

# Histories of Former Chapters

## Clark County Chapter

According to the *Lamplighter*, this chapter was organized with by-laws in 1971. The chapter had nine members with elected officers, and Rhoda Page was Chapter President. In the January 1975 issue the *Lamplighter* recorded that Barbara Johnson was Chapter President. The Clark County Chapter of Vancouver, WA officially disbanded in October 1975.

## Columbia Gorge Chapter

The October 1985 *Lamplighter* reported that Elaine Walters represented the chapter at the June 1985 conference in Yakima. She later became Chapter President and Jenny Barney, Secretary/Treasurer.

In the August 1986 *Lamplighter*, Jeannie Justice indicated the Chapter felt it should submit an annual report to the parent organization to let them know how they were doing. Elaine Walters reported they had a wonderful first year with four meetings. On September 24, 1985, Marion Warrenha and Elaine were hostesses at the Hood River Christian & Missionary Alliance Church and School. They presented a skit on *How to Build the Library Collection*. The next meeting was held November 14, 1985 at Calvary Baptist in The Dalles with Vickie Davis, hostess and program on *Conservation of Library Materials*. Their third meeting on April 3, 1986 took members to Chenowirth Baptist to help them get their library organized. In May they met at Gateway Presbyterian Church in The Dalles with hostess Jenny Barney presenting *Library Promotion Ideas* for their program.

However, according to the October 1986 *Lamplighter*, membership had reduced to three members. Elaine Walters, who moved, had resigned as president and a new president had taken over. Members felt it was a wonderful year of getting acquainted and encouraging one another. Everyone felt the association had been profitable but they regretted that due to the depressed economy in The Dalles each member concluded not to pay the dues for another year.

Submitted by Diana Redetzke, Chapter Archives Chair

## Lilac Empire Chapter

Lilac Empire Chapter was an active group long before it was officially chartered. In November 1966, over 20 church librarians gathered at Central Christian Church of Spokane for a round table. Guests were librarians from the Spokane Public Library system who gave brief workshops on a variety of topics of interest. Primary business items were discussion of the by-laws for the formation of Pacific Northwest Association of Church Libraries (PNAACL) and hosting a Church Libraries Workshop in Spokane in 1969.

Some of the people instrumental in laying the foundation for the future Lilac Empire Chapter were Kay Share, Vi Pate, Dr. Ludwig Roehmann and Olga Goplen. Olga chaired the first round table held in Spokane in 1966. Spokane church librarians were called together again for a local workshop in June of 1967. At that time it was determined to move forward with plans for the 1969 Church Libraries annual workshop which would be held at the Whitworth College Campus and sponsored by the Spokane area church librarians.

A blurb from a 1969 *Lamplighter* invited all the interested church librarians in the Pacific Northwest to come to the Inland Empire area for the Annual Church Libraries Workshop. The Inland Empire was defined as: Eastern B.C., Western Montana, North Idaho and Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington. Everyone was invited to spend three days (June 8-10) attending workshops and seminars led by Whitworth department heads.

In 1970, Vi Pate served on the PNAACL nominating committee, while Kay Share was the Membership Chair. During this time, Vi and Kay were very involved along with other interested people, in the organization of a Spokane church librarian's chapter. The Pacific Northwest Association of Church Libraries (PNAACL) was officially incorporated in July 1972. On August 25, 1973, Lilac Empire Chapter was officially chartered as a PNAACL chapter. Lilac Empire Chapter's membership area encompassed Colville to the north, south to Cheney, extended to Colfax and took in Coeur d'Alene, ID to the east.. The first elected officers of Lilac Empire Chapter were: Kay Share, President; Mary Appling, Vice President; Lori Hess, Secretary; and Hilda Kaatz, Treasurer.

## Conferences Hosted

1969: June 8-10; 9th Annual PNAACL Workshop at Whitworth College, Spokane, WA. Co-chairs: Kay Share and Betty Groff

1974: August 4-6; 14th Annual PNAACL Workshop at Ft. Wright College, Spokane, WA. *Roads to Renewal* theme. Chair: Kay Share, Co-Chair: Vi Pate.

1981: July 10-12; 21st Annual PNAACL Workshop at Whitworth College, Spokane, WA. *Touch the Rainbow* theme. Chair: Kay Share, Co-Chair: Vi Pate.

