



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association



www.swissmennonite.org

March 2024

A Goodly Heritage to be given March 23-24

Rehearsals are under way for “A Goodly Heritage; a musical drama depicting the history of the Swiss Volhynians.” One of the many groups of Mennonites moving to the United States in the 1870’s, the drama seeks to explain the religious beliefs underlying the Anabaptist movement and the journey over centuries that brought this group to America.

The cast is made up of Schweitzers and friends from McPherson county and surrounding areas. Jenny Schrag, who wrote the drama and composed some of the music, is directing, along with Dawn Abrahams. Bonita Howard is the choir director. The drama will be performed on Saturday, March 23, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, March 24, at 2 p.m. at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, Kansas.



Inside this issue:

<i>New SMCHA Board Members</i>	2
<i>Genealogy Seminar</i>	3
<i>Educational Grants</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4

Upcoming Event:
The Freeman, South Dakota Schneckfest will be held on March 15 and 16.



Please share Schweitzer news and events with others to expand our readership and inform about our upcoming 150th celebration held on August 22-25, 2024.

Annual Meeting to be held in Moundridge Pine Village Wellness Center on March 10 at 2:30 pm

Mark your calendars for the SMCHA Annual Meeting. This year the annual meeting will be held on Sunday, March 10 at 2:30 pm at the Pine Village Wellness Center in Moundridge. Frank Stucky will be our guest speaker.

At this event, we will also get a small sampling of the musical production, A Goodly Heritage, directed by Jenny Schrag and Dawn Abrahams. The production will be performed in it’s entirety on March 23 and 24 at Eden Mennonite Church near Moundridge.

We invite you to come to the meeting on the 10th, learn what SMCHA is doing and planning, have a great time fellowshiping with friends old and new, enjoy some delicious poppyseed roll, and continue developing a celebratory mood about the 150th. This is a free event.

Self-guided Tour information on Page 3

New SMCHA Board Members



SMCHA Treasurer: Rick Krehbiel grew up in the Moundridge community and attends Eden Mennonite Church. He graduated from Bethel College in 1972. He started working at Mid-Kansas Credit Union in 1974 and retired from there 42 years later. He married Pat Niehage and they have two children—Tanya Petrocci and Ky Krehbiel and four grandchildren. Rick has been serving as treasurer of First Mennonite Church of Christian for the past 40 years.

Vice President: Franklin Jay Stucky, Frank, is the middle son born to Harley J. Stucky and Ruby L. Stucky formerly of N. Newton, KS. He is a lifelong resident of Newton and N. Newton. Frank graduated from Newton High School and Bethel College with degrees in history and English. After graduation he spent three years in voluntary service with Mennonite Central Committee in the Teacher's Abroad Program (TAP) in Belgium, Congo, and Zaire. After graduate school at the University of Kansas, Frank started investing in real estate and got his brokers license going to work at The Regier Loan and Abstract Company. He eventually formed his own real estate company, Stucky and Associates, with offices in East and West Wichita, Newton, Halstead, Augusta, and Eldorado. He sold the company in 2009. He and his wife, Kathy, of 38 years maintain their real estate license in the Newton office. Frank has three children and six grandchildren. He enjoys golf, skiing, Bethel College football and basketball, traveling, farm management, and working on houses. He and his wife are members of the Bethel College Mennonite Church.

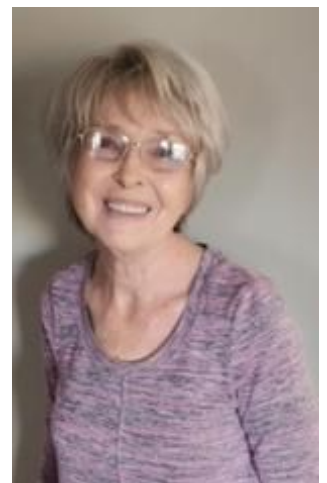


Trustee: Nan Bergen (full name is Nanette, but I prefer to go by Nan) was born and raised in Moundridge, Kansas and currently live on the "home place" built by my great-grandfather (I think it is just one "great?"). I studied history and German at Bethel College and spent 5.5 years in Germany before returning with my husband and family to Moundridge in 1993. My husband, Dietrich, and I have three children: Ariane, Brendan, and Mareike. After 24 years of teaching German at Newton High School, I will be retiring from teaching and pursuing a more flexible schedule and job to be able to more easily visit and help with grandkids as well as pursue my interests of quilting, knitting, and crocheting.

Trustee: Jocelyn J Graber Kasitz (Jo) is retired from 42 years in healthcare administration and consulting. She has served on area boards of Newton Medical Center, Health Ministries, Faith Mennonite Church, and Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale, and participated in area organizations including: Area Medical Group Managers, Newton Area Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Newton, and Harvey County Jobs Development Council Inc.

Jo enjoys baking ethnic foods for grandsons and recently started knitting Prayer shawls with Kidron Bethel Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Jocelyn has been married to Jerry L Kasitz for 63 years. They have two children: Kevin T Kasitz and Todd R. Kasitz and seven grandsons.



