

❧ JASNA AGM ❧



AUSTIN AT 250

*“No check to my Genius
from beginning to end”*

OCT. 10–12, 2025



BALTIMORE

PREVIEW BROCHURE

MAY 2025

Baltimore AGM 2025



*I write only for fame, and without any
view to pecuniary emolument.*

Letter, January 16, 1796



This year's Annual General Meeting will be JASNA's biggest celebration of Jane Austen's 250th birthday. The AGM will include more than 20 hours of programming included in the registration fee, with speakers from nine countries and events over six days. This brochure will help you plan your AGM experience.

REGISTRATION



AGM in-person registration opens **June 19, 2025.**



Virtual/Livestream registration will open **June 26, 2025.**



See the [Registration webpage](#) for instructions and terms and conditions.



Attendee ~ \$370

Companion ~ \$260

Virtual/Livestream ~ \$185

Student Virtual/Livestream ~\$150



CHOOSE YOUR AGM EXPERIENCE

In-Person Attendee

\$370

Have it all: the complete conference plus all the social activities and two meals

- AGM Opening
- Five plenary lectures, including the Keynote, North American Scholar, and three additional plenaries
- Five breakout sessions of your choice
- Eighteen special sessions
- Interactive stations
- Ability to purchase tickets for Tours, Workshops, and Ticketed Events
- Social Hour, Banquet, Promenade, and Ball
- Other Saturday night entertainment
- Sunday Book-Signing
- Sunday Brunch,
- Plenary, and Closing
- Emporium access
- On-site museum exhibits

Attendee-Plus Add-On

\$65

- Access to all programming recorded at the AGM until February 1

In-Person Companion

\$260

Two meals and all the social activities of the AGM

- Social Hour
- Banquet
- Promenade and Ball
- Other Saturday night entertainment
- Sunday Book-Signing
- Sunday Brunch,
- Plenary, and Closing
- Ability to purchase tickets for Tours, Workshops, and Ticketed Events
- Emporium access

Companion must accompany a registered Attendee. No more than one Companion per Attendee.

Livestream/Virtual

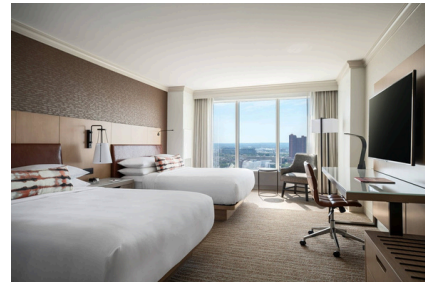
\$185

\$150 Student Members
Robust conference content from the comfort of home

- Live viewing of:
 - AGM Opening
 - Five plenary lectures, including the Keynote, North American Scholar, and three additional plenaries
 - AGM Closing Program
 - Five breakout sessions (preselected by JASNA)
 - Six Thursday and Friday evening special sessions
- Ability to participate in Q&A sessions through chatbox
- Access to recordings of programs listed above until February 1



BALTIMORE MARRIOTT WATERFRONT HOTEL



 **The room block opens June 23. *Note date change!!!***

 The JASNA room rate is \$219 plus tax a night (single through quad occupancy).

 If the block sells out, don't panic! There is always turnover during the summer.

 A bulletin board for those who want to share rooms will be opened after AGM registration.

 Find hotel details at jasna.org/agms/baltimore2025/hotel.php.

 For hotel-related questions, please contact Linda Slothouber at jasnaconferencedir@gmail.com.

JASNA has negotiated highly favorable room rates for conference attendees. **The reservation link and call-in number will be posted at jasna.org/agms/baltimore2025/hotel.php close to the opening date. You must use the posted link or call-in number to obtain the discounted room rate.**

JASNA does not book individual rooms for attendees or work with any third-party reservation services. Any communication from anyone offering to book your AGM room for you should be regarded as fraudulent.

The AGM will be held at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront. Located in the vibrant, recently developed Harbor East area, near Little Italy, the Inner Harbor, and the popular destination neighborhood of Fell's Point, this luxury hotel will provide AGM attendees with stunning water and skyline views and a host of shops and restaurants nearby.

The hotel's newly redesigned 750 luxurious rooms and suites are fitted out with all the modern necessities, including a mini-fridge, coffee/tea maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, safe, and desk.



*we went to the Bull, the same
inn at which we breakfasted in
that said journey*

Letter, June 15, 1808

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday

Tours: Winterthur (all-day), Nevermore (1/2 day), Fells Point Pub Crawl (evening) \$
AGM check-in opens (4:00 pm)
Meet & Greet
Movie screening \$

Thursday

Emporium
Special sessions
Tours: Shuttles (all-day), Winterthur (all-day), Historic Homewood and BMA (3/4 day), Black History (1/2 day), Nevermore (1/2 day), Fells Point Pub Crawl (evening), Ghost Tour (evening) \$
Workshops \$
Pop-Up Museum and artifact talks
Breakout Session A (See pages 9-24 for speakers and descriptions)
Special Guest Speaker: Caroline Jane Knight
Evening special sessions, Northanger Abbey Escape Room \$, and games

Friday

Emporium
Special sessions and workshops (morning)
AGM Opening (9:30 am) and Carol Medine Moss Keynote Lecturer: **Paula Byrne**
Plenary Author Panel: **Janine Barchas, Inger Brodey, Collins Hemingway, and Devoney Looser**
Breakout Session B (See pages 9-24 for speakers and descriptions)
Breakout Session C (See pages 9-24 for speakers and descriptions)
Pop-Up Museum and artifact talks
Plenary Speaker: **Vanessa Riley**
Tours: Fells Point Pub Crawl (evening), Ghost Tour (evening) \$
Special Guest Speaker: Deborah Charlton
Special Guest Speaker: Susannah Harker and Gabrielle Malcolm \$



\$ Attendees and Companions may purchase tickets during online registration.

Schedule is subject to change

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE CONTINUED

Saturday

Emporium

North American Scholar: **Juliette Wells**

Breakout Session D (See pages 9–24 for speakers and descriptions)

Breakout Session E (See pages 9–24 for speakers and descriptions)

JASNA Business Meeting

Pop-Up Museum and artifact talks

Social hour

Banquet

Promenade

Regency ball

Silhouette portraits \$

Ball-alternative program and games

Sunday

Charm City “Promenade” Fun Run

Jane Austen Prayers

Book-signing by AGM speaker authors

Brunch and Plenary Speaker: **John Mullan**

Tours: Black History (1/2 day), Historic Homewood and BMA (1/2 day), Ladew Gardens (1/2 day),
Nevermore (1/2 day)

Chesapeake Shakespeare Company Play *Persuasion* \$

Maritime Merriment Concert \$

Regency Style Dinner at Pierpoint Restaurant \$

Monday

Tours: Nevermore (1/2 day), Goucher (1/2 day) \$



\$ Attendees and Companions may purchase tickets during online registration.

Schedule is subject to change

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Paula Byrne

Carol Medine Moss Keynote Lecturer



Biographer, literary critic, and novelist **Dr. Paula Byrne** has written two books on Jane Austen: *The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things*, in which she illuminated Austen's life and writing using her own words and objects, and *The Genius of Jane Austen: Her Love of Theater and Why She Is a Hit in Hollywood*. Byrne was the historical and literary consultant for the PBS series *Sanditon*. Along with her Austen books, she has written several best-selling literary biographies, examining the lives of Georgians Dido Elizabeth Belle and Mary Robinson and 20th-century figures Barbara Pym, Kathleen "Kick" Kennedy, and Evelyn Waugh. Her most recent book, *Hardy Women*, looks at Thomas Hardy through the eyes of the women in his life; The Times chose it as its best summer read and pronounced it "a treat for Hardy fans and unhappy wives." Byrne has written two novels, one of which is a fictional account of the life of Marlene Dietrich. An Austen expert and renowned practitioner of the biographer's art, Paula Byrne is the perfect choice to serve as the 2025 Carol Medine Moss Keynote Lecturer.



Juliette Wells

2025 JASNA North American Scholar

The 2025 JASNA North American Scholar is **Dr. Juliette Wells**, Professor of Literary Studies at Goucher College in Baltimore. Wells is a former JASNA traveling lecturer and has spoken at many AGMs over the years. She is the author of several histories of Austen readers and fans. Her most recent book, *A New Jane Austen: How Americans Brought Us the World's Greatest Novelist*, centers on visionary writers and collectors, including Goucher College alumna Alberta Burke, who were advocates for Austen's literary significance, broadening her readership and preserving artifacts vital to her legacy.



Janine Barchas, Inger Brodey, Collins Hemingway, and Devoney Looser



Dr. Janine Barchas holds the Chancellor's Council Centennial Chair in the Book Arts at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition to authoring *The Lost Books of Jane Austen* and *Matters of Fact in Jane Austen*, she is the creator behind the digital project "What Jane Saw," which reconstructs two Georgian art exhibitions as witnessed by Austen. Her latest publication, scheduled for 2025, is *The Novel Life of Jane Austen: A Graphic Biography*, in partnership with artist Isabel Greenberg.

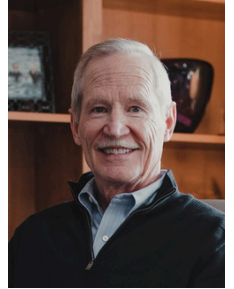


PLENARY SPEAKERS CONTINUED



Dr. Inger Brodey is a Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill. *Jane Austen and the Price of Happiness*, published in 2024, focuses on Austen's endings. Brodey leads the “Jane Austen’s Desk” project, which re-creates Austen’s writing environment virtually, and co-founded the Jane Austen Summer Program and Jane Austen & Co.

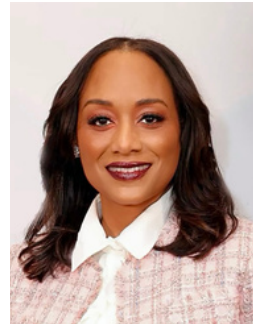
Collins Hemingway combines a career writing books on business and the internet with a deep appreciation for Jane Austen. He has written historical fiction based on Austen's life and has turned to literary criticism with his latest book *Jane Austen and the Creation of Modern Fiction: Six Novels in a “Style Entirely New.”*



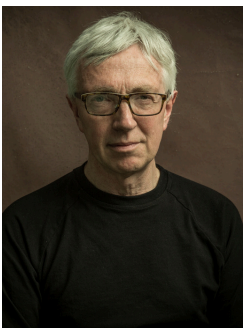
Dr. Devoney Looser is Regents Professor of English at Arizona State University. She is the author or editor of eleven books, including *The Making of Jane Austen* and *The Daily Jane Austen: A Year of Quotes*. Her series of 24 30-minute lectures on Austen is available through The Great Courses and Audible. Looser’s latest, *Wild for Austen: A Rebellious, Subversive, and Untamed Jane*, will be published in September 2025.

Vanessa Riley

Dr. Vanessa Riley is the author of over 25 novels including a trio of books based on the true stories of extraordinary women during the Georgian/Regency era, *Island Queen*, *Queen of Exiles*, and *Sister Mother Warrior*. Riley’s works spotlight hidden narratives of Black women and women of color, emphasizing power, sisterhoods, and family sagas across historical fiction, romance, and mystery genres. She was the historical consultant for Hallmark’s *Sense and Sensibility* and the 2024 Georgia Mystery/Detective Author of the Year for *Murder in Drury Lane*. With a doctorate from Stanford University and other engineering degrees from Penn State, she brings a research-oriented approach to her inclusive storytelling about the Caribbean and the Georgian and Regency eras.



John Mullan



Known for his entertaining and engaging style, **Dr. John Mullan**, Lord Northcliffe Chair of Modern English Literature at University College London, specializes in 18th- and 19th-century literature. A frequent guest on radio and TV, writer of the Guardian’s column on current fiction, and author of several books including *What Matters in Jane Austen?*, he has a skill for uncovering the essence of a novelist’s writing. His presentations have led audiences on captivating and thought-provoking journeys through Austen’s use of language and phrasing. Mullan will bring this very special AGM to a memorable end.

BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



2025 JASNA NEW VOICES BREAKOUT SPEAKER

**Dr. Po-Yu (Rick) Wei, International Region
Wenzhou-Kean University**

This year's New Voices speaker is a Taiwanese scholar teaching English literature and composition in mainland China. Dr. Wei writes, "I always have Jane Austen on my syllabus and course plan. I am dedicated to sharing Austen's wisdom, humor, and elegance with native Chinese readers and speakers." His breakout topic is inspired by a class discussion about how shy people found partners in Regency England.

Rick works as a lecturer at Wenzhou-Kean University in China. His research interests include 18th-century English literature, culture, and society, Regency England, and Jane Austen studies. Topics of Dr. Wei's recently published essays include 18th-century motherhood and female gamesters, Austen's dietary philosophy, and food and Francophobic sentiment in 18th-century English literature.

The description of his talk, "'That Shyness Which Too Often Keeps Him Silent': Jane Austen and the Ethics of Shyness," appears at session B-1, below.

The AGM program includes five scheduled time slots for breakout sessions. During online registration, attendees will select one speaker from a group of concurrent breakout presentations in each of the five time slots. Times and the order of speakers are subject to change in the final schedule. Due to meeting room availability constraints, Breakout Session A will take place on Thursday evening.

BREAKOUT SESSION A - THURSDAY 7:00 PM



A1. Rebecca Romney, Washington, DC, Metropolitan Region

Who Does A Genius Learn From? Building a Book Collection of Austen's Favorite Women Writers

Jane Austen has inspired millions. But who were the women who inspired her? This session explores that question through the lens of book collecting. While they are often complementary activities, reading and book collecting nevertheless offer distinct perspectives: reading is about the story *in* the book, while collecting is about the story *of* the book. Approaching Austen's legacy through this multifaceted lens—a material, book-historical approach, across centuries and inflected through her favorite authors—sharpens the image of Austen as a genius not because she was "above" her literary contemporaries, but because she was actively engaged in dialogues with them.

BREAKOUT SESSION A - THURSDAY 7:00 PM

Rebecca Romney is a rare book dealer and author. She is the co-founder of Type Punch Matrix, a rare book firm based in the Washington, DC, area, and the co-founder of the Honey & Wax Book Collecting Prize. Among her publications are *The Romance Novel in English: A Survey in Rare Books, 1769-1999* and *Jane Austen's Bookshelf: A Rare Book Collector's Quest to Find the Women Writers Who Shaped a Legend*.

A2. Janet Saidi, Central Missouri Region

Dr. Nikki Payne, Central Missouri Region

Romance, Relevance, Reaction: Jane Austen and Romantic Fiction

Jane Austen is often associated with the stories, books, and films of the romance genre, and it might even be the romance of Austen's plots that both powered and obscured the social commentary of her novels. This session is a lively conversation between an author-anthropologist and a journalist about romance and Austen through the lens of history, anthropology, and pop-culture. We'll discuss Austen's examination of the power structures of her day, her upending of established notions of status, her unpredictable heroines, her complicated happy endings, and how it all adds up to: Romance.

Janet Saidi is a professor of journalism and a public-radio journalist who produces *The Austen Connection* media project. She spoke about podcasting Austen at the 2023 AGM. Her new book is *Jane Austen: The Original Romance Novelist*.

Dr. Nikki Payne is a tech anthropologist who has written the popular Austenesque novels *Pride and Protest* and *Sex, Lies, and Sensibility*. Her most recent novel is *The Princess and the P.I.*

A3. Renata Dennis, Georgia Region

Dr. Alicia Kerfoot, SUNY Brockport

Shared Session: Head to Toe

Renata Dennis, Georgia Region

Tignons, Hats, and Headwraps: What Miss Lambe and Other Women of the Caribbean Wore on Their Heads

In *Sanditon*, Jane Austen introduces us to Miss Lambe, a “rich West Indian...about seventeen, half mulatto, chilly and tender.” Headwear of Miss Lambe's West India, representing a mosaic of cultures, was more varied than those familiar to us from Regency England. Period illustrations and paintings from this region appear to demonstrate headdresses based on race and social status. This presentation describes the types of headpieces worn by women living in and around the Caribbean. Miss Lambe was a woman of high social class, representing two races and two countries. What did she wear in her homeland?



BREAKOUT SESSION A - THURSDAY 7:00 PM

Renata Dennis is a retired nurse. She is currently the Georgia Regional Coordinator and At-Large Board Member of JASNA. She is also chair of the JASNA EDI Committee. Renata has been a guest speaker on the *AustenChat* podcast and has presented to several JASNA Regions, and as part of the inaugural Pecha Kucha cohort at the 2023 AGM.

Dr. Alicia Kerfoot, SUNY Brockport

Jane Austen's Footwear in Fact and Fiction

Visitors to Chawton can make a tangible connection to Austen's life by walking in her footsteps and thinking about the accounts of walking she gives in her letters and in her novels. This session focuses on how a study of footwear from the late 18th and early 19th centuries can deepen our connection with Austen's life and writing. Images of footwear from the archives at the Northampton Museum, the Bata Shoe Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum will be displayed and explained, with a focus on how Austen depicts walking boots.

Alicia Kerfoot is an Associate Professor of English at SUNY Brockport in Western NY, where she specializes in literature and material culture of the long 18th century. She has published essays in journals such as *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, *Fashion Theory*, and the *British Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*. She contributed to the book *Frances Burney and the Arts*, and she is writing a book on footwear in fiction of the long 18th century. She presented a breakout session on the topic of Catherine Morland's "plain black shoes" at the 2010 JASNA AGM and has also shared her research on footwear with the Central and Western New York Region.

A4. Elizabeth Jane Steele, Eastern Pennsylvania Region **250 Years of Arguing With Jane Austen**

Why, when we gather annually to celebrate the genius of Jane Austen, do we argue with the fate she has determined for Charlotte Lucas? Why do we continue to believe that Willoughby truly loved Marianne? Why do we think Darcy is shy? The focus of this session will allow us all to challenge or defend the lopping off of characters' heads by Jane Austen. Dust off your debate skills, and come prepared to defend your hypothesis before fellow Janeites. Many of us will defend Austen's choices. The only caveat? You must resort to the text, no movie references permitted. Email liza_janeite@hotmail.com to register your argument.

Elizabeth Jane Steele served as Coordinator of the 2009 JASNA AGM in Philadelphia and as JASNA's Vice President for Conferences. She is now the Chair of the Nominating Committee. She has written essays for *Persuasions* Volumes 29 and 32. A former information technology professional, she now teaches courses on Jane Austen's novels through the Center for Learning in Retirement at Delaware Valley University.



BREAKOUT SESSION A - THURSDAY 7:00 PM

A5. Jo Ann Staples, Middle Tennessee Region

Kim Wilson, Wisconsin Region

Celebrating Jane Austen's Birthday

How did Jane Austen celebrate her birthday? What gifts might she have received? And would she have had a birthday cake? Drawing from Austen's fiction and letters, Austen family records, and contemporary sources, this talk will explore how birthdays were observed in the Regency era—from simple family gatherings to festive foods and games, to cherished presents like books and jewelry. We'll bring these traditions to life with a discussion of period recipes, party games, and gift ideas for celebrating Austen's 250th birthday in true Regency style.

Jo Ann Staples is retired from the Department of Mathematics at Vanderbilt University. Her primary interest now is the social history of the Georgian era. She has organized Regency dinners, balls, and game days for her local JASNA Region and has presented AGM talks on card games, home remedies, and ball dress. She is the author of two books, *Jane Austen's Card Games* and *Jane Austen's Games and Pastimes*.

Kim Wilson is the author of *Tea with Jane Austen*, *In the Garden with Jane Austen*, *At Home with Jane Austen*, and the upcoming *Entertaining Mr. Darcy*. She was a JASNA traveling lecturer for the 2022-2023 term, and has served as Regional Coordinator for the Wisconsin Region. She has presented breakouts, special sessions, and workshops at several AGMs and frequently presents programs for JASNA Regions.



BREAKOUT SESSION B - FRIDAY 3:30 PM

B1. Dr. Po-Yu (Rick) Wei, Wenzhou-Kean University

'That Shyness Which Too Often Keeps Him Silent': Jane Austen and the Ethics of Shyness

This session investigates Jane Austen's portrayal of shy characters. Austen frames shyness as a significant maker of personal morality. She aligns with the 18th-century views that shyness, as a social inconvenience, warrants correction, but she diverges from the prevailing notion that women are inherently shy and should remain so. Austen's ethical treatment of shyness underscores her broader celebration of modesty and the complex considerations surrounding the social behavior of her time.

Coming from Taiwan, **Dr. Po-Yu (Rick) Wei** works as a lecturer at Wenzhou-Kean University in China, teaching literature and composition. His research interests include 18th-century English literature, culture, and society, Regency England, and Jane Austen studies. Topics of his recently published essays include 18th-century motherhood and female gamesters, Austen's dietary philosophy, and food and Francophobic sentiment in 18th-century English literature.

BREAKOUT SESSION B - FRIDAY 3:30 PM

B2. Elaine Bander, Montréal Region

“Born to be an Heroine”: How Austen’s Unchecked Genius Transformed the Georgian Heroine

Rather than imitate the many novels that she read, Austen invented a new kind of heroine who challenged readers to rethink what the novel could be. This session examines five categories of Georgian novel heroines that Austen burlesqued and transformed, demonstrating how each plays against readers’ expectations and how, while each heroine is unique, each asserts her agency, complexity, and responsibility.

Dr. Elaine Bander, retired from the English Department of Dawson College (Montréal), has been a member of JASNA since 1993, serving in many capacities, and has published many essays and book chapters on Austen and other Georgian writers.

B3. Dr. Alexandra Jeikner, Deree–The American College of Greece

From Juvenile Wittiness to Adult Resistance: Tracing Jane Austen’s Wicked Wit

This session will examine Austen’s final novel, which she called *The Brothers* and her family later titled *Sanditon* (1817), and her last poem, “Written at Winchester on Tuesday the 15th July 1817,” in light of one of her juvenilia pieces, *Love and Freindship* (1790). Scholarship illustrates that children’s literature often reflects and comments upon socio-cultural values and norms more openly than adult fiction. This approach will expose Austen’s genius of concealing a wicked wit behind an imperfect, burlesque style that reminds readers of her juvenile style, to subtly resist the faultless image crafted by her family.

Dr. Alexandra Jeikner is an Assistant Professor in the English and Modern Languages Department at Deree–The American College of Greece. Her conference presentations as well as her journal and conference publications reflect her research interests, ranging from nursery rhymes and (children’s) literature, to teaching pedagogy and academic integrity, to artificial intelligence in education.

B4. Brianna Duffin, Rosemont College

Women In Love



Jane Austen’s novels are far from conventional romances. They are a unique blend of components (such as bildungsroman and satire), using romance as a framework and plot mechanism to achieve a more sophisticated end. This session will explore why Austen’s characters enter into loving marriages: because, for a host of internal and external reasons, they must. We will delve into Austen’s narrative strategies for creating romantic connection, explore how the novels demonstrate comprehension of marriage as a socioeconomic institution, and suggest why the heroines attain perfect matches that bring them true joy at the completion of their internal journeys.

Brianna Duffin is a graduate student at Rosemont College in Pennsylvania. She has research experience in English-language literature across eras and styles through a feminist lens.

BREAKOUT SESSION B - FRIDAY 3:30 PM

B5. Mavis Biss, Loyola University Maryland **Karen Stohr, Georgetown University** **Jane Austen's Philosophical Genius**

While it is unlikely that Jane Austen considered herself a philosopher, her novels nevertheless contain profound philosophical insights. Her capacity to illuminate essential features of moral and social life has earned her a devoted following among philosophers, and her characters make frequent appearances in philosophical works. This presentation has two aims. First, we will take stock of the ways in which Austen's novels have exerted influence on philosophical thought, and what that means for Austen's status as a philosopher in her own right. Second, we will identify and explore several themes in Austen's novels that we see as having particularly important implications for moral philosophy.

