

# The Chautauquan Daily

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BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Music Director and Principal Symphonic Conductor Rossen Milanov leads the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra last Tuesday in the Amphitheater.

## Chautauqua Opera alum Gray to join CSO for evening of 'American Song'

SARAH RUSSO  
STAFF WRITER

A "life of literature," the Week Six theme, can extend beyond just books.

The Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra will perform "American Song" at 8:15 p.m. tonight in the Amphitheater featuring one piece with written words directly from America's 16th president, with vocals sung by Chautauqua Opera Company alumnus Yazid Gray.

Under the baton of Music

Director and Principal Symphonic Conductor Rossen Milanov, the CSO will perform two selections: Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and Michael Daugherty's "Letters from Lincoln."

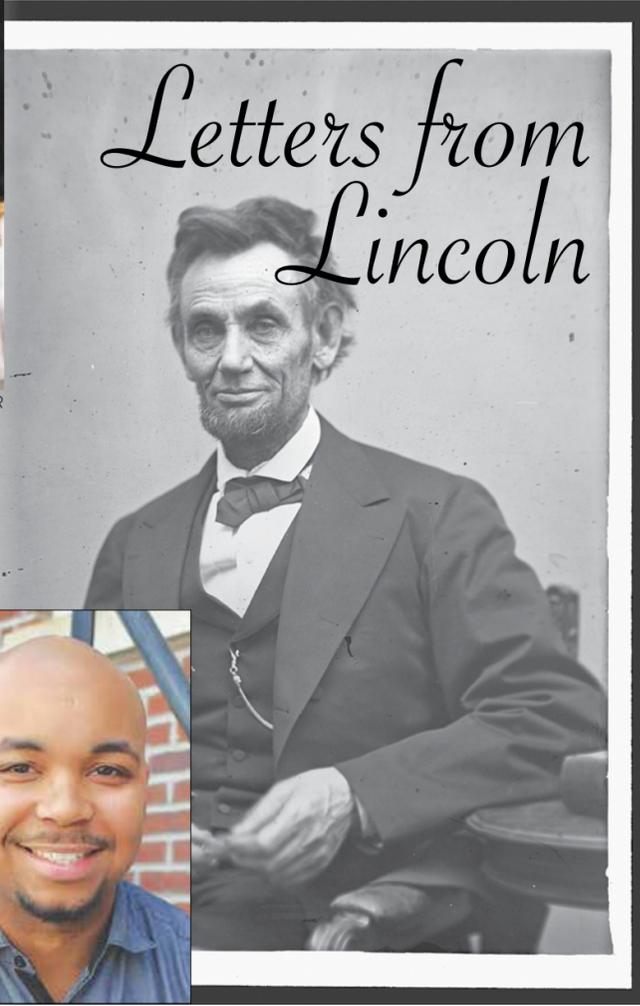
"(These are) two influential and captivating compositions that offer unique perspectives on American history and culture," Milanov said.

Both pieces showcase these perspectives, but in different ways, he said.



GRAY

See CSO, Page 4



VARA

## Vara to consider potential, possibility of AI

ARDEN RYAN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In 2018, researchers at MIT demonstrated a device enabling people to search Google with their brains.

Two years prior, the Neuralink Corporation launched efforts to develop implantable brain-computer interfaces, microchips enabling paralyzed people to use mobile technology via neural signals.

But even before that, in 2009, Vauhini Vara began writing a novel which features a device allowing a person to connect their brain directly to the internet.

As an emerging technology reporter and author, Vara is engrossed by humans' continual innovation. Her book, *The Immortal King Rao*, explores artificial intelligence at a crossroad with society.

"I find it fascinating that humans are always curious and always trying to invent new things, for better or worse," she said.

"The spirit of innovation never stops," she wrote in *The Immortal King Rao*, her debut novel and a finalist for the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction.

That spirit can bring the world "fascinating things" like ChatGPT, Vara said, but "there are two sides to that coin." The same technologies might also infringe on copyrights and threaten jobs. At 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater, Vara will continue the week's Chautauqua Lecture Series theme, "A Life of Literature," centering her lecture on the opportunities and implications of artificial intelligence.

Vara first encountered AI as a reporter in the mid 2000s, around the time startup companies such as Facebook and Google were on the rise — an "interesting time for tech," she said. Vara found the tech industry intriguing once she started to report on it, and has been doing so ever since.

In her 2021 essay "Ghosts" for *The Believer*, Vara experimented with using AI in her writing.

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## Metres to discuss power of stories, good and bad, for Interfaith Lecture Series

JAMES BUCKSER  
STAFF WRITER

Philip Metres knows first hand that the stories we tell have power, having spent his career telling his own and translating others.

"One of the things that strikes me about literature is that it really does require our imagination in a way that a lot of our contemporary media does not — it offers us a kind of a text, but we put it together, we make sense of it, just as we do in our own lives," Metres said. "Story is the way we organize our understanding of ourselves and the world."

A poet, author and translator, Metres will bring his perspective on story and literature to Chautauqua at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy, as a part of the Interfaith Lecture Series and its Week Six theme, "Literature and Meaning-Making."

As someone who has been "profoundly impacted and blessed and changed" by the reading and writing of literature," Metres said he was "grateful to have the opportunity to share a little bit about what I find so distinctive about it and why we need



Story is the way we organize our understanding of ourselves and the world."

—PHILIP METRES  
Poet, author, translator

it more than ever."

Metres will also be interrogating more nuanced issues of storytelling, and the ways in which "stories can be really problematic" and "dangerous in their own way."

"They're very powerful; they have a huge upside," Metres said "They (also) often leave things out, and so every narrative can be both compelling and also powerful and also dangerous."

In the modern American political landscape, the two main parties have dominant narratives about reality, Metres said, leading to a "post-facts moment."

"Part of that is, I think, that people have decided that the story is more important than the facts," Me-



METRES

tres said.

This, Metres said, is because people feel good within these narratives, where the world makes sense.

"The kinds of stories we need to tell are ones that sometimes can be discomfoting," Metres said. "People don't like to be discomfoted; people don't like to face complexity, unfortunately. We prefer things to be easy, so we (can go) about our daily lives."

Metres' newest book of translated poems, *Ochre and Rust: New Poems of Sergey Gandlevsky*, will be released in October of this year.

See METRES, Page 4

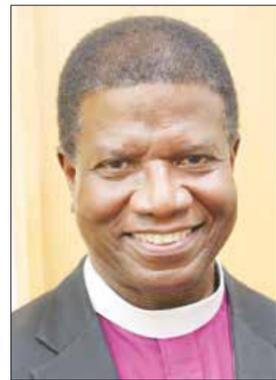
## Senior Pastor Sutton to preach as part of week's Amp sermon series

MARY LEE TALBOT  
STAFF WRITER

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland since 2008, and senior pastor of Chautauqua Institution, will preach at the 9:15 a.m. Thursday morning worship service in the Amphitheater.

Sutton is the second chaplain to take the pulpit in the stead of the Most Rev. Michael Curry, 27th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, who had to cancel this week due to health reasons. Sutton's sermon title this morning is "Ephphatha!"

A noted speaker on Christian spirituality, racial justice, nonviolence and the environment, Sutton served as canon pastor of the Washington National Cathedral and director of its Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage from 2000 to 2008. He co-founded Contemplative Outreach of Maryland and Washington, an ecumenical network of those committed to the



SUTTON

daily practice of centering prayer. He is a contributor to the books, *The Diversity of Centering Prayer*, and *Reclaiming the Gospel of Peace: Challenging the Epidemic of Gun Violence*.

Sutton is recognized as a leader on the issue of racial reparations, testifying before the U.S. Congress with author Ta-Nehisi Coates, actor Danny Glover, economist Julianne Malveaux and others for Congressional Bill HR40.

See SUTTON, Page 4

### IN TODAY'S DAILY



#### BLESSING AND HEALING

Candler, in closing sermon of his series, says parishes offer ways to heal world.

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#### 'YOUR WORDS CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'

Buffalo Poet Laureate Hanesworth calls for action in social justice literature.

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#### NEVER DOUBT THE POWER OF WORDS

Celebrated young-adult author Alexander shares upbringing, power that words have played in his life.

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#### TODAY'S WEATHER



H 82° L 62°  
Rain: 0%  
Sunset: 8:34 p.m.

#### FRIDAY



H 76° L 61°  
Rain: 0%  
Sunrise: 6:13 a.m. Sunset: 8:33 p.m.

#### SATURDAY



H 73° L 58°  
Rain: 0%  
Sunrise: 6:14 a.m. Sunset: 8:32 p.m.

## LITERARY ARTS



## BRIEFLY

NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS

## Chautauqua Music Group news

Come one, come all at 5 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays to our Bestor Music Group, closest to Clark Brick Walk. Bring your friends and family, instruments, voices, a chair and any music you love. We had a diverse, joyous group last summer, including a hammer dulcimer, guitars, violins, ukuleles, a saxophone and more. Feel free to call Sue Fallon with questions or ideas, any time from late morning on at 917-771-1166.

## Ask the Staff Tent Time

Please stop by the green tent for "Ask the Staff Tent Time" between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. today on Bestor Plaza (Rain location: Colonnade porch). Amit Taneja, senior vice president and Chief Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Officer, and Amy Gardner, vice president of advancement, will be there. No appointment, no agenda. Just drop in and chat.

## Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra League news

David B. Levy will be joined this evening by Micah Wilkinson, principal trumpet player of the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Wilkinson is also a renowned teacher of trumpet. Find out about Wilkinson's path to trumpet greatness and go to the symphony better informed by Levy's Pre-Concert Lecture at 6:45 p.m. tonight at Hultquist 101.

## Chautauqua Women's Club news

David Jasper will present at Chautauqua In-Depth today, 9:15 a.m. at the CWC House. Artists at the Market will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. today at the Chautauqua Farmer's Market. "Tea Time Treasures: A Classic English Tea Party" is at 3 p.m. today at the CWC House. Tickets available at [chautauquawomensclub.org](http://chautauquawomensclub.org).

## Chautauqua Kid's Softball League news

A Kid's Softball League pick-up game for ages 5 to 14 is set for 4:15 p.m. today at Sharpe Field. Extra gloves are available. Contact [carriezachry@gmail.com](mailto:carriezachry@gmail.com) for more information.

## Beach-to-Beach Color Sprint

The Beach-to-Beach Color Sprint will be held at 4:30 p.m. today for ages 6 and up. Register at the Sports Club for \$10, which includes a white T-shirt. The run begins at Children's Beach and ends at Heinz Beach. Powdered paint is tossed at participants along the route. Ice pops presented at the finish line.

## Chautauqua's Finances and Future

Chautauquans are invited to participate in a Zoom webinar from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. today for a CHQ Strategic Plan Update. Board of Trustees Chair Candy Maxwell and President Michael E. Hill will discuss the Institution's finances and future. Following a 25-minute presentation, they will respond to participant questions. Pre-registration is required at [chq.org/webinar](http://chq.org/webinar).

## Chautauqua Theater Company news

At 12:15 p.m. today in Smith Wilkes Hall, join Chautauqua Theater Company for a Brown Bag discussion on CTC's upcoming production of Mike Lew's *tiny father*.

## Hamill to present Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' for CLSC, consider adaptations through feminist lens

KAITLYN FINCHLER  
STAFF WRITER

Classics are seen as cultural touchstones, at least to actor and playwright Kate Hamill. With "hero" or "protagonist," people automatically have a set of characteristics in their mind when these words are used.

Following Chautauqua Theater Company's run of Hamill's adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*, she'll present Jane Austen's book as one of Week Six's Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle selections at 3:30 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy.

"I'm really interested in creating highly theatrical, inclusive, feminist, female-centered stories," Hamill said, "(ones) that re-examine, 'Who is a protagonist?' and what it means to be a hero. ... That has the capacity to move a lot of the culture forward."

This is a "really important moment" for theater, specifically in America, she said. Theaters are in "a bit of an existential crisis" though they provide an ancient, cathartic art.

"It's a form that offers communities a chance to come together and have real-world dialogues in a way you just can't have with your TV (or computer) screen," Hamill said.

