



# Swiss Heritage Society Messenger

Volume 10 — Number 1

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Berne, Indiana 46711



## 25th Anniversary



## Twenty-five years and counting...

Twenty-five years ago the work of the Swiss Heritage Society began with the goal to save the Baumgartner Mennonite Church, the oldest standing Mennonite Church in Indiana. Because of the sustained support of countless individuals, the authentic history of this area continues to be preserved and shared. This anniversary year is an appropriate time to look back at the accomplishments of the Swiss Heritage Society. It is also an opportune time to look forward. To that

end, there is a need to consider the importance and value of completing work in the indoor museum of the Village.

Back in 2000, the Swiss Heritage Society purchased the former Berne Cheese Factory with the plan to convert it into a museum. Within eight years, the mortgage was paid in full. The next major undertaking is to heat and cool the building. Many of the items in the museum have survived decades, if not a century, in attics and other forgotten spaces. There is

little doubt that these items could remain for many more years in the same conditions. However, our goal is to preserve these treasured items, not just for the next decade, but decades to come. Seeing the photographs, reading the letters, and holding the items made and used by our ancestors remind us of both the costs and rewards of the religious freedom and personal liberty sought by those who came before us. The values that sustained our community in hard times and made good

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## Kaufman found home at Swiss Heritage Village

By JIM LANGHAM

Berne resident Evelyn Kauffman will never forget the day that Madelyn Wurster asked to meet with a select group of interested residents about the possibility of Swiss Heritage Village.

That meeting, says Kauffman these days, was the beginning of something great, and she is extremely happy to have been a part of it.

"I remember, we met at the Berne Park Pavilion to talk that day," said Kauffman. "What a wonderful, wonderful thing Madelyn did by getting this thing going."

Kauffman remembers working with the likes of Ruth Gottschalk, and Frances

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*Evelyn Kauffman with the first quilt that depicts the Baumgartner Church that was auctioned at the Village Gathering. Evelyn purchased the quilt and then donated it back to Swiss Heritage.*

## Wurster and Lehman honored

By JIM LANGHAM

Last winter, at Berne's annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet, Madelyn Wurster, credited for spearheading the early beginnings of Swiss Heritage Village, and executive director Gretchen Lehman were honored with the Chamber's prestigious, "Lifetime Achievement Award."

Wurster's dream for Swiss Heritage Village began when she looked over an old tool shed that had once been the worship house of the Baumgartner Mennonite Church. As she meditated on the building, her heart melted as she

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# Work Day Frolic

Swiss Heritage Village and Museum has opened its doors to the public every May for twenty-five years, but not before "spring house cleaning."

Gretchen Lehman, Director, makes long "things to be done" lists, gathers all the needed supplies to make it happen, and assigns volunteers to specific jobs or buildings.

April 24 from 9 to 12 noon was the first of two Saturdays this year. Many arrived



Madelyn Wurster & Tammy Steiner hanging historic pictures to honor 25 years.

early, performed their task and left before noon. Berne Cub Scouts and parents; Berne Boy Scout Troup #67; families and individuals from the Mennonite Church; community individuals; home school groups; one young man all the way from Concordia High School in Ft. Wayne, and men from Adams County Work Release were among those who volunteered.

Armed with mops, brooms, soap and water, rags, tools, paint and ladders, dust flew, spider webs disappeared, windows brightened and clean curtains were hung in appropriate buildings. Some worked with artifacts while others primed and painted museum walls. The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts found themselves in the woods picking up limbs and sticks off the trails and pulling garlic mustard weeds.



Brent & Chris Hyman along with Camdon, Conner and Cole help Sue Schaffter in cleaning the cheese house.

Flower boxes, signs and the saw mill also received needed attention. Even the locks on the buildings received lubrication.

All the while, Rosie Puterbaugh and her crew were working in the kitchen and when the school bell rang at twelve noon, eighty hungry volunteers headed for the indoor museum for a delicious lunch along with some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

Gretchen and the Swiss Heritage Village board members were overwhelmed with the response from the community. They couldn't have done it without YOU!

## Irish basketball team visits Berne



The Killester Basketball Club from Dublin, Ireland

On April 1st Swiss Heritage Village welcomed and led a tour for 22 people from Dublin Ireland. The visiting group was from the Killester Basketball Club in Dublin where local residents Randy and Carolyn Fudge serve as missionaries. Randy is the coach for this under-15 aged girls basketball team. "The girls had a wonderful time and couldn't believe how friendly and nice everyone was in Berne."

"Bright sunshine and great staff helped to make the tour enjoyable", said Carolyn. The spring weather provided the perfect opportunity to stroll through the Village's woods. A highlight for the girls was the bird sanctuary. Several commented on the different birds and how beautiful and peaceful they were.

