Upcoming Program Highlights:

Forum on the Legacy of William Penn’s Philosophy on Public Education
Saturday, October 16, 2004, 1:30 to 3:00 pm at the Lower Merion Academy

Open to the General Public, Free Admission - Light Refreshments Will Be Served

This Forum will address the philosophy of “A Virtuous Education.” William Penn believed that a universal education was essential to the success of his Holy Experiment. All children - rich and poor, male and female, Quaker and Non-Quaker should have a public education.

Speakers:

Introductory Remarks:
What William Penn Thought
Alice Hoffman
Member of Merion Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Implementing William Penn’s Vision:
Jacob Jones and Merion Meeting
Gerald Francis
President, Lower Merion Historical Society

Quakers and Education:
Are Quaker Values Still Meaningful?
Thomas Hoopes
Dir. of Education, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Supporting the Ideals of the 18th Century in the 21st Century
PA State Senator Connie Williams
17th Senate District

Presentations will be followed by an open forum and public discussion.

The Architecture at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, A Walking Tour
Sunday, November 14, 2004, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Open to the General Public, Free Admission - Light Refreshments Will Be Served

Established in 1869, West Laurel Hill Cemetery successfully incorporates the ideals of the rural cemetery movement, which are still evident in its architecture and magnificently maintained green spaces. In fact, because it is so true to its original design, it has been named on the National Register of Historic Places.

Come join Kimberley Andrews, our guide, for a one hour walking tour beginning at the Bringhurst Funeral Home, featuring such sites as the Chapel of Peace, Poth Mausoleum, Bell Tower, The Conservatory, Betz Mausoleum, Receiving Vault, the former footbridge to Ridge Avenue, Pencoyd and Manayunk, and other key attractions. This will be followed by a reception with light refreshments.

Welcome New Members

Steven Barsh
Pam Brown
William J. Cameron
Mary E. Connelly
Jeff Groff
Virginia Hart
Catherine C. Hodges
Susan Kessler
Alan Leibensperger
Leon Levine
Jules Merron
Marilyn Horey Gillingham Milletta
Marcia Mercedes Nunez-Salgado
Anna M. O’Hora & Richard W. Horton
Ann J. Paul
Michael S. Ramage
Republican Women of the Main Line
Sharon & David Taffet
Atsuko & William Titlow
Barbara & Paul Wilson
The Society’s focus has always been the history of public education in Lower Merion. Our new Headquarters and Archive Center, the Lower Merion Academy, was the first schoolhouse built in this area in 1812. On permanent loan to the Society, the Lower Merion Academy Trustees have given us for safe keeping the Trustee Minute Book dating back to 1816. This document records the actions of the Trustees, who among other duties, hired the Headmaster, established the length of the school year, decided what subjects were taught, and what curriculum was offered to the students.

Our new headquarters at the Lower Merion Academy has met all of our expectations. The restoration and renovation of this Quaker schoolhouse was accomplished through the interest and dedication of our supporters and the local community. If you missed our April Open House and would like to visit this facility, please call our office and make an appointment. We would be most happy to give you a personal tour and show you around the site.

We have come a long way in just a few short years in securing the future of the Society. We have the goodwill of the Lower Merion community; we have our new expanded headquarters facility to better serve the general public; we have a professional volunteer organization; we have a superb special collection of materials; we have published an excellent book, *The First 300...*; and finally, we have an extremely popular website that serves a much wider audience.

These achievements are a reflection of the generosity of our members, volunteers and contributors. In this issue of Milestones, as well as every forthcoming issue, we will acknowledge these supporters. The building blocks of the Society are those special people who make up our membership and who volunteer their time. Thank You.

However, to guarantee the future....

Website Update

**LowerMerionHistory.org**

Our website continues to be updated due to recent acquisitions to the general reference and vertical file collections. Also, we are about to complete the section dealing with Lower Merion Burial Records. When this special project is finished there will be more than 14,000 names in this database.

Our next project is the cataloging and indexing of our flat file collection of antique maps, indentures, posters and prints. These records, when completed will also be added to the website.

Recently we have updated the site with highlights from our Gift Shop, including our acclaimed publication *The First 300...*.

Society’s Intergenerational Program Completes Its Eighth Year

Thanks to Ronnie Manlin, who first organized the program in 1996, and coordinator Lynne G. Kauffman, the Society’s Intergenerational Interview Program continues to be a successful endeavor in teaching Lower Merion School District’s 625 fourth graders about life in the past. The program is run during the month of May and is entitled “When We Were Kids!”

