2023
REPORT ON
PHILANTHROPY
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CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION
MISSION STATEMENT

Chautauqua Institution is dedicated to the exploration of the best in human values and the enrichment of life through a program that explores the important religious, social and political issues of our times; stimulates provocative, thoughtful involvement of individuals and families in creative response to such issues; and promotes excellence and creativity in the appreciation, performance and teaching of the arts.

Chautauqua Institution is a not-for-profit, 750-acre community on Chautauqua Lake in southwestern New York State, where approximately 7,500 persons are in residence on any day during a nine-week season, and a total of more than 100,000 attend scheduled public events.

CHAUTAUQUA FOUNDATION
MISSION STATEMENT

The Chautauqua Foundation, Inc. exists to support the long-term sustainability of Chautauqua Institution with a particular focus on the preservation, the appropriate use, and the growth of endowment funds.
Dear Friends,

In my twenty years leading the Office of Advancement and, previously, the Chautauqua Foundation, my favorite time of year has been the Summer Assembly. Seeing our work come alive and be enjoyed by tens of thousands of friends and those unknown to me each year is exhilarating. I’ve often said I have the best view at Chautauqua, where the bustle of Bestor Plaza lies just outside my office window.

But my second favorite time of year, not far behind the Summer Assembly, is when we compile this annual Report on Philanthropy, an inspiring reminder of the depth of generosity that exists at Chautauqua — and, more so, of the sprawling, diverse coalition of individuals, families, and institutions that funds our work. It is a collaboration that the entire community should cherish.

Then again, the reminders of such collaboration are everywhere at Chautauqua, emblazoned on bricks, buildings, and benches throughout the grounds. And while the enduring spirit of generosity is one of Chautauqua’s greatest strengths, strength is never more evident than in periods of stress. Despite new and recurring events that challenged our community this year, we have once again shown great strength in our collective philanthropy.

For some, the most tangible example this year was the funding and construction of Chautauqua’s first two pickleball courts. More than a dozen individuals and families made gifts to enable the project. A first ever gift from AARP also supported the project. Under the leadership of the Institution’s Buildings and Grounds Departments, this project was completed quickly, and one would have been hard pressed to find a time or day this season when the courts were not in use. This project was an achievement in community cooperation, and one that brought family and friends together in meaningful fellowship (despite the final score).

Thankfully, the tendency toward teamwork reaches far beyond pickleball courts. I am proud of so many accomplishments this year, including more than 800 gifts of $100 or less and several seven-figure gifts. The Chautauqua County Legislature granted $1 million to the Institution to support of our Chautauqua Lake conservation efforts in partnership with the Jefferson Project. Another $6 million was given in cooperative gifts by the generous Batten, Nosler and Davis families, sustaining our Climate Change Initiative and endowing its directorship in honor of Chautauquan Peter Nosler, whose passion sparked this initiative. And thanks to the hard work of volunteers, staff and community members, we exceeded the Chautauqua Fund goal, raising $5.9 million. These are just a few successes from a year that included so many.

But Chautauqua is not immune to the challenges of the modern world, despite our occasional misconception that it is. In line with many other opera-producing organizations, our program saw cuts this year that were felt deeply by members of our community. But a dedicated group of opera lovers worked hard to identify solutions, working closely with Steve Osgood, Deborah Sunya Moore, Laura Savia and Jenny Stitely to raise money to produce an opera for the Amphitheater in 2024 and launch a drive to endow additional opera activities in perpetuity. This initiative was purpose-driven and collaborative, and all will feel the impact.

In change, there is opportunity. Even a cursory look at Chautauqua’s 149-year history makes clear that continual evolution and investment are core components of the organization. We applaud those dedicated Chautauquans who rescued the Institution from receivership and established the Chautauqua Foundation in the 1930s, and those who invested in the Institution to stave off financial trouble in the 1970s. Likewise, a coalition of generous Chautauquans came together in 2023 to raise up the Institution.

