

JASNA-Dayton Newsletter

www.jasnadayton.org

August 2018

Incoming RC Lisa Tyler to present “Modernist Jane” at September 23rd tea

By Lisa Tyler, Carrie Bebris and Angela Crovetti

Join us for high tea and a fabulous discussion as we celebrate the induction of Lisa Tyler as JASNA-Dayton’s new Regional Coordinator on Sunday, September 23, from 2:00-4:30 p.m. at the historic Patterson Homestead, 1815 Brown St., Dayton.

Lisa herself will be our speaker, presenting “Modernist Jane: Austen’s Reception by Authors of the Twenties and Thirties,” a talk she first delivered at JASNA’s 2017 Annual General Meeting in Huntington Beach, California.

The event will begin with a three-course tea featuring a harvest-themed menu full of autumn flavors (details below). Three varieties of tea will be offered, including one inspired by Edith Wharton, an author Lisa discusses in her talk. The black Darjeeling blend with passion fruit, citrus, and a dash of spice (part of Simpson & Vail’s Literary Tea line) is meant to “pay homage to [Wharton’s] descriptions of the undercurrents rippling through fashionable society” and should warm us up well for the discussion that follows. A resurgence of Jane Austen’s work after World War I provides the context for Lisa’s presentation. Mary Augusta Austen-Leigh, Austen’s great-niece, published *Personal Aspects of Jane Austen* in 1920. Three years later, Oxford University Press published the first scholarly edition of Austen’s novels, edited by R.W. Chapman. Rudyard Kipling’s short story “The Janeites” was published in 1924. In 1935, Helen Jerome’s adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* ran for 219 performances on Broadway and another 317 performances in London’s West End before eventually becoming the basis of the 1940 MGM film starring Greer Garson and Laurence Olivier. Given its prominence in popular culture, Austen’s work would have been difficult for the modernist writers of the period to avoid.

How did modernist writers of the 1920s and 1930s respond to the writings of Jane Austen? Lisa’s talk explores how authors like Ernest Hemingway, Edith Wharton, D.H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf,



Lisa and James Tyler at 2015 AGM

Ezra Pound, Katherine Mansfield, and Thornton Wilder wrote about Austen in their published and private writings and how her work influenced theirs. In this presentation, illustrated with more than 40 PowerPoint slides, we'll learn more about what Claudia L. Johnson calls "a lamentably understudied affiliation": the surprising affinity of the modernists for our dear Jane.

Lisa is a professor of English at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, teaching literature, composition, and business communication. She is the author or editor of four books, two of them forthcoming in 2019, and has published more than 40 essays in academic journals and edited collections. She serves on the editorial advisory board of the *Hemingway Review*, and she received Sinclair's Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award in 2017. A JASNA member for more than 25 years, she currently serves on the national JASNA Board and was elected Regional Coordinator of the Dayton/Southwest Ohio Region in March.

Don't miss this wonderful talk and tea—not to mention the opportunity to meet our new RC if you haven't already had the pleasure!

Cost: \$27 members, \$30 non-members. Students are invited to attend the lecture part of the event free of charge, but must still reserve space (email Mary Ann to reserve a student lecture-only spot: gasiormaryann@yahoo.com). Students attending the lecture only should plan to arrive by 3:15 pm.

RSVP required for all attendees by September 15. Please mail payment (checks made out to JASNA-Dayton), along with contact email/phone number, to Mary Ann Gasior, 2727 Old Whipp Ct., Centerville, OH 45440. Any questions can be submitted to Mary Ann by email or phone (gasiormaryann@yahoo.com or 937-434-5992).

Tea Menu (vegetarian option available if requested with RSVP)

Scone course

Cheese & Herb de Provence scones
Sweet potato scones
Zucchini bread

Teas

Edith Wharton black tea blend
Decaf Irish Blend black tea
Harvest Apple herbal tea

Sandwich course

Cranberry turkey
Chicken salad with walnuts
Goat cheese pumpkin

Dessert course

Pumpkin cheesecake with gingersnap crust
Lemon teacake
Salted caramel apple shortbread crumble bars

October 28th theatre outing to Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley

By Angela Crovetti



MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY

Still time to join us; luncheon details finalized

Group tickets have been purchased for those who reserved earlier this summer for our theatre outing to the October 28, 2:00 p.m. matinee performance of *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

However, if you missed the group ticket deadline, it's not too late to attend the play and join us for a pre-theatre lunch. As of this writing, tickets for the matinee are still available for individual purchase. Call the Playhouse box office (number below) or purchase online (www.cincyplay.com).

