

JASNA Dayton Newsletter

www.jasnadayton.org

May 2015

Box Hill Literary Picnic Saturday, June 13, at Our Librarian's Home



A couple years ago we enjoyed our first “Meet Your JASNA Dayton Lending Library” event at the home librarian Toni Tumbusch. Everyone there enjoyed it particularly. It was a casual occasion, with plenty of opportunity for conversation as well as perusing the books, tapes (by now replaced by DVDs), and magazines (*Jane Austen's Regency World!*) on display around the house. In the last two years, the library has grown enough to justify another such meeting, as Toni has purchased the entire Cambridge edition of Austen's works and both Jean Long and Gary Mitchner have been strenuously culling their personal libraries. Interest has also developed lately in a summer Box Hill picnic. The Tumbusch property being handsome and fairly extensive, it was decided to combine the two events in one. We will picnic on the lawn, stroll

about the grounds and browse through selections from the library. We also hope to use the occasion to continue our ongoing discussion of the future of the Reading Group.

Date and Time: Saturday, June 13 from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Refreshments: Hot water and a selection of tea bags will be provided. Please bring an item of finger food to share, such as tea sandwiches, cookies, candies, nuts, or similar treats.

Cost: Free

RSVP: (appreciated but not required) to Toni Tumbusch at victoriantoni@tumbusch.com. or 859-512-0577.



Location: 4271 North Gensen Loop, Cincinnati, OH 45245

Directions: Take your best route to I-275 East in Cincinnati. (For those in Dayton, Columbus, and other points north, this will most likely be I-75 South or I-71 South, depending on your location.)

Follow I-275 to Exit 63B (Ohio-32 toward Batavia). You'll pass Eastgate Mall (on the left) and a miniature golf course (on the right) and eventually come to a large intersection, which is Glen Este Withamsville Road.

Turn RIGHT onto Glen Este Withamsville and follow it as it snakes around, first to the right, then to the left. After these two twists, you'll pass the police station and a veterans' park. When you get to the intersection with the helicopter on your left (no joke) and the water tower on your right, you will have reached Clough Pike. Turn LEFT on Clough.



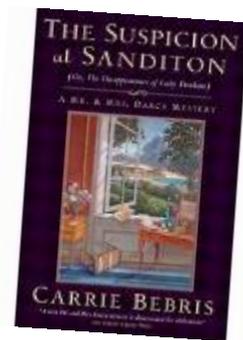
The first traffic light you come to on Clough will be Crestwood Lane. Turn RIGHT on Crestwood.

Turn LEFT on the second street you come to, which will be North Gensen Loop.

Tom and Toni's house is the first house on the left in the second block, 4271 North Gensen Loop. There's a wicker swing on the front porch.

Carrie Bebris To Speak at Our September Meeting

Our first meeting of the 2015-16 year is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 27 at Patterson Homestead. Carrie Bebris, our Regional Coordinator, will talk about Jane Austen's *Sanditon* and her own new book, *The Suspicion at Sanditon*. This latest entry in her Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Mysteries series will be released on July 15.



I have read an advance copy of Carrie's book, and it is great fun. Austen's *Sanditon* features members of the gentry engaged in promoting a seaside resort. Carrie takes Austen's large and eccentric cast, along Mr. and Mrs. Darcy and a few characters of her own invention, and turns them loose at a mysterious dinner party at Lady Denham's estate. With a terrible storm, picturesque ruins, secret passages, and disappearances, the story takes on a Gothic tone and a complexity reminiscent of some Agatha Christie plots. I recommend reading or rereading *Sanditon* in preparation for enjoying Mr. and Mrs. Darcy's latest adventure.

