

# *My Dear Cassandra.....*

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*Jane Austen's six novels and miscellaneous writings can be studied and enjoyed for a lifetime, and so we begin another year of discussions, learning, and fellowship.*

Mark your calendar October 2<sup>nd</sup> 7pm for Jane Austen Improv.  
at the Epcor Centre . . . details to following within the week. . . Ann

Welcome to our September 19 meeting  
at Sunalta Community Centre

## **JASNA Calgary Gala**

A big thank you to co-ordinaters Catherine Gardner and Margaret Crichton, the Gala Committe and all the volunteers and participants who made the 2009 JASNA Calgary Spring Gala such a resounding success! The speakers were all enlightening and very enjoyable: Nora Stovel on the siblings in Jane Austen's life and fiction, Juliet McMaster on husbands good and bad, and Rowland McMaster on the Royal Navy and the battle of Trafalgar. Thanks to Ann Marie Barnhill for arranging the use of the "big room" at Sunalta Community Centre - it came into its own during the afternoon when dance mistress Pat Barton and the Sprigged Muslin dancers taught "as many as will" from the crowd to dance in the Regency style. While they made merry in the big room, others were well entertained learning Regency card games in the smaller room with Elizabeth Marshall and Linda Payne. With a delicious lunch and delectable snacks, it was a very successful day all around!  
- Jennifer Hamblin

## **Edmonton Spring Gala**

Jennifer Hamblin and Margaret Crichton attended the Jane Austen Society of Edmonton's spring gala on June 27 and had a lovely day exploring the theme Bad Girls. In addition to a wonderful lunch and lots of tempting goodies, the day included a number of interesting and entertaining talks on various "bad" (or at least silly, uncongenial or difficult) characters in Jane Austen's writings: Mrs Elton, Mary Musgrove, Mary Crawford, Lucy Steele and a whole host of obnoxious and/or wrong-headed minor characters we love to hate. There was also a very interesting talk on women's clothing during the Regency period and a brilliant staging of the wickedly funny play from the Juvenilia, "Lady Susan". The day was lots of fun - many thanks to the Edmonton club  
- Jennifer Hamblin

## **Before the start of our program, we have a few items of business:**

- Welcome back to a new year. A special welcome to our new members.
- Goodbyes to Sue Spooner, who has moved to Vancouver, and Rita Dempsey, who moved to Victoria. We wish them well in their new home.
- Our proposed program for the year will be presented for discussion.
- Edmonton Gala : a report from Margaret and Jennifer.
- Future Events: Ann will talk about the Jane Austen Improv. Friday, Oct 2
- Brief update on fees and the decision to go with a September to September calendar.
- Sprigged Muslin's Invite – Pat or Randi
- Tickets for the January Tea will be available at the next meeting in November.
- The January Tea Coordinator is needed. Assistants galore but it needs a person or 2 to lead.
- “Georgian Fayre” committee leaders needed for May meeting - plenty of assistants but there should be a co-conspirator
- The November meeting will be “All about Jane”. Biographies of Jane and her family – hoping for a Quiz and short talk from Elizabeth. Margaret will invite “as many as will” to comment briefly on the biographies we have in the library (hold up the ones we have and ask for volunteers) plus any others anyone has – Randi has volunteered to be a short presenter. Jennifer is bringing “*Becoming Jane*” and Emma will comment on its accuracy
- Tea break

**. . . . and now, onto this month's program.**

## **Proposals.**

Margaret, Emma and Randi will lead a discussion on the many marriage proposals in the novels (successful and unsuccessful) that Jane refers to but doesn't actually include in her novels. We invite the members to try their hand at writing how they can imagine what was said by whom to whom. The 3 groups will give a mini “performance” of their imagined scenes.

