Fall Free Public Program

Saturday, September 17, 2016
1:00–4:00 pm

Debra Ann Miller, JASNA-GCR Board

Austen Abridged: 6 Novels in 30 Minutes

A fast-paced tour through Jane Austen’s novels featuring 5-minute synopses that would make the folks at Cliff Notes gasp for air. Join Debra Ann Miller on this thematic exploration of Jane’s major works. The bonus round will include the most popular pieces from her Juvenilia. Caution: contains spoilers.

Evanston Public Library, Main Branch
1703 Orrington Ave, Evanston, IL 60201

Paid public parking lot next to the library. Close to the Davis Street stops on the CTA Purple Line and Metra Union Pacific North Line.

BONUS ROUND: Juvenilia
As you will note elsewhere in this issue, it is time once again for JASNA-GCR Board elections, and I will no longer be serving as Regional Coordinator as of this September. The bylaws of both JASNA and JASNA-GCR mandate term limits for board members, and I will have served the maximum six-year term in the position. I think we can all agree that term limits are a good idea, and something that could well be applied to other positions in our world (but that discussion is, mercifully, beyond the scope of this newsletter). I must admit to a certain bittersweet feeling at writing my last RC Letter, but there are a number of reasons to avoid self-indulgence, not the least of which is that I doubt that Jane Austen herself would approve.

It is important for me, however, to say it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as Regional Coordinator of JASNA-GCR for the past six years. Thanks to the great tradition and legacy established by previous Regional Coordinators, Board members, and members, ours is one of the largest and strongest regions in JASNA. The Board members with whom I have had the privilege of serving have been terrific, and their hard work and dedication have certainly been an inspiration. Above all, it is the members who make the organization so extraordinary. In my experience, JASNA members are endlessly curious, open, and thoughtful in every sense of the word. We seem to have taken to heart Austen’s own values of being polite and considerate, of taking important things seriously while maintaining a sense of humor. It would not be an exaggeration to say that being a JASNA member can confirm your faith in humanity.

And of course, The Jane Austen Society would not exist without Jane Austen. It is a source of endless surprise and delight to
me that an author who completed only six novels (and did not complete a bit more) could have inspired so many people for the past 200 years. JASNA-GCR alone has almost 200 members, and JASNA itself is now an organization of more than 5,000 members in 75 regions in the U.S. and Canada. A sign of the commitment of JASNA members is that this year’s Annual General Meeting sold out within a few hours after online registration opened. The Austen Industry has boomed apace: new titles in what is now called Austen-Inspired Fiction appear seemingly every day, and you can now purchase everything from throw cushions to bandages to toothpaste that are Austen-Inspired as well.

Of course, the movies have helped to feed this amazing popularity, and who doesn’t love them? But we Austen lovers know that it all ultimately comes back to the books. I can understand the skepticism of people who say they “don’t get” Austen (not to invoke this awful phrase, but some of my best friends...): how can you possibly not only reread these books again and again, but talk about them endlessly? How much could there possibly be to say about novels in which “nothing happens”? Well, I don’t need to tell you how rich Austen’s novels are in literary brilliance, nuance, and context. In the words of Elizabeth Bennet, “there is something new to be observed in them forever.”

This is all a rather wordy and roundabout way of saying: why wouldn’t you want to continue to belong to this wonderful organization? JASNA-GCR has another year of fun and thought-provoking programs planned. To renew your membership, look for the Membership Renewal Form on page 19, or you can renew online at http://www.jasnachicago.org/members/join-us-membership-jasna-gcr. Looking forward to seeing you at the start of our new program year on September 17, and at many more programs and events to come.
Stephen Alltop and Josefien Stoppelenburg

The Gala began with a musical performance and discussion by Stephen Alltop, conductor and pianist, and soprano Josefien Stoppelenburg. The pair first performed for GCR members at our summer program several years ago, and our members were eager to hear them again. Since then, these two gifted performers have continued their musical partnership, and they have become husband and wife! Could there be a greater testimonial to the power of Jane Austen?

