

The Chautauquan Daily

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Longtime 'NYT' crossword editor to share love of, delight in puzzles

KAITLYN FINCHLER
STAFF WRITER

Puzzle master. Engimatologist. Crossword editor. These are all words to describe Will Shortz's self-made degree and career. The only one in the world to hold his official title, Shortz graduated from Indiana University with his one-of-a-kind degree in enigmatology, the study of puzzles.

He will deliver his lecture at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater to close Week Two of the Chautauqua Lecture Series theme, "Games: A Celebration of Our Most Human Pastimes"

The hope for the lecture is for Chautauquans to realize games "are not only fun, but there's a value to them," said Jordan Steves, interim Emily and Richard Smucker Chair for Education.

"That was our intention to have this week, where families are gathering for holiday celebrations, to have a lighter (and) more fun theme, but certainly not lacking in substance," Steves said.



SHORTZ

Shortz sold his first professional puzzle at 14 years old; at age 16 he became a regular contributor to Dell puzzle publications.

"In the eighth grade, when asked to write a paper on what I wanted to do with my life, I wrote on being a professional puzzle-maker," Shortz told *The New Yorker*. "That was always my dream."

An author and editor of more than 500 puzzle books, Shortz was editor of *Games* magazine for 15 years as well as the founder and director of the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, the co-founder of the World Puzzle Championship and program director of the National Puzzlers' League convention.

See **SHORTZ**, Page 4

FOR THOSE ABOUT TO YACHT-ROCK ...



STRAIGHT NO CHASER

Straight No Chaser to salute Chautauquans, 'season of leisure' in return to Amp

KAITLYN FINCHLER
STAFF WRITER

Keep the cooler filled with ice and beverages – Straight No Chaser will deliver a performance leaving Chautauquans wanting a second round.

The a cappella group will perform at 8:15 p.m. tonight in the Amphitheater in their latest stop on their "Yacht Rock Tour."

The setlist for the tour includes classic '80s songs of summer, such as "Escape (The Pina Colada Song)" and "You're The Only Woman," all on their newly-released June 23 album, *Yacht on the Rocks*.

"What could possibly sound more like summer than yacht rock?" group member Steve Morgan told *Broadway World*

Music. "We can't wait to hit the road and celebrate the season of leisure with our fans. Grab a frozen beverage and beat the heat with us, reliving the decade of cool tunes and smooth sailing."

The group is comprised of "nine dapper vocalists," with the uncanny ability to belt out R&B smooth jams as well as traditional stadium favorites.

"Straight No Chaser is very popular with Chautauquans, so we tend to have them every few years," said Deborah Sunya Moore, senior vice president and chief program officer. "It's just such a beautiful a cappella concert."

See **SNC**, Page 4

OPERA AS SHARP AS A STRAIGHT RAZOR



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chautauqua Opera Company Guest Artists Kevin Burdette and Eve Gigliotti as Sweeney Todd and Mrs. Lovett in the company's production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*.

Show goes on as Chautauqua Opera continues run of 'Sweeney Todd'

A musical thriller with humor and tragedy both as sharp as a straight razor, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* has garnered both a Tony and an Olivier, and this afternoon Chautauquans can experience Sond-

heim's award-winning music and lyrics in person, as Chautauqua Opera Company continues its mainstage season in Norton Hall.

See **SWEENEY**, Page 4

For ILS, preeminent Hindu scholar Narayanan to share spiritual imperative of play

The last time Vasudha Narayanan spoke at Chautauqua Institution, it was during the Interfaith Lecture Series week dedicated in 2018 to "The Spirituality of Play." She spoke to the importance of playfulness in Hinduism, and at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy, she'll discuss aging and playing in Indian religions, and take her argument one step further.

It's not just that people who have reached retirement age are freer than their working counterparts to play; it's actually their spiritual responsibility to do so. Hinduism calls them to do that.

Narayanan is distinguished professor in the Department of Religion at the University of Florida, former president



NARAYANAN

of the American Academy of Religion, and a preeminent scholar of the Hindu faith. This will be her sixth appearance at Chautauqua.

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IN TODAY'S DAILY



THE NOT-SO-SWEET GAME OF REVENGE

To receive mercy, preaches Jacque, forgive as you have been forgiven; make room in your heart for love.

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TELLING A SACRED STORY

Shire outlines three ways Jewish tradition enables discovering spiritual depth through play.

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SERIOUS GAMES, SERIOUS PROBLEMS

U.S. National Intelligence Council analyst Cyruulik gives rare insight into role games play in statecraft.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

H 75° L 61°
Rain: 30%
Sunset: 8:56 p.m.

SATURDAY



H 76° L 56°
Rain: 0%
Sunrise: 5:49 a.m. Sunset: 8:56 p.m.

SUNDAY



H 74° L 63°
Rain: 60%
Sunrise: 5:50 a.m. Sunset: 8:55 p.m.

LITERARY ARTS



BRIEFLY

NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS

Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle news

There is still time to join the CLSC Class of 2023; the application and supplemental materials deadline has been extended to Monday. Learn how we'll celebrate the CLSC Class of 2023 at meetings at 9 a.m. on Monday (Week Three) and July 19 (Week Four).

Join the CLSC Class of 2024. Participate in the CLSC Class of 2024 Formation Meetings at 9 a.m. on July 11 (Week Three); July 25 (Week Five); and Aug. 8 (Week Seven).

Submit your applications to be recognized for your Guild of Seven Seals level reading. The application deadline has been extended to July 14. Learn how we'll celebrate our Guild graduates during a hybrid preparation meeting at 9 a.m. on July 18 (Week Four).

All meetings listed are hybrid; if you'll be at Chautauqua on these dates, join us in the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall, or join us via Zoom (invitations will be emailed).

Chautauqua Women's Club news

The Flea Boutique is being held again from noon to 2 p.m. today behind the Colonnade. Join the Chautauqua Women's Club for Mah Jongg from 2:30 to 5 p.m. today at the CWC House.

