"Hazel’s People" Field Trip

Many local Mennonites were involved in making this film forty years ago. At that time, many in the church community were not sure Mennonites should be involved in filmmaking, especially since Hollywood actors were part of the cast. Join the tour of making “Hazel’s People” on September 13. Visit locations at which the full-length feature was filmed, share memories, and reflect on whether we are still Hazel’s People.

Eric Mills, a hippie student in New York, comes to Lancaster to make sure his friend—a Mennonite—is buried properly. While in Lancaster, he finds some measure of peace among “Hazel’s People,” and decides to stay for a while. As he lives among Mennonites, he sees the best and worst of the community.

The tour leaves from the Society headquarters, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, Pa., at 9 AM, returning at 5 PM. Tickets cost $65 per member, $75 for nonmembers and are available online or by calling (717) 393-9745. A light lunch is included.

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

Inside:
• Films in the Field
• Folk Art Classes
• History and Disruptive Innovation

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society thanks these generous business supporters:

Sponsors
Four Seasons Produce, Inc.
“Growing Ideas, Producing Excellence”
www.fsproduce.com

Landis Homes
“Serving One Another”
www.landishomes.org

Partners
CCAB Insurance & Benefits, Inc.
Elite Mailing Services
Executive Printing Co., Inc.
Good To U Auto Center, LLC
Groff’s Plumbing & Heating
Haller Enterprises

Hershey Advisors, P.C.
Mast Electric, Inc.
Robert H. Ranck, Inc., Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning
Spectrum Printing, Inc.
TCW Computer Systems, Inc.
Triangle Refrigeration Company
Annual Storytelling Night Features Local Leaders

This year’s Storytelling Night will allow the audience to get on a personal level with two of today’s Mennonite leaders as they tell memorable moments of their lives. The audience will gain an even deeper understanding of these two individuals as the listeners will be able to ask the speakers questions afterwards about their stories.

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Soto Albrecht, moderator of Mennonite Church USA, and Richard Thomas, superintendent of Lancaster Mennonite Schools and former moderator of Mennonite Church USA, will tell stories in Storytelling Night at Stumptown Mennonite Church. It will take place on Monday, September 22, at 7 pm at Stumptown Mennonite Church, 2813 Stumptown Road, Bird in Hand. Admission is free; parking is provided.

Albrecht and Thomas will each alternate telling seven stories of memorable moments in their lives. Afterwards, the audience will be able to ask the storytellers questions.

“The audience will experience some insight into each person as the evening unfolds, gaining a sense of who these unusual servants of the church are through their personal stories,” says event coordinator Phyllis Good.

Moderator of Mennonite Church USA, Elizabeth Soto Albrecht grew up in Puerto Rico. She presently lives in Lancaster County. Along with being moderator, Albrecht is also consultant for the Cross-cultural program, coordinator for field education, and adjunct professor at Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Elizabeth says: “There are two identities I hold very dear to my heart: my Christian identity as an Anabaptist and my Latina (gender and cultural) identity. Both inform and shape who I am as a servant of God.”

Superintendent of Lancaster Mennonite Schools, J. Richard Thomas, is a member of Mennonite Church USA Executive Board. He is a former moderator of Mennonite Church USA, and during 2011-2013, served as a member of Mennonite World Conference’s General Council.

Zook Diorama Exhibit
Opens September 6

Come to the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society to see intricate handcrafted three dimensional paintings by Abner Zook and hear from James Binsberger, an avid collector of Zook’s work, who loaned the paintings from his home collection. This show, beginning September 6 with a reception from 3-5:30 pm, will be the largest publically accessible display of Abner K. Zook art in Lancaster County.

Abner Zook, who grew up in the Amish community, made over eight hundred three-dimensional paintings in his lifetime. Abner’s twin brother, Aaron, was also an artist. As children, the boys would compete to see who could make better toys and watercolor pictures.

