

MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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E-MAIL: MCA.SECY@MERIONCIVIC.ORG

WWW.MERIONCIVIC.ORG

MERION, PA 19066

SPRING / SUMMER 2009

THE MERION COMMUNITY AS A FAMILY

By Scott Feuer



AS I WRITE THIS MESSAGE TO OUR RESIDENTS OF MERION, I THINK OF THE NATURAL BEAUTY of Merion at this time of year. I also reflect on the accomplishments of the Merion Civic Association (MCA) and the community as a whole.

At the present time, regular meetings are being held between the Merion Community Coalition and St. Joseph's University in an attempt to resolve differences over proposed uses of the McGuire Campus on Latches Lane. Representatives from the Civic have attended virtually all of these meetings. The Civic has also used its own meetings as a clearing-house of information that allows all sides of the issue to be reported. The goal is to keep our community up-to-date and thoroughly informed about the developments regarding the proposed use of the McGuire Campus. The Civic will continue to monitor the overall progress of these discussions and will then update the residents on the status of these meeting at each of our monthly meetings.

Over the last year, we have strengthened several relationships within the community. One of these is the Botanical Society and its new president Frank Strawbridge. I would like to invite all of you to come and visit the Botanical Gardens which is located on Merion Road. There is no time like the present to do this. Everything is in bloom and the walk ways along the stream are very tranquil and serene. Bring a book and a blanket. You can sit on the grass or on one of the park benches.

Another community group with whom the Civic works is the Barnes Foundation Arboretum. This is located behind the Barnes Museum on Latches Lane. The Arboretum's director, Dr. Jacob Thomas is making a conscious effort to hold classes on a variety of topics. (See schedule in this newsletter). All residents are invited to attend. The Arboretum features an exceptional collection of rare and unusual trees and plants from all parts of the world.

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MERION HAS NEW POSTMASTER

By Michael Seiden

MS. KATHRYN SIPPLE has been appointed Postmaster of the Merion Station post office. While Ms. Sipple was appointed to the position on January 17th of this year, she took over the daily operation of our post office in April, replacing Ms. Anita C. Hill, who had served as Officer-In-Charge since August 2, 2009. Ms. Hill will continue her work at the post office under Ms. Sipple.

According to Ms. Sipple, new parking signs will be posted outside shortly. The signs will direct residents to appropriate places to park for the post office and the new parking rules will be enforced. This should make it easier to find a parking space when you visit the post office. Ms. Sipple also addressed the large deficits currently being run by the USPS.

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ANNUAL STATION PLANTING A SUCCESS

By Scott Feuer

ON SUNDAY MAY 17TH, Merion Civic Association members and residents of Merion joined together in the annual planting of the window boxes and gardens at the train station and post office buildings. A colorful mix of plants from Taddeo's Nursery were set in the window boxes for residents, post office customers and R5 riders to enjoy from now until frost hits.

Thanks to Scott and Lynne Feuer, Sylvia and Murray Lefkowitz, the Murphy family, Judith Flaks, Janet Rutzel, Ann and Phil Bagley, Carol Lavoritano, Helen Guy, Lauren Wylonis, Karla Moras, Gary Blum, Michael and Carolyn Seiden, Deborah Starr and Stephan Crainic family.



COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

By Brian Gordon



DEAR FRIENDS,

I AM PLEASED TO GIVE YOU AN UPDATE ON THREE TOPICS THAT ARE OF GREAT INTEREST TO MERION NEIGHBORS:

Rockland Avenue Bridge — I have worked closely with Borough of Narberth officials to get a commitment to replace the Rockland Avenue Bridge with a walking bridge. The present plan is to re-use a pedestrian bridge that will be designed for the Narberth Avenue bridge construction project. I called the Township Engineer, who is also Narberth's Engineer, who has verified that a temporary pedestrian bridge which will be used during re-construction of the South Narberth Avenue Bridge is being designed with the strength and abutments needed to move it to Rockland Avenue when the Narberth Ave construction is complete. Each year I have lobbied for and have successfully secured funds in the Township's Capital Improvement Plan budget to contribute to the pedestrian bridge construction effort. Since the bridge is located in Narberth, and is dependent, in part, on funding from Narberth, we are on Narberth's time table. The Public Utility Commission is seeking to expedite the removal of the current deteriorating structure which may expedite the project.

