On June 8-10, the Young Center will host a major study conference, “Martyrs Mirror: Reflections Across Time,” focusing on the Anabaptist martyrlogy, the Martyrs Mirror. The conference marks the 350th anniversary of the first publication of the Martyrs Mirror in 1660 in the Netherlands.

Thieleman Jansz van Braght collected the stories of Anabaptists across Europe and connected them to the stories of martyrs in ancient Christianity and in the intervening centuries. Mennonites in the Netherlands had assimilated well to the prosperity and toleration during the flourishing economy there in the seventeenth century. Van Braght’s collection recalled the struggles of the faith in more difficult times.

The conference will feature three plenary presentations. Martyrs Mirror expert James Lowry will discuss the biography of Thieleman van Braght and the setting in which he created the book. Marcus Meier, noted historian of Radical Pietism, will present the biography of illustrator Jan Luyken and his connections to several Radical Pietist authors and printers. Patrick Erben, professor of English at the University of West Georgia, will examine the translation of meanings as the Martyrs Mirror was translated into German at Ephrata in 1748. In addition to the plenary speeches, other presenters will give papers in smaller group sessions.

The presentations will offer a variety of interpretive lenses for the Martyrs Mirror. The call for papers invites presentations that deal with the social historical context, theology or religious topics, gender analyses, literary interpretations, or papers that deal with Jan Luyken’s illustrations, which first appeared in the second edition of 1685. Presenters may also address the various editions of the Martyrs Mirror, whether in Dutch, German, English or other languages, and editions from various presses and countries.

Conference attendees may register for optional tours on Tuesday afternoon before the conference opens. One is a tour of the Ephrata Cloister, the site where the Martyrs Mirror was first translated completely into German and published in the American colonies. The tour includes bus transportation to the Ephrata Cloister, admission to the site, and a box lunch. The second tour option is a trip to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society’s library and to the Muddy Creek Library to view copies of the Martyrs Mirror in the extensive collections of both institutions. This tour also includes bus transportation and a box lunch. Both tours will depart from the Young Center at noon and return by 5:00, in time for conference registration. Each tour costs $40.

The fee for the conference (including meals) is $110 if registered by May 7, and $125 after May 7. The fee for students is $85.  (continued on p. 2)
The fee for attending the conference for one day only is $55. On-campus housing is available in the Schreiber Quads. Motel accommodations are available in and around Elizabethtown as well.

Conference details are posted on the Young Center’s web site; registration forms will be available on the site later this winter. The call for papers is also posted on the web site. The deadline for proposals is January 31.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jeff Bach

The turn from the old year to the new is an occasion to think about new opportunities and reflect on the past. The work at the Young Center reminds me that sometimes what is old can also become what is new.

The music manuscript that we acquired this fall was copied by hand in the nineteenth century at the Snow Hill community, a monastic offshoot of the Ephrata community. Each leaf in the manuscript reveals the delicate music notes, written to copy music that was composed about a century earlier. The hymns in this manuscript have the curious fifth vocal line that appears in some Ephrata manuscripts. Small, colored geometric patterns and floral ornaments decorate some of the leaves. This old, unique manuscript offers new opportunities to study the musical and manuscript art traditions among the people of Snow Hill and Ephrata.

Our scholars this semester bring new focus to old topics. Our Kreider Fellow, Diane Zimmerman Umble, will research Mennonite women in the twentieth century. Andrew Klager, our scholar in residence, studies how sixteenth-century Anabaptist theologian Balthasar Hubmaier understood texts written in the early centuries of Christianity. Theron F. Schlabach, the Durnbaugh lecturer, will bring a fresh assessment to Mennonite theologian Guy F. Hershberger’s approach to peace and ethics in the twenty-first century.

In the coming semester, I hope that you can join us for our programs and reflect on ways that topics rooted in the past raise fresh questions in the complex world of today. We are thankful for supporters who help to keep this important work advancing. I look forward to seeing you at the Young Center.

Young Center acquires rare music manuscript

The Young Center recently completed the purchase of a rare music manuscript from the Snow Hill religious community in Franklin County, an offspring of the Ephrata community. Emmert and Esther Bittinger had purchased the manuscript many years ago and had it in their collection of rare books. They offered to sell the manuscript to the Young Center, and thanks to generous donors and NEH Challenge Grant funds designated for the purchase of books, the Young Center was able to acquire it.