1991: June 20-22, 31st Annual PNAACL Workshop/Conference at Whitworth College, Spokane, WA. *Friendship Through Books* theme. Chair: Edna Dyke.

2001: July 20-21, 41st Annual PNAACL Workshop/Conference at Whitworth College, Spokane, WA. *Fill the Need to Read* theme. Chaired by the PNAACL Board, with the lead taken by Judy Kelley, Chapters Chair.

## History by Decades

**1960s:** In 1966, Spokane area church librarians began a program of quarterly workshops to assist and train area librarians. Prior to this time, interested church librarians attended the annual workshops put on by university staff at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) in Tacoma, WA.

In 1966 several dedicated church librarians decided to conduct a round table based on the information received at the most recent Church Library Workshop at PLU. The round table was held on November 5, 1966, and a business meeting was held with Olga Goplen selected as Chair. Topics addressed were library budgets, publicity, book selection policy, weeding, and classification and cataloging. There was great deal of interest in having these round tables/workshops locally and a schedule of round tables developed. By the time Lilac Empire Chapter was chartered, this group was meeting quarterly.

In 1969, the Spokane area church librarians hosted a Church Library Workshop with staff from Whitworth College presenting most of the seminars. Ellen White was President of the Northwest Church Library group (later known as PNAACL) and Betty Groff from Richland, WA. gave two seminars: *How to Plan a Conference* and *How to Start a Church Library*. Vi Pate was Display Chair and Kay Share was Conference Co-Chair. The registration fee was \$5.

**1970s:** Spokane church librarians were very active and Vi Pate was selected as a member of the Northwest Nominating Committee in 1970. Vi helped contact prospective officers for the soon to be chartered PNAACL group.

In 1972, Vi was Round Table/Seminar Chair. During that same time period, Kay Share served as Church Librarians Membership Chair for the Northwest group. Later in 1972 she succeeded Vi as Round Table/Seminar Chair. Many of the active members of the Spokane Church Librarians group were hopeful of establishing a local Spokane chapter of the soon to be chartered PNAACL.

The Spokane group was having regular quarterly meetings and, by August 25, 1973, by-laws for the Lilac Empire Chapter of PNAACL were adopted. Its stated purpose: To glorify God and promote the growth of church libraries by: assisting with problems of establishment and operation; aiding in the selection of appropriate books by acquainting members with available resources; and planning meetings for mutual encouragement, assistance and ideas with seminars, workshops and round tables.

Dues were set for individuals at \$7 with \$3 being kept at the local level and \$4 sent to the PNAACL Association Treasurer. For a church or organization membership the fee was \$12 with \$4 being retained by the chapter and \$8 going to PNAACL. The transformation of the Spokane Church Librarians group to Lilac Empire Chapter of PNAACL coincided with a revitalization of the Spokane chapter. Kay Share was the first President of the newly chartered Lilac Empire Chapter while Mary Appling was Vice President. Secretary was Lori Hess, and Treasurer was Hilda Katz.

In 1974, Lilac Empire Chapter planned four quarterly workshops and hosted the 14th annual PNAACL Workshop at Ft. Wright College in Spokane. Ellen Gunderson Traylor, a local author, presented a seminar. In 1975 Vi Pate gave a workshop to Lilac Chapter on reference materials. Faculty and staff at Fort Wright College assisted her.

In 1976-77 the Lilac Empire Chapter offered a full schedule of meetings and workshops from September through May. The usual meeting time was from 10 and until noon and the chapter was revitalized and growing. Twenty-two people attended the September 1976 meeting, with newcomers numbering nine or so. Many in the area had been unaware there was a group that offered church library skills and support! In May of 1976, member Hilda Kaatz passed away and the chapter felt the loss deeply, but by December membership stood at 18.

During the 1978-79 year, the chapter honored members Olga Goplen, Dr. Ludwig Roehmann, Libby Sandberg. and Kay Share for their dedicated support of church librarians and particularly for their devotion to Lilac Empire Chapter. In May of 1979, Dr. Roehmann passed away.

**1980s:** The death of Margaret Springer, the newly elected President for 1980-81, necessitated emergency elections of new officers. Selected to lead the group were Hazel Swann as President, Edna Dyke as Vice President, Pauline Smith as 2nd Vice President, Vi Pate as Secretary, and Mary Blackburn as Treasurer. A change in the by-laws added the new office of Second Vice President.

