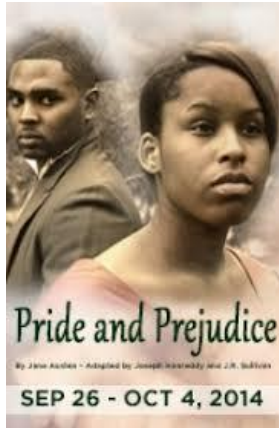


JASNA Dayton Newsletter

www.jasnadayton.org

August 2014

An Inside Look at Sinclair's *Pride and Prejudice* on September 6



On Saturday, September 6, Dayton JASNA will begin the 2014-2015 program year with presentations by Kimberly Borst and Kathleen Hotmer, director and costume designer for Sinclair College's new production of *Pride and Prejudice*, followed by an opportunity to watch a rehearsal of the play. Sinclair is presenting the Joseph Hanreddy and J R Sullivan adaptation, the same version we saw last March in Cincinnati. It will be interesting to compare the two productions, and a real treat to hear from Sinclair's director and designer how they have chosen to interpret the play and why they have made their choices.

Public performances will be given September 26, 27, and 28 and October 1, 2, 3, and 4 at Blair Hall Theatre on the Sinclair campus. Show times are not yet definitively set, but when they are available we plan to organize an outing to one of the performances. Ticket prices are \$18, with \$15 for students and seniors.

LOCATION: The Green Room (Room 2334) on the 4th floor of Building 2 on the Sinclair campus.

SCHEDULE:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 10:30 | Arrival and socializing |
| 10:45 | Brief business meeting, with election of new RC and Board members |
| 11:00 | Presentations by Kimberly Borst and Kathleen Hotmer |
| 12:00 | Box lunches in the Green Room |
| 1:00 - | Rehearsal. You may attend as much of the rehearsal as you like |

BOX LUNCH:

Fruit salad, seasonal side salad and chips

Choice of 3 sandwiches:

Ham and Swiss on ciabatta with apple honey and mustard

Turkey on ciabatta with sage cream cheese and field greens

Greek salad wrap with feta, olives, tomato and cucumber (vegetarian)

Cookie

Choice of Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, or bottled water

COST: \$14

RSVP by August 27 with a check made out to **JASNA Dayton**. Mail your check along with your selections for entree and drink and contact information (phone number or e-mail) to:

Mary Ann Gasior
2727 Old Whipp Court
Centerville, OH 45440

For questions contact Mary Ann at 937-434-5992 or gasiormaryann@yahoo.com.

PARKING: The Student/Visitor Parking Garage (Lot A) on West Fifth Street. Use the pedestrian bridge on the west side of the parking structure to cross the street to the campus buildings. The cost of parking is \$2, by cash or credit card.

DIRECTIONS: Sinclair College is right off I-75, at the Third Street exit. Unfortunately that exit is now closed on account of construction. YouTube videos at

<http://www.sinclair.edu/about/offices/parking/trafficadvisory/index.cfm>

show the best routes to Sinclair from the north and south on I-75.

Coming from the North (I-75 South)

- Take Exit 54 A (Ohio 48/Main Street/Grand Avenue). Stay to the right
- Turn Right on Ohio 48/Main Street
- Turn Left onto West Great Miami Boulevard; continue on the same road as it becomes West Riverview Avenue, then Edwin C Moses Boulevard
- Turn Left onto Ohio 4/West 5th Street. It will take you directly to the Sinclair parking garage, on your right

Coming from the South (I-75 North)

- Take Exit 52 (for I-35/Ohio 4/Eaton/Xenia)
- Keep Right onto I-35 towards Xenia
- Exit Left at Ohio 48/Main Street/Jefferson Street
- Turn Right onto Jefferson Street
- From the Left lane of Jefferson Street, turn Left onto Fourth Street, past the Sinclair buildings until you see the Parking Garage on your left.

Speakers Kimberly Borst and Kathleen Hotmer

Kimberly Borst joined the Sinclair Theatre Department faculty in the fall of 2010. In addition to teaching, she has directed Sinclair's productions of *The Women of Lockerbie*, *Almost, Maine*, *A Plague of Angels*, *Godspell* and *A Shayna Maidel*. She holds an M.F.A in theatre from the University of Idaho and has performed in regional and professional theatres across the country in roles that include the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, Nancy in *Frozen*, and Clytemnestra in *Electra*. Additional directing projects include *The Miracle Worker* and the Idaho Repertory Theatre's productions of *As You Like It* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. She approaches *Pride and Prejudice* with the intent of engaging modern audiences in Jane Austen's wit and commentary while still retaining the grace and beauty of the story's original time period. She wants viewers to embrace these characters with the delightful recognition that there is a little of the Bennets in all our families, we all know a Mr. Collins and a Mr. Wickham, and despite all our declarations otherwise, we all long for our Mr. Darcy or our Elizabeth.



