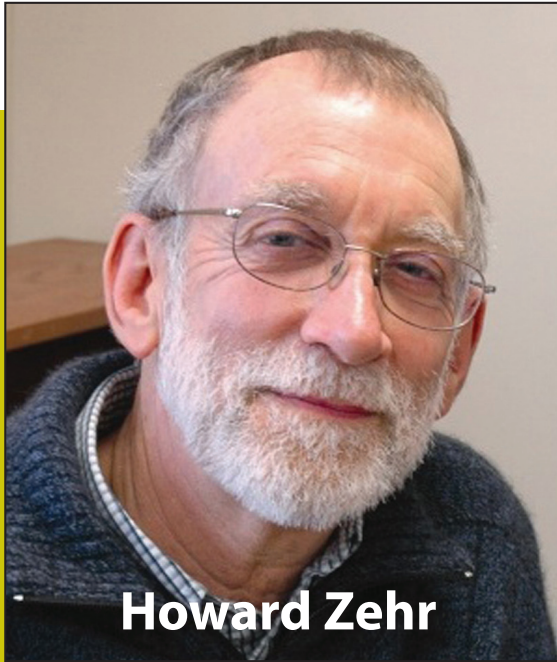


In their own words...



Howard Zehr

**A Brief History of the
Victim-Offender &
Restorative Justice
Movements**

Monday, February 27, 7:00 PM

Strasburg Mennonite Church

1514 Village Road, Strasburg, Pa. **Free.** (717) 393-9745



**Lorraine Stutzman
Amstutz**

Lancaster Roots 2012

Lancaster County Cultural Events

from Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society
and the 1719 Hans Herr House

www.LancasterRoots.org





Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society
2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster PA 17602
(717) 393-9745 • www.lmhs.org

Lancaster Roots 2012
www.LancasterRoots.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Leaders in restorative justice to profile global movement

- Restorative justice pioneers Howard Zehr and Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz will give a history of the international movement at a free Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society meeting, February 27
- Approach to justice emphasizes repairing harm caused by crime

Lancaster, Pa., February 7, 2012—Howard Zehr, Professor of Restorative Justice at Eastern Mennonite University, and Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Restorative Justice Coordinator at Mennonite Central Committee U.S., will present “A Brief History of the Victim-Offender and Restorative Justice Movements” on Monday, February 27, 7:00 PM, at Strasburg Mennonite Church.

Restorative justice is an approach to justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by crime. Successful restorative justice practices may include “victim-offender mediation”—a face-to-face meeting, in the presence of a trained mediator, between the survivor and perpetrator of a crime.

Zehr, sometimes called the grandfather of restorative justice, began writing and practicing in the late 1970s. He was an early advocate for making the needs of victims central to the practice of gaining justice.

“What I did was pull some things together,” he said. “I adopted the name ‘restorative justice.’ I wrote a lot of the manuals and began to conceptualize what a restorative justice practice would look like.”

Zehr has led hundreds of trainings and consultations internationally, including in New Zealand, a country that has restructured its juvenile justice system to incorporate restorative justice principles.

He began working with Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz in the early '80s. “Lorraine is much more of a practitioner than I am, so we make a good team,” he said.

Stutzman Amstutz joined the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) in Elkhart, Ind., in 1984. It was the first such program in the U.S. Today, over 1,200 programs follow the VORP model world-wide.

As Restorative Justice Coordinator at Mennonite Central Committee in Akron, Pa., Lorraine provides consulting and training for agencies and communities seeking to implement restorative justice processes.

Together, Zehr and Stutzman Amstutz co-authored *Victim Offender Conferencing in PA's Juvenile Justice System*, a 160-page curriculum for applying victim-offender mediation techniques in Pennsylvania. They also collaborated on a touring exhibit of photos and interviews called “Children of Incarcerated Parents,” and a related book, *What Will Happen to Me?*

The February 27 event is part of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society's quarterly lecture series. Strasburg Mennonite Church is located at 1514 Village Road, Strasburg, Pa. Admission is free. For information about this and other Historical Society events, visit www.LancasterRoots.org.

– ENDS –

Media contact:

Lowell Brown
lbrown@lmhs.org