



**Designing Jane Austen Programs in Libraries**

# Your Speakers

## **Jennifer Jones**

Branch Manager at a Maryland Public Library

Regional Coordinator, Maryland Region

2025 Baltimore AGM Coordinator

## **Stephenee Bennett Borelli**

Librarian at a California Public Library

Regional Coordinator, Greater Sacramento



"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of..."

**Jane Austen Library Programming!**



**Who was  
Jane  
Austen  
and what  
is JASNA?**



# Why Austen Programming Now?



- 2025 is the 250th Anniversary of her birth 1775-1817
- Recent popular period dramas - *Bridgerton*, *Sanditon*, *Persuasion* & *Tom Jones*
- Royals in news - King Charles, Harry & Meghan
- Promote reading and lifelong learning
- Scholarly and fun programming + community

# Literary Pioneer



Perfecting new novel form

“Free indirect discourse”

Realism

Tropes

# Popular

750 *Sense and Sensibility* in 1811

Seldom out of print

30 million sold worldwide

20 million *Pride and Prejudice*

40 languages



# Today's Readership

<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	4.28★	4,073,205 ratings
<i>Persuasion</i>	4.15★	674,088 ratings
<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	4.08★	1,154,727 ratings
<i>Emma</i>	4.04★	849,666 ratings
<i>Mansfield Park</i>	3.86★	339,116 rating
<i>Northanger Abbey</i>	3.84★	385,051 ratings





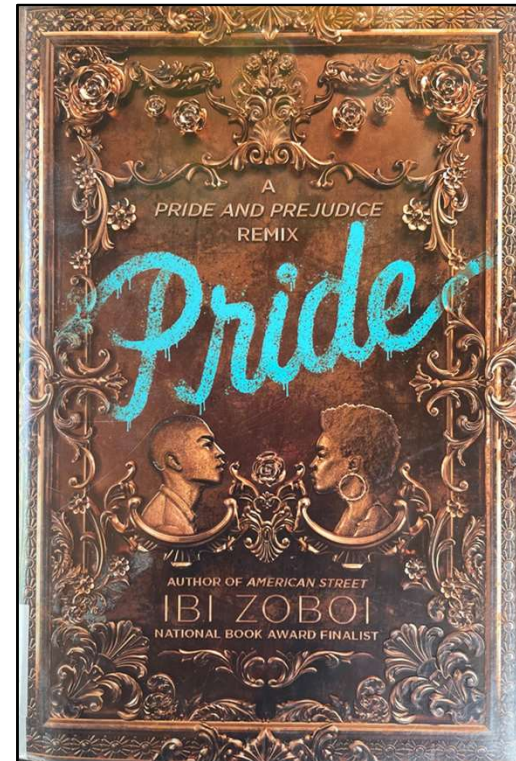
# Race

- Enslavement
- Diversity



# Class

- Social Commentary
- Generational wealth



# Human Nature

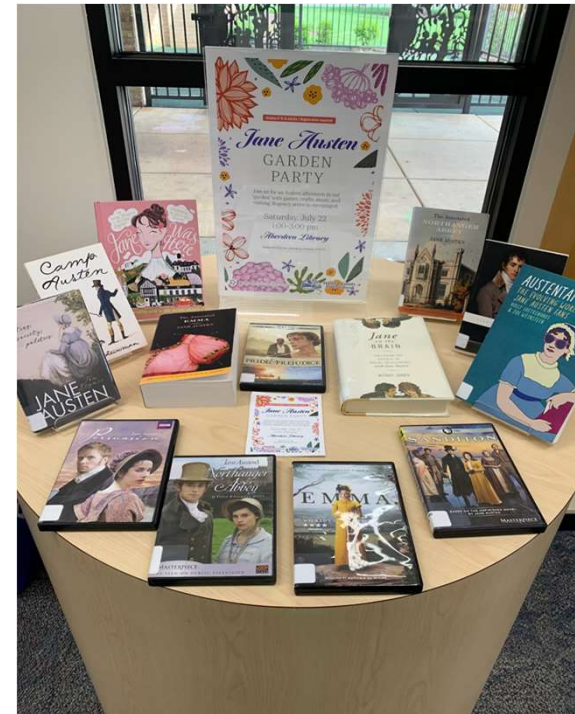
- Vanity & Pride
- Love and Marriage
- Selfishness
- Gender roles



