



Members Banquet and Auction

Invitations will be mailed to all members whose dues are current as indicated by the year 2014 on the mailing address label of this edition of the Bit o' Vit. If you suspect an error, please call the Heritage Center.

The 18th members banquet will be held at the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Building on Tuesday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m. After a home-cooked meal and honoring our volunteers, an auction to benefit the KCHS will offer a selection of intriguing items.

- Nicole Myers pottery, leaf imprint bowl
- Lynn Sommer fraktur, Singing: My life flows on in endless song
- 1844 Switzerland map
- *Moving the Sonnenberg Church* photo book by Gloria Kaufmann
- Set of laminated 2013 placemats
- Clock with picture of Kidron and 1903 postmark on the face
- Tim Shue carved wooden spoon
- Jim Spires pottery made from Sonnenberg Village clay
- Glenford Gerber wooden bowl
- Karen Geiser garden plants and garden ornament by Reuben
- Quince Bakery & Café basket of goodies
- Wade Wilcox framed photo of Kidron

Heritage Center

New Shelving for the Heritage Center

New shelving for the Heritage Center is a dream come true. We have you to thank for helping make this long-overdue project a reality. With a wonderful response to the year-end letter, we were able to have four sets of shelves custom-made for the Heritage Center—two eight-foot-high sets for the north storeroom and two furniture-grade, smaller units for the library.



While you, our valued members and friends, provided the funds to purchase the materials, there are three persons to thank for their involvement in the process from blueprint to finished shelving.

Fritz Sprunger, one of our board members, drew up the plans making certain that the shelves would be spaced suitably to house some of our oldest books and also our archival boxes that protect many of the society's artifacts.

Fritz gave a copy of his plans to Cliff Lehman, a valued volunteer and skilled carpenter, and in a couple weeks, Cliff had the two library shelves assembled and all the other pieces of wood and shelves ready to be varnished.

Ray Leisy, our Sonnenberg Village project manager, set up a temporary workstation in the Heritage Center where he finished each of the pieces. Before we knew it, Ray and Cliff assembled and installed the shelves and they were ready to be used.

Thanks to all who had a part in this much-needed project that will help us more efficiently organize our valuable holdings.

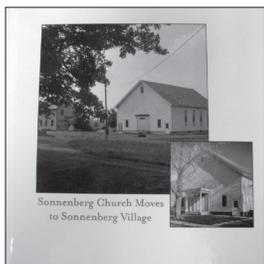


Photo book



1844 map of Switzerland



Kidron clock



Lynn Sommer fraktur



Nicole Myers pottery

Annual Meeting

Dedication, Recognitions and Celebration



The first public event held in the relocated Sonnenberg Church, now to be known as the Welcome Center, was the 2014 annual meeting of the Kidron Community Historical Society held on February 25. The main event at the meeting was the first public viewing of Storck Film Design's production of "Sonnenberg Village: A Haven and A Heritage." The production chronicles the arrival of the Tschantz Log Cabin, Lehman House, Saurer Blacksmith Shop and Sonnenberg Church at Sonnenberg Village. Interspersed between videos were interviews, information about dating the timbers of the historic buildings, a description of the eco-friendly village grounds, an account of our Anabaptist history, and choral and quartet music by local groups.

The business meeting opened with reports from the board officers and re-election of board members Gloria Kaufmann and Richard Nussbaum. Mel Hathaway, current pastor of the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church, led in a prayer of dedication for the Welcome Center, asking God to bless the building originally "built to be a place to meet, grow and worship together as a community...and bless those who will learn and join in community activities in this place."

A photo of the Tschantz Log Cabin mounted on a wood slab from the Tschantz Log Cabin was presented to Nada Geiser and family. The cabin had originally been built on the Geiser farm. In 2008 it was dismantled and reconstructed at Sonnenberg Village about 600 yards northwest of its original location.

Joyce Taylor, congregational chair, on behalf of Sonnenberg Mennonite, accepted a crosscut of wood from one of the original ten pillars supporting the church in recognition of the church's generous support in relocating the structure to Sonnenberg Village. The commemorative piece was made by Cliff Lehman and included indications of growth of the more than 200-year-old tree used in constructing the Sonnenberg Church building in 1907.

Wayne Liechty presented Ron Wenger of Weaver Commercial Contractors with a copy of the Storck DVD and in turn, Wenger gave Liechty a key to the Welcome Center. Weaver Commercial Contractors oversaw the preparation and restoration of the church building.

