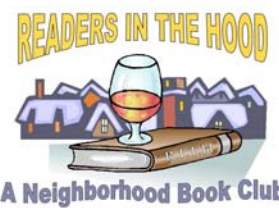


RUMOR RAG

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Empress of Eats Hosts May Meeting



In May, **Suzanne** led the **Hoodies** in discussing *The Known World*, while seated around **Eddi's** elegantly appointed dining room table. We enjoyed a gourmet feast of pork tenderloin, whipped yams, fresh asparagus, and lemon chiffon pie topped with berries. The fabulous meal—as well as, I'm sure, our conversation—was enhanced by generous glasses of Chardonnay.

Edward P. Jones's premise intrigued **Readers** as most of us had never heard of freed blacks owning slaves. Although Jones conducted extensive research, he stated that he did not use it, preferring simply to leverage his story-telling abilities. Some members mentioned the difficulty in following the numerous characters, while others thought that the plethora of characters

did not allow for their full development, leaving many of them seeming flat. We discussed the precarious position in which free blacks must've been at that time in history and shared some personal encounters around the issue of racial prejudice in our own life experiences.

Overall **Hoodies** gave Jones's "World" a 2.94 rating, or a B. ®

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

REGULAR MEETINGS:

DATE:	HOSTESS:	BOOK:
SEPT. 20 *	MARSHA	P & P
OCT. 11	TBD	TBD
NOV. 15	TBD	TBD
DEC 14 *	KAY	HOLIDAY PARTY

(ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7 PM UNLESS NOTED; * 6:30 PM)

OTHER DATES TO NOTE:

SEPT. 15	LISA SEE AT RITH TABLE
OCT 4	JOHN LESCROART AT BEE BOOK CLUB
OCT. 27	NKF AUTHOR'S LUNCHEON

Readers Celebrate 4th Anniversary at Longbourn House



It's always exciting to get back together after a long summer hiatus—and just catch up with each other's lives. And this year we have several things to celebrate together. Our first priority every September is, of course, to celebrate **Readers in the Hood's** Anniversary—and this year

marks our 4th! Secondly, we always have a wonderful classic book—or large tome—to expound upon while reveling in an over-the-top meeting. And this year, our third purpose will be to extol the virtues of our beloved Mr. Darcy! (If you haven't sent the BBC's 1995 version of P&P starring Colin Firth—call me right away so this can be remedied...)

In addition to the promised Jane Austen look-alike contest, we will have another game, and select a winner for our Jane Austen trivia quiz. Also, please remember to come armed with some great suggestions for our

October and November selections. I know with all the summer reading you've all been doing, we'll have some wonderful choices.

And finally, I know many of you will come with nominees to fill our recent **Hoodie** vacancy. This could be a tough decision. I look forward to seeing you there! ®



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April is for Easter, Passover, or Mawlid al-Nabi?



For our April meeting, **Kathy** hosted the **Readers** as **Kay** facilitated our discussion of *The Faith Club* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner. This timely topic provided us with some rich conversation, with many **Hoodies** having studied various religions

throughout our lives including Catholicism, a variety of Protestant faiths, Mormonism and (recently) Islam. A favorite quote from the book was, “The opposite of faith is not



tainty. Many found the book a difficult read, but it cer-

tainly provided a rich discussion. Overall, we gave it a 2.5 or B- ®

doubt—it’s certainty.” One **Reader** noted that if one is certain of something, faith obviously is not needed. Faith implies a level of uncer-



“THE
OPPOSITE
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Lisa See at Reader’s Table



Lisa See, author of the *New York Times* bestsellers, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* (our May ‘06 selection) and *Peony in Love*, will be the keynote speaker at Omega Nu’s annual fall luncheon—and will be seated at the **Readers in the Hood** table! The fundraising event, “Secret Bindings: A Chinese Woman’s Journey”, will take place on September 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Yolo Fliers Club in Woodland. The luncheon will also feature an informal fashion show (coordinated by our own

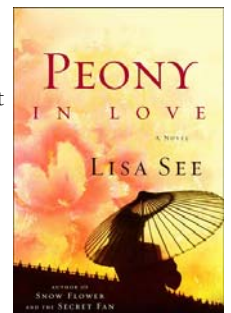
Suzanne) introducing the latest fall designs from Doncaster. As a grand raffle prize, Omega Nu is offering an elegant evening of dining for four at Frank Fat’s, Sacramento’s premier Chinese restaurant, including complementary limousine transportation. Second prize will be a \$300 Doncaster gift certificate.

Peony in Love, Ms. See’s latest novel, has already spent four weeks atop the *New York Times* Bestseller list, currently ranking #12. *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* was also a *New York Times* bestseller for 23 weeks and won numerous awards domestically and internationally. In addition to these two bestsellers, Ms. See is the author of four other critically acclaimed books: *On Gold Mountain: The One Hundred Year Odyssey of My Chinese-American Family*, *Flower Net*, *The Interior* and *Dragon Bones*.

