

President's Message

Nathan Day Wilson, President, Board of Directors



As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the ECOC has the responsibility to provide educational programs that represent our philosophy and mission. Each year we do this either independently or in cooperation with the Department of Religion or other denominational houses.

This past season, with the oversight of Board member Toni Goldfarb, the ECOC fulfilled its obligations with a Brown Bag Lunch series which allowed guests to learn about the work or passions of other ECOC visitors.

Each Monday, guests were engaged in conversations that covered a broad range of topics:

- **Volunteer Experience in Haiti** – The Rev. Dr. Gordon Schleicher
- **Medical Misadventures** – Toni Goldfarb
- **Post-theism** – Gretta Vosper
- **The History of the ECOC** – James Cook
- **International Interfaith Council meeting held at Chautauqua in June** – Maureen Rovegno
- **Sailing as a Life Skill** – Gary Snyder
- **Economic Tools for Low-Wealth Individuals** – Amy Shir
- **Communication in the Medical Profession** – Barry Bub
- **Collecting Presidential Sites** – Robert Anderson

We are very grateful to those who brought leadership to the program, and to the UCC, which allowed us to use their chapel for our events.

We hope you were able to participate in one of the Brown Bag Lunches and are looking forward to next year's offerings. In fact, we'll be looking for those who are interested in sharing their insights, interests, ideas, or talents during the 2013 season. Look for a form in your registration confirmation in early spring, or send a note to our Program Committee Chair, Gretta Vosper at gretta.vosper@gmail.com. ■



ECOC guests join the annual street party on South Terrace during Chautauqua's Old First Night on August 7.

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Managers' Report



Ed and Marge Johnston, Lois and Nels Sandberg

The Shaw, Westervelt, and Bird-Werner buildings are all put to sleep for a long winter nap!

We hope that everyone enjoyed staying at the ECOC as much as we and the hosts and hostesses did. We thank so much the volunteers who helped us during the season and work weeks. We had fun and fellowship while opening and closing up and making improvements to the kitchens and rooms. We hope you can join us for the 2013 pre- and post-season work weeks. The registration packet going out in late December will contain information about work weeks and how to sign up.

We have completed our staffing plan for next year. Nels and Lois will again manage Weeks 1–5, and Ed and Marge Weeks 6–9. All hosts and hostesses are returning from last year.

Shaw

George and Mary Dillingham
(Weeks 1–5)

Jack and Mary Knepp (Weeks 6–9)

Bird-Werner

Tom and Jeanie Kerns (Weeks 1–5)
Michael and Michele Montford
(Weeks 6–7)

Carl and Sandy Williams
(Weeks 8–9)

Westervelt

Nathan and Janice Wilson
(Weeks 1–2)

E. Carol Maxwell (Weeks 3–4, 6–7)
Jack and Mary Knepp (Week 5)
Craig and Jan Dolbeer (Weeks 8–9)

Craig and Jan, from Ontario, Canada, will be a new host couple with us.

They have been faithful volunteers both before and after the season for the last several years. Also, Craig is a computer programmer and has volunteered to be a backup programmer to Ed for maintaining the ECOC reservation system.

We're looking forward to improvements to the buildings planned for the off-season. Especially convenient, and adding to safety, will be access to the elevator and stair tower and to the Bird-Werner and Shaw kitchens from the Westervelt building. You'll find full details in next spring's newsletter.

