

# Muse & Musings

*"The company of clever, well-informed people, who have a great deal of conversation"*

## June 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting

### Books and Berries

Books and Berries is our annual members' book review meeting. Here is a list of the books we shared:

Laureen McMahon brought *What Regency Women did for us* by Rachel Knowles with the legacies of 12 women who were contemporaries of Jane.

Mary Atkins suggested two titles: a P&P sequel entitled *An Enduring Love* by Sophie Turner, with a good number of real events to satisfy the history buffs; and *A Jane Austen Education* (because we all do have much to learn from reading Jane) as compiled by now-enlightened William Deresiewicz.

Iris Dayson presented *Textiles: The Whole Story* by Beverly Gordon. The significance of the use of fabrics throughout human history has been very much underestimated and this vibrantly illustrated book enlightens the reader on the pivotal role fabrics have played from ancient times to today.



Elspeth and Jayne enjoy syllabub on the berries component of Books and Berries; a new Jane's Bountiful Basket is awarded each June to the winner of a draw of all first-time attendees plus their sponsors.

Sandy Lundy reviewed J.E. Austen-Leigh's *A Memoir of Jane Austen by Her Nephew*, which she felt has merit despite the criticism it has received. She positively raved over John Cherrington's *Walking to Camelot*, and believes Jane would have enjoyed musings on walking the Macmillan Way across south-central England.

Sue Trusler introduced a new novel that has resonated with her, Margaret Drabble's *The Dark Flood Rises*, an apocalyptic novel about old age.

And my trifle with "whipt syllabub" was a "receipt" from the newly published *Dining with Jane Austen* by JASNA Life-member Julianne Gehrre. My copy arrived today and I am impressed, flipping through pages packed with full-colour photos. I can't wait to share it with everyone.

Our book sale raised \$118! Thank you Iris Dayson and Donna Ornstein for organizing, and everyone for opening your pocketbooks and library shelves to give a new home to a few gently-used books.

"Jane's Bountiful Basket" went to Janice Sexton, introduced by Donna. We hope to see Janice again in our fall meetings!

— by Michelle Siu with notes from Laureen McMahon

## August 12<sup>th</sup> Special VPL Event

### Box Hill Picnic presented in partnership with Vancouver Public Library

The Box Hill Picnic event at the main branch of the Vancouver Public Library was a great success.



Box Hill scene; Joan and Michelle picnicking; English country dance demonstration.



*The event in full swing.*

Team Hollifield (Aileen's architect husband John and other family members) turned up early and created a delightful view of Box Hill in beautiful 2-D paper art.

The room was also decorated with books from VPL's collections, a replica Jane Austen quilt, displays of past JASNA Newsletters, our meeting notices, some hand-made costumes, a timeline of Jane Austen's life, and of course, yards and yards of bunting.

There was a dramatic reading, and presentations on picnic food and carriages and to crown all, a demonstration by the Vancouver English Country Dance group.

– by *Elspeth Flood and Michelle Siu*

## Joan's 2017 Jane Austen pilgrimage

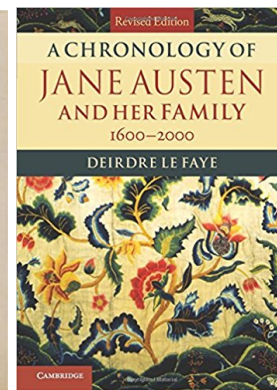
Visiting Hampshire in June of 2017 provided me with so many opportunities to indulge in special events and exhibits commemorating 200 years of Jane Austen's death. The Winchester Discovery Centre was a must as it had a temporary exhibition titled "The Mysterious Miss Austen." Among other specially assembled items, six portraits of Jane Austen were being exhibited in one place for the very first time. There was the famous 1810 sketch by Jane's sister Cassandra, especially loaned from the National Portrait Gallery and the only confirmed portrait of Austen during her lifetime. Also was the original 1869 watercolour commissioned by Austen's nephew, James Edward Austen-Leigh, as a model for the engraved cover of his 1870 biography, *A Memoir of Jane Austen*. There was a second work by Cassandra, which famously depicts a back view of Jane Austen in a blue dress, sitting on the grass and wearing a bonnet that conceals her face.

