

# ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY OF CHAUTAUQUA



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

Volume 19, Issue 1

## President's Message

Linda Shaw,  
ECOC Board President



For many of us it has been a long, cold winter, so I'm sure we are all looking forward to another warm Chautauqua summer!

I am excited about our upcoming season and some of the new and returning activities we will offer here at the ECOC. Returning are the **Monday** Midday Talks at the Randall Chapel in the UCC Headquarters at 12:15, and our Cookies and Lemonade Socials on **Tuesdays** from 3:15–4:30 pm in front of the Bird-Werner.

- Come meet other ECOC guests for the Social Hour on **Saturday** evening from 5–6 pm on the Shaw and Bird-Werner porches.
- **Sunday** is Game Night in the Shaw kitchen from 7–8 pm.
- Join us **Wednesday** on the Bird-Werner porch for after-lecture discussions, 11:45 am–1:00 pm.
- Calling all clergy on **Thursday** for Clergy Connection from 4–5 pm on the Bird-Werner porch.
- If you would like breakfast before checking out, stop by **Saturday** morning for pancakes in the Shaw kitchen from 7–9 am.

Aimee Doershuk, Holly Martineau and Beth Miller—the ECOC managers and registrars this season—and your

hosts and volunteers are ready to help make your 2025 ECOC visit as pleasant as possible.

### Ministers' Union Scholarship

ECOC's Ministers' Union Scholarship program provides scholarships to first-time Chautauqua attendees by offsetting costs of attending Chautauqua. Gate passes, parking passes, Kid's Club, Boys and Girls Club, Special Studies classes would be covered, upon availability. Applications can be found on our website, [www.ecoc-chautauqua.org](http://www.ecoc-chautauqua.org).

### Reservation & Cancellation Policy

Please note that we have revised our reservations and cancellation policy as follows: Reservations are 70% refundable if cancelled by June 1 and 50% refundable if cancelled between June 1 and June 14. Reservations cancelled after June 14 will be non-refundable. Non-refunded payment amounts will be acknowledged as a tax-deductible donation.

### Next Century Campaign

Our Next Century Campaign is intended to meet our need for \$1.2M of capital improvement, and \$300K of operating support intended to keep our room rental rates as low as possible. Major capital investments include important repairs to all ECOC facilities. Please consider a contribution to the ECOC Next Century Campaign. Also please consider including ECOC as part of your estate plan.

### Continuous Improvement

In our quest to continue to improve the ECOC experience, you may be asked to take a survey, be part of a focus group, or volunteer as an ambassador in support of ECOC. We ask that you take the time to help us.

*Continued on page 4*

# Managers' Report

*Aimee Doershuk and Holly Martineau*

Spring has arrived and that can only mean Chautauqua's 151st season is almost here! But, before we open the doors for the season there is a lot to do, and YOU can help!

Volunteers are one of the main reasons the ECOC has such a strong sense of community and remains such an affordable place to stay. Our pre-season Work Week is June 13–20. Feel free to come for a day or two, the weekend, or the entire week. (The more the merrier!!) And remember, volunteers who work a minimum of 16 hours receive a priority reservation date the following season!! Please email and let us know when you can help. We have repairs, painting, cleaning and gardening tasks. Tools and supplies will be provided. If you have never volunteered before, it is lots of fun and a great way to get to know others before the rush of programming begins.

GUESS WHAT! We will do it in reverse August 25–29 and in early September. So mark your calendars and come help your summer home to open and close. It is a wonderful way to experience Chautauqua!

---

## What Does the ECOC Mean to You?

*Jayne Cabigas, Development Committee Chair*

As the board continues to develop messaging for the capital campaign discussions, we've been asking what does the ECOC mean to you and what is its value at Chautauqua. And it's clear there is a deep love for our summer "home away from home." When asked for five words that describe the ECOC, we got answers like family, friends, welcoming, affordable, open-minded, home, community, diverse, simplicity and many more. All of us have our own experiences, but it was surprising and heartening to see how many used the same words and concepts.

We will be having conversations this summer around the value of the ECOC and our dreams for the future as we near the end of our first 100 years together. We hope you will share what you love about your time at the ECOC, our value to each other and the larger Chautauqua community, and how we preserve our welcoming community for others to experience. Watch social media and the e-newsletter for more opportunities to share. ■

New this year, Chautauqua is offering a concert before and after the season. Smokey Robinson is performing on June 19 and Bonnie Raitt on September 5. Accommodations for regular ECOC guests will be available (June 18–20 and September 4–6) on a first come, first served basis. Daily room rates will apply and check out is 10 am on June 20 and September 6. Please email the registrars if you would like to stay with us for either event. As with any ECOC stay, bring your bedding/towels, food, and plan to clean your room before departure. Tickets for the concerts are available on the Institution website... or there is always our porch.

The Shaw Family will hold their annual "working reunion" at the beginning of June in our buildings. It is amazing to see what they can accomplish in a few days! ECOC would not exist without their predecessors' efforts and foresight, and their current help and support. Thank you, Shaw Family!

We look forward to seeing many old friends and making new ones this summer at our ECOC. Keep your eyes out for some ECOC events throughout the week of your stay. We can't wait to see you at our Chautauqua home! ■

---

## Registrars' Report

*Beth Brockman Miller and Aimee Doershuk*

We're looking forward to seeing you in Chautauqua this summer! If you haven't made plans yet and would like to come to Chautauqua, we have several rooms available in Weeks 5 (July 19–26) and 8 (Aug 9–16). Email [ecocregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:ecocregistrar@gmail.com) to double check availability with us before submitting a reservation request online.

