

## President's Message

*Nathan Day Wilson, President, Board of Directors*

All of us drink from wells that we did not dig.

There are schools that others built; libraries that others filled; hospitals that others founded; roads that others paved. Nearly every day, we benefit from those who came before us.

That is the story of the ECOC. In addition to names we easily recognize—such as Westervelt, Shaw, Bird, and Werner—are many who, while less commonly known, built the ECOC of today: a religiously inclusive community that provides hospitality and affordable accommodations while promoting dialogue, fellowship and growth. We are the beneficiaries of their vision, sacrifice, hard work and bold generosity.

Just as we benefited from past generations, so we are providing for future generations.

How so, you ask? Well, thanks for asking. Here are some examples:

1. This past summer (2011) a newly installed elevator was rightly dedicated to Marge and Ed Johnston. The elevator serves all five floors of Bird-Werner and is positioned to serve the Westervelt and Shaw buildings when future construction phases are completed.

2. The Bird-Werner kitchen was renovated and a sprinkler system was installed.

3. The Shaw and Bird-Werner kitchens were connected by a hallway,

which has a popular handicap accessible restroom. Both the Shaw and B-W kitchens are handicap accessible.

4. Room number 6 on the first floor of the B-W building was remodeled thanks to contributions from Elisabeth and James Groninger in honor of Matilda Thomas Plyman Rogers, Elisabeth's grandmother, who stayed at the ECOC in the 1970s. A picture and brief article about Ms Rogers were placed in the room, and a dedication plaque will be placed outside the room. The room was remodeled and decorated with the volunteer assistance of Interior Designer Amelia Dean.

5. We now have a fire-protected stair tower.

6. Other improvements are on tap between now and next summer: The Westervelt kitchen will receive a window fan to go along with its fresh paint, carpet and decorations. Rooms 10 and 11 will be combined into a "family" suite. Rooms 4, 8 and 12 will be painted, carpeted and newly decorated. New flooring will be installed in the 2nd floor community bathroom. Also, thanks to Bob and Sandy Boehm, many rooms will have ceiling fans.

I don't know everyone to thank, but I do know some: Bill Brockman, Ed and Marge Johnston, Nels and Lois Sandberg and Rick Schaeffer worked many hours on these improvements to our facilities. Architect Bill Laubscher, builder



Ted First and structural engineer Paul Potter gave valuable volunteer work to help us complete these projects. Please join me in thanking them, and please remind me of the names I have omitted.

There's more to do, of course, but the specifics will wait for another time. For now, let's thank those who provided for us and give thanks for opportunities to provide for others. ■

## ECOC Receives Large Grant

The Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that The Lenna Foundation has provided a \$25,000 grant to help in our rehabbing project. The foundation contacted the ECOC in early September. This is the first major grant from an important Chautauqua County foundation. There is hope that several other major local foundations may respond our recent grant applications. ■

# Managers Report on 2011 Season

---



*Ed and Marge Johnston, Lois and Nels Sandberg*

The big news of the season was that the elevator in the Bird-Werner building was completed and operational in time for the season opening. It was greatly appreciated by our guests, especially on move in and out days. The hosts and hostesses appreciated the fact that checking and getting rooms ready for new guests was so much easier. We also used the elevator to move furniture around, which we, and the work week helpers, really appreciated. In addition, the new handicapped bathroom off the Bird-Werner kitchen was the most used bathroom in the three buildings. Everyone was grateful for this addition. Many thanks to all of you who donated to make the renovation a reality.

The elevator and the Bird-Werner kitchen were dedicated on August 21. Many community residents were able to attend. Some of them had stayed at the ECOC in the past, and shared their fond memories of the Minister's Union during our Ice Cream Social.

Our activities last season included:

- Participating in the Old First Night Block Party
- On the final Saturday of the season, hosting 43 ladies from Warren, Ohio, for cookies and lemonade before they returned home
- Sharing sponsorship of the "Communities in Conversation"
- Helping host the Chautauqua Festival Orchestra after its final concert.

Through the Connections program, we sponsored the same two ballet students as last year, Sarah Lee and Philip Martin-Nielson. Sarah's drawing of her experiences on the grounds was dedicated to the ECOC, and is hanging in the office. Philip was one of our "bellhops" on Saturdays. Phillip

Wells, whose mother works in the Ballet Department, was our other bellhop. Thanks to these three great youth.

