



## **2024 Annual Meeting Program**

### ***75 Years of History!***

On November 3, 1949, the Main Lines Times reported the first meeting of the Lower Merion Historical Society (LMHS). Ninety community residents—about three times more than expected—showed up; most had to stand throughout the meeting.

Over the following 75 years, the Society has gathered and preserved thousands of books, maps, photographs, and artifacts that tell the stories of our people and communities. Scores of neighbors have donated their possessions, time, and money to this cause. Hundreds of volunteers have provided educational programs to the public. Thousands of students, residents, and scholars have worked with the Society's extensive resources, in person and online. The Lower Merion Historical Society is a vital force in preserving and sharing the rich heritage of Lower Merion and Narberth.

### **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.

# 2024-2027 LMHS Strategic Plan

**Goal 1: Financial** - To achieve financial sustainability and growth by implementing strategic budgeting, developing new policies, and optimizing resource allocation, ensuring the long-term financial health of the Lower Merion Historical Society.

**Goal 2: Facilities/Collections** - To enhance and preserve our facilities and collections by implementing best practices in conservation, maintenance, and accessibility, fostering a dynamic, inclusive, and engaging environment for historical exploration and education.

**Goal 3: Program** - To develop innovative and inclusive programming that fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of Lower Merion's history, culture, and heritage, engaging diverse audiences and enriching the community's cultural landscape.

**Goal 4: Communications/Outreach** - To expand our reach and impact through effective communication strategies and community outreach initiatives, amplifying our mission and engaging with stakeholders to cultivate meaningful connections and partnerships.

**Goal 5: Membership/Advancement** - To cultivate a vibrant and supportive membership community and diversify our fundraising efforts, fostering strong donor relationships, and sustainable revenue streams to support our mission and initiatives.

**Goal 6: Governance** - To strengthen governance practices and board effectiveness by promoting transparency, accountability, and diversity, ensuring sound decision-making processes and alignment with our organizational standards and ethics.

# Annual Meeting Agenda

- 6:15pm** Doors Open
- 6:45pm** Annual Meeting Kate Jiggins, LMHS Board Chair
- 7pm** Introduction Nancy Greene, Manuscript Editor
- 7:10pm** Presentation Dennis Montagna, LMHS Board Member
- 7:40pm** Question and answer
- 8pm** Program closes

Today, we celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and we honor Victoria Donohoe's legacy and her gift of "A Cultural History of Narberth" manuscript. Celebrating her life as a



Narberth native, distinguished art critic, and historian, we'll delve into her contributions to Philadelphia's cultural scene.

The manuscript serves as a rich history and memoir of Narberth, offering invaluable perspectives. Special guest,



Victoria's friend and editor Nancy Greene, will share insights into Victoria's impactful life and work. Let's explore the legacy and influence of an extraordinary woman.



## 2024 Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

Chair Kate Jiggins

Vice Chair Erin Betley

Treasurer Craig Whitney

Secretary Linda Tasker

### Returning Board Members

Kim Andrews

Elizabeth Laurent

Dennis Montagna

Scott Reynolds

Jamie Singer

Brad Upp

### Incoming Board Members

Jim Bevlock

Dave Holland

Samar Khan

**Donate now!**



**Become a member!**



**Find out more!**



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[LowerMerionHistory.org](http://LowerMerionHistory.org)



## 2023 Annual Report

### **Collections**

- New paid professional staff member
- Collections software
- Cynwyd Station upgrades
- Preservation planning in progress
- Acquisition of Women's Club of Bala Cynwyd collection
- Wednesday Open Hours resumed

### **Programming & Communications**

- Milestones monthly newsletter
- Social media engagement
- Ongoing internship program
- 6+ online and in-person educational program
- Collaborations with local partners like Lower Merion Library System, Zion Baptist Church of Ardmore, Lower Merion Township, Lower Merion Conservancy, Villanova University, Harriton Association, and more
- Holiday Party
- Upcoming 75th Anniversary Potluck Celebration on June 4
- Volunteer program resumed
- Website redesign in progress

### **Governance and Operations**

- New Bylaws
- Adoption of the American Association of State and Local History Code of Ethics and Practice
- New 2 1/2 Year Strategic Plan
- New board members

# Financial Report

- New accountant
- Nonprofit status restored
- Monthly financial reports
- New bookkeeping software

## Revenues

Earned income \$32,779

interest income \$2,321

**Total \$35,100**

## Expenses

Administration \$13,237

Program \$18,542

Development \$2,500

**Total \$34,782**

**Surplus(Deficit) \$318**

Beginning Balance	\$230,626
Closing Balance	\$230,945
CD Savings	\$71,479
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>\$302,424</b>