

## **Extend the Joyousness of the Season at our Twelfth Night Ball**

**By Courtney Dauer**

Join us on Saturday, January 7, 2023 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. for a wonderful Twelfth Night Ball at a new location: the historic Schoolhouse in Camp Dennison, Ohio. The address is 8031 Glendale Milford Road, 45111. The evening will include a buffet dinner, period card games, a silent auction, and historic dancing (with instruction) called by Tom & Toni Tumbusch.

### **Our Menu**

Baked Ham & Roast Beef and Gravy

Country-style whole Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Green Salad with Dressing

Blackberry Cobbler & Chocolate Cake

Dress is festive, formal attire from any era, and tickets are \$55 for JASNA members and Cincinnati English Country Dancers or \$65 for non-members. Registration is required. **Please respond by December 30.**

Capacity is limited!

To register, you can pay online through Eventbrite or by check via U.S. Mail. To use Eventbrite, visit <https://tinyurl.com/599bkup2>. 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 Gasiior, 2727 Old Whipp Court, Centerville, OH 45440. Please include a contact email, phone number and any dietary needs.

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

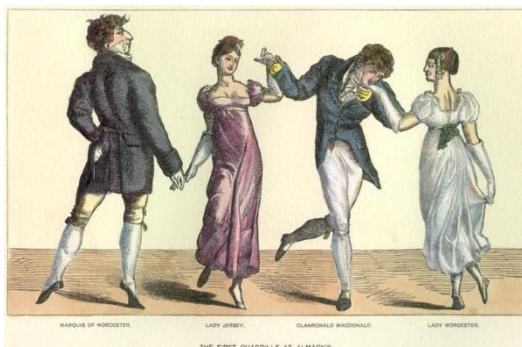
Please note that the ball site is not handicapped accessible. There are a few steps getting into the building, as well as one flight of stairs leading to the ballroom. We apologize for this inconvenience, and hope to have a more accessible venue in the future.

### Nearby hotels for those who wish to spend the night

Hilton Garden Inn Cincinnati Northeast

Holiday Inn Express and Suites Cincinnati Northeast-Milford

Tru by Hilton Milford Cincinnati



## AGM Recap

By Eilanna and Pat Price

The 2022 Annual General Meeting or AGM was in Vancouver British Columbia Canada this year Sept 30 – Oct 2, but we came a day early and stayed a day later. Marja Weaver and I were fortunate to attend. I always try to make the most of traveling, Pat and I went by AMTRAK from Toledo, OH to Seattle, WA. Two nights on the train with a sleeper car and wonderful meals. We love trains! In Seattle the Weavers picked us up from the train station, and after another night we took the car ferry over to Victoria. Border control was also easy. We registered in their on-line system 72 hours before crossing, and yes, we needed to be vaccinated. About 750 people attended the conference, so we knew it would be crowded. Planning ahead is well worth it. We got into the Empress Hotel right on the waterfront and also where the conference was held. A beautiful old hotel.



The day before we went to Burchard Gardens, a wonderful place still in bloom. We were able to have formal tea in the dining room. The giant dahlias were something I had never seen, taller than myself! Top that off with dinner on the waterfront, truly a magical city.

The conference held many surprises with lots of different sessions. Day one we did the English Dance workshop (to get ready for the ball on Saturday night). We missed our own Tom Tumbusch, but the brush up was fun. One highlight of the day was a presentation called, “English Fashion in the Time of Jane Austen 1775-1817.” They had lots of lady’s and men’s wear including shoes, and they actually dressed a mannequin the way a lady would dress. No wonder everyone was skinny! They are put together with straight

pins! Ouch! In the evening we saw the Paper Street Theatre Ensemble *Yes and Yesteryear: Improvised Jane Austen*.

Friday, we had a lecture on “Women in Botany and the Intersection of Art and Science During the Austen Era.” Then the AGM opening with keynote speaker, Dr. Emma Clery, talking about “The Place of William Cowper in Jane Austen’s Thought-World.” In the afternoon I sat in on the Wisconsin Region’s Kim Wilson and Victoria Henshaw presentation on “Picturesque vs Practical Jane Austen Complex Portrayals.” A very interesting lecture was given by Dr. Delia Easton from the University of New York College on “Colonel Brandon and Military Service in the East India Company.” This really made me reassess Col. Brandon, which I am still working through. In the evening we had the JASNA Business Meeting followed by the JASNA Canada Business Meeting. I learned a lot at both sessions. Afterwards we saw the *Sense and Sensibility* film directed by Ang Lee.

