Board Names New Director

Rolando Santiago, current Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) U.S., will be the new executive director of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, the board announced in early July. Santiago will begin work at the end of August, replacing Ed Longenecker, who has served as interim director since March.

Santiago has directed MCC U.S. since 2004. Previously, he was Deputy Chief and Evaluation Director of the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in Rockville, Maryland.

“We were looking for someone with extensive administrative experience,” said Charles Bauman, Chair of the Board. “Rolando also has a deep involvement and love for the Church and a sense of calling to do what he’s doing.”

“I have been fascinated by history throughout my life,” Santiago said. “Remembering where we came from helps us understand who we are and where we’re going, and I’m thrilled with the opportunity to help people do that through the Historical Society.”

Santiago grew up Mennonite in Puerto Rico. He attended Eastern Mennonite High School, in Harrisonburg, Va., and received a B.A. in Psychology from Eastern Mennonite College in 1980, and a doctorate in Educational Psychology from the University of Albany in 1994.

“He has a wide variety of skills in executive management, government social programs, monitoring grants and contracts, scientific research, public health analysis, partnership building and teaching. Obviously, skills well suited for a leadership role here at LMHS,” Longenecker wrote in an announcement to staff.

Santiago said that his current role at MCC puts him in contact with diverse constituencies, and he is committed to building alliances with individuals and congregations within and outside of Lancaster County, including conservative Mennonites and other Anabaptist denominations, young adults and a variety of... Continued on page 3

Bikers, Walkers to Raise Funds for Longhouse

Bicyclists, hikers, recreational walkers and outdoor enthusiasts will raise money for the construction of a Native American longhouse on the grounds of the 1719 Hans Herr House when they participate in the “Heritage Trail Walk and Bike Ride” on Saturday, August 28, 2010.

Four courses - a 62, 30 and 10-mile bike route and a 5-mile walking route - will take participants by sites of historic significance to Lancaster County, beginning and ending at the oldest house in the county, the 1719 Hans Herr House in Willow Street. This event is a fundraiser for constructing a Native American longhouse on the grounds of the Herr House.

Registration for the event is $20 for riders and $10 for walkers. Part of the proceeds will support construction of a replica Native American longhouse, a log and bark home typical of the area for hundreds of years before Europeans arrived.

“Building a longhouse opens the door to a significant part of our history that most of us don’t know anything about,” said 1719 Hans Herr House director Becky Gochnauer. “Around here, there is no place you can go to learn what this area looked like before European settlement.”

“This is an opportunity to expand the educational programming at the Hans Herr House, particularly with respect to our Native American history, and have a fun time in the process,” said Jeff Martin, an event organizer.

Each rider and walker will receive a queue sheet with information about the historic places that they’ll pass. The 5-mile walking route will span nearly the full length of the county’s original Pequea Settlement, from Strasburg to Willow Street.

“That is a distance the Herr Family would have walked many times in the early 1700’s,” Gochnauer said.

Registration is available through Wednesday, August 25 by visiting www.bikereg.com/events/register.aspx?eventid=11224 or calling the Hans Herr House at (717) 464-4438.

Children 12 and under are free with a participating parent or guardian.

Additional donations to the Longhouse Project are encouraged. Riders can start as early as 7 am, and walkers can begin as early as 8 am on August 28. All courses start and end at the 1719 Herr House, located at 1849 Hans Herr Drive, Willow Street. Parking is provided. Walkers will be transported from the 1719 Herr House to the start of their 5-mile walk in Strasburg, and will walk back to Willow Street.

Water stations will be provided at multiple places on the biking and walking routes, and light refreshments will served at the Herr House at the conclusion of the rides and walk.

Participants will also get a free tour of the 1719 Herr House and a chance to see where the longhouse will be built.

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"Lancaster Roots 300" Calendar of Events

Wuppertaler-Kurrende German Boys’ Choir Concert
Sunday, August 15, 4:00 p.m.
This renowned sixty-voice boys’ choir from Germany visits Mellinger Mennonite Church on their United States tour.

