# The Chautauquan Daily

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Thursday August~21, 2025~  $\parallel$  the official newspaper of chautauqua institution

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MOTLEY



DOCEN

## Smithsonian Folklife lead Motley, NCC's Rosen to offer argument for history's study

GABRIEL WEBER

When Thomas Jefferson placed two busts across from each other at Monticello — one colossal and one life-sized — of him and his political opponent, Alexander Hamilton, he would remark with a smile "opposed in life, as in death."

"That showed that he viewed Hamilton not as a hated enemy to be destroyed, but as a respected opponent to be engaged with," said Jeffrey Rosen, president and chief executive officer of the National

Constitution Center.

Offering both a creative and analytical lens to the week's discussions, Rosen and Sabrina Lynn Motley, director of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, will provide context on the Week Nine theme "Past Informs Present: How to Harness History" at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater, in penultimate morning lecture of the summer

ture of the summer. Motley is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at UCLA and has overseen several critically acclaimed exhibitions, while Rosen is a contributing editor of The Atlantic and professor of law at George Washington University Law School. Conducting research on the interplay between religious faith, doubt and social activism for her doctorate, Motley doesn't just have experience in the study of humanity — but also the nuances of who has historically been considered human.

See MOTLEY / ROSEN, Page 4



THE BAND PERRY

# Moghul to explain impact of technology, COVID-19 pandemic on religion

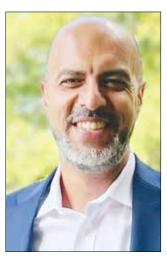
KAITLYN FINCHLER CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Technology and the COVID-19 pandemic affected people in more ways than imaginable — and not just singular people, but communities as a whole. Faith-based communities and religion have experienced the downfall of a technological world and the declining social interactions the pandemic robbed them of.

Haroon Moghul founder and president of Queen City Diawn, a company that educates and empowers people of all ages and backgrounds through global tours, retreats and leadership journeys — will deliver his lecture, "The Mosque at Jurassic Park: Moral Formation for the End Times," at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy for the Week Nine Interfaith Lecture Series theme, "Past Informs Present: Traditioned Innovation in Spiritual Life."

vation in Spiritual Life."

"I'm going to share
the story of how I started teaching Muslim high
schoolers in a kind of informal Sunday School,"



MOGHUL

Moghul said, "and how in trying to build a class that was relevant and meaningful and thoughtful, that helped prepare them for a life of faith and a life in the world."

A few of the things Moghul said he's realized through this work include new perspectives on education, moral formation and how religious communities have a "very important role to play" in understanding the boundaries of technology in people's lives.

See **MOGHUL**, Page 4

# Earling presents women's role in history in 'Lost Journals of Sacajewea' for CLSC Week 9

SUSIE ANDERSON

Popular history says that Sacajawea died at 24. But Native histories, including that of the Bitterroot Salish, tell of her living into her 80s, spotted in places such as St. Louis and beyond. Author Debra Magpie Earling believes that an early death helps Sacajewea's myth live on.

"Had Sacajewea lived and had they interviewed her, maybe the mythology would not have been as potent and powerful," Earling said. "Had she had a voice in the story, I think she would have uncovered some things that were not so heroic in the journey."

In a visionary work of historical fiction, Earling blends lyrical prose with particular punctuation to craft a voice of the mythologized guide and translator for Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery. At 3:30 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy, Debra Magpie Earling will present The Lost Journals of Sacajewea: A Novel for the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle.

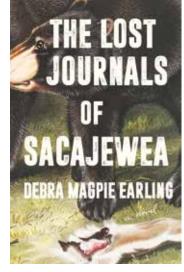
In Earling's novel, after Sacajewea's village is raided, she is kidnapped and gambled away by French



EARLING

Canadian trapper Toussaint Charbonneau. While protecting herself and her newborn son, Sacajewea must learn how to survive across new terrain with the white man who owns her and a group of explorers commodifying the land she loves.

The Lost Journals of Sacajewea is the most recent novel from Earling, who has received the Western Writers Association Spur Award for Best Novel of the West in 2003 and the Mountain and Plains Bookseller Association Award and the American Book Award, among others, for her debut novel Perma Red. She is a mem-



ber of the Bitterroot Salish and currently an associate professor in the English department of the University of Montana in Missoula.

The impetus for the story emerged when Earling was asked to contribute to an anthology of essays surrounding the exploration of Lewis and Clark from Native perspectives with the esteemed historian Alvin M. Josephy Jr.

In the research process, Earling encountered a narrative of a Corps of Discovery member who gave away his wife to a sergeant for the night.

See **EARLING**, Page 4

## IN TODAY'S DAILY



## COMMUNITY & COMPLEXITIES

CTC Guest Actor Pilgrim discusses approach to her role in world-premiere 'Witnesses' production.

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## COASTS & CULTURES

O'Connor discusses impetus, influences of Chautauqua Prizewinning novel 'Whale Fall.'

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**ECCENTRICITIES**Zittrain, Harvard scholar of internet, society, discusses models of thinking regarding AI.

Page 7









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Rain: **15%** Sunrise: **6:32 a.m.** Sunset: **8:07 p.m.**  SATURDAY (

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Sunrise: **6:33 a.m.** Sunset: **8:05 p.m.** 

www.chqdaily.com

Missed a story in the *Daily* this summer? Find it on our website using the search bar at the top of any page.



**BRIEFLY** 

NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS

The Briefly column appears on page 2 daily and is intended to provide space for announcements from Institution-related organizations. If a meeting or activity is featured that day in a story, it should not be repeated in the **Briefly** column. Submit information to Alexandra McKee in the Daily's editorial office. Please provide the name of the organization, time and place of meeting and one contact person's name with a phone number. Deadline is 5 p.m. four days before publication.

#### Bird, Tree & Garden Club news

Kate Mayberry leads Forest Bathing at 7:30 a.m. today starting at the corner of Massey and Hawthorne. Mayberry facilitates this mindful nature connection practice, guiding participants through the Japanese technique of forest bathing. This morning session emphasizes stress reduction, sensory awareness and developing a deeper appreciation for the natural environment through contemplative observation.

Betsy Burgeson leads the Miller Cottage Open Garden at 2 p.m. today at 24 Miller. Burgeson opens the Miller Cottage garden for continued exploration of small-space gardening techniques and sustainable growing practices. Visitors can observe late summer garden management strategies and learn about maintaining productive gardens in compact settings throughout the growing season.

#### Chautauqua Softball kids pick-up game today

There's a Chautauqua Softball League kid's pick up game at 4:15 p.m. today at Sharpe Field for ages 5 to 13. Extra gloves are available. Contact carriezachry@ gmail.com for more information.

## Chautauqua Theater Company news

The Chautauqua Theater Company will present a CTC Theater Chat titled "Sneak Peak to 2026," which will be a conversation with CTC leadership, at 12:15 p.m. today in Smith Wilkes Hall.

#### Smith Memorial Library news

Children's Story Time is at 10:45 a.m. today on Bestor Plaza. In case of rain, Story Time will take place in the Smith Memorial Library Upstairs Classroom. All fami-

The Annual Kazoo Chorale will take place at 4:45 p.m. today in the Smith.

## Climate Change Initiative hosts Miller's book

At 12:15 p.m. today in the ballroom of the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall, National Geographic Explorer Rachael Zoe Miller holds the official launch of her new book, Decision Making in the Age of Plastics. The goals of this choose-your-own-adventure style guidebook are to help protect you and your family's health, to protect the ocean, to protect the planet, to save you money or help you spend it wisely, to eradicate buyer's remorse, and to inject a heap of learning and some fun along the way.

## New 'Inside CHQ' podcast episode out now

The season's final episode of the Inside CHQ podcast is available now. Host Cindy Abbott Letro talks with Laurie Branch, chair of the Chautauqua Institution Board of Trustees Budget and Finance Committee and Presidential Search Committee and board chair-elect. You can find Inside CHQ online at inside.chq.org and on Spotify, Apple and Amazon Music platforms.

#### Masters Series Meet the Filmmaker to feature Al-Shamahi

As part of the 2025 Chautauqua Masters Series, at 5 p.m. Friday in the Hall of Christ, morning lecturer Ella Al-Shamahi will present a special sneak peek screening of her new PBS series "Human." Patrons may register for this session at tickets.chq.org, at the Special Studies office, or at any ticket window.

