Leaders in restorative justice to profile global movement

Howard Zehr, Professor of Restorative Justice at Eastern Mennonite University, and Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Restorative Justice Coordinator at Mennonite Central Committee U.S., will present “A Brief History of the Victim-Offender & Restorative-Justice Movements” on Monday, February 27, 7:00 p.m. at Strasburg Mennonite Church.

Restorative justice is an approach to justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by crime. Successful restorative-justice practices may include “victim-offender mediation”—a face-to-face meeting, in the presence of a trained mediator, between the survivor and perpetrator of a crime.

“I don’t think Mennonites realize how much the Mennonite community had to do with getting it started,” Zehr said.

Zehr, sometimes called the grandfather of restorative justice, began writing and practicing in the late 1970s. He was an early advocate for making the needs of victims central to the practice of gaining justice.

“What I did was pull some things together,” he said. “I adopted the name ‘restorative justice.’ I wrote a lot of the manuals and began to conceptualize what a restorative justice practice would look like.”

Zehr has led hundreds of trainings and consultations internationally, including in New Zealand, a country that has restructured its juvenile justice system to incorporate restorative justice principles.

He began working with Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz early on. “Lorraine is much more of a practitioner than I am, so we make a good team,” he said.

Stutzman Amstutz joined the Victim Offender Reconciliation see “Leaders,” page 3

Annual banquet to feature author Ronald J. Sider

Well-known author and theologian Dr. Ronald J. Sider will address Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society’s 2012 Annual Banquet at Weaver Markets Banquet Hall (Denver, Pa.), Saturday, March 31, at 6:00 p.m.

He will speak on the topic of his forthcoming book, The Early Church on Killing: A Comprehensive Sourcebook on War, Abortion and Capital Punishment, to be released by Baker Academic in July.

“I will summarize the data on what the Early Church writers said about killing: totally opposed to abortion; totally opposed to capital punishment; not a single document in support of war,” Sider said.

The sourcebook will provide, in English translation, all extant data on killing directly relevant to the witness of the early church until the time of Constantine.

Volumes have been written about the documents included in the book, but up to this point, no one has compiled a comprehensive collection of the writings themselves, Sider said.

Sider is Professor of Theology, Holistic Ministry & Public Policy at Palmer Theological Seminary (Wynnewood, Pa.) and director of the seminary’s Sider Center on Ministry & Public Policy. He is the founder of Evangelicals for Social Action. His 1977 book, Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger see “Banquet,” page 3

see “Leaders,” page 3
Upcoming Lancaster Roots Events
Lancaster County cultural events organized by Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (LMHS) and the 1719 Hans Herr House. For a complete list, go to www.LancasterRoots.org. Call (717) 393-9745 for a brochure.

Saturday, February 4, 7:00 PM
Annual Music Night Join Chicago singer and songwriter Chuck Neufeld, folk musician Frances Miller, the Men’s Ensemble from Mennonite Heritage Chorale and Vietnamese Mennonite Choir (Philadelphia) for an inspiring evening of diverse music. Neffsville Mennonite Church.

Friday, February 10, 6:30–8:30 PM
Rare and Used Book Auction

Monday, February 27, 7:00 PM
A Brief History of the Victim-Offender and Restorative-Justice Movements Learn from two pioneers in the field of restorative justice: Howard Zehr and Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz. Strasburg Mennonite Church.

Saturday, March 10, 9:00 am–noon
Class: Paint a Pennsylvania German Box

Saturday, March 17, 9:00 am–noon
Class: Fraktur

Thurs, March 22–May 24, 7–9 PM
Class: Pennsylvania German Dialect for Beginners

Saturday, March 31, 6:00 PM
Annual Banquet Hear well-known author and theologian Ron Sider speak about “The Early Church on Killing: War, Abortion and Capital Punishment” Weaver Markets Banquet Hall.

Friday, April 13, 6:30–8:30 PM
Rare and Used Book Auction

Thursday, April 19, 7:30 AM–5:30 PM
Field Trip: Fort McHenry & Baltimore’s Inner Harbor

Thursday, April 19, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
Field Trip: Pennsylvania State Library and Archives

Friday, April 20, 7:30 AM–4:30 PM
Field Trip: Port to Paradise

Friday, April 20, 8:00 AM–noon
Field Trip: 1710 Pequea Settlement

Saturday, April 21, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
Deep Roots: Using DNA to Unlock Your Family’s Ancient Past Dig into your family history at the 33rd annual Lancaster Family History Conference. Keynote address by scientist, Darvin L. Martin; more than a dozen seminars by leading researchers. Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center.

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Leaders from page 1
Program (VORP) in Elkhart, Ind., in 1984. It was the first such program in the U.S. Today, over 1,200 programs follow the VORP model world-wide.

