

SWISS MENNONITE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION BANQUET

Thursday, September 17, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge KS

Keith and Judy Goering and Glen and Lisa Goering checked in the people and received new member fees for _____. Kathy Goering provided name tags for guests.

Kathy Goering welcomed the 164 guests (177 had made reservations, 12 did not attend, and 4 arrived without reservations). Mary Martha Circle of Eden Mennonite Church prepared the meal of roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, seasoned green beans, zwieback, bread and butter pickles, mini carrots supreme, and oatmeal cake. Cost of the meal was \$15/plate with \$10 returned to Mary Martha Circle. Val Krehbiel gave the invocation.

Kathy Goering gave information about the age and goals of this organization, invited members to make suggestions about programs and encouraged joining or making donations. Don Kaufman reported about the brick project. Announcements no Bethel College Fall Fest Schweitzer program this year, seeking a Schweitzer Salt editor, and the plan to send Schweitzer Salt only to members. Vern Preheim had the Art Graber Genealogy book available for sale for \$25.

The music of vocalist Jon Schrag was played from a CD since he was unable to attend - "We Walk with God" and at the end of the program, "The Holy City."

Norman Hofer used a power point presentation to share information about the Hutterers and Hutterites and connections with the Swiss, and shared his own story.

Kathy invited the audience to attend the annual meeting next March 14, 2010, reporting that the Pretty Prairie Mennonite Church would present their history. Richard Ratzlaff commented on the church's recent 125th anniversary. Clemon Kaufman as Andrew Schwartz presented a short drama of the struggles of the Mennonites who settled in Pretty Prairie and started that church.

Kathy made summary comments and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

People perused the books brought by Norman Hofer and the books and items brought by Arnold Wedel for purchase.

Florene Wedel was the contact person of the Eden Mennonite Mary Martha Circle. Reservations were taken by Arnold Wedel at 316-283-5595, Kathy Goering at 620-345-8532, and Becky Koller at the Eden Mennonite Church office at 620-345-8320.

Advertising had been sent to secretaries and pastors of area churches and SMCHA churches, SMCHA committee personnel, SMCHA contact persons, SMCHA board members, Newton Kansan, Hutchinson News, Moundridge Ledger, Halstead Independent, Hesston Record, McPherson Sentinel, Hillsboro Free Press, Freeman Courier, Mennonite Weekly Review, representatives of area retirement homes, and a variety of my friends and relatives with information about the event, a picture of Norman and Darlene Hofer, and the deadline for reservations of one week prior to the event.

Minutes by Kathy Goering, SMCHA Secretary