

Muse & Musings

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

The Jane Austen Society

Celebrates 80 years

It was on 29 May 1940 that a meeting was held in Alton, Hampshire, attended by Elizabeth, Beatrix and Dorothy Darnell; Mr. and Mrs. Curtis (whose forebears had set up the Curtis Museum in Alton); Elizabeth Jenkins (whose biography of Jane Austen had been published in 1938); and Dr. Marjorie Sanders, to form a Society to preserve Jane Austen's House in Chawton, to be known as The Jane Austen Society. This Committee resolved that, "owing to the present circumstance of War Conditions" the membership subscription should be set at 2 shillings and 6 pence or £5 for Life Members.



Chawton Cottage, c. 1930s

Preservation of the House meant purchasing it, but not much could be done during the war years. However, in December 1947, an appeal for funds was placed in *The Times* to meet the purchase price of £3,000. This only raised £558 from the general public, (including over £100 from the USA as a result of a "Boston Tea Party" held by a Mrs. Koch), but Thomas Edward Carpenter, whose wife was a devoted Janeite, met the entire sum and purchased the cottage in memory of his son who had been killed in 1944 in Italy. (Mr. Carpenter subsequently received a letter from King George VI expressing his pleasure at the purchase.) The House, being in private ownership, had to be placed in a separate Trust run by Society Committee members, its duties being to manage the House and garden, secure alternative accommodation for the three

individual tenants and to undertake the necessary substantial renovations and remodelling. [A detailed and spirited account of the purchase of Chawton Cottage and acquisition of many of its contents is given in Claire Harman's book *Jane's Fame* Henry Holt & Co. 2010.]

Although still housing its tenants, the House was formally opened to the public on 23 July 1949 by the Society's President, the Duke of Wellington. The Society's first Annual General Meeting followed on 8 July 1950; the proceedings recorded in its formal Report of activities for the period ending December 1950. Annual Reports have since been published continuously from 1951 and AGMs have been held every July; for the last 25 years or more they have been held in a large marquee on the lawn of Chawton House Library, former home of Jane Austen's 3rd brother, Edward. There have been many illustrious speakers – some may not be remembered today – but more modern ones include Howard Jacobsen, Joanna Trollope and P.D. James, among a host of important academics, authors and diplomats.

In May 1950, the Society produced its first Constitution as a charitable organisation, which allowed it to apply for grants from philanthropic funds, to apply for income tax relief, and, latterly, Government financial aid on donations/subscriptions. Since then, regulations governing management of charities have expanded and been enshrined in several guidance documents, all overseen by the Charity Commission, and the Society is now on its third Constitution.

The Society is proud to have always had Austen family descendants either serving as Committee members (two are current Vice-Presidents) or providing other material support. Other Trustees have been drawn from all walks of life, including academics and authors of Austen's life such as Maggie Lane and David Selwyn. But there have been three who have contributed most to the canon of Jane Austen to bring her from relative obscurity and entirely altering the landscape of Austen studies.

- Dr. R.W. Chapman (d. 1960) was inspired by his wife's enthusiasm for Jane Austen to publish, in 1923, a collected edition of five of Austen's novels

and, in 1932, an update of Lord Brabourne's 1884 publication of Austen's letters. For the Society, he also purchased several of Austen's letters at auction.

- Brian Southam (d. 2010) was a pioneer in literary criticism whose research allowed him to enlarge and amend Chapman's earlier Austen studies. He uncovered Austen's early manuscripts and, in 1964, was the first to publish a study of the manuscripts and her development as a writer. He published student notes in 2007.
- Deirdre Le Faye has spent a lifetime in researching Austen's life and family. Her *Family Record* (1998), *Chronology of Jane Austen* (2006) and annotated edition of *Jane Austen's Letters* (1995) have all been updated and are still the most authoritative record.

By 1955, expanding administrative and financial management duties dictated that the House should be managed by a set of Trustees, separate from the Society. The Jane Austen Society then continued to run solely as a literary charitable organisation. Since then it has published annual reports, twice-yearly newsletters, and booklets of various memoirs and aspects of Austen's life; set up an archive and fundraising programs, and a website for information and enquiries; opened regional branches; instituted free talks to recognised community groups and educational organisations; and continued to work closely with the House supporting its activities or acquisitions.



