Winter Meeting & Luncheon

Saturday, February 10, 2018 Noon to 3:00pm

JASNA-GCR Regional Coordinator Debra Ann Miller will moderate a discussion featuring men who read and love Jane Austen.

Lloyd's Chicago, 1 S. Wacker Drive, 60606

Our Winter Program includes this lively panel and a luncheon with your choice of Vegan Stir-fry, Pesto Chicken or Seared Haddock along with Lloyd’s House Salad and Assorted Mini Desserts. Cash bar available.
**Winter Program, continued...**

**Tickets are $50 per person**

Register online, [https://www.123signup.com/event?id=hvegg](https://www.123signup.com/event?id=hvegg)

Tickets are limited, please sign up early.

**Registration deadline is Tuesday, February 6.**

*Parking and public transit information can be found on the registration page.*

To register by mail, please use the form below.

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**Winter Meeting Pay-by-Mail Registration Form**

**Tickets: $50 per person**

Name(s)____________________________________________________________

Address____________________________________________________________

City______________________State_____________________Zip______________

Email_____________________Phone______________Amt. Enclosed_________

Entree Choice________________________________________________________

*Please make check payable to JASNA-GCR. Mail form and check to: JASNA-GCR c/o Elizabeth Schraft; 175 N. Harbor Dr. Apt. 2506; Chicago, IL 60601*

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**North American Friends of Chawton House Library Fundraiser**

For every $10 donation you make to NAFCHL at the Winter Meeting, your name will be placed into a drawing for this beautifully framed Jane Austen £10 note, donated by JASNA-GCR member Jane Hunt. Only one prize will be awarded. For more information about NAFCHL and their mission to reimagine the Chawton Great House, please visit [https://janesgreathouse.org/](https://janesgreathouse.org/)
Help Wanted: We seek to fill the position of press attache to review the JASNA-GCR Winter Program. The ability to maintain one’s composure whilst witnessing gentlemen discussing their love of our favorite author is imperative.

Also 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

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**Upcoming Events**

**Spring Gala**  
May 5, 2018  
Woman's Athletic Club  
626 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

**Summer Program**  
To Be Announced.

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**From the Regional Coordinator**

**Debra Ann Miller**

On December 2nd, we members of JASNA-GCR gathered with family and friends at the Fortnightly for our annual Birthday Tea to commemorate the anniversary of Jane Austen’s birth on December 16th, 1775. Longtime member, presenter and current Recording Secretary for our Board, William Phillips, gave the toast in which he reminded us that we were celebrating the bicentenary of the 42nd birthday she never had.

That point has lingered with me since. My first thoughts were for Jane’s sister, Cassandra; how did she mark that day? Did she write to her niece Fanny? Did she spend it caring for their mother, or quietly in prayer? My next thought was a longing to go to Chawton House Library to read through the Austen Family Papers, looking for any mention of how the family may have observed the day.

I spent Jane’s 242nd birthday in the best way I can imagine- performing as Jane Austen. I was the guest of honor at the Owen County Public Library in Spencer, Indiana. Since this was a Tea, and not simply a performance, I pored over Jane’s letters for quotes about tea to add to the script. I found a few gems, along with other little comments and quips written to Cassandra that I wonder how I missed in previous readings. Some may find their way permanently into the script, but all have given me a more nuanced impression of this beloved author.
While 2018 draws us out of the bicentenary celebration of Jane’s life, we still have her posthumously published works to celebrate. The 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Kansas City, and 2019 in Colonial Williamsburg will focus on *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey* ([www.jasna.org/conferences-events/agms/](http://mailchi.mp/58043e82389b/newsletter-thus-far-2602321)). You could say that 1818 marks the beginning of the Jane Austen fandom, with the publishing of Henry Austen’s loving (if lopsided) biography of his sister in the volumes of these two novels. It had a slow start; her nephew James Edward Austen-Leigh’s biography did not appear until 51 years later, but our fascination with Jane Austen is still very much alive and continuing to evolve.

Where does our understanding of Jane Austen and her works go from here? In the past few years, Jane has been characterized as a radical, a conservative, a feminist, and a game theorist. At our Birthday Tea Andrea Kayne revealed Jane to be a Leadership Coach (see Lori Davis’ review below). It seems that “Our Jane” is revered and referenced everywhere these days - for more, see Elsie Holzwarth’s column Sightings/Citings.

