Saratoga Arts and Soroptimist International of Saratoga County
Present a Spring Tour to England:

The World of Jane Austen
and Her Novels

April 25-May 4, 2015
Led by Dr. David M. Shapard, author of The Annotated Pride and Prejudice and other books on Jane Austen

Edventures is pleased to announce a Jane Austen Tour that departs for England on Saturday, April 25 and returns Monday, May 4, 2015. To bring to life the world inhabited by Jane Austen, and depicted in her novels, we will visit the principal places she lived, towns that figure prominently in her novels, and historic sites that reveal the nature of life in her time.

The first half of our time in England will be in Bath, a UNESCO world heritage site. Bath was the leading resort in England in the eighteenth century, and the city is still dominated by the beautiful Georgian architecture of that time. Jane Austen lived in Bath from 1801 to 1806 and set two of her novels, Persuasion and Northanger Abbey, there. While in Bath we will see the homes Jane Austen inhabited as well as the many streets and venues mentioned in the novels. We will tour the magnificent Assembly Rooms, the Jane Austen Centre, a historic Bath house, and the Pump Room, the leading center of Bath social life in Jane Austen's time. While there we will take a day trip to the picturesque coastal town of Lyme Regis, which Jane Austen visited and which she used as the setting for critical events in Persuasion.

For the second half of the tour we will travel to the historic town of Winchester (stopping on the way at the grand eighteenth century house and garden at Stourhead). In Winchester we will see the house where Jane Austen died and also tour the famous cathedral, where her grave lies. From Winchester we will take a day trip to Chawton, the village where Jane Austen lived in the latter part of her life and finished her novels. We will tour the still-standing house she inhabited, now a museum devoted to her, look around the village, and visit Chawton House, a large house owned and sometimes inhabited by Jane Austen's brother. Other day trips from Winchester will take us to Steventon, the village where she grew up and to The Vyne, a grand country house where she attended dances when young.

The trip will be led by David M. Shapard, who holds a doctorate in European history and who has written The Annotated Pride and Prejudice, The Annotated Persuasion, The Annotated Sense and Sensibility, The Annotated Northanger Abbey, and The Annotated Emma. David has given many talks about Jane Austen, and at each site
of the tour he will provide valuable background information and relate it to Jane Austen, her novels, and the world she inhabited, often by citing crucial passages in the novels or in Jane's letters. For an interview with David Shapard about his work on Jane Austen, see http://vimeo.com/67129800.

Daily Itinerary:

Day 1: Saturday, April 25  Depart the USA

Members of the group not making their own separate travel arrangements will depart in the evening from New York City for an overnight flight to Heathrow Airport in London.

Day 2: Sunday, April 26  London to Bath

All members of the group, whether they have just flown in or are already in England, will meet in the morning at Heathrow Airport. From there we will depart together to Bath. On arrival in Bath we will take a bus tour of the outer part of the city. We will get off the bus in order to examine houses inhabited by Jane Austen and venues where important events occur in *Northanger Abbey*. Those who wish will also have time to look around Bath on their own.

Overnight in Bath
Welcome Dinner
Abbey Hotel (www.abbeyhotelbath.co.uk)

Day 3: Monday, April 27  Exploration of Bath: The Royal Crescent and Pump Room

In the morning we will take a bus tour of the central parts of Bath with a stop at the Royal Crescent, perhaps the most famous and impressive landmark in Bath. There we will discuss a crucial scene in *Northanger Abbey* that occurs on the Crescent, and go inside Royal Crescent #1, a grand house decorated in the eighteenth-century style that shows how Austen’s wealthy characters would have lived when they came to Bath. We will also visit the church where Jane Austen’s parents were married and where her father was buried. For lunch we will stop at the Pump Room, a grand room (connected to the principal baths of the city) where people could drink the mineral waters coming from beneath the ground and where many congregated in Austen's time to meet their friends and to see and be seen. After lunch we will tour the center of Bath, and discuss several important events in *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey* that occur at the exact places being visited.