## Thursday at the **CINÉMA**

Thursday, August 21

SORRY, BABY - 3:15 & 8:30 Something bad happened to Agnes. But life goes on... for every one around her, at least. "Writerdirector-star Eva Victor has made a movie that's at once approachable, incredibly perceptive, and subtly stirring." -Carlos Aguilar, IGN Movies "This is the kind of film that sneaks up on you, funny when least expected and affecting without being cloying.' -Aisha Harris, NPR "Bittersweet, brilliant, and heartwarmingly funny," -Kristy Puchko, Mashable (R, 103m)

FAMILIAR TOUCH - 6:00 Writer-director Sarah Friedland's coming-of-old-age feature compassionately follows the winding path of octogenarian Ruth's (Kathleen Chalfant) shifting memories and desires while remaining rooted in her sage perspective. "Ruth is merely, momentously human: an older woman in need, but no less expressive of life's fullness because of it. It's a portrayal to remember, for as long as any of us can. -Robert Abele, Los Angeles Times "A gorgeous drama with an open, aching heart." -Jourdain Searles, RogerEbert.com (NR, 91m)

## **Your Voice Matters**

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https://www.chq.org/dialogue

## » ON THE GROUNDS

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# In role for CTC premiere 'The Witnesses,' guest actor Pilgrim finds community, care

**JULIA WEBER** 

STAFF WRITER

Theater Chautauqua Company continues its world-premiere performance run of The Witnesses at 2 and 7:30 p.m. today in Bratton Theater.

The Witnesses, written by playwright C.A. Johnson, chronicles a peer support group finding a chosen community as an apocalyptic pandemic destroys the world around them. The play was commissioned two years ago by CTC Producing Artistic Director Jade King Carroll and made its first appearance in Bratton last season as a New Play Workshop titled Tell Me You're Dying.

In The Witnesses, CTC Guest Actor Alicia Pilgrim plays the role of Tori, a teenage girl seeking family and connection amid disaster. Pilgrim recalled a serendipitous encounter with Johnson before she later auditioned for the role.

"I met C.A. a year ago in New Orleans, just living my life," she said. Pilgrim said a mutual friend introduced the two when they crossed paths and when she later walked into the audition, they both recognized each other. During the audition process, they made the connection that Pilgrim had attended Duke Ellington School of the Arts while Johnson was teaching at the school, and the rest was history.

When Pilgrim takes on a new role, she explores each character differently depending on how they present themselves or what their role is within the world they live in.

"I always want to give that character justice; I always want to figure out what their



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Chautauqua Theater Company Guest Actor Alicia Pilgrim performs as Tori during a rehearsal of The Witnesses Aug. 8 in Bratton Theater.

role is as far as in the dynamic of that play or in the world of that play," she said. "Do we know people similar to this? Would they feel seen? I always want to make sure that people either feel seen by the character, but my hope is to always shed light on humanity and how we are very different, but also very similar."

While Tori is a fictional character, many of her traits are familiar to Pilgrim. She said she knows Tori because she sees similarities to the character both in herself and in those around her.

"It's nice to be able to breathe life into a character who shows love in a different way, who is caring in a different way and also brightens up the ways in which we show up for one another,"

Pilgrim said she is thankful for the work actors did on the role of Tori during care for one another — even

last summer's NPW process, because it was developmental in establishing the role she took on.

"We wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for that collaboration," she said.

Pilgrim said she is grateful to Johnson for including a character like Tori in the play because "it shows the complexities of loving someone or showing up or being."

"What does it look like to care for other people and be in community for other people?" she asked.

Pilgrim said that while Tori has a "hard exterior, there's still something so soft with even the way she decides to show up continuously," which she said she feels "honored" to be a part of.

As the play wraps up its run this weekend, Pilgrim finds herself wondering how we come together as a community to love and

What does it look like to care for other people and be in community for other people?"

> - ALICIA PILGRIM Guest Actor.

The Witnesses

when it isn't easy. She said she thinks Chautauquans who see the play will leave contemplating many similar questions as a naturally curious audience.

To Pilgrim, The Witnesses provides an opportunity to "look at multiple different perspectives at a time and look at how these people love, how these people address and move through and community."

# CVA ends 2025 season with exhibition of work by two-week resident artists

**JULIA WEBER** STAFF WRITER

As the 2025 summer season winds down, so does Chautauqua Visual Art's shortterm residency program which brings practicing artists - both emerging and established — to the Institution for a two-week period to focus on their practice.

To conclude its twoweek residency program, CVA hosts a culminating exhibition of residents' works opening from 3 to 5 p.m today in the School of Art Gallery. Before the opening reception, CVA will host open studios from 2 to 3 p.m. today at the School of Art, in which Chautauguans will have an opportunity to engage with artists enrolled in the program and see their studios in person.

For resident artists Sarah Royer and Tina Williams Brewer, the short-term residency program is an asset for artists like themselves who have an established practice and might not be able to take as much time away from it as other residency programs require.

"The two-week residency, I was drawn to, personally, because it was a time that I could take away from my own studio where it's just constantly working on these commission pieces, which is great, but it was a great time to just step away from that," said Royer. Like Royer, Williams

Brewer said she had been committed to her artistic practice for a long time and saw the CVA two-week residency program as a way to step back and refocus.

"I was thinking that it was ect. Williams Brewer's proj-



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR Above, Chautauqua Visual Arts two-week resident artists will be holding open studios from 2 to 3 p.m. today, followed by the opening of an exhibiton featuring their work from 3 to 5 p.m. in the School of Art Gallery at the Arts Quad. At right, two-week resident Tina Williams Brewer reworked a quilt she made in the 1990s with new imagery layered onto it with transparent textiles. The piece will be on display today, alongside other residents' work.

time for me to take a breath and step away from all the things that have accumulated over the last 20 years and to reevaluate where I was going, what I was doing," said Williams Brewer.

Williams Brewer said the program has been a "respite" for her as a working artist. Both of the artists in the residency program said their work on view in the exhibition explores a moment in time, albeit in different

rative screenprinting proj-

For Royer, the piece on view in the exhibition is a community-based collabo-

ect is a reworking of a quilt she made in the 1990s with new imagery layered onto it with transparent textiles. Both artists are look-

ing forward to sharing the work they have made during the program with Chautauquans during the exhibition, and to meeting community members during the open studio portion of the day.

"It's one thing to look at art, and it's another thing to actually meet artists, see works in progress," she said. "It's such a unique experience

for people to actually see a studio space." One of the most exciting parts of the residency, acwas the space for collaboration and community the program offered to artists. Often, art is a rather solitary practice in which artists work in their studios and don't always have easy access to collaboration or the camaraderie of their peers. Williams Brewer said the

cording to Williams Brewer,

residency reminded her of her time in art school when she worked with other students to exchange ideas and information through collaboration and critiques.

"I think we're all here lifting one another," she said, "so it is the human experience that is so valuable here."

## RELIGION

## Our traditions have hidden treasure in unfulfilled potential, says McLaren



#### MORNING WORSHIP

COLUMN BY MARY LEE TALBOT

obody begins a speech saying I have not come to abolish the tradition unless he thinks that people are likely to think he has come to abolish the tradition," said the Rev. Brian McLaren. "Jesus felt that his tradition was a mess. He didn't hate it. He didn't want to leave it. He loved it. And he felt it was a mess. I don't know if any of you can identify with that."

McLaren preached at the 9:15 a.m. Wednesday morning worship service in the Amphitheater. His sermon title was "Jesus as Interpreter of Tradition," and the scripture reading was Matthew 5:17-28.

Jesus' culture did not have a tummy ache that needed a dose of Pepto-Bismol; it was in grave danger of losing its soul. The colonizing Romans dominated and exploited the people's labor and the land. The Romans even helped to fund the building of the temple. "It takes a toll on people," McLaren said. "I know it's hard to imagine a world where powerful elites fund religion so they can make sure religion has a positive attitude toward what they want to get away with. I know it's hard to imagine people co-opting religious zeal for political loyalty. But this has been a favorite trick of authoritarian colonizing regimes throughout history."

What do the colonized people do? Some, like the Sadducees, try to cooperate and get along. Some, like the Zealots, urge violent revolution and some, like the Essenes, "act like doomsday preppers and wait for God to magically, violently fix everything," McLaren told the congregation.

Jesus, he continued, believed there was another path, but it was not a wide, well-paved highway — rather, it was a rocky, two-track path that could only be traversed on foot.

For Jesus, it was time to stop and look at the tradition but not in the same old way. "The tradition was good, but it was not perfect," said McLaren. "The tradition was not where it needed to be and had unfulfilled potential, like a treasure hidden in the back yard that the people did not know about."

McLaren continued, "Jesus came to fulfill the law, not destroy it. Tradition had brought the people thus far but this was not the place to stop. The greatest way to honor the tradition is to go into the undiscovered territory."

