

Message from the Board President

Hello! My name is Bill Brockman and I have the privilege of serving as President of the Board of Directors of the Ecumenical Community.

In 2009, members of our family will have been coming to Chautauqua for 50 years. My wife, Maggie, discovered Chautauqua as a college student and spent the summer of 1959 living in the Bird-Werner house. She and several other students lived on the fourth floor and cleaned the buildings to pay for their rooms. After we married in 1962, she and I spent one night during that season in the Shaw while traveling from San Francisco to Boston. As a family, we started coming regularly in 1968 and have missed only two Chautauqua seasons. Our daughter Beth and our son Bard stay every summer with their families. We are deeply indebted to the Ecumenical Community and the previous owners of the buildings, the Ministers' Union, for providing low-cost housing with rich community living in the midst of Chautauqua.

Everyone in the ECOC community is enormously pleased with the response from those within the ECOC family who have pledged nearly \$300,000 to begin the process of making our facilities more livable



and accessible. Taking the next step, members of the ECOC's Advisory Committee hosted intimate gatherings in their residences to share more about our mission to keep housing costs low. Many who attended shared their concerns that Chautauqua is becoming unaffordable for an increasing number of individuals and families. We will stay in contact with these concerned Chautauquans through our newsletter and by other personal contacts. Next summer we will continue the education process for the larger community.

I am deeply grateful to the members of our Advisory Committee. Their work on our behalf has resulted in a number of important contacts within Chautauqua and their efforts

have raised awareness of how critical low-cost housing is to the future of a diverse Chautauqua. These wonderful people are Mig Boyle, Ted First, John Jackson, Toni and Joe Goldfarb, Katie Lincoln, and Margie Steere.

At the beginning of 2009 we will approach a number of foundations. We have engaged a consultant to assist us in the preparation of grant requests. In spite of the current news that the world is in the midst of a serious financial crisis, I am hopeful that we will raise \$1,000,000 during this phase of the campaign. As responsible stewards, we will keep our goals and priorities always in view, ensuring the most effective application of our construction dollars and the greatest outcome in support of the ECOC's mission. I invite you to share your thoughts with me throughout this process.

(The Reverend) Bill Brockman

President, Board of Directors

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Managers' Report

Bob and Sandy Boehm



During the 2008 season, we enjoyed an occupancy rate of 94%. We were full every week except Week 1, and had just a few cancellations later in the season. We think the low number of bookings for Week 1 was because the season started so early, and many people were not interested in the topic, which was Sports. Weeks 3 and 8 had long waiting lists.

We want to give a really big thank-you to everyone who came for work weekends to help with opening and closing. We appreciate all the time and talent you share with the ECOC. About 35 people came to help. Along with all the work, we enjoyed fellowship and our pot luck dinners were delicious.

Ed and Marge Johnston gave the orange storage crates in the Shaw kitchen a much-needed face lift. They painted the crates white, and now the crates look so nice and clean and they

Found

Two hearing aids in a little black pouch were discovered at the end of the season in a seat on Shaw porch. If they belong to you, please contact Sandy at 716-581-3659, and she will be happy to mail them to you.

don't clash with the tablecloths any more.

The Spring work weekends next year will be: Friday, May 22 to Monday, May 25, and Friday, June 5 to Sunday, June 7; Fall work week will be Friday, September 11 to Sunday, September 20. You can come any time during that 10-day period. Please join us if you can! Just give us a call or drop us a note to let us know when to expect you.

You can now reach us off-season via a new phone number, **716-581-3659**. During the season, our office phone number will remain unchanged, **716-357-3814**.

Soon it will be time to reserve your room for next season! The reservation forms will be sent out the last week in December, and should arrive in your mail box during the first week in January. You can also download a reservation form from our web site, www.ecoc-chautauqua.org. Don't forget that the more date choices you list, the better your chances of getting in. You can mail your reservations back right away, and they will be processed starting February 1. Confirmations will be sent out at the end of February.

