

JASNA Dayton Newsletter

www.jasnadayton.org

February 2015

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March 22 Program to Feature Preview of Louisville AGM



JASNA 2015 AGM ~ LOUISVILLE, KY
OCTOBER 9-11

JASNA Dayton presents two really exciting speakers for our March 22 meeting: Bonny Wise and Alana Gillett of JASNA Greater Louisville. They are the organizers of JASNA's 2015 Annual General Meeting, which will take place in Louisville October 9-11. They will tell us about their plans for the event, whose theme is "Living in Austen's World." The Greater Louisville region is already well known for the splendid Jane Austen Festival it puts on each summer. This AGM should be a truly memorable one—and the first in a very long time within convenient driving distance of Dayton.

The March 22 meeting will be held at the historic Patterson Homestead in Dayton (1815 Brown Street, Dayton, OH 45409) and will include a High Tea with a period menu, served by staff in 19th-century attire. The tea will feature tea breads, finger sandwiches, and desserts. Guests are welcome to wear period or contemporary attire.

Schedule:

Gathering at 1:30 (including tours of this historic home)

High Tea at 2:00

Business Meeting at 3:00

Talk at 3:15

Further conversation and house tours for those who like to linger 4:15 – 5:00

The cost will be \$26 for JASNA members and \$28 for nonmembers. RSVP with a check payable to JASNA Dayton, mailed along with contact information (phone number or e-mail) and any dietary concerns to Mary Ann Gasior, 2727 Old Whipp Court, Centerville, OH 45440.

Bonny Wise, Founder of Louisville Jane Austen Festival



Bonny Wise became founding Regional Coordinator of the Greater Louisville Region of JASNA in 2007 and remained in that position until last year, when Alana Gillett succeeded her. From 2008 on, Greater Louisville has put on its spectacularly successful Jane Austen Festival each July at Historic Locust Grove. Looking back through old issues of our newsletter, I found an article on the first Jane Austen Festival, already a two-day event featuring Joan Klingel Ray as keynote speaker, a large Emporium, a style show and a tea. Last year's event set a world record for the largest number of people gathered together in Regency dress: 409.

Bonny has been employed at Locust Grove since 2006 where she is the Marketing Coordinator, and she usually heads up concessions at the many Locust Grove events.

Bonny, like her husband Rob, is a graduate of Indiana University. They have two children, Amelia & Colin, both in college. Bonny also has a culinary degree from Jefferson Community College in Louisville.

Alana Gillett, Artist and Playwright

Alana Gillett, a long time Janeite, discovered the Greater Louisville region in 2009 when she saw Bonny Wise on television promoting the Jane Austen Festival. Alana registered immediately. Since then she has volunteered at five Jane Austen Festivals as a member of the Festival Committee. For the 2013 festival she wrote, directed, and acted in the play *Elizabeth & Darcy: A Love Story*. She films and edits the Festival commercials (2012-2014), Festival recap videos (2011-2013), and the "Words of Wisdom with Jane Austen" web series (2014). She creates graphics for merchandise and flyers; decorates for the Jane Austen Birthday Tea in December; and has presented multiple times for the Greater Louisville Region's monthly meetings covering topics such as art, Regency fashion, jewelry making, and plays based on Jane Austen's works.



In January 2015 she took on the role of the Regional Coordinator for JASNA-GL with Bonny Wise as her mentor and partner in All Things Jane Austen.

Alana's mother is an art teacher, and it is from her Alana learned her skill in art, photography, and film. I am much impressed by the photographs she offers for sale on Etsy.com.

Patterson Homestead is New Venue for JASNA Dayton



The Patterson Homestead was the residence of the Patterson family for a hundred years, starting in 1804. It began as the farm house of Revolutionary War veteran Colonel Robert Patterson, a founder of the cities of Lexington and Cincinnati and a large landowner in early Dayton. His grandsons, John and Frank Patterson, the founders of NCR, grew up there. In 1953 the house, fully furnished with 18th and 19th century antiques, was donated to the city of Dayton. The Patterson Homestead has recently become part of

Dayton History, which also manages Carillon Park, Hawthorne Hill, Memorial Hall, and other historical venues.

Afternoon teas are among the popular attractions at the Patterson Homestead, usually with a Victorian theme, but occasionally with a focus on Austen. Several of our members attended an Austen tea there a couple years ago and pronounced the food and other arrangements to be excellent.



Martha Caprarotta Has Regency Dresses for Sale

If any ladies among our members wish to spruce up their Regency wardrobes, Martha Caprarotta has a dozen ready-made day dresses and ball gowns in bust sizes 34 to 44 inches for sale. Some were modeled in her memorable December, 2011 fashion show at the Golden Lamb. Martha remarks that they are “perfect to buy now for the AGM at extra low prices to clear out my closets.” Anyone who is interested is invited to email or call Martha at mdcaprarotta@msn.com, or 937-836-2408. She can email photos or arrange for a meeting and try-on session.