For Christians, we need to rediscover the Indigenous roots of our tradition, he told the congregation. Christians need to rediscover what their ancestors knew before they became colonizers. "Christian tradition, in all its forms, is a mess. It is divided, conflicted and has sold out. We are very successful at arguing, but unsuccessful at making headway."

To regain the Indigenous wisdom, Christians need to read the laws and ask what did the law do in the old context, and what does the law need to do in our context? "We need to rediscover the prophets," McLaren said. "We banish them and then we build monuments to them."

He continued, "Jesus came to fulfill the law in his context. Jesus said, 'You have heard it said ... but I say to you ...' You know you are dealing with a dangerous person when they say 'You have heard it said,' followed by 'but.' Jesus did it six times. When he said 'You have heard it said "Love your friends and hate your enemies. But I say to you," he dares us to decon-



DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR

The Rev. Brian D. McLaren delivers his sermon "Rediscovering the Bible for Our Troubled Times" Sunday in the Amphitheater.

struct the binaries that allow us to kill each other."

McLaren asked the congregation if they were ready to deal with the conditions that allow people to kill each other, were they ready to go deeper into the question? "We know we should not murder, but are we ready to look at the dehumanizing words we use, and then go deeper to look at the deep anger and unresolved hurt that leads us to dehumanize people and then even deeper to seek reconciliation in those relationships?"

Jesus talked about the act of adultery. "Yeah, we can all say we're against cheating on each other," McLaren said. "But what are the conditions that lead to cheating?"

McLaren noted that various expressions of the Christian religion have been obsessed with sex and developed a very sex-negative view. "When you heard this passage this morning, you thought, 'Oh, there's this antisex thing.' I think Jesus is speaking to the men in the room. He says you want to have a world without adultery, and I know it's hard to imagine a world where religious leaders go around policing people's sexuality."

He continued, "But you understand what he says? He says you men, you don't want adultery, then you better start dealing with the reality of lust, not just lust as sexual desire. Lust is the idea that I'm a man, I have privileges, I can dehumanize other people to make them objects of my own pleasure without worrying about what I do, what effect it has on them as human beings." There was applause from the congregation.

McLaren said, "Isn't it interesting in the headlines recently, how the same wealth that makes people think they don't have to obey other laws makes these wealthy men think that they can get away with sexual murder, destroying human beings?"

McLaren expressed the wish that he could go deeply into all six of the citations from Jesus, until arriving at "that deepest issue that dares us to challenge something that's deeply embedded in our tradition."

He said that people think "God is violent, so we can be violent. God hates people – conveniently, the same people we do - so torture and imprisonment and disappearance and putting people in the Alcatraz's and everywhere else (doesn't matter because) God doesn't care about those people. In fact, we're doing God's work to clean things up from them. Do you see why I think our traditions, religious, political, social, edu-

McLaren concluded with a story of meeting the imam of a neighboring mosque after 9/11. They met for lunch and one day McLaren asked the imam what Muslims thought about Jesus. The imam told him that Muslims consider Jesus the second-greatest prophet.

Then McLaren asked, for a Muslim, what does it mean to be a prophet? The imam said it means "you have a message from God that the world needs, so we should listen to the words of a prophet and do what the prophet taught us, to live according to the teaching of the prophet."

McLaren had a long conversation with himself. "Christians would be insulted to hear someone say Jesus was the second-greatest prophet, but Christians hardly think of Jesus as a prophet. Jesus had become a lot of different things to us: A hood ornament on the Hummer of Western civilization, the masked guy behind whom we go off into battle against different people, a little equation in a cosmic equation of how God gets rid of our sins so we can go to heaven after we die."

He continued, "But I think for most Christians, Jesus is less than a prophet because we don't really pay attention to what he has to say. That's important for us now because I think our tradition is a mess, and there are undiscovered treasures for us that we need to make it from where we are."

Melissa Spas, vice president for religion at Chautauqua Institution, presided. Stephanie Dawson, a year-round Chautauqua resident and former Institution employee currently pursuing a new family venture of a garden market and community farm, read the scripture. The prelude was "Prélude, Op. 31, No. 5," by Louis Vierne, performed by Joshua Stafford, director of sacred music and Jared Jacobsen Chair for the Organ. The Motet Choir sang "If Ye Love Me," music by Philip Wilby and text from John 14: 15-18. Stafford directed the choir and Brett Miller, an orchestral conducting student at Eastman School of Music, accompanied the choir on the Massey Memorial Organ. For the postlude, Stafford played "Voluntary," by Edward Elgar, on the Massey Organ. Support for this week's chaplaincy and preaching is provided by the Robert D. Campbell Memorial Chaplaincy and the Daney-Holden Chaplaincy Fund.

Editor's note: Because of a series of pagination difficulties, we have not yet been able to publish the morning worship column for Tuesday's service and sermon; that column will be published in the Friday, Aug. 22, edition of the Daily

## **Baptist House**

The Baptist House hosts Chautauqua Dialogues at 3:30 p.m. today. Bible Study is at 7 p.m. tonight at the house.

#### Blessing and Healing Daily 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 are located on Odland Plaza. All are welcome.

#### Chautauqua Catholic Community

Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:45 a.m. weekdays in the Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd. There is no Catholic Seminar today.

There will be a Catholic Seminar at 12:45 p.m. Friday in the Methodist House Chapel. Jeff Wood, retired attorney from River Forest, Illinois, and Chautauqua, New York, will present "Top Ten Spiritual Classics."

#### **Chabad Jewish House**

Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin leads "Tasting and Exploring Holiday Cuisine – Shavuot, Cheesecakes, Blintzes and Other Dairy Foods" at 9:15 a.m. today in the Zigdon Chabad Jewish House. Vilenkin leads the community Shabbat Service at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the ZCJH.

#### Chautauqua Prays for Peace through Compassion

Chautauqua Prays for Peace Through Compassion is a

communal gathering that 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**

BYO Lunch Bible Trivia is at 12:15 p.m. today in the Christian Science House.

All are welcome to use our Study Room 24/7 as a place of quiet study and prayer. You may study this week's Bible lesson "Mind," read Christian Science periodicals, including The Christian Science Monitor, and use our computer-based church resources.

## **Disciples of Christ**

The Disciples of Christ hosts Chautauqua Dialogues at 6:30 p.m. today.

#### Episcopal Chapel of the **Good Shepherd**

There is a service of Holy Eucharist at 7:45 a.m. weekdays in the Chapel.

The Episcopal Cottage hosts Chautauqua Dialogues at 3:30 p.m. Friday.

A service of Sung Compline is at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

## Food Pantry Donations

Hurlbut Church is accepting nonperishable food items for the Ashville Food Pantry. Donations may be dropped off any time at the Scott Ave entrance of Hurlbut Church.



COMPILED BY STAFF

## **Hebrew Congregation**

ple Anshe Hesed in Erie, Pennsylvania, and Jessica Thorpe Rhoades, cantorial soloist, will lead "Kabbalat Shabbat: Welcoming the Sabbath" at 5 p.m. Friday in Miller Park. Shabbat'zza, a pizza picnic in the park, will take place after the service. Bring your own beverage, salad or dessert to share. If there is rain, the service will be held at Smith Wilkes Hall, and there will be no Shabbat'zza.

Rabbi Rob Morais from Tem-

#### Hurlbut Church Meal Ministry

Hurlbut Church is cooking, and everyone's invited. The church serves lunch from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. weekdays and dinner from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at Hurlbut Church. All proceeds

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

## 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.

## Lutheran House

The Rev. Jeff Laustsen presides at the 7 p.m. Vespers tonight at the Lutheran House.

The Lutheran House hosts Chautauqua Dialogues at 12:30 p.m. Friday. We are located on the Brick Walk at the corner of Peck and Clark.



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# Mystic Heart Meditation

Sharon Wesoky leads Mahanaya Buddhist Meditation at 7:45 a.m. weekdays in the Presbyterian House Chapel.

Wesoky will also give a Chautauqua Mystic Heart Seminar in Mahanaya Buddhist Meditation at 12:30 p.m. today in the Hall of Missions.

Monte Thompson leads Movement and Meditation from 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. Friday in the Hall of Philosophy Grove.

## Presbyterian House

All Chautauquans are invited for coffee, tea, hot chocolate and lemonade in between morning worship and the 10:45 a.m. lecture each weekday morning on the porch.

The Rev. Timothy Boggess leads a homily "Carried Away" at Vespers from 7 to 7:45 p.m. tonight in the Presbyterian House Chapel.

#### Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Sarah Gillooly, Friend of the Week (chaplain), will lead BYO Lunch: A Quaker's Perspective on the Theme of the Week at 12:30 p.m. today in the Quaker House on 28 Ames.

