



## September Tea at Patterson Homestead with Linda Zionkowski

### “Music Therapy in Austen’s Fiction”

Join us on Saturday, September 24, 2022, at Patterson Homestead in Dayton for a high tea and a talk by Linda Zionkowski titled, “Music Therapy in Austen’s Fiction.”

Arrival is at 12:30 p.m. for check-in and visiting with JASNA friends. Tea will be served at 1:00 p.m., with Linda's talk starting at approximately 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$35 for JASNA members and \$40 for non-JASNA members. \*\*If you are a student who would like to attend just the talk, you may do so for free.

To register, you can pay either online through Eventbrite or by check via U.S. Mail. To use Eventbrite, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3p87adh8> . Please note that Eventbrite charges a small fee on top of our program cost.

To pay by check, make it payable to JASNA-Dayton, and send it to Mary Ann Gasior, 2727 Old Whipp Court, Centerville, OH 45440. (Please include a contact email and phone number as well as any dietary preferences.). Registration is required and ends on Monday Sep. 19, 2022.

Questions? Contact Mary Ann at [gasiormaryann@yahoo.com](mailto:gasiormaryann@yahoo.com) or 937-434-5992.



#### **Our Menu:**

##### First Course

Pear Muffin

Apple Scone

Sweet Potato Pecan Bread

##### Second Course

Smoked Gouda and Apple Butter Sandwich

Prosciutto and Cheddar Sandwich

Zucchini Cheddar Scone

##### Third Course

Spiced Carrot Loaf Cake

Blackberry Sage Thumbprint Cookie

Squash Pie

*We recommend, but are not currently requiring, masks when not actively eating or drinking. However, we will follow any CDC and state/local health recommendations or requirements in effect on the day of the event, so if this changes, please be aware of that.*

**About Linda's Talk:** A pianist throughout her life, Jane Austen intuitively understood what science now asserts about the curative power of music: that it calms anxiety, lowers stress, and helps reduce depression in those who sing or play an instrument, and even in those who listen. Throughout her fiction, music created at home provides a source of refuge, regeneration, and even self-discovery for women enduring emotional upset or trauma. In her talk, Linda will discuss how Austen's fiction portrays music as therapy for her troubled female characters and how this theme becomes a focal point in recent filmed versions of her novels.



Linda Zionkowski

**About Linda:** Linda Zionkowski is the Samuel and Susan Crowl Professor of Literature at Ohio University, where she teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes in eighteenth-century studies (including as much Jane Austen as possible). Among her publications are the books *Men's Work: Gender, Class, and the Professionalization of Poetry, 1660-1784*; *Women and Gift Exchange in Eighteenth-Century Fiction: Richardson, Burney, Austen*; numerous articles in *Persuasions* and other journals; and a forthcoming volume of essays, titled *Women and Music in the Age of Austen*.

## 2022 Election Results

*Congratulations to our newly elected, and re-elected, JASNA-Dayton officers, whose two-year terms begin September 1, 2022.*

**Regional Coordinator and Librarian:** Eilanna Price

**Program Coordinators:** Angela Crovetti and Toni Tumbusch

**Treasurer:** Judy McCoy

**Secretary:** Marja Weaver

**Membership Coordinator:** Debra Bentley

**Reading Group Coordinator:** Wilson Palmer

**Newsletter Editor and Webmaster:** Mariah Busher

**Publicity Coordinator:** Courtney Dauer

**Fundraising Coordinator:** Cam Mauzy

**Historian:** Eilanna Price



We gratefully acknowledge the service of outgoing Program Coordinators Mary Ann Gasior and Cindy Manship, along with the program committee they chaired. Their leadership, creativity, and adaptability—especially in the first year of the pandemic—kept our members connected through innovative programs and other opportunities to safely gather (virtually and/or in person) to find comfort and fellowship in Jane. Thank you!

