

Winter Construction to be Completed for Season Open

Ed Johnston and Rick Schaeffer, Construction Committee

We are thrilled to report that the improvements made during the winter, including an elevator for the Bird-Werner building, will be completed as scheduled by season open.

The Bird-Werner is a wonderful, well-built structure dating from 1882. The elevator shaft goes to the 4th floor in this high and majestic building. No longer will guests have to drag their suitcases, and bodies, up 50 steps to get to the fourth floor.

The remodeled Bird-Werner kitchen is new and attractive, and includes an indoor walkway to the Shaw kitchen, a new laundry room, and a handicap-accessible rest room.

Room 6 on the first floor of the Bird Werner has been remodeled to show what the rooms in the buildings will look like when we improve them. We hope that when people view a remodeled room they will consider sponsoring the upgrade of additional rooms. We have also added two new

bathrooms with showers to the second floor of the Shaw building.

We continue to owe our gratitude to registered architect Bill Laubscher, retired builder Ted First, and structural engineer Paul Potter for their volunteer work for the ECOC that has made our improvements possible.

Even if you are not staying with us, please stop by and look personally at our improvements. ■

Elevator Match Reaches its “Top Floor”

Robert Boell, Capital Fund Campaigns Chairperson

The fall issue of the newsletter noted that the Elevator Challenge Match Campaign for 2010 was “stuck between floors.” Happily, we can now report that the generous giving of ECOC and Chautauqua community folks sent us over the top. (A number of people attached notes to their check with words such as “I want to get that elevator unstuck!”)

As of June 1, 2011, receipts for the

2009/2010 campaign plus gifts that came in 2011 totaled \$328,638. This includes the Johnston challenge match for each of those years—if the ECOC raised \$50,000 in 2009 and \$100,000 in 2010, they would match dollar-for-dollar up to the total of those two amounts.

So, the ECOC and its friends rose to the challenge. Thanks to all who gave, and to our benefactors who challenged us. ■



The new elevator tower framed between the Bird-Werner and the Westervelt buildings. The Shaw building is in the left foreground.

President's Message

As I sit down to write this message to our guests and supporters, I am overwhelmed with a sense of deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve as president for the past three years. It has been an exciting and intense time with two major fund-raisers, the completion of the first phase of remodeling and the second phase, including a much-needed elevator, is almost done.

There are so many people to thank for what has been accomplished that it is impossible to list everyone's name in this column. Many of our regular guests made multiple contributions to our two campaigns and Ed and Marge Johnston gave us a challenge grant that accelerated our efforts. Some Chautauquans who believe in our mission of providing low-cost housing made generous contributions to our efforts. We have made significant changes in the Shaw and Bird-Werner kitchens, added bathrooms in the Shaw and a model bedroom in the Bird-Werner. We have made a terrific beginning in creating more accessible and comfortable spaces, and I hope we can continue the momentum until the entire complex is completed.

We are again in a transition period. The managers from last year decided not to return for 2012, requiring us to quickly make plans for the upcoming season. Fortunately two of our experienced host couples have volunteered to divide the managerial responsibilities for the season. Ed and Marge Johnston will take the first half and Nels and Lois Sandberg will serve from the sixth week until the end. These are very competent and knowledgeable folks so we anticipate that we will have another successful season. We are fortunate to have our veteran hosts returning so we will

have continuity of service. These dedicated folks are George and Mary Dillingham, E. Carol Maxwell and Tom and Jeanie Kern. We will be welcoming some new hosts: Nathan and Janice Wilson, Jack and Mary Knepp and Michael and Michelle Montford.

E. Carol Maxwell volunteered to serve as interim Registrar and has done an amazing job pulling together all of the requests for rooms and organizing the registration process. She deserves a very large thank you from all of us.

I want to express a special appreciation to Marcy Klein who has worked behind the scenes to create a very effective newsletter for guests and friends. Thank you, Marcy, for all the energy and creative talent that you have offered us in my years as president.

An Ad Hoc Committee of the Board that has been meeting by telephone conference and emails since December will be making recommendations about the administrative structure for the ECOC. We believe that it is time to look over our organization to learn if we need to do some restructuring in our different jobs. The full Board just met on June 13-14 to consider the recommendations and to conduct the other business of the ECOC.

Finally, we need people to serve on the Board of Directors who want to continue the very long tradition of providing low-cost housing for our community so that no one is left out who wants to attend. Please consider volunteering.

Bob Hope used to close his radio broadcast with the phrase, "Thanks for the memories." I know what he meant.

(The Reverend) Bill Brockman
President, Board of Directors ■

Farewell...