Mavis Biss is professor of philosophy at Loyola University Maryland. She specializes in Kantian ethics and conceptions of moral creativity and moral self-cultivation. Her work has appeared in journals such as *Philosophers Imprint*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, and *Kantian Review*, as well as in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, and *Psyche*.

Karen Stohr is the Ryan Family Professor of Metaphysics and Moral Philosophy at Georgetown University. Her primary research area is ethics, including the moral aspects of etiquette and social interaction. Stohr is the author of three books and numerous journal articles, with publications in *Persuasions* and *Philosophy and Literature*. Her writing has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *Washingtonian*, and *Notre Dame Magazine*. She is a frequent guest on radio shows and podcasts.

B6. Jazmine Casas, University of Texas at Austin **The Quixotic Writer: Jane Austen's Role in *Northanger Abbey***

This session examines the mingling of free-indirect discourse and authorial intrusion to consider Austen's own role *within* the novel, with primary focus on *Northanger Abbey*. This session considers the relationship between reader, writer, and novelist herself to attempt to define the "Quixotic Writer" by examining Austen's style as a writer and her own relationship to reading. Furthermore, this session contemplates how these modes of identification appear in "fan studies" today.

Jazmine Casas is a second year Ph.D student at the University of Texas at Austin, where her area of study includes film and the long 19th-century British novel, primarily under the lenses of women's and gender studies.



BREAKOUT SESSION C - FRIDAY 4:35 PM

C1. Claire Saim, International Region

Jane Austen's Flamboyant French Cousin, the Countess Eliza de Feuillide, and How She Influenced Austen's Work

This session will familiarize members with Jane Austen's first cousin, Elizabeth Hancock, who became the Countess Eliza de Feuillide before marrying Henry Austen. The current owners of the castle that Eliza and her husband, Jean-Francois Capot de Feuillide, rented in the South of France have graciously given access to their personal archives. This new material will be presented to help members better understand Eliza's life in France during Marie Antoinette's sparkling reign and how Jane Austen's "French" cousin and sister-in-law may have influenced her writing.

Based in Paris, France, **Claire Saim** is a French writer. She published (with Gwen Giret) *Jane Austen: The Visual Encyclopedia* in 2023 in French, followed by the English and Spanish versions in 2024.

C2. Dr. Kenneth L. Brewer, Montclair State University

The Genius of Misdirection: Jane Austen's Narrative Sleight of Hand in *Emma*

Jane Austen's narrative technique in *Emma* misdirects readers from crucial plot clues, particularly regarding Frank Churchill and Jane Fairfax's hidden engagement. First-time readers, like Emma, are shocked by the revelation despite earlier hints. In contrast, the initial part of the novel, in which Emma is surprised by Elton's proposal, is often dismissed as farcical. However, Austen skillfully prevents questioning of plot elements, such as John Knightley's "revelation" of Elton's interest in her and his subsequent criticism of Emma. By assigning this role to John instead of George, Austen maintains character consistency and avoids jealousy themes, reinforcing Highbury's conflict-suppressing nature.

Dr. Kenneth L. Brewer is currently a Visiting Professor in Writing Studies and English at Montclair State University. After some years of working on issues in ethics and aesthetics, including publishing articles on horror films, the morality of the television laugh track, and Immanuel Kant's views on fashion, he has recently published on Austen's use of indirect speech in *Emma*.



C3. Wanas Radwan, Edmonton, Alberta Region

Austen's Whispers of Advice

In *Pride and Prejudice* and *Persuasion*, Austen crafts interactions between characters with intentional gaps that invite readers to fill the silences with their own assertions, fears, and hopes. It is in these quiet spaces of each novel that Austen offers whispers of advice, unique to each individual who engages with the story. This session is an opportunity for us to engage in the diverse wonderings, curiosities, and epiphanies that emerge from what is left unsaid in Austen's novels.

BREAKOUT SESSION C - FRIDAY 4:35 PM

Wanas Radwan is a certificated teacher in Alberta and serves as a policy research consultant at a public school board. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Secondary Education at the University of Alberta. Her research interests include exploring how stories may influence an individual's understanding of self.

C4. Dr. Susan Allen Ford, Mississippi Region

“A Strange Business . . . in America”: How Jane Austen Reads the World Across the Atlantic

While the East Indies fired the young Jane Austen's imagination, the mature writer turned toward the Americas. What did Austen know about the Americas? We will consider the discourse on transatlantic issues available to Austen through imaginative and discursive writing—novels, poetry, travel narratives, and political treatises—that she read (or probably read). These works provided images of the natural world, investigations of mores and morals, depictions of class and social change, and arguments about slavery, abolition, and the complicated politics of British imperialism. What image of “Austen's America” can we perceive in her fiction?

Dr. Susan Allen Ford has been Editor of *Persuasions* and *Persuasions On-Line* since 2006. She is Professor of English Emerita at Delta State University and a frequent presenter for JASNA. She has published essays on Austen and her contemporaries, the gothic, detective fiction, and Shakespeare, and her book, *What Jane Austen's Characters Read (and Why)*, was published in 2024. She is now beginning work on a history of JASNA.

C5. Hazel Jones, International Region

From Pammydiddle to Sanditon: Jane Austen's Genius of Place

A sense of place is critical in Jane Austen's fiction, but how did she learn to create realistic locations while keeping descriptive imagery to the minimum? Austen's teenage writings show her experimenting with geographical settings, but even then she realized the value of authentic-sounding locations, and by the time she had three published novels to her name, her genius had extended far beyond the mere process of naming. Landscapes, towns, and villages are brought into being with the lightest of touches and, in the three later novels, a keen sense of place is given full emotional expression.

Hazel Jones is the editor of the *Jane Austen Society Report* and author of *Jane Austen and Marriage*, *Jane Austen's Journeys*, and *The Other Knight Boys: Jane Austen's Dispossessed Nephews*. She has presented talks at JASNA AGMs in Washington, DC, Kansas City, Williamsburg, and Victoria, and her essays have appeared in various journals, including *Persuasions* and *Persuasions On-Line*.



BREAKOUT SESSION C - FRIDAY 4:35 PM

C6. Hilary Davidson, Fashion Institute of Technology

The Words of Regency Fashion: Closing the Gaps Between Page and Person

How did Jane Austen, her contemporaries, and their fashion media describe clothing, and what did they mean when they did? Drawing on new research undertaken for Davidson's 2025 book, *A Guide To Regency Dress: From Corsets and Breeches to Bonnets and Muslin*, this presentation looks at the words of fashion in use during Austen's adult life and their slippery associations with actual garments. The language of dress from this period is not necessarily straightforward to understand now. Words commonly used to describe Regency dress such as "bonnet," "Spencer," "chemisette," or "shirt" had multiple meanings and interpretations for their original wearers.

Hilary Davidson is a dress historian and curator, and Chair/Associate Professor in the School of Graduate Studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. She presented on the BBC documentary *Pride & Prejudice: Having a Ball*, and spoke at the 2024 AGM. Research sparked by her reconstruction of Jane Austen's pelisse led to the books *Dress in the Age of Jane Austen*, *Jane Austen's Wardrobe*, and *A Guide to Regency Dress*.



BREAKOUT SESSION D - SATURDAY 10:30 AM

D1. Sonjeong Cho, Seoul National University

From Liberal Austen to Transnational Austen: The Specter of Postfeminism in *Mansfield Park*

This session deals with the transnational reading of *Mansfield Park*, arguably Austen's most patriotic and least feminist novel, with a specific focus on South Korean cultural manifestations and imaginaries of postfeminism. Austen's representation of the nexus between rights and duties reflects her subtle negotiation between the Republican motherhood and liberal individualism. Such reformulation of rights and duties resonates with what could be elaborated as postfeminist sensibility in the contemporary South Korean context.

Sonjeong Cho is Professor of English at Seoul National University in South Korea, specializing in Austen, the Brontës, women writers, and feminist theory. She wrote a book chapter, "Queer Literacy and Transcultural Emma," for *Jane Austen in Asia*. She translated *Pride and Prejudice* and *Northanger Abbey* into Korean.

BREAKOUT SESSION D - SATURDAY 10:30 AM

D2. Marsha Huff, Wisconsin Region

Method in Her Madness: Jane Austen's *History of England*

In *Northanger Abbey*, Catherine Morland complains that history treatises are “very tiresome,” with “men all so good for nothing and hardly any women.” Rather than complain, however, teenage Jane Austen wrote her own *History of England*, declaring that her aim was to prove the innocence of Mary, Queen of Scots, while condemning Queen Elizabeth, “that pest of society.” Austen’s history is ostensibly nonfiction, but she develops her stated thesis like a work of fiction, with carefully chosen facts and colorful characters—including many women. There is real method in her madcap romp through history.

Marsha Huff has presented at three past AGMs and has published essays in *Persuasions On-Line*: “Sir Thomas Bertram and the Slave Trade” and “Austen and Vermeer, Fellow Artists.” She was President of JASNA, 2006–2010, and Co-Coordinator of the 2005 AGM in Milwaukee. She is a lawyer specializing in tax-exempt organizations.

D3. Dr. Sarah Emsley, Nova Scotia Region

Books as Children

Jane Austen famously referred to *Pride and Prejudice* as her “own darling Child” and said of *Sense and Sensibility* that she could “no more forget it, than a mother can forget her sucking child.” This session will provide a brief overview of the tradition of connecting the creation of art with the creation of human life and analyze these comments from Austen’s letters in the context of her development as a writer, her experiences with publication, and her relationships with family members—especially her sisters-in-law, who experienced the risks and challenges of motherhood as well as its joys.

Dr. Sarah Emsley is the author of *Jane Austen’s Philosophy of the Virtues* and editor of *Jane Austen and the North Atlantic*. She has served as a JASNA Board Member and Traveling Lecturer and presented at twelve AGMs and several Regional meetings. She lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and her debut novel, *The Austens*, which is set partly in Halifax and imagines the friendship between Jane and her sister-in-law Fanny, will be published later this year.



BREAKOUT SESSION D - SATURDAY 10:30 AM

D4. Dr. Theresa M. Kenney, University of Dallas

Jane Austen and the Temple of Truth: René Girard and Austen's Endings

Critic René Girard asserted in *Deceit, Desire, and the Novel* that the ending of a novel is the “temple of truth,” meaning that all of the preceding chapters must be read in light of the closure. The way the author intends to end the story affects the way we read the entirety. Jane Austen’s attention to multiple thematic strands and rhetorical strategies in the closures of her novels shows she is a master of her craft. She teaches us to “read backwards” from the conclusion in a way that engages the reader’s memory, imagination, and powers of prognostication.

University of Dallas Professor of English **Theresa Kenney** has written on Austen, Brontë, Dante, Donne, Southwell, and Dickens. Her books include *Women Are Not Human: A Renaissance Treatise and Responses*, *The Christ Child in Medieval Culture: Alpha es et O!*, and “All Wonders in One Sight”: *The Christ Child Among the Elizabethan and Stuart Poets*. Her recent *Last Impressions: Jane Austen’s Endings* examines Austen’s strategies for closure. She teaches the 19th-century novel and early modern and medieval literature.

D5. Amanda Halla, Maryland Region

Austen’s Genius at Conveying Complex Ideas in One Word: An Example From Willoughby in *Sense & Sensibility*

Austen is not known for lengthy descriptions of her characters. Instead she sketches likenesses in a few sentences and uses well-chosen turns of phrase in conversation and succinct references to convey nuanced character traits to her contemporaries. Because of changes in lifestyle, many of these references are lost on modern readers. In *Sense and Sensibility*, Willoughby’s “hunters” are mentioned two times. Why was this important to highlight? What did Jane Austen assume that her audience understood from this reference? Because Austen did not participate in men’s sports, how did she know about this and what meaning her readers would assign to it?

