

The Chautauquan Daily

As the season comes to a close, the changing foliage signals that fall is on the way Tuesday evening on Bestor Plaza.

JESS KSZOS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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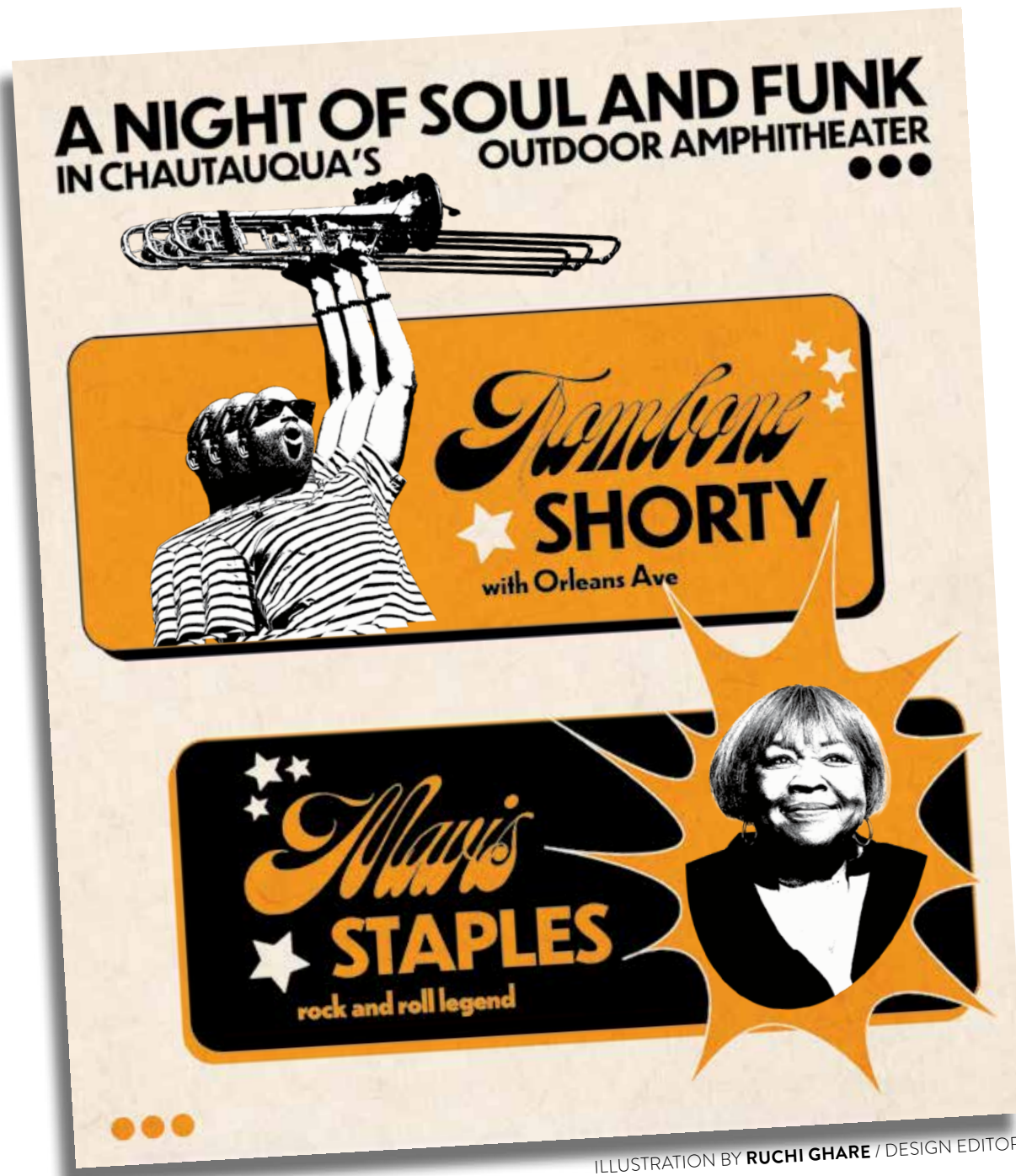
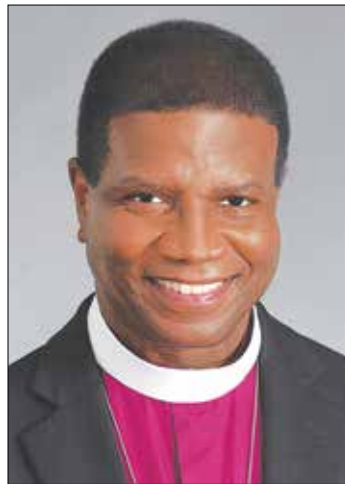


ILLUSTRATION BY RUCHI GHARE / DESIGN EDITOR



SUTTON

Sutton reflects on first season as pastor to all Chautauqua

MARY LEE TALBOT
STAFF WRITER

"I love my title. I like that Chautauqua has a pastor, not just another vice president or director," said the Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton. "I wear my collar deliberately as a sign that religion has a place here."

Sutton will preach at the final 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning worship service in the Amphitheater. His sermon title is "What Are You Afraid Of?" Melissa Spas, vice president for religion at Chautauqua Institution, will preside and Michael E. Hill, president of Chautauqua Institution, will read the scripture.

Finishing his first full season at Chautauqua, Sutton described the experience as amazing, stimulating, humbling and thrilling.

"It is also thought-provoking," he said. "I am privileged to be in a place where the big questions facing the world are addressed from the perspectives of the humanities, arts, science and religion. I can't think of any other residential community where you can think, pray and play together in any given week."

Sutton and his wife, Sonya Subbaya Sutton, are grateful for the welcoming spirit they have found at Chautauqua. People approach Sutton to say hello, ask how things are going and to say something about how they appreciate the place or the ministry.

"It is uplifting to hear words of appreciation. There are suggestions and some complaints, but 90% of the time people come up to say 'thank you' – not just for my work, but things I had nothing to do with but they want the thanks to get back to the right person," he said.

See SUTTON, Page A4

Trombone Shorty, Mavis Staples close season with high spirits, heart

STACEY FEDEROFF
COPY DESK CHIEF

Two powerhouse musicians are throwing a party Saturday night in the Amphitheater and all Chautauquans are invited.

Expect high energy from Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue, setting the atmosphere through the music of the Crescent City, and from gospel icon Mavis Staples, pairing the passion of the pulpit with the funk of the dance floor when they take the stage

at 7:30 p.m. Saturday with the final popular entertainment performance of the season.

Both performers ignited their love of music at a young age. Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, now 37, earned his nickname when his instrument was as big as he was when Bo Diddley invited him onstage at 4 years old to perform at New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

Staples, who turned 84 on July 10, began her singing career in 1948 at age

11 performing with her family's band The Staple Singers.

"Staples has never limited herself to gospel," according to a *Financial Times* review of a July performance in London. "Her rich voice has elements of rock, soul, R&B and funk in it, a world of music. But in true church style, her singing has always cried out for a response, the answering call from a congregation."

See PERFORMANCE, Page A4

Closing Sacred Song to focus on moments of farewell, tradition

MARY LEE TALBOT
STAFF WRITER

Rebecca Richmond, a Chautauqua writer and one of the founders of the Sandwich Poets at Chautauqua – a precursor to the literary arts program of today – in her 1944 poem "To Chautauqua - Moment of Farewell," wrote: "Sometimes I wish that I would love you less, For when the summer ends and I must go, Almost it is a rending of the soul - You are part of me and I of you."

It is that love of Chautauqua that feeds many people during the winter and fuels the excitement of arriving on the grounds as the season begins. The Chautauqua Assembly begins and ends with tradition. The Sunday evening Sacred Song service is part of the tradition.

At 8 p.m. Sunday, the final Sacred Song Service will be held in the Amphitheater. The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, senior pastor for Chautauqua, will

preside. Melissa Spas, vice president for religion, will be the reader.

The Chautauqua Choir will sing under the direction of Joshua Stafford, director of sacred music and Jared Jacobsen Chair for the Organist, accompanied by Nicholas Stigall, organ scholar. Stafford creates each Sacred Song Service during the summer season.

Like the first Sacred Song of the season, the Sunday service will be based on

the 1903 *Chautauqua Hymnal and Liturgy*. A prayer by Thomas A. Kempis will be read as a litany. A statement by Lewis Miller, co-founder of Chautauqua from the introduction to John Heyl Vincent's book *The Chautauqua Movement* reminded readers that Chautauqua was founded to be all-denominational and universal as to creeds. A prayer from Jacobsen, former Chautauqua organist, gives thanks for this place and extends a wish that all

will return again.

The music in the service, from the opening "Day is Dying in the West," to closing "Now the Day is Over," and "Largo," will also include the hymn "Break Thou the Bread of Life," written by William F. Sherwin and Mary Lathbury for Chautauqua in 1877.

Immediately after "Largo," Michael E. Hill, president of Chautauqua Institution, will give the Three Taps of the Gavel address to close the 150th season of Chautauqua.

IN TODAY'S DAILY



BLUE PLASTIC WANTED

Climate Change Initiative, Washed Ashore look to create permanent sculpture on grounds.

Page A7



RIDING OFF IN STYLE

After 40 years, thousands of events, retiring Amp manager Schmitt looks back on tenure.

Page B1



PANORAMIC & INTIMATE

Mukherjee recognized with 2023 Chautauqua Prize, honoring 'The Song of the Cell.'

Page C2

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SATURDAY'S WEATHER

H 73° L 56°
Rain: 20%
Sunset: 8:01 p.m.

SUNDAY



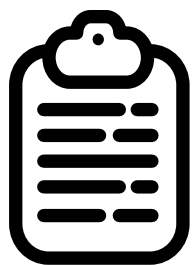
H 71° L 54°
Rain: 10%
Sunrise: 6:37 a.m. Sunset: 8:00 p.m.

MONDAY



H 73° L 58°
Rain: 20%
Sunrise: 6:38 a.m. Sunset: 7:58 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT



BRIEFLY

NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS

Friends of the Chautauqua Theater news

At 10 a.m. Saturday in Smith Wilkes Hall, join us for the annual end-of-season play reading. Come see the Bob McClure PLAY RDRS perform classic comedy skits from Mike Nichols and Elaine May. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

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. For information, contact 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.

BULLETIN BOARD

The Bulletin Board is available to volunteer organizations who are at or around Chautauqua but are not one of the Institution's official organizations and do not have access to the Institution's usual promotional vehicles. Listing in the community Bulletin Board is limited to event (speaker), date, time, location, sponsor and cost, if there is one. The Bulletin Board will be published whenever there is a listing. The cost for each listing is \$5, or three listings for \$10. Submissions to the Bulletin Board should go to the Daily Business Office in Logan Hall on Bestor Plaza.

EVENT	TITLE / SPEAKER	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	SPONSOR
Native Plant Sale and Lakeside Buffer Walk.	Carol Markham of Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy conservationist and native plants from local nurseries.	Sat. Aug. 26	10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a Buffer Walk at noon	Chautauqua Marina, 104 West Lake Road (Rt. 394) Mayville, New York, just across the street from Webb's Restaurant	Benefit for the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy



DAVE MUNCH / DAILY FILE PHOTO

Jared Jacobsen Chair for the Organist and Director of Sacred Music Joshua Stafford performs the score to the Charlie Chaplin film "The Gold Rush" on the Massey Memorial Organ July 25, 2021, in the Amphitheater.

With Stafford on Massey, Chautauqua to close out entertainment series 'Hunchback of Notre Dame'

JULIA WEBER
STAFF WRITER

To wrap up the 2023 season of programming at Chautauqua Institution, a

beloved annual program takes the stage: the Massey Organ Movie.

At 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the Amphitheater, Chau-

tauqua will continue its new tradition of a silent film screening with accompaniment.

This year's selection is the 1923 film "Hunchback of Notre Dame." The classic film explores romance, retaliation and mortality. Starring legendary actor Lon Chaney, the film is described as being an occasion that will "delight film buffs and new fans alike," according to the event description.

The classic film centers on Quasimodo, a hunchbacked bell ringer for the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. At the time it was created, the film was one of the most expensive ever, costing more than \$1.25 million, according to the American Society of Cine-

matographers.

"Hunchback of Notre Dame" has "spectacle in the best sense of the word, fine performances, cinematography which set new standards in several respects, steady direction which kept all the sprawling elements of the picture under control, magnificent settings, and faithfulness to the spirit of a literary classic," the society wrote in a retrospective piece about the film.

The silent film will be accompanied by the Massey Memorial Organ for this special event. Joshua Stafford, who is an award-winning organist and native of Jamestown, New York, will perform the score.

In 2021, Stafford was officially named the Department of Religion's director of sacred music and Jared Jacobsen Chair for the Organist after serving in the role in an interim capacity during the 2020 season. Outside of his role at Chautauqua Institution, he serves as the Minister of Music at First Congregational Church in Columbus, Ohio.

ASSEMBLY.CHQ.ORG

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THE CHAUTAUQUA WEARHOUSE

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Weekend at the CINEMA

Saturday, August 26
OPPENHEIMER - 5:00
Physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer (Cillian Murphy) and a team of scientists spend years designing and developing the atomic bomb. "A film with intelligence, purpose and historic value."
-Rex Reed, Observer "A towering achievement." -Wendy Ide, Observer UK (R, 180m)

Sunday, August 27
BARBIE - 9:00 To live in Barbie Land is to be a perfect being in a perfect place. Unless you have a full-on existential crisis. Or you're a Ken. Stars Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling. "A dazzling achievement, both technically and in tone. It's a visual feast that succeeds as both a gleeful escape and a battle cry."
-Christy Lemire, RogerEbert.com "Somehow, director Greta Gerwig has struck a balance between unhinged whimsy, deep humanity and comedic bliss." -Emily Zentler, Observer (PG-13, 114m)

Monday, August 28
OPPENHEIMER - 5:00
BARBIE - 8:00

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ENVIRONMENT

Fascination over fear

Local experts share slow recovery progress for Chautauqua's bats

MARIIA NOVOSELIA
STAFF WRITER

Described as “ringworm on steroids,” white-nose syndrome attacks bats in hibernation, shredding their wings and eating away their skin, said Jonathan Townsend, biologist and board member at Greystone Nature Preserve. While not much can be done to prevent bats from getting infected, Townsend said, providing them with stable summer habitats is paramount.

“If you’ve ever enjoyed tequila, you should thank a bat,” Townsend said earlier this summer in his annual “Listening to Bats” lecture.

Nine species of bats fly across the night skies of Western New York, he said in the same lecture; five of those species – the little brown bat, the big brown bat, the silver-haired bat, the eastern red bat and the hoary bat – have been seen in Chautauqua.

“I have not been lucky enough to see all of them, ... I’ve only seen two species – the big brown bat and the little brown bat, but because of the white-nose fungus, there are very few little brown bats left,” said Chautauquan Caroline Bissell, noting that she grew up at the Institution and has “always had bats around.”

The white-nose fungus, she said, was brought to the United States from Europe on a caver’s clothing in 2006. The caver, Bissell said, went on to visit Howe Caverns near Albany, New York, where the fungus fell off the clothing. Within a year and a half, she said, the cave was “completely decimated,” and the syndrome spread to Canada, then down the eastern seaboard to southern states like New Mexico, Texas and Arizona.

During the late 2000s, about 10,000 little brown bats were nestled in attics across Chautauqua, Townsend said. White-nose syndrome, he said, reached the Institution in the winter of 2008-2009, killing little brown bats in hibernation and causing a 90-99% decline of the species.

Since 2006, white-nose syndrome has killed an estimated 6.7 million bats across North America, making the epidemic “the worst wildlife disease outbreak” in the region, according to the Center for Biological Diversity’s website.

Stopping the white-nose syndrome, Townsend said, could be achieved by going into infected caves and killing the fungus that causes

the disease. The problem, he said, is there are other important fungal species that can be negatively impacted this way.

“When bats come out of hibernation, their wings will be completely shredded and gone. ... With treatment and rehabilitation the bats can be rereleased, and they tend to go through that every year,” Townsend said.

For female bats, he said, the process of rehabilitation can take so long that they do not have enough time to raise a pup before going back into hibernation and repeating the vicious cycle.

“Slow to reproduce,” Townsend said, the bats tend to only have one pup per season, which makes it difficult for the population to go back to its original numbers even over a decade after the initial outbreak.

In Ripley, New York, in an attempt to keep bats out of his barn, a man has put up seven bat houses, Bissell said. She said she has been going on little field trips there since the mid-2000s, and while originally, the seven houses were home to 1,700 bats, the white-nose syndrome diminished the number down to 25.

“Last year, we did our count in June, July, and counted roughly 250 little brown bats – it’s coming back extremely slowly. I will never see those numbers in my lifetime,” Bissell said.

White-nose syndrome, however, is not the only conservation issue that bats are facing, Townsend said. For example, wind turbines across the United States, he said, kill from 500,000 to 1 million bats every year.

Environmental degradation is another challenge to bat survival. Cutting down trees, dividing land to develop roads or cities, different kinds of pollution all negatively affect bats’ ability to migrate, find shelter and food, according to the U.S. National Park Service’s website.

Finally, human fear is one of the biggest threats to bats. People are scared of bats, Townsend said, even though we have been living alongside them for “thousands of years in caves, structures, houses and castles.” Genetic lineages of bats on the grounds of Chautauqua Institution, he said, could go as far back as 200 years.

“Stop being so damn terrified of them,” Bissell said. “(Bats) are not out to hurt people. They’re just making a living, they’re just after

“

Bats are responsible for reforesting tropical rainforests after they’ve been cleared and pollinating things like agave, (from) which we get tequila, coffee, bananas – all sorts of really important things to humanity.”

—JONATHAN TOWNSEND

Biologist, Board Member,
Greystone Nature Preserve

the bugs, and when you get one in your house, it’s not after you – it’s a teenage bat that got in the wrong place at the wrong time. Sometimes, the mom went one way, and the teenage bat wasn’t paying attention, and now, (it) finds itself in your bathroom or your kitchen.”

Bissell said she has had bats in her own house three different times, with one of the encounters occurring at 2:30 a.m. The visitor, she said, turned out to be a big brown bat, as are most of the bats she rescues.

In the last three weeks, Bissell freed four bats, she said. Her latest rescue was a young big brown bat that was found sleeping on top of a spatula covered by a small frying pan in a dish drainer.

If a bat winds up inside someone’s house, Bissell recommended opening a window and turning the lights off: “You can leave one (very low) light on, so the bat realizes it’s nighttime and not daytime, because if you turn all the

lights on, the bat is going to think: ‘OK, it’s daytime, I have got to go back to sleep.’”

Bat rescuing also involves some “don’ts.” Bissell said people should not use anything like a tennis racket, a golf club or a baseball bat to move the animal, as they can kill it.

“People think: ‘Oh, I’m going to use a tennis racket, and I’ll just swing it really gently.’ There’s no such thing as gently with a creature as small as a bat, so I’m just adamant about people not using tennis rackets or anything that delivers bodily harm to the bat,” Bissell said.

Instead, if the bat lands somewhere inside, she said people can use a small towel to take it outside and put it on a hedgerow. Bats, she said, need air under their wings to take off, so placing them on the ground leaves them extremely vulnerable, as bats can be eaten by many creatures, including woodpeckers, hawks and owls.

Bissell volunteers to rescue bats trapped inside

houses, and said anyone needing her assistance can reach her at 602-999-7718.

“You’ve heard that expression forever – blind as a bat – but bats are not blind. They see perfectly well,” Bissell said. “When I capture them, they’re absolutely terrified, and their little eyes see me perfectly well. It’s just that their echolocation system is so sophisticated that they use it to track their prey.”

With echolocation, Townsend said, a bat can detect something as fine as a human hair in pitch-black darkness.

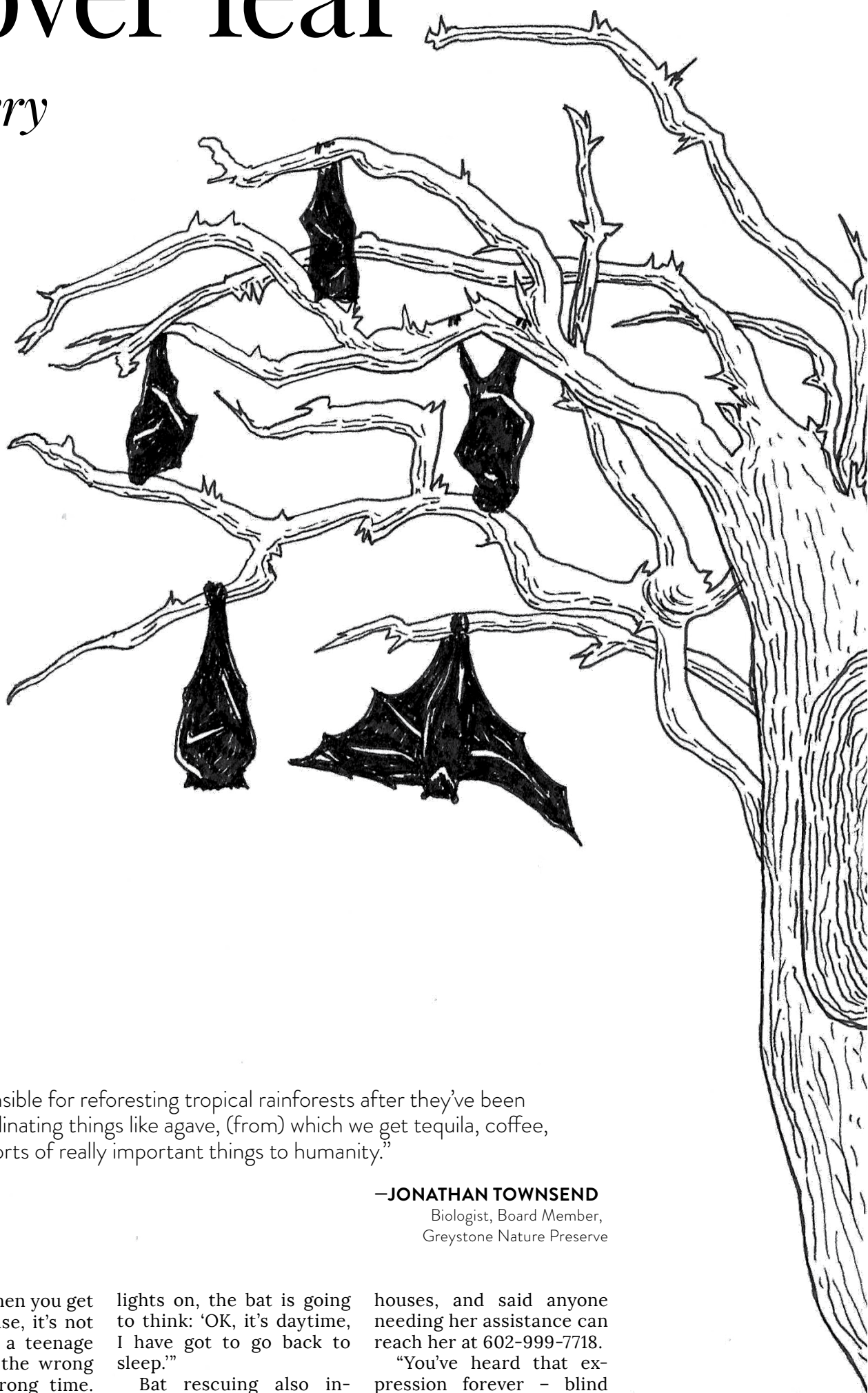
Blindness, however, is not the only misconception that has stuck to bats. Bats have long been blamed for rabies, even though less than 1% of them actually carry the virus, Bissell said.

