



Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

September 2020 Newsletter

Register Now for Sept. 26 Zoom Meeting with Karen Joy Fowler on *Emma* and Austen's Hidden Gothics

Registration is now open for our next free Zoom event, to be held Saturday, Sept. 26, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Pacific time.

[Register Now!](#)

Karen Joy Fowler will give a presentation on "*Emma* and Austen's Hidden Gothics."



Attendance is free but registration is required. The meeting will be recorded. In advance of the meeting, you will receive instructions on how to use and download Zoom if you are new to the format. Please do not share the login information on social media.

Fowler is the author of six novels and three short-story collections. Her 2004 novel, *The Jane Austen Book Club*, spent 13 weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list and was a *New York Times* "notable book." She also wrote the introduction to the Penguin Classics deluxe edition of the complete novels of Jane Austen in 2006.

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.

We plan to offer 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 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 have included an opportunity to donate as part of the registration process. Many participants donated to our events with Natalie Jenner and Lynn Batten. We are deeply grateful for your support! It makes all the difference in allowing us to offer these events at no cost.

A very special thank you goes to Claire and Bob Bellanti for generously serving as Lead Sponsors for our 2020 events.

2020 Virtual AGM



Registration for JASNA's [Annual General Meeting: A Virtual Event](#) opens on Tuesday, Sept. 1! Cost is \$89 per person, which includes 30 days of access to watch presentations. Registration closes on Sept. 30.

You must be a JASNA member, but you can join prior to registration for the AGM. Registration is online-only but you may pay online or by mailing a check (which must be received by Sept. 30).

Each registrant must have a unique email address, which will be used to log onto the virtual AGM website. Your registration is portable but will work on only one device at a time.

Couples wanting separate logins must register separately, using different email addresses. Members of the same household watching together on the same computer may do so on one registration. Registrant accounts cannot otherwise be shared.

Learn more about this year's [plenary speakers](#), [breakout sessions](#), [special events](#) and [social scene](#). Take a look [Inside Jane Austen's World](#) to learn about cooking, carriages, gardening and more during the Regency era.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to travel to Austen's era and meet fellow Janeites from around the world, all from the comfort of home.

Recap of Lynn Batten August Zoom Meeting

Our August Zoom meeting with UCLA Professor Emeritus Lynn Batten attracted 159 participants from Hawaii to Montreal and from North Carolina to Minnesota. It's been a real treat to welcome Austen enthusiasts from all over North America.

A lively discussion followed Batten's introductory remarks on Austen's *Juvenilia*, which focused on five works: "Frederic & Elfrida," "Jack & Alice," "Love and Freindship," "Lesley Castle" and "The History of England." [Read his introductory remarks.](#) Or watch the [full video of Lynn's talk and the group discussion.](#)

Participants offered interesting insights and offered thought-provoking questions as part of the Zoom chat session. Follow along with the [Juvenilia Zoom chat here.](#)



Video and Extras from Natalie Jenner Talk

The video of our Zoom meeting with [Natalie Jenner](#) (author of *The Jane Austen Society*) is now live on our [YouTube channel.](#)

You may also read the [Natalie Jenner Zoom meeting transcript](#) as well as the [chat from July 25 meeting here.](#)

We regret that we have so far been unable to add captioning to the video. We are actively recruiting volunteers to help (see below).



Video Captioning Volunteers Needed!

We would like to be able to offer closed captioning of our Zoom presentations live, but this is cost-prohibitive without a skilled volunteer. If you are willing to take on this responsibility, or would like more information, please contact [Susie Wampler](#). Or if you know how to add captioning to a completed video and would be willing to help, please let us know. Thank you!

Other Austen Events and Projects

One of the unexpected pleasures of being unable to gather with fellow Janeites in person has been the wealth of virtual programming open to all. Our own Southwest Zoom events have attracted JASNA members from every corner of North America, which has given us a chance to make new friends and welcome more people who share a love of Jane Austen. And other regions have also opened opportunities for us to participate in their events.

JASNA Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho has invited other regions (and nonmembers) to attend its next meeting, to be held via Zoom:

Sunday, Sept. 20, 2-3:30 p.m. Pacific time

"Wicked Funny: A Dramatic Reading and Discussion"

The play *Wicked Funny* takes about 25 to 30 minutes to perform and highlights the comic delights of "The Three Sisters," "Jack & Alice" and "Love and Freindship" from Austen's Juvenilia. A discussion of the stories will follow in breakout sessions. Reserve your spot by emailing jasnaewanid@gmail.com. A Zoom link will be sent to you closer to the date of the event. Space is limited.

The Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho Region is also welcoming participants from throughout North America to join in the adventures of Flat Jane Austen. A replica of Austen is traveling the country, with participants in the project photographing her on her journey and then mailing her to her next destination. Flat Jane Austen has not yet visited California! And the Golden State should be a must-see stop on her travels. Learn more about the [Flat Jane Austen Project](#) and see where she's been so far.

In case you missed the live event, you can still watch [A Celebration of Jane Austen](#), which featured Austen scholar Devoney Looser moderating a talk with four authors: Rachel Cohen (*Austen Years*), Janice Hadlow (*The Other Bennet Sister*), Natalie Jenner (*The Jane Austen Society*) and Lucy Worsley (*Jane Austen at Home*).



Young Filmmakers Contest 2020

It's not too late to tell everyone you know about our third annual Young Filmmakers Contest! The contest is open to all amateur filmmakers in North America under age 30. Submissions from Austen enthusiasts in high school, college and graduate school are especially welcome.