Of the two remaining portraits, one was an 1816 silhouette of unknown provenance, and the other a sketch of Austen by James Stanier Clarke, the chaplain and librarian to the Prince of Wales. He met Austen in 1815 and was fond of sketching. This last drawing has not been fully authenticated as being of Jane Austen, but if it were

indeed her, this portrayal is a departure from the other portraits. Clarke's Austen wears a glamorous black and red hat, a fashionably draped shawl, and a brown fur muff. The sketch shows a slim and spare figure, very much like contemporary descriptions of Austen.

There were lots of other unique items on display for the first time in one place, including Austen's surviving manuscript of an alternative ending to her final novel *Persuasion* (on loan from the British Library), first editions of her works and copies of personal letters. One stand-out item was a reproduction of Jane's pelisse, made of a replica silk fabric especially dyed and woven at a local silk mill that dates from before Jane's time. It underscores that Jane Austen was tall and slim. Unfortunately, photographs were not allowed of any of the exhibits and the whole room was lit by special low level lighting to protect the items displayed.

A quick diversion was included to Alton to see their small exhibit focusing on former Alton resident, William Curtis, (Jane's apothecary who is thought to have been the model for Mr. Perry in *Emma*.) It was after Curtis was unable to help Jane any further in the Spring of 1817, that she then moved on to Winchester to seek more expert medical advice.



*James Stanier Clarke sketch, possibly of Jane Austen; Deirdre Le Faye's weighty tome.*

Next day it was off to Chawton, first stopping at Chawton House Museum. It has had a lot of refurbishment for the bicentenary since my last visit some years ago, including new replica wallpaper, along with the other special treasures on display. The gift shop proved to be hard on my wallet, but I was very pleased to acquire a copy of Dierdre le Faye's huge piece of work *A Chronology of Jane Austen and her Family: 1600-2000* – all 800 pages of it. For nearly forty years Deirdre Le Faye has been gathering every single piece of information available about the Austen family before, during and after Jane's lifetime. This book gathers all this material together to produce a comprehensive chronology, containing some 15,000 entries. It is a fascinating reference piece.

Next we took the short walk up to Chawton House Library as this year I became a "North American Friend". It was



busy with a large Swiss tour group attending a special conference, but we were warmly welcomed and given free run of the book collections as well as the building with its many valuable portraits and a remarkably undersized suit made for Edward Austen when he was in his late teens. We strolled up to the walled kitchen garden, with borders of lavender in full bloom, beehives, heritage fruit trees and strawberry plants. We retraced our steps along the gravel walk, back past the main house to the stables to see the Shire horses before saying our goodbyes. It was thrilling to see these massive but gentle animals up so close. I was dwarfed by both them and their groom! I couldn't help but think how lucky they were to live at such an idyllic place.



It was a mere few weeks later that I read of the sudden change in Chawton House Library's funding arrangements. An early part of its necessary cost-cutting was having to find new homes for these four horses. I am so glad I got to see them before they were let go.



*The giant Shire horses of Chawton House have gone to new homes.*

It had been a busy morning so we went back to where our car was parked, conveniently right outside The Greyfriars pub, so we finished off our Chawton visit with a fine English lunch in the sunny garden. It had been a lovely visit on a perfect day. I'm not sure when I will be back in Hampshire again but I feel I made the most of this special Jane Austen year.

– by Joan Reynolds

## September 23 meeting:

### **Jane Austen's Legacy: An examination of Jane Austen's correspondence from her final months**

Our September meeting was brilliantly conceived and organized by Bonnie Herron. As we gathered around several tables in groups of six or eight, Bonnie provided each table with either a letter from JA's last months and a page of discussion questions about each letter; or a page of background information about one of the letters. After 20 minutes or so of lively discussion, each table read out their letter and summarized their discussion.

#### **Group 1: Background on friendship of Jane Austen and Anne Sharp**

The friendship between Jane Austen and Anne Sharp is not much known, but AS was a governess – at one time to Fanny Knight – and she and JA maintained a correspondence for about 12 years. After JA's death, Cassandra sent AS a lock of Jane's hair and a sewing bodkin she had used for 20 years.