Heritage Trail Bike Ride and Walk
Saturday, August 28
Bike 62, 30 or 10 miles, or walk the length of the original Pequea settlement (5 miles from Strasburg to Willow Street). Enjoy refreshments at journey’s end at the 1719 Hans Herr House. This event is a fundraiser for constructing a Native American longhouse on the grounds of the Herr House. Registration required by August 25. Go to www.bikereg.com/events/register.asp?eventid=11224 or call the 1719 Herr House at (717) 464-4438.

Snitz Fest and Heritage Day
Saturday, September 18, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
This Pennsylvania German community celebration features costumed interpreters demonstrating Colonial-era arts, crafts, and farming at the 1719 Herr House, including hands-on activities and traditional foods. This year’s free event is underwritten by Willow Street Mennonite Church.

Pennsylvania German Cooking Traditions
Monday, September 27, 7:00 p.m.
Phyllis Pellman Good, author of numerous regional cookbooks, will discuss Amish foods and foodways at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pa. Another recognized expert on early Pennsylvania German foods and cooking will also speak. Free.

Public Acknowledgement and Commemoration of Native American Legacy
Saturday, October 9
10:00 a.m. event in downtown Lancaster followed by time for lunch; 2:00 p.m. dedication of Native American longhouse site and celebration at the 1719 Herr House. Both events are free.

Historic West Lampeter Township Driving Tour
Saturday, October 16, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Self-guided driving tour to historic sites in the vicinity of the 1719 Herr House with interpretive guides at each stop. Adults $8; children 7-12 $4; children under 7 free. Begin at the Herr House.

Native Americans of Lancaster County
Monday, November 1, 7:00 p.m.
A panel of experts will discuss the history of Native Americans in and around Lancaster three hundred years ago. A free public meeting at Lititz Moravian Church.

Opening reception, Second Annual Show of Pennsylvania German Folk Art
Friday, November 19, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Show and sale of quality reproduction folk art at Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society continues, Tuesday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., through December 31. Admission is free; art is for sale.

Christmas Candlelight Tours at the 1719 Hans Herr House
Friday, December 3, 6:00-8:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 4, 5:00-8:30 p.m.
Theme: “Three Hundred Years of Christmas Traditions.”

Other Historical Society Events
Volunteers are needed for the Snitz Fest and Heritage Day on September 18 at the 1719 Herr House Museum. A team of horses is also needed to pull a converted wagon to convey the experience of riding in a Conestoga wagon.

Field Trips: There is still space left on two field trips for 2010:
• On October 16, Henry Benner will host a “Fall Foliage” historical trip through Juniata and Snyder Counties. Participants will learn about the history of the rivers, their role in logging, canals, and other colonial transportation. The group will visit the restored Joseph Hostetler homestead and grave site as well as a nearby museum of restored John Deere tractors. Also featured will be the restored 1869 Richfield (“Brick”) Mennonite Meetinghouse and the adjoining Juniata Mennonite Historical Center. Members $85; nonmembers $95; lunch included.
• On November 6, this year’s third 1710 Pequea Settlement tour will visit sites of Pennsylvania German historic and genealogical interest in Strasburg and Willow Street. The half-day tour stops at related points of ancestral interest to Bowman (Bauman), Funk, Hauri, Houser, Herr, Hess, Kendig, LeFever, Miller, Mylin, Tschantz, and Weber surnames. Members $40; nonmembers $50.

For reservations, contact Peggy Erb: (717) 393-9745 or perb@lmhs.org.

Joseph Strider and Liz Mallin performed their “modern indigenous alternative” music for the Lancaster County Food Festival at the 1719 Hans Herr House on Saturday, June 12. The festival was a fundraiser for building a replica Native American longhouse on the grounds of the 1719 Herr House. Strider, who is Lipan Apache, closed the set with “Indigenous Indignation: Blood Remembers” his terse indictment of the Trail of Tears.
Community Events

88th Annual Brubaker Families of America Reunion is Sunday, August 1, 2010 at the Church of the Apostles in Rohrerstown, Pa. Bring your Brubaker genealogy information to share; stories of interest and memorabilia of interest. Lunch Buffet at 12:15. For more information and reservations please call Jane Barge at 717-393-4639 or email at handybird@verizon.net.

