

# *My Dear Cassandra.....*

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*"There are those who think Jane Austen tea-tablish, as there are those  
who think that Mozart tinkles."* Louis Kronenberger

## **It's Tea time!**

Yes, it time for our annual

### **"Jane Austen Tea"**

January 16, 2010

**Good Companions Activity Centre**

**2609 – 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W.**

2:00pm to 4:00pm

Our Theme this year is:

**"The Regency Tea"**

Come and join us for lots of laughs, wonderful music,  
first-class play, cake, cookies and, of course,  
our world famous tea

### **The Entertainment.**

we are delighted to welcome

Reid Spencer from the University of Mount Royal who is assembling a collection of songs typical to Jane's period which he will perform for us with his accompanist. We also welcome his lovely wife who has written two Regency novels!

### **Tea Pots**

Volunteers for tea pots please make mental note to bring same!

Other tea pots will be most welcome.

### **Set-up and Take-down**

Those members who volunteered their time to come early for set up and tea cup matching and table setting! 1:30 is great. If you can stay a little after for take down and tidy up, the more the merrier and the faster.

**.....and yes, there will be a raffle.**

Additional raffle items will be most acceptable

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### **November meeting**

At our last general meeting on November 21, our webmaster, Judith Umbach gave us a thorough tour of the JASNA Calgary website. Randie Lind introduced us to a number of related JA sites and, with Ann Marie Barnhill's technological help, showed us two very amusing Austen-related videos on YouTube.

Elizabeth Marshall informed us about a project headed by Nora Stovel to publish *Jane Austen & Company, Essays by Bruce Stovel*. Elizabeth has donation sheets for members interested in helping the project raise money for publication.

After the coffee break (with goodies supplied by Elvee Fenning), Elizabeth presented an overview of the highlights of Jane Austen's life and times. Linda Payne, Randie Lind, Leslie Gautschi and Elizabeth herself all gave brief reviews of various well-known biographies of Jane Austen and then Elizabeth critiqued the recent biopic, *Becoming Jane*.

### **Edmonton Jane Austen Society**

The Edmonton Club enjoyed a field trip on November 26 to the Rutherford Library at the University of Alberta. The purpose was to view first editions of Jane Austen books placed in the Bruce Peel Special Collection at the Library in honour of Bruce Stovel and Juliet McMaster. On November 28, the club heard Juliet McMaster speak on the topic sibling matchmaking. At the Jane Austen birthday tea at Hotel MacDonald on December 12, members entertained by reading quotes from various social events in the novels and juvenilia. The first general meeting scheduled for 2010 will be on January 23 at the Stanley Milner Public Library, 2-4 pm. The topic sounds scintillating: Jane Austen and Zombies! For details, please contact club president Bridget Toms at [twolegsgood@telus.net](mailto:twolegsgood@telus.net).

### ***Lady Susan* in letters**

London House Publishing has produced a limited edition novelty version of Jane Austen's *Lady Susan* that reproduces the letters in this epistolary novel in actual letter format. In this version, the "book" comes as a boxed set of delightful and reasonably authentic-looking letters. For more information, go to <http://www.londonhousepublishing.com/LadySusan.html/>

### ***Persuasions OnLine***

FYI: even if you are not a member of our parent organization, the Jane Austen Society of North America, you can still read the many interesting essays published in the most recent version of *Persuasions OnLine* at <http://jasna.org/persuasions/on-line/vol30no1/index.html>

Submitted by Jennifer Hamblin

## Tour of [www.jasnacalgary.ca](http://www.jasnacalgary.ca)

At our November meeting I gave a live tour of our Jasna Calgary website. This is a recap and helps members who were unable to attend our last meeting. Take note of our new Reading page. Please send other interesting links, articles, information and photos to [jasnacalgary@jasnacalgary.ca](mailto:jasnacalgary@jasnacalgary.ca).

Key in [www.jasnacalgary.ca](http://www.jasnacalgary.ca) to find our Welcome page. If you never go anywhere else on the site, this will give you an idea of the upcoming events. At the bottom of the page is the date of the last update and a few words about what has been added. Still, we hope you will want to explore the whole site.

On the left-hand side of the screen are the primary links, all couched in faux-Regency terminology. By hovering over the fancy name, you will see the more common web terminology for each page.

Invitations: This page holds the information on the next event, whether the tea, a special event or our regular meeting. The address and the link to a Google map are always provided. Farther down the page are links to past galas and teas, plus photos and descriptions of the regular meetings. Some of our meetings have no photos, so if you have some, send them to [jasnacalgary@jasnacalgary.ca](mailto:jasnacalgary@jasnacalgary.ca).

Letters: All the newsletters are available on this page. The current one is added shortly after it is issued. "Jottings" were also available, but the Edmonton Jane Austen Society has recently asked that their newsletters be removed. (Edmonton does not have a web site.)