#### **Group 2: Jane Austen's last letter to Anne Sharp**

JA's letter to Miss Sharp on 22 May 1817, less than two months before her death, is very tender and full of hopes for a possible future, tempered by forebodings of impending death.

#### **Group 3: Background on Jane Austen's nephew, James Edward Austen-Leigh**

JA's nephew JEA-L was only 19 when JA died, and he wrote a memoir when he was 70. His memoir is a Victorian-style whitewash, but it did bring JA back into the public eye. There is speculation about why he wrote it: to promote JA, or to forestall other biographies.

#### **Group 4: Jane Austen's last letter to James Edward Austen-Leigh**

JA's letter to her nephew is reassuring, but contains hints that she may in fact be dying. She says that her medical man has promised to cure her, but jokes that if he fails she will lay a complaint from beyond the grave.

#### **Group 5: Jane Austen's last letter to brother Charles and her last will and testament**

In this letter to Charles, she tells how the shock of her uncle Leigh-Perrot's will – leaving the estate expected by the Austens to his wife – caused her to have a relapse. For JA's will, see Joan's Timeline, following.

It was a very lively and informative session much enjoyed by all.

– by Elspeth Flood with notes from Lorraine Meltzer and Bonnie Herron

## A timeline of Jane Austen's illness, death and commemoration

As part of our year of remembrance of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jane Austen's death, Joan Reynolds prepared this timeline.



### 1816

A second edition of *Mansfield Park* is published by John Murray.

(February) Sales of the second edition of *Mansfield Park* do not meet expectations, negating the earnings from *Emma* that same year.

(February 20th) Charles Austen loses his ship *HMS Phoenix* off the coast of Turkey (Izmir) and faces a Court Martial.

(Saturday, March 16th) Henry Austen's bank fails, rendering him bankrupt and forcing the whole Austen family into financial uncertainty. Investments in the bank are lost by Uncle Perrot (£10,000) and her brothers James and Frank. Frank and Henry can no longer help in providing financial support for Jane's mother. Edward also loses £20,000, at a time when he is also fighting a major and complex lawsuit over the Chawton estates which threatens the Austens' occupancy of Chawton cottage.

Under Jane's instructions, her brother Henry buys back *Susan* from Crosby and Co. for £10. He "then had the pleasure of telling the publisher that the book he had neglected was by the author of *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*" (Aiken Hodge, 174-175). Another novel called *Susan* is published, and Jane continues revisions to her own work, renaming her principal character Catherine Morland instead.

At some point during the year, Jane becomes ill but disregards it to continue her work, namely on *The Elliots*.

(Monday April 22nd) Charles Austen and his crew are acquitted at his Court Martial trial, and he and his crew found to have "used every exertion to save the ship." However, Charles thereafter was not able to obtain a commission for another 10 years and struggles financially.

(May) Cassandra takes Jane to Cheltenham to seek medical care.

(June 11th) Cassandra and Jane return from Cheltenham spa. Jane continues work on *The Elliots*.

(Thursday, July 18th) Jane completes a first draft of *The Elliots* (later to become *Persuasion*).

Jane's health declines enough for her family, including Cassandra and Jane's niece Caroline, to begin noticing she is unwell.

(Tuesday, August 6th) Jane rewrites the concluding two chapters of *The Elliots* and finishes the work.

(December) Henry is ordained Deacon.

### 1817

(January) Jane begins work on *The Brothers* (later published under the name of *Sanditon*)

(March) Jane delays publication of what was to become *Northanger Abbey*: "Miss Catherine is put upon the shelves for the present, and I do not know that she will ever come out."

(Tuesday, March 18th) Despite completing some 12 chapters of *The Brothers*, Jane is forced to stop due to her ever increasing illness. Walking becomes a chore and nothing can be done without great difficulty and loss of energy.

(March 26th) Jane rallies and is able to be placed on the Austen's donkey for which a special saddle had been made. She writes optimistically to Caroline Austen.

"I have taken one ride on the Donkey and like it very much – and you must try to get me quiet mild days that I may be able to get out pretty constantly...."

(March 28<sup>th</sup>) Uncle James Leigh Perrot dies, leaving the Austens full of expectations of their being substantial beneficiaries of his estate, based on his past implied promises.

