



GOLDBERG



RAUCH

## Goldberg, Rauch talk polarization for final day Brookings, AEI theme partnership

LIZ DELILLO  
STAFF WRITER

At 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater, Jonah Goldberg and Jonathan Rauch will discuss polarization and its underlying factors, closing out this week's Chautauqua Lecture Series Week Four theme, "The Future of the American Experiment — A Week in Partnership with American Enterprise Institute and Brookings Institution."

"There's a lot of 'chicken or the egg' stuff going on. Is the polarization causing the problems, or (are) the problems causing polarization? And the answer at the end of the day is both," Goldberg said.

Goldberg is a senior fellow and Asness Chair in Applied Liberty at AEI. He is also the co-founder and editor-in-chief of *The Dispatch*, a Los Angeles Times columnist and a commentator for CNN. He is the author of *Suicide of the West: How the Rebirth of Tribalism, Populism, Nationalism, and Identity Politics Is Destroying American Democracy*; *The Tyranny of Clichés: How Liberals Cheat in the War of Ideas*; and *Liberal Fascism: The Secret History of the American Left, from Mussolini to the Politics of Change*.

See **LECTURE**, Page 4



BRETT PHELPS / DAILY FILE PHOTO

Jerome Collins, left, and Mike Luginbill perform alongside the rest of Straight No Chaser July 7, 2023, in the Amphitheater as a part of "The Yacht Rock Tour."

# LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN



## STRAIGHT NO CHASER RETURNS TO AMP

MEGAN BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Who needs a cocktail when Straight No Chaser is in the Amp?

Delivering pitch-perfect performances, shaken and stirred, the a cappella group returns to Chautauqua for the seventh time at 8:15 p.m. tonight in the Amphitheater as part of their "Summer: The '90s Part 2" tour.

The group made their Chautauqua debut in 2011. In an interview with *The Chautauquan Daily*, founding member Charlie Mechling, who is not currently a part of the group, shared the impetus

for this a cappella extravaganza.

"We fellas got together and just had fun and started singing," Mechling said. "(We figured we would) maybe meet some girls and get some free food out of it. It really took off, I guess."

And indeed it has — with over 1 billion streams on Pandora and over 2 million albums sold worldwide, Straight No Chaser has been an aca-success. The group's most recent release '90s Proof came in 2024 with covers of '90s favorites like Rascal Flatt's "Life Is a Highway," Backstreet Boys' "Everybody (Backstreet's Back)" and Spice Girls' "Wannabe."

See **NO CHASER**, Page 4

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONELLA RESCIGNO / DESIGN EDITOR

## Campbell, Cooperman to discuss plateau in decline of religious identity

KAITLYN FINCHLER  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whenever there are conversations about the definition of a good life or opinions on politics and policy, religion is at the intersection.

David Campbell, the Packey J. Dee Professor of American Democracy at Notre Dame University and director of the Notre Dame Democracy Initiative, and Alan Cooperman, director of religion research at Pew Research Center, will give their

lecture "Causes and Consequences of the Major Trends in American Religion" at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy to close the Week Four Interfaith Lecture Series theme, "Who Believes What, and Why That Matters — in association with Pew Research Center."

"Alan and I will discuss some significant trends in the American religious landscape over the last few years," Campbell said. "We'll talk about some re-

cent developments that the Pew Research Center has found. It's been an interesting

discovery that we've seen the steady increase in the percentage of people who have no religious affiliation. Over 20 to 25 years, that appears to have



COOPERMAN



CAMPBELL

stopped or at least slowed down considerably."

Campbell said he and Cooperman will discuss why this is

the case and what it means for the future of American religion.

"The fact of the matter is that in the United States, religion, just as a broad

category, plays a very important role in civil society," Campbell said. "We can't really understand what's going on in American culture or American politics, or just American society writ large, without understanding religion."

The American religious landscape is always changing, Campbell said, which makes it a "moving target" and "fun" to study.

See **INTERFAITH**, Page 4

### IN TODAY'S DAILY



#### GALVANIZED COMMITMENT

Guest Artist Saldívar returns to CTC for formative, 'prescient' 'Execution of Justice.'

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#### TWO PERSPECTIVES ON EDUCATION

AEI's Rowe, Brookings' Winthrop explore youth development, school choice in morning conversation.

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#### HOW CAN EVIL EXIST?

Justice in a world where evil exists emerges from God but starts with us, Yamada preaches.

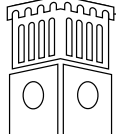
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#### 'HOME' SWEET HOME

Chautauqua Visual Arts exhibition 'Crafting Home' explores beauty of functional domestic objects.

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#### TODAY'S WEATHER



H 75° L 59°  
Rain: 15%  
Sunset: 8:50 p.m.

#### SATURDAY



H 79° L 60°  
Rain: 25%  
Sunrise: 5:59 a.m. Sunset: 8:49 p.m.

#### SUNDAY



H 75° L 64°  
Rain: 35%  
Sunrise: 6:0 a.m. Sunset: 8:53 p.m.



# THE ARTS



## BRIEFLY

### NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS

#### Chautauqua Women’s Club news

Member Coffee Hour is from 9 to 10 a.m. today in the CWC House.

The Flea Boutique is open from noon to 2 p.m. today behind the Colonnade.

Mah Jongg will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. today in the CWC House.

#### Bird, Tree & Garden Club news

Jack Gulvin hosts the Nature Walk at 9 a.m. today starting at Smith Wilks Hall Lakeside Patio. Gulvin leads another general nature exploration, adapting content to current seasonal conditions and wildlife activity. This walk emphasizes observation skills and ecological connections within Chautauqua’s diverse habitats. This Nature Walk is suitable for nature lovers of all experience levels.

Betsy Burgeson will lead the Bird, Tree & Garden Club Garden Talk at 12:30 p.m. today starting at Campbell on Whitfield. Burgeson presents “Campbell Garden & Miller Park Rain Gardens,” examining these innovative stormwater management systems that combine environmental function with aesthetic appeal. Learn about rain garden design principles, plant selection, and their role in sustainable landscape management.

#### Twelve Step Meeting

There will be a Twelve Step meeting from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. today in the Marion Lawrence Room, located upstairs in Hurlbut Church.

#### Shirley Lazarus Speaker Series held this Sunday

At 7 p.m. Sunday in Smith Wilkes Hall, the Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua presents the weekly Shirley Lazarus Speaker Series, geared toward the topic “What We DO Matters.” This week’s speaker is Gary Hahn of the National Comedy Center in Jamestown, New York, who will discuss “More Than a Laugh: Comedy’s Role in Memory, Meaning, and Joy.”

#### Friends of the Chautauqua Writers’ Center events

An informal critique will take place at 1:15 p.m. today in the Garden Room on the first floor of the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall. Bring 10 copies of one page of your work to get feedback from a group guided by a published author.

#### School of Music news

At 10 a.m. today in McKnight Hall, Steven Osgood, the general and artistic director of Chautauqua Opera Company, leads a public masterclass.

#### Chautauqua Softball news

The YAC PAC takes on the Arthritics at 5 p.m. today at Sharpe Field, followed by the Fish Heads and the Slugs at 6:30 p.m.

# Guest Artist Saldívar returns to CTC for mainstage production ‘Execution of Justice’

JULIA WEBER  
STAFF WRITER

Actor Matt Saldívar is no stranger to Chautauqua. In 2011, he came to the Institution for Michael Golamco’s *Build* when it was a New Play Workshop, and in 2024, he came to the Institution for a world premiere of Kate Hamill’s *The Light and The Dark* in the role of Agostino.

This summer, Saldívar returns to Bratton’s stage to perform the role of Frank Falzon, the chief homicide inspector in Emily Mann’s *Execution of Justice*.

