

# The Chautauquan Daily

chqdaily.com  
Chautauqua, New York

WEEKEND EDITION, July 8 & 9, 2023 // THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION

\$2.25  
Volume CXLVI, Issue 13

## For Women's Club, Sandy Hook mother Lewis to put forth courageous solutions to school-safety crisis

**DEBORAH TREFTS**  
STAFF WRITER

When *Forbes* chose Scarlett Lewis as one of its inaugural 2021 class of "50 Over 50," she had by then already accrued more than 20 meaningful awards in a very short period. At least six were awarded in 2019 alone.

When she was named to the list of outstanding female social entrepreneurs, leaders, scientists and creators making their biggest impact after the age of 50, she had garnered several honors many Chautauquans hold in particularly high esteem.

For example, for her work as an architect of change, Lewis earned the Common Ground Award and Hero of Forgiveness honor in 2014; the Character and Courage Award in 2018; the Global Presence Humanitarian, Charles Eliot, and Mindful Family awards in 2019; the Unsung Hero and Peace Hero awards in 2020.

At 3 p.m. Saturday in the Hall of Philosophy, as part of the Chautauqua Women's Club's Contemporary Issues Forum series, Lewis will present a talk titled, "Choose Love Movement: Be Part of the Solution."

Many people living well beyond the borders of Connecticut can recall where they were on Dec. 14, 2012, when they first heard of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

As can Lewis, each and every day since, because her 6-year-old son, Jesse, along with 19 other first-graders and six educators, were murdered during the deadliest of America's ongoing epidemic of school shootings.

Jesse had yelled "RUN!" to his classmates when there was a pause in the shooting.

Lewis understood, and rapidly began embodying, the spirit of the words that her little boy had written, phonetically, on their kitchen chalkboard a few days earlier: "Nurting Helinn Love" – Nurture Healing Love.

It is this message – personifying the saying, "Out of the mouths of babes!" – that she has been spreading throughout the United States and the world for



**LEWIS**

more than a decade.

"I wouldn't be doing this if my son hadn't been murdered," Lewis said. "I'm taking responsibility for my own life, and community and service. It's so important."

It is probable that she also wouldn't be doing this had she not spent over two decades immersing herself in challenging jobs, situations and life experiences.

In 1990, Lewis earned a bachelor's degree in communications at Boston University because she wanted to be a journalist. She said she loved writing, and she started out as the editorial assistant and assignment writer at the *Greenwich Times Newspaper* in Greenwich, Connecticut.

"Because my dad was always talking to me about needing to support myself," she left the paper and went to work in the municipal arbitrage department of Greenwich Capital Markets.

"My dad was there, after he worked for Solomon Brothers," she said. "He created this department, and he said, 'I've done well with this and you'll be able to support yourself.' (The work) was fascinating."

Lewis decided to move from Greenwich to Fayetteville, in northwest Arkansas – where she'd been born and many in her extended family still lived – to join Llama, an investment company founded in 1988 by Alice Walton.

As it happens, her grandfather – Herbert "Buck" Lewis – was the bank president who gave Alice Walton's father, Walmart founder Sam Walton, his first loan of \$50,000.

See **LEWIS**, Page A5



"I'm taking responsibility for my own life, and community and service. It's so important."

**—SCARLETT LEWIS**

Founder, Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement

WITH ENERGY



**MERCHANT**

AND VITALITY



**JESS KSZOS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Principal Pops Conductor Stuart Chafetz leads the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra in the Fourth of July concert in the Amphitheater. The CSO and Chafetz perform at 8:15 p.m. Saturday in the Amp, with singer-songwriter Natalie Merchant.

*Jamestown native Merchant to perform songs from latest album with CSO*

**SARAH RUSSO**  
STAFF WRITER

Not only does Chautauqua County hold a special place for singer-songwriter Natalie Merchant as a Jamestown native – Chautauqua Institution was the first exposure she had to orchestral music.

She said it is a "thrill" to be able to perform again on the same stage, for the first time in 10 years, that she admired as a child.

"My mother would take me to the symphony

all the time," Merchant said. "Just sitting on those yellow benches, my little heart exploding with emotion ... from the time I was 7 'til probably 20."

Under the baton of Principal Pops Conductor Stuart Chafetz, Merchant will join the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra at 8:15 p.m. Saturday in the Amp.

See **MERCHANT**, Page A4

## Presa to offer a balm to hurting world

**MARY LEE TALBOT**  
STAFF WRITER

"Our world is hurting and I want to offer ways the scriptures describe blessings from God," said the Rev. Neal D. Presa, who will serve as chaplain at Chautauqua for Week Three. "No matter what people are struggling with, we can trust in God who abides in us. And as we bless others, God blesses that action too." This is Presa's first visit to Chautauqua.

Presa will preach at the 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning worship service in the Amphitheater. His sermon series is titled "Healing Words for a Hurting World: Blessings/Benedictions," and the Sunday sermon is titled "And What Then, And For What?"

His sermons will use readings from Hebrew scriptures for three sermons and Christian scriptures for three sermons. He will preach at the 9:15 a.m. Monday through Friday



**PRESA**

morning worship services in the Amp, and his sermon titles include "Selah," "Control+Alt+Delete/Command+Shift+ESC," "Hello," "God is Able" and "Here But Not Yet."

Presa recently attended the World Council of Churches Central Committee meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

"The world is hurting. In our own country we have a mental health crisis, po-



There is a balm in Gilead; there is a timeless good word and benediction. We can adopt the ancient wisdom, the ageless wisdom, for ourselves and all of us. Even at Chautauqua, this wisdom can be an agent of healing."

**—THE REV. NEAL D. PRESA**

Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship, New Brunswick Theological Seminary

larization, violence and a media that accelerates the volume and velocity of the pain," he said. "I was glad at the WCC Central Committee meeting that we could express solidarity with so many hurting places. The world is so fragile."

He continued, "There is a balm in Gilead; there is a timeless good word and benediction. We can adopt the ancient wisdom, the ageless wisdom, for ourselves and all of us. Even at

Chautauqua, this wisdom can be an agent of healing."

Presa is a Filipino/Pacific Islander/American pastor and theologian of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) serving remotely as the vice president of student affairs and vocational outreach and associate professor of preaching and worship at New Brunswick Theological Seminary at the New Jersey and New York sites.

See **PRESA**, Page A4

### IN TODAY'S DAILY



#### USING YOUR BRAIN TO PLAY

'New York Times' crossword editor Shortz closes week with celebration, history of his craft.

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#### CREATIVITY & 'PROXIMITY'

Chautauqua Theater Company launches season, NPW series, with staged readings this weekend.

Page B2



#### 'HERE I AM, SEND ME'

Jacque wraps sermons with reminder: In jigsaw puzzle of life, do your part; don't worry about the rest.

Page C2

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**SATURDAY'S WEATHER**  

 H **76°** L **63°**  
 Rain: **20%**  
 Sunset: **8:55 p.m.**

**SUNDAY**  

 H **73°** L **62°**  
 Rain: **60%**  
 Sunrise: **5:49 a.m.** Sunset: **8:55 p.m.**

**MONDAY**  

 H **78°** L **61°**  
 Rain: **20%**  
 Sunrise: **5:50 a.m.** Sunset: **8:55 p.m.**

# ENTERTAINMENT



## BRIEFLY

NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS

### United Methodist House Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the United Methodist House will take place at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the House. All United Methodists and others who have made recorded contributions to the House in the last year are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and offer their opinions on matters affecting therein.

### CLSC Class of 2000 news

The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Class of 2000 will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday for a free lunch in the dining room of the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall. RSVP to Ellen Chamberlin at 440-346-4498.

### CLSC Class of 2004 news

The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Class of 2004 will gather at the home of Bonnye and Larry Roose at 6 p.m. Wednesday at 23 Janes for a potluck supper. Bring a side dish or dessert if you are able. Bonnye and Larry will provide the main course.

### Breakfast at Wimbledon

All are welcome to view the Wimbledon Championships men's and women's finals on TV from 9 a.m. to noon this coming Friday and Saturday at Sports Club. Complimentary strawberries and cream, coffee, and cookies will be served.

### Chautauqua Women's Club news

A reception with Contemporary Issues Forum speaker Scarlett Lewis will be held after the forum at 5 p.m. Saturday at the CWC House. The reception is free to the community with limited capacity. Artists at the Market will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Chautauqua Farmer's Market. The Flea Boutique is open from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday behind the Colonnade.

### Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra league news

Join our after-concert reception Tuesday at the Athenaeum Hotel honoring the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra's Diversity Fellows. These receptions are provided by League members and memberships are available at the door. Join CSO members for food, spirits and conversation. Enjoy a Pre-Concert Lecture at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday in Hultquist Center, featuring David B. Levy with a CSO musician guest.

### Chautauqua Dialogues welcomes new facilitators

Join the Chautauqua Dialogues as a facilitator. Chautauqua Dialogues provides an opportunity for Chautauquans to have meaningful engagement and conversation within the context of the Chautauqua weekly theme in an informal and small group setting led by a trained facilitator. Nineteen sessions will be offered every week this season. For information, contact [rogerdoebke@me.com](mailto:rogerdoebke@me.com).

### African American Heritage House Sunday Porch Chat

Join the African American Heritage House (AAHH) staff from 1 to 2:30 p.m. for a Sunday Porch Chat at the Athenaeum Hotel. This time is full of honest, vibrant conversations on topics that attendees choose. Light refreshments are served; some bring a brown bag.

### Sports Club news

Drop-in games of canasta at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Sports Club. Contact Susan Diner at 727-642-8690 for more information.

### Shirley Lazarus Speaker Series

The Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua will begin the 2023 Shirley Lazarus Sunday Evening Speaker Series, "Sundays Together: What We DO Matters" from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Sunday in Smith Wilkes Hall. The program will include a viewing of the 2023 Academy Award-nominated short documentary, "Stranger at the Gate," and a subsequent discussion led by Joshua Seftel, producer of the film, who will be joining via Zoom. All members of the Chautauqua community are cordially invited.

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KRISTEN TRIPLETT / DAILY FILE PHOTO

Doktor Kaboom! brings audience member Anderson Birkett on stage for an experiment on Aug. 3, 2021, in the Amphitheater. The good Doktor returns to Chautauqua with a performance at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the Amp.

# Catapults, vortexes and big laughs, oh my!

## Doktor Kaboom! returns with educational, explosive comedy

MARIIA NOVOSELIA  
STAFF WRITER

What do you get when you mix science and comedy? Kaboom! Or, Doktor Kaboom! that is.

"Doktor Kaboom! is a German scientist who has an over-the-top passion for both the subject and the audience," said David Epley, who created the character more than a decade ago with a mission to change the way people view science.

He will perform a comedic routine full of science demonstrations at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the Amphitheater as part of the Family Entertainment Series.

Epley said his shows always include "a lot of character-driven improvisation" and interaction between the exuberant Doktor and the audience. One of the props — or scientific utensils, if you will — that Doktor Kaboom! will employ in his show is a vortex generator that used to be a 55-gallon drum. Another, which he calls his favorite experiment, involves a catapult, testing the hypothesis that "the catapult was not invented for war, but as a way to

feed people."

