



TALLULAH BROWN VAN ZEE / DAILY FILE PHOTO

The Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Principal Pops Conductor Stuart Chafetz, performs with Chautauqua Opera Company during the annual “Opera & Pops” concert July 22, 2025 in the Amphitheater.

CSO, Opera Company to merge sounds in ‘Opera & Pops’

LAYLA VINSON AND ROCCO PRIOLETTI
STAFF WRITERS

Merging familiar pop hits, operatic highlights and orchestral arrangements, Chautauqua Opera Company and Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra will showcase “Opera & Pops” at 8 p.m. tonight in the Amphitheater.

Conducted by Principal Pops Conductor Stuart Chafetz and organized by Carol Rausch, music administrator and chorus master for the Company, the event is designed to highlight synergy across disciplines and align with the programmatic theme of Week Five.

“We like to base the theme of the

“

It’s not prepackaged at all, it’s starting from scratch, and I get to pick the ingredients and really tailor them to our individual talent.”

—CAROL RAUSCH
Music Administrator, Chorus Master

program on the theme for the lecture platform of the week, and this year it was ‘Art and Artists Against the Odds’ so it made it a little bit easier,” Rausch explained. “I just did arbitrary categories of inspiration for the arts and having those down days and lots of competition, and yet — music is magic.”

Creating an opportunity for the eight Apprentice Artists in the company to act as soloists while Studio Artists assume chorus backup roles, Rausch deems “Opera & Pops” a full-company event that “shows people off in classical and popular music.” Tonight’s repertoire spans Mozart classics to more modern Sondheim songs.

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GRIEST

Griest to speak about challenges in pursuing art

NORA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Author Stephanie Elizondo Griest gave up furniture, a car and even a place to live to pursue art. Yet, knowing she was put on this earth to do one thing, nothing else truly mattered as much as writing did.

Was it worth it, though?

“If [art] is your love and your passion, I do believe it is worth it to pursue it, at least try to pursue it,” Griest said. “Because it does prepare you for uncertainty, and what are we entering right now but the ultimate uncertainty?”

Although Griest has now written six books and is currently the Bowman and Gray distinguished professor of creative nonfiction at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she didn’t always know if this pursuit was worth it.

“If I could go back to my younger self ... I would have tried to find some way to tell her and wish she would have believed — which that’s a hard thing — not to stress so much,” Griest said. “Because I was so stressed about making it work financially that it compromised the pleasure of it. Because the stress was so profound.”

Griest said these financial challenges for artists have only gotten worse, and she even compared wanting to pursue writing to wanting to be an astronaut today.

See **GRIEST**, Page 4

Strautmanis to speak on religious pluralism, art and community

LILY RESLINK
STAFF WRITER

Michael Strautmanis, currently the chief Corporate Affairs officer at the Obama Foundation, said his career in public life working alongside former President Barack Obama has shaped his understanding of the positive effect of creative, public spaces and religious pluralism on democracy.

At 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy, Strautmanis will deliver a lecture that draws from his experience in public-facing

roles and calls for action for listeners to participate “in the glorious task of creating the world you want to see.”

“I want to really talk about this idea of pluralism as being fundamental to the goals of the Obama Foundation, and that within pluralism, it requires people to bring their ideas, their stories, into the public square,” Strautmanis said.

Strautmanis joined Obama’s office in the US Senate in 2005, worked

for his 2008 presidential campaign and upon his election, joined his presidential transition team as chief counsel and the director of Public Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs. Under several titles, he served as an advisor to Obama for around two decades.

“In the earliest days of President Obama’s Senate career, I worked with him on a speech that he gave to Sojourners on the topic of religion and the public square,” Straut-

manis said. In Strautmanis’ perspective, the speech was important because it articulated Obama’s beliefs as deeply informed by his faith.

Strautmanis said working on this speech with Obama influenced his own thinking about faith and tradition. He said Obama represented faith-rooted ideas that also supported the nation’s founding democratic ideals.

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STRAUTMANIS

IN TODAY’S DAILY

‘THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY’

Environmental professor Michaels to discuss disinformation, trust in science in CSG, CCI lecture.

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PERSEVERING THROUGH FEAR

The Crossover panel gives peek behind the curtain for musical in the making, creative process.

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‘OUR NATION IS NOT SHATTERED’

We should bring truth, presence, hope to the world’s brokenness, says Chaplain Jacque.

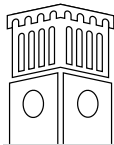
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‘TRULY LISTENING, SENSING, FEELING’

Pianist Buechner to perform Mozart, von Weber, ‘Dolly Suite’ with Melville.

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TODAY’S
WEATHER



H 73° L 62°
Rain: 56%
Sunset: 8:42 p.m.

WEDNESDAY



H 71° L 60°
Rain: 84%
Sunrise: 6:07 a.m. Sunset: 8:41 p.m.

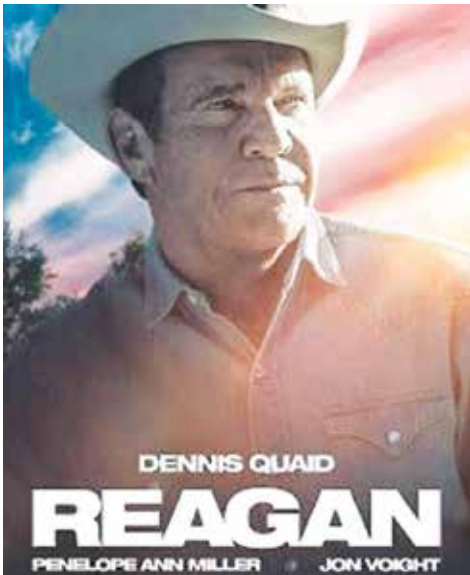
THURSDAY



H 75° L 59°
Rain: 25%
Sunrise: 6:08 a.m. Sunset: 8:40 p.m.

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

www.chqdaily.com



Movie: Reagan

At the Chautauqua Cinema

Tuesday, July 28th, 2026 @ 2:00 pm | Free Admission

Week Five (July 25-August 1)

Sponsored by Advocates for Balance at Chautauqua – Free Admission!

Told through the voice of Viktor Petrovich (Jon Voight), a former KGB agent whose life becomes inextricably linked with Ronald Reagan (Dennis Quaid). Based on Dr. Paul Kengor's book, **The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism.** (PG-13, 141m)



Paul Kengor is a political science professor at Grove City College and a prominent author of nearly 20 books focusing on the Cold War, conservatism, communism, and the American presidency. He is best known for his *New York Times* bestselling book **God and Ronald Reagan**. [1, 2, 3]

ENVIRONMENT



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 Theater Company news

After today's 4 p.m. performance of *Best for Baby* at Bratton Theater, join leaders of both Chautauqua Theater Company and the Robert H. Jackson Center for a special post-show discussion about the complex and still ongoing Johnson & Johnson talc litigation.

CLSC Class of 2015

Join your classmates for "Books and (Iced) Tea" from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Wednesday in the Alumni Hall Dining Room. Have a (recent) favorite book to recommend! This is the only "Books & Tea" for this season.

Boating safety refresher

Deputy Michael Williams of the Chautauqua County Sheriff's department, Marina Division, will provide a refresher on boating safety followed by a Q-and-A at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in Smith Wilkes Hall. Everyone with a boat, kayak, paddleboard or other water vehicle is encouraged to attend. Williams started out as a special deputy through the Sheriff's Department for Chautauqua Institution 44 years ago and has continuously remained a deputy. He has been with Sherriff's Marina Division for the past 11 years. If you use the lake, you are encouraged to attend!

