

A Season of Blessings

The Reverend Bill Brockman, President, Board of Directors



For those of us who are a part of the Ecumenical Community there is much to celebrate and be grateful for this fall season. First, we are grateful to Marge and Ed Johnston for the challenge to get our elevator completed by the 2011 season. These wonderful folks, who give so much to our community, have decided to give an even larger measure. Let us respond to their generosity with gratitude and donations so we will ensure that we can complete the elevator and the additional structural work on the Westervelt and the Bird-Werner in a little over 20 months.

We are grateful for the amazing commitment, hard work, and love that Sandy and Bob Boehm have given over the past eight years to all of us. They took over a summer position and turned it into almost a full time effort on our behalf while caring for the

buildings and the guests. They told us when they accepted the positions that they would give us eight years, and give they did. We will miss them as managers but will ever be thankful for their skills and dedication to our ministry of hospitality.

I have heard it said, "As one door closes, another one opens." As Bob and Sandy leave us officially as managers on December 31st, the new year begins with Kurt and Kathy Doerflinger stepping into the manager and registrar roles. Kurt and Kathy have spent time during this last season working with Sandy and Bob to begin their learning process and they have met and become acquainted with our outstanding staff members. They are excited about this new challenge and are already informally working with the Board of Directors to plan for the 2010 season. They reside in the Mayville area and will be able to stop by and check on the buildings this winter. We extend a very warm welcome to Kurt and Kathy.

The week after the season ended a few of friends of the Ecumenical Community gathered to welcome the construction crew who had assembled to begin the work on the Shaw House. What a momentous event for us! The crew thought we were a little nuts to be so excited about tearing down a part of the kitchen ceiling and boring holes in the concrete floor. The crew did not know that we have been planning and

praying for eight years to get started on the much-needed repairs and changes. The work is not going as quickly as we had hoped although the contractor assures us that the first phase will be finished on schedule. Pictures of the construction will be on our website, www.ecoc-chautauqua.org.

I want to offer a word of gratitude to Ted First, consultant, and Bill Laubscher, architect. Without their generous gifts of expertise, time and thoughtful planning, we would not be this far along in our efforts to rehab these wonderful old houses. Thank you, Bill and Ted.

Please read the article written by Rev. Bob Boell who is receiving the pledges and donations for our Get the Elevator campaign. I think you will be excited to know about the response from our friends to date. If you haven't made a commitment yet, please make a decision soon so we can reach our goal of \$50,000 for 2009. Each dollar you give will be matched by a dollar donated by Ed and Marge. ■

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Doerflingers to be New Managers



From among dozens of candidates, the ECOC Board of Directors have selected Kurt and Kathy Doerflinger as the new managers and registrars, starting January 1st, 2010. The

Doerflingers, who live in Mayville, first learned of the open position from an ad in the Jamestown paper, and immediately felt called to the ECOC ministry of hospitality.

To prepare for their new responsibilities, Kurt and Kathy visited the ECOC often during the summer, meeting the guests, attending staff meetings, touring the buildings, and learning many, many procedures from Bob and Sandy. Both Kurt and Kathy have Hotel Management certification; Kathy earned hers last summer, just for this new job.

Kurt is a member of his church Board and currently is treasurer of Mayville/Chautauqua Chamber of Commerce. He was licensed in insur-

ance and worked several years in the corporate offices of Progressive Insurance. He owned a successful wedding/florist shoppe in Ohio for over 20 years, and for the past 6 years has been Master Designer and Manager at Fleur de Lis Florist & Gift Shop at the Red Brick Farm. He has created floral designs for all occasions—weddings, corporate headquarters, large special events, even small arrangements of flowers for summer cottages. Kurt is looking forward to his time at ECOC but will still be doing freelance event planning and floral design under name of KurtAllens.com. He loves gourmet cooking, and is active in local theater. Kurt's other interests include collecting antiques and clocks, gardening, and meeting people.

