

The Menno Beacon

FEBRUARY 2011

Volume 56 Number 1

My First MDS Experience

By Pastor Matthew Yoder

My first MDS trip with Menno Mennonite Church began with, as one participant was apt to point out, “a lot of experience.” In my first twelve hours on the ground in New Orleans, I experienced Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers, bignettes and French coffee with chicory at Café Du Mond, fried catfish po boys and sweet southern iced tea, an hour and a half on the bayou in an airboat, Bourbon Street on a Saturday night, and my first bowl of true Louisiana Gumbo.

It was “a lot of experience.” But the “experience” didn’t stop there; on Sunday we joined Reverend Charles Duplessis and the Mt. Nebo Bible Baptist church for morning worship. It was truly an amazing and wonderful privilege to participate in such spirited and passionate worship. Reverend Duplessis even invited me to pray for communion and share a brief meditation – I tried to do my Menno family proud.

After the 2 ½ hour worship service, we were invited to join the congregation for the largest catfish-fry I’ve



MDS Group Week of 1/16/2011 at Diamond, LA

ever seen. The meal also included BBQ ribs, hot wings, red beans and rice, pork and beans, green beans and ham, grilled corn on the cob, and some pretty heavenly potato salad.

Such a large amount of cultural exposure gave me lots to ruminate on for the rest of the week. And such a large amount of food helped to fortify us for a week of construction work. The MDS headquarters, in Diamond, LA, is set up in an old brick Roman Catholic sanctuary that was flooded twelve feet deep during Hurricane Katrina. The sanctuary is all that remains of a complex of buildings that used to be the church, a school and other facilities. During our stay, the “men’s dorm” was partitioned off at one end of the sanctuary and the “women’s dorm” at the other end. The open space in between the two “dormitories” accommodated our common meals, several couches for relaxing after a hard day’s work, and a ping-pong table for those with energy left at the end of the day. The bathrooms and showers were in trailers outside the sanctuary, providing a nice little walk for loosening and relaxing those stiff or tired muscles.



Matthew in foreground

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More MDS

January was mostly a month of “road tripping” for us. We left home on January 5 en route, first of all, to Kansas, where we enjoyed about a week with Gretchen, Eric, Julianna, Jacob and Timothy. The time in the area also included a brief stop on the Bethel campus to touch bases with some of the folks there. The weather while there was bitterly cold with snow. It was nice not to have to travel far during those days. Then, it was on the road once more during the second week of the month, with interesting overnight stays in Oklahoma and Cypress Bend Resort, LA on our way to Diamond, LA, south of New Orleans. On Sunday, January 16, in New Orleans, we enjoyed a day of worship, fellowship and food (deep fried catfish and barbecued ribs) with Rev. Charles and Thirawer Duplessis and the members of the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church. The rest of the Washington MDS contingent was there, also, and it was great to see and meet all of them. Then it was on to the MDS camp later that evening for check-in and a bit of orientation. The next five days were filled with long days of meaningful reconstruction work at several MDS home sites. Interestingly, some of us reached our work sites, accessible only by boat, on the Louisiana Grand Bayou. It was a peaceful setting, indeed. One day we were even treated to the site of a small pod of dolphins swimming by in front of the house we were working on!

Our trip home included a several day stop in Kirksville, MO to visit Jon, Deborah, Benjamin, Emma Jane and Emerson. They had snow there, also. While we drove through many regions covered with snow, the roads were, almost without exception, dry and very drivable. We arrived home on the evening of January 29, exceedingly grateful for safe travel over nearly 6000 miles and through parts of sixteen states. What a country! And, what a joy to be home! By Warren Gering

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I spent the first work day helping Michael Claassen, Reed Meyer, Todd, the dentist, and some of the long-term volunteers load sheet-rock onto a boat to be carried out to a house in the bayou. Unloading all that sheet-rock from the boat into the house was a big job, especially since the house was up on 15-foot pylons!

On Tuesday I was still at the sheet-rock job but on Wednesday and Thursday I was sent to a different house to help with some finish framing. It felt good to cut wood and build again, there's nothing like the smell of fresh-cut yellow pine. I even got to swing a hammer a couple of times!

