

# JASNA

## News

THE JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



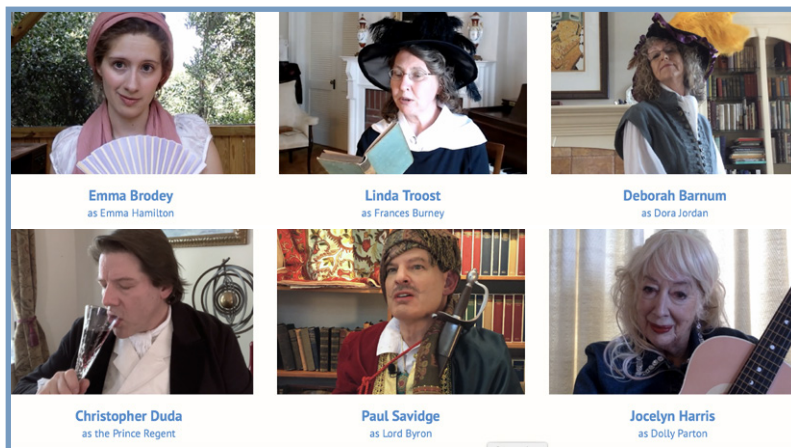
WINTER 2021

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 4

## VIRTUAL GATHERING, REAL CONNECTIONS

The Virtual Annual General Meeting shattered AGM attendance records, with 1,400 JASNA members—including 466 first-time registrants—logging in for the conference, held October 9–11. The festivities continued through November 15, as attendees were able to view breakout sessions they missed, shop online in the Emporium, or revisit any of the wide-ranging plenaries, special events, and other content.

Although the coronavirus pandemic prevented an in-person gathering this year, the virtual realm in many ways enhanced the feeling of camaraderie with fellow Janeites as well as the opportunity to gain new insights into Austen's life, times, and writing. Attendees could even visit the AGM site early to view James Nagle's timely discussion of "Elections in the Time of Jane Austen."



*"Rock Stars of the Regency"*

### Rock Star Presentations

On Friday evening, JASNA President Liz Philosophos Cooper officially opened the AGM with a memorial tribute to Lorraine Hanaway, a JASNA founding member and former president. Director Lizzie Dunford shared greetings from Jane Austen's House in Chawton, Hampshire. Then attendees were treated to "A Conversation with Juliet McMaster," a recorded interview covering many aspects of McMaster's life—from her childhood in East Africa and interest in the juvenilia to her plan to attend art school if she wasn't admitted to Oxford. Now Distinguished University Professor Emerita at the University of Alberta,

McMaster *was* accepted to Oxford, where she earned her bachelor of arts in English. But, as founder of the Juvenilia Press, she combined her interests in literature and art by illustrating numerous editions, including "The Beautifull Cassandra."

The subject of notoriety received the spotlight in

"Rock Stars of the Regency," introduced by Jocelyn Harris, professor emerita at the University of Otago, New Zealand, made up as modern celebrity Dolly Parton. The event was originally planned to be held at Cleveland's Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Harris was a fitting mistress of ceremonies for the event, as she had explored the Georgian era's famous and infamous—and their potential influence on Austen's creative process—in her 2017 book, *Satire, Celebrity, and Politics in Jane Austen*. The evening concluded with a *Pride and Prejudice* watch party, featuring the first two episodes of the remastered 1995 miniseries.



*"The Beautifull Cassandra," with illustrations and an afterword by Juliet McMaster, Sono Nis Press, 1993*



*continued on page 4*

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## DATES AND DEADLINES

### **JASNA News Spring 2021**

Submission deadline: January 8, 2021  
Publication date: mid-March

### **JASNA News Summer 2021**

Submission deadline: April 1, 2021  
Publication date: mid-June

### **JASNA News Fall 2021**

Submission deadline: July 1, 2021  
Publication date: mid-September

### **JASNA News Winter 2022**

Submission deadline: October 1, 2021  
Publication date: mid-December

### **Call for papers, special issue of *Persuasions On-Line***

**Beyond the Bit of Ivory: Jane Austen and Diversity**

Submission deadline: January 15, 2021  
Email: sford@deltastate.edu

### **Call for papers, 2022 AGM**

Submission deadline: November 1, 2021  
Email: jasnavioleta2022agm@gmail.com



*The dining room at Jane Austen's House in Chawton, Hampshire, decorated for the holidays*

## JASNA News

The newsletter of the  
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# President's Column

## Liz Philosophos Cooper

2020 was not the year any of us planned on. But I am proud of how JASNA responded, adapted, and made the best of it. All officers, committee chairs, and regional coordinators have done an incredible job as they have postponed and rescheduled meetings, programs, grants, and even an Annual General Meeting. Members have been accepting, supportive, enthusiastic, and kind. Thank you all so very much.



*Annie Hanaway, daughter of JASNA founding member Lorraine Hanaway*

This year JASNA went where we have never gone before in canceling an AGM and pivoting to offer a Virtual AGM for 1,400 attendees. And what an AGM it was! Because of its virtual component, we were able to expand our offerings beyond the juvenilia theme with extras like a tour of Jane Austen's House as she might have seen it, a memorial tribute to JASNA founding member Lorraine Hanaway, new offerings exploring Inside Jane Austen's World, a virtual promenade, JASNA's own Beau Nash presiding over our assembly rooms (thank you, Jim Nagle), a hilarious scavenger hunt (thanks to Jennifer Abella and Jennifer Jones), challenging word games (thank you, Jo Ann Staples and Kim Wilson), and Austen bingo (thanks to Lisa Brown and Chris and Sharon Cassidy). The weekend also included fun interviews with Louise Ansdell, chair of the Chawton House Board of Trustees, and her mother, author Joanna Trollope, and with four of the 466 first-time AGM attendees. Thank you, Maria Almaguer, Carolyn Korsmeyer, Kylowna Moton, and Jimmy Wiygul for sharing your enthusiasm and love of Austen with us.



*First-time AGM attendees Kylowna Moton and Maria Almaguer at the "Mimosas With Jane" event on Sunday morning*

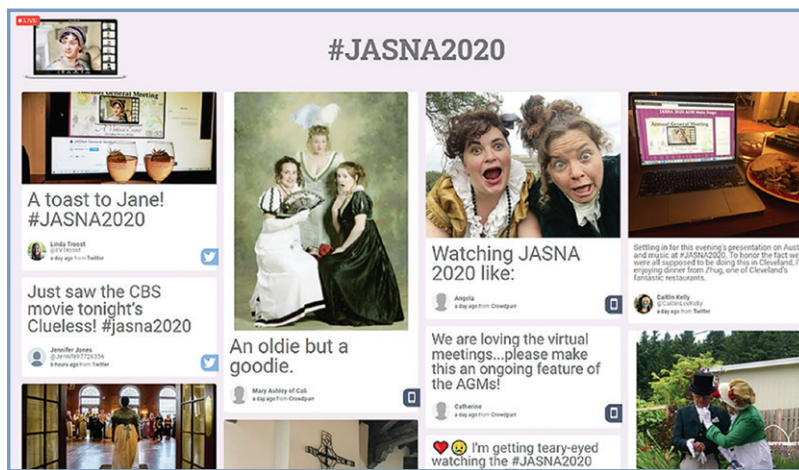


*sullivanphoto.com*

I could not have asked for a better partner through all of this than Linda Slothouber, our VP of conferences. No one knows JASNA AGMs like Linda! I appreciate her clear and strategic thinking and attention to detail—so many, many details. During the AGM weekend, she attended to over 800 emails. Jennifer Weinbrecht and Amy Patterson, co-coordinators of the canceled AGM in Cleveland, were on board from the beginning and met the challenge with can-do mentalities. Jennifer added to the broader theme with 20 challenging quizzes. To round out our AGM team, Iris Lutz was our platform specialist and oversaw creation of the conference website and communications before and during the event—including assembling a social media team to launch JASNA on Twitter and Instagram before the AGM. Thank you, Dream Team!

I am so grateful to every JASNA member who decided that devoting a weekend to Jane Austen and JASNA was important to them. Although many of us had to learn new skills and we all had to deal with computer glitches, I felt, at times, that the computer disappeared and I truly was in the front row of a meeting room listening to captivating speakers and gathering with friends. I hope you did, too!

What lies ahead for the 2021 AGM? At this point, we are moving ahead with plans for an in-person AGM in Chicago. We will use what we learned this year and incorporate elements into next year's conference. Some things will be different, but I expect that, like Mr. Darcy, "in essentials," the AGM will be "very much what [it] ever was."



### Social wall

## Austen Insights

Saturday opened with greetings from Katie Childs, chief executive of Chawton House, and the weekend's first plenary session, by Kathryn Sutherland, professor of English and senior research fellow at St. Anne's College, Oxford, and a trustee of Jane Austen's House. Among Sutherland's many works is an edition of Austen's *Teenage Writings* (2017).

"It strikes me that Jane Austen would very early on in her life be aware of the different opportunities that she had from her brothers and from the boys being educated at Steventon Parsonage by her father," Sutherland told attendees in the Q&A after her talk. "She was probably aware she was much more clever than most of those boys." Sutherland added that, throughout Austen's teenage writings, the budding author played with gender stereotypes, poking fun at convention. Then, as she matured, Austen found a different way to express her interest in female empowerment. "I do think her adult novels would not have reached the point they reach if she hadn't written these glorious gender-smashing stories, which are the teenage fiction," Sutherland said.



Kathryn Sutherland

Delivering the Carol Medine Moss Keynote Lecture, Juliet McMaster described the joys of illustrating Austen's juvenilia, which feature characters who turn "as White as a Whipt syllabub," go into "Convulsions," get their legs broken in man-traps or are "carried home, dead drunk," and gourmandize on "Chocolate ... Jellies ... and Ices."

