



Northern California Region

From the Regional Coordinator

Hello Bay Area Janeites,

In December I was elected as your new Regional Coordinator. I know I'm not alone in being so thankful for Danine Cozzens and all the work she has done for us, and I hope to continue to keep us active in the next two years.

If we haven't met yet, then please do drop me a message by emailing rc@jasnanorcal.org. I'm excited to help plan our events for the coming year and continue to guide our region.

Going forward, I want to be more transparent about how much events cost. As you all know, space in the Bay Area does not come cheap anymore, and that holds for renting spaces for quarterly programming. Traditionally we have had three free events a year, but that means the region eats the costs of the speaker and venue. In December we created a Speakers Fund, which I hope we can cultivate as a space to raise the bar on speakers we bring in.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about the board and what we have planned. We're working on a membership survey, getting a better idea of where we could hold meetings, and what kinds of events people want.

Membership itself is going to be a big focus for me. By being a JASNA member you help support the region, especially now that we no longer have regional dues. I want to focus on how we can reach wider audiences in the Bay Area (and perhaps along the way convert some of you subscribed here into full members).

Looking forward to 2020,

Bianca Hernandez

Regional Coordinator, JASNA NorCal

P.S. My favorite Austen heroine is Emma and favorite novel (right now) is *Persuasion*, should you be curious.



Our Next Meeting

AustenFest 2020

Jane Austen: Feminist and Quiet Radical
Sunday March 22, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm
San Mateo Public Library
55 West 3rd Street
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.

Austen Fest 2020

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 Austen-Fest attendees. Costume admired but not required. More info for the day's programming to come.

We need volunteers to help welcome guests, assist with the craft workshop, arrange chairs for the dancing, etc. Email rc@jasnanorcal.org if you can help out.

Cost: Through a partnership with the San Mateo Public Library, JASNA NorCal does not spend money on this event. We are hopeful we can build similar partnerships with other libraries in the Bay Area.

JASNA AGM 2020

Hotel Reservations are OPEN

Beginning January 20, you may reserve your hotel room for the 2020 AGM in Cleveland, Ohio. Reservations at the JASNA rate of \$199 plus tax per night may be made using the link on the [AGM hotel page](#).

Alternatively, you may call 216-413-5000, but be sure to ask for the conference rate for the Jane Austen Society of North America.

Preliminary information about AGM events is posted on the [2020 AGM website](#). The full slate of pre-AGM activities kicks off at the hotel on Thursday, October 8, preceded by off-site ticketed events on Wednesday afternoon and evening.

Please note that if one of the nights you wish to stay is not available, the system may show your entire stay as unavailable—try searching for a shorter stay if necessary. If you cannot reserve all of your preferred nights or your preferred room type, we recommend reserving what you can and attempting to add nights/change room types later. Every year, there is significant turnover of hotel rooms in winter and early spring, and we will post availability updates as necessary on the [AGM hotel page](#).

If you have a need for a particular room type, location, or amenity due to a medical condition, do let the hotel know—but feel free to contact us as well so our Meeting Planner can assist you.

Upcoming Meetings

We are busy finalizing our 2020 programming, so stay tuned for those dates soon! JASNA NorCal needs volunteers to help plan our events, so if you are interested, please email rc@jasnanorcal.org.



New *Emma* Film Preview

Focus Features is releasing the upcoming adaptation of *Emma* and JASNA NorCal has been invited to a special screening. The film is a witty reimagining of Jane Austen's beloved comedy about finding your equal and earning your happy ending.

This pre-screening will be in San Francisco at the AMC Metreon at 7 p.m. on February 25th. Get your passes ASAP because there is a cap on tickets. Entry to the screening is first-come, first-served, so get there a little early.

Here's how you can see the film before everyone else:

Go to this website:

<http://focusfeaturescreenings.com/jasnaemma>

Enter code: **jasnaemma**



JASNA AGM Hotel Room Reservation Tips

The JASNA rate extends from October 6 through October 12 (upon availability). The rate is available until September 15, 2020, or until the room block sells out.

The Hilton will send confirmation notices via email, using the sending address groupcampaigns@pkghlrrs.com. Be certain that your email settings will allow receipt of this email. Check all your incoming mail folders (Inbox, Junk, Spam, etc.) for notices from the hotel.

A deposit of one night's room and tax will be taken upon making a reservation. Please see your reservation receipt for complete payment and cancellation policies.

IMPORTANT: Please cancel your reservation as soon as possible if you do not need your reserved room.

We look forward to welcoming you to Cleveland!

2019 Jane Austen Birthday Gala

In December we met again to celebrate Jane Austen's life and legacy, and toast her birthday. This year, Soniah Kamal joined us to discuss her novel *Unmarriageable*, a critically acclaimed modernization of *Pride and Prejudice* set in Pakistan. Attendees enjoyed food, drawings for baskets and a toast to Jane Austen by our guest, which she has kindly allowed us to reprint here.



