

ECOC News

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

Fall
2014

Volume 8 Issue 2

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

Message from the Board

Ed Hann, President, Board of Directors



As the Western New York temperatures plummet and the buildings used mainly in the summer are prepared for a long winter, it can be easy in

other parts of the country and world to let the Chautauqua experience fade from our minds. Yet what I have realized since I was given the honor and privilege in August of being elected President of the ECOC Board of Directors is that the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua is not where we go or what we do but who we are and what we are becoming.

As a United Methodist, I am proud to know that my heritage gave rise to such a great Institute as this one. As a local pastor for over forty years, I learned that I was only effective when my work interacted with colleagues, both lay and clergy, of every faith expression, ethnic background and economic situation. And as one whose active service moved from the 1960s into the teens of the twenty-first century, I knew I had to continue to grow and learn if what God wanted to do through me was to be relevant and worthwhile. In other words, the full story of my life, wherever I was or whatever I was doing, was filled by my experiences in the ECOC.

How do your life stories include this Institute and Community all year round?

If you were present this past summer, what ideas and experiences still guide you? And which of the following in your life now will help you move toward next Season:

- Have you already checked ciweb.org for the themes of 2015 and are you prepared to respond to Registrar E.Carol's housing forms in January?
- Did you make a pledge and/or gift to our "Securing the Future" Capital Campaign in this year and will you for the remaining two years of the campaign? (See the article on page 3.)
- Could your interests and talents fit the needs of one or more of our various working Committees (Advisory, Development, Finance, History, Hospitality, House, Personnel, Program, Property and Scholarship) and would you offer your help through our web site?
- Would you consider, and act upon, the long-range plan of including ECOC in your estate and will?
- To whom have you told your Chautauqua stories that they might create their own?
- And do you regularly pray for Chautauqua and the ECOC, for our Board, our Managers, Hosts and Hostesses, our guests, past and future, and for all the lives whose stories have been formed by this place?

Wherever you are, may God bless you and your life story to the fullest. ■

Going Green!

Ellie Stock, House Committee

No, we are not painting the outside of the buildings green! But the ECOC House Committee has been working towards "Going Green" during the last few years. We are trying to make our decisions about the buildings, programs and other matters with the goal of being sustainable environmentally and in sync with the earth ecologically and spiritually.

Efforts have included using non-toxic laundry and other cleaners, providing composting buckets in the kitchens, recycling, hosting programs related to the environment, beautifying ECOC grounds with gardens, providing space for bicycles, replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, and purchasing Energy Star™ replacement appliances.

We are also using interior décor that reflects the diversity of creation and using the diversity of our God-given gifts to live harmoniously with the earth and each other.

We hope all of this, as well as continuing efforts in the future, will provide a welcoming, safe, and enjoyable interactive environment for all. The House Committee hopes to continue to expand our green practices and welcomes your ideas for "greening" the ECOC. You can contact Ellie Stock, elliestock@aol.com, with your ideas and comments. ■

Managers' Report



Nels and Lois Sandberg, Marge and Ed Johnston

Hello, ECOC guests and friends. We are glad to report a good summer at the ECOC in 2014. We've had no accidents for two years now, the weather was cool, which is much better than too hot, and we were basically full except for Week 4.

The four of us were at the ECOC in early October to prepare the 2015 reservation mailing with registrar E. Carol. Over 800 envelopes were stuffed that day, and the mailing is all set to be mailed from the Chautauqua post office on the last working day of 2014. We sincerely thank E. Carol for her dedicated service this year.

While at the ECOC, we saw good progress on this year's off-season construction, which has begun. The side

of the third floor of the Shaw building next to the Bird-Werner building has been gutted (stripped down to the wood framing). This includes Rooms 20 and 21, and the attic area where the fire exit had been. When the work is done, this floor will be connected to the Bird-Werner third floor, four steps up. This will allow much safer fire exiting. A new public bath and a larger Room 20 are also being added to the Shaw third floor. This will be accomplished by "raising the roof" of the old fire exit area. These changes are happening with Capital Campaign funds.

