



# JASNA Central and Western Ohio Newsletter

November 2023



## JASNA Central & Western Ohio Website Updates Coming

Hello Janeites! Our region’s recent name change means changes are coming to the website. Currently, our website can still be found at [www.jasnadayton.org](http://www.jasnadayton.org) but in January (after our Twelfth Night Ball), you will be able to find us at [www.jasnacwo.org](http://www.jasnacwo.org). If you forget and enter the old web address, don’t worry! You should be redirected to the new website. We will also soon change our Facebook page name to JASNA Central and Western Ohio. You shouldn’t have to re-follow our page. We just want to make sure you aren’t confused if you see something that looks new.

## JASNA C&WO Twelfth Night Ball

Join us for our annual Twelfth Night Ball on **Saturday, January 6, 2024**, from **5:30 to 10:00 p.m.** at the **historic Patterson Homestead**, 1815 Brown Street, Dayton, Ohio 45409.

The event includes dinner, Regency Era dancing (with instruction and dance callers), period card games, and a silent auction. **Cost is \$65 per person for JASNA and English Country Dance members, or \$75 per person for non-members.** \*\*JASNA members may bring **one non-member guest** at the member rate (\$65 instead of \$75). Additional non-member guests in your party are welcome at the \$75 non-member rate.



*Space is limited, so reserve your spot soon! **The deadline to register is Dec. 28, 2023.***

### Menu

Baked salmon or chicken

Wild rice pilaf

Asparagus

Salad of greens with vinaigrette dressing

Assorted desserts

Coffee, tea, punch, water

**Both entree options are gluten- and dairy-free**

***Ball details continue on page 2***

## ***Twelfth Night Ball, continued***



**Dress:** Festive, formal attire from any era

Questions? Contact our Regional Coordinator, Eilanna Price, at [eilannaesp@yahoo.com](mailto:eilannaesp@yahoo.com)

**Please note:** Patterson Homestead will follow state and local guidelines for any COVID response needed, such as masks. Currently masks are not needed.

Register through Eventbrite here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc56jmy4>

**Cancellation/Refund policy:** Please see our website ([jasnadayton.org/12th-night-ball/](http://jasnadayton.org/12th-night-ball/)) or Eventbrite for more details.

## **Price and Prejudice: A Rocky Romance**

### **Our RC, Eilanna Price, reviews the 2023 JASNA AGM**

JASNA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is much more than a meeting—it is a 3-day Jane Austen conference. This year's theme was "**Pride and Prejudice: A Rocky Romance.**" It was held November 3-5 in Denver, Colorado at the Gaylord Resort, right near the airport.



Quite a few of our JASNA Central & Western Ohio members attended. Pat (my husband) and I took the Amtrak train out and back, so luggage was not a problem. We had wonderful speakers giving keynote lectures and scholar lectures, and five sets of breakout sessions where we had seven different speakers to choose from. There were also workshops on watercolor painting, calligraphy, English Dancing practices, and more.

Special evening sessions included the program premiere of "**The Jane Austen Playlist: *Pride and Prejudice*,**" which paired parts of the novel dialogue with musicians playing from Jane Austen's personal music collection.

Another session featuring **Adrian Lukis**, who played Mr. Wickham in the 1995 BBC *Pride and Prejudice*, was fun. It began with a recorded performance of ***Being Mr. Wickham***, starring Lukis, who portrayed what Wickham might have been like at 60 years old. Then Lukis himself appeared in person to offer his insights on Wickham's character over time.

***AGM review continues on page 3***

They also had the young filmmakers finalists and the essay finalists from high school and university level. The AGM program itself was 28 pages so I can give you only some of what was available. Pat and I certainly gained a new level of appreciation for Jane Austen and her writing. New thoughts, new information, and meeting people from all over made for an exciting time.

Jane Austen was the focus of the conference, but they also had side trips you could take, like visiting the home of the unsinkable Molly Brown and hearing about her life, and trips to the Denver Art Museum or the American Western Art Museum. They held a tea at the historic Brown Palace Hotel in downtown Denver along with a historic tour of the hotel. They made sure that after traveling all that way, you could also feel like you had a vacation.