At 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. today in Bratton Theater, Chautauqua Theater Company will perform *Execution of Justice*, continuing an extensive run of shows.

*Execution of Justice* is a documentary theater piece portraying the trial of Dan White, who was accused of murdering California’s first openly gay elected official, San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk, and Mayor George Moscone. By compiling court transcripts, interviews, quotes and other primary sources, Mann meticulously reconstructed the trial, asking the audience to grapple with difficult issues through the perspective of a community torn apart by a horrific tragedy.

In college, Saldívar was introduced to *Execution of Justice* in a class about contemporary women playwrights and found it utterly transformational.

“I had never encountered a piece of theater like that before,” he said. “It was really mind-expanding because I learned about this history, its complexities, its political, social and personal significance. It really, really blew my mind.”

As he began his career in acting, Saldívar found his footing in political theater, working in Washington D.C. for a theater company run by the professor of his contemporary women playwrights class.

“Those were the events that really galvanized my commitment to being a theater artist, so this play holds a very, very special place in my personal history,” he said.



TALLULAH BROWN VAN ZEE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Guest Artist Matthew Saldívar, in the role of Frank Falzon, interrogates Dan White, portrayed by Guest Artist Zach Appelman, in a dress rehearsal of Chautauqua Theater Company’s *Execution of Justice*.

“It’s amazing to be back here so many years later.”

As a seasoned actor, Saldívar sees the work of acting as discovering the character they are playing. While it isn’t always possible to discover the entirety of the character, Saldívar does believe actors can “begin to empathize, to really fill in (and) inhabit that person and their complexities, what drives them, compels them.”

In fiction, the work of discovering the character is largely between the actor, the playwright, the director and any fellow actors.

“It’s like being a painter or a composer,” he said. “You begin to build it, and it comes to life. It begins to take on a life of its own, and then you follow that life, and it begins to reveal to you as opposed to you filling it in.”

In documentary theater, though, it’s about portraying real people who lived through the plot of the play.

“It’s very particular because we’re dealing with not only people who lived, and in some cases are still alive, but in many cases, their very own words,” he said. “So, that’s a particular task or project — endeavor — to engage in.”

In the role of Falzon, Saldívar familiarized himself with the character by reading his autobiography, watching interviews and gathering as much information as he can.

“There’s a steadiness and a circumspection and a compassion in him that I found very, very moving,” he said.

He said that the play is a “composed” and “very balanced” piece, but that it is impossible for him to fully know his character because it is a nonfiction work.

“I can’t know the complete history; I can’t know 360 degrees of perspective, but the reality — the history that I do understand and that I regard as history — is an important part, obviously, of representing this person in this story,” he said.

Saldívar cited the increasingly polarized political climate as a driving force for his decision to be in the play. He said he felt it was a prescient play that could “remind ourselves that in times like these, we have to control ourselves and engage in constructive conversations, and not reinforce polarization and division because it leads to violence.”

According to Saldívar, two days before rehearsals began for the play, Minnesota State Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark Hortman, were fatally shot in their home in an act of political violence. In the wake of this violence, Saldívar saw the play as more needed than ever.

He said he sees the role of theater in our society as an artform that can address our most important issues and work toward positive change. For Saldívar, the theater can be a way of looking inward to ask difficult questions and move society forward.

“One of the reasons that this play was so compelling to me and so formative in my decision to pursue acting as a profession was because it gave a new sense of validity and importance to the theater for me — that it’s not always just entertainment or an emotional release, but that in the ancient tradition roots of theater, it’s an important part of society,” he said. “It’s a way of looking at ourselves and reaffirming for ourselves what we believe is important for the health of our society and for the positive advancement of our society.”

# Singer–Songwriter James draws inspiration from Chautauqua Lake for her new single

JOSEPH CIEMBRONIEWICZ  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Out of all of the venues Arizona singer and songwriter Sarah James has played, Chautauqua’s lakeside bar holds the best memories for her.

“3 Taps has been my space here at Chautauqua,” she said.

Today, James’ new Chautauqua-inspired single “Back Home to You” will be released on streaming platforms. She rediscovered her lyrics from notes she made three years ago, and since then they have materialized into a poppy, fun tune about life on the lake. It’s a “pontoon boat, beer drinking, jump in the water kind of beach song.”

James has become a facet of Chautauqua’s musical community, and Chautauqua, in turn, fosters her own artistic development.

“Chautauqua’s so rich with music and arts you can’t help but be inspired,” said James.

She doesn’t know if she would be pursuing her music career so intensely if it weren’t for the relationships that have developed at Chautauqua. Although she has “had a love affair with the guitar for 40–some years,” she was timid about performance before finding a community at Chautauqua that encouraged her toward the stage.

“They literally insisted that I get out and play,” she said. “It



JOSEPH CIEMBRONIEWICZ / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above, Sarah James sits for a portrait with one of her many guitars July 1 on Bestor Plaza.

James’ new Chautauqua-inspired single “Back Home to You” will be released today. At right, James receives applause as she performs July 3 at 3 Taps.



really was the first time I felt free. I felt the freedom to be me and play this music and do what I do.”

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Friday at the  
CINEMA

Friday, July 18

JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE - 5:30

Agathe (Cammille Rutherford), is hopelessly clumsy yet charming and full of contradictions as well as desperately single. Her dream is to experience love akin to a Jane Austen novel and her ultimate aspiration is to become a writer. When she is Invited to a Jane Austen Writers' Residency in England, she finds she must confront her insecurities."A gentle treat, sure to leave any book-loving viewer happy." -Moirra MacDonald, Seattle Times "A celebration of bibliophilia and cinephilia alike!" -Ann Hornaday, Washington Post (R, 94)

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE : THE FINAL RECKONING - 8:00

Our lives are the sum of our choices. Tom Cruise is Ethan Hunt in this sentimental sendoff that accomplishes its mission with a characteristic flair for the impossible. "It's thrilling, funny, absurd in the best way. It's pure spectacle, and that's the entire reason these movies exist." -Karl Quinn, Sydney Morning Herald "A thrilling jolt of pure summer fun." -Rafer Guzman, Newsday (PG-13, 169m)

» ON THE GROUNDS

BABYSITTING,  
FAMILY SUPPORT  
SERVICES

The Youth and Family Programs Office coordinates a babysitting and family support list that provides information to help families connect with available babysitters, aides, pet sitters, and parent's helpers during the Chautauqua summer season. The list is intended as a public service and does not rate or recommend any individual. During the season the list is updated on Fridays for the upcoming week.

Requests for a copy of the list can be made by emailing Alyssa Porter at [aporter@chq.org](mailto:aporter@chq.org).



LECTURE

Rowe, Winthrop explore school choice, issues in education

CODY ENGLANDER  
STAFF WRITER

Thursday's morning lecture began with a simple statement.

"School principals make more decisions every day, second only to emergency room doctors," said Rebecca Winthrop.

Ian Rowe and Winthrop discussed challenges in public education, school choice and the use of artificial intelligence in the classroom during the 10:45 a.m. Thursday lecture in the Amphitheater. This lecture was an extension of Chautauqua Lecture Series' Week Four theme "The Future of the American Experiment — A Week in Partnership with American Enterprise Institute and Brookings Institution."

Rowe is a senior fellow at AEI and cofounder of Vertex Partnership Academies, a network of virtue-based International Baccalaureate high schools. He is currently the chairman of the board for Spence-Chaplin, a nonprofit adoption services organization, and cofounder of the National Summer School Initiative.

Winthrop works as a senior fellow and director of the Center for Universal Education at Brookings. Her research focuses on global education with special attention toward developing youth skills. She leads the Brookings Family Engagement in Education Network and co-leads the Community Schools Forward Task Force.

Their conversation began with the topic of student engagement and how to involve children in schools.

