

ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY OF CHAUTAUQUA



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021

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New Managers to Begin in 2022

The ECOC board is happy to announce that they have hired Aimee Doershuk and Walter and Kathy Singer as new managers. They will replace John and Kathy Woods, who are retiring at the end of this year after six years as managers. *(See the article on page 2 for details.)*

All three new managers are long-time Chautauquans who have stayed at the ECOC for about 25 years. Aimee will be the manager for the first half of the season, while the Singers will take charge for the final 4½ weeks.

Aimee Doershuk

Aimee has stayed at the ECOC for many years with her children Nicholas, Jennifer and Kyle, and with her parents, Jerry and Matilda Murphy. Her son Kyle is a familiar figure at the ECOC—he has helped bring in guests' luggage and also co-hosted with Aimee in 2019.



This year Aimee was kitchen host in the Westervelt and Bird-Werner. She has served on the ECOC board since August 2020, but will step down before she begins as manager in January, 2022.

Aimee owns a custom quilt business and she teaches quilting near her

home in Streetsboro, Ohio, and at Chautauqua. She plans to make and donate quilts for all 48 guest rooms in the ECOC—she says that eight are already done.

Aimee especially looks forward to “welcoming old friends

and making new ones, and helping to preserve the buildings for future generations, while keeping the unique personality of each building alive and well.”

Walter and Kathy Singer

The Singers have hosted at the ECOC for several years, and enjoy getting to know all the guests. Walter loves to cook and share his famous chili, while Kathy likes to create origami to share with other guests.



Both are musicians and play music with friends in Bestor Plaza. Kathy also likes biking and reading, while Walter enjoys biking, religious history and theology, as well as renovating their old Victorian home in Elkins Park, north of Philadelphia.

Kathy just retired as a teacher and school librarian; Walter was a college CFO and also recently retired. The couple has two grown children, Jenny, a teacher, and Ben, a musician. Both children love Chautauqua and the ECOC.

The Singers are looking forward to their new position. “We are honored to follow in the tradition of the care and concern for ECOC people and buildings that have been shown by hosts, managers and board over the years.” ■

Wayne's Words

*The Rev. Wayne A. Gnatuk,
ECOC Board President*



The summer of 2020 was a difficult one for me. It was the first year since 1983 that I haven't been at Chautauqua—and the ECOC!—for at least a week. And only the fifth or sixth time that I haven't been to Chautauqua every summer since I was three years old!

I know that many of you have also grieved being away from our beloved Chautauqua because of Covid. It's been a very difficult time in countless ways, but missing Chautauqua is at the very top of my list.

Thankfully, my wife and I were able to be at Chautauqua and the ECOC for two weeks this year. It was different, to be sure, but it was definitely a great joy to be there! I hope that you were also able to get back this year, but if not, I hope you can make it in 2022.

Having missed the 2021 season, I found myself reflecting this summer on just how much Chautauqua means to me. As you already know, the symphony concerts, the lectures, and the sheer beauty of the place make it one-of-a-kind!

At the heart of Chautauqua's uniqueness stands the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua. The camaraderie, the fellowship, the opportunity to be with kindred spirits: these make the ECOC as much a one-of-a-kind as Chautauqua in general.

None of this is any surprise to us Chautauquans and ECOC-eans, but please do join me for a moment to thank our gracious and loving God for both Chautauqua and for the ECOC! We have been doubly blessed!

I hope you'll continue to support the ECOC as generously as you have in past years, and I do hope to see you there in 2022! ■



Managers' Report

Kathy and John Woods

Looking Back at the Season

Despite the virus and the work of extra precautions we can truly say we had a very enjoyable season at the ECOC. We had no incidences of anyone contracting Covid while they were staying with us. The institution had a limited schedule of events and classes but for the most part it felt like the usual Chautauqua. Just a little bit quieter. We operated with a 70 to 75% capacity most weeks. We squeaked by with a young but very hard-working cleaning crew.

At the end of the season we had 8 to 10 volunteers help us close up. We managed to paint a few more rooms in the Westervelt and replace some carpeting. We also were able to get the kitchen carpets and fans cleaned at the end of the season. We're glad we can cross that one off the list for the spring Work Weekend!

Looking Towards Retirement

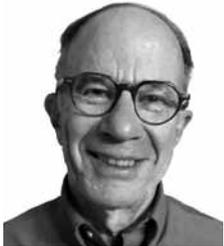
Speaking of crossing things off, John and I announced our retirement as managers at the end of the season. We really enjoyed our six years—not only learning the workings of the buildings but being able to meet a lot more of the guests, many of whom we now can call friends. Six years was long enough for us. We own an independent insurance agency and that needs all of our attention these days. Also our two best helpers, our daughters Olivia and Victoria, are set to graduate from college so we will be losing half of our team! We plan to come back as guests and possibly do some hosting. We are also serving on the Property Committee at this time. We will be around on Work Weekends and helping the new managers get off to the best possible start. We are certainly going to miss our duties at the ECOC but we felt it was time for someone else to take the reins.

