

## Reconstruction Phase 1 Almost Done

The mammoth, 8-month reconstruction work on Shaw and Bird-Werner is nearly done, and the buildings will be ready for guests when the season opens.

Quite a bit of work was required. All the Shaw foundation walls were rebuilt, which involved jacking up the building and supporting it on wooden cribbing, an amazing sight! The kitchen floor was jack-hammered out and replaced with thicker concrete over a gravel base; the floor is at a slightly lower level and allows greater headroom in the kitchen. A new carpet will soon cover the floor. The new I-beam and larger steel pillars will provide better support. The kitchen has been completely rewired, and all-new drywall will be painted soon. New ceiling tiles will be installed as well.

You'll notice many other improvements in the Shaw kitchen. With the staircase gone, the kitchen seems larger



*The "Crew"*  
From left: Richard Schaeffer, Paul Andalora, Fred Wells, Chris Keefe, Strider Smith, Bill Laubscher; photo taken by Board member Ed Johnston. Absent: Ted First.



*Shaw Kitchen – late April*  
Looking southwest towards the Amp: New larger windows along Bowman Avenue, boxed-in I-beam and steel columns, newly poured concrete floor, new drywall. Waiting for shelves, counters, lighting, appliances and furniture.

and airier. Larger windows along Bowman Avenue now admit more light. New countertops, shelves, and lighting, including wall sconces, are planned. Access from the alley between Shaw and the Mayflower will be easier, with the step and gutter removed, replaced by a concrete ramp.

Some of the upper rooms in the Shaw had minor cosmetic damage due to the lifting of the building; these will be repaired before the season starts.

In the Bird-Werner kitchen, the old wooden main support was replaced with a steel I-beam, and heavier support columns installed. The ceiling will be patched, and the floor painted.

The cost of reconstruction was higher than expected, since additional structural problems were discovered once the work began. The Board, however, is pleased with the excellent work done by the contractor and construction crew, and believes the buildings will be set to last another 100 years.

Many thanks go to Bill Laubscher, architect, and Ted First, consultant, who developed the plans, and construction manager, Paul Andalora, who represented us on the site. A very special thank-you goes to contractor Chris Keefe, of Keefe Builders, and his two outstanding carpenters, Fred Wells and Strider Smith, who worked all winter and spring on the project. We also appreciate the efforts of Board members Ed Johnston and Rick Schaeffer, who visited the site almost every week to check on progress and help resolve any problems.

Be sure to check out the ECOC's blog at [www.ecoc-chautauqua.org](http://www.ecoc-chautauqua.org) (click on the "Latest News" icon) for more photos, and updates on the progress. ■

### Help Wanted!

The ECOC desperately needs volunteers to help clean up the construction dust in Shaw and Bird-Werner before the season begins. Anyone who can come ready to work and bring a vacuum cleaner and/or dust rags will be welcomed with open arms.

Come whenever you can; just call Kurt and Kathy in advance (716-581-3659) to let them know your availability. ■

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# Message from the Board President

Reverend Bill Brockman

We are experiencing another year of change and growth. We changed our management team as of January 1, 2010. We have said goodbye to Sandy and Bob Boehm who were our managers for eight years. They report that there is life after managing the ECOC. Sandy is ordering tomato plants and working on decorating her home, now that she has time. We are so grateful, Bob and Sandy, for your years of dedicated service.

Kurt and Kathy Doerflinger are now working on our behalf and are proving to be very fast learners. The first test of making reservations for this summer was passed with flying colors. We are pleased to officially welcome Kurt and Kathy.

We are excited that the ECOC community met Ed and Marge Johnston's Elevator Challenge last fall. The \$50,000 was raised, and the Johnstons added the like amount so the total was \$100,000! Now they challenge us this year to raise an additional \$100,000. Please read about the

challenge on page 4 of this newsletter. Let's raise the \$100,000 and more.

One of the important lessons we have learned over the last seven months has been that when remodeling a 100+ year old building there will be unanticipated structural problems that will push up costs considerably. We want to see the elevator built and operational by opening of the season in 2011; this will require considerable structural changes to the Westervelt and some to the Bird-Werner. We have excellent estimates on the cost, however we need to be prepared with some reserves to make certain that we can get the job done.