"Students are unmotivated and disengaged," said Winthrop. "Student motivation and engagement has been low for a long time. About a third of kids are deeply engaged, and there's rigorous evidence here that the more engaged kids are, the more they come to school, the more they graduate, the more they go on to higher education."

She proposed that, since COVID-19, student engagement and participation has been consistently dropping. According to Winthrop, a quarter of students in school are "chronically absent."

"We have a big achievement problem in this country," she said. "... There's something called NAPE, the nation's report cards. About a third, on average, of kids are reading and doing math at basically proficient level, which is not an extremely high bar."

Many of the third of students who are proficient on math and reading levels are the same portion of students fully engaging in school.

Rowe views education as, in some ways, a display of two Americas, split between local public schools and private schools.

"Depending on the family, the health of the family that you're born into, depending on the zip code that you're born into, you have two dra-

matically different pathways or access to a high quality education," Rowe said.

He's been working with public charter schools in low-income communities in the Bronx, having recently launched a high school in the Sound View neighborhood of District 12 in the Bronx. In that district, only 7% of kids graduate from high school ready for college.

"Of the 2,000 or so students in District 12, when they start ninth grade, four years later, they will have either dropped out, or if they did earn their high school diploma, still cannot do math or reading without remediation if they were to go to college," said Rowe. "Which is worse? That you actually do this thing that you're supposed to do, but when you graduate, you cannot compete on equal footing?"

Rowe wants to even the playing field for schooling. He wants to ensure that students leave school with a sense of purpose and fulfillment they wouldn't otherwise have.

"As much as we focus on academics and proficiency rates, something else we need to think critically about is what is the moral formation that our schools are focused on," Rowe said.

He's a proponent of school choice, an alternative to the traditional public schooling.

Winthrop doesn't view school choice as a positive, as it negatively affects local public schooling.

"The truth is there are private schools, charter schools and public schools that are failing our kids, that are not helping them love school, are not giving them a civic grounding, are not giving them academic rigor and not helping them develop to be agents of their own life," she said. "... To me, it's less of a 'What type of a financing mechanism and governance mechanism is a school under?,' and more 'What are we doing with the kids when they're there?'"

Rowe values the ability for a single mother to have a choice where her child can go to school.

"There is a greater demand, particularly amongst low-income folks, for better options," he said. "All parents are asking for is an equal shot for their kid. That's what school choice is. It's an equal shot for my kid."

Winthrop disagreed.

"It does no good, actually, for the mother you talked about if the charter school that opens up or the home school, the microschool is poor, poor quality," she said.

Rowe cited the current low standards of accountability for public schools has allowed for school choice to become more of a competitor.

"Not every charter school is good," Rowe said. "But at least there's a mechanism for evaluating effectiveness."

He noted a provision in President Donald Trump's Big Beautiful Bill that would



GEORGE KOLOSKI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ian Rowe, senior fellow at American Enterprise Institute, and Rebecca Winthrop, senior fellow and director of the Center for Universal Education at Brookings Institution, deliver their presentation in conversation with Vice President for Religion Melissa Spas.



GEORGE KOLOSKI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rowe and Winthrop discussed youth development and education Thursday in the Amphitheater as part of the Chautauqua Lecture Series and its Week Four theme "The Future of the American Experiment," in partnership with Brookings and AEI.

allow for a parent to send their child to a different school if needed.

"That mom, if she is in a system that she's trapped to send her kid to the school with such a terrible track record, she can use that money and get a credit to go to a religious school, which is a very, very big change," Rowe said, "and, I think, a healthy one."

However, the lack of a core curriculum for private and charter schools worries Winthrop. The idea of an uncentralized control over private education raises a red flag for her.

Private schools don't currently have a condensed and singular curriculum outside of their school district. Rowe wants states to decide curriculums for these schools, and said that public schools have begun to lower their standards for education.

"New Jersey changed what's called the CUT score that you have to achieve to demonstrate proficiency," said Rowe. "Before, about 37% of New Jersey kids were demonstrating proficiency. After the change in the score, suddenly 80% of kids were passing."

While Winthrop agrees that lowering standards is an issue, she believes upholding a good public education system is a civic right America offers. Having worked overseas, Winthrop has seen children find better lives because of their public education systems. She wants to continue this American tradition.

While Winthrop looked toward a long-term goal, Rowe focused on the short-term solution.

"The question becomes what do we do in the interim while we wait for all these folks to suddenly start caring?" he said.

Rowe sees the current standard of public education as solving societal issues while education at times takes a backseat.

"Poverty, mental health issues," he said. "There are many other things that creep into the day-to-day tasks of most teachers that becomes overwhelming."

While Winthrop sympathized and understands these issues, she believes not discussing these issues breaks down communities.

"It's this idea that we are losing our community institutions in most of our communities," she said. "... All of this is going down, but schools are there, and they could be — as the ideas of a community school movement — a hub for children's learning and development."

Winthrop recommended bringing community into the schools through food banks, dentists and doctors to solve exterior issues. While working with schools all across the globe, she's seen this system be effective.

Rowe believes that simply running a school is difficult enough, and this is just an added stressor for public schools to go through.

While researching reasons for "chronic absentee-

ism," he found many low-income families had asthma from growing up with mold. Every time parents would have an incident involving asthma, their child would end up missing school.

"So what should we do in that situation? Should we create an asthma center in our school? No," Rowe said. "We partner with an asthma organization that provided legal counsel for the parents to fight their landlord and (get) medical treatment."

The panel shifted conversation toward the topic of AI in the classroom.

Winthrop sees schools as needing to be run differently with the introduction of AI, citing how some programs are able to pass AP tests, SATs, GREs and MCATs.

While Rowe wants to restrict access to students' use of technology, he finds an upside to AI in the classroom when it is used as a tool, rather than a distraction.

"Imagine if you had an AI tutor who had been trained solely on the writings of Aristotle, or solely on the writings of Plato," he said. "So our students would have a pocket philosopher. So when they face any kind of situation, like, what would Aristotle do?"

While both have different suggestions, the panelists agreed that AI needs more guardrails before classroom implementation.

Rowe concluded the lecture by referencing the honor code from his school, where students recite the cardinal virtues of the school through a series of "I" statements. It brings the school together in unity before the day begins.

"It's a commitment for how we are going to operate together," he said. "It's the best defense against the excesses of artificial intelligence or any technology. Because that's what the human component is all about."

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FROM PAGE ONE

INTERFAITH

FROM PAGE 1

“I hope, from the whole week, that people will take away a better understanding of what are the long-term and short-term religious trends,” Cooperman said. “I think there is some confusion about that. I don't mean to say that we can settle everything as a matter of clear fact — there are areas of interpretation, areas of uncertainty — but I think we can clarify some of the basic facts about what is going on.”

At Pew Research Center, Cooperman said he and his colleagues bring this information in though a “data-driven lens.” The data showing a plateau of people who don't identify as religious raises a lot of questions, Cooperman said.

“We don't see any evidence of a revival, and I think that's a really important point to make,” Cooperman said. “I wouldn't say that it's certainly not impossible that a revival could take place, but we're not prognosticating the revival because we don't see any evidence of that.”

Campbell said there's an “important division” between people who “simply aren't religious” and those who identify as atheist or agnostic.

“These two groups of people, those who just aren't religious versus those who are secular, are

very different from one another,” Campbell said. “They're very different politically, (and) they're very different civically, so understanding that there are two groups of non-religious people, I think, sheds a lot of light on what's happening in the United States today.”

In Campbell's research, he said one of the “primary drivers” pushing people away from religion has been a negative reaction, or “allergy,” to the “religious right.”

“For many Americans, when they think religion, they actually think the Republican Party,” Campbell said. “Or at least, they think of conservative politics, and if that's not their politics, then they don't want anything to do with religion.”

While this is not the only reason driving people away from religion, Campbell said in his research, it is the leading reason.

