Sansei and Sensibility: March 27, 2021

Registration Is Now Open!

Join us on Saturday, March 27, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Pacific time, for a talk by author Karen Tei Yamashita on her 2020 book, Sansei and Sensibility.

Yamashita is the author of seven books, including I Hotel (National Book Award finalist), Tropic of Orange, Through the Arc of the Rain Forest and Letters to Memory. Recipient of numerous awards, including the John Dos Passos Prize for Literature (2018), she is professor emerita of creative writing and literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Read an enlightening interview with the author from the L.A. Review of Books.

Register Now!

Video available for 'Austen and Cassatt' Talk

In her beautifully illustrated Zoom presentation on February 20, art historian, curator and author Nancy Mowll Mathews addressed the public image of both Jane Austen and impressionist Mary Cassatt.

Mathews revealed how much Cassatt hated the portrait that was painted of her by her friend and fellow artist Edgar Degas. Mathews also explained that the women wearing bonnets in paintings like "Five O'Clock Tea" (left) would have been visiting, while the bonnet-less would have been at their own homes.

Some 150 attendees watched the live presentation and Q&A, from as far away as Wales and Switzerland and all over North America. If you missed the talk, or want to revisit it, the video is live on our JASNA Southwest YouTube channel.
Save the Date for Our Upcoming Events

**Treasures Afoot: Shoe Stories from the Georgian Era**
Saturday, April 24, 11 a.m.
Professor Kimberly Alexander

Kimberly Alexander, PhD, teaches museum studies, material culture, American history and New Hampshire history in the History Department of the University of New Hampshire. She has held curatorial positions at several New England museums, including the MIT Museum, the Peabody Essex Museum and Strawbery Banke.


**Austen Family Theatricals**
Saturday, May 15, 11 a.m.
Professor Melinda Finberg

Finberg is an associate professor of theatre practice in critical studies at the USC School of Dramatic Arts. She is a nationally known dramaturg and scholar of theatre history. Her volume *Eighteenth-Century Women Dramatists* (Oxford University Press, 2001) is now in its third printing and is taught in colleges and universities across the U.S., Canada and Europe. She has been instrumental in bringing the plays of these women to professional and university stages, receiving the 2006 Elliot Hayes Award for Achievement in Dramaturgy from the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas for her work on the 2005 Oregon Shakespeare Festival’s critically acclaimed revival of Hannah Cowley’s *The Belle’s Stratagem*.

Finberg’s interest in theatre history and dramatic literature are professional and pragmatic: She
focuses on how plays can be produced on today’s stages for today’s audiences – especially plays by historically neglected playwrights. She has taught at Swarthmore College, Princeton University and Rider University, and has been a guest lecturer at University of Puget Sound and Yale and Princeton universities. Her scholarly work is widely published and cited in journals, collections of essays and reference books.

### Costuming Regency-Era Adaptations
**Saturday, June 19, 11 a.m.**
**Professor Deborah Nadoolman Landis**

Costume designer, historian and Distinguished Professor Deborah Nadoolman Landis, PhD, is the founding director and chair of the David C. Copley Center for Costume Design at UCLA.

Her distinguished career includes costuming *Coming to America* (1988), for which she was Academy Award-nominated; *An American Werewolf in London* (1981); *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981); the classic *Animal House* (1978); and the costumes for the groundbreaking music video *Michael Jackson’s Thriller* (1983).


Landis received an MFA in costume design from the UCLA College of Fine Arts in 1975 and a PhD in the history of design from the Royal College of Art, London.

### 2021 Young Filmmakers Contest

Our 2021 Young Filmmakers Contest is now underway. Submissions are due by October 1, 2021. The contest is open to any amateur filmmaker under the age of 30. Learn more on the Young Filmmakers section of the JASNA Southwest website.

If you’d like to join the planning committee, email youngfilm@jasnasw.org.

Watch our new trailer for the 2021 competition on the JASNA Southwest YouTube site.

