

YOUNG CENTER

News

THE YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES AT ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE



WWI and peace churches conference scheduled for late spring

CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH PEACE WITNESS EXHIBITION

“The Peace Churches and the Great War: A Centennial Reflection” will be held May 31 to June 2, 2018. The conference, which is sponsored by the Young Center and the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking (CGUP) at Elizabethtown College, will provide a forum to examine how the peace churches, including the Amish, Brethren, Friends, Hutterites, and Mennonites, as well as other religious traditions responded to World War I.

The opening plenary address will be given by William Kostlevy, archivist at the Brethren Historical Library and Archives in Elgin, Illinois. Kostlevy earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Notre Dame and has taught at Asbury Theological Seminary, Fuller Theological Seminary, and Tabor College. Kostlevy will explore the religious and historical contexts of the Church of the Brethren and the Mennonite Church at the opening of U.S. involvement in WWI. The concluding plenary presentation will be given by David Kenley, director of CGUP and a professor in Elizabethtown’s history department. Kenley will survey some of the differing outcomes for the peace churches after WWI.

During breakout sessions, speakers will discuss various aspects of peace churches members’ responses to WWI and the ways the U.S. government handled the problem of religious conscientious objection to the Great War.

On Thursday evening, Jeff Bach will interview Barbara Royer about the letters and diaries her grandfather, Vern Kessler, kept during his experience as a conscientious objector detained at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.



Voices of Conscience will be on display in the High Library from April 13 to June 20, 2018

On Friday evening, Carl Strikwerda, president of Elizabethtown College, will give a brief presentation on the significance of World War I for Americans. After Strikwerda’s address, conference attendees will have the opportunity to walk through the national touring exhibition *Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War*.

The cost for the conference, including all meals, is \$150 for registrations submitted by May 1 and \$170 for registrations submitted after May 1. Student rates and day rates are also available, and housing is available at an additional cost. For more information and to register, visit www.ETOWN.EDU/youngctr or call (717) 361-1470 and ask for a registration form. The registration deadline is May 16.

Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War explores the experiences of conscientious objectors during World War I, lifting up the prophetic insights and the personal courage of WWI peace protesters and suggesting parallels to the culture of war and violence in the world today. It will be on display in the High Library from April 13 to June 20, 2018. The exhibition is free and open to the public during the hours the library is open.

An opening reception for the exhibit will be held in the library on April 19 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. An interfaith peace panel presentation, “Would I Fight? My Religious Perspective on War,” will follow at 7:00 p.m. in
(continued on page 4)



From the Director

Elizabethtown College received a large Mellon grant for the humanities last year and invited the departments of the college to apply for portions of the funds for activities that promote the humanities. The Young Center is a partner to three successful awards from the grant. It is like finding a treasure not once, but three times. The first award will subsidize a study trip to China that David Kenley and I will lead in May to sites of Brethren mission work and several other cities in China.

The second award supports initial work to create digital access to resources at Elizabethtown College related to the humanities. The Young Center is a collaborator for this work in a project proposed by Sarah Penniman, library director, and by Matt Skillen of the English department. The digital project will include some of the documents in our special collections in the Hess Archives.

The third award will support a new course about public history that Susan Asbury and I will co-teach in Spring 2019. We will use artifacts and books in the Young Center’s collection to teach students about historical research and about archival cataloguing. Susan and I will focus on Brethren-related items that have belonged to the college for many years, but have not had full cataloguing. Susan works in residence life and has a background in museum studies.

Through these projects, the Young Center continues to contribute to the study of humanities at Elizabethtown College and keeping alive the Brethren heritage of the college.

In addition to the good news about grant funding, we are happy to welcome new scholarly visitors this semester. They all enrich our work here. I hope you can join us for our programs this semester.

Jeff Bach
Director

Recent donations enhance collections

In recent months, the Young Center has received a number of items for its special collections.

