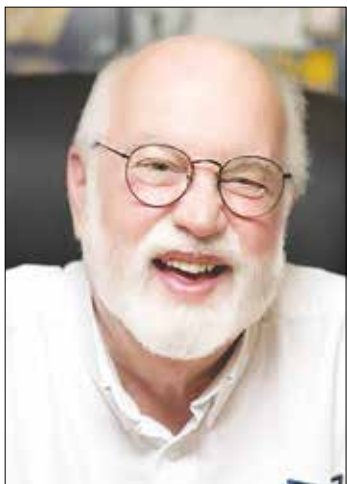




BOYLE

Boyle returns as Week Nine chaplain

MARY LEE TALBOT
STAFF WRITER

When I did some research about Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J., the words compassion, cherished, loved seen and kinship kept appearing. In the YouTube video “The Secret Sauce of Homeboy: The Power to be Seen and Cherished,” there is this line: “The Homeboy Way is a movement of radical kinship — where walking to the margins creates a new center for us all.” It also says Homeboy is a place where “people are seen cherished and given space to heal.”

If you go shopping at the Homeboy merch store on their website, you can find quotes from Boyle on hats, t-shirts or coffee mugs, such as “Love never fails. It will always find a way to have its way”; “Sooner or later, we discover that kindness is the only strength there is”; or “You are exactly what God had in mind when he made you.”

See **BOYLE**, Page A6



SILKROAD ENSEMBLE

An eclectic mix of sound

Silkroad Ensemble to bring ‘Sanctuary’ to Amp to explore ‘moments of upheaval, grief, transformation’

JULIA WEBER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

At 8 p.m. Saturday, Silkroad Ensemble will bring its latest program, titled “Sanctuary: The Power of Resonance and Ritual,” to the Amphitheater stage for a night of celebration.

The collective of musicians spans nationalities, traditions, instruments and ideas, and they’ll bring this eclectic mix of disciplines, perspectives and approaches to their

craft to perform “Sanctuary” for Chautauquans to experience together.

On the cusp of Week Nine’s “The Importance of Gathering: A Collaboration with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival,” Silkroad Ensemble will deliver a performance developed in celebration of America 250, exploring “humanity’s enduring impulse to turn to music in moments of upheaval, grief, and transformation,” according to the program’s description.

See **SILKROAD**, Page A6



THOMPSON

Thompson to discuss rebirth of white rage

DEBORAH TREFTS
STAFF WRITER

“Celebrating Excellence: A Week in Partnership with the Pulitzer Prizes” has been selected as one of the nine Chautauqua Lecture Series themes for next season.

So, it is particularly fitting that the Contemporary Issues Forum, sponsored by the Chautauqua Women’s Club, will kick off the final week of this season with a lecture by the 2017 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History. It is awarded “for a distinguished and appropriately documented book on the history of the United States.”

At 3 p.m. Saturday in the Hall of Philosophy, Heather Ann Thompson, Ph.D. — urban and civil rights historian, professor, documentary film adviser and activist — will discuss her new book, *Fear and Fury: The Reagan Eighties, the Bernie Goetz Shootings, and the Rebirth of White Rage* (c. 2026). This will be the last of CIF’s 2026 lectures.

See **THOMPSON**, Page A6

Browns establish ‘The Chautauquan Daily’ Endowment Fund

PATRICIA BEAGLE
STAFF WRITER

Pat and Bud Brown of Atlanta love the written word. Bud grew up in Houston, and Pat grew up in Arlington, Massachusetts. They met at the Robbins Library in Arlington; both earned Master of Library Science degrees from Simmons University and became librarians. Pat also taught school in Kenmore, New York, and taught a library course at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

From an early age, their love of words was kindled

through reading newspapers. In the decades in which the couple has been coming to Chautauqua, *The Chautauquan Daily* has been a mainstay in planning days, weeks and summers. When the *Daily* arrives, Pat cannot wait to check the Briefly column. “What would we do without Briefly? I don’t want to miss anything,” she said.

Bud, on the other hand, especially enjoys reading about artists who will perform at Chautauqua.

Pat said, “It’s a quality

newspaper. It’s a wonder that this community has a paper when other huge cities are no longer even having newspapers. They work so hard and diligently to provide high quality. It’s a joy to open your door and see the *Daily* waiting.”

The Browns cherish the *Daily* so much that they decided to meet with Debbie Moore, executive director of Chautauqua Foundation, to set up a new endowment fund in support of the *Daily*. “Pat and Bud’s energy about the importance of the

Daily is infectious,” Moore said. “Their sincere care and respect for the value of the paper itself, and the staff who produce it, is heartwarming.”

Bud explained his motivation. “The *Daily* is an agency to bind people together, to know what’s going on at the Institution and to be a training ground for journalists,” he said. He felt it was important that the *Daily* have the resources needed to continue its work.

See **BROWNS & DAILY**, Page A4



DAVE MUNCH / INTERIM MANAGING EDITOR

Pat and Bud Brown have established *The Chautauquan Daily* Endowment Fund. The Browns said they hope this gift will be the first step toward growing enduring support for the *Daily*’s operations.

IN TODAY’S DAILY



THE LANGUAGE OF MOVEMENT

Community events wrap up season with a celebration of movement.

Page A2



‘A CELEBRATION OF LITERATURE’

Hunt reflects on her Chautauqua journey, will announce 2027 CLSC picks at Bryant Day celebration.

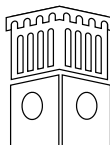
Page B1



SMOKIN’ FOR THE PEOPLE

Smokin’ Dick’s ‘Feast with Friends’ kicks off Chautauqua Food Festival.

Page C1



SATURDAY’S WEATHER



H 77° L 58°
Rain: 75%
Sunset: 8:09 p.m.

SUNDAY



H 67° L 56°
Rain: 90%
Sunrise: 6:33 a.m. Sunset: 8:09 p.m.

MONDAY



H 65° L 55°
Rain: 65%
Sunrise: 6:33 a.m. Sunset: 8:08 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



Scan the QR code for more information and to purchase tickets.

foodfestival.chq.org

Feast with Friends: Community Farm to Table Dinner with 3 C’s Catering

Sunday, Aug. 23
5 p.m. • Bestor Plaza
\$25

Gather. Share. Savor.

Enjoy a community dinner featuring fresh local ingredients, seasonal flavors, and farm-to-table favorites from 3 C’s Catering.

Battle of the Bites: Best Slider Showdown

Monday, Aug. 24
3 p.m. • Bestor Plaza
\$30

Sliders. Bragging Rights. Glory.

Four local chefs battle for slider supremacy. Purchase a tasting ticket to try all four sliders with celebrity judge Darian Bryan or watch for free.

Taste of Chautauqua: Featuring The Probables

Wednesday, Aug. 26
3 p.m. • Bestor Plaza
\$35

Food. Music. Community.

Sample regional food, beverages, art and live music while celebrating the best of Chautauqua County.

Premium Tasting Event

Thursday, Aug. 27
5 p.m. • Bestor Plaza
\$40

Sip. Savor. Explore.

Discover premium wines, spirits, craft beverages and paired bites while meeting the makers behind each pour.

COMMUNITY



BRIEFLY

NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS

Chautauqua Women’s Club news

Heather Ann Thompson, Ph.D., Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian at the University of Michigan, will speak at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Hall of Philosophy for the Contemporary Issues Forum. Her topic is “Fear and Fury: The Reagan Eighties, the Bernie Goetz Shootings, and the Rebirth of White Rage.”

The Flea Boutique will be open from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday behind the Colonnade for a special half-off sale.

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. Tuesdays 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.

Chautauqua Tennis Center news

The Tennis Center will offer Stroke of the Day for beginners Monday–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.

Off-season winter car registration

This year’s off-season winter car registration stickers are here. Anyone who wants to register their car(s) for the off-season is welcome to stop in at the Safety & Security office to do so. Please note that these stickers are valid from September 2026 to June 2027. They are not necessary or required for individuals who are only parking their vehicle(s) on the grounds during our nine-week operating season.

“‘Whatever You Do to the Least of My Brothers and Sisters’: A Chautauquan’s Journey to Support Children/Families in Haiti”

Join lifelong Chautauquan Mike McCabe, CEO of Nuestritos Pequeños Hermanos International (NPH) — “Friends of Our Little Brothers and Sisters” at 5 p.m. Monday in the UM House parlor for a conversation about what it means to put our faith into action and stand in solidarity with vulnerable children and families. Mike will share his personal journey and NPH’s work supporting children, young people and families across nine countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. He will also highlight St. Damien Pediatric Hospital in Haiti, which provides about 47,000 treatments annually to children, including those living with chronic diseases. Learn how fellow Chautauqua families are sponsoring children and families through this faith-based network and discover ways that each of us can walk the talk by standing in solidarity with the global NPH Family. Learn more at nph.org.

Library news

Join Dennis Galucki and friends for “Buffalo Day Eve,” at 3 p.m. Monday at Smith Memorial Library, with Douglas Kohler, Erie County historian, discussing “President William McKinley at the 1901 Pan American Exposition,” followed at 4 p.m. by “Art of Investing,” an informal conversation on finance, culture and community.

Chautauqua Fire Department news

The Chautauqua Fire Department Auxiliary welcomes your donations of high-quality giftware, holiday decor, jewelry, puzzles and games, wall art, housewares, et cetera, to be sold at their Christmas Bazaar in December. From 9 to 10:30 a.m. Monday and 9 to 10:30 a.m. Friday, members will be at the Fire Hall on Massey Avenue to receive your donated goods. Sorry, no books, clothing or large furniture accepted. Proceeds from the Bazaar are used to support the Chautauqua Volunteer Fire Department.

NORA SMITH

STAFF WRITER

Wrapping up the 2026 Summer Season in a week of gathering and celebration for Week Nine, “The Importance of Gathering,” a community gathering event will both kick off the week and end the week, both involving the language of movement.

Dance Theatre of Harlem, an American professional ballet company and dance school based in Harlem, New York, will welcome participants of all ages and abilities into a celebration of community movement at 3 p.m. Sunday in Bestor Plaza or the Amphitheater in the event of rain, with “Dancing in the Streets.”

“Dance Theatre of Harlem, which was founded at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, was founded, in a way, to prove that ballet belongs to everyone,” Vice President of Performing and Visual Arts Laura Savia said. “That is going to be borne out in this event, because on Sunday, ballet is going to belong to everyone.”

Savia said “Dancing in the Streets” will bring people together from all different generations and abilities as members of Dance Theatre of Harlem guide them in enjoyable ballet activities. She added that it’s often the people with the least amount of dance experience who end up having the best time.

“I would encourage people to come with members of their family or friends just to make an afternoon of it,” Savia said. “It’s one hour where we can all come together as a community and experience something, set our phones down and just be in our bodies, be present and move together and groove together.”

Savia said, especially in approaching the end of the season, this event is an opportunity to begin the last week of the season “doing what Chautauqua does best and gathering and conven-



GEORGIA PRESSLEY / DAILY FILE PHOTO

Members of the Dance Theatre of Harlem Lindsey Donnell, left, and Derek Brockington dance with Chautauquans during “Dancing in the Streets” June 28, 2022 on Bestor Plaza.

ing,” in which she said Dance Theatre of Harlem will help the community do so.

During this participatory dance workshop, Dance Theatre of Harlem Artistic Director Robert Garland said the company will take the last movement of a ballet in their repertory, titled Return, and teach participants choreography inspired by the “Soul Train Line” section.

“‘The Soul Train Line’ is a cherished part of African American tradition, closely connected to many communal dance practices across the African diaspora,” Garland said. “At its heart, it’s an expression of community — a joyful, collective celebration of movement and togetherness.”

Garland said once participants are comfortable, they will then be encouraged to move down “The Soul Train Line” themselves, “improvising and celebrating the

joy of movement together.” He added that people can truly appreciate the value of coming together again after having experienced the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This free and fun workshop brings world-class artistry directly to our Chautauqua community,” the event description reads. “Deeply committed to building connection through the arts, company artists will introduce you to the joy and power of dance.”

“Dancing outdoors, surrounded by nature, creates a powerful sense of connection — it’s always an extraordinary experience,” Garland said.

According to the Company’s description on their website, “Through performances, community engagement and arts education, the Company carries forward Dance Theatre of Harlem’s message of empowerment

through the arts for all.”

The Company’s website states that Dance Theatre of Harlem “performs a forward-thinking repertoire,” which includes classics and George Balanchine’s neo-classical works, in addition to works by Garland and “innovative contemporary works that use the language of ballet to celebrate Arthur Mitchell’s belief that ballet belongs to everyone.”

The Dance Theatre of Harlem won’t just engage with the community in this participatory workshop, but they will also perform four pieces during their performance at 7:30 p.m. Monday on the Amphitheater stage.

Closing the weeklong celebration of gathering, an hour-long Japanese Obon celebration will conclude the season at 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30, with dancing, drumming, food and Japanese lanterns.

Food rescue pilot program reflects on first season

JENNA OUTCALT

STAFF WRITER

On Saturday mornings, while Chautauquans are moving in and out of their accommodations on the grounds of the Institution, a dedicated group of volunteers are driving around the grounds to pick up food donations, converging at Turner Community Center to weigh the food and take it to Mayville Food Pantry.

This is the first season Chautauqua Institution has piloted the food collection program. Claire Johnson Baker, a contractor working with Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative, explained how the program evolved throughout the summer.

At first, the program accepted donations at Turner Community Center for a two-hour window each Saturday. During Week Three, Johnson Baker said they realized they needed to meet people where they were to make donations easier. They decided to place donation bins at the Post Office Building, Main Gate Welcome Center, Turner Community Center and the Colonnade, which they would collect every Saturday.

“When we switched and we set up the donation bin locations and started promoting that, we started seeing a lot more donations come through, and it really kind of took off from there,” Johnson Baker said.

In the first three weeks, the food rescue’s total was less than 20 pounds of food. In the fourth week alone, it received 120 pounds of food. Now, the grand total is almost 500 pounds.

“We started the season

really thinking that we’ll get a ton of food every week,” Johnson Baker said. “But if somebody’s only here for a week, the chances that they’re going to have a ton of extra unopened food is pretty narrow, and what we’re really seeing is a lot more volume coming in now that the season’s ending.”

The volunteers picking up the food include triplets Landon, Ethan and Fynn Taliercio. Their grandmother, Marge Metzger, is a board member of Mayville Food Pantry.

“I thought this would be a great experience for the boys while they’re here, and they really have done all the work,” she said.

Landon said he enjoyed seeing the difference the food made at the pantry.

“I’d say my favorite part about this experience is going to the food pantry and looking at the before of how much food there was and then how much we put in, and how that’s been adding up throughout the past seven weeks,” he said.

Ethan said he never expected the quantity of food they ended up receiving.

“The scale of it is more impacting than I thought,” he said. “... Communities of Chautauqua County that are impoverished areas, they could use some help, and there’s a lot of food here that gets wasted.”

Fynn also said he appreciated learning about the impact on the community.

“We’re very fortunate in our little bubble (of) the Institution,” he said. “But outside of here, it’s one of the poorest counties in New York, and it’s been learning



GUINEVERE MACLOWRY / MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST

Landon and Fynn Taliercio load donated goods into their car Saturday, Aug. 15 outside Turner Community Center.

about the issue and doing what we can to help that has been the most impactful for me.”

Metzger said the food pantry was “very fortunate” to have Chautauqua Institution. She said, “I think it’s a great way to not only help with food waste, but to help a very poor county outside the gates.”

According to Metzger, this year was a learning process, but next year could see growth.

“Hopefully next year we can expand it to Jamestown and other food pantries around here, but right now, it’s worked with Mayville,” she said.

Johnson Baker said she hopes to improve the program next year to refine its measurement and cataloging systems.

“I think that we have a better idea of how we can meaningfully deploy our volunteers as well, because that was something that we

struggled with in the early weeks,” she said.

Johnson Baker also said she wanted to see the program become more consistent for the community.

“I think that Chautauqua County in general could really support a larger operation of this sort, and I think that’s part of what this off-season ... will be focused on,” she said. “How do we shepherd this in the right direction for county-wide needs, not just nine weeks of the year?”

Johnson Baker said the community buy-in was a major factor in the program’s success this year.

“A lot of people were reaching out and offering support and ideas, and it helped a lot, honestly,” she said. “I don’t know if we would have gotten quite as successful of a program if there hadn’t been the sense of wanting this to succeed that the Chautauqua community provided.”

THE CHQ DAILY

SOCIAL MEDIA

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



Add your posts to the conversation using **#CHQ**.

CINEMA

--- Saturday Aug. 22 ---

ETERNITY - 5:45 In an afterlife where souls have one week to decide where to spend eternity, Joan (**Elizabeth Olsen**) is faced with the impossible choice between the man she spent her life with (**Miles Teller**) and her first love (**Callum Turner**), who died young and has waited decades for her to arrive. "A rom-com that's smart, sensational, and swoon-worthy." (**PG-13**, 114m)

GOOD BOY - 8:45 Our canine hero, **Indy**, moves to a rural family home with his owner, only to discover supernatural forces lurking in the shadows. As dark entities threaten his human companion, the brave pup must fight to protect the one he loves most. "deeply unsettling" and "utterly adorable" -*Donald Clarke, Irish Times* (**PG-13**, 73m)

--- Sunday Aug. 23 ---

ETERNITY - 4:20
GOOD BOY - 7:15
RATATOUILLE - 9:30 **Food Festival Special Event! Free Admission!** "This delicious tale of a rat who cooks is pure joy, a grand achievement—one of the most beautiful animated pictures ever made." -*Stephanie Zacharek, Salon.com* (**G**, 111m)

LECTURE

Lapp  decodes technology in food system, how social innovation can create change

ARIANNA NEVAREZ
STAFF WRITER

Closing out the week’s theme of “The Future of Food: Climate, Technology and the Next Agricultural Revolution,” Anna Lapp  acknowledged the state of the global food system. She said it is one of the biggest drivers of biodiversity loss and the climate crisis, and around the world, there is still “needless hunger.”

