

ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY OF CHAUTAUQUA



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

Volume 15, Issue 1

Chautauqua Season Returns

Although last summer's Chautauqua season had to be held on-line only, this summer the Institution will open for the traditional nine-week, in-person session. But these changes will be in effect, as of April 1:

- ▶ **Health and Safety Protocols:** Expect reduced capacity at some venues. Face masks will be required inside venues and anywhere social distancing is not possible, and crowds will be strictly controlled in lines and during events.
- ▶ **Traditional Gate Pass:** This pass no longer includes some "popular entertainment" programs, which will require the purchase of a separate ticket.
- ▶ **Grounds Access Pass:** A new type of pass grants access to the grounds and lawn seating for programs in the Performance Pavilion; Amphitheater events require the purchase of extra tickets.
- ▶ **Performance Pavilion:** A temporary tent structure on Pratt Avenue will accommodate open-air opera, theater and other performances.
- ▶ **Worship:** Ecumenical services will be held at the usual time and place but without the choir; a quartet will provide choral music instead.
- ▶ **Morning Lecture:** These lectures will be held at 10:30 am, not 10:45 am, and on Mondays through Thursdays only.
- ▶ **Interfaith Lecture:** The lectures will be offered at the new time of 1 pm, Mondays through Wednesdays, in the Amp instead of the Hall of Philosophy.
- ▶ **Orchestra:** The Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra season is limited to Weeks 3 through 7, with a smaller ensemble and masked musicians where feasible. The Music School Festival Orchestra will perform weeks 1 through 4 only.
- ▶ **Children's Programs:** The Children's School and Boys' and Girls' Club will be offered, but modified to meet health and safety regulations—reduced group sizes, program changes, and extra time outdoors.
- ▶ **CHQ Assembly:** Many events will be simulcast on this digital platform.

As CDC guidelines and New York State regulations continue to evolve, guests are advised to check the Chautauqua website, chq.org, for updates. ■

New ECOC Rules for 2021

The ECOC is delighted to welcome guests back this year. But because of the pandemic, the ECOC board has instituted some new rules:

- ▶ **Vaccine:** All non-exempt guests must bring proof that they were vaccinated for COVID-19 at least two weeks before their arrival. See ECOC Vaccine Policy for exemptions.
 - ▶ **Masks:** These must be worn in the buildings except when eating, or when in a bedroom or bathroom.
 - ▶ **Check-in:** The new Saturday check-in time is 3:30 to 6 pm.
 - ▶ **Mandatory Meeting:** At least one member of each party must attend a meeting at 6:30 pm on Saturday to review the new procedures around COVID-19.
 - ▶ **Kitchens:** Meal times will be limited to those times selected at the Saturday meeting. Simple meals are recommended. Only ECOC guests are allowed for meals in the kitchens.
- You can find more details in your confirmation letter or on the ECOC website, ecoc-chautauqua.org. ■

A Prayer for These Difficult Times



Dear ECOC friends,

I'm very grateful for the words of support over the last 15 months about our efforts to handle the constantly changing circumstances of last summer's season and the upcoming season, and also to provide some online opportunities for fellowship and education.

It has been, and still is, quite a set of challenges.

At other places in this newsletter you'll find information about protocols and procedures for this summer. Here, I instead offer a prayer for all of us.

We ask, Holy One, for reminders that love really is stronger than hate.

Any place there is fighting, help us be peacemakers. Any place there is hunger, help us be those who feed. Where there is destruction of your creation, help us be faithful caretakers of the very earth on which we depend. Instill in us, we ask, faith when it is tempting to fear, hearts of generosity when it is tempting to be greedy, and courage when we could be cowardly.

We pray for those whose bodies, minds or spirits ache due to disease or dementia, addiction or anxiety. Help them and those who care for them to know that though they walk through dark valleys, the light of love is theirs now and forever.

May our work, words, and witness be pleasing to you, One known by many names and in many ways, Amen.

Nathan Day Wilson, ECOC President

Wilson is president of the ECOC Board of Directors. Follow him on Twitter: @nathandaywilson. Email him at ecocnathanwilson@gmail.com. ■



Managers' Report

Kathy and John Woods

Hello ECOC Guests and Friends,

We are very excited to be preparing for opening up our buildings this summer! They weathered the relatively mild winter with no issues. It goes without saying we have missed everyone. We have scheduled our wonderful hosts and hostesses and everything is going according to plan.

This past summer we had a skeleton crew of ambitious volunteers and we accomplished numerous tasks.

- We painted five guest rooms in the Westervelt, and replaced carpeting in four of those rooms.
- We painted the hallway and the Bird-Werner kitchen as well as the outside of the Westervelt.
- We rented a carpet machine and were able to clean the kitchen carpets thoroughly.
- We totally re-carpeted the Bird-Werner.
- We remodeled a bathroom on the 3rd floor of the B-W.
- We also tiled all the "pots and pans" shelves in all three kitchens with the help of Diane Andrasik.
- Aimee Doershuk, our own guest and board member, is busy making quilts. We are looking forward to seeing those beautiful quilts in our guest rooms.

