



## Young Center marks transitions, celebrates accomplishments



*Jeff Bach translates a title page from the Berleberg Bible.*

On August 11, Jeff Bach retired as director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. He planned for retirement in order to do writing and translating. One of his projects involves collaboration with David Kenley on a book about the Church of the Brethren mission in China. Bach will also work with Christopher Herbert on a project to translate hymns and transcribe tunes from the Ephrata Community's 1739 hymnal, *Zionitischer Weyrauch-Hügel*.

Steve Nolt was appointed interim director of the Young Center upon Bach's retirement. Nolt, who continues in his role as senior scholar, will serve as interim director for two years, after which the college plans to conduct a search for a new permanent director.

Bach has served as director since 2007. During that time, he initiated the intentional collecting of rare Pietist and Anabaptist resources for research. Among the items acquired during this time are two manuscript music books from the Ephrata Community, a diary kept by Brethren minister Cyrus Bucher during the Civil War, and a

manuscript record book of families, baptisms, deaths, and love feasts among the German Seventh Day Baptists at Salemville and Snow Hill. During Bach's tenure, the family of noted Brethren historian Roger Sappington donated his papers to the Young Center. Collections of donated materials from Brethren missionaries in China have also expanded the center's research resources.

Since 2013, Bach worked with the college's development office and a committee of volunteers to raise over \$3.8 million for several projects. In 2014, the Earl H. and Anita F. Hess Archives and Special Collections was completed in the lower level of High Library, creating a state-of-the-art archival space for college and Young Center rare materials. In 2017, an addition was built onto the Young Center, creating much-needed office space and the Bowers Interpretive Gallery. The gallery, designed and installed by Phoenixx Design of York, offers a concise introduction to Anabaptist and Pietist groups, including the Amish. In 2019, a \$1 million campaign was completed to underwrite some of the Young Center's programming. The funds will support the Young Center's book series with Johns Hopkins University Press, future conferences, an annual doctoral fellowship, and a student worker in the Hess Archives.

During his tenure, Bach continued to extend the center's international reach, a feature of the center since the building opened in 1988. Researchers from around the world regularly visit the Young Center. Under Bach's leadership, the occasional Amish conferences begun under Senior Fellow Emeritus Donald Kraybill have become regular offerings. The Young Center has sponsored an international Amish conference every three years since 2013.

In addition to the change of directors, a change of administrative assistants has occurred this summer. Susan Asbury left the Young Center on June 25, moving to Georgia, where she will teach college courses in museum studies. Kay Wolf replaced her as of August 10. We welcome Kay and give thanks for the accomplishments of Susan.

As the Young Center enters a new era, Steve Nolt brings scholarship and experience to lead the center into the future. Kay Wolf brings years of professional experience to support the activities of the center. Together with the continuing staff persons, Cynthia Nolt (research and editorial associate) and Edsel Burdge (research associate), the Young Center team will build on a strong past to develop new ways to fulfill its mission to research and interpret Anabaptist and Pietist groups.



## From the Director

We have had many changes at the Young Center since last March due to the pandemic. All of the staff have worked from home, and we cancelled the remaining spring events. We closed the Bowers Interpretive Gallery and the rest of the building to visitors. Like everyone else, we face many new realities.

Other changes unrelated to the pandemic have developed. This is my last column as the director, written before I retired on August 11. I started considering retirement a year ago, and submitted my letter of retirement last January. I look forward to going back to writing and research projects that have been on hold since the campaigns to build the addition and raise a new endowment. With those goals completed, I am retiring in order to return to scholarly work.

I am very grateful for thirteen years at the Young Center and teaching at Elizabethtown College. I give thanks for the Center's professional and friendly staff, including Cynthia Nolt, Edsel Burdge, Steve Nolt, and our most recent administrative assistants, Susan Asbury and Rose Fisher. I treasure the eleven years of work with Hillary Daecher, the administrative assistant who started with me in 2007. It was a pleasure to work with Don Kraybill, now senior fellow emeritus. Steve Scott, our research associate before his untimely death, was a scholarly colleague and good friend.