Josefien’s shimmering, exquisitely modulated singing and Stephen’s suave playing delighted us in selections from Jane Austen’s own music book and pieces that represent the richness of a great age of European music.

Highlights included Franz Schubert’s exquisite song “Heidenröslein”, and the aria “Non lo dirò col labbro” from George Frederic Handel’s opera Tolomeo. Toward the end of the 19th century, this latter tune was given English words (“Did you not hear my lady/Go down the garden singing?”). In that form, it appears—effectively if a little anachronistically—in the Doug McGrath film version of Emma (1996).

The (almost literally) smashing finale was that over-the-top piano piece so fondly remembered from their previous GCR program, The Battle of Prague by the Czech composer Frantisek Kotzwara (as he was known in England). Stephen had the entire room in stitches as he read Mark Twain’s hilarious anecdote about an impromptu performance of the piece (“that venerable shivaree”) in a hotel in Lucerne, Switzerland by a young bride from Arkansas (but apparently something of a Mary Bennet type). It didn’t seem possible, but the combination of Stephen’s virtuosic pianism and Josefien’s archly melodramatic commentary and action have gained only in gusto and sheer fun.
One of the highlights from the Spring Gala was our very own William Phillips showing us his mental dexterity with a challenging and fun *Emma* Quiz. We gave the attendants the questions. Patience has paid off and you will find the long-awaited answers on page 9!

### This Year’s Diabolical Quiz

**Who’s Who in Highbury and Beyond**

(A) Place surnames from the list on the right in the blanks on the left to categorize those mentioned in *Emma* according to occupation or role (past/present/planned). Names may be used more than once. Some categories on the left have more than one answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apothecary</th>
<th><strong>Surnames</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>Abbot, Knightley</td>
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<td>Clergy</td>
<td>Abdy, Larkins</td>
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<td>Cook/Housekeeper</td>
<td>Andrews, Martin</td>
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<td>Estate Owner/Mistress</td>
<td>Bates, Nash</td>
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<td>Estate Manager/Steward</td>
<td>Bickerton, Nicholls</td>
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<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Bragge, Otway</td>
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<td>Governess/HeadMistress/Teacher</td>
<td>Campbell, Perry</td>
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<td>Guests—Crown Ball (only place mentioned)</td>
<td>Chapman, Prince</td>
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<td>Helpful Acquaintance (one mention by Miss Bates)</td>
<td>Churchill, Richardson</td>
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<td>Inn Keeper</td>
<td>Clarke, Saunders</td>
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<td><em>Lawyer/Law Related</em></td>
<td>Cole, Serle</td>
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<td>Merchant/In Trade/Shopkeeper</td>
<td>Cox, Smallridge</td>
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<td>Military Officer</td>
<td>Dixon, Smith</td>
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<td>Ostler</td>
<td>Elton, Stokes</td>
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<td>Parish Clerk</td>
<td>Fairfax, Suckling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pupil/Parlo(u)r Boarder</td>
<td>Ford, Taylor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*One correct answer makes a 50% assumption

NB: Five of the names DO NOT APPEAR in *Emma*. See Item II. (Next Page)
(B) Bonus Questions (Five points possible):

(1). What are the given names and occupations of a parent and child in EMMA whose surname we never learn?
   (a) Name ______________________ (b) Occupation ______________________
   (c) Name ______________________ (d) Occupation ______________________

(2). What character(s) from the list of surnames on the previous page is/are named William?

