Regionally Speaking
By Judy Beine

Wisconsin Region is very blessed to be teeming with talented authors and speakers. Sara Bowen gave a wonderful talk at the Montreal AGM and she will be enlightening and entertaining us with “Fanny’s Future; Mary’s Nightmare: Jane Austen and the Clergy Wife” at Jane Austen’s Birthday Luncheon on December 13. If you did not yet receive your invitation in the mail, please call or email me as you don’t want to miss out.

Another person of note within our ranks is Kim Wilson, author of Tea with Jane Austen, In the Garden with Jane Austen, and most recently published, At Home with Jane Austen. Kim has been Editor of the Wire for 10 years, as well as friend and mentor to many of us. Kim Wilson, along with Liz Philosophos Cooper, has produced the Wisconsin Region’s Regency Calendar for many years. 2015 is a bye-year however and you will see Emma in all of her splendor in 2016. Due to Kim’s success as an author and consequent speaking engagements she has turned over the reins of Editor of the Wire to David Lewellen. Kim is not going away, just shifting her work load. Kim and Victoria Hinshaw will be presenting their talk, “Gilpin, the Picturesque, and Dr. Syntax,” also from the Montreal AGM, to us on May 9. We owe a huge debt to Kim as Editor of the Wire. She has held other jobs along the way too, membership coordinator and merchandise seller come to mind. Kudos, Kim!

Welcome David Lewellen, Wisconsin Region’s new Wire Editor. We are pleased to have his expertise and fresh perspective. David has been a JASNA member for about 20 years in northeast Ohio and Wisconsin, and works as a copy editor with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. He is also a freelance writer for several local and state publications.

Our very own in-house blogger, prolific writer, tour leader and genuinely knowledgeable First Class Lady – Victoria Hinshaw – has contributed a couple articles to this issue. How she finds the energy and stamina to globe-trot I’m not sure but we all benefit. You will enjoy reading about Vicky’s Encounters with Jane and the Duke of Wellington tour. Be sure to thank Vicky when you see her.
Our own Janet Johnson will wind up her last year with JASNA as the former treasurer and phasing out as assistant treasurer. We are happy to have Janet continue as Treasurer of the Wisconsin Region and she has taken on a new job, Treasurer for the North American Friends of Chawton House Library. I asked Janet if that job had any perks, such as travel to and from England. She said, “unfortunately no travel on their dime but Joan (Ray) said I can stay in the Chawton House Library stable for free. (It's not where they keep the horses!)” Janet is a CPA with Wipfli in Madison and does the exacting job of keeping our Region’s finances in fine shape.

My recognition of our Region’s “greats” would not be complete without mentioning Liz Philosophos Cooper. As Vice President of Regions she did a terrific job at the AGM running the Regional Coordinators’ training session on Friday morning and then our annual RC meeting on Sunday morning. There were a couple RCs who might have put Liz on the spot but with her diplomacy and great finesse she straightened us all out. JASNA is a well run organization of 74 regions and about 5000 members. Liz, too, has to keep taking those high-potency vitamins.

For the last two years Jane Kivlin has been the Region’s Membership Coordinator, a job I performed for ten years before Jane Kivlin took over. Jane has other interests she would like to pursue and her term will end on December 16. I know the rigors of the position and have offered the position to Veronica Jaeger, who has accepted. Veronica has some pressing family matters to attend to at this time but will take up her post as Membership Coordinator for the Region in June. Thank you, Jane, for your many hours of volunteer service. We wish you the best. And, a warm welcome to Veronica!

At this time we are looking for a volunteer to be Recording Secretary. As an executive board we don’t meet very often. However, our bylaws state we need to have a Recording Secretary. He or she records the minutes of all meetings and distributes the minutes to members of the executive committee. The job also entails handling the biennial election, which in the recent past has been conducted via email. Victoria Hinshaw has held this position for countless years (I think since 1997, can that be right?). We should relieve Vicky. Please come forward and tell us you will do this job!

It has been two years since I became your Wisconsin Region Coordinator. I admit that while at the outset the job was a bit scary for me, I have adjusted to its demands and, luckily, I have had the time and inclination to devote to being your RC. However, I would like for you to start thinking about my replacement. There may be someone in our midst you would like to see lead us and give us fresh ideas. Tap him or her on the shoulder and speak up!

My thanks go out not only to Sara, Kim, David, Jane, Vicky, and Janet, but to the many AGM attendees who have contributed to this issue of the Wire. I have to admit I nudged a few of them on and even supplied photos. Their perspectives will open a window for you, our membership, to see what going to an AGM is all about. For me, it’s always a fun and rewarding experience. I’m sure you will agree after reading their articles.
Rereading *Mansfield Park*  
By Liz Philosophos Cooper

I was struck by two things on my rereading of *Mansfield Park* in preparation for Montreal’s AGM. The first was that I developed a real sympathy toward Fanny Price. People like to bash Fanny for being a timid wet blanket. Yes, she is quiet and does not openly speak her mind or stick up for herself. But is it any wonder? Since the age of ten, she has been ignored and bullied. I think all the emphasis on bullying in the news shaped my rereading of *Mansfield Park*.

The second thing I rediscovered was that Jane Austen gave Mary Crawford the BEST lines. Here are some of my favorites:

> “Nothing ever fatigues me but doing what I do not like.”
> 
> “A large income is the best recipe for happiness I ever heard of.”
> “I am not born to sit still and do nothing. If I lose the game, it shall not be from not striving for it.”
> “Selfishness must always be forgiven, you know, because there is no hope of a cure.”
> “I speak what appears to me the general opinion; and where an opinion is general, it is usually correct.”
> “Every generation has its improvements.”

> “South or north, I know a black cloud when I see it.”