To test it, as with many of his experiments, he invites a child onstage. Making them "the hero of the moment" is how Epley implements personal empowerment into his shows.

"I look for any opportunity to teach children to speak well of themselves, to think well of themselves and to understand that science is for everybody," he said.

Epley said he had initially made a promise not to do routines that he thought were "too common." Yet, he soon realized a significant number of people have not seen "the most basic of science demonstrations" they have read about them, but not carried the experiments out themselves. This, he said, may be because "culturally, we believe that science is only for certain people," which is damaging. While some may believe that science is hard, Epley disagrees. He said it takes effort.

"We've started thinking ... as things have become easier and easier, that if we have to work at something that means it's difficult. ... I think that just means it's worth doing," he said.

The props Dr. Kaboom! uses in his shows are all made by the doctor himself, by hand. One of Epley's ambitions is to make people want to redo the experiments on their own.

"Science is like Shakespeare — it's not meant to be read; it's meant to be done," he said.



DAVID EPLEY, AKA DOKTOR KABOOM!

Through interactions on Facebook, where he usually connects with audiences after his shows, Epley said he has learned that a lot of children and their parents try out his experiments, with some creating their own routines and others dressing up as Dr. Kaboom! for Halloween.

One of the features that makes Dr. Kaboom! stand out is his German accent. Epley said when he first began

performing 16 years ago, he wanted the character to be "bigger than life," more memorable than Epley himself.

Nothing "jumped out as energetic and huge" as a German-sounding scientist, he said. Since that time, countless exclamations of "Ja!" and "Kaboom!" are an indispensable part of his show.

Epley said Dr. Kaboom! was inspired by three people: 1950s kids' TV host Mr. Wizard, Mister Rogers who taught people "how to be decent human beings, or how to remember to be human beings," and his high-school physics professor at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.

It was there where Epley nurtured his passion for science with a bit of whimsy, since the campus had the internet "before the internet" and the mascot was a unicorn.

Being Dr. Kaboom! and teaching science through comedy has been the most fulfilling work he has ever done.

Just like science, comedy is also for everyone, not just for kids.

"I will make sure that everybody who comes to my show will laugh and learn something," Epley said.

## Weekend at the CINEMA

Saturday, July 8

**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 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. "Never less than hilarious and gruesome."  
-Richard Whittaker, Austin Chronicle (R, 91m, In Finnish with subtitles)

Sunday, July 9

DUNGEONS... - 2:15 & 5:30  
SISU - 8:45

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# NEWS



DYLAN TOWNSEND / DAILY FILE PHOTO

STANTEC environmental engineers Amanda Stone and Dan Allen tow an advanced buoy, equipped with technology to gather weather and lake health data, on July 20, 2022, on Chautauqua Lake. The Jefferson Project at Chautauqua Lake monitors water quality and harmful algae blooms, collecting information to develop a better understanding of how human activity affects bodies of fresh water.

## Institution announces \$6 million in Climate Change Initiative funding, named directorship

Chautauqua Institution on Friday announced \$6 million in philanthropic commitments to bolster its Climate Change Initiative, including the naming of the Peter Nosler Director of Climate Change in honor of one of the Chautauquans whose gifts made those commitments possible. This recognition follows a \$3 million challenge grant and a complementary gift made to the Institution's Climate Change Initiative by the Batten family of Norfolk, Virginia, and the family of Peter Nosler, of Carmel, California. These gifts provide key funding to ensure Chautauqua Institution's work to advance climate solutions globally and at home in Chautauqua County continues far into the future.

"The Batten family, and Peter and his wife Julie Veitch, provided key support in the creation of our Climate Change Initiative," said Chautauqua Institution President Michael E. Hill. "We are delighted that their collective generosity will provide a permanent endowment for the leadership of this program. Peter was the first to suggest that Chautauqua Institution commit to being a leader

in conversations regarding climate change, and we are thrilled that his name will be assigned to the director's role. We are so grateful to the Batten family and Peter's family for these transformative commitments."

The Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative was established in 2021 to harness the Institution's convening authority to promote discussion, facilitate programming and inspire action on climate change. Under the leadership of Mark Wenzler, the Institution's inaugural Peter Nosler Director of Chautauqua's Climate Change Initiative, the Institution has produced dozens of lectures, roundtables, video resources and other events to address its goals. Additionally, Chautauqua Institution has partnered with the w Project – a collaboration of IBM Research, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the Lake George Association – to implement one of the most advanced lake science research efforts in the United States, focused on identifying ecological challenges facing Chautauqua Lake and developing data to inform solutions.

In addition to the \$3 million challenge grant provided

by the Batten family, Jane Batten has also provided key support for the "Washed Ashore – Art to Save the Sea" installation, on display throughout Chautauqua's grounds through October 2023. The exhibit consists of 14 elaborate sculptures that represent marine life affected by plastic pollution. The sculptures are made by artisans who use debris that have washed up on beaches around the world. Mixing art and science, the exhibit aims to promote awareness of plastic's environmental impact and encourage plas-

tics reduction and recycling. Admission to the grounds is free outside of the summer season (June 24 – Aug. 27), as well as on Sundays in-season; on July 20 for Chautauqua County residents (Chautauqua County Day); and on Aug. 8 for Buffalo area residents (Buffalo Day).

Jane Parke Batten is a Virginia philanthropist with a strong interest in education and the environment. Peter Nosler is a co-founder of DPR Construction, a multi-billion-dollar company based in Redwood City, California. The company has been a

leader in building Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified (LEED) corporate buildings. Nosler also serves on the DPR Foundation board, which supports organizations that help under-resourced youth. In November 2015, DPR's three

co-founders were honored by the *San Francisco Business Times* with a Most-Admired CEO award. He lives in Carmel, California.

For more information about Chautauqua Institution's Climate Change Initiative, visit [climate.chq.org](http://climate.chq.org).

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## FROM PAGE ONE

## MERCHANT

FROM PAGE A1

Released in April, Merchant's newest album, *Keep Your Courage*, features many songs with orchestral arrangements. And Merchant is no stranger to orchestras. She played her first show like this back in 2008 with the Boston Symphony and has since performed nearly 80 shows with orchestras.

Merchant said she wants to be "faithful to the record" and perform with symphonies as much as possible. And when she's not doing that, she's performing with her own string quartet.

When she was 17 and a student at Jamestown Community College, Merchant joined a band that went on to become 10,000 Maniacs. The group released four top 50 albums before Merchant left in 1995 to begin a solo career, which has included numerous accolades and awards including Billboard Hot 100 hits and multiple platinum records. But she said it has all led up to this moment and, *Keep Your Courage*, her eighth studio album, might be the best work she's done yet.

"I feel like this album and this tour is the culmination of 40 years of experience as a songwriter, as a recording artist, as a performer," Merchant said. "I feel like

I'm kind of at the height of my skills. ... I still have lots of energy and vitality."

Saturday's performance will feature new songs from *Keep Your Courage* and "gorgeous arrangements" played by the CSO. Merchant hopes the audience will be inspired by the program.

"Even if people are familiar with the material, I think the way that the arrangements are constructed, there are just many passages that are just achingly beautiful," Merchant said. "If you do know the music, then the combination of the words and the music will be very moving."

Deborah Sunya Moore, senior vice president and chief program officer at Chautauqua, said Merchant's cerebral approach to songwriting should appeal to Chautauquans.

"She's just a perfect match for Chautauqua: A really sensitive songwriter, a beautiful musician and someone that's also very committed to social justice, making the world a better place," Moore said. "Hearing that all on stage is going to be spectacular."

While the set list for the performance is a surprise, Moore said songs from *Keep Your Courage*, such as "Sister Tilly," showcases the singer-songwriter's thoughtful approach, encouraging con-

certgoers to "think beyond ourselves, to think about what they went through for us and how we live that out and how we can celebrate their lives."

In 2018, while Merchant was in London, she was diagnosed with a degenerative spinal disease and needed to have emergency surgery. The six-hour operation involved making an incision below her throat and shunting her vocal cords to the side while surgeons removed three bones from her spine. Once Merchant was awake from the surgery, she discovered she could no longer sing.

"It took me to a place of panic," Merchant told *The Guardian* in an interview in April. "It made me wish I had made more records."

Luckily for Merchant, singing has become just one of many passions in her life. She has also worked for more than three years fighting fracking across New York State and made a protest film about it. Merchant also spent a full year working on domestic violence issues in the Hudson Valley, producing and directing a film about that as well. She also curated a 10-disc box set and recorded a collection of songs based on old poems.

Through it all, she has been raising her teenage daughter as a single mother. Writing new music and

“

Even if people are familiar with the material, I think the way that the arrangements are constructed, there are just many passages that are just achingly beautiful. If you do know the music, then the combination of the words and the music will be very moving."

—NATALIE MERCHANT

touring was not necessarily at the top of her to-do list.

"The reason I didn't do a lot of original writing was I require a lot of solitude and usually in a very foul mood," Merchant said. "When I have to write, it takes just a lot of focus, and I have to put myself into a self-induced trance to really do the kind of writing that I want to do. Once my daughter was off to college, I had the time and space to both write the record and record it and now tour."

During the pandemic, when Merchant wasn't able to sing, a close friend gave her a book of narrative poetry called *The Long Take* by Scottish poet Robin Robertson.

"I remember opening the book, reading the first chapter and writing to him immediately," Merchant told *The Guardian*. "I then sent him a copy of my box set, he sent me some of his other books, and I just fell in love with language again."

es and the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

Jersey and California.

As a national and global ecumenical leader, he presently serves on both the Central Committee and Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, where he is the moderator of the finance policy committee and serves on the Strategic Planning Advisory Group to the General Secretary. He is the co-vice chair of the current round of bilateral dialogues between the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He was the convener of the Caribbean and North American Area Council for both the World Alliance of Reformed Church-

He is the immediate past chair of the board of trustees of the Presbyterian Foundation, the oldest religious philanthropic foundation with \$2 billion in assets under management and annually disbursing about \$93 million to support mission and ministries in the United States and around the world. In 2012, he was elected the moderator of the 220th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

He is the author/editor of nine books and many book chapters and essays,

“

No matter what people are struggling with, we can trust in God who abides in us. And as we bless others, God blesses that action too."

—THE REV. NEAL D. PRESA

Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship,  
New Brunswick Theological Seminary

including the forthcoming *Worship, Justice, and Joy: A Liturgical Pilgrimage* from Cascade Books.

He holds master's and doctoral degrees in philosophy from Drew University; a master's degree in theology from Princeton Theological Seminary; a master's degree in divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary;

a bachelor of arts degree from the University of California, Davis; and a graduate certificate in project management from Missouri State University. He is a candidate for the master of professional studies at Missouri State University.

He and his family live in Carlsbad, California. His wife and two sons will accompany him to Chautauqua.



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Fax number	716-357-9694

Published by Chautauqua Institution, P.O. Box 1095, Chautauqua, N.Y. 14722, daily, Monday through Saturday, for a period of nine weeks, June 24 through August 26, 2023. The Institution is a not-for-profit organization, incorporated and chartered under the laws of the state of New York.

