

# Beyond the Congregation – January 18, 2015

## EVENTS – LOCAL & BEYOND

- **Theatre of the Beat Request** - Many of us are struggling with the issue of faithfulness and the inclusion of our LGBTQ friends in our church communities. Theatre of the Beat (Gadfly, Forgiven/Forgotten, A Bicycle Built for Two) wants to engage audiences in this conversation with a play and is currently fundraising a project entitled "This Will Lead to Dancing." Community Mennonite Church of Stouffville has agreed to accept donations on behalf of this project and will be issuing receipts for any and all donations. Please send donations to: Community Mennonite Church of Stouffville, P.O. Box 95028, Stouffville, ON, L4A 1J1, with TOTB Project on the Memo line.
- **"Toward an Anabaptist Political Theology: Law, Order, and Civil Society"** – Monday, January 19 at 4:00 pm Launch of a book by A. James Reimer (1942-2010), edited by Paul G. Doerksen; foreword by P. Travis Kroeker. Speakers will include Paul G. Doerksen, Darryl Winger and Paul Heidebrecht. Schlegel Community Education Room, Conrad Grebel University College.
- **Imagining a future for Israel/Palestine: Beyond Fear and Violence** featuring Jeff Halper, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and Jewish-Israeli peace activist and partner of MCC. January 19, 5:00 pm, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Wilfred Laurier University.
- **"Mennonite/s Writing 2014-2015"**: On Wednesday, January 21 at 7:30pm, BC-based poet Patrick Friesen will return to Grebel to read from his forthcoming book of poems, *A Short History of Crazy Bone*. Author of fifteen books of poetry and recent winner of ReLit Award, Friesen's work consistently challenges—and rewards—readers with its beautiful exploration of faith, experience, and language itself. Conrad Grebel University College Chapel. Everyone is welcome. [www.grebel.ca/mennolit](http://www.grebel.ca/mennolit)
- **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Epicurean Hootenanny** Saturday, January 24, 6-10:30 pm. Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts, 36 King Street West, Kitchener. An evening of joyous singing and great food, raising money for MCC. More info at [mcco.ca/events](http://mcco.ca/events)
- **"Mennonite/s Writing 2014-2015"**: On Wednesday, February 4 at 7:30pm, Di Brandt will read from a collection of poems in progress. The dynamic author of more than a dozen celebrated books of poetry, criticism, and fiction, Brandt currently teaches Canadian Literature and Creative Writing at Brandon University. Conrad Grebel University College Chapel. Everyone is welcome. [www.grebel.ca/mennolit](http://www.grebel.ca/mennolit)
- **Conrad Grebel's 2015 Rod and Lorna Sawatsky Visiting Scholar**– Dr. Robert Johnston, Professor of Theology and Culture at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Thursday, February 5 at 7:30 pm. His free public lecture will focus on 'If you have Eyes to See...': God's 'Presence' at the Movies. Schlegel Community Education Room, Conrad Grebel University College. [grebel.ca/sawatsky](http://grebel.ca/sawatsky)
- **60 Years At Fraser Lake Camp: Telling Our Stories** - Alumni and friends of Fraser Lake are invited to an afternoon of reminiscing and sharing camp stories in honour of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. These stories will be used to inspire a play written on the history of FLC. This event is at Rouge Valley Mennonite Church (Markham) on Saturday, February 7. Plan to arrive at 1:30 pm and stay until 4pm. Questions? Contact Kristen Berg at [kberg@fraserlakecamp.com](mailto:kberg@fraserlakecamp.com)
- **House of Friendship Supermarket Blitz** Sat., Feb. 7, 9:00 to 3:00 throughout K-W. Volunteers needed at select local grocery stores collecting potatoes and donations. Contact Dawn 519-742-8327 x119 or [dawng@houseoffriendship.org](mailto:dawng@houseoffriendship.org).
- **Family Day Open House at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp** - Feb. 16 from 10:00am-3:30pm – a fun and relaxing day with your family. Come enjoy many free indoor and outdoor activities including sledding, skating, pretzel-making, crafts, ping-pong, a campfire, roasting bannock and much more! Please bring your own outdoor equipment. Some activities are weather dependent. Enjoy a hot lunch for \$2/person or bring a bagged lunch (peanut-free). RSVP for this event by emailing [info@hiddenacres.ca](mailto:info@hiddenacres.ca) or calling (519) 625-8602. Please let us know if you are bringing your own lunch or choosing the Hidden Acres lunch.
- **"Mennonite/s Writing 2014-2015"**: On Wednesday, February 18 at 7:30pm, Winnipeg-based author David Bergen will read from his new book *Leaving Tomorrow*. Author of seven previous novels, including the Giller Prize winning *The Time in Between*, and bestselling *The Age of Hope*, Bergen's latest novel moves from small-town Alberta to Paris and back again, powerfully exploring the paradoxes of home, faith, and the need to belong. Conrad Grebel University College Chapel. Everyone is welcome. [www.grebel.ca/mennolit](http://www.grebel.ca/mennolit)
- **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Heifer Sale** Friday February 20, Carson's Auction, near Listowel. To sponsor or donate a heifer, contact Clarence Diefenbacher at 519-669-2164 or MCC at 519-745-8458. More info at [mcco.ca/events](http://mcco.ca/events).
- **Rockway Mennonite Collegiate's Fundraising Dinner** February 26 featuring *Rescue Junction* with opening act *No Discernible Key*. 6:00 refreshments; 6:30 dinner, 7:30 entertainment. Tickets \$75 each with \$25 receipt. Tables of 8 can be reserved RSVP by February 12 to 519-342-0007 x3012
- **House of Friendship Community Potato Lunch** Friday, Feb. 27 at noon at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Delicious potato dishes and 5<sup>th</sup> annual *Soup Idol*; free will offerings accepted.
- **Women's Retreat: February 27-March 1, 2015** at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp. Skating on the lake, relaxing in the sauna, enjoying a massage, snowshoeing, cross country skiing or walking through the woods, stargazing on a horse drawn sleigh ride and savouring exceptional food. For more information and to register visit [www.slmc.ca/retreats](http://www.slmc.ca/retreats) or call 519-422-3200

