JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA--GREATER CHICAGO REGION

Letter from Chicago

SUMMER 2018

JASNA-GCR Summer Program

What Persuasion Means to Me

LUNCH BUFFET & PROGRAM • JULY 21, 2018 12-3 PM • REZA'S, CHICAGO



Six enthusiastic members share how Jane Austen's final masterpiece has changed their lives.

Saturday, July 21 12-3 pm

Reza's Restaurant 5255 North Clark Street, Chicago

Tickets are \$35 per person, which includes these lively presentations and a sumptuous Mediterranean/Persian lunch buffet

Registration deadline is July 16.

Parking is available at 5238 N. Clark Street. To register by mail, please use the form below.

JASNA-GCR Summer Program Pay-by-Mail Registration Form Tickets: \$35 per person

richeter too ber bereen				
Name(s)				
Address				
City	State	Zip		
Email		Amt. Enclosed		
Please make check p	payable to JASNA-GCR. N	Mail form and check to: JASNA-		
GCR c/o Elizabeth S	Schraft; 175 N. Harbor Dr.	. Apt. 2506; Chicago, IL 60601		

We Are Still Seeking Papers/Presentations for the Summer Program



JASNA-GCR's Program Committee is accepting proposals for our participatory summer event, "What *Persuasion* Means to Me."

You can express your opinion of *Persuasion* in whatever form suits you best: make a speech, write a poem, create a picture or a poster that you can present to an enthusiastic audience. Austen's masterpiece means something to all of us, so let Austen inspire your own creativity and eloquence.

The Committee will select the six most exciting proposals. Each winner will have up to 8 minutes to present at our Summer Program on July 21.

Please send proposals to: programming@jasnachicago.org
The deadline for submissions is July 1.

Help Wanted

Event Reviewer: We seek to fill the position of press attache to review the JASNA-GCR Summer Program.

Event Photographer: Individual with artistic eye and attention to detail sought to capture the day in images. No portfolio necessary.

Inquiries about any of the above should be addressed to Ms. Laura Whitlock at lwhitlock@yahoo.com



Upcoming GCR Events

Fall Meeting Hope in all the Wrong Places: Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Smith in Persuasion

Presentation by Sue Forgue and Vicky Hinshaw Saturday September 15 12:30-4:00 PM Evanston Public Library

Annual Birthday Tea

Saturday, December 1 The Fortnightly Chicago

Winter Program

Saturday February 2, 2019, Lloyd's Chicago

Spring Gala

Saturday May 4 2019, Woman's Athletic Club Chicago

JASNA-GCR Board Elections

Each September, JASNA-GCR holds holds elections for our Board of Directors. This year two longtime board members, Debra Miller and Jeffrey Nigro, are vacating the positions of **Regional Coordinator** and **Program Director**, respectively. These positions may be filled by any person who has been a member of JASNA in good standing for a minimum of one year. The term lasts two years with the option to be reelected to the same position for a maximum of 6 years.

If you would like more information, descriptions are listed in our bylaws, http://www.jasnachicago.org/sites/default/files/assets/docs/members/JASNA-GCR-By-Laws.pdf

Please also look over the descriptions of other seats on our board. We anticipate that some present board members may wish to switch to a different position, opening other options for nominees.

If you wish to nominate yourself, or to discuss one of these positions further, please email Deputy Regional Coordinator Maureen Collins, 7collins@jmls.edu

Letters of nomination must be received by July 15, 2018. Elections will take place at our Fall Meeting, September 15.



From the

Regional Coordinator Debra Ann Miller

"I am afraid this exquisite weather is too good to agree with her (Mrs. Austen). - I enjoy it all over me, from top to toe, from right to left, Longitudinally, Perpendicularly, Diagonally; - & I cannot but selfishly hope we are to have it last till Christmas; - nice, unwholesome, Unseasonable, relaxing, close, muggy weather!"

--Letter to Cassandra December 2, 1815

Happy summer! I had a slow start, but the garden is finally in, and the 100-degree weather has arrived just in time to chase me indoors to write to you all. Planting vegetables, filling flower boxes and trimming the herbs that overwintered in pots--I feel renewed. Seeing so many of you at the Spring Gala was rejuvenating too--to share a meal, a refreshing tonic, and our love for the works of Jane Austen always raises my spirit and energizes my mind for days.

