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Our Wisconsin Region is in a lull now between Box Hill (see separate article) and the national JASNA Annual General Meeting. We had hoped to bring you a fall concert and tea at the Samara Garden & Home Center on 52nd Street and North Avenue in Milwaukee. You may recall Stewart Dempsey’s museum was featured in a Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel article last winter. Before he would agree to a concert and tea hosted by us, he needs to have his Austen-era pianoforte restored. Mary “Peetie” Basson has been in regular contact with Stewart to let him know we are still interested and when, and if, that project comes to fruition, our

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December 13, 2014

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JASNA Wisconsin Region members will be the first to know. Peetie’s husband Steve has agreed to be our speaker. Sounds like a program JASNA members would likely enjoy and we are hoping Stewart’s technician renders the instrument beautiful and operable. We will certainly follow up. Several Janeites took advantage of free passes to preview Fox Searchlight Pictures’ film Belle at the Landmark Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee on May 19. Since time was short, only a few days’ notice, I sent an email to about 75 members who live in or near Milwaukee. 17 of those 50 passes were taken and those who attended Belle enjoyed the screening very much. See p. 12 of the Spring 2014 issue of the Wire, Liz Philosophos Cooper’s article, “Inspiration for Mansfield Park.” The story is true and their depiction of Kenwood House is very gorgeously done. The costumes and scenery are splendid.

Belle is inspired by the true story of Dido Elizabeth Belle (Gugu Mbatha-Raw), the illegitimate, mixed race daughter of a Royal Navy Admiral. Raised by her aristocratic great-uncle Lord Mansfield (Tom Wilkinson) and his wife (Emily Watson), Belle’s lineage affords her certain privileges, yet the color of her skin prevents her from fully participating in the traditions of her social standing. Left to wonder if she will ever find love, Belle falls for an idealistic young vicar’s son bent on change who, with her help, shapes Lord Mansfield’s role as Lord Chief Justice to end slavery in England.

There are 20 Wisconsin Region members attending this year’s AGM along with a few spouses. Montreal beckons and we’re sure to have an enjoyable time when we can slip away from the present world and its many cares and troubles. Juliet McMaster’s talk and tea has sold out and she graciously consented to repeating her talk on Friday morning at 11:00 o’clock. The 200-year anniversary of Mansfield Park’s publication is our theme, Contexts, Conventions and Controversies. In AGM Convenor Elaine Bander’s words, “Understanding and appreciating Mansfield Park is central to understanding and appreciating Jane Austen: her world, her values, and her methods of literary composition.” Wisconsin member Sara Bowen will give a breakout session, “Fanny’s Future, Mary’s Nightmare: Jane Austen and the Clergyman’s Wife,” which Sara will present again to the Wisconsin Region on December 13 (see front page of this issue). Wisconsin Region member-authors Victoria Hinshaw and Kim Wilson will be entertaining us on Saturday evening with their presentation “Gilpin, the Picturesque, and Dr. Syntax.” Vicky and Kim will take us on a visual tour of landscape design, improvements, and the picturesque in Mansfield Park. With sharp wit and keen intellect, Austen made tart comments on the value of landscape improvements and contrasted Gilpin’s romantic sensibility with the satire of Dr. Syntax. We may be able to entice Vicky and Kim to repeat their presentation to the Wisconsin Region—just one of the many plenaries, breakouts and special interest sessions awaiting AGM attendees.

Kim Wilson will need a booking agent soon to handle all of her speaking engagements and appearances. As my recent email indicated, Kim was mentioned as an Austen historian in the NY Times! She will also be giving a series of lectures for the Royal Oak Foundation, including one in Chicago on November 20. Wisconsin Region is proud to have Kim in our midst. Her third book, At Home with Jane Austen, is available September 30. You can preorder on Kim’s publisher’s (Abbeville Press) website or on Amazon: It appears to be a beautiful book from its cover! We hope to work out a date with Kim to present one of her many talks and to get her autograph!

Those who attended the Madison AGM in 1995, which also had Mansfield Park as its theme, may recall the cross stitch kit available for purchase. I believe a member of our Region, Joan Singer, was in some way responsible for its composition. I bought one of those kits because at the time I did a lot of crewel embroidery and thought I could master cross stitching as well. Over time, and my lack of it, I realized that kit was just going to stay in its pristine condition in the sales bag. So
I asked a sister-in-law who loved cross stitching if she would like to toil over the design. She said, sure, she’d give it a go. Fifteen years later, in 2010, my talented sister-in-law presented me with the finished work. I have it on my wall and admire it every day. The passage cross-stitched is: “The elegance, propriety, regularity, harmony, and perhaps above all, the peace and tranquility of Mansfield.” Jane Austen 1814.

