

JASNA Dayton Newsletter

www.jasnadayton.org

November 2019

2020 Twelfth Night Ball Returns to Patterson Homestead

By Lynn Slowden

The Fifth Annual Twelfth Night Ball returns to the historic Patterson Homestead Saturday, January 4, 2020. Guests will enjoy the beautifully decorated home of Colonel Robert Patterson, Revolutionary war veteran and founder of Cincinnati, as we celebrate the end of the holiday season in the style of Jane herself!



Delights of the Ball include punch, a Ball supper, holiday cake, card room and select Silent Auction items. Dancing in the Assembly Room, led by Tom and Toni Tumbusch, will be the highlight of the evening. Period card games will be on offer for those who need a break from dancing, or prefer not to dance. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. and continue until 11 p.m. Regency attire is NOT required; festive, formal attire from any era is appropriate.

Tickets are \$45 per person for JASNA and Cincinnati English Country Dance Members, \$55 for non-members. Capacity is strictly limited! Tickets will be available beginning November 15, 2019, on Eventbrite.com or with a check made payable to JASNA-Dayton and sent to Mary Ann Gasior, 2727 Old Whipp Court, Centerville, OH 45440. (Please include a contact email and phone as well as requests for the vegetarian meal option.) Snow date is Saturday, January 11, 2020. See www.jasnadayton.org for additional information and cancellation policy.

Don't miss this signature holiday event in the place where it began! Mark your calendar, as tickets sell fast when they are open to the public. For more information contact, Lynn Slowden, lmslowden@aol.com or Mary Ann Gasior, gasiormaryann@yahoo.com.

JASNA Dayton to Attend Performance of Pride & Prejudice in March 2020!

By Angela Crovetti

The Cincinnati Shakespeare Company will present *Pride & Prejudice* in the spring, and we've arranged a group to attend in March. We'll go to the March 15th, 2020, matinee, and a brunch will be arranged prior to, as we've done at other such events. Note this is a NEW date from that



originally reported, due to ticket availability. Angela Crovetti has the tickets in hand, for those that reserved with the group, and will distribute them day of the performance.

If you missed out on the group ticket purchase but would still like to attend, you can purchase individual tickets from their web site. You won't get the group rate at this point, but to purchase regularly priced tickets go to:

www.cincyshakes.com

The brunch will be at Taste of Belgium, Over the Rhine location, at noon, which is in walking distance to the theater. We have their private room reserved. If you are unable to attend the play but would like to join us for brunch, there are still spaces available. Email Angela Crovetti at angela.crovetti@gmail.com to be added to the brunch list.

Cincinnati-Dayton Reading Group Continues with Persuasion Nov 10th

By Wilson Palmer

On September 8, 2019, the Dayton-Cincinnati Reading Group was warmly welcomed to the comfort of Eilanna Price's home with tea, snacks, conversation and the opening discussion of *Persuasion*. If we think of the word "persuasion" as self-persuasion, that is, self-delusion, we will find this theme repeated in *Persuasion*, and not just with shallow characters like Sir Walter and Mary Musgrove, but Captain Wentworth and even Anne Elliot. Another repeating theme is how often the words and ideas of "nothing" and "nothingness" occur.

During the discussion, there were a number of comments about how modern Austen's language and style seemed compared to her other works. For instance, in this book all the characters are introduced one by one in the first chapter.

Another idea was how the books about Fanny Price and Anne Elliot are similar with their already prudent and careful heroines who are very isolated and alone. The rest of Austen's novels have heroines who make errors and must learn prudence. While Anne "had been forced into prudence in her youth, she learned romance as she grew older". And speaking of Fanny, Lady Russell's advice against Anne's engagement is quite sound and normal for the time, and Anne could very easily have ended up like Fanny's mother.

There was a long discussion of Charles and Mary Musgrove's qualifications as parents. It is hard, I think, not to judge by modern theories of child raising. While Austen's portrait of the Musgrove's parenting skills is not very complimentary, in an era when very young children are

nursed for years outside the home and the growing children at home spend most of their time with servants, perhaps the Musgroves were fairly normal for the time.

The next reading group meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2019, at the home of Lisa Tyler. If you'd like to attend, please RSVP to Wilson Palmer at wilson3cp@gmail.com for more information.

Columbus Reading Group Discusses Love and Freindship (sic) and Lady Susan

By Sandi Brennan

Our fall meeting was on Sunday, October 13, 2:00-5:00 p.m., at the Hilliard Panera. We discussed *Love and Freindship (sic) and Lady Susan*. We also talked about the Williamsburg AGM and what a good time was had by all attendees. This led to a discussion of the upcoming AGM to be held in Cleveland! We mentioned the Dayton meeting to be held the following Sunday and encouraged our group members to make reservations. Three of us were in attendance.

We plan to meet again on February 23rd and May 17th. Location TBD. We will discuss *Sanditon* at these meetings. This unfinished novel by Jane Austen has been selected as a new *Masterpiece* series with an airdate of Sunday, January 12, 2020, at 9/8c on PBS.

JASNA Holds Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Williamsburg, VA for 2019

By Lisa Tyler (in the style of Mrs. Croft)

There is no city in the former rebellious colonies so agreeable to us, you know, as Williamsburg, Virginia. Nearly a dozen of us ventured there from the Dayton Region in October to attend the Annual General Meeting, "200 Years of *Northanger Abbey*: 'Real, Solemn History.'" The dreadful hot weather kept us in a continual state of inelegance out of doors, but within the Lodge, all was perfectly comfortable.

