Book, Chiles to Tell Stories

Pastor Miriam Book and bishop Lawrence Chiles will be the first speakers for a new annual Storytelling Night organized by Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society at James Street Mennonite Church on Monday, September 19 at 7:00 PM.

Book is interim pastor of Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson, Nebraska and is assistant moderator of Franconia Mennonite Conference. Chiles is a bishop for Koinonia Fellowship of Churches, a group of more than twenty Spanish and English-speaking churches in southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Book says her call to ministry and love for the Church was shaped in Lancaster County. “Many lessons I observed from life on the farm connect with pastoring,” she wrote in a bulleted list. “Nurture, patience, leadership, big picture, vision, teamwork, recognition of the Holy One/God who finally gives the growth.”

Chiles grew up in Spanish Harlem, New York City. He said he has always had a heart for cities. We go into “all the world” as we change the neighborhoods where we live, he said.

Chiles started Christian community centers in Cleveland, Harrisburg and Lancaster where diverse people come together to learn about Jesus. These centers “smell like church but don’t look like it,” he wrote.

At the Storytelling Night, Book and Chiles will take turns recounting significant moments from their childhood, career or personal life.

“This is not about sermonizing,” said Phyllis Pellman Good, who is coordinating the event. “This is a visit with two unusual leaders.”

Each speaker has been asked to tell seven stories that are two to four minutes long.

“We don’t permit segues,” Pellman Good added. The speakers have been asked not to respond to each other’s stories, but simply to speak from the heart, letting audience members find their own connections and contrasts.

“There is an accumulating effect of seeing two lives side by side,” Pellman Good said. “Amazing parallels sometimes emerge. There is an element of surprise.”

GAMEO Seeks Info on Menno Churches

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society is teaming up with GAMEO—the Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online—to complete a major research project: gathering historical sketches of all congregations that are or have been part of Lancaster Mennonite Conference or Atlantic Coast Conference of the Mennonite Church.

GAMEO (www.gameo.org) is the free, online equivalent of the five-volume Mennonite Encyclopedia. It is the authoritative online source for information about Mennonites and other Anabaptist groups.

“Since so many people turn to the Internet for information it is critical that there is accurate information available,” said Society archivist Steve Ness.

This kind of project helps congregations understand their own stories, Ness said—not only how and where they began but also their current identity and their direction for the future.

The Society is looking for one volunteer to coordinate articles written for Atlantic Coast Conference and additional coordinators for each bishop district in Lancaster Mennonite Conference.

“We are seeking persons with good organizing skills who can identify potential writers and follow up to ensure that the work moves along,” Ness said.

People interested in writing or coordinating articles should contact Ness at (717) 393-9745 or sness@lmhs.org.

What’s Inside

- Community Events
- New Ira Landis collection
- Poem for Addie Banks
- Nine organizational values
- Anti-racism training for staff
- Children hear peace stories
- Underground Railroad report
Upcoming Lancaster Roots Events

“Lancaster Roots” is the combined programming of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and the 1719 Hans Herr House. For more information, go to www.LancasterRoots.org. Call (717) 393-9745 for a color brochure.

Saturday, August 13, 8:00 am–6:00 pm
Field Trip: Goschenhoppen Historians Folk Festival & Schwenkfelder Library Visit Frederick, Pa.’s longstanding celebration of Pennsylvania German foods, crafts, trades and music. $ R LMHS

August 17–20; Wednesday–Friday 9:00 am–7:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Bookworm Frolic Great food & 40,000 used books for sale outside; select new books 50% off inside. F LMHS

Saturday, August 27, 7:00 am–noon
Heritage Trail Bike Ride & Walk Pedal or stroll past historic sites and support the 1719 Herr House. $ HH

Thursday, September 8, 7:00 pm
Introduction to Pennsylvania German Dialect with Butch Reigart. F LMHS Classes continue through November 17. $ R LMHS

