

JASNA-Dayton Newsletter

www.jasnadayton.org

November 2016

Second Annual Twelfth Night Ball Saturday, January 7, 2017

Last year's Twelfth Night Ball was universally acclaimed an outstanding success. This year's ball will be conducted on very similar lines. It will again take place in the gracious and welcoming atmosphere provided by Patterson Homestead. Jean Long and Cynthia Manship will portray matron hostesses Lady Russell and Mrs. Jennings. Tom Tumbusch will act as Master of Revels and will call the dances.



Tom Tumbusch Calls Dancing at 2016 Ball



Jean Long and Cynthia Manship Greet Guests

Regency dancing and card games will form the chief entertainments.

Novices need not fear embarrassment since, as last year, Tom will preface each dance with a thorough walkthrough, and Fred Rueth and James Bebris will be on hand in the card room to provide instruction as needed.

The menu, too, will be similar to last year's. Patterson will provide their delicious white soup and a variety of sandwiches; and Rose of Central Perc will again create her wonderful mini mince pies and Twelfth Night cake. We assure our guests that the punch (which last January ran out after the initial toast to Jane Austen) will flow more freely.

One important change from last year is the provision of a backup date. Patterson Homestead is holding January 14 for us in case of unfortunate weather on the 7th.



The Card Room at the 2016 Ball

Twelfth Night Celebration

Saturday evening, January 7, 2017

(With backup date January 14)

Patterson Homestead

1815 Brown Street, Dayton, OH 45409

- 6:00 – 6:15 Enter through the main entrance via a lighted walkway; socialize
6:15 – 6:30 Welcome to Patterson Homestead by Merry Masterson and Introduction
to Twelfth Night customs by Tom Tumbusch
6:30 – 8:00 Dancing and Dance Instruction by Tom and Toni Tumbusch
Card and parlor games in the Formal Parlor, also with instruction
8:00 – 8:45 Refreshments
8:45– 10:30 Dancing and card playing
10:30 – 11:00 Farewells

Refreshments:

White Soup

Assorted Sandwiches

Mini Mincemeat Pies (from Central Perc)

Twelfth Cake (from Central Perc)

Beverages:

Champagne and Rum Punch

Non Alcoholic Punch (Decaf black Orange Spiced Tea)

Decaf Black Tea & Herbal Peppermint Tea

Attire: Elegant; Regency attire optional

Cost: \$40 for JASNA members and CECD members; \$50 for guests

RSVP: By **January 2** send your check made payable to JASNA-Dayton along with phone number and email address to:

Mary Ann Gasior
2727 Old Whipp Court
Centerville, OH 45440

If any members of your party are vegetarians or under 21, please indicate with your registration. For questions e-mail Mary Ann at gasiormaryann@yahoo.com or call her at (937)-434-5992.

Brush Up Your Regency Steps with the Cincinnati English Country Dancers

The Cincinnati English Country Dancers contributed greatly to the success of JASNA Dayton's first Twelfth Night Celebration. Several of their members attended our event; and for beginning dancers nothing is more helpful than to have experienced dancers in the set discreetly directing our steps. Last year CECD invited our members to prepare for the ball by attending their practice sessions, and this year they have extended the same invitation.

Their usual meeting time is Thursday evenings, 8-10 pm at

Church of Ascension & Holy Trinity
344 Burns Avenue
Wyoming, OH 45215

With the holidays coming up, be sure to double check the schedule. Your first session with the group will be free, and further sessions are \$5 apiece.

For further information about the group, check their website <http://www.cincyeecd.org>.



Dancing at the 2016 Ball

Special Rate for Reservations at the Marriott

To accommodate people travelling from a distance or who may hesitate to navigate winter roads after a night of revelry, JASNA-Dayton has reserved a block of rooms at a special reduced rate at the Marriott at the University of Dayton (1414 South Patterson Blvd, Dayton, OH 45409), less than a mile from Patterson Homestead. Rooms are available for our group at \$104 for the night of January 7 with **December 9** being the last date to book. To take advantage of this offer phone (800) 450-8625 and ask for the JASNA-Dayton rate.

