

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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High-resolution photographs are available for download at <http://www.mahaiwe.org/press.html>

**Mahaiwe and Flying Cloud Institute to Co-Present
NASA Astronaut Stephanie Wilson**

Great Barrington, Mass.— The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center and Flying Cloud Institute will co-present free talks by Berkshire-raised NASA astronaut Stephanie Wilson on Friday, October 2 at 10:00am (school field trip) and 7:00pm. “I am thrilled to partner with the Flying Cloud Institute to welcome a Berkshire trailblazer, NASA Astronaut Stephanie Wilson, to the Mahaiwe with a morning program for local schools and an evening program for the general public,” said Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “We’ve had enthusiastic interest from across Berkshire County for these appearances and eagerly look forward to these unique presentations about her extraordinary education, training, and multiple missions in outer space.”

A 1984 graduate of Pittsfield’s Taconic High School, Stephanie Wilson has logged over 42 days in space as a veteran of three space flights (STS-121 in 2006, STS-120 in 2007, and STS-131 in 2010). Her space shuttle crew duties have included serving as flight engineer and robotic arm operator. Among her numerous honors are the Harvard Foundation Scientist of the Year Award (2008), an Honorary Doctorate of Science from Williams College (2011), and the Johnson Space Center Director’s Innovation Group Achievement Award (2013).

These programs are free of charge and the evening talk is general admission. For school field trip ticket information, please contact

Judy Reinauer at [413-644-9040 x103](tel:413-644-9040) or education@mahaiwe.org. Advance reservations are encouraged, but not required, for the evening talk. To reserve tickets, members of the public should call the Mahaiwe box office at [413.528.0100](tel:413.528.0100).

Box office hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 6:00pm and three hours before show times. The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. For more information, see www.mahaiwe.org or call [413.528.0100](tel:413.528.0100).

About the Mahaiwe

Located in downtown Great Barrington, Massachusetts, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center is the year-round presenter of world-class music, dance, theater, classic films, Live in HD broadcasts, and arts education programs for the southern Berkshires and neighboring regions. The intimate jewel box of a theater opened in 1905. Since 2005, the performing arts center has hosted over 1,000 events and welcomed almost half a million people through its doors. Its education program has served over 12,000 students from 35 different schools with school-time performances and residencies. The Mahaiwe generates in excess of \$1,000,000 in ticket revenue from 150 events each year, while contributing over \$4,000,000 in regional economic impact from the theater's direct spending and audience's restaurant, lodging, and shopping activities.