



Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

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Preserving the past to illuminate the future

2022 PNMHS Presidents Report

- A. At our annual meeting in February, 2022, the board announced that the archives storage room would be named in honor of longtime archivist Margaret Shetler. She was part of the formation of the Society in 1988. Without her tireless efforts as archivist over 25 years, the society would not be where it is today. We are glad we took this action prior to her death a few months later.
- B. The board took action to honor Hope Lind for her efforts in helping form the Historical Society. In the role as conference historian, she tested a vision for a local historical society at a meeting she called of 14 persons who met on November 7, 1987. As a result of the meeting, the conference approved the formation of the Oregon Mennonite Historical & Genealogical Society. OMHGS, later re-named Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society. Hope served as the Society's first president.
- C. The center was open each Wednesday throughout the year and served a number of visitors. Some of the items accessioned and archived are:
 - Collections from Dave Stutzman, John Willems, and Pat Hershberger, all of whom had extensive involvement with conference activities.
 - PNMHS Conference materials
- D. We continued participation in the Anabaptist History Today which is a joint project with other Mennonite historical societies to record stories and document how Mennonites across the country have been impacted by Covid-19.
- E. We made the commitment to bring a traveling exhibit called Voices of Conscience to the area this coming August and September. It captures stories of conscientious objectors during World War 1 and was created by the Kauffman Museum at Bethel College in Kansas. You will hear more about this later in our program.
- F. Our volunteers, with the help of Ivan Snyder, categorized and organized several boxes of German books donated by Clarence & Berdena West and Urie Kenagy. A list of these and other German books in our collection can be found on our website under the Archives web page tab.
- G. Thanks to Board members, Pat Hershberger, Jerry Barkman, Jay Beaman, Gloria Nussbaum, John Goertzen, Rod Fretz and Carol Shank
- H. Thanks to our Volunteers, John Gingerich, Shirley Martin, Carolyn Gingerich, Lynn Miller, Beth Diener, Steve Turner, and Carol Shank, with special thanks to Ivan Snyder for his help on cataloging the German collection.
- I. Thanks to our faithful donors. Our work would not be possible without your ongoing and faithful support. We invite your ongoing support of our mission to preserve the history of Mennonites in the Pacific Northwest.

Respectfully submitted,
Linwood Rush,
Board Chair