



The Chautauquan Daily

The cast of Chautauqua Opera Company's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* takes a bow after their dress rehearsal Wednesday in Norton Hall.

BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons



Valli, Four Seasons bring 60-year legacy, iconic songbook to Amp

KAITLYN FINCHLER
STAFF WRITER

A tribute to American life and style, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons will bring their multifaceted plethora of pop hits to the stage at 8:15 p.m. tonight in the Amphitheater.

"Our general term is pop, but the pop covers R&B, it covers Doo-wop pop, classic (and) ballads," said Robby Robinson, keyboardist and longtime

musical director for the band.

The band formed in the '50s with Frankie Valli, Bob Gaudio, Tommy DeVito and Nick Massey. After a successful debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show" with a few regional hits, everything changed when Gaudio wrote "Sherry," which became a "monster hit" in 1962.

Robinson said they've continued to explore a variety of musical styles over the last 60 years.

See VALLI, Page 4



(The band) keeps reinventing ourselves through the decades and still going strong for all 61 years."

—ROBBY ROBINSON
Keyboardist,
The Four Seasons



ASTIN

On-screen, in 'real' life, Astin draws on cultural touchstones of friendship

SARA TOTH
EDITOR

"Go back, Sam. I'm going to Mordor alone."

"Of course you are. And I'm coming with you."

—J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

In a friendship, sometimes you're Sam; sometimes you're Frodo.

It's been more than 20 years since Peter Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" was released in theaters, but Sean Astin still has little epiphanies about the character he played all those years ago.

"Maybe it's something that I knew all along, but it felt like a discovery," said Astin, a director and actor who brought J.R.R. Tolkien's Samwise Gamgee to life on screen. "... Everybody deserves to have a Sam — someone who's just a caretaker, a giver."

The roles can reverse, and as long as one doesn't take the other for granted, in Astin's mind that's a good friendship.

Astin, who will wrap the Chautauqua Lecture Series Week One theme of "On Friendship" at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater, has long been part of the cultural consciousness through films like "Rudy," "The Goonies" and, of course, the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. A common thread that runs through the projects that have made Astin a household name — even his one-season stint on "Stranger Things" — is friendship.

See ASTIN, Page 4

Philosopher Sandel to posit friendship as essential to good life

Adam Adatto Sandel likes to consider the big questions in life; his most recent book is *Happiness in Action: A Philosopher's Guide to the Good Life*. As he examines the age-old human question of how to lead a fulfilling life, he centers three virtues that often get displaced by goals and self-striving: self-possession, engagement with nature, and friends.

Sandel will give his presentation on "What Friendship Really Means" at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Phi-

losophy, closing the Week One theme of the Interfaith Lecture Series dedicated to "Holy Friendship: Source of Strength and Courage."

He'll be introduced at the podium by a face familiar to Chautauquans: political philosopher and the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of Government Theory at Harvard Law School Michael Sandel — otherwise known as Adam Adatto Sandel's father.

In his lecture closing the week's theme, Sandel will consider the relation be-

tween friendship and the good life; how to distinguish genuine friendship from other relationships often mistaken for friendship; and how understanding friendship can help people cope with the passage of time — among other questions.

After a week of speakers from various faith traditions reflecting on different kinds of relationships and friendships, Sandel offers a perspective — that of ethics and philosophy — not explicitly from any faith tradition.

"With a philosopher like

Adam, he brings something that enables us to talk about categories of meaning, ways in which we make meaning that are not simply Jewish or Christian or Muslim, or any other particular religious tradition," said Melissa Spas, vice president of religion. "This is maybe more of a universal human category — something that pushes us outside of the particularity of our own identity, our own experience."



SANDEL

See SANDEL, Page 4

IN TODAY'S DAILY



LIFE-SAVING FRIENDS

Interfaith peace activist, Abraham House founder Al-Samawi traces impact of unlikely friends in his life.

Page 3



THE CALCULUS OF FAITH

God's math, preaches Easterling, is simple: Giving more leads to more blessings.

Page 6

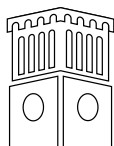


FRIENDS AND ALLIES

Career diplomat Jones examines differences between diplomacy, friendship.

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TODAY'S WEATHER



H 83° L 63°
Rain: 60%
Sunset: 8:58 p.m.

SATURDAY



H 78° L 67°
Rain: 80%
Sunrise: 5:45 a.m. Sunset: 8:58 p.m.

SUNDAY



H 73° L 66°
Rain: 80%
Sunrise: 5:45 a.m. Sunset: 8:57 p.m.

LITERARY ARTS



BRIEFLY

NEWS FROM 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 Co-rey 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

The Chautauqua Women's Club will host Mah Jongg at 2:30 p.m. today at the CWC House. Contemporary Issues Forum featuring Melina Davis will be at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Hall of Philosophy.

Join the CLSC Class of 2023

There is still time to join the CLSC 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 CLSC 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 Aug. 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).

Men's Softball League news

Come watch the Slugs vs. YAC game at 5 p.m. and the Fish Heads vs. Arthritics game at 6 p.m. tonight at Sharpe Field.

Chautauqua Opera Company and Conservatory news

At 10 a.m. today in McKnight Hall, voice students in the Opera Conservatory present a performance class of arias and more for the public.

At 2 p.m. today in Norton Hall, join Chautauqua Opera Company for a Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street operalogue.

Smith Memorial Library news

At 3:30 p.m. Friday in the Smith Memorial Library, Laura Coombs, posture therapist and author of *Of Course Your Knees Hurt*, will discuss the four contributors to joint pain and the one thing they have in common (and it's not your age). Seating is limited and first-come, first-seated.

Piano Program news

School of Music Piano students present a recital at 4 p.m. today in Sherwood-Marsh Studios. Donations will be accepted by the Chautauqua Women's Club to benefit the School of Music Scholarship Fund.

Remembering and Celebrating Philip Gerard

At 5 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy, the Friends of the Chautauqua Writers' Center host a memorial service for Philip Gerard, a frequent prose writer-in-residence and co-editor for 15 years of the literary journal *Chautauqua*.

In Brown Bag, Plum to address writers' 'fundamental question': Where to start?

KAITLYN FINCHLER
STAFF WRITER

With the multitude of paths people can take their writing in, they may ask "How to Start?" Chautauqua Writers' Center Week One prose writer-in-residence Hilary Plum will deliver her Brown Bag lecture covering this topic at 12:15 p.m. today on the porch of the Literary Arts center at Alumni Hall.

"I thought it was a nice emphasis on inspiration and doing something really generative that would help people start a project," she said, "also, to work on that fundamental question in writing, 'How do you find inspiration?' and then, 'What do you do with inspiration?'"

In her Brown Bag lecture, she said she plans to talk about labor questions around writing, the Writers' Guild of America strike, and writing as work.

"I just went out to visit a friend who is in the writer's strike in the TV world in L.A., and I ended up writing an essay about that strike



Since I work with writers who are writing fantasy novels, there's some things I don't know as much about. If we can start with their values and aims and questions, and what they're looking to do in that genre, then that can help me — as a teacher or editor — figure out how to support them."

—HILARY PLUM
Prose Writer-in-Residence,
Chautauqua Writers' Center



PLUM

in relation to some labor issues happening in higher ed, which is where a lot of writers work on the literary side," Plum said.