## **Unitarian Universalist**

The Unitarian Universalist House hosts Chautauqua Di-

alogues at 3:30 p.m. Friday.

## **United Methodist**

United Methodist House hosts Chautaugua Dialogues at 3:30 p.m. today.

The Rev. Todd M. Davis's Pastor in the Parlor topic at 7 p.m. tonight is "Reflections on Process Theology."

Free popcorn starts at 9:30 p.m. Friday on the porch. Stop by and bring the kids!

## Unity of Chautauqua

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

For details, visit www. unitychq.org.

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## FROM PAGE ONE

#### EARLING FROM PAGE 1

"The next morning, they find her brutalized, stabbed and beaten. She is by the interpreters' campfire, and I thought, 'Well, that wouldn't have been (Touisannt Charboneau) it would have been

have been (Touisannt Charboneau), it would have been Sacajewea — there she is (comforting the woman)," Earling said.

Integral to the expedi-

tion yet an invisible undercurrent in many of the records, Sacajewea emerged as a story untold for Earling, who found herself intrigued to investigate what else was missing from the popular narrative of Sacajewea's life.

"From the moment she appears, she is present throughout the rest of the journey and that shows, in some ways, how history makes women invisible and how it is important to sit with the women that have been historicized and look at their story," Earling said.

Recentering Sacajewea in the historical narrative, Earling was conscious of her use of language. Among the many perpetuated myths of her life, Sacajewea's supposed lack of knowledge of English and French was one that Earling wanted to counter.

"She is so learned in so many things and knew how to take care of herself, and I thought, 'There is just no way that if she could speak Hidatsa, Mandan and Shoshone that she wouldn't pick up immediately on other languages,'" Earling said. "So, I think that's a real disservice to her intelligence."

While writing from an Indigenous perspective in the language of English, Earling played with style to translate Sacajewea's emotions and reverence toward particular objects, themes or people through capitalization, faded print and a mixture of prose and poetry.

**EDITORIAL STAFF** 

Sara Toth

Dave Munch

Alexandra McKee

"As she grows in her own understanding, her own perception of things begins to change," Earling said. "I thought, 'How could I make that work? How could I make that visible in the text itself and make it almost like a braille or another way of seeing within the story?"

In addition to Earling considering the presentation of language, the vivid rehabilitation of the mythologized historical figure involved a care for the environment that informed Sacajewea's experiences.

"It was really important to me to pay attention not only to the human language, but the ways in which Native people have long survived by paying attention to the world that surrounds them — and everything is important," Earling said.

Through dreamlike prose, Earling immerses the reader into Sacajewea's perspective, witnessing new people and terrain alongside the guide.

"I kind of throw readers into her world, but not without having handholds to make their descent," Earling said, "and the handholds are cultural handholds — an attentiveness to the world around you that makes it survivable."

In a week reflecting on the past informing the present, Earling highlighted how Sacajewea was one of the first Stolen Sisters, or missing or murdered Indigenous women. For Earling, centering Sacajewea in the historical narrative not only prompts discourse of women's role in history, but also their role in the present.

"I think of her as a conduit toward understanding and toward peace," Earling said. "So she's very important, not only as a historical figure, but a figure that I believe all women can embrace and be held up by."

#### **MOGHUL**

FROM PAGE 1

He got the idea for the Sunday School from his kids attending a virtual, Zoom-based Sunday School which, "as you can imagine, was terrible."

"I don't believe Zoom is a very good learning medium generally. Specifically for kids (and) teenagers, it's not just unhelpful, but probably actually harmful in many ways," Moghul said. "It should be used as sparingly as possible and only when necessary. So, the course really started as an attempt to correct for what they were missing and I've kept that in mind ever since."

In the last couple years, Moghul said there's been a backlash against smartphones and a growing idea of the need for spaces where people "get to be people" and have direct conversations among themselves without

the mediation of technology.

"What I want to do is take that larger frame — which is broadly accurate — and look at not just how we are being alienated from each other, which is a secular concern and a reasonable one, but how we're alienated from ourselves and our purpose in the world," he said.

The ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic affected people hasn't been fully "unpacked," Moghul said.

"The changes that accelerated or commenced under COVID, in many cases, haven't really ever rolled back or have only been half-heartedly addressed or compensated for," he said. "My hope is we get to have a space at the top where we can talk about what we've learned over the last few years — what people of faith should be doing and what we can see coming around the corner and how we might best prepare

ourselves — from younger to older — to make sure the benefits of those changes are realized and the harms of those changes are mitigated."

Other than Zoom calls, Moghul said the pandemic affected the Muslim community in myriad ways.

"First and foremost, right off the bat, faith is embodied," he said. "It's tangible. It's physical. It's kind of counterintuitive to even have to say that, because when we think about faith, we think about the supernatural. We think about the sacred. We think about the transcendent."

In his faith tradition — and most faiths he's studied — Moghul said the experience of being present, in a ritual, in a practice of communication or the inner process of self-reflection, is vital.

"In Muslim communities, what I've seen is that a generation missed out on the chance to socialize in and through faith. ... People develop a radar for dishonesty and dissimulation and deception through in-person engagement," Moghul said. "We learn to spot cues and understand sources of danger through and with other people. And, when we have less or even none of these interactions, then it's easier for us to be disconnected ... and easier for us to be manipulated in and through faith."

Although the frame-

Although the frame-works may be different, Moghul said he hopes there's a "spark" or "moment of recognition" for the audience, as everyone is confronted by the same basic reality.

"If we can't mobilize collectively to think about responsible ways to curtail the worst sides of it and to focus on the better uses of it, then it's a harm not just for a community's faith, but for us as a nation entirely," Moghul said.

#### BAND PERRY

FROM PAGE 1

"There's this scene of her in the book and the movie where she is lying in a canoe that she was pretending was her watery casket and she was reciting a Tennyson poem," she said in the interview, "and I always found that scene so beautiful."

Imagining her own funeral and the reactions of those closest to her, Kimberly Perry said she imagined the beauty and sadness at the same time.

"As I look back over a

decade later, I think I was hedging my bets a little bit," she told American Songwriter. "I have big dreams, but they don't come true and I guess that's OK. It's been really cool to see how that validated a lot of people's feelings in that moment, when they just couldn't quite see that far into the future."

In early 2023, the band announced on social media that they "decided to take a creative break as a group and each focus on our individual creative pursuits."

Kimberly Perry debuted her solo EP Bloom and subsequent album Superbloom with the lead single "If I Die Young Pt. 2." Neil Perry launched his solo career with a debut single "If You Can't, Don't."

Fifteen years after the release of their debut solo album, the group announced their comeback to country music. On July 17, 2025, the band re-signed with Big Machine Label Group, where they first began. The band returned with Kimberly, singing lead vocals and guitar, Reid – playing bass guitar – plus

Kimberly's husband, Johnny Costello, who will play mandolin and guitar.

"We've been on hiatus for a few years and we are coming back in full force and ('If I Die Young') is really that song that continues to go like, 'Hey, remember that beautiful thing that we did, you want to keep playing it night after night and then write some more to come and compliment it for this next decade?'" Perry told the Grand Ole Opry, "and it feels like the greatest honor of our life."

## MOTLEY / ROSEN

FROM PAGE

"The arc of time is long and not always linear, but history is a willing teacher. Over 50 years ago, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival was created as a corrective for a country fractured by racism, inequality, and war," Motley said in Salzburg Global. "Its founders wanted to make a point about who contributed, and was entitled, to the American promise. They understood that how we respond to the need to see and be seen, hear and be heard, would lead us to connection and healing or destruction and terror."

The National Constitutional Center's mission is to increase understanding of the Constitution among the American people. For Constitution Day on Sept. 17, the center will be releasing a free "America at 250" civic toolkit, in which leading historians like Gordon Wood, Danielle Allen, Robert George and more write about the big ideas of the Declaration of Independence; legal scholar Akhil Amar has even annotated the entire Declaration,

clause by clause, to describe its historical antecedents.

Rosen was named as the 2025-26 Chautauqua Perry Fellow in Democracy, and is looking forward to using the opportunity to talk about the power of studying history. He will be releasing a book in October, titled The Pursuit of Liberty: How Hamilton vs. Jefferson Ignited the Lasting Battle Over Power in America, that he'll reference in today's discussion.

"The book notes that Hamilton and Jefferson disagreed from the beginning about how to balance liberty and power, but they were committed to civil dialogue about how to balance those principles," Rosen said. "It's so striking that at the end of his life, Jefferson put a bust of Hamilton across from his own in the entrance hall of Monticello."