Dorothy Darnell (second from right) in front of Chawton Cottage, mid 1940s (source: Jane Austen's House)

Over the years, the Jane Austen Society continued to collect Austen artefacts and lend them to Jane Austen's House for display. The House has recently acquired accredited Museum status and to celebrate that, and both that organisation's 70th birthday and The Jane Austen Society's 80th birthday, the Society has transferred its ownership of all of those artefacts to the House in perpetuity under Deed of Gift. A full-length portrait of Edward Austen remains on loan and on display in Chawton House Library.

This year's AGM in the Chawton House marquee planned for July 11th had to be cancelled due to COVID concerns. However, as this year marks the 80th anniversary of the formation of the Society, the Trustees plan to hold an

alternative virtual day of celebration on the same date. Chawton House will coordinate the event, which will be open free to the public online and feature talks and readings. Updates will be posted on the JAS and Chawton House websites.



In the marquee at the 2019 JAS AGM (personal photo)

In recent news, Jane Austen's House revealed it was in a severe enough financial crisis that without help it would have to close permanently within weeks and dispose of the Museum's collection of Austen artifacts. All their funding comes from visitors and since closing due to COVID restrictions, they had received no income at all. This past week they launched a funding appeal, which was featured in *The Guardian* newspaper on June 11th and then picked up by social media. Within thirty-six hours JAH reached its goal of raising £75,000 (approximately CA\$127,500) with donations coming from all over the world. Jane Austen's House is safe for a few more months, thank goodness!

– Adapted by Joan Reynolds, member of the Jane Austen Society, from information provided on the Society website by Maureen Stiller, Honorary Secretary

Ivan Sayers Receives a BC Achievement Community Award

JASNA-Vancouver congratulates fashion historian Ivan Sayers who has been recognized by the BC Achievement Foundation with a 2020 BC Achievement Community Award – for excellence and extraordinary services to community, culture and Canadian history.

The first time I met Ivan was 26 years ago in a vacant two-storey shop in what was then *The Landing* in Vancouver's historic Gastown, soon to be converted into Steamworks Brewpub. Ivan had set up a temporary exhibit in the shop – “Two Hundred Years of Roses Represented in Fashion – 1750s to 1950s.” Since I worked nearby, I dropped in on my lunch break; Ivan was sitting at the front desk. I found him to be very engaging and I was impressed by his extensive knowledge of all the varied aspects of fashion over the last three centuries, his captivating stories of each garment and its original owner, and his sense of humour.

Ivan had with him a very large volume of pen and ink drawings by Charles Dana Gibson, creator of the *Gibson Girl*. I asked if I could borrow the book to make copies of some of the drawings. He said “yes” even though he had only just met me. In that moment of trust and kindness, I was “quite determined to continue the acquaintance,” as Emma says of Harriet Smith.



Ivan Sayers with member Margaret Brown at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in 2015 on the occasion of Ivan getting an honorary degree.

I am not alone in this admiration. Ivan is much loved by JASNA-Vancouver and has been one of our most popular presenters. He has spoken at two AGMs and several meetings and is a great supporter of JASNA, promoting our group at his other lectures and events.

Ivan is co-founder and honorary curator of The Society for a Museum of Original Costume (SMOC) with an aim of finding a permanent building to house and exhibit its world-class collection of historical fashion, traditional costumes and textiles.

The SMOC board is currently exploring the prospect of creating a museum/research centre, largely consisting of storage, cataloguing and display rooms, as a consultative hub and a launch-pad for travelling exhibitions. See: [SMOC website](#)



Ivan presenting with three of his models

Over the years, I have enjoyed assisting Ivan when needed behind the scenes on some aspect or other of his fashion shows and exhibits. Six years ago, I volunteered, at Ivan’s invitation, to help organize, manage and accession SMOC’s collection. SMOC rents several attic rooms in

Hycroft, an Edwardian mansion in Shaughnessy and the home of the University Women’s Club of Vancouver.

