

ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY OF CHAUTAUQUA



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

Volume 12, Issue 1

Thanks for the Memories

Ed Hann, Board president

At about this time five years ago, four older white men were each asked to become members of the Board of Directors of a unique ministry in Western New York. Since that time, Bill Brockman, James Cook, Jack Knepp and I have had the distinct pleasure of serving the ECOC and you folks in our own particular ways. At the end of this summer, our terms of office will conclude and they have been a blessing!



Much has changed in these five years. Both sets of managers, Marge and Ed Johnston and Lois and Nels Sandberg, retired after years of quality service and Kathy and John Woods and Freda and Rodney Cook have stepped up to replace them. Significant improvements have been made to all our buildings, inside and out. And hundreds of thousands of new dollars have been raised and spent, including on scholarships that have resulted in many first-time guests, of every age, ethnicity and background, every year.

Yet it is the stability of ECOC that is most remarkable to me. E. Carol Maxwell was, is and continues to be our Faith-full registrar. Hosts and hostesses return each summer to serve, as do volunteers from the founding Family and others, to work in the pre- and post-season. Carol

Mollohan continues to coordinate our educational experiences, Marcy Klein still sees that this newsletter gets to you twice a year and Bob Tupaj continues to manage the website. Past board members like Bob Boell, Toni Goldfarb, Susan Helm, David Matthews, Bill McNeice, and Jeff Vreeland still take on special services.

Meanwhile, the ongoing support of gifts and prayers from all of you, as well as your presence each summer, have made this a truly Ecumenical Community. Jack, Bill, James and I thank you—and thank God Whose vision from the past and Whose call into the future has blessed us all! ■

ECOC Renovations Nearly Complete

Bob Dargel, Property Committee

The winter building work on the board-approved projects are well underway. The re-siding of the South side of the Shaw building is complete. In the Westervelt, remodeling the bathrooms in Rooms 12 and 14 and the shower outside Room 6 are also complete. In the Bird-Werner building, the project to improve the fire resistance of the stairways, other hallway improvements, and painting of the porch steel work are underway. All projects will be completed before the opening of the 2018 season. ■



Registrar's Message

E. Carol Maxwell

Managers' Report

Rodney and Freda Cook, Kathy and John Woods

The ECOC Managers are looking forward to Spring Work Week (June 15—22) to finish getting the buildings ready for the 2018 season. Many of you have signed up and identified the work skills you bring. There is still time to let us know you want to help. Remember, volunteering helps you with reservations the following year. We are also looking forward to working with the new hosts, whom you can read about in this newsletter, as well as hosts who have made the ECOC the pleasant place it has been for years.

Bird-Werner: Jeanie & Rev. Tom Kerns, Jane Cabigas & Joyce Holden, Rev. Bill McNeice & Walter Singer, Sandy & Carl Williams

Shaw: Michele & Michael Montford, Diane Cokerdem De-Priest & Shayne Cokerdem, Kathleen & Rev. Paul Kett

Westervelt: Mary & Jack Knepp, Linda Wiley & Sherry Shroeder, Harriette Royer & Linda Wiley, Annie & John Hisle, Diane Mann & David Bagshaw

Over the winter, the Westervelt updating started with new bathrooms in some rooms and painting. Quite a few new mattresses, as well as reading lamps and refinished furniture, were purchased this year with donations given by ECOC guests at the end of their stay last year.

We are excited about the coming season and look forward to seeing you at Chautauqua. ■

Going Greener

Alyson Stage, House Presence Committee

This season, the ECOC House Presence Committee builds on our green environmental certification by helping our guests reduce the number of plastic water bottles used at Chautauqua. Each of the three kitchens will have purified-water dispensers. Guests can fill their reusable containers to stay hydrated and help the ECOC move from its Bronze Level of certification to the Silver Level. ■

This year, ALL Confirmations for Weeks 1 through 9 were mailed by March 2!! As of April 2, the ECOC will be **92%** occupied for the 2018 summer season. We are hoping for **100%** by the time the season opens and closes. There are **450** lodging opportunities at the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua during the 9-week season.

As of April 2, all accommodations Weeks 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and 9 are reserved. These six weeks all have wait lists. Our light occupancy weeks are 4 and 6—several rooms are still available. Week 3 has a few rooms available as of April 2.

Every week during the 2018 Season, there will be at least one new guest / guest family in residence. "New" guest families lodging at the ECOC this summer total **48** (so far)!

Eight ECOC scholarship recipients will be joining us throughout this summer. Four Home Boys and two Home Girls with Father Greg Boyle's Homeboy Industries will lodge with us Week 4, when Father Boyle will be chaplain for the week. In addition, two Chautauqua Institution scholarship families will lodge with us this summer. Unity House of Chautauqua has registered their guest clergy with us for seven of the nine weeks.

New this summer—you will be able to charge your room payment on your credit card during check-in.

E. Carol Maxwell, Registrar

716-581-3659, ecoregistrar@gmail.com ■

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 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.

