

YOUNG CENTER

News

THE YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES AT ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE



Center schedules international conference on the Amish

The Young Center will host “Continuity and Change: 50 Years of Amish Society” June 9, 10, and 11, 2016. The conference will focus on changes and consistency within Amish communities during the years 1963 to 2013, a fifty-year time period framed by the publication of *Amish Society* by John Hostetler (1963) and *The Amish* by Donald Kraybill, Karen Johnson-Weiner, and Steven Nolt (2013).

In his keynote address, “Amish Society: Continuity and Dynamism in a Hyper-Modern World,” Steve Nolt will consider significant developments in Amish society and its relationship with wider social forces since the mid-twentieth century. In charting these patterns, he will suggest what they may say about the possibilities and limits of American pluralism today, as well as for the future of a dynamic and increasingly diverse Amish world in the twenty-first century. Nolt is a professor of history at Goshen (Ind.) College. His most recent book, *The Amish: A Concise Introduction*, will be published in spring 2016.

The conference will also include four plenary sessions. In “Continuity and Change in Pennsylvania Dutch, 1963–2013,” Mark Loudon will explore a number of the most important examples of continuity and change in the varieties of Pennsylvania Dutch spoken today in Amish communities across North America. Loudon is a professor of German and codirector of the



Steve Nolt



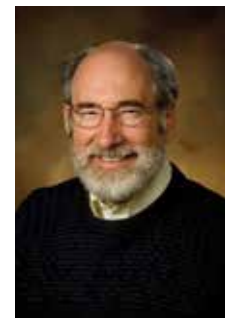
Mark Loudon



K. Johnson-Weiner



Holmes Morton



Donald Kraybill

Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He is also the author of the forthcoming *Pennsylvania Dutch: The Story of an American Language*.

Today, Amish women, while still running households as they have in the past, may also be running businesses, writing books, engaged in wage labor on an assembly line, or serving pies in a restaurant. Their roles are as varied as Amish communities themselves. “Continuity and Change in the Lives of Amish Women,” Karen Johnson-Weiner’s plenary address, explores how the socially defined roles of Amish women have changed as Amish churches have evolved. Johnson-Weiner, a professor of anthropology at SUNY Potsdam and the author of *Train up a Child* (2007), and *New York Amish* (2010), is currently writing a book about Amish women.

“A new frontier of genomic medicine is to be found in the everyday practice of medicine,” Holmes Morton says. In his plenary address, “Plain People, Genomics and the Art of Translational Medicine,” Morton will discuss his work at the Clinic for Special Children, a local pediatric medical center that has become recognized internationally for innovative stud-

ies in the discovery and treatment of inherited disorders. Morton, a pediatrician, cofounded the clinic in Strasburg, Pennsylvania, in 1989. He completed his medical degree at Harvard Medical School and his residency at Children’s Hospital in Boston. In 1993 Morton received the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism and in 2006 a MacArthur Fellowship.

Donald Kraybill, the fourth plenary speaker, will wrap up the conference with “Worms in the Amish Software: Coping with Risk in a Cyber World.” The vitality of Amish society over the last half century screams success. Yet beneath this glossy surface lie many snares for the Amish way of life in the twenty-first century. Kraybill will identify vulnerabilities in Amish culture that could impair their future in a cyber world, including those embedded in the rise of business, the use of technology, religious beliefs, and church organization. Recently retired from teaching, Kraybill continues to research and write about North America’s Anabaptist communities. His most recent book, *Renegade Amish* (2014), tells the tale of the Bergholz barbers. He is the editor of the Young Center Books series published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

(continued on page 3)



From the Director

The summer was an exciting time at the Young Center, especially in July. Visitors from around the world came to learn and discuss Anabaptism and Pietism in its various groups around the world and here in the United States. Members of the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria visited sites of Brethren heritage and told about their faith under persecution. Unfortunately, Samuel and Rebecca Dali will not come as Fellows this fall due to these difficulties. Also in July members from nineteen different Anabaptist groups around the world attended the Global Anabaptist Profile consultation at the Young Center led by John Roth and Conrad Kanagy. Participants described growth in their churches and their interpretations of Anabaptist faith. Many languages were used to describe faith and discipleship. The group learned that Anabaptism is thriving in the global south and elsewhere. In the same week, a group of Old German Baptist Brethren visited to learn more about the roots of the Brethren movement.

During the summer the paths of many members of both old and new Anabaptist and Pietist groups intersected at the Young Center. We continue to offer a place of mutual learning about the past, the present, and the future of these movements. We were enriched by making new friendships and renewing old ones, experiencing firsthand the diversity and reliance of groups in Anabaptist and Pietist traditions.

