

# YOUNG CENTER *News*

THE YOUNG CENTER FOR  
ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES  
AT ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE



## Expansion project update

A few short months after the February 23 groundbreaking, orange mesh safety fencing was unrolled around the Young Center, a backhoe bit neatly into a section of macadam near what will become the new entrance, and the construction project was under way.

Since then, the project has been moving along briskly. The new additions have been framed, and the windows were installed during mid-July, according to Mark Zimmerman, Elizabethtown College's director of facilities management. "And at the end of July, the roof was replaced on the existing building, and the roof was installed on the new additions. Masons have recently started installing stone on the additions. This labor-intensive work will continue into October. Inside, the old restrooms have been demolished, and new restrooms are being installed in a different location. The new offices and seminar room are framed with wood stud walls. Drywall will soon start to be installed. Finishes such as paint, flooring, and light fixtures will be installed later in the fall."

Young Center director Jeff Bach is pleased with the progress inside and outside. "During a 'sneak peek' with a construction worker inside the Young Center in early August, I could see from the framing how the new spaces in the building will be configured," he said. "It's exciting to see how the expansions will provide additional space we need for our work and for serving visitors and scholars. We will have more room for research, projects and teaching."

One of the additions includes a new interpretive gallery and front entrance to the building. Dave Heltzel and his firm, Phoenixx Design, in York, will design and create the exhibit space. The gallery will feature



permanent and rotating exhibits that explain briefly the origins, characteristics, and spread of Anabaptist and Pietist groups, with a special focus on the Amish. The other addition includes a reconfigured classroom and additional office, work, and storage space. The expansion will increase the Young Center floor space by about one-third. A garden courtyard will be added near the new front entrance.

The college's director of church relations, Bonnie Martin, noted that the \$1.5 million campaign goal for the expansion was reached "in less time than anticipated, thanks to the contributions, prayers, and good will of many. The expansion will allow the Young Center to welcome more scholars and tourists into a larger, more flexible space. Renovations are being completed in a manner that does not affect the integrity of the Bucher Meetinghouse, which is patterned after the first Brethren meetinghouse in Germantown, Pa."

"I'm excited about the opportunity to extend the reach of the work of the Young Center," added Kristi Kneas, dean for academic affairs and faculty development. "The building project positions us better to serve the needs of our campus community and extend our reach to a greater extent into the community beyond so that a far greater number of folks will benefit from the wisdom and expertise of our staff members and our visiting fellows. What rich learning opportunities exist for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors from near and far!"

Special events celebrating the renovated building will take place during the 2018-19 academic year. Until the project is completed, the Young Center staff continues to welcome visitors at their temporary location, 905 College Avenue, on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



## From the Director

This summer I've watched the progress on the addition to the Young Center. The skill of the workers is amazing as they carefully fit stone and mortar to make the face of the building come together, matching the new additions with the old parts.

This summer and fall bring many milestones for Anabaptist and Pietist groups fitting into the space of religious tolerance in Pennsylvania. Three-hundred anniversaries abound: the Groffdale and Mellingers Mennonite settlements, and even Jacob Boehm, the Mennonite immigrant whose son, Martin Boehm, founded the United Brethren in Christ. As I study Anabaptist and Pietist groups, I'm amazed at how families and groups who could be very different in their views found ways to live side by side in Pennsylvania (maybe not always harmoniously).

For the coming year, I am excited again about the variety and diversity of the scholars who will be here. Rivka Neriya-Ben Shahar from Israel researches Amish and ultra-Orthodox women. Tony Walsh from Ireland, our Kreider Fellow next spring, will study Old Order Brethren. Also in Spring 2018, Rebecca and Samuel Dali from Nigeria will be scholars in residence. They will share about their experiences as Brethren leaders dealing with Boko Haram in northeastern Nigeria.

I am very happy that the Young Center is a place that seeks and welcomes people from many cultural backgrounds to work here, especially in light of the troubles about diversity in the United States currently. At the Young Center, we value difference and learn with and from each other. I'm glad that the Young Center and Elizabethtown College can model this kind of learning and appreciation of diverse backgrounds. Come and join us for our programs this year as we learn more about Anabaptist and Pietist groups and learn to value people from different backgrounds.