It’s very rewarding in many ways to spend time with Ivan. Since becoming a JASNA member I have wanted to make a Regency-style costume and Ivan has two original spencer jackets c.1810-1815 in his extensive private collection which he has offered to show me so I can learn about the design, construction techniques and fabric of the period. Ivan will be a presenter at the 2022 JASNA AGM in Victoria and I am imagining the joy of experiencing, all at the same time, my love for Jane Austen, Ivan Sayers and period costume!

I am pleased that the BC Achievement Foundation selected Ivan Sayers to be one of the recipients of their annual Community Award. [BC Achievement Sayers](#) He has received a congratulatory letter from the Premier’s office. The official presentation in Victoria has been postponed due to COVID-19; a new date will be set, perhaps in the Fall. – Margaret Brown

“She said yes”

... continues

In the last issue we carried Jennifer Bettiol’s presentation from the February panel discussion about the marriages Charlotte Lucas, who married Mr. Collins in *Pride and Prejudice* (Jennifer disapproved) and Jane Fairfax, who married Frank Churchill in *Emma*. In this issue, we carry Janice Mallison’s presentation in defence of Jane.

In Support of Jane Fairfax and Frank Churchill



*Jane Fairfax played by Laura Pypers and Frank Churchill played by Rupert Evans in the 2009 *Emma* miniseries.*

On the surface, the union between Jane Fairfax and Frank Churchill would seem to be an amazing match for her. Frank is the adopted son of a great Yorkshire family, his aunt and uncle being owners of the wealthy Enscombe estate, and, Frank, by dint of his aunt and uncle’s childlessness, is heir to his uncle’s considerable estate.

Jane, by contrast, is an orphan, only child of Mrs. Bates’s youngest daughter and, upon her parents’ deaths, would have been dependent on her aunt and grandmother, had

not Colonel Campbell, her father's superior officer, taken her under his wing, provided for her education and brought her up alongside his own daughter. "Jane remained with them [the Campbells], sharing, as another daughter, in all the rational pleasures of an elegant society, and, a judicious mixture of home and amusement, with only the drawback of the future..."

And here we have the downside of the arrangement from Jane's perspective. She had only a few hundred pounds from her father and therefore, was not likely, in spite of her avowed beauty, to be destined for a future of either comfortable independence, like Emma, if she did not marry, or a great match such as that made by the Campbell's daughter to Mr. Dixon.

Colonel Campbell was not rich enough to be able to enhance her inheritance, his fortune all going to his own daughter, but he did provide for an education that would allow her to earn her living by becoming a governess. The implication being that she should be grateful for the liberal education which would allow her to earn a living. But, alas, poor Jane has learned to live in good society and even Emma, who is jealous of Jane's looks and accomplishments, is forced to acknowledge her elegant style of beauty and her abilities, and to think that "...when she considered what all this elegance was destined to, what she was going to sink from, how she was going to live, it seemed impossible to feel anything but compassion..."

After Miss Campbell's marriage, Jane is determined to "retire from the pleasures of life, of rational intercourse, equal society, peace and hope, to penance and mortification for ever." Although she is at fault in agreeing to a secret engagement with Frank Churchill, there's no implication that she entered into the arrangement purely from a desire to escape her fate, although no one could blame her for seeing the advantages of the match for her and her poor relations.

In any case, she breaks off the engagement between herself and Frank, seeing it was "a source of repentance and misery to each," and thereby becomes obliged to the officious Mrs. Elton, to secure her a desirable position as a governess. It's clear that Jane is a person with many remarkable traits. JA remarks on the affection of the whole family, and the warm attachment of Miss Dixon, in spite of Jane's own clear superiority both in beauty and accomplishments. We can attribute this not only to Jane's elegance and intelligence but to her steadiness of character and warmth and affection to those around her, including her grandmother and her aunt, to whom she is always attentive and kind.

Frank, for his part, being handsome, amiable and rich and therefore extremely eligible, has some grievous faults in

his character. He is not a dutiful son to his father and does not own up to it, always blaming his aunt's demands and capriciousness, on his inability to visit his father regularly, and pay his respects to his new step-mother.