In 1775, on December 16th, in the village of Steventon, a baby girl was born to Mrs. and Mr. Austen. They named her Jane. Jane Austen would eventually be one of eight siblings and her elder sister, in particular, would dote on her. As was custom two hundred plus year ago, that little girl's education should have been relegated to her excelling in the womanly arts alone: needlework, drawing, singing, being a proficient at the pianoforte and managing her husband's home as efficiently as possible. Except, because of this little girl's father, owner of an extensive library and believer in broader education for his daughters, that little girl grew up amongst books and immersed in story. Soon she was penning her own and one day she would complete six novels.

One of those novels, *Pride and Prejudice*, she called 'her own darling child', and it is not a stretch, I think, to assume that she saw all her novels as her darling children, some a little more sprightly like Elizabeth Bennet, and some a little more sober like Fanny Price, some with humility to learn like Emma, some with curiosity to satisfy like Catherine Morland, some with patience to teach like Anne Elliot, and some with balance to impart like Eleanor and Marianne. Did Steventon village's little girl turned novelist ever even dream that two hundred plus years later characters, her stories, her words would live on in all the manners it does: prequels, sequels, adaptations on the page, on stage, on screens big and small in countless ways. Did that young woman, that brilliant novelist, have any inkling that her legacy would literally forge connections across time and creeds and cultures and countries internationally?

Everyone remembers their own birthday with an Austen work. Mine was at age sixteen, the book was *Pride and Prejudice*, and so it was I'd finally found a friend who turned the strange world I was living in into something tolerable. In my novel *Unmarriageable*, a parallel retelling of *Pride and Prejudice* and set in contemporary Pakistan, I note

"Characters' emotions and situations are universally applicable across cultures whether you're wearing an empire dress, a shalwar kurta, or a kimono."

Jane Austen showed me that. Says Austen in *Northanger Abbey*

"And what are you reading, Miss-? Oh! It is only a novel, or in short, only some work in which the greatest powers of the mind are displayed, in which the most thorough knowledge of human nature, the happiest delineation of its varieties, the liveliest effusions of wit and humor, are conveyed to the world in the best chosen language."

So here's to Jane Austen then, to the woman who chose not to marry, to the novelist whose heroines would marry only for love and respect, to the world's bright and sparking and beloved Jane Austen, please join me in raising a glass to her mirth, to her wisdom, to her life, to her books, to her being, today, tomorrow and forever in every way and shape and form: **Happy Birthday, Jane Austen!**



Janeites Out and About

Sanditon

In early January, KQED put on a free *Sanditon* screening at The Castro. Bay Area Janeites got to watch the first episode of *Sanditon* before it aired in the US, followed by a screening of the 2005 *Pride and Prejudice*.



JASNA NorCal RC Bianca Hernandez got to do two short Austen-themed presentations at the event. She set the stage for *Sanditon* by explaining how one would get ready for a day at the beach in the Regency Era (bathing machine included). Later, she delivered a quick timeline of Mr. Darcy in pop culture.

You can read more about getting ready for a Regency resort [here](#).

Pride and Prejudice

Also in January, JASNA NorCal members attended a performance of *Pride and Prejudice* at the Lucie Stern Theatre in Palo Alto. The TheatreWorks Silicon Valley holiday show was the world premiere of this new musical, with book, music and lyrics by Paul Gordon, and was directed by Robert Kelley. Our group's Regency attire added to the period ambiance and festive occasion.



Still have some AustenCash?

We will no longer honor AustenCash (given out to JASNA volunteers years ago) after 2020. You will have until the end of this year to spend it. It can be spent toward a gala ticket or drawing tickets, up to \$20 per person. If you use for your gala ticket, you will need to mail it in to the RC when purchasing your ticket later this year.

Can't Get Enough Austen? Other Events around the Bay Area

February 29: **BAERS** The Coronation Ball: Celebrating the Official End of the Regency. Masonic Lodge, 2312 Alameda Ave., Alameda

March 7: **PEERS** Persephone's Underground Speakeasy Ball, Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda

March 8: **GBACG** Bustles, Bandanas, and Bites; A Continental Train Ride, Sacramento

March 15: **GBACG** Costume Academy Location: Berkeley

April 4: **PEERS** A Grand Victorian Ball, Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda

April 18: **BAERS** *Sanditon* Ball: Explore Miss Jane Austen's Final Novel. Arlington Community Church, Kensington

JASNA Regional Events

Feb. 22: **JASNA Sacramento** Jane Austen's *Sanditon* Workshop/Discussion

Feb 29: **JASNA SW** Georgian Justice: Law in the Regency Era

May 2: **JASNA SW** Miss Austen Goes to Washington: Jane Austen and Politics, Mission Inn Hotel and Spa, Riverside, CA

May 30: **JASNA CenCal** Meeting and Book Discussion on "Selections from the Juvenilia"

JASNA Annual General Meeting

Jane Austen Society of North America
2020 Annual General Meeting
October 9–11, Cleveland, OH
Jane Austen's Juvenilia: Reason, Romanticism, and Revolution

2021 Annual General Meeting
October 15–17, Chicago, IL
Jane Austen in the Arts