Library news

Join Carrie Jacobus and friends for a "Fiber Arts Get-together" at 9:15 a.m. Wednesdays at Smith Memorial Library. Bring your projects! Join authors the Rev. Rachel Hollander (*From There to Here*) and Iris November (*Goodnight, Shoebox*) upstairs for a discussion of their books followed by a signing at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Learn lifesaving skills at Fire House Hall

A free "Stop the Bleed" and hands-only CPR course will be offered from 9 to 9:45 a.m. Wednesdays at Fire House Hall throughout the season. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sid Holec, M.D., FACS, at 941-716-1729.

Women's Club news

Deb Pines will speak at 9:15 a.m. at the CWC House for Chautauqua Speaks. Her topic is "The Five W's of a Chautauqua Murder Mystery Writer." The Chautauqua Women's Club will host Duplicate Bridge from 12:45 to 4 p.m. at the CWC House. \$12 fee to play.

Chaplain's Chat

Chaplain's Chat at noon on the UM House Porch. Grab your lunch and join us to hear the Rev. Evangeline Castillo, whose topic will be "Let's Talk about Plants" (Matthew 13:1-9). Take out lunch is available from Hurlbut Church.

Johnson to present free masterclass as part of Miami partnership

At 12:30 p.m. Wednesday in Smith Wilkes Hall, Katie N. Johnson will present a free masterclass titled "Theatre Against the Odds," with examples of how theater has intervened to heal the nation, fostering dialogue, catharsis and empathy. Johnson is a professor of English and an affiliate of film and women's gender and sexuality studies at Miami University of Ohio and a 2026 Miami-Chautauqua Faculty Fellow.

Chautauqua Visual Arts Lecture Series news

At 6:30 p.m. tonight in Hultquist Center 101, the School of Art welcomes back faculty member and multimedia painter Glenn Goldberg as he shares insight into his creative process, practice and career with Chautauqua Institution's artistic community. Goldberg's paintings are rooted in American training and bear influence from American folk traditions, Asian and African art, children's stories and utilitarian objects. At its core, his practice centers devotion, curiosity, independence, a strong work ethic, courage and self-acceptance. Goldberg's works have been displayed in numerous gallery collections, including in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the High Museum of Art and the Brooklyn Museum.

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	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	SPONSOR
"Is Peaceful Coexistence Possible in Israel/Palestine: A Bold Vision for a Better Future."	Today	12:30 p.m.	UCC Randell Chapel	Chautauqua Seeking Healing for Palestinians and Israelis

Paglia to explain environmental tactics for BTG

JENNA OUTCALT
STAFF WRITER

Stand.earth began when other forms of activism didn't work. During the 1990s, Canadians put their bodies on the line and created a media storm to stop the logging of Clayoquot Sound in British Columbia. However, nothing seemed to deter the potential clear-cutting.

That's when a new strategy emerged: going straight to the corporation that would be buying the paper products from those trees. When confronted with the potential harm and public pushback of buying those products, companies backed away, and the trees still stand today.

"We already had the news coverage, we already had outrage and we had even policymakers (who) were getting worried about what was happening there," Todd Paglia said. "But the missing element to make all those things come together was power."

Paglia is the executive director of Stand.earth, an environmental advocacy group that now works around the world to protect the Earth and promote sustainable business practices. He will deliver a lecture for the Bird, Tree & Garden Club and Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative at 12:30 p.m. today in Smith Wilkes Hall.

Paglia said he plans to delve into Stand.earth's out-of-the-box environmentalism

tactics they have developed over the course of decades to Chautauquans today.

"I feel like so much more progress is possible if my organization weren't such an outlier," Paglia said.

He said he will discuss how to make large-scale environmental change, which he explained involves going straight to the entity with the power. Paglia used the example of influencing fashion companies to reduce their carbon footprint in their factories rather than just their headquarters. When Stand.earth's research team calculated how much more significant factory emissions were, they launched a pressure campaign to appeal directly to the corporations.

"... Since that point, (we have) gotten, literally, the majority of the fashion sector to adopt policies to reduce their carbon footprint, adopted long-term goals to get to emissions reductions by 2030, 2035," Paglia said.

He explained that the companies with major power over legislation and industry were often the target of Stand.earth's campaigns.

"Much of our focus is on big companies that wield incredible influence over policy, over land, over everything that we care about," he said.

Even though Paglia noted, in his perspective, it is "the worst corporate moment

maybe in the last 100 years," he said he thinks people will see corporations wanting to make environmental progress as public opinion pushes them into it.

"Companies are increasingly worried that the pendulum's going to swing the other way, that they have been neglectful and arrogant and that their consumers and their stakeholders are going to push back big time," he said.

Stand.earth has its own research team that looks for places companies could improve their sustainability.

"We, first of all, approach them with that information quietly, educate them and then get them to change," Paglia said. "And if they don't, we don't take no for an answer."

Paglia said Stand.earth is like an excuse for companies to do what they know they should do, even when change seems difficult.

"We have run countless campaigns over the last 25 years," he said. "There's not a single company that we have campaigned against that is not in a good relationship with us today. And the reason for that is that we motivated them to do something they wanted to do."

Paglia said these sustainability improvements help companies become stronger in the long run. That's why companies turn to Stand.



PAGLIA

“Companies are increasingly worried that the pendulum’s going to swing the other way, that they have been neglectful and arrogant and that their consumers and their stakeholders are going to push back big time”

earth when they are under pressure to become more environmentally friendly. "That's the magic moment where you're like, 'All right, let's do this together,'" he said. "That's my favorite part."

—TODD PAGLIA
Executive Director, Stand.earth

Michaels to discuss disinformation, trust in science

JENNA OUTCALT
STAFF WRITER

David Michaels, Ph.D., a professor of environmental and occupational health at The George Washington University, is teaching his students to be critical not just of how scientific studies are reported or interpreted, but of the studies themselves.

"You have to read things carefully and truly understand what was being done, how the results were reached," he said.

Michaels is an epidemiologist who served as assistant secretary for labor at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration during President Barack Obama's administration. He is the author of two books about the prominence of doubt and disinformation in science. Michaels will speak for the Chautauqua Science Group and Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative at 9:15 a.m. today in Hurlbut Sanctuary about how disinformation permeates scientific conversations.

"Disinformation is now front page news, but there

really is a long history of disinformation," he said.

Michaels described how corporations would use the "tobacco playbook," where they would hire scientists to conduct research that cast doubt on the need for more regulations.

"I saw this up close when I was in the government, both at the energy department when I was in charge of health, safety and environment for the nuclear weapons complex, and then when I ran the Occupational Safety and Health Administration," Michaels said.

He shared the example of attempting to increase regulations on beryllium in the manufacturing of nuclear weapons while the beryllium industry pushed back.

"They brought in a group of scientists, the lead of whom had worked for tobacco, to say that 'Yes, beryllium causes lung disease, but more research is needed before we can have better protections,'" Michaels said.

However, he called that line of reasoning "nonsense." "We knew how to pro-

tect workers," Michaels said. "More research is always useful, but we need to make decisions based on the best available evidence of the time."

Michaels explained regulations would always have to contend with opposition from corporations, which "have a great deal of power in the United States." However, new problems are also arising.

"My concern right now is that the White House has elevated the purveyors of scientific disinformation, both around environmental exposures and infectious diseases," Michaels said. "They have been given a larger platform and more political power than ever in our history."

To combat disinformation in science, Michaels said society must continue to "promote the importance of transparency" and ensure studies are funded without conflicts of interest.

