



*Northern California Region*

**From the Regional Coordinator**

Hello Northern California Region,

I mentioned events ahead and now I can tell you more about them! We have invested in a Zoom subscription and will be using it to hold virtual meetings through 2020.

As we shift our planning for the rest of 2020, I can tell you that we do not plan to have any events that require gathering at a physical location. Though we do not know exactly when California will allow large gatherings, we do not believe they will be allowed through the rest of this year. Our concern is for the safety and well-being of our members, which is why we are making all our 2020 events virtual.

We have already had a Zoom Tea Time (which we will have more of) and our JASNA NorCal Book Club will be using that platform for their meetings. (Both of those were in the members' newsletter. If you did not get that newsletter it is because your JASNA membership is not up-to-date.) We will begin to have more informal hangouts, some of which we may post in the wider newsletter, but since we have a capacity cap, we must prioritize our members first.

If you'd like to volunteer to hold a tea time, workshop or any other fun virtual event, please do email me and let's plan something!

For now I will leave you with this tongue-in-cheek take on [What Jane Austen Can Teach Us About Staying At Home](#).

Hope you and yours are all in good health,

*Bianca Hernandez*

Regional Coordinator, JASNA NorCal



*Our Next Meeting*

**June/July 2020**

**Currently in planning stage**

The JASNA NorCal board is working on plans for virtual regional events over the next few months. Please respond to our survey on page 2 to let us know your interests and thoughts (and check out our Facebook group for a Summer Regency Sew-a-Long).

**Jane Austen Society of  
North America**

*Northern California Region*

Web site: [jasnanorcal.org](http://jasnanorcal.org)

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**Newsletter Contributions**

Like what you're reading here? Or do you want to add something of your own? We encourage newsletter submissions. Whether it's a book review, a tale from your Jane Austen travels, or tips on upcoming events, we'd love to know. Please drop us a line at [rc@jasnanorcal.org](mailto:rc@jasnanorcal.org).

## National JASNA News

### Cleveland AGM 2020 Canceled

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, JASNA's 2020 AGM in Cleveland has been canceled. Here are notes from the announcement:

*We believe it is impossible to hold a conference this fall without undue risk to the health of our attendees, speakers, volunteers, and vendors and the communities to which they would return.*

The 2020 AGM is now being planned as a virtual event, to be held on the same weekend (October 9–11). For more information and updates, check the [JASNA website](#).

### Young Filmmakers Competition

The 2020 Young Filmmakers Competition is here! JASNA Southwest invites you to spread the news to all the budding filmmakers in your community. This year, you don't have to be a student to submit a 5-minute-or-less video inspired by the life and/or works of Jane Austen. We encourage all amateur filmmakers who are 30 or under to try their hand at a short that entertains and edifies Jane Austen enthusiasts.

The contest, sponsored by JASNA SW, continues its tradition of cash prizes, frequent screening opportunities, promotion of the finalists and inviting renowned judges to participate. For more information and an entry form, visit the [JASNA SW web site](#).

## Virtual Jane Austen Book Club

Although we can never recreate the magic of our in-person events, until we can safely reconvene we are offering a virtual book club to our JASNA members seeking the company of other JASNA-NorCal Janeites.

Our virtual book club will begin in July (tentatively scheduled for the weekend of July 11–12), with Zoom as our platform. The book club will be hosted by Deepali Lugani. As this is our first foray into a virtual book club, we are limiting it to 10–20 members, and depending on the interest generated we may add additional book clubs.

Our first book is *Emma*. We will host approximately 4 to 6 meetings to cover the book with each meeting lasting 1–1.5 hour. And yes, we will discuss the new adaptation of *Emma*!

An announcement was sent to all current JASNA NorCal members and the response has been enthusiastic. We still have a few spots open; if you are interested please email [rc@jasnanorcal.org](mailto:rc@jasnanorcal.org) if you are interested in joining the book club.

## *Upcoming Meetings*

### Tell us what you want to do this year

As we shift to virtual meetings, we'd like to know more about what you would want to see and do. We would also like to collect information on when you are all most available so we can optimize when we hold our meetings.

[Fill in this survey to share your thoughts.](#)



## Regency Sew-A-Long

Ever wanted to make your own Regency dress? Or perhaps you're in need of a summer sewing project? (Or maybe you're like me and have a half-finished frock sitting idle, with nowhere to wear it, and you need motivation to finish it.)

Well, join us as we sew together this summer! This sew-a-long will start now and continue through September, when we will show off our finished outfits.

**When will this be happening?** Here's the plan right now:

**June:** We will discuss patterns, fashion plate inspiration and our favorite movie outfits.

**July:** Mockups, adjustments and more! We start our outfits and plan accessories.

**August:** We work toward finishing our ensembles, working on accessories and styling tips for hair, cravats and more.

**September:** We show off our finished projects!

**Where is this happening?** We will have an open space for participating in the JASNA NorCal Facebook Group. I will post prompts weekly and resource lists as needed. We will be holding Zoom discussions and sewing sessions, and that information will go out in the JASNA NorCal Members email (so make sure your membership is updated!).

I'm excited to do this with you all! Please email [bhernandezfilm@gmail.com](mailto:bhernandezfilm@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



## All About *Emma*

The recent release of the new film adaptation of *Emma*, however briefly in theatres, has brought some color to our current state of social distancing and virtual contact, and reawakened interest in Jane Austen’s “handsome, clever, and rich” heroine. Fortunately the film studio, Focus Features, has already released the film for streaming online and DVD, so it can be more widely seen and appreciated by Janeites worldwide.

