

ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY OF CHAUTAUQUA



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

Volume 13, Issue 1

Reflections from the President

Pastor Jean M. Hansen, ECOC Board President



As March draws to a close, the next Season is 11 weeks away; that time will pass quickly and we'll soon be greeting one another again.

The committed members of the ECOC board will be gathering for its pre-season meeting on June 19. They have been meeting

monthly by phone and giving their time and talents for the good of the ECOC. As is the case with any non-profit organization, the ECOC is dependent on the generosity of its constituency. With that in mind, let me encourage your participation in two ways.

First, the STEP-UP Campaign to fund a number of building projects reached about half of its \$30,000 goal at the end of February. For that, we are thankful! But, wouldn't it be great to fully fund those projects before the season begins? If you have not yet made a donation, please consider doing so.

Second, please consider giving your time and talent to the ministry of the ECOC. The list of ways to do so is long. Your help is needed on committees, on the Board and as a volunteer to get the buildings prepared for the season. This spring the Board will consider forming a 10-year Long-Range Planning Task Force. If this initiative is approved, people of vision as well as practical insight will be needed to sculpt the future of the ECOC. I'm planting

this seed of possibility now, so that when the time comes it will flourish as the good people of the ECOC say "yes" to this opportunity!

It will be good to see some of you soon, and to know that the rest of you are enjoying the hospitality of our unique home at Chautauqua, and supporting its mission. ■

Managers Sought for 2020

Ellen Neches, Personnel Chair

The ECOC needs a couple (or individual) to join the ECOC as managers. Rodney and Freda Cook will retire at the end of the 2019 season and we are looking for a couple to share managerial duties with John and Kathy Woods.

The ECOC is known for its mission of providing affordable housing and great hospitality to all who stay with us. Our managers spend 4-5 weeks at Chautauqua in season with some pre- and post-season responsibilities as well. A commitment to ECOC and its mission, and skills in problem solving, organizational management, interpersonal relationships, computer knowledge and an ability to work with suppliers and contractors are desirable. Please contact Ellen Neches, Personnel Chair, at 301-942-1494 or at nechesed@yahoo.com for more information. ■



Managers' Report

Rodney and Freda Cook, Kathy and John Woods

Greetings to friends and guests of ECOC—

It is time to get ready for the 2019 Season at the ECOC! There is always a lot to do before we are ready to open the Shaw, Bird-Werner and Westervelt houses for our guests. A substantial part of the work needed to get the ECOC ready for a new season is done by volunteers who come to Chautauqua during pre-season work week. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication to the vision of community that has guided the ECOC for so many years.

Join us for Volunteer Work Week in the spring, June 14 through 21, any time during these dates. Let us know



Registrar's Message

E. Carol Maxwell

Friends —

Just 81 more days until your 2019 Chautauqua "fix"! We will begin welcoming YOU—our guests—to the ECOC on June 22, 2019 (my birthday 😊)!

As of April 1, the ECOC is 95.25% occupied. Weeks 1, 4 and 9 are FULL and wait lists have been established. For Weeks 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 there are one to four rooms available, depending on the week. There are no single rooms (with one twin bed) available. Don't hesitate to add your request to the wait lists (a free service); an opening may occur! Telling guests "There is no room at the inn" is the hardest, and saddest, part of the Registrar's work.

I look forward to seeing you this summer. Please remember—2:30 pm on Saturday is earliest check-in time!

E. Carol Maxwell, Registrar ■

when you can come to help!! We have painting, fix-it tasks, cleaning and gardening. Tools are supplied! Please bring appropriate work clothes.

After the season ends, the three houses need to be prepared for a "long winter's nap!" Please come join us and share your talents—August 25 through 29. If you are a Week 9 guest staying for August 25–26 work dates, there is no charge for lodging beginning August 25. Because of the number of generous guests that stay over to help, volunteers arriving for August 27–29 session may not check in until Tuesday, August 27, at 2 pm.

Finally, the Shaw Family Reunion will be held during June. This family comes not only 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. ■

Step-Up Goal: \$30,000 We're a little over half way there!

Bob Boell and Wayne Nelson, for the Development Committee

As you may recall from our fall newsletter we have four projects to do:

- Rebuild the Shaw stairwells, which are woefully out of code and dangerous.
- Add a toilet and shower to the Bird-Werner second floor; currently one toilet and shower serve 11 people.
- Add a membrane to cover the Bird-Werner fourth floor balcony to stop leakage to the porch below.
- Widen the platform connecting the third floor Shaw and second floor Bird-Werner porches to make the current emergency exit route safer.

**Step up with your donation.
All donations, small or large, are welcome.**

Donations may be sent using the enclosed envelope. Mark your check "Step Up" and check the "Property" box. Consider making a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) from your IRA RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) for a tax advantage. Want to fund via a stock donation or IRA distribution? Contact Bob Boell, 610-544-3789 or rjboell@verizon.net. ■

Meet Our New Hosts

Margie Bass



Margie and her husband Lew have been coming to Chautauqua since 1999 and staying at the ECOC since 2001. Margie retired from hospice nursing three years ago and Lew has just retired. They are selling their home in Lancaster, PA, and relocating to Raleigh, NC, where their two daughters have settled. Before nursing, Margie worked at several nurseries and was assistant editor of a gardening magazine.