It was this last line that gave me my inspiration for my costume for the AGM Ball. I decided to go as a modern version of Mary Crawford, the black cloud of *Mansfield Park*. My dress and lace mask both came from the recent Altuzarra designer collaboration for Target. Some of you already know that one of my new daughters, Birk’s wife, Kristin, is the Designer Collaboration Buyer for Target (as well as the mother of our new grand-DAUGHTER!!) At the Ball, many people did a double take when they first looked at me, as the lace mask was so unexpected. It was fun to wear and even more fun to morph into Mary Crawford.

First AGM  
By Sandra Rutherford - Madison

The JASNA AGM in Montreal was my first meeting. I have been to many geological meetings but this JASNA AGM was by far the most intimate and well run! My husband came along with me and we enjoyed two English country dance lessons on the Thursday, then the Friday morning walking tour of Montreal. I went to breakout sessions Friday afternoon while my husband enjoyed drinking beer in a unique pub with Liz Cooper’s husband, Scott. Saturday morning started with a wonderful breakfast buffet to get us ready for the breakout sessions. Lunch was eaten on the fly because I went to a Dorset-button-making session, which was fun and easy to do then back to more breakout sessions before the ball. My husband and I were excited about the ball because we really liked the idea of dressing up and practicing our English country dancing. We joined an English Country dancing group in Madison this summer especially to prepare for the ball. After the wonderful dinner and promenade around the hotel we danced the evening away! I made my dress, Tom’s waistcoat and cravat so it was fabulous to see so many costumes and talk with people from different areas of the country who also made their costumes. I learned
so much that I cannot wait to try making a new costume for the next ball.

We also loved going to the church service Sunday morning at St. George's Anglican Church. The minister was especially attentive to our JASNA group and made a point of touching upon Austen in his sermon. After church we had a wonderful brunch followed by an informative talk by Patrick Stokes about the Royal Navy. We then had to get going to the airport. As I mentioned, the meeting was my first but I can't wait to go to the next meeting!

The Picturesque at the AGM
by Sue Forgue, JASNA-Chicago

Wisconsin members Victoria Hinshaw and Kim Wilson were the featured special interest speakers after the Saturday night banquet at the Montreal AGM. I had the very great pleasure of introducing my friends, who spoke on "Gilpin, the Picturesque, and Dr. Syntax." In a very enjoyable and visually entertaining manner, both Vicky and Kim spoke on the popularity of William Gilpin's concept of "the picturesque"—worthy of being in a picture—during this time period. Kim developed that theme further by tracing the evolution of landscape design from the highly geometric & structured gardens to the more natural appearing, though entirely manmade creations that came from the works of William Kent, Lancelot Brown and Humphrey Repton.

Vicky spoke on how the concept of "the picturesque" became so popular that it was satirized in *Tour of Dr. Syntax in search of the Picturesque*, by William Combe, illustrated by Thomas Rowlandson and first published in 1812. This book followed the comic adventures of a poor clergyman on his tour of the Lake District in search of the perfect landscape to sketch. This first book and the following "Tour" books were published in multiple editions and spawned their own satires. Jane Austen was well acquainted with both Gilpin's and the Dr. Syntax books and it's this search for the picturesque that so involves the young people touring Sotherton Court in *Mansfield Park*.

As the audience were all in their best bib and tucker that night, we all made our own version of the picturesque, hopefully one that Austen would have approved.

Kim and Vicky will repeat their presentation for our regional meeting on May 9.

Montreal AGM: A Great Experience
by Judith Howard

Montreal is a big and fascinating city, with lots of beauty and history. The botanical garden was huge and the most beautiful I've seen. The different Montreal neighborhoods, such as Old Montreal and Mile End, each have their own character and beauty. And the bagels, which Mile End is known for, were delicious! All the food we had in Montreal was wonderful.

There were many excellent speakers at the AGM who helped bring *Mansfield Park* alive, and stimulated lots of conversation. The Saturday night cocktail hour, dinner, and promenade were especially fun. And I also enjoyed seeing and catching up with JASNA members from around the U.S. and Canada whom I've gotten to know from tours to England and previous AGMs.
Lastly, I am excited that our new JASNA president, Claire Bellanti, plans to focus on identifying and collecting JASNA's history. Some of JASNA's history, along with a large Jane Austen collection, is already at Goucher College in Baltimore. Adding to what's there, so we can see where we've been as an organization, and where we might go, and all have access to it, would be a great accomplishment.

Juliet McMaster: “Fanny Price and Fanny Burney”
By Janet Johnson, Madison

Juliet McMaster, a favorite AGM speaker, compared *Mansfield Park* with *The Wanderer* by Fanny Burney. She presented this talk at the tea, and repeated it for those of us who couldn't get into the tea.

Here are some of her comments:
Both novels were published in 1814. Mrs. Burney was 62 years old and had previously published 3 novels. Juliet said that Mrs. Burney was a role model for Jane Austen.

The heroines of both novels are similar. For example, both saw harmony in the role of nature.

Both novels featured theatricals and discussed the issue of public vs. private performances. Both heroines are reluctant to participate in the plays. Both novels include the temptations and flirtations of role-playing.

Juliet is an engaging speaker and I really enjoyed the comparisons between these novels. I also appreciate learning about Fanny Burney and her novels because I know I will never get through one of them. I’ve tried and as Juliet McMasters said, it takes fortitude to read Fanny Burney, so I’m glad she did it for me.

Montreal AGM Thoughts
by Mary Anne Gross

The best part of the AGM for me was the fact that my daughter Anne, who had attended the Minneapolis AGM, came to Montreal with her new husband Kit, an English grad from Purdue. Kit had been reading *Mansfield Park* and discussing it with Anne since last Christmas, when he received a copy from me as a gift. Our three-way discussions prior to the AGM proved him a thoughtful reader. I was anxious to see if they would enjoy the Montreal adventure, and they did! They commented on the interesting people they met at the conference and are planning a trip to Louisville next year.

