Murray analyzes happiness through lenses of family, vocational, community, faith

KELLEY BURFITT
Staff Writer

Charles Murray is happy. He has devoted his life to fighting for what he believes to be possible happiness and the impact of education, social class, and even pure circumstance on happiness. The core institutions and factors essential to happiness, he finds, are not lining up well for everyone in America.

Today at 10:05 a.m., in the Amphitheater, Murray will lead a discussion on social class and happiness as part of Week Four's theme, "The Pursuit of Happiness."

Although Murray's latest book, Coping Apart: The State of America, 1980-2010, dwells in happiness, what makes that work so different from the previous books is that it 'synthetically' presents all of his thoughts from Je Jeopardy! dealing with Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs, and Murray's own framework on the four realities of happiness. Murray's lecture will present them in a synthesis of his thoughts from Je Jeopardy! dealing with Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs, and Murray's own framework on the four realities of happiness. Murray will then discuss how the pursuit and achievement of happiness have changed, becoming different for each person.

See MURRAY, Page A4

Young Readers discuss 'Romeo & Juliet,' experience theater performance by CTC

KELLY TURNEY
Staff Writer

Adam McKimmon supplied William Shakespeare's tale of young love without the difficult prose and vocabulary of Old English in The Young Reader's Shakespeare: Romeo & Juliet.

Christina Literary and Scientific Circle Young Readers will discuss McKimmon's adaptation of the classic at 4 p.m. today in the Alumni Hall Garden Room. Representatives of Chautauqua Theater Company will visit the Young Readers to perform their own version of the play, which will be based on McKimmon's book and Shakespeare's original work on performance.

"We're doing a lot of work physically, as well as reading, writing, and speaking," said Marlee Koenigsberg, directing fellow at CTC. "This performance differs from other performances that the CTC produces in that the Young Readers version will not be in this weekend's performance because it's new."

CTC has spent time thinking about how to represent the text in a way that makes sense, while still not alienating those who are ready to read the original.
CUD Wastewater Treatment Plant and a-4 Session

Chautauqua property owners are invited to an information session on Thursday at 9:15 a.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy. Chautauqua Utility District's wastewater treatment plant to meet state and federal standards for discharge into the lake. Participants are invited to bring their lunch. For questions, please contact Tom Cherney, CUD superintendent, at 716-357-4137.

Chautauqua Women's Club news

• From noon to 2 p.m. today, the Women's Club tea bou- tique will be held behind the book store. Items for sale include clothing, jewelry, purses and household goods.

• French and Spanish circles will meet on the Chautauqua porch at 1:30 p.m. today for informal conversation.

• The Contemporary Issues Dialogues will be held at 3:30 p.m. today in Alumni Hall. This week’s present- er is Barbara Lundblad.

Chautauqua Film festival screening

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is screening “The Science of Lighting” at 9 a.m. today in Alumni Hall. The film demonstrates how modern lighting equipment helps enhance performances now being staged around the world. All CLSC alumni are invited.

CLSC Class of 2006 sponsors a Downton Abbey English tea in Alumni Hall at 3:15 p.m. Friday. This event is open to all. There is still space available. For reservations, call 716-357-6267 to be placed on the guest list or call the Alumni Office Center or call 716-357-4961.

CLSC Golf Club display

The Chautauqua Golf Club display at the Mid-Ocean Conference has been moved to the Colonnade on the grounds. Reserva- tions include a $40 donation to the Women’s Club and can be made at the Clubhouse or by calling 716-357-4961.

Artists at the Market

Artists at the Market is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays in front of the Colonnade on the grounds. Jewish Film Festival screening

The Jewish Film Festival presents a repeat showing of “Ahead of Time” at 3:30 p.m. today at the Everett Jewish Life Center.

Chautauqua Team Tennis

Boochschooled Chautauqua Team Tennis will be held from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday. Sign up at Chautauqua Tennis Center or call 716-357-4825.

