

# Dayton Region JASNA

March 2011

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## March 26 Meeting to Feature Panel Discussion on Austen's Men

For our March 26 meeting at Edith Mae's Tea Room in Xenia, Peter LePage, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Cincinnati, will lead a panel discussion on the subject "Jane Austen's Men." How are her men portrayed? Who is the best man of them all? Who among the heroines makes the best marriage? Who is Austen's favorite man? Who is your favorite? Who could love any of them? Is it true that Austen doesn't care much about portraying men; that she stays on the surface with them, focusing instead, most deeply and interestingly, on her women? *It has been said: is it true?*



The panelists will be the champions of four of Austen's men (which four, I wonder?), presenting short, beautiful, and no doubt persuasive speeches about their favorite males, with the additional arguments that their favorites are also obviously Jane's. We hope you will come to join in the lively discussions. You'll get to question every champion. You'll get to say what you think. You'll get to think a lot about **Jane Austen's men!**

**Place:** Edith Mae's Tea Room, 235 E 2nd St, Xenia, OH. 937-376-8000

**Date:** Saturday, March 26, 11:30 a.m. to about 2:30

### Schedule:

11:00 Arrive, look around the gift shop and the ground floor rooms

11:30 Luncheon

1:00: Panel Discussion

**Cost:** \$17 for members and \$20 for non members. This covers tea, tax, and tip.

**RSVP:** Send Check and any special dietary requirements by **Tuesday, March 22** to:

Meredith Stoehr  
86 Carmel Court  
Centerville, OH 45458

For questions or tardy registration contact Meredith at 937-434-7567 or [stoeha@yahoo.com](mailto:stoeha@yahoo.com).

**See next page for menu and more information on Edith Mae's Tea Room.**

## Edith Mae's Tea Room and Gift Shop



Edith Mae's Tea Room and Gift Shop are run by Sharon Lintz, a fellow Austen fan who attended our Gala last spring. They occupy the ground floor of a remarkably fine mansion in Xenia. The atmosphere is Victorian. Sharon provides extravagant hats and some wraps for her guests, to help them get into the antiquarian mood (in case they are out of costume that day). Her teas, which both Carrie and I have sampled, are excellent. The menu features:

*tea breads/scones or cinnamon roll*  
*finger sandwiches(3 different kinds and everyone will get all 3)*  
*cup of soup*  
*three desserts(again, everyone will get all 3)*  
*tea or coffee*

## Eden Hall Mansion Houses Edith Mae Tea Room

Eden Hall is a splendid Greek Revival mansion built in 1840 by Abraham Hivling, a prominent Xenia businessman and son of one of Xenia's first settlers. It features 13-foot ceilings, over 9,000 square feet of living space, and over 750 paintings. Edith Mae's Tearoom and Gift Shop occupy the ground floor, and the upper floors, and the upper floors for some time have housed a B&B, although they are now closed for renovation.



Eden Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The mansion was Sally Cochran Rouch's home in *And the Ladies of the Club*, Helen Hooven Santmyer's 1982 novel (published when the author was 88 years old). The most prominent visitors to the mansion have been President William McKinley and Secretary of State John Milton Hay. It is rumored that Eden Hall was part of the Underground Railroad and is also said to be haunted.

Sharon Lintz will tell us more about the mansion and its history, and she may be able to show us through some of the rooms on the upper floor.

## 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		

### April Reading Group Postponed Until Next November

Our bionic Reading Group leader, Jean Long (two new knees and a new shoulder as of last year), is outdoing herself this year. She led our January meeting at Gary's house not much more than two weeks after hip replacement surgery. The replacement of her other hip is scheduled for March 31, which would allow even less recovery time before the April meeting. We have decided to postpone that meeting until next year. We will read the chapters planned for this April's meeting next November and cover the last set of chapters in *Emma* in an additional meeting May, 2012.

Jean has recovered very well from her December surgery. We hope this next one goes just as smoothly and that everyone decides from here on out that Jean is quite bionic enough!

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### “Very Well Married”

At the February Reading Group, Jean brought to our attention the technical meaning of the phrase “very well married.” “Very well married” meant marriage to a partner with at least £10,000, whereas “pretty well married” implied at least £2,000 but less than £10,000.