My favorite breakout was the very first one I attended, Joan Ray’s panel on Mansfield Park Pathologies. My roommate Pat Latkin and I had eaten dinner Thursday night with Phyllis Thorpe of the St. Louis Region and gotten a preview of her part of the breakout, “Fanny Price: The Lost Child in an Alcoholic Family.” Phyllis managed to recruit a group of Janeites to represent each character in the family and then described the effect of the alcoholic father on them. Had never given the dynamics a thought until then. Interesting and enlightening. And entertaining.

Among other breakouts I attended, Sarah Parry of the Chawton House Library looked for clues to the wealth and lifestyle of the families in Mansfield Park and which ones might have gained their fortunes through the slave trade. Also, which ones were from old money, which from new, and which grand houses needed huge fortunes for upkeep.

Brother Paul Byrd, a Dominican from the Chicago area, gave an interesting talk on his experiences teaching Jane to high schoolers, and went on to compare Edmund Bertram’s efficacy as a potential curate to the hero of Margaret Oliphant’s *The Perpetual Curate*. Edmund never seemed to be able to affect the conduct of those in his orbit while Oliphant’s character succeeded in converting his. Hmmm. Is Edmund going to be a good man of the cloth? In the same vein, my daughter, her husband, and I all attended Sara Bowen’s breakout on “Fanny’s Future and...
Mary’s Nightmare: Jane Austen and the Clergyman’s Wife.” We enjoyed it, and we will have a chance to hear it again at the birthday luncheon.

Pat Michaelson of the University of Texas at Dallas entertained us with “What’s Wrong With a Witty Woman?” Many insights into the humor of the time and Austen’s particular brand of wit. Why were Edmund and Fanny appalled by Mary Crawford’s speech while Elizabeth Bennet’s clever liveliness attracted Darcy?

Of the plenaries, Lynn Festa, the North American Scholar lecturer, gave an interesting talk on the noises in Mansfield Park, from the cacophony of Portsmouth to the dead silence that greeted Fanny’s question about the slave trade. And a fitting end to the conference was Patrick Stokes, in his admiral’s garb, a descendant of Admiral Charles Austen, talking about the Royal Navy in Jane’s time, ending with another humorous take on what current political correctness would do to some of the navy’s old traditions. Amen.

My First AGM
by Vicki Teal

The 2014 JASNA AGM—Montreal was my first AGM. I really had no expectations, but knew I would have a great time based on what I had heard from others’ experiences in past years. I was pleasantly surprised by how wonderful the AGM is. First, there are the lectures. What a pleasure it is to hear in-depth analysis of a favorite novel—and Mansfield Park is a favorite novel, as is Fanny Price a favorite character (you know which side I am on in the “Fanny wars”). While many lectures were scholarly, there were fun events too, such as when the residents of Mansfield Park met with a modern family therapist. This event had the audience in stitches, particularly at Lady Bertram and her pug. The fancy dinner and the ball exceeded my expectations as well. The dinner was lovely and somewhat themed to Jane Austen’s time. The dancing at the ball was fun to watch, especially since so many participants were dressed in beautiful period gowns. The music, performed by Rufty-Tufty, and the dance masters from English Country Dances in Montreal added charm to the event. I was not brave enough to participate, but perhaps next year I will.

There were some things that didn’t go quite so well. First, I did not allow myself time to enjoy Montreal so I was torn between trying to do some sightseeing and attending AGM. We actually missed several sessions because meals were served so slowly. However, we made the best of it and enjoyed each other’s company.

This leads me to what I did not expect, yet enjoyed the most. The AGM was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with other Wisconsin JASNA members. We see each other several times a year for a few hours, but at the AGM we took many meals together and I felt that I really got to know people quite well. Being immersed in something that you love with others who love it just as much allows for unique bonds to form. Plus, I found that the AGM regulars were watching out for me. How delightful it was to find that I had been seated at one of the Wisconsin tables for the evening gala and there was even a welcoming note pinned to the message board for me! For this camaraderie alone, I would encourage others to attend their first AGM.

What will I do differently next time?

- Allow a couple more days to make sure that I can enjoy the host city as well as the AGM.
- Plan meals more carefully, saving the long dinners and lunches for non-AGM days.
- Learn the dances ahead of time, or take lessons at the AGM in order to dance at the ball.
- Bring a period dress for the ball.
- Sign up for the afternoon tea!
Jessica Richards, “Mansfield Park and Education from Locke to Wollstonecraft” by Phyllis Menne, Madison

In this talk, Richards proposes that Austen’s writings were influenced by major thinkers including Locke and Wollstonecraft, an advocate for the education of women from a generation prior to Austen. Austen’s portrayal of children in Mansfield Park is aligned with Locke’s observational theory that children who were under an authoritarian, negative, adult dominance would more likely lack self-control and go to the extreme, whereas children under a positive, supportive discipline would demonstrate more self-control as life’s situations are presented. Austen’s characters struggled with their self-concept and self-esteem (modern terms) as they are confronted with authority figures and with choices for friendships and marriage. In Mansfield Park, Mrs. Norris was consistently belittling and terrorizing Fanny. Sir Thomas Bertram and Lady Bertram ignored and were indifferent to their children. As a result, Tom, Maria, and Julia Bertram did not have the self-control to resist the temptations of making detrimental relationship decisions. Edmund seemed to possess more self-control, but was severely tested by beautiful Mary Crawford. Throughout the novel, Fanny trusted her intuition, however, the toxic Bertram environment was overpowering. Fanny struggled with and finally overcame the temptation to follow the wish of Sir Thomas and Edmund to marry Henry Crawford, who she knew was not trustworthy. Her strong self-control was the consistency that was the family’s saving grace.

