

The Chautauquan Daily

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Chautauqua, New York

MONDAY, June 26, 2023 || THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION

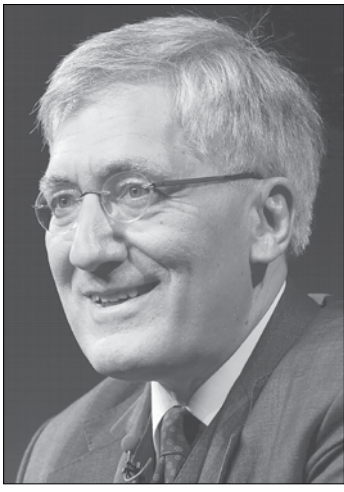
\$1.25
Volume CXLVI, Issue 2

George, West to advocate for friendship across political divide

KAITLYN FINCHLER
STAFF WRITER

One of the more interesting – and politically conflicting – duos of the century will join Chautauquans to open a week on friendship as they discuss how they maintain theirs, why they do, and why people shouldn't take friendships for granted.

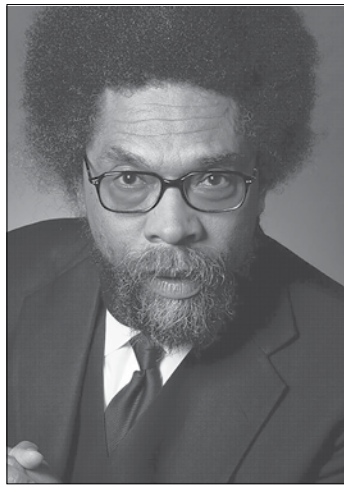
Robert P. George, Princeton University's McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and director of the James Madison Program, returns to Chautauqua to open the season of morning lectures at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater. He is joined by someone he considers a brother: Cornel West, the Dietrich



GEORGE

Bonhoeffer Chair at Union Theological Seminary

Arguably two of the foremost public intellectuals in American life, from two dif-



WEST

ferent schools of thought, George and West maintain their friendship through learning and conversation.

"They have taken this

show on the road before so we knew they were a good pair," said Jordan Steves, interim Emily and Richard Smucker Chair for Education. "We thought it was a particularly appropriate note. ... you have these two men who are best friends but come from very different ideological points on the spectrum."

And on Sunday, Steves said, the two literally took their show on the road; after George and West's flight was canceled, they rented a car to make the trip to Chautauqua together.

When planning the week, Steves said the programming department asked the two to demonstrate this dynamic through tips and

advice on how to navigate relationships that may have been or are becoming difficult as the national mood has "soured" politically.

"We can learn from each other because we don't go into it convinced that we absolutely know the truth infallibly," George told the Daily in 2022. "I learn from Cornel all the time, and he says he learns from me all the time."

George, who spoke on the Interfaith Lecture Series platform last summer, has long disliked labels, particularly in the political sphere – liberal, conservative, socialist, etc.

"If we have to have these broad categories, certain-

ly (West) is more on the progressive (and) I'm more on the conservative (side)," George told the Daily last summer. "He is the honorary co-chairman of Democratic Socialists of America. I'm a critic of socialism."

The two men are certainly "in different places," George said in his 2022 interview, and yet "I recognize and honor him and he recognizes and honors things as true truths. That is more fundamental than any difference of politics between us."

Both truth-seeking individuals, George said they "agree 100%" when it comes to freedom of speech and freedom of thought.

See **FRIENDSHIP**, Page 6



BalletX to take center stage with dance season debut

JULIA WEBER
STAFF WRITER

Chautauqua's first dance performance of the 2023 season will welcome visiting company BalletX to the Institution. The Philadelphia-based dance group pride themselves on contemporary, inclusive and innovative dance experiences, and they're slated to take

the stage at 8:15 p.m. tonight in the Amphitheater.

"Chautauqua's historical. It's legendary. So, it's such an honor to bring my company up there and share in the arts with a passionate community who appreciates and values the impact of the arts," said Christine Cox, BalletX's co-founder and artistic and executive director.

See **BALLETX**, Page 6

Jackowski opens series on spiritual friendships with personal journey

SARA TOTH
EDITOR

When Karol Jackowski entered the Catholic Sisterhood in 1964, nuns were prescribed a litany of rules to follow – even ones related to friendship.

"They shall carefully avoid any friendship contrary to community spirit, such a close union with one person being a formal separation from the rest," read one.

But another: "They shall love one another sincerely, never entertaining feelings of aversion. They shall pray for one another; they shall help and serve one another. They shall strive to banish from their minds every thought of jealousy and to rejoice in the success of their sisters as their own."

Jackowski – who has since left the Sisters of the Holy Cross – is now part

of the Sisters for Christian Community, an independent, self-governing sisterhood. She opens the 2023 Interfaith Lecture Series, and its Week One theme of "Holy Friendship: Source of Strength and Challenge" at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy. Her lecture title is "Friends: The Holy Family That We Choose."

In her memoir, *Forever and Ever, Amen: Becoming*

a Nun in the Sixties, Jackowski details how she first came to her religious vocation; the idea of becoming a nun grew serious in the middle of her senior year, "the proverbial eleventh hour," she wrote.

"I loved high school because of the friends and fun I found there; it was my first taste of what I now know as sisterhood," she wrote in *Forever and Ever,*

Amen.

In 2007, Jackowski told Reuters that she decided to write her memoir – her fourth book as a full-time writer – because she found that the life of a nun is largely a mystery to many outside the faith. The lives of the nuns themselves, she said, were shrouded in mystery, and she wanted to lift the veil.



JACKOWSKI

See **JACKOWSKI**, Page 6

IN TODAY'S DAILY

JOINING THE FUN

Sports Club director Lyons to bring interactive, all-ages presentation on recreation at Chautauqua to Women's Club.

Page 3



THE TRUE POSTURE OF WORSHIP

Easterling launches sermon series with reminder: Worship should change us, not entertain us.

Page 7



FROM EMPATHY TO ACTION

Biologist, writer Osmundson delivers Writers' Festival keynote with call to solidarity.

Page 9

TODAY'S WEATHER



H 74° L 63°
Rain: 96%
Sunset: 8:58 p.m.

TUESDAY



H 69° L 57°
Rain: 72%
Sunrise: 5:53 a.m. Sunset: 8:58 p.m.

WEDNESDAY



H 68° L 56°
Rain: 63%
Sunrise: 5:44 a.m. Sunset: 8:58 p.m.

MUSIC



Briefly

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GROUNDS

The **Briefly** column appears on Page 2 daily and is intended to provide space for announcements from Institution-related organizations. If a meeting or activity is featured that day in a story, it should not be repeated in the **Briefly** column. Submit information to Ryan Corey in the Daily's editorial office. Please provide name of organization, time and place of meeting and one contact person's name with phone number. Deadline is 5 p.m. four days before publication.

Chautauqua Women's Club news

Join the Chautauqua Women's Club for Mah Jongg from 2:30 to 5 p.m. today on the CWC Porch. Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge is at 12:45 p.m. Tuesday at the CWC House.

Economic impact study presentation

At 5:15 p.m. today in Smith Wilkes Hall, the Chautauqua Property Owners Association and Institution leadership will be hosting a presentation on findings from last year's economic impact study.

Join the Chautauqua Choir

We welcome you to join us and sing with the Chautauqua Choir this season for performances in worship services on weekday mornings and Sunday evenings. This group is open to anyone who has experience singing in choirs and the ability to read music, and requires members to attend two out of three weekly rehearsals. Rehearsals are at 6:15 p.m. Thursday at Smith Wilkes Hall, and Fridays and Saturdays at Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall. Contact chqchoir@gmail.com or 716-357-6321 with questions.

Join the Motet Choir

The Motet Choir leads our weekday worship services and the two services on Sunday in conjunction with the Chautauqua Choir. Singers must have a background of choral singing experience with excellent vocal quality and sight-reading ability. Auditions for 2024 are at 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the 2023 season. Interested singers should email Motetchoir5@gmail.com or call the choir library at 716-357-6321 to schedule an in-person audition for the 2024 summer season.

Join the CLSC Class of 2023

There's still time to join the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Class of 2023; the application and supplemental materials deadline has been extended to July 10. Find an application online at <https://chq.org/schedule/resident-programs/literary-arts/clsc/>. Learn how we'll celebrate the CLSC Class of 2023 this season via hybrid class meetings at 9 a.m. on July 5 (Week Two); July 12 (Week Three); July 19 (Week Four). If you'll be at Chautauqua on any of these dates, join us in the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall, or join us from home via Zoom (invitations will be emailed).

Guild of Seven Seals reading applications

Submit your applications to be recognized for your Guild of Seven Seals level reading. The application deadline has been extended to July 14. Find an application online at <https://chq.org/schedule/resident-programs/literary-arts/community/clsc-alumni-association/>. Learn how we'll celebrate our Guild graduates during a hybrid preparation meeting at 9 a.m. July 18. (Week Four). If you'll be at Chautauqua on this date, join us in the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall, or join us from home via Zoom (invitations will be emailed).

CLSC Class of 2024 formation meetings

Join the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Class of 2024. Participate in the CLSC Class of 2024 formation meetings in-person or via Zoom at 9 a.m. on July 11 (Week Three); July 25 (Week Five); and August 8 (Week Seven). Find an application online at <https://chq.org/schedule/resident-programs/literary-arts/clsc/>. If you'll be at Chautauqua on any of these dates, join us in the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall, or join us from home via Zoom (invitations will be emailed).

Tennis Weekday 'Dawn Patrol'

Tennis players are invited to join a doubles round robin each weekday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Tennis Center. All levels, men and women. For more information, call the Tennis Center at 716-357-6276.

Smith Memorial Library news

The Smith Memorial Library will offer Children's Story Time at 10:45 a.m. Tuesday on Bestor Plaza (rain location: inside the library). Stories are selected for preschool age, but all children and their families are welcome. For early readers, be sure to stop by the library to pick up a Summer Reading activity pack.

