



## Letter from the RC

It's finally fall! I hope you have been enjoying the fine weather.

JASNA Dayton opened the season with a Regency Card Party at Centerville Library, our first solely in-person event since the beginning of the pandemic. It was two hours of whist with delicious refreshments from Central Perc in Oakwood. It was so fun! While I have found wider choices with on-line and hybrid events, it was very nice to meet in person. The Program Committee has more things planned, and I hope you will join us as you feel comfortable.

I also attended the Regional Coordinator meeting, held after the Annual General Meeting this year. The new dues structure approved by the JASNA Board was announced, our first dues increase in 20 years! As most of JASNA's membership costs involve printed materials, there are now separate membership amounts for those who wish to receive digital publications versus printed material. These changes do not affect your membership until it is time to renew your membership. In the case of Life Members, the benefits in place at the time of your donation will continue to apply. For the specific levels, please visit [www.jasnadayton.org](http://www.jasnadayton.org)

The JASNA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (JEDI) held their first Town Hall to talk about their mission and plans. The goals are to create partnerships to bring in a new generation of Austen scholars; encourage diverse audiences and members; and foster safe, respectful environments in our meetings, events and community spaces. I was particularly excited about their pilot "School Box Project" to bring age and stage appropriate Austen-related books to K-12 schools.

Looking ahead, I am cautiously optimistic. We have some exciting plans and will continue to try and offer both in-person and on-line events as much as possible. I am so very grateful to you, the members, and JASNA Dayton's Board and Committees who worked these last two years to keep us connected. Thank you, all.

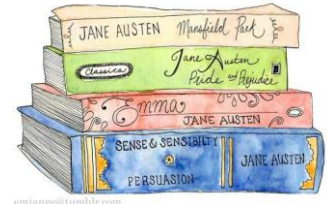
Lynn

## Reading Group Update By Wilson Palmer

Eilanna and Pat Price welcomed the JASNA Dayton Reading Group into their home on October 10, 2021, where we continued our two-year journey through *Emma*. The Prices are always gracious hosts, with a large selection of teas and fine china cups. Their house, gardens and trees make for a lovely setting. Eilanna is also our librarian, and our books were on display

in her foyer. I don't know if anyone took my suggestion and borrowed *In Defense of Mrs. Elton*. There were eleven of us present and three connected via Zoom. Mariah was unfazed by being both the Zoom hostess and discussion leader. Mariah made sure the Zoom folks could get a word in edgewise and generally kept the chaos at a minimum.

There were a variety of comments around pairs of characters in the novel; how they mirror, attract or repel each other. Previously in our reading we could compare the positions of Miss Bates and Emma. They are both unmarried and called to spend much attention on an elderly, dependent parent. Emma is repulsed by any such comparison, even though the former is the more genuinely good natured, pure hearted character. But most of us, I believe, would rather hang out with the more intelligent and interesting Emma. We were also previously introduced to Jane Fairfax, Emma's peer in age and status. They should be friends, but they aren't. Is it because of Jane's reserve, or her superior elegance and musical prowess? One wonders what Jane feels about Emma. With the appearance of Harriet, we notice that Emma seems to prefer a full-grown ragdoll to play with than the give and take of an equal friendship. One participant noted that Emma should have been sent off to school, where she would have to face not being first in multiple areas. This might have been more useful to her growth than always being first in her very tiny circle where she was "home schooled."



This month's Reading Group chapters are mostly about Mrs. Elton. Here is another interesting comparison of two very similar characters, Emma and Mrs. Elton. Emma's status and Mrs. Elton's marriage make each believe they have the right to lead the community and meddle in the lives of its residents. And they both seem to prefer their objects of concern to be powerless and grateful. Harriet is so, while Jane resists as much as the restrictions of manners and good breeding allow. But neither Emma nor Mrs. Elton will put up with sharing power with an equal. And their social equality was a loudly debated subject, with me losing the referendum on Mrs. Elton's marriage making her the social superior to Emma by a vote of thirteen to one. Everyone else seemed to know that birth trumps things like the status of being married.

Another pairing that was mentioned are the two "honorary" citizens of Highbury, Jane and Frank. The speculation is that their common birthplace and subsequent transplanted "homelessness" of not being with their birth families, is one of the things that led to their attraction for each other. Although they both use Highbury for their secret rendezvous, Frank seems to enjoy the game of deception, but Jane does not.

