



The Jane Austen Times



The Jane Austen Society of North America
Puget Sound Region

*Imagination is everything—
Miss Jane Austen.*

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Upcoming Elections

December is election time for many of our JASPS officers! Please read the following job descriptions and consider volunteering to take over one of the positions. If interested, please contact Julie Arnold before the December meeting.

Regional Coordinator - Chairs local meetings, acts as liaison with national organization, attends AGM and RC meetings, fields inquiries about the society from potential new members, currently sends out the newsletter via email.

Newsletter Editor / Publisher - Edits submissions from members and selections from the general press, compiles articles for a newsletter.

Membership Coordinator - Keeps membership database of names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, produces labels for mailed newsletters, collects membership dues, fields inquiries about membership to the society, mails newsletter to members who do not receive it by email. (Often others help with the newsletter copying and distribution.)

Volunteers Needed for 2010 Meetings

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be a location, food, or tea host at a meeting in 2010. There are still a few more hosts needed. Currently we still need:

April 11 - location host

June 13 - 2 food hosts and 2 tea hosts

August 8 - 1 food host and 1 tea host

October 10 - location host

If you can volunteer to provide a location for a meeting, or provide tea or food, please contact the RC or the Program Chairs. Thanks!

LOCATION HOST: We need a location that can hold about 30-40 people, with seating. We need electricity, water and tables for tea. Libraries and condo community rooms can be excellent spaces.

FOOD HOST: Please bring refreshments, either purchased or made, as fancy or as simple as you like--savory and sweet, please. You also help with set-up and clean-up.

TEA HOST: Please bring tea (black and herbal), tea pots, hot water pot and/or kettles if necessary (depends on location), sugar, milk, cream, cups, napkins, small plates, spoons/forks. You also help with the set-up and clean-up. Having glass plates and cups and metal cutlery is great, but we can always use paper and plastic.

**NEXT MEETING:
December 13, 2 PM
Kimberly Brangwin**

2606 43rd Avenue West
Magnolia (Seattle)
206 352 8228

See you there!!

From I-5 going North or South, take the Mercer Street Exit. Turn right at the stoplight.
Turn left onto VALLEY St. This is the street which leads to the Seattle Center.
Valley becomes BROAD St. (this is the street on the SE side of the Center)
Go slightly left to stay on Broad
Turn right onto DENNY (S to SW of the Center, past the Science Center)
Turn right onto ELLIOTT
Stay in RIGHT lane
Exit to MAGNOLIA BRIDGE, stay right
Cross bridge
Move to left lane, W. Garfield becomes W. GALER, which in turn becomes MAGNOLIA Blvd. West

Turn left at W. HOWE, (the four way stop), cross small bridge
Follow arterial as it veers to the left
Stay on Magnolia Blvd.
Cross Parkmont
Cross Glenmont
Turn right on Montfort (the next corner after the sign of the curving arrow)
Cross Constance West
The next corner is 43rd Avenue West/ Turn left (it's a dead end street)

Our house is the shingle house, on the right, dark green.

December Meeting

"Come one. Come all" to our Annual Jane Austen Birthday celebration on Sunday, December 13, at 2:00 at Kimberly's house. Come toast Jane with Sherry or cider!!! Don't forget that at this December meeting we all serve as food hosts. So bring your goodies!!

We don't have a guest speaker at this meeting but we do have our annual raffle. So bring any Jane or Regency related item to donate to the raffle and we shall then sell tickets and draw to determine the order in which people can select their prizes.

Book Review

Murder at Longbourn by Tracy Kiely

Fall is coming, and with it crackling fireplaces, hot mugs steaming with comfort, a favorite chair and good books for long reads through dark and stormy nights. *Murder at Longbourn* by Tracy Kiely is the perfect companion to this scene: a mystery that cleverly combines the best of Jane Austen and the English cozy.

Murder at Longbourn is a well-crafted murder mystery at a Cape Cod inn, where a theatrical murder mystery weekend becomes the real thing:

Planning New Year's resolutions to rid her life of all things unhealthy, Elizabeth Parker has dumped fatty foods, processed sugar, and her two-timing boyfriend.

