

# *JASNA-Dayton Newsletter*

[www.jasnadayton.org](http://www.jasnadayton.org)

December 2015

## **JASNA-Dayton Celebrates Twelfth Night in Honor of Jane Austen**

JASNA-Dayton is excited to present a Twelfth Night Party on January 9 at historic Patterson Homestead. Hosts will be Tom Tumbusch as Master of Revels (a role for which he is well known at Wright State's Madrigal Dinners, though a more gentlemanly version at our event), Cynthia Manship as Mrs. Jennings and Jean Long as Lady Russell. Entertainments will include English Country Dancing with dance



instruction led by Tom and Toni Tumbusch; a variety of Regency card games such as whist, loo, and speculation; and conversation with fellow Janeites. Traditional (and, for the abstemious, less traditional) punch will be served, along with a Twelfth Night cake made by Rose at Central Perc, white soup, and other appropriate refreshments. This will be a festive and elegant occasion, and JASNA-Dayton hopes that the Twelfth Night Party will become an annual, signature event for our group.

### *Twelfth Night Celebration*

Saturday evening, January 9, 2016  
Patterson Homestead  
1815 Brown Street, Dayton, OH 45409

- 6:30 – 7:00 Enter through the main entrance via a lighted walkway; socialize
- 7:00 – 7:30 Welcome to Patterson Homestead by Katie Nowack and Introduction to Twelfth Night customs by Tom Tumbusch
- 7:30 – 9:00 Dancing and Dance Instruction by Tom and Toni Tumbusch  
and  
Card and parlor games in the Formal Parlor, also with instruction
- 9:00 – 9:30 Refreshments
- 9:30 – 10:30 Resume dancing and card playing
- 10:30 – 11:00 Farewells



***Refreshments:***

*Regent's Punch*

*Black Tea & Herbal Peppermint Tea*

*White Soup*

*Roast beef and Cheddar-apple finger sandwiches*

*Mini Mincemeat Pies (from Central Perc)*

*Twelfth Cake (from Central Perc)*

**Attire:** Come in your Regency ball gown, historic costume, or modern finery; as your favorite Austen character, or as yourself.

**Cost:** \$32 for JASNA members or members of the English Country Dancers; \$37 for guests

**RSVP:** By January 4 send your check made payable to JASNA-Dayton along with phone number and email address to:

Mary Ann Gasior  
2727 Old Whipp Court  
Centerville, OH 45440

If any members of your party are vegetarians or under 21, please indicate with your registration. For questions e-mail Mary Ann at [gasiormaryann@yahoo.com](mailto:gasiormaryann@yahoo.com) or call her at (937)-434-5992.

### **Special Rate for Reservations at the Marriott**

To accommodate people travelling from a distance and others who may be hesitant to navigate winter roads after a night of revelry, JASNA-Dayton has reserved a block of rooms at a special reduced rate at the Marriott at the University of Dayton (1414 South Patterson Blvd, Dayton, OH 45409), less than a mile from Patterson Homestead. Rooms are available for our group at \$99 a night for Friday through Sunday (January 8 -11), with **December 18** being the last date to book. After the booking deadline, if there are still vacancies the hotel might still honor the group rate, but it's not guaranteed. Cancellations may be made without penalty until January 8.

Register at <http://tinyurl.com/JASNA-DaytonHotel>, or call the hotel directly (937-223-1000) and ask for the Jane Austen Society of North America – Dayton rate.



## Tom and Toni Tumbusch to Lead Dancing at Twelfth Night Ball

JASNA-Dayton members Tom and Toni Tumbusch are historic dance instructors, performers, and enthusiasts with a repertoire ranging from the Italian Renaissance to the Big Band era. If you've never danced before, fear not! Many of the dances Jane Austen enjoyed are easy to learn, and Tom and Toni make it almost as simple as walking. They have led the dancing at two previous JASNA-Dayton events: Jane Austen's 2009 birthday celebration at the Old Post Office in Lebanon, and at the May 2010 gala at the University of Dayton.



