

ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY OF CHAUTAUQUA



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018

Volume 12, Issue 2

Reflections from the President

Pastor Jean M. Hansen, ECOC Board President



As I write this reflection on October 1, it occurs to me that five weeks have already passed since the end of the 2018 Season at the Chautauqua Institution and the ECOC. While, in the vast scheme of things, that is a minuscule amount of time, the days and weeks add up

quickly. Before it seems possible it will be summer 2019 and we'll be gathering in the kitchens and on the porches to savor again the unique ECOC experience.

Some who are reading this reflection have been coming to the ECOC for 50 years, while others (like me) are relative "newcomers" with ten years (or so) as an ECOC guest. As we reflect on those visits, I'm guessing that most cannot remember many details of what occurred from one year to the next; I know that's true for me. It occurs to me that it's not so much specific activities, or the setting, that draw us back. People are not clamoring to return to the ECOC because of the fun-filled social calendar, the plentiful amenities or the plushness of well-appointed rooms. Instead, it is fulfilling relationships, mind-and-heart-broadening interactions and an attitude of acceptance, compassion, interest and genuine concern that attracts us.

Those who know me would not call me a "Pollyanna", so I'll note that, as is true of any group, there will inevitably be challenges to resolve at the ECOC; perfection does not reign. (Say it isn't so!) But, as we come together in community, two characteristics are paramount. One is that people's intentions are positive, and the other is the desire to seek the common good. Those are aspects of the ECOC culture which make it a unique setting, especially in this time in which we live. Sadly, it's often the case that the opposite (negative intentions and self-serving behavior) is the norm.

In about nine months we will again gather at the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua; we are fortunate to be a part of a community within a community that uniquely speaks to each of us, and yet binds us as the human family. ■

Step Up For ECOC— Every Step Counts

Bob Boell and Wayne Nelson, for the Development Committee

The ECOC needs your help to complete four important property projects before the next season starts. You can step up and make a big difference!

See the enclosed flyer for all the details. ■



From the Registrar

E. Carol Maxwell

Managers' Report

Rodney and Freda Cook, Kathy and John Woods

Thanks to the volunteers and hosts who work so hard to care for our buildings and guests, 2018 was another great year for the ECOC. We are grateful for their hard work. With winter coming, the porch tarps are going up and the buildings are being winterized. It doesn't seem that long ago that the kitchens and rooms of the three buildings were being opened up by our many wonderful volunteers.

The 2018 season saw a beautiful new garden on the south side of Shaw and flower baskets along the front, new paint in the elevator fire stairs, filtered water in the three kitchens, reading lights on the porches, many new mattresses and linens, and bicycles added for guest use. We look forward to more additions in 2019 to improve safety and comfort for our guests.

For those of you thinking of volunteering for work weeks in 2019, work week dates are June 14 to 21, August 25 to 26, and August 27 to 29. The managers wish you all good months ahead and look forward to seeing you next year. ■

Renovations Underway

Bob Dargel, Property Committee

Off-season building projects have started at the ECOC. The major one this year involves rebuilding the central staircases in the Shaw building, which were a major problem area for many years. The rebuilt stairway will be made fire retardant, as was done in the Bird-Werner last year, and will have safer standard-sized stairs. Also, this winter, another bathroom will be added across from the existing bathroom on the second floor of the Bird-Werner.

As usual, there will be several additional maintenance projects. We will be fixing a water leakage problem on the Bird-Werner fourth floor porch, and the narrow walkway between the second floor Shaw and Bird-Werner porches is being widened. Pray for a mild winter! ■

WOW—What a great 2018 season at the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua! It was wonderful to welcome returning guests and to welcome and meet new ones. Our occupancy rate for the nine weeks was 97%.

On September 22, Lois and Nels Sandberg, Toni and Joe Goldfarb and Kathy Woods joined me at the Smith Memorial Library to assemble the accommodations information packets for the 2019 Season.

If you have been in residence within the last five years, you will receive the mailing (via U.S. mail), which will leave Chautauqua on the last working day of December 2018. If it's been six years or more since you've spent time at the ECOC, please call 716-581-3659 or email ecocregistrar@gmail.com to request the accommodations information.

Please remember our reservation process will begin February 1, 2019. Accommodations will be confirmed using the following criteria: postmark date and category: clergy, volunteers, returning guests and new guests.

THANK YOU to our generous guests—the ECOC Hospitality Fund has provided monies to purchase various amenities for our community living accommodations, such as filtered water spouts in each kitchen, toaster ovens, new bath, hand and face towels and wardrobes. Some items being considered for 2019 are an ice maker machine for each kitchen, portable vacuum cleaners, luggage carts, and new lamps.

Blessings to everyone—until we meet again!

