



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association



www.swissmennonite.org

February 2025

Annual Meeting to be held on March 9

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association will hold their annual meeting Sunday, March 9, 2025 @ 2:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall of Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, Ks. Our stated purpose is electing board members, looking at the financial records and adopting a budget for the next year. Our by-laws require us to bring attendees up-to-date on our current projects as well as remind us of our past efforts. We will be spending some time reminding ourselves what an amazing year of celebration 2024 really was, as well as remembering the larger Anabaptist celebration of 2025.

This year we are most fortunate to have Dorothy Stucky Halley as our keynote speaker. Dorothy grew up among us, has dedicated her life to dealing with issues of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual abuse and related issues. Dorothy was educated at Pittsburg State University and served on the faculty there until accepting an appointment to the State Attorney General's office where she served from 2007 to 2020. She currently, along with husband Steve, operate the Halley Counseling Service and Family Peace Initiative Program. Dorothy is an expert in her field and a most sought after speaker. We are fortunate that she has chosen to come to our meeting.

We are looking forward to this event and cordially invite you to be a part of it. We have a great program planned, refreshments will be served, and of course you always find friends at a SMCHA meeting. -LaVern Stucky

Dorothy Stucky Halley to Speak at Annual Meeting

Dorothy Stucky Halley, LMSW, an international trainer, is co-founder and co-director of the Family Peace Initiative. She was the executive director of a domestic violence shelter from 1986 to 1996. She has worked with those who cause harm since 1991 and has served as an expert witness in domestic violence cases since 1989. She taught social work at Pittsburg State University for a decade before becoming the state's Victim Rights Coordinator and directing the Victim Services Division of the Kansas Attorney General's Office. Her development of a motivation typology for those who batter has opened the door to a more nuanced understanding for domestic violence professionals. She led the state efforts to develop standards and certify battering intervention programs. She has also served as President of: Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and Kansas Organization for Victim Assistance. She currently serves on the International Public Policy Institute Board of Directors, and the National Network for Abuse Intervention Programs. A [documentary about domestic violence](#) can be found on our website.



Inside this issue:

New SMCHA Board Members 2

New SMCHA Board Members 3

Website Reminders 3

Martens leads tour to the Alps in May 4

Upcoming Event:
The Freeman, South Dakota Schmeckfest will be held on April 4-5. "Jane Eyre will be the musical that is performed. An additional performance has been added on the evening of April 3.

For information on the Swiss Volhynian Mennonite Genealogical and Historical Project (the G&H Project), please see the following YouTube video by pasting this address in your search engine:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyEj57EbH2s>

Meet the New SMCHA Board Members



Dave Stucky lives near Kingman, Ks. along with his wife, Nancy. They are members of Cornerstone Fellowship, Kingman. Their 3 children are Kelly, Nate, and Kara. He attended Bethel College and graduated from KSU with a B.S. in Agricultural Education. After farming with his father until 1985 he worked in sales until 1999. He then worked as materials manager for the Kingman hospital for nearly 20 years, retiring in 2018. He and Nancy own and operate the Champion Ridge Inn and the Country RV Park on their farmstead. Dave volunteers as a cashier at Builders Bargains in Hutchinson.

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, 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.



Jacob Reid: After graduating from Bethel College, Jake continued his education at The University of Texas at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. He then went on to work in the political field for 10 years. Jacob returned to school and got a teaching credential and a Master's in education from San Francisco State University. He became a Special Education teacher at Mission High School in San Francisco. After 9 years, he went to School at the Principal Leadership Institute at the University of California at Berkeley to become an administrator. Jake is now the Assistant Principal at Galileo, the Academy of Science and Technology in San Francisco.

Mitch Kaufman is a retired mechanical engineer and musician. He and his wife Rosi Penner Kaufman live in Prairie Village KS, and they attend Rainbow Mennonite Church in Kansas City, KS. They have two grown children. Mitch grew up on the Allen D. and Leona Kaufman farm between Moundridge and Elyria (where his sister Cindy Bartell lives now), and enjoys spending as much time as possible fishing and recreating at his sandpit lake near Burrton.