The manuscript is a handwritten copy—made probably in the nineteenth century—of musical settings that were composed by Conrad Beissel, founder of the Ephrata community. The compositions are for hymns from the Weyrauchshügel (Mountain of Incense), a hymnal printed by Christopher Saur for the Ephrata community in 1739. The book contains various geometric patterns of ornamentation and some small floral motives. At one point in its history, the manuscript was trimmed down, removing much of the border area on the leaves of paper. It was also bound in leather.

The opportunity to add this rare manuscript to the Young Center research collection is a happy occasion. Researchers of music, hymn texts, and Pennsylvania German folk art will find it to be a valuable resource for years to come. The book will be on display in the Young Center lobby after January 2010.

Martyrs Mirror conference in June (continued)

The Young Center has planned these events in consultation with the Mennonite Historical Committee’s work to develop a multi-year research cycle that will address the Martyrs Mirror in a much broader, multi-discipline, multi-cultural emphasis beginning in 2011. The conference will be a great opportunity to begin the study of this book, which is a significant marker of Anabaptist faith that continues to be meaningful in the present.
Visiting scholars pursue diverse research interests

Diane Zimmerman Umble and Andrew P. Klager at the Young Center spring semester

Diane Zimmerman Umble will serve as the Kreider Fellow for Spring 2010. A Millersville University professor, Umble teaches in the department of communication and theatre. She wrote Holding the Line: The Telephone in Old Order Mennonite and Amish Life (1996) and co-edited Strangers at Home: Amish and Mennonite Women in History (2002) and The Amish and the Media (2008), all published by Johns Hopkins University Press. Umble received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg School of Communication.

While at the Young Center, she will be writing a book based on the diaries of two Pennsylvania Mennonite women, Anna E. Umble (1889-1964) and E. Elmira Zimmerman (1898-1978). The diaries span fifty years, from the 1920s to the 1970s, and provide accounts of the women’s daily routines, family and church life, and social networks. “They married, worked, raised families, and served their churches and their communities in times of war, financial stress, and great technological and social change. What counted for them and what they leave unspoken provides a window into how they constructed and negotiated their lives within the religious and cultural constraints of their changing times,” Umble says. “My time as a fellow will focus primarily on developing the manuscript. Access to library resources and to colleagues with shared interests at the Young Center will provide a context to test and refine this work.”

Andrew P. Klager will also be in residence at the Young Center for the spring semester. Klager is completing his doctoral degree at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, and will expand on his doctoral research while at the Young Center.

The focus of Klager’s research is sixteenth-century Anabaptist theologian Balthasar Hubmaier and Hubmaier’s use of ancient Christian writings as mediated through Renaissance humanists north of the Alps, including Erasmus, Oecolampadius, and Beatus Rhenanus. In 2008, Klager presented a paper on Hubmaier at the University of British Columbia, which was subsequently published in the Historical Papers of the Canadian Society of Church History, and will have “Balthasar Hubmaier’s Use of the Church Fathers: Availability, Access, and Interaction” published this month in The Mennonite Quarterly Review.

“The Young Center will provide me with the time, space, and resources necessary to focus on specific topics related to my research that I otherwise would have had to postpone,” Klager says. “I look forward to being in conversation with experts in Anabaptist history while exposing willing interlocutors to my research direction and provisional conclusions.”

The Young Center invites nominations and applications for Center fellows and doctoral fellows. Visit the Center’s web site for details.

Martyrs Mirror exhibit to open

A new exhibit will open on January 25 in the lobby of the Young Center and continue through June 30. “Reflections of the Martyrs Mirror” will feature various editions of the Anabaptist martyrology, the Martyrs Mirror, in recognition of the 350th anniversary of its first publication in Dutch in 1660. Thielemans van Bragt compiled the Martyrs Mirror to commemorate Anabaptist martyrs in Europe and include them in the line of Christian martyrs since ancient times. Mennonites in Pennsylvania arranged for its translation into German and printing here. The book became influential, especially among the Amish, but also among Mennonites and Brethren.

The exhibit will include some of the earlier compilations of martyr stories that van Bragt drew on to create his first edition in 1660, and will feature books from Muddy Creek Library and the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center. The Young Center thanks the two institutions for their generosity in lending rare books for this display.