Alice Whitehead donated additional correspondence, hymnals, and devotional books in Danish, German, and English that relate to Christ’s Assembly (Christi Menighed), a small communal group whose roots connect with the Brethren tradition. She also donated a photo album of pictures from the peak years of the group in the 1960s and 1970s. These items will be added to an earlier extensive donation of materials from her late husband, Kenneth Whitehead. The Young Center holds the largest single collection of materials related to Christ’s Assembly.

Vivian Ziegler donated additional material from her great-grandfather, S. R. Zug, a Brethren elder and early leader in establishing Elizabethtown College. The materials include correspondence, journals, photographs, and items related to various programs at the college. These materials will be added to the existing Zug Collection in the Hess Archives.

Philip Webber, retired professor of German at Central College in Pella, Iowa, donated rare books and pamphlets pertaining to the Community of True Inspiration at Amana, Iowa. Included in the donation are several other Pietist devotional books in German.

We are grateful to these and other donors for gifts that expand our research resources.

Staff moves back into the building

During the cold, blustery days of early January, the college’s moving crew loaded, transported, and unloaded filing cabinets, office chairs, desks, and myriad boxes of books and supplies from the Center’s temporary location back into the permanent building. Some final touch-ups are still in progress, and staff members continue to unpack, organize their offices, and set up the interior of the building.

The expanded Young Center provides much needed space for research and projects, as well as an updated classroom. “The building serves us well as several scholars come to pursue their studies this winter,” director Jeff Bach noted. “We will continue to develop the expanded exhibit space this spring and summer. We look forward to special celebrations next year. The construction has an

attractive and integrated appearance with a welcoming new entrance facing the parking lot. The new addition matches the beauty of the existing building and provides new space as the Young Center staff carries out the mission of research, interpretation, and service to students.”

The fall issue of *Young Center News* will announce a series of special events throughout the 2018–2019 academic year, marking the reopening of the expanded Young Center. Those activities include a family-friendly event, a special musical performance involving Elizabethtown College students, and a dedication event featuring some special items that were donated recently. The Amish conference in June 2019 will be the grand finale of a year of celebration at the Young Center.



BRRethren baptismal site

Students from Manchester University in North Manchester, Indiana, joined their professor, Katie Gray Brown, and campus minister, Beka Houff, on a trip with Jeff Bach to the Wissahickon Creek in Germantown, the site of the first Brethren baptisms in America in 1723. The snow, ice, and cold temperature lent extra realism to remembering those first baptisms, which took place on Christmas Day.

After visiting the creek, they attended worship at the Germantown Church of the Brethren. The group spent three more days visiting Anabaptist and Brethren sites in the area and concluded their time at Elizabethtown by viewing some items in the Hess Archives.



Center hosts short-term researchers

In addition to visiting scholars Rebecca and Samuel Dali and Kreider Fellow Tony Walsh, the Young Center is hosting two short-term researchers this semester.

Michel Sunhae Lee, a doctoral student from the University of Texas at Austin, will spend January and February at the Young Center. Lee is comparing the Sabbath observance among a unique variety of Protestant minority groups with that of other Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic groups. She will focus on changes in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in how these groups thought

about and practiced weekly sacred days. In addition to exploring items in the Young Center's special collections housed in the Hess Archives and Special Collections, Lee will visit the Ephrata Cloister and work with Jeff Bach in reviewing material from the Cloister. She will also travel to Juniata College to examine materials from the Snow Hill community, an offshoot from Ephrata.

Julie Swarstad Johnson will conduct research at the Young Center during February and March. During that time, she will serve as the artist in residence at Gettysburg National Park and will write poetry about the experiences of Brethren, Mennonites, and Quakers who were conscientious objectors during the Civil War. During visits to the Young Center, Johnson will examine the diary written by a young Brethren farmer, Cyrus Bucher, between 1861 and 1864. She will also review correspondence of Brethren elder S. R. Zug that deals with his efforts to secure military exemption for Brethren young men. One of the sites on the battlefield, the Peach Orchard, was on a farm owned by Brethren members Joseph and Mary Sherfy. Johnson is interested in writing about pacifists in the Civil War, "both to better understand the history of these churches at a turning point in U.S. history" and as a way to reflect on what living in these traditions means in the midst of current divisions in the United States. Johnson graduated from Penn State University in 2013 with an M.F.A. in poetry.