Green Building Design — I am working with other commissioners to develop green building standards that will require both the Township and private developers to consider approaches to construction which take advantage of natural light, energy saving architecture, local materials and alternative energy sources. One such example is an extension to Ludington Library which is being designed as a green building and will feature a green vegetative roof as has been used successfully to cool and retain heat in new and old buildings around the world.

Saint Joseph's University — In purchasing the 38 acre Episcopal Academy (EA) campus, now the McGuire Campus, SJU has expanded into an exquisite historic neighborhood. Latches, Berwick and Raynham are tranquil, residential and serene. Based on the recent Zoning Board Decision, the McGuire campus was over 200 spaces short of parking spaces, based on the number of buildings and facilities already present, at the time of purchase. Sound studies performed by the neighbors indicate that the present configuration of buildings causes sound to project easily from the site into the neighborhood. A proposed home run net will require thirteen 35 foot poles along Latch's Lane. Beyond the fields there will be more lighted paths crossing the McGuire Campus.

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HISTORICAL MARKER WILL HONOR MERION RESIDENT, HENRY S. DRINKER

By Marjorie Mudrick

THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION (PHMC) recently approved installing a curbside historical marker at 249 Merion Road in honor of Henry S. Drinker who lived at this address for many years. Drinker, who was born in 1880 and died in 1965, was known for his extraordinary love of the arts and distinguished law career. Less known about Drinker is that he was responsible for bringing the von Trapp family to Merion and provided them a home opposite to his, rent-free after the family's escape from Europe in 1939. The von Trapp family was threatened with deportation from Ellis Island when Drinker intervened. Drinker's greatest cultural achievement was establishing the Drinker Library of Choral Music, now housed at the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Henry S. Drinker was the Drinker of the renowned Philadelphia law firm Drinker Biddle & Reath. He was the author of the book "Legal Ethics," published in 1953 and was the nationally recognized authority on legal ethics at that time. His extraordinary list of legal accomplishments included two appearances before U.S. Supreme Court.

At the time and on a very different front, Drinker had become an international face of choral music in the English-speaking world. He spread the music of J.S. Bach in America through his translations from German to English and publication of all of Bach's 200+ cantatas. In 1957, he gave as a gift to the Free Library of Philadelphia his very large collection of choral performance music which became the Drinker Library of Choral Music. The library has made these performances materials available to choral groups both locally and nationwide. The Free Library has loaned choral scores to groups as notable as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and as local as Philadelphia church and school choirs. There is no other collection of this scope available for loan to the many choral groups across the country. Drinker made great choral music both accessible and meaningful through his voluminous translations which significantly broadened the reach of this music to a portion of the American public.

Because Drinker believed the deepest enjoyment of music comes from participation, he was known for conducting an amateur choir for nearly thirty years at his home, referred to as the Drinker Singing Parties, where 125-150 people would gather to perform each week. Members of the von Trapp family participated in the Drinker Singing Parties which was the only payment he would accept for providing the von Trapp family with housing.

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JUNE LAUNCH FOR MCA WEBSITE

By Marjorie Mudrick

THE MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S (MCA) website committee is happy to announce that MCA's website will be launched in early June. The website address is merioncivic.org.

The website includes:

- a description of MCA's mission and how we serve Merion residents;
- the spring and early summer **Calendar of Events**;
- list of MCA's **committees**, their focus and accomplishments;
- **links** to Lower Merion Township public services, county and state offices, and other neighboring civic associations and local organizations links;
- copies of past **newsletters**;
- a membership application for your convenience;
- list of the current **directors and contact information** on how to reach MCA with any of your concerns;
- and, finally, the website includes a bit of our **history** from when MCA was established in 1913. There is an excerpt from the 1918 Annual Report that lists what members got for their dues way back then. There is also a fascinating article written by Theodore Roosevelt in 1917 entitled **Model Merion** about Merion and the Merion Civic Association. Though Roosevelt's prose and references are obviously from an earlier time, it is remarkably familiar.