“I would say, by looking at analysis of how we’re doing with our food system, we could be doing a whole lot better, and I want to talk with you about how we get there,” Lapp  said.

Lapp , executive director of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, decoded how technology is used in the food world, why change has been delayed and how to approach the future through social innovation at 10:45 a.m. Friday in the Amphitheater. She is a founder or co-founder of three national organizations, including Real Food Media, a nonprofit focused on “movement-led communication strategies,” and the Small Planet Fund, a philanthropic fund focused on transforming the food system.

Growing up, Lapp ’s mother, a food writer and advocate, brought Lapp  into her world and encouraged Lapp  to question how the world works and why some people have access to food while others don’t. Her father was a medical ethicist and an epidemiologist, and she said he raised her with that sense of “tapping into core values to understand the world.”

When considering how people communicate big ideas about food and solutions, Lapp  said she learned about the technological theory that is intertwined with the future of food. She cited political theorist Langdon Winner and the ideas from his essay, “Do Artifacts Have Politics?”

In his essay, Winner said technology has intentional design, which Lapp  said translates to inventions whose purpose might “not be what you might see at first.” In the 21st century,

she said chlorpyrifos, a neurotoxic pesticide banned in New York, is an example of this. As a company seeking to make a profit, Lapp  said they would tell farmers not to worry about the health risks of chlorpyrifos because it can simply solve pest problems.

Instead, Lapp  said one should question the company’s intentions and also find an alternative. In this case, she said farmers have found their own solutions through the push-and-pull method, in which they plant a flower that pushes insects away from the crops they want to protect.

“There’s all kinds of ways that folks have developed, over millennia, dealing with pests that do not require spraying an insecticide that could impact your health,” Lapp  said.

Another part of Winner’s essay frames technology as “inherently political,” and Lapp  said he means that “some technologies are better suited to certain political formations.” Specifically, she talked about the centralization or privatization of products. Lapp  mentioned Pioneer Seeds, a seed production company, because its product requires specific chemicals to grow; this leaves a farmer tied to buying the “whole package.”

To avoid this centralization, Lapp  said farmers began a new system among themselves that ensures they aren’t forced to repurchase seeds every year. This new system helped them find seeds that are better for the environment and better suited for what they want to grow, allowing the seed market to be in the hands of farmers rather than companies, she said.

The last concept Winner coined that Lapp  shared was “technology somnambulism,” a phenomenon Lapp  described as society using new technology without thinking. She said Doritos are an example of this because they have been integrated into society without questioning why one bag includes more salt than she said one should eat in an entire day, “very questionable food dye” and ultra-pro-



DAVE MUNCH / INTERIM MANAGING EDITOR
Executive Director of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food Anna Lapp  speaks about the impact of technology in the food world Friday in the Amphitheater.

cessed ingredients.

“Just because we can do something with our food, should we? Just because we can make a bag of chips so irresistible that you start one and you finish the bag, should we?” Lapp  asked. “This is the kind of question we should ask about technology. So, where have we gotten today by not asking these questions, by not thinking about, ‘How do we have a food system designed for people and designed for (the) planet?’”

Lapp  addressed how the global food system is pushing Earth past its planetary boundaries due to shrinking crop diversity and high chemical usage. She said the high-concentration factory farming of meat and dairy also affects air and water pollution.

These framing effects lead to a decline in biodiversity, according to Lapp . To add to this point, she cited an Australian professor and his colleagues, who collected data from studies around the world tracking insect decline, who said this was a “global phenomenon” mostly driven by agriculture. When she interviewed one of the

lead scientists, he told her about the pushback he got from his colleagues about his usage of the word “catastrophic.” But he told her: “If I cannot use the word catastrophic to describe what’s happening with insect decline, then why do we even have the word?”

Though this is the reality, Lapp  said there’s a different way to think about the food system through agroecology, which she described as “a science of agriculture and social innovations around agriculture that tap into nature” and doesn’t require fossil fuel-based synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

In India, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food partnered with a research group to analyze the impact of natural farming and found evidence of increased biodiversity and reduced fossil fuel use. Though agroecology strategies result in positive outcomes, Lapp  said change is slowed by who controls technology in the food system and the food market. From 2010 to 2025, she said oil and gas spending has decreased, while agribusiness lobbying

has increased.

“There are more than enough calories to feed everybody on the planet produced today,” Lapp  said. “... Our problem in the food system is really a social one. It’s one of political economy. It’s one of asking who has the power to say what food is getting grown, who’s growing it.”

Lapp  said the future lies in realizing that problems in the food system are best addressed through social innovation, not “high-tech innovation.” In Belo Horizonte, Brazil, city leaders developed innovations to address the roots of hunger. They paid and provided land for local farmers to move to the city to ensure food supply, which they would sell at a market where fruits and vegetables were sold at the same price.

A leader of the initiative in Belo Horizonte told Lapp  she hadn’t realized how easy it was to alleviate hunger and diet-related illnesses. Lapp  said the team included some of the hardest-working people she’d met, but she interpreted the leader’s words as meaning it was easy in the sense

that, when a community organizes itself and combines policy to make change, the community finds attainable solutions.

In the future of food, Lapp  asked the audience to think about what they want, whether that is food out of plastic bags that drive diet-related illnesses or food that is “gloriously, vibrantly, naturally colorful and diverse.” She asked if they wanted biodiversity as the backbone of the food system and the sharing of seeds in farmers’ hands.

When considering what consumers can do to help, Lapp  said people must question what they buy, who policy benefits and the effects of their purchases.

“Channeling my inner Mark Lapp  — my inner father — the lessons that he imbued in me, which is to approach the world with a curiosity, to approach the world with a sense of questioning of why,” Lapp  said. “... And also be asking ourselves, ‘What are those kinds of social innovations that we want to see to make our world a better place? What is it that we can do as individuals?’”

Nezhukumatathil discusses food’s representation of love, identities, culture

NORA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

What is the last thing you ate that made you pause, maybe even close your eyes and smile without meaning to?

At 2 p.m. Friday in the Hall of Philosophy, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, essayist, poet and *New York Times* bestselling author, asked the audience this question with genuine curiosity.

“Maybe it was your mom’s spaghetti bubbling on a stove,” Nezhukumatathil said. “Maybe it was the swirl of a gas station slushy on the way home from work. Maybe it was short ribs finished off on a grill. When was the last time you actually paused a little bit after taking a bite?”

Returning to Chautauqua Institution, Nezhukumatathil began her presentation on *Bite By Bite: Nourishments and Jamborees*, Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle’s Week Eight selection, by reading the chapter on apples, posing a question and then taking answers from raised hands.

One Chautauquan shared when they bit into a peach from the farmers market recently, another spoke of a pawpaw fresh off a tree in their backyard and one said grilled shrimp made by a family member. Others shared experiences of figs from their fig tree and another about a plum from the grocery store. Nezhukumatathil said all these bites that made Chautauquans stop and maybe even catch their breath likely contain a story.

“This book is really about memory, about family, about the strange and beautiful ways flavor can carry us across time and distance, a collection of nourishments and jamborees,” Nezhukumatathil said. “Food reminds us where we’ve been and who we belong to. Sometimes a single taste can carry an entire childhood.”

Nezhukumatathil said throughout *Bite By Bite*, she wanted to explore the concept of food being a love letter and a love language that doesn’t always require words.

“Maybe someone woke up early to cook breakfast before school,” Nezhukumatathil said. “Maybe a parent packed your lunch in a hurry, but still remembered your favorite snack. Maybe a grandparent showed you how to stir a pot slowly, a routine handed down from their ancestors.”

Then, Nezhukumatathil recalled her own childhood and said no matter where she was, home was her kitchen and she believes food has a way of saying, “You belong here.”

“My mother might open a mango so golden ... it seemed to glow like a lantern,” Nezhukumatathil said. “My

father might fry smelt and perch so crispy the whole house smelled like the sea.”

Nezhukumatathil encouraged audience members to think back to their favorite dish and think of who made, grew or planted it, because that thread of connection between people and food is where stories begin.

“The foods that make you different are often the foods that make you remarkable,” Nezhukumatathil said. “The recipes in your families are stories that have traveled across oceans and generations.”

Nezhukumatathil compared this passed-down knowledge to a map. She added that a surprise in writing about food is “discovering how much wonder lives in the ordinary moments,” and paying attention can make everything magical.

“Children are very good at doing something that adults sometimes forget,” Nezhukumatathil said. “They know how to point at the world and say, ‘Look, look at that bird. Look at that cloud...’ Wonder begins with that simple word: ‘Look.’ When we stop looking, the world shrinks, but when we stay curious, everything becomes larger and more interesting.”

Nezhukumatathil said this curiosity is the beginning of storytelling, and it’s



GUINEVERE MACLOWRY / MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST
Aimee Nezhukumatathil, author of *Bite By Bite: Nourishments and Jamborees*, speaks Friday in the Hall of Philosophy.

never too late to begin writing, whether for a person’s loved ones, people across the world or simply yourself.

“Sometimes the world will try to convince you that certain parts of yourself are too loud, too strange, too different...” Nezhukumatathil said. “But here is the truth: Difference is dazzling.”

Nezhukumatathil said variety is what makes the world beautiful, and these stories, melded together from cultures and histories as well as identities, family traditions, favorite

foods, languages and memories, aren’t something to hide, but to savor. She added that, going forward, she hopes audience members savor not just food, but moments as well.

“The next time you take a bite of something delicious, something bright with flavor and memory, just pause for a moment,” Nezhukumatathil said. “Look closely, notice everything and maybe say the first words so many children say when they discover something wonderful: ‘Look.’”

Further, Nezhukumatathil said to grab a pen and paper to share these moments and stories with someone else, because “society collapses if we forget we are all part of a community.”

“So, here we are at the last weeks of the edge of summer,” Nezhukumatathil said. “Tell me about your favorite dessert from summertime. Close your eyes and begin, and let that delicious imagining be the beginning of your own food journey.”

COMMUNITY

For more than 150 years, generations of Chautauquans have invested their time and resources to ensure that this Institution would endure.

Because of their stewardship, we benefit today from a place that continues to inspire and foster community. The programs and traditions we celebrate did not emerge by accident. They are the result of decades of thoughtful care and commitment. It comes down to this: We have inherited something extraordinary, and with that inheritance comes responsibility.

We are caretakers, entrusted with preserving and strengthening Chautauqua Institution for those who will follow. Stewardship takes many forms, from volunteer service and philanthropy to the daily work of caring for the people, places and programs that make Chautauqua possible.

Since its founding, Chautauqua has relied on the generosity of people who believe in the value of its work. Their support has helped preserve historic spaces, strengthen programs, expand opportunities for learning and ensure that future generations can experience all that Chautauqua has to offer. Philanthropy is ultimately an investment in the future, reflecting a belief that Chautauqua's mission matters not only today, but for generations yet to come.

Why does that matter? Because Chautauqua changes lives. Families build traditions here. Students build on their passions and share their gifts with Chautauqua. Chautau-



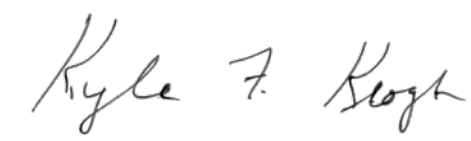
From the Interim Chief Executive

COLUMN BY **KYLE KEOGH**

Caring for what we have been given

quans discover new interests and perspectives, learn, connect and grow. At a time when meaningful connection can feel harder to find, Chautauqua offers a place where people can engage deeply with ideas and with one another.

Philanthropy helps make those experiences possible. It supports access for families, students and emerging artists



At 1 p.m. Tuesday, Chautauqua Institution will host its first-ever Naturalization (Citizenship) Ceremony in the Amphitheater. While new citizens across the country participate in ceremonies every day, this moment is particularly significant for Chautauqua because it embodies so many of the values we seek to cultivate and celebrate.

For more than 150 years, Chautauqua has been a place dedicated to exploring the best in human values, strengthening democratic ideals and encouraging thoughtful participation in civic life. A citizenship ceremony represents all of these aspirations brought to life. It is a powerful public affirmation of belonging, responsibility and hope.

I (Amit) know this personally. As an immigrant, I attended my own naturalization ceremony in 2017. I still remember the emotions of that day: a deep sense of gratitude, pride and possibility. For those taking the oath, citizenship is much more than a legal status. It marks the beginning of a new chapter, one filled with opportunity and a renewed commitment to the shared project of American democracy.

We anticipate roughly thirty new citizens to come to our grounds with their friends and family members on that day. We have invited them to participate in our programs

From the IDEA Desk

COLUMN BY
AMIT TANEJA & MAKAYLA SANTIAGO-FROEBEL

‘A life-changing milestone’

throughout the day. Volunteers in red shirts will help welcome and accompany our guests throughout the grounds. As part of the ceremony, the Amphitheater will officially be proclaimed as a federal courtroom — another historic first for this cherished Institutional space.

Hosting this ceremony at Chautauqua is both historic and fitting. It offers us an opportunity not only to witness a life-changing milestone for new citizens but also to reflect on our own commitments to community, civic engagement and the democratic ideals that bind us together. For those who attend, the ceremony is likely to be both inspiring and deeply moving. There is something powerful about witnessing individuals from different countries, cultures and life experiences come together to take a shared oath of cit-

izenship. As each new citizen affirms their commitment to our nation's ideals, we are reminded that democracy is not something we inherit passively, but something we choose to renew and strengthen through our participation. Watching people embrace their new identity as Americans often evokes a profound sense of gratitude, hope and optimism, inviting all of us to reflect on what it means to belong to a community and to share responsibility for its future.

We are deeply grateful for the staff and volunteers who are assisting with the logistics and planning for this historic event. We hope that members of the Chautauqua community will join us on Aug. 25 to celebrate these newest Americans. Their stories, their aspirations and their commitment to our nation deserve our recognition and applause. Together, let us offer them a warm Chautauqua welcome as they begin this new era of their lives.

Amit Taneja
Interim Chief Advancement Officer
Senior Director for Community and Belonging

Makayla Santiago-Froebel
Interim Associate Director of Community and Belonging

BROWNS & DAILY

FROM PAGE A1

The Browns said they hope this gift will be the first step toward growing enduring support for the *Daily's* operations. They encourage others to contribute to the endowment to support the publication for years to come.

Pat and Bud's connection to Chautauqua runs deep; the Browns first visited the Chautauqua area 60 years ago and saw the Institution when staying at a Lutheran camp across the lake. "We knew about the Chautauqua movement, and someone at church told us we should go there," Pat said.

One summer when Bud needed peace and quiet, he dropped off Pat and their 6-year-old daughter in Chautauqua for a week. Upon arrival, Pat's tearful objection was, "I don't know anybody here!" A week later, Pat's tearful greeting to Bud was, "I don't want to leave!"

Pat and Bud soon fell in love with the Baptist House, returning year after year to the kindness of Marilyn Phillips, a host there for more than 30 years. When the Browns were invited to take over as hosts, Pat was delighted. Bud said, "I'll pray about it." Pat, who can be feisty, quickly countered, "No, you won't!" They became Baptist House hosts for the next decade.

Their daughter, Chris-

tine James, grew up attending Boys' and Girls' Club and became an international intellectual property attorney. She and her husband, David James, have two children. Lewis and Lydia also attended Club and reveled in Chautauqua. "Those kids thought we owned the Baptist House," Pat recalled.

The Browns enjoyed working with the Department of Religion. "Joan Brown Campbell and Maureen Rovegno were so dear to the denominational houses and to us," Pat said. The couple also found camaraderie in talking through situations with leaders of other denominational houses.

Pat and Bud laughed as they recalled stories of guests showering in the middle of the night and an allegation that a bottle of apple juice might have contained something other than apple juice. And did someone really sneak into the Baptist House without paying for a room? Pat was troubled about the morality of such a thing, but Bud was more concerned about the money. Some rumored incidents cannot be verified, but those were wonderful years for the couple.

The Browns are longtime members of the International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons and are involved in the ongoing effort to keep that interdenomina-

tional Christian organization active at Chautauqua.

Pat and Bud also love Chautauqua's music. Bud is an organist and pianist with choral experience, and Pat plays the violin. Over the years, they adopted music students through the Connections program. They still stay in touch with Amy Hess, who went on to play violin for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

A love of reading led Pat to graduate from the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle in 2000. Bud graduated in 2010. Pat went on to complete every level of the CLSC Alumni Association's Guild of Seven Seals and has now read 225 CLSC books. The Browns support the CLSC mosaic restoration project in the Hall of Philosophy. The two are also volunteer readers of books nominated for the Chautauqua Prize. They submit reviews to Chautauqua Institution.

This year, Pat and Bud couldn't find lodging for CLSC Recognition Week, and they hate to miss the Recognition Day alumni parade. Enthusiasts of Ken Burns had snapped up Week Six rooms. "Then, we were given a miracle!" Pat proclaimed. "Our dear friend, Battie Bissell, called to tell us the Episcopal Cottage had an opening," she said, using an affectionate nickname for local bat expert Caroline Van Kirk Bissell. Pat added, "And we got it! Bud drove us 1,000 miles in time to march on Recognition Day." Pat's love for the parade has been chronicled in the pages of the *Daily*; in 2025, Pat was shown proudly marching with the Class of 2000 in a photograph accompanying Recognition Day coverage.

Each Summer Season, the *Daily* is tasked with

capturing moments like these that preserve the spirit of Chautauqua for generations to come. For Interim Managing Editor of *The Chautauquan Daily* Dave Munch, gifts like Pat and Bud's are integral to the paper's longevity. "A gift like this is so important to keep the *Daily* as folks have known it," Munch said. "The *Daily* was not immune to budget cuts that happened. Philanthropy is so important to maintain the *Daily* [and its staff] for the quality of product that people expect."

Students gain valuable real-world experience working at the *Daily*. Alumni of the paper include Nancy Gibbs, former editor-in-chief of *Time Magazine*, and Almar Latour, chief executive officer and publisher of Dow Jones & Company, publisher of *The Wall Street Journal*. When Latour returned to Chautauqua to lecture at the Amphitheater, he even showed the audience his old press pass from the *Daily*.

