



## Meet Max Gerber, Named New Heritage Center Director

Only a handful of Kidron citizens can say they have always lived within 800 yards of the square of Kidron. Fewer have both lived and worked within that 800-yard distance. One of those is Max Gerber, the new director of the Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center. Max's connection to the Kidron community runs long and deep. The son of Rich and Joy Gerber, Max has lived and worked within that 800-yard radius for his 68 years; his many memories and learned information will be invaluable in his work with the historical society.

After attending Kidron Elementary School and graduating from Dalton High School in 1974, Max received a business degree from Ashland College in 1978. He immediately found his place in the operation of the growing grocery store south of the square, at one time known as the South Side Store. Now known as the Kidron Town and Country Store, Max was proprietor of KT&C for 24 years, after having worked for his father beginning at age 13. Richard and Joy bought the store from Earl Hofstetter and his brother Dennis (Red) Hofstetter, Rich's cousins, and handed over the business to Max in 1992. After selling the store to Larry and Raneé Yoder and retiring in 2016, Max served as the Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO) purchasing agent for more than five years.

Max has a long familial history of musical talent. While in high school, he and his sisters, Melissa, Suzy, and Betsy, sang together in barbershop style. The 3 Sharps and a Flat quartet were always a highlight at the Kidron Volunteer Fire Department's chicken BBQ, then held beside the Kidron Town and Country Store on the Kidron Auction grounds.

In school, Max played the trombone and baritone horn. A few years ago Max decided he would like to play the tuba. He approached then Dalton High School band director, Charles Morton, and asked if there was any chance he could trade his trombone for a tuba. Mr. Morton said he did not have an available tuba but had a pile of parts that he would give Max in trade for



his trombone. Max accepted the offer and discovered that the parts were not for a tuba, but parts of a number of tubas that did not fit together to create the one tuba Max had dreamed of.

But that didn't end Max's dream of acquiring a tuba. He learned that there would be a tuba in an auction at the Sprunger Building. As the auction was scheduled to take place during Max's working hours, he asked Beverly Horst to buy a tuba. As it turned out there were two tubas in the auction, and Beverly won the bid for one of them. The other tuba was purchased by a music teacher at Central Christian School who later contacted Max and asked if he would be interested in trading his tuba with the one she had acquired. One had three

valves, the other had four. Max said he didn't care how many valves his tuba had, and made the trade. His ultimate goal was to play in the Wayne County Tuba Christmas at the Wooster High School Performing Arts Center. He accomplished that goal and continues to play in that annual event; he also plays tuba with the Orrville Community Band.

Max brings a pocket full of skills, knowledge, experiences and community connections to the operation of the Heritage Center and is eager to engage the next generation in promoting the values and history of the Kidron-Sonnenberg community. Memorabilia and especially photos from 1900 to the 1950s would be great additions to the museum's collection. You may contact Max to arrange adding your donations to the Heritage Center or to learn of other ways you can be involved in the operation of the Heritage Center. Max can be contacted by email at [kidronheritagecenter@gmail.com](mailto:kidronheritagecenter@gmail.com) or phoning the center at 330-857-9111. Leave a message if Max is not in the office.

Max and his wife Deanne live less than 800 yards east of Kidron. Their daughter, Maggie and her husband Ryan Stringfellow live in Portland, Oregon with their two sons, ages 8 and 5. Son Andy and his wife Shannon live in Kidron, also within an 800-yard distance of the square.

## Celebrating Heritage Center Retirements

Dick Wolf has concluded eight years as director of the Heritage Center where he used his efficient office and planning skills in the daily operation of the center.

Leora Gerber and Fritz Sprunger recently retired from their long-time voluntary commitments to the KCHS board and accessioning items in the Heritage Center museum. Leora continues to enter names in the genealogy database while Fritz is planning to tackle several research and organizational projects at the center.

Abundant gratitude is extended to Dick, Leora and Fritz for their many years of expertise in the careful preservation of KCHS artifacts and records.