Beyond Emma

Five (5) of the surnames from the list DO NOT appear in Emma. There is one name each from the other five of Austen’s mature novels. Identify the surname and the role of each of these five.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOVEL</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ROLE</th>
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<td>(1) NORTHANGER ABBEY</td>
<td>________________________</td>
<td>________________________</td>
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<td>(2) SENSE AND SENSIBILITY</td>
<td>________________________</td>
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<td>(3) PRIDE AND PREJUDICE</td>
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<td>(4) MANSFIELD PARK</td>
<td>________________________</td>
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<td>(5) PERSUASION</td>
<td>________________________</td>
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Clockwise from top left: Quiz winning table; Melinda Erickson, Margaret Workman, and Jane Osborn still smiling after the quiz; Liza Pilch and Jane Wagoner considered googling the answers; Elizabeth Pope sipping some restorative tea; John Nygro and Geraldine Nigro relaxing after the quiz.
In the final of three presentations at the 2016 Gala, Sue Forgue (GCR) and Victoria Hinshaw (Wisconsin Region) presented “London High Society in Austen’s Novels,” featuring Almack’s Assembly Rooms, an exclusive venue in Regency London. Almack’s was the place at which ladies and gentlemen of quality went to see and be seen in the hopes of finding a suitable marriage partner. One was only admitted if he or she had a voucher, which could only be granted upon approval by one of the lady patronesses. Though Jane Austen’s characters flock to London to partake of the “Season,” not all of them have the “Marriage Mart” as their goal. Austen’s characters traveled to Town for many practical reasons, stayed for varying lengths of time and prepared in detail for their launch into the social whirl. Yet Almack’s retained a powerful hold on these visits. Opening in 1765, by 1790 Almack’s acceptance was much sought. Entrance was adjudicated by a select group of influential ladies of London society known as the Lady Patronesses of Almack’s. These patronesses met each Monday during the roughly four-month season to grant or withhold possession of vouchers toward admittance to the Wednesday balls. Advantages toward acceptance were titles of nobility, breeding, and appropriate behavior. Exclusion from Almack’s could be the ultimate social rejection. Following acquaintance with basics of Almack’s history, Gala participants were treated to authentic replicas of the highly-sought vouchers and then were granted the ultimate power of decision in acceptance or rejection of key Austen characters as recipients of Almack vouchers, though most of attendees chucked the qualifications for entrance in our decisions.
Gala Photos

All Gala photos courtesy of Margo Malos and Sara Okey.
Gala Photos

Shown here are some of the table centerpieces that member volunteers decorated based on quotes from Emma. Bottom right is Marianne Newman proudly displaying her table prize.

Quiz Answers

Persuasion: (Miss) Hamilton, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Smith, Mr. Melton, Mr. Melton's maid.

Pride and Prejudice: (Miss) Hodges, Housekeeper at Netherfield.

Pride and Prejudice: (Miss) James, Occupation: Handicraftsman.

Pride and Prejudice: (Miss) Hamilton, Teacher, Teacher, Feast, Feast, Teacher, Feast, Feast, Feast,

Pride and Prejudice: (Miss) Hamilton, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, Misses, 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Memory

In her 99th year, Diana Athill has had another memoir published. Her 2008 *Somewhere Towards the End* was about growing old. Now she has collected some lively reminiscences in *Alive, Alive Oh! and Other Things That Matter*. She remembers her troubled pregnancy that ended in a miscarriage. “I was comfortable in my pretty bedroom, reading Jane Austen almost non-stop for her calming quality, (I read the whole of *Mansfield Park*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion* and *The Watsons* in four days), listening to the radio and doing a little office work.”

On display for four months, beginning in mid-February, in the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago was the exhibit *Monster Roster: Existentialist Art in Postwar Chicago*. Exhibit notes explained,

“[I]n the late 1940s in Chicago, a cadre of artists...created artwork fueled by the anxiety and ominous undercurrents sweeping beneath the nation’s dominant sense of enthusiasm...Disembodied limbs, vacant eyes, distended figures, slashed and scraped surfaces, damaged torsos, birth pangs and death throes, icons of an existential drama.”

And what did one see as one entered this exhibit? Yes! There it was, a quotation from *Mansfield Park* on the wall.

“If any one faculty of our nature may be called more wonderful than the rest, I do think it is memory. There seems something more speakingly incomprehensible in the powers, the failures, the inequalities of memory, than in any other of our intelligences. The memory is sometimes so retentive, so serviceable, so obedient; at others, so bewildered and so weak; and at others again so tyrannic, so beyond control! We are, to be sure, a miracle every way; but our powers of recollecting and of forgetting do seem peculiarly past finding out.

