Susan Skoor to Speak at Banquet

If you are planning to be in Independence for World Conference, plan to attend our Biennial Spring Banquet. The JWHA banquet will be held on Friday, March 23, 2007. Community of Christ Apostle Susan Skoor will give the keynote address on the topic of “Women in Ministry”. The event will be held at Ophelia’s Restaurant in downtown Independence at 7:00 p.m. Dinner and admission is $30.

Susan Skoor was ordained an Apostle at the 2005 World Conference. She has administrative responsibility for the Western Mission Field, which covers the western one-third of the United States plus Baja California. She holds a M.A. in religion from Graceland University and has written curriculum materials for the World Church and a number of articles for the Herald. She presented a previous version of her Spring Banquet talk at the Sunstone Symposium in Salt Lake City in August 2006, to rave reviews.

Ophelia’s is located at 201 N. Main St., in downtown Independence. For directions, visit their website, www.opheliasind.com, or call 816-461-4525. The banquet will immediately follow a 6:00 p.m. business meeting, which is open to all JWHA members (see article on page 6). Seating is limited, please register as soon as possible for the Spring Banquet at our website: www.JWHA.info.

Last Call for Papers: Kirtland ’07!

By Barbara Walden, President-Elect

As soon as Newell Bringhurst completed his Presidential Address in the Truman Memorial Building last September, next year’s program committee immediately began planning the 2007 conference to be held in Kirtland, Ohio.

The Kirtland meeting will be “one of a kind” as we share the conference stage with the Communal Studies Association (CSA). Founded in 1975, the Communal Studies Association promotes the study of past and present communal societies. One will discover CSA members across the country in leading universities, historic sites, and museums. The CSA Board appears similar to our own board with people from a variety of backgrounds and professions, such as historians, curators, university professors, and history enthusiasts. The CSA program committee is co-chaired by Dr. Martha “Marti” Bradley and Dr. Mario DePillis. JWHA

Continued on page 4
2007 Presidential Message

Observing JWHA’s Growth and Progress

Since its beginnings some thirty-four years ago (1973), the John Whitmer Historical Association has experienced growth, change, and transformation. Many of those who helped launch and establish the organization are still with us — Alma Blair, Paul Edwards, Robert Flanders, Barbara Higdon, Richard and Barbara Howard, Grant McMurray, Bill Russell, and Pat Spillman to name a few. I acknowledge their vision and foresight. I am certain that none of the “founders” could have projected what the organization would be today.

Although I am a relative newcomer to JWHA (I have been an active member and attending the conferences since 1996), I have tried to assess its objectives and accomplishments. Conferences are the life-blood of historical organizations and I have been impressed that over the years, the association’s annual meetings have brought together literally hundreds of scholars, professional and independent, to present historical papers and to discuss issues relating to the various Restoration traditions. These conferences have been held from Kingston, Ontario, to Omaha, Nebraska. JWHA also acknowledges excellence in historical scholarship by giving awards to authors who produce the very best books and articles in the field of Restoration studies. In addition, to encourage students and younger historians, JWHA has provided funding in the form of awards and scholarships so that emerging scholars can attend the annual conferences to present their papers.

In addition to the annual conferences, the John Whitmer Historical Association sponsors a spring banquet, held biannually in Independence. This banquet has brought JWHA members together to hear renowned American religion scholars, as well as scholars and historians from the RLDS/Community of Christ, and other Latter Day Saint traditions.

*The John Whitmer Historical Association Journal*, published annually since 1981, has become a premier professional journal, containing scores of scholarly essays, papers, articles, and book reviews. In addition, through the *JWHA Newsletter*, printed quarterly, association members are kept up-to-date concerning activities, upcoming events, news, publications, announcements, and information pertaining to JWHA. The association also maintains an attractive internet website containing the most current news and information updates, including the organization’s history, mission statement, past and current officers, publications, and membership information. (See [www.jwha.info](http://www.jwha.info))

Also impressive is the fact that over the years JWHA has established a cooperative relationship with its sister organization, the Mormon History Association, and other groups such as the Missouri Mormon Frontier Foundation. There is a commonality shared by each of these organizations which should continue to be encouraged and fostered.

Perhaps the most recent significant recent undertaking by JWHA was the creation of a new publishing imprint, John Whitmer Books, in 2005. Matthew Bolton’s, *Apostle of the Poor: The Life and Work of Missionary and Humanitarian Charles D. Neff*, marks the first book publication by the association. With its own book imprint, the John Whitmer Historical Association has provided an important venue for historical scholarship.

