Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

December 2019 Newsletter

Last call for *What's Next for Jane Austen?* Saturday, December 7

It's your last chance to register for "What's Next for Jane Austen?" -- our meeting on Saturday, Dec. 7 at University of Southern California's elegant Town & Gown ballroom.

Registration must be completed by midnight on Sunday, Dec. 1!

Join Austen scholars Janine Barchas and Devoney Looser for three informative talks:

- Barchas will discuss *The Lost Books of Jane Austen* (such as the volume shown right), which investigates the history of publishing Austen titles, particularly the cheapest and most neglected reprintings.
- Looser will share details on *The Daily Jane Austen* (a curated selection of Austen quotes).
- After lunch, they'll join moderator Lynda Hall for an Actors Studio-style chat about their recent collaboration on a special issue of the journal *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* with the theme "What's Next for Jane Austen?" They'll discuss this venture and share insights on the future of Austen scholarship and appreciation. JASNA Southwest will be the official launch event for the journal issue! We'll have copies available for purchase.

Other features of the day include:

- Book signings
- Raffle baskets
- White elephant sale
- Regency photo booth (have your photo taken with an Austen hero!)
- JASNA 40th anniversary slide show and display
- Trivia contest

- Special giveaways

Have your photo taken with an Austen hero in our Regency photo booth!

Janine Barchas at her 2019 JASNA Annual General Meeting plenary talk

Devoney Looser at the 2019 AGM book-signing event

What's Next for JASNA Southwest?

We've announced our slate of JASNA Southwest regional events for 2020. Download the event postcard or learn more on our website: jasnasw.org.

Save the Date: Law in the Regency Era

Our first JASNA Southwest meeting of 2020 will be on Saturday, Feb. 29 at the UCLA Faculty Center exploring the topic "Law in the Regency Era." Our speakers at this half-day event will be lawyer and frequent JASNA AGM speaker James Nagle on "Inheritance in Jane Austen's Time" and historian Walter Nelson on "Crime and Punishment in the Regency Era."

James Nagle

James Nagle is a member of the Puget Sound Region and a former secretary of JASNA. A semi-retired lawyer, he maintains an abiding interest in all things Regency and has spoken at numerous Annual General Meetings on Austen's life and times.

Walter Nelson

Walter Nelson is an historical consultant who has appeared numerous times on the History Channel and A&E. He has participated in hundreds of living history programs in the U.S. and U.K., and is a librarian and web designer for the RAND Corporation.

What Else Is Next for Jane Austen? Three new adaptations

The eight-part *Sanditon* miniseries created by screenwriter Andrew Davies (of the BBC 1995 *Pride and Prejudice* fame) for U.K.'s ITV and MASTERPIECE on PBS premieres Sunday, January 12 on MASTERPIECE. Watch the trailer or visit the official website.

Meanwhile, a new big-screen adaptation of *Emma*, starring Anna Taylor-Joy (Emma) and Johnny Flynn (Mr. Knightley), will be released on February 21, 2020. The film is directed by Autumn de Wilde with a script by Eleanor Catton.

It also stars Bill Nighy as Mr. Woodhouse, Miranda Hart as Miss Bates, Mia Goth as Harriet Smith, Rupert Graves and Gemma Whelan as Mr. and Mrs. Weston, and Callum Turner and Amber Anderson as Frank Churchill and Jane Fairfax. Watch the trailer.

Visit the official site for more information and behind-the-scenes images.

If enough members are interested, JASNA Southwest may organize informal watch parties at local cinemas with a post-viewing coffee and discussion session. Email Susie Wampler if you are interested.

Laura Wade's stage version of *The Watsons* is transferring to the Harold Pinter Theatre in London's West End in May following sold-out runs in fall 2019 at the Menier Chocolate Factory in London and at its debut at the U.K. Chichester Festival Theatre in 2018.

Variety describes the play this way: "Imagine a riotously funny cross between the tenor of Emma Thompson's film adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility* and the audacity of Amy Heckerling's *Clueless* and you're still only half-way to the ceaselessly surprising *The Watsons*. ... [Wade] pulls off the exhilarating trick of obeying both the letter and the spirit of Austen while, to the audience's audible delight, joyously blowing expectations out of the water."