As Restorative Justice Coordinator at Mennonite Central Committee, Lorraine provides consulting and training for agencies and communities seeking to implement restorative justice processes.

A photographer as well as author, Zehr has published more than ten books, including *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*, which has sold over 100,000 copies.

Together, Zehr and Stutzman Amstutz co-authored *Victim Offender Conferencing in PA's Juvenile Justice System* a 160-page curriculum for applying victim-offender mediation techniques in Pennsylvania and *What Will Happen to Me?*, a book based on their touring exhibit of photos and interviews called “Children of Incarcerated Parents.”

Banquet from page 1
was hailed by *Christianity Today* as one of the one hundred most influential books in religion in the twentieth century.

Sider grew up in rural southern Ontario, the child of a Canadian Brethren in Christ pastor. He received a BA in European history from the University of Waterloo (Ont.), and an M.Div. and Ph.D. in history from Yale.

In 1968, Sider accepted an invitation from Messiah College (Grantam, Pa.) to teach at its newly opened Philadelphia Campus. His encounter with racism, poverty and Evangelical indifference started him on a career devoted to developing a biblical response to social injustice.

The banquet will also include an auction of an original watercolor by Lynn Sommer, painted wood carving by Benjamin and Nora Hoover and *Golden Apples in Silver Bowls*, the out-of-print English translation of a classic Anabaptist devotional. Marcy Hostetler, choral director at Lancaster Mennonite School, will lead singing.

33rd Lancaster Family History Conference to focus on DNA

“The Deep Roots—Using DNA to Unlock Your Family’s Ancient Past” is the theme of the 33rd annual Lancaster Family History Conference, to convene at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center on Saturday, April 21.

*DNA—Deoxyribonucleic Acid*—is a chemical found in the cells of every living organism on earth. It acts like a chemical blueprint, telling those cells how to reproduce.

Human DNA is 99.9% identical from person to person. But, after testing hundreds of thousands of individuals, scientists can trace tiny variations in human DNA to particular places and people groups around the world.

“Now there’s no need to give up on your family history when the paper trail ends. The record is inside your body,” said Darvin L. Martin, who will present the keynote address.

The conference will include more than a dozen seminars from leading researchers, ranging from “Your Ancestors’ Germany: Microstates and Microbreweries” to “Making Sense out of Scots-Irish Genealogy,” “The Huguenot Diaspora,” “Amish and Old Order Mennonite Genetics,” and “Hispanic Genealogy for Beginners.”

Advance registration—$95 for LMHS members, $110 for nonmembers—is required by April 15. To register, download the History Conference brochure from www.lmhs.org or request a printed brochure by contacting (717) 393-9745 or historyconference@lmhs.org.

Forward-thinking historians needed!

The Historical Society is looking for a volunteer to help coordinate its DNA testing project. The work involves answering calls and emails from people interested in taking a genealogical DNA test, keeping kits in stock, tracking payments and coordinating the interpretive assistance provided by Darvin Martin. An interest in DNA research and family history is helpful although brief training can be provided. If you are interested, please contact Peggy Erb at perb@lmhs.org or (717) 393-9745.
Rare-book auctions generate excitement

The Society’s auctions of rare, out-of-print and used books are on a roll. Last April, the Society made national news with the sale of two 1748 Martyrs Mirror from the collection of former Eastern Mennonite University professor, Al Keim. In November, a 1700 German translation of Vita Patrum surfaced in an auction of books from former New Holland employee Ivan Glick.

On Friday, February 10, the year’s first auction will include:
- A 1575 volume of Ein Fundament und Klare Anweisung von der seligmachenden Lehre unsers Herrn Jesu Christi, a “foundation and plain instruction of the saving doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ,” by Menno Simons;
- An 1748 German copy of the Wolerfahrner Pferd-Arzt—an illustrated 1796 compendium of horse diseases and cures.

The auction will be held at Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Friday, February 10, 6:30–8:30 PM. Books will be displayed at the Society before the sale. Catalogs and complete guidelines are available for download at www.lmhs.org or in print for a small fee.

Selected recent library acquisitions

Religion


Leithart, Peter J. Defending Constantine: the twilight of an empire and the dawn of Christendom. IVP Academic, 2010 (BR180 L45 2010)


Weaver, Luke S. Successful living: a study of Bible-based economic and lifestyle principles for group study or personal contemplation. L.S. Weaver, 2010 (BR115 E3 W43 2010)


Biography/Genealogy


Snyder, Roy. It was all worthwhile: the life and times of Roy and Clara Snyder, Waterloo, Ontario. The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario, 2010 (BX8143.S693 A3 2010)


History


Art/Music/Literature


Byler, Linda. Lizzie’s Amish cookbook: favorite recipes from three generations of Amish cooks! Good Books, 2011 (TX721 B95 2011)


Williams, Sarajane. Pennsylvania German folk songs: for piano or harp solo. Silva Vocat, 2011 (M1668.3  .W55 2011)
**Director’s Reflections**

**Why should Mennonites care about American Indians?**

by Rolando Santiago

In the last five years, the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and the 1719 Hans Herr House and Museum have been interacting with the Native American community—in Lancaster County and beyond—to foster education about its history.