Munch and Assistant Editor Julia Weber noted that other interns have gone on to work for *The Boston Globe*, *The Indianapolis Star*, *The Sacramento Bee*, *Dallas Morning News*, NPR, *The New York Times* and *Aerospace Magazine*.

This year, the *Daily* has 17 interns: reporters, designers, photographers and a copy editor. Munch explained that most interns are in the junior or senior year of an undergraduate program in journalism, photography or design. The *Daily's* editorial staff arrives two weeks prior to the season and works until the final weekend to publish the paper six days per week.

Skill set is important, and Munch pointed out that attitude also matters.

"I am looking for people who will enjoy [a summer] of art and culture on a lake," he said. "This is a fantastic first internship for a lot of reasons. This community is so open and welcoming. It is a very safe place to do things you are not completely comfortable with, like approaching strangers and taking pictures of people you don't know."

Weber added, "It teaches you to write about things in a novel way, to open your eyes and find the story. It gives you a unique ability to cover the larger narrative as to why something is important. That is a valuable skill that *Daily* interns get here."

What is the best thing about being a part of the *Daily*? Without hesitation, Munch responded, "the staff." He explained that every year, interns who have never before been to Chautauqua quickly become a team. "We see the growth and improvement," he said.

Weber shared that the readers bring her joy. "I love our readers," she said. "It is tremendously rewarding to work for a paper where the readers are as invested as they are in Chautauqua. I covered the [2025 Forum Dialogues] for the *Daily*, and it was powerful to see people come out and say, 'We want a print paper.' It reminds me that my work matters, and it gets me up in the morning to know that I am providing news to people who care about it."

Cody Englander, an intern in his second year at *The Chautauquan Daily*, recently completed a Bachelor of Science in communication studies and a Bachelor of Science in journalism with a minor in film studies from Ohio University. Last summer, he covered recreation and finance. "It was wonderful to have such an eye-opening experience in my first year," he recalled. This year, Englander is reporting on the School of Music and the Institution's administration.

Englander reflected on two summers as a *Daily* intern. "The experience of being on the grounds is special," he said. "I have a lot of respect for everyone I work with, wherever they sit. It is so great see-

ing everyone come together to help each other. We all work together to get this paper out every day."

Speaking about wisdom gained here, Englander said, "I have learned to be a better writer. I've learned to take feedback. Other interns and I talked about a few of the recent mistakes we have made. We're young. It's important to be critical of oneself, but also important to be rational."

What advice would Englander give to future interns? "Experience it all. Talk to people. Leave the newsroom. Go to everything. Experience food week. Go to the MSFO, the CSO. Go watch a ballet. One of the best things I watched this year was the *Wuthering Heights* ballet. You are going to find something here that is unlike anything you have seen; you have to experience it." He added, "This place helps you find a voice. Experiences that you get at Chautauqua are so pivotal."

Englander remains in touch with people he worked with last summer. "I'd like to think I have made connections that are going to last far beyond this internship," he remarked. What lies ahead? "I want to be able to tell human stories, to be able to have people's voices heard, helping people through stories," he said.

Many Chautauquans have expressed that they love, value and want to keep the *Daily*. In the same way that Chautauqua's arts programs nourish the community while elevating the career experience of dancers, musicians, artists and theater professionals, *The Chautauquan Daily* nourishes the community while elevating the career experience of writers, photographers, graphic designers and editors.

Pat and Bud Brown planted a seed: a new endowment that can help keep *The Chautauquan Daily* alive and growing. Any Chautauquan who cares about the *Daily* may help; a contribution in any amount can be made to Chautauqua Foundation designated to *The Chautauquan Daily* Endowment Fund. Long may we hear the words, "Get your *Chautauquan Daily*!"

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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716-720-2952
CHARLESANDMARCIIJ@GMAIL.COM
WWW.JOHNSONMUSICSTUDIO.COM

COMMUNITY

TO THE EDITOR:

It has been a fabulous summer for theater at Chautauqua. And a frightening one.

Fabulous, because — despite severe budget cuts — Producing Artistic Director Jade King Carroll managed to bring us a season of fascinating, funny, moving, soul-searing productions. And frightening because, with the threat of more reductions in the Institution's support for theater, we may never have even this much of a season again.

We understand that the Institution is considering a policy under which any new philanthropy will be “budget relieving,” not “budget enhancing” — in other words, if I give more money to theater, they may lower the Institution's annual investment. This is a terribly short-sighted approach, and we urge the Institution to reject it. It's as though I'm pouring sand into a bucket with a hole in the bottom – the more sand I pour in, the bigger you drill the hole.

At some point, you will begin to scare away the very investors you want to rely on to keep theater alive and thriving. We are making our annual contribution to the Institution through the matching fund initiated by Friends of Chautauqua Theater, and urge our fellow theater-lovers to do the same — out of the desire to show the Institution how much support is out there; and on the faith that it will continue to maintain (and, hopefully, slowly increase) the theater subsidy, at the levels needed to sustain and grow this vital programming.

It was not that long ago that we saw three main-stage productions each year at Bratton Theater; the only reason we had two this year was that Jade pulled a rabbit out of the hat, bringing in a one-person play she'd directed before (with the actor who starred in that production), so rehearsal time and other costs could be kept to a minimum. There just aren't that many rabbits out there.

The thought of losing even the level of programming we saw this year is heartbreaking. But we fear that, unless we look for “budget-enhancing” options, that may be the direction we're headed. And we urge the board not to let that happen. Chautauqua deserves it. It is part of our mission, the thing that we exist to do: To illuminate the mind, to stir the soul, to touch the heart. In the way that only theater can.

PHIL LERMAN
RACHEL WILDER
8 MILLER PARK

TO THE EDITOR:

Congratulations to everyone for a fabulous 2026 Season. And many thanks to the Board of Trustees and the entire Institution staff for making the changes necessary to keep Chautauqua on a healthy, financial pathway. Despite these difficult changes, you delivered excellence in this season's programming and customer service and, as a result, increased patron happiness tenfold.

I am concerned, however, with the current discussions among board members involving new cuts to the arts and education programs for next year. There is talk to realign our strategy whereby each arts program, including Theater, Music and Dance, will be run like independent profit centers as opposed to the current model where each program is part of Chautauqua's non-profit umbrella and where it is assumed that philanthropic support is essential.

To achieve profit status in each of the arts programs, cuts would have to be made to student scholarships as well as shortening the performance season for each discipline. This approach, where we focus on our margins and not on our mission, would change the fundamental nature of this Institution.

This season has not only been excellent, but the mood on the grounds has drastically changed. We have finally lifted the heavy veil of uncertainty and doubt about our future. People are more optimistic and that is reflected in the increase of philanthropic support as well as attendance at performance venues. Let's allow our optimism to take hold and push for increasing revenue and patron support before we make further cuts to our arts and education programs. And let's give our new permanent President time to work through the issues before we transform this renowned Institution into a country club model.

BARBARA BRITTON
19 PALESTINE

TO THE EDITOR:

The letter to the editor from Michael Morley, Anita Lin (former board member), Tim Holland and Tom McCray-Worrall thoughtfully expressed our concerns about the importance of the arts at Chautauqua. We were disappointed in the trustee/leadership's weak response.

While recognizing the need for a sustainable future for Chautauqua, we believe it would be short-sighted to attempt to achieve this by fundamentally changing what Chautauqua is. Arts is the first of the four pillars. It is foundational to the Chautauqua experience.

And while recognizing the desire to run Chautauqua as a business, institutional support for the arts is, and always has been, critical to its existence.

Without a strong and vibrant arts program and the schools that enliven it, Chautauqua loses a key component that defines it and sets it apart. One only needs to look at the difference between the weeks without the schools late in the season and the weeks with the students early in the season to see and feel the difference. We urge the board to continue to support and fund the visual and performing arts at Chautauqua.

ARTHUR WILLSON AND W. JANE FOSTER
33 WAUGH AVE UNIT 2

TO THE EDITOR:

I'd like to suggest a change to the Institution's summer schedule. It seems it would make more sense to open the season one or two weeks early (mid-June) and close the season one or two weeks early (mid-August).

Why? Two reasons.

First, I realize that historically, the Institution has considered the schedule of New York public schools, which are in session until after the third week of June. However, the Institution's attendees are no longer mainly families with children in local schools. The majority may very well be coming from other states where public and private schools typically begin in mid-August. Thus, those families cannot be here for the traditional Weeks Eight and Nine.

Secondly, virtually all colleges and universities begin school by mid-August, so each year the Institution has the very significant problem of not having college-age workers available for Weeks Eight and Nine.

An earlier start of the season would fix both these issues.

Please, dear administration staff, seriously consider making this change.

GEORGIA COURT
39 HOWARD HANSON



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CORRESPONDENCE FROM OUR READERS

TO THE EDITOR:

As we come to the close of another amazing Chautauqua season, I write to offer my thanks to all who have worked so hard to bring a very high-quality Chautauqua experience again this year. I have been blessed to have Chautauqua as part of my life for 68 of my 75 years, with 58 years in the Chautauqua Choirs and now 14 years as a full-season resident. I am deeply grateful for the leadership of Interim Chief Executive Kyle Keogh, the senior staff and all year-round staff as they weathered the realities of substantial staff reductions and budget cuts this past year. I sense a renewed optimism throughout the community about the current status of both finances and programming.

As a still-working church musician in the Lutheran tradition, Chautauqua has been my “seminary” for decades, bringing me renewal and growth in my own spiritual journey, an annual unforgettable musical experience and many resources each season to bring back to the congregations I have served throughout my career.

Many thanks to the staff of the Department of Religion, Director of Religion Robert Wilson-Black, Administrative Assistant Carolyn Snider, Senior Pastor Eugene Sutton and especially Interim Director of Sacred Music Sonya Subbayya Sutton, whose musical gifts come from a 40-year career of local, national and international experiences that have enriched our sacred music experience each day throughout the season. In addition, our weekly chaplains have gifted us with inspiring and challenging preaching, and our afternoon interfaith lectures have broadened our understanding of the God of all creation and all persons through the many faith traditions represented. Thanks also to Willie LaFavor, our chime master at the Miller Bell Tower three times each day and four times on Sundays and his assistant Marjorie Kemper. Willie manages to create an amazing variety of music on only 14 bells. The collective weight of the bells exceeds five tons, and to those who claim the volume is excessive at 6 p.m. evenings, I will remind you that the Bell Tower plays to the entire community, not exclusively to your table at 3 Taps.

My enthusiasm for Chautauqua cannot be expressed any better than what our youngest children sing to us each Old First Night, “I've got the Children's School enthusiasm down in my heart — I'm coming back next year — You bet!

JIM JOHNSON
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

TO THE EDITOR:

As a follow-up to my letter urging all to wear bike helmets, I would like to advise you on the proper fitting for those smart enough to wear one. Most adults wear them properly, but there are many children who are not fitted correctly. Rather than bore you with details, I am listing a website that explains it well:

nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/8019_fitting-a-helmet.pdf

IKE KOZIOL, M.D.
19 HURST

TO THE EDITOR:

I disagree with the writer who asked that everyone “walk, talk, ride and drive on the right side of the road.” As a Boy Scout and runner training on roads, I practiced “feet on the left, wheels on the right.” This was a safety maxim taught to me so that I was facing oncoming traffic (be it bikes or cars). In fact, it is also state law in New York. New York Vehicle & Traffic Law in §1156, “Pedestrians on roadways” states in part: “Where sidewalks are not provided any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall when practicable walk only on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing traffic which may approach from the opposite.”

The use of the word “highway” does not restrict it to what we commonly think of as highways. The Vehicle & Traffic Law defines “public highway” in §134 as: “any highway, road, street, avenue, alley, public place, public driveway or any other public way.”

With my back to oncoming bikes (even those with bells), mobility scooters and cars, I consider it irresponsible to be unaware of what is coming up behind me. This is especially important on heavily traveled roads with two-way traffic, such as Massey, Hedding, Pratt, Palestine and even North and South Lake Drives. Even in Chautauqua, where pedestrians have the unofficial right of way, with my eyes on those coming toward me, I know when it is prudent for me to stop or even take a step off the road.

DON HILBINGER
24 EVERGREEN

TO THE EDITOR:

I read *The Chautauquan Daily* every morning, in part to see what's going on that day. I have one suggestion. When a story is about an event taking place that day, why not put the time and place right under the headline? Monday was a good example. I saw the front-page story about (Kate) Kortum performing modern jazz at the Amp. It sounded interesting. My first question was: When is it? To find out, I had to turn to page 4 and find it in the continuation of the story.

I know I can go to the schedule in the back of the *Daily*. But often I see a story about something I hadn't thought about attending. The headline gets me interested, and I simply want to know right then: When and where? Chautauqua is unusual because every week, new people arrive, while many others are here for the season. We all want people who come here — whether for a week or for the summer — to find Chautauqua welcoming, easy to navigate and enjoyable. The *Daily* is an important part of that experience. Putting the time and place prominently with stories about that day's events would be a very small change, but I think it would make the *Daily* more useful and make Chautauqua just a little easier for people to enjoy.

RON DINER
1 PRATT

TO THE EDITOR:

I have had the honor of attending the Pre-Professional Ballet Program at Chautauqua Institution for the past two summers. I received tremendous enrichment through the opportunities there under the instruction of Bonnefoux McBride Artistic Director Sasha Janes.

I was able to attend two years in a row at the Chautauqua Institution because of the Chautauqua Dance Scholarship Fund. I am the middle child of three college-aged students in my family, and it would not have been financially feasible for my family to send me to this wonderful program each summer. The scholarship helped me and so many other classmates experience all the amazing things Chautauqua has to offer. Words of thanks will never be enough to convey my gratitude.

Having the opportunity to hone and work on crafting my own ballet technique, while also experiencing the beautiful work of the professional performances by Alonzo King's LINES, allowed me to continue exploring the depths of my own creativity in choreography. It sparked new ideas that I was able to use in my own ballet piece. I will always treasure having worked closely with internationally renowned guest artists and faculty and benefiting from their generous words of wisdom.

Chautauqua will always also hold a special place in my heart. I made life-lasting friendships and memories in ballet class as well as while watching life-changing performances. Having gone to different ballet summer intensives since I was fourteen years old, none can compare to the consistently innovative community for the arts found at Chautauqua. Chautauqua encourages collaboration between the different art forms, cultivating spaces for visual artists to make costumes for dancers, musicians to play for operas, dancers to choreograph to solo musicians, et. cetera.

As I go into my senior year and audition in the spring in hopes of joining a ballet company, I feel more prepared. Working with others in this way was invaluable for me and it gives all artists glimpses of the various opportunities and career paths we can pursue and achieve through our art form.

Spending time with the lovely Nora Smith and being interviewed about my choreographic piece was a thrill for me. Allowing me to share my art with her was such a pleasure and in reading her article thereafter, I was given the gift of experiencing her art as well! I am so thankful for her.

Again, I could not be more grateful for everything I have learned and experienced during the most wonderful time while I was at Chautauqua!

KALE JETTE
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to express the utter delight I experienced this summer attending theater productions, recitals by dance and music students, and the wonderful Tom Paxton music evening sponsored by the Chautauqua Women's Club. These events are what I would list as highlights of my season's experience. They stand equally beside all of the hundreds of other offerings that make up our Chautauqua season. Personally, I vote for more. More dance, more theater, more music. Never less.

CATIE MILLER
MAYVILLE, NEW YORK

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm putting forth a radical proposal: Chautauqua Institution should add a fifth pillar called The Common Good. Depending on the era, Chautauqua has shifted its emphasis among the 1874 four pillars (Religion, Education, Arts) and is now — in my opinion — hoping Recreation will save it. But many signs point to the urgent reexamination this community faces. First, the speakers in Weeks Six-Seven documented the shattering of the peaceful post-WWII global order and the failure of our democratic and nonprofit institutions to deliver a secure life. Chautauqua could be on that list of institutions closed for failure to deliver. Second, Generation Z — average age 26 and the largest population group after Boomers — will inherit Chautauqua. Where's the evidence that Generation Z cares whether Chautauqua exists? Third, as the Rev. Natalie Hanson pointed out in Sunday's sermon, Chautauqua is a collection of tribes — those who worship, those who golf, those who dance — but we often don't know each other or even get along. We are fractured like the rest of our country.

Honestly, Chautauqua needs a fresh vision to attract young people and bring in patrons who can forge a large-scale sense of community around The Common Good. What's the Common Good? That's Chautauqua's new mission: to define and create it.

SUSAN ALLEN
11 B FLETCHER AVENUE

TO THE EDITOR:

If we are truly seeking healing for Palestinians and Israelis, we must acknowledge the suffering of both peoples. Compassion loses its meaning when it is extended to only one side.

Unfortunately, Chautauquans Seeking Healing for Palestine and Israel appear to reflect an inherent bias by emphasizing one narrative while limiting genuine dialogue. Meaningful discussion requires recognizing the distinction between Hamas, the Israeli government and innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians, none of whom should be defined by the actions of the others.

Chautauqua has long championed balanced discussion and respect for differing viewpoints. Those attending these programs should be afforded the opportunity to ask questions, express differing opinions and engage in civil discourse without feeling dismissed or marginalized. Sadly, that has not generally been my experience.

Compassion should never be selective, and neither should the presentation of facts. When one narrative is emphasized while another is minimized, genuine understanding, healing and peace become far more difficult to achieve.

MICHELLE ROSENTHAL
17 SIMPSON

TO THE EDITOR:

The return of Natalie Hanson to the pulpit of Chautauqua is an extraordinary gift. Her sermon today spoke to both the four pillars of Chautauqua and this week's theme of food for the body and the mind. Bringing strangers to the table for better understanding and better community only happens when all are welcome. It seems to me that Chautauqua has embraced everyone but conservatives. Having Jason Riley on the 10:45 a.m. this season was the first step toward inclusion. Too bad some Chautauquans booed him at the end of his talk. But he spoke. Liberals are welcome at Advocates for Balance at Chautauqua, even when they are hostile and rude. Instead of the Week Two policymakers from the right and left agreeing with each other on issues, we need robust and civil debate. Will we ever see ABC given the opportunity to be listed in the weekly sheet, the *Daily* without cost, and the Chautauqua venues offered to all other groups? Let us heed Natalie's words and bring everyone to the table.