Santa Barbara Reading Group

If you live or work near the Santa Barbara area and are interested in joining a fledgling Santa Barbara Reading Group, we'd like to hear from you! Contact Reading Group Coordinator Cheryl Cole if you'd like updates on this potential group as it continues to form.

Or if you live in another JASNA Southwest area and would like to form a new reading group, we'd like to hear from you, too! JASNA Southwest has the largest number of reading groups of any JASNA region, and new ones continue to be established.

Upcoming Talks and Performances

The Broad Stage
Improv Theater's Jane Austen Unscripted
1310 11th Street, Santa Monica
December 21 only (performances at 4 and 8 p.m.)

The New Vic Theater
Jane Austen's Emma (the musical)
33 West Victoria, Santa Barbara
February 6-23, 2020

L.A. Theatre Works
Frankenstein staged reading
James Bridges Theater/UCLA
February 28-March 1, 2020

Reading/Film/Game Groups

Saturday, December 14, 12:30 p.m.
Long Beach Reading Group
Jane Austen birthday celebration
Location: Pamela's Tea Shop in Garden Grove
RSVP no later than December 10
For more information, contact Sherwood Smith.

Sunday, December 15, 1:30 p.m.
West Los Angeles Reading Group
Three Men in a Boat by Jerome K. Jerome
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact Clara Browda for more information.

Sunday, January 5, 5 p.m.
Santa Monica Reading Group
The Outsiders: Five Women Writers Who Changed the World by Lyndall Gordon
For more information, contact Kathi Stafford.

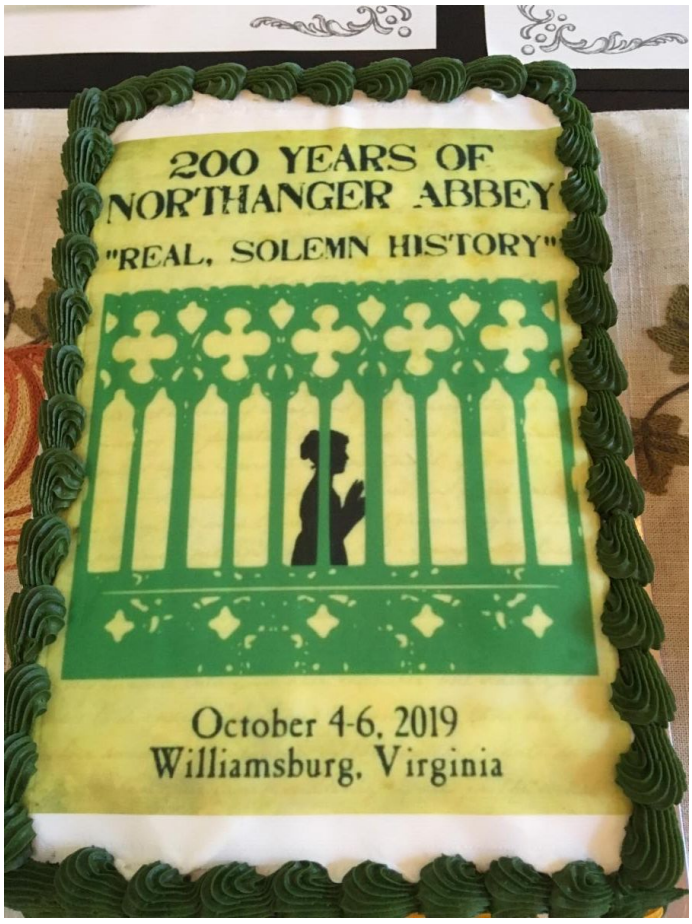
Sunday, January 12
Pasadena Area Reading Group
Sanditon by Jane Austen
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact Susan Ridgeway for more information.

Sunday, January 12, 10 a.m.-noon
South Bay Reading Group
Sanditon by Jane Austen
For more information, contact Jeanine Holguin.

Sunday, January 19, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Orange County Reading Group
Juvenilia: Volume the First by Jane Austen
For more information, contact Maryann Pelensky.

Sunday, February 2, 1 p.m.
Riverside Reading Group
Belle: The Slave Daughter and the Lord Chief Justice by Paula Byrne
For more information, contact Vicki Broach.

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.



Cake made by the Orange County Reading Group for its November meeting, which included a discussion about the 2019 JASNA Annual General Meeting in Williamsburg.

JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY
OF NORTH AMERICA

Visit our website!

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