Calling Card: Here are the names of those who volunteer in many capacities to enable Jasna Calgary to have so much fun. Just click on our virtual calling card at the top of the page to send us an email.

Dancing: For those of us who enjoy regency dancing, this page provides pertinent information about the next practice or performance, plus access to the written instructions for our dances. A few photos encourage anyone who would like to learn this social dancing to join Sprigged Muslin.

Reading: Our newest page contains the invaluable lists of resources in our Jasna Calgary library, as well as links to other books. Also, a couple of local Jane Austen book projects are described.

Neighbours: All the links known to your editor are on this page, starting with the most recently added ones. Other Jane Austen Society links are listed, as well as many diverting

sites from enthusiasts. If you have other favourites, please send them to [jasnacalgary@jasnacalgary.ca](mailto:jasnacalgary@jasnacalgary.ca).

Visits: This page aspires to be a collection of photos from the travels of all our Jasna Calgary members; unfortunately it is languishing from anemia and would love an influx of new blood. If you have been to a Jane Austen locale, please send a few of your travel photos to [jasnacalgary@jasnacalgary.ca](mailto:jasnacalgary@jasnacalgary.ca)

Family: It is easy to use this page to contact other members. If you do not know the userid and password, call Judith at 403 701 2871. For security, this information is not available through email.

RSVP: This survey is rarely used but was a requirement for the course taken by your web editor. It remains in place as a testament to how hard it was to learn how to write it! “And now nothing remains for me but to assure you in the most animated language of the violence of my affection.” (Mr. Collins, *Pride and Prejudice*) Thank you to the people who have contributed the quotes from Jane, links and information. Your help is very much appreciated.

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The following article was submitted by Randi.  
This letter was addressed to Marsha Huff who is the  
current president of JASNA.

It is my pleasure to share with you this tribute, sent by Honorary Life Member of the JASNA Board Freydis Welland and her sister Damaris Brix.

Dear Marsha,

On this cusp of a new decade, Damaris and I are reflecting on the many wonderful Janeites who contribute so much to each other's happiness.

As you know, this year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of JASNA. We vividly remember the bustle that heralded that historic event in New York: invitations to speakers, patrons and scholars; discussions about the program; deliberations on the bylaws, the finances and the organization – and then the commemoration of it all in *Persuasions*.

So many remarkable people contribute their talents in JASNA regions across North America to create a spacious place of friendship, literature and imagination.

We began to write a list of all the forms that this takes – making reticules, choosing music, learning dances, writing articles, designing a quiz or imagining a charade. What a wonderful variety of scholarly forums and creative possibilities have arisen since the founding of JASNA 30 years ago.

Today we would like to pay an especial tribute to those who have carried on in the footsteps of our JASNA co-founders Joan Austen-Leigh, Henry Burke and J. David Grey, including all the presidents, board members, editors, regional committees and the talented members of JASNA who contribute to making the life of a Janeite so pleasant. We would also like to remember Denis Mason Hurley who provided the initial impetus of encouragement for JASNA.

This year is the much celebrated 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jane Austen's arrival at Chawton Cottage. And it has been just ten years since Jane Austen's writing desk was placed in the care of the British Library by Joan Austen-Leigh where it resides in the John Riblatt Treasures Gallery for the appreciation and enjoyment of generations of readers and writers to come.

It was an exciting year to be a Janeite, and we look forward to celebrating the anniversaries of many of Jane Austen's works in this next decade.

With much gratitude,  
Freydis and Damaris with our family  
December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009

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### ***Good Intentions***

Local author Catherine Spencer has written a novel called *Good Intentions* that is set in the Regency period and is, in her words, "a kind of homage to Jane Austen". In her promotional material, she says, "In it, I try to duplicate the tone and sensibility of the nineteenth century novel, including a healthy dose of humour and romance." To test the waters for actual publication, she has been posting weekly excerpts from the first part of the novel on her blog each Sunday. If you are interested in following along, have a look at: <http://www.goodintentionsnovel.blogspot.com>.

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**MEMBERS' CORNER**

Pat Barton - Glad to hear that the knee operation has been successful and that Pat is slowly recovering from the surgery.

Rita Dempsey - anyone wishing to get in touch with Rita this is her address:

Apt 302, 1488 Ballan Road, Victoria, V8S 1A2 Rita would love to hear from you if you are visiting Victoria.

If you have any news about our members that may be of interest to the club members please let Alicia Morgan know....403-241-0963

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**Jane Austen Calgary Contacts:**

Regional Coordinator : Jennifer Hamblin ~ 282-4065

Program Coordinator : Margaret Crichton ~ 284-4649

Dance Group: Sprigged Muslin – Randi Lind ~ 284-4059

Member' Corner : Alicia Morgan ~ 241-0963

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

**Our next Meeting: March 20, 2010 meeting**

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

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Change of address / email and any articles for this newsletter,  
please contact me ..... Ann Craig [ancraig@shaw.ca](mailto:ancraig@shaw.ca)