California Mennonite Historical Society
Annual Meeting

March 7, 2015
Fresno Pacific University Seminary

"No Man's Land: Mennonite Settlements & Migrations"
Raylene Hinz-Penner

Raylene Hinz-Penner will present research from "East of Liberal," a manuscript exploring the place where she grew up in the southwest corner of Kansas. This region of Kansas is almost adjacent to and shares many characteristics with Beaver County in the Oklahoma Panhandle. Raylene will explore how this land in the center of the Dust Bowl dictated settlement patterns and evictions, migrations and returns, especially for the Oklahoma Panhandle Mennonite communities. This presentation will pay special attention to the California connection, its lure and rejection in the migrations of the people in the Oklahoma Panhandle counties of Beaver, Cimarron, and Texas counties from the 1920s through the 1940s.

Raylene attended Bethel College and did graduate work at Kansas University. She began teaching literature and composition at Bethel College in 1976. While working on a Ph.D. in English at the University of Kansas, she was given the assignment of teaching creative writing at Bethel and fell in love with the creative writing She eventually completed an MFA in poetry at Wichita State University (1995). After thirty years teaching at Bethel College, Raylene joined the faculty of Washburn University in 2003. Though she retired from Washburn in 2012, Raylene continues to teach an occasional course and participate in the faculty writing colloquium.

Raylene is the author of *Searching for Sacred Ground: The Journey of Chief Lawrence Hart, Mennonite* (Cascadia Publishing House, 2007).

Schedule of Events
6:00
Dinner in the British Columbia Lounge
Reservations required. See below for details.

7:30 p.m.
"No Man's Land: Mennonite Settlements & Migrations"
Seminary Chapel

Tickets for the dinner are $15.00 for Historical Society members; $20.00 for non-members. Dinner reservations required by March 4. (559-453-2225 or kevin.enns-rempel@fresno.edu).