I spent Friday, the last work day of the week, helping Butch Gering and others install some laminate flooring as part of a re-model job up the bayou a ways. In the afternoon some dolphins swam by to provide us with a little break-time entertainment.

I learned a lot on this trip, like how to sleep with earplugs in, and also made fast friends with new folks like Todd the dentist and the three Manitoba amigos – some long-termers we met from Canada. I'm already looking forward to next year's trip!

[Editor's note: http://mds.mennonite.net/projects/diamond_la/ for more pictures and history of Diamond, LA projects]



The ***Menno Beacon*** is published at the whim of the editor (tries for at least four times per year or more). Any address corrections, additions, or deletions can be sent to: **Menno Mennonite Church – 1378 N. Damon Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169**, phone 509-659-0926. Web site: <http://menno.wa.us.mennonite.net>. If you wish to help with mailing costs of the ***Beacon***, donations can be sent to the above address. Matthew Yoder pastor, email: menno@centurytel.net, Sharon Meyer, publisher, and Bill Dyck, editor. You can contact Bill at: 509-677-3616 or email at: **billdyck70@yahoo.com** (**new email address**) or postal mail at: 379 W. Harder Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169. If you have something for the ***Beacon***, **the next Beacon news is due April 3, 2011.** Thanks to Gene Claassen, MDS, Diamond, LA, Butch Gering, Jullie Cain, Dan Dalke, Greg Reimer, and Michael Claassen for the pictures in this issue.

Greg & Nadia Reimer made one last trip during Christmas vacation! They accepted the invitation of Nadia's closest cousin and best childhood friend, Lucy, to spend Christmas vacation in Caracas, Venezuela, where Lucy resides with her family. It was a nice break which Nadia desperately needed after fighting snowy/icy roads every day during the months of November and most of December.



While in Caracas, we were very lucky to have a break in the weather and hit many highlights. During the first three days, we enjoyed everything from beach, city, and mountain to great food and great partying with family and friends. Then we flew from Caracas to Puerto Ordas, after which we hopped on a small jungle plane and flew further south to Canaima in the Venezuelan portion of the Amazon Jungle. The next day, we took an all day canoe trip on the rivers Carrao and Churun, interrupted by a portage through a savannah (when the rapids grew too wild), and a hike through the jungle—all the way to Angel Falls, the tallest free fall waterfall in the world. By **Greg Reimer**



Camp Camrec News

The **Quilting Retreat** is March 17-20. The **Women's Retreat** has been rescheduled for Nov 4-6, 2011, and the **WMF Annual Meeting** has been rescheduled for April 29-30, 2011.

The new camp dates are as follows:
Pre-Junior Camp (entering grades 1,2 &3) - Friday July 15th to Sunday July 17th; **Junior High Camp** (entering grades 7,8 & 9) - Sunday July 17th to Friday July 22nd; **Senior High Camp** (entering grades 10,11 & 12) - Sunday July 17th to Friday July 22nd; **Junior Camp** (entering grades 4,5 & 6) - Sunday July 24th to Thursday July 28th. For more information, please visit <http://camrec.org>

MID WEEK AT MENNO

More and more electronics take batteries to function. More and more of these are now rechargeable, with the hope one doesn't have to throw them away and start over from new each time they wear out. Our faith is similar to rechargeable batteries. We don't need to start over from new when we

wear down. It is a long time between Sundays and we need encouragement in this busy world we live in. Mid-week at Menno began in November and will conclude at the end of February. It is our chance to come together and share a meal, fellowship with other Christians, and study God's word. Meals are served until 6:30 at which time we break into different groups: Women's Bible study, Pastor Matthew led adult study and discussion, and children's activities. Each go their separate ways for the next hour to hour and a half following supper. The children have done some crafts that have appeared

on the foyer Christmas tree and throughout the church. Be sure to ask the kids what they have done on Wednesdays. Everyone is welcome to come and go on their schedule. It has been fun and challenging, but it has been worth the effort. On February 9, we had a surprise birthday party for Pastor Matthew, surprised him good. Thanks to all those who attend Mid-Week at Menno. By **Michael Claassen**



Menno Remembers...

