



Summer Newsletter
Jane Austen Society of North America
Indianapolis Region

What dreadful hot weather we have; it keeps one in a continual state of inelegance. Letter, 1796

“To sit in the shade on a fine day and look upon verdure is the most perfect refreshment.” Mansfield Park

Next Meeting—Saturday, September 20—Crafts Workshop at the home of Sue Landaw at noon

Join our Facebook Group-- “jasna—indiana”

“Like” JASNA’s Facebook fan page-- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jane-Austen-Society-of-North-America/285332054855712>

Check out our web page-- <http://sites.google.com/site/jasnairsite>

Indianapolis Region—We now have 52 JASNA members! Well done!

From the Regional Coordinator

We have enjoyed two meetings in spectacular weather since the last newsletter—the picnic and garden tour at the IMA and the auction and talk on the Navy at the home of Sondra Bowers. We have seen our attendance increase steadily, sometimes to overflowing our venue. The interest in and obvious enjoyment of these and all other events is great, but even these modest outings take planning, preparation and organization. As our group continues to grow, we need to take a hard look at our organization’s base. Fran Willis gave me a brochure from the Southern California region with information which I found staggering. Granted, that is a huge region which staged an AGM in past years and is preparing to host the AGM in 2016, but that group has 13 officers or chairpersons, most with a co-chair.

We (I) do need to delegate some duties throughout our group as we continue to grow. We may want to host an AGM, for instance, since Indianapolis is an ideal venue and a premier convention city, but there is no way we are prepared to do so in the immediate future. We must first of all find out if we can host a full day event, such as the one on our calendar for June,

2015, and perhaps a weekend special event in the near future. Perhaps the most important reason is that future leaders of this group need to be prepared to take over, to be mentored. The more I get to know those who attend our meetings, the more convinced I am that there are some who could do a much better job at tasks which I am performing on a quite perfunctory level at present. Take a look at the Louisville website, or the Greater Chicago website. I know ours could be so much better, and I wager that one of you reading this is capable of taking over that duty. The newsletter, too, could be so much more attractive in the hands of someone who knows how to utilize the free newsletter templates available on the Internet. For both the website and the newsletter, various members, including me, would furnish most of the substance.

I so appreciate Kirsten Long stepping up to volunteer to take on the duties of treasurer which Sondra Bowers has so capably handled over the last seven years. She will find that assuming responsibility for that office is not all that demanding with Sonie's guidance, but is very gratifying.

Perhaps, frankly, the biggest job is in planning and preparing for various events. We need a program chairman and a committee of at least four others to handle venue, refreshments, speaker/ or activity, decorations (when appropriate) and publicity. This daunting task is alleviated by tons of documents with suggestions from JASNA, so there would just be the organization of details to finalize the event planning. We have the Birthday Tea in December under control, I think, with Lisa Whitaker stepping up for entertainment, Jo and Ann (or whoever wanted old sheet music) with some good ideas for décor, and Lisa Lozano taking care of venue and menu.

We do have the very special event coming up on June 13, 2015—an all-day event on Regency medicine which, if we are to carry it off successfully, will require many hands on deck. We do have an amazing speaker already lined up (Dr. Cheryl Kinney of Ft. Worth, Texas) and the venue (Indiana Medical History Museum). I think Fran Willis has suggested the name of an additional speaker from IU Med Center. We would need helping hands to plan luncheon and do some creative publicity among other details.

As RC, I will continue to manage membership (because that, actually, is the biggest nightmare I face) and will help with any of the other committees and events as well as serving as liaison with JASNA. So, take a look at the following positions and think about volunteering. The steering committee will meet soon to generate a slate of officers, so please let me know if you are interested in any of the following

Program co-chairs and committee members
Publicity chair
Electronic communication chair
Newsletter editor

Already in place:

Treasurer—Kirsten Long
Secretary—Mary Miller
Steering Committee—Sondra Bowers, Mary Miller, Jo Mader, Maura Hutchinson,
Ann Alexander, Lisa Whitaker, Lisa Lozano, Sue Landaw, Suzanne
Skooglund

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Our 2014 auction was quite a success; we now have \$301 to add to our treasury.

Don't forget to renew your membership in JASNA by October 1.

“Membership” in JASNA—IR (dues \$10) is optional, but we really appreciate your contribution. (Last Sunday after the auction, we received \$10 contributions from Erin, Mary Miller, Amy Wolf, and Sue Landaw. Thank you.

We are looking at the possibility of a dance workshop as an additional event in 2015. Stay tuned.



IMA picnic and garden tour



Jo Mader and her rapt audience



Hostess Sondra Bowers and Mary Miller supervise refreshments table

We now have 52 JASNA members, four of whom are life members! There are 137 folks on our email contact list, many of whom we have never met, but who wish to stay connected to our goings-on! To think we started with four members of the Greater Chicago Region called together by Susan Haller and some friends, this growth is terrific.