Brethren World Assembly

The Sixth Brethren World Assembly will be held August 9–12, 2018, in Winona Lake, Indiana. "Brethren Intersections: History, Identity, Crosscurrents" is the theme for the event, which occurs every five years in different locations. The purpose of the assemblies is to gather members from Brethren groups descended from Alexander Mack and the group organized in 1708 in Schwarzenau, Germany.

The assembly features lectures, panel discussions, historical tours, worship services, and more. For more information and to register, visit www.brethrenencyclopedia.org.

Call for papers: 2019 conference on the Amish

"Health and Well-Being in Amish Society: A Multidisciplinary Conference" will be held June 6–8, 2019, on the Elizabethtown College campus. Planned by the Young Center, the conference will focus on health, healing, health care, and individual and community welfare and well-being in Amish life.

The conference will highlight topics such as genetics, culturally appropriate care, Amish understandings of healing and well-being, mental health, alternative and complementary medicine, preventive medicine, health and Amish spirituality, insurance, aging, and death and dying.

Conference planners welcome proposals from scholars and practitioners working in disciplines such as social science, medicine, public policy, and human services. Proposals may address the conference theme, other aspects of Amish life, or other traditional Anabaptist groups. To submit a proposal, send a clear statement of topic, methods, and significance (350 words or fewer) and a one- to two-page résumé of the presenter to amish2019@etown.edu by October 1, 2018. Visit www.etown.edu/youngctr for details.

Samuel and Rebecca Dali named Durnbaugh Lecturers

The Young Center is pleased to announce that Samuel and Rebecca Dali will deliver the Durnbaugh lectures and seminar on Thursday and Friday, March 22 and 23, 2018. They will also serve as scholars in residence at the Young Center from mid-January until mid-June.

Samuel Dali led Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN), the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, during the years of greatest insurgency violence in northeastern Nigeria. He works at peace building and advocacy with ecumenical, interfaith, and political entities in northeastern Nigeria as Internally Displaced Persons begin to return home. Samuel holds degrees from the Theological College of Northern Nigeria and McPherson College, as well as a master's in theology from Bethany Theological Seminary and a doctorate from the University of Birmingham in the U.K.

Rebecca Dali is the executive director of the Centre for Caring, Empowerment, and

Peace Initiatives (CCEPI), an organization she founded in 1989. She holds a bachelor's and a master's degree from the Theological College of Northern Nigeria and a master's degree and a doctorate from the University of Jos. Rebecca received the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Foundation award in 2017.

Established in 1993 to commemorate the scholarship of Don and Hedda Durnbaugh, the Durnbaugh lecture series brings a noted scholar of Anabaptist or Pietist studies to campus annually. The March 22 lectures will be held at 7:30 in Gibble Auditorium, following the annual Young Center banquet in the Susquehanna Room of Myer Hall. The Durnbaugh seminar will be held on Friday, March 23, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Susquehanna Room.

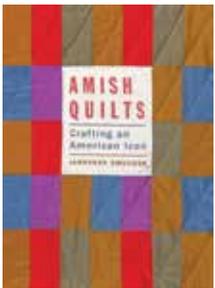
During his time as a scholar in residence at the Young Center, Samuel Dali plans to study Anabaptist views on government and participation in government in light of EYN's situation in Nigeria. This research is



part of his larger project to write a thorough history of EYN for the upcoming centennial anniversary.

Through her work with displaced people in her aid organization, CCEPI, Rebecca Dali has been collecting stories from refugees, widows, orphans, and surviving family members about attacks and killings by Boko Haram. During her time at the Young Center, she plans to put those stories into writing and pull together research data from interviews and correspondence.

