

JASNA-Dayton Newsletter

www.jasnadayton.org

May 2016

Box Hill Picnic Scheduled for Sunday, June 19 at Carriage Hill

This year's Box Hill Picnic will take place at Carriage Hill Metro-Park (7891 East Shull Road, Dayton, Ohio 45424) on Sunday, June 19 starting at 2:00. We have reserved the Cedar Lake Shelter in case of imperfect weather. This will be a free meeting. Drinks (iced tea and lemonade) will be supplied along with paper plates and cups, napkins and utensils. Just bring a dish to pass and perhaps an extra lawn chair and prepare to enjoy an afternoon of companionship and conversation with fellow Janites.



No RSVP is required, but if you plan to come please let Mary Ann Gasior know (gasiormaryann@yahoo.com or (937)-434-5992) so that we will have an idea of the numbers.

Carriage Hill is an historical park featuring an 1880's working farm with a blacksmith shop, woodshop, historic house, and barn. Historic breeds of farm animals are also on view, so there will be plenty to see there for those so inclined.

As at last year's Box Hill meeting we will spend some time discussing issues of interest to our Region. Last year we talked mostly about the future of the Reading Group. This year we plan to talk more about the programs—types of programs, cost, what we like, what we would like to see changed. We will also hold our bi-annual election of Executive Committee members.



JASNA-Dayton Executive Committee

Elected Positions

Regional Coordinator	Carrie Bebris	937-436-3716	rc@jasnadayton.org
Program Coordinator	Angela Jaeger		
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	Camilla Mauzy		
Newsletter Editor	Meredith Stoehr	937-434-7567	stoeha@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Mariah Busher		

Executive Committee Elections at June Meeting

Every other year the JASNA-Dayton Region holds elections for its Executive Committee, and that time has come around again. The vote will be taken at the Box Hill Picnic, for terms commencing September 1, 2016. Mariah Busher, as Nominating Committee Chair, will be taking nominations. If you are (or might be) interested in holding any of the offices, or have questions about them, please contact Mariah at jane.sonnet.mb@gmail.com or 937-765-5374.

There are seven elective positions on the Executive Committee. Although five incumbents are willing to continue another term in their present positions, we would very much welcome new faces and voices to the board, and encourage you to consider nominating yourself or another candidate for any of the seven positions. For a full description of each office, see the Bylaws on our website (www.jasnadayton.org) under the Resources tab. The offices for which no candidates are yet available are Secretary and Librarian.

The office of **Secretary** entails taking minutes at the board meetings, writing them up promptly, and distributing them to the members. The board meets three or four times a year.

The office of **Librarian** entails housing the JASNA-Dayton Library, which under the enthusiastic curatorship of Toni Tumbusch, has come to fill six large storage containers. The Librarian keeps an inventory of materials which is published on the website, accepts donations, purchases materials with a budget of \$100 a year, culls materials, and makes materials available to Region members.

Newsletter Editor Needed

The appointive position of Newsletter Editor also needs to be filled, since I, your Newsletter Editor these last twelve years, will be moving this summer to Raleigh, where my daughter and her family live. Whether the newsletter should continue in its present format, or whether it could be replaced in part or entirely by an e-newsletter, is open to consideration.

The most essential function of the Newsletter is to publicize upcoming meetings as far in advance as possible but at least a full month before the meeting date. The newsletter also usefully serves as a record of JASNA-Dayton activities. It could expand to include more member-provided articles on travel to England, reviews of books and movies relevant to Jane Austen and so on.

If you are interested, or think you might be interested in becoming our next Newsletter Editor, please contact Carrie Bebris at rc@jasnadayton.org.



Dressing Downton at Cincinnati's Taft Museum on Saturday, August 27

Registration is already complete for JASNA-Dayton's first meeting of the 2016-17 program year, which will take place on Saturday, August, 27. It will feature two museum tours:

- The *Dressing Downton* exhibit, featuring costumes from the TV series. (Very early registration was necessary in order to buy blocks of tickets to this popular exhibit.)
- A Jane Austen-based tour of the Taft's galleries led by Barbara Wenner, a long-time JASNA Dayton member who is a docent at the Taft.