Leora Gerber, Dick Wolf, and Fritz Sprunger celebrated eight years of working together accessioning at the KCHS museum. Sharon Wolf and Ellen Sprunger joined them at Taggart's Ice Cream and a field trip to Louisville, Dick's old stomping ground.

## KCHS Receives Significant Grant for Gerber-Nussbaum Barn

The Kidron Historical Society is very pleased to have received the news that its grant application to upgrade the Gerber-Nussbaum Barn was selected by the Wayne County Grant Foundation.

The \$60,000 grant will be used to add restrooms and a warm-up kitchen to the barn, allowing it to be a more functional facility for community events such as concerts, wedding receptions, educational activities, and family gatherings.

The funding will cover about half of the cost for the upgrade. We are hoping local organizations and individuals will help raise the balance needed to turn this dream into a reality.

Sonnenberg Village signifies much about our rich Kidron-Sonnenberg heritage, and we want to continue to share it with others in meaningful ways. Thank you to the Wayne County Grant Foundation for accepting our application.

## 2024 Kidron Community Historical Society Donors

Anonymous (2)	Gerber Poultry, Kidron	Wayne Liechty, Kidron	Schantz Organ Co, Orrville
Jann Allison, Dalton	Gerber Lumber & Hardware, Kidron	Donna Lindgren, Kearney NE	Vic Schantz, Orrville
Bob & Linda Amstutz, Smithville	Gerber Wood Products, Kidron	Keith & Carol Martin, Dalton	Schloneger's Old Fashioned Ice Cream, Wooster
John & Lois Amstutz, Noblesville IN	Wallace Gerber, Dalton	Don & Lisa Meager, Dalton	Marilyn Scotti, Parma
Linda Amstutz, Dalton	Sue Gochnauer, Apple Creek	Bill & Kay Medford, Sarasota FL	Carolyn Shoup, Wooster
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Rachel Augspurger, Dalton	David Hershberger, Moore SC	Mike & Barbara Moser, Canton	Marilyn Jo Sommer, Kidron
David & Penny Bixler, Lakewood	Herb & Deb Himes, Dalton	Art & Cheryl Neuenschwander, Orrville	Fritz & Ellen Sprunger, Orrville
Russ & Dorothy Beals Memorial Fund via	Himes, Slater, Hershberger LLC, Kidron	Clarence & Esther Neuenschwander, Apple Creek	Jedd & Nanette Sprunger, Dalton
Wayne County Community Foundation	Barbara Hodel, Goshen IN	Conrad Neuenschwander, Apple Creek	John & Janet Sprunger, Kidron
John Bixler, Iowa City IA	Clint & Helen Hofstetter, Apple Creek	Harlan Neuenschwander, Dalton	Virgene Steffen, Dalton
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Don & Sandy Bunker, Apple Creek	Lowell Hostetter, Bluffton	Dale & Arlene Nussbaum, Dalton	Dean & Prudy Steiner, Dalton
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Virginia Cassidy, Dover	HRM Enterprises (dba Lehman's), Hartville	Don & Ellen Nussbaum, Apple Creek	Jim Steiner, Cincinnati
Ruth Detweiler, Kidron	Hummel Group, Orrville	Gloria Nussbaum, Orrville	Vernon & Bettie Steiner Orrville
Everence My Neighbor, Goshen IN	Anne Jantzen, Seven Mile	Howard & Ruth Nussbaum, Dalton	Terry & Cynthia Strubbe, Pooler GA
Farmers National Bank, Kidron	Glenn & Gloria Kaufmann, Orrville	Ray & Joan Nussbaum, Orrville	Myrle Trefney, Dalton
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G & G Gerber Farms LLC, Apple Creek	Kidron Chiropractic, Kidron	Rebecca Oyer, Dalton	Grayden Tschantz, Louisville
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Harley & Fae Gerber, Dalton	Miriam Kratzer, Kidron	Bill & Edna Ressler, Dalton	Will-Burt Company, Orrville
Leora Gerber, Dalton	Veryl Kratzer, Kidron	Kent & Rita Richard, Talmage, PA	Harry & Meg Wilkins, Dalton
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	Lloyd & Esther Lehman, Dalton		Polly Zimmerman, Chicago IL
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	Lehman's Inc, Kidron		