Our highlight was the Saturday evening banquet and the following promenade and ball. **C&WO regional members Tom and Toni Tumbusch** were the callers, so we were very comfortable and had a great time dancing in period dress. That required some extra suitcases!

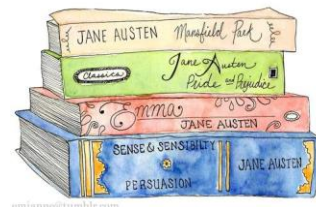
We encourage you to think about going to a JASNA AGM if you want to be immersed in Jane Austen. Luckily, the 2024 AGM will be in **Cleveland, Ohio**—we can drive there! Dates are **October 18-20, 2024**, and the theme is **“Austen, Annotated: Jane Austen’s Literary, Political, and Cultural Origins.”** Visit the national JASNA website at [jasna.org/conferences-events/agms](https://jasna.org/conferences-events/agms) for information and updates, and watch for registration details in the spring.

If you have never gone to an AGM, feel free to email me at [eilannaesp@yahoo.com](mailto:eilannaesp@yahoo.com) with any questions about attending an AGM and what to expect.

## Reading Group Update

By Wilson Palmer

On November 12, 2023, the Dayton and Cincinnati area Reading Group was welcomed into Marilyn Rueth’s lovely home as we continued our discussion of *Sense and Sensibility*. Eleven were in attendance plus four on Zoom. We enjoyed tea, goodies, and the pleasure of being together talking about Jane Austen. We are now three-fourths of the way through the book.



Pat Price brought copies of the “Idiolects in Jane Austen’s Novels” handout he received from Sue Scott’s breakout session at a previous JASNA AGM. The first category is the total number of words spoken by the primary heroine and hero of each novel. Emma Woodhouse and Elizabeth Bennet each speak twice as many words as their male leads, while Elinor Dashwood talks three times as much as her absent Edward. Henry Tilney and Captain Wentworth receive almost

***Reading Group continues on page 4***

### **Reading Group, continued**

equal time as the objects of their affections and Edmund Bertram has more than twice as many words as silent Fanny. The next two headings focused on the 11 most significant characters in *Pride and Prejudice*, listing the total spoken words for each person and the average sentence length of each of those speakers. Mr. Collins won the latter category.

Finally, there is a list of the 30 most common words used by Austen's characters. These are words like *I, you, it, is, the* and so forth. Pat reported that if you take a speech of any Austen character, erase all of these common words and replace any name with "A" and place name with "B", you would still be able to tell who is speaking and discern something about their personalities. This is another example of Austen's studied skill of revealing character traits using vocabulary and speech patterns. Pat also reported that speakers who most often used the words *you* and *your* are typically speaking from a place of power.

Sometimes when I write these summaries, I look at my notes and the ideas flow nicely from one concept to another. This time I see only a jumble of different topics which somehow ends up on Jack the Ripper! All I seem to be able to do this time is to give you little snippets:

**Mrs. Jennings** – A good hearted woman whose lack of manners can inadvertently result in pain for the Dashwood sisters. She lacks "sense" or discernment of people's true character.

**Favorite chapter for a number of people** – In Volume III, Chapter 1, Marianne finds out about Edward's secret engagement and the sisters can become close and equal confidants again.

**Favorite line** – Elinor, on Robert Ferras: ". . . she did not think he deserved the compliment of rational opposition."

**Favorite section** – Marianne's overly warm welcome to Edward when he visits Elinor while Lucy is also present motivates Lucy to revenge by saying to Marianne, "[Y]ou think young men never stand upon engagements. . . ." Elinor is angry, but Lucy's barb misses its mark as Marianne doesn't "get it." Instead she unwittingly speaks a truth that everyone except Marianne herself understands in a much deeper way when she says Edward is "most scrupulous in performing every engagement however minute and however it may make against his interest or pleasure."

