



# THE CHAUTAUQUA TRAIL MIX

FORMERLY THE CHAUTAUQUA NETWORK NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2013

Frank Gwalthney, President  
*Ocean Park, Maine*  
George McCormick, Vice President  
*Lakeside, Ohio*  
Myra Peterson, Treasurer  
*Chautauqua, New York*  
Kathy Snavelly, Secretary/Newsletter  
*Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania*

### Delegates Gather at Florida Chautauqua Assembly

Former First Lady Rosalyn Carter, who has undertaken a rebirth of the Plains, Georgia Chautauqua, keynoted day one of this year's assembly meeting. Delegates from other Chautauquas in North America traveled to participate in this event. Displays were created on each Chautauqua by area school students as a part of the festivities. The Chautauqua Trail delegates keynoted day two. We look forward to sharing highlights of this event with you in the next issue of the newsletter! Kudos to Chris Mitchell and his fine team for an excellent conference!



### Mt. Gretna to Host 30th Chautauqua Trail Annual Meeting, July 25-28, 2013

It is Mt. Gretna's honor to welcome Chautauqua Trail members to Pennsylvania for the 31<sup>st</sup> annual meeting. At the intersection of four municipalities in Central Pennsylvania, their ungated community boasts multiple groups which host summer programming - including a United Methodist Campmeeting directly across Pinch Road which was also initiated in 1892.

Attendees may take advantage of traditional Network homestays or choose to book special rates at the Mt. Gretna Inn or the nearby Hampton Inn Manheim (adjacent to the Pennsylvania Turnpike). The schedule includes a tour at the historic Cornwall Iron Furnace, a Pennsylvania Dutch dinner, show and buffet at the Timbers Restaurant & Dinner Theater, special seating at the Gretna Theater for a performance of "The Wizard of Oz," and more. Registration is \$150 per person this year and detailed information can be found on the newsletter's final pages.

*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 (adopted July 12, 1999).*

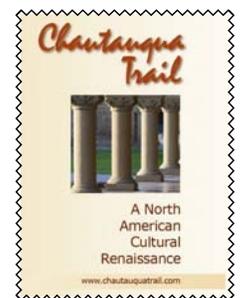
### Lakeside, Ohio Hosted 29<sup>th</sup> Chautauqua Network Meeting

Kudos to Kevin Sibbring, Mary Ann Hirsch, Gretchen Colon and their superb staff for hosting such a well-orchestrated meeting with picture perfect weather. Saturday evening, the event commenced with a lovely outdoor reception at the Drackett's home. Sunday's meeting opened with a presentation about "America in Bloom," by Jack Clasen, who has been working on this project with Lakeside (who won their category in the competition later in the year, I might add). All Chautauquas were encouraged to get more information on their website, [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org) and consider participating in their program.

Chris Mitchell gave us the exiting news about their annual meeting's keynote speaker, Former First Lady Rosalyn Carter, who is actively working to bring back the Plains, Georgia Chautauqua. He detailed the involvement of the National Park Service, and then invited representatives of all Chautauquas to share the platform with Mrs. Carter. He said they were discussing having individual student teams make up displays for each Chautauqua; we agreed this was a wonderful idea! *(Continued on page two)*

### Chautauqua Network Changes Name to Chautauqua Trail

The Chautauqua Network voted to change its' name to The Chautauqua Trail at their meeting in Lakeside, Ohio last July. This change makes our name consistent with the re-branding of our website last year. Our thanks to Kevin Sibbring and his team at Lakeside for outstanding leadership of this initiative.





(Lakeside - continued) We also took time to enjoy the Plein Air Art Festival and Annual Lakeside Wooden Boat Show prior to a dinner cruise on Lake Erie.

Monday's discussions included the following topics: the role of board and staff, Muskoka's Literary Signature Event, marketing the Chautauqua Trail, Chautauqua Trail membership categories, volunteer policies/practices, fundraising, social media campaigns and the National Registry of Historic Places.

The minutes of last year's meeting in Michigan were approved with corrections. And the 2011-2012 officers were elected to serve through our 2013 annual meeting.

The Pedaling Parsons, represented by Margo and George Fretz and Bud Cox gave a detailed description of the process of planning their trip and it's execution. The "trail" led them from grand departure celebration with a police escort from Lakeside, Ohio to Myra Peterson's warm welcome in Chautauqua, New York.



Dock or Hoover Auditorium, lectures by our own Betsy Harvey, Quaker Pastor and Author (continued, next column)

Attendees could choose to attend many other activities, including a performance of the Ohio State University Alumni Band, worship services at Lakeside's

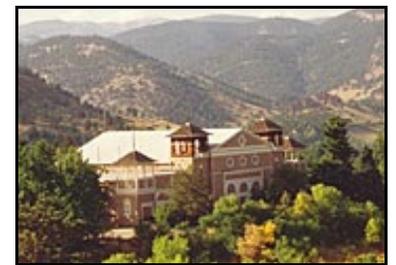
Dr. Philip Gulley. Emmy-Winning CBS News Correspondent Steve Hartman, a long time Lakesider, presented a very heartfelt program on growing up in Lakeside, which we all enjoyed very much.