“We approach all this, really, in a spirit of curiosity and impartiality,” Cooperman said. “I think the Chautauqua audience is an audience of a lot of people with a lot of different, no doubt, religious points and backgrounds, but who all recognize that religion is important individually and collectively. It has been throughout American history and is so today, so let's talk about it.”

Erie Insurance panel to highlight successes

Active civic participation is vital to building stronger, more resilient communities — and in Erie, Pennsylvania, local efforts are demonstrating how meaningful progress can take root through collaboration and shared purpose.

At 3:30 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy, Week Four Presenting Sponsor Erie Insurance Group — celebrating 100 years of service in 2025 — hosts a panel discussion featuring experts from the Erie region. These panelists will explore how educational forums, philanthropic initiatives and cross-sector partnerships are equipping citizens to actively participate in civic life and strengthen the social fabric of their community. The panel is programmed in alignment with the Chautauqua Lecture Series' Week Four theme: “The Future of the American Experiment.”

Together, panelists Nick Ciani, Chelsea Oliver and Dorothy Leemhuis — moderated by Janae Alexander — will offer glimpses into some bright spots in the snowiest place in America.

Ciani is director of investments at Hoffman United, a

rapidly growing, Erie-based real estate development and investment firm with commercial and residential holdings across seven states. Previously, he worked in major gift philanthropy at Hamot Health Foundation (UPMC Hamot). He's served in a leadership role with the Emerging Erie Fund (EEF) since 2022, chairing the group from 2024 to 2025. Affiliated with the Erie Community Foundation, EEF is a group of emerging leaders dedicated to strengthening Erie's “people and places” through collective giving. Since 2019, EEF has grown from 15 members awarding a \$5,000 annual grant to 125 members awarding a \$100,000 annual grant.

Oliver is director of marketing and community engagement at the Jefferson Educational Society. She began her career in Corry, Pennsylvania, where for 10 years she immersed herself in the community and developed a deep appreciation for the region, its potential for growth and its people. In Corry, Oliver supported small businesses and non-profits through marketing consulting, social media

management and web design. She played an active role in local community development, serving on the original steering committee for the Corry Community Strategic Plan, and holding leadership and board roles with Impact Corry (as chairperson), the Corry Higher Education Council, the Corry Area Arts Council, and the Northwest PA Trail Association. She also served on the Corry City Council and co-founded the Corry Young Professionals Network.

Her work in Corry earned her numerous recognitions, including Corry's 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award and a spot in the Erie Reader's 2022 class of 40 Under 40. She is also a 2021 Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy graduate and a 2024 JES Raimy Fellow. In Erie, she serves on the boards of Erie's Black Wall Street and the Crime Victims Center.

Leemhuis is senior vice president of actuarial and chief actuary at Erie Insurance Group. She first joined Erie Insurance in 2010 as an actuarial analyst; in her current role as senior vice pres-

ident of actuarial and chief actuary, she directs and oversees the company's actuarial policies, programs and activities for personal and commercial lines of business.

Leemhuis was part of the inaugural graduating class of the Thomas B. Hagen Fellowship Program and a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society. She also serves on the board for CROP Hunger Walk.

Today's panel will be moderated by Alexander, who joined Erie Insurance in 2021 as a strategic communications specialist and now serves as an inclusion and belonging consultant in the sustainability and community development department. She has over a decade of experience in strategic communications, media relations, story development and community engagement. She is a graduate of Erie Insurance's Thomas B. Hagen Fellowship Program in 2023 and NAAWLI, the National African American Women's Leadership Institute, in 2024. Alexander is on the board of Gannon University's Alumni Association and the Erie Cancer Wellness Center.

NO CHASER

FROM PAGE 1

The group works to defy the a cappella group stereotype “of students in blue blazers, ties, and khakis singing traditional college songs on ivied campuses,” according to Straight No Chaser's website. Freedom Young, the group's newest member, reclaimed that stereotype before he joined the group. During the COVID-19 pandemic,

Young originally went viral on TikTok for singing '50s doo-wop versions of hit songs by artists like The Notorious B.I.G. and Megan Thee Stallion.

The group enjoys proving to audiences how expansive and exciting a cappella can be — think of The Barden Bellas from “Pitch Perfect” after Anna Kendrick switches up their stale sound.

“(People think) that it's boring, it's lame, it's old and dusty. We don't think we're any of those things. We

think we're fun, we think we're fresh, we think we're funny,” baritone Seggie Isho said in an interview with ABS-CBN. “So, it's breaking those stereotypes for people who haven't seen our show. Once we get you in the seats, we will definitely make you a fan by the end of the show.”

With many of the members having sung a cappella for over a decade, one could imagine it starting to feel a little flat, but Straight No Chaser stays inspired by

the people who come to see them.

“I think the thing that keeps us going is the audience. Because at the end of the day, it's all about giving the audience joy. And so, for two hours, we want everybody to come in, forget whatever's going on outside of those doors, put a smile on their face, and have the best possible time they can at our show,” baritone Steve Morgan said on ABS-CBN. “So, that's what keeps us going each and every night.”

LECTURE

FROM PAGE 1

“Congress itself is fundamentally broken; it doesn't do the job that it was created to do, which is to hammer out political differences,” Goldberg said. “It's the institution where politics is sort of supposed to happen, where you have committee hearings and regular order and horse trading, and you get a sort of rough consensus about what people want in this country by process of hammering out regional differences, class differences, ideological differences. It just doesn't do that anymore.”

He shared how problems such as congressional dysfunction in American governance, in turn, feed political polarization.

“These ideas have been tried again and again and again and again — and they don't work,” Goldberg said. “But when you say the current system doesn't work,

it is completely natural for people to look for alternative systems, and that makes people lose their faith in this American experiment, which is in fact responsible for liberating more people and enriching more people and creating more wealth than any other idea in human history.”

Rauch believes that looking at the underlying causes of polarization are critical for addressing it.

“A lot of this is just about understanding how those factors have come to inflame and divide us — and divided us very closely as Americans — so we keep having basically 50-50 election elections, and neither party seems to be able to assemble,” Rauch said.

Rauch is a senior fellow at Brookings' Governance Studies program and Center for Effective Public Management. He is also on the board of directors at the Institute for American Values as well as a contributing editor at *The Nation-*

*al Journal* and *The Atlantic Monthly*. He is the author of many books, including *The Constitution of Knowledge: A Defense of Truth; Political Realism: How Hacks, Machines, Big Money, and Back-Room Deals Can Strengthen American Democracy; The Happiness Curve: Why Life Gets Better after 50; and Gay Marriage: Why It Is Good for Gays, Good for Straights, and Good for America*.

“It's especially hard to get Congress functioning in a 50-50 environment where the two parties have what's called affective polarization,” Rauch said. “Polarization can be policy, or ideological polarization — you know, I want taxes to be lower, you want them to be higher. Those issues are difficult, but they often can be compromised or worked around.”

He elaborated how affective polarization differs, rooted not necessarily in policy but in affect toward others.

“Affective polarization

is when people don't just disagree about policy — in fact sometimes they don't disagree about policy — but they do hate and fear the other party, and they answer ‘yes’ to questions like, ‘Does the other party endanger your way of life?’ ‘Does the other party threaten you and make the country unsafe?’” Rauch said. “And that skyrocketed in the past 10 to 15 years, and that's a much harder form of polarization to deal with.”

Previously, people getting their news from the same media outlets helped them draw from the same sets of facts, but with the rise of social media and a decrease in people turning to traditional news media, people obtain their information from a variety of sources.

“There's more diversity now in the media environment but also a lot more fragmentation, and there are now business models for capturing eyeballs by being outrageous, by trolling, defending, ridiculing, conspiracyism, fake news, and that's not entirely new,” Rauch said. “... It's now a major business model, and it's hard for traditional fact-based media to compete with someone who can make money by just sitting on their sofa, making stuff up, so the media environment has become more challenging from the point of view of holding the country together.”