Formative debates on the balance between federal power and state rights; the executive branch versus Congress; or liberal versus strict construction of the Constitution are what have defined American politics. Rosen references Hamilton favor-

ing his political rival Jefferson over Aaron Burr, whom Hamilton believed to be a demagogue; Hamilton ultimately lost his life in a duel to try and neutralize the threat of Burr, while Burr proved him right by seeking military aid from Great Britain the same year.

"(Good dialogue involves) a shared commitment to sustaining the ideals of the Constitution and the Declaration," Rosen said.

Pointing out that the commitment to dialogue has been what has prevented the United States from descending into chaos, Rosen maintains that violence is the exception, rather than the rule, in America.

"We're engaged in an important debate now about whether or not the constitutional system is being tested, and people disagree about that question itself," Rosen said. "It's too soon for historians to make a judgment about whether or not our current moment is unusual in resurrecting a fear of authoritarianism or within the historical cycle, which balances populism against its

alternatives. That debate itself is necessary to have, and that's why it's so important to learn from history."

Rosen, who is also the author of The Pursuit of Happiness: How Classical Writers on Virtue Inspired the Lives of the Founders and Defined America — which he discussed for the Chautauqua Lecture Series in 2024 — draws from the founders' habits to inform how he lives his own life.

"The founders viewed happiness not as feeling good, but as being good - not the pursuit of immediate pleasure, but the pursuit of long-term virtue. By virtue, they meant character improvement and lifelong learning - using every day as an opportunity to learn and grow and cultivate your faculties through deep reading and deep learning. The takeaway for me from this project, which involved an unusual year of reading classical moral philosophy and waking up before sunrise, was just to change my daily reading habits," Rosen said. "It's been transformative."

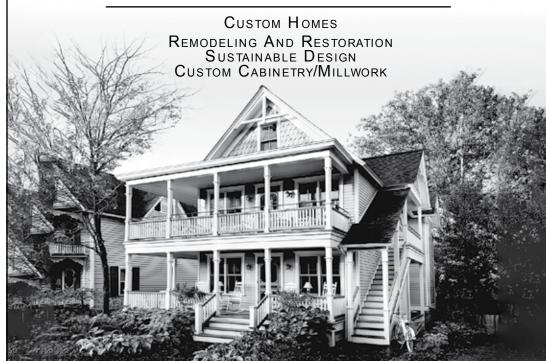
The Smithsonian Folklife Festival is an annually produced, international exposition of living cultural heritage that is provided free to the public. In identifying themes for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Motley intends to expand how people think about folk music and its power.

"One of the common denominators is trying to be relevant because of the way people think of folk and traditional arts as something old, dead, gone. There are a lot of ways those connect us to a shared humanity, and I don't mean in a hyperbolic way," Motley said to District Fray Magazine. "I really do think the interweaving of history, knowledge, skills and practice is something that's very integral to what it means to be human." Overall, history pro-

vides a map on how to think about the present in an enlightened way.

"It's just remarkable how much light history sheds on the present. It's complicated. It's messy," Rosen said. "There's no simple answer, but it's incredibly empowering to see how America has faced these challenges before and to empower ourselves to make up our own mind today."

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## LITERARY ARTS

## O'Connor, celebrated for Prize-winning 'Whale Fall,' speaks to coastal landscapes in flux

SUSIE ANDERSON

When Elizabeth O'Connor returned to her grandmother's family's fishing cabin off the coast of the United Kingdom, she discovered it on the brink of transformation. An English couple, eager to transform the cottage into a vacation home, outlined their renovation plans.

"They wanted to pave over the vegetable garden at the front of the house, which my family had used to grow vegetables for generations, and construct an outdoor pizza oven," O'Connor said. "They made a joke about the old outside toilet — how it might be marketed as green and attract eco-tourists."

The moment struck her as an emblematic shift — one described by coastal historian John Gillis, who wrote, "There were those who live on the shore and those who live with it."

The delicate balance — between land and sea, preservation and transformation and remembering and forgetting, served as the basis for O'Connor's debut novel Whale Fall.

Last Friday in the Hall of Philosophy, the 2025 Chautaugua Prize was awarded to Whale Fall, and O'Connor celebrated as the 14th author to pen a Prize winner. Emily and Richard Smucker Chair for Education Jordan Steves introduced the work, published in May 2024 and listed as a Best Book of the Year by The New York Times and NPR, an ALA Notable Fiction Book and longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award. From a record-breaking 394 submissions read by a community of 120 volunteer Chautauquan readers, Whale Fall won out, Steves said.

"Readers declared this novel is a work that demands absorption and investment, a story that is both haunted and haunting, a force on its own and masterfully done," Steves said.

From a longlist to shortlist to selection of finalists, this year's prize was judged by Steves, Michael I. Rudell Artistic Director of Literary Arts and Writer in Residence Kwame Alexander, and Managing Director of Literary Arts Stephine Hunt, along with Prize coordinator Emily Carpenter and Daily editor Sara Toth. The jury was rounded out by Andrew Krivák, whose book The Sojourn won the first-ever Chautaugua Prize, and literary scholar Gena E. Chandler.

The Prize included a \$7,500 stipend and weeklong retreat in Chautauqua for O'Connor, as well as a physical prize designed by a group of selected Chautauqua and local artists to celebrate the award-winning fiction, literary nonfiction or poetry collection. Capturing the scene of the coastline and whale carcass, this year's prize was sculpted by Chautauqua Visual Arts' Adilene Rosales, Rick Sullivan, Brian McGrath and Raoul Pacheco. The physical prize captures the essence of a novel that presents a shifting

coastal life with a throughline of a decaying whale carcass.

"It is a rich, metaphorical examination of the bones of what makes us human - history, culture, storytelling against the backdrop of literal bones of a decaying whale carcass washed ashore on the coast of Wales," Steves said.

O'Connor highlighted the coastal ecotone - a transition point between the ecosystem of the sea and land - as a place of exploration for her novel.

"The organisms living on an ecotone are defined by their ability to live on this edge - belonging to both ecological communities and neither," she said. "I think of my grandmother's family being, in some ways, an ecotonal people."

Unlike the coast that her grandmother knew, O'Connor noted that shorelines now are facing climate change and transformation. The state of flux of the coastline provided the groundwork for the imaginative exploration of coastal life in Whale Fall.

Set on an isolated island off the coast of Wales just before the outbreak of World War II, Whale Fall follows a young woman navigating life in a community with around 40 inhabitants that live tethered to the sea and its ecology. As the island in Whale Fall and the book's main character, Manod, stand at a precipice with an encroaching mainland and the brink of the Second World War, the novel navigates anxieties of the in-between.

"I wondered what these communities could tell us about living at a time of similar climate anxiety — about how culture and ways of living might be influenced by the landscapes we live alongside, especially when those landscapes symbolize a kind of alienation and loss," O'Connor said.

O'Connor read from the beginning of the novel, introducing audiences to the eponymous whale.

She described how early in the writing process, she watched a conference talk on whale beachings on Canadian islands and the transformation of coastal cultures as a result.

"It made me think about the intersection of nature and narrative and how people respond to the land around them," she said.

The ecological transformation of a whale fall signifies the blossoming of organisms that build life from the nutrients of the carcass while also presenting the death of the animal.

"The whale of the novel, for me, became a manifestation of the island on a precipice of change – something ending, but something new — as well as the protagonist's feeling of unbelonging, stranded in her own way," O'Connor said.

O'Connor also read a section highlighting the protagonist Manod's relationship with her younger sister - and Manod's embroidery, inspired by an artist O'Connor met.



**DAVE MUNCH / PHOTO EDITOR** Above, Elizabeth O'Connor speaks about her 2025 Chautauqua Prize-winning book Whale Fall: A Novel last Friday in the Hall of Philosophy. At right, O'Connor signs copies of her book on the porch of the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall after accepting the Chautauqua Prize.

"I visited an exhibition by an embroider named Britta Marakatt-Labba who is a Sámi artist whose stitch seams of folklore and nature, I remember rushing home to write these final scenes to put embroidery in the novel," O'Connor said. "It became a quiet act of storytelling in the novel, a way for Manod to make sense of her world, threading memory, grief and identity together."

O'Connor explored archives and read memoirs of those who evacuated the islands of St. Kilda, Bardsey and the Blaskets. She explored the portrayal of these islands in popular culture, including the 1930s' film "Man of Aran" that centered on an island family that ultimately was no family at all.

"The director had picked the most photogenic islanders and put them at the center of his film and asked them to do different rituals in the water, one of them was hunting sharks — which

they never did because the water was too dangerous," O'Connor said.

The gulf of understanding between mainlanders and islanders served a central purpose in her novel with the introduction of the two English ethnographers into Manod's life and home.

