

ECOC News

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

Fall
2013

Volume 7 Issue 2

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

Message from the Board

Susan Helm, President, Board of Directors

Dear ECOC Friends,

Oh, how I miss you! When we left Chautauqua on September 14, the ECOC buildings were dark and shuttered—nobody rocking on the porch or waving as I walked by, no good smells, no laughter nor earnest conversations in the kitchens—and none of you! It was awful—come back soon!

Let me catch you up on ECOC news. Your board and staff are hard at work preparing for the 2014 season. E. Carol and Lois and Nels met to stuff envelopes with reservation and accommodations information—they'll go out at the end of December. Your Property Committee is working with construction crews to put finishing touches on some building changes. Lots of thank-you notes have been written for myriad help during the 2013 season. The House Committee is identifying which rooms need what. The ad hoc Viability Committee is working to prioritize what needs to be done when! And much more!

All of us are planning the new capital campaign, which will begin in January. I think we are going to call it "Sitting Pretty," because we will be headlining work on porches, and yes, bathrooms! Plus we want to improve fire egress, and more. Now, I have no training as clergy, so I won't attempt to give you a spiritual message about this, but I see it as a stewardship issue.



We respond to what the ECOC gives us with enormous gratitude, and do all that we can to support its mission. We will need your help—ideas, time, and money. We ask you to talk to your friends about the ECOC, and identify those who might be interested in helping. When I have worked on fund raising before, it has seemed that the key to a successful campaign has been making people "fall in love" with the cause. Will you help by making people fall in love? The ECOC is worth it!

If any of you want to respond or comment on what I say, my email is smhelm@clockwinders.net. I would be glad to hear from you! And if you'd like to help with any of the committee work, let me know!

Happy holidays and have a wonderful winter—stay well and warm!

Love, Susan ■

Dedication Celebrated

Rev. Robert Boell

August 17 was a high moment for the ECOC 2013 season. A service of dedication was held for the newly-renovated apartment in the Westervelt building. The work was made possible by a gift from Everett and Sarah McLaren in honor of Jared Jacobsen.

On a delightful summer day, many gathered in the street on South Terrace Avenue. Board members welcomed the gathering, read from Christian, Jewish and Islamic scriptures, gave a brief history of the ECOC, and offered a dedication prayer.

The McLarens told of their interest in the mission of the ECOC and their desire to honor Jared Jacobsen for his gift of music that inspires Chautauqua Institution. Jared spoke of how touched he was to have this honor.

Chautauqua's Motet Choir sang a piece with music by Randall Thompson and words by Robert Herrick. The title brought smiles to all: "The Best of Rooms."

Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, Director of the Department of Religion, gave the closing prayer, then visitors had an opportunity to tour the Jacobsen Room. Guests who stayed in the renovated room offered high praise, saying that it was fresh, bright and accessible, yet still maintained the characteristic simplicity of the ECOC. ■

Managers' Report



Ed and Marge Johnston, Lois and Nels Sandberg

The Shaw, Bird-Werner and Westervelt houses are all closed and the porches covered in preparation for the cold and snowy winter months to come.

We want to thank our wonderful kitchen hosts last season: David Bagshaw and Diane Mann, Don and Linda Burgard, Tom and Jeanie Kerns, Paul and Kathleen Kett, Jack and Mary Knepp, E. Carol Maxwell, Michael and Michelle Montford, Carl and Sandy Williams, and Nathan and Janice Wilson. All of these hard workers are greatly appreciated and our love goes to all of them. We think you'll agree that they raised hosting to a new level this year with new after-concert social opportunities (including a sing-along on one oc-

casion), a new potluck meal on Fridays, and their personal care of guests.

We had an occupancy rate in 2013 of over 96%, which is essentially full. In this environment, we had a wonderful caring atmosphere within our buildings and kitchens and we thank all of our guests for this. We also had no accidents on our property during the entire season. We'd like to thank all our guests for being so mindful of safety in our buildings and kitchens.

We received many nice comments on our surveys. They included glowing praise for our hosts and hostesses, gratitude that we have made a Chautauqua experience possible by being so affordable, and also appreciation for the improvements to our facilities in recent years.

