

## DIRECTOR'S DESK

Earlier this spring we visited our grandsons and their parents in Colorado. We were there over a Sunday attending church with them, Colorado Community, not an Anabaptist church. The theme for the message was "Telling the Story." As I listened I heard the continually repeated line, "Do you know the story?"

The line was not about Colorado Community, but rather about why we were there. Why were several hundred persons sitting in a building on Saturday late afternoon singing and listening to a preacher? That's right, Saturday afternoon! They also meet for two services on Sunday.

"Do I know the "story" of the purpose of such events and am I able to tell others the story? We're told storytelling is one of the most powerful ways of connecting with others. Stories tell about our journey, what we've experienced that we can identify and connect with and helping us understand our own journey. A person that completed the Menno-Hof tour said, "You folks did a great job of telling the story, if it doesn't get you at one place, it gets you at another."

Menno-Hof tells the story of the Anabaptist movement but it does not—it cannot—tell your story. As a follower of Jesus in the Anabaptist understanding of the Scripture we are told to tell our story to the entire world. Do we know the story? It's a story that can bring hope to others.

—LeRoy Mast

*Reunion* is published three times a year to keep our friends informed of happenings at Menno-Hof. Direct questions or comments to LeRoy Mast, director at [lmast@mennohof.org](mailto:lmast@mennohof.org)



**MENNO-HOF**

AMISH-MENNONITE VISITORS' CENTER

P.O. Box 701

Shipshewana, Indiana 46565

*See and Hear  
the Amish-Mennonite Story*

### AN INVITATION

*We invite you to help in the ministry of Menno-Hof with your tax-deductible contribution. Menno-Hof works at telling the story of how God works in people's lives, past, present and future. Your help in telling that story is greatly appreciated.*

#### Comments:

"Very well done: Congratulations on the clear message of Christ!"

"The message of Christ is strongly shared and promoted."

#### Visitors:

May 1988–March 2009  
804,117

*Reunion is published quarterly to keep our friends informed of happenings at Menno-Hof. Direct questions or comments to Joseph Yoder, director, at [jyoder@mennohof.org](mailto:jyoder@mennohof.org)*

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The Menno-Hof Newsletter

# reunion

### HOPE FOR TOMORROW

By LeRoy Mast

Although the article "Living with Hope" was written for the MCC *Washington Memo* for the Advent season, the message for this season continues to be relevant. Living into the Advent season and out of the Easter celebration we have the opportunity to affirm our "Living in Hope."

Living in the world of the many issues noted by Schlabach and adding to that the uncertainty of the global financial situation; we are facing today the challenge of "Living with Hope" as a daily issue for many.

As I reflect on the current situations many are facing, my thoughts go back to the early church, then to the reformation and the beginning of the Anabaptist movement. "Living with Hope" has been the driving ingredient for the church in the past. Without it, living into the future becomes futile and discouraging.

As Schlabach notes, it's easy to give in to despair and cynicism as we look at tomorrow or we can rejoice that we live with hope. Hope of a new life that the birth and resurrection bring to us.

In spring, when I see the first flowers, usually a crocus, I have hope that tomorrow will be 80 degrees and I can sweat again as I ride my bike in spite of continuing to live in the reality of snow on the ground today.

Quoting Schlabach again, "May signs of God's working surprise us..."

### Living with Hope

By Rachele Lyndaker Schlabach

"O come, O come, Immanuel," begins the Advent chant dating back to the Middle Ages. The words capture the feelings of a people, caught in difficult circumstances, who long for an Anointed One to deliver them.

This past year the *Washington Memo* has marked the changes in the five years since September 11, 2001. A declared war on terror, tighter immigration policies, a shift in priorities for the federal budget, increased reliance on militarism, and greater restrictions on civil liberties—all of these reflect the sobering reality in which we live.

Surrounded by such realities, it is easy to give in to despair and cynicism, to a sense of resignation that things will not change. It seems as though violence and destruction are all-powerful.

Like the Jewish people 2000 years ago, we long for God to break into our world and set things right.

But the season of Advent reminds us that God often acts in ways that we do not expect. No one expected Jesus' humble birth in a cave. If we are to notice God's actions around us, we must learn to look in small, unexpected places.

Advent also reminds us that God does, in fact, fulfill the promise to come and dwell with us. Because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we have "a living hope" (1 Peter 1:3). Although suffering and death seem to hold sway today, we live in hope and faith that this is not the ultimate reality.

The hymn's refrain proclaims in hope: "Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel." May signs of God's workings surprise all of us this Advent season.