Saturday, September 10, 10:00 am–3:00 pm
Pequea Settlement Historic Driving Tour Visit sites in Lancaster’s County’s first European settlement. All routes start at the 1719 Herr House. $ HH

Saturday, September 17
• 6:00 am–9:00 pm
Field Trip: Colonial New Amsterdam and New York Mennonites Visit Anabaptist-related sites in Manhattan and Brooklyn. $ R LMHS

• 9:00 am–noon
Folk Arts Class: Needlework Make a traditional pincushion with Diane Fisher. $ R LMHS

Monday, September 19, 7:00 pm
Annual Storytelling Night featuring Miriam Book and Lawrence Chiles at James Street Mennonite Church, Lancaster. F LMHS

Saturday, September 24, 8:30 am–4:30 pm
Field Trip: Native Americans of the Lower Susquehanna Valley $ R LMHS

Saturday, October 1, 10:00 am–4:00 pm
Snitz Fest Popular festival of traditional Pennsylvania German food, crafts, and farm life at the 1719 Herr House. $ HH

Friday, October 14, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm
Rare and Used Book Auction $ R LMHS

Saturday, October 22, 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Girl Scout Badge Day: Juniors $ R HH

Saturday, October 29, 7:00–10:00 pm
Harvest Party & Square Dance Music, food, seasonal games and a bonfire at the 1719 Herr House. $ R HH

Friday, November 11, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm
Rare and Used Book Auction Special sale of the Ivan Glick collection. F LMHS

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Needlework Class
Saturday, September 17, 9:00 am–noon at the Historical Society. Enjoy pleasant company and complete a hand-made gift modeled after tear-drop pincushions in the Society’s collection. Instruction by Diane Fisher. $45 includes supplies. Call early! (717) 393-9745.
Community Events

89th Annual Brubaker Families of America Reunion. Sunday, August 7 at Church of the Apostles, Rohrerstown, Pa. Darvin Martin will speak. Bring your Brubaker genealogy and stories. Reservations required for box lunch at 12:15 PM. Contact Jane Barge at (717) 393-4639, handybird@verizon.net.

Bossler Mennonite Church Bicentennial Celebration. Saturday, August 13th: bus tour highlighting points of historical interest, followed by evening service. Sunday, August 14th: speakers such as John L. Ruth, Robert Shreiner, Clair Good, Wilmer Longenecker. For more information and registration visit www.BosslerMennonite.org or call Deb at (717) 367-6354.


89th Annual Wenger Reunion. August 19, 20 and 21 in Holmes County, Ohio. Friday: panel discussion at Gospel Light Conservative Mennonite Church near Walnut Creek. Saturday: tour of Wenger family sites starting in Berlin, then reunion at Gospel Light church and dinner at Dutch Valley Restaurant, Sugarcreek. Sunday: worship at Gospel Light. Reservations by August 7 to Jay V. Wenger (717) 859-2396 after 6:00 PM.

Brick Mennonite Church Hymn Sing. September 18, 2011 2:00 PM at 37322 Route 35 Richfield, Pa. Singing from Church and Sunday School Hymnal and in German. Sponsored by Juniata District Mennonite Historical Society.

The Mirror is published bimonthly, starting February 1. To submit an article or calendar item, write Mirror@lmhs.org by the first of the month before publication (e.g. January 1).

Society Receives New Collection of Founder

by John L. Kraft

A diverse cache of old documents has recently come to light from the collection of historian, minister and former Society director Ira D. Landis. In the possession of family members for many years, it represents a rare insight into the lives of several generations of the Landis and Long families who lived in Manheim Township, Lancaster County, principally along the Oregon Pike and Oregon Road. Most of the items came from four families:

1. Henry Landis, 1760-1839, married to Ann Long
2. Benjamin Landis, 1791-1849, married to Ann Long
3. Isaac Landis, 1823-1897, married to (1) Elizabeth Long, (2) Susanna Landis
4. Isaac Long, 1742-1802

The documents include a multitude of subjects including wills, deeds, estate inventories, mill and distillery receipts, tax receipts, militia dues, tavern receipts, letters, real estate papers and other legal miscellany plus several general period broadsides.