JASNA Dayton Executive Committee

Elected Positions

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Regional Coordinator | Carrie Bebris | 937-436-3716 | cbebris@carriebebris.com |
| Program Coordinator | Meredith Stoehr, Acting | | |
| Reading Group Coordinator | Vacant | | |
| Treasurer | Judy McCoy | | |
| Secretary | Mariah Buser | | |
| Membership Coordinator | Deb Bentley | 937-429-5123 | extraone@woh.rr.com |
| Librarian | Toni Tumbusch | 513-752-5115 | victoriantoni@netzero.net |

Appointed Positions

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Publicity Coordinator | Vacant | | |
| Fundraising Coordinator | Vacant | | |
| Newsletter Editor | Meredith Stoehr | 937-434-7567 | stoeha@yahoo.com |
| Webmaster | Tom Tumbusch | | |

Opportunities to Lead and Join Committees Abound

Our by-laws list eleven Executive Committee positions, of which only seven are currently filled. The Program Coordinator position has been open since last September, when Carrie Bebris moved to RC, and Jean Long's departure leaves Reading Group Coordinator open as well. Also, our Secretary, Mariah Buser, is training to replace Tom Tumbusch as Webmaster in September, which means we are now also in need of a new Secretary. If you would be interested in serving in any of the vacant Executive Committee positions

Program Committee Coordinator
Reading Group Coordinator
Secretary
Publicity Coordinator
Fundraising Coordinator

please contact Carrie at cbebris@carriebebris.com. Also please contact Carrie if you would like to become a member of the Program Committee or the Fundraising Committee.

JASNA Dayton Programming Plans for 2015-16 and 2016-17

The Program Committee is introducing a couple changes in our customary program schedule, the first being the introduction of a Box Hill picnic in June. The second change is to our winter schedule. It has become so difficult to find a suitable venue for December meetings that we have decided to replace Jane Austen's birthday party with a Twelfth Night celebration in her honor. Plans are afoot for a Twelfth Night party—perhaps even a ball—at Patterson Homestead in January, 2016. For the spring 2016 meeting Amy Patterson of the Ohio North Coast Region and Jane Austen Books has agreed to present her talk “Mr. Darcy in Film,” which we expect to be a big hit.

For 2016-17 we are planning a September outing to an exhibit at the Taft Museum in Cincinnati of *Downton Abbey* costumes, followed by another Twelfth Night ball in January, and a talk by JASNA President Claire Bellanti in the spring of 2017.

March 22 Meeting Gives Enticing Preview of Louisville AGM



Our March 22 meeting was particularly well attended and equally well received. Our speakers were the organizers of the upcoming Louisville AGM (October 9-11). Bonny Wise has been known to us for several years as the organizer of the Jane Austen Festival held annually at Locust Grove, which last year attracted 2,000 attendees. She is marketing director at Locust Grove and past RC of the Louisville Region. Alana Gillett, the current RC, introduced herself simply as “an actress,” which her presentation amply confirmed. She is also a fine artist and videographer. Their talk gave an impressive overview of the setting for the AGM (the splendid Galt House in downtown Louisville) and the events in addition to the plenary and breakout sessions that will be available for attendees and their companions. This information is all available now on the JASNA website

[\(http://www.jasna.org/agms/louisville/\)](http://www.jasna.org/agms/louisville/).

It has just been announced that registration will begin on June 3. Bonny and Alana took care to impress upon us these two important facts about registration:



AGM Registration Advice from Bonny and Alana

- The registration process is highly competitive. The form needs to be filled out and returned as soon as it is received in the mail, or as soon as the announcement is made that on-line registration is open.
- Registration is also highly detailed. You will need to specify which breakout sessions you will attend and which of the special events (those with fees in addition to the basic registration fee)

Check the JASNA website now for lists of all the events under Breakout Speakers, Special Events, Workshops, and Tours, so you will be ready when registration opens.

Young Janite Attends March 22 Meeting



Toni Guthrie brought her three month old baby to the March 22 meeting. Hannah Jane Joy owes her second name to the fact that she was born December 16, on Jane Austen's birthday. She behaved very well, and took a lively interest in the proceedings, especially the food going by.

Patterson Homestead Exceeds Expectations

The March 22 meeting was our first at Patterson Homestead, newly under management by Dayton History. It proved to be an excellent venue, with a pleasant space in a historically fascinating building, a fine tea served on real China, and polished service by costumed waitresses. For a full set of photos from the meeting, click the Gallery tab at www.jasnadayton.org.



