

# *JASNA Dayton Newsletter*

[www.jasnadayton.org](http://www.jasnadayton.org)

September 2011

## **October 1 in Mariemont: “An Afternoon With the Regency Doctor”**

On Saturday, October 1st, we will combine an elegant luncheon at the Mariemont Inn with a presentation on Regency period medical practices. Our speaker will be Albert Roberts, a well known historic interpreter who portrays a Regency doctor in character.

During this educational first-person presentation, the doctor will demonstrate common medical equipment and explain surgical techniques of the day, including bleeding, dentistry, musket ball removal, amputation, even cranial surgery. (Be sure to ask him about the maladies of Marianne Dashwood!)



### **Location:**

Mariemont Inn, National Exemplar Restaurant  
6880 Wooster Pike  
Mariemont, Ohio 45227  
513-271-2103

### **Schedule:**

Arrival: 11:30-12:00

Luncheon: 12:00-1:30 (Please specify your choice of either Pork Loin or Vegetable Lasagna)

Doctor's Presentation: 1:30-2:30

**Cost Before September 21:** \$20 for JASNA members and \$25 for non-members.

**Late Registration (September 22–28):** \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

*No registrations will be accepted after September 28.*

**RSVP:** Send check made out to JASNA Dayton along with your choice of either Pork Loin or Vegetable Lasagna to:

Meredith Stoehr  
86 Carmel Court  
Centerville, OH 45458

For questions contact Meredith at [stoeha@yahoo.com](mailto:stoeha@yahoo.com) or 919-302-6528. For up-to-date information on the event, check the JASNA Dayton website [www.jasnadayton.org](http://www.jasnadayton.org).

## Directions to Mariemont Inn

- Take your best route to I-71 in the Cincinnati area
- Exit I-71 at Red Bank Road (exit 9)
- Follow Red Bank Road to 50 East
- Take 50 East (Wooster Pike) to 6880 Wooster Pike, on the circle in Mariemont (inside the Mariemont Inn)



## Mariemont, Ohio



Mariemont is a tourist attraction in its own right. Built in the 1920's, the village is one of the oldest planned communities in the country (and a far cry from Levittown). It was created by Mary Emery, a wealthy and civic-minded widow, to be a "national exemplar" (hence the name of the restaurant in the Mariemont Inn). Buildings ranging in style from Norman to classic Georgian, intermingle with handsome parks.

Like New England villages, it features a town square, where we will find the Mariemont Inn, town meetings, and, in an extravagant gesture to times gone by, a town crier.

## New JASNA Dayton Meeting Registration Policy

You will note in the meeting announcement that we have introduced different rates for early and later registration. We want to get away from the situation where people call in at the last minute and promise to pay at the door. This puts us at risk of forfeiting the cost of the dinner if the person does not show up at the meeting. We have decided not to accept any registrations where we do not have the money in hand by the cutoff date.

The cutoff date (September 28 for the October 1 meeting) is the last date the restaurant can accommodate changes in the numbers. Remember that if you have registered and find out before the cutoff date that you will not be able to come, you can contact the registration person and have your check returned.

## JASNA Dayton Officers

Area Coordinator	Gary Mitchner	937-299-1663	<a href="mailto:gary.mitchner@gmail.com">gary.mitchner@gmail.com</a>
Reading Group and E-Newsletter	Jean Long	937-298-0436	<a href="mailto:jtrnlong@aol.com">jtrnlong@aol.com</a>
Newsletter and Membership	Meredith Stoehr	937-434-7567	<a href="mailto:stoeha@yahoo.com">stoeha@yahoo.com</a>
Librarian	Toni Tumbusch	513-752-5115	<a href="mailto:victoriantoni@netzero.net">victoriantoni@netzero.net</a>
Treasurer	Martha Caprarotta		
Program	Carrie Bebris		
Webmaster	Tom Tumbusch		

### Jean Long Steps in as e-Newsletter Editor

Gary, our Regional Coordinator, receives a great many e-mails from the national organization concerning Austen-related news—plays, publications, movies, mentions in books and magazines, doings at Chawton, and so forth. In order to reduce the number of separate e-mails our members receive, Jean has undertaken to filter and bundle them together. She sends them out every couple weeks as “JASNA Dayton Austen Sightings.” To subscribe, or unsubscribe, contact Jean at [jtrnlong@aol.com](mailto:jtrnlong@aol.com).

