

Food Tank’s Nierenberg to explore food, agriculture systems



NIERENBERG

JENNA OUTCALT
STAFF WRITER

When Danielle Nierenberg was growing up in rural Missouri, she wasn't a fan of farming, she admitted. In fact, to put it bluntly, she said she used to think farming was "stupid." However, as she began to work with farming communities in the Peace Corps after college, her perspective shifted.

"It wasn't this big 'aha' moment, but it was this slow realization that I was the stupid one, not farmers,

and that they were contributing so much to not just food security, but to protecting the environment, helping their communities thrive," Nierenberg said.

Now, Nierenberg is the co-founder and president of Food Tank, a nonprofit working to educate on and reimagine food and agriculture systems. She will lecture at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater on "the future of agriculture, food and technology."

"I think I'm going to approach it in a different way

than other folks who are involved in food and agriculture would likely do," Nierenberg said.

According to Nierenberg, when people consider innovation, they often make the mistake of assuming it has to be a new technology.

"It's more important, I think, that we look at relationships with farmers, with fishers and others in food and agriculture as foundational," she said. "That's the best kind of innovation: building those relationships, building

trust, making sure that we're investing in those folks and respecting them."

Nierenberg said that inventions can come and go, but relationships are what create a strong foundation for food systems.

"I like thinking of relationships as architecture," she said. "That's how we build a better food and agriculture system. That's how we create better, healthier, more nutritious food for eaters. That's how we make sure that world communities are not just sur-

living, that they're thriving."

However, Nierenberg emphasized that it would take "mass incremental change" to improve food systems.

"Food and agriculture systems are exactly that: They're systems," she said. "No silver bullet is going to solve what we're facing right now with high food prices, food nutrition and security, not just in the Global South, but here in the United States."

See **NIERENBERG**, Page 4

Kortum to perform modern jazz in Amp

CODY ENGLANDER
STAFF WRITER

Ahead of her performance tonight, jazz vocalist Kate Kortum reflected on what ignited her love of jazz music.

"I grew up with siblings, and we all shared one computer. We all had the same accounts; everything got jumbled up a little. One of my siblings accidentally downloaded a jazz listening assignment onto my account, which was Miles Davis' *Kind of Blue* and Ella Fitzgerald's 'How High the Moon' live in Berlin in 1960. I had no idea that jazz singing like that existed. It gave me the bug."

See **KORTUM**, Page 4



KORTUM

For ILS, Krone to examine religious alternative food movements in US



KRONE

LILY RESLINK
STAFF WRITER

Adrienne Krone, associate professor of environmental science, sustainability and religious studies at Allegheny College, will deliver a lecture at 2 p.m. in the Hall of Philosophy. She will examine religious alternative food movements in the U.S. based on her scholarship and ethnographic fieldwork at sites where organizations are working to shift the food system in a different direction. She said

she will cover the subject through a lens of contemporary issues.

"I think we're really at an inflection point in the food system," she said. "We need to continue feeding 8 billion people, and we really can't keep doing it the way we're doing it now."

As part of the Interfaith Lecture Series, Krone will apply religious worldviews to corrections she sees as necessary to society's food systems.

"When we think about big

environmental problems, if we want to understand how we got to the place where we are, but also how to get out of it, what we're thinking about is how to change people's minds," she said. "And religion is a huge part of how people's worldviews are shaped."

Krone published her ethnographic work in her 2025 book, *Free-Range Religion: Alternative Food Movements and Religious Life in the United States*.

"Religion, religious up-

bringings, education, practice does a lot to tell people where their place is in the world, what their responsibility is to other humans, to all of creation," she said.

The field sites she documents in her book include a retreat based on biblical interpretations of vegan diets and Jewish farms that offer experiential learning.

Krone said she will offer takeaways on what she views as areas of need and calls to action related to society's current reliance

on large-scale agriculture.

She said it is not scarcity that impedes an effective food system, but rather, sharing.

"There is technically enough food for everybody on the planet. The problem is, it's not distributed equitably," Krone said.

Her lecture will draw on research about how accelerated production in the food system has proceeded at the expense of life on earth.

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IN TODAY'S DAILY



COMFORT & CONNECTION

Neave Trio to showcase interconnectedness through music for Chautauqua Chamber Music.

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'CONVERSATIONS WITH KYLE'

Incoming President Johnson joins Interim Chief Executive Keogh in public discussion.

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'INVITATION TO A FEAST'

All Chautauquans bring gifts to the feast, preaches the Rev. Hanson during morning worship.

Page 5

TODAY'S WEATHER

H 75° L 59°
Rain: 42%
Sunset: 8:15 p.m.

TUESDAY

H 76° L 62°
Rain: 16%
Sunrise: 6:28 a.m. Sunset: 8:13 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

H 73° L 59°
Rain: 77%
Sunrise: 6:29 a.m. Sunset: 8:12 p.m.

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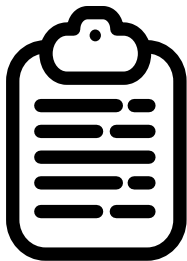
Bryan Austin is an actor and historian known for bringing historical figures to life, particularly as Benjamin Franklin in his podcast "Let's Be Frank", where he uses primary sources to humorously explore Franklin's life and times. He's also known for portraying James Madison in Colonial Williamsburg and is a storyteller who aims to connect people with history through authentic, first-person accounts.



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THE ARTS



BRIEFLY

NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS

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

Conversations with Kyle

Join Interim Chief Executive Kyle Keogh for a special “Conversations with Kyle,” focused on Chautauqua Institution's potential future housing strategies, at 1 p.m. Monday in Smith Wilkes Hall. This informal, drop-in conversation is open to the community and will provide an opportunity to learn more about three concepts under consideration to support Chautauqua's future growth: the addition of an affinity or denominational house, the development of additional condominiums and the availability of select undeveloped lots for single-family homes. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, share feedback and engage directly with Keogh as these early-stage ideas are explored. No registration is required.

Middle East Update

Geoffrey Kemp of the Center for the National Interest will present the annual Middle East Update at 3:30 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy. The program, now in its 32nd year, brings together foreign policy experts on the grounds of Chautauqua to discuss issues facing the region. Molly Williamson of the Middle East Institute, the leading Washington-based institution focused on the Middle East, will join Kemp in conversation.

Audition for the 2027 Motet Choir

The Motet Choir leads our weekday worship services and the two services on Sunday in conjunction with the Chautauqua Choir. Singers need to have a choral singing experience and some sight-reading ability. Selected singers are compensated for their commitment with a gate pass for the week(s) they sing with the choir. A brief audition can be scheduled on Wednesday mornings, following the worship service. Email choir@chq.org or call 716-357-6321 to schedule an in-person audition.

Tennis Center news

Dawn Patrol takes place from 7 to 9 a.m. Monday through Friday. All skill levels are welcome. No reservation is necessary to show up to the courts and play doubles.

Mah-jongg Luncheon

Join us for a mah-jongg luncheon with prizes at every round from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Sports Club. Cost is \$45, and beginners are welcome. Reserve your spot in person at the Sports Club or by calling 716-357-6281.

Chautauqua Women's Club news

The Chautauqua Women's Club will host mah-jongg from 1 to 3 p.m. today at the CWC House.

CLSC Class of 2024

Class members are invited to a Porch Chat from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday at 11 Wiley. Robin and Jeremy Musher have volunteered as hosts. Come prepared to share a bit about a favorite book. Light snacks will be provided.

Library news

At 12:30 p.m. Tuesday in Smith Memorial Library, join Alan Greenberg and Luke Cortina for “Market Update,” a finance discussion of current trends.

Starks, Wigdahl-Perry to appear on ‘Chautauqua People’

Chautauqua Utility District Superintendent Michael Starks appears on “Chautauqua People” at 1 and 7 p.m., followed by Courtney Wigdahl-Perry, associate professor of biology at SUNY Fredonia, at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Both are interviewed by “Chautauqua People” Producer John Viehe and can be seen daily until Friday. “Chautauqua People” runs on Access Chautauqua, cable channel 1301.