As you’ll read in the following pages, 2023’s philanthropic activity totaled more than $36 million, a stunning and inspiring amount. Like those previous historic examples, much of this philanthropic activity is intended to support the long-term health of the Institution, with one-third of 2023’s activity in the form of planned gifts. But unlike those past examples, this investment is not rooted in a period of dire financial straits. Rather, the Institution is on strong financial footing. While meeting our significant need for annual spendable giving, we can now also focus on long-term
sustainability. That is a tremendous accomplishment borne of decades of hard work.

That focus is reflected in Boundless, A Campaign for Chautauqua. We are investing in the Lake’s conservation as an existential imperative. We are investing in our programs and facilities to ensure top-talent artistry and enriching activities remain core components of the Chautauqua experience. And we are investing in the endowment held within the Chautauqua Foundation to ensure continuation of our treasured programs and dependable funding to meet the challenges we cannot yet anticipate.

But our most important resource is neither the Lake nor the endowment: it is you, our community.

And now, as we throw ourselves into the public phase of Boundless and set out to raise $150 million to secure a stronger footing for long-term sustainability, the need for collaboration and cooperation becomes clearer than ever. This report shows what we can accomplish when we come together. We must commit to stewarding this Institution now so those who celebrate our bicentennial can also find inspiration at Chautauqua. Will you so commit?

To every individual, family and funder who invested in Chautauqua Institution this year, I thank you. Your support has already touched the lives of many, and it is not done. I am grateful for a lifetime of membership in this generous community. The achievements outlined in this report belong to you. Thank you.

With warmest regard, I am

Very truly yours

Geoff Follansbee
Senior Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer
Total Philanthropic Activity

In 2023, Chautauquans generously supported the Institution’s mission with more than $36 million in total philanthropy.

*Includes outright gifts, pledges and planned gift commitments.

Categories of Support

Chautauqua Fund
All gifts provide annual operating support for the full range of programming Chautauqua offers.

Endowment
All gifts, managed by the Chautauqua Foundation, support Chautauqua Institution and its programs in perpetuity.

Strategic Initiatives
All gifts support key priorities identified in the 150 Forward Strategic Plan.

Capital
All gifts support the renovation or construction of facilities.
Total Giving by Categories of Support

$36,518,253

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>$4,192,064</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chautauqua Fund</td>
<td>$5,961,442</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>$20,161,337</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Initiatives</td>
<td>$6,203,410</td>
<td>17%</td>
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Total Giving by Area of Support

Includes outright gifts, pledges and planned gift commitments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Support</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Youth</td>
<td>$12,244,307</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performing and Visual Arts</td>
<td>$1,853,788</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexible Program</td>
<td>$632,672</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Specified</td>
<td>$3,333,927</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Maintenance</td>
<td>$6,922,972</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>$91,435</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>$278,896</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>$2,103,768</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$9,056,488</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>$36,518,253</td>
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Ways to Give

- Cash gifts
- Appreciated assets such as stocks
- Monthly payments
- Tribute or memorial gifts
- Matching gifts
- Non-cash assets
- Planned gifts such as a bequest or charitable gift annuity
- Donor advised funds or private family foundation
- Corporate and foundation gifts

Contact the Office of Advancement to learn more about any of these options.
716-357-6404
advancement@chq.org
Numerous individuals and organizations have demonstrated their commitment to Chautauqua through extraordinary expressions of philanthropy. This lifetime giving list recognizes and thanks the cumulative generosity of donors to the annual Chautauqua Fund, strategic initiatives, capital projects or endowment, who have pledged or transferred assets as part of certain planned gift commitments totaling an amount of $250,000 or more.

Donors new to this list appear in green text.

**Greater than $5,000,000**
- Craig and Cathrine Greene
- Susan and Thomas Hagen
- Mary and Oliver Langenberg
- Joan and David Lincoln
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Smucker
- United States Small Business Administration
- Patty and Spencer Van Kirk III

**$2,500,000–$4,999,999**
- Anonymous (1)
- Jane P. Batten
- The Carnahan-Jackson Foundation
- Jack and Marcia Connolly
- Emily and John Corry
- Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund Inc.
- Gubbie Foundation, Inc.
- The Hultquist Foundation, Inc.
- The Lenna Foundation
- Elizabeth S. Lenna
- Lippman Kanfer Family Foundation
- Kay H. Logan
- Bruce W. and Sarah Hagen McWilliams
- Elaine and Richard Rieser
- Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, Inc.
- Lowell and Rebecca Strohl and Family
- Helen Truman Trust

