

# The Chautauquan Daily

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## SHARING THE SPOTLIGHT

“ONE NIGHT ONLY”

**ROCCO PRIOLETTI**  
STAFF WRITER

There will be no Mozart tonight, although Sutton Foster and Kelli O'Hara's vibrant performance this evening would have even the late composer taking attentive notes on stage presence.

Tonight at 8 p.m. in the Amphitheater, Sutton Foster and Kelli O'Hara star in “One Night Only: An Evening with Sutton Foster & Kelli O'Hara.” The Tony Award-winning performers are accompanied by the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra led by Principal Pops Conductor Stuart Chafetz.

Inspired by Julie Andrews and Carol Burnett's iconic special, “Julie and Carol at Carnegie Hall,” Foster and O'Hara simultaneously pay homage to the actresses while carrying their flame forward in their own way. Together, the actresses spotlight their decades-long friendship on stage through banter-heavy stories and orchestra-backed musical performances.



Sutton and I have made this show personal to our own journeys.”

—**KELLI O'HARA**  
Performer

CHAUTAUQUA AMPHITHEATER / ADMIT ONE

“ONE NIGHT ONLY”

## FOSTER & O'HARA

LIVE AT CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION

Duo to deliver a dynamic, genre-spanning performance

CHAUTAUQUA AMPHITHEATER / ADMIT ONE



FOSTER



O'HARA

## Foster, O'Hara to discuss life, careers in the arts

**ROCCO PRIOLETTI**  
STAFF WRITER

Preceding their 8 p.m. appearance on the Amphitheater stage tonight accompanied by the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, acclaimed actresses Sutton Foster and Kelli O'Hara will deliver the morning lecture at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amp.

Their conversation continues the weeklong theme “Icons and Instigators: Women Who Change the World,” recounting moments in their lives and professional careers that have informed their journey together as performers and peers.

See **LECTURE**, Page 4

See **FOSTER/O'HARA**, Page 4

## Pierce to examine history of spiritual women storytellers

**LILY RESLINK**  
STAFF WRITER

If Yolanda Pierce could make one change to create a more peaceful world, she said it would be “helping others to recognize that because each human being is made in the imago dei (the image and likeness of God), every single person is our neighbor.”

It is this mentality that the womanist theologian will bring to Chautauqua Institution for her 2 p.m. lecture today in the Hall of Philosophy.

“My lecture will focus on the storytelling traditions of women and how

they create spiritual legacies from their stories,” Pierce said.

Pierce will close out Week One of the Interfaith Lecture Series, “Women of Spirit,” with a topic that pulls from her scholarly focuses of theological concepts across time, faith traditions and religious communities.

“The theme chosen by Chautauqua helps us to interrogate women as spiritual workers: ministers, teachers, lay leaders, priests, musicians and griots,” Pierce said.

Pierce became the first female dean of Howard Divinity

School and taught as a professor at Princeton Seminary; she now serves as the dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School.

She is the author of multiple books including *In My Grandmother's House*, a reflection on womanist theology rooted in liberating scriptures which explores issues like race, spirituality, trauma, freedom, resistance and memory, according to her website.

According to a review on Pierce's website from *New York Times* bestselling author Austin Channing Brown, “Within the pages of *In My Grandmother's House*,



Because each human being is made in the imago dei (the image and likeness of God), every single person is our neighbor.”

—**YOLANDA PIERCE**  
Author, *In My Grandmother's House*

Dr. Yolanda Pierce brings to the forefront the titans of faith formation, the holders of theological wisdom, the guides who rarely receive credit from the academy for having crafted a faith that endures: Black grandmothers.

By giving language to the ways Black women have long helped us make sense of the Divine, Dr. Pierce offers us a window into the sacred lives of Black women, at once centering ourselves, our histories and our God.”

See **PIERCE**, Page 4



PIERCE

### IN TODAY'S DAILY

#### 'INVITATION TO IMPACT'

Democratizing women's philanthropy topic of Steele's Chautauqua Women's Club talk.

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#### WOMEN IN SPORTS

Jennings, VanDerveer discuss upbringing, athletic journey in Chautauqua Lecture Series conversation.

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#### 'OPEN THE DOOR, SET THE TABLE'

We need to create pockets of refuge from a world in turmoil, preaches Budde.

Page 5

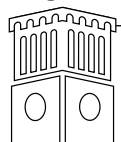


#### 'AHOY-HOY'

Chautauqua Theater Company's 'Ahoi-Hoy' rings in season of New Play Workshops with performance in Bratton Theater.

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TODAY'S WEATHER



H 91° L 74°  
Rain: 4%  
Sunset: 8:58 p.m.

FRIDAY



H 90° L 70°  
Rain: 55%  
Sunrise: 5:46 a.m. Sunset: 8:58 p.m.

SATURDAY



H 85° L 68°  
Rain: 55%  
Sunrise: 5:47 a.m. Sunset: 8:58 p.m.

## COMMUNITY



## 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 Gracie Szablewski 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.

## Chautauqua Softball

Chautauqua Softball League kids' pickup game at 4:15 p.m. today at Sharpe Field. Ages 5-13. Extra gloves available. Contact carriezachry@gmail.com for more information.

## Library News

Today at noon on the Smith Memorial Library porch, meet "Locals at The Library!" authors Lissa Marie Redmond, Fred Zirm and Catherine D'Agostino. At 3:30 in the library, author/illustrator Robin Robbins discusses *Where is Wiley?: A Chautauqua Adventure*, followed by a signing outside the bookstore. At 3:30 on Friday, join author Gary Sirak in conversation with Jane Kerschner about his book, *How to Retire and Not Die*. Signing to follow. Limited seating is first-come, first-served.

## You're invited to join the Chautauqua Choir

Do you love to sing and have some choral experience? The Chautauqua Choir sings for the Sunday morning worship service and the Sunday evening Sacred Song service. A basic ability to read music is needed. Attendance at one (but preferably two or three) of the weeknight rehearsals is required. Rehearsals are 6:15-7:45 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in Fletcher Music Center. No audition is required. New singers should arrive at 6 p.m. to register and be assigned a music folder. Questions? Email choir@chq.org or call 716-357-6321.

### Fine Arts and Fine Crafts by 40 Regionally and Nationally Known Artists Open Year Round

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~ Despina Turnberg, International Curator



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### Thursday at the CINEMA

Thursday, July 2

**H IS FOR HAWK - 2:15 & 8:40** After the sudden death of her father (Brendan Gleeson), Helen (Claire Foy) turns to the ancient art of falconry to navigate her profound loss. As she teaches her goshawk Mabel to hunt and fly free, Helen discovers how deeply she has neglected her own emotions and life. "A career-best for Foy, who will doubtless win many awards. I hope the unnamed bird gets one too." -Deborah Ross, *The Spectator* (PG-13, 115m)

**NO OTHER CHOICE - 5:15** When a man (Lee Byung-Hun) is abruptly laid off by the paper company where he has worked tirelessly for many years, he devises a strategy to secure a new job: he must eliminate his competition. Director Park Chan-wook's deliciously dark comedy is "a zany, all-out crowd-pleaser...exhibits a rare genius with the camera throughout, devising breathtaking shots, zooms and transitions, his cockeyed visual wizardry perfectly matched to the outlandishness of the plot." -Zachary Barnes, *Wall Street Journal* (R, In Korean with subtitles.139m)

### THE CHQ DAILY

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up with the 2026 season at *The Chautauquan Daily* in words, photos, audio and video through our social platforms.



/chqdaily



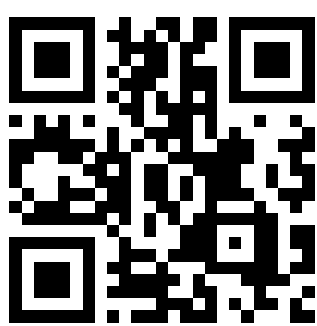
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Add your posts to the conversation using #CHQ.

### SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE CHAUTAUQUAN DAILY



Scan the QR code below and let us know how *The Chautauquan Daily* is doing! Your input will help inform decisions made for the 2027 Chautauqua Summer Season and beyond.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

EVENT	TITLE / SPEAKER	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
PEO Reunion	BYO Lunch on the porch	Today	Noon	Sharon Thawley, 22 Vincent on the Brick Walk

## PREPARING TO OPEN WITH A SPLASH AT HEINZ BEACH



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Above, a lifeguard looks on as a lake weed harvester clears the swimming area at Heinz Beach June 25. A "Big Splash" beach reopening celebration will be held at 4:30 p.m. today. The reopening of Heinz Beach, which has been closed since 2019, was made possible by the generous support of Chautauquans and the leadership of co-beach directors Anna Ertenberg Coats and Derek Hosier. This summer, lifeguards will be on duty everyday from noon to 6 p.m. for swimming. At left, CPOA Waterfront Committee members, from left, Betsy Vance, Laura Dawson, Heather Overton, and Alice Henderson join Interim Chief Executive Kyle Keogh, center, for an inaugural swim June 25 at Heinz Beach after viewing the layout of the swimming area.

