



PLEASE NOTE: DOLLY PARTON IS NOT PERFORMING OR ATTENDING THIS EVENT.

Hamilton, CSO to tell country star’s legacy in ‘Dolly Parton’s Threads: My Songs in Symphony’

ROCCO PRIOLETTI
STAFF WRITER

“Dolly Parton’s Threads: My Songs in Symphony” weaves the fabric of Dolly Parton’s musical career for concertgoers and musicians alike to form a unique connection between each other and with Parton herself.

“I’ve had so many people come up to me afterwards and very kindly say, you know, ‘We love the symphony and the way you’ve written these arrangements,’ and I can tell that they’re connecting with this music,” said David Hamilton, the show’s arranger, orchestrator and conductor.

See **DOLLY**, Page A4

Rushdie assailant guilty of all charges

The man who attacked Salman Rushdie Aug. 12, 2022, in the Amphitheater was convicted of federal terrorism charges Wednesday, according to the Associated Press.

Earlier this week, according to the Associated Press, a jury found Rushdie’s attacker, Hadi Matar, guilty of all the charges he faced, including “engaging in an act of transnational terrorism.” Matar’s federal sentencing is set for Nov. 3, according to the Associated Press, and he “faces a potential life term.” This follows his February 2025 conviction of state charges of attempted murder, for which he is serving 25 years, according to The New York Times.

The New York Times reported that the federal jury

reached the verdict after two hours of deliberation. The trial was held in Buffalo, New York.

On the day of the attack, Rushdie was at Chautauqua Institution to deliver a morning lecture on censorship and the persecution of authors in conversation with Henry Reese, director of City of Asylum, as part of the Chautauqua Lecture Series.

In 2022, The Chautauqua Daily reported that the “world descended onto Chautauqua Institution [Aug. 12, 2022] as an act of violence sent shockwaves through the community within the gates, and across the globe ...”

See **RUSHDIE**, Page A4

Florence to preach, share faith story as Week Six chaplain

MARY LEE TALBOT
STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Anna Carter Florence, Ph.D., will serve as chaplain for Week Six. Florence is the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, and an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She is also currently serving as co-director of the Columbia Preachers Studio for Renewal, a Lilly-funded Compelling Preaching grant.

She will preach at the 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning worship service in the Amphitheater. Her sermon title is “Bread at the Gate.” She will also preach at the 9:15 a.m. Monday through Wednesday morning worship services in the Amphitheater. Her sermon



FLORENCE

titles include “Learning to Climb Trees,” “Changing the Subject” and “A Wilderness Parable.” Florence will share her faith journey at the 9:15 a.m. morning worship service in the Hall of Philosophy.

See **FLORENCE**, Page A4

Johnson to speak on intergenerational healing



JOHNSON

DEBORAH TREFTS
STAFF WRITER

The late theoretical physicist Richard Feynman’s observation, “If you want to master something, teach it,” is too often overshadowed by the expression, “If you can’t do, teach.”

Sarai Johnson’s success in both writing and teaching provides evidence for the former and demonstrates the naivete of the latter perspective.

Johnson’s book, *Grown Women: A Novel*, made

the Best Books of 2024 list for The New Yorker, the Chicago Public Library, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and TheGrio. It won the Hurston/Wright Foundation’s 2025 Zora/Legacy Award for Debut Fiction and the NAACP’s 2025 Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work by a Debut Author.

While she was writing it, she was — and still is — teaching about writing and literature at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

At 3 p.m. Saturday in the Hall of Philosophy, Johnson will deliver a talk for the Chautauqua Women’s Club’s Contemporary Issues Forum titled “Grown Women: Intergenerational Healing through Fiction.”

“My life story and my book are quite related,” she said. “Writing in general has helped me figure out my mother ... and that relationship. That’s how the book came to be.”

See **JOHNSON**, Page A4

IN TODAY’S DAILY



THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING

Merchant visits young Chautauquans at Children’s School for morning sing-along.

Page B3



RECOGNIZING THE CLASS OF 2026

Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Recognition Week to welcome Class of 2026.

Page B4



BATTLE OF THE AIRBANDS

Boys’ and Girls’ Club holds 41st annual Airband competition in the Amphitheater.

Page C1

SATURDAY’S WEATHER
H 80° L 64°
Rain: 35%
Sunset: 8:38 p.m.

SUNDAY
H 73° L 64°
Rain: 95%
Sunrise: 6:10 a.m. Sunset: 8:37 p.m.

MONDAY
H 76° L 65°
Rain: 85%
Sunrise: 6:11 a.m. Sunset: 8:36 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

NATIONAL COMEDY CENTER

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VISUAL ARTS



BRIEFLY

NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS

Amphitheater gates to close 9:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday for worship

Please note that the gates to the Amphitheater will close at 9:30 a.m. Monday and Tuesday this week. The Institution anticipates large crowds for the 10:45 a.m. Chautauqua Lecture Series programs and asks those arriving early to queue outside the gates until the worship service concludes.

Safety & Security Department news

On mornings with an increased security presence, patrons attending programs at the Chautauqua United Church of Christ Society are asked to enter via Bowman Avenue, located on the opposite side of the building. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Zigdon Chabad Jewish House news

The Community Kosher BBQ (Sponsored by the Chabad Jewish House) has been rescheduled to Sunday, Aug. 9, and will now include a festive Klezmer Concert. The Keith West's Illusioneers Magic Show will still take place as scheduled Sunday, Aug. 2 at 1 p.m., but has been relocated to Smith Wilkes Hall due to the forecasted rain.

Chautauqua Vegan Potluck

The Chautauqua Vegan Potluck will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday on the back porch of Fowler-Kellogg Art Center. The porch is covered, so the potluck will occur rain or shine! Please come and bring a vegan dish to share. Vegan food is plant-based and free of any animal products, including meat, fish, dairy, eggs and honey. Please RSVP to chqvegan@gmail.com.

Chautauqua Women's Golf Association

Join CWGA to connect with local golfers, enjoy friendly competition and play a historic course at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday mornings at the Chautauqua Golf Club. The annual league membership is \$50. Reduced rates for both 18 and 9 hole players. GHIN handicap required. Call the CGC Pro Shop at 716-357-6211.

Friends of Chautauqua Theater Play Discussion: 'The Motions'

Friends of Chautauqua Theater will host a discussion of the season's second New Play Workshop, *The Motions*, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Sunday at Jessica Trapasso Pavilion at Children's School. Join fellow theater lovers to explore and discuss this new work before or after experiencing the reading. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

Women's Club news

The Flea Boutique will be open from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday behind the Colonnade.

Literary Arts Contests

Writers of all ages are encouraged to submit their work for consideration in this year's contest and the possibility of winning a cash prize. Go to chq.org/fcwc to find out more. Deadline: Sunday. Contest awards ceremony at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 16 in the Hall of Philosophy.

Robert Pinsky Favorite Poem Project

Selected Chautauquans will have the opportunity to read their favorite poem at 3:30 p.m. Aug. 20 in the Hall of Philosophy. The poems cannot be by you or a family member and should be no more than a page long. For more information and to apply, go to chq.org/fcwc. Deadline: Aug. 15.

Shirley Lazarus Speaker Series

Shirley Lazarus Speaker Series: "What We Do Matters," will be held from 7 to 8:15 p.m. in Smith Wilkes Hall as Sheldon Goldberg, a U.S. military veteran, will discuss "The History of the Jewish Presence in the U.S. Military." He will be accompanied by Jordan Adler and Larry Wolf, who will speak about their respective experiences at the U.S. Air Force and Naval Academies. The program will be followed by "Sunday Sweet Talk" — dessert, conversation and community (Please bring your own beverage).

Chautauqua Tennis Center news

The tennis center will offer stroke of the day for beginners this week, Monday through Friday. A morning clinic including drills and match-like tennis play will be offered from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Open play pickleball will be offered from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Monday–Friday for intermediate/advanced players and from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday for all levels. Reservations are required for formal match play and private lessons. For all tennis and pickleball reservations, please email tennis@chq.org up to 24 hours in advance. The tennis center can be reached at 716-357-6276.

CLSC Class of 2013 news

The CLSC Class of 2013 will hold its annual meeting at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Gingerbread Cottage.

CLSC Class of 2004 news

The CLSC Class of 2004 shall meet for breakfast at 8 a.m. Wednesday at the outdoor tables behind the Brick Walk Cafe on Bestor Plaza. Please bring your coffee or beverage of choice, and muffins will be provided. Then we shall proudly march at 9 a.m. in the CLSC Recognition Day parade.

CLSC Class of 2018 news

Join the Class of 2018's pre-parade gathering for muffins on the porch between 7:40 and 8:20 a.m. Wednesday at 49 Foster, unit 1. We will walk as a group to Bestor Plaza to line up behind our 2018 class banner for the parade. Wear a purple shirt.

CVA to host artists-in-residence exhibition

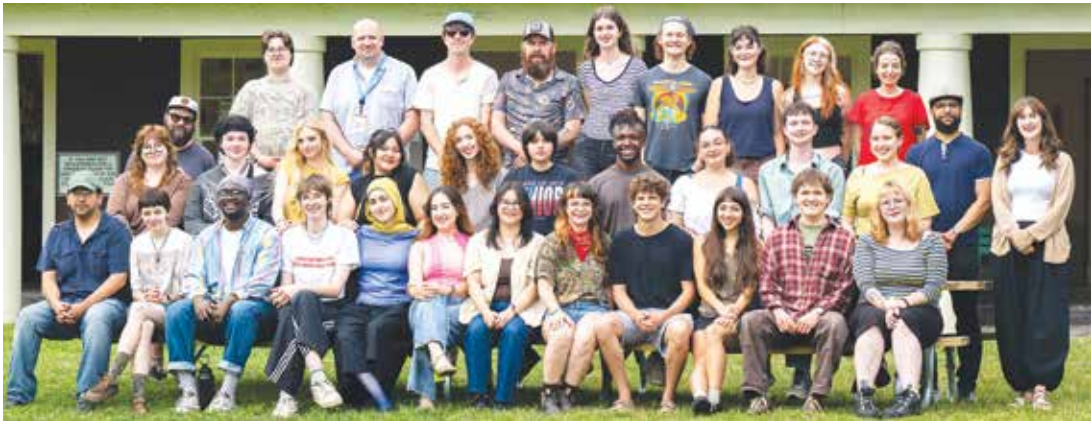
JENELL TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

This weekend, Chautauqua Visual Arts will celebrate the School of Art's artists-in-residence during the annual group exhibition from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Arts Quad.

"These emerging and established artists have immersed themselves in an intensive studio residency, creating new work while engaging with a vibrant community of artists, visiting faculty and arts professionals," said Erika b Hess, Sydelle Sonkin and Herb Siegel artistic director of the Visual Arts.

The School of Art's six-week residency program is an exploratory, faculty-led educational experience designed for artists seeking to elevate their creative practice. Using a collaborative, studio-driven approach, residents explore various mediums such as ceramics, painting, sculpture, printmaking and fiber art.

"The exhibition offers the public a unique opportunity



DAVE MUNCH / INTERIM MANAGING EDITOR

School of Art staff, visiting faculty and participants in Chautauqua School of Art's six-week residency program.

to see the artwork created during their residency and experience the creative energy that defines the Chautauqua School of Art," Hess added.

One of the exhibiting artists, Anna Dacanay, said her experience in the program has been crucial in helping to move her artistic practice forward. She said she looks forward to expanding on the ideas fostered in the program and carrying that

through her career.

"I've especially enjoyed the experience of being in dialogue with the community of my fellow resident artists and the visiting faculty," she said. "This program at CVA has provided a distinct environment for my peers and I to grow alongside each other, and our work has benefited from it greatly."

The exhibition is a one-time visual experience that explores the inner workings

of Chautauqua Institution's art world, offering a tangible demonstration of the weight that the residency program holds for artists.

Resident artist Alpha Massaquoi, Jr., also has works on display in the exhibition. For him, the community is what stands out. He said that his time in the program and his experience in Chautauqua as a whole have been nothing short of "magical."

"I've met so many amazing people here just by existing," he said.

Massaquoi described how friendships have blossomed out of simple interactions like being invited onto a stranger's porch, into someone's home for dinner or just petting a Chautauquan's dog.

"I think it's a really amazing thing, too, because as a Black man, I was a little afraid to be in a space that is extremely white," he said. "But having people that can host and share a little bit about the space and what it means to their family, and having people willing to learn my story and how I got here is really magical."

He said the residency program and the greater Chautauqua community alike have fostered a strong sense of community.

"By being here," he added, "I know that I'm wanted here."

Massaquoi also highlighted the work that Hess has done in the program and how her attitude toward the residents has allowed him to strengthen his craft and push the limits of his skill.

"Erika does a really good job of bringing in great instructors that understand what it's like to be an emerging artist and they push us to push our work," he explained. "They challenge the way we think, they challenge our concepts and techniques — overall, I will say that this has been one of the best residencies that I've been to."

With a summer-long experience enriched through lectures given by established professionals, specialized classes and immersive studio visits, the artists-in-residence have been appropriately equipped with the tools and resources used to create the works showcased this weekend.



CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION
FOOD FESTIVAL
AUGUST 16-28, 2026

Taste of Chautauqua Featuring The Probables

Wednesday, Aug. 26 • 3 p.m. • Bestor Plaza

Food. Music. Community.

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Featuring Local Restaurants, Wineries, Breweries, Distilleries & Artists Including: The White Inn, Andriaccio's, Stella: A Kitchen & Bar, Portage Pie, Borsari Food Company, 21 Brix Winery, Johnson Estate Winery, Southern Tier Distilling Co. and many more

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Featured Properties for Sale



Price Reduction

33 Maple Street, Bemus

5 bed | 1 bath + room for a 2nd bath
Located in the Village of Bemus close to shops & restaurants. Lake access with a dock! First floor bedroom, bathroom & laundry. Room to add a bath in an unfinished 2nd floor space.
Great opportunity!
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Pending Sale

1 Morris B, Chautauqua

2 bed | 1 bath condo
1st floor, year-round, pet friendly for one pet, all one level condo. Two porches to enjoy! Open living and dining room plus a full galley kitchen. View of Bestor Plaza! Laundry and private storage.
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS AND REFERRALS.**

Debbie Rowe | Lic. R.E. Assoc. Broker
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COMMUNITY

As Chautauqua Institution prepares to celebrate its 152nd birthday this week on Old First Night, we are reminded that institutions endure not simply because of their history, but because each generation chooses to invest in their future.

This week's theme, "America at 250: In Partnership with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation" invites us to explore the ideals and challenges that continue to shape our nation. At its core is a question that extends beyond government and civic institutions: How do we build communities in which people feel seen, heard and valued and help make us into our best selves? That is a question worth considering here at Chautauqua, as well.

For more than 150 years, people have gathered on these grounds to learn about the best in human values. Generations of Chautauquans have formed deep connections to this place and to one another. But belonging is something everyone should experience, whether it's their first visit or their 50th. It is not automatic, and it is not something we can take for granted. It is something we must work toward every day.

That work requires intention. It asks us to look beyond



From the Interim Chief Executive

COLUMN BY **KYLE KEOGH**

Belonging at Chautauqua

our own experiences and consider how others encounter this community. It challenges us to build connections across backgrounds and viewpoints. It calls on us to en-

sure that the values we celebrate are reflected in the way we engage with one another.

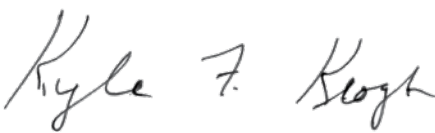
This work is never finished.

Like our democracy, Chautauqua is an ongoing project. Each generation inherits something of great value, but also a responsibility to strengthen it and make it more impactful and accessible to those who come after us.

As we celebrate our history and the traditions that have sustained Chautauqua for 152 years, we should also look ahead. The future of this Institution depends not only on those who have long called it home, but on those who are discovering it for the first time.

Our task is simple to describe, even if it is challenging to achieve: to build a community where newcomers and longtime Chautauquans alike feel they belong and that their presence matters.

That work honors our past. More importantly, it prepares us for the future.



TO THE EDITOR:

In the United States, we spend considerable time discussing what is broken. We debate polarization and diagnose society's ailments from our social media accounts.

Far less often do we study the places that seem to work, like Chautauqua.

Not because it is frozen in time. It has not escaped the challenges of modern America. But it does create the conditions under which strangers can become neighbors.

One afternoon, I was working outside the bookstore, writing. I stopped to admire a couple playing folk music. It was glorious. Then I set my glasses on the bench beside me and headed to the amphitheater for an opera performance.

Halfway through the evening, I realized why the subtitles were so blurry.

Oh no, my glasses.

I assumed they were gone. Not stolen, but lost to the ordinary churn of public life. Someone cleaning up might toss them. Someone might move them to a lost-and-found bin destined to collect dust. Either way, I doubted I would ever see them again.

The next day, I returned to the same spot because it was good for people-watching.

There they were.

Folded neatly on the bench, exactly where I had left them.

Hundreds of people must have passed that bench. Some surely sat beside them. Yet person after person made the same small decision: These do not belong to me. They belong to someone. That person will probably come back.

It was such a tiny act that it would barely register in most places. Yet it felt remarkable.

Urbanists often talk about civic life. We build theories and models to explain why some places foster community while others struggle. What I found on that bench was a reminder that these grand concepts emerge from countless small acts of stewardship performed by ordinary people.

My glasses did not survive because Chautauqua is populated by saints.

They survived because Chautauqua is designed to encourage people to see one another as members of a shared community.

During a time when so much feels broken, that may be one of the most important forms of infrastructure we can build.

LO SONTAG
HALCYON PARK, NEW JERSEY (& LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA)

TO THE EDITOR:

I am disappointed in the Institution's inability to properly screen speakers. Micah Hendler was invited to share information about JYC. Instead of sticking to a lecture about his organization, he included his political views. He used the word "genocide" and compared one Israeli police officer shooting to the events of Oct. 7 (when non-military occupants of Gaza infiltrated Israel's borders to murder, rape, torture, and kidnap innocent civilians). He did not specify (until questioned) that the Palestinian members of his choir live in Jerusalem. No members live in Gaza, where their mantra is "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it."

I am not opposed to the Jerusalem Youth Choir. It is a beautiful organization. Micah was invited to speak about this organization, not Israeli politics. Aug. 11, Jeremy Ben Ami from J Street will speak at the Institution. The Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. referred to J Street as a "cancer within the Jewish community". A speaker was not invited to provide balance to his perspective.

I respectfully request that the Institution make an effort to require speakers to stick to their topic and invite speakers who can provide a variety of perspectives on political views.

MARCY COHN
PITTSBURGH, PA

TO THE EDITOR:

This is to thank Kyle, the rest of the administration and everyone else who helped during the time of transition last year and made the difficult decisions necessary to guide us financially and prepare for the next few years. There is a feeling of optimism now and a forward-looking atmosphere throughout the Institution, for which we are all grateful. Here's looking forward to the new administration and even better times ahead.

WILLIAM E. BATES
P.O. BOX 1352



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CORRESPONDENCE FROM OUR READERS

TO THE EDITOR:

Hello Chautauquans! I wanted to take a moment to write out a few tangible items that you all can do if you found my lecture on July 21 interesting and informative. When you're sitting on that stage, occasionally you forget things that would have added to the conversation as time zips by rather quickly. I've enjoyed my time spent here this week, and enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you that came up and said "hello." I think there were a lot of questions we didn't get to! So here's what I would do if I were new to this conversation and wanted to make a big impact.