The chapter adopted a schedule of 6-8 meetings per year and added a potluck luncheon. The programs were varied with members giving most of them. Occasionally a guest professional was invited. Membership now totaled thirty.

In 1981, Lilac Empire Chapter hosted the annual PNAACL conference and several local members were presenters. The *Rainbow* theme was carried out in many ways with favors, handouts and 'freebies'. Membership in 1982 was at thirty-six individuals with over forty area churches represented. Olga Goplen passed away that year leaving a big hole in Lilac's support team. In 1983 at the PNAACL annual conference, Kay Share was made an Honorary Life Member.

By 1986, plans were being made to add a few evening meetings to accommodate the varied schedules of chapter members. The chapter continued to meet 6-7 times per year. One of the highlights of that year, was a presentation by local children's author, Christine Tangvald. Her topic was *Writing for Children*. That year the Lilac Empire Board wrote to the PNAACL Board of Directors noting they felt distant from that board and wished to have greater contact and connection.

In 1988-89 a first was achieved: Lilac Chapter elected Co-Presidents. The members were working to establish another chapter in Eastern Washington. In March of 1989, they hosted a booth at the annual Christian Workers Fair and presented two workshops. In the fall of 1989, the chapter presented mini workshop sessions to promote library skills and ministry.

**1990s:** During 1990 the Lilac Chapter participated in the Christian Workers Conference held in March in Spokane. The chapter members presented workshops on how to establish a church library and hosted a booth displaying library resources. The members hosted five other regular meetings that year, plus

attending the annual PNACL conference. In 1991, Lilac Empire hosted the annual PNACL conference at the Whitworth College Campus. Jan Arkills presented a workshop entitled *Weeding the Collection*. Edna Dyke and Vi Pate were selected for Honorary Life Membership. This conference was a great success.

Following the 1991 conference, Lilac Empire Chapter scheduled five regular meetings. There were exceptional turnouts for these events as they were given coverage by the local Christian radio station as well as announcements in the local newspapers. Computers in the library were a hot topic as well as software programs for small church libraries.

The spring of 1998 saw the Lilac Empire Chapter struggling. Several members passed away and some older members dropped out. Officer positions were difficult to fill, a sign of the times as our society changed. In April of 1998, the PNACL Board of Directors met with Lilac members in an attempt to work out solutions to revive the chapter. The Lilac Empire Chapter canceled meetings for the 1999-2000 year. In the winter of 2000 the chapter was officially disbanded, with Frances Murray acting as the chapter contact person after that time.

Church library ministry remained strong in the Inland Empire. However, leadership roles in a chapter structure were hard to fill. The history of excellence for Lilac Empire chapter was evident in the type and caliber of programs and workshops they sponsored. Their enthusiasm for church library ministry was apparent by the frequency of PNACL conferences they hosted. Much of the information and "flavor" of the Lilac Empire Chapter was gathered from a marvelous scrapbook kept by chapter members. Other tidbits of information were gathered from articles in the *Lamplighter* and Presidents' annual reports.

Submitted by Judy Borsheim

## Lower Columbia Chapter

The October 1985 *Lamplighter* reported that this chapter had formulated by-laws, but had not elected officers. Faith Ruhland represented the chapter at the June 1985 conference in Yakima indicating that the group would meet in September or October for election of officers. Faith later became president of the chapter. Esther Lee was Vice President and Dorothy Gaubatz (later an Honorary Life member) was Secretary/Treasurer. Members who were former members of the Metro-Portland chapter would have a portion of their dues transferred to this new chapter after officers were elected and a treasury established. Later a membership report indicated the chapter had seven members and that they received their charter in March 1986. As of March 31, 1987 the chapter had six members.

# Mid-Columbia Chapter

## Our Chapter's Beginning

"To help existing church libraries and to assist in the development of new ones; to bring together those persons who want to respond to God's call to participate in the ministry of books." This was the stated purpose that was sent out to area churches inviting them to send their church librarian to the October 28, 1967, Tri-City Area Roundtable. This was one of fifteen roundtables sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Church Library Association during October of 1967. This was the starting point on the road to becoming the Mid-Columbia Chapter of PNAACL.

