

# The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

## Fifteenth annual members banquet

KCHS members will soon receive their invitations to the 15th annual members banquet on Tuesday, April 26. Attenders will enjoy a delicious meal, a program by Central Christian School's middle school social studies teacher Bob Troyer and his students introducing the 2011 annual display, followed by the annual auction.

If you do not receive an invitation and believe you should have, please call Prudy Steiner at 330-857-9111.

### Annual display celebrates milestone anniversaries

Following the members banquet on April 26, members are invited to the grand opening of the 2011 exhibit, "Mennonite Milestones in Kidron."

The exhibit highlights five Kidron organizations celebrating milestone anniversaries, focusing on their achievements and history. Anniversary organizations are Salem Mennonite Church (125 years), Kidron Mennonite Church (75 years), Central Christian School (50 years), World Crafts (20 years) and MCC Connections (10 years).



Carolyn Fitzwater and Maxine Hershberger of Salem Mennonite Church put final touches on their display showing the church's special events and people.

### 2011 members banquet auction list

Wood bowl made by Glenford Gerber at the age of 84 1/2 years

Pottery made by Jim Spires

Matted photos taken by Wade Wilcox

Basket of heritage plants grown by Karen Geiser (Olin)

Fraktur made by Lynn Sommer, featured in the Winter 2011 *Bit o' Vit*

Maple leaf imprint pottery made by Nicole Myers; dishwasher, oven and microwave safe

Bread baked by Bessie Nussbaum

Kidron advertising item

Handmade Windsor chair made by Glenn Kaufmann using period tools

Church intarsia made by Bob Romey using 135 pieces of wood



Wooden bowl by Glenford Gerber.



Pottery by Nicole Myers.



Intarsia by Bob Romey.



Windsor chair by Glenn Kaufmann.



## From the Director's Desk



In late November 2010, KCHS mailed the annual year-end fundraising letter, promising that any donations received would be spent on maintaining and upgrading the Heritage Center, and your response was terrific. As Director of the Heritage Center, I am extremely pleased that these funds are available.

So we want to thank you for your generosity and let you know how your money is being used.

- The carpets on the first floor were cleaned.
- A 78" x 144" sign has been ordered. It will hang above the balcony on the north side of our building and be visible as far away as Lehman's west entrance.
- Two sections of shelving with dividers (each is 3' by 6 1/2') have been ordered and will be added to our storage room for many of our framed photos and paintings.
- Our brochure will be updated and printed.
- The doors on the outside will be painted a vibrant brown color, as close as possible to what it looked like 17 years ago.
- The balconies will receive a coat of stain to weatherproof them.
- Items will be added to the gift shop, especially those made by local artists.

With a list of such large, costly items, my excitement is easy to understand. Your donations are helping us accomplish many urgently needed projects. Thank you, again, and on behalf of KCHS we invite you to come and enjoy these improvements for yourselves.

### Welcome New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

Bill and Corrine Helmuth–Kidron  
 Carl and Anne Koch Jantzen–Seven  
 Mile  
 Steven H. and Susan Miller–  
 Wooster  
 Rich and Velma Shetler–Orrville  
 Victor B. Schantz–Orrville

Renew now to be eligible to attend the members banquet.

Visit our website at  
[www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org)

The annual SAGA  
 (Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical  
 Association) meeting will  
 take place in Goshen, Ind., on  
 Saturday, May 14, 2011. Visit  
<http://saga.ncweb.com/home.htm>  
 for more information.

## Springtime in Sonnenberg Village

Spring has arrived in the village and plans are underway for another productive year. One major goal for the year is to complete the landscaping around the Lehman Spring House.

A group of Central Christian School students will be spending their Community Service Day, April 27, in the village working on a bluebird habitat and a butterfly garden, and helping Rebecca Leitschuh, Wooster city planner, and Ken Cochran, director of OARDC's Secret Arboretum, complete more sections of the rain garden.

It is too early to make a definitive announcement, but if fundraising permits, KCHS hopes to move four buildings this year. Restoration of the Lehman House's exterior is also planned for 2011.

We are in need of skilled volunteers at any time. Please call 330-857-9111 to make arrangements.

Feel welcome to stop and visit, or enjoy a picnic in Sonnenberg Village.

## Recently Accessioned

Erky's Barber Shop thermometer, donated by Carolyn Fitzwater

Homer and Bertha Steiner Genealogy Book, 1899-2010, donated by Clayton Steiner

Kidron Feed & Supply Cat's Meow, donated by Judy Estrada

Mathias Gerber Family Tree, donated by Doris Fath

"Helvetica Americana" map, donated by Heinz and Rosa Peter

Ditty bag and yarn winder, donated by Wayne Liechty

Two sleigh bells, Bingo Game, donated by Lester and Lina Nussbaum estate

Welty family reunion writeups, 1928-46, donated by Gloria Nussbaum

Menno Gerber's patent for a cherry tree, donated by Clarence Gerber

Wardrobe with the names of the hired hands written on the door, donated by Clarence Neuenschwander

1944 Kidron telephone book, donated by Corrine Helmuth



## Mushroom Fever

### Kidron Korner

by Gilda Lehman as told to Celia Lehman



As long as I can remember, even from my early childhood, hunting mushrooms in spring has been a highlight. When I was a little girl, my dad would say to me and my siblings, "Let's go and see if we can find some mushrooms." This was usually the last week in April or the first week in May, depending on the weather. We were fortunate that we had our own woods on our farm. (The Kratzer farm, where Gilda grew up, was located on the west side of Kohler Road, north of Hackett Road. It no longer has any existing buildings, but the orchard and woods are still visible.)

