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Events

Monday, Dec. 1: quarterly meeting, 7 pm, Mennonite Global History Project, Blossom Hill Mennonite Church

Friday, Dec. 12: Book Auction, rare and used books, 6:30 pm at the Society

Dec. 24: Society closes 1 pm

Dec. 25: Closed for Christmas

Jan. 1: Closed for New Years

Jan. 10: Epiphany Field Trip to Boar’s Head, Yule Log Festival

Join us on an Epiphany field trip to Lafayette Hill, PA, northeast of Philadelphia, to enjoy a performance of the renaissance religious pageant, Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival, performed at St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church. Children and adults alike will revel in this colorful reenactment.

Leaving the Mennonite Historical Society at 8 am, we will travel first to the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville, PA. After viewing their new introductory video about Mennonite faith and life in that area of southeastern Pennsylvania, we will enjoy displays of contemporary fraktur (decorated manuscripts), vintage toys and dolls, and the permanent exhibit, “Work and Hope.”

After a lunch stop we will continue on to St. Peter’s for a 1 pm performance of their 18th annual Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival. This colorful, ancient pageant is a processional celebration of Epiphany. Members of the audience participate in the liturgical drama by joining in songs of praise with the choir and cast.

Characters in the royal procession include kings and queens, Beefeaters (traditional guardians of the King), lords and ladies, knights, woodsmen, jesters & acrobats, pages, a little drummer boy and shepherds, followed by the Holy Family and the Three Kings with their gifts.

Christmas music is performed throughout by soloists, the choir and orchestra, sometimes accompanied by congregational singing.

This English festival dating to the

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March 2: quarterly meeting, 7 pm, Julia Kasdorf on Rosanna of the Amish

March-May: Pennsylvania German classes resume

April 10: Society closed for Good Friday

April 18: Annual Banquet meeting at Weaver’s in Adamstown

April 25: Lancaster Family History Conference at Eden Resort, “Roots on the Move: Stories of Immigration”
WHAT’S GOING ON

Sound in the Lands 09
Conrad Grebel College in Waterloo, Ontario will host a conference with composer and keynote speaker Alice Parker, and Mary Oyer, retired professor at Goshen College, June 4-8, 2009, designed to explore a wide array of musical genres and styles among Mennonite-affiliated persons. Proposals by composer, musicians, academics, creative writers and visual artists are being accepted until Feb. 1, 2009. More information at www.grebel.uwaterloo.ca/soundinthe

Roy M. Showalter Research Grant
The Mennonite Historical Association of the Cumberland Valley (MHACV) is pleased to announce the first annual Roy M. Showalter Research Grant in honor of longtime curator Roy Showalter (1924-2006). The $500 grant seeks to promote research and historical writing about the Anabaptist community in the Cumberland Valley. The Conococheague Mennonist has the right of first refusal for scholarly articles that might result from research funded by the grant.

To apply, send a 2-3 page summary of the project along with a resume and a letter of recommendation. The summary must include an overview of the research project, stating its significance to the history and life of the Anabaptist community in the Cumberland Valley. Deadline for application is March 1, 2009, to Research Grant Committee, MHACV, 4850 Molly Pitcher Hwy. S., Chambersburg, PA, 17202. Recipient of the award will be announced at the April 2009 meeting of MHACV.

Mirror of the Martyrs Exhibit Available
The “Mirror of the Martyrs” traveling exhibit, sponsored by the Mennonite Historical Library of Goshen, Indiana and the Kauffman Museum at North Newton, continues to be available for display in your area. Find more information at: www.bethelks.edu/kauffman/martyrs/

Tour to Boar’s Head, Yule Log Festival
- Continued from page 1
12th century bears testimony to Christ and his kingship at birth, overcoming the wild boar, a symbol of evil. We will have our understanding broadened regarding symbolism of the familiar, yet unfamiliar, boar’s head, Yule log, plum pudding, was-sailing, and more.