### Worst Opening Sentences

Taken from one Jean’s Austen Sightings, here are some winners from the 2011 Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest for worst opening sentence:

“Cheryl’s mind turned like the vanes of a wind-powered turbine, chopping her sparrow-like thoughts into bloody pieces that fell onto a growing pile of forgotten memories.”

“From the limbs of ancient live oaks moccasins hung like fat black sausages — which are sometimes called *boudin noir*, black pudding or blood pudding, though why anyone would refer to a sausage as pudding is hard to understand and it is even more difficult to divine why a person would knowingly eat something made from dried blood in the first place — but be that as it may, our tale is of voodoo and foul murder, not disgusting food.

“As his small boat scudded before a brisk breeze under a sapphire sky dappled with cerulean clouds with indigo bases, through cobalt seas that deepened to navy nearer the boat and faded to azure at the horizon, Ian was at a loss as to why he felt blue.

## Reading Group to Resume *Emma* November 13

Our Reading Group leader, Jean Long, has had trying time these last three years, undergoing two knee replacements, a shoulder replacement, and last year two hip replacements. Through all of this, she has missed only a few sessions and our group has grown to imposing size, with 15 members or more present at each meeting. I am very happy to report that Jean's recovery has progressed well this summer. She is able to walk a mile in the beautiful woods near her summer home in Michigan, pain-free at last!



We will be taking up *Emma*'s story at a point where her first big error—separating her friend Harriet from an appropriate suitor and trying to attach her to a gentleman—has had its repercussions. Disappointed in what he thought was his courtship of *Emma*, and what she thought was his courtship of Harriet, Mr. Elton has brought home a new wife in triumph. Much ashamed of that fiasco, *Emma* has resolved to do better, but remains resolved to preserve Harriet from low connections. The whole Frank Churchill story lies ahead, along with continued immersion in the delightful atmosphere of Highbury.

The schedule for next year will be:

November 13, 2011	<i>Emma</i> Vol II, 5-9 (23-27)
January 8, 2012	<i>Emma</i> Vol. II, 10-18 (28-36)
February 12, 2012	<i>Emma</i> Vol. III, 1-7 (37-43)
April 8, 2012	<i>Emma</i> Vol. III, 8-13 (44-49)
May 6, 2012	<i>Emma</i> Vol. III, 14-19 (50-55)

Unless otherwise specified, Reading Groups are held on Sunday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Jean's home, **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](mailto:jtrnlong@aol.com).

## Save December 4 for Jane Austen's Birthday Party



This year we will celebrate Jane Austen's birthday with lunch and a fashion show at the Golden Lamb in Lebanon. Martha Caprarotta, our treasurer and proprietress of Regency Recreations, will organize and narrate the fashion show. Details will be forthcoming.



## September 11 Memorial Service for Jane LaForce

JASNA Dayton member Jane LaForce died July 18 after a long and painful struggle with cancer. We will miss her her lively mind and her warmth and graciousness for a long time to come. We will also remember the immense courage with which this gentle woman fought her long battle. Even during her illness Jane continued to take part in our activities. For the March meeting this year, the last she was able to attend, she and her husband Charlie Wallner drove to Dayton a day early to stretch the exertion over two days. Whatever the effort cost her, she was faultlessly dressed and beaming with pleasure throughout.

A celebration of Jane's life will be held at the Lakeside Lodge in Sharon Woods Park on September 11, at 3:00 pm. This will be a potluck event. Dress will be casual (or Regency.) Our group is preparing a memorial booklet for the event. If you would like to contribute a memory of Jane, a card, or prayer, or picture, or if you have a question about the memorial service, please contact Meredith at [stoeha@yahoo.com](mailto:stoeha@yahoo.com) or (937)-434-7567.