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NEAVE TRIO

Neave Trio to showcase interconnectedness through music

ROCCO PRIOLETTI
STAFF WRITER

When violinist Anna Williams and cellist Mikhail Veselov met on their first day of graduate school, they were “musically set up” playing a string quartet together. As they became friends, the two bonded over their shared passion for the medium and repertoire of the piano trio as a shared “pie-in-the-sky kind of a dream.” Afterward, they met pianist Eri Nakamura over hot fudge sundaes when playing at a music festival together.

The very first piece Neave Trio read together was Johannes Brahms' Trio No. 1, Op. 8. In 2023, the trio received their first Grammy nomination for their performance of that very piece.

Since their formation nearly 11 years ago, the trio's relationship as a group has grown.

“I think we have [a] great relationship making music always together, and there's so much trust. I feel like we're really connected at the soul level. Like,

things that we don't talk about, we can just kind of get, and that really helps our music,” Nakamura said.

Williams and Veselov both laughed as they detailed that they're now married with a three-year-old son; laughter and inside jokes play an integral role in the group's dynamic.

“We laugh a lot. We're really, truly ourselves when we're in the rehearsal room,” Veselov said. “It's a very special relationship that is just getting more and more sort of deepened and connected. And I think you have to have it for music-making, you know? They feel that sense of comfort and ...” Williams finished his sentence, saying “connection,” to which Veselov agreed.

At 4 p.m. today in Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall, Neave Trio will make their Chautauqua Institution debut by exploring how personal experiences become universal through each composer's interconnected artistic statements.

Veselov said he feels most present with both the trio and concertgoers when the physical logistics of performing fade away on-stage and allow the music to envelop the room. Whether at Lincoln Hall or in an intimate setting, the music itself allows these favorite moments for Veselov to remain ever-present.

“I think having the audience there is, really, an additional layer to feeling that

We laugh a lot. We're really, truly ourselves when we're in the rehearsal room. It's a very special relationship that is just getting more and more sort of deepened and connected. And I think you have to have it for music-making, you know?

—MIKHAIL VESELOV

Cellist,
Neave Trio

mutual presence of this incredible music that we're so lucky to get to play,” Veselov said.

Williams felt honored to connect to audiences through music. She recalled how concertgoers have approached her after a performance in tears, saying how a piece reminded them of a certain memory or person. This was a fundamental motivation behind the trio's formation.

“... We were playing for someone who was hospitalized, and that sense of connection where we would play for him, and he would talk about his daughter in those moments, and her name was Neave,” Williams said. “So, that sort of sense of how it can connect us to one another is really what makes it such a sort of mini-miracle every time it happens.”

The trio said they felt privileged to both premiere and commission a new piece by Pulitzer Prize-winning

composer Jennifer Higdon, titled “A Vast Palette.” The two-movement work conceptualizes colors through music, offering insight into personal perspectives. For Williams, Higdon's movement titled “Majestic Green” is a highlight in the program. Thematically, it conjures memories of walking in nature for the composer.

“I feel that sense of, like, ‘Wow.’ This is really almost a convening with Jennifer and us and the page, and just that sense of intimacy that she's kind of created in her beautiful, lyrical writing,” Williams said, noting how Higdon takes the musicians she is writing for into account during composition.

Neave Trio encompasses a wide variety of works, each offering insight into the composer's interior self. From Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's newfound connection to the African American spirituals linked with his African British heritage to Astor Piazzolla's intrinsic connection to nuevo tango, each piece shares a different experience.

Williams highlighted the importance of Clara Schumann's story, urging those to remember her, not only as a composer, but as both a mother raising eight children and as a muse and mentor to Robert Schumann and Brahms. At the same time, she dealt with mental health and familial struggles — and still persisted.

“She was able to persevere and make this music for herself and bring it to the world. [It] is insanely incredible,” Williams said.

CINEMA

--- Monday Aug. 17 ---

THE INVITE. - 1:45 Joe (Seth Rogen) and Angela (Olivia Wilde)'s marriage is on thin ice. When they invite their enigmatic upstairs neighbors for a dinner party, the night spirals into unexpected places. "As the visiting neighbors, Penélope Cruz and Edward Norton couldn't be better." -Mick LaSalle, *San Francisco Chronicle* (R, 107m)

FOOD 2050 - 4:30 Climate Change Initiative Special Event! Free Admission! As our profit-driven food systems crumble and our planet rapidly becomes unlivable, a group of global visionaries, activists, farmers, doctors, and scientists, lead extraordinary efforts to ensure a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food future. Narrated and executive produced by Academy Award winner Viola Davis. (NR, 81m)

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES - 7:30 George (Hugh Jackman) is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. (PG, 109m)

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COMMUNITY



DAVE MUNCH /INTERIM MANAGING EDITOR
Incoming Chautauqua Institution President Mark Coolidge Johnson, joined by Interim Chief Executive Kyle Keogh, answers community questions during “Conversations with Kyle” Aug. 10 in Smith Wilkes Hall.

Incoming President Johnson joins ‘Conversations with Kyle,’ discusses accessibility, demographics

CODY ENGLANDER
STAFF WRITER

On Aug. 10, a crowd filled Smith Wilkes Hall for “Conversations with Kyle”, an open community forum discussion with Interim Chief Executive Kyle Keogh and incoming President Mark Coolidge Johnson. Keogh opened the forum by introducing Johnson to the community.

“Mark comes with a tremendous love for this place, having grown up here, been around it, seen it from all angles,” Keogh said. “What really excites me about him is if he’s half the man his father was, that’s extraordinary for Chautauqua.”

The former Deputy Chief of Mission in the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City is a third-generation Chautauquan and the son of Chautauqua Vice President of Finance Joe Johnson, who served in the role for 20 years. Before taking questions from Chautauquans, the incoming president addressed the community about his new role.

“For me to be able to come home and be part of all of this has been, just, I use the word blessing, but it’s a privilege, and I thank Laurie [Branch] and the whole team for giving me this opportunity,” Johnson said.

The first topic of conversation during the forum was Chautauqua’s declining Canadian population.

“... We estimate that about 4% of folks who come to Chautauqua each year are Canadian,” Keogh said. “...The folks who I’ve talked to, and there are some — like the people who own nearby my house — [who] are basically like, ‘Right now with everything that’s going on, I will not cross the border. It doesn’t matter what you put on in Chautauqua, I will not cross it.’”

This opened up a broader conversation about the Institution’s audience demographics and why Chautauqua’s demographics may skew away from young adults.

“16 to 20 [year-olds], we get a little bit wonky. Honestly, what we worry about



Jerry Chichester, right, asks a question about accessibility and Amphitheater audio quality as his daughter Susan Chichester looks on.

is alcohol consumption for that group, and we’ve had some incidents this summer that are pretty concerning for us,” Keogh said. “What we’ve done is try to go through the 18-21 to 35 [year-old] crowd. It’s the [demographic] that we lose the most. Basically, you get into college, you finish your sophomore year, you’re worried more about getting a job, so you get an internship, and we can tend to lose you until you have children.”

The next question, directed to Johnson, was about the future success of Chautauqua and what that looks like when addressing future priorities.

“... Chautauqua [doesn’t] need a major overhaul. It needs some tweaks, and I think Kyle and the team have done a fantastic job of doing that, trying to improve the finances, trying to make the experience better each and every year,” Johnson said. “I’m a sports guy, and I look at things like blocking and tackling. If you get the blocking and tackling right, then you can start looking at how you can build out your team. Right now, blocking and tackling has come a very long way in the last year or two, and I’d like to be part of making that even better.”

The open dialogue then transitioned to accessibility on the grounds, especially for Chautauquans using scooters, noting issues with mobility and elevators in the Institution.

“Each time we have to update a building, we make that a priority,” Keogh said. “But we have 140 buildings, and we have not been able to get to all of them, which has been some of the challenges.”

Keogh noted that the issue, at its core, is “budget restraints”; with the current capital expenses budget, the Institution lacks resources to ensure every space can be accessible.