## Fun, Games, and Mimosas

Following social hour, McMaster gave a toast to Jane Austen before a virtual promenade of images shared by participants. While no banquet or ball was possible this year, the evening featured many

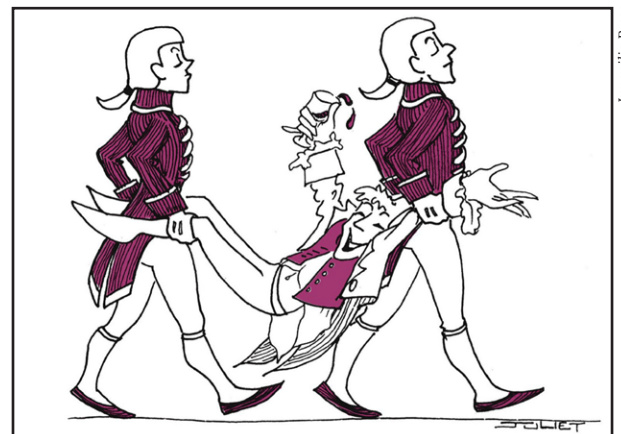
lively activities, including games—such as Jane Austen bingo, a scavenger hunt, and wordplay—informal salon roundtables

with authors and *Juliet McMaster*

Regency experts, and a special event on "Music in Jane Austen's Teenage Years," presented by Gillian Dooley of Flinders University, South Australia.

Throughout the weekend, breakout sessions covered a broad range of illuminating topics—including Austen's parody of history books, reinterpreting nonsense in the juvenilia, the mocking of home, film adaptations, trends in British children's clothing from 1760 to 1800, and the threads connecting Austen's juvenilia to her major novels. Speakers joined the AGM from all over North America, as well as Australia, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

Sunday's "Mimosas With Jane" included a conversation with Joanna Trollope and her daughter, Louise Ansdel, followed by a chat with four first-time AGM attendees. The Sunday plenary featured panelists Soniah Kamal (author of *Unmarriageable*), Robert Rodi (author of *Bitch in a Bonnet* and *Edgar and Emma*) and Alice Villaseñor of Medaille College in a discussion on "Responding to Austen's Juvenilia in the 21st Century," moderated by Juliette Wells, the Elizabeth Conolly Todd Distinguished Professor of English at Goucher College.



"Jack and Alice," edited by Joseph Wiesenfarth and others, with illustrations by Juliet McMaster. Edmonton, Canada: Juvenilia Press, 2001.







*Sandy Lerner, with a park drag (private version of the road coach), barouche-landau, cocking cart, Stanhope gig, demi-mail phaeton, and drag*

## Inside Jane Austen's World

One of the highlights of this year's conference was the opportunity to explore many aspects of Regency life through a series of short videos prepared specifically for the Virtual AGM. Thirteen experts took participants Inside Jane Austen's World and into their own homes, gardens, and stables to learn about cooking, games, carriages, paper-marbling, and much more.

Food historian and food stylist Dan Macey shared the benefits of Mr. Woodhouse's favorite basin of gruel, the various vittles that vexed Charlotte Lutterell in Austen's "Lesley Castle," and Austen's fascination with whipt syllabub. Food historian Julianne Gehrer presented illustrated talks that offered insights into the author's daily life and works, as well as research on Georgian food and dining Gehrer uncovered at the Hampshire Records Office. Bonny Wise demonstrated how to make Regency teatime treats, and Julia Matson of Bingley's Teas showed viewers how to make cocktails using tea.

Austen refers to carriages nearly 400 times in her novels, and Sandy Lerner led attendees on an exploration of the varying modes of Regency transportation with a virtual tour of her impressive collection. Candice Hern shared beautiful examples she has gathered of items Regency ladies typically carried in their reticules—from scents and cosmetics to tiny almanacs and fans. Attendees also viewed rare books owned by Mary Gaither Marshall and Georgian tea things collected by Linda Slothouber, and heard from Alden O'Brien about the authenticity of a 1797 sampler bearing the name Jane Austen.



*A bit of the leftover wedding fare that so vexed Austen's character Charlotte Lutterell in "Lesley Castle," as prepared by food historian and food stylist Dan Macey*

*Kim Wilson's talk on recreating Austen's garden at home*



Andrew Mancuso demonstrated paper-marbling techniques, Kim Wilson explained how to recreate Jane Austen's garden in your backyard, and Jo Ann Staples described the history of Regency-era games.

Judging from attendees' comments on the Virtual AGM, it was "a weekend well spent," to paraphrase the heroine in "The Beautifull Cassandra."



*Paper-marbling techniques of the Georgian era, demonstrated by Andrew Mancuso*



*A fan and miniature almanac case, items often carried in Regency ladies' reticules, from Candice Hern's collection*



*Julia Matson of Bingley's Teas, sharing how to make herbal-tea cocktails*



*Bonny Wise, instructing viewers on how to make Regency tea treats*



## Wordplay

The Regency parlor games program led by Games Mistress Jo Ann Staples gave AGM attendees the chance to exhibit their creativity and play some of the Austen family's favorite word games. Here are some of the winning entries.

### Noun Verse

**Challenge:** Choose a noun and a question, and write a poem answering the question and using the noun. Write in the voice of an Austen character.

Noun: Candle

Question: Which Austen character would be the worst dinner guest?

By Catherine Nettesheim

(In the voice of Mrs. Croft)

My dear Admiral Croft, you know I never whine,  
But must we really have Sir Walter Elliot to dine?  
We set a fine table with pheasant and roast,  
Best china and glassware to make a good toast,  
The **candlelight** casting a beautiful glow,  
And we do it for pleasure and never for show.  
I have sailed many seas and weathered a storm,  
But I fear my cool temper would soon grow too warm,  
To hear Sir Walter from his seat loudly say,  
"Must keep my fine figure, take your food straight away."  
He is not at all gracious, my Love, it could not be clearer,  
For his next command would be, "Bring that mirror nearer!"

## Charade

**Challenge:** Write a word puzzle in the form of a poem with the first lines giving clues to parts of the word and the last lines describing the whole.

By Linda Darden

My first, a surprise all the joys to bestow,  
The second displays all the beauties below,  
Together, worth seeing, as many have said,  
But some days 'twould be better to stay home instead!  
[Box Hill]

## Acrostic

**Challenge:** Write a poem in which the first letters of each line spell out a word or message.

By Deborah Yaffe

How ever can I muddle through?  
All these choices! Can't pick lightly!  
Ribbons, muslins—yellow, blue?  
Robert, Elton—maybe Knightley?  
It's just too hard! I've not a clue!  
Esteemed Miss Woodhouse—steer me rightly!  
Tell me what I ought to do!

# 2021 Essay Contest: Jane Austen in the Arts

Jane Austen played the piano, embroidered, and attended art exhibits and the theater. The arts also played a role in her novels. For the 2021 Essay Contest—which has the same theme as the 2021 Annual General Meeting: Jane Austen in the Arts—JASNA is casting a broad net, including fine arts, decorative arts, and the theater.

Students may enter in one of three categories: high school, undergraduate, and graduate. Essays should discuss the use Austen makes of the arts, whether to reveal character, address social standing, advance the plot, or something else. High school students may address one or more of her novels. Undergraduate and graduate students must discuss more than one. Visit [jasna.org/programs/essay-contest](http://jasna.org/programs/essay-contest) for details, rules, and eligibility, as well as a list of 2020 winners and links to their entries.

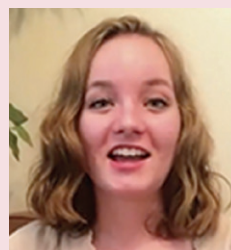
## Awards:

- Cash scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$1,000
- One year of free membership in JASNA
- Publication of the winning essays on the JASNA website
- First-place winners receive free registration and two nights' lodging at the AGM in Chicago, October 15–17

Deadline to enter is June 1, 2021.



C. E. Brock



2020 Essay Contest first-place winners Charity Ford (high school), Katya M. Garcia-Israel (undergraduate), and Fatma Shahin (graduate)



# 2021 Annual General Meeting

## Second City to None

Chicago is full of art. It is the home of the blues, house music, and vibrant regional theater. In many ways, Chicago *is* art—from the architecture of Louis Sullivan and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe to parks filled with sculpture and even horticultural art. Storefront theaters offering cutting-edge plays abound. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra enjoys a long and proud tradition while the Lyric Opera House rings with the sounds of international talent. The city's museums consistently rank among the world's finest.

These delights will be readily accessible from the central location of the Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, home of the 2021 AGM, to be held October 15–17. Your hosts from the Greater Chicago Region plan to offer a variety of ticketed visits and tours. On Thursday, enjoy an encompassing view of spectacular architecture, outdoor sculpture, Millennium Park, and more on a Highlights of Chicago Tour. Also available Thursday morning will be a Chicago Movies Tour, featuring the city's role in films from the silent era up to today. That afternoon, view the city's architecture in a unique way: by boat on the Chicago River. Chicago is home to the first skyscraper, and you'll see the history and development of the modern high-rise on this fascinating tour.

On Thursday night, attend a special viewing of the Art Institute of Chicago's world-renowned collection. The museum has identified many of its works that will be of particular interest to Janeites and fans of the Regency period. Explore galleries dedicated to painting, sculpture, and applied arts of Europe, as well as prints and drawings and the fascinating Thorne Miniature Rooms. Museum curators will be on hand to provide additional insights. As an added bonus, Ryerson Library Reading Room will be open just for AGM attendees, with items of interest from the library's holdings on view and library staff on hand to discuss them.



*English Drawing Room of the Georgian Period, c. 1800, by Narcissa Niblack Thorne, miniature, c. 1937, at the Art Institute of Chicago. Thorne credited Austen as the inspiration for this room.*

On Sunday after brunch, venture out to suburban Oak Park to tour the Frank Lloyd Wright prairie-style properties, including his home and workshop. On Sunday evening, come hungry for pizza! A tour will visit three restaurants to sample different styles of pizza. Chicago is known as the birthplace of deep-dish pizza and has mastered every other type as well.

For those staying until Monday, in addition to another opportunity to take an architecture tour, a special treat awaits: a Backstage Tour of two world-famous theaters. The Auditorium Theater, designed by noted architects Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan, has been in operation since 1889. The Lyric Opera House features an art deco interior as well as today's high-tech wizardry.

You'll also have the opportunity to explore Chicago's amazing arts and culture on your own. The Go Chicago Pass provides admission to more than 25 attractions.



Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust

*Frank Lloyd Wright home and studio*



Choose Chicago

*Architecture boat tour*



Spacca Napoli Pizzeria

*Pizza tour*

**For more information, visit [jasna.org/agms/chicago2021/home.php](https://jasna.org/agms/chicago2021/home.php). Registration and hotel reservations will open in late spring.**



# International News

## OPEN HOUSE

By Debra Roush

*Like nearly every other museum and cultural site, Jane Austen's House was forced to close its doors in mid-March (and again in November during the UK's second lockdown). JASNA Vice President of Regions Debra Roush was in England for her son's wedding and had the chance to visit the house on reopening day, August 8. Here, she shares her firsthand report.*

My husband, Steve, and I were thrilled to be among the first-day visitors, to meet new staff and longtime friends (masked and appropriately distanced), and to experience the new exhibits and displays. Sue and Martyn Dell—well-known AGM speakers who serve on the house's Board of Directors—kindly introduced us to new House Director Lizzie (what else would she be called?) Dunford.

One of the innovations was the audio recordings that start when a visitor enters a room. In the kitchen, we heard an actress reading some of Martha Lloyd's recipes; in the parlor, we listened to piano-forte music. These recordings were unobtrusive and well-chosen. Together with the household objects and accessories, they created a feeling of a lived-in house where the occupants might be back any moment. My needleworker's eye noted that a pretty scarf left draped over a chair back was machine-made, but of course it would be—visitors will probably touch it, so a period treasure would be inappropriate. As ever, priceless objects are well-protected.

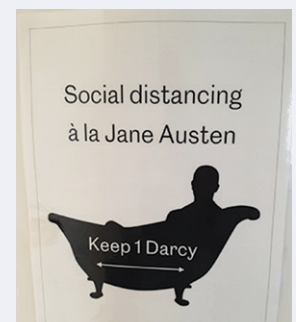
Another bright spot—literally—is the dining room, where the famous arsenic-green wallpaper awaits. Careful investigation has revealed this bold paper as the Austens' choice. DC Metropolitan Region members helped sponsor installation of the wallpaper, and it made me proud to see it.



Debra and Steve Roush

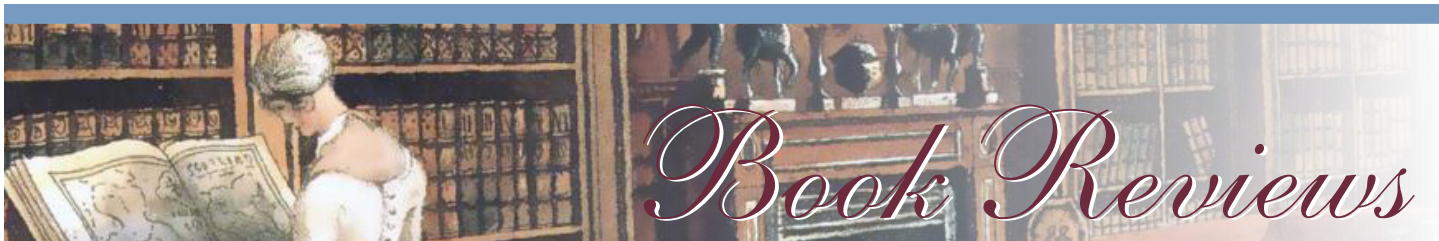
Of course, old favorite items are still on display: the famous topaz crosses, the turquoise ring, Jane's lovely white shawl. New items include a replica of her silk pelisse and some recently acquired book illustrations. The Austen women's magnificent quilt adorns a bed upstairs, in company with a community quilt recently completed by Austen admirers. The strict limit on visitor numbers kept the house and grounds uncrowded, but fewer visitors mean lower revenues.

Nearly all of the funds required to maintain the house come from visitors' admission fees and shop purchases. JASNA members and other friends came through with emergency funds during the first lockdown. The director and her colleagues are working on ways to secure the future of the house, but in the meantime the roof needs complete replacement and other bills must be paid. Visit [janeaustens.house](http://janeaustens.house) for more information.



(From left) The dining room and its famous wallpaper; Regency gowns on display; social distancing, Austen-style





## GODMERSHAM REVISITED

### *The Other Knight Boys: Jane Austen's Dispossessed Nephews*

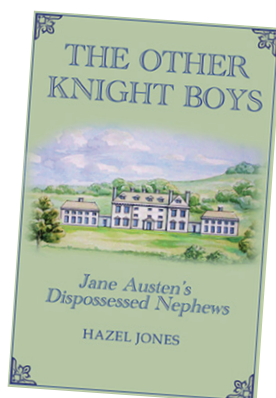
By Hazel Jones

Uppercross Press (2020), ix + 165 pages

22 color illustrations

Hardcover, \$28

Review by Susan Allen Ford



The adoption of Jane Austen's brother Edward by the wealthy Thomas and Catherine Knight gave Jane access through the years to the Godmersham estate (and library) in Kent. Edward's estate at Chawton provided the Austen women, from 1809, with a home. Although Edward's wife, Elizabeth, died after the birth of their 11th child, all of the couple's offspring survived into adulthood.

In *The Other Knight Boys: Jane Austen's Dispossessed Nephews*, Hazel Jones looks at the challenges faced by the five younger sons, who did not inherit and were, after the death of their father in 1852, effectively exiled from their family's beloved Godmersham. Jones' account, mining archival material, provides narrative portraits of each of the six sons, showing their strong fraternal bonds and the varied effects of their dispossession.

The story of Edward Knight, the eldest son and heir, sets up the others. He married twice, fathered 16 children, and made his home at Chawton House. His father expressed confidence that "your Brothers and Sisters will find in you a second Father as well as an affectionate Brother and Friend" (25). To some degree, Edward did assist them and certainly provided emotional support in times of trouble. But he also liquidated much of the estate, renovated Godmersham, rented it out for a 20-year term, and finally sold it. Jones argues that the "disintegration" of the estate meant "physical and emotional dislocation for his surviving siblings" as well as for others (43). The stories of the five younger sons develop that loss.

The second son, George, was talented but unsettled. He toured Europe with his older brother, briefly considered the church, qualified as a barrister but never practiced, played cricket, and finally, at 41, married Hilare, Countess Nelson, the widow of Admiral Lord Nelson's elder brother. Jones suggests that he was "made ... unfit" by the "long sunny days of childhood and young manhood at Godmersham" (63).

The next brother, Henry, went into the army. He married and was widowed twice. His health problems, probably the result of a brain tumor, necessitated living at Godmersham until he died at 46. William, the fourth son, succeeding his grandfather and two uncles as rector of Steventon, settled happily into Hampshire life.

Perhaps the most moving chapters focus on Charles and John, who speak clearly and powerfully of their loss of home. Charles' diary conveys both introspection and an emotional connection to his siblings, for whom he often filled the role of comforter. Though he became rector of Chawton, his attachment to Godmersham remained: "I have ... left my home—my native house—my fathers [sic] house—the home of my childhood—... now this is my home—and I have no right to apply that pleasant name to the place of my birth & my dwelling for 34 years & upwards" (112).

John—who lost his mother almost at birth, married at 44 after his father's death, and never found a stable home—was even more affected, writing from the renovated Godmersham: "when I ... see the desolation which surrounds me—the horrid change there!—the silence—the perfect silence—it is but too evident that the misery is the reality—and the happiness the dream" (132).

Part of the sense of loss that pervades this book comes from the stories of the many women who died after childbirth and the children who died at birth or before adolescence (three of William's daughters within a week). But there are many enjoyable elements, too, among them the Aunt Jane that the letters reveal: by turns detached, doting, playful, engaged, realistic.

Jones gives us an indelible image of the men and women of the Austen/Knight family, still adhering to the customs of primogeniture but also nearing a time when land means less than money.

***Susan Allen Ford is editor of Persuasions and Persuasions On-Line.***

# CHALLENGE TO DULL ELVES

## *Jane Austen's Style: Narrative Economy and the Novel's Growth*

By Anne Toner

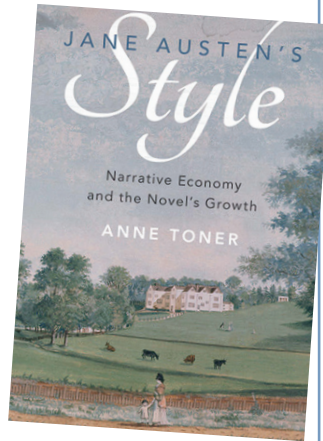
Cambridge University Press (2020), xi + 210 pages

13 b/w illustrations

Hardcover, \$74.99/paperback, \$24.99/ebook, \$20

Review by Jocelyn Harris

"I do not write for such dull Elves As have not a great deal of Ingenuity themselves," Jane Austen wrote. For Anne Toner, Austen lures readers into her "intellectual endeavour" through "narrative economy," meaning "structural concision to plotting, reductions of narrative description and the omission of attribution in forms of speech" (6, 25). Toner identifies three foundational stylistic interests: writings that comment on their own construction; "apophasis," or the "denial of expression that the speaker then or simultaneously contradicts"; and free direct speech, or unmediated and unattributed dialogue representing group speech (25–26).



Austen was attracted to the minute, Toner says, but "alert to the dangers of excess" (3). In the juvenilia, her "radically contractive thinking and her formative interest in narrative acts of concision, diminution, and acceleration" lead to "deliberate disequilibrium," as when she reduces the conventional inset tale to summary: "I related to them every other misfortune which had befallen me since we parted" (14–15).

In the novels, Austen reworks the "radical contractions" and "ostentatious irrelevancies" of the juvenilia, Toner writes (1, 16). For instance, in the early "Tale," Wilheminus invites Robertus, his wife, her two sisters, and "a large number of Attendants" into a "small house." In *Persuasion*, Captain Harville gathers a large party into "rooms so small that none but those who invite from the heart could think of accommodating so many" (22). But where's the comment on the radical difference in tone?

In chapter 1, "Structure: Selection, Connection and the Picturesque," Toner summarizes previous commentary on Austen's so-called minuteness, the "Epigrammatism" by which the "tiny always takes up more space than one would imagine" (110). In chapter 2, "Language: Apophatic Austen (Not Saying Things and Saying So)," Toner shows how Austen "makes conspicuous that which she chooses not to dwell on, even telling her reader what she is not going to tell

them" (81). In *Persuasion*, for instance, although the "heedless" lovers see "neither sauntering politicians, bustling housekeepers, flirting girls, nor nursery-maids and children," Austen "literally provides a 'crowd' in the small, ostensibly unheeded space of an apophatic negation" (90).