Amanda Halla is JASNA’s Ombudsperson and has served on the Steering Committees for three AGMs.



BREAKOUT SESSION E - SATURDAY 1:00 PM

E1. Dr. Carolyn J. Brown, North Carolina Region
Dr. Rachel Gevlin, Virginia Commonwealth University
Robin Henry, North Texas Region
Dr. Jason D. Solinger, University of Mississippi
Dr. Alice Villaseñor, SUNY Buffalo State University
Austen: The Adaptation Machine



One proof of Austen's unchecked genius is the continuous effort to adapt, retell, and sequelize Austen's fictions, from the first stage adaptation in the 19th century to the recent boom in Austen-inspired young adult fictions. This roundtable of five JASNA veterans will offer fresh takes on the pleasures, purposes, and prolificacy of Austen reimaginings. Why are Austen's fictions such useful or pliable cultural material? How do we account for Austen's remarkable iterability? Books, films, television, and even AI-generated Austen fictions will come under scrutiny as the panel examines the enormous popularity and variety of Austen adaptations.

Dr. Carolyn J. Brown is a teacher and writer in Chapel Hill, NC. She is the former chair and a current member of the JASNA Nominating Committee, the former chair of the Grants Committee, and former Regional Coordinator of the Mississippi Region. She has published essays on Austen in *Persuasions* and the *Eudora Welty Review*, and has presented at three AGMs. Her most recent publication is an essay in *Retelling Jane Austen: Essays on Recent Adaptations and Derivative Works*.

Dr. Rachel Gevlin is a Term Assistant Professor of English at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she teaches courses on 18th-century literature, literary theory, and women writers. Her book project explores representations of marital disunion in the 18th-century novel, and her writing on Austen has appeared or is forthcoming in *English Literary History* and *Persuasions*. She has presented three times for the Washington, DC, Region of JASNA and was a breakout speaker at the 2023 and 2024 AGMs. In 2025, she received the JASNA IVP Fellowship to conduct research at Chawton, and she is currently serving as a JASNA Traveling Lecturer.

Robin Henry holds an MLS (Library Science) and MA in Humanities. She works as a freelance editor and an adjunct professor of Humanities, and volunteers on the JASNA annual bibliography committee. She is the founder of Readerly, a book coaching platform that provides support and strategies for writers. She is the host of the podcast *Read Like a Writer Book Club*, where she looks at great books, past and present, through the lens of a writer.

Dr. Jason D. Solinger is an associate professor of English and Director of English Graduate Studies at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of *Becoming the Gentleman: British Literature and the Invention of Modern Masculinity* as well as essays on Austen and 18th-century literature and culture. His current

BREAKOUT SESSION E - SATURDAY 1:00 PM

book project examines the ways conversations about Austen have shaped our ideas about literature. Jason spoke at the 2020 and 2023 AGMs and has presented to several JASNA Regional groups. In addition to being the Regional Coordinator for the Mississippi Region, Jason is a JASNA Traveling Lecturer.

Dr. Alice Villaseñor is the Associate Director of Civic and Community Engagement at SUNY Buffalo State University. She has published on Jane Austen and has a forthcoming book chapter about teaching Elizabeth Gaskell. A JASNA life member, she has served JASNA as the 2006 International Visitor, member of the IVP Committee, board member of JASNA and Southwest Region, and current member of the JASNA EDI Committee. This will be her tenth time attending an AGM as a presenter.



E2. James Nagle, Puget Sound Region

Dr. Anne Fertig, Washington, DC, Metropolitan Region

Jane Austen in Bath and Southampton, 1801-1809

In 1801, Jane Austen's father decided to retire and announced that they would be moving to Bath. This marks a major transition in her life. For the next eight years, following her father's retirement, Austen's life would be characterized by a series of upheavals and displacements, including her father's death, the failed publication of *Northanger Abbey*, and the disastrous Harris Bigg-Wither proposal. This session will explore the impact, both immediate and long-term, of George Austen's retirement on Austen's life, relationships, and novels.

Jim Nagle is a semi-retired lawyer, a member of the Puget Sound Region, and is the former secretary of JASNA. He loves researching and explaining the Regency era and its effects on Austen's life and work. He has spoken at numerous AGMs and Regions, and served as JASNA's Traveling Lecturer on topics such as Burial and Death Rituals, Inheritance, Land Transportation, the Army, Prize Money, Elections, and George III.

Dr. Anne Fertig is a literary historian and a passionate public humanist specializing in 18th-century women's writing. Known best for her work with the Jane Austen Summer Program, Dr. Fertig co-founded the webseries *Jane Austen & Co.* in 2019. She is also the writer and host of *Finding Jane Austen*, a scripted documentary podcast about Jane Austen's life. She currently works in the museum field in Washington, DC.

BREAKOUT SESSION E - SATURDAY 1:00 PM

E3. Dr. Margie Burns, University of Maryland
Dr. Tara Moore, Elizabethtown College
Shared Session: Jane Austen and Abolition

Dr. Margie Burns, University of Maryland
Jane Austen's Anti-Slavery Publishers

This session will examine Austen's anti-slavery publishers in the UK and US, who supported the cause through both nonfiction and fiction. Abolitionist periodicals and books by abolitionist writers were published by Thomas Cadell, who rejected Austen's *First Impressions*; by John Murray, who published Austen's last novels; and even by Benjamin Crosby, who purchased but did not print Austen's *Susan*. Anti-slavery firms also favored authors who boosted Austen. Richard Bentley and Matthew Carey regularly published other works that paid homage to Austen as well as opposing the slave trade. Clearly, they recognized Austen's anti-slavery alignment.

Dr. Margie Burns lectures part-time in English at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and has given presentations on Austen's novels for JASNA's Washington, DC, and Maryland Regions. Her published work includes *Publishing Northanger Abbey* and *Jane Austen, Abolitionist: The Loaded History of Pride and Prejudice*, as well as articles on Austen in *Persuasions*, *Persuasions On-Line*, and *Notes & Queries*.

Dr. Tara Moore, Elizabethtown College

Challenging the Sweet Trade: Jane Austen's Abolitionist Tight-Rope Walk in a Sugar-Fueled Society

Jane Austen's social world was deeply entangled with the wealth of the sugar trade. What did Austen's fragile role in her brother Edward's social circle mean for her ability to express abolitionist sentiments in public or in her writing? This talk focuses on her interactions with the Wildman family of Chilham Castle, a family whose fortune came from enslaved labor. We'll reconsider Austen's fascinating correspondence to Fanny Knight about the younger woman's potential marriage into this wealthy family. Through letters and site research in Kent, this session uncovers the tensions Austen weighed—and the silences she maintained.

Dr. Tara Moore is an Associate Professor of English at Elizabethtown College in central Pennsylvania. She leads study abroad courses to Ireland and the UK, and she enjoys introducing her students to Austen-related sites in Bath and Hampshire. She has published an article in *Persuasions On-Line* and has written a book about 19th-century Christmas culture. Moore is Regional Co-Coordinator for the Maryland Region.



BREAKOUT SESSION E - SATURDAY 1:00 PM

E4. Sharmini Kumar, International Region

Dr. Kelly Gardiner, International Region

Jane Austen: Genius and Legacy

Jane Austen created a cultural legacy, particularly for young women as readers, that many of us consciously and unconsciously perpetuate when we write, but also when we read or watch almost anything. That legacy is most clearly visible in the characters that have become almost archetypal. This session will examine some of the most memorable of Austen's characters, focusing on the women who have become enmeshed in our experiences of reading, particularly from marginalized perspectives.

Sharmini Kumar is the founder and Artistic Director of 24 Carrot Productions, based in Melbourne, Australia. She has written, directed, and produced many performance pieces and short films, including *Lovers' Vows at Mansfield Park*, *Sense and Sensibility: The Musical* (book and lyrics), *Second Impressions of Pride and Prejudice*, and *The Margins of Persuasion*. She is one of the co-founders of Austen Con, a celebration of Austen and the Regency, now in its seventh year. Her debut novel, *Miss Caroline Bingley, Private Detective*, was co-authored with Kelly Gardiner.

Dr. Kelly Gardiner's Austen-inspired crime novel, *Miss Caroline Bingley, Private Detective*, co-authored with Sharmini Kumar, will be out in 2025. Her books include *The Firewatcher Chronicles, 1917, Act of Faith, The Sultan's Eyes*, and the Swashbuckler pirate trilogy. *Goddess*, based on the life of Mademoiselle de Maupin, is being adapted for the screen. Kelly taught creative writing at La Trobe University for many years, and her scholarly research focuses on gender in historical fiction and biofiction.

E5. Brenda S. Cox, Georgia Region

Nili Olay, Southwest Florida Region

Joy R. Prevost, Greater Sacramento Region



Pecha Kucha Session

The Pecha Kucha presentation format embraces a diversity of topics, presented in a fast-paced style.

Brenda S. Cox, Georgia Region

“Reading With Delight”: Hannah More or Jane Austen?

Austen wrote that some friends were “all reading with delight Mrs. H. More's recent publication,” *Practical Piety*. Evangelical author Hannah More's background and values were similar to Austen's. However, More's one novel and many other works far outsold Austen's novels well into the Victorian era. More helped reform her society's moral values and gave crucial support to abolition and the education of women and the poor, but she is largely forgotten today. Why was she so much more popular during her time, while Austen has been read “with delight” through the ages?



Brenda S. Cox wrote *Fashionable Goodness: Christianity in Jane Austen's England*, exploring connections among Austen's work, her Church of England, and prominent events and people in English Christianity. Her articles appear in *Jane Austen's Regency World* magazine, *Persuasions On-Line*, and *Sensibilities* (JASA), and she writes online for *Jane Austen's World* and *Faith, Science, Joy, and Jane Austen*. She has presented on Austen and the church at four previous AGMs and various Regional meetings.

Nili Olay, Southwest Florida Region

Austen at 250 and Montgomery at 150: A Century Apart and Still Going Strong

Austen and L.M. Montgomery wrote novels that are still read and revered by readers around the world in the 21st century. This talk will discuss why these novels draw readers from different life circumstances, different centuries, and different cultures. Do these novels remain relatable to each succeeding generation because of the characters, such as Anne Shirley, Matthew Cuthbert, Elizabeth Bennet, or Mr. Darcy? Or do the readers connect with the humor in the stories and the universal themes, regardless of their settings?

Nili Olay has held positions on the JASNA Board of Directors, including serving as JASNA Treasurer. She is currently on the Finance Committee. She was Regional Coordinator of the New York Metropolitan Region and Co-Coordinator of the 2003 and 2012 AGMs. She is among the founding members of the Southwest Florida Region, for which she gave a talk on "Transportation in Austen's Time." This is her 38th AGM.

Joy R. Prevost, Greater Sacramento Region

Picturing Wit and Wisdom: Can AI Imaging Capture Jane Austen's Genius?

Jane Austen's genius was one-of-a-kind and her writings are incomparable. Her books are constantly reprinted and many editions are illustrated. AI can "read" and utilize the text of novels, but can it engage and feel them or understand the nuances, emotions, satire, and humor as we readers and artists do? This presentation will compare and juxtapose how illustrators of Austen novels and creators of Austen art understand her characters, plots, and language versus AI-generated versions. New interpretations will range from realistic to fantasy style, watercolor to photography style, comic to serious, to name a few of the potential outcomes of AI-generated artwork.

Joy R. Prevost puts on monthly events as coordinator for her Region's Jane Austen Book-to-Fork Cooking Club and the Jane Austen Movie Fan Club. Joy is the expert speaker for Christian Brothers High School's AP Literature and Women and Literature students studying *Pride and Prejudice*. At the 2024 AGM, she presented "Jane Austen & Mead." Joy has been dabbling in using AI as it relates to her job in philanthropy.