Chautauqua Library and Scientific Circle alumni news

• James T. Dakin, president of Jim Dakin Consulting, Inc., a management consultant, and a recent graduate of Science of Lighting at 9 a.m. today in the Hall of Christ.

• Chris Flenders discusses “Sailing the Bahama Rock to Chautauqua” at 6:30 p.m. tonight in Alumni Hall.

• At 12:15 p.m. today, there will be a CLSC book review led by John McCredie on the Alumni Hall porch.

• At 12:30 p.m. Wednesday on the Alumni Hall porch, Pe- ter Georgescu will review his book “The Constant Hill.” He will also take questions at the end of his review.

• CLSC Class of 2008 sponsors a Downton Abbey English tea in Alumni Hall at 3:30 p.m. Friday. This event is open to everyone. Tickets are $10 and are available at the front desk at Alumni Hall or in gift shops for a garden tea. Tickets are also available at the front desk. A drawing is to be held at 3 p.m. to choose the winner. There will not be a need to be present.

• CLSC Class of 1999 will meet at 3:00 Thursday at the front of the Amphitheater. The focus of the discussion is CLSC 2013 selections, as well as other books members are reading.

• The Future Planning Committee of the CLSC Alumnae Association will meet at 4 p.m. today in the Kate Kimball Room at Alumni Hall. All CLSC alumni are invited.

Chautauqua Golf Club display

There is still space available for a special master class, “Life, Work, and Drawing,” by Margaret Androw today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for members of the golf club. Androw will discuss her interest in the visual aspect of her work, from charac- ter’s clothing to cover art, as well as her comic strip. She will create variations of “Pa- gaunt,” Brabham’s version including wide range of styles and keys.

• They are not simply fin- ger exercises at all,” Taylor said. “(They) vary every so, and it’s interesting, contrasting them with one another, they can benefit from me.

• Taylor will take selected movements from Olivier Messiaen’s “Visions” and combine them with a solo. Each contains a different aspect of his childhood.

• The eighth movement fea- tures his own imitations of bird sounds. Messiaen used this technique more frequent- ly in his later works, but quite exact.”

“...This is a very moder- ate, his voice is very very authentic sort of bird sound. And in a very stylized in the way that other com- posers imitate birds, too.”

• Lastly, Taylor will take on “Ce Soir,” No. 5 from the composer’s most famous works, 5 arranged by Liszt. Although some pianists may be hesitant to branch out, Taylor hopes his recit- al will encourage emerging musicians to do the same.

“There are a lot of pia- nists that are afraid of these works, and afraid perhaps of modern music in gener- al,” Taylor said. “I certainly hope to open their minds to these possibilities and just show them some tricks of the trade and the diversity of piano techniques.”

KELLY TURNUE
Staff Writer

The School of Music Voice Program will pay tribute to the five Strausses — Johann, Joseph, Karl, Eduard and Richard — at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Alumni Hall. The program features pianist and guest fac- ulty member of the Voice Pro- gram, will accompany eight student vocalists during the “By Strauss” concert.

Eliasen has chosen a selec- tion of light-hearted reperto- rie, such as a tender setting by Brahms, pianist and guest fac- ulty member of the Voice Pro- gram. “We have a family audience here in this country,” Eliasen said, “where we are going to learn something about foreign policy or eco-

Eliasen hopes the audi- ence will be able to enjoy the concert experience and not worry about anything else. The music happens when you don’t get stuck, enjoy and sit back, smile and find pleasure in it.”

The Chautauquan Daily

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

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On the Agenda

Rollelrdning
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**Letters to the Editor**

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM OUR READERS**

**Dear Editor:**

Anyone who missed the Rev. Tony Campolo’s daily messages of love, justice and peace in the Amphitheater should feel compelled to visit the Weekly. Further, why do Chautauquans need to be asked to respond to this message? The love for Tony Campolo and his daily messages has inspired and transported to a universe of sheer beauty! Many reasons I keep coming back to Chautauqua — to be with my family, to be comforted, to learn new things. Isn’t it a beautiful place, it’s like a fairy tale.

