



*Northern California Region*

**From the Regional Coordinator**

In 2019 JASNA NorCal has already enjoyed one gathering, with much more to look forward to.

In March we sponsored a lecture-concert at the San Mateo Public Library featuring composer Kirke Mechem, who has finally finished the *Pride and Prejudice* opera he described to us at a meeting six years earlier. Between JASNA members, library patrons, and Redwood Symphony subscribers, we had over 100 attending. Many Janeites attended the opera's premiere at Cañada College as well. Mechem's wonderful melodic score was splendidly performed by the Redwood Symphony and singers from the College of Notre Dame. Having heard his talk, we had an even better grasp on the choices he'd made to fit the novel into nearly three hours of song, which takes longer than reading or the spoken word. The opera was a delight to hear, and I hope to see it fully staged someday, per Mechem's scene notes in the supertitles.

For our next meeting on June 29th, we have reserved the lovely historic 1860 Alta Mira Club in San Leandro, with its full kitchen, so we can put on our traditional tea. (Local health regulations now require many meeting places to use commercially prepared food, so we can no longer do this at every meeting.) Plan now to bring something special and Austen-inspired for our spread! Also, let's revive the custom of bringing our personal mugs or teacups—less paper in the landfills

JASNA is now celebrating its 40th year, with Northern California as one of its earliest regions. Let us know if you'd like to help JASNA NorCal see 50 years and beyond. I'll be stepping aside as Regional Coordinator in December, but per our bylaws, I will be around as your prior RC. Thankfully the dynamic Bianca Hernandez has moved from her weekend work assignment and is once again able to attend our meetings.

*Danine Cozzens*

Regional Coordinator, JASNA NorCal



JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY  
OF NORTH AMERICA

*Our Next Meeting*

**Regency Food in  
Social Context**

Saturday June 29, 1:00–4:00 pm  
Regency Food in Social Context  
The Alta Mira Club  
561 Lafayette Avenue  
San Leandro, CA

**Jane Austen Society of  
North America**

*Northern California Region*

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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).

## Regency Food in Social Context

Join us on Saturday June 29th for a tasty exploration of victuals and libations popular in the Regency period.

Our guest speaker will be Amira Makansi, author of *Literary Libations: What to Drink with What You Read*. She writes, “My plan is to dive into the social implications of serving certain drinks— what was considered ‘high-brow,’ what was ‘lowbrow,’ and what fell somewhere in between. What would have been served at Mr. Bingley’s party at Netherfield, vs. at a social dance in London, and why? What might rascals like John Willoughby or George Wickham have consumed ‘after-hours’? What was new and exciting, what was passé? How was the consumption of alcohol in general perceived by various social classes in the Regency era?”



The meeting will also feature a mini-talk by JASNA NorCal member Sheri Forbes titled **Martha Lloyd, Friend and Sister Under Every Circumstance**. Jane Austen’s letters chronicle a decades-long kinship with Martha Lloyd. Today’s devotees of Austen might envy her real-life friend and the ways in which their lives intertwined even after Jane’s death. Martha’s tangible legacy is a recipe book that documents the food enjoyed by the ladies of Chawton. After we meet Martha Lloyd through Sheri’s presentation, Anne Krause will play culinary detective with a second mini-talk on **What Martha Lloyd’s Recipes Reveal**, which will show how the recipes hold clues to middle class life in the Georgian/Regency era.

There are images of *Martha Lloyd’s Recipe Book* online at <https://www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk/collection>

**Note:** there is NO HARD LIQUOR permitted at the Alta Mira Club, so any re-creation of life below stairs involving Holland gin must be carried on elsewhere.



## 2019 Meeting Calendar

### March

**Date:** Saturday March 9, 1:00–3:00 pm  
**Topic:** Opera in Concert  
**Speaker:** Kirke Mechem, *Pride and Prejudice* opera  
**Location:** San Mateo Public Library  
 55 West 3rd Street, San Mateo, CA

### June

**Date:** Saturday June 29, 1:00–4:00 pm  
**Topic:** Regency Food in Social Context  
 From Bath Buns to white soup, what did people eat and drink in the Regency era? Special guest Amira K. Makansi, author of *Literary Libations*, will examine how to party Austen style, with food and drink of the day. Plus, our own Sheri Forbes on Jane’s friend Martha Lloyd and her cookbook, and former RC Anne Krause on the role of food in the novels. Bring a special dish to share at our tea table.  
**Location:** The Alta Mira Club  
 561 Lafayette Ave., San Leandro, CA

### September

**Date:** Saturday September 21, 1:00–3:00 pm  
**Topic:** The Art and Afterlife of *Sense and Sensibility*  
**Speaker:** Dr. Devoney Looser, *The Making of Jane Austen*  
 Jane Austen’s first published novel, *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), set the stage for her remarkable career. With its very title, the novel communicates so much about its author’s own artistic sense and sensibilities. In this illustrated lecture, Devoney Looser will offer a deep dive into the words, images, and pop-culture afterlife of Austen’s trailblazing book, with its focus on twos and threes, loves and losses, and strong second chances.  
**Location:** Masonic Lodge  
 100 N Ellsworth Ave., San Mateo  
 Held in coordination with the BAERS *Sense and Sensibility* Ball that evening in the same venue

### December

**Annual Jane Austen Birthday Gala**  
**Date:** Saturday December 7, 11:00 am–4:00 pm  
**Location:** The Bellevue Club  
 660 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA  
 Election of officers for 2020–2022

## Traumatic (and Dramatic) Reading at the San Francisco Jane Austen Book Club

In January of 2019, a new San Francisco Jane Austen Book Club was inaugurated for Janeites living in San Francisco (with visitors from everywhere else always welcome!). We're taking a chronological approach, starting with the Austen Juvenilia and proceeding through the published novels, with



related reading in alternate months. The group has been meeting in literature-friendly bars and cafes (thanks, Noir and Borderlands!) and still exploring new and fun venues throughout the city.

