



News Release

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Chautauqua-in-Chagrin Continues on August 11 and 18

The 2009 *Chautauqua-in-Chagrin* series continues on Tuesday, August 11, and Tuesday, August 18, with two evenings of lectures and performances based on the themes of the week at the Chautauqua Institution of western New York. On Tuesday, August 11, noted theologians Karen Armstrong and Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes will discuss "Imagine a World at Peace through Compassion." The lectures on August 18 will feature Ofelia Ortega-Suárez, a member of the Cuban Parliament, and Julia Sweig, senior fellow and director of Latin America Studies of the Council on Foreign Relations, discussing "Cuba and Its People, Our Neighbors." Events will be held in venues in downtown Chagrin Falls; complimentary shuttle buses will be provided from venue to venue.

"Imagine a World at Peace through Compassion" (August 11), explores the role of religion in attaining a world of peace. The complete schedule is as follows:

6:00 p.m. – United Methodist Church, 20 South Franklin Street

Lecture: *A Charter of Compassion*

Karen Armstrong – author, *Charter for Compassion*; winner, TED prize

Contemporary and historical religion's most prolific author, Karen Armstrong is a highly sought-after lecturer around the world, and is called upon by governments, universities, and church and secular organizations alike to educate about the world's religions and to inform regarding their place in the modern world. A former Roman Catholic nun, she was educated at Oxford and has taught at London University and London's Leo Baeck College for the Study of Judaism. Her writings include *A History of God: From Abraham to the Present*, *the 4000 Year Quest for God*; *Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths*; *The Battle for God: Fundamentalism in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*; *Islam: A Short History*; *The Great Transformation: The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions*; and *Muhammad: A Prophet For Our Time*. She has been honored around the world especially as a bridge-builder between the Abrahamic Faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. She is one of the 2008 winners of the TED Prize, chosen for her world-changing work and continuing potential to inspire others to do something great for the world.

6:00 p.m. – Federated Church, 76 Bell Street (FREE)

Musical Performance – The Olympic Brass Ensemble

One of northeast Ohio's most accomplished brass ensembles performs music by Saint-Saens, Grieg, Schubert, Chopin and Gottschalk.

7:00 p.m. – Riverside Park (FREE)

Music in the Park – Madison Crawl

8:00 p.m. – Federated Church, 76 Bell Street

Lecture: *The Healing of the Nations*

Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr. – president, Healing of the Nations Foundation; host, "The Time Is Now" on Air America Radio

Senior Minister Emeritus of The Riverside Church and an ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches and the Original United Holy Church of America, Dr. James Forbes was the first African-American to serve as Senior Minister of the multicultural Riverside congregation. In national and international religious circles, he is known as the preacher's preacher because of his extensive preaching career and his charismatic style. In 1996 Newsweek magazine recognized Forbes as one of the 12 "most effective preachers" in the English-speaking world, and this pastor, educator, administrator, community activist, and interfaith leader was designated as one of America's greatest Black preachers by Ebony magazine in 1984 and 1993. He won the Alumni Charter Day Award of Howard University for Distinguished Post Graduate Achievement in Ministry, and in 1995 he emerged in the Baylor University Survey as one of twelve remarkable and most effective preachers in the English-speaking world.

Chautauqua-in-Chagrin will conclude on Tuesday, August 18, with "Cuba and Its People, Our Neighbors," a study of a long-troubled relationship now poised for change, led by a Cuban national and a U.S. policy-maker. The complete schedule is as follows:

6:00 p.m. – United Methodist Church, 20 South Franklin Street

Lecture: *Cuba: A Global Perspective*

Ofelia Ortega-Suárez – member, Cuban Parliament; professor, Matanzas Seminary, Cuba

Ofelia Ortega-Suárez is a member of the Cuban Parliament, a professor at Matanzas Seminary in Cuba, and World Council of Churches President for Latin America and the Caribbean. She has served as a Presbyterian Pastor, an Ecumenical Curriculum editor for the Cuban churches, a professor at the Union Theological Seminary in Cuba and at the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches in Bossey, Switzerland, as well as in numerous positions and capacities for the World Council of Churches prior to her current responsibilities for that organization. She served as President of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas from 1997 to 2004, and continues in the positions of Vice-President of the Cuban Council of Churches, Vice-President of the Alliance of Reformed Churches, and Moderator of the commission on Theological Education of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. She has lectured all over the

U.S., Latin America, Europe, and around the world, and has written extensively on numerous theological subjects, with a long-standing focus on women and feminist theology and issues.

6:00 p.m. – Federated Church, 76 Bell Street (FREE)

Opera Favorites – Opera Per Tutti & members of the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra
Soprano Amy Irvine and baritone James Love of Opera Per Tutti join members of the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra conducted by Stephen Eva for a program of music by Puccini, Rossini, Bizet and selections from Man of La Mancha.

7:00 p.m. – Riverside Park (FREE)

Music in the Park – Vinyl Approach

8:00 p.m. – Federated Church, 76 Bell Street

Lecture: *Cuba: The Way Forward*

Julia Sweig – senior fellow and director, Latin America Studies, Council on Foreign Relations

Julia E. Sweig is the Nelson and David Rockefeller senior fellow for Latin America studies and director for Latin America studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). She serves on the editorial board of *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica* and, since 1999, as a consultant on Latin American affairs for The Aspen Institute's Congressional Program. Dr. Sweig is the author of *Friendly Fire: Losing Friends and Making Enemies in the Anti-American Century* (PublicAffairs, 2006), *Inside the Cuban Revolution: Fidel Castro and the Urban Underground* (Harvard University Press, 2002), and numerous scholarly articles, opinion pieces, and congressional testimonies on Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela, Latin America, and American foreign policy. Her newest book, *Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford University Press) was released in early 2009.

Complimentary shuttle bus transportation will be provided from venue to venue beginning at 5:30pm. Maps with parking, restaurant, and shopping suggestions will be mailed with tickets.

Tickets are now on sale. "Gate Passes," which include entry to all of an evening's events, are \$25 for preferred seating with hospitality center and \$15 for general seating. Individual tickets for the 8:00pm lectures only are \$10 per lecture.

Gate passes and tickets may be purchased at the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre box office (40 River Street/440-247-8955) during box office hours (Monday – Saturday, 1pm – 6pm), through the Your HomeTown – Chagrin Falls Visitors Center (83 North Main Street/440-247-1895), open daily 11am – 3pm, and online at www.chagrinfoundation.org.

Chautauqua-in-Chagrin is sponsored by South Franklin Circle, with additional support from University Hospitals-Geauga Medical Center, Walter & Haverfield LLP, Huntington Bank, the Ohio Arts Council, the Chagrin Valley Times, Gamekeepers Taverne and 90.3 WCPN/ideastream.

For more information, speakers' biographies, or to schedule an interview, contact the Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture at 440.247.9700 or visit www.chagrinfoundation.org.

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Photos: Karen Armstrong
Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr.
Ofelia Ortega-Suárez