HEART OF CHAUTAUQUA

OH, DEAR! You missed Chautauqua’s Heart: A History of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, last summer? They were all sold out, you say?

NEVER FEAR! A second printing has arrived at the Bookstore and will be available all summer online, in Alumni Hall, the Veranda and the Bookstore. Look for the link on the front page of www.clscalumni.com to purchase your copy online.

This history, commissioned by the CLSC Alumni Association and authored by Chautauquan Mary Lee Talbot, is the first compilation of all the pieces of CLSC, from the ideas of John Vincent and Lewis Miller clear through to its publication last year. It is quite an organization, key to Chautauqua’s strength through the years, and full of a variety of summer activities, some of which may be surprising to many!

Beginning with a forward by Jeffrey Simpson, author of Chautauqua, an American Utopia, the book is divided by topics. It is easy to read either from front-to-back or by browsing through sections of particular interest. Images, both in color and black and white, give additional visual information that is important to the history. All the banners through 2017 appear in the new edition.

A treasure trove of facts and figures can be found in the appendices. The banners appear in color: an appendix on class spirit includes facts about the banners, flowers, mottoes and class chants. Also, all the banners through 2017 appear in the new edition. A complete book list through 2015 and Recognition Day speakers through the years add to the reference value of the book.

— Marlie Bendiksen

RICHARD RUSSO RECEPTION

CLSC alumni were treated to a reception on August 3, 2017 to meet and talk with Richard Russo who was the guest author for Week 6 on Comedy and the Human Condition. His book, Everybody’s Fool is a sequel to his earlier novel Nobody’s Fool. The main character, Chief of Police Douglas Raymer is unforgettable with his many foibles, good intentions and single minded pursuit of the garage that will open with the remote control that takes on a personality of its own in the story. If you haven’t read the book, you will be moved to tears, laughter and deep insights about the “human condition.”

— Mary Lee Talbot autographing her book.
To begin with, let me extend a very warm welcome to Cate Whitcomb. With a PHD in university administration, copious quantities of university experience, and a recently discovered ancestral connection with Chautauqua, Cate became the first Executive Secretary of the CLSC Alumni Association in 2017. Filling a big need within the organization, Cate had much to learn about our traditional and diversified Alumni Association while incorporating some of her vast experience. She attacked the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. So with her creativity and ideas, Cate has us looking forward to a more efficient and expanded Alumni Association experience.

Perhaps the greatest area of success in 2017 was the Scholarship Fund that brought eight Chautauqua County high school seniors onto the grounds for a week of Chautauqua. These students were not only recommended by their teachers but also submitted applications requiring several examples of their writing ability. They were then matched up with volunteer host families and appropriate classes for their Sunday through Saturday stay. The feedback from both students and host families weighed heavily on the favorable side of the scale and was very rewarding for all involved. Carol Collins, Class of 2017, is the CLSC alumna in charge of the program and if you want to participate in this wonderful program as a host family or work directly with Carol, contact her at carolcollins53@gmail.com. It is a very rewarding Alumni Assn activity with which to be involved.

Another prevalent activity in 2017 was the sale of Mary Lee Talbot’s new history of the CLSC: Chautauqua’s Heart. Spearheaded by Ellen Chamberlain with assistance from Pat McDonald, Joe Patton, other alumni, and, of course, Mary Lee herself (pictured on page 1), an order for additional books was placed by the end of the season with sales prospects looking better all the time. A small publisher whose wife is a CLSC grad sought and received permission to use Jim Huron’s poem from the book on his website. It’s a great book; do you have your copy yet? Chautauqua’s Heart is available online from the website, and both at Alumni Hall during the summer season and the Chautauqua Bookstore all year long.

Other regular Alumni-sponsored activities: Alumni Book Reports, Book Signings, Eventide Travelogues, Docent Tours, both Alumni Hall and Banner Care, were strong in 2017; however, all these activities require help from Alumni Volunteers. Get involved. Help strengthen your Alumni Association. Indicate your interest to the front desk at Alumni Hall on your next visit.

Finally, we, the alumni of the CLSC, look forward to a period of exciting growth and development under the new Colonnade direction of Atom Atkinson and David Griffith. These two are taking a fresh look at our activity as it relates to Chautauqua and seeing opportunities that weren’t necessarily recognizable to those of us who have been carrying-on for the past few years. Atom will be the most visible and involved at Alumni Hall while David will oversee all of the literary arts activities at Chautauqua. Good things are ahead for the CLSC Alumni Association in 2018 and beyond.