Thursday evening, we enjoyed a visit with Thomas Jefferson, who reminded us of the importance of polite manners in our public statesmen. It was a pleasure to encounter such an educated gentleman with such excellent conversation.

On Friday, Jocelyn Harris from the University of Otago, New Zealand, offered a spirited defense of



Josiah Chowning's Tavern, where 'Mrs. Croft' enjoyed an evening meal

poor Catherine Morland as deserving her status as heroine. The day ended with an excessively diverting outing to see the Williamsburg Players perform *Northanger Abbey: The Musical*, a work conceived Amy Stallings, who also wrote all the lyrics and composed the music. Miss Stallings also directed the Williamsburg conference, so she is really a very accomplished woman indeed.

Janine Barchas of the University of Texas at Austin introduced us all to the many lost copies of *Northanger Abbey*, cheap editions printed solely to make money and purchased by ordinary people who wished to read good books while still endeavouring to make a small income go as far as possible.

Most astonishing was a talk about Jane and the Reformation by Roger Moore of Vanderbilt University. Very little was expected of a speaker with such a dry and unpromising subject, but Dr. Moore's animation made his presentation at Sunday brunch excessively diverting!

The AGM reminded us all of the pleasures of reading *Northanger Abbey*. As Mr. Henry Tilney says, "The person, be it gentleman or lady, who has not pleasure in a good novel, must be intolerably stupid."

Next year's AGM will be held in Cleveland, Ohio – so close to home, we hope you will all consider attending!

JASNA Dayton Hosts JASNA President for Lecture and Tea

By Judy McCoy



The Dayton Region joined with the Woodbourne Library in Centerville, OH, to host Liz Philosophos Cooper, JASNA President, with a cream tea at the Library. The tea consisted of delicious scones from Central Perc European Cafe in Oakwood, as well as hot and cold teas and other goodies provided by members of the Program Committee. Representatives from Jane Austen Books in Cleveland had a display. Attendees could buy or order from their large stock of books on all things Austen.

Carrie Bebris, our past Regional Coordinator (RC), introduced Liz Cooper, the JASNA President. Carrie reminded us that Ms. Cooper is a long-time member of JASNA who has held many roles including RC in Wisconsin, and Vice President for Regions. She is a

regular contributor to *Jane Austen's Regency World* magazine.

Ms. Cooper's talk, "Jane Austen: Working Woman," began and ended with a quote from Jane, "I must keep to my own style and go my own way." The talk addressed Jane's growth in her craft and her activities as a businesswoman. A key point is that Jane made a conscious decision not to marry so that she could write.

Jane experimented with different forms of the novel over the course of her career. Indeed, we know she revised at least one early draft from a series of letters to a more narrative style. In later years, Sir Walter Scott wrote that she had created a new species of novel.

Although Jane relied on her brothers to conduct the negotiations for publishing her books, she fully participated in making the business decisions about her novels. There were several ways to get published in Jane's time. They were, from least to most favorable to the author, Subscription, Sale of Copyright, Profit Sharing, and Commission. Ms. Cooper discussed Jane's experiences with sale of her copyrights, the fate of unknown authors without the ability to finance their own works. By the time she wrote *Emma*, one of her brothers was able to negotiate a commission for her.

The Prince Regent read Jane's novels. She was 'invited' to dedicate one of her novels to him. Moreover, his emissary passed along his recommendation for her next novel. Jane's response was the quote with which Ms. Cooper began her talk. Jane had a clear understanding of what she wanted to write, how she wanted to write it, and would not deviate even for the Regent!

The talk generated a lively question and answer period. In response to a question about the destruction of many of Jane's letters, Ms. Cooper insisted that we should be thankful that Cassandra was able to save as many letters as she did.

After Ms. Cooper's talk, Ms. Amy Patterson spoke about plans for JASNA's 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Cleveland. The theme for the Cleveland AGM, scheduled for October 9-11, 2020, is "Jane Austen's Juvenilia."

Election Time!

Now that you've voted for your chosen candidates and issues, don't forget that JASNA Dayton elections will be coming up in 2020. We have a number of positions which will need to be filled. If you've had an interest in getting 'more involved' with us, now is the time! Participate in a committee, or volunteer for a leadership role. Volunteers are needed in many areas. We could use your help! Contact RC Lisa Tyler if interested - tylers@ameritech.net

Dates to Remember

November 10, 2019 – Dayton/Cincinnati Reading Group

January 4, 2020 – JASNA Dayton Twelfth Night Ball

February 9, 2020 – Dayton/Cincinnati Reading Group

February 23, 2020 – Columbus Reading Group

March 15, 2020 – *Pride & Prejudice* play, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company

April 19, 2020 – Dayton/Cincinnati Reading Group

May 17, 2020 – Columbus Reading Group

JASNA Dayton Executive Committee

Elected Positions

Regional Coordinator	Lisa Tyler	rc@jasnadayton.org
Program Coordinator	Tori Manship	torim08@aol.com
Reading Group Coordinator	Wilson Palmer	wilson3cp@gmail.com
Treasurer	Judy McCoy	mccoyjm@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Eilanna Price	eilannaesp@yahoo.com
Membership Coordinator	Deb Bentley	937-429-5123 extraone@woh.rr.com
Librarian and Historian	Eilanna Price	937-829-0492

Appointed Positions

Assistant Program Coordinator	Angela Crovetti	angela.crovetti@gmail.com
Publicity Coordinator	Lynn Slowden	Lmslowden@aol.com
Fundraising Coordinator	Camilla Mauzy	c.mauzy@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Angela Crovetti	angela.crovetti@gmail.com
Webmaster	Mariah Busher	jane.sonnet.mb@gmail.com