



February 25 at Sonnenberg Village

KCHS Annual Meeting

The KCHS board is mandated to hold an annual meeting to report their status to the community. In addition to a short business session, Wayne Liechty will be recognized for serving more than 30 years on the KCHS board, most of those years as board president, and Leora Gerber and Gladys Geiser will report on their learning tour to the Ukraine in the summer of 2019.

Leora and Gladys joined a Mennonite Heritage Tour group of 12 in Ukraine. They will tell about their visit to the former Mennonite colonies, specifically looking for the remains and legacy of the once-flourishing Mennonite culture in Chortitza and Molochna areas where Gladys's grandparents were born. The tour group, led by Ayold Fanoy of the Netherlands, also attended a Mennonite church worship service, visited the work of MCC, observed a dairy farm in Nikolipolia, stood under a legendary 1,000-year-old oak tree, saw a replica of a Cossack fortress, and enjoyed an afternoon cruise on the Dnieper River.

All are invited to attend the meeting at Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center. The business meeting will begin at 7:00 on Tuesday, February 25, followed immediately with the presentation by Leora and Gladys.



Leora Gerber and Gladys Geiser with their Mennonite Heritage Tour group in front of the St. Sofia Cathedral in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. St. Sophia Cathedral is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

UPCOMING EVENTS

KCHS Annual Meeting

February 25 | 7:00 pm | Sonnenberg Village

Bob Milne Concert

World-renowned Ragtime and Boogie-woogie Pianist

March 14 | 2:00 pm | Sonnenberg Village

Tickets: \$25 – Call Heritage Center 330-857-9111

Members Banquet

April 28 | 6:00 pm

Invitation details will be in the spring *Bit o' Vit*

Heritage Center Volunteers Needed

The Kidron Community Historical Society has a great need for new volunteers to help continue to tell the story of Swiss Anabaptists coming to Sonnenberg-Kidron, Ohio. Some of the positions available include staffing the Heritage Center on Thursdays and Saturdays; learning to inspect and catalog donated artifacts, photos and documents; and serving in administrative roles.

Because we are blessed by our heritage and you have expressed a desire to ensure our society is the best it can be, we believe you could be a valuable worker at the Heritage Center. The need and rewards are great. Please contact Dick Wolf or a board member to learn more.

2019 Donors to the Kidron Community Historical Society

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 Dorothy Gerber, Dalton
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Miriam Kratzer, Dalton
 Wayne Kratzer Estate, Kidron
 Laurine Kratzer, Dalton
 Raymond Leisy, Wooster
 Dorothy Lehman, Harrisonburg VA
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 Jay Lehman, Kidron
 Lloyd & Esther Lehman, Dalton
 Louis & Marilyn Lehman, Albany OR
 M David & Lois Lehman, Kidron
 Phyllis Lehman, Dalton
 Ralph & Joanne Lehman, Wooster
 Steve & Elaine Lehman, Dalton
 Wayne & Joanna Liechty, Kidron
 Donna Lindgren, Kearney NE
 Keith & Carol Martin, Dalton
 Lucretia Mattson, Eau Claire WI
 Bill & Kay Medford, Dalton
 Diane Miller, Apple Creek
 Henry & Edna Miller, Dalton
 Stephen Miller, Apple Creek
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 Marilyn Moffett, N. Kingston RI
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 Harlan & Mary Neuenschwander, Dalton
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 Mahlon & Sharon Neuenschwander, Manheim PA
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 Al Withrich, Dalton
 Andrew & Christa Wolf, Mechanicsburg
 Glenn & Kathleen Zendt, Staunton VA
 Doris Zuercher, Orlando FL

BUSINESSES

Eastwood Manufacturing, Kidron
 Everence, Goshen IN
 Everence MyNeighbor, Goshen IN
 Farmers National Bank, Kidron
 G & G Farms, Kidron
 Gerber Feed Service, Inc, Dalton
 Gerber Lumber & Hardware, Kidron
 Gerber Wood Products, Kidron
 Gerber Poultry, Inc, Kidron
 Himes, Slater & Hershberger, LLC, Kidron
 Home Appliance Co, Inc, Massillon
 Hummel Group, Orrville
 K & M Builders, Kidron
 Wayne Kauffman, LLC, Dalton
 Kidron Auction, Inc, Kidron
 Kidron Kars, Kidron
 Town & Country Store, Inc, Kidron
 Killbuck Savings Bank, Kidron
 L.E. Sommer Kidron, Inc, Kidron
 Logee, Hostetler, Stutzman, Lehman, Wooster
 Mast Brothers Construction, LLC, Dalton
 P Graham Dunn, Inc, Dalton
 Schantz Organ Co, Orrville
 Schloneger's Old Fashioned Ice Cream, Dundee
 Village Printing, Kidron
 ST Engineering Hackney Inc, Kidron
 Weaver Commercial Contractor, Inc, Wooster
 Wenger Excavating, Dalton
 Weyrauch Pharmacy, Kidron
 Woodland Mulch, LLC, Orrville
 Yoder Family Veal / RC Farm, Kidron

Heritage Center Volunteers 1568 TOTAL HOURS

Enos and Judy Amstutz
 Ken Amstutz
 Julia Beyeler
 Marianne Cameron
 Joann Erb
 Nancy Ganyard
 Amos and Erma Geiser
 Janice Geiser
 Roger Geiser
 Ron and LaVera Geiser
 David and Leora Gerber

Nancy King
 Eileen Lehman
 John Lehman
 Steve and Elaine Lehman
 Carol Martin
 Bill and Kay Medford
 Diane Miller
 Clarence and Esther Neuenschwander
 Curt and Gloria Nussbaum
 Becky Oyer
 Will and Sue Schloneger