Interested persons are encouraged to see this interpretation of a very important Anabaptist literary and spiritual landmark. The exhibit is available weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Calling ahead is helpful, but not required.
Schlabach named Durnbaugh lecturer

The Young Center is pleased to announce that Theron F. Schlabach, Mennonite historian and former acting director of the Young Center, will present the 2010 Durnbaugh lectures. Schlabach is professor emeritus of history at Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana, where he taught from 1965 to 2004. He is also the author or editor of numerous articles and books including Peace, Faith, Nation: Mennonites and Amish in Nineteenth Century America and Proclaim Peace: Christian Pacifism from Unexpected Quarters. His most recent book, War, Peace, and Social Conscience: Guy F. Hershberger and Mennonite Ethics (Herald Press, 2009), will serve as the basis for the 2010 lectures.

Established in 1993 to commemorate the scholarship of Don and Hedda Durnbaugh, this endowed lecture series brings a noted scholar of Anabaptist or Pietist studies to campus annually. This year’s presentations will be held on April 8 and 9. The Thursday lecture will follow the Young Center banquet in the Susquehanna Room of Myer Hall. The Friday seminar will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in the Young Center.

In addition to his teaching position at Goshen, Schlabach served as editor of the Studies in Anabaptist and Mennonite History book series and the Mennonite Experience in America book series, and interim editor and managing editor of The Mennonite Quarterly Review. He was a member of both the Mennonite Historical Society’s board of directors and The Mennonite Quarterly Review’s board of editors for 25 years. He also served as acting director of the Young Center for the 1996-97 academic year.

Schlabach received his Ph.D. in U.S. social history from the University of Wisconsin, where he was a Danforth Fellow.

Young Center co-sponsors peace events

In November, the Young Center collaborated with the Center for Global Citizenship to celebrate the importance of peace at Elizabethtown College and explore the Brethren background of the college’s peace heritage.

On November 19, a panel discussion was held in the Bucher Meetinghouse addressing the question ‘Is Elizabethtown a Peace College?’ Religious studies professors Jeff Long and Michael Long, anthropology professor Robert Wheelersburg, and Elizabethtown College student Ryan Schlosser served on the panel. Each described ways he thought peace is an important influence at Elizabethtown College, and presented ideas about how peace could be more prominent in the life of the college.

That evening, another panel convened in the meetinghouse to discuss the Brethren roots of the peace heritage at Elizabethtown College. Donald B. Kraybill, senior fellow at the Young Center, served as the moderator. Jeff Bach, director of the Young Center, offered an overview of the Brethren peace witness. Ken Kreider, professor emeritus of history, described the role of Brethren service during the WWII era and its effect at Elizabethtown, and Gene Clemens, professor emeritus of religion, reflected on the beginnings of the peace studies program at Elizabethtown. The audience contributed lively discussion during the afternoon and evening sessions.

Earlier in the month, the Department of Anthropology and Sociology invited Jacob Swamp, a member of the Mohawk Nation, to speak on the peace tradition of the Mohawk people. The Young Center and the Center for Global Citizenship supported this event as well. Following the presentation, which consisted of a recitation of part of a tribal story about making peace, members of the college community joined Swamp in planting a white pine tree on the campus as a symbol of peace.

Lancaster County librarians visit

On the evening of November 18, eleven librarians from the Lancaster County Librarians Association visited the Young Center. They came as part of their fall meeting, which includes a visit to a library in Lancaster County. BethAnn Zambella, director of Elizabethtown College’s High Library, invited the group to High Library as part of its twentieth anniversary year. After a tour of the library, including the Brethren Heritage Room, the group came to the Young Center to see many of the rare books in its collection. Director Jeff Bach explained some of the history and mission of the Young Center.
Sustainable Agriculture in Old Order Communities
DONALD B. KRAYBILL, MODERATOR
Thursday, February 11 • 7:30 p.m.

Panel members will discuss new trends in Old Order communities that promote sustainable agriculture, including produce farming, organic products, conservation, grazing methods, marketing cooperatives, and the use of solar power.

Donald B. Kraybill is distinguished college professor and senior fellow at the Young Center. He is the author of The Amish of Lancaster County, The Riddle of Amish Culture and other books on the Amish.

DIANE ZIMMERMAN UMBLE
Thursday, March 18 • 7:30 p.m.

