

Dayton Region JASNA

September 2010

September Meeting Set for September 12 at Basically British

Speaker: Kristopher Shultz of the George Rogers Clark Heritage Association

Place: Basically British, 502 3rd Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402

Date: Sunday, September 12, 2:00

Cost: \$27 for members; \$30 for non-members. This includes tea, tax, and tip

RSVP: by September 5 (negotiation possible). Seating is limited to 22, so respond early

Please send check made out to **Dayton Region JASNA** to

Meredith Stoehr

86 Carmel Court

Centerville, Ohio 45458

Questions: Contact Meredith Stoehr at 937-434-7567 or stoeha@yahoo.com

Parking: On street parking free in Dayton on weekends

Our September meeting will feature tea with an Officer of the Militia-- Kristopher Shultz of the [George Rogers Clark Heritage Association](#), the folks who put on the [Fair at New Boston](#). He will do a presentation on historical reenactments and living history ~ how it's more than just dressing up in costumes, and how actually living "in period" for, say, an entire weekend (or longer) deepens one's understanding of the literature, art, fashion, and social customs of a historical period in a unique way. With the approaching bicentennial of the War of 1812, reenactment groups in Ohio and across the country are shifting their focus to the 1810-1820 decade, which means we can look forward to the availability of more events and historical reproduction clothing and wares relevant to Austen's period.



Basically British is the new English tea room in downtown Dayton. Our members who have visited recommend it most highly. Each menu contains



2 kinds of scones (1 floral, 1 traditional)
with jam and cream

4 savory items

3 desserts

Individual 4-cup pot of loose-leaf tea
(choice of 70+ varieties)

Vegetarians can be accommodated with advance notice.

Dayton Region JASNA Officers

Area Coordinator	Gary Mitchner	937-299-1663	gary.mitchner@gmail.com
Reading Group	Jean Long	937-298-0436	jtrnlong@aol.com
Newsletter, Membership	Meredith Stoehr	937-434-7567	stoeha@yahoo.com
Librarian	Toni Tumbusch	513-752-5115	victoriantoni@netzero.net
Treasurer	Martha Caprarotta		
Program	Carrie Bebris		
Webmaster	Tom Tumbusch		

Dayton Region JASNA Board Welcomes New Members

During preparations for last season's Gala, we realized it would be a good thing for us to have a Website, to advertise Region activities in the area and to let other Regions know what we are doing. We have found a most able Webmaster in Tom Tumbusch, who has created an excellently organized and rapidly growing site.

Traci Gallagher has retired after three years as Librarian. We thank her for her excellent work in cataloging the library and making the catalog available on the Web through LibraryThing.com. Toni Tumbusch has agreed to be our next librarian. We will hear from her in future issues.



Jane's Birthday Celebration Set for December 4 in Cincinnati

We have decided to celebrate Jane's birthday at the Cincinnati Art Museum this year, taking advantage of the Gainsborough exhibition there (September 18, 2010 through January 2, 2011). The exhibition is titled "Gainsborough and the Modern Woman (the eighteenth century modern woman that would have to be). It features 16 Gainsborough paintings, as well as examples of period dress.



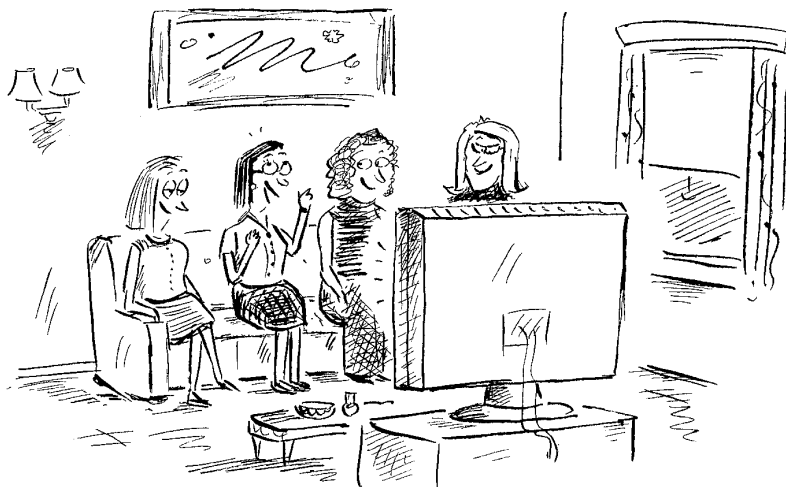
New Meeting Policy for 2010-2011

On account of concern that both a reading group and a regular program in the same month is rather a large commitment for our members, the Board decided in its May meeting that we would alternate the two kinds of meetings during the coming year. Program meetings are scheduled for September, December, March, and May, and reading groups for November, January, February, and April.

Reading Group To Start *Emma* November 14

With only two Austen novels left to choose from—*Sense and Sensibility* and *Emma*—the people present at the May 2010 meeting chose *Emma* for our next subject. Since we will meet only four times this year, our study of *Emma* will be spread over two years. This is no bad thing, in view of the fact we are running out of Austen novels!

I asked Jean Long what she thought we would do after we finish the last novel. There is always the juvenilia. But after that, Jean says, interest tends to decline once a group moves on to books about Jane, or from Jane's time period, or contemporary novels with Austen-related themes. All of us are interested in Austen's novels, and all of us already own copies of them, so reading group preparation now is mostly a matter of review. If we go further afield,



"I love this reading group."