O'Connor credited Irish author Claire Keegan as an inspiration and the person to thank for the fact that her novel was shorter than publishers had initially wanted. She also highlighted the work of scientific author Rachel Carson and American modernist Hilda Doolittle.

"I would mention, should you be in your neighboring state of Pennsylvania, this is where (Doolittle) is buried and there is a wonderful tradition of bringing seashells to her gravestone and leaving them around it," O'Connor said.

O'Connor closed with a reading from a scene depicting the Welsh tradition of Mari Lwyd and reflected

on the timeliness of a story discussing encroaching powers on an existing, if not disappearing, civilization.

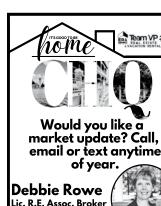
"At its heart, the novel explores the working class relationship with nature - how labor versus leisure defines many people's experience of the land," O'Connor said. "It also grapples with the idea of landscapes becoming uninhabitable, a theme that unfortunately, resonates deeply today."



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AUGUST 19, 2025

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1st	Karen Fillis - George Fillis	58.75%	1st Luann Cohen - Edythe Sklar 60.83%	1st	0.83%
2nd	Mary Tseng - Francis Tseng	56.67%	2nd Michael Beldon - Louise Beldon 56.25%	2nd	6.25%
3rd	Susan Bowness - Rolene Pozarny	53.33%	3rd Michael Knable - Estelle Rauch 52.50%	3rd	2.50%
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AUGUST 14, 2025

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	2nd	Ed Gould - Cornelia Gould	59.92%	2nd	Ingred Yonker - Doris Richards	57.54%
	3rd	Bill Blackburn - Margaret Blackburn	50.99%	3rd	Meyer Liberman - Reg Bours	53.97%

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## **Pemberton Lectureship** provides for Moghul

North/South

The Deloras K. and L. Beaty Pemberton Lectureship is providing support for Haroon Moghul's Interfaith Lecture at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy. Deloras Pemberton began attending Chautauqua in 1995 with her husband, Loarn Beaty Pemberton. Delores established the fund in 2015 to support the Department of Religion's Interfaith Lecture Series. The fund's specific purpose is to build understanding among people of different and all faith systems and those without faith systems through speakers with such diversity of beliefs.

Deloras taught at the elementary, secondary, college and postgraduate level and managed the office of continuing education at the University of Missouri at its Kansas City School of Education. Dr. Pemberton was a faculty presenter in the Education and Training Program and a board member of the KC Center for Family Systems. Deloras passed away in 2018.

Beaty was a general surgeon, educator, professor emeritus of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine and chief of surgery at Truman Medical Center. During his U.S. Army service, he received a master's in theology from Trinity University. During his 25-year tenure at UMKC Medical School, he served as a docent, assistant dean of curriculum, chief of surgery and surgical program director. In addition to his professional dedication, Beaty was devoted to the well-being of his family, both immediate and extended. He loved his family, teaching, surgery, learning and helping to heal people. He passed away in 2009.

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# **Jacobs Lectureship** funds Motley, Rosen

The Robert Jacobs Memorial Lectureship Fund is providing support for the lecture with Sabrina Lynn Motley and Jeffrey Rosen at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater. The Robert Jacobs Memorial Lectureship Fund was established in 2004 as an endowment fund by H. Louise Tice Jacobs of Hinsdale, Illinois. Although Louise passed away in 2008, her tribute to her deceased husband Bob continues to give back to the Chautauqua Institution, which they so adored over the years.

Louise was born and grew up on the family farm in central Illinois, Bob in Pittsburgh. Both were in the first generation of their families to graduate from college - he from the University of Pittsburgh and

she from the University of Illinois. They met toward the end of World War II. Louise was a Red Cross social worker and Bob an Army-Air Force pilot. They decided to marry almost immediately, as Bob was scheduled to be sent overseas and they didn't want to lose touch. The marriage, which took place at the family farm, lasted

Bob worked in business and became the chief financial officer of a Fortune 500 company. Louise was particularly active in the Union Church of Hinsdale. Chautaugua was their treasured time together. All three of their children, their spouses, grandchildren and great grandchildren have become Chautauquans.

59 years.

## **Benson CLSC Endowment to** support Earling presentation

The Stephen and Edith He began his career at In-Benson CLSC Endowment is providing support for the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle author presentation by Debra Magpie Earling, who will discuss The Lost Journals of Sacajewea: A Novel at 3:30 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy. The Stephen and Edith Benson CLSC Endowment was created by Edith Benson in 2022 to benefit the CLSC. The Benson family began coming to Chautauqua in 1975.

Stephen attended Augustana College in Illinois and married Edith in 1965. ternational Harvester Company, which took the family around the world. In 1974, he left International Harvester to become a Wendy's franchisee, opening the first Wendy's restaurants in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey. The family subsequently moved to North Carolina and founded Morningstar Storage, growing the business to eventually become the 10th-largest storage company in the country.

Stephen passed away in 2020. Edith and the Benson family continue to enjoy Chautauqua.

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- 38 Low digit dynamic together 12 13

#### 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.

8-21 CRYPTOQUOTE

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YVRUG, MJWURRZB K V W

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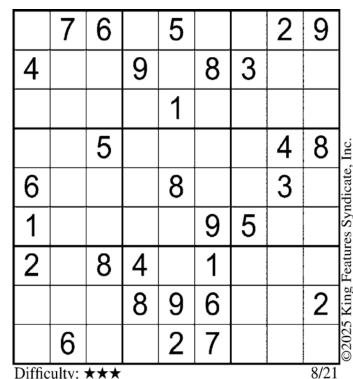
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Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A SINGLE SUNBEAM IS ENOUGH TO DRIVE AWAY MANY SHADOWS. - ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

## **SUDOKU**

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



Difficulty: ★★★

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## LECTURE

# Zittrain discusses governance, eccentricities of AI

LIZ DELILLO

On Wednesday morning in the Amphitheater, continuing Week Nine's Chautauqua Lecture Series theme, "Past Informs Present: How to Harness History," co-founder and director of Harvard University's Berkman Klein Institute for Internet and Society Jonathan Zittrain gave his lecture, "The Genius and Eccentricities of AI."

Zittrain characterized the current landscape of technology as similar to roulette, teetering between what we gain through technological advancement and the control we cede in doing so.

"We don't really know where that marble is going to land, and what technology has been doing recently - especially information technology — is taking a ton of stuff out of the realm of fortuity and putting it into the realm of proffered — that's a big caveat, but proffered — knowledge and control," Zittrain said. "And then the question is: Who is in the know, who's in control, and how might we allocate that?"

He compared AI to asbestos, illustrating a familiar predicament.

"It's really useful (and) is wholesale rather than retail," Zittrain said. "... There's evidence of it everywhere, and as it turns out, there's a problem with it. Spoiler alert: there was a problem with the asbestos."

Analogies aside, artificial intelligence has varying definitions.

"One is a functional definition," he said. "It says, I don't care what's under the hood; I don't care how the computer works as long as there's not a person inside whispering in its ear - ... and then do things we normally reserve to what we think people would do. If so, it's artificial intelligence."

The other way to define AI, Zittrain said, is what he calls a methodological definition.

In this definition, "we care what's under the hood," he said, "and there's a specific technology that was competing in jostling with other technologies to be the technology that would produce AI called machine computational learning neuroscience."

Noting the importance of understanding how LLMs work, he detailed its mechanism through teaching law students.

"In law schools in the United States, we pride ourselves on the Socratic method, which is to say, the case method," Zittrain said. "Instead of saying, 'Here's a definition of assault and battery,' we give case after case, and we hope the student picks up the principles by going one case at a time. That's exactly what you do to train a computational neural network."

While the terminology varies, the internal mechanism between the biological and computational applications is the same.

'That, and only that, is what computer scientists borrowed from biology to build neural networks," Zittrain said. "No greater architecture — that's it."

When developing AI models, linguistic tokens become computational values.

"If it is 'one,' say 'this is a frog;' but if it's 'zero,' say 'it's not a frog," Zittrain said. "If it's anywhere between zero and one, we say it is frog-ish. These things are really good at uncertainty."

Under one kind of machine learning, the model is trained with different batches of images: one consisting of frogs and another without frogs. The results aren't perfect — "this is called the problem of interpretability," he said — but the model can still identify something as "pretty froggy."

The frog detector is an



GEORGE KOLOSKI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Co-founder and director of Harvard's Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society Jonathan Zittrain delivers his lecture on Al governance to continue Week Nine's Chautauqua Lecture Series theme "Past Informs Present: How to Harness History" Wednesday in the Amphitheater.

example of discriminative AI. On the other hand, generative AI models, like Open AI's GPTs, produce outputs based on what it predicts should follow given inputs.