"We need to defend independent science and recognize the importance of the national scientific en-



MICHAELS

terprise in maintaining and improving the well-being of the country," he said.

He said he hopes that after his lecture, the audience, like his students, will look at scientific studies with a more critical eye.

"I certainly hope that they will look closely and always ask who benefits from the interpretations provided by scientists, especially in relation to who's paying those scientists," Michaels said.

THE CHAUTAUQUAN DAILY

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~ Despina Turnberg, International Curator



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'The Crossover' panel gives peek behind curtain for musical in the making

Jones discusses changemaking, legacy building across all of life's chapters

**Tuesday at the
CINEMA**
Tuesday, July 28

REAGAN - 2:00 Sponsored by Advocates for Balance at Chautauqua - Free Admission! Based on Dr. Paul Kengor's book, *The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism*. Stars Jon Voight and Dennis Quaid. (PG-13, 150m)

PUT YOUR SOUL ON YOUR HAND AND WALK - 6:00 Iranian director Sepideh Farsi offers an intimate, first-hand perspective on daily life under siege in Gaza, captured through video calls between herself and 25-year-old Palestinian photojournalist and poet, **Fatma Hassona**. "Simultaneously heartwarming and heartbreaking, it is one of the best movies of the year." -G. Allen Johnson, *San Francisco Chronicle* (NR, 112m. In Arabic and Persian with subtitles.)

FACKHAM HALL - 8:50 Directed by Jim O'Hanlon, this comedy spoof on *Downton Abbey* stars Katherine Waterston and Damian Lewis as Lady and Lord of the house. "Deliciously silly, stupid and hilarious, and I guarantee you'll leave the cinema with a smile on your face." -Nikki Gemmell, *The Australian* (R, 97m)

FROM PAGE ONE

OPERA & POPS

FROM PAGE 1

In past years, “Opera & Pops” was once two separate productions programmed outside of the Company. Now, combining the opera highlights and separate pops concert has provided Rausch a unique opportunity in programming.

“I can actually pick things,” Rausch said.

Initially, she said she was both intimidated and excited when the responsibility shifted to her.

“It’s not prepackaged at all, it’s starting from scratch, and I get to pick the ingredients and really tailor them to our individual talent.”

This personalization of the event is only furthered by her collaboration with Chafetz, who likened their program to being an “operatic Broadway sampler.” For Chafetz,

the distinction between opera and popular music is non-existent onstage.

“I say, ‘Everything is music.’ Whether you’re doing pops, whether you’re doing classical, whether you’re doing ballet, whether you’re doing opera — it’s all music,” Chafetz said.

Raush and Chafetz have worked together on the annual “Opera & Pops” show for 15 years now.

“I look forward to this concert every year because it’s

challenging. And, again, you can kind of see the CSO’s M.O. — we have basically one run-through, then we go,” Chafetz said. “So, there’s a lot to get done (during rehearsal) in two hours and ten minutes, I believe.”

He described the collaboration between himself, the singers and pianists as being “very enlightening.” While some singers have performed the program’s arias previously, a full orchestral backing trans-

forms the experience into something entirely new.

“What I love about it is — because there are some always really strong singers — to be able to hear them cross over between legit opera and pops, and seeing how they can switch back and forth. It’s a real great experience for them to be able to do that and to have that variety. But there’s always some glorious singers,” Chafetz said.

Chafetz highlighted Erich

Wolfgang Korngold’s “Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen” (Pierrot’s Tanzlied) from *Die tote Stadt*, Op. 12, as an “absolutely sublime” piece that appears in the first half of the program, encapsulating themes of childhood and nostalgia.

“It’s probably the most beautiful thing I’ve ever heard. So, I can’t wait for that one. It’s absolutely gorgeous. ... That’s the one I’m looking forward to most.” Chafetz said.

STRAUTMANIS

FROM PAGE 1

“[Obama’s] role in public life and the role we play in public life is we take those beliefs and then we bring them into a conversation; and we translate them into the language, almost the religious language, of our democracy.” Strautmanis said.

Strautmanis is a more recent addition to Week Five’s Interfaith Lecture Series on the theme of “The Creative Spirit: Art, Resilience and the Soulful Work of Making Art.”

He will bring his background as a lawyer and former Chief of Staff to the general counsel at the United States Agency for International Development,

as well as his background leading My Brother’s Keeper Alliance, Obama’s initiative to create positive communities for boys and young men of color in the U.S.

According to the Obama Foundation, public art is something embodied in the priorities of Michelle and Barack Obama, and the newly opened Obama Pres-

idential Center is bringing it to the South Side of Chicago.

Art, Strautmanis said, might be the purest expression of hope; he said it represents the human ability to create something and make the world anew. He said he will talk about why public art is an integral part of the Presidential Center, which has been

10 years in the making.

“[It] turns out that you can spend all the time in the world designing something... and it doesn’t come alive until people come show up and participate,” Strautmanis said. “It is really that act of participation, that dialogue that allows you to realize the mission of an institution.”

Strautmanis said the

path to creating a better world is inevitably messy and frustrating, but is born out of communal participation and creative expression.

“There’s disagreement and there’s conflict, but at the end of the day, what we have as a country is because others chose to participate,” Strautmanis said.

GRIEST

FROM PAGE 1

“It’s really, really hard to get the career going,” Griest said. “Unfortunately, it was so hard when I did it in the early 2000s, and it is, without question, harder now. I really feel for my students, because it is instrumentally harder than what was impossible when I was their age.”

At an earlier point in her life, Griest realized that she could either create art or pay rent, but it was certainly impossible to do both.

“Eventually, having all my books in milk crates got a little depressing,” Griest said. “I either need to do one thing or another; I either need to get

a job where I can have something less than a spartan existence, or I can continue doing the work that I was completely convinced that I was put on the planet to do, which is write. So, I decided to do the latter.”

Griest packed up her milk crates full of books and placed them in storage before she set out for what became a long period of living at artist’s residences and on book tours.

“As I was doing this, I was encountering other people, other women who were making similar sorts of sacrifices,” Griest said. “Women who were getting to be middle-aged, who were not getting married, not having kids. They were doing everything in the hopes and dreams that

someday, their art would be sustainable.”

So, Griest decided to write a book about it.

In *Art Above Everything: One Woman’s Global Exploration of the Joys and Torments of a Creative Life*, she writes of traveling to 10 nations and meeting female artists of all sorts. These artists, from poets and painters to dancers and musicians, had done what she had and dedicated their lives to creating art; each woman said the pursuit is indeed worth it.

At 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater, Griest will deliver a lecture in conjunction with Week Five’s “Art and Artists Against the Odds.”

“I wanted to interview someone from all the regions of the world,” Griest said. “I wanted to interview someone from all of the major art forms of the world. I wanted to interview someone from all of the major religions, all of the basic linguistic groups ... I really wanted to talk to someone representing as

many possible perspectives as I could.”

One of Griest’s discoveries while writing her book was that it is significantly more difficult to pursue art in the United States. For example, she met women in Iceland who are paid minimum wage to write. Meanwhile, when Griest’s first book was published, after spending ten years writing it, she received \$10,000, a good percentage of which would go toward the agent and most of which would be distributed to Griest slowly over time.

“The amount of money was just pennies — probably not actually even a penny on the hour if I were to total all the hours,” Griest said. “How do you make that work, right? It’s only people that come into this with wealth or marry wealth that can actually continue the life as a writer.”

As Griest got into her mid-30s, she realized she was drowning in utter doubt. Then, the 2008 recession

hit, causing her to cancel all book tours. In 2017, she was diagnosed with cancer, resulting in an unimaginable battle along with another stream of cancellations and in 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic once again had her scratching out all book tour events on her calendar.