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members may not be so uniformly interested in the subject at hand, and there will be more effort and expense involved in procuring and reading new material.

Starting over with *Pride and Prejudice*, ten years or so after our first attempt, may not be a bad idea. We have many new members now, and as I remember, it took us about three years to get through it the first time, with many digressions, especially concerning Colin Firth. Jean has us by now under much better control.

Our schedule for the first half of *Emma*, which is also posted on our Website, is:

November 14, 2010	Vol. I, Chapters 1-7
January 9, 2011	Vol I, Chapters 8-14
February 13, 2011	Vol. I, Chapters 15-18; Vol. II, Chapters 1-4
April 10, 2011	Vol. II, Chapters 5-9

Unless otherwise specified, Reading Groups are held 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.

May 15 Gala a Great Success



The Dayton Region's May 15 Gala in celebration of our 25th Anniversary turned out to be delightful in every way. It offered an interesting mix of activities—three excellent speakers, a remarkable young singer, lively dancing, and the rare treat of shopping at an all-Austen emporium—in handsome University of Dayton facilities, on one of the prettiest days of the year. Martha Caprarotta, the only founding member still active in our Region, organized the event, and we thank her for her extraordinary efforts. We also thank our two cosponsors, the University of Dayton English Department and

JASNA. The event was successful from the standpoint of attendance as well. Counting speakers and other performers, there were 84 attendees from six states, with JASNA members coming from as far away as northern Michigan, Pennsylvania, Louisville, and Indianapolis.

The three talks provided the framework for the day's program. UD Assistant Professor of English and Region member Laura Vorachek spoke on "The Nineteenth Century Piano," dealing

with the role of the piano and musical performance in the life of the accomplished young lady of the time. Carrie Bebris, author of the Mr. and Mrs. Darcy mysteries and also a member of our Region, brought a writer's insight to her subject, Jane's use of letters in her novels. Kim Wilson, author of *In the Garden with Jane Austen*



and *Tea with Jane Austen*, sponsored by the JASNA grant, traveled from Wisconsin to give us a lavishly illustrated talk on gardens in early 19th century England and in Austen's works.

Between the talks we enjoyed a variety of other activities: songs from a greatly talented young local singer, Sarah Cavender (her voice alone was worth the price of admission); picture taking at the bust of Jane Austen outside the Sears Center, where the morning program was held; a luncheon; and shopping at Jane Austen Books, who brought a tempting array of wares from their shop in the Cleveland area. The day ended with Regency dancing and lessons conducted with his usual admirable clarity by dance master Tom Tumbush. It was a scene Jane herself would have enjoyed, with a good dozen couples on the floor (though not all of them, as we see, including gentlemen).



Jane Joins the Digital Age

We're pleased to announce that it's now easier than ever to keep up with JASNA activities in the Dayton Region! Our new website, www.jasnadayton.org, officially launched in May, and we've been adding new features and resources to it in the last few months.

The website is now our central hub for meeting and event information, including the most current schedule, times, and locations. Not sure which chapters the Reading Group is discussing this month? There's a page devoted exclusively to its activities.

The site also introduces *Tidings*, an electronic journal that provides time-sensitive news to our members in between issues of this newsletter. *Tidings* will keep you up to date about schedule changes, website changes, cancellations because of hazardous weather, and other breaking information. We're also using it to spread the word about the activities of related groups, including events hosted by nearby JASNA regions and non-JASNA events of interest to our members, such as the Fair at New Boston. You can subscribe to *Tidings* with most web browsers, RSS readers, or Apple's Mail application—signup instructions are provided on the "Subscribe to Tidings" page.

If you're not yet a member of the local JASNA community, you no longer need to wait for a meeting or event to join. You can download a PDF copy of our membership application directly from the website. We're already receiving new memberships this way, and hope to get more in the future.

Other features on the site include a photo gallery of recent events, links to other JASNA groups and Austen-related resources, an archive of our print newsletter, and a contact form you can use to send us a message. In the near future we'll be adding a catalog and request form for our member lending library, making this resource more accessible than it has been in the past.

If you're a member of the Dayton region, we encourage you to subscribe to *Tidings* today if you have not already done so. If you're a reader from a nearby region, we welcome the opportunity to exchange website links with your group and promote your events (send us a message using the "Contact Us" page to get started).



Sixth Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Mystery Near Completion

Carrie Bebris's sixth Mr. and Mrs. Darcy's adventure is due at the publisher's in mid-September, so we can expect to be able to read it about a year from now. This mystery is based on *Persuasion*, and Carrie tells us it will involve another accident at Lyme. Carrie spent several weeks in England this summer researching the Royal Navy, walking the Cobb at Lyme, and of course refreshing herself at Bath. The adjacent photo shows her signing bookplates in the Tea Room at the Jane Austen Centre at Bath, benignly overseen by—Mr. Darcy.



Vampires Move on to New Victims



Deb Bentley e-mailed me with the news that she had come across *Jane Slayre* at the bookstore, indicating that vampires, monsters, werewolves, and so on are beginning to attack authors other than our Jane! Besides *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, and *Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters*, there have been *Mr. Darcy Vampire* and *Vampire Darcy's Desire*, but now we have as well *Little Women and Werewolves* (oh, my!) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and Zombie Jim*. *Queen Victoria Demon Hunter* and *Abraham Lincoln Vampire Slayer*, although more original works, will appeal to the same fan base. I will say that *Jane Eyre*, with its sensational sub-plot, may lend itself better than many classics to the new genre.