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January 2012

The Merion Foundation Supports Cynwyd Station Revitalization

The Lower Merion Historical Society is pleased to announce that it has received a \$5,000 grant for the Cynwyd Train Station Revitalization Project from *The Merion Foundation*. This Foundation, with headquarters at the [Merion Tribute House](#), is a community service organization dedicated to benefiting the citizens of the Township of Lower Merion.

Since its inception in 1924, the *Merion Community Association* (MCA), entrusted with the maintenance and upkeep of the Merion Tribute House, has made in-kind donations of meeting and gathering space at the Tribute House available to local non-profit and civic organizations. In 1994, the MCA began to award financial contributions in addition to this service and created a Community Service Committee to oversee these grants. In 2006, *The Merion Foundation* was established as a separate entity. The Community Service Committee continues to oversee the Foundation's grant-making activities.

Jim Ettelson, President of *The Merion Foundation* commented, "we are proud to support this important community project. The crown jewel in the collection of other historical industrial sites along the Cynwyd Heritage Trail, the historic Cynwyd Train Station will serve as a gateway to a two-mile, multi-use recreational corridor and linear park connecting communities to their cultural and industrial heritage."

Jerry Francis, President of the Historical Society remarked: "This is not the first time that such a generous donation has been made to the Historical Society. In 2004, the *Merion Community Association* (MCA) made a \$5,000 donation for the purchase a new Toshiba e-Studio 200L photocopier...this unit has been useful and reliable and has produced over 100,000 good quality copies for the Historical Society and it patrons."



At the Cynwyd Train Station, left to right are Ken Brier (Historical Society Director) Jim Ettelson (President of The Merion Foundation), Jerry Francis (Historical Society President) and Ross Mitchell (Historical Society Director).

The grant is restricted to the *Exterior Brick Restoration* work that involves the repair, cleaning and re-pointing of the brick walls on the building.

Senator Toomey Proposes Legislation to Save Lower Merion's Historic Street Signs



On Monday December 19th, U.S Senator Patrick J. Toomey held a press conference at the Township Administration Building and announced his new legislation entitled the [Stopping Intrusive Government Now \(SIGN\) Act.](#)

Attending the press conference were Township Commissioners, Township Staff, and representatives from the *Street Sign Coalition*, including the Lower Merion Historical Society, the Lower Merion Conservancy, the Township's Historical Architecture Review Board (HARB) and the Historical Commission.

Caroline Slama's Dedication and Caring for the Community

This January marks three years since Caroline began volunteering at the Society. Caroline's first project was creating database records for nearly 600 Ardmore Junior High School team and club photos. Since then, she has cataloged the personal photo collection of Edward H. Snow, first principal of Ardmore Junior High and a founder of the Society. Dr. Snow's photos offer a fascinating glimpse into the lives of school faculty, staff, and students from 1924 to 1956. She is currently digitizing indexes of the extensive and equally fascinating



Russell Byerly Memorial World War II Collection. Her work is part of the Society's ongoing effort to make its holdings searchable online—quite an undertaking, but well worth the diligence and dedication.

Building Photographs: To Preserve Today for Tomorrow's History

Our January photo from www.lowermerionhistory.org/buildings/ is part of our history:



It's almost 100 years since this bridge was built in a Lower Merion factory. It has changed a lot in the past few years. Do you recognize it from this angle? For a hint, click [here](#). To see all the changes click [here](#).

The February issue will have a story about the re-installation of two of the Township's 18th century Milestones, and a report of the *Creative MontCo History and Preservation Gathering* that is scheduled to meet at the Lower Merion Academy on January 19th.

Favorite Links

- [Lower Merion Historical Society's Website](#)
 - Our [Preserve America Website](#)
 - [Membership Information](#)
 - [Buy Our Books](#)

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.

