

ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY OF CHAUTAUQUA



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

Volume 17, Issue 1

Wayne's Words

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



The more technology pervades our lives, the more I notice planned obsolescence is a part of our lives that's here to stay. My computer, my cell phone, and a variety of my other e-gadgets: I buy them, they work well for a while, then they don't work so well for a while, then they don't work at all, and I buy a new one, at which point the cycle repeats. As some pundit once said, "Obsolescence never meant the end of anything, it's just the beginning..."

Aren't you and I fortunate to have Chautauqua in our realm of experience? We visit the hallowed grounds year after year; it's the gift that just keeps on giving, never going stale, never conking out on us. Indeed, Chautauqua is the refutation of obsolescence.

Behind the scenes, of course, there's a lot of hard work that goes into keeping heaven in a corner of New York vibrant. Without Institution staff and volunteer Board members, Chautauqua would rapidly lose its edge, and would be... well, gone!

That's true at our beloved ECOC, too. I remember the days when all I did was to stay there, blissfully unaware of how much work ECOC registrars, managers, hosts/hostesses and Board members were doing just to keep the doors open and the rooms affordable. Without their efforts, the ECOC too would rapidly lose its edge, and would be... well, gone!

Coming soon: a capital campaign to keep the roof on, the paint from peeling, and the rooms affordable. Beginning later this summer, you'll start hearing details about this. The goal, quite simply, is to avoid obsolescence, because when used to refer to our glorious spot right next door to the Amp, obsolescence is a four-letter word!

You can help us in two major ways: (1) Give generously to the campaign when it begins. Our buildings continue to age, and really do need your help! (2) Consider serving on the ECOC Board and its committees. My term on the Board ends in August 2024, so far be it from me to say that retiring Board members become "obsolescent," but each of us does need to be replaced at the end of our five-year terms! We especially need clergy to serve on the Board, since our bylaws require the Board to have a majority of faith leaders as members, but non-clergy are also very welcome! If you'd like to volunteer, please be in touch with our Nominating Committee Chair, The Rev. Mary Kitchen at marys@zoominternet.net.

Together, let us fight obsolescence and celebrate Chautauqua! I hope to see you there this summer! ■





Kathy and Walter Singer, Aimee Doershuk

Managers' Report

Beauty: Chautauqua and the ECOC

BEAUTY (from *Whistling in the Dark* by Frederick Buechner): "Beauty is to the spirit what food is to the flesh. A glimpse of it... fills an emptiness in you that nothing else under the sun can. Unlike food, however, it is something you never get your fill of. It leaves you always aching with longing not so much for more of the same as for whatever it is, deep within and far beyond both it and yourself, that makes it beautiful."

Amid the darkness, damp and cold of winter, we look forward to the beauty of a Chautauqua summer at the ECOC. The beauty of fellowship in the ECOC kitchens and on porches, of sharing stories with friends old and new, of listening to music, of viewing magnificent gardens, and of finding hidden Chautauqua gems of beauty to hold in our hearts.

In your comments from last year, many of you mentioned the beauty of our ECOC community. Our hosts share their special talents, stories, kindness, and hard work to grow and nurture this friendly, welcoming atmosphere at ECOC. This year's hosts are:

Shaw

Michele & Michael Monford (1-2)
Rev. Donald & Linda Burgard (3-4)
Marge & Ed Johnston (5-7)
Rick Martin & Adam Miron (8-9)

Bird-Werner

Diane Mann & David Bagshaw (1-2)
Chris Stukel (3)
Rev. John & Liz Probst (4-5)
Margie & Lew Bass (6-7)
Gail & Larry Toto (8-9)

Westervelt

Mary & Jack Knepp (1-3)
Chris Stukel (4-5)
Rev. John & Liz Probst (6)
Amy & Austin Hise (7-9)

We thank them!

Thanks to your generous hospitality gifts last summer, we

were able to purchase a new, and more versatile, outdoor grill. In addition, we bought a dishwasher specifically for the volunteers who open and close the season because every plate, glass, dish, pan, utensil, etc., is washed pre- and post-season. (Guests, you can still look forward to washing all your dishes by hand, the dishwasher will not be available during the season.)

Speaking of volunteers—the spring work days are June 1–4 and June 16–23. The fall work days are Aug. 26–27 and Aug. 29–Sept. 2. Come for as many or as few days as your schedule allows. ECOC costs stay low because our volunteers help to open and close our buildings and take care of routine maintenance.

Tasks range from light to more labor-intensive. A variety of skills are needed, and it is always a great time of fellowship. There is **no charge** for accommodations during the work days. If you work a minimum of 16 hours, you will receive priority consideration for reservations the following season! If you are interested in volunteering or want to learn more, please be in touch with us at **ECOCManagers@gmail.com** or **716-949-0548**.

Remember, email Carol Mollohan at imhcmj@outlook.com if you want to do a Brown Bag Lunch next summer.

We feel honored and proud to be entrusted with the management of these treasured buildings. And we are looking forward to welcoming you to the beauty of the ECOC summer.