Breakfast and lunch
Overnight in Bath

Day 4: Tuesday, April 28  Day Trip to Lyme Regis

In the morning we will take a bus to Lyme, a journey that will allow people to enjoy the rolling scenery of southwestern England. In Lyme we will begin in the center of the town, and discuss events that happen in *Persuasion* in the town and the way they were influenced by the town's geography. At the end we will walk toward the Cobb, the most prominent feature of
Lyme, and have lunch nearby. After lunch, with the aid of readings from *Persuasion*, we will walk along the Cobb and try to recreate the dramatic episode in the novel of the accident on the Cobb. When that is done people will have a little time to explore Lyme on their own before we return to Bath.

Breakfast
Overnight in Bath

**Day 5: Wednesday, April 29  
Exploration of Bath: Tea with Mr. Darcy and Assembly Rooms**

The morning will involve a walking tour of places in Bath connected to Austen. We will start at the location where Captain Wentworth proposes to Anne Elliot in *Persuasion* and trace the walking path they subsequently take. We will also visit other streets and sites that play important roles in the novels, and stop by the other two Bath residences of Jane Austen that are still standing. Our lunch will be at the Jane Austen Centre, where we will dine under a portrait of Mr. Darcy. After lunch we will visit the nearby Assembly Rooms, the main entertainment center in Bath in Austen's time and the site of important meetings in both her Bath novels. The Assembly Rooms contain some of the most spectacular interior architecture in the city, as well as an excellent museum of the history of costume. After the visit there people will have time to walk more around the city, visit other sites, return to the Jane Austen Centre to view its exhibits, go shopping, or indulge themselves in the fabulous Thermae Bath Spa (www.thermaebathspa.com).

Breakfast and lunch
Overnight in Bath

**Day 6: Thursday, April 30  
Travel to Winchester; Private Tour of Stourhead Gardens**

Leaving Bath in the morning we will first stop at Stourhead, a magnificent country house and grounds. The house is an excellent example of the Palladian mansions that were the most popular style for country houses in the eighteenth century; its interiors evoke the grandeur that would have been seen in homes such as the Pemberley of *Pride and Prejudice*. Even more significantly, Stourhead contains what is probably the most beautiful and the most influential of the new landscaped gardens, characterized by unsymmetrical layouts and prominent natural features, that emerged in the eighteenth century in England, and that would have surrounded the houses inhabited by Austen's wealthy characters; the Stourhead grounds include a renowned temple that was used for the proposal scene in the 2005 film version of *Pride and Prejudice*. We will take a guided tour of the gardens, and people will also have the opportunity to visit the house on their own. In the afternoon we will continue on to Winchester, where we will do a tour of the cathedral, including a stop at Jane Austen's grave and a reading from the standard funeral service of her time. We will finish by walking toward the nearby house where she died, which is marked by a plaque; this will be accompanied by readings from Jane's final letters in Winchester and her sister's letters describing Jane's death and funeral.

Breakfast
Overnight in Winchester
Day 7: Friday, May 1

Day Trip to Chawton: Private Lunch and Tour at Chawton House

In 1809, at the age of thirty-three, Jane Austen, her mother, and her sister moved to Chawton to reside in a house owned by her brother Edward; she lived there until her death in 1817. The stability resulting from her continued residence (in contrast to the previous eight years of frequent change of abode) and the rural quiet of Chawton allowed her to focus on her writing, and it was during these years that her major novels were prepared for publication. Our visit will give us a sense of the atmosphere she experienced, for even with the presence of automobiles, Chawton remains a modest and mostly quiet village. We will begin the day with a visit to her house, which still stands fully intact and which, restored to reflect its state during Jane's time, is the principal site for learning about and experiencing her life and world. It is filled with her and her family's possessions, such as the small table where she composed her novels. We will walk through the village to Chawton House for a private lunch and tour this much grander house of Edward’s which was his residence during part of the time Jane was living in Chawton. In recent years it has been restored to its earlier state. While touring the grounds of Chawton House we will visit the church that contains memorials to Jane's mother and sister and the adjacent graveyard where they are both buried.