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- Edward L. Anderson, Jr.
- Foundation, Inc.
- John T. and Katherine G. Bailey
- Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Boyle
- P. James and Barbara A. Brady
- Jean and Tom Bromeley
- Willow and Gary Brost
- Mrs. Robert D. Campbell
- Clyde Carnahan
- Chautauqua County Executive
- Chautauqua County Legislature
- Chautauqua Women’s Club, Inc.
- Margaret Clarkson and George Heintzelman
- Mr. and Mrs. George L. Cornell
- Dr. and Mrs. R. William Cornell
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Cornell
- Mrs. Grant A. Dibert
- Lauren Rich Fine
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- Ernie Mahaffey
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- Mary Anne and John Morefield
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- Robert and Joyce Tate Family Foundation
- Steve Zenczak and Pat Feighan

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- Anonymous (1)
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- Sandy and Quint Anderson
- Wendy and David Barenfend
- Arnold and Jill Bellowe
- Mary Boyle and Ted Arnn
- Kathy and James Brahm
- John W. and Anne Staples Burden
- Andrew L. and Gayle Shaw
- Camden
- Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance
- Chautauqua Opera Guild
- Town of Chautauqua
- Wendy and Edward Cohen
- Court Family Foundation Fund
- Ellis and Betty Cowlings
- Eleanor B. Daugherty
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. DeFrees
- The Winifred C. Dibert Foundation, Inc.
- Drs. David and Miriam Y. Eddleman
- Charles Edison Fund
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Mr. and Mrs. Hal A. Fausnaght
- Mr. and Mrs. George L. Follansbee
- Friends of Chautauqua Visual Arts
- Mimi and Jim Gallo
- General Electric Foundation
- Karen and Tim Goodell

**$250,000–$499,999**
- Anonymous (2)
- Nan and Brett Altman
- Andy and Peggy Anderson
- Edward L. Anderson and Joan E. Parsons
- John and Barbara Anderson
- Virgil and Jane Applequist
- Clement and Karen Arrison
- Foundation
- Penny Bank
- Arthur and Barbara Banner
- Nancy and Dick Bechtolt
- Evie and Stacey Berger
- Donald and Barbara Bernstein
- Susan and Fran Bonsignore
- June Bonynor
- Twig and Barbara Branch
- Mr. and Mrs. John W. Britton
- The Byham Family
- Chautauqua County Visitors’ Bureau

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- John and Barbara Anderson
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- Donald and Barbara Bernstein
- Susan and Fran Bonsignore
- June Bonynor
- Twig and Barbara Branch
- Mr. and Mrs. John W. Britton
- The Byham Family
- Chautauqua County Visitors’ Bureau

