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Would you be willing to volunteer with the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society? There are literally dozens of opportunities to consider.

We have had lots of faithful volunteers for many years, but we need to keep adding younger ones. Any able-bodied persons between ages twelve and 112 are invited to consider helping at the headquarters on Millstream Road, Lancaster, or at the 1719 Herr House near Willow Street.

- Weed/trim flower beds
- Rake leaves in the fall
- Paint inside and outside
- Do general maintenance
- Deliver recyclables to MCC Material Resource Center monthly
- Assist with general office work
- Research/scan/list items for online book sales
- Usher at one of our public events
- Assist in setting up the annual Bookworm Frolic
- Help sort books in preparation for the Bookworm Frolic
- Help to stuff the many mailings throughout the year
- Serve as guide for our Museum of Mennonite and Amish Culture
- Substitute as tour guide at the Native American Longhouse
- Substitute as tour guide at the 1719 Herr House
- Assist with Music in the Orchard
- Help with gardening at the 1719 Herr House
- Assist with Christmas Candlelight Tours

If you are interested in volunteering, call (717) 393-9745 or email Dorothy Siegrist at manager@lmhs.org.

Trip to Puerto Rico: Island of Enchantment

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society will sponsor a five-day tour to Puerto Rico from Thursday, October 20, to Monday, October 24. Cost per person is $1,975. Price of the tour includes airfare, motor coach, lodging, seven meals, and site tours. For those flying with the group, the tour is limited to thirty persons.

A $500 deposit is required by June 1, and full payment, by August 5. Interested persons can register at www.lmhs.org or by calling 717-393-9745. An itinerary is available at www.lmhs.org. Those who register by June 1 will receive a free copy of a recently published book of stories, *Mennonite Memories of Puerto Rico*.

One full day will focus on visiting Mennonite-related educational, health, agricultural, and church institutions in the Aibonito area, where Mennonites first arrived in 1943. The tour will also feature visits to a botanical and cultural garden, a sixteenth-century fort in Old San Juan, El Yunque rainforest, a bioluminescent bay, the Museum of Art of Ponce, a seventeenth-century chapel in San Germán, a picturesque lighthouse in the southeast corner of the island, and more.

Rolando Santiago, executive director of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, will serve as lead tour guide; he was born in Puerto Rico and spent twenty years of his early life on the island.

He notes that “participants will enjoy popular attractions on the island and will also learn about the rich history of Puerto Rico, with an emphasis on more than seventy years of Puerto Rican Mennonite influence on the economic, social, and religious life of the island.”

Local guides and storytellers will illustrate specific aspects of Mennonite work such as the history of the large Mennonite health system founded by Civilian Public Service workers in 1944. They will also tell about the impact of Mennonites on Puerto Rican agriculture, especially the poultry business. They will also feature the story of Academia Menonita Betania, a school started by missionaries in 1947. Participants will also hear stories about Puerto Rican Mennonite church life.

Puerto Rico was under Spanish rule from the early 1500s until 1898, when Spain ceded Puerto Rico to the United States during the Spanish American War. Tourists are increasingly traveling to the island because of its tropical beauty. At the same time many local residents are migrating to the United States as a result of a decade-long contraction of its economy.

Volunteers Needed

Goossen to Present

At the height of the second World War, one fourth of all Mennonites in the world lived under Nazi rule. Examining for the first time the profound implications of this encounter for the global Mennonite church, Harvard historian Ben Goossen traces the entanglement of Anabaptist and Aryan ideologies before, during, and after Hitler’s Third Reich in his presentation “In Our Blood: Nazism, MCC, and the Invention of Mennonite Ethnicity.” Goosen will share his findings in a public meeting on Friday, May 20, at Ridgeview Mennonite Church, 3723 Ridge Road, Gordonville, Pa.
Amish Educational Series

In cooperation with Garden Spot Village, the Historical Society has organized an Amish educational series on the theme of “Funerals, Forgiveness, and the Media,” to be held at 7:00 p.m. at Garden Spot Village chapel on three Thursday evenings in April and May. The chapel is located at 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland, Pennsylvania.

The first evening, April 14, will focus on “Amish Burials: Beliefs and Practices.” Philip Furman of Furman Home for Funerals will describe Amish funeral practices as a result of many years of partnership with the Amish community, and an Amish historian will reflect on Amish history and beliefs about burials.

On May 5 the theme will be “Forgiveness and Healing: Ten Years after the Nickel Mines Shootings.” An Amish couple whose children were victims of the 2006 shooting will reflect on lessons of forgiveness and healing and the impact this incident had on their families, the local Amish community, and the wider Lancaster County region. Herman Bontrager, secretary-treasurer of the National Committee for Amish Religious Freedom, will serve as moderator for the evening.

The final evening, May 12, will center on “Amish and the Media” with presenter Diane Zimmerman Umble, dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Millersville University. She will discuss how the Amish manage increasing interaction with the media and at the same time maintain integrity with long-standing values of their faith community.

Open to the public, the sessions are designed to create awareness among non-Amish about beliefs and practices of Amish regarding burials, lessons learned about forgiveness and healing as a result of the Nickel Mines shootings, and interactions with the media in today’s world.

Hershey Family Donates Fraktur

Recently Hiram R. and Mary Jane Lederach Hershey, Mennonite collectors of Harleysville, Pennsylvania, donated to the Historical Society a rare eighteen-volume 1789-98 pictorial encyclopedia and twelve pieces of fraktur, mostly related to Mennonite and Amish families or artists in the Lancaster County area. Several items came from Hiram’s East Petersburg Hershey family line, and some were purchased at auctions over the years.

