

Message from the Board

A question I often ask myself is why it took me fifty-some years to find my way to Chautauqua. I had heard about Chautauqua as a child—friends of my parents spoke fondly of their summer experiences there. The name surfaced again after I entered the ordained ministry as colleagues had visited the Institution on a new-clergy scholarship, and while there had stayed at the then Ministers' Union, now the Ecumenical Community. It was the way they spoke of the accommodations—simple yet very adequate—and the lasting friendships made in the community kitchens, that prompted us to send in our first application. That was only eight years ago, a mere moment for some, but even now a summer without Chautauqua and the Ecumenical Community is almost unthinkable!

As president of the Board of Directors of the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua, it is my honour and privilege to serve with a dedicated group of women and men, lay and ordained, who hold their summer experiences at Chautauqua and their time spent at the Ecumenical Community as vital to their life experience. We come to the Board with a diversity of interests, gifts and talents, but foremost in our desires is to preserve the history and traditions of the Shaw, Bird-Werner and Westervelt Houses, and those who have left us this rich heritage. Our common concern encompasses the fabric of the three aging

buildings, a recognized need to upgrade and restore, while at the same time maintaining the primary aim of providing low-cost accommodation in a community that is increasingly unaffordable for many.

The Board is extremely grateful for the response to our financial campaign to provide the much-needed upgrades. At our annual meeting in August we committed to move ahead with the funds we already hold, while continuing to solicit a financial commitment from members of both the Ecumenical Community, and the wider Chautauqua community.

Can you help us? As you reflect on your experiences at Chautauqua this past summer, or perhaps sometime more distant now, can you make a pledge or a donation to our capital campaign? Are there members of your family, or within your circle of friends, or in your community who would be sympathetic to the present needs of the Ecumenical Community? Would you act as an ambassador for the cause and invite them to consider making a pledge or donation to the fund? All of us who value our Chautauqua summers, by working together, will ensure that the Ecumenical Community will continue to be a vital part of the Chautauqua Institution for many years to come.

(The Reverend) Paul Kett
President, Ecumenical Community Board
of Directors ■

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Welcome to New Board Members

We welcome three new members to the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua Board of Directors. Peter Leonard, long-time visitor and son of former board member Pastor Richard Leonard, was elected to fill the last two years of Mary McNamara's term following her resignation last summer.

Kitchen host and retired computer analyst Ed Johnston, and Ann Hoffman, long-time MU and ECOC associate and retired reading specialist, were elected to serve on the Board until 2012.

They join other Board members Rev. Paul Kett (President), Rev. John Fisher (Vice President), Rev. Bill Brockman (Treasurer), Deborah First (Secretary), Rev. William McNeice, Rev. Susan Loper, Rick Schaeffer, and Shaw Family Rep Nancy Shaw Kealey.

We thank retiring Board members Ed Hoffman and Rev. Larry Poelma for their years of dedicated service. ■

2007 Season Report

Bob and Sandy Boehm, Managers

Last season was very busy at the Ecumenical Community. Only 12 rooms were unoccupied during the whole season, much fewer than in the past. Seventy-five new guests stayed with us this year, including seven guests from England. We had six guests over the age of 90; they were thrilled that they didn't need to pay for a gate pass any more!

One exciting event during the season was the street party held on Old First Night on Terrace St. About 250 people joined the celebration—most of our guests and the neighbors on Terrace St. shared a pot luck dinner and fellowship.

This year we joined "Chautauqua Connections" and sponsored two student dancers, providing non-financial support and encouragement to Samantha Lewis and Amanda Melrose-Smith. Samantha is an apprentice/trainee with Ballet Met in Columbus, OH, and Amanda a dancer with North Carolina Dance Theatre 2, Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux and Patricia's McBride's program in Charlotte.

Our Work Weekends were very well-attended this year. About 40 people helped out during the spring or fall, and over half volunteered at both. At the spring and fall Work Weekends, we shared a pot luck dinner with the UCC's, our next door neighbors, who also had gathered for their work weekend. We all enjoyed great food and good fellowship.

We saved a little over \$3,000 this year by doing all the end-of-season laundry ourselves, rather than sending it to the laundry. Pat Crupi, Sue Brunner and Sandy Boehm took all bed linens and dresser scarves to the laundromat. It became a week-long marathon of taking linens from each room to the laundry, washing and folding them and then taking them back again.



We were busy repairing and updating the buildings this fall:

■ Both the Bird-Werner and Shaw kitchen doors were replaced.

■ The walkway between the Shaw and Bird-Werner and the steps coming up from the Westervelt were replaced with composite material—the wood had gotten spongy and was slippery when wet.

■ Walls were repaired and painted in Westervelt Rooms 14 and 15.

■ Two posts were replaced on the Westervelt porches and the floors were painted.

■ Several areas in the Bird-Werner kitchen were repaired with drywall; they will be painted in the spring.

■ Room 23 in Bird-Werner had the wallpaper stripped and the walls repaired; they will be repapered in the spring.

Soon it will be time to plan for next season! The reservation forms will be sent out the last week in December, and should arrive in your mail box sometime the first week in January. You can mail your reservations back right away, and they will be processed starting February 1. Confirmations will be sent out the end of February. You can make copies of the reservation form if you are making reservations for someone else, so that request will be on a separate form. Don't forget that the more dates choices you list, the better your chances are of getting in. ■

Managers Search Begins

Building managers Bob and Sandy Boehm have announced their plans to retire from their positions in December 2009. The ECOC Board of Directors has begun searching for new managers, who would officially begin January 2010, but should be willing to work alongside Bob and Sandy during some of the 2009 season to "learn the ropes."

