



Northern California Region

From the Regional Coordinator

Hello JASNA NorCal members,

I don't know about you, but the last month has felt very trying. Between wildfires and smoke and heat (and the pandemic), I hope you are all taking care of yourselves and your families. And I dearly hope you are all in good health.

Included in this newsletter is information on upcoming Jane Austen events, including how to register for the 2020 Virtual AGM, and reminders for upcoming regional events.

The JASNA NorCal board has started working on community guidelines and agreements and we'd love your input. What are they? They're a way to put on paper the intentions I'm sure we all have around inclusion in our meetings. By putting these on paper, it can better help us work toward healthy and safe spaces, and maybe even teach us something along the way. Let us know if you'd like to be part of creating these; just email rc@jasnanorcal.org.

As ever, I hope you and your family are in good health,

Bianca Hernandez

Regional Coordinator, JASNA NorCal



Upcoming Meetings

We will be having more virtual regional events coming up this Fall and Winter. We are on a Zoom Pro account, so our meetings have a 100 participant cap. Some discussions and meetups will be kept smaller for the sake of organization. Because of that, we will be sending JASNA members in the region event RSVP information first. If you are not a JASNA member, make sure you update your membership info now. If we still have open spaces for capped meetings, we may send RSVP info to newsletter subscribers as time allows.

September 27: Summer Regency Sew-A-Long Show and Tell

October 24: Tea Time Discussion: *Northanger Abbey* adaptations

November 7: Tea Time Discussion: *Emma* (2020) vs. *Clueless*

December 12: Jane Austen Birthday Event. More to come!

**Jane Austen Society of
North America**

Northern California Region

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Annual General Meeting
A Virtual Event
October 9-11, 2020



2020 JASNA AGM

Registration Open Sept. 1–30

Don't pack your bags, don't buy a plane ticket—but do plan to take part in JASNA's 2020 Virtual Annual General Meeting, **October 9–11!** If you are a frequent AGM attendee, this year's conference will honor your favorite JASNA traditions in a new way. If you've never attended an AGM, this is an ideal time to do it!

Step into our virtual conference center from the comfort of your home. Top Austen scholars and JASNA friends will be waiting for you for a long-overdue exploration and celebration of Austen's youthful writings: "Jane Austen's Juvenilia: Reason, Romanticism, and Revolution." Complementing the juvenilia content will be new takes on favorite AGM activities, such as the Social Hour and Promenade, and new features that take advantage of the capabilities of the online format.

Best of all—because there are no hotel meeting space restrictions for a virtual conference—there is no cap on the number of members who can attend. Give yourself the gift of learning, laughing, and all "the pleasures of society."

Registration is online only and will run from September 1–30. Members who are not on the JASNA email list have been sent postcards to let them know that the new 2020 Virtual AGM website is now available. To learn more and register, visit the conference site:

<http://www.jasna.org/agms/2020/index.html>

Call for Papers:

Persuasions On-Line Special Issue

Beyond the Bit of Ivory: Jane Austen and Diversity

This special issue of *Persuasions On-Line*, to be coedited by Danielle Christmas and Susan Allen Ford, hopes to explore Austen through the perspective of race— as well as how other forms of inequity related to ethnicity, gender identity and orientation, ability/disability, culture, and class might intersect with or inform those perspectives.

It's time for the community of those involved in the scholarship and discussion of Jane Austen and her world to examine the limited ways in which we understand Jane Austen's writing and the world of which she was a part and the limited ways we write and talk about those subjects.

Submissions should be sent on or before **January 15, 2021**; the issue, *Persuasions On-Line* 41.2, will be published in the summer of 2021. Please read the full [Call for Papers](#) to learn more.

JASNA SW Region

September 26, 11 am–12:15 pm PDT: Presentation on "Emma and Austen's Hidden Gothics" by Karen Joy Fowler. **Free registration** for Zoom event.

JASNA Greater Sacramento Region

September 26, 2:00–4:15 pm PDT: Replay of the July 25th program, "For the Love of Austen" pre-recorded chat with four JAFF authors. Email jasna.grsac@gmail.com for an invitation to this Zoom event.

In an online world, Regency is where you find it

Six months of no meetings, teas, or balls: some of us would be in utter Regency withdrawal, were it not for online media. Fortunately JASNA has gone virtual, and there's even more Austen-relevant programming when you venture beyond the Janeite universe.

Jane Austen & Co. is not a JASNA operation, but their content is excellent, with lively presentations. They are an academic institute with a focus on early women writers. Upcoming Austen-themed presentations are on **Reading with Jane Austen** on **October 20**, and **Gardening with Jane Austen** on **November 5**.