With the hospitality gifts, we purchased a new freezer for the Westervelt, a new clothes dryer and laundry table, new refrigerators for the Bird-Werner kitchen and for the remodeled apartment, plus small appliances and other items for our kitchens. We thank each

of you who were able to contribute a gift.

If at all possible, please sign up to help during our work weeks and weekends before or after the season. A form for this will be in your reservation packet. We can't stress enough how necessary this volunteer activity is in helping us keep our three buildings upgraded, clean, and affordable.

We hope all of you have had and will continue to have a wonderful off-season and look forward to seeing you next year. As usual, the new season will be here before we know it and we'll be enjoying ourselves and our friends at this beautiful village called Chautauqua. May God's blessings be with you all. ■

2014 Work Weeks

Put the dates on your calendar!

SPRING (any time during this period)

May 30—June 2 and June 13—20

FALL (any time during this period)

Aug. 25—28 and Sept. 2—4

Message from the Registrar

E. Carol Maxwell

THANK YOU to all our guests who resided at the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua this past summer for a week or two or just a few days! The ECOC's final lodging report shows we realized over 96% occupancy for the season!

The **2014 Accommodations Information** packet will be mailed from Chautauqua at the end of December. Once again, the information is enclosed in a 6 x 9 booklet-size envelope. There is a new document — **Agreement to Follow ECOC Policies & Emergency**

Contact Information — to be completed and returned along with the reservation request, room deposit, upkeep gift and self-addressed business-size stamped envelope. All guests are required to read, complete, initial, sign and return the new form when making a reservation.

By **January 5, 2014**, all accommodations information will be posted on our website: www.ecoc-chautauqua.org.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy fall, winter and spring!

Guest Roster Update

The 2014 Accommodations information is being sent to all guests who stayed with us at least one of the past four years: 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. If you have not been to Chautauqua in the past five (or more) years but would like to receive the 2014 Accommodations information, you can obtain the information by: 1) emailing me at ecoregistrar@gmail.com; 2) calling me at (716) 581-3659; or 3) checking our website: www.ecoc-chautauqua.org. ■

Guests Praise ECOC

Harriette Royer, Chair, Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee asked guests what they valued most about the ECOC. Responses shared some common themes:

- ▶ *You definitely live up to your mission! We love the ECOC for the instant community we have when we arrive, and we appreciate the affordable housing! We feel we have a true home here—and have made rich friendships, which continue when we go home.*
- ▶ *The cost made it possible for me to participate in this extraordinary experience. It felt like a true grace. The community was a balm for my tired and discouraged spirit. The dialogue from richly varied theologies was inspiring.*
- ▶ *We enjoy feeling that we are a part of*

a caring community. We enjoy the comfortable, easy style of living together. ECOC's location next to the Amp... makes it the perfect place for easy access to so many areas. We really enjoy the "downtown" life.

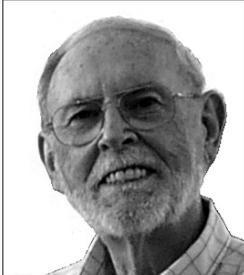
- ▶ *My experience was the epitome of your mission—a lovely, comfortable and affordable room with a diverse, interesting group in the kitchen and the ECOC community to share it with.*

And there's more good news! Guests donated over \$6,400 to the hospitality fund this summer. During the season, guests noticed and appreciated the fans, can openers, stove, and porch furniture that were purchased from this fund last year. ■

Two Join ECOC Board

We welcome two newly-elected members to the ECOC Board of Directors: Rev. Bill Brockman and Rev. Ed Hann. They join Board members Toni Goldfarb, Susan Helm, Rev. Jan Hoffman, Jack Knepp, Rev. David Matthews, Harriette Royer, Rev. Ellie Stock, Rev. Gretta Vosper, and Jeff Vreeland. We thank retiring Board members Rev. Robert Boell and Rev. Nathan Day Wilson for their service.

Bill Brockman



Rev. Bill Brockman, of Boca Raton, Florida, is serving on the Board for a third time. In his past terms, he served as President, Treasurer,

and co-chair of the "Continue the Legacy" financial campaign.