Sara Bowen brought to our attention that every Friday you can get an interesting short essay on _Mansfield Park_ from all manner of Austen experts on Sarah Emsley’s series “An Invitation to Mansfield Park,” which can be accessed on her blog [sarahemsley.com](http://sarahemsley.com). George Justice on Mrs. Norris as a frustrated middle manager was particularly interesting, but every week is a new fascinating nugget, such as Cheryl Kinney on why you know early in the book that Dr. Grant will probably die young. And so forth.

“There certainly are not so many men of large fortune in the world, as there are pretty women to deserve them.” (Spoken by the narrator, first page of _Mansfield Park_.)

Wisconsin Region members, we have so much to keep us interested in Jane Austen. Some learned person will discover another nuance, a distinction between a character’s intended meaning and how we interpret what we have read. Her world is still relevant to us!

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**Wisconsin Region Membership Report**  
*by Jane Kivlin Membership Coordinator*

Membership renewals were due by Sept. 1. Notification came to yearly members from the national office about 2 months ago. Renewals can be done online at [http://www.jasna.org/membership/index.html](http://www.jasna.org/membership/index.html) using PayPal or by printing the form from the same link and mailing the form, with your check, as directed.

Being a life member spares one from yearly membership renewals. It doesn’t take long for it to be a financial advantage as well.

The Wisconsin region is stable at 152 members.

Welcome to new members:

- Kathryn Davis of Milwaukee, kdavis@udallas.edu
- Mary Evers of Brown Deer, naczekm@gmail.com

The following corrections should be made in your directory:

- Claudia Grace D’Antoine is the proper spelling of Claudia’s last name.
- Mary Catherine Fahey’s correct phone no. is 414.336.6653
- Suzy Clarkson Holstein’s correct email is clarkson@wi.rr.com
- Cynthia Kartman’s correct email is kartmania@wi.rr.com, correct phone is 414.732.3063
- Molly Philosophos’ correct email is mollyphilolo@gmail.com
- Marylee Richmond’s correct email is marestails@wi.rr.com, correct phone is 262.719.7436
- Marion Stuenkel’s new phone is 608.338.7985

Email me at:

jkivlin@alum.bu.edu
Please remember to send Vicki Teal events for the Wisconsin Jane Austen web site--
www.jasnawi.org. We welcome any kind of Jane Austen event that is happening in the Wisconsin area. Photos are welcome!

Also, we can share all kinds of Jane Austen-related tidbits on our Facebook page. If you haven't already liked facebook.com/jasnawisconsin you should do so now. Vicki's email is vtl@chorus.net.

Don’t forget to check the Wisconsin Region website once a week!

http://jasnawi.org/

Life as the VP of Regions
By Liz Philosophos Cooper

When people ask me about my role as Vice President of Regions, I always say with a laugh, “You never know what you will find in your inbox.” With 74 Regions throughout North America, the questions I receive are as varied as the locations. I work with members inquiring about starting a Region if there is not already one within a two-hour drive. This past year I have been working with five new Regional Coordinators to establish Regions in Hawaii, Eastern Tennessee, Northern Utah, Southern Utah and nearby Iowa (based out of Des Moines). I have also worked with 11 other people inquiring about potential new Regions.

Some of the other things I work with Regional Coordinators about include elections, Bylaws, planning events and obtaining certificates of insurance for event venues, and answering questions about JASNA procedures and policy.

I help Regions publicize their events by posting them on the events page of JASNA’s Facebook page as well as the Regional Events news page of JASNA.org and also write about Regional News for the monthly JASNA email updates. At the end of each year, I email each RC with a sample letter and list of lapsed members, which has proven very helpful in getting members to renew. I serve on several committees and help write policy when needed.

At the AGM besides attending the JASNA Board and business meetings, I am in charge of the RC Forum, a meeting that serves as a great exchange of policies and best practices as well as the Regional Coordinator’s Business Meeting Sunday morning.

