

NEWS FROM JASNA CALGARY SEPTEMBER, 2003

TIME TO MEET AGAIN! Our next meeting will take place on Saturday, September 20, in Meeting Room #2 of the W.R. Castell Central Branch of the Calgary Public Library (616 Macleod Trail S.E.). Our topic will be the father roles in the Austen novels. I thought that we might break into small groups to contrast and compare pairs of fathers, such as Mr. Bennet and Sir Thomas Bertram, Sir Walter Elliot and General Tilney, Mr. Woodhouse and Sir John Middleton, and Col. Brandon and Mr. Gardiner, in an attempt to discern what Jane Austen commended and condemned in fathers. Our thanks to Helene Tonnisen for offering to bring cookies to this meeting.

LOOKING BACK AT THE GALA

I'm sure we all share great memories of our June Alberta Gala with the Edmonton chapter and so many visitors from Ontario and BC. Sincere thanks to all who helped to make it such a success. JASNA President Joan Klingel Ray has given us an enthusiastic write-up in the latest issue of the JASNA NEWS, and Vivien Phelan and I are working on an article for the next issue, complete with pictures which will be available for viewing at this next meeting.

A GREAT LOSS: CAROL SHIELDS

How fortunate that we included our "Salute to Carol Shields" in the June Gala! I just had time to send her pictures of the display and of Margaret Brown giving the salute, and the name tag which Jean Worton so thoughtfully prepared to send with them, and to receive a note of thanks prepared by her husband, Don, before she was gone. I sent a sympathy card to Don in the name of JASNA-Calgary, and just received the following note from him, mailed from France: "Thank you for your sympathy card on behalf of the Calgary members of the Jane Austen Society. And thank you as well

for your own very welcome remarks. Researching Jane Austen for her book was a happy time for us both—but especially for Carol who liked Jane and empathized with her. (I must say that I was grateful that Jane died relatively young—I got my wife back!) Love to you. Don".

LOOKING AHEAD: BIRTHDAY TEA

Susan and Emma Spooner are leading a team of talented volunteers in preparing our second annual tea, in the Party Room at the Riverstone, 218 26 Ave. S.W., to celebrate the birth of our own special Jane. At our September meeting, Jennifer Hamblin will be selling tickets to the first 50 guests, at \$5 each, and Margaret Crichton will be looking for willing thespians to sign on as cast for a short play. There will be a raffle: let Rita Dempsey know if you have a prize to donate. The menu will be announced at the September meeting, and those with culinary expertise who can bring dainties on serving plates will be embraced. Alicia Morgan will also welcome contributions of cream, milk, lemon, sugar cubes, napkins and fresh flowers. If you can't attend the September meeting, get in touch with Susan and Emma at 243-8942 (susanspooner@shaw.ca) to purchase tickets or donate food and help.

ADDENDUM As agreed at a meeting earlier this year, I am attaching a list of members as of March, 2003. My apologies: I had this list ready to send out with the June newsletter and, in the excitement of the Gala, forgot to add it. Better late than never! We'll try to get a new edition, with new members added, out to you next spring.

REMINDERS: JASNA pins will be for sale at the next meeting: wear yours! And bring back those outstanding library books, please!

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REORGANIZATION OF JASNA-CALGARY

As announced earlier, I will be stepping down as Regional Coordinator at the end of 2003, after 4 busy and satisfying years. The consensus is that a committee of people is needed to take over what has grown to be a very active organization. I have divided the jobs that need to be done to keep our chapter functioning into several tasks that I think would not be too onerous for any one person. These groupings are, of course, open to redistribution, but here's how I see the work being divided up:

a) Regional Coordinator:

- chairs chapter meetings;
- is the official link with the JASNA organization;
- is the official spokesperson for the chapter;
- has cheque signing authority.

b) Treasurer:

- maintains the chapter budget;
- has cheque signing authority and does chapter banking;
- collects subscriptions to the newsletter;
- maintains the subscription list;
- books and pays for meeting rooms;
- receives monies from all fund-raising activities.

c) Program Committee:

- plans and prepares a program for 3 meetings per year;
- chairs these programs at meetings; (members have expressed a desire to have, where possible, one lecture, one program of discussion groups and one of dramatic readings each year).

d) Refreshments Chair:

- ensures that there is a volunteer bringing cookies to 3 meetings a year;

- ensures that there are supplies for coffee, tea, etc. available at these meetings;
- assists in organizing food for the annual Birthday Tea.

e) Communications Committee

- prepares 5 newsletters per year;
- places ads in the Calgary Herald for the 3 regular meetings per year, and contacts the CBC ahead of these meetings;
- prepares 3 short announcements of chapter activities per year for JASNA NEWS.

f) Birthday Tea Chair :

- chairs a committee to organize and stage the annual Jane Austen Birthday Tea in November.

g) Alberta Spring Gala Chair:

- liaises with JASNA-Edmonton to prepare and stage the annual Alberta Spring Gala in June.

h) Chapter Librarian:

- sees that the library is available at each meeting;
- oversees the borrowing, returning and the archiving of materials.

According to JASNA guidelines, the Regional Coordinator should hold the position for a 2-year term. The time-frames for other positions could be negotiable. As you can see, we need 6-10 people to see that these tasks get done. I am willing to be part of this group, as are Elvee Fenning, June Grant and Linda Payne, and I don't see how the library could survive without Isobel Temple! More volunteers are required if our chapter is to continue. If you are willing to help, please call me, or speak to me and stay after the September meeting for a few minutes while we make a first stab at dividing up these tasks. Thanks, and see you in September!