These documents have recently been filed by individual surnames and were presented to the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society by Rachel Stahl and Dale Landis, the two living children of Ira D. Landis. Some additional cataloging will eventually result in providing the public with wonderful resource information about Lancaster County Mennonite farm experience in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
Minister Addie Banks by Afrikana Madonna (Barbara Bethea)

I commend unto you, Addie, a woman who walks by faith, who hearkens to the word of God, whose life is saved by Grace. This day a celebration for all good works she’s done, for the harvest is ripe with labor, for the countless souls she has won, for the effectual fervent prayers, for the ministering to those in need. We salute this woman of God, for her labor and good deeds. For knowing when to abase, abound, for a meek and humble spirit, for being a vessel used, empowered by God’s word as she hears it. A woman with a vision to build walls torn down by sin, for offering her life in service, to build walls torn down by sin, ushering the spirit of love within.

Now consider with me Mary’s life. The mother of our Lord and Savior. The challenges she had to face. Minister Addie Banks stands before us, as she watches daily at God’s gates. Strength and honor are her clothing by which great things have happened to implement His will. See God has used women in service to perform great things. Our minister and sister embodies these character traits. See God has used women in service to implement His will by which great things have happened and His purpose has been fulfilled. Our minister and sister embodies these character traits. For knowing when to abase, abound, for a meek and humble spirit, for being a vessel used, empowered by God’s word as she hears it. A woman with a vision to build walls torn down by sin, for offering her life in service, to build walls torn down by sin, ushering the spirit of love within.

I commend unto you, Addie, Our sister in the Lord, who hearkens to the word of God, a woman who walks by faith, Minister Addie Banks stands before us, as she watches daily at God’s gates. Strength and honor are her clothing by which great things have happened to implement His will. See God has used women in service to perform great things. Our minister and sister embodies these character traits. See God has used women in service to implement His will by which great things have happened and His purpose has been fulfilled. Our minister and sister embodies these character traits. For knowing when to abase, abound, for a meek and humble spirit, for being a vessel used, empowered by God’s word as she hears it. A woman with a vision to build walls torn down by sin, for offering her life in service, to build walls torn down by sin, ushering the spirit of love within.

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Board approves statements of vision and values

Recently, the Society board added a vision statement to the new mission statement it approved in February. Together, the statements read: “Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society preserves and interprets the culture and context of Anabaptist-related faith communities connected to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. We seek to be a gathering place where people can explore stories, ideas and legacy—for themselves and with each other.”

The board also approved a list of nine organizational values: Preservation—As a library, archives and interpretive center, we serve as a repository for Anabaptist-related books, papers, and artifacts. Education—We facilitate exploration of the diverse historical backgrounds and culture of Mennonite-related groups through exhibits, storytelling, field trips, seminars, and inspirational programs. Inclusion—We invite all people to discover the diversity of Mennonite history and culture. Accessibility—We aspire to make the Society’s resources available and understandable to all. Relationships—We seek to connect individuals, Mennonite-related churches, educational institutions, and relevant community organizations. Integrity—We attempt to work with trustworthiness, humility and generosity. Accountability—We commit to seeking direction from the church, our members and contributors. Self-Care—We encourage the growth and fulfillment of each board member, staff member and volunteer. Faith—We follow Christ in daily life. At the Society’s annual banquet in April, director Rolando Santiago expressed thanks for the dedication of three outgoing board members—Clarke E. Hess, Phyllis Horst-Noziger and Jay Ranck—and welcomed four new members: Linda Herr, Marvin Sauder, Dan Mast and Darrell Yoder.
I joined the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society to learn more about my forebears. My curiosity led me to the Society’s annual Lancaster Family History Conference. One of the conference-related field trips was an Underground Railroad tour.