Refreshments were served following the conclusion of the meeting. The 110 persons attending the event mingled in the Welcome Center in an informal sort of initiation of its new use as a place for old and new friends of the community to gather for worship, celebration and learning.

Immigration School

On March 18 Leora Gerber and Prudy Steiner helped Karen Geiser teach a class for the Wayne County Christian Home Educators (WCCHE) in Orrville. They staged an 1800s-style immigration exercise before Prudy shared the story of the Kidron/Sonnenberg immigrants. The Local History class was one of WCCHE's Tuesday winter co-op sessions for students in grades 6-9.

In May, Heritage Center personnel will talk with the Dalton Elementary School third graders about Kidron's history. Wayne Liechty and Ray Leisy have also given tours and presentations about Sonnenberg Village. To schedule a tour or presentation, contact Prudy at the Heritage Center.



Karen Geiser talks with a student while others look at the genealogical display on Leora Gerber's computer.



Prudy Steiner describes the art of fraktur.

New Members

P. Graham Dunn, Dalton OH
Amy Geiser, Dalton OH
Kyle Groves, Louisville OH
Mel & Dottie Hathaway, Dalton OH
Alvin & Clara Nussbaum, Apple Creek OH
Vicki Slater, Wooster OH
Carl Wiebe, Dalton OH

Grants Received for Connecting the Water and Sewer Lines



In the fall of 2013 a grant application was submitted to the Wayne County Community Foundation (WCCF) requesting funds to run water and sewer lines from Sonnenberg Village, specifically from the Lehman House and Welcome Center, to the Kidron sewer system on Kidron Road. An easement had previously been secured from Central Christian School Inc.

The WCCF granted 33% of the cost, the Frick Foundation granted 33% and an

anonymous donor covered the remainder. We are grateful to both foundations and the donor for helping us complete this last utility project to make Sonnenberg Village fully functional. All the utility lines are now operational and expandable to future buildings to be added in the village, and will permit a family to live in the Lehman House who will provide maintenance for the buildings and grounds.

Running water and functional restrooms also will allow the village to

entertain visitors. After some final lighting and flooring upgrades are completed in the Welcome Center, it will be available to rent; completion is projected to be June 1. If you have interest in learning more about renting space at Sonnenberg Village for your event, please call the Heritage Center.

Clayton Steiner spearheaded the grant application process for both the Wayne County Community Foundation and the Frick Foundation.

Swiss Visitors Coming to Town

A group of 22 visitors from Switzerland will make a stop in Kidron to tour Sonnenberg Village and the Heritage Center and presentation at Lehman's on Tuesday, April 29, as part of a two-week visit to Mennonite areas in Pennsylvania and Ohio. They will be served a noon meal at the Kidron Mennonite Church Gathering Place Café and assigned a host family for the evening. If you are interested in meeting these visitors, please call the Heritage Center.

Upcoming Events

April 25-26, 2014

The 26th meeting of SAGA (Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association) at Marion, Pa. The Saturday speaker will be Edsel Burdge.

Visit www.saga-omii.org for membership information.

April 22, 2014 | 6:30

Members Banquet at Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall
Invitations will be mailed to members whose dues are current.

August 9, 2014

Annual Sonnenberg Village Homecoming

Recent Acquisitions

S.C. Sprunger walking stick, donated by the Gilbert Nussbaum Family

Kidron First National Bank paper weight, donated by Blake and Zetta Sommer

Clint Sprunger's framed calligraphy of the Lord's Prayer, donated by Fritz & Ellen Sprunger

Four L.E. Sommer Feed Mill Ledgers from 1910-1931, donated by the L.E. Sommer Family

125th Anniversary ornament and name block, donated by the Salem Mennonite Church

Ten photos of Kratzer relatives and wardrobe, donated by Robin Kratzer

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SPRING 2014



Administration

Board President Wayne Liechty
 Board Vice President Glenn Gerber
 Board Treasurer..... Richard Nussbaum
 Board SecretaryGloria Kaufmann
 Board Membership ChairpersonLeora Gerber
 Board Members..... Fritz Sprunger, J. Augspurger
 Heritage Center DirectorPrudy Steiner
 Sonnenberg Village Project Manager.....Ray Leisy
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 _____
 Address _____

 Type of Membership _____
 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

APRIL through DECEMBER • THURSDAY 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.