Plum is the author of several books, including the forthcoming book of poems, *Excisions*, from Black Lawrence Press; a collection of essays titled *Hole Studies*; the novel *Strawberry Fields*, which won the Fence Modern Prize in Prose; the essay collection *Watchfires*, winner of the

2018 GLCA New Writers Award for Creative Non-fiction; and the novel *They Dragged Them Through the Streets*. A professor in the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, or NEOMFA, program at Cleveland State University and associate director of the CSU Poetry Center, Plum took over as Week One's prose writer-in-residence after a last-minute change in scheduling.

The original prose writer-in-residence was Beth Loffreda, and Plum chose to stick with Loffreda's original workshop theme for continuity purposes.

As a longtime editor,

Plum said she likes to help writers, including herself, with what their questions are and what answers they're trying to get.

"Since I work with writers who are writing fantasy novels, there's some things I don't know as much about," she said. "If we can start with their values and aims and questions, and what they're looking to do in that genre, then that can help me — as a teacher or editor — figure out how to support them."

Plum's prose writing tends to be more on the experimental side, so she enjoys working with writers who aren't always writing in the same genre as she is.

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THE CHAUTAUQUAN DAILY

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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: **Sara Toth, editor**
stoth@chq.org

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Friday at the CINEMA
Friday, June 30

THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE -5:45 Starring the voice talents of Chris Pratt, Anya Taylor-Joy, Charlie Day, Jack Black, Keegan-Michael Key and Seth Rogen "this lively computer-animated take on the video game...the biggest box-office smash of 2023...is a godsend for parents seeking family entertainment for the 5-year-old in all of us." -Peter Travers, ABC News (PG, 92m)

ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME MARGARET- 8:30 This emotionally agile adaptation of Judy Blume's beloved 1970 bestseller stars Abby Ryder Fortson as 11-year-old Margaret Simon, Rachel McAdams as her mother Barbara and Kathy Bates as her adoring grandmother Sylvia. "A wonderfully charming, warm, tender, pitch-perfect film -Deborah Ross, *The Spectator* "As a critic, I hesitate to use the word "perfect" but it is the first adjective that comes to mind." -Leonard Maltin "A cinematic blessing. Go see it, and take your preteen kids. Yes, even the boys." -Odie Henderson, *Boston Globe* (PG-13, 105m)

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RELIGION

Al-Samawi shares story of life-saving interfaith friends

KAITLYN FINCHLER
STAFF WRITER

Friendship looks different for everyone. It can be a long-lasting relationship, or quickly born of the kind acts of strangers. For Yemeni refugee Mohammed Al-Samawi, it's both. His story of friendship and activism is the defining one of his life.

Al-Samawi, author of *The Fox Hunt: A Refugee's Memoir of Coming to America*, delivered his lecture at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Hall of Philosophy for Week Two of the Interfaith Lecture Series themed, "Holy Friendship: Source of Strength and Challenge."

To lighten the mood – his story included, after all, death threats, and safety officers lined the perimeter during his talk – Al-Samawi warned the audience he has an accent, and would try to speak slowly while explaining his main points: friendship, the power of interfaith engagement and the power for change.

Due to a disability, he was not able to do most things young boys enjoy, like ride a bike or play football.

"Even though I had a disability, I have amazing parents; both of them are medical doctors," Al-Samawi said. "Actually, all my siblings and my parents are medical doctors. I'm the only one who is not a doctor in the family."

His family taught him that, even with the disability, God had a mission for him. Sometimes it isn't seen right away, but one day it would become clear.

"Because of my disability, I was having a difficult time having friends," Al-Samawi said. "Other kids my age were making fun of the way I walk (and) the way my hand looks. But I was always trying to show them that even if I have a disability in my body, I don't have a disability in my mind."

This is why he learned English, "to show them that I can do things they cannot do."

As a person who loves love, Al-Samawi said he's always felt connected to God and could always talk to God – then, "something amazing" happened.

"When I was 23 years old, I met a Christian teacher named Luke," he said. "Luke was working in Yemen. For me, I had the chance to practice my English, finally, with someone and we were talking a lot and he became a father figure for me."

Not to be confused with the love for his own father – Al-Samawi said his father is "an amazing human being." But with Luke, he could talk about girls and other things "that I'm not able to talk with my dad about."

One day, Luke told Al-Samawi he had to leave Yemen in three months.

"I felt sad that a friend that, finally I know, will go away from me," he said. "I wanted to get him a gift. A gift, so when he got back to his country (that) he would remember me always."

He searched for various tangible gifts, ranging from a watch to perfume to a ring. Then, on a Friday in the mosque, the Imam started praying for what Al-Samawi described as "religious extremism" against Christians and Jews.

"The first thing that came to my mind is that 'Oh my God, Luke is going to be in hell and I need to save his soul,'" Al-Samawi said. "So that was my gift for him. I wanted to save his soul from hell ... by converting him to Islam."

But how? He bought Luke a copy of the Quran in English.

"I told him, 'If you care about our friendship, I want you to read it,'" Al-Samawi said. "He's amazing – he didn't tell me at that time

that he had already read it."

Luke told Al-Samawi he would take the book on one condition, and he agreed. The condition was Al-Samawi had to read the Bible, and Luke gave it to him hidden in a green plastic bag. Hidden, because if anyone found out Luke had gifted the Bible, or Al-Samawi had received it, they would both be persecuted.

Nonetheless, Al-Samawi brought the Bible home, started reading and was instantly intrigued by Christianity. Through reading the Bible, he came to better understand Luke, as well as the Christian Ethiopians in Yemen.

Al-Samawi decided he wanted to reach out and hear more from both Christians and Jews, so he searched "Israeli" on Facebook.

"The truth is, they have a lot of pretty girls," he said. "I didn't know how to use Facebook so I started adding them as friends – as you can imagine, nobody accepted my request."

He then sent a message along the lines of, "Greetings from Yemen, I know that you're a Jew. I know that you are from Israel. What do you think of Yemen? What do you think of Muslims? Yours sincerely, Mohammed."

Looking back, Al-Samawi said he could see how the message would have been seen by those on the receiving end.

"It's like a Nigerian prince asking for a million dollars," he said. "But the amazing thing (was) that people responded to my message, and I started having my own (interfaith) journey."

Through these conversations, Al-Samawi learned more and more about Christianity and Judaism from those he corresponded with. He also traveled to meet these people in different countries and ended up meeting a gay Jewish break-dancer, and a stand-up comedian named Justin Hefter at a conference in Jordan.

After returning to Yemen, he shared his stories with friends and family. His friend's father accused him of being an agent for Mossad.

"It was a really hard time, because I wasn't only afraid (for) myself – I was afraid (for) my family," Al-Samawi said.

He decided he needed to leave his family. He moved to another city, but was trapped by an extremist group raiding his house at the outset of the civil war in Yemen, which is still ongoing.

He hid out in his apartment and prayed while al-Qaeda ransacked the neighborhood. Al-Samawi's prayer led him to post on Facebook, asking if anyone could help him.

Daniel Pincus, the previously mentioned break-dancer, reached out and "opened a window of hope for me." Four people – who had never met, had no connection, nor any military evacuation skills – called in every favor they had to help Al-Samawi get out of Yemen.

Megan Hallahan, a Christian, sent a message out to her friends asking if anyone could help her friend in Yemen escape from his apartment. She didn't mention Al-Samawi by name, but Hefter knew him and offered Al-Samawi's help to the man – not realizing he was the man in need of help.