We want to thank everyone who came and helped us open in the spring. Many on the grounds thought that we could not possibly be ready because of our major construction, but thanks to our hard-working volunteers, we were! When more than 15 volunteers completely filled a garbage dumpster in a 30-minute period the day before season open, we knew we would make it. We thank all those who came to help out after the season ended, too.

Special thanks go to our hosts and hostesses, who kept the kitchens and houses running smoothly and spent a lot of time doing maintenance, baking cookies for Tuesday Teas, scooping ice cream for Sunday Socials, learning how to restart the elevator and to operate the new fire alarm system and kept our guests (and us) happy and relaxed!

We are looking forward to the 2012 season and hope you are, too. ■

---

## Update from the Registrar

---

*E. Carol Maxwell*

Happy fall to all our Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua friends.

Since leaving our special place, I have updated all of the ECOC reservation documents. After review and approval by the Managers (Sandbergs and Johnstons) and outgoing and incoming Board Presidents (Rev. Brockman and Rev. Wilson), the documents were sent to the printer. Thank you, Nels & Lois, Ed & Marge, Bill and Nathan, for your assistance.

I am happy to report that our An-

nual Reservation Information packet will be mailed from Chautauqua on December 30, 2011. Included in the mailing will be a brief note from the Managers and Registrar, the **Reservation Request** form (new format), our famous **Yellow Information Sheet** and a half-sheet flyer about **Work Week/Weekend Volunteering!** Watch for a booklet-size (6 x 9) envelope in your mail.

If you have not received the envelope by January 14, 2012, please either call me at 716-581-3659 or e-mail me at

ECOCRegistrar@gmail.com so I can send out another packet. Another option would be to go to our website, [www.ecoc-chautauqua.org](http://www.ecoc-chautauqua.org), where you can print the Reservation Request form and read the yellow sheet.

You should mail the completed Reservation Request form to:

E. Carol Maxwell, Registrar  
Ecumenical Community of  
Chautauqua  
PO Box 208  
Warren, Ohio 44482-0208 ■

# Meet Your New ECOC Board Members

We welcome four new members to the ECOC Board of Directors: Rev. David Matthews, Harriette Royer, Rev. Gretta Vosper and Jeff Vreeland. They join other Board members Rev. Joe Donovan, Toni Goldfarb, Susan Helm, Rev. Jan Hoffman, Rev. Ellie Stock and Rev. Nathan Day Wilson. New Shaw Family Rep James V. Cook replaces Elizabeth Dawson. We thank her, and retiring Board members Rev. Bill Brockman, Ann Hoffman, Ed Johnston, and Rick Schaeffer, for their service.

## David Matthews



Rev. David Matthews is a semi-retired Lutheran Parish Pastor. He and his wife, Barbara, spend winters in Bonita Springs, Florida. The rest

of the year, David is a “full-time” pastor of two congregations in the Pittsburgh area.

After serving with his wife in an Arab Mission Orphanage in Lebanon, David has spent most of his ministry as Director of Counseling Services at church-related social service agencies. Barbara is a retired business education teacher. They have two children and three grandchildren.

The Matthews family has stayed at the ECOC since 1978. David is excited about the opportunity to “give back” to the ECOC, which has meant so much to him and his family over the years.

## Harriette Royer



Harriette Royer is a career educator and coach at the Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester. She specializes in

servicing the international students, who come from over 35 countries. She also is one of three University Intercrossors, who are called upon by the school to resolve issues, using a restorative mediation model.

Harriette’s avocation is stewarding the labyrinth as a spiritual and personal practice. As a member of Chautauqua’s Special Studies Faculty, she taught labyrinth classes, as well as classes in hospitality, everyday rituals, and pilgrimage. She was a member of the group that constructed the labyrinth at Chautauqua. Before joining the Board, she helped the Personnel and Hospitality Committees.

## Gretta Vosper

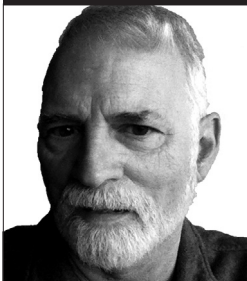


As a minister with The United Church of Canada, Rev. Gretta Vosper serves West Hill United Church in Toronto. She founded the Ca-

nadian Centre for Progressive Christianity in 2004, and serves on its Board of Directors. An avid writer and photographer, Gretta has written two religious books; one was published internationally, the second will be released next year.