Lunch details have been finalized for those interested in a group 'nosh' before the play. We will meet at the Cincinnati Art Museum's Terrace Café at 11:30 a.m. prior to the performance. If you are unable to commit to the play, but would like to join us for lunch, you are welcome! We'll order from the menu and have separate checks, so no pre-payment is required for lunch. Those unfamiliar with the Cincinnati area may not know that the art museum is within walking distance to Playhouse in the Park, for those who can walk some steep stairs and a minor distance. (Free parking is available at both venues for those who cannot do the walk; however, purchasing a parking pass at Playhouse is recommended for those who cannot manage steep stairs.) Call the Playhouse box office at 513-421-3888 to purchase play tickets or a parking pass. If you decide to buy a ticket for the play on your own, please let Angela know so she can add you to the list for further details as they develop. For questions, or to reserve a spot for lunch, email Angela Crovetti at angela.crovetti@gmail.com or call her at 513-520-8031. To view the Terrace Café menu, visit <http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org/visit/shop-dine/terrace-cafe>

JASNA-Dayton members to represent our region at September AGM



By Angela Crovetti & Carrie Bebris (with text from JASNA's web site)

JASNA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a literary conference, a celebration of Jane Austen, and a collegial gathering of JASNA members.

Each autumn 700 to 800 JASNA members attend the AGM, a three-day conference hosted by one of our regions in the United States or Canada. The AGMs feature dozens of lectures by Austen scholars and JASNA members, as well as special exhibits and events, workshops, and a banquet and Regency ball. Many papers presented at AGMs are also published in the Society's journals *Persuasions* and *Persuasions On-Line*.

Two of our JASNA-Dayton members have official roles at this year's conference, which will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, September 28-30, 2018. The theme is "Persuasion: 200 Years of Constancy and Hope."

New Regional Coordinator Lisa Tyler (also our September 23rd speaker) will attend as both an RC and a member of JASNA's national board. She'll represent our region at Regional Coordinators meetings, serving as our liaison with National and sharing information/ideas with RCs from across the U.S. and Canada. As a directly-elected National board member, Lisa will contribute to policies and decisions that govern and guide the organization as a whole.

Linda Zionkowski, Professor of English at Ohio University (also our April 2019 speaker), will deliver a breakout presentation on the opening day of the AGM. In her talk, "Plans of Economy in *Persuasion*," she'll discuss how attitudes towards spending and saving give shape to *Persuasion's* plot and characters, and how the novel proposes a balance between prudence and profligacy, caution and abandon, in money and love alike.

Several other JASNA-Dayton members also plan to attend the AGM. When they return, they'll provide a report of this year's event so everyone can experience it vicariously through them!

Information about upcoming conferences is posted on the AGM page of JASNA's website (www.jasna.org) and updated periodically as details are finalized. Registration takes place in late spring each year for that fall's AGM. In 2019, Williamsburg, Virginia will host the AGM, and Cleveland will host in 2020.

If you are interested in attending a future AGM, check <http://www.jasna.org/conferences-events/agms/> for details.

Annual JASNA-Dayton Twelfth Night Ball Slated for January 12, 2019

By Tori Manship

This year JASNA Dayton will celebrate our *Fourth* Annual Twelfth Night Ball!

For those unfamiliar with Twelfth Night, it is a holiday on January 5th or 6th, depending on who's counting, that marks the 12th and final night of the Christmas season. The Twelve Days of Christmas are the twelve days beginning on the night of Christmas (December 25) and ending on Epiphany (January 6) when the three wise men brought gifts to the infant Jesus.

Although Christmas is now the more enthusiastically observed winter holiday, in Jane Austen's day, the celebration of Twelfth Night was all the rage! (It would not be toned down until Queen Victoria struck it from "official" calendars in the 1870s. Her fear that it was too riotous a holiday, and the fact that "new" industrial working conditions did not allow for a full 12 days of celebrating, contributed to its demise.)

Twelfth Night signaled the end of the Christmas season. The solemnity of religious observance ceased in favor of a grand ball, full of gaiety and mischief. Jane and her contemporaries were known for coming to a ball in costume and assuming the role of outrageous characters for the length of the evening, while imbibing negus (a hot drink of port, sugar, lemon, and spices) and enjoying Twelfth night cake.

We hope you will join us for our own grand ball on January 12th, 2019, hosted at the Patterson Homestead. We gather not only to honor the end of the winter holidays in wonderful Regency style, but also to commemorate the life and work of Jane Austen, whose own birthday was December 16th. The festivities will include dancing, feasting, a silent auction, and a card room with traditional games. Please come in your holiday finery from any era!

Registration will open later this fall. For more information and updates please visit:

<http://www.jasnadayton.org/12th-night-ball/>

New Reading Group in Columbus off to a great start!

By Sandi Brennan

The participants in Chawton in Columbus, a Jane Austen Reading Group, assembled on Sunday, June 24, 2018 at St. Mathias Church, through the kind offices of Co-Coordinator Sandi Brennan, to discuss *Persuasion*.

We began with coffee and tea, and a lovely array of finger food and treats provided by the members. We shared information about Jane Austen in the news as well as past and upcoming Jane Austen events. Co-Coordinator Sherry Rose-Bond read a paper explaining how a collateral descendant of Jane Austen almost became the wife of the next King of England and, thus, would have been their future Queen. If only!

