

# *JASNA-Dayton Newsletter*

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

August 2017

## **“Celebrating Jane Austen” Saturday, September 16 with Carrie Bebris**



JASNA-Dayton’s first meeting of the 2017-18 program year will be something new for us. In commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jane Austen’s death, we are partnering with the Dayton Public Library in presenting a program for the public titled “Celebrating Jane Austen.” Carrie Bebris, our Regional Coordinator and author of the award-winning *Mr. & Mrs. Darcy Mysteries*, will present an illustrated talk that traces Austen’s path to publication in a period when women were discouraged from writing professionally and novels were considered lowbrow entertainment. She’ll also talk about the current, ever-growing popularity of Austen’s works, and the challenges of trying to follow in those footsteps as she recreates Austen’s Regency England in her own novels.

Carrie’s talk will take place at the Main Branch of the Dayton Public Library, which re-opened on August 5 after a complete \$64 million renovation. While celebrating Jane Austen, the program will also be celebrating a very important landmark in Dayton’s cultural life. Don’t miss this chance to hear one of Carrie’s always-excellent talks; to meet fans and potential fans of Austen outside our own group; and to see the splendid new library. For on-line information about the September 16 meeting see the JASNA-Dayton website ([www.jasnadayton.org](http://www.jasnadayton.org)).

*Carrie Bebris “Celebrating Jane Austen*

**1:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m. Saturday, September 16, 2017**

**Dayton Metro Library, 30 N St. Clair Street, Dayton, OH 45402**

**Community Room 2A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

Free parking in the on-site parking structure and on-street parking in the neighborhood

**Cost/RSVP:** The meeting is free, and RSVP is not required

**Refreshments:** We are asking our members to bring cookies and similar finger foods for the event. (Utensils beyond plates and napkins will not be available, so “finger foods” is to be taken literally.) If you are able to bring something, please contact Mary Ann Gasior ([gasiormaryann@yahoo.com](mailto:gasiormaryann@yahoo.com)) or (937)-434-5992) to let her know what you will be bringing. Please plan to arrive a little before 1:00 if you are bringing food, since refreshments will be served at 1:00.

## Author Carrie Bebris to Speak at September 16 Event



Carrie Bebris is embarking on her fourth year as JASNA-Dayton's Regional Coordinator. Prior to that she served six years as Program Chair, starting in the fall of 2007, shortly after her arrival in Dayton. Before coming to Dayton she was an active member of the Wisconsin Region, and served on the steering committee for the 2005 Milwaukee AGM.

Carrie has done all this work for JASNA while juggling family duties and a successful career as a novelist. She has published seven Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Mysteries, in which the protagonists become embroiled in intrigues involving their own friends and family as well as characters from other Austen novels. *Pride and Prescience*, the first volume in the series, came out in 2004 and *Suspicion at Sanditon*, the last, appeared in 2015.

Also a nonfiction writer, Carrie recently penned shorter pieces for two British collections which, like her September presentation for us, commemorate the bicentenary of Austen's death. Her essay "A Master's Legacy to Novelists" appears in the anthology *The Joy of Jane: Thoughts on 200 Years of Austen's Legacy* (Landsdown Media); and she wrote the Foreword for a new deluxe edition of *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma* issued by Flame Tree Publishing.

Carrie is a popular speaker at the AGMs, and also speaks nationally and locally about Austen, Regency social history, and writing. JASNA-Dayton members may recall her previous presentations for our group on subjects ranging from dueling and the Code of Honor, to Austen's use of letters as storytelling tools, to Austen's final, unpublished manuscript, *Sanditon*. She is a thoughtful and lively speaker; and her "Celebrating Jane Austen" presentation on September 16 is certain to be well worth hearing.

### JASNA-Dayton Needs You

In spring 2018, elections will be held for positions on the Executive Committee. It is not yet known which Executive Committee members will agree to stay on in their current positions, but the directory on the following page shows two current vacancies: Secretary and Publicity Coordinator. A third position, my own as Newsletter Editor, is also in urgent need of filling, since I now reside in Raleigh, North Carolina. If you are interested, or think you might be interested, in taking on one of these jobs, or any other position on the Executive Committee, please contact Regional Coordinator Carrie Bebris at [rc@jasnadayton.org](mailto:rc@jasnadayton.org).

