

## Mennonite USA Convention Pittsburgh, PA

By Charlotte Hardt

Nearly 6500 people were in attendance at the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Pittsburgh, July 4 through 10th. Registrants included 2092 adults, 193 junior high youth and sponsors, 3596 youth and sponsors, 289 infants and children and 257 volunteers. Many other people throughout the church followed the proceedings through the Digital Delegate Network, which included both video and chat capabilities, to broaden the convention experience.

Attendees enjoyed a vibrant mix of delegate sessions, seminars, worship services, service opportunities and music. The delegates voted overwhelmingly to try the "Pittsburgh Experiment," which focused on discernment rather than debate of resolutions. Delegates were asked for input in the Purposeful Plan being developed to guide the denomination through the next several years.



Executive Staff Member Glen Guyton and Charlotte Hardt report to the Delegates on the planned priority "Intercultural Transformation"

Menno's Charlotte Hardt was elected to serve another four year term as a member of Mennonite Church USA's Executive Board. She participated in reporting on the work of the Racial Healing Task Group during the past biennium and helped present two seminars on the work and resources developed by the group.

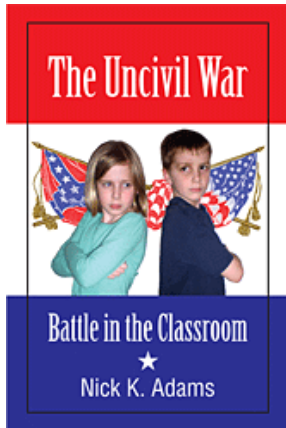
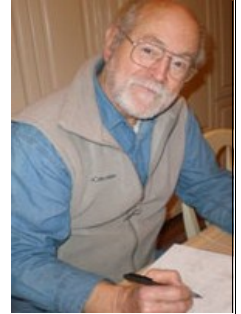
Forrest and Charlotte are staying in the Pittsburgh area for another week following convention to explore the area with RV friends.

**Editor's Note:** You can see slideshows of the days events and learn more about the Convention in Pittsburg on Mennonite USA website: [www.mennoniteusa.org](http://www.mennoniteusa.org)



Moderator Ed Diller, Moderator-elect Richard Thomas, Executive Staff member Glen Guyton and Charlotte Hardt answer Delegate questions about the Purposeful Plan

A couple of months ago, I finally read Nick Adams's book, *The Uncivil War, Battle in the Classroom*. I first told *Menno Beacon* readers of the book back in June 2010. Nick Adams, former Menno Church pastor of 1976 – 1980, and retired elementary school teacher, writes a story of the American Civil War fought from 1861 to 1865, but also about two kids named Morgan and Jeremy and the class assignment their teacher makes them do. Morgan and Jeremy have a hard time doing the assignment because they don't like each other and are paired together for the assignment. The assignment: to see if your family had any part in the American Civil War. For some of the kids, the assignment was easy, their families weren't even in America at that time. For others, they started asking their parents, who had to ask their parents. As Morgan and Jeremy learned about their family's history, they both found out they did indeed have a connection to the American Civil War. As they both heard the stories of their families, Morgan found out she had family from the South and Jeremy found out he had family from the North! As the rivalry between Morgan and Jeremy builds, they discover something, Morgan's great-great-great-grandfather Biff, being a Rebel soldier, and Jeremy's great-great-great-grandfather David, on his mother's side, being a Union soldier, fought in the same battle at the same time! They also learn the outcome of both their great-great-great-grandfather's. You need to read the book so that you learn the exciting ending for the great-great-great-grandfathers, as well as for Morgan and Jeremy. The book is fast reading for adults, (written for kids), is only 73 pages, and has some interesting America's history, what it was like to live back then, and some actual letters from that time period. I'm donating my copy to the Menno Church library and hope that parents will read this and encourage their kids to read the book.



Nick tells me via email that he is already writing another book. For more information and book ordering, go to Nick's website at: [www.PoppaNick.com](http://www.PoppaNick.com)

By Bill Dyck

The first annual Menno skate was enjoyed by over twenty-five people. About ten people actually skated! The weather was great and the no-skaters had a large shade tree to gather under to visit. The youngest skater was Asher Yoder and the oldest was Pastor Matthew.



