

Rejoice, Rejuvenate, Renew, Reconnect at the 2024 ABW Maine Summer Conference



Presidents Message –Cindy Richendollar

Greetings, Sisters in Christ.

Summer is here, and thoughts of, and plans for, the Summer Conference are being finalized. Christmas, in August!! Jesus came because of our need. As we gather to worship and fellowship, there will be an opportunity to share His Blessings with each other and those who are in need.

*Speakers. *Cookie Bowl Auction. *Shoebox items. *Workshops. *Books Swap. *Items for Silent Auction, Etc. Please take note of the information you read here. Register early. Bring a friend, Christmas attire, Baby Jesus, Shoebox items, books to swap, Cookie Bowl (optional).

Upon request of Spring Rally attendees, we are offering information sessions on Financial Stewardship. Presenters include International Ministries, National Ministries, AB Foundation, & ABCOM. Our prayer is for clarification of any concerns about how our funds are distributed & used. Q&A is encouraged.

HERE IS YOUR INVITATION to a time of refreshment, reflection, renewal, & fun in an atmosphere of love & acceptance surrounded by the beauty of God's Creation.

See you @ China Lake, August 8. Safe travels. Yours in Christ,

Spring Rally South by Lorna Hansen

The South Spring Rally of the American Baptist Woman's Ministries was held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Sanford First Baptist Church. 30 women attended the event.

President Cindy Richendollar opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance. Norma Bean, the Sanford First Baptist's pastor's wife opened the meeting in prayer. She then led audience singing a medley of songs to begin the rally in worship. Cindy introduced our speaker, Anna Vickerman, who would be speaking later in the morning.

Lorna Hansen shared a devotion based on verses in Isaiah 41:10 and Joshua 1:9 where God reminds His people He will walk with them. Lorna gave four vignettes of times in her life when God "walked me through".

Since some officers were not present, there were no secretary or treasurer reports to be shared. Martha Walker could not be present, but sent a folder with Mission information on Operation Planting Hope, White Cross, Love Gift, contact information on our Global Servants, and information on a possible new project to voted on in August at summer conference. (Deborah's House) Sandy Rhoda gave a brief history of Love Gift and reported that since it began, it has raised \$57,000,000 for our American Baptist denomination.

Deb Kiker made a plea for volunteers and supporters for China Lake Camp. She asked for prayer for the summer camps, she asked for monetary donations to raise \$24,000 for salaries for CLC workers, and she asked for volunteers to come to CLC on Fridays to clean up from one camp in getting ready for the next camp coming in on Sundays.

Carolyn Sweeney promoted Summer Conference on August 8-10 at China Lake Camp. She gave everyone a registration form as well as information about the conference. Stephanie Hansen also encouraged women to attend and to contact her if anyone had questions about the facilities.

Special Music was presented by Norma Bean and Jan Thibeault, who sang *He Touched Me*.

Anna Vickerman then shared her message "A Way of Being; Life Now in the Kingdom of God". She reminded the women that they are in covenant with God and they are God's children. God gives His children identity and obedience. She used shapes like triangles to illustrate her point. God is also King who has power and authority. Our responsibility as children of God is to bring the kingdom into the present by sharing Jesus and acting as Jesus.

A delicious lunch was prepared and served by the women of Sanford First Baptist.

After lunch, various churches shared some of the ministries in which they are involved. Court Street Baptist Church sent money for diapers to Multicultural Ministries in Lowell, Ma. The Sanford ladies prepared sanitary kits they had assembled for girls in third world countries. A couple churches prepare Christmas Boxes for the Franklin Graham organization.

After a hymn was sung, Anna asked the women for their reflections and questions they had based on what she had shared earlier. The rally was closed at 2pm with a prayer offered by our president.

Personal Development–Carolyn Sweeny

Today's report will be on our Summer Conference workshops. As you can see from our Presidents letter, she has taken on the job of getting three different American Baptist organizations to come and do workshops on financial stewardship. This works very well because our speaker, Joyce Bagiraneza is the Donor Advisor with International Ministries. These workshops will give us great insight into where our donations are utilized.