**Sue Evans**

**Dear Editor:**

Ira Cooperman has purchased a Chautauqua picture postcard from the Reporter, with outside and inside views of Elizabeth Lenna Hall. You may remember that this acoustically perfect facility was built in 1903 and is currently celebrating its 25th year of being a venue to a diverse group of performers. A gift of Reg and Elizabeth Lenna, it serves as a museum, concert hall, number music ensembles, recitals by such acclaimed instrumentalists as pianist Jon Nakamatsu, competitions by music students, cultural/musical theater reviews by Opera Studios Artists, as well as rehearsals of the Chautauqua Chor, Commu-

**Ira Cooperman**

**Dear Editor:**

Nothing wrong with Chautauqua that a 42-hour day couldn’t cure.

**William Bates**

---

**NARAYANAN MANI**

**MURRAY KURTZ**

“All this but this is only tem-

“Invest in yourself, for the

Dear

Dear

By A "Strange"

Kaye Lindauer

---

**READERS**

“We’ve taken the text from the book, but then also lay-

NARAYANAN MANI

“I wanted to honor that, because I think [McKeown]

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ONIGH

Wednesday, July 24 • 6-8 p.m.

**ACOUSTIC MUSIC**

by "A Strange"

Kindle Fire & Kindle Fire HD

Kaye Lindauer

---

**MURRAY KURTZ**

In his recent speech, Murray

Murray

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**ONIGH**

Wednesday, July 24 • 6-8 p.m.

**SOLOMON AND SHEBA**

Drawing from many writers of society, across many countries, explore the stories of a girl, a woman, or a man

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**Kaye Lindauer**

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DANCE

Evening of Pas De Deux: Couple makes trip to Chautauqua to fall in love all over again

NATALIE MAYAN
Star Writer

A dozen red roses, a sparkling diamond necklace, a box of gourmet chocolates. While these are all new gifts, it’s hard to beat the man who had a ballet created especially for his wife, to commemorate the first time they met.

Excerpts from *At First Sight* will be performed during the North Carolina Dance Theatre’s annual “Evening of Pas De Deux” at 8:30 p.m. Thursday at the Haircut Vaudeville.

In 2012, Sasha Janes, NCDT artistic associate director, commissioned a ballet from a man named Michael Tarwater. He wanted to surprise his wife, Ann, with a ballet revolving the first time they met.

Tarwater explained to Janes that he had an idea for a story that was especially for his wife, to put on earlier this season by Chautauqua Theater Company. Mark Diamond, NCDT program director, will preside over Janes’s “Ophelia’s Lament,” an excerpt from her ballet “Dirty Truth, Pretty Lies” performed in Charlotte in 2002. With musical excerpts from jazz standards, the ballet premiered in honor of his wife, Ann Tarwater.

Tarwater said. “But to be honest with you, I was right there with her.”

The couple has now been married for 10 years. Janes choreographed the ballet based on their story, and they continued to meet secretly for about six months prior to the ballet’s premiere.

Tarwater said. “I told Janes a story, and she added music and dance and made it come to life again.”

On the eve of her birthday earlier this year, Ann sat in the audience of the ballet’s premiere completely unaware of what she was about to see.

“I was not sure how much she saw of opening night because of tears in her eyes,” Morse said. When Watson found out that the ballet had gotten up on a party, she saw of opening night being no longer than 10 minutes, the audience had the chance to see the best of each ballet.

“Every time they perform the piece, it’s hard to beat the audience of the ballet’s premiere completely unaware of what she was about to see.

The Tarwaters will be flying to Chautauqua just to see their story performed on stage. Morse said. When Watson actually had a striking resemblance to Ann when she was younger, Morse said. When Watson found out that the ballet had gotten up on a party, she truly felt the similarities of their freestyle personalities. The Tarwaters will be flying to Chautauqua just to see the piece. Those roles have been exclusively performed by Watson and Morse since the piece’s debut.