"He ought to come," said Emma "...one can hardly conceive a young man's not having it in his power to do as much as that."

"I cannot believe that he has not the power of coming, if he made a point of it. It is too unlikely, for me to believe it without proof," says Mr. Knightley, who then goes on to say that he, like his aunt and uncle, is proud, luxurious and selfish. "There is one thing, Emma, which a man can always do, if he chuses, and this is, his duty...It is Frank Churchill's duty to pay this attention to his father. . . . Respect for right conduct is felt by everybody."

Frank further proves his lack of good sense and propriety by entering into a secret engagement with Jane Fairfax, and trying to dupe the Highbury society by paying his attentions to Emma and disparaging Jane to her.



*Jane Fairfax played by Olivia Williams and Frank Churchill played by Raymond Coulthard in the 1996 TV movie of **Emma**.*

But – and this is a considerable but – he does seem truly to love Jane. As he says himself, "...and I was fortunate enough to prevail, before we parted at Weymouth, and to induce the most upright female mind in the creation to stoop in charity to a secret engagement."

As Mr. Knightley remarks, "He has had great faults, faults of inconsideration and thoughtlessness, and I am very much of his opinion of him likely to be happier than he deserves; but still...his character may improve, and acquire from her the steadiness and delicacy of principle that it wants." Emma comments that "there is a likeness in our destiny; the destiny which bids fair to connect us with two characters so much superior to our own."

So Jane Austen, while by no means being insensible to the importance of income and comfort and therefore the

undoubted advantages of the alliance for Jane Fairfax and her poor relations, clearly recognizes her as someone eminently worthy of Frank's love and regard.

One last point, for my part, I also see a benefit to both Jane and Mr. Knightley, in being united respectively with Frank and Emma, both of whom are lively and sportive in nature and therefore able to lighten the seriousness of their spouses. We see the same contrast with Darcy and Elizabeth, in *Pride and Prejudice*, and come to recognize the value Jane Austen placed on a marriage where each partner brought a positive influence to bear on the other.

So in conclusion, for Jane and Frank, we see a marriage that has the advantage of superiority on both sides, Frank brings money, position and a lively disposition, and Jane, strength of character and a gentle nature combined with an elegance of both mind and appearance. I wish them well in their future union. — Janice Mallison

Annual Reports of the Jane Austen Society now accessible online



In commemoration of 80 years of the UK's Jane Austen Society, a wonderful treasure trove of articles is now made available to the world. The Annual Reports of the Jane Austen Society from 1949 onwards are now accessible online as part of the University of Southampton's Internet Archives. Each Report contains news about the Society and its activities, and a wealth of articles about every aspect of Jane Austen's family history and writing career, and the places she lived. They also include addresses to the annual general meetings by such luminaries as John Mullan, Elizabeth Jenkins, Elizabeth Bowen, Brian Southam, Margaret Drabble, Marilyn Butler and Deirdre Le Faye.

Previously, these reports were only available in hard copy to members as part of annual membership subscriptions, with back issues only obtainable for a fee. Now all this material is freely accessible to all of us. It is easy to navigate, the images are clear, can be magnified and viewed as single pages. In addition, each individual Report can be downloaded as a PDF (scroll down the website's page to find that option). This creates a searchable document. See: [JAS Reports Archive](#)

You can get a taste of what these Reports hold from these examples. **Note:** *If the link does not take you directly to the article noted, download the issue in PDF and then search for the article using Ctrl-F, which will give you a search box:*

- For those that recall the last newsletter's piece about Eleanor Jackson, (the second Mrs Henry Austen), you can find the complete article by Angela Barlow at this link: [Eleanor Jackson](#)
- If you watched the Chawton House's Lockdown Literature Fest's recent presentation by Devoney Looser about the Porter sisters you may enjoy reading her article "Two Author Janes in the Early 19th Century" here: [Porter Sisters by Devoney](#)
- As a follow up to Nicky Didicher's talk about Jane Austen's music you may enjoy this 1966 article by Diana Shervington: "[Jane Austen's Music Books](#)"
- Similarly, there is also this 2014 article about music and education in Mansfield Park: [Music Ed. MP](#)
- Topical to our times is this 2010 article: "Fever in the Family" by Margaret Wilson that details the impact of the scarlet fever epidemic in the late 18th/early 19th century: [Fever](#)
- From the same Report, there is this article about Jane's apothecary in Alton with whom she consulted towards the end of her life "Jane Austen's Alton Quakers."
- Do you remember our meeting about the importance of Aunts in Jane Austen? Here is an article on the same topic from 2011: [Aunts](#)



