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BMC NewsNet April 2013

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1. Kay Guyer to be next Kaleidoscope Coordinator



We are very pleased to report that Kay Guyer has been selected to be the next Kaleidoscope Coordinator at BMC, a full time volunteer position that works with youth and young adults. Kay will graduate from Manchester University in May with a degree in peace studies. She has been involved in United Sexualities on campus, and was an organizing leader in the Active Inclusive Movement. Kay has held several positions within the Church of the Brethren, including the Youth Peace Travel Team, On Earth Peace Intern, Climate Response Team, and various coordinating responsibilities for national and regional youth conferences. She is creative, artistic, insightful and deeply committed. Because BMC is not recognized as Brethren Volunteer Service project, Kay will be serving through the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, and will begin in August. Welcome, Kay!

2. Common Spirit North Manchester Joins SCN

We are delighted to welcome Common Spirit North Manchester in Indiana as the newest member of the Supportive Communities Network (SCN) as a congregation that is publicly affirming of LGBTQ people. Common Spirit is organized as a house church, and represents the second Common Spirit congregation that is part of SCN. Their welcoming statement reads:

We believe in the goodness of God's creation. We welcome people of any age, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, family status, socioeconomic status, physical ability, mental ability, or place along their faith journey.

Welcome to Common Spirit!

3. BMC Booth Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help staff BMC's booth at this summer's Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. The consensus from last year's experience was that "booth duty" was a fun and positive time to converse with friends, greet conference participants, and help interested people learn more about BMC. If you are interested and willing to take a shift, please contact Carol at bmc@bmc-lgbt.org. Thank you!

4. Pink Menno in Phoenix

Pink Menno is gearing up! The theme of the Pink Menno Campaign at the Phoenix convention will be *No Longer Strangers and Aliens*, which is based on Ephesians 2:19. This gender inclusive theme was chosen to be in solidarity with all those who are excluded by laws in our states and policies in the church, and reflects the reality that the discrimination of all oppressed groups intersect with each other. We are still looking for volunteers to help with Pink Menno. If you would like to help with planning, preparation, and/or can volunteer for Pink Menno events at Phoenix please e-mail bmc@bmclgbt.org.



5. Rainbow Bench

Several members of the Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren (a member of the Supportive Communities Network) joined together to purchase and paint a rainbow bench that they placed outside the church as a symbol of lgbt welcome and inclusion. When a new lesbian couple and their children were asked what led them to worship at Beacon Heights, their response was, "We saw the bench and felt welcomed." In addition, the church has recently begun hosting a community lgbt Alcoholic's Anonymous group. The flier for the group features the rainbow bench. According to the group leader, when she gives directions to newcomers, she always says, "Just look for the rainbow bench!" Thank you, Beacon Heights, for sharing this ministry of welcome and hospitality.



6. Connecting Families East Weekend

Sheri Hostetler, pastor of the First Mennonite Church in San Francisco (an SCN congregation), will be the resource person for the Connecting Families East Weekend, scheduled for May 17-19 at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania. Sheri is an engaging and delightful person who will reflect upon the theme, Loving Our Neighbors as Ourselves. Connecting Families have been meeting since 1988 and provide a welcoming space for families with lgbtq members and lgbtq people to share experiences related to sexual minority issues as they affect our families, friends, ourselves, and our churches. All are invited to this weekend of relaxation, support, and sharing. [Click here](#) to see a brochure and to register for this exciting weekend – you'll be glad that you did!

7. Chicago Mennonite Voluntary Service Unit Updates

Check out the [Reuben's Magical VS House Bus Tour](#) blog to learn about recent events happening with the Chicago Mennonite Voluntary Service Unit. Including, their new "Safe Space" designation and description!

8. Community News

Sympathies are extended to Lin Garber upon the death of his spouse, Jay Schatt. The two were married on March 9th, celebrating nearly fifty years of life together.

Congratulations to Sue Blauch of Harrisonburg, Virginia, who has been refereeing several of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament games during March Madness. Sue referees games for the WNBA, Big Ten Conference, and has even represented the US as an official referee for the Olympics. Sue, you make us proud!

Reuben Sancken and Ron Brunk both put in stellar performances in the recent [Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus](#) concert that featured a performance of "Oliver Button is a Sissy" and Stephen Schwartz's "Testimony." Reuben even had a solo part and showed off some of his dancing skills! The Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus has over 180 singers and has been performing since 1981.

Support of **Love's Obedience**, a document that emerged from the Progressive Brethren Gathering in support of pastors who officiate at same sex marriages, is gaining momentum. [Click here](#) to read the full document and add your signature to the growing list. Thank You!

9. Travel

April 12-15 – Carol to Philadelphia and Lancaster, PA

April 14 – Carol preach at Germantown Mennonite Church

May 17-19 - Carol to Connecting Families East, Mt. Pleasant, PA

If we're going to be in your area, let us know! We'd love to meet with you.

BMC Staff

[Carol Wise](#) - Executive Director, SCN Coordinator

[Reuben Sancken](#) - Kaleidoscope Coordinator, BMC Volunteer

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