



May 2024

Happy Memorial Day!

Annual Meeting



On April 30th, we hosted our 75th Annual Meeting with a packed house for a delightful special presentation on the inspiring life and work of local artist and historian Victoria

Donohoe (1929 - 2018), honoring her legacy and her gift of "A Cultural History of Narberth" manuscript to the Society. Board member Dennis Montagna shared rich stories about this distinguished art critic and historian who called Narberth home during her long and fascinating life. Special guest Nancy Greene, a friend and editor of Victoria's work, shared vivid stories about her invaluable contributions. Nancy played a crucial role in collating and typing hundreds of pages meticulously researched and

handwritten by Victoria.



President Emeritus Ted Goldsborough poses with his wife Susan and former Board Member and Treasurer and current Glen Foerd Director Ross Mitchell.

Membership and Donation Drive

This month, the Society launched a membership and donation appeal. We've enjoyed decades of robust membership support, but in recent years this support has dwindled due to two main factors: the COVID pandemic and a brief period of dormancy, which has thankfully now passed. As we forge ahead into a promising new future, we are left with one serious issue – a significant annual funding gap. We need to close that gap in order for our institution to survive. Here you will find our Annual Report, which includes an overview of the significant progress we have made over the past 12 months, highlighting some of the achievements of which we are most proud. The Board, staff, interns and volunteers are doing their part to sustain this organization, but there is no replacement for funding that covers our operating expenses. The future of the

Society depends on you and [the time to purchase a membership or make a donation is now!](#)

2023-2024 Annual Report



"Preserving Our
Past for the Future"

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Collections



- New paid professional staff
- Public Open Hours resumed
- New collections equipment & software
- Preservation planning in progress
- Acquisition of Woman's Club of Bala Cynwyd archives
- Cynwyd Station upgrades

Programming & Communications



- Milestones monthly newsletter resumed
- Social media engagement
- Vibrant internship & volunteer programs
- Robust online & in-person educational programs
- Strengthened collaborations with local partners

Governance



- Adoption of the American Association of State and Local History Code of Ethics and Practice
- Bold new strategic plan through 2027
- Modernized governance
- Three new board members

Finance & Development



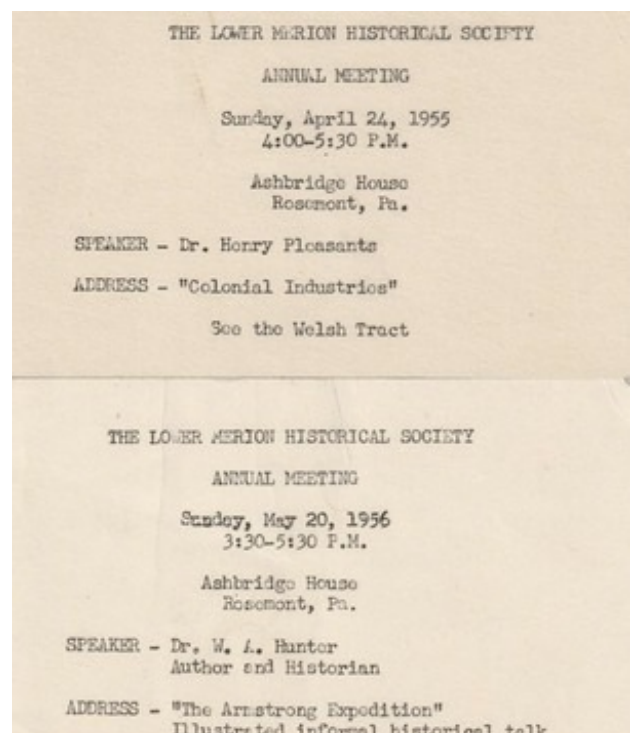
- New accountant
- Nonprofit status restored
- Monthly financial reports
- New bookkeeping software
- One funding proposal submitted, others in progress
- Membership drive underway!

The Lower Merion Historical Society is celebrating 75 years - [we need your support](#) for the future!

