

JASNA Dayton Newsletter

www.jasnadayton.org

April 2011

JASNA President Iris Lutz to Speak at Sinclair, Saturday, May 14

Our May 14 meeting will feature JASNA President Iris Lutz speaking on the topic “*...in proportion to their family and income*’: Houses in Jane Austen’s Life and Fiction.” Her visit is sponsored in part by JASNA and also by the English Department of Sinclair Community College. Iris’s talk will be followed by a tea, where we can meet her in a more informal setting. The event will also include a small emporium of Austen-related wares produced by our own Martha Caprarotta. We encourage you to come if at all possible to this very special occasion, and we invite you to bring a friend.



Schedule:

- 10:30 – 11:00 Registration
- 11:00 – 12:15 Talk and Discussion
- 12:15 – 12:45 Gather in Luncheon Room
- 12:45 – 3:30 Lunch and Emporium

Program: JASNA President Iris Lutz will present an illustrated talk on houses in Jane Austen’s real and imagined worlds, shedding light on many of the homes and estates that figured in her life and novels. The visual tour will feature houses Austen lived in and visited while in Chawton, Bath, Winchester, and Kent, and Iris will share many of her pictures and impressions from a trip to Jane Austen Country. In addition, by pairing pictures of real houses with descriptions in the novels of cottages, manors, and estates, Iris will show what Austen may have had in mind when she created Barton Cottage, Longbourn, Mansfield Park, Pemberley, Sotherton, and other fictional houses.

Location : Sinclair Community College in downtown Dayton.

- Iris’s talk will be in **The Forum**, on the second floor of **Building 14**, where we heard Joan Ray several years ago. This is a splendid, up-to-date multi media facility.
- Lunch will be in **Building 7**, near the cafeteria. Once we are in Building 14, our members who are familiar with Sinclair will guide us to Building 7.
- Parking is in **Lot A**, the large parking garage on Fifth Street,. There is a pedestrian bridge to **Building 14** on the 3rd floor of the parking garage (2 levels up from street).

- For a map of the Sinclair campus, which shows the bridge, go to <http://www.sinclair.edu/visit/map/> and for driving directions go to <http://www.sinclair.edu/visit/drive/>.

Menu:

scones with butter and jam
 finger sandwiches (meat and vegetarian, on petite ciabatta rolls)
 fruit salad
 garden green salad
 assorted small desserts
 coffee & hot tea



Emporium: Appear to best advantage at the next AGM or Regional occasion! JASNA Region founder and treasurer Martha Caprarotta will offer an emporium featuring her “Regency Re-Creations” fashions-- day dresses and ball gowns with coordinating head pieces, and chemisettes. Besides offering completed garments for sale, Martha will take measurements for custom orders.

Other items on sale will be the Dayton Region’s brooches and lapel pins, which feature an image of Jane Austen on porcelain in a gold setting. They are available only from our chapter, and proceeds go to the Region. Note cards with period fashion prints will also be available. The note cards and brooches will be on sale during both registration and lunch. The Regency Recreations will be available in the luncheon room only.

Cost: \$20 for JASNA members and \$23 for non-members
 Parking in Lot A is \$2

RSVP: Send check made out to JASNA Dayton and any special dietary requirements by May 6 to:

Meredith Stoehr
 86 Carmel Court
 Centerville, OH 45458

For questions or last-minute registration contact Meredith at 937-434-7567 or stoeha@yahoo.com. For up to date information on the event, check the JASNA Dayton website www.jasnadayton.org.

JASNA Dayton Officers

Area Cordinator	Gary Mitchner	937-299-1663	gary.mitchner@gmail.com
Reading Group	Jean Long	937-298-0436	jtrnlong@aol.com
Newsletter, Membership	Meredith Stoehr	937-434-7567	stoeha@yahoo.com
Librarian	Toni Tumbusch	513-752-5115	victoriantoni@netzero.net
Treasurer	Martha Caprarotta		
Program	Carrie Bebris		
Webmaster	Tom Tumbusch		

Library needs DVDs

Our chapter has a nice collection of books and films in our library. For a full list of the holdings, see the “Resources” tab on our web page. Some years ago, when I was librarian,, I enjoyed watching all the BBC versions of the Austen novels on VHS tape. Our current librarian, Toni Tumbusch, is trying to update that collection. She has a small budget to work with. If anyone knows of a good bargain on DVDs of Austen films or TV shows, or, better still, if you have a duplicate in your own collection, please contact Toni at victoriantoni@netzero.net.