- I would learn how to mend. Many of you might already know. Pass on those skills to the younger generation. In our "Era of Disposability," planned obsolescence is baked into all our products. Fight back by pledging to mend holes, fix zippers, sew buttons back on. And if you don't want to do it yourself, find a reliable dry cleaner who will. If you have these skills, consider hosting a mending circle and passing them on to friends and children you know.
- Have a swap party! Looking at you, Chautauqua Women's Club! I know the CWC is already on this in many ways, but you should take this into your greater circles. Invite your friends over and have a rifle through each other's wardrobes. It really extends the life of your clothes.
- Try and get away from new. A lot of you already practice this, but if you don't ... it's time. Check out websites like eBay, Postmark, ThredUp and The RealReal for great deals on labels you might not buy new due to price.
- If you're a parent, take a note from the nice Mom who told me that she started a second-hand blazer shop at her boy's school. This should be happening everywhere. Every kid should understand the importance of second-hand, whether it's a uniform second-hand shop or a school-wide swap. Let's take the shame out of second-hand. And it starts early.
- Get someone to talk about phones and consumerism in schools. This is where a lot of the messaging hits young people. Let's get young people understanding the issues early on. This can lead to better conversations about things like credit card debt and Buy Now Pay Later programs. Let's have these conversations early and often.
- Champion textile recycling locally where you are. Especially if you sit on a board and have a community that is environmentally conscious. Less than 1% of fabrics are currently recycled on our planet. We've got to change that.
- Stop buying from brands that don't pay their workers. End of. If you don't know, ask. If it seems murky... there's a reason for that. And make your feelings known to the CEO. Don't if allow this system to persist unchallenged.
- Normalize second-hand gift giving. Start buying second-hand presents for loved ones. Your grandkid wants a designer handbag? See if you can talk them into a second-hand one. Get your wife some second-hand Chanel earrings for Christmas.
- Follow the legislation! In France, they have repair bills and the UK is introducing one as well. Get involved with the Fashion Act, ESPECIALLY if you live in New York.
- If you're looking for more information, please find me on Patreon. Sometimes I do free weeks like this week. And my paid newsletter is very regular, and I've got a fund to support clothing-supply-chain charities, which is something I'm very interested in doing on a large scale. Becoming a paid subscriber doesn't just support my work, but it supports others as well.

AJA BARBER
LONDON, ENGLAND

TO THE EDITOR:

I write to express my concern with the administration's proposal announced in last week's Daily to sell Chautauqua Institution land for private housing development. The purpose of my letter isn't to address substantive questions the proposal raises (Should we clear-cut trees in the South End Ravine? Build condos next to Norton Hall?), but instead the process by which the administration made its proposal.

Housing is, of course, an issue of tremendous importance Chautauqua needs to address for its civic and financial health. But selling Institution land is an irrevocable decision that can forever change the look, feel and character of Chautauqua, while permanently foreclosing options for its future needs. For that reason, selling land demands a clearly supported rationale, thoughtful planning and meaningful community input. Presumably that's why, as recently as May 6, the Board of Trustees assured us that housing development would proceed with both "community engagement and Master Plan alignment."

The administration's proposal falls well short of fulfilling that promise. Consider the development of the proposal itself. Chautauqua is full of individuals and groups with deep interest and expertise in issues implicated by the proposal — housing, property management and care of the grounds, to name just a few. But the only people the administration says it consulted were a select group of "Chautauquans with real estate experience" (whose identities and financial interests remain undisclosed). The administration identified no one else from whom it sought input — no other Chautauquans, nor any professionals (like urban and architectural planners) with expertise in developing effective solutions to complex housing and financial issues like those at Chautauqua.

The administration's approach to community engagement is also troubling. It announced its plan in a Daily article offering few specifics and a nearly illegible map. The one listening session announced in the article was hardly illuminating, as it was filled beyond capacity and consisted of impromptu presentations, straw polls and questions on numerous topics that remain unresolved. No other information is readily accessible on chq.org — not the proposal itself, no maps, no discussion of potential building sizes or architectural standards, no strategic plans or financial projections, nor any discussion of alignment with the Master Plan as contemplated by the board.

Who knows if the administration's proposal offers the best way forward, or if (as I fear) it will prove to be an ineffective solution we later regret and cannot undo. Whatever anyone's hunch on that question, the fact that the administration has offered so little to enable us, as a community, to evaluate an issue of such profound consequence for Chautauqua's future is, frankly, shocking. As stewards of Chautauqua and its grounds, we owe future generations a more thoughtful and considered way forward. And we deserve a process that reflects the kind of transparent, open and meaningful discussion of civic issues for which this Institution stands.

TOM MCCRAY-WORRALL
14 CENTER

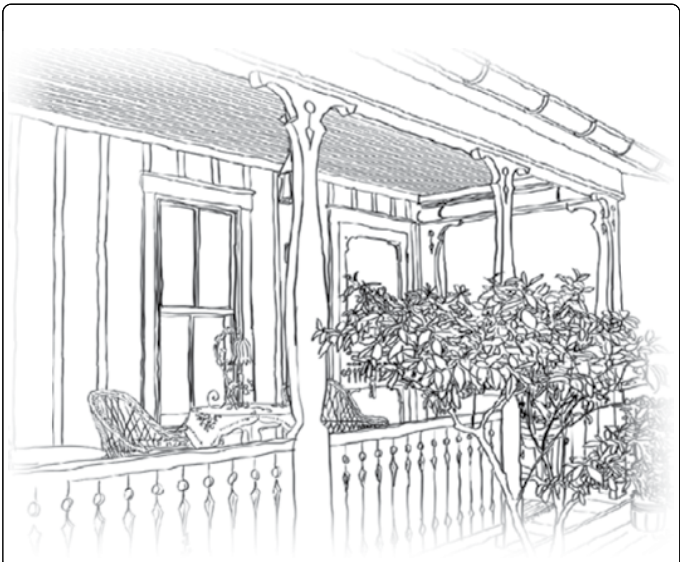
THE CHAUTAUQUAN DAILY

LETTERS POLICY

The Chautauquan Daily welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be submitted electronically, no more than 350 words and are subject to editing. Letters must include the writer's signature including name, address and telephone number for verification. The *Daily* does not publish anonymous letters. Works containing demeaning, accusatory or libelous statements will not be published.

Submit letters to:

Dave Munch
Interim Managing Editor
dmunch@chq.org



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High Tea

In the Athenaeum Hotel Parlor at 3:30 pm

A program of poetry and music presented by Kaye Lindauer with Arlene Hajinlian, Pianist, and other guests

Week 5 – Wednesday, August 6

Dreams: Mystery and Intrigue

Upcoming Tea: Week 8 – Wednesday, August 19

Tickets may be purchased by calling the Athenaeum Hotel front desk at (716) 357-4444 in advance or in person at Hotel front desk.



OHIO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Join Us!

Ohio University plans to be on-the-grounds on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, with an afternoon program beginning at 3:30 p.m. and hosted at the Chautauqua Women's Club, featuring guest speakers and reception fare.



For more information or to register now, please scan the QR Code or contact Jacquelin Weber at weberj2@ohio.edu or at 740-597-3347.

FROM PAGE ONE

JOHNSON

FROM PAGE 1

According to Goodreads: “In this stunning debut novel, four generations of complex Black women contend with motherhood and daughterhood, generational trauma and the deeply ingrained tensions and wounds that divide them as they redefine happiness and healing for themselves. ... In masterful, elegant prose, debut novelist Sarai Johnson has created a rich and moving portrait of Black women’s lives today.”

Born in the “tiny little town” of Greenville, Texas, Johnson said she moved to Nashville, Tennessee, when she was 2 years old. She remained there through high school.

“I wanted to be a journalist, a very formal journalist,” she said. “In high school I wrote a column for a local newspaper. It was called, ‘Bridging the Gap.’ I talked to older people. I would choose a topic, like music, and I would talk to one of my classmates who wanted to be a musician, and then I would talk to an older person and ask for their advice. I wanted to write, and

I thought the way to do that was through journalism.”

At Howard University, Johnson majored in print and online journalism and minored in English.

As a college sophomore and junior, she worked as the editorial fellow at *Modern Luxury* in Washington, D.C., hiring, training and managing a team of five interns. Johnson also “edited and managed content for society pages” and “produced content for online and print publication.”

During the summer before her senior year, she was the Pulliam fellow at *The Indianapolis Star* and worked as a multimedia reporter on the entertainment/arts beat. At the Aspen Institute in D.C. during and after her senior year, Johnson read and edited seminar and presentation transcripts, wrote posts for *The Aspen Idea* Blog, and edited documents for *The Aspen Idea* magazine.

After earning her B.A., she served as the creative writing teaching intern at Writopia Lab in D.C., a nonprofit organization that, among other endeavors, runs creative writing workshops and

campus and college essay workshops. There, Johnson assisted lab instructors by preparing lesson plans and providing class and workshop instruction. She also worked at Local Media Connection in Alexandria, Virginia, as an editorial assistant.

“I realized (journalism) wasn’t the kind of writing I wanted to do,” Johnson said.

In September 2015, she began her ongoing association with Shout Mouse Press in D.C. — “a nonprofit writing and publishing program dedicated to amplifying underheard youth voices” — as a story coach. In this role, she supported workshops by “providing one-on-one and group conversations with middle school and high school students.”

“I’ve worked for Shout Mouse Press on and off for years,” Johnson said. “I’m working now on a project for them, a graphic novel. Anytime I get to write that closely with young writers inspires me. I learn. I think more about what makes a good story.”

At American University in D.C., she pursued a Master of Arts in literature rather than a Master of Fine Arts, and took courses in the

teaching of writing.

“I chose American University because of its teaching element,” she said. “... I chose the teaching track versus the academic track, and I chose composition and writing. I had to shadow a teacher at the university. ... I was really quite young — 24 and 25 — and not that much different in age as the students.”

As a graduate student, Johnson also served as a writing consultant for the Writing Center at American University, tutoring college and graduate students, and as a graduate assistant in the Department of Literature. Even before receiving her MA, she taught as an adjunct professor in AU’s Writing Studies Program.

Johnson began teaching at Howard University during fall 2019, a semester before COVID-19 pandemic precautions abruptly necessitated alterations in curricula and interpersonal interactions. She spent a year as an adjunct lecturer in the English department’s First-Year Writing Program before being promoted to teach expository writing and literacy

“

It’s not ‘honor and obey our parents. I think we see a lot more because we’re online more. There’s more talk about releasing parents — becoming more estranged. We’re seeing it more and talking about it more. I think I’m going to offer a perspective that’s in the middle.”

—SARAI JOHNSON

Author, *Grown Women*

studies, persuasive writing and research and women in literature in the English department.

“I spent a lot of time reading,” Johnson said. “I’m going to talk about how reading plays a role in my emotional health.”

Much of *Grown Women* was written before her children were born. “It came out when my son was 6 weeks old,” she said. “I’m full-time at Howard. Personal matters do come up. ... I spend a lot of time with students. ... I think I’ve finally reached an age where I can do that for them. I’m going into my seventh year at Howard and I’ve taught these classes over and over. I’m a mom now,

and I’m coming into my maturity.” She’s also writing her second novel.

It is Johnson’s hope that Chautauquans “will be attracted to talking through intergenerational conflicts” because she thinks that online social media has changed the standard.

“It’s not ‘honor and obey our parents,’” she said. “I think we see a lot more because we’re online more. There’s more talk about releasing parents — becoming more estranged. We’re seeing it more and talking about it more. I think I’m going to offer a perspective that’s in the middle.”

DOLLY

FROM PAGE 1

Though she will not physically perform at or attend the event, Parton will co-host the evening through videos in which she details personal life stories that accompany her songs.

“It has that kind of feel of we’re talking to somebody that’s your friend, but she’s

a superstar,” Hamilton said.

At 8 p.m. tonight, Hamilton will conduct the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra through Parton’s life in song in the Amphitheater.

Accompanying the CSO is a six-piece band of Nashville session musician veterans and three female singers.

Hamilton worked closely with Parton’s team to help the music come alive on-

stage. He arranged the pieces in a way that engages both the listener and the orchestra’s musicians, noting that an orchestra can oftentimes feel like a “backing band” in the context of country.

“I always had some input from [Parton’s] musical director and her management team, and we chose the songs. But then, I was really grateful to have the chance to just run with it. And my job was to really try to set these songs in a unique way,” Hamilton said.

One of the show’s creative left-turns happens during the arrangement of “Jolene” — one of Parton’s “best love songs,” according to Hamilton. The song starts as expected, based upon the insistent guitar riff as heard in the beloved studio recording.

“But, about two-thirds of the way, suddenly, I decided to change keys and write a whole chorus where the orchestra takes over and you’re like, ‘Whoa, I wasn’t expecting it,’” Hamilton said.

After the show’s development finished, Hamilton recalled the day he spent meeting Parton, where she filmed the videos that accompany the multimedia production onstage.

“She was so kind to me ... You could just tell, kind of, seeing her eyes light up when she heard some of the demos of her songs in a new setting,” Hamilton said. “That was pretty special for me. It’s going to be a memory I take with me for a long time.”

Hamilton grew up with an “eclectic” musical back-

“

It was really fun to step over into my 30-year history in Nashville like, ‘Let’s write some country music for the symphony.’ And that’s been a joy for me.”

—DAVID HAMILTON

Orchestrator, Conductor

ground. He studied classical piano and still shared his parents’ love for country music. He recalled listening to country tunes on the radio while building model airplanes as a child.

“I’ll never forget my grandmother telling me — she was watching the Grand Ole Opry — and she said, ‘David, when are you going to be on that Opry

show?’” Hamilton remembered and laughed.

Now, based in Nashville, Tennessee, Hamilton continues the city’s longstanding admiration of the genre nationwide.

“It was really fun to step over into my 30-year history in Nashville like, ‘Let’s write some country music for the symphony.’ And that’s been a joy for me,” Hamilton said.

FLORENCE

FROM PAGE 1

Before joining the Columbia faculty in 1998, Florence served as an associate pastor for youth and young adults at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. Her first book, *Preaching as Testimony*, is based on her 2012 Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching at Yale Divinity School. Florence’s most recent title, *A Is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture*, has a forthcoming sequel titled *B Is for Banquet: 52 More Reflections on the Stories of Scripture*. She has published articles and chapters in nu-

merous books and journals, including a year’s worth of lectionary text commentaries for *workingpreacher.org*, and can be heard on media ministry Day 1, the voice of the historic Protestant denominations.

Florence holds a Bachelor of Arts from Yale University as well as a Master of Divinity and Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary.

This program is made possible by the generous support of The Mr. and Mrs. William Uhler Follansbee Memorial Chaplaincy and The Alison and Craig Marthinsen Endowment for the Department of Religion.

RUSHDIE

FROM PAGE 1

Following the attack, Rushdie was flown to Erie, Pennsylvania’s UPMC Hamot for medical treatment, where he underwent surgery and was placed on a ventilator. Rushdie sustained severe nerve damage and loss of vision in his right eye, according to *The New York Times*.

In the immediate aftermath of the attack, former President Michael E. Hill said the attack was a “violent expression of hate that shook [Chautauquans] to our core.”

Hill called for Chautauquans to recognize “the best of humanity in response to the numbers of people who ran toward danger,” according to *The Chautauquan Daily*.

Hill said, “We will return to our podiums and our pulpits. Our hope is we will continue to convene those conversations that were tried to be stopped today, so we can build greater empathy — and it’s more important now than ever.” In the days following

the attack, programs were canceled. Chautauquans came together and held a public vigil in the Hall of Philosophy, and Gov. Kathy Hochul came to the Institution to deliver remarks and thank first responders.

Gov. Hochul said during her 2022 remarks that “calls for violence cannot be tolerated,” according to the *Daily*. She added, “I want it out there, that a man with a knife cannot silence a man with a pen.”

On Aug. 12, 2023, Reese returned to the Institution to deliver a lecture on City of Asylum, marking the one-year anniversary of the attack.

Following the federal conviction, Interim Chief Executive Kyle Keogh said he hopes the jury’s decision will bring closure to an “incredibly tragic moment” in Chautauqua’s history.

“We are still so saddened by the tragedies that happened here on Aug. 12, 2022,” Keogh said. “[We] hope that this helps bring some closure for all of us — for [Salman Rushdie and his] family, for Chautauqua and the world.”



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Advertising telephone	716-357-6206
Business telephone	716-357-6235
Circulation telephone	716-357-6235
Editorial telephone	716-357-6205
Email address	daily@chq.org
Fax number	716-357-9694

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Listen Wi-Fi allows patrons to easily access live audio for events and programs using their own smartphones, along with personal headphones or Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids, offering a more flexible and inclusive listening experience across our venues.

Assistance available on Sundays at 2:30–3 p.m. right before the Sunday family entertainment event at the Amphitheater at gate 4 (across from the Presbyterian House).

LECTURE

Eggers argues art, learning is what it ‘means to be human’

ARIANNA NEVAREZ
STAFF WRITER

To round out Week Five’s “Art and Artists Against the Odds,” author Dave Eggers recalled a time the odds were stacked against him after his book not only made a banned-book list but was also placed in a stack labeled “to be destroyed” in Rapid City, South Dakota.

“You haven’t been doing it right if no one has found anything bannable or objectionable in what you’ve done,” Eggers said.

At 10:45 a.m. Friday in the Amphitheater, Eggers demonstrated how he personally fought the odds in his career and helped others find their way through adversity.

When Eggers learned *The Circle*, his tech-dystopia fiction novel, and four other books were being banned in South Dakota, his interest was piqued. First, he called a local bookstore in Rapid City to see if they would work with him on a project; he told them he was willing to pay for any student who wanted all five of the books on the banned list.

They ended up giving away 300 sets of the books.

“If they had not been banned, like six kids would have read that,” Eggers said. “Everybody wants to read the banned books.”

Eggers said he learned the school board member who made the decision to ban his book didn’t even have children enrolled in the public school, and she had won her election in a landslide due to low voter turnout and engagement. Eggers said he tried to talk to the school board and principals, but the people who actually wanted to talk about book banning were the teachers.

The teachers were at the forefront of the issue, fight-

ing “tooth and nail” to continue teaching the books that had been in the curriculum for years.

“Instead of saying, ‘This is an interesting, complicated text; we actually have experienced teachers (who can) guide you through these texts and actually give you the context.’ Instead, they ban them,” Eggers said. “We go out there, and the teachers are fighting school boards. The principals have hidden all of the books. ... This was raging the national debate for a long time.”

As the teachers were working to make a change, Eggers said students were upset because they were being deprived of more book options due to inappropriate content, while they had access to the internet with no guidance. The next school board election turnout tripled, and Eggers said he saw students advocate for themselves at town halls in Rapid City.

He also said there had not been complaints about the books in the first place.

“Book bans are un-American, and they’re nonpartisan in a way that nobody wants them,” Eggers said. “It’s this tiny, tiny sliver of people that ... has stirred up all of this trouble across the country. You will not find librarians that have seen authentic complaints.”

This wasn’t the first time Eggers had dedicated time to support young people. In 2002, Eggers said he noticed that grade school students raised in Spanish-speaking households could benefit from more one-on-one time with teachers. He realized he knew writers who could assist, and he set himself to work.

In San Francisco, Eggers

said he found a potential building where he hoped to establish a writing and tutoring center he called 826 Valencia, but the street was zoned for retail. “Naturally,” he said, the organization turned the entrance into a pirate supply store. The store sells seafaring necessities and novelties, from eye patches to messages in a bottle, and serves as a unique fundraising tool, which functions as a way to meet retail zoning requirements and destigmatize something that students might otherwise be intimidated by or think has a negative connotation.

The informal, fun nature of the center became something that “destigmatized” it. Eggers said it became a space that could function beyond its initial purpose of tutoring and amplify people’s writing by publishing them in books, newspapers and magazines. 826 Valencia has since opened 74 locations worldwide and published more than 10,000 books by students, according to Eggers.

“They didn’t have to go into the place for kids falling behind or kids learning English. They went to a pirate store,” Eggers said. “They went really willingly, and we had a lot of homeschooled kids and kids that work with learning differences. For them, they know that if they are a little out of mainstream, like every kid is, and [like] we were, they are going to be understood by the people that work at the pirate store. It’s a signal that we get you. We are all strange.”

