

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

## Building Improvement Update

*David Matthews, Property Committee Co-chair*



**T**hanks to the generosity of our ECOC family and friends, the property improvements are moving ahead as planned. While the weather during the winter months slowed progress for a while, this was anticipated and built into the time lines of the project.

Jeff Vreeland, our ECOC Board member who is overseeing the project, reports that the woodwork, continuing steel fabrication, and painting will be underway during April and May.

The expected completion date for our porch and fire escape work is the

opening of the Season. We are currently on track to achieve that goal.

You can follow progress by viewing pictures of the ongoing construction on our website: [ecoc-chautauqua.org](http://ecoc-chautauqua.org).

Thank you for your contributions to our Capital Campaign, which is improving both the aesthetics and safety of our buildings. ■

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## Apply to Join the Board

*David Matthews, Nominations  
Committee Chair*

**T**he ECOC Board is now accepting applications for Board membership. In order to achieve a balance of lay and clergy on the Board, as designated in the bylaws, we are seeking recommendations and applications to fill a **clergy** position on the Board.

Recommendations, including self-applications, and inquiries may be addressed to Pastor David Matthews, Nominations Committee Chair. Contact him by email, [matville2@gmail.com](mailto:matville2@gmail.com), or cell phone, 412-848-2165. ■

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## Great Opportunity!

*Bill Brockman, Personnel Committee Chair*

**P**eople return to the ECOC year after year for many reasons.

One reason has been the excellent management of our three-building complex. Now we are in the middle of a management transition. We need to find a couple or individual willing to spend about six weeks working with our volunteers and hosts, to make certain that the buildings are in good condition, and either to help open them prior to the season or close them at the end of the season.

There are major perks! You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped almost 900 guests enjoy Chautauqua. You will join the impressive list of managers who have supported the important mission of providing low-cost housing and outstanding hospitality.

In addition there is a salary, an apartment, reserved parking space and gate passes to Chautauqua. If interested, please contact Bill Brockman at 561-302-2268 and or [wbrockman@usa.net](mailto:wbrockman@usa.net). ■

# Managers' Report



Nels and Lois Sandberg, Kathy and John Wood

Greetings to friends and guests of ECOC. We hope you have had a good winter and are looking forward to a beautiful summer, whether at Chautauqua or in your home town.

Good progress has been made on the new porches and fire escape on the front of the Bird-Werner. Also the Shaw porch railings are being replaced to match those of the Bird-Werner. See the property committee report on page 1 for details.

Our hosts and hostesses are lined up for this season. They include: Michele and Mike Montford, Sandy and Carl Williams, Jeanie and Tom Kerns, Carol and Mike Heinsdorf, Linda and Don Burgard, Mary and Jack Knepp, Kathleen and Paul Kett, David Bagshaw and Diane Mann, and new hosts: Laura Klein, and Diane and Shayne Cokerdem. They are all looking forward to spending time with you, and being of help to all—new and old guests alike.

We want to thank the anonymous donor of the beautiful Peace Pole, which has been placed in the Bowman garden on the side of the Shaw.

#### Something new:

There will be a community spice area in each kitchen this year. If you bring

spices to use while in residence and do not wish to take them home, you can place them in the basket for other guests to use.

We still have some ECOC seat cushions for sale. They are \$10 each and the money goes to help ECOC.

#### Amphitheater reconstruction:

Many of you know that the decision was made last year by the Institution Trustees to rebuild the Amphitheater. This pre-season has been spent in site preparation and preliminary demolition. Part of the back of the Amp, as well as the surrounding trees, fencing, bleachers, etc., have been removed. Go to [ciweb.org/amp/#now](http://ciweb.org/amp/#now) for more up-to-date information and photos.

Our volunteers are a major reason that we can keep our rentals low. Before the season, our work weekend will be held **June 3–6**. Our work week will be from **June 18–24**. These work times are very important this year—there will be a

lot to clean up because of construction. You can come for a day, a few hours or stay the whole time. Any help will be greatly appreciated, but a minimum of eight hours of work will improve your chances of obtaining a reservation next season. All skill levels are needed. If you have a favorite tool, bring it along. Don't forget old work clothes and painting clothes—there are always things to repair and painting to do!

The Shaw Family Reunion will be held during June. This family not only comes to have fun but to do a great deal of work, which might not get done if they were not willing to help prepare the buildings for opening. We really thank them for their continued interest in our beautiful, old buildings.

We look forward to seeing you during work times and/or the season.

– Nels, Lois, Kathy and John ■

## Donations Needed

Harriette Royer, House Committee

Would you help make the ECOC ambiance even more comfortable and welcoming? We could use donations of table lamps, lamp shades, and bedside tables. Contact the managers if you are able to help. Thank you!

## From the Registrar

E. Carol Maxwell



Today is March 21—the first day of spring—or not! Brrrrr—it was 29° today in Warren, Ohio!!!

WOW—Lots of reservation requests have been received! Week 8 is the ONLY week with several rooms

still available. Wait Lists are in place for Weeks 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. There are a couple of accommodations available for Weeks 4 and 7.

Confirmations should be arriving soon, if you have not already received yours.