SPECIAL SESSIONS

Special sessions wrap around the core conference, offering the opportunity to hear talks that do not necessarily engage with the conference theme and to enjoy participatory activities and entertainment programs. Except as noted with a \$ symbol, special sessions are included with Attendee registration. Times are subject to change in the final schedule.

AGM Early Arrivals Meet and Greet

Wednesday, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Stop by this informal gathering, held at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, and see who else has arrived at the AGM.

Golden Age P&P: Movie Screening \$

Cost: \$15

Wednesday, 7:45 pm to 10:30 pm, doors open at 7:15 pm

Harbor East Cinemas (across from the hotel)



Have you ever seen *Pride and Prejudice* (1940), starring Greer Garson and Laurence Olivier, on the big screen? Now is your chance, and it's always better with other Janeites. Fast-paced and crafted to lift the spirits of a wartime audience, this is a different *Pride and Prejudice*, but its legendary cast and witty dialogue have made it a classic on its own merits. Enjoy the show with Professors **Linda Troost** and **Sayre Greenfield**, authors of *Jane Austen in Hollywood*, who will provide a brief pre-show overview and lead a post-watch discussion on this unique adaptation. Special themed cocktails and light refreshments will be available to purchase.

Life and Literary Legacy of Edgar Allan Poe

Eben Dennis, Enoch Pratt Free Library

Thursday, 9:00 am to 9:40 am

Eben Dennis will guide attendees in experiencing the mysterious life and literary legacy of Edgar Allan Poe. He will discuss what the Enoch Pratt Free Library's collections, including manuscripts, letters, and personal items, reveal about Poe's personal life and family, his writings, and his mysterious death in Baltimore in 1849.

Eben Dennis manages the Special Collections Department at the Enoch Pratt Free Library and Maryland State Library Resource Center, where he oversees the library's rich collection of rare books, maps, prints, manuscripts, and artifacts, and its extensive Edgar Allan Poe collection. As a public-sector librarian, he balances the preservation needs of the collection with the library's mission of providing access to its materials by giving tours, curating exhibits, and speaking about the collections in the community.



SPECIAL SESSIONS CONTINUED

Austen's Genius Shared Through Community Engagement

Thursday, 9:00 am to 10:30 am

Danielle Battle, Maryland Region

Lisa Brown, Central and Western New York Region

Renata Dennis, Georgia Region

Dr. Celia A. Easton, Central and Western New York Region

Agnes Gawne, Puget Sound Region

Dr. Alice Villaseñor, Central and Western New York Region

Five JASNA members are joined by Baltimore community engagement activist Danielle Battle to describe ways that Jane Austen's readers can actively promote social justice, literacy skills, and positive community connections. As Claudia Johnson noted in her 2023 AGM lecture ("Austen Escape, or Taking Liberty"), Austen's readers bring her genius into their world to think about solutions to social problems, not simply to escape into an idealized past. Dani Battle's workshop will help attendees develop tools to create and sustain engagement in their own communities. Speakers will discuss their experiences with the JASNA Book Box program, local writing contests, and curriculum-building using Austen novels and adaptations to connect teenagers to the personal and universal life challenges Austen writes about.

Danielle (Dani) Battle, Deputy Executive Director of RICH—Restoring Inner City Hope, leads initiatives to empower youth and families in Baltimore. With more than two decades of experience in education, she has worked in schools across Baltimore and Washington, DC, focusing on communities that have historically been excluded from opportunities due to systemic racism. Battle is dedicated to expanding impact through youth development, workforce training, and community-building initiatives. A sought-after public speaker, she has presented on equitable education, student engagement, nonprofit leadership, and hyper-local community work at the White House, the Aspen Ideas Festival, and SXSW. Her work centers on creating pathways for historically marginalized youth and fostering sustainable community-driven solutions.

Lisa Brown leads JASNA's highly successful Jane Austen Book Box program and recently served as Regional Coordinator for Central and Western New York.

Renata Dennis is a retired nurse. Renata is currently the Georgia Regional Coordinator, an At-Large Board Member of JASNA, and chair of the EDI Committee.

Dr. Celia A. Easton, Professor of English Emerita at the State University of New York at Geneseo, will moderate this panel. She is a former Regional Coordinator and has spoken at numerous AGMs. She serves as a member of the *Persuasions* editorial board and as Vice President for Publications. Her scholarship includes essays in *Persuasions*, MLA's *Approaches to Teaching Austen's Emma*, *The Age of Johnson*, and *The Journal of Narrative Technique*.



Agnes Gawne works in medical research. Agnes is a JASNA life member who has served her Region as program coordinator, Regional Coordinator, and treasurer. She taught fashion history for 20 years in Seattle and has delivered many presentations on the fashions of Jane Austen's life as well as customs around clothing and holidays.

Dr. Alice Villaseñor, Associate Director of Civic and Community Engagement at SUNY Buffalo State University, is a life member of JASNA, the 2006 JASNA International Visitor, a former Board Member of JASNA, and a member of the EDI Committee.

Frederick Douglass: From Enslaved to Diplomat!

Vivian Fisher, Enoch Pratt Free Library

Thursday, 10:00 am to 10:40 am

This session will examine the life events of Frederick Douglass as his journey takes him from an enslaved boy on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to one of the highest-ranking African American men of the 19th century. His biography is fascinating, from the time he learned to read and write to becoming an editor of two newspapers during the 19th century and then a United States diplomat, serving a country that once considered him chattel property. We will discover Douglass's impact on the world as he fought for the rights of full citizenship for all in his country of birth.

Vivian Fisher is Deputy Chief of Public Services at the Enoch Pratt Free Library Central Branch. As the first and former manager of the African American Department of the Pratt Library, she has given numerous lectures and presentations on African American subjects, including civil rights, the Harlem Renaissance, African American women, and African American genealogy.

Georgian Buildings Inside & Out

Thursday, 11:00 am to 11:40 am

In a joint session, **Merri Cvetan** and **Donna Corbett** will discuss the defining characteristics of buildings and furniture that Jane Austen would have known.

A Change in Style—Regency Furniture and Jane Austen

Merri Cvetan, Wisconsin Region

We're familiar with Austen's writing desk, but what other pieces of furniture filled the Austen homes? This session will look at Regency-era furniture associated with Austen, then compare those pieces with furnishings in the homes of her brother Edward and the homes of some of the wealthy landowners in her novels. How did interiors differ between the social classes? Her letters offer a few clues, as do her

SPECIAL SESSIONS CONTINUED

books. She didn't describe Lady Bertram's sofa, her mother's Pembroke table, or the chest of drawers made from deal wood, but by exploring interiors, we'll get an idea how she and her family lived.

Merri Cvetan is an interior designer and an Adjunct Instructor at Mount Mary University in the Interior Architecture and Design program. Her specialty is historic restoration and preservation. In addition to living in an 1880s farmhouse, Merri has worked on many historic homes and museums in Wisconsin. She currently serves as the Membership Secretary for the Wisconsin Region.

Robert Adam, Designer for the Age of Austen

Donna M. Corbett, Washington, DC, Metropolitan Region

By the late 18th century, Georgian Britain was known for its neoclassical taste, appearing in buildings, furnishings, ceramics, clothing, and more. The leading proponent of this Roman neoclassicism was Scottish-born architect Robert Adam, whose graceful and elegant designs for buildings and their interiors created a distinct “look” that we now associate with the age of Austen. This short talk will give a brief outline of the adoption of this dominant aesthetic standard and its lasting influence in Britain and America.

Donna M. Corbett is a historian and former Smithsonian museum curator. She has presented and published on a variety of historical topics, including politics, aviation, and clothing. Her current research focuses on late 18th- and early 19th-century England and America, with a special interest in architecture and landscape design.



SPECIAL SESSIONS CONTINUED

Maryland Center for History and Culture Collections Spotlight:

Joshua Johnson and Elizabeth Bonaparte

Martina Kado, Maryland Center for History and Culture

Catherine Rogers Arthur, Maryland Center for History and Culture

Thursday, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Joshua Johnson was a self-taught African American portraitist in Federal-era Baltimore. He painted prominent Maryland residents and their children, and his paintings show his talent and attention to detail. Several of his paintings and his manumission papers are held and exhibited at the Maryland Center.

Elizabeth Bonaparte was born in Baltimore and is best known as the first wife of Jérôme Bonaparte. She was the daughter of an Irish-American flour merchant who became one of the wealthiest men in Maryland, and at the age of 18 she met Napoleon's brother, who was visiting the United States. Her complicated relationships, daring spirit, and assiduous pursuit of recognition have inspired several fictional works and films.

Dr. Martina Kado is Vice President of Research and France-Merrick Director of the H. Furlong Baldwin Library.

Catherine Rogers Arthur is the Vice President of Collections and Chief Curator.

Who Received the Check for Jane Austen's Creations?

Katherine Toran, Eastern Pennsylvania Region

Thursday, 2:30 pm to 3:10 pm

Jane Austen was paid only £684 for the four books published in her lifetime. This session will adjust that figure for inflation and translate it to U.S. dollars to calculate Austen's lifetime earnings, then compare that to how much her publisher made from her work. Finally, the session will calculate the total sales of Austen's novels until the modern day and estimate the sales value of spin-off books and movies. The findings support Austen's claims to have received less of a check than she deserved.

Katherine Toran has a PhD in economics from the University of Kentucky and is employed at the Food and Drug Administration. She presented "The Economics of Jane Austen's World" at the 2015 JASNA AGM, examining the wealth of various Austen characters in modern dollars.



SPECIAL SESSIONS CONTINUED

Special Guest Speaker:

Through Family Eyes: Jane Austen's Chawton Legacy

Caroline Jane Knight, International Region

Thursday, 4:00 pm to 4:40 pm



This presentation is made possible by a generous grant from Erna Arneson.

Discover a unique perspective on Jane Austen's world through the experiences of the last of her nieces to grow up at Chawton House, in the heart of Jane's literary legacy. Experience the Austen descendants' ancestral home through family stories and treasured heirlooms that Austen herself would have known. This talk features significant ancestors, familiar to Austen as well, who shaped the estate's heritage across generations. Caroline Jane Knight's personal anecdotes, never-before-shared family photographs, and recollections of encounters with early JASNA members bring to life a childhood heavily influenced by Jane Austen's presence and literary legacy. She will show precious family artifacts that connect the Knight family to their notable ancestors, creating tangible links between past and present.

Caroline Jane Knight is Jane Austen's fifth great niece and the last of her nieces to grow up at Chawton House. Caroline is author of *Jane & Me: My Austen Heritage*, Founder and Chair of the Jane Austen Literacy Foundation, Patron of Jane Austen Regency Week, and Director of The Austen Pathway. Caroline has shared her Austen heritage at over 100 events in Europe and Australasia, and she presents the *My Austen Heritage* podcast.

***Northanger Abbey* Escape Room \$**

Cost: \$25

Thursday, 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Thursday, 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Friday, 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Friday, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm



Have you the wit to escape Northanger Abbey? Mrs. Catherine Tilney invites you to her husband's ancestral home, but it will take more than a jolly farewell to leave. Use your Austen knowledge and puzzle-solving skills to get the prize before the general abruptly calls you a coach! Teams and individuals welcome, costumes optional, bodies probably hidden on the premises. Escapees will win a button and bragging rights, and photo opportunities are available to all!



