

Seattle Chapter History

Seattle Chapter was organized April 12, 1968, with 43 charter members and has met an average of seven meetings each year. The area covers most of King County with some members from the northern Olympic peninsula and north to the Canadian border, although there have been members from Alaska. Paid memberships have been as high as 115 (1978-79). Current average is about 60 members. Many denominations are represented as well as numerous independent churches. Membership yearbooks have been published since 1981-1982. A history scrapbook was started, but has been lost.

Our first president was Elva Bartholomew. Other presidents have been Gertrude Wulfekoetter, Judy Hunter, Helen Strickland, Anita Steury, Louise Neale, Beverly Landgraf, Helen Johnson, Lenora Shoup, Edith Miller, Janice Matsumoto, Jean Cummins, Iva Sutherland, and Joan Reid. In 1975-76, the vice presidential responsibilities were designated with 1st VP as program chair and 2nd VP as membership chair. In 1977-78, 3rd VP as public relations chair was added.

In the early years, the annual business meeting featured an all-day program held at the Seattle Public Library. Monthly meeting programs have ranged from "Starting a Church Library" to "Using Computers in Church Libraries." The meetings usually have been held in different churches and synagogues, featuring their libraries, but a few meetings have been hosted in bookstores. Several joint meetings have been held with Tacoma Chapter. An ever popular program has been tours of church libraries.

In 1999, Helen Estep and Iva Sutherland presented a program on the history of the chapter. The meeting was held at Washington Cathedral in Redmond, where their library is dedicated in memory of Anita Steury. Edith Cropp and Mildred Johnson, who are still active in their church libraries, were charter members of PNACL. Six churches which were charter members have representatives still active in the chapter: Bellevue First Presbyterian Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Mercer Island, Newport Covenant Church in Bellevue, University Christian Church and University Lutheran Church in Seattle.

The chapter has maintained a Resource Lending Library over the years. Resources include cataloging tools, current subscriptions to church library magazines and publications from Church and Synagogue Library Association. At times it has included a scrapbook of ideas for bulletin boards as well as the actual pieces of bulletin board displays.

From our chapter, honorary life members who were instrumental in the founding of the Association were Elva Bartholomew, Fred Brewis, Ragnhild (Rannie) Hangar, Dr. Everett Jensen, and Nikoline White. Named later were Helen Strickland, Iva Sutherland and Helen Estep. All are deceased except for Fred Brewis, Iva Sutherland and Helen Estep.

Chapter Representatives serving on the Association Board of Directors have been Helen

Strickland, Iva Sutherland, Beverly Landgraf, Jean Cummins, Helen Estep and Edith Miller. All have served as an Association officer at some time during their terms on the Association Board of Directors.

In 1965, before the PNAACL was organized, Helen Estep chaired the fifth conference (called workshop at that time) sponsored by Pacific Lutheran College (now University) for church librarians. Boppell Memorial Library at West Side Presbyterian Church in Seattle, directed by Helen, was one of the case studies presented in **Planning and Furnishing the Church Library**, written by Marian Johnson and published by Augsburg in 1966.

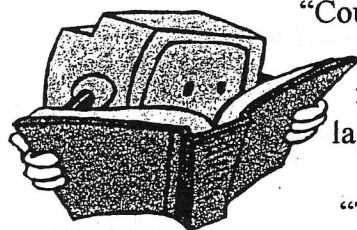
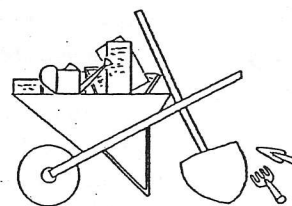
All of the four annual Association workshop/conferences hosted by Seattle Chapter have been held at Lutheran Bible Institute (now Trinity College) in Issaquah WA. The first one in 1980 was a joint conference with Congregational Library Association of British Columbia.

Co-chairs for the 1980 conference were Anita Steury and Iva Sutherland. The theme was "Climb the Heights." Keynote speaker was Evelyn Kingston of CLABC. The Reverend Bruce Larson was the featured speaker at the Founders Banquet. Another highlight was the tour of nearby church libraries including Newport Covenant Church with its "reading pit" for children. This was also the occasion when Louise Neale introduced us to "unfortunate" fortune cookies as a promotional tool.



In 1988, Louise Neale and Beverly Landgraf co-chaired the conference with a nautical theme of "Setting the Course." Taproot Theatre Company of Seattle was featured in a performance of **Doodles Do Proverbs**. Two topics fairly new to church libraries were showcased: videos and computers. Another important topic was "Jewish Books in Church Libraries."

Janice Matsumoto and Iva Sutherland co-chaired the 1994 conference. "God's Resource Garden" was the theme. The Reverend Dr. Dale Turner was the keynote speaker. "Meeting Local Authors and Video Producers" showcased C.B. Christiansen, Sandy Dengler, Debra Jarvis, Carolyn Martin, Colleen Reece, Bron Smith and Grayley Taylor.



"Countdown 2000: High Tech, High Touch" was the theme in 1999, chaired by Iva Sutherland. One unique topic was on the clergy in mystery stories. The session on computers and the internet included a lap-top computer on-line demonstration.

"Those who've gone before us light the way...
May all who come behind us find us faithful."
from the song **Find Us Faithful** by Jon Mohr. ©1987