

JASNA-Dayton Newsletter

www.jasnadayton.org

December 2017

Third Annual Twelfth Night Ball to Take Place Saturday, January 6, 2018

JASNA-Dayton's Twelfth Night Ball has proved itself to be a perfect end to the holiday season. Set in the gracious atmosphere of Patterson Homestead, it offers Regency dancing, card games, delightful refreshments, and cheerful good fellowship. Patterson House will be decorated in its Christmas finery, and the staff will be in costume, acting the part of country house servants. Cynthia Manship will be the hostess, welcoming us to her elegant home; and Tom Tumbusch will be Master of Revels. Tom and Toni Tumbusch will conduct the dancing as Master and Mistress of the Dance. In the card room, Fred Rueth and James Bebris will be on hand to serve as partners and provide advice. New to our 2018 Twelfth Night Ball will be a silent auction held in Patterson's formal dining room.



Twelfth Night Celebration

Saturday evening, January 6, 2018

(With backup date January 13)

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
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:

Rum Punch

Non-Alcoholic Punch (Decaf black Orange Spiced Tea)

Decaf Black Tea & Herbal Peppermint Tea



2017 Twelfth Cake

Attire: Elegant; Regency attire optional

Cost before December 22: \$40 for JASNA members and Cincinnati English Country Dancer members; \$50 for guests;

Cost after December 22: \$45 for JASNA members and CECD members; \$55 for guests.

RSVP: By **January 1** 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.

Twelfth Night Ball to Feature Silent Auction

This year's Twelfth Night Ball will feature one new event: a silent auction. The Committee for the Ball has been working for months to gather attractive items, and they are excited by the results. The auction will feature three themed baskets: "Tea and Mystery," "Leisure and Libations," and "Primp and Pamper." "Tea and Mystery" will include mysteries by Carrie Bebris and teas donated by Simpson & Vail (see "Literary Teas" at www.svtea.com/), the fine purveyor Carrie discovered when selecting teas for our first Twelfth Night Ball. "Primp and Pamper" will feature cosmetics based on Regency recipes (modified for contemporary tastes by removing ingredients like lead that have lately fallen from favor.) JASNA-Louisville has contributed several items for the baskets as have Jane Austen Books. Items to be auctioned separately include an authentic Regency-era print donated by Marilyn Rueth and a Regency bonnet sewn by Fundraising Coordinator Camilla Mauzy.



Tom and Toni Tumbusch to Lead Dancing at Twelfth Night Ball

If you do not regularly practice your English Country Dancing you may fear that, like Mr. Collins at the Netherfield Ball, you could disgrace yourself on the dance floor. But do not fear! Dance Master and Mistress Tom and Toni Tumbusch will make sure that everyone gets through the figures with some credit. Tom calls each dance with exemplary clarity, and beforehand walks the dancers through the figures. During the dances Toni and other experienced dancers partner with less experienced dancers to make sure that everyone keeps moving in the right direction. We are very fortunate to be able to rely on Tom and Toni making our dancing a delightful experience once again at the 2018 Twelfth Night Ball.



Tom and Toni Tumbusch at 2017 Ball

Thanks to Twelfth Night Ball Chair Tori Manship and Her Committee



Tori Manship

Tori Manship, Assistant Coordinator of the Program Committee and Chair for the Twelfth Night Ball, has always been the moving force behind the Twelfth Night Ball. It was she who originally proposed the idea and researched what entertainments it should include. The festive air of the event as a whole, as well as the very fine menu, owe a great deal to Tori's interest in food and entertaining. This year's committee was a large one, including the full Program Committee (Program Coordinator Angela Jaeger, and members Mary Ann Gasior, Cynthia Manship, and Marilyn Rueth) and several members of the Executive Committee (RC Carrie Bebris, Fundraising Coordinator Camilla Mauzy, Webmaster Mariah Busher, and Publicity Coordinator Lynn Slowden). Tori and all the members of the Twelfth Night Ball Committee deserve a great deal of credit for bringing this fine event together.