In chapter 3, "Dialogue: Austen's Missing Speakers and the Case for Free Direct Discourse," Toner observes that Austen's "readiness to liberate direct speech from a narratorial frame" strikingly resembles her development of free indirect discourse (132). The young Austen satirizes excessive attribution; the mature Austen minimizes it to convey the "intimate antagonism" of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet (134). Drama can do the same, of course. But Toner adds "free direct discourse," in which lack of attribution denotes "pluralized utterance or groups speaking in forms of unison" (166). She rightly describes the strawberry-picking episode in *Emma* as "alive with unsourced voices" and a "virtuosic experiment in non-attribution" (180). Compression, she declares, "was an aspiration and source of innovation for Austen" (190).

Toner occasionally overstates her claims, however. I cannot agree that Austen's compositional process of selection and reduction "remains largely abstracted" from view (30) when that exact process lies open in the canceled chapters of *Persuasion*. Nor does it seem likely that Austen saw in the accidental merging of two speeches "the creative potential of the compositor's blunder in *Pride and Prejudice* for her own experiments in speech and as material for her own plots" (184). And if *Sanditon's* "grammatical contractions" represent "the sadly unfulfilled promise of further stylistic growth" (190), is that really the only reason to regret her early death?

I found *Jane Austen's Style* difficult to read. That's a shame, for Toner specializes in the kind of fastidious, fine-grained analysis that Jane Austen so thoroughly deserves.

*Jocelyn Harris, professor emerita of English at the University of Otago, New Zealand, is the author of Jane Austen's Art of Memory (1989), A Revolution Almost beyond Expression: Jane Austen's Persuasion (2007), and Satire, Celebrity, and Politics in Jane Austen (2017).*



## NAVIGATING CULTURAL DIVISIONS

### *Pride, Prejudice, and Other Flavors*

### *Recipe for Persuasion*

By Sonali Dev

William Morrow (2019/2020)

496/448 pages

Paperback, \$15.99 each

Review by Lynda Hall

These two Austen-inspired novels blend modern interpersonal dynamics and the ageless need for love and acceptance with a Bollywood aesthetic. Imagine a female Fitzwilliam Darcy driving a Tesla to the family estate, or Anne Elliot finding solace blending the perfect chai. The two novels are companions, but it is important to begin with *Pride, Prejudice, and Other Flavors*, since *Recipe for Persuasion* continues the saga of the Raje family.

Sonali Dev introduces *Pride, Prejudice, and Other Flavors* by explaining that this novel is “only loosely inspired by the themes that Ms. Austen explored so very deftly,” and that “imbalanced power dynamics and preconceived notions” are the way she continues Austen’s legacy. So put aside searching for five daughters to be married off and enjoy this complicated love story between neurosurgeon Trisha Raje and Le Cordon Bleu-trained chef DJ Caine. Though the novel is set in California’s San Francisco Bay Area, it navigates global, cultural, and religious boundaries that a 21st century reader will recognize. The Raje family is Indian royalty attempting to assimilate into American culture; the Caine family struggles with exile, poverty, and racial prejudice. Trisha and DJ come together over food, a political campaign, and brain surgery. This story is timeless and contemporary, magical and scientific.

Austen readers will recognize some familiar character names and a few updated bits of dialogue from their favorite stories, while lovers of Indian cuisine will salivate to taste the food so exquisitely described. But those unfamiliar with either Austen’s characters or Indian cooking will find themselves immersed in a multigenerational and multi-ethnic community whose members struggle to find meaning and love in an increasingly complicated world. The familiar struggle between pride and prejudice takes on new meaning when wealth, race, and disability collide.

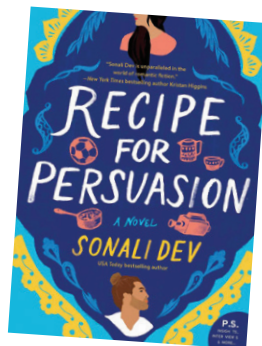
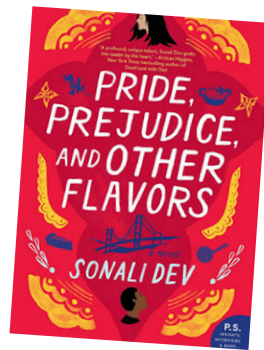
Once readers are fully immersed in the Raje family dynamics, the saga continues in *Recipe for Persuasion*. Chef Ashna Raje, Trisha’s cousin, is struggling to hang on to her late father’s upscale Indian

restaurant, Curried Dreams, and to reconcile with her estranged mother. World Cup-winning Brazilian soccer player Rico Silva has been forced into an early retirement after a debilitating knee injury. Ashna and Rico are thrown together after a 12-year separation to participate in a reality television celebrity-chef competition. Many of the same themes of exile and racial prejudice are explored in this second Austen-inspired novel, alongside family traditions, women’s rights, cricket, and soccer.

Austen readers familiar with *Persuasion* will recognize Ashna’s struggle for an identity beyond her father’s world and Rico’s struggle to overcome the resentment of having been jilted years ago. The added dynamics of Ashna’s parents’ arranged marriage and her mother’s fight to rectify centuries-old misogynistic practices update the classic love story. In this novel, more than just the lovers will need to overcome their bitterness and learn to understand each other’s life choices.

Dev’s two novels may leave the reader looking for another sequel—which of the Raje family members will be the next Emma Woodhouse or Fanny Price? Does a Willoughby lurk in the Bay Area waiting to ruin a young ingénue? Will a black chest entice a new Catherine Morland to search for secrets? Dev has peopled her stories with endearing characters and we can only hope that they continue to tell us their stories.

**Lynda A. Hall is associate professor of English at Chapman University in Orange, California. Her monograph, *Women and ‘Value’ in Jane Austen’s Novels: Settling, Speculating and Superfluity*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2017.**



Chronicle Books is giving away a copy of Barbara Heller’s new edition of *Pride and Prejudice*, which brings to life the letters exchanged among Austen’s characters. Glassine pockets placed throughout the edition contain removable replicas of 19 letters from the novel. Email [jasnanews@gmail.com](mailto:jasnanews@gmail.com) to be entered in the drawing.

# Member Profiles

To nominate yourself or another member, email JASNA News Editor Susie Wampler at [jasnanews@gmail.com](mailto:jasnanews@gmail.com). Responses may be edited for length, style, and format.



## AMBER LOTSPEICH

Southwest

### When did you first discover Jane Austen?

At the age of 12, when I read *Pride and Prejudice* for the first time.

### What do you love most about Austen?

An easier question to answer would be, what do I *not* love about Austen? Today, what I love

most is her sharp eye, quick mind, and ability to see people for who they really are. I also admire her for being so foundational in the development of the novel as an art form, and most especially her use of free indirect style. Ask me again tomorrow—I might say her belief that people really can change for the better, or her romantic side.

**Member since:** 2013—I joined when I was only 17!

**What do you enjoy most about JASNA?** Definitely the wonderful people I meet from all around the world! JASNA members are uniquely friendly, passionate, intelligent, and usually quite adventurous. Nowhere else can I walk into a room and have something in common with everyone. I especially love the AGM ball because, even if everyone in your dance line (including your partner) is a stranger, everyone is also your friend.

**Tell us about your involvement in JASNA.** Because I moved away to attend college, my JASNA involvement has been sporadic, but while living in Los Angeles I stay very active. I am a member of the San Fernando Valley reading group; attend most regional events; volunteer at the JASNA booth at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books; and have been to four AGMs, 2017–2020.

**Background:** I am a library assistant at the Getty Research Institute. In 2018, I graduated from Saint Mary's College of California with a BA in English and minor in theology and religious studies. I live with my mom, two dogs, and one cat.

**Other passions/interests:** I love traveling, attending concerts, visiting art museums, and spending time with my dogs. I occasionally try my hand at embroidery, and this spring I planted my first-ever vegetable garden.

**Favorite Austen work/character:** My favorite novel is *Persuasion*, and my favorite romantic pairing is therefore Anne and Wentworth.

I would say the character I am most similar to is Marianne, and I have a real soft spot for Fanny.

**Other favorite authors/genres:** I typically read either older or historical fiction. Some people like to create a divide between Austen and the Brontë sisters but I am not one of them. My favorite Brontë is Anne. A contemporary novel I adored was *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. I also enjoy Barbara Pym.

**What are you reading now?** I recently read *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See, which I highly recommend. I am currently reading *Camp Austen: My Life as an Accidental Jane Austen Superfan* by Ted Scheinman, as well as a biography of *Eleanor of Aquitaine* by Alison Weir.

**Fun facts:** In fall 2016, I studied abroad in England. My mom and I went early to travel, and it was a very Austenesque trip. Of course we visited Chawton Cottage and Chawton House; we also went to a festival hosted by the Jane Austen Society in Bath that took place in the Assembly Rooms, which felt like stepping into a novel. My favorite stop was Lyme Regis, where I gained much enjoyment from pretending to fall off the Cobb. Although most people assume my mother introduced me to Austen, it was actually the opposite! My mom knew nothing about Austen when I joined, but since I was so young and she had to drive me to events, she started reading Austen on her own.



## CHERYL KIMBERLEY

Massachusetts

### When did you first discover Jane Austen?

Jane Austen was mentioned (probably more than mentioned) in my

English classes in the 1960s. I knew she was a star—a classic author with a huge, positive, well-respected, academic reputation. It wasn't until I was in my 40s and watched the BBC/A&E adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* that I became interested. And yes, I did think that Mary and Mr. Collins would get together.



**What do you love most about Austen?** I guess it is the fact that I use “all things Jane Austen” as a tool for my own self-discovery both intellectually and spiritually. I am sometimes concerned that this is a selfish indulgence that isolates me, yet it has introduced me to such a bigger world outside of myself.