## Democratizing women's philanthropy topic of Steele's CWC talk

DEBORAH TREFTS  
STAFF WRITER

Chautauqua Women's Club continues its series of special presentations supplementing Chautauqua Institution's Week One theme, "Icons and Instigators: Women Who Change the World."

At 4 p.m. today in the Athenaeum Parlor, pioneering philanthropist Wendy H. Steele, founder and chief impact officer of Impact100, will present "Invitation to Impact: Lighting the Way Together."

Impact100 Global — the independent women's philanthropic nonprofit organization that launches new and enhances existing Impact100 chapters and has inspired a movement — received silver and gold Anthem Awards for Local Community Engagement, in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

For 25 years, Steele has been democratizing and revolutionizing philanthropy by empowering women to participate collaborative-

ly in what has developed into a global "giving movement ... to instigate change through connection, purpose and shared action."

Having adopted Steele's "model of one woman, one donation, one vote," more than 80 Impact100 chapters in four countries have propelled such change. Her bestselling book, *Invitation to Impact: Lighting the Path to Community Transformation* (2023), includes personal stories and well-honed professional guidance for emerging and existing chapters.

"I grew up in a family that taught me that each of us has a responsibility to leave the world a better place than when we found it," Steele said.

For instance, Steele's inquisitive maternal grandparents "rolled out the red carpet" when she visited them. Her grandmother was an inviting and welcoming hostess who "built a sense of belonging for people" and inspired her to think creatively

about color and design.

Steele's grandfather was a banker who relished "helping people live their best and most financially secure life," and "was proud that during the Great Depression they never foreclosed on a farmer."

So persuasive was he about the good that banks can do for their communities, that when Steele grew up she not only chose his profession but also became a successful senior vice president and regional manager in Michigan before pivoting to philanthropy.

"I decided banking would be something I really enjoyed," she said. "I feel the banking business allowed me to help people."

Steele has been honored with numerous awards and commendations. These include being named a USA Today 2024 Woman of the Year, one of Forbes magazine's 50 women over 50 "leading the world in impact" (2021), a Distinguished Honoree of



STEELE

the Jones Prize in Philanthropy (2020) and the highly coveted Jefferson Award for Public Service (2014).

"I grew up in an unremarkable family," Steele said. "Having this idea and then doing it? The tricky part is walking it out. ... I think the motivation was that I could not get it out of my mind ... Keeping an open mind and not trying to build to something, but instead to the best outcome, can change the game."

## Chautauqua Opera Company opens season with annual Sing-In

LAYLA VINSON  
STAFF WRITER

Across Chautauqua's Performing and Visual Arts programming, there are ample opportunities for Chautauquans to watch artists grow and innovate through their disciplines. June 28 brought Chautauqua Opera Conservatory's annual Sing-In, and 6 p.m. today in Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall brings Chautauqua Opera Company's.

For Chautauqua Opera Company General and Artistic Director Steven Osgood, tonight is the audience's "first chance to hear them sing and say, 'Okay, here are the 16 singers we get to track through the whole season.'"

Tonight, these 16 artists — eight studio artists and eight apprentices — will select a piece of their choice to make their first impression on Chautauqua.

The Sing-In provides artists with the creative freedom to select something from their audition book, which typically consists of roughly five arias ranging in languages and styles demonstrating what they're capable of performing. This contrasts with a typical operatic performance, in which roles are assigned to artists and a program is established.

"That's kind of a superpower of being an opera singer — to have the right book," Osgood said.

Several of the artists expressed great excitement for the event, as it is the sole opportunity they will have during their time at Chautauqua to maintain complete freedom over what they're performing. Soprano and studio artist Faith Adams highlighted her decision to align her performance with

the Week One theme, "Icons & Instigators: Women Who Change the World."

"I think particularly to perform an American composer's work at a time when American audiences really need to hear the message of this show and the message of American amongst evangelicalism being used as a weapon and a tool of oppression," Adams said, referencing her chosen aria from Carlisle Floyd's, *Susannah*. "I think that's a really pertinent theme."

While the artists have gotten the opportunity to know one another on a personal level since arriving at Chautauqua, their vocal introductions to the community and their colleagues have yet to take place.

"We've been in individual coachings a lot, so besides knowing a few people from

before or knowing their work, then I feel like we haven't had a chance to really get to know their music making as much," said returning tenor and apprentice artist Tyrese Byrd.

Aside from the Sing-In and emergent rehearsals for this season's triple-bill production, *The Summer Place*, the first two weeks of the Company's time are highly focused on *Sarah in the Theater*. Renowned composer and librettist of the piece, Mark Adamo, best known for his debut opera *Little Women* will be working alongside artists to bring the piece to life.

"I'm just excited to share the music with people who also enjoy what I do," said bass and apprentice artist Brian Linares, voicing great enthusiasm for the Sing-In and the season ahead. "Any day you get to sing is a good day."

## LECTURE

## Jennings, VanDerveer discuss upbringing, athletic journey

**ARIANNA NEVAREZ**  
STAFF WRITER

Kerri Walsh Jennings and Tara VanDerveer joined together for a conversation at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday in the Amphitheater to continue Chautauqua's Week One Theme "Icons and Instigators: Women Who Change the World." The two talked through Jennings' upbringing, Olympic journey and how she became the athlete she is today.

Jennings stands as one of the most dominant beach volleyball players worldwide and has been recognized for her achievements in the International Volleyball Hall of Fame and U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Hall of Fame. VanDerveer, a lifelong Chautauquan, is the second-winningest coach in NCAA basketball history and coached the 1996 women's basketball Olympic team to gold. The two speakers' paths crossed at Stanford; when VanDerveer coached women's basketball, she attended some of Jennings' beach volleyball matches.

Jennings said she grew up seeing lots of competition in the people she looked up to the most: her parents. She said competitiveness was in her DNA and she played all kinds of sports growing up, but volleyball became her favorite. For Jennings, volleyball was different from other sports because she was playing with people who were like her, girls, and she saw "her voice" represented in the sport.

Using dance as a metaphor for volleyball, Jennings said, "I really love the fact that I started as a bad dancer ... everything felt very poetic, and like a dance, and I just loved repping it out. I never got sick of working on the little things."

VanDerveer then talked about her own relationship with basketball and how it grabbed her the same way volleyball grabbed Jennings. However, VanDerveer said her family never recognized basketball as something that could grow beyond a hobby.

Jennings' parents were athletes, so she said they served as role models for her and pushed her to want more in life, regardless of whether she was interested in sports. Her parents influenced how

she approached her mindset, mentality and emotions following a bad match. Instead of feeling discouraged or disappointed in herself, losses in her sport drove her to want more. Her pressure was self-sourced, but her parents showed her that weakness was simply a place for growth.