E. Carol, Registrar ■

## In Memoriam

We are sad to report that Nancy Shaw Kealey passed away on March 20, 2016, at age 86. She was a lifelong visitor to Chautauqua; her family founded the Ministers' Union along with the Westervelts. Nancy was a tireless supporter, and organized the Shaw family workers to come every year to help prepare the buildings for opening. In recent years, she served on the MU and ECOC Boards. She is survived by her husband, seven children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. ■

# Securing the Future

Bob Boell, Capital Campaign Committee

Three years ago the Board set a goal of \$300,000 for *Securing the Future*, the capital fund campaign. The hope was to reach that amount by December 31, 2016. As of April 1, gifts and pledges total \$299,725. The goal should be reached before the end of the campaign; every additional dollar enables more to be accomplished.

Since the fall newsletter's listing, these additional gifts/pledges were given in memory or in honor: **In Memory of:** George Dillingham, Clara Rader, William Leist, Verna Rapp Uhlman; **In Honor of:** Bob & Jean Boell.

Off-season, send gifts and pledges to: ECOC Campaign, c/o Robert P. Boell, 412 Arlington, Media, PA 19063-6006; during the Chautauqua season, send them to ECOC at Chautauqua. ■



## New Look for Our Website

Our web master Bob Tupaj has given our website, [ecochautauqua.org](http://ecochautauqua.org), a fresh new look, while making it easier to use, too.

The new home page is simple and appealing, with a colorful banner photo, a brief introduction to the ECOC, and a video, "What I love most about the ECOC at Chautauqua." Quick links on the page make navigating the site easy.

The Accommodations page now provides more details about our room offerings, price range, amenities, and

reservation information. It also features a handy map showing our location, and photos of some of the rooms. A new link takes visitors to a page describing scholarships for first-time guests.

After updating the other pages, Bob also added an Events Calendar and easy-to-use Contact page. Visitors also can find photos of the ECOC building improvements via the Construction Updates links.

The website has been designed for optimal viewing on all devices, including mobile phones and tablets. ■

## Meet Our New Hosts

### Diane & Shayne Cokerdem



The Cokerdems are both high school teachers at the American School of Warsaw, Poland. Diane

teaches math and Shayne teaches psychology and global politics.

They began staying at the ECOC in 2009, and helped at many work weeks. "We value the sense of community, the relationships we have built, and the tradition of returning to a place year after year. We like that our boys can interact with people of a wide age span."

Shayne and Diane are instructors with the Special Studies program, most recently the Youth Scholars Program. Diane loves math, logic puzzles, world geography, and foreign travel. Shayne enjoys exploring new cultures, listening to peoples' stories, and exercise. They love spending time with their two young sons and exploring the world together.

### Laura Klein



Laura lives in Port Jefferson, Long Island, and has been working for 25 years as a project coordinator for major research in the Department of Psychology at Stony Brook University.

Laura taught in the Chautauqua Special Studies program for 15 years. Last year she worked as an usher in the Amp and enjoyed staying all season at the ECOC. She looks forward to "living at the ECOC again this summer, reuniting with so many of the amazing people I met there last year, and hopefully meeting newcomers this coming season."

Laura loves music, dance, theatre, nature, art, sports, and being in the intellectual environment that Chautauqua provides. She enjoys helping out as a personal assistant to those in need, too. In the fall, Laura plans to move to the San Francisco Bay Area. She has one daughter, who is in college. ■

## Peace Pole Installed

Ellie Stock

In August, the ECOC "planted" a Peace Pole in the garden next to the Shaw building. It symbolizes the ECOC's ecumenical and interfaith roots and mission of inclusiveness, connectedness, and living in harmony with all peoples and all creation.

The words "May Peace Prevail On Earth" are written in English, Spanish, French, Hebrew, Arabic, and Seneca (Chautauqua is in Iroquois Confederacy/Seneca territory), with symbols of flora (leaf and plant) and fauna (paw prints). May peace, indeed, prevail on Earth, and may we all be part of the peacemaking process! ■



# Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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## ECOC Calendar

June 3 to 6 & June 18 to 24	Spring Work Weeks (anytime during period)
June 22	Spring Board meeting
June 25	Season begins
August 28	Season ends
August 29	Annual Board meeting
August 28 to September 2	Fall Work Week (anytime during period)

## Our Little Free Library

*Nels and Lois Sandberg*

**A**lyson Cook Stage and Bob Cook donated a beautiful replica of the original Shaw house to be our ECOC Little Free Library. Bob carefully packed the house then flew from Seattle to safely bring and install the house. Alyson, who owns a children's bookstore in Seattle, carried two **large** bags of books on the airplane each time she came to ECOC.

Anyone can take a book or donate a book to our Library. Books can be returned to any Little Free Library in the world. (Yes, Lois and Nels saw them France!)

We love to sit on the Shaw porch and hear the many excited comments when people come around the corner and discover it is not a birdhouse but

a beautiful Little Free Library! Books have been taken and donated by many Chautauqua residents and visitors.

**A big thank-you** to Alyson, Bob and to friend Dale Hoff, who used a picture of the Shaw House to design and build our Little Free Library.

Look up [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org) to see more about this interesting project. ■



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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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 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.