Inside:
- Mennonite Conference Histories Featured
- Library Recent Acquisitions
- Discovering Hispanic Mennonites

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Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (USPS 882-020)
2215 Millstream Road,
Lancaster, PA 17602-1499

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society thanks these generous business supporters:
The Power of Remembering: Experience Annual Storytelling Night

Connie Stauffer and Mamo Dula will share during Annual Storytelling Night at 7 PM on Monday, September 14, at Ridgeview Mennonite Church.

“Humans simply can’t resist a good story,” says Phyllis Good, moderator of Annual Storytelling Night. “They go along with whatever’s being told—if it’s well told and truthful.”

Good stories are served up during the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society’s fifth Annual Storytelling Night. Each person tells seven stories, each being no more than four minutes long. This year features Connie Stauffer and Mamo Dula.

“The disciplined length, and that number of stories, results in the audience experiencing sort of a sweep of two lives,” explains Good.

Connie Stauffer was born in Lancaster County but grew up near Hershey, Pennsylvania. She was reared at the Hummelstown Brethren in Christ Church and attended first Derry Township School and then Kraybill Mennonite. She graduated from Lancaster Mennonite High School in 1955. After graduating, she married Harold S. Stauffer, to whom she was married for fifty years before his death in 2008.

Stauffer served with the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, first in New York City from 1958 to 1960, and in Somalia from 1961 to 1965. She received a B.S. and Masters in Elementary Education from Millersville University, as well as principal certification from Penn State University, which she put to use over thirty years in the Pequea Valley School District. Stauffer attends East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church.

Mamo Dula was born and reared in Ethiopia on a subsistence farm. He vigorously pursued an education, attending first the Presbyterian Mission Elementary School, Nazareth Hospital Dresser Bible School, Nazareth Bible Academy, Haile Selassie University, Goshen College, Temple University School of Pharmacy, and the College of Saint Francis.

He worked at St. Joseph Hospital as assistant director of pharmacy and later as director of pharmacy at Masonic Village. With his wife, Mary Ellen, Dula has two adult sons, Andrew and Peter, and four grandchildren.

Reflecting on moderating five years of storytelling, Good says, “I’m always grateful for the storytellers’ vulnerability. Audiences can detect authenticity, and that’s usually coupled strongly with vulnerability on the part of the storytellers. The experience of hearing good stories usually leads members of the audience to remembering—and then telling—their own stories. There’s often a good flow of energy between the storytellers and the audience, because the storytellers are willing to speak from their hearts.”

This year’s Annual Storytelling Night will take place at 7 PM on Monday, September 14, at Ridgeview Mennonite Church, 3723 Ridge Road, Gordonville, Pa. The evening is free and open to the public.
Not all Lancaster County Mennonites are Swiss-German—they come from a broad swath of nationalities and ethnicities. Beginning in the late 1940s, Puerto Ricans migrated to different areas in the United States, including Lancaster, and worked on the farms during the summers. While working in the fields, some were exposed to the Mennonite faith and made it their own.

Learn about the experience of Hispanic Mennonites in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, with a field trip sponsored by the Society on Saturday, October 31. The tour runs 8 AM to 4 PM and showcases the experiences, settings, and stories of those initial immigrants.

The Hispanic Mennonite tradition is still alive today, as there are currently three Hispanic Mennonite congregations in Lancaster County. Ramona Rivera Santiago explains, “It is important that Hispanics are recognized as part of the Mennonite church.”

The tour will give people an insight to what life was like for the Puerto Rican people. Participants will go to a farm that the migrants worked on and churches that they attended. Descendants of Puerto Rican workers and Mennonite farmers will be present to tell first-hand experiences of what happened when the Hispanic migrants first arrived. Hispanic Mennonite culture will also be featured with a program of music and food, provided by the El Buen Pastor congregation of Lancaster.

The tour is led by Santiago, Joanne Hess Siegrist, and Miriam Gonzalez Lauver. In addition to stories from these leaders, it also features numerous guest speakers who will share from their personal experience.