The Contemporary Issues Forum will host Scarlett Lewis at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Hall of Philosophy. Pre-order your Friday Night Take-Out BBQ pulled pork from Farmer Brown's at chautauquawomensclub.org. Pickup is from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. tonight.

Post-Lecture Discussion

Stefanie Dunning, professor of English at Miami University of Ohio, will lead a special post-lecture discussion at 12:30 p.m. today in Smith Wilkes Hall focused on themes from this week's Chautauqua Lecture Series and Interfaith Lecture Series.

Smith Memorial Library news

Financial adviser Alan R. Greenberg leads a free discussion, "Market Update: Where Do We Go From Here?," at 3:30 p.m. today in the upstairs classroom of the Smith Memorial Library. Capacity is limited and first-come, first-seated.

Afterwords Wine Bar soft opening

Afterwords Wine Bar will open at noon today, and reservations are encouraged. Walk-ins will only be accepted as space allows.

Reservations can be made at chq.org/afterwords-wine-bar or by calling the Athenaeum Hotel front desk at 716-357-4444.

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.

Chautauqua Opera Company hosts an operalogue at 2 p.m. today in Norton Hall in advance of the *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* performance at 4 p.m. today in Norton. Learn more about the music, with performances from the Young Artists.

School of Music news

At 4 p.m. today in Sherwood Marsh Studios, students in the School of Music Piano Program present a recital for the public. Donations accepted to support the School of Music Scholarship Fund.

THE CHAUTAUQUAN DAILY

BACK ISSUES OF THE CHAUTAUQUAN DAILY

If you would like any back issues of the newspaper, please stop at the *Daily Business Office* in Logan Hall.

Black-American Art 18th to the 21st Century



Out Chorus: Jammin' At The Savoy
Romare Bearden ... 1980

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Sandy Gordon

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A CLASSIC TRADITION, A MODERN APPROACH



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Above, the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra presents Yoko Shimomura's *Merregnon: Land of Silence* last Saturday in the Amphitheater. At left, Music Director Rossen Milanov conducts the CSO while Tina Benko, a Chautauqua Theater Company Guest Artist this summer, narrates. The CSO is the first orchestra to present the English-language version of *Land of Silence* — a symphonic fairy tale in the tradition of Prokofiev and Saint-Saëns.

Scalzo to encourage perseverance above conflict

KAITLYN FINCHLER
STAFF WRITER

Most people would consider themselves conflict-averse. However, there's no progression or energy without tension, as prose writer-in-residence Laura Scalzo sees it, and the craft of writing goes hand in hand with conflict.

Scalzo will deliver her Brown Bag lecture, "Without Contraries is No Progression," at 12:15 p.m. today on the front porch of the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall.

"What I want to talk about is that if we call conflict, 'the energy of opposites,' that feels a little more interesting or easier, or a little more enlightened than just conflict," she said.

Comparable to writing a seventh-grade essay, building blocks of making a story include the beginning, rising action, climax and falling action. In this style, writers often turn to a for-

mulaic outline but don't see the conflict as a positive element to the story.

Scalzo's great-grandmother, Helen Bentley, had a house in Chautauqua in the early 1920s, and moved to Point Chautauqua in 1927, where Scalzo spent the majority of her summers as a child.

Her book *American Acadia* has "a lot of water imagery" and serves as an ode to Chautauqua County, without it being directly about the area.

"(*American Acadia*) is about having experienced Western New York, which to me is the most beautiful and magical and extraordinary place that I know," Scalzo said.

In an effort to make more connections with Chautauquans, Scalzo said she's hoping to tie in conflict in literature with the Chautauqua Lecture Series' theme, "Games: A Celebration of

Our Most Human Pastime."

Everyone, Scalzo said, is naturally built for another human pastime: storytelling.

"That story is how we understand our world and our lives," she said. "That's why so many people have a deep desire to participate in the telling of a story that they either observed, their own story or that they've imagined."

Throughout week, Scalzo has led a workshop for the Writers' Center titled "Free Write: The Joy of Discovery," where she helped writers "embrace the exhilaration of words on a page."

"I really believe that writing is all the same across all genres," she said. "(The writer) is trying to get at the truth and ... tell it in an authentic way."

Although common, Scalzo said there's talk of "a demise in English literature majors." Her suggestion to counter this is for people to "take in, evolve and elevate" them-



SCALZO

selves to understand stories better.

"Maybe you're reading a novel and you understand yourself better, or feel some connection," Scalzo said. "Or (if) someone else has said something that has troubled you and then you have some clarity through their work ... that's the most powerful thing that we can do."

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Friday at the CINEMA

Friday, July 7

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: HONOR AMONG THIEVES - 5:30 Chris Pine, Michelle Rodriguez and Hugh Grant star in this ebullient adventure based on the iconic role-playing game. "It's at once cheesy and charming, synthetic and spectacular, cozily derivative and rambunctiously inventive, a processed piece of junk-culture joy that, by the end, may bring a tear to your eye." -*Owen Gleiberman, Variety* "Has no business being as good as it is." -*Johnny Oleksinski, New York Post* (PG-13, 134m)

SISU - 8:45 During the last desperate days of WWII, a solitary prospector (Jorma Tommila) crosses paths with Nazis on a scorched-earth retreat in northern Finland. When the Nazis steal his gold, they quickly discover that they have just tangled with no ordinary miner. "Could end up taking the gore-splattered crown as the most satisfying, over-the-top violent action movie of the summer." -*Oliver Jones, Observer* "Never less than hilarious and gruesome." -*Richard Whittaker, Austin Chronicle* (R, 91m, In Finnish with subtitles)

RELIGION

To receive mercy, says Jacque, forgive as you have been forgiven

“Sorry! calls itself a sweet game of revenge,” said the Rev. Zina Jacque at the 9:15 am Thursday morning worship service in the Amphitheater. The title of her sermon was “Sorry,” and the scriptures were 2 Kings 1:9-10 and Luke 9:51-56.

In the game of Sorry!, each player has four tokens to move around the board to get back to their home square. If someone else lands on an occupied square, the new player knocks the other player back to the start, hence “Sorry!”