Entered at periodical rate, July 11, 1907, at the post office at Chautauqua, N.Y., under the act of 1870: ISSN 0746-0414.

55 issues; home delivery by carrier, \$78.75; mail, \$128.25.  
Postal regulations require that mail subscriptions be paid in advance.

Chautauqua Institution is a non-profit organization, dependent upon your gifts to fulfill its mission. Gate tickets and other revenue cover only a portion of the cost of your Chautauqua experience. Your gifts make our mission possible. giving.chq.org

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# FROM PAGE ONE

## LEWIS

FROM PAGE A1

"While I was there, I opened the municipal arbitration desk and worked on the sales desk," Lewis said. "I worked on the trading desk buying bonds so the traders could sell them to their clients."

When she was still a "20-something," she then began working in Llana's investment banking department. Tasked with translating concepts to audiences distrustful of an investment firm, she said the concepts were complex for her, but she knew they were meaningful.

First, however, Llana put her through Dale Carnegie's professional development training.

"My boss would send me out into the smaller communities to community events," she said. "(Bonds are used) to finance public improvement projects and schools. I held public forums one week before the vote. I would go through the benefits, reasoning and numbers, and answer questions. I made some friendships, but it was way outside my comfort zone."

Preferring to be closer to her mother and three brothers, who all lived in Connecticut, Lewis moved north to cover the New England territory for OptiMark Technologies, a company developing a super-computer driven, anonymous and confidential - "black box" - trading system.

In 1998, "in the middle of nowhere," Lewis found a small farm and farmhouse the back way, driving down a dirt road in northern Connecticut.

"An inspector pointed out what needed work," she said. "My mom said the house has been standing since before the founding of America. ... My stepfather was a real estate agent. I just knew it was going to be mine, but ... I needed to get the finance in order. Then someone with a trust fund bought it with cash, and I flung myself on my bed."

A month later, said Lewis, the sale fell through because the trust would not release the cash. There was a bidding war, she paid \$1,000 more than the other person, and the little farmhouse in Sandy Hook was hers.

"I just had to have that house," Lewis said. "Then, after the murder - (I thought) if I hadn't gotten that house, my son wouldn't have been murdered. But, I don't do that; I don't go there."

As the sole provider for

Jesse and his brother, JT, and the owner of a farm with horses and dogs, she was "always on the move." While she worked as an executive assistant, she wrote *Rosie's Foal*, published in 2009 about a horse with a newborn foal.

After being told that Jesse was not one of the children who had survived the mass shooting at the elementary school, Lewis said she sat on her mother's couch for three days.

"The pain was so great I thought I would die, that I would dissolve," she said.

Soon after the tragedy, a woman came to talk with Lewis. She wanted to share her experience as a mother whose son had died.

"I literally put my hand up and said, 'Please stop. It's good you survived,' she said. "But your experience isn't going to be mine." Lewis said she felt there was no road map for what lay ahead, not only for herself, but also for how she could guide her 12-year-old surviving son. She knew she needed to take the reins and determine what would happen next, choosing joy.

"I saw a lot of very angry people," she said. "I didn't want to model that for my son."

I had been "sitting on the couch realizing that I had no fear," Lewis said. "I couldn't think of things that could be worse. I lived through it. What do you fear as a parent? That your child could be killed."

She realized she couldn't go forward in the same way she had before, making decisions out of fear.

"I went into the bond market when I wanted to be a journalist," she said. "I said, 'I'm not going to do that anymore.'"

Upon returning home, Lewis saw the message "Nurturing Helinn Love" in Jesse's first-grade handwriting.

"Nurturing healing love' is the solution for nearly all of society's ills," she said. "It addresses the root cause of really all of society's problems. Yes, there are fires that we have to put out, but we're focusing on the problems."

Continuing, she said, "I decided to focus on their root cause. Pain is there for a reason. It helps us grow and be stronger. ... (Yet) we have to give kids the skills to manage pain and turn it into something good."

For Lewis, there were 28 victims rather than 26. She includes the 20-year-old shooter, and his mother,

## NOW GENERATION KICK-OFF



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

**NOW Generation Advisory Council Chair Tally Bevis, right, talks with fellow members of Chautauqua's NOW Generation, a community of Chautauquans ages 21-40, during a kick off reception Monday at Girls' Club. Among the group's upcoming events are two happy hours celebrating members of the Lewis Miller Circle at 3 Taps on July 13 and the Athenaeum Hotel Lobby Bar on Aug. 3, as well as Summerfest at the Youth Activities Center following the Old First Night Run July 29. The events are open to all. To learn more about NOW Generation events or how to get involved with volunteer opportunities, contact Dillon Lewis at [dlewis@chq.org](mailto:dlewis@chq.org).**



'Nurturing healing love' is the solution for nearly all of society's ills. It addresses the root cause of really all of society's problems. Yes, there are fires that we have to put out, but we're focusing on the problems."

—SCARLETT LEWIS

Founder, Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement

who had given him his gun. "She was a single mom working with a special-needs kid with no help," Lewis said. "I had a similar situation. I was a single mom with a kid with trauma. She paid for her sins with four shots to her face before (her son) left home. Blaming someone else takes you off the hook, and it makes no progress."

According to Lewis, the most important thing she did was to take responsibility. Although she was criticized for doing so, she said that the act of taking responsibility enables that person to be part of the solution.

"There are two kinds of people in the world," Lewis said. "Good people and good people in pain. No one is born a mass murderer." The words "monster" and "evil" are often heard after a mass shooting. "But the person isn't a monster or evil," Lewis countered. "What they did is monstrous and evil. What these young people are doing is in response to pain."

She wants others to see that side of humanity because "everyone wants to be safe, seen, and celebrated." Having gone out of her way to talk with school shooters, Lewis realized that "they were failed." One shooter told her, "I would leave a room and wonder if anyone knew that I was there."

Lewis likened neuroscience research findings about thoughts and words, and Mahatma Gandhi's famous statement:

"Your beliefs become your thoughts,  
Your thoughts become your words,  
Your words become your actions,  
Your actions become your habits,  
Your habits become your values,  
Your values become your destiny."

For her, "It all goes back to Jesse's nurturing, healing message. ... All school shootings are preventable. ... No kid wants to be so freaking miserable that they want to attack others."

Within a month of Jesse's murder, Lewis began founding a nonprofit organization that she named the Jesse

Choose Love Movement. Initially, she shared this message in response to the outpouring of letters she received. It has been spreading by word of mouth ever since.

To mark the 10th year since the Sandy Hook massacre, John Moritz wrote in the *Connecticut Insider* in December about Lewis' reaction to an especially memorable letter from a professor who had studied school shootings for more than 20 years.

"I used to carry the letter around with me everywhere I went," Lewis said. "It said that, after all these years of research, he had summed it up that if an individual or a child received 15 minutes of a caring adult being present with them, really present in the moment and really caring about that child, and that child felt it, (then) that child would be OK. I love that because I think that I've come to the same conclusion."

The intergenerational social and emotional learning and character development programs created through Choose Love Movement are

being taught in more than 10,000 U.S. schools and in 120 countries.

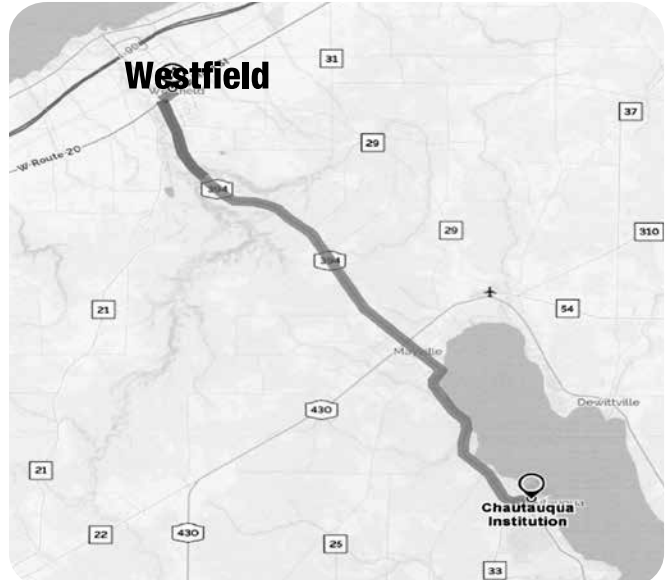
Moreover, they are provided for free. Lewis said that the cost per student per year is only about 25 cents, and is being covered by "beautiful people who donate to our program."

Courses are now also being offered for prisons, police departments and government agencies.

Lewis has written extensively about her research, experiences, and educational concept in: *Nurturing Healing Love: A Mother's Journey of Hope & Forgiveness, From Sandy Hook to the World: How the Choose Love Movement Transforms Lives, and Choosing Love: A Pathway to Flourishing.*

On Saturday, Lewis will talk about the Choose Love Formula and explain how Chautauquans can become part of the solution to school shootings and many other devastating societal ills. The reason she has received numerous outstanding awards will become readily apparent.

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# COMMUNITY

## From the IDEA Desk

COLUMN BY AMIT TANEJA

### 'Dialogues Make the Difference'

dialogue. Those debaters who have strong arguments for a particular position work hard at finding "truths" and "facts" to support their point. The objective is to convince others that they have both truth and facts on their side, then use their presentation skills to overwhelm the listener. The key identifier of a debater is that they are not interested in listening to the other side. Debaters don't make an effort to listen, because they want their viewpoint to prevail, period. They want a win. Political debates are good examples of this type of engagement; each candidate has a set of "points" they want to put forward in a limited amount of time. And, each candidate has prepared certain "counterpoints" with which to defeat the other candidate's points. But in the end, each candidate tries their best to convince the audience they are right.

Unfortunately, since most examples of public engagements are debate, few of us really have much experience with examples of effective dialogue. That is what makes the Chautauqua Dialogues program so exciting. It gives Chautauquans an opportunity to learn about "civil conversations" – conversations where each party is willing to listen to the other and sees how others "connect" the same given "dots" in entirely different ways.

As Michael Hill pointed out in his closing Three Taps remarks at the end of the 2022 season, Chautauqua plants its roots in dialogue, not debate. Another way to say this, is that conversation is favored over argument. Debate and argument are all about winning. Dialogue and conversation are about exchanging and exploring each other's views. Many of us have lost the ability or the opportunity to be engaged in thoughtful dialogue with those who might disagree with us. Chautauqua Dialogues ([chq.org/dialogues](http://chq.org/dialogues)) and the Red Bench Project ([chq.org/redbench](http://chq.org/redbench)) offer us opportunities to rediscover and practice those dialogue skills, and we invite everyone to participate.

Roger Doebke & Lynn Stahl  
Lead Coordinators, Chautauqua Dialogues

## Special Studies turns students into adventurers, tackling Dungeons and Dragons together

STACEY FEDEROFF  
COPY DESK CHIEF

A group gathered around a table in Smith Memorial Library watched as David Lessard unfurled a battle mat in front of them, shifting their Dungeons and Dragons character sheets and dice as a familiar shape was revealed on the map in front of them.

"How can you teach D&D without including a dragon?" said Lessard in an interview before teaching a Special Studies class, "Dungeons and Dragons (RPGs) for First Timers," Thursday in the library to complement the Week Two theme, "Games: A Celebration of Our Most Human Pastime."