Kathleen Hotmer has been designing costumes for theatre, film and dance for over 10 years. She has worked her way across the country and on the high seas as a costumer before coming to Sinclair Community College, where she has been teaching young aspiring costumers and theatre practitioners for over 5 years. Designing the clothes for the most beloved story of *Pride & Prejudice* has long been a dream for her. As she approaches this show it is her most ardent desire that she fulfills every romantic notion that the audience has for this story in their own minds. She wishes to create a lovely portrayal of the characters through the use of natural colors and fibers that will evoke the most genuine response to the characters as there ever was in the telling of this story.

Celebrate Jane Austen's Birthday Sunday, December 7 with Crystal Lake

This year we will celebrate Jane Austen's birthday with a luncheon and a talk by Crystal Lake, an Assistant Professor of English at Wright State. Many of us know Crystal as the organizer of Wright State's very successful *Pride and Prejudice* bicentennial gala last fall. Her topic will be "Jane Austen's Museums," based on work she did a couple summers ago at Chawton. "Jane Austen's Museums" uncovers the world of museums Jane would have known about and considers the effects the rise of the museum had on her characters, themes, and plots.



JASNA Dayton Executive Committee

Regional Coordinator, Reading Group Coordinator	Jean Long	937-287-6919	jtrnlong@aol.com
Secretary	Mariah Busher		
Treasurer	Judy McCoy		
Program Coordinator	Carrie Bebris		
Membership Coordinator	Deb Bentley	937-429-5123	extraone@woh.rr.com
Newsletter Editor	Meredith Stoehr	937-434-7567	stoeha@yahoo.com
Librarian	Toni Tumbusch	513-752-5115	victoriantoni@netzero.net
Webmaster	Tom Tumbusch		

September 6 Elections for RC and Executive Committee

At the September 6 meeting we will hold a short business meeting to elect a new Regional Coordinator. Two years ago Jean Long became RC with the understanding that she would serve a single two-year term. Jean has done a splendid job, and we are grateful for her patient work in guiding our ongoing reorganization.



We are fortunate that Carrie Bebris, after seven years as JASNA-Dayton's Program Coordinator, is willing to step in as her replacement. Carrie is familiar to most of us as the author of the successful Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Mystery series, with six volumes in print and a seventh, based on *Sanditon*, coming out next year. A life member of JASNA, Carrie joined in 1991 as an active member of the Wisconsin Region. There, she assisted with publicity for the 1995 AGM in Madison and served on the steering committee of the 2005 AGM in Milwaukee before moving to the Dayton area in 2006. In addition to serving as JASNA-Dayton's Program Coordinator, Carrie served on the bylaws committee that shaped our region's reorganization, and serves JASNA at the national level as a member of the nominating committee. She has thrice delivered presentations for our meetings: "Tea and Mystery" at the Twin Creek Tea Room in West Alexandria in 2008, "You Pierce My Soul: Letters as Storytelling Tools" for our 25th Anniversary Gala at the University of Dayton in 2010, and "Dueling and the Code of Honor" in 2012 at the Golden Lamb. Also a regular presenter at the AGMs and other regions, Carrie is particularly well suited to represent our group to JASNA.

Since Jean was elected in 2012 and the rest of the Board in 2013, the whole Board is standing for reelection on September 6 so that in future we need think of elections only every other year. The full slate of candidates is:

Carrie Bebris	Regional Coordinator
Mariah Busher	Secretary
Judy McCoy	Treasurer
Jean Long	Reading Group Coordinator
Deborah Bentley	Membership Coordinator
Meredith Stoehr	Newsletter Editor
Toni Tumbusch	Librarian
Tom Tumbusch	Webmaster

To the careful observer, this list reveals opportunities for service. The position of Program Coordinator, vacated by Carrie, remains open, although the rest of her committee is still in place. Two other positions, Publicity Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator, which exist in the Bylaws but which have never been filled, remain open. Some movement has taken place towards forming a Fundraising committee, although no one has yet stepped in to take charge of it.

