



Volume 35

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Issue 2

The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

## Celia Lehman Cherished Her Memories

By Bruce Detweiler Breckbill

As I recall, the first time I met Celia Lehman, at least in any formal and official way, was in 1996 at a Kidron Community Historical Society board meeting in the upstairs of the Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center. It's not surprising she was there since she was one of the original board members and one of the longest running board members as well. I was being interviewed by the board for a position as the first Director of the Heritage Center. I don't remember much about the meeting, but I remember Celia's bluntness and enthusiasm for the Heritage Center. As I recall, she was ready to hire me long before the interview was over. Thank you, Celia. You were always one of my biggest fans.

As I got to know Celia over the years, I discovered what many people already knew—she was passionate about Kidron history. She loved to tell stories about her younger years: walking to the one-room Kidron School from her home on Kohler Road, making Nothings and Knee Patches, singing Swiss songs, hearing her parents speaking Swiss. She was full of stories about the days gone by, and in true Celia fashion, each time a story was told and retold, the details changed slightly. That was part of the Celia charm.

She was passionate about establishing the KCHS and promoting and protecting the collection of Kidron-Sonnenberg artifacts. Celia, along with Ruth

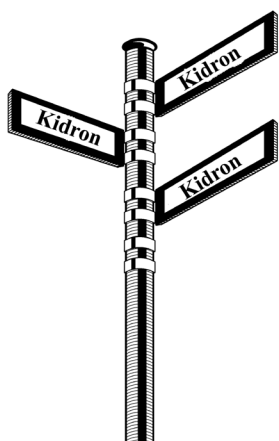
Moser and Wayne Liechty, spent many hours going through the historical donations that had been made to the KCHS, first in the basement of the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall and later in the upstairs of the Heritage Center.

She especially liked the old clothing and photographs.

Celia loved to talk to people and relay history to them: history of Kidron, history of artifacts, history of people and genealogies, history of churches and businesses. She liked to lead tours through the Heritage Center, showing off all the displays. She especially enjoyed talking to children about history, probably a remnant of her elementary school teaching days.

She relayed history to people through her writing as well. She wanted children to love and understand Kidron history so she made history coloring books for them. She wrote history books for adults, too, as well as plays and articles for the *Bit o' Vit*.

Wayne Liechty said it well at her memorial service: "Without Celia's input, organizational skills, her drive, and



## Members Banquet and Annual Meeting

### – Note Date Change –

The Member's Banquet and Annual Meeting will be held **Tuesday, May 9**, at 6:00 in the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall. After brief KCHS annual reports, there will be a short program. The new display at the Heritage Center will be open following the conclusion of the banquet.



**NOTE: This is the only invitation that will be extended.**



**RSVP by Tuesday, April 25**

[kidronheritagecenter@gmail.com](mailto:kidronheritagecenter@gmail.com)

330-857-9111

Kidron Heritage Center  
PO Box 234, Kidron OH 44636

Celia being Celia, the KCHS would not be where it is today. She deserves a lot of credit, she did wonderful things for us." That's how I remember her, too. I'm glad she cared deeply about Kidron history and I'm glad I got a chance to work with her and to know her. She did "wonderful things" for many, many people. She will be missed.

*Celia (Gerber) Lehman was born April 9, 1928, and died on February 8, 2023 at the age of 94.*

# 2023 Heritage Center Opens New Display



## Kidron Auction Celebrating 100 Years

The Kidron Auction, established in 1923 by Silas "Cy" Sprunger, is Ohio's oldest auction, and has been an integral contributor to the Kidron economy. Cy was well known for his bid-calling skill. On June 15, 1933, he set a world's record, selling 101 calves in 17 1/4 minutes.

After the passing of Cy in 1956, the auction was managed by Earl Sprunger (Cy's brother) and Russ Beals (office manager). In 1973, John and Janet Sprunger took on ownership of the Kidron Auction, and gradually added more land and buildings. John is the current owner and operator of the auction.