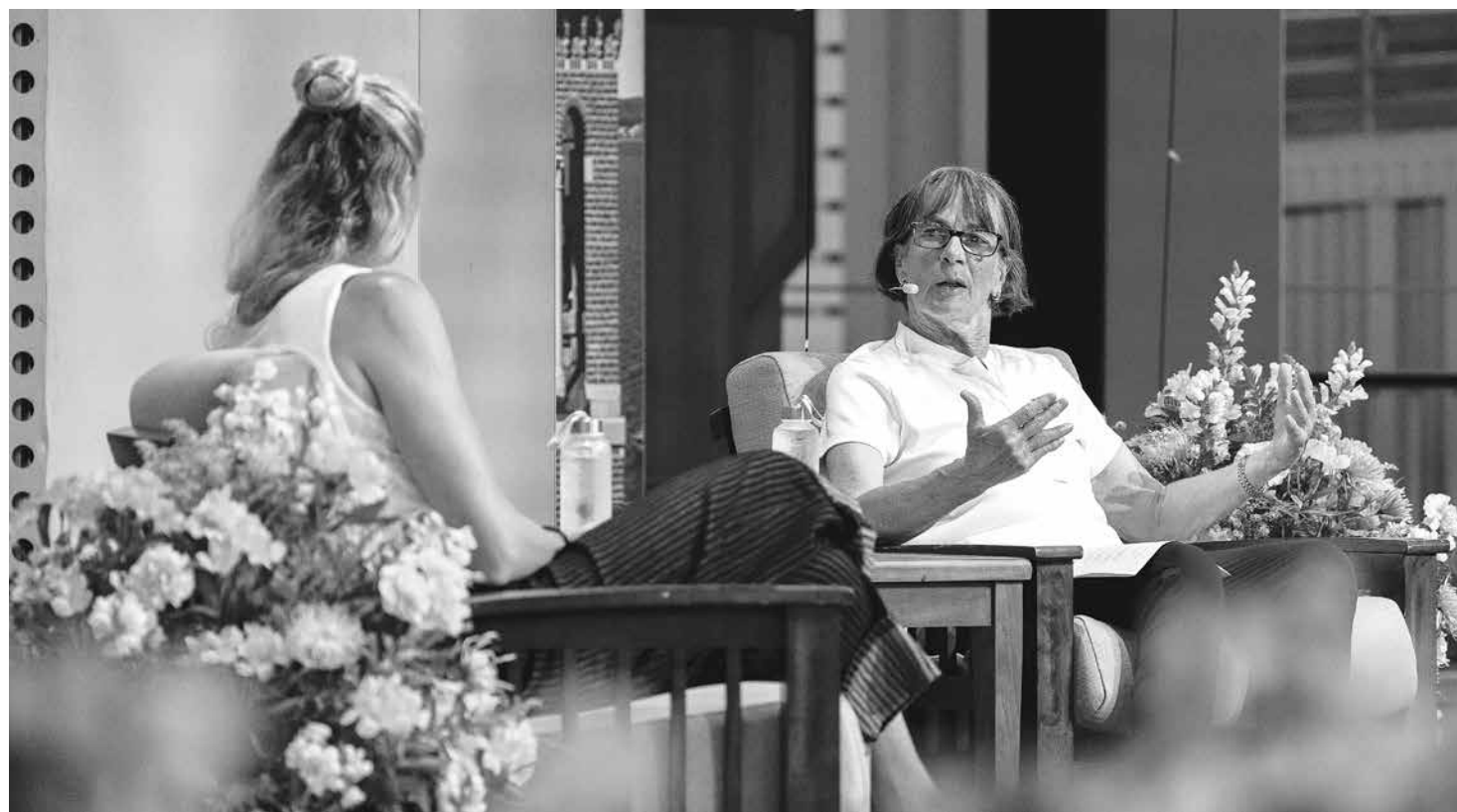
"There's something about the proximity of greatness, the proximity of people who care so much," Jennings said. "... They were very present, and I think ultimately that's what I learned from parents, and being great is that the more you can be in the moment, what you need shows up."

Jennings said she had wonderful coaches throughout her whole career. To her, coaches can make all the difference for athletes because they are crucial to building up the human spirit. She emphasized the need for human connection between coaches and players because, without that, there can be no trust or understanding during hard times.

"The tone you set — the tone we set, as parents and as coaches — to me is everything," Jennings said. "You are the leader, so you're the nervous system of the team ... I was able to be coached very hard if I had a connection with my coach. They could tell me I was terrible. They could tell me I was hurting the team. I could accept it as long as they knew that they cared for me as a human."

After talking through Jennings' younger years, the pair shifted focus to their Olympics experiences. Jennings first went to the Olympics with the USA indoor volleyball team, but they placed fourth, leaving her heartbroken. She was forced to consider her next step in her career. But her parents ended up putting her in a blind audition with Misty May-Treanor, a volleyball player Jennings played against before, who needed someone to complete her beach volleyball pair.

Jennings never thought about beach volleyball and was scared to step in the sand. After the tryout, she realized there was "magic." The pair ended up earning three consecutive gold medals.



SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Accomplished NCAA and Olympic women's basketball coach Tara VanDerveer, right, speaks with three-time Olympic gold medalist beach volleyball player Kerri Walsh Jennings Wednesday in the Amphitheater.

"Misty changed my life. That decision to be brave and to put myself out there in a realm that I was uncomfortable with absolutely changed my life," Jennings said. "That's why I'm so grateful for sports."

VanDerveer said as a coach, she notices her players struggling with confidence. Jennings replied that confidence doesn't come from crowds who cheer for you, parents or even your coach. She explained her confidence comes from the way she talks to and uplifts herself instead of feeding into the inner critic. She also uses this confidence to help her in those big moments, like the Olympics.

"The big moments are just another moment, right?" Jennings said. "My sports psychologist taught me that, and I'm like, 'I call BS.' Some moments feel bigger than others, ... but again, to me, it's all preparation."

Being part of different generations, both have seen changes in the sports industry, especially for women. Jennings discussed the difference in depth of talent. More kids are starting to play sports at a young age, creating a bigger pool of contenders across the country. She also said the options for volleyball

players after college have broadened to allow people to stay close to home rather than go overseas.

VanDerveer said Title IX — which passed in 1972 — hadn't existed when she was growing up; women didn't have the chance to play sports at all, and there were no scholarships. During her talk, she mentioned a time she told a basketball camp about these circumstances, and someone asked: "Why was it like that?"

"And I was like, 'How do I explain this to an 8-year-old?'" VanDerveer said. "I said, 'Can anyone else answer this question?' And another little girl goes, 'Sexism.'"

Following the June 30 court decision to prevent transgender girls and women from playing on gendered athletic teams, VanDerveer and Jennings discussed their differing opinions. Jennings said she agrees with VanDerveer in the way that every young person should have a chance to play sports, but said, "I agree with the Supreme Court ruling. I really believe fundamentally biological sexes should be the marker."

Jennings also said it's not a black-and-white conversation, and her "goal is to never make anyone else feel wrong."

VanDerveer said Chau-



VanDerveer and Jennings high-five before their lecture.

tauqua is a great place to talk about this because differing opinions can co-exist and become a conversation.

"I've had young athletes come to basketball camp that were trans athletes, and I think that we have to figure this out for our athletes — for every young person — so that they have an opportunity to play," VanDerveer said. "We don't have it figured out yet, and just by excluding any young person from the opportunity to play is wrong."

The two closed the conversation by talking

about their next chapter. VanDerveer said she loves spending time at Chautauqua and enjoys the opportunity to talk to accomplished people like Jennings. Jennings said retirement has been a challenge, but she is working on her nonprofit, p1440, to help give back to the beach volleyball community.

"When I started playing pro, my goal was to leave the sport better," Jennings said. "I can proudly say I'm not done yet, but we've come really far in that way."

## Heschel focuses on desire to be desired in Abrahamic religions

**LILY RESLINK**  
STAFF WRITER

Jewish scholar Susannah Heschel seeks an understanding of what lies underneath interreligious polemic — a question that she points out is continuously relevant, from its historical emergence to the contemporary hostility that persists.

Heschel, Dartmouth College chair of Jewish Studies, titled her 2 p.m. address Wednesday in the Hall of Philosophy "The Faith of Others: Jewish Narratives of Christianity and Islam." She focused on the relationships of the Abrahamic religions and explored how they have viewed one another and the impact of these conceptions.

Heschel's immersion in the Civil Rights Movement her father was involved in sparked a pursuit of biblical scholarship early on, but she said she felt that scholars were asking the wrong questions. Her interest in how religion shapes relationships and identities characterizes her scholarly career, especially through the cultural and psychological angle of how human tendencies influence outcomes and actions.

Presenting patterns from the extensive history of Abrahamic relationships, she pointed listeners to her understanding of what has mo-

tivated contempt. According to Heschel, desire and envy are central to this equation — and these two complex feelings are not so distinct. Instead, they are different expressions of "wishing."

From the perspective of each of these three religions, she drew historical examples to answer her questions. She used these examples to highlight the human inclination to desire and be desired, which she said is the crux of negative views.

She looked at evidence of Judaism adopting Christian practices, as well as evidence of denial that this was happening.

Despite the parallels incorporated into Jewish worship services and other areas of religious practice, "No Jew in the 19th century would admit that they were Christianizing Judaism," Heschel said.

She said being painted as the desirer instead of the desired charged insecurity.

She used historical anecdotes to illuminate her argument of what motivates contempt. Jews who went to Christian churches still had to wear a yellow star, the Nazi designation of being a Jew. She said this invoked a desire to separate from people with this designation.

"I ... thought perhaps the



GABRIEL MILBY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eli M. Black Distinguished Professor and Chair of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth Susannah Heschel speaks in the Hall of Philosophy Wednesday.

presence of these baptized Jews aroused an anxiety, a kind of primal, unconscious anxiety, that maybe Christianity itself is a baptized Judaism," Heschel said.

Heschel also explored how different motivations behind prejudice took shape outside of churches. In a society that she said is often motivated by money

or sex, she is struck by the acts of contempt toward Jews being motivated by the desire to "be big-shots in the Nazi regime."

Concluding her lecture, she noted the many directions possible for her to go in the topic that remains open and largely unanswered today. Saying, "The history is too complex for

reductionism," Heschel cautioned against hinging Zionism and interreligious polemic on one event or one reason.

"I do believe that the faith of others is intrinsic to who we are and how we define ourselves as Jews, Christians and Muslims," Heschel said.

