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We need your help. For us to continue our many historical services and future-oriented projects, we need your support now:
• Keeping our Archives and Library current and available to many researchers in person, by e-mail, and online;
• Offering dozens of public programs, reaching thousands of persons—from music events, to craft demonstrations and classes, to life stories;
• Publishing a highly respected historical magazine, Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, which thousands read and discuss;
• Sponsoring thoughtful but accessible lectures and discussions on the history of our various people groups and cultures;
• Preserving hundreds of thousands of documents and artifacts in state-of-the-art systems for years to come.

Send donations to 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster PA 17602 or online at www.lmhs.org/donate.

Anabaptist History Now Shared Online

The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society is pleased to support Anabaptist Historians: Bringing the Anabaptist Past into a Digital Century, a collaborative blog by Anabaptist scholars. Its mission is to share cutting-edge scholarship with a broad readership, to foster relationships between scholars of Anabaptism, and to encourage debates on critical issues in contemporary Anabaptist faith and life.
www.AnabaptistHistorians.org

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

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Another “Great Night of Music” Planned

The popular Annual Music Night, sponsored by the Historical Society each year, is slated for Saturday evening, January 28, 2017, 7 PM, at Neffsville Mennonite Church.

This event launches a whole year of dozens of programs, classes, concerts, and events as part of Lancaster Roots 2017.

In the tradition of involving a variety of excellent Mennonite groups and individuals, this year’s Music Night features these highlights:

Men with a Song, a much-loved male chorus of about thirty voices under the direction of Dwilyn Beiler. Men with a Song began in 2009 and is composed of singers from numerous conservative Mennonite congregations in Lancaster, Chester, Lebanon, and Berks Counties.

John Bucher Herr, Verdi baritone from Holtwood, will be performing several solos, accompanied by Rosemary Siegrist Blessing of Lancaster. Herr has performed in operas, oratorios, and recitals during a long career. He has also performed at Carnegie Hall.

Mindy Nolt and Jared Hankee, a wife/husband team from Lancaster who perform folk, Americana, and spiritual music together, much of it original compositions written by Mindy. They have performed widely in many settings.

Women’s Ensemble from Mennonite Heritage Chorale. This is the only group that also appeared in last year’s Music Night and is back by popular demand. A group of eight accomplished singers delivers a lifting, touching sound.

Lively congregational singing will be led by Merle Good of Lancaster.

Tickets for the Annual Music Night can be purchased online by going to www.lmhs.org. They can also be ordered by calling (717) 393-9745. Tickets are $22.

This event is a fundraiser for Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society to support the many services it offers through its public programs, through its library and archives, its publications, its online services, and through its ministries of energizing our past as an insight into our present and future.

Roll Over Your IRA, and Save Taxes

Have you considered blessing Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society by making a tax-free gift from your IRA through a charitable roll-over (up to $100,000 per year permitted)?

This satisfies the annual required minimum distribution for IRAs after you are age 70½. We benefit, you benefit, your heirs benefit. Win, win!

For more information, contact us at PlannedGiving@lmhs.org.
2017 Folk Art Classes at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

A Taste for Fraktur (Fraktur I)
February 4, 9 AM to 12 PM
Class taught by Emily Smucker Beidler

Fraktur is a distinctly American folk art dating back to the mid-1700s and was an important part of Pennsylvania German culture. This class includes a presentation on fraktur with special emphasis on its role in Mennonite culture and demonstration of the use of ink and watercolor. Students will spend time creating their own small fraktur piece. The class will focus on the imagery of fraktur rather than calligraphy. A starter kit is included in the tuition fee. No previous experience is required.

$70 members, $80 nonmembers; registration due January 28

Grain Painting
February 18, 9 AM to 12 PM
Class taught by Jim King

Learn how to add the rich look of wood to your next project with false graining techniques in this folk-art class, taught by Jim King. Students will paint a small box with ball feet.

$70 members, $80 nonmembers; registration due February 11

Plush-Work Wool Embroidery
February 11, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM
Class taught by Anne Hermes

In this workshop, taught by Anne Hermes, students will study examples of antique and vintage plush work and learn how to stitch and trim/plush a plush-work design. Plush work, also known as stump-work or tufted-wool embroidery, is done by stitching with wool yarn over a tin template. The finished piece can be stitched into a small pillow or pin cushion. Student must bring a seven-to-eight-inch embroidery hoop and a pair of small, sharp embroidery scissors. Lunch is not included with this class.

$70 members, $80 nonmembers; registration due February 4

The Illuminated Letter (Fraktur II)
February 25, 9 AM to 12 PM
Class taught by Emily Smucker Beidler

Fraktur II will focus on learning lettering and calligraphy within the context and history of fraktur. You will learn to use a nib pen and India ink. Beidler will also discuss modern adaptations of fraktur calligraphy. A materials kit is included. There will also be pens and bottled ink for participants to use during the workshop.