The tour costs $50 for Society members and $60 for nonmembers; registration is due October 20. Claim your spot online at lmhs.org, by calling the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, (717) 393-9745, or by using the form on the opposite page.

Recent Acquisitions

Religion/Theology

- Carpenter, Steven P. Mennonites and media: mentioned in it, maligned by it, and makers of it: how Mennonites have been portrayed in media and how they have shaped media. Wipf & Stock, 2015 (BV652.95.C37 2015)

Biography/Genealogy

- Mann, Robert T. Our Thuma tribe: ancestors and relatives of Frank and Fanny Thuma. [Robert T. Mann], 2014 (CS71.T5345 2014)
- Mummau, Judith Geissinger. The life and ministry of Adam and Alta Eshenshade. [Judy Mummau], 2012 (BX8143.E81 M86 2012)

Miscellaneous

The next auction of rare and used books will occur on Friday, September 11, from 6 to 9:30 PM.

This sale includes two copies of John L. Ruth’s *The Earth Is the Lord’s*.

Another significant conference history is *Building on the Gospel Foundation* by Burdge and Horst, a history of the Mennonites in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and Washington County, Maryland.

Two sets of *Mennonite Encyclopedia*, one five-volume, and one four-volume, will be sold.

Family history buffs will notice the sale of the comprehensive *Hess Genealogy* in very good condition.

The sale also includes the first English-language *Martyrs Mirror* published in Lampeter in 1837 and a three-volume set of Strassburger’s *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*.

Those interested in twentieth-century Mennonites will take note of two books about Daniel Kauffman, “Life and Times of Daniel Kauffman,” and “Fifty Years in the Mennonite Church.”

The entire sale catalog can be accessed at lmhs.org or by calling (717) 393-9745. Mail-in bids are accepted through 4 PM, Thursday, September 10. No absentee bids under $10 will be accepted.

Field Trip Registration

Hispanic Mennonites of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania: October 31, $50 members, $60 nonmembers; includes one meal. Registration due October 20.

My check is payable to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

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History and the Global Community of Faith

**Rolando Santiago, Executive Director**

During the week of July 21-26, I joined over 7,000 Anabaptists from 65 countries to attend the sixteenth Mennonite World Conference (MWC) Assembly in Harrisburg, PA. There was no doubt that the energetic music, inspiring talks, enlightening workshops, captivating learning tours, intricate displays, and an active social media defined a celebrative mood for this gathering of global Anabaptists. For a taste of this celebration, visit [https://www.mwc-cmm.org/](https://www.mwc-cmm.org/).

In the aftermath of the Assembly, a question keeps coming to my mind: how are the histories of each Anabaptist person and their community of faith around the globe related to my own family history and my own community of faith?

To answer this complex question, I find it helpful to frame it within the ecological approach to world history as articulated by William McNeill in an article originally published in 2003, “An Emerging Consensus about World History?” McNeill says, “we can hope to understand our unique history within the world as a whole by concentrating on the web of communication that sustains every social group, but also seeps across all linguistic and cultural boundaries of the entire globe.”

I saw this “web of communication” at work during the MWC Assembly. Let me give two examples.

Daniel Oyanguren, pastor of the Mennonite congregation in the city of General Villegas, Argentina, asked me where he could find information about the origins of his congregation. I asked my mother, as she grew up the child of Mennonite missionaries in Argentina. To my surprise, she told me that my grandfather, Timothy H. Brenneman, held the first worship services at General Villegas in 1942. Through Facebook, I am continuing to interact with Daniel, sending photos and information my mother has collected.

Also, the recent Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe and North America volumes of the Global Mennonite History Series, sold online (www.lmhs.org) and at the MWC bookstore run by the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, is a wonderful way to discover the Anabaptist web of communication. Who knows, you may uncover in this Series linkages between your own family history and the history of the global Anabaptist community of faith!