Along with Lessard serving as the dungeon master, the class had a full complement of seven adventurers, including Bob Lee ("Sam," an elf ranger) whose grandson Nick Wright (whose character was "Hekabe," a dwarf cleric) asked him to join the class.

"What are you going to say to your grandson?" Lee said. "I'm not as knowledgeable as he is, but I'm catching on."

Wright said he wanted to learn since his parents have played the game for about five years, and he watched the TV show "Stranger Things," where the characters often play and reference the game.

Justin West ("Gromwhittle," a human druid) said he joined the class because he will be leading a group of students in the fall, and wanted to get firsthand experience. He said he was glad to link the class to Thursday's lecture by Joseph C. Cyrulik.

"One of the things that he told us is that D&D came out of war gaming and the Tolkien world," West said. "It was cool to see that (connection) actually."

Mamie Kanfer Stewart ("Concerta," a half-elf bard) said she wanted to learn in order to share the game with her daughters, ages 11 and 13.

"The lecture Monday talked about how games give you permission to



The lecture Monday talked about how games give you permission to compete with each other, but in a healthy way; and to be mean to each other – but in a healthy way."

—MAMIE KANFER STEWART

Special Studies student, "Dungeons and Dragons (RPGs) for First Timers"

compete with each other, but in a healthy way; and to be mean to each other – but in a healthy way," she said, adding that she looks forward to starting a campaign to create a space to "get out your anger, show your love and work as a team" while building relationships with her family.

Gina Mating ("Melora," an elf wizard) and brothers Russell Smith ("Bagon," a Dragonborn sorcerer) and Ryan Smith ("Ragnarok," a half-orc paladin) also took part in the quest, which involved finding a cursed ruby and map from a dwarf to find a dragon's barrow. The group had to return the ruby to break the curse and unlock the rest of the treasure.

"It's totally a great teamwork game," Wright said, after the campaign ended. "This is 100% a 'should-play' game. I would totally play this again and I love it."

To get in on the action, Chautauqua Cinema's screening the film "Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves" at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 2:15 and 5:30 p.m. Sunday and 5:30 p.m. Monday.

"(The movie captured) the tone of playing the game well, the joking around, and the balance of fun and action," Lessard said.

Or, kids can "Design Your Own Dungeons and Dragons Character" from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday at the Jessica Trapasso Pavilion at Children's School, hosted by Play CHQ.



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above, Special Studies instructor and dungeon master David Lessard's set of mini figurines sits next to the box of basic supplies for a Dungeons and Dragons campaign, ready for his class to use on Thursday in Smith Memorial Library. Below, students of all generations participate in Lessard's class "Dungeons and Dragons (RPGs) for First Timers" as they work together to complete a short campaign.



### CHAUTAUQUA WOMEN'S CLUB TUESDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE SCORES JULY 4, 2023

#### SECTION A

North/South			East/West		
1st	Bill Blackburn - Margaret Blackburn	64.88%	1st	Tina Van Dam - Carl Huber Jr	62.80%
2nd	Ronald Diner - Susan Diner	53.87%	2nd	Kathryn Roantree - Elizabeth Wellman	57.74%
3rd	Barbara Grzegorzewski - Diane Stiles	53.27%	3rd	Lee McDermott - Mark McDermott	56.85%

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YAC 28 Slugs 12

#### FISH HEADS VS. ARTHRITICS

Fish Heads 21 Arthritics 18

## LECTURE



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Will Shortz, crossword editor for *The New York Times* and the only person to hold an academic degree in enigmatology, poses game-like questions to Chautauquans and points for someone to call out the answer during his morning lecture closing the theme of "Games: A Celebration of Our Most Human Pastime" Friday in the Amphitheater.

## Using your brain to play: Crossword editor Shortz shares history of the form

ALTON NORTHUP  
STAFF WRITER

In the 8th grade, when asked to write a paper on what he wanted to do in life, Will Shortz chose professional puzzle-making. And while the career choice puzzled his teachers and classmates, for Shortz, the clues were always there.

"I wrote that it would be a life of ease," he said. "I would just sit back and make my little puzzles."

Shortz, who sold his first professional puzzle at 14 years old, is celebrating 30 years as the *The New York Times* crossword editor this year. He shared his love of crosswords and the history of the puzzles at 10:45 a.m. Friday in the Amphitheater to close the Chautauque Lecture Series Week Two theme, "Games: A Celebration of Our Most Human Pastime."

Shortz ended up with a B+ on that essay and decided to explore other career options during high school, including disc jockey and mathematician. Despite the lack of degree programs for puzzle-making, every path he took led him back to his childhood dream.

“

One of the reasons we do puzzles is to put the world in order. Most of life's problems don't have solutions; we just muddle through and do the best we can. With a crossword, there is one perfect solution."

—WILL SHORTZ  
Crossword editor,  
*The New York Times*

Luckily, his mother discovered Indiana University's individualized major program. He developed his own course work consisting of 20th-century American puzzles, crossword construction and the psychology of puzzles. His 100-page thesis was on the history of American word puzzles before 1860.

"This had been my dream ... and now I found I could do it," he said.

Upon graduation, Shortz became the first, and only, person to hold a college degree in enigmatology, or the study of puzzles.

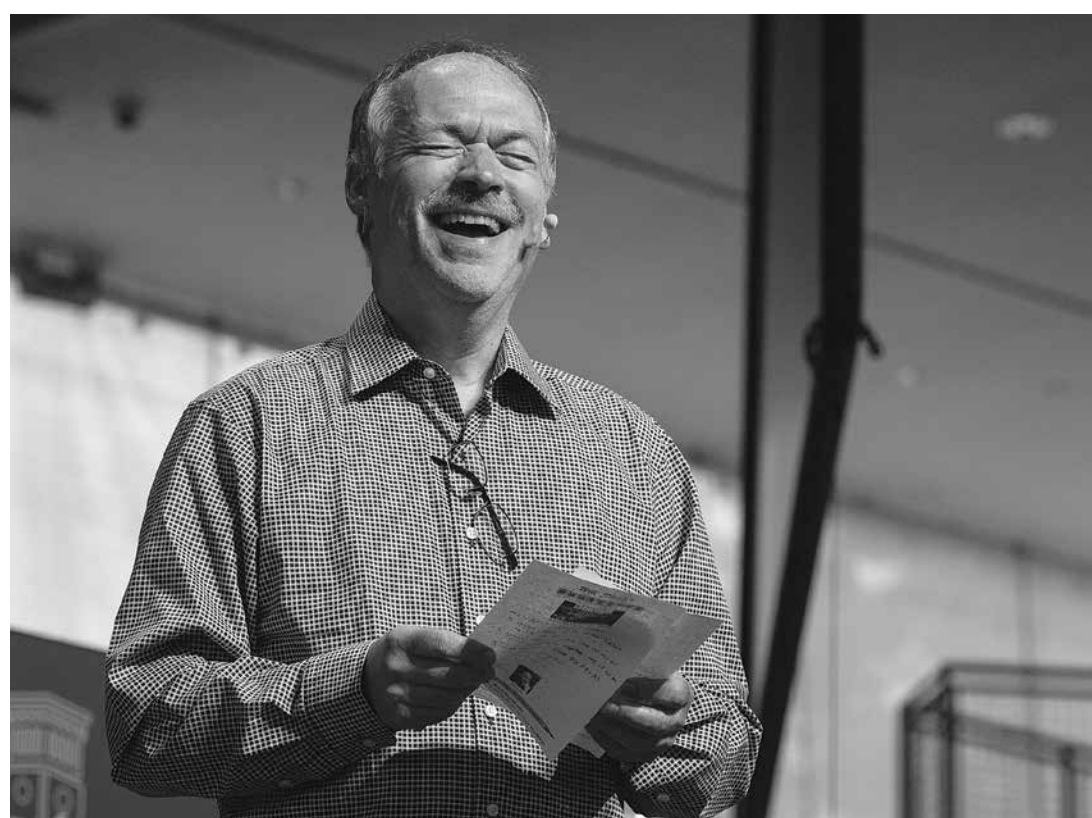
The history of crosswords is another of Shortz's obsessions. He owns the

largest collection of puzzle paraphernalia in the world, including pieces dating back to 1545. But the modern crossword dates back 110 years.

Arthur Wynne, an editor for the *New York World*, introduced what he called a "Word-Cross Puzzle" in the Dec. 21, 1913, Sunday "Fun" section.

By the third week, Wynne changed the name to crossword. As they became a weekly fixture of the paper, the puzzles developed a "crank," or eccentric, following.

In 1924, two Columbia University graduates, Richard Simon and Max Schuster, were looking for books



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shortz discussed the history of the puzzle to which he's dedicated his career, from the very first crossword published in 1913, to his own paper, which started printing the puzzles during World War II.

to publish. Following a suggestion from a relative, the two approached the *New York World* puzzle editors and walked away with 75 unpublished puzzles.

Simon and Schuster published the collection of puzzles in April of that year; the first printing of 3,500 copies sold out. By the end of the year, the publishers' three crossword books ranked No. 1, 2 and 3 on the national non-fiction best-seller list.

Shortz now owns the very first copy of that crossword book, which includes an inscription by Simon and Schuster thanking Simon's father for his investment in their firm. The inscription ends saying they are "ushering in the crossword puzzle era" together.

"Everybody was talking about crosswords in the 1920s," Shortz said.

As publications started pumping the puzzles out, one big player abstained — *The New York Times*. The '20s were full of crazes, Shortz said, and the publication saw crosswords as no more than a fad.

"The *Times* thought crosswords were beneath them; they didn't do car-

toons," he said. "They actually ran an editorial decrying the popularity of crosswords, saying they were a childish pastime."

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, an editor for the paper conceded that the puzzle deserved a spot in the paper as a distraction from the hard news of the war. The first crossword in the *Times* ran on Sunday, Feb. 15, 1942.

"One of the reasons we do puzzles is to put the world in order," Shortz said. "Most of life's problems don't have solutions; we just muddle through and do the best we can. With a crossword, there is one perfect solution."

The paper hired Margaret Farrar, who was co-editor of the original Simon and Schuster puzzle books, as editor. From the start, Shortz said, the *Times* set a new standard of quality for crosswords.

Making a crossword is simple: The diagram must be symmetrical and every square has to be a cross answer or a down answer. Two-letter words and repeat words are not allowed and the words need to be real.

What makes a good

crossword, Shortz said, is having a good vocabulary full of interesting phrases. Lively clues also keep a puzzle fresh and entertaining for readers.

Though some of his favorite crosswords, he admits, are the ones that break the rules. In 1996, the *Times* ran an election day crossword where the clue was the winner of the election; both candidates' last names worked as the answer.

President Bill Clinton was an avid crossword player; he told Shortz he played as many as three puzzles per day while on the campaign trail. During a timed session with the editor, in the middle of which Clinton answered a phone call, the former president solved a crossword in just 6 minutes and 54 seconds.

For the past 110 years, people of all ages and backgrounds, even the president, have started their day the exact same way.

"We live in an age now where more people than ever use their brains to make a living," Shortz said. "... If you're using your brain all day to work, when you're done, you want to use your brain to play."