Melvin Fred Kagele passed away peacefully December 29, 2010 following complications from leukemia.

He was born in Ruff, WA on November 12, 1930 to Fred & Amelia (Schmauder) Kagele. Melvin was raised in Ruff on the family farm and attended the Kagele School until 3rd grade. His family farmed at what is now known as Kagele Ville until 1945 when they moved to the current farm located 8 ½ miles west of Ritzville.



Melvin attended Ritzville High School and graduated in 1948. Upon graduation Melvin continued to farm until he was drafted into the Army in 1952 serving in the Korean Conflict as a company clerk. He was chosen for this position due to Fred's illness and dispatched later than the rest of his unit. Melvin was released from military duty in December of 1954 and discharged in 1960. He returned home to the family farm and 3 days later met his future wife, Erna Pein. Melvin & Erna were married September 12, 1954, at the Menno Mennonite Church. They settled on the family farm and welcomed 4 children.

Melvin served on the Washington State Farm Bureau, was a member of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, Fraternal Order of Eagles, C.J Newland Memorial American Legion Hall, Ritzville Rodeo Association, 4-H leader, life member of Menno Mennonite Church and most recently completed 27 years of service on the board of Big Bend Electric Cooperative where he served as President and State President.

Melvin upgraded his farming operation in 1975 by drilling a deep-well irrigation system. The children have many fond memories of end moving trimatics, changing wheel lines and moving mainline until circles were installed.

Melvin & Erna were ardent supporters of their children and grandchildren including sporting events, fairs, rodeos, parades, and FFA attending nationals in Louisville KY in 2005. They were strong supporters of all kids involved in activities and cheered everyone to victory. They were a familiar figure in every gym in every town.

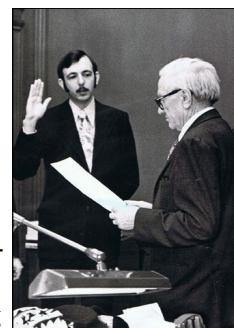
Melvin is survived by his wife of 56 years, Erna along with 4 children: Don Kagele, Connie Phillips, Bev Kulm (Darel) and Jullie Cain (Emmitt) as well as 7 grandchildren; Jill & Laura Cain, Ian & Shelby Youngren, Dusty Kulm, Kylie & Rory Phillips. Melvin was preceded in death by his parents, Fred & Amelia and by his brother, Jerry Kagele.

In lieu of flowers the family has chosen the following memorials: The Ronald W Baumann Scholarship c/o EACHF PO Box 365 Ritzville, WA 99169; Bronc Boosters, P O Box 111 Ritzville WA 99169, Lind FFA P O Box 340 Lind, WA 99341 or the charity of ones choice.

The family wished to thank Cancer Care Northwest, Columbia Basin Hospice, and the staff at the EARH in Ritzville for their care.

Funeral services were held at the Menno Mennonite Church on Saturday February 12, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. A private interment will be held at a later date.

Jerry Lee Kagele (age 65), passed away at Sacred Heart Hospital Hospice on November 4, 2010, after a short battle with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Jerry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kagele, grew up in Ritzville, Washington, and graduated from Ritzville High School in 1963. He was a lifetime member of the Ritzville Menno Mennnonite Church. In 1971, Jerry obtained his law degree from the University of Kansas Law School and later his Master of Laws Degree in International Law from Georgetown University. On November 8, 1972 he had the honor of being sworn in as an attorney by the Honorable United States Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. Jerry moved back to Ritzville in January 1973 and joined the firm of Miller and Sackmann. During these years he raised his two daughters, Leticia and Angela Kagele, on the farm. Relocating to Spokane, Washington, he established his own law firm Kagele Law Office and specialized in Immigration, Real Estate and Contract Law. For many years Jerry was an Adjunct Law Professor of International Law at Gonzaga University. Jerry was also a farm law columnist for the Washington Farmer-Stockman Magazine. In 1976 the President of Colombia, South America appointed Jerry as Colombian Consul General, a prestigious position he held thru the mid-nineties. Fluent in both Spanish and German, Jerry acquired other languages with ease. He was an avid international traveler and amazing chef. Dinner parties were always attended by an eclectic international group of friends and the cuisine he prepared often reflected the country he had most recently visited. Later Jerry studied the art of southern barbecue



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More MDS

Menno Church volunteers have gone to MDS projects for the last six years. Each of those volunteers comes home refreshed more spiritually, than physically, yes there can be the sore muscles. One only needs to listen as they tell their stories of working with each other and often times with total strangers. Of learning to do something new, something they have never done before.

