Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

November 2021 Newsletter

2021 Young Filmmakers Contest Winners Announced

Finalists in JASNA Southwest's fifth annual Young Filmmakers Contest were screened to a large group of enthusiasts at JASNA's Annual General Meeting in Chicago on October 16. Attendees were also given the opportunity to cast a ballot for their own favorite among the short films for a people's choice award—a first for the contest.

This year's first-place honoree, Meghan Hanet (above) of Abbotsford, British Columbia (29), won for "Lizzy's Adventures in Online Dating," which she wrote, produced, directed and starred in. Hanet's film also garnered the people's choice award. The comedy short deftly modernizes key plot points relating to Lizzy Bennet's suitors in *Pride and Prejudice*.

Aspiring filmmaker Jordan Sartor-Francis (28) of New York City won second place for his artistic short film, "I Had Pride, I Had Prejudice," in which a young man writes a love letter to his wife on their anniversary.

Third place went to Talitha Moniz McMillion (20), a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for "Strength and Vulnerability," which incorporates Ariana Grande's song "Thank U, Next" as sung by a variety of Austen heroines.

An honorable mention was earned by Zoë Hodge (22) of Rochester, New York, a graduate student at Royal Holloway, University of London, for her heartfelt short "Persuasion," which envisions Anne Elliot sharing her own letter with Capt. Wentworth. Hodge also came in second in the people's choice voting.

All four contestants received one year's free or extended membership in JASNA, with cash

prizes awarded to the top three places. Even more valuable were the instructive and inspiring comments and critiques shared by the contest's judges, who include internationally renowned filmmakers, critics, producers and authors.

This year's stellar panel of judges were Amy Heckerling (*Clueless*), Gurinder Chadha (*Bride & Prejudice*), former *Boston Globe* film critic Ty Burr, author Sonali Dev, film and TV producer Laura Rister, and author and screenwriter Suzanne Allain. JASNA Southwest is grateful for their service and support, and particularly wishes to acknowledge YFC Chair Erika Kotite for her tireless work on the project.

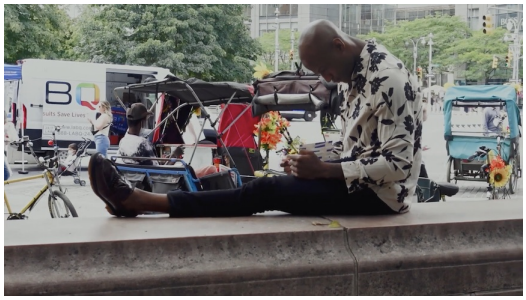
A special YFC highlight reel was created for the screening event and is available on JASNA Southwest's YouTube channel. It includes comments from some of the contestants, judges and organizers.

If you're interested in joining the 2022 committee, reach out to Erika at erika.kotite@gmail.com. Your help will be greatly appreciated and you'll have fun in the process!

It's also the perfect time to start spreading word among any teachers, students or young filmmakers age 30 or younger you know and encourage them to consider entering next year's contest. Deadline is September 15, 2022. Additional details are available on the JASNA Southwest website.

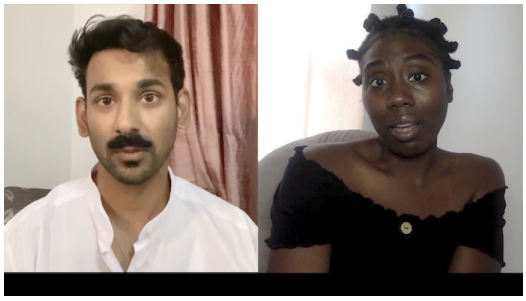
View the 2021 YFC Finalists

Meghan Hanet, first-place winner for "Lizzy's Adventures in Online Dating"



Jordan Sartor-Francis, second-place winner for "I Had Pride, I Had Prejudice"

Talitha Moniz McMillion, third-place winner for "Strength and Vulnerability"



"Persuasion" by Zoë Hodge, honorable mention recipient

Jane Austen in the Pan Pacific
Saturday, November 13
3 p.m. Pacific Time / 1 p.m. Hawaiian Time

Hear from seven top speakers from five countries across 12 time zones in the first-ever Pan Pacific conference on Jane Austen. JASNA Southwest is partnering with JASNA Hawaii to create this very special meeting.

