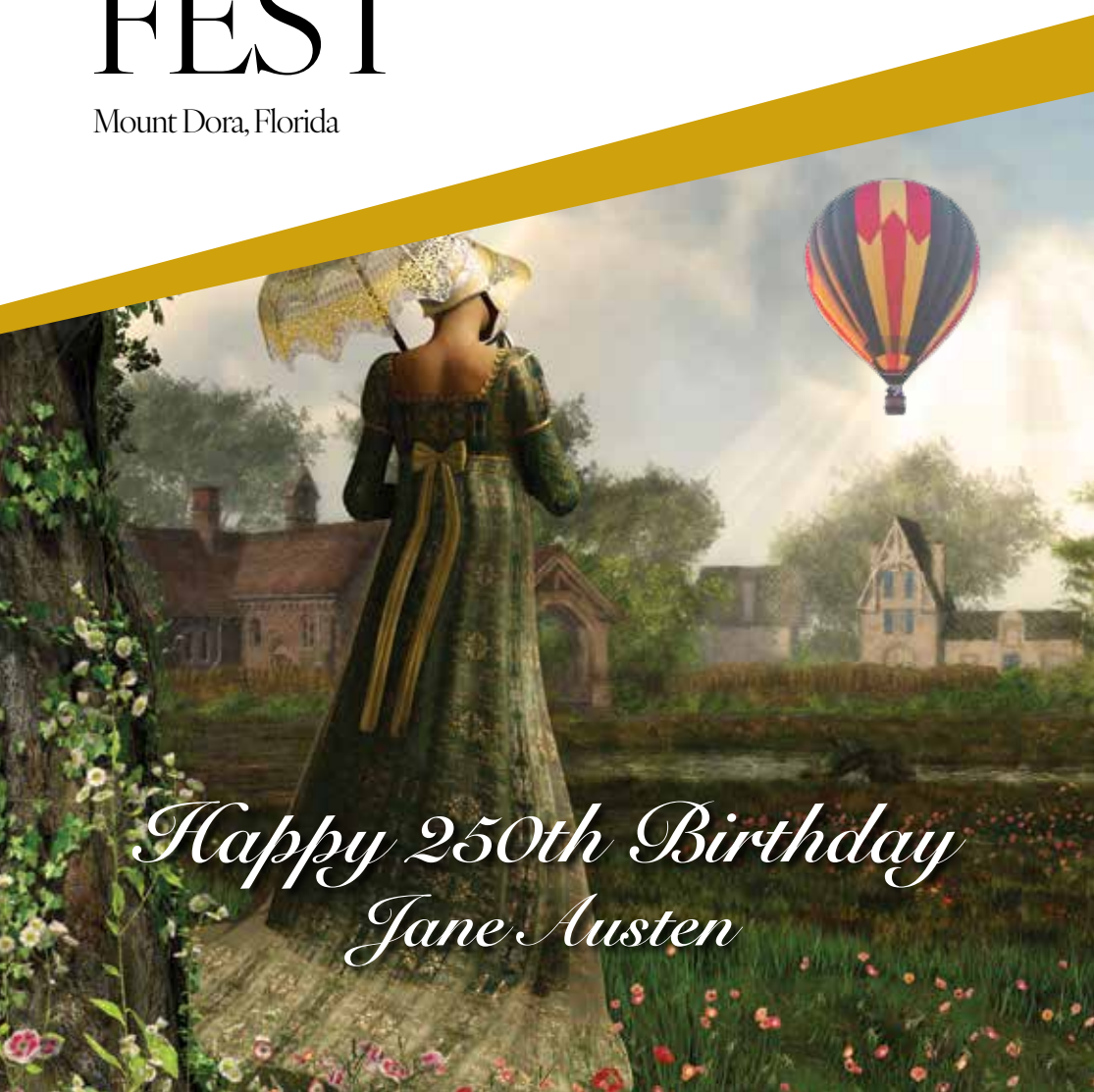




2025

JANE AUSTEN FEST

Mount Dora, Florida



*Happy 250th Birthday
Jane Austen*

CONTENTS



Balloon Rides,
Picnic, Strawberry
Picking, Dora
Canal Cruise, and
more

This year we
celebrate Jane
Austen's 250th
birthday with
many fun and
educational
activities.

