Annual Birthday Tea
Saturday, December 2, 2017, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

What can organizational leaders learn from an unemployed, unmarried woman living in patriarchal, misogynistic rural England in the 18th century? As it turns out, a great deal.

Andrea Kayne is an Associate Professor & Program Director of the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at DePaul University College of Education.

The Birthday Tea includes this entertaining and thought-provoking program, the Fortnightly’s sumptuous tea and goodies, plus our traditional toast to Jane Austen.

Tickets are $55 per person

Register online, https://www.123signup.com/event?id=hzktm

Tickets are limited to our capacity of 135 seats, so please sign up early.

To register by mail, please use the form below.

Parking is available at 100 East Bellevue; $17 for Fortnightly events.

Birthday Tea Pay-by-Mail Registration Form

Tickets: $55 per person

Name(s)____________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________________
City__________________State_____________________Zip____________________
Email_____________________Phone______________Amt. Enclosed_________

Please make your check payable to JASNA-GCR and mail form and check to:
JASNA-GCR c/o Becky Dolin; 640 Kathryn Court; Green Oaks, IL. 60048
**Help Wanted:** We seek to fill the position of press attache to review the annual JASNA December Tea held to commemorate Miss Jane Austen’s natal day. A keen eye and refined sensibilities are required. One who has an appreciation of fine tea and lively company will be given first consideration.

**Wanted:** Individual with Artistic eye and attention to detail sought to capture the day in images. No portfolio necessary.

Inquiries about either position should be addressed to Ms. Laura Whitlock at llwhitlock@yahoo.com

---

**Upcoming Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Winter Meeting** | February 10, 2018 | NEW LOCATION: Lloyd's Chicago  
1 S Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL 60606 |
| **Spring Gala**      | May 2, 2018     | Woman's Athletic Club  
626 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611 |

---

**From the Regional Coordinator**

**Debra Ann Miller**

While our September meeting offered a “Taste” of the offerings at the 2017 JASNA Annual General Meeting, the AGM itself, in sunny Huntington Beach California, was a feast for body, mind and spirit.

I confess it was easy to leave the damp dreary Chicago weather and land in a literal paradise of warm sunny days and cool moonlit nights. Wednesday was a whirlwind of rehearsals, registration and reconnecting with old friends. In the evening there was wine
and cheese and an informative lecture on sea navigation and the stars by California Institute of Technology Planetary Geologist James Ashley, which culminated in an excursion outdoors to test our skill at finding our longitude. I was careful not to linger too long among the stars, though. The Emporium opened at 8am!

Thursday was spent exploring the offerings in the Emporium, where I found our friends from the Jane Austen Book Store, Mattie’s Millinery and Costumes and Julia Matson of Bingleys Teas. After lunch, a short walk into Huntington yielded more modern treasures, while other Janeites attended turban making and dance workshops. The evening’s offerings included two of my favorite presentations; Jane vs. the Victorians, given by Charles Lynn Batten, Professor Emeritus of UCLA, and a witty, moving piece of reader’s theatre entitled You are Passionate, Jane, read and written by Diane Birchall and she was joined by Syrie James in the role of Jane herself. Several of our GCR members have told me how very much they enjoyed this presentation in particular. The evening closed with more theatre featuring the Impro Theatre’s Jane Austen Unscripted for some, while others gathered around fire pits and fountains, and still others ventured to the beach to take in the Pacific Ocean under the full moon.

Friday morning offered more shopping and more workshops, but I was off to the Regional Coordinators Business meeting. Here are the highlights:

* JASNA will share dues with Regions that have less than $25,000 in their bank account. They will give the Regions $10 per member and $20 per Family membership.

* Some of the funds that have been earmarked for the Young Writers Workshop will be shifted to increase the prizes for the Essay Contest to reflect the greater interest in the Essay Contest.

* Beginning in February of 2018, anyone who joins JASNA will use their “join date” as their dues anniversary, so that all dues from all of North America will not have to be processed in the same month. Those of us who are already members will keep our dues anniversary as September 1st.

* Lifetime Family memberships will no longer be offered.

* It is very important that JASNA members set up their Member Portal on the jasna.org website. If you do not log in and confirm your email address you will no longer receive the JASNA newsletter or any other email notices. If you have not set up your account, you will have received an email in October.
After all of this, the official Opening of the AGM, featuring Dr. Gillian Dow of Chawton House Museum as the Keynote speaker was exhilarating, informative and was filled to standing room only capacity. No time to linger over this uplifting presentation, though, for the breakout sessions were about to begin.