News of Al-Samawi's situation reached Jewish woman Natasha Westheimer. The four of them reached out to senators, embassies and governments around the world asking them for help.

"A lot of people didn't even respond to that request," Al-Samawi said. "But there is one country that responded, which is India. India, at that time, did an evacuation for the



Mohammed Al-Samawi, founder of Abrahamic House, takes a selfie with the crowd after his lecture Wednesday in the Hall of Philosophy.

Indians who live in Yemen."

The four individuals reached out to former Illinois Senator Mark Kirk, who had a disability similar to Al-Samawi's. When Kirk heard his story, he reached out to the Indian government.

Hefter saw a tweet about the evacuation and asked Al-Samawi if he saw a military boat, and told him that was where he needed to go. He found himself among 100 Yemenis trying to get to the vessel, but couldn't get there without a small fishing boat.

"(The boat owners) were taking advantage of us, of course," he said, requiring the refugees to give them money, or their phones, "in order for them to let us actually go through to the military ship."

Someone on the ship called out Al-Samawi's name over a megaphone, and as he raised his hand, they said they would take all the Yemenis in search of refuge. The Indian government was only expecting one refugee, but took and fed all 100 of them.

Al-Samawi received seven invitations to come to the United States, but he never expected the American embassy to grant him a visa. They did.

Pincus' friend surprised him by buying Al-Samawi a business class ticket from Djibouti to San Francisco. While grateful, this raised two problems.

One, he had no luggage nor taken a shower. Next, as a Yemeni, he wasn't permitted a one-way ticket to the United States; it had to be a two-way ticket.

"When I was in Frankfurt, the police stopped me and they said 'You cannot go to the United States,'" Al-Samawi said. "I don't know what changed their minds, but I think maybe they were afraid that I would apply for asylum in Germany."

The police changed their minds and said "the Americans gave him the visa, let them handle it," and he arrived in San Francisco.

"A lot of Americans, I don't think they realize how much this country is beautiful," Al-Samawi said. "I wish they knew that we



Al-Samawi shares his story of interfaith work and the unlikely group of friends that helped him escape Yemen in 2015.

are so lucky to be in this land, having this freedom that we have right now."

When he came to the United States, he didn't want to continue his interfaith work. He wanted to work at Starbucks.

"I wanted to start fresh and forget about what happened to me," Al-Samawi said. "But because I started talking more about my story, my story became popular in a lot of ways."

A movie offer was the last thing on his mind when he arrived in the United States, but Al-Samawi was approached by producer Marc Platt, wanting to turn his story into a film.

Next came a book deal, with about 12 different offers from various publishers. While he was glad to tell his story, when he watched the events of Jan. 6, 2021, unfold, it gave him flashbacks to Yemen in 2015.

"I decided that I wanted to do something because I love the United States," Al-Samawi said. "I want to give back a little bit of what freedom I am having here. So, with the help of the four individuals who helped me out, I created an organization called the Abrahamic House."

The Abrahamic House is a multifaith co-living and

co-creating space to learn, share, pray, celebrate, connect and serve. The organization has a fellowship allowing young professionals to stay in the house for free, as long as they are of Muslim, Jewish, Christian or Bahá'í faith.

"They need to live in the house, go to their work (and) go to their universities," Al-Samawi said. "But every weekend, they need to do events that speak against hate and speak more about the peaceful things in our own religions."

Through this work, Al-Samawi spends his time advocating for interfaith peace. Now living in Washington D.C., he spent the last month in Jordan reuniting with his family. While not in total support of his work, they

want him to be happy. He hopes one day they can join him in the United States.

"I'm still, by the way, not an American," Al-Samawi said. "I've been held in this country for seven years. But, by the end of this year, I will finally be able to apply for the nationality."

He is still grateful, and said the love of God created people from different nations, times and religions.

"Imagine this: We are in this beautiful land that only has one tree from the same type. You will never appreciate the beautiful things around it," Al-Samawi said. "But, because we have different trees (and) different types, you can really appreciate the beautiful things about it. And I think that's what America is for me today."

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FROM PAGE ONE

ASTIN

FROM PAGE 1

Astin's invitation was one of the first to be extended for the Chautauqua Lecture Series; the team "wanted to end the week on a fun and perhaps unexpected note, and so we began to look for the ways that friendship shows up in our cultural touchstones," said Jordan Steves, interim Emily and Richard Smucker Chair for Education.

"In doing so, there was a kind of happy rediscovery that one particular actor is at the center of some of the most iconic examples of friendship American culture offers," Steves said.

That's the great thing about literature, music and art, Astin said.

"You can just marinate in the emotional resonance of ideas or relationships and all that you don't have experience in, or maybe you do have," he said. "You know, loyalty and forgiveness and love are the pillars, the hallmarks of a friendship — and thoughtfulness."

Within the nine members of Tolkien's fellowship — men, an elf, a dwarf and a wizard for good measure — is the even-tighter group of four hobbits. Frodo, played in the film by Elijah Wood; Merry, played by Dominic Monaghan; Pippin, played by Billy Boyd; and Samwise. The actors grew close during filming, but Astin said that the hobbits are closer now in 2023 than ever before. They're in a text thread together, play Wordle together (Wood is the best, he said), are planning projects, and attend conventions together. So Astin doesn't think that on-screen friendships are any different than real-life ones.

"I think in my heart, if I establish on-screen familyhood, on-screen friendships with people, I expect that gets mimicked in real life," he said. "When the work you do for a living takes you all over the world all of the time, you can't really service friendships in the way that you would want to."

It helps when friends let him know they're thinking of him, sending a text or picking up the phone. He's found that "if it's a real friendship, even if you're not together — even if you don't see each other — I believe you still exist in each other's hearts."

Still, proximity and shared time together certainly go into building a friendship. Even if, in the case of Sam and Frodo, "they're not necessarily thrilled about the setting of their companionship." (Merry and Pippin's friendship, on the other hand? "That's a chemical thing. They are really inseparable. ... They belong together.")

Astin pointed out that, in Tolkien's world and hierarchy, Sam and Frodo are in different socioeconomic classes, thus showing that "friendship transcends class and economic differences, and that friendship is something that lasts over time."

You wouldn't expect them to be friends in the Shire, Astin said — at least until Gandalf the Grey steps in.

And in the moment in *The Return of the King* that Gollum tricks Frodo into sending Sam away, it's Gandalf's words as much as the hobbits' friendship that sends Sam back to Frodo's side.

"His explicit mission, the wizard tells him, is 'You must not leave him.' ... And so Sam is feeling like a failure on every level — as a friend, as a cohort on a military mission," Astin said. "...The sense of letting a friend down is so potent, and when he realizes he got fooled ... he doesn't give up. Friendship is about not giving up. He doesn't give up on his friend. He goes back."

True friendships, among little hobbits or real-life humans, have an inevitability, a reliability, to them, Astin said. Truth, above all, is a foundational bedrock.

"There's something about the constancy of it that gives us so much peace and relief," he said. "That's just what's embedded in the fabric of every friendship — the ability to not bullshit each other."

In his day job, he consid-



You can just marinate in the emotional resonance of ideas or relationships and all that you don't have experience in, or maybe you do have. You know, loyalty and forgiveness and love are the pillars, the hallmarks of a friendship — and thoughtfulness."