Amendment to By-Laws Scheduled for March 22 Meeting

At our February meeting the JASNA Dayton Executive Committee voted to amend the bylaws so that several positions in future will be filled by appointment rather than by election, because of the specialized skills required by the positions. Regional Coordinator, Program Chair, Reading Group Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian will remain elective offices, while Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Publicity Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator will be appointed by the RC. Those present at the March 22 meeting will be asked to vote on this proposed change to the bylaws.

Proposed language for Bylaws amendment

Section 1. Designation of Officers. The Region's officers shall consist of the following voting members: Regional Coordinator (RC), Program Coordinator, Reading Group Coordinator, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Coordinator, Publicity Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and Librarian. The officers shall manage the affairs of the Region and exercise all the duties and powers of the Region as set forth in these bylaws.

Proposed Amendment:

Section 1. Designation of Officers. The Region's officers shall consist of the following voting members:

Elected: Regional Coordinator (RC), Program Coordinator, Reading Group Coordinator, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Membership Coordinator, Librarian.

Appointed by RC: Publicity Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster.

The officers shall manage the affairs of the Region and exercise all the duties and powers of the Region as set forth in these bylaws.

Section 2. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of all elected officers of the Region. *[Rest of section remains unchanged.]*

Proposed Amendment:

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Section 3. Term of Office. The program year shall be the same as the fiscal year, beginning on September 1 and ending on the following August 31. Each office shall be for a two-year term, starting in September. JASNA Bylaws limit the Regional Coordinator to three consecutive terms. Consecutive terms for other offices are not limited.

Proposed Amendment:

Section 3. Term of Office. The program year shall be the same as the fiscal year, beginning on September 1 and ending on the following August 31. Each office, elected and appointed, shall be for a two-year term, starting in September. JASNA Bylaws limit the Regional Coordinator to three consecutive terms. Consecutive terms for other offices are not limited.

December Meeting Combines Antiquarianism, Tea, and *Pride and Prejudice*

At our December 2014 meeting, Crystal B. Lake, an Assistant Professor of English at Wright State, gave a lively and thought-provoking talk based on the research she is doing for her next book, whose subject is the interest in history, archaeology, and all things ancient that flowered in eighteenth century England. The collection of historical artifacts, such as ancient arms and armor; the collection of fossils and natural curiosities of all kinds; the study of history based on original documents—all these activities arose from the Enlightenment interest in things as they are (and as they were).



The manifestations of antiquarianism most nearly associated with Austen were historical novels, as exemplified in the works of Sir Walter Scott, and Gothic novels, many of them authored by women, which Austen enjoyed reading but did not choose to emulate. In *Northanger Abbey* she poked gentle fun at the genre. The *History of England* she wrote in her teens took on what she regarded as unreasonable prejudices for and against various monarchs as they appeared in current histories.



Besides food for the mind, the meeting featured a splendid tea, arranged by former Regional Coordinator Gary Mitchner, and including many tasty dishes contributed by our members. The food was served on Gary's wonderful collection of tea cups and serving dishes. Everything tastes a little better on Limoges!

Among our guests were the director and cast of Wright State's *Pride and Prejudice*, who were then beginning rehearsals. Crystal had talked to them earlier in the week to provide background information on Austen and her period, and she invited them to our program as well. After Crystal's talk, each student gave a little information about themselves and their roles. With their energy and enthusiasm, students are always welcome guests, and they concurred in our judgment of the refreshments. The director, Marya Spring Cordes, mentioned that several of the students had whispered to her, "The food is the best we've ever had."

Besides Crystal and Gary, we thank everyone who brought food to the meeting and the members of the Program Committee, who put much time and effort into putting this meeting together, especially Marilyn Rueth, who took charge of the decorations.

No December meeting is complete without a toast to Jane Austen on her birthday. Jean Long, as she has for many years, composed a poetic tribute:



*She dances with grace,
She holds a dear place
in our hearts, which she always will hold.
While we can't know her face,
yet her words find a space
and our friends are her people, pure gold.*

*What else can I say
In my handsomest way
but – We Love YOU—Jane Austen,
All's told.....!*

JASNA Dayton Library Growing Fast



With the purchase of *Mansfield Park*, Region librarian Toni Tumbusch has completed our set of the Cambridge edition of Austen's works. In addition, she has lately received two large donations from Gary Mitchner and Jean Long, who have been culling their personal libraries. Toni has finished updating the library catalog on our website to reflect the new acquisitions. The fiction section has grown, especially as relates to Mr. Darcy. We now have *Darcy's Passions*, *Darcy's Story*, *Definitely Not Mr. Darcy*, *Mr. Darcy Presents His Bride*, *Mr. Darcy's Daughters*, *Mr. Darcy's Diary*, and *Me and Mr. Darcy*. The non-fiction category shows the biggest growth. Many of the wonderful books about things Austen, English, and Regency that we have seen on Jean's shelves are now to be found in our library.