To ECOC Guests and Board Members—

We enjoyed our tenure at the ECOC and we appreciate having had the opportunity to meet and serve you all. Thank you for the support, guidance, friendship, love and encouragement you provided us during our time with you. Even though we will miss our Chautauqua guests, we are thankful and enjoying this new adventure, as we begin a new phase of our lives.

We were offered a couple of positions as innkeepers, and we chose a beautiful spot. Our "new home" is gloriously located with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and a harbor on the other. We have 9 to 12 foot tides—that is amazing. We watch the fishing and lobster boats from our living room picture window. We are Chef/Innkeepers of a Victorian Inn Bed & Breakfast that is open year round. The owner and his wife are fantastic. God is Good!!

Keep us in your prayers and do stay in touch. We can be reached at our personal email address revkurtkat@hotmail.com or phone 440-344-1504. Thanks, again, for everything. God knew what he was doing when he placed us at ECOC and now moved us here. We appreciate the friendships we made and will always cherish the wonderful times we shared with you in Chautauqua. We did have some good times!!! As Garrison Keillor says: "Be well, do good work, and keep in touch."

Kurt & Kathy Doerflinger,
2010 Managers/Registrar ■

Thank You... from the Registrar

Dear ECOC Guests –

I sincerely appreciated your patience and understanding this spring as I processed this year's reservation requests. This experience has truly been a wonderful "adventure" and I have enjoyed the work!

Many of you have been gracious in accepting

your second choices for this year's visit to Chautauqua—and you deserve extra thanks. The one difficult part of this job was notifying some of you that we could not accommodate you this year.

Safe journey, enjoy your summer and thanks again.

E. Carol Maxwell, Interim Registrar ■

The Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua Newsletter is published twice a year, in spring and fall, and mailed to interested guests. It is also available on the ECOC web site: www.ecoc-chautauqua.org.

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To submit articles or photos, or notify us of an address change, email mklein5@rochester.rr.com

The Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua (ECOC), a not-for-profit corporation with a 503C3 designation, was founded in 2003 to provide low-cost housing for clergy, religious workers and lay people of all faiths.

The Ministers' Union (MU) was founded in 1929 to provide low-cost housing to clergy, clergy families and religious workers attending Chautauqua Institution.

The MU and ECOC share many values, but are separate corporations with separate boards of directors.

Welcome from the Interim Managers



Ed and Marge Johnston, Lois and Nels Sandberg

We are honored to serve the ECOC as interim managers this year. Ed and Marge will be managers for the first five weeks, and Nels and Lois Sandberg for the last four weeks.

We will have some new hosts and hostesses this year. Reverend Nathan Wilson, his wife Janice and children Clarissa (14) and Ellie (11) will be serving weeks 4 through 7 in the Shaw kitchen. Michael

and Michelle Montford will be serving weeks 6 and 7 in the Bird-Werner kitchen, and Jack and Mary Knepp will be serving weeks 8 and 9 in the Bird-Werner kitchen.

We thank E. Carol Maxwell for doing such a great job of booking reservations for this season. We know the reservation process got started late, but E. Carol was very conscientious in getting back to all guests quickly when she became interim registrar—and all this with a full time job.

Thank you so much to the volunteers who came to help us during the Work Week. Help cleaning up after the construction was especially important this year and volunteer help saved us using any professional (for pay) help. We were really

impressed with how hard everyone worked, and we also had fun social time together. Also a special thanks to the 50+ Shaw family members who were here for a week in mid-June to help us to get the buildings ready. They did much painting, cleaning, and repairing, and were crucial in allowing us to be ready for season open.

It has been a busy year with the construction. It looks as if the elevator will be ready very close to season open, so we will appreciate your flexibility this year, especially those of you arriving Week 1. We look forward to having you stay with us at our wonderful facility within this village of Chautauqua, and will do everything that we can to make your stay a pleasant one. ■

Meet Our Advisory Committee

About four years ago, the ECOC Board realized that in order for our fund-raising to reach our goal of \$3 million, it would be imperative for the ECOC to reach into the larger Chautauqua community for major gifts. The Advisory Committee's mission was to evaluate our fund-raising plans for the larger community and to make recommendations about how we could be effective in getting our message out to increase our visibility in the community. The committee members sponsored get-acquainted meetings in their homes to introduce their friends to the ECOC.

As a result of their efforts, the wider community has come forward generously, with one family supporting a new bedroom in honor of their grandmother. Donations at all levels have been received and are deeply appreciated. In addition, Ted First recruited Bill Laubscher to provide free architectural service, a structural engineer, Peter Potter, to donate his services, plus found an interior designer to help with our new dedicated bedroom. Ted himself has donated hundreds of hours to our remodeling projects.