We have added a new speaker to our lineup! Judith Stove, author of *Jane Austen's Inspiration: Beloved Friend Anne Lefroy* will also be speaking at the event.

The event is free on Zoom and will begin at 3 p.m. Pacific/1 p.m. Hawaiian time on Saturday, November 13 (which will be Sunday, November 14, for our colleagues in Asia and Australia/New Zealand).

Each of the seven sessions will be followed by a five-minute break. All talks will be recorded and posted on the JASNA Southwest YouTube channel, so you won't miss a thing.

Register Now!

Schedule

Start time
3 p.m. Pacific/1 p.m. Hawaiian time

Welcome
3-3:05 p.m. Pacific/1-1:05 p.m. Hawaiian
Bob Newell, JASNA Hawaii RC
Susie Wampler, JASNA Southwest RC

Opening Greetings
3:05-3:10 p.m. Pacific/1:05-1:10 p.m. Hawaiian
Liz Philosophos Cooper
JASNA President

"Jane Austen in Translation"
3:10-3:50 p.m. Pacific/1:10-1:50 p.m. Hawaiian

Dr. Juliette Wells
Professor of Literary Studies
Goucher College, Baltimore

"Jane Austen in Australia and New Zealand"
3:55-4:35 p.m. Pacific/1:55-1:35 p.m. Hawaiian
Dr. Joanne Wilkes
Professor of English
University of Auckland, New Zealand

"Reading Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun* as a Modern Interpretation of *Mansfield Park*"
4:40-5:20 p.m. Pacific/2:40-3:20 p.m. Hawaiian
Dr. Hatsuyo Shimazaki
Founding Member
Jane Austen Society of Japan

"Austen Passports: The Pacific and Beyond"
5:25-6:05 p.m. Pacific/3:25-4:05 p.m. Hawaiian
Ruth Williamson
New Zealand writer and editor

"Jane Austen in the Philippines"
6:10-6:50 p.m. Pacific/4:10-4:50 p.m. Hawaiian
Dr. Maria Lorena Santos
Assistant Professor
Department of English and Comparative Literature
University of the Philippines

"'Your Ever-Affectionate Sister': Rachel Henning's Austenian Letters"
6:55-7:15 p.m. Pacific/4:55-5:15 p.m. Hawaiian
Judith Stove
Writer and researcher
Author, *Jane Austen's Inspiration: Beloved Friend Anne Lefroy*

"Jane Austen in Australia"
7:20-8:05 p.m. Pacific/5:20-6:05 p.m. Hawaiian
Susannah Fullerton
President
Jane Austen Society of Australia

Closing Remarks/Final Questions
8:05 p.m. Pacific/6:05 p.m. Hawaiian

Event Close
8:10 p.m. Pacific/6:10 p.m. Hawaiian

Juliette Wells

Susannah Fullerton

Joanne Wilkes

Hatsuyo Shimazaki

Maria Lorena Santos

Ruth Williamson

Judith Stove

Liz Philosophos Cooper

About the Speakers

Juliette Wells is professor of literary studies at Goucher College. Goucher holds the world's only collection of Austen novels in translation, including dozens of languages. She will share an overview of the collection and a show and tell of some of its treasures. Wells is the author of *Reading Austen in America* (2017) and *Everybody's Jane: Austen in the Popular Imagination* (2011). She serves on the editorial board of *Persuasions*. Wells created 200th anniversary editions of Austen's novels *Persuasion* (2017) and *Emma* (2015). Beyond Austen, her writings include a co-edited book, *The Brontës in the World of the Arts* (2008), and numerous articles on topics ranging from George Eliot to chick lit.

