

❖ JASNA AGM ❖



# AUSTIEN

AT 250

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

OCT. 10-12, 2025



BALTIMORE

**PREVIEW BROCHURE**

**FEBRUARY 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 preview brochure will help you begin to plan your travel and get excited for this stellar party!

## **There are three ways to attend an AGM:**

- 1) Attendee: you will have access to all plenaries, breakouts, special sessions, the banquet and ball, and all non-ticketed events. Three meals are included: Saturday continental breakfast, Saturday banquet dinner, and Sunday brunch.
- 2) Companion: you will have access to the Saturday continental breakfast, the Saturday banquet and ball, and the Sunday brunch and plenary.
- 3) Livestream/Virtual: you will have access to live and recorded plenaries, and selected breakouts and special sessions.

Attendee and Companion registrants are able to purchase tickets for tours, special events, and the dance and craft workshops.

More information on AGM basics can be found at: [jasna.org/conferences-events/agms/faqs/](https://jasna.org/conferences-events/agms/faqs/)

# AGM REGISTRATION



**AGM registration opens June 19, 2025.**



There will be two opening times, at 12 noon and 9 p.m. Eastern time.

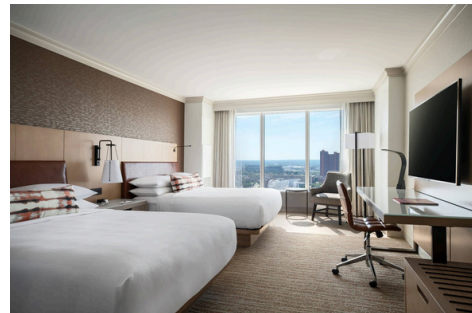


Complete program details, policies, and registration instructions will be posted in the spring at [jasna.org/agms/baltimore2025/home.php](https://jasna.org/agms/baltimore2025/home.php).



Use this guide, and further updates, to plan your selections to be ready when registration opens.

## BALTIMORE MARRIOTT WATERFRONT HOTEL



**The room block opens June 20.**



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.



Find hotel details at [jasna.org/agms/baltimore2025/hotel.php](https://jasna.org/agms/baltimore2025/hotel.php). The reservation link and call-in number will be posted on that page close to the opening date.

*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) \$  
Registration open (4 p.m.)  
Meet & Greet  
Movie screening & discussion \$

## 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 \$  
Museum exhibitions and artifact talks  
Breakout Session A  
Evening Special sessions, Northanger Abbey Escape Room \$, and Games

## Friday

Emporium  
Special sessions and workshops (morning)  
AGM Opening (9:30 a.m.) and Carol Medine Moss Keynote Lecturer: **Paula Byrne**  
Plenary Author Panel: **Janine Barchas, Inger Brodey, Collins Hemingway, and Devoney Looser**  
Breakout Session B  
Breakout Session C  
Museum exhibitions and artifact talks  
Plenary Speaker: **Vanessa Riley**  
Tours: Fells Point Pub Crawl (evening), Ghost Tour (evening) \$  
Evening Special session



\$ Attendees and Companions may purchase tickets during registration.

*Schedule is subject to change*

# SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE CONTINUED

## Saturday

Emporium  
Continental Breakfast  
North American Scholar: **Juliette Wells**  
JASNA Business Meeting  
Breakout Session D  
Breakout Session E  
Museum exhibitions and artifact talks  
Social hour  
Banquet  
Promenade  
Regency ball  
Ball-alternative program and games

## Sunday

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) \$  
Evening on the Constellation \$

## Monday

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



\$ Attendees and Companions may purchase tickets during registration.

*Schedule is subject to change*

## 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 twentieth-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.

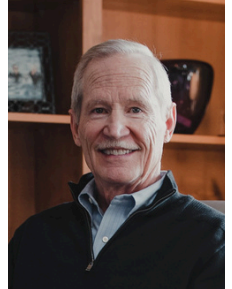


# PLENARY SPEAKERS CONTINUED



**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.

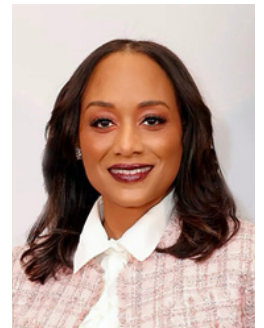
**Collins Hemingway** combines a career writing books on business and the internet with a deep appreciation for Jane Austen. He has written historical fiction based on Austen's life and has turned to literary criticism with his latest book *Jane Austen and the Creation of Modern Fiction: Six Novels in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



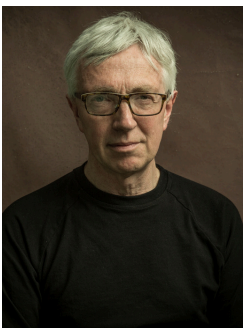
**Dr. Devoney Looser** is Regents Professor of English at Arizona State University. She is the author of nine books, including *The Making of Jane Austen* and *The Daily Jane Austen: A Year of Quotes*. Looser’s latest, *Wild for Austen*, will be published in 2025.