## Meet Courtney Crane Dauer, our new Publicity Coordinator

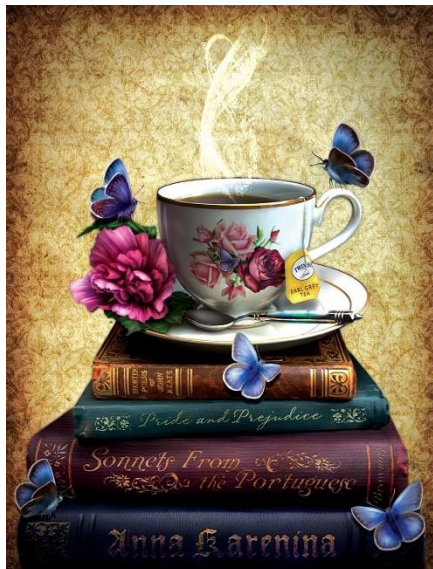
Courtney has worked at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in marketing and communications and with non-profit organizations such as ART180, 1708 Gallery and Orchard House School all in Richmond, Virginia, where she also served on public relations and communications committees as a board member. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Trinity College in Connecticut. For 10 years, she worked for R HOME magazine as a stylist, blogger and writer, all in the areas of interior design and living, and had her own column, “The Goods.” After moving to Cincinnati five years ago, she started her own interior decorating business: Crane Court Décor + Style. She became a Jane Austen enthusiast at age 13 and has been a member of JASNA for nine years, in the Williamsburg, Virginia, then in JASNA-Dayton for four.



## Reading Group Recap: Emma

By Wilson Palmer

The Dayton and Cincinnati area Reading Group of JASNA Dayton met on April 10, 2022. Kay Berg welcomed six of us into her lovely home in Oakwood to share finger food of all sorts and a wonderful selection of tea. Three more attendees joined the discussion via Zoom as the ten of us explored the final chapters of *Emma*.



One person shared how her husband, who is fairly new to Jane Austen, expressed the universal lament that the ending seemed rushed. Yes, we all want to know more about what becomes of these finely drawn characters and the quality of their marriages. Not only do we think about these fictional characters as if they are real people, but someone reminded us how Jane Austen would also include in her letters a comment like seeing a picture of Jane Bennet at the art museum, wearing a green dress or shawl, commenting in the letter that she (Jane Austen) always thought Jane Bennet was partial to green. This from the author who in her books hardly ever gives us any character descriptions.

We discussed Frank Churchill, his character and his letter. His writing raised his esteem in Emma’s and Mrs. Weston’s eyes, but had little influence on the readers in our

room. Our hostess continued her arguments, expressed in the previous Reading Group meeting, for a higher appreciation of Frank's attributes, but it was hard going. She felt that Frank's outpouring of praise for Jane Fairfax, when he was finally allowed to give voice to it, was proof of his dedication to his betrothed and his infatuation with her. Although some allies were won over, most of us were not so sure.

In our discussion last October, we discussed pairs of characters with similar characteristics. Another was mentioned at this meeting; Miss Bates and Mr. Weston. Here we have two innocent people, universally liked for their friendly, open and unassuming demeanor. Both characters are equally valuable in ensuring that all secrets will be shared as widely as possible! They have easy manners and very little sense.

Some new things I learned during our time together--I learned during our discussion that Mr. Knightley is the oldest of Austen's heroes. In his late thirties, he beats out Colonel Brandon and his flannel waistcoat by a year or two. Captain Wentworth is another hero also into his third decade of fictional life. I learned that the Anglican minister's practice book currently uses "N" and "N" for the spouse's names for the wedding vows, instead of the "M" and "N" in Jane Austen's time. I learned to pity Mrs. Elton a little when someone mentioned she has that unfortunate personality type who can only begin to feel good about themselves by demeaning everybody else. Even her "generosity" to Jane was full of stifling condescension.

Two interesting observations I recall from our discussion: We were reminded earlier in Emma how our heroine would not allow Mr. Knightley ever to be married, cutting off little nephew Henry's inheritance. However, no such stop occurs to Emma when she accepts Mr. Knightley's proposal. Was this a subconscious jealousy of her hero? But it is clear that two matching sources of jealousy do move the romantic plot along. Mr. Knightley is awakened to his love for Emma when she turns her attentions to Frank. Similarly, Emma is finally pierced by Cupid's arrow only after she believes that she has lost Mr. Knightley to Harriet.

It has been an exciting two years of exploring Emma. The book seems filled with instances of double and triple meanings including political and social commentary. There is a topsy-turvy theme running throughout the book and, for a small town where nothing much happens, many things are not as they seem, at least not how they seem to Emma. So much to talk about in a book with virtually no villains except for some gypsies and turkey thieves, unless you classify the Eltons, Frank Churchill, or even Emma herself that way. But I do not think Jane Austen would agree with that label of our dear Emma.

**Upcoming Reading Group Dates:** We will start discussing *Sense and Sensibility* this fall on Oct. 9, 2022 and Nov. 13, 2022.

## Taft Museum Recap

By Angela Crovetti

Are you interested in costumes from the movie adaptations of Jane Austen's works? JASNA-Dayton had the opportunity to attend Cincinnati's Taft Museum exhibit "Jane Austen: Fashion and Sensibility" as a group on July 23rd. Our group of about 30 members and non-members alike joined together for a docent-led tour of the special exhibit as well as the main house exhibit. Our docents included members Janet Reed and Barbara Wenner, who led the effort. Docents and some members dressed in Regency attire, which certainly added to the enjoyment of the day for all!