*Rachele Lyndaker Schlabach, Washington D.C., is interim editor of the Washington Memo a publication of Mennonite Central Committee. [Adapted and reprinted with permission, Washington Memo, Nov.-Dec.2006, Vol. 38, No. 6]*

### Donor Churches

The following churches have blessed Menno-Hof with their support and contributions in 2008. We thank you for your help in telling the Amish/Mennonite story and how we endeavor to follow Christ.

Clinton Frame Mennonite  
College Mennonite  
East Goshen Mennonite  
Emma Mennonite  
Fairhaven Amish Mennonite  
First Mennonite of Middlebury  
Griner Mennonite  
Milford Chapel

North Main Street Mennonite  
Pleasant View Mennonite  
Pleasant Oaks Mennonite  
Shore Mennonite  
Siloam Fellowship  
Topeka Mennonite  
Waterford Mennonite  
Woodlawn Amish Mennonite

# Membership Roster

We thank you, our many members, for your faithful support of Menno-Hof. One hundred sixty-six of you have blessed us with your purchase of a membership. Memberships are renewed annually each October 1 and entitle you to free admission, 15% discount on bookstore and Ten Thousand Villages' purchases and *Reunion*, our newsletter.

Anonymous  
 Araman, Joseph & Katrina  
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 Bauman, Ruth  
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 Gleysteen, Jan & Barbara  
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 Yoder, Harry & Mary Ellen  
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 Yoder, Joseph & Janice  
 Yoder, Mary Ellen  
 Yoder, Paul & Anita  
 Yoder, Robert & Katherine  
 Yoder, Roger & Marolyn  
 Yoder, Thomas K.  
 Yordy, Maurice



## BOOKSTORE

Menno-Hof has a great selection of Anabaptist books for sale in its' bookstore. Books include writings by John Howard Yoder, *Mennonite Church*

*USA Confession of Faith, Martyr's Mirror, A History of the Amish, More with Less Cookbook, and Yonie Wondernose.* Stop in to review the assortment, or call. We will also ship them to you. Also available are tapes and CDs of the Mennonite Hour Choir as well as several videos and DVDs, i.e., "The Radicals" the story of Michel Sattler.

## FAIRLY-TRADED GIFTS STORE—Gifts from around the world

Menno-Hof's gift store sells fairly-traded gifts from around the world such as India, Peru, Guatemala, and the West Bank, to name just a few. For a unique gift, stop in.



## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Daniel and Erma Wenger volunteered at Menno-Hof the month of January. The Wengers came to us from Lancaster, Penn., where they are active members of Mellinger Mennonite Church. They assisted in duties at Menno-Hof including winter house cleaning and conducting tours with persons visiting the facility. An added highlight for them was the birth of a grandson in nearby South Bend, Ind.



The month of March brought Ora and Rhoda Mast, Lancaster, Penn., to live in one of the

upstairs apartments and spend time volunteering and greeting visitors. They are active members of James Street Mennonite Church.



Their enthusiasm was contagious and visitors and staff were happy to spend time with them.

Volunteer Sue Bontreger terminated on April 15 after a year of service, returning to her home in Phoenix, Ariz. Sue was a great asset to our staff. She was energetic, fun loving, and gifted in welcoming our many visitors and doing many other tasks.

## GREAT OPPORTUNITY AND EXPERIENCE

Menno-Hof is looking for volunteers, both short term (approximately four hours or more per month) and long term (a month or more). If you are interested in meeting people from around the world, interacting with a wide range of faiths, and are willing to share from your own journey, then Menno-Hof might be a place for you to share your gift. Call 260-768-4117 or e-mail [info@mennohof.org](mailto:info@mennohof.org) for more information.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

Up grade several of the audio/video programs  
 New commercial projector

## CURRENT NEEDS

Digital camera  
 Umbrella stroller for guests with small child

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP TELL THE STORY

Become a volunteer host/hostess  
 Help with flowers and yard work  
 Assist with web site work

**PRAY DAILY** for those that visit Menno-Hof, our volunteers and staff as they interact with them. Pray that all who visit will encounter Jesus in a more significant way as they hear stories of God at work in the past, present and future.

## Donor Card

I (we) want to be a partner with Menno-Hof in "telling the story." Here is a contribution to help that continue to happen. Menno-Hof is a not-for-profit organization listed as a 501(c) (3) tax deductible corporation by the IRS.

\$50.00    \$75.00    \$100.00    \$150.00    \$200.00    \$\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) would like to talk to someone at Menno-Hof about estate or planned giving.