— Dick Karslake, President
Dear CLSC Friends,

It has been a great privilege and adventure to serve as your Executive Secretary beginning in June of last year. As President Dick Karslake mentioned in his letter, I had a recently discovered personal reason that made my decision feel like it was meant to be. In the letters my parents wrote each other during WWII (which have been miraculously preserved) I found that my mother, Dorothy Vaugh, lived and worked at Chautauqua for the summers of 1944 and 1945. She lived in the Presbyterian House where she waited tables and washed dishes and ushered at the opera among other jobs. She also took classes offered by SUNY in theatre, theatre craft, poetry and literature. The final fact I discovered was that she was at Chautauqua on a scholarship from the CLSC Class of 1913. It turns out to be a family legacy!

Last summer rushed by as I learned the traditions, met other alumni, and became better acquainted with the beautiful place that is Chautauqua. The newly reconstructed amphitheater was a joy to see after watching the web cam footage all through the off-season. We were able to attend the last tour of the new Amp. Hopefully you will get to go on also!

Writing to you is by way of introduction and a chance to let you know some of the ways you can be involved with the CLSC Alumni Association this year.

1. Purchase a copy of Mary Lee Talbot’s book, The Heart of Chautauqua, either at Alumni Hall or online.
2. If you graduated in the past 4 years, join your class for your assignment this year:
   a. Class of 2017: Assist with the Great American Picnic
   b. Class of 2016: Assist with Pioneer Hall
   c. Class of 2015: Hospitality with Vigil, Recognition Day, Alumni Gala
   d. Class of 2014: Assist with Winifred Kemp Library
3. Two important ways you can support the scholarship for high school students – either host or help find a host family or serve as a liaison to the Chautauqua schools. Please contact Carol Collins for more details at carolcollins53@gmail.com.
4. Join us on Monday mornings on the verandah of Alumni Hall for good conversations about what we’ve been reading.
5. Respond to the notice in News & Notes to take on the librarian’s job at Alumni Hall or donate things for the auction at the Great American Picnic.
6. Consider becoming the coordinator for Evensong – the travelogue series that is scheduled for Wednesdays. We are also looking for presenters who have made an interesting trip and have photos they can present at one of the Evensongs - the dates are June 27, July 4, 11, 25, August 1, 15 & 22.

I look forward to seeing many of you this summer - working with you on one or more of the projects that let us “give back” to the CLSC and the Chautauqua family.

— Happy reading to all, Cate (Class of 2016)
2018 TRUSTEE & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FRIDAY, JUNE 22 — 4:00 PM
Executive Committee Kate Kimball Room-AH

MONDAY, JUNE 25 — 4:00 PM
Board of Trustees Ballroom-2nd Floor-AH

MONDAY, JULY 30 — 4:00 PM
Executive Committee Kate Kimball Room-AH

MONDAY, AUGUST 6 — 4:00 PM
Board of Trustees Ballroom-2nd Floor-AH

MONDAY, AUGUST 20 — 4:00 PM
Executive Committee Kate Kimball Room-AH

As a member of either of these groups, it is your obligation to attend the meetings or send a substitute. There are only five meetings for Executive Committee members, plus two for all Trustees. Each meeting lasts an hour.

2018 CLSC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SPECIAL EVENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 15
Great American Picnic Noon-2:30 pm AH Lawn

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5
* Baccalaureate Svc/New Class 10:45 am-Noon Amphitheatre
* Vigil 9:10 pm Hall Of Philosophy

Reception for Graduating Class 9:40 pm Alumni Hall
Bus home delivery available 9:45 pm Wythe Av at AH

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7
Old First Night Celebration 7:30 pm Amphitheatre

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8
Graduating Class gathers 8:10 am Hall of Christ
Banner Carriers get banners 8:15 am Alumni Hall to Plaza
Recognition Day Parade 8:50 am Plaza to HOP
* Graduation Ceremony 9:10 am HOP
Recognition Day Parade 9:40 am HOP to Amphitheatre