Our second speaker is, Jennifer Pedzinski , a former missionary who has taken the job of Missionary Recruiter. Her experiences will be very informative.

On the crafty side, Rita Newell will be doing a Christmas banner and Dina Richards will be doing decoupage. Each person will get two white frames to work on. There will be a \$10 fee for each craft.

These will be well rounded workshops with something to interest everyone. See you all in August.



Summer Conference 2024

Treasurer--Stacey Emery

Hello, American Baptist Women of Maine Friends!

It is hard to believe that we are so close to summer! One of the best parts of summer for some young folks is Bible camp. I reflect back to the time when my husband and I had four young daughters at home, very limited income (very, very limited income!!), and up to four Bible camp registration fees to cover for the summer. It was never a question of 'if' our girls would be going, but how the extra money would be raised for them to go. Our faithful Lord always blessed us with the registration fees and even a bit of extra spending money for the camp candy store! I look back on those days and am forever grateful that our girls had the opportunity to spend a fun filled week being with Christ centered directors, counselors, camp nurses, volunteers, and others who only wanted one thing for our children; to know and love the Lord. There is no greater gift to give a child than the opportunity to learn about Him, to love Him, and to accept Him. I would encourage or challenge (everyone loves a challenge, right?!) anyone that is financially able to sponsor a young person for a week at one of our Maine Baptist Bible camps. It could change their lives forever!

A few highlights to share from over the last year include all three Maine Baptist Bible camps being provided with an AED (automated external defibrillator) or equivalent amount of funds. Yay! One of our Maine Baptist camps already had an AED, so the American Baptist Women of Maine provided them with the funds that would have been spent on purchasing one had they not already had one. Another wonderful thing to share is that Cara Jurzak was our recipient of the educational love gift. We know she will surely do great works with her degree from the New Brunswick Bible Institute! NBBI's mission is to train young men and women in the thorough and practical knowledge of the Bible. That is simply beautiful! I look forward to seeing you all at China Lake for our 2024 Summer Conference!

Summer Conference 2024

August 8,9,10

Theme: Christmas!

China Lake Conference Center



Joyce Bagiraneza

IM Donor Advisor

Discover Joyce's inspiring story of resilience in surviving the Rwandan genocide, and her work fostering relationships between donors and congregations.



Rev. Jennifer Pedzinski

Director of Mission Mobilization

Jeni is called and committed to walking alongside others as they explore God's love and leading in their everyday lives.

Singing

Workshops

Bible Study

Campfire

Fellowship

Fun

Summer Conference Request

*Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus from your manger scenes for opening program.

*Christmas attire for Friday Dinner .

*Items for Christmas Shoe box

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in->

Banner Workshop

Make a Christmas banner with Rita Newell

The workshop is limited to 12 participants. The cost is \$10.00 to cover supplies.

* RSVP on the registration form.

What To Bring to Summer Conference

Comfortable clothing /Comfortable shoes
Nightgown and robe
Sleeping bag and/or twin sheets to cover your mattress
Pillow/pillowcase
Fan
Towels
Toiletries
Swimsuit (optional)
Jacket/sweater for evenings and/or mornings
Pen/pencil, Note pad
Bible
Flashlight
Bug spray/ sunscreen
Medications
Items for Silent Auction- proceeds for state project.
Christian books for book swap

Items for Shoe Box Ministry

Bar soap
Toothbrushes
Wash cloths
Brush and comb
School supplies
Coloring books and crayons Balls, puzzles and
small toys Stuffed animals

Do Not Bring

Liquids
Toothpaste
No glass or ceramic items War related items
Food or medicine.

Carolyn's Requests:

Bring one or more items for Shoe box Ministry

Baby Jesus from your manger scenes for my opening program.

Officers, please bring a "Christmas Cookie Bowl" for our Friday auction. Include a mixing bowl, wooden spoon, cookie mix, frosting, sprinkles, and other essentials. (Anyone willing to contribute a bowl is welcome.)

