



The Lower Merion Historical Society 2025 Annual Report

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Collections

- Historical & Archival Records Care grant from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission – to process the Woman’s Club of Bala Cynwyd archive; continues in 2026
- Volunteer program to catalogue and preserve collection items
 - 9 volunteers; 400 hours, supervised by Administrative Coordinator

Programs

- LMHS events
 - Members-only Curator’s tour of PAFA’s “Philadelphia Revealed: Unpacking the Attic”
 - Tintype event at the Academy: one-of-a-kind metal plate photographs made on site
 - 2025 Annual Meeting; including keynote address by intern Xandra O’Neill
 - Volunteer recruitment fair
 - Author Talk: Joe Lex “All Bones Considered: 52 Laurel Hill Women”
 - Volunteer Appreciation reception
- Community events across the township -- NarbEarth Day; Zion Baptist Church Founder’s Day service; PALM’s Juneteenth Block Party; Lower Merion Conservancy Gala; Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd 4th of July festival; Bala Art Walk; Haverford Civic Association Party in the Park; Harriton House Farmstead Fair; Narberth Dickens Festival
- Co-sponsored events -- PA House Representative Daley’s Veteran’s appreciation event; Bala Cynwyd Library Fundraiser; Ludington Library: Montco Roots; Bala Cynwyd Library: Horn and Hardart – Past; Present; and Future; Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd: Development of College Park area

Communications

- Launched updated website in May 2025
- Milestones: email newsletter issued four times per year
- Facebook/Instagram – 178 posts in 2025; outreach to convert views to membership

Research

- Open Hours visitors – 72 people from June to December
- Emailed queries tracked – 62 fulfilled requests
- 3 Student interns completed research projects

Governance; Finance; and Operations

- Established QuickBooks accounting to enable improved budgeting process and better tracking of expenditures
- Opened high return money market account WSFS
- Major gifts/bequests – estates of Patricia Millar Burland and Irene Saxman; Erik Panichi’s donation of memorial bench

Financial Summary		<i>Unaudited 12/31/2025</i>	
<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Membership & Donations	\$17,295	Administration	\$32,148
Rent	\$15,063	Programs	\$5065
Interest Income	\$89	Development	\$28,567
Bequests	\$414,868	TOTAL	\$65,780
Grants	\$4738		
TOTAL	\$445,935	Funds in CD	\$76,106
Beginning Balance	\$270,601	Closing Balance	\$649,354

2026 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

President: Linda Tasker
 Vice President: Scott Reynolds
 Treasurer: Gabriel Montoya
 Secretary: Erin Betley

Returning Board Members

Jim Bevlock
 Lois Cronholm
 Kate Jiggins
 Samar Khan
 Elizabeth Laurent
 Dennis Montagna
 Jamie Singer
 Brad Upp
 Craig Whitney

Incoming Board Members

Alexandra Cade
 Bruce Reed

Party with us in 2026!





2026 Annual Meeting

Agenda

1:30 pm	Doors open
2:00 pm	Pledge of Allegiance
2:05 pm	President's Report
2:25 pm	Keynote Presentation, Q&A
3:15 pm	Dedication of Memorial Bench
3:30 pm	Program ends
4:00 pm	Hospitality ends

Keynote address: "Lower Merion's First Library" by Denise Francis

Denise Francis has a B.A. in History from Merrimack College and an M.S.L.S. from Villanova University. Her career has spanned many aspects of library work, including special libraries, academic libraries and public libraries. Denise worked for almost 20 years in the Lower Merion Township Library System. In retirement, she volunteered for Philadelphia Art Museum giving tours in the Historic Houses in Fairmount Park. Denise served for 10 years on the board of the Lower Merion Historical Society, where her husband Jerry Francis was president for over 20 years. She is currently on the board of Historic Strawberry Mansion.

Memorial bench dedication by Brad Upp

In 2024, dedicated LMHS volunteer Erik Panichi reached out to us with a proposal: to donate funds for a memorial bench to be placed outside the Society, in honor of longtime volunteer Max Buten, and Presidents Emeritus Ted Goldsborough and Jerry Francis. He worked closely with Board member Brad Upp to craft language for the plaque and to research the best vendor options.

We used the same vendor who crafts the durable benches used by the Township throughout Lower Merion and chose a rich red color to reflect a color that is widely used by many local institutions - Lower Merion Township, Lower Merion School District, and the Society.

We are grateful to Mike Isackman, head custodian of Bala Cynwyd Middle School, with his assistance in coordinating the shipment of the bench, which was assembled and installed by Brad. The plaque reads: "Max Buten, Jerry Francis, and Ted Goldsborough were great friends and life-long supporters of the Lower Merion Historical Society. Donated by their friend Erik Panichi."