Cy promoted the building of the softball field in Kidron, and headed the construction of a pool on the auction grounds for water to be used for fire protection, and a lounge for small community events. Machinery sales benefited the KVFD.

Hay, straw and livestock continue to be on the auction block each Thursday; other auctions and events are often held on the grounds in the spacious and comfortable Sprunger Building.

## 1973 State Fastpitch Softball Champions

The players on the 1973 Kidron Merchants state championship team lived within a 10-mile radius of Kidron, at a time when other teams often recruited players from out of state. Bob Yutzy, Wayne Hershberger, Larry Zuercher, Jake Miller, Hartley Boss, Manager Elmer Stauffer, Bob Nussbaum, Cordell Boss, Duane Miller, Dave Miller, Aden Miller, and Harley Gerber were members of the championship team.

The Kidron Auction is celebrating its 100th year as a hay, straw and livestock auction. An anniversary sale is scheduled for June 15, 2023. Watch for details.

A number of signed and dated quilts from the Kidron-Sonnenberg community are included in the display.

The Kidron Merchants display includes numerous trophies, uniforms dating back to the 1950s, and memorabilia along with a video presentation produced by Randy Fath of Duane Miller, Glenn Miller and Ray Nussbaum reminiscing about their years playing fastpitch softball for the Kidron Merchants.



## SAGA Annual Meeting

Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association (SAGA)  
Annual Meeting in Kidron

Fri. & Sat, April 21 & 22, 2023

For more information or reservations  
email [kidronheritagecenter@gmail.com](mailto:kidronheritagecenter@gmail.com) or  
phone 330-857-9111

Visit <https://www.saga-omii.org/meetings>  
for the event schedule.

## New Members

Ed & Penny Gasbarre, Wooster  
Max Gerber, Kidron  
Scott & Suzette Burtoft, Dundee OH

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SAGA Annual Meeting**

**Sat, April 22, 2023 | Kidron Park Community Bldg**

**Annual Meeting & Members Banquet**

**Tue, May 9, 2023 | Kidron Mennonite Fellowship Hall**



## Kidron Days KCHS Benefit Race and Nussbaum Summer Haus



### Saturday, June 10

Sprunger Building, 13071 Emerson Rd.  
Apple Creek (Kidron), Ohio

In conjunction with Kidron Days

<https://registration.midohiorm.com/events/2023-kidron-days-5k10k--02272023340>

*An unforgettable course*  
*A mix of country roads and private farm trails*

**Race Day Registration:** Sprunger Building 6:30am.  
Registration closes 15 minutes before race start times

**10k Run** Starts at 7:40am

**5k Run** Starts at 7:50am

**1.75 Mile Family Walk/Run** Starts at 8:00am

**All Participants receive:** Entry to their race of choice, an Event T-shirt, Finisher's Medal, and a chance at Awards/Prizes.

Proceeds to benefit **Kidron Community Historical Society and Sonnenberg Village**