(April 6) Uncle Leigh Perrot surprises everyone by leaving his estate to his widow, the capricious Mrs. Leigh Perrot, with no benefit going to the Austens until after her death. In the midst of the family's other financial uncertainties, this is a major disappointment.

Jane writes to Charles Austen that "the shock of my Uncle's Will brought on a relapse" and she is "too unwell the last fortnight to write anything that was not absolutely necessary." She is now confined to her bed.

(Sunday, April 27th) Jane pens a short will:

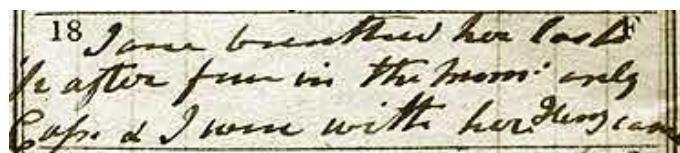
*I Jane Austen of the Parish of Chawton do by this my last Will & Testament give and bequeath to my dearest Sister Cassandra Eliza every thing of which I may die possessed, or which may be hereafter due to me, subject to the payment of my*



*Funeral Expences, & to a Legacy of £50. to my Brother Henry, & £50. to Mde Bignon—which I request may be paid as soon as convenient. And I appoint my said dear Sister the Executrix of this my last Will & Testament*

(Thursday May 22, 2017) Jane writes to her friend Anne Sharp: "In spite of my hopes and promises when I wrote to you I have since been very ill indeed. An attack of my sad complaint seized me within a few days afterwards – the most severe I ever had and coming upon me after weeks of indisposition, it reduced me very low..."

(Friday, July 18th) Jane Austen dies in Winchester during the early part of the day, with Cassandra "sitting a vigil with her." Mary Lloyd Austen wrote in her diary: "Jane breathed her last ½ after four in the morn; only Cass[andra] and I were with her. Henry came, Austen & Ed came, the latter returned home"

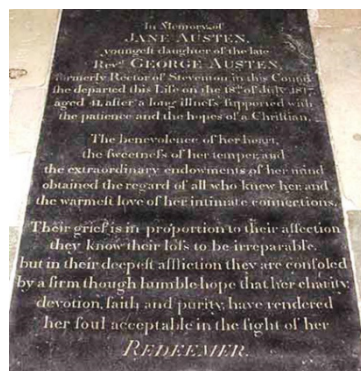


18 Jane breathed her last ½ after four in the morn; only Cass. & I were with her. Henry came

Hampshire Record Office

(Sunday July 20th) Cassandra writes to Fanny Knight describing Jane's last hours "I have lost a treasure, such a sister, such a friend as never can have been surpassed; the sun of my life, the gilder of every pleasure, the soother of every sorrow;"

(Thursday, July 24th) Jane is buried at her brother Henry's direction, in an aisle of the nave at Winchester Cathedral, very early in the morning (in order to be completed in time for regular morning service at 10 am)



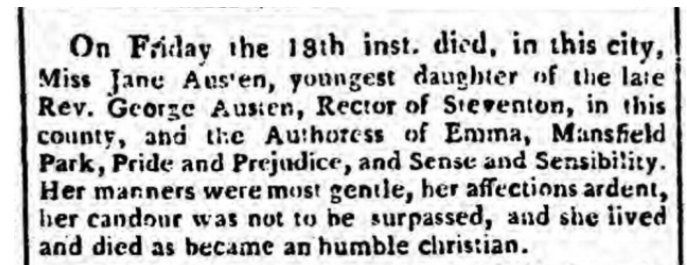
In Memory of JANE AUSTEN, youngest daughter of the late Revd GEORGE AUSTEN, formerly Rector of Steventon in this County, who departed this life on the 18th of July 1817, aged 41, after a long illness supported with the patience and the hopes of a Christian.

The benevolence of her heart, the sweetness of her temper, and the extraordinary endowments of her mind obtained the regard of all who knew her and the warmest love of her intimate connections. Their grief is in proportion to their affection they know their loss to be irreparable, but in their deepest affliction they are consoled by a firm though humble hope that her charity, devotion, faith and purity have rendered her soul acceptable in the sight of her REDEEMER.