E. Carol Maxwell, Registrar ■

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 Your New ECOC Board Members

We introduce four new members to the ECOC Board of Directors: Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen, Rabbi Goldie Milgram, Linda Shaw and Beth Woolever. They join other board members Bob Dargel, Rev. John Dickey, Pastor Jean Hansen (President), Rev. John Jackson, Michele Montford, Ellen Neches (Secretary), Pastor Dora Odarenko, Carolyn Spicer Russ, Alyson Cook Stage (Treasurer), and Rev. Nathan Day Wilson (Vice President). We thank retiring board members Rev. Bill Brockman, James Cook, Rev. Ed Hann and Jack Knepp for their service.

Mary Kitchen



Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen is a Presbyterian minister, serving near Butler, PA. She and her husband Allen volunteer with the Kairos Prison Ministry Program as well. They are both musicians, and enjoy bringing instruments to the library porch and inviting others to join in for informal evening jam sessions. The couple has two grown children.

Mary has visited Chautauqua since her youth, and treasures it as her spiritual holy place. "Chautauqua has been a place for me to draw closer to God, and helping others find this spiritual renewal would be a great privilege." She adds, "The ECOC provides an important ministry to everyone through its spirit of congeniality and kindness, convenience, and affordability."

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Goldie Milgram



Rabbi Goldie Milgram, Executive Director of Reclaiming Judaism, is an author, educator, spiritual director, publisher, storyteller, innovator in the field of spiritual education, painter and composer of liturgical music.

A resident of Sarasota, Florida, she travels the world for half the year, learning and teaching, accompanied by her husband, Barry Bub, a retired physician, now teaching street photography. They enjoy five children and ten grandchildren from previous marriages.

Goldie envisions "our continuing the welcoming community and shared passion for kindness, social justice, and open-minded inquiry of those drawn to stay at ECOC."

Linda Shaw



The great-granddaughter of Eunice Minear Shaw, first manager of the Ministers' Union, Linda has been coming to Chautauqua since

childhood. She attended many pre-season family reunions in Chautauqua but only recently began coming during the season.

A retired engineering and program manager, Linda and her husband Jeff Bakken have four children and live in Orono, Minnesota. She enjoys playing tennis and doing Pilates.

Linda enthusiastically supports the ECOC mission, "I would like to ensure that some of the same opportunities for friendships and fellowship are maintained and many others are given the opportunity to come to Chautauqua at reasonable cost."

Beth Woolever



Beth worked as Young Adult Librarian in the Rochester, New York, public libraries until her retirement. Now her church library keeps her busy, and she serves on the board of her local YMCA. Her husband Dean, a graphic designer, is retired from Rochester Institute of Technology. They have two daughters and one grandson.

Beth's children are the fourth generation in her family to stay at the ECOC, and she is very grateful for the affordable housing. She adds, "I'd like see each room as a comfortable, welcoming, and attractive place for rest and relaxation, and above all, that the ECOC continues to welcome ALL regardless of faith or lifestyle." ■

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Scholarship Recipients Thank Us

E. Carol Maxwell, Registrar

Elizabeth Kerns

"I had a marvelous adventure. So much pleasure and sense of refreshment from the people I met, the lectures, special classes and the evening arts performances."

Sister Loretta J. Schorr

"Thank you for facilitating the process for my receiving a scholarship. I enjoyed the various presentations, music and, especially, meeting new people. Planning to attend next year."

Marlene Warfield

"Thank you for inviting me to share the beautiful sights of Chautauqua. The people I met were very friendly and I enjoyed my stay at the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua."

Jennifer Wyndham

"What a wonderful first experience visiting Chautauqua! Thank you for the gate and parking pass. I look forward to planning a visit next summer with my family." ■

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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Chautauqua, New York 14722
716-357-3814 (Summer)
716-581-3659 (Winter)
www.ecoc-chautauqua.org

ECOC Calendar

December/January	Registration forms sent
February & March	Confirmations processed
June 14 to 21	Spring Work Week (anytime during period)
June 19	Spring board meeting
June 22	Season begins
August 25	Season ends
August 26	Annual board meeting
August 25 to 26	Fall Work Week
August 27 to 29	(two sessions)

Improvements This Year

GARDEN

A lush new garden was designed for the south side of Shaw by landscape designer Marcy Klein, and planted by managers Freda and Rodney Cook and many, many volunteers. An herb garden, created by Kathy Woods, was appreciated by many ECOC cooks.

FILTERED WATER

A water filter was installed in each of the three kitchens. Guests could enjoy a refreshing glass of filtered water without having to pay for bottled water.

BOOK LIGHTS

Snap-on book lights were made available in the Shaw office for those who wanted to read on one of the porches after dark. ■



A new garden beautifies the south side of Shaw, facing the amphitheater.

ECOC Guests Celebrate a Special Anniversary

Dr. William Shoop (age 93) & Mary Jean Shoop (91), who have been coming to Chautauqua for 63 years, recently celebrated their **69th** wedding anniversary. We missed them this past summer and look forward to seeing them in 2019. ■