Joanne Wilkes is professor of English at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Her publications on Austen include *Women Reviewing Women in Nineteenth-Century Britain: The Critical Reception of Jane Austen*, *Charlotte Brontë and George Eliot* (2010) plus essays in numerous other recent publications, including *Jane Austen and Critical Theory* (2021), *Jane Austen and William Shakespeare* (2019) and *Jane Austen and Masculinity* (2017). She is currently working on a monograph for Anthem: *Unfinished Austen: Catharine, Lady Susan, The Watsons and Sanditon*.

Hatsuyo Shimazaki specializes in the representation of speech and thought in the novels of Jane Austen and 18th century fiction, including works by Frances Burney and Laurence Sterne. She completed a PhD at the University of Southampton, where she also taught an MA module: *Jane Austen's Style*. She is a founding member of the Jane Austen Society of Japan and was twice granted a visiting fellowship at Chawton House. She has published a Japanese book on Austen's narrative techniques (*Jiein ōsutin no katari no gihō o yomitoku*, 2008) and is currently preparing an English book on *Austen's Free Indirect Speech*. Her talk will discuss the socially weaker status of two of Austen's reserved protagonists, Fanny Price and Anne Elliot, and compare it with that of Kazuo Ishiguro's new book, *Klara and the Sun*.

Ruth Williamson is a New Zealand writer and editor who has contributed to literary events and activities at home and also in Australia, Canada, California and the United Kingdom. She is an international member of JASNA and is actively involved with the Jane Austen Society of Australia as editor of its newsletter, the *Chronicle,* and as an active long-term member. Her articles and presentations include an assessment of the life and career of Austen's first scholarly editor, R W Chapman, the legacy and lure of Austen's letters, and the actual and virtual letters of *Persuasion.*

Maria Lorena M. Santos earned her PhD at the National University of Singapore, where she wrote her dissertation on the cultural phenomenon of global fan communities surrounding the works of—and inspired by—Jane Austen. Santos has published and delivered talks based on her research on adaptation, translation and appropriation of Anglo-American texts in the Philippines. She is an associate professor of the Department of English and Comparative Literature at the University of the Philippines, teaching both language and literature courses.

Judith Stove is a writer and researcher based in Sydney, Australia, and author most recently of *Jane Austen's Inspiration: Beloved Friend Anne Lefroy* (2019). Stove's current research interests include Austen's life, works and circle; Romantic receptions of classical texts; and women writers of the long 18th century.

