

# JASNA – New York Metropolitan Region Weekend Conference in Port Jefferson, NY

JASNA members from the Washington, DC, Rochester, NY and Maine regions joined some 50 New York Metropolitan members at Port Jefferson, NY for our bi-Annual weekend conference. This year's host town sparked our theme, "Transportation in the Time of Jane Austen". The town had been, during Jane Austen's life, a ship-building town, with an important port. A few miles away is the fabulous *Long Island Museum of American Art History and Carriages* with many examples of carriages from her era.



Sandy Lerner

From Sandy Lerner, participants learned that Austen's specific carriage references told volumes about her characters. From Professor Janine Barchas, we learned that John Thorpe was quite a dope, because had he gone in the opposite direction, on the abortive Blaze Castle escapade, he would have been able to take Catherine to a really exciting ruin.

Even though our boat was dry-docked (aborting our dinner cruise about a Mississippi River Boat), we learned about navigation in Austen's time from Professor Michal Simon and had a delicious banquet at the charming Danford's Hotel.

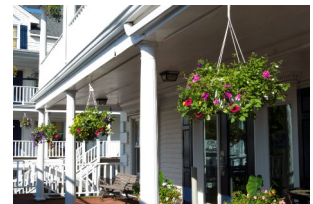


Janine Barchas



Participants were greeted by the JASNA-NY banner

We were even treated to an original screenplay reading of Austen's *Three Sisters*, by our own Lynn Marie Macy. The conference was conceived and executed by Asst RC, Kerri Spennicchia (below with Irene Jankowski).



Danford's Hotel walkway



Conference Coordinator Kerri Spennicchia & Irene Jankowski



The Masonic Temple (1796) is only one example of the lovely Austen period houses in the town



Carriage Museum volunteer, John