Letter from Chicago

Spring Gala

Saturday, May 5, 2012  9:00 am to 3:00 pm
The Crystal Ballroom of the Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel
153 East Walton Place at Michigan Avenue
(Parking: valet and nearby garages)
Continental Breakfast and Three-Course Plated Luncheon

Chawton Comes to Chicago

Speakers:

Elizabeth Garvie, Patron of Jane Austen’s House Museum and Star of the classic BBC 1980 adaptation of Pride and Prejudice

Dr. Sandy Lerner, Co-Founder of Cisco Systems and Founder of Chawton House Library

Lindsay Ashford, Author of The Mysterious Death of Miss Austen

Steve Lawrence, CEO of Chawton House Library

Readers: Victoria Hinshaw, Elisabeth Lenckos, Karen Doornebos

Regency Emporium, Table from Jane Austen Books, and Book Exchange Table

GALA REGISTRATION FORM

Members: $65; Guests: $75
Registration deadline: April 25

Member Name ____________________________

Guest(s) Name(s) ____________________________

Address ____________________________ City __________ State ______ ZIP __________

E-mail ____________________________ Phone __________ Amount enclosed $ __________

Luncheon Selections
(choose one starter and one entree per person)

Starters: ______ Roasted Tomato Basil Bisque

____ Mixed Field Greens, Roasted Grape Tomatoes, Gorgonzola Herb Vinaigrette Dressing

Entrees: ______ Lemon Thyme Chicken Breast

____ Roasted Garlic, Spinach, and Cheese Ravioli in a Parmesan Cream Sauce

Dessert: Lemon Tart with White Chocolate Drizzle

You can register by

1. Going online to www.jasnachicago.org and pay using your Visa or MasterCard.

or

2. Mailing your check—payable to JASNA-GCR—and this form to Cathy Feldman,
17 East Goethe St.
Chicago, IL 60610-2312.
I hope you are as excited as I am about the JASNA-GCR Spring Gala on May 5! Among other delights, the program features many distinguished guest presenters with strong connections to that Seventh Heaven for Austenites, Chawton: Sandy Lerner, Lindsay Ashford, Steve Lawrence, and Elizabeth Garvie, who for some of us will always be Elizabeth Bennet. Both the program and our book tables will feature Dr. Lerner’s *Second Impressions*, a sensitive sequel to *Pride and Prejudice*, and Ms. Ashford’s brilliant page-turner *The Mysterious Death of Miss Austen*.

Lindsay’s book joins Stephanie Barron’s long-running and deservedly popular *Jane and...* series, and P.D. James’s recent *Death Comes to Pemberley* in a genre that puts Austen or her characters into close proximity to some grisly violence and murder. In this case shocking (but plausible) secrets are churned up within the Austen family itself.

Such dwelling on mayhem may not conform to the old stereotype of Austen as a prim shrinking violet, but Austen lovers know that the creator of near-sociopaths like Mr. Wickham and monsters of self-interest like Mrs. Ferrars would not shy away from the worst aspects of human nature. Since we also know that Austen was such an astute observer of her fellow creatures, can we not assume that she may have drawn some of her nastiest characters from people she knew? With a rogue’s gallery like this, there is hardly a need to call in the zombies!

Of course, not all Austen-inspired fiction involves murder. Another of our Gala speakers will be Sandy Lerner, Founder of Chawton House Library and author (as Ava Farmer) of a *Pride and Prejudice* sequel, *Second Impressions*, described by Shelley DeWees on Austenprose as “a shining beacon of this-is-how-we-do-it research technique that is so prettily put together.” This is going to be a wonderful Gala—make your reservations early!
Elizabeth Garvie Is Coming To Town!

What makes an Austen fan’s heart go aflutter (not like Mrs. B’s flutterings! The good kind. . .)? First, going to Chawton House (check). Second, seeing Cassandra’s drawing of Austen in the National Portrait Gallery (check). Third, going to Winchester Cathedral (no check). Fourth, for me, seeing Lizzie, aka Elizabeth Garvie, in real life (check in May).