**Jane A. Gross**
- Izumi Hara and David Koschik
- Thomas and Kathleen Harrick
- Dorothy and Bill Hill
- Dr. Michael G. and Carol Nobel
- Hirsh
- Sarah and Karen James
- Bob Jeffrey
- Melvin H. and Karin A. Johnson
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- Jim and Lynn Levinson
- Lilly Endowment, Inc.
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- Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Suhr, Jr.
- Brenda and Larry Thompson
- The Turney Family
- Rev. George E. Tutwiler
- Caroline Van Kirk Bissell
- Tara VanDerveer
- Peter Nosler and Julie Veitch
- Dr. and Mrs. Robert J. Weiss
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Wilder
Chautauqua Dance Circle
Geoff and Kathie Church
The Honorable and Mrs. William F. Clinger
Marty and Sandy Coyle
The Crockett Family
Kevin and Karen Crowder
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Cummings
The Jessie Smith Darrah Fund
Erroll and Elaine Davis
Richard and Marty Davis
June and Barry Dietrich
Elizabeth Elser Doolittle Charitable Trust
Shirley A. and Arthur R. Duffy
Lora Lee and Bob Duncan
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Patti and Scott Fine
Ted and Deborah First
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S. Allen Goodwin
Cheryl Gorelick
Roe Green
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Innes
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The Johnson Foundation
W. Alton Jones Foundation
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The Jennifer and Tim Kingston Family Fund
William M. Kinley
Susan Kuhn
Mary Kuhns Trust
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Warren K. Martin
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M.L.E. Foundation, Inc.
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Mr. and Mrs. Lewis W. Morgan
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Sanford and Margery Nobel
M. Cathy Nowosielski, MD and Jeffrey N. Lutz
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Gail Clement Olson
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Robert A. Ott, Jr.
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Kathy and Jim Pender and the Michael Pender Memorial Fund
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Sam and Petey Price
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Gary and Colleen Reeve
Renjilian Family Fund
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Joseph H. and Florence E. Roblee Foundation
Alice Rudell
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Dr. Robert G. and Katy T. Smith
Sutton Trust
Dr. Margene Tichane
Susan and Jack Turben
Richard and Debra Wade Charitable Fund
John and Linda Wadsworth
The Watters Family Fund
Edris and David H. Weis
Norman and Marilyn Weizenbaum
The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation
Katherine Karslake White
The Mary S. Wilslon Trust
Virginia H. and Robert R. Young
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Zemsky
Shirley and Sam Zemsky
The following list recognizes, with profound gratitude, all donors who made a contribution to one or more philanthropic areas in 2023.

* Chautauqua deeply regrets the passing of these devoted supporters and is grateful for their legacy support.

**$50,000+**
- Anonymous (2)
- Allegheny Health Network - Westfield Memorial Hospital
- Nan and Brett Altman
- Jane P. Batten
- Elise M. Besthoff Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- Mary Boyle and Ted Arnn
- Laurie Branch and Family
- Gary and Willow Brost Charitable Fund
- Andrew L. and Gayle Shaw Camden Fund
- Clyde Camahan*
- Chautauqua County Executive
- Chautauqua County Legislature
- Chautauqua Dance Circle
- Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance
- Chautauqua Opera Guild
- Chautauqua Women’s Club, Inc.
- Bill and Chloe Cornell
- Ellis and Bettsy Cowling*
- Virginia H. Cox*
- The Erroll & Elaine Davis Charitable Gift Foundation of the Ayco Charitable Foundation
- Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund Inc.
- Erie Insurance Group
- The Ford Foundation
- Friends of Chautauqua Visual Arts
- W. Jane Foster and Arthur S. Willson
- Dr. Marc Geller
- Dr. Kenneth and Cheryl Gorelick Fund
- Craig and Cathrine Greene
- Lucy Greene
- Izumi Hara and David Koschik
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- Samuel and Margaret Hazlett
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- The Huilquist Foundation, Inc.
- Sarah and Karen James
- Jamestown Local Development Corporation
- Joe and Pam* Kanfer
- Robert D. Lang*
- Lippman Kanfer Family Foundation
- Kay Hardesty Logan Foundation
- Linda* and Saul Ludwig
- Beth Madison
- Ernie Mahaffey
- Bruce and Sarah Hagen
- McWilliams
- Betsy and Ted Merchant
- Robert Metzgar
- John and Cathy Milos
- Sally M. Moore*
- New York State Council on the Arts
- Ralph H. and Elizabeth C. Norton Philanthropic Trust
- Peter and Gwen Norton
- Richard J. Osborne
- The Mary and James Pardo Charitable Gift Fund
- Sheila Penrose
- Paul and Marnette Perry
- Richard and Suzanne Pierper
- Alice Rudell
- Louis F. Schauer*
- Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, Inc.
- Emily* and Richard K. Smucker
- Sydelle Sonkin
- Larry D. Thompson and Brenda A. Thompson Advancement Fund of the Ayco Charitable Foundation
- Helen Truman Trust
- Tara Vanderveer and Amy Tucker
- The Watters Family
- Christina and Scott Worley
- Steve Zenczak and Pat Feighan
- Glenn C. Rodgers*
- John H. Rogers*
- Newton B. Schott, Jr. and Antoinette LeQuire-Schott
- Sutton Trust
- Mr. and Mrs. John V. Thomas
- Dorothy Trefts and Daniel J. McEvoy
- Mary B. Weiss