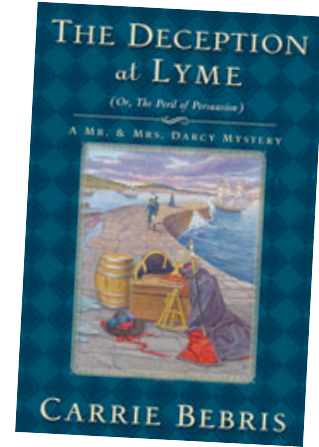
Financial contribution to Jane's charities can be sent to the Jane LaForce and Charles Wallner Memorial Fund care of First Financial Bank, 9360 Montgomery Rd. Cincinnati, Ohio 45242.

## Three Local Appearances for Carrie Bebris in October

### Book Launch for *Deception at Lyme* Monday, October 3

Carrie will kick off the book tour for her new Mr. and Mrs. Darcy mystery on Monday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m. at

Books & Co at the Greene  
4453 Walnut Street  
Beavercreek, OH 45440  
(937)-429-2169  
[www.booksandco.com](http://www.booksandco.com)



Carrie will share behind-the-scenes information, tales from her research trip to England, and other insights into what you and the Darcys will discover in their newest adventure. Don't miss this opportunity to support Carrie, and to be one of the first people to own an autographed copy of *Deception at Lyme*!

In *Deception at Lyme*, Mr. and Mrs. Darcy enter the world of *Persuasion*. They have come to Lyme to receive from a fellow officer the personal effects of Mr. Darcy's cousin, a naval lieutenant who died in action. The murder victim they find during a stroll along the Cobb is—Mrs. Clay! Did she lose her balance and fall from the slippery breakwater, or was she pushed? Could Mr. Darcy's cousin have been murdered as well, as evidence found among his papers suggests? Aided by Captain Wentworth, the Darcys probe these mysteries.

### Saturday, October 22, Cincinnati USA Book Festival

Meet 70 authors with Ohio connections at a full day of book signings and programs for the whole family at the Duke Energy Convention Center.

### Saturday, October 29, Tea with Mr. and Mrs. Darcy

Meet Carrie at 1:00 at Basically British (502 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Dayton) for a three course tea and a talk. The cost is \$23.95. For those of us fond of Basically British as well as Carrie's books, this sounds like a particularly delightful afternoon. Call (937)-222-1488 for your reservation.



**For up to date information on all these events, check Carrie's website [www.carriebebris.com](http://www.carriebebris.com).**

## JASNA President Iris Lutz Visits Dayton Region

On May 14, 2011, JASNA Dayton members and guests enjoyed a visit from Iris Lutz, the newly-installed President of the national organization. Dayton was the third region to be visited by the new president since she took office. Lutz's presentation featured houses from Jane Austen's life and fiction, including places that may have inspired the homes in her novels. "Most JASNA members haven't been to Jane Austen country," Lutz said. "If you're like me, you probably have a mental image that's a little sketchy about Donwell Abbey or Hartfield."

After touring many Austen-related sites in 2008, Lutz realized that many of the homes seen in adaptations are probably very different from what Jane imagined. Her virtual tour ranged from the remains of Steventon Rectory (the living where Jane spent the first 25 years of her life) to the great houses that may have inspired Pemberley, Rosings, and Mansfield Park.



All that remains of Steventon today is the remnant of a washhouse pump, but a sketch of the rectory by Anna LeFroy gives some hint as to what it may have looked like. A computer-generated reconstruction of what Steventon may have looked like, including Anna's sketch and a few modern photographs, is available on the Internet at <http://www.thetalkingwalls.co.uk/JaneAusten.htm>.