Through touring the buildings, the story of this area's early Swiss immigrants was told. For some of the adults, the one room school house seemed to be a reminder of their early education in Ireland. Malachy Mathews commented, "This brings back many memories of going to school for me. It was a great time in my life." In the Luginbill House, Aoife said, "I loved the rocking chairs and antique cooker." Catrionna commented, "I just can't imagine living back then without electricity and running water." Eamear said, "Sleeping on a feather bed might have been a bit scratchy." In the Baumgartner Church, Hannah noted that "It was weird that men and women could not sit with each other in church." Perhaps the best comment was made by Erin who said, "I will miss Berne. I would like living here."

Carolyn Fudge said that, "Elaine Bluhm and Gretchen Lehman both did a wonderful job of presenting life for the early Swiss settlers. We thank them for taking time to do this tour at Swiss Heritage Village as it was not even officially open. It was a great start to the week for the Irish and will not soon be forgotten."

The Irish girls and their chaperones enjoyed their stay so much that they decided to surprise Randy and Carolyn by having a legacy brick printed in their honor as a "thank you."



## Acclaimed Hoosier photographer to give presentation

John Bower, award winning Indiana photographer, will present "Capturing the Soul of Indiana—A Celebration of Our Overlooked Cultural Heritage" on June 26th at 7:00pm in the Switzer Barn at Swiss Heritage Village.

This audio-visual presentation will take viewers to remnants of Indiana's rapidly disappearing past. John and his wife, Lynn, have traveled over 75,000 miles and have visited every city and town on the Indiana Highway Map (2,099 localities in all). During their journeys they have created visual time capsules of long deserted places. See forlorn houses, farms, towns, and vehicles. Marvel at the artistry of tombstones and other monuments. View towering grain elevators and feed mills that were once the life-blood of their communities. Go inside closed up storefronts and inaccessible attics and other unexpected places to discover rarely viewed treasures. Along the way, John will share the captivating stories behind each haunting image.

After the presentation, John will be available to answer questions and sign copies of his photographic books, including his newest volume, *Journey's End: Relics and Ruins of Indiana's Transportation Legacy*. In this book, John showcases rusting steam locomotives, diesel engines, automobiles, trucks, interurban, and tow boats, as well as crumbling infrastructures, factories, and garages.

This presentation is free to the public. The Village thanks Bill's Photography of Geneva, Timeless Photography of Berne, and Sacred Images by Mandi of Decatur for underwriting this event.

## Twenty-five years and counting

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times possible become tangible realities to be experienced and shared.

Raising money to improve the museum is not an insurmountable goal when compared to the things the Swiss Heritage Society has already accomplished through its members and supporters. These donors and volunteers have provided the vision, capital, and sweat equity to restore a tool shed back to its original purpose as a place of worship, the ingenuity to move a 90 ton bank barn, and the tenacity to relocate a brick schoolhouse, to name a few. When placed in this context, the addition of modern heating and cooling to the museum building seems far from daunting.

Like the majority of the projects undertaken by the Swiss Heritage Society, this goal will not be accomplished through any governmental grant or single donor check. Private business donations, individuals writing small and large checks, and the careful management of our funds have enabled the Village to grow over the past 25 years and to have hope for the next 25 to come. This project will be no different. Heating and cooling the museum will enable the Swiss Heritage Society to better preserve and share with visitors far and near our unique history. We look forward to reporting on efforts made to bring this goal within reach.



Swiss Heritage Village and Museum

### Photo Contest

### "Capturing our Heritage"

winners from each category will be awarded a Swiss Heritage 25th Anniversary Silver (.999 fine silver) Coin.

Thank you to our sponsors and judges: Bill Hubbard of Bill's Photography (Geneva), Mandi Steele of Sacred Images Photography by Mandi (Decatur), and Katrina Jones of Timeless Photography.

Deadline: All entries must be received by September 3rd.

To enter, download an entry form from our website [www.swissheritage.org](http://www.swissheritage.org) or pick up a copy from our office. Mail or deliver photo and entry form to the Swiss Heritage Village and Museum.

This contest is open to all amateur photographers of any age. "Capture our Heritage" by selecting one of the following themes for your photo entry: Faith, Family, or Community.

Photos must be taken in Adams County and may be from the present or past. Photographers may enter up to three photos. All participants' photos will be displayed at the annual Berne Heritage Festival, September 11, 2010. First place

## Commemorative authentic one ounce silver coins

Swiss Heritage Village commissioned Silvertown of Winchester, Indiana, to mint a one-ounce silver coin in commemoration of our 25th anniversary. These silver coins have "Swiss Heritage 25th Anniversary" stamped on one side and our Swiss Heritage homestead logo stamped on the reverse side.

These silver coins will make a wonderful gift or keepsake with increasing value as the years go by. Who knows the value of silver in the year 2020? These coins are made of the highest grade .999 fine silver.

