

# ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY OF CHAUTAUQUA



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017

Volume 11, Issue 2

## New Amp Opens to Rave Reviews

The grand opening of the new state-of-the-art amphitheater in June delighted old and new visitors alike. Many marvelled that the project was completed in just nine months, from the demolition of old amp to the construction and furnishing of the new one, including landscaping.

The new amp so closely resembles its predecessor that some Chautauquans were understandably confused. Usher Bob Boell, long-time ECOC guest, heard several visitors exclaim, "I thought they were going to tear down the amphitheater and build a new one!" Bob adds, "That is a great tribute to the architects who captured the 'Amp feel.'" Not only did they retain the basic style and colors of the old amp, they also incorporated windows, flooring and other fixtures from the old building into the new.

Audiences enjoyed the improved sight lines, thanks to the sloping floor, sunken orchestra pit, and fewer pillars. The new steps with railings, replacing the old ramps, made access so much safer. And Chautauqua organist Jared Jacobsen was ecstatic about the acoustics, pronouncing the sound even better than in the old amp.

The new back-of-house includes wide stairways, staff elevator, large rehearsal room, private dressing rooms, and more amenities. The climate-controlled choir library was a hit with Jean Boell, "We three choir librarians realized that the years of planning were really going to work and make our tasks so much more efficient. But one thing we never dreamed of was the view of the lake that is to die for!" ■

## ECOC Renovations Underway

*Bob Dargel, Property Committee*

The ECOC Property Committee has been busy planning and executing improvements to our buildings. The Board-approved projects for the 2017—18 construction period include:

### **BIRD-WERNER**

- Modify the central staircases to improve their resistance to fire.
- Inspect and replace flooring in the hallways and stairs, as necessary. Install new carpeting in these areas.
- Remove unused doorway casings in the halls on floors 3 and 4.
- Repair rust areas on the front fire escape and apply second coat of finish to porch floors.

### **SHAW**

- Replace the louvered windows and siding on the south side of the building (see photo on page 2).

### **WESTERVELT**

- Replace the shower in the bathroom outside Room 6.
- Remodel bathrooms in rooms 12 and 14 and add more electrical outlets in those rooms.

With the completion of these projects next spring, the Long Range Plan and associated Capital Campaign that began in 2013 will be completed. ■



# Registrar's Message

E. Carol Maxwell

## Managers' Report

Rodney and Freda Cook, Kathy and John Woods

This was another great year at the ECOC and Chautauqua. The sense of community that our guests and hosts show is a large part of that greatness.

At season's end, volunteers helped button up the buildings for the winter with an impressive display of teamwork—dishes were packed, linens were washed and stored, carpets were cleaned, plumbing and electrical fixes were made, and the gardens were put to bed. Other volunteers spackled and painted the hallways and stairwells in the Westervelt. In the spring, volunteers will paint trim in the hallways of the Westervelt, and paint the stairwell of the elevator tower. The spring work week will be June 15 to 22—you will be welcomed any time during that period.

Several new hosts will be trained in 2018 to join our wonderful hosts of many years—check the spring newsletter for introductions to those new hosts.

We tallied guest suggestions for changes they would like to see in the rooms, and more electrical outlets and some new mattresses are at the top of the list; so those items are part of what guests will see next season—paid for with the generous donations of guests in 2017. Hospitality gifts this year exceeded those of previous years! Again, thank you to all who donated.

The managers look forward to another great year in 2018 and wish you all well until we see you again. ■

It is hard to believe that the 2017 Chautauqua summer season concluded almost 60 days ago! The Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua managers and registrar have reviewed the accommodation documents and the information has been updated for our 2018 guests. The packets will be mailed (to everyone who has stayed with us in the past five years—2013 through 2017) from Chautauqua on the last working day of December, 2017. All documents will be available on the ECOC website, [www.ecoc-chautauqua.org](http://www.ecoc-chautauqua.org), by January 5, 2018.

**A message to guests who last stayed with us during 2012 (and previous years):** Please contact me at (716) 581-3659 or [ecoregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:ecoregistrar@gmail.com) if you plan to join us in 2018. An accommodation information packet will be mailed to you.

Thanksgiving blessings to you and your loved ones!

E. Carol Maxwell, Registrar ■



A workman installs new siding and windows on the Shaw building.

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 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 Your New ECOC Board Members

We introduce four new members to the ECOC Board of Directors: Rev. John Dickey (who began his term in 2016), Rev. John Jackson, Carolyn Russ and Rev. Nathan Day Wilson. They join other members Rev. Bill Brockman, James Cook, Bob Dargel, Rev. Ed Hann (President), Pastor Jean Hansen, Jack Knepp (Treasurer), Pastor Dora Odarenko, Michele Montford, Ellen Neches (Secretary), and Alyson Cook Stage (Vice President). We thank retiring Board members Rev. Don Burgard, Rev. David Matthews and Harriette Royer for their service.