Bill and his wife, Maggie, manage the Hall of Missions during the Chautauqua season. Bill is a retired United Methodist minister who specialized in pastoral counseling. He and Maggie have a grown son and daughter, who occasionally visit Chautauqua.

Bill is enthusiastic about the ECOC and its mission, "The ECOC is a wonderful ministry of hospitality and represents some of the finest values of Chautauqua: a welcoming community, simple living and affordable accommodations."

Ed Hann



Rev. Ed Hann is an ordained Elder and his wife Carol is an ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church; both serve at nearby church-

es. The Hanns live near their two daughters and two grandsons in Voorhees, New Jersey.

Ed and his family have loved Chautauqua since the 1970's, and they were happy to discover the Ministers' Union. They love its proximity to the center of the campus, its inclusive, spiritual community, and low cost.

Ed hopes that his service on the Board will help perpetuate those values, adding "I believe we have the opportunity and responsibility to help foster relationships among all the Faith communities of the Institution, especially expanding the economic and racial inclusiveness of those attending." ■

Website Update

Bob Tupaj, Webmaster

I am working on a mobile website for the ECOC and I hope to have it finished for the new year. Go to www.ecoc-chautauqua.org/mobile.html for a sneak preview. It will provide you with quick access to information on the ECOC—accommodations, current newsletter, contacts, plus a map and directions to the ECOC—all on a mobile device like your phone.

Also, remember to sign up for the listserv in order to receive the latest information on reservations and updates. You can sign up on the ECOC home page. Click on the "Sign up for our listserv" graphic, and complete the "Subscribing to the Ecumenical Community" section.

I will make the ECOC blog more interactive by turning the comments feature on. Feel free to leave a comment on any future postings. If you would like to add something to the blog, please email me at rdtupaj@netzero.net, and I will send you instructions. It's as easy as using Microsoft Word! ■

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.

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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ECOC Calendar

December 30	Registration forms sent
Starting Feb. 1	Confirmations processed
May 30 to June 2 June 13 to 20	Spring Work Weeks (anytime during period)
June 18 & 19	Spring Board meeting
June 21	Season begins
August 24	Season ends
August 25 & 26	Annual Board meeting
August 25 to 28 & Sept. 2 to 4	Fall Work Weeks (anytime during period)

Our Kitchen Stars ★★★★★

Karen Auer, long-time ECOC guest and quilt instructor, has donated to us a beautiful hand-made quilt featuring a series of illustrated Chautauqua tee-shirts from 1991 to recent years. It's displayed in the hallway connecting the Shaw and Bird-Werner kitchens.

Westervelt guest **Larry Terkel** won a bronze medal for 500-meter freestyle swimming in the 65–69 age group in the Senior Olympics (National Senior Games) this year.

Larry's wife, **Susan Terkel**, received an award with co-author Lorna Greenberg for the Best Childcare/Parenting book of 2012 for *The Circumcision Decision: An Unbiased Guide for Parents*.

Tami Hritzay, Bird-Werner guest Week 8, taught calligraphy, decorative gourds, and drawing classes in the Special Studies Program, and has written and illustrated a new children's book, *J.B. and the Pirates*.

Bob Boehm, former ECOC Manager, was commissioned to make several wood plates for communion bread for the Ecumenical Communion Service Week 5.

Ball State University music students **Brian Bosley** (sax), **Philip Scanze** (horn), and **Cecily Terhune** (sax) performed several times at Chautauqua during Week 1 with their professor, **Dr. George Wolfe**.

Pastor **Dora Odarenko** was selected to be scripture reader for the 9:30 am worship service during Week 1. She is pastor of Gaylordsville United Methodist Church in New Milford, CT.

Twelve-year-old **Max Hermann** provided Week 8 guests with dinner music in the Shaw kitchen. Max, son of **John Paul Hermann** and **Tina Stuard**, attended violin camp at Chautauqua.



Meet the Vreelands: **Ginny**, our nurse-in-residence; **Jeff**, our in-house builder and Board member; **Jerry**, photographer and author of the new ECOC book; and **Emily**, our gardener. ■