



## Tax reform coming in 2017

With apologies to our friends and readers north of the border, we are again focusing on the United States tax code and upcoming expected changes. With the election of Donald Trump as the next U.S. president and with Republicans keeping control of both houses of Congress, significant tax changes in 2017 are almost assured. Trump

came out in September with the sketch of a tax reform plan (altered some since) and the House of Representatives Republicans had issued their “Blueprint” plan for tax reform in June. There are many areas of agreement in the two plans.

Both the Trump and the GOP plans would completely eliminate estate, gift and generation-skipping tax, reduce the number of tax brackets to three, sharply raise the standard deduction and

eliminate the alternative minimum tax. In addition, under both plans, the tax treatment of capital gains would be much more favorable and most itemized deductions would be gone with the two remaining likely to be charitable deductions and mortgage interest on the primary residence.

Considered “negotiables” between Trump and the GOP leadership include the amount of the standard deduction, exact tax rates, elimination of most deductions, caps on deductions and more. The upshot of all this: With a much higher standard deduction, it’s very likely that some of the tax incentives for giving to charity will be altered in 2017.

Questions or concerns? Feel free to email me at [rogeran@goshen.edu](mailto:rogeran@goshen.edu) or call (574) 535-7797 or toll-free at (800) 348-7422 and ask for me. And I’ll try and keep you informed as changes come into focus.

— Roger A. Nafziger, *Director of Gift Planning*

## Our students are saying...

*“Goshen takes such pride in global citizenship, and allowing for personal relationships with students whose backgrounds are different than what I am used to.”*



— Alia Byrd

a sophomore elementary education major with a double minor in TESOL and Spanish from Rensselaer, Indiana

# HERITAGE

## From scarcity to generosity: Johanna Sutter '65 wins Everence Journey Award



Johanna Sutter '65

Growing up in Germany after World War II, everything was scarce.

“There was just nothing to buy — not even a pencil,” said **Johanna Sutter '65**, because the factories were in ruins and any production machinery still salvageable had been packed up and taken to other countries.

Much of Frankenthal — a city along the Rhine River where Johanna lived — was in ruins. Food was rationed and in short supply.

One day, a package arrived from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). The Christmas bundle included clothing, school supplies and hygiene items.

Another encounter with MCC came when the pastor of a local church

gave Johanna an MCC comforter. The pastor had heard that Johanna and her sister were sleeping on a matted-down featherbed in a cold room. The comforter featured a tag that read, “Mennonite Central Committee: In the name of Christ.”

That comforter provided more than welcome warmth. It made a profound and lasting impression on Johanna that people from across the ocean cared enough to donate and send supplies to help people like her.

And the fact that people she didn’t know had shown such compassion “in the name of Christ” nudged Johanna along a path of building bridges to help others in need.

Nadine Zook Miller, MCC Great Lakes Material Resource Coordinator, noted the impact of the donated comforter when she nominated Johanna for an Everence® Journey Award.

“She had never heard of anyone doing things in the name of Christ,” said Zook Miller, “but as she snuggled in with her new comforter that night, she decided she wanted to be like the people who help others and bring hope and comfort, and not like the people who drop bombs on others.”

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Paul and Leatha Zook '40

## Paul and Leatha Zook '40 leave a lasting impact with estate plan

**Paul and Leatha Zook '40** were true global citizens and servant leaders. They cultivated friendships in six countries and all 50 states. But their generosity has had an even more lasting effect.

“Giving but not telling was their approach,” said Steve Schmid, their nephew and trustee. “Leatha’s memorial service gave a glimpse of significant support she had given to several local organizations. Now their estate plan also demonstrates that sharing.”

The Zooks’ humble generosity shone through after donating 20 percent of their estate to Goshen College to be used in its endowment.

Leatha passed away at age 98 on Dec. 12, 2015, after a period of declining health. She spent the last two years of her

life living in Brookdale Place in Wooster, Ohio.