Breakfast and lunch
Overnight in Winchester

Day 8: Saturday, May 2

Day Trip: Steventon and Private Tour of The Vyne

Steventon is the small village where Jane Austen's father served as rector and where she was born and lived until she was twenty-five. The house itself is no longer standing, but we will visit the site and the area around it, and, aided by its rural isolation and quiet, try to imagine ourselves, with the assistance of some readings from Jane Austen's letters, back in her time. We also will visit the church where her father preached and she worshiped; the church still looks mostly as it did in Jane's day, and its yard contains the grave of her brother James, who presided there after her father. Not far from Steventon is The Vyne, a splendid country house from Tudor times. Jane Austen attended dances held there, and her experience there undoubtedly assisted her in imagining the grand houses that dominate much of her novels. Between Steventon and The Vyne we will travel near the route that Jane took, and at The Vyne we will tour inside the house and look around the grounds.

Breakfast and Farewell Dinner
Overnight in Winchester

Day 9: Sunday, May 3

Free Day with Optional Visit to London or Other Popular Tourist Sites

Today is a free day to enjoy Winchester and its environs, to take a train to London (only a one hour trip), or to visit other popular tourist venues in southern England, such as Portsmouth or Salisbury. David will gladly escort those interested to the British Library in London to view her portable writing desk, which would have sat on the table we saw at the Jane Austen House in Chawton, and then on to the National Portrait Gallery to view the portrait of Jane painted by her sister Cassandra.

Breakfast
Overnight in Winchester

Day 10: Monday, May 4

Return Home

In the morning a coach will transport us from our hotel in Winchester to Heathrow Airport. There people will be able to catch a flight, or take public transport into London to begin additional touring.
PRICE: This unique opportunity is priced at a land only double occupancy cost of **$2899.** Airfare is separate. You can fly with Edventures or make your own flight arrangements.

AIRFARE: The cost for airfare through Edventures is **$1060.** We will depart on Virgin Atlantic Airways Flight 40 on April 25 from JFK at 6:30 pm, arriving at London’s Heathrow Airport the next day at 6:30 am. The group departs on flight 450 on May 4 from Heathrow at 2 pm and arrives at JFK at 4:40 pm. If you are making your own flight reservations and wish to use the tour’s transportation to Bath, your flight must arrive by 6:30 AM. If you do not meet us, we will provide directions from Heathrow to Bath. For an additional fee, you can get transportation to JFK from Albany and Saratoga Springs. See registration form.

DO YOU WANT TO STAY BEYOND THE TOUR? All travelers using Edventures’ air package must travel together from JFK. However, it is possible to use Edventures’ air and extend your tour as long as you take the same return flight #450 which departs at 2 pm on the day you select to depart. Please note this deviation from the group return on your registration form.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: The single room supplement is **$550.00** and the **number of these rooms is limited.**

EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT: Registrations postmarked by **November 10, 2014** will receive a discount of $100.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: All reservations must be completed by **January 5, 2015.** For reservations after this date, contact Edventures prior to sending in your deposit.

ARE YOU WONDERING ABOUT THE WEATHER? For April 30th, the approximate midpoint of our trip, the average high in Bath was 61 F.

THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE COST OF THE TRIP:

- Small group experience;
- Full time tour escort and guide who will make Jane Austen and her rich history and novels come alive;
- Entrance fees for all included visits;
- Airport/hotel group transfers;
- Escorted sightseeing via private motor coach;
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers;
- Lodging for 8 nights;
- Daily breakfast, 3 lunches, and 2 dinners;
- Pre-departure documents and meeting in Saratoga Springs;
- $100 tax deductible charitable contribution; and
- Memories to last a lifetime!

SMALL GROUP FEE: A small group fee of $200 per person will be charged if the group number falls below 20.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Reservations are due ASAP. A deposit of $500 per person is due at time of registration. It is anticipated that the trip will fill quickly, so early registration is encouraged.

FINAL PAYMENT: Invoices for final payment will be mailed to you in time for payment in early January.

TRIP INSURANCE is a personal choice, but is recommended. Some purchase it through their local AAA office, which sells Access America. To get the best rates, you can compare costs online through agents like Squaremouth.com, InsureMyTrip.com or Totaltravelinsurance.com, which offer side-by-side comparisons. Please contact Edventures prior to purchasing trip insurance to assure that the trip is a “go.”