While in my garden, I think about Jane Austen a lot. Gardens and hedgerows figure largely in her novels and letters, and her love for the green, growing beauty of country estates and humble cottage gardens is woven through her writings like an errant morning glory through the pepper plants.

With the exception of the strangling morning glory vines, I have a great love for the "volunteers" that pop up every spring in my garden beds. The cheeky tomato plants, the sunny faced calendula; even the aromatic sweet Annie that must be yanked from lawn and bed, and the pumpkin vine that has just poked its head out of the side of my composter. Volunteers come from near and far, by previous plantings or happy accidents and grow

because they have found an environment in which they can thrive.

Volunteers are the very thing that makes the Jane Austen Society of North America thrive. From the North American Board, to the Regional Boards, to the fabulously clever individuals who created the beautiful centerpieces for our Spring Gala, NOTHING is accomplished without volunteers.

To those of you who have volunteered to help make our programs and our Society successful, I say "thank you." And to every one of you, I ask that you consider giving a few extra hours a year to the Jane Austen Society by joining the GCR Board, or proposing a presentation for an upcoming meeting, or starting a Jane Austen book club. I know that whether you found us online, through a friend, or a happy accident, you have found an environment well suited to your sensibilities and I look forward to talking to you about the unique talents that you bring to the Society.

Please find me, or our Deputy Regional Coordinator Maureen Collins, at the Summer program to talk about what positions might interest you, or contact us via email at RC@jasnachicago.org, or 7collins@jmls.edu.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our summer program on July 21st at Reza's, and to discussing how we may "cultivate" your love of Jane Austen so that the Greater Chicago Region will continue to produce high quality presentations and events.

From the

Program Director Jeffrey Nigro



What Does Persuasion Mean to You?

The JASNA-GCR Program Committee is always looking for new and creative ways to enliven our programming year, and we always enjoy hearing our members' own thoughts and feelings about reading Jane Austen. At the GCR Summer Program last year, we were able to combine those goals. As those of you who attended will remember, we featured our own GCR members reading their "eulogies" for Jane Austen that were moving, thought-provoking, and delightful (yes, I know it's a strange term when talking about eulogies, but it's true).

Last year's program was so well received that we decided to do something similar this year. The theme, as you can see from previous communications and at the top of this newsletter is: "What *Persuasion* Means to Me". GCR members have already been submitting proposals for presentations that would look at different aspects of the novel from different perspectives. If you would like to present in any way, please submit a proposal to programming@jasnachicago.org by July 1. The Program Committee will meet soon thereafter to decide which presentations we will be able to include. Based on the submissions I have already received, I know it's going to be a tough choice!

Pride and Prejudice may be the most universally popular of the Austen novels (and certainly the most famous), Emma may be Austen's masterpiece from the standpoint of literary artistry, and Northanger Abbey, Sense and Sensibility, and Mansfield Park also have their partisans. But Persuasion seems to be the favorite of many people who truly love Austen's artistry and her sense of humanity. It is a compact yet complex masterpiece with elements that can appeal to everyone, including a heroine whom even her creator admitted is "almost too good for me", and a hero who is a hero by anyone's definition of the word. And what's not to like about getting a second chance at love? Not to mention the wonderful parade of secondary characters who range from the lovable to the exasperating (I myself don't know if I would say that Persuasion is my favorite Austen novel—as our own William Phillips likes to say, "My favorite is the one I'm reading at the moment"—but I have no hesitation in saying that Mary Musgrove is my "favorite", if I can put it that way, of all of Austen's hypochondriacs). The knowledge that Persuasion is Austen's last completed work also makes it particularly precious to us.

What does *Persuasion* mean to you? If you would like to present on any aspect of the novel and how it has affected you, please submit a presentation proposal as soon as possible. Whether you will be presenting, or just sharing your love of the novel with your friends and table-mates at the event, you will not want to miss the Summer Program on July 21. Once again, we will enjoy a sumptuous buffet at Reza's Restaurant, and we will continue to celebrate The Year of *Persuasion*.

Gala Review

Jenny and Diane Capitani

"Celebrating Persuasion"

Once again, JASNA-GCR enjoyed a lovely Spring Gala on May 5th at the grand, historic Woman's Athletic Club in Chicago. While the weather was beautiful outside, the gorgeous, individualized centerpieces by Lori Davis and her committee made the inside an even better feast for the eyes. This year, the Gala was held in the Regency splendor of the Drawing Room on the second floor of the Club, in tone with the mood of the novel to be featured that day.