$70 members, $80 nonmembers; registration due February 18

Advanced Fraktur Workshop
February 4 and 25, 8 AM to 12 PM

Get another opportunity to continue creating fraktur; available only to those who have taken both Fraktur I and II workshops. Bring along your supplies. You will be provided with a new piece of Bristol Board, tracing paper, and access to all the visual resources. Receive one-on-one help from 8 to 9 AM and continue working throughout the morning while Smucker-Beidler teaches the Fraktur I or II workshop.

$35 per session; registration due January 28 or February 18

Folk Art Class Registration

Take all four classes (marked with a *), and save $10 per class.

* A Taste for Fraktur (Fraktur I), February 4, $70 members, $80 nonmembers; register by January 28.

Advanced Fraktur Workshop, February 4, $35; register by January 28.

* Plush-Work Wool Embroidery, February 11, $70 members, $80 nonmembers; register by February 4.

* Grain Painting, February 18, $70 members, $80 nonmembers; register by February 11.

* The Illuminated Letter (Fraktur II), February 25, $70 members, $80 nonmembers; register by February 18.

Advanced Fraktur Workshop, February 25, $35; register by February 18.

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Discerning the Times through Historical Thinking
Rolando Santiago, director

We live in an information age where some media outlets thrive on deceiving people with fake news. In the world of politics, many hunger for security, authoritative leadership, and a color-blind society. In the midst of all this, Christians find it easier to believe in the purity of doctrinal truth than to practice Jesus’ sacrificial love in daily life.

How do we apply “the mind of Christ” to discern challenging times?

In the April 2014 issue of the Mirror, I suggested that a historical project becomes meaningful when one employs the skills of historical thinking. These are the same skills that help us discern our times.

What were these historical thinking skills?

First, define a historical question. For example, how does the history of satirical blogs such as the Daily Bonnet (dailybonnet.com), that tries to poke fun at Mennonite culture, differ from the history of fake news sites such as abcnews.com.co (note the added “.co” suffix) that trick people to believe false stories to turn a profit.

Second, construct chronological reasoning. For instance, in what ways are concerns about security, presidential leadership, and race relations in the United States the same or different from previous presidential elections, say from Jefferson’s election in 1800 to Donald Trump’s election in 2016?

Third, compare and contextualize. To illustrate in the realm of Mennonite theological diversity, how do changes in Anabaptist beliefs among members of Old Order Mennonite congregations compare with changes in Anabaptist beliefs among members of Old Mennonite-General Conference congregations since 1900? What was the historical context that explains those changes?

Fourth, interpret and synthesize. Specifically, among Anabaptist Mennonite churches, what are congregational discernment practices that help members interpret and synthesize past or current events, especially those that determine the beliefs and actions of congregational members?

John Driver, Mennonite pastor and theologian, answered this question in Life together in the Spirit: a radical spirituality for the twenty-first century (2011), when he suggested that a congregation interprets and synthesizes critical events of our times when its members gather to invite God’s Spirit through prayer to discern events of our times with Scripture in hand.

School Clippings Online


Steve Ness, librarian and archivist

The Historical Society Archives contains a wonderful collection of more than 1,700 newspaper clippings related to the schools of Lancaster County. These clippings primarily contain group photographs of pupils and teachers posing in front of one-room schoolhouses throughout the area from 1875 into the 1960s. Thankfully, many of the students and teachers are identified in the captions. Also included are a number of class-reunion clippings from the 1960s through the 2000s as well as a handful of other school-related news articles that appeared in Lancaster’s Sunday News, Ephrata Review, Penny Saver/ Merchandiser, and Shopping News.

This collection has now been scanned and is available to the public for free! To view an alphabetical listing of available files, visit http://www.lmhs.org/research/archives/school-clippings. These scans were made from newspaper clippings and not from the original photographs. In some cases only photocopies of the clippings were available, and the resulting image quality is not ideal. The online files are low-resolution versions of the original scans. If you would like to purchase a copy of an original clipping, please send us an e-mail at library@lmhs.org, or give us a call at (717) 393-9745.

1765 Nürnberg Bible Featured in January Auction

This significant Bible, in moderate condition, will be sold at the Society book auction on January 13, 2017.

Mennonite historians will be interested in a collection of books from the Eastern District area. Two books written by the historian Daniel Cassel and J. H. Oberholtzer’s copy of Christliche Gemüths-Gespräch are of special interest. There are also several books published in Milford Square and several books autographed with the names of Oberholtzer and Rosenberger. The sale also includes a nice selection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century songbooks, including two editions of the Pennsylvania Choral Harmony. Older Mennonite hymnbooks include a 1785 Ausbund, 1804 and 1829 Umpartheisches Gesangbuchs, and an 1848 edition of Harfe der Kinder Zions. Also, there is a 1915 Martyrs Mirror in German in good condition.

Lancaster County historians will be pleased to find an Ellis and Evans History of Lancaster County in good condition and H. M. J. Klein’s four-volume Lancaster County, Pennsylvania: A History.

For theologians there is a twelve-volume set of the Lutheran Commentary. The sale will be held at the Society headquarters, starting at 6:30 PM. Absentee bids are accepted up until Thursday, January 12, at 4:30 PM.

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