A scenario at nearly every JASNA meeting or AGM: after two Austen fans meet for the first time, what is the first question asked? I claim it is “when/where/how did you find Austen?” For many, such as myself who were not blessed to have “met” Austen in high school or university, it was the 1980 Pride and Prejudice.

Since the 1995 P&P overshadows the 1980 version, this article reminds readers what an excellent production the latter is. Sabina Franklyn (Jane) is truly as beautiful as Jane should be. Priscilla Morgan (Mrs. Bennet) has the right touch of hysteria without the screeching of Alison Steadman. Moray Watson (Mr. Bennet) is more serious and aloof than Benjamin Whitrow. Judy Parfitt (Lady Catherine) is more imperious, more self-absorbed, more perfect than Barbara Leigh Hunt’s sullen portrayal. Natalie Ogle (Lydia) is more beautiful and empty-headed than Julia Sawalha. Irene Richards (Charlotte) has the right touch of desperation compared to Lucy Hall’s softer portrayal.

What to say about Mr Collins? Does one prefer the stupid Mr. C as portrayed by Malcolm Rennie or the oily Mr. C as portrayed by David Bamber? Either of the Mr. Bingleys—Osmund Bullock or Crispin Bonham-Carter—are good. I admit that Peter Settelen (Wickham) is too blond-beach-boy and not as menacing as Adrian Lukas. Marsha Fitzalan (Miss Bingley) is no match for Anna Chancellor. And finally, how to compare the Darcy’s? Poor David Rintoul. Still, listen to his voice. It is quite distinctive and recognizable even when you see him in other productions and don’t recognize him—he was the doctor on the Horatio Hornblower series. Whose script is better? Fay Weldon who used Austen’s words or Andrew Davies who managed to keep the Austen feel even when writing new dialogue?

I confess that it is as much Rintoul’s voice as Garvie’s Elizabeth that continue to make my heart flutter today as it did back in the late 1980s when PBS broadcasted P&P. That production led me to a JASNA Gala where I met welcoming Austen fans. What a lovely group I thought. Why not join this group and see what happens. Twenty-five years later—well what can I say but that I am more an Austen fan now than ever. Every character in any novel is memorable. Many characters are archetypes for those we meet in life. Reading or listening or watching P&P, or my favorite P, soothes the stress of work. Perhaps fans of other writers claim the same benefits. I speak only for myself. Jane Austen completely satisfies the soul and brain and heart.
**Mansfield Park, Live & Lively in Chicago**

On December 3 and 4, 2011, Ann Shanahan presented her new adaptation of *Mansfield Park* at the Mullady Theater on the campus of Loyola University. Coincidentally, Chicago area JASNA members had just been treated to the annual Birthday Tea earlier that afternoon, including a lecture on the play *Lovers’ Vows*, a pivotal aspect in *Mansfield Park*. This Regency period play carries a resonance perhaps unknown to many readers of the novel, but featured in the production’s playbill of this recent stage version of *Mansfield Park*. According to dramaturge Brandy Reichenberger, *Lovers’ Vows* was controversial in terms of the English moral standards of the time, because it sympathetically depicts an adulteress, Agatha, and a young lady, Amelia, whose behavior is considered improperly forward because she confesses her love to her tutor, Anhalt, and manipulates him into a proposal of marriage. Despite criticisms about the play, however, *Lovers’ Vows* was a huge success on the London stage. Austen herself had close knowledge of the play—it was performed in Bath six times between 1801 and 1805, when the Austen family was living there.

The play interacts with the novel in complex ways, dealing similarly with some of the same themes of marriage and love.

One may easily perceive why readers of the novel, unaware of the history of *Lovers’ Vows*, would also misunderstand Fanny and Edmund’s reaction to the play. Appreciation of the play’s content and history are central to understanding Fanny Price, so often criticized for prudishness. This knowledge opened a clear advantage in reception of Fanny’s favor not often aware to Austen readers.