Kudos to Lakeside for making us feel so welcomed into their very special community! (Photos for this story include a group photograph of those attending the annual meeting in front of Hoover Auditorium and a shot inside Hoover.)

**Report: Colorado Chautauqua**

*submitted by Anne Obenchain, July 2012*

2012 was another tremendous year at the Colorado Chautauqua, with many projects brought to fruition as we continue to work to ensure the continuing relevance and long-term sustainability of our beautiful National Historic Landmark in Boulder.



July is our single busiest month of the year, in every respect, with some particular excitement this year caused by both fire and rain. We try to handle

it all with grace and smiles, always seeking to create for our guests, residents and even occasional visitors a true experience of respite and enrichment. We modify our thinking and practices with each new learning experience – our commitment to continual improvement in our policies and operations.

The first half of summer 2012 has been characterized by some unusual and to an extent unprecedented environmental events. Following what had already been a very dry and warm spring, we experienced an intense and prolonged heat wave, including several consecutive days over 100 degrees. This, combined with an ongoing lack of appreciable precipitation, created tinderbox conditions that generated a number of wildfires throughout Colorado and the western U.S. One of these fires, the Flagstaff Fire, the week of June 25 was in fairly close proximity to the south of Chautauqua, and had all of our residents, guests and staff on the edge of our collective seats for a few days, including preparing for possible evacuations. The anxiety level was raised a notch higher when a lightning strike on the afternoon of June 28 caused an additional small fire immediately above Chautauqua near the top of the First and Second Flatirons, although this (continued on the next page)



fortunately was fairly quickly brought under control. Starting with the High Park Fire, which was a huge fire that erupted on

June 9, burning over 80,000 acres and many homes to the north in Larimer County, the entire Front Range area including Boulder experienced almost continuous smoke and haze of varying intensity throughout the rest of June, occasionally reaching levels sufficient to prompt health alerts being posted.

Summer monsoonal thunderstorms arrived the first weekend in July, providing welcome relief from the heat, smoke and drought. It remains to be seen whether this represents a return to more typical weather patterns for the remainder of the summer or only a temporary respite. Even these welcome storms were somewhat a mixed blessing, as they caused some flooding in a few of our buildings and considerable debris cleanup required the following day.

Although all of this has certainly had impact to our Operations in a variety of ways, we have overall remained amazingly resilient, including no need for cancellations of any concerts or other events. There certainly has been some immediately discernable impact to our Lodging business, although it is probably still too early to try and draw definitive conclusions as to what extent the events of this summer have negatively affected business levels for Chautauqua, Boulder and all of Colorado in the hospitality, tourism, entertainment and other related markets.

Needless to say, the events of June this year provided additional validation to the need and urgency of the wildfire mitigation and emergency preparedness programs we initiated earlier in the year. Even with the proactive efforts that had already been made toward establishing emergency preparedness protocols, information, and communications, the Flagstaff Fire event provided us with a valuable, real-time learning experience from which further refinements were made. Although additional work remains to be completed, we are pleased with the progress made to date in creating defensible space and reducing combustible fuels (limbs, underbrush, accumulated debris, etc.) in and around our campus and buildings.

We have recently completed *(continued in the next column)*

the rehabilitation of the Waterwise Garden, which included planting of over 900 plants and the installation of a new irrigation system, employing high-efficiency equipment that will conserve water and is further aligned with our many environmental initiatives. Our cottage-wide compost program is also in full swing and meeting with success and enthusiasm from our guests.

Our newly deployed software combining our ticketing and development functions launched successfully this spring and continues to provide improved and streamlined patron services. We will also be completing campus-wide wifi upgrades this fall—no small feat due to the varied and treed terrain!

We have also been working across many departments to comply when possible to the new ADA requirements that went into effect earlier this year.