In 2017, Hamill adapted *Pride and Prejudice* for the stage, putting a modern spin on the original's still-relevant themes of feminism, independence, love and marriage – or, fear of marriage.

With the Chautauqua Lecture Series theme, "A Life of Literature," the CLSC is using Hamill's adaptation to point to the theatrical side of literature.

"Plays are the best way to show what the work of literature is, because it connects so well with the other mediums," said Sony Ton-Aime, the Michael I. Rudell Director of Literary Arts. "(Hamill) is taking the word from the page and making it something that is more than the performance."

By adapting *Pride and Prejudice* for a contemporary audience, Ton-Aime said Hamill's spin on the book makes it relevant yet



HAMILL

"humble," the "perfect example" of a life of literature.

"I would like (the audience) to be interested in the ways that they can engage with theater in their own community," Hamill said, "in which they can keep kicking down the doors of these old stories and letting them run around in the sunlight."

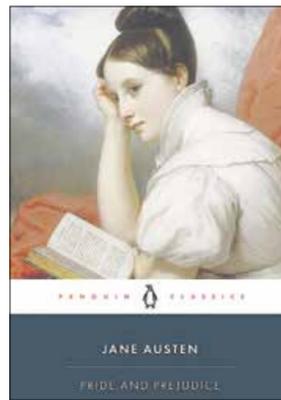
Hamill said she wanted to "break the story open" from previous adaptations that were "dramaturgically faithful or rigid" in nature.

"We treat romantic love as sort of a cross between a game and a war," she said. "My now-husband and I were approaching the idea of marriage and I had, historically, been frightened at the idea of marriage."

Her adaptation examines how "high stakes" finding a life partner can be. Hamill said she often looked back and thought about farce – a ridiculous, extremely emotional experience.

Lizzy Bennet, the protagonist of *Pride and Prejudice*, is someone who is "large and sunny, and has very much her own opinion on things," Hamill said.

She has portrayed Bennet twice, and said it's a



"really interesting social commentary" prompting audiences to re-consider preconceived notions or judgments.

"I cast myself as Lizzy initially because I was very much at that place in my life where I was scared of marriage and also examining marriage," she said. "I used that play as a cathartic moment to become quite happily married."

Although *Pride and Prejudice* offers a feminist take on society, Hamill said theater can stand to be "a lot more" feminist. In a country where there's a "real anti-feminist, anti-Me-Too and certainly an anti-choice backswing," it's actually incumbent for theater to do so.

"(Theaters should be) interested in exploring humanity's laws and foibles and strengths, and also moving the dial on cultural change and being part of a cultural conversation," she said.

She appreciates women in theater working toward this change, like CTC Producing Artistic Director Jade King Carroll, who helmed CTC's production of *Pride and Prejudice*.

"I'm super encouraged by leaders like Jade at Chautauqua and other leaders who are really interested in telling extremely inclusive stories," Hamill said. "We're at a real cultural tipping point right now, and it's important that theaters be on the right side of that fight."

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Thursday at the CINEMA

Thursday, August 3

PLASTIC EARTH - 2:00  
Climate Change Initiative Special Event! Free Admission with CHQ gate pass! Filmmaker Janice Overbeck's groundbreaking documentary explores the urgent need to address the global plastic crisis. Hosted by comedian and actor Rob Riggle. Discussion will follow featuring Janice and microplastics researcher Sam Mason. (NR, 100m)

RISE - 5:30 Stars Marion Barbeau of Paris Opera Ballet. A heartwarming and inspiring story that reminds us how sometimes, the worst thing that could happen may turn out to be the best. "A breezy, charming love letter to the art form." -*Robert Abele, LA Times* (NR, In French with subtitles. 117m)

THE LESSON - 8:30 Stars Daryl McCormack, Richard E. Grant and Julie Delpy. "A tightly crafted film made by and for adults unafraid of some rhododendron metaphors and casual Tchaikovsky talk." -*Lindsay Bahr, AP* "Sticks the landing with a twist made even more delicious by the incomparable cast." -*Thelma Adams, AARP* (R, 103m)

## Celebration of Life for Wilma Buchholtz McConnon

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Thursday, August 3, 2023 from 5-8pm at

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# MUSIC

## Chamber concert series this weekend to highlight winds section

ZOE KOLENOVSKY  
STAFF WRITER

The School of Music is presenting a series of five chamber music concerts this weekend to showcase the talents of their students across the Instrumental and Piano Programs.

In chamber music performances, there is no conductor guiding the musicians; instead, they are playing off of one another, making decisions in real time to add their own personal artistic flair to the piece while simultaneously trying to blend in with the others onstage.

"It gives lots of responsibility to the students," said Kathryn Votapek. "I believe it's the greatest way to make music."

The first concert will be at 6 p.m. tonight in Fletcher Music Hall, as Chautauquans are invited to witness 17 of the students present a series of classical works.

"The students have put in an incredible amount of work in six relatively short weeks," said Votapek, who

holds titles as both a violin instructor and chair of chamber music at the School of Music.

Votapek has been working with the students since the beginning of the summer, but rehearsals for this concert series officially began on July 19. They started just after the first session of three chamber concerts, which took place the weekend of July 14.

"Because we are featuring our wind players in this second session of chamber music," Votapek said, "we will have works for woodwinds and piano, as well as brass ensembles."

The program for this evening begins with a piece composed mainly for woodwinds: Johann Georg Lickl's Cassazione for Oboe, Clarinet, Horn and Bassoon. Brian Stewart will be performing on oboe, Katia Waxman on clarinet, Gretchen Berendt on horn, and Lauren Hallonquist on bassoon.

The evening continues with a selection of movements from Gordon Jacob's Sextet for Piano, Flute,

Oboe, Clarinet, Horn and Bassoon. Gabriel Landstedt will be playing the piano, Jocelyn Zhang the flute, Karsen Erwin the oboe, Aaron Lipsky the clarinet, Samuel Hines the horn, and Alexander Lake the bassoon.

The final element of tonight's program will be Ludwig Thuille's Sextet in B Flat Major, Op. 6, performed by flutist Josean Delgado, oboist Nathalie Vela, clarinetist Nathan Magley, horn player Trenton Carr, and bassoonist Miranda Macias. Two pianists will be switching out for this piece, with Grace Tubbs playing the first two movements and Vanessa Yu taking the following two.

Votapek said the students' hard work preparing for this concert series is all the more admirable in light of the other obligations they have through the School of Music's rigorous programming.

"Many summer festivals will focus on orchestra or chamber music or solo work, or a combination of a couple of these things," she



HG BIGGS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

School of Music horn players Trenton Carr and Gretchen Berendt perform last Friday on Bestor Plaza. A series of chamber concerts will feature the winds section, starting at 6 p.m. tonight in Fletcher Music Hall. The series runs through the weekend.

said. "Here at Chautauqua, our students do all three."

While the students are preparing for the chamber concerts this week, they are also working on final showcases for orchestral

and solo performances, she said. The instrumentalists are beginning rehearsals for Gustav Mahler's "monumental" Fifth Symphony, to be performed this coming Monday in the Amphitheater, while the pianists are preparing their pieces for the final recitals this Thursday and Friday.

"It's really amazing to see and feel the students' energy and dedication," she said.

## 2 recitals today, Friday celebrate end of Piano Program's summer

ZOE KOLENOVSKY  
STAFF WRITER

Sherwood Marsh Studios will be filled with students of the School of Music's Piano Program this afternoon as they present the first of two recitals to celebrate the approaching end of this summer's programming.

Chautauquans can attend the recital at 4 p.m. today in Sherwood Marsh 101 which will showcase the talents of 12 of the program's 20 students.

"It's just fun," said Nikki Melville, chair of the Piano Program. "The kids have worked really, really hard all summer."

This performance comes on the heels of last Sunday's major showcase in the Amphitheater, which Melville lauded as a success for the program.

"The students played extraordinarily well," she said. "There was a great crowd and a standing ovation at the end for everybody."

The performances today and Friday afternoon will be Chautauquans' final opportunity to see this year's group of students in concert together, though a few

of them will be performing in the first installment of this weekend's chamber music concert series, taking place at 6 p.m. this evening in Fletcher Music Hall.

Melville said she took note of how close and supportive this year's students are among one another.

"For me, that's when growth happens," she said, "when students have the support and courage to sort of try something new, rather than feeling bound to one specific point of view or pleasing one specific person."

The 90-minute recital will feature the talents of Chelsea Ahn, Saehyun Park, Son Duong, Junhao Wang, Gabriel Landstedt, Xiaowen Xu, Peizhang Wu, Siyuan Zhang, Chin Nukulvutthiopas, Zhenyi Long, Jonathan Mamora and Peijun Wang.

They will be performing a selection of solo and duo pieces meant to highlight their technical skills, while also exciting the audience.

"I want to say thank you to Nikki for coordinating everything," Park said. "I liked that we have such an outstanding faculty and have a chance to know

them. Meeting with guest faculty members motivated me greatly, and I learned so many things."

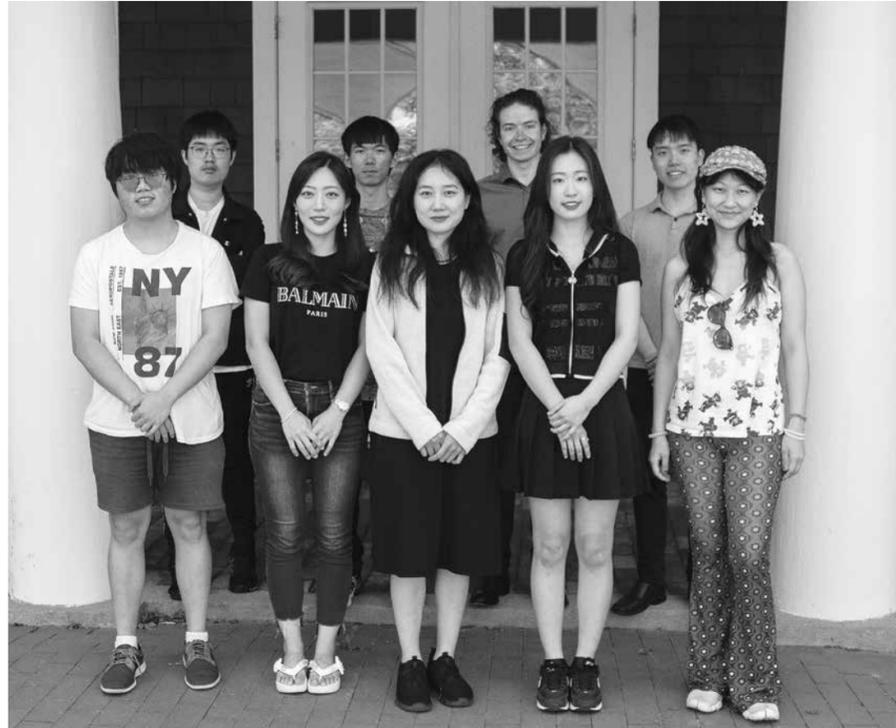
In addition to working with Melville and fellow resident faculty member J.Y. Song, the students have been coached by the five world-renowned pianists invited by the Piano Program to serve as guest faculty members. Featured Alumnus Alvin Zhu and Artist-in-Residence Alexander Gavrylyuk also had a chance to work with the students this summer through private lessons and master classes.

For this afternoon's recital, Park will be collaborating with Ahn in a rendition of French composer Camille Saint-Saens' *Danse Macabre*, a piece that Melville believes will be very familiar to people.

Among other captivating compositions, the program will include a medley of songs from films by the widely-beloved Japanese anime company, Studio Ghibli.

"It's just a real variety of things ... it sort of runs the gamut," said Melville of the program's variety.

"I think the structure of



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students in the School of Music Piano Program take pause from rehearsals Tuesday outside Sherwood Marsh Studios.

the program encourages them to just try something different, something new, something courageous," she

said. "They know that no matter what happens, they will have a whole bunch of people there supporting

them and applauding them for their efforts. So to me, that's really what a summer festival should be."

