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

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Pennsylvania German Folk Art Sale Opens

Looking for a gift for the holidays? Pick up art with local character at the Pennsylvania German Folk Art Sale this fall at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. The sale begins with an opening reception from 6 to 8:30 pm on Friday, November 20. The reception will feature an opportunity to meet the artists, see demonstrations, enjoy refreshments, and listen to music.

Twenty-one local artists will display their wares, covering a broad swath of traditional art forms originating in the communities of Swiss and German immigrants to Pennsylvania. This includes fraktur, a “broken” method of lettering originally developed to illuminate manuscripts; redware, low-fired ceramics made with red clay; and scherenschnitte, intricate patterns and scenes cut out of paper. There will also be painted boxes, including traditional patterns and those featuring false graining; hand-woven textiles; and hand-quilted wall hangings. In addition to utilitarian offerings, some have a touch of whimsy, such as hand-carved wooden birds.

Two artists will display their methods during the opening reception. Willa Beidler, a fourteen-year-old weaver, will demonstrate spinning angora wool right off a live rabbit. Emily Smucker-Beidler will be demonstrating how to fold paper Moravian ornaments for the young and young at heart to take home with them.

Director Rolando Santiago notes: “The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society is honored to support the fascinating art of local Pennsylvania German folk artists. When you take a continued on p. 2

How in the World Have We Changed?

A panel of Brethren in Christ and Mennonite leaders will tackle major shifts in the Anabaptist world community over the last fifty years. They will also discuss what it means to be an Anabaptist today. The event will take place on Monday, November 9, 7 pm, at the Lancaster Brethren in Christ Church, 1865 Fruitville Pike, Lancaster, Pa.

Harriet Sider Bicksler, the editor for the Brethren in Christ Historical Society, will moderate a group of panelists who will articulate the major shifts in the Anabaptist communion of churches in the last half-century.

Samuel López, administrator of the Concilio de Iglesias Mennonitas Hispanas of Lancaster Mennonite Conference, will explain how Anabaptist churches in the global South are taking the lead in missional efforts across the world.

Leonard Dow, Lancaster Mennonite Conference bishop in Philadelphia, will identify ways in which indigenous urban Anabaptists are leading a worldwide movement among Anabaptist churches to become salt and light in the city.

Emerson Lesher, president of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society board, will share about historic relationships the Brethren in Christ Church has developed in the evangelical Christian world in the last five decades and a new impulse among many Christian denominations to embrace Anabaptist values.

Alain Epp Weaver, director of the planning and learning department at Mennonite Central Committee, will help the audience understand how international service and mission agencies have partnered with Anabaptist churches across the world to become an impactful witness to God’s kingdom of peace, justice, and hope.

Rolando Santiago, director of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, explains that “this event will provide a space to take note of the impact that the sixteenth Assembly of Mennonite World Conference (MWC), held this past July in Harrisburg, had on the Anabaptist community of south central Pennsylvania.”

The audience will also enjoy singing songs from the MWC Assembly songbook that were popular at the July Assembly.

The event is cosponsored with the Brethren in Christ Historical Society.
Christmas Candlelight

Experience a historic Christmas with the 1719 Hans Herr House & Museum. This year’s Christmas Candlelight Tours focuses on the role of iron in Pennsylvania German and Native society. Guided by lantern light and conveyed by a horse-drawn covered wagon, the tour will cover the grounds, including the Lancaster Longhouse and the 1835 Shaub House.

During the tour, the hearth will be flaming to demonstrate the waffle iron and the gridiron. The blacksmith’s shop will be open, and the role of the ironmaster will be discussed. The evening will conclude in the Herr House’s Stube with a reading of the Christmas story from Luke 2 and singing “Silent Night” in German.

Following the tours, participants are invited to linger around the fire for hot chocolate and pretzels. Herr House smoked sausage will be available for purchase.

This annual celebration runs the evenings of December 3, 4, and 5. Tickets cost $10 for adults, $5 for children between seven and twelve, and free for children six and under. Tours run from 6 to 8 pm on Thursday, December 3, and Friday, December 4; they run from 5 to 8:30 pm on Saturday, December 5.

Advance registration is required. Tickets can be purchased at www.hansherr.org or by calling (717) 464-4438. Participants should dress for the weather and plan to walk throughout the evening as a large portion of the Herr House property will be covered.


Recent Acquisitions

Religion/Theology


Biography/Genealogy


History


Yoder, Sanford Calvin. The Amish in Wright County. State Historical Society of Iowa, 1962 (BX8117.I6 Y63 1962)

Literature

Evans, Elrena. This crowded night and other stories. DreamSeeker Books, 2011 (PS3605.V3649 T45 2011)

Your Partnership with History

Rolando L. Santiago, Executive Director

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society has a special need for your support right now. Will you partner with us to reach a $75,000 goal to balance the 2015 budget by the end of the year? With your help, we can do it. The campaign thermometer already shows $4,369 toward this goal.

Why should you support Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society?

First, its dynamic educational programs. In 2015, the Society organized over fifty programs for churches, schools and the community at large, together with the 1719 Hans Herr House and Museum and the Lancaster Longhouse.

Second, its safe spaces for people to tell their stories. At a time when divisive issues threaten to fragment beloved church communities, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society organizes interpretive events to reflect, learn, heal, and build community. The educational programs with Native American, immigrant, and Plain communities are just some examples.

Third, it supports staff. In the last three years, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society has committed to increasing wages of staff members to reward their efforts fairly as they meet high job expectations.

Please complete the donation form on this page, and mail it to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602. All funds will go toward this budget initiative. Your contribution is fully tax-deductible, and you will receive a receipt for your gift.

As you give, you join Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society members, congregations, church conferences and businesses that give to the Society year after year to support the mission to “preserve and interpret the culture and context of Anabaptist-related faith communities connected to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.”

We are deeply grateful for generous contributions you can share with the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society!

German Books Featured in November 13 Auction

Bibles, New Testaments, hymnbooks, devotional books, Martyrs’ Mirrors and other old German books add special interest to the November 13, Book Auction.

Included are a 1795 Das Neue Testament published in Germantown, a 1785 Auswähl also published in Germantown, an 1808 Unpartheysische Gesangbuch, a 1718 Lobwasser Hymnal, an 1811 Ehebriefen, and an 1814 German Martyrs’ Mirror, published in Lancaster, plus many others. Also listed in the sale is a 1619 Dutch New Testament in good condition.

This auction, as well as the next three, will include books from the collection of the late Wilmer Swope. Hymnbooks from various denominations and other devotional books are included in the Swope Collection.

Other books listed are a copy of The Earth is The Lord’s and another Mennonite history book, Mifflin County Amish and Mennonite Story, 1791-1991, by Duane Kauffman.

Lancaster County historians should take note of Ellis & Evans history in good condition. There are books on many subjects including railroads from the steam engine era, a bound volume of Steam Railway, issues 93-104,(1988).

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, November 12. No absentee bids under $10 will be accepted.

Extraordinary Give

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society invites donations for its Lancaster Longhouse of the eastern woodland Indians at the 1719 Hans Herr House & Museum.

The Lancaster Longhouse serves as an educational tool for interpreting accurately the history, culture and current life of Native American peoples of Lancaster County and beyond. Almost 6,000 visitors to the Lancaster Longhouse were educated last year.

Support the Lancaster Longhouse by giving on November 20 during the Extraordinary Give by going to extragive.org and searching for “Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society” or going directly to https://extragive.org/#npo/lancaster-mennonite-historical-society