

Claudine Pepe DiMuzio Regional Coordinator

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the NY Metro Region website. My name is Claudine Pepe DiMuzio and I am honored to be the Regional Coordinator. As a fairly new JASNA member myself, I have found my participation in JASNA to be quite a singular experience, whether I am attending a regional meeting where we gather to meet and learn from speakers and develop relationships with other people who have similar passions, or I am partaking in the opportunities that are found online to connect and share with other Janeites.

In 1999, I had the pleasure of discovering Jane Austen's books and in late 2014, I reconnected with her when I discovered the world of Jane Austen Fan Fiction. I can only say that since then, I just haven't looked back! In JAFF, I've discovered a way to live in Austen's stories just a little bit longer than even she could've ever imagined possible, while connecting with a large variety of generous, inspiring, and witty people along the way. It's been the unplanned detour that I was quite unprepared for in my life!

I have also been proud to serve as an elementary school principal for the past decade of my career. In 2012, I earned my Doctorate at Fordham University in the area of Educational Leadership. As an educator, I have had the honor of supporting students' academic, social, and emotional development, and I have relished the opportunities that I've also had to help my staff and students develop into passionate readers and writers!

I look forward to future opportunities to learn more about Jane and her work from Austen scholars and other Austen admirers. As the new Regional Coordinator of JASNA NY Metro Region, I can't wait to be even more actively involved in organizing events with our steering committee members to help our members celebrate Austen's work, stay connected to her beloved characters, and continue to share with the world at large the enduring themes shared by Austen throughout her unforgettable stories!

Please feel free to drop me a note to share your thoughts and ideas about how JASNA NY Metro Region can continue to support its hundreds of members. As we mark the 200th year of Jane Austen's passing, I look forward to honoring her legacy through our shared love for Austen, as well as our commitment to shining a light on the many facets of her work that are as relevant and inspiring today for modern-day readers.

I am always open to suggestions and feedback and look forward to seeing our members throughout the year.

With regards,

Claudine Pepe DiMuzio Ed. D.

*"I wish, as well as everybody else, to be perfectly happy;
but, like everybody else, it must be in my own way."*

Sense and Sensibility

(see next page for Monica Alvarez)



Monica Alvarez
Program Chair

A New Yorker for the last thirty years and an English teacher for the past nine, I obtained my Ph. D in English Literature from the Graduate Center of the City of New York in 2013. During this time, I researched the nature of female friendships and various emotional attachments in Austen's six published novels. After that, I decided to spend more time with those who were as passionate about Jane Austen as I was, with those who understand her to be as relevant today as two hundred years ago—and I promptly joined JASNA. As a member, I benefitted from stimulating lectures and wonderful experiences that made me feel closer to Jane Austen's work than even before.

As the incoming Program Chair, I look forward to continue to extend these experiences to our members as we exploration Austen's world and novels in this important year marking the 200th anniversary of her death. I am particularly excited about celebrating the many ways in which her life and works intertwine with our city.

I'd love to hear from you—drop me a line to share how JASNA NY-Metro can continue to nourish the multifaceted interests of our members.