The Young Center fellows and visiting scholars from around the world have widened my friendships and knowledge. The students whom I have taught have also taught me. Visitors to the center and people I have met while leading tours have enriched my life. I am grateful for college colleagues.

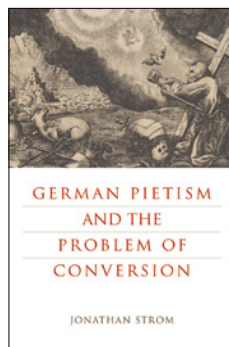
The Young Center will move forward into new adventures grounded in serious scholarship, thanks to the talented staff, now including Kay Wolf, and the capable leadership of Steve Nolt. I leave the Young Center in very good hands.

I am profoundly thankful for the many people who have supported the Young Center in many ways. We will need them even more in these challenging times. For me, the Young Center has been a place of satisfying work, learning, and relationships that are gifts I take into retirement. I wish God's blessings for all of you, and for a bright future for the Young Center.

Jeff Bach

# Brown Book Award recipients named

*GERMAN PIETISM AND THE PROBLEM OF CONVERSION AND THE GERMAN AWAKENING ARE CITED*



Named for noted author and theologian Dale W. Brown, the Brown Book Award is given annually to an outstanding book in Anabaptist and Pietist studies published during the previous three years. *German Pietism and the Problem of Conversion* by Jonathan Strom is the 2019 recipient of the award and *The German Awakening: Protestant Renewal after the Enlightenment, 1815-1848* by Andrew Kloes is the 2020 recipient.

*German Pietism and the Problem of Conversion* was published in 2018 by Pennsylvania State University Press in its Pietist, Moravian and Anabaptist Studies series. The book examines the diversity among personal accounts of conversion, a prominent feature of Pietism in the eighteenth century, and has been commended by reviewers, among them Benjamin Marschke in *German Studies Review*, who called it "fast-paced and admirably succinct...[a] thought-provoking book."

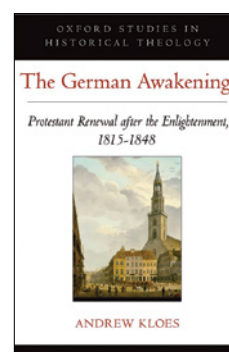
The Brown Book Award judges also commended the book. "Strom successfully demonstrates how nineteenth- and twentieth-century Pietist historians wrongly assumed that A. H. Francke's conversion narrative provided a template for subsequent narratives," one said. "This well-written book is clearly organized in thematic chapters, uses primary and secondary sources effectively, and provides a fine conclusion that traces some connections with other conversionist movements."

Another judge concurred: "The monograph is well researched, clearly written, and convincingly argued."

Jonathan Strom is senior associate dean of faculty and academic affairs and professor of church history at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia. Strom has taught at Candler since 1997 and is the author or editor of five books. His book award lecture will be scheduled in 2021, when hopefully live events can resume on the Elizabethtown College campus.

The 2020 award winner, *The German Awakening: Protestant Renewal After the Enlightenment 1815-1848*, was published in 2019 by Oxford University Press in the Oxford Studies in Historical Theology series. The book explores aspects of religious renewal in church life, education, evangelism and social reform in nineteenth-century Germany, and its influence beyond Germany.

One of the book award judges described the book as "a well-researched and well-



written study of the so-called rechristianization of Germany in the three decades after the defeat of Napoleon" and said that Kloes "demonstrates convincingly that this neo-Pietist renewal movement had deep roots in the tradition

of Spener and Francke.... This is a masterful piece of historical investigation into the impact of Pietism on German religion and culture in the post-Napoleonic era."

Another judge noted, "Kloes does an excellent job of locating the nineteenth century German Protestant 'Awakening movement' within its cultural, intellectual, and social contexts. Making use of primary research and a significant number of secondary sources, Kloes weaves a convincing narrative of the arguments and impetuses of the movement....The book is a strong contribution to Pietist studies, with well supported summaries and conclusions, and clarity about the use and limits of historical methodology."

