



April 2024

April showers bring May flowers - hope you're staying dry! Here's what your Lower Merion Historical Society has for you this month.

Please Join Us April 30th for Our Annual Meeting & Special Presentation



On Tuesday, April 30 at 6:30pm at the Lower Merion Academy Building, the Society will host our [Annual Meeting](#), in which we will share the progress we have made over the past year. Immediately following will be a special presentation to honor the legacy of Victoria Donohoe (1929-2018) and her gift of the manuscript "A Cultural History of Narberth" to the Society. Historian and Board member Dr. Dennis Montagna will lead a presentation that explores the remarkable contributions of the lifelong Narberth resident, distinguished Philadelphia Inquirer art

critic, and historian, celebrating her impact on Philadelphia's cultural landscape. The manuscript serves as a rich history and memoir of Narberth, offering invaluable perspectives from a Narberth native of nearly 90 years. Special guest Nancy Greene, a close friend of Victoria's who helped edit the work, will share insights into Victoria's extraordinary life and career. Don't miss this chance to explore the legacy of the remarkable Victoria Donohoe and her influence on our community.



Victoria Donohoe as a young woman, and later in life at her Narbrook home.

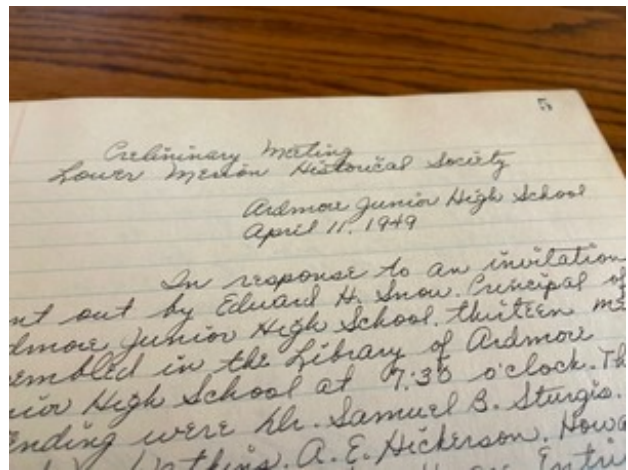
LM Historical in the Spotlight!

Administrative Coordinator Paige Bartello and our Communications Committee will take over the instagram account of the National Council on Public History for the week of April 22. We suggest that you follow [their account](#) (and [ours](#)) to see a wide range of content about all things LMHS as we present to a national audience!

Happy Birthday to Us - We're 75!

Each month during 2024, we will be highlighting an aspect of LMHS's own history. Today we feature the

origins of the Society itself, as reflected by the minutes of the preliminary meeting of the Society on April 11, 1949. Thirteen men gathered in the library of Ardmore Junior High



School and "the universal sentiment was that it was now or never, if much valuable historical data and material was to be preserved." Seventy-five years later, the Society is building on this legacy in numerous ways, including strategic planning.



On March 2, the Board engaged in a retreat facilitated by Kim Andrews, Governance Chair. Last week, the

Board approved the resulting strategic plan, and Kim is now working with Committee chairs to map out a strategic implementation plan that identifies the tasks needed to achieve each initiative along with timeline and budget through 2026.

Save the date for our 75th Anniversary Celebration Potluck on June 2 in Gladwyne - tickets are free; registration & more information is [here](#).

Finally, we have [limited edition 75th anniversary tee shirts](#) for sale on

Bonfire! All proceeds go directly to the Historical Society to aid in our mission of education, exploration, and

preservation. Get yours today and wear it to the picnic in June!



Stay tuned for more events to mark our anniversary!

Upcoming Programs

Mark your calendars:

- **April 30** - 6:30pm - 8pm - Annual Meeting - Lower Merion Academy Building
 - **May 19** - 2pm - 4pm - The History of Public Schools in Lower Merion, presented by LMHS President Emeritus Ted Goldsborough - location TBA
 - **June 2** - 11am - 2pm - 75th Anniversary Potluck Picnic - Gladwyne Park ([register here](#))
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And in Case You Missed It...

- In March, the Society hosted a virtual talk by Breya Scarlett, a summer intern from the University of Delaware. Breya explored the Woman's Club of Bala Cynwyd archives, focusing on Lower Merion women's

contributions during WWI, including their roles in social issues like voting rights and child labor. Her presentation is available on our [YouTube channel](#).

- Society VP Erin Betley, in partnership with the Lower Merion Library System, organized a joint virtual talk with Jenny Rose Carey on local early 20th-century women in horticulture. Erin's presentation highlighted WWI-era community war gardens in Lower Merion and the Stoneleigh estate's role as a women's horticultural training school. The recorded program is available on the Lower Merion Library System's [YouTube channel](#).

Two Centuries Ago in Lower Merion: Joseph Price Sheds Light on the 1824 Solar Eclipse



Many of us enjoyed viewing this year's solar eclipse. Just

over 200 years ago, residents of Lower Merion also experienced a solar eclipse. How do we know this? It was recorded in the voluminous diary of prominent Quaker Joseph Price (1753-1828) on December 20th, 1824. Indeed, NASA's catalog of 5,000 years of solar eclipses confirms an annular solar eclipse on this date! Joseph Price's diary is in the [archives of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania](#), but its 3,000 pages were painstakingly transcribed by the Society's Mary Keim (1916-2016) over 30 years ago and its full content is available [here](#). The traces of Joseph Price's life and the world he lived in are [all around us](#) if you look closely. The next time you drive past the intersection of Montgomery Avenue and Meeting House Lane, look for the historical marker about Price outside the house he built for his cousin in 1803, now 714 Montgomery Ave. He is buried just down the road, at [Merion Friends Burial Ground](#).

We Need Your Support!

We are a member-funded, volunteer-run organization, and we need your support to cover our operating expenses along with the software, supplies, and equipment necessary to upgrade the way we manage our extensive collections. In May, we will be sending out a membership appeal by email and postal mail. Please feel free to get a jump on it by renewing your membership or making a donation [here](#). We wouldn't

exist without your generous help - thank you!



Visit us online:

[About Us](#)

[Membership Information](#)

[Our Website](#)

***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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