

# Chautauqua Network

## News

June 2006

P.O. Box 28, Chautauqua, NY 14722

*The Chautauqua Network is a group of organizations and individuals committed to the communication and implementation of the chautauqua concept of building community by supporting all persons in the development of their full potential intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically. The Chautauqua Network facilitates interaction and communication among its members to further their preservation, growth and development. Mission statement adopted July 12, 1999.*

### **Seaside weekend is in store for annual meeting goers**

The Ocean Grove (N.J.) Camp Meeting Association (OGCMA) will host the annual conference of the Chautauqua Network, July 27-30. A menu of concerts, beach walks and Bible study are among the choices Networkers can make between business sessions.

The registration fee for the Chautauqua Network annual meeting is \$100. Annual membership dues for individuals are \$10. An organization's annual donation is \$50. The latter entitles an organization to a picture on Chautauqua Institution's Web site, [www.ciweb.org](http://www.ciweb.org), and a link to its own Web site. Membership in both categories includes a subscription to the *Chautauqua Network News*. ▶

**See detailed meeting schedule, page 3; Network membership application and renewal form, page 5; annual meeting registration form, page 6.**

### **Ocean Grove pictures enhance story in New Piasa's winter newsletter**

Two black and white pictures of tent life at Ocean Grove then and now, and a third showing a row of vintage Victorian cottages illustrate the appeal of Ocean Grove's historic role in the history of the chautauquas. The OGCMA actually precedes by five years (1869) the development at Chautauqua, N.Y. (1874)

The Chautauqua Historical Society of Illinois' New Piasa Chautauqua published these pictures and a page of historic information about Ocean Grove in its winter 2006 issue. Congratulations to Networker Tim Tomlinson, who edits the newsletter, for his generous promotion of the Network's summer conference. Tomlinson can be reached at [Trt1933@aol.com](mailto:Trt1933@aol.com) or by phone at 618-374-1518. ■

**OGCMA approves development of vacant lot next to Asbury Park**

The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association gave Wesley Atlantic Village Enterprises (WAVE) the go-ahead in late March to build a hotel, condominiums and retail space on its 3.2 acre tract on Spray Avenue that adjoins Asbury Park's Wesley Lake and casino. Satisfied that WAVE's plans are mindful of Ocean Grove's heritage, reported

### **Schmitz updates the Network on the Chautauqua Institution Archives**

Chautauqua Institution Archivist Jon Schmitz reports that the Oliver Archives Center has begun its second full year of operation. When the 2006 season opens, a new microfilm reader/scanner will be available for copying from Chautauqua's historic assembly newspapers. And there will be public access to a finding-aid database.

Schmitz credits the many winter volunteers for saving the Archives years of processing time. They have been archivally describing photographs and postcards. During the upcoming summer, work will begin on accessioning current digital records, which should result in the development of a single index and authority list to be used for all permanent records generated or acquired by the Institution.

### **Oliver Archives Center morphs from the opera rehearsal building**

During the 2003-2004 off-season, a transformation of the little brick building next to the South Gate took place. Having once been the carpentry shop, later the piano shop and more recently the opera rehearsal studio, the present Archives retains the original exterior appearance of the building while the interior and foundations underwent a major overhaul. The goal was to achieve a clean, safe and climate-controlled area for storing and using archival records for the use of serious researchers.

A bunker was constructed at the side of the old building to store the class banners of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle. The reason for this separate storage area is that textiles and some artifacts require different humidity and temperature levels.

The Chautauqua Institution Archives will continue to occupy a part of the basement in Smith Memorial Library on Bestor Plaza. There, the new Alfreda Irwin Heritage Room accommodates those who have a more general interest in Chautauqua's history, wish to use the most frequently requested records or to speak with staff.

### **House tour will include Oliver Center Archives; talks will relate to '06 theme weeks**

The renovated archives building will be on the 2006 Bird, Tree and Garden Club house tour. Visitors will see on display in the reading room the original restored clock works from the 1887 Pier Building and Chautauqua Institution co-founder and industrialist Lewis Miller's patent model of the Buckeye Reaper/Mower.