The topic of accessibility then turned to audio issues within the Amphitheater. Prior to the 2026 Season, the Institution installed a new sound system. The Institution considered adding closed captions, but ultimately decided to prioritize a new sound system.

“We looked at captions,” Keogh said. “Actually, if you go to captions.chq.org, you can get them on your phone. The cost of actually putting the equipment to actually allow them to be played in the Amphitheater is fairly significant. So, we prioritized investing in the audio, the overall audio system, to try and significantly improve that, more so than we did the visual effects.”

Keogh added that the Chautauqua Bookstore sells accessibility devices to enhance patrons’ experiences.

“We have a full range of disabilities and abilities here at Chautauqua — in particular, audio — and we’re never, probably, going to get to the point where we can really adequately



Johnson, joined by Board Chair Laurie Branch, answers community questions.

cover those,” Keogh said. “There are going to be existing, upgraded systems like the one at the [Chautauqua] Bookstore that can help address it for you.”

One Chautauquan raised the topic of content of the 10:45 a.m. morning lectures, opening a discussion about traditional lectures versus lecturers in conversation. Keogh said more widely-known speakers often have tremendously busy schedules, which can make it difficult to write and prepare an entire lecture, while lesser-known speakers are more willing to write a speech.

“[Bigger speakers] feel much more comfortable conversationally, so we have to make some trade-offs on those and some of the back-and-forth,” Keogh said.

A Chautauquan asked Johnson about experiences he has previously enjoyed at Chautauqua. He said in his youth, he often enjoyed water skiing on Chautauqua Lake and attending morning

lectures before lunch.

“We’d wake up — not as early as we’d like — but early enough to try to hit the glassy part of the lake and go water skiing. And then, I would try to get back to the 10:45 [lecture], depending on what the theme was. Having both of those pieces of the puzzle just before lunchtime was just incredible. Then we (would) go up and we (would) try to get my dad to move some money to see if he could buy us some lunch,” Johnson reminisced.

He credited his time at the Institution as being the reason he went on to work for the U.S. Department of State.

“... Chautauqua was the reason I joined the State Department, and having that access to, in that case, ... U.S. ambassadors and people with the State Department, some Soviet leaders as well, was something that you just can’t put

it all together and get it in one place, in one package.”

Johnson said he values communication and shared dialogue; he said he plans to listen to the community’s ideas and figure out how to best implement the best possible Chautauqua.

“We’re not going to be able to do every idea that everyone has. I can’t even do every idea that I have,” Johnson said. “In fact, many of my ideas are not good ones. I need to kind of throw them out there, hear what people react to it, bat it around a little bit, and say, ‘Maybe that’s the kernel of a good idea.’”

“Conversations with Kyle” will continue with Keogh at 1 p.m. today in Smith Wilkes Hall, with a focus on recently proposed housing development additions within the Institution gates. Johnson will not be in attendance.

The Humanist Community of Chautauqua Presents a
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DAILY PARTICIPANTS WELCOME

FROM PAGE ONE

KRONE ILS

FROM PAGE 1

“What we’re seeing is environmental degradation. We’re seeing health issues. We’re seeing a lot of things that suggest that that system is not working. The soil cannot continue,” she said.

As a first step for anyone to take, she said she suggests people gather more information about the source of their food.

“There are many local food systems. They need people’s support, and if you go to your local farmer’s market, you know where your food came from.”

While larger justice issues create obstacles to local food shopping, Krone said, “For people who have the means, seeking out local food is a great place to start.”

Krone is part of the environmental science and sustainability program at Allegheny College, which recently celebrated its 50-year anniversary. Attending her lecture, Krone said, may offer Chautauquans a combined experience of her courses at Allegheny, such as “Religion and the Environment” and “Judaism, Justice and Food.” She said several of her courses focus on food systems and small-scale sustainable agriculture.

Krone said she grew up in a household that valued knowing where food came from, but as a graduate student working for a nonprofit in New York City, she could not afford to eat the way her family had eaten. She said this spurred deeper consideration of food injustice.

As she earned her degrees in religion studies, she said she began to reflect on religion and materiality, as well as how people’s religious values translate into their lifestyles. While she has seen scholarly work at the intersection of religion and food become more prevalent in the past 20 years, she said religious people, like minister and dietary reformer Sylvester Graham, have long been at the forefront of critiquing humanity’s eating habits.

She said ethical values and human motivations are essential considerations to understanding the food system’s origins and shaping its future.

She said this consideration lends itself to the following conclusion: “Humans are supposed to have a different relationship with the food system, agriculture, with animals than they do right now, and a lot of that comes out of religious values and religious teachings, even if people are not religious in the traditional sense.”

KORTUM

FROM PAGE 1

Kortum, a graduate of The Juilliard School and winner of the 2025 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, will perform a vocal jazz music at 8 p.m. tonight in the Amphitheater. She’s performed at a number of large venues, including Birdland, Blue Note, Mezzrow, Dizzy’s Club, South by Southwest and Jazz at Lincoln Center. Kortum has collaborated with numerous modern jazz musicians, including Cyrille Aimée, Bryan Carter, Peter Bernstein, Wynton Marsalis and the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

The 24-year-old originally began as a saxophonist and flutist in middle school and high school before exploring the world of jazz vocals, though she noted her time playing instruments as important to shaping the jazz singer she has now become.

“I think starting out as an instrumentalist was a really important stepping stone for me. It gave me an understanding, theoretically, of what’s happening,” Kortum said. “I think it gave me the tools to

“

Jazz is an art form that, fortunately, is being passed down. It has been passed down from the original masters and through the new masters of this generation. I think I just try to pay as much respect and diligence to what the original art form was, while also carrying it forward to the new setting of the world. It’s a different climate than when jazz had its true heyday.”

— KATE KORTUM

Singer

be able to communicate with other instrumentalists to be a singer. You don’t necessarily have to be proficient and literate in the jazz idiom or the musical idiom; you can just sing. That’s a beautiful thing, but it also can hold you back in some ways.”

Having a baseline understanding of reading and writing music gives Kortum a deeper understanding of the musicians she performs alongside and the music itself, especially when selecting pieces. She said she is particularly keen on choosing music with strong lyrics.

NIERENBERG

FROM PAGE 1

According to Nierenberg, a transformation is happening with food systems, though it takes “a lot of puzzle pieces” falling into place to see the change.

“There are bright spots here in the United States and all over the world where farmers are getting those fair prices, where workers are respected, where communities are well fed with nutritious food. I think when all of those start coming together, it’s not a coincidence,” Nierenberg said.

Nierenberg explained that Food Tank works hard to be nonpartisan and focuses on “bringing as many people to the table as possible and creating those unusual and uncommon collaborations.”

“... Food and agriculture, the climate crisis — these shouldn’t be partisan issues,” Nierenberg said. “They should be things that everyone cares about.”

However, that is not the case right now, according to Nierenberg.

“Unfortunately, in our current political environment, food has become very politicized when we’re talking about things like SNAP benefits or benefits to the Women, Infants, and Children program,” she said. “Poor people are being blamed for being poor and hungry right now, and I think that’s a detriment to us all.”

Through domestic and

“

It’s more important, I think, that we look at relationships with farmers, with fishers and others in food and agriculture as foundational. That’s the best kind of innovation: building those relationships, building trust, making sure that we’re investing in those folks and respecting them.”

— DANIELLE NIERNBERG

Cofounder and President, Food Tank

international turmoil, Nierenberg said Food Tank’s goal is to “amplify the work that farmers are doing.”

“These are very uncertain political and geopolitical times, and farming communities around the world and here in the United States are suffering because of high input prices and lots of other things,” she said, “so bringing awareness to these issues is the mission behind what we do.”

Nierenberg said she wants

“A song I have performed for many, many years that never gets old and feels like a song that tells a story that is so broad, but yet feels so specific to so many people is a song written by Dave Frishberg called ‘You Are There,’” Kortum reflected. “It’s kind of a heart-wrenching song about imagining someone who was once in your life in dreams and in real life.”