Someone asked why did Jane Austen choose the character of John Knightley to be the one to expose Jane Fairfax's rainy post office walk? We know that scene is important as both a clue and to give us more of Mrs. Elton's officious interference. But why did Jane Austen choose to bring Emma's nephews to Hartfield so their father could be the vehicle of that scene? Can he be considered the best objective observer available to the reader, being both raised in the Highbury area and now only visiting occasionally?

Having very good manners can be considered a sort of high ideal, where we think about others and try not to hurt their feelings or offend them. However, when someone like Mrs. Elton

comes along who disobeys the rules, the rest of mannered folks open themselves up to being bullied, because they are not allowed to call her out. Manners also have their drawbacks when they are a way to hide deception and what people are really feeling. The game of manners, of course, is how Austen advances the plot with people festering in their anger and not being allowed to hash things out. Also, the misinterpretations and cross purposes, for instance, Emma and Frank's parting scene after the first ball is cancelled, can only happen in this well-mannered world where no one says what they really mean. Someone suggested a good therapist in the room with Emma, Mrs. Elton, Jane Fairfax and Harriet might be able to clear the air, but would the novel be very interesting if all the conflicts and confusions are cleared up almost before they start? Nor would our Reading Group be as much fun if we all quietly agreed about everything!

Save  
the  
Date

**Future Reading Group Dates:**

Feb. 13, 2022 @ Judy McCoy's home

April 10, 2022 @ Kay Berg's home

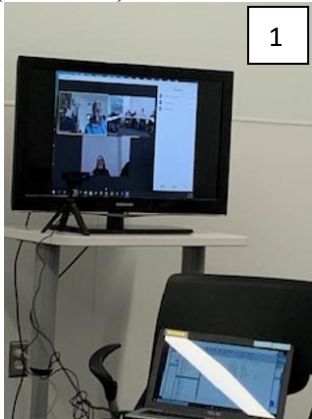
(Please see [www.jasnadayton.org](http://www.jasnadayton.org) for more details.)

**Chawton in Columbus Update**

**By Sandi Brennan**

On an extremely rainy and stormy Sunday afternoon, October 24<sup>th</sup>, the Jane Austen Reading Group: Chawton in Columbus, met at the Northern Lights branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. We had a total of ten attendees, two by Zoom and the rest in person. We were also permitted food and drink for the first time. Our newest member, Eileen Horansky, is a doctoral student at OSU. Our discussion was based on Book I of *Sense and Sensibility*.

Thanks to our talented web mistress and all-around great techie, Tamara DeVoss, two of our members, Brooke and Winnie Anderson, were able to join us via Zoom from Pennsylvania. (Photo #1)



The talented Beverly Francis made a jacket from a Jane Austen reproduction quilt.  
(Photo #2)

Sherry Rose-Bond conducted our meeting in her usual well-organized and thoughtful manner. (Photo #3)



We began by sharing tea and treats\* we had brought and by discussing the Chicago AGM. Five of our members were able to attend. We also shared information and discussed examples of where Jane was cited in modern news.

\*Tamara introduced us to James Townsends, who among other endeavors, teaches YouTube viewers how to cook like they did during the Regency. She shared Onion Pie, both the video lesson and the actual pie, which by the way, was very tasty. She also added a link to Townsends & Sons on our Chawton in Columbus website.

Colleen Gleason gave a report, including a PowerPoint, on the background of *Sense and Sensibility*. Originally, in the 750 print run, the author was listed as “A Lady”. Jane Austen took great personal financial risk to have her book printed and distributed. Luckily for us and all of the millions who love her and her books, it paid off. Colleen also showed us the receipt for the purchase of the book by the Prince Regent.

As usual, we were given an assignment for our next meeting. (Proposed date – January 30, 2022, with February 6 as an alternative in case of bad weather.) We are to read Book II of *Sense and Sensibility* and keep the following discussion points in mind: {There will be a test!}

1. Secrets
2. Examples of good sense
3. Sensibility
4. Home: place and connections
5. Honorable behavior vs. dishonorable
6. Gender roles & roles of fathers
7. Love and suffering
8. Social status
9. Marriages: good/ bad.