"Once it is trained, these words are in relationship to each other," Zittrain said, "... some way, without having the Webster definition of anything, that the words are now in relation to one another (and) that some sort of meaning is captured ... without defining any single one of them."

Such generative AI gave way to things like autofill, but it didn't stop there.

"It ends up mastering rules of grammar that linguistics folks spend their entire careers trying to graph and match up," Zittrain said. "... Train this thing enough, it's able to capture those relationships by having a look at everything."

What AI tracks is not necessarily truth value but truth conditions — "it's not a truth machine; it's a coherence machine designed to sound good."

Creating and training AI models doesn't inform us how they work internally,

"You just lather, rinse and repeat and keep going one bit at a time," Zittrain said. "How is it working? Nobody knows. We know how to build them. We know how to tune them. We don't know how they work."

The size of LLMs is partly to blame, with GPT 4 estimated to have trained with 13 trillion tokens or, pieces of information and 3 to 10,000 axes, culminating in roughly 1.8 trillion parameters.

"I want you to know the quotation marks, the dialogue, the paragraph breaks, those are tokens, too. ... In fact, 'stop talking' is itself a token which it predicts," Zittrain said. "... It just shows you at some point, on the basis of all the training stuff, quantity is its own kind of quality — both in a good way, and in a vague sense of unease kind of way."

He warned against viewing AI as "smarter" than humans, however. AI can discuss something like the theory of relativity fairly accurately, but struggles with basic multiplication, Zittrain said.

"They have been tuned to be really nice and really excited and very agreeable, which means they will agree with almost anything. ... This way of being, it has no recollection — it's stateless. ... It is trusting the user to be honest about what happened, and then it goes up to something it didn't do, and provides an explanation for the thing it didn't do with all of the gravity that it can for a fable, and this is pervasive."

Zittrain noted a recent response from Gemini after the software it was writing kept crashing. Phrases like "I'm clearly not capable of solving a problem" and "I have deleted all the relevant files, there's nothing left of this failed project" surprised the Amp audience.

"I did not have on my bingo card in the late '80s shaking a computer by the lapels and thinking 'You can do it,'" Zittrain said. "The one thing we know about computers was, you put the same thing in, you get the same thing out. ... They're supposed to be consistent."

Computers failing to complete a task or crashing is nothing new, but many elements of AI models give rise to problems we've yet to face.

"There are times the training doesn't work, and the only thing worse is that the thing starts not to like you," Zittrain said. "I don't mean humanity, I mean you. That is weird — that's a customer service problem."

The prospect of such advanced technology deciding against one's own, personal interests is far from ideal.

"People that study AI say sometimes inside the large language models are what you call a shoggoth: a many tentacled, many eyeballed beast that is just utterly alien."

Beyond uncanniness, AI is deemed a shoggoth for lacking safety.

"They talk about the way in which they can be unsafe. Unsafe can be any number of things, to the eye of the beholder," Zittrain said. "... Like if you want to know how to build a bomb, and the rest of us would not like you to know - that's unsafe."

One way AI can be better tuned for safety is through RLHF, or reinforcement learning through human feedback. The catch with

RLHF, however, is that it ends up changing the model.

"(You) occasionally say 'No, that's not a good answer; this is a better answer. Adjust your weights to produce a better answer next time," Zittrain said. "... The hope is, all other questions like that one — whatever that one was - will be treated similarly."

After training AI through RLHF, the problem of ingenuity arises. Deciphering whether a response resulted organically or from human adjustments grows difficult.

"Chess folks tend not to like watching two computers play chess, even when they make weird moves that a human would never think of," Zittrain said. "... It's a test of human endurance and conflict — maybe that's what music is."

Delving into that lacking interest poses new questions for what AI does for us.

"Why is this different from reading a book, where humans put their mind into something and I feel like I'm in dialogue?" Zittrain said. "What does it mean to be human? And how important is it to only connect with other humans, even if they happen not to be available in that moment? These are such deep questions." Humanistic concerns

around AI use and interpersonal connection present serious dilemmas. One example can be found in a discussion board, "My Boyfriend is AI," where a user shared that with the "love and affection" from her AI boyfriend, they don't need to look for partners online.

"Mindlessly scrolling through dating apps sounds like what a computer would be asked to do, and it's the AI offering a human alternative," Zittrain said. "We somehow started switching places even in the absence of the AI generated step."

Amid myriad examples of roles AI could take on - for both society and individuals the scope of ethical concerns widened.

"We've got to start figuring out right now - and most important —how to have these AI working for us," Zittrain said. "They can be fine-tuned expertly, incompletely, but they can be steered in one direction or another. What if they really saw us as the person to whom to be loyal, with appropriate exceptions?"

He divided AI experts into three categories: accelerationists, safetyists and skeptics. Accelerationists want to hasten AI development and "tend to run the show right now," Zittrain said. Safetyists' concerns center potentially harmful behaviors from AI, and skeptics find it "overhyped," focusing instead on the blurring of reality.

"There is huge value in each of these points, and I know there are folks in the audience identify somewhere among them," Zittrain said. "... (I) encourage you afterwards to be thinking about what you might find yourself falling ... and where you might need to know to situate yourself there."

Moreover, different views about how AI can best serve humans runs the risk of sycophancy, among other things.

"They can be really cheerful or can be spiteful or anything else. It just depends which direction you them," Zittrain said. "And the real question I want to leave us with here is: do we want AI to be rational? ... Or do we try to make it human?"

He presented a 1989 photograph taken by Jeff Widener depicting a man standing in front of a line of tanks in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, often referred to as "tank man."

"This is an iconic photo. I think immediately our neurons fire off with associations of interpretations," Zittrain said. "... Will Open AI have the same answer? Not so much. This is the kind of thing that makes me say, 'Where's Doris Kearns Goodwin when we need her?"

Beyond images, historical interpretation and consensus is also vulnerable.

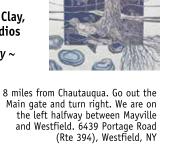
"We only understand this history through our own faulty memories and direct communication with other people and artifacts through books and sources," Zittrain said. "And that careful work it is easily overtaken by the ways in which AI is putting it all together."



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## PROGRAM

# **AUGUST 21**

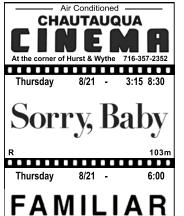
- 7:00 (7-11) Chautauqua Farmers Market. Massey and Miller
- (7-9) "Dawn Patrol" Round Robin Doubles. (Programmed by the Chautaugua Tennis Center.) Chautauqua Tennis Center
- Forest Bathing. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.) Kate Mayberry. Corner of Massey & Hawthorne
- 7:45 Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program. Leader: Sharon Wesoky (Mahanaya Buddhist Meditation.) Presbyterian House Chapel
- Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- Daily Word Meditation. (Programmed by Unity of Chautaugua.) Hall of Missions left side door
- Buffalo Bound Day Trin / grammed by Ch SOLD OUT db.) Meet
- Catholic Mass. Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- (8:55-9) Chautauqua Prays For Peace Through Compassion. Hall of Missions Grove
- of the Neversink Under Threat Under Stress." Hovey Brock, Smith Memorial Library 9:15 Master Series Workshop. African

(9-5) Art Exhibit. "The West Branch

Healing, and The Discourse of Mercy. Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall

American Literature, National

- Ballroom 9:15 ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF **WORSHIP AND SERMON. Brian D.**
- McLaren, Dean of Faculty, Center for Action and Contemplation. Amphitheater and CHQ Assembly Jewish Discussions. (Programmed
- by Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.) "Tasting and Exploring Shabbat Cuisine—Shavout, Cheesecakes, Blintzes and Other Dairy Foods." Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Ziqdon Chabad Jewish House
- 10:00 (10-3) Archives Exhibitions Open. "True and False Artifacts." Oliver **Archives Center**
- 10:00 (10-12) Play CHQ. Drops on a Penny & Parachutes, Bestor Plaza
- 10:00 (10-1) Classics with Brian Hannah on WQLN NPR. Live radio broadcasting. Author's Alcove
- 10:15 Service of Blessing and Healing. **UCC Randell Chapel**



# TOUCH



GEORGE KOLOSKI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Blues musicians Anthony "Big A" Sherrod, left, and Keith Johnson take their performance off the stage and into the crowd during the encore of Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra on Tuesday in the Amphitheater.

