



Prim and Pedantic

Newsletter of the Jane Austen Society of Puget Sound

April 2011

Volume 18 Issue 2

Acrostic Poem Challenge!

Our members were asked to submit Acrostic Poems.

Their poems were to summarize Jane Austen, one of her characters, or an entire novel.



Want
Everyone
Not
To trespass
When I
Offer a
Redux of
Taking Anne's
Hand



Just
A
Natural
Expert

At
Underscoring
Societal
Themes through
Excellent
Novels

- Jenny Shaphren



Sense and Sensibility at Book-It Theatre

Pride and Prejudice, *Persuasion*, *Emma*, and now *Sense and Sensibility*. Book-It's fourth Jane Austen adaptation brings audiences back to the sweeping work that began her career. In Austen's first published novel, the Dashwood sisters find that love is an unpredictable struggle against the most important social values: family, honor, and wealth. As teens, Elinor and Marianne's family fortunes take a turn when they lose their father, and their welcome in his home, now owned by their half-brother and his overbearing wife. With a move and a few chance meetings, Elinor falls for the intelligent and reserved

Edward Ferrars, while Marianne dotes upon the handsome John Willoughby. Through Elinor's sense and Marianne's sensibility, this sprightly tale winds along the twisting path of love among the English gentry.

May 26 - June 26, 2011 206-216-0833 www.book-it.org

Book Reviews!

Read a book that you would like to share with our members? Please consider writing a quick review for the newsletter. A feature that is completely subjective, and not at all scientific will be to rate your book on a scale of 1-5 teacups!



Charlotte Collins: A Continuation of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice by Jennifer Becton

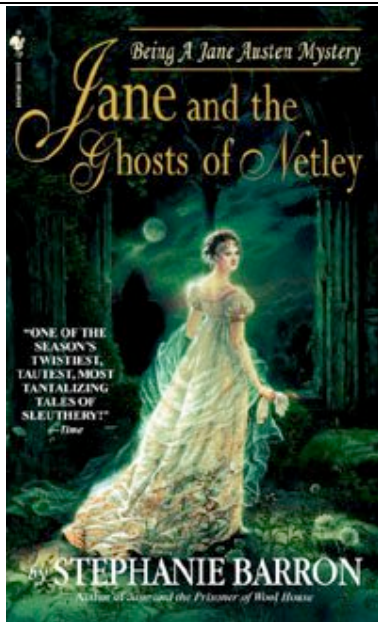


Charlotte Lucas in speaking to Elizabeth says, "Happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance. If the dispositions of the parties are ever so well known to each other, or ever so similar before-hand, it does not advance their felicity in the least. They always contrive to grow sufficiently unlike afterwards to have their share of vexation; and it is better to know as little as possible of the defects of the person with whom you are to pass your life." - Chapter 6 Pride and Prejudice Charlotte has no romantic notions of marriage at all, I offend wondered if she ever did. In Jennifer Becton's delightful Pride and Prejudice sequel, Charlotte Collins is presented with an opportunity for a second chance. After seven tedious and what I would call LONG years of marriage, Mr. Collins passes away. Her younger sister, Maria, comes to live with her and helps Charlotte leave the widow "grays" behind as she persuade her to chaperon her into society.

Ms. Becton does a wonderful job of introducing new characters that work well with the writing style of Austen. It is wonderful to see a sequel that revolves around Charlotte Collins, it is believable and I found myself enjoying getting to know Charlotte Lucas Collins in a way that is convincing and true to the intent of Austen's character in Pride and Prejudice

Charlotte Collins by Jennifer Becton is a fantastic read and I totally found myself immersed in the story and couldn't put it down.

- Submitted by Heidi Gailey, Currently Living in Bangkok Thailand



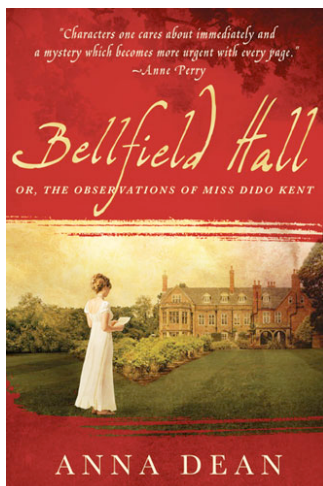
Jane and the Ghosts at Netley by Stephanie Barron



I found myself weeping at 3am finishing Stephanie Barron's Jane & the Ghosts at Netley (7th in series.) Blurred lines between fact & fiction are so masterfully written, had to remind myself that the story is just the fruit of Barron's genius. If only there had been a Gentleman Rogue for dear Jane... (sniff, sniff)

Although you can read any of the book series in or out of order, I highly recommend starting at the beginning. Just because. It is a great, GREAT series. You need not know anything of Jane Austen to appreciate the books. But if you are a fan, you will find nothing wanting. A MUST BUY!