**2021 AGM Report  
By Eilanna Price**

We both had a great time! Several take a ways, for Pat, hey, it is not all about Jane Austen! Lots of presentations on opera, music, art, historical things from the Regency period. Pat loves history so it made it more interesting for someone who has not yet read all the novels. I loved everyone dressed up in period clothing. About 10% of attendees were dressed up during the day. The emporium was smaller than I thought it would be, only two rooms.

The ball of course was a highlight and was fun and not stressful. We had taken one of the dance workshops, which helped, and Tom was a wonderful caller with his master assistant Toni. The gowns and men's attire were spectacular. A great time had by all. The dinner was delicious as well as the brunch the next day.

We took time to go to the JASNA business meeting and I learned a lot about our organization. AGM attendance was about 10% of the membership. I thought that was a great accommodation, even though it was less than a non-pandemic year.

We have a little over 5K members, for some reason I thought we were larger. Well-funded and run organization of that size. We had several Dayton Region attendees, and I did not get to say hello to everyone. Remember to gather phone numbers before you go! We made new friends and are looking forward to trying to go to the next AGM in Canada. Pat said he would like his own regency outfit for the ball next time. I call that success!

The train from Toledo served us well getting to/from Chicago and saved us a lot of parking fees. Total for taxis came to \$40. We tagged an extra day on the front and back of the AGM. This allowed us to visit art museums and we took advantage of AGM tours, two different Frank Lloyd Wright tours which were a highlight for us. Chicago was expensive, but I talked to some people that stayed in a hotel one block away for considerably less than the conference hotel. No time to eat out in the city much during the AGM, so that cut down expenses as well. I would encourage folks to try and attend an AGM. You can opt to pay for a virtual AGM which gives you some of the lectures.

### **Cocktails & Conversation: Frost Fairs and Flaming Raisins By Cynthia Manship**

Greetings fellow Janeites,

On December 5th at 7:30pm we will have our last "Cocktails & Conversation" program of the year. This is one you won't want to miss! After Tori Manship, our resident mixologist, has mixed our signature cocktail we will be off to London to explore the Frost Fair. This only occurred when the Thames froze over, something that didn't happen every winter. Our host for this interesting and historic topic will be Mariah Busher. She will share the interesting background to this unusual event and tell us what really went on! Then if all goes as planned, Lynn will demonstrate, live and on camera, a game played during the holidays, snapdragon!! Will she survive her attempt to snatch raisins from a flaming bowl? Tune in to find out!! I know I'll be there. Please join us, won't you.



### **The Court House Ball**

**By Lynn Slowden**

Have you been longing for a ball? You're in luck!

You are cordially invited to the Court House Ball; an elegant evening of dinner and dancing Jane wouldn't have missed!

The Old Montgomery County Court House, in downtown Dayton is one of the most celebrated Greek Revival buildings in the nation. It's not open to the public, but will welcome you January 8, 2022, for this very special event.



Enjoy dancing in the Rotunda, with Tom Tumbusch as dance master. Everyone can participate, as he will guide you through the steps! Retire to the card room for a game of whist, and bid on a small, carefully selected group of items to benefit JASNA Dayton.

The Ball Supper will begin with a champagne or sparkling cider toast. The three-course menu includes White Soup, your choice of entrees, Chicken Forestierre or vegetarian Portobello Mushroom Stack, with rice pilaf and green beans with carrot wraps, crackers, bread and butter. A Pastry Tray is included with the coffee and tea service. Cash Bar will be available during the evening.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite. \$80 per person for our JASNA Members and Cincinnati English Country Dancers; \$100 per person for non-members. Additional information and FAQs on Eventbrite.

A block of rooms is open at the Radisson-Dayton for a reduced rate of \$95. Mention "Jane Austen Society" if you call for reservations, or type "JAS" in the space provided when you click the drop-down menu under "Special Rates" and scroll to "Promotional Codes" on their website. The special room rate expires **December 9, 2021**.

For the safety of all, we are requiring identification and proof of vaccination to enter the event, either on paper or a smart device. Capacity has been limited to allow some social distancing, but please consider your personal risk factors.