How do you see Jane? We would love to hear from our community, and you have a myriad of upcoming opportunities to tell the world about your Jane. *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* is producing a special issue co-edited by Janine Barchas and Devoney Looser entitled *What’s Next for Jane Austen?*, and JASNA has published the theme for the annual Essay Contest. The details of both are here in the newsletter. If you feel your view can be more clearly expressed in a presentation, the call for papers for the 2019 AGM can be found on the JASNA website, and we are always open to presentation ideas from our members for our own GCR events.

I look forward to seeing you all at our winter meeting on February 10th where we will be hearing from our gentleman members and fellow Janeites about their Jane.

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*From the Program Director*

**Jeffrey Nigro**

*We Band of Brothers (and Sisters)*

Like many of you, I am a life member of JASNA, a status I have enjoyed for more than 20 years. Of course, I fell in love with Jane Austen’s novels long before that. Again, many of you can say the same. But for me, as for a few other members of JASNA, the experience is ever-so-slightly different: I am a man, which makes me a minority among Janeites in general, and JASNA members in particular.

We men in JASNA become easily and happily accustomed to being surrounded by women. Of course, there is nothing wrong with that! How many other organizations do you know of, in which women’s voices and viewpoints so strongly predominate? It’s good for all men to have the experience of being in the minority. Unfortunately, as with so many things that speak to and inspire for women, that has become the very reason that patriarchal types love to put it down. The dismissal of Austen as “chick lit”, as lightweight romances that are too fixated on the “trivial” and the “domestic” to grapple with “more important” issues, is a disgracefully inaccurate and unfair characterization of Austen’s genius. It sometimes seems that any discussion of Austen fandom in popular media is obliged to include shots of
a wet-shirted Colin Firth, as if that were what it’s all about.

Of course, Austen appeals to people across the entire gender spectrum. To say that her themes are "universal" may sound like a cliché, but we all know it to be the truth. Still, I will confess that I am always happy to meet a male Austen admirer. At one of the recent elections, the gentleman who checked me in at the polling place was reading *Pride and Prejudice*. Always on the lookout for fellow Austen admirers of any gender, I commented approvingly. He told me that his wife and daughters were huge Jane Austen fans, and he was merely reading the book to understand what they were talking about. Oh, well...props to the guy, in any case, for being an understanding and open-minded husband and father. I did tell him that the women in his family should check out JASNA-GCR (but I did not give him one of our bookmarks, for fear that that might be construed as bribing a public official).

I thought that it might be enlightening to look at Austen from the varying perspectives of some of her male admirers. Our Winter Meeting on February 10 will feature a panel discussion entitled “You Pierce My Soul”—Men Who Love Austen”. A select group of men will discuss their ongoing love affair with Austen’s novels and will field questions from our Regional Coordinator, Debra Ann Miller.

The panel is inspired by our year-long celebration of the 200th anniversary of *Persuasion*, Austen’s final completed masterpiece. I know I’m not alone when I say that one of my favorite moments in the novel is the conversation between the heroine, Anne Eliot, and the upright Captain Harville in the penultimate chapter. On the surface, this discussion revolves around the relative fidelity of men and women, but underlying it is a more profound theme, the ability of the sexes to understand and respect one another. Unbeknownst to both Anne and Harville, Captain Wentworth is silently listening to them and the letter he is writing responds to their discussion, even as it allows him the opportunity to pour out his heart to Anne (“You pierce my soul”).

Captain Wentworth may not have quite reached the pinnacle of Idealized Austen Manhood that has been occupied by Mr. Darcy for the past 20 years or so, but many Austen lovers prefer to him to his counterpart in *Pride and Prejudice*. In a poem that I’m sure many of you know, Rudyard Kipling famously married Wentworth to Jane Austen in Paradise (sorry, Anne). Speaking as a man, I’m not always sure whether this glorification of Austen heroes is an entirely good thing—it’s very hard to measure up to such an ideal, and I’m not sure it was Austen’s intention that her very human heroes should be transformed into demi-gods.

Full details on the February 10 panel are being finalized, but be prepared for what I’m sure will be a lively discussion. The Winter Meeting will take place at a venue new for GCR, Lloyd’s in downtown Chicago, at the corner of Wacker Drive and Madison Street, kitty-corner (or catty-corner, if that’s what they say in your part of the country) from the Civic Opera House. We will have an elegant, clubby private room and a sumptuous lunch, but the main event will be the discussion. If you know a man who says he doesn’t “get” Jane Austen, bring him along! See above for registration information.

