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January 2013

Dear Friend of the Historical Society
2012 was a memorable year and we look forward to another year of challenges and opportunities. Have you considered assisting us by enrolling as a member of the Historical Society? This will help us fulfill our mission of *Preserving Our Past For The Future*. This enables us to accomplish the stewardship of local history, education of the community, preservation of historic resources and outreach to promote awareness of the cultural heritage of the Township of Lower Merion and the Borough of Narberth.



We are excited about this coming year. We now have *two* locations (*the Lower Merion Academy and the Cynwyd Train Station*) that will allow us to expand our educational reach further into the community. We hope that you will join our organization. Remember, your dues are **tax deductible**.

Annual Membership Dues are:

- \$30.00 for an Individual Student or Senior (65+)
- \$40.00 for an Individual
- \$60.00 for a Family
- \$100.00 for a Contributing Membership
- \$500.00 for an Individual Life Membership
- \$500.00 for a Corporate Membership

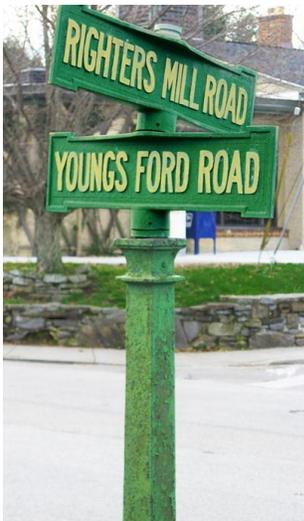
To pay your 2013 Membership Dues...click on [JOIN NOW](#)

If this is not a convenient time...[log onto our website](#) and under *Society Links*, click on [Membership](#). This will give you the option of paying by credit card via PayPal or print out the *Membership Application Form* and mail in your check to the Historical Society.

Do not forget about our Capital Campaign for the *Cynwyd Train Station*. We are getting closer to completing this 5-year revitalization project. We would like to thank the Township, who last month gave us a grant to cover the expense for a HVAC unit for the

first floor area and two de-humidifiers for the basement area. Our focus now is on the outside of the station and we are looking for your financial support to purchase sustainable stormwater amenities and landscaping it to protect the building from future water intrusion. Please make a donation and help us cross the finish line on this project. Send us a check, or submit a donation online on [our homepage](#). Remember, all donations are **tax deductible**.

Our Historic Street Name Signs - An Update



Members of the *Lower Merion Historical Preservation Coalition* met on December 11th to take the next step in the preservation of Lower Merion's historic street name signs. The Coalition is made up of representatives from the *Historical Commission*, the *Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB)*, the *Lower Merion Historical Society*, the *Lower Merion Conservancy*, and preservation experts from the community. Having won a township resolution in November [declaring the signs historic](#), the *Coalition's* next goal was more difficult—to develop a plan to replace missing signs, refurbish existing ones, and do so in a cost-effective manner that retains the historic character of the signs.

The meeting was *an early chapter in this story*, according to Christian Busch, the *Coalition's* chairman, and therefore covered a host of issues which will be decided in the coming weeks. The primary focus, however, was on determining which of Lower Merion's several types of historic sign would serve as a template for replacement signs and which materials and processes would best recreate those signs.

The *Coalition* reviewed the township's existing collection of historic signs, which is made up of both older and newer signs. All are based on a model believed to have been introduced by the Merion Civic Association in the 1920s. They share a distinctive bowtie or dogbone shape and characteristic green-and-gold color. The signs are made of a variety of materials, the oldest of cast iron.

Since older metals are both costly and lack the staying power of newer materials and processes, the *Coalition* also discussed the many options for replicating the unique shape and color of the historic signs. Each option entailed several considerations, including cost, ease of installation, and compliance with PennDOT standards. The *Coalition* identified several manufacturers that it will investigate as it continues developing its restoration plan.

Ultimately, the *Coalition* hopes that township commissioners will use their plan as a guide when allocating resources to the project. They hope to present their plan to the commissioners at a board meeting in the coming months.



It's Location, Location, and Location

The *Cynwyd Train Station* located at 375 Conshohocken State Road in Bala Cynwyd, is

now available for lease. This prime space is 640 square feet and is located on the first floor of the building. *Cynwyd Train Station* is a stop on SEPTA's *Cynwyd Line*, with a SEPTA parking lot, a municipal parking lot (Cynwyd Station Lot 15 with short & long-term metered parking and permit parking), a trailhead for the *Cynwyd Heritage Trail*, and is adjacent to the Township's *Cynwyd Station Park*. Contact Lisa Berger Baskin for further details. We are looking for a business that would compliment the *Cynwyd Heritage Trail* by providing an amenity to users of the Trail.

Building Photographs: To Preserve Today for Tomorrow's History

This photo from [our Buildings web](#) is part of our changing history.



This soda fountain was (we think) the last one in Lower Merion or Narberth. Which of our "villages" was it in? What building was it in? What has replaced it? For answers to these questions see [no. 51 to 54](#) in the frequently changing history of its host.

The February issue of *Milestones* will have a will have a story about our upgraded Special Library Collection and the work-in-progress on a new and improved website.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LOWER MERION HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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