She called for peaceful dialogue across all perspectives: "When we do engage, yes we engage as historians and scholars, but also as religious people." Heschel called for the realization that a peaceful future between Abrahamic religions is the will of God.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## FOSTER/O'HARA

FROM PAGE 1



“Sutton Foster’s dancing skills are next level, just amazing. And Kelli’s voice-pyrotechnics — she can sing anything,” Chafetz said. “The combination of the two of them, it’s unstoppable.”

Like Andrews and Burnett, Foster and O’Hara balance a varied range of emotions and musical genres fluently. Their performances can effortlessly traverse between laugh-out-loud humor and heartfelt sincerity without hesitation.

“The diversity of repertoire was the point in putting this show together,” O’Hara said. “From skits, to comedic ensemble numbers, to serious ballads — we have filled the show with a host of styles, but in our own way.”

Listeners can expect to hear fan-favorite showtunes from the duo’s Broadway performances, alongside original compositions, a rendition of Andrews and Burnett’s penultimate number “Big D,” and more.

“They Don’t Let You in the Opera (If You’re A Country Star)” — oh my God, it’s hysterical and extremely difficult to put together,” Chafetz said. “And then, of course, the ‘90s pop medley, that’s always a fun one.”

The orchestra hasn’t been together for a whole year. There’s really no time to waste. Most of the stuff we do is on one rehearsal. That’s a real testament to how great the orchestra is.”

—STUART CHAFETZ  
Principal Pops Conductor

Since their debut together at Carnegie Hall in 2023, Sutton and O’Hara’s show remains ever-changing.

“Sutton and I have gotten into many different rooms at many different times and hashed out ideas until we settled on the final product,” O’Hara said. “But, we are always tweaking it, too.”

O’Hara emphasized the behind-the-scenes talent that made the production possible. She listed writer Kate James, music directors Dan Lipton and Michael Rafter and choreographer Eric Sciotto for their important work.

“We have a wonderful team. We try to use three young, local talents to join us in each city, but we only have a day to put it all together,” O’Hara said. “It’s a team effort for sure.”

For Chafetz, the process behind the performance is demanding and rewarding.

## A DAY ON THE GREEN



SKYLAR SEAVEY  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Above, English lawn bowling instructor John Newhall teaches Todd, Graeme and Alden Nix lawn bowling tips at the Chautauqua Sports Club bowling green Tuesday. At left, Newhall points out a spot on the ball used in lawn bowling to the group. This summer, the Sports Club will be open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday–Saturday and 1–5 p.m. Sunday.**



WEEK ONE

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## LECTURE

FROM PAGE 1

“The beautiful thing about two decades of experience is to understand and celebrate the differences between us and use those to our advantage,” O’Hara said, reflecting on her friendship with Foster. “At the same time, we have also found the reasons why we are alike in order to bring a show like this to the audience in such a satisfying way.”

O’Hara is a Tony Award-winning and Emmy Award-nominated actress and singer. On June 7, O’Hara earned her ninth Tony Award nomination for her performance as Julia Sterling in the Broadway revival of *Fallen Angels*. In 2025, O’Hara starred alongside Tom Hanks in his co-written off-Broadway play *The World of Tomorrow*. The actress plays Aurora Fane in the SAG award-nominated HBO series “The Gilded Age.”

Foster is a two-time Tony Award-winning actress, singer and dancer. In 2024, she reprised her



I think the greatest messages are about teamwork and generosity — paying homage to those who came before us and offering a celebration of all who will come after. At times, it can feel like a competitive business, but the arts are really better when shared.”

—KELLI O’HARA  
Performer

role as Princess Winnifred in the Broadway revival of *Once Upon A Mattress* at the Hudson Theatre, succeeded by a limited run at Los Angeles’ Ahmanson Theatre the following year. In 2022, Foster’s performance as Marian Paroo in the Broadway revival of *The Music Man* earned Foster her eighth Tony Award nomination.

Together, Foster and O’Hara culminated their 20-plus years of friendship into a celebration of both their own individual works and the work of inspiring women who

laid the groundwork for their performance — specifically, Julie Andrews and Carol Burnett.

Since Foster and O’Hara’s debut performance together at Carnegie Hall in 2023, Andrews and Burnett’s beloved 1962 CBS television special, “Julie and Carol at Carnegie Hall,” has remained as an inspirational touchstone for the two.

“It was a glorious honor,” O’Hara said, recalling her and Foster’s opportunity to meet and speak with Andrews and Burnett. “As we were having the call to discuss our show with them, I remember

thinking, ‘I will never forget this moment.’ They were my two biggest artistic influences growing up.”

Despite the initial hesitancy towards the special, as CBS executives feared for Andrews and Burnett’s inability to draw audiences, the hypnotic chemistry between the two actresses dispelled any network skepticism and rightfully launched them into stardom, inspiring a generation of women in the performing arts.

Now, with Foster and O’Hara on the stage, they look out toward the next generation of performers watching in the audience.

“I think the greatest messages are about teamwork and generosity — paying homage to those who came before us and offering a celebration of all who will come after,” O’Hara said. “At times, it can feel like a competitive business, but the arts are really better when shared.”

## PIERCE

FROM PAGE 1



Because of my faith, I have a deeply-rooted optimism about what can be possible in our current world, even given our particular social and political climate.”

—YOLANDA PIERCE  
Author, *In My Grandmother’s House*

Having given an Interfaith lecture in 2022 on social justice and faith, she said the Chautauquan audience is one she is honored to engage with in these topics.

She said she appreciates the range of material connected to Week One’s theme: lectures, musical performances and daily worship.

Pierce applied her scholarship to reflect on a change she believes would move the world closer to peace.

“Because of my faith, I have a deeply-rooted optimism about what can be possible in our current world, even given

our particular social and political climate.”

She connected the concept to “eschatological hope,” a term from Christian theology.

It refers to “the possibilities for a better, peaceful and more just world in an age to come,” Pierce said. To her, it is rooted

in the commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

“It’s a recognition that mercy and justice may be difficult to achieve in our own lifetimes, but there is hope for the future,” Pierce said.

## THE CHAUTAUQUAN DAILY

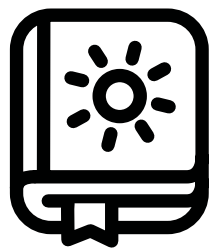
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## RELIGION

## Create pockets of refuge from a world in turmoil, says Budde



## MORNING WORSHIP

COLUMN BY MARY LEE TALBOT

Two of the most well-known and beloved women in the Bible are Martha and Mary. They are two poles of living — Martha doing and Mary being.

“I am not going to highlight the sibling dynamic; it is Martha’s hospitality I want to highlight. Martha welcomed Jesus into her home. It was rare for a woman to own a home in that time; she was not dependent on men,” the Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde said. Her sermon title was “Lord, Tell My Sister to Help Me,” and the scripture reading was Luke 10: 38–42.

Jesus was not wandering when he stopped at Martha’s house. He had set his course toward Jerusalem to complete his mission, and he did not have patience with those who had still not made a decision to follow him or not. Martha’s home was a place of rest for him — one of two mentioned in the Gospels.

“The importance of hospitality and refuge have taken on new meaning these days,” Budde said. “Our country is less safe, and people speak with contempt of people with other worldviews.”

What is needed, she continued, is a refugia faith, a concept taken from author Debra Rienstra’s book *Refugia Faith: Seeking Hidden Shelters, Ordinary Wonders, and the Healing of the Earth*.

The book begins with the explosion of Mount St. Helens in 1980. Many people thought it would take generations for new life to appear, but it only took several years.

In the midst of the devastation, tiny pockets of safety for plants and creatures were overlooked. It was from those pockets of safety that new life emerged.

“It is a powerful metaphor,” Budde said. “When so much is being destroyed, we need to create pockets of resilience when societal storms pass over.”

Martha’s home was a pocket of safety for Jesus, and our communities, homes and Chautauqua should be places of renewal and shields of joy as the world becomes harsh, Budde told the congregation. “People of a certain age need to create pockets of safety for those who are following us, to help them



SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton blesses the offering during morning worship Sunday in the Amphitheater.

find joy as they work out their mission.”

As Martha fretted about getting the meal on the table, she turned to Jesus and said, “Don’t you care? Tell my sister to help me.” Budde said, “We don’t talk to esteemed teachers with that kind of bossiness. Martha must have felt very close to Jesus. There is a safety and intimacy even if what comes out [of our mouths] is not from our best selves.”

Jesus received Martha’s words with compassion and redirected her thinking. He told her, “Only one thing is needed,” Budde said. “We are often reminded of what is important by those who know us well.”

Budde told the congregation that Martha is her middle name. She asked, “How do we not allow the distractions to make us miss the one thing we need? It is not the same thing everyday, and it is not the same thing for everyone.”