Chautauqua Softball League organization meeting

The Chautauqua Softball League will be having organization meetings today.

The Women's Softball League will meet at 4:30 p.m. and the Men's Softball League at 5 p.m., at the Sports Club. No need to have a team to attend. Contact carriezachry@gmail.com for more information.

Chautauqua Music Group news

Come one, come all at 5 p.m. Mondays to our easy-breezy, wondrous, Chautauqua Music Group on Bestor Plaza, closest to Clark Brick Walk. Bring your friends and family, instruments, voices, a chair and any music you love. Feel free to call Sue Fallon with questions or ideas, anytime from late morning on at 917-771-1166.

Alpern, Currie to appear on 'Chautauqua People'

Jack Alpern, trusts and estates attorney, is on "Chautauqua People" at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Jane Currie, author and photographer, appears at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Both are interviewed by "Chautauqua People" producer John Viehe and can be seen daily until Friday. "Chautauqua People" runs on Access Chautauqua, cable channel 1301.

WindSync brings vibrant, personal style to 1st recital

With a penchant for breaking the fourth wall while performing wind quintet masterworks, adapting beloved music to their instrumentation, and championing new works by contemporary composers, WindSync is bringing a vibrant, personal style to the first recital in the 2023 Chautauqua Chamber Music Guest Artist Series.

At 4 p.m. today in Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall, flutist Garrett Hudson, oboist Emily Tsai, clarinetist Graeme Steele Johnson, bassoonist Kara LaMoure, and French horn player Anni Hochhalter – the musicians who make up the ensemble – will bring their personal performance style to Chautauqua.

WindSync first came on the scene in 2012 when the group won that year's Concert Artists Guild's Victor Elmaleh Competition. An international touring career followed, and Kimberly Schuette's been tracking their career ever since.

"The program they're bringing to us highlights exactly what they do best and most uniquely: arrangements for winds of canonical repertoire done with reverence, set alongside new commissions from the rising composers of their generation," she said. "WindSync is a wonderful start to our 2023 chamber music series."

The program for WindSync's afternoon recital includes the quintet's arrangement of Ravel's "Bolero" and George Gershwin's "Summertime," as well as



WINDSYNC

Rameau's Pastoral Suite, Miguel del Aguila's Sambeada, and Marc Mellits' Apollo.

Medalists at the 2018, M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition, WindSync has appeared in recital at the Met Museum, Ravinia, Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. The ensemble performed the world premiere of Paul Lansky's "The Long and the Short of it," commissioned by the Carolyn Royall Just Fund and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, at the Library of Congress in 2015. Other premieres include

Pulitzer finalist Michael Gilbertson's "The Cosmos," and works by Ivan Trevino, John Steinmetz, Marc Mellits, Erberk Eryilmaz, and Akshaya Avril Tucker. Forthcoming commissions include new works for wind quintet by Mason Bynes, Viet Cuong, and Nathalie Joachim.

Schuette, who is managing director of the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra and manager of artistic administration for the Department of Performing and Visual Arts, also plays a key role in chamber programming. There's much to look forward to this summer, she

said, and WindSync is just the start.

"I am very proud of the guest artists we are bringing to the Monday afternoon chamber music series. It's an exciting lineup of both established and emerging ensembles, and both beloved classic chamber music and works by 20th-century and living composers," she said. "WindSync, Brooklyn Rider, Borromeo String Quartet, and the Westerlies are playing on the most revered chamber music series across the nation and we're so fortunate to see them at Chautauqua this summer."

Logan Fund underwrites entire 2023 chamber music season

The Kay Hardesty Logan Fund provides support for Chautauqua's chamber music performances this season.

The Kay Hardesty Logan Fund was created in 2017 to honor the life and legacy of longtime Chautauqua mu-

sic patron and supporter Kay Hardesty Logan. During her life, Logan was an ardent supporter of chamber music at Chautauqua. She believed that chamber music was an essential part of the musical offerings on the grounds, and her

support ensured that Chautauquans of all ages were able to enjoy chamber music. The creation of this fund in her honor now assures the presence of chamber music at the Institution in perpetuity.

Logan attended Chautauqua as a student in the 1950s through a scholarship. She studied flute at the Chautauqua School of Music and remarked that the opportunity to spend the summer

at Chautauqua changed her life. She would go on to become the principal flutist for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra for 15 years. She regularly returned to Chautauqua for the rest of her life. She passed away in 2016. Her legacy at Chautauqua lives on through the various chamber music performances that will be held on the grounds throughout the summer.



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Sheldon Fund provides for WindSync's chamber recital

The Julia and Ralph C. Sheldon, Jr. Fund for the Performing Arts provides support for WindSync's performance at 4 p.m. today in Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall.

The Julia and Ralph C.

Sheldon, Jr. Fund for the Performing Arts was established in 1981 through gifts to the Chautauqua Foundation by Ralph C. Sheldon, Jr. and Betty Sheldon of Lakewood, New York. The stated purpose of this fund is to "assist Chautauqua Institution ... maintain a high degree of quality in all of its performing arts programs."

Monday at the CINEMA

Monday, June 26

MONICA- 5:30 (R, 106m)
Starring **Trace Lysette** (Shea from *Transparent*) and **Patricia Clarkson**, Director **Andrea Pallaoro**'s beautiful, resonant film is an intimate portrait of a woman who, for the first time in 20 years, returns home to the Midwest to take care of her ailing mother. "Raises the bar for trans stories onscreen, and Lysette takes her rightful place as its muse." -*Jude Dry, indieWire* "A film about making amends, where the person who deserves the apology is also the one doing all the work." -*Peter Debruge, Variety*

THE FABELMANS - 8:15 (PG-13, 151m) After his parents Mitzi and Burt (**Michelle Williams** and **Paul Dano**) take him to see "The Greatest Show on Earth," young Sammy Fabelman (**Gabriel LaBelle**), now armed with a camera, begins making his own films at home in "a love letter from director Steven Spielberg to the people and the art form that made him who he is." -*Rafer Guzman, Newsday* "Beautiful, involving, often spellbinding." -*Max Weiss, Baltimore Magazine*

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NEWS

Lyons to lead interactive talk about value of play at CWC

DEBORAH TREFTS
STAFF WRITER

It is a fortuitous coincidence that friendship is Chautauqua Institution's Week One theme, Week Two's focus is on games, and Chautauqua's genuinely friendly, ever-welcoming, fun and funny Sports Club director will serve as the kick-off speaker for the Chautauqua Women's Club's 2023 season.

At 9:15 a.m. Tuesday at the CWC House, Debra Marks Lyons will share her knowledge about, and enthusiasm for, a wide variety of intergenerational play in her talk, "Sports, Recreation, and Games at Chautauqua, and Why You Should Join the Fun." At the end of her talk, audience members will play a Chautauqua sports trivia game that Lyons herself created.

"This is going to be a very interactive chat," Lyons said. "I'll explore the recreational opportunities available at Chautauqua and the benefits of play. ... It's not just for kids; it's for adults, too."

Originally from Bemus Point, New York, Lyons said she spent her first summer at Chautauqua with her parents and her sister, Diana, when she was 3 years old. Her father, Dick

Marks, began his memorable 39-year tenure as the financial manager for Boys' and Girls' Club that season.

At Miami University of Ohio, Lyons majored in mass communications and completed an accelerated program, through which she also earned a master's degree in speech communication in five years.

Initially, she worked for a few years in Chicago during the mid-1980s as the editor of KeyCom's leisure desk. Lyons said that KeyCom, whose parent company was Sintel, was a forerunner to the internet. It sold computer terminals designed to be used exclusively for a Chicago-area electronic newspaper service that Hewlett Packard had created.

"That eventually folded," Lyons said. "It was too early and not global enough; (its focus on Chicago) was too thin." Nevertheless, for her, working at KeyCom was "exciting, as it was so new and the technology was at the cutting edge."

Afterwards, for a couple of years, Lyons worked in marketing and communications for Data Base Management System, aka DBMS. When it folded, she went to Tellabs, a manufacturer of network communi-

cations equipment for corporations that started with echo suppressors and echo cancellers for phones and expanded by adding other product lines. Hired as the company's trade show coordinator, she successfully transitioned to marketing.

At Gateway Communication in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she moved with her husband, Dana, a chemical engineer - who had "passed the Chautauqua test by falling in love with Chautauqua" - Lyons switched from equipment manufacturing to sales. As a mother of two young girls, she opted for some freelancing work in corporate communications.

After moving again, this time to The Woodlands in the Houston area, "Dana switched careers and followed his dream," Lyons said. "There was an opportunity to try something new. His hobby was triathlons, and doors kept opening, so he started Finish Strong Coaching."

A highly competitive endurance athlete who has raced in "duathlons, triathlons, and running races at the local, national, and world championship level" for more than 45 years, Dana Lyons became a certified USA Triathlon Level II coach.

According to its website, since 2004, FSC "has coached hundreds of triathletes, duathletes and runners of all ages and abilities."

Eventually, Lyons became FSC's operations manag-

er, responsible for most non-coaching tasks, including business administration and marketing.

"It started small and grew," she said. "We bought a youth triathlon business ... called SelectRI (Youth and Junior Organization), in The Woodlands. So we were pretty big. Before COVID in 2020, we sold off that part of the business to one of (Dana's) coaches. It's a happy thing. Dana was ready to focus more on adults and one-on-one coaching."

Downsizing their multisport coaching business has given Lyons the flexibility to take on a "side job" of selling women's athletic clothes for Athleta.

Experience in sales and sports management and familiarity with Chautauqua enabled Lyons to quickly and competently take on the myriad challenges of serving as the director of Sports Club in 2017. Not only has she continued offering the activities that Sports Club has long been known for - such as shuffleboard, lawn bowling, bridge, and Mah Jongg - but she has also been introducing new recreational and leisure options for Chautauquans of all ages.