## Instrumental in the Growth of the Chapter

Betty Groff Hollibaugh, Dorothy Clagett, Martha Shelton, Melba Hanson, Helen Smith, and Florence Sharp were just a few of the early members who came together from all around the Mid-Columbia to sit and share their experiences with church librarianship. Membership in the early years covered Richland, Kennewick, Pasco, east to Walla Walla, west to Yakima, north to Connell, and south to Hermiston.

## Early Milestones

1967-1971: First known as the Tri-City Area Church Library Committee, later known as the Tri-City Chapter

April 24, 1971: A reorganization meeting was held in hopes that church librarians from miles around would come and plan for the future

October 1971: Became Mid-Columbia Chapter of PNAACL, Betty Groff, President

November 1972: By-Laws for Mid-Columbia Chapter adopted, Martha Shelton, President

## Conferences hosted by the Mid-Columbia Chapter

1979: 19th annual PNAACL Workshop at Walla Walla, June 24-26, Co-Directors Betty Groff and Martha Shelton

1987: *Witnesses Together* at Columbia Basin College in Pasco, August 13-15

1993: *Getting to the Core* with Wenatchee and Yakima Chapters in Ellensburg, June 25-27

1995: *Libraries Alive in 95* at First Lutheran Church in Kennewick, July 15. This conference was one of the first mini-conferences established that year with the concept that two one-day conferences would be held in both the eastern and western areas of the association to enable more people to attend a conference.

## Chapter Meeting Highlights through the Decades

**1970s:** Up until the 70s, scheduled Round Tables continued to be the type of meetings held in the area. "The April 24, 1971 meeting was our first in over a year. We're up on our feet and going again, still small in number but the enthusiasm of 50!" Still trying to get the Mid-Columbia Chapter off and running, the chapter sponsored three clinics in the fall of 1972, one in Hermiston followed by two in Richland. In April of 1973, Melba Hanson and her helpers Helen Smith and Florence Sharp displayed a banner they had made for National Library Week and in celebration of their new church library site at First Lutheran Church of Kennewick. The banner read, "Books are always in season in your CHURCH LIBRARY." This brought enthusiasm to the chapter and a workshop on making banners was scheduled.

"Cluster" meetings (3 separate homes, 3 different times and 3 different days) were also tried as a means of reaching more churches in the area. On 3 different days in February of 1976, a morning, afternoon and evening time for informal sharing were held at the homes of Betty Groff, Ruth Rietman, and Martha Shelton. Although these meetings were not well attended. Martha Shelton wrote: "However, no matter how few attend you come away with some new ideas that prove very worthwhile."

Always helping others and trying to get more churches involved in library ministry, Betty Groff and Martha Shelton sent hope and help in 1977, to set up a church library at the First Baptist Church of Yakima. They continued to support the area until a chapter was formed there in 1978.

In 1977 they also launched a telephone survey campaign. Again Melba, Betty, and Martha tried to reach all of the Tri-City churches to increase interest and attendance. Personal contact and a postcard brought 14 to the meeting in February. These early "pioneers" of the Mid-Columbia Chapter were always encouraging others to keep their dream alive.

**1980s:** The chapter had discouraging times during 1982-83, caused by illnesses and offices not being filled. Board members were asked to pray for them and as of October 1983 the chapter had offices filled and had a positive look to the future. "We need to remember to pray for each of the chapters no matter what and to nurture each other." Due to bad weather only two meetings were held in the 83-84 year. Early in 1984, Betty launched another telephone survey to spark interest in the church library. Although not many responded, "Betty's hopes and dreams are that a busload from here and Yakima attend the summer conference in Tacoma. It may not happen but I'm going to think positive and keep on trying and praying that it will happen."

To let members know of meetings through out the year, handbooks of approximately 12 pages in length were made describing the planned meetings, what PNACL was all about, and listing members' names. All this without the aid of computers! In November of 1984 the chapter had its first introduction to microcomputers. Members were asked to bring three books to catalog on the microcomputer, "it's FUN!" Attendance at meetings continued to increase and at one meeting in 1986, twelve church libraries were represented. The custom of bringing sack lunches to meetings turned into salad luncheons in the 80s.

On August 13-15, 1987, the Mid-Columbia Chapter was host to the annual summer conference. *Witnesses Together* was held at Columbia Basin College in Pasco. Some of the workshops were on card

catalog production with computers, starting a library, and calligraphy, to name a few. Fifteen workshops were available to attendees over the two days. Attendees stayed and ate at the Red Lion Hotel.