Tarwater had shown pictures of his wife to Janes, Watson, and Morse before they had the chance to meet her. Watson actually has a striking resemblance to Ann when she was younger, Morse said. When Watson found out that the ballet had gotten up on a party, she truly felt the similarities of their freestyle personalities. The Tarwaters will be flying to Chautauqua just to see the piece. Those roles have been exclusively performed by Watson and Morse since the piece’s debut.

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The village of Mayville is the closest village to the Chautauqua Institution.

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32x1554 Page A6

The Chautauqua Daily

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

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Robert Putnam, professor of public policy at Harvard University, speaks about the growing opportunity gap between classes during his talk at the Chautauqua Lecture Series Wednesday, July 24, 2013.

Putnam: “STRENGTH PREDICTORS OF HAPINESS ARE SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS’

JESS MILLER | Staff Writer

A marriage can cause an increase in happiness equal to a quadrupling salary. Making a good friend is equal to tripling a salary. Belonging to a club can cause an increase in happiness equivalent to doubling a salary. And going on a vacation three times a year is the same as receiving a 10 percent raise.

"By now, the strongest predictors of happiness by far are social relationships," said Robert Putnam, professor of public policy at Harvard University. "Making a good friend can buy you happiness, but not much."

Putnam, who is the author of a book that has been a consultant to the past three U.S. presidents, said that while America’s happiness indicators have only dropped a bit overall, happiness indicators for one-third of America’s children have declined over the past generation.

"That’s how it works, puzzle," Putnam said.

What Putnam and his field researchers found is that the group of children who are happiest Americans all occupy the same social stratum. Putnam went on to illustrate this using data and a personal narrative.

"Joe" was a firefighter who never went to college and his nephew who was a graduate from Harvard and worked on an educational line. Putnam went on to college, received graduate degrees at Yale University and Oxford University. Currently a professor at Harvard University, "Joe" and his nephew lived in different suburbs of the same city in the same town — yet they could not be more different.

"Think about the Miriams and Mary Sues of the world, have lots of education, are the same age. Putnam said there are many reasons for these de- clining opportunities: the collapse of the working-class family structure, a frayed social safety net in working-class neighborhoods and a ‘savviness problem.’

"And Mary Sue did ab- tracts. She happened to be a strong indicator of health risks that lived in her trailer. Her grandchildren. Because of this group of the un- fortunate, they are all the same. Their parents never had a college degree or less. And their children are the same age.

"And Mary Sue did ab- ut the same. They both had grandfathers from the same school in the same town — yet they could not be more different.

Putnam said that this social mobility, or soci- oeconomic pattern that has developed over the past 30 years. The individual numbers that make up this data are conclusive: College-educated parents spent more time with their chil- dren, especially during their formative years. They spend thousands of dol- lars more per year on what Putnam called ‘enrichment expenditures’ — trips to the zoo, expensive daycares and summer camps. Par- ents with college degrees also place emphasis on eat- ing dinner together as a family, which has proven to be a strong indicator of health risks that many of the world have lots of people in their lives who want to help them in growing numbers."

"Mary Sue’s parents never had a high school diploma or less. And Mary Sue did ab-""Mary Sue’s parents never had a high school diploma or less. And Mary Sue did ab-"

Educational discrepan- cies in parents can also correlate with health risks. Children with two differ- ent educational parents have far more likely to be exposed to secondhand smoke and have a greater chance of be- coming obese than those of parents with more educa- tion.

"Increasingly, your chances in life are deter- mined by that one decision that you made — without really fully realizing it — as to whether you were going to choose college- educated parents or high school-educated parents," Putnam said.

"Think about Mary Sue’s future," he said. "And then, think, it’s not just one kid — it’s a third of our youth that are represented. I think this is a big deal.

Putnam said there are many reasons for these de- clining opportunities: the collapse of the working-class family structure, a frayed social safety net in working-class neighborhoods and a ‘savviness problem.’

