Recap of Karen Joy Fowler on *Emma* and Austen's Hidden Gothics

Video from the September 26 JASNA Southwest meeting featuring author Karen Joy Fowler (The Jane Austen Book Club and numerous other titles) is now live on our YouTube channel.

Her enlightening talk covered "*Emma* and Austen's Hidden Gothics" -- the untold, highly dramatic stories within Austen's novels. Examples include Jane Fairfax's backstory, Wickham's attempted elopement with Georgiana Darcy, and William Walter Elliot's past relationship with Mrs. Smith and her late husband.

Fowler discussed Austen's strategy of using these stories that we're not told and how Austen carefully constructed them as counterparts to the main plot and characters. "Jane Fairfax’s story has much more drama, with its irresponsible, hidden love affair. Any other writer would have written that story instead," she added, noting that those exceptional choices are one of the things she loves most about Austen.

You can also read the chat text from the event, which included much discussion about the latest screen version of *Emma* as well as *Clueless*.

Special thanks go to Claire and Bob Bellanti for serving as Lead Sponsors for our 2020 events, as well as the 74 (!) other donors who contributed to the Sept. 26 meeting. We are deeply grateful, as are the 160+ JASNA members and friends from across North America (plus Geneva, Switzerland, and Dublin, Ireland) who attended the event. We'll be announcing our next slate of Zoom meetings soon! Your support makes it all possible.

We'd also like to thank board members Jane Boltz, who arranged for the talk by Karen Joy Fowler, and Emily Bergman, who serves as co-host with Regional Coordinator Susie Wampler for our Zoom meetings. Thank you one and all!
Did you miss one of our previous Zoom presentations? You can catch up (or revisit them) now on JASNA Southwest's YouTube channel! Our past Young Filmmakers Contest winning entries are also available on our channel.

Our August Zoom meeting with UCLA Professor Emeritus Lynn Batten featured a lively discussion of Austen's Juvenilia, focusing on five works: "Frederic & Elfrida," "Jack & Alice," "Love and Freindship," "Lesley Castle" and "The History of England." Read his introductory remarks. Watch the full video of Lynn's talk and the group discussion. Or follow along with the Juvenilia Zoom chat here.

Hear Natalie Jenner (author of The Jane Austen Society) discuss her love of Austen as well as her writing process. You may also read the Natalie Jenner Zoom meeting transcript as well as the chat from July 25 meeting here.

Young Filmmakers Contest 2020 Deadline Extended!

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 has been extended to November 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.
Catching Up on All Things Austen

**Watch**

In honor of the 25th anniversary of BBC's *Pride and Prejudice*, starring Colin Firth and Jennifer Ehle, streaming service BritBox is exclusively airing the newly remastered edition of the miniseries. BritBox offers the largest collection of British television in North America.

The original film has been digitally remastered at 4K resolution for a sharper and more vibrant image on modern TVs and screens. Check out the restoration trailer to see the difference.

Tip: BritBox offers a seven-day free trial! The first two episodes will also be aired as part of this year's Virtual Annual General Meeting.

**Read**

"How to Misread Jane Austen: The novelist was a keen observer of her time. Now readers want to make her a mirror of our own." By Louis Menand

*The New Yorker*, Oct. 5, 2020 issue

Excerpt:
"Instead of asking what Austen is trying to tell us, we might ask what she's trying to show us. But the answer to that seems to be: It depends on who's looking. In her lifetime, Austen was popular with a certain class of readers, the fashionable and well-off, who enjoyed her novels, particularly *Pride and Prejudice*, as comedies of manners. They got the jokes, and you always feel good about an author when you are in on her jokes."

**Travel (well, Armchair Travel)**

Enjoy "Austen Wednesdays" at Jane Austen's House. This new monthly series of digital talks and events will premiere on the organization's YouTube channel. The first event welcomed Rachel Cohen, author of *Austen Years*, in conversation with Jane Austen's House Director Lizzie Dunford.
Explore

You can also explore the importance of letters in the author's life and work through *Jane Austen's Artful Letters*, the new virtual exhibition at Jane Austen's House.

Or take a virtual tour of *Man Up! Women who stepped into a man’s world* -- a virtual tour of Chawton House’s 2020 exhibition, featuring curator Clio O'Sullivan (below).

2020 Virtual AGM
We hope to see you at JASNA's Annual General Meeting: A Virtual Event. For those who cannot attend, we will report back in an upcoming newsletter.

If you are attending, here are some links to help you get prepared for the conference! 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.

Reading/Film/Game Groups

Pasadena Area Reading Group's September Zoom meeting

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 Bœck.

South Bay Reading Group
Belle: The Slave Daughter and the Lord Chief Justice by Paula Byrne
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Jeanine Holquin.

Sunday, November 8, 2 p.m.
Long Beach Reading Group
Vanity Fair by William Makepeace Thackeray
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Sherwood Smith.

Saturday, November 14, 12:30 p.m.
Long Beach Reading Group
Austen Years: A Memoir in Five Novels by Rachel Cohen
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Maryann Pelensky.

Sunday, November 15, 1-3 p.m.
Riverside Reading Group
The Other Bennet Sister by Janice Hadlow
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Vicki Broach.

Sunday, November 15, 1 p.m.
San Fernando Valley Reading Group
Jane Austen at Home by Lucy Worsley
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Cheryl Cole.