

ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY OF CHAUTAUQUA



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022

Volume 16, Issue 2

Wayne's Words

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



It was wonderful to be at Chautauqua this summer, with COVID-19 minimized, and thus with life in paradise once again normal (or close to it). Carole and I were there Weeks 1-4, and then I was back for the latter part of Week 9, in order to attend the ECOC board meeting on the Monday after the season ended.

Chautauqua is an idyllic, Brigadoon-like heaven that appears out of the mists every summer for nine weeks, and then disappears in a now-you-see-it-now-you-don't kind of moment. Time at Chautauqua is a healing time, a moment of deep peace, a balm to the spirit.

This summer, though, Chautauqua's deep peace was marred by the stabbing of Salman Rushdie on August 12. That was horrific, tragic beyond words. It made me feel like Chautauqua had become paradise lost.

I wasn't there the day it happened, but returned to the grounds about ten days later. While there was a heaviness in the air, and while there were weapon detectors at Amphitheater gates, Chautauqua was going on as usual.

And yet, Chautauqua's usual tranquility had been deeply scarred on August 12. The hardness of the outside world had come through the front gate, terroristic tragedy incarnate, making all of us aware of how fragile life is,

whether we were there on August 12 or not.

Redemption was there as well. In the kitchens and on the porches of the ECOC, I experienced the friendships, the values, and the community that makes Chautauqua the paradise that it is. My prayer, and I hope it will be your prayer as well, is that each of us will model the Chautauqua lifestyle, both at Chautauqua and in the world at large. ■

Registrar's Message

Aimee Doershuk, Manager

What joy to see the houses filled with guests, laughter, and conversations this summer!

Please note: You will **NOT** receive a mailed reservation packet this year. All our reservation information is on the website: ecoc-chautauqua.org.

2023 Reservation Forms and important general information will be posted to the website on **January 2, 2023**. Please print off the forms from the website, fill them out and mail them with your room deposit and upkeep check to: ECOC Registrar, PO Box 988, Chautauqua, NY 14722. (They don't have to be separate checks.) Reservations are processed by postmark date. Priority is given in this order: Clergy, volunteers, returning guests, new guests.

As we gaze at the wonders of autumn's colors, we wish you and your family a wonderful fall and winter.

Note: See page 3 for an article about E. Carol's retirement. ■



Managers' Report

Kathy and Walter Singer, Aimee Doershuk

ECOC Volunteer Work Creates Community

All three managers have enjoyed their first full season. We thank the many ECOC people who helped us with numerous questions as we took over the job from our sensational past managers, John and Kathy Woods. Special thanks go out to Ed Johnston who worked with us through the winter to learn the management software and during the last weeks of the season as Registrar. Because of the support we received from everyone, we were able to joyously and calmly greet our 43 new guests to ECOC and to welcome returning guests. Our seasonal room fill rate was 81%. Week 9 was the most popular this year—every ECOC room was booked. We are hoping to report a 100% fill rate for 2023!

Programming returned to ECOC in 2022. We hosted five brown bag lunches with topics ranging from music to law. Next year, we plan to return to a full roster of nine programs, one every Monday. These lunches are an opportunity to share something you are passionate about with a wider Chautauqua audience. If you have a topic you might like to share during an hour-long informal program, please contact Carol Mollohan to discuss this opportunity at imhcm@outloo.com, or you can text or call 304-546-8157.

Volunteers are the key to maintaining our commitment to low-cost Chautauqua housing. We hosted 43 volunteers during the pre- and post-season work weeks. In addition to having a great time together, the volunteers do the work of opening and closing our buildings every year. It is one huge undertaking to prepare 48 rooms and two apartments for guests and a different huge undertaking to prepare those same rooms and apartments for the winter season. The love and care with which our volunteers do this work is a reminder of the history of community and service which is at the heart of the ECOC. The

managers are also grateful to the Shaw family volunteers who come to ECOC prior to the spring work week for an annual reunion and work weekend. This year 38 members of the family attended and accomplished major improvements to the buildings. We are deeply grateful for the legacy or stewardship and volunteer work which is a continuing gift of this family. **THANK YOU, ALL VOLUNTEERS!**

YOU can help too! Please consider volunteering. Come for as many or as few work week days as you can. There is NO CHARGE for rooms during work weeks. We have jobs for all skill levels and all energy levels. Our 2023 Spring work week dates are June 2-4 and June 15-22. Fall work week dates will be announced. Contact the Registrar to register for the work weeks, at ecoregistrar@gmail.com, or call 716-581-3659. ■

2023 Room Rates

Debra Gentry, Board Secretary

After thoughtful prayer and much discussion, the ECOC Board of Directors voted to increase the 2023 Room Rates. The increase is necessary because of being closed in 2020, and having only 50% occupancy in 2021 and 80% in 2022. This increase is needed to meet our budget, and to continue and improve the service we have all enjoyed over the years.

If anyone finds that this increase will prohibit them from attending, the Scholarship Committee will work to assist in the difference of prices from 2022 to 2023. Please contact me as Scholarship Chair, at dlgentry53@gmail.com.

