



Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia

1818 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 5X4 Canada
Tel: 604-853-6177 • Fax: 604-853-6246 • Email: archives@mhsbc.com • www.mhsbc.com
"What we have heard and known we will tell the next generation." (NIV) Psalm 78:3,4

12 April 2019

Dear MHSBC Members and Guests,

On behalf of the Board of the Mennonite Historical Society of BC, I wish to invite you, your family, and friends to our next MHSBC event on June 2nd, 2019 at King Road MB Church.

This event will be regarding Mennonites, escaping Russia on the Great Trek in 1943-44, coming into Poland, then into Germany, and then coming to Canada in 1947, 48, 49, and early 50—they're known as the "48ers". Every 10 years we honor what they went through with a commemorative event for this time period in Mennonite history.

This year we will have a full afternoon and evening including a lecture in the afternoon, Faspa (light meal), and a celebratory stories and song night. We will also have a pop-up gallery of selected art from Ray Dirk's exhibit: "Along the Road to Freedom".

This is the first time we will have a husband and wife joint presentation with Dr. Marlene Epp and her husband Paul Born who grew up here in the Fraser Valley. Their presentation is titled: "Living with Loss and Finding Belonging: The Stories of Postwar Mennonite Refugees". The team lecture will be on dealing with post World War II trauma, resettlement and how Mennonites picked up their lives again here in Canada. After the presentation, we will have a meal together. After the meal, we will sing together and hear stories to remember this traumatic time in Mennonite history.

Paul and Marlene have asked us to commemorate the "48ers" by donating all the proceeds from their books that will be for sale at the event along with the special offering in the afternoon, to MCC Relief Work and Abbotsford Community Services. There are opportunities to sponsor this event, so please call me at 604-853-6177 for more details.

If you have parents who were part of the "48ers" and after, it would be wonderful if you could share this event with them, so please let them know that this is coming up and be sure to get your Faspa tickets which will be available next week!

Thank you and see you there,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard D. Thiessen".

Richard D. Thiessen, President
On behalf of the Mennonite Historical Society of BC Board of Directors

RT:jm