New Class Dedicated Lecture 10:15 am Amphitheatre
New Class Luncheon 12:15 pm AH Lawn
All-Alumni Annual Mtng & Gala 5:30 pm AH Lawn

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9
New ‘Seven Seals’ Luncheon 12:15 pm AH Dining Room

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14
Life Member Tea 3:00 pm AH Dining Room

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18
* Bryant Day 11:30 am Miller Bell Tower

* New CLSC graduating class is front and center at these events

FROM THE FRONT DESK

THE LITERARY ARTS CENTER AT ALUMNI HALL The staff at the front desk at the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall will be available to greet and assist you beginning on Sunday, June 24 at 1 PM. During the Chautauqua Season the desk is staffed Monday-Friday, 9 AM-5 PM and Sunday, 1-5 PM. The building is closed to the public on Saturdays, as well as the last Sunday of the season. Please stop by to renew your membership, update your contact information, sign the traditional Alumni Association of the CLSC guest book, purchase a brick and other Alumni Association items, and stroll through various rooms displaying the class banners and CLSC memorabilia. Payments are accepted through cash, a check, or with a major credit card. On Mondays and Wednesdays our friendly docents conduct tours of the first floor of Alumni Hall, as well as our 1882 Pioneer Hall. These complimentary tours are well worth taking and begin at 1:15 PM.

Classes planning meeting or events at the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall are requested to contact the house manager to reserve a space. This may be done in person or by calling 716-357-9312 during the front desk seasonal hours of operation.

It is important for class officers to keep the Alumni Association of the CLSC informed of any class member address or status changes, and any class officer changes. Please submit all updates to the front desk staff by the end of week 7, so that revised class lists and mailing labels are ready for pick up during Week 9. During the season you can contact the front desk staff at clscalumni@gmail.com or 716-357-9312—or better yet—stop by.

See you at Chautauqua, Kathy Heimann & Patsy Klingensmith

P.S. Be sure to pick up your 2018 Membership Handbook at the front desk.

GRADUATES HONORED AT LUNCHEON

Guild of Seven Seals 2018 Graduates will be feted by the Guild membership during a luncheon held in their honor Thursday August 9th at 12:15 in Alumni Hall. 2018 Seal graduates will be guests of the Guild, but are requested to RSVP by picking up a ticket at Alumni Hall gratis on or before Tuesday August 7th. Seating is limited so tickets will be available on a first come basis. All Guild members are welcome to join the new Grads while seats available. Member Lunch Tickets are $5.00.

—Gary Doebler 704-807-7744 garydoebler@gmail.com

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4 NEWS & NOTES Spring 2018
COME ONE! COME ALL!—TO THE GREATEST AMERICAN TRADITION!

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! Please join us at the GREAT AMERICAN PICNIC on SUNDAY, JULY 15, Noon–2:30 pm at Alumni Hall. This is a fun event with food and activities for all ages. I hope you plan to attend, invite others & also volunteer. There are various roles that volunteers can play in making this a success. We will also be collecting silent auction items, so please gather goodies and bring them this summer. Contact carriezachry@gmail.com for more information. Thanks! Carrie  (Photos from 2017 Picnic)

EXODUS

Exodus by Leon Uris was an international publishing phenomenon—the towering novel of the twentieth century’s most dramatic geopolitical event the birth of Israel.

Exodus, is the historical novel by Leon Uris describing events that occurred during the conflict between the English Mandate, Palestinian Arabs, native Jews and immigrating refugees from the holocaust that led to the creation of the State of Israel.

Published by Doubleday, Exodus became an international publishing phenomenon, the biggest bestseller in the United States since Gone with the Wind. The book remained number one on The New York Times bestseller list for eight months after its release, and initiated a new understanding and sympathy for the newly established State of Israel.

The book unfolds with the protagonist Ari Ben Canaan, hatching a plot to transport Jewish refugees from a British detention camp in Cyprus to Palestine and continues with the stories of individual characters such as Ari and Barak Ben Canaan and Dov Landau freedom fighters, whose stories are told in flashbacks. American nurse Kitty Fremont and German refugee Karen Hansen work alongside them to help defeat the British blockade of Palestine. The novel includes several love stories, although they often take place in surroundings of violence and terrorism. “Uris gives the reader a strong sense of the past, present, and the future of the Jewish people.”

