Designing Jane Austen Programs in Libraries
Your Speakers

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"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

- Perfected 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Ratings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Pride and Prejudice</em></td>
<td>4.28★</td>
<td>4,073,205</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Persuasion</em></td>
<td>4.15★</td>
<td>674,088</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Sense and Sensibility</em></td>
<td>4.08★</td>
<td>1,154,727</td>
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<td><em>Emma</em></td>
<td>4.04★</td>
<td>849,666</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Mansfield Park</em></td>
<td>3.86★</td>
<td>339,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Northanger Abbey</em></td>
<td>3.84★</td>
<td>385,051</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Goodreads 10/22/23
What themes does Austen cover?

- Class
- Marriage
- Social status
- Gender
- Feminism
- Propriety
- Independence
- Women's rights
- Sisterly dynamics
- 2300
- Racism
- Social commentary
- Status
- Sex outside of marriage
- Patriarchy
- Love
- Family
- Shame
- Sisterhood
- Class disparity
- Romance
- Woman's place in society
- Dancing
- Poverty
- Money
- Gender disparity
- Hi guys
- Women's work
- Society
- Morality
- Young adulthood
- Eloping
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

Jane Austen Book Club
Wednesday, April 19
7pm EST via Zoom
Join the Jane Austen Romance Book Club this month for Duelling 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 the Date!
Via Phone: The Westhampton Free Library 631-288-333 X4
Via Email: ekcough@gmail.com
#JaneAustenRomanceBookClub

Whiteford Book Discussion
Jane Austen Persuasion
Adults | Registration required
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.
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?

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