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# MUSIC

## LEARNING FROM A MASTER



**BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**  
 Above, School of Music Piano Program student Saehyun Park performs C. Debussy's Estampes, L.100 II and III, during a public masterclass with Alexander Kobrin Monday in Sherwood Marsh Piano Studio. Kobrin will host another masterclass at 1 p.m. Saturday in Sherwood Marsh.

At left, Piano student Sean Yang is advised by Kobrin after Yang's performance of Franz Schubert's Sonata No. 14 in A minor, D. 784 I. Allegro Giusto, during the masterclass.

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**WEEK 6**

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**19TH ANNUAL ROBERT H. JACKSON LECTURE ON THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**

**JUSTIN DRIVER**

Monday, July 31, 2023 at 3:30pm ET  
 Chautauqua Institution - Hall of Philosophy

The Jackson Lecture features a leading expert to discuss the Supreme Court, the Justices, signal decisions, and related legal developments. This year law professor and author, Justin Driver, will discuss the 2022-2023 court term, including key decisions and possible future direction of the Court.

Driver is the Robert R. Slaughter Professor of Law and Counselor to the Dean at Yale Law School. His book *The Schoolhouse Gate: Public Education, the Supreme Court, and the Battle for the American Mind*, was selected as a Washington Post Notable Book of the Year and an Editors' Choice of The New York Times Book Review.

Driver served on the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States and previously clerked for then-Judge Merrick Garland, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (Ret.), and Justice Stephen Breyer.

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# NEWS

## A PLAZA-SIDE PAIRING



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above left, wine bottles are displayed Friday during a soft opening of the Afterwords Wine Bar in the Post Office Building. Above right, sommeliers Zach Zimmer, left, and Zach Kovitch take orders from customers. The space, formerly Afterwords Cafe (and formerly-formerly *The Chautauquan Daily* newsroom) features wine tastings and food pairings, with a limited food menu during an initial, reservation-only phase.



Above left, Kovitch discusses wine selections with Erinn and Mark Perry. Above center, Kovitch pours a glass of champagne. Above right, Zimmer, left, and Caleb Chelton open a bottle of wine during the soft opening.



# ADVOCATES FOR BALANCE AT CHAUTAUQUA

## Presents



**Monday, July 10th, 5PM**  
(Athenaeum Parlor)

**Guy Benson**

Nationally Syndicated Talkshow Host and Columnist; Fox News Contributor  
"How the Current Political Landscape will Influence Your Future"



**Week 4 – Monday, July 17th, 3PM** (Athenaeum Parlor)  
**John R. Christy, Ph.D.**

Eminent Climatologist, University of Alabama; Awarded NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal, Development of Satellite-Based Earth Temperature Recording  
"Scientific Facts of the Global Climate"



**Week 5 – Monday, July 24th, 3PM** (Athenaeum Parlor)  
**Gordon G. Chang**

Internationally Recognized China Expert Briefing the National Intelligence Council, CIA, U.S. Dept. of Defense, and U.S. Congress; Appearances include Fox News, CNN, CNBC, PBS, and BBC; Published in NYT, WSJ, Barrons, and the National Review  
"China Shakes the World: A Revolutionary Remaking of the International Order"



**Week 6 – Monday, July 31st, 3PM** (Athenaeum Parlor)  
**John J. Miller**

Widely Read Author; Published in the WSJ and the National Review; Prominent George Orwell Expert; Professor of Journalism, Hillsdale College  
"George Orwell's 1984: More Prophecy Than Fiction?"



**Week 7 – Monday, August 7th, 3PM** (Athenaeum Parlor)  
**Mary Holland, JD**

President and General Counsel, on leave, Children's Health Defense. She has been involved with the health freedom movement for over 20 years.  
"Childhood Health: Are We on Track?"



**Week 8 – Monday, August 14th, 3PM** (Athenaeum Parlor)  
**Khalil M. Habib, Ph.D.**

Professor of Political Philosophy and American Political Thought, Hillsdale College  
"The History of Today's Progressivism in the U.S."



**Week 9 – Monday, August 21st, 3PM** (Athenaeum Parlor)  
**Baron Andrew Roberts**

Member of the British House of Lords  
British Historian and Author, *Churchill: Walking with Destiny*.  
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"Britain Yesterday and Today"



**Week 2 – Monday, July 3rd, 3PM** (Athenaeum Parlor)  
**Jason R. Edwards, PhD.**

Professor of History and Humanities, Grove City College. Edwards' writings on history, culture, and education have appeared in many national publications.



**Week 1 – Monday, June 26th, 3PM** (Athenaeum Parlor)  
**Ben Domenech**

Co-founder and Publisher, *The Federalist*  
Frequent political commentary and co-host across all Fox News media platforms  
"The Future of Politics in the United States"

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Advocates for Balance at Chautauqua is not affiliated with Chautauqua Institution.



# A WORLD-CLASS HOMECOMING



New York City Ballet's Isabella LaFreniere and James Gilmer, now with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, perform the world premiere of "Of The Night," choreographed by School of Dance Artistic Director Sasha Janes and set to music by Chopin.



Brooklyn Mack lifts SeHyun Jin in "Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux."



School of Dance alumni Dylan Walt and Angelica Generosa perform "Divertissement/A Midsummer Night's Dream."



Karen Gresham, a Pre-Professional Student in the School of Dance, and alum Jordan Leeper perform Janes' "Wildflower."

## IN EVENING FEATURING WORLD PREMIERE OF JANES' 'OF THE NIGHT,' ALL-STAR DANCE GALA WELCOMES ALUMNI BACK TO AMP

PHOTOS BY CARRIE LEGG



Mack, who has danced with American Ballet Theatre and The Washington Ballet, lifts Jin, now with New Jersey Ballet, as students in the School of Dance take a final bow at the close of the All-Star Dance Gala Wednesday in the Amphitheater.



Above left, Leeper performs the solo "The Trilling Wire (excerpt)," choreographed by Claudia Schreier, during the alumni gala. Above middle, Olivia Cornelius, a Pre-Professional Student at Chautauqua and New York City Ballet's Daniel Ulbricht perform "Tarantella," choreographed by George Balanchine with coaching by Patricia McBride, Chautauqua's director of ballet studies and principal répétiteur. Above right, Mack and Jin dance in the Asaf Messerer-choreographed "Spring Waters."

## THEATER



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The cast and crew of Chautauqua Theater Company's New Play Workshop of Harrison David Rivers' *Proximity* take notes and receive feedback during rehearsal Thursday in Turner Community Center. Staged readings of *Proximity* are scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Saturday, and 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, in Bratton Theater.

## CTC launches season with NPW reading of Rivers' 'Proximity'

JULIA WEBER  
STAFF WRITER

The first New Play Workshop of this summer season embodies one of Chautauqua Institution's most treasured values: connection.

*Proximity* explores that theme and other related common threads found in playwright Harrison David Rivers' past works.

"I'm really interested in intimacy and closeness and connection and so this play, I think, hits the nail on the head," he said.

Performances are set for 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and at 7:30 p.m. Sunday in Bratton Theater.

In past years, Chautauqua Theater Company has historically opened with a mainstage production. This year, with the continued support of the Roe Green Foundation and under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Jade King Carroll, CTC brings *Proximity* – a play inspired by a conversation between Rivers and a friend from college – to the stage for

the first of three New Play Workshops before launching performance runs of Kate Hamill's *Pride and Prejudice* and Mike Lew's *tiny father*. This year, additional matinee performances of mainstage productions are set for 11:30 a.m. during their runs.

This weekend is the first time CTC Conservatory Actors and Guest Artists take the stage; *Proximity* is a romantic comedy that contemplates and explores the social impacts of the COVID-19 lockdown.

A newly divorced mother of two, Ezra, played by CTC Guest Artist Lori Laing, meets another parent, Irie, played by fellow Guest Artist Kalyne Coleman, at a virtual PTA meeting. As Ezra searches for connection in an increasingly isolating world, she begins to reevaluate her isolation bubble.

Laing said she looked to the mothers in her life for inspiration in her role, examining how they interact with, support and use their creativity with their children.

"... It means a lot to me to be playing Ezra because I want to do them justice," she said. "I know how dynamic they are as individuals and how even more dynamic they are married together that former individuality with who they are as a mother now."

Coleman said Chautauqua's grounds and quiet environment are a source of inspiration that has helped her hone her craft.

"Because Chautauqua is so beautiful and so peaceful and so free, I feel like it invites me to be free within my process, it invites me to just get down to the truth of the thing," she said. "I think that's something that makes this experience so different because of what we're walking out into – it invites more play and more freedom."

Rivers said the play will undoubtedly resonate with all who were, are and will continue to be impacted by the pandemic.

"I think it is very specific – it's mining the specific, mining the intimate, the small, for some sort of larger universal meaning, truth, revelation," Rivers said. "For me, a lot of the best writing right now is tiny. It's a moment and the



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CTC Conservatory Actor Colby Muhammad left, and Guest Artist Kalyne Coleman take notes.

way in which that moment cracks people open in a huge way and causes a shift or a change."

To Rivers, the agency he's been given in shaping the direction of *Proximity* has been one of the most valuable attributes of the New Play Workshop.

"The best thing about the process so far is how much trust has been given to me as the lead artist in

the room to proceed with this workshop in whatever way I feel is best for the play and for myself," he said.

Rivers said he's also found the wealth of experience and perspective the cast brings to *Proximity* to be tremendously valuable, along with the grounds of the Institution as an inspirational component.

"This is a great place to be thinking about storytelling and artmaking and the impact that that could have on the world," he said.

"The venue itself, the location and the way that it's been set up, it just sort of breeds creativity."

Coleman said she hopes audience members will contemplate how they are showing up in the relationships that mean the most to them and how they can strengthen their relationships not only with others, but with themselves.

"I hope that they come out being curious about self and about community in a way that's fruitful," she said.

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# MUSIC

## Chautauqua Trio to present elegiac repertoire honoring great artists

ALYSSA BUMP  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Musical elegies and melodies make up the program for this weekend's Chautauqua Chamber Music Resident Artist Series.

The Chautauqua Trio will perform at 4:15 p.m. Saturday in Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall with a riveting display of compositions dedicated to the memory of two exemplary composers.

The trio features Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra members Vahn Armstrong on violin and Jolyon Pegis on cello, with School of Music faculty Kanae Matsumoto Giampietro on piano.

Saturday's program includes Maurice Ravel's Sonata for Violin and Cello and Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio in A minor, Op. 50.

"The Tchaikovsky is so big and so lush, and the Ravel is lean, rhythmically tricky and harmonically really challenging," Pegis said. "(The Ravel) is a wonderful piece. ... The interplay between the two instruments is so expertly done."

Ravel's piece will be performed by Armstrong and Pegis alone; Matsumoto Giampietro will join the pair onstage for the final Tchaikovsky piece.

The Sonata for Violin and Cello is dedicated to the memory of Claude Debussy, one of Ravel's mentors who died in 1918. Tchaikovsky dedicated his Piano Trio "to the memory of a great artist," referring to his dear friend and mentor Nicholas Rubinstein, whose death in 1881 consumed Tchaikovsky with grief.