Ms. See will discuss her book themes and her Chinese-American heritage, answer questions and personally sign books for guests. **Kay**, fellow

Hoodie, President of Omega Nu and one of a 550-person crowd to hear Ms. See speak this summer in Sacramento, describes Ms. See as “charming, educational—and most entertaining!” “Her themes are well-researched, beautifully written, and as timely today as they were in 17th century China”, says **Kay**.

Alpha Gamma chapter of Omega Nu has provided charitable support to community residents for the past 80 years. With a special emphasis on assisting women and children, this local women’s organization sponsors numerous fundraising events each year. Proceeds provide scholarships and emergency funds to families in need throughout Yolo County. ®



Reader on the Road

“Like many families, the Bennett sisters were not only defined by their family’s social class, but also each girl had an individual ‘label’ which the family assigned to her (i.e. the smart one, the pretty one, etc.) Did you have a label in your family growing up? If so, tell us a bit about it. (What was it? Do you believe this helped or hurt your own personal growth? Did you ever out-grow your label?)”



Scout: “ ‘Danish’ as in Danish Go Round, the pastry product popular in the late 60’s (gift from the 8th grade boys); and ‘Suey’ as in pig (gift from my brother.)”

Rosie: “Mom would say I was a stick-in-the-mud because I was always so serious. My sister was the funny one and really didn’t care too much about things, so I

thought I had to be the one to make sure everything and everyone was OK. I

feel that it hurt my personal growth in the beginning. For many years, it made me feel very insecure. But if I look on the positive side of this, it also made me grow later to be a better person.”

Elizabeth: “My eldest sister was known as ‘the smart one’ and my middle sister was ‘the pretty



one’—so there really wasn’t much left for me...I became the ‘funny one.’ Years later as I was crying in my beer over this family story to a friend, my husband overheard me and replied sympathetically, ‘Honey—It’s OK—You’re not that funny.’ (What are husbands for—but to make us feel better about ourselves?)”

Fleur: “My parents used to tell people that I was ‘political,’ meaning I knew what to say to whom. I was really hurt by it at the time, even though they thought it was amusing. But in later life, I found myself agreeing with them in theory—but still not in their terminology. I’ve always been diplomatic and able to get people to open up with me—which certainly served me well career-wise! But please don’t call me a politician—even a Democratic one! ®



“MY SISTER WAS THE FUNNY ONE AND REALLY DIDN’T CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT THINGS, SO I THOUGHT I HAD TO BE THE ONE TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE WAS OK. “

Hoodies Win Big in April and May



Wendy won May’s Fabulous Prize: a gift basket with a “World”ly theme by entering *The Known World* Character Scramble Game.

Betsy won April’s Fabulous Prize: a “B-String” featuring religious icons from the Christian, Islamic and Jewish faiths by entering the Religion Match Game.

For your

chance to win September’s ‘Fabulous Prize’, be sure to enter the Jane Austen Trivia Contest on pages 4 & 5. Good Luck, **Readers!** ®



JANE AUSTEN TRIVIA QUIZ

- 1) Jane was born one of ___ siblings; and she was ___ in birth order.
 - a. 1, 1
 - b. 6, 4
 - c. She was the 7th daughter of a 7th daughter—and a card-carrying member of her local WICCA chapter in Hampshire
 - d. 8, 7
 - e. 10, 8

- 2) Which war did NOT take place during Jane Austen's lifetime?
 - a. American Revolution
 - b. Battle of the Sexes
 - c. French and Indian War
 - d. French Revolution
 - e. War of 1812

- 3) Her maternal grandfather, father, and nephew were all members of what profession?
 - a. Attorney
 - b. Clergyman
 - c. Gentleman Farmer
 - d. Official with the East India Company
 - e. Professional Basketball

- 4) What relative of Jane's was guillotined as a casualty in the French Revolution?
 - a. Uncle
 - b. Aunt
 - c. Brother
 - d. Cousin's husband
 - e. Mother-in-law

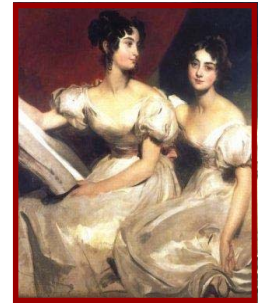
- 5) It was suspected that Jane's knowledge of the troop movements came from the fact that some of her relatives served in the armed forces. Who were they?
 - a. Father and Uncle George
 - b. Cousins James, Matthew and Phillip
 - c. Cousins George, John, Paul and Ringo
 - d. Brothers Erik, Louis, Mark and Stephen
 - e. Brothers Charles, Edward, Frank and Henry

- 6) Jane wrote her first book in 1795, but it was not published until 1811. What was the name of this book?
 - a. Darcy's Story
 - b. Emma
 - c. Northanger Abbey
 - d. Pride and Prejudice
 - e. Sense and Sensibility

- 7) Jane's first 3 books were published under what name?
 - a. Fanny Brighton
 - b. George Austen
 - c. Helen Fielding
 - d. A Lady
 - e. Mary Ann Evans