HOTELS: In Bath the group will use two hotels, both with an environment consistent with a Jane Austen tour and located in the heart of the tourist area near the Abbey and Roman Baths.
Three Abbey Green (www.threeabbeygreen.com) is a Four Star Gold Award guest house, hidden away in a quiet cobbled square in the heart of central Bath, situated on a spacious green in a townhouse dating back to 1673. Each room has its own bath. In addition to twin rooms (two separate beds), the guest house features a quadruple room which would be perfect for groups of friends and family members traveling together or book group buddies. In Winchester where there are no rooms for four, the group of four will be split between two rooms. All rooms will be assigned on a first come first serve basis.

The Abbey Hotel (www.abbeyhotelbath.co.uk) began as Georgian townhouses for three families before being converted to a hotel. Almost all single guests will lodge here as well as overflow from the Three Abbey Green.

Please note: The rate is the same for both hotels and all rooms. There is no discount for a quadruple room because the room is much larger than those of the doubles.

In Winchester the group will stay at the Mercure Winchester Wessex Hotel (www.mercure.com or www.mercure-uk.com) located in the heart of Winchester next door to the cathedral (the longest Gothic Cathedral in Europe) and close to all sights. Edventures staff was thrilled to sit in the dining room with the first cup of coffee in the morning and gaze at the beauty of this structure, which stands grandly outside the dining room windows.

Do you still have questions about this trip? If so, call Mary at Edventures 1 (607) 387-3322 or send an email to goedventures@gmail.com.

You can also attend an information session at Saratoga Arts, 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs at 1:30 pm on September 27 and November 8. All are welcome!

What is Edventures?

Edventures is a specialized tour firm founded in 1999 by Mary Rachun and Mary Huber that combines travel and learning. Its mission is to bring like-minded travelers together with a focus on something they enjoy….on location.

The Edventures Travel Experience

Edventures has been bringing travelers on exciting destination since 1999. We research, plan, and develop travel programs designed for specific audiences around a trip theme of art and culture which includes fun and adventure. We try to limit the number of hotels used on a trip so that travelers can unpack and really get to know a place.

We go behind the scenes and explore a theme in depth. We research special exhibits and hire only the most knowledgeable guides in each destination. We limit the size of the group (based on our experience, even restroom stops with a group of forty travelers overseas can be a half-day experience!). Edventures designs educational background material on each destination so that travelers can prepare themselves for the experience and pursue individual areas of interest. With this attention to detail and subsequent customer satisfaction, more than half of our clients are repeat travelers, and they have told us time and time again how much they appreciate the Edventures formula for travel.

This will be the second time Edventures has offered a Jane Austen Tour and we look forward to sharing this special experience with you.
CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
Edventures, LLC, Saratoga Arts (SA)
Soroptimist International of Saratoga Co. (SISC)

DEPOSITS, CANCELLATIONS, AND REFUNDS
Payment in full is required when bookings are made less than 75 days before the departure date. Notification of cancellation must be made in writing, with the cancellation date being the postal service postmark date. At the time we receive your notification, the following charges apply: (charges are per person) 90-74 days before departure:$150 plus Edventures, LLC costs and charges by suppliers 75 days before departure $200 plus Edventures, LLC costs and charges by suppliers. After this point, you will be refunded whatever amount we can recoup from all of the suppliers who have been paid. Trip cancellation insurance is available and is recommended. Refunds for services that are voluntarily not used will not be made.

TOUR AND AIR RATES
The right is reserved to change any route or arrangements should conditions necessitate, to offer substitutes of equal value, or to cancel the operation of any scheduled excursion. Individual transfers for those arriving or departing independently are not included in the land cost unless otherwise stated. Air fares may be increased because of tariff changes or fuel surcharges. All rates quoted are based on current tariffs and on the current value of foreign currencies in relation to the United States dollar, and are subject to adjustment in the event of changes before the departing dates.