SPECIAL SESSIONS CONTINUED



Regency Looks from Jane Austen's Books

Hosted by Lena Ruth Yasutake, Connecticut Region

Thursday, 8:00 pm to 8:50 pm

Henry & I went to the Exhibition in Spring Gardens...Mrs. Bingley's is exactly herself, size, shaped face, features & sweetness...She is dressed in a white gown with green ornaments...I dare say Mrs. D. will be in yellow. (Letter from Jane Austen to Cassandra Austen, 24 May 1813)

Join in or watch a collaborative fashion show featuring JASNA members wearing Regency attire inspired by Jane Austen's characters. Any JASNA member or registered companion can volunteer to walk down the fashion runway dressed as any character from Austen's juvenilia, novels, and unfinished works. A call for fashion show participants will be sent out during the summer. Whether you wish to dress as a dandified "coxcomb" like Robert Ferrars or have the ideal ensemble in which to climb stiles and walk miles like Lizzie Bennet, this is an opportunity to share your fashion vision.

Lena Ruth Yasutake is a teacher, actor, and seamstress. She has been a member of JASNA since 2016, served on the EDI Committee, and proposed the Book Box program.

Scents and Sensibilities: The Fragrances, Aromas, and Smells of Jane Austen's Regency World

Dan Macey, Eastern Pennsylvania Region

Thursday, 8:00 pm to 8:40 pm

This session explores the rich and often surprising world of Regency-era scents, from the perfumes and personal hygiene of the fashionable elite to the less pleasant and overwhelming realities of the urban, industrial, and agricultural landscapes. The aromas of bustling marketplaces and street life, as well as the spices and flavors that defined the Regency dining table and kitchen, will be uncovered. This is a special sensory journey into the past where every scent tells a story of culture and daily life in Jane Austen's time. The talk is based on period correspondence, contemporary accounts, and Austen's own writings.

Dan Macey has worked as an award-winning food stylist for over 25 years, bringing food images to life for advertising, packaging, and editorial purposes. He also writes about food and food history and is on the board of the Historic Foodways Society of the Delaware Valley. He regularly speaks on food history topics. He created three videos for the virtual AGM in 2020 on food appearing in Austen's novels and re-created an authentic Regency banquet to benefit the Chawton House Library. His food writing and styling are featured in *The Gilded Age Cookbook* and *The Gilded Age Christmas Cookbook*, by Becky Libourel Diamond.

SPECIAL SESSIONS CONTINUED

Young Filmmakers Contest

Finalist Films and Awards

Thursday, 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Wind down the evening by watching short films on everyone's favorite subject! Now in its ninth year, the JASNA Young Filmmakers Contest is the world's first film contest devoted to Jane Austen. Join the excitement as the finalists for 2025 are announced, watch the short films, vote for your personal choice, and hear the opinions of world-class judges.

Chawton House

Katie Childs, Chief Executive, Chawton House

Friday, 8:30 am to 9:10 am



As at other Austen-related sites, Chawton House, once owned by Jane Austen's brother Edward, is marking the 250th anniversary of Austen's birth with many events and exhibits. Executive Director Katie Childs will discuss what has been featured and what is upcoming at this important site, as well as its importance in telling the story of Jane Austen's life.

As Chawton House's Chief Executive, **Katie Childs** is leading the execution of the plan to evolve Chawton House into an inspiring and sustainable historic estate that tells the story of the Knight family and brings early women's writing to life. Previously, she worked at the Imperial War Museums, the National Museum Directors' Council, and the British Museum.

Between Literature and Sewing: (Re)discovering Jane Austen

Dr. Natália Barcellos, International Region

Friday, 8:30 am to 9:10 am

This session describes an extension project that took place at São Paulo State University that aimed to present Jane Austen's work as well as a handcraft method popular during the Regency period in England: English paper piecing. At the meetings, participants hand-sewed a reconstruction of the famous patchwork quilt (ca. 1810) made by Jane Austen, while discussing Austen's literary works and letters. The project was open to all who were enthusiastic about female literature and crafts, as well as lovers of Jane Austen's work.

Dr. Natália Barcellos is Associate Professor in the Modern Languages Department of São Paulo State University (UNESP) in Brazil. She has a PhD in modern literature from the Free University of Berlin and a degree in Jane Austen's work from Oxford University. Her current research focuses on female trailblazer writers in the 18th- and 19th-centuries, with emphasis on Jane Austen. Since 2021, she has led an extension project that involves the discussion of Austen's work and related arts and crafts open to the internal and external community, bringing together people with very different social and educational backgrounds.



SPECIAL SESSIONS CONTINUED

Special Guest Speaker

Steventon Uncovered: Revelations from Jane Austen's First Home

Deborah Charlton, Hampshire, UK

Friday, 7:00 pm to 7:40 pm

While visitors from around the globe flock to Chawton to see where Austen spent her final eight years, it is Steventon that holds the key to the first 25 years of her childhood and young adult life. The Austens' Steventon Rectory home disappeared from the landscape long ago, and although literature about their home life is abundant, it is collated from many differing sources. Deborah Charlton led the archaeological investigation of Austen's birthplace and will reveal what the artifacts that were preserved underground along with research evidence can tell us about the Austens' social milieu, their day-to-day life, and the building that was their home.

Deborah Charlton, MPhil, PGCert Research, BA (Hons), is the author of *Archaeology Greets Jane Austen, by Unearthing Her Birthplace and First Home*. She has been involved in archaeology for more than 20 years. Her skills are mainly in archaeological prospection, historical archaeology, research, and gray literature.

Special Guest Speaker

Susannah Harker in Conversation with Gabrielle Malcolm \$

Cost: \$20

Friday, 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm

British actor and director Susannah Harker has many theater, television, film, and voice roles to her credit, but she is best known to Janeites for her portrayal of Jane Bennet in the 1995 BBC *Pride and Prejudice* miniseries. In conversation with author Gabrielle Malcolm, Harker will talk about how she prepared for the role of Jane

Bennet, her experiences during that production, and her upcoming projects as a writer and actor. Harker and Malcolm will explore the importance of Jane Bennet to the novel and the layers in Austen's work that add depth to dramatic adaptations and the special character of Austen fan culture.



The daughter of actors and the granddaughter of a theatrical scene-painter, **Susannah Harker** trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. In addition to her iconic role as Jane Bennet, she has engaged with Austen's works by narrating an award-winning audiobook edition of *Sense and Sensibility* and by portraying Austen in the radio production "No Ice in Weymouth," part of the BBC's Jane Austen: A Portrait collection. Her extensive television work includes many roles in mystery series and contemporary and period dramas, and she received a BAFTA award nomination for her role as Mattie in the original *House of Cards*. Among her film roles is that of Titania in *A Caribbean Dream*, an

SPECIAL SESSIONS CONTINUED

adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. On stage, she has starred in *Abigail's Party*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and many other plays. Harker is currently writing a script exploring the situation of women in midlife, which includes allusions to Austen and her fans.

Gabrielle Malcolm was awarded a PhD in English literature of the 19th century by the University of Kent in 2005. Her interests have always been in women's writing of the last 300 years, particularly in how both famous and forgotten women writers influenced the rise of the English novel. She is the author of *Fan Phenomena: Jane Austen* and *There's Something About Darcy*. In 2025, Gabrielle is Creative Director for Strictly Jane Austen Tours, Visit Bath, and YTL Hotels, curating residencies and events hosting worldwide experts and writers, including Gill Hornby (author of *Miss Austen*) and Professor John Mullan.

Virtual Steventon: Reconstructing Jane Austen's Formative Home

Frank F. Lutz, Southern Arizona Region

Saturday, 3:30 pm to 4:10 pm

Virtual Steventon is a 3D digital reconstruction of Jane Austen's birthplace, Steventon Rectory, where she lived for the first 25 years of her life. The rectory was demolished in the 1820s, but this photorealistic model presents an interpretation of the house and its surroundings as they may have appeared during Austen's time. The reconstruction draws on historical sources such as, the Glebe Plan of 1821 and Austen family records, as well as archaeological findings. This presentation offers a fresh perspective on Austen's formative environment.

Frank F. Lutz holds a B.S. in electrical engineering and enjoyed a successful career in product support management in the tech industry. Now retired, he combines his interest in research with his passion for creating computer-generated 3D models.

The Mysterious Miss Jane Austen

Louise West, Hampshire Cultural Trust, Hampshire, UK

Saturday, 3:30 pm to 4:10 pm



This session exists as part of the legacy of the Mysterious Miss Austen exhibition, run by Hampshire Cultural Trust in Winchester in 2017. It comprises personal reflections concerning the personality and psyche of Jane Austen and the intense identification of some fans with her. These observations are based on over 50 years' association with the author as a reader, a teacher, and a museum curator. We will explore what we actually know about her, based on family recollections, biographies, as well as her letters, and will also investigate portraits both genuine and putative. This will lead to speculation on why some fans say "I am Jane Austen."

SPECIAL SESSIONS CONTINUED

Louise West is on the board of Hampshire Cultural Trust, where she chairs the Collections Committee. The Trust's holdings include small personal items of Jane Austen, as well as the pelisse coat. Her career has been spent in museums and she has a master's in museum and gallery education. She worked at Jane Austen's House Museum for 11 years, rising to the position of Curator. She has attended the JASNA AGM many times and has presented several talks.



Jane Austen: Material Girl

Paula Byrne in conversation with Hilary Davidson

Saturday, 8:45 pm to 9:40 pm

Novelist and biographer **Paula Byrne** and fashion historian **Hilary Davidson** have both written extensively on the nuances of the way Jane Austen moved through and interacted with the world, and how and what she observed when she did. Byrne's book *The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things* concentrated on the importance of material things to Austen and her work. This interest became more immediate during her work on her novel *Six Weeks by the Sea*. Davidson used Austen's life and work as a lens through which to examine Regency dress and textiles in *Dress in the Age of Jane Austen: Regency Fashion*, before looking at what we know Austen herself wore in *Jane Austen's Wardrobe*. In conversation together, these authors will explore what things meant to Austen, how she used them, and what new understandings of Austen in life and work are gained by considering the author in her material world.

Biographer, literary critic, and novelist **Dr. Paula Byrne** is the 2025 Carol Medine Moss AGM Keynote Speaker. In addition to her two books on Jane Austen, she has written several best-selling literary biographies, examining the lives of Georgians Dido Elizabeth Belle and Mary Robinson as well as 20th-century figures Barbara Pym, Kathleen "Kick" Kennedy, Evelyn Waugh, and Thomas Hardy.

Hilary Davidson is a dress historian and curator, and Chair/Associate Professor in the School of Graduate Studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. Research sparked by her reconstruction of Jane Austen's pelisse led to the books *Dress in the Age of Jane Austen: Regency Fashion*, *Jane Austen's Wardrobe*, and *A Guide to Regency Dress*.

SPECIAL SESSIONS CONTINUED

Personalized Silhouette Portrait \$

Lauren Munez, Silhouettes by Hand

Cost: \$25

Saturday: 8:45 pm to 11:45 pm (by appointment)

Would you like to have an authentic Regency experience during the AGM ball? World-famous silhouette artist **Lauren Munez** of Silhouettes by Hand will make a special appearance at our AGM. There are only 20 artists in the world today who hand-cut silhouettes by eye alone, and you will experience one of the best. You too can have your period portrait made!



You will receive one silhouette, mounted on a background in a protective sleeve, ready to frame. Cutting your silhouette will take only 3-5 minutes. *Those who register for this opportunity will be provided instructions on signing up for a time slot Saturday night during the ball.*

Charm City “Promenade” Fun Run

Sunday, 7:00 am to 8:00 am



The morning after we promenade in our finery, don your athletic apparel and join us on the Waterfront Promenade! We will meet in the lobby of the Marriott Baltimore Waterfront for a led 5K run, and there will also be a 1-mile turnaround point at the Pier Six Pavilion. You can order an Austen-themed athletic shirt online at [Jane Austen Books](#) for pickup at the AGM. (Shirt purchase not required to participate in the Fun Run.)

Jane Austen Prayers

Sunday, 8:00 am to 8:30 am

She had been taken to Charmouth too, and she had bathed, and she had gone to church, and there were a great many more people to look at in the church at Lyme than at Uppercross. (Persuasion)

While Mary Musgrove may have preferred to see and be seen at church, this session will provide a few minutes of quiet reflection on Sunday morning. A selection of prayers written by or known to Austen will be provided for your contemplation.