Richards stated that Austen was influenced by Wollstonecraft, who advocated that women would benefit from education as well as men, dependent upon their situation in society. Women were educators of their children and could be a “companion” to their husbands instead of “ornamental or property to be traded in marriage if educated.” Wollstonecraft wrote that a woman’s education allows women to be fully functioning, independent women within a relationship. Richards states Austen did not seem to value the education for girls overall although in Mansfield Park the education of Fanny was instrumental. Edmund’s mentoring of Fanny by choosing her books and discussing them with her over an extended time was the key to her increasing independence and status. Wollstonecraft is “widely expressed” in Emma and Wollstonecraft was quoted in Lizzy’s response regarding being “rational” when Mr. Collins proposes.

Jane Austen was an intellectual who was well-read, who presented characters that were affected by influences early in life, both constructive and destructive. Her main character’s ability to use self-control to make life choices is dramatized throughout her novels. I am mesmerized by her ability to depict strong, independent women who refuse to be intimidated.

Emily Gilbert with her cravat.

How to Tie a Cravat
By Emily Gilbert

One of my favorite sessions at the AGM this year was the workshop on how to tie a cravat, that indispensable accessory of the Regency gentleman. The presenter, Lisa Brown of the Syracuse and Rochester, NY regions, began with a brief explanation of the history of the cravat; apparently it originated as an adaptation by fashionable Parisians of the traditional scarf worn by the Croatian mercenaries that Louis XIII employed in the 1630s. She passed around a number of images.
showing the cravat as it was worn during the Regency, ranging from period portraits and fashion plates to photos of actors from various Austen film adaptations.

Each participant got two cravats to take home—a large triangle of cotton fabric and a narrower strip of silk. In the Regency era cravats were usually a wide strip of starched linen, but this could be easily approximated by folding the cotton triangle lengthwise. The handout illustrated several different styles of cravat—the Napoleon, the Maharatta, the Osbaldeston, and the Waterfall—each of which we tested out on ourselves. Some were easier than others, and it gave me a new understanding of why the fastidious Beau Brummell is said to have gone through multiple cravats each morning before he was satisfied! As a lover of Regency fashion, I enjoyed having this opportunity to learn more about the gentleman’s side of it. Lisa is known for presenting interesting and informative sessions on Regency dress (most recently "Dressing the Miss Bennets" at the 2012 Brooklyn AGM), and this one definitely lived up to the standard.

Montreal AGM
by Kathleen Madden, Madison

Girl receives marriage proposal from an unlikely suitor. Girl rejects offer to the shock and dismay of her family. Said family patriarch steps in to lead the effort to convince girl to reconsider, add the tag-team effort of a variety of extended family members to the mix, creating an impending family drama. What is a Lordship to do?? Can this family be saved?!

Enter family therapy, Mansfield Park style, in the breakout session by Dara Friedman-Wheeler and Juliette Wells “Mansfield Park Family Therapy: A Comic Drama.” The audience was privy to the session of the Bertrams with the therapist and cast of characters of Sir Thomas, Lady Bertram, Mrs. Norris, Fanny, Edmund, and Mary and Henry Crawford, discussing the family’s inability to make Fanny marry Mr. Crawford. The cast of players were great in revealing family dynamics and motivations in this modern context, allowing us all to live in the novel for a short time with the hilarious family discussion, comments and one-liners! Mrs. Norris’ words, mannerisms and facial expressions, which will live in the annals of JASNA as a spot-on portrayal, provided an opportunity to have an outsider question her motives and give Fanny the support and strength we all want her to have!

The audience responded with a lot of laughter and appreciation. The therapy session led to our discussion of the presence of narcissism in Mansfield Park and which characters present as having true Narcissistic Personality Disorder or whether their traits are just a product of behaviors that are encouraged in the social setting and class in which they live. It was a fun breakout and great discussion of the novel.

On Thursday I traveled on the tour to Quebec City, a long day, but well worth the trip. There was so much interesting history, and beautiful scenery, including the spectacular Montmorency Falls. We started at the trail to get to the falls, walked over the bridge and saw firsthand the power of that water rolling underneath our feet. I made my way to the other side of the falls, and went down to the bottom, getting a full face of mist, wind and sound—a great stretch of the legs to get my appetite ready for our lunch, served in the former mansion and visitors’ center of the falls. The meal was delicious, and allowed time for a good table discussion of the AGM and Mansfield Park for our group.

The tour made its way to the old part of the city, which was very quaint and European. Tucked between shops was the grave site of Louis Joliet of Wisconsin exploration fame.

Another highlight of the AGM was the session on glee singing, providing a new musical experience for me, both fun and historically interesting. I saw old friends, but made many new acquaintances! I had a wonderful time.

Kathleen Madden at Montmorency Falls
Emporium Bidding
by Catherine Whitehouse

One of my favorite moments of the AGM was when I was allowed to try on the handmade bonnet that was being bid on. I started the bidding off. I checked back a few times but it quickly was more than I could afford. I think that the gentleman in charge hoped that by trying it on I would be encouraged to bid higher but with two kids to help put through college I was quickly outbid. I took some pictures and when I viewed myself with that beautiful bonnet on in the mirror I became teary-eyed. I admit that I was a bit embarrassed but I do have some nice pics!

I also enjoyed the ball and getting to know some more of the Wisconsin JASNA folks. Thank you to Kathleen for making me feel so included in your group of friends and for getting me to get out and dance!

Down to Business at the AGM:
Showdown at Mansfield Park
by Pat Latkin

To begin, I’ve no doubt Phyllis Thorpe (Friday 3 pm) will garner the “most popular” vote among attendees. She was part of a 3-in-1 breakout in which each group was held to 12-minutes at the mike, or…the Hook! With her troops and her propmaster, Phyllis’s drama stole the weekend!