The personal stories in Exodus inspired its characters to seek their meaning and identity in relation to their social settings. Those settings were composed of their previous personal experiences, which were then grounded in both religion and geography. According to William Darby, “The leading characters in Exodus only find romantic happiness when they understand that they must conjoin nationalistic, religious and personal aims.”

WINTER READ

When a White Gift is given by a class to the Alumni Association, the treasurer and the house committee see to it that the funds are used as designated. Besides buying all the current CLSC and Young Reader books to keep the Reading room collection up to date, the Association supports a scholarship program and special events. White gifts cover the cost of the band at GAP and cleaning of Pioneer Hall. Repairing furniture, repairing banners, and replacing worn out fans and dehumidifiers are other areas covered. A large gift from 2001 and 2013 is covering the cost of a new front desk that will be more useful in this age of technology. Your generous White Gift goes toward the continued wellbeing of all areas of the Alumni Association.

—Bill Crittenden, House Chair

The banner committee is responsible for all areas of banner care and display in Alumni Hall as well as the Banner Room in the Oliver Archive Center. Using current best practices for textile care the committee is always vigilant of conditions in the rooms as well as the banners themselves. The group is also responsible for banners being available for the Recognition Day Parade. Last year 44 banners were paraded. If you’re interested in joining the committee, let the front desk know. Open House at Oliver Archives will be July 9 - 3 to 4:30 pm and August 6 - 3 to 4:30 pm.

—Charlotte Crittenden - Banner Chair

VOLUNTEER LIBRARIAN

A knowledgeable and interested member of the CLSC Alumni Association is needed to be the librarian of the Winifred Reed Collection at Alumni Hall. Job duties include:
• adding new titles to the computer data base
• serving on the executive committee of CLSC trustees
• generally overseeing the library

To volunteer or if you have questions, contact Elaine Arciszewski at earcis@aol.com.
2018 CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 1982
This past summer, our class met on July 11 at the Literary Arts Center at Alumni Hall for our annual potluck dinner. Nine members and guests attended and enjoyed an evening with a variety of delicious food along with lively conversation. It was wonderful to have Bonnie Beyer and Sanford Beyer with us this year. On Recognition Day, other class members came together to march behind the class banner in the parade. This coming summer Pioneers II will meet again for our annual potluck dinner on Tuesday, July 10, at 5:30 pm in Alumni Hall. We hope that those who were unable to attend in 2017 will plan on dining with us. As always, all members and their guests are welcome! For more information contact Kathy Heimann at 716-753-0776.

CLASS OF 1992
The CLSC Class of 1992 celebrated its 25th anniversary with another year of solid attendance at our annual events during the season and continued enjoying out long term relationships. Our original class of 75 still has 45 people on the mailing list and 28 dues paying members for the 2017 season. Of those, 18 were on the grounds for most or all or of the season. We had 20 people, including spouses, at out annual dinner at Olives, 12 members marching in the CLSC Banner Parade on Recognition Day, the usual 8 to 10 at our meetings and 18 to 20 at our lunchtime meeting with the CLSC author we sponsored. In 2017, we donated $500 toward the publication of the CLSC History written by Mary Lee Talbot and purchased a brick for Alumni Hall walkway.

For 25 years our class has always contributed substantial money beyond the basic dues. In each of our 5th, 10th and 15th anniversary years we underwrote the renovation or replication of an historic CLSC banner. Beginning in 2013 we began sponsoring one of the CLSC authors: David Wroblewski, The Story of Edgar Sawtelle in 2013; Roger Rosenblatt, The Boy Detective in 2014; Anthony Doerr, All the Light We Cannot See in 2015; Diane Ackerman, The Zoo Keeper’s Wife in 2016; in 2017 we sponsored Ron Charles, Book Editor of the Washington Post who was present to facilitate the visit of John Beatty, author of The Sellout. In each case we meet over the lunch hour in the Garden Room of Alumni Hall for a always wonderful, informal discussion with the author. We hope to sponsor an author again in 2018 - possibly, Amor Towles, author of A Gentleman in Moscow in Week 4. Finally, we have each year donated two sets of CLSC Young Readers books for the Children’s Reading Program at Smith Memorial Library.

As we age gracefully – we trust – we continue to further our understanding of world through extensive reading and of course love the time we can spend together each summer at Chautauqua. To those class members we don’t see, we wish you well and hope at some point you will consider another visit to this wonderful place.

