The Chautauquan Daily

The Official Newspaper of Chautauqua Institution | Friday, June 28, 2013

STEVE MARTIN & THE STEEP CANYON RANGERS

LOCAL BLUEGRASS AFICIONADOS DISCUSS APPEAL OF TRUE AMERICANA MUSIC

JOSH AUSTIN | Staff Writer

Steve Martin has earned his bluegrass recognition at Chautauqua Institution.

Not that he has anything to prove.

After his sold-out concert in 2011, Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers return tonight, with singer-songwriter Edie Brickell, at 8:15 p.m. in the Amphitheater for another round of bluegrass and comedy. But Martin makes sure to concentrate more on the music than on jokes.

“Steve Martin, I think, surprised a lot of the audience [last time he was here],” said Vern Ahlgren, a local banjo player and bluegrass connector. “The audience had expectations for a big portion of it to be comedy, but he’s very cerebral.”

Ahlgren, who attended the concert two years ago, remembered the concertgoers were enthusiastic about Martin and the young Steep Canyon Rangers.

Bluegrass, often described as a close cousin of country, is what Ahlgren referred to as true Americana music. With Scottish, Irish, English and Welsh influences—and even a touch of jazz— bluegrass started in the mountains of Appalachia, which just touched and ends with western New York.

A member of the local band Wind River Band since the 1970s, Ahlgren said that one way bluegrass found its way to this part of the state was through radio and television (making a reference to “The Beverly Hillbillies”). He remembers listening to Nashville and West Virginia radio stations as a kid. Growing up with a lot of neighbors who listened to the same music, Ahlgren said that this part of the state knows its stuff when it comes to bluegrass.

“I have had an opportunity, playing this long, to meet quite a few people who have really had an understanding of [bluegrass],” he said.

Bill Ward, who founded the annual (now defunct) Bluegrass Festival in Mayville, N.Y., said that he and other organizers coined the term “chair snappers.”

During the festival, if there were anything other than traditional bluegrass music playing, he said, attendees would quickly snap up their chairs and leave.

Ahlgren said that traditional bluegrass, especially to the trained ear, consists of all acoustic instruments, giving it a well-recognized twang.

See BLUEGRASS. Page 4

WISEMAN

Wiseman discusses emergence of life, its significance

FREDO VILLASEÑOR | Staff Writer

Jennifer Wiseman is an astronomer who does not come to be in awe of the cosmos. At 9:45 a.m. today in the Amphitheater, Wiseman will lecture on the most recent astronomical findings of how the universe and its galaxies have matured over time, eventually making life possible on at least one planet.

Then she will ask — just as many other lecturers have in the past week — what is humankind’s significance within this vast and elegant universe?

“Through astronomy, we are learning how galaxies began to form billions of years ago,” Wiseman said, “and how these galaxies, full of stars and gas, have changed over time.”

When the universe began, the only elements present were hydrogen and helium — not enough to create life. But over billions of years, galaxies have become rich with a diverse set of heavier elements.

“The processes that make life possible are basically located within stars,” Wiseman said. “Stars have, over time, manufactured through fusion processes heavier elements like carbon and iron that enable eventually planets to form and eventually life to thrive, on at least one planet.”

See WISEMAN. Page 4

Three more views round out week exploring ‘Journey’

NIRO LANKA | Staff Writer

The Chinese symbol, pronounced “shen,” has two definitions: heart and mind.

Isn’t that concept incredible?” Mary Tucker asked in Monday’s Interfaith Lecture.

According to the teachings of Confucianism, the synthesis of heart and mind, or of feelings and rationalism, need not be viewed as separate entities. Rather, what feels right in the heart should affect what is in the mind — a humanitarian principle that shapes how Confucius, the first term to describe the universe.

Tucker will speak at 2 p.m. today in the Amphitheater. The lecture is free and open to the public. Tucker will also discuss Daoism and environmental ethics.

“Confucianism is one of the core traditions that says … you are cultivating your self not just for your own salvation or spirituality,” Tucker said, “but to give back to the world, and for the common good.”