- For those that watched the recent television series and/or have read *Sanditon*, this 2010 article describes the development of Worthing, the town that may have been Jane Austen's model for her fictional resort: "Edward Ogle's Worthing and Jane Austen's Sanditon" [Worthing and Sanditon](#)
- This is a rather long but very entertaining article about coaching inns, (a favourite topic of mine), and comes with lots of illustrations: [Coaching](#)



Post chaise



The White Hart, Bath



The Swan Inn, Alton



The Bush coaching arch, Farnham



The galleried Bull, Dartford

Whether you are a general fan of Jane Austen or a serious academic scholar, this online archive is indeed a wonderful resource for all of us to enjoy.

— Joan Reynolds



Books and Berries

E.M. Forster: Man of the future?



What comes to mind when you think of Forster may be *A Room with a View* or *Howard's End*, but his lesser-known work titled "[The Machine Stops](#)" might prove his soothsaying ability to predict living in Lockdown 2020. Click on the link to go to the BBC article and to download the 25-page novella.

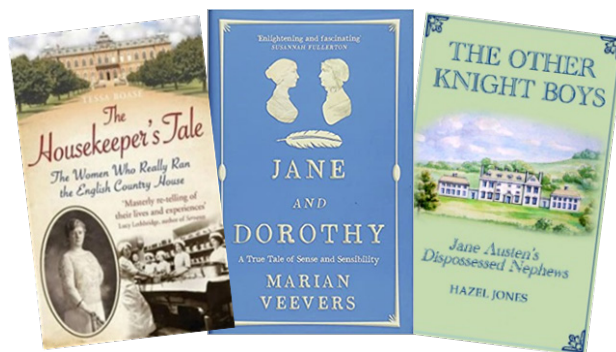
— shared by Elaine Wong

What I'm Reading

Just finished:

"The Housekeepers Tale: The Women Who Really Ran the English Country House," by Tessa Boase (2014). I

acquired this book as I have been undertaking some research on the lives of servants. My paternal great-grandmother was the cook in just such a country establishment, and my name is Mrs. Reynolds after all! In this book Tessa Boase tells the true story of the lives of five housekeepers in various English country houses over the past 200 years and examines their changing roles and social status "in service." It begins in 1808, when Mrs. Doar arrived at Trentham Hall, and finishes with Grace Higgins who in 1920 at age 16 took up her post at Charleston, the country home of Vanessa and Clive Bell. They were part of the Bloomsbury group and Grace remained with them for 50 years. The author has delved into dusty archives and diaries to bring each of these women to life, documenting the scandals, disagreements, below-stairs politics, and the often-delicate relationship existing between these women and the mistresses they served. To provide a modern contrast, the epilogue covers the author's 2013 visit with housekeeper Nicky Garner of Holkham Hall. If you are fascinated by the downstairs life at Downton Abbey, this book might interest you.



Recently started:

"Dorothy and Jane: A True Tale of Sense and Sensibility" by Marian Veevers, 2017. This is a detailed look at the lives of Jane Austen and Dorothy Wordsworth, two contemporaries with very different upbringings and characteristics. So far it is a fascinating read, especially learning about Dorothy, whose life has not been dealt with anywhere as thoroughly as that of Jane. Disappointingly for a hardcover edition, the book has not one single illustration, and although the chosen typeface is very clear, the paper is surprisingly thin and delicate, more like that of a paperback.



Planning to read:

"The Other Knight Boys: Jane Austen's Dispossessed Nephews" by Hazel Jones (2020). This is a look at the younger sons of Edward Austen Knight, and reveals why Chawton House eventually became favoured over Godmersham. I've read other books by Hazel Jones and have enjoyed them for their thorough research and

readable style. I also hope this will be a good companion book to one of my favourite accounts of the Knight family, Sophia Hillan's excellent 2011 book "*May, Lou and Cass: Jane Austen's Nieces in Ireland*", which is the detailed story of the three younger daughters of Edward Austen Knight.

