



# New York Mennonite Conference

An area conference of Mennonite Church USA

# LIFE

## In New York Mennonite Conference

### New MCC East Coast Board Representative

*Sue Klassen*



Dovanna Zehr

“I’d really like a young person to take this position,” Sherry Mast said to me as we walked the wooded paths at Celebration. Sherry served as NYMC’s representative on the Mennonite Central Committee East Coast Board until she and LeRoy moved to Indiana this fall.

But how many young people could bring the passion, experience and availability this position requires? MCC East Coast Board sets policy, direction, programs, and budgets for the work of MCC East Coast. Board members need to travel to semi-annual meetings, keep current on the work of MCC worldwide, find and connect with shoulder-tappers in each congregation, and link effectively with their constituency.

Sherry’s hopes were answered when we talked with Dovanna Zehr in the Lakeside Chapel at Celebration the next day.

Through MCC’s SALT program, Dovanna served for two years at Talita Cumi Children’s Home in Santa Cruz, Bolivia

(Aug. 2006 to July 2008). Dovanna is currently serving on the advisory board for Talita Cumi. Her experience with MCC and her heart for its work have clearly prepared her to serve in this position.

Dovanna is a member of Lowville Mennonite Church, and daughter of Joe and Malinda Zehr.

Dovanna wrote recently in an email, “If there are people interested in supporting Talita Cumi financially they can follow the instructions on the website (<http://www.talitacumi.org/index.html>) or contact me directly. Sponsorship has dropped off and hardships have increased due to the economy, current unrest and political strain.”

Dovanna also encouraged people to contact her if they are interested in the SALT program—“Serving And Learning Together.” (<http://mcc.org/salt/>) Contact information: [dovanna@gmail.com](mailto:dovanna@gmail.com) Home: (315) 376-7853 Cell: (315) 777-6517

Coordinating Council appointed Dovanna to this position in October 2008. She will report to the Congregational Resourcing Commission.

Thank you for your willingness to serve, Dovanna!

### Oversight Coverage Changes

Because LeRoy Mast is no longer with us, the Leadership Commission has nominated and the Coordinating Council has approved the following interim overseer coverage: Terry Zehr is serving on an interim basis for Lowville, New Breman and Pine Grove, Ken Landis as interim overseer for Watertown, and Gene Miller as interim overseer for Alden, Clarence Center Akron and Harris Hill.

Gene Miller is assisting congregations in an active pastoral search process and has also been asked to be the contact person with MC USA to access the list of available pastors in the denominational database.

### Church Leadership Scholarships

*Phil Martin*

NYMC Leadership Education Fund provides scholarships to help with education costs for current and future leaders of NYMC. Contact the Leadership Commission if you would like more information: Gene Miller, Chairperson, 585-593-1178 or [gene@yorkscorners.org](mailto:gene@yorkscorners.org).

Far left: 31 children, ranging in age from pre-school to teenagers, live at Talita Cumi. Most will remain there until they reach adulthood.

Left: The Talita Cumi Team (Dovanna Zehr is in front row)



## November 2008

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## What We're Reading

### *Sue Klassen*

What are people in NYMC reading these days?

In September, NYMC folks bought 59 items totaling \$641.35 at NYMC events. Here's what we bought—and at least intend to read:

*Power of Enough*  
*Dancing Through Thistles in Bare Feet*  
*On the Way With Jesus*  
*All Right Now*  
*Bouquets: Intentional Relationships*  
*I am Not a Social Activist*  
*Lost Sons*  
*Proclamation by Design*  
*States of Exile*

### Novels:

*Fugitive: Menno Simmons*  
*Emerald Angel*  
*Emma*

### Cookbooks:

*Simply in Season*  
*Extending the Table*  
*More With Less*

### Music:

*Sing the Story*  
*Sing the Story Accompaniment Book*  
*Sing the Story CD*  
*Sing the Story 2 CD*  
*With Heart and Hands*