On the other hand, she said vampire bat saliva has anti-clogging enzymes used in medicine to dissolve blood clots that can otherwise lead to strokes. And that’s not all they do.

“Bats are responsible for reforesting tropical rainforests after they’ve been cleared and pollinating things like agave, (from) which we get tequila, coffee, bananas – all sorts of really important things to humanity,” Townsend said.

Bats also pollinate big saguaros in Arizona, Bissell said, as bat guano is a fabulous fertilizer.

“Bats are vital to the environment and to the ecology, so people should stop being afraid of them and start understanding that they’re just a little critter that Hollywood has maligned something fierce,” Bissell said.



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FROM PAGE ONE

“To Chautauqua — Moment of Farewell”

Sometimes I wish that I could love you less,
For when the summer ends and I must go,
Almost it is a rendering of the soul —
You are a part of me and I of you.
Some other moment I shall sit apart
To count the many reasons for my love —
The varying beauty under summer clouds,
Of rippling water, of ravine and grove;
The quick light-hearted friendliness
We breathe in with the air, the joy
Of learning, peace of wisdom — yes,
Another time I'll meditate on these.
But not today. Today
I only know I leave you,
And I am silent with too much to say.
I shall remember lovely, little things —
I shall hear echoes on far city streets —
Sometimes I wish that I could love you less.
— Rebecca Richmond, 1944

SUTTON

FROM PAGE A1

This season has been a tough one for the staff, he said, and too many employees have been confronted not just with disagreement, but by “people just not being nice. Words of appreciation mean something, they mean so much to the staff.”

While he is very optimistic and hopeful for Chautauqua's future, he has one concern: that Chautauqua will become a playground for the rich.

“That will be the death of the vision; then we will have failed,” he said.

Being senior pastor does not mean Sutton is the only pastor.

“There are other pastors, ordained or not, who are people who offer pastoral care to those in need. The denominational chaplains make a big difference,” he said. “I want to be a pas-

“

I am privileged to be in a place where the big questions facing the world are addressed from the perspectives of the humanities, arts, science and religion. I can't think of any other residential community where you can think, pray and play together in any given week.”

—THE RT. REV. EUGENE TAYLOR SUTTON

Senior Pastor,
Chautauqua Institution

tor to everyone, no matter what religion you practice, if you are nonaligned or atheist. I want people to say, “This is the pastor for me.”

He continued, “I am a Christian, an Episcopal bishop and I am devoted to my faith. I want to help people know the face of Christianity that Jesus would want, not bigoted, exclusive, narrow-minded or conquering but compassionate,

open-minded, welcoming, hospitable, serene, affirming and justice-doing.”

One of his ideas, implemented during the Sunday morning worship service, is to tithe part of the Sunday offering to organizations outside Chautauqua Institution. Working with Spas, the tithe is directed to nonprofit organizations serving Chautauqua County, including the United Way of Southern Chautau-

qua County, Child Advocacy Program of Chautauqua County, St. Susan Center in Jamestown, Chautauqua Lake Child Care, Jamestown Juneteenth, and Habitat for Humanity.

Sutton is excited when he walks around Chautauqua and can ask “How are you doing?” when he sees people on their porches.

“I can be a pastor here,” he said. “That is why I got ordained — to be a pastor.”

PERFORMANCE

FROM PAGE A1

Most of Trombone Shorty's music is instrumental, but over the years, he has grown more confident in his voice, as he told *The Washington Post* in June.

“When we were coming up, I didn't even want to introduce the band because I didn't like the way my voice sounded, but over time, I've gotten a bit stronger,” he said. “I'm still working on it very hard.”

He certainly works with his voice on his latest album in 2022, *Lifted*, “blur(ring) the lines between funk, soul, R&B and psychedelic rock,” as it is described on

his website.

“We always have that New Orleans thing underneath,” he told *The Washington Post*. “It's not conscious. It's just part of our DNA.”

Growing up in the Tremé neighborhood of the city, Trombone Shorty has brought the joy and heart from jazz to collaborations across genres with artists from Pharrell and Zac Brown to Foo Fighters and Ringo Starr.

“I don't try to mimic others, but I'm a sponge and the influence comes out naturally, which I think is the most wonderful thing in music,” he told *The Washington Post*.

However, through his mu-

sic, he is never far from home.

“Without New Orleans I wouldn't be here,” he told CBS News in February. “And I really mean that with my whole heart.”

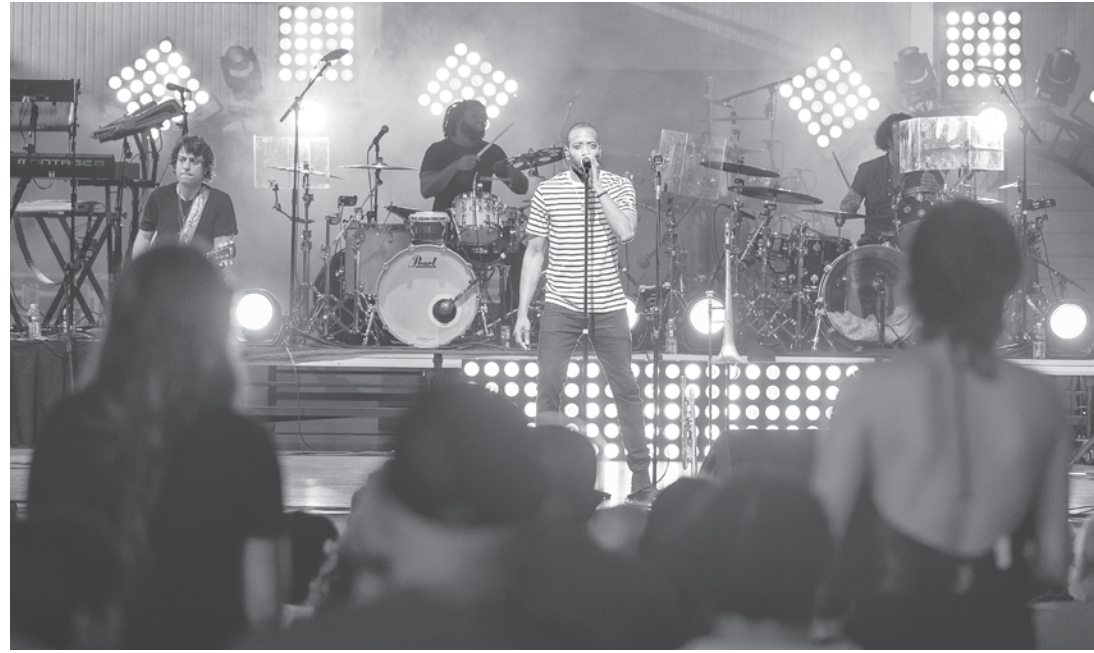
Through the Trombone Shorty Foundation, he wants to allow other young people to experience the same freedom and community.

“The foundation is just about inspiring the next generation and letting them know that ... through music, it could be your passport to do whatever you want to do,” he told CBS News.

As for Staples, her career started in Chicago-area churches when her father, Roebuck “Pops” Staples, taught her and her siblings Cleotha, Pervis and Yvonne gospel harmonies with Mavis singing the bass parts.

“I didn't like to rehearse,” she told *The New Yorker* in June 2022. “Pops said, ‘Mavis, your voice is a gift that God gave you. If you don't use it, he'll take it back.’ I was the first one in rehearsal after that.”

Beginning with acous-



KRISTEN TRIPLETT / DAILY FILE PHOTO

Trombone Shorty performs as a part of a double bill with The Roots on Aug. 21, 2021, in the Amphitheater.

tic gospel-folk, the Staple Singers' version of “Uncle Sam” and “Will the Circle Be Unbroken” helped them gain popularity.

Later, the group became best known for “I'll Take You There,” which spent 15 weeks at No. 1 on the Bill-

board Hot 100 chart in 1972, and “Respect Yourself.” The group's gospel styling in secular music came from their roots in the church and “message songs” of the early 1960s during the civil rights movement.

Others may have first gotten to know the Staple Singers from the 1976 film by Martin Scorsese documenting The Band's final concert, “The Last Waltz,” when they sang “The Weight.”

She has since been hon-

ored with a bevy of accolades — such as inductions into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and the Blues Hall of Fame — and awards, including a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

“I've kept my father's legacy alive,” Staples said in *The New Yorker*. “Pops started this, and I'm not just going to squander it. I'm going to sing every time I get on the stage — I'm gonna sing with all my heart and all I can put out.”



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NEWS

Dear fellow Chautauquans, Thorton Wilder wisely reminds us, "We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures."

My dear Chautauquans, I could not feel more alive from all the treasures we have experienced together this summer. Whether you are closing out your first day this weekend or you've been with us all summer, I am profoundly grateful for your presence here during our 150th Summer Assembly Season and 149th year as an organization.

This year marks my seventh season as Chautauqua's president, and one thing remains constant: the close of each Summer Assembly brings the tremendous satisfaction of having consumed a summer together and the sadness of knowing that another summer has come to a close. I will save much of my reflections for the closing Three Taps of the Gavel address on Sunday night. I hope you will join us in the Amphitheater or on CHQ Assembly (assembly.chq.org) as we again experience the incredible musicianship of our Chautauqua Choir under the direction of Joshua Stafford. There is a ritual to hearing "Largo" from the Massey Memorial Organ that fills my soul. I also want to thank Nicholas Stigall, who for two seasons has served as our inaugural organ scholar, as he heads off for his graduate studies.

Rabbi Ed Feinstein reminded a group at the President's Cottage this week that what happens at Chautauqua is like no place in this world, and we should cherish it and never forget how lucky we are to be here. I couldn't agree more! (And as an aside, how lucky were we to have the Rabbi as our Chaplain-in-Residence for Week Nine?)

To all of our preachers, speakers, artists and educators, we thank you for animating our summer with uplifting words, inspiring music, thought-provoking questions, tremendous reflections through movement and surprising and delightful informal moments as you joined our community of seekers.

My heartfelt thanks to the people that will ultimately edit this column before you get to read it. The staff and leadership of *The Chautauquan Daily* has again served as the glue that helps us know what's coming, make sense of what we've seen and capture the perfect words and images for a place



From the President

COLUMN BY MICHAEL E. HILL

that resists description. They are a bastion of creativity and free expression (and I'm not being partial because that's where I started my own Chautauqua journey 26 years ago!).

To members of our board of trustees and the Chautauqua Foundation Board of Directors, thank you for your leadership, your steadfast stewardship of this beloved treasure we call Chautauqua and for the many ways you were and are ambassadors for our mission here. So much happens "behind the scenes" that many will never know, and it is because of your dedication that this glorious summer exists.

To our incredible staff who does everything from scoop ice cream to program our stages, to all those who kept us safe and those who made sure family fun could happen on our beaches, to those who processed a dizzying array of ticket orders and kept our more than 140 public buildings and spaces clean and functioning, to the faculty and teachers who allowed gifted young people to be a vibrant part of our tapestry, to all those whose work is beyond being categorized, I thank you for your commitment, your passion, your love of Chautauqua. Without you, none of this would be possible.

I also want to lift up three very special people who will conclude their very long tenures with Chautauqua this year. Keith Schmitt has served as manager of the Chautauqua Amphitheater for 40 years. Those of us fortunate enough to see this maestro at work backstage know that he has coordinated, corralled and created all that has happened on

that historic stage for four decades. Life at the Amphitheater doesn't really make sense without Keith, but he has earned the respite coming his way. He does so with our profound thanks, deep admiration and tremendous love.

Two other colleagues will conclude their service to Chautauqua at the end of the calendar year. Cindy Mando, our director of information technology, has likewise put in decades of service. She created our technology infrastructure from the ground up and will retire at the end of the year having ushered in a blueprint for a massive modernization of our IT systems here. We owe her a debt of gratitude.

Lastly, I am devastated to report that my own executive assistant and the Institution's corporate secretary Rindy Barmore will retire at the end of 2023. Rindy has served two Chautauqua presidents and before that helped create and lead our fundraising research efforts. But Rindy's true gifts are not in the lines of her resume, but the outpouring of love with which she served Chautauqua's leadership and Chautauquans in general. It is only slightly hyperbolic to say "she has seen it all" over her close to four decades of service here. I want to also thank her entire family, especially Lanny and Erik, for sharing her with us for so many countless hours and for being a part of our Chautauqua family. I'm glad we will still have her sage counsel for a few more months; it will never be long enough.

My last and most important "thank you" goes to each and every one of you. Chautauqua is unique because it creates a program within a community of communities. Without those who spend a day or a summer here, without all of you, the magic of Chautauqua cannot occur. Thank you for being pushed and pushing. Thank you for asking questions and seeking answers. Thank you for opening up your hearts to the possibilities of Chautauqua. Thank you for returning to these shores - whether in-person or online - and know that we will meet again, this next time to celebrate our 150th birthday.

Until we meet again ...

Michael

Barmore, longtime presence in Colonnade, community, to retire at year's end

ALYSSA BUMP
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After 37 years serving the Chautauqua community, Rindy Barmore, executive assistant to the president and board secretary, will retire at the end of 2023.

"(Working here) has totally broadened my understanding of the world around me in terms of diversity," Barmore said. "It's also brought me great education."

Barmore first joined Chautauqua Institution's staff in the Advancement Office. After deciding the secretarial role wasn't for her, Tom Becker, who later became the 17th president of Chautauqua, offered her the director of research position in the Development Office of the Chautauqua Foundation.

"I had not done research - in that facet - in the past, but I found it very intriguing," Barmore said. "I enjoyed getting to know the donors; I created lasting and significant relationships with them. I truly cared for the donors and their passion and love for Chautauqua, which I found to be really exceptional and rewarding."

Barmore often worked with research aimed to identify potential donors. She later became the director of research, donor cultivation and campaign management, as well as corporate secretary.

"All the positions in fundraising are related to the efforts to increase philanthropic funding to the Institution through the Foundation," Barmore said. "There were at least four or more campaigns that I assisted in running."

In these roles, she worked under Richard (Dick) Miller, a descendant of Chautauqua Institution founder Lewis Miller, who served as Chautauqua Foundation president.

"Working under Dick Miller was one of my greatest (experiences)," Barmore said. "I was taken under the wing of Dick. ... He was a respectable (leader) who's guidance always made you a better person."

Barmore said she worked with Becker as his "right-hand person" during his time as chief executive officer of the Foundation. When Becker moved into the position of Chautauqua Institution President in 2005, he personally

asked Barmore to join him as his executive assistant.

"There are numerous chairs (and colleagues) that I've worked with through the years on the Foundation that have been real partners and mentors for me," she said.

Barmore is originally from Frewsburg, New York. She said she is grateful to have raised her three children with her husband in the Chautauqua community.

"My biggest (source of gratitude) is the impact that (Chautauqua) has had on my family, because without this job, I know we would not have (this community)," Barmore said. "But the exposure that Chautauqua has given myself, my husband and my family has broadened our overall view of the world."

Barmore's son has special needs, and she fondly remembers the supportive community of friends he found when he was in Boys' and Girls' Club several years ago.

"When he was in Boys' and Girls' Club, he decided he wanted to have a birthday party," Barmore said. "We were really apprehensive about it because we had done

this before and people hadn't shown up."

Despite their concerns, Barmore and her husband decided to host the birthday party for their son anyway.

"A group of 10 to 15 great kids he was in Club with came singing 'Happy Birthday' to celebrate with him," Barmore said. "It was the first time in his life that he felt included and felt like he had a community other than his family - that is a gift I could have never given him."

To this day, Chautauquans continue to support her son, who works at the Athenaeum Hotel. The friends he made during his youth at Boys' and Girls' Club continue to stay in touch and visit him when they come to Chautauqua.

"(My son) has freedom here," Barmore said. "He's able to walk and be safe in this community. He's able to have a somewhat normal life that I don't think we could have otherwise provided."

Barmore's biggest hope is for Chautauqua to stay true to its mission of openness and inclusivity, growing to become even more diverse and understanding of each

others' differences.

"(Chautauqua) has totally broadened my life in terms of all that is out there and all the wonderful things and different people - just like my son, he's different," Barmore said. "That difference is unique and wonderful."

In her retirement, Barmore plans to move to South Carolina with her husband and son to be closer to family. She hopes to take better care of herself, continue fostering loving relationships with her family and become involved in volunteer work.

"I've already made some connections, and I want to be involved in some Special Olympics organizations there to help my son become acclimated to the area," Barmore said. "I would love to work with some of the special needs kids because they are so genuine and their heart is true - there's no falseness to what they do."

Beyond that, Barmore also hopes to assist unhoused people and veterans.

"I have a nephew who has suffered greatly from being in Iraq, and there's a lot of veterans who are not be-



BARMORE

ing supported," she said. "I hope to get more involved in things like that and continue to give as much as I can."

While enjoying retirement in South Carolina, Barmore will continue to cherish the relationships and memories she's made at Chautauqua.

"The relationships that I've made are honest and real," she said. "It was not about who they were or what position they held or what I could do. I hope they know that (our relationships) came from my heart, and that I really care."

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CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chautauquans gather to take part in the fifth annual (-ish) Library Kazoo Chorale Thursday on the steps of the Smith Memorial Library.



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At left, Smith Memorial Library Director Scott Ekstrom conducts his Kazoo Chorale. At right, Lennie Bloom, left, and Gail Silberstein serenade Julian Bloom, 1, with the ducllet tones of their kazoos. Ekstrom started hosting the Kazoo Chorale as part of Library Day, paused the musical festivities during the pandemic, and split it off into its own event this summer.

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Season Farewell
...the faith of an institution is an adequate faith only when it inspires and enables people to give of their time and energy to shape the institution...
 - James Luther Adams

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ENVIRONMENT

Blue plastic wanted: CCI, Washed Ashore look to create permanent sculpture

MARIIA NOVOSELIA
STAFF WRITER

This summer, Chautauquans can leave a legacy simply by donating their blue plastic.

At the Chautauqua Farmers Market, the Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative has set up a collection spot for blue plastic that will be used to create a permanent sculpture on the grounds of Chautauqua Institution in the style of “Washed Ashore – Art to Save the Sea.” Donations are welcome through the end of the 2023 season.

Mark Wenzler, the Peter Nosler Director of the Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative, said the Institution is looking for clean solid blue objects made of plastic that have “outlived their useful life” and are going to be thrown away.

“It could be beach toys – think about a little beach rake or a bucket. ... It’s actually not necessarily what most people think of as recyclables,” Wenzler said.

So far, he and his colleagues have collected three bags of plastic, in addition to several large pieces, including a pallet and a plastic deck chair.

“When (Washed Ashore) creates their sculptures, all of the plastic is collected from the beach – it’s all stuff that washes up from the ocean. Fortunately for us, we don’t have that much plastic washing up on our shores, ... so we just asked people to directly donate things that were going to be thrown away,” Wenzler said.

Washed Ashore volunteers collect washed up plastic debris from the coast of southern Oregon. Katie Dougherty, executive director of the organization,

said Washed Ashore aims to “empower the individual to feel they can do something that leads to change.”

Fourteen Washed Ashore sculptures have been on the grounds of Chautauqua Institution since the beginning of the season. Wenzler said talks about creating a permanent sculpture at Chautauqua began even before the exhibit was installed.

Originally, he said, the idea was to bring Washed Ashore artists to Chautauqua. However, because producing a sculpture requires “a very specific skill set, welders and materials,” Wenzler said, the plan had to be altered.

Shipping all the collected plastic to the West Coast, he said, was not an effective option either, and keeping everything local meant choosing one color.

“The sculpture that we are going to do will somehow involve the lake. The lake is so important to us, we thought: ‘Why not blue?’ The blue plastic can be used to represent our lake,” Wenzler said.

A final decision on the design hasn’t yet been decided, Wenzler said, so more specific conversations about feasibility of different designs and cost are expected in the fall. An osprey, however, would be Wenzler’s first choice.

Ospreys, he said, used to be prevalent in the region, but were extirpated from the area around a century ago through pollution and because of habitat loss.

“It’s only within the last 10 years that the ospreys are coming back, as we have restored habitat (and) eliminated pollution, so it’s a very powerful environmental story,” Wenzler said. “I think



JESS KSZOS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mark Wenzler, the Peter Nosler Director of the Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative, sits for a portrait Wednesday behind the Colonnade with donated blue plastic that will be used in Chautauqua’s own permanent “Washed Ashore – Art to Save the Sea.”

an osprey would be a great representation of our lake and a hopeful story for the future of our environments.”

If the plan to build an osprey sculpture does not work out, Wenzler said, the second choice would be a fish that is native to Chautauqua Lake, as it is full of “some big, iconic fish.”

“It could also be an osprey catching a fish – an osprey diving into the lake with his talons holding onto a fish,” he said.