Abner’s paintings are a combination of painting and sculpture. In the paintings, the buildings, figures, trees, carriages, and other items are all sculpted. They are made out of various materials from steel wool and copper wire to material that was originally intended to repair automobile bodies.

Zook’s intricate paintings are action-based and tell a story. The paintings include scenes from daily life such as farm work, church gatherings, public sales, barn raisings, and busy train stations.

The pieces for the show are borrowed from the James J. and Nancy Binsberger Collection, which is the largest known collection of Abner and Aaron Zook pieces. At the opening night, James Binsberger will give a short presentation on the collection.

The reception takes place on September 6 from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, Pa. The opening event will be free, and light refreshments will be served. The show runs Tuesday-Saturday, September 9 until December 31 for $5 per person.
Films in the Field

This September, Hans Herr House will be showing four Mennonite films in the horse field for the new “Films in the Field” series. Each Saturday of the month, guests will watch a movie in the field and hear from people involved in its creation.

The first film, “The Radicals,” will be shown on September 6. “The Radicals” takes place during the beginning of the Anabaptist movement, when rebaptism was a crime. The film tells the story of Michael and Margaret Sattler from their monastic vows to becoming leaders and dying for their faith.

“The Silence at Bethany” will be shown on September 13. In the movie, hippie Eric Mills attends the funeral of one his friends in Lancaster. Eric is fascinated by the Mennonite lifestyle of forgiveness, love, and personal faith in Jesus Christ and decides to stay.

“The Silence at Bethany” will be shown September 20. The movie tells the story of Ira Martin, a young man who becomes a preacher when he returns to the Mennonite community where he grew up. There he comes into conflict with the deacon, whose interpretations of Scriptures in daily life are much more strict than his own.

“Pearl Diver” will be shown September 27. The film follows two sisters as they reconnect after many years after the one turned from conservative Mennonite to worldly. The sisters revisit the murder of their mother when they were children and learn how to open up about what happened that night.

Films begin at 7:30 pm every Saturday. Attendees must bring their own chairs. The films will be shown rain or shine, moving to cover in case of inclement weather. Each film is $5; “The Silence at Bethany” is by donation only. Individual and family passes are available. For more information, contact Hans Herr House at info@hansherr.org or call (717) 464-4438.

Fall Folk Art Classes

Four art classes that will teach students about Pennsylvania German and Native American art forms will be held between the Society and the 1719 Herr House this fall. The classes will be a cultural and hands-on experience for the students, practicing traditional craft. Barbara Christy, teaching bead work, says “Most people don’t teach what we do. This is an individually unique class.”

The Grain Painting & Featherstitching class at LMHS will teach students how to combine the two Pennsylvania German art forms to make a ready-to-hang folk art home accent.

The Society’s Introduction to Rug Braiding will teach the basics of rug braiding: preparing fabric, starting a rug, forming a braid, and finishing a rug. By the end of the class one will have an 8-10 inch miniature round rug trivet and knowledge of the basic formation of a rug without having to commit to a large project.

Hans Herr House will be holding a Native American Quillwork class that will teach students how to make their own choker necklace out of quills. The class will use the porcupine quills like applique and put them on leather. Teacher MaryAnn Robins, Onondaga says, “Art forms tell a lot about the culture that they belong to. For example, the Native American art shows that they waste nothing. Native Americans would use the entire animal—from the hide to the quills—to make something.”

Students will learn how to do traditional Native American bead working at the Hans Herr House and make their own beaded and embroidered flower, using seed beads. “Although the work is tedious, it is not hard. This craft is something you can make yourself and turn into something spectacular,” says Christy.

Grain Painting & Featherstitching is from 9 am-3 pm on October 18 at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. The cost is $70 for members and $75 nonmembers. Introduction to Rug Braiding is from 9 am-12 pm September 6. It costs $60 members and $65 nonmembers. Tickets can be purchased online at lmhs.org or by calling (717) 393-9745.