Your Christmas finery for Fridays dinner.

Items for the Silent Auction

Books for the book swap

Registration Times:

Registration: Thursday 12 PM program starts at 1 PM.

Registration: Friday 8:30 AM program starts at 9 PM.

Registration: Saturday at 8:30 AM program starts at 9 PM.

ABWM of MAINE SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

CHINA LAKE CAMP AUGUST 8-10, 2024

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY THEME: CHRISTMAS!

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ CHURCH: _____

ASSOCIATION: _____ FIRST TIMER? YES _____ NO _____

I'D LIKE TO ROOM WITH: _____

Worksheet

Registration Fee \$10.00	
Printed Directory \$10.00	
Accommodations (from page 6)	
Meals (from page 6)	
Day Use (from page 6)	
*Banner Workshop \$10.00	
TOTAL	

Total Due: \$ _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

(Please enclose 20% of the total due with the registration form)

Scholarships may be available to those who have never attended and cannot otherwise afford to attend. Contact Cindy Richendollar: 207-214-7338, cindyrich04766@gmail.com

PLEASE FILL OUT THE CHARTS ON PAGE 6 TO INDICATE YOUR OVERNIGHT AND MEAL CHOICES AND MAIL THEM WITH REGISTRATION.

Registration must be in by July 31 to satisfy China Lake Camp's requirements.

No refunds after August 1. You can send someone else in your place.

Make your check payable to **ABWM of Maine** and mail it, with both forms to: Joyce Worden, 11 Holt Drive, Ellsworth, ME 04605

Please remember to tell us about any special dietary needs when you send in your registration, be specific.

The conference begins on Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 1PM.

***ACCOMMODATIONS**

	SUKEFORTH \$35/NIGHT	DILLON \$35/NIGHT	SANDERSON \$35/NIGHT	AMOUNT DUE
THURSDAY				
FRIDAY				
**Bedding Rental Fee (Sheets, Pillow, Blanket, Towels) \$10.00				

**Bring your own bedding, including a pillow, or rent for \$10.00 from CLC

TOTAL ACCOMMODATION CHARGE: \$ _____

*** For those not staying at China Lake Camp there is a **\$10.00 day use charge** for each day you are attending the conference.

TOTAL DAY USE CHARGE: \$ _____

MEALS

	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER	AMOUNT DUE
THURSDAY	-	-	\$10.00	
FRIDAY	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	
SATURDAY	\$10.00	\$10.00		

TOTAL MEAL CHARGE: \$ _____

***ACCOMMODATIONS**

Sukeforth: (gym) 4 bunk beds (indicate top or bottom bunk) – meetings will be held in this building. Bathroom down the hall – Shower room on other side of building

Dillon: 15 dormitory-like rooms – 2 women per room – Rooms are located upstairs from the dining hall. It is closest building to the Sukeforth building. Toilet/Shower rooms down the hall.

Sanderson House: 5 bedrooms with 1-3 beds per room. Across from chapel. Downstairs: full bath with shower. Upstairs: ½ bath with no shower.

What's New With Our Global Servants

Mercy Barnes

A highlight of Mercy Barnes's ministry is the graduation of ten students, with a Master's degree in Theological Studies from Latino/a Ministries, Palmer Seminario Teologico. This is a collaborative project between Eastern University's Palmer Theological Seminary, American Baptist International Ministries, and American Baptists Home Mission Societies. It is a fully accredited master's-level program. The only difference is all classes are totally, in Spanish, both written and spoken. It is taken at home, on the Internet. Students come from all over the Americas and Caribbean Islands.

May 8th Mercy writes, "In the MTS (Masters in Theological Studies in Latin America) I am constantly exposed to different groups, from different countries. The differences can be in age, how we view faith and doctrine, how we worship, how we view who can do ministry but what unites us is our faith in Jesus as Lord and his command to "Love One Another", John 13.34a. " Pray for these graduates.

