JASNA-Vermont News
February 2009

“It is official! On 22 January 2008 Deb Barnum and I received notification from Iris Lutz (VP for Regions) that Vermont’s application for a chapter had been accepted.”

So opened our first JASNA-Vermont News, issued last February. It’s been a great year, hasn’t it?! See the Winter 2008 JASNA News for a quick recitation of our 2008 meetings – and also what the Chapter has in store for the first half of 2009 (pages 28-29).

JASNA-Vermonters:

* Help christen our newsletter by sending in your ideas! Montreal has Highbury Gossips, NY Metro The Austen Intelligencer, Puget Sound The Jane Austen Times; see chapter newsletters online for other examples. Kelly starts off the ‘contest’ by submitting Letters from Longbourn (or Longbourn Letters – she can’t quite decide).

* Our Chapter Blog: (http://janeausteninvermont.wordpress.com) invites your participation. Deb and Kelly natter on, but wouldn’t YOU like to add your two-cents-worth? Comments are always welcome, but we’d love to have some guest bloggers. If you have something you would like posted, if you have a book or film to recommend/review, or a fabulous internet find that you now just couldn’t live without – email it to us! See the recent posting about the December tea with photos of the dancing, sent in by Mary Ellen Bertolini.

* Visit the “JASNA-Vermont Members only section”. This password protected area simply needs the password austenvt (in all lowercase letters). It is in this section that we will post all our past newsletters, and – in order to help members get to know each other, share rides to events, plan informal get-togethers, etc, we will post our membership list. As noted earlier, if you do not wish your contact information to be available in this manner, let us know.

* Reading Group: All members (and guests, as room permits), are encouraged to join us for our JASNA-based BOOK GROUP meetings. We had to cancel this month’s gathering, but hope to reschedule in late April. Please let Deb know if you are interested in participating. Note Deb’s new email: books@bygonebooksvermont.com

* Fund-raising: Do keep in mind what we might do to raise funds for our chapter. JASNA is a non-profit organization, and all of us donate our time and services. Deb imported copies of Penelope Byrde’s excellent book Jane Austen Fashion (see Kelly’s review on our blog) and S. Fullerton’s Jane Austen & Crime (see Deb’s 5-star review!), and we have many Austen-related books – including In the Garden with Jane Austen (advertised in JASNA News) – as well as other, more unusual merchandise available. If you missed buying some item at our December boutique, contact Deb to see what the chapter currently has available… All soon to be posted on the blog.

2009 JASNA-Vermont activities (Sundays):

March 1, 2:00 p.m.
Hauke Family Campus Center (375 Maple Street), Champlain College, Burlington
Mary Ellen Bertolini (Middlebury College), “The Grace to Deserve: Weighing Merit in Jane Austen’s Persuasion.” Light refreshments served. Volunteers are being sought for finger food & beverages; contact Lynne Hefferon (899-6871; hefferon10@comcast.net).

June 7, 2:00 p.m.
The Chapel, Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier
Hope Greenberg (UVM), “Jane Austen & Fashion” – she also plans to display samples from her collection of Regency-style clothing. Light refreshments served.
At the March 1 meeting, we officially unveil our new Chapter Banner, a gift to the chapter from Montpelier resident (and avid Austen fan), Thierry Guerlain. Special thanks to everyone who helped with it at Thierry’s firm, Graphitek!

This newsletter welcomes Suzanne Boden of Hyde Park and Lisa Meredith of South Burlington as new JASNA members.

Quebec Events & News:
* In Sherbrooke, Quebec. Bishop’s University is hosting a Pride and Prejudice Symposium. Three guest speakers (including Peter Sabor discussing his upcoming Austen biography; and Steven Woodward on P&P film adaptations) and an evening performance of their student-production of a new P&P play will feature on Saturday, March 14. Sunday the 15 offers Mass in their chapel followed by light refreshments and an informal meeting with playwright George Rideout. Kelly can email/mail you details and contact information. Tickets: $15 for the play; $25 for the play and symposium. Room rates begin at $55 [all prices in Canadian dollars; room availability limited at Bishop’s]. Contacts are Claire Grogan (English Dept; on the symposium) and Jo Jo Rideout (Theater Dept; on the play): jrideout@ubishops.ca and cgrogan@ubishops.ca

The Montreal/Quebec City Chapter is planning to vie for either the 2014 AGM on Mansfield Park or the 2016 on Emma. These are exceptionally important AGMs in that each celebrates the 200th anniversary of the publication of their respective novels! Anyone with offers of help, or ideas on how to relate Austen and Montreal are welcome to email the chapter’s RC, Elaine Bander (ebander@dawsoncollege.qc.ca).

JASNA and JAS:
* JASNA NEWS: This is one of the key communication tools the national organization has. All members are invited to contribute. The Winter 2008 edition has information on the Chicago AGM (October 2008) and tempts members in good standing to join the 2009 AGM in Philadelphia.

* Lucky Chawton House is hosting a ball on July 3rd – it’s a fund-raiser and tickets are $5000!! (See the JASNA News article in the Winter 2008 issue.)

If you have family, friends, acquaintances interested in Austen, invite them to one of our meetings. If you want to become more involved in our activities, let Deb and Kelly know. We welcome your help, knowledge and expertise!

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Directions to the Hauke Family Campus Center, Champlain College: The Campus Center is located at 375 Maple Street (in Burlington’s Hill Section); entrance either via stairs that lead up to the building, or through the courtyard. Campus parking is available on the weekends (not in vendor or reserved spaces).

Directions to The Chapel, Vermont College of Fine Arts: from Exit 8 off I-89: Follow the access road and make a left at the fourth light, which is Main Street and Route 12 North. Make a right onto East State Street in the middle of town - there’s a stop light in the middle of this disjointed intersection. Vermont College of Fine Arts Campus is at the top of the hill on the right. Right turn on to West Street, left turn on to Ridge Street; College Hall & Chapel (36 College St.) will be on your left. Parking on the street, or designated lots. To see a campus map, go to www.vermontcollege.edu/directions.asp