“That’s why you have to do it for love,” Griest said.

Through *Art Above Everything*, Griest said she hopes she can help a variety of audiences in numerous ways. Maybe middle-aged women, she said, who had given up everything for their art

If you don’t really give yourself another option, if there is no plan B, you will go further than one can imagine, but not without an exceptional amount of suffering. So, it’s really just a question of how bad do you want it? And it has to be all-consuming want and desire.””

—STEPHANIE ELIZONDO GRIEST

Author of *Art Above Everything*



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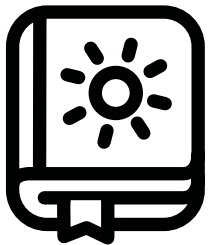
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RELIGION

Bring truth, presence, hope to world’s brokenness, says Jacque



MORNING WORSHIP

COLUMN BY MARY LEE TALBOT

MARY LEE TALBOT
STAFF WRITER

“What do you think of when you hear the word ‘broken?’” asked the Rev. Zina Jacque. “In this season of the 250th birthday of our country, I think we need to consider broken afresh. Is our nation broken? If I tell the truth, my soul gives a defeated no and not a defiant yes.”

Jacque preached at the 9:15 a.m. Monday morning worship service in the Amphitheater. Her sermon title was “Only Interrupted,” and the Scripture reading was John 4:7–30.

To be broken usually means to be divided into pieces, for someone to stand outside their original intention, whose given call is not an option. This person is often an outcast.

“We have fractures of our highest ideals, that all people are created equal,” she said. “Instead of one out of many, we are many out of one.” Jacque said she has a friend who is moving to Panama where she can be out of the reach of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, away from a nationalism “in the name of a savior who would not recognize it. Are we broken? Some say we are not, but when I hear ‘My Country Tis of Thee,’ I don’t know whether to put my hand on my heart or on my ears.”

The piece of art work Jacque shared during the sermon is called “Gibraltar” by Theaster Gates. He went to Japan to study kintsugi, an art of renewal through pottery repair in which broken pieces are glued back together with a gold lacquer and the pottery is fixed. The philosophy of kintsugi is to take what is broken and repair the rupture to return the piece to wholeness.

Jacque said, “For many, that is the experience of life. All people pass through a time of breaking, but that is not the end; it is a phase along the way. We are transformed into something more beautiful and more viable.”

The English language also teaches an older meaning of broken that means only interrupted, Jacque said. There was applause. What Jesus was teaching the woman at the well in John 4 was though she might have been broken by the system, handed around from husband to husband and been at the well alone at midday, was that she was not useless.

“She is not shattered; she is only interrupted, not ruined, not lost. She is a vessel to be made whole,” said Jacque. There was applause. “Theaster Gates’ piece of art is a solid sign and testimony that what is broken need not be discarded; it is part of the next piece.”

Jesus put truth, presence and hope in front of the woman at the well. Jesus told her the truth about her life and what caused it to fall apart, but that is not where her life stopped. He had to name the truth in order for her to build her life back.

Jesus put back the pieces for grace and renewal. “And he



SKYLAR SEAVEY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Rev. Zina Jacque delivers her sermon “Look Me in the Eyes” Sunday in the Amphitheater.

covers her with the golden lacquer of hope. When Jesus says, ‘I will give you living water,’ it is in the future perfect tense, meaning it is already done,” Jacque said.

In our day and age, she told the congregation, “We need to see what is broken by the Voting Rights Act erasure that can be repaired, that what is broken by hate and division can be restored. We cannot give up, give in, give out. We must see our nation not as hopelessly broken. We must see our nation as that which is only interrupted.”

Jacque continued, “I am not afraid of the truth; I am afraid of burying it. I am not afraid of presence because I have looked in people’s eyes and I saw humanity. I am a believer in the confident expectation of the coming good. That’s the theological definition of hope.”

She told the congregation that she refuses to see the nation as hopeless — only interrupted. To build a nation is hard work. “So bring your truth, the truth Jesus told the woman at the well. Bring the truth because we’ve got enough going to fix these cracks.”

Bring your presence, she said, not the presence of the people who arrived after the mending is finished, but the presence of the master craftsman who will get their hands dirty, presence that will not give up if the crack cracks again because there is enough gold.

Jacque continued, “Bring your hope, a steadfast willingness to stand until we can see the pieces cohere we can honor our nation’s truth. Our nation is not shattered. It is not finished. It is interrupted. You are the artists who stand against the odds. You and I, we are the ones with

the gold in our hands.”

For the spiritual practice, she instructed the congregation to take a piece of paper and tear it into three pieces. On the first one, write “truth,” and below it, write a truth that you believe our nation needs to tell. On the second piece, write “presence,” and say how you will be present in the kintsugi. On the third piece, write “hope” and write what you hope for the nation. Carry it with you, she told the congregation, and pull it to remember Chautauqua and the people you have looked in the eye.

Jacque concluded, “As we reclaim our nation, the breaking is not our shame; the breaking is our testimony. The breaking is not our fault; the breaking is our defining. The breaking is our beginning. Art and artists against the odds is who you are. Do not give up; the world is in need of your gold.”

The Rev. John Morgan, pastor of Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, presided. The Rev. Paul Davis, a United Church of Christ pastor from Greensboro, North Carolina, read the scripture. Sonya Subbayya Sutton, interim director of music, played the prelude, “If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Me,” by Sigfrid Karg-Elert, on the Massey Memorial Organ. The Motet Choir, under the direction of Owen Reyda, organ scholar, performed “If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee,” by Jody Lindh, for the anthem. The choir was accompanied by Sutton on the Massey Organ. Reyda played “Allegr sse, Op. 26,” by Joseph Ermond Bonnal, on the Massey Organ. Support for this week’s chaplaincy and preaching is provided by The Robert D. Campbell Memorial Chaplaincy and The Jackson-Carnahan Memorial Chaplaincy.



INTERFAITH NEWS

COMPILED BY STAFF

Baptist House

All Chautauquans are invited for cookies and punch at 3 p.m. followed by a hymn sing at the Baptist House (35 Clark).

Blessing and Healing Daily Service

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

Chautauqua Catholic Community

Join us for Mass at 8:15 a.m. Monday–Friday at Hurlbut Church (NEW worship site and time). All Chautauquans are welcome at our Social Hour at 3:15 p.m.

Chabad Jewish House

Chabad invites all Chautauquans to the following programs. From 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Tuesday, Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin teaches “Jewish Ethics,” exploring everyday moral dilemmas through the wisdom of the Talmud and other Jewish sources, at Zigdon Chabad Jewish House (23 Vincent on the Brick Walk).

From 4:15 to 5:15 p.m., the Zigdon Chabad Jewish House invites the community to experience firsthand a fun and interactive Kosher Pickle Making Workshop. The workshop will take place at the Zigdon Chabad Jewish House, and is open to participants of all ages, backgrounds and affiliations. Admission is free, but for those who want to make their own pickles to take home, there is a \$10 material fee.

From 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin teaches “Positive

Living,” a class on practical principles, wisdom and tools for developing a positive outlook, at Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.

Chabad invites all Chautauquans to a Community Shabbat Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the Zigdon Chabad Jewish House, with a traditional kosher Shabbat dinner, stories, Torah thoughts and Shabbat songs. The dinner is FREE but there is a suggested donation. RSVP is required at cocweb.org/shabbat-dinners.

On Sunday, Chabad hosts a Community Kosher BBQ and a magic show featuring Keith West’s Illusioners from noon to 2 p.m. (the magic show will start around 1 p.m.) at Miller Bell Tower. All Chautauquans are welcome.