**$10,000–$24,999**
- Anonymous (2)
- Sophie and Steve Albrecht
- Virgil and Jane Applequist
- Patty and Tom Armstrong
- Penny Bank
- Kathleen Barksdale
- Constance M. Barton
- William and LaDonna Bates and Family
- Charles Bestor
- Missy Bolton
- Jim and Barbara Brady
- Barbara and Twig Branch
- William Brenner
- Britton/Hughes Charitable Fund
- Felix M. Brueck and Ann Kowal Smith
- Diane M. Carlson
- Chautauqua Sports Club
- Jack Connolly
- Court Family Foundation Fund
- William A. and Deborah E. Currin
- The Jessie Smith Darrah Foundation
- Horace Dawson Foundation
- DFT Communications
- Joyce H. Diaz
- The Winifred C. Dibert Foundation, Inc.
- John and Marilyn Dilley
- Shirley and Art Duffy
- George Fechter and Christine Fulton
- Hope Felton-Miller
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Fletcher
- Jennifer and Kent Francois
- Peter R. Franklin and Gregory Wright
- Lorraine and Bill Frey
- Charles S. and Gail F. Gambling Fund
- Karen and Tim Goodell
- Goodwin Procter LLP
- A.J. Goulding
- Bonnie and Jim Gwin
- Pegi Hamner*
- Hancock Charitable Fund
- Judyie and John Hartman

**$25,000–$49,999**
- Anonymous (1)
- Edward L. Anderson, Jr. Foundation, Inc.
- Wendy and David Barenfeld
- Evie and Stacey Berger
- Town of Chautauqua
- Wendy and Edward Cohen
- Mark and Dianne Curley
- Barbara and Peter Georgescu
- Roe Green
- Lois C. Greisman
- Thomas B. Hagen
- Anne Hoyt and Arthur Scavone
- J.M. Smucker Co.
- Stephen Jacobs and Pat Curley
- Robert W. Jeffrey Charitable Fund
- Rob and Nancy Kyler
- Blossom Leibowitz
- The Lenna Foundation
- M.L.E. Foundation, Inc.
- Hope Felton-Miller
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Fletcher
- Jennifer and Kent Francois
- Peter R. Franklin and Gregory Wright
- Lorraine and Bill Frey
- Charles S. and Gail F. Gambling Fund
- Karen and Tim Goodell
- Goodwin Procter LLP
- A.J. Goulding
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- Pegi Hamner*
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- Judyie and John Hartman

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- Karen and Tim Goodell
- Goodwin Procter LLP
- A.J. Goulding
- Bonnie and Jim Gwin
- Pegi Hamner*
- Hancock Charitable Fund
- Judyie and John Hartman
The Bestor Society recognizes those who made an annual commitment of $5,000 or more to support Chautauqua in 2023. These leadership gifts help sustain the delivery of the Chautauqua experience at the highest quality, inspire similar acts of generosity in others, and underscore a commitment to the unparalleled, intergenerational experience that is Chautauqua.

John* and Catherine Chapin-Kobacker
Nancy and Philip Kotler
Susan Kuhn
Jim and Lynn Levinson Fund of the Erie Community Foundation
David and Kathryn Levy
Larry and Mary Lund
Stephen and Betty Bechtolt Magley
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Scott and Candace Maxwell
Griff and Pat McDonald
Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation
David and Nancy Moore Family Fund
Mary Anne Morefield
Michael Morley and Anita Lin
Catherine V. Mott
Beth and John Munro
Joseph and Louise Musser
Fred and Lynn Muto
National Federation of Music Clubs
Martha L. Neebes
Wayne and Jill Nelson
For Jim and Susan Budros, educating others has been a throughline of their life’s work. A retired middle school educator, Susan worked with adolescents as they prepared to enter high school and take their initial strides into adulthood. And, as if to bookend Susan’s work with youth, Jim worked as a financial adviser, helping his clients to prepare for retirement and to make the most of their resources for their families.