- **Conrad Grebel University College's 16-month Master of Peace and Conflict Studies program** is a vibrant, interdisciplinary academic program that seeks to empower students with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to nonviolent peacebuilding. Applications will begin being reviewed February 1, 2015. Apply now! [uwaterloo.ca/mpacs](http://uwaterloo.ca/mpacs) Become an agent of peaceful change at community, institutional, and systemic levels!
- **Canadian Mennonite University's Canadian School of Peacebuilding** invites you to come this summer to learn with other peacebuilders – local and international, young and old, students, practitioners and those new to peacebuilding – on June 15 – 19; 22 – 26. More information is available at [www.csop.cmu.ca](http://www.csop.cmu.ca) or [csop@cmu.ca](mailto:csop@cmu.ca)
- **The Master of Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College** is a two-year degree program open to persons from a range of academic backgrounds. It is designed for those who may be exploring vocations of ministry and service, those preparing for pastoral ministry, chaplaincy, or further graduate studies, and those seeking personal enrichment. All full-time Canadian students receive a full tuition scholarship with fall registration. More information: [grebel.ca/ts](http://grebel.ca/ts)

## **MCC – MCCO – MCEC – MDS – MC CANADA – MSCU – MDS NEWS & EVENTS**

- **MCC Ontario loaded a container for Lebanon** last week and the warehouse is empty and ready to receive again. Of particular need right now are school/hygiene kit bags (please use mid to light weight fabric), blankets, and hygiene and relief kit supplies. Go to [mcco.ca/kits](http://mcco.ca/kits) for more info.

- **Work with MCC Ontario** - MCC Ontario is seeking three individuals to join our team.  
Administrative and Program Assistant, Timmins Regional Office  
Assistant Manager-Business, Elmira Thrift and Gift  
Production Manager, Elmira Thrift and Gift

- **Mennonite Church Canada 2014 Annual Report** is posted on the hall bulletin board. If you would like a copy, please let Dorothy know or check the MC Canada website at [www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca)

Please consider responding to Mennonite Church Canada's call for emergency relief donations at <https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/node/161>.

**Early indicators are suggesting that Mennonite Church Canada is facing a donation shortfall** as we approach our fiscal year-end on Jan. 31, 2015. Meanwhile, workers Nathan and Taryn Dirks serving in Botswana recently wrote a blog post called "The Numbers Game" in which they describe the difference generous donors from across Canada are making (<http://ntdirks.com/the-number-games/>). There is just one of many impact stories of the work we do together as a national church in 25 countries around the world, and in Canada. Would you consider making an over-and-above-usual-giving gift to Mennonite Church Canada so that together we can continue to share God's good news and start the new fiscal year in a strong position? Donate online via [donate.mennonitechurch.ca](http://donate.mennonitechurch.ca) or by mailing a cheque to 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Wpg. MB R3P 0M4. Thank you

- **Walking with men and women experiencing homelessness** - MCC Ontario's Circle of Friends program is excited to announce that we will be expanding our program to support men as well as women transitioning from persistent homelessness to stable housing and are seeking both men and women volunteers. For more info, call 226-339-6898 or visit <http://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/volunteer/circle-friends-volunteer>

- **Mennonite World Conference** – "It's the closest to heaven I've ever been," is an often-heard comment from many who have attended past Mennonite World Conference global Assemblies. If you have not yet registered to attend this event on your own continent – a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity for many – please consider doing so today, July 21-26 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. For full information and registration details, go to [www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015) This is the first Assembly in North America in 25 years. Given the current pattern of holding Assemblies every six years in either the global South or North, it could be close to 30 years before this event is once again held in North America.