—Bob Battaglin, President CLSC, Class of 1992

CLASS OF 1994
Our annual meeting will be held at The Gala on August 8, 2018. If able, we will march as usual. Our mighty class is still serving beans at The Great American Picnic, July 15, 2018. Stop by and say hi. We had a fun time last year and look forward to seeing our little group.

—See you on the grounds, Cathy Scogna

CLASS OF 2003
Lois Minnigh, our class honoree passed away during 2017. A Chautauqua memorial service was held at The Methodist House on July 30, 2017. Sallie Holder and Sharon Thawley were able to attend the service with other Minnigh family members in our class.

A White Gift of $203 was given by the class to pay for the band at the Great American Picnic at the Sunday Baccalaureate Service. We held another successful Recognition Day breakfast gathering in August hosted by the Holecs with several class members and guests attending. We enjoyed chatting about books read throughout the year. All of us celebrated the progress of many from our class who have entered The Guild of The Seven Seals. Members then marched behind our banner at the parade to the Hall of Philosophy where the 2017 was graduating.

Our annual Recognition Day breakfast will again be held this summer on Wednesday, August 6, 2018 on Anita and Sid Holec’s front porch, 29 Vincent Brick Walk. We meet at 7:45 am for coffee, (mimosas!), and yummy breakfast goodies, followed by a brief meeting. An annual highlight is cheering on the Recognition Day band as they march down the Brick Walk. Members and guests are then encouraged to participate in the parade as we walk behind our banner. Bring your t-shirts and scarves, 7 Seals stoles, and join us this year! Remember to get your copy of the new book on the history of CLSC, available at the Chautauqua Bookstore and Alumni Hall.

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CLASS OF 2005—TOM BECKER CLASS
To all Classmates—our 3 year term as class officers will come to an end in 2018. It’s been a pleasure serving but it’s time for new leadership. Please let us know. If you are not getting class news emails please contact Kathy Heimann at 716-753-0776. Are you interested in serving? Do you have ideas for class activities? Please let us know. If you are interested in serving? Do you have ideas for class activities? Please let us know. If you are interested in serving? Do you have ideas for class activities? Please let us know. If you are interested in serving? Do you have ideas for class activities? Please let us know. If you are interested in serving? Do you have ideas for class activities? Please let us know. If you are interested in serving? Do you have ideas for class activities? Please let us know. If you are interested in serving? Do you have ideas for class activities? Please let us know.

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continued >
contact me. We hope to arrange a get together during Recognition week and possibly a breakfast before the parade on CLSC Graduation Day, August 8. If you are at Chautauqua during the second half of the season please stop by the UCC Reform Church House, (across from the library) to say hello. Thank You!
—Sheila Marie Long, Class President slong06@verizon.net

CLASS OF 2006
After a busy 10-year anniversary year last year, the class festivities slowed down a bit in 2017. Members of the class met for the annual meeting and breakfast on the morning of the graduation parade on Recognition Day. Each class member shared a favorite book s/he had read over the last year as part of the introductions. At least a dozen class members marched in the parade donning purple shirts and carrying walking sticks. Later in the day, class members sat together at the Recognition Day Dinner. Along with the annual white gift, a financial contribution was made to the gardens department to support the planting of globe thistles (our class flower) in the Kate Kimball garden behind Alumni Hall. Congratulations to the many members of the Class of 2006 who moved up in the Guild of the Seven Seals. Looking forward to seeing everyone in 2018.
—Sandi Waite-Stupiansky, President

CLASS OF 2009
The Pioneer Hall has been a delightful project for the class of 2009. It was originally built as a classroom facility. We provide docents on Monday and Wednesday afternoons throughout the summer season, and use our brochures designed by a class member to explain the history of the house. The Great American Picnic, which was held on July 16th, provided an excellent venue for us to walk among the picnic tables and ask people to come over to Pioneer Hall porch for cookies and lemonade. Surprisingly, many didn’t know where it was! Our hope is to get other classes involved by providing docents on the other days of the week to make this wonderful place more recognized.

Our first class meeting was July 5th at Alumni Hall, and the second one was August 1st—the day before the Recognition Day Parade. This summer’s meeting dates are July 5th and July 31st.

