

JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, PUGET SOUND

About Our Group

The Puget Sound region of the Jane Austen Society is this area's Jane Austen Society of North American (JASNA) group. Nationally, we are a group of over 4,000 women and men who enjoy the study, celebration and appreciation of the works, life and times of Jane Austen. We are an eclectic, inclusive and friendly group of people from all backgrounds with a variety of educational and professional backgrounds and interests.

Our local regional group meets six times a year, every other month; typically 20 to 30 individuals attend. With rare exceptions, we hold our meetings on the second Sunday of the month from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Our regional meetings are open to members and guests. Each gathering begins with a very short business meeting and is followed by a program presented by a member or a guest speaker. Examples of the many topics and subjects included in our past programs include:

- Regency fashion, customs and social life.
- The postal service, military, law and politics of Austen's time.
- Austen's books as well as the literature that influenced her and current books and
- films influenced by Austen.
- Regency music and dance, including performances and dance lessons.

After the program we enjoy tea and refreshments provided by volunteers. Our meetings usually take place in members' homes or local library meeting rooms.

Membership

Membership to this organization is open to anyone of high school age or older interested in the life, times and works of Jane Austen. All Puget Sound regional members are required to be members of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA). There are various levels of JASNA membership, which are listed on the society's Website: <http://www.jasna.org/>. Members of JASNA receive *Persuasions*, an annual journal containing essays written by JASNA members from around the world, the tri-annual *JASNA News* reporting on regional events and articles, and an invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Our regional newsletter is an informative collection of articles, book and film reviews, announcements, and general Austen-related information all provided by our regional members. It is sent via email six times a year just prior to the regional meeting and is also available on the organization's website.