American Ancestors, a venerable genealogy site based in Boston, has featured several excellent talks this summer on the English Country House by Curt DiCamillo, their Curator of Special Collections. You must create a logon in order to view them, but these have excellent footage and great tales of the families who created them. You can make informed choices as to which extant edifice makes the most apt Pemberley!

Locally, **ADAF** (the **American Decorative Arts Forum** at the Fine Arts Museums in San Francisco) has put its monthly lectures online through December. Programs are free but you must sign up beforehand. Two Regency era programs are coming up this fall. On Saturday, **October 10** an illustrated lecture will trace interior design of the Regency era through its various revivals in France and England, and in popular American films of the 1930s and 40s. [In the middle of the online AGM, of course.] On Saturday, **November 14**, the

program will dive into the history of inlay in Federal America. Elegant furniture took inspiration from the same sources as fine cabinet makers in Jane Austen's era.

Costume enthusiasts should check out a new site, **Costume On**. A variety of excellent historical costumers offer small online classes or talks during one weekend, **September 19–20**. The talks I attended at their spring sessions were very good, by hands-on instructors who knew their stuff. You pay the instructor directly, and prices are reasonable.

Of course we miss Regency balls. In the meantime, Cassiane Mobley, who has taught Regency dance at our AustenFests, has her own YouTube channel, **Tea with Cassiane**, featuring several videos talking about dancing in Jane Austen films.

If you fancy doing needlework from Jane Austen's era, keep an eye on Lucy Barter and her **SFSNAD (San Francisco School of Needlework and Design)**. Classic techniques such as the whitework Jane loved are taught along with modern stitchery.

Another great online resource for embroidery is Mary Corbet's **Needle 'n Thread**. Mary knows all the classic stitches and has a deep website of many years standing. If you are trying a new stitch and the book instructions are unclear, she may have already done something on this topic.

I hope this gives you new leads on other places to find Austen-era information.

Danine Corzenn



JASNA NorCal July Virtual Picnic

On July 25th we had our virtual meeting and it was all about Regency foods! This was based on the (legendary) Food Program put on by the **JASNA Puget Sound** region. That program was originally presented in 2016 and meant to be a tasting menu of food that might have been served at the supper for The Netherfield Ball. There is little information in the book as to what was served other than White Soup, so members got to researching!

Thanks again to our presenters, Julie Buck, Agnes Gawne, and J McLean Slougher from the Puget Sound JASNA Region. If you missed the presentation itself, you can still watch it **on our Facebook page** (no login required).

JASNA NorCal Virtual Book Club

Mr. Woodhouse considered eight persons ... together as the utmost that his nerves could bear.

To be sure we kept his horror of large parties in mind for each of our four Virtual Book Club meetings on *Emma* that concluded last week.

In the company of clever, well-informed people, while staying at home in real comfort, our book club had a great deal of conversation on whether Frank Churchill is a rascal or a lover, Jane Fairfax shy or cold, and Emma a haughty princess or a well-intentioned but misguided and loving friend and daughter. By the end, Miss Bates had won everyone's heart.

We met on Friday evenings for three weeks in a row to discuss each of the three volumes of *Emma*. In our last meeting, a month later, we enthusiastically discussed various *Emma* adaptations and our favorite performances.

Some key questions that kept us engaged and generated lively discussions:

- Was Mrs. Weston a good governess to Emma?
- When Mr. Knightley calls Harriet a silly girl and yet wants her to marry Robert Martin, did he care about Harriet's sentiments or did he just want his friend and tenant to get the girl that he desired?
- Emma and Mr. Knightley's disagreement on whether Frank could have and should have attended his father's wedding to Miss Taylor.
- Austen's famous quote on Emma, "*I am going to take a heroine whom no one but myself will much like*"—is that really true? We like Emma too! Or do we really?

I want to thank the attendees who made this book club so thoroughly enjoyable! I started each meeting with a set of trivia questions and I was so impressed that none of my questions went unanswered. As Mr. Elton says, "*where small parties are select, they are perhaps the most agreeable of any.*"

Please stay tuned for our next Virtual Book Club (*Pride and Prejudice*) to be scheduled between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Deepali Lugani

Do you belong to a local Jane Austen book club? We'd love to share reports of your reading adventures with other JASNA Nor-Cal members, many of whom cannot make our quarterly events and would appreciate knowing about and connecting with other Janeites who live nearby. Send articles or contact us at rc@jasnanorcal.org for more information.



Summer Reading Lists

Most of us have been stuck inside at home for much of the summer, which means ... more time to read! Let us know which books have been helping you through the pandemic and social distancing.

Email your list of favorite summer reads to rc@jasnanorcal.org and we may include them in the next newsletter.