Join JASNA Southwest for the world premiere of the six winning entries in our fourth annual Young Filmmakers Contest. The free event will be held via Zoom on Sunday, Jan. 24, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Pacific time.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers and several of our esteemed judges. Don't miss this special afternoon!

Register Now!

Jillian Davis and Yolanda Rodriguez won first place in the over-20 category for their entry, "Jane Austen Virtual Book Club" (above, right)

High school junior Thomas Fitzgerald won first place in the under-20 category for his film, "Handsome, Clever and Rich" (right)

Entrants came from all over North America and were judged by an outstanding panel of filmmakers and critics.

High school senior Elliot Cagle won second place in the under-20 category for her film, "A Certain Step Towards Falling in Love."

Lydia Smith won second place in the over-20 category for her entry, "A Letter to Jane," which featured cinematography by David Pearson.
College freshman Sajween Khan won third place in the under-20 category for "Letters to Cassandra."

Courtney Birnbaum won third place in the over-20 category for her animated film, "Morland and Mishaps."

Special Thanks to Our Outstanding Judging Panel

- Ashley Clements of The Lizzie Bennet Diaries, who is starring in and producing A Tale Told by an Idiot, a modern adaptation of Macbeth
- Laurie Viera Rigler, author of Confessions of a Jane Austen Addict and its sequel, and creator of the Babelgum web series Sex and the Austen Girl
- Thomas Rigler, Emmy-winning director, executive producer and showrunner
- Robin Swicord, director and screenwriter of The Jane Austen Book Club
- Kenneth Turan, longtime (recently retired) film critic for the Los Angeles Times
- Aydrea Walden, writer/producer/actor and creator of the Webby-nominated Black Girl in a Big Dress

Other Upcoming Free Events:
January 16 and February 20

Prof. Jason Solinger

On Saturday, January 16, from 11-12:30 p.m. Pacific time, join us for a talk by Jason Solinger on "Anti-Historical Austen: From 'The History of England' to Northanger Abbey and Beyond."

His talk—an extended reprise of his hit presentation at JASNA's 2020 Virtual Annual General Meeting—will examine Austen's parody of history books, "The History of England."

His humorous and enlightening lecture slideshow should put to rest the notion that the text was a mere youthful lark. On the contrary, he will explain how "The History of England" articulates questions that shaped the adjacent
His talk will address such questions as:
- How much poetic license are we willing to grant the historian?
- On what basis did Austen’s predecessors call their own novels “histories”?
- Who is better at explaining the motivations that drive people, the historian or the novelist?
- Which discourse—fiction or history—better prepares readers for being in the world?

Solinger is an associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi, where he teaches classes in 18th and 19th century literature.

He is the author of *Becoming the Gentleman: British Literature and the Invention of Modern Masculinity, 1660-1815*, which explains 18th century Britons’ obsession with the figure of the gentleman. He is currently working on a new book exploring the ways that Austen’s readers have shaped our ideas about literature.

**Register Now!**

**Art Historian Nancy Mowll Mathews**

Join us on Saturday, February 20, from 11-12:30 p.m. Pacific time, for a talk by art historian, curator and author Nancy Mowll Mathews on "Austen and Cassatt: Working From Home."

Mathews is the Emerita Eugénie Prendergast Senior Curator of 19th and 20th Century Art at the Williams College Museum of Art directing the Prendergast Archive and Study Center and teaching in the Williams College Art Department and Graduate Program in the History of Art.

Using letter writing as the core activity of "work" for the educated and prosperous classes, Mathews will compare Austen and Cassatt’s own work lives, their long-distance communications and how they represent women working from home in their art. As appropriate for our current remote work lives and use of Zoom, she will draw comparisons with the similar stay-at-home professionalism of the 19th century.
Mathews received her PhD from the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU, where she began her long career as a preeminent Cassatt scholar. Of the more than 15 books and exhibitions she has produced, the best known are *Cassatt and Her Circle: Selected Letters*, *Cassatt: The Color Prints* and *Mary Cassatt: A Life*. Most recently she curated and co-wrote the catalogue for *Mary Cassatt: An American Impressionist in Paris* for the Jacquemart-André Museum (Paris, 2018).

In addition to her work on Cassatt, she is the co-author of the Prendergast catalogue raisonné and numerous other books on Maurice and Charles Prendergast, Paul Gauguin, and the relationship between art and early film.

**Register Now!**

**Catch Up on Past Events**

**Theatrically Yours, Jane Austen**

If you missed our first all-California JASNA region event on Dec. 12, you can catch up on the [JASNA Southwest YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8o76z017EwMz9jJ886V72A).

The day started with a panel of theater professionals who have firsthand experience taking Austen from the page to the stage. Moderated by JASNA Central California Regional Coordinator Heather Parish (above), executive director of the Rogue Performance Festival in Fresno, panelists were:

- **Brooke Aiello**—A theatre director, actor, costume designer and professor at California State University, Fresno
- **Hana S. Sharif**—Augustin Family Artistic Director of The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis
- **Nandita Shenoy**—An actor-playwright from New York City
- **Amy Stallings**—A professor of history at the College of William and Mary, playwright and historical interpreter with Colonial Williamsburg

The panel was followed by an original theatrical presentation by Carissa Meagher and Olivia Stevenson.
Jane Boltz on Regency Fashion

And if you missed Jane Tomi Boltz’ presentation "Exploring Regency-Era Fashions for Women and Men by a Prejudiced and Amateur Seamstress," her talk and Q&A are now available on the JASNA Southwest YouTube channel, where you can also catch up on our other past events.