With the hospitality gifts, we replaced a broken washer and dryer, and added a second washer to our laundry room. We also added a knife block and knives for each kitchen, purchased a digital projector for use at our Monday Brown Bag Lunches, and bought a multifunction printer for the office.

The Brown Bag lunches were successful and well-attended in 2014, and we thank those guests who volunteered to present a topic. Look for a form

again this year with your reservation confirmation to volunteer to present.

We want to thank all of our outstanding hosts this year. Our surveys gave high praise for their ability to create a hospitable, caring, and really loving atmosphere in our kitchens and buildings. We'd also like to thank at least 50 volunteers who helped open and close the buildings. And last, but certainly not least, we'd like to thank our guests for being so congenial, caring, and contributing to the sharing and social atmosphere that is the ECOC.

We hope to see many of you again next year. We'll be back, same time, same station, and hope you will be, too.

Sincerely,

Ed, Marge, Nels, and Lois ■

2015 Work Weeks

Put the dates on your calendar!

SPRING (any time during this period)

May 28—June 1 and June 20—26

FALL (any time during this period)

Aug. 31—Sept. 3 and Sept. 8—10

Message from the Registrar

E. Carol Maxwell



Greetings, ECOC Friends,

Summer of 2014—another amazing summer at Chautauqua! For the nine weeks,

we had a total of 774 guests; 92 under the age of 18 and 4 over the age of 90. Of note, several couples staying with us this year celebrated 50 years of marriage!

The Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua welcomes people of all faiths and this year our guests represent-

ed over 37 different faith and non-faith organizations!

The 2015 accommodations' information packet has been prepared and is ready to be mailed the end of December. Thank you Lois & Nels, Marge & Ed for meeting me at the Smith Memorial Library to stuff envelopes!

Once again, guests who have stayed with us in the past five years will receive this communication. If the last time you stayed with us was six years (or more) ago, and you would like to receive the accommodations information,

please choose the way most convenient for you: 1) Call the Registrar's phone 716-581-3659; 2) Email the Registrar ecocregistrar@gmail.com; 3) Write the Registrar - E. Carol Maxwell - PO Box 208, Warren, Ohio 44482-0208; or 4) Retrieve the information documents off our website beginning January 5, 2015, at www.ecoc-chautauqua.org.

Wishing you the best of the changing seasons between now and next summer. We look forward to seeing you during the 2015 Chautauqua Season!

E. Carol, Registrar ■

Capital Campaign: Good News!

Bill Brockman and Bob Boell, Capital Campaign Committee

We are close to finishing the first year of our three-year campaign, **Securing the Future**. As of November 1st, \$224,355 has been given or pledged, allowing us to reach 75% of our total goal for the campaign!

Our campaign funds are dedicated to creating better facilities in our three buildings without sacrificing any of their special historical qualities. Before the 2015 season begins, the newly-collected funds will be used to complete a fire exit bridge between Shaw and Bird-Werner plus add a dormer in Shaw to make a larger bedroom on the third

floor. The fire exit in Shaw will be re-configured and a new bathroom on the second floor will be added. In the fall of 2015 we plan a new front porch on the Bird-Werner, with a metal fire escape on the north side of the building. The central stairway in Bird-Werner will be closed and plans call for installing additional bathrooms in the new space.

We are very grateful to the many in our community who have already given or pledged. Some have chosen to make their gift "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone, listed below:

In Memory of: Rev. Eunice Shaw

Bull, Vera Maxwell, Richard Maxwell, Mary Maxwell, William Maxwell, Susie Rogers McFate, Katherine J. Odarenko, Marguerite Shortle, Rev. Fred Gnatak, Margaret Gnatak, Bill Mollohan, Betty Colwell, Rev. Robert B. Boell, Lilian P. Boell, Rev. Mark Woodring, Rev. Thomas R. Springman, Laura M. Cook, Helene Werner, John Milligan, Sally McClure.

In Honor of: Chuck Kortz, Robert P. Boell, Susan M. Helm, Aimee Dorschuk, Michael H. Murphy, Deborah First, Jared Jacobsen, Bill Brockman on his 80th birthday, and from the Board in thanks for service on the Board of Susan Helm and Jan Hoffman.