Our own Janine Fron’s presentation/workshop was well attended and volunteers got an opportunity to play Quills!, her unique series of cooperative games. For the second session, I shifted from attendee to presenter to play Jane Austen in William Phillips’ reader’s theatre presentation Conversations with Jane Austen at the Elysian Café. I was joined on stage by William Philips as Mark Twain, Chris Wood as E M Forster, Katie Marshall as Eudora Welty, and Syrie James not as Jane, but as Virginia Woolf. The piece was a great deal of fun to perform and several people approached me during the AGM to say how much they enjoyed it.

After dinner, I saw our own Andrea Kayne’s Kicking Ass in a Corset: Jane Austen’s Principles for Leadership from the Inside Out. It was so uplifting and so well received; I can hardly wait until December 2nd when she will share it with you all. An interview with Whit Stillman and a viewing of his film Love & Friendship concluded a fulfilling first day.

Highlights from the rest of the AGM included Devoney Looser’s hysterical presentation After Jane Austen that was too brilliant to describe. A heartwarming breakout session presented by a brother and sister team, again, in a reader’s theatre style entitled Jane Austen: a Touchstone Across Cultures. I would love to bring them to Chicago, but Mr. Mahmood’s sister, Ms. Khaliq, lives in Pakistan and traveled to California to present at the AGM!

I attended the ball, though I must admit that I never got a chance to “stand up”. It was not for lack of partners, but because I was having too much fun chatting with old friends and new.

On Sunday morning there was a beautiful service featuring prayers of Jane Austen set to music, and after we fed our souls, we gathered to feed our bodies with a lovely brunch and presentation by Richard Knight, the great, great, great grandson of Jane’s brother Edward Knight.

What an amazing trip! I feel so fortunate to have been able to attend the AGM, and I encourage you to attend one if you can. Next year we will be gathering in Kansas City, Kansas for a celebration of Persuasion: 200 years of Constancy & Hope, September 28-30th.
From the
Program Director

Jeffrey Nigro

As you know, the world has spent this year observing the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen’s death. It has given all of us who love Austen a chance to examine, in the way that our American Thanksgiving holiday is supposed to do, what Austen means to all of us, how much she has contributed to our lives, and how grateful we all are for her genius, wit, and humanity. At all of our earlier programs this year, we have been hearing from JASNA-GCR members celebrating Austen’s life and work. At the summer program in July, we heard lovely, touching eulogies that members had written for Austen. Our Fall Meeting in September featured GCR members who gave us tantalizing snippets of their talks at the JASNA AGM in Huntington Beach, where I’m happy to say that Chicago was very well represented.

As wonderful as it has been to commemorate Austen, I must confess that it is a delight (and maybe a bit of a relief) to look forward to December when, as we do every year, we celebrate the anniversary of Austen’s birth. The annual JASNA-GCR Birthday Tea will take place on December 2. We are always delighted to celebrate Austen’s birthday at the beautiful Fortnightly of Chicago, which is sure to be splendidly decorated for the holiday season.

The centerpiece of the Tea will be a talk by Andrea Kayne, who recently joined the GCR Board as Director of Publicity and New Media. Andrea’s presentation, with the provocative title “Kicking Ass in a Corset: Jane Austen’s 6 Principles Of Internally Referenced Leadership in Externally Restraining Times”, is based on her breakout session at the AGM in Huntington Beach. That number “6” is, of course, significant: Andrea will look at the heroines of Austen’s six completed novels as role models for the qualities of modern leadership. It’s one more reminder that Jane Austen is relevant to our lives today, and no doubt forever will be. Andrea received rave reviews for at the AGM, so I’m sure you will enjoy her talk as much as I will.

Andrea’s presentation will be followed by the sumptuous tea we that we always look forward to at the Fortnightly, complemented by the festive decorations that are also a treasured part of our celebration of Austen. The Tea always fills up quickly, so you will want to register as soon as possible. See you there!
“A Taste of the Jane Austen Society” was presented for good measure at the Evanston Library on the torpidly hot afternoon of Sept. 16, 2017.

Jeff Nigro, Program Director, and Regional Coordinator Debra Ann Miller led the voting for a new slate of officers, and all were enthusiastically elected and those who were exiting the board were praised and gifted with mementos of their service.