Jane and Harry Potter

Argus Filch’s evil cat in *Harry Potter* is not named Mrs. Norris by chance. She is indeed named for another officious troublemaker, Mrs. Norris of *Mansfield Park*. Jean Long has this information directly from J. K. Rowling, with whom she shared a picnic lunch at a Jane Austen Society meeting in England some years ago.



March 26 Panel Discusses Austen's Men



Our March 26 meeting at Edith Mae's Tearoom in Xenia was well attended and most enjoyable. The new owners of Eden Hall showed us through the downstairs rooms, pointing out some original features of the house, like the etched red Venetian glass in the entryway, as well as their own very

impressive contributions to the decor. Edith Mae's Gift Shop occupies the mansion's old smoking room and formal dining room. The dining area is charmingly arranged, with dress-up hats from many periods to help guests get into the antiquarian mood.



After a beautifully presented and tasty lunch prepared by Janite Sharon Lintz, Peter LePage introduced our discussion of Jane Austen's Men with the questions "Are Austen's men just objects, compared with the women?" "Do Austen's men have their own point of view?" "Why aren't there many men here, at this meeting?"



Moderator Peter LePage and Panelists Meredith, Katie, and Jean (Panelist Tom took the picture)

Peter gave a short disquisition on the role of male fools as Austen plot devices. John Thorpe, by bragging to General Tilney about Catherine Moreland's supposed wealth, brings Catherine and Henry Tilney together. John Dashwood's weakness in the face of his wife's greed sets the plot of *Sense and Sensibility* in motion. The Reverend Mr. Collins, by marrying Charlotte, brings Elizabeth Bennet to Rosings, where Mr. Darcy can fall in love with her. Tom Bertram's extravagance leads to his father's long absence in Antigua, which leaves his family vulnerable to the Crawfords' attractions. Sir Walter Elliot's bad management brings Captain Wentworth back into the neighborhood. But what of Austen's heroes?



have a dangerous, life-long susceptibility to sparkly women, but Deb believes he has learned once and for all that “all that glitters is not gold.”

Tom Tumbusch spoke up for George Knightley, maintaining that Jane Austen must have preferred him over any of her other heroes. In *Emma* Austen contrasts the heroine, who is a work in progress, with a hero who is already the complete gentleman. Mr Knightley is the active proprietor of a large estate, interested in every fence, tree, crop, and tenant on his farm. As a magistrate he seeks legal advice from his lawyer brother. He takes the lead in setting the tone of Highbury society, giving every member his or her due and smoothing over any social awkwardness. His reasonable opinions and judgments of other characters are displayed in conversations throughout the book, and his real kindness of heart is shown when he dances with the wallflower Harriet. The audience agreed that Mr. Knightley will make a perfect husband for Emma if he can keep from lecturing her too much.





Jean Long defended Mr. Tilney, her favorite conversationalist. Whereas most Austen novels feature a sparkly heroine, in *Northanger Abbey* the hero outshines the heroine, who hangs on his every word. Furthermore, in most of her novels, Jane Austen's voice as author resonates with the heroine's voice. In *Northanger Abbey*, Jean argues, Henry Tilney is the character whose wit and opinions echo the author's own. Like Edmund Bertram and Mr. Knightley, Henry Tilney goes out of his way to be kind, joking and teasing in his first appearance in the novel to put the uncomfortable

heroine at her ease. In supporting his sister's spirits in the face of their father's overbearing temper, he displays a sustained courage, and he rises to romantic heroism in proposing to Catherine despite he father's opposition.

