



## **JASNA Dayton Is Now JASNA Central & Western Ohio**

Hello Janeites! We want you to be the first to know that our region name is changing from the Dayton region to the Central & Western Ohio region (JASNA—CWO). The new name more accurately represents our membership, which extends far beyond Dayton. It will take some time to get everything changed over, and we will update you on any major changes, such as to our website and Facebook page, as we complete them.

## **New JASNA President Mary Mintz To Visit Our Region April 29**

Join us at the Woodbourne Library on Saturday April 29, 2023 from 10:30a.m.-noon for a talk with Mary Mintz, JASNA's national president. This event is FREE and open to the public, but registration is required to ensure adequate seating. You can register here: <https://tinyurl.com/janeaustentalk>.

In 19th-century America, who was reading Jane Austen and why? What kind of reception did she have? Was she universally popular? Who were champions? Were there any detractors? These questions will be explored in Mary's presentation, "Jane Austen's Reputation: Highlights of Her First Century in American Periodicals."

We will also have scones from Central Perc, as well as tea. If you have a favorite tea cup or mug you would like to use, please feel free to bring it. (We will also have paper cups available if you need one.)

**Please Note:** JASNA members will be voting on changes to our bylaws at this meeting. Full details of the proposed changes can be found later in this newsletter on pages 3-4, and also on our website: [www.jasnadayton.org](http://www.jasnadayton.org)

**About the presenter:** Mary Mintz holds two master's degrees, one in library science and one in English literature with a specialization in nineteenth century British literature. She is the Associate Director for Outreach at the American University Library in Washington, D.C., as well as the Humanities and Honors Librarian. As a faculty member at the university, she works closely with history and literature students to support their original research. She has served JASNA nationally as the chair of the Nominating Committee, at-large-member of the Board of Directors, and vice-president-elect. On December 16, 2022, she became president of JASNA. She says, however, that her most rewarding role in JASNA so far has been serving as Coordinator of the Washington, DC Region.



## Reading Group Update

By Wilson Palmer

On March 12, 2023, the JASNA Dayton Reading Group was welcomed into Kay's lovely home. Eight of us were fortunate to be able to meet for tea, snacks and delightful conversation covering Volume II, Chapters 2 through 7 of *Sense and Sensibility*. Five others joined us via Zoom as Mariah ably led the discussion and ensured those connected remotely could hear us and share their thoughts with the rest of the group.



Chapter 2 of Volume II received much of our attention as the fair rivals of Elinor and Lucy sat side by side engaged in the joint venture of placing delicate filigree on a basket for Lady Middleton's spoiled five-year-old daughter, who was likely to take much less time in spoiling their work. If the filigree is a net, who is casting it and who is caught? First Lady Middleton uses her manners to catch Lucy and pull her to the work. This is also a subtle reminder of Lucy's unstable status. Is she a guest or a servant? Austen uses the word "work" eight times in this section to emphasize it may not be very much fun. But Lucy is also attempting to catch Lady Middleton with her obsequiousness and willingness to obey, in order to extend her visit. Finally, it is Lucy and Elinor engaged in their work on the basket and the labor of attempting to entangle each other with polite manners and pointed remarks. It is quite a sparring match with truth, lies and pretended non-comprehension all used as ammunition. In the end, Elinor has the sad comfort of understanding Lucy's purely mercenary motives and Edward's entrapment in a relationship without affection on any side. Lucy has her reward in the fun of rubbing her capture of Edward into Elinor's face.

For all their rivalry, someone pointed out one similar attribute shared by Lucy and Elinor. Besides wanting the same man, they are the siblings with the greater abilities who each

has her hands full trying to keep a lid on her ill-mannered sister. Marianne has already shown how much she discards social rules and norms. Someone asked, would it not have been in keeping with her lack of self-control to just walk over to Willoughby's London place of residence? It is only a few blocks away and she somehow knows the address. But how does she know that? She never writes to Combe Magna, even when she first thinks he might be there shooting. Does she also know he is not there? There was some speculation in our group about how good the postal service is about delivering mail with poorly written or incomplete addresses, but the best answer I heard was, maybe she asked the servants. They seem to know everything that is going on. Mrs. Jennings used them to ascertain Marianne and Willoughby's secret visit to Allenham. And are "servants" the answer to a later mystery in the novel which is driving the current action: How did old Lady Allenham find out about Willoughby's affair with Eliza when Brandon is so secretive that nobody seems to know until he reveals it himself to Elinor?

