# Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

## July 2021 Newsletter

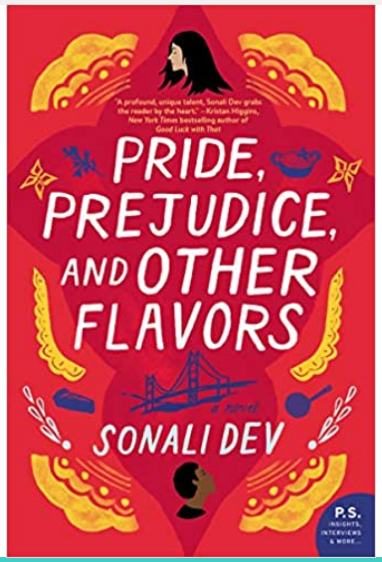
## Register Now for "Jane Austen and Telling Contemporary Tales"

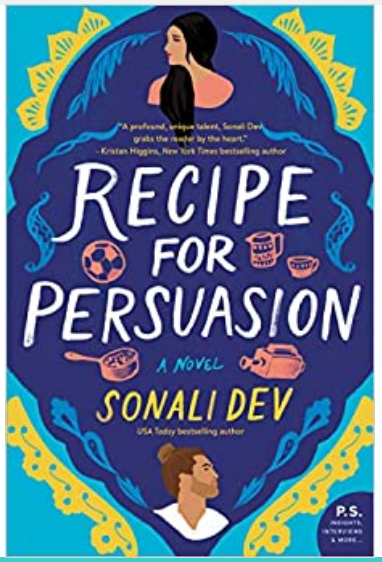
Sonali Dev—author of *Pride, Prejudice, and Other Flavors* and *Recipe for Persuasion*—will speak at our free Zoom event on July 17 at 11 a.m. Pacific time. The latest in Dev's series of Austen-inspired stories centering on the Raje family—*Incense and Sensibility*—will be published July 6.

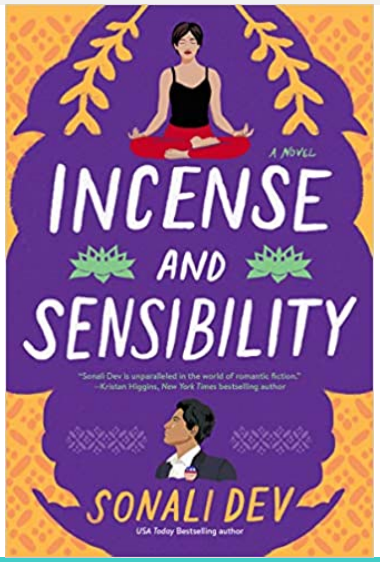
Dev writes Bollywood-style love stories that explore universal issues. Her novels have been named Best Books of the Year by *Library Journal*, NPR, the *Washington Post*, and Kirkus. She has won numerous accolades, including the American Library Association's award for best romance, the RT Reviewer Choice Award for best contemporary romance and multiple RT Seals of Excellence, has been a RITA finalist and has been listed for the Dublin Literary Award.

She lives in Chicagoland with her husband, two visiting adult children and "the world's most perfect dog."

**Register Now!**




## 2021 Young Filmmakers Contest Judges Announced

The fifth annual JASNA Southwest Young Filmmakers Contest has drawn another stellar panel of judges, who will be scoring the 5-minute-and-under entries from amateur filmmakers around the topic of Jane Austen in early October.

They are:
**Suzanne Allain**, author of Austen-inspired historical novels set in the Regency period. She adapted one of these novels, *Mr. Malcolm's List*, into a feature script that is currently in post-production. Allain also wrote the script for the 2019 short film *Mr. Malcolm's List – Overture*, starring Gemma Chan and Freida Pinto.

**Ty Burr**, film critic for *The Boston Globe* since 2002. He is also the author of the critically acclaimed books *Gods Like Us: On Movie Stardom and Modern Fame* (2013), *The Best Old Movies for Families* (2007) and the e-book *The 50 Movie Starter Kit: What to Know if You Want to Know What You're Talking About* (2013). He wrote for *Entertainment Weekly* during the 1990s and programmed movies for HBO/Cinemax in the 1980s. A member of the National Society of Film Critics and the Boston Society of Film Critics, Burr also teaches courses in film and criticism at Boston University and Emerson College.

