

JASNA Puget Sound -- Greetings from the Regional Coordinator!

May 25, 2017

There are a number of important updates I need to communicate with you:

1. Reminder about our local meeting June 11, 2017, 2 p.m., Issaquah Library
2. Jane Austen Inspired Plays
3. Seattle Public Library, Main Branch, Jane Austen Celebration July 16, 2017
4. Jane Fest at the University of Washington, November 4, 2017
5. Update on JASNA-PS Inaugural Literary Journal



Jane Austen Society of North America
Puget Sound Region

June Meeting:

Our June 2017 meeting features a discussion on the Opium Wars that happened during the time of Jane Austen's life. Carolyn Kine will be presenting information on this subject at the Issaquah Public Library, 10 West Sunset Way, Issaquah, WA 98027. This Library is not to be confused with the Library Services Building in Issaquah. The Library we'll be meeting at has an address on Sunset Way, but it is really on the main drag in Issaquah – **Front Street**, at the corner of W. Sunset Way.

Austen Inspired Plays:

Taproot Theater is presenting "Persuasion – a New Musical" July 12 through August 19 this summer. JASNA-PS is working with them to set up a display for the balcony lobby area. A few of us are planning to attend the Opening Night festivities in costume. We'll be mingling with the actors, authors and director, and we predict our "selfie corner" in the balcony lobby will be the "place to be". If you'd care to join us, there are still some quite good seats available in the balcony section. We'd love to have a nice group there to celebrate this world premiere of a musical version of one of our favorite novels! Whenever you go – all the theater people have assured us they'd love to see us in Regency attire, so if that's something you'd like to do, you'll be welcomed most graciously. As always, Regency attire is admired, but not required.

There is also a new production of *Pride and Prejudice* coming to the Seattle Repertory Theater this fall (September 29 to October 29) – it seems we have an embarrassment of riches this year, being the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death. As we always like to support local theater doing our favorite author's works, we've decided to encourage members to come out to plays in their Regency finery, to "schmooze" with the audience at intermission and before the curtain – perhaps hand out flyers or some of our calling cards, or just generally talk up our group. If you are willing to do this for any play based on a work by Jane Austen, you'll be given a stipend of \$20 to help buy your ticket. Now, we know that \$20 is not going to pay for any ticket to a theater performance these days, not to mention parking or something to drink at intermission, but we hope it will go a little way toward making the evening (or matinee performance) more affordable for members, and bring people out to attend the play in a group. There will be a cap of \$300 per play, so that means up to 15 people can attend under this plan. So come out, enjoy the play, and mingle with the audience who will definitely love to see your attire! We'll make an announcement each time there is a play for which we'll follow this proposal.

Seattle Public Library Jane Austen Celebration:

The Friends of the Seattle Public Library are hosting a special Jane Austen Celebration on Sunday July 16, 2017 from at the Downtown (Main) Branch, 1000 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104. The library is open on Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. We are hoping to have a contingent of JASNA members as well as members of other local groups to come to the Downtown library and celebrate her life. Washington Regency Society plans to be there from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Our own JASNA member, Anne Repass, has promised to loan her First Editions of all six novels to be displayed (under glass, lock and key!) on that date. The Friends of the Library will provide tea and refreshments. The Friends gift shop will be stocked with many wonderful Jane Austen related gifts for purchase. We can hand out our flyers and cards letting the public know about our society and inviting them to join us. This will be a great opportunity to make our organization known to others and for outreach to the community and support of the Seattle Public Library.

Jane Fest at the University of Washington

We (JASNA PS) have been asked by a PhD Candidate in English and Textual Studies from the University of Washington working on Jane Austen to join in her **Jane Fest** on Saturday, November 4, 2017. There will be a day time festival with multiple booth or tables of information highlighting different aspects of Jane Austen's life and times. Additionally, there will be an English Country Ball in the evening with live music and a caller. Costumes will be admired but not required, just like at our AGM balls. All this will take place in Mary Gates Hall on the University Campus.

There will also be smaller events in the week leading up to the Fest throughout the campus. As more details become available we will share them with you.

Update on annual JASNA-PS Inaugural Literary Journal

We are recruiting for additional volunteers to join the Editorial Board for our first annual JASNA-PS Literary Journal. Please join Maggie Lohnes (managing editor), Loveday Conquest and Jim Nagle in organizing the theme, design and content for this exciting new publication. Contact Maggie Lohnes at maggielohnes@mlohnes.net or 253-389-3154.

Dates to mark on your calendars:

June 11, 2017 – 2 p.m.

JASNA PS local region meeting - Issaquah Public Library, 10 West Sunset Way, Issaquah, WA 98027

July 12 to August 19, 2017 – “Persuasion – A New Musical” at Taproot Theater

July 14, 2017 – Opening Night performance of “Persuasion” – join the group attending the celebration of the opening.

July 16, 2017 – noon to 6 p.m.

Jane Austen Celebration – Seattle Public Library, Downtown Branch - 1000 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

August 13, 2017

JASNA PS local region meeting - Redmond Regional Library, 15990 NE 85th St, Redmond, WA 98052

September 29 to October 29, 2017

Pride and Prejudice, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Bagley Wright Theater, Seattle, WA

October 6 - 8, 2017

39th JASNA AGM Jane Austen in Paradise, Huntington Beach, CA

October 15, 2017

JASNA local region meeting: Northanger Abbey — a Halloween Discussion, Venue: TBA

November 4, 2017 (and week preceding)

Jane Fest at the University of Washington

December 16, 2017 (Saturday)

Austen Birthday and Holiday Celebration — a Special Celebration to commemorate the 200th year after her death, this will be held on Jane's actual 242nd birthday – special event tickets will be available soon.

Sincerely,

Agnes Gawne

Regional Coordinator, Jane Austen Society of North America, Puget Sound Region

Website: www.austenps.com

email: regional@austenps.com