See INTERFAITH. Page 4

REBUS

A renewed relationship with Earth

Representatives of all major faiths respond to ‘Journey’ Page 5

PHILANTHROPY

‘Meaningful, familial bonds’ Chautauqua Snoeren honors institution

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COMMUNITY

For you, a gift Why Chautauqua often seems just as you left it Page 5

NEWS

‘Chautauqua caught on film’ Archivist Schmitz to share historical clips of Institution Page 3

TODAY’S WEATHER

HIGH 70° LOW 63° 72° LOW 62° 73° LOW 64°

Sundays: 5:45 a.m. Sunrise: 8:58 p.m.

Saturdays: 5:45 a.m. Sunrise: 8:58 p.m.

Today: 9:50 a.m. Sunrise: 8:58 p.m.

Brown Bag to explain merit in research, ‘knowing’ in writing, Page 3

BRYAN KELLER | Staff Writer

Today’s Brown Bag lecture will explain merit in research and ‘knowing’ in writing.

“As you read through the research,” said Sorenson, “keep in mind that ‘merit’ is not just an academic or professional concept. It is fundamentally a moral and ethical one.”

Sorenson will ask the audience to consider the following: What does merit mean to you? How does merit apply to the needs of society? How does merit make a difference to you in your life?”

“Today’s Brown Bag lecture aims to help people reflect on these questions and provide a way of thinking about them with which they can make sense of their own lives and the lives of others,” Sorenson said.

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Briefly

Chautauqua Women’s Club news

• Emily Banslow presents on “Stacks and Stacks: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy” at the Contemporary Issues Forum at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Hall of Philosophy.

• The Women’s Club invites members to the Clubhouse from 2 to 5 p.m. today for mah jong. Bring your Mah Jong Mah Jong, enjoy a few drinks, and Mah Jong Mary Beth, who could be there, hospitality and enjoy the food and drinks the Women’s Club provides.

• Deadline is 5 p.m. four days before publication.

Chautauqua Purple Martin Chat

A 5-day-old purple martin chick rests between feedings. Naturalist John Guy from the Chautauqua Audubon Society has seen at least 27 purple martin nests here at the lake side of and photography opportunities. Bring chairs for guaranteed views of the baby birds from their nests.

Naturalist Jack Gulvin will lower the nests for close viewing of the baby birds. The Wildlife Department will close the area for this week. For more information, contact Lou Wineman at 716-357-5015.

For Rothe and Benesch, a friendship that’s grown with CTC

Seated in her director’s office, director of CTC’s Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Lisa Rothe has built a home here in an artistic home which actually feels like a second home. Rothe will be leaving the Institution next Monday, shortly after Cat opens. Benesch isn’t sure exactly when the director will be back, but she’s positive that she will be back at the helm of another show in the future.

“Say you can never go home,” Benesch said, “but you can be to an artistic home which actually lets you grow up is extraordinary.”

NORTH ENS AROUND THE GROUN

NEWS / THEATER

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The Chautauquan Daily is a weekly newspaper in Chautauqua, New York, published every Thursday during the summer season. It is a news source for the Chautauqua community, providing articles on local events, performances, and happenings at the Chautauqua Institution. This page contains a variety of stories, including news articles, features, and updates on events taking place at the Institution.
Tucker and her husband John Grim, who spoke at Thursday’s panel, founded the Forum on Religion and Ecology, a series of conferences and lectures on the connection between science and religion.

“We cannot solve the problems of science and policy are necessary but we cannot solve them alone,” Tucker said. “Religion is part of the dialogue, and they too are incomplete without dialogue between science and policy and economics.”

Confarison and Dan- ism both originated in Chi- cientists emphasize the “Das-” meaning “the way” a life force present in all ex- James Miller, associate profes- tor of religious studies at Queen’s University, will speak on Dasism versus the universe. Daoist teachings on the fluid, cyclical nature of life are founded on the in- "To be alive means to be be- and policy are necessary but- VIEW"(


dwellers.