Judy has asked me several times to write this article about my role as VP Regions and I have
quite frankly put her off thinking you would not really be interested. Thank you for asking Judy and thank you for reading this. I do very much enjoy working with the Regions. Wisconsin is lucky to have such a wonderful one. To keep it that way, I encourage you to become more involved. I know from past experience that Judy puts a lot of effort into running the Region and know that more help would be appreciated. Many hands make light work and besides, it’s a lot of fun! So think about what you might be able to do to help and call Judy or me!

**Jane Austen Enrichment Class**

By Kathleen O’Brien

I’ll be teaching a class entitled *Jane Austen and Her World* at Clement Manor Center for Enrichment beginning on Wednesday, September 17, from 10:00 to 10:50, and continuing through October 22, with a second series, a continuation, also on Wednesdays, November 5 through December 10. This is about what was going on in the world and how it shows up in the novels. It also takes on daily life and the levels of society. It isn’t a study of the books as such, but I’ll be talking about *P&P* and *Sense & Sensibility* to start with. I hope to make Jane Austen more accessible to those who don’t have much background. I’ll be using our October book discussion book, John Mullan’s *What Matters in Jane Austen*, and also Roy and Lesley Adkins’ *Jane Austen’s England* (our May book) as well as other sources. If you would like to take the class—perhaps to boo and jeer—call Kristy Beyer at: (414) 546-7990

Clement Manor Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Avenue
Greenfield, WI 53228

**Battle of Waterloo Class**

to be taught by

JASNA-WI Author

Regency author and blogger Victoria Hinshaw is teaching a course on “Waterloo: Before, During, and After the Battle That Reshaped Europe in 1815” at the North Shore School for Seniors on six Tuesdays, October 28-December 2, 2014. The classes are held at the United Methodist Church, 819 E. Silver Spring Drive in Whitefish Bay. For information or to order a class catalogue, call 414-964-2424, Ext. 310, and leave your name and address.

The Battle of Waterloo ended the Napoleonic Wars. The course covers the rise of Napoleon, the Peninsular War, the Congress of Vienna, and the final battle with the Duke of Wellington. Next year, extensive ceremonies will be held to commemorate the event.

Vicky traveled to Waterloo, Belgium, to observe the 195th Anniversary Reenactment in 2010; she will illustrate the course presentations with pictures of the battlefield and memorials, as well as with historical paintings and maps. Fee for the course is $42.

Victoria Hinshaw’s traditional regencies:
*The Fontainebleau Fan*...*The Eligible Miss Elliot*...
*Miss Parker’s Ponies*...*Miss Milford’s Mistake*...*An Ideal Match*

Now available as e-books

Blogging at
[www.onelondonone.blogspot.com](http://www.onelondonone.blogspot.com)
[www.victoriahinshaw.com](http://www.victoriahinshaw.com)

FB: victoriahinshaw

Pinterest: victoriahinshaw, kristinehughespastrone

Vicky Hinshaw
Madison Reading Group

Spring Meeting, Madison Area:

On a lovely Sunday in May members of the Madison Region of JASNA met at Vicki Teal’s charming Victorian home to discuss *Wives and Daughters* by Elizabeth Gaskell. Before the tea and discussion Vicki led us on a walking tour of historic homes and buildings in Evansville, Wisconsin. We saw many interesting and beautiful homes in her neighborhood, all within half a mile of hers, which was also on the tour. It was a stimulating way to begin the afternoon.

We had a lively discussion of *Wives and Daughters* that touched on many aspects of the novel. We discussed the various female characters and Gaskell’s astute portrayals. Julie DeWitt’s daughter, Anne, recently published a scholarly book about the portrayal of scientists in Victorian novels (*Moral Authority, Men of Science, and the Victorian Novel*, Cambridge University Press) in which she writes that the character of Roger Hamley is modeled on Charles Darwin so we talked about that possibility as well as whether the character Molly Gibson would have been a scientist in today’s world.

The group also set a tentative schedule for next year’s meetings and the books we will read. It is as follows:
Sunday, November 2: Mansfield Park, along with a discussion of the current movie, Belle. Belle is about the niece of Lord Mansfield, for whom Mansfield Park may have been named. (Kathy Egstad, hostess)

February 8: No Fond Return of Love, by Barbara Pym (Sandi Rutherford, hostess)

May 3: Austen biographies. We will each read a biography of Austen and have a general discussion of her life and life in her time, in preparation for the Louisville AGM. (Julie DeWitt, hostess)

Julie DeWitt
Madison Book Group Coordinator
608-238-5936

Liz Cooper, and although we didn’t necessarily follow them, they are useful to have. Marsha Huff commented that Fanny does not need to change, but everyone else does. The question came up about whether Maria would ever be allowed to remarry. Vicky says yes, and Sheryl Craig, in her previous lecture to us, had said no.