LIZ KOLKEN
13 PINES

FROM PAGE ONE

THOMPSON

FROM PAGE A1

Fear and Fury “investigates the 1984 subway shooting in New York City and analyzes its profound implications for American race relations, politics, and democracy.”

Thompson — who has received numerous honors and awards throughout her career — is the Frank W. Thompson Collegiate professor of history and Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan’s College of Literature, Science and the Arts and a professor at U-M’s Residential College of Liberal Arts in Ann Arbor.

“We need to understand the past a lot better than we do if we want to understand the present,” she said. “... The 1980s was a key moment; a turning point. I dig into bigger events as a storyteller — not as a political scientist or quantitatively, but qualitatively. Rather than go to prison [for shooting four Black teenagers – Darrell Cabey, Barry Allen, Troy Canty and James Ramsey — at point-blank range], Bernie Goetz becomes a hero. What does that have to do with the ground we lay today?”

Although she resided in Kansas, Indiana and England as a child, Thomp-

son said that as a teenager, she lived in the inner city of Detroit. She attended a largely Black magnet high school named after a U.S. Army officer, senator and slave owner who died in 1866. Both of her parents “were always social justice oriented.” Her father was an activist-scholar, and in time, her mother became a labor lawyer.

“I thought Detroit was underrated,” she said. “People said it was the worst city. ... But what was the reality on the ground, and why was there so much hostility?”

After earning her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in history at U-M and becoming a mother — her first of three children — Thompson completed her Ph.D. in American history at Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey.

Her doctoral dissertation on Detroit evolved into her first book, *Whose Detroit?: Politics, Labor and Race in a Modern American City* (c. 2001/2017), about “whose city is it, and why it came to be.” She finished it while teaching history as an assistant professor at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

“History and writing ... were a way to delve into what was of interest to me,” Thompson said. “It’s a

way of being a storyteller in a serious way, to look for documents that we don’t know about. We all have a perceived narrative, and we tend to get it from politicians and the media. But what was actually happening at the time?”

In Philadelphia, where Thompson was an associate history professor at Temple University, she began working on *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*. It won the 2016 Bancroft Prize, awarded by the trustees of Columbia University for books on diplomacy or the history of the Americas, as well as the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for history (administered by Columbia University), soon after she became a full professor at U-M.

“About Attica, [I wondered] what is going on with this civil rights event that’s [happening] behind bars,” Thompson said. “I realized we really didn’t understand it [and how] we became the largest prison nation in the world. Our criminal justice system is so vast and punitive. ... How did we get here?”

Blood in the Water was 13 years in the making. “The state of New York had closed down the archives,” she said. “They didn’t want anyone to know. I had a whiteboard in my office

and it looked like the one in the film, ‘A Beautiful Mind’ (2001) ... [I wanted to know,] who has a copy [of documents], who was there, who has film footage. History is being a detective as much as a scholar.”

Since there was “a cache of records in the Erie County courthouse in Buffalo, Buffalo and Batavia were my home away from home for many years,” Thompson said.

While she was finishing this book, Ava DuVernay’s documentary film, “13th,” came out on Netflix. It examines the U.S. prison-industrial complex encompassing race, the justice system and mass incarceration.

With Thompson and others also shining a spotlight on prisons because of the massive change occurring, a new field called “carceral studies” started.

“At Michigan, I wanted to create a center for major research and inquiry in partnership with community folks to reconnect with that history and the people, including family members, who had experienced it most directly,” she said. “This country had slavery for many years, and during the New Deal, there was an effort to interview people about what it was like. We partnered with the law school, the school of pub-

“

History and writing ... were a way to delve into what was of interest to me. It’s a way of being a storyteller in a serious way, to look for documents that we don’t know about. We all have a perceived narrative, and we tend to get it from politicians and the media. But what was actually happening at the time?”

—HEATHER ANN THOMPSON
Pulitzer Prize-winning Author,
Historian at the University of Michigan

lic health and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.”

Their collaboration led to the formation of the Carceral State Project, which documents criminalization, policing, incarceration, immigrant detention, and other forms of carceral control in the state of Michigan and beyond.”

Thompson said that historians don’t start with a theory or premise. “In history you always start with a question – ‘What happened?’ [Then you ask], where would I find and who would have the information that allows me to piece this together?”

“Historians are trained to make the arguments, but not about how to be a writer,” she added. “How you take something that’s so grim and painful, and write about it without inuring [readers] to the violence.”

In New York City in 1984, there was “an iconic act of vigilantism, yet no one had a clue about these boys’ names,” she said. “What actually happened on that subway train?”

At CIF, Thompson will talk about how she researched, documented and ultimately pieced together the story of what did happen there and in the aftermath of the shootings, including the rebirth of white rage.

SILKROAD

FROM PAGE A1

Silkroad Ensemble was established by Yo-Yo Ma originally as a vessel for cultural collaboration sharing ideas, traditions and innovation without being confined by borders. He began with the question: “What happens when strangers meet?” ac-

cording to Silkroad Ensemble’s website. From there, the ensemble has grown into a collective of world-class musicians from across the globe with a shared goal of making a positive impact across borders through the arts, according to the website.

In a statement shared to the ensemble’s website, Artistic Director Rhi-

annon Giddens said, “We are artists, we lead with art, and we hope to continue to inspire, challenge and confront the best and worst of our species with the talents and creative beauty we have been given. There are many ways of speaking — and we must speak — with every note, every sound, every beat we have within us, as we come beautifully and musically together despite distance, different languages, approaches, trainings and expectations — what Silkroad does is radical and shall remain radical; and art, in its purest sense, rejects the inhumanity of violence and demands that we see each other as we see ourselves.

That way, and that way only, is the path to transformative change — and we stand for nothing less.”

In a video interview for Silkroad Ensemble, Giddens said music has always served a crucial role in bringing people together across cultures and time periods.

“In our human history, music has always had really important functions. It is something that you do when you’re working to make the time go faster, it’s something that you do when you’re working with a lot of people to keep things together, it’s something that you sing to your child to get them to sleep, it’s something that you play when people are

BOYLE

FROM PAGE A1

Since at least 2012, Boyle has been speaking and preaching to Chautauquans, and he will serve as the chaplain for Week Nine. He will preach at the 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning worship service in the Amphitheater. His sermon title will be “Fill the Earth With Mercy.”

He will also preach at the 9:15 a.m. Monday through Wednesday morning worship

services in the Amphitheater. His sermon titles include “A Love that Keeps Us Sane,” “The Table That Has No End” and “The Infinite Moment When Everything Happens.” He will also share his faith journey at the 9:15 a.m. morning worship service in the Hall of Philosophy.

Boyle is a Jesuit priest and the founder of Homeboy Industries. Based in Los Angeles, the organization is the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry pro-

gram in the world.

From 1986 to 1992, Boyle served as pastor of Dolores Mission Church, then the poorest Catholic parish in Los Angeles and the one with the highest concentration of gang activity. In the face of law enforcement tactics and criminal justice policies of suppression and mass incarceration as the means to end gang violence, Boyle and parish and community members adopted what was a radical approach at the time: Treat gang members as human beings.

In 1988, they began what would eventually become Homeboy Industries, which employs and trains former gang members in a range of social enterprises and provides critical services to thousands of people who walk through its doors every year seeking a better life.

Boyle is the author of the 2010 *New York Times* best-seller, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, as well as *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* and *The Whole Language: The Power of Ex-*

travagant Tenderness. He authored *Forgive Everyone Everything*, an anthology of writings accompanied by Fabian Debora’s artwork. His latest book is *Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times*.

Recently, Boyle was a recipient of the 2025 Civic Renewal Award from the Center for Christianity and Public Life. In 2024, Boyle received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Joseph Biden. Homeboy Industries was awarded the 2020 Hilton Humanitarian Prize, and Boyle was the recipient of University of Notre Dame’s 2017 Laetare Medal, the oldest honor given to American Catholics. In 2014, President Barack Obama named him a Champion of Change. Boyle has also received the California Peace Prize and been inducted into the California Hall of Fame.

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LITERARY ARTS

O’Neil, Han to instill confidence in writing through community storytelling

NORA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

January Gill O’Neil, poet and professor at Salem State University, and Jimin Han, novelist and professor at Sarah Lawrence College, hope to leave Chautauquans with newfound confidence in writing as they close out the 2026 Chautauqua Writers’ Center Season.

“Poetry is my core, and I always say, ‘No matter what people are doing, whatever their center is, whatever it is that they get up in the morning for, to honor it,’” O’Neil said. “Find time to honor these parts of you that need a little more love and care.”

O’Neil said poetry alone is a great foundation for generating dialogue, and the act of writing allows writers to immerse themselves in past experiences, something she wishes more people had the chance to do.

“I often say how lucky we are that sometimes we get to experience these joyful moments or difficult moments twice,” O’Neil said. “We live it when it happens, and then we get to pick it apart and turn it into art and release it, and I think that’s an amazing part of being a writer. It’s true for any artist.”

Michael I. Rudell Director of Literary Arts Stephine Hunt said O’Neil is a brilliant poet and specifically noted O’Neil’s most recent collection, *Glitter Road*. Hunt said having O’Neil in attendance is a great opportunity for Chautauquans to potentially reintroduce themselves to her work if they have encountered it, because she’s been to Chautauqua before, but it’s also a chance for those who aren’t familiar with O’Neil’s work to learn something new.

“Anyone who hasn’t encountered her yet, at the end of our Summer Assembly season, what better way to wrap up your writing experience here than a note to say, ‘This may be the end of the summer, but you can begin again here and take

something away that gets you started on a new path,’” Hunt said.

Hunt said with Han’s book *Dreamt I Found You* being a 2026 Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Unbound Selection, this is the first time an Unbound author will join Chautauquans on the grounds in a different program.

“Since Jimin has worked with us in so many different capacities, from Writers’ Center to Janus Prize Guest Judge, ... it’s really just a delight and honor to celebrate her in this way as part of the CLSC and exciting to use the CLSC Unbound program to do so,” Hunt said.

Both O’Neil and Han will give a Free Faculty Reading at 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the Hall of Philosophy.

“[Stories] tell us who we can be and what we can aspire to and what we can expect for ourselves, and so that makes [stories] have such an enduring impact, and I’m interested in pulling back those layers to figure out, ‘Do you know why you think the way you do?’” Han said. She added that by examining these layers of a story, people might be able to understand one another better.

When teaching, Han said she encourages her students to think about who they’re writing for, and when writing *Dreamt I Found You*, Han wrote for her younger cousins because she wanted people in the U.S. and those in the Korean diaspora to know “The Tale of Chunhyang” and to know it through the perspective of someone with Korean heritage living in the U.S. and trying to understand it themselves.

Then, in *The Apology*, Han featured a discerning Korean woman because she said most of the time, Korean women are represented as grandmothers cooking in the kitchen, but these assumed boxes we put people in aren’t always the limits.

“I wanted them to be out there in the world for people to know,” Han said. She added that she is also interested in breaking out of boxes and assumptions that people make. She questioned why people must be defined and why someone has the ability to say what something should or should not be.

“If we have more experiences out there, by more diverse groups of people, then who we are as human beings can be seen in more complicated ways, and we can see that we can have more in common than not,” Han said.

Han said she finds herself returning to fiction for this explorative experience.

“It’s because fiction is immersive in a way that changes people’s perspectives,” Han said. “It changes their hearts and minds, and in a way, that is dangerous for some people.” She added that this power in fiction is why it’s the most-banned genre.

O’Neil said inspiration for *Glitter Road* began when she traveled to Mississippi on a fellowship as a John and Renée Grisham writer in residence at the University of Mississippi. She said it was “a completely new experience,” and at first, she didn’t have a book project and wasn’t sure what she’d work on.

Then, O’Neil learned of Emmett Till’s story, but it wasn’t until she attended the 2019 rededication ceremony of a memorial sign in his memory that his story became an inspiration for writing.

“We went down there, and once I was standing on the land watching these people who cared so much about this piece of history, saying, ‘Every time it comes down, it’s going back up,’” O’Neil said. “That gave me the resolve to think about Mississippi but also interact with the land, the people and to think more deeply about my connection to the enslaved.”

O’Neil said thinking about this connection was one of the most rewarding things

she’s ever done for both herself and her family.

During the reading, O’Neil plans to read some poems from *Glitter Road*, her poem, “American Pokeberry,” published in the June 22 issue of *The New Yorker* and potentially a few poems from *Valentine*, an upcoming collection to be published in February 2028.

“I hope [the reading] encourages them to read more poems, to buy a poetry book — if not mine, someone’s — and support poets and writers...” O’Neil said. She added that there are so many great writers, but oftentimes not enough readers or supporters.

O’Neil’s generative poetry workshop, titled “Begin Again,” will run from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Aug. 24 to Aug. 28 in the Alumni Hall Poetry Room with an enrollment fee of \$145 and a maximum of 15 participants.

Here, O’Neil plans to talk about poems of all sorts while encouraging participants to write regularly and to realize that poetry is for everyone; everybody can write.

“We’re always writing as we move through our spaces and we breathe and we rest and we walk, we’re writing all the time, so that by the time you’re ready to sit down and write, you’ve got that poem that you’ve always wanted to write, the one that bubbles up,” O’Neil said.

Han’s generative workshop, titled “Myths, Folktales, Family Stories, & You,” will run from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Aug. 24 to Aug. 28 in the Alumni Hall Prose Room with an enrollment fee of \$145 and a maximum of 15 participants.

Han said it took her a while to feel comfortable enough to take the risk and put her own writing out there. So, when teaching classes or workshops, she tries to include aspects that she wishes she had to help guide oth-



O’NEIL



HAN

ers to tell their own stories.

“I believe everyone has a book in them, many books in them, and writing is one of those things that we all do,” Han said. “So, it feels like it’s just a little out of reach to some people, and I want to close that gap, and I want to show people they can do it.”

Han said most people have just been told, as she was, that “You either have nothing to say, or no one wants to hear what you have to say,” but for Han, the more voices that are out in the world, the more we all benefit.

In the workshop, Han said participants will do lots

of generative writing exercises to try and get the editor out of their heads and to eliminate self-judgment when writing.

“If we know that stories have been around us forever and that we tell the stories all the time, then it becomes less intimidating,” Han said. “It’s really a community storytelling activity that we’re going to be doing, and we still have to make decisions about what it is we write and how we shape it so that it’s for the public ... but the main thing is to make people understand that what they have to say is really important.”

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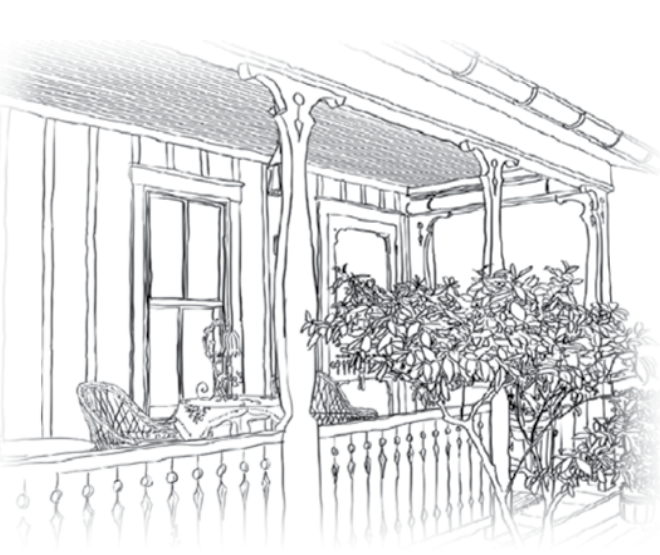
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SAM HUFFMAN /STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Stephine Hunt, shown on the porch of Alumni Hall Tuesday, was named the Michael I. Rudell Director of Literary Arts earlier this summer.

‘FINDING A COMMUNITY OF LITERARY LOVERS’

Hunt reflects on her Chautauqua journey, to announce 2027 CLSC picks

WORDS BY **NORA SMITH**

Michael I. Rudell Director of Literary Arts Stephine Hunt wasn't able to experience Chautauqua Institution growing up until she was hired as an employee; then, she entered the literary community she knew she would have cherished all along.

"I grew up pretty poor, and so even the free Sundays, it wasn't really possible for my family and I to get to a place like this, even though I would have loved it," Hunt said. She added that despite living near Chautauqua, she had only set foot on the grounds once before, when working with the Smith Memorial Library for a student event while pursuing her master's.

After graduating with a master's in English from State University of New York at Fredonia in 2017, Hunt applied for a managerial position at what used to be known as the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Veranda. After accepting the position, Hunt said she remembers standing beneath the Miller Bell Tower and calling her father to say she recognized her surroundings but wasn't sure why. He explained that they used to go ice fishing on the lake off the Bell Tower all the time when Hunt was younger.

"So, I knew it from the outside looking in," Hunt said. "Then my adventure here began as an employee. I was stumbling through my understanding of what Chautauqua and the CLSC and its traditions were, all in the same year, and finding a community of literary lovers here who also love books the way I love books and writing the way I loved writing."

In 2026, Hunt became Interim Michael I. Rudell Director of Literary Arts, and during this year's Aug. 6 Recognition Day Ceremony, Emily and Richard Smucker Chair for Education Jordan Steves announced Hunt as the permanent Michael I. Rudell Director of Literary Arts.

"I'm delighted and honored to have the recognition ... I was really honored to share that moment with so many people of the Chautauqua Literary Arts community who have been a part of my journey for the 10 summers now that I've been here," Hunt said. "It was a really moving moment, and I'm very grateful for it."

Hunt said she is excited to keep moving forward with the literary arts community while greeting returning Chautauquans and welcoming newcomers.

"Chautauqua has certainly given me that community of people who care deeply about reading and writing and lifelong learning in ways that I maybe wouldn't have fathomed outside of academia before finding this place," Hunt said.

In turn, Hunt said she hopes she has given Chautauqua some visibility of what dedication to Chautauqua looks like and what that dedication can do for the community at large.

