

OCT.  
18-20

2024

ALL OF HER SECRETS REVEALED!

# JANE AUSTEN

**FREE!**  
TAKE ONE

CLEVELAND, OH.

[WWW.JASNA.ORG](http://WWW.JASNA.ORG)

INSIDE:  
**AUSTEN'S  
ORIGIN  
STORY**

AUSTEN, ANNOTATED:  
JANE AUSTEN'S LITERARY, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL ORIGINS

*“I am sincerely rejoiced...  
that I ever was born...”*

– Jane Austen, Letter to Cassandra Austen, December 18, 1798

Some birthdays are too important to settle for just one party, and Jane Austen’s 250th is definitely worthy of a multi-year celebration.

**In 2024 and 2025, JASNA will hold two complementary conferences, expanding our understanding and appreciation of Jane Austen herself.**

The 2024 AGM will explore her origin story. Austen grew up in a house that doubled as a school preparing boys for university, with a father writing sermons and managing a farm. She had brothers in the Navy, at university, at least one taking the Grand Tour of continental Europe, and one in banking. She knew about war, enslavement, and revolutions that toppled monarchies. She benefited from discoveries in science and changes in commerce and industry. She had formidable female relatives, and was almost certainly exposed to new ideas about the role of women in society. We’ll look at how this vast range of influences and experiences is reflected in her novels, letters, and other writing. We’ll talk about Austen’s literary interests: the books that she praised, those that inspired her, and those she parodied or mocked in her own work.

In our leisure hours, we’ll listen to music that she loved, dance as she danced, and perhaps emulate her skill at sewing or try writing with a quill pen. This AGM will be unmissable and unforgettable!



Image: hotpot.ai

### **A Timely Birthday Present**


JASNA members attending the 2024 AGM will receive a special **pin commemorating Jane Austen’s 250th birthday**. Get yours this year, and wear it proudly throughout 2025!


*“Which of all my important nothings shall I tell you first?”*


– Jane Austen, Letter to Cassandra Austen, December 18, 1798


At the AGM, you’ll experience an impressive lineup of speakers for the core conference, lots of additional activities (including the Emporium and Saturday evening banquet, ball, and entertainment), and the attractions of a vibrant cultural hotspot. The information on the following pages will help you be ready to reserve your hotel room and begin to plan your travel.

## Hotel Room Reservations at the Hilton

 **The room block opens January 31, 2024.** If you’re coming to the AGM, we encourage you to go ahead and make your room reservation when the block opens. Please read the notes on the last page regarding room availability.


 The JASNA room rate is \$219 for one or two persons, \$244 for three.


 If the block sells out, don’t panic! There is always lots of turnover after AGM registration.

 Find hotel details online and the reservation link and call-in number at [www.jasna.org/agms/cleveland2024/hotel.php](http://www.jasna.org/agms/cleveland2024/hotel.php).

## AGM Registration

 **AGM registration opens June 19, 2024.**

 Reserving a hotel room does not guarantee an AGM registration space. Although we anticipate having enough room for everyone, if you plan to make your travel arrangements now, we highly recommend purchasing **refundable** tickets.

 Complete program details, policies, and registration instructions will be posted in the spring at <https://jasna.org/agms/cleveland2024/welcome.php>

# The Core Conference

The schedule is filled with programs, activities, and opportunities for “clever conversation” on Jane Austen’s literary, political, and cultural origins. Everything on this page is **included in the Attendee registration fee**.

## THURSDAY

- Six daytime special sessions on topics outside the conference theme
- Visit with a Napoleonic cavalry officer
- Evening special session on theater music Jane Austen knew
- Instruction on Regency card games

## FRIDAY

- AGM Opening at 9:45 a.m.
- Plenary speaker **Susan Allen Ford**
- C.M. Moss Keynote Speaker **Amanda Vickery**
- Your choice of speakers in two breakout sessions
- Demonstrations: write with a quill pen; explore “Jane Austen’s desk”
- Evening session focused on Regency fashion fun with **Hilary Davidson**

## SATURDAY

- Continental breakfast
- Plenary speaker **Patricia A. Matthew**
- North American Scholar **Peter Sabor**
- Your choice of speakers in three breakout sessions
- Social hour, banquet, promenade
- Regency ball with music by Bare Necessities, calling by Tom and Toni Tumbusch
- Ball-alternative programs on Regency life

## SUNDAY

- Book-signing by AGM authors
- Brunch
- Plenary speaker **Thomas Keymer**

# Plenary Speakers

## Amanda Vickery - Carole Medine Moss Keynote Lecturer



*"Growing up in a matriarchal mill town, where wives historically worked out of the house as well as in, fostered my love of social and economic history and fascination with the warp and woof of work and family, power and emotion."*