The group will be split, with half viewing *Dressing Downton* while the other half is touring the galleries with Barbara. Between tours members have the option of dining at the Taft's Lindner Family Café or on their own.

For more information about the exhibit and the Taft museum, check out their website <http://www.taftmuseum.org/upcoming-exhibitions-draft>.

March 12 Meeting with Amy Patterson a Big Hit

The March 12 meeting proved to be an outstanding success. Patterson Homestead provided the usual friendly and elegant ambiance; Jane Austen Books brought a lavish selection of interesting books, T-shirts, and other wares. The main event, of course, was Amy Patterson's talk, "Mr. Darcy in Film." Amy is a very funny lady which made her insightful criticisms of the 1995 *Pride and Prejudice* all the more enjoyable. Amy's quarrel is not with Colin Firth but with script writer Andrew Davies, who changed the focus of the story from Elizabeth Bennet and her family to Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy.



Amy pointed out that Mr. Darcy's role in Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is deliberately ambiguous. With the exception of his letter, we see him only through Elizabeth's eyes. Before his proposal we have only hints of his interest in her; after her rejection we have no more idea than Elizabeth herself that he might ever renew his proposals. Though good looking, he is not



extraordinarily handsome, nor is he passionate and brooding. He is aloof, indifferent, a little nerdy.

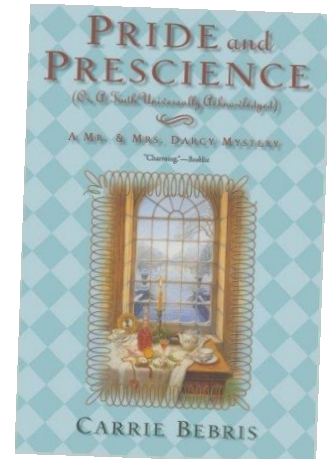
Davies used a variety of techniques to expand and enhance Mr. Darcy's role. We see our hero riding and shooting with Mr. Bingley and practicing fencing; we see him bathing at Netherfield and swimming at Pemberley; we follow his search for Lydia and Wickham. The negative qualities of some minor characters are exaggerated in order to make

Mr. Darcy more attractive by comparison: Mrs. Bennet is a harridan; Mr. Collins is not only embarrassing, but unsavory. Mr. Wickham, who should by rights be better looking than Mr. Darcy, looks rather seedy. Davies' Darcy also (and this is not in keeping with gentlemanly behavior) emotes continuously.

Although Austen's books all end with weddings, they are to some extent anti-romances. They urge their readers to weigh charm and good looks against principle and real accomplishment. "Don't trust a man just because he looks good in a red coat." In Davies' film, Elizabeth does catch the sexy guy, and that changes the whole balance of the story.

Reading Group to Discuss *Pride and Prescience* July 17

The subject for our first ever summer Reading Group session is Carrie Bebris' first Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Mystery, *Pride and Prescience*. Cynthia Manship will be discussion leader and Eilanna Price, who was hostess for our February meeting, will be hostess again. Carrie will be there as well, available to explain her own intentions, which should make for a really unique reading group experience.



Carrie's first two Mr. and Mrs. Darcy mysteries have a strong supernatural element, completely absent from her later novels; so *Pride and Prescience* may come as something of a surprise to first-time readers. It is, however, a lively mystery with a shocking secret that should provide an excellent subject for discussion.

Time: 2:00 gathering; 2:30 – 4:00 discussion

Place: 2334 Lostwood Court, Xenia, OH 45385. See our website (www.jasnadayton.org) for links to maps and directions.

Refreshments: Eilanna will provide hot water and tea. Those who wish may bring a dish to share.