Toni and Tom Tumbusch

Tom has taught English Country to dancers of all ages since 1988. Over the years he has choreographed dance performances for Wright State University and the Ohio Renaissance Festival, as well as our own group. Toni began dancing and performing historic styles in 1996, adding English Country Dance to her repertoire in

2004. A former member of the Forget-Me-Not Historical Dance Company, she has studied with Elizabeth Aldridge, Richard Powers, and Joan Walton.



Dancing at 2010 JASNA-Dayton Gala

Tom and Toni have taught together since 2005, hosting English Country, Swing, Lindy Hop, and other historic dance workshops in the Midwestern and Southern United States. They are founding members of the Cincinnati Historic Dance Society and currently serve as president (Toni) and vice-president (Tom) for the Cincinnati English Country Dancers.

## Brush Up Your Regency Steps with the Cincinnati English Country Dancers

The Cincinnati English Country Dancers have invited our members to attend their practice sessions at any time. Before the Twelfth Night Party they will be practicing every Thursday 8-10 pm, excepting Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, which gives us two remaining dates, December 17 and January 7. (Tom Tumbusch will be calling the dances for the first half of the December 17 session, and all of the instructors are beginner-friendly. They meet at the Church of the Ascension and Holy Trinity, 344 Burns Ave., Wyoming, OH 45215. (Wyoming is a northern suburb of Cincinnati.) Your first visit is free; thereafter, the cost is \$5 per visit. (More info and directions: [www.cincyecd.org](http://www.cincyecd.org))

If you would like to carpool from Dayton to one of the practice sessions, e-mail Cindy Manship at [cinlyra@aol.com](mailto:cinlyra@aol.com), and she will let you know if anyone else is planning to go that week.

## Patterson Homestead Celebrates with Christmas Teas and Decorations

The Holiday Season is a special time for Patterson Homestead. Besides decorating the house in greenery appropriate to its period (and Austen's), they offer four Christmas teas, on December 5, 6, 12, and 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The picture on the left shows Katie Nowack, the Program Manager, ready to welcome guests to the Patterson Homestead. The picture on the right shows the Formal Parlor, the gaming room for our party.



### JASNA-Dayton Executive Committee

#### Elected Positions

|                                  |               |              |  |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Regional Coordinator</b>      | Carrie Bebris | 937-436-3716 | <a href="mailto:rc@jasnadayton.org">rc@jasnadayton.org</a>               |
| <b>Program Coordinator</b>       | Vacant        |              |  |
| <b>Reading Group Coordinator</b> | Wilson Palmer |              | <a href="mailto:wilsoncp@fuse.net">wilsoncp@fuse.net</a>                 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                 | Judy McCoy    |              |  |
| <b>Secretary</b>                 | Vacant        |              |  |
| <b>Membership Coordinator</b>    | Deb Bentley   | 937-429-5123 | <a href="mailto:bentleyd57@yahoo.com">bentleyd57@yahoo.com</a>           |
| <b>Librarian</b>                 | Toni Tumbusch | 513-752-5115 | <a href="mailto:victoriantoni@netzero.net">victoriantoni@netzero.net</a> |

#### Appointed Positions

|                                |                 |              |  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Publicity Coordinator</b>   | Vacant          |              |  |
| <b>Fundraising Coordinator</b> | Vacant          |              |  |
| <b>Newsletter Editor</b>       | Meredith Stoehr | 937-434-7567 | <a href="mailto:stoeha@yahoo.com">stoeha@yahoo.com</a> |
| <b>Webmaster</b>               | Mariah Busher   |              |  |

## **Board and Committee Positions Remain Open**

The Executive Committee roster on the previous page shows several vacancies. The job of Program Coordinator has been open since 2014, when Carrie Bebris was elected Regional Coordinator. The position of Secretary opened up this year when Mariah Busher replaced Tom Tumbusch as Webmaster. Carrie and Mariah are still carrying on the work of their previous offices as well as their present ones, and would like to turn the reins over to new volunteers so they can focus on their current responsibilities. Publicity Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator are much-needed positions defined in the bylaws but never yet actually filled. My own position as Newsletter Editor will also need to be filled next year, since I am planning to move out of town by then.