In January of 1988, Arlene Macy, Vice President of the chapter introduced members to Maryann Dott's Book, *The Church Source Library*, which was later revised as *You Can Have A Church Library* and until 1999 was part of the new members' packet.

The Mid-Columbia Chapter concluded the 80s with the first annual Tour of Church Libraries. On April 15, 1989 a car caravan (not too many mini vans back then to haul everyone in) toured churches in Pasco, WA.

**1990s:** Tours of church libraries in the Mid-Columbia area continued and were a way of promoting National Library Week

- 1990 Kennewick
- 1991 Richland
- 1992 Pasco
- 1993 WSU Tri-Cities Branch Campus Library
- 1994 Kennewick
- 1996 Walla Walla
- 1997 Prosser-Sunnyside

In 1996 the chapter continued to reach out with the library ministry by touring churches in Walla Walla. Gladys Clifton of Christ Lutheran Church in Walla Walla invited the chapter to come and evaluate their library. Members even had lunch in an old converted train car! The next year members headed west and toured churches in the Prosser-Sunnyside area. The Darigold Cheese Factory was on the tour for lunch, delicious ice cream, and a photo session with a full size replica of a cow!

*Getting to the Core:* In 1993 the Mid-Columbia Chapter co-hosted the summer conference in Ellensburg along with the Wenatchee and Yakima Chapters under the direction of Conference Consultant June Ruyle. While providing snacks and favors the chapter also presented the devotions on Saturday night, *Golden Delicious Moments*. Romaine Olson and Judy Borsheim were morning worship readers. Diana Redetzke presented a workshop on *How to Furnish Your Church Library*, and Marietta Carrigan conducted a workshop on *Using Computers in Your Church Library*. Encouraged to wear clothing the color of apples, members of the chapter looked like five Red Delicious and one Granny Smith. And oh, those "granny bonnets" Romaine made!

*Libraries Alive in 95:* Mini-Conference Chair Judy Borsheim guided the chapter as they readied themselves to host the first mini-conference, held July 15 at First Lutheran Church of Kennewick. Host members were easily recognized by the denim and rose bandanna they wore fashioned in all sorts of creative ways! Another of Romaine's creative ideas!

The evening started with *A Lively Event* with Jacque Sonderman, director of Franklin County Historical Museum, speaking on the history and development of the Tri-Cities area with emphasis on local churches. Everyone also had fun with a Christmas in July Chinese Auction. The conference offered three workshops plus keynote speaker Dr. Marvin Cain from Mid-Columbia Center for Theological Study, who spoke on *The Historical Jesus* and also gave a workshop on the Dead Sea Scrolls.

At the September 1993 meeting the presented Leona Carlson, Melba Hanson, Arlene Macy, Betty Groff Hollibaugh, and Martha Shelton with a certificate and a flower arrangement for the dedicated effort given to their church libraries, to the chapter, and to the PNACL organization.

Still willing and able to travel to help others with the library ministry, in October 1995 the chapter traveled to Sunnyside, WA for a marathon cataloging session to help a new member process books and get them up on the shelves.

In 1996 Marietta Carrigan, who had been chapter president for many years, became an Honorary Life Member in PNACL. Many years some of the chapter officers were in place for long periods of time, including Cressy Lambert who was a faithful treasurer for 12 years. Many of the names already mentioned held office in one position or another through the earlier years. The Presidents through the nineties include Marietta Carrigan, Co-Presidents Irma Cain and Romaine Olson, Judy Borsheim, and Diana Redetzke. Treasurers were Cressy Lambert, Judy Borsheim, and Jane Poteet. Secretaries were Diana Redetzke and Gwen Rawlings. Chapter Representatives Leona Carlson, Lucy Larsen, Marietta Carrigan and Judy Borsheim always kept members informed of the PNACL board meetings through the years.

The Mid-Columbia Chapter continued to meet through the nineties on Saturdays, four or five times a year. Meetings started at 9:30 AM, opened with devotions, and had a short business meeting and a program that ended by noon. While early meetings in the beginning often had sack luncheons, then salads, the chapter began to have one meeting during the year for something special like a chili or soup luncheon or a cookie and gift exchange at Christmas time. Members also enjoyed book exchanges at meetings as an excellent way of excessing duplicate books in their libraries.