—SEAN ASTIN

ers the union members of at SAG-AFTRA as friends, and he's working to honor that friendship through the current negotiation process — even at press time and as he prepares to take the Amp stage. He thinks about friendships across disciplines like art and faith, and wonders (as maybe Tolkien and C.S. Lewis did) if the relationship Jesus Christ had with the Apostles was a true friendship. He wonders what COVID-19 has done to society, and if relationships with friends and family can help mend that trauma.

"There's a bit of an un-

spooling of people's feelings; ... what the long term consequences of going through that kind of trauma together?" Astin said. "... We don't have a national place or space or way to process stuff like that. It seeps into the everyday, that uncertainty and loss. ... There's a way in which the country, the world, has come through together. You just hold on to each other."

After all, as Samwise said: "Even darkness must pass. A new day will come. And when the sun shines it will shine out the clearer."

SANDEL

FROM PAGE 1

To consider the role of friendship in living a good life, Sandel draws on Aristotle's contrast between friendship for utility and friendship for virtue. But what Aristotle meant by "friendship for virtue" can only be understood in light of another of Sandel's tenets for a good life: self-possession. Aristotle called this the "greatness of soul."

"Without the connection of friendship and self-possession in view, we would be liable to mistake Aristotle's bold claim that true friendship can prevail only among the virtuous with

the simplistic yet widely accepted view that he believed that only the virtuous, in the sense of the just, could be true friends," Sandel wrote in *Happiness in Action*.

To explore that tension, Sandel explores examples from literature, film and everyday life, asking — as he will in his lecture, is friendship just one good among others, or does friendship define our very sense of self?

Ultimately, Sandel wrote in *Happiness in Action*, "it is only in friendship that we gain the strength to redeem misfortune, rise to self-possession, and come into our humanity."

Sandel, an assistant district attorney in Brooklyn,



When we talk about holy friendship, we're talking about something that extends beyond just what we think of as an ordinary relationship. ... To have Adam coming and talking about the good life and happiness in so broad a characterization, and the place of friendship of relationship within our pursuit of happiness, I think is a great ending."

—MELISSA SPAS

Vice President of Religion, Chautauqua Institution

New York, is also the author of *The Place of Prejudice: A Case for Reasoning within the World*, and — like his father — has taught at Harvard. His work at the intersection of philosophy and law dovetails with his lecture at the intersection of the ethical and spiritual role of friendship in our lives. Thus, he's the perfect conclusion to the week, Spas said.

"When we talk about holy friendship, we're talking about something

that extends beyond just what we think of as an ordinary relationship," she said. "We began talking about friendship in the context of commitment to a particular religious community with Karol Jackowski. To have Adam coming and talking about the good life and happiness in so broad a characterization, and the place of friendship of relationship within our pursuit of happiness, I think is a great ending."

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VALLI

FROM PAGE 1

"(The band) keeps reinventing ourselves through the decades and still going strong for all 61 years," Robinson said. Along with any new music, several selections at each show the group performs are audience favorites.

"There are about 15 hits that we almost have to play every night," Robinson said. "Frankie in particular, I know one of his favorite songs is 'Swearin' to God,' because it's kind of a jazzy, R&B pop song, and he was influenced greatly by jazz." Two years ago, Valli released an album called "A Touch of Jazz," which is — unsurprisingly — "a little more jazzy than others," but Robinson said all the tracks the group performs together are "really special songs," such as "Can't Take My Eyes off You."

Jersey Boys, a 2004 Tony Award-winning jukebox musical made into a 2014 movie of the same name, explores the origins of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons during the '60s. Both include "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man" and "Rag Doll" alongside the group's other most memorable songs.

"They've also been in dozens and dozens, dare I say, hundreds of movies throughout the years," Robinson said.

Not limited to the stage and screen, the band's music has been featured across various different media platforms throughout the decades.

"It's part of the American experience, these songs," he said. "They have been a part of so many people's lives."

COMMUNITY



Above left, Veronica Messer, center, compares and contrasts the difference between maintaining friendships in high school and what it may be like in the “real world” with other participants in a Chautauqua Dialogues session Wednesday at the Quaker House. Top right, Cathy Bronza listens to Tim Bronze as he shares what’s resonated with him during Week One. Above right, David Ware reacts to the discussion.

With new journals, Red Bench Project, Dialogues invites Chautauquans to expand the conversation

BRETT PHELPS
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chautauqua Dialogues, programmed through the IDEA Office and Department of Religion, are spaces where community members from all backgrounds gather for civil conversations, and participants can be a resource for one another to learn from and share life experiences. It is a safe space that allows participants to be vulnerable, listen intently, and communicate openly.

Conversations may be themed around the week’s theme, and facilitators are always on hand to help guide conversations. New journals help, too, and the Dialogues’ Lecture Journals are provided at every session. Folks are encouraged to journal during the lec-

tures, organizing ideas to remember key takeaways during dialogue sessions.

The ultimate goal of participating in Chautauqua Dialogues is to have open and honest conversations with participants from all walks of life about a vast array of topics.

The Dialogues have long been staples after afternoon lectures, and expanded in recent years to denominational houses. This summer the spirit of the initiative can be found right outside Chautauquans’ doors.

New this season is the Red Bench Project. Red benches have been placed around the grounds, and taking a seat indicates an open invitation: Anyone is welcome to sit and have a conversation with anybody, anytime, about anything.



Michelle Johnston, center, joins the discussion Wednesday at the Quaker House.

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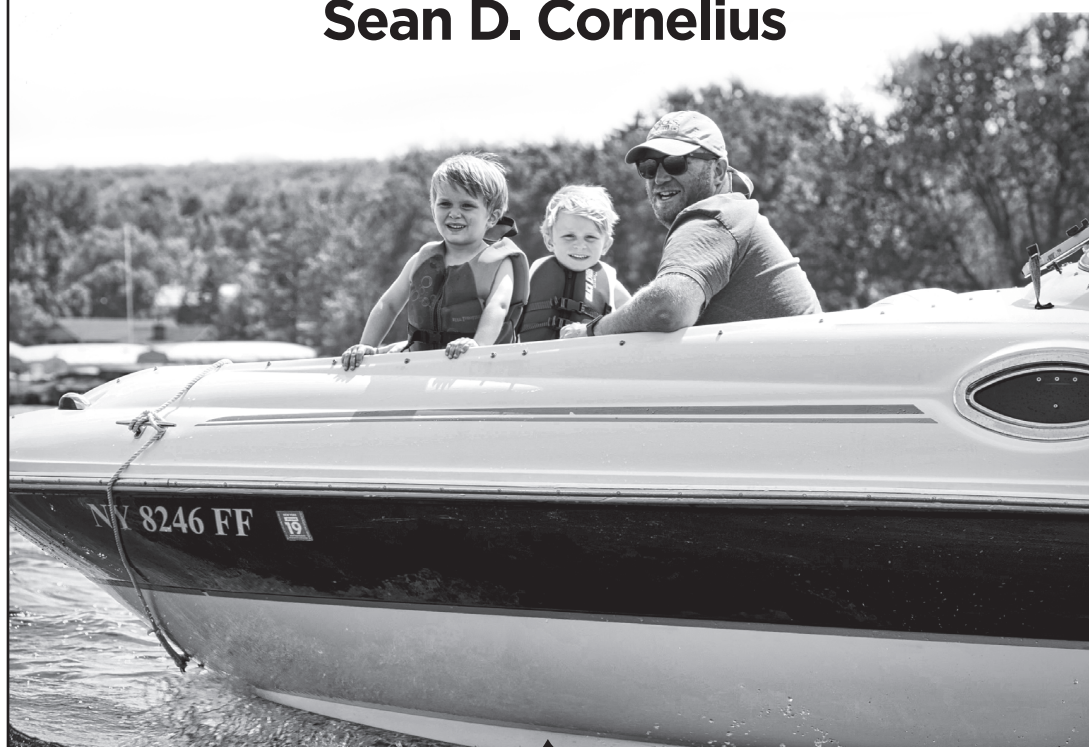
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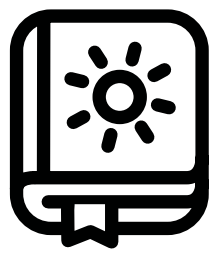
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RELIGION