Sincerely,
Kathy and John ■

Your New ECOC Board Members

Meet the three new members to the ECOC Board of Directors: Rev. Robert Boell, Mark Parobeck and Rev. Carmen Perry. They join board members David Abrams, Renee Andrews (Assistant Treasurer), Aimee Doershuk, Debra Gentry (Secretary), Rev. Wayne A. Gnatuk (President), Pastor Jeff Kane (Vice President), Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen, Rev. David Matthews, Linda Shaw (Treasurer), Rev. Nathan Day Wilson, and Beth Bucher Woolever. We thank retiring board members Bob Dargel, Rev. John Dickey, and Pastor Dora Odarenko for their service.

Robert Boell



A retired Presbyterian minister in Media, Pa., Rev. Bob Boell has served three terms on the board—twice as president. He was elected to

a one-year term to fill an open position. While at Chautauqua Bob works as an usher and his wife Jean is a choir librarian.

Bob enjoys clock repair and meteorology, sings in his church choir and volunteers at Philadelphia Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts.

"I appreciate the ECOC's faith-based values and openness to people with varying or no faith connection," Bob says, and he hopes the ECOC will "reach out in fresh ways to welcome others and enable them to enjoy the Chautauqua experience."

Mark Parobeck



Mark and his wife, Meg, live in Saratoga Springs, New York, where he oversees a few small rental companies and a boutique hotel, restaurant and bar that he and his brothers renovated.

Mark first visited the Chautauqua as a teenager, but was reintroduced to the ECOC about 10 years ago. He loves the community kitchens, and appreciates that the ECOC provides an affordable place to enjoy Chautauqua. Mark currently serves as Chair of the ECOC Property Committee.

Mark loves to golf and ski, as do both his sons, who are in 9th and 10th grades. His wife is a licensed social worker, currently specializing in bereavement and grief.

Carmen Perry

Rev. Carmen Perry is chaplain for Chautauqua Hospice and Palliative Care, and lives in Westfield, New York, near the Institution. She is very active in the United Methodist Church, as both regional board member and conference delegate.

Her husband, Rev. Dr. Nicholas Perry, is pastor of First UMC in Westfield, and the couple has two children aged eight and six. Carmen likes to do counted cross-stitch and read in her free time.

"I appreciate that the ECOC provides housing at a reasonable rate so clergy can experience Chautauqua at least once in their lifetime. I hope the ECOC will further expand its diversity of guests," she says. ■

Help Support the ECOC

Jeff Kane, Development Committee

Before this summer, I had never been to the pre-season Work Week at ECOC. I had never been on the docks off Miller Bell Tower. I had never winterized the Wi-Fi system at ECOC before leaving at the end of the season.

This summer more than most has ushered in new and varied experiences. Some of them were brought on by the pandemic, others came with serving on the board. Some came with exploring the grounds in new ways.

After a year of not being able to gather in person, it was a blessing to return for the taps of the gavel, and

the community that ebbs and flows through the ECOC kitchens and buildings. That's why I've given a financial gift to ECOC this year. Even in difficult times, I want to ensure ECOC can offer the housing, hospitality, and community that we all look for each summer.

If you are able to help ECOC weather these difficult times, I hope you will consider giving a gift as well.

Please use the enclosed remittance envelope, or you can give online at www.ecoc-chautauqua.org via the "Giving Options" page. Thank you! ■



New managers Kathy and Walter Singer on the second-floor porch of the Bird-Werner. They sanded the floor and the railings and coated them with a protective stain—beautiful!

Photo courtesy of David Matthews

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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Scholarships: An Unintentional But Well-Kept Secret

Debra Gentry, Scholarship Committee

Did you know that the ECOC has a Scholarship Committee that can fund first-time visitors to the Chautauqua Institution and provide rooms in an ECOC house? The scholarship includes lodging for one week, gate passes and much more. Our purpose is to expand and deepen the diversity of guests in our residences and at the Institution.

Would you help us get the word out to prospective applicants? Encourage individuals or families who would relish a Chautauqua experience but cannot otherwise afford it to apply. Applications are easily downloaded from our website, www.ecoc-chautauqua.org/scholarships/.

For more information, contact Debra Gentry, Chair of the Scholarship Committee at: dlgentry53@gmail.com. ■

ECOC Calendar

January 2	Registration forms posted on web site
February & March	Confirmations processed
June 25	Season begins
August 28	Season ends

Note: Spring and fall Work Weeks will be announced in the spring issue.

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.

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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.