We hope that all of you have a wonderful off-season, and that you plan to spend some time with us at the ECOC next summer. The 2013 Season will soon be here, and we'll be enjoying fellowship in the ECOC kitchens and on the porches, attending lectures and entertainment, and sharing with old and new friends. ■

From the Registrar

E. Carol Maxwell

Friends –

Soon it will be time to make plans for your accommodations at the ECOC's Shaw House, Bird-Werner House or Westervelt House for the 2013 Season. Below are some things to remember:

- 1) The annual mailing (includes Reservation Application, Yellow Information sheet, Volunteer Sign-Up sheet and a note from the Managers and Registrar) will be post-marked and mailed on **December 28, 2012** (in a booklet-size white envelope) from Chautauqua, NY.
- 2) You should mail the completed application (2-sided form), along with the

weekly room deposit, upkeep gift and a self-addressed, stamped, business-size (#10) envelope to:

E. Carol Maxwell, Registrar
PO Box 208
Warren, OHIO 44482-0208

Please **DO NOT** mail your accommodation request to **Chautauqua, NY!**

- 3) The Reservation Application and Yellow Information sheet will be available to print off the web site by **January 5, 2013**.

Wishing you and your family a healthy, happy and safe fall, winter and spring! We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you next summer! ■



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.

Editor and layout: Marcella Klein

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 501(c)(3) 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.

McLarens Donate in Jacobsen's Honor

Deborah First

The McLarens' recent gift to the ECOC, given to honor Jared Jacobsen, raises everyone's spirits and makes things possible. Beginning with Sarah McLaren's family and a modest "giving fund" for local community needs, "local community" grew to include Chautauqua, a place that the family grew to love, and the needs of clergy with increasing pastoral burdens. The McLarens experience Chautauqua as a place of renewal and offered that opportunity for recently ordained clergy. The Daney-Holden Chaplaincy Fund was born, nurturing the Chautauqua "congregation"

as a whole during Week 9, as was the Holden-Daney Foundation supporting program for the new clergy who could, because of the scholarship, come to catch the Chautauqua mission and vision, finding time for study and re-creation.

Sarah and Everett McLaren have taken great joy in organist Jared Jacobsen's ministry to the Chautauqua community. Whether lunchtime mini-concerts, worship or sacred song services, Jared offers kindness, a deep spirit of generosity and grace to every child and adult he meets. Taking inspiration from Jared's own Chautauqua story, and

honoring Jared's generous spirit, the McLarens hope to make Chautauqua's spirit of renewal accessible to others by supporting the ECOC's affordable housing opportunity.

The McLarens' gift to the ECOC will become a bedroom whose story will honor Jared Jacobsen and whose space is part of what makes the ECOC affordable for so many different families each week, every summer, to become refreshed and renewed. Their gift to the ECOC becomes a reminder of the great blessing that comes from generosity to strangers. ■

Two Join ECOC Board

We welcome two new members to the ECOC Board of Directors: Rev. Robert Boell and Jack Knepp. They join the other Board members, Toni Goldfarb, Susan Helm, Rev. Jan Hoffman, David Matthews, Harriette Royer, Rev. Ellie Stock, Rev. Gretta Vosper, Jeff Vreeland and Rev. Nathan Day Wilson. We thank retiring Board member Rev. Joe Donovan for his service.

Robert Boell



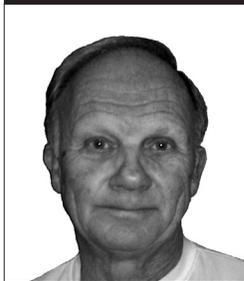
Rev. Robert Boell, of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, was elected at the August 2012 Board Meeting to fill a one-year vacancy on the Board of

Directors. Bob is not new to the Board, having served three different terms since the 1970's, including one as President. Bob also chaired two capital fund drives for ECOC.

A retired Presbyterian minister, Bob has been coming to Chautauqua since 1948, and his wife Jean has come every year since her birth. The couple met while working at the Athenaeum.

Bob says: "I am always glad to be a part of furthering the unique ministry of ECOC, and I look forward to returning each season with Jean, renewing long-time friendships and making new ones."

Jack Knepp



New Board member Jack Knepp and his wife Mary have served as ECOC hosts since 2011. They live in both Chicago and the Illinois Quad Cities.

Jack is a retired community banker; he was in the banking field for about 35 years.