 <div data-bbox="231 795 702 1008"> <p>lowermerionhistory.org</p> <p>Become a member or donate today!</p>  </div>	<p>OFFICERS</p> <p><i>President: Kate Jiggins</i> <i>Vice President: Erin Betley</i> <i>Treasurer: Craig Whitney</i> <i>Secretary: Linda Tasker</i></p>	
	<p>DIRECTORS</p> <p><i>Kim Andrews</i> <i>Jim Bevlock</i> <i>David Holland</i> <i>Samar Khan</i> <i>Elizabeth Laurent</i></p> <p><i>Dennis Montagna</i> <i>Scott Reynolds</i> <i>Jamie Singer</i> <i>Brad Upp</i></p>	
	<p>STAFF, INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS</p> <p><i>Paige Bartello (staff)</i></p> <p><i>Colin McCrossan</i> <i>Bill McVail</i> <i>Xandra O'Neill</i> <i>Breya Scarlett</i></p> <p><i>Ted Davis</i> <i>Valerie Holliday</i> <i>Stuart Wing</i> <i>Lindsey Wavrek</i></p> <p><i>President Emeritus: Ted Goldsborough</i></p>	
	<p>MISSION</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	

Celebrating our 75th year and planning for the future!

Each month during 2024, we will be highlighting an aspect of LMHS's own history. Today we feature the programs from our 1955 and 1956 meetings at Ashbridge House, the Society's first home before our collection was relocated to the Lower Merion Academy Building over 20 years ago. The speakers Dr. Henry Pleasants and Dr. William A. Hunter were distinguished historians.





REMINDER: Come celebrate 75 years with us this Sunday, June 2, at Gladwyne Park! [Details are here](#), and registration link [is here](#). Please be sure to bring your own chairs, plates, drinks, and utensils. We will have cake to share!

Collections update from Paige



This month our collection received careful attention from 10 passionate & inspiring Master's students and their professors in the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture through the University of Delaware. Their comprehensive preservation needs assessment survey and report will be an essential tool for the Society's preservation planning.

Upcoming Programs

Mark your calendars:

- **June 2** - 10:45am - 11am - Just preceding our birthday picnic, we will be holding a brief Special Meeting of Members to approve the filing of Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation for the Lower Merion Historical Society. This meeting will occur at Gladwyne

Park pavilion.

- **June 2** - 11am - 2pm - 75th Anniversary Potluck Picnic
- Gladwyne Park ([register here](#))
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And in Case You Missed It...

- On May 19, President Emeritus Ted Goldsborough presented his decades of lived experience and research on the history of public school buildings to an engaged audience at Penn Valley Elementary School. He has recorded this presentation with Lower Merion Township Television, and we will share the link to view it once it becomes available.
- Board members Dennis Montagna, Jamie Singer, Linda Tasker, and Brad Upp helmed the Society's informational table at the Narberth Civic Association's NarbEarth Day and enjoyed engaging with many members of our community.
- Board members toured Pencoyd past and present with Lower Merion Township Director of Building and Planning Chris Leswing, planner Sarah Carley, and Historic Preservation Planner Greg Prichard. The tour took the group from the award winning restored Ironworks at Pencoyd Landing, past overgrown ruins of





structures that predated the Schuylkill Expressway, up to the historic Miller-Bell House, the core of which dates to 1695.

The group discussed the expansion of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail along Bala Ave and ideas in which the Miller-Bell House could be repurposed to preserve its grandeur and give it new life.

Ever wondered about the lifelike statues in Ardmore?



These realistic statues in front of Ardmore Toyota on busy Lancaster Avenue often startle drivers. Created by artist Seward Johnson, they were purchased and installed by dealership owner and art fan Max Paul between 2005 and 2009.

The policeman directing traffic is called “Oh, It’s You. Welcome.” The photographer (“Sightseeing”) makes you feel you’re a celebrity being stalked by the paparazzi. And the woman on the bench (“The Search”) is looking frantically in her purse for her glasses. (Psst, lady– they’re

on top of your head!)

Born in New Brunswick, NJ, on April 16, 1930 as John Seward Johnson II, and known also as J. Seward Johnson Jr., Seward Johnson was an American artist known for trompe-l'œil painted bronze statues. No stranger to paparazzi himself, Johnson was the grandson of Robert Wood Johnson I, the co-founder of Johnson & Johnson, and first cousin to actor Michael Douglas. Although his sculptures were sometimes panned as "kitsch," Johnson enjoyed a long and productive career, including the founding of Grounds For Sculpture, a 42-acre sculpture park and museum located in Hamilton Township, NJ, in 1992. Johnson died at the age of 89 in Key West, FL.



Visit us online:

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[Membership Information](#)

[Our Website](#)

***Mission Statement of the
Lower Merion Historical Society***

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