Kathy has enjoyed several vocations but has always focused on customer service, first as a long-distance operator for Ohio Bell, then a Lutheran Pastoral Assistant for 10 years, president of her own insurance agency, and as on-air DJ

for several radio stations. Since moving to New York, she has been employed by Community Bank, The Connection in Jamestown, and is on staff as the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Director at Mayville United Methodist Church—all the while working beside Kurt in his Floral Design business. Kathy has a great love for music, film noir, and community theater—both on stage and behind the scenes. She also enjoys books, picnics, walks on the beach, and spending time with family. Kurt and Kathy have two children and numerous grandchildren.

The Doerflingers both feel “God has been working with us for a long time to bring ECOC into our lives. We are a team and we feel that we each complete one another. As a team we are excited to start the new adventure God has set before us.” ■

Read the Doerflingers' open letter to you, the ECOC Community—it's the colored insert in this newsletter.

Busy Season for Boehms

Bob and Sandy Boehm



We had a full and busy season. There were a number of 3-generation and one 4-generation family groups this year. We housed the Muslim and Christian girls from the Abrahamic program, too.

Our Connections students were ballet dancers Jillian Harvey and Nisha Mulay. They celebrated their birthdays with guests in the Shaw kitchen in July.

Our guests helped hand out the program books every Wednesday at the morning worship service. We had great turnouts at our Tuesday socials with lots of yummy cookies baked by our hostesses and wonderful conversations among the guests seated at the tables out front under the trees.

Lots of people came to help open and then close the buildings during the spring and fall work weekends. A group of ladies washed all the linens in all three buildings in-house this year. We didn't have to take anything to the laundromat so it really saved a lot of money. We want to thank all of you who came and helped because there is no way we could get these buildings ready without you.

The last eight years have been a great Adventure for us. We have deepened old friendships and made many new friends, found creativity and inner strengths we didn't know we possessed and saw Chautauqua's beautiful grounds in the spring, summer, fall and winter. Not only are Sundays at Chautauqua rich and full, but our lives are rich and full for having served as managers of the ECOC. We so appreciate the wonderful staff and the support that the ECOC Board of Directors gave to us.

We have worked with the Doerflingers this past season and we think you will be pleased to have them as your manager and registrar next year. Come to a spring work weekend and meet them and give them your support. ■

Take the Elevator Challenge

Robert Boell

A wonderful opportunity to speed up the ECOC building renovation and upgrade project was laid before our guests. Kitchen hosts Ed and Marge Johnston proposed an “Elevator Challenge Match.” They offered to match dollar-for-dollar all new gifts this fall up to a total of \$50,000, resulting in \$100,000. Further, they will match all new gifts for the capital fund in 2010 up to \$100,000, resulting in \$200,000 or a total of \$300,000 for all gifts and match. This would enable us to move ahead after the 2010 season with installing an elevator, ADA accessibility and structural soundness for our buildings.

On September 30, a mailing went to all ECOC guests seeking a response

to this challenge. Just three months was all we had to meet the first part of the challenge. As of October 31, we received gifts from 67 donors, totaling \$14,921.30, or 30% of our \$50,000 goal.

We still have a ways to go to meet the 2009 match—less than two months to reach the \$50,000 goal. If you have not responded, please do so soon. Make your check out to ECOC with a notation “capital fund” and send it to:

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

Give thanks for this challenge and pray it will be met. ■

Shaw Repairs Underway

As soon as the 2009 season was over, Board members and helpers completely emptied the Shaw and Bird-Werner kitchens, so that reconstruction could begin right away.

Along Bowman Avenue, the Shaw kitchen foundation wall, which had begun to bow out, was removed and will be replaced with a new concrete block wall with new, larger windows. The sill plate under the east wall facing the Mayflower has also been replaced.

Two undersized columns in the kitchen will be replaced with columns better designed to carry the load of the building, and a new ceiling will be installed and the floor resurfaced. The staircase in the kitchen, considered a fire hazard, was removed and the second floor doorway will be dry walled. Footings for future porches on the Bowman Avenue side of Shaw will be poured during the wall reconstruction.