I gratefully acknowledge the devoted service and efforts of JWHA’s past presidents, officers, board members, executive secretaries, editors, committee members, and members in general. The organization has accomplished a great deal since 1973. But there are more ideas to explore, more history to be interpreted and written, and more that JWHA can do. I encourage your active participation, involvement, and help in moving the John Whitmer Historical Association forward.

— Alexander L. Baugh

*JWHA President*
JWHA Spring Banquet Form

Please use this form to reserve your place at our Spring Banquet.

Featured Speaker: Apostle Susan Skoor, *Community of Christ*
Lecture Title: “Women in Ministry”
Date: Friday, March 23, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
Location: Ophelia’s Restaurant
201 North Main St.
Independence, MO 64050
816-461-4525
Cost: $30 per person, includes banquet meal

Reservation Directions: Seating is limited, so please register for the Spring Banquet as soon as possible. The registration form is on the website, www.JWHA.info. If you have additional questions, contact Mike Karpowicz at mkarpowicz@annuitech.com or 734.995.8744. Payment is requested in advance. Please make your check or money order (in U.S. currency) payable to “JWHA.” Advanced reservations are required.

Please register at www.JWHA.info or fill out the following and mail with check or money order to:
John Whitmer Historical Association
c/o Mike Karpowicz
1710 South Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Number of reserved seats requested: __________ Vegetarian: ☐ YES ☐ NO
My check or money order is enclosed for: $ __________
Name: ____________________________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________
City: ______________________ State/Province: __________ Zip Code: __________
Telephone: (_______) _______ - ___________ E-Mail: ____________________________

JWHA Newsletter

The JWHA Newsletter is published quarterly* by and for the benefit of the members of the John Whitmer Historical Association.

*We have not quite achieved quarterly regularity. We published three issues in 2005 and three issues in 2006.
members may recognize Bradley and DePillis from their involvement in increasing our understanding of Latter Day Saint communal experiments. For more information on our conference partner, check out CSA’s website: www.communalstudies.info.

Dr. Lawrence “Larry” Foster will kick off the conference as he presents the 2007 Sterling M. McMurrin lecture. Dr. Foster is Professor of American History at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta and author of a number of published works including: Religion and Sexuality: Three Communal Experiments of the Nineteenth Century; Women, Family and Utopia: Communal Experiments of the Shakers, the Oneida Community, and the Mormons; and Free Love and Utopia: John Humphrey Noyes and the Origin of the Oneida Community. Dr. Foster was among the earliest members of JWHA, he served as CSA President in 1989-90, and more recently as President of the Mormon History Association in 2002-03.

The JWHA 2007 Program Committee hopes to continue the enthusiasm and superb planning of the Independence conference with papers and panels discussing the various Latter Day Saint expressions. We want all historians to consider presenting findings on Latter Day Saint history from the fertile soil of western New York to the rocky hills of Salt Lake City. As we organize a conference that will complement the interests of our CSA friends, we encourage our readers to research topics related to the communal experiments found in the Latter Day Saint movement.

The John Johnson Inn in Historic Kirtland.

Call for Papers: Kirtland ’07 continued from page 1

“Communal Experiments Among Latter Day Saints and Other American Groups”
35th Annual JWHA Conference
September 27-30, 2006

Considering the conference venue, presenters are invited to immerse themselves in Kirtland-related topics. What role did the communal experiment at the Isaac Morley farm play in Latter Day Saint views of community living? How do individual views of living all things in common (Sidney Rigdon, Jesse Gause, etc.) influence Latter Day Saint community? What were the relations between the Latter Day Saints and their Shaker neighbors to the west and the Zoar community to the south? Broader topics in Latter Day Saint and communal studies are also welcome. Sexuality and communalism need to be explored. How do Latter Day Saint views on family and gender roles compare to other nineteenth and twentieth century utopian experiments? Is there a pattern of conflict or religious intolerance experienced within and outside of other communal experiments similar to those we have observed in the Latter Day Saint movement? What type of relationship do we see between the various nineteenth and twentieth century utopian communities? Is there a sharing of ideas, leaders, members, religious ideals and practices? Is there evidence of interaction between the Latter Day Saints and their communal neighbors such as a sharing of ideas, practices, economic structure, and individuals moving from one communal society to another?

Spaces in the program are still available for proposals of individual papers, panel discussions, “author meets critic” sessions, and sessions on Latter Day Saint material culture, but time is running out!