Aware of the novel’s less than enthusiastic following, I had questions about Ms. Shanahan’s choice of *Mansfield Park* for the production. Her selection seems to emerge from the novel’s in-depth themes. Shanahan comments in the playbill that she was first attracted to *Mansfield Park*’s “several interwoven themes,” especially Fanny’s “yearning to belong, to call somewhere home, and to be true to herself at the same time.” Pointedly, Shanahan adds the following:

...Jane Austen likely had a different vantage point on the question of marriage than Eliza Bennet did in *Pride and Prejudice*. Jane and her maiden sister and mother struggled to maintain a home for themselves following the death of Mr. Bennet. At the same time, the Bennets were not the same economic situation as the Dashwoods. The Dashwoods were not a landed gentry, and they had a much lesser economic standing. Indeed, Mrs. Norris is more of a middle-class lady, who is struggling not to lose her family, and yet she is not allowed to express herself. While Mrs. Bennet is not allowed to express herself, she is also allowed a certain amount of freedom in the sense that she can marry Mr. Collins and still maintain the dignity of the family. Meanwhile, Mrs. Norris has to be extremely careful about how she expresses herself, and yet she is also given a certain amount of freedom in the sense that she can marry Mr. Collins and still maintain the dignity of the family. Yet, Mrs. Norris is not given the same amount of freedom as Mrs. Bennet, because she is not allowed to express herself in the same way. Therefore, Mrs. Norris is a much more interesting character than Mrs. Bennet, because she is allowed to express herself in a much more limited way. While Mrs. Bennet is allowed to express herself in a much more limited way, she is also given a certain amount of freedom in the sense that she can marry Mr. Collins and still maintain the dignity of the family. Therefore, Mrs. Norris is a much more interesting character than Mrs. Bennet, because she is allowed to express herself in a much more limited way. While Mrs. Bennet is allowed to express herself in a much more limited way, she is also given a certain amount of freedom in the sense that she can marry Mr. Collins and still maintain the dignity of the family. Therefore, Mrs. Norris is a much more interesting character than Mrs. Bennet, because she is allowed to express herself in a much more limited way.
of her father (a clergyman) in 1805. Dependent on the support of a wealthy brother (himself adopted by a landed family like Fanny) their security was ever more tenuous, depending in later years on the prospect of Jane’s income as a writer. At the center of *Mansfield Park* is a woman’s struggle to find and maintain her own voice, earn her place in the world, and find a home within it, without compromising her ideas of morality and good. While it will be no spoiler that Fanny does get her love in the end, she does so without compromising her deepest senses of truth and love.

As my fellow-theater goers seemed to perceive, such a focus on Austen’s essential theme of finding a home did filter through the performances. Through this perspective, an easy sympathy of Fanny was built, without the perception of prudery.

Just how one adapts such a novel, so narrator-driven, is always a concern when I consider Austen adaptations, whether for film or stage. Ms. Shanahan’s choices of technique worked beautifully in the opinions of several theater-goers I interviewed. According to the play bulletin, Ms. Shanahan’s version of *Mansfield Park* is inspired by adaptation practices of Robert Breen at Northwestern University which retain narrative voice throughout the play, shared between actors and the narrator. Behind this choice is the multi-faceted approach of the production. The performances developed from a workshop production based on students’ extensive research in script development, period studies, acting technique, and performance. The combination of such extensive preparation, mixed with Ms. Shanahan’s rich theater background, as well as her self-admitted interest in Austen, the theater, and film adaptations of Austen’s works, blended into a lively, witty, and entertaining evening of theater centered on a novel not often described with these adjectives. I hope to see further productions of this adaptation.

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Ann Shanahan’s book, *Chicago Directs: Stories and Working Methods of Chicago Theater Directors*, is scheduled for completion in 2012. She comments, concerning the book, that there is an “East-coast-centric approach to American theatre that still persists,” missing the “vibrant scene that is happening here in Chicago.” That situation may not persist for long, given Ms. Shanahan’s influence.
Jane Austen Books Interview

I recently enjoyed a pleasant interview with Amy Patterson, Director of Marketing at Jane Austen Books, who will be hosting a sales table at the JASNA-GCR Spring Gala on May 5.