After touring the exhibits, we enjoyed lunch, catered by the Taft, in the Taft's private Lindner room. Some members took advantage of the opportunity to go back and take a second look at the costumes after lunch, while others enjoyed browsing and shopping in the Taft's excellent gift shop. If you were not able to attend, you still have a chance to see the costumes through September 4th. See <https://www.taftmuseum.org/exhibitions/jane-austen> for details.



## Introducing "Black Girl Loves Jane"

By Damianne Scott

*Damianne Scott was our presenter in March ("Sanditon and the Pineapple Emoji Craze"), and is the person behind the Facebook page "Black Girl Loves Jane."*

"If we don't learn how to make [Austen and other classic novels] reachable to the next generation, they're going to die."--Damianne Scott in *The Austen Connection Podcast*.



One of the goals of my life is to make sure that Jane Austen lives forever. What this goal entails for me is very simple- to read, discuss, and write about Austen with everyone. This goal for others, I have discovered, is more difficult because it means getting others to accept and welcome me, a vertically challenged, intelligent, funny black female from

Cincinnati, into the echelons of the Janeite community- a community that is predominately white.

This struggle began early in my love of literature. I was in high school, and my teacher, Mr. Jackson, insisted that we read classic literature. I chose Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. I loved it. It was my first foray into a world of characters, behaviors, and themes that I had never experienced before. To be truthful, I never knew they existed. And, I could not get enough! When I completed my study of Hardy, I asked my teacher what I should read next. Should it be *Pride and Prejudice* (P&P)? Mr. Jackson proclaimed, when the suggestion was made, that Austen was "too sappy" for anyone who had just finished reading *Jude the Obscure*. So, I didn't.

In college as a newly declared English major, I finally received my chance to read Austen. The novel was *Persuasion*. Around this time, Emma Thompson's *Sense and Sensibility*

was introduced to the movies, and P&P exploded on the small screen with Colin Firth. Austen was everywhere, and I wanted to be where she was. The only problem was I was the only young black woman, that I knew of, who wanted to know about Austen and her world.

When attending graduate school, my focus of study would be Regency and Victorian literature, and in my classes, I would be the recipient of looks from professors who questioned my field of study by stating, “Aren’t you an African American Literature student?”

I transcribe all this history to ask some questions of my own. Questions that have resurfaced since the trailer of the film *Persuasion* (2022) appeared to have black women portrayed as the Musgrove girls to some disapproving followers on a famous Austen site. Why is there disapproval of People of Color (POC) in Regency films? Why must POC be regulated to the roles of servants or enslaved people in Regency dramas in order to be seen? Is their presence, as servants or enslaved people, supposed to pacify Janeites when viewing Austen’s adaptations because now it can be deemed “historically accurate”? Will this acceptance of POC in Regency films allow non-POC to finally approach the “uncomfortable” discussion of racism, colonialism, and imperialism without feeling “offended”? Of course not!



Image by Georgie Castilla @Duniath Comics for Cassandra’s Closet@cassiescostumes

The condemnation of POC in Regency films, as enslaved people or as aristocracy, allows for some non-POC to live in the fantasy of bonnets, dances, and tea parties. And therefore, does not allow me to be accepted as a Black Janeite. This denial of my Janeite-ness is due to pseudo ownership: a powerful false conviction that Austen belongs only to certain people – mostly non-POC, and that ownership must be protected. Let us be clear! Austen is the *only* owner of her novels. We are just an audience of readers favored with the opportunity, through the lapse of copyright laws, to see *all* ourselves in her narratives by creating adaptations. “Black Girl Loves Jane,” my blog, takes advantage of this chance, in order to create a place where all are welcomed, and where the idea of a black girl who loves Austen is not a rarity, but the norm.

As I close, let me implore Janeites to take up the charge of diversity in Austen. We should never forget that Austen wrote about the people she was among--her community. She did not write from a pedestal. If we want Austen to live forever, we must continue to allow her writings to live among the people who are reading her now. The alternative is death, and I don’t want to be her murderer. Do you?

## Clark State Production of *Pride and Prejudice*: 2022-2023 Season



Clark State will present a production of *Pride and Prejudice*, as part of their 2022-2023 theater season. The production will be staged by the Aquila Theatre Company of London on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the Clark State Performing Arts Center.

### JASNA Dayton Executive Committee

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