In Memoriam: Clara Browda

Longtime JASNA member Clara Browda died on December 1. Founder of the West Los Angeles Reading Group, Clara was a constant presence at JASNA Southwest events and attended at least 18 JASNA Annual General Meetings. A voracious reader, she kept the West L.A. Reading Group on its toes with her thought-provoking study questions prior to each meeting, held for many years in the recreation room of her condo building. It was Clara who approached and secured UCLA Professor Lynn Batten to lead the group’s discussions.

Clara grew up in the greater Los Angeles area and studied music at USC. Her parents were both musicians and went to Vienna for their honeymoon and ended up staying for two years to study music. Clara was a talented flutist and could have played professionally. She was an avid art, opera and classical music aficionado. Throughout her life, she remained close to her family, including her younger brother, David, his daughter, Lydia, and many cousins. When David was 2, he invented his own language and only Clara understood him, serving as an interpreter to their parents.

After 30 years working for a property management firm in Beverly Hills, Clara retired in 2012 from her role as office manager. An avid animal lover, Clara enjoyed being able to spend more time with her beloved dachshund, Shayna, who always helped “clean up” (looking for crumbs) after the West Los Angeles Reading Group meetings. After Shayna died, Clara adopted Pumpkin, who now resides with niece Lydia.

Clara loved to travel and visited every continent except for Antarctica. A favorite journey was to Easter Island in the South Pacific. On a trip to Russia, she met with some of her family’s Russian relatives. On a flight to London in the early 1960s, she shared a plane with the Beatles.

A true Janeite, Clara frequently introduced family members, co-workers and friends to the works of Jane Austen. She also cared deeply about the plight of others and was an outspoken advocate for civil rights and social justice throughout her life. She will be remembered for her leadership, sharpness of mind, grace, compassion and guidance on all that is proper. May she rest in peace.
Stay Safe and Stay Tuned

While we anxiously (and patiently) await the time we can all meet again in person, we have taken the precaution of moving our Mission Inn (Riverside) and The Grand (Long Beach) events to 2022. More details with the new dates will be featured in the next issue of this newsletter.

This does not preclude our meeting in person toward the end of this year at a different location and on a different topic but we didn't want to keep these wonderful venues, speakers (or our members and friends) in limbo or at unnecessary risk. And even after we return to in-person gatherings, we intend to continue a series of Zoom events as well.

Other JASNA Region Events

For a list of JASNA events coordinated by other regions (many of which are open to members and friends all over North America and beyond), be sure to check the JASNA.org events calendar. Some have limited capacity, so sign up early for anything that's of interest to you!

JASNA Hawaii is hosting a joint meeting with the Jane Austen Society of New Zealand on March 13 at 3 p.m. Hawaii time, featuring Deborah Yaffe (Among the Janeites). Register by emailing jasnahawaii@jasnahawaii.org.

Treasures from the National Trust

While we still can't travel safely to the UK (or much of anywhere), you can explore historic homes on the National Trust website, or check out some other online treats for your eyes and ears.

The UK National Trust owns 27,000 items of clothing spanning more than five centuries. Take a look at these fabulous frocks and fashionable fabrics.
The National Trust podcasts feature a wide array of topics, including Escaping the City at Box Hill, gardening, military history and more.

Reading/Film/Game Groups

The Pasadena Area Reading Group's Dec. 16 toast to Jane Austen

Saturday, January 9, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Ventura Reading Group
Flying Colours (Hornblower Saga Book 8) by C. S. Forester
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Phyllis Michaels.

Saturday, January 16, 12:30 p.m.
Long Beach Reading Group
The Making of Jane Austen by Devoney Looser
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Sherwood Smith.

Sunday, January 17, 1 p.m.
Orange County Reading Group
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Maryann Pelensky.

Saturday, January 23, 10:15-11:30 a.m.
North Orange County Reading Group
Persuasion by Jane Austen (chapters 9-16)
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Melissa Buell.
Saturday, January 23, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**
Jane Austen's Juvenilia
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact [Kelly Duir](mailto:Kelly.Duir@janeaustensociety.org).

Sunday, January 24, 2-4 p.m.
**San Fernando Valley Reading Group**
_Persuasion_ by Jane Austen
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact [Odile Yerevan](mailto:Odile.Yerevan@janeaustensociety.org).

Sunday, January 24, 7 p.m.
**Pasadena Area Reading Group**
_Jane Austen at Home: a biography_ by Lucy Worsley
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact [Susan Ridgeway](mailto:Susan.Ridgeway@janeaustensociety.org).

Thursday, January 28
**Janeites Reading Trollope**
_The Prime Minister_ by Anthony Trollope
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact [Lora Walker](mailto:Lora.Walker@janeaustensociety.org).

Sunday, February 7, 1 p.m.
**Riverside Reading Group**
_Austen Years_ by Rachel Cohen
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact [Vicki Broach](mailto:Vicki.Broach@janeaustensociety.org).

Sunday, February 21, 1:30-4 p.m.
**West Los Angeles Reading Group**
_Sense and Sensibility_ by Jane Austen
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact [Katie Boeck](mailto:Katie.Boeck@janeaustensociety.org).

Sunday, February 28, 7 p.m.
**Pasadena Area Reading Group**
_Emma_ by Jane Austen
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact [Susan Ridgeway](mailto:Susan.Ridgeway@janeaustensociety.org).