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The Menno-Hof Newsletter

reunion

Volunteers: the hands and feet of Menno-Hof

by Susan Miller,
managing director

Five months ago I joined the Menno-Hof staff and those five months have been the fastest-paced, busiest months I have experienced in many years. I have learned a lot and still have much to learn.

Since beginning in May as managing director, I have seen first-hand the importance of our volunteers. Menno-Hof could not function without them! Our volunteers are very special individuals that give selflessly of their time and energy. Some of them live locally and give a day (or half day) as tour guides, providing a friendly and welcoming presence to our visitors. Our long-term (in-house) volunteers live at Menno-Hof in the upper level apartments and are recognized as part of the staff during their time here.

In this article I would especially like to focus on what it means to be a long-term volunteer. These are the people that leave their homes, gardens, good neighbors and grandchildren to come live at Menno-Hof for a period of time and assume the responsibility of being a host and hostess to the many people that come through these doors. Being a host/hostess means wearing many hats. It means making sure the dusting gets done, the sidewalks
(continued on page 3)

Coming home: the story of a changed life

by Harvey Chupp

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:10-11

Ron’s story is one of “coming home.” Ron was born in Nappanee, Ind., moving to Phoenix before he was two years old. He attended Sunnyslope Mennonite Church, Phoenix, Ariz., with his parents until he was a teenager. At eleven years old in fifth grade, a fellow student using a rubber



band and a paper clip caused Ron to become legally blind in one eye. Ron received an insurance settlement he was not able to access until age 18.

Even though Ron lived in Phoenix during his growing up years, he never felt quite at home. Each time they went to Indiana to visit family and friends, he always felt that Indiana was home.

As a teenager, Ron drifted away from God, church and family. He convinced himself that he was an atheist. Drinking and hard drugs became a daily part of Ron’s life. Hanging out in bars led Ron to start “dealing” to support his habit. The insurance money from the paper clip incident was soon gone. At the height of Ron’s drug habit, he would spend \$300-\$700 a day on cocaine.

A wake-up call came one night when Ron searched in vain for the next fix, ending on his hands and knees looking for some residue of dropped drugs in the carpet. He saw himself in the mirror and was alarmed at the person staring back at him: hollow eyes, frazzled hair, thin frame. At that point he knew that he wanted to be somebody else, but where and how to escape from the person he had become was a mystery.
(continued on page 2)

Harvey Chupp (right) with nephew **Ron Chupp**. Harvey told the moving story of Ron’s changed life at the September 2010 Menno-Hof Front Porch Singspiration. Ron was present at the event to receive Harvey’s embrace afterwards.

Thank you, Joe!

Once again, as board chair, I have the privilege of thanking Joe Yoder for a job well done at the conclusion of his nearly 12 months as Menno-Hof's interim executive director. Joe took up the challenge to return to Menno-Hof on a part-time basis to manage operations as we searched for a new leader and implemented a new staffing model. The economic environment was difficult, but through it all Joe helped us not only survive but return to full fiscal health.



Joe Yoder (right) with new executive director, Jerry Beasley, at Menno-Hof's Front Porch Singspiration

Today Menno-Hof is again moving forward with the dynamic leadership of our new executive director, Jerry Beasley, along with energized staff, passionate volunteers, generous donors, and a deeply-committed board of directors. Yes, we have much to thank you for, Joe!

—Mark Regier, Menno-Hof board chair

Joe Yoder was interim executive director Oct. 2009—Sept. 2010. He previously served as executive director for seven years from Oct. 2001—Oct. 2008.

“Coming Home”...

(cont'd. from front cover)

“I never imagined the breadth and depth of Menno-Hof—an experience, not a museum”
—recent visitor response

Ron had dreams of becoming a chiropractor but that all changed after a visit to Indiana to see a friend. While there, Ron visited Menno-Hof and his life changed dramatically. Ron says “I read everything that day and knew that I had come home. I knew who I was, what God wanted, what I had walked away from. My experience the day I visited Menno-Hof was indeed life-changing. From then on I knew I wanted to get into social work to help others.”

