

JASNA Dayton Newsletter

www.jasnadayton.org

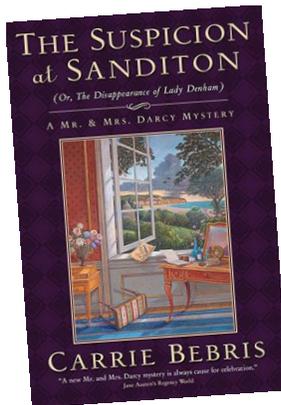
September 2015

Carrie Bebris to Speak Sunday, September 27 on *The Suspicion at Sanditon*

JASNA-Dayton opens the 2015-2016 program year with a talk by our Regional Coordinator Carrie Bebris on her newly released book, *The Suspicion at Sanditon*, which is the seventh entry in her successful Mr. and Mrs. Darcy mystery series. Carrie will speak about Austen's unfinished manuscript *Sanditon* and of the challenges she faced in building a novel from a fragment rather than from one of Austen's completed works.



The meeting will be held at the historic Patterson Homestead in Dayton. It will include a High Tea with a period menu, served by staff in 19th-century attire. The tea will feature tea breads, finger sandwiches, and desserts. Guests are welcome to wear period or contemporary attire.



Schedule:

Gathering at 1:30 (including tours of this historic home)

High Tea at 2:00

Talk at 3:15

Further conversation and house tours for those who like to linger
4:15 – 5:00

The cost is \$23 for JASNA members and \$25 for nonmembers. **RSVP by September 18** with a check payable to JASNA-Dayton, mailed along with contact information (phone number or e-mail) and any special dietary concerns to Mary Ann Gasior, 2727 Old Whipp Court, Centerville, OH 45440.



Patterson Homestead is Venue for September 27 Meeting



Our March 2015 meeting was JASNA-Dayton's first event at the Patterson Homestead. It proved to be an excellent venue, with a pleasant space in a historically fascinating building, a fine tea served on real China, and efficient service by costumed waitresses. The Homestead was the residence of the Patterson family for a hundred years, starting in 1804. It began as the farm house of Revolutionary War veteran Colonel Robert Patterson, a founder of the cities of Lexington and Cincinnati and a large landowner in early Dayton. His grandsons, John and Frank Patterson, the founders of NCR, grew up there. In 1953 the house, fully furnished with 18th and 19th century antiques, was donated to the city of Dayton. The Patterson Homestead has recently become part of Dayton History, which also manages Carillon Park, Hawthorne Hill, Memorial Hall, and other historical venues.

The Patterson Homestead is on Brown Street (1815 Brown Street, Dayton, OH 45409), south of downtown Dayton in the University of Dayton area.

The Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Mysteries

Carrie Bebris, our November speaker, is well known to most of our members. She has already been featured speaker at several of our meetings: "Tea and Mystery" in 2008, "You Pierce My Soul" at the 2010 Gala at UD, and "Duelling and the Code of Honor" in 2012. She served as our Program Coordinator for several years and last year became our Regional Coordinator. The following provides a very brief introduction to her six Mr. and Mrs. Darcy mysteries that preceded *The Suspicion at Sanditon*. The first two books feature a strong supernatural element, the third a lighter supernatural touch, and the rest none at all.



Pride and Prescience, published in 2004, opens on the Darcys' wedding day, with Caroline Bingley upstaging the bride as she shows off her handsome and wealthy American fiance. Caroline's behavior soon changes from annoying to dangerously bizarre, and the Darcys interrupt their honeymoon to get to the root of her trouble.

In *Sense and Susceptibility* the Darcys sponsor a London season for Kitty Bennet. Kitty captures the heart of Harry Dashwood, the nephew of Elinor and Marianne who inherited their

grandfather's fortune. Harry bears a remarkable resemblance to a long dead relative who had been a notorious rake, and soon Harry is seen by night in eighteenth century garb and by day as an exhausted, rapidly aging shadow of himself.

North by Northanger finds Elizabeth pregnant with her first child. Mr. Darcy's mother, Lady Anne, who died giving birth to Georgiana, is a constant presence in the story, and her close friend Mrs. Tilney, the General's late wife, is another. This book is a particular favorite of mine for the accurate and very touching way in which it handles Elizabeth's condition.

In *Matters at Mansfield*, Henry Crawford intrudes disastrously upon Lady Catherine de Bourgh's campaign to find a titled husband for her daughter Anne.

In *The Intrigue at Highbury*, the Darcys find themselves in Highbury at the time of Frank Churchill's marriage to Jane Fairfax. When Frank's uncle dies of poisoning and Frank becomes chief suspect, Mr. and Mrs. Darcy join the newly-wed Mr. and Mrs. Knightly in tracking down the true murderer. This book, being set entirely in Highbury, does an excellent job of recreating the atmosphere of that very pleasant town.

The *Deception at Lyme* finds the Darcys on a much-needed seaside vacation. Unfortunately, Mrs. Clay's body is found by the breakwater, and Mr. Darcy finds that a cousin who died in naval service may have been murdered. Captain Wentworth assists the Darcys in finding the truth.