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**Birthday Tea Review**  
Lori Mulligan Davis

I admit it. I’m an Austen evangelist. I want everyone to share my fun. (I’d have *You Come, Too* etched onto my tombstone, if it wouldn’t convey the wrong message.) And of my many passions, JASNA is my favorite to promote. During chance encounters, even with strangers beside me in ticket lines, I’m searching for clues that they might like Austen. With the ease of long practice, I can suss out if they’d smile over a JASNA-GCR bookmark.* I can name-
drop Jane Austen in most conversations just by asking about favorite books, movies, plays, fun with friends, travel spots, foods, or Facebook groups. When they turn the question back on me, I’ve got ‘em! Their responses tell me which GCR event will make them say, “Ooooh. That sounds nice.” Often the Gala. “It’s a full day with an emporium! Great speakers! We actually had Elizabeth Garvie, from the ’80 BBC miniseries!”

But if time is short, I just mention tea. We Janeites drink a lot of tea. Attend lectures on the history of tea. Have personal friends, like Julia Matson, who are merchants of tea. Take workshops on blending tea. And go to teas—lavish teas. As I describe the GCR Birthday Tea, I look for the eye glint that says Jane Austen could become their new best author.

This year’s Birthday Tea has given me bait to lure new members for years to come. The balmy day added to our high spirits as we entered the elegantly decorated Fortnightly of Chicago (again graciously sponsored by Jane Hunt) to find the great room filled with welcoming faces. I was fortunate in my situation near Meera Mahajan, who was attending her first JASNA event. Her journey to the Birthday Tea started 3,911 miles away. While visiting St Nicholas Church in Steventon, Hampshire, this summer, she noticed a plaque thanking the Greater Chicago Region for a contribution. She thought, “OMG! It’s from Chicago!” So she hunted us up when she came home and joined JASNA!

The program began with happy news:
- JASNA’s new Member Portal is a streamlined channel to national communications. Signup is encouraged by going to <www.jasna.org>.
- JASNA is welcoming applicants to the International Visitor’s Program to pursue an Austen-related creative or scholarly project at Chawton House Library for up to six weeks (<http://www.jasna.org/programs>).
- In its transition to financial self-sufficiency, Chawton House Library has two new fundraisers that are proving successful. In the Brick by Brick Campaign (#BrickbyBrick) individuals can buy virtual bricks for a wall displayed on the Library website and Facebook (starting at $40 at <https://janesgreathouse.org/fundraising>). Also, the Library has instituted The Oxygen Fund. So far, state flags of the Texas and New York Regions have flown over Chawton House to cheer their respective $17,000+ and $14,000+ donations.

Maureen Collins, our new Deputy Regional Coordinator, introduced the speaker, GCR’s new Publicity Director, Professor Andrea Kayne, who reprised her engaging AGM-Breakout presentation, “Kicking Ass in a Corset: Jane Austen’s Six Principles of Internally Referenced Leadership in Externally Constraining Times.” Andrea is an Associate Professor and the Program Director of the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at DePaul’s University College of Education. While teaching stressed educators dealing with intractable forces beyond their control, she realized that six Austen heroines, one from each novel, illustrate timeless lessons in emotionally intelligent leadership. Many of her students had never read Austen, yet took the principles to heart. Naturally, Andrea was all smiles speaking to a room filled with persons who could quickly grasp, for instance, why Elizabeth would reject the demeaning proposals of Mr. Collins and the early Darcy. Andrea’s natural enthusiasm, coupled with her engaging examples from each novel and astute conclusions, pleased our guests and longtime members alike.

Here are the Six Principles she shared:
1. Like Elizabeth Bennet, know and live your own internal value in the face of an external environment that can devalue you.
2. Like Elinor Dashwood, respond to external tumult and adverse change with an internal calm, acceptance, and problem-solving resilience.
3. Like Anne Elliot, choose lasting internal worthiness, hard work, and merit over external constructs that bestow the shortcuts of privilege and entitlement.
4. Like Fanny Price, insist on faithfully following your internal moral compass even in the face of external pressure and coercion.
5. Like Catherine Morland, protect and harness your internal child-like dreaming, wonder, curiosity, and hope in an external world that can be discouraging, disillusioning, and full of despair.
6. Like Emma Woodhouse, constantly be willing to learn from an internal place of openness and humility rather than project and misbelieve an illusory external image of
perfection, superiority, and benevolence. Andrea will send her full PowerPoint to anyone who writes her at andrea.kayne@depaul.edu.