Amish Quilts receives 2016 Dale Brown Book 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. *Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon* by Janneken Smucker is the 2016 recipient. (The award was delayed due to uncertainty about the timing of the Young Center's closure for construction.)

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2013, *Amish Quilts* has been well received by reviewers. Beverly Gordon, writing in *The Journal of American History*, said, "The book is well written and organized, thoroughly researched, and beautifully illustrated." And *Publishers Weekly* said, "[Smucker] writes appealingly and clearly, always defining quilt jargon and explaining cultural mores as she tells 'of the seemingly humble Amish quilts and the people who have loved them.'"

The book award judges selected *Amish Quilts* from a pool of eighteen books. One of the judges noted that Smucker's analysis "is grounded not only in an appreciation for the aesthetics of Amish quilts, but also in an appreciation of the values of Amish culture and religious practices... Smucker brings to the analysis an appreciation of the practice and the art of quilt making, an understanding of the art world, an appreciation of Amish values and beliefs, and clear-eyed insights into the commodification process."

Another judge called the book "an extraordinarily creative, important, accomplished, and beautiful book that promises to change the scholarly and popular perception of the definition and meaning of Amish quilts. The greatest merit of Smucker's book for Anabaptist studies is that she takes an object that is (besides the horse-and-buggy) now the most recognizable element of the Amish 'brand' (as she calls it) and engages it on an unsentimental and thoroughly analytical level."

Smucker is an associate professor of history at West Chester University. She will discuss what we can learn about the larger culture from stories about quilts at 7:30 p.m. on February 20 in Hoover 212.

Nominations for the 2019 book award will be accepted until December 10, 2018. Visit www.etown.edu/youngctr for details.

Conference *(continued from page 1)*

Gibble Auditorium. Participants from four different faith traditions (Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and Judaism) will discuss what their religion says about war and their personal faith convictions about war. On April 26, at 7:00 p.m., Steve Nolt, the Young Center's senior scholar, will present "World War I and Lancaster Peace Churches" in Hoover 110.

"This exhibition promises to be a powerful and immersive experience that will highlight the personal experiences of the peace activists and conscientious objectors, who are frequently left out of the larger narrative of America's participation in World War I," said college archivist Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh. "We are also excited to welcome the Elizabethtown College community and the general public to the associated programs, including the interfaith peace panel and Steve Nolt's presentation on World War I and Lancaster Peace Churches."

UPCOMING EVENTS

BROWN BOOK AWARD LECTURE Embedded: Quilts and Their Stories

JANNEKEN SMUCKER

Tuesday, February 20, 7:30 p.m.
Hoover 212

In this interactive presentation, Janneken Smucker will focus on what we can learn about the larger culture from individual stories of quilts—seemingly everyday objects that are in fact embedded with sentimental, historical, artistic, and spiritual heft. In addition to recounting stories from her book, *Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon*, she will share some of her family quilt stories and interview members of the community about their quilts.

Smucker, a fifth-generation Mennonite quiltmaker, is an associate professor of history at West Chester University, where she specializes in digital and public history, and American material culture.

YOUNG CENTER BANQUET

Thursday, March 22, 6:00 p.m. (Reception at 5:30)
Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall

The annual dinner gives faculty, staff, and friends of the Young Center an opportunity to socialize and learn about the Center's activities and programs.

Cost for the banquet is \$23, and reservations are required by March 8. Call the Young Center at (717) 361-1470 or register online via the events page of the Young Center website.

DURNBAUGH LECTURES

Update on the Boko Haram Crisis in Northeastern Nigeria

SAMUEL DALI

The Founding of CCEPI and Its Mission to the Displaced

REBECCA DALI

Thursday, March 22, 7:30 p.m.
Gibble Auditorium

In this two-part presentation, Samuel Dali will present an overview of the Boko Haram crisis, the devastation to the Church of the Brethren, and the church's response. Rebecca Dali will give a brief history of the Centre for Caring, Empowerment, and Peace Initiatives (CCEPI) and discuss the plight of women in northeastern Nigeria, and IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) and refugees in Cameroon.