**Join us for the Benefit meal:**  
Friday Evening at the Sprunger Building. TBA

**Cost:**

**5k** - \$30 thru March 31, \$35 thru June 10, \$40 on race day

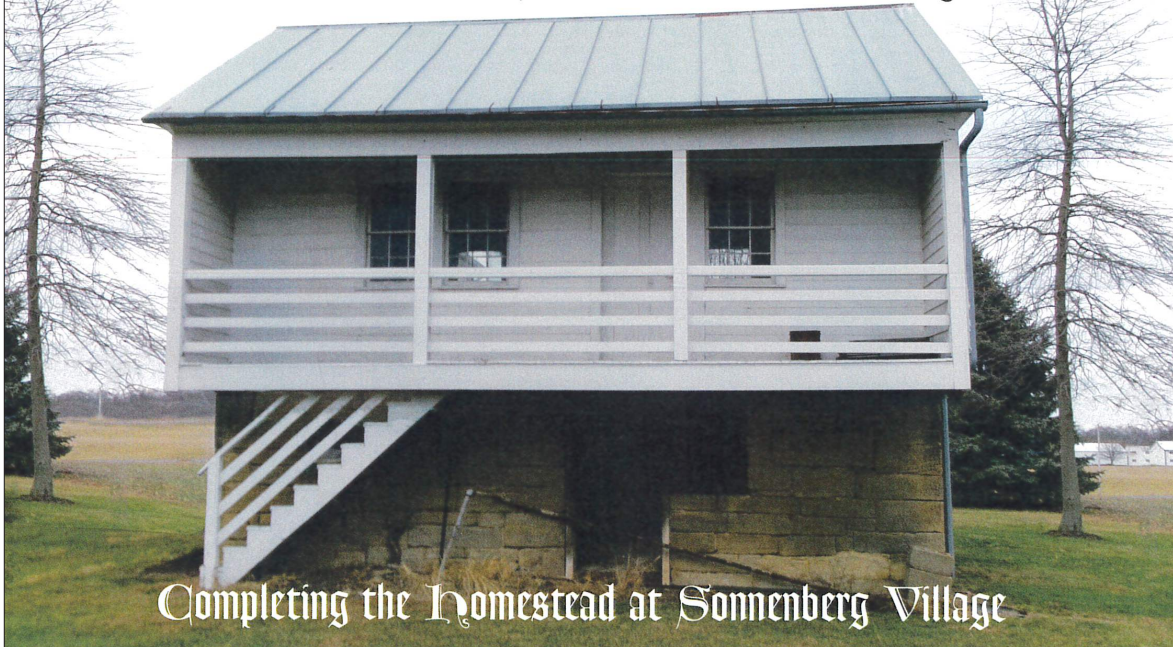
**10k** - \$40 thru March 31, \$45 thru June 10, \$50 on race day

**1.75 Mile** - \$20 thru March 31, \$25 thru June 10, \$30 on race day

*\*\*Must be signed up prior to May 31 to guarantee shirt size on race day\*\**

*Water Station & Refreshments: A water station will be at the 5k turn around. Refreshments will be provided at the finish line.*

## Nussbaum Summer Haus



Completing the Homestead at Sonnenberg Village

The KCHS is in the process of moving the Dallas and Bernice Nussbaum summer house to the Sonnenberg Village. We have engaged with Ivan Mast House Movers from Apple Creek to relocate the wood structure. The stone portion will be relocated by Dave Kridler out of Fresno.

Kristi Nussbaum and family are giving the house to Sonnenberg Village. Thanks to the Nussbaum family for this nice addition to the village!

The Nussbaum Summer Haus will be located at the south end of the village, next to the Lehman house. It is hoped the project will be completed sometime this summer.

Kidron Community Historical Society  
P.O. Box 234  
Kidron, Ohio 44636

330-857-9111

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www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

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Wooster, Ohio  
44691  
Permit No. 228

SPRING 2023



## Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center

13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

OPEN APRIL through OCTOBER • SATURDAYS • 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

CLOSED NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY, and MARCH

The Heritage Center is closed November through March, but welcomes appointments to visit the museum and 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 .....	Art Neuenschwander	Board Member .....	Diane Sommer
Board Vice President .....	Steve Gerber	Board Member .....	Fritz Sprunger
Board Treasurer.....	Joan Nussbaum	Heritage Center Director .....	Richard Wolf
Board Secretary .....	Gloria Kaufmann	Sonnenberg Village Project Director .....	Ray Leisy
Board Member .....	Diane Miller	Bit o' Vit 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Membership Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a receipt? ☐ Yes ☐ No *Thank you!*

Individual Annual Member ..... \$20

Husband and Wife Annual Member..... \$35

Organization Annual Member..... \$50

Individual Life Member ..... \$300

Heritage Club Member ..... \$1000 or more

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