Residents of Columbus, Ohio, where many Chautauquans reside outside of the Summer Assembly, Jim and Susan were first invited to visit by friends who had themselves been invited by a longtime Chautauquan. And while it was a friendly vacation that first brought them to Chautauqua, it was the vibrant community and wide-ranging educational opportunities that captured their intrigue.

“We had a wonderful experience that first year,” says Jim. “We were at Chautauqua with great friends, which is part of Chautauqua — the friendships you make. Secondly, that was a year where National Geographic came and the lectures were all about water. We were blown away by that. We thought, ‘if it’s going to be like this, we’d like to be part of it.’” That partnership with National Geographic will continue in the 2024 season with, “Water: Crisis, Beauty and Necessity.”

The Budroses soon became property owners and continued to expand their community of friends. Having a condo on the grounds has allowed them to enjoy Chautauqua not only during the Summer Assembly, when they make the most of the full program of activities, but beyond the season as well.

“We attend both the 10:45 a.m. lecture and the 2 p.m. programming,” Susan says. “We love going to the theater and the evening entertainment and being on the Lake. We go up other times during the year and enjoy that as well.”

From his work in wealth management, Jim has a vast understanding of giving vehicles that individuals and families can use to support the organizations they love. So, when a new law took effect in early 2023 that allowed individuals to fund a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) through a one-time qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from their individual retirement account (IRA), Jim thought it would be a great opportunity to support Chautauqua.

“Congress passes social laws to encourage people to do things that are sometimes in both an institution’s and the donor’s best interest, and this is a perfect example,” says Jim. The tax benefits, annuity payout and potential for growth that are key features of a CGA all piqued Jim’s interest. “One can say, ‘why don’t you just give the gift,’ which we could have done. But I love to use techniques, and this was a brand-new technique last year.”

In creating their CGA, the Budroses opted to not designate their gift for a specific program or initiative, offering the Institution flexibility in its use. Jim credits this decision to his experiences serving on other not-for-profit boards, where he’s seen the value in access to flexible support. In not restricting the gift, their support will be able to reach a wide array of the educational programs they hold dear.

“Education has been so important to me all my life, and for our kids,” says Susan. “Chautauqua is such a unique place to learn and to be with other people. It’s so wonderful that people can continue learning through the arts and theater and sports, and from one another. Chautauqua has a gold mine of people and minds to interact with and from which to learn. That is exciting for me, and I hope it continues.”

With Jim and Susan’s support, alongside that of countless other generous Chautauquans, that hallmark commitment to lifelong learning can and will continue well beyond the Institution’s next 150 years.
$5,000–$9,999 cont.

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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Scholarships

Each year, hundreds of students come to Chautauqua’s Schools of Performing and Visual Arts to hone their crafts under the guidance of world-class faculty.Spanning artistic disciplines that include theater, vocal performance, instrumental music, piano, dance and visual arts, these students contribute creative excellence throughout the Summer Assembly. For many patrons, this decades-old tradition of welcoming students to the grounds is an essential component of the Chautauqua experience. But these students would not be able to spend their summers in our community without the vital support of endowed and annual scholarships. A wide coalition of individual donors and community groups helps ensure tuition costs do not become a barrier for the students who want to participate in our programs. For their part, the students offer significant return on this investment: they perform on the Institution’s various stages, delight Chautauquans with pop-up concerts, participate in public lessons and workshops, and become ingrained in the community every year. And long after the closing three taps of the gavel echo beyond the Amphitheater, the students continue to carry the lessons learned and connections made here far beyond our historic grounds. Such an impact on the world would not be possible without the generous support of those who invest in our students through scholarship contributions.

“It cannot be overstated how vital scholarships are to the success of our students and the impact of our Schools. I get to see firsthand how the generosity of Chautauquans opens doors for these extraordinary young people. I am so grateful for all who play a role in cultivating their talents and enriching their lives.”

— Sarah Malinoski,
Director, Chautauqua Schools of Performing and Visual Arts
The 1874 Society, named for the Institution’s founding, recognizes donors who made leadership gifts in the amount of $1,874–$4,999 in 2023 to support Chautauqua. The commitment of 1874 Society members bolsters the depth and quality of programming that we all enjoy and helps provide vital resources necessary for annual operations.