With a deep connection to the genre, she’s able to feel the power of the music as the intergenerational jazz gap widens, with young musicians now being drawn to jazz for the first time. As time has passed, the genre of jazz has transformed into an intergenre element to modern music.

“Jazz is an art form that, fortunately, is being passed down. It has been passed down from the original masters and through the new masters of this generation. I think I just try to pay as much respect and diligence to what the original art form was, while also carrying it forward to the new setting of the world. It’s a different climate than when jazz had its true heyday,” Kortum said.

people to get closer to their food system and get out of their comfort zone, whether that means trying a new kind of restaurant or shopping at the farmer’s market.

“Not everyone has the ability to have a garden or even grow something on their fire escape,” Nierenberg said. “But asking questions about where your food comes from, who grows it, I think it brings people closer to their food system.”

Nierenberg said it brings her joy to be a part of something that matters. She said Food Tank’s priority is sharing stories and “focusing on farmers being able to tell their own stories of their love of the land, the love of their communities, the love of their animals, the love of the work that they do.”

Nierenberg said awareness is the first step towards change when it comes to food and farming.

“Our mission is to tell these stories of hope and success so others can be inspired,” Nierenberg said.

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In the Athenaeum Hotel Parlor at 3:30 pm

A program of poetry and music presented
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Week 8 – Wednesday, August 19
The Emily Dickinson Tea

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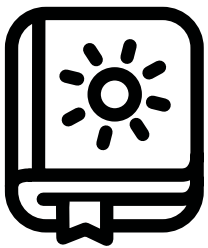
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RELIGION

All Chautauquans bring gifts to the feast, preaches Hanson



MORNING WORSHIP

COLUMN BY MARY LEE TALBOT

“So, Chautauqua, can we talk? I am not a published author, not in a national pulpit or a powerhouse in the denomination, but I am yours and have lived among you and walk with you still,” the Rev. Natalie Hanson said. “Life here at Chautauqua lets us be, grow, rejoice and come together.”

Hanson preached at the 10:45 a.m. morning worship service in the Amphitheater. Her sermon title was “Invitation to a Feast,” and the Scripture readings were Luke 5:33–35 and Matthew 22:1–10.

She said, “Imagine a long, long dining room table set with porcelain, crystal glasses and fine linens. There is one person at one end of the table and another at the other end. There are servants standing in the shadows and the whole scene is one of richness and ostentation. This is not a feast. It might be Downton Abbey, but it is not a feast. It might be a state dinner at Buckingham Palace, but it is not a feast.”

Hanson continued, “A feast is when, at the end of term, students gather all their leftover food and sit in the hallways and tell stories and share the food, even the moldy Jell-O. There is joy and a spirit of connectedness. There is abundance, and because they have community, this is a feast.” Think of a street fair or a block party where there is noise, laughter and people rejoicing in being with each other. Bestor Plaza is like this some days, where improbable connections are made and there is mutual care, community building and diversity.

In Matthew’s Gospel, the king is going to have a wedding feast for his son. It is a community event and it is about connections and the largesse in relationship to the king. The king sends out messengers to come, but the invited guests turn away.

“They are not coming, so the king tries again. They are not interested and brutalize and kill the messengers. The king kills the invited people because it is impossible for there to be reconciliation,” Hanson said. “The king’s revenge may seem harsh, but this is a parable, and the king’s harshness mirrors us when we reject what God offers us. The feast is set, but we don’t partake, and we begin to starve, to die and we kill ourselves.”

The king did not give up but sent out new messengers to invite everyone, saints and murderers. “Just say yes — say yes because everyone is invited,” she said.

At Chautauqua Institution, there is a large circle of all Chautauquans, but there are lots of little, tribal circles. These may be musicians or sailors, golfers or lecture



The Rev. Natalie Hanson delivers her sermon “Invitation to a Feast” during morning worship Sunday in the Amphitheater.

enthusiasts. “This is healthy, as long as these groups are porous and overlapping,” she said. “If they close up, pull in or are less welcoming, if they begin to reject one circle or another, this is destructive.”

She continued, “Chautauqua is a wonderful place, but it could be more wonderful. Since 2022 we have been at odds with each other. We rejoice over someone’s loss, feel a sense of victory over someone’s pain. We judge people’s lifestyles, and staff are on the firing line; we become grumpy and shut people out. We cut ourselves off from the feast and starve ourselves and others.”

Chautauquans miss out when this happens. “We need to remember that when we look in the face of another, they are called beloved, no matter what,” Hanson said.

Hanson said she does not miss the programs when she cannot be here. “The programs, the symphonies, theater, dance, lectures and art are marvelous appetizers, often called amuse-bouche. I can go to the symphony in other places, but I miss all y’all. You are the embodiment of the feast.”

She told the congregation, “You bring the gifts even as you come from different situations, classes, where you grew up. This is a feast; embrace it. Beloved, will you embody God’s feast for each other? This is a quiz — will you?” The congregation answered with a quiet “Yes.” She said again, “Will you?” “Yes,” the congregation said a bit louder.

“Will you?” “Yes,” came the roaring reply.

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, senior pastor of Chautauqua, presided. The Rev. J. Paul Womack, retired United Methodist pastor and husband of Hanson, read the Scripture. For the first part of the prelude, Owen Reyda, organ scholar, played “Allegretto” by Percy Whitlock on the Massey Memorial Organ. The second part of the prelude was “A Simple Song,” from “Mass,” with music by Leonard Bernstein and text by Bernstein and Stephen Schwartz from Psalm 121. The song was sung by soprano Symone Harcum, a Denyce Graves Foundation Generational Voices Artist who serves on the faculty of Norfolk State University in Virginia. She was accompanied by Sonya Subbayya Sutton, interim director of Sacred Music, on the Steinway piano. Harcum also sang “Prayer,” music by H. Leslie Adams and text by Langston Hughes; Sutton accompanied her on the piano. The Chautauqua Choir sang “i thank you God,” with music by Gwyneth Walker and text by e.e. cummings. The Choir was directed by Sutton, and Reyda provided accompaniment on the Massey Organ. The postlude was Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578, by Johann Sebastian Bach played by Sutton on the Massey Memorial Organ. Support for this week’s services is provided by The Samuel M. and Mary E. Hazlett Memorial Fund. Support is also made possible by Week Eight Presenting Sponsor Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, AHN Westfield Memorial and HealthNow Administrative Services.

Hazlett Memorial Fund supports the Rev. Hanson

The Samuel M. and Mary E. Hazlett Memorial Fund generously supports this week’s morning worship with the Rev. Natalie Hanson at 9:15 a.m. Monday through Wednesday in the Amphitheater.

Established in honor of Samuel M. and Mary E. Hazlett, the fund reflects a family legacy deeply rooted in service, leadership and engagement with Chautauqua. Mary Hazlett, a Pittsburgh resident, first came to the Institution for a Sunday school convention before her marriage to Dr. Hazlett in 1902. She quickly became an active member of the community, serving as an officer of the Women’s Club and contributing to the Presbyterian House. Her commitment to lifelong learning was further reflected in her completion of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle in 1912.

Mary’s devotion to Chautauqua was matched by Dr. Hazlett’s extraordinary leadership. Following the Institution’s

release from receivership, he was elected president of the Chautauqua Board of Trustees Executive Committee. After Arthur Bestor’s death in 1944, he became executive vice president and was elected president of the Institution in 1947. He served until his passing in 1956, helping guide Chautauqua through an important period in its history. A street at the north end of the grounds bears his name in recognition of his lasting contributions.

Today, the Hazlett family’s generosity continues to support Chautauqua’s tradition of spiritual exploration and community. Generations of descendants remain engaged with the Institution, carrying forward Samuel and Mary Hazlett’s enduring commitment to faith, learning, service and Chautauqua.

The Institution is sincerely grateful for the Hazlett family’s continued generosity and for the lasting legacy of service and leadership they have helped create.

Bryfman to lead Week Eight programs at EJLCC

David Bryfman, chief executive officer of The Jewish Education Project and one of the most prominent voices in contemporary Jewish education, will lead the Everett Jewish Life Center at Chautauqua’s Week Eight programming with two talks calling for a reimagined approach to Jewish learning — one built on meaning, belonging and confidence rather than fear or obligation.