Saturday was the JASNA North American Scholar Lecture by Dr. Robert Orison, “Deeper in a Life of Sin: The Regency Romance of Sense and Sensibility.” Then three more breakout sessions before the dinner banquet, followed by the ball with most people dressing in regional attire. I felt like Cinderella--or at least Elinor.

Sunday, we had a Plenary lunch and lecture by Dr. Susannah Fullerton from Australia on the “Many Duels of *Sense and Sensibility*.” They offered some afternoon Post-AGM events, and we went to Craigdarroch Castle Tour and Empress Reception. Then on Monday, before we left, we had an opportunity to do a “Chocolate and Churches” Walking tour--so much chocolate!!! Even for me! We then took the Ferry back to Washington state and came home via AMTRAK--very relaxing--and time to consider all we had learned.

I hope you can see the breadth of information presented at the AGM and the fun times. I think they did a great job of having something for everyone. Victoria also had some wonderful sites if you wanted a break from Jane. I would encourage anyone who can attend the 2023 AGM in Denver, Colorado to plan to do so. The 2022 AGM did not sell out, maybe due to distance or COVID reluctance. Definitely something to think about.

## **TEA AND TALK: What Could Be Better Than Tea, Food, and Talk About Jane Austen?**

**By Mary Ann Gasior**

JASNA-Dayton held a Tea & Talk at Patterson Homestead on Saturday, September 24, 2022. Guest speaker was Linda Zionkowski, Professor of Literature at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. Forty people attended, this being one of our few in-person events in the past two and a half years. Many wore Regency Period costume.



Attendees began arriving at 12:30 to chat with old friends and welcome newcomers. Our newly-elected Regional Coordinator, Eilanna Price, introduced other board members and acknowledged those who had coordinated the day's event.

Tea and other goodies were then served. The first course consisted of pear muffins, apple scones, and sweet potato pecan bread. These were followed by smoked gouda/apple butter sandwiches, prosciutto and cheddar sandwiches, and zucchini cheddar scones. The final course included spiced carrot loaf cake, blueberry sage thumbprint cookies, and squash pie. Three kinds of tea were available: black, herb, and black decaf.

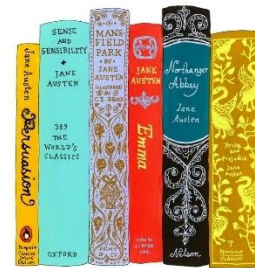
After we finished our delicious treats and enjoyed some good conversation, Linda Zionkowski proceeded with her talk on "Music Therapy in Austen's Fiction." As a pianist herself, Jane Austen understood the power of music. As Linda sees it, "Throughout her fiction, music created at home provides a source of refuge, regeneration, and even self-discovery for women enduring emotional upset or trauma." Several clips from movies of Austen's works helped illustrate this therapeutic use of music.

After a question and answer period, the afternoon event ended around 3:30, having filled the participants with tea, tasty food, and perhaps new insights into Jane Austen's use of music.

## Reading Group Recap for October and November

By Wilson Palmer

**October Recap:** Dear Jane Austen fans, if you waded through my first two emails announcing the October 9th start of Reading Group sessions on the first 10 chapters of *Sense and Sensibility*, here is my promised follow up of some things we bandied about during that discussion. The last-minute move of the in-person group from Eilanna and Pat's home up north to Alice and Wilson's home in Cincinnati probably repressed the in-person number to six, but fourteen on Zoom seemed like an impressive showing to me. We all were fortunate to have Mariah ably managing the on-line participants so that they had their share of fun and we could all enjoy their insights.



Those who read Austen's "Love and Freindship" last summer should remember how mercilessly she mocked the cult of sensibility. Marianne and Mrs. Dashwood are gently censured for their sometimes silly and selfish behavior. Mrs. Dashwood is hardly even aware of Edward until it was pointed out by a daughter of his interest in Elinor. But Mrs. Dashwood and Marianne seem to have kind and loving hearts that soften our disdain. Readers can feel genuine affection for these two, even if we cannot always respect them. Austen's severest criticisms seemed to be on two characters of "sense" and no heart: John and Fanny Dashwood. One reader noted just as Fanny makes John's character worse, Mrs. Jennings is a bad influence on Sir John Middleton.

