



December 2014

Happy Holidays from the Lower Merion Historical Society!

'Tis the Season for Giving



For the past 65 years, the historical society has been *giving* to the community. In our Special Library, we have 25 special collections that include more than 35,000 items that record and preserve the heritage of the Township of Lower Merion and the Borough of Narberth. Throughout the year, our volunteers staff the Lower Merion Academy library, volunteering their time and talent to help catalog our library materials and do the research in order to answer questions submitted by our library patrons.

In addition to this basic library service, some of our other current activities include: adding new resource materials to our website, upgrading the functionality to the *Lower Merion/Narberth Building Photographs* section of our website and recording *Living History with Ted Goldsborough* shows on LMTV. Also, we are a participating organization in the Township's newly formed historic preservation initiative where we continue to advocate for the protection of historic buildings (such as the 1799 *William Penn Inn*) and to get historic objects (milestones, street signs and keystone markers) protected and maintained. So far this year we have completed 22 lectures/events and we continue to work with our young adults. As our new classroom, we are working on the *Cynwyd Station Park* adding interpretive objects such as the *Turtle Island* tree sculpture, and the to be installed *Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad* sleepers (c1834-1850). We are involved with collaborative activities with local and regional municipalities and organizations and finally, we have an active *Strategic Planning Task Force* now working on new ideas and developing new initiatives to keep us strong and active into the future.



The Historical Society's Board of Directors would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a Joyful Kwanzaa!

Louis Barson
Ken L. Brier
Max Buten
Patrick A. Doyle, Sr.
James S. Ettelson
Gerald A. Francis
Ted Goldsborough
Perrin C. Hamilton, Jr.

John H. Hepp IV
Alexander (Pete) Hoskins
Leon Levine
Barbara McElroy
Martha Moffat
Joanne Murray
Stephen P. Selinger
Carole Strickland

Christmas at the Historic Houses of Fairmount Park



To add that special touch to the holiday season, why not visit Fairmount Park and experience the festivities of colonial Philadelphia. See some of our local treasures and be delighted with festive adornments and stunning interiors. The theme this year for each house is:

Cedar Grove (1750): “A Ye Olde Christmas”

Laurel Hill (1767): “Charms of Yesteryear”

Lemon Hill (1800): “A Christmas Carole”

Mount Pleasant (1765): “A Grand Merriment”

Strawberry Mansion (1789): “Peace with Earth: An Eco Friendly Christmas”

Woodford Mansion (1756): “Holiday Whimsy”

This is a perfect way to share the season with friends and family. There are plenty of ways to visit these beautiful homes this holiday season. Visit the house at your own pace during open house tours, take a guided trolley tour, a Candlelight tour, a Christmas Carol tour, or make a reservation for a group tour.

[Click Here](#) to see additional details of these events.

Cynwyd Train Station (1890)

If you would prefer to stay closer to home, visit the [Cynwyd Station Café and Tea Room](#). A green community center and Victorian parlor at the head of the *Cynwyd Heritage Trail*. This unique establishment sells locally-made wares and food items in order to support other local, small businesses and artists. In addition, every month the café offers free classes, workshops, local author book signings, concerts, trail tours, and is available for party rentals.





To add to your fun-filled holiday season, check out their *Holiday Pop Up Shops* planned for every Sunday in December! Featuring local vendors and artists, free tastings, and create a community holiday mural on December 21st. [Click Here](#) to display the Café's menu of tasty treats.

Building Photographs - Preserving Today For Tomorrow's History

The December photo from our [Buildings web](#) shows a part of our changing history waiting to be torn down. It's the third or fourth version of the building, in late 19th century style, after additions, replacements, and diversions.



Click [here](#) to see earlier and later buildings over a century and a half.

- ***Favorite Links***
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- [Lower Merion Historical Society's Website](#)
 - [Membership Information](#)
 - [Buy Our Books](#)



MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LOWER MERION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Lower Merion Historical Society is an organization dedicated to *Preserving Our Past For The Future*. This is accomplished by 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.