Cash prizes and adulation await the top three original shorts of five minutes or less. Deadline for entries is October 30, 2020. We encourage all regions to share this info with anyone you think would be interested, especially among high school and college film and English teachers and students. We have an all-star panel of judges lined up to review this year's entries.

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.

For questions, contact youngfilm@jasnasw.org.

Survey Results: Your Favorite *Sense and Sensibility* Film Portrayals

Here are highlights from last month's survey of your favorite film portrayals of *Sense and Sensibility*. Note that many respondents said they had not seen all of the versions (which number four period adaptations and several modernized or loose variations). You can still [submit your answers](#) if you haven't yet taken the survey.

Adaptation

1995 film (66.5%)
2008 miniseries (28.5%)
From Prada to Nada (5%)



Comments:

"1995 is my favorite, but I also really enjoyed the Andrew Davies 2008 miniseries."

"1995 is the one that did it. I have been hooked on everything Jane ever since."

"I love the 1995 film but the miniseries format gives the story more room to unfold and breathe (and you lose fewer characters). So the 2008 miniseries is my favorite."

Elinor Dashwood

Emma Thompson (71%) (1995 film)
Hattie Morahan (29%) (2008 miniseries)

Comments:

"Emma Thompson breaks your heart with her beautiful portrayal of Elinor."

"Emma Thompson is wonderful but not the right age. I absolutely loved Hattie Morahan in the role."

Marianne Dashwood

Kate Winslet (81%) (1995 film)

Charity Wakefield (14%) (2008 miniseries)

Alexa PenaVega (5%) (*From Prada to Nada*)

Comment:

"Kate Winslet is magical. I recently rewatched all of the versions and Ciaran Madden (from 1971) is overacting to an incredible degree. Her Marianne is over-the-top hysterical from the get-go."

Willoughby

Greg Wise (81%) (1995 film)

Dominic Cooper (19%) (2008 miniseries)

Comments:

"Greg Wise is perfection as Willoughby."

"Greg Wise must have been good since he ended up marrying Emma Thompson and she won an Oscar for writing the screenplay."

Edward Ferrars

Hugh Grant (81%) (1995 film)

Dan Stevens (19%) (2008 miniseries)

Comments:

"Hugh Grant is adorable in the 1995 film, especially when he's playing pirates with little sister Margaret Dashwood."

"The scene in the 2008 miniseries where Dan Stevens is chopping wood in the rain in a wet white shirt harkens back to the lake scene in the 1995 P&P miniseries. It made me laugh out loud, but in a good way. A nice throwback from Andrew Davies."

Col. Brandon

Alan Rickman (80%) (1995 film)

David Morrissey (20%) (2008 miniseries)

Comments:

"Alan Rickman's suppressed passion is everything! David Morrissey also gave quite a moving performance."

"Rickman might not have been my first choice, but certainly a highlight in a career cut too short."

Lucy Steele

Imogen Stubbs (71%) (1995 film)

Anna Madeley (24%) (2008 miniseries)

Fanny Dashwood

Harriet Walter (71%) (1995 film)

Claire Skinner (24%) (2008 miniseries)

Comment:

"Harriet Walter is an acting goddess! Claire Skinner was also fabulous in this role."

Mrs. Jennings

Elizabeth Spriggs (85%) (1995 film)

Linda Bassett (15%) (2008 miniseries)

Comments:

"Elizabeth Spriggs is such a wonderful character actress! She always makes me smile."

"Patricia Routledge has an outsized role in the 1971 miniseries. And she looks younger

than the Miss Steeles, which is a little confusing."

Screenplay

Emma Thompson (76%) (1995 film)

Andrew Davies (14%) (2008 miniseries)

Comment:

"For me it's a tie between Emma Thompson and Andrew Davies. They both capture different aspects of the novel beautifully. Andrew Davies works in the duel! But Emma Thompson manages to tell the full story in a feature-length film, which is pretty impressive."

Reading/Film/Game Groups

Saturday, September 12, 12:30 p.m.

Long Beach Reading Group

Can You Forgive Her? by Anthony Trollope

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

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

Saturday, September 19, 10:15 a.m.

North Orange County Reading Group

Jane Austen at Home by Lucy Worsley (chapters eight and nine)

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

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

Saturday, September 19, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Ventura County Reading Group

A Ship of the Line (Hornblower Saga #7) by C. S. Forester

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

For more information, contact [Phyllis Michaels](#).

Sunday, September 20, 2-4 p.m.

San Fernando Valley Reading Group

Jane Austen's Letters, edited by Deirdre Le Faye

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

For more information, contact [Cheryl Cole](#).

Sunday, September 20, 1-2:30 p.m.

Orange County Reading Group

Shirley by Charlotte Brontë

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

For more information, contact [Maryann Pelensky](#).

Sunday, September 20

South Bay Reading Group

The Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

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

Saturday, September 26, 12:45-2:45 p.m.

San Gabriel Valley Reading Group

Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen (first half)

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

For more information, contact [Kelly Duir](#).

Sunday, October 11, 5 p.m.

Santa Monica Reading Group

Murder Must Advertise by Dorothy L. Sayers

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

For more information, contact [Diana Birchall](#).

Thursday, October 15, 6:30 p.m.

Janeites Reading Trollope

Phineas Redux by Anthony Trollope

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact [Lora Walker](#).

Sunday, October 18, 1:30-4 p.m.

West Los Angeles Reading Group

The Other Bennet Sister by Janice Hadlow

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

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

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