Pastor Matthew & Asher Yoder



Spencer Gering



Devin Schafer

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: [Matthewpsyoder@mennonite.net](mailto:Matthewpsyoder@mennonite.net), [menno@centurytel.net](mailto:menno@centurytel.net), Sharon Meyer, publisher, and Bill Dyck, editor. You can contact Bill at: 509-677-3616 or email at: [billdyck70@yahoo.com](mailto:billdyck70@yahoo.com) or postal mail at: 379 W. Harder Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169. If you have something for the *Beacon*, **the next Beacon news is due Sept 4, 2011.** Thanks to Terry Miller, Susan Majors, Barb Franz, Forrest Hardt, Michael Claassen, Patrick Clark, Colleen Kagele, & Matthew Yoder for the pictures in this issue.



## Menno Church Retreat at Camp Camrec

Menno Church spent time at Camp Camrec May 13-15. Many families arrived Friday afternoon and evening, with Saturday being a time of free time of hiking, walking, playing in the meadow, playing games of cards, Wii, Kinect, visiting, reading, and just enjoying Camrec and all that it offers. Friday night it rained, but on Saturday the sun came out and was a nice day to be outside and play! Sunday was a time of worship in the Chapel in the morning, with cleanup and a final noon meal, before leaving for home.. Pastor Matthew and Asher had a father/son weekend! Delicious meals were planned by Linda Reimer.



Pastor Matthew reading scripture during the worship service, with Asher !



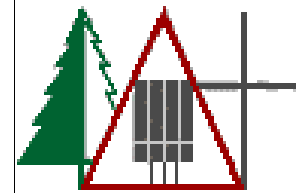
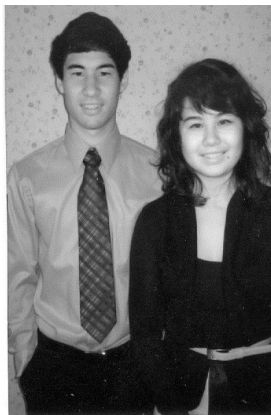
## Graduates

Miranda Filan graduated from WSU Pullman in December, 2010 with her BS in Biology with an Ecology and Evolutionary Science option. She also became a certified rescue and an advanced open water scuba diver as part of an tropical ecology internship on the island of Bonaire. After graduation she accepted a 5 month internship on Oahu at Sea Life Park where she learned basic marine mammal husbandry, dolphin training and interactive show techniques. She has now returned to the Tri-Cities and is working with the Mission Support Alliance group doing Ecological Surveillance and Wildlife Monitoring on the Hanford site. Miranda is the daughter of Damon and Jeanette (Franz) Filan.



Mark Claassen graduated from Central Washington University with a Masters Degree in Music Conducting on June 11. Mark is the son of Cleon and Elizabeth Claassen of Moses Lake. Mark will be teaching music at a school in Tacoma, WA.

Audrey and Austen Majors, (formerly of Ritzville), graduated from Effingham High School, Effingham, IL, on May 29, 2011. They are the daughter and son of Susan Majors and Allen Majors.



### Summer Camps at Camp Camrec

Theme: *"Taste & See: God is Good"*

July 15-17 Pre-Junior Camp  
Entering grades 1,2,& 3

Director: Kate Yoder

Camp Pastor: Jeanne Rempel

July 17-22 Junior & Senior High  
Entering grades 7,8,9,10,11,& 12

Director: Ben Climer

Camp Pastor: Sarah Klaassen

July 24 -28 Junior Camp

Entering grades 4,5, & 6

Director: Melanie Neufeld

Camp Pastor: Matthew Yoder

Website: <http://camrec.org>  
(check website for complete camp listings & registration forms)

On April 28, 2011, the White House issued a press release stating that I was a recipient of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching! I was thrilled and honored, but my greatest joy came in reflecting on how good God is and on the journey that brought me to that moment.

Several years earlier, I attempted National Board certification and failed. This was a rigorous and extremely involved process. Needing a score of 275 points, I received 251 points. Thinking that there must be some mistake, I banked portions of my composite score and redid portions of the lengthy portfolio the following year. I received 274 points. I was embarrassed and discouraged. I lost confidence in myself and walked away from the certification process.