Plastic, Wenzler said, causes a multitude of envi-

ronmental problems from the process of extraction to disposal. First, the process of drilling for oil and gas, he said, destroys vast amounts of land and pollutes air and water.

Then, facilities where plastic is made emit toxic chemicals into the air. Once the material is ready, he said, it ends up in the environment, where it can last for hundreds of decades, breaking down into microplastics.

“(Microplastics) enter our bloodstream, they pollute the water, they kill fish and wildlife – it’s an environmental

disaster; ... it’s probably one of the worst environmental problems that we have in our world, and it’s a tragedy,” Wenzler said. “It’s a shameful example of the negative consequences of our overconsumptive culture.”

That’s why, he said, people need to change the narrative from recycling to refusing to use plastic in the first place.

Greenpeace’s 2022 Circular Claims Fall Flat Again report estimated that in 2021, only 2.4 million tons of plastic waste out of about 51 million tons generated by U.S.

households were recycled.

“It’s not that plastic itself is evil. It’s quite a remarkable material, and it has some great uses that can be life-saving; but in terms of consumer products, we could easily (avoid them) if we made that decision. We have alternatives today, we don’t have to invent anything,” Wenzler said. “There will always be a need for specialty plastics and medical devices, ... but that’s not going to cause an environmental disaster like the consumer products are causing.”

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LECTURE



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sanjay Gupta closes out the 2023 Chautauqua Lecture Series season with his words on human connection Friday in the Amphitheater.

Gupta encourages hope through connection at intersection of medicine, media

STACEY FEDEROFF
COPY DESK CHIEF

CNN Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta took a journey in 2018 to a remote area of Bolivia in the Amazon rainforest in order to report on the Tsimane tribe.

The group had been identified in a medical journal as having the healthiest hearts in the world, and with a history in his family of heart disease – the leading cause of death in the United States – Gupta wanted to investigate if the Indigenous tribe's lifestyle could help inform Americans on how to prevent it.

"Every demographic in the world now is affected by many of the same chronic diseases we're dealing with in the United States, every demographic – but this particular tribe seems to be different," he said. "All I wanted to do is observe and see what I could learn about the healthiest-hearted people in the world."

Delivering the final morning lecture of the 2023 Summer Assembly Season, Gupta closed Week Nine for the Chautauqua Lecture Series at 10:45 a.m. Friday in the Amphitheater by discussing "Reporting and Practicing Medicine in the Global South."

Working for CNN since 2001, Gupta is a practicing neurosurgeon, *New York Times* bestselling author, award-winning broadcast journalist and associate professor at Emory University Hospital.

"I've traveled to more than 100 countries, many of them in the Global South, and I realized ... that health is a great big common denominator," he said.

During his trip to Bolivia, Gupta said he focused on what he called the big three: activity, diet and rest.

First, he observed the tribe's hunter-gatherer activity.

"Maybe you have a preconceived notion of what it's like to be a hunter-gatherer in the middle of the Amazon rainforest," he said. "They hardly ever run. They walk. A lot. When they're hunting, they track

their prey, they're not trying to outrun their prey."

Gupta found that members of the tribe walk about 17,000 steps per day on average, which is "a lot, but doable."

Aside from walking, the Tsimane people don't sit often.

"There are few chairs, as you might imagine, in the middle of the rainforest," he said, explaining that sitting sends signals to the body that can lower its defenses "so suddenly you're more susceptible to things."

Second, when it comes to diet, Gupta found that instead of something akin to what Americans know as the "paleo" diet, high in protein, the Tsimane people's diets were high in carbs.

"The vast majority of what the healthiest-hearted people eat is farmed food; it's carbs, it's plantains," he said.

Last, for rest, he turned in to his tent at about 9:30 p.m. and rose with the sound of the roosters at 6:30 a.m., so the Tsimane sleep about nine hours every night.

He didn't expect to find a fourth contributing factor, but realized the Tsimane frequently deal with parasitic infections early in life that result in boosted immune systems.

"Most of the diseases we talk about – heart disease, diabetes, dementia – have some component of our own immune system either igniting or worsening those diseases," he said. "Our immune systems – which we live in these incredible bubbles of cleanliness – oftentimes start to get bored," he said. "If you have a parasite in your body, you may be giving your immune system something to do and decreasing the likelihood of developing those autoimmune diseases."

Gupta said rather than relying on the newest, most expensive medical innovations, in order to prevent heart disease, there is still more to learn from the health practices of the Tsimane.

"It's worth paying attention to, engaging in the basics, trying to understand

those basics, things that have withstood the test of time," he said.

In examining this and other topics in his role with CNN, Gupta said medical developments have to be considered with the complexities of people in mind.

"We've got to remember as we continue to innovate, the real value of human connection, whether it be in medicine or in media," he said.

With a background first as a doctor, he came to the world of journalism wanting to be a "policy wonk," examining the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare systems.

As a medical journalist, he and his colleagues "tackle the issues we think matter the most, have really broad relevance, things you can incorporate into your own lives and have big meaning across society," he said.

This is why he decided to explore life expectancy – what he called "one of the markers of how well a healthcare system works" – for an HBO documentary, "One Nation Under Stress," in 2019.

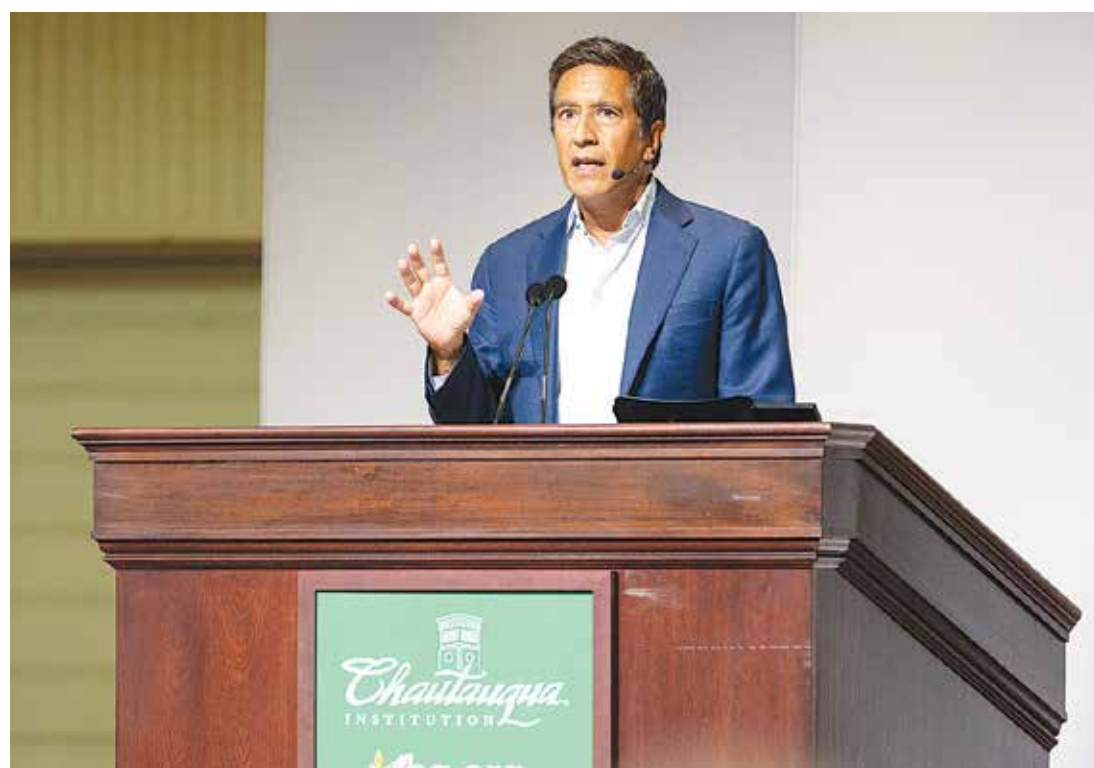
When reviewing every demographic in the developed world since World War II, he found that all have increased in life expectancy except the white working-class in the United States, Gupta said.

In that group, the top three causes of premature death are: liver cirrhosis due to alcoholism, suicide and drug overdoses, typically due to opioids. Researchers called these "deaths of despair," Gupta said.

The increased frequency of these causes of death was so significant that the life expectancy for all populations in the United States dropped, he said.

Offspring of the Greatest Generation were supposed interhit a better country, Gupta said. "Expectations were dashed and that is a very toxic thing."

Other research he examined had uncovered that extreme inequality is bad for health outcomes, for both the rich and the poor, the



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gupta's lecture was titled "Reporting and Practicing Medicine in the Global South."

"have" and the "have not."

In the documentary, he had researchers reenact an experiment using rewards for two Capuchin monkeys who were able to see each other in glass cages.

A monkey on the left was taught to give a rock to the examiner in exchange for a piece of cucumber over and over. Then, the same exchange took place with a monkey on the right, but instead of cucumber, it received grapes.

Returning to the monkey on the left, it got angry, now expecting grapes instead of cucumber.

"Stress levels for the monkey on the left were through the roof, no surprise," Gupta said. "But the stress levels for the monkey on the right, also going through the roof."

The degree of inequality in the United States is the highest in the developed world, he said.

"It's emblematic of a story that we need to be mindful of," Gupta said. "It's the story of a problem, but in many ways it's also the story of a solution: an opportunity to better, once you understand what is really happening."

Using stories to share information, teach lessons and solve problems have always been essential for human beings, but the way people tell those stories matter, Gupta said.

"The problem I find increasingly when you watch and consume content is that there's a lot of stories that basically default to the use of fear as a motivation," he said. "When it comes to health, the message might be you will get heart disease if you eat this, you will get cancer, you will die young. It's scary."

Motivating people with fear, however, doesn't last long since these appeals activate the amygdala in the

brain, the emotional center, Gupta said, but it bypasses executive function.

"It becomes action without a plan, it is jumbled and disorganized and it doesn't lead to anything permanent," he said.

Instead, with his work, Gupta said he focuses on hope and the "what and the why" of enduring purpose.

"People are reminded ... that no matter where they are today – whether they just won a race or they are in the depths of chronic disease – that they can be better tomorrow," he said. "In many ways, we haven't even begun to try because we oftentimes are resorting to these fear-based messaging."

During his more than 20-year career, lessons of hope have often come from the Global South, Gupta said.

With his reporting, Gupta and his colleagues are "constantly balancing the inflection between hope and honesty," he said, but one is not the opposite of the other.

"Hope can help heal," he said.

When sent to report stories in places of conflict, Gupta said he has also come to find that no matter where he travels, no matter the circumstances, meaningful human connections can form.

"Many people may not be able to identify Aleppo on a map, but if I start to tell you the stories of the people who live there, their lives don't sound too different from yours," he said. "They lived their lives, then one day, bombs started falling out of the sky."

The selflessness of those in the medical field and others, who run toward danger risking their lives to save those of others, embodies what is important to him and motivates him the most.

"I found that to be the most human of all stories," Gupta said. "I want to pay respect

and remind people what sacrifice really looks like."

During the Iraq War in 2003, Gupta embedded with the U.S. Navy's "Devil Docs" medical unit for CNN when they were tasked with treating a young lieutenant who had been shot in the head.

The unit had no neurosurgeon on-hand and, even though Gupta was there as a journalist, he was asked to operate.

In a dusty desert tent, he sterilized a bit from a drill the troops had used to put up the tent to perform a craniectomy, removing part of the soldier's skull to relieve the pressure on his brain. Then, he used a sterile IV bag to cover the open wound, and the soldier was airlifted to safety.

Time passed, and one day Gupta received a phone call from a rehabilitation facility. The soldier had recovered well and was back home in southern California.

"I decided to pay him a visit, so I looked him up and drove out to his house," Gupta said. "A young, handsome strapping Marine answers the door, and we don't even need to talk, he just gives me a hug."

As he visited with that Marine and his parents, Gupta realized the three of them hadn't talked together about what happened to him in Iraq.

"Life goes on and sometimes you never get the chance to talk about it, you never get the chance to reflect on it," Gupta said. "I realized I was fostering a conversation that otherwise may have never been had."

He urged the audience to do the same in order to share human connection.

"If you do nothing else, have the conversations," he said. "Make them real, make them authentic, make them genuine and they will change your life."

Searching for home stay hosts for the Annual Chautauqua Trail Meeting in 2024

Chautauqua Institution is hosting for the 150th Birthday during week 7 and I am looking for home stay hosts.

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Chautauqua Trail
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CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Retiring Amphitheater Manager Keith Schmitt drives off in his golf cart with Jeremy Warsitz, former Amp crew chief, after he was honored before the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra performance last Saturday in the Amp. The golf cart, known as "The Batmobile," had been officially retired — like Schmitt will be after the close of the 2023 season — but was brought back and refurbished as a parting gift from the Amp crew and Institution administration.

'TOO MUCH WORK TO MAKE IT HARD'

After 40 years, thousands of events, retiring Amp manager Schmitt looks back on tenure

STACEY FEDEROFF
COPY DESK CHIEF

As the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra members took the stage and tuned up their instruments, Deborah Sunya Moore, senior vice president and chief program officer, addressed the audience last Saturday, but for more than the usual announcements.

"The Amphitheater has been called the heartbeat of Chautauqua, where we gather very publicly for performances and presentations," she said to the gathered audience. "As the Amphitheater is the heartbeat for Chautauqua, so our Amp manager is the heartbeat of our Amphitheater. His name is Keith Schmitt and tonight we are celebrating his retirement at the end of the summer, this summer being his 40th season at Chautauqua."

With the Amp crew gathered along the railing on one side, Schmitt entered to cheers and applause.

Moore and the crew presented him not only with a framed collage of photos to celebrate his retirement, but also another surprise: the keys to "The Batmobile" — his original, refurbished golf cart "raised from the dead."

Schmitt leaned back with laughter then pumped his fists in the air as electrician Jeremy Warsitz drove the golf cart out onto the floor of the Amp.

Without addressing the crowd, Schmitt raised the key in the air in triumph, then went down the stairs and hopped in the driver's seat.

"It's not his final exit, but it's a dramatic one," Moore said to the crowd, before one of the Amp crew shouted, "12 miles per hour!" as Schmitt and Warsitz sped away across the floor and out the portal on the other side.

☆☆☆

Schmitt, who grew up in northern Virginia, remembers listening to short-wave radio and learning how to solder electronics when he was young.

He said his eighth-grade shop class is what first got him hooked on theater and production design.

"They came in looking for help building scenery for a show, and I thought I'd like to hang out with the older guys, so I got started — and that was it from there," he said.

After earning a theater degree from George Washington University, he got his first experience working at Wolf Trap National Park and with the Washington Ballet.

One of his coworkers at Wolf Trap, Mary Theresa "MT" Mennino, left to take a position at Chautauqua — the first he had ever heard of such a place.

Eager to start his career, Schmitt kept his eye out and applied when

an opening for the Amp manager came up.

During his first-ever visit to the grounds and tour of the Amp one March day, the weather was more intimidating than it would be during the summer season.

"We literally had to climb over the ... eight-foot piles of snow to get in to look at it," Schmitt said. "It was actually a little scary ... (I thought) 'How does this work?'"

Things went well, though, and the interview turned into an orientation, and he got the job.

He called his first summer season, in 1984, "a blur" but he has never forgotten his very first show that year: Tony Bennett and the Buddy Rich Band.

Preparing for the show went smoothly enough, even though Schmitt had heard rumors that Rich could be difficult to work with. Then, the day of the show came, and Schmitt said the bandleader could tell he was nervous.

"When I called places to start the show, he was just sitting on a stool and looked at me, crossed his arms and said, 'I'm not going anywhere,'" Schmitt said. "The rest of the band was like, 'There he goes ...,' then, finally, he started laughing and went up on stage."

He admitted that took him by surprise, but the rest of that first show — the contract for which he recently unearthed from his personal files, including pages full of lighting cues and notes — went smoothly after that.

☆☆☆

Now, four decades later, Schmitt has collected plenty of confidence in his role.

"The simple way to describe it is: the folks over in the Colonnade book the show, and then I make sure it gets on stage," Schmitt said.

But that often encompasses any number of tasks, including hiring sound and lighting technicians, as well as the sweepers who are up early to make sure the Amp is clean and ready for each day's worth of programming.

In the beginning, Schmitt also served as stage manager for the orchestra, as well as stage manager and lighting designer for the dance programs.

"The programs have gotten bigger and bigger, so they ended up hiring their own stage managers and lighting designers," he said.

During each summer season, the Amp hosts 180 public events, including all the lectures, entertainment and worship services. That's between two and three events per day, seven days per week for the nine-week season, not counting rehearsals and sound checks.

At an average theater, it would



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Schmitt gives a few brief remarks following last Saturday's show for a private celebration in the Amp's back-of-house.

“

It's too much work to make it hard, so we try to have as much fun as we can. Everybody does, then it ends up instead being more like a family by the time we're done. We're together too much not to be acting like one, and that's just what Chautauqua is as a whole anyway; it's no different than the rest of the grounds."

—KEITH SCHMITT
Amphitheater Manager,
Chautauqua Institution

take a year "to do what we do basically in a week here," Schmitt said.

Overseeing thousands of events means he has had to troubleshoot and even help put out actual fires — which happened in 1995 when a misplaced light fixture caused an evacuation during a CSO concert.

"It took from the time the house was open until 10 minutes into the show to slowly burn through the ceiling," Schmitt said. "Somebody in the audience was like, 'Oh look, there's embers coming down from the ceiling.'"

The blaze left only minor dam-

age, and no one was injured.

"We got the building empty in less than three minutes. It was pretty impressive," Schmitt said.

When conversations about replacing the Amp started around 2007, Schmitt served as an integral partner.

"The old building was like trying to play contact sports with your great-grandfather," he said. "You can only move so fast and there's only so many places you can move. And it was all by hand."

See **SCHMITT**, Page B2

COMMUNITY

SCHMITT

FROM PAGE B1

Fast-forward to the brand-new \$42 million building opened in 2017: screens used for audience visuals are on electric winches, the floors are level with fewer stairs, and there's more storage, backstage and attic space, among other improvements.

In the "old Amp," at one point, Schmitt found out a sound technician was feeding muffins to a skunk living under the wooden floor. Backstage, one of the dressing rooms was so small that a notch was cut out of the bathroom door so the toilet lid would close.

The orchestra library had no air conditioning and, since it shared space with performer hospitality, was frequently made even hotter by catering sternos. Even worse was hanging equipment during the hottest days of summer from the attic, home to plenty of bats and their guano.

"Now, it's almost heaven," Schmitt said. "It's a huge difference."

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Even the 116-year-old Massey Memorial Organ and its 5,640 pipes have seen improvements during Schmitt's tenure. He remembers back when the instrument was analog, requiring two metal hoses.

"Wherever you put the organ, you would have to drag this enormous flexible hose out," Schmitt said.

About six to eight inches in diameter, one was for the compressed air needed for the pipe stops, and the other was for the individual wires for each pipe.

Since 1993 when it was digitized, the cable is only the diameter of a finger, making it much easier to maneuver.

The best part about working with the organ, Schmitt fondly recalls, was his relationship with the late Jared Jacobsen, who served as the organist and coordinator of worship and sacred music from 1996 until his death in 2019.

"He really loved the crew," Schmitt said, and at the end of the summer, Jacobsen would give the crew a "tip." It grew each year for several years until it funded an annual crew dinner, which they continue to carry on in his memory.

After years of joking about it before Jacobsen's weekly Wednesday recitals, in 2016, Jacobsen finally played Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" in honor of Schmitt's birthday.

"He did it cold because he didn't want to give it away by rehearsing, since he knew I would hear him," Schmitt said.

☆☆☆

Big productions, such as *Carmina Burana* and a visit from the more than 300-member Mormon Tabernacle Choir, stand out in his memory.

Another time, inspired by a movie-themed pops concert, Marty Merkle, then-vice president and director of programming who retired in 2015, flew down to the stage from the attic as Spiderman.

"He even had Silly String up his sleeves," Schmitt said. "Everybody who helped lower him in got a turn to fly in, so I actually got to go too."

In 2003, Merkle expressed his gratitude to Schmitt and the Amp crew in the *Daily*. "Chautauqua and I owe Keith a great deal of appreciation and admiration for his behind-the-scenes work to make every event in this building happen, happen on time, and to keep all of us safe, secure and entertained," Merkle said.

Similar admiration can be found farther back in the *Daily*'s pages, including several notes from Institution President Daniel Bratton over the years.

"Keith Schmitt and the

Amp crew had another stellar evening performance," he wrote after *Carmina Burana* in 1992. "When you offer your applause after evening performances, remember a group standing backstage whose evening is just beginning."

☆☆☆

The Amp crew is almost always on board with new ideas.

"The reality is we're on a cruise together," Schmitt said. "You're spending a hitch and we're not stopping for nine weeks, we're not coming back."

Despite his one-time nickname, "The Bear" – complemented by a "Danger: Bear Area" sign he got in Alaska that hung on his office door for years – Schmitt said he usually leads with his sense of humor.

"It's too much work to make it hard, so we try to have as much fun as we can," he said. "Everybody does, then it ends up instead being more like a family by the time we're done. We're together too much not to be acting like one, and that's just what Chautauqua is as a whole anyway; it's no different than the rest of the grounds."

For some Amp crew members, Schmitt knows three generations of their families on a first-name basis.

Last summer for the first time, he even had two generations of the same family on the crew: a member of the security staff had a son who worked as a sweeper.

☆☆☆

"He genuinely cares about you and the industry," said Amanda Wickmark, hospitality manager on the Amp crew. "It's so nice to have someone that you can respect and will help you professionally, but also that you can carry on with and have a good friendship with. We can go visit each other when we're not working and sit and have a beer or a coffee, but when stuff needs to get done, we get stuff done."

If not over a beverage, Schmitt and friends are known to meet semi-regularly during the summer on the Athenaeum Hotel lawn for an "old man" cigar club.

"As much as he wants us to have fun, he has to whip us around to get the job done sometimes, but he is all about safety for everybody," said Chris Dahlie, head of audio for the Amp.

Now an assistant professor at SUNY Fredonia, Dahlie said his first summer on the Amp crew was in 1999 after earning his bachelor's degree in music recording from University of Southern California.