As for the books to read, some were dismissed as not having enough to do with Jane Austen, but might be something people would enjoy on their own if they wanted to make a note of it. The books chosen are available at the Milwaukee Public Library, and judging by the reviews, are entertaining to read.


January TBA 2015 No Fond Return of Love, by Barbara Pym, at the Milwaukee Public Library. Marilyn Flaig will lead the discussion of this as it relates to Persuasion.


Kathy O’Brien
Milwaukee Book Group Coordinator
414-425-1309

Milwaukee Reading Group

Spring Meeting, Milwaukee area:

The Milwaukee Book Group met on May 14th at Vicky Hinshaw’s to discuss Mansfield Park and to choose our books for next year. There were 17 of us, and we were still able to agree on many things, though not necessarily about Fanny Price! We had a list of discussion questions written by Joan Philosophos and
Scene & Heard

Finds from Victoria Hinshaw:
In the midst of organizing for our Wellington Tour, reading a dozen books at the same time, etc., I discovered some more interesting information on the Fitzwilliam family, who lived at Wentworth Woodhouse in Yorkshire. One of the books I read *Black Diamonds: The Rise and Fall of an English Dynasty*, by Catherine Bailey: Penguin, 2008, about the house and land and Fitzwilliam family. (Bailey’s latest book is *The Secret Rooms: A True Story of a Haunted Castle, a Plotting Duchess, and a Family Secret* – which is about Belvoir Castle and the Dukes of Rutland. Definitely on my wanted list.) Wentworth-Woodhouse is now open again, in what kind of shape is a good question. The website shows the various tours they have.

http://www.wentworthwoodhouse.co.uk/
And, here is the more recent discovery. There are four parts of the BBC’s *The Country House Revealed* in 15-min episodes on YouTube –
Episode one of 4: wentworth woodhouse:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BdzsiE5Uj0
Two:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1VV0d9N_4c
Three:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifAFTRazIeY
Four:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOMlk1zmnFAs
I think you will find these fascinating, as well as the short bit on WW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRNlp19XKME
You can find the other parts of the Country House Revealed on You Tube also. So many houses, so many books, so little time, so little $$$/£££!

Marsha Huff sends us this interesting website found by the RC of the JASNA NYC Region.
http://virtualtours.nationaltrust.org.uk/

Michael Jeske and Susie Duecker

Box Hill Picnic a Success

Box Hill 2014 was a combination of a dormitory mess hall lunch where 24 members and their guests gathered and our attendance at the Acacia Theatre’s presentation of Jane Austen’s Persuasion, an adaptation by Jennifer Le Blanc. It was an enjoyable afternoon into early evening.

Here is what critics said about Acacia’s production of *Jane Austen’s Persuasion*:

“Le Blanc's adaptation…splices Austen's superbly controlled, free-indirect speech with characters' own voices, deftly passing the narrative baton among them in a way that advances the story without feeling stilted. **Most of all, there's Jeske and especially Duecker, clearly on the same wavelength and each conveying an abiding inner fire, for all their ostensible restraint.”**

- Michael Fischer, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Acacia Theatre presents an engaging production…production values are strong…the masterful Maureen Chobanoff (Lady Russell/Mrs. Sophia Croft) seems most at ease in the 19th-century setting, and Rick Berggreen makes a delightfully smarmy and duplicitous villain in the role of William Elliot…two hundred years later, it is remarkable how close to home Austen’s scenarios strike.”

-Selena Milewski, Shepherd Express
“Adaptor Jennifer Le Blanc is a skilled writer…the main characters are strong enough to hold our interest throughout…Sharon Nieman-Koebert [gives a] beautifully subtle performance…this ripping good story is told with a level of skill and artistry that does Jane Austen proud.”
- Anne Siegel, totaltheatremania.com

From Kathy O’Brien: I think Jennifer Le Blanc’s adaptation was excellent. It must have been, because I was surprised to see how late it was when the play ended! Susie Duecker did a good job as Anne Elliot insofar as audience appeal went, but was too energetic and lively for thoughtful, contemplative Anne. Elizabeth was seriously miscast. We always think small people are younger than they are, and Maura Atwood really is young. She was more believable as Henrietta. Different costuming might have helped.