Andrew Kloes received his PhD from the University of Edinburgh and has held research grants and fellowships in Berlin, Kampen, Manchester, Princeton, and Tübingen. He works as a historian in Washington, DC.

Kloes will give a Zoom presentation about *The German Awakening* on October 22 at 7 p.m. (See page 5 for details.)

Nominations for the 2021 Dale W. Brown Book Award will be accepted until December 15, 2020. Visit [www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr) for details.



## Garden patio

As summer wanes, the roses, lavender, cone flowers, and other plantings continue to beautify the area outside the Young Center addition and provide habitat for bees and other insects. Created last year thanks to the generosity of the family of Rev. Jacob L. Miller Sr. and Ada V. Miller, the garden patio with its paved walkway, stone bench area, and varied plantings complements the Center's facade and helps to integrate the addition with the original structure.



## Academic journal debuts

CENTER COSPONSORS *JOURNAL OF PLAIN ANABAPTIST COMMUNITIES*



The inaugural issue of the *Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities* (JPAC), an Open Access journal published by The Ohio State University Libraries, was released recently. JPAC is

jointly sponsored by the Young Center and the Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center in Berlin, Ohio. It was planned by Marcus Yoder, director of the Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center; Steve Nolt, interim director and senior scholar at the Young Center; Mark Loudon, Alfred L. Shoemaker, J. William Frey, and Don Yoder Professor of Germanic Linguistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Donald B. Kraybill, distinguished college professor and senior fellow emeritus at the Young Center; and Joseph F. Donnermeyer, professor emeritus at the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University.

A peer-reviewed journal, JPAC publishes both empirical and theoretical work related to Plain Anabaptist communities, including the Amish, conservative Mennonites, Amish-Mennonites, Apostolic Christians, Brethren, Bruderhof, and Hutterites. Article

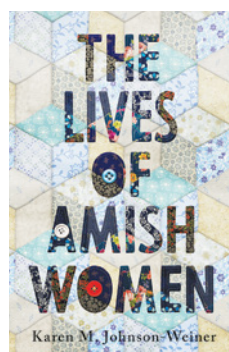
topics will include emerging issues associated with Plain Anabaptist communities, diverse theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches to the study of Plain Anabaptist groups, and significant research findings about Plain Anabaptist populations.

The first issue contains articles based on presentations at the Young Center's June

2019 conference, Health & Well-Being in Amish Society.

Access to the *Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities*, including an option to subscribe to the mailing list and detailed information for prospective authors, is available at <https://plainanabaptistjournal.org>.

## New book in the Young Center Series



The newest title in the Young Center series published by Johns Hopkins University Press was released in mid-September. *The Lives of Amish Women* is an examination of Amish women's lives at different ages and in differ-

ent communities. Author Karen M. Johnson-Weiner explores the relationship between changing patterns of social and economic interaction with mainstream society and women's roles. She describes the key part Amish women play in maintaining the spiritual and

economic health of their church communities, while discussing a number of topics, including stages of life, marriage and family, events that bring women together, women as breadwinners, and women who do not meet the Amish norm (single women, childless women, widows).

Johnson-Weiner is Distinguished Service Professor Emerita of Anthropology at SUNY Potsdam. She is the author of *Train Up a Child: Old Order Amish and Mennonite Schools and New York Amish: Life in the Plain Communities of the Empire State* and a coauthor of *The Amish*.

A conversation with Johnson-Weiner about her new book will be held on October 8 at 7 p.m. (See page 5 for details.)

## Pietism Symposium report

On March 6 and 7, the Young Center hosted “What is Pietism?,” a symposium featuring audience interaction and participation with guest leaders who posed questions for discussion and gave presentations.

At the March 6 session, Tony Walsh, the Young Center’s Kreider Fellow in 2018, used the Old German Baptist Brethren and their self-perceptions as a case study for asking about understandings of Pietism and its influence in their tradition. About 80 people attended, most Old German Baptist Brethren (Old Conference) but also a few from conservative Mennonite groups, a few from the Church of the Brethren, and several others. Walsh invited the audience to divide into smaller groups and discuss understandings of Pietism and the ways in which Old German Baptist Brethren today reflect those traits (photos below, taken with permission).