Chabad’s Kosher food tent/trailer is available at the following times and locations:

From 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday–Thursday on Bestor Plaza

From 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Friday on Bestor Plaza

For dinner service and specialized dining needs, individuals are encouraged to pre-order from a full lunch and dinner menu by visiting cocweb.org.

Chautauqua Mystic Heart

Mateo Mortellaro will lead Tibetan Buddhist 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 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Monday in the Hall of Philosophy Grove.

Chautauqua Prays for Peace Through Compassion

Chautauqua Prays for Peace Through Compassion is a communal gathering that

takes place from 8:55 a.m. 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

The social hour is at 3:15 to-day on the porch.

The evening testimony meeting is at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday in the Christian Science Chapel. Readings of citations from the Bible and Christian Science textbook are followed by congregants sharing examples of benefits of their study in their daily lives. All are welcome to use our Study Room 24/7 for reflection and prayer. You are invited to study this week’s Bible lesson, “Love,” to read Christian Science periodicals including *The Christian Science Monitor* and use our computer-based church resources.

Episcopal Cottage

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

Everett Jewish Life Center

Kobrin continues at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday with a lunch talk titled “The Failure that

Changed American Banking,” recounting how the 1930 collapse of the Bank of United States — the largest retail bank in the United States at the time — left a deep imprint on Gov. Franklin Roosevelt and shaped the banking reforms he would bring to Washington, D.C.

Hurlbut Meal Ministry

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

Labyrinth

The Labyrinth is available throughout the week to all Chautauquans and friends. Enter through Turner Community Center or the Turner Gate. The Labyrinth is on the right under the trees. Remember your gate pass.

Lutheran House

Be sure to stop by starting at 3:15 p.m. for our denomination house social with cookies and refreshments provided by members of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Erie, Pennsylvania. The Lutheran House hosts Chau-

tauqua dialogues at 6:30 p.m. today. We are located on the Brick Walk at the corner of Peck Avenue.

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 house porch overlooking the Amphitheater provides a good place to find old friends and make new ones.

Quaker House

Join us for a “BYO Lunch: A Quaker’s Faith Into Action” to hear printmaker Todd Drake, Friend of the Week (Chaplain), share his journey of how faith transforms his life’s work and experience, at 12:30 p.m. at the Quaker House (28 Ames).

Join us for “Social Hour: Quaker Art Speaks: Exhibitions and Discussions” at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Quaker House. Interact with Quaker artist Todd Drake’s prints. Delicious snacks provided.

Join us for an Alternatives to Violence Project Mini-Workshop with Ginny Riordan and Michael Tritto at 12:30 pm at the Quaker House.

Join Chautauqua Quakers for an unprogrammed meeting for worship at 8 a.m. Thursdays in the Burgeson Nature Classroom throughout the season.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

All are invited to join us for our “UU Tea” for beverages, a delicious array of snacks and, of course, fellowship. We gather at 3:15 p.m. on our beautiful back patio at the UU House (6 Bliss). The Rev. Jacqueline Brett, this

week’s guest minister, will be in attendance to engage in conversation.

United Church of Christ

“Is Peaceful Coexistence Possible in Israel/Palestine: A Bold Vision for a Better Future” will take place at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday. The speaker, Jonathan Kuttub, is a Palestinian attorney and human rights activist. He is the executive director of Friends of Sabeel North America and a Fellow of the Washington Arab Center, and a recognized authority on international law, human rights and Palestinian and Israeli affairs. He is the author of *Beyond the Two-State Solution* and *The Truth Shall Set You Free*.

Unity of Chautauqua

From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday evening in Turner Community Center, the Rev. Russell Heiland will present a Positive Path for Spiritual Living lecture titled “Accept or Except, Which?” You may have said or heard someone say, “My life would be great except for...” Want to know the secret for releasing the “exception” and claiming peace? Join Heiland to learn tools you can use to navigate the “if onlys” and “ain’t it awfuls” that keep us stealing our peace and joy. Chautauqua residents bring gate pass.

Heiland is senior minister at Unity of Fairfax in Oakton, Virginia, a suburb of Washington, D.C.

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.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Newly renovated home 2 blocks to the Amphitheater and Hall of Philosophy. Available to rent last three weeks of 2026 season and ALL of 2027 season. Four Bedrooms, King size bed, Three Bathrooms w Walk in Showers, Completely Remodeled Kitchen, Spacious Porch, ON SITE PARKING, Outdoor Dining area, Flatscreen TVs, washer and dryer, zero gravity recliner, MUST SEE. Call Marc or Paulina 954-520-8264.

Newly renovated Brick Walk hide-a-way available weeks 6-9. Close to Bestor Plaza and all the action! Private one-bed-room apartment with shared front porch. Contact Felice 513-461-3539

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Discover the art of Kosher Pickle making in workshop

A 4:15 p.m. today, the Zigdon Chabad Jewish House invites the community to experience tradition firsthand at a fun and interactive Kosher Pickle Making Workshop.

There is something timeless about the crisp, tangy bite of a traditional kosher pickle. More than just a delicious snack, kosher pickles have a rich history that connects generations of Jewish families and communities.

Whether you are a lifelong pickle enthusiast or simply curious about the process, this hands-on program offers a unique opportunity to learn the secrets behind one of Jewish cuisine's most beloved foods.

Despite what many people assume, the term "kosher pickle" does not simply mean a pickle that has been certified kosher. Rather, it refers to a traditional style of pickle developed by Eastern European Jewish communities. These pick-

les are made by fermenting fresh cucumbers in a brine of water, salt, garlic, and dill, allowing natural fermentation to create their signature crisp texture and tangy flavor.

The story of kosher pickles begins centuries ago in Eastern Europe, where preserving vegetables for the winter was an essential part of daily life. Jewish families perfected the art of fermentation, creating recipes that were both practical and delicious. When Jewish immigrants arrived in America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, they brought these treasured recipes with them. Soon, the pickle barrels of New York City's Lower East Side became an iconic part of Jewish immigrant culture, with vendors serving fresh pickles straight from wooden barrels.

The workshop will go beyond pickle making to explore the fascinating world of kosher food laws. Participants will learn what makes

food kosher and discover that even fruits and vegetables have unique halachic requirements. The program will explain why vegetables must be carefully inspected to ensure they are free of insects, one of the Torah's dietary prohibitions. It will also introduce the special mitzvot that apply to produce grown in the Land of Israel, including the Sabbatical (Shemittah) year, when the land rests every seventh year, and the tithes (terumot and ma'asrot) that must be separated before much Israeli-grown produce may be eaten.

These laws demonstrate how Judaism elevates even the simple act of eating into a meaningful spiritual experience. Participants will also discover the ingredients and techniques that give authentic kosher pickles their distinctive flavor and crunch. Those who wish may prepare their own jar of pickles to take home using fresh ingredients and traditional methods.

The workshop is designed for all ages and experience levels. No previous cooking or canning experience is necessary, making it a wonderful activity for individuals, couples, families, and anyone interested in Jewish culture, food or hands-on learning.

Admission to the workshop is free. Participants who wish to make and take home their own jar of kosher pickles are welcome to do so for a \$10 materials fee, which includes all ingredients and supplies.

Join us to discover the history, tradition and flavor behind one of Judaism's most iconic foods — and leave with a deeper appreciation for kosher living and a delicious jar of homemade pickles.

For more information on this and other programs sponsored by the Zigdon Chabad Jewish House, please visit Chabad's website at cocweb.org or call 917-364-1013.