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Welcome letter from our Chair Margaret Andersen and Our Mission Statement.

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Check out all the wonderful activities we have planned for you.

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We thank everyone that makes our scholarships possible and the ladies that, like Jane are pursuing a career in writing or journalism.

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A few photos of the fun events at last year's Jane Austen Fest.

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A short history about the Mount Dora origins and the town's founding families.

FROM THE CHAIR OF JANE AUSTEN FEST



Margaret Andersen

Hello again! My Jane Austen Friends,

Welcome, Welcome to our 5th Annual Jane Austen Fest!. As usual, we think this is our best yet. We wanted to make it special as our gal, Jane would have been 250 years old this year.

The Hot Air Balloon is exciting on Sunday morning. They have to do it early because of the wind currents. Sky Pirates Balloons is fully insured and licensed. The Balloon is tethered and will go up 75 feet so you will see Mount Dora from a totally different perspective. I can hardly wait!

We have two new workshops: the Parasol making workshop and also the Bracelet making workshop. The workshop leaders are exceptionally talented and we are happy they could join us this time around.

Both our Tea and Dinner are special this year. Both have very exciting menus wherein the Dinner menu has quotes from the novels where the various foods are mentioned and the Afternoon Tea menu contains the history of the food. These two menus are special to help us celebrate this 250th year of Jane.

We are always looking for volunteers and Board members. If you want to become more involved and this is something that interests you, please let us know.

You will want to meet this year's scholarship recipient, Valeria Morales. She is an extremely talented young lady. The dress, bonnet and corset she is wearing was her submission long with a paper explaining her research and choices she made in the execution of the project. She has been accepted at Florida State University, in the costume and design program.

Again it is a pleasure, along with our Board, to put together the Fest for you. Please fill out the evaluations and tell us what you liked and didn't like. We read them all.

Janefully,
Margaret Jane Andersen
President

OUR MISSION

In an atmosphere welcoming to all levels of interest and curiosity, the Jane Austen Fest-Mount Dora strives to educate by presenting a wide array of workshops, programs, and presentations in the excitement surrounding Jane Austen, the culture of the Regency Era, and the culture that evolved from it.

Jane Austen, as a woman, followed her passion and is a relevant role model for today's women. And as an outgrowth of this Fest, we want to help today's woman follow her passion by offering college scholarships.

A foot in the 21st Century and a toe in the Regency Era

EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

8:00 / Registration / Annie Donnelly Park

Mornings / Regency Marketplace / Annie Donnelly Park

All Day / Jane Austen Trivia Hunt / Downtown Mount Dora

10:00 / Welcome / Community Building Auditorium

10:30 - 11:30 am / Speaker: Dr. Juliette Wells – Jane Austen's Letters – An Intimate Voice / Community Building Auditorium

11:30 - 12:30 pm / Journaling Workshop / Community Building - Lobby

1:00 - 3:00 pm / Lawn Bowling Workshop / Lawn Bowling Club

1:00 - 3:00 pm / Playlet Workshop / Community Building - Lobby

1:00 - 3:00 pm / Bonnet Making Workshop / Community Building - Green Room

1:00 - 4:00 pm / Book Discussion / Barrel of Books

4:30 - 5:30 pm / Speaker: Elizabeth Steele – Pride and Prejudice: What We Learn From Reading and Watching / Community Building - Auditorium

6:00 - 9:00 pm / Soirée & Film / Community Building - Lobby

SATURDAY

8:00 am / Registration / Annie Donnelly Park

Mornings / Regency Marketplace / Annie Donnelly Park

All Day / Jane Austen Trivia Hunt / Downtown Mount Dora

9:30 am / Welcome & Introduction of Scholarship Winner / Community Building - Auditorium

10:00 - 11:00 am / Speaker: Kim Wilson – Tea With Jane Austen / Community Building - Auditorium