This commemorative coin is the first in a series of coins that will feature various historic buildings on our campus. Each coin in the collection will carry a serial number of 1-500.

The price of each of these anniversary silver coins is \$43.50 which includes a



\$20.00 donation to Swiss Heritage Village. This portion of the coin price is tax deductible.

To our members and sustaining friends we offer you a discount of five coins for \$200.00.

If you would like your coins mailed, please add an additional \$5.00 for postage and insurance. The village is open for the 2010 season daily from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. except Sundays. Coins may be purchased at the museum office.

## First Family Visit to Begin the Season



Dr. John & Lisa Frey, Edward, Anna & Lillian, came to tour the Village along with their grandparents, Ken & Mary Robach, all from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

## We need your Swiss Heritage memberships in 2010

Our Society is on the move, thanks to the generous membership support of our contributors. We have accomplished so much at Swiss Heritage, but one might compare the task left undone to the deceptiveness of a great iceberg: The visible portion on top of the ocean is only a tiny part of the huge mass out of view under the water. We need your memberships to continue our great beginning.

All of us who have watched Swiss Heritage develop over the past 25 years

have captured the Society's vision, which is to preserve the unique architecture, artifacts, and lifestyles of Southern Adams County pioneers. We've come a long way, but we need your help now more than ever. Won't you please become an active member of Swiss Heritage Society today? Future generations are counting on you to keep the vision moving.

Don't miss getting your 2010 season pass now. A membership card is enclosed for your convenience.

## Swiss Heritage on Facebook

Swiss Heritage Village and Museum can now be found on the social networking site Facebook! To celebrate our 25th anniversary year, we would like to have 2,500 "friends" by Swiss Days. Friends who "like this" page have access to updates, photos, and can chat with other supporters of the Village. Help us meet our goal — invite all of your friends to join our page!

## Wurster and Lehman honored

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realized that the faith that had been the backbone of Berne history had been fostered inside the walls of that small building.

Through a series of meetings with interested residents, many fundraisers, and lots of work, Wurster was able to ignite vision in the hearts of those who showed initial interest until that dream came true through the present Swiss Heritage Village.

"When an idea becomes a dream, motivation enters in," said Wurster. "Then things happen and the idea can live on forever."

Wurster said that she never will forget the day when she was challenged at a church meeting to consider what she was doing with her life right where she had been planted.

"I felt like the Lord was saying to me, what are you doing with where you've been planted," said Wurster. "These days when I reflect on our community, I realize that many people have dreamed dreams that have been appreciated by all of us."

Like Wurster, Lehman said that she felt deeply honored to receive the award. Most of all, she emphasized that she was grateful for the recognition being given to Swiss Heritage Village.

Like Wurster, Lehman said that every time she walks through the village, looks at the names on steps leading up to the village, and listens to the stories of those who visit, her heart is touched by all that was sacrificed in founding the local community. "I'm proud of the village because there are no replicas here," said Lehman. "Everything here are the originals built by our ancestors. Everything here is a collection of footprints."

## Kaufman found home at SHV

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and Lorraine Burkhalter in assisting with fundraising and other work to help get Swiss Heritage Village off the ground.

"We did all kinds of things," said Kauffman. "We had a cake walk. Twice I got to do the cake walk music, and tell them when to stop."

"I enjoyed seeing all of the school children come. We always had all kinds of activities for them. I also enjoyed watching them enjoy themselves," said Kauffman.

Kauffman said that she always enjoyed working in the gift shop, because she felt that the shop had such a nice variety of things to offer. One of her most exciting moments was when gift shop volunteers had the opportunity to talk to a visitor about the Lord.

"There have also been so many people volunteering," said Kauffman. "They help keep the grounds and the garden so beautiful."

While Kauffman's husband, Karl, was serving as a pilot, gunner, and mechanic during World War II, she opened a dress shop in Miami, where they were stationed. When they returned, Karl worked at Dunbar and Evelyn spent 27 years working at The Fashion.

Kauffman has been a lifetime member of Bethel Brethren Church, except during the time when they were stationed in Florida. But that didn't stop her from continuing to be involved in ministry. She was on the ground level of starting a church and music program in a church there (Florida).

Kauffman said that she couldn't begin to count the number of positions she served through volunteering.

"I did it because I enjoy this community. I always enjoyed going out to the village. I liked everything that I did there," said Kauffman. "I felt that it was a good way to serve God and our community. We were all like one big family working together out there (Swiss Heritage Village)."



# Swiss Heritage barn to receive worldwide billing

By JIM LANGHAM

On August 7, the barn at Swiss Heritage Village will be part of a simulcast featuring eight Swiss heritage barns. Through simultaneous virtual tour, those watching will learn how barns reveal the footprint of the migration for freedom and independence.