A Note from Jean Long

Our April 12 Reading Group meeting was a poignant one, being the last that Jean will lead in her lovely home. We managed to discuss Elizabeth Bennet's first encounters with Lady Catherine de Bourgh and Mr. Darcy's ill timed proposal with almost our usual zeal, but we were all thinking of the parting to come. Jean received several lovely bouquets, one from our group as a whole. Her thanks to the group follows:



To all our dear JASNA Friends,

First—thank you for the beautiful flowers that grace our living room! They are lovely and remind us daily of every dear one of you!

I shall miss each of you, very very much—each of you is a part of me. Thank you for all you give and do—that has made our Region—and more—our Reading Group—such a very special memory for me.

Bob and I will never find a gathering of sweeter, smarter or better friends. I take from Dayton memories far beyond anything I've offered you all.

May life treat you well and Keep Reading Jane Austen!

Love, Jean and Bob



Reading Group Future Under Discussion

For the ten years Jean Long led the Reading Group she served as both discussion leader and hostess. After she and Bob leave Dayton for Durango, Colorado we plan to rotate Jean's responsibilities among multiple discussion leaders and hosts. Several members have already volunteered for these jobs, and we welcome more, but we still need someone to put the overall schedule together. The position of Reading Group Coordinator is defined in our Bylaws as follows:

Section 10. Duties of the Reading Group Coordinator. Coordinates and arranges reading group meetings in cooperation with the Executive Committee. Handles all essential arrangements. Selects reading material in consultation with attending members and others.

We hope to learn more about our members' ideas and preferences for the future of the Reading Group at the June 13 meeting and from a survey that is to come out within the next month. Issues that will be addressed in this survey include:

- Locations (Dayton? Cincinnati? Both?)
- Settings (private homes only? Are public meeting rooms acceptable?)
- Meeting Times (Summer as well as the usual meeting year?)
- Material
 - Only works by Jane Austen?
 - Fiction by other authors from Austen's period?
 - Contemporary Austen-related fiction?
 - Books about Jane Austen and her works?
 - Books about Jane Austen's world (history, social history, etc.)

If you are interested in being a Reading Group discussion leader, or host or hostess, or serving as Reading Group Coordinator, please contact Carrie Bebris at cbebris@carriebebris.com.

Barbara Wenner To Lead Austen-Themed Tour of Taft Museum July 10

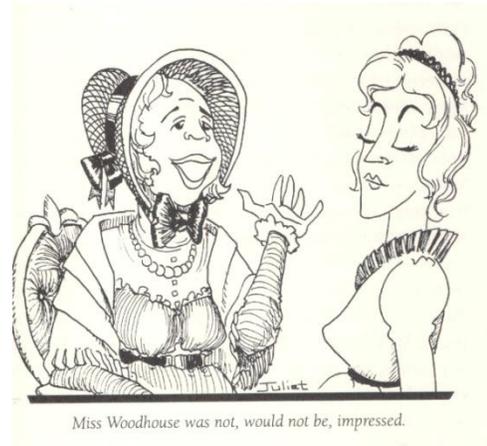
On Friday, July 10 at 1:30 Barbara Wenner will be leading a tour of selected works in Cincinnati's beautiful Taft Museum. Barbara, a long-time JASNA Dayton member and an Associate Professor emerita of the University of Cincinnati English Department, is a docent at the Taft. She will discuss the paintings from Austen's point of view—what would Austen have seen in each one?



The cost of the tour is \$10 to the public, and free for Museum members and students. For more information see: <https://taftmuseum.cincyregister.com/Jane-Austen-Tour-of-the-Taft>

***In Defense of Mrs. Elton* (A Pick from Our Region Lending Library)**

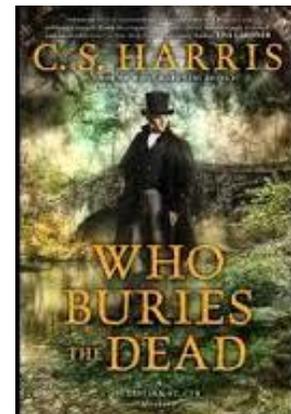
From the website catalog of our Regional Lending Library (<http://www.jasnadayton.org/lending-library/>) I recently selected *In Defense of Mrs. Elton* by Diana Birchall. I had come across this title before and been intrigued by it, but I had been unable to find a copy of the book. It turned out to be a delightful little volume, privately printed by the author on fine, thick paper and exuberantly illustrated by Juliet McMaster (a prominent Canadian Austen scholar who will be a breakout speaker at the upcoming AGM.) It retells the latter part of *Emma* from Mrs. Elton's point of view.