The group then explored how a number of events and individuals in *Persuasion* mirrored those in Jane Austen's own life.

We went on to view the wonderful 1995 movie version of *Persuasion*, starring Ciaran Hinds and Amanda Root (who we hope will be making an appearance at this year's AGM). Afterwards we enthusiastically compared the cinematic version to its literary source.

Fall meeting: Sunday, October 21, 2:00-5:30 p.m., Hilliard Panera, [3625 Fishinger Blvd.](#)

Subject: *Northanger Abbey*. Whether you have the one-volume or the two-volume edition of *N.A.*, we will discuss the beginning of the novel, from Chapter 1 through Chapter 10.

For more information about the Columbus reading group, or to RSVP for the next gathering, please contact one of the coordinators:

Sandi Brennan - sbrennanedd@aol.com *Sherry Rose-Bond* - violethunter@columbus.rr.com

Dayton/Cincinnati Reading Group enjoys discussion of “Lady Susan” with viewing of “Love & Friendship,” the movie based on the novella

By Wilson Palmer

On July 8th we discussed Jane Austen's novella, *Lady Susan*. We noticed items that reminded us of the later novels: “Fine eyes” from *Pride & Prejudice*; passive Fredericka like Fanny; Austen's “villains” “get away with it” and are not really punished in the end, except by their own choices; *Lady Susan*'s beauty blinds men's objectivity in the way that Edmund Bertram cannot really



see Mary Crawford. Lady Susan and Mrs. Bennet focus on marrying off daughters. Both use their daughters to establish a home for themselves. Both are also clueless about their children's personalities and desires. Fredericka is miserable about Sir James Martin. Mary Bennet is the only daughter who should have been promoted to Mr. Collins.

In an epistolary novel we have to determine, without a narrator's help, whose pens we can trust. Also, Austen makes a comical but serious comment on women's education. If women are powerless what good is real education? What Lady Susan has learned is society's rules and she uses these rules to try to win something for herself. Her amoral conduct is not heroic, but is she any different from a modern CEO? Does Lady Susan remind you of Scarlett O'Hara?

Kay Berg and Janet Reed talked about the art of letter writing. The letters in *Lady Susan* reminded Janet of the 18th-century letter style. We discussed how letters at that time were often very finely written, as if they were meant to be read out loud to a wider audience. And this is exactly what happens to Jane Fairfax's and Frank Churchill's letters in *Emma*. Jane Austen's surviving letters, by contrast, were usually less interestingly written; meant only for Cassandra.

Then we watched the movie *Love and Friendship*. Martha Caprarotta provided both the movie and the idea for this Reading Group session. Some found the novella hard to follow and felt the movie was easier to understand. The movie's character introductions were helpful, besides setting up the audience for comedy.

The movie introduced a new character, Lady Susan's companion to "pack and unpack" as a device to hear Lady Susan's thoughts on entering the Vernon's home of Churchill, instead of sending her awkwardly back and forth between London and Churchill. But why did the movie change Mrs. Johnson to an American? Someone thought it was because that actress's English accent was not very good! Most viewers enjoyed seeing Kate Beckinsale in the role of Lady Susan.

This fall we return to our normal format of discussion only, as we begin reading *Northanger Abbey*.

***Next Cincy/Dayton Reading Group - October 14th – 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Northanger Abbey Volume I, Ch 1-9
at Wilson Palmer's house (821 Dunore Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45220).
Mariah Busher will lead the discussion.***

DLM Good Neighbors Program for JASNA-Dayton

By Meredith Stoehr

Some years ago JASNA-Dayton joined DLM's Good Neighbors Program, which directs a small percentage of every purchase you make there towards the charity of your choice. This is a reminder that registration in the program needs to be renewed every year. If you are a regular Dorothy Lane Market shopper and have not yet signed up for the Good Neighbors program, please do so now. If you already have a DLM Club card, you can sign up in one easy step:



Online: At <http://www.dorothylane.com/clubdml/goodneighbor.pl> enter your name, your full Club number (the 11-digit number below the barcode on your Club card, omitting spaces), and our charity number (813).

In person: At the Customer Desk, request a Good Neighbor form, write your name and DLM Club number, and check the box for "Jane Austen Society."

If you do not have a DLM Club card yet, sign up at <http://www.dorothylane.com/clubdml/> or request a form at the Customer Desk before registering for the Good Neighbor Program.

Dates to Remember

- September 23 – Lisa Tyler's talk at the Patterson Homestead
- October 14 – Dayton/Cincy Reading Group - *Northanger Abbey* Volume I, Ch 1-9
- Sunday, October 21 – Columbus Reading Group - Hilliard Panera
- Sunday, October 28 – *Miss Bennet's* Christmas Play in Cincinnati
- November 11 – Dayton/Cincy Reading Group - *Northanger Abbey* Vol I, Ch 10-15
- January 12, 2019 – Annual 12 Night Ball at Patterson Homestead
- April 13, 2019 – Linda Zionkowski lecture at the Mercantile Library, Cincinnati