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For Annie Hamill, Chautauqua has been a lifelong journey of evolving experiences.

Growing up outside of Erie, she’d often visit the grounds with her parents for Sunday services or evening concerts. After graduating from high school, she spent a summer working as an intern for the Chautauqua Foundation, before moving to Boston to pursue her career. And on visits home, she’d occasionally swing by the grounds, introducing her husband Scott to Chautauqua.

But it was a family visit in 2013, when the family rented a house for a week to celebrate her parents’ 40th wedding anniversary, Annie began to consider how to make Chautauqua a more regular part of their lives. And when the opportunity to purchase a plot and build a home on the grounds became available, Scott, Annie and her parents decided to go for it.

Like Annie, her children quickly fell in love with the experience too. They became active in Youth and Family Programs, first through Children’s School and now through Boys’ and Girls’ Club. She remembers the excitement her children felt boarding the Children’s School bus for the first time.

“It was just this lovely place where we could have time as adults, think about interesting things, hear interesting speakers, and go to events with the kids,” says Annie. “And the kids also got a chance to be with other kids. The Children’s School is amazing. They really take a lot of time and effort to make the programming thoughtful.”

“I think the love we have for it is through the lens of our kids,” Scott says. “It’s something I didn’t have growing up. I never knew the place existed. And I see the joy they get there. They want to be there for as much of the summer as they can.” Owning a home on the grounds and the ability to work remotely have allowed Scott and Annie to spend the summers on the grounds with the rest of her family.

“Everybody gains something by being in a multi-generational setting,” she says. “You know, I think it’s really cool that our kids get to be with their grandparents so much that I don’t even think they realize it.”

Annie and Scott have also found community at Chautauqua through involvement in Youth and Family Programs and NOW Generation, as well as casual conversations around the grounds. Their basset hound, Dorothy Hamill, serves as a great icebreaker, notes Annie.

But they’ve also been conscious of investing in the community. As years-long members of both the Bestor Society and the Bell Tower Society (Chautauqua’s monthly giving program), Annie and Scott have made sustained, unrestricted contributions to the Chautauqua Fund in support of the experience their family has held dear.

“There are so many needs that the community faces — various expenses that we are not always privy to,” says Annie. “I think back to my work at church and see the value of unrestricted giving. I know the challenges that occasionally arise when gifts may be hamstrung by donor restrictions. There’s value to both sides of things.” Part of their desire to give is to promote more programming that appeals to Chautauquans of their generation.

“I’ve seen a big shift in the program that is geared more towards the younger generation, which I appreciate as well,” Scott says. “We’ve loved seeing The Avett Brothers there. They’ve been back a few times since we started going. On the flip side, I wish there was more of a community for people our age... but it doesn’t lessen the love we have for Chautauqua.”

And through their generosity borne of that love, Scott and Annie have already made Chautauqua a more welcoming, enriching place for so many other families.
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Pickleball

This year saw the construction of Chautauqua’s first two pickleball courts, situated between the Chautauqua Tennis Center and Turner Community Center. With the support of lead donors Ron and Rosie Kilpatrick and the Reeve family, plus a first-time gift from AARP, more than a dozen individuals and families made the project possible. The introduction of permanent pickleball facilities is in direct response to a growing interest in the game both nationally and at Chautauqua. But the impact of the project went much deeper than the installation of a physical plant. The courts quickly became a center of multigenerational engagement, as families played together, and new opponents became fast friends. For those who were unfamiliar with the sport, Special Studies classes were offered to teach beginners rules and skills, and the courses filled up as quickly as the courts did. During the ceremonial ribbon cutting on July 23, Chautauqua Institution President Michael E. Hill said, “This is a prime example of what can be done when we all come together with a shared vision and leverage our individual strengths. Pickleball may be a small component of what we offer at Chautauqua, but it is a big example of the dedication, strength, and generosity that is a hallmark of this community.”

“I’ve always been proud of Chautauqua’s recreational offerings, but I am especially pleased to see how pickleball has quickly become one of our most popular activities. We’ve heard from many people how grateful they are to play at Chautauqua. I am thankful for the donors who made it possible.”