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## FROM PAGE ONE

## CSO

FROM PAGE 1

“Daugherty’s work combines the power of Abraham Lincoln’s words with an imaginative and contemporary musical language,” Milanov said, “while Copland’s iconic piece captures the essence of the American spirit and landscape with its evocative melodies and rural imagery.”

Gray will accompany the CSO for this evening’s program on the Daugherty.

Gray performed with Chautauqua Opera as an Apprentice Artist and baritone soloist in *As the Cose Crumbles: A Company Developed Piece* in summer

2021. Gray also participated as a featured Young Artist in Chautauqua Opera’s digital season for 2020.

The CSO will begin with Aaron Copland’s *Appalachian Spring*. Originally composed for dance and choreographer Martha Graham, the work has become a representation of American culture.

The final selection in tonight’s program is Daugherty’s “Letters from Lincoln,” featuring soloist Gray. First performed in 2009, Daugherty’s work creates a musical portrait of the 16th president, capturing his eloquence and hope that humanity could overcome prejudice to

create a better world. The piece was also composed and premiered during the bicentennial year of Abraham Lincoln’s birth.

Daugherty wrote in his program notes that he “discovered ways to bring (Lincoln’s) historic greatness into the present.”

The composer read speeches, poems and letters for Lincoln to study his life. He even visited the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and traveled to the battlefields of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania.

Daugherty said many historians and the American public “regard Lincoln as America’s greatest president who successfully led

“

Daugherty’s work combines the power of Abraham Lincoln’s words with an imaginative and contemporary musical language. While Copland’s iconic piece captures the essence of the American spirit and landscape with its evocative melodies and rural imagery.”

—ROSSEN MILANOV

Music Director, Principal Symphonic Director, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra

the United States through the Civil War and initiated the end of slavery.”

Lincoln’s life, full of spectacular opposites, ironies, contradictions and pathos, provided Daugherty “with an abundance of musical

dramatic possibilities.”

The baritone solo features words from Lincoln based on historical documentation. The 25-minute performance includes seven movements.

“Both compositions not

only showcase the immense talent and creativity of their respective composers,” Milanov said, “but also serve as an important part of the musical canon, resonating with audiences for generations to come.”

## VARA

FROM PAGE 1

She reached out to Sam Altman, cofounder of OpenAI, to try out a new tool, GPT-3, a language prediction model using AI to write based on inputted words.

Vara began by “plugging in random sentences and seeing what it would spit out,” she said. Through that process, it occurred to her that the technology could be useful for helping people “write about things that are otherwise really difficult to write about.”

For Vara, the loss of her sister to cancer has been a hard topic to communicate, so she collaborated with the AI to write “Ghosts,” resulting in an unpacking and thorough expression of her grief and emotions.

Although artificial intelligence can be useful, Vara

admits the ability of OpenAI to stand in for what “really should involve some human effort” – helping humans express difficult things – is part of what makes these technologies “insidious.” Her essay plays with that idea, manifesting what it looks like for AI to stand in for human contemplation.

“The technology helped me unlock my ability” to describe her sister, Vara said. “At the same time, careful readers will also be aware that the essay plays out, on a meta level, this idea of what the technology is doing to attract us.”

Vara said she hasn’t come to a definitive conclusion about the appropriate place for AI in the literary world.

“For me as a writer, the purpose of writing is to express something of my own singular consciousness,” she said. “That is not some-

“

We, as humans, have (a) strong need for connection to one another. There’s something really potent about the idea of a technology that can connect us all, something moving about it.”

—VAUHINI VARA

Author, *The Immortal King Rao*

thing that AI can do.”

Still, Vara said, using an AI language model “somehow helped to draw out something of my own consciousness, my own ability to express myself. The fact that that happened, and the fact that the AI produced some really brilliant lines as part of that process, makes it hard for me to totally dismiss AI.”

At several moments in “Ghosts,” Vara said she felt

GPT-3 was able to write “something really beautiful, something that moved me,” Vara said. She feels many people are quick to deny AI and think that it will never write like humans, that “it’s not a threat because it’s not human. It (won’t) do anything close to what we can. Some of the lines that the AI wrote call that into question.”

When Vara looks to the future and imagines what neural networks might become as the technology

advances, she recognizes “the one thing AI is not, is a representation of individual human perspective.” AI writing may lack emotional awareness and cohesiveness now, but many of those flaws “are technical problems that can be solved” with time. A moment in the future may come when the imperfections are smoothed over.

But right now, Vara said, human literature is unique in expressing the singular consciousness of the author.

AI language models serve a different function – less a comprehension of human writing than a synthesis of available samples on the internet, which she noted “may have its own merits.”

“We, as humans, have (a) strong need for connection to one another,” Vara said. “There’s something really potent about the idea of a technology that can connect us all, something moving about it.”



## The Chautauquan Daily

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## SUTTON

FROM PAGE 1

That bill calls for the establishment of a national bipartisan commission to study and make recommendations for addressing reparations as a restitution for slavery and racial discrimination.

He has appeared on National Public Radio, Fox News, PBS, the Chautauqua Institution platform and several other educational and religious institutions on the necessity of taking concrete actions of justice in order to achieve racial reconciliation in America.

His board memberships include the Institute for

Christian, Jewish and Islamic Studies, the Institute for Sustainable Communities, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Bishops United Against Gun Violence.

After this summer season, Sutton and his wife, Sonya Subbaya Sutton, will return to Baltimore and Washington while he completes his tenure as bishop in May 2024, and she continues in her position as director of music at the Falls Church in Virginia. New Chautauqua homeowners, they will divide their time in future years between their year-round cottage on the grounds, as well as their residence in Washington, D.C.



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## METRES

FROM PAGE 1

It highlights works from a poet Metres said he “really fell in love with” while living in Russia. Metres’ first book of translation was also of Gandlevsky’s poems.

“His work just absolutely devastated me and fascinated me,” Metres said. “He’s sort of a slow writer, but I kept translating his poems, even though they came out just a few a year, and I decided that I wanted to produce another one of his work.”

*Ochre and Rust* “spans 50 years of writing,” from Gandlevsky, who Metres said is now “in his 70th year of life” and living in exile in Tbilisi, Georgia, due to the war in Ukraine.

Metres will publish another book of his own work in 2024, *Fugitive/Refuge*, exploring the journey of his great-grandfather and grandfather from exile in Lebanon, and how the family came to the United States.

Metres said some of his inspiration for this book, about “the story and problem of human migration and the quest for home,” was seeing refugee crises

in places like Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine.

“I just found myself really moved and disturbed and horrified by just how many lives were being cratered and absolutely devastated by war,” Metres said. “I wanted to write a book that would be wrestling with this question about what was happening, what people were enduring and going through in the process of having to leave their homes and make a life elsewhere.”

Metres said he hopes Chautauquans will leave his talk continuing to “see literature as a source and a resource for their own self understanding and understanding of the world,” as well as a “repository of voices” that will “change us in the process of engaging with them.”

“It’s just so cool that a person anywhere could read a story from any other place and suddenly be connected to that other place,” Metres said, “to a way of seeing the world that might be totally different than their own, or might be so similar to their own that it opens up a different kind of door.”

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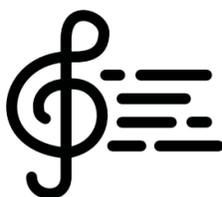


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# MUSIC



## SYMPHONY NOTES

BY DAVID B. LEVY

### 'Appalachian Spring' Aaron Copland

Aaron Copland was born in Brooklyn, New York, on Nov. 14, 1900, and died in North Tarrytown, New York, on Dec. 2, 1990. In addition to his distinguished accomplishments as a composer, he was an important author on musical topics, as well as a gifted pianist and conductor. Furthermore, he was a mentor to at least two generations of important American composers. Copland, more than any composer in the 20th century, gave classical music a distinctly "American" voice. His score for Martha Graham's ballet, *Appalachian Spring*, dates from 1943 in its original version for 13 instruments. The first performance of the original score took place on Oct. 30, 1944. He later expanded the orchestration and extracted a suite for full orchestra in 1945. The first performance took place on Oct. 4, 1945, with Artur Rodzinski conducting the New York Philharmonic. The work is scored for two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, two horns, two trumpets, two trombones, timpani, percussion, harp, piano and strings.

My mentor, the late Professor Charles Warren Fox of the Eastman School of Music, liked to share the following story:

Aaron Copland was approached by an admirer who, after hearing a performance of his ballet, *Appalachian Spring*, insisted that its music evoked in the listener's mind an accurate musical image of the Appalachian mountain chain — one that could never be confused with an image of the Rockies, Cascades, Alps, or any other range. Copland politely responded by telling how, after putting the finishing touches on the score, he approached choreographer Martha Graham with the following query: "Oh Martha,

what are we calling this ballet I just composed?" Fox's story may be apocryphal, but it serves as a warning to avoid imposing too specific an interpretation on any piece of instrumental music. Regardless of which mountain range (and, I might add, what pronunciation of its name) Copland and Graham may have had in mind, we can rest assured that *Appalachian Spring* is one of the true masterpieces of 20th-century music — American or otherwise.

According to Graham, she conceived the ballet as "a pioneer celebration in spring around a newly built farmhouse in the Pennsylvania hills in the early part of the (19th) century." Copland, speaking about his music for *Appalachian Spring*, observed that it was "generally thought to be folk inspired," but added quickly that the Shaker tune, "Tis the Gift to be Simple," was the work's only actual folk quotation. The composer's decision to alter his style in this work from an angular modernist idiom to one more audience-friendly was both deliberate and, to Copland's new style — as exhibited in *Appalachian Spring* — relies on idiosyncratic and characteristic harmonic vocabulary (based largely on widely-spaced chord formations that take the edge off its dissonance) and rhythmic subtlety and drive learned in Paris during his period of study with Nadia Boulanger, including his experience hearing the works of Igor Stravinsky.

Originally scored for 13 instruments and first performed at the Library of Congress on Oct. 20, 1943, Copland subsequently arranged *Appalachian Spring* into a concert suite for full orchestra in 1945. It falls into several clearly articulated sections, beginning quietly with hushed chords and lovely touches of orchestration in the winds, harp, and solo violin. The next section introduces a lively (square) dance, full of piquant stops and

starts. It is intended to depict the "bride-to-be and the young farmer (enacting) the emotions, joyful and apprehensive, their new domestic partnership invited." A wonderful hymn in slower note values emerges in the woodwinds as a splendid counterpoint to the vigorous dance. The next section presents a gentler dance, followed by a slower, more intensely contemplative scenario — perhaps intended to display the couples' apprehensions. A new, even more energetic dance, with humorous rhythmic punctuations at the end of each measure, follows. This mood is interrupted abruptly, if briefly, by the full orchestra, but yields once again to yet another whirlwind dance. This too subsides; the music harkens back to the hymn that we heard a few moments earlier. The sound-world of ballet's opening now prepares the way for Copland's quotation of the Shaker hymn and its variations:

'Tis the gift to be simple,  
'Tis the gift to be simple,  
'tis the gift to be free,  
'Tis the gift to come down  
where you ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves  
In the place just right  
'Twill be in the valley of  
love and delight . . .  
When true simplicity is  
gained  
To bow and to bend we  
shan't be ashamed,  
Turn, turn will be our delight,  
Till by turning, turning

we come round right.  
The suite closes in hushed tones reminiscent of a gentle benediction and emblematic of the evening twilight's fall as the young couple prepare to begin their new life together.

### 'Letters from Lincoln' Michael Daugherty

Grammy Award-winning American composer, pianist and educator Michael Kevin Daugherty, was born on April 28, 1954, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. According to the *League of American Orchestras*, his music is among the top 10 most performed of American composers. Infused with popular culture, neo-Romanticism and more recent contemporary compositional trends, Daugherty's music is entirely approachable. Born into a musical family, his teachers have included such notable names as Pierre Boulez, Jacob Druckman and György Ligeti. He has also worked in the world of jazz. Daugherty joined the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance as Professor of Composition in 1991. Letters from Lincoln (2009) is the result of a commission from the Spokane Symphony and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. Its world premiere took place in Spokane's Martin Woldson Theatre at the Fox on Feb. 28, 2009 with Eckart Preu on the podium and Thomas Hampson as soloist. The work was recorded. It is scored for baritone solo, piccolo, flute, oboe, English horn, clarinet, bass

clarinet, bassoon, contrabassoon, two horns, two trumpets, two trombones, timpani, percussion, harp, and strings.