## 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 eighteenth- and nineteenth-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 SESSIONS

Breakout sessions are presentations by members of JASNA on topics that directly focus on the AGM theme. Several speakers present concurrently, enabling attendees to choose topics and speakers of greatest interest to them. There will be five sets of breakouts: one on Thursday night, two on Friday, and two on Saturday.

This year, breakouts will focus on Austen's genius from a range of perspectives, including literary analysis of her published work and juvenilia; her choice of subject matter and engagement with the world around her; milestones and key historical points in her life; the timeless qualities of her work that lend themselves to adaptation and modernization; and many more.

The following speakers have confirmed their intention to participate in breakout sessions. Breakouts will be a mix of solo presentations, shared sessions, and panels.

Session abstracts and speaker biographies will be posted on the AGM webpages this spring.

Elaine Bander Montreal, Quebec, Canada	Anne Fertig Woodbridge, Virginia	Juliet McMaster Edmonton, Alberta, Canada	Jason Solinger Oxford, Mississippi
Mavis Biss Baltimore, Maryland	Susan Allen Ford Cleveland, Mississippi	Tara Moore Red Lion, Pennsylvania	Jo Ann Staples Nashville, Tennessee
Kenneth Brewer Montclair, New Jersey	Kelly Gardiner Essendon, Victoria, Australia	James Nagle Bainbridge Island, Washington	Elizabeth Steele Doylestown, Pennsylvania
Carolyn Brown Chapel Hill, North Carolina	Rachel Gevlin Richmond, Virginia	Nili Olay Naples, Florida	Karen Stohr Germantown, Maryland
Margie Burns Cheverly, Maryland	Amanda Halla New Windsor, Maryland	Nikki Payne Bowie, Maryland	Alice Villaseñor Tonawanda, New York
Jazmine Casas Weslaco, Texas	Robin Henry Ennis, Texas	Joy Prevost Sacramento, California	Po-Yu Wei New Taipei City, Taiwan
Sonjeong Cho Seoul, South Korea	Marsha Huff Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Wanas Radwan Edmonton, Alberta, Canada	Kim Wilson Waukesha, Wisconsin
Brenda S. Cox Tucker, Georgia	Alexandra Jeikner Attica, Greece	Rebecca Romney Silver Spring, Maryland	
Hilary Davidson New York, New York	Hazel Jones Crediton, Devon, UK	Janet Saidi Columbia, Missouri	
Brianna Duffin Havertown, Pennsylvania	Theresa Kenney Bedford, Texas	Claire Saim Paris, France	
Sarah Emsley Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada	Sharmini Kumar Essendon, Victoria, Australia		














# 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.

Planning for special sessions is ongoing, but here are just a few of the many treats in store for you:

-  Sessions on Jane Austen’s two most important home villages, Steventon and Chawton, in her era and today.
-  A fashion show with a difference, and additional talks on historic clothing.
-  An introduction to a famous portraitist of Federal-era Baltimore.
-  The chance to challenge your wits in the Northanger Abbey Escape Room. \$
-  The Wednesday night Meet & Greet.
-  Movie viewing at nearby cinema, with signature P&P cocktails available. \$
-  A conversation with Paula Byrne and Hilary Davidson on material culture.
-  The AGM authors’ book-signing on Sunday morning.
-  Pop-up museum and object talks (see below).

## POP-UP MUSEUM AND OBJECT TALKS

Baltimore is full of fascinating museums, but in this anniversary year, JASNA is doing something very special and bringing the artifacts to you. A room in the hotel will be designated as our pop-up “Museum” where attendees can drop in to view and learn about artifacts of particular interest to admirers of Jane Austen. In addition, the objects’ owners/custodians will give brief scheduled talks Thursday, Friday, and Saturday about the selected artifacts, their relation to Austen and her time, and their meaning today. There will be some exclusive items with Austen provenance, never before seen in America, so stay tuned for more details.

# WORKSHOPS

Attendees and Companions are able to purchase tickets for Thursday and Friday morning workshops to immerse themselves in Regency culture and experiences. Full details and pricing will be posted prior to registration.