RESPONSIBILITY
Edventures, LLC, of Saratoga Springs, NY, SA, SISC, and its agents act only as agents for the various companies whose facilities are made available through the program. Edventures, LLC, SA, and SISC assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any hotel, lodge, aircraft, vessel, carriage or other conveyance that is used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the passengers; neither will they be responsible for any act, error, or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity that may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any vehicle or accommodations or for any reason whatsoever, or through the neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved in the tour. The right is reserved to decline or retain any person as a member of any tour at any time, in which event an equitable amount will be refunded. The right is reserved to cancel any tour before departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the participant. Although every care is taken, Edventures, LLC, SA, and SISC, its agents and suppliers cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to baggage. It is therefore advisable to effect separate baggage insurance. Edventures, LLC, SA, and SISC can accept no responsibility or liability for any monetary, physical, or psychological injuries of any nature whatever arising from or caused by acts of terrorism, civil strife and disturbances, war, insurrection, or other upheaval and unrest of whatever kind and nature that may occur during the tour.

Edventures, LLC, SA, and SISC, its agents and suppliers can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. All tickets, coupons, and orders are furnished and issued subject in all respects to the foregoing and to any and all terms and conditions under which the means of transportation and/or other services provided thereby are offered and/or supplied. The airlines providing air transportation are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not on board their aircraft or conveyances. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies and the purchaser of these tours and/or passengers.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK
I am aware that travel, whatever it may be and by whatever means, contains some inherent risks of injury, illness or death, which may be caused by forces of nature, negligence or actions of others, or other agencies. I recognize that such risks may be present at any time before, during and after the trip in which I am participating, arranged by Edventures, LLC, SA, and SISC. I am aware that medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible during some or all of the time during which I am participating in the trip. I have read the schedule of activities and other information provided, and recognize and accept risks thereof. I understand and agree on behalf of myself, my dependents, heirs, administrators, and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth under the “Conditions and Responsibilities” and to release and hold harmless Edventures, LLC, SA, and SISC, and any of its officers, employees, agents, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death, or for the loss of or damage to property, however occurring in relation to the trip.

SEVERABILITY
Every provision of this document, Conditions and Responsibilities, is intended to be severable. If any term or provision hereof is illegal or invalid for any reason whatsoever, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this document, Conditions and Responsibilities.

Edventures, LLC, P.O. Box 1404, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
1 (607) 387-3322, goedventures@gmail.com, www.goedventures.com
TOUR RESERVATION FORM

Jane Austen Tour - April 25-May 4, 2015

To reserve your space, please complete this form and return it with a deposit check of $500 made out to Edventures. Mail it to: Edventures, LLC, P. O. Box 1404, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Sorry, no credit cards.

Name(s) EXACTLY as they appear on passports:

Address:__________________________ City____________________ State/Zip:__________

Email:_______________________ Cell Phone:________________________

Land Line: ____________________________

Passports must be valid for six months beyond travel dates.

Please provide passport information EXACTLY as it appears on passports

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Country that issued your passport:__________________________________________

Accommodations

Check those that apply:

____ I prefer a single room for an added cost of $550. The number of single rooms is limited. Do you still wish to register if a single room is not available? If yes, Edventures will try to pair you with a roommate. Yes____ No____

I need a room with two single beds. Sharing with me will be________________________

____ I need a room with a double bed. Sharing with me will be________________________

____ I would like a quadruple room in Bath with four single beds. I understand the group will be split into two rooms when we are in Winchester.

Sharing with me in the quadruple room will be________________________

____ I will join the group for the trip to and from London by purchasing air from Edventures at the cost of $1060.

____ I will purchase air from Edventures and fly with the group to London but I wish to return on a different date. My date of return on Virgin Air flight 45 will be on ____________________________.

____ I will make my own air reservations and meet the group at Heathrow Airport.

Transportation to JFK and Return for Those in the Capital Region of New York State:

____ I would like to take the bus to and from JFK Airport estimated to cost $160 - $180 round trip.

Check one: I will meet the bus in: ________ Saratoga Springs _______Albany Airport

To assure your space on the trip, reserve early!

Please read the Conditions and Responsibilities page enclosed and sign below.

I (We) have read and agree to the Conditions and Responsibilities Policy.

Name: ________________________________________ Date: __________________

Name: ______________________________________ Date: __________________