**Gurinder Chadha, OBE**, film director and producer of award-winning films, including *Bend It Like Beckham*, *Bride & Prejudice*, *Viceroy's House*, a sumptuous period piece set during the last days of British rule in India 1947, and the Bruce Springsteen-inspired *Blinded by the Light.* Chadha recently created *Beecham House*, an epic, returning drama series set in India in 1795 for ITV and Masterpiece/PBS.

**Sonali Dev**, *USA Today* bestselling author of Bollywood-style love stories that explore universal issues. Her novels have been named Best Books of the Year by *Library Journal*, NPR, the *Washington Post* and Kirkus. Dev's acclaimed Rajes series reimagines her four favorite Austen novels under one story universe of a politically ambitious Indian American family in San Francisco.

**Amy Heckerling**, writer and director of *Clueless*. She directed *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, followed by *Johnny Dangerously* and *European Vacation* and later wrote and directed *Look Who's Talking*, *Look Who's Talking Too*, *I Could Never Be Your Woman* and *Vamps*. She produced *A Night at the Roxbury*, executive produced, wrote and directed episodes of the TV series of *Clueless* and *Fast Times*, and directed episodes of *The Office*, *Gossip Girl*, *The Carrie Diaries*, *Red Oaks*, *Weird City* and *Royalties*.

**Laura Rister**, an award-winning Los Angeles-based film and television producer at Untitled Entertainment. She was recently nominated for Emmy, Critic's Choice and Independent Spirit awards for the landmark cine-memoir *The Tale* starring Laura Dern, distributed globally by HBO Films. She is currently in post production on *Mr. Malcolm's List*, a Regency-era romantic comedy/drama in the spirit of Jane Austen, in collaboration with Bleecker Street and Universal International. She previously served as VP of production, development and casting at Miramax Films in New York and Los Angeles, working on films and TV series including *Chicago, Blue Car, Finding Neverland* and *Project Greenlight*.

Please help us spread word about the contest to any aspiring filmmakers and Austen enthusiasts you know who are under the age of 30 in North America (as well as any teachers or faculty

members). Deadline for 2021 entries: October 1, 2021. Winners will receive cash prizes, one year's JASNA membership and a special screening at JASNA's Annual General Meeting in Chicago in October 2021. Learn more on the Young Filmmakers Contest section of our website.

## AGM Registration Opens Soon

Registration for JASNA's 2021 Annual General Meeting—to be held in person in Chicago—will open soon (July 14 at 9 a.m. Pacific seems to be the on-sale date!).

The AGM typically sells out quickly (within an hour) so be sure to sign up for emails directly from JASNA to make sure you don't miss out. It's a good idea to plan the breakout sessions you want to attend as well as any tours or workshops you want to add to your registration.

This year's conference will be held October 15-17 on the topic "Jane Austen in the Arts."

**Learn more** about this year's conference. Hotel registration will open at the same time as the AGM registration.

## Recap of *Costuming Regency-Era Adaptations*

If you missed the June 19 conversation between legendary costume designers Deborah Nadoolman Landis, PhD, and Ellen Mirojnick—or want to revisit the talk or share it with a friend—the video is now live on the JASNA Southwest YouTube channel.

Landis, founding director of the David C. Copley Center for Costume Design at UCLA, moderated the enlightening discussion with her friend and colleague Mirojnick, who oversaw creation of more than 7,500 pieces and 5,000 costumes for the Netflix sensation *Bridgerton*.

These award-winning costumers gave the audience a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the creative, meticulous and inspiring work of bringing the costumers' vision to life. We learned that online searches for Regency fashion spiked the month after *Bridgerton* first aired (with a

whopping 357 percent increase in searches for tiaras alone!).

We were treated to the mood boards created by Mirojnick in preparation to costume the production, and learned that she and her team of 110 were the first to build the series' visual world, long before the production design team was assembled.

