

Sonnenberg Village

Sonnenberg Church Travel Days Are Over



Transformation of the Sonnenberg Church building from a formal house of worship to a place of welcome and a meeting house at the Sonnenberg Village has been a long-anticipated project that is headed toward completion.

We have been very busy in the Sonnenberg Village this spring and look forward to sharing the progress with you. We will hold an open house for all of the buildings during the annual Sonnenberg Homecoming (see sidebar for details). The upstairs of the Lehman House is completed and work is progressing on the downstairs.

The Sonnenberg Church building is in place and work is proceeding inside and out. The church will be open during the homecoming, but it will not be available for use until the restrooms are completed. Central Christian School has graciously permitted an easement for the sewer system across their fields, but it will not be installed until the crops have been harvested.

Three Dunstan Chestnut trees have been planted near the Tschantz Cabin and the Saurer Blacksmith Shop and landscaping and trees have been planted around the pond, completing most of the projected landscaping for the grounds.

Visitors are welcome to stop anytime and enjoy a walk around the grounds, although the buildings will still be closed except for special events. We anticipate establishing regular hours by next spring.

Kidron Two-Room School Reunion

Kidron Two-Room Brick School Reunion, Saturday, October 19, 2013, in the Kidron Community Center. If you attended classes in this two-room school and have not received an announcement in the mail, send your name and address to Phyllis Bixler, 814 Red Maple Court, Bluffton, OH 45817, or kidronbrickschool@gmail.com to receive the first mailing and another, with more details, to be sent in September.

Sonnenberg Village
SIXTH ANNUAL HOMECOMING
August 10, 2013 – 11:30-4:00
Rain or Shine!

This should be our best homecoming ever!



- 11:30 - Bluegrass Concert** (local group)
- 12:30 Eric and Barb Mast and Butch and Sandi Suttle** under tent, or inside the church if it rains
- 12:00 - Open House**
4:00 All buildings in Sonnenberg Village will be open
- 1:00 Akron Black Stockings vs. Kidron Nine** (Amish)
- 2:30 Akron Black Stockings vs. Kidron United** (English)

Sonnenberg Church and Schloneger Ice Cream will have concession stands open throughout the day.

All the buildings in Sonnenberg Village will be open for self-guided tours, with a host at each site, and plenty of parking will be available.

Bring your family and friends, a blanket or chair, and enjoy the day listening to traditional and gospel bluegrass tunes, visiting with old and new friends, watching old-time baseball games and touring Sonnenberg Village.



Sonnenberg: The Early Years



Looking through a window into the Heritage Center exhibit provides a peek at the 2013 exhibit, *Sonnenberg: The Early Years*. The exhibit features adaptations of two rooms in the Lehman House and the Tschantz Cabin, as well as other items in the KCHS collection. Visit the Heritage Center during regular hours or by appointment to see the exhibit.

Upcoming Events

August 10 – 11:30-4:00

Sonnenberg Village Homecoming

October 19, 2013

Kidron Two-Room Schoolhouse Reunion

April 25 – December 28

2013 Exhibit: *Sonnenberg: The Early Years*

Recent Acquisitions

- Daniel & Edna Nussbaum family genealogy records, compiled and donated by Beverly Horst
- Log caliper, donated by Brad Fleming
- Signature comforter with 72 Salem Mennonite Church women's names stitched on it, donated by Phil & Barb Hostetler
- Orrville Christian Missionary Alliance Church's 75th anniversary book, donated by CMA Church
- E.P. Gerber's 100th year anniversary *Cat's Meow*, donated by Eldon Gerber

Local Families Host Swiss Visitors

The Kidron Historical Society hosted 25 Swiss visitors on April 30. After enjoying a tour of the Heritage Center and Sonnenberg Village and a stop at Lehman's, seven host families picked up the visitors and took them to their homes for the evening meal and conversation. Host families included Amos and Erma Geiser, Ernie and Jean Geiser, Elton and Phyllis Lehman, Freeman and Eileen Lehman, Jay and Emma Lehman, Clarence and Esther Neuschwander, and Til and Bonnie Neuschwander. Some invited other Swiss-speaking family and neighbors to join them. Leora Gerber helped organize the evening placements.

"When invited into Amish and Mennonite homes, the tour participants were deeply touched by the warm welcome and by the open sharing of genuine hospitality. They deeply valued their time in homes," commented Joanne Hess Siegrist, tour contact person, and Peter Dettwiler, leader of the group.