"We cannot solve the prob- mienism both originated in Chi-

"The Bible doesn’t give us the full story of nature and the religious concept of the Dao is the personal. Miller
tells this distinct main reason for the clash be- tween science and religion: He added that he didn’t fully understand this difference before studying Dasism in his youth.

"I think we expect reli- gion to be things that are conservative or traditional or happened a long time ago,” Miller said.

"As new ideas surfac- e, Miller said, religions have a tendency to evolve. In many ways, Dasism is harmonious with evolution, teaching that all creation is related — a no- tion found in “Journey of the Science.”

"[Dasism] can provide for a kind of religious and spiri- tuality that is in some ways quite compatible with this modern scientific understand- ing of our place in the world,” Miller said.

In her lecture, Lisa Sider- is, associate professor at La- terrale study and dispel the idea that many conserva- tive Christians support envi- ronmental awareness in the name of purity, the inno- cent and the improved world. "Focusing on these values may not get you to a place of support but it may bring some sort of intrinsic value or sacredness in itself," she said. "But at least some common goals can be seen." Neither science nor reli- gion alone can satisfy na- tion’s importance, Sideris stressed, echoing both Tucker- and Miller.

The symbol for delusion cannot be understood without the combination of both defini- tions, and neither can the universe. It is the fusion of science and religion, the lec- tures believe, which unites them. "Science is necessary but not sufficient for informing and motivating environ- mental behavior," she said. "A healthy duality of religious stories and perspectives is needed to bring people to the discussion of nature’s value."

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Today:

The darkest days of winter, when the dog refuses to go outside and the air is entrenched with brown ice, the Chautauqua Season seems like an impossible dream, the one gift that’s too much to ask for.

Congratulations. Your gift has arrived.

On your very first stroll, it seems that everything on the grounds is just where you left it. That is part of what draws people back year after year. If this is your first visit, you may feel awash in a strange nostalgic déjà vu, as if you have been here in another life.

Hold on to this moment. It is a present, and a small army of dedicated people worked for months to wrap it up just for you.

Last week:

Gwen Papania is in her office putting the final administrative touches on the Boys’ and Girls’ Club, making the registration process as simple as possible for parents. She knows that Club is not just about giving kids something to do; it’s also about giving parents some time to themselves.

At the Sports Club, Troy North and two other workers are prepping the shuffleboard court.

“Are we stringing it up over the shuffleboard courts,” North said. “I think it makes it real comfortable out here with the shade.”

A woman with a white hair is strolling down South Lake Drive as North fastens the tarp to the frame. She stops next to the court and takes in the scene.

“Is it being worked or played?” she asked

North tells her that everything will be up, including the court by Sunday. She sports and glances down at the clean surface of the court before walking on.

Work trucks dog narrow roads better suited for golf carts and bicycles. Several streets are closed, blocked by old Chevy Silverados or Ford F-250s, some covered in check by a heavy-duty tarpaulin shade. Workers are prepping the shuffleboard court before walking on.

The streets are paved, the gardens are verdant, the kids are off to Club. You hopefully arrived to find a nice, clean home. Out on the lake, the E-Scow is cutting through the water at an absurd clip. At the YAC, kids are carrying fistfuls of plastic-wrapped confections and making new friends in a rapid-fire way that most adults can only envy. At the Sports Club, shuffleboard players are sticking around for one more game, undeterred by the weight of what she carries and the work she has done. She will probably never have her name inscribed on a building here. That said, for the family now living in the house or room she cleaned, she is crucial to their experience on the grounds.

Today, now:

In the words of the Flaming Lips’ Wayne Coyne, “Look outside; I know that you’ll recognize it’s summertime.”

The streets are paved, the gardens are verdant, the kids are off to Club. You hopefully arrived to find a nice, clean home. Out on the lake, the E-Scow is cutting through the water at an absurd clip. At the YAC, kids are carrying fistfuls of plastic-wrapped confections and making new friends in a rapid-fire way that most adults can only envy. At the Sports Club, shuffleboard players are sticking around for one more game, undeterred by the weight of what she carries and the work she has done. She will probably never have her name inscribed on a building here. That said, for the family now living in the house or room she cleaned, she is crucial to their experience on the grounds.