My mother, my sister Beth, and I are the faces of Jane Austen Books. We have been fans of Austen since Colin Firth was a gleam in Andrew Davies’ eye! My mother read Pride & Prejudice at age 11—in between adventure classics like Treasure Island, Blackbeard, King Arthur’s Court, and Robinson Crusoe. She thought the romance story would be “dumb” but found herself in love with “cool” Elizabeth, mad at Darcy and Miss Bingley for being “snotty,” embarrassed by Mrs. Bennet, and rereading the book repeatedly from then on. Eventually, she read all of Austen’s novels, and from there it is but a small step to being a full-blown Janeite.

When my mom grew up and had her own daughters, she read us the classics as well. I was 4 and Beth was 6 when we read P&P. My mom did all of the voices, and would stop and explain things to us to make sure we understood the story. We grew up watching Elizabeth Garvie and David Rintoul as the quintessential Darcy & Elizabeth in the 1980 BBC dramatization—which coincidentally came out right when my parents got their first color TV set. When we finally visited England as a family in 1996, my mother was amazed that the whole country looks as beautiful as the scenery in that movie—she had assumed they had found a secluded scenic spot to film it!

Beth and I grew up “speaking Austen” to each other—she’s the Elinor, I’m the Marianne. We had a special code language that nobody else could understand, and we enjoyed nothing better than to play a Sonatina together and giggle and say “DO let us have a little music!”

Beth is still the quiet one. She has a Masters degree in Clinical Counseling, and spends her time working and volunteering at mental health facilities when she isn’t raising her future Janeite Isabelle. Her husband is from a small town in Dorset—a village much like the ones Austen writes about—so Beth is the lucky one who gets to do a lot of shopping for our English souvenirs! She is also the one you’ll find working the hardest at AGMs. She has a lot more retail experience than either of us, so she keeps us on our toes and keeps our books straight.

And then there’s me, Amy. I’m the one you’re most likely to talk to if you call or if we’re at an event. I do the web and catalog design, and I’m very grateful to have finally found a job that allows me to spend so much time with something I enjoy so much. I started college in Materials Science, and decided against working on computer chips and weapons—instead I sort of dropped out and married my Mr. Darcy. But I eventually ended up with a degree in PoliSci. So now I work at a bookstore, which makes perfect sense! I have also written a few articles in Jane Austen’s Regency World Magazine, and I have a crazy plan to perhaps write a novel one of these days when I’m not chasing after my two adorable sons. (Some of your readers may have seen them dressed as little Mr. Darcys the past few AGMs.)

How was your company/website founded?

Jane Austen Books was founded by Pat Latkin in 1986. She ran it successfully for many years, and my mother was an enthusiastic customer. One day, mom called me and said “what would you think of owning a bookstore?” Pat had been thinking of shutting the store down, and my mother had been thinking of starting a small business, so it was perfect match. About two weeks before my first son was born, she and Beth and a friend took a U-Haul to Chicago, loaded up Pat’s inventory, and moved it to Novelty, Ohio, where the store has taken over the lower level and often quite a bit of the rest of her house. Luckily my dad
has managed to keep his music room intact, so that he can find peace there, much like Mr. Bennet finds in his library.

What does your website offer Janites?
Our website has about one third of our collection on it—which is still a couple of thousand titles. Since we are very proud of our unique collection of hard-to-find scholarly books and rare editions of Austen, we like to put an emphasis on those titles. We carry many Austen-inspired works, some of which are hard to find elsewhere. We also have gifts, quiz books, paper dolls, stationery, and so many more things. But one of the really nice things on our site is our collection of back issues of Jane Austen’s Regency World Magazine. We also offer subscriptions at a lower price than the UK site, because we don’t have to account for the exchange rate. We’re really big fans of the magazine, so it’s great to be able to share it with our customers.

What are the most recent trends in Jane Austen-inspired books?
Some of the more recent Austen-inspired books have been picking up on the larger horror/fantasy trends of vampires, werewolves, and modern gothic horror stories. Of course, having been total “purists” before we took over the store, we occasionally have a hard time swallowing some of the more racy or gory novels, fun as they are! But there has also been a trend in the last few years of writers using Austen’s own life story as a basis for their novels, instead of her characters. But all of the adaptations offer something fun—some of our favorites are the well-researched books that develop Austen’s minor characters, or fill in the lives of the gentlemen, or flesh out her life story. There are also a lot of good ones that bring her stories up to the present time, and those are a lot of fun too.

