Inside:
- Uncovering the Jean E. (Wolgemuth) Breneman Collection
- Create your own folk art
- Annual Music Night features global flair

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.
Robert H. Ranck, Inc.,
Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning

Spectrum Printing, Inc.
TCW Computer Systems, Inc.
Triangle Refrigeration Company
Annual Music Night with global flair

The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (LMHS) will feature songs from Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe at its Annual Music Night on Saturday, January 31, 2015, 7 PM, at Neffsville Mennonite Church (2371 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, Pa). “This concert will give the audience a taste for the rich diversity of music that people will experience during worship at the Mennonite World Conference (MWC) Assembly. It convenes on July 21-26, 2015, at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Pa,” said Rolando Santiago, director of LMHS.

Bryan Moyer Suderman, who lives near Toronto, Canada, will serve as lead artist for the evening. Bryan was a member of songleading teams for the MWC Assemblies in Paraguay (2009), Zimbabwe (2003) and Winnipeg (1990). Suderman describes himself by saying, “I live my vocation of building up the body of Christ by creating and sharing songs of faith for small and tall.”

Music styles from Puerto Rico and other Latin American and Caribbean countries will showcase songs frequently heard in Christian churches. Angel R. Sanchez, who attends a Hispanic Pentecostal church, will sing one of his own compositions using the “decima” style, which descends from medieval Spanish ballads. Urban Worshipers, a vibrant worship band from a Mennonite congregation in Brooklyn, New York, will demonstrate contemporary songs popular in churches with styles ranging from Latin to reggae to gospel and more.

African songs in Swahili and French will head up a section of music from Eastern and Central African countries such as Kenya and Congo, respectively. Worship teams from the African Community Church of Lancaster and from the Middletown Evangelical Center for Revival will grace the evening with singing that is rhythmic, invigorating, and lively.

Immigrant groups from Asia, specifically the KaRen from Thailand and Burma, and the Nepali-speaking from Bhutan, will illustrate how song and dance are integrated into Christian worship. A KaRen group that meets at Habecker Mennonite Church will perform a song and a New Year’s dance. Then a song will be performed by the Nepali Bhutanese Church of Lancaster, and young people from that congregation, meeting at West End Mennonite Church, will demonstrate a cultural worship dance.

Traditional Slavic songs will exemplify music from the European continent. The five-member Kravets Family will reveal exquisite Slavic harmonies through a cappella singing, a string ensemble, and a brass quintet, prevalent in worship among Christian churches in the Ukraine.

Tickets for the Annual Music Night are $20 per person, $15 for students with ID, and $15 per person for households of three or more. Get your tickets at lmhs.org, by calling (717) 393-9745 or by completing the form on page 2.

Preparing for MWC-PA 2015

Join us as we prepare for Mennonite World Conference’s Assembly that takes place July 21-26, 2015, at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Pa. Please consider coming to the following event cosponsored with the Brethren in Christ Historical Society and MWC:

- Discussion of important book, “What We Believe Together” by Alfred Neufeld, led by Richard Thomas, Phyllis Pellman Good, and Devin Manzullo-Thomas, Monday, January 12, 7 PM, at Forest Hills Mennonite Church (100 Quarry Road, Leola, Pa.)
Church history books featured on auction

Philip Schaff's authoritative "History of the Christian Church" in eight volumes will be sold at the January 9, 2015 book auction. Reprinted from the 1907-1910 editions, the books are in very good condition with attractive dust jackets. Schaff's work can be acquired at the bi-monthly auction of rare and used books starting at 6:30 pm. The January auction is the first of a new schedule, where auctions will now be held on odd, rather than even, months.

There are several excellent histories of Mennonite conferences. Also being sold at the auction are J. C. Wenger's "The Mennonites in Indiana and Michigan," Paul Erb's "South Central Frontiers," Hope Lind's "Apart and Together" which features the story of the Mennonites in Oregon; and Frank H. Epp's "Mennonites in Canada, 1786-1920."

The auction also features a large number of congregational histories. One will be able to purchase histories of Mennonite congregations like Hinkletown, Hershey, New Danville, Paradise, Groffdale, New Holland, Lichten, Hammer Creek, Neffsville, and many more. Of special interest is John Ruth's "Maintaining the Right Fellowship" and "The Earth Is the Lord's," narrative histories of the Mennonites in eastern Pennsylvania, and the Mennonites in the Lancaster area, respectively.

For those interested in genealogy, there are a good number of family history books listed in the catalog.

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, January 8. No absentee bids under $10 will be accepted.

Create your own folk art

Pick up a skill this winter with one of the Society's upcoming folk-art classes! The Society starts 2015 off with three exciting folk-art classes: Fraktur I—A Taste for Fraktur, Fraktur II—The Illuminated Letter, and Grain Painting. Claim your spot in one or all of these classes with the form below or by calling today at (717) 393-9745.

Fraktur is a distinctly American folk art dating back to the mid-1700s and was an important part of Pennsylvania German culture. The traditional motives of birds, flowers, and hearts are rendered in ink, accompanied by ornate calligraphy, then painted in watercolor.

