

YOUNG CENTER *News*

THE YOUNG CENTER FOR
ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES
AT ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE



Heifers for Relief: Eighty years of aid

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL SUBJECT OF DURNBAUGH LECTURE AND SEMINAR ON MARCH 14 AND 15

“A cow, not a cup.” The idea was sparked by a conversation in a milk dispensary in Murcia, Spain, in January 1938, between Dunker Dan West, who was there to help in a Quaker relief project during the Spanish Civil War, and Mennonite missionary D. Parke Lantz. As West recalled, Lantz described the procedure of mixing water with powdered milk from Holland and sending small bottles of it home with relatives to feed infants the dispensary doctor had approved to receive it.

“The milk supply was too small and too uncertain and the food value of the gift from overseas always ended there,” West thought. “Why not bring cows over also so that more children are fed and the people are able to help themselves? The grass grows there too when it rains.” (Kostlevy and Wittmeyer, *Hoosier Prophet: Selected Writings of Dan West*, p. 68).

West returned to the States later that year and shared his idea with his Indiana neighbors and his fellow Church of the Brethren members. In April 1942, the Church of the Brethren Men’s Work of Northern Indiana supported West’s idea, and in June the Brethren Service Committee approved the plan and established the Heifers for Relief Committee (soon renamed the Heifer Project Committee).

Local farmers began donating calves and raising them for the relief effort. But because World War II had begun, the animals could not be sent overseas, so in May 1944 the first shipment of seventeen heifers was sent to Puerto Rico, where the Brethren had a Civilian Public Service unit in which conscientious objectors worked during the war.



Twenty-eight “seagoing cowboys” aboard the S.S. *Virginian* in October 1945, en route to Danzig (now Gdańsk), Poland. In the aftermath of World War II, these men, most of whom were members of the Church of the Brethren, transported cattle and other relief supplies to devastated parts of Europe under the auspices of Heifers for Relief, a Brethren Service Committee effort that later grew into Heifer International. Lowell L. Landis (1906-1968) of York, Pennsylvania, is in the middle row, far right. A member of York First Church of the Brethren, Landis collected materials related to his work with Heifers for Relief in Poland, Sweden, and Greece, including newspaper clippings, correspondence, photographs, and travel documents. His collection is now housed in the Earl H. and Anita F. Hess Archives and Special Collections at Elizabethtown College.

Shipments to war-ravaged areas of Europe began the next year, with the Heifer Project Committee agreeing to find “qualified men” to care for the livestock at sea, as the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration requested. From there, the

program grew and diversified. Incorporated as Heifer Project in 1953, the organization expanded its reach to include South America and Africa and had already begun to provide a wider variety of livestock, including pigs,

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From the Director

Among the rewarding features of our work here at the Young Center is facilitating connections, connections both long-standing and newly formed, linking people, communities, traditions, and academic disciplines. In recent months, we connected students from Konstanz University with Plain communities in Lancaster County, and we helped bring stories from Venezuela to Elizabethtown College students via Venezuelan Church of the Brethren leader Roger Moreno, events described elsewhere in this issue.

In early January, Israeli scholar Rivka Neriya-Ben Shahr drew on her forthcoming book on technology and gender to connect the experiences of Amish women and ultra-Orthodox Jewish women in a Young Center-sponsored lecture at Brethren Village near Lititz, Pennsylvania.

This spring, our 2024 Kreider Fellow, Rose Fisher, is connecting her heritage with her academic expertise in linguistics to study the Pennsylvania Dutch language. While in residence at the Young Center, Fisher will connect with Marie Crugnale, an Etown modern languages major, who will work as her research assistant.

The art exhibit “Before Baptism,” cosponsored with the Elizabethtown College Fine Arts Department, demonstrates the unlikely but genuine ties between photographers Gail Nogle and Ellen Sabin and Amish families in central Pennsylvania.

And our annual Durnbaugh Lecture and Seminar will spotlight the links forged eighty years ago between the Brethren value of service and the economic needs of the world. Those links birthed Heifer International and, in turn, spawned countless connections around the globe through the practices of generosity and reciprocity that reverberate to this day.

We hope you will connect with us this spring through one of our evening programs or by visiting the Bowers Interpretive Gallery.

Steve Nolt
Director

Rose Fisher named Kreider Fellow

The Young Center is pleased to announce that Rose Fisher, a Ph.D. student in German linguistics at the Pennsylvania State University, has been named the Kreider Fellow for spring 2024.

During her time at the Young Center, Fisher will be visiting members of two Pennsylvania Dutch-speaking communities in Lancaster County—Old Order Amish and Groffdale Conference Mennonites—to collect data for her dissertation project. The project will compare the ways Amish and Groffdale Conference Mennonites in Lancaster County mark grammatical gender and the ways they use English and Pennsylvania Dutch to see if there are differences between them.

