

Perspective



Ohio Conference
of Mennonite
Church USA

www.ohio.mennonite.net

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Convention 2009 early registration extended

The early registration deadline for Mennonite Church USA Convention 2009 in Columbus has been extended to **May 22**. The earlier announced deadline was April 30. Convention 2009 will be June 30 to July 5 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus and include gatherings for children, junior youth, youth, young adults and adults. The convention also will include the biennial Delegate Assembly July 1 to 4 and a special one-day learning event for Mennonite Church USA pastors and their spouses June 30. For more information or to register for Convention 2009, visit www.MennoniteUSA.org/convention.

Please check delegate registration

Here's another note regarding Convention 2009: Shelley Buller of Mennonite Church USA reports that there was a bug in the data entry system for the delegate registration. "We are asking you to double check your list of delegates in item #20 in your congregational profile on the Mennonite Directory Congregational Update Web page," she said.

To check your congregation's information, go to www.mennodata.org/mennonitedirectory/login.asp. If you need assistance with your congregational number or password, contact Judy King at the Ohio Conference office or call Doris Schmidt at (866) 866-2872. **Please enter this data by May 15 and submit updates until June 15.** If you do not have Web access, send the information to Shelley Buller, 722 Main Street, Newton KS 67114. You also may ask Judy King at the Ohio Conference office to enter the information for you. Contact Judy at (330) 857-5421 or ohmc@zoominternet.net.

Documentary to focus on 'seagoing cowboys'

A Tribute to the Seagoing Cowboys, a short film that tells the story of the men and boys who delivered livestock on cattle boats to Europe and China after World War II, will be shown in two Ohio locations in May.

The film will be shown Friday, May 29, at 7 p.m. at the Zion Mennonite Church, 300 Short Buehrer Road, Archbold, and Sunday, May 31, at 7 p.m. at the East Chippewa Church of the Brethren, 7207 Chippewa Road, Orrville. Seagoing cowboys from the area will be the honored guests and are invited to bring memorabilia for display. These events are free and open to the public.

Perspective: 1) The interrelation in which a subject or its parts are mentally viewed. 2) Point of view; capacity to view things in their relative importance.

Director perspective

The Executive Board has approved a final job description for the next Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA. This job description was developed after seeking ideas from many different members of Mennonite Church USA. A progress report from the Search Committee for the Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA is included with this issue of *Perspective*.

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
 - Church chairperson
 - Youth sponsor(s)
 - Delegates
 - Duplicate for other church leaders
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Author and producer of this documentary, Peggy Reiff Miller of Milford, Ind., will be present to talk about the film and recognize the cowboys in attendance. About 7,000 men and boys, dubbed 'seagoing cowboys,' made these trips between 1945 and 1947. They tended some 300,000 animals sent to war-devastated countries by UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) and the Heifer Project. More information can be found at www.seagoingcowboys.com.

Restorative justice to be focus of luncheon

The Center for Restorative Justice will hold a luncheon with Dr. Mark Umbreit May 20 at the Kingdom Builders Building, 798 Grant St., Akron. Cost of the luncheon is \$10. To register, call (330) 459-2779 by May 15.

Dr. Mark Umbreit is a Professor and founding Director of the Center for Restorative Justice & Peacemaking at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work. He serves as a Visiting Professor at the Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee and has served as a Fellow of the International Centre for Healing and the Law. He has more than 37 years of experience as a mediator, peacemaker, trainer, teacher and researcher. He is the author of seven books and more than 180 other publications in the fields of restorative justice, mediation, spirituality, forgiveness, and peacemaking.

Aurora Mennonite to show documentary

Through the Desert Goes Our Journey, a documentary that wrestles with the legacy of the Great Trek, will be shown Monday, May 11, at 7 p.m. at Aurora Mennonite Church, 59 E. Mennonite Road, Aurora. Some see the journey as a product of End Times madness dominated by Claas Epp Jr. Others have come to see the migration and settlement as providing examples of peace and respect between Muslims and Christians. There will be a discussion following the presentation. Please call the church at (330) 562-8011 for more information.

Author to tell stories of Paraguayan Mennonites

Edgar Stoesz, author of a new book on the Mennonites in Paraguay and a business consultant, will be speaking in Holmes and Wayne County Ohio May 17 and 18. He will tell stories of the Mennonites of Paraguay who are hosting the Mennonite World Conference Assembly this summer.

Stoesz will speak May 17 at Kidron Mennonite Church and May 18 at the Amish and Mennonite Heritage Center near Berlin. Both programs are open to the public and will begin at 7 p.m.

Stoesz, who lives in Akron, Pa., served for nearly four decades as director of programs with Mennonite Central Committee, including the Latin American program that served Paraguay. He has made more than 20 trips to the region. He is the author of numerous books, including the recently released *Like a Mustard Seed: Mennonites in Paraguay* (2008) and his earlier work: *Garden in the Wilderness: Mennonite Communities in the Paraguayan Chaco, 1927-1997*.

Editor's perspective

The majority of *Perspective* readers receive their copies by e-mail; however, a significant number of congregations (21) and several individuals still receive printed copies in the mail. This month, the U.S. Postal Service is once again raising postage rates. In light of this increased cost, and the fact that postage rates seem likely to rise each year in the foreseeable future, I invite you to consider receiving *Perspective* by e-mail. If you would be willing to do so, please send your e-mail address to me at ohioevangel@earthlink.net. Thank you!

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Due to my travel schedule, I need to alter the schedule for *Perspective* in June. The first issue in June will appear **June 1**, instead of June 8. The second issue will be distributed June 22, as previously planned.

Perspective inserts

This issue of *Perspective* includes the May issue of *The Parish Paper* and prayer requests from Mennonite Education Agency.

Perspective deadlines

May 14	for May 18 issue
May 28	for June 1 issue

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