

My Dear Cassandra.....

She is not a gentle writer. Do not be misled; she is not ignorant, merely discreet; not innocent, merely graceful. *Fay Weldon, British novelist*

It's "GALA" time
at the
Calgary's Jane Austen Society

Join Janites, friends and gurus,
Juliet McMaster and Nora Stovel and Rowland McMaster
in a day-long wallow in Austen arcania – and learn to dance Regency style
with the famed Sprigged Muslins – plus eats!

Saturday June 13, 2009 9:00am to 3:30pm

Sunalta Community Association
16 Street and 10th Avenue SW
For information: 284-4649 or 242-5016

Edmonton Gala

The Edmonton club's Georgian Food Fayre was held a month early this year, on May 23rd. At this annual "celebration of the foods Jane Austen knew and enjoyed", club members bring traditional dishes to show and share. No doubt a good and tasty time was had by all!

The club's upcoming spring gala will be held at the University of Alberta on Saturday June 27. This year's event has the intriguing theme "Austen Characters: Young Females Who Defy Convention, aka The Bad Girls". For more information, please contact our Edmonton liaison, Sheila Dechant (dslsheila@shaw.ca) or Edmonton club president, Jeanne Worton (jworton@thejournal.canwest.com).

Siblings in Jane Austen's Fact and Fiction

Some of you may be planning to attend the 2009 JASNA annual meeting in Philadelphia next October. If you are interested in doing some advance reading, Susan Ford has compiled a bibliography of articles about Jane Austen's siblings in fact and fiction that appears in *Persuasions* and *Persuasions Online*. You may access this web page from the "News and Events" section of the JASNA home page under "Reading About Brothers and Sisters" or via this direct link to the web page: <http://www.jasna.org/info/siblings.html>.

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies

It is a truth universally acknowledged that the sure-fire popularity of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* will induce any author in any genre to attempt an adaptation! A recent offering is *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* by television writer Seth Grahame-Smith (Quirk Books, 2009) which turns P & P into a horror story by introducing a zombie plague. In a review of the book in the *Calgary Herald*, Tish Wells offers some amusing glimpses of just how Mr. Grahame-Smith has modified Jane's original storyline:

"In the original novel, the mother of the Bennett girls has only one goal: to have them suitably married. In Zombies, the goal is to have them slay zombies, along with getting married. Taught to fight in China by Shaolin monks, the family returns to England to settle in the bucolic, zombie-ridden countryside.

Their suitors include the snobby Mr. Darcy, whose idea of an accomplished woman is one who has "a thorough knowledge of music, singing, drawing, dancing and the modern languages; she must be well trained in the fighting styles of the Kyoto masters and the modern tactics and weaponry of Europe."

Conflicts arise not over class (as in the original) but over classes – Darcy and his aristocratic aunt, Lady Catherine de Bourgh, a champion English zombie killer, prefer fighters trained in the Japanese tradition. This conflict provides the backdrop for the spectacular fight scene between Elizabeth (China trained) and Lady Catherine (Kyoto trained)."

In a similar vein, Elton John's Rocket Pictures announced recently that it is developing a movie called *Pride and Predator*. The *New York Times* reported that this version of P & P "will juxtapose brooding aristocrats with a brutal alien that lands in 1800s-era Britain, attacking residents and leaving them with neither sense nor sensibility". What next?? ----

--Jennifer Hamblin

A chance to step back in time 200 years to the era of Jane Austen....



You are invited to attend a glorious Regency Ball
hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Fitzwilliam Darcy at the Great House
in Chawton, England on Friday the 3rd of July

This is a once in a lifetime experience, an intimate truly authentic evening in the house that belonged to Jane's brother, Edward Austen Knight, and where the family entertained and danced. A perfect setting for an 18th century evening, guests will enter the world of Elizabeth and Darcy.

There will be a sumptuous Regency supper, with dishes prepared by Chef Cyrille Pannier, of the Four Seasons Hotel Hampshire. Pannier is an expert on 18th-century food and will use recipes from the Chawton House Library collection. The supper will be served on the magnificent mahogany table at which Jane and her family dined. Edward Austen Knight's silver will be on display as will the dinner service which Jane helped her brother choose.

Walking by candlelight through rooms adorned with flowers, gossamer swags and ostrich feathers, guests will enter the world of Elizabeth Bennet and Darcy. Those unfamiliar with cotillions, quadrilles and country dances will be guided by professional Regency dancers prior to and during the Ball. There will be much to see and do during the evening with music, singing and words of the Regency period, with a rare opportunity to view Edward Austen's suit and the Library's Jane Austen manuscript.

Guests will meet and be invited to dance with the Darcy's (in the form of actors David Rintoul and Elizabeth Garvie) as well as direct descendents of Edward Austen Knight.

The days before and after the Ball the guests can immerse themselves in the world of the Austen's – private visits, lunches, talks, walks and entertainments have been arranged at the houses and places in Hampshire that the family knew well and loved. A once in a lifetime opportunity!

All this is included in the ticket price of \$5,000 available from Chawton House Library: 44 (0) 1420 541010 or email: susie.grandfield@chawton.net

Should you have an uncontrollable desire to
write an article for this newsletter, please,
do not deny yourself,

and/or

should you wish to send in a question
or controversial comment ,
please, start something.

Jane Austen Calgary Contacts:

Regional Coordinator : Jennifer Hamblin ~ 282-4065

Program Coordinator : Margaret Crichton ~ 284-4649

Our next Meeting will be announced later.

Website: www.jasnacalgary.ca

Meeting place: Sunalta Community Centre, 10th Ave and 16th St SW

Newsletter : Ann Craig email ancraig@shaw.ca