Those going to Diamond this year from Menno were Gene Claassen, Michael Claassen, Jeanette Filan, Earl



Franz, Kim Frodel, Butch and Diane Gering, Ryan Kuch, Reed Meyer, Howard Reimer, and Matthew Yoder. Also going from the Seattle area were Jim Eby, Kevin Froese, Todd Haworth, Aro Johnson, Katie Miller, Terry and Debbie Miller, David Wegener, and Carl Westphal. There were thirteen full timers

there also, all from Canada. Phil and Kathleen Manekis from MI, were the project directors. It was noted that Gene Claassen and Ryan Kuch are the only ones that have gone six years in a row.

Diamond is located in Plaquemines Parish, south of New Orleans. Because Plaquemines Parish encompasses the first 70 miles of the Mississippi River it is host to several oil refineries.

Diamond sustained almost a direct hit by the eye of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. Most buildings were destroyed.

Because of the great displacement of the local population, many people are still doing the physical work of rebuilding their communities. MDS is repairing and rebuilding homes in the Plaquemines Parish as well as rebuilding homes of members of the Grand Bayou Community, a Native American community.

The MDS projects, in Diamond, started in November 2006. Volunteers have completed 133 jobs out of the 143 scheduled. There have been 2187 volunteers to date. Consider volunteering next year.

On March 6 at 4:30 pm, at Menno Church, most of the group will be presenting a slideshow and share some of their experiences.

Please RSVP to Gene or Diane if you plan on attending and eating with the group.





The family of Dan and Edna Dalke gathered to celebrate their parents' 68th wedding anniversary and Edna's 90th birthday. The two-day celebration at the Pleasant View Home facility included some catered meals plus a lot of home cooking. Serving as Chaplain at the Pleasant View Home for the past 10 years, pastor Dalke states that Edna is now the senior partner of their marriage until he again catches up with her in June. Sunday morning all gathered again in the Phase III Commons for worship and a farewell as all departed just prior to the winter storm that was approaching.

Someone, feeling spiritually unfed, wrote a letter to a newspaper, saying that after some 30 years of attending church, he couldn't remember one sermon. The letter writer said he'd probably wasted his time, and preachers were wasting theirs, as well.

A few days later, someone else wrote a rebuttal. This writer said he'd been married for 30 years but couldn't recall the entire menu of any one of the thousands of meals his wife had fixed. Yet he knew those meals were nourishing and gave him strength to do his work. He also said that without eating those meals, his body would have been long dead. Without going to worship, he added, he'd be spiritually dead, too.



On the first day of Lent, pastors in many churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.

God's people have used ashes as a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. In the Old Testament, ashes were used as a purification offering. The New Testament speaks of repenting in "sackcloth and ashes" (Luke 10:13, NRSV).

On Ash Wednesday, Christians are pained because our sins — private and public — led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing it leads to resurrection on Easter Sunday.



Church Leadership

At this year's Menno Mennonite Church's Annual Meeting, those elected to church positions were: Doug Claassen, Deacon (3 year term), Church Board secretary, Regan Bonato, (2 year term), Church Treasurer; Reed Meyer, (2 year term); Sunday School board member, Roger Jantz, (2 year term); Elementary Sunday School Superintendent, Diane Gering, (2 year term); Adult Sunday School Superintendent, Donna Hostick, (2 year term); Disaster service rep, Ryan Kuch, (2 year term); Special concerns, Sharla Dyck, (2 year term); C.E. committee, Gary Jantz, (3 year term); Maintenance committee, Michael Gering, (3 year term), and Jennifer Gering-Kuch, (2 year term); Music chairperson, Sharon Meyer, (3 year term); News correspondent, Sharla Dyck, (2 year term); and Usher, Don Kagele, (2 year term). An operating budget of \$123,700 was approved for the 2011 year.