With the 11:00am start, there was ample time for attendees to enjoy shopping in the

Regency Emporium. Old favorites such as Jane Austen books, Matti's Millinery and Costumes, Jeanne Steen/Figaro Chicago, and the ever-popular JASNA-GCR used book sale table were joined by Janine Fron and Maureen Collins/Jane's Jewelry, providing lots of opportunity for delighted customers to shop before the program began.



Opening speaker **Sheila Johnson Kindred** from Halifax, Nova Scotia engaged the audience with her informative presentation, "Discovering Fanny Palmer Austen, Jane Austen's Transatlantic Sister." Her presentation focused on Fanny's naval life and it was interesting to learn that Fanny went on the ship with Charles after they married and that she lived on the shore when she had their children. There was obvious affection between Fanny and Charles because Fanny's letters told us that when Charles was off on a voyage she wrote of her

fears that she "would have to give him up." Then she wrote of her great joy with the safe return of her "beloved Charles." The audience was able to see something of Anne Elliot when she becomes a naval wife in Fanny and her marriage.

After an elegant luncheon, it was exciting to welcome back **Devoney Looser** to our region

after a 19-year absence – far too long! Dr. Looser, winner of the 2018 Guggenheim Fellowship and professor of English at Arizona State University, enthralled the audience with a program entitled, "Looking Back on Austen's *Persuasion* at 200." In her discussion of Austen's autumnal novel, successfully mixing excellent scholarship with humor, Dr.

Looser provided excellent examples of illustrating *Persuasion* from the 1833 English edition moving on to "Playing *Persuasion*" from 1940 when it came to the stage. She discussed how Persuasion has been seen as an intense, passionate novel for those who do not like the



other five, a travel novel, when people began to visit places like Lyme Regis, a novel of friendship and the navy: indeed, Dr. Looser reviewed all the ways *Persuasion* was regarded in its afterlife in an entertaining and informative manner.

Following the excellent speakers, while enjoying a trio of luscious desserts, attendees attempted to solve William Phillips' diabolical quiz. After winners were announced, prizes were handed out, announcements were made, and speakers generously signed copies of their books. All agreed that it had been a wonderful Gala, once again.

Gala Highlights



Clockwise, from top: GCR Treasurer Elizabeth Schraft; "Molland's" centerpiece features tempting sweets; Hugh Kindred and JASNA-GCR Secretary William Phillips discuss music of the era; shoppers peruse the emporium; Hannah Wagner of Matti's Millinery with Sharon Michalove; a centerpiece sports a message we can all agree on.



Clockwise, from top: Mary Miller at Jeanne Steen's emporium table; Lori Davis's centerpiece features actual Lyme Regis fossils; GCR Regional Coordinator Deb Miller chats with Martha Jameson; Susan Springgate of Kalamazoo, Michigan makes a selection at the Jane Austen Books table; Carol Verdun shops for gems; Maureen Collins's/Jane's Jewelry display.



Clockwise, from top left: GCR Board member-at-large Carl Johnson surveys the Jane Austen Books table; Program Director Jeff Nigro introduces the program; All gather in the splendid WAC Drawing Room; a lovely centerpiece; Diane Capitani chats with speaker Devoney Looser; The Wagner family.

William Phillips' Diabolical Quiz -- Characters in Persuasion

For those who were unable to attend the Gala, or would simply like another try.

The answers can be found near the bottom of the newsletter.

Austen's published works are full of characters. My guess is that the number of characters in most of her works would surprise most of us. *Persuasion* is certainly no exception. All of the answers to this year's quiz concern human characters in *Persuasion*. In this quiz, names will be called "given name" or "family name/surname." In some cases, the answer is "X" meaning that we do not know one or the other name.

We've probably all had fun sleuthing how given names have been handed down from our maternal and paternal family trees. Now, let's have some fun with names in *Persuasion*.

is the many of Cin Malton's fath on in law? (Hint, It's an important Illinois name)

1. A) what is the name of Sir	waiter stattler-in-law	r (Hint: It's an importa-	nt minois name.)_

B) Where did he live?

