

June 28, 2006
For immediate release



Contact:
Julie McDonald Zander
360-864-6938
Paula Slavens
503-526-0904

Personal Historians Gather to Share Ideas, Techniques

A booming interest in personal history has inspired many to preserve their own and loved ones' life stories. A growing number of senior centers, assisted living facilities, hospice providers, and estate planners now offer personal history services in addition to their other programs. The ultimate resource for these services is the Association of Personal Historians Inc., a 500-plus member international organization composed of writers, videographers, and oral historians.

From October 4 through 8, the APH will hold its 12th annual conference in Portland, Oregon, at the Doubletree Hotel near Lloyd Center. Themed "Celebrating stories: Passage to the past, flowing to the future," the conference celebrates these connections while offering networking, marketing advice, business education and enhancement of professional skills. Conference keynote speaker Bob Welch, an award-winning newspaper columnist and author of *American Nightingale*, will discuss his work piecing together the story of a World War II nurse who died near the beaches of Normandy. Other speakers include Lauren Kessler, director of Literary Non-Fiction at the University of Oregon, and author Ursula Bacon.

Julie McDonald Zander, conference program chair and a professional life-story writer in Washington, views the conference as a way for personal history professionals to improve their skills, learn from the experts, and talk with others who love preserving life stories.

"Conference participants can choose from among thirty-six workshops on such topics as interviewing elders, creating video biographies, and partnering with nonprofits. One of the most popular features of the annual conference is the Town Square, where APH members display examples of their work," notes Zander. "It's incredibly inspiring. You see everything from top-quality videos to beautiful hand-bound books, and the creators are available to share their ideas and insight." This year's Town Square will take place the afternoon of October 7 in the hotel's Exhibit Hall and will include a free Community Forum, open to the public.

Conference registration is open to all. More information about the Association of Personal Historians Inc. and the conference is available at www.personalhistorians.org.

###