Bryfman is CEO of The Jewish Education Project, a national organization dedicated to innovating Jewish education and supporting Jewish educators. Under his leadership, the organization launched RootOne, an immersive Israel teen travel program, and The Center for Jewish Inclusive Learning, serving New York City public, private and independent schools. He is a founder of the annual Jewish Futures conference, co-director of

the 2019 study GenZ Now: Understanding and Connecting with Jewish Teens Today and an adjunct fellow at the Z3 Institute.

At 12:30 p.m. Monday in the EJLCC, Bryfman will deliver “From Surviving to Thriving: Reimagining Jewish Education for Today’s Learners.” In a world defined by uncertainty, abundant choice and rapidly shifting identities, Jewish education can no longer rely on fear, guilt or obligation to remain relevant, he argues. Today’s learners are searching for meaning, connection and purpose. The talk will explore how Jewish education can meet them there with a bold, value-driven vision that inspires thriving, belonging and deep personal significance.

Bryfman continues at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday with a lunch talk titled “Recharging Israel Education: Courage, Clarity, and Commitment in

a Post-October 7 World.” At a time when Israel and Zionism are being challenged from every direction — and when young people are encountering fear, antisemitism, confusion and pressure earlier than ever — Israel education must be reimagined for a new reality. Bryfman will offer a clear-eyed yet hopeful vision for engaging students with honesty, confidence and pride, equipping them to navigate complexity while deepening their connection to Israel as a core part of Jewish identity.

The week’s Jewish Film Series screens Monday and Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. with “The Magic Lantern,” a 2026 American documentary running 77 minutes. The film begins with a letter received by Marijke Brown 30 years ago, revealing details about her rescue as an infant by the Dutch underground during the Holocaust. That letter sparks an emotional journey for both Marijke and her filmmaker son Eli as they piece together a previously unknown and complicated history — and the story of their ultimate rescue. Filmmaker Eli Brown will be present at the screenings to answer questions.

Week Eight programming is generously sponsored by Sandra and Burt Zucker.

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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.



Chautauqua Women’s Club

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Chautauqua Women’s Club, Inc.

Notice of Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Chautauqua Women’s Club, Inc. will take place on Monday, August 17th, 2026, at 9:00am at the Chautauqua Women’s Club (CWC), 30 South Lake Drive, Chautauqua, NY 14722.

The agenda of this meeting will be:

I. Receipt of the Officers’ Reports

II. Election of the Board Directors

Any member in good standing unable to participate in the meeting may complete the attached proxy and return to the CWC House or to Kelly Ann Boyce, President, at president@chautauquawomensclub.org or Susan O’Connor Baird, Secretary, at office@chautauquawomensclub.org. The 2026-2027 slate is available to view at chautauquawomensclub.org.

Proxy

I, _____, a member of the Chautauqua Women’s Club, Inc. for the year 2026 do hereby appoint Kelly Ann Boyce, President, or Susan O’Connor Baird, Secretary, to cast my vote at the CWC Annual Membership Meeting on Monday, August 17th, 2026, at 9:00am at the Chautauqua Women’s Club (CWC), 30 South Lake Drive, Chautauqua, NY 14722. The purpose of the meeting shall be to elect new members to the Board of Directors and to transact all such business as may lawfully come before the meeting. I hereby waive all notice requirements of the meetings and adjournment thereof.

Signature

Date

COMMUNITY

Scheeler to talk about physicians who owned former Golding Cottage Hotel

DEBORAH TREFTS
STAFF WRITER

The Golding Cottage Hotel (circa 1877-1968) once stood where the Carnahan-Jackson Memorial Garden now flourishes along the southwest side of the Amphitheater and the Brick Walk next to Park Place.

According to Paul Scheeler, this hotel was owned and operated by Nellie Golding and William Morgan, both of whom earned multiple degrees. Most notably, each was an osteopathic physician and chiropractor.

At 9:15 a.m. Tuesday at the CWC House, Scheeler will give a Chautauqua heritage presentation for the Chautauqua Speaks program titled, “Dr. Nellie Golding and Dr. William Morgan: A Chautauqua Love Story.”

Some genealogists refer to people like this married couple — for whom the paper trail is so scant it seems they resisted being documented — as “ghosts.” Nevertheless, after Scheeler’s curiosity was piqued, he persevered, setting in motion a project to uncover the mystery surrounding the couple, share it with Chautauquans and raise awareness among local genealogists.

“I was born in Buffalo (New York) in the mid-’60s,” Scheeler said. “My father opened the first real estate office in Orchard Park (New York). It was good timing because the [Rich] Stadium was built [and officially opened on Aug. 17,

1973]. ... The coaching staff were his clients. I went to Orchard Park High School.”

For his allowance, Scheeler said he helped his father by cleaning, painting and landscaping houses to prepare them for sale. He also learned how to sail, was a Boy Scout and went to the YMCA. At Chautauqua, where his family had a cottage and a boat, he “came with a skill set, but maybe ... wasn’t the strongest student.”

“I learned to water ski and went to a lot of events and programs that focused on academic things that my parents thought would be good for (my brother and me),” Scheeler said. “Chautauqua opened up the world to me — a world and opportunities existed outside of western New York. ... It expanded my horizons.” Instead of playing video games, he read more.

“At Chautauqua in the mid-’70s, it was very noticeable that houses needed repair,” he said. “I knew from my father that historic properties were much more expensive to maintain than non-historic. Plus, there were additional fees at Chautauqua, (and) they were only seasonally occupied. I felt empathy for cottage owners and never forgot it.”

At State University of New York College at Fredonia — now SUNY Fredonia — Scheeler majored in government and economics. He studied regulatory compli-

ance and earned his Master of Public Administration at Syracuse University’s Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in Syracuse, New York, the oldest continuously operating MPA program at an American university.

Thanks to a renewable New York State public affairs fellowship, Scheeler then worked in Washington, D.C.

“I had student loan debt,” he said. “I wrote for the *Congressional Record*, transcribing what politicians said, not as an employee, but as a glorified intern with pay.” He also worked for the *Federal Register* and for a bank trade association.

“This was before the internet,” Scheeler said. “I was learning how to write and think fast, and about how bureaucracy works. In the trade organization, there were large sums of money and it was stable. ... I’ve lived through several recessions — boom and bust. There were years when my father had fewer real estate sales. ... Why I didn’t go into real estate is that it’s cyclical.”

Relocating to Chicago with the intention of staying there for just a couple of years, he worked for a consulting firm whose clients were senior executives of publicly traded companies responsible for annual reports, letters to shareholders, earnings releases and other financial documents.

Scheeler returned to west-



SCHEELER

ern New York 20 years later, where he “works as a senior risk analyst for a global bank.”

Having seen too many “attics with keepsakes and heirlooms that were thrown out ... protecting artifacts” became Scheeler’s hobby. It bothered him that “things that meant so much to people” were being tossed into dumpsters and ending up in landfills, so he “set aside money for acquiring and identifying historical artifacts.”

“One day I found a souvenir glass from the Golding Cottage Hotel, which no longer exists,” he said. “I thought, ‘What a great location for a 1800s Airbnb.’”

And so began Scheeler’s quest to learn, collect artifacts and produce a book about the fascinating couple whose hotel had the nicest historical souvenir glass he’d ever seen — one with a 24-carat gold rim.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Jousting need
6 Stunned
11 Group of top players
12 Banish
13 Aquarium fish
14 Good judgment
15 Peril
17 Beanie or beret
18 Standing stone
22 Death notice, for short
23 Wedding reception events
27 Last inning, usually
29 Cloth fold
30 Liquid in Chinese cooking
32 Brit’s “bye!”
33 Blood bit
35 Approves
38 Den
39 Parking pro
41 Patriot Allen
45 San Antonio landmark
46 Roulette bet
47 Abate
48 Ignore the limit

DOWN

- 1 Back muscle, for short
2 Had a meal
3 Tennis court divider
4 Redhead, informally
5 Some messages
6 In-box setting
7 Log chopper
8 Brass ingredient
9 “Frozen” queen
10 Like an abyss
16 Remain unused
18 — Blanc
19 Theater award
20 Ship of 1492
21 Sleeveless garment
24 Barking beast
25 London museum
26 RBI or ERA
28 Lookout point
31 Anaheim team, on scoreboards
34 Layers of
35 Track shape
36 Vitamin-rich green vegetable
37 Thin board
40 Outback bird
42 Color
43 Period of history
44 Homer’s neighbor

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Saturday’s answer

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
			15		16			17		
18	19	20					21			
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39			40			41		42	43	44
45						46				
47						48				

8-17

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.

