



Northern California Region

From the Regional Coordinator

Hello Northern California Region,

As I look to our summer and fall programs, I'm excited for you to see what myself and board members have been coming up with.

I didn't get any responses to my last newsletter asking for volunteers. The region is run on volunteers, and we desperately need your help to keep the region sustainable. Every little bit helps.

If you'd like to volunteer, please, please email me so I can add you to the regional board meetings.

I hope you understand that I wouldn't be asking if it wasn't important.

In the meantime, I hope you are all doing well and look forward to seeing you at the June event.

Thank you,

Bianca Hernandez-Knight
Regional Coordinator, JASNA NorCal



Upcoming Meetings

Date: Saturday, June 12, 2021

Time: 2:30–5:30 pm PDT

Topic: “The Regency is A Bit Blacker Than In The Movies”

Speaker: Amanda-Rae Prescott

See page 2 for details and to access the Eventbrite registration link for this Zoom program.

Online Events Calendar

We have added a calendar widget to our web site with listings of virtual Austen events from all over the world: ours and other JASNA regions, libraries, museums, educational non-profits, and more! Submissions are appreciated: email news@jasnanorcal.org. Check out the calendar here:

[Online Events Calendar](#)

**Jane Austen Society of
North America**

Northern California Region

Web site: jasnanorcal.org

Email: rc@jasnanorcal.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/jasnanorcal/

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2021 JASNA NorCal Events

Date: Saturday, June 12, 2021, 2:30–5:30 pm PDT

Topic: “The Regency Is A Bit Blacker Than In The Movies” — Reframing the Conversation around Historical Accuracy and Racial Inclusivity in Austen Adaptations/Regency Films & Television

Register through Eventbrite here

(*Note: your confirmation email will include the Zoom link; you may need to scroll down in the email to find it.*)

Most Austen or Regency-set films and television shows are judged by how historically accurate the work appears to be. This socially constructed idea is an inadequate metric for productions featuring diverse casting or BIPOC history during the Regency Era. This virtual presentation from Amanda-Rae Prescott will discuss how recent productions such as *Bridgerton*, *Mr. Malcolm's List*, and the upcoming *Persuasion* adaptation prioritize other forms of realism and creative storytelling to challenge viewers to expand their perception of the world around Austen.



About Amanda-Rae Prescott: Amanda-Rae Prescott is a freelance pop culture journalist from Brooklyn, NY, specializing in tracking UK period dramas and advocacy for expanded racial diversity on screen and in fandom. Her articles reviewing period dramas and other UK TV shows have previously appeared on Den Of Geek, GBH Boston, *Doctor Who Magazine*, and several podcasts. She is a featured panelist for Virtual Jane Con 2021 and other Jane Austen fandom events. Online she can be found at amandaraeprescott.com and on Twitter [@amandaraeprescott](https://twitter.com/amandaraeprescott)

Date: Saturday, September 18, 2021, 2–4 pm PDT

Topic: A Virtual Regency Salon

Please join us for this fun virtual salon event that will include *Persuasion*-themed trivia bingo and a chance to chat with other local Janeites about your social distancing activities and accomplishments (books read, TV binges, costume accessories, whatever!).

Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021, time TBD

Topic: Birthday Toast to Jane Austen

We are working on getting a speaker for this annual celebration, and we will need volunteers to help with the coordination and execution of the event. Contact volunteer4jasnanorcal@gmail.com to get involved.



Volunteers Needed!

We're increasing our efforts to recruit JASNA NorCal members willing to share their time and expertise and help keep our region afloat. Honestly, we can't do this without you. Visit the **Volunteer** page on our web site for more information and a list of roles—both big and small—that may be the perfect fit for you to become more involved and to make new Janeite friends. Check it out and join us!

Jane Austen on Youtube

With the explosion of virtual events during the COVID-19 pandemic, the opportunities for enjoying Austen-related content on Youtube has grown exponentially. Authors promoting new books, scholars presenting talks at conferences, costumers sharing their sewing tips and expertise on historical garb, museums showcasing new arts or crafts exhibits, theatrical companies presenting “live” virtual performances of plays both old and new ... the list goes on. You can, of course, just log into your (free!) Youtube account and search for “Jane Austen”; but we are here to help you discover some of the best gems on the site.

Web Series

The 2012 web series “The Lizzie Bennet Diaries” from **Pemberley Digital** was a groundbreaking, multi-platform, modern adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*, and gathered a large and enthusiastic audience. (If you haven’t watched it, go do that right away: it’s awesome!) This effort was followed by “Emma Approved”—in which a modern Emma becomes (what else?) a lifestyle coach—and shorter related pieces featuring Lydia’s take on *P&P* and a visit to *Sanditon* by Georgiana Darcy.

I also highly recommend a more recent web series, “**The Cate Moreland Chronicles**,” which brings *Northanger Abbey*’s characters into contemporary Los Angeles by converting *The Mystery of Udolfo* into a well-loved but canceled TV series starring the swoon-worthy Henry Tilney as Valancourt.

