



August 2024

Happy Summer!

75th Anniversary & Planning for the Future

Thank you to everyone who joined our 75th Anniversary potluck picnic at Gladwyne Park! The lovely weather was the perfect complement to tasty food and engaging conversations. Stay tuned for more institutional history of the Society in our social media and autumn newsletters.

We are pleased to announce that the Board has approved a strategic plan for 2024-2026, available [here](#). We are actively recruiting for new Society members to join our committees and will outline opportunities in our next newsletter.

We Won an Award!

Windows Into History, the Ardmore Initiative's "pop-up museum" exploring and celebrating downtown Ardmore's

past, won the Pennsylvania Downtown Center 2024 Townie Award Winner for Promotions & Marketing: General Image & Identity. Born as an Ardmore Initiative Streetscape Committee solution to spruce up empty storefronts, *Windows Into History: Explore Historic Ardmore* became a robust collaboration with the Lower Merion Historical Society, the Lower Merion Conservancy, the Township of Lower Merion, and downtown business and property owners.

Learn more in this [StoryMap](#) created by Kathleen Abplanalp, the Director of Historic Preservation at the Lower Merion Conservancy.



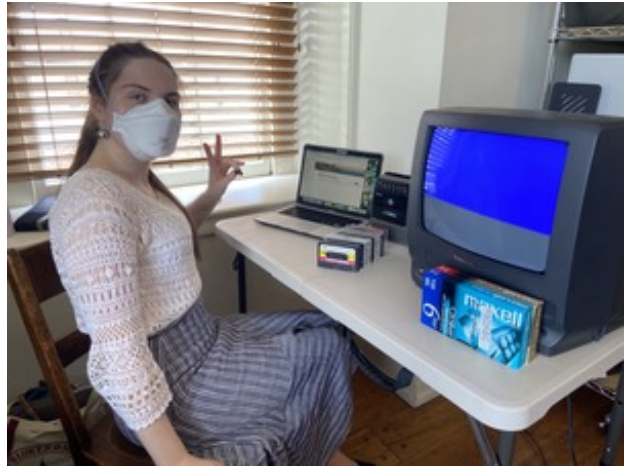
From Left to Right: Kate Jiggins, president of the Lower Merion Historical Society; Nancy Scarlato, executive director of the Ardmore Initiative; Jane Murray, assistant executive director of the Ardmore Initiative; and Jeff Mellin, artist, graphic designer, and member of the Ardmore Initiative Streetscape Committee who created the Windows into History designs.

Spring Student Projects

Congratulations to the three high school seniors who completed their senior projects with us in May - cheers to HHS Rams and LMHS Aces, class of

2024! Their inspiring research questions:

- How does a historical township like Lower Merion maintain and curate local documents and artifacts?



- How will volunteering at a local historical institution provide useful experiences for my future career as a teacher?
- How can digitizing and inventorying oral histories enhance community history?



Images, from top to bottom: high school seniors Athen Schaper, Matt Mazzoni, and Jonas Epstein

Upcoming Programs

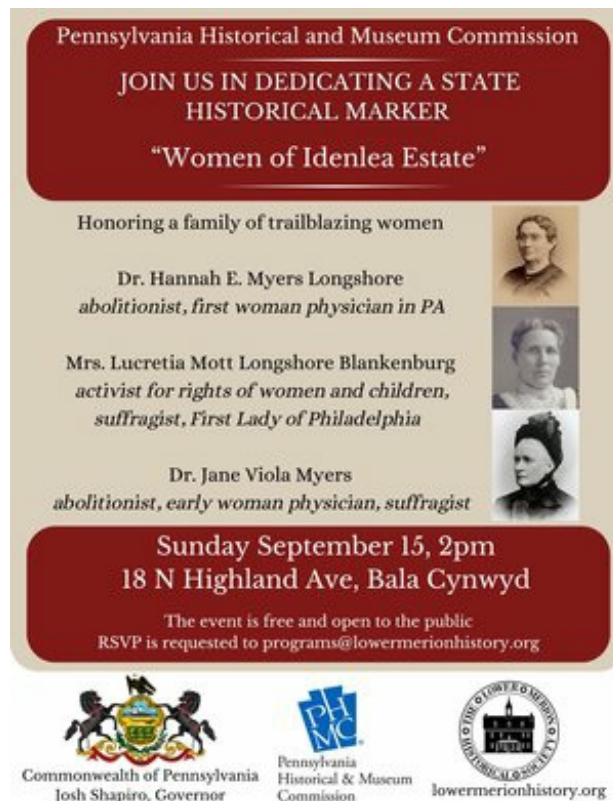
Mark your calendars:

Sept. 14 - 1pm - 3pm - Join the Society and Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line for an afternoon of learning and sharing the legacy of trailblazing art historian and painter Paul B. Moses (1929 - 1966), who was raised on West Spring Avenue in Ardmore and graduated at the top of his class from Lower Merion High School. Mike Moses will share his father's story, welcoming discussion, followed by a walking tour of the neighborhood and light refreshments. This event is free and open to the public.



Sept. 15 - 2pm - 3pm - In the late 19th and early 20th century, Bala Cynwyd was home to a family of remarkable women whose contributions to the causes of

the abolition of slavery, women's rights, suffrage, and women in medicine deserve long overdue recognition. All are welcome to join the dedication ceremony for a Pennsylvania historical marker honoring these women, featuring remarks by public officials and historians. For the first time in over 20 years, a state historical marker is being unveiled in Lower Merion—an event you won't want to miss! Occuring during the [2nd Annual Bala Avenue Art Walk](#), this dedication event is free, but RSVPs to programs@lowermerionhistory.org are appreciated.



Nov. 23 - SAVE THE DATE for a dedication ceremony for two historical markers for [Camp Discharge](#), a near-forgotten Civil War camp in Gladwyne. More details to come.

And in Case You Missed It...

The Society hosted informational tables at three annual community events this summer:



The Interschool Council Appreciation Luncheon for Lower Merion School District administrators & the administrative staff at all 11 public schools.

Freedom on the Mainline Juneteenth Celebration at Vernon Young Playground.



Bala Cynwyd Independence Day parade at Bala Cynwyd Park.

Historical Society Rewind

What was the Historical Society up to 10 years ago in the summer of 2014? Check out the highlights from Milestones! You can find past issues of all our

newsletters [here](#).



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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