Jay and Emma reported that guests played the piano and yodeled. Elton and Phyllis said they ate and visited on their patio. A gentlemen hosted by Clarence and Esther wanted a tour of their American farm, and they also sang together in Swiss.

Plans are already being made for a 2014 tour group to the states which will again include a visit to Kidron on Tuesday, April 29. Their time in Kidron may be extended and will once again include local families hosting our Swiss visitors for the evening meal. If you would be interested in participating, the only requirements are that you be able to speak Swiss and provide a meal. Let us know by calling 330-857-9111.



Four of the Swiss visitors were hosted for the evening by Amos and Erma Geiser.

#1 of Sonnenberg Village Pottery



The first piece of pottery made from Sonnenberg Village clay, displayed by Richard Nussbaum, was auctioned at the annual members banquet.

How many unique items does it take to develop an exciting auction? Thirteen items brought a total of \$3,285 at the annual members banquet held April 23. Perhaps the highlight of the auction was the first piece of Sonnenberg Village pottery thrown by master potter, Jim Spires. The pot has eyebrow handles and is glazed in Pumpkin Spice with black trim. The first in an anticipated series of pieces to be made from Sonnenberg Village clay is signed and imprinted #1 of Sonnenberg Village Pottery.

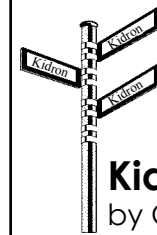
Roy and Clara Yoder and family catered a delicious home-cooked dinner for 238 guests at the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall. The meal was sponsored

by 32 local businesses. Before the auction, forty-four volunteers were honored for their hours of service; Ray Leisy introduced the new annual exhibit, *Sonnenberg: The Early Years*, which opened at the Heritage Center following the auction; and Wayne Liechty updated members on the exciting progress at Sonnenberg Village.

Thanks to Our Banquet Sponsors

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Kidron Korner by Celia Lehman

A Swiss Lullaby Abend Lieder

When I was a girl, my mother, Fairy Gerber, used to sing "Abend Lieder" with her children before kissing us good-night and ushering us upstairs to bed.

Recently, a grandmother in the community asked for a copy of the Swiss lullaby, known in English as "Evening Song," so she could teach it to her offspring. I gladly obliged and thought perhaps others might appreciate the memory, or would like to learn it too.

I remember the words, but my Aunt Frieda Amstutz helped with the rhythm and German spelling. My memory of the third and fourth lines is, "Father, send your angels to watch over my bed." Aunt Frieda remembers the lines as, "Father, may your eyes watch over my bedside." Either is appropriate. The German words rhyme at the end of the lines, but that is lost in the English translation.

Abend Lieder
 (Evening Song)

Mü-de bin ich, geh' zur ruh,
 (Tired am I, go to rest)

Schlie-ge mei-ne Aug-en zu,
 (Sleep with my eyes shut)

Fa-ter! Ü-ß die Aug-en Dein
 (Father may your eyes thine)

ü-ber mein-er Bet-te sein.
 (Watch over my bed side)

Kidron Database a Work in Progress

The Kidron Community Historical Society is very fortunate to have Roger Geiser as our local genealogist. As a result of his dedicated work spanning more than two decades, the Kidron database has over 670,000 names that can be accessed by guests who visit the Heritage Center.

Even though the Kidron database is large, many names and dates are missing and should be added. Consider visiting the Kidron Heritage Center and updating your family's records.



Bob and Nancy Rhee (left), Leora Gerber and Roger Geiser study family relationships at the Heritage Center. The Rhees, from Indiana, made an appointment to meet with Leora and Roger to learn more about their relationship to the Steiners of this area, and in the process, helped update their family information.

New Annual Members

Wilbur and Sandra Herr, Orrville OH
 Martha Ann Kanagy, Kidron OH
 John and Cheryl Moser, Millersburg OH
 Grayden Tschantz, Louisville OH
 Martin Tschantz, Massillon OH

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kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com
 www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

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SUMMER 2013



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President..... Wayne Liechty
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 Bit o' Vit Editor.....Judie 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 in January.

Membership expiration information is on your mailing label.

Thank You!

Name _____
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 Membership Fee \$_____ General Donation \$_____
 Would you like a receipt? (check one) ___yes ___no

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.

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

**Kidron-Sonnenberg
 Heritage Center**

13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

JUNE – AUGUST

APRIL – MAY

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER

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

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 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CLOSED JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH

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