**Watch the 2021 Trailer**

"Jane Austen Virtual Book Club" creators Jillian Davis and Yolanda Rodriguez have joined the 2021 Young Filmmakers Contest committee. Their short film won first place in the 2020 contest in the over-20 category.
Jillian Davis is a Southern California native and L.A. resident who can thank the 2005 *Pride & Prejudice* movie and *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries* for her obsession with all things Jane Austen. She’s currently manager of TV/film development at Frolic Media, through which she has read a great many romance novels. In her pre-pandemic life, Davis enjoyed walks, movies, stand up shows and krav maga.

She is the co-creator of The Pemberley Podcast and co-writer/producer of “Jane Austen Virtual Book Club.”

Yolanda Rodriguez is an L.A.-based producer, writer and podcaster who was born in Bolivia and grew up in Southern California. She was introduced to Jane Austen in college through the *Pride & Prejudice* (2005) film adaptation. In 2016, she co-created The Pemberley Podcast, which discusses Austen adaptations and interviews the people behind the projects. She currently works as a show producer at BuzzFeed.

Rodriguez co-wrote and co-produced the short film “Jane Austen Virtual Book Club.”

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Other Austen-Related Events

Many other regions and Jane Austen-related organizations are offering a wide variety of compelling online events open to people all over North America.

**Jane Austen & Co.** is a free public book group devoted to reading texts written by historical female authors. Part of the Jane Austen Summer Program at the University of North Carolina, the group is offering a series of talks on the role of race in the Regency. The recordings from many of their prior programs are available online.

For a list of JASNA events coordinated by other regions, 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!

And help spread the word about JASNA Southwest's upcoming events. All are open to anyone interested in attending and are a great way to help bring Jane Austen to the attention of new audiences and fans. Visit the JASNA Southwest website for more information.
Sunday, March 14, 2 p.m.
**South Bay Reading Group**
*Mad and Bad: Real Heroines of the Regency* by Bea Koch
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Jeanine Holguin.

Saturday, March 20, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**
*Mad and Bad: Real Heroines of the Regency* by Bea Koch
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Kelly Duir.

Saturday, March 20, 10:15-11:30 a.m.
**North Orange County Reading Group**
*Jane Austen at Home* by Lucy Worsley, chapters 15-18
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Melissa Buell.

Saturday, March 20, 10:30 a.m.
**Ventura Reading Group**
*The Other Bennet Sister* by Janice Hadlow
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Phyllis Michaels.

Sunday, March 21, 1-3 p.m.
**Orange County Reading Group**
*Confessions of a Jane Austen Addict* by Laurie Viera Rigler
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Maryann Pelensky.

Sunday, March 21, 2-4 p.m.
**San Fernando Valley Reading Group**
*Jane Austen: The World of Her Novels* by Deirdre LeFaye
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Catherine Hayes.

Sunday, March 21, 5 p.m.
**Santa Monica Reading Group**
*Busman's Holiday* by Dorothy L. Sayers
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Katie Walker Boeck.

Thursday, April 8
**Janeites Reading Trollope**
*The Duke's Children* by Anthony Trollope
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Lora Walker.

Saturday, April 10, 12:30 p.m.
**Long Beach Reading Group**
*Cranford* by Elizabeth Gaskell
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Sherwood Smith.

Sunday, April 11, 1:30-4 p.m.
**West Los Angeles Reading Group**
*Romance of the Forest* by Ann Radcliffe (Oxford World Classics version)
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Katie Walker Boeck.

Sunday, April 17
Westside/405 Reading Group  
*Because of the Lockwoods* by Dorothy Whipple  
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members.  
Members may contact Karen Berk for more information.

Sunday, May 2, 1 p.m.  
**Riverside Reading Group**  
*Jane Austen: A Life* by Claire Tomalin  
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.  
For more information, contact Vicki Broach.

Sunday, May 16, 1-3 p.m.  
**Orange County Reading Group**  
*Jane Austen in Hollywood* by Linda Troost and Sayre Greenfield  
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.  
For more information, contact Maryann Pelensky.

Sunday, May 16, 2-4 p.m.  
**San Fernando Valley Reading Group**  
*Unnatural Death* by Dorothy L. Sayers  
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.  
For more information, contact Catherine Hayes.