As always, this is only a summary of a tiny fraction of all that went on for two hours and beyond. We finished with the open-ended question, prompted by our beloved previous Reading Group leader, Jean Long, asking why did Jane Austen write *Sense and Sensibility*? We can only speculate, of course, and perhaps we will do that during our final two sessions this winter/spring. We might start finding some answers by thinking about what each of us received from reading this novel.

## JASNA Visits Cincinnati Type and Print Museum

By Eilanna Price

The Print and Type Museum event was fully booked, and all had a wonderful time. It was held on Saturday, September 23, from 11:00 to 1:00 at the Cincinnati Type and Print Museum, in lower Price Hill, Cincinnati.

The event started with browsing the museum and anecdotes from Gary Walton, proprietor of the museum. While we had our luncheon upstairs, Gary Walton gave us a lecture on printing history in Cincinnati and told us about the museum.



After lunch we split into two small groups: one for printing the first page of *Pride and Prejudice*. Each participant printed their own copy to take home after it dried. The second activity was printing a bookmark (also to take home) using a different technique, where Gary explained the process of making the actual type out of molten metal.

Angela and Toni donated items for a door prize which was won by member Lisa McKenzie. Gary Walton donated the bottled water to go with the boxed lunches, provided the museum admission and his time free of charge, and prepared goodie bags for all to take home afterward.

This museum, and activity, was a huge hit. Everyone enjoyed the interactive nature, that they had souvenirs to take home that were Austen related and that they got to make themselves, and everyone had a really good time. Learning about the future plans of the museum was also very interesting. Thank you, Angela and Toni, for organizing this event!

## Christmas in Jane Austen's Writing

Compiled by Mariah Busher with information and excerpts from author Syrie James's blog:

<https://syriejames.com/2022/12/12/jane-austen-regency-christmas-traditions/> (Used with permission)



"I wish you a merry Christmas but *no* compliments of the Season." —excerpt from Jane Austen letter, dated Mon. Dec. 24, 1798.

Jane Austen mentions Christmas in nearly all of her novels, depicting scenes of hosting family and friends, and giving parties.

**Continued on page 6**

### ***Christmas, continued***

In *Pride and Prejudice*, Caroline Bingley writes, “I sincerely hope your Christmas in Hertfordshire may abound in the gaieties which that season generally brings.” After her betrothal to Mr. Darcy, Elizabeth Bennet writes to her Aunt Gardiner, “You are all to come to Pemberley at Christmas.”

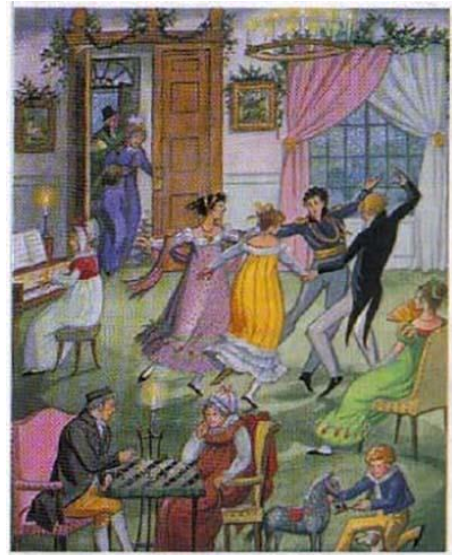
In *Mansfield Park*, Sir Thomas hosts a ball for Fanny and William at Christmastime. In *Sense and Sensibility*, Willoughby dances the night away. In *Emma*, the Westons give a memorable Christmas party.