*The Colorado Chautauqua's Waterwise Garden*

As the only year-'round chautauqua, we are busy wrapping up our programming for Oct through April and look forward to offering a robust selection of concerts, theatre hikes, and author, science and history forums. Come visit! [www.chautauqua.com](http://www.chautauqua.com)

**Report: Chautauqua, New York**

*by Matt Ewalt; submitted by Myra Peterson, September 2012*

In his traditional Three Taps of the Gavel to close Chautauqua Institution's 138<sup>th</sup> season, President Tom Becker shared his personal highlights of this summer's program. "Sixty-five days ago we opened this season with a prayer for a listening heart so that we might be better citizens, better people and through our strivings create a more just world," Becker said. "We must be critical thinkers and expose our ideas to different views on important subjects. We must be empathetic and thereby train ourselves to perceive the world and the human condition beyond our personal experience. We must be willing to put our self-interest in sway with that of the common good. We must be generous with our resources, our thoughts, our actions and our hearts. We must be in stern opposition to injustice and hatred." *(continued, page 4)*

(continued from previous page) Among the many programs offered during Week One of the 2012 Season was an afternoon conversation in the Hall of Philosophy between author and morning Amp speaker Roger Rosenblatt and the week's Interfaith Lecturer, Bishop Jack Spong, on the subject of grief and loss.

“Within that pocket of Chautauqua time, Roger’s devastating loss of his daughter found expression in hundreds of different lives there gathered,” Becker said in his Three Taps speech. “The conversation of how to orient such devastation to one’s relationship to God also opened to the myriad complexities of how each of us faces that challenge.”



Journalist Jim Lehrer’s Fourth of July speech will be remembered for the gale-force winds that blew rain sideways through the Amphitheater (he received a commemorative T-shirt marking the occasion at the end of the week). Lehrer’s conversations on “What Informed Voters Need to Know” were hugely popular in what was the best-attended week of the season.

Week Four, in partnership with National Geographic, was dedicated to water issues both globally and locally: a Water Fair on Bestor Plaza brought together groups from around the region to address health issues facing Chautauqua Lake, and Chautauqua broadcast its first-ever live-streamed lecture, featuring marine biologist Sylvia Earle from a submarine off the coast of Key West.



A season of “firsts” also included the world premiere of Kate Fodor’s “Fifty Ways,” a play commissioned by Chautauqua Theater Company and Chautauqua Writers’

Center; and a ceremony presenting (continued, next column)

(continued) the first Chautauqua Prize to Andrew Krivak, author of *The Sojourn*. The Chautauqua Prize is a national prize which celebrates a book that provides a (continued in the following column) richly rewarding reading experience and honors the author for a significant contribution to the literary arts.

To close the season, lifelong Chautauquan Nancy Gibbs, joined by her colleague at *Time* magazine Michael Duffy, led a week on presidential history based on the work featured in their book *The Presidents Club*.

The work of Chautauqua School of Music’s Instrumental and Voice students was on full display with the production of *Der Rosenkavalier* in the Amphitheater on Aug. 6. The Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra and Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus collaborated for Brahms’ *Requiem*, and the CSO performed the world premiere of a new work for violin and orchestra by composer Michael Colina titled *Baby Yaga: Fantasia for Violin and Orchestra*. The Visual Arts at Chautauqua Institution continued its three-year series on American Abstraction in conjunction with the Albright-Knox ArtGallery in Buffalo, New York.

With the closing of the 2012 Season, Becker also announced that the Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, director of the Department of Religion, will retire following the completion of the 2013 Season.

**Report: Ocean Park, Maine,  
Chautauqua-by-the-Sea**

submitted by Frank Gwalthney, August 2012

(some excerpted from the 2012 Ocean Park Association Booklet)

Ocean Park is 132 years of history and heritage. It is an opportunity for people of all ages and families of all sizes to vacation and learn, to worship and play, to enjoy and celebrate. It is a retreat to the quiet of the pines and the beach where the spirit is renewed and life is affirmed.

Ocean Park was founded in 1881 by Free Will Baptist\* leaders as an interdenominational summer assembly. The 2012 Assembly Program is comprised of religious, cultural, educational, and recreational activities and special events, known as the “four pillars” by fellow chautauquans. The Assembly Program is under the auspices of the Ocean Park Association, which defines and creates Ocean Park’s unique character.

Assembly activities center (Continued on the following page)

(Ocean Park - continued) around Temple Square, where The Temple, Porter Hall, Jordan Hall and The Bell Tower are located. The Temple was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Built in 1881 in just 6 weeks, it was originally known as The Way of the Light Temple, is a wooden, octagonal building, 80' in diameter that will seat up to 750 people. Sunday morning worship services are held here at 10:30 am throughout the summer. It is also the site of many cultural events.



In 1982, the other buildings were added to form an historic district called the Ocean Park Historic Buildings. **Porter Memorial Hall** was dedicated on August 4, 1902. It is used for

Morning Watch sessions for many other meetings and discussion groups. Porter Hall also houses the Ocean Park Historical Room which is open to the public. **Jordan Hall** was dedicated on July 19, 1915. It is used for meetings, concerts and dramatic presentations. Sunday nursery care and Sunday School are also held here. **The Temple Garden & Pergola** is a garden arbor and labyrinth (a meditative path) that leads to the Pergola. **Memorial Library**, built in 1924, is located in Furber Park where a band stand originally stood. **Jakeman Hall**, built in 1977, is the organizational center of Ocean Park, housing the Ocean Park Association Office, Ocean Park Realty Offices, The Ocean Park Post Office, and a meeting area. **The Agnes L Park Recreation Building**, built in 1949, is the center of youth programs/activities. Across the street



are the Ocean Park Tennis Courts and a children's playground. These two sites, along with The Shuffleboard Courts, form the center of our recreation programs.

