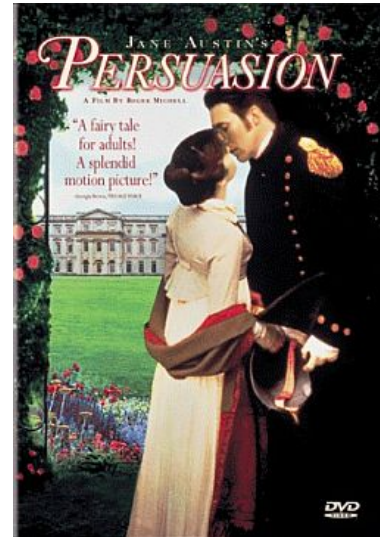


Greater Dayton JASNA

January 2010

Next Reading Group Meeting 2:30 Sunday, January 10 at Jean's Home

After an unusually festive first meeting, with the surprise tribute to our discussion leader Jean Long, it is time to resume our study of *Persuasion*. Despite all the excitement at our November meeting, Jean managed to guide us through a reasonably thorough discussion of the first four chapters. I was surprised to learn that *Persuasion* is generally considered to be incomplete—when one thinks about it, that makes sense. Some of the characters, like Anne's father and her sister Elizabeth, are not fully developed, and there are flashes of real bitterness, like the Jane's reflections on the Musgroves' late son Dick, which appear frequently enough in her letters but usually not in her novels.



As usual, our Reading Group will meet from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Jean's home at **927 Far Hills** (Route 48) in Oakwood. The back of her condominium faces Far Hills, so to enter, turn onto Park Avenue (left if you're going north on Far Hills, right if you're going south), and turn left almost immediately, just before the municipal building. (The street says City cars only.) You'll be on an alley that leads to the parking lot of Bob and Jean's building. A sidewalk runs between 2 sections of the complex. If you are facing Far Hills, Jean's condominium is on the right. If you have questions, call Jean at **927-298-0436** or e-mail jtrnlong@aol.com.

Remaining Meetings for the Year With Chapter Assignments for *Persuasion*

January 10	Volume I, Chapters 5 – 8
February 14	Volume I, Chapters 9 – 12
March 14	Volume II, Chapters 1 – 4
April 11	Volume II, Chapters 5 - 8
May 2	Volume II, Chapters 9 – 12 and The cancelled Chapters of <i>Persuasion</i> .

Greater Dayton JASNA Officers

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Program	Carrie Bebris		
Webmaster	Tom Tumbusch		

February 28 Meeting to Feature Tim and Kathleen Nealeigh

Tim and Kathleen Nealeigh will be presenting the program for our February meeting. Tim and Kathleen, who is a Chapter member, are historical interpreters with a set of roles that span American history and venture into folklore. They perform regularly at fairs and festivals throughout a wide area. Those who have attended the Fair at New Boston might recognize Tim as the 18th-century lacemaker. For the February program they will demonstrate textile arts specifically mentioned in Austen's letters and novels.

The meeting will take place at 2:00 on Sunday, February 28 at One Lincoln Park, the retirement community in Kettering where we have met a couple times for reading groups. The next newsletter will contain further details on the program and instructions for finding One Lincoln Park.

Cake and punch will be served at the February meeting, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Dayton Chapter.



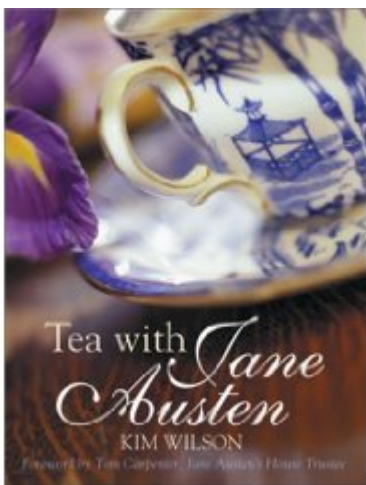
Saturday, May 15 Gala to Celebrate Chapter's 25th Anniversary

The first meeting of the "Jane Austen Society of Dayton" was held in November 1984, as a group of friends who discovered a common interest in Jane. Martha Caprarotta, co-founder, is still active in the Chapter. The group became a JASNA Chapter the next year, in February 1985. So the 25th anniversary of the Dayton Chapter will be this February. (JASNA itself is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, so Dayton was not too far behind.)

To celebrate, a full-day Jane Austen Gala is being planned for Saturday, May 15, at the University of Dayton! Martha is organizing the event, with help from chapter members Carrie Bebris and Rebecca Potter.

Three speakers have been engaged: Carrie Bebris (who was already scheduled to speak at our Spring program), chapter member and successful author of the Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Mystery series; Kim Wilson, author of the handsome and well-received books *Tea with Jane Austen* and *In the Garden with Jane Austen*; and Laura Vorachek, chapter member and Assistant Professor of English at the University of Dayton. Other entertainments being explored include musical entertainment and a dance workshop.