Genealogy Seminar

Are you interested in researching your genealogy? Whether you are a beginner or seasoned veteran, you are welcome to attend a genealogy seminar entitled "Finding Your Ancestors". Topics covered will include genealogy software, library resources, newspaper resources, church books, government resources and others. This seminar is appropriate for anyone wanting to do genealogy research.

The presenter will be Jerry Juhnke. Jerry grew up in Elyria, Kansas, went to the Eden Mennonite Church, and is of Swiss Volhynian Mennonite background. A couple of years ago in preparation for the "150th Schweitzers and Friends" celebration, Jerry organized a group of genealogists and created the "Swiss Volhynian Mennonite Genealogical and Historical Project," more commonly called the "G&H Project". The G&H Project meets on a monthly zoom meeting and works on a common family tree that now contains over 40,000 individuals. The group is also collecting historical information on the individuals in the tree such as family stories, photos, newspaper articles, draft cards, resident locations, marriage certificates, obituaries and even video and audio recordings. Jerry will show you how you can easily locate all this information.



The seminar will be presented on three occasions: on Monday, March 18 at 10am and 6pm at the Pine Village Wellness Center in Moundridge, Kansas and also on Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30pm at the new Newton Library, 223 East 7th Street (on the east side of Military Park) in Newton, Kansas. The Newton Library session will also be live streamed on the Newton Library Facebook page.

SMCHA Offers Educational Grants

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association (SMCHA) is again offering educational grants to individuals preparing for full-time Christian service, Mennonite ministry, Mennonite voluntary service, or other related careers. The maximum grant available is \$1,000 for full-time ministerial students with lesser amounts for part-time ministerial students, Mennonite voluntary service participants, and college students. The grants are for the 2024-2025 school year. The application deadline is May 30, 2024.

Criteria for Applying: (1) Applicants must have membership in one of the six Swiss-Volhynian churches in Kansas or two in South Dakota, or be of Swiss-Volhynian descent. (2) Applicants must be enrolled in or accepted at a Mennonite seminary, or in a Mennonite voluntary service program, or in a career-related program at a Mennonite college. Those attending a Mennonite seminary will be given preference.

Applicants may submit a letter of application to Swiss Mennonite Selection Committee, c/o Roger Juhnke, 328 Lakeshore Dr., Newton, KS 67114, or to Kerwin Graber, 44065 278th St., Freeman, SD 57029. A letter of recommendation from their pastor or congregation should be included.

For further information contact Roger Juhnke at 316-283-0452 rjuhnke@gmail.com, or Kerwin Graber at 605-660-3382 krgraber@goldenwest.net, or consult our website at www.swissmennonite.org.

Self-guided Tour – the path immigrants took from Halstead to the Immigrant House

Brian Stucky has made available a script of the trek in 1874 the pioneers made from Halstead to the Immigrant House by Hopefield Church by Moundridge, Kansas. He has very specific instructions and maps to show the 14-mile trip that you can take now in your car. You can make a copy of the directions, found on Celebration Information on the <https://swissmennonite.org> website, and follow that historical trip.

A Place To Stay

If you are coming from out of town to the August 23-25 150th Celebration and wondering where you might stay, Peter Preheim is developing a list of area hotel /motels that could accommodate you that we will make available later. Text him of your interest at 214-533-9329. Also, if you have space in your home for several visitors that weekend, E. Fred Goering is gathering that information and helping match host and visitors. Text him at 620-345-9890 if you could help in this way.



Send articles, ideas for articles, or requests to be added to the mailing or email list to Kathy Preheim at kathypreheim@gmail.com

**Swiss Mennonite Cultural
and Historical Association**
P.O. Box 93
Moundridge, KS 67107

Upcoming Events

- Monday, March 18, 10:00-11:30 a.m., or 6:00-7:30 p.m. **Genealogy Seminar** with Jerry Juhnke at Pine Village Wellness Center, 86 22nd Ave., Moundridge KS
- **A Goodly Heritage** musical drama performed Saturday, March 23, 7:00 p.m., or Sunday, March 24, 2:00 p.m. at Eden Mennonite Church, 401 18th Ave., Moundridge, KS
- Sunday, April 7, **Mennonite Men's Chorus** at Memorial Hall, Bethel College, 300 E. 27th , North Newton KS
- Sunday, April 21, 4:00 p.m., Matt Cotton at First Mennonite Church, 1161 E. Ave A., McPherson KS -Matt Cotton, McPherson College Professor, is completing work on his dissertation, **FromStalingrad to Volgograd: De-Stalinizing Soviet Civilization**, which examines urban reconstruction in the Soviet post-war era. Professor Cotton studied in Russia and Eastern Europe and can educate us on Ukraine happenings at this particular time in history as well.
- Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5, **Quilt Show** at Pine Village Wellness Center, 86 22 nd Ave.,Moundridge KS Times to be determined.
- Saturday, June 1, **Unveiling of a Sculpture** by Ann Zerger depicting the influence of Swiss Volhynian Mennonites in Kansas in partnership with Moundridge Arts Council, at the Black Festival.
- **Binding and Threshing wheat** in June and August
- **August 23-25 Celebration** at Eden Mennonite Church of 150 years since our ancestors came to the U.S. with lots of seminars, speakers, singing, ethnic foods, visits to pioneer cemetery and monument and great fun. More specifics coming.