- Submitted by Christina Boyd



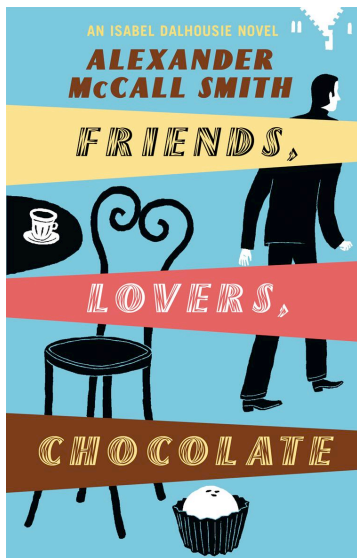
Bellfield Hall by Anna Dean



Anna Dean, author of *Bellfield Hall* (Minotaur Books, 2011), is an exceedingly clever woman. The novel begins on Monday, 23rd September 1805, as Miss Dido Kent, a spinster in her early 30's, pens a letter to her sister, Eliza. Dido has been summoned to the Hall by their niece, Catherine, who has suffered a tragedy (at least in the eyes of her father and stepmother). Catherine's husband-to-be, Richard, disappeared the night of their engagement party and Catherine requires her observant aunt's help. We are soon introduced to Bellfield Hall, the estate of Sir Edgar Montague, a domineering father, and his very indolent wife, Lady Montague. By now, we Janites will have recognized the subtle references to both real and fictional people of whom we are intimately acquainted. The body of a murdered woman is found in the shrubbery and Sir Montague's guests all display shock and innocence of the affair. It is up to Miss Dido Kent to solve the mystery and along the way, reveal very surprising facts about characters we

thought we knew. This is not only an engaging novel but a must for Jane Austen enthusiasts who enjoy a puzzle on many levels. Well done, Miss Dean. Highly recommended.

- Submitted by Elaine Weeks



Isabelle Dalhousie Series by Alexander McCall Smith



Forget about the zombies. Forget about time travel to the Regency Period . Forget about the Number One Ladies' Detective Agency. If you want a taste (and it is just a taste) of Miss Austen try the seven novels in the Isabelle Dalhousie Series by Alexander Mc Call Smith. Here they are in order: The Sunday Philosophy Club, Friends, Lovers, Chocolate, The Right Attitude to Rain, Comforts of a Muddy Sunday, The Careful Use of Compliments, The Lost Art of Gratitude, and The Charming Quirks of Others.

I give every one at least 4 teacups, with the last one 5. They are short, full of Emma-like dilemmas, and mysteries of an ethical sort thrown in.

- Submitted by Mary Watson



1932 by Karen Cox



Author Karen M. Cox's debut novel, 1932, is a clever twist on Jane Austen's masterpiece *Pride & Prejudice*. In this Depression-era retelling, Elizabeth Bennet is the pampered daughter of a mid-western university professor but in 1932, socio-economic changes uproots the family from the comforts of their Chicago home and life as they know it. The Bennett family must retrench--and thanks to the generosity of their Uncle Gardiner, they must start anew in the small farming town of Meryton. When Elizabeth encounters the handsome, brooding and moneyed William Darcy, she is all ready in desperate circumstances, the likes never seen in Austen's original - and Darcy's infamous proposal becomes more of a palatable, albeit mercenary, option in 1932.

Cox's writing is intelligent with believable insights, endearing, clever dialogue and even a couple delicious love scenes. As her story progresses into a wholly creative retelling of this classic favorite, readers might even delight in the new life breathed into Austen's canon characters. From the beginning melodrama to the end, I was engaged, entertained and exceedingly diverted. 1932 is a triumph!

- Submitted by Christina Boyd



Our February Meeting! George, Profligate Prince of the Regency Presented by Charlene Kern

Meeting started promptly at 2pm by Marian LaBeck

Jane Austen sightings – Shirley Bell brought quite a few, which were read by others.

Jenny Shaphren officially nominated to be part of the Events Committee.

We voted yes to donate \$500 to this year's Book-It performance of Sense and Sensibility. We would like the money to be for costumes and an ad in the brochure. The date of June 5, 2011 was picked as the day we will attend the performance as a group – and get a group rate. Lisa Hager is coordinating the ticket buying. Nichelle Hilton suggested we have a membership table there to sign-up new members on-the-spot. Kimberley Brangwin offered to be at the table in costume.

Jim Nagle reminded us to send him our regional dues of \$10 if we haven't yet paid for 2011.

Anniversary Planning Committee has decided that Sunday, August 14, 2011 at the Mayflower Hotel we will celebrate, "Where our history began". So we should Save the Date!