This summer you will see some changes in the Shaw and Bird-Werner buildings. Ed Johnston and Rick Schaeffer, representing the Board, have been visiting the site every few weeks since October. They are excited about the progress and are impressed with our builder, Chris Keefe, and his crew of craftsmen. Our cover article describes the construction in fuller detail.

We contacted the IRS in February to learn if our provisional 501(c)(3) status as a not-for-profit corporation had been changed since we had completed our probationary period. We were told that we had full status as a tax-exempt organization. Your gifts over the years were instrumental in convincing the IRS that we have public support.

Our organization is guided by a dedicated group of individuals and we have outstanding volunteers who provide a variety of services before, during and after the season. Our staff members are committed to making the Ecumenical Community a place of genuine hospitality. Serving as president of the Board of Directors for the past two years has been very satisfying for me because I have had many opportunities to see how much love and affection goes into creating our community of caring people. I look forward to seeing you all again this summer.

*(The Reverend) Bill Brockman*  
President, Board of Directors ■

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## Managers' Report

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Kurt and Kathy Doerflinger

Thank you, everyone! You have made us feel very welcome with all your cards, emails, and calls. We have had time to learn the basics, including the wonderful reservation system that Ed Johnston created for the ECOC. There is still much to learn, and we welcome your help and input.

This year, the ECOC has many returning guests, many new guests and many guests returning after several years. A local pastor and his family from Jamestown will be staying in Chautauqua with us for the first time. Weeks 1, 5 and 7 are 100% full with a waiting list. We still have plenty of rooms for guests in Weeks 8 and 9.

The change in the Shaw kitchen is amazing, wait until you see it! We are lucky to live close by so we could watch the work in progress on almost a daily basis. Rick Schaeffer and Ed Johnston were here regularly and kept a watchful eye on the work along with Kurt.

We are thankful for the people who will be coming to help us ready the houses for our guests during our Work Week. We are very pleased that our host and hostesses will all be returning this year so our staff remains the same.

Thank you for choosing ECOC as your "summer home." We look forward to meeting each and every one of you this season. Please feel free to call us or send

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](http://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](mailto: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.

us an email anytime; we love hearing from you. God Bless Us Everyone!

*Kurt and Kathy Doerflinger*  
[ecoc.kurtkathy@gmail.com](mailto:ecoc.kurtkathy@gmail.com)  
Cell phone 716-581-3659 ■

# Meet Our Hosts, Hostesses & Helpers

## George & Mary Dillingham



The Dillinghams will be our hosts Weeks 1 to 5 at the Westervelt, and Weeks 6 to 9 at the Shaw. They enjoy

meeting new people and catching up with old friends. "Chautauqua is the perfect place to share stories, discuss big ideas, and have many laughs together. We love welcoming everyone. It's a giant house party and we love extending hospitality, reaching out and sharing lives!"

A retired history professor at Western Kentucky University, George serves as Board chair and director for an eight-church weekend meals program, and directs and teaches at a college-level education program for retired adults. He enjoys sports, classical music, and nutritional studies. Mary also retired from WKU, where she was adjunct professor of English. She volunteers in children's ministry and leads writing workshops for adults. She loves music, books, grandchildren and friends. They live in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and have two children and four grandchildren.

## Ed & Marge Johnston



The Johnstons will return as kitchen hosts at the Shaw, Weeks 1 to 5 again. It is their sixth year

hosting, and 25th year staying at the ECOC. They love being hosts and "enjoy helping people enjoy their stay." Ed also serves as treasurer on the ECOC Board, and used his computer background to help set up the new room reservation system.

Before retirement, Ed was a computer systems analyst for Alcoa Aluminum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Marge is a retired Junior High guidance counselor. They have a grown son and daughter, a granddaughter, and a grandson on the way.

Ed and Marge volunteer at church work camps, and at an inner-city school's reading program. Ed is involved in a men's weekly work group, and sings in choirs at his church and Alcoa; his hobbies include playing the clarinet and piano, tennis, and home repair. In her spare time, Marge enjoys water-color painting and tennis.

## Tom & Jeanie Kerns



Tom and Jeanie love coming to Chautauqua and meeting a variety of fascinating people.

"We especially like the ecumenical nature of the ECOC community—how widely diverse people gather together and share their life experiences, particularly in the relaxed environment of the kitchen. For us, the best part of hosting is helping people connect with each other." The Kerns will be our hosts Weeks 1 to 5 in Bird-Werner.