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(Monday July 28th) The obituary written by Henry Austen her brother, mentioning her as "Authoress of *Emma*, *Mansfield Park*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*" appears in the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*.



On Friday the 18th inst. died, in this city, Miss Jane Austen, youngest daughter of the late Rev. George Austen, Rector of Steventon, in this county, and the Authoress of *Emma*, *Mansfield Park*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Sense and Sensibility*. Her manners were most gentle, her affections ardent, her candour was not to be surpassed, and she lived and died as became an humble christian.

(©2015 British Newspaper Archive)

(Similar obituaries mentioning her novels were placed in the *Hampshire Telegraph* and *Sussex Chronicle*, *Kentish Gazette*, the *Courier*, the *Gentleman's Magazine*, the *Monthly Magazine* and the *New Monthly Magazine*.)

(Tuesday July 29th) – Jane's funeral: Edward, Henry and Frank attended the procession along with Jane's nephew, James-Edward. Cassandra writes to Fanny Knight: "...I watched the little mournful procession the length of the street; and when it turned from my sight, and I had lost her for ever..." and "... she desires that one of her gold chains may be given to her god-daughter Louisa, and a lock of her hair be set for you." Martha Lloyd was given Jane Austen's topaz cross, and a lock of hair given to Anne Sharp.

(December) *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* are published through John Murray as a set, thanks to the direction of Henry and Cassandra. Henry pens a biographical note for the set identifying for the first time that Jane Austen is the author of these works. Sales start strong but tail off.

Historian John Britton refers to Austen's grave in his "History and Antiquities of the see and cathedral church of Winchester" showing that her reputation as a novelist was already acknowledged just months after her death:

Among the interments in this pile, is one of a lady whose virtues, talents, and accomplishments entitle her not only to distinguished notice, but to the admiration of every person who has a heart to feel and a mind to appreciate female worth and merit. The lady alluded to, Miss *Jane Austen*, who was buried here, July 1817, was author of four novels of considerable interest and value. In the last, a posthumous publication, entitled "*Northanger Abbey*," is a sketch of a memoir of the amiable author.

## 1818

(April) Edward Knight is finally forced to acknowledge the claim by John Knight Hinton and Jane Baverstock for the Chawton estates and pays them £15,000 finally securing Chawton Cottage for Cassandra and her mother. To pay this large sum in the wake of the financial costs

from the collapse of Henry's bank, a substantial area of timber was felled that, according to a niece writing a half century later, "occasioned the great gap in Chawton Wood Park, visible for 30 years afterwards, and probably not filled up again even now".

### 1820

John Murray destroys the remaining unsold copies of *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*.

### 1832

Richard Bentley purchases all of the remaining copyrights to Jane Austen's works

### 1833

After a 12-year hiatus of no Austen works in publication, Bentley publishes the collected works of Jane Austen for the first time since her death in an illustrated five-volume edition known as the Standard Novels. Jane Austen's novels would never go out of print again.

### 1843

Cassandra Austen culls and clips Jane Austen's letters to her. Cassandra dies two years later. At her own death in 1845, Cassandra bequeathed the batch of letters she had saved to her grand-niece, Lady (Fanny Knight) Knatchbull, whose son, Lord Brabourne, had them published in 1884.

### 1870

Nephew James Edward Austen publishes his memoirs entitled *A Memoir of the Life of Jane Austen* and brings Jane Austen's life and works to a greater audience, solidifying her place in literary history.

### 1872

Jane's nephew uses the proceeds of his *Memoir* to commission James Wyatt to erect a brass plaque on the wall next to her grave in Winchester Cathedral:



*Jane Austen. Known to many by her writings, endeared to her family by the varied charms of her character and*

*ennobled by her Christian faith and piety was born at Steventon in the County of Hants, December 16 1775 and buried in the Cathedral July 18 1817. "She openeth her mouth with wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness."*

### 1884

Lord Brabourne publishes the texts of the collection of Jane Austen's letters bequeathed to him by Cassandra via his mother Fanny Knight, Lady Knatchbull.

### 1885

Jane Austen makes it into the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

### 1900

The memorial window designed by Charles Eamer Kempe is installed in Winchester Cathedral. The window was funded by public subscription although the fund did not reach the sum needed to fill the larger space in the Lady Chapel. At the top centre of the clerestory lights is St Augustine (St. Austin), and the Austen family's coat of arms can be seen either side of him, just below in the smaller tracery lights.