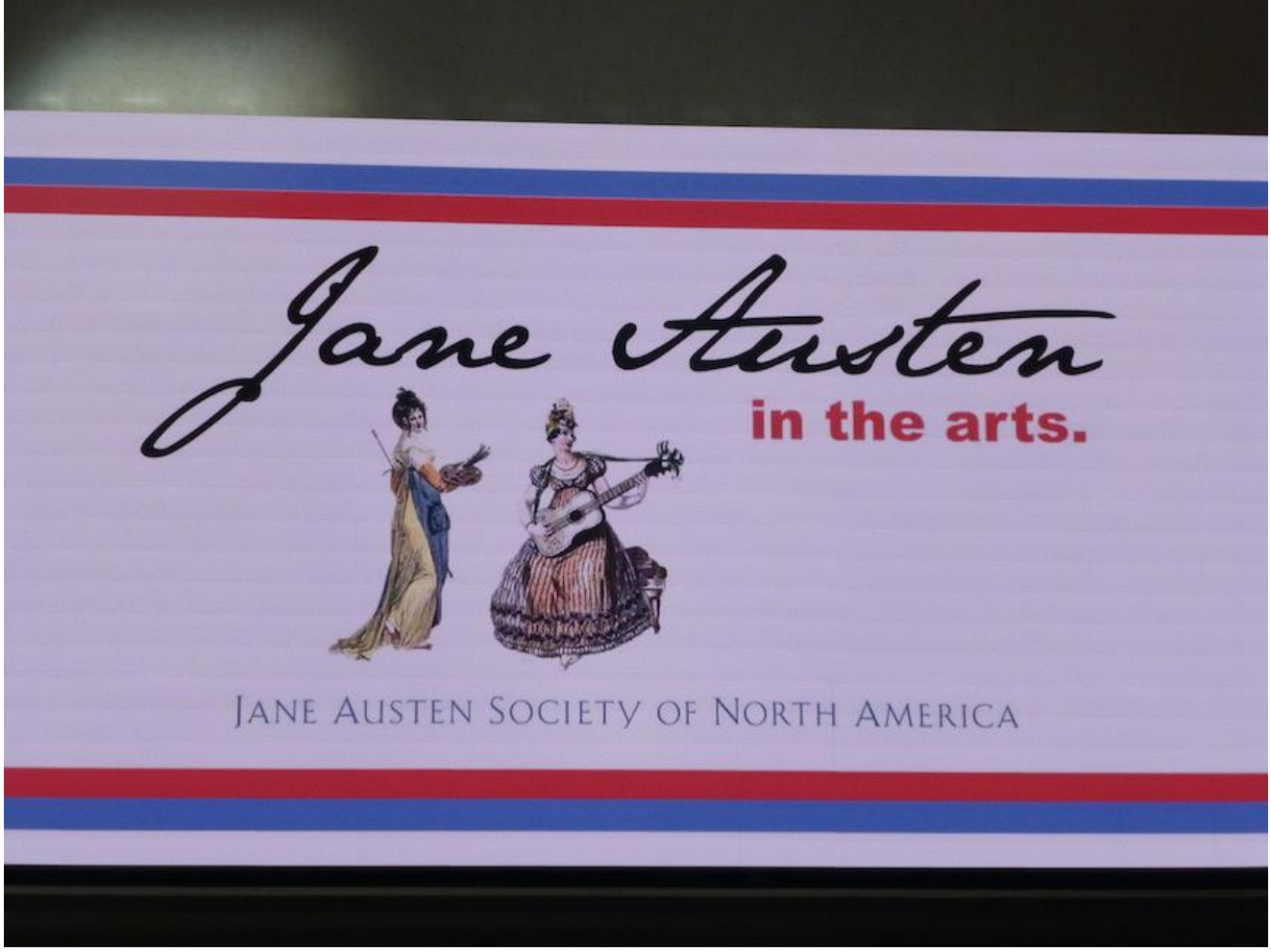
Susannah Fullerton has been president of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, the largest literary society in the country, for more than 25 years. She is the author of several books about Austen, including *Jane Austen and Crime*, *A Dance With Jane Austen*, *Happily Ever After: Celebrating Jane Austen's* Pride and Prejudice, and *Jane & I: A Tale of Austen Addiction*. Fullerton regularly leads tours to places connected with Austen's life and novels, and she lectures on Austen around Australia. She publishes a free monthly email, "Notes from a Book Addict."

Liz Philosophos Cooper is in her second term as JASNA president and is a second-generation JASNA member who fell in love with Austen's work as a high school student. A member of JASNA since 1992, she has actively participated in local JASNA activities and served as JASNA's vice president for regions from 2013-2018 and regional coordinator of Wisconsin prior to that. She is a contributing writer to *Jane Austen's Regency World* and co-edits A Year with Jane Austen calendar. She holds an BA (Communication Arts) from the University of Wisconsin. Cooper and her husband, Scott, own a marketing consulting company, Marketing Engine group, and have four sons, which has resulted in three new daughters.

Illustration credit

Thanks go to Lucy Asako Boltz of the Southwest Region for generously sharing her PersuAsians illustration (created for her aunt Karen Tei Yamashita's March 2021 JASNA Southwest talk on *Sansei and Sensibility*).