These activities include pontoon boat rentals (there will be three boats this season), sunrise paddling, historic and eco kayak tours, stand up paddleboarding (SUP), an annual Color Sprint initiated during Lyons' first season as director,



LYONS

lawn bowling lessons, and sports lectures.

Initially, Dana Lyons focused on his role as Old First Night Run/Walk coordinator. This season, the OFN Run/Walk is set for Saturday, July 29.

In recent years, Dana Lyons has also taken on an expanding list of lake and land-related improvement projects, including preparing Sharpe Field for softball games, and as of last season, initiating a slow-pitch four-inning exhibition game with Jamestown's Tarp Skunks, this year scheduled for July 11.

New offerings turned Sports Club into a profitable venture during Lyons' very first season as director, especially when she "started the Color Run for fun," and they have continued to enhance its revenue in the years since. According to the Winter 2022-2023 issue of Chautauqua Magazine, last year was a record-breaker.

Two college-aged employees are rounding out the Sports Club staff this season. "We're lean and mean,"

Lyons said. "I'm really proud of the people I've had the opportunity to work with. We've been able to do new things successfully."

Neither Lyons - Deb or Dana - is treading water. Ideas about what more can be done to enhance the enjoyment of sports-related activities at Chautauqua continue to percolate.

"The latest thing I really, really want to do is to (provide) an accessibility dock," Lyons said. "We've written a business plan and are looking for grants or a donor. (In Chautauqua County) there's one on Cassadaga Lake, on the Chadakoin (River) in Jamestown, and on Findley Lake."

Although many older Chautauquans want to kayak and canoe, "it's difficult for us to get people in and out (of a boat) safely," Lyons said. "It can be a little treacherous. ... An accessibility dock would be beneficial to people with mobility issues," whether they use a wheelchair or not.

"We're all about fun at the Sports Club," she continued. "Yes, we're all learning (at Chautauqua), but we can have fun doing it. ... It's a great elixir. You feel younger, healthier and more social. Embrace recreational activities. Find something you love, do it, and have fun doing it. You never know who you'll meet."

According to Lyons, she will enter each Chautauquan who stays until the end of her interactive talk and sports trivia game in a drawing for the board game Chautauqua-Opolo. "And one lucky person will win."

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ADOPT-A-SHELTER DOG OF THE WEEK
Toby was surrendered to Northern Chautauqua Canine Rescue (NCCR) when his owner moved to a place that didn't allow large dogs. Through no fault of his own, this gorgeous Golden Retriever mix has been passed from one person to another for most of his 8 years. He deserves a Forever Family! Toby is a total lover, but doesn't have much training, and despite being 8 years old, he still has lots of energy! If Retrievers are your thing and you can make the commitment to give Toby a lifetime of love and care, check him out Monday - Saturday 1-3 p.m. at 7540 N. Gale St. in Westfield, or read more about him and his friends and apply online at www.caninerescue.org.

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Thank you to Bell Tower Society Donors including:
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Classes run all Tuesdays during the season
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July 4th class will be held on July 5th
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THREE TAPS OF THE GAVEL

'History Need Not Repeat Itself'

Editor's Note: These are the prepared remarks for Chautauqua Institution President Michael E. Hill's annual Three Taps of the Gavel Address, delivered prior to Sunday's Service of Worship and Sermon in the Amphitheater.



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chautauqua Institution President Michael E. Hill delivers his Three Taps of the Gavel Address to open the 150th Assembly Sunday in the Amphitheater.

Good morning, and welcome home to Chautauqua.

First, let me extend special greetings to those in this audience who are visiting or experiencing Chautauqua for the first time today. It is my sincere hope that you feel the warmth and sense of collective purpose that has drawn people to these hallowed grounds for 150 years. Many in the audience are part of generational Chautauqua families dating back to 1874, and many others have begun their journey here much more recently. All of you — all of you — are essential to the celebration and stewardship of democratic society that Chautauqua and its mission have represented since its founding. The presence this morning of those from all manner of backgrounds, with deep history here and otherwise, affirms that we continue to live into that mission — and we especially want to welcome those of you taking those first steps on your Chautauqua journey. Welcome. We are so glad you are here.

This summer marks Chautauqua's 150th season. Our founders Lewis Miller and Bishop John Heyl Vincent came to these shores during the Reconstruction era. Our nation had emerged from the Civil War just nine years prior, and the country remained deeply divided about issues of race, economic class, participation in government, and headlines of a disputed presidential election just a half-year earlier. Does this sound eerily familiar?

In many ways, Reconstruction was intended to heal the wounds of

that long period of civil strife, and Chautauqua emerged toward the last years of the era with a similar goal of bringing people together to learn and to make the world a better place. This season we are on the dawn of our sesquicentennial, and we are called to explore anew why the fabric of our society appears to be unraveling in ways not felt for a generation. We also begin our Summer Assembly Season with concerns about artificial intelligence, questions of whether democratic norms can hold and whether we have truly emerged from several years of a pandemic and what might come next.

So what is Chautauqua to do with that lineup of issues? What do we have in store for all those enter our gates or who frequent our exploration through CHQ Assembly?

We start this week off with an exploration of "friendship." That may seem odd or somewhat light to some, but we think it gets at the heart of what's missing in too many places: how to get along in a deeply polarized world. I'm so excited that we begin tomorrow with Robert George and Cornel West, because I believe their friendship serves as a potent reminder that we are called to engage with one another, especially when we disagree. Drs. George and West are two of the foremost public intellectuals in American life but come from very different schools of thought. They will share with us how such civic friendships, woven across divides, can do more than just strengthen our social fabric but can also help to preserve and strengthen American

democracy itself.

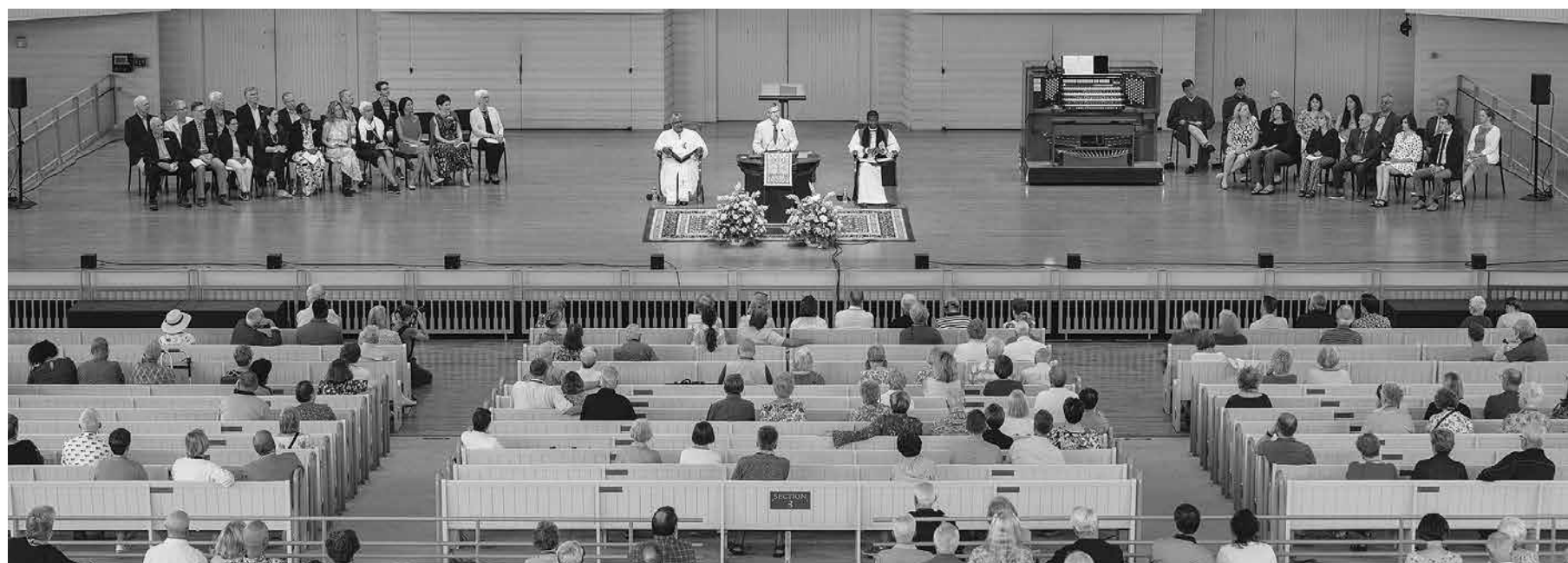
As we travel through the next nine weeks, Chautauqua will endeavor to tease out the tools we might consider through looking at moments of joy and consternation. Whether it's understanding how we connect in community through games or asking the provocative question of "Can the Center Hold?," our summer together invites us all to consider ways we might play a role in reducing the heat of this moment.

We have spent the last several years talking about the role we have to play in society if our nation's grand experiment with democracy has a chance to survive. Much of our summer will be spent asking us to consider the very notion of freedom of speech and freedom of expression, and I believe that starts with us here at Chautauqua as we explore so many topics this summer. Each year when we announce our speakers, preachers and artists, through social media, letters or phone calls, those who are about to engage with Chautauqua let us know what they think about our choices almost immediately. I have been struck lately by the deep desire to instantly label individuals who we invite to animate our summer series. We have become quick to weaponize our language, whether that be assigning anything seen as liberal as "woke" or anything conservative as "extreme MAGA." Perhaps even more sad, while we use those labels so frequently, few can define what either means other than it being the opposite of what they believe.

The democratic norm of dialogue which seeks a definition of the common good seems to get thrown out the window too quickly and too often. A columnist in *The Washington Post* recently noted that expressions of intolerance and bigotry that once were relegated to the fringes are migrating to the center, at the cost of common ground and the common good. It's as if the very notion that there might be a common ground or a common good is something we've decided we shouldn't work toward unless that common ground or common good is our definition of those two phrases.