**Member since:** 2004

**Tell us about your involvement in JASNA.** I learned about JASNA in Chawton during my own “In Search of Jane Austen” trip in 2003. I then attended the 2004 JASNA AGM in Milwaukee, where (the late) Trix Bodde reached out to me with friendship.

**Background:** I survived the death of my mother when I was 10 and my father when I was 34. I have two fabulous sisters and many close friends. Academically, I am a college dropout and have worked since before I was of legal age. Life has been an adventure. I live in my own house on beautiful Cape Cod and work in the main office at a summer children’s camp, where I have been surrounded for more than 40 years with laughter and fun.

**Other passions/interests:** Travel, travel, travel

**Favorite Austen character:** I will be romantic here and answer Captain Frederick Wentworth. When he helped Anne into the Crofts’ gig after that long walk, my heart was lost to him. Ciarán Hinds will always be my Captain Wentworth.

**Other favorite authors/genres:** I have loved Tom Robbins’ work since I read *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues* in the late ’70s. *Jitterbug Perfume* is probably my favorite.

**What are you reading now?** *Chasing the Light* by Oliver Stone, and I just finished *Miss Austen* by Gill Hornby. I loved it!

**Fun facts:** I met Rosanne Cash years ago and learned she is a Janeite. Recently, her Twitter account included a worry about Jane Austen’s letters that Cassandra burned. So I sent her a copy of *Miss Austen*. Rosanne emailed me back with a very kind response.



## EMILY KING

New York Metropolitan

**When did you first discover Jane Austen?** As a preteen refugee to the TV room on a sick day, the black-and-white Greer Garson/Laurence Olivier *Pride and Prejudice* was a revelation. I didn’t know such beautiful people could be so feisty

and articulate. And Edna May Oliver is still my all-time favorite Lady Catherine de Bourgh.

**What do you love most about Austen?** That irresistible combination of intelligence and heart. The deeper I delved, the more I felt that she was speaking directly to me.

**Member since:** 2020

## What do you enjoy most about JASNA?

From the newsletters, I enjoy a wide world of intelligent and heartfelt devotees. In the New York Metropolitan Region, I was delighted to find an intriguing range of folks. And now on Zoom, we are let into each other’s home/workplaces as we bridge the distance in our mutual love and respect for Austen and her world.

## Tell us about your involvement in JASNA.

As a recent member—but one who has been dedicated to a multifaceted Austen project for the past few years—I have found a safe haven of people for whom Austen needs no introduction.

**Background:** I have been a theater person from my earliest days and a big reader. I would find an author I loved and read everything I could find by them—Fitzgerald, Hemingway, and Faulkner in high school, then Black women writers in college, then Woolf, Wharton, Kipling, the Russians, the Brontës, Eliot. When I lived in London, I would tour the stately home countryside or search to see what was left of Dickens’ dark corners and alleyways.

But it was only back in NYC—recovering from surgeries, chemo, and radiation—that I got to Austen. I’d had a long Kipling-fest, good for keeping up the fighting spirit, when I read that he was a self-proclaimed Janeite. So when I took to my divan to recover, that collected Austen volume was on a pillow on my chest as I read them all, one after the other. It was like finding a new best friend.

**Other passions/interests:** In a previous decade, as an editor at RCA Victor, I was embedded in the business of the Broadway cast album. Years later a musical honcho friend asked me to assess a musicalization of *Pride and Prejudice*. It was so lame that I felt insulted on Austen’s behalf. My friend said, “Why don’t you give it a try?” So I got to work, dreaming up the lyrics to tell the story of Anne Elliot and Captain Wentworth set to Beethoven’s witty, surprisingly conversational trios, sonatas, and quintets. Now, we at PasticheNYC have a nine-song, musical-theater creation we call *Jane Austen’s PERSUASION Song Cycle*. It was chosen for NY Summerfest in July 2020. COVID-19 intervened but we created a video teaser and full recording of the opening title song.

**Favorite Austen work/character:** *Persuasion* is my favorite. I feel like every character is now

embedded in the DNA of my brain cells. The idea of redemption by standing up for your own feelings and desires leads me to say that my favorite character is the narrator, Austen herself, writing herself free.

**What are you reading now?** I just finished *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Alice Hoffman's *The World That We Knew*.

**Fun facts:** I went to Bath on a study tour when I was 15, so I know from personal experience that the waters taste terrible.



## JAN PARKER GIDMAN

Nova Scotia

**When did you first discover Jane Austen?** I have been exposed to Jane Austen most of my life as my mother is a big fan and named me Janice as the Scottish long form of Jane.

**What do you love most about Austen?**

Like many, I love her insightfulness into human nature, her sharp wit, and her incomparable turn of phrase. Even after so many readings, every word is a delight.

**Member since:** 2014

**What do you enjoy most about JASNA?** I love our local Nova Scotia Region meetings as we are very active and have a steady core of members who work hard to come up with ideas and activities. We have also hosted some fantastic guest speakers from Canada, the U.S., and the UK.

**Tell us about your involvement in JASNA.** For the past five years, I have co-chaired our region's planning committee along with author Sheila Kindred. I try to attend every local meeting but have yet to make it to an AGM.

**Background:** I practiced as an international intellectual property litigation lawyer for about 10 years before taking another degree in film, literature, and creative writing. My family and I also embarked on a life-changing adventure when we relocated from the UK to Canada in 2008.

**Other passions/interests:** Apart from reading, my biggest passion is traveling, which has obviously been affected by COVID-19, but I will be ready to go as soon as it is safe to do so! To facilitate our addiction, my husband and I undertake house and pet sitting, which has taken us to some wonderful places and promises never a dull moment.

**Favorite Austen work/character:** My favorite work is *Persuasion* and my favorite character is Captain Wentworth. The character I love to hate is Fanny, Mrs. John Dashwood—so brilliantly evil!

**Other favorite authors/genres:** I'm interested in all types of historical fiction and was previously a reviewer for *The Historical*

*Novels Review*, which was great fun as I got to read many novels before they were published. I also enjoy books (both fiction and nonfiction) based on letters or journals. They are often technically difficult to write but I love the personal insights they offer.

**What are you reading now?** I've been on a bit of a Napoleon-era kick recently and am currently rereading Sandra Gulland's Josephine B trilogy.

**Fun facts:** A Jane Austen dress and bonnet that I made for a regional event are now on display at Stoneleigh Abbey in Warwickshire, UK.



## RACHEL MAXFIELD

Virtual

**When did you first discover Jane Austen?**

My mother introduced me to Jane Austen. If I ever took a sick day in school (which

I rarely did since I loved learning), we would watch Austen adaptations. We first saw *Emma* starring Gwyneth Paltrow, and scenes of the 1995 *Pride and Prejudice*. By fifth grade, I had read *Sense and Sensibility*. I recall my mother turning on the 1995 film version of *Sense and Sensibility* on our VHS player. My mother, sister, and I would clean the house with it as our soundtrack. I am certain Austen could never have imagined that would bring a little bit of joy to housework for a Midwestern girl.

**What do you love most about Austen?** I like to call her Jane, the informal, first-name greeting of a friend, rather than by a formal last name used by academics. To me, this intelligent author who passed away 172 years before I was born is not just another author to be read in Introduction to British Literature 101 but rather is a conglomeration of all the amazing women in my life. She represents the caring boss, the awesome aunt, the mentor. She is the best friend I want to be for my friends.

**Member since:** 2020

**What do you enjoy most about JASNA?**

I admire that Jane Austen brings a different connection for each of her readers and, thanks to



this one 18th century woman, all of us in JASNA have a connection. She is the reason why, once every few months on a Saturday morning, JASNA's Virtual Region brews a cup of tea and logs in for a digital meeting. We talk about our perspectives on her writing, our connections to England, and fascinating bits of Anglophile trivia.

**Background:** I am a high school English teacher and bass player with my local symphony. If I could be on any reality TV show competition, it would be *The Great British Bake Off*.

**What are you reading now?** I have been reading *Becoming* by Michelle Obama, *Code Girls* by Liza Mundy, and *Creativity, Inc.* by Ed Catmull. I am proud that I recently made it through all 1,460 pages of *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo during COVID-19's shelter-at-home order.

**Fun facts:** Last spring, when my best friend and I were both switched from classroom to online teaching, we scheduled digital Zoom luncheons where we would simultaneously stream *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries* on YouTube.



## SHEILA HWANG

Metropolitan St. Louis

**When did you first discover Jane Austen?** My high school English teacher, Mr. Hall, assigned *Pride and Prejudice* to our class. He asked us to read the first 30 pages by the next day, but I ended up reading the whole thing overnight.

**What do you love most about Austen?** I love how rereadable her novels are. I've read *Pride and Prejudice* at least 20 times. Each time I open the book back up, I have the opportunity to see more nuance and subtlety, as well as to gain new insights.

**Member since:** I'm not sure!

**What do you enjoy most about JASNA?** To me, the best thing about JASNA is that the organization brings together the energy and excitement of all kinds of Austen admirers. We share one thing in common: a love of Jane Austen—but why we love her and the way we love her is different from person to person. Seeing and understanding these varied connections is wonderful.

**Tell us about your involvement in JASNA.** I attend our St. Louis regional meetings as regularly as possible for someone with two young children, and have given presentations to our region and at the 2018 AGM in Kansas City. Last December, I facilitated a partnership between our region, Webster University—where I work—the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, and the Missouri Humanities Council to present a Jane Austen Festival during the

opening weekend of the theater's stage adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. It was a lot of work, but it was a joy! In addition, I am excited to be a member of the recently formed JASNA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, which has been asked to help JASNA accomplish its goal of being an inclusive, welcoming, and accessible space.

**Background:** I'm an English professor and frequently teach courses in 18th and 19th Century British Literature, 18th Century World Literature, and Contemporary Multiethnic Literature of the United States.

**Other passions/interests:** I love to watch documentaries about people who are passionate about unusual things or have unusual jobs. The cutthroat world of competitive show chickens? Check! Running 100-plus miles in under 60 hours through the woods of Tennessee? Yes! Philosophers who contemplate the human condition while working as parking lot attendants? Absolutely!

I also love playing games: card games, board games, you name it. About a year ago, I decided to take it to another level and enrolled in a course on board-game design. For my final project, I ended up creating a board game based on *Northanger Abbey*. There are still some kinks to work out, but maybe I'll be able to share it with the world someday.