In an earlier newsletter, I stated that our region would no longer collect the \$10 dues we had been soliciting from the beginning in order to build up our new bank account. The reason for doing this is to clear up the confusion regarding membership. To clarify...

1. Continued attendance at our region meetings and special events is allowed only by membership in JASNA itself—the US/Canada organization--and not by any region dues.
2. Those regions which have region dues, do so in order to offset meeting expenses, printing and mailing costs, and other miscellaneous costs, which is a valid reason—especially for larger regions—and might apply to our region as well now that we have grown.
3. We might want to continue to collect \$10 (semantics issue here—call it “dues” or “donation”) from those of you who wish to help support our region’s expenses. Just keep in mind that this is not the “free ticket” to region meetings.
4. **So...region dues are really donations to the local group, rather than the privilege of actually attending meetings.**
5. According to JASNA’s policies, membership in JASNA is required to attend any region meetings after the first one or two visits (this is where the policy is vague. I have not been keeping track of how many times anyone attends before joining JASNA, but I probably should do so soon).
6. Membership in JASNA has many benefits beyond allowing attendance to any region meeting anywhere in the US or Canada, including the JASNA News and Persuasions publication, special announcements about trips to England and other information.
7. Having said all this, keep in mind that --with or without region dues--special events staged by any region would probably mean that every attendee would be charged a fee, but most regions charge one price for JASNA members and a greater price for non-members or guests.

Upcoming events

September 20--Saturday—Crafts workshop, specifically quilting

October 10—12—AGM Montreal—“Contexts, Conventions, Controversies in Mansfield Park”

December 13—Columbia Club--Birthday Tea with vocal concert by Lisa Whitaker,
2 pm

2015

Feb 15—Letters of Jane Austen (Deidre leFaye edition recommended)—Landaw home, 2 pm

April 19—Jo Mader presentation on Historical background of Regency Period and formal tea--Skooglund home, 2 pm

June 13--Saturday—Special event on Regency health and medicine—Indiana Medical History Museum, time tba

July—Louisville Festival or Crafts workshop

August 16—fund-raising auction and Georgette Heyer book discussion. Bowers Home, 2 pm

September 12--Saturday—Crafts workshop—Glendale Library, 2 pm

December (date and venue tba)—Birthday Tea with harpist and speaker on Regency composers, 2 pm

This and That

Would you like to be a part of our **Facebook group** so that you can see postings, comments, and/or offer your own insights about all things Austen? If so, just “friend me” on Facebook and ask to become a part of the JASNA—Indiana group. We have had some interesting exchanges already, and it’s a great way to see what others are discovering.

Send me those book blurbs anytime. I will put them on the website; you can put them on the Facebook group. I know some of you are reading sequels, spin-offs, and nonfiction related to JA. If you have read an Austen- related book recently and would like to pen a very brief review, or if you come across Austen or Regency Period related news items or trivia, I would love to include it/ them. Don’t be shy. Send to jslandaw@gmail.com or share on the Facebook group.

The Web Site (a project looking for a leader)

It continues to be a work in progress, but it is, at last and at least, a start. I need to establish a new domain name, work on making it an online community or at least a link to one, and expanding the information on some of the links—mainly Regency Period and Biography. Here is a list of the links thus far: AGMs, Announcements, Austen Reading List, Biography, Book Reviews, Fund Raising, Games and Puzzles, Images, Membership, Regency Period, Tea Rooms, Trivia, Upcoming Events). If you forget the web address, it can be retrieved if you use “JASNA Indianapolis Region” as your search term on your web browser.

Upcoming Events

2014 Annual General Meeting, Oct. 10-12, Montréal, Québec, Canada Theme: *Mansfield Park* in Montréal: Contexts, Conventions and Controversies

2015 Annual General Meeting, Oct. 9-11, Louisville, KY USA Theme: Living in Jane Austen's World

2016 Annual General Meeting, Oct. 21-23, Washington, D.C. USA Theme: *Emma* at 200: "No One But Herself"

2017 Annual General Meeting, Oct. 6-8, Southern California USA Theme: Jane Austen in Paradise

If anyone ever asks....

***There are about 4500 members of JASNA in Canada and the US and there are over 70 regions.**

Contact Information

Chawton Cottage—www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk

Jane Austen Centre in Bath—www.janeausten.co.uk

National organization—www.jasna.org

Greater Louisville Region—www.jasnalouisville.com

Jane Austen Books—www.JaneAustenBooks.net or AustenBooks@gmail.com

Local region officers

Landaw, Sue	251-8284	Regional Coordinator	islandaw@gmail.com
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Bowers, Sondra	844-5644	Treasurer	scbowers@sbcglobal.net