Sympathy for the Devil

This is the title of the review by David Waldstreicher in *The N.Y. Times Book Review* of Nathaniel Philbrick’s latest best-seller *Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold and the Fate of the American Revolution*. The devil, of course, was the traitor Benedict Arnold. In an effort to portray Arnold as a villain, but not a monster, Waldstreicher notes his money problems. He “had promised to bestow a ‘settlement’ on [his wife] and buy her an elegant mansion. Philbrick skillfully depicts the sheer banality of Arnold’s greed and self-interest, revealing the roots of his downfall: one part psychology and one part sensibility to at least three parts circumstances. To borrow an image from the 19th century, he’s more a character from Jane Austen than from Mary Shelley.”

‘Brexit’

On the referendum in Great Britain to leave the Economic Union, Bill Maher, TV talk host of HBO’s *Real Time with Bill Maher*, reported:

“The final tally is in from England: 48% voted for Sense and Sensibility 52% voted for Pride and Prejudice.”
It's been an exciting year! September brought us a bumper crop of delights for our senses and our sensibilities as Nancy Melvin presented on herbal remedies, teas and other culinary and artistic uses of plants commonly used in Jane Austen’s time. Our December Tea brought us all together again at The Fortnightly as JASNA-Wisconsin’s Sara Bowen spoke to us about village life. JASNA President Clare Bellanti joined us in February to share with us the economic and social importance of the circulating library. Our Spring Gala was truly a joyful occasion with the welcome return of Stephen Alltop & Josefien Stoppelenburg, William Phillips, and Sue Forgue & Vicky Hinshaw to the podium to regale us with the sights and sounds of Highbury and beyond. This summer we celebrate Christmas in July with Stephanie Barron, the author of The Jane Austen Mysteries; and at our free Fall meeting, I will be presenting Austen Abridged: 6 Novels in 30 Minutes on September 17th at the Evanston Public Library.

30 minutes is hardly sufficient to properly bestow “Glory, love, and honour unto England’s Jane,” but our agenda also includes our annual board elections. I encourage you to consider becoming a member of the JASNA-GCR board. If you have any questions about the responsibilities of the various positions, or would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact William Phillips, our Deputy Regional Coordinator, at waphil3@gmail.com.

If you would like to volunteer to bring refreshments for our Fall Meeting at the Evanston Public Library on September 17th, contact Georgia Cibul or Becky Dolin at membership@jasnachicago.org. If you cannot bring a refreshment, bring a friend. Remember that our Fall Meeting is free and open to the public.

Our last meeting for 2016 will be Saturday, December 3rd at The Fortnightly 1pm–4pm. We will return to Marcello’s on Sunday, February 12th, 2017. May 6th I look forward to returning to the beautiful Woman’s Athletic Club Chicago for our annual Gala, so mark your calendars. We are communicating with potential speakers now, and will make information available as soon as it is confirmed.

If you have a suggestion for a presentation that you would like to see, please do not hesitate to contact me; and if you have ever felt the urge to present at one of our meetings but never have, well, stay tuned.
When driving or washing dishes or folding laundry, I turn on an audio version and listen. . . . I’m hungry for it, compelled, addicted. Wherever I land when I open the book—the white attic, the East room, or the wilderness at Sotherton—it is a sweet relief to go for a walk in Mansfield.” ¹ When you feel like that, even the afterglow of the 2014 Montreal AGM is not enough.

So I decided I would go to the Jane Austen Summer Program (JASP), even if I had to go alone. But I didn’t feel alone. Our GCR website says we Jane Austen lovers are all about “friendship, good food, fun, and learning.” In these ways, this four-day symposium made me feel right at home.