Help JASNA Dayton While You Shop

For the last couple years, the JASNA Dayton Executive Committee has been looking into ways of developing new income sources so that we can bring in more speakers from outside our immediate area. As a simple first step, JASNA Dayton has joined Dorothy Lane Market's Good Neighbors Program as non-profit number 813. In this program, a small percentage of the amount each registered shopper spends in the store each year will be returned to our organization. We thank Jean Long for her persistent efforts in registering JASNA Dayton with DLM. We are enrolled as "Jane Austen Society of North America, Dayton Region," with number 813. If you already have a DLM Club card, you can sign up in one easy step:

Online: At <http://www.dorothylane.com/clubdml/goodneighbor.pl> enter your name, your full Club number (the 11 digit number below the bar code on your Club card, omitting spaces), and our charity number, 813.

In person: At the Customer Desk, request a Good Neighbor form, write your name and DLM Club number, and check the box for "Jane Austen Society"

If you do not have a DLM Club card yet, sign up at <http://www.dorothylane.com/clubdml/> or request a form at the Customer Desk before registering for the Good Neighbor Program.

Reading Group To Revisit *Pride and Prejudice*

When JASNA Dayton's Reading Group first met in 2005 at the home Jean Long, we took up *Pride and Prejudice*, with the A&E production and Colin Firth fresh in our minds. Since then, we have completed the six major Austen novels as well as spending a year with Jane Austen's letters. Very few of our current Reading Group members were present for the earliest sessions, so we voted overwhelmingly at our April 2014 meeting to devote the next two years to this favorite novel.

The dates and reading selections for the first three meetings are below. The last session will be in March or April, depending on the date of a spring program date that is still undetermined.

	<u>By Volume</u>	<u>By Chapter</u>
Nov.9, 2014	Vol. I, Chap.1-10	Chap. 1-10
Jan. 11, 2015	Vol. I, Chap. 11-18	Chap. 11-18
Feb. 8, 2015	Vol. I, Chap. 19-23; Vol. II, Chap. 1-4	Chap. 19-27

Reading Groups are held on Sunday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30 at Jean's home, **927 Far Hills** (Route 48), **Oakwood, 45419**. The back of her condominium faces Far Hills. 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 937-287-6919 or e-mail jtrnlong@aol.com.

WWW.OAKWOODREGISTER.COM

April 23, 2014 THE OAKWOOD REGISTER

'Round Town

Austenland/Oakwoodland?

By Gary Mitchner

So many book clubs, so little time, to adapt the axiom to the current situation. This Roundtowners belongs to two: ABC (Art Book Club) and Austen Reading Group. The latter just finished the season with the final chapters of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* (yes, there are so many parodies of that phrase that I will not indulge) — that's right, "chapters." This club reads only one book and discusses several chapters at a time instead of reading the entire book for the club's meetings. The condo

of **Jean and Bob Long** is turned into Oakwood's version of Austenland. **Deb Bentley** handles the membership for the local region of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA). Local members include **Kay Berg**, **Meredith Stoehr** (news-letter editor), and **Carrie Bebris** (she has written detective sequels to Austen's six novels — I wonder if her research came from husband **Alex**?). **Marilyn Rueth** received her membership as a present. The founder of the local regional club, **Martha Caprarotta**, was there to

discuss some of the finer points of the last chapters. Tea, of course, is enjoyed by all with the obligatory sweets and scones. Everyone voted for *Pride and Prejudice* for next year. (If you belong to a book club in Oakwood, let me know: gary.mitchner@gmail.com — I bet there is even an online, Kindle or Nook version).

You're invited to submit items of social interest from parties, events and club functions 'Round Town to roundtown@oakwoodregister.com.

***Pride and Prejudice* in Cincinnati, March 30, 2014**

JASNA Dayton's spring meeting found us in Cincinnati, enjoying luncheon at The Rookwood followed by *Pride and Prejudice* at Playhouse in the Park. It was a delightful day to be in and around Eden Park. We had an excellent time, and we thank Angela Jaeger for organizing the meeting, as she did our outing to *Sense and Sensibility* a couple years ago.

The performance was of the Joseph Hanreddy and J R Sullivan adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. It was presented in The Marx Theatre, a handsome, well designed space, with a low stage projecting into the auditorium, and the costumes and set were attractive. I particularly liked how the soldiers, maids, and footmen were handled. Their costumes were first rate, and they served as stage hands as well as extras, swiftly moving the story along from scene to scene.