Hunt said she has seen "... some eye-opening moments as well, whether that was through the



TALLULAH BROWN VAN ZEE / DAILY FILE PHOTO
Hunt reveals the 2025 CLSC Unbound selection, *This Is The Only Kingdom*, by Jaquira Díaz with Emily and Richard Smucker Chair for Education Jordan Steves during the 2025 Bryant Day celebration Aug. 16, 2025 at Miller Bell Tower.

authors that we brought in and will continue to bring in or simply through my own personal experience of never having been here and probably would not have found my way here if I hadn't started working here," Hunt said.

Hunt said it's important for Chautauquans to understand that "as much as we hope this place will be a beacon for hope" in rural Western New York, it remains difficult to access. She said she is thrilled with events like Chautauqua County Day and Buffalo Day.

"[They're] so important to opening the gates in ways that aren't possible for people to experience Chautauqua otherwise," Hunt said. "I hope that we can continue to grow in that capacity and extend beyond the gates here because, like I said, I know I would have loved this place, and I'm sad that I didn't find it until I was in my early 20s."

Hunt said she grew up an avid reader with the encouragement of her parents, and while her mom prioritized reading to her, her dad made sure she always had a book in hand.

"That was a place of bonding for us," Hunt said. "My mom is not necessarily a big reader, but she knew how important reading is and instilled that love for it in me when I was little by encouraging me to read, and I always loved writing."

Hunt said she doesn't often consider herself a writer outside of emails and her dissertation, but as a child, she would write plays and perform them with her sisters, knowing that the many components of literary arts couldn't exist without one another.

"We don't have the pieces of literature to cel-

brate if we don't have writers, and we don't have the piece of writing without an audience to share that with, and really, you don't have great writers without them also being good readers to learn from others," Hunt said. "So, they're integral to each other in a way that, regardless of my life growing up and where I am now, we couldn't exist here as a program without them."

At 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Bell Tower, Hunt will reveal the CLSC 2027 reading theme as well as three 2027 CLSC selections at the Bryant Day celebration. Hunt said other selections are in the works and will be announced through fall, winter and spring on Chautauqua Literary Arts' social media and clscchq.org.

"This is where we really celebrate literature and, of course, there can't be literature without readers, but I think it's a really special celebration of books and one that you don't see elsewhere," Hunt said. She added that Bryant Day marks the beginning of the new reading year at Chautauqua.

Hunt said the celebration features the reading of a traditional poem as well as songs that have long been a part of the ceremony, including the ringing of the Bryant Bell to honor graduates of the CLSC. However, Hunt said due to damages currently in the process of restoration, it is not guaranteed that Chautauquans in attendance will have the opportunity to ring the bell.

After the ceremony, the announced book selections will be available for purchase in addition to served cookies and punch.

RELIGION

Wilson-Black reflects on first season in Director of Religion position

LILY RESLINK
STAFF WRITER

Director of Religion Robert Wilson-Black could measure his first Summer Season in statistics: 35 speakers booked for the Interfaith Lecture Series and 9 booked for morning worship services, 22 visits to denominational houses, roughly 12 shabbat services, eight Chautauqua Dialogues lunches, eight LGBTQ+ and Friends meet and greet socials each Sunday evening at the Athenaeum Hotel, an untrackable number of porch hangouts, too many departmental programs to count and one first annual “champagne and hymns,” held on the porch of his home until October, the Lewis Miller Cottage. But who’s counting?

Wilson-Black reflected on the equal parts “variety and repetition” that he said kept him joyfully busy throughout his first season for an average of 15 hours a day.

He credited the experience to amazing colleagues, a great board, an outstanding executive team and the people he meets each day — whose names he said he types in his note app for weekly reflection on those with whom he spent time. This method, he said, was intended to give him an opportunity to pause and respect the people whose paths cross his, but it has simultaneously given him what he called “the coolest list of all time.”

He said he often uses evenings for administrative work, such as planning the next season, so he can spend his days among Chautauquans on the grounds. Although the days can be demanding, he said the “overwhelmingly positive outpouring of kindness” he and his team experience “makes it easier to work long, rich days across the

nine weeks.”

Boiled down, he said his routine is, “I wake up in the morning and I go to everything I can.”

After a season in the role, Wilson-Black joked about how reality strayed from his initial expectations of his participation in Chautauqua’s pillar of Recreation. He named the golf course, the beach and the gym as three things he thought would play a much bigger part in his summer.

He also said he expected to get off Institution grounds more often. Instead, he said he left two times: “One was because E.J. Dionne invited me out to dinner, and the other was to get my glasses fixed.”

What makes his time management possible, he said, is not having a typical office job structure and having adult children who are more self-sufficient.

He said recreation primarily consists of lectures, programs and exercise in the form of “walking everywhere at the fastest pace possible.”

His approach to the day is as follows: “I start by sleeping well, eating well, walking constantly and responding to emails, texts and phone calls almost instantaneously so they never pile up.”

Wilson-Black said part of his acclimation to his role in Chautauqua, “the ‘porchiest’ place in America,” is accepting every porch invite.

In addition to integrating into what already exists, Wilson-Black is responsible for deciding many of the guests who come to the Institution to speak to Chautauquans. Wilson-Black said booking the interfaith lecturers was a challenge of sifting through contacts he has made throughout his career to find professionals who align with each of the season’s nine themes.



SAM HUFFMAN /STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Pastor the Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton serves Communion to Director of Religion Robert Wilson-Black during an ecumenical Communion service Aug. 14 in the Hall of Philosophy.

Disty Lengel, Hall of Missions host, said around the Hall of Missions breakfast table each week, it is common for the speakers’ conversations to illuminate very few degrees of separation between them. While Wilson-Black prioritizes bringing quality speakers, Lengel’s job concerns whether they are equally quality people.

During Wilson-Black’s inaugural year, Lengel said, “He’s brought great people.”

Wilson-Black said the scheduling of next season’s speakers is already well underway: “For 2027, we have already secured nine chaplains (and) 20% of our ILS speakers, and it promises to be another outstanding season.”

He expressed excitement for Week Three, themed “Trust,” because the Department of Religion will welcome back the first ILS speaker of the 2026 Summer Season, Diana Butler Bass, as the week’s chaplain and invite friends of Bass to join as ILS speakers.

“Chautauqua is the most distinctive place I have served because it’s a combination of my past experiences,” he explained.

Altogether, he said, Chautauqua is like “a university, a think-tank, a resort, a wellness center, a religious congregation and family reunion all while serving as a national treasure capable of shifting dialogue toward hope and solutions for improving our neighborhoods and country when we return home.”

Earlier this summer, Wilson-Black was asked to deliver a talk for the Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua’s Shirley Lazarus Speaker Series. This, he said, served an important purpose “because it demanded of me to prepare my thoughts about Chautauqua and religion.”

The talk, titled “Why Religion, Why Chautauqua, Why Now?,” set the tone with a brief introduction of his religious journey.

Born Baptist and “practically raised” by his neigh-

borhood Methodist Church, Wilson-Black said he fell for a Jewish girl in high school and went to Israel, converted to Disciples of Christ in college and discovered their close connection to the United Church of Christ. He married a Presbyterian minister at a wedding with a “leading Catholic thinker” as his best man, received mentorship from Black church leaders and a Lutheran Ph.D. adviser and became vice president at the Unitarian Universalist seminary. He also raised his children in Quaker schools, visited a Unity and Christian Science church, learned how to improve his Muslim call to prayer on the Athenaeum porch in 2012, practiced meditation in India on the Ganges river and now has adult children who chose the Episcopal Church — which he noted as the same denomination as Senior Pastor Eugene Sutton.

Calling himself a “religious mutt,” Wilson-Black said he sees his life as preparation for being the director of Religion at Chautauqua, which he previously called a “utopia in training.”

“At Chautauqua, you receive immediate and nearly simultaneous feedback, which makes it easier to maneuver and correct mid-season and also to celebrate small victories along the way,” he said. In this season, Wilson-Black said he has learned lessons that he will take with him into the next.

“Words and precision matter, grace and patience matter, kindness and openness matter (and) celebra-

“

Chautauqua is the most distinctive place I have served because it’s a combination of my past experiences.”

—ROBERT WILSON-BLACK
Director of Religion

tion and joy matter,” he said.

Wilson-Black said strengthening the pillar of Religion at Chautauqua “requires balance between the study of religion, practice of religion, integration of religion across the Institution’s other three pillars and expansion of the freedom of all here to practice or not as they please within the confines of respect and integrity.”

His ongoing priorities at Chautauqua center on maintaining excellent programming, caring for the various communities within the greater Chautauqua community and seeking “innovative approaches” to increased attendance and funding for the department.

Wilson-Black shared a note of the “team effort” that he said made the season possible: “Senior Pastor Eugene Sutton, Sonya Sutton, Carolyn Snider, Alicen Roberts, Owen Reyda, Mary Lee Talbot, Lily Reslink, Disty and Tom as Hall of Missions hosts, amazing denominational house leaders, the Motet Choir, Mystic Heart, Senior Associates Sam Stahl, George Wirth, Maureen Rovegno and new associate Rachel Stuart and too many others to name.”

Summer Class with Kaye Lindauer

All courses offered through Special Studies (fee) 12:30 - 1:30 pm • Hultquist 101

Week 8: August 22-August 30

Cinema and Psyche: Tolstoy

The life of Tolstoy, one of the world's greatest writers will be discussed. Film excerpts included. Tolstoy experienced a spiritual crisis in rnnidlife, and his inner conflicts reflect the challenges of the human experiences. The Jungian concept of individuation will be discussed along with issues of love and betrayal.

REGISTRATION: 1) Online: tickets.chq.org. 2) In person: Main Gate Welcome Center, Visitor's Center beside the Post Office; or 3) Call 716-357-6250.



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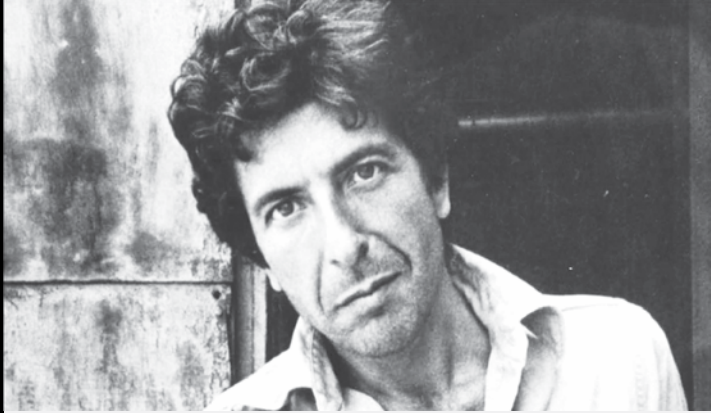
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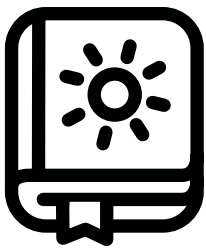
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THE MIX

God invites us to come closer to feast prepared with love, forgiveness says Meadows



MORNING WORSHIP

COLUMN BY MARY LEE TALBOT

“Joseph was prepared for the seven years of famine; he was prepared. Good leaders and good systems allow the people to survive,” the Rev. Richard Meadows, rector of the historic St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Annapolis, Maryland, said. Meadows preached at the 9:15 a.m. Friday ecumenical Communion service in the Hall of Philosophy. His Scripture text was Genesis 45:1-15.

He praised Chautauqua for its week themed around food. Food sustains life and brings joy. Agriculture creates new technology, and we are learning how to respond to climate change. “We still struggle with how to live together. Innovation does not grow reconciliation,” he said.

When Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt looking for food, they carried with them shame and lies. Famine had exposed what prosperity had hidden. Yet Joseph said to them, “What you meant for evil, God meant for good.” Joseph refused to let evil have the last word. “Joseph welcomed his family, embraced them and restored his family. After 20 years, the brothers talked and reconciliation made restoration possible,” Meadows said.

He continued, “I look for a future where enemies become family, where wounds become wisdom, where we can gather at one table. We need justice in our distribution of food, we need to make neighbors of enemies, we need to restore relationships.”

The words of God, Meadows said, are “come closer, prepare the feast with love and forgiveness. Feed the hungry, open the doors, cross the distance. Come closer. God’s future is not famine. Come closer.”

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, senior pastor of Chautauqua, presided. The Rev. Rachel Stuart, an associate in the Department of Religion, celebrated Communion. The Motet Consort, consisting of Barbara Hois, flute, Rebecca Scarnati, oboe and Joseph Musser, piano, played the prelude and postlude from Trio, Opus 3, No. 1, by Pietro Locatelli. The Motet Choir sang “The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee” by Jean Berger, under the direction and accompani-



ment of Sonya Subbaya Sutton, interim director of Sacred Music, on the Steinway piano. Sutton, Hois and Scarnati led the congregation in incidental music during communion. The prayer leader was the Rev. Sally Evans, chaplain of the week at the Baptist House and director of programs at the Center for Interfaith Relations. The Scripture reader was Evan Welkin, Friend of the Week at the Quaker House and executive secretary of the Friends World Committee for Consultation – Section of the Americas. The Communion ministers were the Rev. Tim Bobbitt, pastor of First Christian Church of Alexandria, Virginia, and chaplain at the Disciples House; the Rev. Melissa Sumner Long, general presbyter for the PCUSA Presbytery of Eastern Virginia and chaplain at the Presbyterian House; and the Rev. Chris Henley, pastor of the Glenwood Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio, and chaplain at the Lutheran House. 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.



DAVE MUNCH / INTERIM MANAGING EDITOR
At top, the Rev. Rachel Stuart, center, leads the congregation in the Lord’s Prayer during a service of ecumenical Communion Friday in the Hall of Philosophy. Above, the Rev. Richard Meadows preaches during the service.

African American Heritage House invites all to community block party Saturday

CODY ENGLANDER
STAFF WRITER

“The African American Heritage House [has] become a place of history, culture, music and food. The block party takes that spirit outside,” Kwame Alexander, inaugural distinguished fellow at the AAHH, said. “It tells Chautauquans, ‘Just come outside your houses, come off your porches, come as you are. Bring your family, bring your neighbor, bring your curiosity.’ We wanted to create something that feels less like a program you attend and more like a party you’re invited to.”

For Alexander, substantive conversations with other Chautauquans don’t have to be solely at lectures — they can take place at a community block party. At noon Saturday, the AAHH

will host a block party on Scott Avenue for the Chautauqua community. The block party will include live music from a DJ, a barbecue and homemade ice cream.

“I think sometimes the most important conversations don’t necessarily happen in a lecture hall,” Alexander explained. “They can, but they don’t all have to. It can happen when you’re standing next to someone eating barbecue, or eating an ice cream cone, or listening to music or watching your kids play, and realizing the person [next] to you has a completely different story than yours.”

The block party will play music previously performed at Chautauqua, while also featuring music intended to foster a welcoming environment, inviting conversa-

tions among Chautauquans.

“If you take the music that we’ve heard on the Amp stage over the years, from O.A.R., to Laufey, to Diana Krall, to Trombone Shorty, to Harry Connick, Jr., to Top 40, to pop — I think you get an amalgamation of all that. I think the DJ is going to [play] music that makes you feel good.”

Having the opportunity to spread ideas and create a community for Chautauquans to come together in a concentrated way is important to Alexander. He noted the block party doubling as a “thank you” to the community for the season.

“At the end of the summer, aren’t we all saying [thank you] about everything we’ve just experienced at this magical summer place?” Alexander reflected.

Sacred Song Service to reflect on migration

MARY LEE TALBOT
STAFF WRITER

Migration is all about movement from one situation to another. For people, it could be internal migration, international migration, forced migration or economic migration. Migration, whether forced or voluntary, puts people into the categories of stranger or foreigner, which makes them vulnerable.

The 8 p.m. Sunday evening Sacred Song Service in the Amphitheater will explore migration and the vulnerabilities people have felt. Most of the readings and songs explore forced migration, whether through slavery, economic hardship or for personal safety. Readings will come from the Bible,

the poem “Things We Carry on the Sea” from My Name is Immigrant by Wang Ping and “The Immigrant’s Song” by Tishani Doshi.

A Chamber Ensemble by Valerie Coleman, “Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes,” will be presented by flutist Reva Youngstein, clarinetist Daniel Spitzer, violinist Sarah Spitzer, cellist Daryl Goldberg and pianist Arlene Hajinlian.

The Chautauqua Choir, under the direction of Sonya Subbaya Sutton, will sing “A Hymn to the Evening” with music by Robert Lehman and words by Phillis Wheatley, “Wade in the Water,” Spiritual, setting by Aaron David Miller and “Follow the Drinking Gourd,” Spiritual,

arranged by Dan Davison.

There will also be congregational singing of the hymns “Day is Dying in the West” by William Fisk Sherman and Mary Artemesia Lathbury, “Where Charity and Love Prevail” to the tune Ubi Caritas, “There’s a place for everyone at the table,” words by Shirley Erena Murray and music by Jane Marshall, and “Now the Day is Over, music by Joseph Barnby and words by Sabine Baring-Gould. The service will close with “Largo,” from George Frideric Handel’s Xerxes.

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, senior pastor of Chautauqua, will preside. Maggie Brockman and Beth Brockman Miller will be the readers.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chautauqua

Sunday Service

August 30th

9:30 AM - Hall of Philosophy

Guest Minister:

Reverend John Hickey

Emeritus Minister and Director of Urban Ministry Boston

“Gathering: Redefining the Table”

Guest Soloist:

Guest Soloist: Bill Moran – Folk

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RELIGION



INTERFAITH NEWS

COMPILED BY STAFF

Baptist House

The Rev. Steve Booth will preach at the 9:30 worship service at the Baptist House (35 Clark). His sermon, based on Luke 24:13–35, is titled “Stay With Us.” Booth serves as a pastoral counselor and clergy coach with Shepherd’s Staff Ministry, Inc. (shepherd-staff.org) in Richmond, Virginia. He and his wife, Marti, are the parents of six children and grandparents of thirteen grandchildren.

