

## President's Report 2020

### *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."*

History is simply remembering and telling stories. So with that kind of basis for preserving history we of PNMHS exist to be guardians of the Mennonite story in the Northwest. Just a reminder, that Mennonite story is bigger and wider than just one group of Mennonites!

The Heritage Center is open each week Wednesday 9 to 3 staffed by our volunteers sorting, cataloguing, and of course answering any questions that come with visitors or by email.

Approximately 75 guests came through the door in 2019 either bringing items for our keeping in an organized way or to research an interest in their genealogy or other events in the history of northwest Mennonites. I often tell folks that paper storage is not good in the basement, attic or upstairs room of your house!

Two groups of visitors were from "the east" as we say, Wisconsin and Indiana. Both were Amish and part of the Miller family tree that came to the Hibbard area and for whom a road is named nearby Zion church. Others have come with genealogy questions, for research on particular data or to borrow a book from the Center's library. There are over 3000 books on library shelves and these are also cataloged online.

June 2019 PNMHS showed John Ruth documentary "Is there a Lesson? From his many years and travels as a Mennonite historian. It was well received and we appreciated the audience and their offering shared with the documentary developers.

You are encouraged to browse the website <https://pnmhs.org/> for so much information. John Gingerich keeps this updated and photos can be browsed from the comfort of your own easy chair! One piece of advice, please attach identification to your photos, it so helpful for research.

Looking ahead—

We have begun conversation with a large display from Kauffman Museum, Kansas, "Voices of Conscience;" a traveling exhibit telling the story of World War 1 conscientious objectors. You can be best informed by checking this online. We see 2021 as a target date and we have begun conversation with some venues for the display. Jay Beaman, Portland Mennonite is partnering with us on this project. As you explore the website you'll discover there is a substantial cost for the Society and we will work at gathering the needed funds. We understand it is an impressive display and of course the story of the historic Peace Churches.

**<https://kauffman.bethelks.edu/Traveling%20Exhibits/Voices-of-Conscience/index.html>**

A word on Margaret Shetler, Archivist Emeritus. She lives at Mt. Angel Towers and is basically home-bound because of her limited physical abilities. If you'd like to drop a note to her, address: One Towers Lane # 2255, Mt. Angel, OR 97362.

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. We can't count the hours given by these.
  - Board Members Lin Rush, Gloria Nussbaum, Jerry Barkman, Rod Fretz, John Goertzen, Pat Hershberger
  - John Gingerich keeps the online presence for PNMHS with the website, Facebook, library catalog, all collections with identified box numbers and in general keeping the Center focused on its work.
  - Shirley Martin knows family connections and genealogy and can assist you in yours. She keeps the files on families.
  - Carolyn Gingerich as librarian catalogs and shelves the books and can help you find what you are looking for.
  - Lynn Miller is a precise sorter and filer of paper and documents as they come in. Some interesting things have come to the Center!
  - Beth Diener weekly cleans and offers help with maintenance chores, her gift is greatly appreciated.
  - Marlene and Joe Harris live across the driveway and have volunteered to keep the landscape clean and updated. Changes coming this spring.
  - Wilbur Kauffman is the graphics designer for all of our printed pieces. He refined the work of George Fox U. students 2 years ago and his contribution is a large gift to PNMHS. He makes us look good!

As we noted last year, PNMHS is without an identified archivist. We appreciate any suggestions you have for the board.

Our Board can also have additional members per the bylaws so your suggestions or volunteer is welcomed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pat Hershberger