Eggers said he and his collaborators aim to make the centers “a third space” for students. He said it’s gotten tougher each year, but

these spaces are a “celebration of human intelligence.”

He said 826 Valencia has a no-screen policy and that teenagers don’t want technology but feel pressured to have it to be connected to others. Instead, Eggers said 826 Valencia offers an “authentic alternative.”

“We do find unequivocally and without exception that if you give young people a choice between a screen alone and a human that’s listening to them and that’s going to publish them and put it on a microphone in front of their parents and peers to read their poetry and then they have this book permanently on the shelf of a library, they will choose that over the screen alone,” Eggers said. “Of course, we have to give them an authentic choice; we can’t assume they want more screens because they don’t want more screens.”

The conversation then shifted to artificial intelligence, which Eggers said is “the catastrophe that [society is] facing right now.” He said he was invited to an OpenAI event after publicly speaking out about AI, but he said the people inviting him didn’t see the negative effects of AI because they’re “in such a bubble.”

At the event, Eggers asked developers about the true, safe use of artificial intelligence. He said that in K-12 settings, it doesn’t allow children to learn the same way as they do without it, and that college students are under significant pressure and are likely to cheat using AI. Eggers also said this affects teachers because they need to spend more hours working in order to check for AI usage.

Eggers said the solution



SAM HUFFMAN /STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Author and McSweeney’s founder Dave Eggers speaks about the banned books list, his work on developing writing tutoring centers for children and the use of artificial intelligence in writing and storytelling Friday in the Amphitheater.

his friends who are educators have found is reverting to pen and pencil and riding classrooms of screens.

“We can say, at every metric since screens and computers were introduced en masse in schools, every score has gone down,” Eggers said. “... So we experimented with that. The experiment failed. Now we have to go back to what we did for 1,000 years, which is paper, pencil and experienced educators who are allowed to do their jobs.”

Eggers also talked about his newest book, *Contraposto*, a novel about human connection through friendship and love, as well as artistic journeys. The book centers around two characters, Cricket and Olympia. In the book, the two have known each other for 65 years, navigating life and art together and apart.

As Eggers was thinking about this idea in his 30s, he said it didn’t seem possible for people to still relate and be in one another’s lives for 30 more years. When he turned 50, his friends from kindergarten were still in his life; Eggers said the key

to maintaining these relationships is to invest time in them and be understanding.

“If you told me at age 23 that I’d have the same friends, and we act in the same immature way to each other, and we fight about the same things, and we are fiercely devoted to each other, and we’ll come across the planet and help (each other), I wouldn’t believe you that it could go for this long.”

Eggers talked about what reading means in closing his lecture. He said humans have always told stories to help those who come after understand culture and to convey feelings effectively to make others feel less alone.

“You exult some aspect of the human experience through the magic of certain words in a row,” Eggers said. “The highest kinds, the most sublime kinds of art, are exalting the human experience and creating something higher than our day-to-day pedestrian existence. All of these things are only things that humans can do,” Eggers said. “We are sharing what it’s like to be human, alive on the planet.”



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St Elmo 404

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No Parking



The Arlington Unit GB

1 Roberts Avenue

2BR | 1.5BA | Sleeps 4

No Parking

COMMUNITY

Old First Night Run/Walk returns for 50th celebration

CODY ENGLANDER
STAFF WRITER

“Farrah Fawcett-Majors does it... Leonard Bernstein does it... You can do it!” read an article from *The Chautauquan Daily* in 1977, announcing the inaugural Old First Night Run/Walk. “Jogging, of course,” the article continues. “If not, try walking. One way or the other, Chautauquans by the dozens are limbering up to run, jog or walk the 2 1/2 mile Chautauqua Sports Club ‘O.F.N. Run’ ...”

Years later, the annual tradition has continued, as runners lace up their kicks in hopes of their name being forever displayed in Chautauqua Sports Club fame.

At 8 a.m. today, the Old First Night Run/Walk begins Chautauqua Institution’s birthday celebration. The race was founded by John Rogers and then Sports Club director David Peckinpaugh in 1977. “We didn’t know what the heck we were doing with it, but it worked,” Peckinpaugh said. “... We had no clue [the race would have legs]. We didn’t know what we were doing, we were goofing around and we had a little tape for the finish line.”

The first ever finisher for the run was Robert Steele, a two-time NCAA Champi-

“To have that permanent impact, that’s wonderful to see. It’s a great little cross-section of the entirety of the Chautauqua experience, because you’ve got serious runners, walkers, people pushing strollers [and] dogs. It’s a perfect slice of Chautauqua.”

— DAVID PECKINPAUGH
Co-founder, Old First Night Run/Walk
Former Director,
Chautauqua Sports Club

on in the 440-yard hurdles and competitor for the 1972 Olympic trials. Steele finished with a time of 12:47, which shocked Peckinpaugh. “We weren’t prepared, so when someone said, ‘There’s a runner coming around the corner of the Bell Tower,’ we scrambled to get the finish line set up,” Peckinpaugh said. “It was pretty rudimentary back then.”

The first race saw nearly 150 participants and has since become a staple of Chautauqua’s OFN celebration. In 2025 alone, the race



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OLIVER ARCHIVES CENTER

The starting line of the Old First Night Run/Walk in 1977.

saw nearly 300 participants. “To have that permanent impact, that’s wonderful to see,” Peckinpaugh said. “It’s a great little cross-section of the entirety of the Chautauqua experience, because you’ve got serious runners, walkers, people pushing strollers [and] dogs. It’s a perfect slice of Chautauqua.”

In the last 49 years, Peckinpaugh has seen the rewarding parts of the run continue to have an impact to this day. “The opportunity to

raise money for the Annual Fund [is rewarding]. At the end of the day, that’s the ultimate motivation, and to do it in a way that sort of fit into the theme of Sports Club and what we were trying to accomplish, which was getting people active and giving them more access to the lake and other sports-related activities,” Peckinpaugh said.

The run, originally one-tenth the distance of a marathon, was touted as a

“deci-marathon,” though it now boasts an additional .15 mile. Most of the race has stayed loyal to the original course, however. “I think [the course] has been altered a little,” Peckinpaugh said. “We measured the distance by riding a bicycle and having a little pedometer on it. I think they’ve gotten the distance fine-tuned, but for the most part it’s the same course.”

For many Chautauquans, the run has transformed

into a cornerstone of the annual OFN celebration. “It’s pretty remarkable,” Peckinpaugh said. “There are people like Bob Bowers, who have been able to join in every time.”

Peckinpaugh said he hopes the tradition has legs to continue, having seen its impact on the community. “It just needs someone with some energy behind it,” Peckinpaugh said. “It better continue on for another [fifty runs]!”

Peckinpaughs provide sweet treat for young OFN runners

PATRICIA BEAGLE
STAFF WRITER

Jill and David Peckinpaugh and their children cherish decades of Chautauqua summer memories. A lifelong Chautauquan, David grew up summering in Chautauqua and spending time at Boys’ and Girls’ Club. David’s grandfather, George McCray, came to Chautauqua from Titusville, Pennsylvania, and bought the family’s original cottage more than 100 years ago. The cottage at 19 Haven remains in the family today.

In the late 1980s, David introduced his wife, Jill, to Chautauqua. She enjoys the Chautauqua Women’s Club and the fairways of the Chautauqua Golf Club. Their daughter Samie and son Max, now in their 20s, still return for visits.

In 1977, David was a college student when he was hired to run the Chautauqua Sports Club. He ran the club for six summers. At the time, the club’s main ac-

tivities were shuffleboard, horseshoes, lawn bowling and bridge. In 1977, David and John S. Rogers, an attorney from New York City, decided to organize a community run to enhance Chautauqua’s annual birthday celebration. It was an instant hit and became a tradition. The Old First Night Run/Walk is hosted by the Sports Club on the Saturday before Old First Night. Proceeds benefit the Chautauqua Fund.

The Peckinpaughs are longtime supporters of Chautauqua. Last year, they began offering a special treat for youth participants in the OFN Run/Walk. “Our focus is on the next generation of Chautauqua,” said David, who is in his second term as a member of Chautauqua Institution’s Board of Trustees. He added, “How do we inspire sustainability for generations to come? All of us are pulling together to make sure things thrive.”

Deb Lyons, director of the Sports Club, explained that four OFN children’s events were added in recent years. These include the diaper crawl, toddler trot, 100-yard dash and one-mile children’s run. David said that Lyons had sought a sponsor last year to take over the donation of ice cream cones for the kids’ races. The Peckinpaughs agreed to be the 2025 ice cream donor and offered their sponsorship again this year.

“It’s great to see the kids enjoying the race and seeing how they can be involved in the future of Chautauqua,” Jill said.

Lyons explained that the ice cream giveaway is accomplished by providing coupons redeemable at Brick Walk Cafe. “It is so awesome for kids to get an ice cream cone,” Lyons said. “The coupon eliminates allergy concerns and brings people into the Brick Walk Cafe.

What could be better than an ice cream cone after a little summer run? I was delighted that David and Jill offered to sponsor that.”

What did last year’s young runners think of the sweet treat? Four 8-year-old boys who ran last year were eager to offer opinions. Solly Calhoun-Zenchelsky recalled, “I thought it was kind of nice after the race because I think everybody was pretty tired and we deserved ice cream to cool us down.”

Finley Carr could not wait to cash in his coupon. “I was running a lot, and I felt I needed a cool treat,” he said. “I went straight there to get ice cream to cool me down.”

Theo Zellers was excited about the reward. He said, “After I ran, I was super tired and I really needed something to cool me down. I got the coupon, and I was like, ‘Yes!’”

Samuel Paille was thankful to the donors, saying,



GABRIEL MILBY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jill and David Peckinpaugh donated funds to provide ice cream coupons to the runners of the children’s events at this year’s Old First Night Run/Walk.

“They were really kind for giving us ice cream.” He added, “And I won first place in the 100-yard dash!”

Amit Taneja, interim chief advancement officer and senior director of community and belonging, reflected on the diverse ways that so many people

support Chautauqua. “We are grateful to the Peckinpaughs and all donors who enable us to celebrate our community members in small and big ways,” he said. “What could be more joyous than seeing a child enjoying ice cream after a successful Old First Night race?”

Famous NYT Chautauqua quote isn’t what you thought it was

In 1926, in *The New York Times*, Frank Bohn wrote a line about Chautauqua Institution that would be quoted in the next 100 years in many places, many of them related to marketing the Institution.

“He who does not know Chautauqua does not know America,” Bohn wrote. You’ve likely read it many times. But in the past 100 years, important context has been lost. Namely, he didn’t mean it as a compliment.

Frank Bohn also didn’t mean it as a slight. But, again, he wasn’t praising Chautauqua. It should also be noted that he wasn’t even referring to the Institution, per se, but rather to the nationwide Chautauqua Movement. He mentions “little c” chautauquas in Kentucky, Idaho and Pennsylvania, but not the “Big C” mother ship on Chautauqua Lake.

Frank Bohn (1878–1975) was a one-time leading socialist and labor movement leader who would later publicly — in *The New York Times* — abandon both movements in favor of nationalism. He became an important contributor to *The New York Times*, criticizing the German government and writing about how technology might liberate the working class. Writing of Bohn’s first appearance on the grounds, in 1938, *The Chautauquan Daily* wrote he was “considered one of the ablest interpreters of the news of current affairs addressing audiences today.”

The article in which his famous quote appeared was “America Revealed in Its Chautauqua,” published Oct. 10, 1926. *Times* subscribers can look up the full text on “TimesMachine,” the newspaper’s online archive.

By 1926, the Chautauqua Movement — a traveling roadshow of lectures, performances and classes — that started in Chautauqua, New York, had reached its apex. There were thousands of communities and millions of Chautauquans. With competition from radio and movies, it would soon

HISTORIOGRAPHICAL

COLUMN BY JOHN WARREN

decline, but it hadn’t yet.

Bohn’s column asserts that the chautauquas’ programming was not aspirational, but rather reflected the sentiments of the audience: what people wanted to hear.

“These audiences indicate the tides, currents and waves of American opinion,” Bohn wrote.

Bohn wrote that Chautauquans didn’t want to talk about Europe in 1926 — they were tired of Europe — and so the chautauquas didn’t program talks about Europe. “The further off, the better-liked,” Bohn wrote. And so it was that chautauquas dealt with issues related to East Indians and the Chinese, Turks and Egyptians.

“Sociobiology” was a hit, and if lecturers could produce “scientific” evidence of Western civilization’s decay and imminent doom, Bohn wrote, “a thousand Fords will rattle into town.”

“Their opinions are derived from sentimental, not from factual causes,” Bohn wrote.

The college student plays of yore had given way to professional, Broadway-caliber productions.

The author took care to laud a very Chautauqua princi-

ple: abiding differing viewpoints. He wrote of farmers on the eastern shore of Maryland perking up to hear a Jewish scholar. A Russian emigrant defended the Bolshevik regime up and down the East Coast.

But if the audiences were open-minded, they were also fickle. “A more eloquent man than you might come here in half an hour and win them all back again to the views they had this morning,” Bohn quoted a publicist as telling him.

“The heart of rural America is so much larger than its fund of knowledge that a clear sense of direction is not maintained,” Bohn wrote.

His now-legendary quote reads, in context: “A total of 10,000,000 people have attended the lectures and concerts in the tents and open auditoriums in woods and fields and town parks. He who does not know Chautauqua does not know America. Professor Charles Beard recently made a statement that the best way to develop an informing contact with the American national mind is by meeting Chautauqua audiences in different sections for a few seasons. The Chautauquas are, indeed, a vast social laboratory.”

“He who does not know Chautauqua does not know America.”

Today, Bohn might write that he who does not follow TikTok trends or watch Fox News and MSNBC does not know America.

But relative to Chautauqua, Bohn’s quote doesn’t work anymore. Chautauqua is no longer a reflection of America as it is.

100 years later, a modern-day adaptation of Bohn’s quote might well be: “He who does not know Chautauqua does not know what America may aspire to be again.”

John Warren’s family landed in Chautauqua in 1956. Reach him at chqhistoriographical@gmail.com.

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ENVIRONMENT

BTG, grounds staff reflect on achieving Level II Arboretum status

JENNA OUTCALT
STAFF WRITER

To be accredited as a Level I Arboretum, an area needs at least 25 different identified species of trees and woody plants. Chautauqua Institution's original arboretum, established more than a century ago, easily passed that threshold once each species was identified and labeled. To become a Level II Arboretum, however, the Institution needed to reach 100 different species.

Betsy Burgeson, supervisor of Gardens and Landscapes, said she didn't think they'd be able to make it to Level II until the Bird, Tree & Garden Club stepped in.

"They marked and labeled almost every tree we have throughout the grounds now," Burgeson said. "And because of that, we were able to get the Level II accreditation."

Burgeson noted the QR code labels on trees, which lead Chautauquans to information about each tree's species and history. The labeling project started in the original arboretum and has expanded throughout the entire Institution. Burgeson said the labels help people "really notice the trees."

ArbNet, an international arboretum accreditor, certified the original arboretum as Level I in 2019. When the arboretum was up for



SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bird, Tree & Garden Club naturalist, forester and purple martin expert Jack Gulvin leads Chautauquans Friday on one of his weekly nature walks.

accreditation renewal in 2024, the BTG applied to make the entire grounds — more than 200 acres — an official arboretum. In 2029, Burgeson said she hopes to shoot for Level III.

"Until we did this ArbNet stuff, I had no idea all the resources that are out there," Burgeson said.

According to Burgeson, a higher accreditation level "opens up doors to different grants" and collaboration with other arboretums.

"Instead of reinventing the wheel, [we would] be able to see all the different things

that different towns and cities have done," she said.

A Level II Arboretum also needs to have enhanced public and educational programs. The BTG hosts curated tree tours and weekly environmental programs like Jack's Nature Walk, Garden Talks, "Gloves on Gardening" sessions and weekly lectures. The BTG opens the arboretum to local and regional schools for educational programs throughout the year, and also has an app, Explore-CHQ, which contains information about the grounds.

Burgeson said the educational programs help people notice when trees are diseased or need trimming to stay healthy.

"I want to go out there and make sure people become aware of that stuff, and then it helps me because I have 5,000 eyeballs out there," she said.

Lynda Acker, a former board member of the BTG, emphasized how import-

ant it is for people to know about their surroundings.

"It helps them to better understand their world, which leads to appreciation, which leads to protection," she said. "And we're in a place right now where protection is tantamount."

To become a Level III Arboretum, Chautauqua needs a designated curator on staff and at least 500 different species of trees and woody plants labeled. Burgeson said she believes the grounds already have or are close to 500 labeled species, and she hopes a curator could join the staff to maintain the arboretum, especially in monitoring "where the trees are age-wise" and with intense winds and weather posing threats.

"We've had a lot of emergency tree issues come up, and it's not something that I see going away," Burgeson said.

The BTG and grounds staff already fulfill the other requirements to ad-



Trees across the grounds have been labeled by the club, contributing to Chautauqua Institution's classification as an Level II Arboretum.

vance to Level III, according to Burgeson.

"Tree science, planting, conservation activities, we're already doing a lot of these, and we have policies around trees already," she said, "so it comes down to staffing."

She noted ongoing projects such as the 150 trees campaign for the 150th anniversary of the Institution that started two years ago. Though the campaign is ongoing, Burgeson said it is moving at a strong pace.

"We're pretty darn close to that 150 mark," she said.

Jennifer Francois, president of the BTG, said trees are one of the club's most critical focuses because of their importance beyond being a physical resource.

"There's so much evi-

dence now about the overall health value of just having trees in your environment," Francois said.

Burgeson said the BTG provides much-needed support with outreach and community education about the native flora and fauna of the Institution's grounds; she called the organization "the voices for the trees."

According to Burgeson, when people see arboreal care and education, they can pass that knowledge along.

"People come through, and they see us doing it, and then they learn why we're doing it, then they do it at their own house and then they take that to their other houses and tell their neighbors," Burgeson said. "... The impactful networking would be the best part of it."

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Above, Chautauqua Opera Conservatory artists and Music School Festival Orchestra musicians take a bow concluding the double-bill performance of *L'Enfant Prodigue* and *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* Monday in the Amphitheater. Below, Opera Conservatory artists Jaydon Beleford, tenor, in the role of Azaël, Victoria McGrath, soprano, in the role of Lia, and Ethan Neal, baritone, in the role of Simeon, perform *L'Enfant Prodigue* in the Amp.



At top right, Opera Conservatory artist Haley Guerra brings School of Music Artistic Director Timothy Muffitt to the stage to take a bow after the production. Above middle, Conservatory artists perform from the house. At left, members of the Conservatory perform *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*.

