

# MAHSEH NEWSLETTER

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the Mahseh staff.

VOL. 1, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2017

## Top stories in this newsletter



Ladies Tea at Mahseh

## GREETINGS TO YOU FROM THE STAFF AT MAHSEH

**June and July were busting out all over and Mahseh has been very busy. We have had groups every weekend except for the holiday weekends when we are closed. We have also had many people coming for individual retreats during the week. The day lilies and hydrangeas are in full bloom. Earlier in May we had little owlets hanging out in the trees at dusk. God's creation blesses us every day and so do the people who come to Mahseh for rest,, reflection, teaching and renewal.**

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## SUMMER MONTHS AT MAHSEH

On June 3 Mahseh hosted a Ladies Tea for ladies in the community and also had a garden tour.

Mahseh continues to host women's retreat with ladies from Church of the Heartland and Vineyard Church of Logansport.

We have home school moms coming to prepare curriculum and prepare spiritually for the year. We have had three groups mark their tenth year coming to Mahseh—Habits of the Heart women's writing team, SAVE— a missionary board for Sierra Leone and Gambia, and ladies from St Joan of Arc, Christ Renews His Parish. Look for more info about SAVE Missionary Board below.



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## SAVE Missionary Board

For the last ten years, Mahseh has been privileged to host the annual board of directors meeting each July for Sierra Leone Agape Voluntary Effort (SAVE). These men and women gather literally from around the globe to fellowship, pray and ask God's guidance on how to impact the nation of Sierra Leone in His name.

In the late 1990's a group of individuals began to meet on how they might reduce the suffering and poverty that was occurring in the war torn country of Sierra Leone in West Africa. The group had been inspired by Sierra Leone native Dr. David Musa who had experienced the awful carnage occurring in his home country before escaping to America. About the size of South Carolina, Sierra Leone experienced a decade long civil war that left more than 50,000 people dead and much of the country's infrastructure destroyed. Over two million Sierra Leoneans, including Dr. Musa, were displaced during the war. This was followed in 2014 by an Ebola outbreak that overburdened the limited healthcare infrastructure and further hampered the economic recovery of the country. Dr. Musa established SAVE to provide both spiritual and physical aid to a country that certainly is in great need of both. The twelve member board brings people from as far away as Seattle, Washington to Chester, UK for this once a year event. In



In particular, they discuss on how to meet the objectives of the organization.

The specific objectives of SAVE are understood within the context of the Christian faith and community and include:

1. *To minister to the spiritual, educational and physical needs of the people of Sierra Leone*
  2. *To provide support to existing Christian ministries in Sierra Leone*
  3. *To heighten public awareness of the great needs in Sierra Leone*
  4. *To encourage and facilitate personal and practical involvement in meeting these needs*
- To commit time to pray for the church and the nation of Sierra Leone*

We the staff of Mahseh thank them for their faithfulness in carrying out their mission and are proud to serve a small part in their accomplishments in lessening the suffering of those much less fortunate than ourselves.

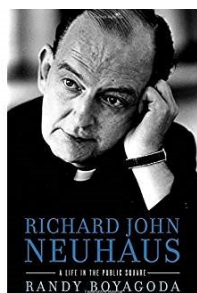


**BOOK REVIEW** *Richard John Neuhaus: Life in the Public Square*

Second in a series of book reviews added to the Mahseh Center library during the current calendar quarter.

From the publishers notes: *Richard John Neuhaus (1936-2009) was one of the most influential figures in American public life from the Civil Rights era to the War on Terror. His writing, activism, and connections to people of power in religion, politics, and culture secured a place for himself and his ideas at the center of recent American history.*

For someone who grew up in the baby boomer era, reading this book is part nostalgia for the past and part a recollection of the turbulent times of our early adulthood. Like many of that generation, Neuhaus was a liberal, anti-establishment spokesperson who matured into an advocate for conservative social causes as he aged.



Born into a devout Lutheran family, his father was a minister with whom John experienced a life-long tension of admiration and theological conflict. Ordained as a Lutheran minister, he pastored St. John the Evangelist Church in Brooklyn from 1961 to 1978. From the pulpit he addressed civil rights and social justice concerns as well as speaking out against the war on Vietnam. He initially came to national prominence when in the late 1960's he joined together with Jesuit Priest Daniel Berrigan and Rabi Abraham Joshua Heschel to found Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam.