JASNA-Dayton Executive Committee

Elected Positions

Regional Coordinator	Carrie Bebris	937-436-3716 rc@jasnadayton.org
Program Coordinator	Angela Jaeger	
Reading Group Coordinator	Wilson Palmer	wilson3cp@gmail.com
Treasurer	Judy McCoy	
Secretary	Vacant	
Membership Coordinator	Deb Bentley	937-429-5123 extraone@woh.rr.com
Librarian	Eilanna Price	937-829-0492 eilanna.price@us.af.mil

Appointed Positions

Publicity Coordinator	Vacant	
Fundraising Coordinator	Camilla Mauzy	
Newsletter Editor	Meredith Stoehr	919-302-6528 stoeha@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Mariah Busher	

Upcoming Reading Group Sessions

Sunday, February 12, 2017 Reading Group at the home of Judy McCoy, 385 Fairway Dr., Fairborn, OH 45324. Discussion leader Tori Manship. *Mansfield Park*, Vol. 1, Chapters 13-18.

Sunday, March 12, 2017 Reading Group at the home of Marilyn Rueth, 10615 Willow Brook Rd., Centerville, OH 45458. Discussion leader Mariah Busher. *Mansfield Park*, Vol. II, Chapters 1-6 (Continuous 19-24).

News From the AGM: Regional Dues Eliminated

The big news from the October 2016 AGM is that JASNA has changed its bylaws to discontinue the practice of collecting Regional dues after June 1, 2017. In compensation, all but the most prosperous Regions will receive a subsidy based on the number of members in the Region. Financially, this arrangement should be to our benefit, and it will streamline the structure of our Regional organization as well. JASNA assigns all national members to a home region; JASNA-Dayton includes all JASNA members in Ohio within a two-hour driving radius of Dayton. Until

now, about half the JASNA members in the Region have chosen to pay Regional dues; so separate lists have been maintained of dues and non-dues paying members, with Regional dues-paying members receiving all communications from the Region (and other benefits such as access to our Lending Library), and the rest receiving only certain types of communications. Under the new system, there will only be one category of members, all paying dues to JASNA and all receiving the same communications and benefits of Regional membership.

August 27 Dressing Downton Meeting a Success

The first meeting of JASNA-Dayton's 2016-2017 program year was a delightful excursion to the Dressing Downton exhibit at Cincinnati's Taft Museum. 37 people attended, including thirteen guests, making this a particularly successful event in terms of outreach to potential new members. Besides the exhibit, attendees enjoyed an optional luncheon at the museum restaurant and a tour of Austen-related paintings in the galleries conducted by JASNA-Dayton member and Taft docent Barbara Wenner. We thank Angela Jaeger, our new



Angela Jaeger

Program Coordinator, for putting this event together. For a full set of Martha Caprarotta's photos of the event, see the Gallery at www.jasnadayton.org.

Reading Group Discussion of *Pride and Prescience* Was Great Fun

The subject for our first ever summer Reading Group session was Carrie Bebris' first Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Mystery, *Pride and Prescience*. Cynthia Manship capably lead the discussion and Eilanna Price was the gracious



Wilson Palmer and Marilyn Rueth

hostess. Carrie herself was on hand; so this was

a truly unique experience for the Reading Group. As usual, we went around the circle bringing up passages or scenes of particular interest, but this time we could ask the author about her choices. How did she settle on Mr. and Mrs. Darcy as her sleuths? Why the strong supernatural element? (Her publisher, for whom she was already working, specialized in Sci Fi.) How did her Regency voice develop? *Pride and Prescience* is a lively story, full of amazing twists and turns, with Miss Bingley as the villain's target. Everyone enjoyed reading it and enjoyed even more Carrie's insights into its creation.