## John Dickey



John served as minister in four Presbyterian churches in the Pittsburgh area before retiring in 2015. Previously, he had been a public school teacher. He volunteers at three food/meals programs at church and he's a mentor at the Allegheny County jail through an organization called The Foundation of Hope. A father with five children and seven grandchildren, John enjoys following news and sports, bike riding and skiing.

John's father was a minister, and his parents first stayed at the Ministers Union when he was three. He has been coming yearly for about ten years. "I value the cost and convenience of the ECOC, the way it is administered and especially the fellowship," he says.

John served on the ECOC Advisory Committee several years ago, and says, "This affordable housing makes attending Chautauqua more economically accessible. It is also an extraordinary community. I envision that we will continue the improvements and quality standards indefinitely."

## John Jackson



John and his wife live in Chautauqua year round; he serves as associate pastor of Hurlbut UMC on the grounds. He is a member of the

Robert H. Jackson Center board and serves on the Superintendency Committee for the local United Methodist district. A professional mediator, he volunteers for the local Dispute Resolution Center. He and his wife, married 50 years, have two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandsons.

John served on the ECOC Advisory Committee several years ago, and says, "This affordable housing makes attending Chautauqua more economically accessible. It is also an extraordinary community. I envision that we will continue the improvements and quality standards indefinitely."

## Carolyn Russ



Carolyn is a lawyer whose practice focuses on estate planning, estate administration, and elder law. She and her husband, a physics professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, practice a "ministry of hospitality"—they have hosted ten high school exchange students, and welcomed hundreds of guests into their home over the years. They also enjoy playing an important role in the lives of their children and grandchildren.

Carolyn serves as chair of the ECOC development committee, and says she values "the ECOC's commitment to providing low-cost housing, to fostering religious diversity, and above all, the general appreciation for the value of being 'nice.'"

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## Nathan Day Wilson



Nathan Day Wilson is director of communications for Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, editor of the *Indianapolis Star's*

"Faith & Values" section and a high school basketball coach. He speaks frequently to groups about the interplay of ethics and international affairs, as well as ethics and biomedical advances. He is writing a novel.

Nathan's wife, Janice Wilson, is the founder of an NGO in Swaziland, Africa, that feeds children, runs sustainable farms, empowers women with job training and cares for HIV and AIDS patients. With Clarissa and Ellie, their daughters, they treasure their time spent at Chautauqua. ■

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## Love the ECOC? Tell us about it!

*Bob Tupaj, Webmaster*

Share your love of the ECOC with the wider community by submitting a personal testimonial about "What I Like about the Ecumenical Community." We will feature two or three testimonials a month on our web site and would love to display yours!

We welcome both written statements and one- to two-minute YouTube videos. You will find a link to an online form and instructions on our home page at [ecoc-chautauqua.org](http://ecoc-chautauqua.org). If your video is not on YouTube, please email the video file to Bob Tupaj, ECOC Webmaster, at [bob.tupaj@gmail.com](mailto:bob.tupaj@gmail.com). ■

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## Editor's Note

We hope you like our newsletter's new look. It now shares the same style as our website, providing much-needed consistency for the two media.

# Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

P.O. Box 988  
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716-357-3814 (Summer)  
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www.ecoc-chautauqua.org

## ECOC Calendar

December/January	Registration forms sent
February & March	Confirmations processed
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)

## Additional Gifts Matter!

*Carolyn Russ (Chairperson) and Bob Boell, for the Development Committee*

Before 1950, the only community kitchen, in the Shaw building, had no refrigeration. Additional gifts purchased the first refrigerators. In the 1950's gifts provided for installing fire sprinklers in all halls and adding a community kitchen in Bird-Werner. A fund campaign in the 1960's enabled the purchase of Westervelt House.

In the past 12 years three different capital campaigns, raising a million dollars, covered the costs of: securing the foundations of the three buildings and kitchen upgrades, an elevator and fire stair tower, a few additional bathrooms, new Bird-Werner porches, electrical upgrades, and new safety features. This past year one couple pledged a four-year gift totaling \$100,000 to ensure the vision of ECOC, including some funds for scholarships.

All this additional giving beyond room rents matters. If it were not for such gifts, either the improvements would

not have happened or room rates would have needed to be increased significantly to make them happen.

The Board is committed to keeping room rates modest. Thus, to enable further improvements and provide scholarships for people of need, extra giving, by those able, matters. Might you consider such a gift as 2017 draws to a close? The community will be grateful for all gifts, large or small. The gift may be designated one of several ways: building improvement, scholarship support, or "as Board deems most needed." Mark check accordingly and mail to:

Funding Support  
ECOC  
P.O. Box 988  
Chautauqua, NY 14722

To qualify for 2017 "charitable giving," the envelope must be postmarked by December 20, 2017. ■