God's math: Giving more leads to more blessings, says Easterling



MORNING WORSHIP

COLUMN BY MARY LEE TALBOT

Possession is the act of taking control, and it is an action between humans and things that excludes other people from enjoying them. "We say 'possession is nine-tenths of the law.' Why is it a stronger claim to say I have this thing even if you claim to own it?" asked Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling.

She preached at the 9:15 a.m. Thursday morning worship service in the Amphitheater. Her sermon title was "I Am a Friend of God: Practicing Resurrection," and the scripture reading was Acts 4:32-35, the image of the new Christian community sharing everything.

In Eden, she said, there was no death, pain or privation, but the Apostles were a long way from the garden. There was a chasm between the haves and the have-nots in the Roman Empire and "the garden of empire was impoverished, but resurrection says that neither death nor empire have the last word."

In the new Christian community, the divine design was restored. "Imagine a community with no needy person. People laid everything at the Apostle's feet," Easterling said. "Imagine the heads of our judiciaries or our churches. Are we as trustworthy? Can we be trusted to distribute resources equitably?"

The Apostles received the resources to serve the community, not themselves. That community had embraced the mind of Christ over the mind of the world.

Ananias and Sapphira, by contrast, sold a piece of property but kept back a portion for themselves. Peter asked Ananias why Satan had told him to lie to the Holy Spirit. Ananias was not lying to the apostles but to God, Peter said. Ananias fell down and died.

"This is what it means to love one's neighbor — that no one has need. All we have belongs to God," said Easterling. "God's math is that the more we give, the more we are blessed. Hoarding wealth is not of God."

God's desire, she said, is that all persons will have life to the fullest. The power of the testimony of the apostles did not come from their academic degrees or any secret prayer or incantation. By ensuring that no one had need, they lived the resurrection and did not curry favor with the world. She contrasted the apostles with the Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes who desired to be in control more than to follow God.

Easterling cited the Doctrine of Discovery promulgated by Pope Alexander VI in 1493, whereby Christians could "discover" a land peopled by "barbarous" communities and take that land in the name of God and the Roman Catholic Church. It became a principle in international law and was used by people of all faiths as a reason to remove, slaughter and try to "re-educate" Indigenous people, especially Native Americans, around the world.

"We all have blood on our hands and this doctrine still influences our laws today," Easterling said. "Practicing resurrection brings us back to God's design."

As an illustration, she told a story of an anthropologist who put a basket of fruit near a tree and told the children of the village that the first one who got to the basket could have all of the fruit. The children joined hands, walked together to the basket and shared the fruit with everyone. When the anthropologist asked why they did that, they replied, "How can anyone be happy when the rest are miserable?"

Easterling continued, "When we practice resurrection, all are fed. No one dominates; the lie of scarcity is de-



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling preaches during the first morning worship service of the week Sunday in the Amphitheater.

stroyed and everybody gets their daily bread."

One day, Easterling's husband Marion left his class at Harvard, and as he was going to cross the street, he saw a man with a sign. Marion decided to give the man some of the quarters in his pocket. The man, in response, said, "Can you see this?" Marion asked, "Can I see what?" The man said, "You have to want to see the sign."

Many people had walked by and acted as if the man was not present. Her husband had seen the sign and the person behind it. "We hide the poor and kill the prophets," Easterling said.

People often question what the person with the sign will do with the money. Will they get a job? Will they buy drugs? "Who asks what we do with God's money?" Easterling asked. "Do we ask how it was gotten? Sometimes it was gotten illegitimately then cleansed, and it is now clean."

The Apostles were dealing with real people who needed access to money so that they would have options in life, access to power and freedom. Lack of money makes people powerless. Easterling told the congregation, "We have to address people's needs and the systems that create scarcity and lack of access."

The Rev. Michael Mather, who spoke at the 2 p.m. Interfaith Lecture on Tuesday, told a story about putting a banner outside the church he served. The sign said, "Ending Poverty. 8:30 and 10:30" — the times for worship at the church. A neighbor called and said, "That's great, but what about the rest of the time?"

"Dismantling poverty is consistent work; it demands consistency," Easterling said. "The Bible calls for God's justice, God's shalom, which is distinctly different from charity. It is a radical reorientation to a partnership with the poor, to proximity with the poor, in solidarity with them."

Practicing resurrection demands a reconciliation of faith with finances. She said there was nothing evil in possessing wealth or being wealthy. The problem becomes when wealth is possessed to the exclusion of others.

Theologian Miroslav Volf has said that Christ-shaped action is much more than "thoughts and prayers." "There is something deeply hypocritical about praying for a problem you are unwilling to resolve," but resolving our serious



This is what it means to love one's neighbor — that no one has need. All we have belongs to God. God's math is that the more we give, the more we are blessed. Hoarding wealth is not of God."

—BISHOP LATRELLE EASTERLING

Chaplain-in-residence,
Chautauqua Institution

problems is the only chance we have," he said.

Easterling shared a story about a church that was encouraging members to share their experience of tithing, giving at least 10% of their earnings to the church, and how it had changed their lives. A young man, from a very wealthy family, asked to speak one Sunday.

He said, "I have been acting like this wealth all belonged to me. What I was tithing was a pittance. I am pledging to make a real tithe to meet the needs of others."

Easterling said that "the good news of Jesus is bad news for those who love money, not those who have money. In Jesus, the first are made last and the last first. The dead are raised, the poor blessed and the suffering made whole. In Jesus, we see through the lens of the poor."

She ended her sermon with a poem she wrote, "What of the Resurrection? (if we are only willing to live in a Good Friday world)." What of the resurrection if we are not willing to change the world? She challenged the congregation, "Are we living the resurrection? Chautauqua, may we be willing to live the resurrection?"

The Rev. George Wirth, a retired Presbyterian minister from Atlanta, presided. Craig McKee, an attorney and U.S. magistrate judge, read the scripture. Motet Consort members, Rebecca Scarnati, oboe; Debbir Grohman, clarinet; and Willie La Favor, piano; performed the prelude, "Andante" from Trio for Oboe, Clarinet and Piano by Paul Gilson. The anthem, sung by the Motet Choir, under the direction of Joshua Stafford, director of sacred music and Jared Jacobsen Chair for the Organist and accompanied by Nicholas Stigall, organ scholar, sang "I will sing with the spirit," by John Rutter. Stafford played "Fughetta and Finale" on "Hymn to Joy" by John G. Barr. 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.