Fausnaugh, Moe, Bellowe Funds support Chautauqua Theater Company's 'Best for Baby'

The Agnes H. and Hal A. Fausnaugh Fund for Theater Programming, The Helen Moe Fund for Theater and The Arnold and Jill Bellowe Fund for Theater proudly support this week's performances of *Best for Baby* by Sharyn Rothstein, directed by Oliver Butler, in Bratton Theater. *Best for Baby* runs July 25 through Aug. 2.

These funds represent the enduring generosity of Chautauqua families and theater supporters who recognize the power of live performance to inspire, challenge and connect audiences.

The Fausnaugh Fund honors the couple's deep commitment to Chautauqua Theater Company. Hal served as a member of the Institution's Board of Trustees and the Chautauqua Foundation Board of Directors. In celebration of the Fausnaughs' 50th wedding anniversary, members of Friends of Chautauqua Theater established the fund, with Aggie and Hal also making a significant contribution. They played an integral role in founding the Friends organization, serving as its first secretary and treasurer.

The Helen Moe Fund for Theater was established to provide vital support for Chautauqua Theater Company and its programming, honoring Helen Moe's lasting dedication to the arts and the continued vitality of theater at Chautauqua.

Established in 1998, the Arnold and Jill Bellowe Fund for Theater reflects the Bellowes' multigenerational commitment to Chautauqua. Residents of Chautauqua Shores since 1972, Arnie and Jill have dedicated decades of service and leadership to the Institution. Arnie served on the Board of Trust-

ees from 1997 to 2005 and chaired the Theater Team during the Challenge and Renewal Campaigns. Jill served on the board from 2007 to 2015, chaired the Program Policy Committee and was a founding member and former president of Friends of Chautauqua Theater.

Chautauqua is deeply grateful to the Fausnaugh, Moe and Bellowe families for their generosity and for their commitment to sustaining the transformative power of theater for generations of audiences.

William, Julia Clinger Lectureship supports Griest

The William and Julia Clinger Lectureship supports the lecture featuring Stephanie Elizondo Griest at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater. Griest is a globe-trotting author from the Texas-Mexico borderlands. Currently a professor of creative nonfiction at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, she

has performed on five continents in capacities ranging from a Moth storyteller to a literary ambassador for the U.S. State Department.

Today's lecture reflects more than two decades of the Clingers' enduring investment in Chautauqua's lecture platform. Established 21 years ago in honor of Bill and Julia fol-

lowing their passing, the William and Julia Clinger Lectureship has supported programming for the Chautauqua Lecture Series. Longtime summer residents, Bill and Julia first met on the grounds when Bill was working as a reporter for *The Chautauquan Daily*. After retiring, Bill continued his service as chair of Chautauqua Institution's Board of Trustees, while Julia was a devoted member of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle and the Bird, Tree & Garden Club.

In recognition of their extraordinary leadership

and passion for philanthropy, the Clingers' legacy continues to make enriching and impactful lectures possible. Their lifelong dedication to Chautauqua has created opportunities for generations of audiences to engage with thought-provoking ideas and distinguished speakers.

The Clinger family exemplifies how leadership and engagement can shape not only individual lives but also the Institution as a whole through both programming and governance. Chautauqua is deeply grateful for their enduring generosity and commitment.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Winter coat
6 — d'art
11 Match in value
12 — peso (Mexican currency)
13 Rolling Stones song
15 West of films
16 Toward the stern
17 They hold power
18 With 32-Across, Rolling Stones song
20 Doofuses
23 Caravan stop
27 Server system
28 Landfill area
29 Tribe symbol
31 Hardly macho
32 See 18-Across
34 Game cube
37 Numerical prefix
38 Hailed vehicle
41 Rolling Stones song
44 Taken wing
45 Apartment sign

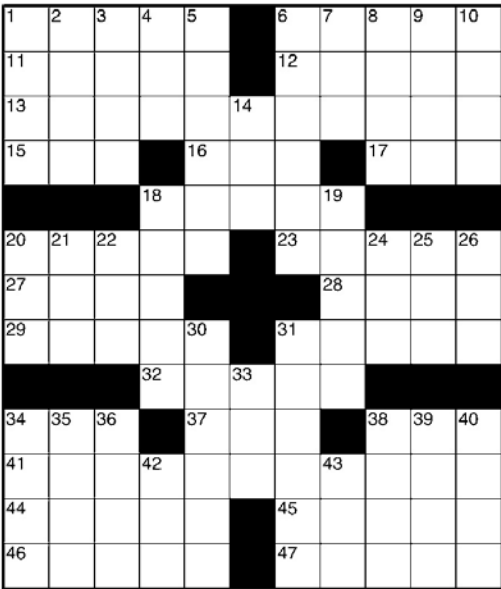
- 46 Basic belief
47 Country division

DOWN

- 1 Salon offering
2 Blue hue
3 Bumpkin
4 Arthur's step-brother
5 Church sights
6 Boxing combo
7 Tour carrier
8 Users of the Force
9 Writer Hunter
10 Stocking stuffers
14 Sky saucer
18 Goes a bout
19 Lowest point
20 Except
21 Singer Yoko
22 Skin woe
24 Bottom-line figure
25 Little devil
26 Mole, e.g.
30 Genetic oddity
31 Belt spots
33 Watchdog sound
34 Foolish
35 Cruise stop
36 School near Windsor
38 Soda choice
39 Aid illegally
40 Memory unit
42 She sheep
43 Procured



Yesterday's answer



7-28

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

7-28 CRYPTOQUOTE

B WHDV KQ QRRH, FKL B

NBNC'L TUXD QRRH NHDUYG.

— YUWBA ORTCGR

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: KEEP YOUR FACE TO THE SUNSHINE AND YOU CANNOT SEE THE SHADOWS. — HELEN KELLER

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.

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

Difficulty: ★★

7/28

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

Difficulty: ★

7/27

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THE MIX

Pianist Buechner to perform Mozart, von Weber, ‘Dolly Suite’ with Melville

CODY ENGLANDER
STAFF WRITER

Prior to her performance, pianist Sara Davis Buechner reflected on what performing classical music means in the modern world.

“[Chautauqua audiences are a] very knowledgeable and respectful audience, which is unusual in the United States, where classical music is not exactly as popular as something like cage match wrestling on the lawn of the White House,” Buechner said. “... I wish the concert hall could be placed on the 20th story so the whole stage of upper New York could hear [the recital].”

At 4 p.m. today in the

Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall, Buechner will perform a series of pieces by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Carl Maria von Weber, concluding in a final serenade of the *Dolly Suite* by Gabriel Fauré. Nicola Melville, chair of Chautauqua Institution’s Piano Program, will accompany Buechner for the concluding pieces.

“I think an audience likes to watch two people duking it out on one instrument,” Buechner joked. “Size, space concerns become parallel when you’re sharing the bench with somebody.”

While sharing a bench can be cramped, as the two pianists are elbow-to-el-

bow, Buechner said the shared spotlight adds to the grandiosity of the performance, and the sound it produces is special.

“It makes a hell of a noise,” she said.

Buechner and Melville have known each other for some years, with Chautauqua serving as a connector for the two pianists. The *Dolly Suite* was the perfect selection for the musicians to combine their talents through all 88 keys.

“I’d always wanted to play this particular suite,” Buechner said. “The *Dolly Suite* consists of six pieces, and you almost never hear them all played together.

So this is, instead of a Hershey’s kiss, a whole chocolate bar.”

While Buechner is able to perform world-class pieces that have earned her major prizes in the Queen Elisabeth Competition, the Leeds International Piano Competition, the International Tchaikovsky Competition and the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition throughout the 1980s, she noted the one issue plaguing modern audiences — attention.