The Program Committee could also use another member or two. It is currently headed by Program Coordinator Angela Jaeger and Assistant Program Coordinator Tori Manship, who also heads the Twelfth Night Ball Committee. If you would be interested in joining the Program Committee, please contact Tori Manship at [torim08@aol.com](mailto:torim08@aol.com).

## JASNA-Dayton Executive Committee

### Elected Positions

<b>Regional Coordinator</b>	Carrie Bebris	937-436-3711 <a href="mailto:rc@jasnadayton.org">rc@jasnadayton.org</a>
<b>Program Coordinator</b>	Angela Jaeger	
<b>Reading Group Coordinator</b>	Wilson Palmer	<a href="mailto:wilson3cp@gmail.com">wilson3cp@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Judy McCoy	
<b>Secretary</b>	Wilson Palmer (acting)	
<b>Membership Coordinator</b>	Deb Bentley	937-429-5123 <a href="mailto:extraone@woh.rr.com">extraone@woh.rr.com</a>
<b>Librarian</b>	Eilanna Price	937-829-0492 <a href="mailto:eilanna.price@us.af.mil">eilanna.price@us.af.mil</a>

### Appointed Positions

<b>Assistant Program Coordinator</b>	Tori Manship	
<b>Publicity Coordinator</b>	Vacant	
<b>Fundraising Coordinator</b>	Camilla Mauzy	
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Meredith Stoehr	919-302-6528 <a href="mailto:stoeha@yahoo.com">stoeha@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Mariah Busher	



## Reading Group to Meet October 8

The first Reading Group meeting of the program year will take place Sunday, October 8, 2:30 – 4:30 at the home of Marilyn Rueth (10615 Willow Brook Rd., Centerville, OH 45458). Reading Group Coordinator Wilson Palmer will lead the continuing discussion of *Mansfield Park*. Dates of future meetings are: November 12, 2017, February 11, 2018, and April 8, 2018. Wilson is planning to host the November meeting at his home; but hosts/hostesses for the February and April meetings, and discussion leaders for the last three meetings of the year are all open at the present time. If you would like to host a meeting or lead the discussion at any of the meetings from November on, please contact Wilson Palmer at [wilson3cp@gmail.com](mailto:wilson3cp@gmail.com).

## **Date for 2018 Twelfth Night Ball is January 6, 2018**

JASNA-Dayton's third annual Twelfth Night Ball will be held at Patterson Homestead on January 6—Twelfth Night itself; with January 13 as the backup date in case of inclement weather. Tori Manship is again serving as Twelfth Night Ball Program Chair, and the event will keep to the successful format of the past two years. Dancing and card games will form the chief entertainments; and we can expect refreshments that include white soup, sandwiches, delicious mini-mince pies, tasty Twelfth Night cake, and freely flowing punch.



## **Donations Sought for Silent Auction Baskets**



This year we are planning to add a silent auction to the Twelfth Night Ball festivities. The Program Committee has decided to auction three baskets of decorative and/or useful items. If you would like to donate something for the baskets, or if you know of a business that might be willing to contribute items or a gift certificate, please let Twelfth Night Ball Chair Tori Manship know at [toriM08@aol.com](mailto:toriM08@aol.com).



## JASNA-Dayton at Ohioana Book Festival



On April 8, 2017 JASNA-Dayton made its first appearance as an official partner of the Ohioana Book Festival in Columbus, which includes a book fair/book signing, panel discussions, children's and teen activities, and more. Among the festival partners are literary societies, libraries, writers' organizations, and university presses. JASNA-Dayton's table featured a new poster advertising the benefits of our Region (Great Speakers, Reading Group, Good Fellowship, Dancing, and Food). Carrie Bebris, and Angela Jaeger, Mary Ann Gasior, and Tori Manship of the Program Committee, staffed the table. According to Mary Ann, "Many people who stopped at our table had never heard of JASNA. I don't know whether we

acquired any new members, but there was definitely interest. And I personally thought the whole event was delightful. Who knew Ohio had so many published authors?"

## English Country Dance Weekend November 3-5

The Cincinnati English Country Dancers, for the past several years headed by JASNA-Dayton members Tom and Toni Tumbusch, are putting on their first-ever English Country Dance weekend November 3-5 at the Wyoming Fine Arts Center. This should be a really spectacular occasion. It features nationally known caller Joseph Pimentel and live music from Goldcrest, a group that also performs throughout the nation. Early registration ends October 20, with fees of \$80 for CECD members and \$85 for non-members. After that, registration will be \$95. See their web page <http://cincyecd.org> for details and the registration brochure.