Our mission of research and interpretation provides many opportunities for the intersections of diverse cultures and expressions of Anabaptism and Pietism. During the coming semester we offer several lectures that highlight aspects of that diversity. I hope that you can join us for these programs and catch some of the excitement that we have felt as we carry out our mission as people come from far away and nearby, broadening our understanding of Anabaptist and Pietist groups. I hope to see you this fall.

Jeff Bach
Director

Global Anabaptist Profile Consultation

A Global Anabaptist Profile Consultation was held at the Young Center from July 26 to 29, bringing together representatives from nineteen Mennonite-related church bodies from seventeen countries. Conrad Kanagy, Elizabethtown College professor of sociology, and John Roth, director of the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism (ISGA) at Goshen College, are directing the Global Anabaptist Profile, a research project begun in 2012 to gather information about sizes and demographics of Anabaptist groups around the world, along with information about beliefs and practices. Kanagy and Roth trained research assistants from each of the groups in the project to gather data through surveys. ISGA directed implementation of the survey among participating groups.

The Young Center was a joint sponsor of the consultation, which marked the culmination of two years of gathering data. President Carl Strikwerda of Elizabethtown College brought greetings to the group. Participants presented their findings for the first time together and began analyzing the significance of the results. Countries represented included Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia, Paraguay, Argentina, Germany, Canada and the U.S. Findings were presented in English, Spanish, and French, with simultaneous translation in Spanish and French during the symposium.

In some countries, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and Malawi, researchers dealt with difficulties in transportation and problems of illiteracy. With support from directors Kanagy and Roth, the researchers took leading roles in interpreting their information to the consultation. Top leaders of some of the church bodies also attended, including the head of Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia (the largest single Mennonite body in the world), the Mennonite Church of Congo, the Brethren in Christ Church in Malawi, the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Canada, the Mennonite Brethren Church among the Enlhet of Paraguay, and the Mennonite Brethren in Germany.

Initial survey results indicate broad consensus on important beliefs among the groups reporting to the symposium. Emmanuel Minj, from Bihar Mennonite Church in India, commented that it was good to see that even with great cultural diversity, the participating groups have much in common in their faith. He commented, "We are a family together in Christ." Participants also expressed great mutual support for one another and their churches. Prayer was offered in multiple languages at the conclusion of the event.

Analysis of the data will continue, and some groups will continue to fill in a few gaps in data. On November 17, 7:00 p.m., at the Young Center, Conrad Kanagy will present some of the results from this enriching gathering of members of global Anabaptist groups.



Global Anabaptist Profile Consultation participants gather outside the Bucher Meetinghouse. John Roth, director of the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptists, is at the upper left and Conrad Kanagy, Elizabethtown College professor, is second from the lower left.

White glove treatment for rare books

During the summer several Young Center staff members and volunteers expanded earlier research on copies of the 1748 *Martyrs Mirror*, an Anabaptist book printed by the Ephrata community. Here, Director Jeff Bach and student worker Crystal Uminski examine a copy of the book at the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society in Lancaster.

The project includes comparing print variants and errors and other features to understand better the process of printing the largest book produced in colonial America. Edsel Burdge, Jim Miller, and Larry Etzweiler also assisted.



Brown Book Award recipient named

THRILL OF THE CHASTE RECEIVES AWARD



The Dale W. Brown Book Award is given annually to an outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist studies published during the previous three years. Named for Dale W. Brown, a noted author and theologian among the

historic peace churches, the award has been given since 2004. *Thrill of the Chaste: The Allure of Amish Romance Novels* by Valerie Weaver-Zercher is this year's recipient.

Published by the Johns Hopkins University Press in 2013, the book has been well-received by reviewers. Writing in the *Conrad Grebel Review*, Robert Zacharias, Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Waterloo, calls it "a sharp and engaging examination that aims to take seriously the various competing interests driving the growth in the field." And Lorie Sauble-Otto, in *Rocky Mountain Review of Language and Literature*, says, "Weaver-Zercher has made a significant contribution to the field with a very comprehensive and scholarly approach to the 'bonnet fiction' phenomenon of the twenty-first century."

The book award judges selected *Thrill of the Chaste* from a pool of twenty-eight books nominated this year. The judges' enthusiasm

was high. One noted, "*Thrill of the Chaste* is a well-written, well-researched, and very readable study of the fast growing fictional subgenre of inspirational Amish romance fiction" and called Weaver-Zercher's scholarship "impeccable." Another judge said, "Weaver-Zercher's book stands out for its innovative argument and for the quality of the scholarship and writing. Not content to merely describe the form and content of Amish romance novels (though she does this with great insight), Weaver-Zercher probes deeply into the constellation of forces that gave rise to the industry itself... The architecture and story line of the book are extremely well thought out, and Weaver-Zercher's writing style is lively and engaging. She has found and documented an important story and has told it extremely well."