He remained in the liberal camp until 1973 when the Roe v. Wade decision was announced. He then realized that many of his former allies were taking positions on the pro-choice side, which he found unconscionable. In 1981 he helped found the Institute on Religion and Democracy that became a key driver of the neoconservative movement that was arising among many conservative Lutherans and Roman Catholics. He is the originator of "Neuhaus's Law" which states, "Where orthodoxy is optional, orthodoxy will sooner or later be proscribed."

Neuhaus slowly realized that he held views more closely aligned with the Roman Catholic Church than with the ever increasingly liberal Missouri Synod Lutheran Church and in 1990 he converted to Catholicism. He was appointed a priest in 1991. He launched the conservative magazine *First Things* in 1990 and remained the managing editor until his death. He was also a principle author and organizer of the encyclical *Evangelical and Catholics Together* where he and other prominent spokespersons attempted to align a group of common theological beliefs to encourage greater cooperation in fighting for socially conservative causes. In fact, in 2005, Neuhaus was named one of the "25 Most Influential Evangelicals in America" by *Time Magazine*.

**Neuhaus—continued from p. 2**

A prolific author, his most widely read book is *The Naked Public Square*, which stands as a classic argument for the need for religion to be considered in public policy and not relegated to a matter of private space.

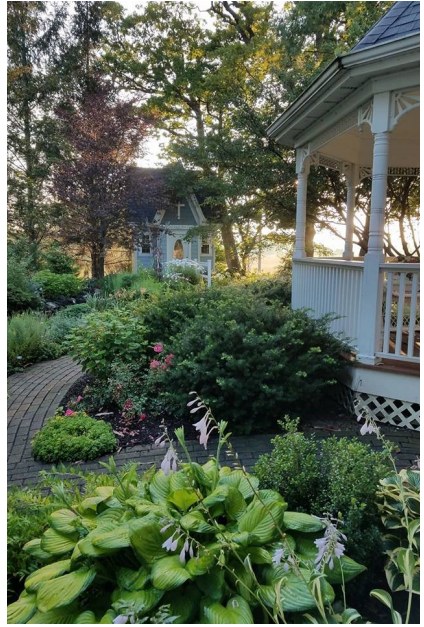
Author Randy Boyagoda paints a balanced and fascinating picture of a complex man who in many ways represented the challenge of living out one’s Christian faith in an increasingly hostile public environment. Neuhaus was a man who did that with great passion and for that reason he is a man to be greatly admired.

*Rob*

**MAHSEH in Summer and Fall**

We have been busy all summer with groups every weekend and the trend continues through November. Future groups include Southport Christian Church, Heather Hills Baptist, East Tipp Baptist, Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Faith Community, and Harvest Bible Chapel

**Well love visitors! Please stop by anytime. Just contact one of us and let us know you are coming. Donations are always welcome as we have been replacing porch furniture, windows, and other items. We are now in our 9th year of operation as we encourage Christians to renew their spiritual poise.**



**Mahseh will host the final church service of the summer on September 3. Rob will be speaking on *Proverbs* and “How’s your Thought?” At**



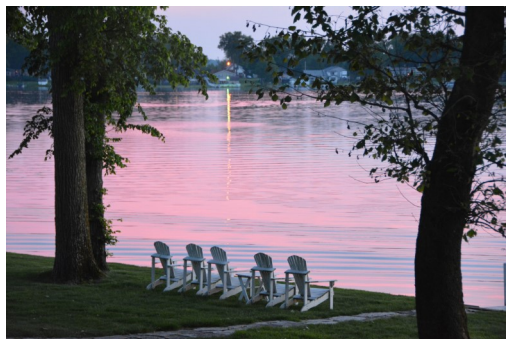
**left is a picture of three of our granddaughters, Cora, Naomi, and Lydia, singing *America the Beautiful* at our service on July 2.**

*Rob and Debbie*

*Ron & Alison*

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Chi Alpha from IU



*I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.  
Hosea 14:5*