The composer wrote about *Letters from Lincoln*: "Letters from Lincoln (2009) for baritone and orchestra was commissioned by the Spokane Symphony led by music director Eckart Preu in consortium with the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, which was Feb. 12, 1809.

"The world premiere was given by the Spokane Symphony under the direction of Eckart Preu, with Thomas Hampson, baritone, on Feb. 28, 2009 in the Martin Woldson Theatre at the Fox, Spokane, Washington. The work is 25 minutes in length and scored for baritone solo, piccolo, flute, oboe, English horn, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, contrabassoon, two horns, two trumpets, two trombones, timpani, two percussion, harp and strings.

"Historians and the public generally regard Lincoln as America's greatest president who successfully led the United States through the Civil War and initiated the end of slavery. His life, which was full of spectacular opposites, ironies, contradictions and pathos, provided me with (an) abundance of musical dramatic possibilities.

"While composing this musical work inspired by Lincoln, I discovered ways to bring his historic greatness into the present. I read Lincoln's speeches, poems and letters and studied his life; I visited the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., and I traveled to the battlefields of Gettysburg.

"Lincoln's impassioned writings, from his youth as a poor boy in the backwoods of Kentucky to his tragic death as president of the United States, have moved me to take his own words,

both public and private, and set them to song. In *Letters from Lincoln*, I create a musical portrait of a man who expressed his vision with eloquence, and with hope that the human spirit could overcome prejudice and differences of opinion in order to create a better world."

The work deservedly takes its place alongside Aaron Copland's "A Lincoln Portrait" as a deeply felt and moving musical tribute to the 16th president of the United States. Its structure comprises seven relatively short segments, with the Daugherty's setting of the entire Gettysburg Address being the longest and most affecting movement. In it, one hears quotations from the music associated with the Civil War, including, "Dixie," and "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again."

- The movements are:
- I. **Lincoln's Funeral Train** (April 15 to May 4, 1865, Washington, D.C. to Springfield, Illinois)
  - II. **Autobiography** (Dec. 20, 1859, Springfield, Illinois)
  - III. **Abraham Lincoln is My Name** (1824 to 1826, Indiana)
  - IV. **Mystic Chords of Memory** (March 4, 1861, Washington, D.C.)
  - V. **Letter to Mrs. Bixby** (Nov. 21, 1864, Washington, D.C.)
  - VI. **Mrs. Lincoln's Music Box** (June 9, 1863, Washington, D.C.)
  - VII. **Gettysburg Address** (Nov. 19, 1863, Pennsylvania)

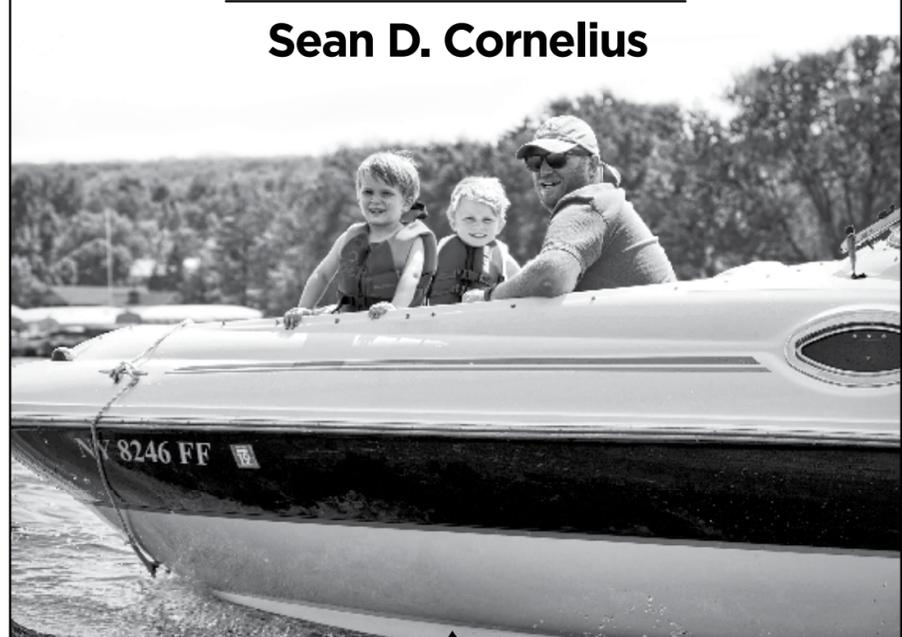
David B. Levy is professor emeritus of music at Wake Forest University. He holds a doctorate in musicology from the University of Rochester and remains actively involved in scholarly pursuits. His primary focus has been on the music of Ludwig van Beethoven, about which he has published numerous articles and a book, *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony*, published by Yale University Press. He will give a Pre-Concert Lecture at 6:45 p.m. tonight in Hultquist 101.

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## RELIGION



## INTERFAITH NEWS

COMPILED BY MEG VIEHE

**Baptist House**

Jonathan Lawrence shares "Looking Back and Looking Forward – Post Pandemic Directions." at a casual gathering at 7 p.m. tonight in the Baptist House. All are welcome to this time of fellowship. We hope to see you at Baptist House!

**Blessing and Healing Service**

The Service of Blessing and Healing, sponsored by the Department of Religion, takes place from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. weekdays in the Randell Chapel of the United Church of Christ Headquarters located on Odland Plaza. All are welcome.

**Chautauqua Catholic Community**

Daily Mass is celebrated 8:45 a.m. weekdays in the Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

The Rev. Justin Miller, parochial vicar of Our Mother of Sorrows and Holy Cross Parishes in Rochester, New York, presents "Will the Parish Perish? How Catholic Communities Can Thrive in a Time of Change and Uncertainty" at a Catholic seminar at 12:45 p.m. today in the Methodist House Chapel.

The Rev. Dan Schlegel, secretary and vicar for Clergy and Religious, Diocese of Cleveland will present "Storytelling and Faith – Connecting Our Past, Present, and Future" at a Catholic seminar at 12:45 p.m. Fri-

day in the United Methodist House Chapel.

**Chabad Jewish House**

Esther Vilenkin presents "Journey into the Zodiac" from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. today at the Zigdon Chabad Jewish House. She explores astrology according to Judaism as she explains how Judaism unpacks each month.

Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin presents "Kabbalah on Meditation and Song" from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Friday at ZCJH and via Zoom. Explore kabbalistic mystical teachings and their meditative powers to transport one to a higher place.

The Miriam Gurary challah baking series runs from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Friday at ZCJH. Discover the meaning of Shabbat foods and rituals while making and braiding challah.

Rabbi Vilenkin speaks on "Jewish Humor" from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Friday in the Hall of Philosophy.

To log into classes via Zoom, visit [www.cocweb.org](http://www.cocweb.org). Shabbat candle-lighting time is 8:16 p.m. Friday.

All Chautauquans are welcome at our events. No membership, background or affiliation required.

**Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program**

David Gluck leads Hindu meditation from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. weekdays in the Presbyterian House Sanctuary.

Start the morning with "Movement and Meditation" with Monte Thompson from

8:15 to 8:45 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Hall of Philosophy Grove.

Gluck leads a Hindu and mindfulness meditation seminar from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. today in the Hall of Missions.

Carol McKiernan leads silent meditation and centering prayer from 7:15 to 7:45 a.m. Saturday in the Hall of Philosophy.

**Chautauqua Prays for Peace through Compassion**

"Chautauqua Prays for Peace Through Compassion" is a communal gathering which takes place from 8:55 to 9 a.m. weekdays around the Peace Pole in the Hall of Missions Grove. The all-faith prayer is led by a different denomination each week and prayer handouts are distributed daily. All are welcome.

**Christian Science House**

All are welcome to our Study Room 24/7 to study this week's Bible lesson, "Spirit," and to read current and archived copies of Christian Science periodicals, including *The Christian Science Monitor*, and use computer-based church resources.

Jessie Barth, of Upper Arlington, Ohio, presents a Christian Science Talk, "The Radiance of Soul" at 3:30 p.m. today in the Christian Science Chapel.

**Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd**

Holy Eucharist is celebrated 7:45 a.m. weekdays in the chapel.

adults and \$10 for children.

All proceeds benefit the mission and ministries of the Hurlbut Church. Meals are eat-in or takeout.

**Islamic Community**

Jumu'ah, the Friday Muslim communal prayer, has been held every Friday in the Hall of Christ since 2006. The Jumu'ah service, which is open to all, combines the traditional elements of the Muslim worship experience with the opportunity to learn more about Islam. Come to the Hall of Christ at 12:30 p.m. Friday for preliminary instruction, followed by the service at 1 p.m. which is brought to us via streaming. The Jumu'ah prayer handout is available in both Arabic and English transliteration, with detailed explanations for those who wish to join in prayer or understanding.

**International Order of The King's Daughters and Sons**

The Ida A. Vanderbeck Chapel on Pratt is open to all for prayer and meditation from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Please stop in and sign the register.

**Labyrinth**

The Labyrinth is available throughout the week to all Chautauquans and friends. It is located next to Turner Community Center. It is accessible through the Turner building or through the Turner parking lot, if arriving via Route 394. Bus and tram services are available to Turner. Remember your gate pass. For information, call 216-234-0327 or email [4normarees@gmail.com](mailto:4normarees@gmail.com).

**Lutheran House**

The Rev. Nathan Sager presides at a 7 p.m. Vespers tonight at the Lutheran House.

**Presbyterian House**

All Chautauquans are invited for coffee, tea, hot choc-

olate and lemonade each weekday morning, following the morning worship service, and preceding the 10:45 am lecture. The Presbyterian House porch overlooking the Amphitheater provides an excellent place to find old friends and make new ones.

The Rev. Chris Currie speaks on "A Life in Literature: The Bible in English." at Vespers from 7 to 7:45 p.m. tonight in the House Chapel.

**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**

Tucker Quetone leads Brown Bag: Quaker Perspectives on the weekly theme at 12:30 p.m. today at the Quaker House, 28 Ames.

**United Church of Christ**

Our Chaplain of the Week, the Rev. Diane Wieble, leads us in a prayerful "Weekly Wrap Up" at 7 p.m. tonight in the United Church of Christ Chapel. Come and reflect on a week that is a jam-packed cornucopia of events. What touched you? What do you want to remember to tell your friends? All are welcome.

**United Methodist**

All are welcome to Coffee on the Porch between the morning worship and the 10:45 a.m. Amphitheater lecture every weekday.

The Rev. Diane E. DiLuzio discusses "What Have You Read Lately?" at our Pastor in the Parlor session at 7 p.m. tonight at the United Methodist House. All are welcome.

Swing by our United Methodist House porch around 10 p.m. during or after the evening Amp event on Friday and have some fresh popped popcorn. Join the crowd – all are welcome!

**Unity of Chautauqua**

Unity holds a Daily Word meditation from 8 to 8:30 a.m. weekdays in the Hall of Missions.



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# RELIGION



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Very Rev. Samuel Candler preaches Sunday in the Amphitheater, opening a four-day sermon series, which concluded Wednesday.

## Parish offers way to heal world through vaccines, blessings, says Candler

“There are lots of beloved old hymn standbys and scripture readings,” said the Very Rev. Samuel G. Candler at the 9:15 a.m. Wednesday morning service of worship in the Amphitheater. “Today’s reading in the Beatitudes is one.”

The title of Candler’s sermon was “Parish as the Practice of Vaccination and Blessing,” and the scripture text was Matthew 5:1-12.

He began the sermon singing, “I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true.” Blessings to Muslims, ‘As-Salaam-Alaikum,’ to Jews, ‘shalom aleichem,’ to Christians, ‘Peace be with you,’ Blessings to Hindus, Buddhists, atheists and agnostics. ‘Dios te bendiga.’ These are all forms of blessing.”

