



Dutch stop in Kidron on their way to Mennonite World Conference



A group of 22 visitors from the Netherlands stopped in Kidron the weekend of July 18-19 with the purpose of experiencing life in an American Mennonite community prior to attending the Mennonite World Conference. Leora Gerber made the local arrangements and Wayne Liechty served as their tour guide at Sonnenberg Village and the Heritage Center. The sojourners attended church and potluck lunches with their hosts Sunday morning and the afternoon and evening provided a variety of experiences.

Eileen Lehman hosted 87-year-old Truus Bosch. Bosch attended Mennonite World Conferences in Amsterdam, Canada, India, Africa and South America and added the United States conference to her list. They attended Sunday morning church at Sonnenberg and went to a hymn sing at Shady Lawn where Truus was able to read the words and sing the hymns, but she said they were not familiar to her.

Vern and Shirley Hochstetler's guests enjoyed buggy rides at Abe Hochstetlers while Peter and LeAnna Dunn took their

guests to visit Amish friends. Jack and Johanna Badertscher took their guests to meet Amish neighbors and for buggy rides. They also visited Johanna's mother, Johanna Beun, an immigrant from the Netherlands. Celia Lehman's guests visited Johanna Beun too, and went to a hymn sing.

Bill and Corrine Helmuth's company visited Corrine's 105-year-old mother, Esther Steffen, who recited a favorite Psalm. Jim and Doris Miller took their visitors on a tour of Holmes County and ate at Dalton Dari-ette.

Clint and Helen Hofstetter's guests had heard of Smucker's, so they took them to see the Smucker's buildings in Orrville and then drove past the location of the Relief Sale (Buckeye Event Center in Dalton) and on to the Wilderness Center.

Ken and Connie Neuenschwander went to the Wilderness Center and enjoyed relaxing and visiting in their home with their guests. Don, Ellen and Drew Nussbaum played card games while visiting. Drew had spent time in the

Netherlands and knew the son of one of their guests

After spending the weekend with their Kidron area hosts, the tourists scheduled a Monday morning stop at Behalt before traveling on to the conference in Harrisburg, Pa.

The Mennonites, Mennonite Brethren and Brethren in Christ of North America hosted Anabaptists from around the world in Harrisburg, Pa., for the 2015 Mennonite World Conference.

Job Opportunity

The Kidron Community Historical Society Board is looking for someone to take over the duties of Heritage Center Director. If you enjoy local history, genealogy and people, and have computer and organizational skills, you may be a candidate for this part-time position. We would like to talk with you. Give us a call at 330-857-9111 to schedule an appointment.

Sonnenberg Village Homecoming brings enthusiastic crowd



Jedd Sprunger piloted a helicopter while Jay Augspurger took aerial photos of Sonnenberg Village during the afternoon old-time baseball games on August 8.

Rob Gregory's band organ was new to the annual Sonnenberg Village Homecoming this year. Gregory created the feature using discarded materials collected while

working at Schantz Organ Company. Captivating tunes from the organ assembled from salvaged items, including drums, cymbals, an xylophone and wood

and metal organ pipes, drew interest from young and old alike.

A helicopter flyover turned eyes to the sky while kettle corn, Schloneger's homemade ice cream, and sandwiches, homemade pie and garden mint tea from the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church women kept the crowd satisfied while touring the historical structures on the village campus and cheering for our local Amish teams as they played old-time baseball games with the Canton Hoover Sweepers.



Rob Gregory (second from right) tells a visitor about the band organ he enjoys taking to community functions.

Volunteers make things happen at Sonnenberg Village

Late summer and early fall have been busy in Sonnenberg Village with volunteers working on projects as diverse as installing a hitching rail to constructing a kitchen in the basement of the Welcome Center. We received a grant from the Romich Foundation in Wooster to purchase a windmill to aerate the water in the large

pond which we have not been able to stock since the pond is so deep.

We have also put some finishing touches on the Lehman House just in time for the arrival of the caretakers, Marv and Lorie Troyer. In addition to keeping an eye on the grounds, their duties will include mowing, snow removal and setting up the

Welcome Center for events.

The Welcome Center has been used many times this fall for banquets, weddings and other activities.

Work in the village will continue until late November, and then take a break until spring.

Service team from Central Christian School worked on three projects

A new roof was built for the Old Sonnenberg Church replica with about one hour of work remaining to put on a few more shingles, the realignment of the west exit of the Welcome Center was completed (a cement pad needs to be poured and then the hand rails put back on to finish), and floor supports were put in the basement of the spring house and about half of the floor was laid.

The Community Service Day (CSD) team of six students and their teacher from Central Christian School were commended for their hard work and the planning and supervision by Bob Troyer, Marv Troyer, Cliff Lehman and Dan Miller was invaluable.

Beginning without advance planning, the workers took time to strategize how to do each of the projects, and how to carefully join the new pieces with the old structures which were not quite square. Following two hours of planning, demolition and obtaining lumber and supplies, the rest of the work went fast—we just ran out of time.



The fellows in back: Elliot Bowen, Daniel Huang. Front: Kevin Pasho, Daniel Nussbaum, Doug Fisher, Alexander Seymour. In the middle are teacher Bob Troyer and supervisors Ray Leisy, Marv Troyer, Cliff Lehman, Dan Miller.



