

Events & Announcements | March 2, 2011

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

- *Redefining Duty* book signing in Shipshewana March 4, 5 (see attached flyer)
- Eastern Mennonite University Chamber Singers at Waterford Mennonite March 7
- Hesston College Chorale spring break programs
- Life of Gene Stoltzfus book launch at Better World Books on March 12 (see attached poster)
- MEDA presentation at College Mennonite on March 17
- Two upcoming workshops at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center
- News from Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes

***Redefining Duty* book signing in Shipshewana March 4, 5** (see attached flyer). J. Farvers, in Shipshewana, Ind., is pleased to announce a book signing of *Redefining Duty, Alternative Service in the Name of Christ*. This book is a collection of interviews of twenty-two young men, and in some cases their wives, who chose alternative service rather than participation in the military from 1942 – 1970. Their decisions of conscience led them from Rhode Island to Mississippi, and from Greece to Indonesia. In these settings, they were witnesses to their faith, and were profoundly shaped and changed by their experiences. These stories give the reader insight into not only the lives of these young people, but also the faith community of which they are such an important part. The stories were compiled by the Kern Road Mennonite Church Peace and Justice Committee. Meet several of the men featured in the book at J. Farvers on Friday, March 4, 2011, from 2-4 p.m., and on Saturday, March 5, from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. J. Farvers is located in Yoder's Red Barn Shoppes, at 451 S. Van Buren St., Shipshewana, Ind. For more information or to pre-order the book, please call 260-768-4339. -- *Rebecca Nisbet, Communications Coordinator*

Eastern Mennonite University Chamber Singers at Waterford Mennonite March 7. The Chamber Singers, a select student choir from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va., will present a program of worship at 7 p.m. Monday, March 7, at Waterford Mennonite Church, State Road 15, Goshen.

A line from American poet Mary Oliver (b. 1935) provides the framework for the Chamber Singers program. In her piece, "One Summer Day," Oliver asks, "Tell me what it is you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" The 34-voice choir will explore that question through music, poetry and hymn singing with audience participation.

Kenneth J. Nafziger, professor of music at EMU, said the repertoire will range from Bach and Samuel Barber and Alice Parker and Jim Clemens to Bobby McFerrin, Bono/U-2 and the Soweto Gospel Choir. "The primary focus is to ask Oliver's question of Jesus, and see what Jesus might be through the lenses of scripture, composers and poets and hopefully invite persons to ask that question both about Jesus and about themselves," Dr. Nafziger added.

Also on the repertoire at some locations will be "Misa Criolla," a setting of the mass with Latin American rhythms and instruments by Argentine composer Ariel Ramirez. The choir's appearance here is the fourth stop on a mid-semester tour to 11 locations in four states.

The public is invited. For more information, contact Neil Amstutz at 574-533-5642. --Jim Bishop, public information officer, EMU

Hesston College Chorale spring break programs. Alumni and friends of Hesston College are invited to the program "Christ our Peace" by the Chorale over spring break. The choir is directed by Ken Rodgers.

Concerts include East Goshen Mennonite Church on Sunday, March 6, at 7 p.m.; Bethany Christian School on Monday, March 7, at 9:25 a.m.; Greencroft Goshen on Monday, March 7, at 1 p.m.; and Howard-Miami Mennonite Church on Friday, March 11, at 7 p.m. Call the Alumni Relations office at 866-437-7866 with any questions. --*Dallas Stutzman, director of alumni and church relations, Hesston Coll*

Life of Gene Stoltzfus book launch at Better World Books on March 12. Attached please find a poster for a book launch on the life of Gene Stoltzfus titled *Create Space for Peace*. There will be a book signing with Dorothy Friesen and Filipina colleague, Marilen Abesamis, on Sat., March 12, 3 – 5 p.m., at Better World Books, 118 E. Washington, St., Goshen. There will also be a book reading and discussion that evening from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at College Mennonite Church, Koinonia Room, 1900 S. Main St., Goshen.

MEDA presentation at College Mennonite on March 17. The Michiana chapter of Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) invites you to a presentation by Dorothy Hostetler, general

manager of PalletOne, on Thursday, March 17, 6:30 p.m., at College Mennonite Church fellowship hall, 1900 S. Main St., Goshen.