***Seeking Mansfield* Review**  
**By Mariah Busher**

Hello Dayton Janeites! This is Mariah, your webmaster extraordinaire. I have had a ton of Austen retellings on my TBR for quite some time, so I thought as I try to check some of them off, I would do quick little write-ups on them for you all. These will be my own personal opinions, they will mostly be short, and I will try to give you a quick run-down at the bottom of the post with general content, including any major trigger warnings (because a few of them deal with some rougher subject matter).

*Seeking Mansfield* by Kate Watson is a YA/Teen contemporary retelling of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*. It is a fun read, especially if you, like so many people, wanted a few things to play out differently in the story (though don't worry if you are more of a purist--the journey might be different but the outcomes are the same).

I really enjoyed this retelling because it kept the overall intent of the story the same but made Fanny more relatable and likable for the reader. There are some heavy spots because you are, like the original, still dealing with a teen who has been, and continues to be, neglected and abused throughout the story. However, the story is mostly fun and interesting. This is a rare retelling that takes great source material and improves on the characters. I have always been a big fan of the original, but I love the way Watson has updated and expanded on Austen's original characters. *Seeking Mansfield* is well worth a read if you are a fan of *Mansfield Park*, Austen retellings, or someone who wishes that Fanny had had a little more fun in the original story.

*Seeking Mansfield* by Kate Watson

**Fast Facts:**

Young Adult/Teen audience

*Mansfield Park* retelling

Contemporary setting

Content Warnings:

Parent in prison

Child abuse and neglect

**Full Synopsis:**

Sixteen-year-old Finley Price has perfected two things: how to direct a world-class production, and how to fly way, way under the radar. The only person who ever seems to notice Finley is her best friend, the Bertram's son Oliver. If she could just take Oliver's constant encouragement to heart and step out of the shadows, she'd finally chase her dream of joining the prestigious Mansfield Theater.

When teen movie stars Emma and Harlan Crawford move next door to the Bertram's, they immediately set their sights on Oliver and his cunning sister, Juliette, shaking up Finley and Oliver's stable friendship. As Emma and Oliver grow closer, Harlan finds his attention shifting from Juliette to the quiet, enigmatic, and thoroughly unimpressed Finley. Out of boredom, Harlan decides to make her fall in love with him. Problem is, the harder he seeks to win her, the harder he falls for her.

But Finley doesn't want to be won, and she doesn't want to see Oliver with anyone else. To claim Oliver's heart—and keep her own—she'll have to find the courage to do what she fears most: step into the spotlight.

## JASNA Dayton Executive Committee

### Elected Positions

<b>Regional Coordinator</b>	Lynn Slowden	<a href="mailto:rc@jasnadayton.org">rc@jasnadayton.org</a>
<b>Program Coordinators</b>	Mary Ann Gasior	<a href="mailto:gasiormaryann@yahoo.com">gasiormaryann@yahoo.com</a>
	Cindy Manship	<a href="mailto:cinlyra@aol.com">cinlyra@aol.com</a>
<b>Reading Group Coordinator</b>	Wilson Palmer	<a href="mailto:wilson3cp@gmail.com">wilson3cp@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Judy McCoy	<a href="mailto:mccoyjm@sbcglobal.net">mccoyjm@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Eilanna Price	<a href="mailto:eilannaesp@yahoo.com">eilannaesp@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Membership Coordinator</b>	Deb Bentley	937-429-5123 <a href="mailto:extraone@woh.rr.com">extraone@woh.rr.com</a>
<b>Librarian and Historian</b>	Eilanna Price	<a href="mailto:eilannaesp@yahoo.com">eilannaesp@yahoo.com</a>

### Appointed Positions

<b>Publicity Coordinator</b>	Lynn Slowden	<a href="mailto:Lmslowden@aol.com">Lmslowden@aol.com</a>
<b>Fundraising Coordinator</b>	Camilla Mauzy	<a href="mailto:c.mauzy@hotmail.com">c.mauzy@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Mariah Busher	<a href="mailto:jane.sonnet.mb@gmail.com">jane.sonnet.mb@gmail.com</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Mariah Busher	<a href="mailto:jane.sonnet.mb@gmail.com">jane.sonnet.mb@gmail.com</a>