



Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

## May 2020 Newsletter



*Jane Austen masked, courtesy of JASNA*

While we continue physical distancing, it's more important than ever to stay socially connected with friends, family and fellow Janeites in safe but creative ways! Here are a few ideas for entertainment and/or connection.

1. We are sad that our May 2 event at the Mission Inn has been postponed, but next month be on the lookout for a politically themed way for us to connect. We're putting together an interactive "caucus for your favorite hero/heroine" activity. If you'd like to be the "campaign manager" for your favorite Austen character, contact Susie Wampler at [jasnasw@jasnasw.com](mailto:jasnasw@jasnasw.com).

2. This terrific piece in [The Guardian](#) explains how we are all "living *Pride and Prejudice*."

"Stills from the 2005 film version showing Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth romancing from a sensible six feet apart are being memed as models of physical distancing. His repeated nervous inquiries about whether her family 'are in good health' [are] now, as writer Hannah Long pointed out, a strong opening for all your work emails."

3. It's the 25th anniversary of the Colin Firth/Jennifer Ehle *Pride and Prejudice*, the Emma Thompson *Sense and Sensibility* and Amanda Root/Ciarán Hinds *Persuasion* -- not to mention *Clueless*. Or you can celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Laurence Olivier / Greer Garson *P&P* or the 40th year since the Elizabeth Garvie / David Rintoul version. Next month: We'll include an Austen adaptation quiz, with a prize or two. And don't forget to check out our [Austen Adaptations](#) guide (recently updated).

4. Help spread the word about our 2020 Young Filmmakers Contest! See more details below.

5. Watch a fascinating DAR Museum illustrated lecture by Hilary Davidson on "[Dress in the Age of Jane Austen](#)," recorded in March 2020. She is the author of the 2019 book of the same name.

6. Read "[Why We Turn to Jane Austen in Dark Times](#)," by Janice Hadlow, author of the new novel *The Other Bennet Sister*.

7. Between now and Wednesday, May 6, you can stream (for free) both versions of the [National Theatre](#) acclaimed production of *Frankenstein* (with Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller alternating the roles of Victor Frankenstein and The Creature).

8. Listen to [Matthew Macfadyen](#) (Mr. Darcy in the 2005 feature film) read *Pride and Prejudice*.

9. Check out the new branding for [Jane Austen's House](#) (formerly Jane Austen's House Museum).

10. Another recent story from *The Guardian* discusses a newly discovered portrait of a woman who may have [inspired the character of Lydia Bennet](#) (see image, right) -- Mary Pearson, once the fiancée of Austen's brother Henry.

Jane Austen's House in Chawton has acquired the miniature portrait.



## Young Filmmakers Contest 2020



JASNA Southwest's annual contest is underway, calling for original shorts of five minutes or less centered around Jane Austen. In addition to welcoming submissions from students, this year we invite all Jane Austen enthusiasts under the age of 30 to enter. Cash prizes and endless adulation await the top three. Deadline is October 30.

This year marks the anniversary of numerous important film adaptations of Austen's novels. It is the perfect opportunity for us to nurture the future legacy of Austen on screen.

Help us spread the word by urging the young film enthusiasts you know to enter. Or try your own hand at writing/directing if you qualify.

Our [JASNA Southwest website](#) has additional details, as well as the [2020 Young Filmmakers flyer](#) and [2020 entry form](#). You can also link to and view past winners.

Full details are available by contacting [youngfilm@jasnasw.org](mailto:youngfilm@jasnasw.org).

## Pugs & Prejudice

This book is not new. *Classic Tails Pugs and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and Eliza Garrett arrived in 2018. But it is beautifully illustrated and the selected page below made me giggle. The Bennet family live at Longbone! We could all use a little extra amusement right now, so enjoy. Lady Bertram would approve.

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There were four beautiful female pups in the Bennet household (plus a fifth, Kitty, who was a little odd – but no one could quite figure out why), and Mrs Bennet was eager to marry them off and secure their futures. 'A single pug in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a mate!' she squealed, and wagged her little curly tail. Legally, you see, the Bennets' kennel could only be inherited by a male heir.

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## Reading/Film/Game Groups

Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.

**North Orange County Reading Group**

*Jane Austen at Home: A Biography* by Lucy Worsley

The meeting will be held via Zoom.

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

Sunday, June 14, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

**West Los Angeles Reading Group**

*The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton

The meeting will be held via Zoom.  
For more information, contact [Katie Walker](#).

Many of our reading, film and game groups are taking a pause from in-person meetings as we all stay at home to protect ourselves, each other, our loved ones and the community at large from the COVID-19 pandemic. Take care and stay safe everyone!

Visit our website!



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