Note: Committee member Mig Boyle will be introduced in a future issue.

Ted First



A retired designer and builder of energy-efficient homes and apartments, Ted First is a Chautauqua Institution Trustee and serves on its Architectural Review Board. Ted has as

devoted over 30 years to Habitat for Humanity, building homes and serving on its Board.

Ted has been instrumental in supporting the ECOC's renovation plans, by offering his own pro bono services, and inviting his friends, retired architect Bill Laubscher and engineer Paul Potter, to donate their services as well. Ted values the ECOC because "it makes the experience of Chautauqua available to everyone by being economically accessible, so it helps to keep Chautauqua an inclusive experience. While ECOC guests are here, they become a model of a lived community, learning and giving to one another across kitchen tables and in porch conversations."

Ted lives year-round at Chautauqua, with his wife, Deborah, who recently served on the ECOC Board. They enjoy their large extended family and volunteering in Israel and Palestine.

Joe Goldfarb



Long-time Chautauqua visitors and homeowners, Joe Goldfarb and his wife Toni became Advisory Committee members several years ago. They have hosted a house meeting to

promote the ECOC among their friends, and Toni now serves on the ECOC Board of Directors. Joe appreciates the Ecumenical Community because "it provides inexpensive housing along with fellowship to those of all faiths—and no faith affiliations—and those of all cultural backgrounds to aid in the cultural, religious, and economic diversity in Chautauqua."

During the summer, Joe is quite involved in Chautauqua activities: evaluating the 10:45 lectures, giving scholarships for art, dance and voice, and volunteering with the Connections program. Off-season, he lives in Old Tappan, New Jersey, and is a professor of Pharmacology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Joe enjoys music, opera, and dance and serves as Vice President and Program Chair for a non-profit chamber music series in New Jersey.

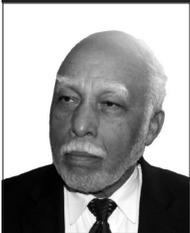
Continued on page 4

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Advisory Committee, *continued from page 3*

John Jackson



John Jackson stayed at the ECOC for many years before buying his home on Harper Avenue. He now is an officer with the Chautauqua Property Owners Association.

John has served for on the Advisory Committee since its inception. He values the ECOC for its unique sense of community and affordable access, and says “I believe the ECOC will be an important factor in maintaining and strengthening what some of us regard as the ‘true’ character of Chautauqua against forces that seem to make that increasingly difficult.”

A lawyer for 20 years, John is passionate about creative dispute resolution, which he does both professionally and as a volunteer, and he is interested in the role of religion in individual lives and society. He serves on the board of directors of the Robert H. Jackson Center, volunteers with the Center for Resolution and Justice, and is active with Hurlbut Memorial Community Church. He is married with two children and five grandchildren, and enjoys being a general aviation pilot.

Katie Lincoln



A lifelong Chautauquan, Katie Lincoln serves as a trustee of Chautauqua Institution and a Director of the Chautauqua Foundation. Her Chautauqua roots go back many

generations—her grandfather, as a young boy, went with his father to the very first Assembly.

Katie lives in Paradise Valley, Arizona, and is Chair and Chief Investment Officer of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy—a leading international research organization that seeks to facilitate dialogue about urban development, the built environment, and tax policy in the United States and abroad. She also serves on Boards of several non-profits.

Katie says “I believe that the value of the ECOC is that it mirrors the central tenet of Chautauqua—that of being open to all, regardless of religion or financial circumstances. I hope that it can grow and flourish and be a place where all feel welcome.”

Katie enjoys her two grown children, plus singing, reading, and exercising—when she finds the time in her busy schedule.

Margaret Steere



Margie Steere, of Wellesley, Massachusetts, is a retired geriatric social worker. She has been a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia, an academic counselor and foreign student advisor

at a college in New Jersey, plus co-founder and counselor at a career counseling center in Connecticut. She is a deacon at Wellesley Congregational Church, where she serves as co-chair of its annual stewardship campaign.

As an ECOC Advisory Committee member, she organized neighborhood get-togethers to inform friends and neighbors about the ECOC—its history, needs and future plans—and to encourage participation in the Capital Campaign. She feels that the ECOC “is ever more important for the positive continuation and diversity of Chautauqua to provide and maintain safe and affordable housing.”

Margie fondly recalls that her first Chautauqua baby-sitting job was at the Minister’s Union in about 1960. She is married with four children and five grandchildren, all of whom will visit her this summer at Chautauqua. ■