



Northern California Region

From the Regional Coordinator

We've been having fun this year—literary fun, of course. Janeites can read and party. Following our March meeting with composer Kirke Mechem (and the world premiere of his *Pride and Prejudice* Opera in April), in June we enjoyed a food and wine fest, Regency style, with author Amira Makansi, who created a special Regency talk for us. (More on page 3.)

Since wine is one of my husband's interests, I volunteered to shop for French wines similar to what Jane would have savored at Godmersham. Knowing little of French wines beyond Beaujolais, I was relieved to discover winefolly.com, an excellent online resource for learning about wine regions of the world. Armed with Amira's suggestions, James and I were able to work with local wine merchants and supply sips to complement the food.

There is enthusiasm for another food-centric meeting next summer. The Alta Mira Club will no longer be granting a nonprofit discount on weekends, so we must look elsewhere or charge if we are to use that venue again. If you know of suitable meeting places with a kitchen we can use for food staging, with parking and accessible by public transit, do let us know. We try to rotate meetings around the Bay to accommodate members from Santa Rosa to Monterey to Livermore.

We have another great meeting coming up September 21 (see page 2). Our afternoon meeting featuring noted scholar Dr. Devoney Looser will be in the same building in the same town as the BAERS Regency Ball that evening, the San Mateo Masonic Lodge. Thanks to Bianca Hernandez and Jean Martin of BAERS for coordinating this special dual event.

It takes work and inspiration to create our events, so we welcome suggestions and volunteers. We'll be having one of our periodic planning meetings on Saturday afternoon, August 24th, in Oakland. Contact rc@jasnanorcal.org for more details if you would like to attend.

This general newsletter is sent only four times per year. To maximize your enjoyment of all things Jane, join the Jane Austen Society of North America at jasna.org. This not only supports us but entitles you to participate in events put on by other regions and attend a national convention each fall. I send informal letters every month or so to our current members, and there's a lively group on Facebook.

I look forward to seeing many of you in September,



Danine Cozzens

Regional Coordinator, JASNA NorCal

Our Next Meeting

**The Art and Afterlife
of *Sense and Sensibility***

Saturday September 21, 1:00–3:00 pm
Speaker: Dr. Devoney Looser
Masonic Lodge
100 N Ellsworth Avenue
San Mateo, CA

**Jane Austen Society of
North America**

Northern California Region

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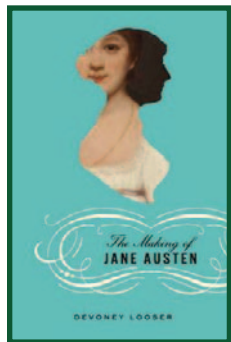
Newsletter Contributions

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.

The Art and Afterlife of *Sense and Sensibility*

Join us on September 21st for a very exciting meeting, followed by a Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS) ball!

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.



Following the JASNA NorCal meeting, BAERS will be hosting their *Sense and Sensibility* Ball at the same venue from 8 pm to 11:30 pm. The ball will feature Dance Master Alan Winston and the Divertimento Dance Orchestra and easy set dances will be taught and called.

Street parking is available at the meeting venue. (Do take care not to park in the private lot at the nearby church.) There's a CalTrain/SamTrans transit hub in downtown San Mateo at

1st Street and 1st Avenue, one long city block from the Masonic Hall.

No experience or partner required. Period attire admired but not required. Tickets are \$25 at the door; \$20 in advance. \$16 in advance for GBACG and BACDS members by mail or PayPal. Details available on the [BAERS web site](http://baers.org/index.html#baerscal): baers.org/index.html#baerscal

If you do stay for the ball note that there are dozens of nearby restaurants on B Street should you want some refreshments. There is also a ladies lounge at the Masonic Hall where costume changes can be made.



Upcoming Meetings

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 scholar Dr. 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

Admission is free for the JASNA NorCal meeting

Held in coordination with the BAERS *Sense and Sensibility* Ball that evening in the same venue, from 8–11:30 pm.

Tickets are available from BAERS:

baers.org/index.html#baerscal

We are looking for volunteers to help setup the meeting and the ball. Email rc@jasnanorcal.org if you're interested.

December

Annual Jane Austen Birthday Gala

Date: Saturday December 7, 11:00 am–4:00 pm

Location: The Bellevue Club

525 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA

Soniah Kamal joins us for our annual birthday toast to Jane Austen. She will be discussing her novel *Unmarriageable*, a critically acclaimed modernization of *Pride and Prejudice* set in Pakistan. We will have our usual drawing, activities, and food.

This is also an election year for our local board, so we will be holding formal elections at this meeting. If you have questions or would like to run for an open position, email rc@jasnanorcal.org.

March 2020

AustenFest: Jane Austen: Feminist and Quiet Rebel

Date: Sunday, March 22, 1:00–4:00 pm

Location: San Mateo Public Library

55 West 3rd Street, San Mateo

Free and open to the public. We return for our fifth year to the San Mateo Public Library for an afternoon of Austen-inspired presentations and activities, filling three conference rooms with parallel tracks of programming, including dancing. How did Austen and her heroines rebel against expectations?