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## JASNA President Iris Lutz to Speak May 14

JASNA President Iris Lutz will present an illustrated talk on houses in Jane Austen's real and imagined worlds, shedding light on many of the homes and estates that figured in her life and novels. The visual tour will feature houses Austen lived in and visited while in Chawton, Bath, Winchester, and Kent, and Iris will share many of her pictures and impressions from a trip to Jane Austen Country. In addition, by pairing pictures of real houses with descriptions in the novels of cottages, manors, and estates, Iris will show what Austen may have had in mind when she created Barton Cottage, Longbourn, Mansfield Park, Pemberley, Sotherton, and other fictional houses.

## Reading Group Discussion of Emma Continues

The 18 people who attended the February Reading Group had plenty of material to work with: the unfortunate Christmas party at the Westons', Mr. Elton's proposal to Emma, Harriet's disappointment, Mr. Elton's triumphant rebound and marriage to Miss Augusta Hawkins, the appearance of Jane Fairfax, and the continued non-appearance of Mr. Frank Churchill. In the midst of her embarrassment, Emma shows her strengths—her honest assessment of her own mistake and her unfailing care for her father's worries and Harriet's sorrow.

Mr. John Knightly, whose alarming speculations on the weather set the stage for the *tete a tete* between Emma and Mr. Elton, came in for some comment. He is a character "whose feelings must always be of great importance to his companions." Disliking dinner parties, he brought Mr. Weston's to a close as early as possible by frightening Mr. Woodhouse about the state of the roads. In the flurry of their departure, Emma was left alone in the second coach with Mr. Elton. Mr. John Knightly is one of several Austen men with wives much inferior to themselves in sense or wit. None of these men behaves perfectly, and all of them, from Sir Thomas Bertram through Mr. Bennet down to Mr. Palmer, bear witness to the consequences of unequal marriage.

Miss Bates had her supporters, who pointed out her kindness, her cheerfulness in the face of poverty, and her usefulness to Mr. Woodhouse, who truly enjoys her conversation. Jean repeated the gossip that goes around at the JASNA AGMs that Miss Bates is actually the mother of Jane Fairfax. Most of us do not believe that, but then someone raised the question of Jane Fairfax's father in that case. The only men we know in Highbury of the right age are Mr. Perry and Mr. Woodhouse! Could Jane Fairfax be Emma's sister? That would add a new dimension to the story, but if it were true Jane Austen would probably have given more hint of it.



## Spring Term Costume Class at Sinclair



Kathleen Hotmer, the Costume Shop Manager and Costume Designer at Sinclair Community College, announces a new course in the Theatre Department for the upcoming Spring Quarter, “Costume History.” The course will cover fashion throughout the ages, from ancient civilizations to contemporary time, with special emphasis on the period between the 16th and 19th centuries. The course will meet Monday and Wednesday afternoons 3:15 - 4:45 during the Spring Term, which runs March 28-June 12. Registration is open February 14 – March 18, with late registration March 19-March 2, and Golden Age and Audit Registration March 21-25.

## Cincinnati Shakespeare Company Presents *Pride and Prejudice*

The Cincinnati Shakespeare Company is currently presenting John Jory’s much praised adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. Jean Long saw the play in Oregon, and says it is excellent. Nearly all the dialogue is Jane’s own, and, as Peter LePage was glad to learn, it is not a musical.



Angela Jaeger put together a group to attend the March 6 matinee. If you missed signing up for that event, you can still purchase tickets for that or one of the other dates through March 13. Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$24 for seniors, and \$22 for students. For more details check the Shakespeare Company’s website at [www.cincyshakes.com](http://www.cincyshakes.com).

## Upcoming Galas in Neighboring Regions

Three tempting Galas are coming up this spring and summer in neighboring JASNA regions.