JASNA-Dayton Executive Committee

Elected Positions

Regional Coordinator	Carrie Bebris	937-436-3716	rc@jasnadayton.org
Program Coordinator	Meredith Stoehr, Acting		
Reading Group Coordinator	Wilson Palmer		wilsoncp@fuse.net
Treasurer	Judy McCoy		
Secretary	Vacant		
Membership Coordinator	Deb Bentley	937-429-5123	bentleyd57@yahoo.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	Mariah Busher		

Changes and Openings in the Executive Committee

The list of Executive Board members shows a couple changes. Wilson Palmer has taken over Jean Long's position as Reading Group Coordinator, and Mariah Busher, our former Secretary, has replaced Tom Tumbusch as Webmaster. As we go to press, vacancies remain for Secretary, Program Coordinator, Publicity Coordinator, and Fundraising Coordinator. If you can be tempted to serve in any of these positions, please contact Carrie at rc@jasnadayton.com. Also please contact Carrie if you would like to become a member of the Program Committee or the Fundraising Committee.

Upcoming Meetings for the 2015-2016 Program Year

Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015 at The Patterson Homestead: Carrie Bebris on her new book *The Suspicion at Sanditon*

Saturday evening, Jan. 9, 2016 at The Patterson Homestead: A Twelfth Night Party

Saturday, March 12, 2016 at The Patterson Homestead: Amy Patterson on "Mr. Darcy in Film"

Upcoming Reading Group Sessions for 2015-2016

Nov. 8, 2015 at the home of Marilyn Rueth, 10615 Willow Brook Road, Dayton, 45458
Discussion Leader Mariah Busher
Pride and Prejudice Vol. II, Chapter 13 – Vol. III, Chapter 3 (Continuous 36 - 45)

Feb 15, 2016 at the home of Eilanna Price, 2334 Lostwood Court, Xenia 45385
Discussion Leader Kay Berg
Pride and Prejudice Vol. III, Chapter 4 – Chapter 10 (Continuous 46-52)

April 10, 2015: Location and Discussion Leader TBD
Pride and Prejudice Vol. III, Chapter 11 – 19 (Continuous 53-61)

Lost and Found

This cake server was left at last December's meeting. If you recognize it, please let Carrie know at rc@jasnadayton.org.



Tom Tumbusch Steps Down After Seven Years as Webmaster

In 2009 Tom Tumbusch became JASNA-Dayton's first webmaster, suddenly bringing us technologically into the 21st century. We can all be proud of the website he designed: it is handsome, cleanly structured and easy to use; and Tom has faithfully kept it up to date all these years. The website has proved invaluable in keeping our own members informed and in advertising ourselves to Austen fans in the community.



In JASNA-Dayton we know Tom and his wife Toni primarily as beautifully dressed reenactors who professionally teach and call Regency dancing. Their range as dancers actually extends from the medieval period—Tom being a leading presence at Wright State's Madrigal Dinner—to 1940s swing. Tom's professional life is, however, firmly rooted in the present. He is a freelance writer who has published some books under his own name (e.g., *Space Adventure Collectibles*, *Tomart's Encyclopedia and Price Guide to Action Figure Collectibles*) and ghost written others. His current business, WordStreamCopy (<http://WordStreamCopy.com>), provides copy writing for web design, “geek stuff,” green business, and finance. On his blog he offers advice to other freelance writers, and he has written an e-book, *The Writer/Designer Dream Team*, with advice for designers and other creative professionals who work with writers.

As is obvious from his professional credentials, we were exceptionally lucky to have Tom as our website designer, and he has our hearty thanks as he steps down from the webmaster position.

Mariah Busher is New Webmaster



After two years as Executive Committee secretary, Mariah Busher has volunteered to become our next webmaster. Her current job, selling phones at Wal-Mart, gives her an excellent background in dealing with technical devices, so we have no fear that she will be able to step smoothly into the job of maintaining our website.

Mariah has been a particularly faithful member of our Region for the past six years. She is a graduate of Sinclair with an Associate's Degree in English and is continuing her studies through the University of Phoenix. Her goal is to earn a Master's degree in order to teach at an online school or a community college. She is interested in literature, art and amateur geology and active in The Harry Potter Alliance.

Reading Group Changes for the 2015-2016 Year

As has been announced in previous editions of this newsletter and at meetings, Reading Group founder and Coordinator Jean Long has resigned her position because of plans to move out of the Dayton region. We thank Jean, along with her husband Bob, for years of warm hospitality and wonderful discussions and assure her—and all of our members—that not only the group but also the atmosphere of fellowship and learning she created will continue to thrive. 2015-2016 will be a transitional year, involving a few changes as the Reading Group begins a new chapter of its own.

Coordinator: We are pleased to announce that Wilson Palmer has been appointed JASNA-Dayton's new Reading Group Coordinator. Wilson enters the role with enthusiasm, and we look forward to the Reading Group advancing under his stewardship. The direction it will take was discussed at our Box Hill Literary Picnic on June 13, and discussion has continued since Wilson's appointment.