CHAUTAUQUA HISTORY



The Friday night concert in the Amphitheater during Week 1 in 2007 was performed by the Smothers Brothers with The Kingston Trio.



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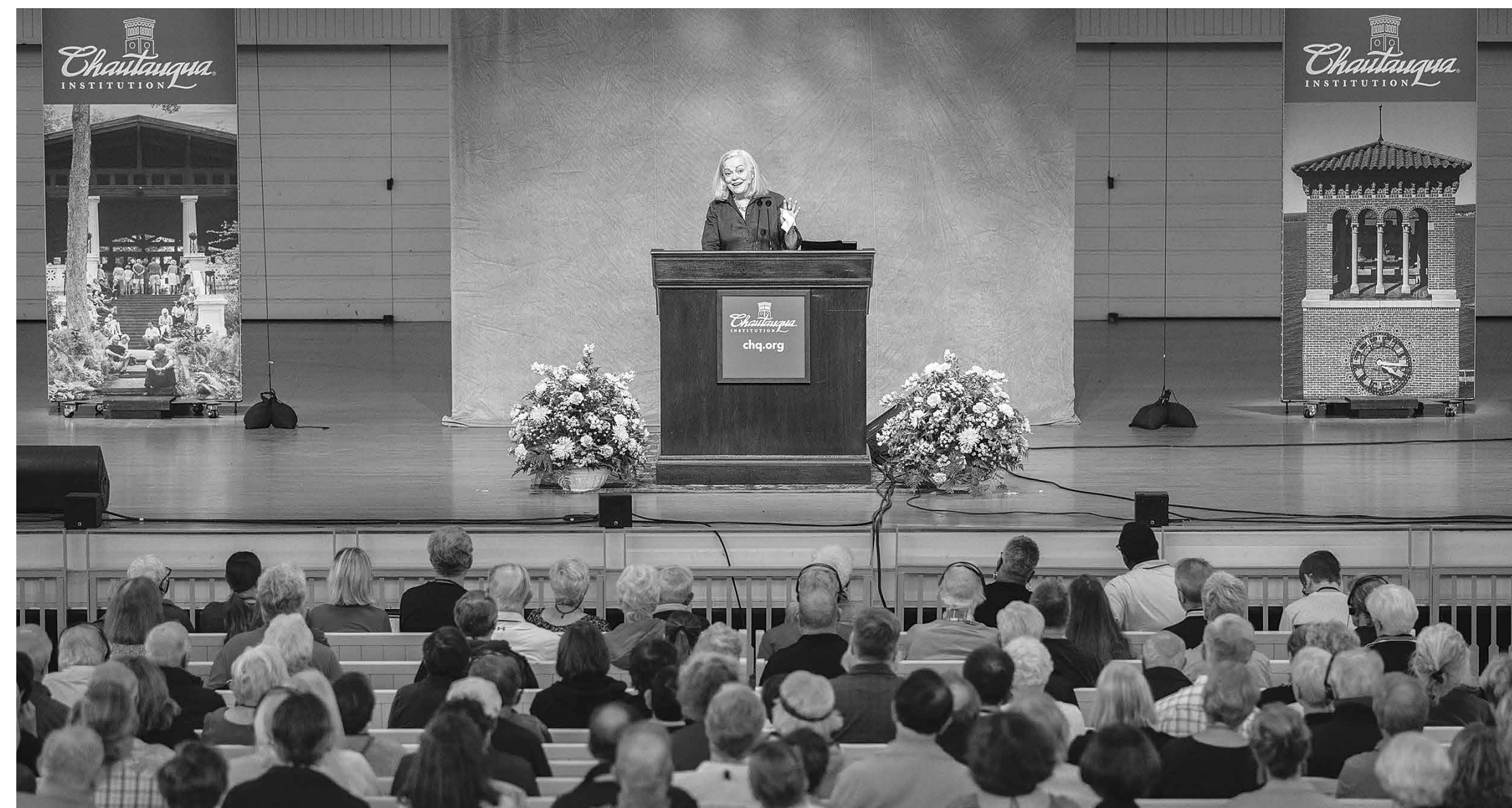
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LECTURE



Jones explores differences between diplomacy, friendship

ALTON NORTHUP
STAFF WRITER

After former Ambassador Deborah K. Jones evacuated her mission in wartorn Tripoli, Libya, without notice to her foreign counterpart, the Libyan Foreign Minister reproached her for caring more about the safety of her staff than solving the country's conflict; from his perspective, "the USA was large enough to be more generous than that, even to the point of risking its own personnel."

Diplomats find themselves in a complicated balance of advocating for their state's goals while understanding the needs of their geopolitical counterparts. As Jones puts it, "diplomacy is finding space in the same words for agreements." She shared her thoughts on this balance in her lecture, "The Role of Friendship in Diplomacy," at 10:45 a.m. Thursday in the Amphitheater, for the fourth day of the Chautauqua Lecture Series Week One Theme, "On Friendship."

To prepare for her lecture, Jones asked her former colleagues to share examples of when friendship facilitated diplomatic solutions. The majority of them said it had no place in international relations and that "so-called friendships" can lead to unrealistic expectations that never stand a chance.

She was surprised by their answers; she felt instead of defining what friendship means, she



All friendships are characterized by mutual respect, trust, confidence, reciprocal disclosure and loyalty. Many of the qualities that go into creating successful diplomacy also go into creating successful friendships, but that loyalty piece is missing unless it is to a government."

—**DEBORAH K. JONES**
Chair, Board of Directors,
Hollings Center for International Dialogue

needed to define what diplomacy means.

Jones traces modern diplomacy to the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia, commonly known as the Peace of Westphalia, that ended the Thirty Years' War. The treaty established nation-states, not dynasties; and institutions for disagreements, not anarchy. For nearly 400 years, this system has endured, she argued, because of diplomats.

If you have traveled abroad, purchased clothing manufactured in another country or engaged in business with a foreign government, then you have benefited from diplomacy. Diplomats maintain the negotiations, upkeep and oversight that makes international cooperation possible. And it is this maintenance, Jones said, that "is the highest manifestation of civilization."

Another role of ambassadors, however, is to be a tool of the state.

"We have no eternal al-

lies, and we have no perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual, and those interests it is our duty to follow," she said, quoting 19th-century British Prime Minister Lord Palmerston.

Throughout their duty, diplomats may be tempted to impress or form bonds with their foreign counterparts, but loyalty to the Constitution and the interests of the United States come first.

"Those who succumb to the siren song, and forget that they are simply an instrument of the American taxpayer," Jones said, "do so at their own peril."

The United States does, however, form long-standing relationships with nations. And while the U.S. often forgets the help it has received from other countries, she said, maintaining cordial relationships allows governments to know each other better.

Within diplomatic co-



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Former U.S. Ambassador to Libya and chair of the board of directors for the Hollings Center for International Dialogue Deborah K. Jones answers audience questions after her lecture on friendship and the role plays in diplomacy Thursday in the Amphitheater

orts, it becomes easier to understand each other's red lines while acknowledging the other's concerns. They can be honest about their needs without offending each other.

"It is being willing to acknowledge the essential dignity of the other person, or party, and sometimes, it is to accept what is perfectly honest, or truthful, if not necessarily completely truthful," Jones said.

"The opposite of conflict is not necessarily complete peace, it is process,"

So is there a role for friendship in diplomacy? Sort of.