Examples of the new rates (not including taxes):

Apartments

Sleeps 6.....\$780.00, \$792.00

Rooms with bathrooms

Sleeps 4 with full bath..... \$732.00

Sleeps 2 with full bath..... \$594.00

Sleeps 4 with ½ bath \$594.00

Sleeps 2 with ½ bath \$456.00

Rooms without bathrooms

Sleeps 1.....\$248.40

Sleeps 2.....\$318.00

Sleeps 3\$386.40

We hope to see you all in the summer of 2023. ■



E. Carol Maxwell Retires as Registrar

Rev. Nathan Day Wilson and Marcella Klein

Longtime registrar E. Carol Maxwell has announced her retirement at the end of October, after serving as registrar since 2011. Not only did she perform the many duties of the position, she often went above and beyond to help (and sometimes substitute for) the managers and hosts.

For the nine years before her tenure as Registrar, E. Carol was a much loved hostess in the Westervelt. Since 2004 she has acted as Scribe at Board meetings as well, recording and circulating the minutes, keeping the roster updated, and countless other tasks. She was an indispensable repository of knowledge, and provided much-needed continuity as Board personnel changed over the years.

At the heart of these efforts was her desire for the whole community—staff and guests—to enjoy their visits to Chautauqua while staying in any of our three buildings.

Not just a job—it was her passion.

E. Carol's love of ballet was well known; she almost never missed a ballet performance. A former dancer herself, she was a founding member of the Chautauqua Dance Circle, which provides scholarships to deserving dance students. She was very active in their Connections Program, and through her efforts the ECOC provided a "home away from home" for dozens of young dance students over the years.

The ECOC board has decided to honor E. Carol by placing a plaque next to her room, Bird-Werner 11, in commemoration of her many years of service to the ECOC. Guests are also invited to donate in her honor to the Dance Circle of Chautauqua. You can make checks payable to "Chautauqua Dance Circle" and send them to: CDC, PO Box 783, Chautauqua, NY 14722. ■

Meet Your New ECOC Board Members

The two newest members to the ECOC Board of Directors are Rev. Marcia Free and Rev. David Wood. They join board members David Abrams, Renee Andrews (Treasurer), Debra Gentry (Secretary), Rev. Wayne A. Gnatuk (President), Pastor Jeff Kane (Vice President), Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen, Rev. David Matthews, Mark Parobeck, Linda Shaw, and Beth Bucher Woolever. We thank retiring board members Rev. Robert Boell, Aimee Doerschuk, Rev. Carmen Perry and Rev. Nathan Day Wilson for their service.

Marcia Free



Rev. Marcia C. Free is a retired pastor and chaplain from the United Church of Christ. Her last position before retirement was as Director of Counseling and Pastoral Care for a women's clinic in Knoxville, Tennessee, where she lives with her husband Fred Martinson, a retired professor of Art History.

Marcia has stayed at the ECOC for about seven years with her friend H. Ann Kerniski. While she has served on other boards in the past, she is especially delighted to be on the ECOC board. "I want to contribute to ECOC's vision of providing affordable housing. Though my denomination owns three houses in Chautauqua, I have chosen the ECOC for its diversity of faiths."

David Wood



A semi-retired Presbyterian minister, Rev. David Wood has served churches across the country, including inner-city congregations.

He now lives in Oakmont, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh, with his wife Rose, and he works part-time for two small churches.

He loves preaching and teaching, and is interested in current events, literature, and political theory. Rose worked for the Synod of New York and loves making crafts and gardening. The couple has one grown son.

A long-time ECOC guest, David is happy to join the Board, and now serves as Assistant Treasurer. "I appreciate this organization for their low-cost housing and the friends I make every time I come," he says. ■

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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Chautauqua, New York 14722
716-581-3659
www.ecoc-chautauqua.org

ECOC Calendar

January 2	Registration forms posted on web site
February & March	Confirmations processed
June 2 to 4, June 15 to 22	Spring Work Days (any time during period)
June 24	Season begins
August 27	Season ends
TBA	Fall Work Weeks

Planning for the Future

Mark Parobeck, Property Committee Chair

Bero Architecture of Rochester, New York, presented a building assessment to the ECOC board at the August meeting. The 2022 Bero Assessment includes detailed work lists for essential fixes, general building improvements, and master planning. With the report in hand, the Property Committee will begin to imagine phases of necessary projects beginning as soon as the autumn of 2023. In addition, the Property Committee will now work with the Development Committee, realizing that major projects will be steered by fundraising.

This fall, the fire closet was insulated and heated. The closet is hidden beneath the outdoor steps leading to the Shaw and Bird-Werner kitchens and contains the water main and sprinkler controls. The work will prevent future frozen pipes and ensure that the ECOC doesn't see another unexpected winter flood.

The Shaw kitchen floor is also on track to receive atten-

tion over the winter and should be completed well before the 2023 season. Most likely an epoxy-like surface will replace the previously installed carpeting.

The Property Committee hopes to use the lessons of these current off-season fixes to successfully realize a more comprehensive and ambitious project list starting in September 2023. ■