**Dr. Amanda Vickery** is professor of early modern history at Queen Mary, University of London and a Fellow of the British Academy. She is an historian, radio and television presenter, and author. Among her many publications are the widely acclaimed *The Gentleman's Daughter: Women's Lives in Georgian England* (winner of the Whitfield prize, the Wolfson prize, and the Longman-History Today prize, Yale University Press, 1998) and *Behind Closed Doors: At Home in Georgian England* (Yale University Press, 2009). Her television productions include *At Home with the Georgians* (2010); and *The Many Lovers of Jane Austen*, which included footage from the JASNA's 2011 AGM in Fort Worth, Texas. As a plenary speaker at the Louisville AGM in 2015, Professor Vickery spoke about the plight of single women in Georgian Britain. She has wide interests in the history of British society and culture, including women's history, love and power, house and home, and consumerism and fashion. Her latest research project is "What Women Wanted: Women's Hopes in Britain, 1945-c.1970." She is a regular commentator and reviewer for BBC Radio 4, BBC2, Channel 4, The Guardian, The London Review of Books, and the Times Literary Supplement.

## Peter Sabor - 2024 JASNA North American Scholar



**Dr. Peter Sabor**, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, is Professor of English and Canada Research Chair at McGill University, Montreal, where he is also Director of the Burney Centre. A Life Member of JASNA, he has been a speaker at many JASNA conferences. From 2016 to 2018, he was JASNA's Traveling Lecturer for the Eastern Zone. His publications include *Jane Austen's Juvenilia* (Cambridge University Press, 2006); *Jane Austen's Manuscript Works*, co-edited with Linda Bree and Janet Todd (Broadview, 2013); and *The Cambridge Companion to Emma* (Cambridge University Press, 2015). He has also published extensively on Frances Burney, Samuel Richardson, and Horace Walpole. He is the Principal Investigator for Reading with Austen, a digital recreation of Godmersham Park Library: [www.readingwithausten.com](http://www.readingwithausten.com).

## Patricia A. Matthew



Courtesy of Joel Elliott at the National Humanities Center

**Dr. Patricia A. Matthew** is associate professor of English at Montclair State University, specializing in British Romanticism, the history of the novel, abolitionist literature, and women's writing. She co-edits the Oxford University Press series *Race in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture*, and is editing *Mansfield Park* for W. W. Norton's Norton Library Series, and is currently writing a book about sugar, gender, and British abolitionist culture. Her research has been published in *Women's Writing*, the *Keats-Shelley Journal*, and *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*. She has written about race, the Regency, and popular culture for *The Atlantic*, *Lapham's Quarterly*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *Slate*. She edited *Written/Unwritten: Diversity and the Hidden Truths of Tenure* (University of North Carolina Press, 2016) as well as special issues of several academic journals.

## Thomas Keymer



**Dr. Thomas Keymer** is the author of *Jane Austen: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2022) and *Jane Austen: Writing, Society, Politics* (OUP, 2020). He is the Chancellor Henry N.R. Jackman University Professor of English at the University of Toronto and directs the university's Graduate Program in Book History & Print Culture. He is a Supernumerary Fellow at St Anne's College, Oxford, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Royal Historical Society, and the English Association. His research and teaching center on Restoration, eighteenth-century, and Romantic-era British and Irish literature. His ongoing editorial projects include *The Oxford Handbook of Henry Fielding* and *The Cambridge Edition of the Works and Correspondence of Samuel Richardson*, as well as contributions to several edited volumes.

## Susan Allen Ford



**Dr. Susan Allen Ford** is Editor of JASNA's journals *Persuasions* and *Persuasions On-Line* and is Professor of English Emerita at Delta State University. She has spoken at many AGMs and to many JASNA Regions and has published essays on Austen and her contemporaries, gothic and detective fiction, and Shakespeare. She was a plenary speaker at the 2016 AGM in Washington, DC and has served as a JASNA Traveling Lecturer. Her book, *What Jane Austen's Characters Read and Why*, will be published by Bloomsbury in 2024.

## Breakout Session and Special Session Speakers

In addition to our five eminent plenary speakers, **27 breakout session speakers** will address aspects of the conference theme, giving each attendee the opportunity to customize the conference experience by choosing the **five sessions** of greatest personal interest. The slate of speakers includes those who give a broad overview of historical or literary trends, and those that examine a particular event, theme, or book in depth. Expect topics ranging from the geopolitical landscape during Austen's lifetime and the books she would have known, to linguistics, charitable work, and the Navy, to name just a few.

Before the official opening of the AGM, and during the evenings, **special sessions** offer something a little different. Speakers in these sessions discuss topics that diverge from the AGM theme. Fashion historian and author **Hilary Davidson** will be a featured presenter for an evening of fashion fun on Friday evening. Other special sessions will cover topics ranging from the smells of the Regency era, to recently discovered writing by Jane Austen's nephew, to a panel on the experience of people of color as Janeites – and more.