Opera Conservatory joins MSFO for ‘L’Enfant Prodigue,’ ‘Les Mamelles de Tirésias’

PHOTOS BY SAM HUFFMAN

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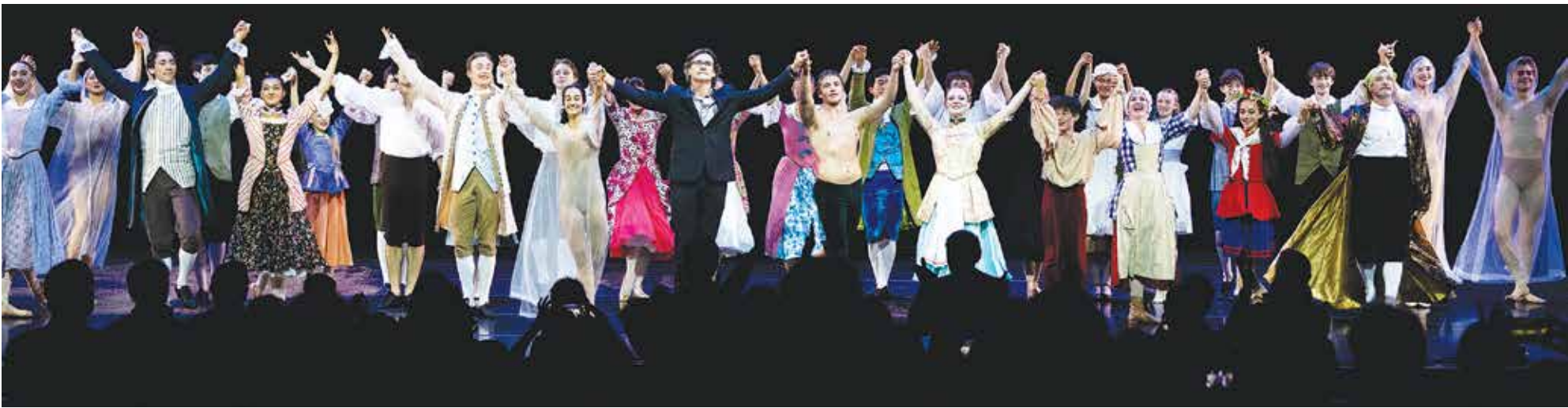
PHOTOS BY GABRIEL MILBY

School of Dance presents Janes’ balletic rendition of ‘Wuthering Heights’



At left, Chautauqua School of Dance alumni Sejal Janaswamy, in the role of Catherine Earnshaw, and Aram Hengen, in the role of Heathcliff, perform in *Wuthering Heights* Wednesday in the Amphitheater. Below, Janaswamy and Hengen perform the conclusion of Emily Brontë’s story.

Above, School of Dance alumnus Colin Canavan, in the role of Edgar Linton, Janaswamy and Hengen perform a scene together. At right, Canavan and Janaswamy perform Catherine and Edgar’s wedding day. Below, choreographer and School of Dance Bonnefoux McBride Artistic Director Sasha Janes, center, takes a bow surrounded by the cast of *Wuthering Heights* as they receive a standing ovation from Chautauquans following their performance Wednesday in the Amp.



THE ARTS

Chautauqua’s young artists join forces for immersive audiovisual recital

LAYLA VINSON AND
JENELL TAYLOR
STAFF WRITERS

In a recital that united perspectives through visual art, operatic singing and instrumental performance, the School of Music presented its Art Song Recital at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall. Highlighting five sets ranging in style and language, the show displayed weeks of growth and talent being developed emerging artists studying at Chautauqua Institution.

“These past weeks, everyone’s so close, everyone’s just so supportive. I was able to come out here — no judgment — and now I know everyone’s just going to love whatever happens,” Hannah Verduzco, a Conservatory soprano who concluded the recital with selections written by Joaquín Turina, said. “And the same thing for the rest of my colleagues. It’s a performance, but it’s also just supporting people.”

For Director of the Chautauqua Opera Conservatory Jonathan Beyer, Head of the Chautauqua Piano Program Nicola Melville and, Sydelle Sonkin and Herb Siegel Artistic Director of the Visual Arts Erika b Hess, support and collaboration were integral. After Melville grouped pianists with singers and Hess paired groups of visual artists to each set of songs, the students had the opportunity to merge their perspectives into one shared performance.

The recital began with the “Rose Set” — a series of songs dedicated to the flower. Performed by Lynn Kang with piano accompaniment by Lucy Parke, the set featured a blooming rose projected onto a draping white curtain behind them. The visual — created by artists-in-residence CJ Chavarria, Marin Griffith, Alpha Massaquoi, Jr. and Jessie McClanahan — reflected Kang’s bright timbre.

Tenor Brenden Christie and pianist Jingbo Zong took the stage for the aptly named “Musical Theater Set,” which included Broadway songs such as Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim’s “Something’s Coming.”

Artists-in-residence Amber Dacanay and Hal Hardin created the visual for this set: a stop-motion scene of a sunset drawn in crayon, pictured through a window pane made of paper. As the songs progressed, the scene flowed into nighttime, revealing a lonesome paper house with a smoky chimney and two dim interior lights.

In a scene capturing the bloody aftermath of battle, resident artists Nada Bayazid, Charlie Mura and Joel Nessim echoed the wartime theme of the “German Set.” The piece — entirely black and white save for a crimson pool of blood — enveloped singer William Scarrow and pianist Samuel Han in an atmosphere heavy with reckoning.

Singer Zongwei Zhang



GABRIEL MILBY /STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lynn Kang, soprano performs during the Art Song Recital Wednesday in Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall.



To be in a space where everyone’s at the same level, everyone’s just trying to support each other, these things don’t feel as intimidating. It feels like sharing what music you’re passionate about with people who support you.”

—HANNAH VERDUZCO

Soprano, Chautauqua Opera Conservatory



GABRIEL MILBY /STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zongwei Zhang, tenor, performs during the recital.

and pianist Zong took the stage for the “Henri Duparc Set.” The two conjured the energy of an eager lover while backdropped by the abstract visual created by artists-in-residence Elisse Gachupin, Octavia Lawson-Solorio and Ilze Martinez. As Zhang’s tenor grew more feverish with the songs’ conclusion, the visual’s watercolor elements blurred further — echoing the desperation in Zhang’s voice.

The fifth and final set, “Poema en forma de canciones” — or poem in song form — was performed by

Verduzco with piano accompaniment by Susannah Zou.

Projected behind them was an oil painting created by artists-in-residence Onaje Grant-Simmonds, Finn McLaughlin and Aly Yazzie. Hidden within the piece’s muted color scheme of reds and yellows, one could almost make out a face. As Verduzco sang, the image shifted into a mountainous landscape with birds flying freely.

“It made me think of more than a romantic relationship but [how] it can also be a companionship of finding

each other; coming back together again,” Verduzco explained, suggesting poetry, rather than the music score, was the primary focus fueling the work of Grant-Simmonds, McLaughlin and Yazzie.

For Verduzco, seeing pieces she has performed many times before portrayed in a “pastoral way” inspired her to visualize beyond the usual imagery she might use in her singing. Emphasizing the message behind a song and being attuned to audience response are vital parts of the process for Verduzco, which she hopes to convey through her body language.

Verduzco said she feels like she receives the most feedback from audiences because her expressive body language brings people into stories

even if they don’t know the language the song is in.

“That’s where I get a lot of fun with the audience — including them in the story, even if they don’t speak the language,” Verduzco said.

In her perspective, singing is vulnerable because of this innate connection to the body; Verduzco expressed great appreciation to be part of a summer program surrounded by encouraging students and faculty working together to improve their craft.

“To be in a space where everyone’s at the same level, everyone’s just trying to support each other, these things don’t feel as intimidating. It feels like sharing what music you’re passionate about with people who support you,” Verduzco said.



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THE ARTS

Merchant visits Children’s School for morning sing-along

JENELL TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Thursday morning, musician and Chautauqua County native Natalie Merchant visited Chautauqua’s Children’s School to engage with students in an interactive sing-along event. Held outdoors in the Jessica Trapasso Pavilion, children ages 3–6 excitedly gathered in a large circle as Merchant led them in song.

The activity was sectioned into three parts, each corresponding to the Children’s Schools’ groupings: ages 3–4 in Group One, 5-year-olds in Group Two and 6-year-olds in Group Three.

Joined by her guitarist, addressed as Mr. Eric, Merchant began the first session with the song “John the Rabbit,” a traditional call-and-response song about a sneaky, carrot-stealing rabbit.

Ensuring she made eye contact with each and every child as she looked around the circle, all faces were focused as she described the activity’s rules. “When I say rabbit, you say ‘yes ma’am,’” Merchant said. A thunderous chorus of “yes ma’ams” ensued shortly after.

Amid the children’s full-bodied laughter, Merchant raced around the ring in a lively game of duck, duck, goose, where the kids named all of the sea creatures they could think of using the song “Charlie Over the Ocean.”

“Charlie over the ocean/Charlie over the sea/Charlie caught a starfish/He can’t catch me,” echoed the chorus.

Groups Two and Three saw similar songs and activities, all of which were supplemented with props. Capes, tiny crowns, rhythm sticks and plastic pastries kept the children actively engaged while Merchant guided the sessions.

She used the songs to call the children to reflect and think about their own lives and experiences. In the poem “The Queen of Hearts,” a knave steals the queen’s tarts, is caught and swears to never steal again.

“And then the knave brought back the tarts, and vowed to never steal again. Do you know what it means to take a vow?” Merchant asked the 5-year-olds of Group Two. Making an X across her chest, she said, “A vow is a promise — cross your heart and say ‘I will never do that.’”

The children recounted their own instances of misbehavior, with one child describing how she went against her mother’s wishes and jumped into a pool without her floaties. In the end, all of the kids agreed to make an effort to follow the rules and be honest.

The games that Merchant played with the children were lighthearted and fun while being rooted in practical skills such as active listening, turn-taking, sharing and word association.

Merchant sang a goodbye song at the end of each session that acknowledged the sadness of saying goodbye — especially for kids — but promised that goodbye is not forever.

Afterward, Merchant quieted her energy to match the atmosphere of the nursery that oversees the school’s 2-year-olds. She sang lullabies to the kids as they listened and had a pre-nap Nilla Wafer snack.

Merchant gave the toddlers their own goodbye song, singing “It’s time to go home/It’s time to say goodbye/I had so much fun/And you had so much fun/And now we say goodbye, goodbye/See you again.”

In a post-sing-along interview, Merchant reflected on the experience and detailed how vital it is for kids to feel important and heard. She said society tends to overlook them and underestimate their emotional capacity and intelligence.

Merchant described how one child from Group Three gave her a hug at the end of the session, and how much that moment demonstrates why she does the work that she does.



SKYLAR SEAVEY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Above, musician Natalie Merchant leads young Chautauquans in a singing game Thursday at Children’s School. At right, Merchant watches as Frances Robertson and Oliver Kane sing “Little Miss Muffet.”

“She said, ‘I write songs, too, and play the guitar,’ — and she was only 6 years old. I could tell that she was extremely gifted and music is really important to her,” Merchant said. “I always get more out of the experience than the kids do, probably, because I get encouragement and hope.”

“I don’t know if they’re looking for hope when they wake up in the morning, but I am,” she said. “And they gave that to me today.”

The fact that children are the world’s future is a beautiful truth for Merchant, but she said their future success is directly linked to the positive acknowledgment they receive now.

“It’ll be their world in 10, 15 years, and they’ll be making the decisions and effecting all the change that’s going on,” she said. “It’s important that we all pay attention to kids, whether they are ours or not.”

Merchant said she believes it is damaging for children to be exposed to concepts beyond their understanding; she said it’s incomprehensible that children might feel the need to numb themselves digitally to be able to survive the level of cruelty that exists

in the world today.

“We need to talk to children, and we need to model healthy behavior: talking to each other, putting our devices down,” she continued. “Kids are getting exposed to things that they don’t have the experience of — I mean, [adults] don’t even understand the cruelty in the world.”

“It must be incomprehensible to children,” she said.

Merchant talked about how she witnessed militaristic conflict as a child, noting the tail end of the Vietnam War and The Troubles of the 1960s.

“When I was a child, the Vietnam War was happening, and there was a civil war going on in Ireland,” she began. “For instance, I remember seeing a crowd control — the British were trying to control a crowd in Belfast, and a child was hit with a rubber bullet.”

She recalled witnessing coverage of these major news stories at a young age and feeling profoundly affected by the experience.

“It was on television at my grandparents’ house, and I just had no capacity to understand that,” Merchant said. “I probably saw that when I was 6 — these kids’ age — and I can still



remember what it felt like.”

In Merchant’s perspective, children can be overwhelmed by information and can benefit from less stimulation.

“I just feel like children are being bombarded, and I think they need more gentleness, more peace, more quiet.”

She highlighted the importance of empathy and learned autonomy for children’s development, and how she modeled that for her own child.

“When my daughter was a child, I never treated her like the baby — I never treated her like the toddler,” she said. “I treated her like the person that I loved and respected.” She then reiterated how crucial it is to “treat children like individuals with sovereignty.”

Merchant said she believes that every person has a responsibility to this world and

its future. She said children are in a vulnerable position because of their sustained reliance on the people around them, but as human beings with hearts that feel, the mission should be to protect and nurture society’s unique and impressionable young minds.

“There’s so much that every single person can do,” she said.

Above all, Merchant urged people to take action. She said volunteering and donating supplies to local and national organizations that support children and families such as Head Start — which has programs in all 50 U.S. states — is just one way to show care.

“We have this wonderful network that’s nationwide,” she said. “It’s in every state and every community — all you have to do is call them up and say, ‘Do you need help?’”

Merchant, CSO to showcase ‘Cabinet of Wonder Live!’ for all ages

ROCCO PRIOLETTI
STAFF WRITER

Before the concert halls and orchestral accompaniments, *Cabinet of Wonder* began as hushed and intimate an idea as a Mother Goose nursery rhyme.

“Well, when it first began, I was just one isolated mother of a teenager,” singer-songwriter and activist Natalie Merchant said, detailing her move to Troy, New York, with her daughter. Not knowing anyone in town, she decided to volunteer with Head Start — a federal agency program providing early education for preschool-aged children from economically disadvantaged families — to foster community and purpose.

“I thought I would just work a couple hours a week, go in one day, meet some children,” Merchant said. “It turned into three full days a week for three years.”

Prior to Merchant’s work with Head Start, the program lacked a dedicated arts curriculum. As Head Start’s artist-in-residence, she cultivated just that throughout her three years teaching traditional music and poetry to 400 children.

This experience in the classroom set the project’s eight-year-long development in motion, which resulted in *Cabinet of Wonder* — Merchant’s 17-song, multimedia educational initiative inspired by the nursery rhymes and traditional poetry of Mother Goose.

At 3 p.m. Sunday, Merchant will join musicians from the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Principal Pops Conductor

Stuart Chafetz, to unlock the “Cabinet of Wonder Live!” in the Amphitheater.

Merchant introduced “Cabinet of Wonder Live!” to thousands of children in Chicago during her free public performances in collaboration with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

“We bus them into the symphony hall, and it was mayhem. It was beautiful mayhem,” Merchant said. “The kids knew the words to every single song. They were singing along — they knew the rhymes, they knew the names of all the instruments and the orchestra, and they were all under the age of 6.”

Whether in a vast concert hall or the immediacy of a classroom, the audience reaction to *Cabinet of Wonder* remained the same.

“I had children running to the edge of the stage, screaming, ‘We love you, Miss Natalie. We love every song you write,’” Merchant said. “... It’s love and trust, which, it’s a phenomenal feeling to have.”

In 2025, Merchant partnered with the National Head Start Association to open the *Cabinet of Wonder* into Head Start classrooms nationwide. Her teaching guides and enrichment tools are accessible for nearly 750,000 students nationwide and free for everyone online.

For Merchant, the mission behind *Cabinet of Wonder* is to make kids “fall in love with language and music.” She developed the material over time through classroom experiences, seeing what students resonated most with and solidifying the classroom around it.

“A lot of the teaching guide is drawn from these spontaneous conversations I had with the children about when we would dissect the poems and we would talk about the meanings of the vocabulary words or the idioms,” Merchant said.

Merchant recalled a story from teaching abstract concepts and unfamiliar historical contexts; she wanted children to imagine a world before electricity by introducing a candlestick holder to the classroom.

“I would say, ‘The candlestick makers were really important to a village, you know? You had no lights. You had no electricity. You had no car television.’ And they’d say, ‘Was that what it was like when you were a little girl?’” Merchant laughed.

Through *Cabinet of Wonder*, students learn history through creative and artistic thinking.

“All that language and all those concepts are found in these rhymes that people are, for a large part, abandoning because they feel like they’re archaic and they won’t appeal to the kids,” Merchant said. “Which is nonsense, because it’s playing with language; children love it. They get the reward at the end of every other line with a rhyme. It builds neural pathways, strengthens their brains.”

Dr. Dana Suskind, founder of the Thirty Million Words initiative, wrote a scientific paper with her staff about the curriculum and applauded the “field-tested” nature of Merchant’s classroom implementations.

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LITERARY ARTS

CLSC honors Kimball’s legacy with fight for recognition

NORA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this summer, Chautauqua Literary Arts unveiled an early phase of a new statue dedicated to one of Chautauqua Institution's trailblazing women: Kate Kimball.

Now, the sculpture of “Mother Superior of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle” Kimball sits at eye level with Chautauquans in Alumni Hall’s Kate Kimball Room.

Kimball was the CLSC’s executive secretary for 39 years and contributed greatly to the CLSC and larger Chautauqua community.

Members of the CLSC are working hard to bring Kimball and her legacy the spotlight they believe she deserves alongside figures like co-founders Bishop John Heyl Vincent and Lewis Miller.

“It’s time for Kate Kimball to be recognized as a founder of the heart of Chautauqua,” the Alumni Association of the CLSC wrote on its website.

According to “Promoting an Ideology of Culture: The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circles” by James P Eckman, “in 1879, Kimball became one of the most powerful female executives in the United States. She presided over answering correspondence that reached 50,000 letters a year, an office staff of twenty and the registering of all

new CLSC students.”

According to the AACLSC’s website, to celebrate the upcoming 150th anniversary of the founding of the CLSC and to honor Kimball, the association is sponsoring “The Kate Kimball Challenge,” which presents participants with “four years to read 18 books from the historical list of CLSC books, one from each decade of the CLSC’s existence, plus one from any decade and *Chautauqua’s Heart: A History of the CLSC*.”

“She was one of those rare spirits who find their own best realization and highest enjoyment in work for other people,” Frank Chapin Bray wrote for Kimball’s obituary in *The Chautauquan Weekly*. “She embodied the Chautauqua spirit at its best.”

A group of CLSC women initiated “Welcome Kate Kimball Home” and are working on finalizing the bronze bust of Kimball. It is modeled from a clay prototype, which was revealed during Week One’s “Icons and Instigators: Women Who Change the World,” and will be placed in the grove between the Hall of Philosophy and Alumni Hall.

Megan Smith continued her mother, Joan Smith’s, desire to honor Kimball and was the driving force behind the creation of the sculpture. Other contrib-

utors included Karen Paul, leader of the CLSC Mosaic Project; Tony Becket, construction architect for the pedestal and liaison to the bronze foundry; and Lauralynn White, the artist who created the sculpture.

After accepting the responsibility of sculpting Kimball, White took a deep dive into all there was to know about her. She consulted fellow members of the CLSC, archives, books and practically anything she could get her hands on to better understand Kimball and her life.

“[Kimball] was so respected, and for the late 1800s, that’s really amazing for a woman,” White said.

Behind Alumni Hall and along the treeline lies the Kate Kimball Memorial Garden, consisting of two chairs that sandwich a rock and a plaque with Kimball’s name on it. As White sat in the garden, she said, although she had pictures of Kimball for reference, there weren’t any of Kimball over the age of 30. So, wanting to portray Kimball as a mature woman, White depicted her as she thought she would have looked at an older age.

“I wanted her to have a gravitas of a woman who has now answered 50,000 to 70,000 (letters) a year, a woman who has been in charge of



SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artist Lauralynn White, dressed as Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Executive Secretary Kate Kimball, shows Wendy King the photo references she used to sculpt a statue she created of Kimball July 24 in the Kate Kimball Room during a Docent Tour of Alumni Hall.

20 other people in an office; all of the references to her talk about this guiding hand,” White said. “... She grew the student body from less than a thousand to over a million in just 35 years.”

As White learned more about Kimball, the passion Kimball had for her work transferred to White’s artistry. White now dresses up as Kimball on Fridays for the Docent Tours at Alumni Hall to raise awareness of Kimball’s profile on the grounds. When walking around

dressed as Kimball, though, White said most people don’t have a clue who she is.

“The Literary and Scientific Circle is so closely tied in with the growth of Chautauqua and the Chautauqua movement, and yet everyone knows Vincent and Miller, and no one knows about Kate,” White said. “That’s just so typical of how the world is, and we’re just trying to rectify that.”