Judy McCoy with Hostess Eilanna Price

Farewell to Newsletter Editor Meredith Stoehr

The July Reading Group meeting doubled as a farewell party for Meredith Stoehr (me), who has been Newsletter Editor since 2004. Actually, I am still the Newsletter Editor as I write this, but I am writing from Raleigh, North Carolina (which is very beautiful). The position of Newsletter Editor is, needless to say, open.

I was much touched by the lovely cake and bouquet (the only pretty thing left in my house at that point in the packing), and the very generous gift certificate to Jane Austen Books. I have had a wonderful time with JASNA-Dayton all these years, and I miss you-all very much.



New Member Kate Spencer Leads September Reading Group Discussion

Kate Spencer became acquainted with JASNA-Dayton at last year's Twelfth Night Ball. She is an enthusiastic dancer who enjoys international folk dancing and belongs to the Forget-Me-Not Historical Dancers. After the Ball, Kate went on to join the Reading Group, to which she brings insights based on a strong academic background.

Her doctorate in Victorian Literature is from UCLA, and she taught at various colleges and universities throughout the country before achieving a full-time position at Cincinnati State Tech & Community College. There she taught composition and assorted literature classes, including Women Writers, African American Writers, Shakespeare, Drama, and Science Fiction before retiring in 2007. She has BA and MA degrees in Theatre to go along with her English

degrees, and, like a proper Regency lady, she is also a good needlewoman who enjoys quilting and sewing. The ballgown in the photo is an example of her work.



Reading Group Sessions on *Mansfield Park* Off to a Strong Start

Two Reading Group sessions on *Mansfield Park* have taken place so far, the first on September 11 with Eilanna Price as hostess and Kate Spencer as discussion leader; and the second on November 13 with Reading Group Coordinator Wilson Palmer as both host (assisted by his wife Alice) and discussion leader. *Mansfield Park* is the most thematically complex of Austen's works and both sessions tackled important themes.



Kate Spencer provided a handout with discussion points that will be useful to consider throughout our study of *Mansfield Park*. Her first point addresses Fanny's character. Austen's heroines fall into two groups: sparkling, passionate, witty young women like Elizabeth, Marianne, and Emma; and restrained, self-controlled young women like Eleanor, Anne, and Fanny. Even among the latter set, Fanny comes off as rather "thin and watery," frail, passive, with less emotion to control than Eleanor and Anne and therefore, less merit for controlling it. Is Austen holding

Fanny up as an ideal, a role model? If so, what makes her Austen's "ideal"? If not, what are her flaws and failings, and how (if at all) does she transcend them by the end?

Kate's second point is about challenges to the accepted social order in *Mansfield Park*, of which there are many: cultural disorder in the form of *Lovers' Vows*; moral disorder from Norfolk and London (the Crawfords); spiritual disorder (Dr. Grant's gluttony, the discontinued chapel at Sotherton, Mary Crawford's contempt for clergymen); family disorder from Portsmouth (the Prices) and among the Bertrams themselves. Kate refers to an essay by Michael Karounos, "Ordination and Revolution in *Mansfield Park*", (*Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*: Autumn 2004 (44:4): 715-36), with its argument that *Mansfield Park* is structured as a struggle between Burkeans, who would *improve* and *order*, and radicals who desire to *innovate* and *alter*. As we read, we should look at all the places where "improvements" are proposed, and consider whether we (that is, Austen) would rate them as Burkean "improvements" or as "innovations."

Wilson Palmer opened his first invitation to the November 13 Reading Group session with a quote from Anne Toner, which he found in an article from *Persuasions* 32: "It is the flighty who fall in Jane Austen's fiction: Marianne Dashwood, Tom Bertram, Louisa Musgrove. All headstrong and thoughtless..." In *Mansfield Park* chapters 7 through 12, he asked, who will fall or be headstrong and thoughtless?