“Having a base in Elizabethtown for the spring 2024 semester, when I will be in the midst of data collection, will enable me to have easy access (geographically) to many

potential participants,” Fisher said. “I will also be able to utilize the Young Center’s extensive library and resources to supplement the gaps in my dissertation’s literature review on Amish and Mennonite history.”

In addition to collecting data, Fisher will continue writing the literature review and methods portions of her dissertation while at the Young Center. And she will also begin data analysis, employing Elizabethtown College undergraduate Marie Crugnale as her research assistant to help with the analysis.

Fisher will present a talk about her work on Tuesday, April 2, at 7 p.m. in the Bucher Meetinghouse.

The generous gift of Ken and Carroll Kreider endowed the Kreider fellowship and lecture. The Young Center invites nominations and applications for its fellows programs. Visit www.etown.edu/youngctr for details.

Exhibition of photography of central Pennsylvania Amish community

For the past ten years, [Gail Nogle](#) and [Ellen Sabin](#) have been photographing the daily lives of members of a conservative Old Order Amish community in central Pennsylvania,

carrying on the work begun by Bill Coleman thirty years ago and continued by Jay Stock until 2013.

The work of Nogle and Sabin will be highlighted in an exhibition titled “Before Baptism: Growing Up Amish,” on display February 8 through April 4, 2024, in Hess Gallery, Zug Memorial Hall. The exhibit, which focuses on the experiences of children who have not yet joined the church, is cosponsored by the Young Center and the Elizabethtown College Fine Arts Department.

The opening reception and artists’ talk, free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday, February 8, at 7 p.m. in the gallery.

The photographers are donating several hundred images from their project to the Hess Archives. The collections, which span the years 2013 through 2022, include photographs of various aspects of Old Order Amish life in Central Pennsylvania and are not exclusively images of children.

“The opportunity to intimately document a culture steeped in tradition, and gradually inching toward the future, has been incredible,” the artists said. “The donation of our images to Elizabethtown College will preserve this gift for future generations.”



Ellen Sabin, *Calm Before The Storm*, 2017



Gail Nogle, *Snack Time Together*, 2015

German university students visit Lancaster County

On September 15, 2023, the Young Center hosted a student group from Konstanz University of Applied Sciences in Konstanz, Germany, learning about Amish entrepreneurship. After receiving an overview of Amish culture, the group left by bus to tour Lancaster County, visit several Amish businesses, and have lunch in an Amish home.

Elizabethtown College has hosted student groups from Konstanz for many years, and faculty there have worked with Etown study abroad programs in Switzerland and Bangladesh. To the left of the students is Elizabethtown College associate professor of economics Sanjay Paul. In the back and to the right are Konstanz University professors Jan-Dirk Rosche and Ralf Lehmann.



Young Center to host Anabaptism Conference next year

“EARLY ANABAPTISM IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE” SCHEDULED FOR JULY 22-24, 2025

In recognition of the 500th anniversary of the emergence of the Anabaptist movement in 1525, the Young Center will host an international academic conference on the origins and significance of Anabaptism. Planned for July 22–24, 2025, the conference will feature plenary speakers and concurrent sessions with presentations, seminars, and panels.

The conference will focus on sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Anabaptism and will give special attention to the global context in which Anabaptism emerged and spread. In recent years, scholars such as Nicholas Terpstra and Merry Wiesner-Hanks have highlighted the way early modern Europe’s extensive web of global relations shaped the processes of religious transformation. Scholars of Anabaptism are likewise looking at patterns of migration and communication in the spread of Anabaptist ideas and adherents in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, across Europe and beyond.

The conference also aims to consider the global reception of early Anabaptist history today; that is, what are the value and the limits of early Anabaptism as a resource for discipleship and churchly identity, for teaching and preaching, around the world today? The conference seeks to advance understanding of all these topics through presentations by scholars, teachers, and church leaders, and

through the informal conversations and connects that conference gatherings afford.

The conference planning group includes Steve Nolt, Young Center, as well as Emmy Maendel, Bruderhof Communities; Elizabeth Miller, Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism/Goshen College; Jamie Pitts, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary; Mary Sprunger, Eastern Mennonite University; and David Yoder Neufeld, Conrad Grebel University College.

Paper submissions on the themes described above are especially encouraged, but conference planners welcome for consideration paper proposals related to any aspect of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Anabaptism. Submit paper proposals at <https://forms.office.com/r/EEBw3bG1Eu> or email a proposal (include name, affiliation, and abstract of 350 words or fewer) to anabaptism2025@etown.edu by June 1, 2024.