Please send your proposal to: walden@ncweb.com. The deadline is February 28, 2007. If you have questions regarding your conference topic, please feel free to e-mail walden@ncweb.com.
Hotel Accommodations for the 2007 Conference

Most of the sessions and tours during the Kirtland conference will take place in the immediate vicinity of the temple itself, rather than in a hotel or conference center. Thursday’s registration and McMurrin lecture will take place at the Comfort Inn location in Mentor, Ohio, two miles north of Kirtland.

A number of rooms have been blocked out at the Comfort Inn. This reservation applies to both JWHA and CSA conference attendants.

- Comfort Inn: 440-951-7333
- Standard room: $75.00
- Suite: $85.00
- Reservation price is held until September 1, 2007

For those seeking a more fiscally conservative route, you will find a small number of rooms blocked out for JWHA and CSA conference attendants at the nearby Red Roof Inn: 440-946-9872

- Standard room: $48.00
- Reservation price is held until August 28, 2007

Please remember to make your reservations quickly, as rooms at the Comfort Inn and Red Roof Inn will go quickly.
Bylaw Committee Recommendations

In its September 2006 meeting, the JWHA Board requested that the JWHA Bylaw Committee review the Bylaws and make recommendations for updates and/or amendments.

After a thorough review, the committee members — Jeanne Murphey (Chair), Ron Romig and Mike Marquardt — have come back to the membership with a number of recommendations. Pursuant to Article XVI of the current Bylaws, these proposed amendments have been presented to the Executive Secretaries sixty days prior to the next association business meeting, which will be held this March 23. For the consideration of the membership, the Executive Secretaries have caused the complete text of the proposed amendments to be published on the association website, www.JWHA.info, along with the following summary here in the Newsletter:

Title Changes. In keeping with the current practice of the association, the title of “Vice President” would be changed to “President-Elect.” The title of the “Executive Secretary” would be updated and changed to “Executive Director.” This change reflects a general trend among similar associations. For example, both the Mormon History Association and the Communal Studies Association have recently retitled their “Executive Secretaries” as “Executive Directors.”

Immediate Past President. In the current practice, the Immediate Past President of JWHA has become an officer who sits on the Board ex officio. The proposed amendment to the Bylaws would define that role in keeping with the practice. The proposal would also stipulate that the Immediate Past President should sit on the Scholarship Committee.

Nominations Committee Chair. For the past several years the outgoing Immediate Past President has been elected by the membership to serve as the Chair of the Nominations Committee. The Bylaws currently read that the nominee from the floor who is elected to the Committee with the most votes at the annual business meeting serves as the Chair. This has occasionally created some confusion, as all the members of the Committee have often been elected unanimously. The proposed change would name the outgoing Immediate Past President as Chair. All other members of the Committee would continue to be elected from the floor, as per the current method.

Financial Reporting. The proposed changes mandate financial reports be given to both the Board and the membership on the operating budget from the Executive Director(s) and on the endowment fund from the Endowment Fund Treasurer.

Virtual Board Meetings. In the current practice, much of the Board’s business is conducted by e-mailing the Board Members. The proposed change authorizes this practice within the Bylaws.

John Whitmer Books Imprint. A proposed change in the Bylaws states that the Board shall make provisions to appoint managing officers to oversee the imprint.

Spouse of Member. A change in the Bylaws adds “Spouse of Member” to the types of JWHA memberships, in keeping with the current practice.

Fiscal Year. The practice of the association has been to operate a fiscal year beginning on September 1. The Board asked the Bylaws Committee to consider proposing an amendment to change the fiscal year so that it begins on January 1. The Bylaws Committee has noted that the Bylaws already mandate a fiscal year that begins on January 1. They suggest that practice be brought into alignment with the existing Bylaws and that no actual amendment is required.

The complete text of these changes has been posted at www.JWHA.info. The amendments will be considered by the membership at a business meeting to be held on Friday, March 23, at 6:00 p.m. at Ophelia’s, immediately prior to the 7:00 p.m. Spring Banquet.

In accordance with the current Bylaws, the business meeting shall be considered a quorum if one-tenth (1/10) of the membership is present. (The current number of in-force memberships is 312, which means that 32 members would have to be present at the meeting in order to consider the amendments.) In order to come into force, the amendments must pass by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the business meeting.
JWHA Membership Renewal Form

If a notice to renew your membership appears above your name and mailing address of this newsletter (see page 12), please take this opportunity to renew your membership in the John Whitmer Historical Association and also your membership in the Mormon History Association.

Membership Levels

JWHA's Bylaws provide for Sustaining, Patron and Lifetime Memberships for members who wish to make an additional tax-deductable contribution to the association.

Regular Membership — Full Membership in the organization with a subscription to the quarterly newsletter and annual journal and full voting rights at the annual meeting.

