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

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Amstutz and Kraybill to Share Stories

“Stories touch us deeply. Listening to someone else’s stories reminds us powerfully that we are not alone,” says Phyllis Pellman Good, moderator of our Annual Storytelling Night. “Telling stories, and hearing stories from other people’s lives, is one of the great human experiences.”

On Monday evening, September 10, Donald B. Kraybill and Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz will share the stage at Landisville Mennonite Church, 3320 Bowman Road, Landisville, Pennsylvania.

Beginning at 7 PM, Kraybill and Amstutz will each tell seven three- or four-minute-long stories from their lives, alternating throughout the evening.

Lorraine is the Coordinator of Mennonite Central Committee’s (MCC) Restorative Justice program. She provides consulting and training for agencies and communities seeking to implement restorative justice processes and has worked in the field since 1984. She received her Master’s in Social Work from Marywood University, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

She is an author and a practitioner, working as a facilitator for dialogues in crimes of severe violence, and involved with churches dealing with conflict.

She and her husband, Jim, live in Akron. They are the parents of three adult children and grandparents of one. When stressed, Lorraine loves to bake.

Donald B. Kraybill recently retired from Elizabethtown College where he taught sociology and directed the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. From 2002 to 2016 he served as senior fellow at the Young Center.

He is the author, co-author, and editor of some thirty books. His most recent book is *Eastern Mennonite University: A Century of Countercultural Education* (2017).

Don and his wife, Frances Mellinger Kraybill, have two adult daughters and two granddaughters. For rejuvenation Don works out regularly, hikes, reads, takes local historical trips, and spends time with family.

“Surprising energies often emerge between the two storytellers and what they choose to share with us as the evening unfolds,” says Good. “It’s an event you don’t want to miss!”

This event is open to the public; a free-will offering will be collected.

The story of African Americans in Lancaster is hidden in plain sight throughout the county. Join us at 6:30 PM on Monday, October 15, at James Street Mennonite Church to learn more.

Dr. Leroy Hopkins will share stories about a core part of Lancaster history covering African Americans’ role and involvement in Lancaster from the beginning of the city and county in the early 1700s through challenges faced in the twentieth century as well as the fight for civil rights.

Hopkins, a Lancaster native, earned a B.A. in German and Russian from Millersville College (1966) and a Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literatures at Harvard (1974). Hopkins is a Professor Emeritus of German from Millersville University where he taught from 1979-2015. He has written and published articles on local African American history. Currently, Hopkins serves on the board of LancasterHistory.org and the Crispus Attucks Community Center. He is also president of the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania.
Maize and Snitz Festival

Maize and Snitz Festival is a celebration of early American life—both Native American and later European immigrants. Learn about their lives and cultures on Saturday, October 6, from 10 am to 3 pm at the 1719 Herr House & Museum, 1849 Hans Herr Drive, Willow Street, Pa.

There will be a variety of operating farm equipment. The Frick steam engine and thresher, along with a baler, will demonstrate postharvest grain processing.

There will also be a wide variety of other demonstrations, both European and Native, showing crafts and food.

The fest events featuring the longhouse will serve as the culmination of Lancaster's Indigenous People's Week.

A variety of food will be available during the festival, including the iconic Herr House smoked sausage sandwiches.

Admission is $12 for adults, $6 for children 7-12, and free for those under 6.

Signing Features Sherry Gore and Sheila Petre

Join the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society for a book signing at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 25, with Sherry Gore and Sheila Petre, both featured authors in the new book, Homespun: Amish and Mennonite Women in Their Own Words. It will take place at the Martindale Mennonite Fellowship Center, 352 Martindale Road, Ephrata, Pa. The book signing is open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken.

Gore is also the author of The Plain Choice, Simply Delicious Amish Cooking and Me, Myself, and Pie. She is a co-author of Made with Love.

Petre is the author of Thirty Little Fingers.