**All of the above are included in the Attendee registration fee. Descriptions of all sessions will be posted on the 2024 AGM website in the coming weeks.**

# Tours, Workshops, and Special Events

Events taking place before and after the “core conference” are listed here. Detailed program information, prices, and scheduling are in development. Activities on this page are **not included in the basic AGM registration fee**; tickets may be purchased during registration.

## TOURS offered on multiple days

- Amish Country full-day tour (Wed, Mon)
- Lawnview/Lakefield/Winery full-day tour (Thu, Mon)
- Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH, half-day tour (Wed, Mon)
- Playhouse Square behind-the-scenes tour (Wed, Thu)
- Downtown Public Art walking tour (Wed, Thu, Sun, Mon)
- Downtown Highlights walking tour (Wed, Thu, Sun, Mon)
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (open every day; discount tickets for self-guided visit)
- Cleveland Public Library self-guided tour (Tue, Wed, Thu, Mon)

## WEDNESDAY

- Evensong in honor of Jane Austen at Trinity Cathedral (no fee, donation suggested)

## THURSDAY

- English Country Dance workshops
- Workshops on corset-making, book-binding, bonnet-trimming
- JASNA chartered buses to University Circle (UC) for scheduled and on-your-own touring
- “Revolution in Fashion” private tour at Western Reserve Museum (UC)
- Cleveland Museum of Art docent-led tour (UC)
- Cleveland Museum of Art self-guided tour (UC)
- Playhouse Square behind-the-scenes tour (UC)
- Botanical Gardens self-guided tour (UC)
- Evening performance at Hanna Theatre/Great Lakes Theater (play to be announced)

## FRIDAY

- Workshops on English Country Dance, corset-making, book-binding, bonnet-trimming
- Cleveland Orchestra evening performance at Severance Hall

## SUNDAY

- Evening dinner cruise on the river

# Tours Overview

## **Jane Austen Evensong at Trinity Cathedral**

Those arriving early for the AGM are invited to an Evensong service memorializing Jane Austen on Wednesday evening at the historic and beautiful Trinity Cathedral.

## **University Circle Self-Guided Exploration Via the JASNA-Chartered Bus**

Buses will run on Thursday between the hotel and University Circle, where world-class cultural sites await, including the Museum of Art, Western Reserve Historical Society/History Center/Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum, Botanical Garden, and Museum of Natural History. Some sites offer scheduled docent-led tours. The bus makes a stop at Playhouse Square.

## **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Self-Guided Visit with Discounted Ticket**

In addition to the thousands of items on display, enjoy feature films, video, interactive kiosks, reading material, and, of course, plenty of music from genres including rhythm & blues, jazz, rock, folk, heavy metal, and hip-hop. Visit and tour at your own pace.

## **Amish-Mennonite Tour**

Holmes County is known for its thriving Amish community. This tour includes a visit to the Amish Mennonite Heritage Center, a stop at a one-of-a-kind store catering to the needs of the Amish, lunch in an Amish home, and a short time for independent exploration.

## **Lake View Cemetery, Lawnfield, and Wine**

Lake View Cemetery, called Cleveland's outdoor art museum, hosts the Garfield Memorial and a stunning Tiffany-designed chapel. Participants will also visit Lawnfield, the home of President Garfield and the prototype for Presidential Libraries. Lunch with wine-tasting is included.

## **Pro Football Hall of Fame**

The Pro Football Hall of Fame preserves the history and honors the legends of professional football. It features an impressive collection of memorabilia including Super Bowl rings, jerseys, and interactive exhibits that allow visitors to experience the thrill of the game.

## **Downtown Public Art Walking Tour**

This tour highlights public art in all its forms, exploring the artists, the people being depicted, and their connections to Cleveland. Sculptures by Claes Oldenburg, Isamu Noguchi, and Stacy Levy, statues of many historical figures, and some often overlooked pieces will be seen.

## **Downtown Highlights Walking Tour**

Covering highlights from Public Square to Playhouse Square, the tour embraces the Old Stone Church, the Terminal Tower, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the Cleveland Public Library, the Federal Reserve of Cleveland, the Arcade, and the Cleveland Public Trust Company Building.

## **Playhouse Square Walking Tour**

Playhouse Square is the largest theater restoration project in the world. Using original documents and surviving details, the restoration returned five theaters dating from 1921-22 to their original neoclassical splendor. The tour may include backstage areas depending on availability.



## Playhouse Square

Featuring five historic theatres built in the 1920s, Playhouse Square is one of Ohio's cultural treasures. Its venues host many Broadway traveling productions, as well as performances by highly regarded regional theatre, dance, and musical groups. Plans are underway for a special JASNA night at the theatre on Thursday.