Jerry Juhnke was raised in Elyria, Kansas and attended the Eden Mennonite Church until he entered college. He graduated from Wichita State University and became a financial advisor for 43 years representing Ameriprise Financial Services. Jerry became interested in genealogy many years ago and his interests eventually lead to the formation of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonite Genealogical and Historical Project (the G&H Project). As a result of his activity in genealogy and the Swiss Volhynian Mennonite history, he was asked to give the SMCHA annual dinner presentation in 2023. Jerry has served as president and treasurer of the Music Associates Board at Wichita State University, an organization that raises scholarship and program support dollars for the WSU School of Music. He is currently serving on the Wichita Symphony Society Board and has served as the board treasurer. He has been an active member of the Grace Presbyterian Church in Wichita has served several years as an Elder and Trustee for the church.



Gib Burgan: Gib has lived in the Moundridge community most of his adult life but did not grow up in the Mennonite Church. It was after he married a Mennonite gal (Kay Ann Krehbiel), that he became interested in the Mennonite heritage. Gib was on the Moundridge Museum board for 12 years. He was also a part of the 150 year celebration locating all the Swiss Mennonite people born in Russia who had died here . They were honored during the celebration with marked graves.



Reminders About Our [Website](#)

YOU CAN SEARCH! The website now features a "Search", the first thing on the menu at the top of the page! If you're looking for a specific document, or person, or event, type in the information, and it will search the site and give you a list. It's never a perfect system, but it certainly simplifies trying to find essays or articles!

Also on the website is an opportunity to participate in a [genetic study](#). Information is on the opening page (right under the [invitation to donate to the Immigrant House Fund!](#)) This is a chance to possibly provide better health services for descendants of Schweitzers (and other Mennonites who's relatives married each other!) This minimal time, no travel study could be a great help to future generations.

The Schweitzers and Friends 150th Anniversary Celebration is history now. But all parts of the event were recorded, thanks to photojournalist, Dan Kliewer, and now on [swissmennonite.org](#) for you to enjoy. We were pleased that nearly 500 people participated in the 100 degree heat of Kansas summer days. - Kathy Goering

The Freeman, SD, churches also celebrated the 150th. Remember many people of three Volhynian vilages immigrated to Dakota. Marnette D. (Ortman) Hofer, director of the Heritage Museum and Archives, and Tim Waltner, education coordinator of the Museum and previously editor of the Freeman Courier, presented a comprehensive and interesting history of Salem and Salem Zion Mennonite Churches, also supporting churches of Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association (SMCHA). Their [presentation](#) has been included with our August 23-25 celebration information in Kansas on our website. - Kathy Goering



SMCHA

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

Please share Schweitzer news and events with others to expand our readership.

Register now for the *500 Years of Anabaptism & Swiss Alps Tour, May 21-31, 2025*. Sites: The Swiss Alps, Swiss Mennonite sites, & the 500 Year Celebration in Zurich on May 29.

Preview the tour at www.tourwithweldon.com. For information & registration details contact Weldon Martens at weldon.martens@gmail.com or 402-202-9276.

Weldon Martens Leads Swiss Alps Tour in May

- Days 1–2 **Lake Geneva** This 9 day tour begins with site-seeing in Geneva. After a cruise lunch, we will be off to Lake Lucerne followed by a great view of the Alps from Mount Pilatus.
- Days 3-4 **Bern** We will enjoy two days in Bern and the Emmental Valley— home of Swiss Mennonites, including a visit to Trachselvald Castle once used to imprison anabaptists.
- Days 5-6 **Murren** After visiting the 1300' Trimmelbach Waterfall in the valley, we will ascend to stunning Murren. From there we will take a cable car and head up the Schilthorn Mountain and have lunch in the revolving restaurant.
- Days 7-9 **Zurich** We will attend the 500 years of anabaptism celebration.

Thank you for your contributions from Match Week!!!

Donations with the match for SMCHA totaled \$28,019.03 .

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