On Saturday, March 7, three speakers gave presentations to an audience of about 40 participants. Speaker Craig Atwood, professor at Moravian Seminary and director of the Center for Moravian Studies, introduced the origins and early development of Pietism, Radical Pietism, and the Moravians. Next, Jeff Bach focused on Robert Friedmann’s concept of Pietism in his book, *Mennonite Piety through the Centuries*. Devin Manzullo-Thomas, senior lecturer at Messiah College and director of the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies, delivered the third lecture, exploring how Pietism influenced evangelicalism.

Throughout the day, the diverse audience engaged in lively discussion about Pietism, its differences and similarities with Anabaptism, and ways that Pietism influences religious groups today.



## Center welcomes new staff member

In August, the Young Center welcomed Kay Wolf as its new administrative assistant. Wolf came to Elizabethtown College in 2006, and previously served as program manager in the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking. She was formerly employed with Mennonite Central Committee, a relief, service, community development and peace agency, as executive assistant to the director of the east coast office and a diverse group of 32 board members representing east coast states and Puerto Rico.



Kay’s interests include both classical and Christian music, especially hymns of the church and researching authors of the lyrics to learn if they felt a calling to write the lyrics or wrote them based on their personal life experiences. She is a volunteer organist with the Church of the Brethren and serves with several nonprofits. Because she grew up in rural Lancaster County and is a member of the Church of the Brethren, she is very familiar with Anabaptist and Pietist traditions.

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## Book recounts the life of Fianna Bucher Meyer

Nancy L. Bieber has written a new book about her grandmother, Fianna Bucher Meyer, a sister to long-time Elizabethtown College trustee Rufus Pfoutz Bucher. Using extensive correspondence and several artifacts, Bieber pieces together an appreciative story of the grandmother she never knew. Fianna’s death from illness at age 28 was a “family tragedy we never spoke of,” Bieber says. In *Fianna’s Story: A True Story of Love, Grief, and Faith*, she narrates Fianna’s childhood in a large family, her student years at Elizabethtown College, her marriage to Samuel Meyer, and her faith and perseverance through struggles with illness.

Bieber donated items of Fianna’s clothing to the Hess Archives several years ago, and she plans to donate some of the correspondence cited in her book. Copies of *Fianna’s Story* can be ordered from Masthof Press ([www.Masthof.com](http://www.Masthof.com)).

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## Communal Studies annual conference will be a virtual event this fall

The Communal Studies Association planned to hold its annual conference at the Ephrata Cloister this fall. Because of COVID-19, the conference will be virtual instead. Jeff Bach, retired director of the Young Center, served on the planning committee. Held October 1-3 with the theme “Foundations and Futures,” the conference will run from 10 a.m. to about 6:30 p.m. each day.

Each session will have three presenters, with opportunities for the audience to ask questions through the virtual platform. Presentations will address ways that founding principles of communes change over time, and how interpretations of communal groups change as research brings forth new

information. The topics range from Ephrata to Amana to ecovillages. Some presenters will focus on women, and a few will explore whether settings like the recent Capitol Hill Organized Protest (CHOP) in Seattle or retirement communities exhibit some features of a communal group.

The cost for the conference is \$50 for members of the Communal Studies Association, \$60 for nonmembers, and \$10 for students. To register, visit [www.communalstudies.org/annualconference](http://www.communalstudies.org/annualconference). Registrants will receive an authorization code to enter the virtual conference. The Ephrata Cloister will host the annual conference in 2024, when hopefully attendees can gather in person.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

All events will be presented via Zoom and will include opportunity for audience questions.  
See the [upcoming events page](#) of the Young Center's website for access instructions.

## INTERVIEW

### A Conversation about Amish Women with Karen Johnson-Weiner

Thursday, October 8, 7 p.m.

Join us for a conversation with Karen Johnson-Weiner, distinguished service professor emerita at State University of New York-Potsdam, and author of the new book *The Lives of Amish Women* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020). Johnson-Weiner will share her research and findings, which grow out of 35 years of fieldwork.