### 1913

William and Richard Arthur Austen Leigh publish *A Family Record*.

### 1940

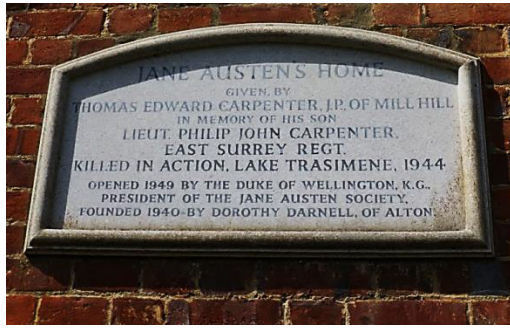
The Jane Austen Society of the United Kingdom was founded by Dorothy Darnell with the purpose of raising funds to preserve Chawton Cottage.

### 1947

After an appeal in *The Times* by the Jane Austen Society, Chawton cottage was bought for £3,000 by Mr. T. E. Carpenter who together with the Society, turned it into a Museum dedicated to the life and works of Jane Austen.



Mr. Carpenter presented the house to the nation in 1949, in memory of his son Lieutenant Philip John Carpenter who fell in the battle in Lake Trasimene in June 1944.



**1967**

A stone tablet memorial was erected in Westminster Abbey (south transept, poet's corner adjacent to Shakespeare's memorial.)

**1992**

A 125-year lease on Chawton House was purchased for £1.25 million by a foundation established by Sandra Lerner and Leonard Bosack, co-founders of Cisco Systems. It is now The Centre for the Study of Early Women's Writing, 1600-1830 holding study programs in association with the University of Southampton. It incorporates Chawton House Library, opened in 2003, a collection of over 9,000 books together with related original manuscripts, formerly located in Redmond, Washington. Chawton House is the venue of the Annual General Meeting of the Jane Austen Society of the United Kingdom.



– by Joan Reynolds

## A snippet from a novel

Submitted by Phyllis Ferguson Bottomer

This is one of those references to Austen that I came across in a novel, Anita Brookner's *Fraud*, published in 1992. Anna Durant, “a woman in middle years” living in London, has only one close friend, a pen pal in Paris.

*The letters were elevated, amusing, giving no hint of loneliness or pain. They might have been written by two acquaintances who had met in the Pump Room in Bath, for it was Marie-France, whose English was perfect, and*

*who was devoted to the works of Jane Austen, who best captured the tone. Lately Anna had felt the strain of such a correspondence, had felt unable to harness the carefree flippancy which masked their more serious exchanges. But their friendship demanded that each be forbearing and resilient, capable and good-humoured, that negative moods should never be voiced or even alluded to, above all that seriousness should be kept at bay. What united them was a long habit of celibacy.*

## In Memoriam

Judy Ivanda



We are sorry to note that our member Judy Ivanda died on April 30 at the age of 53. Click here to read her obituary: [Judy Ivanda Obituary](#).

## Eileen Sutherland's Newsletters

There are now more than 70 editions of newsletters on our website at [Newsletters](#) dating back to #33 in 1991. We hope in the coming months to fill in all the missing numbers – the first 110 of these were produced by Eileen Sutherland, who is no longer well enough to attend meetings, although she is ably represented by her husband Ron and daughter Carol Sutherland (see photo on last page).

## Member Profile

Elsbeth Flood: Meet the Editor

### 1. Tell us a bit about yourself and your life to-date.

I was born in Vancouver, but did not go to school here, as we followed my mother's teaching career to small towns in B.C., and I didn't come back to Vancouver until I went to university in 1967. Since then I have lived in Vancouver except for a few months spent in Montreal and nearly two years in London, U.K.

In London I worked first at a library and then at the *Times Literary Supplement*. Back in Vancouver, I was Assistant Editor at *Westworld* magazine, subsequently worked in employee communications and benefits for a large mining company and finally worked with my husband in our own company. I'm now very happily retired.