“Revenge is as old as humankind,” Jacque said. “Its history began before courts as a way to say ‘Don’t mess with me, don’t come this way again.’ Revenge is an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”

Humans may even be hard-wired for revenge, whether to teach someone a lesson before language; to save face; to get even; or to get power.

In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus is going to Jerusalem but had to go through Samaritan territory to get there. The bad blood between Jews and Samaritans began after the reign of Solomon. The kingdom of David split and 10 of the tribes of Israel formed the northern kingdom and two of them formed the southern kingdom. They never came together again. “They were the Hatfields and McCoy’s of ancient times,” she said.

James and John reacted to the hostility of the Samaritans by asking Jesus if they should call down fire from heaven on the Samaritans. Jesus rebuked them. Their request harkened back to a story about Elijah.

In 2 Kings, King Ahaziah fell through the roof of his palace and sent messengers to Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, to ask if he would recover. An angel spoke to Elijah, who told him to intercept the messengers and ask, “Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?” Elijah told them to tell Ahaziah he would die.

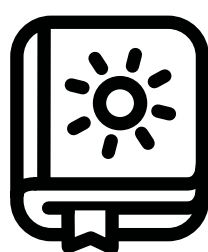
The messengers returned and delivered the message. The king sent a company of 50 men to Elijah and the captain said, “Oh, man of God, the king says to come down.” Elijah responded, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down and consume you and your 50.” The fire did come down and consume them.

The king sent another 50 men and the same thing happened. The king sent a third group. This time the captain fell on his knees and asked Elijah to let his life and the lives of his men be precious in Elijah’s sight. An angel told Elijah that he could trust the captain and to go down with him.

“James and John knew this story and when the Samaritans blocked Jesus’ path to Jerusalem they asked if they should call down fire on these people,” Jacque said. “The Vulgate translation adds a verse after Jesus rebukes them. He says, ‘Don’t you know the spirit you are from?’”

She continued, “We are not from the spirit that poisons, that puts hate in our hearts, that calls down fire. Revenge makes you feel worse; it makes you feel decrepit in your soul and it might backfire. Two wrongs don’t make one right.”

Jacque shared the story of Mary Johnson and Oshea Israel. In 1993, Israel was at a party and got into a fight that ended when he shot Johnson’s only son, Laramiun Byrd. Israel served 15 years in prison. Johnson went to visit him after about 12 years.



MORNING WORSHIP

COLUMN BY MARY LEE TALBOT



Have you made room in your heart to drop what burdens you? Have you made a space for love, to forgive as you have been forgiven?”

—THE REV. ZINA JACQUE
Chaplain-in-Residence,
Chautauqua Institution

Johnson had been to the trial and she wanted to see if Israel was the same person he was as a 16-year-old. She talked to him about her son and Byrd became a real person to Israel. When Johnson hugged Israel as she was leaving the prison, she thought to herself, “I just hugged the man who murdered my son.”

Johnson realized at that moment she had dropped all the hurt and anger she had been carrying. They now live beside each other and call each other “Mom” and “Son.” She is looking forward to seeing him graduate from college and maybe someday get married.

Jacque made the gesture sometimes called “mic drop,” opening her hand and letting go. “We are called to forgive, to release, let go, to take all the baggage of what has been done to you and put it down,” she said. “To forgive is an antidote to revenge. You are no longer carrying what is slowly killing you.”

To forgive does not mean to forget, but to remember and learn. “Have you made room in your heart to drop what burdens you?” she asked the congregation. “Have you made a space for love, to forgive as you have been forgiven? There is a quid pro quo in the Lord’s Prayer. When we are able to forgive, we make space for God to pour forgiveness into us.”

James and John thought they were right, but “when we hold on to revenge and believe we are right, we set boundaries on sinking sand,” Jacque said. “We have to let go so there is room for grace, so we can be part of the healing.”

She asked the congregation, “What baggage are you holding? What have you been holding onto that is weighing you down with anxiety, what you did wrong for which you can’t forgive yourself?”

God is a God of grace, and grace comes to us un-



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Rev. Zina Jacque, assistant to the pastor for small groups at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, opens her Week Two sermon series on Sunday in the Amphitheater.

deserved. God’s mercy is when we don’t get what we deserve. “God has so far removed our pain that we can forgive, be redeemed and be restored,” she said.

Jacque continued, “Do you believe it? Do you believe you are beloved of God, a child of God, washed clean? What game of revenge are you playing? Let go! God, let us know the truth by virtue of your forgiveness.”

The Rev. John Morgan, pastor of the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, presided. Willie La Favor, a member of the Motet Choir and chime master at the Miller Bell Tower, read the scriptures. The Motet Consort performed the prelude, “Trio for Flute, Oboe, and Piano,” (2023) by Joseph Musser. The consort featured Barbara Hois, flute; Rebecca Scarnati, oboe; and Joseph Musser, piano. The trio is dedicated to Ms. Hois and Ms. Scarnati. The anthem, performed by the Motet Choir, was “Verleih uns Frieden,” music by Felix Mendelssohn and words by Martin Luther. The choir was under the direction of Joshua Stafford, director of sacred music and Jared Jacobsen Chair for the Organist, and accompanied by Nicholas Stigall, organ scholar. Stigall played “Postlude on Lauda anima,” by Robert Powell, as the postlude. Support for this week’s chaplaincy and preaching is provided by the Harold F. Reed, Sr. Chaplaincy and the John William Tyrrell Endowment for Religion.

