

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

## Our Special Thanks

*Ed Hann, Board President*

It is a true joy to be President of the Board of Directors of the ECOC. Above all, I get to oversee a ministry that provides a faith-full community of housing for hundreds of you every summer. This includes working with more than a dozen volunteer directors from all over the US and Canada who serve throughout the year. It also includes supporting the registrar, two sets of managers, and their teams of hosts and hostesses who serve you personally during the summer. And, most surprising to me, it includes the ongoing service of former directors whose terms are over but whose talents continue to be given in a multitude of ways year after year.

There is a special joy I feel this year. One of those former board members (and president), Bob Boell, has served as coordinator of the latest "Securing the Future" Capital Fund Campaign, a three-year effort to raise \$300,000 that ended in 2016. In January, Bob reported to the board that 178 donor units (you folks!)



had actually given \$316,282.63 with another \$4,850 still expected in 2017. One hundred percent of the board of directors and all the managers, registrar, and hosts and hostesses were among the donors, as were

folks of all ages and locations and reasons, including many who have included ECOC in their wills and annual giving. Thank you, all!

And there is more. Bob also reported that, beyond the Campaign, we will receive a special gift of \$100,000 over the next four years from long-time guests who want to ensure the long-term, low-cost viability of ECOC. This will include property care and development and improvement to room aesthetics, with a portion designated for scholarships to introduce new individuals and families to our ministry. Your board is already at work to determine the distribution of this blessed gift.

It continues to be my joy to serve all of you. I look forward to seeing many of you personally this summer. God bless you all, and God bless the ECOC! ■

## Amp Project on Schedule

According to an update from the board of Chautauqua Institution, the Amphitheater reconstruction is on track to be completed on time, thanks to the mild winter and the hard work and long hours of the construction crews—as many as 170 workers on site!

As of April 1, the back-of-house (behind the organ) was completely closed in and the interior walls have been mostly installed. Now the focus is on mechanical, electrical and plumbing work. The roof of the amphitheater bowl is receiving its final layer, most concrete risers for the choir loft and audience seating are in place, the stage is framed and some of the concrete floor has been poured. The benches are being fabricated off-site and will be installed before the season opens.

You can follow the progress by checking out two outdoor webcams, and the weekly online photo albums that show the interior work, at [ciweb.org/amp-cam](http://ciweb.org/amp-cam). ■



*Aerial view of the Amphitheater on March 24.*

# Preparations for the Season



Rodney and Freda Cook, Kathy and John Woods

The ECOC managers welcome you to the 2017 Chautauqua season and look forward to seeing you again this year. The ECOC has made improvements to its three buildings during the off-season for your convenience and safety, and we hope that you will like what's been done.

A substantial part of the work needed to get the ECOC ready for a new season is done by volunteers who come to Chautauqua during pre-season work weeks, and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication to the vision of community that has guided the ECOC for so many years.

This spring, work week dates are **June 1 to 5** and **June 16 to 23**. Some volunteers clean the "winter" out of

guest rooms and get the kitchens ready for the season, while others do painting and patching tasks. For gardeners, the planting areas around the buildings need

ground preparation and planting. For volunteers with fix-it skills, there are light fixtures to replace and faucets to repair. The week of June 16 thru 23 is particularly convenient for guests who are staying for Week 1 of the Chautauqua season. Work weeks are not all work—a potluck on Saturday is a chance to see old friends and make new ones, and any day is a good day to go out for ice cream as a group.

There are exciting themes for this season, and part of what we like so much is to see guests talking about what they have heard and sharing their thoughts as they make meals together in our kitchens. Whether you like to sit in the Amphitheater or listen from the ECOC porches, it is nice to be so

close to a focal point of the Chautauqua experience.

This year's hosts include the familiar and the new. Here is our current lineup:

In the Shaw, Michael and Michele Montford host Weeks 1 to 3, Shayne and Diane Cockerdam host Weeks 4 to 6, and Carl and Sandy Williams host Weeks 8 and 9.

In the Westervelt, Jack and Mary Knepp host Weeks 1 to 4, Laura Klein hosts Week 5, John and Ann Hisle host Weeks 6 and 7, and David Bagshaw and Diane Mann host Weeks 8 and 9.

In the Bird-Werner, Thomas and Jeanie Kerns host Weeks 1 to 3, Michael and Carol Heinsdorf host Weeks 4 to 6, and Linda Wiley and Mary Dillingham host Weeks 7 to 9.

Each year, our guests make suggestions for improvements they would like to see for the next season and we managers hope that you will add your insights. We also hope that you will continue to introduce your friends to Chautauqua and to the ECOC, adding new generations to those who love and appreciate the uniqueness of this place. ■

## Accommodations Update

E. Carol Maxwell



As of April 1, 2017 (no joke!), the ECOC occupancy rate for the 9-week 2017 Season is 92%. The ECOC is full for Weeks 1, 2 and 3 and we have waiting lists. There are two rooms (with one double bed in each) open for Week 4. Weeks 5 and 6 have a couple of open rooms. Week 7 (Theme: The Nature of Fear) is

this year's unpopular week, because we have 17 rooms open! For Weeks 8 and 9 there are 2 and 4 rooms, respectively.