New journal issue published

The seventh issue of the *Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities* (JPAC) was released in December 2023. It includes an



analysis of the 2021 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Mast v. Fillmore County, Minnesota*, a comprehensive profile of the Amish living in Michigan, an exploration of the

role of Pennsylvania Dutch in personal identity, and part 2 of an article on the history and distinctive characteristics of the Old German Baptist Brethren. This issue also contains profiles of the Ohio Amish Library and the Geauga Amish Historical Library.

The *Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities* is a peer-reviewed, open access journal published by the Ohio State University Libraries and cosponsored by the Young Center. For access to all issues of the journal, an option to subscribe to the mailing list, and detailed information for prospective authors, visit <https://plainanabaptistjournal.org>.

Jeff Bach and David Kenley contribute to book on educational exchanges between China and the United States

Jeff Bach, director emeritus of the Young Center, and David Kenley, professor of history at Dakota State University, recently coauthored a chapter on Brethren mission schools in China in the 1920s titled “Educational Crisis in Shanxi: An Analysis of Brethren Mission Schools in Republican China.” The essay appears in [*From Missionary Education to Confucius Institutes: Historical Reflections on Sino-American Cultural Exchange*](#), edited by Jeff Kyong-McClain and Joseph Tse-Hei Lee and published by Routledge in November 2023.

The essay grew out of Bach and Kenley’s collaborative research on the history of Church of the Brethren missionary work in China from 1908 to 1951. Kenley was formerly a professor of Asian history at Elizabethtown College and director of the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking.

The chapter makes a unique contribution because it deals with a small denomination and a location in the interior of China, whereas most of the literature on Chinese mission schools focuses on large institutions in eastern cities such as Shanghai and Beijing.

Bach researched school records and journal articles from Brethren archives. Kenley examined Chinese and American writings from the time and secondary literature. They describe the central importance of schools from the beginning of Brethren missionary work in China. A crisis emerged in the 1920s when the Chinese government required all private schools to register with the government, forcing them to drop religious education from the curriculum. Like other Protestant groups, the Brethren hesitated to register, hoping to negotiate a compromise. Bach and Kenley show how Chinese and Brethren educators faced resistance to the missionaries’ goals. Many of their students were sympathetic to the Marxist cause and, with encouragement from some of their Chinese teachers, they protested at the Brethren schools. War between Shanxi Province and neighboring Hebei Province further complicated the situation for Brethren schools. Readers will discover the final outcome of the educational crisis for the Brethren.



Visit by Roger Morreno, president of Church of the Brethren in Venezuela

On October 4, Roger R. Moreno Padilla, the president of the Church of the Brethren in Venezuela, visited the Young Center. He was traveling in the United States during the month of October, visiting Brethren leaders and institutions in several states. A lawyer by training, Moreno leads the Venezuelan conference of 33 churches, about one third of which are made up of indigenous members. He was accompanied by Joel Peña, pastor at Alpha y Omega Church of the Brethren, in Lancaster, Pa.

Moreno toured the Young Center and had lunch with Steve Nolt and Jeff Bach, the Young Center’s director and director emeritus, and Naomi Kraenbring, pastor at Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren and adjunct professor of religious studies at Elizabethtown College.

While on campus, Moreno also spoke about life in Venezuela in two Spanish classes, hosted by professor of Spanish Charla Lorenzen.

Heifers for Relief

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chickens, and goats. In 1971, 1,200 acres of farmland was purchased in Arkansas to be used for breeding and raising livestock, and soon after that Heifer Project headquarters were established in Little Rock. In 1973, the organization changed its name to Heifer Project International (now Heifer International).

On Thursday evening, March 14, William Kostlevy and Surita Sandosham, this year’s Durnbaugh lecturers, will describe Heifer’s origins and its current work. And on Friday morning, March 15, Sandosham and other panelists will discuss current global relief efforts and the factors that shape them.

The Durnbaugh lecture series was established in 1993 to commemorate the scholarship of Don and Hedda Durnbaugh. It brings noted scholars of Anabaptist or Pietist studies to campus annually.



Roger Moreno speaks to students in Charla Lorenzen’s Intermediate Spanish 2 class



Moreno, left, and Joel Peña visit the Young Center’s Bowers Interpretive Gallery

UPCOMING EVENTS

OPENING RECEPTION AND ARTISTS' TALK Before Baptism: Growing Up Amish

GAIL NOGLE

ELLEN SABIN

Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m.

Hess Gallery, Zug Memorial Hall



“Before Baptism” showcases the collaborative photography of Gail Nogle and Ellen Sabin and provides a remarkable window into the lives of Nebraska, or “white-topper,” Amish of central Pennsylvania. Over the past nine years, Nogle and Sabin have documented persistence and change in this highly traditional community. The exhibition, which runs through April 4, features the experiences of Amish children who have not yet joined the church through baptism. In their artists’ talk, Nogle and Sabin will describe the origins and surprises of this project, the relationships they have built, and the artistic choices and challenges involved with photographing the Amish.