8-17

CRYPTOQUOTE

X J B M Z I G L B L E , X J K M Q L

K L U Q G K M A O M X U O H L . B

G K O T B C K X J O X B X B M

O Q E Q M X : X J K M Q Z Z K G ’ M T O M X

M X O L U . — M O G O R O Q Z K

Saturday’s Cryptoquote: SUMMER IS DELICATELY MADE. WHILE IT IS, IT IS CEASING. — GENEVIEVE TAGGARD

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.

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

Difficulty: ★

8/17

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

8/15

Allegheny Jazz Society Fund supports Kortum

The Allegheny Jazz Society Fund proudly supports Kate Kortum’s performance at 8 p.m. tonight in the Amphitheater. Established in 2011, the Fund plays an important role in sustaining jazz programming at Chautauqua, helping bring talented artists and dynamic performances to the community.

Through its support, the Allegheny Jazz Society Fund helps preserve and celebrate the rich tradition of jazz while creating opportunities for

audiences to experience the artistry and energy of live performance. Its generosity contributes to the diverse musical offerings that make Chautauqua’s performing arts program so vibrant.

Chautauqua is sincerely grateful to the Allegheny Jazz Society Fund for its continued commitment to jazz and for helping ensure that exceptional musicians and inspiring performances remain an important part of the Chautauqua experience.

Keyser Fund supports Nierenberg

The Barbara and Herb Keyser Fund generously supports Danielle Nierenberg’s lecture at 10:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater.

Established in 2011 by Dr. Herbert H. and Barbara G. Keyser, along with their son, Christopher A. Keyser and his wife, Susan Sprung, the fund reflects the family’s shared commitment to learning, creativity and community engagement. Their deep connection to Chautauqua grew from a lifelong appreciation for ideas, the arts and the opportunity to connect with others.

Today, that legacy continues through Chris and Susan, whose support in es-

tablishing the fund honors Barbara and Herb’s dedication to Chautauqua. Chris’s distinguished career as a writer and producer, including his service as past president of the Writers Guild of America, West, reflects the family’s commitment to storytelling and thoughtful engagement.

Through the Keyser family’s generosity, this fund continues to support opportunities for learning, discovery, and meaningful conversation at Chautauqua. The Institution is sincerely grateful for their enduring commitment and the lasting legacy they continue to build.

Low/Hembree Fund supports Krone interfaith lecture

The Myra Baker Low and Katharine Low Hembree Family generously supports Adrienne Krone’s lecture at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy.

Established in 2000, the Myra Baker Low and Katharine Low Hembree Family Fund provides enduring support for the Department of Religion and Chautauqua’s broader lecture programming. The fund reflects the family’s deep appreciation for intellectual curiosity, faith formation and the exchange of ideas that have long defined the Chautauqua experience.

For more than 40 years, Katharine “Kay” Low Hembree brought extraordinary energy and leadership to the Methodist Church. At St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Kensington, Maryland, she served as president of the United Methodist Women before taking on leadership roles at the district and conference levels. Her service extended across many aspects of church life, including administrative boards

and committees, Sunday school teaching and efforts to modernize church libraries to better support learning and engagement.

Kay’s lifelong love of education and faith found a natural home at Chautauqua, a connection first established by her mother, Myra Baker Low, who continued visiting the Institution well into her 80s. Kay carried that tradition forward, sharing Chautauqua with family and friends and deepening the family’s connection to the Institution. She even celebrated her 80th birthday here, surrounded by loved ones in a place that held special meaning throughout her life.

Through the family’s generosity, the fund continues to foster opportunities for reflection, learning and meaningful conversation. Chautauqua is sincerely grateful for the Low and Hembree family’s enduring commitment to the Institution’s spiritual and educational mission.

Logan Fund supports Neave Trio

The Kay Hardesty Logan Fund proudly supports Neave Trio’s Chautauqua Chamber Music performance at 4 p.m. today in Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall. We extend our sincere gratitude for the Fund’s generous and continued support of chamber music at Chautauqua.

Established in 2017 to honor the life and legacy of longtime Chautauqua music patron Kay Hardesty Logan, the Fund reflects her deep belief in the importance of chamber music as an essential part of the Institution’s musical offerings. Through the Fund, along with additional support from the trustees of the Kay Hardesty Logan Foundation, chamber music continues to have a lasting

place at Chautauqua.

Logan first came to Chautauqua as a scholarship student in the 1950s, studying flute at the School of Music. She often described her time here as life-changing. She went on to serve as principal flutist of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra for 15 years while continuing to return to Chautauqua throughout her life.

Logan died in 2016, but her love of music and Chautauqua continues through the performances made possible by this Fund. Her generosity helps ensure that audiences of all ages can experience the intimacy, artistry and connection that make chamber music such a meaningful part of the Chautauqua experience.

Public Meeting Notice August 27, 2026

The Chautauqua Medical Practice, located on the grounds of Chautauqua Institution, will be transferring its license from AHN Westfield Memorial Hospital to the Chautauqua Medical Practice. The clinic will open as usual next season with no interruption or change in the services it provides; it will simply exist under a different license. New York State requires hospitals to submit a closure plan when permanently discontinuing a service that falls under a hospital license.

The state also requires the hospital to have a public meeting. As part of this process, Westfield Memorial Hospital will host a public meeting for the Chautauqua Institution community to explain the proposed transition, discuss what, if any, impact on patients and the community and answer questions from community members and stakeholders. You are invited to attend this meeting at 3:30 p.m. Aug. 27 in Smith Wilkes Hall.



THE ARTS

Scheer’s work to be honored in performance by Generational Voices artists

LAYLA VINSON
STAFF WRITER

American songwriter and librettist Gene Scheer will showcase the heart of the arts at 6 p.m. today in Fletcher Music Hall during a \$20 ticketed event as part of a longstanding collaboration with Denyce Graves. Founder of The Denyce Graves Foundation and its newest program, Generational Voices, Graves was one of the first prominent singers to perform Scheer's work.

“This is particularly sweet for me because of my relationship with Denyce Graves, who’s overseeing the project. She’s an old friend of mine, and she was instrumental in advancing my career,” Scheer said.

Principally known as a librettist, Scheer has won a Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording for *Intelligence* and the International Opera Award for *Cold Mountain*, but he said he believes audiences may be surprised to hear some of his early work and its direct musical style in today’s performance. Having described the afternoon as a “potpourri of different kinds of popular songs but written for classical voices,” he stressed the event’s reflection of the industry at large.

“To be able to sing multiple different kinds of new music really expands the possibility of having a career,” Scheer explained.

For Scheer, the genre-spanning nature of his work stems from his innate drive for storytelling and a dramatic context.

“Before there’s the words or before there’s the music, there’s the story behind the



SCHEER

song. What has prompted it?” Scheer said, providing insight into his creative process. “I’m a theater guy, so I’m always thinking theatrically in terms of trying to write something that is character-based. So my first question is, ‘Who is singing, and why are they singing right now?’”

In his collaboration with singers, Scheer approaches rehearsals not with the goal of explaining how the song should go, but rather with an exploratory mindset aimed toward discovering how it will unfold. In his mind, the ability for singers to leave their “emotional fingerprints” on the work is what brings it to life.

“What I love about what I do is that it’s a collaborative art form. And even if you write the song by yourself, it doesn’t happen until that person’s singing,” Scheer said. “And when they’re singing it, you’re engaging their imagination — and their talent, of course — but their imagination and their interpretation is this handshake between the creator and the interpreter.”