Chawton Cottage, Jane and Cassandra's home in later years, is better preserved and continues to benefit from ongoing restoration. Lutz's images showed Jane's bedroom, the area where she liked to make tea each morning, the restored donkey cart she rode in, a quilt she worked on with her mother and sister, and now-famous table she used for writing. A contemporary engraving of the cottage shows the white stucco exterior it would have had in Jane's time, a treatment that was removed sometime in the 19th century. Lutz also noted changes and additions that were made to the cottage shortly before Jane and Cassandra took up residence there, including a window that was closed up by their brother in order to give the sisters additional privacy.

Many of the homes Jane visited may have inspired her fictional houses, but it seems clear that she did not want the houses she knew to be recognized. Like her characters, they appear to combine elements of multiple real-life sources. "Jane Austen doesn't really describe the houses very much unless they're pivotal to the plot," Lutz explained. "She'll usually just say a house is 'modern,' 'old,' 'changeless' (often when it was an abbey at one time), or she won't say anything at all." "Modern" for Austen probably implied a home built in the latter half of the 18th century, while "old" would have been something constructed in the 16th–17th centuries.

Despite this lack of detail, some of Jane's inspirations seem clear. Notable among these is Stoneleigh Abbey, which is likely one of the models for Mansfield Park. In addition to having "many more rooms than could be supposed to be of any other use than to contribute to the window tax," and numerous family portraits, it features a chapel that seems a perfect match for Jane's description—right down to the family gallery and crimson velvet cushions.

The case is less clear for Chatsworth House, the grand home that doubled for Pemberley in the 2005 adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. While many have argued that Jane based Pemberley on this house, there is no record that Jane ever visited Derbyshire, or even traveled further north than Stratfordshire. Others have speculated that Jane might have read about Chatsworth, seen illustrations, or based aspects of Pemberley on secondhand descriptions.

Ms. Lutz disagrees, however. "Contrary to what we saw in some of the movies, it probably wasn't Chatsworth," Lutz said. According to Lutz, Mr. Darcy's annual income of £10,000 a year is the most compelling argument against the Chatsworth/Pemberley connection. In Jane's time, Chatsworth was owned by the Duke of Devonshire, who enjoyed an income of £100,000 a year. She argued her case convincingly by showing photographs of both Chatsworth and Godmersham Park, a manor owned by Jane's brother Edward Austen-Knight, whose income was £15,000 a year—half again as much as Mr. Darcy. Iris had the description of Pemberley read aloud as she showed slides of both homes. The description matches them both equally well.

Displaying a map of Bath, a city Jane knew well, Lutz detailed the significance of where characters from *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* chose to live. Contemporary readers would have recognized Jane's ironic wit in Sir Walter Elliot's choice of Camden Place, a section of town that was fashionable, but built on unstable ground. Westgate Buildings, home of the unfortunate Mrs. Smith, was in an older part of town with the highest concentration of alehouses, workshops, prostitutes, beggars, and thieves (some of Sir Walter's concern would thus have been understandable had his motives been less narcissistic). Most telling of all, the residence of the enigmatic Mr. William Elliot is never mentioned.

A quick glance at a map of Bath from the time also reveals an interesting insight about the Gravel Walk, where Anne and Captain Wentworth are finally reconciled in the novel *Persuasion*. They were clearly in no hurry as the good captain escorted Miss Elliot back to Camden Place, because they're taking a *very* long way back.

Ms. Lutz concluded her presentation with a visit to the home in Winchester where Jane spent her last days, and the cathedral where she is buried. But she closed with the image she prefers to remember most: Jane's writing table at Chawton Cottage.



## Louisville Gala—A Great July Event

Ever since the first JASNA Louisville Gala four years ago we have been thinking of getting a group together to attend. It is a spectacular event, and cleverly priced, so that general admission is very low, with teas, balls, and so on paid for separately. There are vendors of every kind, and a wide variety of activities. Tom and Toni Tumbusch were there this year, and here are a few pictures they took. Some year soon the rest of us will make it as well!



Tom and Toni enjoy a picnic luncheon with well dressed Regency friends.

Below: Gentlemen relax in congenial tavern