Jeanie retired from teaching kindergarten in an inner-city school; Tom is a retired clergyman, and serves as a Regional Elder for the Disciples of Christ church. They are Stephen Ministers at Bath United Church of Christ in Akron, Ohio; they provide one-on-one care to parishioners suffering from serious illness, divorce, job loss, or other difficult transitions.

Tom and Jeanie love helping out as elves on the Polar Express train at Christmas, and enjoy reading and gardening as well. They have seven children and eight grand-children.

## E. Carol Maxwell



E. Carol enjoys being a hostess in the Westervelt, saying, "I love the 'family' feeling as everyone gathers; I enjoy

making others smile; bringing flowers to the kitchen and serving my sweet treats and 'un-burned' cookies!" E. Carol has been a hostess for eight years, and ECOC Board scribe for six.

E. Carol lives in Warren, Ohio, and works as an Executive Assistant at North East Ohio Network, an organization that serves developmentally-disabled citizens. She is a founding member of the Chautauqua Dance Circle, which provides scholarships to deserving dance students, and she volunteers at the Harriet Taylor Upton Association, which preserves the former home and memory of a local suffragist. She also coordinates a huge holiday gift-wrapping event that earns donations for non-profit community service organizations.

In her spare time, E. Carol loves to crochet, cross-stitch, weave, scrapbook, and attend performing arts productions, especially ballet.

## Nels & Lois Sandberg



The Sandbergs will be ECOC hosts for their fourth season this year. Nels has been coming to Chautauqua for

over 60 years; Lois and Nels first brought their three children in the '70s, and discovered the ECOC in the 1990's. They love the ECOC, "It provides a great place to meet new friends and renew old friendships. Being located at the center of the Chautauqua 'universe' makes it an excellent spot to make the most of all the cultural and entertainment opportunities."

Lois is a retired music teacher, while Nels worked in marketing, business development and program management at General Electric. They are active in the Kingsley United Methodist Church in Erie. Nels also serves on the Board of the Erie United Methodist Alliance, a non-profit agency that provides short-term emergency housing to families and veterans.

Lois enjoys knitting, crafts, cooking and babysitting, while Nels likes photography, model railroading, woodworking and reading.

## Joseph Zupanich & Deborah Hall



This is Joseph's second season keeping our buildings and property clean and beautiful, while it will be Deborah's

seventh summer serving as our front desk welcome person when the managers are away.

Raised in Ontario, Joseph received permanent US residency in 2008. He and Deborah live in Richmond, Virginia, where he works in marketing. As a Paralympic racing chair athlete for Canada, Joseph won bronze at Barcelona in 1992. He enjoys sports, cars, country music, and theater.

Deborah's great grandparents built one of the first cottages at Chautauqua, and she spent many magic summers here with her grandparents. Deborah worked as a clinical psychologist in Ontario, but since moving back to America, she's been doing independent research and writing. Joseph and Deborah honeymooned in Chautauqua in 2004. They have a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and a cat.

# 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

June 4-6,	Spring Work
June 10-14	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

## Elevator Challenge One Down, One to Go!

In early fall 2009, the ECOC received its own “stimulus” package. Thanks to the beneficence of Ed and Marge Johnston, a challenge was offered to the ECOC community. To speed up the timeline for installation of elevator service for the three buildings, Ed and Marge offered to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 all new gifts received during the remainder of 2009. The community quickly responded and the match was met. \$100,000+ is in the bank.

One down and one to go. There was a “part two” to the Johnston challenge—all gifts to the elevator fund in 2010 would be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000. As of the publication of this newsletter, 19% has been received toward the matching goal. Many ECOC guests and community friends will need to respond before year’s end to meet the challenge. Assuming the challenge is met, elevator accessibility could be had by the 2011 season!

How to contribute? To ensure proper posting and speedy deposit, gifts should be sent during off-season months to:

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

During the Chautauqua season (mid June to end of August) they may be sent or hand-delivered to the ECOC at Chautauqua. ■

**Yes!** I/We would like to contribute to the ECOC’s Elevator Challenge, and have this gift matched dollar-for-dollar, to help make our buildings more handicap-accessible.

**Enclosed/attached is my/our tax-deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to ECOC and mail to one of these addresses**

**Up to June 10 and after September 1:**

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

**During Chautauqua season,  
June 10 to September 1:**

ECOC  
P.O. Box 988  
Chautauqua, New York 14722

**Your Generous Gift is Much Appreciated!**