Maria Bertram escaped falling into the ha-ha when she squeezed around the gate, but that incident prefigured other bad decisions to come. Wilson explained that, from above, a ha-ha gives a sense of grand perspective, like Maria thinking about her rich marriage to Rushworth. But from the other side the ha-ha looks like what it is, a wall that separates. "I can not get out " Maria says. When Maria gets to London with Rushworth, where there are no restraints, she will fall. Fanny, usually on the wrong side of the wall from the point of view of the other characters, is a superior character because she internalizes the restraints and can judge what path is too far.

The scene where Fanny and Edmund are looking at the stars was a favorite with the group. The peaceful depth of feeling and respect for nature shared by Fanny and Edmund contrasts with the activity in the drawing room behind them. Alec Petersen brought up Eleanor Roosevelt's quote: "Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people" in connection with that scene and the many others in which Fanny's conversation is compared with that of the rest of her family circle and the Crawfords.

Jean Long brought up the similarity between the voices of Mary Crawford and Jane Austen herself. A quiz from *Persuasions* 28 asks the reader to distinguish between quotes from Austen's letters and from Mary Crawford's conversations in *Mansfield Park*. They are not at all easy to tell apart.

Two JASNA-Dayton Members Speak at AGM



JASNA-Dayton Regional Coordinator Carrie Bebris (more widely known as the author of the Mr. & Mrs. Darcy Mysteries) gave her lively and insightful AGM talk on “Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves: A Mystery Author’s Guide to the Underworld of *Emma*.” This is a subject on which Carrie can speak with authority, since gypsies, highwaymen, and thieves are a constant presence in her fifth Mr. & Mrs. Darcy mystery, *The Intrigue at Highbury*.

Carrie made the point that, for all the wealth and refinement we associate with the English gentry, they lived in the midst of real lawlessness. There was a great deal of theft by highwaymen, horse thieves, poultry and livestock snatchers, poachers, shoplifters, pickpockets, cutpurses, housebreakers, and grave robbers. The law and the common populace regarded itinerants of all sorts, including gypsies, beggars, actors, musicians, pedlars, and other vagrants with suspicion. Harriet’s fear of gypsies and Mr. Woodhouse’s terror of chicken thieves were not, then, so foolish as they seem to us at first sight. Mr. Knightly, as local magistrate, would have been responsible for dealing with these lawless elements, and Carrie talked also the range of his powers

Another JASNA-Dayton member, Linda Zionkowski, a professor at Ohio University who specializes in eighteenth-century British literature, presented an excellent and witty talk entitled “Small, Trifling Presents: Giving and Receiving in *Emma*,” summarized in the conference program as follows:

From apples and pork to “polish” and a piano, gifts create important bonds between characters in the village of Highbury. However, not all givers are kindly and well-intentioned, and not all recipients are grateful and pleased. Participants will discuss the different meanings of presents in *Emma*’s society: are they symbols of affection or displays of power—or both?



Like Carrie, Linda has already published a good deal on her subject. Along with Cynthia Klekar, she edited *The Culture of the Gift in Eighteenth-Century England* (New York: Palgrave, 2009), to which they contributed their article “The Nation, the Gift, and the Market in *The Wanderer*.” Another book on gift exchange, *Women and Gift Exchange in Eighteenth-Century Fiction: Richardson, Burney, Austen*, came out this May, published by Routledge.

Toni Tumbusch Steps Down as Librarian

After serving six years as JASNA Dayton's Librarian, Toni Tumbusch has retired from a post she filled with great enthusiasm and success. Toni's first goal as Librarian was to replace the VHS copies of Austen movies and television shows with DVD, which she accomplished within her first year or two in office. Her most significant acquisition was the full Cambridge edition of Austen's works. She placed the full catalog on the Region's website and kept it up to date through some major acquisitions as former RCs Gary Mitchner and Jean Long purged their libraries and current RC Carrie Bebris donated a full set of her Mr. and Mrs. Darcy mysteries.