Besides Board positions, we have openings on two committees: the Program Committee and the Fundraising Committee. As you may see from the article on page 7 on our Emporium table at the AGM, our Fundraising Committee did rather well despite its lack of an official coordinator. (Imagine what we could accomplish with one!)

If you would consider serving in any of these positions, please contact Carrie at [rc@jasnadayton.com](mailto:rc@jasnadayton.com) to learn more about the duties and time commitment (which might be smaller than you think). Even if you are fairly new to JASNA-Dayton, we welcome your interest. The position of Secretary or a committee membership would be a good way to become acquainted with the Board and its workings.

## **Membership Renewal Period Ended December 1**

JASNA-Dayton's membership renewal period, which began in late August, ended December 1. You can still pay your dues and become a member in good standing by contacting Membership Coordinator Deb Bentley at 937-429-5123 or [bentleyd57@yahoo.com](mailto:bentleyd57@yahoo.com). However, if you signed up last year to receive a paper copy of the newsletter and have not yet paid your dues, you will be receiving electronic copy of this newsletter instead.

## **Upcoming Meetings for the 2015-2016 Program Year**

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

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

Sunday, 2:00, March 20, 2016 in Cincinnati: *Emma*, by the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company  
(Note: Signup is complete for this event, but you may buy your own ticket for the same performance)

## Carrie Bebris Introduces Her New Novel at September 27 Meeting



JASNA-Dayton opened its 2015-2016 program year on September 27 at the Patterson Homestead with a tea and a talk by RC Carrie Bebris on her new Mr. & Mrs. Darcy mystery, *The Suspicion at Sanditon*. In Carrie's previous six novels, the Darcys encountered characters from one of Austen's completed novels. *Suspicion*, being based on an incomplete work, presented significant new challenges.

Jane Austen began *Sanditon* on January 27, 1817 and left off writing on March 18 of the same year, exactly four months before her death. In just a little over two months Austen produced about a third of a novel, creating a vivid setting and a lively cast of characters, but leaving no clue as to how the plot might develop.

Carrie started working on her *Sanditon*-based mystery from the manuscript itself, which, along with all of Austen's extant manuscripts, can be found at <http://www.janeausten.ac.uk/index.html>. Carrie first intended simply to complete Austen's manuscript, but bringing the Darcys so late into the story and suddenly switching to their point of view proved too awkward.

Austen's *Sanditon* breaks off with the presumed heroine waiting for Lady Denham to descend the stairs. Carrie decided to base her plot on Lady Denham's failure EVER to descend the stairs. She gathers the full cast of her book in Lady Denham's sitting room waiting for a dinner party to begin. The hostess fails to appear, and a violent storm traps them together overnight in her house. Carrie draws upon Gothic motifs from Austen's juvenilia and *Northanger Abbey* to confound and terrify her characters through the long night.

Carrie succeeded in conveying some of the excitement she experienced as an author in developing Austen's characters; in discovering a plot for them; and also in finding uses for objects Austen mentioned in passing. In *Sanditon*, Lady Denham refers to her late husband's chamber horse. Wondering what that might be, Carrie found the definition in the Oxford English Dictionary and followed up through the Web until she discovered full specifications for building one. It was a piece of exercise equipment, and Carrie used her new-found knowledge of its structure to conceal evidence of a long-hidden secret.

This was a particularly successful and well attended meeting, with 42 attendees equally divided between JASNA-Dayton members and Carrie's fans. Several new members joined at the end of the meeting.

## JASNA-Dayton Well Represented at the 2015 AGM

Thirty-two members of JASNA-Dayton with friends and companions sat together at the Saturday evening banquet. The picture below, taken Saturday evening between the promenade and the ball, shows us to advantage.