SKYLAR SEAVEY /STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Generational Voices artist Henrique Carvalho, baritone, sings during Claudia Catania’s masterclass Friday in Fletcher Music Hall.

His respect for this metaphorical handshake is made clear in his decades-long partnership with Graves, whom he considers both a colleague and friend. Forming earnest relationships with those he has worked with has not only led him to further professional opportunities down the road, but has also helped him navigate the strenuous work-life balance that often accompanies the arts.

“In the end, life is just about love and connection,” Scheer said. “And that’s what is so wonderful about what we do as artists and musicians — not just what we do, but that we do it together.”



Catania coaches Generational Voices artist Audrianna Hughes, mezzo-soprano, during her masterclass.



SKYLAR SEAVEY /STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Bethanne Snodgrass, longtime member and volunteer for the Friends of the Chautauqua Writers’ Center and coordinator of the Annual Writing Contest, introduces the Adult Prose honorable mentions during the Annual Writing Contest Awards Ceremony Sunday in the Hall of Philosophy.

Award Ceremony celebrates poetry, prose writers

NORA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

At 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the Hall of Philosophy, Friends of the Chautauqua Writers’ Center hosted the Annual Writing Contests Award Ceremony, celebrating writers of varying genres and ages.

Bethane Snodgrass, longtime member and volunteer for the Friends of the Chautauqua Writers’ Center and coordinator of the Annual Writing Contests, began the ceremony by providing a brief background on the contest and the Chautauqua Writers’ Center before introducing the award categories.

This year, Snodgrass said there were two adult categories, one in poetry and one in prose. There was also a young adult category, although it did not receive any submissions this year, and a youth category for both prose and poetry submissions. In addition, Snodgrass said there were two endowed first-place prizes: the Mary Jean Irion Poetry Prize for First Place in Adult Poetry and the Charles McCorkle Hauser Prose Prize for best adult story, essay, memoir or other piece of strong, creative prose.

Snodgrass detailed both Irion and Hauser’s influential roles at Chautauqua and the Writers’ Center before mentioning the contests’ judges for this year: published authors Kristin Kovacic and Jim

Daniels, who have previously judged and were Week Five’s Writers’ Center Faculty.

“Both the judges communicated to me that they were very impressed by the quality of the work submitted this year,” Snodgrass said. “I think that’s a real tribute to Chautauqua and the writers who come to teach us and all of you who’ve worked so hard at creating this art, so, thank you to all of you.”

Then, Snodgrass announced the awards.

In the Adult Prose category, Laura Daniels, Gavin MacFadyen, Heather Pollock and Thomas Tilert received honorable mentions for their submissions. Michael Field received second place for his piece “Turtles All the Way Down,” and Lydia Strohl came in first place with her piece, “Teeth.”

“We are so grateful and encourage all of you winners to continue writing and submitting to the contest,” Snodgrass said.

In the Adult Poetry category, Mark Conaway, Julia Messing, Crystal Pierce and Stephen Still received honorable mentions for their poetry pieces.

“First of all, thank you, Bethanne, and just being acknowledged in this way in this writers’ group, it’s my favorite place to be,” Conaway said before reading his poem “Boxes and Butts.”

Next, Messing, an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University studying writing seminars and medicine, science and the humanities, thanked her professor of poetry before reading her poem, “The Creaky Step,” and afterward, Pierce read her poem, “Grandmother.”

“This came out of our Writers’ Workshop, this very summer,” Still said before reading his poem, “Everything We Want.”

Snodgrass then announced second place for Adult Poetry, Catherine D’Agostino for “The Poetry Criminals,” and first place for Ann Wallace’s “Watershed.” D’Agostino read her poem, and Snodgrass read Wallace’s piece since Wallace wasn’t able to attend the ceremony.

Lastly, Snodgrass announced first place in the Youth Category, which went to Emma Yelverton for her prose piece, “Meatloaf and the Surprise Substitute,” which she then read.

“Thank you all for coming to our award ceremony in 2026,” Snodgrass said. “Keep writing, everyone, and we look forward to seeing you back next year.”

Snodgrass said the winning works will be printed and collected into a pamphlet that can be read in the library until next season, but are not for circulation.



ADVOCATES FOR
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presents
TODAY



Bryan Austin
as Ben Franklin

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.

Monday, August 17th, 3 PM
The Athenaeum Parlor

Doors open at 2:30 PM –
Seating & capacity limited
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PROGRAM

M MONDAY AUGUST 17		12:45 (12:45–1:45) Guided Kayak Eco Tour. Sign up in advance at 716-357-6281. Fee. Sports Club Waterfront
		12:45 (12:45–1:45) Daily Demo. Bestor Plaza
		1:00 Conversations with Kyle. Smith Wilkes Hall
		1:00 English Lawn Bowling. 30-minute free instruction, then opt to play for fee. Bowling Green
		1:00 (1–3) Mah Jongg. CWC House. 30 South Lake
		1:15 Docent Tours of Alumni and Pioneer Halls. 50 Wythe
		1:15 (1:15–2:30) Masters Series Masterclass: The Art of Listening with Maestro Rossen Milanov. Alumni Hall Ballroom
		1:45 Cinema Film Screening. “The Invite.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema
		2:00 INTERFAITH LECTURE SERIES. Adrienne Krone. Hall of Philosophy and online
		3:00 Battle of the Bites: Best Meatball. Fee. Bestor Plaza
		3:30 “Courageous Conversation on Death and Dying” Shahid Aziz. Presbyterian Chapel
		3:30 Humanist Community Seminar Conversation Beyond Belief. Sean Hawkins, Director of the African American Heritage House. UU House Porch, 6 Bliss
		3:30 (3:30–5) Creating an Inclusive Chautauqua. Skill Building Workshop. Alumni Hall Poetry Room
		3:30 MIDDLE EAST UPDATE. Geoffrey Kemp, senior director of Regional Security Programs, Center for the National Interest. Molly Williamson, non-resident scholar, Middle East Institute. Hall of Philosophy
		4:00 Art of Investing. Community discussion with Dennis Galucki. Smith Memorial Library Classroom
		4:00 Chautauqua Chamber Music: Neave Trio. Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall
		4:00 Creating in Community: Artmaking for All Ages. Kriss Miller, Friend in Residence (Host). Quaker House. 28 Ames
		4:00 Innovator In-Residence Sarah Jones with Kwame Alexander. African American Heritage House. 40 Scott
		4:30 Cinema Film Screening. “Food 2050.” (Sponsored by Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative). Chautauqua Cinema
		4:45 Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program. Sound Meditation with Suzanne Watters. Hall of Christ Sanctuary
		5:00 Theater Happy Hour (Programmed by Chautauqua Theater Company). Cash Bar. Roe Green Theater Center
		6:00 Scheer Beauty. An Evening with Gene Scheer and the Generational Voices Artists. Fee. Fletcher Music Hall
		7:00 Taize and Tea Meditation Workshop. UCC Randell Chapel
7:00	(7–11) Chautauqua Farmers Market. Massey and Miller	
7:00	(7–9) “Dawn Patrol” Round Robin Doubles. Chautauqua Tennis Center	
7:45	Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program. Larry Terkel, Judaism/ Kabbalah Meditation. Presbyterian House	
7:45	Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Chapel of the Good Shepherd	
8:00	Daily Word Meditation. Hall of Missions	
8:15	Catholic Mass. Hurlbut Church. 21 Scott	
8:30	Movement and Meditation with Monte Thompson. Hall of Philosophy Grove	
8:55	Chautauqua Prays for Peace through Compassion. Hall of Philosophy Grove	
9:15	ECUMENICAL WORSHIP. The Rev. Natalie Hanson. Amphitheater and online	
9:15	(9:15–10:15) Jewish Discussions. “Maimonides: The Guide for the Perplexed.” Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin. Zigdon Chabad Jewish House. 23 Vincent	
10:00	Coffee on the Porch. Presbyterian House	
10:15	Service of Blessing and Healing. UCC Randell Chapel	
10:15	Coffee/Tea on the UM House Porch	
10:45	CHAUTAUQUA LECTURE SERIES. Danielle Nierenberg. Amphitheater and online	
11:00	(11–5) Exhibitions open. Fowler Kellogg Art Center & Strohl Art Center	
11:30	(11:30–2) Taste Caravan Food Trucks. Bestor Plaza	
12:15	CLSC Book Discussion. <i>Bite by Bite: Nourishments and Jamborees</i> by Aimee Nezhukumatathil. Presented by Georgia Court and Margaret Edwards. Alumni Hall Porch	
12:15	EOCC Midday Talk: “The Lost Art of Sentimental Hairwork.” Susan Doran, artist. UCC Randell Chapel enter from Odland Plaza	
12:30	All Denomination House Chaplain of the Week Brown Bag lunch. Hall of Missions	
12:30	“From Surviving to Thriving: Reimagining Jewish Education for Today’s Learners.” David Brytman. Everett Jewish Life Center. 36 Massey	



At top, The Revivalists perform Friday in the Amphitheater. At left, Chautauquans dance in the front row during the concert. At right, Revivalists’ lead singer David Shaw performs.