White said that the idea of uplifting another woman was what originally made her

so initially passionate about the project, and she said that less than 5% of sculptures in the United States are of “actual women.”

“There’s a lot of allegorical women ...” White said. “But the majority of the men are real men who accomplish things. So, having sculptures of real women who have accomplished things is important. It’s important not only for young women to see, but I think it’s important for men to see.”

CLSC Recognition Week to welcome Class of 2026 members

NORA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Sunday marks the beginning of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Class of 2026’s Recognition Week, during which class members prepare to graduate and officially become members of the CLSC.

At 10:45 a.m. Sunday, the 103 graduating members of “Keepers of the Flame” will trickle into the Amphitheater to find their places front and center for the morning Baccalaureate Service in partnership with the Department of Religion. This will be the graduates’ first time recognized as a CLSC class on Chautauqua

Institution grounds.

Buffy Elder and Kriss Young Miller, the Class of 2026’s co-presidents, came from very opposite experiences of Chautauqua; Miller manages the Quaker house and has been here since she was an infant, and Elder first came to Chautauqua last year.

“... It was beyond our expectations, way beyond,” Elder said. “The piece that really stuck out to us was the welcoming of anyone...”

Despite having different Chautauqua experiences, both Elder and Miller assumed their roles of co-presidents. With Week Six celebrating the 250th anniversary of America, the

Class’s motto is “Voices for Democracy.” Keeping with the commemorative theme, the class honoree is the League of Women Voters, and the symbol is Lady Liberty’s torch. The Class flowers are forget-me-nots and the color is white.

The evening Sacred Song service takes place at 8 p.m. Sunday, which is planned by the Department of Religion to center on the class’s annual themes. Graduates will once again gather at the back of the Amphitheater and fill the choir loft to immerse themselves in a program built around their class values.

“[The Sacred Song service] will be geared toward

that concept and celebration of democratic values, because the class’s motto is ‘Voices for Democracy,’” Interim Michael I. Rudell Director of Literary Arts Stephanie Hunt said.

Afterward, the graduates are led down the Brick Walk from Gate Street to the Hall of Philosophy for the 9 p.m. Vigil Ceremony, a moment of celebration during which graduates enjoy selected readings and music, while dressed in all white and lit up by their individual hand-held candles.

The night isn’t over yet, though. After their celebratory moment, the Alumni Association presents the Kate Kimball White Gift, the Class of 2026’s being a donation toward the restoration of the Golden Gates.

At 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Alumni Ballroom, the Guild Graduate Ceremony will celebrate the 2026 Guild Graduates recognized for achieving any level of the Guild of the Seven Seals, the CLSC’s advanced reading program. The celebrated levels are The Guild of Seven Seals, Parnasian, Olympian, Centurion, Miller and, lastly, Vincent, which sits at 201 books from the CLSC historic book list.

“They each have a certain number of books that readers have to read to accomplish each level, and they go up by degrees of seven ...” Hunt said. “For example, I’m graduating as a Miller this year. That means I’ve read over 152 books off of the CLSC list.”

Wednesday officially brings Recognition Day, where the Class of 2026, dressed in white with accent colors of forget-me-not blue and patina green – celebrating their class flower and class symbol, respectively – walk the stage and officially become members of the CLSC.

“I’m just excited for the kind of pomp and circumstance of it, just because it meant so much to so many people,” Miller said. “The history of it is part of what’s just been really touching me lately.”

Graduates will meet Hunt at 8:15 a.m. in the Hall of Christ for their long-anticipated banner reveal and class photo as the Parade of Alumni commences in Bestor Plaza at 8:45 a.m. The



GEORGE KOLOSKI / DAILY FILE PHOTO

The CLSC Class of 2025 make their way to the Hall of Philosophy from Alumni Hall during a candlelight procession Aug. 3, 2025.

parade features a marching band, banners from previous CLSC classes and groups of alumni lined up to celebrate this year’s class as they march down the Brick Walk and toward the graduates.

As the sounds of the marching band grow closer, graduates will be led by the Messenger and Gatekeeper, this year representing Ida Tarbell and Kate Kimball, to Fletcher Avenue toward the base of the stairs by the Hall of Philosophy, where the Golden Gates await.

Hunt said this is the second year in the history of the CLSC that two women will represent the Gatekeepers, and that she is thrilled about the representation of women.

When graduates reach the threshold of the Golden Gates, they’ll be read a poem that’s been a part of the program since the first CLSC graduation in 1882.

“The Gatekeeper opens the gate up with the giant “READ” key and then the class is walked up through the gates, up the stairs and through four arches that represent the arts and recreation and religion and history,” Hunt said.

If that fanfare alone wasn’t enough, graduates are accompanied up the stairs by the Motet Choir’s “CLSC Ode” as Children’s School students toss – or, on occasion, pelt – graduates with flowers. The 9 a.m. graduation ceremony brings the moment where graduates are presented with their official diplomas.

After officially walking across the stage, all the CLSC banners are lined up chronologically down Cookman Avenue as graduates parade from the Hall of Philosophy to the Amphitheater to attend the morning lecture.

Later in the week, extended celebrations follow during the annual Alumni Gala and the featuring of the class banner during Friday’s CLSC author presentation.

As Miller and Elder look toward graduation, they expressed appreciation of the legacy of the CLSC and its history.

For Miller, the CLSC’s history of work with Sunday School teachers is significant; without this outreach, information distributed to students and congregants might have been significantly more limited.

“Part of it is just being part of this history that made life different for so many women ...” Miller said.

Elder said she hopes to continue the lineage of CLSC through her co-presidency with Miller.

“It is humbling to be a part of something so humongous,” Elder said. “There are so many facets to Chautauqua, with the music and the arts, whatever religion you want and the lectures, and it takes so many people to keep it going . . . working with Kriss, I want to do everything possible to support the legacy of CLSC and keep this vibrant community going. It’s just a special place.”

Honorable Grace Hanlon

New York State Supreme Court Justice

Wednesday, August 5

12:15pm - 1:15pm at Smith Wilkes Hall



Honorable Grace Hanlon

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12:15pm - 1:15pm at Smith Wilkes Hall

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The format of the talk will be a 40-minute lecture followed by a 20-minute Q&A.

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LITERARY ARTS

Hoppenthaler, Hoffman to present writings about American experience

NORA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Poet and Professor of English at East Carolina University John Hoppenthaler and Roy Hoffman, novelist, journalist and faculty member of Naslund-Mann Graduate School of Writing in Louisville, Kentucky, return to Chautauqua for Week Six, “America at 250: In Partnership with The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.”

“Each of their work speaks to American experiences at different levels ...” Interim Michael I. Rudell Director of Literary Arts Stephine Hunt said. “It’s the reading itself that I think is going to bring it out for us.”

Hunt said she is excited to hear Hoppenthaler and Hoffman’s readings together, and Chautauquans are in for a treat.

“John’s work in particular — he’s done some incredible work with writers like Toni Morrison and built some incredible friendships that just cross different experiences of the American experience,” Hunt said. “His poetry reflects that in a lot of ways, so I’m very excited to have him here to share that work.”

As Hoppenthaler returns to the Chautauqua Writers’ Center for the fifth time, he said he is pleased several of his workshop participants from over the years have now published poems and even books.

Reflecting on Chautauqua’s history, the important historical figures who have graced the grounds and his own past experiences with the Writers’ Center, Hoppenthaler said, “I just love being part of [Chautauqua’s] history.”

Hoppenthaler said the state of poetry today is the strongest it’s ever been, and despite constantly being under scrutiny, it remains resilient.

“When we talk about politics, ... even if you’re writing a poem that isn’t political per se, you’re a political body writing in a political space, and even the decision to write a poem where you know 90% of America thinks that’s a worthless thing, is a political act,” Hoppenthaler said.

Hoppenthaler said particularly in cultural terms, poetry is the most appreciated it’s ever been. He added that the barriers of who can be a poet and a reader have been broken down.

“There’s space for queer poets, Black poets and mixed-race poets,” Hoppenthaler said. “You name it, we’ve got it, and that to me is great. That’s democracy. That’s this week’s theme, that’s what democracy looks like.”

Hoppenthaler plans to read some of his more historical poems at the Free Faculty Reading at 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the Hall of Philosophy.

“I’ll try to mix in some of the older [poems] and some of the newer [poems], and that’s what I usually do,” Hoppenthaler said. “I try to create a narrative arc whenever I give a reading.”

In addition to crafting a smooth narrative when selecting poems to read, Hoppenthaler also pays attention to how poems sound and feel in his mouth and body. He especially honors how poetry originally came from an oral tradition, and although he acknowledges reading as a performance, Hoppenthaler views it less as performative poetry and more as connecting with an audience and meeting them where they are.

“I really want that transition from poem to poem to matter, and it all be a part of a piece ...” Hoppenthaler said. “I’m much more interested in the way poetry works on the page and on stage.”

Hoppenthaler’s flexible workshop, titled “Writing and Revising the Sensuous Poem,” will run from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Aug. 3 to Aug. 7 in the Alumni Hall Poetry Room with an enrollment fee of \$145 and a maximum of 15 participants.

“For me, ‘sensuous’ is a writer engaging the readers’ senses through attention to the use of imagery, auditory texture, the music of the poem — and I’m not talking about meter or necessarily end rhyme, I’m talking about other things that go into creating a musical texture,” Hoppenthaler said.

Throughout his workshop, Hoppenthaler said he plans to focus on how poets draft and revise poems toward sensuousness, which in turn generates an intimacy between the poet and reader.

“... Thinking about what a poem looks like on the page, where you’re breaking lines and why you’re breaking lines, seeing a poem itself as a body that’s throbbing and alive,” Hoppenthaler said, is what he hopes to get across during his workshop.

In conversation with Hoppenthaler’s work, Hunt said Hoffman’s work mainly focuses on the American South while working within and challenging the common stories people know and, in turn, complicating those stories beautifully.

“He’s been hoping to come back for the past few years, and I was just delighted to be able to offer him the opportunity to join us at Chautauqua again,” Hunt said.

As Hoffman returns to Chautauqua Writers’ Center for the fourth summer, he said he himself is delighted, and with each visit comes new discoveries and experiences — especially when

working with writers at the Writers’ Center.

“It’s inspiring for me to be immersed in a community dedicated to ideas and the arts, and, as a teacher, to be with writing students of all levels nurtured by that, too,” Hoffman said.

Hoffman, a journalist for two decades before he turned to novels, still uses some strategies he used throughout his career in journalism, such as “to hear other people’s stories, to develop and embrace the philosophy that everyone has a story to tell,” Hoffman said.

Hoffman said it is important in writing, whether fiction or creative non-fiction, to conduct “body research” and venture into or experience what one may be writing about so that one can better tell the story.

When writing his most recent novel, *The Promise of the Pelican: A Novel*, in addition to conducting in-depth research, Hoffman traveled to Honduras to collect images, experiences, stories and scenes firsthand.

Because Hoffman’s workshop class will consist of both nonfiction and fiction writers, he plans to read both genres of his work during the free faculty reading at 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the Hall of Philosophy.

Growing up, Hoffman was surrounded by a variety of cultures. His grandparents were immigrant Jews from Eastern Europe who settled in the Deep South, which led Hoffman to write across cultures and focus on immigration experiences.

During his journalism career, he wrote about Holocaust survivors, World War II veterans and participants in the Civil Rights Movement.

“To tell their stories continued my interest in, as I call my workshop, ‘All Our Voic-



HOPPENTHALER



HOFFMAN

es,” Hoffman said. “There is a lot of question[ing] now about what’s called ‘appropriation,’ you know? Going outside of your own experiences to tell somebody else’s story. So, I think we have to be very sensitive to those concerns. We have to be very careful about how we tell those stories.”

Hoffman said that people can exhaust their own stories, and telling others’ stories is important.

“Through interviewing, through listening, through readings and research and through empathy, we can — as best possible — follow the dictate of Atticus in *To Kill a Mockingbird* when he tells young Scout, ‘You have to learn to walk in another person’s shoes,’” Hoffman said.

Hoffman’s flexible workshop, titled “All Our Voices,” will run from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Aug. 3 to Aug. 7 in the Alumni Hall Prose Room with an enrollment fee of \$145 and a maximum of 15 participants.

Hoffman wrote his workshop “emphasizes that we celebrate our diverse voices as writers. Whatever your origins, age, background — fledgling writer or greatly experienced — we welcome your words on the page, and in a non-competitive en-

vironment, celebrate your creativity ...”

Further, Hoffman said he hopes to nourish a space in which participants feel free to create without fear and specifically use the encouragement of prompts.

“That’s what’s great about an art institution and a community like Chautauqua is that we’re surrounded by people who are making objects, aesthetic objects, right?” Hoffman said.

Although these “aesthetic objects” vary from physical objects like pottery, sculptures, sheets of music to performances like dance or written work on a page, Hoffman said it’s about celebrating the fact that someone who might’ve come in with nothing leaves having created something.

“In a world where there’s a lot of destruction and disintegration and ruination, people who are creating things, or the people who aren’t in classes but are significantly there as audiences ...” Hoffman said. “My words only come alive to the person who hears them and makes an image in their mind or reads them on the page and makes it real. So that’s important too, it’s that dialogue. It’s healthy, it’s heightening, it’s revitalizing.”

Hulls presents CLSC selection ‘Feeding Ghosts,’ emphasizes natural connections

NORA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Artist, adventurer and author Tessa Hulls began her presentation on her Pulitzer-winning graphic memoir and Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Week Five selection, *Feeding Ghosts: A Graphic Memoir*, by defining what it means to be a river.

“When glaciers and snow melt off of the mountains, when they encounter a valley, they spread out in these beautiful bands that meander back and forth and conjoin each other and they’re these really complex systems and they don’t stay the same ...” Hulls said.

Hulls drew parallels between the human experience and nature and said she considers herself a braided river. In her perspective, she moves through the world and her own work as a braided river because she doesn’t work in “discrete creative disciplines,” she said. This, she explained, is not limited to her alone; it can apply to anyone and anything.

“Every story, every life is a braided river,” Hulls said.

After reading a section from the prologue of *Feeding*

Ghosts, Hulls emphasized the last line of the excerpt she chose. She said, “I will do my best to serve as your guide through this wilderness.”

Hulls said this “wilderness” is a prominent theme throughout *Feeding Ghosts*. She said the wilderness was something many readers don’t notice, but that it was why she set out to tell her family story in the first place. She hadn’t had any desire to make a book, but she knew something was broken and felt called to fix it.

“I knew I had to mend the fissure that had taken generations to build, and I began my work starting in the undifferentiated churn of the ocean,” Hulls said. “My job, which I’m using in the sense of task, duty, burden, obligation, commitment, was to find them out, where my family’s river met the sea and then follow every channel back up into the mountains until I reached the headquarters where this story began.”

She said each section of the book ends in water, emphasizing the book’s ending in which she breaks the fourth wall and tells readers, “We can’t end this inside, we have to go out to the sea.”

Reflecting on her first visit to Chautauqua, which she called a “utopia,” Hulls questioned the purpose of all the lectures she attended. She said many speakers advise that audience members should take what they hear at Chautauqua and carry it beyond the gates of the Institution; Hulls openly asked if the carrying forward of these conversations is actually happening.

In her perspective, lectures like these are meant to lead people to a place of avulsion. She said it’s crucial to acknowledge one’s privilege in a place like Chautauqua, and if one doesn’t, it can be easy to become victims to a narrowing perspective.

“I want to hold my teeth against the softness of your palms and lovingly, relentlessly and accurately say, ‘This place is a profoundly beautiful bubble,’” Hulls said. “We all want to believe these places that nourish us are sufficient on their own, and it’s painful to admit that something beautiful can also become insulating.”

Hulls ended her presentation by asking audience members to step outside the



—TESSA HULLS
Author of *Feeding Ghosts: A Graphic Memoir*

SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Author Tessa Hulls speaks about the experiences that inspired her memoir *Feeding Ghosts* Friday in the Hall of Philosophy.

grounds and rejoin the outside world with a question.

“If what you have been exposed to this week has helped you feel the current of your own river, ‘What is the next river you intend to free?’” Hulls said.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chautauqua
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For more information on the Humanist Community at Chautauqua contact
John Hooper at johnbhooper@comcast.net

THEATER

‘Best for Baby’ premiere coincides with \$5.5 billion settlement from J&J

SOPHIA ROOKSBERRY
STAFF WRITER

On July 27, Johnson & Johnson published a press release announcing a proposed resolution to 15 years of litigation. On the same day, Sharyn Rothstein's *Best for Baby*, a satirical retelling of these scandalous years, entered the final week of its world premiere.

Johnson & Johnson committed \$5.5 billion to the compensation of claimants who trace their ovarian cancer to the talc-based baby powder the company kept on the shelves until 2023. Rothstein's script currently ends around the time Johnson & Johnson switched to a cornstarch-based baby powder, and Rothstein said it is too soon to tell whether or not this legal development will affect the ending.

"Who knows what's going to happen with this settlement?" Rothstein said. "... In

order for the settlement to go through, I think they need the vast majority of claimants to agree to it, [and] I haven't seen anything that says that agreement has been reached yet, so ... it feels like a major development, but let's wait and see what happens."

The ending of Rothstein's play also tackles the Texas two-step that Johnson & Johnson attempted in 2021. Through this maneuver, a company separates into two entities, one retaining the company's assets and the other absorbing the company's liabilities. Then, the latter files for bankruptcy while the former carries on business proceedings as usual.

"[The settlement] does seem to suggest that Johnson & Johnson is moving away from trying the Texas two-step again, but they tried it three times, so I think that part of my play is still

pretty valid, and whether or not the Texas two-step itself is a legal maneuver is still an open question," Rothstein said. "The Supreme Court, as recently as June, decided not to hear a case about the Texas two-step, but they also didn't say that it was illegal, so it's still this open question out there."

Rothstein had previously described her play as a "call to action for people to speak up and fight ... on behalf of these claimants." While Rothstein still maintains the need for these acts of advocacy, she believes if this settlement has merit, the messaging behind *Best for Baby* will shift to focus mostly on the Texas two-step itself.

"No matter what happens with the Johnson & Johnson case, we now know we have this incredibly ... dangerous bankruptcy maneuver out there, and there has been a

bipartisan effort in the Senate to introduce legislation to fight it and it has kind of gone nowhere," Rothstein said. "That is still a very real danger that is going to, if it proves to be legal, shield corporations from culpability in a really damaging way for our society."

Rothstein said she will be keeping a close eye on the company as details continue to unfold, and encourages others to do the same.

"I take the settlement announcement with a grain of salt, because there have been a lot of them, and also there's still huge litigation happening in the U.K. over Johnson & Johnson, so it's certainly by no means the end of this story," Rothstein said. "I certainly hope it can bring some bit of justice and/or relief to all of these claimants, but I will still be very wary of all of the press releases I read."



GABRIEL MILBY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Chautauqua Theater Company Guest Actor Crystal Dickinson, in the role of Joyce, performs during a rehearsal of the CTC-commissioned world premiere of Sharyn Rothstein's *Best For Baby* July 17 in Bratton Theater.



GABRIEL MILBY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Chautauqua Theater Company Guest Actors Jo Lampert, as Haven, and Crystal Dickinson, as Joyce, perform a scene from CTC's *Best For Baby* July 17 in Bratton Theater.



GABRIEL MILBY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Conservatory actors Chris Martin, in the role of Marsh, and Roggi Chuquimarca, in the role of Cope, rehearse for CTC's *FutureNow* New Play Lab 1: *The Bone Wars* July 9 at Roe Green Theater Center.



GABRIEL MILBY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
From left, conservatory actors Lydia Mushkatina, Brendan Lowry and Chuquimarca rehearse for *FutureNow* New Play Lab 2: *ERASERS: A Bloodthirsty Comedy* July 23 at RGTC.



SKYLAR SEAVEY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Guest actors Peter Gerety and Trevor Long, playing a father and son duo, perform a staged reading of CTC's New Play Workshop *The Motions* Friday in Bratton Theater.