Samuel Dali led Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, during the years of greatest insurgency violence in northeastern Nigeria. He works at peace building and advocacy with ecumenical, interfaith, and political entities in northeastern Nigeria as IDPs begin the long journey home. Rebecca Dali is the founder and executive director of the Centre for Caring, Empowerment, and Peace Initiatives.

DURNBAUGH SEMINAR

Leading a Peace Church in Terrorist Territory

SAMUEL DALI

CCEPI at Work: Addressing the Plight of the Most Vulnerable

REBECCA DALI

Friday, March 23, 10:00 a.m. to noon
Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall

Samuel Dali will discuss the state of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, both before and after Boko Haram and reflect on his personal experience as its president during the time of crisis. Rebecca Dali will describe the most vulnerable populations (widows, children, orphans, and escapees) and efforts to feed, clothe, house, and empower them. She will also relate her personal experience in the danger zones of northern Nigeria.

KREIDER FELLOW LECTURE

Narrative and Meaning: The Rich Complexity of Old German Baptist Brethren Belief, Culture, and Practice

TONY WALSH

Tuesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.
Hoover 212

The Old German Baptist Brethren see themselves as embodying and preserving the vision and traditions of the early Brethren of Schwarzenau. Narrative research contends that stories recounted by any collective about themselves (and those told about them by others) provide an entrée into deep and more nuanced understandings of their belief, practice, and identity. Tony Walsh will present and examine stories he's gathered to look at the rich spirituality, complex world, and dynamic culture of this group.

Walsh is director of the Centre for the Study of Irish Protestantism and codirector of the Centre for Transformative Narrative Research at Maynooth University, County Kildare, Ireland.

LECTURE

World War I and Lancaster Peace Churches

STEVE NOLT

Thursday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.
Hoover 110

As the First World War was being waged in Europe, members of Mennonite and Brethren churches in the U.S. faced military conscription, government surveillance, and intense pressure to buy war bonds. Steve Nolt will describe these and other ways Lancaster's peace church people experienced wartime pressures, sought to explain their convictions to their neighbors and to the government, and struggled to know how best to help those suffering from the war's effects.

Nolt is senior scholar at the Young Center and the author or co-author of fourteen books on Amish, Mennonite, and Pennsylvania German history and contemporary life.



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Tony Walsh named 2018 Kreider Fellow

Tony Walsh, director of the Centre for the Study of Irish Protestantism and codirector of the Centre for Transformative Narrative Research at Maynooth University, County Kildare, Ireland, has been named the Young Center’s Kreider Fellow for 2018.

Walsh has edited and contributed to a number of books on radical adult education, the nature of knowledge, post-positivist research, suicide, international peacekeeping, and narrative reflexivity. He is currently interested in how minorities (particularly faith minority groups) identify themselves, resist or adapt to the influences of the majorities among whom they live—and survive. Currently, he has research involvements in Palestine, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Ireland.

For many years, Walsh was a member of the Irish Methodist Council on Social Responsibility and was centrally involved in the leadership of one of Ireland’s first intercultural congregations. He continues as a visiting minister to a Baptist congregation in rural England.

During his time as the Kreider Fellow, which begins in February, Walsh will continue his study of the Old German Baptist Brethren, who see themselves as distinctive inheritors of the vision and traditions of the early Brethren of Schwarzenau.



“I am deeply appreciative of the Young Centre’s fellowship as offering a rich ‘space’ for reflection, discussion, theorising, and study. I hope to use this as an opportunity to further explore the multifaceted life and experience of the Old German Baptist Brethren through listening, sharing, and attending to stories.”

The Kreider fellowship and lecture are named for Ken and Carroll Kreider, whose generous gift endowed them. The Young Center invites nominations and applications for its fellows programs. Visit www.etown.edu/youngctr for more information.

SPRING 2018

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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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