Candler noted that not all stories in the Bible make sense scientifically. One story in the book of Numbers describes the camp of the Israelites overrun by snakes. To heal people who had been bitten, Moses erected a bronze image of a snake on a pole. He told the people to look at the bronze snake if they were bitten and they would be healed.

“This story made little sense until we developed vaccines and inoculations,” Candler said. “Vaccines help our bodies resist disease by putting a small dose of the disease in the body to fight infection. With a vaccine, one part of the body resists the infection so the entire body can resist the infection.”

He continued, “Then all the people around you don’t get sick. Communities are bodies, too, and parishes are bodies. Parishes are places meant to encounter spiritual diseases. These diseases live in each of us – greed, envy, apathy, evil. In a parish, we learn to acknowledge the disease and head it off before it grows larger.”

Jesus’ way of love shows us how to bear the pain and disease for the whole world, he said.

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent on the pole, Jesus was lifted up to take on our pain,” he said. “This is not magic. Jesus bears our physical and spiritual maladies.”

Candler pointed to John 3:16-17 as an example of what God’s love looks like. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

There is no condemnation.

“This is the first principle I adopted in the pandemic. Condemnation would add to the stress,” Candler said. “In



### MORNING WORSHIP

COLUMN BY MARY LEE TALBOT

a world of condemnation, God’s love and a holy parish can make a difference.”

He continued, “For almost a century, we have been telling people that religion is not a heavenly insurance policy nor a police officer. We need police officers but parishes do not administer laws.”

Candler sees parishes as priests.

“I mean, everyone – all of us – are priests,” he said. “A priest is someone who bears the pain of another, endures the illnesses of the other for them so they and the world can be healed.”

Every time we bear the hurt of another, we are being a vaccine, he told the congregation. By sharing the burden, we are enabling the person, the body, the system to become healthy. “That is a miracle. When we help one another we are helping the whole world to be healthy just like a vaccine.”

The ministry of the parish is to bless, not condemn. “‘As-Salaam-Alaikum,’ ‘Shalom Aleichem,’ ‘Peace be with you,’” he said. When the Atlanta Peachtree Road 10K race was held on Sundays, many congregations could not meet, but his congregation went out to the street and blessed the runners and bystanders.

“We had 60,000 people visiting the parish that Sunday,” he said.

Blessing is the most powerful word in the Bible, from the beginning of creation when God blessed Adam and Eve through to Abraham. God told Abraham that he would bless him so that he and his descendants would be a family of blessing to the world. “Every child of Abraham is meant to be a blessing and every child of every faith is a child of Abraham.”

A faithful parish blesses, too, he added. Parishes have



Communities are bodies, too, and parishes are bodies. Parishes are places meant to encounter spiritual diseases. These diseases live in each of us – greed, envy, apathy, evil. In a parish, we learn to acknowledge the disease and head it off before it grows larger.”

—THE VERY REV. SAMUEL G. CANDLER

Chaplain-in-Residence,  
Chautauqua Institution

gotten into trouble through support of civil rights, women’s rights, LGBTQIA+ rights.

“To bless is to be in right relationship,” he said.

In the book of Revelation, John, the writer, looked and saw a multitude of people from all tribes and peoples singing a blessing to God.

“Heaven is a place of blessing. It takes practice to bless which is why we practice on earth,” Candler said. “Blessing is the most important thing we do in life, especially for our children. As parents we bless our children again and again.”

He continued, “If you want the person beside you to grow, bless them. They will learn how to bless and grow. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.”

The Rev. Luke Fodor, rector of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Jamestown and vicar of the Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd in Chautauqua, presided. Melissa Spas, vice president for religion at Chautauqua Institution, read the scripture. The Motet Choir sang at the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Class of 2023 Recognition Day Ceremony. Nicholas Stigall, organ scholar, played the Massey Memorial Organ for the prelude, “Andante Religioso,” from Sonata No. 4 in B Flat, by Felix Mendelssohn. Stigall accompanied soloist Evan Katsefes for the anthem, “If with all your hearts,” from Elijah, by Felix Mendelssohn. The postlude was “Fugue in C Major, BWV 545,” by Johann Sebastian Bach. Support for this week’s chaplaincy and services is provided by the Samuel M. and Mary E. Hazlett Memorial Fund.



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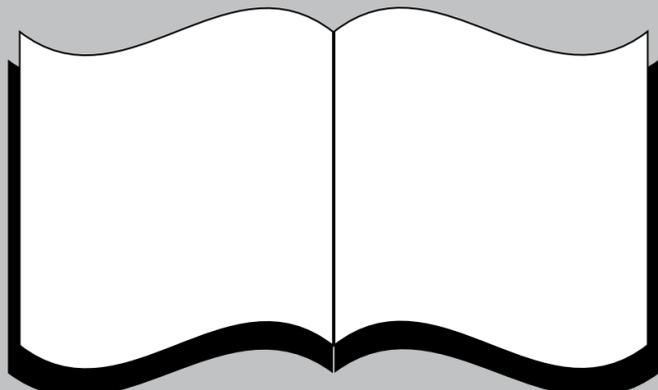
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## COMMUNITY

## Smith Memorial



## Celebrates Library Day



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

Workers replace a section of flat roofing June 7 at the Arts Quad. With studios not being used by students, the Friends of CVA hosts its annual fundraiser at 5:30 p.m. tonight on the Arts Quad to raise money and awareness for needed renovations.

## During upgrades, annual Friends of CVA fundraiser hopes to inspire future

JULIA WEBER  
STAFF WRITER

Friends of Chautauqua Visual Arts are set to host their annual fundraiser for the art program, with a few changes this season.

Seasons past have welcomed the “Stroll through the Arts Gala,” an annual fundraiser that aimed to raise money for students of the School of Art program.

This year, with the School of Art’s curriculum on pause, Friends of CVA are hosting “Party on the Arts Quad” with the goal of raising funds to make much needed improvements to the School of Art’s facilities.

The fundraiser will take place at 5:30 p.m. today on the Arts Quad. Tickets are available for purchase on the Chautauqua Visual Arts website and at the door. There will be tours of the facilities, live and silent auctions, hors d’oeuvres and dancing for those who attend.

The pause in CVA programming comes amid a national search for a new artistic director, and the Institution expects to announce the new hire in the fall. The time is being used to clean out and upgrade the studio space. So far, sections of the roof of the Arts Quad have been repaired and the ceramics studio flooring has been replaced. Steps are also being made to make the facilities more ADA accessible so that Chautauquans and students can access the art studios more easily.

Betsy Vance, president of Friends of Chautauqua Visual Arts, called the Arts Quad building “beloved” and hopes that this event will inspire lovers of the visual arts to come together in celebration of Chautauqua’s visual arts community.

Av Posner, a friend of CVA board member, hopes that this fundraiser will help to prepare the arts facilities for the incoming artistic director and that Friends of CVA can work with the director to support ample programming and educational opportunities in CVA’s next chapter.

“The main thing is to get it in shape for the next chapter,” said Posner. “A lot of that has to do with what exactly the director would like us to do. We try to have some funds to be able to respond.”

Leslie Zemsy, who has long been involved with CVA, speaks highly of the programming offered by the department.

“I really learned it all at Chautauqua,” she said.

She credited the educational programming through CVA as being a foundational resource in developing her artistry.

“(G)etting that college-level teaching, that level of instruction, to be able to take those from the general public, it was amazing,” she said.

Painter and longtime Chautauquan Beth Munro is a self-described “big supporter” of the visual arts and has taken myriad Special Studies courses

over the years.

She said she looks forward to welcoming students back next year with a renovated space in which to work, find inspiration and collaborate.

“I think it’s so important to the overall feel of Chautauqua and the arts to have the visual arts represented with the students,” Munro said. “They add so much to the vitality and the atmosphere. I miss them.”

Lynn LeFauve, a longtime Chautauquan who works in the Strohl Art Center Gallery Store, brings her background as an art teacher to the Special Studies courses she teaches. She primarily works with watercolor painting.

All three artists will have their work auctioned off at tonight’s fundraiser. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the repairs needed to improve the Arts Quad.

“I certainly hope that this fundraiser will bring in the funds that can be used and needed for the betterment of a very historic part of Chautauqua,” LeFauve said.

Vance hopes that in its next chapter, the visual arts program will see “a wonderful symbiotic relationship between the artists that come here and work and the community.”

She hopes that everyone, whether they are artists using the space or community members looking to learn or enhance a skill will have the opportunity to engage with the programming and use the space.



JOELEN HUBBARD / DAILY FILE PHOTO

Chautauquans celebrate Library Day on Aug. 4, 2022, outside the Smith Memorial Library. The tradition continues from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. today at the Smith.

## Library Day aims to promote love of literacy, coming together

KAITLYN FINCHLER  
STAFF WRITER

Chautauquans can gather while sharing their favorite books parading cheerfully around on red stickers as they enjoy celebrating Library Day at Smith Memorial Library.

“Library Day is an annual celebration of the life of the library and the greater Chautauqua community,” said Library Director Scott Ekstrom. “It goes back many decades (and) is the brainchild of the Friends of Smith Memorial Library.”

Kicking off the day is a reception sponsored by the Friends from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the library, which Ekstrom said has turned into a “casual, continental breakfast party” over the years.

In addition to Chautau-

quans, librarians in the area get a special invitation to honor their work, he said. While the librarians are “geographically part of the community,” they are metaphorically part of the community, too.

“(Library Day is) also an opportunity for people to find out more about the Friends of the Library and to join them if they want to become a member,” Ekstrom said. “They raise money to support the library with special projects.”

Some of the projects over the years have included outdoor patio furniture, a printer and the accessible book-drop return.

“For folks who maybe can’t make it to the party in the morning, we pass out ‘My Favorite Book’ stickers,” Ekstrom said. “It creates

conversations about literacy throughout the grounds as people see one another’s favorite books.”

It’s true, some people may just come to the library to print something or use the bathroom, but Ekstrom said libraries are so much more. They represent democracy, equal access and an “antithesis” to censorship.

Now, more than ever, libraries are “amped up,” he said, with the multitude of print, digital and physical resources.

“(Libraries are) also about people wanting to be around other people,” Ekstrom said, then noted with a smirk: “Libraries have always been a great place for introverts to be around other people without necessarily having to talk to them.”

### THE CHAUTAUQUAN DAILY

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## LECTURE

## In long-awaited talk, Hanesworth calls for action in social justice literature

KAITLYN FINCHLER  
STAFF WRITER

Born and raised on the East Side of Buffalo (eating chicken wings weekly), the city's inaugural poet laureate Jillian Hanesworth grew up in a "very quiet and observant" neighborhood.

While something was always happening around her, she learned to be aware of everything through art.

"I will often spend my time reading and writing," Hanesworth said of her childhood. "I started by writing songs. I will write songs for my mom, who is a beautiful singer and the worship leader at our family church."

Hanesworth gave her lecture at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Hall of Philosophy for the Interfaith Lecture Series Week Six theme "Literature and Meaning-Making." She was invited back to Chautauqua after her Interfaith Lecture on Aug. 12, 2022, was canceled following the attack on Salman Rushdie that morning on the grounds.

Hanesworth opened her talk with a "hoorah" chant special to the area. In remembering the May 14, 2022, mass shooting at Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo – what her talk last year was going to be about – she shared a poem, "Water," currently on display in the supermarket.

"Let the hopeful healing waters flow / ushering in a rebirth of our sense of self," she read from the poem. "Let the flowing waters remind us of time / Current yet fleeting, like itself / Large yet within reach."

A lot of people "know about Buffalo, but they don't really know Buffalo," she said. The city has a 50% Black population, but 85% of the Black population lives on the East Side of Buffalo.

"The East Side has most of its residents at or below the poverty line," Hanesworth said. "There has been no economic growth in 30 years."

To put this in perspective, Hanesworth is 30 years old, so she has never seen her community grow economically. She said she felt stuck in her town; everything was within four to five blocks and everyone was living paycheck to paycheck and trying to "stay out of trouble."

"I had cousins who learned about the Eiffel Tower and their parents took them to Paris," she said. "I (said), 'That's insane.' ... My worldview could have been very limited. It could have been limited to what I had access to – the East Side of Buffalo."