My treat was Peter Sabor’s session: “Textual Controversies: Emending MP from 1923 to 2014.” Truly an esoteric lecture—how did all the Austen texts drift away from her original scripts? And a luxurious treat knowing no one will expect me to add to or speak up during the session. Picture Mr. Sabor searching for discrepancies line by line, using two texts by Oxford, ed. R. W. Chapman and ed. James Kinsley; Norton, ed. Claudia Johnson; Penguin, ed. Kathryn Sutherland; Broadview, ed. June Sturrock; and Cambridge, ed. John Wiltshire. While he was in Ottawa at his AGM, he was a mite starchy; in Montreal the starch has washed out and he is the image of affability and approachability as he describes annotating these texts. Our take-home sheet shows just six of his finds: “an usual noise” drew comments and conjectures. A big hit! (MP, Johnson: vol. I, chap. 18), not in Chapman. Novices can now see why JASNA demands the Chapman Edition (known as The Oxford Illustrated Jane Austen) as a reference in contributing to Persuasions.

Right after, I raced right over to Mme Lucile Trunel’s Salon 6, to hear “Mansfield Park en France: un rendez-vous manqué.” Yes, she spoke in French. And no articulating like a let’s-learn-French tape. No, I couldn’t follow. No, no hand out—you were on your own. She said MP was the least known and least translated of all the novels, and presented a slide show of covers of the novels in translation. We were privileged to see the latest, 2013, the 2-vol. Pleiades issued by Gallimard on onionskin. She also showed a volume from the Christian Bourgois edition, which she had just purchased, used, at the Travelers’ Tales book boutique in the Emporium. I stayed for her entire 45-minute presentation in Parisian French knowing I could leave before the Q. and A.—you know why. She, too, had a full house. (On the same subject, I recall that Park Honan of Leeds, who died just this week, told our AGM, where he was keynoter, that “Mansfield Park is the novel most preferred in Great Britain.”)

Another favorite speaker was Susan E. Jones, who talked on “A Choice Collection of Plants and Poultry: The Parson’s Table and the Parson’s Wife.” I think of her as the Black Turkey Lady who spoke most beguilingly of said turkey. And showed a slide of him in color. But since he is black you can readily picture him. He is available for sale if you are lucky and if you live in England.

Along with other fowl, all shown on her handout, and with a few choice words on plants (also shown), she was a down-to-earth speaker with an admiring audience which filled the room.
My interest in her subject (including the plants) is that Claudia Johnson, who edited the *Mansfield Park* edition for Norton, which met with Peter Sabor’s approval, has (this refers back to Claudia) mentioned me by name in her acknowledgments because of some gooseberry research I did, and I assure you I do not know any more about gooseberries than did Dr. Grant and probably a good deal less. But it was nice seeing my name anyway.

I attempted to attend the Cross-Stitch Workshop, but every chair was taken. And it was thus with two other Linda Meyer domestic workshops—these five sessions consumed hours and were immensely popular.

We were asked to comment on sundry things, such as purchases from the Emporium (a word Jane Austen never used). No, I didn’t purchase anything from the Jane Austen Bookstore (a retailer I am very familiar with). I was tempted by the *Facsimile Edition of The Juvenilia*. But I found something more enticing across the way: a First Edition *Emma*, (Gilson A8), rebound in colorful leather—at the stall of a Montreal bookseller heretofore unknown. Alas, the inscrutable Conference Directory provided the last day of the Conference does not give that dealer’s name.

I did purchase the *Knight Family Cookbook* with preface by Richard Knight, (Chawton House Press, 2014), which is a facsimile rendering of the original manuscript, whose recipes date at least prior to 1793.

My fun meeting of the conference was chatting with Baronda Bradley, best known for the elaborate costumes she makes every year and wears every day (at conferences, that is)! That I did not recognize her is understandable: the Texas lady was reduced to servantry, wearing a most becoming mob cap and a blue looked-like-chambray affair under her apron. Her appearance ticked a long ago memory. When I was running our AGM (Chicago), I called the British Consul to ask if the Queen would favor us with a letter, better yet a proclamation, honoring Jane. (It was the custom then among regions, on special occasions, to do this.) I then asked how I could sign the request: Her Loyal Subject? No, she said in that crisp upper-crust put-down accent, “You can’t be a subject, but you could be...a suh-vant!” So Baronda is right on top of things. As for me, I don’t know if I ever sent that letter.

Out and About at the AGM:

The last lobsterman has left Maine! I saw William Hamilton, whose side job was RC in Portland, who rather wistfully reported there was not a single attendee from that state this year. He moved to New York recently to live near his daughter, Melissa, who is also a Janeite. The two “trained” for 11 hours to get to Montreal!

The Vertical Novel. I had breakfast with Keiko Parker of British Columbia. She published a study of the artists who illustrated Jane Austen, and is now at work on translating the novels into Japanese—“so difficult to do it vertically,” she said. Her first is selling very well in Japan, more than over here, and she is at work on the second.

Gratuit. The Saturday breakfast buffet was the most lavish I have ever enjoyed at an AGM. Endless pastries and rolls, platters and platters of fresh fruit—at least a half dozen varieties; 3 juices, 2 coffees, hot water and much tea.

One more Sabor: The first canvas book tote was “invented” at Sabor’s Ottawa AGM. The tote has transmogrified into a floral print percale sack.

Emily Auerbach honored for expanding access to education

University of Wisconsin-Madison English professor Emily Auerbach was honored recently for her work to expand university access to more diverse populations. The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities recognized Emily, an Austen scholar and frequent JASNA lecturer, with the Distinguished Service Award. UW officials noted the success of the UW Odyssey Project. Odyssey, founded by Emily in 2003, enrolls 30 students each year in a challenging college humanities class.