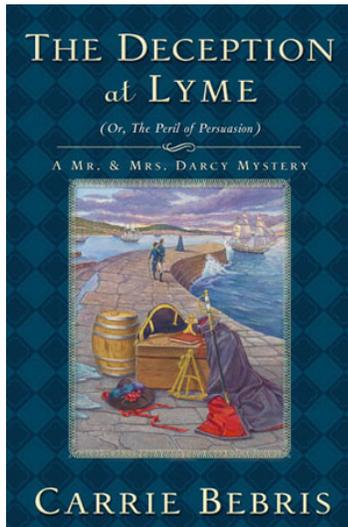
Meredith Stoehr defended Captain Wentworth as the most romantic of Austen's heroes. Austen uses words like "genius" and "ardour" to describe him, words she otherwise uses for—Willoughby. Captain Wentworth is Austen's only self-made man, and the only Austen hero who captures a heroine of higher social rank. His personal attributes—his good looks, intelligence, wit, and manners—are dwelt upon at unusual length by the heroine and the other characters in the story. In contrast to the sterile, social climbing world Anne Elliot's family inhabits, Captain Wentworth offers the society of his navy comrades with its close marriages and generous, openhearted friendship. Where Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice* looks at Pemberley and says "I might have been the mistress of all this," Anne says of Captain Harville's family, "These might have been my friends." The fact that we sustained long and lively discussions on each of our four heroes proves that they are indeed real individuals, with read characters, within their books.



Louisville's 4th Annual Jane Austen Festival July 9 and 10

The Greater Louisville JASNA Region will be holding its fourth annual Gala July 9 and 10. This is a really spectacular event, held at a beautiful historic estate, featuring workshops, an Austen family theatrical, *Cheer from Chawton*, by Karen Eterovich; a Regency emporium and a Regency style show; a four-course afternoon tea, a duel between gentlemen, and a ladies' archery competition; live music; a Grand Ball and more. Entry is only \$10, although the tea, the ball, and the workshops are extra. For details and registration materials see the Greater Louisville web page at www.jasnalouisville.com or contact Bonny Wise at (812) 923-7808 or email her at wises4@insightbb.com.

Carrie Bebris' *Deception at Lyme* to Release in October



Mr. and Mrs. Darcy encounter the cast of *Persuasion* in Carrie's latest book, whose release is timed to coincide with the AGM. She gives us a taste of the plot on her website www.carriebebris.com.

“Following their recent intrigue at Highbury, Fitzwilliam and Elizabeth Darcy visit the seaside village of Lyme on holiday. Family business also draws them there, to receive from a fellow officer the personal effects of Mr. Darcy's late cousin, a naval lieutenant who died in action.

“Their retreat turns tragic when they come upon a body lying at the base of the Cobb. The victim is Mrs. Clay, a woman with a scandalous past that left her with child—a child whose existence threatened the inheritance of one of her paramours and the reputation of another. Did she...fall from the slippery breakwater, or was she pushed?

“When Mr. Darcy discovers among his cousin's possessions evidence that the young lieutenant's death might have been murder, he allies with Captain Frederick Wentworth to probe details of a battle that took place across the sea—but was influenced by conspiracy much closer to home.”

Carrie has contributed another nautical story to a forthcoming anthology, *Jane Austen Made Me Do It*, edited by Laurel Ann Nattress. "The Chase" features Jane Austen's brother Francis (who eventually rose to Admiral of the Fleet) as the young commander of the HMS *Petterel* sloop. It depicts the true events of the action off Marseilles that earned him promotion to post-captain. He single-handedly captured five French ships in under five hours without any damage to his own vessel and not a single death or injury among his crew. Carrie says, “I think there's more than a little of Frank in Captain Wentworth.”

Favorable Review for *Lydia Bennet's Story*

I enjoy a good Austen sequel as well as anyone, but so many of them are—inappropriate. *Lydia Bennet's Story* by Jane Odiwe, who has also written *Mr Willoughby's Return* and *Mr. Darcy's Secret*, received a positive review in the Spring, 2009 issue of *Persuasions*. Written in diary form, this book follows Lydia's career as it takes an unexpected turn. According to the review, Mr. Wickham's “real competition comes from the Rev. Alexander Fitzalan, brother of Lydia's friend Isabella. This pair undeniably forms the romantic center of the novel. Readers will stay up late in order to finish *Lydia Bennet's Story* quickly and leave well pleased with a nice narrative.”

