

ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY OF CHAUTAUQUA



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024

Volume 18, Issue 2

President's Message

*Linda Shaw,
ECOC Board President*



Hello to all of you in the ECOC Community.

I am excited and honored to serve as President of the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua (ECOC) for the upcoming 2024-2025 season. It is very humbling to know that ancestors of mine—Ed Westervelt, Edwin Spencer Shaw, Eunice Minier Shaw, and Eunice Shaw Bull—were among the founders of what is now the ECOC. They had the vision and forethought to provide accommodations to clergy and their families, first at no cost, and then at low cost, allowing many to attend Chautauqua who would not have been able to do so otherwise. The ECOC mission continues today as it was back then... to provide affordable housing to fellow Chautauquans.

We are pleased to welcome five new board members this season, and I am returning to the board after a one-year hiatus. You can read more about us on pages 3 and 4.

The ECOC is in the early stages of a capital campaign—our Next Century Campaign. Thanks to all of you who have helped with planning and to all who have contributed. The campaign supports our long-range building and infrastructure needs. The Westervelt roof project is complete, and the Bird-Werner painting project will be wrapping up before the first snowfall.

If you would like to learn more, or would like to help with

our development efforts, please contact Jayne Cabigas (jemcabigas@gmail.com) or Rev. Jeff Kane (pastorjeff@mscnetworks.net) or any other member of the board. Let's continue our legacy into the next century—please consider a donation to the ECOC! ■

Registrars' Report

Beth Brockman Miller and Aimee Doershuk

Thank you to everyone who stayed at the ECOC this summer! Living in community at Chautauqua with such wonderful people is so special.

We are re-evaluating our registration process for the 2025 season. Please watch for an email about changes to the following: 1) when you can submit a reservation request, 2) deposit amount, 3) when full payment will be due, and 4) our cancellation policy. You can also find out these details on our website's Reservations page beginning on December 1.

We look forward to seeing you next summer! ■

Marketing Experience? We NEED you!!

A newly formed committee is in need of members who have marketing experience. If you would like to volunteer your help, please contact John Propst at johnpropst@gmail.com. ■

Managers' Report

Aimee Doershuk and Holly Martineau

It was another wonderful ECOC summer! We welcomed many returning guests who have made ECOC their "Summer Home" for years, as well as those who were enjoying Chautauqua for the first time. Helping to make stays more enjoyable was our team of wonderful hosts: Michele and Michael Montford, Diane Mann and David Bagshaw, Mary and Jack Knepp, Chris and Bob Stukel, Liz and John Propst, Kathy and John Woods, Marge and Ed Johnston, Margie and Lew Bass, Gail and Larry Toto, Rick Martin and Adam Miron, Amy Hise, Susan and Larry Terkel, and Frances and Emma Bachman. Their hospitality and welcoming spirit help to put the **unity** in our community!

Many thanks go to the 25+ volunteers who helped prepare our buildings for the winter. Please consider joining this volunteer group next spring, as we open the buildings and get them ready for the season! If you are interested in helping, please contact Aimee or Holly at ecocmanagers@gmail.com or text 716-949-0548. Speaking of our volunteers, a special shout out goes to the Stamper family and their three kids, Cailyn, Michael, and Brendan. We are so grateful for their energy, hard work, and young legs!!

With Kathy and Walter Singer retiring as managers at the end of the 2024 season, joining me as co-manager will be a familiar face to many of you, Holly Martineau. We thank the Singers for their service and wish them all the best. Holly and I look forward to serving you in 2025.

Lastly, our thoughts and prayers go out to our ECOC family members who were impacted by the hurricanes, storms, and rain this fall. We hope there are rays of sunshine in your lives today and continue to pray for those impacted by these storms. ■

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) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation which provides affordable accommodations, hospitality, and fellowship during the 9-week summer season at Chautauqua Institution. Open to all, the ECOC offers a positive experience of community living which promotes dialogue, growth, and renewal.

ECOC Hires New Co-Manager



Please welcome Holly Martineau. She has stayed at the ECOC for about 15 years, and it's a part of her family's Chautauqua history. Her daughter dressed at ECOC for her Bell Tower wedding, while her favorite memories are of her granddaughter blowing bubbles off Shaw's second-floor porch to the delight of concertgoers.

Because it is such an important part of her family, Holly hopes to encourage families with children to make ECOC their affordable Chautauqua home, too.

Helping to open and close the buildings for the last 14 years has provided her extra time to be in Chautauqua, while learning the ins and outs of our three buildings.

Holly's background as an Elementary School Principal and Children and Family Ministry Pastor has provided valuable experiences for being an ECOC Manager. She has experience being responsible for environmental health and safety, working with vendors and government agencies, as well as recognizing the value of volunteers.

Over the past three years Holly has come to call Aimee her friend. They share a lifelong love of Chautauqua and a commitment to the mission of the ECOC. ■

Farewell from Walter and Kathy Singer

"We decided in April to retire as ECOC managers at the end of the 2024 season because... we recently became grandparents for the first time. We are helping our daughter and son-in-law with childcare and we could not continue to spend five to six weeks away from them in upcoming summers. We have enjoyed the opportunities that ECOC management has offered to us, especially the joy of getting to know so many amazing people—our ECOC guests, staff members and hosts, many of whom have become friends. We will be back at Chautauqua next year towards the end of the season and hope to stay on for part of the closing volunteer work week. Thanks for the opportunity to serve the ECOC in this special way." ■

Next Century Campaign: *Strengthening Our Community, Preserving Our Heritage!*

Jayne Cabigas, Development Committee Chair

In 2028, the ECOC will celebrate its 100th anniversary and we hope to celebrate the end of a successful capital campaign. We have an ambitious goal of \$1.5 million to make our houses more safe, comfortable and affordable long into the future. But we also want to build stronger bonds to the ECOC and each other as we celebrate our heritage and dream into the future.