Fraktur I—A Taste for Fraktur, which focuses on the imagery of fraktur, will take place on January 17 from 9 am until noon. During the class, students will create their own small piece of fraktur. The class will also include a presentation on the history and styles of fraktur and a demonstration of ink and watercolor techniques. A starter kit is included so the students can continue to explore the world of fraktur when the class is over.

Fraktur II—The Illuminated Letter will pick up after Fraktur I and will focus on learning lettering and calligraphy within the context and history of fraktur. The class runs from 9 am until noon on February 28. A materials kit is included in cost of tuition.

Learn how to add the rich look of wood to your next project with this class on false-graining techniques. Grain painting is a technique used since the 18th century to make woods such as maple, pine, or poplar look like expensive hardwoods. James King, a local 'fancy painter,' and author of "False Graining Techniques," will teach this class on February 7, from 9 am until noon.

Registrations

- Fraktur I, A Taste for Fraktur, January 17; $70 members, $75 nonmembers. Includes fraktur starter kit. Registration due January 10.
- Annual Music Night, January 31; $20 person, $15 students, $15 per person for households of three or more.
- Grain Painting, February 7; $50 members, $60 nonmembers. Registration due January 24.
- Fraktur II, the Illuminated Letter, February 28; $50 members, $60 nonmembers. Registration due February 14.

My check is payable to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

Please charge my:  

\[\square \] Visa    \[\square \] MasterCard    \[\square \] Discover

Card Number______________________  Expiration Date________/______  Security Code______________________

Name_________________________________________________________

Address_______________________________________________________

City________________________State_________Zip____________________

Phone____________________E-mail________________________________

Please return to LMHS, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499.
Director Reflection: The Potter, Advent, and History

I recently heard an inspiring sermon preached by Kathy Miller, spouse of Alan Miller, interim intentional pastor at Neffsville Mennonite Church. The title of her Advent sermon was “Oh, that you would reveal your hope.” For the biblical text, she used Isaiah 64:8 (NIV): “Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.” Kathy showed a poignant painting that depicted a woman kneeling in prayer surrounded by a potter’s hands.

Kathy pointed out that God is like the potter. We, human beings, are the clay that the potter uses to mold us as vessels to reveal God’s nature. Sometimes there are dark times in our human lives. During these times, the potter’s hands appear invisible to us. Yet, God uses these times to shape us into new creations in ways that we do not fully understand.

God, the potter, used Jesus to make a direct connection between the transcendent and the human. Advent provides a time to reflect on God’s intervention in history, and specifically on the birth and life of Jesus, who set an example of God’s original intent for human beings and for all creation.

Colleagues and students of a beloved Dutch professor of philosophy of history, M. C Smit, published in 1987 a collection of Smit’s work called Writings on God and History. Smit believed in two histories. “First history” is transcendental and immutable. It establishes unity and coherence of historical reality. Love is an example. It has many different expressions across cultures and time, yet it retains its essential identity. This first history (or metahistory) is what makes the “second history” possible. The second history is about human thinking and acting. It is characterized by elements of continuity and change, but it is the first history that keeps all of history integrated and gives it meaning.

To conclude, in times when wars, infectious diseases, and racial injustices threaten to bring chaos into our human existence, we can rest in the hope that God, in Jesus, still cares to mold us personally and communally.

Uncovering the Jean E. (Wolgemuth) Breneman Collection

The Society recently received a collection of personal papers of Jean E. (Wolgemuth) Breneman. Born in 1925, Breneman was the daughter of John K. and Mae W. (Brubaker) Wolgemuth and the wife of Clifford W. Breneman. The collection was donated in 2014 by her daughter, Janet Breneman, of Lancaster, Pa.

The collection includes records typical of personal papers, such as correspondence, photographs, and an autograph album. Some documents relate to Mount Joy Mennonite Church, where Breneman attended, but the majority relate to her experience in three schools—Mount Joy High School, Eastern Mennonite School (EMS), and Lancaster Mennonite School (LMS).

What is fascinating about this collection is, in fact, how ordinary it is. Breneman held on to a number of documents that most persons would discard as ephemeral. In so doing, she provides us with a view of schools and education in the late 1930s and 1940s that we likely would not see in historical writing. For example, among her EMS records is a “Registration Card for Electrical Appliances,” a 1941 document signed by H. D. Weaver in the business office, permitting her to use an electric clock in her room. Also, there are a couple of completed EMS excuse cards for student absence.

Included among the LMS material is a September 1942 letter from the school to the students, giving guidance as to what to expect at the start of school and what things could be useful in the students’ rooms. A document with source and date not identified but which is believed to have originated at LMS is a type-written sheet titled, “How to Entertain a Boy Friend.” No. 8 of the fifteen suggestions states, “Read and exchange good poetry. Love awakens poetic sense.”

Society members may view this and other archival collections for free during regular operating hours. Nonmembers pay a $5.00 daily fee to use the library and archives.