Parking at the San Mateo Public Library is free for AustenFest attendees.

A June Regency Feast

Our June meeting, **Regency Food in Social Context**, had a spectacular turnout and superb food was brought for the pot-luck portion. From rout cakes to trifles, ratafia cookies to flummery, you all really showed off your cooking skills.

Amira K. Makansi, author of *Literary Libations*, walked us through the drinks and drinking traditions of the Regency era. Her expansive knowledge of wines was most informative and the tasting afterward will surely enhance our future readings of Austen's works.



Sheri Forbes wowed us with a touching talk about Martha Lloyd and her influence in Austen's life. There was something very heart-warming about understanding the relationship between these two women, and we are all eager to read more about her recipes.

Anne Krause brought

us some interesting factoids about the food mentioned in the novels and ended the meeting by honoring Melissa Sarnac for all her years of service to JASNA NorCal. We wouldn't have had nearly enough delicious teas to fortify us at meetings without her.



JASNA National: call for photos

JASNA has a few 40th anniversary-related projects in the works that require old photos, and we need your help! We're looking for pictures that capture moments and people in JASNA's history—especially photos from the 1980s and 1990s.

Do you have a few pictures from early AGMs or Region meetings that JASNA may be able to use in a website photo gallery, JASNA News, or other projects? Please send them in for consideration!

Digital photos and scans of old prints (the higher the resolution the better) can be emailed to Iris Lutz at e-communications@jasna.org. Photo prints can also be mailed; we will scan them and send back the originals.



JASNA Southwest Region seeks talented young filmmakers with a penchant for Jane Austen

Are you an aspiring Ava DuVernay or Steven Spielberg? Perhaps you are a modern Nora Ephron, ready to write a great screenplay. Get your cameras and crew together and submit a film to the Young Filmmakers Contest hosted by JASNA Southwest Region!

The contest was started just before the 2017 AGM in Huntington Beach. It drew a number of creative entries including the winning film, which was a short documentary about the effects reading Jane Austen had on a severely dyslexic young woman. Last year's winner was awarded her prize during the Southwest Region's winter meeting at Sony Studios (formerly MGM Studios). Ellyn Cardon's depiction of a modern-day mother's not-so-subtle efforts to throw her daughters in the way of eligible bachelors is hilarious ... and eerily familiar.

This is a contest for high school, undergraduate and graduate students. There are fabulous prizes available for the three winners including: \$250 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for third place. Films must be five minutes OR less. The works must be adapted from or inspired by Jane Austen's writing or life. The deadline for entries is **November 1, 2019** and there is no entry fee!

Check out the [JASNA Southwest website](#) for more information.



A Sayers/Austen Connection

While listening to a talk by Dorothy L. Sayers scholar Laura Simmons during the 2016 Mythopoeic Conference (Mythcon) in Champaign, Illinois, I was delighted to learn about some Jane Austen references in Sayer's correspondence (it seems that both Austen and Sayers were prolific and enthusiastic letter writers). This is an excerpt from a June 2, 1947 letter from Sayers to fellow author C.S. Lewis:

I have no news, except that — looking forward to the confidently-expected food-crisis, I have purchased two Hens. In their habits they display, respectively Sense and Sensibility, and I have therefore named them Elinor and Marianne. Elinor is a round, comfortable, motherly-looking little body, who lays one steady, regular, undistinguished egg per day, and allows nothing to disturb her equanimity (except, indeed, the coal-cart, to which both take exception). Marianne is leggier, timid, and liable to hysterics. Sometime she lays a shell-less egg, sometimes a double yolk, sometimes no egg at all. On the days when she lays no egg she nevertheless goes and sits in the nest for the usual time, and seems to imagine that nothing more is required. As my gardener says: "She just *thinks* she's laid an egg". Too much imagination — in fact, Sensibility.

In a later (September 22) letter that year to Norah Lambourne, Sayers announced the arrival of two new pullets—Jane and Elizabeth—to which Marianne made a shocking fuss. The account is accompanied by this charming illustration of the overly sensitive Marianne:

Our two new pullets have arrived — Jane + Elizabeth.
 Marianne made a shocking fuss — on
 marching up to the back
 door + screaming at Mac
 (who happened to be there)
 + using all the language
 she knew. However,
 they seem to have
 settled our row.
 The others look nice
 birds, except that
 poor Elizabeth has
 somehow or other lost her tail, which makes her look
 a bit comic. However, she will doubtless grow a new one



Marianne making a shocking fuss.

Eleanor Farrell

Citation: *The Letters of Dorothy L. Sayers, Volume Three: 1944–1950. A Noble Daring*. Chosen and Edited by Barbara Reynolds with a Preface by P.D. James. 1998, The Dorothy L. Sayers Society

Can't Get Enough Austen?

Other Events around the Bay Area

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"

Save the Date: 2020 Events

January 11–12: **Modesto JaneCon**

facebook.com/operamodesto.org

March 22: JASNA NorCal AustenFest 2020, San Mateo Public Library

May 2: JASNA SW Miss Austen Goes to Washington: Jane Austen and Politics, Mission Inn Hotel and Spa, Riverside • jasnasw.com/may-2020/