However, even with a fractured media environment, Rauch believes there's hope.

“There is more common ground than people believe,” Rauch said. “One of the things that helps reduce polarization is showing people that, when you ask Republicans and Democrats their actual stances on issues, they're much closer together than they believe them to be by a factor of two. The other side is not as extreme as you think, and they're not as antithetical as you think.”

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NEWS

Justice emerges from God but starts with us, preaches Yamada

“Have you ever looked at the world, read a book about a historical event or even read the news and saw something that you could only describe as evil?” The Rev. Frank Yamada posed this question at the 9:15 a.m. morning worship service Thursday in the Amphitheater. The title of his sermon was “Search Me: Justice in a World Where Evil Exists,” and the scripture text was Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24.

Yamada recalled a personal experience of encountering such evil when he learned that a good friend had been sexually assaulted in her youth by a member of her extended family. Remembering that his reaction afterwards had been to pound on the wall and cry out, “Why? Why? How could you let this happen Lord?” he noted that such hard prayers are prayers of lament. They ask, “How can evil exist with an almighty God?” Yamada reasoned that such questions are not inherently philosophical, but theological. “It is more a question of our encountering of evil as the possibility of the absence of God.”

Yamada then recalled a passage in Eli Wiesel’s *Night* in which the author wrestles with the question, “where is God now,” after encountering acts of unspeakable evil. Yamada found himself struggling with the same question before recognizing, “maybe that is the point. Evil should not be something that is so easily forgotten or turned off. And it causes us to wrestle with the very essence of who we are as human beings and with the existence and presence, or better, the absence or the possibility of the absence of God, in the middle of human suffering that results from evil.” Like Wiesel, Yamada finds God in the midst of his lament, saying, “Here he is. He is hanging here on this gallows.”

He then returned to Psalm 139, saying, “Now, we are not going to solve the problem of evil in a short sermon. But let us tend, if too briefly, to what this text might say to us today.” Yamada described the movement of the stanzas, noting how the psalmist moves in the first two stanzas from gratitude for God’s intimate knowledge of human life to describing God’s inescapable presence in the cosmos. In the third stanza, reflection is transformed into praise. The final stanza picks up from the opening lines the important themes of searching oneself for evil and includes a petition to God.

Yamada noted that the petition, “Oh, that you would kill the wicked, oh, God. And do I not hate those who hate you, oh, Lord? I hate them with a perfect hatred and count them as enemies,” is often left out of lectures and scripture

MORNING WORSHIP

GUEST COLUMN BY ANNIE LEECH

readings. Yamada said that though the words might be troubling, they honestly reflect the movement from orientation to disorientation, a move that he said is a response to evil in the world. This portion of the psalm emphasizes turning inward and “moving from wrestling with the evil and enemies to the potential of evil in one’s self.”

Making meaning from these movements, Yamada named three “modest ideas” that we might take away from the psalmist’s reflections. The first is that evil must be confronted and not ignored. Yamada preached, “Evil must be confronted in prayer. Evil must be confronted in lament. And evil must be confronted with action.” He cited the life and works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer when he explained that this kind of confrontation is the cost of discipleship and not easy work, adding “we must also confront the potential for evil within, search with as much discipline and passion as we do when we see evil outside of us.”

The second idea to be gleaned from Psalm 139 comes from its second stanza: “No systemic evil is too elaborate, no victim is too far forgotten or disappeared. No oppressive power is too strong to be outside of God’s reach.” God is present where evil tries to hide. Yamada said that we are engaged in a faithful struggle when we encounter evil and wrestle with the hard question “Where are you God?”

Yamada closed by sharing the psalm’s third idea: “Justice starts with us but emerges from God and ultimately ends with God.” He said justice “emerges from the very heart of God who treasures all human life, for the Lord created each of our lives, forming our inward parts, knitting us together in our mother’s womb.” Invoking Micah 6:8 and Martin Luther King Jr.’s call to nonviolent action, Yamada explained that God’s justice is rooted in

JOSEPH CIEMBRONIEWICZ / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Rev. Frank Yamada preaches during the Service of Worship and Sermon Sunday in the Amphitheater.

mercy and humility, rather than in self-righteousness. He finished by reminding the congregation that justice “starts with us when we live into the difficult truth that Jesus taught his disciples — love your enemies.”

The Rev. Rachel Erin Stuart, senior pastor of Hurlbut Memorial Community United Methodist Church, presided. Long-time Chautauquan and retired Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Cynthia Strickland read the scripture. William LaFavor and Joseph Musser performed the prelude Sonata for Piano Four-Hands in C Major by Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach on the piano. The Motet Choir sang “Judge Eternal,” by Gerre Hancock. The choir was under the direction of Joshua Stafford, director of sacred music and the Jared Jacobsen Chair for the Organist, and accompanied by Owen Reyda, organ scholar, on the Massey Memorial Organ. Stafford performed Toccata in B Flat Minor, by Louis Vierne, for the postlude. Support for this week’s services and chaplaincy are provided by the Jackson-Carnahan Memorial Chaplaincy, the J. Everett Hall Memorial Chaplaincy and the Randell-Hall Memorial Chaplaincy. Mary Lee Talbot will resume her morning worship column for the weekend newspaper.

‘Chautauqua’ literary annual launches today with ‘Patchwork’ of literature

SUSIE ANDERSON  
STAFF WRITER

Stories bind individuals together. Whether stitched at the seams by shared loss, triumph or joy, the sharing of experiences through literature creates a collaborative patchwork without losing the beauty of each unique story. This year’s Chautauqua literary annual — a yearly collection of stories, essays, poems and illustrations meant to mirror the experience of a Chautauqua summer — brings a collection of stories, poems and essays into a vibrant call for connection.

Chautauqua Literary Arts will host a book launch and reading for the 17th edition of the *Chautauqua* literary annual, titled *Saying it Plain: An American Patchwork* at 12:15 p.m. today at the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Porch through the Summer on the Steps programming. The event will feature an introduction by editor Jill Gerard and readings from five contributing writers to the annual. Copies of the annual are available online, at the Chautauqua Bookstore and

at the CLSC Octagon.

The *Chautauqua* literary annual is the product of collaboration between Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua Literary Arts and the creative writing program at University of North Carolina Wilmington, where undergraduate and graduate students learn the ropes of production and publishing in UNCW’s Creative Writing department and its Publishing Laboratory.

Jill Gerard and her late husband Phillip were asked to take over production of the literary annual by writer Diana Hume George on their wedding day in 2007.

Before saying their vows to one another, the pair said “yes” to marrying Chautauqua’s literary annual with the Publishing Laboratory in the Creative Writing department at UNCW, where Phillip Gerard served as department chair and Jill Gerard, a lecturer.

“What it did is that it took labor that people weren’t able to do in the community at Chautauqua and found a body of impassioned, interested students under the

guidance of Phillip and Jill to carry on a central part of our history,” said Stephine Hunt, managing director of literary arts.

Outsourcing the production of the literary annual to UNCW spread Chautauqua’s values to the university while allowing students to pour their efforts into literary production.

“The goal is to have a practical experience for students in which they learn all manner of things related to publishing from how to deal with submissions, to marketing and advertising, book design, production and all of the things that go into making a journal or a book,” Gerard said.

This year’s edition was marketed not as a journal but instead an anthology, diverging from the annual’s earlier structure.

“We took the idea of what it means to be living in America, and we looked at songs, folklore and prayers to come up with new sections that didn’t intersect with Chautauqua pillars but instead started rearranging it differently,” Gerard said.