Post-AGM Events

The AGM officially closes at noon on Sunday, but the fun keeps going! Three post-AGM events provide opportunities to socialize with JASNA friends while experiencing pleasures that Jane Austen enjoyed: the theater, music, and fine food.

Maritime Merriment: Songs & Stories from the Seafaring Regency \$

Cost: \$38

Sunday, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

With period-appropriate instrumentation and singing by a five-person ensemble, this spirited, historically informed concert celebrates the dual worlds of refined parlor music and lively seafaring songs in the 18th century. The program reflects the dynamic social and maritime culture of the era, weaving together traditional sea shanties, Regency-era ballads, and salon songs with theatrical narration and dramatic flair.

Soprano **Elissa Edwards** is a distinguished interpreter of early music. She presents concerts that draw together music, literature, and historical significance, bringing the audience into the spirit of the musical and social world of past eras. Through her expressive vocal interpretations, spontaneous ornamentation, and intelligent regard for communicating poetic text, she captures audiences' hearts and sparks their curiosity. Her recent engagements include appearances with the Washington Bach Consort, the Washington National Cathedral, Harmonium Stellarum, Gotham Early Music Series, Bach in Baltimore, and the National Centre for Early Music in the U.K.

Persuasion at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company \$

Cost: \$60

Sunday, performance begins at 2:00 pm

In this captivating version of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, adapted by Sarah Rose Kearns and directed by Megan Behm, audiences are transported to a world of social intrigue, family drama, and enduring love. Anne Elliot's touching journey of resilience and second chances unfolds against the elegant and beloved backdrop of Regency-era England, laced with Austen's signature wit.

Chesapeake Shakespeare Company is the leading classic theater company in Maryland, offering vibrant performances that delight patrons by breathing new life into Shakespeare and other classic plays.

NOTE: No transportation is provided. The performance will be staged in CSC's 266-seat theatre in downtown Baltimore, approximately 20 minutes' walk or 5 minutes by car from the AGM hotel.

SPECIAL SESSIONS CONTINUED

Post AGM Regency Style Dinner \$

Cost: \$80

Two Seating Options: Sunday, 5:30 pm or 7:30 pm

Enjoy a multi-course Regency dinner at the Pierpoint Restaurant, just minutes from the AGM hotel. Award-winning chef Nancy Longo and her team will prepare a special meal of authentic Regency dishes to cap off our memorable celebration. The menu includes white soup, seasonal salad, a choice of main course (lamb cassoulet with asparagus or cod with a white sauce and mushrooms), and dessert minis of lemon cheesecake, ratafia cakes, and mini apple tarts. Each seating is limited to 40 people.

Pierpoint Restaurant has been a hub in Fells Point for more than 35 years. Beyond running the restaurant, Chef Nancy teaches cooking classes and hosts special themed dinners such as Burns Nights and a Clicquot dinner.

NOTE: No transportation is provided, and we regret that special dietary requirements cannot be accommodated. Pierpoint Restaurant is approximately a 15 minute walk from the AGM hotel, on the same street.



POP-UP MUSEUM AND OBJECT TALKS

As a treat for the 250th Anniversary Year, we are offering a special opportunity for AGM attendees to see Austen-related and Regency objects and to speak informally with their owners, who will also be giving short talks about their treasures.

Our Pop-Up Museum will feature first and illustrated editions of Austen's works, Regency-era decorative arts and clothing, and objects owned by Austen family members. The Museum will be open during various hours Thursday through Saturday.

Also on those days, the "curators" will give brief talks about the historical significance of the objects, links to Austen or her time, why the objects are important to the owners, and how or why they began collecting.

You will be able to check the AGM program for Museum hours and talk schedules.

WORKSHOPS



Workshops will take place on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Some workshops are offered multiple times with identical content. Workshops are open to Attendees and Companions.

English Country Dance

Cost Dance 1-5: \$30

Advanced: \$40



Dance 1: Thursday, 8:30 am to 10:00 am
Dance 2: Thursday, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Dance 3: Thursday, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Dance 4: Friday, 8:00 am to 9:30 am
Dance 5: Saturday, 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Advanced: Thursday, 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Might not the evening end in a dance? (Emma)

Whether your dancing shoes are brand new or just a bit dusty, have no fear! Join us on a shame-free dance floor for an English Country Dance workshop that will prepare you for this year's ball. Many of the dances Jane Austen enjoyed are easy to learn, and Tom and Toni make it almost as simple as walking.

New this year! One Advanced Workshop will be offered on Thursday with a prerequisite that you have taken an English Country Dance workshop at a recent AGM. You can also count one taken earlier in the day at this AGM.

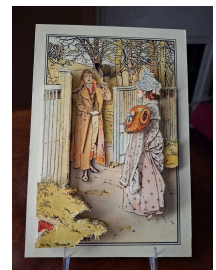
Tom and Toni Tumbusch have taught together since 2005, hosting English Country and other historical dance workshops throughout the United States and Canada. They regularly teach for re-enactments, schools, and more. Both serve on the board for the Cincinnati English Country Dancers and perform with the vintage dance troupe Forget-Me-Not.

Brock Brothers Three-Dimensional Display

Cost: \$35

Thursday, 8:30 am to 10:30 am

Thursday, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm



I have been walking in the grove some time in the hope of meeting you. Will you do me the honour of reading that letter? (Pride and Prejudice)

If you admire H.M. and C.E. Brock's lovely tinted line drawings from Jane Austen's novels, you can take them to the next level, literally. In this workshop, you will create a three-dimensional display



using the technique of papier-tôle to highlight the delightful drawings so that the scene pops out in an eye-catching manner. Even Mrs. Ferrars would hum at it and say, “Very pretty.”

If Lady Catherine had ever learnt, she would have been a great proficient at this. You will be provided with all the tools and materials needed to complete a 7” x 10.5” display, as well as a box in which to transport the finished vignette and an easel on which to display your masterpiece.

Bonnie Britz, a retired teacher of ESL and North Carolina Region member, dabbles in making miniatures and sewing Regency garments for outings and balls. She has not become a great proficient at either, but she has always supposed it to be her own fault because she would not take the trouble of practicing

Cravat Tying

Cost: \$55

Thursday, 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm



I always buy my own cravats, and am allowed to be an excellent judge (Northanger Abbey)

Learn several ways to tie a Regency-era cravat with experienced workshop teacher Lisa Brown. Each participant will receive a white silk cravat (available in 3 sizes) to take home, a reproduction of Neckclothitania—an early 19th-century guide to cravat tying—and printed modern instructions. Individual mirrors will be provided for class use.

Lisa Brown is Regional Coordinator of the Central and Western New York Region and is well known for her popular AGM workshops, fashion shows, and breakout sessions. During the pandemic, Lisa created Jane Austen Bingo for Zoom meetings.

Creative Writing Workshop—Austen in Verse

Cost: \$35

Thursday, 8:30 am to 10:00 am

Thursday, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm



Such Letters, such entertaining Letters, as you have lately sent—Such a description of your queer little heart!—Such a lovely display of what Imagination does! (Letter from Jane Austen to Fanny Knight, 20–21 February 1817)

Join us for a lively and imaginative creative writing workshop that brings Jane Austen’s language to life! Participants will craft their own poetry using Austen’s words, with guidance and plenty of fun

WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

along the way. No writing experience is needed—just a love of language and a spirit of creativity! Plus, everyone gets a creative writing journal to decorate with Austen-themed bling, making this a fun and immersive literary experience.

Tara Moore teaches writing at Elizabethtown College, including a travel writing course in Ireland. An author and editor, she adores both the reflective benefits of creative writing and Jane Austen's mastery of language. Tara is Regional Co-Coordinator for the Maryland Region.

Georgian Portrait Bracelet

Cost: \$45

Thursday, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Thursday, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Friday, 8:00 am to 9:30 am



She was sitting by Edward, and in taking his tea from Mrs. Dashwood, his hand passed so directly before her, as to make a ring, with a plait of hair in the centre, very conspicuous on one of his fingers. (Sense and Sensibility)

Create a beautiful Georgian-inspired bracelet featuring miniature portraits, lover's eyes, or other sentimental designs under a glass dome, accented with pearls, beads, and rhinestones. Just as Edward Ferrars wore a ring with Lucy Steele's hair, people of Jane Austen's time cherished jewelry as keepsakes of loved ones. In this hands-on workshop, Kim Wilson will guide you in assembling your bracelet and crafting a beaded band to match. You'll leave with a lovely piece of wearable history. The workshop fee includes all materials needed to complete your bracelet.

Kim Wilson is a Wisconsin Region member, frequent JASNA speaker, and author of several books on Jane Austen.

Introduction to Paper Quilling

Cost: \$35

Thursday, 8:30 am to 10:30 am

Thursday, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm



I should have been at my filigree already. (Sense and Sensibility)

Quilling, a timeless craft with roots in Classical Rome, Ancient Egypt, and Regency England, has made a resurgence in modern times. Sometimes called filigree or paper scrolling, quilling was a popular

WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

pastime for ladies in Regency England. Common items like jewelry boxes, screens, picture frames, and tea chests were often purchased from stores plain and then adorned with filigree accents. In this hands-on workshop, you will learn a little bit about the history of quilling, and quilling in Austen's novels, before diving into the craft and making your own filigreed note card, ornament, or piece of jewelry to take home.

Lynn Harlan, librarian, crafter, and member of the South Carolina Region, has been quilling since the age of 11 and began teaching and leading introductory workshops on this art during Covid.

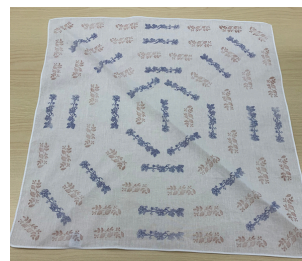
Neckhandkerchief Stamping

Cost: \$30

Thursday, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Thursday, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Saturday, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm



Everything went well you see, especially after we had tucked Mrs Lance's neckhandkerf. in behind, & fastened it with a pin. (Letter from Jane to Cassandra, 24 January 1809)

In Jane's time, handkerchiefs were worn around the neck like a shawl, wrapped about the head as a turban, or simply tucked in a pocket. In this workshop we will embellish our own one-of-a-kind handkerchiefs with Regency-inspired stamps. All materials will be supplied.

Workshop leader **Stephenee Bennett Borelli** is an artist, an amateur costumer, and Greater Sacramento Regional Coordinator.

Regency Calling Cards

Cost: \$35

Thursday, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Thursday, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

The morning was chiefly spent in leaving cards at the houses of Mrs. Jennings's acquaintance to inform them of her being in town. (Sense and Sensibility)

Calling cards in the Regency were an essential part of social life: how else would you let friends and future suitors know you had called upon them? But it was also an opportunity to show off one's



WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

creativity—in addition to personal information, they displayed elegant designs and pictures—truly a form of self-expression.

Join artist **Jenna Bergstraesser**, Southwest Region, to create your own unique calling cards and come home with a set to distribute to fellow Janeites!

Regency Sing-a-Long

Cost: \$15



Thursday, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Thursday, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

"Do let us have a little music," cried Miss Bingley, tired of a conversation in which she had no share. (Pride and Prejudice)



What do Marianne Dashwood, Elizabeth Bennet, Frank Churchill, Anne Elliot and JANE AUSTEN have in common? They were all amateur musicians, called upon to entertain their friends and family with song.

This group sing workshop will feature songs that were sung in the church pews, in the town pub, or just around the family pianoforte in Regency England. Bring your singing voice or tap along as we learn songs—sacred and secular—of the era. We promise you'll have more fun than Mary Bennet.

Rita Baker-Schmidt is a singer, songwriter, and instrumentalist from the Maryland Region.