*\*The Free Will Baptists were the social liberals of the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their two colleges Hillsdale in Michigan and Bates in Maine had in their charters that they were institutions to educate men and women of all races together. They were part of the "radical Republicans" who help elect President Abraham Lincoln. Ocean Park has a long history of diverse preachers, priests, nuns and rabbis in the pulpit along with diverse speakers for all other programs.*



### Report: Chautauqua, Wawasee

*Ann Strong, September 2012*

After over 25 years of dreaming and four years of sharing that dream, active planning and gathering support, Chautauqua, Wawasee was founded in 2011. The dream originated from my visit to the Chautauqua Institution over 25 years ago and a subsequent visit to Oakwood Park in Syracuse, Indiana, on the shores of Lake Wawasee. It is the largest natural lake in the state, which is also beautiful and historic. The United Methodist Church of the Indiana Conference owned and was using the property. After the hotel was closed because of unprofitable operations and legal matters, the judge appointed a receiver to sell the property. I told him about my dream and he agreed that the Chautauqua concept is indeed appropriate use of the fine hotel, two large conference centers, outdoor amphitheater, recreational field, playground, and other appropriate amenities. The entire grounds include individually owned homes in a defined area.

The Chautauqua, Wawasee momentum is shared by Oakwood property owners, vacationers around the lake, and residents of Syracuse, Indianapolis, Ft. Wayne and surrounding towns. Many people have had Chautauqua-type activities and ideas in mind. The leadership role of the founder is indeed now that of facilitator for stewardship of the property, people's interests, the unique location, local energy, avid dedication for property use and Chautauqua's relevant programming of inspiration and information. I sincerely believe that there is a need for this oasis of hope.

During the first year (2011), Chautauqua, Wawasee offered four programs over two weeks, one program featuring each of the four pillars:

**Arts** -- The Ft. Wayne Philharmonic outdoor concert was scheduled for the opening season, but lightning interfered during the musicians' warm up and the concert was canceled for the many patient fans. (Continued on the next page)



*(Wawasee, continued)* **Education** -- In preparation for the next year's study of Eli Lilly's book, "Early Wawasee Days," two highly respected octogenarians shared memories as did many of the attendees who spontaneously brought "show and tell" items. By popular demand, the session continued the next year.

**Religion** -- Kent Millard, popular senior minister of St. Lukes' Methodist Church, Indianapolis and renowned international spokesperson, told of the earlier Chautauqua in close-by Warwaw, IN. He thrilled the audience by relating his moving story of the "Jesus message" he received from a young Native American during a Pow Wow that they had sponsored in the West.

**Recreation** -- The traditional road race was allowed to use Oakwood Park roads for the first time, honoring a long standing wish. A disk jockey played "Chariots of Fire" as property owners cheered and clapped for the runners.

During the second year (2012), we offered 20 programs during five weekends. Since the property had not yet sold, there were no hotel rooms available for weekday vacationers. Therefore, programs were designed so that participants could commute from their residences or vacation homes.



*(Wawasee, continued)* **Arts** -- Four Artistic Evenings, featuring three Indiana artists and a renowned pottery collector, two Fort Wayne Philharmonic concerts, and three crafts for children coordinated with adult education

**Education** --Four presenters in a series loosely based on Eli Lilly' book, "Early Wawasee Days" about area geological formation, Native Americans, Pioneers and participants' sharing family and neighborhood history

**Religion** --Three sessions in featuring presenters of the Amish, Mennonite and Quaker faiths

**Recreation** --Traditional run through Oakwood, with a water station and disk jockey provided on the property; traditional bicycle outing SAG sponsor and lunch provided for participants

Future plans are tentative, but loaded with ideas for 2013. If the projected property closing happens this autumn and the buyer indeed opens the hotel in the spring, the Planning Committee is ready to offer a full week of programming. During the week, that the Institution, Lakeside and Chautauqua, Wawasee could be on a three stop Chautauqua tour. There will most likely also be a bus coming from Indianapolis. Potential programs include optional short day trips to areas of national interest. Favorite weekend events will be continued.

I am humbled and ecstatic that the dream has come true and am very grateful to all who have helped to make it possible.