"I've learned from him more than any other single mentor in the live entertainment industry," Dahlie said.

In Dahlie's opinion, the Amp manager faces two big challenges. First, navigating the logistics of getting big trucks, trailers and buses carrying stage equipment and performers through the narrow, pedestrian-heavy streets of Chautauqua.

But after 40 years, Schmitt knows how to direct them around, such as the kids on bikes racing to Club just before 9 a.m., with patience and systematic efficiency.

"Everyone is inspired by that work ethic all the time," Dahlie said. "He just kept coming up with more and more logistical solutions."

The second challenge is staffing, because the crew is seasonal and often made up of teenagers or college-aged young people.

"Keith has characterized himself in his later years here as basically a teacher and educator," Dahlie said. "You've got to have patience with people because you're basically reinventing the wheel every year."

Mike Smith, who grew up in Lakewood, New York, remembered his summers as a teenager working on the Amp crew where some of that work



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Schmitt takes a quiet moment during load-in for folk trio Girl Named Tom's performance Aug. 18 in the Amp.

ethic was instilled in him.

"It was a motley crew of individuals that we had, but it was always good workers or good problem-solvers," he said. "He has a really good knack for balancing people who were devoted, hard-working and problem solvers and people that were interesting and fun to be around for a summer."

The quirks of the "old Amp" meant constant vigilance for things like trip hazards and aesthetics, Smith said.

"Keith had a real knack for pushing accountability," he said. "I felt empowered when I was the crew chief that every minute detail was my responsibility, but also empowered to do things about it along the way."

Smith, who now lives in Seattle, said even in his work as an investment specialist with JP Morgan Chase & Co., he maintains focus on client experience because of his mentoring from Schmitt.

For example, Smith remembered Schmitt would assign tasks just challenging enough for each person's skill level.

"He'd let you fumble a little bit and problem-solve it yourself," Smith said.

Andrew Williamson, who worked his way up from sweeper to Amp crew chief as a teenager, said Schmitt has honed the ability to nurture enthusiasm from the crew members.

"He shows his support and lends his support where it's needed," Williamson said. "He gives everybody an equal chance ... he was certainly very supportive of finding ways for me to grow and do things."

Williamson, who went on to earn a theater degree from the College of Wooster, has worked in concert production for the last 24 years.

In 2001, Williamson returned to the Amp as lighting director on tour with country singer Trisha Yearwood. He is currently on tour as a lighting technician with the Jonas Brothers.

"In the production world, that's a big deal to have someone who will try anything and everything to make something work," Williamson said.

Especially important in a place that values camaraderie and community such as Chautauqua, Schmitt exemplifies those values as a manager and a colleague, Williamson said.

"It really does show a commitment to his craft and to his job and I think that's why people enjoy coming back summer after summer," Williamson said.

Williamson remembered when the Amp crew took out a quarter-page ad in the *Daily* on Aug. 14, 1991: "If you see Keith Schmitt today, wish him a happy birthday! And ask him where all his hair has gone to!"

Schmitt can still remember hearing people yell out to him as he confusedly walked from his then-parking place

behind Norton Hall, but he didn't understand why until Bratton opened up the paper and showed him.

"That's family," Schmitt said.

☆☆☆

Once he officially retires, Schmitt said he doesn't plan to go far. He wants to continue to be a steward of the Amp one way or another – an Amp manager emeritus, of sorts – to lead an interpretive program, possibly teaching a Special Studies class or giving tours, just as he's done

several times over the years, when he would take Clubbers on "backstage tours."

"I probably took hundreds of kids up into the attic to show them how everything worked up there," Schmitt said, "So I'd like to do something like that."

As for his successor, he said the search has begun, with some in-house potential because of candidates' familiarity and leadership.

"There are a couple of folks who have expressed some interest and there are

folks that I would be really comfortable with making the transition," he said.

In his off time, he plans to continue to travel. Having already visited all 50 states and more than 20 countries, he's working his way through U.S. territories, with American Samoa next on the list.

He said a friend referred to retiring in terms he liked best.

"I'm letting my life's GPS recalculate," Schmitt said. "There's lots of road left to travel."

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<p style="text-align: center;">By Appointment Mandolin Ridge Lots</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">This housing development is located across the street from Chautauqua Inst. Offering many lot size options. Mandolinridgechq.com Starting at \$62,500.</p>	<p>4228 West Lake Rd. Mayville Live and play by Chautauqua Lake. 2 bdms, 1 bath on large one acre corner lot, private deck, large garage. Located near Chautauqua Institution. \$149,000</p>
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COMMUNITY

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to publicly thank the amazing workers at the coffee gazebo. They do such great work serving our community everyday, and are always up for a fun and witty conversation whilst serving up delicious drinks. They got super-creative when making drinks without a full stock of ingredients a few times this past season, and those special drinks were superb! Thank you, gazebo staff, for all the good work you did this season!

ZACH STAHL SMITH
78 NORTH LAKE DRIVE

TO THE EDITOR:

Think on it – where else in the entire year in the United States do you witness this from your porch – the simple miracle in the late evening, of groups of people walking in the street together, talking and laughing. They are leaving the Amp – you see one person helping another adjust a jacket around her shoulders; someone else saying “yes” and “yes, exactly” as the first person tells a story; a cluster of friends, shoulders bent together to listen and then breaking into laughter; someone saying, “I like it here;” distant laughter a ways away from another porch. We have lived through this day together, all having been welcomed, thinking, pondering, remembering, some missing a person who is not here, some awaiting a new birth. Now the day is over, the sounds adding to those of 150 years of evenings of walking together. Thank you, Chautauqua.

DIANE FRIEDMAN
5 BOWMAN

TO THE EDITOR:

What a delight it has been to see two of my former students from the Chautauqua Music Camps on stage this summer in successful roles in the clarinet sections of the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra and the Music School Festival Orchestra! As I think back over the years of their musical education here, it makes me sad that the Music Camps for middle and high school students during Week Eight has been cut from the program offerings.

I was immeasurably shaped by the six-week-long music program here for the same ages in the 1970s, as were the leader and some of the other instructors in the revived one-week-long Music Camp program of recent years. Now nothing of this scope is being offered for young Chautauquans and local student musicians. How many potential CSO and MSFO musicians are losing an invaluable opportunity to grow and learn here at Chautauqua? Please bring these camps back!

DEBBIE GROHMAN
33 MILLER #14

TO THE EDITOR:

The 2023 season is coming to a close. The quality of programming has been exceptional. The performing arts have been above all expectations. Our two symphony orchestras have hit a high and dance has dazzled us. The Community Band brings us together each year. And yes, the opera ended the season with outstanding presentations and quality! It has an agreement with plans for the years ahead (a contribution to its fundraising goal would be thoughtful!). My personal gratitude to all management, faculty, artists and support staff for their commitment and hard work to make all this happen! I also hope that our community can work its way through the many recent difficult conversations and the letters so critical of our leadership. We need to seek solutions to our many complex issues in a more civil environment.

In the end, we all love Chautauqua. Let's look forward to a civil 2024!

JACK CONNOLLY
15 HURST

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you, Chautauqua, for another wonderful season. There are too many people to list, but everyone in administration, including the ushers and all the tram drivers, were wonderful. As per William Faulkner, we should not merely endure; we shall prevail.

WILLIAM E. BATES
PO BOX 1352



Did you know that Chautauquans generously contributed more than \$4.9 million to the Chautauqua Fund in 2022? Will you help us surpass that total in 2023 by making a contribution at **giving.chq.org** today?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CORRESPONDENCE FROM OUR READERS

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary work that a coalition of us accomplished this summer. With the support of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chautauqua, we were able to distribute 20,000 non-partisan postcards to be sent to voters of color in Virginia with information on the importance of having their voices heard in the upcoming 2023 election. The cards give information to registered voters on voting locations, as well as what the voter needs to bring in order to cast a valid ballot. In this time of profound levels of voter suppression and disenfranchisement, this project has provided meaningful action to bring about meaningful change.

My thanks goes out to everyone who took cards to write, to those who took cards back to their home congregations, to those who helped to distribute the cards, and to the African American Heritage House for giving me the opportunity to share this project.

We're making a difference through our work and I couldn't be more grateful.

CAROL RIZZOLO
5 THOMPSON

TO THE EDITOR:

When I casually walked to Bestor Plaza to see what kind of food offerings were awaiting me last Sunday afternoon, I was chagrined to see there appeared to be as many offerings for beer, wine and liquor as for food.

I thoroughly enjoy an IPA, a glass of sirah or a taste of fine Kentucky bourbon, but I don't think Bestor Plaza on a Sunday afternoon is the place. When I was a young man, I used to query my mom with the statement, “Why not?” Sometimes her answer was simply, “It's just not the right thing to do.” I am certain there is a justifiable rationale for providing alcohol on Bestor Plaza, but I will defer to my mother's wisdom stating – it's just not the right thing to do.

There are 3 Taps, 2 Ames, the Afterwords Wine Bar and the lobby of the Athenaeum – we just don't need to be drinking in Bestor Plaza!

Those are my thoughts – what are yours?

JOE TWIST
PO BOX 641

TO THE EDITOR:

A few people have been advising the rest of us to stop our donations to Chautauqua until their conditions, namely replacing Michael Hill, are met. I think this advice is wrong-headed and very hurtful to all of us who are working to make Chautauqua better. I, for one, have doubled my donation this year and I encourage people to not let the dissatisfaction of a few determine the financial health of our community and Institution.

Much of this current dissatisfaction with the Institution's leadership has been generated out of the decision to re-imagine opera. I lived in Lucca, Italy (hometown of Puccini and opera center in Italy), in 2010. In 2007, Italy decided to also reimagine opera due to low attendance numbers and increasing costs. In short, they created smaller vignettes of the major, classical operas and brought in talent from around Italy to perform and dazzle us. They also introduced new operas and in both cases, the performances lasted no more than 90 minutes, allowing us to plan a full evening with friends. We were lucky to live there in those changing times and see the effects. This new “Lucca Plan” was a great success, with packed performance venues and area restaurants. We would go to the opera at least once a week and make an evening of it with friends and family enjoying dinner and opera.

In truth, opera at Chautauqua has been struggling with high costs and low attendance for years. Making the hard decisions we are faced with today is not this administration's mismanagement, nor does it signal a lack of commitment to the Four Pillars. In fact, this new reimagining could save opera, as it did in Lucca.

I look forward to the new “Chautauqua Plan” for opera.

BARBARA BRITTON
19 PALESTINE

TO THE EDITOR:

With this season of radical cuts to the opera/music conservatory budget, I wonder if the Institution may be starting to choke off its wellspring of philanthropy. Fiscal responsibility is necessary but not inspiring. People donate to what inspires them. The arts are a source of inspiration, as we've seen from the outpouring of support.

Much has been taken away this year from what Chautauqua offers. The archives, opera/conservatory, visual arts, theater and symphony all have had cuts this year. Coffee is no longer available at Afterwords and the tables in front have been removed, taking away the feeling of a gathering spot. What I'm seeing is contraction. What I'm not hearing articulated is an exciting vision for Chautauqua's future.

Chautauqua's uniqueness is the existence in one place of a multitude of programs, making for cross-fertilization that is not measurable, but makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts. The programs I don't attend still enhance the richness of my experience. In cutting programs that require the biggest subsidies, the totality suffers. The absences create energy sinkholes on our campus!

What vision for Chautauqua are we collectively working toward? If it's 150 *Forward*, I think it may be drawing less on our uniqueness and more on what we may or may not be good at. Maybe there are people who are excited and eager to donate but I haven't heard that. My heart doesn't sing when I read the strategic plan.

The cuts to the 2024 opera budget did not allow for any productions. Now the Opera Guild and Institution have come to an agreement that allows fundraising for a production next season. That is an exciting step in the right direction.

I've appreciated the opportunities for dialogue that the Institution provided since the cuts. I wish that, before the cuts, they had gone to the staff of the programs whose budgets were under review and invited dialogue about how the financial problems could be solved. I hope that there will be further flexibility and greater inclusion of stakeholders' input in reaching the fiscal objectives that can keep Chautauqua standing robustly on its Four Pillars.

CYNTHIA NORTON
14 WHITTIER

TO THE EDITOR:

We want to thank Michael Hill and his dedicated staff for providing our extended family with another wonderful summer at Chautauqua.

We are fourth-generation Chautauquans, attend all season, and own homes on the grounds.

We applaud the entire staff of Chautauqua for ensuring that everything runs so smoothly, day after day. It's a huge undertaking and we commend you for another successful season.

We know Chautauqua faces some challenges in bringing the Institution into the 21st century while keeping beloved traditions. It's important to us that Chautauqua is a thriving and inclusive community for the next generation. With Michael Hill at the helm, we know we are in good hands.

MELISSA BERNSTEIN
4 AMES &

JULIE GREENSTEIN
62 CRESCENT

TO THE EDITOR:

I am concluding my first visit to the Chautauqua Institution having enjoyed it immensely. I was incredibly pleased to see a position solely dedicated to improving experiences for the ground's many minority constituencies. This seemingly includes me: I am fully wheelchair bound due to an automobile accident in my teen years.

In Amit Taneja's recent “From the IDEA Desk,” he described the “great success” of making both the programs and grounds more accessible, and highlights the new scooter rental program which “not only provide a more reliable and higher-quality patron experience, it also significantly impacts our business bottom line by allowing us to use that income to help with future accessibility upgrades.”

What you have described is not an accessibility feature or program. It is a tax. It is a tax on people with mobility disabilities.

I'm not saying the scooter rental is a bad program. Having rental scooters available for those that choose to use one is a good thing. However, that is for people that choose to use one. For individuals with no choice, the Institution is making us pay more to enjoy the same programs as everyone else. Would you force a deaf person to pay for an ASL interpreter if they want to enjoy one of the excellent lectures?

In addition, I've encountered ramps not large enough to be safely navigated in a scooter. I can't imagine how devastating it would be for a teen in a wheelchair (as I once was) to try to meet friends at the YAC only to find they can't make the “wheelchair” ramp turn. Similarly, it is great that the wine bar is accessible via the post office elevator – but access ends when the post office closes at 5 p.m.

Fundraising for accessibility features and equipment is critical. But is also critical to remember that if you are only acquiring funds from the people that need the accessibility features, you are making your programs less accessible, not more. Furthermore, not every accessibility feature requires more funds.

Making better choices around accessibility will go a long way, and I hope to see these next summer.

ADAM PESACHOWITZ
61 CRESCENT

TO THE EDITOR:

According to Mark Twain, the only sure things in life are death and taxes. I would add change. We have come a long way from writing on caves to writing on computers. In the world of change at Chautauqua we are facing new opportunities for change. As a former president of the Chautauqua Opera Guild (1984-88 – almost caveman times) I was proud to be a part of the system that provided support for four operas a year. Even then they were a drag on the budget, so over the years the number was reduced substantially. Today the Institution loses over \$1 million a season on opera performances. Time for change!

But we still can give our budding operatic stars a wonderful training experience. Working with our outstanding voice department, I foresee more recitals, more small group presentations and more appearances in the Amp with the Music School Festival Orchestra and Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. Many more people will be able to become aware of our young artists' talents and who knows what great opportunities that could bring?

Let's evolve in a creative way that benefits both singers and budget.

NANCY BECHTOLT
17 ROBERTS

TO THE EDITOR:

It was a surprise to reach into our P.O. Box here at the Institution last week to find an extensive letter from a fellow property owner detailing his issues with the Institution's leadership, specifically President Michael Hill and Board of Trustees Chair Candace Maxwell. The author said his July 11 letter was intended for all Chautauquans and for the board.

On Aug. 18, both Maxwell and Hill hosted a webinar, “Top 10 Questions We've Been Asked This Summer.”

The content of the webinar seemed to address directly the letter writer's issues, although neither that missive nor the author was named, at least to my recollection.

If you haven't seen the letter in question or had the opportunity to join the webinar, here are a few things I heard listening to Hill and Maxwell:

*Governance of the Institution is invested with Chautauqua's 24-member board, said Maxwell.

*Chautauqua is on “solid financial footing with sufficient cash reserves to weather future uncertainty,” said Hill.

*Chautauqua's D.C. office costs \$220,000, “the cost of a single major concert” on the grounds, Hill said. “Closing it,” he added, “would be a strategic error.”

*Commitment to the Four Pillars. There has been “no breaking away from any of the pillars,” Hill said, adding the arts pillar is responsible for 60% of the programming budget and recreation actually adds to the Institution's bottom line.

*Staffing levels. Hill said there are four new positions, all but one backed by philanthropy. The only one that isn't is the role of chief program officer. Hill said he made the decision to move away from the title “director” in favor of “vice president” for what he said were reasons of consistency.

*Grounds Access Pass. Hill said the pass is responsible for 17% of all passes sold this season, noting it is a “pilot” program.

*Chautauqua Lake. Hill explained and defended the Institution's commitment to the body of water from which Chautauqua derives its drinking water adding, “if the lake goes, so goes Chautauqua.”

Hill also discussed post-Rushdie security enhancements and mentioned the just-concluded Week Eight was the best-attended week of the season.

JEFF LONG
13 AMES

COMMUNITY

CHAUTAUQUA WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION CHARITY DAY



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR
Chautauqua Women's Golf Association Charity Day Committee Chair Jenn Flanagan presents a check for \$5,019 to the WNY Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association's Community Engagement Program Manager Claire Corwin Tuesday at the Chautauqua Golf Club. The funds were raised by this year's CWGA Charity Day tournament on July 18.

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RELIGION

Vignarajah advocates for climate-displaced people as moral, faith imperative

KAITLYN FINCHLER
STAFF WRITER

Some people don't have the choice to stay or leave their homes. Every day, refugees and immigrants across the globe are forced to flee. Krish O'Mara Vignarajah works to find humane solutions to challenges these refugees face in the U.S. immigration system.

Vignarajah – president and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service – delivered her lecture at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Hall of Philosophy for the Interfaith Lecture Series theme, “Realizing Our One World: Strengthening Interconnection.”

“In just one minute of that (lecture) introduction, 20 people were forced to flee their homes,” she said at the outset. “What that means is 1,200 in an hour, and nearly 30,000 people were forced to flee their homes in just one day.”

She asked the audience to imagine the “sheer terror” of leaving behind everything they know and everyone who made them who they are, because their home had become the site of a climate disaster.

“The sad reality is that this isn't a scene from a dystopian novel you might pick up from the bookstore,” Vignarajah said. “It is the tragic reality of what tens of millions face worldwide. Those tens of millions are mothers, fathers, children.”

She said she and her husband were discussing before the lecture the fact that coastal Louisiana is losing a football field of land every hour, and people who live there are victims of circumstances beyond their control.

“We believe that we have a divine calling to protect this planet and the people who inhabit it,” Vignarajah said. “In fact, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is the largest faith-based national nonprofit dedicated to serving immigrants and refugees.”

LIRS has served over half a million immigrants, she said. After nearly 85 years of operation, the nonprofit's history reflects the deeply connected roots between Lutherans and aid to immigrants.

As part of ethnic and religious minorities, Vignarajah and her family were forced to flee Sri Lanka on the brink of civil war when she was an infant.

“My family came with no jobs, just \$200 in their pockets and two very young kids in their arms,” she said. “It was the churches and temples who put clothes on our backs. It was a community in Baltimore that welcomed my parents as educators.”

While sometimes “sheepish” to hear generous intro-

ductions of herself, Vignarajah said it's important to highlight what America allows and gives to people fleeing from desperate circumstances.

“There are an estimated 20 million people internally displaced every year due to climate disasters,” she said. “Our belief is that this is the future. We know the causes of weather and climate disaster-related displacement. We also know that issues like lack of access to water and losing land are becoming reasons for why people are fleeing more and more every day.”

In 2021, the World Bank estimated by 2050, 216 million people will be displaced due to climate disasters. Vignarajah said global warming is only getting worse, with this summer experiencing the hottest weeks on record. She noted the commendable efforts of the Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative and the Jefferson Project.

“It's not unique when I describe these incidences to this region alone,” she said. “Last year, natural disasters displaced 3 million people in the U.S. alone. This crisis is having a devastating impact on communities, cultures and economies all over the world.”

When the LIRS heard news of Hurricane Ian in Florida last year, they knew how many people were going to be in need, and they were worried.

“Power outages and unstable internet made it extremely difficult for us to actually communicate with our clients,” Vignarajah said. “We mobilized portable internet hotspots ... and launched a relief appeal fund. We were able to raise over \$20,000 for emergency funds, temporary housing, food, clean water and other critical resources.”

Since 1982, climate disasters have cost the United States close to \$2.5 trillion, with 40% of this cost accrued in the last seven years. However, Vignarajah said the human costs of the climate crisis far outweigh the financial ones.

Experts, she said, describe the climate crisis as a “vulnerability multiplier” and not always the sole driver of climate displacement.

“The technical term ‘vulnerability multiplier’ means, for the clients that we work with, utter chaos,” Vignarajah said. “It means there are mothers and fathers around the world who spend their days and nights worrying about whether their children will have land to live on.”

To fully understand who is affected by the climate crisis, she said people need to look at the intersection

of the crisis and reasons for traditional immigration. Unfortunately, she said, the affected regions are more impacted by inequity.

“Environmental equity and the climate crisis are inextricably intertwined,” Vignarajah said. “Climate change disproportionately affects low-income and marginalized communities. These communities are more likely to experience lower air, water and soil quality.”

Environmental justice needs to be a focus, she said, because solutions can only be tangible when applied to everyone, not just the affluent.

“America's refugee system was built to protect the survivors of violent conflicts, religious (and) political persecution,” Vignarajah said. “This system was not built to protect victims of cascading natural disasters, environmental degradation and rising sea levels.”

As a result, she said, the existing protection pathways are “incomplete or woefully inadequate,” compared to the scale of the problem. The “sad reality” is there's no country in the world that has created a legal pathway for climate-displaced people.

“Without legal pathways for migration, people fleeing climate disasters face many risks,” Vignarajah said. “They could be exposed to dangerous conditions at their places of work or homes, they could face discrimination or violence, or become victims of human trafficking.”

LIRS has been “working tirelessly” to propose policies that recognize the effects of climate displacement. The United States, she said, can and should lead the way in creating protection pathways.