Ron entered college at the age of 30, married a beautiful Christian woman when he was 33 years old, and finished his master's degree in social work at the age of 45. Being in school with the responsibility of a family with two lovely children was very trying. His wife, Lois, delivered papers at odd hours to keep “bread” on the table.

Today Ron is a licensed clinical addictions counselor and has worked at

the Northeastern Center in LaGrange, Ind., for nine years. In October 2010 Ron was appointed president for the Indiana Association of Addictions Professionals.

As expressed in Isaiah 55:10-11 (see Scripture text at the beginning of this article), it is exciting to see The Word going out from Menno-Hof—accomplishing what was part of the original vision for this facility. Ron's story takes on special meaning for me since he is my nephew—the eldest son of my older brother. It is impossible for me to completely express the gratitude I have for the ministry of Menno-Hof and the role it played in Ron's changed life. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Harvey Chupp, retired pastor, lives in Shipshewana, Ind., and attends Emma Mennonite. Harvey was instrumental in the beginnings of Menno-Hof back in the 1980's, serving as one of the original board members.

by the numbers

485	persons attended the Sept. 12 Menno-Hof Front Porch Singspiration
\$1,821	offered during the Singspiration. Thank you!
7,933	visitors during Aug., Sept. and Oct. representing
46	different countries and
5	continents.
48	U.S. states were represented as well.
846,293	visitors to-date



Beginnings and endings

Welcome!

Larry & Maxine Miller, Macon, Miss.



long-term
volunteers;
Sept. 2010—
Feb. 2011
3 adult
children;
3 grand-
children

What did you do in Mississippi? We are retired public school teachers. Beginning as a young married couple in 1969, we have lived in Mashulaville, a rural community in Miss., ever since. We own an old dormitory building that we have made into a house of hospitality. Visit mashulavilledorm.com to learn more.

Share about why you chose to come to Menno-Hof. *Maxine:* We enjoy meeting people and sharing our faith.

Larry: I wanted to share my fascination with Anabaptist history and expand my knowledge of it.

What energizes you about being at Menno-Hof? *Maxine:* It's really special to hear the positive responses and comments from visitors after they finish the tour.

Larry: After five weeks here, I am still energized by the inquiries that come to us from such a wide spectrum of individuals who visit Shipshewana. Last week a man of a non-Christian religion turned to me at the end of the guided presentation and said "you are the first friendly Christian I ever met!"

Good-bye
Fred Tillery

long-term volunteer; July 2010 - Sept. 2010
Fred has lived at Menno-Hof several times throughout the years and his dedication and willingness to fill in wherever needed is much appreciated. Thanks, Fred!

Esther Yoder, Goshen, Ind.
volunteer tour guide; July 1996 - Oct. 2010
After 14 years, we will miss Esther's warm, friendly presence and willing spirit as a tour guide at Menno-Hof. Blessings to you, Esther!

'Tis the season: shop at the Menno-Hof bookstore and gift shop for Christmas

Menno-Hof hours: Mon—Sat., 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

Finding special gifts *for her* or one-of-a-kind gifts *for him* can be difficult. Be sure to visit the Menno-Hof bookstore and gift shop where we offer a variety of unique gifts that are handmade by local Amish and Mennonites. Gift certificates are also available. Menno-Hof members receive a 15% discount.



Why I give

"My husband, Robert, and I were supporters of Menno-Hof since the very beginning. I think it's important for people to get correct information about the Amish & Mennonites and Menno-Hof does this well. I also believe God expects us to be good stewards of the money that we have —it is not for us to keep to ourselves."

—Goldie Lambright, Shipshewana, Ind.

We invite you to consider making a tax-deductible contribution to Menno-Hof to help tell the story of how God is working in people's lives —past, present and future. Thank you!