Two bookplates by Lancaster County Amish folk artist Barbara Ebersol, a dwarf, include a double cross-stitch-flowers design (1863) and a colorful tulip (1874), respectively. A book by an unknown artist contains a bookplate for Catharine Hershey in 1845. In 1873 Reuben Byer, probably a schoolboy, made a specimen painting of a pear on a branch.

Five stylistically similar paintings of names and/or words on blue-lined notebook paper indicate connections to the Landis or Risser families.

An exquisite Vorschrift (writing sample) by an unknown teacher and three small rewards of merit, one dated 1792 and the others undated but obviously by the same hand and time period, exhibit fine artistic ability and careful penmanship. Another beautiful Vorschrift, made by or for Jacob Hostetter in 1803, may have been owned by the later Manheim area Mennonite Bishop Jacob Hostetter (1774-1865), a distant relative of donor Hiram Hershey. Included is a 1946 Pennypacker auction brochure of the estate of antiques collector Mrs. Albert (Ida) Hostetter, where Hiram’s mother, Adele Hostetter Hershey, purchased it.

Two other fraktur items in this gift include a probably European baptismal certificate (1726) for a Hans Schmiet and a bookplate by Charles E. Muench for Anna Maria Krum of Sheafferstown, then Dauphin County, but now Lebanon County.

According to museum curator Carolyn C. Wenger, “we are thrilled to receive these mostly local items, which augment our holdings of Mennonite and Amish folk art to share with researchers and the public. The Hersheys have been wonderful caretakers of this family collection and generous donors to us in the past as well in returning similar types of artifacts to their home area.”
Should Anabaptists Influence Evangelicals
Rolando L. Santiago, Executive Director

At the risk of overgeneralizing, I would say that most Mennonites in the United States consider themselves evangelicals. They embrace evangelicalism’s basic tenets regardless of ethnic background. In her 2014 book *Apostles of Reason: The Crisis of Authority in American Evangelicalism*, Dr. Molly Worthen summarizes these tenets in “[t]hree questions that unite evangelicals: how to reconcile faith and reason; how to know Jesus; and how to act publicly on faith [p. 6].”

Consistent with Dr. Worthen’s historical account of evangelicalism, the current debates on whether same-sex relationships are sinful illustrate how evangelical Mennonites seek to reconcile faith and reason. Many of them apply reason to explain how God is sovereign and how God’s words in Scripture are inerrant, reflecting God’s perfection. If Scripture passages state that same-sex relationships are sinful, then this is God’s truth.

My experience growing up among evangelical Mennonites in Puerto Rico shows how one Mennonite went about knowing Jesus. To this day, I value my spiritual conversion. As a child, I asked Jesus to transform my heart, thoughts, and actions. Later, I also asked Jesus for courage to meet his expectations: to love enemies, feed the hungry, and free the oppressed.

Evangelical Mennonites act publicly on their faith in different ways. Some write letters to Congress, seeking to change policies on far-ranging issues from healthcare to human trafficking. Others prefer to reach out within their own communities, whether it is through one-on-one evangelism, sharing with prisoners the good news of Jesus’ power to transform their lives, or any other way.

Most Mennonites also value their Anabaptist heritage. They emphasize a commitment to practice a Christ-centered faith in areas of discipleship, community, and peace. They seek to be authentic followers of Jesus.

On March 17, at the Schrag lecture of the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College, Dr. Worthen challenged Anabaptists to influence evangelicals, especially evangelical millennials and leaders receptive to Anabaptism.

I like to think that evangelical Anabaptists have much to contribute to evangelicalism: loving others through acts of service, following Jesus daily, and dismantling violence and injustice through peacemaking.

Family Bibles Featured at May 13 Book Auction
By David L. Sauder

Eight family Bibles will be sold at the May 13, 2016, auction of rare, out-of-print, and used books. Persons interested in Juniata County genealogy will find a Brubaker-Auker Bible. Other family-Bible names include Kauffman, Kerst-Schall, Metz-Herr, Cornman-Hazleton, Mellinger, Stoltzfus-Smoker, and Stoner-Bower. Several other old Bibles for sale include one bought by David S. Beiler in 1856 and one owned by Solomon Brubaker (1835-1930). Genealogies will again be featured, including the comprehensive *Branch of the Zimmerman Offspring* and the 1896 Hess genealogy.

Two five-volume sets of the *Mennonite Encyclopedia* will be sold. Historians will be interested in numbers of books on Maryland and Virginia history as well as local histories of Lancaster County towns. Of special note is a 1745 *Goldene Apfel in silbern Schalen*, printed in Ephrata. Another significant book is *Biographical Annals of Lancaster County*. There are also bound volumes of *Pennsylvania Dutchman* and *Pennsylvania Folklife*.

The sale includes three china plates featuring the town of Paradise, Pennsylvania; Leacock Presbyterian Church; and Hawley Memorial Presbyterian Church. Catalogs can be purchased and can also be accessed online at www.lmhs.org.

Recent Acquisitions

**Religion/Theology**


**Biography/Genealogy**
Brubaker, Joan F. Schreck. The Brubakers, then and now: Joan Brubaker?, 2016 (CS71.B886 2016)


Witmer, Dennis Andrew. Florence G. Ely and her Drew family. [Dennis A. Witmer], 2015 (CS69 .W576 2015)

**History**
LeRoy, David H. Roadside survivors: historic milestones on the old turnpikes and post roads of the Northeast. [David H. LeRoy], 2015 (F106.1.L47 2015)


**Miscellaneous**