- 8) Match the working title with the resulting famous JA novel:

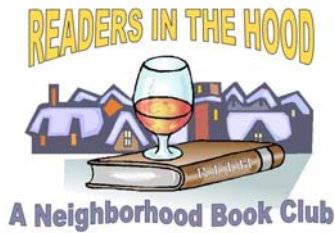
a. The Brothers	1. Northanger Abbey
b. Elinor & Marianne	2. Pride and Prejudice
c. First Impressions	3. Sanditon
d. Susan	4. Sense and Sensibility



JANE AUSTEN TRIVIA QUIZ



- 9) Jane Austen referred to her favorite character when saying “I must confess that I think her as delightful a creature as ever put in print, and how I shall ever be able to tolerate those who do not like her at least, I do not know.” To whom was Jane referring?
- Anne Elliott (*Persuasion*)
 - Cher Horowitz (*Clueless*)
 - Elinor Dashwood (*Sense and Sensibility*)
 - Elizabeth Bennet (*Pride and Prejudice*)
 - Emma Woodhouse (*Emma*)
- 10.) Jane had two famous critics—one who loved her work—and one who hated her work. Who was the former and who was the latter?
- Charlotte Bronte & Anthony Trollope
 - Mark Twain & Sir Walter Scott
 - Simon Cowell & Paula Abdul
 - Sir Walter Scott & Mark Twain
 - Virginia Woolf & Anthony Trollope
- 11) Who was the royal admirer of Jane’s work to whom she dedicated one of her books?
- King George
 - Napoleon Bonaparte
 - The Prince Regent
 - Princess Diana
 - Queen Elizabeth
- 12) In the past couple of years, there have been a plethora of books, taking off on Jane Austen’s world. Match the book to its author:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. Confessions of a Jane Austen Addict (A Novel) | 1. Anne Marie Edwards |
| b. Dear Jane Austen: A Heroin’s guide to life and love (Dating Advice) | 2. Josephine Ross |
| c. In the Steps of Jane Austen: Walking Tours of Jane Austen’s England (Travel) | 3. Laurie Viera Rigler |
| d. The Jane Austen Cook book (Food a la Austen) | 4. Maggie Black and Deirdre LeFaye |
| e. Jane Austen’s guide to Good Manners: Compliments, Charades, and Horrible Blunders (Etiquette book) | 5. Patrice Hamon |
- 13) Many modern films in both Hollywood and Bollywood have been inspired by Jane Austen novels. Match the film with its Austen-authored title:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Clueless (1995: Alicia Silverstone & Paul Rudd) | 1. Emma |
| b. I Have Found It (2000: Aishwarya Rai & Mammootty) | 2. Pride and Prejudice |
| c. Bride and Prejudice (2004: Aishwarya Rai & Martin Henderson) | 3. Pride and Prejudice |
| d. Bridget Jones Diary (2001: Renee Zellwegger and Colin Firth) | 4. Sense and Sensibility |
- 14) Films have also been inspired by Jane Austen, herself. Match the film with its year:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| a. Becoming Jane (Anne Hathaway & James McAvoy) | 1. 1980 |
| b. The Jane Austen Book Club (Maria Bello & Jimmy Smits) | 2. 1998 |
| c. Jane Austen in Manhattan (Anne Baxter & Robert Powell) | 3. 2007 |
| d. Jane Austen’s Mafia (Jay Mohr and Christina Applegate) | 4. 2008 |
- 15) It is now believed by many medical experts that Jane Austen died of the same disease from which John F. Kennedy suffered. What is that disease known as today?
- Addison’s disease
 - ALS (Lou Gehrigs Disease)
 - Leukemia
 - Lupus
 - Hypersexuality (Overactive libido with a sex obsession)



It was a Hoodie Summer

Readers enjoyed socializing at the “Girl’s Weekend at the Lake” in May, and the **Hoodie** “Dine Around” in July. Hey—Girls just wanna have fun!



HOODIES OPENING THEIR GOODIES



READERS TRY TO COOL OFF



HERE'S TO GOOD FRIENDS!



God Bless Oprah—or What Others are Reading:

Avid Reader, Davis: *Devil’s Highway*, by Luis Alberto Urrica

Barnes and Noble & Sacramento Bee: *Peony in Love*, by Lisa See

Book Passage: *Ines of My Soul*, by Isabel Allende

Book Sense: *Confessions of a Jane Austen Addict*, by Laurie Viera Rigler

Borders: *The Whistling Season*, by Ivan Doig

Go On Girl: *The Great Negro Plot: A Tale of*

Conspiracy and Murder in 18th Century New York, by Mat Johnson

Oprah: *Middlesex*, by Jeffrey Eugenides

Pulpwood Queens: *Family Acts*, by Louise Shaffer

Richard and Judy: *The Other side of the Bridge*, by Mary Lawson

Today Show: *Alek: From Sudanese Refugee to International Supermodel* by Alek Wek ®