Spouse Membership — Same as above except that the spouse shares the subscriptions.

Student Membership — Full Membership is offered at a reduced rate to encourage students to join the association.

Sustaining Membership — Sustaining Members are full members who provide an extra donation to help sustain the association's important initiatives and programs.

Patron Membership — Patron Members are helping JWHA with its long-term goals of growth and increased professionalism. Patrons will be invited to sit with the JWHA Presidency and keynote speakers at the Patrons' Dinner during the Annual Meeting.

Lifetime Membership — Through a one-time-only generous donation, a Lifetime Member's name is permanently updated on JWHA's membership rolls.

JWHA Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>New Member</th>
<th>Renewing Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Membership</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse of Member</td>
<td>+10.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Membership</td>
<td>17.50</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining Membership</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron Membership</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime Membership</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please add postage for Foreign Membership

MHA Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>New Member</th>
<th>Renewing Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Membership</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse of Member</td>
<td>+10.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Membership</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Membership</td>
<td>55.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining Membership</td>
<td>125.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron Membership</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor Membership</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please add postage for Foreign Membership

JWHA Subtotal

MHA Subtotal

Less $5.00 for combined JWHA & MHA membership

Membership Total

Total amount enclosed

Make checks payable to JWHA and send them to:

John Whitmer Historical Association
C/O Mike Karpowicz
1710 South Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-4781
Digging in the JWHA Archives

By John Hamer

I was able to devote some time last fall to exploring the association’s archives. I was pleased to learn that a great deal of material has been saved, but it is unfortunately divided into three locations: (1) the Du Rose Room of the F.M. Smith Library in Lamoni, (2) the Archives of the Community of Christ in Independence, and (3) my house in Ann Arbor. The Archives and my house primarily include more recent materials. For example, I have here all the overruns of every issue of the JWHA Newsletter from 1998 on. The Du Rose Room, by contrast, has all the association’s earliest documents from 1973 to about 1984. Eventually, I would like to see all of these materials sorted, catalogued and brought together in one location — either Lamoni or Independence. My short-term goal, however, was to scan and digitize some of the most important documents, including a complete volume of the Newsletter, to be housed both on the website and reprinted and bound as a resource for scholars interested in the association’s own history. This project has led me to documents which members may find of interest, that I will reproduce here.

Program Sheet from the First JWHA Conference

The very first Conference was held in Nauvoo in 1973. The program consisted of 5 presentations spread over a day and a half, in addition to the organizational meeting and a time reserved for conversation.

Our most senior members may fondly remember a time when the entire conference cost was $12.50, including housing and $1 worth of chili! (Bedding, however, was not included.)
Rough Draft Announcing the Foundation of the John Whitmer Historical Assoc.

Rough draft of Courage (and Herald?) announcement of the JWHA. Please let me know real soon of any suggested improvements you may have.

Bill Russell

New Historical Society Founded

Fourteen people met in Independence, Missouri on September 18 to form a historical society for people interested in Latter Day Saint history.

The group is temporarily being called the John Whitmer Historical Association, after the first historian of the Church. A five member steering committee is planning an official organizational meeting at which permanent officers will be elected. The committee is chaired by Mark McKiernan of Nauvoo, Illinois and also includes Robert Flanders of Southwest Missouri State College, Church Historian Richard Howard, and Barbara Higdon and Paul Edwards of Graceland College. People interested in the society should contact one of these people.

Others participating in the meeting were: Alma Blair, Larry Hurst, Warren Jennings, Gerald Kruse, Grant McMurray, Gordon Mesley, Geoffrey Spencer, W.B. (Pat) Spillman, and Bill Russell.

Most of the people present are already members of the Mormon History Association. It was felt that physical distance from Utah makes it difficult for some people to participate in that association. All those present were interested in seeing the John Whitmer Association work closely with the Mormon History Association in fostering research and discussion in the area of Latter Day Saint history.

It is interesting to note that the name “John Whitmer Historical Association” was considered a “temporary” placeholder. 34 years later, we’re still using it!

JWHA Newsletter Number 1

The Newsletter in your hands is Number 79. Number 1 in this current counting scheme was issued in January of 1979. This Newsletter Number 1, however, was not the first issue of the JWHA Newsletter. Initially, news to the membership went out in the form of memos from the Association President.

This changed briefly in 1975, with the publication of “Vol. I, No. 1” of “The John Whitmer Historical Association Newsletter.” Although that issue said that “The hope is that future Newsletters will arrive more regularly,” no further named or numbered Newsletters seem to have appeared until the new “Number 1,” reproduced here.