Reading books expanded her perspective and taught her acceptance, she said. Reading the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* anthologies taught her humanity.

"That taught me the importance of people taking ownership of their own stories, telling their own stories and their own voices," she said. "When you submit your story to *Chicken Soup*, they don't edit it. ... Very often, people tell our stories for us, and that makes our stories lose their power."

Hanesworth said only the people who write their stories can narrate them. She recalled reading Toni Morrison, and wanted to have her "energy."

"(Morrison) was a Black woman who owned every single intersection of her identity," she said. "She wrote those ways that she



CARRIE LEGG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jillian Hanesworth, the first poet laureate of Buffalo, delivers her presentation as part of the Interfaith Lecture Series Tuesday in the Hall of Philosophy.

identified with herself and with other people into her stories. She threaded them into her words."

Something about this style is comparable to "looking in a mirror," Hanesworth said. Morrison's work influenced her to "take charge" and allow herself to be the "messenger" of her own life.

"I wanted to write and I wanted my words to mean something," Hanesworth said. "I wanted them to live longer than me."

Along with Morrison, James Baldwin's work "radicalized" Hanesworth and taught her there is "no such thing" as a homogeneous community.

"As soon as we start to be comfortable with the fact that we are very different – even from a twin sister – we start to say some things (and) we start to share our stories in ways that can reach beyond where we thought they could reach," she said.

While attending SUNY Fredonia, Hanesworth switched her major from vocal performance to political science, and then to criminal justice, where she learned about organizing and advocacy – "not the meaning of the words, but how you show it through your actions (and) how you live it," she said. "These are things that you have to be about it, if you say you're about it."

Even through her work as a counselor for survivors and kids who got out of juvenile centers, Hanesworth said she "felt like I was helping," but still had a story in her she didn't know how to tell.

She read *The Diary of an Awkward Black Girl*, by Issa Rae, and felt validated. Hanesworth described herself as someone "so awkward" it makes her doubt herself – like when she panics after someone says "good morning," as she feels unpracticed in how to answer.

"Unless I'm on the news calling for a district attorney to resign, I don't know how to talk," she said. "Even these small interactions, I practice those, and so does (Rae). It made me feel seen

and made me feel OK to be different – and made me feel like being different was being exceptional."

Hanesworth then told a story "that deserves to be told" and said it was her responsibility to recall two of her "biggest flops." In first grade, she wrote a 37-page book called *The Princess Who Lost Her Crown*.

"She's looking everywhere for this crown and she finally finds it," she said. "She's like, 'Great, now I won't be late to a funeral.' Why did I have to add this layer of depth? I thought it was depth, right? I was like, 'This is going to be deep.'"

None of the other first-graders were able to "approach death in their writing the way I (could)," she said. Her teacher bound the book together and let her read it to the class, but the parents and children were confused as to who let her approach the topic of death this young.

Her second "flop" started when she learned about the death penalty in high school and decided it was morally wrong. The second 37-page book she decided to write was called *Death to the Death Penalty*.

"I sent it to every major publisher in the country," Hanesworth said. "Listen, I got something to say. I want to publish this book.' Again, it was 37 pages. They were like, 'We're not even going to read this.'"

This book garnered a different reaction from her peers and family than the first. Her family took it seriously, even though it "got nowhere." Nonetheless, she continued writing.

"When I got out of college, I was at home and a lot started happening around that time Trayvon Martin was killed, Mike Brown was killed – it just seemed like so many people, my age and younger than me, were losing their lives for the sole reason of looking like me," she said.

Hanesworth then asked: "How do you sleep at night, coming from a community where you learn about how to interact with the police

before you know where babies come from?"

This segued into "I Wish That Little Black Boy Did Something," a poem she wrote after a St. Louis County grand jury declined to indict Darren Wilson – the officer responsible for Mike Brown's death.

"I was devastated," she said. "When you tell me that somebody who looks like me is losing their life solely because of the color of their skin, you got to tell me they did something wrong."

She wished the "little Black boy did something wrong" and watched the leaked video of the incident on Facebook.

"It's easier to explain what's wrong and what's right, what's black and white and in between where gray lies," Hanesworth recited from the poem. "It's easier to mourn the loss of someone – a mother burying her son – when you can look at her and say, 'I'm so sorry, mama.'"

The Black Lives Matter phrase and movement is not a "badge of honor" or "hate group," it's a "message to our youth."

"It's a reminder that they mean something in a world where if they do 10 miles over the speed limit (cops) might try to kill you," she said. "I'm so sick of saying 'Put the guns down.'"

In case people haven't noticed she said, Black people are still "singing that same song."

"We've always been chosen when it was time for the killing, the way you choose the tomato that's right for the picking," she read, returning to the poem. "I thought targets were red. When did they become Black? I thought the abuse of power was dead. When did it come back?"

This poem "put a fire in me," she said, and she further realized she could use her words to "activate" people.

"We don't have to normalize (the violence)," she said. "I can do it in a way that draws people in like Toni Morrison did and that's intelligent like James Baldwin was. Even if

“

The powerful part about literature is how personal it is. Everybody should write their story, even if it's not going to become a *New York Times* bestseller. Even if you never reach that type of a platform, it doesn't matter. Your words can change someone."

—JILLIAN HANESWORTH  
Poet Laureate, City of Buffalo

I'm a little awkward like Issa Rae, that's OK, too."

Someone from the University of Buffalo's Education Opportunity Center reached out to Hanesworth and asked her to read "I Wish That Little Black Boy Did Something" at a Black History Month program.

"I became the messenger," she said. "I spent years advocating in my city for us to have a poet laureate because of the importance of having space that is recognized by our local government, that is first telling our stories."

In a news interview with the council member who backed her resolution to begin the initiative, the reporter asked her what qualities she wanted in the Buffalo poet laureate. She said she didn't plan on being the first poet laureate of Buffalo, but wanted it there when she was ready for it. The council member told her, on air, that the position was hers. She was shocked – not accepting wasn't an option.

Now, after accepting the position, Hanesworth travels and talks to school groups.

She said she enjoyed following in the footsteps of those who "inspired me the most" such as Nina Simone, Lauryn Hill, Maya Angelou, Fred Hampton, Kendrick Lamar, J. Cole and Andre 3000.

"These MCs and rappers are known for telling sto-

ries, for illustrating the most painful things that we've experienced in our lives, but making it so palatable and digestible," she said.

While there are people who try to reassure others it isn't the end of the world, Hanesworth said it's valid "other times we do" feel this way. Hanesworth said this reminds people of their role in this society.

"The powerful part about literature is how personal it is," she said. "Everybody should write their story, even if it's not going to become a *New York Times* bestseller. Even if you never reach that type of a platform, it doesn't matter. Your words can change someone."

At a reading in Baltimore, a girl asked Hanesworth why she was speaking if she wasn't from there. It stung, but after the reading another woman physically chased her down to tell her she pulled over on a whim, with no prior intention of attending the event.

One of her final sentiments she shared with Chautauqua was to buy banned books, because these should be the "most" interesting.

"Always go for the banned books," she said. "Write your own and tell everybody who will listen and give it away to the people who you feel need to hear it and charge people who should pay for it – and add tax."

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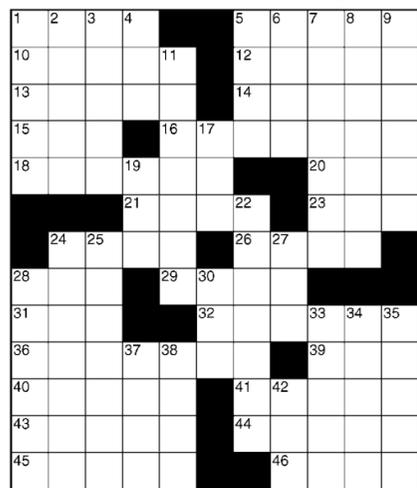
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 45 Make fresh
  - 1 Uneven hairdo
  - 5 Hole in your head
  - 10 Grew dim
  - 12 News item
  - 13 Cartoon genre
  - 14 Overly virile
  - 15 Corn setting
  - 16 Cad
  - 18 Donut, in slang
  - 20 Scot's cap
  - 21 Important times
  - 23 Busy org. in April
  - 24 Gasp for air
  - 26 Mimicked
  - 28 Take the prize
  - 29 Fill up
  - 31 Cease
  - 32 Pot mender
  - 36 Rodin work
  - 39 Binary digit
  - 40 The fifth element
  - 41 Brighten
  - 43 Without help
  - 44 Foot parts
- DOWN**
- 1 Petty
  - 2 Asian capital
  - 3 Space visitor
  - 4 Ring item
  - 5 Big rig
  - 6 Infamous czar
  - 7 Cravat
  - 8 Falling on deaf ears
  - 9 Sailing worries
  - 11 Barren areas
  - 17 Refrain syllable
  - 19 Film-maker
  - 22 Swift works
  - 24 Tiny opening
  - 25 Fireplace tool
  - 27 Stock holder
  - 28 Hotel suite feature
  - 30 Brunched
  - 33 Eucalyptus eater
  - 34 Come in
  - 35 Baseball's Pee Wee
  - 37 Less than some
  - 38 Was aware
  - 42 High hit



Yesterday's answer

- 17 Refrain syllable
- 19 Film-maker
- 22 Swift works
- 24 Tiny opening
- 25 Fireplace tool
- 27 Stock holder
- 28 Hotel suite feature
- 30 Brunched
- 33 Eucalyptus eater
- 34 Come in
- 35 Baseball's Pee Wee
- 37 Less than some
- 38 Was aware
- 42 High hit



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.

## CRYPTOQUOTE

A L M V D P M L K J K G J B X ,

M V J G J A D P Q F H J F B G N U J R R

B U F K V B D R . — F D U

N B G F D U C

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THINK OF BICYCLES AS RIDEABLE ART THAT CAN JUST ABOUT SAVE THE WORLD. — GRANT PETERSEN

## 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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

8/3

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

Difficulty: ★★★

8/2

# Follansbee Family Fund supports Metres

The George and Julie Follansbee Family Fund provides support for the Interfaith Lecture by Philip Metres at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy.

The George and Julie Follansbee Family Fund was founded in 2008 by the Follansbees and added to in succeeding years, including at her death, by Julie Follansbee. The fund was established to honor the Institution's central role in the life of their family.

Shorty Follansbee came to Chautauqua for 94 of his

96 years. Julie came often during her youth and each summer subsequent to 1941. During the summer of 1944, Shorty asked Julie Barnum to attend the movies with him in Mayville and she accepted. Eleven months later, they married in Minneapolis, Julie's hometown. At the time, he represented the third generation of his family to come to Chautauqua and Julie represented the fifth; her great-great grandmother, Sophia Sanborn, having come to Chautauqua in the 1870s. Today their

great-grandchildren represent the sixth generation of Follansbees and the eighth generation of the Sanborn family to participate in the life of the Institution.

Shorty Follansbee, a teacher for 40 years, served Chautauqua in numerous capacities including as director of Boys' and Girls' Club, president of the Chautauqua Property Owners Association, trustee, chief development officer and acting president. He was the Chautauqua Golf Club Champion in 1932 and again in 1937,

but he was best known for his passion for baseball as expressed at the ball field on the south end of the grounds. Shorty had been captain of the Princeton University baseball team in 1934. Julie Follansbee served as a volunteer for the Chautauqua Fund and an engaged volunteer for the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, particularly her Class of 1963's sponsorship of Pioneer Hall. Between them, they served as coordinator of the Sunday ushers for nearly 50 years.

# Wissel Lectureship provides support for Vara

The Dorothy M. Wissel Lectureship supports the lecture by Vauhini Vara at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater.

Dorothy Wissel's father brought his two daughters and their families to Chautauqua in the mid-1950s. He settled both families into 9 Cookman, which became Dorothy's summer home for the next 40 years. Dorothy and her husband,

Roy, had a son, Daniel, and a daughter, Sally, who were lucky enough to call Chautauqua their summer home while growing up.

Their winter home was Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania, until Dorothy and Roy retired to Naples, Florida, in 1979. Dorothy was immediately drawn to Naples, saying it was the closest thing to Chautauqua she could find.

