

# JASNA-Vermont News

November 2008

Keep your fingers crossed that no nor'easter blows through the region like last December! We hope to see a nice turnout for our **Annual Jane Austen Birthday Tea on Sunday, December 7, 2008**. The celebration begins at 2:00 p.m. and once again we are at the Hauke Family Campus Center (375 Maple Street), **Champlain College**, Burlington. Val Medve (now a JASNA-Vermont member!) and **The Burlington Country Dancers** entertain with demonstrations of the dances Jane Austen knew so well -- then it's the audience's turn to *participate*; those preferring to sit on the sidelines and watch are equally welcome to do so. *Live* music provided by "**Impropriety**": Lar Duggan, piano. Dominique Gagne, flute. Laura Markowitz, violin. Ana Ruesink, viola.

**Afternoon English Tea** served at about the halfway point (the event runs until 5:00 p.m.), and the break will give everyone a chance to browse and buy from our **Austen Boutique**. All profits benefit **JASNA-Vermont**.

Volunteers willing to help augment the goodies Champlain College catering provides, please contact Lynne Hefferon at (802) 899-6871 or email hefferon10@comcast.com. Please: Only finger foods that fit on teacup saucers!

Volunteers willing to help collect at-the-door admissions, man the boutique table, sell raffle tickets etc, please contact Deb.

**Admission for JASNA members and students: \$5. General Admission: in advance \$10, at the door \$12.** Checks (made out to JASNA-Vermont) can be sent to Deb [email her at bygone.books@verizon.net]. Even those planning to pay at the door need to RSVP: the College caterer needs a head-count by Wednesday December 3rd -- **so advance reservations are required**. General public admission will be available at the door provided we can accommodate -- extra room is needed for the dance floor and food tables, so numbers will be limited. Those wishing to dress in Regency Costume are encouraged! Otherwise: holiday finery and / or comfy clothes and shoes.

**Directions to the Hauke Family Campus Center, Champlain College:** The Campus Center is located at 375 Maple Street; 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). Campus and parking maps are available for the asking [go to <http://www.champlain.edu/Directions-and-Travel-Information.html> and click on "Parking"]

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When writing our first newsletter (February 2008), we congratulated ourselves on having *seventeen* members. We now boast THIRTY-FOUR! We have a nice, long list of new JASNA members to welcome in this newsletter: **Patricia Eldridge**, Waterford; **Debra Lynde**, Colchester; **Patricia Mardeusz**, Williston; **Carol and James Oliver**, Irasburg; **Julie Ann Robertson**, Sandgate; **Laury Tarver**, Essex Junction; **Eleanor and Peter Tumulty**, Essex Junction; **Jeanne Van Order**, Middlebury; and **David White**, Montpelier.

We would like to pass out to all a contact list (name, address, phone, email) to help facilitate car-pooling, etc. Let us know if you do **not** wish to have information shared with other JASNA-Vermont members.

To Montpelier members coming to Burlington on December 7<sup>th</sup>: David White has room for a couple of passengers -- his phone number is (802) 893-9896.

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Some *great* news about JASNA-Vermont member **Debbie Lynde**: She was recently named Humanities Teacher of the Year by the Vermont Humanities Council. Hearty congratulations, Debbie! She teaches English at Milton High School, and is the sixth recipient of this annual Victor R. Swenson Humanities Educator Award. Debbie has taught at Milton since 2001; before that she was at Northfield High School. Among her other awards: the University of Vermont Outstanding Teacher of the Year, the Partner in Education Award for the Vermont School-to-School Work Initiative, and the Milton Award for Excellence in Teaching. A wonderful article on Debbie appeared in the *Burlington Free Press* on November 11 (you can also find it online). Very interesting to note, Debbie was “one of the initiators of Milton’s monthly community book discussions”!

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And speaking of book discussions: Our **Reading Group...** the first gathering in October was cancelled at the last minute; so we would like to do the next meeting as planned on January 29 at 7pm, again at Deb’s house in Burlington. This is a Thursday evening. If any of you are interested in the group but would prefer another night that week, or an earlier time (say 5:30 or 6:00), please let us know. We would like to come up with a time that would work for the majority of those interested. We will also likely open this up to the gathering at the Tea for anyone there who would like to participate. The plan is to still do Northanger Abbey, but we can also change that to the Claire Tomalin biography if the majority would prefer. So let us know: please email Deb about this.

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JASNA-Vermont is exceptionally pleased to accept a display banner courtesy of **Thierry Guerlain** of Montpelier. Thierry has attended many JASNA-Vermont meetings, and his company Graphitek, Inc. is making the banner which Deb and Thierry designed. Thierry is hoping for the banner’s ‘unveiling’ at the December Tea!

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For anyone interested in the **2009 AGM in Philadelphia**, it is never too early to begin thinking about attending. This is the only East-coast AGM for some years to come. Some good news for a far-into-the-future-AGM: Montreal is hoping to make a bid for the 2016 AGM. The topic? Gotta be **EMMA** given that 2016 will be the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication. Kelly is exceptionally enthusiastic and keeps her fingers crossed that the Montreal-Quebec City chapter manages to get the nod and has offered help. Would YOU like to help them make this a reality??

And speaking of Montreal: Elaine Bander, the chapter’s RC has announced their Jane Austen Birthday event: Tuesday, 16 December (time: TBA) at 4300 de Maisonneuve (Westmount). Peter Sabor is scheduled to speak on “Selecting and Collecting Jane Austen’s Letters, 1817-2005.” Kelly and Deb are hoping to attend; members interested in carpooling, please email Kelly.

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The **Chapter Blog** invites your comments as well as your “guest blogger” posts. Comments can be added online; for posts, please mail or email Deb or Kelly. We need your input - and want your comments, suggestions, and ideas. BECOME INVOLVED!

Check the Chapter Blog frequently for the latest news, hot off the press! Our URL is <http://janeausteninvermont.wordpress.com>

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A Look Forward - 2009: In January JASNA-Vermont celebrates its first birthday (Deb and Kelly received notice of the chapter’s official ‘welcome’ on January 22<sup>nd</sup>). On March 1<sup>st</sup> Champlain College hosts JASNA-Vermont member Mary Ellen Bertolini speaking on “**The Grace to Deserve: Weighing Merit in Jane Austen’s *Persuasion***”. June 7<sup>th</sup> sees our meeting once again at Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, for a presentation by Hope Greenberg on “**Jane Austen & Fashion**”. Both presentations will be free and open to the public.

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Ideas are always welcome, as are new members and those with an interest in our activities. If you know of people who might like to be on our mailing list for events, please contact Deb or Kelly with information (we need their email and mailing addresses). ***Members are our best ambassadors, and our most valuable resource.*** Help get the word out about public events (a flyer for the tea is attached!); encourage that neighbor, teacher, friend, spouse, student, child who has an Austen-interest; plan a fundraiser; volunteer your time. As Regional Coordinators, Deb and Kelly are here to help, but we cannot do it all alone.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the December 7<sup>th</sup> tea!

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