

# ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY OF CHAUTAUQUA



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022

Volume 16, Issue 1

## Wayne's Words

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



It's 50° going on 60° here where I live in Louisville, Kentucky today, and tomorrow the prediction is that it will be 70°! The sky is blue, the grass is getting greener by the day, and the thoroughbreds are itching to run for several furlongs. In short, it's spring!

In spring, this man's thoughts turn to... Chautauqua! I'm guessing your thoughts are turning that way also. This summer's season promises to be a great one at heaven-on-the-lake, and my annual eagerness to get to Chautauqua is building up rapidly.

It'll be an exciting time at our beloved Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua, too! We'll have new managers—Aimee Doershuk for the first part of the season, and Kathy and Walter Singer for the latter part of the summer. You probably read about them in last fall's newsletter; all three have been both Chautauqua and ECOC regulars for years. We welcome them in their new role!

You'll also find a new floor in the Shaw kitchen, an unexpected turn of events caused by a broken pipe that spouted eight inches of water into the community kitchen. As of this writing, we're still debating what the new floor will be: it might be only a coat of paint, but if so, that will be a temporary 2022 fix. We're also considering other options—for example, a resin-coated floor or some other modern treatment. Most of the \$29,000 damage was cov-

ered by insurance, but we are still on the hook for about \$5,000; your donations will be most welcome!

Two of the values I love about the ECOC are our sense of community, and our ecumenical spirit. I'm looking forward to being part of that experience once again, and I hope to see you at the ECOC this summer! ■

## Covid Policies

### Chautauqua Institution

The Institution will not require proof of COVID-19 vaccination to enter the grounds, but may require proof to enter some venues. The Institution acknowledges that requirements may change, as NYS and CDC guidelines continually evolve. *Check Chautauqua's website, [chq.org](http://chq.org), for their most up-to-date policy.*

### ECOC

All ECOC guests over the age of five are required to be up-to-date and fully vaccinated for COVID-19 as defined by the US CDC, and must show proof of vaccination at check-in.

Requests for medical or religious exemptions are subject to Board approval, and must be submitted to the Registrar at least two weeks before arrival. For medical exemptions you must include a medical doctor's note.

*The ECOC will follow CDC, New York State, local and Chautauqua COVID guidelines, which can change at any time. Check our website, [www.ecoc-chautauqua.org](http://www.ecoc-chautauqua.org), for current guidelines and any updates.* ■



*Kathy and Walter Singer, Aimee Doershuk*

## Managers' Report

As new managers, we are enthusiastically working to get the ECOC ready for the season. Together with the House Presence Committee, we are making our rooms and kitchens family-friendly by purchasing step stools, booster seats and other child safety items.

We are getting together our "to do" lists for the pre-season work days: **June 2 to June 5** and **June 17 to June 24** (ending at noon). Volunteer for as few or as many days as you can. Volunteer work can include cleaning rooms to be ready for guests, organizing and cleaning the kitchens, patching and painting, gardening, and setting up the porches. Volunteers with "fix-it" skills could do light refinishing, plumbing and electrical repairs. Contact us for more information, or to sign up, at [ecocmanagers@gmail.com](mailto:ecocmanagers@gmail.com). Volunteering is both work and fun! We are so grateful to our volunteers for their efforts and dedication to the spirit of community that continues to guide the ECOC mission at Chautauqua.

P.S. Our end-of-season work days are: **August 30 to September 1**, and **September 23 to September 25**. Please consider volunteering then for work, fun and fellowship! ■



*E. Carol Maxwell*

## Registrar's Message

Soon bells will chime, the choir will sing, great thoughts will be discussed, and prayers will be heard. We look forward to welcoming you to the ECOC this summer!

The registration process has been a bit slower for me this year and your official room confirmation will be mailed soon. As of March 31, we still have rooms available Weeks 1 and 2, and 4 through 8, and the studio apartments Weeks 1, 2 and 5.

Remember check-in is from 2:30 to 6:00 pm on Saturday and we do accept credit cards at check-in.

Enjoy the spring flowers, be well and travel safely.

*E. Carol Maxwell, Registrar* ■

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## Meet Our New Hosts

### Frances & Emma Bachman



Frances and her daughter Emma enjoy living together in a historic neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio.

Frances was a stay-at-home parent, volunteered at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, was a member of the vestry and served on the board of a parent association at Emma's school. She also dabbles in selling vintage items online. Emma is studying literature at Wellesley College. They both enjoy tennis, paddle boarding, and puppies.

Both have worked for the Institution—Frances for the Information Office, and Emma for the CLSC. They are frequent ECOC volunteers, and especially love "having coffee on the porch with friends."

### Margie & Lew Bass



The Basses have come to Chautauqua since 1999, and first stayed at the ECOC in 2001. In 2019, Margie

was an ECOC host and Lew "shadowed" her, in preparation for hosting together. They are excited to be hosting this year!

They moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, to join their two daughters soon after Lew retired from computer programming in 2019. Margie had retired from hospice nursing in 2016.

Margie's interests include travel, cooking, gardening, quilting, nature, meditation, reading, and dancing. Lew enjoys English country dancing, hiking, reading, and doing puzzles. They look forward to "sharing that very special ECOC community spirit with everyone."

### Sarah Couillard & Chris Stukel



Chris has been coming to Chautauqua all her life, and she invited her long-time friend Sarah to join her

as host this year. Chris and her husband divide their time between Arizona and suburban Chicago. She works with product development and quality assurance in the medical industry. Chris enjoys knitting, hiking, and planning social activities.