"Every costume was bespoke, even for the background actors," Mirojnick noted. She shared her wide range of inspirations—from Orry-Kelly's costume designs for *Auntie Mame* to nature, music and the shape of an automobile. She explained why the world of Bridgerton was a bonnet-less one, and how it can be less expensive to create costumes from scratch rather than buying already-made pieces.

Landis quoted director Jerry Bruckheimer, who once described filmmakers as being in the transportation business because they take people to new worlds. The JASNA audience at the June 19 event was indeed transported to the unique, confectionary world of *Bridgerton*.

**Watch the video**

*Ellen Mirojnick*

*Deborah Nadoolman Landis*

## JASNA Community Guidelines

JASNA is enriched and strengthened by the diversity of backgrounds, experiences and opinions of our membership. The pleasure of our gatherings lies in the free exchange of ideas and the active participation of all who attend. As JASNA members, we have a shared responsibility for creating a welcoming, safe and productive environment for everyone participating in our programs and on our digital platforms. Read JASNA's community guidelines.

## Call for Southwest Board Nominations

Would you like to get more involved in JASNA Southwest? At the end of the year, the region's membership will be voting on new officers and board members for 2022–23. To nominate yourself or someone else, or to learn more, contact Nancy Gallagher, chair of the nominating committee. We are also recruiting volunteers to serve on committees or to help with events. We also welcome suggestions for improvement in all aspects of the organization and our operations. Contact Regional Coordinator Susie Wampler if you'd like to volunteer.

## Other Austen-Related Events

The Maryland Region is hosting a free virtual event on Sunday, July 18, 2 p.m. Eastern time, on America's First Ladies. Guest speaker will be television and multimedia producer Andrew Och, author of *Unusual for Their Time: On the Road with America's First Ladies*. Registration is now open.

To learn more about other JASNA regional events

that are open to members across the country, visit the JASNA regional events page.

## Reading/Film/Game Groups

Saturday, July 10, 11 a.m.
**Long Beach Reading Group**
*Behind Closed Doors: At Home in Georgian England* by Amanda Vickery
Meeting will be conducted in person *and* via Zoom.
For more information, contact Sherwood Smith.

Saturday, July 17, 10:15 a.m.
**North Orange County Reading Group**
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (chapters 21-40)
Location: Panera Bread, 1028 S. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton
For more information, contact Melissa Buell.

Saturday, July 17, 10:30 a.m.
**Ventura Reading Group**
*Arcadia* by Tom Stoppard
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Phyllis Michaels.

Sunday, July 18
**San Fernando Valley Reading Group**
*Framley Parsonage* by Anthony Trollope
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Catherine Hayes.

Sunday, July 18, 12:30 p.m.
**Orange County Reading Group**
*The Nonesuch* by Georgette Heyer
Meeting will be held in person.
For more information, contact Maryann Pelensky.

Sunday, July TBD, 2 p.m.
**South Bay Reading Group**
*Evelina* by Frances Burney
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Jeanine Holguin.

Sunday, July 25, 7 p.m.
**Pasadena Area Reading Group**
*To Say Nothing of the Dog* by Connie Willis
Meeting will be conducted in person.
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members.
Current members may contact Susan Ridgeway for more information.

Sunday, August 1, 1:30 p.m.
**Riverside Reading Group**
*Excellent Women* by Barbara Pym
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Vicki Broach.

Sunday, August 15, 1:30 p.m.
**West Los Angeles Reading Group**
*Fathers and Sons* (aka *Fathers and Children*) by Ivan Turgenev
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Katie Boeck.

Thursday, August 19, 6:30 p.m.
**Janeites Reading Trollope**
*The Way We Live Now* by Anthony Trollope
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Lora Walker.

Saturday, August 21, 10:30 a.m.
**San Gabriel Valley Reading Group**
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (second half)
For more information, contact Kelly Duir.

Saturday, August 21
**Westside/405 Reading Group**
*Lady Chatterley's Lover* by D. H. Lawrence
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members.
Current members may contact Karen Berk for more information.

Sunday, August 22, 6 p.m.
**Santa Monica Reading Group**
*Carrington: A Life* by Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Diana Birchall.

**Jane Austen Society Of North America, Southwest Region**
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