During the difficult time that followed, God led me to a scripture verse that I clung to. Hosea 2:14 says, "Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her." I asked God to speak tenderly to me and help me learn what He wanted me to learn from this failure. Over the course of the next several years, God was faithful to lead me and reveal to me that I had too much of my esteem wrapped up in my job rather than in Him. He humbled my heart, and exposed my sin. He revealed Himself as He led me into an intimate and satisfying relationship with Him. I also went back and certified during this time.

As if it wasn't enough that the God of all creation would lead me personally and speak tenderly to me, He gave me abundantly more. Just a few days before the April 28<sup>th</sup> announcement, God led me to Hosea 2:15, the verse following 2:14 that I had clung to for so long and been completely satisfied with. Hosea 2:15 reads, "There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor (trouble) a door of hope. There she will sing as in her youth..."

On Wednesday, May 18, 2011, at the Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center in Washington DC, I was thrilled to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. On Friday, May 20, 2011, in the East Room of the White House, I shook hands with President Obama as he congratulated me on the award. I am singing these days – praising God for His abundant love and mercy. All glory be to Him!! By Barb Franz



**Kevin Froese** has been busy with the **Ramona MDS site**. While a number of people have volunteered from near and far (Canada) to help with the building of the house, there is more to do. Finishing work continues on the house, with the wiring, plumbing, dry-walling done. Kevin hopes to have the house completed by the end of July.

He would like to be able to buy a few furnishings for the house, but needs extra money to do this. If you can help either physically or financially to this project, contact Kevin at 360-460-0406 or Terry Miller at 206-551-9660.





# Trip of A Life Time

By Colleen Kagele

The Trip of a Life Time is how to describe our trip to Europe. It all started with Dennis' idea of attending our oldest grandson's high school graduation in the Netherlands. It ended up blossoming into over a month touring Europe.

Dennis' oldest son Jim, wife Kelley & 4 children live in Hoensbroek, Netherlands. Part of the trip was spent with them enjoying grandchildren & some of the Netherlands, the other was with my oldest daughter Nicole & her husband Jason in Belgium and other parts of Europe.

Our first day was spent resting after 19 hours of flying. The next day we set out for Garmisch Germany in the German Alps. We went to the top of the Zugspitze (the highest point in Germany) on a cog wheel train part way & gondola tram the rest. We have pictures of Germany & Austria. We hiked "The Gorge" which is a glacial stream flowing through a living rock canyon with the trail cut into the rock. We saw 2 wonderful castles, Linderhof & Neuweinstein? Built by the same young king. Three days in Germany and I can't remember everything, but loved wienerschnitzel. Also the beginning of a love affair with Gelato.

Back to the Netherlands for a few days with grandchildren. Saw 3 Points where Germany, Netherlands, & Belgium meet. More Gelato. Went to a huge antique flea market in Tongren. Of course we found some silverware that will soon be jewelry. Had great time saying "It's a good thing we're downsizing". Also went to Maastricht, Aachen, & Valkenberg.

Back to Nicole's for trips to Monet Gardens & Paris, France. Got to do my dream of having a glass of champagne on the top of the Eiffel Tower. A cruise on Seine River and the most wonderful thunder & lightning storm I have ever seen. Of course we got drenched. Brugges, Belgium one of the most beautiful little cities I have ever seen. And I can't tell you how many fabulous churches we saw. They really know how to build churches in Europe. And Gelato every day. Actually we went so many places I am going to have to go through Nicole's albums on Facebook to remember where we went.

Then the highlight (besides graduation) of the trip, eight days in Italy. We flew to Pisa, rented a car & stayed at Camp Darby Army Base. It was our base of operations. We went to the Leaning Tower of Pisa. AMAZING.

We did not climb it, but how cool that it is even standing. Next was Florence or Firenze (Italian) & The David. That was the only day it rained all day & rained hard. Still it was warm & Florence is gorgeous. More Gelato & some of the greatest food I have ever eaten. Then I can't tell you the order but we saw Rome (Dennis missed his appointment with the Pope, ask about the story on this one), Cinque Terre (five cities built into the cliffs on the ocean AWESOME), Vinci (where Leonardo Da Vinci was born), Lucca, Siena, San Magiano. More Gelato. We saw lots of churches, piazzas, cobble stone streets too narrow to drive on, but they still do and ate lots of the best food on earth.