From over 300 submissions received, students read, fact-checked, edited and compiled selections to create this year’s annual. Beyond the words on the page, students went the extra mile to make the final product a standout piece of literature with intricate designs and promotional material. A graduate student, who served as designer for *Saying it Plain*, hand-stitched section designs onto cardstock before transferring them into line-drawings on the page. Another student sewed patchwork coasters for press boxes, each with a different fabric combination.

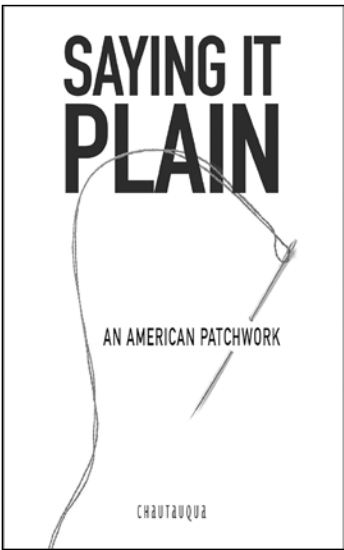
The literary annual is a labor of love for both Gerard and her students, allowing students to explore the publishing world while also bringing established and emerging writers side-by-side on the page.

“It’s always about working towards a balance in genre, voice, and a range of how people treat a topic. We were really just looking for an interesting mixture that addressed what turns out to be this really timely topic,”

Gerard said.

Hunt, a contributor to the introduction of the annual, will kick off Friday’s reading. Other contributors who will read at the book launch include first-time contributor Casey Trummer, longtime director of the Writers’ Center Clara Silverstein, the annual’s managing editor James King, and former co-creator of the Chautauqua Writers’ Festival Diana Hume George. Hunt will read the introduction to the collection.

Beginning in fall 2025, *Chautauqua* will become an independent literary journal sourced at UNCW. After 17 years of partnership with Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua will transition to an online journal. Gerard said that she is grateful for the years of partnership with Chautauqua Institution and this year’s edition, a product of immense effort from all involved.



“It was such a real world experience for my students and I’m grateful for that,” Gerard said, “So for me, it has hit all the things that I care about: I care that the students had a great learning experience and I care that the authors were honored in how we treated their work.”

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## MCCAULEY, GRANT TAKE WINS AT SENIOR GOLF



GEORGE KOLOSKI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above left, Jack McCauley tees off during the senior golf tournament last Saturday at Chautauqua Golf Club. Above right, Shelly Grant attempts a putt during the tournament. The Senior Golf Tournament tee'd off last Saturday morning at the Chautauqua Golf Club. The sweltering heat beat down on the 24-player tournament, which was split into a senior division of ages 55 and over and a super-senior division for ages 65 and over. The heat hung heavy over the Hill Course, adding an extra challenge to the day. Jack McCauley won the senior division for the ninth year in a row, winning with 70 strokes, in a six-stroke race with runner-up Dan Greco. Shelly Grant walked out of the day victor of the super-senior division with 72 strokes, though Wayne Stoughton was heavy on Grant's heels with a strong 73 strokes for runner-up. — Cody Englander

## Chautauqua Institution Corporation Meeting Set For August 9, 2025

The annual meeting of the members of the Chautauqua Corporation will be held Saturday, August 9, 2025, beginning at 12:00 p.m., at the Hall of Philosophy, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, New York. At that time, the Corporation will review the Institution's financial statements and elect an individual to serve as a Class B Trustee on the Board of Trustees pursuant to the Institution's by-laws. Chautauqua Institution's audited financial statements may be found at <https://chq.org/about/board-of-trustees/>

### Class B Trustee Nominations

Any member of the Corporation is eligible to be nominated for election as a Class B Trustee. Nominations for Class B Trustee must be submitted by a member of the Corporation.

All nominees for the position of Class B Trustee shall be identified in writing to the Secretary of Chautauqua Institution not more than thirty (30) (July 9, 2025) and not less than fifteen (15) (July 25, 2025) days in advance of the scheduled date (i.e., the annual meeting of the Members of the Corporation) for their election to provide the Secretary with sufficient time to ensure that each such nominee is eligible for election as a Class B Trustee under Section 5 of the Charter, to ensure the compliance by the nominee(s), prior to election, with the requirements of the Corporation's Conflict of Interest Policy as required by New York State Not-for Profit Corporation Law, and to make adequate arrangements for the time-consuming logistics associated with presentation of multiple nominees for the position of Class B Trustee at the annual meeting of the Members of the Corporation. To be placed on the ballot for election, each nominee for the position of Class B Trustee must submit to the Corporate Secretary by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the third (3rd) business day after a request by the Corporate Secretary, any and all documents and related information reasonably requested by the Corporate Secretary to verify the nominee's eligibility as a Class B Trustee. For purposes of the election of any Class B Trustee, the Members of the Corporation entitled to vote at any annual meeting (and their voting designees or holders of proxies) shall be as reflected on the books and records of the Chautauqua Institution on and as of a record date that is fifteen (15) (July 25, 2025) days prior to the date of the annual meeting of the Members of the Corporation. Members may self-nominate or be nominated by other members. Anyone wishing to nominate a candidate should request a Nomination Form by contacting the Secretary at [srozner@chq.org](mailto:srozner@chq.org) or 716-357-6246. Members may self-nominate or be nominated by other members. Anyone wishing to nominate a candidate should request a Nomination Form by contacting the Secretary at [srozner@chq.org](mailto:srozner@chq.org) or 716-357-6246.

### Voter Designations

Members who are not the sole individual owner of their property and who wish to cast a ballot for the election of Class B Trustee at the Saturday, August 9, 2025, Annual Corporation meeting must assign and complete the voter designation form which must be received and filed with the secretary of the Corporation no later than 15 days (July 25, 2025) prior to the Corporation meeting.

### Proxy Voting

If you wish to assign a proxy for your vote, please contact the Corporate Secretary, Shannon Rozner, at [srozner@chq.org](mailto:srozner@chq.org). Voters wishing to assign a proxy must do so no later than July 25, 2025. Note: All proxy, nomination, and voter designation forms must be issued by the Corporate Secretary to be eligible. Please contact the Corporate Secretary, Shannon Rozner at [srozner@chq.org](mailto:srozner@chq.org). Note: All proxy, nomination, and voter designation forms must be issued by the Corporate Secretary to be eligible. Please contact the Corporate Secretary, Shannon Rozner at [srozner@chq.org](mailto:srozner@chq.org)

## Clinger Lectureship supports Goldberg, Rauch conversation

The William and Julia Clinger Lectureship is supporting the lecture by Jonah Goldberg and Jonathan Rauch at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater. The William and Julia Clinger Lectureship fund was created in August 2007 by current and former members of the Chautauqua Institution Board of Trustees and Chautauqua Foundation Board of Directors to honor William F. Clinger Jr.'s service as chairman of the board of Chautauqua Institution.

Bill attended The Hill School, received a Bachelor of Arts from The Johns Hopkins University in 1961, and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Virginia in 1965. He served in the United States Navy as a lieutenant from 1951 to 1955 and worked for the New Process Company of Warren, Pennsylvania from 1955 to 1962.


He was honored in 2006 with the Woodrow Wilson Award from Johns Hopkins University. The Post Office in Warren, Pennsylvania, was named in his honor for his

years of service in Congress and the Warren community.

At Chautauqua, Bill worked at the *Daily* in his youth, served as commodore of the Yacht Club, a trustee from 1997 to 2007, and chairman of the board of trustees from 2001 to 2007. He also served on the Renewal Campaign Cabinet and the Idea Campaign Cabinet as a volunteer fundraiser. Bill was a third-generation Chautauquan and property owner. He passed away in 2021.

Judy, who died in 2016, was a graduate of the Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, New York, and an honors graduate of Connecticut College for Women, New London, Connecticut. She was a member of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Class of 1992, a former board member and life member of the Bird, Tree & Garden Club and a life member of the Smith Memorial Library.

