Jane Austen Society of North America, Southwest Region

September 2021 Newsletter

Register Now for *Jane Austen and Shelley in the Garden*—interview and Q&A with Janet Todd

Join JASNA Southwest on Sunday, Sept. 12, at 11 a.m. Pacific time for a free Zoom event, *Jane Austen and Shelley in the Garden*. Our guest will be novelist, biographer and internationally renowned Jane Austen scholar Janet Todd, OBE.

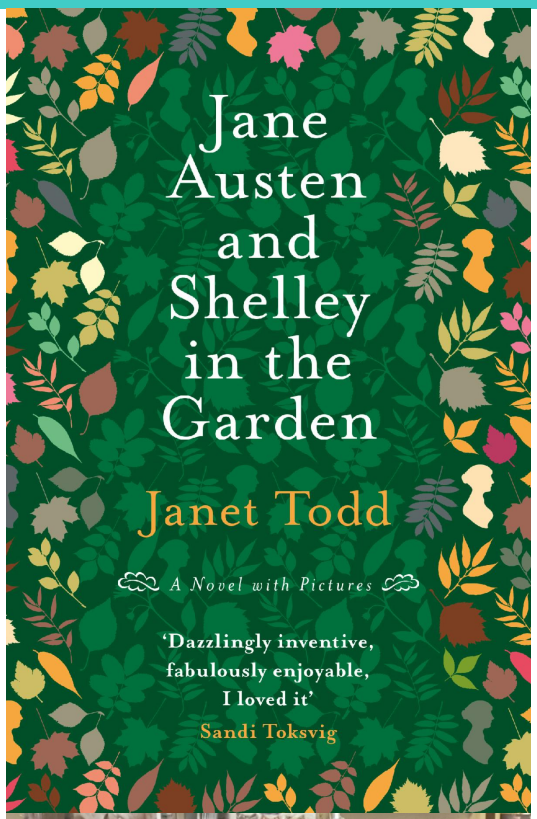
Todd's new novel, *Jane Austen and Shelley in the Garden*, will be released on Sept. 7, 2021, so we will be among the first to hear from the author about her new work.

She is a former president of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge. Now a full-time writer and literary critic, Todd has published several books: *Jane Austen's Sanditon*, *Don't You Know There's a War On?*, *Radiation Diaries*, *Aphra Behn: A Secret Life* and *A Man of Genius*.

Todd is an Emerita Professor at the University of Aberdeen and an Honorary Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge. Born in Wales, she grew up in Britain, Bermuda and Ceylon/Sri Lanka and has worked at universities in Ghana, Puerto Rico, India, the U.S. (Douglass College, Rutgers, Florida), Scotland (Glasgow, Aberdeen) and England (Cambridge, UEA). She lives in Cambridge, England, and Venice, Italy.

Here is an overview of the book from the publisher: Jane Austen is such a presence in Fran's life that she seems to share her cottage and garden, filling her days with wry observations and pointed judgments. Austen's constant commentary guides and chides her but, after years of teaching, reading and gardening, Fran is ready for a change.

An encounter with an old English friend, and with an American writer, leads to new friendships. The three women bond through a love of books and a quest for the idealist poet Shelley at two pivotal moments of his life: in Wales and Venice. His otherworldly longing and yearning for a utopian way of life cause the women to question their own choices.



Register

now!

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.

Mark Your Calendars!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events from JASNA Southwest:

Saturday, Nov. 13 (afternoon): "Jane Austen in the Pan Pacific"
We are co-hosting a multinational conference with JASNA Hawaii! We have a lineup of compelling speakers from North America, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Philippines. Exact details are being finalized but note the time will be in the afternoon Pacific time to better accommodate all countries participating.

Saturday, Dec. 18: Jane Austen birthday celebration and game day (with prizes!)

Saturday, Jan. 22: 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.

Final Call for 2021 Young Filmmakers Contest

We need your help! Our region has thousands of potential filmmakers eligible for our fifth annual Young Filmmakers Contest (YFC), which is open to all Austen fans and amateur filmmakers under the age of 30. The YFC is our singular contribution to the dynamic growth of Austen appreciation for future generations and, as such, it is important to foster growth and support for the program.

Here's how you can help:

Please consider encouraging *one* entrant: Reach out via email, Facebook, text, phone or face to face with a young person in your life (or the life of someone you know) who loves Jane Austen and filmmaking. Let all K-12 teachers, college professors or parents in your orbit know about the program.

Deadline is October 1 for entries of five-minute or shorter films relating to the topic of Jane Austen.

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.

Under the leadership of YFC committee chair Erika Kotite, we have recruited another stellar panel of judges. They are Amy Heckerling (*Clueless*), Gurinder Chadha (*Bride & Prejudice*), *Boston Globe* film critic Ty Burr, author Sonali Dev, film and TV producer Laura Rister and author and screenwriter Suzanne Allain.

Don't let our momentum and extraordinary judges panel languish. Contact Erika Kotite if you need reinforcements or more information!

Reading/Film/Game Groups

Saturday, September 18, 10:15 a.m.
North Orange County Reading Group
Charlotte Collins by Jennifer Becton (prologue–chapter 12)
Location: Panera Bread, 1028 S. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton
For more information, contact Melissa Buell.

Saturday, September 18, 10:30 a.m.
Ventura Reading Group
Pride, Prejudice, and Other Flavors by Sonali Dev
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Phyllis Michaels.

Sunday, September 19, 12:30 p.m.
Orange County Reading Group
Sansei and Sensibility by Karen Tei Yamashita
Meeting will be held in person.
For more information, contact Maryann Pelensky.

Sunday, September 19, 2 p.m.
San Fernando Valley Reading Group
Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Catherine Hayes.

Sunday, September 26, 7 p.m.
Pasadena Area Reading Group
The Genius of Jane Austen: Her Love of Theatre and Why She Works in Hollywood
by Paula Byrne
Meeting will be conducted in person and via Zoom.
This group is at capacity and cannot accept new members.
Current members may contact Susan Ridgeway for more information.

Saturday, October 16, 10:30 a.m.
San Gabriel Valley Reading Group
Lady Susan by Jane Austen and chapters dealing with *Lady Susan* in *Matters of Fact in Jane Austen* by Janine Barchas
For more information, contact Kelly Duir.

Sunday, October 17, 6 p.m.
Santa Monica Reading Group
Jane Austen and Shelley in the Garden by Janet Todd
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Diana Birchall.

Saturday, October 23, 10:15 a.m.
North Orange County Reading Group
Charlotte Collins by Jennifer Becton (chapters 13–end of book)
Location: Panera Bread, 1028 S. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton
For more information, contact Melissa Buell.

Sunday, October 24, 1:30 p.m.
West Los Angeles Reading Group
Persuasion by Jane Austen
Meeting will be conducted via Zoom.
For more information, contact Katie Boeck.

Saturday, October 30
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.

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