Of Interest to the Menno Family

Monte Benzel, (age 54), passed away January 31, 2011 at his home in Ritzville. Monte

was born on February 17, 1956 in Spokane to Melvin and Joy Benzel. He was confirmed and baptized on March 22, 1970 at the Philadelphia Congregational Church in Ritzville, where he was a member. Monte graduated from Ritzville High School in 1974 and went on to attend Spokane Community College. Following college, Monte returned to Ritzville where he resided until his death. He did farm work for his father and worked part time at Marcellus Grange Fertilizer Supply. Later, Monte continued to work for various farmers in the community where he enjoyed driving combines and tractors. Monte shared his humor, contagious laughter and cheerfulness with all. His family and friends were a lifelong support and joy to Monte. He had many interests and loved motorcycle rides and snowmobile trips. He was an avid sports fan, enjoyed watching movies and followed politics. Monte's compassionate spirit was demonstrated by his sponsorship of children living in Brazil. Later in life, Monte was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy which eventually restricted him to an electric wheelchair. Monte fought his disease gallantly without complaint, never wanting sympathy and remained living by himself in his own home. He was comforted by his constant companion, a kitten named Fritz, and countless phone calls and visits from many friends and family. Monte was grateful for the assistance from Dr. Sackmann, Mary, family and friends. Monte was preceded in death by his father and mother, who are buried at Menno Cemetery. He is survived by his stepmother Toni Benzel, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Private services will be held for close friends and family on February 11. Memorial contributions can be made to American Diabetes Association , Muscular Dystrophy Association, or the memorial of your choice.

On January 12, 2011, at the age of 84, **Alma (Hintz/Sharp) Franz**, entered the gates of heaven, joining her heavenly father, and reunited with her deceased family and friends. She had suffered a stroke in 1998, which coupled with dementia, had steadily diminished her quality of life these past twelve years, but we are so very thankful for the time God shared her with us. She died peacefully surrounded by family at Summer Wood ASCC. Alma was born in Zap, North Dakota, on March 24th, 1926, second oldest of eight children. Her parents were Henry Hintz and Emma Marie Hart, siblings Viola (Robert) Ditty, Hillmer (Catherine/Sandra) Hintz, Helmut (Leona/Mertyle) Hintz, Rudolf (Shirley) Hintz, and Donald (Patricia) Hintz. When Alma was ten years old, the family moved to Nyssa, Oregon, in waiting for the Columbia Basin project development and farming opportunity in Washington. The family eventually moved to the Warde/Ruff, WA area, in 1952. Alma had left home and moved to Vancouver, WA, where she fell in love and married her first husband Hubert Sharp in 1945.

They briefly lived in several different states, where his painting contractor work took them, until finally settling in Sacramento, CA. The union produced three children, Deborah (Steve) Hoffman, Ronda (Brian/John) Galloway, and Gary Sharp. Hubert suffered a tragic accidental death, in 1965, at which time, Alma and her children relocated to Moses Lake, WA, to be closer to her family. Alma later married Herbert Franz, in 1969, and relocated to the farm at Ruff, WA. The union combined her three children along with his eight children, which included Sharon (Ben) Krockier, Ron (Sharon) Franz, Janet (Gary) Epp, Connie (Phil) Harmon, Tom (Karen/Tedeen) Franz, Virginia (Steve) Bjorklund, Rich (Lisa/Wendy) Franz, and James Franz. Alma held many different jobs