 2. A) What is the most frequent given name in <i>Persuasion</i>? (You'll use this name to answer 2a-g)
of the period, and we should all know the other.
a
b
C
d
e. f.
g
3. People with the following surnames have an important item in common in the plot. On the blank that follows, explain what it is that the people with these family names have in common: Durand, Ibbotson and Maclean (Old Lady Mary)
4. Who was the gardener at Kellynch Hall? (We only have the family name.)
5. Here are three given names of men who are significant in the plot. Following the given names provide the correct surname and identify each in the plot of <i>Persuasion</i> .
a. John
b. Richard c. Edward
6. There are three ways we are introduced to names in <i>Persuasion</i> : (a) We learn both given and family names; (b) we learn only the given name; or (c) we learn only the family name. In the following lists, fill in the first blank with either "given" or "family" name if we learn it or put an "X" if we don't learn the name that would be in the blank. Then briefly identify the person in the plot. Women in <i>Persuasion</i>
1. MrsClay,
2Rooke,
3. Lady Mary
4. MrsCroft,
6. Lady Alicia,
Men in Persuasion
4. Deuten Glister
1. DoctorShirley, 2. CaptainBenwick,
3. CaptainHarville,
4. SirRussell,
5. SirMorley,
6. MrRobinson,

Vote for Pride & Prejudice in The Great American Read



Last month, PBS launched *The Great American Read*, "...a television series and multiplatform initiative that celebrates the joy of reading and the books we love." Participants are invited to peruse a list of "America's 100 favorite novels" and place their vote.

Jane Austen's masterpiece, Pride and Prejudice, is among the nominees.

The iniative launched on May 22 with a 2-hour premiere episode introducing the books in consideration, which were chosen by a national survey conducted by YouGov. The episode is available to view online, https://www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read/watch/ Voting will continue throughout the summer, with the winner announced in an October 18 finale.

To place your vote, click on the image above, or visit https://www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read/home/ Book lovers are invited to vote once per day.

Hashtag voting is also available via Facebook and Twitter. Compose an original post using #GreatReadPBS and #VOTEPridePrej. In the fall, viewers will also be able to cast their vote toll-free by phone and through SMS texting.

Call for Papers

JASNA AGM 2019

The Southeastern Virginia Region eagerly invites proposals for AGM breakout sessions related to our theme, "200 Years of *Northanger Abbey*: 'Real, Solemn History.'" Both traditional lecture formats and more unusual ones such as debates or multi-media presentations are encouraged. Submission deadline is October 8, 2018. For more information and specific guidelines, please visit http://www.jasna.org/agms/williamsburg/call-for-papers.html



Upcoming Events

Jane Austen Festival

July 13-15

http://jasnalouisville.com/2018-festival Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane, Louisville, KY 40207

Hat in a Day Workshop

Saturday, July 28 9am-4pm Judith M Studio, Lagrange, IN Laura Whitlock will guide this class in working with Jinsin, which can be used to make a lovely Regency turban.

https://www.judithm.com/catalog/works hop-schedule-judith-m-studio

Jane Austen at the Naperville Public Library

Sunday, August 16 1 pm 3015 Cedar Glade Drive, Naperville IL 60564

https://www.napervillelib.org/programs/brown-bag-lectures

JASNA Annual General Meeting

"Persuasion: 200 Years of

Constancy and Hope"

September 28-30

Westin Kansas City at Crown Center

*Please note: The AGM is currently sold out. To be added to the waitlist, please visit

http://www.jasna.org/agms/kansascity/registration.html

Mansfield Park

by Kate Hamill
November 8- December 16
adapted from the novel by Jane
Austen
directed by Stuart Carden
Northlight Theatre
9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie

https://northlight.org/events/mansfield-park/

Emma

May 24 – July 14, 2019

Jane Austen at the Elmhurst Public Library

Monday, August 20 7 pm 125 S. Prospect Ave, Elmhurst IL 60126 www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org A world premiere based on the novel by Jane Austen Adapted by Phil Timberlake Directed by Elise Kauzlaric http://www.lifelinetheatre.com/

More Gala Highlights



Clockwise, from top: Diane Kelliher, Addie Meyer and Colleen Rader await our informative speakers; Martha Miles sets up the Book Sale table; Janine Fron's "Quills" game display; Deirdre Hastings and Josephine Sennet enjoy the day; a lovely *Persuasion*-themed centerpiece.