**Dancing:** Get ready for the ball on Saturday by practicing your dance steps

**Regency Sing-a-Long:** Join a group sing featuring songs popular in Regency England

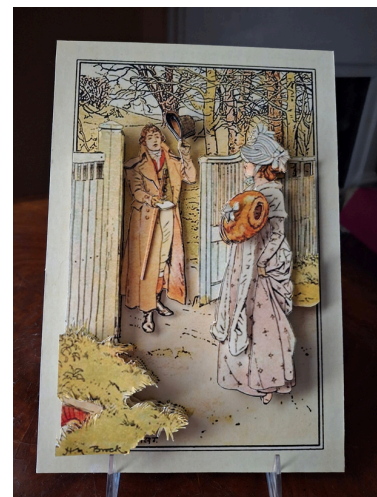
**C.E. Brock 3D Display:** Use a Brock image from an Austen novel and papier tôle technique to create a one-of-a-kind display

**Basic Quilling:** Learn about this timeless craft and make your own filigree card, ornament, or pendant

**Creative Writing Workshop–Austen in Verse:** Use Austen’s language to create your own poetry using three different techniques

**Regency Calling Cards:** Learn about various styles and create your own calling cards, an essential accessory for every person of quality

**Fichu Stamping:** Take a plain neckerchief to the next level with India-style stamps



## TOURS

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 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: All Day Thursday**

For the 2025 AGM, JASNA plans to operate 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

# TOURS CONTINUED



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.



## **Black History Guided Bus Tour: 1/2 day Thursday and Sunday**

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.

## **Fells Point Pub Crawl: evening Wednesday, Thursday and Friday**

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.



## **Ghost Tour: evening Thursday and Friday**

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!



## **Nevermore Poe Guided Tour: 1/2 day Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday and Monday**

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.

## **Goucher College's Jane Austen Collection: 1/2 day Monday**



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.

## **Homewood Museum and Baltimore Museum of Art: 3/4 day Thursday with lunch and 1/2 day Sunday**

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, including 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.

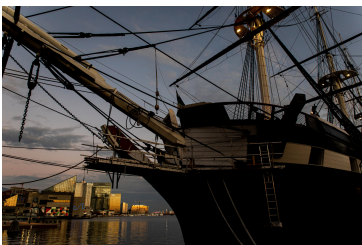


## **Ladew Topiary Gardens: 1/2 day Sunday**

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.

## **Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library: all day Wednesday and Thursday**

The Winterthur Museum collection contains more than 90,000 works of art, pieces of furniture, and objects 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*. A box lunch will be included in the tour.



## **Evening on the Constellation: Sunday night**

Even Capt. Wentworth would approve of ladies aboard ship for this Sunday evening reception aboard the U.S.S. Constellation, located in the Inner Harbor, steps away from the hotel. The Ship's Company Chanteymen, known for their portrayals of seamen and performance of nautical music of the 1700s and 1800s, will entertain guests while they enjoy desserts and drinks on the United States Navy's last sail-only warship. Tours of the historic ship and a cannon firing will cap off this memorable Austen birthday experience.

# BALTIMORE - WHOO!

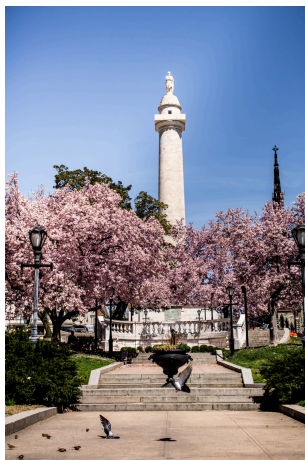
Charm City has much to offer visitors. Located on the waterfront of the Patapsco River flowing into the Chesapeake Bay, the city dates to the early 1700's. While its port made it important to trade, its central proximity involved it in major events of American history such as the Revolutionary War, the 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](http://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

A lot of information will be coming out in the coming months. Plan your selections and be ready when registration opens:



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/](http://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 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:

[jasna.org/agms/baltimore2025/home.php](https://jasna.org/agms/baltimore2025/home.php)

### AGM Update Center:

[jasna.org/conferences-events/agms/agm-updates/](https://jasna.org/conferences-events/agms/agm-updates/)

### 2025 AGM Coordinator:

Jenn Jones [jasna2025agm@gmail.com](mailto:jasna2025agm@gmail.com)

### JASNA AGM Conference Director:

Linda Slothouber [lindasnewmail@gmail.com](mailto:lindasnewmail@gmail.com)

### AGM Registrar:

Debbie Duncan [jasnaagm@gmail.com](mailto:jasnaagm@gmail.com)

### JASNA Vice President for Conferences:

Jane Boltz [vpconf@jasna.org](mailto: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