Carolyn Shoup
 Fritz Sprunger
 Mahlon and Jean Steffen
 Jean Steiner
 Rachel Steiner
 Anna Troyer
 Libby Wagner
 Meg Wilkins
 Sharon Wolf
 Carol Yoder

Sonnenberg Village Volunteers

1146 TOTAL HOURS

Clair Bixler
Jon Fiellitz
Glenn Gerber
Candace Helmuth
Jim Holtzapfel
Becka Hackett Lash
Allyson Leisy
Ray Leisy
Cliff Lehman
Michael Lehman
Nancy Lillburn

Bob Miller
Dan Miller
Wayne Miller
Ron Rudolph
Roy Steiner
Art Thornton
Abe Troyer
Marvin Troyer
Joe Wolf
Tim Wolf

Blacksmith Shop

Walter Mullet
Becky Mullet
Aaron Medley
Kim Thomas
Marty Brenneman
Rick Rindchen
Ross Wilkinson
Zack Miller
Ken Pilarczyk

Central Christian School Community Service Day

Bob Troyer
Tyler Bonner
Dreyco Carlsen-Earley
Thatcher Rohrer
Christian Galvan
William McFadden

BUSINESSES | ORGANIZATIONS

Wayne Roofing, Kidron
Gravity Mechanicals, Kidron
First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville TN
Trinity Church, Wooster
Central Christian Varsity Singers, Kidron
Gerber Lumber, Kidron
Kidron Town and Country
Kidron Merchants Association
College of Wooster
Kidron Electric

Heritage Center Visitors

According to the Heritage Center guest book, in 2019 we had visitors from every state except these 13: Alabama, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming.

Visitors also came from South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, Canada, India, Mexico, Ukraine, France, Germany, Australia, Brazil, Japan, Italy, Hong Kong, and Switzerland.

Keepers of the Heritage

There is still opportunity to purchase the Kidron-Sonnenberg 200th Anniversary Celebration commemorative book, *Keepers of the Heritage*. Copies are available for purchase at the Kidron Town and Country Store and at the Heritage Center.

New Members

David & Margo Broehl, Wooster
Pamela Paretta, Painesville
Jennifer Reusser, Orrville
Keith Sommerfeld, Orrville
Dale & Barbara Tschantz, North Canton

Sonnenberg Village Update

Most of the work during the fourth quarter of 2019 concerned the Bixler House. Insulation of the entire building was completed and we passed inspection. We began drywalling between the timber framing so that the timber framing will be visible. When we begin in the spring of 2020, we will complete the drywall, install HVAC and finish some exterior painting, and then the building will be for rent.

Because of the high winds this fall, we had to reapply Tyvec to the outside of the Zuercher House (Garden House). We also added locks to the doors, built a stairway to the second floor and added the first floor windows. In the spring, after the Bixler House is completed, we will turn our attentions to the inside and outside of the Zuercher House.

Work also continued on the Sauer Blacksmith Shop and culminated with several demonstrations of the working forge. In the spring, we intend to add a heating system and replace the line shaft and belts so all equipment will be functional.

Ten years ago, before we turned any earth in Sonnenberg Village, a committee of managers of other historic sites in Ohio met and advised the KCHS on the best way to build a village that would be self-sustaining. At that time, the country was experiencing a recession and open air museums that were solely based on tourism support were struggling. The KCHS board accepted their recommendation to rent each building in the village to artisans or people who wished to start a business, permitting them to start a business with lower initial rental fees. The plan will also permit the village to count on a reasonably steady stream of income to cover utilities and upkeep.

So far, three village buildings are producing regular income under that model: the Lehman House, the Tschantz Cabin and the Welcome Center. By the summer of 2020, it is expected both the Sauer Blacksmith Shop and the Bixler House will be available for rent. We are making this advance announcement before we make a general advertisement to the public in the summer. Our preference would be to rent to a member of the KCHS or our friends and family. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please pass this information on and ask that they call the Heritage Center at 330-857-9111.

2019 Beet Festival Prizes Awarded

- Largest Lutz Beet (19 lbs. 4 oz.): Judie Nussbaum, Kidron
- Largest Organic Lutz Beet (10 lbs. 4 oz.): Don Gerber, Dalton
- Most Luscious Lutz Beet: Judie Nussbaum, Kidron
- Best Heirloom Beet (Detroit): Allyson Leisy, Wooster
- Appetizer/Side (using beets): Johanna Badertscher, Kidron
- Salad (using beets): Marianne Cameron, Dalton
- Dessert (using beets): Johanna Badertscher, Kidron



Visit our updated website at www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org.

Kidron Community Historical Society
P.O. Box 234
Kidron, Ohio 44636
 330-857-9111

kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com
 www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

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WINTER 2020



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	Board Member	Diane Sommer
Board Vice President	Board Member	Fritz Sprunger
Board Treasurer.....	Heritage Center Director	Richard Wolf
Board Secretary	Sonnenberg Village Project Director	Ray Leisy
Board Membership Chairperson	<i>Bit o' Vit</i> Editor.....	Judie Nussbaum

Kidron Community Historical Society Membership

Annual memberships are due in January and expire on December 31. Contact the Heritage Center if uncertain of your membership status.

Name _____	Individual Annual Member	\$20
Address _____	Husband and Wife Annual Member.....	\$35
_____	Organization Annual Member.....	\$50
Type of Membership _____ <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	Individual Life Member	\$300
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