# Types of Programs

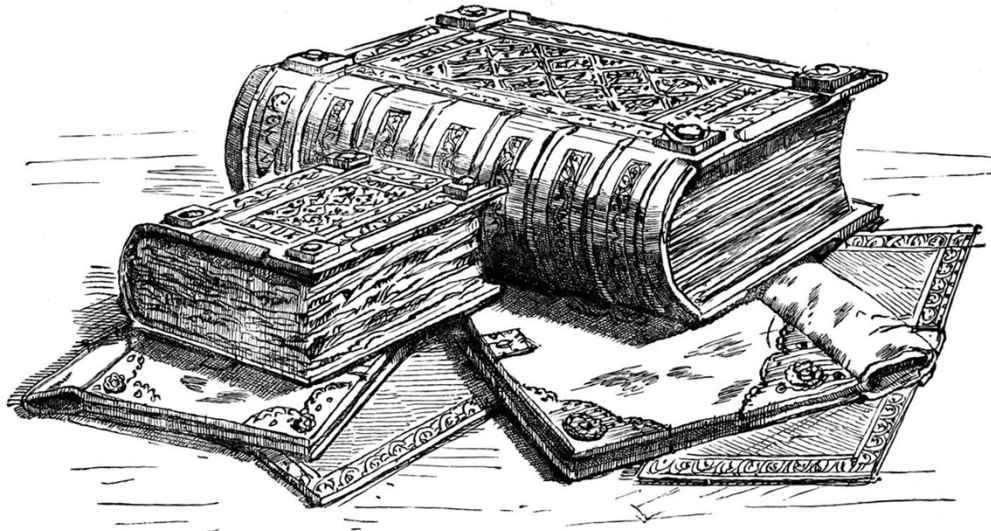
- History/Living History
- Book Discussions
- Crafts/Sewing/Costumes
- Movie showing
- Mini-con/Conferences

- Teas
- Games - card, board, trivia
- Dancing or music
- Passive programs/displays





# Dream Jane Austen Book Club



- Read slowly
- English professors
- Historians
- Immersive experiences

# How Austentatious!



***Sense and Sensibility*** Etiquette, Transportation, Carriage Ride

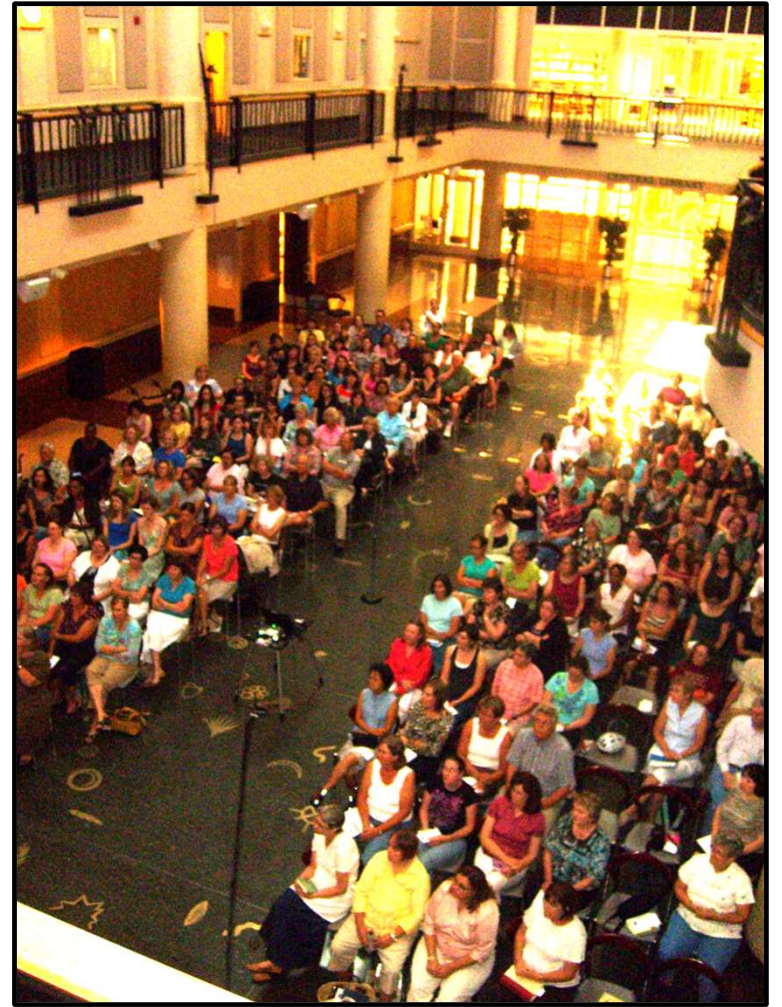
***Pride and Prejudice*** Jane Austen Tour, Dance Lesson, Live Music