Reading Group Schedule for 2016-2017



Our Reading Group has chosen *Mansfield Park* as its subject for the next two years. Wilson Palmer has prepared a tentative schedule of readings and has picked dates for the coming year's meetings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>
Sept 11	Chapters 1-6	Eilanna Price
November 13	Chapters 7-12	Wilson Palmer
February 12	Chapters 13-18	Judy McCoy
March 12	Vol 2, Chapters 1-6	Marilyn Rueth

Discussion leaders have not yet been selected, and you will note some repetition already in the list of hostesses. If you would like to lead one of the discussions or volunteer to add your name to our list of potential hosts and hostesses, please contact Wilson at wilsoncp@fuse.net or 513-751-4352.

March 20 Outing to *Emma* in Cincinnati

On Sunday, March 20 JASNA-Dayton members, spouses and friends enjoyed brunch at the elegant Cincinnati Hotel followed by the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's *Emma*. These outings are always great fun, and we thank Angela Jaeger for having organized several over the past few years.

The fast-paced adaptation with its attractive, lively cast offered a light take on Austen's novel and a very pleasant afternoon.



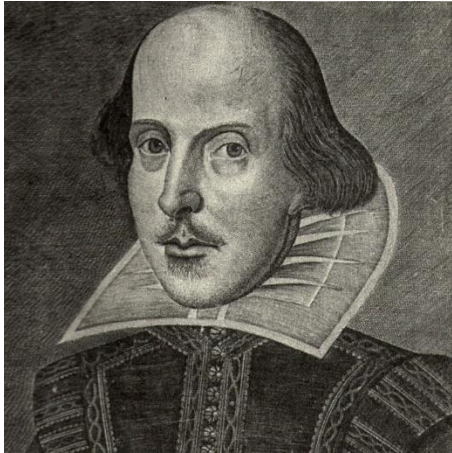
“Friends of Jane Austen” in Lebanon May 21

Next Saturday, May 21, enjoy an Austen-themed event at the Glendower Historic Mansion in Lebanon. Called “Friends of Jane Austen: Celebrating Jane’s Great Books,” the event will feature costumed Austen characters discussing the novels in which they appear, light refreshments, historic lawn games, and tours of the Glendower Mansion. Two of the Austen characters will be played by JASNA-Dayton members Peter and Katie LePage.



The Glendower Mansion is at 105 Cincinnati Avenue, Lebanon, Ohio 45036. Tickets are sold at the door: \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$4 for children. The website for the event is http://www.wchsmuseum.org/events/events-10/friends_of_jane_austen-82.

This Year's CELIA event at Wright State: *Encountering Shakespeare*



In October, 2014 many of our members enjoyed Wright State's first CELIA (Collaborative Education, Leadership, and Innovation in the Arts) program, which featured Jane Austen and culminated in a splendid Regency ball. This year the CELIA program is presenting the 40th Annual Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference, October 20-22. In addition to the usual talks, the three-day program will offer teaching workshops by professional actors from Canada's Stratford Theatre Festival and a soirée blending Shakespeare-inspired opera, orchestral music, period dancing, choral music, musical theatre, and dramatic performance. For details about this program as they become available see CELIA's

web page <http://liberal-arts.wright.edu/celia/events>.

The next weekend CELIA will present an unrelated event, but one which sounds like great fun: "The Sultans of Swing Flapper Ball: 100 Years of Baseball, Jazz and Short Fiction," to be held October 29 in Memorial Hall.

Cam Mauzy is New Fundraising Coordinator

We are very happy to welcome Camilla Mauzy to the Executive Committee as our first Fundraising Coordinator. Cam, a JASNA Dayton member for several years, has already done some fundraising for us. The Jane Austen cookie cutters, which sold out at our AGM Emporium table last October, were her idea.

Cam is a person of very wide interests and accomplishments. She has her Ph.D. in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology from Purdue University and works as a Project Director in the Molecular Bioeffects Branch at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson AFB. Besides gardening, watercolor painting, and tap dancing she lists among her hobbies "VW Beetle collecting, sweep rowing, studying British and European History and investigating Adena & Hopewell mounds."

