



Volume 21

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The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

Smithsonian exhibit visits Kidron October 20-November 17

Few museums can compare to the professionalism and prestige of the Smithsonian Institution. Its nineteen separate museums contain more than 136 million artifacts. The Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center has the honor of hosting one of the Smithsonian's traveling displays from October 20 through November 17.

Between Fences is one of several traveling displays produced by the Smithsonian for its Museum on Main Street program. The Smithsonian's website explains that the display's "subjects include the defining of home, farm and factory; the settling of the United States; and the making of fences. It examines human relationships on an expanding scale: neighbor versus neighbor; gated communities and the Mexican and Canadian borders of the U.S."

All regions of the U.S. are represented in the display which covers both historic and contemporary fences. *Between Fences* was also designed to be engaging to children and families.

To maximize the community's opportunity to visit the display, the Heritage Center will be open longer hours for the duration of the display. The Center will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10-4:00 and Saturdays 9-4:00. Additional volunteers are needed to cover the extended hours.

School classes are encouraged to visit. Please call 330-857-9111 to schedule a tour. Supplemental educational materials to accompany the display have been created by the Smithsonian to enrich the experience for students.



Auction and meal conclude three-year *CommuniTree* project

The 2008 Heritage Center display titled *CommuniTree* was inspired by a powerful windstorm that swept through the Wayne county area in 2006, knocking down hundreds of trees. In the aftermath of the storm, some dreamers with a love of fine wood envisioned a combination exhibit and fundraiser that would showcase the woodworking talent of the Kidron area.

Finally, on October 17, the items created for that display will be auctioned at the Kidron Community Building in Evergreen Park, with proceeds benefiting KCHS. Items up for auction include furniture, decorative pieces and several toys. The full auction list is available at www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org.

A fundraiser meal will begin at 5:00 with a menu of veal burgers, Winesburg hot dogs, noodles, dressing, cole slaw, cake and homemade ice cream. The meal is offered on a donation basis and will be served until 7:00 when the auction, led by Lynn Neuenschwander, begins.

Bluegrass Reunion, a music group made up of Butch and Sandi Suttle, David Gedalecia and Errol Miller, will perform a selection of bluegrass and gospel tunes from 6-6:45.

All are invited to attend this unique opportunity to support the work of KCHS and take home a piece of history in the form of an heirloom-quality piece of wooden art.



This combination rocking horse, high chair and child's desk, made by Vernon Steiner from oak, is one of several items for children available at the *CommuniTree* auction on October 17. The auction is open to all bidders.

We have a new email address!
 Please email us at
kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com
 and be sure to update your address book!

Welcome New Annual,
 Lifetime and
 Heritage Club Members

Judy Amstutz–Orrville
 Lloyd and Esther Lehman–Dalton

Visit
kidronhistoricalsociety.org
 to see past newsletters,
CommuniTree auction items,
 and more about KCHS.

Soggy Sonnenberg Village homecoming

August 8 was a beautiful day, some of the time. The rest of the time, it was, well, wet. That didn't keep those attending the Sonnenberg Village homecoming from having a good time.

Delicious food from the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church food trailer and Schloneger's Homemade Ice Cream, along with music by Matt Rabatin and friends started off the festivities. Later, the Akron Black Stockings played two 1800s-style baseball games against an Amish team and the Kidron Ol' Timers.



Vintage pop and folk music was performed by Alyssa Steiner, Shannon Neuenschwander, Barb Ressler, Ivan Sugarman, Roscoe Lehman, Matt Rabatin and Winfred Ressler.



Kidron was represented by (back) Clarence Steiner, Bob Speicher, Winfred Ressler, Glenn Miller, Gary Nussbaum, Ken Shoup, Myron Shoup; (front): Dean Steiner, Marvin Troyer, Jason Miller, Kerwin Steiner, and Art Neuenschwander.



Clarence Steiner ready to belt out a big hit for the Kidron team. The Black Stockings won, 7-6. Marv Troyer discovered during the game that fielding without a mitt can really make your hands sting. A local Amish team managed a rare defeat of the Akron team by a score of 9-4.



The Black Stockings Base Ball Club is based at Stan Hywet Hall in Akron. Their motto, "Playing the game of base ball the way it was meant to be played," is a reminder of the fun and sportsmanlike history of the game. Features of vintage baseball include smaller bats, softer balls, no mitts and no fouls. Umpire Rich Juggler made the game more interesting for the spectators by explaining the rules and traditions of the game as they played.