*Tom and Toni Tumbusch*

## JASNA-Dayton Member Lisa Tyler to Speak at Upcoming AGM

Lisa Tyler, one of JASNA-Dayton's longest standing members, has held a position on the JASNA Board of Directors since 2015. Since earning her PhD in English literature from Ohio State, she has spent her career as a professor of English at Sinclair College in Dayton. Her publications include *Student Companion to Ernest Hemingway* (Greenwood, 2001) and *Teaching Hemingway's A Farewell to Arms* (Kent State, 2008), an edited collection of essays, as well as more than three dozen academic essays in scholarly journals and edited collections. She serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Hemingway Review*.



At the upcoming AGM in Los Angeles, Lisa will present a session entitled "Modernist Jane: Austen's Reception by Writers of the Twenties and Thirties," in which she will explore how writers like Edith Wharton, Ernest Hemingway, Katherine Mansfield, Kay Boyle, Virginia Woolf, Thornton Wilder, and Ezra Pound perceived Austen's work and acknowledged her influence on themselves and their fellow modernists between the World Wars.

## New *Pride and Prejudice* in the Works for TV



Hard as it is to believe, it is more than 20 years now since we first delighted in the Colin Firth-Jennifer Ehle *Pride and Prejudice*. As announced August 7 by the *Radio Times*, "Mammoth Screen, the team behind the *Poldark* and *Queen Victoria* TV series, is to adapt the Jane Austen classic for ITV, challenging the BBC as the traditional home of the literary adaptation." The five previous TV adaptations of *Pride and Prejudice* have

all come from the BBC.

The ITV *Pride and Prejudice* will be adapted by playwright Nina Raine, who, though a big fan of Austen's book, has never seen an adaptation of it. "*Pride and Prejudice* is actually a very adult book, much less bonnet-y than people assume," she says. "I hope I do justice to Austen's dark intelligence – sparkling, yes, but sparkling like granite."



## April Meeting with Claire Bellanti a Resounding Success

On April 23, 2017 JASNA President Claire Bellanti addressed a full-capacity group of 44 members and guests at Patterson Homestead. Her enjoyable talk, on lending libraries in Jane Austen's time, included much surprising information; for example, that publishers printed only pages, leaving the purchasers responsible for the binding; and that the publishers sold novels in three parts to maximize their profits. Members and guests very much enjoyed this opportunity to meet and talk with Claire. The meeting included luncheon at the historic Patterson Homestead



*Jennifer Weinbrecht and Carrie Bebris, RCs of the Ohio Regions, with JASNA President Claire Bellanti*

and the always-welcome opportunity to shop with Jane Austen Books (owned by JASNA-Ohio North Coast RC Jennifer Weinbrecht), who brought a generous selection of their wares down from the Cleveland area.



*Mary Ann Gasior Checks in Guests*



*Webmaster Mariah Busher Checks Out JA Books*

## Summer Reading Group Discusses *Matters at Mansfield*

JASNA-Dayton's Reading Group enjoyed a lively meeting on July 23 at the home of Eilanna Price. Mariah Busher led the discussion of Carrie Bebris' fourth Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Mystery, *Matters at Mansfield*, with Carrie present to answer questions and respond to comments.

*Matters at Mansfield* was chosen to complement the Reading Group's current study of *Mansfield Park*. A large portion of Carrie's book takes place in a village near Sir Thomas Bertram's estate, but the only major character from *Mansfield Park* is Henry Crawford. Anne de Burgh and Mr. Darcy's cousin Colonel Fitzwilliam have major roles in the story, as do some characters of Carrie's own invention.



*Carrie Bebris, Mariah Busher, and Zoe Shade*

When asked how she came to devise the lively and surprising plot, Carrie responded that she starts each book by taking stock of where she left her characters at the end of her previous book. In *North by Northanger*, Lady Catherine, in October, had left her daughter in Bath in order to respond to a crisis at Pemberley. Having made timelines for all of Austen's books, Carrie knows that Henry Crawford visits his uncle in Bath every October. Thus, at the start of *Matters at Mansfield*, Henry has met Anne in Bath, and she has



*Kay Berg and Wilson Palmer*



responded as young ladies generally do to his charming manner. Carrie says that when she starts a novel, she can't be sure how the characters will develop. In *Matters at Mansfield*, a character originally meant for comic relief ended up as the villain.