*Jeff Bach  
Director*

## Serendipitous discovery WILLARD GOOD'S FAMILY LEARNS OF LETTERS

It began with a copy of the Spring 2017 issue of *Young Center News* left on the doorstep of Charlene Good's Waynesboro home in March. Doris Large, an Elizabethtown alumnae, had placed it there, highlighting an article on page 4 about the H. Willard Good Collection in the Hess Archives and Special Collections.

"Doris knew the family connection and thought I might like to read the article," Charlene said. Intrigued, she picked up the phone and called her cousin Phyllis Karli, who lives in Campbelltown, and together they researched the collection on the college website, where they saw the finding aid. Listed under "Acquisition Source" was the name and location of the donor, Alice S. Fisher of Waynesboro, Pa.

Charlene was curious "as to how these letters found their way from Waynesboro to Elizabethtown College," so she used the Internet to find Alice's phone number and then gave her a call. "I introduced myself and shared that I was calling about the letters that she had gifted to the college. She shared that she had acquired the box of memorabilia at a local auction house. After reading some of the letters, she felt that she needed to find a home for them. (Alice had worked in the University of Texas library and assisted graduate students in finding primary source material, so

she was the perfect person to route this material to the perfect location!) She realized that the information would be of interest within a Church of the Brethren-related college, and she contacted Elizabethtown."

Meanwhile, Phyllis called the Young Center to coordinate a date and time for the family to see the materials. "We were very excited to know that so many family letters were actually saved. We thought it would be great to go see what was there."

So it was that Phyllis and Charlene, along with Charlene's sister, Vivian DiCristofaro, and her brother Keith and his wife, Carol, were sitting around the large square table in the Hess Archives on a mid-April afternoon, animatedly reading aloud to one another from letters their family members sent to their uncle Willard during the time he worked at Civilian Public Service camps in Virginia and New York.

"Our family is strongly rooted in the Brethren Church and we have a long history in southcentral PA," Vivian noted. "Most of us seem to have a strong sense of family history and are interested in preserving pieces of it for future generations. We were sorry that Willard and Pauline's household was broken up without us knowing, and it was wonderful to learn that some things have been preserved. Reading correspondence from our grandparents, my father, mother, aunts, and other relatives and friends afforded me the opportunity to reminisce about them, remember our own life experiences with them, and gain a new perspective and awareness of who they were."

Her cousin Phyllis concurred. "It was such a wonderful experience to read these letters from our family. Just to see their handwriting again was a thrill! Their individual personalities were evident in what they wrote as well as in the way they expressed themselves. And it was so exciting to read their descriptions of family events and their perspectives on current events in their area, in America, and in the world."

"As I read letters from the pens of my parents, grandparents, and other family members and friends, I felt the continual love, support, encouragement, and faith in God that was sent to my uncle (as well as my father) as they served our country during World War II and stayed committed to their pacifist convictions as members of the Church of the Brethren," Charlene added.

## Anita Hess given honorary degree



Anita F. Hess, a long-time supporter of the Young Center and Elizabethtown College, received an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, from Elizabethtown College at commencement in May 2017.

Anita and her husband, Earl H. Hess, founded Lancaster Laboratories in Leola in 1961. The firm grew into a large research facility for analytical chemistry related to agriculture. The Earl H. and Anita F. Hess Archives in High Library is named for them in gratitude for their support of Anabaptist and Pietist studies.

## Indiana youth visit Germantown

Young Center director Jeff Bach led a group of junior high youth from Manchester Church of the Brethren in Indiana on a Brethren heritage tour to Germantown this summer. The youth group traveled to the area for the Brethren National Junior High Youth Conference held at Elizabethtown College in June.

The youth toured the historic Germantown meetinghouse and met some congregation members. They also talked with Pastor Richard Kyerematen about the ministries of the congregation. After a walk through the church cemetery, Bach led the group to the site of the first Brethren baptisms in America at the Wissahickon Creek in Fairmount Park.



## Conference scheduled for Spring 2018

### OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT PEACE CHURCHES AND WWI

“Peace Churches and The Great War: A Centennial Reflection,” a conference sponsored by the Young Center and the Center for

Global Understanding and Peacemaking at Elizabethtown College, will be held May 31 to June 2, 2018. The conference will focus on how the historic peace churches responded to the military mobilization and draft during World War I, including analysis of the interactions among the U.S. government, the leaders of the peace churches, and the members who were directly affected. The conference will include an afternoon workshop on June 1 for peace educators, particularly those in the peace churches, to share ways of teaching peace in the present day. Conference registration information will be released in January 2018.