Would you like to give a short talk for the brown bag luncheon program next season? Just send us your topic along with your reservation, and we will pass it along to our program chairman. Your program should last about an hour, and consist of a short presentation and then a question and interaction period. The topic should be compatible with Chautauqua's theme for the week. We need programs for Week 2 (*Exploring our World with National Geographic*), Week 3 (*State of Mind*), and Week 6 (*Movies 101*). Even if any of these themes don't match your program topics, please send in your ideas, because they might work for another year. ■

Fund-raising

Continuing the Legacy... ECOC's capital fund campaign will officially conclude its three years on December 31, 2008. As of October 15 the amount pledged: \$299,987.92, a mere \$12.08 below the \$300,000 mark! Considering the constituency of the ECOC, where many give faithfully to their churches, colleges and seminaries, this is an exceedingly good response. The Board thanks all who have given so generously.

Payments on pledges are only slightly behind where they should be at this juncture. You are reminded to remit pledge balances by end of year to:

ECOC
c/o Robert P. Boell
801 Yale Avenue, #408
Swarthmore, PA 19081-1821

If you cannot meet the year-end deadline, it would be helpful to know. Yes, a few have had to defer completion until 2009. Please let Bob know at above address, or 610.544.3789, or bob.boell@ecunet.org.

All donors will be listed in the Spring 2009 newsletter, as well as on a plaque which will be installed in the office. Charitable gift statements will be sent in early January. ■

You Can Help

Your 2009 reservation form will show that the suggested donation is now \$30 rather than \$20. The Board of Directors needed to make the change in order to keep our rental costs as low as possible. Since we are a 501(c)3 charitable corporation, we must raise nearly 1/3 of our budget from donations, so instead of hiking rental costs we decided to raise the suggested donation level. Your donations definitely help in meeting this IRS requirement. We trust that you will understand and agree that this change is the best approach. ■

Meet Your Board [Part 2]

We welcome three new members to the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua Board of Directors, Rev. Bob Boell, Rev. Joe Donovan, and Rev. Nathan Day Wilson, and also a new Shaw Family Rep, Elizabeth Dawson. They join existing Board members Rev. Bill Brockman, Deborah First, Ann Hoffman, Ed Johnston,

Pete Leonard, Rev. Bill McNeice, and Rick Schaeffer.

We thank retiring Board members Rev. John Fisher, Rev. Paul Kett, and Rev. Susan Loper, and Shaw Family Rep, Nancy Shaw Kealey, for their years of faithful service.

Robert Boell



After chairing the Capital Fund Campaign from 2006 to 2008, Rev. Robert Boell, of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, was elected to the ECOC

Board this year. He had served two terms on the Ministers' Union Board in the 70's and 80's; now he joins the ECOC Board as Vice President. A retired Presbyterian minister, Bob has been coming to Chautauqua for 61 years. His wife, Jean, has come every year since her birth. The couple met while working one summer at the Athenaeum.

Bob is excited about furthering the ministry of the ECOC: "The opportunity to mingle with servants in the church (both clergy and lay) from varying traditions has been a joy and enlightenment, and it is my hope this purpose of ECOC continues."

Nathan Day Wilson



New Board member, Rev. Nathan Day Wilson, serves as senior minister of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Shelbyville, Indiana.

He is also a weekly newspaper columnist and speaker/strategist in the areas of conflict resolution, consensus building and social entrepreneurship. His volunteer interests include children's health care, literacy promotion and alternative dispute resolution.

Nathan's wife, Janice, is a committed peace activist whose current focus is the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. With their two daughters, they enjoy sports, theatre, dance, traveling, philosophy and ice cream, and they treasure the time they spend in the ECOC community.

Joseph Donovan



Rev. Joseph Donovan was elected to the ECOC Board this year. He has been pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Boonsboro, Maryland, for

over 30 years. His passions in ministry include worship, teaching, and community outreach. In his free time, he enjoys refereeing high school and college soccer games, and riding his motorcycle.