During her time as Librarian, Toni and her husband Tom hosted two "Meet your JASNA Dayton Member Library" meetings in their home, one in March 2013 and one in June 2015. Both were most enjoyable affairs, with tea, refreshment, conversation, and opportunity to browse through the collection and check out tempting items. For an idea of the full extent of the library--of works by Austen and about Austen and her world; novels based on Austen and her characters and more besides check out the Region website at www.jasnadayton.org under "Resources." We in JASNA Dayton thank Toni for all she has done to enhance an excellent and unique resource for our Region.

Eilanna Price is New Librarian

Eilanna Price has been appointed to take over the position of JASNA Dayton Librarian. Eilanna has hosted several Reading Group meetings during the past year, and she already has our library set up in her front hall; so if she continues as a Reading Group hostess, borrowing and returning books from the library will become more straightforward than in the past.



Eilanna is a long-time civil servant at Wright Patterson AFB with many outside interests. Although her children are now grown, she is still very active in Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts at the Council and higher levels. She is also an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, which goes well with her scouting interests. For the last six years she has been a Madrigal dancer at Wright State's Madrigal Dinner. She calls herself a sort of an adrenaline junky, having tried all kinds of outdoor activities and being a Black Belt in mixed martial arts. Eilanna has read Jane Austen since high school, but it was Deb Bently who first got her interested in JASNA. She enjoys JASNA Dayton's programs and the members she has come to know, and the chance to expand her knowledge outside her own field.

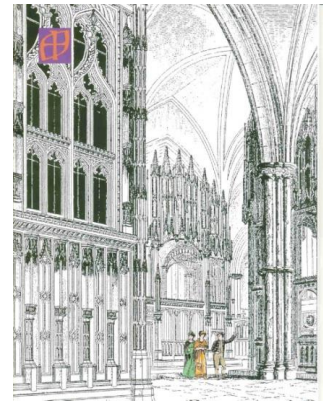
Essay by Carrie Bebris in *The Joy of Jane*

The Joy of Jane: Thoughts on the First 200 Years of Austen's Legacy, published in England by Lansdown Media (who also bring us Jane Austen's Regency World magazine), made its American debut at the AGM. It includes essays by some of today's leading writers and authorities on Austen, including Maggie Lane, Deirdre LeFaye, Susannah Fullerton, Kim Wilson—and Carrie Bebris. Carrie's contribution discusses Austen's Legacy to Novelists, and the lessons all writers can learn from her. Jane Austen Books is the American distributor for *The Joy of Jane*.

Jean Long Donates Winchester AGM Memorabilia to Region's Library

Jean Long has donated many books to our JASNA Dayton Lending Library this past year, but the one with most meaning for her is a copy of the program for the choral evensong in celebration of Jane Austen held October 10, 2003 in Winchester Cathedral, and a DVD with photographs of the event.

In 2003 JASNA celebrated its 25th anniversary by holding an AGM in Winchester and Chawton. The evensong, the first ever to honor Jane Austen at her gravesite, was one of the main events and Jean, on account of her previous acquaintance with the Bishop, was assigned to the organizing committee along with Gene Gill, Elsa Solender, and Joan Klingel Ray.



Jean worked with cathedral officials to coordinate the order of service and designed the program, a very handsome booklet including the text of the service and the hymns and also several informative essays. The evensong took on a whole new dimension the day before it took place, when Princess Alexandra, first cousin to the Queen and an Austen fan, was able to work the event into her schedule provided the service could be curtailed. Jean had to work out the cuts with the members of the Chapter and incorporate them into the program along with the addition have the programs reprinted at very short notice and field many sudden, late acceptances from dignitaries who had previously sent in their regrets. Since their places had already been filled, they had all to be disappointed.

The princess arrived at the appointed minute and stepped from her helicopter beautifully dressed. With a select group of guests that happily included the organizing committee, the princess partook of refreshments and chatted pleasantly until the exact moment required for her to remove to the cathedral and take her seat there. The service ended perfectly in time for her to walk to her helicopter and depart for her next event of the evening.