



HUTTERITE EDUCATORS OF MANITOBA

HEM

Spring 2016

AFFILIATED WITH THE MANITOBA TEACHERS' SOCIETY

President's Message

By Karen Maendel

On behalf of Hutterite Educators of Manitoba, I would like to wish everyone a rewarding and successful 2016. With the new year come new challenges and goals. Our committee has set a goal of reaching out to our members and developing relevant resources for you.

I want to thank those who attended the 2015 SAGE conference at McMaster House. We received numerous positive vibes following the *Introduction to Three Block Model of Universal Design for Learning* session with Trevor Boehm and Mandy Nykolaishen.

We held our annual AGM during the lunch break and welcomed three new executive members. Ashley Tully, Cheryl Patzer and Evelyn Waldner: Welcome aboard. All three are active educators in Hutterite schools and are already contributing to providing unique learning opportunities and resources for teachers in our schools.

Our executive recently took part in a rewarding weekend planning retreat at Victoria Inn and we have some fabulous events coming up you will not want to miss. This March, we will be hosting Libby

Jachles, who will be doing two workshops on the 6+1 Traits of Writing. Many of you heard Leonard Sax at the 2014 ICHE conference in Winnipeg. He will be our presenter for MTS PDDay in 2016. Leonard is an American psychologist and a practicing physician. He has authored a number of books, including *The Collapse of Parenting*, and will base his workshop on the ideas presented in the book.

HEM has over 60 members, all of which play a vital role in ensuring our organization's success. We all play a unique role in the education of our children. Please contact any of the executive members (contact information is on the last page) if you have anything you can contribute to HEM.

This publication is now online and on our brand new website. Please visit www.hutteriteeducators.org and send us your comments about the new website and what you would like to see on it.

Thank you to all who devote time and energy to advocate for our learners and communities.

Hey "English" Teachers!

Have you ever wanted to know how to say something in "Hutterish"? Knowing a few words and pronunciations is a good way to shock your students and grab their attention!

In every HEM newsletter we will be publishing a few "Hutterish" words or sayings to help you out!

Enjoy!

English	"Hutterish"	Pronunciation
Sit down	Sitz nieder	Seat-z Nee-der
Baby	Bebela	Bay-be-la
School	Schuel	Shoo-el



EVELYN'S UDL CLASSROOM

Evelyn explains one way she's incorporated UDL into her classroom: "We're doing a sharks and whales unit in my classroom and I integrated the social studies curriculum "Communities in Canada" by doing an Arctic mini unit and studying the Inuit."

SAGE Conference Reflection

by Evelyn Hofer

I had the privilege of attending HEM's UDL (Universal Learning to Diversity) workshop last October. What attracted me to the workshop initially was the fact that I had attended a UDL session with Jennifer Katz herself the two years prior. As it often is with new ideas, I heard and learned enough to be intrigued, but still had too many questions to really try it in my classroom. So the session caught my eye right away, and I thought, "Yes! Finally, I am going to be able to use it!"

I wasn't disappointed. This was by far the most engaging, informative and enjoyable session I have attended at SAGE so far.

Trevor Boehm and Mandy Nykolaishen did a really fantastic job in making everyone feel comfortable and engaged. We discovered that most of us already use UDL in our classrooms, and that we couldn't wait to add a few more elements. At the end of the day, I walked away feeling empowered and ready to take on the task of incorporating more UDL into my classroom.

Book Review: Hutterite Diaries

by Terrie Todd

Haven't you always wanted to read someone else's diary?

If, like me, you find other people's diaries hard to resist, you'll be happy to hear a brand new book released this week called "Hutterite Diaries: Wisdom from My Prairie Community."

Author Linda Maendel lives on the Elm River Colony west of Oakville where she is an educational assistant at the colony's school and spends her free time writing. Her articles have appeared in *The Daily Graphic*, *The Central Plains Herald Leader*, *The Manitoba Cooperator*, the *Winnipeg Free Press*, and *Our Canada*. This is not Linda's first book, but it is the first I am able to read since the others are in German or Hutterisch—the language Linda speaks at home but which had never been used in written form until she tackled it for one of her children's books.