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11:40 AM
3:30 PM
5:05 PM
Departs Mayville: 8:30 AM
12:10 PM
4:35 PM
Departs Chautauqua Institution Chautauqua Main Gates to Chautauqua Mall:
7:45 AM
8:40 AM
12:20 PM
4:40 PM
Departs Mall: 11:20 AM
3:05 PM
4:45 PM
All Chautauqua Institution arrivals and departures are from the Information Center located at the main gate.
All Mayville leaving times are from the County Office Building.
Fares to Mayville are \$2.25 regular fare and \$1.75 Senior/Student/Disabled Fare if going beyond Mayville please call CARTS for fare.
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For more information call CARTS 1-800-388-6534

THE NOW GENERATION
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The Lewis Miller Circle recognizes Chautauquans ages 40 and under who demonstrate a commitment to building a stronger Chautauqua by making gifts of \$250 or more to the Chautauqua Fund.
Thank you to all Lewis Miller Circle members, including:
Jackie Goodell Mugnos and Marc Mugnos
Katrina Orlov
Colleen Zenczak

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FROM PAGE ONE

SWEENEY

FROM PAGE 1

Sweeney Todd has the second of its four-performance run at 4 p.m. today in Norton, with a cast led by Guest Artists Kevin Burdette, bass, who *The New York Times* once described as “the Robin Williams of opera” and dramatic mezzo-soprano Eve Gigliotti, lauded as an “incisive actress” by *Opera News*.

Those are key accolades for artists performing in a work that exists comfortably in both the world of opera and the world of musical theater – exactly what *Sweeney Todd* does.

“There is a complexity

to the layering, the transitions, the setting of the text, the underscoring of action, that – even though there are some quite long sections of dialogue, without music – it still lives and breathes in this very elevated, operatic musical world,” said Steve Osgood, Chautauqua Opera’s general and artistic director.

The compositional language that elevates the text, Osgood said, is not to be taken for granted in American musical theater.

“There is a world of very good, strong musical theater pieces, where the music provides a platform on which the text tells the story,” he said. “The opposite side of this is

an operatic musical setting, where the music elevates the text almost to the point where the music is telling the story. ... What *Sweeney Todd* does is marry the two.”

This afternoon’s performance is the first since the Institution announced Wednesday that Chautauqua Opera Company and Conservatory would shift to a workshop model for new pieces in 2025, with significant budget reductions planned in 2024. A community input session is scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday in Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall, to be held both in-person and on Zoom; it will be recorded and available for viewing for anyone not able to attend.



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chautauqua Opera Company Guest Artist Eve Gigliotti, as Mrs. Lovett, offers a pie to Guest Artist Kevin Burdette, as Sweeney Todd, during rehearsal last Wednesday.

NARAYANAN

FROM PAGE 1

The author or editor of seven books and numerous articles, chapters in books, and encyclopedia entries, Narayanan is associate editor of the five-volume *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Hinduism*.

Throughout her career, her research has been supported by grants and fellowships from organizations like the Centre for Khmer Studies; the American Council of Learned Societies; the National En-

dowment for the Humanities; and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, among many others.

In 2018, Narayanan spoke on “Creation, Recreation and the Joy of Play,” highlighting stories and games to indicate the importance of play in Hinduism.

She shared a story about Krishna, an incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu – a story that “evokes a sense of wonder, a sense of enchantment, enjoyment and engagement with life and creation itself,” Narayanan

said then. “All those who participate in the story are drawn to the wonder and playful nature of God.”

Narayanan also used her 2018 lecture to share the evolution of the classic childhood board game, “Chutes and Ladders” – a game that originated in India, where it was called “the ladder to the Supreme.” It’s a game of morals by design, originally with more snakes (chutes) than ladders to indicate “how much easier it is to slip down than it is to go up,” Narayanan said.

Western players made the game more child-friendly and more equitable – snakes became chutes, and there were an equal number of chutes and ladders. But the game still “signified the culture and idea that for every sin a person commits, there is an equal chance of redemption” and remained “aligned with the very life-affirming, happiness-invoking values of Hinduism. The traditional board game actually focused on the passage to salvation (and) how

to get there.”

One of Hinduism’s foundational texts describes God’s creation of the universe as a form of divine play. The idea is that God is not motivated by any kind of desire because he is not lacking anything. God, she said, is inherently playful.

“There is nothing you stand to gain for the creation, maintenance and destruction of the world; these come by sheer play,” she said.

The ultimate argument, Narayanan said in 2018, is that it is our destiny to

reach our own playful and supreme state of bliss – a liberation called “Moksha,” or the separation from the cycle of life and death.

“This comes with surrender or being in alignment with the ultimate power of the universe,” she told her audience then.

“When one has grace, one is no longer playing the music for will, for money, but to wind away the time, to play the music for the sheer enjoyment until that release comes.”

WEEK TWO PRESENTING SPONSORS



SNC

FROM PAGE 1

This is the group’s sixth time at Chautauqua, having previously performed in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016 and 2021.

“(There’s a) little something for everybody, whether you’re 8 years old or 80 years old,” vocalist Tyler Trepps told the *Daily* in 2021.

Moore said there’s one slight difference to this show: An “encouraged” dress code.

“Wear your pastels, because it’s the ‘Yacht Rock Tour,’” Moore said. “If you have a pastel (or) floral shirt, a sky-blue jacket or cream-colored boots, this is the time to bring them out.”

The group is also the founding force behind SNC Records, a label partnership with Warner Music Group’s Arts Music Division. Their EP *Open Bar*, featured the group’s favorite late-night songs, and was the first release on the label imprint.

“All we ever want to do with our music is provide joy for people through song,” Trepps is quoted as saying on Straight No Chaser’s website.

Moore said this is exemplified through the continual “exclamation point” excitement from the audience.

“Chautauquans love song and singing,” she said. “... This group just embodies joy and beautiful a cappella song,” she said.

Straight No Chaser’s vocalists don’t take themselves

too seriously on stage, and they try to “be in on the joke” with audiences, Morgan said in a 2022 *Hanover Theatre* blog post.

“We’ve done ... some songs by Adele and Taylor Swift,” Morgan told the *Hanover Theatre*. “We’ve had a lot of fun with the choreography and that sort of thing, where we want the audience to be clapping along, dancing along, laughing it up with us.”

Daily staffer Julia Weber contributed to this report.