Their four children and seven grandchildren have spent part of every summer of their lives at Chautauqua.



## Philanthropy in Action

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## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Paris subway  
6 West Point student  
11 Old anesthetic  
12 Full of energy  
13 Gaggle group  
14 Make broader  
15 School member  
17 Ages and ages  
18 Reach across  
20 Radius partner  
22 "Bali —"  
23 Exasperated question  
26 Media mogul  
28 Avoid  
29 Rocket's contents  
31 Hoppy brew  
32 Campus area  
33 Maintain  
34 Region of poverty  
36 Checkout act  
38 Prom group  
40 Districts  
43 Outdo  
44 Stylish  
45 Velvety flower  
46 Scrumptious

### DOWN

- 1 Ryan of movies  
2 Summer in Paris  
3 Henry Purcell semi-opera  
4 Myrrh, for one  
5 Mineral sources  
6 Cornfield cry  
7 Incompatible with  
8 Henry Purcell opera  
9 Tied up  
10 Addition column  
16 "Well, how about that!"  
18 Mall unit  
19 One of a bear trio  
21 "Shane" star  
23 Horse halter  
24 Look lewdly  
25 Sob  
27 Homecoming attendee  
30 Spots on TV  
33 Sum of one's actions  
34 Cease  
35 Singer Horne  
37 Play group  
39 Bond, for one  
41 Museum fill  
42 Messy room

RODS		STRIPE
OMIT		ARENAS
TAXI		REGALE
SNIFF		ING
	ELI	CABLE
VALET		HELEN
ETA		UND
GONGS		AREAS
ANDRE		PEG
	UNIT	TARDS
REININ		DAYO
ARAGON		USER
TAMERS		PSST

### Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
		15			16		17		
18	19				20	21			
22				23				24	25
26			27			28			
29					30			31	
		32					33		
34	35				36	37			
38				39		40		41	42
43						44			
45						46			

7-18

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

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

7-18

### CRYPTOQUOTE

QW KFF XSJ YKXSP GQC XKLI

ZR FZWJ, BKLJ PCTJ K WJE

KTJ HZTX. — OQSR BCZT

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING, BUT ISN'T IT FUN TO GO? — LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY

## 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

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/18

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

Difficulty: ★★★

7/17



# VISUAL ARTS



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

Curated by Associate Director of Galleries Erika Diamond, the exhibition “Crafting Home” is on display through Aug. 3 in Fowler-Kellogg Art Center.

## CVA’s ‘Crafting Home’ explores beauty of functional objects

JULIA WEBER  
STAFF WRITER

What do you think of when you think of home?

Maybe it’s artful decor, comforting furniture passed down through generations, a sense of community, love.

In Chautauqua Visual Arts’ “Crafting Home,” curated by Associate Director of CVA Galleries Erika Diamond, art objects of domesticity occupy the gallery and explore meanings of home through functional objects, handcrafted artworks and, most of all, labors of love.

With more than 30 artists’ work coming together to pay homage to the spaces we call home, the exhibition — on view now through Aug. 3 at Fowler-Kellogg Art Center — is a powerful exploration of the intersection of form and function across mediums.

Yoko Sekino-Bove, a potter, uses her decorated vessels to find commonality between the artist and viewers. She uses animals as a universal motif, with the hope that people can see themselves in her work — transcending any specific identity that may divide them. Adorned with these animals, Sekino-Bove’s pots depict scenes of community and interpersonal relationships through which she explores intrinsically human experiences.

“We still feel the same way, and we have the same thing because we share the same emotions together,” she said. “I started making that series more than 10 years ago, and since then, I personally hope that my work (has) become relevant. It seems like it’s needed more than ever for us to remind ourselves that we’re still on the same boat, feeling the same way, eating the same way, having a life and everyone just wants to be happy and exchange fun stories together.”

While Sekino-Bove most often makes functional work, the main goal of her art isn’t to act as a utilitarian object but rather to tell a story and elicit emotion from viewers.

“Through my work, I’m trying to provide or deliver the joy and the excitement using clay as my medium. Function is not necessarily my goal to achieve but ... more like a surprise and entertainment that I want to share with people,” she said.

Metalworker Sachi Nasatir’s lamps act similarly, combining form and function to enhance living spaces and elevate what are sometimes viewed as strictly utilitarian objects.

“They’re specifically pieces that are supposed to enhance the room and (are) meant to both add to the aesthetic of the space as



well as create better viewing for everything else in it,” said Nasatir.

Nasatir said they hoped to surpass the functional aspect of the lamp in the design process by elevating the object to make it not just an object of purpose, but an object of beauty in its own right.

“I was trying to take a new approach to creating an object that functions as a lamp does in any sort of home or space, but also elevates the different ways in which you can create those shapes or take it to another level,” said Nasatir.

In contrast, Carly Owens Weiss, a sculptor and painter, renders functional objects nonfunctional by recreating personal objects out of beadwork and textiles.

“It was used to beautify the home, but I’m using it to create objects that are representative of things that should be functional, yet they aren’t,” she said. “I like creating these faithful representations of recognizable objects if they are rendered totally useless.”

Owens Weiss works in soft sculpture draw attention to how the body acts as a home, protecting and nourishing the soul through corporeal shelter.

“I often reference the body as a home itself, so even though I’m not directly creating functional objects to be used within a home, they are objects that mirror what would exist in one in the context of the body,” she said.

Sekino-Bove recently led a workshop at the Institution as part of CVA’s programming, and she freely shares her glaze recipes and process online. For her, sharing these resources is a way to foster art by giving back to others.



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

At left, pieces by Stephen Phillips, Sara Sanders and Yoko Sekino-Bove are displayed in “Crafting Home.” Above, stoneware pieces by Isissa Komada-John and Nathan Bussard are displayed in Fowler-Kellogg Art Center.



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

Pieces by Danielle Andress, Christopher Kerr-Ayer, Nathan Bussard, Sachi Nastier and Artie Reitmeyer are displayed as part of the exhibition “Crafting Home” in Fowler-Kellogg.

“I love to share what I’ve learned because those are the things that other people gave me, and I feel like this is my time to give it to the next generations,” she said.

She added that while some artists take their trade secrets or recipes to the grave, she doesn’t — because to her, what makes her art unique isn’t the materiality but the content.

“(Heritage) is an important part of craft practice to survive for any person, but at the same time, I happen to be in the position that I can share those technical informations with

them because I think the uniqueness of my artwork comes from the story I tell to people, not by the glaze or construction technique or secret ingredient,” Sekino-Bove said.

Though the intricacies of each piece in the exhibition vary, the relationship between home and self is strong.

Nasatir pointed out how historical recreations of domestic spaces have been used to identify how household objects can exemplify artistic qualities and said they view this exhibition as an exciting extension of

those recreations.

“It’s really interesting because you go to museums and institutions all the time that remake rooms for very specifically certain areas — historical remakes — and it’s nice to see something that’s expanding on that,” said Nasatir.

Sekino-Bove said she hopes Chautauquans who see the exhibition will follow their curiosity and intellect to explore different ideas and possibilities about how they can establish their own identities through the objects that surround them.

“I’m really honored that my pieces had a chance to be presented with other artists to suggest or indicate to people how it could be done, the fun of orchestrations and assemblage and coming up with a unique home space for someone,” Sekino-Bove said. “I think it’s a lovely idea. Instead of each individual work specifically in the category of this craft or this medium, I’m hoping that (this exhibition) will inspire people to think about how they can start combining different works to establish their own styles and identities.”



PROGRAM

THE GOOD KIND OF FUNKY MONDAY



VON SMITH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At top, members of the fusion rock band Afro-Andean Funk take a bow after their performance Monday in the Amphitheater. Above left, from left, School of Dance students Bess Millard, Catherine Ball and Sofia Niebuhr dance along to the music. Above right, bassist Matt Geraghty plays alongside vocalist Aracelia Poma as Chautauquans rush the stage. “It’s total bliss to play here for such a wonderful community and historic venue,” Geraghty said. “We want to create music that brings people together, and lifts up other voices.”