Linda wrote "Hutterite Diaries" in English, and it's so engaging, I finished it in two sittings. If you enjoy my columns, you will love Linda's book. Her stories are more interesting than mine and she includes more photos! Linda knows how to combine ordinary slice-of-life events with bits of Hutterite history in a fascinating way. I found myself laughing in parts, crying in others, and definitely learning things I never knew. I could almost hear the beautiful harmonies of their German hymn-

singing, smell the fresh bread baking, and see the colorful gardens Linda describes.

"I'm journaling about living on a Hutterite colony; each story or article is a glimpse of my communal life. Creating word pictures is like collecting treasures; it makes me take a closer look at things," Linda said when given the opportunity to publish this book. The poignant story she tells in Chapter 4, *A Circle Not Broken*, is worth the price of the book all by itself for those who love incredible, goosebump-inducing "coincidences."

Published by Herald Press, the book is part of the "Plainspoken" series, which gives voice to Anabaptist writers in a world where novels, tourist sites, and TV shows offer second-hand accounts of Amish, Mennonite, and Hutterite life—some of which are flat-out wrong. You may also want to check out Linda's blog at www.hutt-writevoice.blogspot.ca. Really? A Hutterite woman who blogs? As Linda says, "While other Hutterite women love to sew, I would rather write. It's not something I have in common with many of my fellow Hutterites, but I'm fine with that. We have so many things in common that it's okay to differ in some areas."

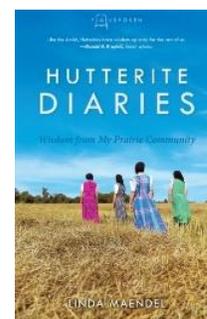
Linda's engaging style and skillful telling of these heartwarming stories will help you enter into life on a modern Hutterite colony while giving you glimpses into their rich and tumultuous history and their unwavering

faith. Reading it gave me a deeper appreciation for and understanding of my Hutterite neighbours, and any time you can accomplish that, you assist in the work of God himself.

"We aren't perfect," Linda says, "but we have figured out a few things about how to live together in community and about what works and what doesn't. Many experiments in Christian community have not lasted, and we are humbly grateful that our communities, with all their ongoing struggles, have remained strong and viable through all these centuries."

"Hutterite Diaries" is available from Amazon.com or you can ask for it in bookstores.

This article was first published in a May 2015 edition of The Central Plains Herald Leader.



“The Power of Harriet Tubman”

In February, HEM hosted two Manitoba Theatre for Young People (MTYP) productions of the play “The Power of Harriet Tubman” at Silverwinds Colony and Acadia Colony School. Below are two reflections by audience members.

On February 17, our school hosted “The Power of Harriet Tubman” a play sponsored by the Hutterite Educators of Manitoba (HEM). Students and staff from eight other Hutterite schools attended the event.

In anticipation of the play, my Grade 4 and 5 ELA students learned about slavery, the Underground Railroad and Harriet Tubman. Students performed “Follow the Drinking Gourd” and a Reader’s Theatre script based on the song during a school assembly.

This was the first time my students experienced a professional drama. They were particularly impressed with the sound effects produced by the two musicians and how the actors were able to express complex emotions, ideas and events with a very simple stage setup and few props. Two popular scenes were Harriet’s crossing of the river, a scene portrayed by two actors to draw attention to the different aspects of her character, and Harriet falling asleep on the auction block. During a class discussion about how the play helped them understand what slavery was like, one student recalled that, “Slavery is not a game” because the slaves were treated unfairly. My highlight was the times when the actors and musicians teamed up to sing. These spirituals effectively capture both the suffering enduring by the black people and their resolve to hope and dream that freedom was on the horizon.

The play was difficult to follow at times, for a variety of reasons, including the actors’ accent, the quick pace of the narrative and the frequent changes of roles by the characters. However, despite the theatrical complexity of the play, my students were able to recognize most of the key aspects of Tubman’s life and clearly enjoyed the experience. Overall, the drama helped them understand the terrible injustice of slavery.

