



# Some Notes on Chautauqua

*A Memo from the Executive Director*

We know from years past that you probably have a lot of questions you'd like to have answered before making your decision to come to the Highlights Foundation Writers Workshop at Chautauqua. I can't give you all the answers here, but perhaps I can respond to some of your immediate concerns.

## **CONFERENCE FEES**

The fee for this year's workshop is \$2,400. Besides a full week's immersion in the world of writers and their words, this figure also includes all meals, conference supplies, and your gate pass to the Chautauqua Institution. This fee does not include accommodations.

The Foundation has a **first-timer discount** for first time attendees enrolling by February 27. It's important that you act now, as **enrollment is limited**.

If installment payments would make your participation in our workshop possible, please call; we can work out arrangements for you so your place can be reserved.

Your payment for the workshop may be tax deductible if you are a professional or a potential professional writer of children's literature.

## **GETTING TO CHAUTAUQUA**

While transportation to Chautauqua is not included in the workshop fee, we will assist you as much as we can in making your travel plans. Conference staffers will arrange ground transportation to Chautauqua from the airports in Buffalo, NY; Erie, PA; and Jamestown, NY. Buffalo provides the most flight-schedule options. Jamestown is the closest airport to Chautauqua and is especially convenient if you are arriving from Pittsburgh.

One of the best features of the Chautauqua Institution is that very few cars are allowed within its grounds, making for a peaceful and healthful break from the problem of traffic congestion in a residential area. Chautauqua is a very walking-oriented community. Parking lots are available adjacent to the grounds, and we will assist you in reserving a space at the visitors' rates charged by the Institution.

## **Accommodations**

The Chautauqua Institution is a remarkable place—an idyllic, peaceful village dedicated to culture and education. Much of the architecture reflects the charm of the late nineteenth century, when the Institution was founded, but the buildings have been modernized and, along with the grounds, are beautifully maintained.

We have reserved accommodations in various Chautauqua residences: the landmark Athenaeum Hotel, Victorian and other inns . . . charming apartments in old houses . . . tasteful new condominiums . . . and more.

One emphasis of the workshops is getting to know other writers of children's literature informally. You may enjoy sharing a room with another writer.

If you know someone with whom you'd like to room, we'll be happy to make those arrangements.

Note that a variety of housing options are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Old-style Chautauqua residences are inns, hotels, and guesthouses that reflect vintage Victorian charm. Although some offer private baths, many have adopted the old-world European style of shared baths. Gentle lake breezes wafting over verandas and open-air porches provide nature's air conditioning. New-style Chautauqua condominiums are new and renovated private residences with modern conveniences and amenities.

Some accommodations are a short walk from where the workshops will be held. Some—newer

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facilities but located on the periphery of the Institution—are far enough away that they are best suited to more ambitious walkers or bicyclists. (Bikes may be rented on the grounds.) Minibuses shuttle back and forth between these newer accommodations and where our workshops take place.

You may, of course, make your own housing arrangements through the Chautauqua Institution's Accommodations Referral Service. Their phone number is (716) 357-6204.

When you arrive at Chautauqua on July 11, we'll greet you at our hospitality center, give you a quick overview of the week's program, then get you settled in. You will probably have time to become a bit acquainted with Chautauqua before the opening banquet at 6:30 P.M.

Throughout the week you'll experience various culinary treats. Each day will begin with a breakfast of fresh fruit, cereal, yogurt, protein items, assorted muffins and breads, and coffee, tea and juices. Lunches will be simple American cooking—with style. You'll enjoy excellent dinners at the Chautauqua Golf Club, at the Athenaeum Hotel, and at other delightful spots. Breakfasts, lunches, and a few dinners will be served buffet style.

### **What to Pack**

Dress at Chautauqua is informal. You should feel comfortable in slacks, shorts, or casual dress. A pair of sturdy walking shoes is strongly recommended as well as an umbrella and sweater or jacket for cool evenings. You may also wish to pack a swimsuit, as lake swimming is available.

Slightly more formal apparel will be useful at our opening and closing banquets, which will be held at the Athenaeum Hotel. Such attire is also appropriate for some of the optional cultural programs (i.e., the operas and plays).

If you wish to bring along a laptop, you may do so. Many areas of Chautauqua have free wireless. Internet service and printers are available for your use for a nominal fee at the Institute's Business Center.

We have no objection to your bringing a portable tape recorder to record general sessions and workshops for your personal use.

### **Free-Time Activities**

Every day during the summer Chautauqua offers a full program of performances (music, theater, or dance) and lectures. Evening events include performances by the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, as well as guest artists in concert programs. The cost of attending these events is covered by the gate ticket you will receive in your registration packet. There is, however, an additional fee for the performances at the Chautauqua Opera.

Our Hospitality House will be open all week. It's centrally located and a great place to drop in for relaxation, conversation, or snacks.

### **Further Information**

After you receive your confirmation, we'll be in touch to let you preregister for workshops, and to give you details about a manuscript to be submitted in advance and critiqued at your one-on-one faculty conference.

If you have any questions, call (570) 251-4557. You may also e-mail [contact@highlightsfoundation.org](mailto:contact@highlightsfoundation.org).

We'll look forward to seeing you in July.



Kent L. Brown Jr.  
Executive Director

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**How to find Chautauqua:**

Chautauqua Institution is located approximately halfway between Buffalo, New York, and Erie, Pennsylvania. It is easily accessible from the north, east, or west via Interstate 90 to the Westfield exit. Follow Route 394 to Mayville and south to the entrance. Chautauqua is sixteen miles north of Jamestown.

Chautauqua is also served by the county airport at Jamestown through USAir. The Buffalo Airport is also convenient.