The Chautauquan Daily

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SHORTZ

FROM PAGE 1

“Up until *Games*, the most prestigious crosswords appeared in the *Times*,” Shortz told *The New Yorker*. “But in my opinion, and the opinion of a lot of people, the *Times*’ crossword was stuffy. ... The average age of *Games* readers was in the thirties, so it had a different vibe.”

Currently, Shortz serves as crossword editor – enigmatologist – for *The New*

York *Times*. Shortz’s predecessor at the *Times*, Eugene T. Maleska, was 36 years his senior, and said he thinks he was “hired (in 1993) partly because of my youth.”

“I was the youngest crossword editor in the *Times*’ history,” Shortz told *The New Yorker*. “I think the person who hired me saw the coming changes in publishing and that it would be helpful to have someone who was a little computer-savvy and could adapt to the digital world.”

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.

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RELIGION

Shire outlines 3 ways Jewish tradition enables discovering depth through play

SARA TOTH
EDITOR

Any teacher knows that play is an important tool in the toolkit of education – even, or especially, in religious education.

When Christian theologian Jerome Berryman taught Rabbi Michael Shire a new way of playing, Shire knew he had to introduce a new methodology in the teaching of Jewish religious education.

“Godly Play is a method of playing with sacred story from our faith traditions. That’s the heart of faith formation and spiritual developments,” Shire said to open his presentation as part of the Interfaith Lecture Series Wednesday in the Hall of Philosophy, speaking to the theme of “A Spirit of Play.” “... (Torah Godly Play is a way to) enhance the spiritual development of children and adults through the telling, and the exploration, of sacred story.”

Shire, who is the academic director of Hebrew College’s Master of Jewish Education program, outlined Torah Godly Play as an approach centered on storytelling, combined with “natural artifacts carefully and intentionally included for spiritual resonance” – sand, wood, stone, clay. As an example, he brought with him a model of Noah’s Ark, perched on the podium alongside him.

Centering stories and playfulness allows for a “time of wandering and a creative exploration,” he said. “This encourages the heightened consciousness and enables the learner to make these sacred stories their own.”

It’s not about telling stories of faith to learn them, but to find meaning within, and hear the spiritual call of, those stories.

“Stories are a natural way to hear God’s call,” he said. “Playing with those stories is an inherently Jewish way to understand and respond. Drawing upon the Hebrew Bible, the Torah Godly Play invites children into the narrative while leaving room for wonder, creativity and imagination, as they build their own religious language, to express the curiosity as well as the conceptions of a divine presence in their lives.”

Play, Maria Montessori once said, is children’s work. But it’s not restricted to just children, Shire cautioned – play should be the work on anyone who is curious, at

any age. Judaism, in particular, has a “lively and interpretive tradition of actively interacting with its holy texts. ... Judaism loves playing with our texts, and using this play to discern their hidden meanings.”

Playfulness – long a part of religion, with its “make-believe and fancy dress” – is an expression of freedom, of agency, Shire said. Most importantly, play is conducted for its own sake. Rules are structured by the players themselves, and can be changed by those same players.

“This is very much how Judaism has structured its literary tradition and the work over centuries to play with the language of sacred text,” he said. “... Being curious about the way the world works, and its implications for making meaning is a key ingredient of Jewish life. But in order not to get too speculative, we keep ourselves grounded in the real world.”

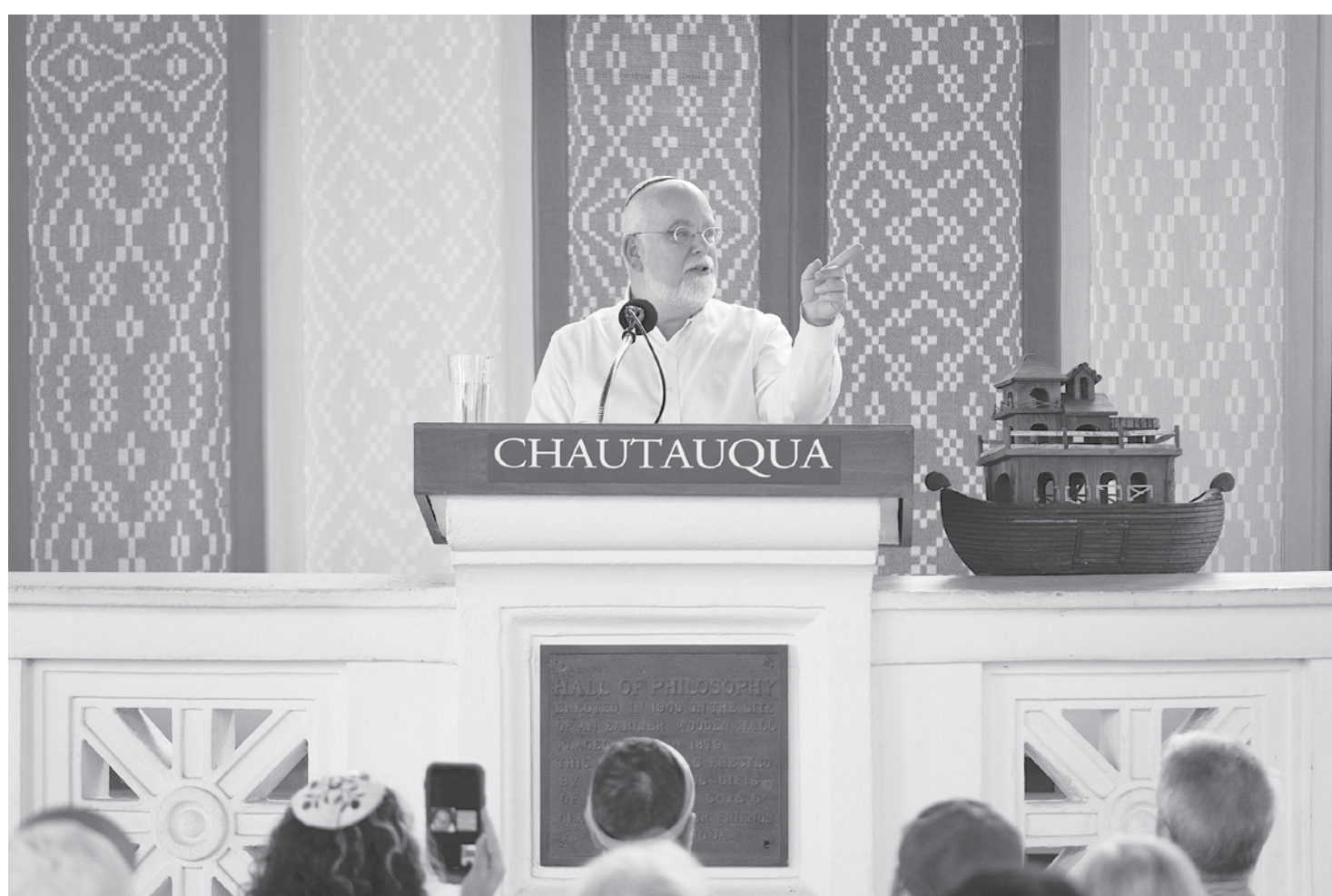
For that grounding, Shire shared three ways Judaism uses both the questioning of and playing with stories to find spiritual depth.