Dan Chetti

January 14, 2024, Dan wrote: "As I witnessed the events around me in Palestine and Israel, and as I see the adults in our region hurl bombs, fire rockets and unleash violence, on each other, the victims are often innocent children. This is not the world God intended for these children. Rather, He said through the surrounding verses in Isaiah: "The wolf will live with the lamb, then the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearlings together... and the infant will play near the cobra's den...they will neither harm, nor destroy, on all my holy mountain" (Isaiah 11:6-9). Then comes the even greater promise that 'a little child will lead them'"

"God is calling tens of thousands of children to Himself. No matter where we minister; Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Morocco there are groups of children."

"Eighty-five percent of the people living in the 22 Arab countries have never heard the message and invitation of Jesus Christ! More than 55% of the population of the Arab world is below the age of 30.

February 8, 2024, Dan wrote "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went" Acts 8:4. As the church and its leaders were scattered in Sudan, our five Enduring Love partners never stopped sharing the gospel and seizing every opportunity to disciple, baptize and teach people along the way. As a result, during the past three months, we have witnessed 249 people commit their lives to Christ, 26 people were baptized and two new house churches were started."

Sarah Chetti

"Since 2013, Sarah Chetti has pioneered a ministry among 300,000 migrant domestic workers (MDW's) working as maids, in Lebanon. MDWs can be recruited, from other countries, under false pretenses, only to find upon their arrival, in Lebanon the true nature of their work and level of control their employers exert over most aspects of their lives." There are no laws to protect them. "It is alarming how many die because of a failed escape, suicide or murder."

Before the founding of Insaaf, Sarah and coworker Elma met Rovina, at Tripoli Prison. Rovina left six small children, at home, in the Philippines. She wanted to earn enough money, to send home, for food and an education for her children.

Upon arrival, she learned her madam had kidney cancer. Very soon she learned, they planned to harvest her kidneys for her madam. She was desperate. While defending herself, her madam was killed. Rovina went to jail, for life. While in jail she made scarves and baskets. Sarah and Elma sold them for her and sent the money, to her family.

Sarah says, "She is a gentle, kind woman, who even while, in prison she was a powerful witness, to the love of Jesus."

Rovina was eventually released and went home. Her smallest child was now 13 and she had become a grandmother. Sarah says, "This is a miracle. We rejoice with her."

What's New With Our Global Servants Continued

Bill and Ann Clemmer

They are home now, with plans to return to Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, in August.

Pieter and Nora Kalkman

The Kalkman's serve with a network of Baptist Churches throughout Europe and the Middle East. For 24 years they have been headquartered, in Prague the capital, of the Czech Republic.

They write: "We will continue with the same ministry assignment: The volunteer coordination with our partners, in Europe and the Middle East. But with the following difference, that we start this year, from a different "base location" in Amsterdam, Netherlands."

"It will be closer to the European Baptist Federation (EBF) and the International Baptist Theological Seminary- accredited by the University of Amsterdam (IBTS)."

"Also, we will have more frequent and shorter visits, to supporting and partnering churches, in the United States, spread over the coming years."

"With our move to the Netherlands this Winter, we are closer to the IBTS headquarters, in Amsterdam. We are having the benefit of Baptist leaders, from all over Europe and the Middle East, coming to Amsterdam. In many cases, we can discuss Short-Term mission options and updates with them directly, without having to travel, to their countries.

"We will minister, in some areas, with IBTS, even though our primary assignment still remains the coordination of Short-Term Mission Teams and individuals, from the United States, to Europe.

Also the Czech Baptists remain one of our 50+ partners. Some of the things the IBTS leadership asked us, was to assist immediately, with the upcoming 75th year anniversary, for the Seminary. Also with several other ministries including involvement, with their newly launched "Learning Network". We hope to share more about that, in future newsletters.

We have a ministry to share the love of Jesus and glorify God through networking with the Baptist Churches in Europe and the Middle East, developing mission awareness and coordinating the skills and interests of short-term mission volunteers, with the needs, of the 50+ Baptist Conventions from the European Baptist Federation (EBF). They are now strategically based near the International Baptist Theological Seminary (IBTS), which after many years in Prague moved to Amsterdam.