**Report: Mt. Gretna,  
the Pennsylvania Chautauqua**

*Kathy Snavelly, October 2012*

The Mt. Gretna Arts Council opens the season with their Premiere the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, featuring hor d'oeuvres and auctioned art (which pays for the publication of the summer calendar). The Pennsylvania Chautauqua participates in a community wide "Porch Sale" that weekend, but officially kicks off its season the following weekend. Friday evening is spent on a historical program, highlighting some facet of a program based on our early seasons. Saturday evening, we host a community potluck at the Mt. Gretna Fire Hall, inviting representatives from the other dozen groups that host programs across the community; we highlight the diverse selection of programs available over the summer. *(Continued on the following page)*

And Sunday morning, we re-create one of the worship services from the early 1900s in the Hall of Philosophy, following the exact order published in a bulletin from that time.

In June, July and August, there were over 150 programs from which to choose, including:

- four different programs in our Wellness Series
- an Art Education Series on the Dr. Alpert Barnes Foundation Collection, a visiting exhibit at the Philadelphia Art Museum
- Playwright Larry McKenna, previewing his show, "Burt & Me," (as in Burt Bacharach) prior to its' run at the Gretna Theater
- several playreadings, featuring the works of Maureen Grape and Eton Churchill
- Village of Hope, Uganda: A Story of Hope & Redemption
- The Mt. Gretna Writer's Series
- Lincoln & Grant: The Westerners Who Won the Civil War, with author Edward Bonekemper
- From Vines to Wines, with the Waltz Vineyard
- Great Migrations: The Birds Who Fly Through PA
- Four historical presentations, hosted by the Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society
- the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, featuring the Rehrersburg Community Band with the Grand Illumination of Mt. Gretna
- three hikes: a family hike, one with the Mushroom Man, and another learning about Mt. Gretna trees
- Children's Performances, co-sponsored with Summer at the Tabernacle, including performer Jim Rule, storyteller Kristin Pedemonti, and writer Bonnie Siegrist
- our annual Fairy Garden Parade



- Kid's Art Camp (where they painted gourd birdhouses, tie-dyed backpacks, and more)
- Sunday mini-concerts with Fire in the Glen or the Carroll County Ramblers

- Book Reviews, hosted by Lebanon Valley College Faculty
- July Wednesday evening Old Tyme Film Festivals (*A Summer of Love: Great Movie Romances* featured Casablanca, Gilda, Notorious, and The Quiet Man)
- One of our Religious Discussion Series (*Religion and the Rise of Modern Science* with Dr. Edward Davis, *Heaven is for Real* with Kathy Snaveley, or *The Passion, Death & Resurrection of Jesus Christ*, with author Rev. Darrell Woomer)
- one of our Thursday Evening July organ concerts, hosted by Peter Hewitt & Walter McAnney in their home
- The Annual Chautauqua Birthday Party (based on what we experienced at our Network meeting in Chautauqua, NY)



One of the highlights of our summer is Chautauqua University for a Day. After consuming blueberry buckle fresh from the oven, Dr. Steve Moyer presented, "Family

*Business as More Than an Economic Driver: The Challenges of Transition*," followed by the popular Dr. Sebastian Gorka (pictured above), whose topic this year was "America's National Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Chef-on-the-Go Becky Briody catered our luncheon, which was followed by an additional two sessions: "2011: The Year of the Earthquake, Flood and Tornado" with Dr. John Scala and Jack Graham, President Emeritus, presenting "America's Oldest: Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theater." Dr. Jody Dosh and Bart Kaminski, from the Lebanon Valley Wine Club, closed the day with our annual wine and cheese-tasting.

Thanks to inspiration from Julie Snyder at Epworth (who credits Bay View for inspiring them), we held our first silent auction at the Mt. Gretna Outdoor Art Show. Ceylon Leitzel was the high bidder for artist Barb Kleinfelter's folk-art painted matching rockers.



## *A Visit to Ocean Grove, New Jersey*

*Submitted by Frank Gwalthney*

In mid-October, I traveled from Woodbury, NJ to Ocean Grove, NJ to meet with Dave Shotwell (former Interim COO and host of the Chautauqua Network in Ocean Grove in 2000), Ted Bell, and Interim Chief Operating Officer, Ralph del Campo. It was wonderful opportunity to acquaint Ralph with The Chautauqua Trail and to reacquaint Dave and Ted with The Chautauqua Trail, formerly known as The Chautauqua Network. The topics of discussion were wide ranging. We covered such areas as the purpose of The Chautauqua Trail, how attending meetings gives insight on the opportunities that North America's other Chautauquas face/share, how the summer meetings give all an opportunity to see other chautauquas in action, and, in general, the knowledge and insights that are shared whether as part of an official meetings, social gatherings, or from interacting with the hosts of the homestays.