**Favorite Austen work/character:** This question is tough! I admire Anne Elliot the most. For better or worse, though, I probably identify most with Marianne Dashwood and Emma Woodhouse.

**Other favorite authors/genres:** I don't think I can answer this question—I love too many books and my tastes are eclectic.

**What are you reading now?** I just finished reading *The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States*, which is a fascinating study by Harvard historian Walter S. Johnson. I also recently reread *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and started reading Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson series with my children.

# Regional News

## CANADA

### Alberta, Calgary

At our first Zoom meeting in July, we took a “tour” of the many Austen-related websites and resources available online. At our September meeting, RC Laurie Sayles led us through an engaging overview of “The Art of Letter Writing and Letters in Jane Austen Novels.” The talk explored the importance of letters during the Regency period; the platform they gave women to voice their concerns and opinions; and how letters provided a vehicle for self-expression. Manuals on the topic—such as *Letters Written to and for Particular Friends* by British novelist Samuel Richardson—were popular in the late 17th and 18th centuries. We then had a lively discussion about letters in Austen’s novels, including Wentworth’s love letter and Darcy’s “revelation letter” to Elizabeth. Participants were told to watch their mailboxes for a special package containing calligraphy samples and instructions so they could create a handwritten letter for a dear friend or loved one.



Eileen McCurdy and Marc Whiteway at the London, Ontario Region's picnic

### Ontario, London

A summer highlight was an invitation to a Jane Austen Picnic created by the imaginative people at the Stratford Perth Museum. Choosing from a giant rack of period costumes, guests stepped back in time to recreate the famous Box Hill picnic from *Emma*. We hope this becomes an annual special event sponsored by the museum. While we wait until 2021 to reassess our in-person events, Sandra Safran launched a new online publication for our region called *Jane Austen Entertainment eBlasts* to

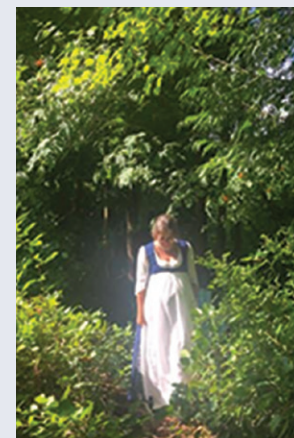
help members enjoy entertaining features about Austen’s life, times, and literature from the comfort of home.

### Montréal-Québec

During our locked-down summer, members enjoyed a virtual tea in July and a Zoom discussion of the 1995 film adaptation of *Persuasion* in September. Our August “Picnic in the Park With Jane” in Westmount Park was rained out.

### British Columbia, Vancouver

Former RC Phyllis Ferguson and Lindsay Bottomer invited us to a safe and socially distanced drop-in garden party at their home in August. Their lovely back garden merges with a greenbelt high up on the slopes of North Vancouver. Ferguson prepared several displays—*Pride*



Jane Austen at the Vancouver Region's garden party; Julia Delft on the walking path in North Vancouver

and *Prejudice* book covers, Chawton House garden plaques, and plant identification tags. Several attendees dressed in Regency attire. Our September Zoom meeting, “Live from Hantsport, Nova Scotia,” featured a presentation by former Vancouver (now Nova Scotia) member Catherine Morley of Acadia University, who spoke on the topic “Reading the Food from *Emma*: Why Mr. Woodhouse Cares So Much About What His Guests and Family Eat.” Morley has extensively researched historical influences on present-day dietetic



Catherine Morley

practice. In 2010 and 2012, she was a visiting fellow at Chawton House, where she studied the history of the invalid’s diet—a forerunner to present-day medical nutrition therapy practices.

For information on upcoming regional events, visit

[jasna.org/conferences-events/event-calendar](https://jasna.org/conferences-events/event-calendar)



## UNITED STATES

### California, San Diego

At our August program, “*North and South* versus *Pride and Prejudice*,” RC Alisa Shorago gave a talk on the apparent influence of *Pride and Prejudice* on Elizabeth Gaskell and her novel *North and South*. Attendees also participated in breakout-group discussions on similarities and differences between the two novels.



Natalie Jenner

the very personal story of what moved her to write the novel. A lively Q&A session followed the talk.

### California, Southwest

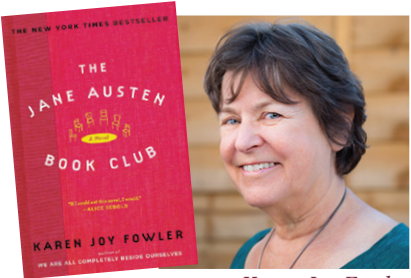
Our Zoom meeting in July featured Natalie Jenner, author of *The Jane Austen Society*, and attracted 170 attendees from across the country and around the world. Jenner—who began reading Austen at age 10—shared



Charles Lynn Batten

In August, UCLA Professor Emeritus Charles Lynn Batten led us in a discussion of Austen’s juvenilia. He shared his conviction that Austen intended most of these pieces to be read aloud. “Her stories were entertainments much the same way that playing

the spinet or family theatricals were performative art,” he explained. The Austen family also read many books for pleasure and instruction, he added. “I’m convinced that most of Austen’s juvenilia are meant to be satiric, at times wickedly satiric, about those books her family was reading.”



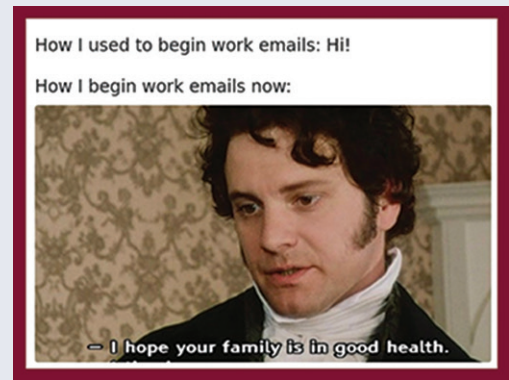
Karen Joy Fowler

At our September meeting, Karen Joy Fowler—author of *The Jane Austen Book Club*—gave an enlightening talk covering “*Emma* and Austen’s Hidden Gothics”—the untold, highly dramatic stories within Austen’s novels. Examples include Jane

Fairfax’s backstory, Wickham’s attempted elopement with Georgiana Darcy, and William Walter Elliot’s past relationship with Mrs. Smith and her late husband. Fowler discussed Austen’s strategy of carefully constructing these counterparts to the main plot and characters. “Jane Fairfax’s story has much more drama, with its irresponsible, hidden love affair. Any other writer would have written that story instead,” she added, noting that those exceptional choices are one of the things she loves most about Austen.

### Colorado, Denver/Boulder

Our annual Strawberries at Donwell Abbey event went virtual this



Quarantine meme shared by Denver/Boulder members

year, as former RC Pam Mingle guided us through a discussion about the mysteries of *Sense and Sensibility*. Her questions prompted participants to think deeply about the structure, details, and character interactions to reveal Austen’s intentions. We found that quarantine was a great time to reread *Sense and Sensibility* with a fresh and inquiring eye, pondering questions such as: Why did Austen make Edward so unlikeable? Why won’t Elinor and Mrs. Dashwood ask Marianne if she’s engaged? Why are the financial and inheritance laws described in such minute, tedious detail?

### District of Columbia, Metro

In September, 75 members attended a Zoom presentation by Alden O’Brien, curator of costumes and textiles at the DAR Museum, on “Achieving That ‘Air of Decided Fashion’: How Austen’s Ladies Adapted the Latest from London.” On their first appearance in *Pride and Prejudice*, the Bingley sisters are described as having an “air of decided fashion.” This cryptic phrase, when deciphered, gives us a glimpse into the dynamics of early 19th century fashion and its nuances as followed by women of different ranks and budgets. O’Brien explained that the Bingley sisters, being wealthy and living in London, knew what was current and were able to keep up. Their hairstyles were fancier than the Bennet sisters’ because they had maids to do them. The Bingleys also wore more expensive fabrics and had nicer jewelry. Women in the provinces read fashion magazines that reported on what the society people in London were wearing but it was hard to keep up because trends changed rapidly. The good news for provincial ladies was that simple, high-waisted dresses could be sewn at home much more easily than the styles that came

before. By 1790, dresses were made from tubes of fabric with unfitted bodices. Simple, white muslin dresses were worn by many, but the richer ladies' dresses would have costly embroidery and beadwork. O'Brien illustrated her presentation with pictures of dress designs from contemporary fashion magazines and photos of clothes drawn from the collections of the Victoria and Albert, DAR, and Metropolitan museums.

### Florida, Southwest

We held three Zoom meetings this summer focused on *Pride and Prejudice* adaptation clips. RC Jerry Vetowich prepared videos, each stringing together one of 10 scenes he selected from the 1980, 1995, and 2005 adaptations—and, for good measure, scenes from the 1996 TV episode of *Wishbone*, where appropriate. We then broke into breakout rooms, using questions crafted by Susan Skehan to direct the discussion. We voted on which adaptation was most true to the novel and which was most fun to watch, as well as which actor/actress portrayed the character best. We also tried to find all the many ways that Mr. Darcy insulted Elizabeth while proposing to her, and what insults Elizabeth threw back at Mr. Darcy. The small groups gave everyone a chance to contribute. We then reconvened with a volunteer from each breakout room reporting back to the full group.

### Indiana

At our September meeting, we elected a new board for 2021–22 and played some Austen trivia. Lisa Whitaker is our new regional coordinator, with Maura Hutchison as secretary and Kirsten Long as treasurer. Erin Weir remains webmistress and Jacqueline Hall is our newsletter editor.

### Iowa

In July, we completed our journey through Austen's juvenilia with an entertaining virtual discussion of *Lady Susan*, along with some lively discussion about Whit Stillman's film adaptation, *Love and Friendship*. In August, members gathered in person—at an appropriate social distance and wearing masks—in the backyard of RC Allison Petersen. Twila Glenn and Myra Goodhue put together a presentation on siblings in Austen's work, and the group was asked to name those they would most and least wish to have as their own sibling. We were able to meet again under Peterson's maple tree in September to discuss our impressions and insights from Gill Hornby's novel *Miss Austen*.