Jones certainly has foreign friends, and establishing relationships of trust did aid in negotiations during her career. But the foundation of friendship does not translate well to diplomacy.

"All friendships are char-

acterized by mutual respect, trust, confidence, reciprocal disclosure and loyalty," she said. "Many of the qualities that go into creating successful diplomacy also go into creating successful friendships, but that loyalty piece is missing unless it is to a government."

"I do try to conduct myself diplomatically," she wryly concluded, "except with my very, very close friends."

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cut's counter-part
 - 6 Buttes' cousins
 - 11 Mink's cousin
 - 12 Chosen few
 - 13 Window cover
 - 14 Supply
 - 15 High rating
 - 16 Table protector
 - 18 Complete
 - 19 Bauxite product
 - 20 They hold power
 - 21 Speaker's stand
 - 23 Property claims
 - 25 Decrepit horse
 - 27 Chick holder
 - 28 Radiant
 - 30 Chooses
 - 33 Billboards, e.g.
 - 34 Film noir classic
 - 36 Go bad
 - 37 Bullfight hero
 - 39 Mess up
 - 40 Nimble
- DOWN**
- 1 Put online
 - 2 Helper of Perseus
 - 3 Unmoving
 - 4 Baseball's Williams
 - 5 Put up
 - 6 "Brand New Key" singer
 - 7 Yale students
 - 8 In a good position
 - 9 Acropolis setting
 - 10 Clair-voyants
 - 17 Gusher output
 - 22 Mineo of movies
 - 24 Freud topic
 - 26 2-Down, for one
 - 28 Slow tempo
 - 29 Court party
 - 31 British party
 - 32 Emphasis
 - 33 Run up
 - 35 Curaçao's neighbor
 - 38 Balm ingredient
 - 42 Pen point

B	A	R	S		D	O	G	M	A		
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Yesterday's answer

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CHAUTAUQUA WOMENS CLUB THURSDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE SCORES

JUNE 27, 2023

SECTION A

North/South			East/West		
1st	Grant Vance - David Smeltzer	59.88%	1st	Bill Kuppinger - Patricia Fincher	69.51%
2nd	Kathryn Roantree - Barbara Gryzegorzewski	58.40%	2nd	Luann Cohen - Edythe Sklar	56.58%
3rd	Francis Tseng - Mary Tseng	56.37%	3rd	Betty Lyons - Rivona Ehrenreich	50.21%

Please come enjoy our friendly, non-intimidating games.
12:45 p.m. Tuesdays the Chautauqua Women's Club

CHAUTAUQUA MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE SCORES

JUNE 28, 2023

FISH HEADS VS. YAC

Fish Heads 9 YAC 6

ARTHRITICS VS. SLUGS

Arthritics 24 Slugs 12

AXYDLBAAXR 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.

6-30 CRYPTOQUOTE

QD Q PON FX ZOX, Q'N EKFGJK
SOCHOEX DEGF YPK BOUKCNOE
OUYGWKYPKE OCN POJK OC
KVYEO SHUX QCIYKON.

— EGOUN NOPU

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FOOD BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER ON MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS. IT'S NOURISHMENT OF THE SOUL AND BODY; IT'S TRULY LOVE. — GIADA DE LAURENTIIS

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

6/30

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

Difficulty: ★★★

6/29

THE CHAUTAUQUAN DAILY

SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up with the 2023 season at The Chautauquan Daily in words, photos, audio and video through out social platforms.



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Add your posts to the conversation using #CHQ.

Keogh, Anderson funds underwrite Astin's morning lecture

The Kevin and Joan Keogh Family Fund and Malcolm Anderson Lecture Fund provide support for the lecture by Sean Astin at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater.

Joan and Kevin Keogh were devoted Chautauquans for all of their adult lives. Joan and Kevin are survived by their three children, Sean, Maura, and Kyle. Sean, his wife Kim, and their three boys live in Massachusetts. Maura and her three boys live in Wisconsin, and Kyle and his wife, Liz, and their three children

live in Connecticut. They all return to Chautauqua each summer, extending the Chautauqua family to another generation. Kyle currently serves as a trustee of the Institution.

The Keoghs heard about Chautauqua through an acquaintance in late 1974. Believing they would enjoy the lectures and music, and anticipating that their children – then ages 3, 5, and 7 – would enjoy Children's School and Club, they rented an apartment sight unseen for a week in

1975. Their family has been back every year since, purchasing their home on the grounds in 1983.

Joan served on the Chautauqua Institution Board of Trustees from 1990 to 1998, was director emeritus of the Chautauqua Women's Club, served on the board of the Chautauqua Catholic Community, and was a member of the Planned Giving Committee. Kevin passed away in 2003, followed by Joan in 2019.

The Malcolm Anderson Lecture Fund was estab-

lished in 1987 to honor D. Malcolm Anderson of Chautauqua and Pittsburgh. Malcolm was a fourth-generation Chautauquan and a trustee of the Institution from 1982 to 1990. He served as U.S. attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania and later as assistant attorney general for the Department of Justice. He was founding partner in the Pittsburgh law firm of Anderson, Moreland and Bush. He retired to Bradenton, Florida, and passed away Oct. 9, 1998.

Gellman, Zaretsky Family Fund provides support for Sandel's interfaith lecture

The Jack and Elizabeth Gellman and Zaretsky Family Fund provides support for the Interfaith Lecture by Adam Sandel at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy.

The Gellman Fund, created by the Gellmans in collaboration with Ross Mackenzie, Chautauqua's director

of the Department of Religion at that time, was the first lectureship created to underwrite a speaker of the Jewish faith within the Chautauqua program.

The Zaretsky Family Fund was created by the Gellmans' daughter, Deborah, and her husband, Allen Zaretsky.

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ABSOLUTELY
DISGUSTING

ABSOLUTELY
DELIGHTFUL

Chautauqua Opera Guest Artists Kevin Burdette, bass-baritone, and Eve Gigliotti, mezzo-soprano, perform as Sweeney Todd and Mrs. Lovett in the company's dress rehearsal of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* Wednesday in Norton Hall. *Sweeney Todd* opens its run at 4 p.m. today in Norton.

Chautauqua Opera opens season with Sondheim's 'Sweeney Todd'

PHOTOS BY BRETT PHELPS

Like a meat pie in the oven, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* has been simmering away in Steve Osgood's mind for years.

"It's been a piece that I've been dreaming about for a long, long time," said Osgood, the general and artistic director of Chautauqua Opera Company and Conservatory. "You know, I've been waiting for an opportunity, wondering if that opportunity would be here."

That opportunity has come; Osgood's first time conducting *Sweeney Todd* is with the first production of Chautauqua Opera's season, set to open at 4 p.m. today in Norton Hall.

It's been a massive undertaking to bring the Sondheim work to Norton. Dozens of cast and crew, three stage managers, a fight choreographer, a lighting designer, a set designer – the list goes on. The fact that it was put together in three weeks, Osgood said, "is mind-boggling."

"Everybody's been firing on all cylinders. Everybody brought their A-game. That spirit in the room has been so supportive and delightful," he said. "You can sense that in the company, can sense that on the stage, even as we tell this dark story. There's a sparkling delight coming from every single individual."

And what a delightfully dark, sordid tale – the devastated Sweeney Todd, the devilish Mrs. Lovett, and their ghoulish solution to their problems.