Individual members researched and presented most of the meeting programs, but occasionally the chapter had guest speakers. Memorable programs presented included: *How to Design a Library Brochure*, *Mend Books*, *History of Hymns*, *Videos in the Library*, *Library Policies*, *Seek and Train Volunteers*, *Weeding*, *World Religions*, and *Book Selection for Children*. But most of all, members really enjoyed taking time to just fellowship together and learn from each other without any formal program. "But if we are living in the light of God's presence, just as Christ does, then we have wonderful fellowship and joy with each other..."(1 John 1:7 TLB)

**2000s:** The chapter moved forward into the Millennium, meeting three to four times a year at different churches in the local Tri-Cities area (Kennewick, Pasco and Richland). In 2002, the chapter held a meeting in Spokane hoping to replant seeds of re-growth in that area. Several women from the chapter attended along with a few from the Spokane area, to hear a workshop on *Demystifying Dewey*. While there they visited Jan Arkills's First Presbyterian Church's colossal book sale, checked out the flowers

and grounds at Manito Park, and had a good time of fellowship with other church librarians. The chapter continued meeting through the year with an average attendance of five.

In 2005 the chapter hosted the Annual Meeting and Conference at the First United Methodist Church in Kennewick, on June 24-25. Our theme was *Church Librarians, Planting Seeds-Growing Faith*.

For the next couple of years the chapter continued to meet and had 5 to 12 members, with average attendance of five. They met three to four times during the years and offered various workshops such as book mending, reviewing seasonal books, and favorite books read and held some "meet and greet" meetings to encourage growth in library ministry. This continued until 2013 when attendance dropped dramatically and in 2015 the remaining three members regretfully dissolved the Mid-Columbia Chapter of PNAACL on June 30, 2015.

Submitted by Diana Redetzke

## Wenatchee Valley Chapter

A group of church librarians had been meeting in Wenatchee for several years. At their August 3, 1976 meeting, Genevieve Hughes suggested the formation of a chapter of the Pacific Northwest Association of Church Libraries. She and others had attended PNACL summer workshop conferences and she was a member of the Association board. The group decided to become a chapter and chose Wenatchee Valley for the name. The first officers were Esther Todd, chairperson; Genevieve Hughes, vice-chair; and Vera Deaton, secretary-treasurer.

At the September meeting eight churches were represented. Dues were to be \$5 a year, with \$2 to the Association and \$3 for the local chapter. Sixteen people attended the third meeting in January 1977, including Martha Shelton of Kennewick, president of PNACL and Betty Groff of Richland, one of its founders. Shelton welcomed the chapter into PNACL membership.

For the next several years there were two meetings during the chapter year of July through June of the following year, in the fall and winter. Eventually the chapter had three meetings in September, March, and May. By 1999 the chapter met on the third Saturday at various churches.

The pattern of the meetings came to be 9 am registration and coffee, devotions presented by a member or the host pastor, an informational program relating to church libraries, and a business meeting. A book seller might have a sales display. For a while the members brought sack lunches and business was after lunch.

Membership came to extend beyond the communities of the Wenatchee Valley as librarians from Quincy, Moses Lake, Omak, and Chelan joined. About a dozen denominations were represented. For a time in the 1990s a newsletter was published in the winter to bridge the gap between the September and March meetings.

One of the outstanding program themes was *Bibliotherapy*, which portrayed the church library as a center with problem-solving resources for the congregation.

In 1998 the chapter hosted the summer conference for the Association. *Gathering Fruit For God* was the theme for the July 17-18 meeting at Wenatchee's First Baptist Church. Marilyn Mizer, a member of the local chapter, was conference chairman. Chapter meetings in the months before were largely devoted to preparation.

PNACL has honored three chapter members as Life Members: Esther Todd, Jeanette Goldthorpe, and Marilyn Mizer.

After declining membership and meeting attendance, at the May 2000 meeting the decision was made to disband the chapter, with the current members having the option of being members-at-large of the Association. Owen Todd, husband of Esther, the first president, was the 1999-2000 officer.