Asked about her interest in Jane Austen, Cam says: "I've always liked 'English' things, and happened upon Jane Austen in high school. I've always felt that Ms. Austen was a gentle feminist - pushing the boundaries for women in her stories (Marrying for love! Turning down marriage proposals! Walking alone!) as well as in her life (single female author!). I was very lucky to get to Chawton and Bath last



summer, and seeing those two locales with which Jane had such a love/hate relationship was quite interesting. I loved Chawton!”

Angela Jaeger is New Program Coordinator

Angela Jaeger has belonged to JASNA and JASNA-Dayton for more than twenty years. She first learned that there was such a thing as JASNA at a tea at the Taft Museum where Sally Wadsworth, wearing her Jane Austen brooch, was waiting tables as a volunteer server. Having always been a big Jane Austen fan, Angela inquired about the brooch, found out about JASNA, and promptly joined. For the past several years, Angela has been organizing our popular outings to the theater in Cincinnati, whenever the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company is putting on one of the Austen plays.



Angela has worked since 1992 as an application support analyst for Dolbey, a software development company that produces applications for the medical field--specifically digital dictation, transcription and speech recognition. She has many, many outside interests including travel, theater, music, reading, entertaining, and dining out; and, besides her new role as Program Coordinator for JASNA-Dayton she is currently Vice President of the Ohio River Valley Chapter of the Victorian Society.

Tori Manship to be Assistant Program Coordinator



Tori Manship has agreed to serve next year as Assistant Program Coordinator, helping Angela to coordinate the meetings and continuing as chair of the Twelfth Night Ball committee. Along with her mother, Cynthia, Tori has been a faithful member JASNA-Dayton and of the Program Committee for the past several years.

Tori has a Bachelor's of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in Fine Arts Painting from Ohio University along with a certificate in East Asian Studies. She currently works as a Nanny, House Manger, and Personal Cook, while still taking commissions and teaching art in her spare time. Her many hobbies include domestic and international travel, art history, food history/historic food and drink, cooking, dining out, restaurant

reviewing, reading, movies, Asian media and history, and foreign languages (French, Japanese, and most currently Spanish, which she is studying with her husband Alex, a Spanish teacher).

Tori says of her history with Jane Austen:

I grew up watching the 1995 BBC *Pride and Prejudice* as a child, thanks to my mother, which helped prepare me for when I read the novel for the first time in 7th grade. It was the start of a real love and appreciation for everything Austen.

I first learned that there was such a thing as JASNA when my mother attended the JASNA Dayton 25th Anniversary Gala in 2010, while I was still in my senior year of college. We discovered the Jane Austen festival in Louisville that Summer and had a great time there. We then decided to attend the Dayton region reading group together, and enjoyed the experience and the people so much we signed up as members together!

Shirt to Appear at Folger Library

Mr. Darcy's shirt is to take part in the Folger Library's upcoming exhibit *Will and Jane*, August 6 through November 6, 2016 (proving many points made by Amy Patterson at our March 12 meeting). It will be right there in Washington during the upcoming AGM. The May issue of *The New Yorker* proposed some guidelines to ensure that the shirt will be treated at all times with appropriate deference:



“...no one in the same (lofty) room as THE SHIRT shall mention that:

- THE SHIRT was never actually described by Jane Austen in THE FAMOUS NOVEL.
- The scene with THE SHIRT in THE MINISERIES didn't “further the plot” or “make any sense,” because why would a gentleman get a little sweaty and suddenly decide to jump off his horse and into a lake with his clothes on?

....

Any person who, while gazing upon THE SHIRT, says, “It looks so much flimsier in real life,” or “Well, it's no Mr. Rochester's shirt,” or “Why am I looking at a shirt?” shall be promptly ejected from the premises.

For the full article see <http://www.newyorker.com/humor/daily-shouts/the-darcy-shirt-a-tour-rider>.