- F

FRIDAY  
JULY 18
- 6:00

**Sunrise Kayak & Paddleboard.** Sign up with payment one to two days before event at 716-357-6281 or [sportsclub@chq.org](mailto: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
- 7:45

**Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program.** Leader: **Bhante Chipamong Chowdhury** (Theraveda Buddhism.) 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 left side door
- 8:30

8:30-8:45) **Movement and Meditation with Monte Thompson.** (Programmed by Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program.) 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, forester. Smith Wilkes Hall
- 9:15

**ECUMENICAL WORSHIP.** **The Rev. Frank Yamada**, executive director, The Association of Theological Schools; Presbyterian Church, USA. Amphitheater and CHQ Assembly
- 9:15

Jewish Discussions. (Programmed by Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.) “Jewish Mysticism & Philosophy.” Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 10:00

**Chautauqua Opera Conservatory.** Masterclass with Steven Osgood. McKnight Hall
- 10:15

Service of Blessing and Healing. UCC Randell Chapel
- 10:45

**CHAUTAUQUA LECTURE SERIES.** **Jonah Goldberg**, Asness Chair in Applied Liberty, American Enterprise Institute. **Jonathan Rauch**, senior fellow, Governance Studies, Brookings Institution. Amphitheater and CHQ Assembly
- 11:00

(11–5) **Gallery Exhibitions Open.** Fowler-Kellogg Art Center and Strohl Art Center
- 12:00

(12–2) Flea Boutique. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women’s Club.) Behind Colonnade
- 12:15

Challah Baking Class. (Programmed by Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.) Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 12:15

Twelve-Step Meeting. Marion Lawrance Room, Hurlbut Church

- 12:15

**Summer on the Steps with Literary Arts.** Saying It Plain: An American Patchwork Book Launch. Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Porch.
- 12:30

**Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Lutheran House
- 12:30

Introduction to Jumu'ah Muslim Prayer. Jumu'ah Prayer Service will follow. Hall of Christ Sanctuary
- 12:30

Garden Walk & Talk. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.) “Campbell Garden & Miller Park Rain Gardens.” Betsy Burgeson, supervisor of garden and landscapes, Chautauqua Institution. Campbell on Whitfield
- 12:45

Catholic Speaker Series. “I Was in Prison and You Came to Visit Me (Matthew 25:36, 40).” Michael McGillicuddy, LCSW, Volunteer Facilitator, Cook County Jail, Riverside, Illinois. Methodist House Chapel
- 1:00

**English Lawn Bowling.** 20-minute free instruction, then opt to play for fee. Bowling Green
- 1:15

Informal Critique Session. (Programmed by the Friends of the Chautauqua Writers’ Center.) Bring 10 copies of one page of poetry or prose. Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Poetry Room
- 1:30

**Public Shuttle Tour of Grounds.** Fee. (Purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center. This tour is wheelchair accessible.) Leave from Main Gate Welcome Center
- 2:00

**INTERFAITH LECTURE SERIES.** “The Challenges & Considerations of Surveying Jewish Americans.” **David Campbell**, Packey J. Dee Professor of American Democracy; director, Notre Dame Democracy Initiative. **Alan Cooperman**, director of religion research, Pew Research Center. Hall of Philosophy and CHQ Assembly
- 2:00

**THEATER.** **Chautauqua Theater Company** presents *Execution of Justice*. (Reserved seating; purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center or Visitors Center ticket offices and one hour before curtain at Bratton kiosk.) Bratton Theater
- 3:30

**Islam 101:** “Islam in America.” Khalid Rehman and Sabeeha Rehman. Hurlbut Church
- 3:30

**Chautauqua Dialogues.** (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) U.U. House, Episcopal Cottage and Alumni Hall
- 3:30

**Panel Discussion.** (Programmed in partnership with Erie Insurance.) “Civic Engagement and Partnership for Community Progress.” **Nick Cianci**, director of investments, Hoffman United; **Chelsea Oliver**, director of marketing and community engagement, Jefferson Educational Society; **Dorothy Leemhuis**, senior vice president of actuarial and chief actuary, Erie Insurance Group; **Janae Alexander**, inclusion and belonging consultant, Erie Insurance Group. Hall of Philosophy
- 5:00

Hebrew Congregation Evening Service. “Kabbalat Shabbat.” Rabbi Brent Phillip Gutmann, Cantor Susan Lewis-Friedman, cantor, Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo, NY. Miller Park
- 5:00

Men’s Softball League. Sharpe Field
- 5:30

**Cinema Film Screening.** “Jane Austen Wrecked My Life.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 6:30

Community Compact: Summer Scholars’ Reflections. Hall of Philosophy
- 6:45

Community Shabbat Dinner. (Programmed by Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.) Chabad invites all Chautauquans to join a community Shabbat dinner. RSVP required. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 7:30

Service of Sung Compline. (Programmed by the Episcopal Cottage.) Episcopal Chapel.
- 7:30

**THEATER.** **Chautauqua Theater Company** presents *Execution of Justice*. (Reserved seating; purchase

- 5:00

tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center or Visitors Center ticket offices and one hour before curtain at Bratton kiosk.) Bratton Theater
- 8:00

**Cinema Film Screening.** “Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 8:15

**AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL.** **Straight No Chaser.** Amphitheater
- 9:30

Torah Study: Today’s Torah for Today’s Times. (Sponsored by the Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua.) Hurlbut Church Marion Lawrance Room
- 10:30

Shabbat Morning Service. (Programmed by the Hebrew Congregation.) Rabbi Brent Phillip Gutmann, senior rabbi, Temple Beth Zion; Cantor Susan Lewis-Friedman. Kiddush lunch to follow. Hurlbut Church Sanctuary
- 12:30

Chabad Jewish House Lunch n’ Learn. “Ethics of our Fathers.” Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin and Esther Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House
- 1:00

(1–5) **Gallery Exhibitions Open.** Fowler-Kellogg Art Center and Strohl Art Center
- 2:00

**Public Shuttle Tour of Grounds.** Fee. (Purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center. This tour is wheelchair accessible.) Leave from Main Gate Welcome Center
- 2:00

**Northeastern Region of the National Federation of Music Clubs Recital.** McKnight Hall
- 3:00

**Contemporary Issues Forum.** (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women’s Club.) **Liesbet Steer**, senior adviser, Gorongosa National Park. Hall of Philosophy
- 4:00

**THEATER.** **Chautauqua Theater Company** presents *Execution of Justice*. (Reserved seating; purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center or Visitors Center ticket offices and one hour before curtain at Bratton kiosk.) Live Audio Descriptions. Bratton Theater
- 4:15

**School of Music Faculty Spotlight Series.** **Chautauqua Faculty String Quartet.** Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall
- 5:00

Catholic Mass. Hall of Philosophy
- 5:15

**Cinema Film Screening.** “Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 6:30

**OPERA.** *Le Nozze di Figaro.* Chautauqua Opera Conservatory. Joel Harder, conductor. Separate ticket required. Purchase through ticket office. Visit [tickets.chq.org](http://tickets.chq.org). Fletcher Music Hall
- 6:45

**Pre-Concert Lecture.** David. B. Levy. Hultquist 101
- 8:15

**CHAUTAUQUA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WITH THE MUSIC SCHOOL FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA.** Mahler’s *Resurrection Symphony*. **Rossen Milanov**, conductor **Timothy Muffitt**, School of Music artistic director. **Emily Finke**, soprano. **Rosamund Dyer**, mezzo-soprano. Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus. Amphitheater
- 9:00

**Cinema Film Screening.** “Jane Austen Wrecked My Life.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

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Psalm 34:18

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