

## President's Report, 2019

### *PNMHS Mission Statement*

*"Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society seeks to collect and preserve historical materials and to celebrate the heritage of Mennonites in the Pacific Northwest in order to educate, inspire, and witness to the church and broader community."*

Story is enjoyed by all ages; we hear it from the young child "tell me a story" to the older adult who says "let me tell you a story!" I've concluded history is just that—story and compilations of stories. We of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society have an appreciation and a love of story, thus history!

We also have a conviction that history is some of the work God's people must attend to thus we spend time, resources, and talents to care for the faith stories of persons and congregations and institutions of Mennonites in the Pacific Northwest. We are grateful for the facility and space to keep the history for all of us that is a tremendous labor of love from a previous board to raise the funds for this building.

The joy of this Heritage Center is that guests come often with questions to confirm or to learn some piece of personal history. 2018 records 71 persons in the guest book. Some come in who've seen the sign by the road and are curious to talk with us. Sometimes there is a family question or checking of a date, or to borrow a book. A highlight are our Amish visitors who seek out family connections, and often for Isaac Miller who was an early Mennonite settler in the Hubbard area. Isaac Miller was also a house builder.

We are deeply appreciative of book contributions to two walls (floor to ceiling) of book shelves, books about Mennonites, Mennonite authors, and publications from Mennonite organizations. Even yearbooks from Mennonite schools! Books are acquired through donations from authors and others and purchased books. Books may be borrowed for your reading and all are listed online [www.pnmhs.org](http://www.pnmhs.org) there are also books available for research on site, not available to loan out. PNMHS website has increased contacts for searches and information.

During 2018 weekly volunteer hours sorted through many boxes of materials received and are now shelved in file folders stored in numbered boxes in the climate controlled archive room. These materials came from congregations, institutions, and persons. Oregon Festival for World Relief (MCC sale) is now one of these. About a half-dozen new boxes were filled and others added to!

**PNMHS has an opening for an archivist.** Mike Barber moved from Oregon this past spring leaving this position open. We have this on our website and we need leads for someone to fill this place. Before Mike left I received a list of persons and places he knew needed follow-up or initial conversation. His heart was with us.

Looking ahead –

Conversation has begun with TourMagination to present their documentary on the work and tours John Ruth has led for many years. Confirmation of date and place is the next step.

Another wish is to sponsor a traveling exhibit “Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War” developed by Kauffman Museum in Kansas. This informative and valuable exhibit has an underwriting cost to it and we could pursue finding such persons to support PNMHS and this project. We’d like to hear your voice on this exhibit coming to the northwest.

Our board and volunteers are open to hearing your suggestions and offers of pursuits for PNMHS. Are there stories you know that need a broader audience? We are a ministry of service to groups of Mennonites within our identified area.

We have partnered with Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and other Mennonite historical societies to be present at Mennonite Church USA convention this summer and in a special presentation.

Thank you and gratitude—

- Financial support from many persons and several congregations. PNMHS relies on the support of our friends and that is wonderful. Thank you.
- Volunteers! Everything that PNMHS does is by volunteers, their interest, their time and their gifts.
  - The board members. There is room for more on the board, let us know.
  - Margaret Shetler, our Archivist Emeritus continues her deep interest even with physical limitations, we take courage from that.
  - John Gingerich keeps the online presence for PNMHS; website, Facebook, library catalog, all collections with identified box number, and in general keeping the Center focused on its work.
  - Shirley Martin knows family connections and genealogy and can assist you in your search. She keeps files on families!
  - Carolyn Gingerich as librarian catalogues and shelves the books and has a very good idea of what is there!
  - Lynn Miller joined this year as a precise sorter and filer of paper and documents that have come.
  - Beth Diener weekly cleans and others help with maintenance chores, some regular and others are sporadic. These are tremendous gifts to PNMHS.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Hershberger

#### Library--

188 new books (65 pamphlets) in 2018 with total count of 3399 shelved and catalogued:

Anabaptist Theology 5,	Curriculum 5,	Missions 2,
Amish 6,	Devotional 3,	Theology 1,
Bible 7,	Fiction 4,	War and Peace 11
Biography 14,	Genealogy 6,	
Children’s Stories 7,	German 1,	
Christian Experience, Practice	History 37,	
and Daily Life 69,	Hymnals and Songs 6,	
Church 23,	Mennonite 6,	