In her novel *Persuasion*, Jane Austen depicts a family Christmas:

*Immediately surrounding Mrs. Musgrove were the little Harvilles, whom she was sedulously guarding from the tyranny of the two children from the Cottage, expressly arrived to amuse them. On one side was a table occupied by some chattering girls, cutting up silk and gold paper; and on the other were tressels and trays, bending under the weight of brawn and cold pies, where riotous boys were holding high revel; the whole completed by a roaring Christmas fire, which seemed determined to be heard, in spite of all the noise of the others.*

*Charles and Mary also came in, of course, during their visit, and Mr. Musgrove made a point of paying his respects to Lady Russell, and sat down close to her for ten minutes, talking with a very raised voice, but from the clamour of the children on his knees, generally in vain. It was a fine family piece.*

Christmas is also mentioned a few times in Jane Austen’s letters (though not many). After Jane Austen’s Christmas guests had departed in January 1807, Jane wrote to her sister, Cassandra, “I shall be left to the comfortable disposal of my time, to ease of mind from the torments of rice puddings and apple dumplings, and probably to regret that I did not take more pains to please them all.” In a lighter tone, Jane Austen also wrote, “I wish you a cheerful and at times even a Merry Christmas.”





## **Proposed Bylaws Changes (To be voted on via electronic ballot)**

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

The JASNA Central and Western Ohio Region Executive Committee (also referred to as our region's Board) recently approved the following changes to our bylaws. This is your official notification of the proposed changes. **In early 2024 you should receive an email with a link directing you to the site where you can cast an electronic ballot to vote whether you approve these changes.**

**In Article 4 Section 1 there are two changes.** We officially name a new officer position of Historian. Secondly, we added language to officially allow officer positions to be co-led or shared. Both the current bylaw Section 1 and the proposed change are included below. A new Section 2 is proposed to define how shared officer positions can vote.

For sections 6 through 17, we asked the current officers in those positions to propose any alterations to their job descriptions to more accurately reflect their duties. Italic sections 8, 13, 14 and 16 are unchanged but are included below for readability. Sections 18, 19, and 20 are basically unchanged but had to be renumbered with the addition of the Historian position.

**Current, unmodified Article 4 Section 1, Designation of Officers.** The Region's officers shall consist of the following voting members:

Elected: Regional Coordinator (RC), Program Coordinator, Reading Group Coordinator, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Coordinator, and Librarian.

Appointed by RC: Publicity Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster.

The officers shall manage the affairs of the Region and exercise all the duties and powers of the Region as set forth in these bylaws. All officers of the Region must be members of JASNA.

**Proposed:** Designation of Officers. The Region's officers shall consist of the following voting members:

Elected: Regional Coordinator (RC), Program Coordinator, Reading Group Coordinator, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Coordinator, and Librarian.

Appointed by RC: Publicity Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and Historian.

All of the above officer positions, whether elected or appointed, may be shared or co-led by two people instead of a single individual. Or, the position could be shared between a primary officer and an assistant, where the assistant could be considered “in training” and would be expected to assume the primary position at some point. It is also possible that a new primary officer could be assisted by the officer who just vacated that position. In the cases where two officers hold a single elected position, both officers would appear on the election slate, with co-led or primary/assistant-type labels next to each candidate’s name.

The officers shall manage the affairs of the Region and exercise all the duties and powers of the Region as set forth in these bylaws. All officers of the Region must be members of JASNA. In the following descriptions of officer duties, Sections 6 through 17, it is assumed that each officer may delegate some of their own duties or tasks to other Executive Committee members or other Region members.

**Section 2.** Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of all officers of the Region. The immediate Past RC serves as a nonvoting member. In the event that a single individual holds more than one office, that individual is limited to one vote. In the event that two individuals hold a single office, each of those individuals has a vote. A quorum shall be the total number of voting board members currently holding office, divided by 2 and rounded up (that is, plus 1/2 if there is an odd number of board members).

**Section 6.** Duties of the Regional Coordinator. Serves as the representative of the Region to JASNA and of JASNA to the Region by informing JASNA of programs, meetings, and regional activities and by disseminating information received from JASNA and other regions to regional members. Attends the JASNA Annual General Meeting if possible and participates in Regional Coordinators meetings as scheduled. Presides over the Region’s Executive Committee meetings. Acts as president of Region and has general charge of its affairs.