Lancaster County was advantageous as an escape route for several reasons. Many of its residents were strongly anti-slavery because of religious convictions. Its location along the Mason-Dixon line with proximity to the North and big cities like Philadelphia made it an ideal passage to freedom.

The first documented activity began in 1804 as William Wright, a ferryman, began transporting slaves across the Susquehanna River at Columbia. Stations were established southward to the Maryland line and northward and eastward at distances about ten miles apart and leaders began to emerge.

On their way to freedom, the slaves had to use elaborate ruses to elude capture. Newspapers contained ads for runaways that included their age, shade of skin color, build and other distinctive details but many of them were able to hide or disguise themselves. Henry Brown was shipped in a crate from Richmond to Philadelphia. Charles Gilbert donned a calico dress and bonnet and walked right past men who were searching for him. Ellen Craft passed herself off as white while sitting on a train next to a friend of her owner.

I had never heard of the Christiana Resistance which took place in 1851 and is now called the opening salvo in the Civil War. Local historians gave us the details at Zercher’s Hotel and Tavern which doubled as a prison and courtroom during the upheaval.

After hearing Christiana’s history, we stopped at Lancaster’s historic Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church where we took part in an interactive spiritual service. I was asked to portray a light skinned slave who is ignored by her white relatives. The pastor and church members portrayed men and women who risked everything to help those seeking freedom.

Our tour ended with a visit to Thaddeus Stevens home and law office in downtown Lancaster. Randy Harris, a consultant for LancasterHistory.org, told us of recent events that led to its designation as a National Park Site. A fugitive’s great-great-granddaughter had made an unexpected discovery while browsing in a Philadelphia antique shop in January. This descendant of Oliver Cromwell Gilbert found a 52-page handwritten account of his escape from slavery. The narrative told how the escapees were told to seek an attorney at 45 South Queen Street “who was a friend to the slaves.”

Although Steven’s work as an abolitionist was well known, until Gilbert’s note surfaced there was no definite proof linking Stevens’ home to the secretive network.

Stevens’ greatest legacy remains his defense of the powerless. He proposed and executed passage of both the 14th Amendment and the Reconstruction Act. At his death he left $50,000 to establish a school for “homeless indigent orphans” which evolved into the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster.

On the 150th anniversary of the Civil War I’ve learned a lot about events leading up to it in Pennsylvania. I wonder what I’ll find the next time I go on a search for my roots. My ancestors are out there waiting but I keep getting sidetracked by American history.

Christine Soper is a retired English teacher, former journalist and American history enthusiast. She graciously allowed major cuts to this once-thorough report.
Staff Receive Anti-Racism Training

In May and June, seven staff and a board member from Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and the 1719 Hans Herr House attended racial justice workshops offered by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and YWCA Lancaster.

The annual workshops provide a safe forum for candid conversation about discrimination in contemporary American society, especially racial discrimination.

“The church is multicultural,” wrote Society director Rolando Santiago in a rationale for recommending the trainings. “LMHS is part of the church. It has a unique educational role among congregations. It is inclusive.”

Santiago, along with 1719 Hans Herr House director Becky Gochnauer and gift shop manager Victoria Pyle attended MCC’s Damascus Road training at Sunnyside Mennonite Church in May.

“I learned that being a white woman has given me privileges beyond what my peers of color receive,” said Gochnauer.

Those privileges are often invisible to those who enjoy them, presenters at both workshops said.

“It was very helpful hearing people’s personal stories of discrimination,” said used-book sales manager David Sauder, who attended the YWCA Lancaster’s Racial Justice Institute at Thaddeus Stevens College in June.

“You may read things in books or in the newspaper, but when someone is sitting there saying it with tears in their eyes, it’s very convincing” he said.

In a workbook prepared for the YWCA’s Racial Justice Institute, one white author challenged herself to list more than 25 privileges of being white.

“I can easily buy posters, postcards, picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys and children’s magazines featuring people of my race,” she wrote.