7:30	Cinema Film Screening. “The Sheep Detectives.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema	8:15	Catholic Mass. Hurlbut Church. 21 Scott	12:15	LGBTQ+ Friends discussion. “We are What we Eat: Sometimes.” Bring your lunch. Dining Room at Alumni Hall	1:00	(1–4) Mah Jongg Luncheon with prizes. Beginners welcome. Reserve your spot at 716-357-6281 or in person at Sports Club
8:00	AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL. Kate Kortum	8:55	Chautauqua Prays for Peace through Compassion. Hall of Philosophy Grove	9:15	ECUMENICAL WORSHIP, The Rev. Natalie Hanson. Amphitheater and online	2:00	INTERFAITH LECTURE SERIES. Derrick Weston. Hall of Philosophy and online

Tu

TUESDAY

AUGUST 18

7:00	(7–11) Chautauqua Farmers Market. Massey and Miller	10:00	Coffee on the Porch. Presbyterian House	11:00	(11–5) Exhibitions open. Fowler Kellogg Art Center & Strohl Art Center
7:00	(7–9) “Dawn Patrol” Round Robin Doubles. Chautauqua Tennis Center	10:00	(10–10:30) Roe Green Theater Center Tour. Roe Green Theater Center.	11:30	(11:30–2) Taste Caravan Food Trucks. Bestor Plaza
7:45	Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program. Larry Terkel, Judaism/ Kabbalah Meditation. Presbyterian House	10:15	Service of Blessing and Healing. UCC Randell Chapel	12:00	Chaplain Chat and Lunch. “How Then Shall We Live?: Choosing Life in Challenging Times” The Rev. Dr. Wanda Stahl. Order lunch from Hurlbut Church on Sun/Mon before the chat. UM House Porch
7:45	Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Chapel of the Good Shepherd	10:15	Coffee/Tea on the UM House Porch	12:15	Authors’ Hour (FCWC). Pat Averbach, magic realism, <i>Dreams of Drowning</i> . Susan Nusbaum, poetry, <i>Sign Language</i> . Maureen Ryan Griffin, poetry, <i>Ten Thousand</i>
8:00	Daily Word Meditation. (Programmed by Unity of Chautauqua). Hall of Missions	10:45	Children’s Story Time. Bestor Plaza (Rain location in library)		
8:00	(8–12) Bestor Fresh Market. Bestor Plaza	10:45	CHAUTAUQUA LECTURE SERIES. Nyesha Arrington. Amphitheater and online		

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Mon. 8/17 7:30

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES 109m

www.chq.org/things-to-do/chautauqua-cinema

12:30	Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office). Presbyterian House	3:15	Masters Series Masterclass: “Good Food Belongs to People, Not a Landfill.” Fee. Hultquist 101
12:30	Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program. Larry Terkel, Judaism/ Kabbalah Meditation, seminar and practice. Hall of Missions	3:15	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship “UU Tea.” UU House Back Patio. 6 Bliss
12:30	Food: The Ultimate Climate Change Messenger. (Co-sponsored by the Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative and 412 Food Rescue). Michael Hoffman, Cornell University. Smith Wilkes Hall	3:15	Social Hour. Cookies and refreshments provided by members of First Lutheran Church in Jamestown. Lutheran House
12:30	Market Update: Finance discussion with Alan Greenberg and Luke Cortina. Smith Memorial Library Classroom	3:15	Social Hour. UCC Living Room
12:30	BYO Lunch: A Quaker’s Faith into Action. Evan Welkin, Friend of the Week (Chaplain). Quaker House. 28 Ames	3:15	Social Hour. Catholic House. 20 Palestine
12:30	Lunch Talk: David Brytman, “Recharging Israel Education: Courage, Clarity, and Commitment in a Post-October 7 World.” Everett Jewish Life Center. 36 Massey	3:15	Social Hour. Hosted by Christ 1st UM Church in Jamestown. All are welcome! UM House Porch. 14 Pratt
12:45	(12:45–4) Duplicate Bridge. Fee –\$12. CWC House. 30 South Lake	3:30	Chautauqua Dialogues. (Programmed by the Department of Religion and IDEA Office). Everett Jewish Life Center
12:45	(12:45–1:45) Matzah Ball Demo and Competition. (Sponsored by the Chabad Jewish House). Bestor Plaza	3:30	Humanist Community at Chautauqua Seminar on Humanism. UU House Porch. 6 Bliss
1:00	Docent Tours. Fowler-Kellogg Art Center & Strohl Art Center (Meet in Fowler-Kellogg Art Center)	3:30	Social Hour. Christian Science House Porch. 10 Center
1:00	Archives Tent Talk with Jon Schmitz. Oliver Archives Center	3:30	Disciples of Christ Social Hour. Robert Wilson-Black, director of religion will be speaking. Disciples of Christ House
1:00	Athenaeum Hotel History Lecture. “Past, Present and Future of the Athenaeum Hotel.” Athenaeum Parlor	3:30	Social Hour: Quaker Art Speaks: Exhibitions and Discussions. Evan Welkin, Friend of the Week (Chaplain). Multimedia prints. Quaker House. 28 Ames
1:00	English Lawn Bowling. 30-minute free instruction, then opt to play for fee. Bowling Green	3:30	(3:30–5) Creating an Inclusive Chautauqua. Skill Building Workshop. Alumni Hall Poetry Room
		4:00	African American Heritage House Innovator Series. Culinary Art Demonstration and Food Pop-up with Alexa and Edreys Wajed. African American Heritage House. 40 Scott
		4:00	Generational Voices Masterclass. Kevin Short. Fletcher Music Hall
		4:00	Creating in Community. Artmaking for All Ages. Kriss Miller, Friend in Residence (Host). Quaker House. 28 Ames
		4:30	(4:30–8) Taste Caravan Food Trucks. Bestor Plaza
		6:00	Cinema Film Screening. “Mary Oliver: Saved by The Beauty of The World.” Chautauqua Cinema
		6:30	Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program. Labyrinth History and Meditation. Turner Community Center
		6:30	Pre-Concert Lecture with David Levy. Hultquist 101
		6:30	(6:30–7:30) Grief Support Group. UCC Randell Chapel Parlor
		7:00	Bible study. Led by The Rev. Rachel Erin Stuart and joined by Danny Bachman. UM House Chapel. 14 Pratt
		8:00	AMPHITHEATER SPECIAL. Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. Maxim Lando, piano
			• Sergei Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major, op. 26 (27:00)
			• Sergei Rachmaninoff: Symphonic Dances, op. 45 (35:00)
		8:30	Cinema Film Screening. “I Swear.” Chautauqua Cinema
		9:30	Into the Music with Maestro Rossen Milanov and Maxim Lando. Amphitheater
		10:00	Sally Love & Friends: Sleep is the New Sex. Fee. Roe Green Theater Center



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“Then Jesus
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me will never go
hungry, and
whoever believes
in me will never
be thirsty.’”

John 6:35



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