The invitation to join her Aunt Winnie for a "How to Host a Murder Party" on New Year's Eve at Winnie's new Cape Cod B&B comes just in time. But when the local wealthy miser ends up the unscripted victim, Elizabeth must unearth old secrets and new motives in order to clear her beloved Aunt Winnie of suspicion. And if that isn't bad enough, she must also contend with her childhood nemesis, Peter McGowan, and her suspicions about his family's interest in Winnie's inn. Given the circumstances, is it any wonder her resolution to achieve inner poise is in tatters?

The pacing is excellent, there's a nice mix of easy and difficult clues, and the main characters are very likeable. I couldn't put it down and look forward to more of Elizabeth's adventures in the next book in the series, *Murder on the Bride's Side*.

As a tribute to Jane Austen, there are many references and characters to discover and savor. Fans of Pug will either be amused or shocked by his cameo. (I laughed.)

The less familiar one is with Agatha Christie novels, the more surprising the plot twists will be but even if the twists are familiar to the seasoned Christie fan, they are deftly handled and enjoyable.

Murder at Longbourn is the perfect first course in your fall reading banquet. This light murder mystery will stimulate your appetite for reading with the perfect blend of action, suspense, a little well-placed romance for spice, and seasoned throughout with humor. Bon Appetit!

<http://austenblog.com/2009/09/08/review-murder-at-longbourn-by-tracy-kiely/>

From chapter member Agnes Gawne

Harper Collins will publish "Dancing with Mr. Darcy" under its William Morrow imprint

Dancing with Mr. Darcy: Stories inspired by Jane Austen and Chawton House

An anthology of the winning entries in the *Jane Austen Short Story Award 2009*, which celebrates the bicentenary of Jane Austen's arrival in the village of Chawton, where she spent the most productive years of her literary life.

Traumatized by her parents' decision to give up the rectory in Hampshire where she grew up, Austen had been unable to write for ten years. During that time she moved from one rented property to another and it was only when her brother Edward offered her a permanent home on his Chawton House Estate that she had the peace and security to pick up her pen again. All of her novels were written or published while she lived there.

The intention is to publish the very best short fiction inspired by Jane Austen or Chawton House and the Chair of Judges is Sarah Waters, bestselling author of *Tipping the Velvet* and *Fingersmith*, who will select a winner and two runners-up. The winners will be announced at the Jane Austen Society Conference at Chawton on July 18.

The anthology will contain introductions from both Sarah Waters, and Rebecca Smith, the great great great great niece of Jane Austen.

Published by Honno in conjunction with [Chawton House Library](#).

Foreword/Intro by: Sarah Waters

ISBN: 1906784086 **EAN:** 9781906784089

Language: English

Category: [Anthology](#) [Short Stories](#)

Rare Austen letters cause excitement

By Claire Prentice
BBC News, New York

A major Jane Austen exhibition, which has opened in New York, is creating a huge stir among fans and cultural commentators.

More than 100 items, including rare manuscripts and letters written by the British author to her family, have gone on display at the Morgan Library and Museum in Manhattan.

"You can really get up close to the letters - get your nose in," says Morgan curator Declan Kiely.

"You feel you are getting to know Austen even though she is unknowable in some respects."

The letters - which is the largest collection in the world - are full of the author's famous stinging wit and her spirited sense of humour.

In one, written to her niece for her eighth birthday, Austen wrote each word backwards, creating a puzzle for the young recipient.

Only a small number of the author's personal letters have survived, and opportunities to see them in public are rare.

"There have been so many Jane Austen adaptations over the last 20 or 30 years. It seemed like a timely moment to show this collection," says Mr Kiely.

'Thoroughly modern'

Nearly two centuries after her death, Austen is more popular than ever, thanks in part to numerous book, TV and film adaptations of her work.

These have starred a host of Hollywood actors including Colin Firth, Anne Hathaway and Kate Winslet.

In October, BBC One screened a new version of *Emma*, starring Jonny Lee Miller and Romola Garai.