She continued, “Perhaps it is a word God has for you, something to give someone, perhaps a gentle word to you or to someone else. We don’t know what the world will require; we need to have greater clarity about what is required so God will have more to work with.”

Jesus does have a word for us, she told the congregation.

“More rests on the discovery of the one true thing than you will ever know.”

Martha welcomed Jesus into her home so he could rest and to speak honestly. “This is another way to be brave — to open the door, set the table, create a refuge and welcome Christ. May God give us the grace to do just that. Chautauqua has been that kind of place for me, and I am grateful.”

Robert Wilson-Black, director of the Department of Religion, presided. Jane McCarty, coordinator of the Women in Ministry program, read the scripture. Sonya Subbaya Sutton, interim director of Sacred Music, performed “Whit (Summer),” by Hilary Tann as the prelude on the Massey Memorial Organ. The Motet Choir, under the direction of Sutton and accompanied by organ scholar Owen Reyda on the Massey Organ, sang “All Manner of Thing,” music by Sarah Macdonald and words from Julian of Norwich. Reyda played “Fugue II, Op.16,” by Clara Schumann, for the postlude on the Massey Organ. Support for this week’s chaplaincy and preaching is provided by Week One Presenting Sponsor Erie Insurance and the Gladys R. Brasted and Adair Brasted Gould Memorial Chaplaincy.

## Baptist House

The Rev. Monica Corsaro leads a presentation, “Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth and more, Let’s Get to Know the Women of Western New York and How Their Faith Changed a Country,” at 7 p.m. today at the Baptist House.

## Blessing and Healing Daily Service

The Service of Blessing and Healing, sponsored by the Department of Religion, takes place from 10:15 to 10:40 a.m. weekdays in the UCC Randall Chapel located on Odland Plaza. All are welcome.

## Catholic House

Join us for Mass at 8:15 a.m. Monday through Friday at Hurlbut Church (NEW worship site and time). Our twice-a-week Seminar Series is held from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. at the Methodist House Chapel. On Thursday, the Rev. Anthony Randazzo presents “Living as a Community in Christ.” On Friday, Sr. Colleen O’Toole, RSM, will speak on “Sister Billings and the Cause of Anti-Racism.” All are welcome.

## Chabad Jewish House

Chabad invites all Chautauquans to the following programs. From 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Friday, Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin teaches “Jewish Mysticism & Philosophy,” exploring Jewish thought on G-d, the soul, free will and creation, at Zigdon Chabad Jewish House (23 Vincent on the Brick Walk).

The Miriam Gurary Challah Baking Series takes place from 12:15 to 1 p.m. at Zigdon Chabad Jewish House (23 Vincent on the Brick Walk); participants make and braid challah while discovering the meaning and significance of Shabbat foods and rituals.

Chabad invites all Chautauquans to a Community Shabbat Dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Zigdon Chabad Jewish House (23 Vincent on the Brick Walk), with a traditional kosher Shabbat dinner, stories, Torah thoughts and Shabbat songs. RSVP is required at [cocweb.org/shabbat-dinners](http://cocweb.org/shabbat-dinners).

Chabad’s Kosher food

tent/Trailer is available at the following times and locations:

8–10 a.m. Sunday through Thursday at the Farmers Market (Breakfast Service).

12–2 p.m. Sunday through Friday at Bestor Plaza (Lunch Service).

For dinner service and specialized dining needs, individuals are encouraged to pre-order from a full lunch and dinner menu by visiting [cocweb.org](http://cocweb.org).

## Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program

The venerable Jissai Prince-Cherry will lead Zen Buddhism Meditation sessions from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday in the lower-level chapel of the Presbyterian House. Monte Thompson will lead Movement and Meditation from 8:30 to 8:45 a.m.

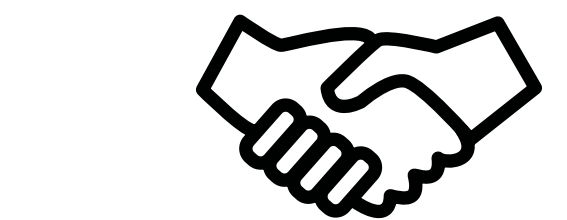
## Chautauqua Prays for Peace Through Compassion

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

“Mary Baker Eddy: A World Changing Religious Leader” is the title of a talk given by Michael Hamilton, the managing director of the Mary Baker Eddy Library, at 3:30 p.m. in the Christian Science Chapel (12 Center). Mrs. Eddy is one of the only women to found and lead a global religion, started the Christian Science Monitor, was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame and is the author of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, which was selected as one “75 books by women whose words have changed the world” by the women’s national book association.

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 “God,” read Christian Science pe-



## INTERFAITH NEWS

COMPILED BY STAFF

riodicals, including *The Christian Science Monitor*, and use our computer-based church resources.

## Disciples of Christ

At 6 p.m. Friday, the Disciples of Christ will host a Potluck Cookout on the porch (28 Janes). Please sign up tomorrow at the Disciples of Christ House. Fee: \$10. Meat, baked beans, chips, beverage and ice cream provided. Please bring a side dish to share.

## Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd

A Bible Study, led by the Episcopal chaplain of the week, will take place 8:30–9 a.m. each Wednesday at the Episcopal Cottage. All are welcome.

## Hebrew Congregation

From 5 to 6 p.m. Friday in Miller Park: “Kabbalat Shabbat: Welcoming the Shabbat Service.” If there is rain, the service will take place at Smith Wilkes Hall. If the weather is questionable, call 716-742-2228 for information on service location. Services will be led by Rabbi Frank Muller and Cantor Kathryn Wolfe Sebo. Rabbi Muller is Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Rodef Shalom in Youngstown, Ohio. Cantor Sebo serves as the cantor at Congregation Mishkan Or in Beachwood, Ohio.

From 6 to 7:15 p.m. Friday, Shabbat’zza, a post-service pizza picnic, rain or shine, is held at the same location as the Kabbalat Shabbat service. We supply pizza! Bring your own beverage and a side dish or dessert to share.

From 9:30 to 10:25 a.m. Saturday on the lower level of Hurlbut Church, “Today’s Torah for Today’s Times”

(Torah study).

From 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Saturday at Hurlbut Church sanctuary, Saturday morning services will be led by Rabbi Frank Muller and Cantor Kathryn Wolfe Sebo. Kiddush luncheon to follow.

## Hurlbut Memorial Community Church

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

## Hurlbut Church Meal Ministry

Hurlbut Church will be serving lunch from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Monday through Friday in Truesdale Hall. From 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Turkey Dinner will be held in Truesdale Hall. Cash and card accepted; proceeds go toward our local and global ministry partners, including the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). See our website for menu options.

## Labyrinth

The Labyrinth is available throughout the week to all Chautauquans and friends. It is located next to Turner Community Center and is accessible through the Turner building or parking lot. If arriving via Route 394, bus and tram services are available to Turner. Remember your gate pass.

## Lutheran House

The Rev. Lynne Ogren presides at a 7 p.m. Vespers today at the Lutheran House. The Lutheran House hosts Chautauqua dialogues at 12:30 p.m. today. We are located on the Brick Walk at the corner of Peck.

## Methodist House

Join us at 2:30 p.m. Friday at the Methodist House for a screening of a conversation between Aziz Abu Sarah and Maoz Inon, authors of *The Future is Peace*. The authors are two lifelong peace activists and guides to Israel/Palestine; both of whom have lost family in the conflict. In their book, they take readers on a revealing life-changing journey across this holy, blood-stained land and discover the mythic, political and personal history that divides but also binds them and their peoples.

## 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. Magdalena Garcia leads a Lectio Divina service at Vespers from 7 to 7:45 p.m. in the Presbyterian House Chapel.

## Quaker House

All are invited to a BYO lunch to hear Julie Peyton, Executive Committee, Friends World Central Committee — Section of the Americas, Friend of the Week (Chaplain), share connections between the theme and Quakerism. 12:30 p.m. today at the Quaker House (28 Ames).

## United Methodist House

From noon to 2 p.m. today, the Catholic House is sponsoring a program for the community in the UM House Chapel. All are welcome.

Please come join us for Chautauqua Dialogues with members from the community from 3:30 to 5 p.m. We would love to hear how your experience here has been and any thoughts or suggestions you might have for the future!

Come join us for Pastor in the Parlor at 7 p.m. to hear about how “The Spirit Falls Equally: Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Women’s Ordination in the UMC” presented by the Rev. Erica Robinson-Johnson.

From noon to 2 p.m. Friday, the Catholic House is sponsoring a seminar for the community in the UM House Chapel. All are welcome.

Pop on over to the porch after the evening program around 9:15 p.m. to visit with friends and have some freshly popped popcorn! Come close the week with us!