**A Big Thank You To This Year’s Volunteers:**

| Peggy Barclay                          | Ted Goldsborough                |
| Rosemarie Cannon                      | Alison B. Graham                |
| Vivian Cherry                         | Elaine Hardenbergh              |
| Lita Cohen, Esq.                      | Emmy Hartley                    |
| Cynthia Vance Coleman                 | Selvester Haynie                |
| David S. Collingwood                  | Felicia Howard                  |
| Barbara Earle                         | Chris & Dick Jones              |
| Margot Flaks                          | Bonnie Kauffman                 |
| Fran & Al Gebhart                     | Lynne G. Kauffman               |
|                                        | Bee Smith Lees                  |
|                                        | Joan & Charlie Lentz             |
|                                        | Farilyn Leopold                 |
|                                        | William O’Brien                 |
|                                        | Joan C. Roberts                 |
|                                        | Margaret Semanko                |
|                                        | Charles C. Timm                 |
|                                        | Alice & Jim Wiggins             |

**Recent Financial Contributors**

($200 or more)

Gladwyne Builders and Developers, Inc.
Estate of Dorothy M. Sayen, Deceased
St. George’s Chapter 13,
The Questors of Pennsylvania
Jay & Terry Snider Foundation

THANK YOU, YOUR SUPPORT GUARANTEES OUR CONTINUED SUCCESS IN PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITY...
Lower Merion Historical Society

We Gratefully Accept Donations

The Society accepts artifacts, books, photographs and art work for our collection. Items must be documented as having been made or used in the Township of Lower Merion or the Borough of Narberth. All items must document or illustrate our local history, be in good and original condition to permit their use for research or exhibition, and be sufficiently important to warrant the cost of conservation.

The Society benefits from donations of such items as World War II civil defense items, a wooden school-desk, an atlas page of Narberth from 1920, etc.

During the past twelve months, thirty people have donated or loaned us scores of items, which are now properly conserved and available to researchers.

The Society sincerely thanks:

Sue S. Althouse
Col. Frank P. K. Barker, Jr.
Ann Collins Bitler
John E. Blair
Philip Eidelson
Lori Felker
Jerry Francis
Janet Giersch
Ted Goldsborough
Lillian & Stephen Greenberg
Nancy & Fred Hansell
William I. Homer
Marvin Karp
Mary Keim
Joanna Keim Lyckberg

Beverly Lovett
Lower Merion School District
Andrew Margolis
Esther MacGregor
Bob McCormick
Edward M. Minshall
David J. Monteith
Michael S. Ramage
William O. Schwoebel, Jr.
J. Clinton Stirk
H. Don Taylor
Township of Lower Merion
James M. Wiggins
Barbara & Paul Wilson
J. William Winter

Past Events

National Register Dedication

Speaker - Dr. Jamie P. Savedoff, Superintendent of Schools, at the unveiling of the National Register plaque April 18, 2004

Annual Meeting

Historic School Tour

In school-marm costume, Mary Courtney gave a tour of the 1797 Federal School on Darby Rd. in Haverford, PA on June 13, 2004. The event was held jointly by the Lower Merion Historical Society and the Haverford Township Historical Society.

We Gratefully Accept Donations

Once a year in Milestones, we plan to share the names of those who have donated/loaned items to the Society. We hope we haven’t omitted any donors from this year’s list. If so, please tell us so we may acknowledge their kindness in next year’s list.

Directors:

Class of 2005
George W. Broseman, Denise H. Francis, Bruce D. Reed

Class of 2006
Jack McGuire, Dennis Montagna

Class of 2007
Alison Graham, S. Hamill Horne, Joan Roberts

The Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization serving the community since 1949. For more than 55 years, our volunteers have provided educational programs to the public. Thousands of students, residents and scholars have worked with the Society’s extensive resources. The Historical Society is a vital force in preserving the rich history of the Lower Merion community.

and the stability of the Society, we will need to increase our membership and encourage more volunteers to come forward. Also, more attention is required in order to reach our goals of expanding our educational programs, expanding our special collection, and enhancing our conservation techniques. Key positions, such as teachers, librarians and new leadership need to be filled.

The Society’s Executive Board is studying these open issues and will be developing an action plan to address these concerns. We hope to begin implementing this plan early in the year 2005.

Sincerely,

Jerry Francis

Officers and Directors

Effective September 2004

Officers:

President
Gerald A. Francis
Vice President
Ross L. Mitchell
Treasurer
John B. Hagner
Corresponding Secretary
Betty Cannon
Recording Secretary
Barbara McElroy
Immediate Past President
Edmund L. Goldsborough
President Emeritus
W. Robert Swartz

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The Lower Merion Historical Society

Our Mission:
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.

Location:
Lower Merion Academy
506 Bryn Mawr Ave., Box 2602
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Contact:
Phone and Fax: 610-664-3216
E-mail: LMHistory@comcast.net

Library Hours:
Wednesday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Saturday afternoons, 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Also by appointment

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, October 16, 2004
Forum on the Legacy of William Penn’s Philosophy on Public Education

Sunday, November 14, 2004
The Architecture at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, A Walking Tour

April, 2005
Banquet and Annual Meeting (members only)

May, 2005
The Aboretum at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, A Walking Tour

June, 2005
Tour of Harriton Plantation who is celebrating their 300th Anniversary