Jeff introduced the afternoon program, a preview of the JASNA Annual General Meeting, Oct. 6-8, 2017, in Huntington Beach, California: “Jane Austen in Paradise: Intimations of Immortality,” and its promising excursions in sea spray and sea air...and wineries.
Jeff recalled the importance of the year-200 years since the death of Jane Austen- and the reverence our JASNA regions show to an enduring and remarkable author who, for over a period of 200 years, brought to life Bath, Kellynch, Lyme, Deal, oh, and the West Indies. “We do not call Bermuda or Bahama, you know, the West Indies.” It is also 200 years since the publication of Persuasion within which pages we chanced upon these sea-sprayed locales.

We heard excerpts of papers to be presented in their entirety at the Huntington Beach AGM. Dr. Diane Capitani spoke on “Jane’s Thoughts Upon Looking Down From Paradise.” Dr. Capitani envisioned Jane looking down from the spectral heights. From Jane Austen’s six novels and correspondence, we can glean much. What was heaven and hell in Jane’s time? Who would earn salvation? Was there an afterlife, and if so, would the social classes have equal access? Those who attend the Huntington Beach conference would have the opportunity to hear the entirety of Dr. Capitani’s presentation.

Mary Gaither Marshall, a prolific author of and about Jane Austen, offered “Jane Austen’s Sanditon: Inspiring Continuations, Adaptations and Spin-Offs for 200 Years.” By 2017, there emerged thousands of continuations, including the professorial, traditional and the self-published, about Jane’s unfinished “Sanditon,” the last and longest manuscript, with 24,000 words, and in which the plot evolves slowly and moves in a distinctly different direction, of race, the economy, and the West Indies. The plot was incomplete at the time of her death.

“Paradise Revisited: Illustrating Austen,” is Jeff Nigro’s presentation in Huntington. It proves an artistic delight, with images from pen-and-ink illustrator Hugh Thomson; and Charles E. Brock, and his brother, Henry, whose illustrations for the Jane Austen novels remain the most familiar. Leave it, however, to the female painters who captured the grace, kindliness, and charm of Jane Austen’s characters, including Kate Greenaway’s illustrations and Mary E. Harding’s lissome figures in “the Squire’s Arrival.”

Janine Fron makes her debut at the AGM with “Quills! A Unique Cooperative Game Series of Feathering Transformation” a game celebrating women writers. You can strive to compete, no doubt, with your late-learned expertise on your iPhone, a guarantee of competitive success, but as it is a game that encourages cooperation, you would be missing the point.

The Evanston library’s cool ambiance, in the 91-degree temps, welcomed a healthy attendance, including Lori and Scott Davis (photo) and Kim Meske (photo). Carol Booker (photo) spoke engagingly about her research of Jane’s life and is currently reading the memoirs of Jane’s nephew, James Edward Austen-Leigh, heat notwithstanding. It is fulfilling to learn from undiscovered Janeite scholars, and Carol is just such a one this intrepid reporter encountered over cookies and cool beverages.

Membership chair Becky Dolin and Georgia Cibul, Board Member at Large and Venue Coordinator, tastefully arranged the generous refreshments with a decorative sampling of Jane’s cherished garden blooms.

Jeff concluded the meeting with a reminder of our annual Birthday tea, Dec. 2 (in recognition of Jane Austen’s December 16 birthday), at the stately Fortnightly.

---

**Sightings/Citings**  
**Elsie Holzwarth**

**Everyone's Jane Austen**

In a review in the NY Times Book Review of Erin Carlson’s book, *I'll Have What She's Having: How Nora Ephron's Three Iconic Films Saved the Romantic Comedy*, Lisa Schwarzbaum writes that other than those who were close to Ephron, "The rest of us each embraced the kind of Nora we needed, based on our age and experience with romantic heartburn. And by 'us' I of course invite men, but really, it's women who have always considered Ephron family, allying with 'My Nora' the way 'Pride and Prejudice' devotees might claim 'My Jane' Austen."

But, writes Nicholas Dames, "Not only is my Austen unlikely to be yours; it seems that anyone’s Austen is very likely to be hostile to everyone else’s. Such is the nature of possessive love." In his Atlantic magazine article, "Jane Austen Is Everything", he declares, "Austen has firmly joined Shakespeare not just as a canonical figure but as a symbol of Literature itself, the hazel-eyed woman in the mobcap as iconic now as the balding man in the doublet...What is it about her art that still inspires argument, retelling, adulation, commercialization, when other big worthies of the past slowly vanish? Is there something like an Austen Effect, obvious and yet also obscure, long-lasting and yet adaptable to new media and historical situations, that speaks to our sense of our modernity?" It's spiritedness, he says, that is "vibrant, quick, sensitive, willing to collide with the world yet also self-sufficient...Her spirited characters stand out because they enchant us."