From Sue Zimmerman: I enjoyed the play very much at Concordia, many actual lines from the book were used, dialogue and settings/overviews. Good to be sitting close to stage as helped with hearing most of the lines. Well done cast!

From Kathleen Butt: Sue Kujawa and I did not attend the Box Hill lunch but did attend the play. I thought it was wonderful the way the whole cast pulled together removing scenery, etc. Also, I appreciated the fact that Capt. Wentworth’s entire letter was read and the way he stood on the hill top and spoke the lines while Anne was reading it really added to the play. The letter is vital. The cast was very enthusiastic about the production, was committed to its success and took pride in it.
Our sympathies to Marsha Lambert whose husband Lionel passed away on July 10. Lionel may be fondly remembered by some of our members for his attendance with Marsha at several of our AGMs.

L to R: Amy Krahn, Mary Evers and Tara Jordan

Amy Krahn brought strawberries for the occasion to be a true Box Hill.

Marsha and Lionel looking over the menu at the Vancouver AGM in 2007.

Mona Perry, A Remembrance by Marilyn Flaig

Mona Perry, who passed away on June 19, was among the original members of JASNA/Wisconsin, and was in attendance at the first Jane Austen birthday lunch at Watts Tea Room. Mona was an avid reader with very discerning taste. She had a special love of English literature, but also read widely and kept up with the best of current fiction. When I moved across the street from Mona on Stowell Avenue in Shorewood over twenty years ago, we instantly bonded over our shared taste in literature. She told me about JASNA and I went with her to my first birthday lunch which was held at the Cudworth American Legion Post overlooking the lake on Prospect Avenue.

Mona Perry, a founding member of JASNA-Wisconsin.

Mona had many health challenges over the years, but despite being increasingly house-bound, she kept up a lively interest in art, music, movies, theater and literature. She had been very active in civil rights causes and the women’s movement in Milwaukee, and she maintained her interest in politics too. As long as she was able, Mona came to the Jane Austen birthday lunches. Mona personified the Janeite—a very articulate, intelligent and engaged person.
A Correction from Maggie Lane  
By Marsha Huff

My article about the slave trade in the spring issue of The Wire includes a mistake, or at least a questionable assertion. I said that Sir Thomas Bertram is one of only two Austen characters who sit in Parliament and that John Willoughby is the other. Maggie Lane, in an email exchange, told me that she did not agree. The passage at issue concerns Mrs. Palmer’s conversation with Elinor Dashwood about her husband’s “canvassing against the election” for the House of Commons. She says about Willoughby, who lives near the Palmers in Somerset: “I do not think Mr. Palmer would visit him for he is in the opposition, you know.” This sentence has been read—or misread—by some to mean that Willoughby is a Member of Parliament.

Maggie Lane considers Thomas Palmer to be Austen’s other Member of Parliament. She says:

It is all a bit ambiguous on close reading. On the one hand, there does not seem any doubt that Mr Palmer will win his election so I have always thought of him as an MP, or very close to being one; he and Charlotte have got as far as discussing the franking of letters. Conversely, it is very hard to think of Willoughby as an MP. Even when he settles into marriage and improves in steadiness, he is not described as doing anything serious with his life, or gaining any satisfaction from public duty. Marianne does not hint at a house in town or the expenses of public life when describing how she would spend her two thousand pounds! Nor does Elinor ask her how she would like such a life, when marriage with Willoughby seems possible. As MPs had to fund themselves, and keep up the lifestyle, it would surely be put forward as an excuse by Willoughby for his outgoings exceeding his income if he could make such an assertion, both to Elinor and to Mrs Smith. He might expect the latter to be lenient in a good (public) cause. So I had thought that the throw-away term ‘in the opposition’ just meant he came from a family who traditionally supported the other side.

I am convinced by Maggie’s close textual analysis that Willoughby does not sit in the Commons and that the only other Austen character who does—or soon will—is Thomas Palmer.

In England with Jane Austen  
By Marsha Huff

My summer trip to England included people and places well known to JASNA-Wisconsin members. It began with a visit to Maggie Lane, a popular AGM speaker, who lives in Exeter, Devonshire. Maggie’s Southwest Branch of the Jane Austen Society had invited me to give my presentation on Austen and Vermeer at their June meeting. We also spent a lovely day in Lyme Regis and walked in the Jane Austen Garden, a collaborative project of JAS and the town of Lyme.