Left to his own devices, Mr. John Dashwood might have done something for the Dashwood females. A reader asked, was he motivated to right behavior because of genuine kindness or the “legal” promise he made to his father? Another close reader noted how Austen humorously paints an ironic picture of John’s character when, after thinking a whole day about giving one thousand pounds to each Dashwood girl, “. . .he did not repent.” The religious implications of “repent” are turned on their head when John surprisingly considers a rare personal “sin” to himself of releasing a little of his money. We know Jane Austen had access to three legal books in her father’s library. Scholars have noticed how Fanny Dashwood used a courtroom lawyer’s techniques of logic, appeals to her “vulnerable” status as a wife and mother and descriptions of an alternate (but false) reality to “lawyer down” John’s proposed gift to nothing. An astute reader noticed a number of legal references throughout this first section of the book, with detailed descriptions of wills and inheritance, down to the disposition details of the china and pianoforte. But Jane Austen does not just leave us with this entertaining chapter and secondary implications. There is also a third layer where this debate between John and Fanny is political commentary. But I will leave that observation for some future email.

Switching this discussion from legal concerns, someone mentioned how Fanny Dashwood and Mrs. Dashwood conducted a duel, but it was with words instead of swords or guns. Fanny draws the first blood, insulting Mrs. Dashwood by saying Elinor was using her female arts to capture Edward. Mrs. Dashwood hits her back with ill-mannered behavior, effusively inviting Edward to visit Barton after mildly inviting his sister.

While some scholars complain that Elinor’s maturity was unrealistic for a nineteen-year-old woman, most of us agreed that back then girls and young women were sewing, cooking, making their own medicines and cosmetics, helping to run the home and raising younger siblings. Someone who attended the recent JASNA-Dayton tea and talk about music in Austen’s time noted that Mrs. Middleton not only gave up the piano after she nabbed a husband, music must not have ever been very important to her if Marianne could play all her songs in one evening. Another reader found it interesting that with all Sir John’s invitations of neighbors to Barton, no one seemed to have invited him to go out when the moon was full and everyone else was invited elsewhere.

Of course, much more was said and two books and a movie were recommended: *Babel* by R. F. Kuang, *The Lunar Men* by Jenny Uglow, and *Fire Island* (movie - 2023 on Hulu). But we are left with a question and controversy. The question is why is Margaret even in this story? The controversy is the thought that Colonel Brandon participated with the East India Company in the exploitation and perhaps bloody repression of the Indian colony. Does he come home rich but with blood on his hands and feelings of guilt making him gloomy? Most readers were shocked at the idea.





**November Recap:** In the largest in-person Reading Group session since the pandemic, eleven of us were together at Eilanna and Pat’s comfortable home. Company, conversation, tea and treats – what could be more delightful? Four joined us on Zoom, including Marja from her hospital bed! Mariah was both discussion leader and Zoom enabler, easily managing all of us.

Although the connections of *Sense and Sensibility* to political and economic concerns of the times and questions of Colonel Brandon being soiled by his role with the East India Company were carried over from the last discussion and the focus of my emails, very little was said on these topics. Although amazed by the thought of Jane Austen weaving current events into the novel, none of us were qualified to dispute Sheryl Craig’s *Persuasions* #33 article about politics and economics. Lisa found meaning in Colonel Brandon’s flannel waistcoat. He could be wearing the more comfortable and fancy Indian fabrics with which he was acquainted, but instead wore a scratchy local product, perhaps to blot out any memory of his India experience. Was he feeling guilty for what he did there? We know terrible atrocities were carried out, but few of us wanted to believe the Colonel was part of them.

We learned some new lessons in understanding the rules and language of England 200 years ago. It sounds like an insult when Mrs. Dashwood says to Edward “You have no ambition...” But ambition was a grasping, lower class attribute. One annotated edition calls ambition “a morally dubious quality. Mrs. Dashwood intends a compliment...” Similarly, in one of my emails, I asked why Marianne, in Chapter 13, calls Colonel Brandon, “Mr.” It sounds like an insult, when Colonel was always used previously. Jean Long, previous Reading Group Coordinator and knower of all things Austen, explained that since being a colonel is something that he has achieved, a higher, more genteel title is “Mister.” Marianne is being more differential, calling him Mr. Brandon, because she wants something from him. She wants him to write a letter to the Whitwell housekeeper so they can keep their planned excursion without him. The whole of Chapter 13 is more cringe-worthy than Mrs. Bennet’s manners. The rudeness and insults of Mrs. Jennings’ and Sir John’s incessant badgering of Colonel Brandon on his departure are astonishing. Their practice of pushing the edges of civility seems to break loose from all restraint. Similarly, by the end of the chapter, Marianne also shows she has abandoned all understanding of propriety, visiting Allenham uninvited and unchaperoned.