## Unity of Chautauqua

Unity holds a weekday morning Daily Word meditation from 8 to 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and a Sunday Celebration service at 9:30 a.m. in the Hall of Missions. For details visit [unitychq.org](http://unitychq.org).

## Creating an Inclusive Chautauqua

A free, 90-minute workshop to help create a Chautauqua where everyone belongs!

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 3:30–5 p.m.  
Wednesday: 9–10:30 a.m.  
Alumni Hall

Registration encouraged.  
Drop-ins welcome depending on space.



Learn more and register at:  
[chq.org/belong](http://chq.org/belong)

# CLASSIFIEDS

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## Gellman, Zaretsky Fund to support Pierce

The Jack and Elizabeth Gellman and Zaretsky Family Fund generously support the 2 p.m. lecture today in the Hall of Philosophy featuring Yolanda Pierce, dean and university distinguished professor of Religion and Literature at Vanderbilt Divinity School. The Fund plays a vital role in sustaining education-

al programming, religious studies and the Interfaith Lecture Series.

Jack and Elizabeth Gellman were deeply committed members of the Chautauqua community. Jack, a decorated World War II veteran, accomplished attorney and successful businessman, was also a strong advocate for

community development. Elizabeth shared this commitment through her work as a dedicated community organizer and supporter of cultural and religious organizations. Their legacy continues through their daughter, Debra, and son-in-law, Alan Zaretsky, whose generosity ensures ongoing support for the

arts, education and cultural life at Chautauqua.

Through their continued philanthropy, the Gellman and Zaretsky family help advance Chautauqua's mission, fostering meaningful dialogue and enriching the spiritual and intellectual life of the community.

## Carnahan-Jackson Lectureship supports Foster, O'Hara

The Carnahan-Jackson Lectureship is supporting the 10:45 a.m. lecture today in the Amphitheater featuring Tony Award-winning actresses Sutton Foster and Kelli O'Hara. Their appearance is part of Chautauqua Institution's ongoing commitment to facilitating conversations that explore

culture, creativity and the performing arts.

Established through the Carnahan-Jackson philanthropy, this lectureship reflects the family's longstanding dedication to Chautauqua and its educational mission. The Foundation itself was established in 1972 by Helen Katharine Jackson Car-

nahan in honor of her family's legacy of service and civic engagement.

The lectureship honors David H. Carnahan, whose contributions to Chautauqua left a lasting impact. Carnahan served both as a trustee of Chautauqua Institution and as a director of the Chautauqua Foundation,

while remaining an active and devoted member of the Chautauqua community for many years.

For decades, the Carnahan-Jackson family's generosity has helped sustain meaningful public dialogue at Chautauqua by supporting lectures, arts programming and educational initiatives.

## Rieser supports Foster, O'Hara evening performance

Today's evening performance with Sutton Foster and Kelli O'Hara at 8 p.m. in the Amphitheater is graciously sponsored by Susie and Rick Rieser and their Foundation in memory of Nicholas A. Rieser.

Susie and Rick Rieser hold a deep, multigenerational love for Chautauqua. They first brought their family to the lakeside community in the 1980s, eventually building a beloved home on the grounds. For decades, they have poured their hearts into the community as dedicated leaders and generous donors. Rick has been a passionate voice for preserving the historic spirit of the grounds, ensuring Chautauqua stays true to its core values. Together, Susie and Rick embody the warmth and devotion that make the Institution feel like home for so many families.

The Nicholas A. Rieser Fund turns a profound family loss into a beautiful gift of hope for the entire community. The fund was created to honor Susie and Rick's late son, Nicholas, who tragically passed away in 2017. Nicholas grew up visiting Chautauqua as a young boy. He was an avid debater, a talented ice hockey goaltender at Amherst College and a deeply loyal friend. Later in life,

he loved returning to the grounds as a proud father with his two little girls. By funding major Chautauqua Institution events, such as prominent programs in the Amphitheater, this special fund keeps Nicholas' joyful spirit alive. It ensures that his love for learning, curiosity and family continues to inspire future generations on the grounds.

## Brasted, Gould Memorial Chaplaincy supports Budde

The Gladys R. Brasted and Adair Brasted Gould Memorial Chaplaincy makes possible this week's chaplain. The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde morning worship occurs at 9:15 a.m. from Monday, June 29, to Friday, July 3 in the Amphitheater. Established in 2015 by Al-

ison and Craig Marthinsen, the endowment honors the enduring legacy of Alison's late mother, Adair Brasted Gould, and grandmother, Gladys R. Brasted. Their gift ensures that each summer a chaplaincy can continue to enrich Chautauqua's tradition of thoughtful worship

and reflection.

Gladys R. Brasted's connection to Chautauqua began in 1915. Her daughter, Adair Brasted Gould, embraced Chautauqua as a lifelong sanctuary, remaining deeply engaged in its community until her passing in 2011. Gladys shared her love of Chautauqua with her grandchildren, inviting them to spend summers with her and instilling a deep appreciation for its programs and traditions. For many years, both Gladys and Adair spent entire seasons on the grounds. Today, that legacy continues into its sixth generation.

Alison Marthinsen, a fourth-generation Chautauquan, and her husband, Craig, have carried forward this tradition with remarkable dedication and service. Regular participants in Sunday morning worship, Alison also contributes by

reading scripture at the 9:15 a.m. ecumenical service in the Amphitheater and singing in the Chautauqua Choir. Her commitment extends through her work with the Friends of Smith Memorial Library Board, achievement as a graduate of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle and the Guild of the Seven Seals, and volunteer service with the Chautauqua Fund. Craig also demonstrates deep engagement, serving on the Chautauqua Foundation's Board of Directors and as a graduate of the CLSC. Since 1974, Alison and Craig have been devoted to Chautauqua, becoming property owners in 1998 and building a family tradition that now includes their three children and five grandchildren.

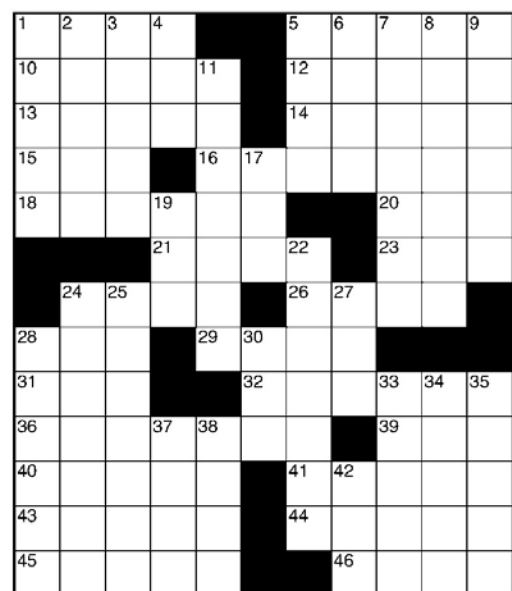
### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Battle reminder
  - 5 Form
  - 10 Comic's forte
  - 12 Dr. Seuss's environmental hero
  - 13 Make amends
  - 14 Isolated
  - 15 Take the title
  - 16 Like good handwriting
  - 18 Army group
  - 20 Physics particle
  - 21 "Shane" star
  - 23 Gallery fill
  - 24 Chilly
  - 26 Hostels
  - 28 Gift tag word
  - 29 Heroic tale
  - 31 "Now — seen everything!"
  - 32 Inheritance
  - 36 Lentils and peanuts
  - 39 Bill word
  - 40 Make blank
  - 41 Pageant topper
- DOWN**
- 1 Knitted wrap
  - 2 Adorable one
  - 3 In the middle of
  - 4 Director Howard
  - 5 Metal waste
  - 6 Pueblo people
  - 7 Speedy horse
  - 8 Sitting rooms
  - 9 Scope
  - 11 Puts a new clip in
  - 17 Conclude
  - 19 Suffering
  - 22 Ruminates over
  - 24 Part of many a scandal
  - 25 Pizza herb
  - 27 Old horse
  - 28 Some steaks
  - 30 Brewpub order
  - 33 Wise words
  - 34 Makes sound
  - 35 Brewpub need
  - 37 Manual reader
  - 38 Just
  - 42 McKellen of "X-Men"



Yesterday's answer



A XYDLB AAXR 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.