## Sonnenberg Village

# Gardening for Moths

Though seldom seen due to their nocturnal nature, moths are every bit as beautiful and charismatic as their butterfly cousins. Their role as pollinators is essential to the survival of many of our plants, especially orchids. Most importantly, moths and their caterpillars are food for birds, bats and countless other animals.



enticing to these lovely Lepidopterans. Chelsea is a naturalist from Crawford County, Ohio. An avid native plant gardener and a passionate entomologist, Gottfried's area of expertise include moths, bees, dragonflies and damselflies.

Join us in Sonnenberg Village as we welcome Chelsea Gottfried on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 2:00 at the Welcome Center. Admission is \$5 per person.

We will take a photographic journey into the intriguing world of moths, exploring which of our native plants are most

For more info contact: Allyson Leisy at 330-264-9976.



Again this year, Sonnenberg Village was beautifully decorated for the holidays.

October 19, 2024

## Annual Beet Festival Winners

- Largest Lutz Beet 19 lbs 2 oz.  
Betty Weaver
- Best Organic Lutz Beet  
Betty Weaver
- Most Luscious Lutz Beet  
Allyson Leisy
- Best Heirloom Beet  
Tim Orphanides
- Best Appetizer/Side  
(pickled beets and eggs)  
Allyson Leisy
- Best Beet Salad  
Greg Tieche
- Best Beet Desert  
(beet fudge frosting)  
Patty Begue



Ray Leisy hands the Best Heirloom Beet award to Tim Orphanides.

## 2024 Heritage Center Volunteers

Enos Amstutz	Wayne Liechty
Judy Amstutz	Diane Miller
Ken Amstutz	Glenn Miller
Clair Bixler	Clarence Neuenschwander
Marianne Cameron	Esther Neuenschwander
Amos Geiser	Ron Nussbaum
Erma Geiser	Alice Shetler
Ron Geiser	Carolyn Shoup
LaVera Geiser	Aaron Sommer
Leora Gerber	Fritz Sprunger
Max Gerber	Sherri Steiner
Ruby Kuhns	Ann Troyer
Steve Lehman	Meg Wilkins
Elaine Lehman	Carol Yoder

## 2024 Sonnenberg Village Volunteers

Clair Bixler	First Christian Church of	Businesses / Organizations
Rachel Hofstetter & Jim	Downers Grove	Gerber Lumber
Swartzentruber	(Illinois) (16)	Gerber Wood
Julie Kirby	Central Christian Students	Schantz Organ Co.
Ray Norr	Lukas	Schloneger's Ice Cream
Cliff Lehman	Max	Kidron Electric
Ray & Allyson Leisy	Jack	Sonnenberg Children's Theater
Nancy Lilburn	Shawn	Sonnenberg Church Food Service
Dan Miller	Jacob	Kidron Auction
Leon Miller	Teacher: Bob Troyer	
Walter Mullett	Helpers: Marlin Troyer,	
Art Neuenschwander	Marvin Troyer	
Jeff Waybright		
Joe Wolf		

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Gardening for Moths: Chelsea Gottfried

March 29, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center

### Annual Business Meeting and Desserts

Tuesday, April 22, 7:00 pm

Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center

Volunteers Will Be Honored

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

330-857-9111

kidronheritagecenter@gmail.com

www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

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**WINTER 2025**



## 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 ..... Sherri Steiner
Board Vice President ..... Veryl Kratzer	Board Member ..... Diane Sommer
Board Treasurer..... Joan Nussbaum	Heritage Center Director ..... Max Gerber
Board Secretary .....Gloria Kaufmann	Sonnenberg Village Project Director.....Ray Leisy
Board Member ..... Steven Miller	<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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Individual Annual Member ..... \$30

Husband and Wife Annual Member..... \$45

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