Many Wisconsin members saw the 2012 exhibit at the Milwaukee Art Museum of paintings from Kenwood House collected by Guiness brewery heir Lord Iveagh. In the 18th century Kenwood was the home of William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield, and his wards Elizabeth Murray and Dido Belle. (Jane Austen said of Lady Elizabeth, whom she first met in 1805 at Godmersham: “for a woman of her age & situation, [she] has astonishingly little to say for herself.”) During my stay in London, I visited the newly renovated Kenwood House in Hampstead to see the Reynolds, Gainsborough, and Romney portraits and Rembrandt self-portrait that we had enjoyed in Milwaukee. My favorite room at Kenwood is the library, designed for Lord Mansfield by Robert Adam in his distinctive neo-classical style.

At the National Portrait Gallery Cassandra’s
watercolor and pencil drawing of Jane Austen is now displayed in a frame under low light, in a room that includes portraits of Mary Wollstonecraft and Lord Byron. Pictures of leaders of the anti-slave trade movement, including William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson, hang in the adjoining gallery.

My husband, my sister, and I spent a week at Christ Church in Oxford, each taking a course in a program called The Oxford Experience, where we lived like students with rooms on a quad and meals in Cardinal Wolsey’s great dining hall. Each afternoon hoards of kids lined up to tour the fan vaulted staircase and hall, which stood in for Hogwarts in the Harry Potter movies. During our time at Christ Church, we met people who return to the program every summer, which runs for six weeks and offers a choice of five dozen courses, usually including at least one on Jane Austen’s novels. http://www.oxfordexperience.info (Elsewhere in this issue is information about an Austen course offered at Christ Church next April.)

The last day of my trip was spent in Chawton at the Jane Austen Society’s AGM, held on the grounds of Chawton House Library. It was a chance to visit with Gillian Dow, the new Executive Director of CHL, and Elizabeth Proudman, outgoing Chair of JAS, whom Wisconsin members met when she served as the guide for JASNA tours to England. Sandbags piled next to St. Nicholas Church at Chawton House were reminders of the flooding that swamped the property last winter, though no other signs remain. At Jane Austen’s House Museum, a short walk from CHL, the garden was in full bloom. The newest treasure at the Cottage—Jane Austen’s ring—is on display. If you can’t get to Chawton, however, you can see the lovely replica that Liz Philosophos Cooper wears to Wisconsin events.
JASNA-Wisconsin member and New York Times & USA Today Bestselling author Marilyn Brant has penned a new romantic comedy, *Pride, Prejudice and the Perfect Bet* (part of the "Perfect" series, but it can be enjoyed as a stand-alone novel.) Austenprose called it a “touching, funny, romantic, and entirely enjoyable read” and rated it 4.5 out of 5.0 stars (Aug. 18, 2014).

*The course of true love doesn't always run smooth - - not even for millionaire bachelors...*

Everyone thought Beth Ann Bennet and Dr. Will Darcy had an unexpected romance in *Pride, Prejudice and the Perfect Match*. Now, Beth's best friend, Jane Henderson, and Will's first cousin, Bingley McNamara, begin their own unlikely love story in *Pride, Prejudice and the Perfect Bet*, which starts at the Darcy/Bennet wedding when they find themselves in the roles of maid of honor and best man for the newlyweds.

Jane is an interning school psychologist and a woman who wears an angelic mask in public, but she's not as sweet tempered as she'd like everyone to believe. Turns out, she may have just crossed paths with the one person who'll unnerve her enough to get her to reveal her true self.

As for Bingley, he's a wealthy, flirtatious and compulsively social guru of finance, who likes to wager on stocks and, let's face it, on just about anything that strikes his fancy. But this dedicated ladies' man may have finally met the woman who'll challenge his bachelor ways!


JASNA-Wisconsin member Kim Wilson, the author of *Tea with Jane Austen* and *In The Garden with Jane Austen*, has a new book coming out at the end of this month, *At Home with Jane Austen*, a tour of the homes and settings of Jane Austen. The book traces her life from her youth in a country rectory in Steventon, a small village in Hampshire, England—where she wrote her first stories for her family and friends—to the fashionable spa town of Bath, to the seaport of Southampton, to her final years in her last settled home at peaceful Chawton Cottage.