The English Department at the University of Dayton has agreed to sponsor the event, thanks to Rebecca Potter, Associate Professor and Dayton Chapter member. The morning program will take place in the Sears Recital Hall, with its bust of Jane Austen on the outside of the building, and the High Tea luncheon and afternoon program will take place in the Kennedy Union ballroom.



This should be a very exciting day for Janites, and we hope for a great turnout from Chapter and JASNA members throughout the area. The event will be open to the general public, as well. So invite your friends, co-workers, and family.

Note: We will also need lots of volunteer help from chapter members both before and on the day of the Gala (with publicity, registration, hostessing, etc.) More information on the event and how you can sign up to help will be sent very soon..



Surprise Tribute to Jean Long on November 15



On November 15, at our first Reading Group meeting of the 2009-10 year, we staged a surprise tribute to Jean Long in thanks for her six years of hosting and leading the Group.

Marilyn Rueth's beautiful colonial home provided the setting, and Gary Mitchner coordinated a lavish and quite authentic tea. Deb Bentley put together a handsome scrapbook on the theme "Jean Long: Your Life with Jane Austen." The scrapbook contained pages contributed by Chapter members, with thanks to Jean in poetry, prose, and pictures. Martha Caprarotta dug into her Chapter archive to provide six pages illustrating Jean's contributions to Chapter activities throughout the years. And Gary obtained tributes from three prominent figures in the national JASNA organization: Martha Huff, Joan Klingel Ray, and Gene

Gill, who thanked Jean for her contributions as a member of the national board, especially in running the Essay Contest and chairing the Churches Committee.

Aided by the fact that Jean was out of town while the event was being planned, we did succeed in keeping the surprise—not so easy when you're communicating by e-mail and Jean is on all the distribution lists!

Jean thanks everyone, present and absent, who recognized her in such a surprising and delightful way - with thoughts, gifts, notes and their support and love.



Jane's Birthday Celebrated with Dancing December 6

This year our Chapter celebrated Jane's birthday in a way that would have been most pleasing to Jane herself—with Regency dancing. The party was held in the Old Post Office in Lebanon, which has, by chance, a first-rate wooden dance floor. Member Tom Tumbusch, at home in every dance style from the medieval to the Lindy Hop, conducted an exemplary dancing class and called the dances. With a mixed group of experienced and novice dancers, Tom did a fine job of making the patterns clear and (relatively) easy to remember.

As usual, there were toasts to Jane on her birthday.



Hello! Welcome!

I trust you all located that Mansfield in which to Park?

We gather in full Sensibility of the Pride we feel on this day to honor our favorite author.

It is our Persuasion that all having good sense recognize we are Ohio's South and North hanger's on who Abbey (O-Bey) our natural Prejudice in saying: Not only do "M & A" express perfection

But also "J & A"!

Happy Birthday Jane!

From Jean Long

Miss Jane Austen

*Winchester Cathedral
Hampshire County
Winchester, England*

Dearest Miss Austen,

*How unhappy you must be on your 234th birthday to be in the Sunday New York Times as an APP on an I-Phone in a lacy dress karate-chopping your way through hordes of advancing zombies. Still, you might have thought that when Colin Firth was profiled for a new movie that besides **his** *Pride and Prejudice*, you might have been mentioned. But no. So your iconic image and its corruptions by zombies and sea monsters and this week also *Pride and Pectorals* – a Montana hunk and our Jane's best loved novel. What further humiliations for your birthday would emerge? Only that you might have died from contact with cows? So to purge you away from these degradations and debased icons, let me wish you an ascending day when your pride is restored, your sense elevated, and popular culture can be persuaded to respect your six accomplished novels.*

Sincerely,

Gary Mitchner, Professor Emeritus

JASNA Churches Committee Sponsors Project in Tonbridge

Although Jane herself may never have been in Tonbridge, it was in Tonbridge that her great-grandmother Elizabeth Weller set the Austen family on its literary course. Left widowed with six children, she took a post as housekeeper at the Sevenoaks School there in return for the education of her sons. One of them, Francis Weller, prospered enough to educate in turn his orphaned nephew George Austen.

For some time the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Tonbridge has been planning to celebrate its Austen connection with a permanent exhibition, without having any funds to begin or carry out the project. Last year they received a letter from the JASNA Churches Committee, headed by our own Jean Long, asking if they had any need for funds for an Austen related project. They most enthusiastically accepted the offer, and the lead article in the October 2009 issue of the JAS (England's Jane Austen Society) News Letter describes what they have done.

They have created a booklet describing Tonbridge's role in the Austen family story, in consultation with Deirdre LeFaye, Jane's most knowledgeable biographer. Their walking tour of Austen-related sites around the church and town is narrated by local actress Louise Jameson, of *Dr Who* and *Bergerac*, who offered to do the work for free. Inauguration ceremonies began in July with a special evensong at St Peter and St Paul, which featured hymns by Jane's favorite poet Cowper, and have continued into the fall with a full scale gala.