



September 2025

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall"

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Celebrating Archives Month

October is American Archives Month, an initiative spearheaded by the Society of American Archivists. The month serves as an annual opportunity to raise public awareness about the crucial role archivists and archives play in preserving history and making information accessible to the public -- a key focus for us here at the Society!

Under the guidance of Administrative Coordinator Paige Bartello, our dedicated intern Xandra O'Neill is processing over 100 years of records from the Woman's Club of Bala Cynwyd. Earlier this year, the Society was awarded a Historical and Archival Records Care Grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to process this collection. Along the way, Xandra is bringing to light hidden history in these archives, leveraging expertise from her Masters in Library and Information Science from Pennsylvania Western University. Stay tuned for more!



Cynwyd Heritage Trail signage: the results are in!

In 2009, Lower Merion Township received a grant to highlight the Cynwyd

Heritage Trail's rich railroad and industrial history. Working with the Lower Merion Historical Society, the Township created and installed 17 interpretive panels in 2013. [View the Cynwyd Trail Interpretive Signage Map & Content](#)



The Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail is looking to refresh this signage and we partnered with them to survey users of the trail. Some key findings are that a significant majority of respondents find the signs informative and interesting - but they want more! In particular, respondents are interested in new content featuring photos and maps from different time periods; Indigenous history and early land use; and general history of Bala Cynwyd and Lower Merion.

As progress continues with the extension of the trail from the Cynwyd Station to City Avenue along the existing rail line, we look forward to exploring ways to share more about the rich history of our community.

Upcoming Programs

Saturday, September 27 | 10 AM - 4 PM

Stop by our informational table at the [35th Annual Harriton Farmstead Fair](#) hosted by the Harriton Association.

Saturday, October 18 | 11 AM - 2 PM

Stop by our informational table at [Party in the Park](#), organized by Haverford Civic Association.

Thursday, October 23 | 6 PM - 9 PM

[Shaping our Story](#) is a fundraiser for the Bala Cynwyd Library. During the

event, the Society will present rich information about the history and impact of the library.

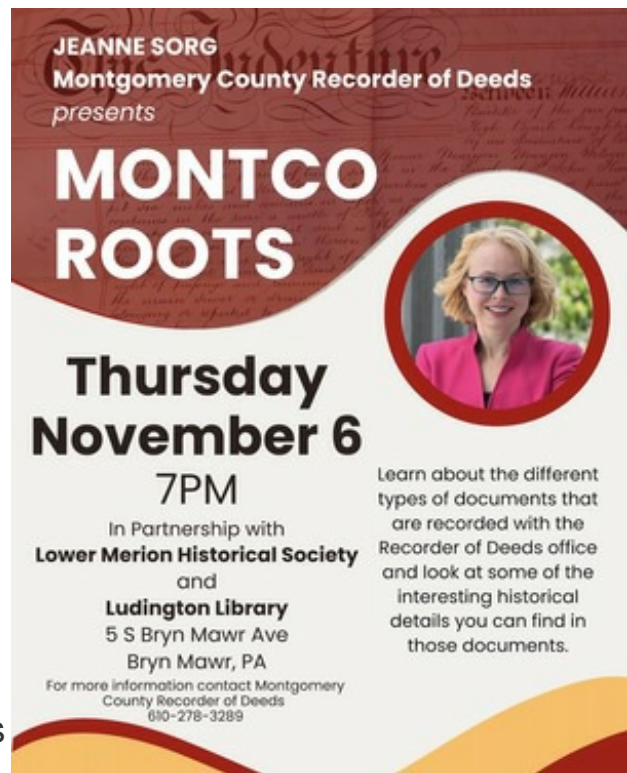
Tuesday, October 28 | 6:30PM - 8 PM

We are hosting local author Dr. Joe Lex, volunteer guide at Laurel Hill Cemetery and host of the "All Bones Considered" podcast, as he discusses the history of this local landmark, including stories from his new book about 52 fascinating women who are buried there. More information and RSVP for this free event [here](#).



**Thursday, November 6 |
7PM - 8 PM**

Join Jeanne Sorg, Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds as she presents Montco Roots. Learn about the different types of documents that are recorded with the Recorder of Deeds office and the interesting historical details you can find in those documents. This free program is presented in partnership with Ludington Library, registration [here](#).



JEANNE SORG
Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds
presents

MONTCO ROOTS

**Thursday
November 6**
7PM

In Partnership with
Lower Merion Historical Society
and
Ludington Library
5 S Bryn Mawr Ave
Bryn Mawr, PA

For more information contact Montgomery
County Recorder of Deeds
610-278-3289

Learn about the different
types of documents that
are recorded with the
Recorder of Deeds office
and look at some of the
interesting historical
details you can find in
those documents.

**Sunday, November 9 |
2PM - 4 PM**

We are partnering with Bala Cynwyd Library to journey through 135 years of Horn & Hardart's history, from the Automat's groundbreaking beginnings to its exciting revival. This free program is presented in partnership with Bala Cynwyd Library, registration [here](#).



**HORN &
HARDART**
Automats EST. 1898

David Arena
CEO, Horn & Hardart

Past. Present. Future.
What's in store for the legendary Automat?

Join us for coffee
and conversation with
**H&H CEO
David Arena
and author
Marianne Hardart**

Marianne Hardart
Author, Actor

**SUNDAY
NOV. 9th
2PM**

Bala Cynwyd Library
Meeting Room

H&H COFFEE AND BOOKS
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE AND SIGNING!

And in Case You Missed It...

We had a ball celebrating art and community at the 3rd Annual Bala Avenue Art Walk! Strong attendance at the event indicates continued support for the efforts of the Bala Avenue of the Arts and City Ave District to transform the Bala Avenue Corridor into a vibrant community centered on creative programming and experiences.



Historical Society Rewind

Those of you who follow our [Facebook page](#) may have noticed some amazing stories recently shared, researched and written by our Board member [Jamie Singer](#). Below we feature one of her back-to-school spotlights:

We take a look at a unique Lower Merion elementary school that was designed by an architect chosen specifically because he had never designed a school! It's Penn Valley Elementary.

In post-war 1949, folks were looking for innovation. This school became a project that was embraced by the community. Even today, Penn Valley still boasts its unusual original features, despite renovations in recent years.

Notable are the unique brightly colored stained glass panels in the lobby and nursery-rhyme characters in glazed tiles on the exterior walls.



Thanks to our President Emeritus Ted Goldsborough, information about the history of this school, and all public schools past and present in Lower Merion and Narberth, is available [here](#) and in [this presentation](#). He gave a version of this presentation to a rapt audience in May 2024... at Penn Valley Elementary!



Visit us online:

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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.

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