Association of Blauvelt Descendants: On September 25, 2010, the Association of Blauvelt Descendants will hold its 85th annual meeting and reunion at the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, New York. The reunion speaker will be Peter Rose, food historian, who will speak about the dishes and traditions of the Colonial Dutch. The two-day reunion program will include tours of the FDR National Historic Site and the Vanderbilt Mansion, and a stroll on the 1.2-mile walkway over the Hudson at Poughkeepsie. For more information, visit www.blauvelt.org or contact George A. Blauvelt at (303) 438-7267 or GABluvelt@aol.com.

A hymn sing will be held at the Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse, 39 Horning Road near Alleghanyville, PA on Sunday afternoon, September 19, 2010 at 2 pm. Clair Stoltzfus of East Earl, PA will be leading hymns from the 1969 Mennonite Hymnal. Limited copies of this hymnal will be provided. For more information, call (717) 949-3475 or (610) 777-3003.

New Director
- Continued from page 1

ethic groups.

"I have heard the stories of Mennonites, Mennonite Brethren and Brethren in Christ of Latino background," Santiago said. "Their stories truly enrich our Anabaptist heritage." "Mennonite belief and practice derives from our desire to follow Jesus," Santiago continued. "LMHS can provide a space for people of all ages in congregations to tell their stories, and to be part of making history and sharing it with others."

Santiago lives in Lancaster with his spouse, a nurse, their young adult son and a daughter who will be serving with Mennonite Central Committee in Bolivia starting in August. They attend Neftsville Mennonite Church.

TV News Anchor Discovers Family History

At the suggestion of the Society's Family History Genealogy Committee, WGAL-TV news anchor Kim Lemon and a videographer spent June 16 and 17 discovering her family history in Lancaster County with staff and volunteers from the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

Lemon interviewed librarian Steve Ness, volunteer researcher Ivan Leaman and board member Merle Good, and the group visited the Society library and archives, Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster, the Peter Leman homestead on Route 896 near Lincoln Highway East, and the Baughman Burial Ground in Georgetown, near Strasburg.

Society volunteer Ivan Leaman and TV news anchor Kim Lemon stand near the site of the original Peter Leman homestead near Route 896.

The story, dubbed "Heritage" by WGAL producers, was aired in three 2-minute segments on WGAL Channel 8 News.

Lemon reported that Lemon seemed to feel a strong emotional connection to the Leman homestead even though the original house is no longer standing, and that she twice remarked the Baughman Burial Ground was the most beautiful cemetery she had ever seen.

In addition to Ness and Leaman, Committee members Delores Myers, Deb Oesch, Phyllis Patterson and others helped to assemble a thick stack of resources including cemetery, census and baptismal records, maps and even the immigration signature of Lemon's maternal ancestor, Leonard Bücker. Myers estimated that she alone spent over 60 hours on the project.

Initially, Ness said, the researchers thought Lemon's ancestors were related to Leaman families in Northumberland County. But, when they discovered her relative, George Lemon, buried in a Methodist cemetery in Halifax, they knew she had strong connections to Lancaster County. George Lemon was a grandson of Peter Leman, likely a Mennonite, who arrived in the county in 1717.

In addition, an ancestor of Kim Lemon's mother had married a Smoker, which means she is related to many Amish families.

Lemon asked that one piece of information be kept secret from her until it was revealed on-camera, so the group's last stop was the home of John and Myrna Smucker in Bird-in-Hand, Pa. The Smucker's daughter, Heidi, had interned at WGAL in 2009.

As Lemon's car pulled up the long driveway, John, Myrna and Heidi stood in the front yard. Motioning toward John, Ness said, "Kim, I'd like you to meet your sixth cousin."

From left, Society librarian Steve Ness; board member, Clarke Hess; Goshen, Ind., Mennonite historian Joe Springer and Kerry A. Mohr of the Ephrata Cloister look at handwritten information in one of five copies of the Martyrs Mirror that the Cloister displayed at a research seminar at Elizabethtown College on June 11 and 12.
Samuel E. Wenger
dies at 72
By Darwin Martin

I first met Sam Wenger while I was finishing course work for a chemistry degree at Millersville. Our mutual interests triggered a lasting, fifteen-year friendship cut short by his heart attack and fatal car crash in the early afternoon of Saturday, May 15, 2010. Sam passionately invested himself into both a science-oriented education career and a parallel attention to local history and genealogy. His interests meshed as a conservationist, promoting both ecological sustainability and the rescue and rehabilitation of several local historic landmarks.