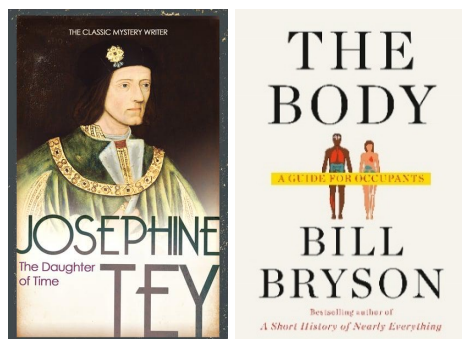
– Joan Reynolds



Two recommendations

I would like to recommend two books. One is a golden oldie, *The Daughter of Time*, by British writer, Josephine Tey, published in 1951. It is a fascinating reworking about Richard III, showing that he was not the evil monarch of history. I saw his bones when I was in York, so I feel an affinity to Richard.

The other is a recent book on the best seller list, *The Body, a Guide for Occupants* by Bill Bryson. This is a most informative and sometimes humorous read about all aspects of the human body.



I have read other books by Josephine Tey (she wrote a classic, *The Franchise Affair*, which became a movie) and several books by Bill Bryson.

– Jean Brown



Jane Austen Day Refunds

It is with heavy hearts that due to COVID-19 restrictions, we had to cancel what we think would have been our 33rd annual Jane Austen Day. The first ever JA Day was held in March 12, 1988 at Brock House with four lecturers, lunch, and a folk music performer who led the group in a sing along of popular sea shanties. The event included a much younger Ivan Sayers who of course presented on regency fashion; a talk on Austen's seducers; a slideshow on Bath architecture from pre-Roman times to the Georgian era; and a discussion of life in the navy. What a fun day that must have been, or in the words of Mrs. Norris, "nothing but pleasure from beginning to end!"

We will be issuing refunds to the 32 members who had signed up for this year's JA Day. Everyone entitled to a refund has been contacted directly and we expect to mail out cheques in the next week or so. A number of members

generously donated their refunds totalling \$560 and Nicky Didecher, our May speaker, also declined her honorarium. We have decided to use a portion of those funds to make a \$435 donation to St. Philip's Anglican Church (which has been our home since September, 1990), in addition to the rent owing. The remaining amount we will keep in reserve for now. Hope everyone is well and staying safe!

– Elaine Wong, Treasurer

Speaking of Illness . . .

From Eileen's Archive

The following is a brief excerpt from a book review by Eileen of *In Sickness and in Health* by Roy and Dorothy Porter, which appeared in Newsletter #74 May, 2001.



The Georgians were obsessed with illness – not surprising, considering how their lives were rife with deadly fevers, crippling or fatal diseases, infant mortality, endemic maladies, and pains, eruptions, ulcers, kidney stones, gout and wasting sicknesses. New and virulent strains of diseases were emerging, and spreading along the burgeoning network of trade routes throughout the country. Contemporary medicine had few means of combatting afflictions like violent fevers, apoplexy, pneumonia or smallpox. Everyone lived in the shadow of death, often sudden and unexplained. . . .

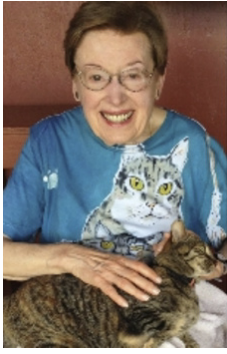
– Eileen Sutherland, 2001

To read more click the link and open Newsletter #74: [Newsletters](#)