Much of the dialogue was taken direct from Austen, but since much must necessarily be left out it is always interesting to see what of the original survives and what does not and how the various characters come across. The minor characters in the play were handled well.

The younger Bennet sisters were all pretty, including Mary, who was earnest without being pitifully awkward. Kitty played the dramatic teen to perfection. Mrs. Bennet was also very good--extravagant, but never harsh. Caroline Bingley acted with the asperity that belongs to her role, but within the bounds of ladylike deportment. Lizzy I found to be problematic. She was about a head taller than her sisters and plainer too. Her part in the first half of the play was abbreviated in such a way as to remove all wit and sparkle in favor of the snippy, sarcastic, and glum. She (or her lines) improved greatly in the second part.



I found the standout among the male characters to be Mr. Collins, fluent and earnest as could be. Mr. Wickham was extremely tall, handsome and suave. Mr. Darcy was less so and spent a great deal of the first act with his back to the other characters, facing the audience with a fixed scowl on his face. Lizzy's remarks frequently left him speechless or stuttering. I wonder if he was supposed to be reflecting the recently fashionable theory that places Mr. Darcy on the autism spectrum.

The faithful Janite is ever vigilant for violations of Regency norms, like kissing in public. This was avoided by cutting the lights in the nick of time at the end of the play. There were, however, a couple spectacular bloopers in the first party scene. Without benefit of any introduction, Mrs. Bennet marched up to Mr. Bingley and introduced all her daughters to him. Even worse, Lizzie, forthrightly invited Mr. Darcy to dance with her. No wonder he stalked from the room!

All in all, though, it was a polished production, fast moving, and fun to watch. It will be very interesting to compare it with the upcoming Sinclair production.

Celebrating Jane's Birthday with her Villains

On December 14 JASNA Dayton members braved some of the first bad weather of a long winter to enjoy a tasty luncheon at Jay's and a lively discussion on "The Ones We Love to Hate: Austen Characters Most Likely to Appear on a Dartboard," led by Katie LePage. Katie introduced her subject by pointing out that Jane is nowhere more clever than in depicting the flaws in her characters' morals and manners. She identified two "levels of awfulness:" those venial sinners who are tiresome and tedious, vain or weak; and the actively harmful characters who use other people and deliberately harm them. Most Austen characters, in fact, fall into the one category or the other, leaving for our unreserved admiration a short list of heroes and heroines and a few exemplary friends and relatives.



Austen's minor sinners, like Mr. Woodhouse, Miss Bates, Mr. Collins, and Lady Catherine de Burgh, wear their faults openly and to comic effect. Seriously harmful people, like Mr. Wickham and Mr. Willoughby, take longer to unmask, hiding their heartlessness behind good looks and good manners.

A long and impassioned discussion followed Katie's talk, taking up the relative demerits of characters who deliberately do harm, like Lucy Steele, versus characters like Mr. Bennet and John Dashwood who fail to exert themselves to do what they know is right. We may have gone too far in voting Mr. Bennet one of Austen's great evildoers, but we all found that Katie's talk opened up some new perspectives on our favorite author and her people.

Jean Long's Toast to Jane Austen crowned the birthday festivities:

*Who meets us on the walk—then, endless, starts to talk?
Who's always right—with Knightley likes to fight?
Who picks on Fanny Price—is never nice?
Who says witty words, to tease—then puts his lady as her east?
Who loves her Fredrick still—regrets old choice, so ill?
Who for hunting jacket yearns—to flannel waistcoat turns?
Who is angry and hurt by his letter—but likes his country house better?
Why is it that we love her so?
Her people will not let us go!
Here is to our Jane Austen—
our Happy Birthday to you, you'll hear and MANY many more, my dear!
Happy Birthday, Jane Austen!*

Answers to clues in Toast: Miss Bates; Miss Woodhouse; Mrs. Norris; Henry Tilney; Anne Wentworth; Marianne Dashwood; Elizabeth Bennet

A Thank You from Martha Caprarotta

Our January Reading Group meeting featured a toast to Martha and a basket of gifts in appreciation of her role as a founding member of JASNA Dayton and of her countless contributions since then as RC, program organizer, treasurer, and much else. She sent the following of thanks for the gifts and tribute:



Dear members of our Book Discussion group;

Thank you so much for the wonderful gifts you surprised me with at the discussion on January 12. Your generosity was so touching and almost enough to start my own "Ford's" shop in Dayton--from tea pot, cosy, and towel; to antique laces, gloves, and buttons; to Jane-Austen-related crafts and books! Several items were either donated anonymously or the giver was not present, so I could not send personal thank you notes to everyone who donated a gift.