Archives-sponsored talks each week of the 2006 season will amplify in a historic manner an aspect of the week's theme. For example, in Week Four, the theme of architecture will feature brief talks on the Chicago World's Fair and a history of the Chautauqua Golf Course; Week Seven's film theme will feature early Edison films and a talk about the Chautauqua School of Photography.

The Oliver Archives Center will be open for researchers Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Schmitz can be reached at [jschmitz@ciweb.org](mailto:jschmitz@ciweb.org) or 716-357-6332. ■■

## Chautauqua Network Meeting Schedule Ocean Grove, N.J. July 27 - 30, 2006

### Thursday, July 27

2 - 4:30 p.m. Registration, Community Room

6 p.m. Reception with light buffet, President's House

7:30 p.m. Summer Stars concert, Great Auditorium

### Friday, July 28

8 - 9 a.m. Late registration, Community Room

9 - 10 a.m. Bible Hour, Tabernacle

10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Network session, Community Room

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

2 - 3:30 p.m. Network session

4 - 5 p.m. Walking tour of Ocean Grove

6:30 p.m. Dinner, program, Manchester Hotel

**Ocean Grove by air and auto: Newark (N.J.) Liberty International Airport then 50 miles via N.J. Turnpike and Garden State Parkway to Exit 100B.**

### Saturday, July 29

9 - 10 a.m. Bible Hour, Tabernacle

10:30 a.m. - Noon Network session

Noon Organ recital, Great Auditorium

12:45 p.m. Lunch, The Starving Artist

2 - 4 p.m. Free time (beach, shops, tours)

6 p.m. Dinner on your own

8 p.m. Family entertainment: Michael Feinstein and Linda Eder, singers of standard American ballads and show tunes, Great Auditorium

### Sunday, July 30

#### Founders Day Sunday

9 a.m. Beachfront contemporary worship

9 a.m. Communion, Tabernacle

10:30 a.m. Morning worship, Dr. Tony Campolo, Great Auditorium

**Accommodations: Contact OGCMA Administrator Dave Shotwell, [d.shotwell@oceangrove.org](mailto:d.shotwell@oceangrove.org) 732-775-0035, or [www.oceangrove.org](http://www.oceangrove.org)**

## **Mt. Gretna's Pennsylvania Chautauqua covers all the bases**

By Nancy Adams Besch and Suzon O. Kister

The Pennsylvania Chautauqua at Mt. Gretna is a vibrant summer community that attends to every facet of the "chautauqua concept." It offers a mix of religion, education, recreation and the arts in a wooded setting some forty miles east of the state capital at Harrisburg. Its programs begin Memorial Day weekend and end on Labor Day.

An open-air playhouse and the Hall of Philosophy are important venues for the Pennsylvania Chautauqua. Ecumenical worship services with distinguished pastors and professional vocalists and instrumentalists convene in the open-air playhouse from July through the first Sunday in September.

Both the Mt. Gretna Theatre and the Music at Gretna series utilize the open-air playhouse as well. The former is an Actors' Equity company that mounts five shows during the season, while Music at Gretna offers jazz and chamber music concerts.

An annual Cicada Festival of family-friendly programs also occupies the playhouse.

Many of Mt. Gretna's community events occur in the Hall of Philosophy. They include porch concerts, arts and crafts classes, book reviews, lectures, card parties, luncheons and exhibits.

In addition, there are professional organ recitals in a private home and an art show "under the trees of old Chautauqua."

Outdoor activities for all ages range from a supervised program for children at the playground, tennis courts, and swimming and canoeing at the man-made lake, to picnic grounds, nature walks, hiking and biking. The frosting on the cake are an 18-hole miniature golf course and a roller rink!

Continues on page 5.