Valerie Weaver-Zercher is managing editor of trade books for Herald Press. Her features and essays have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Christian Century*, among others. She holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Mennonite University and a master's from the University of Pennsylvania. Weaver-Zercher will present a lecture about her work at 7:30 p.m. on October 22 at the Young Center.

Nominations for the 2016 book award will be accepted until December 10, 2015. Visit www.etown.edu/youngctr for details.

Young Center expansion plans

The fund-raising campaign to build an addition onto the Young Center is moving forward toward the goal of \$1.5 million dollars. The expansion will provide a new interpretive gallery and new office and work space.

A generous couple has offered a challenge gift that will match donations dollar for dollar up to \$350,000. While we have received generous contributions already, we are still working toward the final goal. If you wish to make a donation, please contact Marty Thomas-Brummé in the development office of Elizabethtown College at (717) 361-6493 or brummem@etown.edu.

Conference (continued from page 1)

Academic paper presentations, panel discussions, and poster sessions will also be part of the conference, as will thematic seminars. Seminar speakers and their topics include Jim Cates on the Amish and mental health, Dirk Eitzen on portrayal of the Amish in the media, Martha King on Amish health care choices, David McConnell and Lyn Loveless on sustainability and Amish views of nature and the environment, and Janneken Smucker on Amish quilts.

The call for papers remains open through October 1. Conference registration begins in January. For more information, visit www.etown.edu/amish2016, call (717) 361-1470, or send an e-mail to amish2016@etown.edu.

Karen Johnson-Weiner named Snowden Fellow

Karen M. Johnson-Weiner has been named the Young Center's 2015 Snowden Fellow. Johnson-Weiner is a Distinguished Service Professor of Anthropology at SUNY Potsdam in Potsdam, New York, where she teaches courses in linguistic anthropology. She earned her Ph.D. in linguistics from McGill University (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) in 1984 and has been studying patterns of language use and cultural maintenance in Amish and Mennonite communities for nearly thirty years.

During her semester as the Snowden Fellow, Johnson-Weiner will be working on a book about Amish women. "The Young Center is an ideal place for me to be researching and writing on this topic," she says. "First,

the archives are amazing, and I look forward to perusing publications—different Amish magazines aimed at women, for example—that I don't have easy access to in New York's North Country. I will also have access to research notes and other materials."

The Young Center will also give her access to Amish populations that are very different from those she normally interacts with. "As a Swartzentruber bishop told me," Johnson-Weiner continues, "the Lancaster Amish are as different from the Swartzentrubers as the English are. My time at the Young Center will help me check this out!"

Finally, her stay will give her time to read and write and opportunities to talk with other scholars who have similar interests.

"This is very exciting to me," she says. "I teach four classes a semester at Potsdam and finding time to do much scholarship is difficult. Also, while I treasure my colleagues at the university, they don't share the same research interests, and so I often feel isolated in my work."

Karen Johnson-Weiner will give a talk about her work on September 22 at 7:30 in the Young Center's Bucher Meetinghouse.

The Snowden fellowship and lecture are named for Armon and Lucille Snowden, whose generous gift endowed them. The Young Center invites nominations and applications for Snowden, Kreider, and doctoral fellows. Visit www.etown.edu/youngctr for more information.

Center welcomed international visitors during the summer

Several visitors came to the Young Center during the summer. One of them, Maria Lisogorskaya, came in early July to learn about Amish building practices. An architect and partner in the firm Assemble in London, England, Lisogorskaya received a scholarship from the prestigious Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, which provides funding for British citizens to travel abroad and gain unique knowledge in fields such as engineering and design, the sciences, health care, education and other topics. Reports from scholarship recipients are incorporated into the trust's website.

Lisogorskaya researched traditional and modern ways that Amish builders construct buildings. During her ten days in Pennsylvania, she visited a construction firm, a metal fabricating business and a buggy shop, all owned and operated by Amish businesspeople. She also visited businesses in the Amish community around Belleville, Pennsylvania, with Hedda Durnbaugh, one of the first four fellows at the Young Center. Maria remarked that she was especially impressed by the personal interactions in the way each of the businesses do their work.

On July 4, about sixty members from the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (Ekklesiar Yan'uwa a Nigeria, or EYN) visited the Young Center. The group included the EYN women's choir and members of the Brethren Evangelism Support Team (BEST) in Nigeria. After visiting the Young Center, the choir

gave a concert at Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren. On July 5, Jeff Bach led the group on a tour of Brethren heritage sites in Germantown, and the choir performed that evening at the Germantown Church of the Brethren. The visits in Pennsylvania were part of a larger tour by the group on their way to the Brethren Annual Conference in Tampa, Florida.