On July 26, the class and guests met at Carrie Zachary’s beautiful lakeside home for an afternoon soiree on the porch. Of course, we talked about books!

We hope many of our class members will be able to come to Chautauqua for a bit this summer. It’s been quite some time since we’ve seen many of the members. In any event, keep on reading!
—Linda Storey, President of Class 2009

CLASS OF 2011
The Class of 2011 has three events planned for the summer of 2018.
July 18 6 PM Potluck Dinner
August 2 8 AM Breakfast prior to Recognition Day Parade
August 16 6 PM Potluck Dinner

All events will be held at the United Methodist Church House on the Brick Walk behind the Amphitheater. Please bring a dish (appetizer, salad, vegetable, entree or dessert) to share for the potlucks. We have a short business meeting after each evening meal and we will march behind our banner in the parade on August 2. Also, please remember to pay your class dues to Karen Douds, Class of 2011 Treasurer, at the United Methodist House or at Alumni Hall.

CLASS OF 2012
Class of 2012 members continue to progress in Guild of Seven Seals. 39 persons are Guild Members; with 22 as Parnassian, 14 Olympian, and 3 Centurion. Severe winter weather will no doubt have members inside and warm while reading toward new seals on their stoles.

Our class White Gift provided a significant contribution toward the new reception desk for Alumni Hall. The desk is being constructed by the same Amish craftsmen who built the library cabinets, and will have the CLSC logo routed on the front.

Class brown bag get-togethers are planned for the first, third and seventh weeks of the season. We will meet about 12:15 at a picnic table on Alumni Hall lawn. Ira Cooperman will lead discussion the first week around the topic, “Which country has the best/worst spy agency?” Ira and Bob Hopper will present Special Studies classes on Honorable Treachery: “Whistleblowers” & “Leakers,” The Spying Game-Russia vs USA, and Remembering the Vietnam War –A Reappraisal. Our annual meeting will be held Thursday, August 7, at 9:00 am in Alumni Hall.

CLASS OF 2015
The CLSC class of 2015 is looking forward to another wonderful reading season at Chautauqua this upcoming Summer! We encourage members to check out the CLSC/Literary Arts page of the Chautauqua Institution website (www.ciweb.org) to see the current CLSC book selections for this year. The books look fantastic and hopefully will provide us opportunities for several engaging discussions! We also encourage members to update their reading list at the Veranda this summer so that we can continue to have Class of 2015 members achieve their graduate level seals with the alumni association at Recognition Day.

The officers are currently working on the planning of several “Books and Tea” events that will be held this upcoming Summer. The class began having these social events last season and these meetings proved to be wonderful opportunities for class member to get together and have engaging discussion centered around themes within the CLSC titles. These events were held in Alumni Hall and the officers are planning to hold these events in Alumni Hall once again. Please be on the look-out for an e-mail blast from the officers announcing the dates and times of these fantastic events!

We are also looking for class members to march with us in the Recognition Day parade in August. Last year we had a wonderful showing with almost all class members proudly displaying their brand new purple Class of 2015 t-shirts and chanting loudly our class yell about “Creating Connection and Transforming Traditions!” At the parade, we were lead proudly by our wonderfully crafted class banner. If you haven’t had the chance to see it, we encourage you to stop by Alumni Hall and take a glance at it. It is an amazing piece of craftsmanship! Some pictures from the parade this past Summer are included below! Furthermore, we will also be looking for volunteers to help out with “hospitality” responsibilities during the Recognition week. This will mean us helping with vigil preparation, and other aspect of “hospitality” around Alumni Hall.

The officers want to hear from our membership at any point with suggestions and thoughts about the upcoming reading season or events being planned, so please do not hesitate to reach out to one of the officers (John, Lydia, Missy or Joan) if you wish.
—Thank you and please, KEEP READING!
IN THIS ISSUE

Heart of Chautauqua 1
Richard Russo Reception 1
Presidents’ Letter 2
2018 Trustees Executive Committee 2
Help Us Conserve Resources 2
Executive Secretaries’ Letter 3
Guild of Seven Seals 3
Treasurer’s Report 3
Calendar of Events 4
From the Front Dest 4
Graduates Honored at Luncheon 4
Great American Picnic 5
Winter Read 5
House & Banner Committees 5
Librarian Wanted 5
2018 Class Notes 6