We recently lost Dr. Robert Zimmer, the long-time president of the University of Chicago, who was a tireless advocate of freedom of speech and freedom of expression. I am reminded of something he said just a few years ago. He noted of this time, "Fundamentally, people are very comfortable with free expression for those that they agree with. And for those they find disagreeable or wrong, they're not that eager to have people hear from them (at all)."

Oftentimes when we talk about issues of dialogue here, people ask for examples we can hold up where this is done well or could be followed. I am not usually one to point to popular culture for those examples, and my colleagues will tell you that any attempt at using a sports metaphor usually fails in execution, but I'll make an exception because of a hit television series that just concluded. How many "Ted Lasso" fans do we have out there?



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

THREE TAPS OF THE GAVEL



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

For those who haven't watched "Ted Lasso" yet, it tells the story of an American college football coach who is hired to coach an English team – but who knows nothing about that kind of football! The setup is outlandish enough, but the reason Ted is chosen is because the club's owner wants to embarrass and harm her ex-husband by having the thing he loves most – the football club she now owns after the divorce – fail. I won't give away too much of the plotline, and if you're still in Season 3, I won't spoil the ending, but I'm drawn to the ways that Ted Lasso as a character provides us a blueprint for how we might engage with one another this summer.

response. As a group that values community, I know this is never our intent, and the path toward compassionate curiosity is an easy one if we are intentional.

A reporter recently asked me to articulate why we believed that our lectures promoted dialogue among those who may disagree. I shared that I don't believe our lecturers do that, I believe Chautauquans do this when they take what they heard and try to understand it in community. That's our power and the invitation in front of us should we accept it. That's why we are here: not to judge based on perceptions, but truly to get to know one another, to dig deep behind the obvious story, and to choose to do it together.

to be an example of a place where vigorous dialogue around issues is attainable because we have proactively chosen to live into one of Chautauqua's core values: the dignity and contributions of all people. What sets Chautauqua apart is the love of community. That doesn't mean we have to agree with one another – it would be boring if we did – but rather, we should care to understand why someone holds an alternate opinion or sees the world a different way. Whether you accept this challenge quietly to yourself or actively engage with others on the grounds, creating a reflex of asking a question versus shutting others down with words that suppress dialogue or understanding,

to sit on the red benches as an open invitation for others to come and sit with them and be in dialogue about the themes and ideas presented on our stages. We hope that you will not only engage with this pilot program, but that you will find it rewarding – and perhaps even make a new friend.

"Ted Lasso" invites us to dip our wootsies in the water of understanding one another. We have the potential to model a different way, to celebrate the reason Chautauqua was created, and to demonstrate to the nation that we can emerge from this heated era of disagreement by valuing community-led learning. As we start our 150th season, the invitation has been presented to us. We only need the courage to accept it.



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

Be Curious, Not Judgmental

In one of the earlier episodes in the series, Ted describes how all through his growing-up years, he was underestimated, and he didn't understand why. He concludes that the self-assured feel no need to ask questions, and he suggests to his antagonist that perhaps we should be curious and not judgmental. I think that is such a wonderful prescription for us as we begin this season. Invariably and by design, we are all going to encounter a presentation on one of our stages that we disagree with – or perhaps it will be an encounter with one another.

Our Chautauqua season can be all the richer if our response is not first to judge but rather to ask a question, to be curious: of our participants, of one another, to get to the heart of why someone feels the way they feel. I also hope our curiosity shows up in the ways that we engage as audiences this summer, choosing not to boo what we disagree with or clap at what delights us, but rather that we make a very serious effort to lean in to try to understand what our invited guests are trying to tell us. We can and should recognize that claps or boos can do much to telegraph to the person sitting next to us that we do not care about their thoughts if they disagree with our

We Should Care

In a scene in Season 3 of "Ted Lasso," one of the main soccer players comes out as gay to his teammates. His teammates all try to find ways to say that this new fact doesn't bother them, and in affirmation, they say, "I don't care" about that. There's a beat. And then Ted steps in to say, in his way: Wait! "I care. We should care." That is a perfect reminder for us as we start our summer together. We should care about what is lifting up or weighing on the people around us, what they are carrying with them into the world each day. We should care and appreciate that we are different from our neighbors. And we should value that difference as a strength to be celebrated and not one to be tackled. We should care about each other's opinions. We should want to understand, because what separates Chautauqua from any other place of inquiry is that we conduct that inquiry in community. It's an acknowledgement that each of us has a role to play in creating this beloved community, and it acknowledges that each voice, regardless of background and personal circumstances, whether we agree or disagree, needs to be included in the process.

As we start our Summer Assembly together, we can make a choice

your choice can establish Chautauqua as a place that preserves and strengthens the very notion of American democracy itself.

If we wish to uphold democracy, then we must engage with big and small everyday democratic practices. Dialogue across difference is key to democratic practice, and I would argue that we have increasingly lost the ability to be in dialogue with others. If you are seeking opportunities for that one-on-one dialogue, we hope that you will participate in our pilot Red Bench Project. The idea is simple – for Chautauquans

For those who are new to Chautauqua, there is a tradition that declares that the Summer Assembly is not officially convened until the three taps from this historic gavel. May our summer of being curious, our summer of honesty, open hearts and minds, begin anew after the echo of the third tap, and may our efforts be just the beginning of proving that history need not repeat itself, if only we have the courage to accept the charge.

I tap the gavel three times.

Chautauqua 2023 has begun.



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

Chautauqua Institution President Michael E. Hill delivers his Three Taps of the Gavel Address to open Chautauqua's 150th Assembly Sunday in the Amphitheater.

FROM PAGE ONE

JACKOWSKI

FROM PAGE 1

“Writing or any of the arts were never encouraged or supported in religious life. The sense of individuality or the idea of expressing your own experiences was sort of suppressed. I think there are only a handful of nuns writing anything,” she told Belinda Goldsmith of Reuters Life! “Lots of parts of convent life were very difficult and people don’t want to reveal that side. It’s like a dysfunctional family.”

That family, she told Goldsmith, taught her “how to live with people you don’t like, you disagree with, and you would never anticipate being your friend.”

In the years since, Jackowski has earned a PhD from New York University,

become a full-time writer (her most recent book is 2021’s *Sister Karol’s Book of Spells, Blessings, and Folk Magic*), a self-taught painter of religious folk art, and a faculty member in Bay Path University’s MFA in creative nonfiction.

Since Jackowski’s been considering this concept since she was a young nun, she brings a spiritual creativity to open the week that Melissa Spas, vice president of religion, finds exciting.

“Sister Karol has a breadth of experience in thinking and sharing with others the power and limits of friendship as part of spiritual practice,” Spas said. “It sets the tone and creates space for others to talk more particularly about their own friendships and the nurturing of friendship as a spiritual value.”

BALLETX

FROM PAGE 1

“We’re really excited about this adventure and bringing this beautiful company of dancers who are actually from all over the world – America, Philippines, Canada. I think our similarities are significant. At the heart of our similarities is our passion for community and the arts and what the arts can do for our hearts and our minds – and, particularly, our soul.”

This evening is BalletX’s Chautauqua debut, and Laura Savia is excited to introduce the contemporary ballet company to the community.

“I have been hearing from many Chautauquans who live in Philadelphia, as well as from my colleagues in the dance world, that BalletX is the not-to-be-

missed company on the scene right now,” said Savia, vice president of performing and visual arts.

Cox co-founded the company with Matthew Neenan in 2005 as a way to continue dancing and creating throughout the summer, and it eventually evolved into the company that it is now.

Cox attributes the importance of BalletX to the role that it plays in allowing freedom for artists and giving creatives ample space to experiment and create. She emphasizes the value of allowing artists to visualize their work through the dancers and other aspects of BalletX in order to realize and advance ballet as a medium.

“We’re creating opportunities for artists to continue dreaming, to feel safe experimenting with

their own voice, but using the beautiful artists and dancers of the company to visualize that work with them and create something that’s never been done before,” she said.

The day begins with “Morning Stretch with BalletX” at 10:15 a.m. on Bestor Plaza, and the Chautauqua Dance Circle is hosting a pre-performance lecture starting at 7 p.m. tonight in Smith Wilkes Hall. When BalletX takes the Amp stage after, Savia said that “Chautauqua can expect to see a joyful, energetic performance. The company members of BalletX dance with abandon.”

Cox hopes to take the audience on a journey throughout the performance. She finds that BalletX’s work “resonates with the soul,” and even finds herself being taken back

into her own memories as she’s watching a performance.

“I think the audience will be awed by the physicality of the dancers, the commitment of the dancers, and the beautiful approach that they have to these vastly different works,” she said.

More than awe, Cox hopes viewers experience a sense of joy tonight, and a sense of “love and connection, a sense of gratitude for life.”

“These moments in time and art can bring people together, so I hope that they’re sitting with someone that they love and that watching the beautiful dancers of BalletX sparks this chemistry of love in the air and we can bring joy and positive energy into Chautauqua,” Cox said.



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BalletX

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Featuring Artistic & Executive Director, Founder of BalletX

Christine Cox



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FRIENDSHIP

FROM PAGE 1

“Here you find two guys, (from) different places on the political spectrum, both arguing strenuously for very robust conceptions of free speech,” George said in a 2022 interview with the *Daily*, “for the sake of both academic learning in colleges and universities, and for the health of the democratic republic.”

George and West joined “The Gloria Purvis Podcast” February of this year to discuss Black history, resistance and joy during Black History Month. In that conversation, George told the story of when he was sworn in as chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. He asked West if he would hold the Bible for him.

“He kindly agreed to come along to the ceremony and hold the Bible for me,” George said on the podcast. “But I wanted there to be a

special Bible, a Bible associated with the noble cause of human rights.”

