



*November 2011*

## **Cynwyd Heritage Trail is Open for Business**



On Sunday, October 23rd the Township of Lower Merion had their *Ribbon Cutting Ceremony* and the Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail (FOCHT) had their *Fall Festival* that included such activities as a scavenger hunt, pumpkin decorating, face painting, music, food, give-aways and a lot more.

Read the news, [see the photos and watch the videos](#) of the afternoon's events.

## **Special on Cynwyd Station Stormwater Initiative on LMTV**

Lower Merion Township's Government Access Channel (LMTV) broadcasts on Comcast XFINITY Channel 7 and Verizon FiOS Channel 37. Any resident in Lower Merion or Narberth who subscribes to these providers can view LMTV. This month's show **Eye on Lower Merion** features Sarah Francis (Lower Merion Historical Society) and Gavin Riggall (North Street Design, LLC). Gavin talks about his sustainable stormwater design for the *Cynwyd Train Station Revitalization Project*, recently highlighted along with the *Cynwyd Heritage Trail* design in the Community Design Collaborative's Leverage Exhibition, while Sarah gives an update on the Society's Capital Campaign. It will run throughout November on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00am and at 2:00pm; and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 4:00am and 4:00pm. Be sure to tune in.



## Lower Merion Academy 200th Anniversary



On October 10th the five members of the Board of Trustees of the Academy meet to discuss plans for their 200th anniversary celebration that will be held next year in April 2012.

Pictured in the front row: Donald Poorman and Ted Goldsborough (chairman); back row: Fred Clement, Jerry Francis and Henry Schireson.

The public will be invited and their plans include an afternoon of activities that will be co-sponsored by the Trustees, the Historical Society and the

School District.

## Bala Cynwyd: Then & Now Lecture



Co-sponsored by The Lower Merion Conservancy, The Lower Merion Historical Society and The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd

Thursday, December 1 • 6:00pm  
\$20 members\* / \$25 non-members  
Bala Theatre and Clearview Cinema  
157 Bala Avenue  
Bala Cynwyd

Illustrated lecture includes a wine-and-cheese reception

For this special evening, another in the popular *Then & Now* series, you will see a wonderful variety of images illustrating the many-layered history of Bala Cynwyd. These historical images come from the voluminous archives of the Lower Merion Historical Society, which happens to be located in Bala Cynwyd.

**Jerry Francis**, President of the Lower Merion Historical Society, will lead us through

this visual tour of Bala Cynwyd. A lifelong resident of Bala Cynwyd, Francis is the co-author (with his daughter, Sarah) of a richly-illustrated new book, *Lower Merion and Narberth*, which will be available at the event — proceeds benefit the Historical Society. Mr. Francis will be joined by Bala Cynwyd resident and Conservancy Historic Preservation Director **Lori Salganicoff**.

We'll see early images from Bala Cynwyd's industrial and railroad history, familiar historic buildings, and old photos from City Avenue documenting the 150-acre Pencoyd tract and its mid-century *Golden Mile* heyday. A fascinating 1920s-era aerial photograph, revealing construction underway at the Egyptian Theatre, also shows the developing residential and commercial sections of the village. Photos of specific buildings along Bala and Montgomery Avenues reveal that many of these remain, for now, in the landscape. The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd, protector of this community's civic interests since 1907, co-sponsors this event. Our host for the evening is the beautiful Bala Theatre and Clearview Cinema, which generously nudged their movie schedule for the evening!

\* **Membership rate is available to all members of the** Lower Merion Historical Society, The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd, and/or the Lower Merion Conservancy. Members of all three groups get a free bag of popcorn!

Register online at [www.LMConservancy.org](http://www.LMConservancy.org) or by contacting the Lower Merion Conservancy at [Lori@Dragonfly.org](mailto:Lori@Dragonfly.org) or 610.645.9030

## Family Donates Bill Harris' Photos



daughter and son-in law, Lin and Bill Bass.

Three family members of the late Bill Harris, who was the **Main Line Times'** photographer for more than 50 years, recently donated Harris' collection of photos and negatives to the Historical Society. This donation of thousands of images that encompass the Main Line area will add breadth and depth to the society's photography collection. Over the next months, society volunteers will archive and catalogue these photos and provide a secure environment for the **Bill Harris Collection**. On the left is Ted Goldsborough who accepted this collection from Mrs. Bill (Lillian) Harris and her

## Building Photographs: To Preserve Today for Tomorrow's History

Our November photo from [www.lowermerionhistory.org/buildings/](http://www.lowermerionhistory.org/buildings/) is part of our history:



Built about 1895, this stone house had become Keplinger's Dining Room when this post card was handcolored and published. In the 1950's it became San Marco restaurant. The building is very little changed today - the second floor is like a museum exhibit. Do you recognize it? [Click here](#) for current photos.

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To get into the holiday spirit, the December issue will showcase the newly painted Cynwyd Train Station with its new red and green colors. There will also be a feature on the Yuletide Tours of the Historic Fairmount Park Houses.

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***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.

