

# Episcopal Cottage News

Fall 2023

## A Message From the Cottage Board President



**President  
Rick Schultz**

October was my first time to lead a Board meeting, and this will be my first "Message from the President." After ruminating and dawdling over what to say, I finally decided to just draft something and let Dr. Tamplin edit away as needed.

On a beautiful fall weekend in October, a dedicated group of volunteers met at the Cottage to close it for the winter. We had a full house and accomplished a lot in a short time. Thanks to all for making the journey to Chautauqua to put the Cottage into hibernation—until we all gather again in April to undo it all.

It has been a great year, and much has been accomplished. Glenn Chichester completely redesigned the front of the house with new plantings, which elicited favorable comments from many passersby on the Brick Walk. In addition, the host apartment and adjacent basement areas will be completed with a few finishing touches in the spring, thanks to Jim Porter.

Starting in 2024, a room will be completely updated each year while making needed improvements in other rooms. Toby Schermerhorn has offered to develop a master plan for the project. We have replaced six mattresses and will continue that process next year.

So far, we have met many of our Second Century Challenge goals but are only about half-way to our goal of \$90,000. We do a lot with the resources we have and hope to continue to receive the strong support of members and friends of the Cottage.

We especially thank our host, Catherine Davidson, and housekeeper, Mimi Forsell, for their hard work and ability to handle everything with such aplomb. One guest commented on how easy they make it look. We know it is not. Most of all, we thank our guests. As Catherine has witnessed, each week's guests create a slightly different atmosphere but always a positive one. They leave, eager to return next year.

One more thanks. When Jim and Linda Fryer noticed that our Episcopal flag in front of the Cottage was fading, they generously donated a beautiful new one that we hoisted near the end of the 2023 season.

Blessings as we near Christmas and the new year.

## In Memoriam



**Hugh Bond**

Hugh Bond, long-time guest and friend of the Episcopal Cottage, entered into Eternal Life on June 30, 2023. A lifelong resident of Virginia, Hugh was 91.

Hugh served on the Board of Directors of the Cottage as both President and Auditor. He and his wife, Anne, both gave unstintingly of their time, talents and resources to the sustenance and growth of the Cottage.

Most recently, Hugh and Anne subsidized ice cream for all of the residents of the Cottage for the entire season. That was just a sample of their generosity. The Cottage community is diminished with the loss of Hugh.

## Board of Directors 2023-2024

**Rick Schultz  
President**

**Jim Porter  
Vice President**

**Sallie Holder  
Vice President**

**Ginny Taylor  
Secretary**

**Sue Chichester  
Treasurer**

**Glenn Chichester**

**Bryan Gorney**

**Nancy Graham**

**Margie Muldoon**

**Joyce Norris**

**Toby  
Schermerhorn**

**Coleen Smith**

**John Tamplin**



**The Rev. Luke Fodor  
Vicar**

**Catherine Davidson  
Host**

**Mimi Forsell  
Housekeeper**



## Guest Survey Report By Glenn Chichester

We would like to thank all of our guests who completed a survey of their stay. Without guests' input, it is difficult for us to address problems and make improvements.

In the beginning of the 2023 season, we had difficulties with the WIFI. Mid-season we installed a new modem, and for the balance of the season we had no issues. We will continue to monitor our WIFI, which is important to our guests.

Since our house is over 100 years old, sticking doors and windows are an ongoing problem. Furthermore, the needed repair parts are no longer available. Because the Cottage is in the "Historic District," replacing windows is not an easy process. We must get approval from the Institution for historically accurate window replacements, which are very expensive. We are currently in the process of discovering how to proceed with the replacements.

Numerous comments about guest rooms included broken window shades, poor lighting, and fan bulbs not working. Our plan is to brighten them with new paint, window treatments, improved sinks and improved functionality of the rooms.

In the spring we will be updating one room with all other rooms to follow. Suggested improvements to the main hall baths will be addressed next spring as well.

We encourage our guests to address room issues with the host so that we can make your stay as comfortable as possible. Thank you for your thoughts and comments.

### Room Reservations

Priority Applications  
are accepted  
October 1—15.  
The application can be  
found at  
[episcopalcottage.com](http://episcopalcottage.com)

## Episcopal Cottage Welcomes New Host



Catherine Davidson

The Episcopal Cottage is very pleased to welcome Catherine Davidson as the new host. Catherine was born in Toronto and holds dual U. S. and Canadian citizenship. After graduating from the University of Toronto, she went on to receive a graduate degree in Communications from the University of Minnesota.

Catherine's husband of forty years passed away in 2017. In 2021 Catherine retired as a writer and research editor for Columbia, Cornell and Carnegie Mellon Universities but continues to work as a consultant on writing projects.

After her retirement, Catherine was employed as a seasonal staff member by Back Country Lodge, Glacier National Park, Montana, and by the Marine Biology Research Lab in coastal New Hampshire. These two staff positions allowed her to hone her skills in cooking and guest relations.

Catherine has been coming to Chautauqua since 2012 and has been a guest at the Cottage for numerous seasons. In May of 2023, she moved from Pittsburgh to Ormond Beach, Florida, to be near her daughter and her family. She currently attends St. James' Episcopal Church in Ormond Beach.