Margie's faith journey for 23 years has been with Self-Realization Fellowship, a Christian-Hindu meditative path. Her other interests include travel, cooking, gardening, quilting, other crafts, nature, reading, and dancing of all kinds. She "looks forward to hosting in the Westervelt Week 9 and to sharing that very special ECOC community spirit with everyone."

Margie's faith journey for 23 years has been with Self-Realization Fellowship, a Christian-Hindu meditative path. Her other interests include travel, cooking, gardening, quilting, other crafts, nature, reading, and dancing of all kinds. She "looks forward to hosting in the Westervelt Week 9 and to sharing that very special ECOC community spirit with everyone."

Aimee & Kyle Doershuk



Aimee works at a quilt shop, owns a custom quilt business, and also teaches quilting. She is a cofounder

of Rainbow Hugs, a group that makes quilts for children at a Cleveland hospital.

A lifelong Chautauquan, Aimee has stayed at the ECOC for more than 16 years. She values the ECOC for its "friendships, fellowship, community and affordable accommodations."

Aimee and her husband David have three children and live in Streetsboro, Ohio. Her son, Kyle, will host with her. For the last few summers Kyle helped move people in and out of the ECOC. He enjoys marching band, wind symphony, DECA, and the student council at his high school.

Rick Martin & Adam Miron



Since retiring as a banker at Bank of Montreal in London, Ontario, Rick has worked as a counselor with at-risk youth

and has volunteered with Nature London.

For nine years he has been caregiver for Adam, who has thrived in his home.

Together they enjoy sailing, cycling, art, cooking, classical music and literature. Adam is an expert on anything Star Trek-related and is interested in the human brain and early man. And, as Rick says, "He enjoys a direct pipeline to the Lord."

Last year was their first time at ECOC, and they look forward to hosting together. They love the Chautauqua programs. "The combination of education, art, music, nature and faith is unparalleled," Rick says.

Stanley Toops & Simone Andrus



Stan and Simone live in Oxford, Ohio, where Stan teaches at Miami University, in the Geography and Global

& Intercultural Studies Departments; his focus is on China and Central Asia. Simone is a retired bookseller and volunteers as an AARP Foundation tax aide, providing free tax preparation to anyone, especially to those over age 50. They both love to travel and enjoy reading, cooking and their dog, Egg, who they say brings structure to their days.

The couple has stayed at the ECOC for five years, and enjoyed helping during a Work Week two years ago. "We value the ECOC's diversity of thought and camaraderie the most. We so enjoy all of the people we meet at the houses and events."

Hosting Schedule

Our hosts will serve the following weeks:

Bird-Werner

- 1 Simone Andrus & Stanley Toops
- 2-3 Jeanie & Tom Kerns
- 4-5 Diane Cokerdem DePriest & Shayne Cokerdem
- 6-7 Rick Martin & Adam Miron
- 8-9 Harriette Royer & Linda Wiley

Shaw

- 1-2 Michele & Michael Montford
- 3-4 Kathleen & Paul Kett
- 5-6 Linda & Don Burgard
- 7-9 Kathy & Walter Singer

Westervelt

- 1-2 Mary & Jack Knepp
- 3-4 Diane Mann & David Bagshaw
- 5 Aimee & Kyle Doershuk
- 6 Aimee Doershuk & Patty Konz
- 7-8 Jayne Cabigas & Joyce Holden
- 9 Bill McNeice & Margie Bass ■

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.

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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716-357-3814 (Summer)
716-581-3659 (Winter)
www.ecoc-chautauqua.org

ECOC Calendar

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| June 14 to 21 | Spring Work Week (any time during period) |
| June 19 | Spring board meeting |
| June 22 | Season begins |
| August 25 | Season ends |
| August 25 to 29 | Fall Work Week (any time during period) |
| August 26 | Annual board meeting |

Our Brown Bag Talks

Ellen Neches, Program Chair

The ECOC Board would like to thank all the individuals who spoke at our Brown Bag lunches last summer. ECOC was very fortunate to have as speakers John Woods, Mike McGillicuddy, the Abrahamic Program for Young Adults, the Homeboys Ministries, Constance Dilly, Carolyn Russ, Jean Chandler, Walter Singer and Barry Bub. All presented stimulating topics to ECOC guests and the general Chautauqua community. Topics included everyday life in Teheran, street photography, health care and the polarization in religion and culture.

Coordinator Carol Mollohan is just finishing the schedule for this summer so please remember to attend the Monday Brown Bags when you come to Chautauqua this summer. And please consider presenting a Brown Bag yourself for summer 2020 if you have something you would like to share and a topic that you think should be added to our roster. Carol is creative and always willing to consider new ideas. The forms for presenters are included in the winter registration mailing. ■

Tell Us About Yourself!

Bob Tupaj, ECOC Webmaster

Do you enjoy the ECOC Sunday Ice Cream Socials, where you get to know your fellow guests and discover all the interests you have in common? The ECOC plans to continue that tradition throughout the year, by creating a web page where guests can introduce themselves, their talents and interests. It's a great opportunity to build our community, and, at the same time, show the wider world what a diverse and fascinating group we are!

Individuals or whole families can submit a brief biography describing their interests and hobbies, and mentioning how long they have been staying at the ECOC; photos would be welcome too. Later this spring you'll find a form available through a link on the ECOC home page, at ecoc-chautauqua.org. Or you can submit your information via email to ECOC webmaster Bob Tupaj, bob.tupaj@gmail.com. ■