Here is a small selection of online articles about the new film. Many focus on the costume and set design, which are among the film’s delights. Our readers can easily find movie reviews (with or without spoilers, although of course we have all read the book, yes??) from their favorite web or print sources. *Emma*. received an 86% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, so the reception has been largely positive.

[Emma review – sweetness, spite and bared bottoms \(The Guardian\)](#)

[Emma Takes Place in a Bright Georgian Dollhouse \(Architectural Digest\)](#)

[How the New Emma Movie Departs From Jane Austen’s Novel \(Slate\)](#)

[Color Stories and Class Distinctions in the Costumes of Emma \(Tom and Lorenzo\)](#)

[Opulence and Frugality Inform the Look of the Latest Take on Jane Austen’s ‘Emma’ \(Variety\)](#)

[Scene-by-Scene Breakdown of Emma’s Costumes in “Emma.” 2020 \(Historical Inspiration and Analysis\) \(Mariah Pattie, Youtube\)](#)

[“Emma.” 2020 Wardrobe Analysis and Overview of Regency Fashion — Evaluating Emma’s Costumes.](#)

[Character posters for 2020 film](#)

[Reel Destinations: EMMA Episode 4 \(Focus Features\)](#)

As expected, many new comparisons of the new adaptation with previous film and TV versions have appeared, with some very entertaining videos on Youtube as well as an NPR discussion.

[Casting the Perfect Adaptation of Jane Austen’s Emma \(Jezebel\)](#)

[Exactly How ‘Clueless’ Overlaps With Jane Austen’s ‘Emma,’ Because Josh Is Totally Mr. Knightley \(Bustle\)](#)

[‘Emma.’ And ‘Clueless’: Austen Translation](#)

[Which Emma movie is better? 2020 or 1996? \(leena norms\)](#)

And let’s not forget the novel that inspired all of these artistic interpretations. Here are just a few articles on the web which explore various aspects of the book’s themes and cultural importance:

[Chawton House Lockdown Literary Festival: All About Emma \(Emma Yandle, Chawton House Curator\)](#)

[Thin Slicing in Jane Austen’s Emma \(The Artifice\)](#)

[How Jane Austen’s Emma changed the face of fiction \(The Guardian\)](#)

[Articles on Emma: Persuasions Online / JASNA.org web site](#)

We at JASNA NorCal have created our own poll for our readers to chime in on their preferences for casting, location, and handling of the book’s theme. Please share your choices. We’ll report the results and enter all participants into a random drawing for some Jane Austen swag.

[Take the Emma poll](#)



## Jane Austen Online!

Here is a list of online events you can enjoy directly from your homes. We suggest that you connect with organizations (including museums, historic houses, educational institutions, and other JASNA regions) via social media channels as many of them are offering recorded talks, tours, exhibits and performances via Youtube, Facebook Live, Instagram, and more.

**Tell us:** What are the Austen articles or presentations you've been watching recently? We will share them in the next newsletter.

JASNA Central Valley Region:  
"Selections from the *Juvenilia*" Discussion (Facebook Live)

### Chawton House's Virtual Garden Festival

#### Love in the Shrubbery: Gardens in Jane Austen's Life & Works

A talk by Kim Wilson, author of *At Home with Jane Austen*, *Tea with Jane Austen*, and *In the Garden with Jane Austen* on the Chawton House Youtube channel.

#### The Jane Austen Garden Trail

Take a walk along this Chawton House trail without leaving your living room.

#### Reel Destinations | *Pride & Prejudice* | Episode 5

Step into the world of *Pride and Prejudice* without leaving your home!

### Chawton House Lockdown Literary Festival

Many of the talks, discussions, workshops and Q&As from this online festival can still be viewed on the Chawton House Youtube channel.

#### How Historically Accurate Is the Dancing in *Pride & Prejudice* 2005?

Cassiane Mobley (who has called some of our local Regency and AustenFest dances) has a whole Youtube channel of Regency dancing analysis.

### JASNA Puget Sound Region: Dress in the Age of Austen

Ongoing. Recorded in March 2020. View on Youtube

### JASNA Central Valley Region: *Pride and Prejudice* Book Discussion

Recorded in April 2020. Available on Facebook.

### Austenland Cast Reunion

Shannon Hale is joined by the cast and crew of this beloved Austen-inspired film.

### Jennifer Ehle, Reading from my car etc

Jennifer Ehle's Youtube channel with recordings of her unscripted reading of *Pride & Prejudice*

### Matthew MacFayden's reading of the proposal scene from *Pride and Prejudice*

American Ancestors: English Country House and more  
Upcoming talks on English Country Houses and Gardens, plus Highclere Castle. Free to nonmembers, **just sign up on their website.**

## Upcoming online events

**June 14:** Humor in Jane Austen's Novels  
JASNA Palm Beaches event on **Zoom** (2 pm PDT)

**June 22:** Jane Austen: Myth, Reality and Global Celebrity  
**Future Learn** is once again holding this superb (free) course on Jane Austen.

**July 18:** Waking Jane Austen: A Celebration of Life on the Day of Austen's Death  
JASNA Central California's alternative Jane Austen birthday

**July 25:** JASNA Greater Sacramento event: "Authors' Day"  
lead by romance author Angela Schroeder. Visit their **website** for more details.



## Looking ahead ...

Jane Austen Society of North America  
**2021 Annual General Meeting**  
October 15–17, Chicago, IL  
**Jane Austen in the Arts**