Since 2008, staff and board members have been part of a cross-cultural Honor and Healing Committee. This Committee organized a service of honor and healing on October 10, 2010, at First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster that was attended by over 250 persons, including 45 Native Americans from around the country. As a result of the Committee’s efforts, LMHS and the Hans Herr House are driving a project to build a replica Eastern Woodland Indian longhouse on the grounds of the 1719 Hans Herr House.

Through these activities, I’ve encountered the question: Why should Mennonites be involved in American Indian concerns?

One answer is that the histories of Mennonites and American Indians are more intertwined with each other than readily apparent. Mennonites care about this history because of their passion for land stewardship, peace and just discipleship.

**Land Stewardship**

Mennonites who settled Lancaster County in the early 1700s benefited from land purchases that William Penn and other Pennsylvania government officials made with many Native American tribes. A prevalent view at the time was the “doctrine of discovery.” This doctrine justified the way colonial powers claimed lands from sovereign indigenous nations. Mennonites were influenced by this view.

Historically, however, Mennonites have tried to take their cues from the Bible. In Leviticus, laws about the Year of Jubilee suggest land ownership should not be permanent. Everyone was commanded to return to their own property (Leviticus 25:13).

Today, some Mennonites are reclaiming biblical stories of land stewardship. I have a Mennonite friend who is seeking to follow the example of Zacchaeus. His family is searching for ways to return land to the Native American community in Nebraska, just as Zacchaeus repaid what he took through excessive tax collection.

**Peace**

Historically, Mennonites have been serious about the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9).

In 1755, Mennonites sent a petition to the Pennsylvania Assembly in Philadelphia to clarify their position on war during a military confrontation between the French and English in western Pennsylvania. In the petition, thirteen “Mennonist” leaders stated: “We are injoin’d to Love our Enemies[,] to bless them that curse us, and to pray for them that despitefully use us and persecute us……”

Echoes of this Mennonite peace tradition are found in Native American cultures. One example can be found in Searching for Sacred Ground: The Journey of Chief Lawrence Hart, Mennonite (2007). In Chapter 18, Peace Chief Hart explains to the author, Raylene Hinz-Penner, the way the Cheyenne bring peace and harmony into their communities.

**Just Discipleship**

Menno Simons believed that once “re-generated,” Christians walked in newness of life. In 1539, he wrote:

> For true evangelical faith … cannot lie dormant; but manifests itself in all righteousness and works of love; it … clothes the naked; feeds the hungry; consoles the afflicted; shelters the miserable; aids and consols all the oppressed; returns good for evil; serves those that injure it; prays for those that persecute it.

In 1763, a village of Conestoga Indians was massacred by a group of men from Paxtang (Harrisburg), in one of the most infamous incidents in Lancaster County history. Fourteen of the bodies were buried in a cemetery believed to have been owned by a Mennonist family, the Nissleys. Although we don’t fully know that the Nissley family offered the burial site, we do have other examples of just discipleship today.

This past fall, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Ontario responded to requests for assistance from the Attawapiskat aboriginal community on the shores of James Bay. The community was experiencing a state of emergency that included 122 families living in condemned housing. MCC Ontario’s initial response provided 1,000 winter blankets, 500 health kits and 25 relief kits for the most impacted.

**In my early middle school years** in Puerto Rico, my class went on a field trip to the woods near the house of a fellow student. I scraped through dead foliage and dug two or three inches into the ground to discover small, broken pieces of pottery. These came from an ancient “yucayeque” or village of Taíno Indians, who inhabited the Aibonito area prior to Spanish colonization in the 1500s. For many years, one of the pieces of pottery represented an emotional link to my own probable Puerto Rican Indian ancestry.

As Mennonites stay true to values of land stewardship, peace and just discipleship, we may discover that Native American history is also “our” history.
Can you tell history from fiction?

For over thirty years, the Bookworm Frolic—a huge, four-day outdoor sale at Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society—has brought book-lovers together and given new life to more than 40,000 books a year.

The next Frolic will happen Wednesday–Saturday, August 15–18, but preparations are already in full swing.

Help to sort books for the 2012 sale! Sortings are scheduled each month on:
- the first Wednesday afternoon;
- the first Thursday evening;
- the second Monday evening; and
- the third Wednesday afternoon.

Or grab a group of friends and schedule your own sorting. Contact David Sauder: (717) 393-9745 or usedbooks@lmhs.org

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See inside for:
- Ronald J. Sider at annual banquet
- Leaders in restorative justice
- 33rd family history conference

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