Quilting Across Culture: Piecing Together Tradition

Learn more about African American, Amish, and Mennonite quilting traditions with a quilting fest from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm on Saturday, November 3. The day will include presentations from Kyra Hicks and Janneken Smucker, opportunities for individuals to share the story of one of their quilts, and time to fellowship over soup and a dessert potluck. There will be shared quilting time on pieces to be auctioned at Mennonite Central Committee relief sales.

Piecing Together Traditions will be held at the MCC Material Resources Center, 516 West Trout Run Road, Ephrata, Pa.

Kyra E. Hicks is a self-taught, skilled crafter who uses cotton to explore political, religious, family and romantic themes. Her work has been shown in such prestigious venues as the American Craft Museum in New York, the Smithsonian Institution’s Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C., and the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Connecticut. Her work appears in the permanent collections of the Museum of Arts & Design in New York City, and in the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, New York. She is the author of Black Threads: An African American Quilting Sourcebook, This I Accomplish: Harriet Powers’ Bible Quilt and Other Pieces, the children’s book Martha Ann’s Quilt for Queen Victoria, and other publications.

Janneken Smucker, a fifth-generation Mennonite quilter, is Assistant Professor of History at West Chester University where she specializes in digital and public history and American material culture. The author of Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon, she lectures and writes widely on the topic of quilts for both popular and academic audiences. She is board president of the nonprofit, Quilt Alliance, working closely with its oral history project, titled Quilters Save Our Stories.

Pennsylvania German Dialect Class This Fall

Wellet dibr Deitsch lanner "Butch" Reigart will teach two levels of this ten-week Pennsylvania German dialect course this fall. A beginners class runs from 7 to 9 pm on Wednesdays, September 12 to November 14. An intermediate level runs from 7 to 9 pm on Thursdays, September 13 to November 15.

Cost for each course is $100 for Society members and $115 for nonmembers. Primary instructional materials are provided. Supplemental texts, dictionaries, recordings and other study aids are available at the Society bookstore. All classes meet at the Society.

Reigart grew up hearing Pennsylvania German in his childhood home in York County, Pennsylvania. He became fluent, later receiving a B.A. in German from the State University of New York and an M.A. in Russian from Middlebury College, Vermont. He was a foreign language specialist for the United States government for more than thirty-five years.

Reigart says that the variety of people interested in Pennsylvania German dialect is nothing short of amazing each year. Students have included medical doctors, chiropractors, PennDOT engineers, news reporters, neighbors and drivers of the Amish, people whose parents told secrets in the dialect, and people interested in their own cultural and linguistic heritage.
On A Mission

Jean Kilheffer Hess

Several years ago a friend and I started a book club focused on professional development. When my turn came to pick the book, I chose the Steven Covey classic 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. You’ve likely encountered phrases this book popularized, such as putting first things first and seeking a “win-win” situation.

Covey’s suggestion that each person develop his or her own mission statement impacted me most. It’s easy to read this kind of advice, think “that could be helpful,” and move on with life apace. For whatever reason, I hit the pause button and gave it a try.

After careful thinking, and assuming vibrant faith and healthy relationships to be implicitly foundational, I settled on this personal mission: to help build a world where everybody thrives. It’s a simple statement. It’s a broad imperative. And yet somehow it manages to guide my approach to life in useful ways as diverse as how I choose to consume and why I volunteer to facilitate a group conversation.

As Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (LMHS) embarks on strategic planning, our mission remains front and center. We preserve and interpret the culture and context of Mennonite-related faith communities connected with Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

On January 1, 2018, Mennonite Information Center—which had been sponsored by Eastern Mennonite Missions—became part of LMHS. Along with the 1719 Herr House, Native American Longhouse, and Historical Society library, archives, and museum, we now have three service centers. Approximately 25 staff members, many of whom work part-time, wonderful volunteers who together give thousands of hours annually, and the financial support of members and donors buoy this important work. A clear, shared strategy is key to growing as a highly effective organization.