A great admirer of Harriet Tubman, George reached out to the Harriet Tubman House and asked to borrow Tubman’s Bible.

“The lady on the other end of the phone said, ‘Well, we do have that Bible.’ And I detected just a little hesitation in her voice,” George said on the podcast. “And I can understand – sending a relic like that down in the mail to somebody you don’t even know.”

He then mentioned West would be the person holding the Bible and “she immediately said, ‘Oh yes, we’d be very happy to send that Bible there.’”

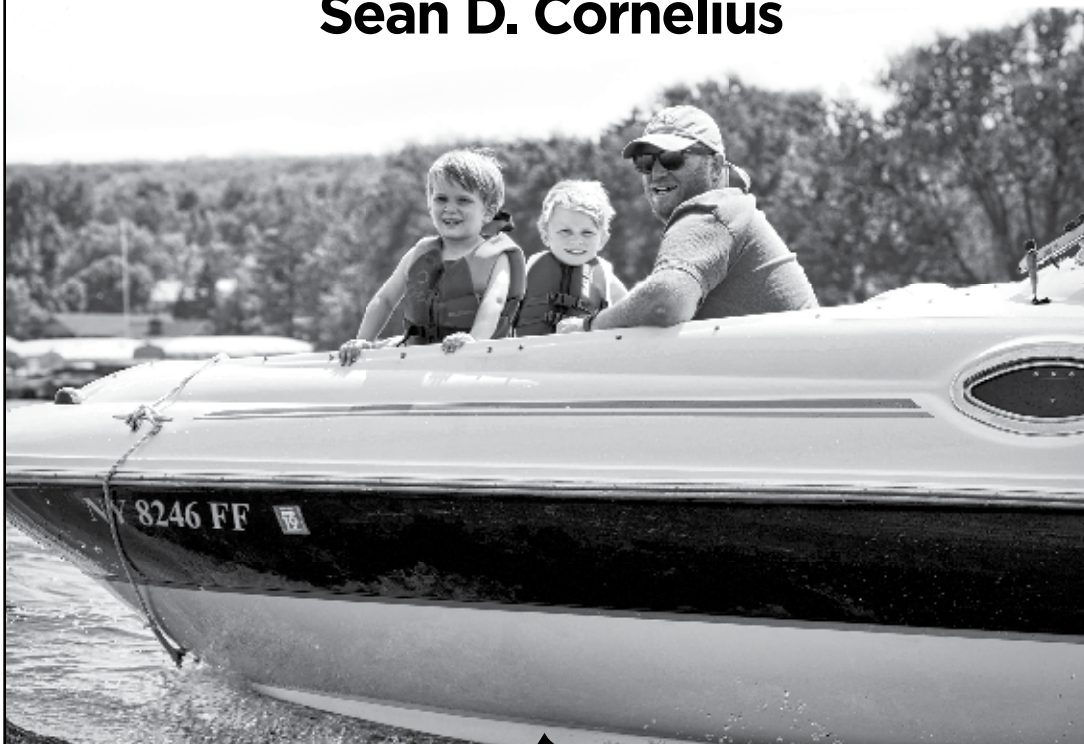
In a March 2023 Fox News interview, West said George isn’t just a friend, he’s a member of the family – and sometimes “family can be wrong and you still love them and I’m wrong about some things.”

“The world needs to know that you’re looking at two brothers who have a deep love of each other, even as there’s disagreement on certain political and policy issues,” West told Fox News.

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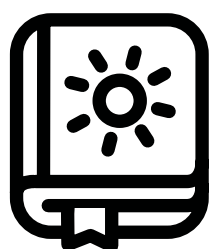
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RELIGION

Worship should change us, not entertain us, says Easterling



MORNING WORSHIP

COLUMN BY MARY LEE TALBOT

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling loves to worship. “I have always loved worship; although, if my parents were still here, they might recount it differently,” Easterling said at the 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning worship service in the Amphitheater. “Even after I left for college, when many young people run away from church, I continued to go for the music, the singing, the preaching and the occasional silence. But I might not have if I had understood the danger.”

The title of Easterling’s sermon was “I am a Friend of God: A Bold and Dangerous Call to Worship.” The scripture reading was Psalm 100.

Easterling told the congregation, “I am not fond of danger and fear, but when we enter the courts of praise, we are vulnerable. We have no pretense, we relinquish control and lay ourselves bare. This is the posture of real worship, the posture of a child of God.”

Psalm 100 is the first of the enthronement psalms and is the inspiration for the doxology sung in Christian worship. The psalm, said Easterling, is a call to worship and a call to orient our lives to God.

“It is a call to a cruciform life, a life not for ourselves but for service, for transformation of the world,” she said.

She told the congregation that God’s still, small voice can still be heard, saying: “I made the heavens and the earth and I led you to freedom to be a holy nation. If you are my friends, you will live by my will, not your will.”

“If we are friends of God, we are proclaiming that our lives begin and end with God,” she said. “We have a Western notion of privilege and being catered to and entertained, even in worship. If we don’t like what’s playing, we change the channel.”

Author Paul J. Wadell, in his book *Becoming Friends: Worship, Justice, and the Practice of Christian Friendship*, wrote that Western Christians act as if they believe that everyone, including God, has an obligation to please them.

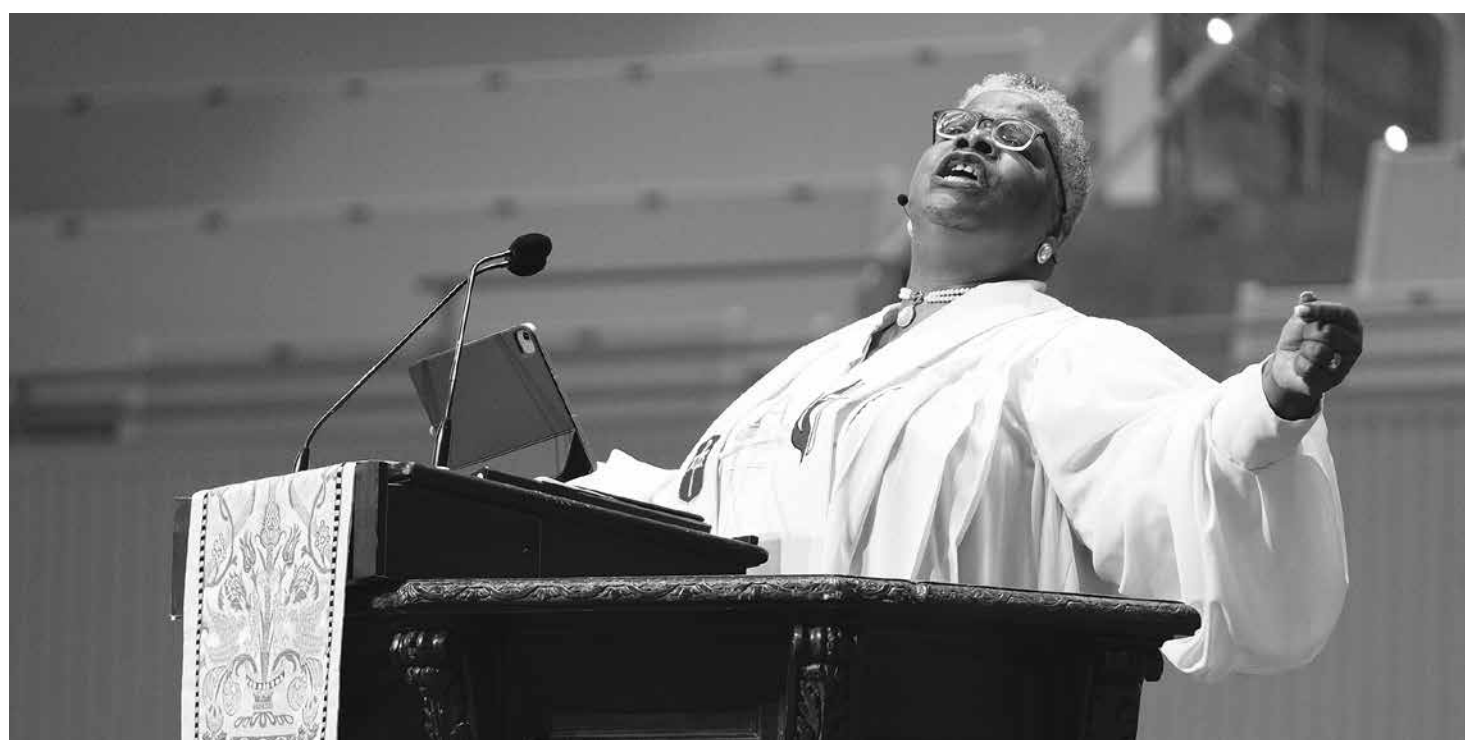
“We have convinced ourselves that our world view is beyond reproach,” Easterling told the congregation. “In Christian nationalism, it is not faith that impacts politics, but politics that impact faith. We reject preaching that convicts us; we have a preference for a liturgy of ease.”

She continued, “In John 15, Jesus said, ‘You are my friends if you do what I command you.’ Abraham did what God commanded and was God’s friend. Jesus did what God commanded. If we are friends of God, we have to show some sign; we have to bring our whole selves to the sanctuary.”

The old stories in scripture are told as modern moral tales in worship. “We bring our biased, ‘not in my backyard,’ closed-borders selves into the place where our selfishness meets God’s righteousness,” Easterling said.

“We do not come to worship to be entertained, but to be changed. Worship is never safe,” she said. “We allow God to renew us, to sanctify us, to make us new creatures in God.”

She told a story of theologian Stanley Hauerwas, who was at a conference studying a statement from Roman Catholic bishops on the challenge of peace. Hauerwas



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling delivers her sermon at the first morning worship service of the season Sunday in the Amphitheater.

told the gathering he regretted that the bishops did not ask more of American Catholics to make pacifism more integral to their faith.

When the bishops talked about how hard that would be, Hauerwas said, “Catholics go to mass all the time. What does it do for you?”