"Our kids, the Miriams and Mary Sues of the world, have lots of people in their lives who want to help them in growing numbers," Putnam said.

"And Mary Sue did ab-"

"But the trends can be reversed. Putnam men- tioned huge investments in early-childhood education, which have proven to be a strong indicator of health risks.

"If politicians look at the problem from an ideologi- cal point of view, he said, through conservative ‘red’ or progressive ‘blue’ lens- es, they will be unable to solve it. Instead, Americans need to approach this as a ‘purple problem.’

"If it requires a lot of changes," Putnam said.

"But if we sit for it, we will all be happier."

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Kathi Millen | Staff Photographer

Robert Putnam, professor of public policy at Harvard University, speaks about the growing opportunity gap between classes during his talk at the Chautauqua Lecture Series Wednesday, July 24, 2013.

"We're not very unhap- py about people who climb up the ladder pretty far, be- cause we assume everyone gets on the ladder at the same rung and some of us are just better climbers," Putnam said.

But now, Putnam argues that equality of opportuni- ty needs to be people who climb up the ladder pretty far, be- cause we assume everyone gets on the ladder at the same rung and some of us are just better climbers." Putnam said.

"Unlike previous peri- ods, we've been through unprecedent- ally facing a crises that people in America are facing today," Putnam said. The Great Depression and World War II. People were physically abused and and neglected for years, his only companion a yellow mouse that lived in her trailer. Her boyfriend, who has two children with two differ- ent women, thinks he has a found a job for her as a model in Toledo, Ohio. Mary Sue and Miriam were the same age. They both had grandfathers from the same school in the same town — yet they could not be more different.

"Think about the Miriams and Mary Sues of the world, have lots of people in their lives who want to help them in growing numbers," Putnam said.

"And Mary Sue did ab-""Mary Sue’s parents never had a high school diploma or less. And Mary Sue did ab-"

Educational discrepan- cies in parents can also correlate with health risks. Children with two differ- ent educational parents have far more likely to be exposed to secondhand smoke and have a greater chance of be- coming obese than those of parents with more educa- tion.

"Increasingly, your chances in life are deter- determined by that one decision that you made — without really fully realizing it — as to whether you were going to choose college- educated parents or high school-educated parents," Putnam said.

"Think about Mary Sue’s future," he said. "And then, think, it’s not just one kid — it’s a third of our youth that are represented. I think this is a big deal.

Putnam said there are many reasons for these de- clining opportunities: the collapse of the working-class family structure, a frayed social safety net in working-class neighborhoods and a ‘savviness problem.’

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ty needs to be
Determined not to let the long carriage ride to Chautauqua, and wearing his most comfortable suit, President Thomas Jefferson was worried that he hadn’t dressed well enough for his lecture. But he was overcome by a wave of relief when he saw his audience in the Hall of Philosophy: Not a single head was covered — no waistcoats, no knee breeches, no stockings.

"Alas, it wasn’t really the fashion and style … [is that] rambled into the subject of principle," Jefferson said. "My point, lest you think I’m dressed," he thought to himself. Also, it wasn’t really the third president of the United States. Bill Barker portrays Jefferson as a professional character-interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg. At Monday’s Interfaith Lecture in the Hall of Philosophy, Barker portrayed Thomas Jefferson during Monday’s Interfaith Lecture in the Hall of Philosophy.

Colonial Williamsburg character-interpreter Bill Barker portrays Founding Father and former U.S. president Thomas Jefferson during Monday’s Interfaith Lecture in the Hall of Philosophy.

Colonial Williamsburg character-interpreter Bill Barker portrays Founding Father and former U.S. president Thomas Jefferson during Monday’s Interfaith Lecture in the Hall of Philosophy.