After Andrea’s presentation, we queued for the tea itself. Many echoed my thoughts that this year’s offerings could win Best in Memory. Indeed, I think that fondly recalling the Eggnog Mousse Tarts might me through the this year’s Polar Vortex. Other standouts were the Chocolate Mint Brownies, Tomato and Aged Cheddar on Toast, Warm Brioche Bread Pudding, Mini Quiches, and Sandwiches of Beef with Horseradish, Truffle Egg Salad, and Country Chicken Salad.

Once again, Recording Secretary William Phillips charmingly toasted Jane’s birth—as well as honoring her untimely death 200 years ago this past July. Appropriate to a splendid day, Charlene Uney, Debra Ann Miller, Georgia Cibul, Becky Dolin, Karen Doornebos, and an anonymous donor provided enough prizes that each table could have its own winner. Many smiled that the winner of the grand prize was Andrea’s boyfriend, Andrew Mead, who had come to cheer her on. He received a year’s membership in JASNA. We hope this wonderful event turns him into our newest GCR enthusiast.

*If you’d like to give out bookmarks, you can find them by the nametags at GCR events.

A big thank-you to Bee Cox, whose standout photographs do justice to a thoroughly charming day.

Bee Cox, whose standout photographs do justice to a thoroughly charming day.
Clockwise from upper left: A charming floral centerpiece; Left to right, Diane Capitani, Illeane Schwartz, Laura Kordon, Julia Fording and Georgia Cibul; A delighted prize winner; Andrea Kayne presents "Kicking Ass in a Corset."
Theatre Review

Linda E. Reinert

Monty Python Meets Jane Austen

On Saturday, November 4, worlds collided at Fermi Lab in Batavia, IL—not the worlds of physicists, but the worlds of Monty Python and Jane Austen’s Sense and Sensibility. Laughter burst out, at first haltingly, and then regularly as the New York City traveling troupe Aquila Theatre enacted Jessica Swale’s version of Sense and Sensibility. When I first read Sense and Sensibility, my focus was all about Marianne as I was at her age; when I reread it, Mrs. Jennings’ humor took over my focus. This second reading falls in sympathy with Aquila’s adaptation, but cubed. In the initial scene, the audience meets the Dashwood females in what one would expect to be deep mourning. The initial seconds of mourning are interrupted after the audience realizes the unusually tall Dashwoods are dominated by Margaret who must have been at least 6’3”, topped by a quirky, curly, roughly pig-tailed coif, slightly askew, and a 5 o’clock shadow. British-born actors dominate the troupe, with Lewis Brown portraying not only Margaret, but Mr. Palmer.
Yes, a man, and a tall, burly man at that, portrays Margaret. His stomping, pouting exit as he is ushered by Marianne, escaping Colonel Brandon’s visit, is not to be missed. Close on the heels of my realization that Margaret is a man, the audience meets Fanny, played by South African-born Gys de Villiers, who also plays Colonel Brandon. As we love to hate Fanny, this portrayal is treasured. Hilariously, Essex-born Michael Rivers portrays Willoughby, Thomas, and Mrs. Palmer. Yet the show is stolen by James Lavender’s portrayal of Mrs. Jennings, who plays her eccentricities to the maximum. The skill in double and triple casting these roles is a study in itself. In all, eight actors portray 20 roles.

The shenanigans are staged in front of two screens, separated by a band of black so that scenes are frequently presented as close to simultaneous. For example, while Willoughby is confronted by his aunt about the financial inappropriateness of his relationship with Marianne, Marianne panics stage left at Willoughby’s sudden departure from Barton Cottage. Willoughby then crosses stage left to coldly read to Marianne his excuses for leaving.

Playwright Jessica Swale’s treatment of Edward and Colonel Brandon are closer to the novel than to those in recent film adaptations. Neither are especially attractive; Edward is tongue-tied and unimpressive, while Colonel Brandon is still impressive in reputation, though short, stocky, and balding. Scenes with Fanny, as well as those with Lucy Steele, are hilarious played by men. The burlesque fits the book’s outrageousness of both characters. Across the performances, Mrs. Jennings, of course, earns the final word as after she realizes her disappointment that no more single females are available for her match-making skills—that is until she turns to Margaret, who lumberingly escapes as the curtain falls. In the long run, if you’re well-familiar with the novel of *Sense and Sensibility*, have viewed the films featuring handsome Edmunds and Colonel Brandons, enjoyed the satisfyingly romantic Chicago Shakespeare musical production composed by Paul Gordon, with its emphasis on the sisters’ closeness, you will enjoy adding Aquila Theatre’s contribution to the many views on *Sense and Sensibility*. For a first-time audience, it is likely too much.