"Informative and friendly guides"

—recent visitor comment

"Volunteers"... (con't. from front cover)

swept, the flowers watered and many other little tasks that don't take care of themselves. It also means guiding our visitors through the Menno-Hof experience and answering the many questions they bring – all the way from Germany, Switzerland, the Middle East, Japan, France and many other faraway places as well as North America and locally. Since I have been here, we have had long-term volunteers from Canada, Idaho, Michigan, Pennsylvania. Meet our newest long-term volunteers, Larry & Maxine, from Mississippi (above left).



Susan Miller
managing director

The staff/in-house volunteers meet for devotions every day and during this time we share our life experiences and learnings. Our experiences are diverse and varied; however, we all have a common goal – to give visitors who come through the doors of Menno-Hof the opportunity to glimpse a life of peace. A peace that only Jesus can give. A peace that transcends all understanding in a world that can be threatening. This is what makes it so rewarding.

"After visiting Menno-Hof, I need to re-think some things in my life."

—recent visitor reflection

Menno-Hof is looking for individuals and couples in agreement with Anabaptist values and beliefs to serve as long-term volunteers during July and August 2011. For more information contact Susan Miller, managing director (260.768.4117 or smiller@mennohof.org).

DIRECTOR'S DESK

When Menno-Hof opened its doors twenty-two plus years ago, I never imagined that someday I might be part of the leadership team here. Although I had participated in a work day with a volunteer group from our church during construction of the facility, I must confess I knew little about the planned approach for presenting and telling the Anabaptist story. It was only after visiting the completed information center that I developed a great appreciation for the high quality program design and content.

In 1999 I was invited by Director Tim Lichti to join the staff and I worked closely with him for about a year before he left Menno-Hof to pursue other life interests. I then served several months as interim director before being recruited back into the healthcare industry as a hospital administrator. During the following years I continued to be a supporter of Menno-Hof because I knew first-hand the impact it can have on visitors.

Now that I am back at Menno-Hof, I have quickly realized how fortunate we are to have such dedicated staff, volunteers and board members that have continued to carry forth the vision and present the Anabaptist story to visitors from all walks of life and many countries around the world. We are also blessed with a group of friends that has provided financial support and encouragement over the years. I feel very fortunate to be here and to have the opportunity to be part of the continuing commitment to effectively challenge all to follow Jesus.

I am hopeful that area Anabaptists will take advantage of this facility and use it to teach and familiarize both youth and adults about the long and difficult struggle those who have gone before us faced. Ideas like peace and nonviolence, separation of church and state, radical discipleship, forgiveness and reconciliation still present significant challenges to each of us as we daily live our lives, raise our families and participate in our careers.

Come. Bring your family and friends and visit us. The Anabaptist story continues today, how will those who come after us tell it?



Jerry Beasley
executive director

Menno-Hof staff:

Jerry Beasley, executive director
Susan Miller, managing director
Charlotte Long, program and communication associate
Dana Sommers, grounds, plant and equipment manager
Larry & Maxine Miller, long-term volunteers

Board of Directors:

Mark Regier, chair, Elkhart, Ind.
Larry Chupp, vice-chair, Shipshewana, Ind.
Andrew Eversole, Goshen, Ind.
Leanne Farmwald, Elkhart, Ind.
Rachel Nafziger Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.
Dorothy Hostetler, Shipshewana, Ind.
Donna Jones, Shipshewana, Ind.
Orie E. Lehman, Shipshewana, Ind.
John D. Rempel, Elkhart, Ind.
Lovina Gingerich Rutt, Goshen, Ind.
Wayne Schrock, Millersburg, Ind.
Don Stauffer, Union, Mich.
Alvin J. Yoder, Shipshewana, Ind.
Fern Yoder, Millersburg, Ind.



Reunion is published quarterly to keep our friends informed of happenings at Menno-Hof. Direct questions or comments to director at info@mennohof.org

Menno-Hof Amish-Mennonite Visitors' Center

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MENNO-HOF

AMISH-MENNONITE VISITORS' CENTER

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the Amish-Mennonite Story*

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