A highlight of the exhibition is the only surviving and complete handwritten manuscript of one of Austen's novels, *Lady Susan*.

"There's no doubt people will still be reading her 200 years from now"

Marsha Huff, President of the Jane Austen Society of North America

Composed in 1794-95, the story is a dark, satirical novel about a widow, determined to find a husband for herself and her shy daughter at any cost.

"We are very excited about *Lady Susan*. It hasn't been shown in public for many years," said Marsha Huff, President of the Jane Austen Society of North America.

"Austen's themes are universal, her characters are believable and her heroines are thoroughly modern.

"There's no doubt people will still be reading her 200 years from now."

An unfinished manuscript of *The Watsons* is annotated

with detailed revisions.

It is the only surviving Austen manuscript which shows her work in progress.

Poignant letter

Other exhibits include a note in which Austen lists the amount of money she has made on each of her novels.

In another, she has written down her expenses, which included clothes, stamps and meat from the butcher.

But, perhaps the most poignant is a letter dated 20 July 1817, written by Cassandra to Fanny Knight - Austen's beloved niece - reporting the author's death.

"I have lost a treasure, such a sister, such a friend as never can have been surpassed," it read.

Some of the letters on display have pieces cut out of them, most likely to be passages relating to health and other personal matters.

The Morgan's curators speculate that they might also have included criticisms of people the author knew.

"Jane Austen was like a guided missile of social satire. She was very frank which is why so many of her letters were destroyed or excised [by Austen's family]," explains Mr Kiely.

"She writes in one about people's fat necks and about people she's seen at parties.

"In one, she writes about women she's seen out in Bath wearing these elaborate hats topped with grapes and strawberries," he added.

Written at a time when paper and postage were expensive, the letters are also remarkable for their economy, with Austen cramming as many words as she could into each page.

In some letters, she used cross-hatching, whereby people at the time wrote both horizontally and vertically on the same side of one page to save money on paper and postage.

The organisers of the exhibition have also commissioned a documentary film about Austen's continuing influence, which features interviews with Fran Lebowitz, Colm Toibin and Cornel West.

A Woman's Wit: Jane Austen's Life and Legacy opens at The Morgan Library and Museum in New York on 6 November and runs until 14 March.

Story from BBC NEWS:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/entertainment/arts_and_culture/8340749.stm

Published: 2009/11/05 08:32:33 GMT
© BBC MMIX

A note from Chapter member Jeanne Tackitt:

By the way, the Morgan Library has a great gift shop--on line ordering is very fast and easy. I've found great books there both on-line and when I was lucky enough to be visiting NYNY. Right now they are selling Jane Austen Christmas ornaments and jewelry. All under \$20, which makes for a great holiday gift. (I've already placed my order.)

“JANE AUSTEN AND CHARACTER” At Portland AGM

The acclaimed British actress, Angela Barlow, will be presenting her dramatised lecture, *Jane Austen and Character: An Actor's View* at the JASNA AGM in Portland, Oregon, the last weekend of October, 2010. She will also be touring through New York, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, throughout October.

In *Jane Austen & Character: An Actor's View* Angela uses parallels with her own acting experience to look at the creation of character in Jane Austen's novels, and suggests ways in which this subtle and humorous author might have worked. Emma, Catherine Morland, Mr. Bennet and many other favourites make an appearance in this lively one-person presentation.

One moment Angela was a timid and grateful Fanny Price, the next she was Mrs. Elton in full flight about Maple Grove and the Sucklings. She was as convincing acting Lady Catherine de Bourgh as she was when she played Mrs. Bennet. The performance was a delightful mixture of humour and pathos, wit and satire.

Susannah Fullerton, President, Jane Austen Society of Australia

Submitted by RC Julie Arnold



Police vow crackdown on Jane Austen 'coquette' culture

Surrey police have embarked on an ambitious campaign to try to curb the rising phenomenon of anti-social incidents involving young women emulating behaviour they've picked up from the novels of Jane Austen. 'It's happening in towns all over Britain. Young ladies are falling out of assembly rooms at night, a giggling mass of fluttering fans and heaving bosoms in tight corsets,' said DC John Naismith, who increasingly finds himself having to disband late-night minuets on the streets of Dorking.