Dorothy Wissel was a highly intelligent woman with a keen intellect and thirst for knowledge. She loved all the intellectual advantages that Chautauqua had to offer, from writing classes to bridge games, and, most of all, the morning lectures. She absolutely thrived on the lectures and attended religiously.

Wissel died in November 1997, and her husband and

daughter wanted to make a fitting tribute to her memory. Sally called Chautauqua to inquire about the possibilities, and when she heard about a lecture sponsorship, she knew they had found the perfect match. Roy Wissel passed away in May 2002. Dan and Sally have supported the Dorothy M. Wissel Lectureship in tribute to both their parents.

# Doolittle Endowment, Shelburne Fund provide support for CSO performance

The Elizabeth Elser Doolittle Endowment Fund for Adult Programming and the Gertrude Aldredge Shelburne Fund provide support for the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra's performance at 8:15 p.m. tonight in the Amphitheater.

Elizabeth Elser Doolittle established her fund in 1972. At her death, the trustees of the Elizabeth

Elser Doolittle Charitable Trusts added to the fund. Doolittle was a resident of Buffalo, New York, at the time of her death, but was born and raised in Milwaukee. She was a member of the Uihlein family, which controlled the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Company.

Gertrude Shelburne was a lifelong Chautauquan, a Trustee of the Chautau-

qua Institution from 1974 to 1982, and a Symphony Patron. Her family (Aldredge/Munger) initially visited the Institution in 1901. She was baptized by Bishop John H. Vincent and her father was the first president of the Chautauqua Golf Club. She was a graduate of Wellesley College and held many civic and cultural positions in Dallas, including be-

ing president of the Dallas Symphony Association and President of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Gertrude was a staunch advocate of maintaining and enhancing excellence at the Institution. Sherwood Marsh Studios were originally dedicated to her mother and grandmother during the Second Century Campaign.

## LECTURE



BRETT PHELPS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Poet, educator, publisher, Newbery Award-winning author and *New York Times* bestselling author Kwame Alexander continues the Chautauqua Lecture Series Week Six theme, “A Life of Literature,” by speaking about his upbringing and the power that words played in his life Wednesday in the Amphitheater.

## Never doubt power of words, Newbery-winner Alexander says

ALTON NORTHUP  
STAFF WRITER

One hundred and forty-nine years ago, Kwame Alexander's great-great grandfather, March Corprew, found himself in Chesapeake, Virginia, waiting on a pension for his service to the Union that would never come.

Corprew had changed his name to Morts Corpin, because he did not want to put his family in danger if the Union lost the war. And, because Black people were not allowed to read, he would claim he did not know how to spell, even though he had taught himself.

A farmer, Corprew saved his money and used it to build a home for his nine children. Then, along with land, he donated what was left over for the first school for children of color in Chesapeake's Bells Mill area.

“Every time I walk on that land in Bells Mill, I am recharged,” Alexander said. “I am the great-great-grandson of March Corprew; I have written 39 books. When I think about the role that literature has played in my life, I understand that literature enjoys a sort of permanent authority. ... Literature can save us.”

Alexander, a Newbery Medal-winning author whose books have appeared four times on the CLSC Young Readers list, spoke about his writing journey and the power words have to inspire at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday in the Amphitheater to continue the Chautauqua Lecture Series Week Six theme, “A Life of Literature.” The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Class of 2023 were guests of honor, seated front and center for the lecture.

When Alexander was 3 years old, he lived on New York City's Upper West Side while his parents were in graduate school studying children's literature at Teachers College, Columbia University.

“I was surrounded by books,” he said. “Books were punishment and reward in my house.” He described his father as a “staid and incomprehensible academic,” but his mother made reading cool. She read him poetry from Lucille Clifton, Nikki Giovanni and – his favorite at the time – Dr. Seuss.

One day, while he waited for his mom to pick him up from preschool, he decided he would build her a block house to show her how excited he was to see her. Just as she entered the classroom door, another child

kicked the building over. His response was Seuss-ian.

“I walk up to him with the only weapons I have, my words,” Alexander said. “I say, ‘Those were my blocks that you flipped, lest you want a quick payback, better fix my quick blocks stat.’”

The teachers told his mother that Alexander was arrogant and intimidated the other kids with his words.

“My mother said, ‘Thank you,’” he said. “This was the first moment I understood the power of words.”

By the start of high school, Alexander had a different opinion working for his father's publishing company as a project assistant. His role mostly consisted of licking stamps, selling books and reading the dictionary and his father's dissertations. He had grown to loathe books.

At age 16, he joined his father on a trip to London for a Black publishers' conference. Tasked with running book sales at their table, Alexander decided to read their collection. One book stuck out the most for him, *Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe, who he met on the trip.

After returning to school, his teacher assigned his class a 30-page essay on any book of their choosing. Naturally, Alexander chooses *Things Fall Apart*. He said he knew the paper was good, having just had dinner with the book's author, but when it was returned to him he received an F.

After asking his teacher why she failed him, she said his paper was college level and there was no way he could have written it. His father and mother had to visit the school before the grade was changed to an A.

“But what about the kids who don't have parents to go up to the school?” Alexander said. “How are they going to know their worth?”

It was in this moment he decided he wanted to spend his life using words to help young people find their worth, he said.

After graduating college, he started writing love poems, or what one publisher called “pick-up lines.” Undeterred by their rejections, he continued searching for career opportunities where he could write. One day, he saw an ad in the newspaper for a job visiting schools to teach poetry. He was hired.

The first visit he made in the role was to an alternative school. He recalled walking through metal detectors, being frisked by staff and having a dog sniff him before entering a classroom door, another child

the challenge of grabbing their attention.

“I stand on a chair, and I scream at the top of my lungs: ‘I got up this morning feeling good and Black, thinking Black thoughts. I did Black things, like played all my Black records and minded my own Black business. I put on my best Black clothes, walked out my Black door, and, lord have mercy, white snow,’” he said, reciting Jackie Earley's poem “1,968 Winters.”

For the next four years, Alexander continued writing, publishing books and visiting schools. Then, he got an opportunity to speak at the Maya Angelou Public Charter School.

When he arrived at the school he was confused to see it surrounded by barbed wire. It was a prison for teens convicted of drug offenses. Before entering the classroom he went through a metal detector, got sniffed by a dog and a guard wished him luck.

“I go in the classroom, there are maybe 20 boys, many of whom look like me in orange jumpsuits, and there's no life in their eyes,” he said.

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born daughter, he decided to apply for a paid writing fellowship in Brazil. Backed by recommendation letters from Maya Angelou and Nikki Giovanni, he was confident he would be chosen.

Instead of applying elsewhere, Alexander planned his own fellowship. He rented a villa in Tuscany, Italy, and invited nine other writers to the Kwame Alexander International Fellowship. In July 2010, the group embarked for the three-week writers trip.

“I know how powerful words are, and I know they can change your life,” he said, thinking to himself, “I need this to change mine.”

After the first week, surrounded by a personal chef and a pool, he struggled to find inspiration. After the second week, surrounded by cafes and vineyards, he still struggled to write. Then, on the third week, he passed a farm with chickens and roosters – and the roosters looked as though they were partying.

Inspiration struck. If the chickens were partying, there had to be some music at this party. If there was music, it had to be live music. If there was live music, the rooster was playing the guitar, and his cousin Duck Ellington was playing, too.

For the next hour, Alexander wrote the first draft of the children's book *Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band*. Later, when he finally got the book published, he was on job No. 17. If he wanted to make a living writing, he had to make the book a success.

So, Alexander traveled along the East Coast quickly selling out of the story at farmers markets. When publishers got wind of the story,

he was invited to a book conference. There, a woman told him he should write a novel for young readers.

For the rest of the summer, Alexander did just that. He walked away from his writing space – a Panera Bread – with the first draft for *The Crossover*.

Written entirely in verse, the book tells the story of two twin brothers, Josh and Jordan, who love playing basketball. Its themes of family, trust, honesty, responsibility and being true to yourself serve as the backbone of the book. As a rift grows in the brothers' bond, Jordan makes a bet: If he makes the last shot in the game he gets to cut Josh's locs, which are central to his identity.

Alexander recited Josh's response to the bet:

“If my hair were a tree / I'd climb it. / I'd kneel down beneath / and enshrine it. / I'd treat it like gold / and then mine it. / Each day before school / I unwind it. / And right before games / I entwine it. / These locks on my head, / I designed it. / And one last thing if / you don't mind it: / That bet you just made? / I DECLINE IT.”

Publishers rejected the book 18 times, Alexander said, because of the prevailing belief that boys do not read poetry, and girls do not read sports books. Now working job No. 21, he put the book away in a drawer. But then, he remembered everything he learned from his father and great-great grandfather.

He published the book himself, and the next week he received an email from

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. *The Crossover* became a hit with students across the country, and a year later it won the Newbery Medal. In April 2023, Disney released a television adaptation of the novel.

Alexander then set out on a book tour, which brought him to a school in Wagner, Pennsylvania. A majority white school in a county that went 75% for former President Donald Trump in the 2016 election, Alexander was unsure how students there would perceive his writing. When he walked into the school, he saw rows of kids dressed in basketball jerseys excited to hear him read.

At the same time, he was running a fundraiser to build a library for a school in Ghana he had visited that had 200 students but no walls, no computers and no books. Before he left the stage, three students walked out with a check for \$3,875. The school was so moved by his writing, he said, they were inspired to raise money for his library project.

“Books are windows where you can look out and see other people and become more empathetic,” Alexander said. “Books are also mirrors.”

Alexander also shared a video from a student thanking him for inspiring him to do well in school.

“Never doubt for a second the power of literature to change a life,” he said. “Our kids need to be able to imagine a better world and their place in it. And what better way to start it than through the pages of a book?”

## Accessibility Listening Sessions



Join Amit Taneja, Senior VP & Chief IDEA Officer, members of the Institution's newly formed Accessibility Committee and an external accessibility consultant for a listening session on accessibility.

**Those unable to attend can send feedback to [accessibility@chq.org](mailto:accessibility@chq.org).**

**Monday, Aug. 7**  
4-5 p.m.  
Trapasso Pavillion  
(Children's School)



## Annual Meeting

Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua

**Thursday, August 3, 2023**

4:00 pm  
in the Chapel  
Presbyterian House  
9 Palestine Ave.