“Let me be clear and ask us all: How many times have we been to worship and it had no effect on us, prayed and we still had the same preferences, kept our same hatreds even after we have received the host?” Easterling said.

She noted that 11 a.m. on Sunday is still the most segregated hour in our country. “We have to orient ourselves to God’s way of unconditional love. Worship could lead to the dangerous exorcism of our democracy that is riddled with damnation. The dangerous call to worship could remove the barriers to real intimacy.”

Psalm 100 shows humans what it is to be clothed in our right mind. “We are friends of God when we allow ourselves to be ambassadors for God’s message that God has plans for us to prosper,” she said.

Easterling urged the congregation to overcome the fear of change, to be “born anew in the crucible of true worship, to become more like God and to have the mind of Christ.” She illustrated that thought with the hymn “Have Thine Own Way, Lord.” She quoted the hymn, saying, “Have Thine own way, Lord, / Have Thine own way; Thou art the Potter, / I am the clay. / Mould me and make me / After Thy will, / While I am waiting, / Yielded and still.”

She asked the congregation to begin this work.

“Take me God, heal me, quiz me, remove the hurtful words, make me new inside and out,” she said. “Then we will be declared friends of God. May it be so.”

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, senior pastor of Chautauqua, presided. Candace Littell Maxwell, chair of the Chautauqua Institution Board of Trustees, read the scripture. Nicholas Stigall, returning for his second season as the organ scholar, played “Phoenix Processional” by Dan Locklair for the prelude. Under the direction of Joshua Stafford, director of sacred music and Jared Jacobsen Chair for the Organist, and accompanied by Stigall, the Chautauqua Choir sang “Ubi Caritas,” music by Zachary Wadsworth and words from eighth century Northern Italy or Burgundy. “Taps” was played by Music School Festival Orchestra

members Jeremy Bryant and Fiona Shonik. Written during the Peninsula Campaign of the Civil War by Captain David Butterfield of the 83rd Pennsylvania Regiment out of Erie, Pennsylvania, it was first played by Oliver Wilcox Norton. Norton Memorial Hall was given by his wife, Lucy Coit Fanning Norton, in his memory and that of their daughter Ruth. The offertory anthem, sung by the Chautauqua Choir under the direction of Stafford and accompanied by Stigall, was “Psalm 122,” with music by David Hurd. The postlude was “Final,” from Symphony No. 1, by Louis Vierne, played by Stafford. Support for this week’s chaplaincy and preaching is provided by the J. Everett Hall Memorial Chaplaincy and the Geraldine M. and Frank E. McElree, Jr. Chaplaincy Fund.

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THE CHAUTAUQUAN DAILY

LETTERS POLICY

The Chautauquan Daily welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be submitted electronically, no more than 350 words and are subject to editing. Letters must include the writer's signature including name, address and telephone number for verification. The Daily does not publish anonymous letters. Works containing demeaning, accusatory or libelous statements will not be published.

Submit letters to:
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stoth@chq.org

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 44th president
 - 6 Window makeup
 - 11 Air traffic aid
 - 12 Arm bones
 - 13 Follow as a result
 - 14 Glorify
 - 15 April forecast
 - 17 "The Simpsons" bartender
 - 18 Coffee shop workers
 - 22 Aid in crime
 - 23 Lyric poets
 - 27 Gymnast Comaneci
 - 29 Yearly record
 - 30 Confine to home
 - 32 "You've — point"
 - 33 Leave for a bit
 - 35 Easy victim
 - 38 Grumpy response to an alarm clock
 - 39 Sound from a smithy
 - 41 Tourist stop
 - 45 French farewell
 - 46 Bear out
 - 47 Devilfish
- DOWN**
- 1 Mine matter
 - 2 Prohibit
 - 3 TV spots
 - 4 Indian Ocean island
 - 5 Regions
 - 6 Caribbean island
 - 7 Not strict
 - 8 First man
 - 9 Farm structure
 - 10 Location
 - 16 "How was — know?"
 - 18 Fire-cracker sound
 - 19 "Two guys walk into —..." (joke start)
 - 20 Give a new look to
 - 21 South China Sea island
 - 24 January forecast
 - 25 "Toodledo!"
 - 26 Do in
 - 28 Caribbean island
 - 31 Rep.'s rival
 - 34 Service station fixtures
 - 35 Con
 - 36 Alan of "M*A*S*H"
 - 37 Aspirin target
 - 40 Tennis need
 - 42 Road rescue
 - 43 First woman
 - 44 Was ahead

L	E	F	T	S	C	H	E	A	P
A	L	O	H	A	P	A	S	T	E
T	A	R	O	T	A	S	T	O	R
T	I	G	R	I	S	E	L	I	
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	P	O	R	T	I	A	W	E	T
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S	U	E	D	E		T	I	N	G
M	E	T	E	D		S	P	E	E

Saturday's answer

- 20 Give a new look to
- 21 South China Sea island
- 24 January forecast
- 25 "Toodledo!"
- 26 Do in
- 28 Caribbean island
- 31 Rep.'s rival
- 34 Service station fixtures
- 35 Con
- 36 Alan of "M*A*S*H"
- 37 Aspirin target
- 40 Tennis need
- 42 Road rescue
- 43 First woman
- 44 Was ahead

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11						12				
13							14			
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18	19	20					21			
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35	36	37		38						
39			40			41		42	43	44
45						46				
47						48				

6-26

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-26 CRYPTOQUOTE
R B S Z G I F E D , Z E X B Y D S P L N X
G T D N N D X P C L P G D G . B Y D G F E G Y R E D
S Z G N R Q D V P S X D L D X A P N X
P H D L B Y D A L Z G G M Y R N N G R X D .

— T Z F X Y Z L B N P H D N Z K D
Saturday's Cryptoquote: WHEN A FATHER SPEAKS, MAY HIS CHILDREN HEAR THE LOVE IN HIS VOICE ABOVE ALL ELSE. — UNKNOWN

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

5				6	3			7
	3	9	7	1		5	4	
	6	7			4		3	2
	9		1	7				3
		1		3		2	8	9
	5		2	4			6	1
								5
4	1		9			3		
		5		2		1	7	

Difficulty: ★ 6/26

6	7	3	4	9	8	5	1	2
5	1	8	7	2	3	9	6	4
4	9	2	5	1	6	3	7	8
9	8	7	1	3	2	4	5	6
1	5	6	8	7	4	2	3	9
2	3	4	6	5	9	7	8	1
7	2	5	9	8	1	6	4	3
3	6	1	2	4	5	8	9	7
8	4	9	3	6	7	1	2	5

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 6/24

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Smucker, Wadsworth lectureships provide for George, West in conversation

The Emily and Richard Smucker Lectureship Fund and John M. Wadsworth Lectureship on Free Market and Libertarian Principles supports the conversation between Robert P. George and Cornel West at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater.

The Smuckers established this endowment with the Chautauqua Foundation in 2007 to bring speakers to the grounds for longer periods of time to allow them to participate more fully in the community's dialogue about the week's theme. Emily Smucker is an active volunteer in their hometown of Orville, Ohio, and served as a director at the Institute for American

Values. She and her husband, Richard, both graduates of Miami University of Ohio, were introduced to Chautauqua in the early '70s by friends. They became property owners in 1991. Richard retired as executive chairman of The J. M. Smucker Company in 2022, following 50 years with the company. He is the great-grandson of J.M. (Jerome Monroe) Smucker, who founded the company bearing his name in Orrville, Ohio, in 1897. Richard received an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Richard also formerly served as a director of Sherwin-Williams Company. He currently is serving as

chair of the board of trustees of the Cleveland Orchestra.

John M. Wadsworth, a prominent Buffalo psychiatrist, passed away in 2014. Upon his death, through gifts from his estate and contributions from his family, the John M. Wadsworth Lectureship on Free Market and Libertarian Principles was established. Beginning in 1983, John spent his summers enjoying all that Chautauqua offers and immersing himself in this community with his wife, Linda, who passed away in 2018. With an avid love for travel, tennis and the performing arts, the couple was happy to make Chautauqua

one of their recurrent destinations. The Wadsworths, who for many years held property off the grounds, had been long-time supporters of the Chautauqua Opera Company, with John having served on the board of the Chautauqua Opera Guild. John was also deeply involved in the Buffalo community, having served on the boards of several institutions, including the Child and Adolescent Clinic, People Inc., and the Greater Buffalo Opera Company. He was the chair of the local Libertarian Party, a reflection of his long-held views of government incursion on the rights of individuals.

Loew Religious Lectureship Fund supports Jacowski's afternoon talk

The Ralph W. Loew Religious Lectureship Fund provides support for Karol Jacowski's lecture at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy. The fund will also provide support for Interfaith Lectures by Tyler Sit on July 20 and Christian Peele on July 25, as well as the Aug. 11 Interfaith Lecture.

Ralph Loew served as director of the Department of Religion for 10 years. The endowment was established upon his retirement in 1988. Dr. Loew also served as a trustee of the Institution from 1987 to 1991. He first became involved with Chautauqua in 1948 as a visiting chaplain. As pastor of Buf-

falo's Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Dr. Loew received many honors for community service. He received the Red Jacket award from The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society; honors from Medaille College, Daemon College, and Canisius College; and the Chancellor's Medal from the University of Buffalo, the institution's most prestigious award. The State University of New York, which represents the state's 64 colleges and universities, honored him, and four colleges awarded him honorary degrees. For 30 years, Dr. Loew authored a weekly column in the Buf-

falo Courier Express newspaper. The column was nationally syndicated for six years. He wrote five books. His family published a book of his columns, *This Faith Tremendous*, in 1999. His 1956 Easter sermon was selected by Life magazine as one of six notable sermons of that year. Dr. Loew served as chairman of the board of trustees of the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation. He was also active on the boards of Habitat for Humanity, Hospice of Buffalo, Western New York Grantmakers Association, St. John's Lutheran Foundation and the Samaritan Counseling

Center. He spoke at conferences in Europe, Asia, India and South America, and was on two occasions a preacher for churches in England and Scotland. He was listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*. The 1988 Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle graduating class is named the Ralph W. Loew Class. Dr. Loew's daughter, Janet, and her husband, Michael Day, continue to be active members of the Chautauqua community. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the Day, Domanski and Engdahl families continue to enjoy Chautauqua.