After this dramatic performance, which begins and ends in candlelight, we will board our bus for home to Lancaster, arriving back at the Society around 6 pm. Cost is $60 for members, $70 for non-members, with a group discount of $5 each for four or more. Price includes one meal, transportation on a comfortable coach bus, and heritage center and pageant admissions.

Extend your enjoyment of the Christmas season and dispel those post-holiday blues with this Epiphany tour enjoying a timeless and colorful Christian pageant. Your reservation is confirmed once payment is received. More information from Dorothy Siegrist at the Society, (717) 393-9745.

Help Wanted: Library
The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society is looking for volunteers to assist visitors in the library on a regular basis. The work involves orienting patrons to the library and its resources, helping visitors to find information in the library and archives, and answering telephone calls at the reference desk. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn while volunteering, especially for those with an interest in family, church, and local history. Help is needed on Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday mornings, and Saturdays. Some familiarity with computers or willingness to learn would be helpful. For more information contact Steve Ness at 393-9745 or sness@lmhs.org.

Online Giving to the Society
In this, the fall giving season, a reminder that contributions to the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society are available via the Mennonite Church USA web site at https://giving.mennoniteusa.org/ Go to this screen and choose, “Other Mennonite Organizations,” scroll down and you will see us listed. This site is administered through Mennonite Foundation. You pay by credit card and the process is quick, confidential, and has an option for donating anonymously. We hope that you will take advantage of this new donation option.

FIELD TRIP
REGISTRATION FORM
$_______ enclosed for the Boar’s Head Yule Log tour on Sat., Jan. 10
☐ Members at $60 per person
☐ Nonmembers at $70 per person
(additional $5 discount for groups of four or more)
Name(s) __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________ ZIP _________
State ________
Phone ____________________________
Email ____________________________

Contact Dorothy Siegrist at (717) 393-9745 or dsiegrist@lmhs.org for more information.
Your reservation is confirmed once payment is received.
Checks payable to: Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society
2215 Millstream Road
Lancaster, PA 17602-1499

Library volunteers, Bertha Roggie (left) and Evie Peifer, both from Neffsville Mennonite Church, have been indispensable during our computerization process. Thanks to their work, pictured above, we have now completed barcoding the bulk of books in our collection.
Dollars and Sense: IRA Charitable Rollover Extended

As part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, passed this fall, Congress extended the IRA charitable rollover through 2009. This allows Individual Retirement Account holders to make donations directly from their IRAs without declaring the distribution as income and having to pay tax on it. That’s welcome news for IRA holders at any time, but especially during a time of financial uncertainty, when charities need your donations more than ever.

Great is thy Faithfulness

During this, our 50th anniversary year, I have had occasion to reflect on our history as an organization. As board member Jacob Stahl commented recently, “If my father-in-law was alive today, he would marvel at what has been accomplished!”

Looking back on our founding and the triumphs and challenges of our ancestors helps us all to have a better understanding and appreciation for who we are.

In an oral history interview with J. Lloyd Gingrich, Society board member for 45 years, he mused, “Why do people emerge at particular times? People with gifts like Ira Landis, Daniel Wert, Christie Charles? Perhaps they are called forth as the church needs them. ...We needed their gifts to help promote the work of history.”

In 1958 and following, amid a time of change and division among Lancaster County Mennonites, the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society was a unifying force among conservatives and progressives. In fact, the Society continues to bridge many of these differences to this day. Mennonites of many affiliations join with us, as do those of Pennsylvania German ancestry and those with a love for the rich and treasured heritage of these people.

If today we find younger people interested in their roots, we have visionaries like our founders to thank, those whose work of advocacy, reclamation and preservation was for us, the future generations. Due to their efforts, the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society can offer that knowledge of identity and heritage so essential to self-understanding and a deeper faith. We honor their vision and faithfulness.

In one sense, though, history is never finished. Each of you who have been involved with the Society through the years has your own story to tell. You and I, through our connection with the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, are helping to write this history, and to pass it into the future for our children and grandchildren.