“We advocate for legislation that will support regenerative farming practices,” Vignarajah said. “These practices include sequestering carbon, prioritizing soil health and increasing resilience from drought. We also advocate for legislation that supports small farmers.”

The United States not only can and should lead the movement, she said; it has the ability and responsibility to do so.

“Our nation is equipped to be a global leader for climate resiliency,” she said. “As far as large-scale legal and policy solutions, we have seen more recent efforts, but there's still a long way to go.”



JESS KSZOS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, president and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, speaks Thursday in the Hall of Philosophy.

Vignarajah listed several things people can do to help build a sustainable future. First, establish a definition of what it means to be climate-displaced, so everyone is on the same page.

“Second, we must use this definition to designate and protect vulnerable populations – beyond the current pathways we have right now – when such a small percentage of people are actually receiving protection,” she said.

The third thing, she said, is to utilize humanitarian pathways to help said vulnerable populations.

“We need to call upon Congress to reconsider a bill establishing a global climate change resilience strategy,” Vignarajah said. “This would also authorize the admission of climate displaced people here to the U.S.”

At the scale needed, she said, the federal government should be required to act, but citizens can't solely rely on Washington, D.C. Local and state governments need to be involved in adopting and expanding current practices.

The fifth and final task at hand is to aggressively pursue measures to bend the global emissions curve and limit global temperature increases. The LIRS, she said, believes the United States can take a better

stance for climate justice.

The LIRS opened a Guatemala office where they'll be assisting unaccompanied children who have returned to the country after either being deported or voluntarily returned.

“Our goal is to promote the reintegration of these young children to reduce circular migration of youth in the region,” she said. “Knowing that only such a narrow number of children are able to seek safety in the U.S., this is just one small approach.”

Her message of hope, she said, is that as children of God, people are being called back to their roles as protectors of creation.

“This crisis is more than just an environmental issue,” Vignarajah said. “It's a human issue, it's an issue of faith, life and death. It's not just damaging and destabilizing our planet.”

Faith and love, she said, calls people to act, to extend their stewardship to

immigrants.

“In the face of this daunting crisis, let us remember that with God, nothing is impossible,” Vignarajah said. “Around the world, interfaith climate organizations are uniting to combat climate change.”

She asked Chautauquans to consider what they can do in the face of these challenges, then provided a few solutions. First, reduce individual carbon footprints. Second, advocate for climate reforms. Third, take support to the next level by volunteering.

“Let's rely on our faith,” she said. “Most importantly, let's have hope for the world we're living in right now and for the world we'll be leaving behind to our children and grandchildren.”

Hope alone, she said, isn't a strategy, but she trusts people will join her in this climate mission.

“I believe that working together, we can and will turn this around,” Vignarajah said.

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Judith Starr uses an assisted listening device during a lecture from the Rev. Otis Moss III, senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, on Aug. 14 in the Hall of Philosophy.



ACCESS GRANTED

JESS KSZOS
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chautauqua can be intimidating for someone like me, a disabled photojournalist coming here for the first time to intern at the Daily. I knew I was going to have to walk great distances every day for nine weeks, camera equipment and all, and I didn't know how I was going to do it alone.

I set out to find people who needed access to parts of Chautauqua that would not be accessible without the different aids the Institution offers. I met people who used motorized scooters, hearing devices, captions, and Braille.

I met Larry Rizzolo, who I found dancing with his wife, Carol, during the Louis Prima Jr. concert. He was having trouble with his hip and his scooter helped him get around.

I met Rita Auerbach and MaryLou Goodman, who like to walk together around

Chautauqua. Rita told me she doesn't like to be isolated and it's good to be with people.

I met Roger Chard, a person who is blind with access to Braille when he visits, enjoying Chautauqua with his wife, Maurita Holland. Roger utilized binders of Braille for worship services and the 52-page transcription of the opera *Sweeney Todd* this season.

I met Jill Nelson, who uses captions via captions.chq.org during lectures to read and write notes.

All of the people I met could not access Chautauqua the way they did without help from the Institution through the Braille, hearing aids, captions and mobile aids. People like Rita and myself would not be able to "walk" with our friends or colleagues.

I took on this project because accessibility matters to me, I want to be included, and I want to be in a world where I can do my job with a little bit of help. I found that at Chautauqua.



Larry Rizzolo dances with his wife, Carol, during the Louis Prima Jr. and the Witnesses' performance Aug. 11 in the Amp.



Roger Chard reads the morning worship program in Braille on July 25 in the Amphitheater.



Jill Nelson reads captions and writes notes while Krish O'Mara Vignarajah speaks Thursday in the Hall of Philosophy.



MaryLou Goodman and Rita Auerbach walk side by side on Aug. 13 near the Athenaeum Hotel.

ELEVATED WISDOM

With weekly themes such as “A Life of Literature” and “Freedom of Expression, Imagination and the Resilience of Democracy” to inspire and consider, the Chautauqua Writers’ Center is wrapping up a fruitful season of prose and poetry alike.

To close the season, Week Nine’s writers-in-residence Michael Waters, Mihaela Moscaliuc and Lenore Myka shared some parting words of advice and insight.

KAITLYN FINCHLER
STAFF WRITER

CHECK THIS OUT!

While it’s almost impossible for anyone to choose a singular favorite book or poem, Myka said she re-reads *Middlemarch*, by George Eliot, every year.

“It captures the evolution of an individual – intellectually and emotionally – nearly perfectly,” she said. “Eliot is also a genius at world-building.”

Waters said his favorite poem is “Three Moves,” by John Logan, which has stayed with him since the first time he read it more than 50 years ago. Among others, he also

recommends Lucille Clifton’s poetry and, for the creative writer, Philip Roth’s *The Ghost Writer*; Mary Oliver’s *Twelve Moons* and *American Primitive*; and Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.

While Moscaliuc is also hesitant to name just one, she said everyone should read Homer’s epic *The Odyssey* and *Zoli*, by Colum McCann, for how the former explores the human experience and how the latter presents a loose rendition of Romani poet Papusza’s life.

‘READ, READ, READ!’

Waters said the best thing for writers to do is hone in on critical vocabulary to better articulate meaning. If the author can’t explain it, who would expect the reader to understand?

“Find authors you love to read and consume everything they’ve ever written,” Myka said. “Reading closely is the fastest way to learn to write well.”

GROWTH THROUGH LITERATURE

Literature helps people cultivate empathy, Moscaliuc said. In all its forms and genres, literature sharpens and deepens people’s understanding of the world.

“We get to experience cultures, histories, places and lives from the comfort of our homes – at little or no cost,” she said. “How fortunate we are to be invited on these journeys and be given a chance to ex-

pand our imaginative faculties and power our dreams.”

For Myka, literature provides a fresh perspective on the world and the people who occupy it.

“It can inspire and comfort people, make us feel less alone, more connected,” she said. “It can also change us in ways that help us to change the world.”

FIND SOLITUDE IN SPACES

Everyone needs a place to get away and focus on their craft – whether inside or outside, writers should have a room of one’s own. Waters said he appreciates his desk as a place to work, since “writing demands at least as much discipline as talent.”

For reading, he said he loves a quiet indoor spot, but also found reading down by Chautauqua Lake as “pretty terrific.”

Myka said she loves to read by a fireplace in cold weather, and the beach in warm weather.

LITERARY ARTS

Mukherjee honored with '23 Chautauqua Prize recognizing 'Song of the Cell'

KAITLYN FINCHLER
STAFF WRITER

On a rainy Wednesday evening, surrounded by the stately columns of the Hall of Philosophy, Siddhartha Mukherjee was honored with the 2023 Chautauqua Prize for his book, *The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human*.

Awarded annually since 2012, The Chautauqua Prize is given to a book of fiction or literary nonfiction for creating a significant contribution to the literary arts. All Prize books also count toward Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle graduation eligibility.

"We celebrate *The Song of the Cell* ... filled with writing so vivid, lucid (and) suspenseful, the complex science becomes thrilling," said Deborah Sunya Moore, senior vice president and chief program officer. "*The Song of the Cell* tells a centuries-long story of how scientists discovered cells, began to understand them and are now using that knowledge to create new humans."

Told in six parts – each identifying as a cell – the book is laced with Mukherjee's personal experiences as a researcher, doctor and writer. Both panoramic and intimate, Moore said it's a masterpiece about what it means to be human.

Since its beginning, the Prize has been inspired and supported by the late Michael I. Rudell and his wife Alice. Rudell imagined the concept, and with the help of the Institution, brought it to life. Along with various other contributions, Rudell is honored by the endowed director of literary arts position, held currently by Sony Ton-Aime.

"(Mukherjee's) writing is at once academic and accessible," said Michael E. Hill, president of Chautauqua Institu-

tion. "Beyond that, he makes the complex compelling, conveying the hard science of the cellular into grand, almost mythic prose that encompasses the largest questions of philosophy and humanity."

Mukherjee serves as an associate professor of medicine at Columbia University, cancer physician and researcher, as well as a Rhodes Scholar, with degrees from Stanford University, University of Oxford and Harvard Medical School.

The physical prize is almost always commissioned to a local artist, and bringing *The Song of the Cell* to life this year was made possible by Jamestown artist Angela Caley. Hill presented the award to Mukherjee before handing over the podium.

Caley grew up in a household where her mother was a "professional sick person" and her stepfather was a family practice physician. Constantly surrounded by medical journals, she said, anatomy and medical imagery has seeped into her art.

"I wanted to show the interconnectedness of human nature and all things through the way of self. ... I chose to make the prize under a microscope (and) I think it worked out super great," Caley said at a private reception Tuesday.

Mukherjee opened his speech Wednesday referencing an article from *The New York Times*, titled "A Stroke Stole Her Ability to Speak at 30. A.I. is Helping to Restore It Years Later," that explained how the brain activity of a paralyzed woman is being translated into words spoken by an avatar.

"A device, which uses artificial intelligence, was able to convert her thoughts to speech," he said, noting he is involved in a project similar to this. "To take people who are

dysarthric, who are unable to speak because they have ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease, our project focuses on that."

In collaboration with Google A.I., Mukherjee and his colleagues opened a trial with 1,550 patients; he said this is the first time interfaces have been created between cells and machines.

"This is a form of what I would say is the growing interface of cellular physiology – and what we used to call, in the 1950s and '60s, bionics," he said. "But really, in contemporary terms, would be called cellular computational interface."

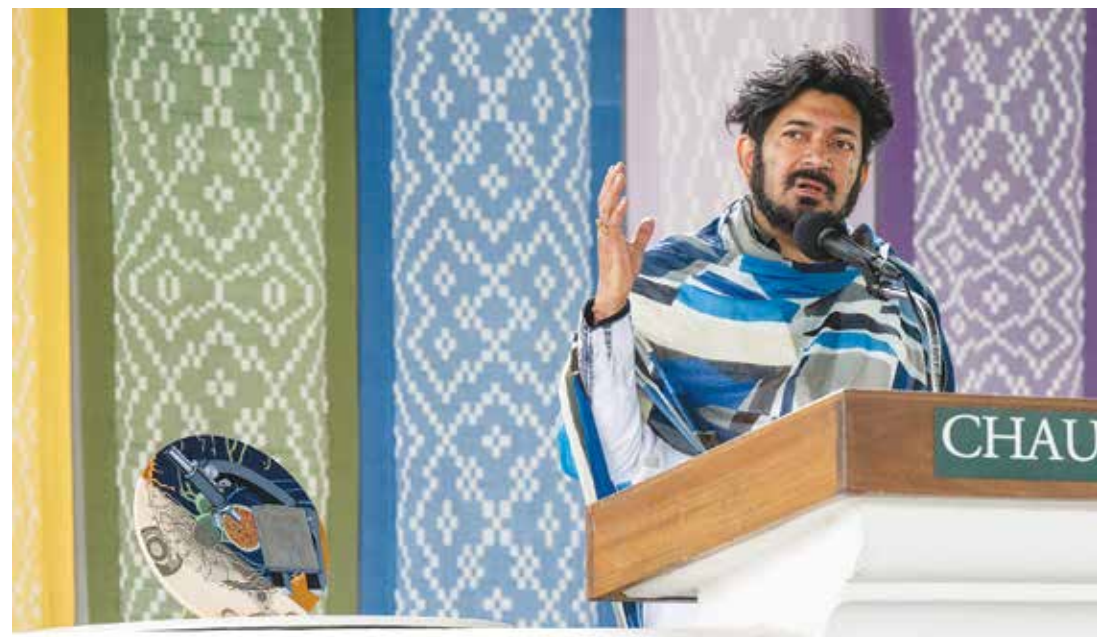
Mukherjee wrote *The Song of the Cell*, he said, because there was a lot already written about genes and biology, but not so much about cells, the central unit of any life-form.

"It remains one of the great challenges of biology to create a completely artificial cell from scratch," he said. "It's my belief that the first ones are being made right now. In the next 20, 30, 40 years, we will see completely de novo artificial cells being created."

Once this is done, he said, life will have been created from scratch. Mukherjee proposed a humanistic triangle of limits, to appease scientists while keeping their "progressively lunatic" ideas in check.

"The first, most important element of the triangle is the scientific advancement as it moves into the human sphere," he said. "I will include that as it moves into the biosphere as well, because we are becoming increasingly conscious that the human sphere and the biosphere are very much more intricately linked."

The human sphere, he said, attempts to solve a broadly defined problem of suffering. Mukherjee said it's easier to understand this in the realm



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

Siddhartha Mukherjee, a professor, cancer researcher and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, discusses his Chautauqua Prize-winning book *The Song of the Cell* Wednesday in the Hall of Philosophy.

of cancer, for example, since there's continuous medical advances rather than simply existential wonder.

"I make the distinction with this book, in particular, between emancipation and enhancement," he said. "Emancipation is, of course, the relief of human suffering. The enhancement is the aid directed toward the solution of disease."

The second part of the triangle, Mukherjee said, is to maximize the risk-benefit analysis to the best capacity.

"In a genetic sense, we would like to use genes to find mechanisms that we think are as directly as possible linked to a disease," he said. "So, if that's a generic idea in the cellular biology world, we would like to use cell therapies that are as deeply understood as possible before using them on humans."

The third part of the triangle is "Does it deviate?" Mukherjee said this includes

the realms of understanding, complexity and queries.

"Ask the question, not to scientists, but to a broader community of people who think about these questions," he said. "Ask the question, 'Does it really make sense to use a novel technology when that technology has the capacity to deviate, violate (or) return in any matter?'"

Mukherjee said thinking about new technologies brings him back to why he wrote *The Song of the Cell*.

"There were obviously concerns of known and unknown, but I felt as if I was operating within the limits of the triangle," he said. "These three things were swirling around me as I went around thinking about this book, how to write and what to write about."

The general wisdom of writing books, he said, is that the story can be told in a linear, chronological manner – Mukherjee's per-

sonal downfall.

"Chronology is not my best friend here, because it would be unreadable," he said. "As far as the literary crafting of this book was concerned, I chose a completely different kind of strategy, something I've never done before. ... Every chapter is made up of multiplicities of cells, every chapter will take on the personality of a cell."

Each chapter, alongside having the personality of a cell, is a micro-history which builds on top of the previous chapter, while simultaneously new.

"You can sense the moment when the book starts speaking back to you, and then it'll guide you," Mukherjee said. "Your job as a writer is to listen and listen again, and that respect fosters respect. ... In order for the book to be your guide, you have to give it a skeleton structure."

Once the skeleton is in place, he said, the rest of the book comes to life.

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LITERARY ARTS

Registration open for Forum on Democracy, serving as pilot for year-round CLSC

This October, a three-day forum on democracy with Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle authors, contemporary thinkers and scholars will be held on the grounds of Chautauqua Institution. Panel discussions, presentations and seminars will be held on topics as varied as history, technology, voting rights and literature.

The CLSC Forum on Democracy runs Oct. 20-22, and opens with remarks from Institution President Michael E. Hill on Friday, Oct. 20. The forum will culminate with an all-participant brainstorming session to analyze and provide clear and diverse action-oriented solutions to new paths for the future of our democracy.

Programmed by the Department of Education and Chautauqua Literary Arts, the forum serves as a pilot to determine the feasibility and potential for a similar annual CLSC program, as part of year-round engagement via the CLSC Beyond initiative.

The forum is presented in partnership with civic and literary organizations that have dedicated their missions to free expression and the tenets of democracy. These organizations include the Brennan Center for Justice, the Ideos Institute, PEN America, the Authors' Guild Foundation, and the Campaign Legal Center.

Speakers include Sayu Bhojwani, David Blight, Michele Bratcher Goodwin, Suzanne Nossel, Trevor Potter and Michael Waldman.

Born in India, and raised in Belize, Bhojwani served as New York City's first Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs. She founded and led South Asian Youth Action (1997), New American Leaders (2010) and Women's Democracy Lab (2021). She now combines her real-life and professional experience to share perspectives through her Substack, "No. 1 Immigrant Daughter." For over three decades, she has activated change in non-



BLIGHT

profit and government settings, speaking across the country and internationally, and writing on how immigrants and women of color can shape the world we want to see. She is the author of the 2018 book *People Like Us*.

Blight is a leading expert on the life and writings of Frederick Douglass and on the Civil War in historical memory. His most recent book and CLSC selection, *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom* (2018), won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in History. His book *Frederick Douglass's Civil War* (1989), and his editions of Douglass's *Narrative* and *W.E.B. Du Bois' Souls of Black Folk* are widely taught in college courses. He also authored *American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era* (2011). Blight has appeared in several PBS films about African American history and works extensively with museums and other public history projects. His *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory, 1863-1915* (2001), won a half-dozen prizes, including four from the OAH.

Previous Chautauqua Lecture Series speaker Nossel is chief executive officer at PEN America and author of *Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech for All*. Prior to joining PEN America, she served as CEO of Human Rights Watch and as executive director of Amnesty International USA. She



WALDMAN

served in President Barack Obama's administration as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, leading U.S. engagement in the UN and multilateral institutions on human rights issues, and in President Bill Clinton's administration as Deputy to the U.S. Ambassador for UN Management and Reform. Nossel coined the term "Smart Power," which was the title of a 2004 article she published in *Foreign Affairs* and later became the theme of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's tenure in office. She is a featured columnist for *Foreign Policy* and has published op-eds in *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, as well as scholarly articles in *Foreign Affairs*, *Dissent*, and *Democracy*, among others. She has served senior roles in the private sector at Dow Jones and Bertelsmann. Nossel is a



GOODWIN

magna cum laude graduate of both Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Potter, another frequent speaker on the Chautauqua Lecture Series, is founder and president of the Campaign Legal Center and former chairman of the Federal Election Commission. One of the country's best-known and most experienced campaign and election lawyers, Potter was appointed to the FEC by President George H.W. Bush in 1991, and served as general counsel to John McCain's 2008 and 2000 presidential campaigns. He also served on the legal team that successfully defended the McCain-Feingold reform law in the Supreme Court, and is popularly known for his recurring appearances on "The Colbert Report" as the lawyer for Stephen Colbert's super PAC during the 2012 election.

Goodwin is a Chancellor's Professor at the University of California, Irvine with



BHOJWANI

appointments at the School of Law; Program in Public Health; Department of Criminology, Law, & Society; Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies; and Center for Psychology and Law. She is the founder and director of the Center for Biotechnology and Global Health Policy at UC Irvine School of Law and its internationally acclaimed Reproductive Justice Initiative. Goodwin is one of the world's leading authorities on the regulation of medicine, science, and biotechnology.

Waldman is president and CEO of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, a nonpartisan law and policy institute that works to revitalize the nation's systems of democracy and justice. He was director of speechwriting for President Bill Clinton from 1995 to 1999 and is the author of *The Second Amendment: A Biography* and *The Fight to Vote*. Waldman was a member of the Presidential Commis-



NOSSEL



POTTER

sion on the Supreme Court. A graduate of Columbia College and NYU School of Law, he comments widely in the media on law and policy.

Registration is now open for the CLSC Forum on Democracy, with lodging options available at the Athenaeum Hotel. To learn more or to register, visit democracy.chq.org.



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Aug. 26, September and October

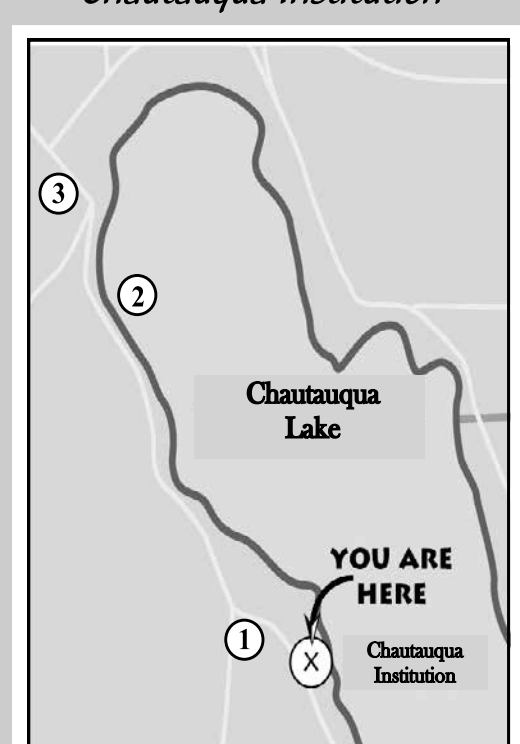
Saturday, August 26th Native Plant Sale to benefit the Chautauqua Watershed at Chautauqua Marina from 10 am - 2 pm. At noon, CWC Conservationists Carol Markham will conduct a complimentary buffer walk at noon. Carol will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about native plants, how to plant and maintain them. Event is FREE.

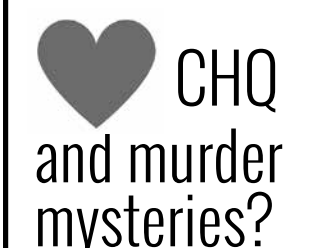
Saturday, September 9, 11 am-4 pm - The Mayville Lawn Mower Charity Poker Run. Starts and concludes at the Mayville Legion Post 493. Registration starts at 10:00 and the entrance fee is \$20.00. The funds raised are passed on to local families in our surrounding communities who are in need of assistance. Recipients have included: Hospice, Blue Star Mothers, Mayville Fire Department, Families dealing with sudden illness, those in need whom have lost their homes due to a fire, and Veterans in need and so forth; thus, the list is endless. If you are interested in purchasing raffle tickets or making a donation please contact Mark at (716)908-6392 or Leslie at (716)770-5811.