Blessing and Healing Service

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

Catholic House

The Rev. Bob Fambrini, SJ, pastor, St. Francis Xavier Church in Phoenix, Arizona, is our chaplain. Our host couple are Deacon Paul and Gina Kudrav, of Harrisonburg, Virginia. 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. Our Masses take place at 8:15 a.m. daily at Hurlbut Church.

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.

Chautauqua Mystic Heart Meditation Program

David Gluck will lead Hindu Meditation sessions from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. Monday–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.

Christian Science House

“Mind” is the subject of this week’s 9:30 a.m. Sunday service in the Christian Science Chapel (12 Center). Our Study Room is open 24/7 for reflection and prayer. Starting Monday, the Bible lesson “Christ Jesus” 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

A Communion Service with Homily will be held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the Disciples of Christ House (32 Clark on the Brick Walk). Our chaplain of the week is the Rev. James Brooks. This week’s homily is titled “The Importance of Gathering.”

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

At 12:15 Monday in UCC Randell Chapel (enter from Odland Plaza), the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua presents “Are you considering a move to a retirement community?”

Liz and John Propst, who just made the decision to move, will describe their experience.

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.

Everett Jewish Life Center

The Jewish Film Series will screen the documentary “Among Neighbors” at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the EJLCC (36 Massey). A Holocaust survivor and residents of Gniewoszów, Poland, discuss the complicated history of their town and the interplay of love and hatred that shaped the lives of Polish and Jewish neighbors during World War II. The

film runs 100 minutes. A second screening takes place at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Morris Vogel will talk about the Jewish immigrant story and its place in the American narrative at 3:30 p.m. Monday in the EJLCC. In his talk, “A Tenement Success Story,” Vogel explores how the interpretation of America as a nation of immigrant strivers — an interpretation especially hospitable to the Jewish experience — rose to prominence and why it now faces new pressure from alternative visions of American identity rooted in ancestry and exclusion. Vogel is the former president of New York’s Lower East Side Tenement Museum and author of *The Invention of the Modern Hospital*, among other works.

Vogel continues at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday with a Lunch Talk titled “Beyond the Jewish Lower East Side: The Tenement Museum’s Expanding Story,” exploring how the Museum has broadened its range of stories — adding Puerto Rican, Chinese and Holocaust survivor families — while preserving the Jewish identity that has long drawn visitors and supporters.

Hebrew Congregation

From 9:30 to 10:25 a.m. Saturday, join us for Torah study: Today’s Torah for Today’s Times in the lower level of Hurlbut Church led by Rabbi Aaron Meyer. From 10:30 to 11:45 a.m., Shabbat Morning Services will be held in the Hurlbut Church Sanctuary, led by Rabbi Aaron Meyer, senior rabbi, and Rebecca Closson of Temple Emanuel of South Hills, Pennsylvania. A Kid-dush luncheon will follow the service. Please enter on Scott Avenue.

Humanist Community at Chautauqua

The Humanism Seminar will hold its seventh Conversation Beyond Belief, an interfaith dialogue ex-

ploring the deeper dimensions of spiritual traditions. Moving beyond doctrine and dogma, participants will engage questions of meaning, consciousness, compassion and shared humanity. The guest for this week will be Francisco Burgos, executive director of Pendle Hill Quaker Center and Quaker House Friend of the Week. The topic will be “Spirituality of Simplicity.” The program will take place at 3:30 p.m. Monday at the Unitarian Universalist House (6 Bliss).

Labyrinth

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

Lutheran House

Former Bishop the Rev. Tim Smith of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Salisbury, North Carolina, presides at a service of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the Lutheran House. Communion will be served. Judy Fesko of Lakewood, Ohio, will provide piano accompaniment. The Lutheran House is located on the Brick Walk at the corner of Peck Avenue near the Hall of Philosophy.

Presbyterian House

The Rev. Ruth Smalt, senior pastor and head of staff of Siesta Key Chapel in Siesta Key, Florida, presides at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service in the Presbyterian House Chapel. Her sermon, “Thin Mints & Marvelous Mysteries,” is based on Luke 11:1–13. Lynn Silver provides music for the service. Before her present ministry, Smalt was an associate pastor in Nantucket Island, where she was commissioned to

write *Island Pastor*. She earned degrees from SUNY Cortland (BSE and MSE), Fordham University (Ph.D.) and Princeton Theological 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.

Welcome home to Homeboys. They will be staying with Quaker House, Methodist Missionary House and the United Church of Christ Mayflower House and bringing their treasured spirit and stories to Smith Wilkes Hall. Please check the *Daily* for dates and times.

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

“Imago Dei” is the sermon title to be delivered by our Week Nine guest minister, the Rev. Jim Magaw, at 9:30 a.m. Sunday in the Hall of Philosophy. Magaw serves the Unitarian Universalist Church of South Hills (Sunnyhill) in Pittsburgh, where he has served since 2014. The music soloist at our Sunday service this week is singer and songwriter Miranda Wilcox. Wilcox is entering her junior year at SUNY Fredonia as a vocal education major and enjoys performing throughout the community. Join Magaw for discussion and reflection on his sermon, “Imago Dei,” and issues of the times at 9:15 a.m. Monday on the front porch of the UU House. All are invited to join us 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. Magaw will be in attendance to engage in conversation.

United Church of Christ

The Rev. Elizabeth Mitchell Clement, who recently served as the designated-term senior minister at Central Congregational Church UCC in Atlanta, presides at the 9–9:45 a.m. worship service. She serves the church in transition, in the change space between the past and what wants to be born. Ruth Becker will provide the music for the service and refreshments will follow in the UCC Randell living room.

Unity of Chautauqua

Unity of Chautauqua welcomes the Rev. James Stacey, who will lead the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Celebration Service in the Hall of Missions. His message: “In Our Unity of Purpose.” The theme of Week Nine, “The Importance of Gathering,” inspires Stacey’s talk on the power of gathering with intentional purpose. A community that is fully aware of its purpose reaches its goals, fosters a sense of belonging and fulfillment in its own members, and offers benefits to the world beyond its own community.

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

From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Turner Community Center, Stacey will present a Positive Path for Spiritual Living Lecture titled “Spiritual Keys to Aging Well.” Join our discussion of Unity’s new publication, “Spiritual Keys to Aging Well.” We will explore the concept of aging. This is a new perspective that sees aging and the final years of life as another stage of development in our life experience with its challenges and opportunities. Every participant in this class will receive a free booklet from Unity to continue their exploration of aging with grace and meaning. Chautauqua residents should bring their gate pass.

Stacey is the senior minister of Unity South Twin Cities, Bloomington, Minnesota, located in the south Minneapolis–St. Paul metro area. For details, visit unitychq.org.

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- Check out the new website <https://www.gathering2027.com/> for a schedule of the 2026 Gathering along with photos and pricing for the 2027 event. All reservations are made through the Athenaeum Hotel 716-357-4444. Email: john-kaye@hotmail.com

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COMMUNITY

Thompsons elevate philanthropy to an art in ‘shared vision for Chautauqua’s future’

PATRICIA BEAGLE
STAFF WRITER

Brenda and Larry Thompson first experienced Chautauqua in 2004 when Larry gave an Amphitheater lecture about corporate fraud. He was impressed by Chautauquans’ thoughtful, intelligent questions. The couple soon returned and eventually bought a home on Hurst Avenue. They are also at home in Sea Island, Georgia, and Atlanta.

From simple beginnings, the Thompsons achieved distinguished careers. Brenda was born in Salisbury, North Carolina, and Larry came from Hannibal, Missouri. Both grew up in schools subject to mandatory segregation, and the two never lost their thirst for learning.

Brenda earned a Bachelor of Arts from North Carolina Central University, a Master of Arts from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. from St. Louis University. A licensed clinical psychologist, she taught at Morehouse College for two years.

“It was a wonderful experience,” she said. “I was one of the first African Americans to be licensed in the state of Georgia. To teach at Morehouse was an honor, but I really wanted to work with young people.”

She practiced for 20 years as a school psychologist and 15 years in a public program, caring for developmentally disabled and emotionally disturbed children with learning issues, she said. Brenda was also a community activist, advocating for schools and proper roads.

Larry obtained a Bachelor of Arts from Culver-Stockton College in Missouri, a Master of Arts from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School. While practicing law with a future Supreme Court Justice, Larry received sage advice. Clarence Thomas recommended that Larry move to the growing city of Atlanta. He did so and thrived there. Ronald Reagan appointed him U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. President George W. Bush later appointed “L.T.” — as President Bush called him — deputy attorney general, the second-highest position in the Justice Department. Known for his ethics, Larry led the department’s Corporate Fraud Task Force in the era of ruinous Enron and Adelphia corporate scandals.

Larry served for years as executive vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for PepsiCo. The Department of Justice selected him to serve as independent corporate mon-

itor for Volkswagen AG in the wake of the high-profile VW emissions scandal. His distinguished career included teaching at the University of Georgia School of Law. Currently, he is of counsel to Finch McCranie, LLP and serves as executive in residence at Coastal College of Georgia.

The Thompsons’ two sons both practice law. Larry is a patent attorney in Houston. Gary serves as in-house counsel for a corporate startup in Washington, D.C.

A sought-after presenter, Larry took the podium for Chautauqua’s Chabad Jewish House regarding his advocacy on behalf of Rabbi Sholom Rubashkin. A Presbyterian, Larry attributes the favorable outcome of that advocacy to divine intervention. He has spoken for the Chautauqua Women’s Club and has delivered various graduation addresses. Larry also gave a talk for Advocates for Balance at Chautauqua about his autobiography, *Quiet Counsel*. He has enjoyed giving book talks in many cities.

The Thompsons have long had a special love of the visual arts. Brenda recalled that as a young couple, she and Larry would visit the Atlanta University Art Annuals and dream about being able to afford such art. Larry recalled admiring the art collection in one of his professors’ homes. The two have been particularly captivated by stories told through the work of African American artists.

Eventually, the Thompsons moved from decorating with posters to buying their first real art, a work by Freddie Styles. They have since become well-informed collectors of African American art, cultivating relationships with art dealers from coast to coast. Brenda has served on the Barnes Foundation Board of Trustees, the Georgia Museum of Art Board of Advisors, the Clark Atlanta University Art Galleries board and the University of Georgia Foundation Board of Trustees.

Brenda explained that their collection encompasses nearly 1,000 pieces of art. The Thompsons have generously displayed treasures in exhibitions at the David C. Driskell Center at the University of Maryland and the Georgia Museum of Art. Many of their pieces have been on tour, educating others about African American art. Last year, the National Gallery of Art hosted a major exhibition of the Thompsons’ art, and it was viewed by more than 90,000 visitors.

Brenda and Larry have participated in art panels and gallery dialogues and have

donated hundreds of works to museums. The Thompsons made a gift to the National Gallery of more than 150 pieces of African American art. Their support has provided life-changing recognition and representation to African American artists.

“We’ve gotten to know as many artists as we could, and we know the struggles they have gone through,” Brenda said. “I personally was proud that some of these artists finally would be seen in a major museum. We intentionally went after artists we felt were worthy of being included,” she added.

Judy Barie, Susan and John Turben director of Chautauqua Visual Arts Galleries, beamed at the mere mention of the Thompsons. “I am honored to know and be friends with the Thompsons. You can see their passion for art in their home,” she said. “They have been very generous with their resources. The Thompsons sponsor an exhibition for us every year. Sponsors enable us to bring artists here to meet people who might acquire their art.”

The Thompsons sponsored this year’s “Cutwork” exhibition at Strohl Art Center. Barie added that the Thompsons have also supported CVA artists by purchasing their work. “I recall that they bought from us a nude sculptural piece by Esther Shimazu,” she said. “They have very good taste!”

Larry remarked, “I want to stay engaged not only with fine art, but with other things.” He serves as a trustee for Chautauqua Institution. “During ten years on the board, I have had the opportunity to interact a lot with members of the community,” he shared. The Thompsons also appreciate Chautauqua’s African American Heritage House, and Brenda has provided support as a board member of the organization.

The couple recently served as co-chairs of the multi-year Boundless, A Campaign



SAM HUFFMAN /STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Larry and Brenda Thompson, shown on their porch Sunday on Hurst Avenue, were co-chairs of Boundless, A Campaign for Chautauqua.

for Chautauqua, the largest fundraising effort in the history of Chautauqua Institution. According to Amit Taneja, interim chief Advancement officer and senior director for Community and Belonging, the pivotal campaign exceeded its \$150 million goal, raising \$166.1 million. Taneja remarked, “Through their leadership, generosity and hospitality, Brenda and Larry brought people together around a shared vision for Chautauqua’s future. They opened their home and hearts to convene Chautauquans in meaningful conversations about the future of the Institution and how the Boundless Campaign contributed to our long-term resilience.”

Tim Renjilian, chair of the Chautauqua Foundation, commended the Thompsons’ leadership. “For someone as busy and in demand as Larry to get involved sends a message that we should all get involved. Brenda is a substantial player in the art world and is a real doer. The Thompsons brought respect, knowledge and recognition in several worlds,” Renjilian said. He praised the Thompsons’ direct involvement with the campaign cabinet and

personal delivery of updates that motivated the team. He added, “They are examples of people who can come, fall in love with this place and make a difference. Not only are the Thompsons connectors who bring different people together and introduce new people to Chautauqua, but they are absolutely lovely, friendly and down-to-earth people.”

“The community’s support of Boundless was a vote of confidence in the Institution,” Brenda said. “We were honored to be co-chairs and work with the campaign cabinet. The campaign was run by Advancement. We were ambassadors,” she said.

“It was a terrific way to support the Institution,” Larry remarked. Brenda added, “We have opened our porch and supported visual artists. We have offered hospitality to opera students. We live in Sea Island, and we have had our friends come here. It’s been made easy by the level of love of the people here.”

Kyle Keogh, interim chief executive officer, expressed profound gratitude for the long-term benefits of the Boundless Campaign. Recall-

ing the service of the Thompsons, he remarked, “They did not simply ask others to support Boundless. They demonstrated personally and consistently why Chautauqua was worthy of that support. The impact of their work will be felt by generations of Chautauquans to come!”

The Thompsons live lives of grace, fullness, humility and generosity. Brenda expressed admiration for people who use walkers who attend lectures to keep learning. “What pulls me in is the stimulation of the lectures,” she said. “I can’t wait to discuss them.” Larry spoke about the joy that Chautauqua brings. “It has everything we are interested in for intellectual stimulation.”

Through their leadership and philanthropy, Brenda and Larry have practiced the art of strengthening Chautauqua for future generations and elevating the work of African American artists. Their stewardship is reflected in the words inscribed over the stage in Norton Hall: “All Passes Art Alone Endures.”

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COMMUNITY

‘Same page, same time in life’: Hagman, Giancola reflect on life, Chautauqua

ARIANNA NEVAREZ
STAFF WRITER

2,500 years ago, Plato recorded a theory in his *Symposium* about primeval humans, described as having four arms, four legs and two faces, but they were split in two by Zeus. For the remainder of one's life, each half seeks to become one again and find the person who was once a part of them.

This theory has always stuck with Paul Hagman. In his story, Hagman met his complementary half in his 30s — on a dating app.

In the suburbs of Youngstown, Ohio, Nick Giancola and Hagman grew up near each other, but had never spoken until they matched online. On July 13, 2016, Giancola first met Hagman.

As they talked, they realized they had mutual friends and felt like “fate” had led them together. Giancola remembered viewing Hagman as smart and put together. Hagman felt the same way, admiring both Giancola's entrepreneurial success and kindness.

“To meet somebody in the same place as you, that was really something that I think we both were looking for. Same page, same time in life,” Giancola said.

Although both were raised in Youngstown, each left the area after graduating from high school. Giancola moved from Los Angeles to Nashville, Tennessee, to Atlanta and, eventually, back to Ohio, where he would establish the inaugural Spruce Home Decor; Hagman went to Florence, Italy, to study urban design, then to Cleveland to found RBF Colab Architecture, a historic preservation firm that provides design and consulting throughout northeast Ohio. “[Building a life individually first] opened the

door,” Giancola said. “That was good. Then the door opened, and we met.”

Since the beginning, Chautauqua has played a crucial role in their relationship.

Hagman, who is now a member of Chautauqua Institution's Board of Trustees, was introduced to Chautauqua by friends about 20 years ago and immediately fell in love with the place. Within the first year the couple started dating, Hagman used Chautauqua as a test to see how Giancola would interact with a place of “lifelong learning.”

“How someone interacts with Chautauqua really sort of reveals a lot about what they value, their own interests and their own passion for learning and for furthering themselves,” Hagman said. “... It would be difficult to have a long relationship if someone didn't get Chautauqua, right? And didn't have that same sort of interest in returning and learning and pushing themselves to be a lifelong learner.”

Giancola passed the test with flying colors. The two began visiting each summer and became closer with the community and one another. In 2019, the two got engaged.

Two years later, in February 2021, the two were officially married. That same year, Hagman was asked to join the board; 2022 would be the first season of his position. In the summer on their usual visit to Chautauqua, Giancola noticed a temporary pop-up shop in the Colonnade that would leave an open spot for the 2022 Season.

Following his initial desire to fill a gap in retail shopping on the grounds and the administrative meetings that followed, Giancola's second location of Spruce Home



SKYLAR SEAVEY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Paul Hagman and Nick Giancola share drinks Aug. 5 at 3 Taps.

Decor was born.

When the couple simultaneously started growing their foundations on the grounds, they realized they'd be spending more time in Chautauqua throughout the summer, but they had no complaints about that.

Though they said the programming is “wonderful,” Hagman said the porch culture is the most unique part of the Chautauqua culture and community. As an introvert, he said it is his favorite way to engage with other Chautauquans and feels unique.

“You don't find that very often in the world — a place where you can just walk down the street, hop on your neighbor's porch, and have a meaningful conversation, at least not today any longer,” Hagman said.

While Hagman is an introvert, he said his favorite thing about Giancola is his extroverted nature because it's “complementary” to him. On the other side, Giancola said Hagman helps him slow down and pay attention to the little things.

The couple said they hope the future holds adventure. Giancola said he is blessed to have someone in his life who is willing to take on new experiences, whether it's trying a new restaurant or allowing themselves to get lost in Italy. To find that quality in a partner is “rare,” he said.