### Devotional Periodicals and Books:

*Purpose*  
*Rejoice*  
*Springs of Living Water*

### Children's Books:

*Sleep in Peace*  
*Bully Bill*  
*Family Song*

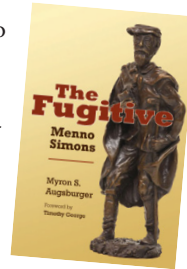
### Other Resources:

*Leader*  
*My Bible Reading Chart*  
*Close to Home pamphlets: Dealing with Alcoholism, Extreme Anxiety, Depression, Eating Disorders, Marital Discord, Pornography, and Spouse Abuse*

If you're thinking of life-giving Christmas gifts or gifts for your church library, and want to learn more about one of the above, contact me ([sueklassen@gmail.com](mailto:sueklassen@gmail.com) or 585-265-4313). I'll try to connect you with someone who has the resource in which you are interested. Read more about three of these at right, or visit [www.mpn.net](http://www.mpn.net).

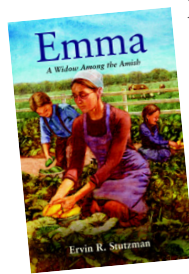
### The Fugitive: Menno Simons

It's 1544, and Menno Simons, a leader in the new—and persecuted—free church movement, is on the run from authorities in the Netherlands. With a price on his head, he stops to catch his breath and prays, "Lord, what do I do now?" Myron Augsburger's historical novel recalls Menno's life—from Catholic priest to radical reformer to hunted fugitive.



### Emma: A Widow Among the Amish

A true story woven by strands of faith, family, and community. Ervin R. Stutzman tells the story of his mother, Emma, who raised six children after the sudden death of her husband, Tobias. In the aftermath of the tragedy, Emma copes with her entrepreneurial husband's significant business failures. Ervin R. Stutzman, author of the highly commended Tobias of the Amish, now turns to his mother and rediscovers the strength of a woman whose early married life was defined by stress and tragedy.



### Emerald Angel

A mysterious path through an orchard in the Emerald Valley of British Columbia, Canada, attracts the attention of young Ava, who knows that her grandmother's house is at the end of that trail. Why do so many local people visit Ava's grandmother with their troubles and problems? As Ava watches, her grandmother blesses the visitors with her extraordinary gifts of compassion, empathy and, most of all, listening.

In an age before many people relied on professional counseling, emotional caregivers came from the community. Ava's grandmother is such a caregiver, gifted with unusual insight—and said to have seen an angel.



## MCUSA Convention 2009

Don't miss the opportunity to register early for the Mennonite Church USA convention. It's close this year—in Columbus Ohio. Mark the dates on your calendar: June 30-July 5.

Online registration begins December 1. Go to <http://www.mennoniteusa.org> and click on "Convention 2009" in the sidebar.

## Congregational News

Elim Bible Institute in Lima has selected **Clarence Center-Akron Mennonite** to benefit from a student ministry team during morning worship services. Many requests for help mean that the team's opportunities are limited; Elim students will be at Clarence Center October 19, November 2, November 16, and December 7.

Nancy Heisey, president of Mennonite World Conference, spoke at both **Pine Grove** and **Lowville Mennonite Churches** on September 14. Her visit was to help the Mennonites of Lewis County celebrate their 175th anniversary.

On September 21 celebrations continued at Croghan Mennonite with a 50-year reunion of the Kingdom Singers, a youth chorus directed by Ruth Ann Boshart Rogie. Oct. 19 saw Nathan Yoder (professor of church history at Eastern Mennonite Seminary) speaking at **Lowville** and **New Bremen**. On the 25th John D. Roth (history professor at Goshen College) spoke at Croghan before leading a combined worship service the next morning at Beaver River Central School auditorium.

### Leadership Seminar

Feb. 6-8, 2009, New Bremen

John D. Roth (history professor at Goshen College) will speak on *Boundaries and Bridges: Can We Be Both Mennonite and Missional?*

NYMC's Leadership Seminar is for all pastors, leaders and potential leaders in NYMC. Watch for more info next month!

## Save the Dates:

Leadership Seminar  
Feb. 6-8, 2009, New Bremen

Delegate Assembly  
April 4, 2009, Seneca Falls