Jack loves the ECOC, saying, "I have met some great friends here. I value the sense of community and its mission. That community sense intermingled with the nature of Chautauqua is intoxicating."

Since retiring, Jack spends a lot of time volunteering and enjoying his family. His hobbies include travel, hiking, running, and reading. Mary is a retired teacher (and was chosen Adult Education Teacher of the Year for Illinois). The couple has three children and nine grandchildren. ■

In Memoriam

We are sad to report that former Ministers Union manager Helene E. Shaw Werner died on October 15, 2012 at the age of 84 in South Bend, Indiana.

Helene managed the MU for 10 years with her husband Fred, until retiring in 1997. They did everything from mailings and reservations to maintenance and guest relations. Helene was an excellent business woman and was able to start a significant savings account for the MU.

Helene was the last member of the Shaw family to actively manage the buildings. The family began management in 1929 and was active for almost 70 years—opening and closing the buildings and even providing small loans to get the property ready for the summer.

Many Shaw family members still come before each season to help with cleaning, small repairs, and painting. Helene almost always participated on those pre-season occasions. She spent a happy week or two this summer as a guest at the ECOC.

Mrs. Werner is survived by four sisters, two daughters, two sons, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her obituary suggests that contributions in her memory may be made to the ECOC, as well as several charities. ■

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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Chautauqua, New York 14722
716-357-3814 (Summer)
716-581-3659 (Winter)
www.ecoc-chautauqua.org

ECOC Calendar

December 28	Registration forms sent
January 5, 2013	Regist. forms on web
Starting Feb. 1	Confirmations processed
May 31–June 2 & June 14–21	Spring Work Weeks (anytime during period)
June 19–20	Spring Board meeting
June 22	Season begins
August 25	Season ends
August 26–27	Annual Board meeting
August 26–29 & Sept. 3–6	Fall Work Weeks (anytime during period)

Hospitality Flourishes at ECOC

Board member Harriette Royer was asked to chair a new Hospitality Committee last spring. Its task was to recommend ways to enhance and expand hospitality towards guests and the wider Chautauqua community. Joining Harriette on the committee were ECOC guests Bob and Jean Boell, Corky Fisher, Ann Hoffman, Paul and Kathleen Kett, Marcy Klein, E. Carol Maxwell, and Roger Tilden.

The committee researched the meanings of hospitality and affirmed the ECOC's intention to provide kind, inclusive, specific, non-judgmental, and loving care for others—and made it a priority.

After much brainstorming, the Committee presented almost 30 suggestions to the Board and staff the day before the Season opened. Some recommendations were immediately implemented. Per-

sonal note cards, meditation books, and welcome packets were assembled for use in the kitchens, which quickly became central gathering and conversation places in the hospitality effort.

Each week, guests were asked for a brief assessment of their experiences at the ECOC, and asked to list their own acts of hospitality. They also received a note encouraging a donation for purchases to make the ECOC more welcoming.

More than 200 assessment forms were returned, and they were overwhelmingly positive. Each staff member was highly praised for responsiveness and caring. Many guests characterized the ECOC as their “Chautauqua home away from home.” Almost everyone specifically cited the importance of the kitchens and relationships with the staff in creating a welcoming community. In addition, most

respondents described engaging in one or more special acts of hospitality—sharing a meal or a newspaper, inviting newcomers to join in, running errands, setting up card games, doing extra cleaning, composting, hugging children, and more.

The letter asking for additional donations brought in hundreds of dollars—every week! In total, the ECOC received about \$5,600 for this special initiative. The staff used some of the money right away—for porch furniture, a stove, and 14 ceiling fans. The Board, staff, and Hospitality Committee will recommend purchases for the remaining \$4,400.

We can build on our successful experience and reputation for hospitality in exciting ways in 2013. Are you interested in joining the Hospitality Committee? Contact Harriette at harrietteroyer@gmail.com or call (585) 436-9174. ■