Meeting Months: Perhaps the most significant conclusion to emerge from the June 13 meeting was that no one wants to meet at all in the very busy months of December and May. For the past several years JASNA Dayton has scheduled four Reading Group meetings a year (November, January, February and March or April) and three meetings with speakers (September, December and March or April). May meetings have already been abandoned on account of poor attendance, and the Program Committee decided earlier this year to shift our annual December celebration of Austen's birthday to January because of the difficulty of finding affordable venues in December. It had been thought that the January Reading Group meeting could easily be switched to December, but at the June 13 meeting no discussion leaders or hosts for December stepped forward, and a general lack of enthusiasm for December meetings manifested itself among the attendees. In future years the Reading Group can add a meeting in October, but this year October is taken up with the Louisville AGM. It has therefore been concluded that our only option this year is to compress the schedule for finishing *Pride and Prejudice* into three months. The revised meeting and reading assignment schedule are in the box on page 4. Another newsletter will come out before the November meeting with full information on the venue.

Reading Material: A major strand in the discussion of the future of the Reading Group has been whether to branch out beyond Austen's own novels. At the June 13 meeting it was decided to stay with Austen's novels for the fall to spring season and to initiate an extra summer meeting for a single-session discussion of an Austen-related work. We intend to schedule the first such session next summer. Selecting the first book to study will be an ongoing process throughout the coming year.

Wilson Palmer is New Reading Group Coordinator

Wilson Palmer, who for the last couple years has much impressed Reading Group members with his knowledge and enthusiasm, has agreed to take over as Reading Group Coordinator.

Wilson comes originally from the Philadelphia area. He graduated from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana and made his career at Burroughs where he started out repairing their small mainframe computers and switched to troubleshooting problems between customers and software after computers were miniaturized.

Wilson devotes his retirement to juggling an amazing number of useful tasks. He has always enjoyed fixing things, and now does small repair projects for poorer women living in older homes. He is active in his church, Eastern Hills Friends Meeting; is treasurer and on five committees for his regional association of churches, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting; and treasurer and trustee of the Quaker Heights Care Community in Waynesville. He is a volunteer tax preparer and trains other tax preparers for AARP's Tax-Aide program, which does free income tax returns for the poor and elderly. Amid all these activities, Wilson finds time for several hobbies: international folk dancing, playing summer tennis, and building stone walls and patios.



Wilson traces his interest in Jane Austen to the 1990s films of her novels on Masterpiece Theater. On a trip to London in 1997 he and his wife, Alice, took a side trip to Bath to visit Austen related sites. In 2009 they returned to Hampshire, with a side trip to Lyme Regis, doing many of the walks listed in Anne-Marie Edward's *In the Steps of Jane Austen*. A daily report of this trip is listed on his Facebook page under "more" and "notes". This June Wilson and Alice undertook an ambitious walking tour across England, 192 miles from the Irish Sea to the North Sea in 14 days. The photo was taken in the Lake District during that adventure.

We are very happy to have someone with Wilson's many skills and interests in charge of the Reading Group, and look forward to getting to know him better in this leadership role.

June 13 Literary Box Hill Literary Picnic a Big Hit

It may be that our favorite meetings are meetings with no program at all. On June 13 Tom and Toni Tumbusch hosted such a gathering at their home. Toni is our Regional Librarian, and under her management the library has been much transformed. Tapes of Austen films have been replaced by DVDs. She has purchased, mostly at bargain prices, a full set of the Cambridge edition of Austen's works. And thanks to donations from former Regional Coordinators Jean Long and Gary



Toni Tumbusch and Ellen Baker

Mitchner a number of very desirable works on Austen and her world have been added to the collection. The June 13 gathering featured highlights from the library on display, a delicious assortment of finger foods brought by the guests, and plenty of conversation both inside the house and outside in the lovely grounds.

Attendance was very good, with 23 people present. People came even from Columbus, and there were some people from Cincinnati whom we had never met before. All together it was an excellent meeting, and we sincerely thank Tom and Toni for the huge amount of work it took to prepare for the event. For more pictures of the event see the Gallery on JASNA-Dayton's webpage www.jasnadayton.org.



Meredith Stoehr and Eilanna Price Chat with Guests from Columbus



Tori Manship Models Fashionable Bonnet and Apron

JASNA Dayton

2015-2016 Membership



It's time to renew your membership in our Dayton Region of JASNA. Dues for the year are \$10 for a basic membership with electronic newsletter, or \$16 for a basic membership plus a hard copy of the newsletter. Dues year is 1 Sep – 31 Aug. The cutoff for renewal is December 1.

If you wish, you may also make an optional tax-deductible donation to the Dayton Region to be used for programs, speakers, library materials, etc.

To renew your membership, please mail your check made out to JASNA - Dayton along with the completed form below to

Debra Bentley
1552 Fairground Road
Xenia, OH 45385

If you have any questions, please contact Debra Bentley at 937-429-5123 or bentleyd57@yahoo.com.

Remember to check our website, www.jasnadayton.org, for the latest information on our meetings and programs.

**JASNA Dayton
2015-2016 Membership**

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Dayton Region Dues: _____

Optional Tax-Deductible Donation to Dayton Region: _____

Amount of Check: _____