We would look for a little while, not find any, and then Dad would say, "Why don't you look over there?" Sure enough, we would find some and then some more and even more. Was that ever fun! We had an apple orchard on our farm where I often found my favorite large light tan sponge mushroom. Dad was an experienced mushroom hunter and taught us that the evidence of certain trees and plants meant that mushrooms were close by. (For more information on tree environments that indicate edible mushrooms, visit The Ohio Mushroom Society's website at <http://www.ohiomushroom.org/oms/FeaturedMushrooms.htm>.)

As I grew older I still had trouble with "mushroom fever." One day when my husband and a couple of my siblings and I were out hunting for mushrooms, I found a nice big "sponge mushroom" (also called a morel) that measured nine inches in height and nine inches in diameter. I never found another mushroom that matched the size of that one. I took it home and cut it in half to soak in salt water, then dried it with a paper towel, rolled it in salted and peppered flour and fried it in melted butter until it was browned nice and crisp. We ate it in a bread sandwich like a steak! It was so good!

Another spring when mushrooms were in season, late one afternoon I decided to return to the farm where I grew up to satisfy my craving for fresh mushrooms. Since my husband was not available, I went by myself, crawled under the fence and soon found a patch of 35 mushrooms. I went a little farther and found 35 more around an elm tree. Then moving closer to the stream by a patch of umbrella plants, I found over 30 more. I was in "mushroom heaven!" It was fun to share my treasure with my family and friends.

I love nature and the coming of spring and the knowledge that soon it will be time to satisfy my "mushroom fever" once again. For information regarding safe mushroom hunting, visit the Ohio State University Fact Sheet at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/3303.html>.

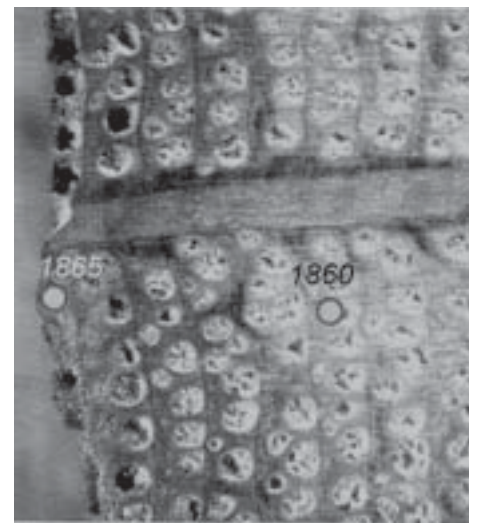
## Annual meeting presentation creates perplexing challenge

The KCHS annual meeting on February 22 was not a typical annual meeting. It began as usual with reports on the activities and finances of the society and the election of board members. However, the presentation that followed had all the aura of a cliffhanger for those who were anxiously anticipating confirmation of the oral history providing dates for the buildings currently in Sonnenberg Village.

In fall of 2010, a team of students from the College of Wooster (COW) geology department took samples of the wood in the Lehman House, Lehman Spring House, and the Wesman Summer House. They measured the rings to the nearest .001 mm and created a "floating chronology" by comparing the rings and noting width overlaps that matched up in series. This was then compared with a master ring-width chronology based on a number of other cores from around Northeast Ohio.

At the annual meeting, COW Assistant Professor of Geology Nick Wiesenberg and COW student John Theissen presented their findings on the dating, called dendrochronology. Unfortunately their findings do not exactly match the oral history passed down in at least five local families who lived in the earliest homes in our area.

This has become an interesting challenge. KCHS is requesting your help in locating paper documentation on the older buildings and properties in the original Sonnenberg area. Please call 330-857-9111 with any information.



A close-up of a wood sample from the Lehman Spring House. By measuring the rings of tree growth and matching them against a master ring-width chronology, students at the College of Wooster assigned the 1865 to the outer ring and 1860 to the fifth ring in.

**Kidron Community Historical Society**  
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Spring 2011



**Board Members**

President ..... Wayne Liechty  
 Vice President ..... Glenn Gerber  
 Treasurer ..... Richard Nussbaum  
 Secretary ..... Gloria Kaufmann  
 Membership Chairperson ..... Leora Gerber  
 Board Members ..... Fritz Sprunger, J. Augspurger  
 Director ..... Prudy Steiner  
*Bit o'Vit* Editor ..... Kris Nussbaum

**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!**

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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Donation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Would you like a receipt?  yes  no (check one)

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

**Mark your calendars**

**Heritage Center opens for 2011**  
 Saturday, April 2 at 11:00 a.m.

**15th Annual Members Banquet**  
 Tuesday, April 26, at 6:30 p.m.  
 Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Building  
 followed by grand opening of 2011 exhibit

**Central Christian School Community Service Day**  
 Wednesday, April 27, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 at Sonnenberg Village

**Fourth Annual Sonnenberg Village Homecoming**  
 Saturday, August 13

**Kidron-Sonnenberg  
 Heritage Center**

13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

**HOURS**

**APRIL–MAY, and 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**