“Great music, like great art and great drama, like almost anything at the highest end of human aspiration, requires listening,

not just looking,” Buechner said. “Truly listening, sensing, feeling. To immerse yourself in that is, I think, deepening yourself as a human being and improving one’s sensitivity not only to the culture but also to the feelings and emotions of all those people around you.”

Having the power to hold the attention of an audience can lead to a wordless conversation between the music, pianist and audience member. All it takes is attention.

“My job as a musician isn’t to just have this conversation [with artists like Mozart], it’s to share it with people,” Buechner said.



BUECHNER

“That’s why they’re there: to hear something they’d otherwise not be privy to.”

Yang to hold Master Series Masterclass on picture books across audiences

NORA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Kao Kalia Yang, author, teacher and public speaker, pushes boundaries and expectations as she writes across audiences and genres. Now, she will share this approach with Chautauquans in a more conversational format.

Yang first visited Chautauqua when her debut book, *The Song Poet: A Memoir of My Father*, was a finalist for The Chautauqua Prize in 2017. Now, after serving as a guest judge for the 2026 Chautauqua Prize, she returns to lead a Master Series Masterclass titled “The Picture Book with Kao Kalia Yang” from 9 to 10:30 a.m. today in the Alumni Hall Ballroom with a registration fee of \$49.

“I’m excited to return and, this time, to bring my parents along to see this

part of the world,” Yang said. “I think that there are worlds within worlds, and the world of Chautauqua is very special.”

Yang said the Chautauqua community is familiar with her work for adults, but since her last visit, she’s published 14 books for children, with more on the way, and therefore wants to bring this side of her writing to Chautauquans.

“I thought it was a very rich way to bring all these sides of me to the community,” Yang said. “I’m going to start with *A Map into the World*, which is my first picture book, because a big part of this journey is talking about why an author for adults would move into the children’s space.”

Yang said she will then let audience members pick which book they’d rather hear from out of two op-

tions: *From the Tops of the Trees* and *The Rock in my Throat*. Afterward, Yang will close the class with a reading from *A Home on the Page*, which she said answers her most frequently asked question: “Why are you a writer?”

Despite moving across different genres and audiences, Yang said her stories focus on “traditionally underrepresented people and perspectives.”

“I write from the Hmong community because I’m Hmong, but I’ve also written beyond,” Yang said. “I’m interested in writing the person on the street, the voices, the perspectives that have not been represented.”

Yang said a goal throughout her work is to maintain transparency and a commitment to humanity.

“I think hearing from people who’ve not had the privilege of being heard from of-

fers perspectives that all of us can gain by hearing and listening deeply,” Yang said. “And I think inviting ourselves there, too.”

Interim Michael I. Rudell, Director of Literary Arts, Stephine Hunt said it’s important to realize that picture books can be enjoyed by all audiences and that Yang’s masterclass will intertwine reading from picture books with conversation on how to write them.

“[Chautauquans] should come ready to learn that even picture books are works that are important in the literary world and for literary cannons,” Hunt said. “Picture books are not just for children, and they are works of art, literally on the page in terms of the artwork that’s done, but also in the storytelling practice.”

Yang said she hopes audience members will gain an

understanding of her contributions to the children’s space, but also realize how stories can be distilled. For example, a children’s book is often 32 pages.

“The distillation of memory and experience is something that’s really critical to everybody at every stage of life,” Yang said.

She also hopes audience members will realize that as authors and readers alike move across genres and audiences, the sensibility of a writer doesn’t have to change.

“I want to be the kind of author that a child can grow up with and then an adult can grow old with,” Yang said. “I think it would be beautiful to exemplify this in my masterclass.”

In closing, Yang said audience members are sure to be delighted.

“Whatever expectations



YANG

you have for the children’s book form, the picture book form, expect that to be pushed,” Yang said. “A writer like me doesn’t just write because they have stories to tell. I want to push the edges of meaning, and I’m doing so across audiences and age groups.”

MESHELLE to speak about endurance through comedy for African American Heritage House

JENELL TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

At 4 p.m. today at the African American Heritage House, stand-up comedian and actress Michelle Foreman will speak with Chautauquans about how her practice in comedy allows her to navigate life’s unpredictable challenges.

The Baltimore comedian, born Michelle Foreman — known onstage as MESHELLE — renowns herself as the “Indie-Mom of Comedy,” whose persona proves that women can step into motherhood while maintaining their sense of self.

Foreman was raised by her grandparents in Park Heights, an inner-city Baltimore neighborhood, where she witnessed the determination and grit of blue-collar workers — a quality that earned her an undergraduate degree in psychology at Bowie State University and an interest in social work.

While enrolled in graduate school at Temple University, friends and colleagues would often point out her natural affinity to command a room and entertain all those within it. Shortly after, she began performing at comedy clubs in

Maryland and Philadelphia, developing a stand-up style that has been described by audiences as independent, innovative and teeming with individuality.

In an interview with digital newspaper *Word In Black*, she described the moments that shaped her comedic persona, the content of her craft and how she gives back to the world through humor.

“The dean of students pulled me aside because she’s heard rumors I was falling asleep in class,” she said to WIB. “Then she showed up at one of my shows and told me, ‘Michelle, you are funny.’”

Many of her routines center on a message of hopefulness and perseverance delivered sharply through her life’s unique experiences. Foreman’s identity as a mother of three, cancer survivor and recent divorcee of 20 years has given her much strife, she said, but using her faith as a foundation, she overcomes.

“It’s God, me and my family,” Foreman said to WIB. “My art is my gift, and it comes from the authentic life I live as a mom.”

One of her recent projects, “Mothers Know Best, Fathers Know Less,” has received critical acclaim



FOREMAN

and debuted as the unofficial kickoff of homecoming weekend at Bowie State University last year.

Along with mining for laughs, Foreman also gives back to her community through her role as an Open Society Institute Community Fellow. She created “Goaldiggers: The Sankofa Project,” a program that focuses on helping Black teenage girls pursue higher education while maintaining a connection to their cultural heritage.

“My art is my calling,” she said to WIB. “I have to get on stage. That’s how I heal — and how I help others heal, too.”



CHAUTAUQUA LOVES ITS “BABY”!

“I was doubled over laughing”
“Courageous. Creative. Just wonderful”
“The actors were brilliant!”

– Chautauquans overheard leaving *BEST FOR BABY*

Best for Baby
A VERY FUNNY TRAGEDY

By Sharyn Rothstein Directed by Oliver Butler

*

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THE CHQ DAILY

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The 2026 Summer Season marks the *The Chautauquan Daily's* 150th year of providing accurate, timely and high-quality news coverage to the Chautauqua Institution community.

50th Old First Night Race
Run/Walk/Speed Walk



Scan QR code to register


Date: Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 8 am
Course: 2.75 miles starts/ends at Sports Club
Youth Races start 9am: Diaper Dash, Toddler Trot, 100 yd dash, 1 mi. chip timed
Sign up online at forms.chq.org/oldfirstnight.com or QR code

PROGRAM

ALISON KRAUSS & UNION STATION



SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above left, Alison Krauss & Union Station, featuring Jerry Douglas, perform Friday in the Amphitheater. Above right, vocalist, dobro and lap steel player Douglas plays a solo.