Sarah works for an insurance company and lives in Third Lake, Illinois, with her husband, Craig. She's active at her church and volunteers for a variety of community causes. Sarah and Craig enjoy visiting the National Parks and spending time with their four grown children.

## Amy & Austin Hise



Amy and her son Austin live in Chardon, Ohio. Amy is a physician at Cleveland VA Medical Center and is on the

faculty at Case Western Reserve University. Amy has taught classes at Chautauqua ranging from "Composting" to "How to Get into Medical School"; she enjoys gardening, homesteading, quilting and crafts.

Austin is studying mechanical engineering at Cleveland State University. He loves working on cars and other small engines, handyman and computer work.

Amy's parents introduced them to the ECOC many years ago, and her father will be joining them this year. Amy says they particularly enjoy the ECOC's "socializing, networking and shared meal space."

## Therese Donlan Lee & Robin Litman



Therese serves as the Senior Minister at Unity Spiritual Center on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, and has

served as Minister of the Week for Unity of Chautauqua. She creates retreats, rituals, ceremonies, and workshops for spiritual transformation, and loves collecting heart-shaped rocks and shells. She has three stepchildren and eight grandchildren.

Her friend Robin lives in Melbourne Beach, Florida. She retired after 42 years as a registered respiratory therapist. She plays pickle ball and is an avid sailor who enjoys her sailboat as much as possible. She is widowed; her partner Michael has shared her life since 2018.

## John & Liz Propst



John and Liz live in Asheville, North Carolina, and are junior high sweethearts who just celebrated 50 years

of marriage. They were introduced to Chautauqua years ago by their daughter.

John, a retired Lutheran pastor, currently helps resettle Afghan refugees. He loves walking, hiking, beach bocce ball, serving others, and spoiling their grandchildren.

Liz is a retired volunteer at Lutheridge Camp and Conference Center. She belongs to the CLSC, and enjoys the beach, culinary creativity, and planning travel adventures.

"We love how the ECOC provides hospitality and allows us to experience creation through people, the arts, recreation, and lifelong learning opportunities," they said.

## Susan & Larry Terkel



Larry has been the minister of the Spiritual Life Society since 1978, teaches World Religions at Kent

State and has taught yoga and meditation for over 50 years. He is also a world-class swimmer and likes to ski and play golf.

Susan is the published author of 20 books, and an artist who loves to repurpose her clothing. She sewed the curtains for the Westervelt kitchen, and has sewn and donated thousands of Covid masks. She also loves to knit, read and schmooze.

Larry and Susan live in Hudson, Ohio, and have three grown children and four grandchildren. They have stayed at the Westervelt since the 1990s and love being part of the ECOC community.

## Larry & Gail Toto



Larry and Gail live in Glenside, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia. Larry first visited Chautauqua in

2001, and the couple has been returning annually ever since. They love "Chautauqua's charm and ECOC's many friends and atmosphere of sharing."

An engineer at a particle accelerator, Larry is an active pilot who also enjoys exploring musical instruments. Gail retired as a business administrator from a university business office; she is a former caterer and an avid cook who enjoys playing the ukulele.

The couple attends Quaker Meeting for Worship regularly and is involved with many aspects of the life of the Meeting.



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.

## Let's Welcome Our Returning Hosts

- David Bagshaw and Diane Mann
- Don and Linda Burgard
- Jack and Mary Knepp

- Katie and Patty Kronz
- Rick Martin and Adam Miron
- Michael and Michele Montford ■

## Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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## ECOC Calendar

June 2 to 5, June 17 to 24	Spring Work Days (any time during period)
June 22	Spring board meeting
June 25	Season begins
August 28	Season ends
August 29	Annual board meeting
Aug. 30 to Sept. 1, Sept. 23 to 25	Fall Work Days (any time during period)

## Moving Forward...

*Jeff Kane, Development Committee*

During these extraordinary times, it may seem that things can get stuck, but the ECOC is continuing to move forward. We are moving forward with plans for the summer season, Wi-Fi upgrades, house improvements, and yes, strategies to mitigate the risks of the ongoing pandemic.

As this planning commences, I want to thank everyone who has supported the ECOC and our summer season with financial gifts, volunteer hours and expertise shared with committees. For some, coming together is in the form of being physically present at the houses and for others the gathering is over the Chautauqua Assembly online. No matter how we gather, I'm thankful for the ECOC and invite you to make a gift to support the 2022 season. If you would like to make a financial gift, you can do so using the enclosed envelope. If you would like to offer other support or are thinking of volunteering, you can contact any board member or me at [pastorjeff@mcsnetworks.net](mailto:pastorjeff@mcsnetworks.net) to explore these opportunities. ■

## Property News

*Mark Parobeck, Property Committee*

Last fall, the ECOC Property Committee met with regional architects to pursue a building assessment. They obtained proposals from multiple firms, and in February selected Bero Architecture of Rochester, NY, to perform an assessment to consider what is necessary to maintain our buildings in an economical and sustainable state for the next 20 years. Bero Architecture will also develop a plan for the Westervelt to address future improvements, including fire safety, kitchen upgrades, and building layout and circulation.

On another note, the Shaw Kitchen sustained flood damage when a water line for the sprinkler system froze and burst during a brutal cold snap in January. Our managers, especially Aimee Doershuk, have been instrumental in working with insurers to fix the damage. Like all seasons, now and before, if you have time to volunteer during the Work Week, please consider pitching in. The ECOC exists because of your support. ■