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Pride and Prejudice sequel author Sandy Lerner to speak at Poynter Library

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Sandy Lerner

Sandy Lerner, PhD., author of a highly regarded sequel to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, will speak at USF St. Petersburg's [Nelson Poynter Memorial Library](#) at 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5.

The talk, sponsored by the [West Coast Florida Chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America](#), is free and open to the public.

Lerner wrote the sequel, *Second Impressions*, under the pseudonym of Ava Farmer and set the novel 10 years after the events of *Pride and Prejudice* (which Austen originally called "First Impressions.")

The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* called *Second Impressions* “a dazzling piece of scholarship that is also entirely readable and entertaining” and “is so full of rich detail that it’s easy to forget you are not reading a work by someone who didn’t live in early 19th-century England.”

“Readers who cannot get enough of Jane Austen’s Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet are in luck,” said Amy Robinson, Ph.D., a visiting assistant professor of English at USFSP and an organizer of the event. “We are pleased that fans of Jane Austen will have a chance to meet Dr. Lerner.”

Lerner, a co-founder of Cisco Systems who spent 26 years researching *Second Impressions*, will sign copies of *her books* after the talk.

All profits from sales of the novel go to The Chawton House Library in England, which Lerner founded and is devoted to the study of early English women writers. Lerner spends much of her time at her farm in Virginia where she focuses on sustainable and profitable farming practices.