Our founder, Ira Landis, is remembered for many things, among them the fact that in phone conversations, he hardly ever said goodbye. Instead, his farewell was a booming, “So Agreed!” So let us agree together to bring forward his vision, to broaden and shape it for a new and vibrant future, where everyone’s history is welcome and valued as part of God’s larger story.

As we look ahead to 2010, and the commemoration of the first Pennsylvania German Mennonite settlement, also the first permanent European settlement, in Lancaster County, our path to the future may require different gifts and present different challenges than in the past. We value your faith and friendship as we remember who we are and where we are headed.

And God’s faithfulness goes with us into new possibilities. In the words of one of my favorite hymns, great, indeed, is that faithfulness.

Letter to the Editor

From the July 2008 issue of The Mirror, I was pleased to learn that the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society received a fine collection of Myer land records. At the end of the article about the donation, the author suggested that Pennsylvania Land Records is “a good resource book on deed research.” Unfortunately, this book describes the records created by the State land office—warrants, surveys and patents. The book is designed to assist researchers who are using the Land Office records held here at the State Archives in Record Group 17. It is not the best book for understanding deeds. In fact, most researchers tell us it is somewhat difficult to use unless one is working directly with the Land Office records.

One of the best books for engaging a broad range of deeds, mortgages, and other land records is How to Find the Story of an Old House: A Guide to Research and Techniques in Bucks County (Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Historical Society, 1997) by Terry A. McNealy. While this book focuses on Bucks County materials, most of the resources mentioned in it will be found in any Pennsylvania County. If you do not have this book in the library, you should add it to your collection. [Editor’s note: this book has been added to our library.]

You may want to print a short note in the next Mirror to this effect. Thank you for your time and review of these comments. Feel free to contact me if you need further information about this matter.

Sincerely,
Jonathan R. Stayer, Head Reference Section Pennsylvania State Archives (717) 783-2669 jstayer@state.pa.us
On Sept. 14, we held our 50th Anniversary Party, "Down by the Old Millstream." Attended by nearly 500 people (unexpectedly on one of the hottest days of summer!), this community event attracted a variety of people of all ages. It included singing, wagon rides along the stream, historic costumes to try on for antique photos, classic cars, history displays (including a ten-foot long time-line of Mennonite history alongside US and world events), story-telling, food and fellowship. The event was made possible through contributions from Daniel and Miriam Wert, Herr Foods, Kunzler & Co., the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant Bakery and the Willow Valley Restaurant Bakery. Many thanks to our hardworking staff and to all the volunteers who made this event possible.

Pictured clockwise, Darvin, Regina, and Hannah Martin being photographed by Paul Brubaker, Varden Lesa, Millstream (Barbershop) Quartet, storytellers Henry Benner and Don Sensenig, photo assistants Juliana Hershey and Emily Hursh, Mary Ella Herr and friends at timeline, Juji Woodring and son Avin on wagon ride, Foresingers directed by Glenn Lehman, Sarah Miller, Peggy Erb, and Dorothy Siegrist in poodle skirts.

(Photo credit: Edie Hess)

**Genealogy**


**History/Social Sciences**


Olde Philadelphia: historical land marks: reproductions in color of the most noted prints and original sketches of the best known artists of early Philadelphia: Birch, Mumford, etc. Philadelphia: A. Kohn, 1908 (F158.4 .K64 1908)


**Society is Cited**

We recently received a citation of merit from the Pennsylvania Senate in honor of our 50th anniversary, commending us for our “strong reputation” of “dedicated service” and “adherence to the principles of reliability and integrity” that have made us “a leader in the community and a model that is worthy of emulation.” Here our director, Beth Graybill, displays the citation with Senator Mike Brubaker of the 36th District, who praised our “exceptional work to inspire and educate” that has made “important contributions to the history and the future of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.” (Photo credit: Paul Brubaker)