*The purpose of this meeting is to elect trustees and the nominating committee, and for the transaction of business of the association.*

716-357-5011

# PROGRAM

## Th

THURSDAY  
AUGUST 3

### LIBRARY DAY

- 7:00 (7–11) **Chautauqua Farmers Market.** Massey and Miller
- 7:00 (7–9) **“Dawn Patrol” Round Robin Doubles.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Tennis Center.) Chautauqua Tennis Center
- 7:00 (7–11) **Open Pickleball.** No registration required, check in before you play. Tennis Center
- 7:45 **Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program.** Leader: **David Gluck** (Hindu-based Meditation.) Presbyterian House Chapel
- 7:45 Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- 8:00 Bird Walk & Talk. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.) Ruth Lundin. Binoculars encouraged. Meet at Smith Wilkes Hall entrance
- 8:00 Daily Word Meditation. (Programmed by Unity of Chautauqua.) Hall of Missions
- 8:30 (8:30–10:30) Library Day. Celebration at The Smith Memorial Library
- 8:45 Catholic Mass. Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- 8:55 (8:55–9) Chautauqua Prays For Peace Through Compassion. Hall of Missions Grove
- 9:00 (9–10) **Morning Clinic.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Tennis Center.) Chautauqua Tennis Center
- 9:15 Chautauqua In-Depth. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women’s Club.) David Jasper. CWC House
- 9:15 **ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND SERMON.** The Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton, senior pastor, Chautauqua Institution. Amphitheater and CHQ Assembly
- 9:15 Jewish Discussions. (Programmed by Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.) “Journey Into the Zodiac” Esther

- Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 10:15 Service of Blessing and Healing. UCC Randell Chapel
- 10:30 (10:30–12) **Morning Doubles.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Tennis Center.) Email tennis@chq.org the day before to secure your spot. Chautauqua Tennis Center
- 10:45 **CHAUTAUQUA LECTURE SERIES.** **Vauhini Vara**, author, *The Immortal King Rao*, contributing writer, *Wired*. Amphitheater and CHQ Assembly
- 10:45 Children’s Story Time. All families welcome. Bestor Plaza. (Rain location: The Smith Memorial Library Upstairs Classroom)
- 11:00 (11–5) **Gallery Exhibitions Open.** Strohl Art Center and Fowler-Kellogg Art Center
- 11:00 (11–1) **Ask the Staff Tent Time.** Bestor Plaza
- 11:30 Open House. (Programmed by the African American Heritage House.) African American Heritage House, 40 Scott
- 12:00 **Play CHQ.** (Programmed by Youth and Family Programs.) Flat Stanley Bookmarks. Bestor Plaza
- 12:15 **Brown Bag.** (Programmed by Chautauqua Theater Company.) *tiny father*, by Mike Lew. Smith Wilkes Hall
- 12:15 Authors’ Hour. (Programmed by the Friends of the Chautauqua Writers’ Center.) Carol Jennings, poetry, *The Sustain Pedal*; Pat Owen, poetry, *Bardo of Becoming*; Orion’s Belt at the End of the Drive. Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Porch
- 12:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by Department of Religion, IDEA Office.) Baptist House
- 12:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by Department of Religion, IDEA Office.) Everett Jewish Life Center
- 12:30 **Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program (Practice and Discussion.)** Presenter: **David Gluck** (Hindu-based Meditation.) Hall of Missions
- 12:30 Brown Bag. (Programmed by Quaker House.) “Quaker Perspectives on the Weekly Theme.” Tucker Questone, Friend in Residence (chaplain.) Quaker House, 28 Ames

- 12:30 (12:30-2:30) Open Garden. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.) Open to the public with a Chautauqua Garden docent. Shipman Gardens at Miller-Edison Cottage
- 12:45 Catholic Speaker Series. “Will the Parish Perish? How Catholic Communities Can Thrive in a Time of Change and Uncertainty.” The Rev. Justin Miller, Parochial Vicar of Our Mother of Sorrows and Holy Cross, Rochester, New York. Methodist House Chapel
- 1:00 (1–4) CWC Artists at the Market. Farmers Market
- 1:00 **Duplicate Bridge.** Fee. Sports Club
- 1:00 **English Lawn Bowling.** 20-minute free instruction, then opt to play for fee. Bowling Green
- 1:00 **Play CHQ Premium.** (Programmed by Youth and Family Programs.) Flower Crowns & Yarn Weaving. Fee. Sheldon Hall of Education 202
- 1:30 **Public Shuttle Tour of Grounds.** Fee. (Purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center. This tour is handicap accessible.) Leave from Main Gate Welcome Center
- 2:00 **INTERFAITH LECTURE SERIES.** **Philip Metres**, professor, director, Peace, Justice, and Human Rights program, John Carroll University.
- 2:00 **Meet the Filmmaker.** “Plastic Earth: Solving the Global Plastics Crisis.” Film and discussion panel with filmmaker and scientists. Free with gate pass. Chautauqua Cinema
- 3:00 Tea Time Treasures: A Classic English Tea Party. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women’s Club.) CWC House.
- 3:30 **CHAUTAUQUA LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC CIRCLE AUTHOR PRESENTATION.** *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen with **Kate Hamill**. Hall of Philosophy and CHQ Assembly
- 3:30 **CHQ Strategic Plan Update.** “Chautauqua’s Finances and Future.” Candy Maxwell, chair, Chautauqua Institution Board of Trustees; Michael Hill, president, Chautauqua Institution. Webinar
- 3:30 Islam 101. “Shariah.” Khalid and Sabeeha Rehman. Hurlbut Church
- 3:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Baptist House
- 3:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) United Methodist House

- 3:30 Inspirational Talk. (Programmed by the Christian Science House.) “The Radiance of Soul.” Christian Science Chapel
- 3:30 The Future is Praxis in Liberal Religion. (Programmed by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chautauqua.) The Rev. David Breedren. UU House
- 4:00 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by Department of Religion, IDEA Office.) Dedicated to discussion of the previous AAHH lecture. African American Heritage House, 40 Scott
- 4:00 **Play CHQ.** (Programmed by Youth and Family Programs.) Story Cubes. Bestor Plaza
- 4:00 **School of Music Piano Program Final Piano Student Recital No. 1.** Donations accepted to benefit the School of Music Scholarship Fund. Sherwood-Marsh 101
- 4:00 Read to Lola the library. For children 5 and up. Memorial House
- 4:00 **Lewis Miller Circle Happy Hour.** For ages 21-40. Athenaeum Hotel
- 4:30 **Beach-to-Beach Color Sprint.** Ages 6 and up. Children’s Beach
- 5:00 **Chautauqua Softball League Kids’ Pickup Game.** Extra gloves available. Sharpe Field
- 5:00 (5–6) **Kids Clinic.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Tennis Center.) Chautauqua Tennis Center
- 5:30 (5:30–7:30) **Open Pickleball.** No registration required, check in before you play. Tennis Center
- 5:30 Party on the Art Quad. (Programmed by Friends of Chautauqua Visual Arts.) CVA Art Quad
- 5:30 **Cinema Film Screening.** “Rise.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 6:00 **School of Music Chamber Concert No. 1.** Donations accepted to benefit the School of Music Scholarship Fund. Fletcher Music Hall
- 6:15 **Acoustic-driven Rock and Pop.** **Sarah James.** 3 Taps
- 6:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by Department of Religion, IDEA Office.) Disciples of Christ House
- 6:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by Department of Religion, IDEA Office.) Baptist House
- 6:45 **Pre-Concert Lecture.** **David B. Levy.** Hultquist Center 101
- 8:15 **CHAUTAUQUA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.** “American Song.” **Yazid Gray**, baritone. **Rossen Milanov**, conductor. Amphitheater • Aaron Copland: Appalachian Spring – 23’ • Michael Daugherty: Letters from Lincoln – 26’
- 8:30 **Cinema Film Screening.** “The Lesson.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

## F

FRIDAY  
AUGUST 4

- 6:00 **Sunrise Kayak & Paddleboard.** Sign up with payment one to two days before event at 716-357-6281 or sportsclub@chq.org. Sports Club
- 7:00 (7–11) **Chautauqua Farmers Market.** Massey and Miller
- 7:00 (7–9) **“Dawn Patrol” Round Robin Doubles.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Tennis Center.) Chautauqua Tennis Center
- 7:00 (7–11) **Open Pickleball.** No registration required, check in before you play. Tennis Center
- 7:45 **Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program.** Leader: **David Gluck** (Hindu-based Meditation.) Presbyterian House Chapel
- 7:45 Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- 8:00 Daily Word Meditation. (Programmed by Unity of Chautauqua.) Hall of Missions
- 8:15 (8:15–8:45) **Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program.** Leader: **Monte Thompson** (Movement and Meditation.) Hall of Philosophy Grove
- 8:45 Catholic Mass. Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- 8:55 (8:55–9) Chautauqua Prays For Peace Through Compassion. Hall of Missions Grove
- 9:00 Nature Walk & Talk. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.) Jack Gulvin, naturalist. Meet at lake side (back) of Smith Wilkes Hall
- 9:15 **ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND SERMON.** The Rev. Robert M. Franklin, former director, department of Religion, Chautauqua Institution. Amphitheater and CHQ Assembly
- 9:15 Jewish Discussions. (Programmed by Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.) “Kabalah on Meditation and Song.” Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 10:00 **Daugherty Drop-In.** Meet with Office of Advancement and Foundation staff and chat over light refreshments. Athenaeum Hotel Porch
- 10:00 **Opera Conservatory Masterclass.** **Dominic Armstrong.** McKnight Hall
- 10:15 Service of Blessing and Healing. UCC Randell Chapel
- 10:30 (10:30–12) **Morning Doubles.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Tennis Center.) Email tennis@chq.org the day before to secure your spot. Chautauqua Tennis Center
- 10:45 **CHAUTAUQUA LECTURE SERIES AND CHAUTAUQUA LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC CIRCLE PRESENTATION.** **Kim Stanley Robinson**, author, *The Ministry for the Future*. Amphitheater and CHQ Assembly
- 11:00 (11–5) **Gallery Exhibitions Open.** Strohl Art Center and Fowler-Kellogg Art Center
- 12:00 (12–2) Flea Boutique. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women’s Club.) Behind Colonnade
- 12:15 **Prose Writer-in-Residence Brown Bag Lecture.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Writers’ Center.) **Mary Kay Zuravleff.** Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Porch
- 12:15 Challah Baking Class.
- (Programmed by Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.) Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 12:15 Twelve Step Meeting. Marion Lawrence Room, Hurlbut Church
- 12:15 **New Play Reading.** (Programmed by Chautauqua Theater Company.) *The Light and the Dark*, by Kate Hamill. Arts Quad
- 12:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Disciples of Christ Graybiel House
- 12:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Everett Jewish Life Center
- 12:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Lutheran House
- 12:30 Jumu’ah Muslim Prayer. Hall of Christ Sanctuary
- 12:30 Garden Walk & Talk. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.) Betsy Burgeson, supervisor of garden and landscapes, Chautauqua Institution. Butterfly Garden
- 12:45 Catholic Speaker Series. “Storytelling and Faith – Connecting Our Past, Present, and Future.” The Rev. Dan Schlegel, secretary and vicar, Clergy and Religious, Diocese of Cleveland. Methodist House Chapel
- 12:45 **Kids Whiffleball.** Sharpe Field
- 1:00 **English Lawn Bowling.** 20-minute free instruction, then opt to play for fee. Bowling Green
- 1:30 **Public Shuttle Tour of Grounds.** Fee. (Purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center. This tour is handicap accessible.) Leave from Main Gate Welcome Center
- 2:00 **INTERFAITH LECTURE SERIES.** **David Jasper**, emeritus professor, University of Glasgow. Hall of Philosophy and CHQ Assembly
- 2:30 Mah Jongg. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women’s Club.) Memberships available at the door. CWC House
- 3:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by Department of Religion, IDEA Office.) Smith Wilkes Hall
- 3:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) UU House
- 3:30 **Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Sponsored by Department of Religion, IDEA Office.) Episcopal Cottage
- 3:30 Islam 101. “Islam in America.” Khalid and Sabeeha Rehman. Hurlbut Church
- 3:30 Chabad Special Lecture “Jewish Humor.” Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Hall of Philosophy
- 4:00 **THEATER.** *tiny father* (Preview.) (Reserved seating; purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center or Visitors Center ticket offices and one hour before curtain at Bratton kiosk.) Followed by LGBTQ+ reception. Bratton Theater
- 4:00 Eventide. (Programmed by the Alumni Association of the CLSC.) “Growing Up in India.” Cate Whitcomb. Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Porch
- 4:00 **School of Music Piano Program Final Piano Student Recital No. 2.** Donations accepted to benefit the School of Music Scholarship Fund. Sherwood-Marsh 101
- 4:30 Takeout Dinner. Chiavetta’s Beef on Weck. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women’s Club.) Fee. CWC Tent
- 5:00 **Cinema Film Screening.** “It Ain’t Over.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 5:00 (5–6) **Kids Clinic.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Tennis Center.) Chautauqua Tennis Center
- 5:00 Hebrew Congregation Evening Service. “Kabbalat Shabbat.” Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein; Rabbi Cantor Penny Myers, Temple Beth El, Rochester, New York. Miller Park
- 5:30 (5:30–7:30) **Open Pickleball.** No registration required, check in before you play. Tennis Center
- 6:00 LGBTQ+ and Friends. *tiny father* reception. Intermezzo Social Club
- 6:00 **School of Music Chamber Concert No. 2.** Donations accepted to benefit the School of Music Scholarship Fund. Fletcher Music Hall
- 6:15 Shabbat Dinner. (Sponsored by the Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua.) Athenaeum Hotel Parlor
- 7:45 **Cinema Film Screening.** “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 8:15 **AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL.** **The Four Freshmen.** Amphitheater



**The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God shall stand forever.**

*Isaiah 40:8*

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