The positions require a dedication to the ECOC and its values, ability to work full time during the season and part time off-season, skills in building maintenance, management and registration.

For more information, or to apply for the positions, contact Board member Richard Schaeffer, 585-235-6541 or 585-313-4736. ■

Capital Fund Update

As of October 20, pledges and gifts total \$270,000. We are hoping to reach \$300,000 by next Chautauqua season. With 22 of the 36 months of the campaign past, we are ahead of schedule in payment on pledges. Congratulations to the ECOC family!

A reminder to those who are behind in meeting your pledges: please bring your commitment up to date.

If you have questions about the status of your pledge, or want to make a pledge or gift, contact:

Robert Boell
801 Yale Avenue, #408
Swarthmore, PA 19081
610-544-3789 or
bob.boell@ecunet.org ■

Kitchen Stars

Celebrating our guests' accomplishments

Chris Nye, a teacher, fund-raiser and poet, had written a children's book entitled The Old Shepherd's Tale, and received many orders from ECOC guests and others who heard about his beautiful book.



Janet Devlin attended Choir practice regularly and sang at every Choir program during her stay, including Sunday morning, Sunday night and weekday mornings.



Beth Gunnell sang with the choir all season. Beth and Dick's daughters, Kendra and Jenna, were in high demand as baby sitters after their daily jobs as counselors at the Boys and Girls Club.



Judy Thomas and her husband Richard served as Unity Ministers, and then Judy was off to the potter's wheel. We all admired her beautiful creations at the end of three weeks!



Rev. Craig and Rev. Jan Hoffman, Dick Lehman, Sue Brunner, and Ruth Mohny were among the choir that sang Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the CSO on August 18th.



Harriette Royer taught popular courses on "Hosting Conversations" and "Everyday Rituals" in the Special Studies School.



Dancers Amanda Melrose-Smith and Samantha Lewis enjoyed the ECOC's sponsorship

Sid Symington taught a class on "Theological Thespians," much to the delight of his students.



Jan Moravec and Harriet Weaver are 2007 CLSC Graduates.



Robert and Nancy Lagalski celebrated their 50th anniversary by spending a week at Chautauqua—their first visit, a gift from their children.



Hostess E. Carol Maxwell had the privilege of introducing Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux at two pre-performance lectures at Smith Wilkes. (And she didn't burn cookies Week 9!)



Jeanette Vecchione, a student at the School of Voice, sang at one of the student performances at the Amp. She was going to Italy to sing after leaving Chautauqua.



Rev. Emory and Dorothy Burton enjoyed their first visit to Chautauqua. Emory had gone to grade school with Rev. Bill Brockman.



Rev. Peter and Mary Liddell came from England with their daughter, Jane James, Jane's husband, David, and their three daughters Julia, Tanya, and Vicky. Peter and Rev. Bill Brockman had worked in family counseling together in New York.



Singing with a visiting Gospel Choir during Week 8 were guests Michael Donovan and Stephanie Brander. In addition, Eli Carr and Tanya James joined the dancers on stage.



Rev. Gretta Vosper spent Week 9 finishing up her manuscript for a soon-to-be-published book on worship.



Westervelt guests help E. Carol frost a cake

When Sarah Schmidt-Lee and her husband Barrett Lee joined us Week 7, Barrett (a Free Episcopal Church candidate) was invited to assist with his first baptism.



Both previous managers, Helene Werner and Martha Bird, were in residence in the Bird-Werner during Week 9.



Many other "stars" joined us and will be mentioned in future newsletters! ■

Announcements

ECOC in the news

Thanks to Board member Rick Schaeffer, an article about the ECOC's history, mission, renovation plans, fund-raising efforts, and search for new managers will appear in the fall issue of *The Chautauquan*.

Web site updated

The newly-expanded ECOC web site, www.ecoc-chautauqua.org, now features an introduction to the Board, photos of rooms, copies of past newsletters, and an email contact address.

New ECOC brochure

A new two-page brochure introduces the ECOC and its mission to Chautauqua residents and visitors. The brochures are displayed at the main gate, and were sent to all the homeowners on the grounds. You can see the brochure on our web site. ■

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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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 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.

ECOC Calendar

End of Dec.	Room applications sent out
Starting Feb. 1	Confirmations processed
May 30-June 1	Spring work weekend
June 11-13	Spring Board meeting
June 21	Season begins
August 13-15	Summer Board meeting
August 24	Season ends
Sept. 5-14	Fall work week



Chautauqua 2008 Themes

Week 1	June 21-28	Sport in America
Week 2	June 29-July 5	Restoring Legitimacy to our Election System
Week 3	July 6-12	Roger Rosenblatt and Friends: On Writing
Week 4	July 13-19	The Ethical Frontiers of Science
Week 5	July 20-26	American Foreign Policy: Leadership and Dialogue
Week 6	July 27-Aug. 2	Healing the Globe
Week 7	August 3-9	Faith in Public Life
Week 8	August 10-16	What's for Dinner: Food and Politics in the 21st Century
Week 9	August 17-24	Darwin and Linnaeus: Their Impact on Our View of the Natural World