Submitted by Martha Jane Miller, secretary

## **Yakima Valley Chapter**

In March of 1977, Charlsie Ripee and Margaret Logan of the Yakima First Baptist Church considered forming a library at their church. Charlsie Ripee became a member-at-large of PNACL. Margaret Logan attended a PNACL workshop, and in May of 1977 Betty Groff and Martha Shelton of PNACL attended a church resource seminar at Westside Baptist Church in Yakima and advised the attendees on how to start a local chapter.

January 10, 1978 was the first meeting of church librarians in Yakima. Twenty-seven people attended and set another meeting for February 1978. At the February meeting Rowena Case presented a program on *Philosophy for Church Libraries*. The group decided at that meeting that they would meet on a regular basis.

In March of 1978 the group met at the First Presbyterian Church, and the Yakima Valley Chapter of the PNACL was formed. Officers elected were: Rowena Case, Wesley United Methodist Church: Moderator, Jean Maitlen, First Presbyterian Church: Treasurer, and Charlsie Ripee, First Baptist Church: Secretary. Other chapter members were Lorraine Beard of Selah Peace Lutheran, Betty Alvord of Selah Covenant, Shirley Johnson of Apostolic Faith, Leona Harleman of Selah Congregational Christian, Margaret Fisher of St. Timothy's Episcopal, Eleanor Crook of First Christian, Ruth Wachsmith of Free Methodist, Berneita Lisle of Englewood Christian, and Margaret Logan of First Baptist.

Much of the credit for the success and "birth" of the Yakima Valley Chapter of PNACL belongs to Rev. J. Paul Logan, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Yakima. The stated aim of the group was to be a source of help and comfort to one another and to grow in knowledge and members. Much of the credit also goes to the vision of Betty Groff and Margaret Shelton of PNACL and the local school librarians who served as resource people and encouragers.

In May of 1980 the chapter developed a statement of purpose as follows: The Yakima Chapter was established because we believe that the church library helps, strengthens and guides the congregation in its mission, education, stewardship and evangelism the total ministry of the church. The church librarian is a person with a special mission to carry out and has a responsibility to provide the best possible library resources and to cultivate within the patrons as awareness of those resources. The primary purpose of the Yakima Valley Chapter is to help church librarians with the "how to" of the various resources of starting and developing a church library, its promotion and growth and to carry out their responsibilities as librarians.

By 1980 several other current members were active in the chapter. Toni Renfrew and Barbara Mackleit both served in a variety of capacities in both the local chapter and the Association. These dedicated volunteers dealt with a huge range of problems and concerns. Upon the start of the chapter a central resource catalog and supply was established which would serve all the member libraries.

As time passed and individual libraries became more self-sufficient the chapter only maintained the central supply support, as it was cheaper to buy in quantities and divide. The members dealt with the

technical side of libraries which include book processing, care and mending, dealing with archival materials, weeding and discarding, book classification, reference books, story telling, and writing of personal histories.

As technology advanced the programs reflected the need to keep up. Discussions covered microfiche, videos, computers, visual aids, large print books, cassettes, and the concerns of copyright use and abuse.

Cosmetic factors were explored in regard to banners, posters, bulletin boards, posting a want list, book storage and displays and putting up with "what you've got." There were problems getting people to use valuable resources available to them.

Promotion covered making buttons for advertising, listing new books in the bulletin, newsletter or anywhere possible, celebrating library week and Bible week, forming a Friends of the Library group, using rubber stamps, forming reading clubs and contests, book exchanges, story telling times, surveying the church's needs, and initiating birthday or memorial book gifts to the library. There was the business of the chapter by-laws and the individual churches having written policies and procedures for their libraries. Dealing with inventorying and subsequent weeding and discarding was a recurring theme of many meetings. Ways of getting money and putting library needs in the yearly budget were also an important subject. Marilyn Mizer of George, Washington first visited the chapter in 1984 and remained an excellent help in keeping up with what was hot and what was not. Discussions also centered around material content and controversial books, social issues, providing books for specific age groups, examining Bible archaeology, church history, keeping church mission information up to date, aids for Sunday School teachers, and resources for Vacation Bible School. Along the way the chapter talked about recycling, Y2K, what PNACL is, and PLUS (Project Literacy of the US).

One thing that stood out was the fellowship of this unique group of people. A short meditation or talk opened every meeting, and many of the subjects covered the needs in each life. The depth of living a Christian life was a continuing thread as the chapter served the living Savior in this part of His ministry here on earth.