Nichelle Hilton from the Events Committee spoke about the 2012 schedule's "Big Plans" including a Super-Regional Extravaganza.

Kimberley Brangwin reported that it is possible to get funding from the JASNA for Super-Regional events.

Nichelle Hilton also spoke about our local Jane Austen Book Club. In March we will be discussing the various spinsters and sisters in all the books. We have various outings in addition to the monthly meetings. The biggest is that in June we will be going to the Oregon Shakespeare festival as a group.

The speaker of the day was Charlene Kern who spoke about King George the 4th, who was also called Priny. She started by telling us that he embodied ALL of the 7 deadly sins! The told us chronologically about his overly severe upbringing in a very large family. His parents were cold, distant, and rigid. He had a good education and especially appreciated music and the arts, but was never educated about politics. He started having mistresses at the age of 18; dove into society at 21; spent more money than he had – wine, women, and large homes; married for all the wrong reasons; had one legitimate heir, and many illegitimate ones; and finally died in 1820 at age 67. It was a very well researched project with illustrations shown on the movie screen. Bravo Charlene!

All, with lots of friendly chatter, had a tasty tea and goodies.

- Submitted by Jenny Shaphren

Janeite Spotlight! Kimberly Brangwin



- 1. What was it that first sparked your interest in reading Austen?** I was traveling in Europe after college. I was on too tight a budget to have any real nightlife so I would hunt out English books to read. The classics were easiest to find and also suited my interest. I found Jane Austen a revelation.
Or were you forced to read her in school? I had read P & P in high school and didn't really relate to it then.
- 2. Favorite book?** Persuasion --I respond to the idea of second chances.
- 3. Favorite character?** I love the way that Anne Elliot goes from being the plain spinster to the object of everyone's affection. Elizabeth Bennet is charming and engaging from the beginning but Anne Elliot
- 4. Character you love to hate?** Fanny Dashwood
- 5. Favorite movie / television adaptation?** 1985 Pride and Prejudice
- 6. What do you like about her books?** The true human characters, the richness of the language, the wit and snarky observations.
- 7. What do you dislike about her books?** I wish there were more descriptions of the clothing and homes.
- 8. Do you read other 18th century writers? Who?** More 19th century, Elizabeth Gaskell, the Brontes, Twain, Dickens.
- 9. When / why did you join JASNA?** 1988, I needed a treat and read about the Chicago AGM in *Victoria* magazine. I had such a good time and met a smart, funny lady from Minneapolis as a roommate. We still are friends and often still room together.
- 10. Do you attend AGMs?** Yes, in all these years I've only missed 3, I think.
If so, what is your favorite part of one? Reuniting with friends I've made over the years. Seeing new places and enjoying how each organizing committee showcases their hometown.



Our April Meeting! Persuasion and the Movies Presented by Carolee Jones

April 10th 2:00pm – 4:30pm
Location: Home of Carolee Jones

Persuasion and the Movies

We will look at and critique scenes from three movie versions of "Persuasion." In preparation, it is suggested you review the following chapters in "Persuasion".

Chapter 8 - up to the paragraph starting with "The evening ended with dancing"
Chapter 23

Carolee Jones
425 449-4798
12141 SE 21st ST
Bellevue, WA 98005

Directions:

Take the SE 8th exit off 405 and drive under the railroad trestle.
Take the first right (121st) and follow the road to the top of the hill.
After the stop sign at the top of the hill take the first right (21st).
Our house is the second house on the left.

The Jane Austen Society of Puget Sound! How We Began . . .

In honor of our 20th anniversary, this column will be snippets of past newsletters, cumulating in a fab celebration later this year! ☺



From Newsletter dated June 5, 1998

AGM Theme Update: Thank you to everyone who responded to Judith at the last meeting with their feelings about the theme suggestions. The most positive response was for "Jane Austen and the Sea."

While talking to Inger Brodey (a literature professor and a member of the JASNA Board of Directors) she suggested we think of a theme that reflected the interests of our chapter, would unify our group in producing the AGM, and be attractive to stimulate speaker candidates. She suggested a theme inspired by some of the programs we have done in the past – the arts, entertainments, lifestyles, and the literary connections to them.

In trying out this idea on various members, it has received a very enthusiastic and immediately positive response, capturing as it does our previously expressed desires to incorporate music, costume, dramas, and visual arts in our AGM. Here are two theme titles to consider:

“Passions, Pursuits, and Pleasures: The Cultural Life in Jane Austen” or
“High Society and Low Company – Entertainment in Jane Austen”

So, think on this for awhile. Another meeting of the planning committee will be held at the end of June to make the final decision in order to gather information for the proposal through the summer. Contact either Judith or Kimberly with your comments.



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