Earley Fund provides supports for BalletX's Chautauqua performance tonight

The Edith B. and Arthur E. Earley Fund for the Performing Arts provides support for BalletX's performance at 8:15 p.m. tonight in the Amphitheater. The Earleys started coming to Chautauqua in 1959 because "it's a unique place in the world." Art graduated from Wake Forest University, was a member of the Board of Visitors for many years, and received the Universi-

ty's Distinguished Alumni Award. He earned his master's from the University of North Carolina. He was chairman and chief executive officer of Meldrum & Fewsmith Advertising Inc., an international advertising agency headquartered in Cleveland. Edith graduated from Duquesne University and earned her master's degree at the University of Pittsburgh. She taught in the

McKeesport, Pennsylvania, schools before she married in 1955 and then taught in Cleveland for two years afterward. She was active as a volunteer in many Cleveland charitable organizations and was a great supporter of Chautauqua. Edith passed away in 1995. Art was a trustee of the Cleveland Playhouse, the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Cleveland Theater Festival. He was a director

and officer of the Cleveland Arts Council and was president of the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center. He devoted a great deal of his time to his profession of communications, serving on several regional and national boards. He was involved in community organizations and received many honors throughout his career. Art passed away 2010.

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LITERARY ARTS

In keynote, Osmundson challenges heteronormativity through writing

KAITLYN FINCHLER
STAFF WRITER



Empathy has to be an initiative that acts to something. That's the difference between solidarity and empathy."

—JOSEPH OSMUNDSON

Molecular biologist, author,

Virology: Essays for the Living, the Dead, and the Small Things in Between

Molecular biology, writing and queer theory don't necessarily always go hand in hand, but Joseph Osmundson contains multitudes; when he delivered this year's Writers' Festival keynote last Thursday evening for attendees in the Athenaeum Hotel Parlor and lobby, he mined the depths of publishing, writing and exploration within the queer identity.

"I feel a little silly to be up here in front of everyone," he said. "What I felt this entire week has so far — and we're only halfway through — is such a network. ... We're all working together and that's one of the things I want to talk about tonight."

Osmundson's keynote took place on the second day of the festival, which at that point had included an introductory session, welcome address, workshops and a craft panel where all attendees were in a collaborative space. Osmundson was as much a participant as he was a guide for the writers in attendance.

Osmundson — not a morning person, he said — likes to start his day around 10 to 11 a.m., cup of coffee in hand. He'll sit out on the balcony in the shade and appreciate where he's at in life through mindfulness and meditation. Then, he recognizes the current state of the world. As an example, one morning he received a text from one of his friends that simply said "THE BREEZE." So he started to think about the breeze.

"On this day, this Saturday, the temperature of our planet has risen nearly two degrees Celsius and it's still going up," Osmundson said. "Last year, it was the hottest year on record."

Osmundson listed other disasters, both political and natural, in the world. The land war in Europe, a headline in 2018 tying the U.S. to civilian deaths in a "not-so-civil civil war." The Mpox virus "that could have been contained in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, instead became deadly worldwide."

Next, 90% of deaths in America are from advanced HIV; then 263 mass shootings in America so far in 2023 — almost two mass shootings a day. He then went on to mention the 30 million Americans, nearly 10% of the population, who don't have health insurance.

"Things are not going great, and we have news and social media cycles that actually profit off of this constantly," Osmundson said. "Yet, for many of us in this room, we sit on evenings or on Saturdays, we're overworking and being underpaid, exhausted by the world around us."

Osmundson said writing is a way to light the fire people have inside them, and attempting to be published is not inherently better than journaling.

"We sit down in a world on fire and write," he said. "I want a positive act of hope and belief in the world, and then we can actually change it."

Osmundson introduced to his audience the two-way gravity interaction metaphor, how the amount of gravity exerted depends on the mass. Consider Earth's massive mass, and one develops a much more massive view.

"Can we all collectively exert that gravity in the same direction that actually changes the course of how we write?" Osmundson said. "In a way, we have not given up. The world's really de-

pressed. ... I'm depressed because I'm hopeful, because I do believe that the world can be materially better."

Next, he asked a series of questions, with participants keeping their hands raised in the affirmative. "Raise your hand if you make art." "Keep them raised if part of that art is writing." "Keep them raised if part of that art you think about publishing." Hands started to lower.

"Keep them raised if you write because of the desire to impact not just yourself, but the world around you." Everyone's hands were raised.

"We are collective in our belief that our writing can be gravity that exists for some person," Osmundson said.

Art can change the world, and he knows this because "art has changed my world." He borrowed an explanation from his day job as a molecular biologist to reinforce the point of things being necessary and also sufficient.

"It is possible for something to be necessary but not sufficient," Osmundson said. "Art may be necessary to change the world, but without activism ... it is not going to do that."

He encourages people to think about art as part of their individual and collective work to change the world.

"I do believe that time to take in and make art should be a human right," Osmundson said. "We are humans with messy connections and desires and experiences. We are not simply workers or cogs in the machines of capitalism."

People should let the messiness show, he said, and connect with others in solidarity of creation and community.

"We can plug this in as a piece of the puzzle of making the world fundamentally different," Osmundson said.

The possibility of what can be is large, he said, and for him that was the "homosexual possibility."

"When I was younger, I literally didn't know that I was possible," said Osmundson, who grew up in the early '90s in a small, western logging town. He didn't know what it meant to be a scientist, or that people spent their lives experimenting.

"Doctors and writers were old and white and straight and dead," Osmundson said. "At that time, Dickens and Austen saved my life. I couldn't imagine being a writer was a possibility for me."

In high school, Osmundson said he loved Sophocles' *Antigone* so much he

asked his sophomore English teacher if he could assign it to the class himself and give a lesson "on the uses of symbols and foreshadowing and its assignment of moral planning — I was not exactly what you would call popular."

In his sophomore year of college, he read *The Lover*, by Marguerite Duras, about an illicit affair between a teenage French girl and a wealthy, older Chinese man, in which the girl discovers her sexual desire for both men and women.

"She identifies as 'weird, but she sees love and hate and pleasure and disgust overlap," Osmundson said. "She expressed my sexual desire without any identity; this such sexuality is not mentioned."

This book and this character, he said, unlocked something for him.

"It unlocked the possibility that I could be attracted to more than one gender," he said, and he proceeded to read an excerpt from the book.

"(The character) wants to create a scene where her male lover and her small crush come together and enact a desire that is forbidden," Osmundson said. "This was among my first steps into the possibility of weirdness."

While he always loved women, he said if he had not read this book, he never would have had the opportunity to question, observe and reject heteronormativity.

"(Authors') confrontation with their empty pages in the 1980s helped me be clear in a way that I love about myself three decades later, and God bless them," Osmundson said.

The writings of various theorists have made his understanding of gender and sexuality much clearer, like Judith Butler's notion of gender as performance, and natural gendered behaviors. Queer gender is just as performative as normative gender, he said. It's just that "normative gender gets to name itself as nonperformance," he said. "These men driving around with gun racks in the back of their trucks" are performing gender as much as any queer person.

American academic Jose Esteban Munoz put forth a notion of queerness as a utopia — not that queer people are without struggle, Osmundson said, but the queer life now is a utopia compared to the life of queer people in the '80s and '90s.

"Language created us,"



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New York City-based scientist and author Joseph Osmundson takes audience questions after delivering the Chautauqua Writers' Festival keynote address Thursday at the Athenaeum Hotel.

he said. "Language has done to us, before we do language. We have to recognize that we must learn to manipulate language, perhaps in ways that destabilize how we learn language so young."

By creating new language in front of the world, writers can remake that world.

"There is hope in this — that art, and hearing, and writing, can make the world different for those who make and consume it," Osmundson said.

But hope isn't always enough. Osmundson recalled a conversation with his friend Julian Watkins, a Black, gay doctor who spe-


cializes in sexual health. Watkins pointed out that queer people now are living their predecessors' utopia, and while there is new hope for the trans and queer community, that hope — without action — can lead to a failure of empathy.

"Empathy alone is not enough to, obviously, just feel bad about racism or sexism or homophobia," Osmundson said. "Empathy has to be an initiative that acts to something. That's the difference between solidarity and empathy."

Writing, he said, is a nucleation point for empathy, and the way people interact with books and communi-


ty can build the solidarity needed for action — "the desire not just to understand, but to do, to walk towards a world-leading utopia where queer people aren't treated as they were in *Giovanni's Room*," he said. In James Baldwin's book, the only possibilities for queer people were "straightness and misery or queerness and death."

From *Antigone* to *The Lover* to *Giovanni's Room*, "these books show the full sweep of humanity and build the validation for solidarity that insists on maximizing pleasure and safety and minimizing violence," he said. "All because humans deserve pleasure and safety."