Before the performance, it was announced that in late October of 2018, the troupe will present their version of *Frankenstein* at Fermilab. I will be there.

You may see a few snippets of this *Sense and Sensibility* adaptation, plus a schedule of future Aquila Theatre performances of this and other plays at [http://baylinartists.com/aquila-sense-and-sensibility/](http://baylinartists.com/aquila-sense-and-sensibility/). Enjoy.

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**Sightings/Citings**

**Elsie Holzwarth**

**By the Book**

It seems as good a time as any to clean out the Jane Austen folder, culling the tattered, yellowed newspaper pages of interviews of writers, torn from the "By the Book" section of the NY Times Book Review. Here is Margaret Atwood (*The Handmaid’s Tale*) replying to a request for the last book that made her cry: "Once upon a time, a work was considered a failure if it did not make you cry. The gentlemen and ladies of the late 18th century were well-known snivelers. They churned out sentimental novels and accounts of men of sensibility in which weeping was the mark of a superior heart. This is the gremlin Jane Austen is tackling in *Sense and Sensibility*. Her sensible heroine refuses to judge a suitor by the amount of gushing he does over affecting texts and views, and in this she is proven correct. The guy flaunting his tender heart is a cad, the one who refrains is a brick. Why are we not surprised?" No flaunting tears from Atwood, it appears.

Jane Green (*The Sunshine Sisters*) reports that *Sense and Sensibility* is the classic novel...
she recently read for the first time and for Mindy Kaling (Why Not Me?), "In high school it was all about Jane Austen and Edith Wharton." Sara Paretsky (the V. I. Warshawski private eye series) rereads, "Barbara Pym and Jane Austen and my old detective favorites when I'm stressed out," while Amy Bloom likes to read Persuasion when she's procrastinating. Asked what one book she would require the president to read, Ursula K. Le Guin (Steering the Craft: A 21st-Century Guide to Sailing the Sea of Story) replied, "Poor man. (That would be President Obama.) Something as far as possible from Washington, D.C, and noisy self-righteous jackassery. Mansfield Park, maybe?"

Asked which three writers they would invite to a literary dinner party, Nora Roberts (romance novels and Obsession in Death, written as J.D. Robb) listed "Jane Austen because I bet she'd kill it at Drunken Scrabble; Nora Ephron because we'd never stop laughing; and Dorothy Parker, who'd have the dish on everyone." R.L. Stine (the Goosebumps and Fear Street series) would invite Chares Dickens, Anthony Trollope and Jane Austen. "And I would ask them all my all-time-least-favorite question: Where do you get your ideas?"

Chelsea Clinton (co-author, Governing Global Health) picks James Baldwin, Shakespeare, Franz Kafka. "But if I could have three more, I would choose Albert Camus, Jane Jacobs and Jane Austen."

Of her taste in reading Hilary Mantel (Wolf Hall, Bring Up the Bodies) says, "Sad to say, I do like a bit of action. I get impatient with love; I want fighting. I don't like overrefinement, or to dwell in the heads of vaporous ladies with fine sensibilities. (Though I love Jane Austen because she's so shrewdly practical: you can hear the chink of cash in every paragraph.)" A book that hasn't been written that Kazuo Ishiguro (The Buried Giant) would like to read is "Jane Austen's seventh novel, written in maturity, examining what happens to love beyond courtship and the wedding day."

A book that is disappointing, overrated, just not good? For Richard Dawkins (The God Delusion) it's Pride and Prejudice. "It must be my prejudice, and I am not proud of it, but I can't get excited about who is going to marry whom, and how rich they are." Richard Price (Clockers) remembers, "I was supposed to love Pride and Prejudice, but it was forced to me in seventh grade and I hated it."

Stephen King (Finders Keepers) claims he doesn't "have much interest in 'relationship' novels or romance. I've never read Jane Austen. I do not say this with either pride or shame (or prejudice, for that matter). It's just a fact." But what does Lee Child (Jack Reacher thriller series) plan to read next? "My to-be-read pile is enormous, but winking ominously at me is Jane Austen's Emma. I have never read Jane Austen - in my American wife's eyes an incredible deficiency for an Englishman, matched only by the fact that I don't really like Mozart. I hadn't read Jane Eyre either until she made me and I'm glad I did, so I'll get to Emma eventually, -but perhaps not soon." Right away is not soon enough.