What new book would you recommend for the novice?
For the novice interested in learning about Jane Austen, you can’t go wrong with Joan Ray’s book Jane Austen for Dummies. If you are reading your first Jane Austen novel and you haven’t even seen a film adaptation, Pride and Prejudice is usually considered the most accessible, although Emma and Persuasion are also two of our favorites to recommend to new readers.

For the expert?
We’ve been enjoying Juliet Wells’s new book on the world of fandom, Everybody’s Jane: Austen in the Popular Imagination. For this book, Dr. Wells studied the many ways people love Austen. She deals with both amateurs and scholars. The book is worth reading for the book list alone! Reading her book one comes to realize the line between amateur and scholar is not as sharp as some might believe—but of course those of us lucky enough to have attended a JASNA AGM already know this. One reason Austen is so beloved is that her work can be enjoyed on so many levels. We can read her books for the surface story and enjoy the romantic comedy, or we can delve deep into the details and become engrossed in history, psychology, character development, women’s place in society, the development of the novel, social and political issues, and so on. And Dr. Wells’ book explores all of these different styles of appreciation—and she even mentions the zombies!

Any additional information/news for JASNA-GCR?
We are very excited to announce that we’ll be selling books at the May 5th gala in Chicago. Chicago is such a great city for book lovers, and we’ve got a lot of friends in the region who we’ll be glad to see again.

We are also hosting one of your own, author Karen Doornebos, at an event in Cleveland on April 21st. She has been kind enough to agree to come to our (rather small) Ohio North Coast region and share some insights into her writing process and the inspiration behind her book Definitely Not Mr. Darcy. We will also hear from Sandy Lerner, whose Second Impressions is making quite an impression on our customers!

And lastly, we have just wrapped up our latest catalog, so if you’re on our mailing list you’ll be seeing it soon. And if you aren’t, I’m sure you’ll have a friend willing to share!
February Recap

Sara Okey

On Sunday, February 12, 2012, JASNA-GCR met for a Panel and Discussion about Money, Sex, and Power—Austen Style at the Parthenon Restaurant. The guests enjoyed authentic Greek food: taramosalata (fish roe dip), saganaki (flaming cheese), traditional Greek salad, gyro meat with tzatziki sauce, dolmades (stuffed grape leaves with meat), pastichio (Greek macaroni with meat), moussaka (eggplant casserole), and everyone’s favorite walnut baklava with cheesecake.

Diane Capitani, Garrett Theological Seminary and JASNA-GCR Educational Outreach Director, spoke about the transition between the landed gentry and the emergence of the trade class. She explained the potential societal advancement because of these economic opportunities with the stunning example that even though Mr. Darcy earned 300 times that of the common worker at the time, Sir Thomas Bertram was richer than Mr. Darcy because of his suggested connections with the slave trade in Antigua. This signifies the rise of the self-made man.

William Phillips of DePaul University and JASNA-GCR Deputy Coordinator stated that Jane Austen did not steer away from the sex scandals of the day in her fiction and non-fiction writings. Eloping, adultery, prostitution, illegitimacy, and general misconduct were all central or present to the plots of several of her novels. He further explained that some characters actually end up on the winning side when others succumb to these activities. For example, Fanny Price winds up with Edmund Bertram in part to the Crawfords’ racy actions. Also, in one of her earliest surviving letters, Jane Austen could be joking with her sister about prostitution in London with the presence of unattended women.

Liz Cooper, the Regional Coordinator of JASNA-Wisconsin, explained that power can be achieved in several forms from shifting economic realities, literature for women, laughing, healing, and rereading. She stated that in many of the novels marriage is a way that women could gain power. The young women enjoyed all the attention until marriage. Also, Mr. Darcy had the power of choice for his spouse, and he did come around in the end to realize his true love with Elizabeth Bennet. Birth order can even be powerful as seen through the examples of the Ward sisters from Mansfield Park.