"Why should I apologize for the way I am dressed?" he thought to himself. Also, it wasn’t really the principal aim in writing the Declaration of Independence, the author of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom and founder of the University of Virginia. Those three gifts to his fellow man, as Jefferson called them, are what he hopes he’s been remembered for, not for the offices he held. Jefferson said everything he wrote in the Declaration of Independence he learned from reading the philosophers of Aristotle, Cicero, John Locke and Adam Smith. His principal aim in writing the Declaration of Independence was to lay out what he thinks is the “common sense” of the American Revolution.

"It is being taught on behalf of the common man to provide the greatest good for the greatest number," he said. "And to show the rest of the world … that the mass of the people are, by their nature, free. They are also good, born with a moral sense, which is really just good common sense, he argued.

"For we who endeavor to do good unto our fellow man, how does it make us feel?" he asked. "Yes, good. Is that not what we desire in our lives? Simply to be happy." Rawlings asked Jefferson, "Could you give us a sense of what was in your mind when you used that phrase that’s now become famous, ‘the pursuit of happiness’?"

"It was somewhat of an aberration, I cannot deny," Jefferson said. "Many were startled by it." The Federalists, he claimed, thought he went too far in using that phrase: Having happiness as a goal in itself can only lead to anarchy, they argued. "But where would they be more free upon this globe to purport that?" Jefferson said. "And at the same time, to be opposed to the list — ‘the pursuit of happiness’ — ‘the pursuit of happiness’?"

"My point being not to disregard property — which is protected, is it not, by our system of law — but to make sure we held it for our fellow citizen?” John Locke, Jefferson said, argued that all men have been created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty and the pursuit of property. Jefferson agreed with Locke, but he felt something else should be added to the list — “the pursuit of happiness.”

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“The Chautauquan Daily

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

RELIGION

The Hall of Philosophy audience applauds Barker after his lecture and Q and A as Jefferson.

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
BRIAN SMITH

Students from the Music School Festival Orchestra and School of Dance came together to showcase their hard work and talent Monday night in the Amphitheater. The festival dancers performed with an orchestra for the first time this season, mastering difficult steps with the grace and poise of seasoned performers.
Must one person’s liberation always be another person’s threat?

Bent at the waist, looking at her toes, the Rev. Barbara K. Lundblad began her sermon.

“She had grown accustomed to looking at her toes,” Lundblad said. “She could tell people by her toes. She acted like a hero of the story. Lundblad studied at Yale Divinity School and was ordained in 1970, when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968. She was called to ministry because she was on the bus in the 1960s, or ‘deaf to the poor.’”

“I learned to deal with that infirmity of spirit,” she continued. “She had learned to deal with the infirmity of spirit because she was in the process of ordination. She knew there was something better out there for me.”

“I knew her. She was a youth di-rector in a Lutheran church where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968. ‘I left the whole world behind, changed,’ she said. ‘I knew there was something wrong with my body.’”

“And that was the beginning of my faith journey shaped by who we see, who we don’t,” Lundblad said. “Faith journeys shaped by who we see, who we don’t,” Lundblad says. “Those are the things she would want us to think about when the door closes and we make such a world possible.”

“We are called to reconstitute the world, to work with God in a world where racism is alive and well, she said.”

“We need to cast our lot with the small group that is trying to reconstitute the world for peace and justice.”

“The handicap of cliche is just doesn’t work for loose-leaf lives,” she continued. “It is wonderful to be helpful in public, and also to feel helpful when you are at home.”

Revised by \( \text{Jill} \) and \( \text{Bob} \) Reiner on their home computer in Chestertown, Md., and a participant in the New Clergy Conference, read the Scripture, the Band, and become aware of new life and new ways of living.”

“Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his face in your times of distress.”

“We are called to reconstitute the world, to work with God in a world where racism is alive and well,” she said. “We need to cast our lot with the small group that is trying to reconstitute the world for peace and justice.”

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“We need to cast our lot with the small group that is trying to reconstitute the world for peace and justice.”
Magdalena Ondicova, a pianist student from Slovakia, has studied at Chautauqua for four seasons. “I would have had no way to come to Chautauqua if not for scholarships,” she said.