Friendship: Whether we were learning whist, turning our partners at the three free dance workshops, petting Pug, moaning in concert at the 1999 film of Mansfield Park, pub crawling to cocktails inspired by The Book, or small-group discussing, there were abundant opportunities to develop friendships. At a late-night café stop after the ball, I found out that Nicole Corrigan is from Skokie and had been motivated to join GCR after attending JASP last year.

Good Food: Each day began with a lavish hotel breakfast for all participants, and not three hours later we were slath-
ering whipped cream on homemade scones for elevenses. I never wanted lunch, but wonderful restaurants were steps away from the hotel, including the truly amazing Gourmet Kingdom, a travel.cnn.com “50 best Chinese restaurants in the United States.” (http://travel.cnn.com/explorations/eat/usa/50-best-chinese-restaurants-usa-145368/).

At the Mansfield Ball, we enjoyed more home-baked delicacies, and I drank negus in Fanny’s honor (with no Edmund to add water). The post-convention Tea by baking historian Amanda Fisher² was the finest I’ve ever experienced—here or in England. Her raspberry Eton Mess is my new ambrosia.

**Fun:** For me, the tone was set by the “Pug mugs” that paired pugs with a clever *MP* quotes (bought 6), and the fun always followed Fanny’s maxim that Mansfield should not be forgotten. The lighter talks on clothing, pugs, astronomy, and the films brought real insight into the book. And a panel of young scholars clued me in on a highly addictive web series, “From Mansfield with Love,” which is the most satisfying filmed adaptation I’ve yet seen! (https://www.youtube.com/user/Mansfield-WithLove)

JASP made wonderful use of the treasures of Chapel Hill’s Wilson Library and Ackland Art Museum, creating exhibits of rare books and representative art. The sign outside Wilson Library stated: “Please remember, this reading room is a no food, no drink (including water) area at all times.” However, when I saw the first edition of *Mansfield Park*, my eyes grew full and I thought, “But what about tears?”

The book selections were fascinating, including the quoted Johnson and Cowper tomes, a popup book of Repton’s before-and-after landscapes, and, most interesting, Austen-favorite George Crabbe’s 1807 poem “The Parish Register,” in which a rake pursues a chaste and virtuous maiden named Fanny Price.

The Mansfield Ball was an event in its own right. “Aunt Norris’s Attic” offered clothes so everyone could feel as fine as Fanny in her new spotted gown. We were conveyed to an historic meeting house and treated to brief dramatic interludes, Miss Crawford’s agreeable glee, and authentic treats and negus.

**Learning:** As Emma would say, “Now for the cream.” I could fill a *Letter from Chicago* with insights gleaned from this conference (including why the deliberate choice of Antigua and of pugs supported the Mansfield connection that Sir Thomas owned slaves). Ironically, months before the conference, when I first saw the schedule, I became a bit concerned. I counted five long “discussion sessions,” and thought, “That’s a waste. I’m going there to learn, learn, learn.” However, after experiencing them, I realized why these small-group sessions are sound learning practice. We would attend a fifteen-minute Context Corner presentation, receive printed study guides, and then gather in prearranged groups.
of ten to share ideas. If I could have one selfie from the conference it would be of my eyes when I read my group leader’s nametag: SUSAN ALLEN FORD. The editor of Persuasions. The plenary speaker I’d been looking forward to at the DC AGM. Our group ranged from enthusiasts to scholars, developing ideas I wouldn’t mind seeing in articles or a spinoff book. I’d love GCR to try this small-group-discussion model at a Gala or Winter Meeting.