I have been married twice and have a daughter aged 38 from my first marriage, and sons aged 25 and 27 from the

second. My sons were born between my 40<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> birthdays, and I always say that if you are going to start having babies after 40, you should arrange first to have an eleven-year-old daughter. My daughter has given me two grandsons, aged one and eight.

## **2. When did you join JASNA?**

I joined in 2007, when I read about the Vancouver AGM in the newspaper.

## **3. How did you first get started with Jane Austen?**

I have degree in English literature from U.B.C., and *Emma* was on my first-year reading list. As someone had told me that Jane Austen was dead, I read it first. I loved it so much that I immediately read the rest of her books – which unfortunately doesn't take very long.

## **4. What do you like about JASNA?**

I enjoy meeting like-minded people; dressing up (occasionally); finding endless new thoughts in Jane Austen; drinking wine served by Ron – the whole social environment of our meetings and AGMs.

## **5. Has JASNA given you any special memories? New friends? Inspiration to new experiences?**

Lots of new friends; memories, especially from the seven AGMs I have attended: 2007 in Vancouver, 2009 in Philadelphia, 2010 in Portland, 2011 in Fort Worth, 2014 in Montreal, 2016 in Washington, DC and this year in Huntington Beach, California. (See the photo on the last page.) I also went on the 2012 JASNA tour to England. I have friends from different cities who I look forward to seeing at AGMs. I was inspired to make a gown (!) and to travel by myself to all the destinations I have mentioned except DC, to which my husband accompanied me.

## **Regional Coordinator's Corner**

I was voted in as Regional Coordinator in December 2014, I am now entering my fourth year serving our Region, the middle of my second two-year term. This position will be up for election in Winter of 2018. Would you also like to make a contribution to our group? The core volunteers on the Programming Committee commit to tasks both large and small to make our meetings run well and we need your help to keep it that way! If you have a meeting idea, or like the idea of organizing a speaker to our group, share your time with the committee. If serving on the committee does not appeal to you, we also need helpers for smaller regular tasks, like setting up the sign-in table or emailing our group.

Some business news from our parent JASNA:

- Starting Feb 2018, new memberships will run one year from the date that membership was purchased, i.e. membership bought on May 1, 2018, will expire April 30, 2019. Current members who renew and do not allow their membership to lapse will continue to run from September 1 to August 31.
- Annual family membership will cease as an option after February 2018. Those on family membership, on expiry, will be given the option to convert to individual memberships (paying the difference). Life family membership will continue.
- Our own Region member Phyllis Bottomer has taken on the role of membership secretary for JASNA Canada.
- Ask me for details about the JASNA Canada Lending Library, book list available
- [www.jasna.org](http://www.jasna.org) has a new look

I'm looking forward to another year of great programming, and hoping to bring Elaine Bander, JASNA Canada president to visit Vancouver. We have already booked speakers from UBC and our own Azarm Akhavian has utilized her contacts with the students of UBC Music and booked some operatic entertainment for our December meeting.

With such great things in store, I hope that all our members will share this news and future meetings with friends and family. Invite a friend – their entrance fee is waived on the first visit! – and you or your friend might win Jane's Bountiful Basket at the end of the year!

If you have programming ideas, please speak with me or send me an email: [jasnavancouverRC@gmail.com](mailto:jasnavancouverRC@gmail.com)

– by Michelle Siu

## **Coming meetings**

October 21	Reports from the AGM.
November 18	Literary Timelessness in the Regency Period: Chelsea Shriver, Librarian, UBC Rare Books and Special Collections, plus two UBC students
December 16 Please note <b>10 am</b> registration time	A celebration of Jane's birthday with a special Christmas luncheon, and a musical treat

For more up-to-date information, please see the program of events on our website: [JASNA-Vancouver program](http://JASNA-Vancouver program)





*Vancouver members at the AGM in Huntington Beach, left to right: Marlene Brown, Ron Sutherland, Elaine Wong, Michelle Siu, Aileen Hollifield, Joan Reynolds, Keiko Parker, Elspeth Flood, Carol Sutherland.*

**This Newsletter**, the publication of the Vancouver Region of the Jane Austen Society of North America, is distributed to members by email and posted on our website. Members who so request may receive a hard copy either at a meeting or in the mail. All submissions and book reviews on the subject of Jane Austen, her life, her works and her times, are welcome.

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