Saturday, September 23rd - Walk to End Alzheimer's at Point Gratiot Park, registration 10 am event begins at 11 am. Music, games, entertainment, raffles and light refreshments. The walk is poignant, yet fun! Contact WNY Alzheimer's Association 716.913.9809.

October 12-18, 2023 - SPECIAL PROJECT-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT CHAUTAUQUA MARINA - Chautauqua Watershed Conservations Carol Markham and Native Plant experts Johnathan and Jessica Townsend owners of Royal Fern Nursery will be on hand with volunteers prepping, arranging and planting 350 feet of low lying native plants along Mud Creeks edge to protect the waterfront erosion on the creek. This program has been made possible in part by the Chautauqua County 2023 Occupancy/Bed Tax for Lakes and Waterways. This grant was awarded to Chautauqua Marina along with investments both financial and in-kind by Chautauqua Marina Team, Royal Fern Nursery, Chautauqua Watershed, BOCES conservation class, Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District, Small Business Services at JCC and many volunteers. If you have an interest in volunteering for this program 1 hour or up to 10 hours, October 12-18th (whatever dates and times works for you), please contact Deborah Clementi (Chautauqua Marina- 716.753.3913 or Cell 239.598. 2296) or stop in the showroom front desk to sign up. 20 Volunteers per day will work with Carol, Johnathan and Jessica. Join us and team members from Chautauqua Marina to work towards the protection and safety of our beautiful lake!

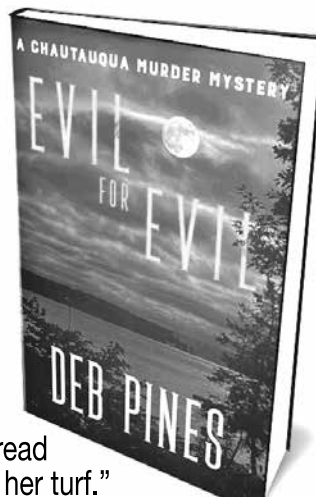
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Aug. 26 — 10 am-2 pm Native Plant Sale to benefit Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy (CWC)
Hosted by Chautauqua Marina 104 W. Lake Rd. (Rt. 394) Mayville

MUSIC

Conducting fellowship receives \$250K endowment from Logan Foundation

ZOE KOLENOVSKY
STAFF WRITER

Building on a legacy of patronage of the arts at Chautauqua, the Kay Hardesty Logan Foundation recently bestowed a \$250,000 endowment toward the School of Music's David Effron Conducting Fellowship.

The fellowship was first established through Logan's support in 1997 – the first year of Timothy Muffitt's tenure as Instrumental Program Artistic and Music Director and conductor of the Music School Festival Orchestra.

"It is unique in that we only bring one person into the fellowship," Muffitt said. "Most conductor training programs have eight to 10 to 20 people and they work in a laboratory setting. ... (This fellowship) works as an apprenticeship."

Muffitt personally trains each year's fellow, bringing them to all of his rehearsals and guiding them as they lead the MSFO on their own.

"He's the most open and honest, and the most kind conductor that I've ever met. He is such a great mentor to have in this institution," said Ryo Hasegawa, this year's fellow. "He always creates a collaborative environment in communication with people, so it was a very valuable experience to study with him this summer."

Hasegawa conducted three pieces in the Amphitheater this summer, one per show for the MSFO's second, fourth and final concerts. He also organized many of the student musicians for two bonus performances on Bestor Plaza as a way to give back to the community.

"(All of the students) really made a very intimate connection, and I think that really reflected in our music-making," said Hasegawa. "That collaborative element, being together and creating together with these people who we trust, ... it's such a wonderful experience."

Hasegawa was able to come to Chautauqua fully supported this summer, as the Logan Foundation covers all expenses for the Effron Fellow.

Kay Logan was a longtime Chautauquan with a passion for musical performance and education. During her lifetime, she gave to many of the arts programs at Chautauqua, including chamber music, the School of Music, the School of Dance and School of Art, with smaller donations often in the form of funding for facility renovations or student scholarships. She established the foundation before her death in 2016 as a means to continue this support on a larger scale, now overseen by close friends and family members.

"I think she realized that the Chautauqua Institution is a unique place for the education of young professionals, and she knew that we had resources here that no



Ryo Hasegawa, the 2023 David Effron Conducting Fellow, takes a bow with the Music School Festival Orchestra after the MSFO's final performance of the summer Aug. 7 in the Amphitheater. This summer, the Effron Fellowship received a \$250,000 endowment gift from the Logan Foundation.

BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

other place had," said Muffitt. "She became a catalyst and a conduit for connecting resources to maximize the power of providing experiences for these young musicians ... and she changed this place for the better in ways that will endure."

Logan was a School of Music student herself in the 1950s and went on to become a celebrated professional flutist. She was highly influential in and among Institution leadership, and is remembered fondly and with great esteem.

"Kay was a dedicated, feisty, funny, loving, truth-telling woman," said Deborah Sunya Moore, senior vice president and chief program officer. "She saw need, and she never assumed the answer was someone else's responsibility. She made things happen."

Marty Merkley, former vice president of programming at the Institution and current president of the Logan Foundation, described Logan as generous and pragmatic.

"She did almost everything for the Institution that needed to be done," he said. "Her philanthropic goals were to make things better for the students."

The foundation now focuses its support on Chautauqua's chamber music programs and the David Effron Conducting Fellowship. The \$250,000 endowment for the fellowship – for which the Logan Foundation was celebrated in a private reception after the MSFO's final performance of the summer on Aug. 7 – comes after last year's \$1 million gift to the Chautauqua Chamber Mu-

sic Resident Artist Series and Guest Artist Series.

Kimberly Schuette, manager of artistic administration, is grateful to the foundation for its support of both chamber series. This is her second summer leading the programming for chamber music.

"What makes chamber music at Chautauqua so special is that we have a very devoted and interested audience here," she said. "It shows the breadth of interest people have in music."

The Logan Foundation also supports music education outside of Chautauqua, providing funds to programs in Chicago, Brooklyn, Erie, Arizona, Florida, Mississippi and Pennsylvania, among others.

"There's been an extensive expansion of the foundation since (Kay's) death," Merkley said. "We have done visual arts, we have done dance, we have done writing, we have done everything from chamber music, to orchestral, to education for developmentally challenged students."

Merkley said he hopes that such gifts will shine a light on Kay Logan's story as a patron of education and the arts.

"As the ancient Egyptians say, you live as long as your



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Institution leadership and community members who have supported the Music School Festival Orchestra over the years raise a glass Aug. 7 on the porch of the Athenaeum Hotel in recognition of the Logan Foundation's \$250,000 gift to support the David Effron Conducting Fellowship.

name is said, as long as your name is pronounced. So we felt it was important that we have some endowments that had her name on them to recognize her philanthropy over the years and the ongoing support for the programs that she had very strong interest in," he said. "We're trying to keep the legacy and her name alive."

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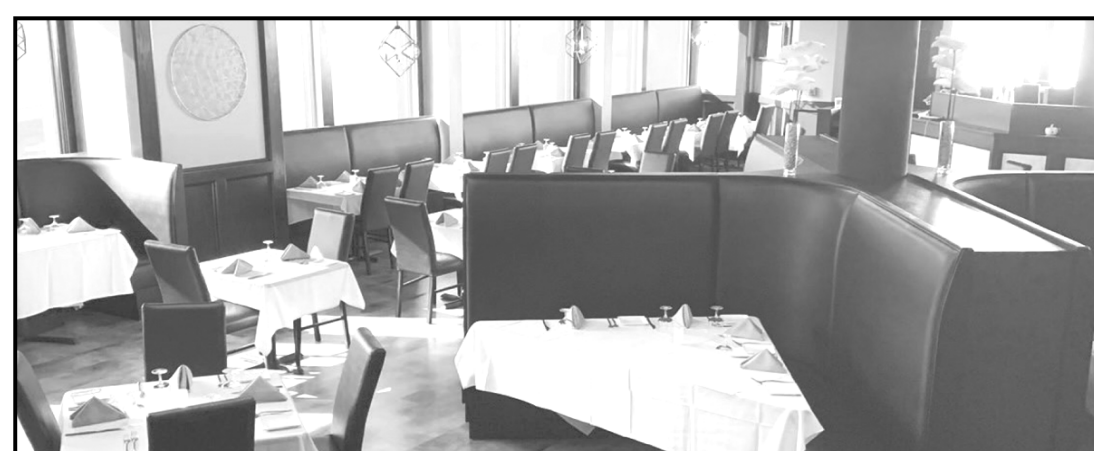


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February 2024 Trip Expert: Melissa Spas, Vice President for Religion, Chautauqua Institution
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December 2024 Trip Expert: Deborah Sunya Moore, Senior Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Chautauqua Institution
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Chickens walk around in their yard, hoping for a treat.

COOP to KITCHEN



A basket of freshly collected eggs sits next to a bucket of even more fresh eggs, soaking before being cleaned.



Ayrienna Bunce, 10, walks through the outdoor chicken yard looking for spare eggs Monday at her house in Mayville, New York. Many of the eggs that Ayrienna finds in the yard don't go up for sale, since she doesn't know how long it's been since they were laid.



Ayrienna collects eggs from one of the coops used by 300 laying hens at her family's home.

With big dreams and dozens (and dozens) of eggs, Mayville girl helps keep Athenaeum Hotel supplied

PHOTOS & WORDS BY **CARRIE LEGG**



Ayrienna feeds her chickens stale popcorn as a treat.

At 2 years old, Ayrienna Bunce already knew that she wanted chicks. Her parents, Kristle and Thane, obliged on one condition: she had to be potty trained first.

Eight years later, Ayrienna has about 300 laying hens and 240 chicks she raises at her home in Mayville, New York. She collects the eggs to sell to locals and businesses in the area, including the Heirloom Restaurant in the Athenaeum Hotel.

"I like taking care of animals and that's the only thing that I've ever thought that I would like doing," said Ayrienna, now 10. While many kids would choose to spend their profits, Ayrienna is saving most of what she earns to eventually attend veterinarian school.

When Ayrienna first started raising chickens, she and her family kept the eggs for their own use. Once the hens laid more than the Bunces could use, she started selling them at her father's suggestion. This gave her the opportunity to learn business skills and save up for her dreams.

"She's probably learning a better work eth-

ic than most adults have," Kristle Bunce said. Both she and Thane hope that their daughter paves the way for her five siblings, encouraging them to follow in her footsteps and create small businesses of their own.

Ayrienna collects eggs about four times a day, every day, washes them with warm water and packages them in gray or magenta – her favorite color – cartons.

On an average day, the hens lay about 17 to 20 dozen eggs, which Ayrienna then divides among the Heirloom Restaurant, Lighthouse Point Grocery and her own family's farm stand.

Once the eggs make it to the grounds, Head Chef Travis Bensink and Head Pastry Chef Halli Mansfield use the eggs to create delectable treats such as cream puffs, cakes and omelets for hotel guests.

At first, Bensink purchased 30 dozen eggs a week for the hotel. Now, the order has more than doubled. Even before purchasing eggs from the Bunces, Bensink was acquainted with the family, and supported Ayrienna's business.

See **EGGS**, Page D2



At left, Ayrienna stacks cartons of eggs in her kitchen after washing them. At center and at right, Athenaeum Hotel Head Pastry Chef Halli Mansfield uses Ayrienna's eggs to make cream puff batter Aug. 3 in the bakery of the hotel's kitchen. Mansfield then pipes the batter into neat coins on a baking tray, ready for the oven and later for serving at the Heirloom Restaurant.

FOOD

THE MAN, THE SANDWICH, THE LEGEND

A celebration of Chautauqua's iconic Hot Blue, and the culinary genius behind it

JOHN WARREN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Hot Blue is good. But as a Chautauqua cultural phenomenon, it's great.

At the Youth Activities Center, or YAC, the breaded chicken-and-hot sauce sub sandwich is so popular – at a kid-friendly price of \$4.75 – that YAC Director and Hot Blue creator Al Dibs would just as soon the larger Chautauqua community didn't know about it. It's all he can do to meet demand among Clubbers. "Hot Blue Day" – Thursday is the only time you can order it – is bedlam at the YAC. It's chaos, albeit choreographed chaos.

In Week Two, at its height, the YAC fulfilled 278 orders for the Hot Blue and its sister sub, the Hot Ranch. Around the Club campus and beyond, you'll overhear the reminders if you keep your ears perked: It's Hot Blue Day.

"Sometimes it's because their family gets it, others because they see their friends getting them," said Bryce Peterson, YAC manager for this summer. "It's a community food that has a lot of history with friends and family."

Anyone can order a Hot Blue. But there is one important rule of engagement, for Clubbers and non-Clubbers alike: You must pre-or-



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Youth Activities Center Director — and creator of the Hot Blue — Al Dibs stands for a portrait Wednesday in a quiet YAC.

der, preferably on the YAC website, but you can also stop in a few days ahead of time. You can order at the counter during lunch rush, but you're going to wait.

The Hot Blue was born more than 20 years ago. Dibs was selling chicken-patty sandwiches at the YAC and wanted something with more punch. So he added a combination of Frank's Red Hot sauce, wing sauce and butter. In 2004, the breaded

chicken sandwich became a sub, and a Chautauqua culinary icon was born.

In an organization that reveres its legends – Greg "Coach" Precht, Linda Precht, John Chubb, Alan Ruben, Don Rapp – Dibs looms as large as any of them. He started at the YAC in 1986, about the same time Precht started as director at Boys' and Girls' Club. The YAC was then an empty dance studio.

"They hired me to basi-

cally create the program," Dibs said. "I started out with a hot plate on a desk. And the rest, as they say, is history."

Dibs is a Brooklyn native who came to Western New York to attend Saint Bonaventure University and never left. He retired as an eighth-grade social studies teacher at Olean Middle School in 2006, and has lived in Jamestown the past 12 years.

"I come back every year because I love my job and I really enjoy the people I work with," Dibs said. "It's a pleasure getting through one shift at a time with them."

The work at the YAC is a grind, during the hour and a

half or so at lunch. But with Dibs' leadership, the execution is a well-oiled machine, down to the bullhorn used to blare out orders above the clatter of hungry Clubbers.

"He's definitely the best boss and person you could ask for each summer," Peterson said. "It's amazing how many people come up to him from years past just to say hi to him."

Alas, the YAC closed for the season on Aug. 18. The Hot Blue will be back in 2024; be sure to pre-order. And pick that sandwich up with an air of gratitude, knowing you're among the lucky and the few.

EGGS

FROM PAGE D1

"It's an amazing family and an amazing product," Bensink said, adding that the prices are also much more affordable compared to other egg distributors.

Ayrienna has done her best to maintain loyalty and fair prices for her customers, even amid rising grocery store prices. When many large farms around the country were impacted by the spread of avian flu, cutting production, Ayrienna kept her egg prices at \$3 per dozen. This attracted new local customers seeking cheaper eggs, including many teachers from nearby Chautauqua Lake Central School.

Summer is not only prime egg-laying season for the chickens because of more sun exposure, but also prime egg-selling time for Ayrienna because she is off from school.

Raised on a dairy farm, Kristle Bunce, who taught her daughter the required tasks for maintaining the egg supply, helps keep the business running during the school year.

Outside of selling eggs, Ayrienna participates in 4H, horseback riding and basketball.

"Sometimes you can teach (the chickens) to follow you around and do funny things, and I just think that they're cute little creatures," Ayrienna said.

Ayrienna said while she plans to become a veterinarian who might mostly look after more traditional pets, she still hopes to care for at least a few chickens for the rest of her life – just maybe not always as many to supply a hotel's worth of eggs.

NOTICE

Native Plant Sale Sat. Aug. 26th – 10 am-2 pm to benefit Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy (CWC). Native plants will be on sale and Carol Markham, CWC Conservationists will lead a lakeside buffer walk at noon. Carol will be on hand to answer questions about native plant selection and native garden design.

This event will be held rain or shine on Sat. Aug. 26 at Chautauqua Marina (across from Webb's) 104 West Lake Rd (Rt 394)

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RELIGION

After more than 30 years as cherished 'Daily' columnist, Viehe looks to retirement



A Grateful Farewell

COLUMN BY MEG VIEHE

In recent years, my family and friends have often asked me why I keep working at the Daily. There are several reasons.

I found it my mission to make the denominational houses and other religious and spiritual groups "look good," so that the community at large would become aware of them and attend their events, ranging from the Sunday afternoon Quaker service in the Burgeson Nature Classroom to U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin's presentation in Norton Hall sponsored by the Everett Jewish Life Center at Chautauqua.

I have learned to appreciate the denominational houses as a source of not only affordable housing for up to 580 people every week, but also a community for both guests and other Chautauquans who sit on their porches, attend services and programs, and enjoy their friendly hospitality – including the Presbyterian House weekday coffee on the porch, popcorn on the United Methodist porch after the Friday night Amphitheater special, and, of course, the Tuesday social hours.

Since I started, four houses have been added to the grounds: the Unitarian Universalist House, the Zigdon

Chabad Jewish House, the Everett Jewish Life Center in Chautauqua and the Quaker House. The Disciples of Christ have replaced their Graybiel House. The denominational houses are ever growing and innovating, while remaining open to all. In the future, I encourage you to broaden your horizons and participate in a presentation or activity at the houses that previously was not on your radar.

I also have gained a great appreciation for the non-denominational activities that have expanded beyond the meals served by the Hurlbut congregation and the Palestine Park tours to include daily meditations and prayers, weekly tours of the Labyrinth, the Chautauqua Dialogues, Baha'i presentations and Jum'ah, the Friday Muslim communal prayer.

Perhaps one of the most rewarding aspects of being the compiler of "Interfaith News" is working with the Daily staff. I have learned from each of the editors: Barry Shea, Joan Hutter, Matt Ewalt, Jordan Steves and Sara Toth. I have enjoyed the enthusiasm and skill of the interns. It gives me great hope that the world is going to be in good hands in the future. I encourage you to make a connection with the young people who are interns and employees at Chautauqua. You can be an encouragement to them, and they will give a different perspective of the Chautauqua experience.

My family and friends are right, however. It is time for someone else to fill this role. To whomever takes up my mantle next: I promise, it will be enjoyable and enlightening. As for me, I am looking forward to participating in some of the activities and events that I have written about every week over all these seasons. For her encouragement and support, I give many thanks to Maureen Rovegno, director emerita of the Department of Religion. And, lastly, I say a special goodbye to "my people" – my connections to each of the groups that are an integral part of the rich fabric of the Chautauqua faith community.

Baptist House

We are so grateful for another beautiful season at Chautauqua where we renewed old friendships, made new friends and shared so many wonderful programs. We thank you for quiet conversations, shared meals and marvelous music. We pray for your safety and well-being as we leave this beautiful place, and may God grant you peace and blessings until we meet again!

Blessing and Healing Daily Service

Thanks to all who have participated in this special ministry that includes centering prayer, prayers for wholeness, and laying on of hands.

Chabad Jewish House

Chabad Jewish House wishes everyone a happy and healthy Shanah Tova (New Year)! Please visit www.cocweb.org for uploaded videos of our classes and other resources. We look forward to seeing everyone next season!

Chautauqua Catholic Community

Weekend Mass is at 5 p.m. Saturday in the Hall of Philosophy. There is no weekend Mass Sunday on the grounds.

Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program

May your meditation practices continue to create peace and balance in your lives until we meet again. Keep your eye on chq.org for the 2024 teachers and schedule.

Chautauqua Prays for Peace through Compassion

The singing of "Let there be Peace on Earth" and saying short prayers for peace are a meaningful way to start each day. We encourage you to continue this habit throughout the year.

Christian Science House

"Christ Jesus" is this week's lesson at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service in the Christian Science House.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Disciples of Christ

Tom Brownfield, retiring administrator of the Guest Houses of the Chautauqua Association Disciples of Christ, is presiding at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Communion service at the Disciples of Christ Headquarters House, 32 Clark at Janes. His sermon, "Transitions and Constants," is based on Genesis 18:1-8 and Romans 20:20-21. All are invited to Christ's table to share in the sacred feast as we encounter the Spirit of the Living Christ together and share in this grace-filled and welcoming community of faith.

Brownfield is a commissioned minister for social justice at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio, where he engages in the work of advocating for social justice with the congregation and among the UCC churches in the Central Southeast Association of the Ohio Conference. Kathy and Tom Brownfield, who live in Lithopolis, Ohio, have offered leadership at the Disciples of Christ houses for nine years.

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

The ECOC would like to thank all our guests and friends who made this season memorable. What a great summer, living in community and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you next year!

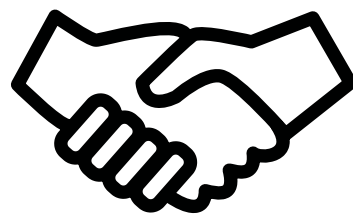
Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd

The Rev. Joseph Kozlowski presides over services of Holy Eucharist with sung hymns led by an organist at 7:45 and 9 a.m. Sunday in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd is honored to serve the Chautauqua community in 2023. We look forward to again hosting weddings, baptisms and daily services of Eucharist in 2024. May our prayers go with you.

Everett Jewish Life Center in Chautauqua

We had a successful season



INTERFAITH NEWS

COMPILED BY MEG VIEHE

of stimulating lectures and outstanding films. EJLCC truly appreciates the wonderful support and kindness that we've been shown this past season. We look forward to seeing you all next year. Stay safe. Shanah Tovah Umetukah. May you have a good and sweet year!

Food Pantry Donations

Throughout the entire year, Hurlbut Church accepts nonperishable food items for the Ashville Food Pantry. Donations may be dropped off any time at the Scott entrance of Hurlbut Church.

Hebrew Congregation

The Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua thanks all who made the 2023 season a success. We wish all Chautauquans a safe and healthy winter and look forward to seeing you next summer.