Chelsea Clinton
Austen in the Media

Luanne Redmond

Death by Persuasion
I became hooked on the series Midsomer Murders this past winter, while recovering from surgery. I am almost done with the series, and while binge-watching on a rainy Saturday afternoon (perfect for tea, knitting and all things Anglophilic), I saw a very recent episode, "Death by Persuasion."

In this episode, a group specializing in Regency "immersion events" suffers murder, betrayal, hidden family secrets, and modern technology gone awry. The arresting opening sequence features a young woman in Regency dress, clutching a note and running apparently to a meeting in the woods . . . followed by what appears to be a surveillance drone. Clearly, all is not as it appears to be.

It’s true that in recent seasons Midsomer Murders has suffered a bit from predictable storylines and weaker writing. Detective John Barnaby is not as snappy a character as the original Tom Barnaby, his older cousin, whose creator was a much more charismatic actor. However, I still enjoy the show and I liked "Death by Persuasion." You may recognize some of the Jane Austenites - those who are merely along for the ride; those who are dragged (as in the case of a teenage girl coerced by her parents to play the part of the maid - she refers to another character as "Everybody's Mr. Dorky"); those who are intense about the authenticity - "They're doing it all wrong!"); - and those who are more concerned with the impact the murder will have on their lavish Regency ball than on the seriousness of the event. The episode is full of fun references to Jane Austen characters. It also features Samuel West, who was Mr. Eliot in the 1995 movie Persuasion, once again as a character who is weak but in this case not nearly so nasty.

The episode also features modern technology, in the form of the drones and computer records, and modern social mores, such as a gay love story. In recent years color-blind casting has been introduced, which gives a different look to the Regency drama. At the end of the episode, detective Barnaby remarks that Jane Austen's novels often end in a wedding, sometimes two. One of the weddings he is referring to is between two characters who are shown at a distance in wedding garb, including a white dress with a long train . . . wait a minute, that's Victorian! Well, you can't blame the producers for not wanting to miss such a stunning visual. In my humble opinion, it is still a thoroughly entertaining murder story.

In Memorium

Joan Maxine Roob

It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of Joan Maxine Roob on December 25, 2017. As a Madison resident, Joan was a member of the Wisconsin Region of JASNA, but she was well known to many of us in the Greater Chicago Region as well. Joan's daughter Elizabeth Roob Ireland has been a longtime GCR member, and formerly served on the GCR Board. Liz brought her mom to many GCR events, where Joan was always a welcome, warm, and gracious presence. Many of us will also recall enjoying their company at a number of JASNA Annual General Meetings. It was clear that Joan had instilled a deep and abiding love for Jane Austen in her daughter. JASNA-GCR extends heartfelt condolences to Liz, her
Call for Papers

TSLL—What's Next for Jane Austen?
University of Texas Press seeks submissions for a special issue of Texas Studies in Literature and Language devoted to the question, "What's Next for Jane Austen?" Janine Barchas and Devoney Looser are co-editors of this first-ever issue dedicated to Austen of TSLL, an academic journal for generalists. The deadline is March 1, 2018. For further information visit, https://utpressnews.blogspot.com/2017/12/call-for-papers-texas-studies-in.html

JASNA Student Essay Contest
JASNA seeks papers for an annual student essay contest to foster the study and appreciation of Jane Austen's work. The contest is open to students world-wide in three divisions: High School, College/University and Graduate School. This year's topic commemorates the bicentenary of the publication of *Persuasion*. Submission deadline is May 20, 2018. For more information and specific guidelines, please visit http://www.jasna.org/programs/essay-contest/

Upcoming National Events

JASNA AGM 2018
Kansas City will play host to JASNA's Annual General Meeting, "Persuasion: 200 Years of Constancy and Hope." September 28-30. For registration and other information, visit http://www.jasna.org/agms/kansascity/index.html

Jane Austen Festival
JASNA Greater Louisville Region will present its spectacular annual Jane Austen Festival at Locust Grove, July 13-15. For information about the event, accommodations and other local attractions, visit http://jasnalouisville.com/2018-festival
If you would like to receive the printed black-and-white version of the *Letter from Chicago* you may subscribe to our 2018 publications by sending this form, along with a check for $10, payable to JASNA-GCR to: Elizabeth Schraft; 175 N. Harbor Drive; Apt. #2506; Chicago, IL. 60601

Name__________________________________________________________
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**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

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To join JASNA, or to renew your membership, visit [http://www.jasna.org/](http://www.jasna.org/)

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