The JASNA-GCR Recording Secretary, Shirley Holbrook, led the lively discussion following the panel while the guests enjoyed coffee, tea, and other beverages.
Jane Austen Meets Siri

An area of growing importance in computer technology is voice recognition and voice recognition applications. Many computer scientists and programmers have attempted to craft usable voice recognition programs. Popular applications include voice-responsive telephone-answering systems. These systems typically are highly constrained, and use language models that work best when they expect to encounter only a very limited set of responses. Thus, an answer tree may expect either “one,” “two,” “three” or “four,” in response to a decision point in the menu. The system may also be programmed to process a response to a user saying “help” or “operator.”

Siri is a voice recognition system that is now popular on Apple’s iPhone series and other Apple applications. Siri was an independent company until it was acquired by Apple in 2010. Other sophisticated systems have also arisen, such as those available from Vlingo Inc. of Cambridge, Massachusetts, maker of Vlingo voice recognition systems for use on portable devices such as cellphones and Blackberry devices. Other systems include those from Nuance Communications, Inc., of Burlington, MA, the maker of Dragon Speak and other voice recognition systems.

These newer systems have a much greater range of speech recognition over the clunky telephone answering systems of only a few years ago. Many of the improvements made in these systems are due to the language models that are incorporated into their voice recognition systems. Such language models are used in many language recognition applications, including print recognition, handwriting recognition, and of course, speech recognition. In constructing language models, statistics and probabilities frequently play a very important role. For example, language models commonly use n-gram statistics, frequency tables of all previous sets of n consecutive words. That is, the more frequently a given word appears after a given sequence of particular words, the more likely it is that word will appear when the same sequence appears again.

Bi-gram statistics use two-word sequences and probabilities to predict what the third word will be. In this project of the Cavendish Laboratories at Cambridge, UK, Jane Austen’s Emma and Sense and Sensibility were used as the base vocabulary and the word sequences in the two books were used to form the mathematical models and probabilities for a language model. Then, if a speech recognition program recognizes two words in a row, the program can use these probabilities to help it predict and recognize the next word in the sequence. Other assessments of language models use other literary works as a language base, including Pride and Prejudice as well as works from other familiar authors, such as Milton (Paradise Lost), Shakespeare (As You Like It) and Lewis Carroll (Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland). The novels of Jane Austen were used because they allowed the researchers a large body of work with which to compile data from which models could be constructed. In another aspect of this work, the complete novels of Jane Austen were used because they constitute an even larger body of related works, making a more reliable data base for modeling of bi-grams, as well as monograms, tri-grams and other n-gram statistics. The novels of Jane Austen continue to be used for language modeling, proving themselves useful to a variety of researchers.
Leading Ladies
Richard Wagner’s four-opera The Ring of the Nibelungen has been performed this past year as separate, individual operas at the Metropolitan Opera House and broadcast live in movie theaters around the country. The entire cycle, performed in a week, will be at the Met in May. Deborah Voigt is the heroine Brünnhilde. She was interviewed in Opera News magazine and to the inquiry, “On my fantasy night off I would:” she replied, “Spend an evening at home—first a massage, followed by popcorn while watching Sense and Sensibility.” She says the 1995 Emma Thompson film is her “guilty pleasure movie.”

In connection with Kate Bolick’s article on new ideas about romance and family, “All the Single Ladies,” the editor of The Atlantic James Bennet (no relation to the Bennets of Longbourn) writes of “find[ing] myself retreating into the pages of Jane Austen. Elizabeth Bennet said no to Mr. Collins—and rightly so.” Jennifer Ehle, Elizabeth in the 1996 film Pride and Prejudice, can currently be seen in the TV show A Gifted Man.

Love and Marriage
The New York Times review of Jeffrey Eugenides’ latest novel The Marriage Plot notes, “This novel’s bright, spirited heroine, Madeleine, is an English major at Brown University who, in the heyday of semiotics and deconstruction, is writing her honors thesis on ‘the marriage plot’—that is, the traditional mating dance, as performed in the novels of Jane Austen, George Eliot and Henry James. The Times review of All About Love: Anatomy of an Unruly Emotion reports that author Lisa Appignanesi “dissects marital narratives—‘Pride and Prejudice,’ ‘Bridget Jones Diary’—and traces the evolution of the Cinderella narrative into high-end romantic fiction (‘Jane Eyre’) and middlebrow chick lit (the ‘wittily exuberant’ ‘Eat, Pray, Love’).