Hold on to this moment. It is a present, and a small army of dedicated people worked for months to wrap it up just for you.
"Where did we come from, and why are we here?" "Are we alone in the universe?" These are the grandiloquent questions that have intrigued humanity throughout the ages. Recent incredible advances in astronomy and physics are inspiring a fresh look at these questions.

This week at Chautauqua we’ve heard the astounding news from astronomer Natalie Batalha that thousands of planets outside of our own solar system have been detected over just the past few years, with their sizes implying that a significant number of stars in our galaxy have Earth-sized planets. Are many stars in our solar neighborhood harboring truly Earth-like planets, habitable or perhaps even inhabited? We don’t know, but for the first time in history we now see this as a question within reach, one we can investigate even within a few decades with the anticipated advances in technology. Thanks to NASA’s Kepler mission we now see how the Mars rovers are showing how our own neighbor planet Mars was once a habitable world with rivers and lakes.

With the heroic efforts of astronaut Scott Parazynski and his peers, the repaired Hubble Space Telescope has given us a view into deep space showing us how distant galaxies, peering from a time close to the beginning of the universe, compare to galaxies like our own. We are finding that the universe has changed over time, with generation after generation of stars inside galaxies producing heavier elements that became the foundation for planets and life in our own time.

In fact the fundamental physical forces that govern our universe have enabled our universe to progress into a birthplace of life that is thriving on at least one planet, and probably many others. We’ve even been dazzled to imagine the possibility of many other dimensions and universes that string theory predicts, as so incredibly explained by Brian Greene.

What does this mean for our sense of purpose and significance in the universe, our place in space and time? Here we reach a point where science cannot address all our questions. Scientific methods are great for advancing our understanding of how nature “works” — everything from subatomic particles and quantum uncertainties to the expansion of the universe and, to some extent, to the relationship between our brains, genetics, and our behavior. But that isn’t the whole story. If science tells us the “how” of nature, religion and philosophy address the bigger questions of “Why?” and “How should we live?” and “Are we significant?” In fact, it is this ensemble of knowledge and appreciation — historic, religious, philosophical, artistic and scientific — that gives us a fuller picture of what it means to be alive in this incredible universe, with all its beauty, mystery, joys, and sorrows.

For many, perhaps the words to the beloved poem and hymn “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” (sung to Beethoven’s “Ode To Joy”) say it best, as an expression of praise inspired by nature and faith. The poem’s author, Henry van Dyke, said in 1907 that it was a true expression of people “who know the thought of the age, and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy religion, or any revolution on earth overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore this is a hymn of trust and joy and hope”:

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.
This is the first time we’ve done robotic drilling ever on another planetary surface. We can actually tell, on the surface of Mars, if it was habitable.

— Kobie Boykins

Boykins said. Opportunity is still roving around the surface of Mars, collecting videos of dust devils, traveling across plains and discovering meteorite samples that scientists have concluded are from an unknown planet. Opportunity has also proved that there was definitely water on the surface of Mars at one time. The rover discovered a crater that once held a large salt ocean about four inches deep. Boykins then told the audience about JPL’s most recent project: the $2.5 billion Mars Science Laboratory rover, named “Curiosity,” which landed on Mars in August 2012. He described Curiosity’s most exciting feature: “We can get to Mars, if it was habitable.”

Boykins showed an image of the Mars Science Laboratory’s main goals. Audience members who were curious about the possibility of life on Mars lost the lecture satisfied that if Boykins showed a picture of the first soil of the rover analyzed. "We're going to take another year to go through all of the data, but the reality is that we believe in this exact first sample, in that area, Mars was habitable for life.”

Over the next two years, Boykins hopes that Curiosity will be able to explore Mount Sharp, a mountain region whose sediments could tell scientists more about how the Martian surface was formed. He ended the lecture with a short video clip showing a sunset from Mars.

“We hope one day, in the near future, God willing, and Congress figuring it out, that a human being will be able to wash Earth set from Mars,” Boykins said.
DEVIN GEROSE

Ben Sorensen is a man of service. Whether it’s service to his family, his church or his community, he believes he has a unique role and obligation to put his time and talents to good use.