The planners welcome proposals for papers. Topics may relate to any aspect of the conference theme, including the role of the peace churches, the role of the government, and the experiences of peace church conscientious objectors and their families during WWI. Proposals should be 300 words long and may be submitted by e-mail to Jeff Bach, director of the Young Center, at [bachj@etown.edu](mailto:bachj@etown.edu) or to David Kenley, director of the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking, at [kenleyd@etown.edu](mailto:kenleyd@etown.edu). They may also be submitted by postal mail to Jeff Bach, Young Center, One Alpha Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. The submission deadline is December 1, 2017. Responses to proposals will be sent by January 19, 2018.

## Remembering Allen Hansell



Rev. Dr. Allen T. Hansell, long-time supporter of the Young Center, died on May 10, 2017. He had been a pastor in the Church of the Brethren, district executive for Atlantic Northeast District, and director of ministry for the denomination. His wife, Lois Carper Hansell, predeceased him in December 2015. They had three children.

Hansell served on the board of trustees for Elizabethtown College and was a past director of church relations for the college. In that role, he oversaw the successful NEH Challenge Grant campaign for the Young Center, which concluded in 2008. He remained active in fund-raising for the Young Center until illness made it no longer possible. We cherish the memory of Allen Hansell with gratitude.

## Travel to China with Jeff Bach and David Kenley

Professors Jeff Bach and David Kenley will lead a trip to China May 9 to May 25, 2018, with some seats available to the public. The tour is part of a class they will team teach during spring semester about Brethren missionary work in twentieth-century China.

The tentative itinerary includes time in Beijing with visits to the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, and the Great Wall, as well as three days in Shanghai to see the Jade Buddha Temple, Yuyuan Gardens, and the world-famous Bund.

The highlight of the trip will be five days in Shanxi Province, visiting former Brethren mission sites such as Pingding, Shouyang, Zuochuan, and Taiyuan. In Pingding, the group will attend worship at a Christian congregation that is the successor to the Brethren hospital and a private hospital that provides care for underserved populations. In Zuochuan, travelers will visit the only remaining Brethren church building, which is now a restaurant. The final days of the tour include time in Pingyao, a historic walled city and UNESCO world heritage site.

Contact Jeff Bach ([bachj@etown.edu](mailto:bachj@etown.edu) or 717-361-1470) if you are interested in this tour. Spaces are limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

# Summer projects at the Young Center

Reading, writing, researching. Teaching, traveling, tallying. Hosting visitors, photographing the construction, answering e-mail inquiries. It's been a full and varied summer for the Young Center staff. Here are several of the highlights:

Jeff finished writing an essay about the Brethren in North Carolina for a book about religious groups to be published by the North Caroliniana Society. The system of free ministry and strong, supportive relationships with Brethren in Tennessee and southern Virginia were the key factors in the resilience of North Carolina Brethren. Jeff also continued his research on Ephrata music manuscript books, part of the time working with Chris Herbert, a doctoral student from Julliard who is writing his dissertation on Ephrata's unique music. In examining three books that he had seen before and reviewing a few that he had not seen, Jeff learned more about how the manuscripts were produced by multiple hands.

Steve made two research trips to Virginia this summer and began interviews and archival work for an emerging research project on a contextual history of Mennonites in Virginia. And he began another project—this one on Amish political participation—with an Elizabethtown College professor of political science. In addition, he spoke with various reporters, to a class in Mount Gretna's summer series, and in seminars he conducted for about 200 U.S. Department of Agriculture employees who work with Amish farmers in the Midwest. Steve also completed a Lancaster County Mennonite history project and worked with prospective manuscripts for the Young Center book series.

Cynthia worked with prospective manuscripts for the book series too, providing guidance on editorial and file preparation matters, and continued editing the chapters of Steve's local Mennonite history project. She also updated the Young Center website with

the fall events and the Amish Studies website with the 2017 Amish population statistics (and added some new graphs this year).