In Memorium

Phyllis Taylor, March 31, 2020

Predeceased by parents Olive and Frank Taylor, Phyllis will be lovingly remembered by her many friends and relatives both in Canada and England. Phyllis began a teaching career in London. Some years later after moving to Vancouver, and at the enthusiastic behest of her dearest friend Dr. Kathleen M. Cole, Phyllis completed a Bachelor Degree in Home Economics from U.B.C. She went on to fulfill a Master of Science at Utah State, and, until retirement, taught Home Economics at Templeton High School in Vancouver. After retiring, Phyllis enjoyed frequent travel, and, among her varied interests,



membership in the Jane Austen Society of North America. Throughout her long and engaged life, Phyllis maintained a vigorous and generous support for the rights of animals, theatre arts, and latterly, the evolving delights of “Apple.” Phyllis’s shrewd observations and loving nature will be fondly missed by many – including friends Elizabeth Richards, Muriel, Garry,

Doreen, and her connections in England, as well as the vibrant community at Tapestry, Wesbrook Mall and Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Vancouver. Fare thee well, dearest friend.

Published in the *Vancouver Sun* and *Province* on May 29, 2020.

RC’s Corner

Michelle Siu, Regional Co-ordinator

I would like to thank our members who’ve participated in our online meetings. We had a very lively meeting on June 13th featuring a video of Jim Nagle’s breakout session on “The Importance of the British Army” in Jane Austen’s lifetime, her family and her fiction. Jim, who is a member of the Puget Sound region in Seattle, was kind enough to attend our virtual meeting for an extended Q&A after the presentation. Also at the meeting was JASNA President Liz Cooper, who spoke before Jim’s presentation about her diversity message (below) and also about the difficult decision to cancel the physical 2020 AGM in Cleveland and change it to online. In addition to these distinguished guests, there were more than forty JASNA members, including several from other regions.



Left: JASNA President Liz Cooper at the 2018 AGM in Kansas City.

Until we can meet again in person, I hope that our virtual meetings allow you to connect and see each other, and to enjoy a little diversion in discussing our favourite subject, Jane Austen. Stay tuned as our programming committee will meet in the coming weeks to discuss our fall meeting dates and topics.

Diversity

Members recently received an email from JASNA Communications entitled “Social Distancing with Jane Austen,” which included a message on diversity from Liz Cooper, president of JASNA. The following is an excerpt: “As an organization, JASNA will also respond by making sure all people feel welcome, valued, and safe at our

meetings and events. There is no place in JASNA for racism or discrimination of any kind. Prior to recent events, a committee led by George Justice was commissioned to work on two of JASNA’s long-term Strategic Planning goals: increasing the diversity of our membership and promoting the reading of Jane Austen among more diverse audiences. The committee will also be chartered to develop processes and recommendations to ensure that all members feel welcome within our organization and feel encouraged to report any incidents of racism that may occur during a JASNA or Regional event or discussion.”

Right: Michelle seen with Jim Nagle at the KC AGM in 2018.



I would like to take a moment to echo Liz’s message. While our shared social norms and sense of humanity mean implicitly that we are a welcoming and inclusive group, we would do well to explicitly state our intentions to be welcoming and to improve our diversity: to recognize and be aware of our shortcomings, and to take steps to reflect diversity where possible in our meetings while discussing Jane Austen; to be active in discouraging discrimination and be open to encouraging what every individual brings to the group. I want to speak to those who may feel unseen or invisible or unwelcome – to you, I extend my hand, and that I hope you come to feel – as I have – a sense of belonging to this group, and that you have a place where you can feel safe to share your voice.

AGM 2020

Watch for news and registration details for this year’s annual general meeting, October 9 to 11, which will now be online. This is welcome news in this time when travel is fraught with risks.

Finding JASNA online

JASNA national is sending out biweekly email newsletters filled with links and interesting reading, so you too can “Social Distance with Jane Austen”. If you are a JASNA national member in good standing, to get this newsletter please check your email address is updated in the JASNA [Member Portal](#) in the View/Update My Profile page. If you need help with this, please let me know.

If you are on Facebook, you can also find many regions across the continent online. Check out their pages and “Follow” or subscribe to get their postings in your newsfeed. Besides [JASNA](#) and [Vancouver](#), there are [Calgary](#), [Puget Sound](#), [Greater New York](#), [Greater Phoenix](#), [Eastern Washington-Northern Idaho](#) or [Victoria B.C.](#) and many other regions.