***Emma*** Lace and Embroidery, "Fun with Frank and Jane"

***Mansfield Park*** Soprano Performance, "Lover's Vows"

***Northanger Abbey*** Gothic Literature, Fashion Show


***Persuasion*** Royal Navy, 18th C. Medicine, Medical Museum







*Jane Austen*  
TRIVIA NIGHT

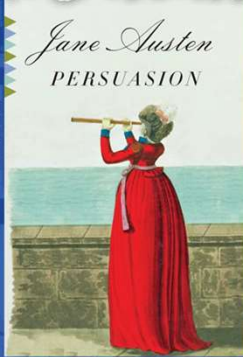


*Thursday,  
December 15*  
*6:45-7:45 pm*  
ABINGDON  
LIBRARY


Adults | Registration required #hcplmd

WHITEFORD  
*Book Discussion*

*Jane Austen*  
PERSUASION



Adults | Registration required #hcplmd



*Jane Austen*  
**Book Club**

Wednesday, April 19  
7pm EST via Zoom

Join the Jane Austen Romance Book Club this month for Dueling Darcies! In this lively fan chat, we'll discuss who played our favorite Mr. Darcy on screen and why! Chat with us about your favorite Pride and Prejudice performers and let us know who you think should win the award for Best Mr. Darcy!

Save Your Spot!  
Via Phone: The Westhampton Free Library 631 - 288 - 335 X4  
Via Email: [ekcough@gmail.com](mailto:ekcough@gmail.com)  
**#JaneAustenRomanceBookClub**