### **From the mailbox...**

■ Kudos goes to the Colorado Chautauqua in Boulder for its designation by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton as a National Historic Landmark. See our newsletter story in the February issue. The Colorado Web site is [www.chautauqua.com](http://www.chautauqua.com)

■ Welcome to our newest organizational member, Chautauqua AVE!, Andrews, N.C. Located in the Nantahala National Forest west of Asheville near the Tennessee border, Chautauqua AVE! has set its annual events for Oct. 14-20. Their Web site is [www.chautauqua-ave.com](http://www.chautauqua-ave.com) or call 828-321-2273.

■ Music in all its rich variety is a centerpiece of the 2006 season at Bay View Association, Petoskey, Mich. The Bay View Music Festival comprises classical and popular concerts, master classes, Cole Porter's "Kiss Me Kate," Verdi's "La Traviata," and much more. Visit [www.bayviewassociation.net](http://www.bayviewassociation.net) or call 231-348-9551.

**Mark your 2007 calendars: Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, N.Y., will host the Network's annual meeting, July 26-29, 2007.**

**Mt. Gretna's story involves railroads and Methodists** continued from page 4.

The history of the Pennsylvania Chautauqua at Mt. Gretna is a familiar one to Networkers and students of the chautauqua movement. Originally a forest of chestnut trees that provided charcoal, Mt. Gretna developed when the railroad came through. In 1885, the Pennsylvania National Guard began a 50-year annual encampment there.

A group of Methodists and a group of United Brethren arrived in 1892. One considered the site ideal for a chautauqua similar to the Methodist original in upstate New York. The other saw a perfect setting for camp meetings. Almost simultaneously, the "chautauqua" contingent built an outdoor auditorium around which cottages were constructed, while the United Brethren raised a tabernacle, also surrounded by summer dwellings.

The Pennsylvania Chautauqua today is not affiliated with any church denomination. Furthermore, it is coterminous with Mt. Gretna Borough, a Pennsylvania municipality that contains more than 200 households.

The United Brethren eventually became part of the United Methodists. And under the sponsoring name of Mt. Gretna Bible Festival, they continue to conduct a separate season of programs in Mt. Gretna headlined 'Summer at the Tabernacle.'

Public lodgings, restaurants and shops form an integral part of Mt. Gretna. Folks planning a visit can consult its Web site, [www.mtgretna.com](http://www.mtgretna.com), or call the information line, 717-964-1949, for details. ■■

*Our own Chautauqua Network President, Frank Gwalthney, will stop in Mt. Gretna on July 26 to give a talk about the chautauqua movement and the Network prior to his attendance at the annual meeting in Ocean Grove, N.J.*

*Co-author of this article, Nancy Adams Besch, is a lifelong summer resident of Mt. Gretna and in charge of planning the ecumenical worship services. Kathy Snavely, elected secretary of Mt. Gretna's Chautauqua Board of Managers, also contributed to the article.*

**Support this enduring movement. Join the Network today!**

Copy or clip this form and mail to Network Treasurer, Betty Nelson, P.O. Box 28, Chautauqua, NY 14722. Make check payable to Chautauqua Institution, putting 'Network Membership' on the memo line. Full organization donation is \$50. Individual membership is \$10.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

## CHAUTAUQUA NETWORK 2006 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

Ocean Grove, New Jersey

**\$100.00 per person**

**(Fee includes programs and some meals, July 27-30)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Clip or copy and complete this form. If you are interested in a home stay, jot it down on the form with the requested dates; however, such accommodations are limited. Please write your registration check payable to the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association and mail both to Dave Shotwell, Administrator, OGCMA, 54 Pitman Ave., P.O. Box 248, Ocean Grove, N.J. 07756. For hotels, B&Bs, etc., visit OGCMA's Web site [www.oceangrove.org](http://www.oceangrove.org) or call Dave Shotwell at 732-775-0035 or e-mail him at [d.shotwell@oceangrove.org](mailto:d.shotwell@oceangrove.org)

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