The first is through the literary device of the Midrash – “an interpretive and often playful commentary on the Torah. It fills in gaps in the text or extrapolates meaning to extend the biblical characters motivations.”

The second, Shire said, is “language play,” which encourages close readings of the text to glean implicit meanings. The first time that play is mentioned in the Hebrew Bible is when Isaac plays with his half-brother, Ishmael. Isaac’s mother Sarah views the children’s play as inappropriate – Ishmael is, after all, Hagar’s son. Sarah becomes cruel; her husband Abraham obeys; Hagar and Ishmael are banished.

“But then comes rescue from divine protection in the form of a well of water, and a promise that Ishmael will father a great people – but a separate people from Abraham, from Isaac,” Shire said. “The very story is a play on itself,” as Yitzchak, Shire reminded his audience, means laughter. Isaac’s name means to laugh.

“These children are playing. Yitzchak, laughter, and Ishmael, man of God, they just want to play together,” Shire said. “But the tragic circumstances of their parents,



Rabbi Michael Shire, academic director of Hebrew College’s Master of Jewish Education program, speaks about the spirit of play in Judaism’s faith tradition Wednesday in the Hall of Philosophy, part of the Interfaith Lecture Series theme, “A Spirit of Play.”

HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

of history, ... separate them and their legacies. The interactions between Isaac and Ishmael from then on – to this very day – results in division and conflict rather than play and laughter.”

The third way Judaism questions and plays with sacred story, Shire said, is through religious liturgy “that endeavors to lighten the darkness of Jewish history and religious persecution.” That endeavor is particularly pronounced in the festival of Purim, a “festival of merriments” celebrating the victory of Esther and Mordecai over Haman – an Achaemenid official intent on annihilating the Jewish people.

“The first recorded instance of anti-semitism is turned into a raucous play much to the merriment of young children,” Shire said.

Grown-ups know the darker side of these cele-

brations; but as children dressed as Cossacks celebrate alongside adults wearing visible signifiers of their Orthodox Jewish faith, Shire asked, “What could demonstrate the power of play more poignantly than dressing up as the very enemy who wanted to kill you?”

The “wonderful and joyous playing with sacred text, wrestling with God’s meaning for us, seeking to understand that our lack of control in our own lives, or the reasons for our pain and suffering, enables us to become authors of our own search for meaning,” Shire said.

It gives license to a range of reactions to both the good and bad in life, and play – structured but not necessarily goal-oriented, is “ideal for this kind of spiritual knowing,” Shire said. “It is available and accessible from the youngest learner to the very



Stories are a natural way to hear God’s call. Playing with those stories is an inherently Jewish way to understand and respond.”

—RABBI MICHAEL SHIRE

Academic Director,
Hebrew College’s Master of Jewish Education program

oldest and it is the foundation upon which to build self awareness and self awareness for ourselves and awareness for others on a lifelong journey of playful growth.”

For children, play comes naturally. Their innate curiosity and imagination, guided by Godly Play, lets them “author their own orientation to biblical story, side by side with trusted adults who wonder with the chil-

dren together,” Shire said. He concluded by asking his audience to continue to enjoy the spirit of play embedded in our religious faiths, ... in our stories, in our fanciful legends, in our texts, and our interpretations of them.”

In doing so, “we can pass on the vitality, the solace, the joy, the memory, the critical voice, and the spiritual sustenance that gives life to religious experience and faith.”

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Yesterday's answer

CHAUTAUQUA HISTORY



The Friday night concert in the Amphitheater Week 2 in 1979 was performed by Johnny Desmond and The Four Lads.

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Berglund-Weiss Fund provides for Shortz

The Berglund-Weiss Lectureship Fund provides support for Will Shortz's lecture at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater.

The Berglund-Weiss Lectureship Fund was established by Mary Berglund Weiss and her husband, Dr. Robert J. Weiss, MD, in 2009 through outright gifts to the Chautauqua Foundation for the purpose of enhancing the lecture program.

Dr. Weiss, who died in 2020, was an ophthalmologist for over 40 years in the Warren area. Mrs. Weiss is a Registered Nurse.

The Weisses were born and have lived most of their lives in Western Pennsylvania and Western New York and have shown a lifelong commitment to the area.

They have dedicated their time and resources to Warren County, Pennsylvania, with support to Warren General Hospital, Hospice of Warren County and The Cancer Care Center at Warren General Hospital.

The Weiss family has enjoyed spending summers at Chautauqua since 1985. Mary and Bob's children, Karen, Carl and Lauren, and their six grandchildren continue to visit the Institution and lake region to enjoy all that the area has to offer. The Weiss family plans to continue their support of the lecture program in the years to come in order to ensure that the unique and fulfilling opportunities available at Chautauqua remain available to future generations.

McCarthy Memorial Fund provides support for Narayanan's presentation

The Eugene Ross McCarthy Memorial Fund provides support for the Interfaith Lecture by Vasudha Narayanan at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy, as well as the Interfaith Lecture by Simran Jeet Singh on July 19.

