Join us for two upcoming Southwest regional meetings offered at no cost to you, live via Zoom!

During these meetings, each of which will last approximately one hour, we will hear a presentation by an author of an Austen-related work (see author details below), followed by a Q&A session via the chat function on Zoom. You may also submit questions in advance.

Registration details and log-in information will be coming soon, but mark your calendars and save the date. For those new to Zoom, we will provide additional information in the registration email.

We are working on a wide variety of additional Zoom sessions on a range of topics. If you have an idea for an event, please email Susie Wampler. While we are providing these two meetings free of cost to participants, they are not free to JASNA Southwest. So if you are able and so inclined, we would appreciate any donation. As usual, we will include an opportunity to donate as part of the
transfer process.
Natalie Jenner is the author of the new novel (released in May 2020) *The Jane Austen Society*, a fictional telling of the start of the society in the 1940s in the village of Chawton, where Austen lived.

At our virtual meeting at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 25, she will discuss the book and answer questions about the process of writing it.

Born in England and raised in Canada, Jenner recently founded the independent bookstore Archetype Books in Oakville, Ontario, where she lives with her family and two rescue dogs. *The Jane Austen Society* is her first published novel and is available now from St. Martin's Press with translation rights sold in 10 countries.

She obtained her B.A. from the University of Toronto's St. Michael's College, where she was the 1990 Gold Medalist in English Literature, and her LLB from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law. She was Called to the Bar of Ontario in 1995. In addition to a brief career as a corporate lawyer, Jenner has worked as a recruiter, career coach and consultant to leading law firms in Canada for more than 20 years.


She will give a presentation based on *Emma* at our virtual meeting on the morning of Saturday, September 26 (exact time to be announced).

Fowler's previous novel, *Sister Noon*, was a finalist for the 2001 PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction. Her debut novel, *Sarah Canary*, won the Commonwealth medal for best first novel by a Californian, was listed for the *Irish Times* International Fiction Prize as well as the Bay Area Book Reviewers Prize, and was a *New York Times* "notable book." Her short story collection *Black Glass* won the World Fantasy Award in 1999, and her collection *What I Didn't See* won the World Fantasy Award in 2011. Her latest novel, *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*, won the 2014 PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction and was short-listed for the 2014 Man Booker Prize.
In-Person and Virtual Meetings

During these unprecedented times, we are working hard to remain connected while staying physically distanced. We would love to hear your perspective on what would make you feel comfortable to return to in-person gatherings like our regional meetings after health officials say it is safe to do so.

Please take our short survey and share your thoughts.

Take me to the survey now!

For now, we have rescheduled our Mission Inn (photo at right) event for November 13, 2021. And our event at The Grand in Long Beach has been moved to June 19, 2021. Rest assured that, when it's safe to resume in-person events, we will take every precaution to keep you safe.

Vote for Your Favorite Pride and Prejudice Film Portrayals

Last month, you told us your favorite Austen novel, heroine, hero and more. (See result highlights below.) This month, in recognition of the landmark anniversary years for so many versions of *Pride and Prejudice* (1940, 1980,
1995 and 2005), we thought it would be fun to learn who plays your favorite screen versions of Lizzy and Darcy, Lady Catherine, Mr. and Mrs. Bennet, and more!

Take the survey now!

Survey Results: Your Austen Favorites

A big thank you goes to everyone who participated in last month's survey. We had a tremendous response and some wonderful comments! Special thanks go to those who found a couple of glaring omissions among the answer options (that's why the write-in vote was invented!).

Here are highlights from your favorites (read more results on the JASNA Southwest website):

**Austen Novel**
- *Pride and Prejudice* (44%)
- *Persuasion* (37%)
- *Emma* (7%)
- *Mansfield Park*, *Sense and Sensibility* and "whichever novel I'm reading now" all tied at 4%.

Only *Northanger Abbey* received no votes, but several people declared it their second-favorite Austen novel.

**Comments:**
- *Pride and Prejudice*
  - "It's a complex story that shows the strength of women's bonds with family, community and larger society."
  - "Perfect balance of complex, intersecting timelines and clever wit."
  - "Perfection"

- *Persuasion*
  - "Last, therefore the most polished writing -- confident and clear."
  - "I have always been drawn to the characters of Anne and Wentworth, especially as I continue to age."

- *Emma*
  - "*Emma* provides an excellent view of the societal circumstances of the time."
  - "The most revolutionary novel. I get something new out of it every time I read it."

- *Mansfield Park*
  - "This novel gives us the strongest look at the workings of evil. Not pleasant, much of the time, but a lot to think about."
  - "This is Austen's call for all of us, no matter where we find ourselves, to look within ourselves to be a light in a dark world."
  - "The most complex and thought provoking of all her works, MP requires the contemporary reader to unravel the subtext in order to more fully understand Austen's message. The MP characters are so well developed that every reading reveals new material that changes how the reader views and relates to each one."