As 2014 comes to a close, we invite those who have not already pledged or given to consider making a commitment to continuing our mission of providing affordable housing and unmatched community living. ■

Two Join ECOC Board

We welcome two newly-elected members to the ECOC Board of Directors: Michele Montford and Rev. Paul Womack. They join Board members Rev. Bill Brockman (Secretary), James Cook, Toni Goldfarb (Vice President), Rev. Ed Hann (President), Jack Knepp (Treasurer), Rev. David Matthews, Harriette Royer, Rev. Ellie Stock, and Jeff Vreeland. We thank retiring Board members Susan Helm, Rev. Jan Hoffman, and Rev. Gretta Vosper for their service.

Michele Montford



Michele and her husband Michael have stayed at ECOC for 14 years; they have been kitchen hosts for three seasons. The couple has been married for 50 years, and lives in Moline, Illinois. They enjoy their five children, ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Besides parenting, Michele arranged wedding flowers, and now does occasional catering with Michael. She has served on the Boards of the Rock Island ARC and her church's evening meal committee. She helps at her local food pantry as well.

"I love the community at ECOC. I love the various religious and political discussions that take place in the kitchens. I think ECOC is moving in a very positive direction with its building improvements," she says.

Paul Womack



Before his recent retirement and move to Chattanooga, Tennessee, Rev. Paul Womack served for six years as pastor of the Hurlbut Memorial Community United Methodist Church at Chautauqua. While there, he became aware of the ECOC and its mission. "Offering accessible and affordable housing is necessary if the Institution is going to maintain continuity with its religious heritage. It can provide spiritual and intellectual support to the vision of interfaith diversity that reflects the changing demographics of our culture."

Paul is a veteran who served in Vietnam, Desert Storm, and Iraq. His wife, Rev. Natalie Hanson, is pastor of Christ-First United Methodist Church in Jamestown; he visits frequently. They have three daughters. ■

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Yes! I/we want to make a commitment/ contribution to the **SECURING THE FUTURE campaign.**

- Three-year commitment
- One-time contribution

Attached is my/our tax deductible gift of \$_____.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

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

Before 2015 Chautauqua Season:

ECOC Campaign
c/o Robert P. Boell
412 Arlington
Media, PA 19063-6006

During Chautauqua season:

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

Your Generous Gift is Much Appreciated!

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/January	Registration forms sent
March	Confirmations processed
May 28 to June 1 & June 20 to 26	Spring Work Weeks (anytime during period)
June 24	Spring Board meeting
June 27	Season begins
August 30	Season ends
August 31	Annual Board meeting
Aug. 31 to Sept. 3 & Sept. 8 to 10	Fall Work Weeks (anytime during period)

ECOC Gets Rave Reviews

Harriette Royer, Hospitality Committee Chair

In 2013 and 2014 the ECOC Hospitality Committee asked for feedback about what makes us special, and what brings you back. The compliments we received about the accommodations, price, hosts, managers, location, community and conversations couldn't have been more glowing. For example:

- Chautauqua is a great place but the ECOC takes it to a whole new level. The sense of family, the curious minds, and the conversations here make this place an integral part of the Chautauqua experience.
- We love ECOC!! It is an instant, welcoming community, our home away from home. The hosts and all the staff are so kind and accommodating. We are richly blessed by our Chautauqua family at ECOC. We'll be back!

- This week at the ECOC was a much-needed shot in the arm. The people were interesting and friendly and the accommodations were charming. I can't imagine staying anywhere else now that I've been to the ECOC.

The results of the guest surveys help us improve amenities and make repairs when needed. Many guests noted the newest improvements in their responses. Next year, you'll see even more.

Would you be interested in joining the Hospitality Committee? All it requires is commitment to making the ECOC a welcoming community at Chautauqua, a creative idea or two, and your help transforming good ideas into practical results. Email Harriette Royer at royer@frontiernet.net or call her at 585.436.9174. ■

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 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.