7-2 CRYPTOQUOTE

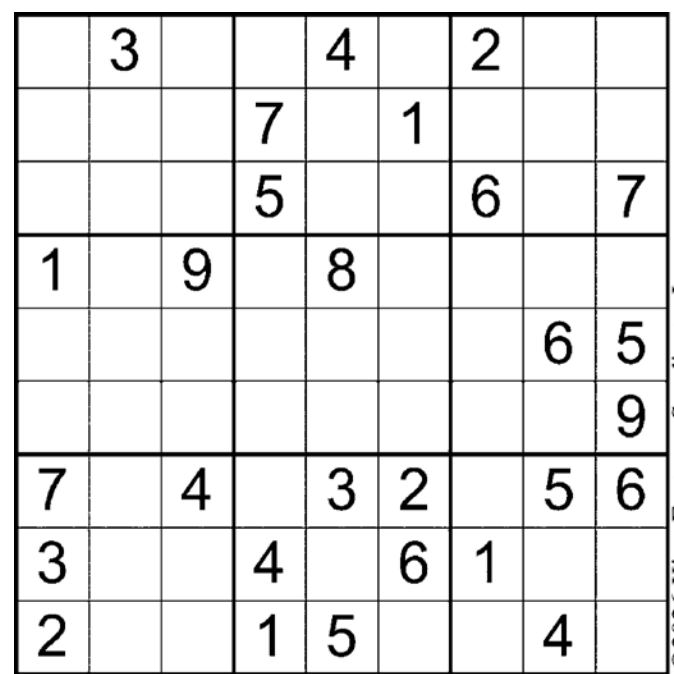
M Q W A V I P D Q O E Z N T A V D

L V S P B M Q W B D V U R P E Z D A P

B D Q H L. — F E L L M B L E D B  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE IN YOUR CHILDREN BY REGULARLY LOSING THEM IN THE SUPERMARKET. — ERMA BOMBECK

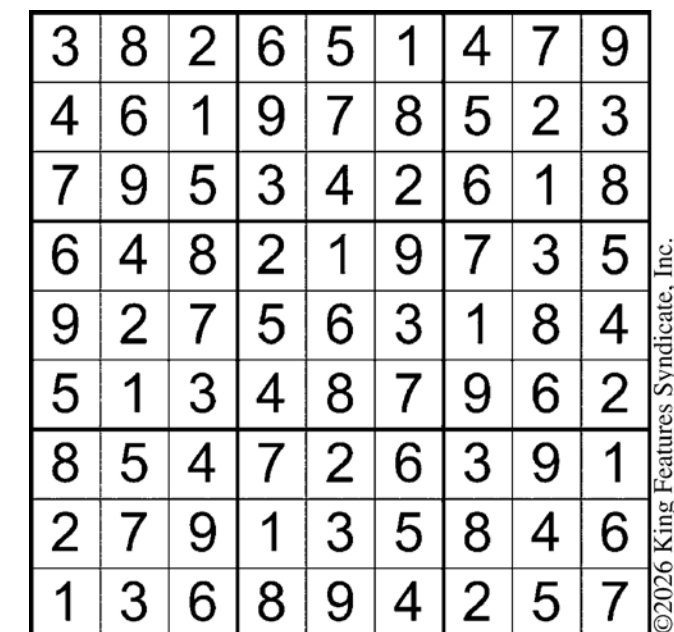
### SUDOKU

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.



Difficulty: ★★★

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Difficulty: ★★★

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THEATER

# ‘Ahoy-Hoy’ rings in season of New Play Workshops

SOPHIA ROOKSBERRY  
STAFF WRITER

In the late 1800s, Alexander Graham Bell patented a communication device that became one of society’s most pervasive technologies: the telephone. A century and a half later, playwright Jenny Stafford is bringing the story of the invention to Bratton Theater.

At 4 p.m. today, Chautauqua Theater Company will present the first reading of *Ahoy-Hoy* in Bratton, with two more offerings on Friday and Saturday afternoon. In her new work, Stafford aims to look beyond the popular facts of Bell’s invention and into the nuances of the story.

“I was watching a documentary about [Bell], and I sort of knew from my research that he had been plagued with lawsuits about his patent for the telephone, but this documentary was the first one that was like, ‘On the exact same day that he filed the patent, another guy [Elisha Gray] filed the patent three hours later,’” Stafford said. “The documentary moved on, and I was like, ‘Wait, what?’”

As Stafford continued diving into the bizarre circumstances of Bell’s creation, she identified the comical factors and feuds that defined the genre of the summer’s first New Play Workshop. As opposed to staging fully realized productions, these workshops are designed for playwrights to develop their script amid public presentations.

“I have the opportunity between the readings to make changes, which is unusual,” Stafford said. “Not a lot of places do that. Once you get to the public presentation, that is what it is, but seeing it in front of an audience is when you actually learn things about the piece.”

By nature, a workshop emphasizes the script, and the actors often sacrifice dynamic movement to focus on the language of the play. However, Nandita Shenoy, the actor playing Bell, said she and her fellow performers have not been able to help themselves.

“It’s really fast-paced, and we’ve been discovering that the play is very physical even though it’s going to be a reading and it’s not going to be staged,” Shenoy said. “I think there are some really physical aspects of it, and both Geneva [Carr], who plays Elisha [Gray], and I ... felt like, ‘Oh, we need to get up on our feet.’ It’s very energetic.”

This energy will bring multiple dimensions to the workshop: a lively kineticism from the performers, as well as a prioritization of the script. By allowing Stafford to edit her work based on the reactions of the crowd, the workshop structure also grants the audience a chance to influence the play’s development.

“I hope lots of people will come and support it, because their feedback, just from where the laughs land or where people get quiet, all of those things really make a difference,” Shenoy said. “It’s an opportunity to actually be a part of a real process.”

While Shenoy participated in last summer’s New Play Workshop *Pranayama*, other actors in *Ahoy-Hoy* are experiencing the Institution for the first time. Lydia Mushkatina, a rising junior at The Juilliard School, is participating in her first season with the CTC Acting Conservatory and will portray Cornelius, the assistant of Bell’s rival.

“I’m really grateful that I get to be part of such a comedy, because it’s opened up my perspective about the type of art I want to contribute to, and being here has opened up my perspective on the kind of life I want to lead as an art-



SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Geneva Carr, playing the part of Elisha Gray, and Lydia Mushkatina, playing the part of Cornelius, rehearse a scene together during a table read of Chautauqua Theater Company’s New Play Workshop production of “Ahoy-Hoy,” June 29 in Roe Green Theater Center.



I feel like we’re in a time where comedy is serving a really important survival function for us, but ... I hope the play is doing a lot of deeper work about the idea of legacy and what we give up in our everyday life in order to leave something behind when we’re gone.”

—JENNY STAFFORD  
Playwright

ist, which is really nice to have, especially right now where I’m just at the beginning,” Mushkatina said.

In addition to learning about her own acting capabilities through the comedy of *Ahoy-Hoy*, Mushkatina has also been learning from her fellow performers, creative team members and the playwright herself as they engage in the themes of the play together.

“With all the comedy, there’s also a discussion about privilege when it comes to wealth, privilege when it comes to gender,” Mushkatina said. “Being in a room filled with women talking about their experiences when it comes to gender and power dynamics ... and how they’ve been impacted, especially as women who have been working in this industry for such a long time, is both frustrating to hear [and] fabulous that we get to explore it and question things in this art piece.”

This balance between the playfulness of comedy and the weight of historical contexts was exactly Stafford’s intention behind the story, in the hopes she could provide a layered experience for the audience.

“I’m excited for people to get lost in the comedy of it,” Stafford said. “I feel like we’re in a time where comedy is serving a really important survival function for us, but ... I hope the play is doing a lot of deeper work about the idea of legacy and what we give up in our everyday life in order to leave something behind when we’re gone.”



SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above, “Ahoy-Hoy” playwright Jenny Stafford shares her inspirations with cast members and production crew during a New Play Workshop table read June 29 in Roe Green Theater Center. At right, Carr, playing the part of Elisha Gray, and Nandita Shenoy, playing the part of Alexander Graham Bell, rehearse a scene together. “Ahoy-Hoy” explores the story behind the invention of Bell’s telephone.