Hurlbut Memorial Community Church

A service of meditation, Scripture, prayer, songs and Communion is held from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. Sunday at Hurlbut Church.

Hurlbut Church had a great summer, welcoming back familiar faces and meeting new people who came to support our summer meal ministry. We are always grateful to the community for supporting our missions and ministries of this church.

We welcome everyone to join us for our Sunday worship service at 10:45 a.m. starting Sept. 3. Please join our pastors, the Rev. Paul Womack and the Rev. Natalie Hanson, as we return to our fall worship time.

International Order of The King's Daughters and Sons

The International Order of The King's Daughters and Sons will hold New Horizons, a scholarship program, from Aug. 26 to 30 on the grounds. This training will foster new leadership in the organization. Members from across the country will participate as either trainers or future leaders.

Islamic Community

Jum'ah, the Friday Muslim communal prayer, will resume in the 2024 season.

Labyrinth

Greetings from the center of the labyrinth ... a place of peace and non-judgment. As we disperse for another year, find a labyrinth near you on labyrinthlocator.com/locate-a-labyrinth. See you in 2024.

Lutheran House

The Rev. Loranel Breyley, a retired pastor from Medina, Ohio, presides at a service of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the Lutheran House. Communion is served in individual sealed cups. The Lutheran House is located on the brick walk at the corner of Peck and Clark, near the Hall of Philosophy.

For a wonderful season at the Lutheran House, we thank our guests, the Department of Religion, denominational house colleagues, and all who make Chautauqua what it is. Sharing our gathering space with many groups was a delight. We anticipate next year and our house's 100th year in 2025!

Palestine Park

Palestine Park, located along Chautauqua Lake near Miller Bell Tower, is

open for exploration year-round. The park, one of Chautauqua's first landmarks, is a scale model of the Holy Land.

Presbyterian House

The Presbyterian Association thanks all guests, staff, board members, volunteers and visitors for a great 2023 season. Blessings upon all Chautauquans for a safe and healthy year. See you next summer!

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

The Quaker House at Chautauqua wishes to thank everyone who made our third year a success. We have had a wonderful season full of spiritual depth, meaningful conversations, new friendships, hospitality, music and service. We are so grateful. May Peace be with you until we meet again.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chautauqua

Katie Gordon, a resident of the Pax Prio, small intentional community in Erie, Pennsylvania, presides over the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service in the Hall of Philosophy. Her message title is "From the 'Nones' to the 'Manys': Seeking a More Authentic Spiritual Story for Our Age." Gordon is a co-founder of Nuns & Nones, an intergenerational spiritual community dedicated to care, contemplation and courageous action in service of life and liberation. Kay Barlow is the music director. Cellist Owyn Darrell-Sterbak and violinist Nella Darrell-Sterbak, students at Fredonia (New York) High School, are guest soloists.

An audio recording is available on uufchq.org.

United Church of Christ

This past season has been a blessing and balm for body, mind and spirit.

With the hard work and efforts of many, things are tucked away and ready for fall and the rigors of winter. We look forward to returning next summer and share good wishes for health and safety until we meet again!

United Methodist

The Rev. Natalie Hanson, who along with her husband the Rev. Paul Womack is co-

lead pastor of the Hurlbut Memorial Community United Methodist Church, presides at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service in the United Methodist House chapel.

Come and enjoy an ice cream social; at the suggestion of our good friend Richard Heitzenrater, the United Methodist House will host a Three Taps Farewell party following the Sacred Song Service Sunday on our spacious porch.

Unity of Chautauqua

The Rev. Barbara Williams, retired senior minister of Unity of Port Richey, Florida, leads the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service in the Hall of Missions. Her message, "Come Holy Spirit," explores what we mean when we entreat the Holy Spirit to come into our lives. Let's look at the history and interpretation of Pentecost, a deeply transformative story, a tale of new creation. Williams is delighted to facilitate Unity of Chautauqua's summer program.

Thank you for your support of our Unity community this summer. Join us in exploring the Mystical Experience following the season on Zoom and posted on YouTube and Facebook. Details are at www.unitychq.org.

Women in Ministry

Dynamic women gather each Wednesday to share their stories. We believe that every woman has a ministry. To continue throughout the year, Women in Ministry will Zoom at noon every other Wednesday, beginning in October 2023. Anyone interested in joining this group can email Jane McCarthy at janeed-mccarthy@gmail.com

Editors' Note: There aren't enough words in the English language to convey how grateful we are to Meg Viehe for her years of service to the Daily, and for the support and guidance she's provided the hundreds of student interns who have come through the newsroom during her tenure. Thank you, Meg, and congratulations on a well-earned retirement.

Anyone interested in taking up the Interfaith News column should email daily@chq.org.

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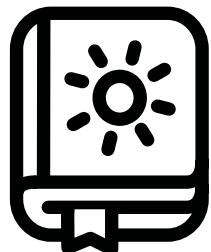
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RELIGION



MORNING WORSHIP

COLUMN BY MARY LEE TALBOT

Don't let tyranny of normal stand between you and God, Feinstein preaches in closing

Abbi Ed Feinstein grew up watching 1950s television. So perhaps it was appropriate that his final sermon for Week Nine was recorded and shown to the congregation in the Amphitheater. Feinstein and wife, Rabbi Nina Bieber Feinstein, had to return to California before the beginning of the Sabbath, leaving Chautauqua on Thursday night.

Feinstein preached via video at the 9:15 a.m. morning worship service in the Amp. The title of his sermon was "The Tyranny of the Normal." The scripture reading was Micah 7:18-20. There was also a reading from *This is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as Journey of Transformation*, by Rabbi Alan Lew, who was the rabbi at Congregation Beth Shalom in San Francisco before his death in 2009.

"When I was growing up, I wanted to be a Cleaver, a Nelson or an Anderson," said Feinstein. He was referring to the television shows "Leave It to Beaver," "Ozzie and Harriet," and "Father Knows Best."

He continued, "I wanted my dad to come home and hang his fedora on a hook like Ward Cleaver and he would be greeted by my mom like June Cleaver in high heels and pearls. I wanted an older brother like Wally Cleaver who wore a letter jacket and worked on cars. They never argued and there was no existential question that could not be solved by Ward's wisdom and June's cookies."

Feinstein's family was nothing like the Cleavers. They were loud, emotional, argued and their garage was filled with furniture from his Russian emigré grandparents. His aunts and uncles argued about unions, the Holocaust and Vietnam, bringing history into the house. "They had to fix the world, not cars," he said.

"The tyranny of the normal — who sold us this map of life?" he asked. "On the inside I was an ethnic Jew, on the outside a normal American. The Cleavers were in black and white; my family was in glorious technicolor."

The Feinsteins' neighbors would join in for sabbath dinners and share the boisterous conversation over four desserts. "When I called home from college during shabbat dinner, my mother said, 'Say hello to your friend Bobby.' I said to Bobby, who is of Chinese background, 'What are you doing there?' He said, 'You think my mom makes matzo ball soup?'"

He asked the congregation, who sets the standard for what is the right way to live, to love to be your right self? "We all have pictures of our kids in our wallets and when the kid does not follow the map on the back of the photo we yell at the teacher, take the kid to doctors, therapists, and then perform the greatest act of child abuse: disappointment."

He asked, "We have pride for those who are all-stars, who excel at everything, but is there pride for the one with a difference? Can we see that one for who he or she is and appreciate their unique being? Do we have a place, off our map, for them?"

No one has everything put together. Everyone has moments of shame, failure or guilt that drive them off the map. No one, he said, expects a divorce, a disappointment at work, some kind of failure.

"No one's life is television perfect," Feinstein said. "There are people today who carry shame because their inner and outer lives do not mesh. They hide their secrets, don't know their values and are drifting, not knowing where they belong."

He urged the congregation to "listen to what our faith, what all our faiths, proclaim — we believe in a God of second chances, but first we have to let go of our shame and forgive ourselves. We have to release ourselves and those we love from the tyranny of the normal."

This is the beginning of the season of repentance for Jews and it begins with a prayer, Kol Nidre, at the beginning of Yom Kippur services. Kol Nidre means "all vows" and it is a prayer to preemptively annul all vows made between the self and God so that one avoids the sin of breaking a vow to God.

"All maps are torn up, all expectations relinquished," Feinstein said. "The prayer means we will not let the tyranny of the normal stand between us and God. Our failure is forgiven, our shame lifted and we are free to write our own maps, to be our own blessings."

In the season of repentance, Feinstein said, "confess your shortcomings, the things you said and the things you left unsaid, the actions you made and the ones you had not done. Before you master this courage, before you are welcomed by your family and by God, you must forgive yourself and let go of the tyranny of the normal."

He continued, "Then may the sacred gift of new life and the new year come to you, for a year of many, many blessings."

Rabbi Samuel Stahl, an associate in the Department of Religion and rabbi emeritus of Temple Beth El in San Antonio, served as liturgist. The Rt. Rev. Eugene T. Sutton, senior pastor, served as co-liturgist. Arthur Salz, professor emeritus at Queens College, City University of New York, and former co-president of the Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua, read the scripture and part of an essay by Rabbi Alan Lew. The prelude was "Sarabande Op. 8," by Joseph Sulzer, played by Joshua Stafford, director of sacred music and Jared Jacobson, Chair for the Organist on the Massey Memorial Organ. For the anthem, the Motet Choir sang "With A Voice of Singing," by Martin Shaw, under the direction of Stafford and accompanied by Nicholas Stigall, organ scholar, on the Massey Memorial Organ. Stafford played "Toccata," from Symphony No. 5 by Charles-Marie Widor, on the Massey Memorial Organ. Support for this week's chaplaincy and preaching was provided by the Daney-Holden Chaplaincy Fund and the Samuel M. and Mary E. Hazlett Memorial Fund.



Leigh-Anne Hendrick speaks at the Hebrew Congregation's Shirley Lazarus Speaker Series presentation on Aug. 6 in Smith Wilkes Hall.

Hebrew Congregation-sponsored D.C. trip for Holocaust education program in local schools continues to grow

ZOE KOLENOVSKY
STAFF WRITER

Ninety-six students from seven schools in the Chautauqua area traveled to Washington D.C. in March to visit museums and historical sites as part of the Holocaust and Social Justice Education Program, sponsored by the Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua.

Local teachers Leah-Anne Hendrick and Emily Dorman helped launch the program 17 years ago. Hendrick said they wanted to introduce students to important histories not included in the general curriculum, while also imparting values of empathy and acceptance.

"We have just remarkable teachers in our county who are so dedicated to this task of raising students who have respect, empathy, that want to be inclusive, and we work together to advance those goals in the county," she said.

Throughout the year, speakers focused on the Holocaust and social justice initiatives give presentations to teachers and students from schools in Chautauqua and Erie counties. The program culminates in a three-day trip to Washington, D.C.

While the program has generated entire classes dedicated to the topic, Dorman and Hendrick said they also provide training and materials for teachers to incorporate Holocaust and social justice education into pre-existing classes.

"(It's so) everybody can get exposure, regardless of what school they're going to or what specific courses are being offered, so that that education becomes more widespread," Dorman said.

Kennedy Northrup, a recent Chautauqua Lake Central School graduate, said because 20th-century history isn't discussed until eighth grade, she appreciated the program's ability to broaden students' perspectives.

"It definitely opens up our eyes to see the world, since we're in such a privileged community," she said.

The program recently recognized Northrup as this year's recipient of the Anne Frank Humanitarian Award, given to "an exceptional, deserving upstander ... who is making an extra effort to better the world."

Dorman said the award allows teachers to name students who have made a difference or used their voice in a way to spread compassion or empathy or activism.

"... Kennedy has certainly done (that) at Chautauqua Lake," said Dorman. "That's something she's always been passionate about, and I think now she's got a focus for that voice."

Northrup was a member of the group of students who traveled to Washington, D.C. in the spring, an event made possible by the Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua's sponsorship.

This year's group had

around 75% of the cost fully covered by the Hebrew Congregation, making the experience much more attainable for the students, Dorman said.

The group visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture, then the National Mall and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and other sites.

"It's just an unbelievably packed trip," said Larry Cohen, education committee chairperson of the Hebrew Congregation.

Several of the students had never traveled outside of Chautauqua County, Dorman said.

"Just the exposure to that level of perspective, in a new city and being able to travel with students from other schools ... is really powerful," she said.

Northrup said she appreciated learning about the sites and related historic events in class, and then experiencing some of that history in-person through the museums.

"Going into the Holocaust Museum after learning for nine months, intensely, about it and why it happened and how it happened, you're just baffled," she said. "It's just breathtaking."

The two groups connected six years ago, when the Holocaust and Social Justice Education Program gave a presentation about their efforts in Chautauqua schools. Now, every

year, teachers and students share their experiences during a presentation for the Hebrew Congregation's Shirley Lazarus Speaker Series. This year, Hendrick spoke on Aug. 6 in Smith Wilkes Hall for the series.

"People on our board in the Hebrew Congregation were so impressed that they came up with the idea of, 'Why don't we take these students to Washington?'" said Hebrew Congregation President Esther Northman.

She said the organization is thrilled to support such a transformative program for the Chautauqua community. Their support has allowed the D.C. trip to steadily expand, with larger numbers each year providing more students with the opportunity to be impacted by the program's historical, social, and cultural insights.

"We hope that we can continue to expand," she said. "We really support the program through donors on the grounds ... so we do a lot of fundraising to be able to give this to the students."

Dorman said she is grateful to the Hebrew Congregation for providing such an opportunity for the students.

"For a lot of our kids, it's the first time having an experience like that," she said. "It's incredibly emotional. It is overwhelming, but it's amazing. You have those moments of uplifting and compassion ... and those moments are incredible."

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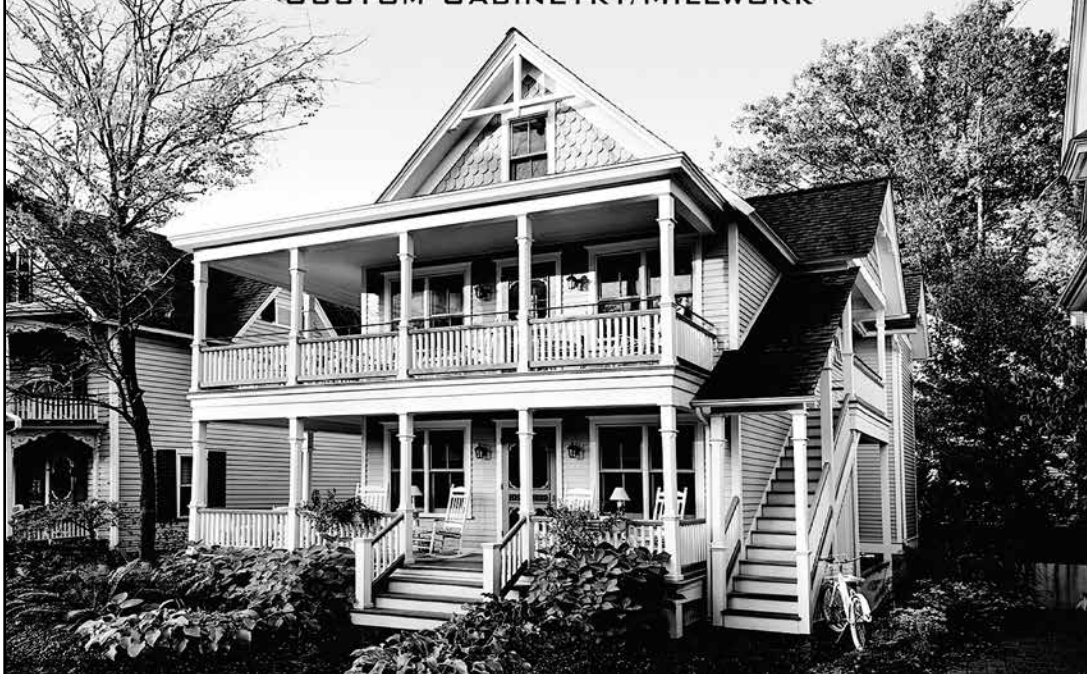
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 "GENDER EQUITY IN
 WOMEN'S SPORTS"



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 DAVID RODRIQUEZ, RET.**
 Monday, July 29th, 2024
 "CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF U.S.
 MILITARY PREPAREDNESS"



DR. SCOTT ATLAS, MD.
 CO-FOUNDER OF GLOBAL
 LIBERTY INSTITUTE
 Monday, July 15th, 2024
 "A WATCHDOG OVER THE
 WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM'S
 ATTEMPT TO RESHAPE
 WORLD ECONOMIES"



BYRON YORK
 COLUMNIST
 WASHINGTON EXAMINER
 FREQUENT RADIO
 AND TV CONTRIBUTOR
 Monday, August 5th, 2024
 "UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL
 ELECTION: WHERE ARE WE?"



JIMMY FAILLA
 COMEDIAN, RADIO TALK SHOW
 HOST, FOX NEW CONTRIBUTOR
 "STANDUP COMEDY ON THE
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SPECIAL TIME
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PAUL MAURO
 RETIRED NYPD INSPECTOR AND
 ATTORNEY, FREQUENT TV
 CONTRIBUTOR ON ISSUES
 OF THE CRIME CRISIS
 Monday, August 12, 2024
 "LAW AND ORDER CRISIS"

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DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

Chautauquans fill Bestor Plaza during the Ultimate Wine & Beer Tasting at the Chautauqua Food Festival last Sunday.

A TASTE OF THE TOWN

Annual Food Festival brings flavors of Chautauqua region to grounds



JESS KSZOS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Barbara and Murphy Thomas share a bowl of chicken teriyaki from Yakisobas last Sunday.



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

Colleen Law, center, laughs with Emily Law, left, while sampling beers during the Ultimate Wine & Beer Tasting last Sunday.



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Katie Swanson-Harbage, left, and Robin Harbage laugh with each other over drinks Tuesday on Bestor Plaza.



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jessamine Daly-Griffen, the owner of Om Nom Bakery & Cafe, laughs with customers Janet Forbes and Alan Brown on Tuesday.



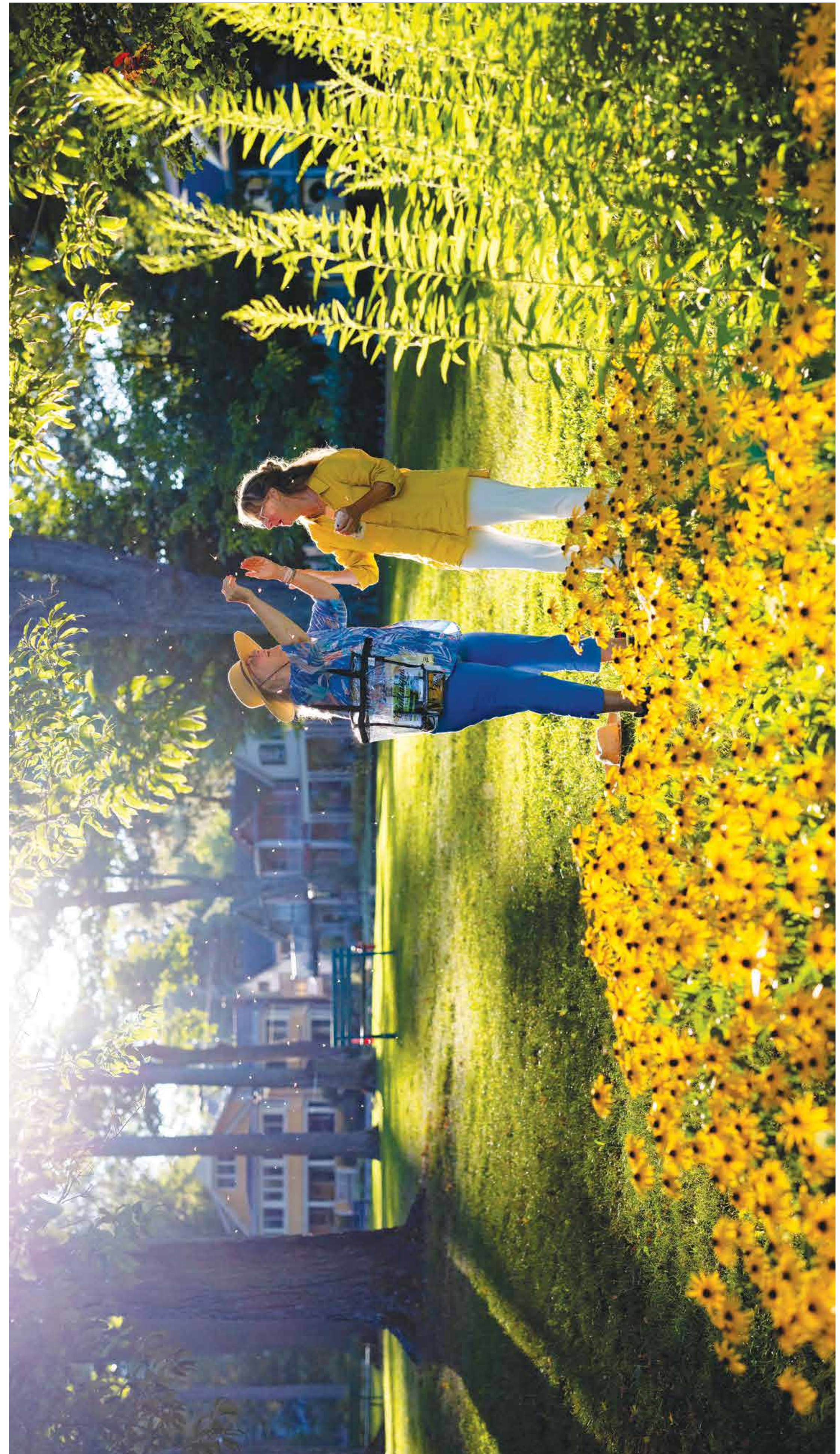
DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

Simone Fancher takes orders from the Cheesy Chick food truck during the Ultimate Wine & Beer Tasting last Sunday.



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER


Dick and Debby Wade make friends with Regan, who politely asked to join in their tasting experience Tuesday.



JESS KSZOS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER


THE BIG SHOT

Childhood friends Patty Baldwin and Donelle Davey recapture a bit of their youth as they try to capture bugs Tuesday evening in Miller Park. Baldwin and Davey have been coming to Chautauqua for years, and this week they found themselves down by the lake in a stretch of gardens that made the golden hour even more lustrous, goldenrod towering above a bed of Black-Eyed Susans — appropriately known by the cultivar “Goldstrum.”