**Section 7.** Duties of the Program Coordinator. Organizes regional meetings and other programs. Contacts and arranges for speakers. Arranges for the rental of facilities and of caterers if required. Notifies Publicity Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster of upcoming events. Prepares a budget for meetings and programs. Chairs the Program Committee and appoints Program Committee members. Acts as Vice President during a temporary absence of the RC.

**Section 8.** *Duties of the Treasurer. Has charge and supervision of the Region’s finances, securities, and books of account. Has custody of all funds of the Region. Has full authority to receive money and give receipts for all money due and payable, and to endorse checks. Prepares an annual budget and apprises Executive Committee members of the Region’s financial status. Renders any financial reports required by JASNA as stated in the RC handbook.*

**Section 9.** Duties of the Secretary. Records minutes of all Executive Committee meetings and distributes them to Executive Committee members no later than a month following the



meeting. If the next meeting occurs within a month, the minutes should be distributed at least a week before the second meeting. Keeps copies of all Executive Committee meeting minutes. Attends to Regional correspondence, if requested by a currently serving Executive Committee member. Gives paper or electronic versions of older minutes to the Historian to be archived.

**Section 10.** Duties of the Reading Group Coordinator. Coordinates and arranges Reading Group meetings in cooperation with the Executive and Planning Committees. Handles all essential arrangements. Selects reading material in consultation with attending members and the historical record of the previous Reading Group discussions.

**Section 11.** Duties of the Membership Coordinator. Maintains the roster of members. Keeps accurate and up-to-date records of members' names, status of membership, and current contact information and provides them to other Executive Committee members upon request. Coordinates mailings regarding membership issues. Assists members with issues regarding membership dues and renewal.

**Section 12.** Duties of the Publicity Coordinator. Coordinates the dissemination of information about the Region within the local community to help attract new members. Duties include notifying the local media of upcoming meetings and events that are open to the public, coordinating press feature coverage when appropriate, and developing and coordinating (with input from the Regional Coordinator and Executive Committee) promotional activities that will help raise awareness of the Region. Coordinates efforts of Newsletter Editor and Webmaster in these outreach activities.

**Section 13.** *Duties of the Fundraising Coordinator. Oversees fundraising activities for the Region.*

**Section 14.** *Duties of the Newsletter Editor. Publishes a newsletter at least a month before every regular general meeting and otherwise as needed. At the direction of the RC may perform other communication tasks between JASNA and the Region. May delegate duties to other Region members.*

**Section 15.** Duties of the Webmaster. Maintains and updates the Region's website and social media accounts, and provides other technology assistance as needed.

**Section 16.** *Duties of the Librarian. Maintains the Region's Library; adds, catalogs, and culls materials and makes them available to members.*

**Section 17.** Duties of the Historian. Stores and maintains items as provided for and identified by the Board, including copies of old minutes, program advertisements, old newsletters, memorabilia from awards and national visits, and other items as directed by the board. This position currently does not include scrapbooking.

**Section 18.** Vacancies. Vacancies shall be filled for the remaining unexpired term. Members shall be notified of vacancies in any office resulting from any cause other than expiration of the

term. The RC may make a temporary appointment to the vacancy until members can vote on the permanent replacement. If the RC position is vacant, the remaining Executive Committee members may make a temporary appointment until members can vote on the permanent replacement.

**Section 19.** Resignation of Officers. Any Officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Regional Coordinator. The Regional Coordinator may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Executive Committee. Notice of intent to resign should be given a reasonable time prior to the date of resignation if possible.

**Section 20.** Committees. The Executive Committee may create standing and ad-hoc committees as needed. These include but are not limited to an ad-hoc nominating committee during election years, and a standing program committee. The program committee is chaired by the Program Coordinator; all other committee chairs are appointed by the RC.

<b>JASNA Central and Western Ohio Executive Committee</b>		
<b><u>Regional Coordinator</u></b>	Eilanna Price	<a href="mailto:eilannaesp@yahoo.com">eilannaesp@yahoo.com</a>
<b><u>Program Coordinators</u></b>	Vacant	
<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>
<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>	Vacant	
<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>