“I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed. ... I am never asked to speak for all the people who attended the Racial Justice Institute at Thaddeus Stevens College were given full scholarships by the YWCA.

Board member Linda Herr and staff members Lowell Brown, David Sauder, Dorothy Siegrist and Carolyn Wenger were among those who attended YWCA Lancaster’s 2011 Racial Justice Institute at Thaddeus Stevens College.

School Children Hear Stories of Peace

“Mennonite History Day 2011 is now history,” the educational event speaker Glen Sell reported in May.

Sell traveled over a thousand miles, presenting “Stories of Peace” seventy times to 26 Christian school locations throughout central and eastern Pennsylvania.

Invitations came from a wide variety of institutions, he said, including conference and non-conference Mennonite schools, home schooling groups, Beachy Amish and Dunkard Brethren schools and one church youth group.

Audiences ranged from Kindergarten through high school and included a significant number of adults—faculty, staff, parents and grandparents.

“It was a challenge capturing the interest of all present,” he said.

Sell reported that he received dozens of written and verbal affirmations from teachers and students.

One teacher wrote, “About half of my students had never heard of anyone who didn’t believe in going to war. The thing that stood out most was the comment that you couldn’t take the life of someone for whom Jesus died.”

Mennonite History Day is an annual outreach of the Historical Society. To recommend an inspirational speaker for next year’s series, please call Becky Gochnauer at (717) 715-6113 or e-mail director@hansherr.org.
Recent Acquisitions at LMHS Library

Religion


McDermond, J. E. Epistles of 1, 2, 3 John. Herald Press, 2011 (BS2805.3 .M33 2011)


Who are the Mennonites? [DVD]. Third Way Media, 2010 (BX8121.3 .W46 2010 (DVD))

Biography/Genealogy


Music/Cooking/Other


Mennonite girls can cook. By Lovella Schellenberg ... [et al.]. Herald Press, 2011 (TX715 .M46 2011)


Director’s Reflections
Two Strategic Directions
by Rolando Santiago
On January 8, 2011, over 60 stakeholders of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society gathered at the Pheasant Run Farm Bed and Breakfast in Lancaster, Pa. Stakeholders included a significant number of young adults and persons of color. They provided ideas toward a new five-year strategic plan that the board of directors approved on March 21, 2011.

In addition to mission, vision and values (see page 4), the plan includes two exciting strategic directions: expanding public outreach and cultivating effective leadership.

Stakeholders told us that expanding public outreach means LMHS will shape educational programs with schools, churches, community groups and other organizations to encourage understanding and appreciation of history. It will cherish the varied cultures, stories, and perspectives of others. It will use technology in new ways to make LMHS collections accessible to the public. I believe this dynamic direction invigorates the mission of LMHS, as we have seen through Lancaster Roots events in 2010 and 2011.

Our stakeholders also advocated for LMHS to cultivate effective leadership among its board and staff. They wanted us to promote new approaches that achieve management excellence; to equip its board, staff and volunteers with tools for sustained financial health. They encouraged the professional and personal growth of its staff. This second direction affirms an already competent staff which seeks to make the Society the best it can be.

Board and staff of the Historical Society are grateful to its stakeholders for inspiring this new strategic plan. May the celebration of a fresh mission, vision and values begin!
See inside for:
• Storytelling Night
• Anti-Racism
• Poem for Addie Banks

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Your donations make a difference!
A special thanks to Dorothy Groff Allgyer who gave the Society a family baby cradle in April, and to Harold Ranck, who donated the signed 1851 red-and-white quilt detailed below.
Many family heirlooms and personal collections are safely preserved at the Historical Society where they can be seen by admirers and studied for research. To discuss the future of old documents and objects in your home, call Steve Ness or Carolyn Wenger at (717) 393-9745.

For information about the Society’s new Ira D. Landis collection, turn to page 3.

40,000 used books for sale at bedrock prices

The Bookworm Frolic
August 17–20
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Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society
2215 Millstream Road,
Lancaster, PA 17602-1499

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