*The Main Entrance to Ocean Grove's Auditorium*

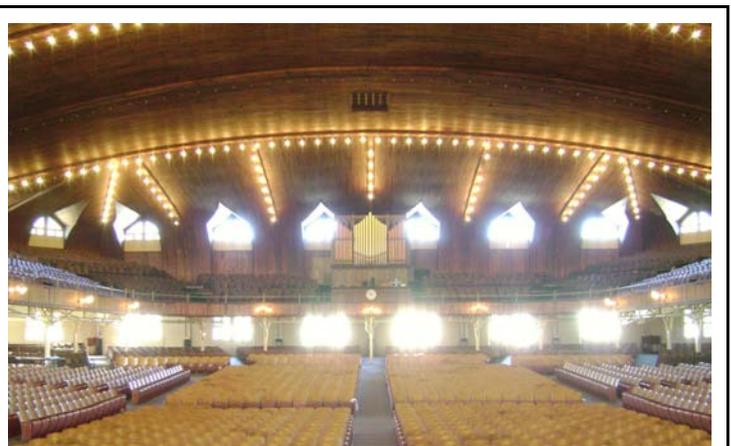


*This is the stage inside the Auditorium - in the "off season"*

It is also nice to see a fellow Chautauqua site without all of the frenzied activities of the summer. Can you imagine having a two hour casual conversation like this, during the summer without constant interruptions? No, neither can I.

When the Chautauqua Network met there in 2000, we were told that The Auditorium was "air conditioned" via pipes that had been buried when The Auditorium was built in 1804. The pipes ran from the beach to the back of the Auditorium. The cool air (relatively) from the ocean would be drawn into the auditorium by the warm air that was leaving through vents along the roof ridge and through the turrets. It turns out that it was part of the urban legend lore of Ocean Grove. Indeed there were 5 ft in diameter tubes under The Auditorium, but they ended under the turrets at the front of the building, and not another 200 – 300 yards to the beach. However, since the buildings from The Auditorium to the beach are built in such a way to funnel any wind to The Auditorium, the air was somehow directed into the underground funnels/tubes to "cool" the building. Exactly how that was accomplished is a mystery right now. However, the museum has some engineering drawing from the late 1800s demonstrating with arrows wind directions. You will just have to visit Ocean Grove Camp Meeting on your own to do more research. I certainly recommend such a visit! (*Editor's note: You will also be disappointed to hear that the building was damaged by Hurricane Sandy.*)

If you are going to DeFuniak in January, look for an exhibit from Ocean Grove. There may also be a representative from Ocean Grove Camp Meeting attending the gathering in DeFuniak and you can get more information in person.



*Ocean Grove's Auditorium seats about 15,000*

## Thousand Island Park Hosts Birthday Bash for Hindu Monk

Submitted by Suzon O. Kister, October 2012

Thousand Island Park, the Chautauqua founded in upstate New York in 1875, became the setting this past July for a commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902), the Hindu religious teacher and prinal disciple of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hindu saint, Ramakrishna.



The Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center of New York and Vivekananda Cottage of Thousand Island Park (photo, left) presented four

events July 27 - 29 that reflected the culture, spirit and influence of Vivekananda. The Thousand Island Park Tabernacle Community Association co-sponsored the festivities.

Vivekananda traveled to the United States in 1893 to speak at the World's Parliament of Religions, a congress held in conjunction with the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. A proponent of the harmony of all religions, the Indian Hindu monk said, "I do not come to convert you to a new belief; I want to make the Methodist a better Methodist, the Presbyterian a better Presbyterian, and the Unitarian a better Unitarian. I want to teach you to live the truth, to reveal the light within your own soul."

For two years following the Columbian Exposition, Swami Vivekananda travelled throughout the country, spreading Ramakrishna's message of the oneness of existence and the unity and truth of all religions.

Exhausted from his American tour, Vivehananda accepted in 1895 the invitation of Miss Mary Elizabeth Dutcher to rest at her cottage in Thousand Island Park. In preparation, she added a wing to her large Victorian summer home for his exclusive use. There he conducted classes and led a dozen of his disciples in meditation, taking breaks for walks in the woods and along the banks of the St. Lawrence River. It was a peaceful, restorative period for the swami, and he cherished the experience.

Much later, in 1947, according to the centennial history of Thousand Island Park\*, Swami Mikhilananda of New York

City journeyed to Thousand Island Park, looking for Vivehananda's retreat. When he finally found the cottage, he declared to his colleagues in New York that it was "in utter disrepair." Nevertheless, they urged him to purchase the structure and promised him that there would be money for its restoration.

