



## **February 2020**

*The Historical Society remains committed and active due to the many civic minded volunteers who serve our community by giving of their **TIME, TALENT & TREASURY**. This issue of Milestones is dedicated to three people who had a life-style of being kind and generous. Here is the story of our three heroes. They will be missed by many.*

**Ann Bagley** from Wynnewood, had a life long career of sharing her many talents. She was active member of *The Merion Community Association, The Merion Botanical Park, The Haverford College Arboretum, and was a former President of the Merion Civic Association*. She loved teaching and volunteering as a *Park House Guide at the Philadelphia Museum of Art* where she encouraged and nurtured new Guides. She mostly enjoyed sharing her knowledge of local history. More recently, she volunteered as a tour guide at *Historic Woodford Mansion* in East Fairmont Park. For more than two decades, she gave her **TIME** to the Historical Society by giving lectures, working on research projects, and cataloging the various library special collections. She left her imprint on all she did. Everyone she worked with will remember her for her happy and positive disposition.



**Frank Weer** from Overbrook Farms, was a Safety Investigator and Engineer for *The Reading Railroad*, with a life long passion for trains. In addition to his day-time job, Frank was a member of many Rail Clubs and Historical Archeological Societies. He traveled the world by rail and often came back with photographs of train engines, etc.. Lower Merion is a railroad community; namely, our roots are firmly planted in *The Pennsylvania Railroad* and *The Reading Railroad*. Frank was always there to give his advice and to share his **TALENT** with the Historical Society. He attended many of our lectures and events always wearing his train conductor's uniform. One of the things that Frank donated to us was his vast collection of *Reading Railroad* memorabilia. The staff of the Historical Society has completed their inventory of this railroad collection and the remainder of these items, (those that have nothing to do with Lower Merion) should belong to an institution that can best conserve and preserve the items. So this remainder collection was recently passed onto the *Hagley Museum and Library* that is located in Wilmington, DE.





*Pictured left to right are: Ted Goldsborough (Immediate Past President of LMHS), Kevin Martin (the Mellon Curator of Audiovisual and Digital Collections at the Hagley Museum and Library), Jerry Francis (President of LMHS)*

**Victoria Donohoe** from Narberth, attended college at Rosemont with a Masters Degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Vicky was a gifted writer, knowledgeable on a great variety of topics, writing in long-hand at home without a computer. Because she didn't drive, many locals remember seeing her walking (with her trademark bright red hair) year after year in all kinds of weather, day and night, going to and fro, for local shopping, to the train station, and to critique art exhibits and attend receptions in the region.



For fifty years she worked as an art critic, mostly for the Philadelphia Inquirer. She also had a keen interest in architecture, religion, and historic preservation. She wrote the text for several roadside historic markers including Bert Bell's on Haverford Avenue in Narberth. It was she who wrote the successful nomination for Narbrook Park's being on the *National Register of Historic Places*. She contributed histories of Narberth to books about Montgomery County and the Historical Society's book entitled The First 300: The Amazing and Rich History of Lower Merion. She was also a frequent contributor to the *Friends of Narberth History* publications. Last month, Vicky's cousin and executrix, Marcella Kubovsak, presented the society with a check for \$98,318.00 from Vicky's estate. We are extremely grateful to Vicky and Marcella for this gesture of support and such a generous **TREASURY** that will help fund the society and its works.



*Pictured left to right are; Ted Goldsborough (immediate Past President of LMHS), Marcella Kubovsak (Executrix of Victoria Donohoe's estate, Jerry Francis (President of LMHS)*

### ***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.