The Great Depression of 1929

Kidron Korner
by Celia Lehman

You may have lived through the Great Depression or you may have heard your parents or grandparents talk about those hard times.

Beverly (Steve) Steiner and I have taken on a project to learn what life was like during this era. We hope to collect ideas from the community and present them in a form that would help people prepare their families if hard times come again.

Here are ten questions to consider. Feel free to write down and send or e-mail responses to the questions or other ideas to us, call us or invite us for a conversation.

1. The banks closed and people rushed to withdraw their savings. I remember that ...
2. How was living in the country different from living in the city?
3. In what way did neighbors stick together and help each other?
4. How did your parents compensate for the rising costs?
5. What did your family produce so you had good food to eat?
6. What did you do to make things "last longer?"
7. What modes of transportation did you use?
8. What did you do for entertainment?
9. How did the Depression affect dating and marriage?
10. How were special holidays celebrated?

We welcome additional information not mentioned above and are looking forward receiving many responses.

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Sonnenberg Village continues to progress

The Sonnenberg Village Planning Committee and workers had a busy summer building a silt pond, installing new storm water drain lines and building a water retention system from Hackett Road to the Tschantz Cabin. One half of the village's parking lot is currently under construction. All work done so far has been approved by the EPA and will soon stop for the winter. A new sign has been donated and installed at the entrance to the village. Volunteers will complete the entrance area and put in some plants in October.

As the warm weather comes to an end, work is focused on preparing the village for winter. Workers have repaired the Lehman House in several places and built steps to the basement. The Tschantz family plans to install doors and windows in their cabin yet this fall.

Volunteers are needed to form two committees: an energy design committee to design an electrical and heat generation system for the village, and a committee to secure the funds necessary to move the Sonnenberg School house. Please call the Heritage Center at 330-857-9111 soon if you have interest in serving on either committee.

Thank you to our July, August and September volunteers!

Ada Amstutz
Judy Amstutz
Esther Falb
Nancy Ganyard
Anna Gehman
John Gehman
Amos Geiser
Dave Gerber
Leora Gerber
Ann Groh
Glen Groh
Carolyn Haas
Gail Johnson
Eldon King
Nancy King
Eldon Kornhaus
Eileen Lehman
John Lehman
Shirley Lehman
Joan Martin
Myron Martin
Don Miller
Glenn Miller
Bill Moser
Clarence Neuenschwander
Bernice Nussbaum
Bessie Nussbaum
Delvin Nussbaum
Don Nussbaum
Gloria Nussbaum
Heinz Peter
Rosa Peter
Ella Rohrer
Carolyn Shoup
Vernon Shoup
Fritz Sprunger
Janet Sprunger
Bud Steiner
Clayton Steiner
Jean Steiner
Walter Steiner
Cindy Strubbe
Meg Wilkins
Carol Yoder

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Bit o' Vit Editor Kris Nussbaum

The Kidron Community Historical Society of Kidron, Ohio, founded in 1977, operates under the nonprofit charter granted by the State of Ohio. Your tax deductible gifts will help secure the future of the Historical Society and give you a part in preserving the heritage of this unique community. A reminder will be sent when annual memberships become due each January.

Membership Fees

Individual Annual Member \$15
 Husband and Wife Annual Member \$25
 Organization Annual Member \$35
 Individual Life Member \$250
 Heritage Club Member \$1000 or more

**Annual memberships are due every January.
 Thank You!**

Name _____
 Address _____

 Type of Membership _____
 General Donation _____

Send checks to Kidron Community Historical Society • Box 234 • Kidron, OH 44636

Upcoming Events

Fundraiser Meal and CommuniTree Auction
 October 17 at the Kidron Community Building
 5:00 meal, 6:00 *Bluegrass Reunion*, 7:00 auction

Between Fences Smithsonian Traveling Display
 October 20-November 17 at the Heritage Center
 Special Hours:
 Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10:00-4:00
 Saturdays 9:00-4:00

*Need a gift idea for the holidays?
 Stop by the Heritage Center gift shop to browse
 through books and other
 interesting items.*

**Kidron-Sonnenberg
 Heritage Center**

13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio
HOURS

APRIL–MAY, SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER

Thursday and Saturday
 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

JUNE–AUGUST

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CLOSED JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH

**Call 330-857-9111
 for group tours or special arrangements**