2021 AGM on Demand Coming Soon!



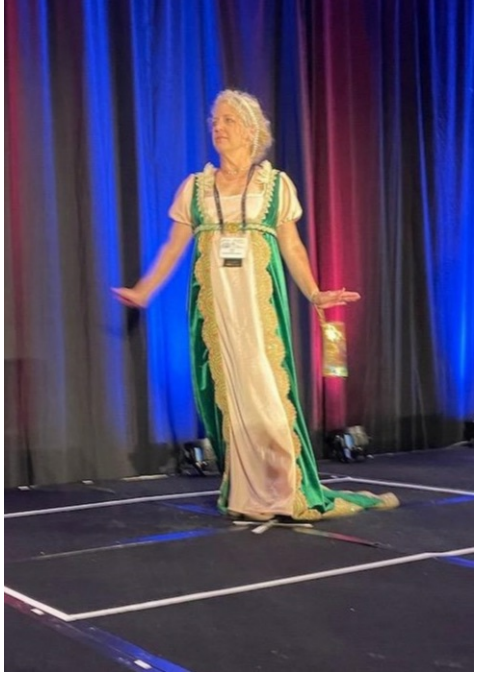
If you missed the wonderful JASNA AGM in Chicago, you'll have an opportunity to register soon for the 2021 AGM on Demand, which included recordings of the plenary sessions, a selection of breakout and special interest sessions, the “red carpet” promenade, and a few live arts-themed Zoom roundtables featuring conference presenters. Watch for an email from jasna.org if you are a current member—or renew or join today to be sure you don't miss out!

Gillian Dow, former executive director of Chawton House and associate professor of English at the University of Southampton, delivered the Carol Medine Moss keynote speech via Zoom from the U.K. to open the AGM. Her subject was "Theatre and Theatricality; or Jane Austen and Learning the Art of Dialogue."

JASNA North American Scholar Devoney Looser (right) spoke about Jane and Cassandra Austen as sister author-artists as well as once-celebrated sister novelists Jane and Anna Maria Porter, the subject of Looser's forthcoming biography (due in 2022).

Desmond Shawe-Taylor also Zoomed in from England as travel from the U.K. was not permitted. He regaled the audience with a lecture on the Prince Regent, subsequently George IV, and suggested some common interests between Jane Austen and her Royal Fan.

Our own Jane Boltz in another of her Regency creations, dressed as Lady Danbury from *Bridgerton*, complete with matching cane and a mylar balloon depiction of Chicago's iconic sculpture Cloud Gate, aka the "Bean"



Young Filmmakers Contest Chair Erika Kotite in a gown of her own creation at the Saturday night promenade, immediately prior to the screening of this year's finalist films in JASNA Southwest's annual competition

The AGM's closing brunch featured a spectacular performance of the Battle of Prague with soprano Josefien Stoppelenburg and maestro Stephen Alltop.

Southwest Board Nominations

Be on the lookout in mid-November for a special announcement with the list of board nominees for 2022–2023. 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.

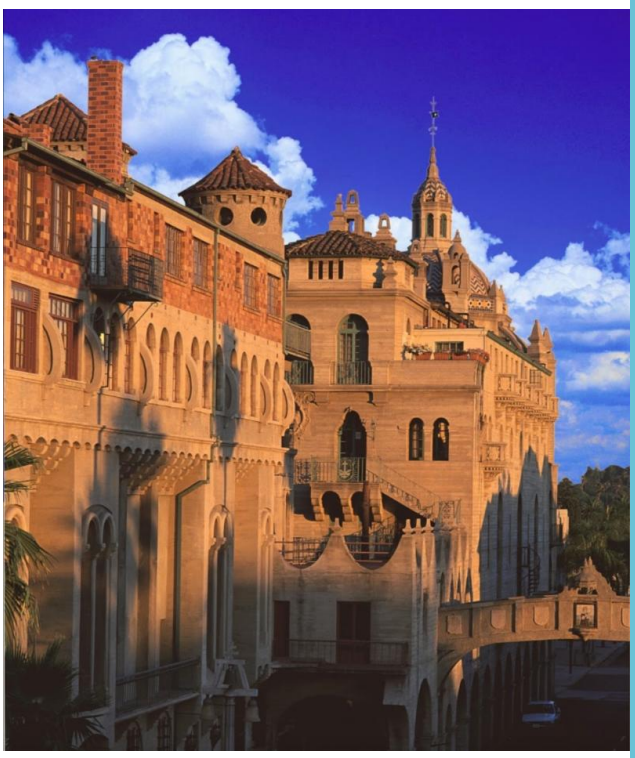
Mark Your Calendars!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events from JASNA Southwest:

Saturday, Dec. 18, 11 a.m. Pacific: Jane Austen birthday celebration and game day (with prizes!). Lisa Brown, regional coordinator of JASNA Central and Western New York, and creator of Jane Austen Bingo, will lead us in six rounds of bingo (one for each of Austen's novels).

Saturday, Jan. 22, 11 a.m.: Acclaimed Austen scholar Juliette Wells will regale us with a presentation on her new work in progress.

Saturday, April 30: Our first in-person event since the pandemic—"Ms. Austen Goes to Washington: Jane Austen and Politics"—with Austen scholar Sheryl Craig (author of *Jane Austen and the State of the Nation*), who will discuss "Tories, Whigs and Who's Who in Jane Austen," and Congressman Mark Takano (D-Riverside), who launched a Jane Austen reading group in Congress. The event will be held at the beautiful and historic Mission Inn Hotel and Spa in Riverside (pictured right).



Reading/Film/Game Groups

Thursday, November 4
Janeites Reading Trollope
Orley Farm by Anthony Trollope
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Lora Walker.

Saturday, November 6
Long Beach Reading Group
The Brontës by Juliet Barker
For more information, contact Sherwood Smith.

Sunday, November 7
South Bay Reading Group
Mansfield Park by Jane Austen
For more information, contact Jeanine Holguin.

Sunday, November 7, 1:30 p.m.
Riverside Reading Group
What Matters in Jane Austen by John Mullan
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Vicki Broach.

Sunday, November 14
San Fernando Valley Reading Group

The Fossil Hunter by Shelley Emling
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Catherine Hayes.

Sunday, November 14
Westside/405 Reading Group
Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont by Elizabeth Taylor
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members.
Current members may contact Karen Berk for more information.

Sunday, November 14, 7 p.m.
Pasadena Area Reading Group
Mansfield Park by Jane Austen
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members.
Current members may contact Susan Ridgeway for more information.

Saturday, November 20, 10:15 a.m.
North Orange County Reading Group
The Other Bennet Sister by Janice Hadlow (chapters 1–32)
NEW location: Panera Bread, 2415 East Chapman Ave., Fullerton
For more information, contact Melissa Buell.

Saturday, November 20, 10:30 a.m.
Ventura Reading Group
The Regency Years by Robert Morrison
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Phyllis Michaels.

Sunday, November 21, 12:30 p.m.
Orange County Reading Group
Jane Austen: A Life by Claire Tomalin
For more information, contact Maryann Pelensky.

Sunday, November 21, 6 p.m.
Santa Monica Reading Group
The Odd Women by George Gissing.
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Diana Birchall.

Sunday, December 12, 1:30 p.m.
West Los Angeles Reading Group
Book TBD
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Katie Boeck.

Saturday, December 18
Westside/405 Reading Group
Lady Ludlow by Elizabeth Gaskell
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members.
Current members may contact Karen Berk for more information.

Saturday, December 18, 10:15 a.m.
North Orange County Reading Group
The Other Bennet Sister by Janice Hadlow (chapters 33–65)
NEW location: Panera Bread, 2415 East Chapman Ave., Fullerton
For more information, contact Melissa Buell.

Sunday, December 19, 7 p.m.
Pasadena Area Reading Group
Birthday Tea
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members.
Current members may contact Susan Ridgeway for more information.

Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region
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