



Northern California Region

From the Regional Coordinator

How quickly the days pass! 2019 has been our year of authors, as we enjoyed opera with Kirke Mechem, sipped wine with Amira Makansi, and took a deep dive into Austen scholarship with Devoney Looser. We'll end our year with a fresh look at *P&P* from a Pakistani perspective, with Soniah Kamal evoking a society where societal expectations are not unlike Austen's day.

Go big or go home, they say. With the financial stability of annual revenue sharing from JASNA national, we've invested in getting speakers that are worth the effort of traversing Bay Area traffic. We now have nearly 190 members plus another 30 who list JASNA NorCal as a 2nd or 3rd choice. If you are not already a JASNA member, you can join at www.jasna.org and get the member price for our December meeting. Members can look for a snail mailing in early November with information about our December meeting and our biannual elections.

If you're already a JASNA member, consider a next step of volunteering to help out with our group. We do many things already and even more can be accomplished with a few extra hands. We always need new officers: Regional Coordinators and Treasurers are limited to terms of 6 years. An Assistant Treasurer could "learn the ropes" and run for office later. An Events Coordinator (which we don't have but could use) is a great understudy for being an RC later. In an ideal world, all our officers would have assistants who could step into the role later on.

We have a great core team with Ruth Leibig as Treasurer and Eleanor Farrell as Communications Editor, and Bianca Hernandez will be back running for Regional Coordinator. Bianca has just been elected to the national JASNA board, which is a great honor for her, and will guarantee us getting all the latest news from national.

I will be stepping aside as Regional Coordinator but staying on board as Registrar, and will be happy to mentor a new Membership Coordinator. I mention officers, but we always can use day-of volunteers to help with hospitality, setup, greeting, and take-down at all our meetings. AustenFest (coming March 22) in particular has a huge turnout (close to 200) and its own logistics. If you were at last year's gala, you know we need help welcoming people at the beautiful but intricate Bellevue Club. Let us know your ideas and questions!



Danine Cozzens

Regional Coordinator, JASNA NorCal

Our Next Meeting

Annual Birthday Gala

Sat December 7, 11:00 am–4:00 pm
Speaker: Soniah Kamal
The Bellevue Club
525 Bellevue Avenue
Oakland, 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.

Sequels and Adaptations: A Jane Austen Birthday Gala

Soniah Kamal joins us at the elegant Bellevue Club in Oakland 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. If you would like to submit a question for the author to be included in the Q&A session, please email rc@jasnanorcal.org.

We will have our usual basket drawing, activities, AGM reports and plenty of food. There is complimentary free parking in the Bellevue Club garage for attendees.

December Gala Tickets

In addition to our usual mail-in option for purchasing gala tickets, you now have the ability to buy tickets via our website (see link below). The e-ticket service we are using does include a surcharge of \$1.51 per purchase, so if you buy online, this charge will be added to the ticket price. If you do not want to purchase your tickets online, you are still more than welcome to send your checks (made out to "JASNA NorCal") to:

JASNA NorCal Gala
Danine Cozzens, Registrar
1122 South Grant Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94402

Ticket Prices (includes price of venue, food and drink):

Members: \$50

Non-Members: \$60

Web site ticket purchase: jasnanorcal.org/calendar

Online ticket surcharge (only applies to e-tickets): \$1.51

We are also able to handle advance purchases of Soniah Kamal's book for those who would like to obtain the author's autograph during the gala. Books are \$20 each, can be ordered through our web site or via check, and will be available for you to pick up at the gala.

Deadline for ordering tickets and/or books:

November 30, 2019.

We suggest you get your payments in as soon as possible as we have limited seating and cannot guarantee tickets at the door.

Upcoming Meetings

December

Sequels and Adaptations: A Jane Austen Birthday Gala

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

Location: The Bellevue Club, 4th floor Mural Lounge
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.



JASNA NorCal Election

This is also an election year for our local board, so we will be holding formal elections at this meeting. Our Regional Board Slate to be voted on is:

Regional Coordinator: Bianca Hernandez

Treasurer: Ruth Leibig

Communications Editor: Eleanor Farrell

Membership Coordinator:

Events Coordinator:

Along with electing a Regional Board, we will be voting on changes to our regional bylaws. Here is a link to the bylaw draft, with the highlighted parts representing the sections we have changed for clarity or regional needs: [2019 Bylaws](#)

If you have questions, email rc@jasnanorcal.org.