- Gestures at costumes will be provided ( hats, jackets and shawls)
- cards for the “lines” the groups write
- the 3 scenarios will be
  1. Mr Collins and Charlotte ( how well will he recover from his rejection to pull through with something more rehearsed?),
  2. Frank and Jane ( how will he convey rapturous joy and the necessity to keep their engagement a secret?) and
  3. Wickham and Lydia (how does bubbling lust move them to some sort of arrangement where L. thinks they are getting married and he has NO honorable intentions ...but off to London they go?),

## **Notes on our future meetings.**

### **November 21, 2009 meeting**

#### **“All about Jane”**

##### **Business :**

- If it turns out that it is possible to get Internet on screen at Sunalta :
  - Judith will walk us through the Web site and
  - Randi will show us *Youtube Pride and Prejudice* with the lions! and show us the *Republic of Pemberley* and the main *JASNA site*
- The Tea Committee will get their volunteers signed up ready for the tea
- Ticket sales for the Tea
- Call for Raffle items for the Tea
- Cantos for the music entertainment.

##### **Program: Clip of *Becoming Jane***

- Discussion of the accuracy issue... Elizabeth and Emma commenting
- Quiz by Elizabeth on Jane’s family
- The panel to discuss the biographies they read and their mini reviews of the different takes on Jane. (If possible it would be good if all those participating in All About Jane could meet for tea at some point to flesh out the details of who is doing what?)

### **January 16, 2010 meeting.**

#### **“Tea” . . . . . at Good Companions Centre in Killarney**

- Entertainment - something about Regency music to be arranged by program committee – Margaret to contact Cantos and U of C Music Dept. if needed.
- more information to come.

### **March 20, 2010 meeting**

- Organize the volunteers for “Georgian Fayre”
- New executive for September.
- “Making” Regency costumes
- Margaret is contacting Professor Isobel Grundy and Reverend Eileen Conway in Edmonton about coming to speak at our group for March 2010 and September 2010 on topics of their choice. The Edmonton JASNA group enjoyed Eileen on “Clergymen” and Isobel on “Writers who have been influenced by Jane”. We will give updates as to our progress in this endeavour.

### **May 15, 2010 meeting.**

#### **“Georgian Fayre”**

- “*The Georgian Fayre!*” A very popular event with all the JASNA chapters
  - costumes for as many as will,
  - some Georgian food samples with discussion of recipes with the reading from that hilarious piece of *Juvenilia* about the wedding/

funeral food... members will be asked to volunteer to try their hand at a Regency period recipe of their choice, bring the object in question and discuss.

- a spot of participation dancing ... that was so popular at the Gala
- some cards games (whist)
- a talk by Diana Patterson ( not yet confirmed ) on the pottery and dishware of the period
- put out a call to see if anyone would like to give a demonstration of making a reticule or some such? Child's toy?
- any other ideas that come to mind re recreating/exploring the Regency world of Jane's books.

## **Summary of positions at Jane Austen, Calgary as of September, 2009**

- Regional Coordinator – Jennifer Hamblin
- Program Coordinator - Margaret Crichton and “as many as will” which is currently Randi Lind, Elizabeth Marshall, Helen Gardner and Emma Spooner
- Treasurer – Anne Marie Barnhill
- Newsletter – Ann Craig
- Web-site – Judith Umbach
- Publicity – Elizabeth Marshall and Isobel Temple
- Publications and Technological – Deirdre, Ian (Deirdre's husband!), and Anne Marie
- Dancing – Pat Barton
- Librarian – Bill Sherlock
- Social secretary – Alicia Morgan
- Tea and snacks at meetings – Catherine Gardner and Judith Umbach

### **Jane Austen Calgary Contacts:**

Regional Coordinator : Jennifer Hamblin ~ 282-4065

Program Coordinator : Margaret Crichton ~ 284-4649

Dance Group: Sprigged Muslim – Randi Lind 284-4059

Website: [www.jasnacalgary.ca](http://www.jasnacalgary.ca)

Meeting place: Sunalta Community Centre, 10<sup>th</sup> Ave and 16th St SW

### **Our next Meeting: November 21, 2009.**

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Change of address / email.....Ann Craig [ancraig@shaw.ca](mailto:ancraig@shaw.ca)