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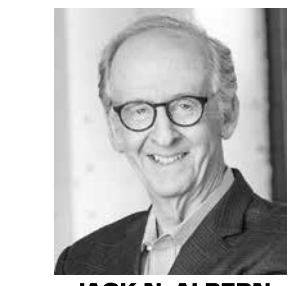
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# PROGRAM

# Th

THURSDAY  
JULY 2

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

7:30 Forest Bathing. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club). Kate Mayberry. Meet at the intersection of Massey and Hawthorne near the entrance to the Secret Silo Garden

7:45 Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Chapel of the Good Shepherd

7:45 Chautauqua Mystic Heart (Practice and Discussion) Presenter: Sensei Ven. Jissai Prince-Cherry (Zen Buddhism) Presbyterian house

8:00 Daily Word Meditation. (Programmed by Unity of Chautauqua). Hall of Missions

8:00 Mid-Week Meeting for Worship (Quaker). Burgeson Nature Classroom

8:15 Catholic Mass. Hurlbut Church Sanctuary

8:55 (8:55-9) Chautauqua Prays for Peace through Compassion. Hall of Philosophy Grove

9:15 FAITH JOURNEYS SERVICE. The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde. Hall of Philosophy

10:00 Coffee on the Porch. Presbyterian House

10:15 Coffee/Tea on the Porch. United Methodist House. 14 Pratt

10:15 Service of Blessing and Healing. UCC Randell Chapel

10:45 CHAUTAUQUA LECTURE SERIES. Sutton Foster and Kelli O'Hara. Amphitheater and online (Livestream only, not available on-demand)

10:45 Children's Story Time. Bestor Plaza. Programmed by Smith Memorial Library (Rain location in library)

11:00 (11-5) Exhibitions open. Fowler-Kellogg Art Center & Strohl Art Center

12:00 (12-1) Locals at the Library. Porch of Smith Memorial Library. (Inside location in case of rain)

12:00 (12-2) Play CHQ. Slime Making. Bestor Plaza

12:15 Book Discussion. MJ Johnston presents *The Worlds I See: Curiosity, Exploration, and Discovery at the Dawn of AI* by Dr. Fei-Fei Li. Porch of Alumni Hall. 50 Wythe

12:15 CTC Theater Chat. Jenny Stafford's *Ahoy-Hoy* (NPW 1). (Programmed by Chautauqua Theater Company). Smith Wilkes Hall

12:30 Chautauqua Mystic Heart. Meditation Program. Sensei Ven. Jissai Prince-Cherry. (Zen Buddhism). Hall of Missions

12:30 Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office). Everett Jewish Life Center

12:30 BYO Lunch: A Quaker's Perspective on the Theme of the Week. Julie Peyton, Friend of the Week (Chaplain). Quaker House. 28 Ames

12:45 Duplicate Bridge. ACBL sanctioned. \$12 fee. Sports Club

12:45 Catholic Seminar. "Living as a Community in Christ." The Rev. Anthony Randazzo. Methodist House Chapel. 14 Pratt

1:00 English Lawn Bowling. Free tips 1-1:15. Stay and play for \$12. Bowling Green

2:00 INTERFAITH LECTURE SERIES. Yolanda Pierce, dean, Vanderbilt Divinity School. Hall of Philosophy and online

2:15 Cinema Film Screening. "H is for Hawk." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

3:30 Islam 101. "Shariah." Khalid and Sabeeha Rehman. Hall of Christ

3:30 Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office). Baptist House

3:30 Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office). United Methodist House

3:30 Creating an Inclusive Chautauqua Workshop. Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall Prose Room

3:30 Making a Difference with UMCOR & The Western Pennsylvania Mission Barn. The Fenton Memorial Deaconess Home. 21 Hawthorne

3:30 "Mary Baker Eddy: A World Changing Religious Leader." Michael Hamilton, Managing Director of the Mary Baker Eddy Library, Christian Science Chapel. 12 Center

3:30 Authors @ The Smith. Robin Robbins. *Where Is Wiley?* Smith Memorial Library

4:00 THEATER. New Play Workshop Reading. *Ahoy-Hoy* by Jenny Stafford. Bratton Theater

4:00 School of Music Piano Faculty Master Class: Jon Nakamatsu. Sherwood-Marsh 101

4:00 Special Program. (Sponsored by the Chautauqua Women's Club). Wendy H. Steele, Impact100. Athenaeum Parlor

4:00 (4-6) Play CHQ. Pool Noodle Boats. Heinz Beach

4:15 Purple Martin Talk. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club). Jack Gulvin. Sports Club. 23 S Lake

4:15 (4:15-5:15) Kids' Drop-In Softball. Sharpe Field

4:30 Big Splash. Beach re-opening celebration. Heinz Beach

5:15 Cinema Film Screening. "No Other Choice." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

5:30 (5:30-8) Adults' Drop-In Softball. Sharpe Field

6:00 (6-7:30) Chautauqua Opera Company's 2026 Sing-In. Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall

6:15 Chautauqua Choir Rehearsal. Anyone interested in singing for Sunday Worship must attend one rehearsal. Two or more recommend. Fletcher Music Hall

6:30 Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office). Disciples of Christ House

7:00 "Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth and more, let's get to know the women of Western New York and how their Faith Changed A Country." The Rev. Monica Corsaro, chaplain, Baptist House. 35 Clark

7:00 Pastor in the Parlor Program. United Methodist House. 14 Pratt

7:00 Vespers. Presbyterian House Chapel

8:00 AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL. Sutton Foster & Kelli O'Hara. With Principal Pops Conductor Stuart Chafetz and the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. Amphitheater

8:40 Cinema Film Screening. "H is for Hawk." Second screening. Fee Chautauqua Cinema

7:45 Chautauqua Mystic Heart. Meditation Program. Sensei Ven. Jissai Prince-Cherry. (Zen Buddhism). Presbyterian House

8:00 Daily Word Meditation. (Programmed by Unity of Chautauqua). Hall of Missions

8:15 Catholic Mass. Hurlbut Church Sanctuary

8:30 (8:30-8:45) Movement and Meditation with Monte Thompson. Hall of Philosophy Grove

8:55 Chautauqua Prays for Peace through Compassion. Hall of Philosophy Grove

9:00 Member Coffee Hour. CWC House. 30 South Lake

9:00 Jack's Nature Walk. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree and Garden Club). Jack Gulvin. Smith Wilkes Hall Lakeside Patio. 21 Foster Ave

9:15 ECUMENICAL COMMUNION SERVICE. Hall of Philosophy

9:15 Jewish Discussions. "Jewish Mysticism & Philosophy." Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House. 23 Vincent

10:00 Coffee on the Porch. Presbyterian House

10:00 Opera Conservatory: Master Class with Maxine Davis. McKnight Hall

10:15 Coffee/Tea on the Porch United Methodist House. 14 Pratt

10:15 Service of Blessing and Healing. UCC Randell Chapel

1:15 Cinema Film Screening. "The Drama." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

1:15 Docent Tours of Alumni Hall and Pioneer Hall. 50 Wythe

2:00 CLSC AUTHOR PRESENTATION. Anna North, *Bog Queen*. Hall of Philosophy

2:30 Screening of "The Future is Peace" Authors Presentation. Aziz Abu Sarah and Maoz Inon (Authors). Methodist House. 14 Pratt

3:30 (3:30-4:30) Authors @ The Smith. Gary Sirak. *How to Retire and Not Die*, in conversation with Jane Kerschner. Smith Memorial Library

3:30 Islam 101. "Islam in America." Khalid and Sabeeha Rehman. Hall of Christ

3:30 Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office). Christian Science 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). Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

3:30 Masters Series Masterclass. Oceanographer Sylvia Earle. Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

4:00 THEATER. New Play Workshop reading. *Ahoy-Hoy* by Jenny Stafford. Bratton Theater

4:00 (4-5:30) School of Music Piano Faculty Recital: Alexander Kobrin. Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall

5:00 Chautauqua Softball League. Men's softball game. Teams TBD. Sharpe Field

5:00 (5-7) Kabbalat Shabbat Service. Miller Park

6:00 Potluck Cookout. Disciples of Christ House. 28 Janes

6:15 Chautauqua Choir Rehearsal. Anyone interested in singing for Sunday Worship must attend one rehearsal. Two or more recommend. Fletcher Music Hall

6:30 Chautauqua Softball League. Men's softball game. Teams TBD. Sharpe Field

6:30 "Community Shabbat Dinner." RSVP required. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House. 23 Vincent

7:30 Cinema Film Screening. "Project Hail Mary." Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

8:00 AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL. Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Amphitheater

9:15 Popcorn on the Porch (post-Amp program). United Methodist House

# F

FRIDAY  
JULY 3

6:00 (6-7) Sunrise Kayak & Paddleboard. Sign up with payment in advance at 716-357-6281 or sportsclub@chq.org. Sports Club

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

7:00 (7-9) "Dawn Patrol" Round Robin Doubles. (Programmed by the Chautauqua Tennis Center). Chautauqua Tennis Center

7:45 Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Chapel of the Good Shepherd

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## CHAUTAUQUA CINEMA

Thu. 7/2 2:15 8:30

H<sup>15</sup> FOR HAWK

PG-13 115m

Thu. 7/2 5:15

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Eddy was a pioneer whose work touched the fields of religion, health and journalism. Come and learn why Eddy's voice remains a vital part of the conversation on spiritual inspiration and moral courage.

Come join us for Michael's talk followed by Q&A.

**Thursday, July 2 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

**Christian Science Chapel, 12 Center Avenue, Chautauqua, NY**

### Michael Hamilton

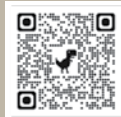
Managing Director of The Mary Baker Eddy Library

In addition to administrative leadership, Hamilton continues to write and present on topics related to American religion and Christian Science history.

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SCAN FOR MORE INFO



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