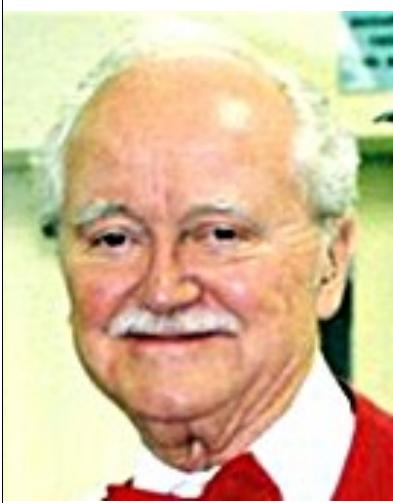
throughout her career, farming, waitress, homemaker, in home retail sales (Avon/Amway), and most recently, care giver for the elderly. Alma loved spending time with her church fellowship, family and grandkids. She was a very loving and caring person who will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands Hubert Sharp, and Herbert Franz, her daughter Ronda Galloway, two sisters, and four brothers. She is survived by all but one of her children, and over fifty grandchildren, who she loved all so dearly. She was truly a mother, grandmother and aunt who will be deeply missed and who's regal legacy will live forever, in our hearts and souls. Viewing 9am to 5pm Thursday Jan. 20 and Friday 9am to noon, Jan 21st. Burial service to be conducted at 2pm, on Friday, Jan. 21st, at Moses Lake cemetery, 14403 Rd 2 NE, Moses Lake. Memorial celebration of Alma's life to be held at 2pm, Jan. 22nd, at Moses Lake Assembly of God Church, 431 E. Brown Ave, Moses Lake.



Of Interest to the Menno Family

8, 1926 in Spokane, Washington and shortly thereafter moved to Ketchikan, Alaska. Bill graduated from Ketchikan High School in 1944. He served two years in the Army during the Korean Conflict. Bill received his BA and Masters from the University of Washington. He was a member of the Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity and remained an active member and ardent Husky supporter. Remaining in Seattle, he entered a career in Finance as a Loan Officer with Pacific First

William (Bill) Edward Young passed away peacefully on Friday November 26, 2010 of complications from Parkinson's. Bill was born on April



Federal Savings and Loan and then as Vice President for Washington Federal Savings and Loan. Bill married Georgia Callison and they had a daughter, Margaret (Margo) Lynne. Georgia passed away in 1960. Bill later married Shirley Shiels with daughter Karen Lee. While continuing his career in finance, Bill campaigned for a seat in the Legislature and was elected to the House of Representatives from the 43rd district for the 1963-1965 term. In 1965, Bill was selected to serve as State Supervisor of Savings and Loans and Credit Unions for the Dan Evans Administration 1965-1977. While serving in this capacity, he was appointed to the National Credit Union Board and served two terms. Bill was an accomplished photographer and was recognized several times with national awards. Shortly after Dan Evans left office, Bill and Shirley moved back to the Seattle area, residing in Bellevue where both worked in Real Estate for John L. Scott. Bill was a member of several civic groups, including the World Affairs Council, and he and Shirley were very active in their church. In 1995, he retired once again and moved back to the Olympia area where he stayed deeply involved in politics until his passing. Bill is survived by his wife of 50 years, Shirley; daughters Karen White, Margo (John) May; grandchildren Chad (Julia) White, Leah White, Georgia

May, Arron May; step-grandson Robert E. May; great grandchildren Caleb White, Kage White and step great grandson Connor May. A celebration of life was held at St. Johns Episcopal Church in Olympia on January 15, 2011 at 10:30. Donations in his honor can be made to the Parkinson's Foundation - 1501 NW 9th Ave., Miami, Florida 33136.

Shirley Martine (Tucker) Young passed away on January 7, 2011 of complications from Parkinson's. Shirley was born on June 7, 1928 in Seattle, Washington. She graduated from Broadway High School in 1946 and attended the University of Washington. Shirley married George Shiels, Jr. in 1948 and they had a daughter, Karen Lee and a son, Christopher Allen who passed away three months after his birth. George and Shirley divorced in 1958. Shirley worked for Lincoln Federal Savings and Loan. Shirley was very involved with Camp Fire Girls Organization as a third generation participant and leader. Additionally, she was involved in the Ryther Child Center, a charity group, and in Daughters of the American Revolution. Shirley married William E. Young with daughter Margaret (Margo) Lynne in August of 1960. They moved to Olympia in 1965 when Bill was appointed to State Supervisor of Savings and Loans and Credit Unions with the Dan Evans Administration. While raising her two daughters, Shirley immersed herself in her husband's career by putting on many social events and heading up a Capital tour group. Shirley was also very active in their church and served on the Altar Guild for many years. Shortly after Dan Evans left office, Bill and Shirley moved back to the Seattle area and resided in Bellevue where they both worked for John L. Scott Real Estate. In 1995, they retired once again and moved back to the Olympia area where they both stayed very active in politics, civic events and their church. Preceded in death by her husband Bill (November 26, 2010), her son Christopher, and her sister Phyllis Franz. Shirley is survived by her two daughters Karen White, Margo (John) May; grandchildren Chad (Julia) White, Leah White, Georgia