With gorgeous illustrations and photography, including newly commissioned photographs of Steventon and Chawton, *At Home with Jane Austen* explores Austen’s world, her physical surroundings, and the journeys the author took during her lifetime. Kim ties Austen’s novels to places where she lived, visited, and even attended school, ending with her final months in temporary lodgings in Winchester, England.

Mary Guyatt, the curator of Jane Austen’s House Museum, writes in her foreword to the book, “Whether you are a newcomer, or a longtime Austen devotee, this book cannot fail to encourage your own further exploration of her life and work.”

*At Home with Jane Austen* is available for preorder from Frances Lincoln in the UK, Abbeville Press in the US, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble.

“I shall be very glad to see you at home again, and then...who will be so happy as we?”—Jane Austen
A Jane Austen Course in Oxford

Next April Christ Church College in Oxford will offer a residential course called “Jane Austen’s Places: Inspiration and Imagination, An Oxford Perspective.” Several JASNA friends are among the speakers. Maggie Lane will lecture on Austen’s love-hate relationship with Bath as it appears in Northanger Abbey. Steve Lawrence, who recently ended his term as Executive Director of Chawton House Library, discusses the country houses of Austen’s characters, from neo-classical mansions to Gothic abbeys.

In addition to nine lectures, the program includes a visit to St. John’s College, which Jane Austen’s father and brothers attended, and a presentation of Austen manuscripts in the Bodleian Library. Participants will stay in student housing at Christ Church and take all their meals in the 16th century dining hall built by Cardinal Wolsey and now famous as the model for the Hogwarts hall in the Harry Potter movies. The cost is £565, with a £45 supplement for private bath. For full information and a booking form: [http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/conferences/conferences](http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/conferences/conferences)

Austen in Austin by Marion Stuenkel

I travel to Austin, Texas every few months to visit my sister-in-law who spunkily lives with ALS, Lou Gehrig’s Disease. Tuesday, May 27, my niece picked me up from the Nursing Home and drove me downtown to the Harry Ransom Center to see the display curated by University of Texas Professor Janine Barchas’ fall 2013 graduate seminar. During each visit we arrange some sightseeing hours about which I report back to Rebecca, ranging from O’Henry’s House to the gravesite of Fred Gipson author of Old Yeller (1956) at the Texas State Cemetery.

The two display cases are placed before the Reading Room on the second floor of the Ransom Center. First floor displays include a Gutenberg Bible (circa 1454-55), one of 48 extant in the world And the first photograph ever taken (1826). As always when "associating" with Jane Austen the “company” is awesome.

We JASNA members know one of the joys of reading and studying Austen is the very real broadening of our horizons. I am still surprised at the connections formed. My youngest grandson is Venezuelan-American. How delightful to find that Simon Bolivar presented Jane Austen’s brother a sword. Like Miss Bates I could go on and on, but back to the treasures of the Ransom Center.

Seeing a Navy Book close enough to pick up made the closeness of family members to their British Sailors and the cultural closeness of the British Navy to the British public real. I tried to imagine the US public referring to a book of the US fleet during WWI. There is nothing comparable is there? I see Fanny and Anne holding these books, bigger than their hands, smaller than a paperback, as thick as a popular magazine. Now I know. Upon each reading I will see the book in their hands, thankful for the preservation, archiving and curator work going into enhancing history and

Eric W. Nye, PhD, of the Department of English, University of Wyoming, JASNA’s Essay Contest Chair, has notified us that one of the winners in this year’s Essay Contest is from Racine, Wisconsin. Victoria M. Barry has won Second Place, College Division ($500). Victoria’s essay is titled “Personal Voice & Transformation in Mansfield Park”. Victoria attends Tulane University in New Orleans and is majoring in Art History and English. Her mentor is: Molly Rothenberg of Tulane. Those of us attending the AGM will be happy to meet her and invite her to our WI Region’s birthday luncheon. You can read Victoria’s essay at: [http://www.jasna.org/essaycontest/2014/undergraduate-2.html](http://www.jasna.org/essaycontest/2014/undergraduate-2.html)
my reading pleasure.

The article Jane Austen in Austin: A Regency display on view by Alicia Dietrich in Cultural Compass gives an excellent overview of some case content. Mine is impressionistic focusing on David Steel's "Original and Correct List of the Royal Navy, Improved" (London, 1814) which cost but a shilling and Humphrey Repton's "Observations on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, "Including Some Remarks on Grecian and Gothic Architecture, (London) Printed by T Bensley for J Taylor, 1803. I finally get Repton's work and the considerations of prospect. This is a pop-up book, like kids books nowadays, with beautifully drawn illustrations before and after his work is done. The fine buildings become visible in dramatic ways. I prefer trees but the theatre of coming on such a view reminds me of the thinking of the builders of the Alhambra in Granada, Spain. The outside is a fortress, austere and angular but the room in which the diplomats wait dazzles. A Repton view is one of prestige and power.

