

Regional Birthday Meeting December 14, 2008

Jane Austen's 233rd birthday was celebrated at the historic General Society Library in New York City on Sunday, December 14, 2008, with an event that she, herself – always au courant about contemporary fashions – would surely have enjoyed. After fashion historian Daniel Cole had traced (with wit, style and excellent slides) some important trends in men's and women's attire from the Elizabethan era to the Regency, members of JASNA's Juvenilia modeled charming Regency-era costumes, selected by Mr. Cole and loaned by the Theatre Development Fund. (See below for pictures of the models and costumes.)

Prior to the lecture, some memorable characters, such as Mr. Collins and Mary Crawford, created birthday greetings to our favorite novelist. These clever greetings were the inspiration of our members as they sat and conversed in pre-assigned "Talking Jane" groups. Go to www.jasnany.org - Past Events - Dec 14 Meeting/Birthday Greetings section to read the greetings.

The meeting concluded with a celebratory glass of sparkling wine following Zoë Kaplan's appropriately appreciative literary toast to Dear Jane. A repast of tea sandwiches, scrumptious scones, and petits fours followed the formal program. Members mingled, chatted, and shopped at Pug's Boutique, open under the direction of Kerri Spennicchia, for Austeniana as well as members' publications.

There were 24 new members at the meeting, many of whom met for the traditional new-member preliminary luncheon, hosted by Joyce Melito and the hospitality committee at a nearby restaurant.

Elsa A. Solender

Left to Right: Deepali, Karen, Kari, Courtney, Mariska, Jennifer, Davina

Left to right below: Mariska Gatha, Kari Hansbarger, Karen Crane, Jennifer Keenan, Daniel Cole, Deepali Lugani, Davina Gatha, Courtney Hoffman



Enjoying their pizza: Jennifer, Courtney and Kari