Aimee Doershuk

Manager, Weeks 1-5

Kathy and Walter Singer

Managers, Weeks 6-9 ■

ECOC Covid Policy

We require proof of each guest's up-to-date vaccination status **by May 1**. The CDC website defines "up-to-date" as having "completed a Covid-19 vaccine primary series and gotten the most recent booster dose recommended for you by CDC."

- Take a picture of the front and back of the vaccination card for each guest and email it to ECOCRegistrar@gmail.com. Or photocopy it and mail it to ECOC Registrar, P.O. Box 988, Chautauqua, NY 14722.
- Guests who are 4 years old or younger are exempt.
- For medical exemptions, ECOC requires that a medical doctor's note be submitted to the ECOC Board via the Registrar by May 1.
- Religious exemptions must also be requested from the ECOC Board via the Registrar by May 1. ■

ECOC Hires New Co-Registrar



The ECOC Board is delighted to welcome Beth Brockman Miller as our new Co-Registrar. Aimee Doershuk, one of the Managers, is her Co-Registrar this year.

Beth Brockman Miller first came to the ECOC in 1968. She and her husband, Coby, have two adult

children, Clara and Kylee.

After running a retreat center and organic farm for almost 30 years in the Finger Lakes region, Beth and Coby moved to Chautauqua in 2022. Beth's parents, Bill and Maggie Brockman, are long-time ECOC guests and supporters and served as the Hall of Missions Hosts for 20 years.

In addition to being co-registrar, Beth serves as Executive Director of Community Compact, Inc., a small non-profit that brings high-achieving, low-income college students to Chautauqua for a week of educational, cultural, and social capital enrichment. In her spare time, Beth enjoys taking pictures of Chautauqua year-round and sharing them on Facebook and Instagram @Chq4U. She cherishes the ECOC and is delighted to be part of the ECOC team! ■

Wireless Upgrades

Jeff Kane, Board member

If you've been to ECOC in the past few summers, you might have used our expanded wireless network (WiFi). Thanks to the volunteer work of Kyle Doershuk and Bob Dargel, new wiring was laid out, new wireless access points installed, and a central control system was set up. This past summer, one outdoor antenna was installed on the 4th floor parapet of the Bird-Werner building as an experimental setup. While it is more difficult to install external antennas (wind, rain and snow considerations), the hope is to expand wireless access on the porches as much as possible. Also planned for this spring is upgrading a few internal access points to cover the few remaining internal areas in need of coverage. Thanks for all the feedback on how the system has been working as it allows for the design of future upgrades during the off-season! ■

Registrars' Message

Greetings to the ECOC family!

We, Beth and Aimee, are Co-Registrars in this transition period after E. Carol's retirement. It isn't easy for the two of us to fill her shoes! Thank you, E. Carol, for the many ways you have served this community through the years.

We have rooms available Weeks 1-3, 5, and 9! Most are larger and have half or full baths. Call (716) 581-3659 ASAP to pre-register.

Remember, the ECOC's 2023 Covid Policy requires that guests **provide proof of being up-to-date and fully vaccinated by May 1**. Email pictures of your vaccination card to ECOCRegistrar@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Aimee Doershuk and Beth Brockman Miller
Co-Registrars ■

ECOC Loves Families

Barbara Matthews, House Presence Committee

The ECOC House Presence Committee is committed to helping our families have a safe, enjoyable, family-friendly experience during their stay. We are working toward this goal by providing some amenities we hope will be helpful. For example, in the kitchens we will have booster seats or high chairs and stools so our littlest guests can help with chores such as washing dishes. In the family rooms there will be baby gates, outlet covers, child-proof door handle covers and cabinet slide locks.

Hopefully this will alleviate the need for families to bring all of these items with them. We will continue to update this list as the need arises and as we hear of additional needs from our guests.

An investment in our children is an investment in the future of the ECOC and the ECOC / Chautauqua Institution values of living and learning in community. ■

Chautauqua Covid Policy

At the time of our publication, the Institution has not posted their Covid policy, if any, for the 2023 Season. Check their website, chq.org, for more information. ■

Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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ECOC Calendar

June 1 to 4, June 16 to 23	Spring Work Days (any time during period)
June 21	Spring board meeting
June 24	Season begins
August 27	Season ends
August 28	Annual board meeting
August 26 to 27, Aug. 29 to Sept. 2	Fall Work Days (any time during period)

The Next Steps...

Mark Parobeck, Property Committee

The property committee has met over the winter to both analyze and disseminate the "2022 Bero Assessment." We consider the work to be a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure the future of the ECOC buildings, and have broken out the assessment into phases of construction. These include:

- *Early Essentials*
- *Building Basics and Long-Term Preservation*
- *Major Projects at the Westervelt*

Early Essentials are projects that we hope to accomplish in the next year or two and include the possibility of the Westervelt roof replacement, as well as numerous general safety repairs. The Property Committee has examined an extensive list of recommended Chautauqua Institution general contractors to narrow and define a list of approved firms to solicit for bidding on projects.

Realizing that all future work will be steered by available funding and board approval, Jeff Kane, Development Chair, has joined with the Property Committee. Jeff offers a fresh voice and an intelligent perspective about fund-raising as it will relate to the accomplishment of selected and supported projects from the ambitious "2022 Bero Assessment." ■

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.