### Massachusetts

Kim Wilson—author of *At Home with Jane Austen*, *Tea with Jane Austen*, and *In the Garden with Jane Austen*—was the featured presenter at our September Zoom meeting. In her illustrated video talk, “Mrs. Elton's Party,” she described the type of “very superior party” that Mrs. Elton says she will give in the spring to show Highbury “how everything ought to be



*Austen treats prepared by Kim Wilson*

arranged” (*Emma*, volume 2, chapter 16). Wilson described several types of parties from the Regency era and went on to suggest what parts of Mrs. Elton's planned elegant party we might be able to create ourselves. For her books, Wilson researches early 19th century recipes and adapts them to modern kitchens and ingredients. She also discussed using everyday dishes and decorations we might already have to create a Regency dining table (though a porcelain cherub or two would be desirable). Following the video, co-RC Carolyn Jack moderated a lively Q&A session. Wilson shared recipes and ideas from the talk with participants after the meeting.

### Minnesota

At one meeting, we discussed Jane Austen's juvenilia. Another Zoom event featured a presentation by Geri Chavis on “Peril, Protection, and the Power of Irony in Jane Austen's Novels.” We also raised a total of \$1,320 to support Jane Austen's House and Chawton House.



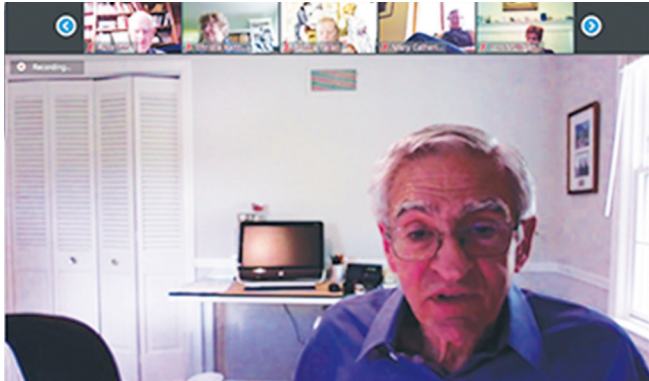
*A collection of Austen's juvenilia*

### Missouri/Kansas, Metropolitan Kansas City

We held three Zoom events in August: a discussion of *These Old Shades* by Georgette Heyer, followed by a *Pride and Prejudice* pub trivia game (with team Rational Creatures eking out a victory over the Meryton Mavens) and a spirited and insightful discussion of *Volume the First* of the juvenilia in preparation for the AGM. September brought a long-awaited talk by our own Ted Benditt on “Jane Austen and Crime” (postponed due to the pandemic—but therefore available to people from all over the U.S. as well as Tijuana, Dublin, Galway, England, and British Columbia). In his talk, Benditt shared fascinating information about many facets of Regency society and law, from marriage laws to hunting rights and the evolution of the concept of a suspect's being innocent until proven guilty. (Who knew that “unlawful commerce between men and women in hackney coaches” was such a problem?)



We rounded out September with a second discussion of the juvenilia, focusing on *Volume the Second* and featuring a video production of Austen's play *The Mystery*, directed by Jenny Rytting and Christie Kennard. We are also enhancing our social media presence, including an update of our website, [jasnalc.org](http://jasnalc.org), new accounts on Instagram ([kc\\_jasna](https://www.instagram.com/kc_jasna)) and Twitter ([@JASNA\\_KC](https://twitter.com/JASNA_KC)), and a newsletter.



Ted Benditt



Leslie Hawley

### Nebraska

Planning committee member Leslie Hawley won the "Crafting with Jane Austen" creative writing contest sponsored by Jane Austen & Co., a public book group devoted to reading texts written by historical female authors. It is part of the Jane Austen Summer Program at the University of North Carolina. Hawley's winning entry was titled "Dearest Lady Russell" and imagines a

correspondence from Anne Elliot to Lady Russell after her first meeting with Captain Wentworth.

### New Jersey

Our Zoom book discussions have introduced us to Janeites from around the country. In July, we discussed Barbara Pym's 1952 novel *Excellent Women*. In August, we talked about Natalie Jenner's 2020 novel *The Jane Austen Society*. And in September we focused on several critical articles about *Northanger Abbey*.

### New York, Capital

Breezes from Lake George and the Adirondack Mountains created a beautiful and safe outdoor setting in August for the ninth annual Jane Austen Retreat at the Wiawaka Center for Women. Participants joined scholars and enthusiasts in exploring Austen's world, beginning with a look at her juvenilia and extending to her final, unfinished novel, *Sanditon*. Austen scholar David Shapard gave a presentation on "The Literary Background to Jane Austen's Juvenilia and *Lady Susan*" prior to a screening of Whit Stillman's film version of the latter, *Love and Friendship*. Mary Huber explored the potential origin of *Sanditon*'s Miss Lambe in "The Scourge of Sugar: Slavery in the West Indies and Its Abolition in England." RC Nancy Duell illustrated Regency fashion with a display of gowns and accessories, complemented by gowns created and worn by participants. In addition to lively discussions and quizzes, the retreat allowed time to enjoy the



New York Capital Region RC Nancy Duell with New York Metro Region members Lorraine Danischewski and Lilli Liel

splendors of the beautiful Lake George setting with a paint-and-sip activity.

### New York, Metro

We held our first virtual meeting in September, with almost 150 people attending from around the world to hear speaker Alden O'Brien give an informative talk about "Who Wore What, Where, and When in America" during the 18th and 19th centuries. O'Brien is curator of costumes and textiles at the DAR Museum, which recently exhibited garments documenting the American response to European fashions during this time period. She displayed slides of clothing and portraiture detailing period dress as she spoke about the results of her research on subjects such as the difference between "gowns" and "frocks" and the use of the "short gown" in everyday dress among all economic classes. A lively Q&A followed.

### North Carolina

In July, Sue Scott reprised her 2019 AGM breakout session "The Brothers of *Northanger Abbey*." Instead of looking at Austen's male characters as romantic heroes or villains, she explored the role of these men as brothers and polled attendees about each one: "Would you want him for *your* brother?" Our August meeting featured Claire Bellanti's video presentation "You Can Get a Parasol at Whitby's: Circulating Libraries in Jane Austen's Time," followed by a live Q&A with Bellanti. In September, our virtual book club discussed Gill Hornby's *Miss Austen*, a novel about Austen's sister, Cassandra. The author Zoomed in from Kintbury, UK, for a Q&A. Among other things, she offered an interesting rationale for her choices with respect to characterization.

## Oregon, Southern

A devastating fire on September 8 destroyed much of the community of Talent, Oregon, where our region meets at the small library. More than 2,600 homes and businesses were lost. Several of our members (who thankfully did not lose their homes) watched flames roar in the punishing winds and heard explosions that entire dreadful night. Austen mentions in her letters the destruction by wind of trees at the Rectory and the “year without a summer” in 1816 resulting from the eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia the previous year. The resulting ash-filled atmosphere lasted the entire year.

## Pennsylvania, Eastern

The Eastern Pennsylvania Region held two virtual “Teatime” events over the summer, featuring Austen scholars Devoney Looser and Janine Barchas. In June, we showed JASNA’s recording of Looser’s breakout session from the 2019 AGM, “The Words and Wisdom of *Northanger Abbey*,” and then hosted a live discussion with Looser via Zoom. In August, Barchas presented “Mismarketing Jane Austen to Lure Teen Readers,” followed by a live Q&A session via Zoom.



*From the Pittsburgh Region's Juvenilia Reading Extravaganza*

Extravaganza, with dramatic readings from all three volumes of Austen’s delightfully irreverent juvenilia. We enjoyed noting how names and phrases were recycled in her novels, although the names would be used for entirely different characters.

## Utah

We celebrated Jane Austen’s birthday in December 2019 with a dinner at the historic Lion House Restaurant. The evening, organized by outgoing RC Debra Call, included an insightful lecture about *Northanger Abbey* by Collins Hemingway, and a stroll through the snow and holiday lights of downtown Salt Lake City. To thank Call for her two years of leadership, the region funded restoration of a book at Chawton House in her honor. In March, members met for a screening of the 2020 film version of *Emma*, followed by dinner at



*Utah Region lunch following Emma screening*

a nearby bistro. In July, we enjoyed a virtual tea party, followed in August by a virtual scavenger hunt organized by Kim Deacon and Melinda Dean that

involved finding items at home rather than searching in public places. It was declared a resounding success, with Morena Davidson providing the most entertaining response.

## Virtual

Every other month this year, members have gathered online

to get to know one another and develop our new region’s feel. We discussed Austen’s juvenilia as well as plans for a website.

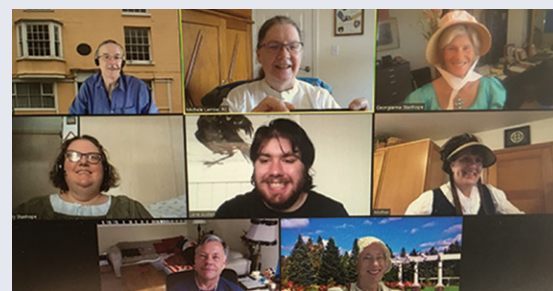


*Clockwise from top: Suzanne Sakaluk, RC Lynn Sherick, Jim and Mary Keefer, Marcia Johnson, and Rachel Maxfield of the Virtual Region*

## Washington, Eastern/Idaho, Northern

In July, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of *Clueless*. In August, we discussed Lucy Worsley’s video “Jane Austen: Behind Closed Doors” and our summer Austen-related reading. In September, we had a dramatic reading of *Jane Austen’s Juvenilia: Wicked Funny*, a play adapted by RC Michele Larrow from “The Three Sisters,” “Jack and Alice,” and “Love and Friendship.” We had our largest attendance ever from all around the country and Canada.

In August, as a way to connect members while we are not meeting in person, and in the spirit of Austen’s famous letter writing, we launched the Flat Jane Austen Project, featuring a flat representation of the author, mailed from participant to participant along with a note or letter and a travel log. Follow her adventures on social media with the hashtag #FlatJaneAusten. Jane Provinsal set up the project and Debra Peck photographed and laminated Flat Jane to prepare her for her travels.



*Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho's Jane Austen's Juvenilia: Wicked Funny Zoom play (top) Chris Boettger, RC Michele Larrow, and Jeanne Talbot of JASNA San Diego; (middle) Sara Thompson, Dominic Shoopmann, and Rose Thompson of JASNA New Mexico; (bottom) Chuck Pierce and Melody Faris*





*Flat Jane picked huckleberries with RC Jane Provinsal.*

*Rachel Jenkins prepared an outdoor tea for Flat Jane in Idaho.*

*Flat Jane visited Freja the mule with Roseann Thompson of the New Mexico Region.*

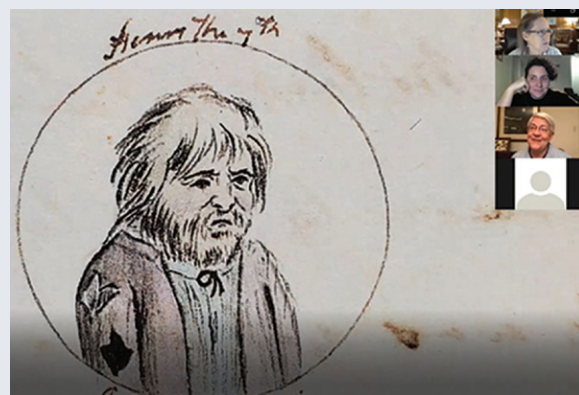
*Kristin Kelly took Flat Jane to the Oregon coast.*

## Washington, Puget Sound

In August, Loveday Conquest gave us a fabulous program on “Jane Austen and the Leigh-Perrot Inheritance,” which included Stoneleigh Abbey, a magnificent English country house near Coventry. This inheritance simmered in the background of much of Austen’s life and she eventually referred to it as the “vile compromise.” Austen did not live to receive her part of the inheritance, but her sister Cassandra did. Some of the characters in *Sense and Sensibility* may have been based upon personalities involved in this complicated inheritance. Our September meeting was held on Zoom again as author Rachel Cohen regaled us with a reading and discussion about her book *Austen Years: A Memoir in Five Novels*. She said the insights she gained from reading nothing but Austen for several years helped her get through a troubled time and understand more about herself as she watched Austen’s characters going about their lives.



*Rachel Cohen*



*Cassandra Austen’s drawing of Henry VII, with Zoom attendees Kim Wilson, Katie Marks, and Marsha Huff*

## Wisconsin

We hold a weekly coffee morning just to chat—a fun way for members who can’t go out to stay in touch. For our program meetings, we’ve discussed *Emma* and *Sanditon* (the books and film adaptations), played some rousing games of Jane Austen bingo led by Lisa Brown of JASNA Central and Western New York, viewed and discussed video presentations from the Chawton House Garden Festival, and shared a virtual Box Hill Picnic—complete with video tours of members’ gardens. For one meeting, Katie Marks led us through the finer, fun points of Regency drinking and shared recipes for Regent’s Punch and modern drinks inspired by Jane Austen. In “Method in Her Madness,” former national JASNA President Marsha Huff explained the context and historical references in Austen’s juvenilia piece “The History of England.” She shared Cassandra Austen’s accompanying portraits, and members from Wisconsin and several other regions had a lot of fun deciding which Austen family members or acquaintances they were possibly drawn from.



*Wisconsin member Marilyn Flaig’s garden*



*Stoneleigh Abbey and Stoneleigh Abbey Saloon*



# In Memoriam



## Deirdre Le Faye

### Celebrated Austen Scholar

Deirdre Le Faye, one of the world's leading authorities on Jane Austen, passed away in August. She meticulously researched Austen family history—consulting unpublished material that included diaries and letters—to update and expand on a 1913 volume by descendants of one of Austen's nephews.

Authorized by the Austen family, Le Faye's *Jane Austen: A Family Record* was published in 1989 and revised in 2004. In the process, she assembled some 15,000 facts about the Austen family and their contemporaries and, to aid future scholars, published the reference material in *A Chronology of Jane Austen and Her Family 1600–2000* (2006, 2013). Perhaps best known for her editions of *Jane Austen's Letters*, Le Faye authored or co-authored numerous other books, including *Jane Austen: The World of Her Novels* (2003), *Jane Austen's Country Life* (2014), and *Jane Austen's "Outlandish Cousin": The Life and Letters of Eliza de Feuillide*. In her final months, Le Faye was working on a fifth edition of *Jane Austen's Letters*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press. Her significant contributions to Austen scholarship were recognized by an honorary doctor of letters from Southampton University in 2011 and the Royal Society of Literature's Benson Medal in 2014. As Kathryn Sutherland wrote on behalf of Jane Austen's House at Le Faye's passing: "Her publications, well-thumbed, worn, and indispensable, fill our bookshelves; we consult them daily. She never shrank from controversy and relished a good fight. Just as well, for Austen attracts as much dissent as love. It is unlikely that we shall ever again see a scholar quite like Deirdre. The business of research was her passion and she never faltered in her duty, as she saw it, to set the record straight. She was writing to friends, sharing Austen news and advice to the very end."



## Lorraine Hanaway

### JASNA Founding Member

JASNA founding member, former president, and JASNA Board Honorary Life Member Lorraine Hanaway passed away in August. In 1975, she and her husband, Bill, lived in England, where she eagerly attended the bicentenary celebration of Austen's birth

and met Joan Austen-Leigh, Henry Burke, and J. David Grey. Their friendship led to the founding of the Jane Austen Society of North America in 1979. Hanaway was so instrumental in JASNA's founding that Grey called her "the fourth member of the holy trinity" of JASNA's three official founders. She was elected to the first JASNA board in 1979 and established the Philadelphia Region (now Eastern Pennsylvania) in 1981, serving as its inaugural regional coordinator. She coordinated the 1983 AGM in Philadelphia, which focused on *Emma*, and went on to serve as JASNA president from 1984 to 1988. Her tenure saw the launch of *JASNA News* and the first manual for AGM coordinators as well as the development of long-term strategic plans. In 1986, she established the New Hampshire/Vermont Region, serving as its first RC. From 1990 to 1997, she co-edited *Persuasions*. She attended her last AGM in 2016 in Washington, D.C. Her daughter, Annie, is compiling a video of memories and tributes for a celebration of her life. Email [anniehanaway@gmail.com](mailto:anniehanaway@gmail.com) to contribute.



## Randie Lind

### Calgary, Alberta

JASNA Calgary co-founder Randie Lind passed away in August. She earned her degree in early childhood services at Mount Royal University in Calgary and

taught preschool for many years. She enjoyed staying active—from running and cycling to swimming and cross-country skiing. An avid reader, she embarked on a poetry-memorization project—which she called "100 Poems I Have Known, Collected, and Memorized"—that spanned a decade. Lind loved to travel, particularly to the Western United States, the Canadian Rockies, and



Europe, especially England—and later to Southeast Asia, when one of her sons moved there with his family to teach. Her knowledge of Jane Austen was extensive, and fellow Calgary members were always relieved to have her on their quiz team. She also was a founding member of the Sprigged Muslin Regency dance group.



### Joan Millar

Victoria, British Columbia

Joan Margaret Millar, a longtime member of JASNA Victoria, died in September. She was a former regional coordinator, a steering committee member, and a devoted Jane Austen fan. Millar studied Romance languages and literature at the University of Victoria (UVIC). She later studied social work at UVIC and had a long career in the field, working in Northern British Columbia communities and on Vancouver Island. She was active in her church, St. Barnabas, and sang in its choir. The upcoming JASNA AGM in 2022 will not be the same without her input, excitement, and enthusiasm.



### Eileen Morris

Toronto, Ontario

JASNA Life Member Eileen Morris passed away in July. She founded the JASNA Toronto Region in 1983, was its first regional coordinator, and was active in the region until she was in her 90s. A journalist for more than 40 years, Morris wrote articles for many Canadian magazines and newspapers. For years, she edited the Toronto Region's quarterly newsletter, *The Writing Desk*. In 1952, she co-founded Elizabeth Fry Toronto, an agency that advocates for women and nonbinary people who are criminalized. In recognition of her public service, Morris received the prestigious Agnes MacPhail Award, named after Canada's first female member of Parliament. She maintained a large library and continued reading to the end, including of course her favorite, Jane Austen.

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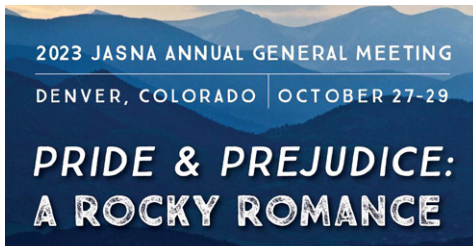
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## Call for Papers for Victoria AGM

*Sense and Sensibility*, Jane Austen's first published novel, has captivated readers and intrigued critics for over 200 years. JASNA's Victoria, British Columbia Region invites proposals for breakout sessions at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

While proposals on any aspect of the novel are welcome, the conference's location suggests some potential areas you may wish to explore. As the City of Gardens is both the capital of British Columbia and possesses a small-town feel, you may be inspired to consider the concept of home and the contrasts between city and country in *Sense and Sensibility*. Victoria lies on the unceded traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. Displacement, dispossession, empire, and colonialism have shaped the island's history, and the conference organizers invite you to explore how Austen addressed these themes in the novel. Potential breakout presenters may also wish to explore Austen's writing technique, historical and cultural contexts, and creative and critical responses to the novel.

Other themes worthy of consideration include, but are by no means limited to, the following:

- Wealth and competence
- Privacy, intimacy, and secrecy
- Competition within and between the sexes
- Leisure and occupation
- Modes of masculinity
- Duty, morality, and conscience

JASNA Victoria welcomes traditional lecture formats but also encourages presentations with an audience-centered approach that emphasizes group participation. Breakout sessions will be 40 minutes in length and followed by a question-and-answer session.

Submit proposals—including contact info, experience speaking at previous AGMs and regional meetings, a brief bio, and a one-page abstract on your proposed breakout session—to Alison Dacia Brown at [jasnavictoria2022agm@gmail.com](mailto:jasnavictoria2022agm@gmail.com). Deadline is November 1, 2021.