Diabolical Quiz Answers

- 1. A) James Stevenson B) South Park, County of Coulcester (not the one in the cartoon)
- 2. A) Charles
 - B) a. Musgrove, the Squire of Uppercross

- b. Musgrove, heir of (a), husband of Mary Elliot, father of (c)
- c. Musgrove, son of (b) and Mary—fell from tree and broke collar bone
- d. Hayter, owner of Winthrop (we might assume)
- e. Hayter, son and heir of (d), marries Henrietta Musgrove
- f. Smith, deceased husband of Anne's school friend the former Miss Hamilton
- g. Stuart, King Charles II. Created Elliot baronetcy in the first year of his reign (1660)
- 3. The morning after the concert at the Assembly rooms, Mrs. Smith asked Anne if "the little Durands, Miss Ibbotson and Old Lady Maclean" attended the event
- 4. Mackenzie
- 5. A) John Shephard-Sir Walter's agent, father of Mrs. Clay
- B) Richard Musgrove—Deceased son of the elder Musgroves. Served as Midshipman under Captain Wentworth
- C) Edward Wentworth—brother of Frederick. Former Curate of Monkford near Kellynch. Settled in Shropshire at the time of the novel
- 6. Women A) Mrs. Penelope Clay--Daughter of Sir Walter's agent—possibly the next Lady Elliot.
- B) $\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ Rooke--Mrs. Smith's nurse and friend.
- C) Lady Mary <u>Grierson--</u>Captain Wentworth might have been asked to transport her and her daughters from Lisbon.
- D) Mrs. **Sophy/Sophia** Croft--Captain Wentworth's sister—wife of the Admiral.
- E) Miss $\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ Carteret--Daughter of Lady Dalrymple
- F) Lady Alicia $\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ --Friend of Lady Russell—told her about interesting curtains in Pulteney Street. <u>Men</u> A) Doctor $\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ Shirley--Long serving Rector at Uppercross
- B) Captain <u>James</u> Benwick--Former Lieutenant to Captain Wentworth on the Laconia. Fiancé of Fanny Harville. Marries Louisa Musgrove.
- C) Captain <u>X</u> Harville--Close friend of Captain Wentworth. Quartered at Lyme Regis in the novel.
- D) Sir **Henry** Russell--Deceased husband of Lady Russell. Left her well provided for.
- E) Sir Basil Morley--Friend of Sir Walter-they put down others they pass while strolling in Bath.
- F) Mr. $\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ Robinson--Apothecary at Uppercross.

Join JASNA

JASNA membership is open to everyone interested in the life and works of Jane Austen.

Benefits of membership include:

- A subscription to *JASNA News*, the Society's newsletter, which is published three times a year and includes news, feature articles, and book reviews
- Our annual journal, *Persuasions*, a leading source for Austen studies
- Membership in one or more of our regional groups
- An opt-in email subscription to JASNA's monthly e-bulletin and other timely announcements

- An invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting, our "members-only" three-day conference
- Advance notice of tours to England tailored for JASNA members

To register, or for further information, please visit www.jasna.org.



Artwork Credits

Summer Program CfP: Rolinda Sharples. Self-Portrait with Her Mother, ca. 1820. Private collection. Upcoming Events: French Drapery Design from Ackermann's Repository, 1811. Gala photos: Brigitte Cox and Laura Whitlock

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Name		
Address		
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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

JASNA-GCR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- Regional Director--Debra Ann Miller, janeaustenspeaks@gmail.com
- Deputy RC/Parliamemtarian--Maureen Collins, 7collins@jmls,edu
- Program Director--Jeff
 Nigro, jeffnigro@mac.com
- Treasurer--Elizabeth Schraft, 73eas2014@gmail.com
- Educational Outreach Director--Linda Reinert,
 - lindaehrenhardtreinert@gmail.com

- Membership Secretary--Becky Dolin, becky.dolin@gmail.com
- Publicity Director--Andrea
 Kayne, <u>Andreakayne33@gmail.com</u>
- Publications Director--Laura
 Whitlock, <u>llwhitlock@yahoo.com</u>
- Recording Secretary--William Phillips, waphil3@gmail.com
- Member at Large--Georgia Cibul, hgcib@comcast.net
- Member at Large--Carl Johnson, johnson34411@sbcglobal.net

Direct newsletter correspondence to: Letter from Chicago, c/o Laura Whitlock; 4945 Howard St.; Skokie, IL 60077, llwhitlock@yahoo.com

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



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Our mailing address is:

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

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