Baptists in this mission region (EBF) are minorities everywhere, which provides more humble lenses for reading Scripture and informs their way of doing outreach. With only 2.5% Evangelical Christians, Europe is a priority mission field. Their ministry impact multiplies through volunteers.

There is so much more to share. I am working, on how, to get Mission Stories, to everyone more often. Martha



PROPOSED STATE PROJECT for 2024 – 2025

DEBORAH'S HOUSE

Tijuana, Mexico

The American Baptist Women of Maine have a rotation system for choosing the State Project.

It goes; international, national and state, then repeats. Last years project was for our three camps. Therefore, next years project is international. The board has voted to present Deborah's House, in Tijuana, Mexico, as our new project. This vote will be at Summer Conference, in August. All giving from now thru Summer Conference will go to the camps. All giving, after this year's Summer Conference, will go to Deborah's House, if this project is accepted.

Just south of the US border in Tijuana, Mexico, is a place called "Deborah's House." This shelter has been able to serve its residents since October of 2006.

Deborah's House provides a safe place for women and children who are victims of domestic violence and are at risk for being killed. This is a temporary residence, where the women have a chance to heal physically, emotionally, and spiritually, in a safe environment.

From International Ministries

In the sprawling urban environment of Tijuana, Mexico, extreme poverty exists alongside abundant wealth. Many women and their children are experiencing abuse at the hands of their husbands, and in some cases sex-traffickers. Deborah's House provides a place of refuge for these women and children. Not only is it a safe and secure environment, but they receive medical treatment if needed, as well as job training so that they can sustain themselves when they graduate within a year (at most). We support Deborah's House through [International Minis-](#)

Spring Rally North Minutes -- Barbara Anderson

On April 27, 2024, the Spring Rally North was hosted by the North Livermore Baptist Church AB Women's Group. We were warmly welcomed by Pastor Bonnie Higgins. President Cindy Richendollar gave a heartfelt ABW welcome and opened the rally with a prayer. Music was led by Linda Lyman followed by Mary Dube leading us in devotions, "Don't Drag Your Feet" based on Romans 10:15 and John 16:33.

A short business meeting began with the roll call. 35 women were in attendance. Martha Walker gave us a robust missions report updating on the status of White Cross, Operation Planning Hope, Love Gift, our Special Interest Missionaries, our special interest project – Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries and an introduction to Deborah's House as the proposed state mission project for 2024-25.

It was announced that The Clemmers will be speaking at the Litchfield Plains Church on June 2nd for anyone interested in attending.

Special music was provided by the women of North Livermore & Moose Hill Baptist churches.

We had an amazing presentation by our speaker, Rev. Dr. Susan Crane sharing on the theme, "Does the Bible Really Say That". Rev. Crane led us through the scriptures to assist us in understanding the role of men vs. women as pastors and as leaders in the Bible. What an indepth lecture and discussion. Thank you to Rev. Crane who shared so much with us at the rally.

Linda Deane gave us a report on Summer Conference Aug. 8-10. Speakers include: Joyce Bagiraneza and Jeni Pedzinski from ABC International Ministries. Our theme for the conference is: "Christmas". Information and registration materials will be coming out in the June Potential.

The morning session ended with prayer. Thank you to the women of North Livermore Baptist Church for their wonderful hospitality including a lovely breakfast with lots of tasty goodies and for a wonderful lunch.

After the luncheon, we concluded the day with more discussion on Rev. Crane's presentation.

American Baptist Women of Maine

THE POTENTIAL

abwmaine.org

Summer 2024

Linda Deane
PO Box 76
Livermore Falls
Maine 04254

2024 Dates to Remember

June 15 Directory Reports Due

July 31 Summer Conference Registrations must be in

August 8-10 Summer Conference China Lake

Oct. 1 Potential Articles Due

(More Dates will be added after Summer Conference)