Meet Our New Hosts

Jayne Cabigas



Before moving to Tampa, Florida, Jayne worked for national nonprofits as a lobbyist and grassroots organizer in Washington, DC. She has a Masters of

Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, and is active at her Methodist church. Jayne also volunteers for the Humane Society and owns a business that makes all-natural dog treats. She loves to cook and trained as a home chef. Jayne and her husband, Rick, have five daughters, one grandson and a dog, Skippy.

Jayne loves Chautauqua and will share hosting with her mother, Joyce Holden. "I value the relationships forged in the kitchens of the ECOC, making and sharing food together, attending potlucks and visiting on the porch. The other guests have been so interesting and accepting," she says.

Joyce Holden



Though an American, Joyce has been a permanent resident in Canada for 35 years. Before moving to Kingston, Ontario, she was the Christian

Education Coordinator for Friends United Meeting. In Kingston, she became the Associate in Ministry at Chalmers United Church and put her energies into work at the Presbyterian level.

Joyce has come to Chautauqua with her husband, David, for about 25 years, usually staying at ECOC. Two years ago, they brought their two daughters, and Jayne volunteered to cohost with her mother. Joyce says, "We've always found ECOC to be a friendly, accepting place at the center of things. We look forward to welcoming folks in the same warm way we have been welcomed in the past."

Bill McNeice



A retired minister with the Associated Gospel Churches of Canada, Bill has been involved with the ECOC for over 50 years. He served two terms as a

board president, and volunteers both pre- and post-season every year. Bill loves the ECOC, "It's a family of dedicated people who share a basic value of helping others. Staying at the ECOC contributes to the rejuvenation of the body, mind and spirit."

For many years Bill taught courses about business and leadership in the Chautauqua Special Studies program. He volunteers with his local seniors community, helping those suffering from dementia and their caregivers. Bill lives with his wife, Sue, in Oakville, Ontario; they have four children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Harriette Royer



Harriette heads the career services office at the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester (NY); she also runs a private coaching

business and a labyrinth enterprise. She is trained in conflict resolution, spirit coaching, Safe Space (LGBTQ), and ASL. Harriette enjoys hosting labyrinth walks, reading, gardening, traveling, yoga, and caring for cats, both her own and strays.

Harriette has stayed at the ECOC for over 20 years, and recently served on the board. She helps during Work Weeks as well. "I truly cherish the conviviality, conversation, and camaraderie of the kitchens (and the whole ECOC experience), and although I've stayed in every house and in every kitchen, the Westervelt, where I'm hosting, is my favorite," she says.

Sherry Schroeder



Sherry teaches American and multicultural literature and English composition at a suburban high school outside of Buffalo, NY. As a special education

teacher, she advocates for at-risk and disabled students. She recently volunteered with Remote Area Medical (RAM), which provided dental and eye services to the rural poor in Olean, NY. She also traveled to the Dominican Republic for a dental service mission trip, and has taught Sunday school for the past 20 years.

Sherry has stayed at the ECOC for several years, and says she appreciates the open-minded and welcoming people she has met there. She has a grown daughter and son, and enjoys hiking, kayaking, reading, yoga, gardening, bird-watching, cooking, playing cards, and movies.

Walter Singer



A semiretired CPA, Walter lives in Elkins Park, PA, where he is active with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, a Quaker lobbying/ad-

vocacy organization. He serves on several committees at his local Quaker meeting and loves to play chamber and folk music.

Walter first came to Chautauqua as a violist in the student orchestra, and has been coming to the ECOC for over 20 years. He and his wife, Kathy, have two children and a beautiful dachshund named Sterling.

"Coming to the ECOC has always been like coming home for me" says Walter. "There are many wonderful things about the ECOC, but the thing I value the most is the sense of community and the wonderful, open-minded, open-hearted, and playful atmosphere fostered there." ■

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

IRA Charitable Rollover Can Benefit ECOC

Bob Boell, for the Development Committee

On December 18, 2015, Congress reinstated the IRA Charitable Rollover Provision and made it permanent. To qualify for a gift this year, the transfer from your IRA custodian to us must be completed by December 31.

What gifts qualify for an IRA charitable rollover?

- The donor must be age 70½ or older when the gift is made.
- The gift must come from a traditional IRA or Roth IRA account. (401(k), 403(b), SEP IRA accounts, and other retirement accounts do not qualify.)
- The gift must come directly from your IRA administrator to ECOC (or any charitable group).
- Total IRA charitable rollover gifts in any one year cannot exceed \$100,000.
- The IRA rollover gift can count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) if you have not already

taken your RMD for the year you make your gift.

- The gift from your IRA will not be available as an income tax charitable deduction.
- The gift from your IRA will be excluded from income.

Complete information and procedure may be found on the ECOC web site under "Support." If you have any questions, contact Bob Boell at 610-544-3789. ■

ECOC Calendar

June 15 to 22	Spring Work Week (anytime during period)
June 20	Spring board meeting
June 23	Season begins
August 26	Season ends
August 27	Annual board meeting
August 27 to 31	Fall Work Week (anytime during period)