She was born Sept. 28, 1917, in Sterling, the daughter of Michael and Anna (Stuckey) Richard, and graduated from Seville High School. On Jan. 3, 1942, she married Paul Zook.

Paul was born on Dec. 17, 1912 in Sterling, Ohio, and died Aug. 30, 1996.

The two lived in Sterling for 46 years, where they farmed and raised turkeys for many of the local grocery stores. According to Schmid, Paul would periodically spend a night sleeping in a small shelter in the fields with the turkeys to stop a fox from bothering them. Paul was also very invested in hunting.

“In my younger days I remember hearing of trips to Pennsylvania during deer

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Johanna’s connection with Mennonite Central Committee continued when she started working at an MCC children’s home in a city near Frankenthal when she was 16, learning a lot more about MCC and its efforts to help people around the world.

A few years later, she came to the United States as part of an MCC exchange program and stayed with a family in New Paris, Indiana.

After the exchange program ended, Johanna returned to work at the MCC children’s home in Germany for a few years. She came back to Indiana in 1956 and taught for five years at Clinton Christian School near Goshen.

Johanna then earned a degree at Goshen College in 1965 and taught first and second grades for more than 30 years at a public elementary school near Nappanee, Indiana. In the early 1970s, she got her master’s degree in education from Indiana University South Bend.

But when she retired from teaching about 15 years ago, Johanna shifted her support of MCC into a higher gear. She started volunteering many hours each week for MCC Great Lakes at the

Material Resource Center in the Old Bag Factory complex in Goshen.

In addition to buying materials for school kits (notebooks, pencils, rulers, erasers) or five-gallon relief buckets designed to aid a family of four (towels, bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bandages, combs, fingernail clippers), Johanna helps oversee volunteers who come to the Material Resource Center.

She makes sure the cloth bags or plastic buckets are packed correctly. “I get things ready for the volunteers who come in,” she said. “I answer their questions.” The classroom may be different, but she’s still teaching.

For Johanna, retirement has consisted mainly of overseas travel (Germany and Nepal are among her favorite destinations) and volunteering for MCC.

Some people buy homes in places like Florida or Arizona when they retire. That’s fine, but that’s not for Johanna.

“I wouldn’t be me if I stopped doing what I’m doing,” she said.

— By Jim Miller, *Everence*

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season,” said Schmid. “The destinations kept changing.”

Schmid also spoke highly of Leatha’s cooking. “One Sunday, [my wife] Cathy and I joined [Leatha and Paul] for lunch,” said Schmid. It was as good as ever. After the meal, Leatha brought out a pie she had just made, cut it into four pieces, and gave one to each of us.

Schmid added, “each of us should follow their example of having a generous heart.”

— By Maddie Birky '17

## HERITAGE

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*Heritage Newsletter*, published several times yearly, is a service for friends of Goshen College on developments in planned giving and estate planning. Each issue also focuses on a small number of participants in the college’s special and deferred gifts program. Information in *Heritage Newsletter* should not be considered an interpretation of the law or of federal tax rules and regulations. Your own lawyer, bank trust officer or financial adviser can help you select the most advantageous way to give or bequeath funds or property to Goshen College.

## THEN & NOW

### Shaping the next generation of teachers

Goshen College has been educating high-quality teachers since The Elkhart Institute opened its doors in 1894. In the more than century since, the teacher education program has been one of the college’s most popular majors. In this photo (*top*) from the 1984 Maple Leaf yearbook, **Linda (Graber) Taylor '84**, an elementary education major, admires the piloting skills of one of her students while student teaching. She is now an assistant professor of elementary education at Ball State University.

GC offers real-world experience in classrooms, including the Goshen College lab kindergarten (*bottom*: pictured is **Ashley Arms**, a senior elementary education and TESOL double major). By the time they graduate, elementary and secondary education majors have gained experience in a half-dozen different classroom settings, and most of them have participated in GC’s life-changing Study-Service Term.