The speakers at JASP were first-rate. Besides Susan Allen Ford, we heard Inger Brodey and James Thompson (co-directors of the symposium), costume historian Hope Greenberg, Heather King, Danielle Christmas, Deborah Knuth Klenck, Pamela Fitzpatrick, and Peter Graham. Presentations by younger scholars assured me that Austen studies won’t die with my generation; if you see these names on AGM breakout sessions, sign right up: Rae Yan, Jennifer Abella, Sarah Marsh, Ashley King, Sarah Schaefer, Malcolm Bare, Tatjana Zimbelius-

Mansfield Park
TEXTS and CONTEXTS
A Special Exhibition for the Jane Austen Summer Program
Thursday, June 16, 2016
11:00 am - 2:30 pm
Free and open to the public
Grand Reading Room
Wilson Special Collections Library
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
www.janeaustensummer.org

Klem, Peter Royal, and Kaitlyn Quigley, Rachael Isom, Taras Mikhailiuk, Doreen Thierauf, and Jacqueline Leibman. 3

Consider adding next June’s symposium (on Persuasion) to your calendar and following the Jane Austen Summer Program on Facebook. If you can only afford one conference, JASP is a great alternative to the AGM, especially if you would like a satisfying balance of scholarship and fun with a smaller group (110 participants), a simpler schedule, in a more accessible venue (the meeting room, breakfast room, lounge, emporium, registration area, and restrooms were right next to each other, and guest rooms are just overhead). I wasn’t constantly running, running like the Billie Piper Fanny. Instead, I came away with my eyes brightened by new friends, warm memories, and productive ideas about Austen’s most controversial work.


2 You can almost taste Amanda Fisher’s website: http://www.theblakemerecompany.com/.

3 To learn more about the Jane Austen Summer Program, visit <janeaustensummer.org>. For a further recap of the conference, see this helpful site: https://twitter.com/JASPhotline/status/745630830907826180.
A Tribute to Susannah Fullerton

My periodic packet of publications arrived from the Jane Austen Society of Australia (JASA) in July, and the cover item in JASA Chronicle, their excellent newsletter, reminded me that 2016 is the 20th anniversary of my friend Susannah Fullerton as President of JASA. As it happens, hers is the longest tenure in the world as President of an international Jane Austen society. Susannah was in the leadership of JASA from its founding in the early 1990s, serving as Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice-President before replacing JASA founder Nora Walker as President in 1996. Susannah continues to be one of the best known lecturers and authors on Austen topics from the Southern Hemisphere. She is also renowned as a leader of literary tours. Her books include her remarkable 2004 volume Jane Austen and Crime, still the best known work anywhere on crime in Austen’s time and in her works. In 2013, several of us attended an event held by the Chicagoland Royal Oak Society which featured her presenting on one of her most important books, Celebrating Pride and Prejudice: 200 Years of Jane Austen’s Masterpiece, published that year.

It has been my pleasure to call Susannah a friend since I first made a presentation at JASA in 2002. Since that time, JASA has grown from encompassing the greater Sydney area to include seven regional groups in Australia and two more in New Zealand. She and I also shared a friendship with the late Jon Spence, author of Becoming Jane Austen (2003) whom I knew from the time we both taught in Saudia Arabia and later in Japan after which Jon moved to Australia and became an important friend and collaborator of Susannah’s. JASA and Susannah were important to Russell and me as well since our last collaboration was a presentation in Sydney in 2012.

GCR enjoyed having a presentation by JASA member, playwright Pamela Whalen in 2013, and we hope we can entertain Susannah as a presenter before too long. Susannah was born in Canada, had a brother born in Florida, was raised in New Zealand, married a native of South Africa, and raised her family as well as pursuing her Austen career in Australia, so she is truly a citizen of the English-speaking world. Hats off to Susannah and her spectacular career as a speaker, writer, and leader in the Austen field.

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**Love and Friendship**

*Love and Friendship* is a 2016 dramatic comedy film, directed by Whit Stillman and released by Amazon Studios. It stars Kate Beckinsale as Lady Susan Vernon, an English widow whose manipulative tendencies are the driving force behind much of the film’s plot and comedy alike. Lady Susan has a problem. Her husband is dead and she’s out of money, so she sets off on a glorious adventure to persuade (and often annoy) her way to the most comfortable lifestyle she can find herself in, by way of marrying off her daughter to as wealthy a suitor as is available.