CTC welcomes theater professionals for second annual Industry Weekend

SOPHIA ROOKSBERRY
STAFF WRITER

This weekend, creative professionals from across the American theater scene will populate the streets of Chautauqua Institution for the second annual Industry Weekend, hosted by Chautauqua Theater Company.

"It's a way to create ... exposure for these new plays to the larger industry," said Lily Wolff, new works associate at CTC and organizer of Industry Weekend. "Not only are we trying here at Chautauqua to grow the canon of new American plays, but we are also trying to ensure that those plays have a life outside of Chautauqua and that they continue to impact the field beyond the gates."

Visitors will have the chance to witness the second New Play Workshop of the season, *The Motions* by Zora Howard, one of the last performances of *Best for Baby* by Sharyn Rothstein and the return of both *FutureNow* New Play Labs — *The Bone Wars* by Sarah Saltwick and *ERASERS: A Bloodthirsty Comedy* by

Jenny Connell Davis — all on the same day.

"We have four new plays running, all at different phases of the development process, so it's a fantastic time to tell people to come down here," Wolff said. "When you're getting on a plane or you're driving six hours in a car ... you really want to feel like you're going to get information that you couldn't get by sitting at your desk and reading the script."

Much like CTC itself, Industry Weekend exists to fill the ever-expanding gap in the world of theater created by the consistent shuttering of new play development programs and the events that accompany them.

"We've had some really hard hits since [COVID-19] in the new play space," Wolff said. "A lot of these places were not only launching new work out into the field, but they were also gathering places for the industry to come together ... As festivals fold, that's where the loss becomes exponentially greater, because it's not just the

new works that program was putting on, it's also all of the other projects that we don't necessarily learn about because we didn't have that opportunity to come together and talk about our work."

Wolff's organization of Industry Weekend was inspired in part by the Alley All New Festival at the Alley Theater in Houston, where Wolff formerly served as literary manager. The festival was founded in 2016 by Liz Frankel, whose work as a freelance dramaturge has brought her to Chautauqua three years in a row.

"What [new play professionals] get out of it is hopefully knowledge of exciting new work, or even if they're not going to do anything with any of those plays, maybe it's a time for them to think, 'Oh, I like this playwright. I need to read more of their work, or personally meet the playwright and start keeping in touch with them,'" Frankel said. "... It could be a way for an industry person to learn about an exciting new actor or director in the same

way, and then of course it's so great for all the artists who are here to be able to make those connections."

Frankel's dramaturgical work on shows like *Best for Baby*, which she describes as being a "partner to the playwright" in helping them achieve their vision, is part of what makes CTC a unique place to develop new plays.

"They have dramaturges here, which is a thing that doesn't happen as much anymore, and to have the dramaturgy work, to have people like Liz Frankel around to be able to help shape and craft stories [is crucial]," said Crystal Dickinson, a guest artist starring in *Best for Baby*. "Things are able to be given the time and attention that they need, and as a result, they have fantastic plays like *Best for Baby*."

Dickinson became a Chautauquan four summers ago when she was invited to teach members of the Acting Conservatory. After two seasons as a teacher, Dickinson returned to work on *Best for Baby* as a New Play

Workshop, and now is the lead actress in the main-stage production.

"I have been a professional actor for at least 20 years, and I've worked on a lot of new plays in my career," Dickinson said. "I've found that more and more theaters are not willing — because of budgetary constraints ... or trying to get audiences in — to take a risk on plays. Also, it just takes time. It takes time and money that theater companies don't have like they used to."

The commodity of time is given freely to new work at CTC, with many plays going through years of workshoping before a world premiere. This dedication of time and resources is not only essential to thoughtful play development at CTC, but it is also what sets the company apart from many other theaters in the country.

Frankel said she is particularly excited to see CTC's expansion, even as other theaters are "contracting."

"They're either literally shutting down, or they're not developing as many plays as they were, they're not premiering as many

plays as they were ... Now more than ever, we need places that are expanding, and that's what CTC is doing," Frankel said.

Industry Weekend attendees will be immersed in the creative process at CTC, and they will also have the chance to engage in other opportunities offered by a weekend at Chautauqua.

"You could be a theater artist who then gets to encounter all these other forms of art, which could just be inspirational or a beautiful way to take a break," Frankel said.

Wolff is hopeful the Chautauqua backdrop of Industry Weekend will not be a one-way street explored only by the visitors.

"I would just really encourage Chautauquans to be a part of it," Wolff said. "We call it our Industry Weekend, but what we really love is the opportunity for these industry guests who are leading theaters across the country to encounter Chautauquans and to get an understanding of how their work impacts ... the community where it's being made as well."

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Week 6: August 1-August 8

Dante's Divine Comedy: An Introduction

As T.S. Elliot wrote: "Dante and Shakespeare divide the world between them – there is no third." This course will give an accessible overview of *The Inferno*, *The Purgatorio* and *The Paradiso* along with selected excerpts (with commentary) from each. Dante's life and exile from Florence discussed. Illustrations by Blake, Duer, Botticelli and others included.

REGISTRATION: 1) Online: tickets.chq.org.

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COMMUNITY

FCVA to host final Art in the Park fair of the season Sunday

JENELL TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Friends of Chautauqua Visual Arts is gearing up to host Art in the Park, its second and final art fair of the summer season, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in Miller Park.

For those who missed the droves of Chautauquans who gathered for the first fair in early July, FCVA extends a warm welcome to any and all interested parties.

Art in the Park is an annual open-air art fair that showcases artwork by members of the local community, School of Art artists-in-residence and artists from surrounding areas such as Pittsburgh and Buffalo, New York.

Ellie Nickeson, chairperson for Art in the Park, is particularly amped for this event, as she is serving her final year on the FCVA board.

“We’re really looking forward to hosting the artists and vendors, and [we] encourage people to come down and support the local creators who work so hard to get ready for this,” she said.

Nickeson also noted that FCVA will have their own tent this year, and guests shouldn’t be shy in stopping by to say hello, suggesting potential art vendors or inquiring about the mission of FCVA.

“We love it when people stop by and talk to us about what we’re up to and maybe share names of vendors that might be interested in the future,” she said. “We’re there to interact with the community as well.”

The event is always held Sundays when admission to Chautauqua Institution is free, allowing FCVA to continue sharing the joys of creation with an audience that reaches far beyond the Institution gates.

Proceeds from artists’ entrance fees are pooled to support exhibitions at Strohl and Fowler-Kellogg Art Centers, as well as to fund scholarships for the SOA artist residency programs.

The fair will host approximately 70 local and regional artisanal vendors, some of whom have traveled hours to showcase their craftsmanship. FCVA emphasizes the importance of man-made creativity, and all items for sale are handmade by their respective vendors.

Attendees can peruse a plethora of goods, including – but not limited to – ceramics, paintings, fine jewelry, embellished handbags, pet treats and hand-dyed silk clothing.

In addition to the sale of physical artwork, the fair hosts entertainment in the form of a jam session beginning at 1 p.m. This year, FCVA is supporting local favorite Thursday Morning Brass as they aim to raise funds of their own.

“They’re raising funds



SKYLAR SEAVEY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Ali Rogers consults with Helen Primack on which felt plush to purchase at Art in the Park July 5 in Miller Park.

“We’re really looking forward to hosting the artists and vendors, and [we] encourage people to come down and support the local creators who work so hard to get ready for this.”

—ELLIE NICKESON
Chairperson,
Art in the Park



Chautauquans inspect artwork for sale in Miller Park.

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for music scholarships for folks who come here under the auspices of our music education program,” Nickeson said.

Nickeson said FCVA hopes Chautauquans will gather once more in support of the arts for the final Art in the Park of the season. The shared efforts of vendors, artists and en-

tertainers enrich Chautauqua’s artistic culture and demonstrate the importance of unity through art.

Rainfall during Art in the Park is always a possibility, but Nickeson’s glass remains half full. “We go on, rain or shine,” she said. “Put those umbrellas up and come see what you can find.”

ADVOCATES FOR
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Presents



Josh Kraushaar
Week 7 – Monday, August 10th – 3 PM
Josh Kraushaar is a Washington political analyst with a track record of knowing election trends before they become conventional wisdom. Author of Axis weekly *Sunday Sneak Preview* newsletter. A political analyst for FoxNews, Josh is also the editor-in-chief of the *Jewish Insider*.



Bryan Austin as Ben Franklin
Week 8 – Monday, August 17th – 3 PM
Bryan Austin is an actor and historian known for bringing historical figures to life, particularly as Benjamin Franklin in his podcast “*Let’s Be Frank*”, where he uses primary sources to humorously explore Franklin’s life and times. He’s also known for portraying James Madison in Colonial Williamsburg and is a storyteller who aims to connect people with history through authentic, first-person accounts.



Ivan Pongracic
Week 9 – Monday, August 24th – 3 PM
Ivan Pongracic, Jr. is the William E. Hibbs/Ludwig von Mises Professor of Economics at Hillsdale College, where he has been teaching since 2000. He came to truly appreciate the importance of free markets to human liberty and prosperity because of growing up in communist Yugoslavia. He was involved with various classical liberal and conservative institutions, such as the Foundation for Economic Education, the Independent Institute and the Cato Institute among others. His book “*Employees and Entrepreneurship*” came out in 2009. The topic of his lecture is “**A Century of Socialist Failures.**”



Peter Schweizer
Week 1 – Monday, June 29th – 3 PM
Peter Schweizer is the president of the Government Accountability Institute and the author of four #1 *New York Times* bestsellers including “*Invisible Coup: How American Elites and Foreign Powers Use Immigration as a Weapon.*” Topic: “**Weaponized Immigration: The Problem No One is Talking About.**”



Week 6 – Monday, August 3rd, 3 PM
(Athenaeum Parlor)
Salena Zito
Salena Zito is a veteran political reporter with more than twenty years of award-winning experience in print and broadcast journalism. She has been a columnist for the *New York Post* and has contributed to *The Atlantic*, *the Wall Street Journal* and the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*. Well known as one who listens to the stories of everyday Americans in places far outside the bubbles of Manhattan and the Beltway. Her book “*Butler*” debuted last July as the #1 *New York Times* best seller. Her Topic is “**The Importance of Place in American Politics.**”



Naomi Schaefer Riley
Week 2 – Monday, July 6th – 3 PM
Naomi Schaefer Riley is an American conservative commentator and author. She is a Senior Fellow of American Enterprise Institute. Her writings have appeared in *NYT*, *LA Times*, the *New York Post* and *Washington Post*. For the *WSJ* writing on religion, higher education, and philanthropy. Her topic is: “**The Underparented and Overprinted: Understanding the Real Divide Among America’s Families.**”



Jonathan Turley
Week 3 – Monday, July 13th – 3 PM
George Washington University Law School professor, legal scholar, attorney, writer, commentator and legal analyst on national TV broadcasts and in print. Simon & Schuster selected his February 2026 book “*Rage and the Republic*” as their only 250th Anniversary release. The topic of his lecture is “**Rage and the Republic: The Past and Future of the American Republic.**”



Allen West
Week 4 – Monday, July 20th – 3 PM
Allen B. West is a Christian constitutional conservative, combat veteran, and former member of the US Congress. His life has been defined as one of service, sacrifice, and commitment to the United States of America. He believes it will be conservative, free market policies, not politics that secures a sound economic future for Americans.



Paul Kengor
Week 5 – Monday, July 27th – 3 PM
Paul G. Kengor is an American author and professor of political science at Grove City College and the senior director of the Institute for Faith and Freedom, a Grove City College think tank. He is a visiting fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace. Kengor has focused much of his work on Ronald Reagan, faith and the presidency, conservative politics, the Cold War, Communism, and Catholicism. The topic of his lecture is “**The Popes and the President**”

Visit our website: www.abcatchq.com – Doors open at 2:30 pm





Dressed as super spies, Group Five Girls pose at the end of their routine “5G Goes Undercover” during the Boys’ and Girls’ Club’s 41st annual Airband performance Thursday in the Amphitheater.

Battle of the (Air) Bands

Boys’ and Girls’ Club holds 41st annual Airband competition

PHOTOS BY **SAM HUFFMAN**



Left, Group Three Girls members dance to “The Gummy Bear Song” during their routine “G3 Gets Stuck in Candyland.”



Right, Group Four Boys member Hudson Moeller, dressed as a Roman gladiator, flexes during the group’s performance “4B Boys Builds Rome in a Day.”



Above left, Group Seven Boys member Nicholas Ferrara plays air guitar with an oar during their routine “Seven Boys Gone Fishin.”



Above right, Group Five Boys mime a flight to the moon during their performance of their routine, “Five Boys Goes to Space.”



SAC Boys members perform “SAC Boys Wins the Heisman.”



Group Eight Girls celebrate with their trophy after winning Best Overall Group in groups Eight–SAC for their routine “Group Eight is Running Late.”

RECREATION

BADGES WIN 9-1 IN ANNUAL BOOTS VS. BADGES GAME



SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above, Boot’s Kelly Bigelow makes a catch during the third annual Boots vs. Badges softball game Sunday at Sharpe Field. At top right, Chief of Campus Safety & Security Billy Leone, of the Badges, and Chautauqua Fire Department Chief David Bigelow, of the Boots, shake hands before announcing the starting line up. Above right, Badge’s Noah Skarzinski celebrates after tagging out Boots’ Brandon Van Euren securing the win for the Badges. The annual softball game between the Chautauqua Fire Department and the Department of Safety & Security raises funds for CFD’s volunteer first responders.



Above, Leone helps a young Chautauquan spray participants with a fire hose after the game. At right, Chautauquans run through a wall of fire engine water.



Photo of Lincoln in the Bardo Workshop 2025 Season

In 2024, the Chautauqua Opera Guild began a campaign to raise a \$3 million Endowment Fund. This fund objective is to ensure the continuation of staged performances of opera each season. Next season, opera returns to Norton Hall. To date, the Guild has raised \$1.6 million. Please visit chq.org/opera-guild or use the QR code below to learn more about this giving opportunity. Also, donations can be sent to Chautauqua Opera Guild, P.O. Box 61, Chautauqua, New York 14722



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COMMUNITY

Summer Scholars program creates intergenerational connections

HEIDI WARREN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After only a few days on the grounds, Elan Munoz has cemented her desire to live in a walkable city.

“This place is amazing,” the Hollywood, Florida, resident said. “It’s so beautiful, and everyone is very inviting.”

Munoz won a weeklong scholarship for community college honor students through Community Compact, a local non-profit. She will attend Fort Lauderdale’s Nova Southeastern University in the fall and intends to become a dentist. Munoz also has an affinity for making pottery, hoping it will increase finger dexterity.

Besides enjoying all Chautauqua Institution has to offer during Week Five, she connected with longtime Chautauquan Steve Lieber, who is a periodontist and artist.

Networking with patrons has been the absolute best part of the Summer Scholars at Chautauqua program, Munoz said. Their wealth of knowledge and spirit of generosity are overwhelming.

“Steve is incredible and has opened my view to dental specialties,” she said. “This experience is definitely motivating!”

The dozen scholars stay at one of two rental houses, according to Leah Johnson

of Lockport, New York, who volunteers as a host. Another cohort of 12 was at Chautauqua Week Three.

During a public gathering Wednesday on Bestor Plaza, Gary Miller, manager of the Quaker House, passed on some wisdom to scholar Alicia McDonough of Highland, California.

“Life is full of portals of all sizes that open up,” the Kansas City resident said. “But you have to be alert and looking before choosing whether to run through.”

McDonough seemed to value the encouragement, saying Miller must be a great salesman given his powers of persuasion.

“If this is all propaganda to get me to move out of California, it’s working,” McDonough said with a laugh. “I love it here so much.”

Community Compact also has a pilot program in connection with San Francisco-based CoGenerate, a non-profit that operates in conjunction with the Stanford Center on Longevity. The new venture is CoGen Scholars; participants are previous years’ Summer Scholars who return to engage in intergenerational activities during Weeks Three and Five. These alumni stay at denominational houses and explore ways of be-

friending, connecting and collaborating with older generations, Executive Director Beth Brockman Miller said.

Tala Algadi of Orlando, Florida, is grateful to be back. Her first trip was in 2024.

“I’ve been talking more this week than I have all year!” she said. “I never thought I’d have the chance to return to Chautauqua.”

The University of Florida student befriended Barbara Roedel in the Bird-Werner kitchen while staying at the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua, where four CoGen members resided.

Roedel gushed about how much the young people added to the communal environment at the ECOC. She appreciated really getting to know the scholars and their callings.

“When I graduated high school in 1971, women could become a nurse, teacher, bank teller, a secretary or get married,” Roedel, a Moline, Illinois, resident said. “I find it empowering to see these young women have so many opportunities and act on them ...They are the future.”

The CoGen goal is to engage older Chautauquans who are seeking involvement during meals, after lectures and performances, on walks, over coffee or ice cream and the like.

“It feels like one great big family,” Algadi said.

The CoGen and Summer Scholars hosted a sit-down “Field Day” Thursday at the Hall of Christ. About 50 people participated in multiple activities aimed to spark meaningful conversations across generations.

In a storytelling circle about intergenerational friendships, former Institution Vice President Sherra Babcock talked about her early childhood. Lifetime Chautauquan Jeff Miller of Chartrettes, France, shared about his early days on the grounds, and a friendship with an “older boy.”

As a young child, he would go fishing at the crack of dawn; his new fishing buddy was always waiting. “I talked about him constantly,” he said. “Turns out he was about 70; my parents were not worried then.”

When the conversation shifted to “bridging distances,” Todd Drake of Albuquerque, New Mexico, discussed how many role models provide guidance on how to parent young children, but not so many about parenting when one’s children are adults.

Truly meaningful dialogue ensued. Jim Miller of Ithaca, New York, — Jeff’s brother and the only Millers related



SKYLAR SEAVEY /STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Elan Munoz, a Community Compact Inc. Chautauqua summer scholar, with Steve Lieber, her mentor, Thursday in the Arts Quad.

in this story — shared how he eventually became best friends with his late father.

Across the hall, a group chatted while making a collage. John Propst of Asheville, North Carolina, told those gathered that people take too much for granted.

“I’m going to do what I can to preserve things or make things better for the next generation,” he said.

Four generations — Boomers, Generation X, Millennials and Generation Z — each roughly make up 20% of the population, with the Silent Generation at 4% and Generation Alpha, the youth, at 15%.

A former farmer, Brockman Miller says Chautauqua is fertile ground for planting seeds of intergenerational cooperation and hopes propagation will continue when participants return home.

“There is so much potential to create a better, more inclusive society,” she said. “I hope we provide inspiration.”

Heidi Greene Warren is a longtime Chautauquan who, in a former life, was a writer for The Virginian-Pilot, based in Norfolk, Virginia. Send suggestions of interesting Chautauquans to feature in a story to: HeyHeidiGW@gmail.com.

Oaks, Merchant create space for making, foster community of artists

LILY RESLINK
STAFF WRITER

After starting M and Sew Creative Collective in 2025 to turn visions of non-traditional artistic careers into a reality, Serena Oaks and fourth-generation Chautauquan Mollie Merchant found a “pop-up” home for their business at Chautauqua Institution.

“It’s a creative business that we started to explore different ideas around thoughtful making, intentional design and functional, lasting things — and the community connections that can be formed around that,” Oaks said.

M and Sew Creative Collective originated in California and has no official physical space; Oaks and Merchant created “Sew Studio” in 2025 in the available space in the back of Spruce Home Decor, located in the Colonnade. Since its beginning, Sew Studio has expanded to welcome other makers to create art, repair items and exchange ideas.

The path to “Sew Studio” began in 2024 when the two Californians coincidentally crossed paths at a sewing retreat in England. There, they realized that not only did they live only 30 minutes apart in the U.S., but they shared similar ideas about art and ideal career paths.