Adaptations

Many of the British Austen miniseries from the 1970s and 1980s can be found, sometimes in bits and pieces, on Youtube (try **Izzard Clips**), and some of the more obscure film adaptations (such as *Aisha* or *Kandukondain Kandukondain*, Indian versions of, respectively, *Emma* and *Sense and Sensibility*, with great Bollywood soundtracks) not often available for rent or streaming. Best of all, Youtube has a full collection of **Wishbone** episodes showcasing the classy canine in adaptations of classic literature; check out “Furst Impressions” and “Pup Fiction.”

Carmen Romero-Sanchez from El Sitio de Jane/El Salón de Té gave a fascinating talk at Virtual JaneCon titled “Austen Outside the English Countryside” which included a discussion of film/TV adaptations in Spanish, Italian, and Danish. **The Jane Austen Society of Spain’s web site** includes information on these and English language adaptations, some with links to Youtube videos. This is a terrific rabbit hole for Janeites to fall into!

Author talks

Many authors and scholars (and scholarly authors) have set up Youtube channels with their presentations, interviews, and related links. Be sure to bookmark the amazing **Devoney Looser. Austen Variations** is a group of JAFF (Jane Austen Fan Fiction) authors very active online.

Conferences & Events

If you missed any sessions of the fabulous **Virtual JaneCon 2021**, you can find them on the event’s Youtube channel. It’s not uncommon for pandemic-era conferences to post many if not all of their sessions online after the event, so that more people can have access to the content. Here are just a few to check out.

Jane Austen Summer Program
JASNA AGM 2020
JASNA GL (Jane Austen Festival, Louisville KY)
Pride & Prejudice & Zoom: Austen Mini-Fest

Museums & Organizations

Museums, historic heritage properties, and non-profit organizations have kept active by creating virtual tours or hosting a variety of related presentations or interviews. Among those with Jane Austen content are:

Chawton House
The Jane Austen Centre
Jane Austen’s House
Jane Austen Literacy Foundation

But wait, there’s more!

The internet contains myriads of vlogs, podcasts, and tutorials covering all aspects of Regency studies, such as dancing (**Tea with Cassiane**), dress and costume (**Dixie DIY, Enchanted Rose Costumes**), or are just plain fun (**Black Girl in a Big Dress, Regency House Party**).

Let’s Get Started

To get started, visit our own **JASNA NorCal Youtube channel**, where we’ve got an expanding collection of Austen-relevant channels (check “Subscriptions”) as well as individual events, interviews, film/TV show links, “how to” costume tutorials, and more (“Playlists”). [Sorry, Youtube is not great at letting us organize these better.] If you find more content that we should include, please contact us at news@jasnanorcal.org. Happy tubing!

Eleanor Farrell

JASNA AGM (Annual General Meeting) Updates



2021 JASNA Annual General Meeting

Dates: October 14–17, 2021

Location: Chicago, IL

Theme: Jane Austen in the Arts

Plenary Speakers: Gillian Dow, Devoney Looser, Desmond Shawe-Taylor, Maestro Stephen Alltop and Soprano Josefien Stoppelenburg

Join us in the exciting city of Chicago as we explore the strong connection between Jane Austen and the arts. Austen attended private musical evenings, enjoyed visits to the theater and galleries, and participated in family theatricals. Each of her novels features the arts in some form—from the domestic female accomplishments of playing an instrument, singing, and drawing in *Emma* and *Pride and Prejudice*, to the elaborate but private preparations for a performance of *Lover's Vows* in *Mansfield Park*, to the public concert at the Assembly Rooms in *Persuasion*. In 2021 we will examine how the visual and performing arts influenced Austen's writing and how her work has in turn inspired film, stage, and other artistic adaptations for more than 200 years.

For more information, visit the 2021 AGM website:
<http://jasna.org/agms/chicago2021/home.php>



2022 JASNA Annual General Meeting

Dates: September 30–October 2, 2022

Location: Victoria, BC

Theme: Sense and Sensibility in the City of Gardens

The Victoria, BC, Region wishes to excite your anticipation with a return to Canada for the 2022 JASNA AGM! Come to the city with a long JASNA history and legacy. We know many JASNA members will be ready for a lovely getaway to our City of Gardens when the time comes, and we can guarantee you are going to have a fantastic time filled with our Jane, and everything Victoria has to offer. Visit the **2022 AGM web site** for more information and updates.

2021 Student Essay Contest

JASNA conducts an annual student **Essay Contest** to foster the study and appreciation of Jane Austen's works in new generations of readers. Students world-wide are invited to compete for scholarship awards in three divisions: high school, college/university, and graduate school.

The 2021 Essay Contest topic is tied to the theme of our upcoming Annual General Meeting: "Jane Austen in the Arts." It encompasses a wide variety of the arts, including fine arts, performance arts, decorative arts, and crafts. The deadline for Essay Contest submissions is **Tuesday, June 1, 2021**. It is essential that you visit the **Submissions** page and review the contest rules and eligibility requirements. The JASNA web site also provides more information and samples of past winning essays.