The Joseph H. and Florence A. Roblee Foundation

of St. Louis established this lecture fund in tribute to Mr. McCarthy, who was born in Michigan in 1882. Raised in Auburn, New York, McCarthy spent most of his adult life in St. Louis, where he worked as executive vice president of the Brown Shoe Company. He was named vice chairman of the company's board upon his retirement at age 65. Following his full time business career, McCarthy served actively on behalf of the YMCA after World War II. McCarthy was a regular Chautauqua visitor. His daughters, the late Carol McCarthy Duhme and Marjorie McCarthy Robbins, were active at Chautauqua. Mrs. Duhme served as a trustee of Chautauqua from 1971 to 1979, and her husband, H. Richard Duhme, Jr., taught sculpture.

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King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/7

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/7



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LECTURE



JESS KSZOS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joseph C. Cyrulik, deputy director of the Strategic Futures Group at the National Intelligence Council, speaks on “Serious Games for Solving Serious Problems” Thursday in the Amphitheater.

Cyrulik gives rare insight into role of games in intelligence

ALTON NORTHUP
STAFF WRITER

Being an intelligence analyst, said Joseph C. Cyrulik, is as simple as doing a 2,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. Except, the box it came in has no picture; only 400 pieces are yours; each night someone adds 100 more pieces to your pile; and there is a deadline nobody told you about.

And if you mess up, bad things can happen: “In this case, the downfall of Western civilization,” Cyrulik said.

Games are crucial to his work as deputy director of the Strategic Futures Group, an office of the National Intelligence Council. He shared the history of games in intelligence – and his personal experience with them – in his lecture, “Serious Games for Solving Serious Problems,” at 10:45 a.m. Thursday in the Amphitheater to continue the Chautauqua Lecture Series Week Two theme, “Games: A Celebration of Our Most Human Pastime.”

As a child, Cyrulik had taken a liking to tabletop war games. His first game was the 1961 Civil War strategy game, Chancellorsville. When he finally had enough money to buy a game on his own, he chose The Third World War: Battle for Germany – a simulation of a war that never was between forces of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

In college, he upgraded his board games and joined his school’s Model European Union team. There, he met a professor who was using his childhood board games as tools in a course titled “Statecraft, War and Diplomacy.”

When he joined the intelligence community after

graduation, he also added games to his repertoire.

“I started using games as an analyst not because I like games – though I do – and not because they’re entertaining – though they are – but for the most important reason, which is they gave me information that I couldn’t get anywhere else,” he said. “Despite all the tools of the intelligence community, there are some things that only a game could provide.”

Games have long been used to inform intelligence, Cyrulik explained: In the 19th century, the Prussian General Staff developed Kriegsspiel, the first gaming system for use as a serious military tool.

The game was rooted in Prussian field marshal Helmuth von Moltke’s philosophy that “no plan survives first contact with the enemy” and consisted of two teams simulating a war with wooden blocks and a paper map. Players commanded their troops by writing their orders on paper and handing them to an umpire, who would execute their orders and determine the outcome through mathematical calculations.

As Prussia celebrated a surprising victory in the Franco-Prussian War, other countries started to consider the benefit of war games.

In the following decades, games would become an important factor of warfare. In the 1930s, the United States developed a series of Rainbow Plans, named for their color-coded system, that outlined strategies for a variety of hypothetical wars. Among them was a red plan for the United Kingdom, a black

plan for Germany and an orange plan for Japan.

War Plan Orange was regularly reviewed and rehearsed at the Naval War College in the lead up to World War II.

“What actually occurred in the war against Japan in the Pacific was, in its broad outlines, pretty close to the depiction of War Plan Orange,” Cyrulik said.

Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz agreed in a 1960 lecture, but said they had not foreseen the use of kamikaze tactics toward the end of the war. Cyrulik, not wanting to slight his predecessors, said that “if we used modern techniques and modern depictions of how we do war games today ... we would’ve gotten close.”

The previous techniques for gathering and piecing together intelligence were overhauled after blue-ribbon committees investigating the Sept. 11 attacks and invasion of Iraq found shortcomings in the intelligence process.

“(After Sept. 11,) the biggest criticisms were failure of imagination, and the way that was described is ‘the dots were there; we failed to connect them,’” Cyrulik said. “After Iraq, ... the failure was the exact opposite; there was perhaps too much imagination” when it came to non-existent weapons of mass destruction.

The CIA proposed developing new tools for analysts, including increasing the use and quality of games.

The primary games used by the federal government are serious games – such as war exercises at Fort Irwin to train soldiers – and analytic games that assess strategies, events and courses of action at an international level. Cyrulik works with analytic games.

“I don’t care who wins; I don’t care who loses,” he said. “What I care about is how we got there – what decisions you made along the way, and what happened from A to B – because that’s where the analysis takes place.”

The types of games intelligence officers use vary. There are stereotypical tabletop games with bright maps and moveable pieces, but also Red Team games where analysts react to U.S. actions from the enemy’s perspective. Most games, however, are seminar-style.

These games are designed to test future concepts and predict their outcomes. Sessions may have as many as 200 players and last for weeks.

“These are fundamentally human-centric games,” Cyrulik said. “Rather than the adjudication being the responsibility of a quantitative model, the adjudication in seminar games is really built around the qualitative interactions of teams of people.”

The human aspect of these games is invaluable, he said. By bringing together critical and creative minds, the intelligence community

can avoid rigid thinking that focuses only on the most probable outcomes.

The incorporation of naturalized officers – intelligence officers who grew up in another country but have since become U.S. citizens – has also helped in understanding the emotions and thoughts that occur when defending one’s culture. For example, intelligence groups focusing on Russia have several officers of Russian origin, which helps close past simulations’ gaps, such as those found in War Plan Orange.

“We use the best aspects of human nature and we leverage them to get a goal we want,” Cyrulik said.