“We just connected and started creating together and sharing a vision of how we wanted to develop our careers — moving forward in a non-traditional way that was more true to what we were really passionate about and what we felt

would really make an impact in society,” Oaks said.

In starting a business, they have found that their differences and similarities alike have served them well.

Oaks’ background is in mechanical engineering and product development; Merchant is a multidisciplinary artist. In collaboration, Merchant said the two have “naturally gravitated” toward the aspects they are skilled in. For instance, Oaks’ technical skills lent themselves to establishing the LLC and website, while Merchant’s artistry supported her ability to establish a functional studio space and to make connections across media, disciplines and techniques.

The success of this career path, Oaks and Merchant said, has depended on people who support small businesses that are “making with intention and a moral compass.”

Sew Studio’s outward-facing role at Chautauqua consists primarily of Maker Meetups, which have grown from limited Sunday availability in 2025 to being open from 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays this season at Spruce Home Decor. Sew Studio also hosts occasional pop-up events, such as this weekend’s event in partnership with Erie, Pennsylvania-based yarn store Hanks Yarn Supply from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday in the studio.

Oaks said the goal of Maker Meetups is to invite anyone to bring their own creative projects or functional projects, such as clothes in need of repairs or tailoring.

She said Sew Studio can offer a space as well as resources, such as a sewing machine or other mending materials for Chautauquans who don’t have the materials at home or a space at Chautauqua to create. They reconfigured the studio space to fit 12 seats around the large table often adorned with works in progress.

Oaks said she and Merchant are looking for participants to join the maker community at Sew Studio by bringing their projects and sharing the ideas and resources they have to give. She said maximizing Sew Studio’s space to accommodate more makers while maintaining it as a private studio has been a challenge, but bringing makers together is part of their shared career vision.

Merchant said her childhood at Chautauqua shaped her artistic interests and values of being part of a connected creative community. She recalled taking her first weaving class at the Institution, and said it was probably her “favorite summer at Chautauqua” because she was able to spend two weeks weaving.

“I have such a fond memory of that experience and that connection in the classroom of people knowing family members and having history with my family members,” Merchant said. She added that learn-



SKYLAR SEAVEY /STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
M and Sew Creative Collective owners Mollie Merchant, left, and Serena Oaks, center, work with Keira Hegarty, 7, center, and Brooke Hegarty, 10, during a Maker Meetup Sunday in the Sew Studio’s location in the Colonnade.

ing those traditional skills influenced her more recent work. For example, one can find Merchant’s woven up-cycled packing paper art around Sew Studio.

Including herself, Oaks said Merchant frequently introduces others to Chautauqua; her first introduction, Oak recalled, was chatting and sewing on Merchant’s lakefront porch prior to the 2025 Summer Season.

“We were here in March in the total cold and ice of winter, and that was enough to convince Serena to come back for an entire summer,” Merchant joked.



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Chautauqua Community Band
Rehearsal
Sunday, August 2nd
4:30 - 6pm in Lenna Hall

RELIGION

MARY ROESS PICKENS

Mary Roess Pickens passed away peacefully on the morning of Friday, July 10, 2026, surrounded by her family in Chautauqua, just a few steps away from the lake she loved.

Mary Elizabeth Roess was born in Oil City, Pennsylvania, on June 4, 1942, the fourth of five children born to Elizabeth Shortt Roess and Gustav Frederick Roess. As a child, Mary and her siblings Gus, Martha, Charles and Christine lived between Winter Park, Florida, and Chautauqua, New York. After graduating from Winter Park High, Mary began her college career at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, transferring her junior year after studying in Mexico City and finishing her degree at Baldwin Wallace College in the spring of 1964.

Shortly thereafter, Mary



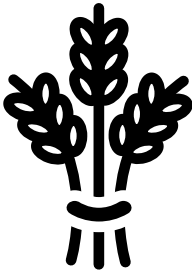
PICKENS

went to work at the Department of Public Health at Yale University, where she met her husband Robert “Bob” Pickens, who was attending medical school there. Mary and Bob were married on the Yale campus on May 30, 1965, and after short stints living in Riverdale, New York, Park Ridge, New Jersey

and Norfolk, Virginia, Mary and Bob settled in Princeton in 1973 where they raised three children, Jennifer, Sara and Matthew.

Mary would call Princeton home for the rest of her life, over the years becoming a valued member of the community: an avid tennis player, a member of various faith communities including Westerly Road Church and the Jewish Center of Princeton, a member of

the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle and an active volunteer for various causes. Mary and Bob volunteered as co-chairs of the Chautauqua Annual Fund from 2008 to 2009. Mary also served for many years distributing the Town Topics Christmas Fund to those in need, acting as a board member at Corner House and the Princeton YMCA and participating in the Princeton interim



MILESTONES

IN MEMORIAM

Healing, showing compassion for mental illness is a God-given right, says Lund

“I have lost count of the number of times I have prayed for family, friends and parishioners for healing, for God to take away the pain of depression, bipolar disease, to bring peace of mind, to provide help to get through the day and make tomorrow better,” the Rev. Sarah Griffith Lund said.

Lund was the homilist for the 9:15 a.m. Friday morning ecumenical communion service in the Hall of Philosophy. The title of her homily was “Blessed are the Crazy: A Love Story.” The scripture reading was Matthew 14:13–15.

What does it mean when our sickness is in the brain, Lund asked. “The church tells people to pray more, that they need Jesus in their life, if only they believed harder, read their Bible every day and confessed their sins, they would be healed.”

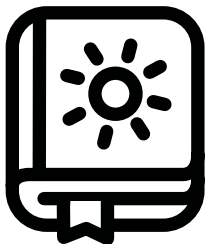
She continued, “What does the Bible say? Very little, and the church has said people with mental illness are demon possessed, unclean or being punished by God.”

Lund’s father had bipolar disorder and his illness terrified her. No one brought casseroles when he was ill. She felt unloved and she ate her feelings, causing stomach aches and in primary school, she wet her bed. She thought it was her fault that her father could not show her affection because no one talked about mental illness. His illness led to divorce, being unhoused and living alone.

There are several miracles in Matthew’s gospel before Matthew 14:13–15.

“I understand the Bible as saying that Jesus had a healing ethic and his compassion and healing were free. Every person has a God-given right to healing. Mental healing is health. Jesus showed us what it looks like to love our neighbors and to make healing affordable and accessible. The compassion in Jesus’ heart was activated by the suffering of the sick. He did not stigmatize them or turn them away if they had no insurance,” Lund said.

Jesus does not cure the disease but cures the stigma and the pain, which leads to acceptance of who we are,



MORNING WORSHIP

COLUMN BY MARY LEE TALBOT

Lund told the congregation. “My father was not cursed, he was blessed. He took a train from California to Missouri to be at my wedding and he told me he loved me. I thank God for that moment of compassion and healing. After 30 years of wondering, I had my answer: my father loved me,” Lund said.

Lund said mental illness is a common human condition. God, she said, blesses us with healing in a reconciled heart, with compassion that heals the stigma. Now is the time to break the silence about mental illness and show compassion.

“Let it be known that compassion and healing are God-given rights. We are not broken, cursed or alone because the love of Jesus has made us worthy, blessed and loved. God loves you, all of you. Thanks be to God. Amen,” Lund said.

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, senior pastor of Chautauqua, led worship. The Rev. Rachel Stuart, an associate in the Department of Religion, presided at the communion table. The Rev. Jacqueline Brett, Unitarian Universalist chaplain, read the scripture. Jane Barnard, a student at Kenyon College studying German, led the prayers of the people. The Rev. Chris Hetton, Christian Church – Disciples of Christ, the Rev. Rebecca DePoe, Presbyterian Church

homes program through which Mary and Bob housed multiple vulnerable teens. In April 2014, Mary received the Marie Matthews award at Corner House for service to the community, and the mayor of Princeton designated April 11, 2014, as “Mary Pickens Day.”

Mary loved her time with treasured friends and family whether in Princeton, Chautauqua, North Carolina, Winter Park or beyond. She had a passion for exploring the world with Bob through travel and always remembered fondly their long honeymoon in Europe, skiing and sailing trips, the Chautauqua exchange in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Tbilisi, Georgia, and time in Bangkok, Thailand, where their son Matt had lived as a Princeton-in-Asia fellow.

Those who knew Mary called her “elegant,” “fun-loving” and “caring”

— and to spend time with Mary was to feel energized and joyful (and often included enjoying an ice cream sundae, a Mary Jane candy or a slice of fruit pie).

Mary is survived by her beloved husband, Bob; her sister, Christine; her three children, Jennifer, Matthew and Sara; her two sons-in-law, Justin and Tim; her daughter-in-law, Rebecca; and grandchildren, Charlie and his wife Emilia, Tom, Isabel, Lila, Julia, Will, Charlotte, Henry, Olivia, Liam and Gavin; and devoted caretakers and friends, Betty, Sara and Nettie.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary’s honor to “The Mary R. Pickens Music Scholarship Fund” at the Chautauqua Foundation are appreciated. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Sept. 19, 2026, at the Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton.



SKYLAR SEAVEY /STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund, pastor of First Congregational Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, serves communion to Chautauquans Friday in the Hall of Philosophy.

(U.S.A.), the Rev. Evangeline Castillo, United Methodist, the Rev. Kathryn Pocalyko, ELCA, and the Rev. Sarah Griffith Lund, served communion with volunteers from the congregation. Music included a piano work, “Hijaz Prelude,” by Michael Harrison, played by Sonya Subbayya Sutton, interim director of Sacred Music, as well as a hymn variation on “When Morning Gilds the Skies” by Joseph Barnby, arranged by Victoria Jicha, and “Vivace” from Telemann’s Sonata in F Major, both performed by flutist Barbara Hois and pianist Joseph Musser. The Motet Choir sang René Clausen’s “Set Me as a Seal” and led the congregation in singing music from around the world. Support for this week’s chaplaincy and preaching was provided by the Robert D. Campbell Memorial Chaplaincy and the Jackson-Carnahan Memorial Chaplaincy.

Chabad to host community magic show in Smith Wilkes

The Zigdon Chabad Jewish House invites the entire Chautauqua community to a community magic show at 1 p.m. Sunday in Smith Wilkes Hall for an afternoon of world-class family entertainment promising fun and fellowship in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The Community Kosher BBQ, originally scheduled to take place from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday at Miller Bell Tower, has been rescheduled to Sunday, Aug. 9, and will feature a Klezmer concert.

Sponsored by the Zigdon Chabad Jewish House, the community magic show is designed to bring together residents, visitors and families of every background in

one of Chautauqua’s most beautiful outdoor settings.

“Our goal is simple — to create a place where people can gather, enjoy one another’s company and experience the warmth of community,” Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin, director of the Zigdon Chabad Jewish House, said. “Shared experiences have a unique way of bringing people together.”

Chautauquans will have an opportunity to enjoy a live performance by Keith West’s Illusioners, an award-winning illusion show that has entertained audiences across the country. West has performed at the world-famous Magic

Castle in Hollywood, aboard major cruise lines and at theaters, casinos and festivals throughout the U.S. His performances combine large-scale illusions, comedy, audience participation and clean family entertainment that captivates children and adults alike.

“The magic show is the perfect complement to an afternoon at Chautauqua,” Rabbi Vilenkin said. “Whether someone comes for the entertainment or simply to spend time with friends and neighbors, everyone is welcome.”

Set in the historic Smith Wilkes Hall, the event reflects Chabad’s broader mission of sharing Jewish culture while strengthening community connections. Throughout the summer, the Zigdon Chabad Jewish House offers lectures, classes, Friday night dinners, holiday



Our goal is simple — to create a place where people can gather, enjoy one another’s company and experience the warmth of community. Shared experiences have a unique way of bringing people together.”

— **RABBI ZALMAN VILENKIN**
Director,
Zigdon Chabad Jewish House

celebrations, workshops and educational programs open to all.

Admission to the event is free. For more information about the community magic show or other Chabad programs, visit cocweb.org.

Sunday Sacred Song Service to honor CLSC Class of 2026

MARY LEE TALBOT
STAFF WRITER

After lectures and church services, the oldest opportunity for lifelong learning at Chautauqua Institution is the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle. The 8 p.m. Sunday evening Sacred Song Service will honor the CLSC Class of 2026 in music and words.

The class theme is “Keepers of the Flame: Voices for Democracy.” CLSC class members Corinne Hatcher and Annell George-McLawn will serve as readers. The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, senior pastor of Chautauqua, will preside. For the prelude, organ scholar Owen Reyda will play an improvisation of his own on the Massey Memorial Organ. Sonya

Subbayya Sutton, interim director of Sacred Music, will direct the Chautauqua Choir.

A prayer by Thomas Troeger, poems by Mary Oliver, Emma Lazarus, Maya Angelou and a prayer from the *New Zealand Prayer Book* are featured in the readings. “Earth Song” music and words by Frank Ticheli; “MLK,” words and music by U2, arranged by Bob Chilcott; and “The Dream Isaiah Saw” with music by Glenn Rudolph and text by Thomas H. Troeger are the featured anthems. Guest pianist Arlene Hanjilian will accompany the choir on “The Dream Isaiah Saw.”

The postlude, as always, will be “Largo,” by George Frideric Handel from his opera *Xerxes*.



2026 SCIENCE PRESENTATIONS

Sponsored by the CLSC Science Circle

Presented every Tuesday
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In the Hurlbut Sanctuary at 5 Pratt - or on YouTube*



August 4

New Nuclear Energy as an Energy Security and Climate Solution

Judi Greenwald

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RELIGION



INTERFAITH NEWS

COMPILED BY STAFF

Baptist House

The Rev. Amanda Lott is a seasoned minister to children, families and a lot of other people who love God and follow Jesus. A graduate of Auburn University and Union Presbyterian Seminary, she has ministered in churches in Alabama, Texas and Virginia, and keeps her Kentucky roots alive during the University of Kentucky’s basketball season. She will lead worship at the Baptist House (35 Clark). Her sermon, based on Matthew 14:13–21, is titled “A Deserted Place.”

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

The Rev. Peter Santandreu, vice chancellor and adjunct judicial vicar, Diocese of Buffalo, New York, is our chaplain, and Sister Louise Alff, OSF, Sister of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, nationwide motivational speaker and retreat leader, is our Women Religious Scholarship recipient for the week. Our host couple are Bev and Mark Beltramo, of Temecula, California. Join us for Saturday Mass at 5 p.m. in the Hall of Philosophy and Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m. at Hurlbut Church (NEW worship site and time). Our daily Masses are at 8:15 a.m. Monday–Friday at Hurlbut Church (NEW worship site and time). Our front porch welcomes all.

Zigdon Chabad Jewish House

Chabad hosts a traditional Shabbat morning service from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at Zigdon Chabad Jewish House (23 Vincent on the Brick Walk), followed by Lunch ‘n’ Learn: Ethics of Our Fathers at 12:15 p.m.

Chabad hosts a magic show featuring Keith West’s Illusioneers at 1 p.m. Sunday in Smith Wilkes Hall. All Chautauquans are welcome.

Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin teaches “The Guide for the Perplexed,” a Jewish Discussions Group class on one of Maimonides’ major works and his philosophical views, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Monday at Zigdon Chabad Jewish House.

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

From 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday–Thursday at Bestor Plaza

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

For dinner service and specialized dining needs, individuals are encouraged to preorder from a full lunch and dinner menu by visiting [cocweb.org](#).

Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation

Sensei Dhara Kowal 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.

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

“Love” is the subject of this week’s service at 9:30 Sunday in the Christian Science Chapel (12 Center). Our Study Room is open 24/7 for reflection and prayer. Starting Monday, the Bible lesson “Spirit” may be read along with church-based resources on the computer and copies of Christian Science periodicals, including *The Christian Science Monitor*.

Disciples of Christ

Disciple Day will celebrate Disciples of Christ on Chautauqua grounds since 1904.

The Disciples of Christ will hold a catered lunch at noon in Graybiel House (28 Janes) — \$15 per person. Music provided during lunch. Welcome and board meeting follow lunch, with the Rev. Donald Gillett presiding. Gillett is the general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky.

At 2 p.m. a book reading by Charisse Gillett will take place: *Soul Stories: Wisdom and Leadership Strategies for Flourishing African American Women and That Little Girl: Memories, Challenges, and Reflections on Black Girl Dreams*.

A Communion service with homily will be held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the Disciples of Christ House (32 Clark). Our chaplain of the week is Donald Gillett from Lexington, Kentucky. This week’s homily is titled “A Celebration of Faith: Still Burning.” All are welcome.

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

At 12:15 p.m. Monday in UCC Randell Chapel (enter from Odland Plaza), the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua presents “Litigating against Prison Abuse.” James V. Cook has been doing civil rights litigation for the past 20 years, and police and prison abuse cases almost exclusively since around 2008. About half his cases involve the death of civilians at the hands of law enforcement. He will describe how the law primarily used to challenge brutality “under color of law” was born in the years following the American Civil War, called the Civil Rights Act of 1871 or the “Ku Klux Klan Act.” He will trace the increasing militarization of police forces and what is sometimes called “occupation-style policing” through the late 1900’s until today; talk about the trend of mass incarceration and increasing physical, sexual and psychological brutalization behind prison walls; and show the connections between race and ethnicity and law enforcement abuse and how legislators and courts have made civil rights abuse cases tougher to litigate. He will also show how lawyers can use creative technology to

show juries how civil rights abuses actually occurred.

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

The Jewish Film Series will screen the Israeli drama “The Sea” at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the EJLCC (36 Massey). In Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles, the film follows a 12-year-old Palestinian boy determined to see the Mediterranean Sea for the first time, despite being turned away at a military checkpoint. The film won five awards at the 2025 Ophir Awards, including Best Picture. The film runs 93 minutes. A second screening takes place at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat will talk about the art of American diplomacy at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Hall of Philosophy. Drawing on personal experience in six American administrations and interviews with more than 130 senior officials and generals, Eizenstat will discuss the lessons of successful diplomacy over the past 50 years and address the unique diplomatic approach of President Donald Trump. A book signing will follow.

Marion Ein Lewin will speak about her Holocaust survival at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in the EJLCC. In her talk, “Inseparable: The Hess Twins’ Holocaust Journey through Bergen-Belsen to America,” Ein Lewin recounts how she, her parents and her twin brother survived deportation from Amsterdam, internment at Bergen-Belsen and a perilous 13-day journey on the “lost train” before arriving in New York City in 1947. A book signing will follow.

Eizenstat returns at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Hall of Philosophy with a lunch talk titled “The Holocaust: Past, Present and Future,” examining the contemporary relevance of Holocaust history for understanding Russian aggression, Iranian radicalism and the rise of the far right in Europe.

Week Six programming is generously sponsored by Daniel Horowitz, Helen L. Horowitz, Benjamin Horowitz and Sarah Horowitz in loving memory of Leonard Katz, husband of Judy Katz, who was the first program chair of the EJLCC.

Hebrew Congregation

“Today’s Torah for Today’s Times,” Torah study, will take place from 9:30 to 10:25 Saturday in the lower level of Hurlbut Church.

Rabbi Adam Scheldt and Susan Goldberg Schwartz will lead Shabbat morning services from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Saturday in Hurlbut Church sanctuary. Scheldt

serves as the director of Spiritual Care at Hospice & Palliative Care of Buffalo. Schwartz is a lifelong Jewish educator and spiritual leader who has spent the past 30+ years serving the Buffalo Jewish community. Kid-dush luncheon to follow.

Note: Friday Kabbalat Shabbat and Saturday morning services are held weekly. Our website: [hebrewcongregationchautauqua.org](#).

Humanist Community at Chautauqua

The Humanism Seminar will hold its fourth “Conversation Beyond Belief,” an interfaith dialogue exploring the deeper dimensions of spiritual traditions. Moving beyond doctrine and dogma, participants will engage questions of meaning, consciousness, compassion and shared humanity. The guests for this week will be Ravi and Sudha Sankar, UUFC Ministers of the Week. The topic will be “Spiritual Learnings from Indian Culture.” The program will take place at 3:30 p.m. Monday in the Unitarian Universalist House (6 Bliss).