Kate Beckinsale does some of her best work in this film. Unlike the Underworld series she spends most of her time filming, she gets an opportunity to play an actual character in *Love and Friendship* and her skills as an actor shine through. Her comedic timing was brilliant throughout. Her performance alone was one of the best things about the film, which was impressive considering how much I liked the movie as a whole. Similarly, the character Mrs. Cross, portrayed by Kelly Campbell, was absolutely hilarious to me. Perhaps I read too much into her performance, but there are moments when her reactions to Lady Susan’s antics had me laughing inappropriately loud in the theater. Though she’s a minor character who leaves us after twenty or so minutes into the film’s run, her time on screen was always a highlight.

There are a few instances in *Love and Friendship* where some unorthodox editing techniques are used, to fantastic effect.

Text is placed on the screen in a few instances throughout the movie to inject additional comedy into scenes where there would otherwise be none. Every time this trick is used it’s a pleasant nod to the literary origins of the story, and represents—at least to me—a departure from status-quo filmmaking, which I can only praise.

*Love and Friendship*’s script is written with razor-sharp wit. When the scene is focused mainly on the jokes, the jokes don’t stop. The viewer is hard pressed to keep up with the speed at which the characters drop pieces of comedy gold. Perhaps the best thing about the film is that anyone with even a passing understanding of English history could appreciate it. It’s a period piece for everyone, but doesn’t compromise intelligence. The movie isn’t funny only because of its setting, it’s just funny. As a fan of film, you’ll like it. As an Austen fan you’ll love it.

The film is not entirely without its flaws. There exist in *Love and Friendship* occasional moments of absolutely awful camerawork. This includes (but is not limited to) unnecessarily close close-ups and shaky-cam. If you don’t really care about cinematography you may be able to look past this, but if any cameraperson were to read these words, please know that the audience doesn’t have to also experience motion sickness to understand that a horse drawn carriage provides a bumpy ride.

Much of the last half hour of *Love and Friendship* is rather dull. By this point in the film, Lady Susan’s role has shifted from our humorously edgy leading lady to that of a tired crone whose main purpose is to get in the way of others’ happiness. The viewer is left with a comedy of manners that lacks both comedy and manners, and what’s left is a shameful pock mark on an otherwise good film. Luckily, the last scene of the
movie, combined with the resolution of a subplot involving the Manwaring family just before that manages to end the movie on a reasonably high note.

All in all, *Love and Friendship* was pretty good. It mixed a strong script with capable actors, and while the directing wasn’t anything to write home about, it was inoffensive. The film was able to accomplish what I’d imagine was its goal: to make people laugh. If laughing sounds like a good time to you, I’d highly recommend picking up a copy of *Love and Friendship* when it releases for home video this September. If put under duress by a socially mobile and intellectually threatening baroness to give the film a numerical score, I’d award it four stars out of five. ★★★★★

**Favorite Things**

*by Sara Okey*

**A Few of My Favorite Things**

Every Jane Austen fan has amassed collections of books, regency costumes, artwork, and lots of STUFF! Here’s a glimpse of mine:

- My parents pictured during their trip to England
- The official Jane Austen coaster from Bath, England
- Cuffleberry & Co’s limited edition porcelain corgi bowl celebrating the Queen’s 90th birthday

Do you have special memorabilia that you would like to show our members? Send a digital copy to okey.sara@gmail.com along with a brief description and the item(s) will be featured in a future JASNA-GCR newsletter!
Report of the Nominating Committee
For Election on September 17, 2016

September brings our annual GCR business meeting and election of half the GCR Board. My recent e-mail to GCR members yielded several suggestions to the nominating committee. As a result, the following slate of five candidates for two-year terms on the board has been developed and will be presented to the membership at the meeting at the Evanston Public Library (Main Branch) on Saturday, September 17th.

GCR members will immediately realize that Debra Miller and Jeff Nigro are remaining on the Board but exchanging positions. This pair of nominations is made necessary by the provision in our current bylaws that limits a member to three consecutive two-year terms in the same board position (in this case Jeff). The committee asked Debra and Jeff to switch positions because it was our strong belief that GCR does not want to lose the energy and creativity that both of them have brought to GCR and the Board.