For many years until his death, Sam served as the chairman of the Field Trip Committee at Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, and as a representative on the Society’s Education Committee. He is noted for planning and conducting local tours focused on pioneer families, including tours of the Pequea settlement, the Conestoga settlement and Mennonite and Amish homesteads dotting Newport Road. After frequent research trips to Switzerland, Sam published a four-volume series of Anabaptist and Reformed heritage sites in 2007, a standard that will undoubtedly be utilized for years to come by those trekking to Switzerland to find their Anabaptist roots.

The last time I met Sam Wenger was after he presented a PowerPoint DVD lecture on the 1710 Pequea Settlement at the Lancaster Family History Conference one week prior to his death. It still seems surreal; our brief encounter stands as a testimony to the frailty of life. I am reminded that we each live in a temporal space, each needing to find a path in which to give life meaning. Sam found his path by connecting to the faith of his forefathers, forging a way to embrace and cherish his heritage in a contemporary setting. As such Sam provides a model for each of us.

Sam’s wife, Ruth (Derstine) Wenger is steadily recovering from the car crash, suffering from multiple cracked ribs. She is in treatment at the Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pa. In addition to his wife, Sam is survived by three daughters and four grandchildren.

Director’s Reflections
by Ed Longenecker

As some of you know, I love cycling, and I am looking forward to the Heritage Trail Bike Ride and Walk on August 28, which will raise funds to recreate a Native American long house on the grounds of the 1719 Hans Herr House.

What does biking have to do with history? Well, as I bike, a rear view mirror is my constant companion. It is a small mirror that clips to my glasses. If I don’t have it, I feel handicapped. Brief but frequent glances in the rear view mirror help me safely navigate the road ahead. In the same way, knowing who we are, where we came from and how we got here have a tremendous bearing on our choices for the future.

That is why I get so excited about the “Lancaster Roots 300” theme for this year. Through these tricentennial events, in recent months we have celebrated the Martyrs Mirror and its importance in shaping the faith of Lancaster’s first settlers. In the drama at Living Waters Theatre, scenes of Mennonites, Quakers, Native American, African American and the Scots-Irish helped recreate the realities of life in those early days. The Lancaster County Food Fest and historic field trips, the Herr Family Homecoming and the Heritage Trail Bike and Walk all call special attention to the role of Native Americans in our past and our present.

I encourage you to pay particular attention to the unfolding events during the second half of this year.

As I draw my interim leadership to a close, I want to wish the new director, Rolando Santiago, my best as he assumes leadership. I count it a privilege to have served in this interim role. Our mission to “preserve heritage, history and faith” is so appropriate. It is our rear view mirror helping us navigate the road ahead.

One could make a case that we also need a “GPS” or a navigation system with all the uncertainties of the future.

I recently listened to the commencement address for my granddaughter’s high school class. The speaker referred to the internet world of Facebook by saying that while Facebook has its attractive benefits, we really need to keep our “face in the book”!

What is God’s word to us today? To the Board, Rolando and all staff of the Historical Society, I encourage each of us to keep our focus of heritage, history and faith in balance. We have come from a strong faith heritage, and with the Lord’s help we can move forward with clear purpose.

Summer Intern Bolsters Book Sale

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society recently welcomed Tim Reiste as its summer intern—for the second time. Reiste helped to advertise and coordinate the Bookworm Frolic in 2009, and liked it enough to return again this year.

“I was very pleased when I learned that Tim would be helping me coordinate the 2010 Frolic,” David Sauder said. “His congenial personality and his careful work habits make him an important addition to our staff.”

Reiste is a rising Junior at Grove City College where he studies accounting. During his paid internship, he is responsible for managing the book sale, working at the front desk and helping to promote Lancaster Roots 300.

Reiste grew up in Lancaster County. During his time at the Society, has been able to trace his Newswanger family roots back multiple generations.

He is an active member of the community, participating in area volleyball tournaments, Ultimate Frisbee games and disc golf. He and his family are regular attendees at Lititz Grace Brethren Church. In 2007, Tim became an Eagle Scout with Boy Scout Troop 27 of Rothsville.

