September 2009

New Members: In this newsletter, we welcome Holly Grubb, Hardwick; Lisa Hughes, Burlington; Stephanie Keane, Dublin, NH; Sonia Long, Plattsburgh, NY; Ariana McSweeney, Montpelier; Marti Sterin, Fairfax; and we welcome back Jan Blodgett, Winooski. All chapter member contact information is posted in the MEMBERS ONLY section of the blog (we include a paper copy for those not on email).

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Our Next JASNA Meeting is on Sunday, 27 September 2009 at 2 p.m., in Burlington, at Champlain College (Hauke Family Campus Center). Our speaker is Dr. Joan Klingel Ray, whose topic is “JANE AUSTEN FOR SMARTIES”.

Joan is a past-President of JASNA; she authored the best-seller, Jane Austen for Dummies (Wiley, 2006). The chapter has copies of her book for sale ($19.95), and Joan will be happy to sign/inscribe them – all proceeds benefit the JASNA-Vermont chapter! A special “after-event” musical performance: “Impropiety”, with Lar Duggan and Dominique Gagne, and the Burlington Country Dancers, with Val and Tom Medve.

We are (of course!) looking for volunteers to help supply refreshments. Please contact Marcia Merrill, if you would like to bake, buy, or bring (marcia@2beancounters.com or 802-899-4256). We continue to offer refreshments free of charge, but encourage donations to help cover our expenses – Our receptacle is Deb’s Royal Mail Teapot! If anyone is willing to become a ‘sustaining’ member of JASNA-Vermont, when thinking of your JASNA membership this fall, feel free to contact Deb and Kelly. This might be a good moment to recognize ‘gifts’ to the chapter: David White gifted a tea urn, which you will undoubtedly see in use at the upcoming meeting. Thank you, David!

Marcia is unable to attend on the 27th; therefore, if anyone is willing to oversee the food table on that day (Marcia will have coordinated everything beforehand), please shout out. We also seek a Hospitality Chair to assist with the food at future gatherings; please contact Deb.

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With this Pemberley Post, we begin a new ‘series’ – a Speaker Spotlight. Why didn’t we ever think of it before???

SPOTLIGHT ON...

PROF. JOAN KLINHEL RAY

Professor of English, Dr. Joan Klingel Ray (PhD, Brown University) teaches at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. She served as President of JASNA for three terms, 2000-2006. She was recognized for
her exemplary teaching and scholarship through the President’s Teaching Scholars Program in 1989. Joan has published numerous articles in *Persuasions* and *Persuasions On-line*, including “Victorians versus Victorians: Understanding ‘Dear Aunt Jane’,” which appeared in the most recent issue. Her work also has been published in *JASNA News, Sensibilities, and The Jane Austen Regency Magazine*. *Jane Austen for Dummies*, part of Wiley’s renowned “…for Dummies” series, has become a bestseller. She is currently at work on editing *The Dictionary of Literary Biography: Jane Austen*. You can hear Joan in an hour-long radio interview (from April 11, 2005) on *The Diane Rehm Show* by linking to wamu.org or npr.org. She can be seen in video interviews included as ‘extras’ on the DVDs *Becoming Jane* and *The Jane Austen Book Club*. Joan traveled extensively on behalf of JASNA during her term as president, but this is her first visit to Vermont. We welcome her with great enthusiasm.

As a special treat, we will have an informal lunch with Joan on **Saturday, September 26th**. She would love to meet our JASNA-Vermont members! Anyone wishing to host this, let Kelly and Deb know; otherwise we will meet at a nice restaurant (each paying our own way). We are looking into The Richmond Victorian Inn – with thoughts of getting Joan out into the countryside for a few hours, but are open to suggestions. Details to follow. If you can join us, please **RESERVE a spot** before September 21st.

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For those planning to attend **October’s AGM**, crow about it and let us know! Deb is attending once again this year; and **Carol Madden** and Kelly are going to be attending their **first** AGM. Notice was given in the last issue of *JASNA News* about the play *AUSTENTATIOUS* on the 9th. According to the website, tickets are available for $26.50. This Eleventh Hour Theater Company presentation is a musical that “re-interprets *Pride & Prejudice* in a most unusual and very entertaining way”.

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**JaneAustenInVermont.wordpress.com** – our blog on all things Austen (and then some) – invites YOUR participation: do **not** be shy!! Wordpress provides an easy-to-comment format. Book reviews, movie reviews, Austen-related information, any thoughts are welcome! Have something longer that you just can’t wait to pass along? Email your submission to Deb or Kelly and we can post your writings. Give our audience (for we do have readers!) some new voices, please!!

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The Vermont events the Chapter has coming up are:

6 December 2009, Annual Birthday Tea: Philip Baruth (UVM) guest speaker. His topic is “Badly Done Indeed: In Which Austen’s Knightley is Revealed to be a Whimsical and Emotional Teen Basket-Case”. There will be a $15 charge for this event. The tea will be catered by Champlain College once again. For those Regency-style holiday items on your shopping list, visit our “Austen Boutique”.


6 June 2010, Box Hill Picnic: Kelly M. McDonald, “Austen/Adams – Journeys with Jane & Abigail”. Bring your own food basket in order to picnic in Deb Barnum’s lovely garden.

All events for 2009-2010 are being held in Burlington (Montpelier sees us again in June 2011). If you have thoughts on future meetings, speakers, event venues, or are willing to host or just want to suggest a member gathering in your area, let us know.

Speaking of get-together: David White, of Montpelier, had hoped to host a summer gathering. His schedule moved it to Sunday, 4 October at 4 p.m. It will be “pot-luck and a film” (and not necessarily an Austen flick). Let David know by September 27th if you plan to attend: octoberbreeze@yahoo.com or (802) 839-9806.

Visit the Burlington Country Dancers’ website (www.peter.burrage.net/dance/) for their latest schedule (1st and 3rd Fridays).

September Reminder: JASNA’s membership year begins anew, so now’s the time to renew. Ask your Jane Austen friends to join us!!

November Reminder: the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City will have on public display many of its Austen letters, as well as the manuscript of Lady Susan. It runs from November 6, 2009 until March 14, 2010. A must-see for any Janeite within 1000-miles of New York City!!

December Reminder: We are seeking crafters for our Austen Boutique. We already have a few people expressing interest (with handmade doilies; handmade soaps; quilted book covers). We seek anything Austen, or Regency or “British” related. The possibilities are endless: quilts, antiques (think teacups and silver spoons), Regency clothing & accessories (hats, reticules, scarves, patterns, etc.), paper products. Don’t hesitate to suggest something you or someone you know would be willing to exhibit and/or sell. We will provide the tables, and request a fee of only 10% of sales to benefit our JASNA-Vermont chapter.

We’d love to hear member news – for The Pemberley Post, the blog (janeausteninvermont.wordpress.com), or even JASNA News. Everyone will have seen the fresh take new editor Sheryl Craig and production manager Kathleen Burke have established. JASNA is an organization where everyone is encouraged to participate and contribute, on the chapter level or national level.

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