Edsel finished compiling the 2017 Amish statistics and presented "Amish Demographics: The Strategies behind the Amish Population Profile" at the Rural Sociology Society conference in Ohio. He also began work on a paper about conscientious objection at Camp Meade, Maryland, which he'll present at "Remembering Muted Voices," a conference at the WWI Museum in Kansas this fall.

Hillary inventoried correspondence, diaries, and a scrapbook donated this summer to the S. R. Zug Collection. She also coordinated details for fall Young Center events and prepared materials for the center's display at the Church of the Brethren annual conference.

And student Emily Weider spent five weeks in early summer assisting with the Amish political participation project and the 2017 population profile.

## Student assistant works with Donald B. Kraybill Collection

*Gillian Engelbrecht, a secondary social studies education major from Columbia, Maryland, began working in the Hess Archives and Special Collections last summer and will*



*Gillian Engelbrecht '18 processes the Donald B. Kraybill materials in the Hess Archives*

*continue until she graduates next May. Her project has been the papers donated by Donald B. Kraybill, senior fellow emeritus at the Young Center; upon his retirement last year. She describes the materials and her work:*

"The Donald B. Kraybill Collection contains resources and documents relating to his writing projects as well as additional information on a variety of Anabaptist groups, most notably the Amish and Mennonites. As of April 2017, the collection included 61 boxes, 37 of which have been processed. This equates to 2,149 folders of processed resources. Dr. Kraybill anticipates donating additional boxes over the next few years. He is also still actively involved in scholarship and will continue to collect materials for his collection as he uses them in his work."

I began processing the collection as part of Elizabethtown College's Scholarship, Creative Arts, and Research Projects (SCARP) summer program in 2016. Now I am continuing my work in the position of archives assistant. In this position, I am writing a processing plan and a finding aid. The finding aid is what will allow scholars who visit the collection to more easily find what they are looking for. I am also responsible for rehousing the collection materials to ensure they will be carefully

preserved for use by future generations. Besides these responsibilities, I am also helping visiting scholars navigate the collection.

The collection is made up of interviews, newspaper clippings, correspondence, drafts, bibliographies, audio files, VHS tapes, court proceedings, Anabaptist publications, and other materials in English, Pennsylvania Dutch, and other languages. These materials date to as early as 1880 and include correspondence with other scholars as well as some of the work of Louise Stoltzfus, who focused her writing on Amish women. Many of the materials are uniquely found at the Hess Archives, and many others are only available in a few locations. One of the prized possessions of the collection is a set of Amish Steering Committee minutes.

The collection has already become the most used out of all the collections at the Hess Archives. We have been honored to host scholars from around the world as they delve into these unique resources.

I've learned a lot from working with these materials, including how these groups, especially the Amish, maintain their beliefs in the face of a changing and sometimes hostile world, as well as the foundations for some of their beliefs."

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## LECTURE

### A Glimpse of Life in the *Dawdihaus*

CLAIRE MARIE MENSACK

Tuesday, September 19, 7:30 p.m.

Hoover 212

In collectivist cultures such as the Amish, aging family members often remain at home or near the main family dwelling in what is known as the *Dawdihaus*. The desire to move into the *Dawdihaus* and the assumption of greater household roles by the adult children is not a forced concept but one that is proliferated by a sense of yielding referred to as *Gelassenheit*. This talk, an assessment of the *Dawdihaus* experience from the perspective of the older family members and their adult children, is based on Claire Marie Mensack's case study among the Amish and other Plain people of Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Mensack, the Young Center's 2016 Kreider Fellow, is an adjunct instructor in the School of Health Sciences at Liberty University.

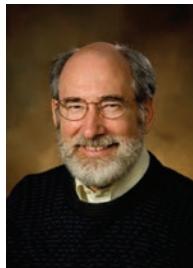
## LECTURE

### Beards, Bonnets, and Football: Eastern Mennonite University and Elizabethtown College, 1900-2000

DONALD B. KRAYBILL

Thursday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.

Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall



Long before the marshmallow rivalry with Messiah College, Elizabethtown had a quiet rivalry with a college in Virginia. Donald Kraybill explores some surprising connections, similarities, and differences between Eastern Mennonite University and Elizabethtown College. He also asks why the Brethren founded a college in Lancaster County but the Mennonites did not. Following the talk, Kraybill will sign his new social history of Mennonite involvement in higher education in the twentieth century, *Eastern Mennonite University: A Century of Countercultural Education*, released by Penn State University Press.