“I’m very happy to be back again working with LMHS,” Reiste wrote by email. “It’s an excellent work environment with great co-workers. It’s a very good way to understand working in the real world.”

His co-workers are looking forward to the culmination of his hard work at the 30th Annual Bookworm Frolic, to be held at Society headquarters August 18 to 21.
After 14 Years, Boys Choir Offers Encore

The Wuppertaler Kurrende, two-time winner of a national German choir award for youth singing, will visit Mellinger Mennonite Church on Sunday, August 15 as part of their 2010 United States tour.

The choir, which sang in Lancaster in 1996, performs mostly sacred a cappella music from the 16th to 20th century, with an emphasis on German composers. Their 2010 repertoire includes religious music from Johann Schein and Heinrich Schütz to Johannes Brahms and Max Reger, as well as German folksongs.

They perform multiple works by Felix Mendelssohn, including his Morgengebet (Morning Prayer), Jäger Abschied (The Hunter’s Farewell), and Mein Gott, Warum Hast Du Mich Verlassen (My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?).

With organ accompaniment, they also sing short works by Arvo Pärt and Benjamin Britten, as well as a portion of Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem.

The Wuppertaler Kurrende, conducted by Martin Lehmann, is part of the Protestant Church in the city of Wuppertal, Germany. The full choir contains 180 active male singers, with a traveling choir of 32 boys and 25 “older male voices”—young men over 16 years old.

The choir was founded in 1924 in the tradition of Saxon boy-choirs from the Baroque era. Boys who participate in the choir receive basic music and vocal training beginning at age 6, and join the concert and touring choir at 10. Rehearsals, training and leisure activities take place at the choir’s campus in Wuppertal.

Lehmann was a member of the Dresdner Kreuzchor boys choir from 1983 to 1992, and went on to study conducting with Hans-Christoph Rademann at the Carl Maria von Weber Music College in Dresden. He was the founding conductor of the Cantamus Dresden chamber choir and conducted the Schola Cantorum choir school in Leipzig before joining the Wuppertaler Kurrende in 2006.

In addition to their independent work, the choir regularly collaborates with regional choirs, orchestras and opera. This year they participated in “Celebrating Handel” a Classical music-meets-jazz project with the WDR Big Band.

The choir has toured the United States three times, in 1974, 1978 and 1996.

At Annual Frolic, the Early Worm Gets the Book

About 50,000 religious, academic and popular books will fill dozens of tables in the front parking lot of the Historical Society during the 30th annual “Bookworm Frolic”, to be held from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., August 18-20, and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 21.

The largest categories are religion, biography, history and children’s books.

“We get a lot of fiction, but this year we have a pretty good balance between fiction and non-fiction,” said Society employee David Sauder, who has coordinated the Frolic for the past three years.

All book proceeds benefit Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. Stumptown Mennonite Church also will have food for sale.

The event attracts a wide cross-section of shoppers: tourists, Amish, Mennonites, teachers, children, book resellers and bargain-hunters.

“On opening day, people start lining up at 7:45,” said Society intern Tim Reiste.

But days before the event, tables are built with plywood donated by Hess Home Builders, and youth groups load trucks with boxes of books numbered in the reverse order that they will be displayed.

Before dawn on opening day, volunteers unload the trucks and begin lining up books.

“Last year, I would have had a hard time explaining to anyone what they should do, but 3-4 volunteers jumped in trucks, a couple others grabbed carts, and before too long all the books were tables,” Reiste said.

Most of the books come from private donations, especially from the personal libraries of people changing homes, but some are titles that didn’t sell at community book sales earlier in the year.

“We pretty much take anything,” quipped Sauder. “In my first year I tried to edit our inventory, but I kind of gave up, removing only the most offensive books.”

The Society doesn’t necessarily approve of everything for sale.

“But since many of our supporters hold some kind of religious beliefs, the books we receive for the sale are mostly acceptable to everyone,” Sauder added.
Recent Acquisitions

By Steven L. Ness

Philosophy/Psychology/Religion


Biography/Genealogy


History


Music/Arts


Sing a song : a collection of children’s songs / compiled by and available from John and Mary Miller. Quarryville, PA. : John and Mary Miller, 2006 (Gordonville, Pa.) : Gordonville PA Print Shop) (PS593.LB S56 2006)


Language/Literature