11:30 am / 1st Tea Sitting / Donnelly House

11:30 am - 1:00 pm / Stained Glass Workshop / First United Methodist Church

11:30 am - 1:30 pm / Turban Making Workshop / Community Building - Green Room

1:00 pm / 2nd Tea Sitting / Donnelly House

2:00 - 4:00 pm / Stained Glass Workshop / First United Methodist Church

2:00 - 4:00 pm / Bracelet Workshop / Community Building - Green Room

2:00 - 4:00 pm / Book Discussion / Barrel of Books

2:00 - 4:00 pm / Create a Parasol / Lakeside Inn

2:30 pm / 3rd Tea Sitting / Donnelly House

4:30 - 5:30 pm / Speaker: Rachel Dodge – Regency Etiquette in Jane Austen's Novels / Community Building - Auditorium

6:00 - 7:30 pm / Authentic Jane Austen Dinner / Mount Dora Yacht Club

8:00 pm / After Dinner 18th Century Theatre Event / Community Building - Auditorium

SUNDAY

Mornings / Regency Marketplace / Annie Donnelly Park

8:00 - 9:00 am / First Hot Air Balloon Rides / Annie Donnelly Park

9:00 - 10:00 am / Second Hot Air Balloon Rides / Annie Donnelly Park

10:00 am - 12:00 pm / Dora Canal Cruise / Embarks Yacht Club Pier

11:00 am / Regency Picnic / Gilbert Park

3:00 - 4:30 pm / Strawberry Picking / Bus Leaves from Annie Donnelly Park

Schedule is subject to change.
Scan the QR code for an up to date
schedule on our Website.





BOARD MEMBERS

Margaret Andersen, *President*
Nancy Hurlbert, *Treasurer*
Betsy Arvelo-Buzbee, *Creative Director*
Sheena Willis, *Director*
Jen Prohaska, *Director*
Stefanie Hibbert, *Director*
Heather Dhoundt, *Scholarship Chair*


COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shareen Groce, *Tee Shirts*
Lindsey Vincent, *Tea Co-Chair*

Thank you to all our volunteers. We can't do this without you.


Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipient: Valeria Morales. Scholarship will be presented at the Welcome ceremonies Saturday morning.

LEFT: Last year's Scholarship Recipient Shelby Delaney, Congratulations.



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Pink Tea

The Pink Tea has been raising funds for over 20 years FOR MAMMOGRAMS

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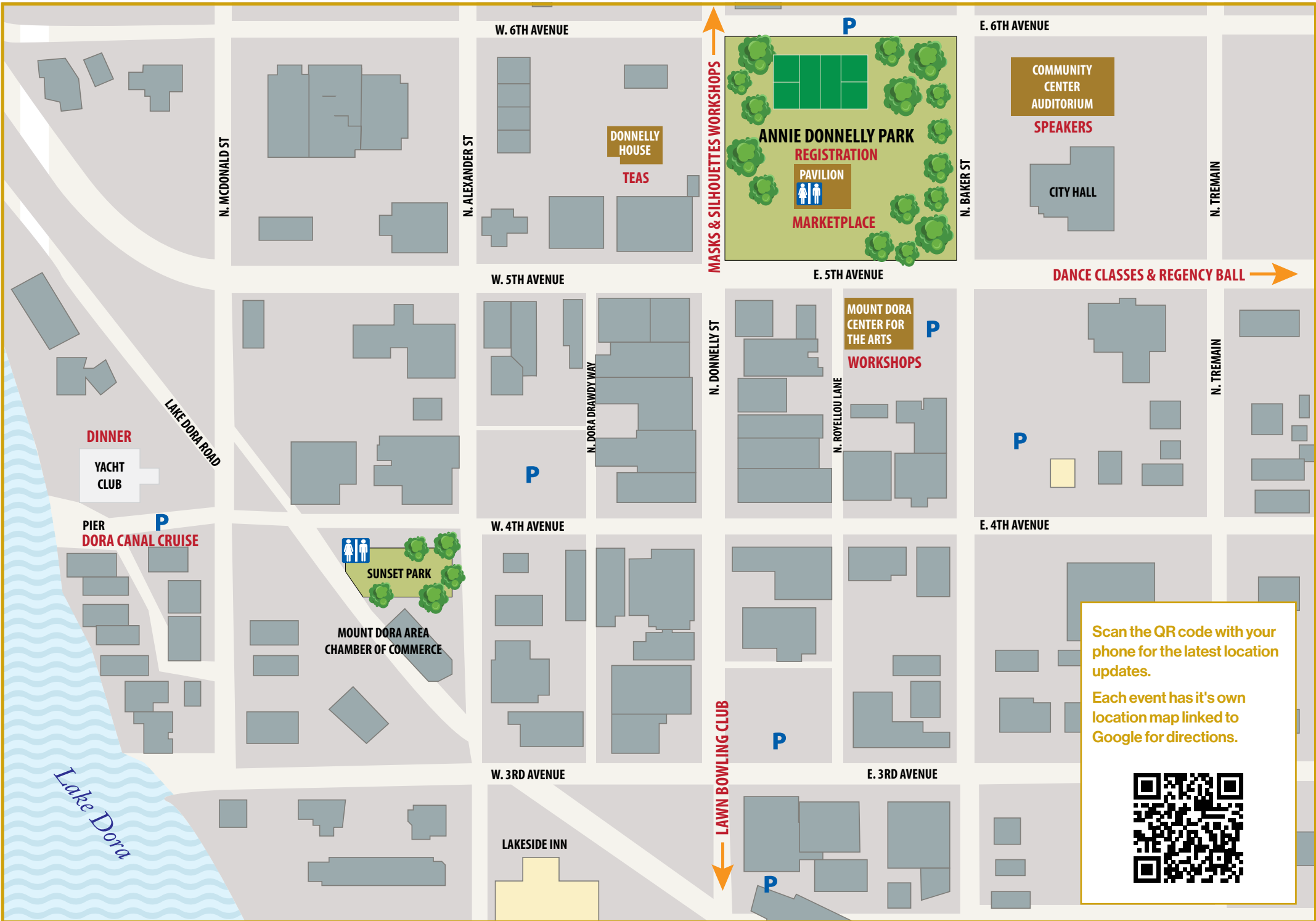
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MEMORIES OF THE 2024 FEST