The Cottage Community is thrilled to have Catherine as its new host. Her competence and pleasant and calming demeanor are a joy for the entire Cottage Community.

Welcome, Catherine!



## Treasurer's Report By Susan Chichester

The Fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, found guest applications for the Episcopal Cottage slowly approaching pre-pandemic numbers. Likewise, the investments are slowly making a recovery from the 2022 market downturn. As a result, the Cottage ended with a positive net income. Operating income supported our operating expenses.

The friends and guests of the Episcopal Cottage have been very generous with their donations to the Second Century Challenge Fund. The Second Century Challenge funds allowed the Board to complete some large ticket items such as the Mitsubishi units on the second floor and the host apartment. Further donations will be necessary to complete the balance of the improvements.



### Policy Reminder



Visitors and guests of the Cottage are reminded that the Cottage is not handicapped accessible and that it is Board policy that **children** under the age of 18, **pets** and **smoking** are not permitted.

Thank You

## Thank You!

### Second Century Challenge Benefactors

Janet and Jack Newall  
The Rev. Mary Friel  
The Rev. David and Diane Noves  
Alice A. O'Brien-Bolts  
Dr. John C. Tamplin  
Brenda Smith  
Virginia Cox  
Joyce Norris  
Howard and Lillian Gondree  
Isabel Hodgkin  
Victoria Baldwin-Bauer  
Richard Schultz  
Marjorie T. Gingell  
Catherine Davidson  
The Rt. Rev. Bill and Isabelle Hockin  
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The Rev. Margaret Bates  
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Mary McFee  
Anne McIntosh  
Sharon Siwec & Donald Foxworthy  
John W. Baner III  
The Rt. Rev. Walter Brownridge  
Mary Lou McFate  
Richard and Cynthia Greenlee

**Through your generosity, the Second Century  
Challenge Fund is now at  
\$49,038.00**

If your name is not on the list and you would like it to be, please use the donor form and envelope included in this newsletter to send in your gift. By accepting the Second Century Challenge, you are helping to ensure the continued mission of the Episcopal Cottage as it continues its ministry of hospitality into its second century.

### Institution Announces Lecture Series Themes for 2024 Season

**Week 1 June 22-29**

The Evolution of the Modern Presidency

**Week 2 June 29-July 6**

The AI Revolution

**Week 3 July 6-13**

What We Got Wrong: Learning from Our Mistakes

**Week 4 July 13-20**

Eight Billion and Counting: The Future of Humankind in a Crowded World

**Week 5 July 20-27**

Our Greatest Challenges (That We Can Actually Do Something About)

**Week 6 July 27-August 3**

Exploring the Transformative Power of Music with Renee Fleming

**Week 7 August 3-10**

Wonder and Awe

**Week 8 August 10-17**

Water Crisis, Beauty and Necessity

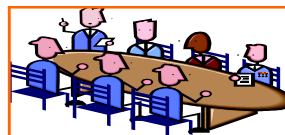
**Week 9 August 17-24**

Rising Together: Our Century of Creativity and Collaboration with Wynton Marsalis

### Episcopal Cottage News Mission Statement

Episcopal Cottage News is a biannual newsletter published after the spring and fall meetings of the Board of Directors. It seeks to keep the members and friends of the Episcopal Cottage of Chautauqua, in the words of Mary Taylor, "apprised of what is transpiring at the Cottage as well as the needs of the Cottage to ensure its future as a vital part of the Chautauqua scene."

As such, EC News welcomes your contributions to this publication. Please send your news items to John Tamplin, Editor, 4765 Scott Drive, Hermitage, PA 16148, or email them to: [welshman1828@yahoo.com](mailto:welshman1828@yahoo.com).



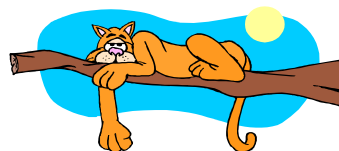
#### Upcoming Board Meetings

April 26-27, 2024

August 25, 2024

October 11-12, 2024

#### Off-Season Events at the Cottage



The Cottage is now available for retreats and private rentals during both the spring and fall seasons. To make a reservation, contact The Episcopal Cottage at [www.episcopalcottagel.com](http://www.episcopalcottagel.com)

## An Opportunity to Help the Episcopal Cottage...



Yes, I would like to take this opportunity to support the ongoing mission of the Episcopal Cottage of Chautauqua. I understand that the Cottage is not supported by any organization, parish or diocese and that it needs my help to continue its ministry of hospitality, which it has provided for more than one hundred years.

I am pleased to enclose my tax-deductible gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the maintenance and sustenance of the Episcopal Cottage.

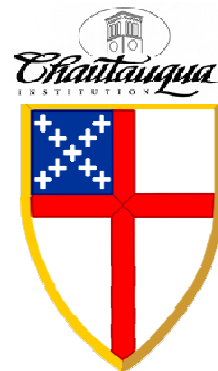
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and return this form to Mrs. Susan Chichester, Treasurer  
1405 Spring Lake Drive, Erie, PA 16505, U.S.A.  
(Checks payable to "The Episcopal Cottage of Chautauqua, Inc.")



The Episcopal Cottage of Chautauqua is a non-profit 501c3 organization. All gifts to the Episcopal Cottage of Chautauqua, Inc. are appreciated and are deductible to the full extent of the law.