Toni urges our members to check the updated library catalog on our website (www.jasnadayton.org). She also invites us to visit the library in person, by appointment, in her home. To set up an appointment with Toni, contact her at victoriantoni@netzero.net.

First Profits from DLM Good Neighbors Program

JASNA Dayton has received its first check from Dorothy Lane Market's Good Neighbors Program, which we joined last spring and which you have in recent newsletters been urged to join. The check was of a useful size--\$277.

Our fundraising efforts are intended to help subsidize our programs. Until now, our meeting fees have been meant to cover all expenses—food, room, AV equipment, speaker fee, speaker meal, gift and transportation, and so on. As we know, such expenses have risen sharply in recent years. With projects like the Good Neighbors Program, we hope have more flexibility in programming and to be able to keep members' registration fees down for local programs. A portion of the Dorothy Lane money has, in fact, been allocated to the March 22 meeting, to cover the speakers' travel expenses.

If you are a regular Dorothy Lane Market shopper and have not yet signed up for the Good Neighbors program, please do so now. 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

Charade

*Oh! dear loved first, without thy useful aid,
This my charade would never have been made.
My second modern misses think the fashion,
By giving way to an imprudent passion;
My whole in Homer's Odyssey you'll find,
A noble pattern for all womankind*

From: <http://praytelle.blogspot.com>

April 12 Reading Group to Include Extra Hour for Discussion of Future

Reading Group assignment for April 12:
Pride and Prejudice, Book II, chapters 5-12 (or 28-35)
The meeting will begin at 2:00, with an extra hour at 4:00 for discussion of the
Reading Group's future



April 12 will be our last Reading Group meeting of the year, and the last with Jean Long, who has led and hosted the group since its founding. Attendance at our Reading Group meetings has been extraordinary this year, as we savor our last opportunities to enjoy the atmosphere of elegance, enthusiasm, and inquiry she manages to sustain. Jean and Bob still plan to leave the Dayton area this spring, although their destination has changed since our last newsletter. They are now headed to Durango, Colorado, where their son and his wife live.

In order to hear Jean's thoughts about the Reading Group's future and to find out what our members would like to see, an hour's discussion will be held at the end of our April 12 meeting. The meeting will start early, at 2:00, for discussion of the assigned chapters. From 4:00 to 5:00 those who wish are invited to stay and talk about how they would like to see the Reading Group continue as we change venues and leaders. For example, do we still want to do close readings of works only by Austen, or add an occasional biography, social history or novel by one of Austen's contemporaries? Do we want a single leader, or to rotate the role? All thoughts are welcome, and we look forward to hearing them.

We will meet as usual 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.



Mary Bennet: Neglected No Longer

At February Reading Group we talked a little about Mary Bennet's sad neglect in *Pride and Prejudice*. Some wondered whether she has even merited a single sequel. According to Austenblog we need not worry. The blog praises a new book, *Becoming Mary* by Amy Street, which it calls "a delightful surprise." It is available on Kindle for a very modest price, so I looked into it and found it indeed to be a charming story, quite faithful both to Austen and psychology.



Among other sequels, the blogger likes Pamela Mingle's *The Pursuit of Mary Bennet* and Jennifer Paynter's *The Forgotten Sister*, Colleen McCullough's *The Independence of Miss Mary Bennet* rates "awful to atrocious." (I rather enjoyed that one, though it is not very Austen-like.) *Return to Longbourn*, *Mary Bennet and the Bloomsbury Coven*, *The Unexpected Miss Bennet*, and *A Match for Mary Bennet* are also named.

Austen on an Intellectual Ladies

As Crystal pointed out in her talk, there is nothing in Austen's writings to indicate that she might have been tempted to join the Blue Stockings. Her heroines are usually healthy, sociable girls, not unduly fond of study. Mary Bennet and Marianne Dashwood are examples of young ladies who spend too much time reading—Mary in moral treatises and Marianne in Romantic poetry. Austen's *History of England* tweaks Lady Jane Gray for excessive devotion to the classics:

"Lady Jane Gray, who tho' inferior to her lovely Cousin the Queen of Scots, was yet an amiable young woman & famous for reading Greek while other people were hunting."

"She preserved the same appearance of knowledge, & contempt of what was generally esteemed pleasure, during the whole of her Life, for she declared herself displeas'd with being appointed Queen, and while conducting to the scaffold, she wrote a sentence in latin & another in Greek on seeing the dead Body of her Husband accidentally passing that way."

Less Intellectual Ladies: Now Filming *Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies*