The Bird-Werner kitchen structural work—a new main ceiling beam and support columns—will start after the Shaw project is completed.

Ted First, consultant, and Bill Laubscher, architect, developed the plans, and Keefe Builders of Mayville are doing the reconstruction. Board members Ed Johnston and Rick Schaeffer head the Property Committee, and visit the site regularly to oversee the project, along with construction manager Paul Andalora. ■



View from inside Shaw kitchen toward Amp – wall has been removed and temporary shoring is in place

Two Join ECOC Board

We welcome new members Susan Helm and Rev. Jan Hoffman to the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua Board of Directors. They join existing Board members Rev. Bob Boell, Rev. Bill Brockman, Rev. Joe Donovan, Deborah First, Ann Hoffman, Ed Johnston, Rick Schaeffer and Rev. Nathan Day Wilson, plus Shaw Family Rep, Elizabeth Dawson. We thank retiring Board members Peter Leonard and Rev. Bill McNeice for their faithful service.

Susan Helm



Having spent 17 summers living across the street from the Westervelt, Susan Helm is thrilled to join ECOC's Board. “Low cost housing is important

to me, and I love the people I have met at the ECOC—from board to staff to guests—they're some of the best of Chautauqua!”

Suzy started, and still runs, the Chautauqua Connections Program, which matches music and dance students with Chautauquans. Two dancers are matched with the ECOC each summer (and love it!).

A retired biology teacher, as well as retired public relations specialist with Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Suzy lives with her husband Nelson in Louisville, Kentucky, and they have two grown sons.

Jan Hoffman



The Rev. Jan L. Hoffman is half-time pastor at the First Reformed Church in Scotia, New York, where her husband Craig is full-time pastor.

Jan's father, also a pastor, started a new Reformed Church in their basement when she was a child.

Jan says she loves and values the ECOC because “it gives us an opportunity to afford to come to Chautauqua, and it's an opportunity to meet people and hear their stories, often faith stories.”

Singing is one of her hobbies, and while at Chautauqua, Jan sings in the Motet Choir. Jan and Craig have been married for 36 years, and have two sons who live with them, John, 25, and Judson, 23.

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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ECOC Calendar

End of Dec.	Registration forms sent
Starting Feb. 1	Confirmations processed
June 4-6, June 10-14	Spring Work Weekends
June 15-16	Spring Board meeting
June 26	Season begins
August 29	Season ends
Aug. 30-31	Fall Board meeting
Sept. 10-19	Fall Work Week

Our Kitchen Stars ★★

Guests at the Westervelt during Weeks 3-5 were delighted to meet **Kalli Turtle**, a young teacher of Religious Studies from London, England. Kalli was this year's Chautauqua Bell Scholar, sponsored by the English Speaking Union. The Scholar receives transportation and the opportunity to experience the full range of Chautauqua experiences. Kalli especially enjoyed a Special Studies Class which took her into the Amish country near the Institution.

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Rev. Mary McNamara, long-time Chautauquan and guest at the ECOC, has been named president of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in Minneapolis. Bill and Maggie Brockman, attending the opening convocation for the academic year 2009-2010, saw Mary as the convocation

speaker, and learned of her appointment. Though not officially installed yet, Mary began her work in August. Prior to this current position, she was Vice-President at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

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Westervelt kitchen hostess **E. Carol Maxwell** was honored as the 2009 Chautauqua Dance Circle Volunteer of the Year. The CDC raises money for scholarships to help deserving students attend Chautauqua's renowned summer dance program. As Special Events Director this year, E. Carol coordinated the Patricia McBride Twentieth Year Anniversary Celebration on July 19. The Silent Auction at the gala event raised over \$5,500 for the 2010 Patricia McBride scholarship fund.

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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 the editor at 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.

Rev. Tom Kerns, host in the Bird-Werner kitchen, led the morning Chautauqua prayers for peace during Week 4. He inspired a large turnout every morning at the peace pole by the Hall of Missions. ■