Along with his Master of Arts degree in divinity from Duquesne University, he holds a Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School in America, to God and to his community. Sorensen said, “It’s a real privilege to be here, to work on a team,” and he has tutored students in reading ever since.

“When it comes to people, I have to be hands-on,” Sorensen said. “It would be a tragedy if anyone had to wait until retirement to find out what makes them tick.”

“We are here to love as God loves, to serve as others have served,” he said. “And he trains us to love our whole.”

Sorensen said, “I love that I have a chance to be in the world, to live in it and make a difference.”

And he Tracy to maximize the difference he makes by focusing on several areas of need in his community.

Sorensen shared that he often used the words “ironic roles models” at the Institute for the Study of American Jesus, where he was a visiting scholar and professor.

“When you’re in a position of leadership and you’re told to be a model for others, you begin to realize that this is not a fairy tale,” Sorensen said. “It’s a very serious responsibility. And you begin to see the ironies that there is in the world today.”

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One of the things that I’ve learned is that creation theology is not just invented out of the blue.

— LAWRENCE TROSTER
Rabbinic scholar in residence, GreenFaith Fellowship Program

"The vast new knowledge that modern science has led, expanded to apply to ecological sin. The theologian is reinterpretation. Can Christians, Eaton believes, retrieve creation from the new story of the universe?"

Eaton believes that Christianity must be brought together, as it was in Genesis 1 — a theologian who assesses scientific and theological crisis — Eaton has already decided what they want and do not want to see, so does the rest of creation. Another aspect of the Islamic perspective is that, in the journey of life, reading and learning are a top priority, even for the poor. Islam also urges its followers to carefully observe the world. Those who have already decided what they want and do not want to see, will not see it correctly. "People at least have to be neutral when they are making their observations," Eaton said.

Humankind’s existence is clear in the Quran. "Islam focuses on how religion and modern science can co-exist at the Interfaith Lecture Wednesday in the Hall of Philosophy. Troster believes that people need to ask themselves if modern humans need to ask themselves how they can maintain those ideas in light of what modern science has shown as — and what ‘Journey’ has shown up so far?

Rabbis, Troster said, "Our religion is not just invented in the blue. It does come out of a deep wells to carefully observe the creation. Eaton opened his part of the lecture, explaining the Muslim perspective of ‘Journey.’" Hamed, a scholar on environmental planning at Chatham University, suggests that there is absolute equality between all creatures. Just as humans exist in nature, so does the rest of creation. Another aspect of the Islamic perspective, Troster said, is that in the Quran, the Earth moves through space. "As you see the mountains, you think that they are firm and static, but they pass away as the clouds," Hamed read from Chapter Four. He believes that at the time, that passage was understood to mean that on the scale of judgment, God will explain things and the mountains will be flying by. Now it is known that Earth is orbiting the sun throughout space. The passage, then, is interpreted in a completely different way. "With that," Hamed said, "the last word I would like to say is that I think as Islam as an ideology and as a body of knowledge is capable of providing a holistic view of cosmology and a practical approach to deepening our knowledge of the universe."
An untitled piece by Heather McCollum appears in the foreground and several mixed-media pieces by Ani Hoovers hang in the background in a portion of the Visual Arts at Chautauqua Institution exhibition "Abstraction in America, part III" now on display at Strohl Art Center.

George and Marcia Rainsford also spent a good portion of time in front of Cooperman's lithograph. "What it All Comes Down To." The piece spanned the length of her outstretched arms.

"Far away, you see all the lines," McCollum said. "But up close, I like the collection of forms overlapping. They look like arms."
Abstraction in America, Part III: Contemporary Abstraction
Works on Paper from the Permanent Collection of the Albright-Knox Gallery
June 23—August 19, 2013 • Opening Reception Sunday, June 30 3–5 p.m.

The Leo Castelli Gallery has focused on American, and the artist’s visionary take on our time.

For an artist to live, you have to have dignity, strength, why is your life well.

Choosing the voice of the muse.

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