May, Arron May; step grandson Robert E. (Stephenie) May; great grandchildren Caleb White, Kage White and step great grandson Connor May. A joint Celebration of Life for Shirley and Bill was held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Olympia on January 15, 2011 at 10:30. Donations in her honor can be made to the Parkinson's Foundation - 1501 NW 9th Ave. Miami, FL 33136.



News & Notes:

Charlotte Hardt attended the winter meeting of the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board in Tampa, Florida January 7-9, 2011. The Board spent over five hours of the meeting over three days in listening, discernment and prayer before deciding to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to re-affirm the decision to meet in Phoenix, Arizona for the 2013. A decision was also made to use a process of discernment for the 2011 gathering in Pittsburgh this summer in the delegate sessions instead of using resolutions for decision making.

Earl Franz spent a week in Kansas after the MDS trip in Diamond, LA. He then visited Margie and attended his sister's, Edna Dalke, 90th birthday party in Inman, KS.

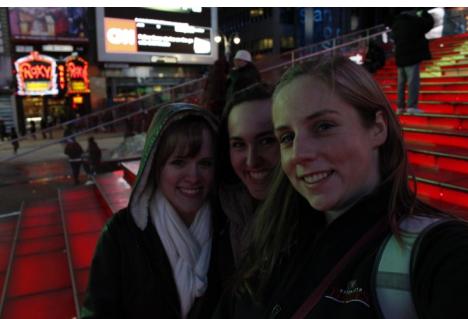
In January I was lucky enough to take a trip to Chile with class 32 of the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Leadership Program. The trip was a learning one and the specific purpose was threefold. The first was to provide exposure to the history and culture of another country. The second was to study the trade issues and the natural resource industries of Chile. The third was to provide exposure to economic and political systems that are different from those of the United States. I had a great trip and am very thankful for all that made it possible, including the AgForestry Foundation and all of its investors. I am especially thankful for my family who supported me and filled in the gaps while I was gone.

I was able to see a large and diverse amount of agriculture while in Chile. The climate is great for a wide variety of crops to be grown. I saw wine and table grapes, vegetables, tree fruit and forestry operations to name a few. I even saw a wheat farm! I am not sure if I gained much knowledge from visiting a wheat farm that receives 40" of annual rainfall other than my ancestors could have chosen a wetter climate! I look forward to presenting a slide show of the trip in March. Watch the bulletin for date and time.

By Derek Schafer



Over January, I went on a study abroad class sponsored by Whitworth University with 7 other students. For this trip, we went to New York City to study theatre. We had the chance to take workshops from a woman named Tracy who teaches acting classes at several universities in the area and has worked on choreography for many local shows as well. While there, I had the opportunity to see 4 Broadway musicals and several other Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway



shows. My absolute favorite show when I was there was *The Lion King*. A giant elephant character walked down the aisle right past me! The mask work involved in this show was also fantastic. Another favorite was seeing *Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark*. It had such spectacular aerial stunts in it and from where I was sitting, Spiderman and the Green Goblin flew right past me during a battle sequence! Our group also enjoyed sight-seeing and going places such as Ellis Island, The Statue of Liberty, Chinatown, and of course Times Square. By Michelle Slate