We are pleased to announce that four guests (two men and two women) from the Homeboy Industries program will be lodging at the ECOC Week 3. Two scholarship families will join us for Week 5, thanks to the Ministers' Union and the Ed & Marge Johnston scholarship funds. Our "worker rooms" will all be occupied for the season. So

far, 55 guests have signed up to volunteer during our pre- and post-season work weeks and weekends!

Once again, the ECOC will participate in the Connections Program by "adopting" a dancer, a voice student, a music festival student, a *Chautauquan Daily* intern and one from the Abraham Program for Young Adults (APYA).

Enjoy springtime! We look forward to welcoming you to our special community this summer. ■

# Renovations Continue

Property Committee and Managers

Thanks to the generosity of our ECOC family through our recently concluded Securing the Future capital campaign, we continued our property improvements this winter. We have added:

- A new bathroom to Bird-Werner room 5.
- Showers to Shaw rooms 1 and 2 and 15.
- A new outside stairway from Roberts Avenue to the kitchens. This has improved safety, and the railings now match those on the porches.
- A door on the first floor ramp between the Shaw and Bird-Werner. This will provide fire protection with the added bonus of managing the cold and heat that flow through that hallway.

• Fire doors at the backs of the Shaw and Bird-Werner kitchens, to contain fire in the kitchen and allow exit from the building from the fire stairs. They automatically close in the event of a fire.

We have made other behind-the-scenes improvements to enhance fire safety and provide much-needed storage space. And we are planning some improvements in the Westervelt during the next off-season.

Thanks to Jeff Vreeland, the project manager, and to Dustin, the contractor, and his crew. And continuing thanks for your commitment to our beloved ECOC. Remember, if you want to make a contribution to the ECOC for continued improvement to the facilities, we are happy to accept! ■

# Securing the Future

Bob Boell, Capital Campaign Committee

Some of our generous donors chose to make their gift to the three-year Securing the Future Campaign in memory of or honor of someone, as listed below.

## In memory of:

Winifred Barnes  
Lilian P. Boell  
Rev. Robert B. Boell  
Rev. Eunice Shaw Bull (*former Manager*)  
Betty Colwell  
Laura M. Cook  
George Dillingham  
Gary Gephart  
Rev. Fred Gnatuk  
Margaret Gnatuk  
Robert Gridley  
Angela Haney  
Rev. James Haney  
William Leist  
Mary Maxwell  
Richard Maxwell  
Vera Maxwell  
William Maxwell  
Sally McClure  
Susie Rogers McFate  
John Milligan  
Bill Mollohan  
Katherine J. Odarenko  
Rev. Hugh Outterson  
Clara Rader  
Patrick Sellers  
Penny Jo Shoop  
Marguerite Shortle  
Roger Sledd  
Rev. Thomas R. Springman  
Verna Rapp Uhlman  
Helene Werner (*former Manager*)  
Rev. Mark Woodring

## In honor of:

Bob & Jean Boell  
Bill Brockman *on his 80th birthday*  
Don & Joann Brower  
Sue Brunner  
Aimee Doershuk  
Rev. Heather Elkins  
Deborah First  
Dom & Jia Gustafarro  
Susan M. Helm  
Susan Helm and Jan Hoffman (*in thanks for their service, from the ECOC Board*)  
Jared Jacobsen  
Chuck Kortz  
Michael H. Murphy  
Carolyn Volk *for her 85th birthday*  
Jack & Pat Westwood ■

# Meet Our New Hosts

## Ann & John Hisle



Annie and John Hisle have been married for 50 years, and have four grown children and eight grandchildren.

They live in Bethesda, Maryland, just outside Washington, DC.

John is retired from the federal government where he managed large health programs for under-served persons. Annie is a psychotherapist with an active (but reduced) private practice. She is also a retired hospice bereavement counselor. Annie and John are both very busy with social justice activities—combating homelessness, employment counseling, “greening” activities, and mentoring. They began staying at the ECOC five years ago. “We love the other residents, the ambience, the location and ECOC’s commitment to affordable lodging,” they say.

## Linda Wiley



Linda lives in Seattle and works as a geriatric care manager helping seniors and their families when complicated issues arise with aging. She plans to retire this year.

Linda says she was hooked when she first visited the ECOC five years ago, and she has been coming every summer since. “I like that it has been kept simple yet well maintained. I love the kitchens and the shared conversation and meals. I love its fabulous location on the campus, and I particularly appreciate that it has been kept affordable. As we are a one-income household, that is the only way I could have come every year.”

A single parent with a son in community college, Linda’s interests include hiking, cooking, and gardening, and she intends to get active in advocacy for mental health services once she is fully retired. ■

# Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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## ECOC Calendar

June 1 to 5 & June 16 to 23	Spring Work Weeks (any time during period)
June 21	Spring Board meeting
June 24	Season begins
August 27	Season ends
August 28	Annual Board meeting
August 28 to September 2	Fall Work Week (any time during period)



## Chautauqua 2017 Themes

Week 1	June 24—July 1	Invention
Week 2	July 1—8	The Human Journey: Origins, Exploration and Preservation
Week 3	July 8—15	A Crisis of Faith?
Week 4	July 15—22	Geopolitics Today
Week 5	July 22—29	The Supreme Court: At a Tipping Point?
Week 6	July 29—Aug. 5	Comedy and the Human Condition
Week 7	August 5—12	The Nature of Fear
Week 8	August 12—19	Media and the News: Ethics in the Digital Age
Week 9	August 19—27	At the Table: Our Changing Relationship with Food

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).

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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 1928 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.