Chautauqua will continue to play a role in the next chapter of the couple's lives, especially after they purchased a condo on the grounds last fall. In Giancola's perspective, Chautauqua is a place that



has brought the pair new friends and new opportunities. It connects them, he said, in a way that no one else can understand.

“The fact that this is ours, and we share it with different groups of people. ... We share it with our families, but I don't think they quite understand day to

day what happens here and why we actually love it so much. [On the] outside it's super cute, and everybody can see that, but it's bigger than that,” Giancola said.

Finishing his partner's sentence, Hagman said, “It'll be interesting to see what the next phase looks like for us and Chautauqua.”



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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.”**



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.



Week 9 – Monday, August 24th, 3 PM
(Athenaeum Parlor)

Ivan Pongracic

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.”**



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”**



Salena Zito

Week 6 – Monday, August 3rd – 3 PM

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.”**



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.

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SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chautauqua Institution Director of Accounting Dick Erickson, center, sits on Bestor Plaza with his wife, Lisa Erickson, and friends, Tim Renjilian and Mike Dawson Saturday, Aug. 15. The Ericksons spent the night camping and tending to the smoker ahead of the “Feast with Friends: Smokin’ Dick’s Community BBQ” event last Sunday. Erickson has been smoking meats since he was 16 years old, and while he normally cooks for family and friends, he decided to smoke meats for the community during a barbecue in which he fed more than 500 Chautauquans.

SMOKIN’ FOR THE PEOPLE

Smokin’ Dick’s
‘Feast with Friends’ kicks
off Chautauqua Food Festival

SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On the afternoon of Sunday, Aug. 16, as more than 500 Chautauquans enjoyed a community barbecue on Bestor Plaza, Dick Erickson lived out his lifelong dream.

The Director of Accounting has served Chautauqua Institution since 2004 and has made lifelong connections with the community during his time here. While returning to the grounds each summer to work with colleagues and guide interns in his department is rewarding, his true passion in life has always been cooking.

Erickson began his cooking journey at 16 years old, working for various catering businesses. He became proficient in cooking various barbecue staples, such as chicken, pork and mac and cheese. In college, he would barbecue for his fraternity brothers. Through spending his years mastering his craft, the true rewards of his cooking are the connections he made with family and friends who have gathered throughout the years, thanks to his passion.

“Food is really a gathering,” Erickson said. “I love the people.”

For a number of years, Erickson put his passion on hold, during which he only cooked for family and friends. When he isn’t in the office overseeing the Department of Accounting and working to support his wife Lisa and his three children, he said he likes to spend time outdoors, hunt and, of course, smoke barbecue meats. Without a traditional smoker at his disposal, Erickson practiced alternative smoking methods, such as assembling wooden planks into a makeshift meat rack or

using old wooden cabinets, techniques that impressed his friends and family.

In the past year, Erickson made the decision to pursue his lifelong dream of cooking again; he bought a custom-made meat smoker and created his barbecue catering business, “Smokin’ Dick’s BBQ,” a venture that has since brought him closer to his community, even if said community teases him on the business name from time to time.

“It’s a name that’s been with me for a number of years,” Erickson said, “This is something I’ve always wanted to do.”

Erickson and the Smokin’ Dick’s crew catered to Chautauqua Institution staff ahead of the 2026 Season during a staff celebration, but made their community debut at the “Feast with Friends” community barbecue event last Sunday to kick off the first week of the Chautauqua Food Festival. After being asked by Director of Business Development Sam Nelson to bring his thoughtfully prepared dishes to Chautauquans, Erickson and his wife, Lisa, set up camp on Bestor Plaza to smoke pork butts, brisket and mac and cheese for more than 20 hours. During their campout, the Ericksons were met by friends who showed up to keep them company, catch up on their lives and tell stories of their friendship. They were also met with curious, late-night Chautauquan visitors who came to their campsite to talk about the barbecue. Through these late-night conversations under the stars and connecting with his community, Erickson knew that his lifelong dreams would soon come true.



SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Erickson monitors pork butts in his custom-built meat smoker Saturday night while camping on Bestor Plaza during a cooking process that takes more than 20 hours.

“Cooking is really a story,” Erickson said. “You show people (the food), and they see the passion, and they can see and smell it, they’ll begin to believe in it.”

The next morning, after getting little to no sleep, the Smokin’ Dick’s crew served pulled pork sandwiches, smoked mac and cheese, coleslaw and ears of corn to hungry Chautauquans, who connected and shared space over the meal. Erickson said he sees it as the first of many more Smokin’ Dick’s BBQ ventures to come.

“We’re inviting all of our neighbors, we’re cooking out, having a gathering and having a good time,” Erickson said.



SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Erickson woke up each hour to restore the flames to maintain a temperature of 250 degrees.



SKYLAR SEAVEY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Erickson chats with customer Fred Pettitt while prepping the pork Sunday.



SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Erickson oversees trays of smoked barbecue and mac and cheese prior to the community barbecue Sunday.



SAM HUFFMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From left, Lisa Erickson, Dick Erickson, Kayleigh Erickson, Tony Marino, Tina Cochran and Derek Abbey pose next to the “Feast with Friends” sign following the barbecue.



SKYLAR SEAVEY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alex Medlicott, David Savage, Jean Frogge, Lis Faulstich, Laurie Medill and Kristie Medill raise a toast while enjoying Erickson’s barbecue during the “Feast with Friends.”

COMMUNITY

Former Athenaeum waitresses reflect on shared adventures, memories

HEIDI WARREN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In 1979, Beth Kromer saw an elderly lady standing by the lake, wistfully staring across it.

Kromer, then age 22, struck up a conversation and discovered the octogenarian had been an Athenaeum waitress in her youth. Back in the 1910s, staff made a game of swimming all the way across the lake. This struck a chord with Kromer, who was in her fifth and final year as an Athenaeum employee. As her swan song, Kromer decided that on her last day, she would honor the lady by duplicating the feat. “It was to be my finale,” Kromer, now 70, said. “I thought I was never coming back.”

Except the 4:30 a.m. stunt didn’t go exactly as planned. She talked a friend into swimming with her, and they had a stock-room boy paddle in a canoe for safety against watercraft. They made it to the Dewittville side. However, it was incredibly foggy. On the return trip, they ended up in Mayville. The boy hitchhiked back to the Institution to find a ride for the exhausted girls.

Kromer thought she was dead meat. Her companions were the only ones who knew of the stunt, and she was an hour late to her shift. Kromer always served James R. Bussey, the hotel manager, and Robert Mack, the assistant manager, breakfast.

“I thought he would be livid,” Kromer recalled. “Instead, Mr. Bussey was practically handing out cigars because he was so proud!”

Her coworkers, including Karen Miller Graham, Nancy Timko, Linda Liebold and Lorri Shuber, were worried sick.

“We were in a panic looking everywhere for her,” Shuber said.

These ladies had a good laugh reminiscing about their hijinks while imbibing “Chautauquapolitans” on the hotel porch recently. Liebold, of Paden City, West Virginia, joined via FaceTime.

In the 1970s, no legal alcohol consumption was allowed, though bellhops reported plenty of bottle clanking from departing guests’ luggage. The women also made many pitchers of sangria in their sweltering attic dorms — dubbed The Tower — and consumed it on the hotel’s roof. A cigarette while sunbathing may or may not have been smoked from the top of the building; however, fears of burning the whole place down cut the shenanigans short.

Timko, a retired corporate trainer, was quick to add that they were and continue to be “solid citizens.” The drinking age was 18.

If the bathroom window was accidentally left open, the Chautauqua Butterflies would happily join them. Male staffers donning linens as capes while carrying the hotel’s yellow and white styrofoam ice buckets came to the rescue.

“Na, na, na, na, na...Batman,” the boys would sing, referencing the theme song

of the 1960s cult television show “Batman.”

The rooftop landing is where they stretched the cord for a single rotary phone. It was shared by 24 girls who lived on two floors and was the only place a moment of privacy could be occasionally enjoyed.

“It was the best view of the lake in town,” Graham said.

In their day, no food or drink was served outdoors. The steps leading to the lake were not yet built, and the Chautauqua Women’s Club/south end of the porch was for staff only. Uniforms were stored, and they hand-washed and polished silverware there, hence the name “silver porch.” The burnishing machine, which removed tarnish and scratches, was the least favorite of their side work.

Popular television personality The Amazing Kreskin rubbed a silver spoon and snapped it in half, ostensibly using his mind; the famed mentalist was born as George Joseph Kresge and died in 2024 at age 89. When the women informed their direct supervisor, hostess Margaret Bruce, she hid the spoon and forbade them from telling Mr. Bussey.

“She was militant and ran a tight ship,” Shuber, who became an English literature professor, said. “A total perfectionist.”

Timko said Bruce was in the United States Navy during World War II. Kromer noted she wore cat-eye glasses and was always dressed to the nines, with nary an imperfection in sight. She expected the same from her staff and kept the waitresses’ pink uniforms starched.

“But we loved Mrs. Bruce,” Miller, an elementary school teacher who kept a correspondence until Bruce’s death, said. “She would be so proud of us.”

Many famous people graced the hotel. Bandleader Mitch Miller, Pearl Bailey, Margaret Mead, Peter, Paul and Mary, Maria von Trapp — while no Julie Andrews — and Margaret Hamilton were some of the favorites.

Von Trapp was incredibly sweet and not wasteful, sending back meal portions deemed too large. Liebold, a speech pathologist, said she just scraped half the food off. Actress Hamilton left Graham a thank-you card, signing as her signature role: WWW (Wicked Witch of the West) and drew a broomstick.

Off-duty staff were never allowed in the lobby or parlor, unless working events like a ball with a live band or a Welch’s family wedding, where they served sparkling white grape punch.

The women were never so happy to work so hard for so little money, they say.

“It simply was the best time of my life,” Graham said. She began seasonal stints as a salad girl in 1973 and ended as an assistant hostess in 1979.

Waitresses had to have at least one year of college completed, be currently enrolled in school, up to and including advanced



Former Athenaeum Hotel Restaurant waitresses Nancy Timko, Lorri Shuber, Linda Liebold (on the phone), Karen Graham and Beth Kromer stand together in the Heirloom Restaurant in what used to be called the Red Room Aug. 11 in the Athenaeum Hotel. The group of five met while working at the hotel in the 1970s and return to the grounds for an annual reunion.

programs or be a recent spring graduate. Staffers were charged for room, board and “apprenticeship” fees. In 1978, their roughly \$112 paycheck for 44 hours netted about \$30. Plus, they had to purchase their own \$27.50 gate pass.

They set up, served and cleaned for three meals a day, six or seven days a week — always on call. Initially, they had a rotating day off, but as the season drew to a close and people quit, that privilege was lost.

“We put fresh flowers and a different hand-written Bible verse or inspirational quote on each table daily,” Shuber said.

Tips were the real pay-days, netting roughly \$800–\$1,200 for the summer. A waitress’s station made all the difference. Kromer’s older sister and former employee Amy Kromer said the “transient” tables saw the best action. Senior servers generally got first pick.

“I always made the most money,” Kromer gleefully said, serving non-hotel guests. There was no tip pooling then.

Generally, Graham said, patrons would tip \$1 day. So a room with two guests would leave \$14 at the end of a week.

The Red Room was second choice; it was mostly for VIPs and event dining for groups of around 30. It was located behind the current lobby bar, which was the coat check and where spare dinner jackets were stored for men, as a strict dress code was enforced for the dining room.

Hotel guests filled most sections and had designated seats. Diners picked an appetizer, entree, drinks and two desserts. Kromer said the hotel was known for its extra desserts, especially fresh figs and prune whips.

The biggest rewards were not financial, they said. A sisterhood was formed by living and working together. It was

also a time of firsts: making friends from different backgrounds, operas, plays and hearing the symphony play George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue.”

“We helped and supported each other,” Timko said. “I think the Institution is missing out by not offering housing for young workers anymore.”

Liebold laments that loss, too. “We bonded in a way that I can’t even explain,” she said. “When Karen reached out to me after 30 years, we chatted for hours like we saw each other yesterday.”

It was a formative time, and the women changed each other’s worlds. Kromer says she never would have gone to law school without a push from her roommate. “It expanded our worldview,” she said.

Shuber says they learned a lot about themselves as well. “You learned perseverance from hard work and long shifts every single day. It was exhausting.”

They all agree that they would not have been successful alone. They played too, regardless of how tired they were every night. The now-closed College Club was the epicenter of entertainment on the grounds.

In their signed contract was a 12:30 a.m. curfew, and they were obliged to stay the full season, or automatically receive a negative reference to whoever referred them for the position. If one broke curfew, employees were given a week of “elevens,” an 11 p.m. curfew. A second infraction meant firing.

They beat the system by bringing wigs from home and using special pillows to create bodies under blankets to fool “flashlight lady” Jeannie Leland. They snuck back in via the fire escape. Although many other girls got in trouble, Graham suspects Leland was “not trying very hard to catch us.”

Many of their peers were also recruited from the



In their Athenaeum waitress uniforms, Nancy Timko, left, and Beth Kromer after serving cake on Old First Night in the Amphitheater in 1978.

Pittsburgh-based Coalition for Christian Outreach.

“Mr. Bussey thought he was getting the cream of the crop,” Kromer, an attorney, said. It was difficult to contain her amusement.

Their experiences spawned loyalty. All the women are regular patrons. “You would not believe how many of us former waitresses return year after year,” Graham said.

Some of their most special memories are of serving birthday cake from the choir loft during Old First Night. Covered in frosting, they always jumped in the lake afterward in their uniforms.

The women worked with Linda O’Connor, now Spaulding, now a year-round resident on South Avenue. In 1970, Spaulding began as a front desk clerk. Eight seasons later, she met fellow employee Douglas Spaulding.

“We knew something romantic was going on with Douglas ... when we came back next summer, they were engaged!” The couple married in the autumn. Douglas died 13 years ago at age 79.

“We called it ‘Wrinkle City,’” Spaulding said, who has kept in touch with “the girls.” “But we’re the old ones now.”

Spaulding has many fond memories of the hotel, including living in its basement, also known as the dungeon. Walking along South Terrace Avenue, the lower windows are visible. The rooms are currently staff offices.

The bakers lived in a cottage behind the main building, Spaulding said.

“I’d hear their screen door slam shut at 3 a.m.,” she said. “By 7 a.m. the sweet and yeasty smells would wake me up ... I loved every minute of it.”

Spaulding has countless stories, including about a ghost.

Of course, any historic buildings, especially one of the few remaining grand ladies of the North, are going to have reputations for unexplained phenomena. The Victorian-style wooden structure was built in 1881 by 90 men in 90 days with a \$125,000 price tag under the supervision of Institution co-founder Lewis Miller. His future son-in-law, Thomas Edison, brought the original electrical power. The hotel became Edison’s happy place for the next 45 years; ask to sit at his favorite dining room table in the now-Heirloom Restaurant.

Hopefully, any newer apparitions are happy haunts.

Kromer, who now spends most of the season on grounds, has already made arrangements for her ashes to be interred at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

“So, I will be here full-time forever!” she said.

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.

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COMMUNITY

Chautauqua’s Royal Scooter: 80 mph, grand for ‘inside visceral’

This week’s subject matter involves something that may not qualify as a mystery, but is at least a curiosity.

The early days of the Chautauqua Assembly were about Sunday school training classes, lectures on matters biblical and sociopolitical, all things related to temperance/abstinence and choral music. For recreation, well, there was no dancing, no drinking and no card playing. But one could partake in a leisurely lakeside stroll or take in a game of croquet. The closest thing to an amusement park would have been Palestine Park, the “living map” of the Holy Land along the shores of Chautauqua Lake.

That is, unless you believe the historical accounts that there was a roller coaster on the grounds. If you have trouble imagining John Heyl Vincent and Lewis Miller careening down a coaster, beards askew, arms in the air, you’re in good company.

But incongruous as it may seem, accounts in the Oliver Archives Center maintain there was indeed a roller coaster on the grounds from 1885 to 1888.

According to notes in a related folder, the gravity roller coaster was in the area surrounding the ravine above Norton Hall, bordered by Palestine, Scott and Root Avenues. Farther south are present-day Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall and the music practice sheds.

The coaster was called the Royal Scooter, the records maintain. Groups of 10 would travel around a 500-foot circular track, reaching speeds of 80 mph, for a total ride length of 13 seconds. People sat facing toward the center; centrifugal force helped to keep them in their seats — which had no straps. The cost was 25 cents, which would buy 10 rides.

A skeptic might also note the facts in that folder do not include source attribution.

1885 editions of *The Chautauquan Assembly Herald* — the *Daily’s* pre-1906 incarnation — include short mentions throughout the season.

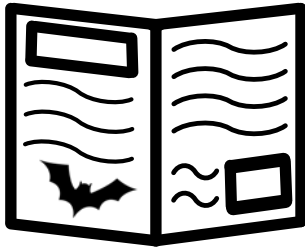
Under the headline of “Fun at Chautauqua,” an *Assembly-Herald* ad reads: “The authorities have availed our Messers. Weaver and Kimball to erect one of the largest and best roller coasters in existence, giving all a chance to ride down hill without snow. Physicians of a high standing recommend it; so do all who ride. If you ride once you will ride again; if you don’t ride at all you will miss a novel experience. A fine view of the lake and a cool breeze always await you at the Chautauqua Circular Gravity Railway, or Roller Coaster.”

“Weaver” was “P.H. Weaver,” who is identified as the concessionaire (not the builder or proprietor). Kimball is an important historical name to Chautauquans, though never in any context akin to a roller coaster.

More hyperbole in the *Assembly-Herald*:

“The Roller Coast(er) is the new attraction this year... and furnishes those desiring excitement with just what they want.”

“The roller coast(er) near the gymnasium is in operation during the day and evening. This exhilarating sport is being enjoyed by more people this year than ever before, and



HISTORIOGRAPHICAL

COLUMN BY JOHN WARREN

those who desire some real, genuine sport should try this novel machine. The Royal Scooter is in the care of a man experienced in such matters, and he takes particular pains in looking after the comfort of his guests.”

