



City of Wylie
Public Information Office

PRESS RELEASE

Smith Library Invites Community to Spend 'Day with Jane'

Wylie, Texas, March 10, 2017 – Wylie's Smith Library will recreate a day in the world of Jane Austen's England, when "A Day with Jane" is held Saturday, April 1, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Experience a day in the life of Lizzie, Emma and other beloved Jane Austen characters through lectures, crafts and activities. Begin the day learning about life in Regency-era England. Historian Jann Patterson Mackey will speak about Austen's homes and haunts, as well as important homes that likely inspired those seen in her works and were used as filming locations for film versions of her books.

Mackey holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Art History and Foreign Languages from Southern Methodist University, an MBA from Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management, a Master of Liberal Arts degree from SMU, and a Ph.D. in Humanities from the University of Texas at Dallas. In 2006 she was awarded a fellowship from the Royal Oaks Society, The British National Trust and The Attingham Trust to conduct an in-depth study of British country houses.

After the lecture, try your hand (and feet) at sports of the day, such as bocce (similar to lawn bowling) or pickleball (a racquet sport with roots in tennis and badminton).

Choose between afternoon breakout sessions, including Learning Ribbon Embroidery. Susan Fain will show you how to embellish clothing and accessories with basic stitches that are the basis for more complex designs. Supplies are provided. An avid embroiderer, Fain hosts the Regency Sewing Circle for the Jane Austen Society of North America, North Texas region.

Dr. Dallie Clark offers Letter Writing: Austen Style, an introduction to letter writing in the Regency era, with a look at Austen's own letters. If you participate in this session, you'll have time to practice with tips you've learned for writing your own letters. Supplies are provided for this session as well. Clark is a humanities professor at Collin College. She holds a doctorate in humanities from UTD, a master's degree from SMU, and a bachelor's degree from the University of South Alabama.

Everyone convenes for Abigail Malone's English country dance session in the afternoon. She'll teach the type of dances seen in such miniseries as "Pride and Prejudice." Although a dance with Mr. Darcy can't be promised, a good time will be had by all. Malone leads an English country dance group of several hundred people in Allen.

-more-

Smith Library's Day with Jane Austen

March 10, 2017

Page 2

The event is free, and lunch is included. Costumes are greatly admired but not required. Register through Eventbrite.com or call 972-516-6250, option 3. A Day with Jane is for teens and adults.

Smith Library is located in the Wylie Municipal Complex, 300 Country Club Rd., Bldg. 300, Wylie. Call 972-516-6250 for more information.

Media Contact:

Craig Kelly, PIO

972-516-6016

craig.kelly@wylietexas.gov

About Smith Library – Founded in 1970 by Rita and Truett Smith, the library serves the informational, cultural and recreational needs of the over 44,938 Wylie residents. In 2014, the library checked out over 500,000 items and hosted almost 190,000 visitors. More than 35,000 citizens have library cards, and the library offers 459 programs, attended last year by over 25,000 participants. Wylie was incorporated in 1887 and is home to an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, and an ISO-1 fire rating. One of the fastest-growing communities in the state, Wylie has had a 220-percent increase since 2000. In 2015, Wylie was named the 25th Best Place to Live in the Country by *Money Magazine*. Realtor.com named Wylie the second hottest suburb in the country in February 2017.