## JASNA-Dayton Emporium at AGM a Success



Cam Mauzy staffs JASNA-Dayton Emporium Table

This year at the AGM, despite the continued want of a Fundraising Coordinator, JASNA-Dayton put together a table for the Emporium and raised about \$500. We sold a variety of goods: the lovely ceramic brooches and lapel pins that Martha Caprarotta has long produced as a fundraiser for our group; Jane Austen cookie cutters which Cam Mauzy found online; duplicate books and other items from our library selected by Toni Tumbusch; and a basket of Carrie Bebris' novels and tea items titled "Tea with Mr. and Mrs. Darcy," offered in a silent auction. More than a dozen of our members and a few of their companions volunteered to work at the table, and we thank all of them heartily. We were open for business throughout the pre-conference activities (all day Thursday and Friday morning—many thanks there to Jean and Bob Long, who, having arrived the day before, worked all of Thursday morning), and during the longer breaks in the conference itself—lunchtime and the hours before and after the sessions.

## November Reading Group Led by Mariah Busher, Hosted by Marilyn Rueth

On November 8, the Reading Group met for the first time since Jean Long stepped down as Reading Group coordinator. Mariah Busher as discussion leader and Marilyn Rueth as hostess demonstrated that we have an excellent chance of maintaining the standards Jean upheld for so long. Everyone there was impressed by how well both Mariah and Marilyn handled their roles, and we thank them very much for their good work.

### Remaining Reading Group Sessions for 2015-2016

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, 2016 at the home of Barbara Wenner, 10045 Sprucewood Lane, West Chester 45241  
Discussion Leader Wilson Palmer  
*Pride and Prejudice* Vol. III, Chapter 11 – 19 (Continuous 53-61)

## Book Selection Upcoming for Summer and Next Year

At the April 10 meeting we will need to decide which of Austen's works to focus on for next year's Reading Group. We have already covered Austen's six major novels, as well as a selection of her letters. We are currently reading *Pride and Prejudice* for the second time because most of the current Reading Group members were not present the first time through. The other major novel taken up before many of our current members joined is *Mansfield Park*. It, along with Austen's Juvenilia and/or *Sanditon*, seem to be the leading contenders for our next Austen exploration.

In accordance with our decision last June to introduce a summer reading group session that will branch out into Austen-related works, we also need to choose our first book for summer reading. At the November 8 Reading Group a consensus emerged that one of Carrie Bebris' Mr. & Mrs. Darcy mysteries might be a logical choice.

Reading Group Coordinator Wilson Palmer is looking for suggestions for upcoming and future Reading Group material. He also welcomes our opinions as to which month we prefer for our summer Reading Group meeting. Feel free to contact him at any time with your ideas, comments, or criticisms at [wilsoncp@fuse.net](mailto:wilsoncp@fuse.net).



## JASNA-Dayton Member Veena Kasbekar Meets Mrs. Bennet

JASNA-Dayton member Veena Kasbekar is a recently retired professor of English at Ohio University-Chillicothe. Some of our members will remember her charming presentation on *Bride and Prejudice* she gave at our May 2013 meeting. That same year she enjoyed a surprise encounter with one of Austen's characters. Veena's account follows:

As a first-timer, I attended the JASNA conference in September 2013 for its celebration of *Pride and Prejudice*, my favorite novel. Just over a week later, on my visit to England, Alison Steadman passed by on a street in East Finchley, London. When my sister-in-law Shubha pointed out that this was the actor who played Mrs. Bennet in the Colin Firth production, I jumped out of the slow-moving car and ran down the street after her, calling out, "Mrs. Bennet! Mrs. Bennet!" Seeing my elation, Ms. Steadman graciously tucked her arms into ours and asked if Shubha and I would like to be photographed with her. Did we ever! When I told her I'd just come from the JASNA conference, she agreed to my sharing the photo with the Janeites in the States. So here's the photo taken on Oct 11, 2013. Serendipitous meeting. Not thinking for once about the romantic Colin Firth, I told her how much I enjoyed her role. What a marvelous couple of weeks for me: the JASNA conference on *P&P* and the real-life meeting with Mrs. Bennet. I think the replete smirk on my face (I'm the short one in the picture) says it all.



Veena continues to travel. To experience vicariously the round-the-world tour she undertook after this year's AGM—Peru, Easter Island, Samoa, Australia, Cambodia, the Taj Mahal, Tanzania, Petra, and Morocco—see her blog, [veenablogblog.wordpress.com](http://veenablogblog.wordpress.com).