Lisa Tyler Reports on 2017AGM



Lisa Tyler at April 2017 Meeting

Lisa Tyler, a long-time JASNA-Dayton member and a current member of the JASNA board, represented JASNA-Dayton at the 2017 AGM "Jane Austen in Paradise: Intimations of Immortality" and also presented a break-out session there. She describes the highlights of the conference in the following writeup:

As a directly elected board member at large for the Jane Austen Society of North America, I traveled to Huntington Beach, California, otherwise known as "Surf City USA," to attend the Annual General Meeting last October. The Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort is a spectacular hotel, beautifully landscaped with fountains, pools, and Spanish-style architecture. It was also an easy walk to the beach, although temperatures were a little cool for swimming (and the water was even chillier!).

One highlight for both me and my husband Jim (an astronomy buff) included the interesting special session on Regency-era astronomy Wednesday evening by planetary geologist James Ashley of the California Institute of Technology. After wine and cheese, the talk ended with participants going outside to examine the night sky and determine their latitude using their

extended arm and a few simple calculations. Devoney Looser’s very funny talk, based on her recent book *The Making of Jane Austen*, was also excellent (and I highly recommend the book, as well!). I also attended breakout sessions on Jane Austen’s influence on Eudora Welty, Mrs. Jennings and the other widows in Austen’s fiction, and an appreciation of Austen distributed to soldiers during World War II, among others.



Huntington Beach, 2017 AGM

My own presentation was scheduled for 7 to 7: 50 p.m. Friday night, which seemed like prime dinner time to me, so I was surprised and pleased to have an audience of about 50 people. In “Modernist Jane: Austen’s Reception by Writers of the Twenties and Thirties,” I talked about how authors like Ernest Hemingway, Edith Wharton, Virginia Woolf, D.H. Lawrence, Thornton Wilder, and Ezra Pound praised Jane Austen’s writing, compared their fellow modernists to her, and demonstrated her influence in their work. After revisions, my article on the topic has been accepted for publication in JASNA’s official journal, *Persuasions*.

JASNA-Dayton Executive Committee

Elected Positions

Regional Coordinator	Carrie Bebris	937-436-3711 rc@jasnadayton.org
Program Coordinator	Angela Jaeger	
Reading Group Coordinator	Wilson Palmer	wilson3cp@gmail.com
Treasurer	Judy McCoy	
Secretary	Eilanna Price	
Membership Coordinator	Deb Bentley	937-429-5123 extraone@woh.rr.com
Librarian and Historian	Eilanna Price	937-829-0492 eilanna.price@us.af.mil

Appointed Positions

Assistant Program Coordinator	Tori Manship	
Publicity Coordinator	Lynn Slowdon	Lmslowden@aol.com
Fundraising Coordinator	Camilla Mauzy	
Newsletter Editor	Meredith Stoehr	919-302-6528 stoeha@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Mariah Busher	

For the First Time Ever, All Executive Committee Positions Are Filled

The list of Executive Committee members on the previous page may look, at a glance, the same as usual; but I realized as I updated it for this newsletter, that it is the first ever that showed no “vacant” positions or “acting” officers. This is due to Eilanna Price taking on the office of Secretary earlier this year and Lynn Slowdon becoming our first ever Fundraising Coordinator. Also recently, the long-vacant Program Coordinator slot was filled by Angela Jaeger and Tori Manship. We are very grateful both to our long-standing Board members and to those who have recently stepped forward, and we hope that this wave of public-spiritedness continues to flourish among our members.

Very precarious, however, is my own position as Newsletter Editor, which I am fulfilling as best I can from my new home in Raleigh. We need someone who can do more on-the-spot reporting to take over this interesting and rewarding job!

Lynn Slowden Is New Publicity Coordinator



Lynn Slowden

It is with great excitement that we welcome Lynn Slowden as JASNA-Dayton’s first Publicity Coordinator. Lynn is a new member to our group, having joined after attending Claire Bellanti’s talk at the Patterson Homestead last April.

Lynn has a background in business, and has worked in consumer public relations for Quaker Oats, S.C. Johnson and Dow Chemical. She now describes herself as an independent living historian and guest services consultant. As a reenactor she specializes in the period 1770 – 1820.

Lynn is a member of the Board of Trustees of the George Rogers Clark Heritage Association, home of The Fair at New Boston, and also of the board the Brigade of the American Revolution, a military history group. She is a long-time member of the Association of Living History Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) and the Midwest Revolutionary War group, The North West Territory Alliance, where she served in several staff positions, including Civilian Coordinator and Public Information Officer.

A long-time admirer of Jane Austen, Lynn feels Austen’s works serve as a bridge across the centuries where we can examine the human condition and discover a connection between the past and present. *Persuasion* has always been her favorite book, even before she was reunited with and married her high school sweetheart! Lynn and her husband reside in Yellow Springs with their rescue dog, Bee.