The 2024 Fest was attended by over 300 women from all over the country. Many came in Regency costume, some not. Fun, knowledge, and meeting new as well as old friends at our Masquerade Ball, Soiree, Afternoon Teas, workshops, lectures and much more.



MOUNT DORA HISTORY

In 1845 Florida was admitted into the Union and it was in the 1850's that it was known that William and Dora Drawdy settled two miles south of Lake Dora. Government surveyors came to survey the area and were recipients of Dora Drawdy's hospitality. In 1910, in gratitude, they named Lake Dora in her honor. The David Simpson family were the first homesteaders in Mount Dora in 1874. Originally the town was named Royellou, an acronym for the names of the children of the first postmaster Ross Tremain - Roy, Ella and Louis. In 1882-1883 the name was changed to Mount Dora.

In 1886 the local newspaper, the Mount Dora Voice, stated that there were two general stores, a drugstore, a carriage factory, three hotels and two churches. And in 1887 the first train arrived in Mount Dora. Growth was slow and the earliest industry, citrus, had a devastatingly blow when freezes descended in 1894 and again 1895, nearly wiping out the fledgling groves.

It was in 1893 that J.P. Donnelly, had built what we call the Donnelly House. Rumor has it that it was built as a wedding gift to his wife, Annie McDonald Stone. It is an example of Steamboat Gothic/Queen Anne architecture, and the most photographed house in Lake County. The Lakeside Inn was built in that year as well. John Alexander, Annie and J.P. Donnelly as well as John McDonald came together to get the project built to become the first hotel in Mount Dora. Guests over the years have included President and Mrs. Coolidge, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford and President Dwight Eisenhower. Both structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1910 Mount Dora was incorporated and reportedly there were 371 people living in the town with 42 residing in the surrounding area. J. P. Donnelly is elected as the first mayor. And the first firehouse was built in 1923 and cells were added to also house the town's jail. It is now the Royellou museum.

In 1928 the Mount Dora Lawn Bowling Club was organized. It began with 3 hard packed sand rinks and 20 members. Eventually another 11 rinks were added and lights for night bowling. It is one of the largest Clubs in the US and attracts national and international lawn bowlers.

In 1929 the Community Building was built for \$35,000. Former President Coolidge and his wife Grace attended the dedication ceremony and planted a tree. In 2010 an expansion took place and the present lobby was added.

The First Art Festival was in 1975. Many other Festivals are now held in Mount Dora and the City is known as the City of Festivals.

In 2020 the first Jane Austen Fest is held!



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