

# JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

## Greater New York Region Long Island Chapter

JASNA-LI Meeting on MAY 10, 2025

SO. HUNTINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

### AUSTEN AND SISTERHOOD



Was it because of her own close relationship with Cassandra? Why does her every novel contain sisters and sister combinations: five in *Pride & Prejudice*, three in *Mansfield Park*, three in *Sense & Sensibility*, two more in *Mansfield Park*, three in *Persuasion*, another two in *S&S*, and that's not counting the sisters-in-law and substitute sisters in *Emma* and *Northanger Abbey*. Cassandra was her lifelong best friend and confidante; they shared gossip, writing advice, and the romantic heartbreak of Tom Lefroy. And it was Cassandra who burned all the letters we wish we could read. Join us on May 10 for a discussion of the literary sisters and actual sister of Jane Austen, whose 250<sup>th</sup> birthday this year we will celebrate with cakes and tea.

Some suggested readings:

"The Closeness of Sisters: Imagining Cassandra and Jane" Juliette Wells

<https://jasna.org/persuasions/on-line/vol30no1/wells.html>

"Sister Systems in Austen" Daiel M. Lavery <https://libertiesjournal.com/online-articles/sister-systems-in-janeausten/>

"Sororadelphia, or 'even the conjugal tie is beneath the fraternal'" James Thompson

<https://jasna.org/persuasions/on-line/vol30no1/thompson.html?>

"Rivalry, Treachery, Between Sisters!" Jan Fergus <https://jasna.org/publications-2/persuasions/no31/rivalry-treachery-between-sisters-tensions-between-brothers-and-sisters-in-austens-novels/> pp 69-88

"Sisterly Chat" John Mullan <https://jasna.org/publications-2/persuasions/no31/sisterly-chat/> pp 59-68

Refreshments

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