On **March 12** the Pittsburg Region is hosting its Gala, featuring JASNA past president Joan Klingel Ray as keynote speaker, two plenary speakers, and a lavish array of breakout sessions including Joan Klingel Ray's psychological analysis of Mr. Darcy, fashion topics (Much Ado About Muffs, Dressing the Bennet Sisters), a dance workshop, a lecture on dance that sounds



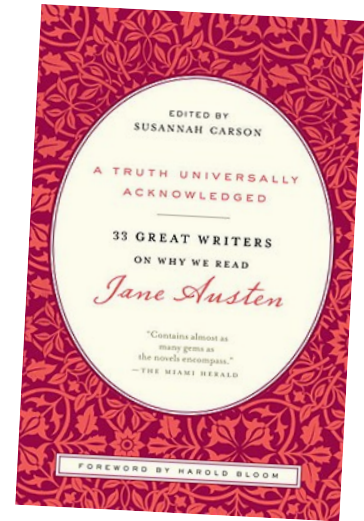
extremely interesting (The Rules of the Assembly—Dancing at Bath and Other Spa Towns in the Eighteenth Century by dance historian Allison Thompson), and a talk by Carol Chernega, the first International Visitor to Chawton House, on the gardens at Chawton. Our own Martha Caprarotta will be selling her dresses there. In the evening there is a ball. The cost of this event is \$75, with an extra \$25 for the ball. Registration closes March 4. To register, go to their Website [www.janeaustenpgh.org](http://www.janeaustenpgh.org).

On **April 16** the North Ohio Region is holding a Gala “Remembering Jane Austen” in Cleveland. It starts off with a walking tour of historic Lake View Cemetery, where President Garfield and Eliot Ness are buried, and features talks by Tim Bullamore, publisher and editor of *Jane Austen's Regency World*, speaking on obituaries of Jane Austen's time; and Dr. Juliette Wells, recent Goucher College Burke Austen Scholar in Residence, who will speak on how Austen has recently been represented by novelists, filmmakers, and visual artists. Carrie Bebris will be on hand to present the awards for the essay contest “Write an Obituary for a Jane Austen Character,” Carrie being responsible for the deaths of quite a few Austen characters. For details and registration materials see the North Coast Region website <http://jasnaonc.com/rememberingja/> or call Patricia Fernberg at 216-228-6439 or 216-577-6647.

**July 9 and 10** the Greater Louisville Region will be holding its fourth annual Gala. This is a really spectacular event, held at a beautiful historic estate, featuring, besides workshops, an Austen family theatrical, *Cheer from Chawton*, by Karen Eterovich, a Regency emporium, and a Regency style show, a four-course afternoon tea, a entertainment-duel between gentlemen, a ladies' archery competition, live music, a Grand Ball & more. Entry is only \$10, although the tea, the ball, and the workshops are extra. For details and registration materials see the Greater Louisville web page at [www.jasnalouisville.com](http://www.jasnalouisville.com) or contact Bonny Wise at (812) 923-7808 or email her at [wises4@insightbb.com](mailto:wises4@insightbb.com).

## A Truth Universally Acknowledged

Katie LePage is reading *A Truth Universally Acknowledged; 33 Great Writers on Why We Read Jane Austen*, and she recommends it highly. This book, edited by Yale graduate student Susannah Carson, came out a couple years ago to favorable reception. It features a mixture of previously published essays by such writers as C. S. Lewis, Virginia Woolf, E. M. Forster and W. Somerset Maugham, and newly commissioned pieces by contemporary figures, including Anna Quindlen, Jay McInerney, A.S. Byatt and Amy Heckerling. These people approach Austen and her works and characters from many different perspectives, offering much food for thought to the committed Janeite.



## Woodhouse Defense League

Following a discussion on the Woodhouse name, Jean found the site of the Woodhouse Defense League at [www.pemberley.com/wdl/woodhouse.html](http://www.pemberley.com/wdl/woodhouse.html), where Mr. Woodhouse's staunchest defenders have their home. Under "Mr. Woodhouse's Advyce" hear Mr. Woodhouse sing a song of his own composition, which begins as follows:



*To the tune of "Greensleeves")*

Alas, dear ladies, I fear you 're wrong  
To go to the seaside of Washington  
The ocean 's evils bring chills and draughts  
And young ladies are delicate plants!

I'm shocked and grieved by this travelling abroad  
Protect your throats and wear your shawls  
Stay close to the hearth and don't think twice  
About heeding dear Perry's advyce.

Eat gruel,gruel! Serve hot or cool  
Must be thin is the only rule  
Gruel, gruel is the wholesome choice  
For every constitution