"Absolutely disgusting; absolutely delightful," Osgood said. "That's the narrative; the story, though, is one of profound humanity. ... These characters all of those interweaving stories are fascinating and just so deep often, hysterically funny. And then seconds later, profoundly moving. That kind of theatrical storytelling is magical."

Sondheim's work premiered on Broadway in 1979, with a book by Hugh Wheeler and

orchestration by Jonathan Tunick. Tunick's original orchestration called for 26 musicians, making *Sweeney Todd* one of the only contemporary musicals to be scored for a full orchestra. Often, that number tended to get whittled down, Osgood said, just for sheer practicality. But Chautauqua Opera is pulling out all the stops – the full score, 26 musicians. Three trombones alone – "unheard of," Osgood said, "for a musical theater piece."

"It is so lush, and the orchestration that Jonathan Tunick made for it is absolutely sparkling," he said. That is one of the delights of producing, especially conducting, *Sweeney Todd*.

Chautauqua Opera leadership is often asked when the company will stage a musical, and Osgood said *Sweeney Todd* is the perfect marriage of musical theater and opera.

"It has become a classic American musical, but one that lives and thrives in the opera house; we've seen that ever since its premiere," he said. "It has been adopted by opera companies as much as it has by traditional musical theater stages. Everybody can embrace it and take it on from their own angle."

Stage Director Dennis Whitehead Darling brings an "incredible theatrical sense" to Chautauqua Opera's production, Osgood said, as the director is "as comfortable in straight theater as he is in musical theater and in opera. What he has brought to this production is really significant and a huge part of what makes it so successful, visually captivating, and nuanced in the storytelling."

There's a complexity to the music's construction and to the text – an elevation of internal rhyme and wordplay that "will blow your mind," Osgood said. Those elements, he said, are what make Sondheim's work "live and breathe in this very elevated, operatic musical world. It's just so great."



Above, the cast of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* perform "Pirelli's Miracle Elixir." Left, Judge Turpin, portrayed by Festival Artist Michael Colman, bass-baritone, discusses marrying Johanna with Apprentice Artist Brian Jeffers, bass, portraying Beadle.



Gigliotti, center, as Mrs. Lovett, performs with the ensemble of Chautauqua Opera Company's production of Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*.

PROGRAM

F

FRIDAY
JUNE 30



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lila, 4, and Theo, 5, scoot on by as father Jeff Zellers watches on Tuesday evening along Fletcher by the Hall of Philosophy.

- 6:00 **Sunrise Kayak & Paddleboard.** Sign up with payment one to two days before event at 716-357-6281 or sportsclub@chq.org. Sports Club
- 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 Meditation Program.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion.) "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
- 9:00 Nature Walk & Talk. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.) Jack Gulvin, naturalist. Meet at lake side (back) of Smith Wilkes Hall
- 9:15 **ECUMENICAL WORSHIP.** LaTrelle Easterling, bishop, Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences, United Methodist Church. Amphitheater
- 9:15 Jewish Discussions. (Programmed


- by Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.) "Kabalah on Meditation and Song." Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 10:00 **Opera Conservatory Performance Class.** McKnight Hall
- 10:15 Service of Blessing and Healing. UCC Randell Chapel
- 10:45 **CHAUTAUQUA LECTURE SERIES.** **Sean Astin,** actor; director. Amphitheater
- 11:00 (11-5) **Gallery Exhibitions Open.**

- Fowler-Kellogg Art Center and Strohl Art Center
- 12:15 **Prose Writer-in-Residence Brown Bag Lecture.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Writers' Center.) **Hillary Plum.** Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Porch
- 12:15 Challah Baking Class. (Programmed by Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.) Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 12:15 Twelve Step Meeting. Marion Lawrance Room, Hurlbut Church
- 12:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Disciples of Christ House Graybiel House
- 12:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Everett Jewish Life Center
- 12:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Lutheran House
- 12:30 Garden Walk & Talk. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.) Betsy Burgeson, supervisor

- of garden and landscapes, Chautauqua Institution. Meet at Fletcher Hall Nature Park and Rain Garden
- 12:30 **Jumu'ah Muslim Prayer.** Hall of Christ Sanctuary
- 12:45 Catholic Seminar. "Thomas Merton on Wisdom." The Rev. Paul Milanowski. Methodist House Chapel
- 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.** **Adam Sandel,** author, *Happiness in Action: A Philosopher's Guide to the Good Life.* Hall of Philosophy
- 2:00 **Operalogue.** (Programmed by Chautauqua Opera Company.) *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.* Norton Hall
- 2:30 Mah Jongg. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women's Club.) Memberships available at the door.

- CWC House
- 3:30 **Authors at The Smith.** Laura Coombs, *Of Course Your Knees Hurt.* Smith Memorial Library
- 3:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) UU House
- 3:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Episcopal Cottage
- 4:00 **OPERA. Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.** Norton Hall
- 4:00 **School of Music Piano Program Student Recital.** Donations welcome. Sherwood Marsh Piano Studio
- 5:00 **LITERARY ARTS.** Celebrating and Remembering Philip Gerard. Hall of Philosophy
- 5:00 Hebrew Congregation Evening Service. "Kabbalat Shabbat: Welcoming the Sabbath." Rabbi Cookie Olshein. Shabbat'zza - Post-Service Pizza Picnic in the Park. Bring your own beverage. Bring salad or dessert to share. If rain, service at Smith Wilkes Hall and no Shabbat'zza. Miller Park
- 5:45 **Cinema Film Screening.** "The Super Mario Bros. Movie." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 8:15 **SPECIAL.** **Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons.** Amphitheater
- 8:30 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Are You There God? It's Me Margaret." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

- 9:30 Chabad Jewish House Community Shabbat Service. Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 9:30 UU Cultural Ethics Series. "The Shaping of the Interfaith Experience at Chautauqua." Maureen Rovengo. Hall of Philosophy
- 9:45 Torah Study. "Today's Torah for Today's Times." Rabbi Cookie Olshein. Marion Lawrance Room, Hurlbut Church
- 10:15 Sabbath Morning Worship Service. Rabbi Cookie Olshein. Susan Goldberg Schwartz, cantorial soloist. Kiddush lunch to follow. Hurlbut Church Sanctuary
- 12:30 Chabad Jewish House Lunch n' Learn. "Ethics of our Fathers." Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 1:00 (1-5) **Gallery Exhibitions Open.** Fowler-Kellogg Art Center and Strohl Art Center
- 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
- 3:00 Contemporary Issues Forum. (Programmed by Chautauqua Women's Club) Milena Davis, CEO, Medical Society of Virginia. Hall of Philosophy
- 4:15 **Chautauqua Chamber Music.** Resident Artist Series. **Quartet 394.** Elizabeth S. Lenka Hall
- 4:15 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Focus on preceding Contemporary Issues Forum Lecture. Hall of Missions
- 5:00 Catholic Mass. Hall of Philosophy
- 5:45 **Cinema Film Screening.** "The Super Mario Bros. Movie." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 7:30 **CHAUTAUQUA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.** "Merregon: Land of Silence." **Rossen Milanov,** conductor. Amphitheater
- Edvard Grieg: Peer Gynt: Suite No. 1, op. 46
- Yoko Shimomura: *Merregon: Land of Silence*
- 8:30 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Are You There God? It's Me Margaret." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema



**But Ruth said,
"Do not plead with me to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you sleep, I will sleep."**

Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God."

Ruth 1:16

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