This exhibit seen in the anniversary year of Mansfield Park with concise comprehensive descriptions narrating the objects was so delightful I wish it were a traveling display. I am glad JASNA alerted me and that I was able to see it. Well done!

Editor’s note: Mary Jane Carter sent us this marvelous photo of Lyme Regis. Thank you! My husband Colin received this photo of a recent storm on the Cobb in Lyme Regis from his brother in England. We rather doubt that Louisa Musgrove would have done much jumping off' in weather like this! Nor would the wonderfully diverse group from “Persuasion” have been likely to be out for a stroll!
I recently had a free day in Paris and talked my husband Ed into accompanying me to visit the Chateau de Malmaison in the town of Rueil-Malmaison, about seven miles outside the city.

Josephine purchased the chateau (built in the 17th Century) in 1799 and used it as her retreat from the rigors of life as the Empress of France in the Tuileries Palace. At Malmaison she could cultivate her roses and enjoy peaceful solitude or host intimate soirees and picnics with chosen guests. The artist Pierre-Joseph Redoute (1759-1840) painted many of Josephine’s roses, said to have included more than 250 varieties.

Josephine was born on the Caribbean island of Martinique, June 23, 1763, named Marie-Joseph-Rose de Tascher de la Pagerie. She grew up among the sugar plantation society on the island. At age seventeen, she went to Paris for an arranged marriage to Count Alexandre de Beauharnais. With him she had two children, a son, Eugene de Beauharnais (1781-1824) and a daughter, Hortense (1783-1837). Imprisoned during the Revolution, the Count was guillotined in 1794, but Josephine was released.

Soon after she met the young officer Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821), and he fell madly in love with her. Until he renamed her Josephine, she was known as Rose. They married in 1796. In December 1804, in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris, Napoleon crowned himself Emperor and Josephine Empress of France, in the presence of the Court and the Pope.

Unable to bear any more children, Josephine reluctantly agreed to separation and divorce. In December 1809, she moved permanently to Malmaison. Napoleon married Marie Louise, daughter of Austrian Emperor Francis I, and a year later, in 1811, his only legitimate child was born and named Napoleon, designated the King of Rome. [This unfortunate young man, so greatly anticipated, died in his early 20’s.]

In April, 1814, Napoleon abdicated, turning Paris over to the Allied Powers of Europe and Britain,
and going into exile on Elba. In May of 1814, Josephine died at Malmaison, of pneumonia, which developed from a cold she caught while walking in her garden with the Russian Tsar Alexander.

Napoleon, though not always faithful to Josephine, remained attached to her for the rest of his life, even through his divorce and re-marriage. After her death and before his final exile to St. Helena, Napoleon returned to Malmaison for a farewell visit. Josephine was the grandmother of Napoleon III, son of her daughter. She is also an ancestress of numerous European Royals.

After Josephine’s death, son Eugene lived at Malmaison; later it was sold several times before being presented as a gift to the nation of France by Daniel Iffla (known as Osiris), art enthusiast and philanthropist, whose collections can be seen in a small museum on the chateau’s grounds.

If you want to visit, allow about 90 minutes each way on the Metro (to La Defense) and by bus. Malmaison is currently closed on Tuesdays.

The ground floor consists of a vestibule; sitting, music, dining, and billiards rooms; an office for the Emperor; and a delightful library opening onto the colorful gardens.

The first floor is devoted to apartments for the Emperor and the Empress containing much of the original furniture and objects of art, from miniatures to colossal paintings. In Josephine’s boudoir are displays of her toilettries.

The garden in late August was brilliant colorful flowers. Roses in all imaginable shades bloomed among many other flowers, particularly dahlias of all varieties. How much it today resembles the garden that Josephine knew is hard to tell, but it is certainly a lovely place.
Jane Austen in Southampton

Editor's note: Jane Kivlin's brother and sister-in-law took a trip around the British Isles and kindly sent these pictures of the historical Jane Austen Plaques at Southampton (where she lived after leaving Bath and before arriving at Chawton). Thank you, Jane and family, for sending these to us!