Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

March 2020 Newsletter

Ms. Austen Goes to Washington: Jane Austen and Politics

Saturday, May 2, Mission Inn Hotel and Spa, Riverside

Registration Opens This Week!

JASNA Southwest is planning a very special meeting on Saturday, May 2 at the historic and beautiful Mission Inn Hotel and Spa in Riverside (a living museum and destination unto itself!) with the theme "Ms. Austen Goes to Washington: Jane Austen and Politics." Our speakers will be Congressman Mark Takano (D-Riverside) -- who launched a Jane Austen reading group in Congress) -- on the topic "A Janeite in Washington," and Austen scholar Sheryl Craig (author of *Jane Austen and the State of the Nation*), who will discuss "Tories, Whigs and Who's Who in Jane Austen."

Seventy-five-minute tours of the historic Mission Inn will be available for those interested following the meeting (you will need to pre-book a spot along with your registration). The Mission Inn is home to priceless treasures and artifacts. The hotel features two on-site chapels, a collection of hundreds of bells and countless priceless paintings, including Henry Chapman Ford's oil paintings of the 21 California missions.

A block of rooms is available at a reduced rate for those wishing to spend more time here, or who are traveling further distances. To book your room at the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa,

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. The room block closes on April 8 or as soon as it sells out.

Other hotels within walking distance of the Mission Inn will be noted in the registration email, coming your way in the next couple of days. But there's no need to spend the night unless you want to! Many people plan to commute for the day.

Don't miss out on this wonderful event. Registration closes April 19. Seating is limited, so register early to avoid disappointment. We hope to see you there!

Congressman Mark Takano

Sheryl Craig

Emma Opens Wide March 6

Additional Watch Parties Planned

Giveaways Coming to our FB Page

Focus Features' new version of *Emma* is currently playing at the Arclight in Hollywood and at Landmark Westside Pavilion, but opens in wide release on Friday, March 6.

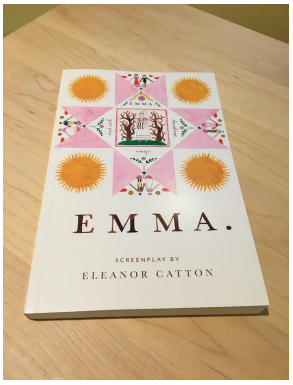
Focus Features will be **sharing some swag** (totebags, scripts) soon as giveaways for JASNA members. Watch our Facebook page for details!! You won't want to miss your chance to win something!

A group of JASNA Southwest members gathered to see and discuss the film on Saturday, February 22, and -- to a person -- all found it a charming addition to the Austen adaptations oeuvre. We're planning a repeat outing with additional Janeites in March. Other *Emma* watch parties are also being planned in the area. A special treat for fans of the 1995 *Pride and Prejudice* BBC miniseries is seeing Lucy Briers (who played Mary Bennet) in a cameo as Mr. Knightley's housekeeper.

Email Susie Wampler to be added to the list for a second Westside screening (Century City). For the Anaheim watch party on Saturday, March 7, email Melissa Buell. For a Calabasas-area screening, contact Talia Gabbai.

And Anna Taylor-Joy, who stars as Emma, shared a special message exclusively for fellow Janeites. Watch it on our jasnasw.org homepage now!

Win some *Emma* swag, courtesy of Focus Features. Watch our FB page next week.



Giveaways will include the screenplay by Booker Prize winner Eleanor Catton, totebags, bookmarks and more.

Georgian Justice: Legal Matters in Jane Austen's Time

Some 120 members and guests gathered for our Feb. 29 event at UCLA, "Georgian Justice: Legal Matters in Jane Austen's Time." Lawyer James Nagle spoke about "Inheritance in Jane Austen's Time," while historian Walter Nelson regaled the audience with stories about "Crime and Punishment in the Regency Era." Claire and Bob Bellanti generously sponsored the event, for which we are most grateful! We'll feature highlights from the day in our April newsletter.