The most important application of games in intelligence, he said, is making the unknowable known. While a spy can provide satellite images of an airfield, or find the location of Osama bin Laden, it is a mystery how countries will react to an event that has not happened yet.

“Games do spectacularly well at figuring out answers, or at least informing answers, to where we have

speculative questions with a profound lack of information available,” Cyrulik said.

Recently, President Joe Biden’s administration conducted a geo-engineering simulation. Geo-engineering is deliberate climate change, usually through the release of sulfur into the atmosphere. The goal of the simulation was to formulate an American response to a nation deploying this technology.

If such a situation eventually did happen, the U.S. response might differ from the plan, Cyrulik said. But at least the government won’t react blindly.

“Game after game, I can’t say that we have predicted the actual decisions of every adversary we played,” he said. “But we came to every decision point, and we’ve identified the key decision points. ... At the end of the day, they might go left instead of going right, but we’ll know where that turn is, and we’ll know the outcomes if they go either way. That’s where the value of gaming comes in.”

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PROGRAM

F FRIDAY JULY 7

- 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.** **Will Shortz**, enigmatologist; crossword editor, *The New York Times*. Amphitheater
- 11:00 (11–5:30) Chautauqua Crafts Alliance Festival. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Crafts Alliance.) Bestor Plaza.
- 11:00 (11–5) **Gallery Exhibitions Open.** Fowler-Kellogg Art Center and Strohl Art Center
- 12:00 (12–2) Flea Boutique. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women's Club.) Behind Colonnade
- 12:15 Challah Baking Class. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Writers' Center.) Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 12:15 **Prose Writer-in-Residence Brown Bag Lecture.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Writers' Center.) **Laura Scalzo**. Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Porch
- 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 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 **Jumu'ah Muslim Prayer.** Hall of Christ. Post Lecture Discussion. Stefanie Dunning, Professor of English, Miami University
- 12:30 **Post Lecture Discussion.** **Stephanie Dunning**, Professor of English, Miami University of Ohio. Smith Wilkes Hall
- 12:45 **Catholic Speaker Series.** "Surprised by Hope: Reflections on How to Live Simply in a Complex World!" The Rev. Anthony Ciorra, vice president, Mission Integration, Ministry and Cultural Affairs, professor of theology and Catholic Studies, Sacred Heart University.



JESS KSZOS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Justin Eichenger and Alli Chertack pay for their new-to-them treasures at the check-out table of the Chautauqua Women's Club Flea Boutique Wednesday behind the Colonnade.

- 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.** **Vasudha Narayanan**, distinguished professor, Department of Religion, University of Florida. Hall of Philosophy
- 2:00 **Operalogue.** (Programmed by Chautauqua Opera Company.) *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. Norton Hall
- 2:00 **School of Music Piano Student Recital.** Donations welcome. Sherwood Marsh 101
- 2:00 **School of Music Piano Student Recital.** Donations welcome. Sherwood Marsh 101
- 2:30 Mah Jongg. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women's Club.) Memberships available at the door. CWC House
- 3:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Episcopal Cottage
- 3:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) UU House
- 3:30 Finance Discussion. "Market Update: Where Do We Go From Here?" Alan R. Greenburg. Smith Memorial Library
- 4:00 **OPERA. Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.** Norton Hall
- 4:00 **School of Music Piano Student Recital.** Donations welcome. Sherwood Marsh 101
- 4:30 (4:30-5:30) Takeout Dinner. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women's Club.) Farmer Brown's BBQ Pulled Pork. Pre-Order Only. CWC House
- 5:00 Hebrew Congregation Evening Service. "Kabbalat Shabbat: Welcoming the Sabbath." Rabbi Samuel Stahl, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Beth El, San Antonio. Andrew Symons, Cantorial Soloist. 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
- 5:30 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 6:45 Community Shabbat Dinner. (Programmed by Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.) RSVP Required. Fee. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House

- 8:15 **AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL.** **Straight No Chaser: The Yacht Rock Tour.** Amphitheater
- 8:45 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Sisu" Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- cabanillas, soloist, Bruce Gingrich, organist. Kiddush lunch to follow. Hurlbut Church Sanctuary
- 10:30 **Adult Softball Practice.** Sharpe Field
- 11:00 (11–5:30) Chautauqua Crafts Alliance Festival. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Crafts Alliance.) Bestor Plaza.
- 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
- 1:00 **School of Music Piano Masterclass.** Alexander Kobrin. Donations accepted to benefit the School of Music Scholarship Fund. Sherwood Marsh Piano Studio
- 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
- 2:30 **THEATER. New Play Workshop.** Proximity. Bratton Theater
- 3:00 **Contemporary Issues Forum.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women's Club.) **Scarlett Lewis**, founder, Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement. Hall of Philosophy
- 3:00 **NFMC Scholarship Awardee Recital.** Fletcher Music Hall
- 4:15 **Chamber Music.** Resident Artist Series. **Chautauqua Trio.** Elizabeth S. Lenna 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
- 5:00 Contemporary Issues Forum Reception. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women's Club.) Scarlett Lewis. Open to the community. CWC House
- 5:30 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 8:15 **CHAUTAUQUA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.** Natalie Merchant with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. **Stuart Chafetz**, conductor. Amphitheater
- 9:00 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Sisu." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

Sa SATURDAY JULY 8

••• **79th Meeting at Chautauqua of the National Federation of Music Clubs – Northeast Region**

7:00 (7–11) **Chautauqua Farmers Market.** Massey and Miller

7:15 **Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program.** Leader: **Carol McKiernan** (Silent Meditation/Centering Prayer.) Hall of Philosophy

9:30 Chabad Jewish House Community Shabbat Service. Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House

9:45 Sabbath Morning Worship Service. Rabbi Samuel Stahl. Daniel

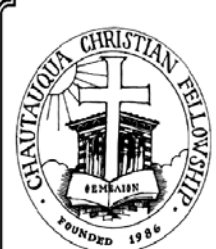
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I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders.

I will be glad and exult in Thee; I will sing praise to Thy name, O Most High.

Psalm 9: 1-2

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