Dorothy's story is one of perseverance and dedication. As a young girl, she helped her father in the family business, PalletOne, in Shipshewana. She took customers' orders and, because her father had dyslexia, also did the banking. Later, after selling the company, Dorothy rejoined PalletOne as general manager. Her Amish upbringing meant she attended school until eighth grade. She later returned to school and recently graduated from Goshen College, completing her secondary and higher education while working away from home.

RSVP by Monday, March 7, by phoning 877-787-6332, emailing reservations@michianameda.org, or filling out the [RSVP form](#) online. (If you don't receive a confirmation e-mail or phone call, please let us know.) Meal and program costs are \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members and \$5 for students. Please note any special dietary needs with reservation. The meal is payable at the event. —*Renee Hochstetler, Michiana MEDA*

Two upcoming workshops at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center:

Wrestling with Angels: Bruises and Blessings in Congregational Life (March 18-20, 2011, at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.) Gain access to a network of support and encouragement for serving people with mental illness and others who can absorb substantial congregational energy and resources. Lora Carter Nafziger is collaborating with Pastor Joel Miller of Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship to lead this weekend workshop. ADNet Program Director Christine Guth will be an additional resource person. The weekend is cosponsored by ADNet and is part of Laurelville's Called to Care series aimed at providing church leaders with resources and support for caring for others. Registration and more information are available at Laurelville.org/WrestlingWithAngels or by calling 800-839-1021.

Narrative: Rediscovering the Sacred (May 13-15, 2011, at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.). Gain experience and generate ideas for drama in worship during this workshop weekend directed by Ted Swartz and Jeff Raught. You'll find a community of creative individuals seeking to breathe the power of Scripture into all aspects of worship. Registration and more information are available at Laurelville.org/narrative or by calling 800-839-1021. —*Brian Paff, director of communications, LMCC*

News from MCC Great Lakes:

Welcome to new executive director

The MCC Great Lakes office welcomes its new executive director, Zenebe Abebe, scheduled to take over from Stanley Kropf the beginning of April. For more details go to www.greatlakes.mcc.org/zenebe-abebe-named-executive-director.

Open position with SWAP

Mennonite Central Committee seeks a location coordinator for its Appalachia SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) program. This position coordinates week-long service opportunities for young people and adults to provide housing repair for low-income families. The location coordinator will help plan and direct all aspects of the SWAP ministry in Hindman, Ky. This is a three to five year service worker position. To see a full job description, go to www.mcc.org/serve/positions/mcc-swap. For additional information contact Darlene Dintaman at drd@mcc.org or 574-534-4133.

MCC learning tour to Guatemala

We invite your participation in an MCC Learning Tour to Guatemala April 27 – May 10, 2011. Participants will hear the stories of immigrants and seek to gain a better understanding about root causes of immigration and why there are undocumented immigrants in the United States. The goal is for participants to return to the United States with a commitment to engage in education and advocacy regarding comprehensive immigration reform. Cost is \$1,050 per person with a registration deadline of March 15. Find more information at our website at www.greatlakes.mcc.org/guatemalalearningtour or contact Marlin Yoder, MCC Great Lakes regional associate for NE Ohio at 740-502-2442 or myoder@mcc.org.

Indiana immigration legislation

As followers of Jesus, we aim to live in the manner of Jesus in this world. For those of us in Indiana, this means that we need to think through issues of immigration with both our faith and our migrating brothers and sisters in mind.

The Indiana legislature is in the process of considering passing punitive immigration legislation similar to the Arizona SB 1070 that passed last spring. We encourage you to pray for our policy makers and to

please consider adding your name to the list of supporters of the Indiana Compact at www.indianacompact.com encouraging responsible federal immigration reform. We feel these five principles may be helpful in guiding the discussion in our state.

Update on workers in Egypt

MCC's international workers evacuated from Egypt during the recent turmoil have started returning to their work placements in Egypt. MCC asks that you pray for the safety and well-being of all people in Egypt and in other countries in the Middle East and North Africa where there is civil unrest.

***prayer suggestion:** Praise God for the relative calm that has returned to Egypt. Continue to pray for people in the Middle East and North Africa as unrest continues in Libya and elsewhere. –Jennifer Steiner, communications coordinator, MCC Great Lakes*

Events & Announcements serves to connect the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference. It is published every two weeks. To submit items for publication please mail to imoffice@im.mennonite.net.

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