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PROGRAM

M

MONDAY
JUNE 26

- 10:15 Service of Blessing and Healing. UCC Randell Chapel
- 10:45 CHAUTAUQUA LECTURE SERIES.** **Robert P. George**, director, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University. **Cornel West**, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Chair, Union Theological Seminary. Amphitheater
- 11:00 (11–5) **Gallery Exhibitions Open.** Fowler-Kellogg Art Center and Strohl Art Center
- 12:00 **Play CHQ.** (Programmed by Youth and Family Programs.) Paper Airplane Making. Bestor Plaza
- 12:15 **Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Book Discussion.** *100 Hundred Saturdays*, by Michael Frank. **Bethanne Snodgrass, Stephine Hunt.** Alumni Hall
- 12:15 Ecumenical Brown Bag. "Stop Beating Yourself Up and Become Your Own Best Friend." Grace Tallman. Randall Chapel
- 12:45 **Guided Group Kayak Tour.** Learn about Chautauqua Lake and Institution grounds while kayaking along the shore. Fee. Sports Club
- 1:00 **English Lawn Bowling.** 20-minute free instruction, then opt to play a game for fee. Bowling Green
- 1:30 **Public Shuttle Tour of Grounds.** Fee. (Purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center. This tour is handicap accessible.) Leave from Main Gate Welcome Center
- 2:00 INTERFAITH LECTURE SERIES.** **Karol Jackowski**, member, Sisters for Christian Community; author. Hall of Philosophy
- 2:00 **School of Music Piano Program Play-In.** Donations welcome. Sherwood Marsh Piano Studio
- 2:30 Mah Jongg. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women's Club.) Memberships available at the door. CWC House
- 3:30 **"Courageous Conversations on**

- Death and Dying."** **Shahid Aziz.** Presbyterian Chapel
- 3:30 Lecture. (Sponsored by the Everett Jewish Life Center) "The Kosher Capones." Joseph Kraus, professor and chair of the department of English & Theatre, University of Scranton. Book signing will follow. Everett Jewish Life Center
- 4:00 Art of Investing. Community finance discussion with Dennis Galucki. Smith Memorial Library
- 4:00 **Chamber Music. WindSync.** Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall
- 4:00 **Play CHQ.** (Programmed by Youth and Family Programs.) Design Your Own Movie Strip. All ages. Jessica Trapasso Pavilion, Children's School
- 4:15 Lake Walk. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.) Shoreline Garden
- 5:00 **Men's Softball Organizational Meeting.** Sharpe Field
- 5:15 **Chautauqua Institution/Chautauqua Property Owners Association Economic Impact Study Presentation.** Smith Wilkes Hall
- 5:30 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Monica." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 6:30 **CVA Visiting Artists Lecture.** **Venancio Aragon**, Navajo weaver, "Prisms & Paradigms" exhibiting artist. Hultquist Center
- 7:00 Pre-Performance Lecture. (Programmed by Chautauqua Dance Circle.) Smith Wilkes Hall
- 7:00 **Palestine Park Tour.** "A Journey Through the Holy Land in the Times of Jesus." Palestine Park
- 7:00 (7–7:30) Taizé and Tea. Meditative worship. UCC Randell Chapel
- 8:15 **Cinema Film Screening.** "The Fablemans." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 8:15 SPECIAL. BalletX.** Amphitheater



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER


Members of the U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus perform a barbershop quartet rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" Sunday afternoon in the Amphitheater.

- 7:45 **Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program.** Leader: **Bhante Chipamong Chowdhury** (Theravada Buddhism/Mindfulness Meditation.) Presbyterian House Chapel
- 7:45 Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- 8:00 (8–12) Native Plant Sale. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club with Bestor Fresh Market). Bestor Plaza
- 8:00 Daily Word Meditation. (Programmed by Unity of Chautauqua.) Hall of Missions
- 8:30 **Beginner Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) Class.** Sports Club
- 8:30 (8:30–12:30) **Bestor Fresh Market.** Bestor Plaza
- 8:45 Catholic Mass. Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- 8:55 (8:55–9) Chautauqua Prays For Peace Through Compassion. Hall of Philosophy Grove
- 9:15 ECUMENICAL WORSHIP. LaTrelle Easterling**, bishop, Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences, United Methodist Church. Amphitheater
- 9:15 Chautauqua Speaks. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women's Club) Debra Lyons, director, Sports Club. CWC House
- 9:15 Jewish Discussions. (Programmed by Zigdon Chabad Jewish House) "Eternal Zalmán Vilner." Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 10:15 Service of Blessing and Healing. UCC Randell Chapel
- 10:45 CHAUTAUQUA LECTURE SERIES.** **Jennifer Senior**, staff writer, *The Atlantic*. Amphitheater
- 10:45 **Children's Story Time.** All families

- welcome. Bestor Plaza
- 11:00 (11–5) **Gallery Exhibitions Open.** Fowler-Kellogg Art Center and Strohl Art Center
- 12:00 **Play CHQ.** (Programmed by Youth and Family Programs.) Torn Tissue Art. All ages. Bestor Plaza
- 12:15 **Poet-in-Residence Brown Bag Lecture.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Writers' Center.) **Zach Savich.** Alumni Hall Porch
- 12:15 LGBTQ and Friends Brown Bag Discussion. "Friendship, an Essential Ingredient for the Human Heart." Garden Room, Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall
- 12:15 Brown Bag Lecture. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.) "Bird Identification: Tricks to Improve Speed and Accuracy." Ken Blankenship, North American birder. Smith Wilkes Hall
- 12:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Presbyterian House
- 12:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Disciples of Christ Graybiel House
- 12:30 Brown Bag Talk. (Sponsored by the Hebrew Congregation) "Breaking the Frame: The Jewish Gangster's Perpetual Invisibility." Joseph Kraus, professor and chair of the department of English & Theatre, University of Scranton. Everett Jewish Life Center
- 12:30 Brown Bag. "My Work in the World." (Programmed by Quaker House) Noah Merrill, Friend of the Week (Chaplain). Quaker House, 28 Ames
- 12:30 **Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program.** Presenter: **Bhante Chipamong Chowdhury** (Theravada Buddhism/Mindfulness Meditation.) Hall of Missions
- 12:45 Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge. CWC House
- 1:00 **Opera Conservatory: Sing-In.** Donations Welcome. McKnight Hall
- 1:00 **Docent Tours.** Fowler-Kellogg Art Center
- 1:00 **Mah Jongg.** (Programmed by the Sports Club.) Sports Club
- 1:00 **English Lawn Bowling.** 20-minute free instruction, then opt to play a game for fee. Bowling Green

- 1:15 Informal Critique Session. (Programmed by the Friends of the Chautauqua Writers' Center.) Bring 10 copies of one page of poetry or prose. Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Poetry Room
- 1:30 **Public Shuttle Tour of Grounds.** Fee. (Purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center. This tour is handicap accessible.) Leave from Main Gate Welcome Center
- 2:00 INTERFAITH LECTURE SERIES.** **De'Amon Harges**, creator, The Learning Tree, Indianapolis. **The Rev. Michael Mather**, pastor, First United Methodist Church, Boulder, Colorado. Hall of Philosophy
- 2:30 **Cinema Film Screening.** "The Eight Mountains." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 3:15 Social Hour at Denominational Houses
- 3:30 Cookies and Community Care Social Hour. (Programmed by Quaker House). Quaker House, 28 Ames
- 3:30 **Heritage Lecture Series.** "Ida Tarbell: At Chautauqua and Beyond" **Charles Fountain**, retired professor of journalism, Northeastern University. Hall of Philosophy
- 3:30 **Meet the Office of Advancement Staff.** Colonnade Lobby Conference Room
- 4:00 **Play CHQ.** (Programmed by Youth and Family Programs.) Painting. All ages. Timothy's Playground
- 4:00 **School of Music Piano Guest Faculty Recital.** **Jon Nakamatsu.** Donations welcome. Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall
- 4:15 Garden Walk & Talk. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.) Joe McMaster, horticulturist. Meet at Smith Wilkes Hall entrance
- 5:00 **Chautauqua Softball League Women's Pickup Game and Kickoff.** Extra gloves available. Sharpe Field
- 6:00 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Brian and Charles." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 6:30 **Labyrinth History and Meditation.** Turner Community Center
- 8:15 SPECIAL. Snarky Puppy.** Amphitheater
- 8:30 **Cinema Film Screening.** "The Eight Mountains." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

- 7:00 (7–11) **Farmers Market**
- 7:00 (7–9) **"Dawn Patrol" Round Robin Doubles.** Chautauqua Tennis Center
- 7:45 **Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program.** Leader: **Bhante Chipamong Chowdhury** (Theravada Buddhism/Mindfulness Meditation). Presbyterian House Chapel
- 7:45 Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- 8:00 Daily Word Meditation. (Programmed by Unity of Chautauqua.) Hall of Missions
- 8:15 **Chautauqua Mystic Heart Program.** "Movement and Meditation" Monte Thompson. Hall of Philosophy Grove
- 8:45 Catholic Mass. Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- 8:55 (8:55–9) Chautauqua Prays For Peace Through Compassion. Hall of Philosophy Grove
- 9:15 ECUMENICAL WORSHIP. LaTrelle Easterling**, bishop, Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences, United Methodist Church. Amphitheater
- 9:15 Jewish Discussions. (Programmed by the Zigdon Chabad Jewish House). "Maimonides — The Guide for the Perplexed." Rabbi Zalmán Vilner. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 10:15 (10:15-10:35) **Morning Stretch with BalletX.** Bestor Plaza



Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3: 13, 17-18

Tu

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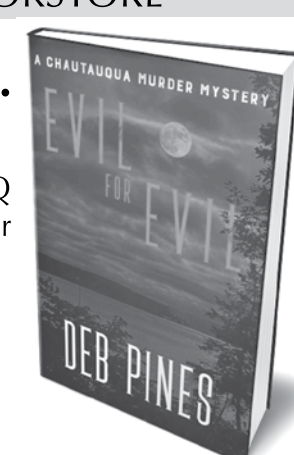
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Noah DiRuzza, *Green*, 2021
mixed media and found objects
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The Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua
invites you to:

Shabbat'zza

For those attending
Kabbalat Shabbat Services
Friday June 30th, immediately after services
in Miller Park (if rain, no Shabbat'zza)

Pizza Picnic in the Park

The Chautauqua Hebrew Congregation will
provide the pizza.
All you need to bring is your own beverage plus a
salad or dessert to share.

*Shabbat'zza:
where community,
pizza, and Shabbat
unite!*