Festival of Books: April 18-19

JASNA Southwest will have a booth again at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books, Stories and Ideas (new name!) to be held April 18-19 at USC. If you're planning on going to the festival to see some of the latest books, meet and greet authors, and get your books signed -- be sure to make a stop at the JASNA-SW booth. We will be having Jane-themed books and merchandise for sale! And it's your chance to pick up a new special-edition I'm a Jane Austen Fan fan!

Please consider volunteering -- we have a wide range of areas in which you can help. You may talk to visitors about your favorite writer, assist in the decorating or setting up/taking down the booth, help with sales or assist in another way to help to spread Austen to the masses.

To volunteer, contact Emily Bergman. Please indicate times you are available: Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon. Shifts are generally two hours. If you would like to dress in Regency attire (not required!), it definitely helps draw attention to our booth!

Bakersfield and Santa Barbara Call for Reading Group Members

Live or work in the Bakersfield or Santa Barbara areas and want to join fellow Janeites to form a local reading group? Contact jasnasw@jasnasw.com.

Jane Austen Summer Program

The eighth annual Jane Austen Summer Program June 18-21, 2020, in North Carolina will focus on will focus on the theme "Jane Austen's World." This year's conference explores Austen's life through her letters and the acclaimed 1997 biography *Jane Austen: A Life*, by

Claire Tomalin.

Speakers include: noted Austen scholar Janine Barchas (*The Lost Books of Jane Austen*); Robert Morrison, author of the 2019 nonfiction book *The Regency Years: During Which Jane Austen Writes, Napoleon Fights, Byron Makes Love, and Britain Becomes Modern*; Mary Robinette Kowal, the award-winning author behind the Regency-set Glamourist Histories series; and experts on Regency fashion and penmanship. For more information, visit janeaustensummer.org.

Sense and Sensibility at AMPA March 5-7

The Academy of Music and Performing Arts, Hamilton High School, is presenting a production of Kate Hamill's adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility* March 5-7 at Norman Pattiz Auditorium, 2955 S. Robertson Blvd.

For more information, visit the school's website.

Reading/Film/Game Groups

Saturday, March 7
Long Beach Reading Group
Sanditon miniseries and *Sanditon* by Jane Austen and Another Lady
For more information, contact Sherwood Smith.

Saturday, March 14 (time TBD)
South Bay Game Group
Join fellow Janeites for attendee choice of Austen-related games.
For more information, contact David Poepoe.

Sunday, March 15, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Orange County Reading Group
Jane Austen's England: Daily Life in the Georgian and Regency Periods by Lesley Adkins
For more information, contact Maryann Pelensky.

Sunday, March 15
Pasadena Area Reading Group
Sanditon (three versions: Austen's, a completed version by Jane Austen and Another Lady (1975), novelist Marie Dobbs, and Andrew Davies' TV adaptation)
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members. Current members may contact Susan Ridgeway for more information.

Sunday, March 15, 2-4 p.m.
San Fernando Valley Reading Group
The Gentleman's Daughter by Amanda Vickery
For more information, contact Cheryl Cole.

Sunday, March 15, 5 p.m.
Santa Monica Reading Group
The Bride of Northanger by Diana Birchall
For more information, contact Kathi Stafford.

Sunday, March 15
South Bay Reading Group
Juvenilia by Jane Austen
For more information, contact Jeanine Holguin.

Saturday, March 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Ventura Reading Group
Rational Creatures, edited by Christina Boyd
Location: E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura
For more information, contact Phyllis Michaels.

Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m.
North Orange County Reading Group
The Jane Austen Project by Kathleen Flynn (second half)
Location: Panera Bread, 1028 S. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton
For more information, contact Melissa Buell or visit the group's Facebook page.

Saturday, March 28, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
San Gabriel Valley Reading Group
Emma by Jane Austen (first half)
Location: Claremont
Please bring an item for the buffet.
For more information, contact Kelly Duir.

Thursday, April 16
Janeites Reading Trollope
Doctor Thorne by Anthony Trollope
For more information, contact Lora Walker.

Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Ventura Reading Group
Fanny Burney, A Biography by Claire Harmon
Location: E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura
For more information, contact Phyllis Michaels.

Sunday, April 26, 1:30 p.m.
West Los Angeles Reading Group
The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton
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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