The Native American Quillwork class is from 9 am-12 pm and Native American Beadwork is from 1-4 pm on October 25 at Hans Herr House. Each costs $25 per person. Tickets are available at hansherr.org or by calling (717) 393-9745.

Supplies are included for all folk art classes.

Interns at the Society

The Society is pleased to welcome two interns this summer.

Helena Neufeld is a returning intern for summer 2014 at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. As the volunteer coordinator, Helena organizes volunteers for the Society’s annual Bookworm Frolic. She also works on expanding and maintaining the online bookstore.

This fall Helena will be returning to Goshen College for her sophomore year. She is working on an interdisciplinary major in which she will be focusing on political studies, women’s and gender studies and Spanish language. Helena currently attends Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster.

This is Hope Sholly’s first year interning at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society although she has previously volunteered at the Bookworm Frolic. She is working as the communications assistant and writes articles, conducts interviews, and publicizes the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society’s events on community bulletin boards.

Hope will be a junior at Marywood University this fall where she is pursuing a liberal arts degree in Spanish language and a fine arts degree with a focus on painting. She attends Middle Creek Church of the Brethren.
History and Disruptive Innovation

Disruptive innovation is a term that Clayton Christensen, Harvard Business School professor, coined to describe “a process by which a product or service takes root initially in simple applications at the bottom of a market and then relentlessly moves up market, eventually displacing established competitors.” One example is the way that personal computers took over the computer business by displacing mainframe computers in the 1970s and 1980s.

Proponents of disruptive innovation claim it is a theory of organizational change for chronicling the past and predicting the future. In the June 23, 2014, issue of The New Yorker, Jill Lepore, who is a historian and fellow faculty member of Christensen at Harvard University, begged to disagree.

Lepore argued that rather than a theory of change, disruption is a theory of history that describes the anxiety that organizations experience in current economic circumstances. She goes on to suggest that the evidence about how organizations evolve have elements of both continuity and change. This thought prodded me to reflect on why the church and its institutions should nurture elements of stability and change as they seek to flourish.

The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society has offered theological, historical and genealogical resources in its 30,000-volume library since the organization’s founding in 1958. It has published a scholarly magazine since 1960. In August 13 to 16, it will hold its 35th Bookworm Frolic, a major fundraiser. These activities promote organizational stability into the future.

On the other side, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society organized the Lancaster Roots initiative in 2010 to celebrate three hundred years of settlement and rich cultural diversity in Lancaster County. Since then, the Lancaster Roots effort has marketed to the community each year over forty attractive cultural events like storytelling nights, Longhouse tours, and Music in the Orchard concerts that are organized jointly by the Society and the 1719 Hans Herr House and Museum. These events demonstrate the importance of organizational innovation to stay fresh and relevant.

In what ways would you say that your church or your organization promotes tradition and innovation to help it thrive in the twenty-first century?

Recent Acquisitions

Religion/Theology

Family History
Coleman, Delores Book. The Bookend!: the story of Michael and Barbara Book and the people who made us what we are today! [Dee Coleman], 2014 (CT234.C65 A3 2014)

Miscellaneous

Hymn Books Featured in September Auction


Other old books include Johann Arndt’s “Sechs Bücher vom wahren Christenthum,” an old, (likely 1702,) printing of “Güldene Aepffel in silbern Schalen,” and two German-language books containing writings of Menno Simons. There are two English “Martyr’s Mirrors,” one published in Lampeter in 1837, and the other in Philadelphia in 1849.

Two much-sought recent books for sale are John Ruth’s “The Earth is the Lord’s,” and “The Jonas Martin Era,” edited by Amos Hoover. Also of interest is a four-volume set of the “Mennonite Encyclopedia.”

The entire sale catalog can be accessed at lmhs.org. Information can also be obtained by calling 717-393-9745. Mail-in bids are accepted through 4 pm, Thursday, June 12. No absentee bids under $10 will be accepted.