Joe and his wife, Linda, director of counseling at Mount St. Mary's College, have two sons and live in Middletown, Maryland. They first stayed at the Ministers' Union 24 years ago, and return whenever they can. Joe strongly supports the ECOC's mission of providing affordable accommodation to people of all income levels, so everyone can share the special Chautauqua experience.

Elizabeth Dawson



Shaw Rep

As grandniece of Eunice Shaw Bull and niece of Helene Werner, both long-time managers of the Ministers' Union, Elizabeth

Dawson has many happy childhood memories of coming to Chautauqua with her family to help open the buildings. She continues the family tradition by bringing her 16-year-old daughter, Erica, to Chautauqua every summer.

After working as an actress in theater, TV, and movies in Los Angeles, Elizabeth moved with her family to Portland, Oregon. She discovered a love of teaching, and is currently finishing her MA in school counseling. She has volunteered to be the new Shaw family rep, replacing Nancy Shaw Kealey, who stepped down earlier this year.

Peter Leonard



Peter Leonard, current Board Treasurer, first visited Chautauqua in 1968, and has stayed at the MU and ECOC for more than 30 years. His father,

a United Methodist pastor, served on the Ministers' Union Board in the early 80's.

Pete, his wife Bonnie, and two daughters live in Westerville, Ohio; he is the lay leader at the United Methodist Church of the Messiah. He works for HP as an Information Technology architect, coaches his daughter's soccer team, and plays drums in a jazz trio.

The ECOC has been like a second home to Pete, "It's exciting to bring my children to stay at the ECOC, seeing some of the same families every year, and enjoying the wealth of perspective and dialogue we share, in the kitchens, and throughout the ECOC."

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.

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

P.O. Box 988
25 Roberts Avenue
Chautauqua, New York 14722
716-357-3814 (Summer)
716-581-3659 (Winter)
www.ecoc-chautauqua.org

ECOC Calendar

End of Dec.	Registration forms sent
Starting Feb. 1	Confirmations processed
May 22-25, June 5-7	Spring Work Weekends
June 18-19	Spring Board meeting
June 27	Season begins
August 30	Season ends
Aug. 31 - Sept. 1	Fall Board meeting
Sept. 11-20	Fall Work Week

Kitchen Stars ★★ ★

Celebrating our guests' accomplishments

Janet Devlin is finishing her 30th year in the Motet choir this year. In addition, Janet graduated this summer in the 2008 class of the CLSC.



A feature article in the *Chautauquan Daily* celebrated the accomplishments and stamina of 86-year-old **Phyllis Duty**, who attended 10 events in a single day. She praised the community spirit and friendliness at the ECOC.



ECOC guest **John Eells** and his trained hearing dog, Asti, were featured in a *Chautauquan Daily* article in August. Week 6, John taught a Special Studies class, "Get Loose and Have Fun with Color Abstracting."



Kaye Lindauer continues her amazing record of teaching classes at Chautauqua for twenty years. Kaye's classes are very popular and often she teaches every week of the summer session.



Christopher Nye's Christmas book for children is now in its second printing. Again, a number of guests bought copies.



Chautauqua's first Sacred Music Intern, **Amanda Plazek**, lived all season at the ECOC. She enjoyed studying with Jared Jacobsen, and helped plan the ecumenical communion service on July 20.



The ECOC hosted several **Unity Pastors** who served in 2008. The Pastors teach a Sunday class, lead Meditations each morning, and facilitate a discussion on Thursday evening.



Among couples celebrating their wedding anniversaries at the ECOC this summer were **David and Carolyn Volk** (55 years) and **Jack and Pat Westwood** (50 years). Congratulations!



We welcomed two participants in the Abrahamic Program for Young Adults. **Whittney Barth** (Christian delegate) and **Sabilah Eboo** (Muslim delegate) learned about the Judaic, Christian, and Islamic traditions, and worked to promote tolerance and unity.