Gretta and her husband Scott Kearns were married in the waterfall park by the Amphitheater, and they have spent nine seasons at the ECOC. She values the personal connections they’ve made, the humour and good nature in the shared kitchens, and especially the ECOC’s proximity to the Amphitheater. The couple has four grown children.

## Jeff Vreeland

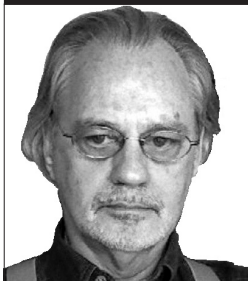


Jeff Vreeland lives with his wife, Ginny, in South Salem, New York, a small hamlet about one hour north of Manhattan.

Jeff operated a successful design/build business for 30 years, then gave it up at age 50 to go back to school to study painting. Since then, he has had a number of art shows, and is currently working on a photography show. He also published a novel, about five years ago, titled “When All Else Fails.”

Jeff’s wife, Ginny, is a parish nurse; the couple has three children and eight grandchildren. The family has been staying at the ECOC for about six years, and love the community there. Jeff serves on the Board’s building committee.

## James V. Cook



### Shaw Rep

James V. Cook is connected to the Shaw family through his aunt, Martha Bird, a former Minister’s Union manager, and his great

aunt, Eunice M. Shaw, cofounder of the Minister’s Union in 1928.

Aunt Martha introduced James to Chautauqua in 1965. He worked at Chautauqua for several summers, helping prepare the Minister’s Union for the season, and working at hotels on the grounds.

James is a civil rights lawyer in Tallahassee, Florida, specializing in law enforcement misconduct cases. Before becoming a lawyer, he was a political speech writer and before that, a graphic artist. James likes to read, study languages, and travel. He has a son and two grandchildren. ■

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 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 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

December 30	Registration forms sent
Starting Feb. 1	Confirmations processed
June 1 to 3 & June 15 to 22	Spring Work Weeks (anytime during period)
June 21 & 22	Spring Board meeting
June 23	Season begins
August 26	Season ends
August 27 & 28	Annual Board meeting
August 27 to 30 & Sept. 4 to 7	Fall Work Weeks (anytime during period)

## Our Kitchen Stars ★★

David and Meg Feldman stayed at the ECOC for seven weeks. Meg came to study at the School of Art. Several of her works were displayed at the Fowler Kellogg Gallery and at the Art Studio exhibit. David was invited to play the cello for the Music School Festival Orchestra (MSFO).

\*\*\*\*\*

Jayne Keffer taught a class on China while staying at the ECOC. Subsequently, the Bird Tree and Garden Club invited her to stay over to make a presentation on Chinese Gardens.

\*\*\*\*\*

Helene Werner, former manager of the Ministers Union, returned to spend a week with us, along with her grandniece, Erica Dawson.

\*\*\*\*\*

Former ECOC Board member Rev. Larry Poelma and his wife Linda celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary while staying at the ECOC this summer.

\*\*\*\*\*

The 2011 graduates of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle (CLSC) included the following members of the ECOC "family": Sandy Boehm, Maxine Bowen, Sue Brunner, Ermyn King, Jean King, Linda Masney and Lois Sandberg. Ermyn King read the books aloud to her mother, Jean, who is 91 years old.

\*\*\*\*\*

Eleven-year-old Austin Hise took second place in the 12-and-under walkers category at the Old First Night Race. Congratulations! ■

## Special Gifts

Robert Boell

From time to time gifts are given to the Ecumenical Community in memory or in honor of someone. Gifts noted below were recently given to the ECOC's Capital Fund, which helps with repairs and improvements to the buildings.

- In honor of **Tom and Kathy Clingan** for their 40th wedding anniversary.
- In memory of **Reverend Mark A. Henderson**. Mark died July 24, 2011, at the age of 52. He was a United Methodist Pastor and said Chautauqua, the Ministers' Union/ECOC "are fused in the marrow of my bones." His wife Carin and family designated memorial gifts to be given to the ECOC. ■