The gymnasium mentioned would not have been the Seaver Gym by Chautauqua Lake, which wasn’t built until the 1890s.

The *Assembly-Herald* maintained later in 1885: “Enthusiasm over the roller coaster continues unabated. The infection seems to have even attacked some of the older boys and girls who nightly make excuses to seek the high grounds in the vicinity of ‘The Royal Scooter,’ presumably to hear the chimes from a distance.”

Chimes? The Miller Bell Tower was not built until 1911.

Other local newspaper accounts effuse, variously:

“That noise which sounds like the roaring of a passing train of cars, is the roller coaster...”

And: “It’s a grand thing for the inside visceral. Just the opposite of seasickness, it makes you strong inside instead of weak,” an assertion attributed to a “distinguished professor of one of the Chautauqua schools.”

A skeptic may also note there is nothing tying the roller coaster specifically to the grounds of the Chautauqua Institution.

Perhaps the best evidence it was on the grounds is contained in a short article in the July 2, 1885 *Dunkirk Evening Observer*, which holds:

“There will be a new device for giving amusement to the patrons of Chautauqua this season. P.H. Weaver, of Jamestown, will have a roller coaster on the grounds, which is a circular railway, built upon stilts, one edge touching the ground and that opposite elevated high in the air; the runway having a track on which a car is placed. Starting from the highest point the car, loaded with people, speeds down the incline and gains nearly sufficient momentum to reach the summit or starting point. It is coasting without any walking up hill.”

“Chautauqua” was then, as now, often used as shorthand for the Chautauqua Assembly, or Chautauqua Institution. And “the grounds” lends credence to this being in the Institution.

In her 1940s-era history of Chautauqua, Rebecca Richmond’s briefly references the coaster, writing, “...for many years a roller coaster had remained on the fringe of the grounds...”

Did it remain in place, long after it stopped operating?

In a *Daily* column in the 1970s, the artist and journalist Maritza Morgan briefly references it, writing: “The roller coaster is gone, as are the horse and buggy shelters and the train tracks and railroad station which sat at the bottom of the incline in front (sic) my house at the bottom of Forest Avenue.”

Again, neither record notes the location or other specifics that might tie it more concretely to the Institution.

Oral history holds that the coaster was sold to Celeron Amusement Park at the south end of Chautauqua Lake. Other records maintain that coaster didn’t operate until decades later.

The location of the roller coaster becomes murky when you consult other records, including for a roller coaster database, which refers to the location of P.H. Weaver’s Royal Scooter as “Lake Chautauqua Park,” a generic name assigned to the predecessor of the Celeron Amusement Park, which survived well into the 20th century. Instead of 500 feet, the Royal Scooter at Lake Chautauqua Park is identified as being 2,500 feet in length.

Looking down from Palestine Avenue toward Norton Hall, one can imagine the incline — with the aid of stilts — could be sufficient for a roller coaster. There is seemingly no remnant of a roller coaster, until one pokes into a weedy area behind Norton Hall. There are three rotting 8-inch-by-8-inch posts, about 4 feet tall and spaced 8 feet apart. They are not arranged in a straight line like a fence would be, but rather in a triangle, straddling the trickle of water running down the ravine as it meets a culvert. Short lengths of rusted chain attached to the posts include irregularly sized wrought-iron links, consistent with pre-1920s vintage, before standardized production techniques.

It’s a tantalizing clue, but given Western New York’s harsh winter climate, it’s unlikely the posts — deteriorated though they are — could be 140 years old.

Records, including in the roller coaster database, put the roller coaster’s end as 1888. Nowhere in the *Assembly-Herald*, nor in other local newspapers or the Oliver Archives Center, is the end referenced.

But a short, lonely blurb in *The Westfield Republication* on Wednesday, Aug. 29, 1888 may hold the answer. The article reads: “The car of a roller coaster in Chautauqua jumped the track Saturday and several coasters were injured.”

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The Lincoln Park — a premier condo association located in the heart of the cultural mecca known as Chautauqua Institution. Just steps from the Amphitheater, you’ll have the best seat in the house — your own porch! Listen to afternoon rehearsals or evening entertainment and watch the world go by in this delightful neighborhood. First floor efficiency condo with private porch. Delayed negotiations on 8/14 at noon.

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CHAUTAUQUOTATIONS

OVERHEARD ON THE GROUNDS BY HEIDI WARREN

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

Surveying the lines for a Ken Burns lecture, one of which stretched past and wrapped around the library: Waiting patron: You know ... it's not like it is the Second Coming!

Woman: I voted for Brexit, but I didn't think it would go through.

To be fair, there was a swarm: Teen: Is that the "Ohio uniform," head-to-toe Ohio State clothes?

The Chautauqua hello: Lady to stranger: Do you come every year? Older gentleman: Oh no! Just the last 50 years, well, probably closer to 60.

Woman: We're on our way to buy some tickets for tonight. I'm not sure what it is, but I know it will be good.

Coffee klatch is life: Older lady, pointing to a sign: How much does it say coffee is? Friend: What do you care? I will just buy you a cup!

A millennial is walking a small dog: Stranger approaches: Friendly? Millennial: Very, but you might get licked to death.

Man, standing up from a Bestor bench: My ice cream is all gone, so I guess it's time to leave! Neighbor: Nope, it is just time for another.

Best Chautauqua lesson: Man: People with diverse opinions can still be friends and share in a calm and peaceful manner.

Squawk comes over the bus radio: The rain is starting. Driver, answering: That's OK, my shift on the tram just finished!

Like The Rolling Stones say, "You Can't Always Get What You Want": Patron: I'm sorry... do you know who I am?

Wife to husband: Why throw out the food just because you don't like it? It's not old or spoiled. You don't have to eat it!

A teenage boy joins an acquaintance and his mother at a Brick Walk Cafe table: Newcomer: Wait, what? You're 14? Teen: I know I look much younger. (Mom nods in confirmation).

Four thirty-somethings are walking to The Revivalists concert... Man: Isn't it great you can finally read tickets off a phone!"

Woman: Some people inherit money; I inherited good skin.

Sheldon Fund supports Silkroad Ensemble featuring Giddens

The Julia and Ralph C. Sheldon, Jr. Fund for the Performing Arts proudly supports Silkroad Ensemble with Rhannon Giddens at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Amphitheater. We extend our sincere gratitude for the Fund's generous commitment to sustaining excellence in the performing arts at Chautauqua.

Established in 1981 through gifts to the Chautauqua Foundation by Ralph C. Sheldon of Lakewood, New York, the Fund was created to help the Institution maintain the highest standards across its performing arts programming. This vision reflects a lasting belief in the power

of exceptional artists and performances to enrich the Chautauqua experience.

Through the Sheldon Fund's support, Chautauqua can continue to welcome world-class artists and present innovative performances that inspire, educate and bring audiences together.

Chautauqua is deeply grateful for the generosity of the Sheldon family and for the lasting impact of their commitment to the performing arts. Their support helps ensure that extraordinary artistic experiences remain at the heart of the Chautauqua experience for generations to come.

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Raynow, Daney-Holden support chaplain Boyle

The Lois Raynow Department of Religion Fund and The Daney-Holden Chaplaincy Fund generously support this week's morning worship featuring Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J., beginning at 10:45 a.m. Sunday in the Amphitheater.

The Lois Raynow Department of Religion Fund reflects Lois Raynow's long-standing dedication to Chautauqua. A Chautauquan since 1974, Lois has contributed her time, leadership and resources to the Institution, serving as president of the Chautauqua Property Owners Association, volunteering for the Chautauqua Fund and supporting planned giving. Her involvement has also included the Idea Campaign, Chautauqua London Conference and Eleanor B. Daugherty Society.

Lois and her late husband, Douglas A. Raynow, shared their love of Chautauqua with their children and grandchildren, who have participated in programs ranging from Children's School and Club to classes and summer employment. Through her generosity, Lois continues to strengthen the Department of Religion and its role

in fostering faith, learning and community.

Continuing this tradition of support for religious programming, the Daney-Holden Chaplaincy Fund was established in 1977 by Claire and Arthur S. Holden Jr. and Claire's mother, Mrs. Norman L. Daney, in honor of their parents. The fund reflects a shared family devotion to Chautauqua and its emphasis on family, faith and community.

Mrs. Daney and Mrs. Holden each spent nearly 40 summers at Chautauqua, while Arthur S. Holden Jr. served as a Chautauqua trustee from 1977 to 1985. The family's philanthropy extends beyond the chaplaincy to initiatives including the New Clergy Program and scholarships for students in the Schools of Fine and Performing Arts.

Together, these funds help sustain Chautauqua's tradition of spiritual exploration and meaningful worship, ensuring that opportunities for reflection, learning and connection continue for generations.

Moore Fund supports Dance Theatre of Harlem

The Moore Fund for Dance proudly supports the Community Gathering with Dance Theatre of Harlem at 3 p.m. Sunday on Bestor Plaza. We extend our sincere gratitude for the Fund's generous commitment to advancing dance and artistic expression at Chautauqua.

Established by Thomas Moore and Avril Barton Moore, devoted summer residents of Chautauqua, the Moore Fund for Dance provides vital support for Chautauqua School of Dance and special dance presentations throughout the season.

The fund reflects the Moores' shared passion for the arts and their deep appreciation for Chautauqua's unique artistic community.

Thomas Moore was a prominent marketing executive whose career included leadership of major consumer brands such as Cascade and Tide. His commitment to the

arts extended beyond Chautauqua through service on boards supporting organizations, including the Cincinnati Ballet. Avril Barton Moore shared his appreciation for the arts and contributed to the preservation of history through her work restoring historic homes.

Together, the Moores spent many cherished summers at Chautauqua, embracing the Institution's vibrant combination of arts, community and recreation. Their philanthropy continues that connection, helping provide opportunities for artists to share their work and for audiences to experience the power and joy of dance.

Chautauqua is deeply grateful to the Moore family for their enduring generosity and for their commitment to sustaining a vibrant future for dance and the performing arts at the Institution.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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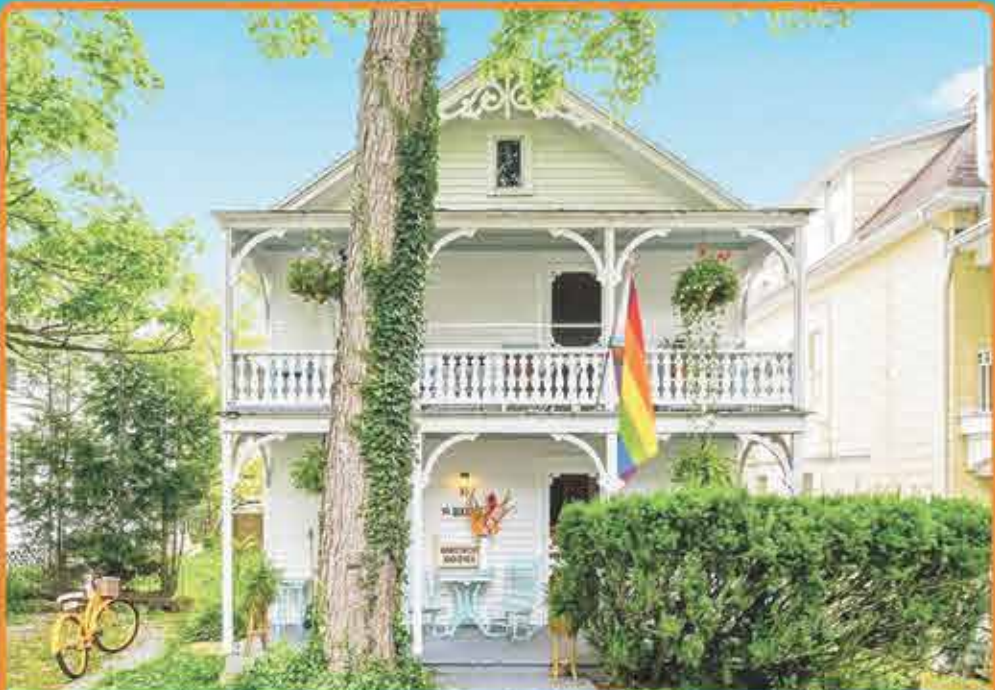
TEAM

POWERED BY Team VP

Welcome to the Buckeye! This historic Chautauqua cottage occupies a prime location, with a lovely private side yard, stacked porches, and entrances to each of the two units. Turn back the clock in this CHQ cottage, made famous by one of its guests - Chautauqua's first known Black lecturer, Booker T. Washington. Soak up the nostalgia of this largely intact, original cottage, appropriately updated over the years, all while still preserving its original character. Delayed negotiations Tuesday, September 8th at noon.



MLS R1708564



20 Center Avenue | Chautauqua, NY
Offered at \$495,000

Welcome Week Nine!
"Lets all enjoy our final week of the 2026 summer season! Home is where the heart is, and I am ready to help you call Chautauqua home today. If the time is right, contact me now and we can explore the opportunities together."
-Ruth



UNDER CONTRACT

Lincoln Park 2, Chautauqua, NY
Offered at \$295,000



UNDER CONTRACT

9 Ames Ave. Chautauqua, NY
Offered at \$625,000



JUST SOLD

47 Peck Ave. Chautauqua, NY
Closed at \$569,000

"I have worked with Ruth on the purchase or sale of 4 properties. She is the consummate professional in real estate in the Chautauqua Institution. She knows the market, and has an understanding of how to conduct business in a professional and timely manner. I highly recommend her on either side of a real estate transaction."

★★★★★ - David S.

5031 W. Lake Rd. Mayville, NY
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MLS R1680054



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PROGRAM

Sa

SATURDAY
AUGUST 22

7:15

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

9:30

(9:30–10:25) Hebrew Congregation Torah study. “Today’s Torah for Today’s Times.” Led by Rabbi Adam Meyer, senior rabbi at Temple Emanuel, South Hills, PA. Lower level of Hurlbut Church

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 Meyer and Rebecca Closson. Kiddush luncheon to follow. Hurlbut Church Sanctuary. Please enter on Scott Avenue

Su

SUNDAY
AUGUST 23

7:45

Episcopal Holy Eucharist. Chapel of the Good Shepherd

8:30

Worship Service. Hurlbut Church

9:00

United Church of Christ Worship Service. UCC Randell Chapel

9:30

Services in Denominational Houses

9:30

Christian Science Service. 12 Center

9:30

Catholic Mass. Hurlbut Church. 21 Scott

9:30

Unitarian Universalist Service. Hall of Philosophy

9:30

Unity Service. Hall of Missions

10:15

Coffee/Tea on the UM House Porch

10:45

ECUMENICAL WORSHIP. Fr. Gregory Boyle, S.J. Amphitheater

11:00

(11–4) Sew Studio Maker MeetUp & Hanks Yarn PopUp. Colonnade (Back of SPRUCE Home Store)

11:30

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

12:00

(12–2) Special Studies Instructor Meet and Greet. Hultquist 101

12:00

(12–2) Flea Boutique – Half Off Sale. Behind the Colonnade

12:15

Twelve Step Meeting. Hurlbut Church Marion Lawrance Room

1:00

(1–3) Alumni Association of the CLSC Class Connections. Alumni Hall. 50 Wythe

1:00

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

2:30

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

3:00

Community Gathering with Dance Theatre of Harlem. Bestor Plaza. (Rain location Amphitheater)

3:30

Chautauqua Writers’ Center Faculty Reading. January Gill O’Neil and Jimin Han. Hall of Philosophy

3:30

Jewish Film Series. “Among Neighbors.” Everett Jewish Life Center. 36 Massey

4:00

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

4:00

New Visitors Orientation. Hultquist 101

4:20

Cinema Film Screening. “Eternity.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

4:30

Children’s Worship. Hall of Philosophy Grove

5:00

Feast With Friends: Farm to Table Dinner with 3 C’s Catering. Fee. Bestor Plaza

5:00

(5–6) Newcomers Reception. 3 Taps

5:00

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

5:00

(5–8) Hebrew Congregation End-of-Year Celebration Buffet Dinner. Fee –\$65. Chautauqua Suites

5:15

Blessing of the Animals (weather permitting). Hall of Philosophy Grove

6:30

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

7:00

(7–7:30) Palestine Park Tour. Palestine Park

7:15

Cinema Film Screening. “Good Boy.” Fee. Chautauqua Cinema

8:00

SACRED SONG SERVICE. Amphitheater

9:30

Feast On Film: RATATOUILLE. Chautauqua Cinema

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“He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful.”

Luke 1:53-54 (NIV)

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Learn from each other

Bridge differences with understanding and build community

chq.org/dialogue



Chautauqua Women’s Club

EST. 1889

30 South Lake Drive 357-4961

Contemporary Issues Forum: Heather Ann Thompson, Ph.D.
“Fear and Fury: The Reagan Eighties, the Bernie Goetz Shootings, and the Rebirth of White Rage”
Saturday, August 22 at 3pm (Hall of Philosophy)

Chautauqua Speaks: Allison Hopper
“Laughter & Play: An Evolutionary Perspective on the Healing Power of Comedy”
Tuesday, August 25 at 9:15am (CWC House)

Buffalo Bound Day Trip: Landmarks & Legacy
Discover Buffalo’s history and architecture with CWC, from the Buffalo History Museum and a restored Lincoln Parkway home to lunch at The Garret Club and a backstage tour of the iconic Kleinhans Music Hall.
Thursday, August 27 - Register on CWC Website

Flea Boutique (Behind Colonnade)
Sunday, August 23 from 12-2pm (Half Off Sale)
Wednesday, August 26 from 12-2pm (Bag Sale)

Visit the CWC website!
chautauquawomensclub.org

Air Conditioned

CHAUTAUQUA CINEMA

At the corner of Hurst & Wythe 716-357-2352

Sat. 8/22 5:45

Sun. 8/23 4:20

PG-13

Eternity

114m

Sat. 8/22 8:45

Sun. 8/23 7:15

PG-13

GOOD BOY

73m

Sun. 8/23 9:30

Food Festival Special Event!

RATATOUILLE

G FREE ADMISSION! 111m

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

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Your input will help inform decisions made for the 2027 Chautauqua Summer Season and beyond.

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