Hurlbut 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 Meal Ministry

Hurlbut Church will be serving 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

The Rev. Jennifer Kopacz of Grace Lutheran church in Tallahassee, Florida, presides at a service of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the Lutheran House. Communion will be served. The Lutheran House is located on the Brick Walk at the corner of Peck Avenue, near the Hall of Philosophy.

Presbyterian House

The Rev. Megan Klose, associate pastor of Falls Church Presbyterian Church in Falls Church, Virginia, presides at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service in the Presbyterian House

Chapel. Her sermon, “Unalienable Love,” is based on Romans 10:5–15. Lynn Silver provides music for the service. Klose, who served as chaplain at Med-Star Georgetown University Hospital and Virginia Hospital Center, is active in Free Mom Hugs and Mama Bears. She earned degrees from Bryn Mawr College (AB) and Wesley Seminary (M.Div.).

Presbyterian House invites all Chautauquans for coffee on the porch following the weekday morning worship service and preceding the 10:45 a.m. lecture. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and lemonade are available. The house porch overlooking the Amphitheater provides a good place to find old friends and make new ones.

Quaker House

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) meets for worship at 9:30 am Sunday at the Quaker House (28 Ames).

Quaker House invites all Chautauquans to “Church of the Wild,” an outdoor worship experience celebrating ecospirituality at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Burgeson Nature Classroom.

All are invited to join artist Kriss Miller, Friend in Residence (Host) for “Creating in Community: Artmaking for All Ages” at 4 p.m. Monday at the Quaker House.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Our Sunday service this week at 9:30 a.m. in the Hall of Philosophy will feature Fellowship members Ravi and Sudha Sankar. They will combine traditional elements of Hindu worship with that of Unitarian Universalism. Sudha will lead us on a spiritual journey that also includes traditional Carnatic music, while Ravi’s talk, “Are You a Hindu UU?” will enlighten us to the similarities within the two traditions.

Our music this week will feature Carnatic music, a system of music from southern India. It is a main sub-genre of Indian classical music that evolved from ancient Hindu traditions. The main emphasis is on vocal music; most compositions are written to be sung while accompanied by instruments in “gayaki” (singing style). Three young musicians, Srinidhi Mahesh, Satya Parameswaran and Harsh Narayan will perform.

Join Ravi and Sudha Sankar for discussion and reflection on their service “Are You a Hindu UU?” We will further explore the similarities between these two traditions. We meet at 9:15 a.m. Monday on the front porch of the UU House (6 Bliss).

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. Tuesday on our beautiful back patio at the UU House. Ravi

and Sudha Sankar, this week’s guest worship leaders, will be in attendance to engage in conversation.

United Church of Christ

The Rev. Yinessa Romero, from Dallas, presides at the 9–9:45 am worship service. She is a native of the Dominican Republic and has lived in Dallas since 2001. She combines her interest in broader pastoral ministry with her experience in business management. She serves the wider United Church of Christ as moderator of the Colectivo of Latinx Ministries and participates in several initiatives to advance programs that promote social justice for immigrants and empower LGBTQIA+ people to embrace progressive and inclusive Christianity. Ruth Becker will provide the music for the service and refreshments will follow in the UCC Randell Chapel.

United Methodist House

Join us at 3:30 p.m. Friday at the UM House for the presentation “Do Palestinians Exist?” by Dr. Houssam Abdul Al. Abdul Al was born in Damascus in 1965 to a successful attorney who was displaced from Palestine in 1948. In 1989, the values of resilience, discipline and perseverance instilled by his father’s story led Abdul Al to immigrate to the U.S., train in Internal Medicine and build his career in Pennsylvania — all while maintaining a deep connection to Palestinian history and identity.

Unity of Chautauqua

Unity of Chautauqua welcomes the Rev. Robin Ferguson, who will lead Celebration Service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday in the Hall of Missions. Her message is titled “A More Perfect Union.” How does our commitment to a “more perfect” society reflect our spiritual commitment to personal transformation? How does a truthful reckoning with our past — both the light and the dark — become a spiritual prerequisite for a flourishing future?

Unity holds a weekday morning Daily Word meditation from 8 to 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday in the Hall of Missions.

From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday evening in the Turner Community Center, Ferguson will present a Positive Path for Spiritual Living lecture titled “Writing the Next Chapter.” This workshop explores how we can move from being passive inheritors of historical narratives to active authors of our own future, using creative reflection to rewrite the scripts that hold us back. Chautauqua residents, bring gate pass.

Ferguson has previously served as both a senior minister as well as a leadership and organizational consultant for Unity Worldwide Ministries. For details, visit [unitychq.org](#).

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THE CHQ DAILY

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 José's house

5 Swallow, e.g.

9 Plotting group

10 Ram in the sky

12 In the middle of

13 Oversight

14 Lab containers

16 Barbie's beau

17 Blunder

18 Check recipients

20 Air traffic devices

22 Poker payment

23 Took notice

25 Curving paths

28 Punctual

32 Some Quidditch players

34 Arthur of TV

35 Outlaw

36 Dam builders

38 Give an address

40 Brink

41 Henry VIII's house

42 Great Lakes people

43 Breathe loudly

44 Pair

DOWN

1 Shot taker

2 On the boat

3 Went under

4 High school subject

5 Glider wood

6 Lyricist Gershwin

7 Oriole who played in 2,632 straight games

8 Dry expanse

9 Pole tossed by Scots

11 Reason

15 Make good as new

19 Enthralled

21 Helper, for short

24 Losable, as data

25 Monastery figure

26 Show defiance

27 40% of North America

29 Spain setting

30 Became one

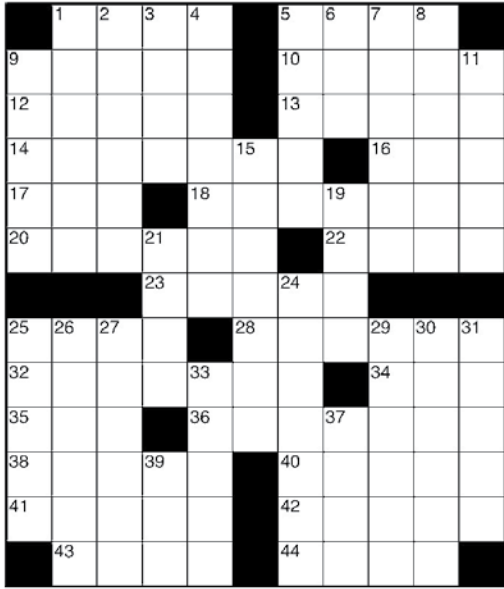
31 Alleviates

33 Reviewer Roger

37 Extremely

39 Cargo amount

Yesterday's answer



8-1

CHAUTAUQUOTATIONS

OVERHEARD ON THE GROUNDS BY HEIDI WARREN

In connection with a recent article about social columns historically run in The Daily, this reincarnation is keeping with the times via anonymity.

* * * *

Aw, the changing of the seasons, if only for a day.
Man, on phone: If you haven't been outside yet, you're going to need a sweatshirt.

* * * *

A young girl breaks away from a large playgroup, informing them she requires a water break.
Friend, two seconds later: Hey, where are you going?
Girl, without stopping, yells: I told you, I need water. My kid-neys are crying!

* * * *

Tram ride doubters.
Woman: I'm telling you, Hugh Jackman was just sitting in the hotel lobby having a drink ... Wolverine was all by himself!

* * * *

Girl A, waving her arms: No, no, no, I'm Ellie One.
Pointing to her neighbor: She's Ellie Two!

* * * *

South Bus sorrow...A young child is wailing to his grandmother.
Little boy: It's not fair!
Rider 1: What's not fair?
The grandmother, the boy and his older brother, who is a grouper, quickly get off the bus at the YAC.
Rider 2, an earlier arrival, explains: He's too young for Club, and they're swimming this afternoon.

* * * *

A girl, about 10 years old, is licking an exceptionally drippy waffle cone.
Man: Do your mom and dad let you have ice cream?
Girl: Well, I had an ice cream birthday cake, so I guess so.

* * * *

Man: I heard it was like a cage fight getting out of the parking lot after Neil deGrasse Tyson spoke!

* * * *

Folks leaving "New Visitor Orientation."
Early 20s man: Hey Grandpa, I heard if you take your shirt off here, everyone compliments you!"
Grandpa: Everyone compliments me no matter where I do it.

Fausnaugh, Moe, Bellowe

Funds support '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 today's performance in Bratton Theater featuring *Best for Baby* by Sharyn Rothstein, directed by Oliver Butler.

The Agnes H. and Hal A. Fausnaugh Fund for Theater Programming was established in the Chautauqua Foundation by Agnes H. and Hal A. Fausnaugh of Rocky River, Ohio. In honor of the Fausnaughs' 50th wedding anniversary, members of Friends of

Chautauqua Theater created this fund to which Aggie and Hal also contributed.

The Helen Moe Fund for Theater was established to provide vital financial support for Chautauqua Theater Company and its programming, honoring Helen Moe's enduring legacy.

The Arnold and Jill Bellowe Fund for Theater, established in 1998, also provides support for today's performance. Arnie and Jill Bellowe have maintained a residence at Chautauqua Shores since 1972 and have demonstrated a deep, multigenerational commitment to the Institution.

Miller and Babcox Fund

supports 'Cabinet of Wonder Live!'

The Mr. & Mrs. Sam A. Miller and Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. Babcox Memorial Fund proudly supports this special family performance at 3 p.m. in the Amphitheater featuring "Cabinet of Wonder Live!" with Natalie Merchant and members of the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Stuart Chafetz. We extend our sincere gratitude

for the Fund's generous commitment to supporting accessible, high-quality musical experiences for all audiences.

Through this enduring philanthropy, the Miller and Babcox families continue to enrich Chautauqua's artistic legacy, ensuring that performances like today's inspire and engage audiences of all ages.

CSO Endowment Fund

supports 'Dolly Parton's Threads'

The Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra Endowment Fund proudly supports the performance at 8 p.m. tonight in the Amphitheater featuring "Dolly Parton's Threads: My Songs in Symphony" with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. We extend our sincere gratitude for the Fund's continued support of exceptional musical programming at Chautauqua Institution.

Established in August 1951 by the Chautauqua Institution Board of Trustees and dedicated music patrons, the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra Endowment

Fund reflects a longstanding commitment to preserving and advancing the Orchestra's role as a cornerstone of Chautauqua's artistic programming. The fund provides essential support for the continued excellence, innovation and accessibility of the CSO, helping ensure that audiences experience the power of orchestral music year after year.

This enduring investment helps sustain one of Chautauqua's most treasured traditions while supporting the CSO's future for generations to come.

Follansbee Chaplaincy, Marthinsen

Endowment support Florence

The Mr. and Mrs. William Uhler Follansbee Memorial Chaplaincy and The Alison and Craig Marthinsen Endowment for the Department of Religion was established in 2010 to support a chaplaincy each summer, continuing a six-generation Chautauqua family tradition.

Since first visiting in 1974 and becoming property owners in 1998, Alison and Craig have shared their love of Chautauqua with their three sons and seven grandchildren. Chautauqua is deeply grateful to both families for their enduring generosity and for the ways they continue to strengthen the spiritual and intellectual life of the Institution.

This worship service reflects the enduring commitment of two Chautauqua Institution families who believe in the power of faith, reflection and meaningful dialogue. Established in the mid-1960s by Mr. Follansbee's family, the Follansbee Memorial Chaplaincy honors a legacy of service, faith and leadership.

AXYDLBAAXR

is LONGFELLOW

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

8-1 CRYPTOQUOTE

XFA DGMUO JMWZ LFZQ SV

YFA, UFWBNEZR JF AXZY VFG

AZEZ N OMR. QGWWZE GQZR

JF CNQJ HFEZTZE. YFA MJ'Q

JAZCTZ AZZOQ. — KFX Y

LFFRWNY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE'S NO BETTER MAKEUP THAN SELF-CONFIDENCE. — SHAKIRA

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.

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 8/1

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 7/31

Weekend at the CINEMA

Saturday, August 1

PROJECT HAIL MARY

- 4:20 When science teacher Ryland Grace (Ryan Gosling) wakes up alone on a spaceship light years from home he has no recollection of how he got there. As his memory returns he uncovers his mission to save the Earth's sun from a mysterious threat, and discovers that an unexpected alien friendship may be the key. "Purely pleasurable." -Peter Travers, *The Travers Take* (PG-13, 156m)

GIRLS LIKE GIRLS - 8:00

Based on writer/director Hayley Kiyoko's hit single and best-selling novel of the same name and featuring all-new music from Kiyoko, *Girls Like Girls* is a heart-felt coming-of-age story. Set over the course of one sun-drenched summer, new-girl-in-town Coley (Maya Da Costa) falls in love for the first time while learning to accept herself along the way. "Moving and rewarding" -*Guy Lodge, Variety* "Beautifully shot and tenderly acted," -*Angie Han, The Hollywood Reporter* (R. 90m)

Sunday, August 2

PROJECT H.M. - 1:20 - 5:00

GIRLS LIKE GIRLS - 8:40

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-Ruth

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★★★★★ - Kathryn M.

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PROGRAM

Sa

SATURDAY
AUGUST 1

7:15

Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program. Centering Prayer with Carol McKiernan. Hall of Philosophy

8:00

50th Old First Night Run/Walk and 4 Youth Runs. Sign up online only at forms/oldfirstnight.com. Proceeds benefit Chautauqua Fund. Packet pickup and start/finish at Sports Club

9:00

(9–11) **Food Rescue.** Donate your non-perishable items to help us reduce waste and feed communities in need. Turner Community Center

9:30

(9:30–10:25) Hebrew Congregation Torah study, “Today’s Torah for Today’s Times.” Led by Rabbi Adam Scheldt. Lower level of Hurlbut Church sanctuary

10:00

(10–12) “Shabbat Service and Torah Reading” Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House. 23 Vincent

10:30

(10:30–11:45) Hebrew Congregation Shabbat Morning Service. Led by Rabbi Adam Scheldt and Susan Goldberg Schwartz. Hurlbut Church sanctuary. Kiddush luncheon to follow

11:00

THEATER. FutureNow New Play Lab 1: *The Bone Wars*. Fee. Roe Green Theater Center

12:00

Stonework Play. Smith Memorial Library front porch

12:15

“Lunch ‘n’ Learn. Ethics of Our Fathers.” Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House. 23 Vincent

1:00

(1–5) Exhibitions open. Fowler-Kellogg Art Center & Strohl Art Center

2:00

THEATER. New Play Workshop 2: *The Motions* by Zora Howard. Fee. Bratton Theater

3:00

Contemporary Issues Forum: Sarai Johnson. (Programmed by Chautauqua Women’s Club). Hall of Philosophy

4:20

Cinema Film Screening. “Project Hail Mary.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

5:00

THEATER. FutureNow New Play Lab 2: *ERASERS: A Bloodthirsty Comedy*. Fee. Roe Green Theater Center

5:00

Catholic Mass. Hall of Philosophy

6:15

Chautauqua Choir rehearsal. Fletcher Music Hall

7:30

THEATER. *Best for Baby*. Fee. Bratton Theater

8:00

Cinema Film Screening. “Girls Like Girls.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

8:00

AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL. Dolly Parton’s Threads: My Songs in Symphony with the Chautauqua

Symphony Orchestra. David Hamilton, Conductor. **Please Note: Dolly Parton is not performing at or attending this event**

Su

SUNDAY
AUGUST 2

7:45

Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Chapel of the Good Shepherd

8:30

(8:30–2) Chabad Kosher Tent. Bestor Plaza

8:30

Bat Chat: Jonathan Townsend, PhD, bat biologist. Smith Wilkes Hall

8:30

Song, Prayer, Communion & Meditation. Hurlbut Church Sanctuary

9:00

Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Chapel of the Good Shepherd

9:00

Unity Service. Hall of Missions

9:30

Services in Denominational Houses

9:30

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Worship Service. Quaker House. 28 Ames

9:30

Catholic Mass. Hurlbut Church Sanctuary

9:30

Unitarian Universalist Service. Hall of Philosophy

10:45

ECUMENICAL WORSHIP. The Rev. Anna Carter Florence, Peter Marshall professor of preaching, Columbia Theo. Sem. Amphitheater and online

10:45

Baccalaureate Ceremony for CLSC Class of 2026. In collaboration with the Department of Religion. Amphitheater

11:00

Art in the Park. Miller Park

11:00

(11–5) Sew Studio Maker Meet Up & Hanks Yarn Popup. Colonnade (Back of SPRUCE home store)

11:30

Kosher BBQ & Klezmer Band. Miller Park

11:30

(11:30 until sold out) Firefighters’ BBQ. Fee. Fire Hall on Massey

12:00

Special Studies Instructor Meet and Greet. Hultquist 101

12:00

(12–2) Flea Boutique. Behind the Colonnade

12:15

Twelve Step Meeting. Hurlbut Church Marion Lawrance Room

12:30

Friends of Chautauqua Theater: Play Discussion. Jessica Trapasso Pavilion at Children’s School

1:00

(1–3) Class Connections. Alumni Hall. 50 Wythe

1:00

Keith West’s Illusioners Magic Show. (Programmed by the Zigdon Chabad Jewish House). All welcome. Smith Wilkes Hall (location change due to rain). Community Kosher BBQ has been postponed to Aug. 9

1:00

(1–5) Exhibitions open. Fowler Kellogg Art Center & Strohl Art Center

1:20

Cinema Film Screening. “Project Hail Mary.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

2:00

Annual Meeting: Circle of Kings’ Daughters and Sons. Ida A. Vanderbeck Chapel

2:00

THEATER. *Best for Baby*. Fee. Bratton Theater

2:30

Listen Wifi Technology Assistance. Provided by ITS and IDEA Office. More info at chq.org/listen. Amphitheater Gate 4

3:00

6-Week Residency Exhibition Opening. Arts Quad

3:00

AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL. “Cabinet of Wonder Live!” Natalie Merchant & Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra musicians

3:30

Chautauqua Writers’ Center Faculty Reading. John Hoppenthaler (Poetry) and Roy Hoffman (Prose). Hall of Philosophy

3:30

Jewish Film Series. “The Sea.” In Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles. Everett Jewish Life Center. 36 Massey

4:00

Church of the Wild. Mystic Heart Meditation Program. Kriss Miller. Nature Burgeson Classroom

4:00

New Visitors Orientation. Hultquist 101

5:00

Newcomers Reception. 3 Taps

5:00

Open Mic with the Friends of the Chautauqua Writers’ Center. Alumni Hall Prose Room

5:00

Cinema Film Screening. “Project Hail Mary.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

6:00

(6–7:30) Chautauqua Vegan Potluck. Back porch of Fowler-Kellogg Art Center. 12 Ramble

6:30

LGBTQ+ and Friends Meet and Greet. Allies welcome! Athenaeum Porch

7:00

(7–8:15) Hebrew Congregation Shirley Lazarus Speaker Series: “What We DO Matters.” Sheldon Goldberg, Vietnam War veteran. “The History of the Jewish Presence in the U.S. Military.” Followed by “Sunday Sweet Talk.” Dessert, conversation, and community. (Please bring your own beverage). Smith Wilkes Hall

7:00

Palestine Park Tour. Palestine Park

7:30

THEATER. *Best for Baby*. Fee. Bratton Theater

8:00

SACRED SONG SERVICE. Celebrating the CLSC. Amphitheater

8:30

Bird, Tree & Garden Club Bat Chat. Smith Wilkes Hall

8:40

Cinema Film Screening. “Girls Like Girls.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

9:00

CLSC Class of 2026 Vigil Ceremony. Hall of Philosophy

9:45

Class of 2026 Vigil Reception. 50 Wythe



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Isaiah 40: 28-31

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