'And the mouth on some of them... I recently remonstrated with one such young woman, asking her what sort of a man she hopes to attract by singing Mozart arias in the middle of the street. 'I know not, gentle sir,' she replied, 'but may he have a thousand pounds a year and a sizeable estate in Derbyshire!' Of course I threw her arse in the cells, the cheeky bitch.'

As reports of unbearably repressed sexual tension continue to dominate the headlines, victim support groups are keen to warn girls against the dangers of being overly flighty and coquettish. 'Vulnerable young girls are leaving themselves wide open to approaches from bounders, highly inappropriate suitors and some downright villainous knaves,' said a representative from Cadwatch, who offer a full range of counseling services to any girl who has been grossly misled as to the true nature of a gentleman's character.

'Every day we field calls from girls who have brought shame and disgrace upon their family name and quite ruined their sisters' chances of making good marriages, purely on the promise of a moonlit elopement and a new bonnet.'

But many are quick to lay blame with education's obsession with bombarding impressionable girls with images of gentler times and quaint manners. 'It's this stuff they read at school,' said one mother, who is on her final warning from social services for allowing her teenage daughter to promenade unchaperoned in the Woking Peacock Centre. 'All their mates are reading it and suddenly they're off down Bluewater for the latest tulle-tucker. But it could be worse I suppose. On some of the streets round here, you're lucky to go a few feet without getting caught up in a sabre duel, so we're grateful for small mercies.'

(editor's note (from the Web site): "NewsBiscuit was founded in September 2006 by [John O'Farrell](#) in the hope of raising a smile for bored people at work and to provide an outlet for new comedy writing on the web."

<http://www.newsbiscuit.com/2009/11/09/police-vow-crackdown-on-'coquette'-culture/>

Austen Sighting on UK Television

If you click on www.kenttv.com/2719 you'll be able to watch a report on the new Jane Austen Walk in the city of Kent. JASNA was an inspiration for this walking tour of the city. Francis Austen, a friend of several chapter members and a guest at our chapter meetings, is interviewed.

This is shared by chapter member and RC Julie Arnold.

***The Daily Show* meets PBS in The Penguin Classics Screening Room**

I wanted to bring your attention to **The Penguin Classics Screening Room Special, "[The Ten Essential Penguin Classics](#)."**

"**The Ten Essential Penguin Classics**" was written, produced, performed, and directed by Penguin personnel. It features a dozen Penguin staffers speaking about their favorite classics and why they think it's essential.

We are all busy these days and may not have the time to read all the classics we should. This is why Penguin Classics is offering a countdown of the top ten essential titles one should know to be culturally literate.

Each title in the countdown features a skit written, acted and directed by Penguin employees. Two Penguin employees play Laura, a well-read Classics fan, and David, a young man well-versed in bad pickup lines. After each skit an "expert" from the Penguin office mentions the specific classic referenced and briefly describes the work's significance in terms of plot, characters, overarching themes, and what makes the classic essential.

Also on the site is a **consumer sweepstakes** where you can write in and vote for your favorite classic from the list or share another classic you think is essential; **the winner wins all ten Essential titles and a Penguin tote bag. The winner of the contest will be posted on December 1st.**

If you like what you see, stay tuned because **each Tuesday there will be a new page to the Essential minisite featuring an in depth look at the books on the list as they countdown to the number one classic.**



JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY OF PUGET SOUND

2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please check if this is new data

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Annual membership fee is \$12.00 to cover postage and copying of the newsletter. Our membership period runs from December 16, 2009 to December 16, 2010.

Checks should be made payable to "Jane Austen Society of Puget Sound" and mailed to:

Catherine Crossman
Membership Chair
323 Keach Court
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Please note that JASPS is a local chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America and only accepts members from that organization. For JASNA membership information, you can contact our membership chair or visit the JASNA website at www.jasna.org.