“I am passionate about diversity and access, so this is a great honor — one I share with a team of dedicated faculty, staff and partners, as well as my eloquent Odyssey students,” Emily said.
Trip of a Lifetime

By Victoria Hinshaw

How lucky can you get, I ask myself every time I think about the five weeks I spent in France and England in August and September. The glow will stay with me for a long time—and it all started with months of planning, of course, also among my favorite activities.

I try to get to England for a visit every year, but 2014 was very special.

My blogging partner, Kristine Hughes, and I planned to lead a Duke of Wellington Tour in September (see http://onelondonone.blogspot.com). We worked with several travel agents to secure the bookings and actually scheduled the trip so that we could visit Highclere Castle, where Downton Abbey is filmed. Highclere is just a few miles from Wellington’s country home, and the Duke and the Earl of Cararvon sat side by side in the House of Lords in the early 19th century, so there was a connection. We knew Highclere would be a good draw for potential tour-goers.

We began the Duke of Wellington Tour in London with a private tour of his London residence, Apsley House, now also known as the Wellington Museum. The house was originally built on the westernmost edge of London for Lord Apsley by Robert Adam, and was known as Number One London. It is lavishly decorated in the Adam manner and filled with great art and the many prizes presented to the Duke for his role in saving Europe from Napoleon. We also toured the Wellington Arch, its gallery and its viewing deck, from which we watched the Mounted Guards arriving through the park.

The life and accomplishments of the Duke provided a framework for our tour. Born in 1769 in Ireland, son of Garret and Anne Wesley, the Earl and Countess of Mornington, he was their third son, and early on his mother despaired of his ever amounting to anything. Over his lifetime, he was not only a Field Marshal and victor in the Battle of Waterloo, but had many other offices and honors: Chancellor of Oxford University, Constable of the Tower of London, Lord Protector of the Cinque Ports, member of the House of Lords, Commander in Chief of the British Army, and a political leader, eventually serving several terms as Prime Minister. At his death in 1852, he was entombed in St. Paul’s Cathedral after a gigantic funeral procession and service.
attended by thousands. Therefore, just about anything between the mid-18th and mid-19th centuries could fit into our plans.

After Apsley House, we drove through London to the Tower of London where we toured the White Tower, the Crown Jewels, and more. Overwhelmingly the most striking aspect of the Tower was the display of hundreds of thousands of red ceramic poppies cascading over the walls and filling the moat. Our Beefeater guide told us there would be one poppy for every dead Commonwealth participant in the First World War. “It is,” he said, “for Brits and those from the Commonwealth, one hundred years since the beginning of World War I. For you Americans,” he added in an acidic tone, “97 years.” Ouch, but oh, so true. Later in the day, we visited Horse Guards in Whitehall, the official home of the army, watched the end of day ceremonies, and toured their Horse Guards Museum.

The next day, we made a walking tour of the St. James’s neighborhood, capped by tea at Richoux on Piccadilly. On Monday we climbed aboard our coach and drove to Walmer Castle on the Kent coast, where the Duke died. Viewing the White Cliffs and Dover Castle were also on our agenda. The next day we visited the Regency Town House in Brunswick Square, Hove, and the Brighton Pavilion, where the Duke met with the Prince Regent in this truly bizarre and fantastical palace. Every moment of both visits was enlightening.

Graham, our accommodating and most genial coach driver (don’t ever refer to his vehicle as a BUS!), carried us on to Hampshire where we visited the Duke’s country home, Stratfield Saye. The present Duke of Wellington, age 99, has turned the house over to his son, the Marquess of Duoro, and his family. It is open to visitors on a limited basis, and we really appreciated our excellent guides through the house and grounds, including to the grave of the first Duke’s horse, Copenhagen, his mount for the entire long day of the Battle of Waterloo, June 28, 1815.

To say that Highclere Castle is spectacular would be a major understatement—particularly when you include the delicious fare in the restaurant and the charming gift shop. Later in the day, we toured Basildon Park, an 18th century estate restored in the 1950s to its original glory, other than the large marble bathrooms and the charming 1950s kitchen, all of which the National Trust has left for the enjoyment of visitors. Does anyone remember those aqua metal cabinets—or the pink mix-master?

We left flowers at Copenhagen’s grave.
Our tour wound up in Windsor, where we toured the Castle’s State Rooms, frequented the many antique shops for special treasures, and took a cruise on the Thames, along with quite a few of the Queen’s Swans.

The “crowning” glory was a private tour of Frogmore, a quiet little estate on the Windsor Great Park where many royals have enjoyed a bit of privacy, and where today, the Queen often comes to walk her dogs.

This is just a taste of what we did. I hope I speak for all the participants when I say it was marvelous, every minute of it.

Frogmore House in Windsor Great Park.
JASNA
Wisconsin Reading Groups

Madison Reading Group

Our tentative schedule for next year’s meetings and the books we will read is as follows:

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

Milwaukee Reading Group

Spring Meeting, January 31, 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

Wisconsin Region
Membership Report
by Jane Kivlin
Membership Coordinator

Membership renewals were due by September 1. Renewals can be done online at

http://www.jasna.org/membership/index.html

with 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 151 members, up two since last year at this time.

Welcome to our newest members, Tracy Rysavy of Marinette (tracy112@aol.com), Elise Martinez of Kenosha (erenee31@gmail.com) and Victoria Barry of Racine (vmbarry@hotmail.com)

Please note the following changes:

Marsha Lambert’s apartment number has changed to #255.
Marylee Richmond’s email has changed to marestailswest@gmail.com
Jean Stenborg’s email has changed to jean.stenborg@gmail.com

Also, I will be stepping down from the Membership Coordinator position in December.