– Meg Pickard, Director of Recreation
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When Jane Foster and Arthur Willson first came to Chautauqua with church friends in 1983, the Institution’s dance offerings did not top their to-do list.

“I did not like dance,” Arthur admits with a chuckle. Architects by trade, they found themselves more interested in Chautauqua’s religion programming and musical offerings. Jane is, after all, also a professional soprano, having performed on stages across the world and more recently focusing her performances on the work of American composer Kathleen Lockhart Manning.

But on their continued visits to Chautauqua, they developed an increasing appreciation for the form, somewhat by osmosis. “I could go to it — non-threatening, no cost — and just learn to enjoy it,” said Arthur, referring to the diverse range of Amphitheater programming that is accessible to gate pass holders. “I think when I decided that I didn’t need to understand dance to enjoy it, it was a turning point. Chautauqua allowed me to do that.” Jane’s persistent insistence that they take in the evening entertainment together from their favorite seats in the Amp, regardless of programming, certainly helped. And, before long, Arthur agreed to become the treasurer of the Chautauqua Dance Circle, a community group that supports dance programming through scholarships and other initiatives. “Dance is now my favorite art form,” he says.

It was that increasing appreciation that inspired Jane and Arthur to establish an endowment fund to support the maintenance of dance studios and theater-related facilities more than a decade ago. With their backgrounds in architecture, it felt like the right fit for an often-overlooked need. “Maintenance is always a challenge. I’ve spent a lot of years working to address deferred maintenance at a nonprofit,” said Jane. “So, I understand funding is crucial.”

But when they learned of the Institution’s goal to endow the artistic directorship of the Chautauqua School of Dance, they began exploring how they might adjust and augment their existing support. That led Arthur to attend a Chautauqua Foundation meet-the-staff event on the Colonnade steps to learn more about what was needed and connect with Deborah Williamson and Chautauqua Foundation Executive Director Debbie Moore, Jane and Arthur doubled the amount of their existing endowment and combined their support with existing dance endowment from the Carnahan-Jackson Foundation to meet the directorship threshold. They passed on naming the directorship after themselves, instead agreeing to name the position the Bonnefoux-McBride Artistic Director of Chautauqua School of Dance in honor of longtime faculty Patricia McBride and Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux. Sasha Janes is the first to hold the title, having become the head of Chautauqua School of Dance in April.

“Jean-Pierre and Patti have contributed so much, and we’ve seen the progression of the dance program from the 80s,” said Jane. “They certainly have set the standard high.”

And so have Jane and Arthur. They are proud of this support, understanding that leadership infrastructure and continuity are as important to a school and company as physical space. They know that they are building a stronger dance program at Chautauqua in their philanthropy, and have advice for those who may wish to follow their lead:

“Follow your heart,” says Jane. “If an art form speaks to you, demonstrate how important it is to you.”

Who knows? Finding that favorite art form might be as simple as settling into your favorite seats in the Amphitheater for the evening entertainment.
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Geof Follansbee, J.D. • Senior Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer  
Amy Gardner, CFRE • Vice President of Advancement and Campaign Director  
Jennifer S. Stitely, CFRE, CAP® • Associate Vice President of Advancement  
Chris Baglia • Gift Administrator  
Dariel Dixon • Assistant Director of Database and Gift Administration  
Jennifer Freely • Director of Annual Giving  
Joanna Kaufmann • Assistant Director of Donor Relations  
Elaine Hooker • Prospect Research Associate  
Preslie Johnson • Donor Relations Coordinator  
Dillon Lewis • Director of Advancement Communications  
Wendy Saam • Assistant Director of Research and Relationship Management  
Nicole K. Szydlo • Director of Advancement Services  
Deborah Williamson • Major Gifts and Planned Giving Officer  
Jacqueline Zakrewsky • Director of Donor Relations

**Chautauqua Foundation**

Deborah E. Moore, CPA • Executive Director  
Jennifer Burgeson • Fund Accountant  
Kimberly Rowe • Executive Assistant and Corporate Secretary

As of December 31, 2023