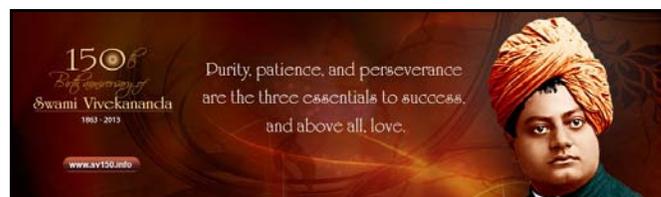
Since then, Vivehananda Cottage has become a summer retreat for followers of Ramakrishna, and members of the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center of New York. In fact, it is considered a Hindu sacred place by followers around the world, many of whom have made a pilgrimage there.

The writer, J.D. Salinger, also had an attachment to Thousand Island Park through his association with Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center. The author of "The Catcher in the Rye" was a pupil of Swami Nikhilananda in Yew York. In the 1950s, Salinger spent time at Vivekananda Cottage. And so one of the commemorative events in July was a lecture and discussion about this aspect of Salinger's life, presented by his biographer, Kenneth Slawenski.

The concluding event of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend was an interfaith service in the Tabernacle. Its theme was "The Spiritual Unity of Humankind." Additional events are planned by the Ramakrishna Vivekananda Center for the winter and spring in Manhattan. Among them are a concert in Florence Gould Hall in midtown and a lecture at the Morgan Library. For details, visit [www.ramakrishna.org](http://www.ramakrishna.org).

\*Jacox and Kleinhaus. Thousand Island Park: One Hundred Years, and Then Some. Thousand Island Park, NY, 1975.

Reporter's Note: Regardless of Vivekananda's observation afterwards that he gained more from his visit to Thousand Island Park than T.I. Parkers gained from his teachings, it must be said that the climate of openness and receptivity to new ideas and knowledge that pervaded the community at the time must have influenced Miss Dutcher to issue her invitation. The Methodist campgrounds founded after the Civil War, in fact, welcomed Christians of other denominations and were included toward less hyperactive revivalism and more toward education and rational thought. Many of the Chautauquas, moreover, exhibited a special interest in Asian cultures.



## The 30th Meeting of the Chautauqua Trail

(formerly known as the Chautauqua Network)

July 25 - 28, 2013, Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania

You may select from the traditional Chautauqua homestay



or The Mt. Gretna Inn

(a lovely bed & breakfast, located in Mt. Gretna Heights,  
a leisurely walk from the Pennsylvania Chautauqua  
grounds)



or the (award-winning) Hampton Inn, Manheim,  
right off the Pennsylvania Turnpike,  
just a few miles from Mt. Gretna



Register by completing the attached registration/ homestay form and sending a check. In order to prepare properly for our guests, annual meeting reservations must be made no later than July 1. Thank you in advance for your consideration. You may also complete the attached homestay request form and mail to: Kathy Snively, PO Box 622, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064.

Information for the Mt. Gretna Inn and Hampton Inn is below. When contacting them, indicate you are attending the Chautauqua Trail meeting in Mt. Gretna. Discounted rates are available until June 1 or when rooms are sold out.

### **The Mt. Gretna Inn - (717) 964-3034**

[www.mtgretnainn.com](http://www.mtgretnainn.com)

They have seven rooms, priced between \$149-189 nightly; you may receive at 10% discount when booking.

### **The Hampton Inn, Manheim - (717) 665-6600**

<http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/pennsylvania/hampton-inn-manheim-MHMPAHX/index.html>

Rate: \$149 nightly; receive a rate of \$129, with an advance booking by June 1, if they're not sold out.

#### Network Officers Elected in 2012

President: Frank Gwalthney, Ocean Park, Maine,  
[gwalthney11@verizon.net](mailto:gwalthney11@verizon.net)

Vice President: George McCormick, Lakeside, Ohio,  
[erie-@msn.com](mailto:erie-@msn.com)

Treasurer: Myra Peterson, Chautauqua Institution,  
Chautauqua, New York; [mpeterson@ciweb.org](mailto:mpeterson@ciweb.org)

Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Kathy Snively,  
Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania; [info@lightkeeper.net](mailto:info@lightkeeper.net)

### **Future Chautauqua Trail Annual Meeting Hosts:**

2014 - Bay View

2015 - Chautauqua, New York

2016 - Muskoka

2017 - Monteagle

2018 - Ocean Park

2019 - Boulder

2020 - Chautauqua, New York



## Mt. Gretna Registration Information

The Chautauqua Trail Annual Meeting registration information is online at [www.chautauquatrail.com](http://www.chautauquatrail.com) and click on “Chautauqua Network” and “Annual Meeting.” You cannot register online this year, as Mt. Gretna has no method of accepting credit card payments (we’re a “little” Chautauqua; wait ‘til you see our “lake”).

1. You will be connected to a downloadable registration form (same one in this newsletter) that contains a form that requires name, address, email address and other contact information. Additional information on this page includes, entering estimated arrival date and time, independent Chautauqua affiliate and whether Chautauqua Network membership dues are up to date.