Kidron Korner

by Celia Lehman

*Excerpts from Ellis Jay Gerber's Diary
October, 1940*

Submitted by his sister, Celia Lehman

The moon is playing Peek-a-Boo.
It seems to say, "I'm looking at you."

We had some sweet corn on the ear,
Guess it's 'bout the last time this year.

For once Marion came over here,
We ate melon, I got too much, I fear.

I like French more and more it seems,
To master that subject is one of my
dreams.

Tonight seems rather cold,
The wind is blowing extra bold.

Celia and I walked down to Sugar Creek,
They're building a bridge, at it I got a
peek.

Politics is getting pretty hot,
Some for 3rd term Roosevelt, for Wilkie I
am not.

I played football and made a touchdown,
But I fell and made my pants brown.

Marion got hunting license, so did I,
My luck at that I will try.

The McKinley Monument has 107 steps to
the top,
We walked up there without even a stop.

Dad took 2 calves to the Kidron sale,
\$35.00 for both, that was pretty well.

I went to chorus with Verda, Loyal went
too,
We started on the "Messiah" something all
together new.

J. C. Wenger on Mennonite history did
preach,
We should be non-resistant is what he
tried to teach.

Beet Festival at Sonnenberg Village

Overheard: "I would have never guessed!"
That was the sentiment of many who
attended the Beet Festival at Sonnenberg
Village on a beautiful Saturday in October.
Never guessed the variety of dishes
with beets listed as an ingredient. Never
guessed that the Lutz beet would grow
into such a variety of shapes and sizes.
Never guessed the crowd a few beets
could attract.

The free samples of foods made
with beets provided a smorgasbord of
delightful flavors. Shirley Geiser was
dishing out her tasty Shoe String Beets
while Bev Schloneger cut pieces of her
Beetnik Cake. There were also samples
of crisp Beet Fries, Beet Apple Salad, and
Red Beet Eggs in addition to the contest
entries. Larry Geiser had bags of freshly-
sliced beets and Quince Bakery and Café
had an amazing selection of baked goods
for sale.

Beet festival founder and host Keith
Schloneger was enthusiastically giving
away free packets of German Lutz beet
seeds with instructions to plant the beets
that "grow large without getting woody
and are excellent for winter storage,"
and a reminder that the next Kidron Beet
Festival will be held on October 15, 2016.

Judges Rita Shisler and Deb Geiser
looked over and tasted the variety of
entries for the contest and declared
winners in six categories (see sidebar).

Two entries in the Lutz beet category
were grown by Lee Peart of Canaan Creek
Organic Farm, Burbank. Peart picked up
her seeds at last year's festival. Bobbie
Ballentine entered two salads made with
beets, one with raw beets and the other
with beets that were cooked, both bursting
with earthy beet flavor.

Never would have guessed beet ice
cream with chocolate chips and pecans
would be absolutely delicious? Give
Schloneger's Homemade Ice Cream's
tasty treat a try before passing judgment.



Al Ickes took a few minutes away from
his Kettle Korn concession to taste the
beet chili.



Rita Shisler of Shisler's Cheese at the
corner of US Route 30 and Kidron Road
and Deb Geiser of Quince Bakery and
Café on the square in Kidron judged
the beet and food entries.

Beet Contest Winners

Beets

Best Lutz – Ivan Weaver, Kidron (20.75 lbs)
Most Luscious Lutz – Betty Weaver, Kidron
Best Heirloom – Crosby's Egyptian
(German), Allyson Leisy, Wooster

Foods

Best Appetizer/Side – Red Beet Chili, Jeff
Stout, Wooster
Best Salad – Beet Salad, Bobbie Ballentine
Best Dessert – Red Beet Cheesecake,
Betty Weaver, Kidron

New Members

Rachel Augspurger, Dalton

Karla Dalessandro, Orrville

Amy Frank, Highlands NJ

Karen Gilkison, Orrville

Meta (Lehman) Stevenson, Delaware

Steve & Lisa Zuercher, Apple Creek

Upcoming Events

February 16, 2016
KCHS Annual Meeting

April 8-9, 2016
SAGA (Swiss Anabaptist Genealogy
Association) Annual Meeting
www.saga-omii.org
Kidron Community Center

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FALL 2015



Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center
 13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

OPEN APRIL through NOVEMBER • THURSDAY and SATURDAY • 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
CLOSED DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH

The Heritage Center is closed December through March but welcomes appointments for tours and to visit the museum or Sonnenberg Village.
Call and leave a message at 330-857-9111 for information or to schedule an appointment.

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.

Administration

Board President	Wayne Liechty	Heritage Center Director	Prudy Steiner
Board Vice President	Glenn Gerber	Sonnenberg Village Project Director	Ray Leisy
Board Treasurer.....	Richard Nussbaum	<i>Bit o' Vit</i> Editor.....	Judie Nussbaum
Board Secretary	Gloria Kaufmann		
Board Membership Chairperson	Leora Gerber		
Board Members.....	Fritz Sprunger		

Kidron Community Historical Society Membership

Annual memberships are due in January. Membership expiration information is on your mailing label.

Name _____	Individual Annual Member	\$15
Address _____	Husband and Wife Annual Member.....	\$25
_____	Organization Annual Member.....	\$35
Type of Membership _____ <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	Individual Life Member	\$250
Membership Fee \$ _____ General Donation \$ _____	Heritage Club Member	\$1000 or more
Would you like a receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Thank you!</i>		

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