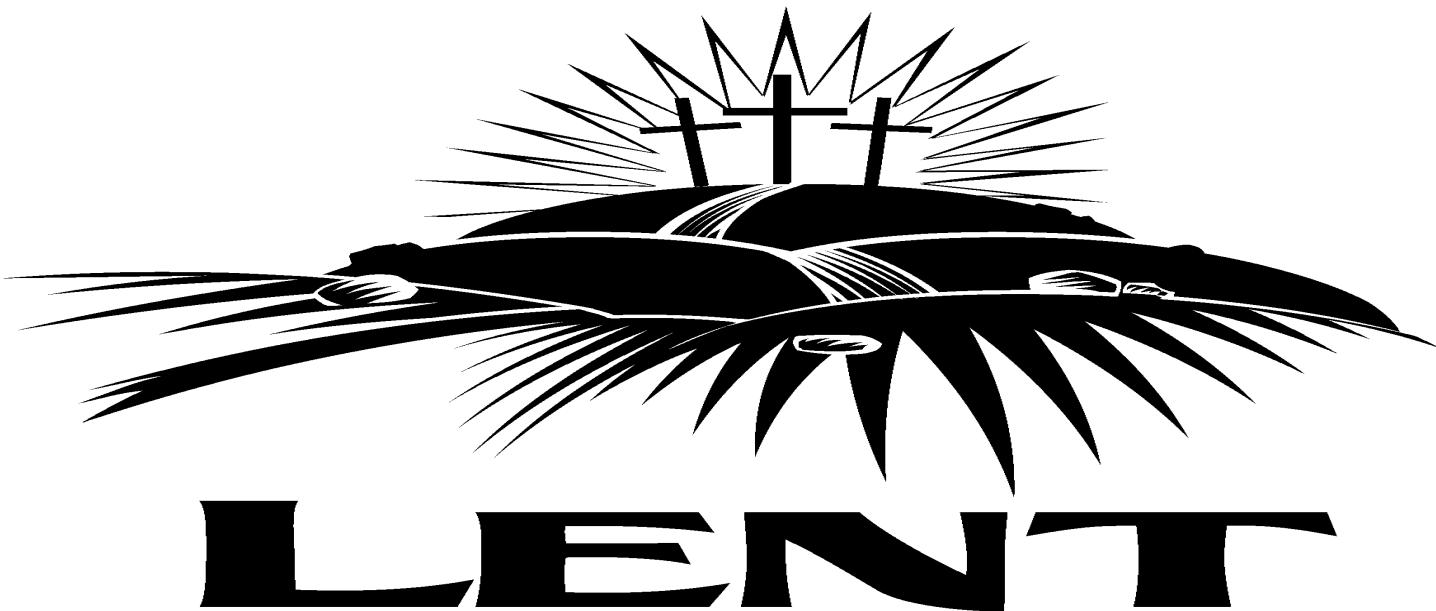
(Continued from page 4) and was invited to judge a national competition in Memphis. For many years Jerry was a tenor in the Spokane Chorale and a Trustee for the Spokane Symphony. During this time he maintained a close relationship with the late Symphony Conductor, Vakhtang Jordania. Jerry was an accomplished blacksmith, an art he shared with his daughters. The Spokane Symphony's conductor podium demonstrates his craftsmanship abilities. Jerry was nationally recognized for his artistic talent. In 2002 he received the Joe Humble Award for Newsletter Editor of the Year recognizing his work with the Hot Iron News. He also held the position of Secretary of the Artist Blacksmith's Association of North America. Jerry is survived by his daughters Angela Kagele, and her son Sawyer Gearin, and Leticia Kagele, and her husband Kiwoong Yun, his sister Shirley Gunning and brother Melvin Kagele. A private family memorial service was held.

The Menno Beacon

Menno Mennonite Church
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Ritzville, WA 99169

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Calender of Events

FEBRUARY	19	1:00 pm	Larry Bauer/Delma Cantu wedding at Menno Church
	23	8:45-1:00 pm	Volunteers staff Ritzville Food Bank
		6-7:30 pm	Midweek at Menno
	27	3-8 pm	Bethel related event in Spokane
MARCH	2	6:30-8:00 pm	Women's Book Study
	3	7:00 pm	Worship and Music Committee meeting at Menno
	6	4:30 pm	MDS Presentation & meal
	9		Ash Wednesday
	10	9-2 pm	Menno Women in Mission meet
	13		First Sunday in Lent
	16	6:30-8:00 pm	Women's Book Study
	17-20		Quilting Retreat at Camp Camrec
	20		Second Sunday in Lent / Baby Dedication
			Bethel College Choir at Menno Church
	25	7:00 pm	Western Mennonite School Choir at Warden Mennonite Church
	27		Third Sunday in Lent