In the introduction the author explains that, as a native New Yorker, she at first had trouble understanding what was supposed to be wrong with Mrs. Elton: “Yes, she was officious and inappropriate, but so were half the people I knew; so just why did everybody loathe her so?” Ms. Birchall makes the convincing point that Emma herself shares many of Mrs. Elton's faults, officiousness in particular (poor Harriet! poor Robert Martin!).

New Library Acquisition Features Austen Subplot

The JASNA Dayton library receives several Austen-related books a year from publishers. The most recent is *Who Buries the Dead; a Sebastian St. Cyr Mystery* by C. S. Harris. This book belongs to the Gothic-tinged Regency genre that features handsome, wealthy and fashionable noblemen who are tortured by family secrets, thwarted love, and horrors experienced during the Napoleonic Wars. Despite the hero's occasionally overwrought introspections, I enjoyed the book's lively plot and charming Austen subplot. The story takes place in 1813, with *Pride and Prejudice* (by the author of *Sense and Sensibility*) a new sensation among the *ton*. People describe each other in terms of characters from the two novels. Is a suspect a Mr. Darcy or a Mr. Wickham? A Colonel Brandon? The hero's wife names her cat Mr. Darcy.



The Austens themselves are present in the book. Jane is staying in London with her brother Henry, is a suspect in the murder at hand, having been seen arguing with the victim shortly before his demise. As sister of a suspect and also a friend to the murdered man's daughter Anne, Jane Austen is able to furnish the hero with much sensible information and advice. Anne, meanwhile, plays the heroine in a *Persuasion*-like plot: her father had opposed her love for the

impoverished captain who is now a chief suspect in the murder. All together, the very un-Austen like events in the novel come to be viewed through the moral prism of Austen's world.

Who Buries the Dead also connects with the talk we heard from Crystal Lake at our December meeting. The victim is one of those Regency collectors Crystal described, possessing among many other treasures the heads of three distinguished persons. Since the lately discovered head of Charles I has just gone missing, the murder investigation necessarily involves an in-depth look at other collectors and sellers of such curiosities.

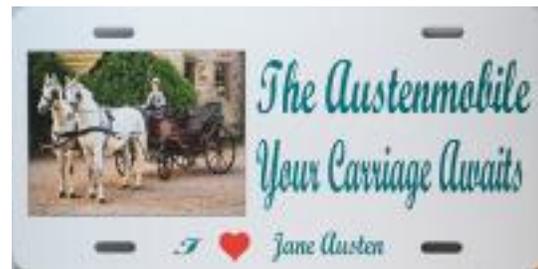
Sites for Austen Shopping



Deb Bentley recommends <http://gonereading.com/jane-austen-gift/>, as offering an interesting variety of merchandise for the Janeite—note cards, and playing cards, to be sure, but also temporary tattoos, toothpaste, air freshener, and an action figure.

Another good source of Austen-related presents for others and one's self is the Merchandise tab at www.jasna.org, with items offered for sale by the Regions. Since JASNA Dayton

nourishes hopes of becoming a presence on that site as well, it is also a good place to look for ideas for products of our own. The license plate at the right is offered by the Greater Louisville Region.



Austen films and Mini-Series Ranked

The website [http://www.vulture.com/2013/08/21-jane-austen-movies-and-miniseries-](http://www.vulture.com/2013/08/21-jane-austen-movies-and-miniseries-ranked.html)



[ranked.html](http://www.vulture.com/2013/08/21-jane-austen-movies-and-miniseries-ranked.html) ranks the top 20 Austen films from worst (the two versions of *Mansfield Park*) to first (Colin Firth's *Pride and Prejudice*, of course). The short reviews that accompany the ratings are spot on. The biggest surprise is *Clueless*, rated third, behind Emma Thompson's *Sense and Sensibility* and ahead of the lovely *Persuasion*. Oddly enough, all four of the top-ranked films appeared in 1995.