Part of that strategy involves being transparent about our needs and inviting your generous giving. Take note of the bar graph featured on the front page.

What is your mission, your calling? How might partnering with Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society help you meet that mission? Together we create a win-win!

Annals, Artists, and Ledgers

Jon Weaver-Kreider

Our September 14 book auction contains volumes on a wide variety of topics. Annals of the Conestoga Valley by C.Z. Mast is available as well as books on local artists Warren Rohrer, David Brumbach and Charles Demuth. There are two ledgers thought to have belonged to Martin E. Stauffer with entries from 1865-76 including Jonas H. Martin: His Life and Genealogy, and Charles Demuth. There are two ledgers thought to have belonged to Martin E. Stauffer with entries from 1865-76 including Jonas H. Martin: His Life and Genealogy, and Charles Demuth.

Books on Mennonite history include The Weaverland Mennonites, 1766-1968; The Jonas Martin Era; The Earth Is the Lord’s; History of the Mennonites of the Franconia Conference; and The Mennonite Encyclopedia. Also present will be two copies of Unser Leit: The Story of the Amish.

Watson’s Annals of Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania in the Olden Times; a History of That Part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys...; and numerous works related to the Schwenkfelders are in this auction.

Family histories include A Genealogical Record of the Descendants of Daniel Stauffer and Hans Bauer; A Brief History of Bishop Jacob Mast; Descendants and History of Christian Fisher; A Memorial History of Moses Bitsche; The Wenger Book; The Landis Family Book, vol. 2; and Bishop Jonas H. Martin: His Life and Genealogy.

Also available are a 1962 Ausbund, 1837, 1915, 1938 and 1950 editions of the Martyrs Mirror; an 1888 Das Wahre Christentum by David Beiler; an 1811 edition of Dietrich Philip’s Einrichtung; a 1751 Vernaufführte Gedanken von Gott, der Welt und der Seele des Menschen by Christian Wolff; an 1803 Isaac Watts hymnal; and a diary transcript of Henry C. Krupp, 1888-1929, of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The entire sale catalog can be accessed at lmhs.org, or paper copies are available for $5. We accept bids via our website, email, postal mail or phone until 4:30 pm, Thursday, September 13. We also invite you to attend the auction on September 14 at 6:30 pm at the Society.

Recent Acquisitions

Religion/Theology

Doerksen, Paul G. Take and read: reflecting theologically on books. Wipf & Stock, 2016


Mock, Melanie Springer. Worthy: finding yourself in a world expecting someone else. Herald Press, 2018

Quezada, Sarah. Love undocumentated: risking trust in a fearful world. Herald Press, 2018

Rediger, Markus. Discover Anabaptism in Switzerland: a guide to discover places and people that formed the Anabaptist-Mennonite movement in Switzerland. ... Markus Rediger and Erwin Röthlisberger, 2018

Biography/Genealogy

Hershberger, Melvin E. Descendants of Emanuel V. Hershberger. M. E. Hershberger, 2006

High, Calvin G. The High life of Calvin & Janet. [Calvin and Janet High?], 2014

Kimmel, Yvonne Fox. Zwingli: the key to finding your Amish-Mennonite and Church of the Brethren ancestors. Masthof Press, 2018

Metzler, Ralph Leon. Valentine Metzler & Anna Nissley genealogy. Ralph & Carolyn Metzler, 2018

Rempel-Burkholder, Byron. Feet on the mountains: Joe and Helen Burkholder’s journeys of faith, family, and service. [Author?], 2017

History/Miscellaneous

Biblical quotations in the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building. [The Office of the Chief Clerk], 2016

“Detroit—main highway”: our CPS stories: College Mennonite Church in Civilian Public Service. Seniors for Peace, 1995

Donmoyer, Patrick J. Pa. German cultural heritage. [The Office of the Chief Clerk], 2003


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