The 2010 Kreider Lecture will focus on two Mennonite women’s diaries (1920-1970) to explore how they made sense of their lives in the midst of personal and social change. Their stories illustrate the complex structuring of gender and religious practice as a religious community resists and accommodates to a changing world.

Diane Zimmerman Umble, 2010 Kreider Fellow, is a professor of communication at Millersville University. Her scholarship includes studies of the Amish and the media, communication practices among Old Order Amish and Mennonites, and Anabaptist women’s history. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Balthasar Hubmaier’s Use and View of the Church Fathers
ANDREW P. KLAGER
Thursday, March 25 • 7:30 p.m.

This lecture will explore the specific sixteenth-century editions of the Church fathers that Anabaptist theologian Balthasar Hubmaier may have used in his own writings, as well as the treatises, commentaries, and epistles of the Church fathers that he read. The lecture will conclude with a look at how Hubmaier understood the value and authority of ancient Christian writers.

Andrew Klager, Young Center scholar in residence for Spring 2010, is completing his doctoral degree at the University of Glasgow in Scotland. The focus of his research is sixteenth-century Anabaptist theologian Balthasar Hubmaier, and Hubmaier’s use and view of the Church fathers as transmitted by humanists.

Annual Young Center Banquet
Thursday, April 8 • 6:00 p.m.
(Reception at 5:30 p.m.)
Susquehanna Room of Myer Hall
Socialize with faculty, staff, students, church leaders, and friends of the Young Center and learn about the Center’s activities and programs. Cost of the banquet is $18, and reservations are required by March 24.

A reception for Durnbaugh Lecturer Theron F. Schlabach will be held at 5:30 p.m., preceding the banquet.

2010 Durnbaugh Lectures
THERON F. SCHLABACH
Theron F. Schlabach is professor emeritus of history at Goshen College, where he taught for 34 years. A noted Mennonite historian and former acting director of the Young Center, he also served as editor of two book series: Studies in Anabaptist and Mennonite History and the Mennonite Experience in America. Schlabach is the author or editor of numerous publications. In his most recent book, War, Peace, and Social Conscience: Guy F. Hershberger and Mennonite Ethics, Schlabach analyzes Hershberger’s thought and impact on Mennonites in the twentieth century.
Caught Between Anabaptists and Modernity: Guy Hershberger’s Faith in His Church
Thursday, April 8 • 7:30 p.m.
Susquehanna Room of Myer Hall
In the Durnbaugh Lecture, Theron F. Schlabach will discuss how historian and ethicist Guy F. Hershberger’s messages of biblical pacifism and biblically based social gospel proceeded from both his theology of church and church as he experienced it as a Mennonite. Schlabach will also juxtapose Hershberger’s perceptions of church with some literature that uses alternative definitions of politics—John Howard Yoder’s Politics of Jesus and other, more recent formulations—to ask just how much and in what ways Hershberger’s teachings were “political.”

Heavenly Hopes for Earthen Vessels: Church Ideals/Church Programs
Friday, April 9 • 10:00 a.m. to noon
Guy F. Hershberger had ideas, and also a penchant for engineering policies, programs, agencies, and institutions to put those ideas—or ideals—into practical forms that he thought would make for the church’s faithful discipleship. From another perspective, those forms certainly borrowed from Western culture and modernity, and they communicated the ideals only in translation. So there was the perennial problem of ideals vis-à-vis practice. How true were the translations to the original message? Schlabach will outline basic facts and issues, and then give opportunity for responses both to that introduction and to the Thursday evening lecture.

An optional lunch with Schlabach is available at noon for $8. Lunch reservations are required by March 24.

The Amish CEO: The Role of the Owner-Entrepreneur in Amish Business Success
Erik Wesner
Thursday, April 15 • 7:30 p.m.
Old Order Amish run 9,000 firms across North America, from roadside stands to building and manufacturing operations registering multi-million dollar annual sales. Based on his recent book, Wesner examines the key role Amish entrepreneurs play in small business prosperity. Erik Wesner was the 2008 Young Center Snowden Fellow, during which time he researched Amish business. He is the author of Success Made Simple: An Inside Look at Why Amish Businesses Thrive, the upcoming Polish-language Kim sa Amisz? (Who are the Amish?), and the Amish America blog.