Then back to the Netherlands, grandkids & graduation. All around we had a great time. A couple of small mishaps, but lots of great stories. I love to travel, but I have found I am an American through & through. I was really glad to get home. Thank you all for the prayers for safety I know you saying for us. We are looking forward to getting to share with you all the fun times we had.



San Gimignano



Trevi Fountain

## Of Interest to the Menno Family

Naomi V. Clark died at her home April 16, 2011, at the age of 96. Born to Issac and Nola Parker March 10, 1915 in Spokane, she was a greater Spokane area resident throughout her life. She spent her childhood and high school years with the Walter Pinkham family on Half Moon Prairie, graduating from Deer Park High School in 1934. During her working career she was a secretary, finishing with a 20-year commitment to United Buckingham Freight Lines and its successors.

The family enjoyed many years at Deer Lake where they owned property and once operated "Clark's Lakeside Inn", a familiar family restaurant noted for Naomi's homemade pies. For four years Naomi and family lived in a remote mining camp in Montana where her late husband was project manager and she ran the crew boarding kitchen. She embraced the rugged challenges with true pioneer spirit and frequently reminisced with fondness about both the difficulties and the beauty of the isolated setting.

In later years Naomi was active in the YWCA Ambassadors Program, the Spokane Garden Club, and a variety of volunteer activities. She was a long-time member of Northwood Presbyterian Church. Naomi was preceded in death by her husband Arlie (Pat) Clark, and in later years her friend and traveling companion Joe Jantz of Ritzville. She is survived by son Ted Clark (Spokane) and his partner Gene Otto, and grandson Patrick Clark (Ritzville) and Mary Lira.

A Memorial Service will be scheduled at Northwood Presbyterian Church at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions could be made to the YWCA, The Salvation Army Camp Gifford Fund (Deer Lake), or Northwood Presbyterian Church.



On the evening of Sunday May 22, the **Rock Creek Quartet** and Special Guest Singers, presented a program of music at Menno Church. The Rock Creek Quartet consists of four women from the



Schoonover Hutterite Colony, Ritzville, WA. They sang eleven songs throughout the evening along with

their special guests, a youth choir, a family group, a mixed girls choir, and the Walter boys duet. All the music was done a cappella, except for the boys duet which included a guitar. A time of visiting afterwards was shared by everyone, getting to know

each other. An offering was taken for the Quartet to help with the travel expenses for them to go to a Anabaptist Conference in Chambersberg, Pa. Bill Dyck recorded and produced a CD of the program for the girls, which they were excited about (they hadn't heard themselves sing before)!





## News & Notes:

After the devastation of Katrina hit New Orleans an organization called Churches Supporting Churches tried to pair up churches in New Orleans with churches around the country. Menno Church answered this call and partnered with the Mount Nebo Bible Baptist Church pastored by Charles Duplessis and his wife Thirawer. Several Menno Church members have visited the Mount Nebo Church and Charles and Thirawer have visited Menno. The Menno Women in Mission want to make a wall hanging to send to them in recognition of this partnership. We would like the participation of the Menno church family in this project. If you want to help or have questions contact Elizabeth Claassen at 765-9475, or [eclaassen@smwireless.net](mailto:eclaassen@smwireless.net).

Alyssa Hodgson and Douglas Branca repeated wedding vows on June 4 in a lovely outdoor setting near their home in the Bothell/Mill Creek area north of Seattle. They were blessed with the first sunny and warm day of the season and shared their day with a small gathering of family and friends. Alyssa designed and sewed her beautiful gown. Alyssa is a daughter of JC and Roberta Hodgson and granddaughter of Minnie Franz.

Laura Hodgson and Bryan Munro exchanged wedding vows on July 2 near Lake Union in Seattle, celebrating their beautiful day with family and friends. Laura's personal touch was making the wedding cakes. Laura and Bryan live near Green Lake in the Seattle area. Laura is also a daughter of JC and Roberta Hodgson and the granddaughter of Minnie

**The Mennonite Country Auction** is fast approaching. If you have auction item or quilts to be auctioned, let Cleon Claassen know so that the items can be put on the website, it's not too early! Cleon's email [cclaassen@smwireless.net](mailto:cclaassen@smwireless.net) or 509-765-9475.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Pastor Matthew, Shawna, and Asher on the birth of their son and brother, Orin Gray, on June 6,

2011. He arrived at 11:56 a.m., weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19½ inches long!

Proud grandparents are Deb and Dwight Stutzman and Twila and Steve Yoder.