Editor’s note: Many thanks to Jane for her two years of volunteer service to JASNA-Wisconsin!
No 2015 JASNA-WI Calendar

There will be no 2015 calendars. Sales have dropped off in 2014 and we have several dozen remainders. Kim Wilson and Liz Philosophos Cooper, the creators of the calendar, made the decision to take a break. At the AGM we had quite a few disappointed customers and a few internet inquiries. Look for a return in 2016. FYI, if you saved your 2009 calendar you can use that one for 2015 as the dates fall on the same days of the week!

Kim Wilson’s book earns recognition

Wisconsin region member Kim Wilson’s latest book, “At Home with Jane Austen,” was honored with inclusion in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel’s year-end collection of 100 books for holiday gift-giving.

Kim’s book was included in the category of “visually interesting books.” To see the visually interesting cover, as well as 99 other notable books from 2014, click here.
Is this the real Jane Austen?

The Jane Austen Centre in Bath unveiled a waxwork likeness of the author last summer. The only known portrait from life, Cassandra’s sketch from 1810, was the starting point for the waxwork, which was constructed with the help of former FBI forensic artist Melissa Dring. “[Cassandra’s portrait] does make it look like she's been sucking lemons,” Dring told the BBC. “She has a somewhat sour and dour expression. But we know from all accounts of her, she was very lively, very great fun to be with and a mischievous and witty person.”

Dring used diaries, letters and other contemporary accounts of the author’s appearance to help flesh out Austen’s likeness. Sculptor Mark Richards then took Dring’s findings and built the 5-foot-6-inch waxwork from them. The artist is happy with the results.

“She came from a large Austen family and they all seemed to share the long nose, the bright sparkly brown eyes and curly brown hair,” Dring said. “[The waxwork] is as close as anyone can possibly get to her.”

And what do our members think?

JASNA Essay Contest Winner from Wisconsin

Victoria Barry
Second Prize Winner, College/University Division
Victoria M. Barry attends Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
Essay: “Personal Voice and Transformation in Mansfield Park.”

Victoria won $500, which she used to travel to and from Montreal, two nights’ hotel room at the Sheraton, registration for the AGM, and recognition at the AGM and on the web site. She and her mentor have one year’s membership in JASNA, as well as a set of Norton Critical Editions of Jane Austen’s novels.

Victoria found JASNA when she Googled for Austen clubs. She listed Tulane Professor Molly Rothenberg as her mentor because she helped her with some citation questions and has really encouraged Victoria’s writing. Professor Rothenberg also teaches a seminar on Austen, so Victoria knew she is a fan!

Victoria’s primary major is Art History, which she hopes to use in a museum career. She added English as her second major just for fun because she loves reading. Victoria also will be studying abroad in France next semester.

Victoria was born and raised in Racine, and went to the Prairie School for middle and high school. Her mother, Mrs. Susan Barry, is a social studies teacher at Franklin High School.
August 31, 2014 was the end of JASNA’s fiscal year. This schedule compares financial results for last year and the year just ended. Here are some points to consider:

1. Revenue and expenses for calendars and bracelets overlap year-ends because we incur the costs in one year, and the revenue in the next year. Therefore, I combined revenue and expenses for fiscal years 2013 and 2014. As you see, over the 2-year period, we made a little profit. Accountants would call this “break-even” because it’s close to zero on sales of $14,662. Bracelets are sold at cost so any profit or loss comes from the calendars. This year we decided not to produce calendars, and going forward I think it will be important to keep in mind that they aren’t really a moneymaker for the Region, but they aren’t costing us anything, either (except for the efforts of our wonderful volunteers, Kim Wilson and Liz Cooper).

2. We typically lose money on events. In fiscal year 2014, we lost $247 on the birthday luncheon, and $731 on the spring luncheon. It has been our policy to price the luncheons so they are affordable to our members and to subsidize the costs with our reserves. However, we can’t do that forever, so pricing events, or changing how we do them to reduce costs, must be discussed in the next few years.

3. Administrative expenses includes supplies, postage and the website. This year, we had the additional expense of the member directory.

I want to thank Judy Beine for her support and leadership of the Region. Judy sees financial statements and bank statements throughout the year so she serves as my second of eyes. If you have any questions about our financial results, please contact me.

### Fiscal Year 2013 vs. 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2013 (in $)</th>
<th>FY 2014 (in $)</th>
<th>Combined Sales Results (in $)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sales of calendars and bracelets</td>
<td>7,452</td>
<td>7,211</td>
<td>14,662</td>
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<td>Expenses for calendars &amp; bracelets</td>
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<td>(2,890)</td>
<td>(14,309)</td>
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<td>Net profit/(loss) on sales</td>
<td>(3,967)</td>
<td>4,321</td>
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<td>Net loss on events</td>
<td>(1,618)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proceeds from sale of donated books</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Donations</td>
<td>(590)</td>
<td>(136)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative expenses</td>
<td>(446)</td>
<td>(926)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Profit/(loss) for the year</strong></td>
<td>$ (6,621)</td>
<td>$ 2,290</td>
<td>$ 354</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Cash</td>
<td>18,438</td>
<td>11,817</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Cash</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,817</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,108</strong></td>
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My 2014 Encounters with Jane Austen in England
by Victoria Hinshaw

Neither Chawton nor Steventon was on my itinerary last summer when I spent three weeks in England. But wherever I went, I found bits of Austenalia at hand.

I was surprised to see the shop closed, once Rohan’s, which filled the ground floor of Henry Austen’s residence on Henrietta Street. The Blue Plaque marking Jane Austen’s visit was intact, but the building’s fate could not be determined.