Next we'll start implementing the Board of Directors' plan for cleaning and keeping everyone safe while staying with us. By the way, if you would like to join us for the Work Weekend August 29-31, please text us at 330-565-2514.

Blessings, Kathy and John ■

Jacobsen Art Donated

Bob Boell

A couple who wishes to remain anonymous has donated to the ECOC an original artwork by Jared Jacobsen. The whimsical drawing was created by Jared when he was six years old. It was done on brown paper and framed.

After Jared's death on August 27, 2019, the couple felt it was time to pass on the piece for more people to enjoy.

The artwork was hung in Westervelt Apartment A, also known as the Jacobsen Room, which was refurbished in 2013 in his honor. Also displayed is a framed copy of the programme for his August 30, 2019, memorial service in the Amphitheater. ■



Registrar's Message

E. Carol Maxwell

Friends —

Summer 2021 at the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua will be different in some ways, but will be very familiar in other ways!

We look forward to seeing you soon! If you don't already have a reservation, we do have some rooms available for Weeks 1, 2 and 9 (as of March 31).

The confirmation process has been slow going this year, but I am pleased to report that by the time this newslet-

ter reaches you, everyone who made a reservation will have received their confirmation receipt, along with a letter of special protocols for this summer, the vaccination policy, and the general ECOC information.

A reminder about credit cards—we accept them at check-in. Speaking of check-in, the **NEW TIME is 3:30–6 pm.**

Until we meet this summer, enjoy springtime, be well, travel safely and take care.

E. Carol Maxwell, Registrar ■

In Honor of the ECOC's Donor-Heroes

Carolyn Russ, Chair of the ECOC Development Committee

Who are the ECOC's donor-heroes? In just one year, the ECOC receives numerous monetary donations and countless hours of volunteer time. And honestly, every one of those donors is a hero. You know why? Because they want to make life better in the community, not for themselves but for others.

- ▶ Recently, long-time ECOC guest Paul Parobeck died in Saratoga Springs, NY. His family named the ECOC as a recipient of memorial gifts, and described the ECOC as a place Paul loved to visit each summer.
- ▶ Debra Gentry, member of the ECOC board and the Development Committee, donated in memory of Chautauqua's beloved Jared Jacobsen and in memory of her husband, Roger, a long-time fan of the ECOC kitchens.
- ▶ Carolyn Russ and many other unnamed donors have diverted the required minimum distribution from their IRAs to the ECOC, enjoying tax advantages and the benefit of parting with money they never had to say goodbye to.
- ▶ Wayne and Marilyn Morris left an absolutely heroic bequest in their wills last year for the ECOC. Then there's Bob Boell, who wouldn't think of going to his grave without the ECOC in his will.
- ▶ Ed and Marge Johnston saw a need that made them a little crazy: the ECOC's guests badly needed an elevator. Too many people were struggling to carry heavy luggage up the stairs. The Johnstons spearheaded the drive to

make it happen. They are heroes to all of us.

- ▶ Each of you who has made an extra donation at the end of your summer stay is a donor-hero. You didn't have to do it, but you valued other guests so much that you wanted to make their stay more pleasant.
- ▶ Big and small, donations continue to arrive to benefit the scholarship program, almost always anonymous and never of personal benefit to the donor.
- ▶ And while we are at it, every single ECOC board member has donated time and money. Hurray for the board and for all the volunteers!

The easiest way to donate is by going to this link: www.ecoc-chautauqua.org/make-a-donation/. But you can also donate by check (marked "gift donation"); send it to: Gift Donation, ECOC, P. O. Box 988, Chautauqua, NY 14722.

To donate securities, contact Robert P. Boell at 610-544-3789, or in the summer at 716-357-3814, or email him at rjboell@verizon.net.

We all have many places to donate our money, especially after a year of COVID, but this year, what a relief to know that our donations will make it possible to maintain and sustain the Shaw, the Bird-Werner and the Westervelt, for people who this year of all years desperately need the companionship, the *community*, offered by the ECOC. Let this be your year to be a donor-hero! ■

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

June 23	Spring board meeting
June 26	Season begins
August 29	Season ends
August 29-31	Fall Work Weekend
August 30	Annual board meeting



Chautauqua 2021 Themes

Week 1	June 26-July 3	China and the World
Week 2	July 3-10	New Frontiers: Exploring Today's Unknowns
Week 3	July 10-17	Trust, Society and Democracy
Week 4	July 17-24	Many Americas: Navigating Our Divides
Week 5	July 24-31	The Authentic Comedic Voice
Week 6	July 31-August 7	Building a Culture of Empathy
Week 7	August 7-14	The State of the Economy
Week 8	August 14-21	The Human Brain: Our Greatest Mystery
Week 9	August 21-29	Resilience

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.