In February the book club read some of the “horrid novels” referenced in *Northanger Abbey*. While many of us didn't come away from the experience with a desire to

become a gothic fiction scholar, we did enjoy discussing the themes and dramatically reading passages from *The Monk* and *The Castle of Wolfenbach*.

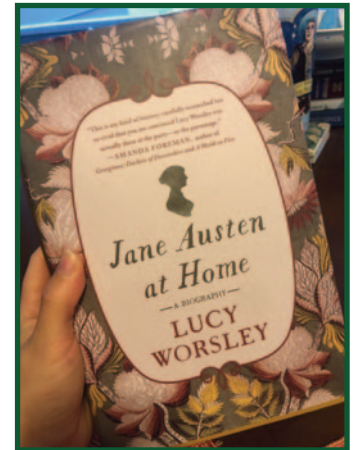
The readings gave us better insight as we read *Northanger Abbey* in March. As Catherine and Isabella talked about the novels they were reading we could better understand the references made to them, and



how much Jane Austen was poking fun at the genre. The novels acted as a wonderful bridge between Austen's Juvenilia and *Northanger Abbey*, giving us both context and amusement as we further understood her works.

In April we read *Jane Austen at Home* by Lucy Worsley. Not only did it give a wonderful overview of Austen's life, the details gave us a lot of insight into the works we've read so far together. We also cringed together at some of the details of Regency life, but were quickly distracted and entertained by excerpts from

Austen's letters. Her wit comes across so clearly and sharply in her personal writing, making us all wish we had far more material from her to read, enjoy and reference in everyday life.



**Next up:** *Sense and Sensibility* on May 19th, 5–7 pm at Alembic in the Haight. For more information, contact Bianca at [bhernandezfilm@gmail.com](mailto:bhernandezfilm@gmail.com).

**Do you belong to a local Jane Austen book club? We'd love to share reports of your reading adventures with other JASNA NorCal 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](mailto:rc@jasnanorcal.org) for more information.**



## Cookbook Review

### *Tea Fit for a Queen*

Reviewed by Danine Cozzens



If you are already a devotee of afternoon tea, you'll be delighted with this well-researched and photographed little book with a forward by historian Lucy Worsley. You might even want to try your hand at some of the over 40 historic receipts, going back as far as Henry VIII. Be forewarned: as befits a proper British publication, the cooking instructions are metric,- but you clever elves can work with this. If you'd rather stick with your current cookbook, after reading this you'll have a better idea of just when different items came into the English

diet. There's inspiration galore for everyone, just in time for your contribution for our June 29 meeting.

*Tea Fit For A Queen: Recipes & Drinks for Afternoon Tea*

by Historic Royal Palaces

Introduction by Lucy Worsley

hardcover, Ebery Press, 2014

ISBN-13: 978-0091958718

## Volunteer Host/Hostess Needed!

We're planning a culinary extravaganza for our June meeting on Regency food, and need a volunteer host or hostess to help coordinate set up, contributions, and clean up after the meeting. Please contact us at [rc@jasnanorcal.org](mailto:rc@jasnanorcal.org) if you are planning to attend and would like to help out. This is a great opportunity to get more involved with JASNA and meet other fun Janeites.

We are always in need of volunteers to help us keep things running both during our quarterly meetings and general assistance with event planning, membership, and more. Even if you can't make the meetings but want to be more involved, please do let us know what you'd like to contribute in volunteer time to JASNA NorCal. We can't keep going without your help!

## Can't Get Enough Austen?

### Other Events around the Bay Area

May 18: **BAERS Ivanhoe Bicentennial Ball**, Kensington. (Discount tickets available for JASNA members)

May 19: **San Francisco Jane Austen Book Club** discusses *Sense and Sensibility*

June 1, **PEERS** Rainbow Ball, Alameda

June 15: **JASNA Central California** meeting: An Exploration of the Regency Wardrobe with Brooke Aiello.

June 20: **JASNA Sacramento** visits Mills College, Oakland to see Jane Austen's handwritten prayers.

August 1: **PEERS** 1776 Picnic Dance, Alameda

August 24: **JASNA Central California** meeting and discussion of *Sense and Sensibility*

August 25: **GBACG** Bazaar, Albany

September 14: **GBACG** Workshop: Regency Fans with Lynn McMasters, Berkeley

October 20: **GBACG** Salon at Malmaison, Bellevue Club, Oakland.

Tall Ships visit California (Hawaiian Chieftain)

October 1-27: Sacramento

October 31-November 10: Half Moon Bay

November 14-25: Monterey

**Tall Ships Network web site**



Jane Austen Society of North America

**2019 Annual General Meeting**

October 4-6, Colonial Williamsburg, VA

200 Years of *Northanger Abbey*: "Real, Solemn History"