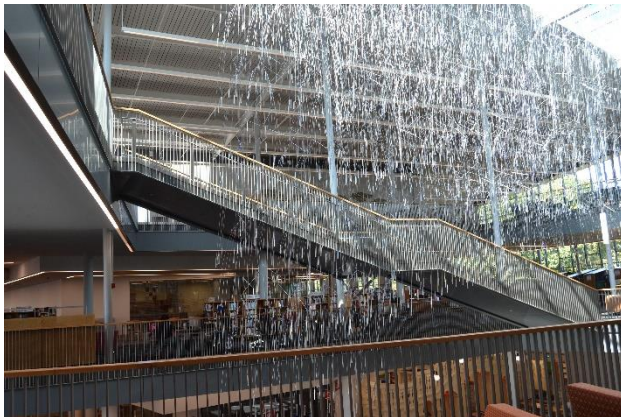
Eilanna Price Takes on New Responsibilities

A year ago, we reported that Eilanna Price, already a popular and reliable hostess for our Reading Group meetings, had taken on the position of JASNA Dayton Librarian. At the August 2017 Board meeting Eilanna volunteered to become Secretary as well, and agreed to expand the Librarian's job, which she already held, to include keeping historical records for our Region. This latter task will not be simple, since our Region is by now 32 years old. There is a lot of history out there in various people's filing cabinets.



Eilanna Price at 2017 Ball

September 16 Meeting Celebrated Austen's Life and Dayton Public Libraries



Main Branch Dayton Public Library, September 2017

JASNA-Dayton's first meeting of the 2017-18 program year was a talk by Carrie Bebris, open to the public and held at the Main Branch of the Dayton Public Libraries on September 16. The event commemorated the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death. Carrie, our Regional Coordinator and author of the award-winning *Mr. & Mrs. Darcy Mysteries*, talked about Austen's life and the Regency period; her path to publication in a period when women were

discouraged from writing professionally; and the current, ever-growing popularity of her works. JASNA-Dayton members provided refreshments, and the library offered a table displaying some of its Austen-related holdings.

The setting for this meeting was meant to celebrate a very important event in Dayton's cultural life: the reopening of the library's Main Branch after extensive and much-needed renovations. This was an enjoyable event that gave JASNA-Dayton members and Austen fans in the community a chance to meet and talk in a pleasant, informal setting.



Carrie Bebris at September 16 Talk

March 16, 2018 Meeting to Feature Rose Morgan of Central Perc



We hope that all our members have had a chance to enjoy the scones at Central Perc European Café at 2315 Far Hills Avenue in Oakwood. Rose Morgan makes her scones fresh every morning, and they come out of the oven around 10:00 – a very happy moment each day for the assembled scone lovers. Our RC, Carrie Bebris, has long hoped to organize a scone making demo with Rose, and it is finally scheduled for Friday, March 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Culinary Arts classroom at Centerville High School. Attendees will be able to cook along with Rose at the cooking stations in the classroom, and the class will end a tasty cream tea.

Reading Group Continues Discussion of *Mansfield Park*

The October 8 Reading Group meeting at Marilyn Rueth's home and the November 12 meeting at the home of Alice and Wilson Palmer were both well attended and stimulated lively discussions.

On October 8, the group took up Vol. II Chapters 7 – 12 of *Mansfield Park*. Wilson Palmer, who led the October discussion, pointed out that Chapter 7 is the midpoint of the book and marks Fanny's transition from "in" to "out" in society. This set of chapters deals with preparations for the ball in Fanny's honor, the ball itself, and its consequences. Wilson had some interesting remarks on the ball scene:



It seemed to me the construction of Vol II, Chapter 10, was not just a description of the ball, but that the language was like a dance in itself. Fanny's soaring and plummeting emotions (EDMUND WANTS ME TO SAVE 3 DANCES, ugh, formal civilities of greeting arriving strangers. I HAVE A PARTNER FOR THE FIRST 2 DANCES, ugh, it is Mr. Crawford, ugh ugh. I have to open the ball, WILLIAM AND EDMUND DANCE WITH ME, uncle makes me go to bed) reminds of the dance "call": everybody forward and back. There is not much dialogue in this chapter but lots of Free Indirect Discourse which, as it moved from person to person, made me think of swirling dancers: the focus

of thoughts shifts from Sir Thomas to Fanny, Mary, Edmund, Fanny and back to Sir Thomas.