## BROWN BOOK AWARD LECTURE

### The German Awakening: Protestant Renewal after the Enlightenment, 1815-1848

ANDREW KLOES

Thursday, October 22, 7 p.m.

Historians of modern German culture and church history refer to “the Awakening movement” to describe a period in the history of German Protestantism between the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 and the Revolution of 1848. Theologically, awakened Protestants were traditionalists. They affirmed religious beliefs that Protestants had professed since the Reformation. However, awakened Protestants were also themselves distinctly modern. Their efforts to spread their religious beliefs were successful because of the new political freedoms and economic opportunities that the Enlightenment had introduced. Adapting Protestantism to modern society in these ways was the most original and innovative aspect of the Awakening movement. It was a product of the larger social changes that were reshaping German society during the early decades of the nineteenth century.

Andrew Kloes is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the author of *The German Awakening: Protestant Renewal after the Enlightenment, 1815-1848* (Oxford University Press, 2019) in the Oxford Studies in Historical Theology series. He has contributed articles on eighteenth and nineteenth century European religious history to academic journals, including the *Harvard Theological Review* and *Pietismus und Neuzeit*. Kloes received his PhD from the University of Edinburgh and works as a historian in Washington, DC.



## LECTURE

### Compassion in the Face of Internment: The Story of the Cunninghams

CAITLIN ROSSITER

Thursday, November 12, 7 p.m.

Caitlin Rossiter will discuss the acquisition, rehousing, research, and digitization of the Cunningham Papers, a collection of letters, documents, and photographs that tell the story of Lloyd (1906-1976) and Ellen Cunningham (1907-2009), Brethren missionaries who served in China, the Philippines, and India, and who were imprisoned by the Japanese Imperial Army from 1941 to 1945.

Rossiter, a senior at Elizabethtown College, is studying history and French with a minor in religious studies. She is also pursuing the Public Heritage Studies certificate, as she plans to attend graduate school for public history or museum studies. Rossiter will graduate in December 2020.





# THE YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES

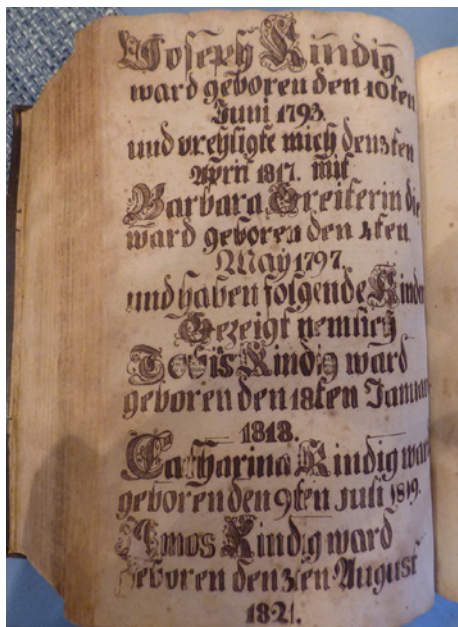
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## Center receives rare book donations

The Young Center received donations of rare books from two institutions over the summer. McPherson College, a Church of the Brethren-related college in McPherson,



Kansas, is deaccessioning some of its rare German books. A few volumes came to the Young Center, including devotional books by Philip Jakob Spener and August Hermann Francke, two Pietist leaders in Germany. The donation includes a copy of the 1814 edition of *Martyrs Mirror* printed in Lancaster and a Bible printed by Johannes Baer in Lancaster. The Bible includes a full page Fraktur family record of the owner, Joseph Kindig, from the Strasburg, Pennsylvania, area (at left).

The second collection that came to the Young Center is a set of rare books from Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown. Evangelical Seminary is combining with a seminary in South Dakota to become a center that offers extensive online instruction. As they downsize their library, they donated several volumes of German Pietist writings and some volumes of early editions of works by John Wesley.

These donations expand the Center's holdings in Pietist literature and will be housed at the Hess Archives and Special Collections in High Library.

FALL 2020

YOUNG  
CENTER  
*News*

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