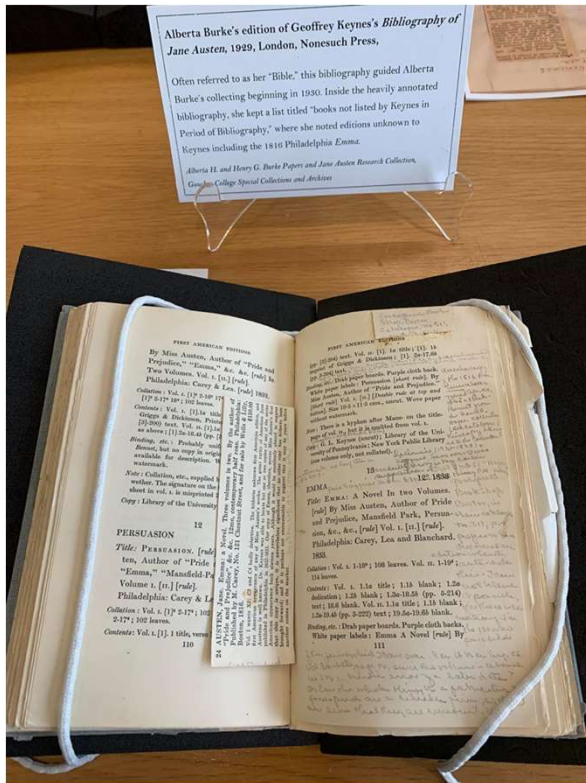
# Jane Austen Garden Party





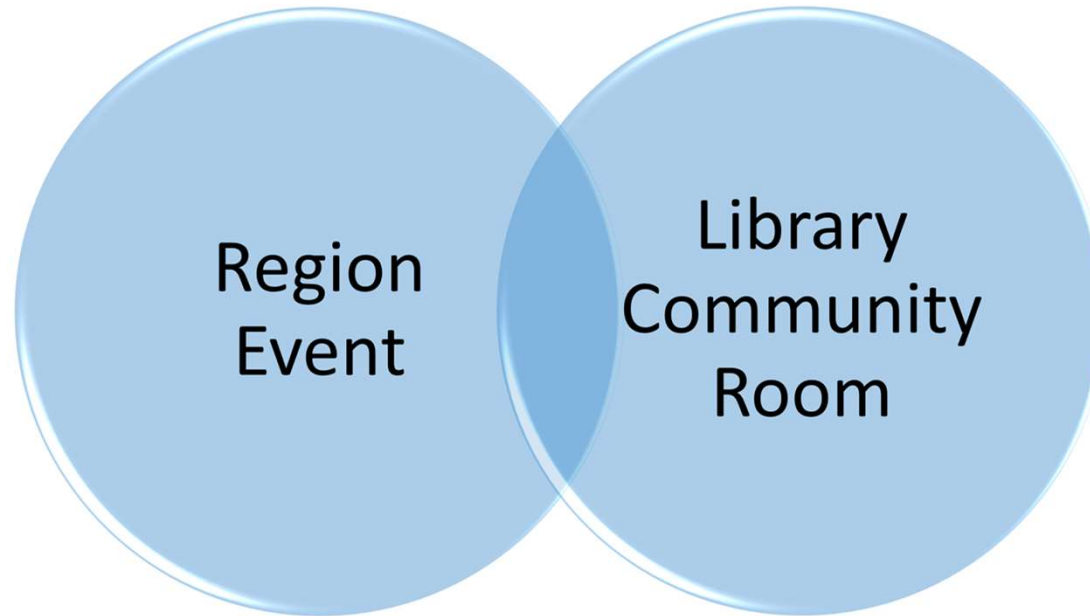


# Goucher Day





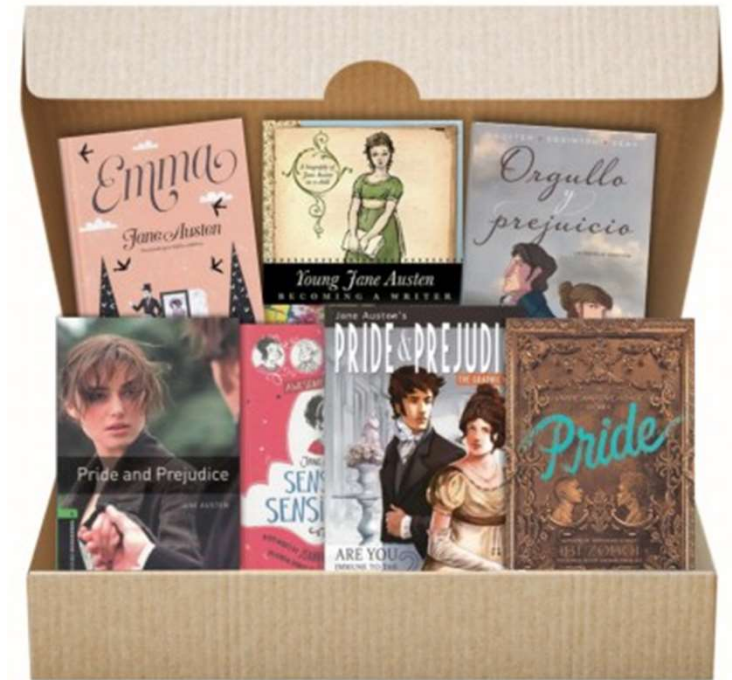
# Hybrid Programming



- More people learn about JASNA
- Library gets customers into library

# JASNA Book Box Program

- Open to schools and community groups in the U.S. and Canada that serve children in grades K-12
- Recipients can customize the books for age and program
- Children get to keep the books!



JABookBox@jasna.org



# Toolkit



JASNA  
JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY  
OF NORTH AMERICA

Jane Austen (1775-1817), one of England's foremost novelists, was never publicly acknowledged as a writer during her lifetime. Contrary to her reputation as a romance writer—and she was a great romance writer—she also wrote and wrote about enduring topics such as human nature, class systems and poverty, enslavement, and the rights of women. 2025 will be the 250th anniversary of her birth.

**The Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA)**

- Founded in 1979 by Joan Austen-Leigh, Henry G. Burke, and J. David Grey.
- A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering the study, appreciation, and understanding of Jane Austen's works, her life, and her genius.
- Approximately 5,000 members and more than 80 regional groups in the U.S. and Canada, including a virtual and an international region.
- Educational outreach programs provide Austen novels and curriculum support to teachers.
- Publications include a peer-reviewed print/digital journal available for library subscription and a free online peer-reviewed journal with open access.
- Each year a region hosts the Annual General Meeting, a three-day literary conference. Featuring keynote speeches by well-known figures, 700-800+ members from all over the world, participate in lectures by Austen scholars, workshops, exhibits, entertainment, local tours, a banquet, and Regency ball.

**Vision:** Because literature has the power to change and enrich our lives, we want to see more people reading the great authors, with special emphasis on Jane Austen.

**Mission:** Our mission is to foster among the widest number of readers the study, appreciation, and understanding of Jane Austen's works, her life, and her genius.

**Diversity and Inclusion Statement:** To fulfill JASNA's mission of fostering among the widest number of readers the study, appreciation, and understanding of Jane Austen's works, her life, and her genius, JASNA strives to ensure that all people are welcome and feel valued in its meetings, events, and community spaces. JASNA is committed to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Society. There is no place in JASNA for discrimination or exclusion, including on the basis of age, race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, ability, appearance, or education.

# FAQ Sheet

- What is JASNA
- Stats on JASNA
- Mission, Vision and Diversity & Inclusion Statement

# Possible Presenters



Professors

Authors

Podcasters

Performers

Museums

Organizations and clubs

Small businesses

# Toolkit Worksheet

- What libraries do you have in your community?
- What type of programs does your library do?
- Why will your community respond to Austen?
- What are the benefits to the library?
- How can you sell Austen programming - what's your elevator speech?

# Have questions? Want to share?

Jennifer Jones - Maryland

[jonesj.1810@gmail.com](mailto:jonesj.1810@gmail.com)



Stephenee Borelli - Greater Sacramento

[stephborelli@aol.com](mailto:stephborelli@aol.com)