The Lind Fine Arts Center (aka the former Rodeo Grounds) featuring the Combine Demolition, was part of Earl's 84th weekend Birthday celebration. Daughters Yvonne from TX., Gail & Jeanette & five grandchildren joined him. Also attending were several of his Dalke relatives from Vancouver & KS, & other friends & relatives from Whitman County.

Sharla & Bill Dyck, with son David (on vacation from Balad, Iraq), Sally Dyck & Ken Ehrman, Marge & Al Dyck travelled to Kellogg, ID to celebrate Marge & Al's 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary and to have some family time together. One day they (except for Marge & Al) travelled to Lookout Pass, ID and biked the Hiawatha Trail, all 15 miles!



## Remember In Prayer

Continue to keep the Warden Mennonite Church in your prayers. The congregation has gone through a series of meetings with Larry Hauder and Duncan Smith, to help the group deal with the options before them. They will be having more meetings in August to come to a decision what happens to the Warden Mennonite Church.

Brad, Lici, Mateo, and Elijah Roth will be leaving Warden Mennonite Church at the end of July, to serve in Peru with Eastern Mennonite Missions. You can help the Roth's with your contributions. Contributions can be sent to Eastern Mennonite Missions, PO Box 458, Salunga, PA 17538.

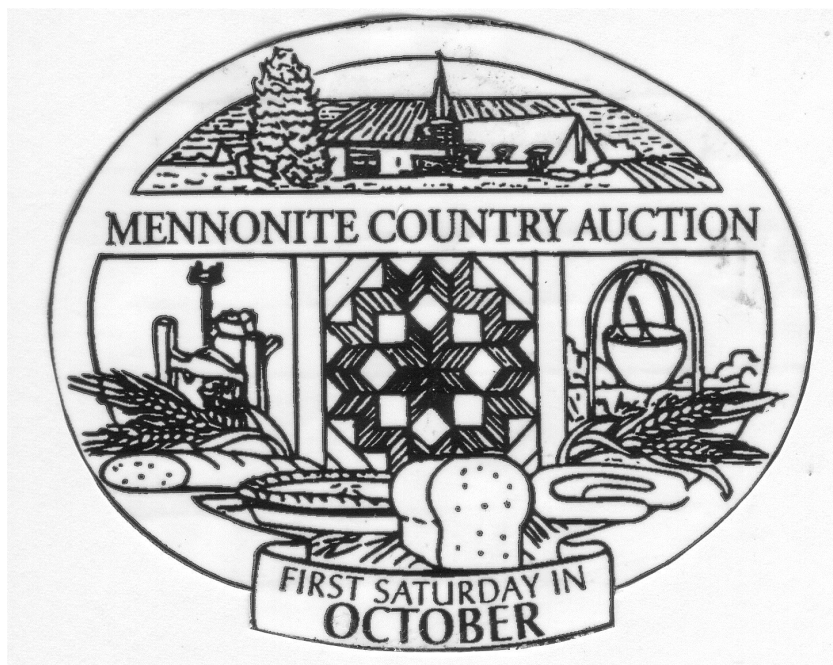


On June 18, Stan and Sharon Meyer attended the 50 year reunion of the Odessa High School graduating class of 1961. Fifteen members of Sharon's class of 26 gathered for a time of meaningful reminiscing before attending the alumni banquet. Also attending were Ben and Sharon (Franz) Kroeker, Seattle, who were overnight guests of the Meyers. The Kroekers renewed acquaintances at Menno Church on Sunday as well as during the First Annual MennoSkate at McCosh Park.

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Website:  
[www.mennonitecountryauction.net](http://www.mennonitecountryauction.net)

### Calender of Events

July 15-17		Pre-Junior Camp at Camp Camrec
17-22		Junior & Senior High Camp at Camp Camrec
24-28		Junior Camp at Camp Camrec
24	12:30	Farewell for the Roth's at Warden Mennonite Church (after church)
September 8	9-2 7:00pm	Menno Women in Mission Church Board
October 1		Mennonite Country Auction & Relief Sale
2		MCA Sunday
8		Fall Fest at Bethel College, N. Newton, KS
13	9-2	Menno Women in Mission
November 4-6		Women's Retreat at Camp Camrec Menno hosting