I also appreciated the surprise of seeing half a dozen of you dressed in the Regency gowns I had sewn for you over the years. As someone commented, you all made quite a graceful, pretty picture as you walked about the room, to and from the tea table. Miss Bingley would have been envious, and Mr. Darcy would have taken notice!

It has been my pleasure serving in various officers' roles for the Dayton Region of JASNA since co-founding it in 1985. I leave my final role--that of Treasurer--to the very capable hands of Judy McCoy, and look forward to seeing you all at future discussion group and programs.

*With sincere appreciation,
Martha Caprarotta*

The Real Jane? [from *The Guardian* 9 July 2014]

The Jane Austen Centre claims to have drawn on forensic techniques and eye-witness accounts to create the closest ever likeness of the *Pride and Prejudice* novelist. Their waxwork went on display at the centre in Bath on Wednesday morning. It has taken three years to create, with forensic artist Melissa Dring taking as her starting point the sketch done by Austen's sister Cassandra in 1810, the only accepted portrait of the writer other than an 1870 adaptation of that picture. She then used contemporary eyewitness descriptions of the novelist to come up with her own likeness.



Austen's nephew, James Edward Austen-Leigh, described his aunt as "very attractive". "Her figure was rather tall and slender, her step light and firm, and her whole appearance expressive of health and animation. In complexion she was a clear brunette with a rich colour; she had full round cheeks, with mouth and nose small and well-formed, bright hazel eyes, and brown hair forming natural curls close round her face," he wrote in his memoir.

Caroline Austen, his sister, had it that "as to my Aunt's personal appearance, hers was the first face that I can remember thinking pretty Her face was rather round than long – she had a bright, but not pink colour – a clear brown complexion and very good hazle [sic] eyes ... Her hair, a darkish brown, curled naturally – it was in short curls around her face."

A Different Take on the Bennet Family

Longbourn tells the story of *Pride and Prejudice* mostly from the point of view of one of the housemaids. Her fellow servants are Mrs. Hill, the cook and housekeeper, Mr. Hill, the elderly butler, and another, younger housemaid. Much to their relief, this small staff is augmented at the beginning of the book by a sturdy but mysterious footman. The detailed descriptions of how household tasks are



carried out are informative, though they give the book a more naturalistic tone than is usual in Austen-inspired fiction. It is shocking to realize the amount of labor required to keep the Bennet family happily oblivious to how, exactly, they come to be fed and clothed and living in a spotless home. What does it mean to the housemaid when Miss Elizabeth comes home with her petticoat is three inches deep in mud? How do the housemaids feel about washing Mrs. Gardiner's baby's nappies? How does Mrs. Hill react to Mr. Bennet's surprise announcement that Mr. Collins (her future employer, she hopes) will be arriving later in the day for a week's visit?

Loungbourn treats the Bennet family with a surprising degree of fairness and affection. Mrs. Hill is fond of the whole family, thinks even of Lydia as a "little love," and listens sympathetically to Mrs. Bennet's endless complaints. The book makes one think hard about the social context of what has lately become a popular branch of escapist fiction, but it sticks in the mind. It is a serious novel by a serious author, and well worth reading.

Louisville Jane Austen Festival Sets Record

On July 19, 2014 JASNA Louisville attempted to surpass the record for Largest Number of People Dressed in Regency Costume, which then stood at 409. The occasion was the Regency Promenade at Louisville's annual Jane Austen Festival. Regional Coordinator Bonnie Wise has since reported that the record was handily broken, with 491 individuals counted in the parade. Tom and Toni Tumbusch contributed to the success, turned out to their usual high standard.



Mr. Darcy in the Swim



This statue of Colin Firth as Mr. Darcy turned up at various points last year in England, in the Serpentine, at Lyme Park, and at points between. It was constructed to mark the launch of the new British TV channel Drama, in tribute to "the most memorable moment in British TV drama." The model took a team of three sculptors more than two months to design, construct and paint. Toby Crowther, the lead sculptor, said: "The challenge for us was capturing the spirit of

Darcy as handsome and noble but also aloof and proud."