Tu TUESDAY JULY 28			W WEDNESDAY JULY 29		
7:00	(7–11) Chautauqua Farmers Market. Massey and Miller	7:00	(7–9) “Dawn Patrol” Round Robin Doubles. Chautauqua Tennis Center	7:00	(7–11) Chautauqua Farmers Market. Massey and Miller
7:45	Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Chapel of the Good Shepherd	7:45	Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program. Mateo Mortellarto, Tibetan Meditation. Presbyterian House	7:45	Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Chapel of the Good Shepherd
8:00	Daily Word Meditation. (Programmed by Unity of Chautauqua). Hall of Missions	8:00	Daily Word Meditation. (Programmed by Unity of Chautauqua). Hall of Missions	8:00	Gloves on Gardening. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club). Ellie Nickeson. Miller Bell Tower
8:15	Catholic Mass. Hurlbut Church Sanctuary	8:15	Catholic Mass. Hurlbut Church Sanctuary	8:15	Catholic Mass. Hurlbut Church Sanctuary
8:30	Beginning SUP Class. \$59. Sign up with Special Studies. Sports Club Waterfront	8:30	(8:30–12:30) Bestor Fresh Market	8:30	Movement and Meditation with Monte Thompson. Hall of Philosophy Grove
8:30	(8:30–2) Chabad Kosher Tent. Bestor Plaza	8:55	Chautauqua Prays for Peace through Compassion. Hall of Philosophy Grove	8:30	(8:30–2) Chabad Kosher Tent. Bestor Plaza
9:00	Masters Series Masterclass: The Picture Book with Kao Kalia Yang. \$49. Fee. Alumni Hall Ballroom	9:15	ECUMENICAL WORSHIP. The Rev. Zina Jacque. Amphitheater and online	9:00	Creating an Inclusive Chautauqua & Beyond. Skill-Building Workshop. Alumni Hall Ballroom
9:15	Chautauqua Science Group Lecture. “Protecting the integrity of science underpinning public health and environmental protections.” (Co-sponsored by the Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative). David Michaels, PhD, MPH. Hurlbut Church Sanctuary	9:15	(9:15–10) Jewish Discussions. “Jewish Ethics.” Rabbi Zalman	9:15	ECUMENICAL WORSHIP. The Rev. Zina Jacque. Amphitheater and online
				9:15	(9:15–10:15) Jewish Discussions. “Positive Living.” Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House. 23 Vincent
				9:15	Fiber Arts Get Together. Bring your projects! Smith Memorial Library Listening Room
				10:00	Coffee on the Porch. Presbyterian House
				10:00	School of Music: Opera Conservatory Masterclass with Jonathan Beyer. McKnight Hall
				10:15	Service of Blessing and Healing. UCC Randell Chapel
				10:15	Coffee/Tea on the UM House Porch
				10:15	CHAUTAUQUA LECTURE SERIES. Stephanie Elizondo Griest. Amphitheater and online
				10:45	Chautauqua Prays for Peace through Compassion. Hall of Philosophy Grove
				11:00	(11–5) Exhibitions open. Fowler-Kellogg Art Center & Strohl Art Center
				12:00	(12–2) Play CHQ. (Programmed by Youth and Family Programs). Juggling with Zach Fish. Bestor Plaza
				12:00	Chaplains Chat and Lunch: “Let’s talk about Soil and Plants (Matthew 13: 1–9). The Rev. Catillo. UM House Porch
				12:15	Authors’ Hour (FCWC): Jason Irwin, memoir, <i>These Fragments I Have Shored</i> . Marjorie Maddox, multiple genres, <i>A Man Named Branch, Seeing Things</i> . Carol Townsend, <i>The Color of Shadows</i> . Porch of the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall (Ballroom in case of rain)
				12:30	Bird, Tree & Garden Club Lunchtime Lecture. “Delivering large-scale solutions to climate and environmental problems worldwide.” (Cosponsored by the Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative). Todd Paglia, CEO Stand. Bagged lunch available at door - \$10. Smith Wilkes Hall
				12:30	BYO Lunch: A Quaker’s Faith into Action. Todd Drake, Friend of the Week (Chaplain). Quaker House. 28 Ames
				12:30	Alternatives to Violence Project Mini-Workshop. Ginny Riordan and Michael Tritto. Quaker House. 28 Ames
				12:30	Authors @ The Smith: The Rev. Rachel Hollander (<i>From There to Here</i>) & Iris November (<i>Goodnight, Shoebox</i>). Smith Memorial Library
				12:30	Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office). Presbyterian House
				12:45	Guided Kayak Historic Tour. Sign up in advance at 716-357-6281. Fee. Sports Club Waterfront
				1:00	School of Music: Chamber Music Concert #1. Fletcher Music Hall
				1:00	English Lawn Bowling. Free instruction. 1–1:30. Stay and play for \$12. Bowling Green
				1:00	(1–2) Language Hour. CWC House. 30 South Lake
				1:00	Docent Tours. Fowler Kellogg Art Center & Strohl Art Center. Meet in Fowler-Kellogg Art Center
				1:15	Docent Tours of Alumni and Pioneer Halls. 50 Wythe
				1:45	Cinema Film Screening. “Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
				2:00	INTERFAITH LECTURE SERIES. Natalie Wigg-Stevenson. Hall of Philosophy and online
				2:00	THEATER, <i>Best for Baby</i>. Fee. Bratton Theater
				3:00	Knitting/Crochet Group on the UM House Porch
				3:30	Chautauqua Arts Education 101: Panel Discussion. Laura Savia, moderator, Suzanne Fasset-Wright, director of Arts Education, Samantha Cashmore and Nicole Kane, Chautauqua County educators. Smith Wilkes Hall
				3:30	Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office). Catholic House
				3:30	(3:30–5) Healing in Body Movement Susan Vande Kappelle, GPC Minister Trainer. UM House Chapel
				3:30	Jewish Film Series. “Once Upon My Mother.” Everett Jewish Life Center. 36 Massey
				4:00	(4–6) Play CHQ. (Programmed by Youth & Family Programs). Hand Fish Puppets. Miller Park
				4:00	School of Music: Chamber Music Concert #2. Fletcher Music Hall
				4:15	Jack’s Tree Walk. (Programmed by the Bird, Tree & Garden Club). Jack Gulvin. Smith Wilkes Hall Lakeside Patio
				4:30	Cinema Film Screening and Filmmaker Talk. “We Are All Plastic People Now.” Sponsored by Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative. Chautauqua Cinema
				4:45	Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program. Therapeutic Gong Meditation with Kim Hehr. Hall of Christ Sanctuary
				5:00	Chautauqua Softball League. Fish Heads vs. Arthritics. Sharpe Field
				5:30	Party on the Art Quad. Ticketed Event. CVA Arts Quad
				6:30	Chautauqua Softball League. YAC PAC vs. SLUGS. Sharpe Field
				6:30	School of Music: Art Song Recital. Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall
				6:30	Unity’s Positive Path for Spiritual Living. Turner Conference Room
				6:30	Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office). Lutheran House
				6:30	Eventide: “The Bemus Point-Stowe Ferry: A History.” Chris Flanders. 50 Wythe
				6:45	Testimony Meeting. Christian Science Chapel. 12 Center
				6:45	Chautauqua Dance Circle PREVIEW: “Wuthering Heights.” Anita Lin and Sasha Janes. Smith-Wilkes Hall
				7:00	Cinema Film Screening. “Fackham Hall.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
				7:30	THEATER, <i>Best for Baby</i>. Fee. Bratton Theater
				8:00	AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL “Wuthering Heights.” Sasha Janes, Bonnefoux McBride artistic director of Chautauqua School of Dance. Amphitheater

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REAGAN 150m

Tue. 7/28 6:00

PUT YOUR SOUL ON YOUR HAND AND WALK 112m

Tue. 7/28 8:50

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