Several years ago, the ECOC board hired a firm to do a comprehensive look at projects needed to keep our buildings safe. They identified \$1.2 million of projects needed in the next 10 years. The board also approved a special fund of \$300,000 to \$500,000 to offer more scholarships and keep room rates low. Together, these will ensure that

the ECOC is a living legacy for future generations.

Learn more about the campaign on our website. Follow us on Facebook (@ecumenicalcommunity). Look out for a new electronic newsletter coming soon. Share your ECOC memories and stories with us. Help build a stronger community all year round.

And as you think about your charitable giving now and in the coming years of the campaign, please consider investing in the ECOC's future. You can give annually or monthly online. (If you use the envelope, please write "Capital Campaign" on the memo line.) You can give investments. You can leave a gift to the ECOC in your will. Every gift matters, and we invite everyone to invest in our future. ■

Meet Your New ECOC Board Members

The newest members to the ECOC Board of Directors are Rev. Kathy Brockman, Cheryl Chandola, Rev. Joseph Kovitch, Mary Pilat, Linda Shaw (President), and Craig Werner. They join board members Renee Andrews (Asst. Treasurer), Jayne Cabigas, Rev. Marcia Free (Secretary), Pastor Jeff Kane (Vice President), Coleen Kealey (Treasurer), Mark Parobeck, Rev. John Propst, Rev. Mike Reed and Rev. David Wood. We thank retiring board members David Abrams, Debra Gentry, Rev. Wayne A. Gnatuk, and Rev. Beth Head for their service.

Kathy Brockman



An Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, Rev. Kathy serves as an Associate Pastor at Dunwoody UMC outside Atlanta, Georgia.

When not busy with work, Kathy loves to travel, read and garden.

She and her husband, Bard, have two grown sons. Kathy was introduced to the ECOC about 30 years ago by Bard and his parents, Maggie and Bill Brockman; our co-registrar, Beth Brockman Miller, is her sister-in-law.

Kathy values the ECOC's affordable cost, diversity of views, and kitchen communities. Her vision for the ECOC is "to continue to be a community of people from all over the world who can find a safe, comfortable and affordable place to stay in Chautauqua."

Cheryl Chandola



Cheryl first came to the ECOC (then the Ministers' Union) back in 1978 with her parents, David and Barbara Matthews, and they

have been coming to the ECOC ever since.

She lives in Wexford, Pennsylvania, north of Pittsburgh, and works as a Media Creation Director. Cheryl volunteers with Literacy Pittsburgh, and enjoys gardening and reading. Her daughter, Ayla, is in college in Chicago studying Graphic Design.

Cheryl serves on the board's Communications, Marketing and Outreach Committee. She is enthusiastic about the ECOC, "I value the community and the friendships I've made with the people I see year to year."

Joseph Kovitch



Rev. Joseph is an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Southern Ohio and has been ordained for 31 years. He and his wife, Marie, live in Granville,

Ohio, and they have two grown sons.

Joseph loves reading, writing, people, and building community. He and his family have been coming to Chautauqua for over 40 years and to the ECOC for 10 years. He says, "I value the commitment of the ECOC to be a place of rich hospitality to all who seek community, through a love of people, a commitment to the Chautauqua ideal, and a tradition of welcoming all. The ECOC is a special place at Chautauqua and we look forward to serving and supporting this special ecumenical community."

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Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

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ECOC Calendar

December 1	Registration starts
February and March	Confirmations processed
May / June, TBA	Spring Work Days
June 21	Season begins
August 24	Season ends
Aug. / Sept., TBA	Fall Work Week

New ECOC Board Members *(cont'd)*

Mary Pilat



A retired Professor Emeritus from Purdue University, Mary has a Ph.D in Education and Human Development. While at Purdue she traveled internationally and acquired photographs, artifacts, and experiences that she shares in retreats and workshops.

Mary lives in Kendall, New York; she regularly volunteers at the Mercy Spirituality Center in Rochester and visits assisted living residents.

She first visited Chautauqua only two years ago, and she says, "I appreciate the ecumenical nature of the Institute and look forward to increased interfaith associations fostered by the speakers, events, and activities of the ECOC."

Linda Shaw



The great-granddaughter of Eunice Minier Shaw, the first manager of the Ministers' Union, Linda has been coming to Chautauqua since childhood, and started coming regularly during the season in 2013.

A retired engineering and program manager, Linda and her husband, Jeff Bakken, have four children and live in Orono, Minnesota. She enjoys playing tennis and doing Pilates.

Linda served on the board from 2018 to 2023, and she enthusiastically supports the ECOC mission, "I would like to ensure that some of the same opportunities for friendships and fellowship are maintained and many others are given the opportunity to come to Chautauqua at reasonable cost."

Craig Werner



Craig is a member of the Harold Shaw family, one of 59 first cousins. His parents were Helene and Fred Werner, past managers at the Minister's Union. Craig and his family helped his parents open and close the buildings in the spring and fall. He has only been on the grounds during the season twice.

Craig is a retired engineer who worked for a large pipeline company. He and his wife, Karen, live in Naperville, a western suburb of Chicago. They have been married for 50 years.

Craig has served on the ECOC Property Committee for a number of years. His main concern and effort has been to help keep the buildings operational. ■