**Remember: Full payment** for your room is **required by May 1**. We emailed everyone their deposit receipt with balance due at the end of March/early April. Please use a check or money order (US funds) to pay your balance due. If you can't send a check or money order, email us to set up a time to call with your credit card information.

See you on the porch soon! ■

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

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.

## Exciting Updates at the ECOC!

*Cheryl Chandola, Communications Committee*

We've made it even easier to stay connected! Our website, [www.ecoc-chautauqua.org](http://www.ecoc-chautauqua.org), now features a brand-new calendar in the sidebar, so you'll never miss an event, deadline, or important information. Plus, we've added a direct link to our Facebook page that's also filled with important information along with fun facts and guest spotlights.

Also, be sure to sign up for our NEW monthly e-newsletter by emailing [ecoregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:ecoregistrar@gmail.com), to get all the latest information delivered straight to your inbox!

Finally, please follow us on our Facebook page. You can find us at [Facebook.com/EcumenicalCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/EcumenicalCommunity) or simply search "Ecumenical Community" in Facebook's search bar.

See you on the porch! ■

## Building Repair and Restoration

*Mark Parobeck, Property Committee*

This offseason, the ECOC Property Committee engaged Monroe and More LLC to paint and repair the north side of the Bird-Werner building, facing the narrow passageway by the Health Center. The area showed significant signs of rot and deterioration, but has now been restored to ensure durability for many years to come.

In addition to other outdoor projects aligned with the recommendations of the Bero Report—a building assessment produced by Bero Architecture of Rochester, New York—the Property Committee is currently soliciting bids to replace the windows on this side of the Bird-Werner building. The committee aims to complete this project by the fall of 2025. The new windows will feature a weather-proof composite exterior with a wood interior, preserving the historical integrity of our buildings while enhancing and ensuring their longevity. ■

---

## Meet Our New Hosts

### Alice Cannon



Alice is retired from her career in pharmaceutical research. Now she serves as the administrative secretary for her church, Vine Street

Christian Church. She also volunteers with Senior Rides, providing transportation for seniors who can't drive.

She first came to Chautauqua about 7-8 years ago with Debra Gentry and her husband, and she will be hosting with Debra this season. "I value the feeling of community at ECOC, especially in the community kitchens," she says.

Alice is single and lives in Nashville, Tennessee. She has two sisters, one in Wisconsin and one in Arizona; fortunately, they all like to travel so they are able to get together.

### Debra Gentry



Debra lives in Nashville, Tennessee, and works for a title and escrow service as director of compliance. Her late husband, Rev. Roger Sledd, intro-

duced her to Chautauqua in 2001. She first stayed at the ECOC in 2003, and she served on its board from 2019 to 2024.

She says, "I most appreciate the conversations there. I have heard and participated in such interesting ones, from which I learned and grew, both in faith and in friendship."

Debra loves to read, talk and spend time with friends. She currently volunteers as treasurer of her church, Downtown Presbyterian Church in Nashville, and the Committee Ministry Preparation for Middle Tennessee Presbytery. She has two wonderful stepdaughters.

### Kristin May



Kristin is a resource soil scientist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, where she has worked for 24 years. She volun-

teers with the Via de Cristo and Pilgrimage movements through her church. She has worked with the youth and the women's ministry at her church, and is part of the leadership development team.

This is Kristin's third summer at Chautauqua and the ECOC, and she says, "I am excited to be a first-time host. I love how welcoming everybody that I have met at the ECOC has been."

Kristin lives in Salisbury, North Carolina, and she likes to quilt, read, spend time with friends, and go on hikes with her two dogs. She also plays in a handbell choir. ■

# Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua

P.O. Box 988  
25 Roberts Avenue  
Chautauqua, New York 14722  
716-581-3659  
www.ecoc-chautauqua.org  
facebook.com/ecumenicalcommunity

## ECOC Calendar

June 13 to 20	Spring Work Days (any time during period)
June 19	Spring board meeting
June 21	Season begins
August 24	Season ends
August 25	Annual board meeting
August 25 to 29	Fall Work Days (any time during period)

## Monday Midday Talks

*Carol Mollohan*

The midday talks sponsored by the ECOC are held every Monday during the season at 12:15 in the UCC Randell Chapel; please enter from Odland Plaza.

**Week 1 – June 23:** “Finding Resilience in a World of Chaos”, Grace Tallman

**Week 2 – June 30:** “The ‘Braver Angels’ Movement and Depolarization”, Jeffrey Vreeland

**Week 3 – July 7:** “Getting to Know Bishop Vincent 90+ Years After His Death”, Tim Binkley

**Week 4 – July 14:** “ ‘Saving Clare’ Fall Prevention”, Lisa Kearny

**Week 5 – July 21:** “A Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Alabama”, John & Liz Propst

**Week 6 – July 28:** “Litigating Against Prison Abuse”, James V. Cook, Esq.

**Week 7 – August 4:** “The Coptic Church and Egyptian Hieroglyphics—The Connection”, Kathy Singer

**Week 8 – August 11:** “Your Story Matters: Finding Hope and Connection through Sharing Our Stories”, Father Joseph Kovitch

**Week 9 – August 18:** “The Lost Art of Sentimental Hairwork”, Susan Doran ■

---

## President’s Message

*Continued from page 1*

### The King’s Daughters and Sons Clergy Renewal Scholarship

We are excited and very happy to have recently received a large donation from the International Order of The King’s Daughters and Sons. This scholarship allows us to provide gate passes, parking passes and ECOC housing for clergy persons wanting to experience Chautauqua or for renewal. Their spouse and children are welcome to join them, but their gate passes will not be included.

*On behalf of the ECOC board directors, employees, volunteers and patrons, please accept our best wishes for a wonderful 2025 summer, and we hope to see you at ECOC! ■*