



**December 2016**

## **Woman's Club of Bala Cynwyd Donates Two Historic Properties to the Merion Foundation**



The *Merion Foundation*, the grant making arm of the Merion Community Association, has announced the receipt of a donation from *The Woman's Club of Bala Cynwyd* of its two Main Line properties. The move will ensure that the historic nature of the properties is preserved and the buildings continue to serve the surrounding community.

The two properties located on the corner of Levering Mill Road and Bala Avenue; namely, 382 Bala Avenue and 327 Levering Mill Road,

will be known as the *Levering Mill Tribute House* (Ballroom and Library), and will continue to be used as an event and community meeting space. As part of the donation agreement, the Woman's Club board will continue its use of the space for meetings and charitable events. However, the facilities will be managed and operated by the Board of Directors of the Merion Foundation, in pursuance of its mission of historic preservation and community grant making. The Foundation's partner organization, the *Merion Community Association*, has significant experience in the maintenance and operation of historic properties serving in its capacity as Trustee of the *Merion Tribute House* since 1924.

*The Woman's Club of Bala Cynwyd* traces its history to the early part of the 20th century (1912) and was incorporated in 1922 to further charitable and educational purposes in the Main Line community. In the 1920's, the Club founded the Township's first library. Some of its activities included the repair of clothes for needy families during the Depression, selling war bonds during World War II, and leading the struggle for a woman's right to vote. In recent years, however, the Club membership has had difficulty continuing the maintenance of its buildings. *The Lower Merion Conservancy* placed the Library on its list of "endangered properties" in 2013 and has expressed concern about the



future of these prominent landmark properties. For further information contact Colette Speakman at (610) 664-1267 or email at [info@tributehouse.com](mailto:info@tributehouse.com).

*The Lower Merion Historical Society* considers this a holiday gift to the Lower Merion and Narberth communities. These two Class 2 historic properties will be revitalized...something to celebrate!

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***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.