"Both (pieces) were written in memorial," Armstrong said. "I think the Tchaikovsky is more obviously a memorial, (while) the Ravel is more of an homage."

Even though the repertoire induces funereal and mournful tones, both pieces, particularly the Tchaikovsky, are extremely dynamic.

"In spite of the fact that there are elements in the Tchaikovsky that are very sad, I would say that that is not the general feeling," Armstrong said. "I think a lot of it is really paying tribute to Rubinstein virtuosity. ... There are (elements) that are brilliant, funny, charm-



ARMSTRONG



PEGIS



MATSUMOTO  
GIAMPIETRO



Both (pieces) were written in memorial. I think the Tchaikovsky is more obviously a memorial, (while) the Ravel is more of an homage."

—VAHN ARMSTRONG

Violinist,  
Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra

ing, elegant and scholarly. ... It's got it all."

Tchaikovsky's work is a massive piece that takes nearly 45 minutes to perform, and Pegis has "been waiting years to perform" it.

All of the Chautauqua Trio members hope the audience will be "deeply moved by this music," Armstrong said.

Armstrong has performed with the CSO for 31 seasons, and Pegis joined 30 years ago. Matsumoto Giampietro has served on the School of Music faculty for 18 years.

Chamber music is a "very special kind of experience" because the form invites "very personal and individual expression," Armstrong said.

Although Armstrong and Pegis have been performing together for decades, this will be their first time playing with the accompaniment of Matsumoto Giampietro. Matsumoto Giampietro has performed for the Saturday chamber series several times over the years. Her last chamber performance took place in 2019 in the form of a piano duo with Martin Dubé. Prior to that, she performed with the late violinist Jacques Israelievitch.

"This time, especially, I am thinking about Mr. Is-

raelievitch," Matsumoto Giampietro said. "I learned a tremendous amount of (how to) play with strings from him."

Matsumoto Giampietro is excited to perform chamber music once again with "wonderful string players" from the CSO.

"(Chamber) music is

fantastic, and composers have reserved some of their most special ideas for their chamber music pieces because they know that it's going to be performed in an intimate setting for people who are probably thoroughgoing music lovers," Armstrong said. "... It's a great pleasure to play."

## NFMC Northeastern Region celebrates 79th Federation Days with 2 weekend recitals on grounds

The Northeastern Region of the National Federation of Music Clubs will celebrate its 79th annual Federation Days at Chautauqua this weekend, with opportunities for all community members to attend. National Federation President Deborah Freeman will be on hand in her first-ever visit to Chautauqua Institution.

At 3 p.m. Saturday in Fletcher Music Hall, eight NFMC scholarship recipients in the 2023 School of Music will present a recital.

At 3 p.m. Sunday in McKnight Hall, the NFMC Northeastern Region hosts a concert by Stanley Chepaitis and Swana Chepaitis. Stanley Chepaitis, a composer and violinist, holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts, a

Master's of Music, and a performer's certificate from the Eastman School of Music. He is a versatile performing and recording artist who is at home in a classical string quartet, a jazz band, and anything in between.

Swana Chepaitis, violinist, received a diploma in Violin Performance and Pedagogy from the Hochschule für Kunst in Bremen, Germany. She currently performs with the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra, does freelance performance as a baroque violinist in the Pittsburgh area, and maintains a studio of more than 20 violin students in Indiana, Pennsylvania.

A reception hosted by the Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs will follow Sunday's concert.

### 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.

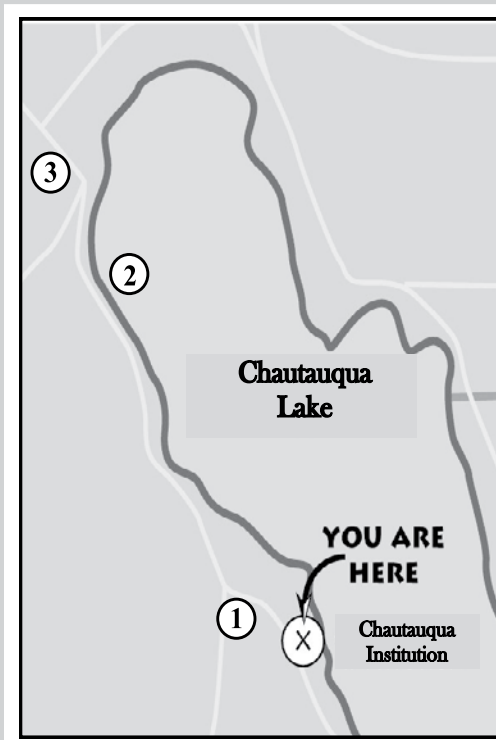
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## LITERARY ARTS

## Healing through writing: Hoppenthaler, Metz to launch week with readings

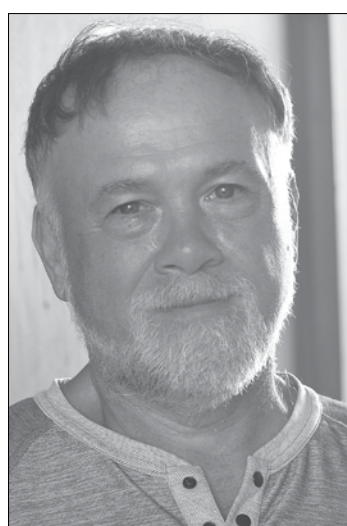
KAITLYN FINCHLER  
STAFF WRITER

Words are therapeutic. Whether poetry or prose, writers can find light by inviting dark experiences onto a blank page. The act of writing is its own form of resilience and survival.

Chautauquans will be able to engage with hope and healing with poet-in-residence John Hoppenthaler and prose writer-in-residence Julie Metz when they deliver their Writers' Center reading at 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the Hall of Philosophy.

Hoppenthaler, creative writing and literature professor at East Carolina University, plans to read from his forthcoming book, *Night Wing Over Metropolitan Area*, which he said is almost a "part two" to his previous book, *Domestic Garden*.

"This will be one of the first readings from that new book," he said. "I'm excited to take out some of these poems and take them on a little spin around the block and see how they work."



HOPPENTHALER

The book is filled with nature imagery – such as hummingbirds, Japanese maples and snow – as ways to evoke images of "loss, longing, regret and hope." Hoppenthaler draws from personal experiences, such as mental health issues in his blended family and the stress they can have on a marriage, as well as his relationship with his mother.

"My mom had a stroke awhile back and has been in



METZ

a nursing home, slowly deteriorating with dementia," he said. "In (*Domestic Garden*), there were poems about that; she passed on as I was writing (*Night Wing Over Metropolitan Area*), so that becomes part of it, too."

Metz will read from her memoir *Eva and Eve*, a story about learning and retelling the escape of her mother's family from Nazi-occupied Vienna in 1940.

“

Writing a good scene is such an important skill, otherwise you just have a boring narrative. If you really want to get your readers into your story, the best way to do that is to drop them into action.”

—JULIE METZ

Prose Writer-in-Residence,  
Chautauqua Writers' Center

"It's a personal family story of escape and immigration," she said. "It also has wider implications because I delve into a lot of the history of that era."

She started her memoir career as "an accident," after her husband died suddenly. Metz said she went through a series of revelations while people around her told her she should write a memoir.

Her first book after her husband's death, *Perfection*, prompted her to dive into her mother's history. While her mother didn't tell many stories of her time under occupation and as a refugee, Metz said she knew it was a "traumatic experience."

After her mother died in 2006, Metz was going through her things and found a Poesie album, a book popular at the time used

mostly by young girls to collect signatures from friends.

"Often (the Poesie album was) the only thing that a child could bring with them when they left home," she said. "This was all you had, memories of friends who probably didn't survive. There was a lot of pain stored in that book."

Metz will host her own workshop throughout the week teaching focused on memoirs.

"Writing a good scene is such an important skill; otherwise you just have a boring narrative," she said. "If you really want to get your readers into your story, the best way to do that is to drop them into action."

In his capacity as a poet, Hoppenthaler frequently teaches workshops. For each one, he said he comes

in knowing the level of discourse and experience participants bring.

"I'm going into this workshop with the understanding that most of the folks are not absolute beginners," he said.

His workshop will focus on epistolary poems, those that are written as a letter, addressed either to a public or private person, but usually never seen. Hoppenthaler is a stranger to this kind of poem, so he will be learning alongside his students.

"I can't remember the last actual letter I've ever written," he said. "I like to play with different lines in my poems and, to be honest, I've never written an epistolary poem."

Drawing inspiration from contemporary poets or even lyrics from a Bob Dylan song, writers can expect to extend their creative processes.

"It'll be fun for me to play with those, and hopefully it'll be fun for the workshop participants as well," Hoppenthaler said.



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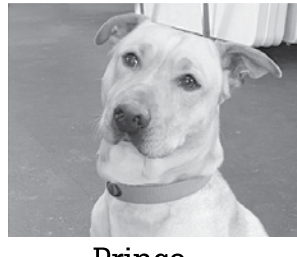
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## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chautauqua Sunday Service

9:30 AM - Hall of Philosophy

Rev. Daniel Kanter

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Guest Soloists: Ann Park-Rose & David Rose

### UU ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

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Monday – 3:30 – UU House  
Seminar on Humanism

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Tuesday – 3:15 – UU House  
Hospitality Hour – All Are Welcome  
Wednesday 9:30 – Hall of Philosophy

"An African American Experience at Chautauqua"

Speakers: Erroll and Elaine Davis

Thursday – 6:30 – UU House  
PFLAG Discussion Series  
Friday – 3:30 – UU House  
Chautauqua Dialogues

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# THE ARTS



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chautauqua Opera Company Studio Artist Uma Singh, soprano, sings Bizet's "Ouvre ton coeur" during an Afternoon of Song Thursday in the Athenaeum Hotel Parlor. Five Studio Artists performed works representing music and composers from eight different countries.



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Atticus Rego, bass, sings "Who is Silvia?" from Finzi's song cycle Let Us Garlands Bring.



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tenor Trevor Scott performs Ivor Gurney's "Sleep" from Five Elizabethan Songs.

## Opera in the Afternoon

PHOTOS BY HG BIGGS



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SarahAnn Duffy, mezzo-soprano, sings Manuel de Falla's "Nana" and "Jota" from *Siete Canciones Populares Españolas*.



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tenor Piero Regis sings Régine Poldowski's "L'heure exquise."

## CTC's New Play Workshop season supported by Roe Green Foundation

The Roe Green Foundation supports this year's New Play Workshops. The series includes *Proximity*, by Harrison David Rivers (July 8-9), *Cannabis Passover*, by Sofya Levitsky-Weitz (July 28-29), and *The Bleeding Class*, by Chisa Hutchinson (Aug 19-20).

Roe Green, Chautauquan and CEO of the Roe Green Foundation, established the foundation that bears her name after her mother's passing in 2003. Since then, she has been using her philanthropic passion to make remarkable improvements to the cultural arts scenes in Cleveland and Kent, Ohio; Jupiter, Florida; and here at Chautauqua.