Wilson drew upon a *Persuasions* article (Vol. 34, pp. 182-191) by JASNA-Dayton member and University of Dayton English professor Laura Vorachek to pass on and develop some intriguing insights into the game of Speculation played in *Mansfield Park* Book II Chapter 7:

Unlike Whist, where partners cooperate to help their team, Speculation is a round card game where it is "everyone for herself." Just like courtship in 1800? The game is simple, mostly just chance. You have 3 cards, face down that you do not see. Trump is determined by turning the final card dealt. You wait to see if the highest trump is in your hidden hand. Or, you can try to change the odds by buying a revealed trump. This is how Mary plays. She also speculates on Tom's marriage prospects then shifts to Edmund, but will she also get her house in town? Mary's play is bold, but sometimes imprudent: she wins the hand buying a jack but spends more than the pot contains. Maria, like Mary, has been dealt beauty and affluence. She has used them to acquire Mr. Rushworth, but then she attempts to purchase a higher trump, speculating on Henry.

Henry is master of all the games, meddling at the same time with both Fanny and Lady Bertram (as with both Julia and Maria). He even dabbles with Edmund, suggesting "improvements" to Thornton Lacey (as to Sotherton). Fanny is finally in the game ("out"), both in cards and courtship. Chance has not dealt her very much. She has little social and no financial capital to stake. She plays conservatively, waiting and hoping her small long- term investment in Edmund will pay off.

Kate Spencer led the November 12 meeting, which handled the last chapter (13) in volume 2 through Volume III, chapter 4. This whole section deals with Henry's proposal of marriage to Fanny and its repercussions. Wilson summarizes the high points as follows:

Kate Spencer opined that Fanny was striving to be the "conduct book" women society wanted her to be while her actual sense of self would not be so confined. Kate found a richness in the somewhat negative characters of Sir Thomas and Lady Bertram showing kindness and generosity. Sir Thomas raged at Fanny's refusing Henry, but still provided a fire for her attic room and protected her from Aunt Norris keeping from her the news of the proposal. Lady Bertram was willing to sacrifice Fanny's company and even offered her a pug puppy.

In the discussion, it was noted how Henry "tries on" the thought of being a celebrity Minister and that he now seems to be "trying on" being the constant and devoted lover. We were amused by Sir Thomas' fear that Henry's perfect constancy should not be put to a long trial. Those who had been displeased by Fanny's timidity were gratified by

the backbone she showed in this section of the book. There was talk about the type of man who pursues a woman where he is not wanted. But, in Henry's defense is Fanny's gentle and apologetic speech that makes her "no" sound like at least "maybe."

Two more Reading Group sessions remain to bring *Mansfield Park* to its conclusion. At the last session, April 8, the group will also select its object of study for the next year or two and the subject for the summer Reading Group session.

Upcoming Reading Group Meetings

Feb. 11, 2018 Vol. III Chapters 5 – 11 or chapters 36-42 in continuous editions.

Discussion leader Kate Spencer.

Hostess Judy McCoy, 385 Fairway Drive, Fairborn, OH 45324.

Apr. 8, 2018 Vol. III Chapters 12 – 17 (end of book) or chapters 43-48 in continuous editions.

Discussion leader TBD

Hostess Eilanna Price, 2334 Lostwood Court, Xenia, OH 45385.

2020 AGM Slated for Cleveland

Our intrepid fellow Ohio Region, JASNA-Ohio North Coast, will host the 2020 AGM between October 9 and 11 in Cleveland. The theme will be Austen's juvenilia, including *Lady Susan*, with the Hilton Cleveland Downtown to be the official hotel. After the wonderful 2016 AGM in Louisville, this gives our Region a second easily accessible AGM within five years. For this one, however, we are expected to do some work. JASNA-ONC's report to the Board ended with the following sentence: "We also have the advantage of proximity to JASNA Dayton, and have approached them about the possibility of coordinating certain of our AGM preparation activities with willing volunteers from their membership."



The host Region is responsible for almost every facet of the AGM from practical arrangements like registration, hotel, food, and tours though social functions such as banquets and ball to the sessions themselves and exhibits. We surely have many members who will be interesting in helping out with some aspect of this AGM.