

MENNONITE WEEKLY REVIEW Report  
October/November 2006  
Rochester Mennonite Church

World Communion was observed on October 1. The 2nd annual October interfaith event was held on Oct. 8 when participants gathered at the B'nai Israel Synagogue for the rabbi's presentation of their beliefs with opportunity for dialog. From there we walked to the Masjid Abu Bakkr Al-Siddiq where the imam described their teachings and invited questions. We walked next to the Greek Orthodox Church where the priest related their doctrines and a young Muslim man had many questions. Finally at Lourdes High School we heard from a Buddhist, the Muslims broke their Ramadan fast, and all participated in a potluck meal.

Gordon and Paula Harms attended inauguration ceremonies at Bethel College, Newton, KS. Gordon completed two terms on the College Board of Trustees. From Oct. 10-12 members served with the Quakers who sponsored an "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit of boots representing 40 MN fallen soldiers of the Iraq War as well as many pairs of Iraqi civilian shoes. Planned for the courtyard of Calvary Episcopal Church adjacent to Mayo Clinic downtown, it was moved inside twice because of inclement weather. It was a dramatic display of the destructiveness of war.

On October 21 the Rochester Mennonite Fellowship Chorus was the opener for a concert with a Dean Magraw duo at Oak Center, a popular folk music venue near Lake City.

The Historic Peace Church group met at the home of Art and Lois Kennel on October 26. Discussion centered on a project to encourage community preparation for a bird flu epidemic with detailed materials from Mayo Clinic.

Mennonite Heritage Sunday was observed on October 29. A dramatic reading by Jane-Yoder Short, "Ambassadors Through the Ages" served as the morning message.

Members participated in a fall fund raiser on Nov, 12 at Hopkins, MN, for the spring Twin Cities MCC Relief Sale. Finally, for two weeks members

wrote reflections on an Advent theme, “Love’s Revelations,” which will be compiled into a booklet and circulated among members for daily devotions during Advent.

--Lois Ruth Kennel