With bachelor's degrees in theatre and communications from the University of Colorado and a master's degree in theatre from Kent State University, her experience in stage

and business management includes Cain Park; the Cleveland Opera; and the Cincinnati Playhouse in Park. She is responsible for the Roe Green Visiting Director Series for the School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State and the University of Colorado, and Green House, a domestic violence shelter in Geauga, Ohio.

Green, an avid theatergoer and traveler to over 160 countries, was a competitive ballroom dancer for more than 12 years. Green believes that "art is what makes us human. Art gives us our humanity - if people can't create any longer, we're in trouble." Her philosophy on giving is: "If I have five oranges, I eat one, save one, and give the other three away." She is the president emeritus of CAVORT, Inc., the Conference About Volunteers of Regional Theatres; a member of Kent

State University School of Theatre and Dance Advisory Board; the foundation board of Kent State University; the board of Porthouse Theatre; the board of the Cleveland Play House; and the Governor's International Council of the Shaw Festival in Canada.

In November 2012, Roe Green was recognized with the University of Colorado Alumni Recognition Award for "her generosity of spirit, her allegiance to learning and her passionate

advocacy for the arts." In 2004, she established the Roe Green Visiting Theatre Artist Residency, which provides funds to annually bring to campus an accomplished theater professional to work alongside CU Students. Green has also pledged \$2 million in order to establish the Roe Green Endowed Chair in Theatre, the first endowed faculty position in the arts at CU-Boulder.

With The Roe Green Foundation's support, the

New Play Workshops at Chautauqua continue to evolve and have helped to secure Chautauqua Theater Company's place in the national theater dialogue.

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# OPERA

## MOURNING A COLLEAGUE, REMEMBERING A FRIEND



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above left, Chautauqua Opera Company Festival Artist Amanda Lynn Bottoms, mezzo-soprano, performs “My Favorite Things” from “The Sound of Music” at a memorial for long-time Chautauqua Opera Company Costume Designer Bernard Fitzgerald last Saturday in the Jane A. Gross Opera Center. Fitzgerald, who worked in Chautauqua Opera’s costume shop since 2003 and spent the last 14 years as costume shop supervisor, passed away this May. Above right, Carol Rausch, Chautauqua Opera’s music administrator and chorus master, speaks briefly during the memorial. Rausch, along with Cristine Patrick, helped to curate the repertoire for the memorial, which included a selection of Fitzgerald’s favorite pieces.



Above left, Costume Supervisor Cristine Patrick, who worked with Fitzgerald since 2008, shares memories from their time together. Above center, Shawn Sprankle holds a rose during the memorial. Above right, Chautauqua Opera Managing Director Daniel Grambow invites Chautauquans gathered at the service to share a memory of Fitzgerald.

**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.

# CVA GALLERIES

Chautauqua Visual Arts

**Strohl Art Center** | Bellowe Family Gallery  
33 Wythe Avenue

**Mutual Attraction**  
June 25 - July 20

Main Gallery  
**Sense of Place**  
June 25 - July 23

Gallo Family Gallery  
**Body Language**  
June 25 - August 20

**Fowler - Kellogg Art Center**  
12 Ramble Avenue

First Floor Gallery / Angela Fowler Memorial Gallery  
**Prisms & Paradigms**  
June 25 - August 07

Second Floor Galleries  
**Positive Change: CVA Alumni**  
July 5 - August 13

**Melvin Johnson Sculpture Garden**  
**Washed Ashore**  
June 25 - October 31

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Tues - Fri 11 - 5p  
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**Hultquist 101**

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Saturday 10am-4pm

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[chqdaily.com](http://chqdaily.com)





BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chautauquans gather on Bestor Plaza Tuesday for the traditional Chautauqua Community Band Fourth of July Concert — this year under the baton of Aidan Chamberlain — and a plaza-wide picnic.



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Margot Minnerly, 2, sits on Mark Minnerly's shoulder as the family gathers to celebrate Independence Day Tuesday on Bestor Plaza.



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Annika Borg-Sundstorm, left, helps Lotte Paille, 3, play the trombone as 5-year-old Samuel Paille observes — a bit bemusedly — after the Chautauqua Community Band concert.



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The kiddos of Children's School belt their hearts out, singing patriotic classics and Children's School standards at the culmination of their parade to the Colonnade steps Tuesday.

# A BANNER DAY



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Concertgoers in the choir loft — with a "behind-the-scenes" look at the traditional unfurling of the American flag at the close of the CSO's Independence Day concert — wave their own flags in celebration.



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Soprano Tamika Lawrence joins the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra and Principal Pops Conductor Stuart Chafetz for the Independence Day Celebration Pops Concert Tuesday in the Amphitheater.



JESS KSZOS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Art Boehm holds Stella Hankins up to the Amp stage so she can get a better look at the musicians of the CSO make final preparations for their Tuesday pops concert.



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above, Nicole Sheridan, left, and Sarah Blazo play with sparklers Tuesday evening along North Lake Drive. At left, Chautauquans light sparklers on their docks off North Lake Drive as they wait for the fireworks to start.



# RELIGION



JESS KSZOS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Chautauqua Choir sings during last Sunday's Sacred Song Service, set earlier in the evening and in a different location — the Hall of Philosophy — to accommodate Diana Ross' Amphitheater concert. The choir and the service will be back in their typical time at place this weekend, with Sacred Song set for 8 p.m. Sunday in the Amp.

## Sacred Song Service to feature meditative music from Taizé

MARY LEE TALBOT  
STAFF WRITER

The music of Taizé is known world-wide for its simple, meditative character.

This week's Sacred Song Service, at 8 p.m. Sunday in the Amphitheater, will help Chautauquans "Come and Find the Quiet Center: Worship in the Spirit of Taizé."

The service, designed by Joshua Stafford, director of sacred music and Jared Jacobsen Chair for the Organist, will combine traditional pieces of music from the Sacred Song Service

with music from Taizé to provide a worship experience reminiscent of worship at Taizé.

The Taizé community was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger when he was 25 years old. During World War II, Brother Roger and his sister, Genevieve, ministered to refugees moving from occupied France. After World War II, Brother Roger and the community of seven brothers welcomed people from around the world for a week of meditation and prayer in

the Taizé community. The 100 brothers who are part of the community today include Protestants and Catholics.

Pope John Paul II, who met Brother Roger during the Vatican III Council, visited Taizé while he was Archbishop of Krakow in 1962 and 1968; he visited as pope in 1986.

"... One passes through Taizé as one passes close to a spring of water," he said to the people who had come to participate in his visit. "The traveler (sic) stops,

quenches his thirst and continues on his way. The brothers of the community, you know, do not want to keep you. They want, in prayer and silence, to enable you to drink the living water promised by Christ, to know his joy, to discern his presence, to respond to his call, then to set out again to witness to his love and to serve your brothers and sisters in your parishes, your schools, your universities, and in all your places of work."

The music of Taizé has

become part of worship around the world. Its structure includes a simple melody that repeats over and over, called ostinato, and is

meant to be a musical version of centering prayer. The words are usually simple phrases, lines from the Psalms or other scripture.

**CARTS**

**SUMMER TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE FOR CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION**

Departs Chautauqua Institution Main Gates to Mayville (connections with Westfield & Dunkirk)	Departs Mayville:
8:00 AM	8:30 AM
11:40 AM	12:10 PM
3:30 PM	4:35 PM
5:05 PM	


Departs Chautauqua Institution Chautauqua Main Gates to Chautauqua Mall:	Departs Mall:
7:45 AM	11:20 AM
8:40 AM	
12:20 PM	3:05 PM
4:40 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.  
Fares to Chautauqua Mall \$3.25 regular fare and \$2.25 Senior/Student/Disabled.  
Must have exact change or ticket ready when boarding.  
For more information call CARTS 1-800-388-6534

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chautauqua

## Seminar on Humanism

Monday @ 3:30 @ the UU House



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## 2023 SCIENCE PRESENTATIONS

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Presented every Wednesday  
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**July 12 - Surveillance of Algae Blooms in Chautauqua Lake**  
by Courtney Wigdahl-Perry, Ph.D

Programs are free of charge but donations are appreciated.  
\* You can also register to participate via ZOOM by sending an email to [sciencetalkschq@gmail.com](mailto:sciencetalkschq@gmail.com)


To keep informed about all of our science events this season please check our website - [chautauquascience.com](http://chautauquascience.com)




## 2023 Silent Auction and Raffle

Join us for the 2023 CLSC Alumni Association Silent Auction and Sale at Alumni Hall. All proceeds benefit scholarships for local students, teachers, and librarians to attend classes at Chautauqua Institution.

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# RELIGION

### INTERFAITH

FROM PAGE C4

#### Palestine Park Tour

Join the Rev. Rick Miller for a tour of Palestine Park at 7 p.m. Sunday and Monday at the park, located near the Miller Bell Tower and Children's Beach. Palestine Park was created as a teaching tool to place the Biblical narratives in their geographic context and has been an important part of the Chautauqua experience since it began. In the event of inclement weather, the tour is canceled.

#### Presbyterian House

The Rev. Brian K. Blount, recently retired president of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, presides at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service in the Presbyterian House Chapel. Blount's sermon, "Where's He Going?" is based on Mark 6:45-52. Blount holds degrees from the College of William and Mary, Princeton Theological Seminary and Emory University. He served as professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary. Lynn Silver provides music. Presbyterian House invites all Chautauquans for coffee on the porch following the weekday morning worship service and preceding the 10:45 a.m. lecture. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and lemonade are available. The house porch overlooking the Amphitheater provides a good place to find old friends and make new ones.

#### Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) meets for worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the Quaker House, 28 Ames.

Church of the Wild, an outdoor worship experience, meets at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Burgeson Nature Classroom. All are welcome at the Quaker House anytime.

#### Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chautauqua

The Rev. Daniel Kanter, senior minister and CEO of First Unitarian Church of Dallas leads a service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday in the Hall of Philosophy. His topic is "Nation in Distress." Kay Barlow is the music director. Violist David Rose and pianist Ann Park-Rose are guest soloists. A Talk Back session hosted by Kanter is at 9:15 a.m. Monday at the UU House, 6 Bliss. John Hooper leads a weekly seminar on Humanism from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Monday at the UU denominational house. To register, email [johnhooper@comcast.net](mailto:johnhooper@comcast.net) and indicate your preferred week.

#### United Church of Christ

The Rev. Laurie TenHave-Chapman, who retired from parish ministry and transitioned to hospice chaplaincy, leads worship at 8:45 a.m. Sunday in Randell Chapel at the United Church of Christ Society Headquarters. Her sermon, "And/Or," is based on 2 Kings 5:1-19. She will explore how a divided nation that has contrasting viewpoints that are irreconcilable, challenges the Church to find pathways to healing conversation. TenHave-Chapman has received a Lilly Foundation "Vital Worship Grant" and a Lilly Foundation "Clergy Renewal Grant." She is the author of "Walk With Me: A Year of Worship."

Taizé & Tea is at 7 p.m. Monday in the Randell

Chapel in the UCC Society Headquarters. Join us for a quiet, prayerful, music-filled service of song and candlelight followed by tea and conversation. Curious? Join us. Love Taizé? Welcome back.