[Gail Nogle](#), of Dallas, Texas, is a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology and became one of the few women in the world awarded a fellowship from the American Society of Photographers. [Ellen Sabin](#) is a professional photographer based in Raleigh, North Carolina. A graduate of Truman State University, she counts artists Jay Stock and Gail Nogle as mentors.

YOUNG CENTER BANQUET

Thursday, March 14, 6 p.m. (Reception at 5:30)

Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall

The annual dinner gives friends of the Young Center an opportunity to socialize and learn about the Center’s activities and programs. Cost for the banquet is \$25; reservations are required by February 29. Call the Young Center at (717) 361-1470 or register online via the [events page](#) of the Young Center website.

DURNBAUGH LECTURE Celebrating Eighty Years of Heifer International

WILLIAM C. KOSTLEVY

SURITA SANDOSHAM

Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m.

Susquehanna Room, Myer Hall

“The Christians of American can save Europe,” an early enthusiast observed during World War II, referring to a small-scale relief program then called Heifers for Relief. Created in stark contrast to the mass scale development projects of its time—the collectivization of agriculture in the USSR, the Tennessee Valley Authority in the US, and later the building of the Aswan Dam—Heifer and its visionary founder Dan West (1893–1971) sought to end war by removing its

causes and creating personal human connections across religious, cultural, ideological, and geographical divides. Its successes, if often more modest, were dependent on a diverse body of ordinary farmers who shared its vision and did the hard work to make it successful. William Kostlevy recounts Heifer’s origins and how a vision became a reality.

Following Kostlevy’s lecture, Surita Sandosham, president and CEO of Heifer International, discusses Heifer’s current work and its mission to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth by providing appropriate livestock, training, and related services to small-scale farmers and communities worldwide.

William C. Kostlevy holds degrees from Bethany Theological Seminary and the University of Notre Dame. He is the editor of *Historical Dictionary of the Holiness Movement*, 3rd ed. (2024) and coeditor of *Hoosier Prophet: Selected Writings of Dan West* (2021). He has served as archivist and as director of the Brethren Historical Library and Archives.

Surita Sandosham was named president and CEO of [Heifer International](#) in 2022. Born and raised in Singapore, Sandosham is a graduate of the University of London and has more than two decades of leadership experience at global nonprofit organizations working on behalf of vulnerable populations.



DURNBAUGH SEMINAR

The Changing Landscape of Relief, Development, and Service

Friday, March 15, 9:30 a.m. to noon

Bucher Meetinghouse

The world in which Heifers for Relief (now Heifer International) took shape eighty years ago was markedly different from that of today. And yet human need remains very much the same. In this seminar, Surita Sandosham, president and CEO of Heifer International, Nathan Hosler, director of the Church of the Brethren’s Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, Sanjay Paul, associate professor of economics at Elizabethtown College, and others will discuss key developments shaping the contemporary landscape of global relief efforts, including the significance of localization and decentralization, the role of faith communities in shaping development programs, the ways geopolitics and global economics impact relief and development, and the challenge of sustainability and climate change in development work.

In addition, panelists will consider factors shaping current understandings of service, including interdependent models of service, shifting motivation for service, strategies for nurturing an ethic of service, and efforts to develop authentic connections between service locally and globally. They will engage with questions and contributions from the audience as well.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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KREIDER LECTURE

Language Patterns among Lancaster County
Anabaptists: Do the Amish and Groffdale Conference
Mennonites Use English and Pennsylvania Dutch
Differently?

ROSE FISHER

Tuesday, April 2, 7 p.m.
Bucher Meetinghouse



Rose Fisher explores the language habits of the Amish and Old Order (Groffdale Conference) Mennonites of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. She considers how English and Pennsylvania Dutch are used in contrast to one another and the extent to which each is restricted to certain domains (e.g., in the home as opposed to at work). In particular, Fisher discusses how the norms of use for English and Pennsylvania Dutch differ between the Amish and Mennonites of Lancaster County and what impact that has on how the grammar of Pennsylvania Dutch is developing over time.

Rose Fisher is a Ph.D. student in German linguistics whose research focuses on Pennsylvania Dutch. During her time as the Young Center's Kreider Fellow, she will visit Amish and Groffdale Conference Mennonites to collect data for her dissertation project. As a former member of the Amish and as a linguist, Fisher is interested in promoting the Pennsylvania Dutch language by better understanding its grammar, how it interacts with English, and the ways that the rich culture of the Anabaptists shapes it over time.

SPRING 2024

YOUNG
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News

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