The highlight of the group's visit to the Young Center was the official presentation by Anjikwi Musa Ciwar of a copy of the Bible in the Bura language to the Young Center. Ciwar, from Abuja, donated the Bible in honor of Rev. Monroe Good, a former Brethren missionary to Nigeria and organizer of many tours in the U.S. for Nigerian groups. The Bura translation of the complete Bible was just published in 2014, and marks the first time that the entire Bible has been available in this language. The Bible will be on display in the Young Center lobby this fall.

On July 16, Hanspeter Jecker from Switzerland visited the Young Center during his trip to the U.S. for Mennonite World Conference, which was held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania July 21-26. Jecker is a historian of Anabaptism in the sixteenth and seventeenth century and teaches at the theological seminary at Bienenberg, near Basel, Switzerland.

A group of Old German Baptist Brethren (New Conference) traveling on a Brethren heritage tour led by Glen Landes visited the Young Center on July 30.



Maria Lisogorskaya examines a cutting tool at a construction firm in Lancaster County.



Members of the EYN women's choir and fellow church members visit the Young Center.



Anjikwi Musa Ciwar (left) presented the Bura Bible to Young Center director Jeff Bach, in honor of Monroe Good (center).

UPCOMING EVENTS

SNOWDEN LECTURE

Writing about Amish Women

KAREN M. JOHNSON-WEINER

Tuesday, September 22, 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center



Karen M. Johnson-Weiner, professor of anthropology at SUNY Potsdam, will explore the challenges of writing about Amish women's lives and the role of women in Amish communities. Johnson-Weiner is author of *New York Amish: Life in the Plain Communities of the Empire State* and *Train Up a Child: Old Order Amish and Mennonite Schools* and coauthor (with Donald B. Kraybill and Steven M. Nolt) of *The Amish*.

Heritage Festival

Saturday, October 18, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Young Center

During Homecoming the Young Center will host a family-friendly heritage festival to celebrate the college's connection to the Church of the Brethren and the Anabaptist and Pietist movements. Activities for children include handweaving using simple cards, bubble making, sack races, bean bag toss, and demonstrations of wood-working and quilting. The event will also include a brief hymn sing at 4:00 p.m. in the Bucher Meetinghouse and a display of historic photos. Snacks including popcorn, homemade ice cream, and bread with apple butter will be available.

Collecting Data While You Pass the Jell-O Salad: Researching Amish Fiction at Potlucks and Reunions

VALERIE WEAVER-ZERCHER

Thursday, October 22, 7:30 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center



Valerie Weaver-Zercher, managing editor of trade books for Herald Press, will discuss the approach of narrative scholarship as it relates to her research for *Thrill of the Chaste: The Allure of Amish Romance Novels*, which received the 2015 Dale Brown Book Award. Weaver-Zercher's features and essays have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Christian Century*, among others.

Anabaptists Around the World

CONRAD L. KANAGY

Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.

Bucher Meetinghouse, Young Center



This presentation will be the first public report of the results of the Global Anabaptist Profile (GAP), a study of twenty-two Anabaptist churches in eighteen countries sponsored by Mennonite World Conference and the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism (Goshen College, Indiana). Codirectors for the GAP are John Roth (Goshen College) and Conrad L. Kanagy (Elizabethtown College). In his talk, Kanagy will highlight the major findings of the GAP and engage in discussion with participants about the implications of these findings.



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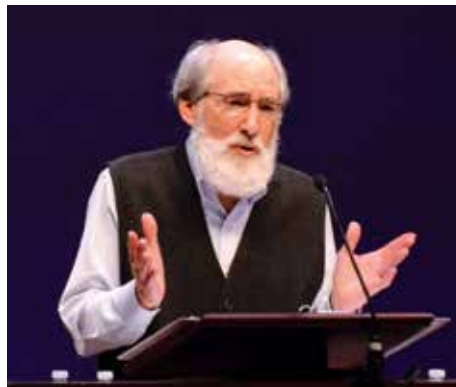
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Donald Kraybill's career celebrated

Two hundred twenty-five people gathered in Leffler Chapel on April 9 to celebrate the retirement of Young Center Senior Fellow Donald Kraybill. One of Kraybill's former students, Don Fitzkee, emceed the event, which included comments by Kraybill's daughter Joy, two of his former students—Dawn Houff and Carl Desportes Bowman, friend Ben Riehl, and colleague Conrad Kanagy. Following the reflections, Kraybill delivered the 2015 Durnbaugh Lecture, "The Young Center: From a Swamp to an International Center of Scholarship."



FALL 2015

YOUNG CENTER *News*

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Young Center News is published twice each year for those interested in the work and events of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. For e-mail notification and a link to each new issue of *Young Center News*, send an e-mail message to youngctr@etown.edu.

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