A Delectable Sentence
From Bookforum, the opening sentence of a review by Gary Indiana:

The Letters of Samuel Beckett, 1941–1956, volume 2 of a projected four-part compendium, is an endless Chinese banquet at which all but the most determined gourmands are likely to feel stuffed somewhat between the crispy pig ears and the thousand-year eggs: Some may thrill to the hairpin turns and daredevil high jinks involved in the translation of Molloy from French into English, but many with more than a glancing interest in Beckett may find by page 200 or so that his correspondence and its staggeringly detailed footnotes have, to torture a phrase from Jane Austen, delighted them quite enough for one evening and will put this tubby, ill-proportioned book aside until that fortuitous and chimerical month in the country they’ve set aside to read Proust in his entirety.

The Last Word
The month of April in the 2012 calendar of The Wilderness Society shows a panoramic view of Bridger-Teton National Forest, Wyoming with the quote of the month, “To sit in the shade on a fine day and look upon the verdant green hills is the most perfect refreshment.—Jane Austen”
**Get Ready for the Gala**

Does the very name Elizabeth brighten your eyes? How much incentive do you need to read or watch *Pride and Prejudice* again? With the JASNA program, comprising Garvie and so many other special participants. You’ll “come prepared to admire.”

In case this classic series is not already part of your video library, you can get it on Amazon.com: DVD, VHS and Instant Video versions are all available. Other outstanding performances by Ms. Garvie include her haunting portrayal of the doomed Nancy in the 1981 adaptation of Ford Madox Ford’s *The Good Soldier*, where her co-stars included Jeremy Brett, Robin Ellis (who was Edward Ferrars in a 1971 *Sense and Sensibility* that is also available on DVD), and Susan Fleetwood (Lady Russell in the 1995 *Persuasion*); and her recurring role as Lady Elizabeth Montford in the delicious series about fashion-designing sisters, *The House of Eliot.*

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**Members**

**Welcome New Members**

Ellen Schermerhorn  
Lynn Minich  
Ann Draper  
Holly Bern  
Sarah Holston  
Nancy Wunderlich  
Kristin Hamilton  
Janet Lueby

**SEX, MONEY AND POWER in Jane Austen’s Fiction**

**New York City, October 5–7, 2012**

As you know, this year’s Annual General Meeting of JASNA explores three themes of perpetual human fascination as they appear in Austen’s work, and the New York Region has planned a full schedule of speakers, tours, performances and other exciting events.

Several JASNA–GCR members will be presenting Breakout Sessions: **Russell Clark** details the little-known saga of a 1959 Broadway musical adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice,* **Sue Forgue** explores Regency London in fact and in Austen’s fiction, and **Jeff Nigro** and **William Phillips** present a joint session on “Austen, Madame de Staël, and the Seductiveness of Conversation.”

Registration materials will be mailed or e-mailed to all JASNA members in good standing in early May. Visit the AGM website for updates and further details: [http://www.jasna.org/agms/newyork/index.html](http://www.jasna.org/agms/newyork/index.html)
Calendar

May 5  
**Spring Gala:** Chawton Comes to Chicago. 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.  
Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel, 153 E. Walton St., Chicago.

June 23  
**Summer Meeting.** Prof. Janet C. Messmer, Head of the Costume Technology Program at the Theatre School, DePaul University, will speak on men’s fashions in Austen’s time, followed by tea and light refreshments. 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, the Woman’s Athletic Club of Chicago, 626 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

September 29  
**Fall Meeting.** Panel discussion: *Jane Austen–Multi-media Maven?* 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St., Chicago. Free and open to the public.

December 8  
**Jane Austen Birthday Tea.** Speaker TBD. 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.  
Fortnightly of Chicago, 120 E. Bellevue Place, Chicago

For more events and programs that will be of interest, visit our website at jasnachicago.org, and click on Events>Austen-Related Events.