Both Becky Dolin and Laura Whitlock are the incumbents of the positions for which they are nominated. Serving from 2016–2018 would be the third term in their current positions for each of them. Both have done splendid jobs in their current positions.

Maureen Collins is a Professor of Intellectual Property Law at John Marshall School of Law in Chicago, with a specialty in Law related to Art and Artists. While (as many of us would) she has expressed some reluctance to tackle the position as Treasurer, discussions with her have made it clear that she will have plenty of assistance from others on the board. She has, consequently, graciously agreed to accept the position. Her legal background and her enthusiasm for Austen help make her a particularly interesting candidate for Board membership. She will soon publish a law review article on Jane Austen and Legal Matters.

There will be an opportunity to make further nominations at the time of the election. Please remember that it is necessary to obtain the acceptance of anyone who is nominated. It would be particularly helpful to the nominating committee as well as the GCR organization if anyone who plans to offer a further nomination would let the committee know in advance. Please contact William Phillips, the chair, at waphil3@gmail.com

Slate of Candidates

Regional Coordinator:
Debra Miller (Board Member—New Position)

Program Director:
Jeff Nigro (Board Member—New Position)

Treasurer:
Maureen Collins (New Board Member)

Membership Secretary:
Becky Dolin (Incumbent)

Member at Large:
Laura Whitlock (Incumbent)
Annual Regional Membership 2016–2017

- One-Year JASNA-GCR Membership Dues are as follows:
  - With full-color e-newsletter* Individual: $20.00; Family** $30.00
  - With full-color e-newsletter AND black and white printed newsletter delivered by mail: Individual: $30.00; Family** $40.00
- Membership dues cover the present to August 31, 2017
- Membership includes newsletters, discounts on JASNA–GCR events, and the opportunity to invite your friends to events open only to members and their guests
- Please fill out this form and return with check made out to JASNA-GCR or renew online at www.jasnachicago.org

Important Information: This form and your payment are for Regional Dues only.
Our Charter requires you to join or renew with our parent organization, the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA), requiring separate dues. The JASNA membership form is available online at www.jasna.org.

Check one: □ Renewing Member    □ New Member

Name: ____________________________

Street Address: ____________________ Apt. _________
City: ____________________________ State: _____ Zip Code: ___________-__________

Telephone: ________________ E-mail: __________________________

Please indicate if any of the above information has changed, so that we may update our records. Your complete address, including apartment number and 9-digit zip code, will help ensure timely delivery of mail. If you are not receiving regular e-mails from JASNA-GCR, please provide your current e-mail address to be used for all online transactions.

DUES and CONTRIBUTIONS AMOUNT ENCLOSED

I am enclosing $$ for JASNA-GCR Regional Dues 2016–2017:

- $20.00 for Individual w/e-newsletter ........... ________________
- $30.00 for Individual w/mailed newsletter ... ________________
- $30.00 for Family w/e-newsletter ............... ________________
- $40.00 for Family w/mailed newsletter ......... ________________
- $______ for a 2016–2017 Gift Membership .. ________________

Send my Gift Membership to (please provide name and address or e-mail):

TOTAL ________________

Renew Online or Mail this form with your check to:
JASNA-GCR—c/o William Phillips, Deputy RC
4020 N. Damen, Apt. 405, Chicago, IL 60618
If you have any questions, e-mail info@jasnachicago.org. For more information, visit our web site www.jasnachicago.org

*Requires valid e-mail address
**Family defined as two family members at the same address
Letter from Chicago

JASNA-GCR
11133 Meadow Lark Lane
Belvidere, IL 61008

Calendar

Saturday, September 17

Fall Program

September 17  Free Fall Program. 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Austen Abridged: 6 Novels in 30 Minutes. Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, IL.


December 3  Birthday Tea. 1:00 pm–4:00 pm. Fortnightly of Chicago, 120 E. Bellevue Place, Chicago IL.