Someone pointed out how Colonel Brandon’s departure generates all kinds of discussion and comments, but Willoughby’s disappearance (“ghosting” was the term used) gets little public notice. Similarly, after Norland, Edward’s ghosting also seems unnoticed except by Marianne. Someone else pointed out how the normally calm Elinor is more agitated by Willoughby’s departure than Mrs. Dashwood. But the latter sees the world through eyes colored by romantic sensibility and cannot worry. Elinor is acquainted with the world’s darker side and suspects something is afoot.

When Edward does finally show up, there is a discussion of the picturesque. His approval of tall, straight, useful trees instead of blasted ones, made a couple of our readers think he is also referring to tall, straightforward and useful Elinor. But most readers find few endearing qualities

in Edward. A reader pointed out that the book seems to disrespect him as Mrs. Dashwood, John Dashwood and others and even Elinor and the narrator call him “poor Edward.” Someone said *Sense and Sensibility* is a weaker book because we are told Elinor and Edward are falling in love at Norwood, but we do not get to experience it as readers. Elinor has a blind partiality toward him, but why? Someone else pointed out that we never get into Edward’s and Willoughby’s thoughts and wondered if *Pride and Prejudice* would be improved if we were not given Darcy’s thoughts so his first proposal would be sprung upon readers as it was on Elizabeth.

Someone asked whether it was polite talking about money in front of Edward, but that seems to be only against the rules of modern manners. Someone else put in a vote to elevate and value Lady Middleton more since by her early twenties she managed to secure a wealthy landowner, run a large home and have four children. This about empties my memory except for the sweet reminiscences of the wonderful adventure of discussing Austen with delightful friends.



**Dayton/Cincinnati Reading Group Dates:**

February 12, 2023

March 12, 2023

**JASNA Dayton Executive Committee**

<b><u>Regional Coordinator</u></b>	Eilanna Price	<a href="mailto:eilannaesp@yahoo.com">eilannaesp@yahoo.com</a>
<b><u>Program Coordinators</u></b>	Angela Crovetti	<a href="mailto:angela.crovetti@gmail.com">angela.crovetti@gmail.com</a>
	Toni Tumbusch	<a href="mailto:victoriantoni@tumbusch.com">victoriantoni@tumbusch.com</a>
<b><u>Reading Group Coordinator</u></b>	Wilson Palmer	<a href="mailto:wilson3cp@gmail.com">wilson3cp@gmail.com</a>
<b><u>Treasurer</u></b>	Judy McCoy	<a href="mailto:mccoyjm@sbcglobal.net">mccoyjm@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b><u>Secretary</u></b>	Marja Weaver	<a href="mailto:phototrekker@att.net">phototrekker@att.net</a>
<b><u>Membership Coordinator</u></b>	Deb Bentley	<a href="mailto:extraone@woh.rr.com">extraone@woh.rr.com</a> 937-429-5123
<b><u>Librarian and Historian</u></b>	Eilanna Price	<a href="mailto:eilannaesp@yahoo.com">eilannaesp@yahoo.com</a>
<b><u>Publicity Coordinator</u></b>	Courtney Dauer	<a href="mailto:courtneycranedauer@gmail.com">courtneycranedauer@gmail.com</a>
<b><u>Fundraising Coordinator</u></b>	Camilla Mauzy	<a href="mailto:c.mauzy@hotmail.com">c.mauzy@hotmail.com</a>
<b><u>Newsletter Editor</u></b>	Mariah Busher	<a href="mailto:jane.sonnet.mb@gmail.com">jane.sonnet.mb@gmail.com</a>
<b><u>Webmaster</u></b>	Mariah Busher	<a href="mailto:jane.sonnet.mb@gmail.com">jane.sonnet.mb@gmail.com</a>