For example, Nicole Wei, a 28-year-old voice student from China, has studied at the Institution for three years. “I've come to know how to play for the future has been an awesome experience,” Wei said. Nicole lives in a small village of Hermannoven, which is very helpful and gives great advice. And playing with the orchestra is wonderful and instrumental in and of itself.

Playing in a great orchestra and playing the kind of music that I wanted to get to know how to play for the future has been an awesome experience,” Wei said.

Magdalena Ondicova, 27, has come to the Institution for four seasons, all the way from her small village of Hermannoven, in Slovakia. She is very helpful and gives great advice. And playing with the orchestra is wonderful and instrumental in and of itself.

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This summer, thanks to the generous support of this community, Chautauqua awarded $68,000 in scholarships against an overall need of more than $1 million. Off the total awarded, approximately $100,000 is from gifts through the fund dedicated for scholarship support, one quarter is from earnings from scholarship endowments held by the Chautauqua Foundation, and one quarter is from the general operating revenue of the Chautauqua Institution.

**Annual Scholarship Recipients (cont.)**

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**Endowed Scholarship Recipients**

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Anthony M. Kennedy, associate justice of Supreme Court of the United States, delivers a special lecture on the week’s theme, “The Pursuit of Happiness,” Monday afternoon in the Hall of Philosophy.

I

In the eyes of Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, Americans take their freedom for granted. As he spoke to the Chautauquans packed in and around the Hall of Philosophy at 3:30 p.m. Monday, he drew upon history and tradition to illustrate how vital it is that Americans engage in the discussion of freedom.

He admitted that in his younger years, he thought democracy could be given like a gift. He asked that some people think they can introduce democracy to a country, wipe their hands and say goodbye, and democracy will be magically “installed.”

“Democracy and the idea of freedom are not in your DNA,” Kennedy said. “You see if you believe in freedom. It’s one of the most beautiful pieces of prose in all of political history.”

But the most important document in American history is the Constitution, Kennedy said. He called it “one of the most brilliant documents in the history of human thought.” Despite the varying interpretations of its spacious wording, the document unites all Americans. He said that under the Constitution, one must understand the context in which it was written.

“In order to get through it, I read it backwards,” Kennedy said. “I've read a number of times, but I always see something new.”

By engaging in these documents — researching their writers, discussing them and reinterpreting them in a modern context — Americans can navigate an increasingly polarizing social discourse with civility and respect.

“I see in this nation a discourse that’s hostile, fractious, uncompromising,” Kennedy said. “That’s not the mark of a society that’s rational and probing and thoughtful.”

The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights says that all speech is protected. The Constitution may only control the government, Kennedy said, and the government cannot decide what thoughts in books or movies are “good” or “bad.”

However, Kennedy takes issue with ethical relativism pervading the American public's political discourse. He called it a philosophy in which “one person cannot insist on the correctness of his or her views.”

“We are reluctant to concede, we are reluctant to talk about the nature of evil and crime and punishment,” Kennedy said. “A society with a civic consensus must make judgments on what’s good, bad, beautiful, ugly, right, wrong. That’s not just your right as a citizen; it’s your submission that it’s your responsibility.”

Kennedy said his duty as an associate justice of the Supreme Court is ultimately to give reasons for how and why he interprets the law as he does. It is important to not allow the press to infiltrate the courtroom at its highest levels, he said.

“We teach, by keeping the press out, [that] we’re not justimum.”

Kennedy told the gathering that above all, he wants them to keep asking the difficult questions — the ones that probe into difficult matters — the ones that probe into difficult matters and encourage thoughtful conversation.

We teach, by keeping the press out, [that] we’re not just

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Lecture

Justice Kennedy: ‘We Must Know Our Heritage and Our History’
Boys’ and Girls’ Club Group 6 boys begin to row and bring their vessels ashore after an afternoon on the water.