Lorne White has resigned as Executive Secretary, and the Board of Directors has asked me to assume that role. We all appreciate the work Lorne has done as Executive Secretary for the past two years. Paul Edwards, President of the Association, has asked Lorne to take on a new assignment, to chair a special committee to study the possibility of the Association publishing a journal. Please respond to Lorne’s request for advice on that subject which is enclosed...

Bill Russell
Executive Secretary
Blasts from the Past... 1980 JWHA Photos

In this photo Clare Vlahos is giving the JWHA Presidential Address in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on September 27, 1980. At the head table (left to right) are Dean Falconer, D.J. Falconer, Clare Vlahos (standing), Grant McMurray, Bill Russell, Anna Mae Harvey and Keith Harvey (who was President of the RLDS Omaha/Council Bluffs Stake).

Norma Hiles presenting a paper in Council Bluffs.

Lyman Edwards, Nancy Edwards, Paul Edwards and Betty Winholtz.

Richard and Barbara Howard attending the 1980 Business Meeting.

Incoming JWHA President Grant McMurray conducting the annual Business Meeting.
John Whitmer Books Order Form

John Whitmer Books
Check each box to indicate the books you would like to order and total the cost:

☐ Matthew Bolton, *Apostle of the Poor: The Life and Work of Missionary and Humanitarian Charles D. Neff* ($18 including shipping)

Quantity: _____  Books Subtotal: $ ____________

JWHA Journal
Check each box to indicate the *Journals* you would like to order and total the cost:


Journal Subtotal: $ ____________

JWHA Lecture Audio Cassettes
Check each box to indicate the audio cassettes you would like to order and total the cost:

☐ #2: Grant McMurray, “History and Mission in Tension: A View from Both Sides.” ($8)
☐ #3: Richard Howard, “The Quest for Traces of a ‘Peace Gene’ in Restoration History.” ($8)
☐ #4: Barbara Bernauer, “Gathering the Remnants: Establishing the RLDS Church in Southwest Iowa.” ($8)
☐ #5: Lavina Fielding Anderson, “Mormonism’s First Mother — Lucy Mack Smith.” ($8)
☐ #6: Edward Warner, “Historiography: From ‘Sacred Fudge’ to ‘Christ Centered Boredom.’” ($8)
☐ #7: Mario DePillis, “Christ Comes to Jackson County: The Social Meaning of Mormon Millennialism.” ($8)
☐ #8: Paul Edwards, “Beating Plowshares into Swords: The Community of Christ and War.” ($8)
☐ #10: Steve LeSueur, “Community of Christ and the Search for a Useable Past.” ($8)
☐ #11: Phillip Barlow, “Transformation in Context: Mormonism, the Community of Christ, and Religion in America.” ($8)
☐ #12: Robert Flanders, “Nauvoo on My Mind.” ($8)
☐ #13: Robert Remini, “A Non-Mormon’s Interpretation of Joseph Smith.” ($8)
☐ #15: Michael Quinn, “To Whom Shall We Go?: Historical Patterns of Restoration Believers With Serious Doubts.” ($8)
☐ #16: Biloine Young, “Religion’s Shifting Sand and Mormonism’s Unsteady Footing.” ($8)
☐ #17: Thomas Murphy, “Sin, Skin, and Seed: Mistakes of Men in the Book of Mormon.” ($8)

Cassette Subtotal: $ ____________

Total Enclosed: $ ____________

Make checks payable to JWHA and send them to:

John Whitmer Historical Association
c/o Mike Karpowicz
1710 South Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-4781

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________
Phone ______________________________
E-Mail _____________________________
APOSTLE of the POOR
The Life and Work of Missionary and Humanitarian CHARLES D. NEFF

By Matthew Bolton

From humble beginnings as a Midwestern American farmboy, Charles D. Neff went on to participate in the fundamental transformation of the Community of Christ, from a small provincial sect centered in the Midwestern plains, to a worldwide church spanning over 50 nations.

His missionary work in Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, India, Nigeria, Liberia, and Kenya challenged him to rethink the church’s theology — opening it to the voices of other cultures — and confronted him with the horrific realities of massive poverty.

Deeply affected by the terrible conditions he saw in the developing world, he founded several humanitarian organizations, including Outreach International, and dedicated his life to bringing relief, release and dignity to the world’s poor.

John Whitmer Books
Place your order today using the form on page 9 or visit JWHA.info

This apostle was not merely an important church leader, he was an indefatigable humanitarian and campaigner for world peace…I was “blown away” by the work.

—Jan Shipps, author of Sojourner in the Promised Land