2. Registration this year is \$150, which includes a reception on Thursday evening, all meals and events through Sunday’s worship service.

3. A registration confirmation letter will be sent by mail with check-in details and a map.

## Register by Mail

Attendees are asked to register by mail, no later than July 1. Download, complete and return the Chautauqua Trail Annual Meeting Registration Form and payment to: Chautauqua Trail Annual Meeting, c/o Kathy Snavelly, PO Box 622, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064. Please make checks payable to: Pennsylvania Chautauqua. The memo line should read: Chautauqua Trail Annual Meeting.

Cottage Rentals - the largest agent for weekly leases in Mt. Gretna is Penn Realty; visit their website at <http://pennrealtyltd.com/summerrentals.html> or call (717) 964-3800 for additional information. Ask for Brenda or Joe and tell them Kathy Snavelly referred you, as you’re coming for the Chautauqua Trail meeting.

Homestays are a tradition of the Chautauqua Trail, providing a bed, good conversation and perhaps refreshments to overnight guests. These personal visits allow attendees to experience the Chautauqua community through the hospitality of gracious homeowners. Homestay arrangements include a private bedroom with guest-only bathroom or private bedroom with a shared bathroom with the hosts. Linens and towels will be provided by the host. If you are interested in our Homestay program, download, complete and return the Homestay Request Form at [www.chautauquatrail.com](http://www.chautauquatrail.com) and click on “The Chautauqua Network,” “Annual Meeting” and “Accommodations.” Please note that we are one of the smallest Chautauquas and do not have a large number of homestay options.

Rooms have also been blocked at the Hampton Inn, Manheim and Mt. Gretna Inn; refer to the previous page for reservation information.

There are several campgrounds reasonably close by: Pinch Pond, Gretna Oaks, Outdoor World, and Thousand Trails. Please contact Kathy Snavelly at [info@lightkeeper.net](mailto:info@lightkeeper.net) for additional information, should you need it.

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← Yes, Virginia; that is Kathy Snavelly wearing THE Chautauqua Trail Scarf, featuring a map of the Chautauqua Trail and antique postcards from each one. If we receive commitments for at least 50, we can purchase them for \$69 (and make a little \$ for the Trail). Email Kathy at [info@lightkeeper.net](mailto:info@lightkeeper.net) with the number of scarves you would like and when we have enough, we’ll send you an invoice to pay, redesign them so we’re all on there and order them!





**CHAUTAUQUA TRAIL 2013 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**July 25 - 28, 2013**  
**REGISTRATION/HOMESTAY REQUEST FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

M.I.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Chautauqua: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging Preference:  Home Stay (complete info below)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mt. Gretna Inn (making my own reservation)  
 Hampton Inn, Manheim (making my own reservation)

Arrival Date/Time:  Thursday, July 25 (Time \_\_\_\_\_) OR  Other:(date/time) \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date/Time:  Sunday, July 28 (Time \_\_\_\_\_) OR  Other (date/time) \_\_\_\_\_

The Pennsylvania Chautauqua will make every effort to match your preferences, but cannot guarantee your exact home stay request:

Bedroom:  Single  Double  Queen-bedded room

Preferred:  Shares Bathroom with Host  Private Bathroom  Either option

Do you have any special needs or requests during your Home Stay? Food allergies/dietary needs of which we need to be aware?

***Enclose your check for \$150 per person, made out to PA Chautauqua, with this completed form and send no later than June 1 to Chautauqua Trail Annual Meeting, c/o Kathy Snavely, PO Box 622, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064.***

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

RESERVATION NAME:

DATE ASSIGNED:

HOME CHAUTAUQUA:

CONFIRMATION WITH HOST:

*Support this enduring movement; join the Chautauqua Trail today!*

## **Chautauqua Trail Annual Membership Application and Renewal Form**

Full organization donation is \$100 and includes option to add photo/information to the Chautauqua Trails website. Individual dues are \$10 a year. The dues year starts February 1. You can check your dues status by sending an e-mail to Network Treasurer Myra Peterson, [mpeterson@ciweb.org](mailto:mpeterson@ciweb.org) Make donation or dues check payable to Chautauqua Institution and put "Trail Membership" on the memo line.

Mail check and this form or a copy of same to Network Treasurer, Myra Peterson, P.O. Box 28, Chautauqua, NY 14722.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chautauqua \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Chautauqua Facebook page \_\_\_\_\_

Chautauqua Twitter account \_\_\_\_\_

Other social media platforms and registered names: (example: Pinterest; name on account: Kathy Snavely)

Kathy Snavely, Secretary/Newsletter Editor  
The Chautauqua Trail (formerly known as The Chautauqua Network)  
PO Box 622  
Mt. Gretna, PA 17064