## University Circle

During the day on Thursday, ride the JASNA chartered bus to University Circle, where art museums, gardens, historic sites, and other special places await. Both guided tours and independent exploration are possible at this world-class arts and cultural center. The bus stops at Playhouse Square along the way for those choosing tours.



# Get to know *Cleveland*<sup>SM</sup>



## Rock&Roll Hall of Fame

The museum on Ground Zero spans generations from rock's earliest artists to emerging musicians. Find thousands of items on display plus feature films, interactive kiosks, and plenty of music. On other floors, explore temporary exhibits and the Hall of Fame, play musical instruments, and visit the shop and cafe.

## Hilton and Environs

The AGM hotel is in the heart of downtown, a short walk from the beautifully remodeled Public Square. Nearby is a plethora of dining choices, from easy-on-the-budget convenience food to upscale dining on East 4th street and in the fashionable Flats district. A rooftop lounge provides scenic views.



Explore restaurants, attractions, and more at  
[www.thisiscleveland.com](http://www.thisiscleveland.com)

# Planning Tips for Savvy Janeites

**For the best experience, read about the AGM before and after registration.**

A lot of information will be available in the coming months on the AGM website, including complete descriptions of all conference sessions and activities, and registration instructions and policies. Time-sensitive news will be posted on the AGM Update Center. After registration, the AGM Registrar will send periodic updates with important information to everyone registered for the conference from the [jasnaagm@gmail.com](mailto:jasnaagm@gmail.com) address. Notifications related to waitlists, news on new sessions, and advice for attendees will also come from that address.

**If you're planning to attend the AGM, do make your hotel reservations early, but don't be daunted by fluid availability of rooms.** On January 31, the Hilton's PASSKEY room reservation system, linked from the JASNA hotel webpage, will become active. Rooms will sell very briskly, but please understand the following:

- JASNA's room block is large enough for the anticipated demand during the official AGM nights of Thursday through Sunday. An initial sellout does not mean you have no chance of staying at the AGM hotel, though you are free to reserve elsewhere if you prefer. There is always some turnover in the months prior to the AGM, with many JASNA members changing their plans or deciding to stay with roommates. Watch for hotel status updates at the AGM Update Center online.
- Rooms on Tuesday before the AGM, Monday after the AGM, and part of the Wednesday block of rooms are not being released at this time. Attendees who register for Wednesday and Monday tours during AGM registration in June will have priority access to those room reservations.
- In the reservation system, a request for more room nights than are available may result in a notification of no availability at all. If you are unsuccessful at first, try searching for fewer nights and adding more later.
- If, after the room block opens on January 31 at 12 noon Eastern Time, you have difficulty or prefer to reserve by phone, call the hotel directly at (216) 413-5000 ext. 1 and provide the booking code JANE. If needed, you may email the JASNA Conference Director (see contact information on next page), but JASNA is not responsible for the setup or operation of the Hilton's reservation system.
- If you are planning a longer stay in Cleveland, the JASNA discounted room rate may be honored for three days before and three days after the conference, depending on availability. JASNA has no control over rooms or rates before or after the AGM, or for bookings not made through the JASNA hotel page link.

## **And finally... design the AGM experience that is best for you.**

There are sessions that run concurrently, and sessions at the same time as tours, workshops, and performances outside the hotel – altogether, much more than one person can do, not to mention shopping at the Emporium and socializing with other JASNA members. Why is the agenda so full?

- With attendee numbers in the 800-1000 range, a mix of general-session lectures (plenaries) and sessions in smaller rooms (breakouts) provides a variety of experiences and makes the best use of the time and meeting space available to us. Concurrent breakout sessions enable more speakers to present and give each attendee the freedom to choose topics according to personal interest.
- AGM attendees have different interests, pocketbooks, and energy levels. Tours, workshops, and external events are separately ticketed, keeping the basic AGM registration fee within the reach of more JASNA members. When there are ticketed events, there are concurrent activities, just as appealing, that require no extra fee and no travel outside the hotel.

In selecting some options, you will miss others – we all do – but, however you plan your personal schedule, the JASNA AGM is an experience like no other. Watch for program details to be posted online in the coming months. Hope to see you in Cleveland!

## **Online Resources and Points of Contact**

The 2024 AGM webpages launch page:

<https://jasna.org/agms/cleveland2024/welcome.php> or [bit.ly/JASNA2024AGM](https://bit.ly/JASNA2024AGM)

The AGM hotel webpage with the official reservation link:

<https://jasna.org/agms/cleveland2024/hotel.php>

The AGM Update Center:

<https://jasna.org/conferences-events/agms/agm-updates/>

2024 AGM Coordinators:

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