Kraybill is senior fellow emeritus at the Young Center and the author or coauthor of numerous books on Anabaptist groups.

## BRETHREN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 21, noon to 4:00 p.m.

Academic Quad

Participate in hands-on activities like making corn husk and yarn dolls, playing old-fashioned wooden puzzles and classic outdoor games, and producing your very own batch of flubber to take home. Pedal the E-town Engineering Club bike to churn homemade ice cream and then enjoy it with other luscious treats, including homemade apple butter on fresh bread and popcorn from the historic Reist Popcorn Wagon. At the same time, learn more about the Anabaptists and Pietists and get the latest news about the current Young Center building project!

## PANEL PRESENTATION

### Three Views of Reform: Luther, Calvin, Swiss Anabaptists

Tuesday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.

Hoover 212

Three scholars will mark the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation with a panel discussion examining the visions of Martin Luther, John Calvin and Swiss Anabaptists for reforming Christianity. The presenters will explore the three different paths from this time of religious change and their influence on Christianity today.

Vince Evener will discuss how Martin Luther built his reform upon the foundational doctrinal claim that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone. Mark Draper will address the ways in which the Reformed movement in Zürich and Geneva differed from Luther and the radical reform, the Reformed legacy among descendants of the reformation movements. Jeff Bach will discuss the biblical vision of reform of the Zürich Anabaptists that led to adult baptism and forming a community of discipleship.

Evener is an instructor in Reformation and Luther studies at United Lutheran Seminary, Draper is executive director of the Pense Learning Center at Evangelical Seminary and assistant professor of historical theology, and Bach is director of the Young Center.



## SNOWDEN LECTURE

### Amish and Ultra-Orthodox Women's Responses to New Media

RIVKA NERIYA-BEN SHAHAR

Thursday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.

Hoover 212



"[The Internet is] Satan's tool to draw our focus away from our trust in God." Snowden Fellow Rivka Neriya-Ben Shahar explores how Amish and ultra-Orthodox Jewish (Haredi) women cope with new media and their apparent contradiction with these communities' values and practices. While their discourses included similar framings of danger and threat, the two groups developed different patterns of use (and nonuse) of new media. The strategies applied by these women to negotiate the tensions between their roles as gatekeepers and agents of change—nonuse, control, and setting limits—are analyzed as valuable currencies in the cultural and religious markets of their communities.

Neriya-Ben Shahar is a senior lecturer at Sapir Academic College in Sderot, Israel, where she teaches courses in research methods, communication, religion, and gender.



# THE YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTISt AND PIETIST STUDIES

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## Rivka Neriya-Ben Shahar named Snowden Fellow for 2017

Rivka Neriya-Ben Shahar, a senior lecturer at Sapir Academic College in Sderot, Israel, has been named the Young Center's 2017 Snowden Fellow. Neriya-Ben Shahar received her doctorate from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where her dissertation was titled "Ultra-Orthodox Women and Mass Media in Israel—Exposure Patterns and Reading Strategies."

She was a Fulbright post-doctoral fellow in 2011-2012 and a scholar in residence at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute at Brandeis University. She researches the mass media from the perspectives of religion and gender. Her most recent project addresses the tension between religious values and new technologies among Old Order Amish women and Jewish ultra-Orthodox women.

Neriya-Ben Shahar has presented her research at more than 40 academic conferences and seminars in the United States and Israel and has published 16 papers dealing with various perspectives on gender, religion, and media. Her latest article, published

by *New Media and Society*, focuses on Old Order Amish and ultra-Orthodox women's responses to the Internet.

During her time as the Snowden Fellow, she will write an article about Old Order Amish and ultra-Orthodox women's responses to news and continue work on her research on Amish and ultra-Orthodox women. She also plans to spend time with her Amish friends and "make good use of the rich resources in the Elizabethtown College library and the Young Center's renowned scholars in Amish subjects."

Neriya-Ben Shahar will present a lecture, "Amish and Ultra-Orthodox Women's Responses to New Media," on Thursday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Hoover 212.

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 its fellows programs. Visit [www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr) for more information.

FALL 2017

## 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](mailto:youngctr@etown.edu).

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