With Marianne's final letter to Willoughby, someone said it reminded them how much Marianne is like a petulant schoolgirl. She demands Willoughby allow her to defend herself from whatever supposed accusation has torn them asunder. And she ends with a statement that sounds like, "...if not, gimme my stuff back." Our group shared thoughts similar to those of Elinor and Marianne in Chapter 7 about whether Willoughby's intentions were "honorable" or not. That is, did he really feel affection or was he just playing with Marianne? Although everyone, both real and fictional, seemed to agree Willoughby's regard for Marianne was sincere, we cannot overlook that he is, at the same time, a careful lover. He never says in words that he loves Marianne. It seems he was always cognizant of keeping a backdoor open, in case the affection flagged or a better offer came along. Does Edward also have a backdoor propped open? True, he was an incautious lover, getting engaged at a young age, but he certainly seems very willing to let this engagement drag on year after year. His mother remains in the dark while delay seems to be Edward's faint but only source for hope.

My final question, which in my mind connects Willoughby's final breach and Lucy's filigree net, is how do I reconcile the plot of *Persuasion* with *Sense and Sensibility*? Without giving Louisa a horse or demanding a lock of her hair and spending much less time in her presence, why is Wentworth captured and committed to Louisa while Willoughby walks away scot free with no repercussions? Someone talked about honor, but I am pretty sure there are legal breach of promise items to consider. I hope some Austen scholar out there will explain it to me.

As usual, we plan to suspend our exploration of *Sense and Sensibility* until next fall. This summer I hope to have one discussion afternoon on some selection of Jane Austen's juvenilia.

## **Proposed Bylaws Changes (To be Voted on at our April meeting)**

**JASNA Dayton Bylaw Committee: Carrie Bebris (Chair), Mariah Busher and Wilson Palmer**

The JASNA Dayton Region Executive Committee (also referred to as the JASNA Dayton Board) appointed an ad-hoc Bylaws Committee to review and update our current bylaws to

reflect the way we operate today and to accommodate new circumstances as they arise. The committee proposed the following bylaws updates at the most recent Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee and the Bylaws Committee recommend the following three bylaws changes for your review and approval. The Executive Committee expects that more proposed changes will be presented for approval at a future date, after the Bylaws Committee finishes its review of the rest of the bylaws.



As required in the bylaws, this is your official notification that these proposed changes will be presented for approval at the JASNA Dayton event being held at the Woodbourne Library in Centerville on Saturday, April 29, 2023. (For event information, visit our Events Page)

Note that each bylaw change presented below includes the current bylaw, followed by the proposed update. Please read the proposed sentences carefully as the style of bylaw wording is not common. Feel free to email us at [jasnadayton@gmail.com](mailto:jasnadayton@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns. The full JASNA Dayton bylaws can be found on our website under the "Resources" tab.

#### **Article 4 – Region Officers**

**(Current)** Section 4. Nomination of Officers. A Nominating Committee appointed by the Executive Committee and composed of three (3) Region members shall accept nominations from the general membership in writing at least 60 days before an election. Members in good standing may nominate themselves, or submit the name of another member with the nominee's consent. Each nominee must be a member in good standing of JASNA and the Region. At least 30 days before the election, the Nominating Committee shall submit to the membership a slate listing one nominee for each position. Members shall be notified of the call for nominations, the slate of nominees, and the election via U.S. Mail and/or email, and publication in the Region's newsletter.

**(Proposed)** New Section 4. Nomination of Officers. A Nominating Committee appointed by the Executive Committee and composed of three (3) Region members shall accept nominations from the general membership in writing at least 60 days before an election. Members may nominate themselves, or submit the name of another member with the nominee's consent. Each nominee must be a member in good standing of JASNA. At least 30 days before the election, the Nominating Committee shall submit to the membership a slate listing one nominee for each position, if possible. Members shall be notified by U.S. Mail and/or email, and publication in the Region's newsletter, of the call for nominations, the slate of nominees, and the election.

**(Current)** Section 5. Election. The election of the RC and other officers shall be held at a meeting in the Spring for the term beginning the following September 1. A quorum consisting of at least 10% of the members of the Region must be present for the election to be conducted. If a quorum is not present, the election shall be held at the next regular meeting of the members at which a quorum is present. A member is elected to office by a majority vote of the members at the meeting. No member shall vote or be represented by proxy.

**(Proposed)** New Section 5. Election. The election of the slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee shall be held in the spring of even numbered years for the term beginning the following September 1. The election shall be conducted via electronic media such as email or polling software. The full slate is elected when a majority of the ballots cast vote in favor.

## Article 5 – Amendments to Bylaws

**(Current)** Section 1. Changing the Bylaws. Amendments to the bylaws may be made at any regular meeting. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which they will be considered. Adoption of an amendment shall require a vote of two-thirds of the members at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

**(Proposed)** New Section 1. Changing the Bylaws. Proposed amendments to the bylaws may be made by any officer or member. If the minimum numbers required for an Executive Committee quorum approve the proposed amendment, the amendment shall be submitted in writing to the full membership at least thirty (30) days before being voted on by them. The proposed amendment vote shall be via electronic communications such as email or polling software. Adoption of an amendment shall require approval by two-thirds of the ballots cast by members with JASNA Dayton listed as their first region.

### JASNA Dayton Executive Committee

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