The Art and Afterlife of *Sense and Sensibility*

For our September meeting, Dr. Devoney Looser gave an outstanding talk on *Sense and Sensibility*, offering us 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.

After the talk, many of us went to the BAERS *Sense and Sensibility* ball, also held in the San Mateo Masonic Hall, with live music by the Divertimento Orchestra and instruction from Dancing Master Alan Winston. A good time was had by all!

A note: This event was FREE to attend. JASNA NorCal does not charge for every event, but with venue costs, the tickets would have been about \$10 each. We are only able to offer free events because of your donations and JASNA revenue sharing. For each JASNA member who notes Northern California as their primary region, we get a small portion of dues to help us run as a region. Here is information on how to join JASNA: <http://jasna.org/join/>



Photo highlights from the September JASNA & BAERS events (clockwise): Dr. Devoney Looser at the podium, the Divertimento Orchestra at work, Dr. Looser dances the Congress of Vienna (in her period Miller Highlife gown), getting instructions for a country dance, the gathered assembly at the lecture, organizers Jean Martin, Alan Winston, and Bianca Hernandez pose for a photo.



New *Pride and Prejudice* Musical

Our friends at TheaterWorks have a new Austen holiday treat this year: a musical setting of *Pride and Prejudice* by Paul Gordon, the Tony-nominated creator of *Emma*. The show runs December 4–January 4 at the Lucie Stern Theatre in Palo Alto. It will be TheatreWorks 70th world premiere and a final bow for director and founder Robert Kelley. We've seen an earlier on-book reading and this promises to be excellent.

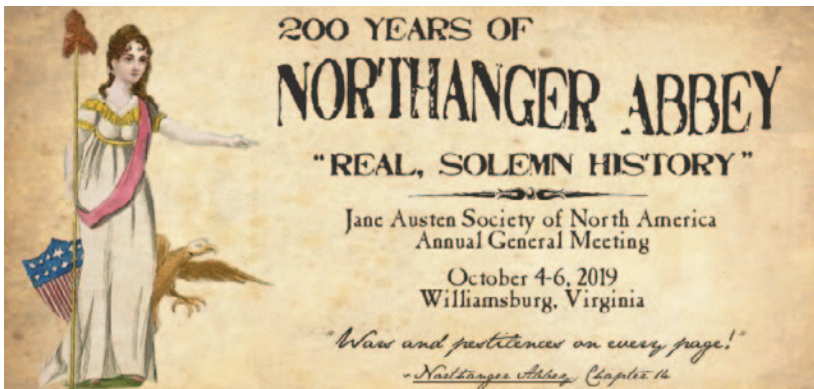
JASNA NorCal and BAERS are arranging a group attendance for the Friday, January 3rd evening performance: stay tuned for details. Alternatively, you can save \$10 on a regular ticket with the promo code "AUSTEN." [Link for info and ticket sales](#)



Highlights from Williamsburg

Many Northern California JASNA members got to enjoy this year's AGM in Williamsburg, Virginia. From workshops, to plenary sessions and much more, it was a highly educational event for all.

If you would like to give an AGM report at the December meeting, please email rc@jasnanorcal.org. We are also encouraging AGM attendees to submit photos and/or short reports for our next newsletter issue.



Can't Get Enough Austen?

Other Events around the Bay Area

English Country Dancing in San Francisco

Sat November 9, Sat December 14, 7:15–10 pm
St. John's Presbyterian Church
25 Lake St., San Francisco, CA 94118
Web site: <https://www.secondsaturdayenglish.com/>

Macbeth: Shakespeare on Tour

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival
Weekends through December 8
Various locations throughout the Bay Area
(see calendar on web site)
Web site: <http://www.sfshakes.org/>

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair

Weekends: November 23–Dec 22, 10 am–7 pm
Cow Palace Exhibition Halls, San Francisco
Web site: <https://dickensfair.com/>

Save the Date: 2020 Events

January 11–12: [Modesto JaneCon](#)
facebook.com/operamodesto.org

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

Jane Austen Society of North America

[2020 Annual General Meeting](#)
October 9–11, Cleveland, OH
Jane Austen's Juvenilia: Reason, Romanticism, and Revolution

2020 BAERS Events

baers.org
February 29: [George's Coronation Ball: Celebrating the Official End of the Regency](#). Island City Masonic Lodge, Alameda

April 18: [Sanditon Ball](#): Explore Miss Jane Austen's Final Novel. Arlington Community Church, Kensington

September 19: [Horatio Hornblower meets Richard Sharpe Ball](#). San Mateo Masonic Lodge, San Mateo