The event was a fitting conclusion to our study of the Underground Railroad and appropriately coincided with Black History month. We are grateful to HEM for organizing this event and look forward to hosting more quality productions in the future.

Jesse Hofer (Teacher)
Silverwinds Colony School

Today, when I look back on slavery, a truly horrifying and sordid part of our North American history, I am reminded of the mantra repeated in “The Power of Harriet Tubman”: “Slavery is war!” War is an apt analogy- slavery was a grossly one-sided war.

I think of our forefathers. They suffered through vile abuse and torture. They were willing to take this abuse, and turn the other cheek, even onto death, as modeled by Jesus. Still, they never minimized the role of their perpetrators.

Our forefathers had their faith in God and the subsequent “peace that passeth all understanding.” This aptly describes the inner state of people at peace with their convictions and faith.

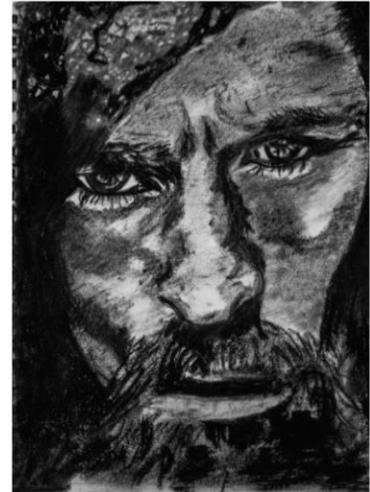
At the same time, our forefathers did not make “peace” with their oppressors by complete and total acceptance of whatever their oppressors wished to do with them. Our forefathers were well aware of their right to life, health, prosperity and freedom of religion, and they were vocal about it. You can hear this in the writings of our ancestors while they were facing oppression. You can hear their strong condemnation of their oppressors’ actions even today in our sermons.

This is why we came to North America, after all. We were simply fleeing a form of “religious slavery” – a time in history when too many tried to force their particular notion of the “one right, true religion” on others by brute force, and sanctioned, state murder. And just like the slaves who fled the US for a safe haven in Canada, so we too fled European countries for a safer haven in North America.

Slaves and our Hutterite forefathers both faced severe oppression as they fought for their freedom. May we never forget our forefathers, our freedom fighters, without whom none of us would be Canadian citizens today.

Jennifer Kleinsasser (Teacher)
Glenway Colony School

ART IN OUR CLASSROOMS



Silverwinds School

“In the Shadows”—charcoal
Janelle, Age 15



Silverwinds School

“The Eagle”—graphite on paper
Amara, Age 12



Silverwinds School

“Doodle Art”—pen on paper
Rhelynn, Age 15

The Zoo Comes to Ingleside School!

by Ashley Tulley

Did you know that Assiniboine Park Zoo has an outreach program? This program is designed for schools that may not be able to take field trips, or are just too far from Winnipeg to take a whole day to go to the zoo!

On January 29th, Ingleside School at Grand Colony was lucky enough to have the Zoo come to their school and teach them all



about Polar Bears and tell some North American Animal Stories.

From 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. the grade one to four learned all about polar bears to wrap up their unit on Arctic animals. During this hour we took part in four fantastic learning experiences. We began the hour learning about the polar bears that are currently housed at our city zoo, next what the arctic looked like, after that some information and activities to learn about the Polar bears physical features and how they walk across the ice. The students were all smiles and excited to take part in all the hands on learning activities.

In the second hour the whole school joined in the fun to listen to some North American Animals stories.

In this hour we learned about the seven sacred teachings of Canada's aboriginal peoples. This is a great way to teach aboriginal culture while making it fun for the students.

The story teller was lively and animated and



every child grade one through eight was enthralled. There was time to pass around different "props" from each story that was told. Some of the props included; moose fur, brown bear fur, an antler, polar bear fur, fox fur, skunk fur and a turtles shell to name a few.

Lastly, all of the students were given a poster that holds plastic stencils to make pencil crayon rubbings of the animals that were in the stories.

It was a marvellous afternoon, enjoyed by both students –big and small and the teachers as well!

Hutterite Educators of Manitoba

Visit our new website:

hutteriteeducators.org



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