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About the Speakers






					
Sayu Bhojwani Founder of South Asian Youth Action (1997), New American Leaders (2010) and Women's Democracy Lab (2021) Author, <i>People Like Us</i>	David Blight Sterling Professor of American History at Yale University Pulitzer Prize winning author, <i>Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom</i>	Michele Bratcher Goodwin Chancellor's Professor at the University of California, Irvine and founding director of the Center for Biotechnology and Global Health Policy	Suzanne Nossel Chief Executive Officer at PEN America Author, <i>Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech for All</i>	Trevor Potter President, Campaign Legal Center	Michael Waldman President and CEO of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law Author, <i>The Supermajority: How the Supreme Court Divided America</i>

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COMMUNITY



DAHIE

James Gordon Dahlie

James Gordon Dahlie, MD, passed into God's kingdom on Nov. 6, 2022. He first came to Chautauqua County in 1977 to interview for a position as a diagnostic radiologist at Jamestown Radiology. Upon his recruitment, scanning technologies beyond traditional X-ray films, such as CT, MRI, PET and ultrasound were at nascent stages in the area. His practice of improving and saving lives in our area evolved to include these technological marvels as well as special procedures such as angiography, even though to the end he remained a Luddite with regards to personal technologies. Luckily he had four sons and a wife to help him with these!

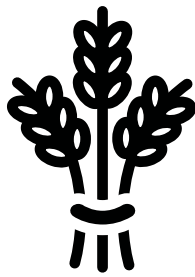
Jimmy was born in Park Falls, Wisconsin, in 1947 to Gordon and Madge (née Smith) Dahlie, the youngest of siblings Donna (1937), Sharon (1939) and Paul (1940). He spent his happily recounted childhood in nearby Phillips, seat of Price County, Wisconsin. This small Midwestern village presented the kind of community he always believed America should idealize. It allowed him to walk to his schools on weekdays, his grandparents' house after school, a Western double feature on Saturday matinee afternoons, and Presbyterian Sunday school and worship service (sounds kind of familiar, yes?). Phillips allowed him easy ambling to the family-owned Main Street hardware and sporting goods store where he could see his Norwegian immigrant grandfather, WWII-veteran uncle, and county board chairman father working not only with each other but for their community in the shining post-war United States. His environment allowed him to be a thespian, a golfer, a quarterback, a hunter, a fisherman and a valedictorian.

James took this upbringing with him to the state capital of Madison, earning a Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin in 1969. From there he went on to earn his Medical Doctorate at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and took

a residency specializing in diagnostic radiology with the University of Kansas, Kansas City. Along the way he met his wife of almost 50 years, Shelley Carlson, in hospitals first in D.C. then in her hometown of Cleveland. Upon reintroducing himself, she remembered his teal socks from their first meeting. She was, initially, less than impressed. This changed eventually.

While lifelong-Republican Dahlie did not care for New York State politics in general, he grew to love this county and community. He loved the widely varying geography and seasons allowing him to fish, ski, sail, golf and play outside with his four sons and dog. He faithfully served many roles at Jamestown's First Presbyterian Church on various session committees. Dahlie also served as a Cub Scout leader, Medical Staff President at W.C.A. Hospital, and as a volunteer tutor for the Community Foundation. Dahlie ended his life with a wealth of friends in the area, evidenced by the two-plus hour receiving line at his funeral service.

Dad looked forward to Chautauqua every year in every season, within its prime nine weeks and without them. Perhaps the bucolic, walkable setting reminded him of the childhood he adored so much, with carefully manicured waterfront beauty and added intellectual refinements for a lifelong learner. While he often questioned what he perceived as a left lean in the overall programming, he also relished the sharpening of his own intellectual arguments that such civil antagonism provided. He adored the view of Bestor Plaza from his Glen Park porch, watching children play around the fountain. Jim sang the old hymns most mornings and on Sunday nights. He perked up with his morning coffee on the Presbyterian House porch. He treasured the opportunity to hear the classical works he had listened to over loudspeakers come to life through orchestral concerts on the Amphitheater stage, particularly Beethoven. Grandpa chuckled watching children compete on the Children's School and Boys' and Girls' Club grounds, able to enjoy his granddaughter Charlotte's time in those places before he passed. He was happy to help his sons deliver weekend editions of the Daily with heavy inserts in them. He and his son Chris, up to a few years ago, made a ritual of putting the family Jet Ski and Sunfish in the water and bikes in the rack every June and taking them out every August. He did not like to watch Chris on the 30-foot Amp A-Frame ladder replacing lights, however, as James



MILESTONES

IN MEMORIAM

was deathly afraid of heights.

Like one of his heroes Scrooge McDuck, Dr. Dahlie traveled far and wide in the world, through much of Europe, Japan, Colombia and most of his beloved United States. Having fallen in love with it as a Greyhound bus tour guide, his heart was truly in the Great West of the country, happiest when fishing almost every year in Yellowstone National Park. However, he put his soul into making a wonderful home in this county and this Institution for his surviving wife Shelley, sons Christopher (1978), Scott (1980), David (1984), Matthew (1988); and grandchildren Charlotte (2014), Lillian (2016) and Gordon (2018). We miss seeing his thick head of hair in the aisles of the Bookstore, the tables of Smith Memorial Library, and among the yellow benches. An awful lot. Rest in peace, Doctor. You are eternally loved.

Patricia A. Goldman

Patricia A. Goldman, 81, of Washington, D.C., died on July 26, 2023, of viral pneumonia.

She was born in Newton, New Jersey, on March 22, 1942, to Jack J. Goldman, a dentist, and Miriam L. (Casiday) Goldman, a nurse. In 1964, she graduated from Goucher College, which granted her an honorary doctorate in 2010 for her leadership in public service, in the airline industry, and on the college's board of trustees, which she chaired during Goucher's transition to coeducation.

After college, she worked on Capitol Hill as a committee staffer and as executive director of the House Wednesday Group, an informal organization of moderate Republican members of Congress. She also directed manpower and anti-poverty programs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, was legislative counsel for the

National League of Cities of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and served on the governing board of the Ripon Society, a liberal Republican policy organization.

She was later appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the National Transportation Safety Board and was reappointed by President Ronald Reagan, perhaps the only person to be nominated for a Senate-confirmed position by both presidents. As vice chairman of the board, she was instrumental in the passage of legislation mandating child safety seats in automobiles.

After retiring from public service, she became senior vice president for corporate communications at USAir, the highest-ranking woman in the U.S. airline industry at that time.

Beginning in the 1960s, she was an activist with the National Women's Political Caucus and other organizations seeking passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, and headed the WISH List, raising money for pro-choice Republican women candidates.

After surviving ovarian cancer, she co-founded the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance, which advocates for research and patient care, and served as a community representative on review panels for the National Cancer Institute and the Department of Defense's Ovarian Cancer Research Program.

For almost half a century, she lived for part of each summer at Chautauqua Institution in Western New York, an historic hub of educational and cultural activities, where she served on the boards of the Institution and the Chautauqua Foundation.

Pat Goldman is survived by her husband of 33 years, Stephen Kurzman; his sons, Charles and George Kurzman, and their families;

William, Timothy, Roger, Michael and Jeffrey Goodell, sons of her first husband, the late U.S. Sen. Charles Goodell, and their families; and devoted friends who will greatly miss her love and graciousness, sharp intellect and valiant spirit.

Services were July 30, 2023, at Temple Micah in Washington, D.C. Interment followed at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in Adelphi, Maryland. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

John L. Livermore

John L. Livermore, 77, a Vietnam veteran, passed away on Dec. 4, 2022, in the Buffalo VA, from complications of Agent Orange, who was a lifelong area resident.

He was born at home on Bentley Hill in Ellington, New York, on Oct. 4, 1945, the son of the late Dermoth and Opal Sischo Livermore.

He attended Pine Valley Central School and graduated Falconer Central School in 1964. John was a U.S. Army veteran, serving from 1964 to 1969 as a Military Policeman, under MACV and U.S. Army XXIV Corps. He served two tours in Vietnam at Hue/Phu Bai. During the fall of 1967, Mr. Livermore was stationed at Arlington, Virginia, during the peace marches on the Pentagon. He was discharged in 1969 with the rank of sergeant. He asks for remembrance of those listed on the Vietnam Veterans Wall, who are forever young. His medals include the Army Commendation, Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign with 7 stars, Good Conduct and National Defense. He retired from his job as bus driver for Randolph Central School in 2021 after 20 years.

He previously retired from the Randolph American Legion where he worked for 15 years as steward. He earlier worked at Falconer Glass Industries, TRS Commerce Corporation, and Leon and James Sons in Ashville, New York. Mr. Livermore was a graduate of the School of Labor of the University of Wisconsin and of Cornell University. He served as vice president and secretary/treasurer of ABG

Local 81 of Falconer Glass Industries. He also served as vice president and president of the Randolph Bus Drivers Association.

He was active in veterans affairs and organizations his entire adult life. A life member and past commander of VFW Post 53 Jamestown and Randolph American Legion Post 181, as well as AMVETS Post 1473 Randolph, he was a charter member of VFW Post 2522 Cherry Creek, AMVETS Post 1473 Randolph and the VVA Post 865 Jamestown. He was a life member of the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, a member of Voiture Locale #446 40/8 Chautauqua County, Randolph Rod and Gun Club, the former Randolph Moose Lodge 2273, as well as the NRA. For 10 years, Mr. Livermore was chairman of the Veterans Parade at the Chautauqua County Fair. He also served as Quartermaster and Steward of VFW 6533 Randolph.

He is survived by brothers Sherwood (late Shirley) Livermore of Randolph, New York, Perry (Lee) (Elsie) Livermore of Jamestown, New York, and sister Loretta Livermore of Ashville, New York. Children: Ashley (Patrick) Lund of Russell, Pennsylvania, Kaitlyn (William) Cavaretta of Liverpool, New York, Brent Livermore of Randolph, New York, and David Bloom of Key West, Florida. Grandchildren: Alexander, Hanna and Greta Lund, Tessa and Ethan Cavaretta, Tre, Brianna, Kyia and Nick Bloom, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife Martha (Sue), parents Dermoth and Opal Livermore, stepfather Robert V. Hotchkiss, brothers Charles (Lefty), James, Howard, Frank, Gordon, and David Livermore, and sisters Cathryn (George) Gens, Judy (Wayne) Tanner, and Joyce Livermore (1934).

The family received family and friends on Dec. 10, 2022, at the VanRensselaer & Son Funeral Home in Randolph. Services followed with Randy Honey officiating. Inurnment took place at Sample Hill Cemetery in Randolph at the convenience of family.

ANSWERS TO THIS EDITION'S PUZZLES

Saturday's crossword

S	A	N	S		S	L	E	D	S
C	I	N	O	S		P	A	G	U
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X	A	T	A	T	E	R	A	R	R
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A	M	I	G	A					

SHAKESPEARE
HATH ALL TOO SHORT A DATE. — WILLIAM
Saturday's Cryptoguide: SUMMER'S LEASE

Difficulty: ★★★★★

8/26 ©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

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

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ANSWERS TO THIS EDITION'S PUZZLES ON PAGE E3 AT THE BOTTOM

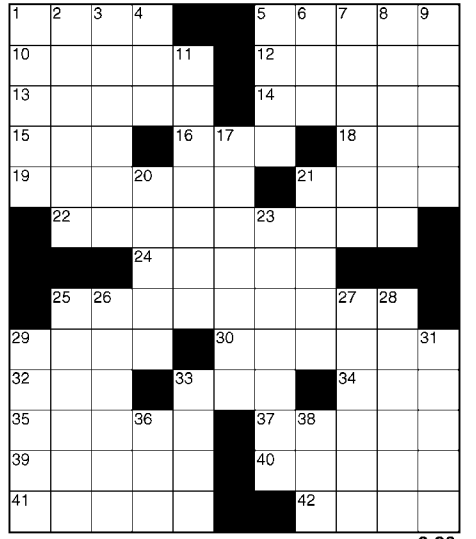
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 37 River through Nantes
 - 5 Friendly señorita
 - 10 Fence supplier
 - 12 Copier need
 - 13 Floor worker
 - 14 44th president
 - 15 They hold power
 - 16 German article
 - 18 Vault part
 - 19 Close relative
 - 21 Phoenix team
 - 22 Half of a trattoria dinner
 - 24 Accra's nation
 - 25 Half of a trattoria dinner
 - 29 Old German capital
 - 30 White Rabbit's cry
 - 32 Goof
 - 33 Chowd down
 - 34 Price add-on
 - 35 Rough guesses
- DOWN**
- 1 Top story
 - 2 Horned beasts
 - 3 Prepares for a bodybuilding competition
 - 4 Tiny
 - 5 Heaps
 - 6 Angry group
 - 7 Bored by routine
 - 8 Zodiac twins
 - 9 Swift horses
 - 11 Hauler's haul
 - 17 Occupy writer
 - 20 "Cosmos" section
 - 21 Barn section
 - 23 Tooth layers
 - 25 Human
 - 26 Incense
 - 27 Bilingual woman, maybe
 - 28 Be the lead of
 - 29 Outdoos
 - 31 Suits
 - 33 Nile reptiles
 - 36 Vase item
 - 38 Punch-in-the-gut response



Yesterday's answer



8-26

Berger Endowment provides for Saturday concert by Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Staples

The Evie and Stacey Berger Endowment for Emerging Artists provides support for the performance by Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue with Mavis Staples at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Amphitheater. Evie Berger has been enjoying Chautauqua for more than 50 years. Stacey first joined her in 1971 and they have both been regulars since 1984. They are long-time supporters of Chautauqua; the couple served together as Promise Campaign volunteers, and Evie

has led a team of volunteers who advocate on behalf of the Chautauqua Fund. In 2015, the Bergers established an endowment fund in support of Deborah Sunya Moore's efforts to expand popular entertainment programming to include a broader variety of talent, including emerging artists. Their passion for music inspired them to relocate to New Orleans, where they greatly enjoy the local music scene. Now, they also can enjoy that musical diversity at Chautauqua.

AXYDLBAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

8-26 CRYPTOQUOTE

WSOOIB'W XICWI QCDQ CXX

DEE WQEBD C RCDI.

— VMXXMCO WQCTIWUICBI

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN THERE ARE NO GREAT TIGERS IN THE DEEP MOUNTAINS, EVEN A MONKEY CAN BECOME KING.

— CHINESE PROVERB

Babcox Fund underwrites Sutton's closing sermon

The Marie Reid-Edward Spencer Babcox Memorial Fund provides support for the preaching by the Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton at 10:45 a.m. Sunday in the Amphitheater. The Babcox Fund was first established in memory of Mrs. Babcox, who died in 1962. After Mr. Babcox died in 1970, their children, Reid B. Babcox and Mrs. Hugh F. Bell, changed the chaplaincy to a memorial for both parents. Mr. and Mrs. Babcox's lives exemplified the Chautauqua ideal and both were devoted to Chautauqua. Mrs. Babcox was a life member of the Bird, Tree & Garden Club, the Chautauqua Women's Club and the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, a member of the YWCA Committee and an active participant in the Chautauqua Conferences of the National Federation of Music Clubs. She was an honorary trustee of

the Chautauqua Congregational Association. As a member of the YWCA World Service Council, she visited many YWCAs abroad. As a young man, Mr. Babcox was unable to attend college after his father's sudden death. His success as a salesman prompted an invitation from Harvey Firestone to become advertising director of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. Ten years later, Mr. Babcox established Babcox Automotive Publications, a firm still operated by members of the family. Mr. Babcox received national acclamation when he received his bachelor's degree from the University of Akron at age 84. The university also honored him at that time with a doctorate of humane letters in recognition of the influence he had exerted over students and faculty alike during his four years of study. Mr. Babcox was so deluged by mail from people of all ages who were inspired by his significant achievement that the university provided him an office for correspondence.



Chautauqua Lake Secondary School Car Wash to benefit CLSS Soccer Team

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SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 8/26

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 8/25

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Ruth Nelson
Associate RE Broker

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"First class experience throughout the process. Thorough market analysis for pricing, gorgeous staging, professional photography, clear communication, and great follow-through! Kudos to Ruth Nelson for providing excellence in customer service!"

- Kim F. & Gary B.



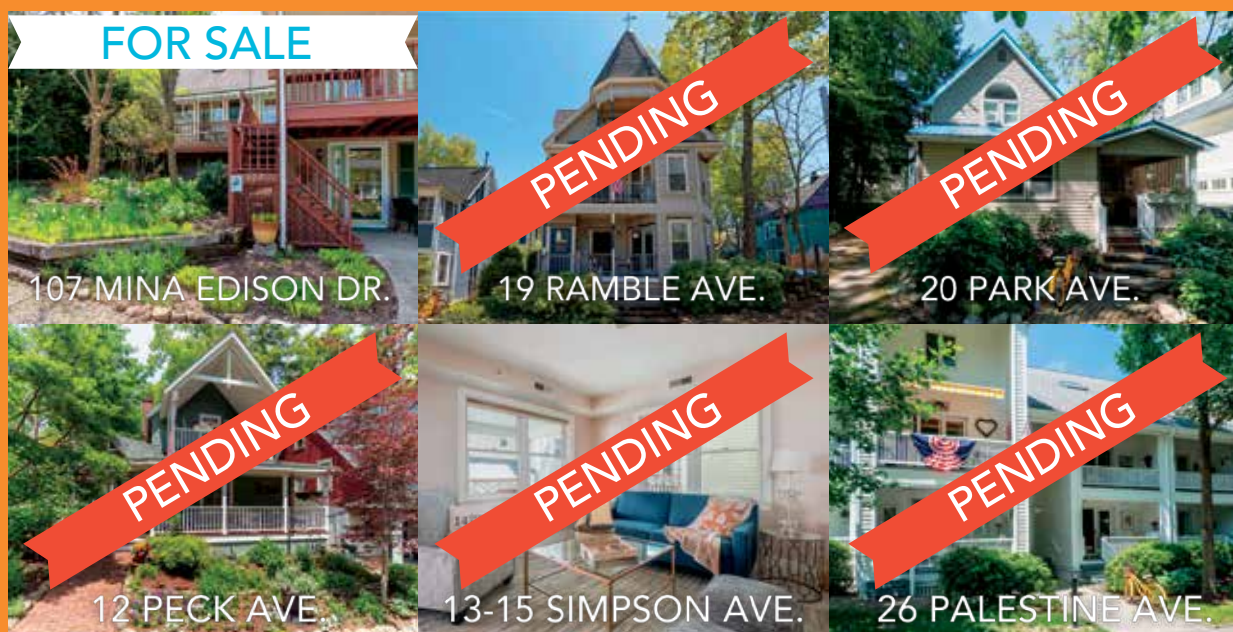
BEFORE



AFTER

Client testimonial & staging project completed for 13-15 Simpson Ave. Goldenrod & Belvedere Unit 302.

"The season may be ending, but there is no end in sight for buyer demand here in CHQ! Sellers, take advantage of the current market & contact me to list your property today!"
- Ruth



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39 Howard Hanson Ave. — Seller Representation.....	\$275,000
20 Elm Lane F3 — Buyer & Seller Representation.....	\$380,000
12 Forest Ave. — Buyer & Seller Representation.....	\$716,000

PROGRAM



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Renée Elise Goldsberry performs a variety of classic Broadway tunes with her backing band and accompanying vocalists Thursday in the Amphitheater.

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again;
by His counsels guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin
Music: William G. Tomer
Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU

Sa

SATURDAY
AUGUST 26

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

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

8:00 (8-11) **Open Pickleball.** No registration required, check in before you play. Tennis Center

10:00 Nichols and May Review. (Sponsored by Friends of Chautauqua Theater.) Free, donations welcome. Smith Wilkes Hall.

1:30 **Public Shuttle Tour of Grounds.** Fee. (Purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center. This tour is handicap accessible.) Leave from Main Gate Welcome Center

5:00 Catholic Mass. Hall of Philosophy

5:00 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Oppenheimer." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

7:30 **AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL.** Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue with Mavis Staples. Amphitheater

9:00 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Barbie." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

chqdaily.com

Su

SUNDAY
AUGUST 27

9:30 Christian Science Service. Christian Science Chapel

9:30 Unity Service. Hall of Missions

10:15 **Sunday School.** Ages 3-11. Children's School

10:45 **ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND SERMON.** The Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton. Amphitheater

1:30 **Public Shuttle Tour of Grounds.** Fee. (Purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center. This tour is handicap accessible.) Leave from Main Gate Welcome Center

2:00 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Barbie." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

2:30 **Massey Organ Movie.** "The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1923)." Joshua Stafford, Jared Jacobsen Chair for the Organist. Amphitheater

5:00 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Barbie." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

6:30 LGBTQ Friends Meet and Greet. Athenaeum Hotel Porch

7:00 **Palestine Park Tour.** "A Journey Through the Holy Land in the Times of Jesus." Palestine Park

8:00 **SACRED SONG SERVICE.** Amphitheater

8:30 **CLOSING THREE TAPS OF THE GAVEL.** "Chautauqua's Bicentennial." Michael E. Hill, president, Chautauqua Institution. Amphitheater

8:00 **Cinema Film Screening.** "Oppenheimer." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

Chautauqua Women's Club
EST. 1889

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CWC Thanks Everyone for a Wonderful Summer and Wishes You All a Safe Return Home!

Stay Informed at:
www.chautauquawomensclub.org

GRATEFUL to be home

Home sweet, Chautauqua!

I am thrilled to return to the enriching haven of Chautauqua Institution. Surrounded by the serene beauty of nature and embraced by a vibrant community, this place has a unique magic that instantly rejuvenates my spirit.

From captivating lectures to inspiring performances, every moment at Chautauqua is a celebration of knowledge, art, and human connection. As I step back onto these hallowed grounds, I can't help but feel grateful for the memories made and the new ones waiting to unfold.

Thank you to those who have warmly welcomed me back, and I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to meet new faces on my journey of serving buyers and sellers!

-Robin Bratton-Bias

Team VP
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