Carrie also talked about how she avoids anachronisms in her vocabulary. While she is writing, she keeps the *Jane Austen Thesaurus* open on the web at all times, along with the online *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Anne's character was a recurring issue throughout the discussion. Did Carrie's Anne stray too far from the colorless young lady Austen portrayed? Or did Austen leave Anne something of a blank slate, legitimately open to wide interpretation?

## Barbara Mann Explores Austen-James Fenimore Cooper Connection

Barbara Alice Mann is a JASNA-Dayton member with a long, distinguished career in academia and publishing. She is a Professor of Humanities in the Honors College at the University of Toledo. An Ohio Bear Clan Seneca, she has published twelve books and many articles on Native American culture—and one book on Jane Austen.

Her very successful *Iroquoian Women: The Gantowisas* (2001, 2004, 2006) is in its third printing. Other of her books include *Native Americans, Archaeologists, and the Mounds* (2003); *Daughters of Mother Earth* (2006, out in paperback as *Make a Beautiful Way*, 2008); *The Tainted Gift: The Disease Method of Frontier Advance* (2009); and, most recently, *Spirits of Blood, Spirits of Breath: Traditional Native American Spirituality* (2016).



Barbara's study of the interaction between Native Americans and white settlers led naturally to James Fenimore Cooper, author of *The Last of the Mohicans* and the other Leatherstocking Tales. She has been for some years a Board member of the James Fenimore Cooper Society. It is through Cooper that Barbara became interested in Jane Austen. Her 2008 *Persuasions* article (Vol. 29, No. 1), "An English Tale of the Ordinary Type: Jane Austen's Influence on James Fenimore Cooper," ([www.jasna.org/persuasions/on-line/vol29no1/mann.html](http://www.jasna.org/persuasions/on-line/vol29no1/mann.html)) offers a convincing and readable account of Cooper's career as a fan and imitator of Austen. His first book, *Precaution*, is an exuberant mix of Austen manners and plot devices. In 2014 Barbara brought out a full-length treatment of the subject: *The Cooper Connection: The Influence of Jane Austen on James Fenimore Cooper*.

Barbara is currently working on an international project examining historical massacres around the world 1780–1820, and met with her team over a Rockefeller fellowship in Bellagio, Italy, in 2014. No one could be a less “bonnet-y” Janeite than Barbara, but she is certainly a Region member well worth knowing and knowing about.

## Martha Caprarotta Sells First Book

Martha Caprarotta, who is the founding member of our Region, planned to write after her retirement – and she has succeeded splendidly. She has already sold her first book, to Young Palmetto Books, an imprint of the University of South Carolina Press. *Fire and Forgiveness: A True Story of Peacemaking from Columbia’s Burning*, a middle grade book, will be published in Spring 2019. Based on several first-person accounts, the book tells what happened to the nuns and 200 young girls at the Ursuline Convent School during the burning of Columbia, South Carolina in 1865.

General Sherman had promised the Mother Superior that everyone in the convent would be safe. Instead, they had to flee that night into the heart of the burning city, and spent the night hiding in their church’s cemetery. Mother Superior’s encounter with Sherman outside the church that morning is told in exquisite detail in the accounts. To replace the destroyed convent school, he offers her any building left standing. She asks for the house belonging to a family that has long aided her nuns, after she hears the Union Army is ready to burn it down. But it’s the home of a Confederate general. Will Sherman keep his word this time to Mother Superior?



The book’s illustrator is Martha’s sister, Monica Wyrick, who lives in Columbia, SC, and has illustrated several other books for Young Palmetto Books. Monica learned of this historical event when she interviewed for an art teacher’s position at St. Peter’s Catholic School in Columbia--the “descendant” of that convent school. She gave the first-person accounts to Martha, who agreed to write a children’s book, “But only if I could make it a story about peacemaking.” Her two fictional 9-year-olds at the convent school learn to make peace with each other during the harrowing events, even as they watch Mother Superior make peace with Sherman. Martha adds, “The exciting thing was as I dug into the history, I found additional information that perfectly illustrates my theme of peacemaking. Those discoveries were exciting and validating. When my book is published, I look forward to sharing it and its important message with middle-graders in Columbia and the Dayton area.”