**Austen Heroine**
- Elizabeth Bennet by a landslide (59%) followed by Anne Elliot (24%)

**Comments:**
- "Elizabeth is always the smartest person in the room."
- "Despite her initial prejudice toward Darcy, she knew her own mind and was resourceful and independent."
- "Elizabeth is so fresh, active and witty. But she also becomes introspective and self-
"Examining when confronted with new evidence."
"Elizabeth is a great role model for girls."
"Lizzie can stand up to Mr. Darcy, Lady Catherine and her mother. I don't think a lot of
women of her time would have stood up to people like that. I also think she was the most
willing of Austen's characters to admit when they made a mistake and to change themselves
for the better."
"She is all the things we wish to see in ourselves."

"I love Anne Elliot. She is smart, capable and found love 'late' in life."
"I can see myself in Anne -- the one who puts everyone else first and let someone persuade
them to make a decision that they later regretted. Fortunately Anne had a second chance at
the decision."
"Anne remained kind and generous despite her disappointments."

"Elinor is a woman of integrity and honor, even at the expense of her own happiness."
"Cheated out of her inheritance by Fanny Dashwood. Has to listen to Lucy Steele's lies."
"Unlike her mother and sister, Elinor faces reality and behaves in a mature manner."

"I relate to the fantasy world that Catherine creates, the duty of Anne and Elinor, and all
three in the desire to have a life that is to their hopes and dreams."

"I identify with Fanny because my own childhood and teens were equally painful, though for
somewhat different reasons."

"Emma has everything and still needs to learn something -- and she does!"

For the results on heroes, rakes and villains, annoying suitors, comedic
characters, foils to the heroine, parental figures and most ill-used
characters, read the full story on the JASNA Southwest website!
JASNA Southwest's annual Young Filmmakers Contest is well underway. Judges for the contest will include Robin Swicord (director and screenwriter of the film based on *The Jane Austen Book Club*) and retired *Los Angeles Times* film critic Ken Turan.

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 original shorts of five minutes or less centered around Jane Austen. 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.

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**Free Online Day of Celebration**  
**Jane Austen Society's 80th Birthday**

On Saturday, July 11, from 2-5:30 p.m. British Standard Time (6 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Pacific Time), Chawton House will present a free online celebration of the Jane Austen Society's 80th anniversary. The event will include talks by Helen Cole and Emma Clery, as well as updates from both directors of Chawton House and Jane Austen's House.

Videos will be available on the [Chawton House YouTube channel](#), as are several of the talks from the May Lockdown Literary Festival at Chawton House.

For details on the program and to sign up for the live event, visit the [Chawton House website](#).

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**Austen Amusements and Insights**

Kelly Duir, who heads our San Gabriel Valley Reading Group, recommends [goldstar.com](#), where you can rent the 2020 musical version of *Pride and Prejudice* and a stage version of *Emma*, among other titles.

David Poepe, who leads the South Bay Gaming Group, shared info on a half-off sale (plus free shipping) of titles (including a handful of Austen-related works) from the [Rutgers University Press](#) and [Bucknell University Press](#). Sale ends July 7!

If you missed the live performance in June, you can watch Diana Birchall (Mrs. Bennet), Syrie James (Lady Catherine de Bourgh) and Paul Birchall (the Judge) in Birchall and James' play [The Austen Assizes on YouTube](#). The play was originally performed at the 2012 AGM.
AGM Goes Virtual

JASNA’s Annual General Meeting is back on track for October 9-11, but will be offered as a virtual conference instead of an in-person one. This will provide a wonderful opportunity for anyone who has never been able to attend, as well as for those who are die-hard AGM-goers and were disappointed that this year’s long-awaited event was going to be canceled. No, it won’t be quite the same as usual, but some aspects may be even better! For instance, because breakout sessions will be recorded, you can hear all of the talks rather than having to pick among them.

JASNA has not yet announced when registration will open, or what the cost of attendance may be. For more information, visit jasna.org.

Reading/Film/Game Groups

Sunday, July 12
South Bay Reading Group
Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day by Winifred Watson
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Jeanine Holguin.

Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m.
North Orange County Reading Group
Jane Austen at Home: A Biography by Lucy Worsley, chapters 5-6
Location: TBD
For more information, contact Melissa Buell.

Saturday, July 18, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Ventura Reading Group
School for Scandal by Richard Sheridan and Lovers’ Vows by Elizabeth Inchbald
Meeting will be held via Zoom.
For more information, contact Phyllis Michaels.

Sunday, July 19
San Fernando Valley Reading Group
Dr. Thorne by Anthony Trollope
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Phyllis Michaels.

Saturday, July 25, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
San Gabriel Valley Reading Group
Jane Austen at Home by Lucy Worsley
The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Kelly Duir.

Sunday, July 26, 1 p.m.
Riverside Reading Group
Mansfield Park by Jane Austen
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Vicki Broach.

Thursday, August 6, 6:30 p.m.
Janeites Reading Trollope
The Eustace Diamonds by Anthony Trollope
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Lora Walker.

Saturday, August 8, 12:30 p.m.
Long Beach Reading Group
Middlemarch by George Eliot
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Sherwood Smith.

Sunday, August 16, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
West Los Angeles Reading Group
Jane Austen’s Juvenilia
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Katie Walker.

September (date TBD)
South Bay Reading Group
The Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Jeanine Holguin.