Even Fanny Price and Anne Elliot "carry a sense of self-sufficiency and a devotion to their
self-conception that make them more than just models of rectitude. As for Elizabeth and
Emma, they exude a kind of self-generated joy. Flawed and blinkered, their spiritedness is
still a form of personal flourishing - an energetic defense of the very idea of having a self. It
qualifies them for that most clichéd, and yet most profound, of Austen's words:
happiness...The radical formal twist in Austen, however, is that these spirited characters
are monitored with steely objectivity, inside and out, by her impersonal omniscient voice,
one that never explicitly judges but that still exposes their misapprehensions and
solipsisms."

And Judith Martin, Miss Manners, has her Austen. In reply to a male complainer that
Austen "would be aghast at the behavior of her gender" who do not reply to his letters via a
dating website, she commented, "Do you think so? Could you be confusing her with Lady
Catherine de Bourgh, who allows no room for context when she issues directives? The Miss
Austen Miss Manners knows is alert to the subtleties in any social situation. She gave
ample evidence of being familiar with the tendency of eligible ladies to put themselves
forward, as well as that of eligible gentleman to examine the field. Still, there is a significant
difference between an Assembly at Bath and a flier that is advertising goods to the general
public. Online solicitations, where no response need be made if there is no interest, are
equivalent to the latter."

One wonders what Kazuo Ishiguro thought, on being awarded the Nobel Prize in
Literature, of the statement by Sara Danius, the permanent secretary of the Swedish
Academy: "If you mix Jane Austen and Franz Kafka, then you have Kazuo Ishiguro - but
you have to add a little bit of Marcel Proust into the mix and then you stir, but not too
much, and then you have his writings." Really?
AGM Highlights

Clockwise, from upper left: GCR member Sue Forgue ready for the ball; Bill and Syrie James; gems and trims in the Emporium; Huntington Beach at sunset; Devoney Looser and George Justice of Arizona; tempting tomes.
Clockwise, from upper left: Indiana RC Mary Miller with Julia Matson of Bingleys Teas; a living statue; GCR RC Deb Miller in the lobby; the crowd awaits Janine Frohn’s presentation of Quills!; GCR’s own William Phillips’ Reader’s Theatre

If you would like to receive the printed black-and-white version of the 
Letter from Chicago you may subscribe to the 2018 publications by completing this form, along with a check for $10, payable to JASNA-GCR. Mail form and check to: Elizabeth Schraft; 175 N. Harbor Drive; Apt. #2506; Chicago, IL. 60601

Name__________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________
City______________________State_____________________Zip__________
Letter from Chicago
Published by the Greater Chicago Region of the Jane Austen Society of North America Debra Ann Miller,
Regional Director; Laura Whitlock, Designer/Editor; Lori Mahoney, Editorial Consultant

JASNA-GCR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- Regional Director--Debra Ann Miller, janeaustenspeaks@gmail.com
- Deputy RC/Parliamentarian--Maureen Collins, 7collins@jmls.edu
- Program Director--Jeff Nigro, jeffnigro@mac.com
- Treasurer--Elizabeth Schraft, 73eas2014@gmail.com
- Educational Outreach Director--Linda Reinert, lindaehrenhardtreinert@gmail.com
- Membership Secretary--Becky Dolin, becky.dolin@gmail.com
- Publicity Director--Andrea Kayne, Andreakayne33@gmail.com
- Publications Director--Laura Whitlock, llwhitlock@yahoo.com
- Recording Secretary--William Phillips, waphil3@gmail.com
- Member at Large--Georgia Cibul, hgcib@comcast.net
- Member at Large--Carl Johnson, johnson34411@sbcglobal.net

Direct newsletter correspondence to: Letter from Chicago, c/o Laura Whitlock; 4945 Howard St.; Skokie, IL 60077, llwhitlock@yahoo.com
To join JASNA, or to renew your membership, visit http://www.jasna.org/

Copyright © 2017, JASNA-GCR, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

JASNA-GCR

 c/o Elizabeth Schraft
175 N. Harbor Dr. Apt. 2506
Chicago, IL 60601

http://www.jasnachicago.org/

To join JASNA, visit http://www.jasna.org/