

ECOC News

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

Spring
2013

Volume 7 Issue 1

A community of religious inclusion and compassion, providing hospitality and affordable accommodations, promoting dialogue, fellowship and growth.

Message from the Board

Nathan Day Wilson, President, Board of Directors

Before I agreed to the board presidency two years ago, I asked the board to agree to regular conference calls between our August and June face-to-face meetings. Thanks to the faithful participation of most board members, those calls have proven fruitful. Some fruit is reflected in these pages, which are—once again—so ably edited by Marcy Klein. Other fruit will be seen this summer on the grounds.

If you are interested in serving on the board or committees, please say so. Volunteering for property, programming, hospitality, finance, development, capital, house, nominating or personnel committees, or agreeing to help with our web site, social communications or in some other way, is not a life sentence! You can cycle off, as will I at the end of the summer; doing so is good for keeping fresh ideas. Please consider serving for a period of time.

We are making facility improvements as finances permit and priorities dictate. Your donations of ideas and money can be sent to:

ECOC
P.O. Box 988
Chautauqua, NY 14722

They will be put to good use!

Along similar lines, I anticipate this summer to be one of thorough



deliberations and thoughtful decisions about our facilities and property development. I hope we will listen to others' desires as well as present our own. I have heard many good ideas; I've even had a couple. The issue will be deciding on the best of the good... and, paying for them!

I doubt you'll find harder working or more dedicated managers and hosts/hostesses than those at ECOC. I hope you'll thank them this summer. I also hope you'll help them keep the buildings clean and comfortable.

I look forward to deepening and expanding relationships with you this summer at ECOC!

— Nathan ■

In Memoriam

We are sad to report that former Minister's Union manager Martha Bird passed away recently at the age of 92.

Martha and Paul Bird managed the MU (now ECOC) for eight years in the 1980's. The Bird-Werner House is named after her. Martha was the niece of Eunice Shaw, founder of the Minister's Union, and cousin of Eunice Bacon Shaw, long-time manager of the Minister's Union who died in 1991.

Martha was a teacher of the deaf and sign language interpreter for over 40 years. She and Paul loved to travel around the world, and took groups of deaf individuals on tour with them.

After Paul's death, Martha enjoyed coming to Chautauqua nearly every summer. She was the first person to make a pledge to finance the ECOC's recent renovations. Martha's sister, Winifred Minier, and the children of her sister Laura Minier Cook made a joint contribution of \$5,000 to the ECOC in Martha's memory.

Martha is survived by her sister, one son, Richard, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. ■

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Managers' Report



Ed and Marge Johnston, Lois and Nels Sandberg

Dear Friends of ECOC,

We are looking forward to our 2013 season at Chautauqua. We are excited to see old friends and to make new ones.

Since the end of the 2012 season major work has continued to improve our three wonderful houses. Additional ceiling fans have been added in all buildings. Also:

In the Westervelt: Apartment A has been renovated for handicap accessibility, including new bathroom and kitchen areas; to improve access the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Westervelt have been connected to the elevator tower; and a few rooms have been painted.

In the Bird-Werner: An additional bathroom facility has been added to the 3rd floor and exhaust fans have been installed in the attic to help cool the 4th floor.

In the Shaw: Carpeting has been laid in the office and room 15.

During the Spring work weekend (May 31–June 2) and work week (June 14–21) additional projects will be added: new paint, new freezer in the Westervelt kitchen, a new refrigerator in the Bird-Werner kitchen plus other repairs and improvements.

The additional fans, freezer, refrig-

erator and Shaw stove (replaced last season) have been paid for with donations made by guests at the end of their stays last year, and continued donations will enable additional improvements.

The Season will soon be here and we will be enjoying the fellowship of our kitchens and porches, attending lectures and concerts, and sharing news and stories with old and new friends.

WE CAN'T WAIT!!!

— Managers Lois and Nels Sandberg
(Weeks 1–5) & Ed and Marge Johnston
(Weeks 6–9)

ECOCManagers@gmail.com ■

We Need Your Help!

It's time to get ready for the 2013 Season! There is always a lot to do before we are ready to open and welcome our guests. Please come join us and share your talents! Tasks needing attention: cleaning, washing, hanging curtains, painting, light carpentry and more. Come when you can and leave when you must.

SPRING (any time during this period)
May 31—June 2 and June 14—21

FALL (any time during this period)
Aug. 24—29 and Sept. 4—6

You should bring your own linens, food and tools. Plan to share a dish at Saturday night's potluck and fellowship.

Please contact the Managers about the date of your arrival, at: ECOCManagers@gmail.com.

Notes from the Registrar

E. Carol Maxwell

I am happy to report at this time that 85% of our rooms are booked for the Season. The Managers, Hosts and Hostesses are looking forward to greeting all our guests this summer! Many long-attending guests will be returning and we will be meeting some new guests this year!

We know how much everyone loves to stay in our three special homes—Shaw House, Bird-Werner House and Westervelt House—and we are disappointed not to have enough rooms to fill all the lodging requests! Weeks 4

and 5 have wait lists with 28 and 26 requests, respectively. Weeks 1, 2 and 6 have wait lists as well with just a few requests on each. At this time, there are rooms available for Weeks 3, 7, 8 and 9. Send your request to ecocregistrar@gmail.com.

Travel safely, and see you soon!
E. Carol, Registrar

Three E's: Errol, Emily & Eli

For the past six years, the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua managers, hosts and hostesses have become

“family away from home” to some special dance students. They join us at our ice cream socials, eat our leftover Tuesday tea cookies, occasionally share a meal with us and dazzle us with their dance abilities as we watch them perform on the Amphitheater stage!