"Tokens of Friendship": Fabric Pin Wheels & Bristol Board Needle Books

Cost: \$45

Thursday, 8:30 am to 10:00 am

I wish I could help you in your needle work, I have two hands & a new Thimble that lead a very easy life. (Letter from Jane to Cassandra, 27 December 1808)

In the collection found in the Jane Austen House Museum in Chawton, England, there is a Bristol Board needle book made by Jane Austen for her niece Louisa Knight. Taking inspiration from this lovely token of love and friendship, Mackenzie Sholtz's workshop focuses on sewing several small fabric pin wheels/pinkeeps and Bristol Board needle books based on originals in Mackenzie's

WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

collection. Patterns, instruction booklet, and basic supplies to complete 4 or 5 different types of pin wheels and needle books will be part of the kit. Students are welcome to bring their own fabrics too.



Basic sewing skills needed.

Students are asked to bring their own scissors and their own special colored floss for embellishments if possible.

Mackenzie Sholtz brings 40 years of garment industry experience and love of clothing history together in her Fig Leaf Pattern line, with patterns created from real period garments.



Tours to explore the city of Baltimore and its diverse history will run on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday, and Monday. Attendees and Companions are able to purchase tickets for any of these as part of online registration, beginning June 19. Tours must meet headcount minimums or are subject to change or cancellation.

Shuttles for Self-Guided Tours, on JASNA-Chartered Buses

Cost: \$25

Thursday, 9:15 am to 5:00 pm

For the 2025 AGM, JASNA will offer circulating shuttle buses on two routes, on Thursday only. These buses are like the typical “hop-on/hop-off” tour buses that operate commercially in many cities, except that they are only for AGM Attendees/Companions and have been organized to provide easy, low-cost transportation to the museums and other sites of greatest interest to JASNA members. Purchasing a bus ticket during the AGM registration process will get you a wristband enabling you to board the bus and hop-on/hop-off at as many stops as you like during the day, on both routes.

Buses will run on two loops from the hotel. The “Sense” route will stop at Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Park, the Sagamore Pendry Hotel, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Flag House, Mount Vernon Place (Washington Monument, Walters Art Museum, and the Maryland Center for History and Culture), and the Enoch Pratt Free Library. The “Sensibility” route will stop at the American Visionary Art Museum, Fort McHenry, and the National Aquarium.



TOURS CONTINUED

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

Cost: \$120

Wednesday, 8:15 am to 4:30 pm

Thursday, 8:15 am to 4:30 pm



The Winterthur Museum collection contains more than 90,000 works of art, pieces of furniture, and objets collected by Henry Francis du Pont. The 60-acre naturalistic garden, which can be explored on foot or by tram, focuses on color and design. The library contains rare books, ephemera, and photographs, including the 1816 Philadelphia edition of *Emma*.

Note that a box lunch will be included in the tour.

Nevermore Poe Guided Tour

Cost: \$65

Wednesday, 1:15 pm to 4:15 pm

Thursday, 8:45 am to 11:45 am

Thursday, 1:15 pm to 4:15 pm

Sunday, 12:45 pm to 3:45 pm

Monday, 9:15 am to 12:15 pm



This bus tour focuses on the life and legacy of Edgar Allan Poe. Stops at the Edgar Allan Poe House & Museum and the Westminster Burying Ground, site of his tomb, will be featured.

Museum admission is included in the tour.



Fells Point Pub Crawl

Cost: \$ 70

Wednesday, 6:45 pm to 10:00 pm

Thursday, 6:45 pm to 10:00 pm

Friday, 5:45 pm to 9:00 pm

The historic Fells Point waterfront neighborhood features cobblestone streets, historic architecture, and a multitude of restaurants and bars. This walking tour will fill participants with the area's history and tastings at three drinking establishments. The tour will start and end at the hotel.



Fells Point Ghost Tour

Cost: \$38

Thursday, 6:45 pm to 9:15 pm

Friday, 6:15 pm to 8:45 pm

Friday, 7:15 pm to 9:45 pm

This walking tour, which will start and end at the hotel, will take participants through the ghostly past—and present—of the historic Fells Point waterfront neighborhood. Make sure to bring your best Catherine Morland game!

TOURS CONTINUED

Homewood Museum and Baltimore Museum of Art

Cost: Thursday with lunch*, \$120

Cost: Sunday without lunch, \$90

Thursday with lunch, 9:15 am to 2:30 pm

Sunday, 12:45 pm to 5:00 pm



The Homewood Museum, built as a home in 1801, is an outstanding example of Federal-style Palladian architecture. The tour features 11 rooms and intertwines the histories of both its past owners and the enslaved people on the estate. The Baltimore Museum of Art's comprehensive collection contains 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century American art, the largest collection of Matisse works in a public institution, and objects from ancient Egypt, Oceania, the ancient Americas, and Europe.

**The Thursday tour includes lunch at Gertrude's Chesapeake Kitchen.*



Black History Guided Bus Tour

Cost: \$38

Thursday, 9:45 am to 12:00 pm

Sunday, 12:45 pm to 3:00 pm

This bus-only tour features Baltimore's rich Black history, including the Orchard Street Church, the Eubie Blake National Museum and Cultural Center, Billie Holiday Park, and sites important to Thurgood Marshall and Frederick Douglass.

Note that the guide will speak and participants will view sites from the bus, with no admission to sites.



Ladew Topiary Gardens

Cost: \$75

Sunday, 12:45 pm to 6:00 pm



Across 22 acres of gardens, Ladew has more than 100 topiaries as well as “rooms” that feature a wide variety of plants and flowers. The 18th-century Manor House showcases hunting enthusiast Henry Ladew's extensive collection of equestrian art and English antiques—and more items shaped like foxes than you can imagine.

Note that a light afternoon snack is included in the tour.

Goucher College's Jane Austen Collection

Cost: Morning, \$50

Cost: Afternoon with play, \$75

Monday 9:15 am to 12:30 pm

Monday 1:15 pm to 7:00 pm (with play)



Goucher College is the home of JASNA's archives and has many rare, first, and translated editions of Austen's novels. Visitors will be able to view selections from the rich collection, as well as the scrapbooks of Alberta Burke, whose bequest founded the college's Austen collection. Burke collected a wide variety of Austen books and ephemera in both England and the United States. Her husband, Henry, was one of the founding members of JASNA.

Visitors will rotate among four exhibit and display areas, all located on the fourth floor of the Athenaeum building. On hand to answer questions will be Professor **Juliette Wells** and **Kristen Welzenbach**, Curator of Special Collections & Archives. A light morning or afternoon snack will be provided.

Treasures From the Jane Austen Collection

On view in the Special Collections Reading Room will be first and rare editions of Austen's novels, as well as publications from the author's lifetime relating to fashion, landscape design, and more. Additional highlights include selections from Goucher's unparalleled holdings of Austen novels in translation plus original archival material amassed by Alberta Burke.

New Austen-Themed Art Installation by Artists-in-Residence Lauren Adams and Victoria Pass

Professors Lauren Adams and Victoria Pass, faculty members at the Maryland Institute College of Art, are the Goucher Library's 2024-2025 Artists-in-Residence. Their explorations in the Jane Austen Collection will culminate in an art installation hung outside the entrance to the Reading Room.

By a Lady: Alberta H. Burke, Jane Austen, and the Art of Collecting

Developed by students in Professor Juliette Wells's "Jane Austen Archives Practicum" course, this exhibit introduces Alberta Burke, celebrates her achievement, and commemorates the 50th anniversary of the bequest that founded Goucher's Jane Austen Collection. Student curators will be present to speak with visitors.

Celebrating 1995: The Year that Made Jane Austen a Star

A senior project by Kaylee Ray-Williams, Goucher class of 2025, this exhibit invites viewers to consider the enduring appeal of beloved adaptations that debuted in 1995.

Participants in the afternoon tour will also attend a staged reading of Tiny Dynamite's hilarious play ***The Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged***, performed by actors Jessica Bedford, Charlotte Northeast, and Shannon Michael Wamser.

BALTIMORE - WHOO!

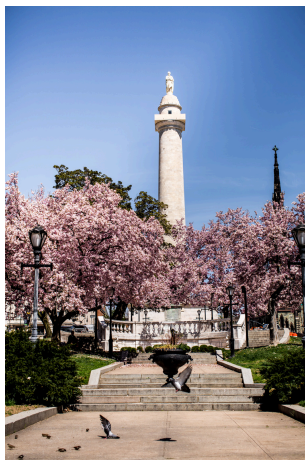
Charm City has much to offer visitors. Located on the waterfront of the Patapsco River flowing into the Chesapeake Bay, the city dates to the early 1700s. While its port made it important to trade, its central proximity involved it in major events of American history such as the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Industrial Revolution, and the Underground Railroad.

Today Baltimore is experiencing a cultural rebirth with numerous museums, a focus on African American and ethnic roots, its uniquely quirky urban hospitality, and a food scene going beyond crabs and seafood. The neighborhood around the hotel features high-end shopping and numerous restaurants.



From seafood to American classics, to Asian Fusion, to Lebanese cuisine, to gourmet food shops, there is something for everyone. Little Italy is just a couple of blocks north of the hotel, where you can indulge in pizza, pasta, and specialty dishes.

Peruse the [Host City](#) page to get your bearings and get ready to come to Baltimore, hon!



ASSUMPTIONS?

“I must be an expert or an academic to attend an AGM.”

“I don’t know anyone.”

“I have to wear Regency clothing.”

“I don’t know anything about Baltimore.”

Let’s debunk those assumptions:

1. All Jane Austen enthusiasts are welcome. Everyone adds to the conversation and discovery. If you are a JASNA member, you can attend an AGM. If you are not a member or your membership has lapsed, visit www.jasna.org/join.
2. All AGM attendees have something in common—Jane Austen. You will make lifelong friends. Just ask their favorite book or adaptation. Even if you don’t agree, the conversation will flow.
3. While we love seeing costumes, modern clothing is completely acceptable. Wear what is comfortable for you—and there are some great Austen T-shirts (including AGM branded ones). Evening or cocktail attire is recommended for the banquet and ball. If you’d like to wear Regency attire, the emporium can help accessorize or outfit you.
4. As you have read in this brochure, Baltimore and the AGM have something for everyone!

PLANNING TIPS

Another common assumption is that it is difficult to register. While there is limited space, these tips will help for when registration opens on June 19:



Keep your membership and email contact up-to-date in the membership portal.



Read [AGM Updates](#) and [webpages](#).



Follow JASNA AGM on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Waitlists for activities and/or the AGM itself are possible. If you are waitlisted, watch your email for more information. Space often opens up over the summer.

COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

JASNA is enriched and strengthened by the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and opinions of our membership. The pleasure of our gatherings lies in the free exchange of ideas and the active participation of all who attend. As JASNA members, we have a shared responsibility for creating a welcoming, safe, and productive environment for everyone participating in our programs and on our digital platforms.

For the full guidelines, please visit: jasna.org/about/jasna-community-guidelines/



VOLUNTEERS

Do you want to help make the AGM a success? Could you lend a hand by signing people in at a workshop or a tour you plan to attend?

The Baltimore team is looking for upbeat, reliable helpers to ensure the AGM runs smoothly. It's a simple task that makes a huge difference, but it does require arriving early to your scheduled event and following through on your commitment. If that sounds like a way you'd like to contribute to the AGM experience for everyone, complete this form between now and June 19: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZCsQMwWH4n>

Please note: Volunteers will still need to register for the AGM and pay the listed attendee fee and for their own hotel accommodations.

ONLINE RESOURCES AND POINTS OF CONTACT

AGM webpages and social media:

jasna.org/agms/baltimore2025/home.php



AGM Update Center:

jasna.org/conferences-events/agms/agm-updates/

2025 AGM Coordinator:

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JASNA Vice President for Conferences:

Jane Boltz vpconf@jasna.org



Expect a most agreeable Letter, for not being overburdened with subject (having nothing at all to say) - I shall have no check to my Genius from beginning to end.

Letter, January 21, 1801