

Location: Panera Bread, Fullerton

For more information, contact [Melissa Buell](#).

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](#).

Thursday, June 5

Janeites Reading Trollope

Can You Forgive Her by Anthony Trollope

For more information, contact [Lora Walker](#).

Sunday, June 9, 5 p.m.

Santa Monica Reading Group

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen

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

Saturday, June 15, 12:30 p.m.

Long Beach Reading Group

Emma by Jane Austen

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

Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m.

North Orange County Reading Group

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen (second half)

Location: Panera Bread, Fullerton

For more information, contact [Melissa Buell](#).

Sunday, June 23, 1:30-4 p.m.

West Los Angeles Reading Group

Emma by Jane Austen

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

Saturday, July 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Ventura County Reading Group

Pride and Prometheus by John Kessel

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

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

Wednesday, July 24

Pasadena Area Reading Group

How Reading Changed My Life by Anna Quindlen

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

Sunday, July 28

South Bay Reading Group

Pride and Prometheus by John Kessel

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

Sunday, August 11, 1 p.m.

Riverside Reading Group

The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things by Paula Byrne

Pride and Prometheus by John Kessel

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

Sunday, August 11, 1:30-4 p.m.

West Los Angeles Reading Group

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

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

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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