#### United Methodist

The Rev. James L. Tubbs of Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania, our pastor this week, presides at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service in our chapel. His sermon title is "Outrageous Grace-Safe Grace." Tubbs served 35 years in the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

Join us for Coffee on the Porch between the morning worship and the 10:45 a.m. lecture, weekdays on our porch.

To order a lunch from Hurlbut Church for our Tuesday Porch Talk, place the order with UMC hostess Jan Yauch on Monday. The orders will be delivered to the porch by noon Tuesday. The cost is \$10.

#### Unity of Chautauqua

The Rev. Russell Heiland, senior minister at Unity of Fairfax in Oakton, Virginia, leads the service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday in the Hall of Missions. His message is "The Baby and the Bathwater." He explores what it means spiritually to "throw the baby out with the bathwater."

Unity holds a Daily Word meditation from 8 to 8:30 a.m. Monday through Wednesday in the Lutheran House and Thursday and Friday in the Hall of Missions.

*Editor's Note: After many enjoyable years of serving as the compiler of the Interfaith News, Meg Viehe is going to retire at the end of the 2023 season. If you are interested in replacing her, contact [daily@chq.org](mailto:daily@chq.org).*

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<p><b>Open House</b> Tues., July 11th 1-2:30pm</p> <p><b>18 Evergreen Ave. Chautauqua Inst.</b> A Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired design that includes 4 bd rms, 4 baths, chef kitchen, 3 fireplaces, four car heated garage, finished lower level, and much more! \$999,750</p>	<p><b>Lake Views</b></p> <p><b>4964 Pittsburgh Ave. Mayville</b> Located in Wahmeda Community on Lake Chautauqua. Featuring 4 bd rms, 2 baths, outstanding Lake views, large front deck. Near Chautauqua Institution. \$425,000</p>
<p><b>Mandolin Ridge</b> By Appointment Mandolin Ridge Lots This housing development is located across the street from Chautauqua Inst. Offering many lot size options. Mandolinridgechq.com Starting at \$62,500.</p>	<p><b>Lake View</b></p> <p><b>Wahmeda Building Lot, Mayville</b> Outstanding lot with lake view and ownership in a private dock. Located near Chautauqua Institution. \$193,500</p>
<p>Scan To See Lake Erie Properties</p>	<p><b>2022 Best of the Best Winner</b> Chautauque County</p> <p><b>Howard Hanna Holt Voted Best Real Estate Company In Chautauqua County</b></p> <p>Scan To See All The Properties Available For Sale At Chautauqua Institution</p>
<p><b>4228 West Lake Rd. Mayville</b> Live and play by Chautauqua Lake. 2 bd rms, 1 bath on large one acre corner lot, private deck, large garage. Located near Chautauqua Institution. \$170,000</p>	<p><b>233 East Main St. Westfield</b> This 6,994 sq. ft. 3-story Queen Ann Style estate is listed on the National Historic Registry. The estate includes 8 bd rms, 5 baths situated on 78.46 acres with the original 3-level bank barn and an equipment shed. \$895,000</p>
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Upcoming Open Houses, Please Visit:  
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\*One CHQ LaughPack per household upon showing a valid CHQ Institution gift pass upon entry. Up to two free admission tickets for children and teens, age 17 and under, are available with the purchase of an admission ticket by an adult age 18 or over, who must accompany the minors for the duration of their museum experience. Offer is valid from 5/25/23 through 9/4/23 for National Comedy Center and Lucy Bee Museum or dual admission. Offer can be combined with senior, active military & veterans, Chautauqua County residents, and Hospice for All admission programs. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Offer not valid for group tours, school or youth groups or private event rentals or special programming and events.



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Teamwork makes the dream work — if the dream is getting volleyballs and tennis balls as high in the air as possible using a large parachute — as Clubbers demonstrate during Boys' and Girls' Club's annual Track and Field Day Thursday down at Club.

# HAVING A FIELD DAY

*Club's annual Track and Field Day draws kids of all ages to cheer on friendly competition in generations-long tradition*



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At top left, Emily Tea splashes water on fellow counselor Mitchell Smith during Club's Track and Field Day. At bottom left, kids figure out how to move two hula-hoops from one end of their line to the other — without letting go of each other's hands. Above right, 11-year-olds John-Veny Fitzhugh, Harrison Cornelius and Charlie Recely break from the starting line, batons in hand, during their relay race Thursday outside Boys' Club.



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above left, Clubbers compete in an intense game of gaga ball. At top right, kids run from one activity to the next. At bottom right, Peter Torres, 6, races his way through a soccer-ball obstacle course.



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# THE BIG SHOT

School of Dance students peer through the windows of the Carnahan-Jackson Dance Studio on Monday to catch a glimpse of James Gilmer and Isabella LaFreniere rehearsing the Sasha Janes-choreographed "Of the Night," which had its world premiere Wednesday in the Amphitheater. They may also have been peering into their own future — Gilmer and LaFreniere are School of Dance alumni, and returned to Chautauqua for the annual All-Star Dance Gala.

# COMMUNITY



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CORRESPONDENCE FROM OUR READERS

### TO THE EDITOR:

It did not occur to me sitting in the Norton Hall audience on June 30 that *Sweeney Todd* is likely to be the last major opera production I will ever see at Chautauqua.

Alas, this is apparently the case, according to the July 5 edition of *The Chautauquan Daily*.

As someone who has been responsible for a small business, who understands what a loss leader is and who has had to take a hard look at budgetary numbers far too often, I understand the decision to move toward what the Institution is calling "a significantly reduced budget model for opera."

Our oldest daughter was a music performance major in college with a concentration in opera. Accordingly, the coming loss of opera at Chautauqua is bruising to the spirit.

Thinking with my head rather than my heart, trying to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people via heavily subsidizing a program in a tight financial environment, simply isn't good stewardship.

We can lament the apparent loss of North America's oldest continuously operating summer opera company and the seeming departure of the fourth-oldest opera company in the United States. We cry silent tears and then we move on to what's next. It is my hope President Michael Hill's promise will be realized – that "opera will remain an important part of the artistic mix ... at Chautauqua," despite the coming cuts.

If Chautauqua Opera Company had to go out with a good performance, it is getting one. The lyrics "The demon barber of Fleet Street, *Sweeney Todd*," will be in my mind for some time. Thanks for the memories.

**JEFF LONG**  
13 AMES

### TO THE EDITOR:

Hi, it's me, Addison Steere, age 11. I've been here ever since I can remember and I loved getting ice cream. But a year or two ago, they changed the menu and don't have Moose Tracks or even Cotton Candy! These are beloved flavors that I think we should bring back. Please bring back Perry's, the ice cream brand!

**ADDISON STEERE**  
31 PECK

### TO THE EDITOR:

Chautauqua visitors and residents alike practice "reduce, recycle, reuse." Numerous blue recycling bins exist on the Institution's campus. Unfortunately, all the ones I've seen are limited to bottles and cans. Why not provide receptacles for paper as well?

**CLAUDE WELCH**  
13 AMES

### TO THE EDITOR:

Let's review it: Traditional opera performances are to be canceled. Instead, Chautauquans will provide financial support and attend "workshops." There, we'll hear unproven new works performed by students. Meanwhile, we pay for a Washington, D.C. office and more administrative officers. There is a tipping point. You may have crossed the line where no number of Advancement officers can persuade Chautauquans to pay for less programming.

**PEGGY BLACKBURN**  
4 EVERGREEN

### TO THE EDITOR:

I confess that a week titled "Games" held little to no interest for me. But what a week! The lectures have been phenomenal and certainly deepened by understanding of the ways that games such as baseball can bind us together in ways that little else can.

To see the Amp's sections light up when Scott Simon called out different baseball teams illustrated exactly that. In some ways some part of our self-definition comes from the teams we identify with. "It Ain't Over" at the Chautauqua Cinema absolutely brought me back to my childhood growing up in a household of Yankees fans, long before I realized that I was part of that particular tribe. Seeing the crowd at the Cinema reinforced that we come together around games and icons of those games.

Listening to Jaycee Holmes, professor and co-director of the Spelman Innovation Lab, about the ways that gaming is being used by GenZ students to problem-solve was inspiring, learning that these brilliant young minds are engaging in this dynamic way to make our world a better place.

But the talk by Joseph Cyrulik on the ways that games help predict human behavior on a global scale was a bit of a mindblower.

As one who has attended Chautauqua lectures for over two decades, I would say that this was an amazing and informative week!

And perhaps most importantly, it has given me a new perspective as I continue the pursuit of understanding the world around me. What a gift! Thank you!

**CAROL RIZZOLO**  
5 THOMPSON

### TO THE EDITOR:

Did Chautauqua forget Canada Day this year? Does Canada only make the news because of its fires? Since I have been coming to Chautauqua, Canada Day has always been recognized by hanging the Canadian Flag over the Amphitheater stage and by singing of "O Canada." This year there was no recognition of our neighbor to the North.

Canada Day is celebrated to commemorate the unification of colonies within the British North America Act. I hope that the previous Chautauquan tradition of recognizing Canada Day will resume, fires or not.

**ARLENE HOFFMAN**  
A PROUD AMERICAN & CANADIAN  
17 FOSTER

### TO THE EDITOR:

My great-uncle Ralph Norton's convictions about the transformative power of the arts are embodied in Norton Hall, which he built on behalf of his mother, Lucy Norton, the hall's donor and for which he established an endowment that still helps to fund the building's maintenance. Those ideals are memorialized also in Chautauqua's centerpiece, the Bestor Plaza Fountain, which he donated to the Institution after President Arthur Bestor's death in 1944. The reliefs on the four sides of that fountain are Music, Art, Knowledge and Religion – the "pillars" representing Chautauqua's declared reasons for existence. The Chautauqua Opera Company has existed successfully here since 1926 and has been an integral part of the pillar called Music. With the proposed elimination of much of the Opera Company and also Opera Conservatory programs starting in 2024, a significant part of one of the supporting pillars will be eroded.

The need for fiscal responsibility is clear, but I would like to make sure that all avenues to that objective have been explored, and the losses weighed against the benefits. What do we want the world to know about what Chautauqua is? How will that now change?

I hope that a way can be found to sustain both financial viability, and Opera itself.

I write as an artist and as the keeper of the flame of Ralph Norton's commitment to the profound value of the arts to humanity.

**CYNTHIA NORTON**  
14 WHITTIER

### TO THE EDITOR:

Just as there is no equivalence between a New Play Workshop and a production of *Romeo and Juliet*, there is no equivalence between a new opera workshop and *Tosca* or *Sweeney Todd*. Please go see *Sweeney Todd* and *Carmen* before performances of full opera disappear from Chautauqua. Experience the real-life tragedy of the death of our 96-year-old Chautauqua Opera Company as we know it. Join the chorus: "Save Chautauqua Opera." "Save Chautauqua."

**STEVE MITCHELL**  
8 SIMPSON

### TO THE EDITOR:

I asked Adam Sandel (the July 3 speaker) if religious people could make friends with God. His answer was esoteric, but the gist of it was: "It couldn't hurt to have friends in high places."

**SHEL SELIGSOHN**  
15 AMES

## THE CHAUTAUQUAN DAILY

### LETTERS POLICY

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

Submit letters to:

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