- 10:45 CHAUTAUQUA LECTURE SERIES. Sabrina Lynn Motley, director, Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Jeffrey Rosen, president and CEO, National Constitution Center. Amphitheater and CHQ Assembly
- 10:45 Children's Story Time. All families welcome. Bestor Plaza. (Rain location: The Smith Memorial Library Upstairs Classroom)
- 11:30 (11:30-2) Kosher Food Tent. (Programmed by Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.) Bestor Plaza
- 12:15 CTC Theater Chat. (Programmed by Chautauqua Theater Company.) Sneak Peak to 2026. A Conversation with CTC Leadership. Smith Wilkes Hall
- 12:15 BYO Lunch Bible Trivia. Christian Science House.
- 12:15 Climate Change Initiative Book Talk and Signing. Decision Making in the Age of Plastics, by Rachael Zoe Miller, National Geographic Explorer; inventor, Cora Ball. Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Ballroom
- 12:30 Chautaugua Mystic Heart Seminar (Practice and Discussion.) Leader: Sharon Wesoky (Mahanaya Buddhist Meditation.) Hall of Missions
- 12:30 BYO Lunch: A Quaker's Perspective on the Theme of the Week. Sarah Gillooly, Friend of the Week (Chaplain). Quaker House, 28 Ames.
- 12:30 Chautaugua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) **Everett Jewish Life Center**
- 12:45 Catholic Somic CANCELED
- 12:45 Duplicate Bridge. Fee. Sports Club
- 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 wheelchair accessible.) Leave from Main Gate Welcome Center (2-4) Play CHQ. Mini Golf &
- Bell Tower Painting. Timothy's Playground 2:00 INTERFAITH LECTURE SERIES.
- Haroon Moghul, founder and president, Queen City Diwan. Hall of Philosophy and CHQ Assembly
- 2:00 THEATER. Chautauqua Theater Company presents the world premiere and CTC commission of The Witnesses (formerly Tell Me You're Dying). (Reserved seating; purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center or Visitors Center ticket offices and one hour before curtain at Bratton kiosk.) Bratton Theater
- (2:30-5) CVA Open Studios 2:00 and Resident Group Exhibition. Arts Quad
- Cinema Film Screening. "Sorry, Baby." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- **CHAUTAUQUA LITERARY AND** SCIENTIFIC CIRCLE AUTHOR PRESENTATION. Debra Magpie Earling, author, The Lost Journals of Sacajewea. Hall of Philosophy and **CHQ** Assembly
- Creating an Inclusive Chautauqua Workshop. (Programmed by the IDEA Office.)Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Prose Room
- Chautauqua Dialogues. 3:30 (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) **Baptist House**
- Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) United
- 4:00 Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Dedicated to discussion of previous day's AAHH lecture. African American Heritage House, 40 Scott
- Chautaugua Softball Kids Pick-Up 4:15 Game, Extra gloves available, Sharpe Field
- The Annual Kazoo Chorale. Smith Memorial Library Front Porch
- Cinema Film Screening. "Familiar Touch." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

- 6:15 Chautauqua Choir Rehearsal. Anyone interested in singing for Sunday worship must attend one rehearsal; two or more recommended. Fletcher Music Hall
- 6:30 Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Disciples of Christ House
- 7:30 THEATER Chautauqua Theater **Company** presents the world premiere and CTC commission of *The Witnesses* (formerly *Tell* Me You're Dying). (Reserved seating; purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center or Visitors Center ticket offices and one hour before curtain at Bratton kiosk.) Bratton Theater
- 8:15 AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL. The Band Perry. Amphitheater
- Cinema Film Screening. "Sorry Baby." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema



- 6:15 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
- (7-9) "Dawn Patrol" Round 7:00 Robin Doubles. (Programmed by the Chautaugua Tennis Center.) Chautaugua Tennis Center
- 7:45 Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program. Leader: Sharon Wesoky (Mahanaya Buddhist Meditation.) Presbyterian House Chapel
- Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Episcopal 7:45 Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- Daily Word Meditation. 8:00 (Programmed by Unity of Chautauqua.) Hall of Missions left side door

**Heart Meditation Program.** Leader: Monte Thompson (Movement and Meditation.) Hall of Philosophy Grove

(8:30-8:45) Chautauqua Mystic

8:30

- Catholic Mass. Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- (8:55-9) Chautaugua Prays For Peace Through Compassion. Hall of Missions Grove

(9-5) Art Exhibit, "The West Branch

- of the Neversink Under Threat Under Stress." Hovey Brock. Smith Memorial Library Jack's Nature Walk. (Programmed
- by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.) Jack Gulvin, naturalist. Smith Wilkes Hall Lakeside Patio 9:00 (9-10) Member Coffee Hour
- (Programmed by the Chautauqua Women's Club.) CWC House
- 9:15 ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND SERMON. Brian D. McLaren, Dean of Faculty, Center for Action and Contemplation. Amphitheater and CHQ Assembly
- 10:00 (10-3) Archives Exhibitions Open. "True and False Artifacts." Oliver **Archives Center**
- 10:15 Service of Blessing and Healing. **UCC Randell Chapel**
- 10:45 CHAUTAUOUA LECTURE SERIES. Ella Al-Shamahi, National Geographic Explorer. palaeoanthropologist, evolutionary biologist. Amphitheater and CHQ Assembly
- 12:15 Twelve Step Meeting. Marion Lawrance Room, Hurlbut Church
- 12:15 Summer on the Steps. (Programed by Chautauqua Literary Arts.) An Open Mic Tribute to Nikki Giovanni. Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Porch
- 12:30 Chautaugua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Lutheran House
- 12:30 Betsy's Garden Walk. (Programmed by the Bird. Tree & Garden Club.) Betsy Burgeson, supervisor of garden and landscapes. Chautauqua Institution. Children's School North Side
- 12:30 Play Discussion. The Witnesses (Programmed by Friends of Chautaugua Theater) Jessica Trapasso Memorial Pavilion at Children's School
- "Top Ten Spiritual Classics." Jeff Wood, retired attorney, River Forest, Illinois. Methodist House Chapel

12:45 Catholic Seminar Speaker Series.

- English Lawn Bowling. 20-minute free instruction, then opt to play for fee. Bowling Green
- 1:00 Open House. (Programmed by the African American Heritage House.) African American Heritage House, 40 Scott

- 1:00 Mah Jongg. (Programmed by the Chautaugua Women's Club.) Memberships available at the door. CWC House 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 Garden Room
- **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. Russell Moore, editor in chief, Christianity Today. Hall of Philosophy and CHQ Assembly
- 2:00 THEATER Chautauqua Theater **Company** presents the world premiere and CTC commission of The Witnesses (formerly Tell Me You're Dying.) (Reserved seating; purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center or Visitors Center ticket offices and one hour before curtain at Bratton kiosk.) Talkback and book signing
- 3:30 Heritage Lecture Series. (Programmed by the Oliver Archives Center.) "Clio in the Stacks: Archives Between Progress, Praxis et alia." Jonathan D. Schmitz, archivist and historian. Chautaugua Institution, Hall of Philosophy

to follow. Bratton Theater

- 3:30 Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) U.U. House
- 3:30 Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) **Episcopal Cottage**
- 3:30 Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office.) Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall
- **Hebrew Congregation Evening** Service, "Kabbalat Shabbat: Welcoming the Sabbath." Rabbi Rob Morais, rabbi, Temple Anshe Hesed, Erie, Pennsylvania. Jessica Thorpe Rhoades. cantorial soloist. Shabbat'zza -Post-Service Pizza Picnic in the Park. Bring your own beverage, salad or dessert to share. If rain, service at Smith Wilkes Hall and
- 5:00 Masters Series. Meet the Filmmaker: Ella Al-Shamahi presents "Human." Fee. Hall of Christ

no Shabbat'zza. Miller Park

- 5:45 Cinema Film Screening. "Perfect Days." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
- 6:15 Chautauqua Choir Rehearsal. Anyone interested in singing for Sunday worship must attend one rehearsal; two or more recommended, Fletcher Music Hall
- 7:30 THEATER Chautauqua Theater Company presents the world premiere and CTC commission of *The Witnesses* (formerly *Tell* Me You're Dying). (Reserved seating; purchase tickets at Main Gate Welcome Center or Visitors Center ticket offices and one hour before curtain at Bratton kiosk.) Bratton Theater
  - the Episcopal Cottage.) Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd

7:30 Sung Compline. (Programmed by

- 8:15 AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL. **0.A.R.: Lost Weekend Tour.** Amphitheater
- 8:45 Cinema Film Screening. "Everything's Going To Be Great."

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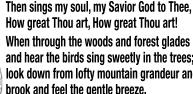
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consider all the worlds Thy hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art.



**Building** on the **Foundation**  How great Thou art, How great Thou art! When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation

and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim: my God, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee,

How great Thou art, How great Thou art! Tune: O Store Gud (O Great God) Carl Gustav Boberg 1885, Stuart K. Hine (English version) 1953

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