Communications from JASNA

Are you receiving your email communications from JASNA? Are you a member in good standing with JASNA national? Quite a few members have not opted in to get JASNA emails, so check out your member profile at JASNA.org. I'm happy to help if you need it; please send me an email. Also make sure your contact information is up-to-date with JASNA-Vancouver.

Programming Committee

Thank you to our excellent programming committee for their work this past year!

Janice Mallison	co-Regional Coordinator
Elaine Wong	Treasurer
Elsbeth Flood	Newsletter Editor
Barbara Phillips	Carol Sutherland
Barbara Eliot	Susan Kaufman
Carol Sutherland	Phyllis Ferguson

And welcome Donna Ornstein, new volunteer to the committee!

—Michelle Siu, Regional Coordinator



No fall 2020 meeting dates yet

Wait and hope

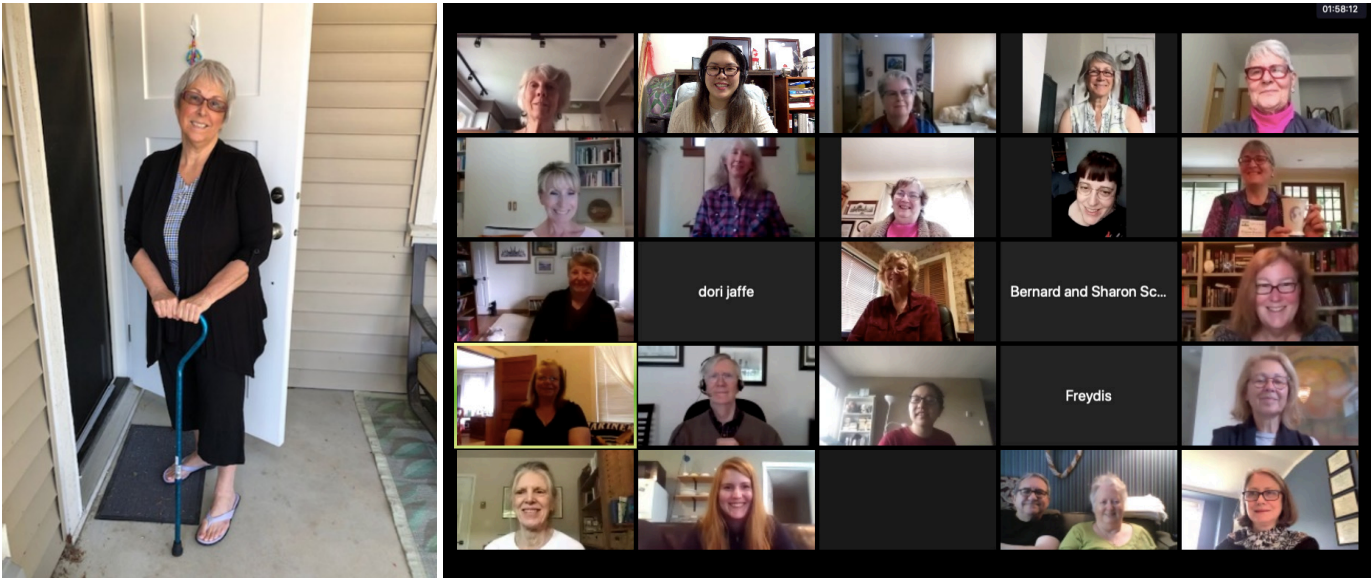
Due to COVID-19

all in-person meetings are suspended until future notice

Please see the program of events on our website for more up-to-date information (thanks to webmaster Laureen McMahon): [JASNA-Vancouver program](#)



Gallery



Left: Carole Wylie on May 19th, the day before her hip surgery. Carole was featured in a story in the *Vancouver Sun* about the start-up of delayed elective surgeries. **Right:** Screenshot of some of the participants (there were 45) at our June 13th meeting featuring Jim Nagle (fourth row, second from left), who generously attended and provided for an in-depth Q&A session.

The next issue will be in August, when we normally don't publish. If you have any pictures (what I did on my summer vacation) that you think might be interesting, please send them along. Also any stories, book reviews, random musings on literature or whatever. If you can connect it to Jane Austen, so much the better.

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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