This summer, we are excited to welcome back **Errol Kurtz** (Bossov Ballet Theatre) and eager to meet **Emily Davis** (Pofahl Studios) and **Eli Downs** (Washington School of Ballet)! All three students are Festival Dancers with the Chautauqua Ballet program. ■

Meet Our Newest Hosts & Hostesses

Craig & Jan Dolbeer



The Dolbeers live in Southampton, Ontario, and winter in Tucson. They have two grown daughters.

Craig is a computer programmer, and is assisting manager Ed Johnston with the room reservation system. At church, Craig sings in the choir and operates the computer that projects the order of service. He also volunteers at the local museum. He is interested in electronics, robotics and garden railways.

A former Special Education Teacher, Jan enjoys reading, quilting and working on genealogy. She also sings in the church choir and teaches Sunday School. Jan serves on the ECOC Property Committee.

They will host at the Westervelt Weeks 8 and 9. "We are very excited about being host and hostess for the first time. We have always loved the warmth and charm of the ECOC kitchens, porches and rooms. We hope to share this ECOC spirit with our guests."

Carl & Sandy Williams



Carl and Sandy live in Medina, Ohio, and now spend winters in Punta Gorda, Florida. They have one

daughter, Jennifer. Carl worked for 34 years in the Goodyear Tire and Rubber headquarters in Akron, Ohio, while Sandy taught elementary and middle school in Akron Public and Chippewa Schools for 36 years.

They volunteer at the Immokalee Migrant Farm Workers Mission Peniel in Florida. At their home church, Bath United Church of Christ, they volunteer at Family Promise, a homeless shelter for families. Sandy is a reading volunteer tutor and Carl is involved in Good Neighbors of Akron. Other interests include a book club, playing bridge, travel, boating, kayaking, walking and biking.

"We love the ecumenical atmosphere that the ECOC houses afford. Everyone returns at the end of the day fulfilled with music, knowledge, dialogue, and joy!" They will be hosts at Bird-Werner Weeks 8 and 9.

Jack & Mary Knepp



Jack and Mary will be hosts in Westervelt Week 5 and in Shaw Weeks 6 to 9. They have been staying

at the ECOC for about 10 years, and they love the community spirit at the ECOC.

The Knepps live in both Chicago and Rock Island, Illinois. Jack was a banker at a small community bank for about 40 years, and is treasurer on the Board. He volunteers for immigration and non-violence programs, and at his church. He likes to read, travel and "do too much Sudoku."

For over 37 years Mary taught in the adult education department at a college in Moline, Illinois—basic literacy, GED preparation, college readiness, and ESL (English as a Second Language). She is on the boards of an addiction treatment and prevention agency and a refugee resettlement agency. She loves playing with their nine grandchildren, traveling, reading, singing, and knitting.

Nathan & Janice Wilson



The Wilsons will be hosts in the Westervelt Weeks 1 and 2 this year. They began attending Chau-

tauqua in 2005, and they treasure the time they spend in the ECOC community.

Nathan is completing a 5-year term on the Board, and has been president for the last two. He serves as senior minister of a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He writes a weekly column for *The Shelbyville News* and edits the weekly "Faith Forum" section of *The Indianapolis Star*, plus he coaches high school basketball.

Janice runs an NGO based in Swaziland: Kukhany'okusha Cares. They are involved in sustainable farming, early childhood education, job training for women and men, and HIV and AIDS care-giving.

The Wilsons and their two daughters live outside Indianapolis, Indiana. They enjoy theatre, dance, traveling and ice cream.

Michael & Michele Montford



Michael and Michele live in Moline, Illinois, and they have been coming to Chautauqua for ten years.

Michael was a logistics director for the Army for 35 years, retiring in 2000. Michele was a stay-at-home mom, then did flowers for weddings. They currently have a small catering business. They enjoy spending time with their children, ten grandchildren and one great-grandbaby. They serve on various boards and committees for their church, and work with a local food pantry and meal program. They love to cook and eat good food.

The Montfords are enthusiastic about the ECOC, "We love the close community at ECOC. We have enjoyed every moment we have spent at Chautauqua and truly love being a part of the kitchen staff. The fellow staff and guests have continued to inspire us." They will be hosts at the Bird-Werner Weeks 6 and 7.

Our Long-time Hosts

We featured our long-time hosts, George and Mary Dillingham, Tom and Jeanie Kerns, and E. Carol Maxwell, in the Spring 2010 issue of the *ECOC News*. To read their profiles, you'll find a copy archived on our web site, www.ecoc-chautauqua.org.



George & Mary Dillingham will host in the Shaw kitchen Weeks 1 to 5.



Tom & Jeanie Kerns will be hosts in the Bird-Werner during Weeks 1 to 5.



E. Carol Maxwell will be hostess in the Westervelt Weeks 3, 4, 6 and 7. ■

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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

ECOC Calendar

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 24–29 & Sept. 4–6	Fall Work Weeks (anytime during period)



Chautauqua 2013 Themes

Week 1	June 23–29	Our Elegant Universe
Week 2	June 30–July 6	The Next Greatest Generation
Week 3	July 7–13	America, 1863
Week 4	July 14–20	Markets, Morals and the Social Contract
Week 5	July 21–27	The Pursuit of Happiness
Week 6	July 28–Aug. 3	Crime and Punishment
Week 7	August 4–10	Diplomacy
Week 8	August 11–17	Turkey: Model for the Middle East
Week 9	August 18–24	Health Care: Reform and Innovation

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.