The simulcast will be held in six locations by virtual internet simulcast. Those locations include: Cantons Graubunden and Bern Switzerland, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Wisconsin (10am our time), and Toronto, Canada. The Swiss Heritage barn was chosen by a special Swiss barn committee for inclusion of the simulcast.

"One of the most exciting things about this is that they want us to provide them with names and information of emigrants to the United States who are living on farms today with typical Swiss barns," said Gretchen Lehman. "They would like for us to find people here who have people living in Switzerland.

"Then, on August 7, according to Norbert Schmid, researcher at the Swiss Museum, those relatives in Switzerland and here would be brought together in the simulcast," continued Lehman. "Certainly, it would be exciting that day if we could bring people

together that had never been in contact before."

Lehman asked that those with Swiss relatives in Switzerland phone Swiss Heritage Village (589-8007) to give names of relatives. She noted that Schmid is willing to do research and possibly find relatives with whom to exchange conversation.

Concerning the local barn, a description from Switzerland Tourism states that, "this 'Sweitzer' barn with its cantilever 'fore bay' and its banked animal stalls features an entrance ramp which is flanked by two dry cellars that are partially sunk into the hill, each with a tiny window. It is 41 feet from the foundation to the peak of the roof. It is 40 feet wide and 80 feet long.

"The main timbers of the barn were hand hewn and it is estimated to have been built in the late 1800's," continued the description. "The barn first belonged to John Hirschy, passing then to Edwin Gilliom, finally the



barn was owned by Edwin Nussbaum who donated it to the Swiss Heritage Society when it was moved to Swiss Heritage Village in 1993."

The Bundesbrief Society honors Peter Zumthor in its event of "Celebration of Swiss Barns."

Zumthor is a Swiss architect and winner of the 2009 Pritzker Prize whose studies in Graubunden help propel forward the profession of architecture, preservation, and renovation.

## Growing Seeds of the Spirit

By Jim Langham

Certainly one of the things we are most proud of in our Swiss heritage is the agricultural background. Most of us have stories of the family garden, of planting, harvesting, and preserving foods. My first memory of gardening is that of my grandmother helping me with my first garden when I was seven years old.

I still remember her instructions about planting lettuce, peas, and putting onion sets in the ground.

As I became older, working together in the family garden is one of the best memories of my childhood. It eventually carried over into 4-H, and then into my own family life.

One of the most meaningful times occurred when our children wanted to help in the garden. All three children followed along as I gardened and they wanted something to do.

The times that they helped me plant green beans and corn is still a very tender

memory to me. I gave them the seeds, told them how many to drop and how far apart. There we were, going up and down the rows, dropping seeds in furrows, and talking as we went.

One day it hit me that the actions of that day were very similar to how God gives grace and strength to His children. Jesus tells us in the gospel of John that He will send us a helper and He (Holy Spirit) will be with us forever.

The ministry of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is very similar to that of working together to plant. He is in us and walks with us every day, giving us the seeds of grace, strength, and wisdom that we need just for that day, situation by situation. God gives the seed, we plant. Then He blesses and gives fruit.

It's very important that we understand that it happens one situation at a time, not for tomorrow or the next day, just enough as



Carol Neuenschwander and Barb Yoder plant seeds in the Swiss Heritage Village garden.

the spiritual need, until we come to complete fullness in Christ.

But speaking of gardening, the tradition continues. Our married kids already have in their "order," for this year... and ole dad will soon be out there dropping seeds in the manner of what was instilled by his Swiss ancestors.



**SWISS  
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## 2010 Calendar

**June 1** — Village & Museum Open Daily Monday thru Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Closed Sundays

**June 13** — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. – Haystack Luncheon in Barn (Lunch Donation)

**June 26** — 7 p.m. – Photography Presentation by John Bower in Barn - Free

**July 30-31** — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. – Swiss Days at the Village Tours with Cheese Making & Saw Mill Demonstrations, Antique Tractor & Engine Show

**July 30** — 10 a.m. – Bake Away Contest

**July 31** — 10 a.m. – National Weiner Dog Races

**July 31** — Car Show

**Aug. 7** — 10 a.m. – Swiss Barn Celebration

**Sept. 10** — Educational Student Day at Heritage Village

**Sept. 11** — Berne Heritage Festival

**Sept. 25** — 7 p.m. – Concert in the Barn (Party Boat Band)

**Oct. 26** — 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. – Soup & Sandwich Supper at South Adams

**Nov. 6** — 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. – Holiday Bazaar at South Adams School

**Dec. 24** — 6 p.m. & 9 p.m. – Christmas Eve Services in the Baumgartner Church

## Come to the barn for a haystack dinner

Once again our annual haystack dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 13 in the barn at Swiss Heritage Village. The “Limberlost Quartet” will set the atmosphere for a hee haw good time featuring a haystack meal and strawberry sturm. The meal will be served on a donation basis.