Wandering through the city, I found myself in Cheapside, where the Gardiners lived in Pride and Prejudice, and took the opportunity of visiting St. Mary-le-

Bow. To be a real Cockney, it is said, one must be born with in the sound of Bow Bells.

In the Berkshire town of Reading, I visited the Abbey Gate, which once housed a school where Jane and her sister Cassandra were enrolled. It is in poor shape today, but signs said renovation plans were afoot.

Back in London—near Dunbar Court, formerly the India Office, I found a statue of Warren Hastings, Governor-General of Bengal 1773-1785. Hastings is sometimes alleged to be the natural father of Jane Austen’s cousin, Eliza de Feuillide Austen, who named her only child after him.

Imagine my surprise when I came across the graves in Hampstead of Eliza, her son and her mother. The gravestone, at St. John-at-Hampstead church, appeared to be recently cleaned. It honors Philadelphia Hancock (d. 1792, age 61), her grandson Hastings (d. 1801, age six), and Elizabeth Austen, who was Henry Austen’s wife when she died at age 50 in 1813.
A Walk in Jane Austen’s London
by Julie DeWitt

In May 2014, I had the good fortune to visit England with two of my sisters. We spent 8 days hiking in the Lake District and 4 days in London. We had a wonderful time in the Lake District visiting areas known to Beatrix Potter, William Wordsworth and Thomas Coleridge, among other literary notables, but Jane Austen never made it to the Lake District so I couldn’t indulge in any Austen fantasies while I was in that part of England. Austen did visit London, however, and I planned an afternoon to explore a part of London where she was known to have stayed.

My sisters aren’t nearly as interested in Austen as I am, so after a tour of the Tower of London I left them and set off on my own. I had as my companion a charming book called In the Steps of Jane Austen by Anne Marie Edwards (1991, Jones Books, Madison, WI). It is subtitled “Walking Tours of Austen’s England” which tells you just what it is, a collection of walks that explore the landscape in which she lived, visited and set her fiction.

This was not my first experience with Ms. Edwards’ book. Nearly 10 years ago my daughter and I took several of the walks in southwestern England, near Bath, Lyme Regis and Winchester. We found the routes and directions easy to follow and each walk’s accompanying essay was interesting and informative. The London walk was no exception, although on my own I had a little trouble finding the starting point. Londoners proved to be very helpful though, even when I hadn’t asked. They would see me with my book and map and stop to ask me whether they could help. I accepted their help gratefully and they were intrigued with the idea of walking around London thinking about Jane Austen and her novels.

The walk began just behind the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, off Picadilly Square. I was directed to Clifford Street, where the Middletons, from Sense and Sensibility, could well have lived. The street remains essentially unchanged from Austen’s time.

This could have been the Middletons’ house in London.

From there I passed by the site of a coaching inn where some historitans think Austen may have lodged and on to Savile Row. I was fascinated to see the tailor shops and a little farther on, Thomas Gray’s jewelry shop, where Elinor and Marianne first encounter Edward Ferrers.

The walk took me nearly 5 hours, partly because I have a terrible sense of direction and made some wrong turns but also because sometimes I was so intrigued by the streets that I forgot to even look at the directions. My favorite street was a narrow passage called Goodwin’s Court. This street, barely as wide as a sidewalk here in Wisconsin, is lined with 18th century houses that retain their brass fittings and carriage lamps. It was easy to imagine what it must have been like two hundred years ago, especially as I was the only person on the street for several minutes.

Plaque on the site of Henry Austen’s house.

The walk includes two sites where Austen stayed during visits to London. One was on Henrietta Street, a townhouse where her brother Henry lived for a while. The second, now greatly altered, was where Henry moved after leaving Henrietta St. It is on a charming circle called Hans Place, although Edwards says that in Austen’s time this neighborhood was outside of London and it was a long walk in the country to reach the city. A plaque marks the site of Henry’s home. Ms. Edwards tells us that it was while staying in this house that Austen oversaw the publication of Emma, worked on revisions of Mansfield Park, and possibly even found time to do a little writing of Persuasion. I was enchanted to imagine myself in the same place—even though the neighboring house was covered with scaffolds and tarps for renovations.

I arrived back at the apartment pleased that I had spent those hours with Austen. Even in the midst of modern London I was able to indulge in the pleasure of 18th-century London as I imagined it might have been when Jane Austen was writing and visiting.
JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA,
WISCONSIN REGION
Requests the pleasure of your company
at Jane Austen’s 239th Birthday Celebration.

Please join us on Saturday, December 13, at 11:00 a.m.
at the Red Circle Inn in Nashotah

Sara Bowen will present her AGM breakout talk:
“Fanny’s Future; Mary’s Nightmare: Jane Austen and the Clergy Wife”
There are twenty-three clergy wives and prospective clergy wives in Jane Austen’s
novels and other writings. Mary Crawford in Mansfield Park is the only one of those
women who questions a love match solely because the man is going to be a clergyman.
What about Fanny Price’s future made it Mary Crawford’s nightmare? What as-
sumptions would a woman in Austen’s time have made about the expectations Mary
or Fanny would face as the rector’s wife at Thornton Lacey? Sara Bowen will discuss
the role of the Church of England clergyman’s wife in 1814, and Jane Austen’s fic-
tional treatment of clergy wives as different as Mrs. Morland and Mrs. Elton.
Sara Bowen is a life member of JASNA and was co-coordinator of the JASNA 2005
AGM in Milwaukee. She is a former member of the boards of JASNA and JASNA-
Wisconsin. Sara is a retired lawyer, and as the wife of a deacon, she is a clergy wife
herself. A revised version of her talk has been accepted for JASNA publication.

Please note: 11:00 to 12:00 Welcome & Cocktails (cash bar),
Champagne Toast & Luncheon begin at Noon

SORRY, RESERVATIONS ARE CLOSED