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WEBSITE

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MCA Board Member **Michael R. Seiden** assisted by MCA President **Scott Feuer**, resident **Phil Bagley** and Board Member **Marjorie Mudrick** designed the site. Michael Seiden will serve as the webmaster for the site.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOGS AND DISPOSE OF THE WASTE APPROPRIATELY

To those residents...and there are many of you...who pick up after your dogs in our neighborhoods, **THANK YOU!** To the few of you who do not, please understand that cleaning up after your pet is the law in Merion. In addition, please dispose of your dog's waste at your home. A number of people throw dog waste in the trash cans at the Train Station which makes for a pungent wait for trains, especially in the summer months.



STREETS, LIGHTS, TRAFFIC & POTHOLE!

Renee Hill, chairperson of the Merion Civic Association's Streets, Lights and Traffic Committee would like to hear from you if you have any problems on your street with street lights, traffic, and now that it is spring/summer, any potholes which need to be filled. Contact her via the Civic Association at **610.664.0441**.

LOOKING AT THE LOWER MERION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By **Ann Bagley**



LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE ONE OF THE MOST ORGANIZED AND INTERESTING GROUPS OF CITIZENS TO BE FOUND ANYWHERE. These dedicated citizens, members of the Lower Merion Historical Society, have been working hard to record, catalog and maintain accurate historical records of the area.

The Society was organized in 1949 at a meeting at the Ardmore Junior High. Some of the most prominent men in the area met to form the society which has grown from that small beginning into a completely up-to-date collection of papers and artifacts, some dating back to the first settlers in the 1600's. The vision of the 'founding fathers' of the Historical Society was to fill the gaps left by other community organizations as well as by the local school system which, it felt, did not teach students enough community-based history. Our rich heritage was being ignored, they thought. To quote from a recent publication of the Society: "Sixty years later, it would serve us well to examine our own history and the foundations upon which our Society was built, how much we have changed, and how we have endured the test of time. We (the Society) have not only stayed true to our mission, but have also expanded it to include stewardship, outreach, and active conservation – in some cases, even renovation – of local landmarks and open spaces."

A brief look at the historical record the society had created gives one an idea of the building blocks that make up the foundation of our Township: From a rural community in the 1600s, with Quaker Meeting Houses holding together the various communities of farmers to the establishment of mills along the waterways of the Township and railroads that cut a swath through the community and were the beginning of the Lower Merion we know today.

In the mills many things were processed or made: things such as grain, gunpowder, paper, guns, lumber, sheet metal, woolen fabric, etc., a veritable cornucopia of industrialization.

Then came the railroads. The tracks of the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad came directly through Lower Merion on the way west. The Pennsylvania Railroad purchased the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad, changing the route, adding track and developing long distance traffic. At this time the railroads were thought of as freight movers, not people movers. However, the proximity of Merion to the city tempted some industrialists to move their private homes away from the closely built-up neighborhoods in Philadelphia to a more country-like setting. Many wealthy Philadelphians built substantial homes (some say, castles)

MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION DUES LEVELS OF GIVING 2008-2009

As of May 22, 2009

SPONSOR LEVEL \$500.00

Robert and Toby Marmon*

SPONSOR LEVEL \$200.00

Saint Joseph's University

The Barnes Foundation

PATRON LEVEL \$100.00

Philip and Ann Bagley*(P)

Hausman/Berlin Family

Jessamine Brandt

Scott and Lynne Feuer*

Stella Gabuzda

Walter and Nancy Herman

Hilibrand Family

James and Dina McFalls

John Neill

John and Frances Quinn*(P)

Michael Useem

BUSINESS LEVEL \$50.00

Gary and Phyllis Adler (P)

Richard Baron

Goldmuntz/Barr Family

Berlansky Family

Luis Blasco

Adam Blistein

Thomas Diederich

Scott Kalner and Linda

Dottor*

Bruce and Ellen Eisenberg*(P)

Edward Foster

Peter and Patty Smith

Gardner*(P)

Derek and Yael Gillman

Henry Gladstone

Sinai/Guthrie Family

Renee and Glenn Hill*

Gilbert and Carole Karash*

Kessler Family

Marjorie and Mark Mudrick*

O'Connor Family

Martin and Rhoda Piltch*(P)

Dilip Ramchandani

William Ravreby

Elsbeth F. Swope

David Taffet Family

Lindsten/Thompson Family

Edna S. Tuttleman

Turka/Weber Family

Lauren Wylonis Family

Joseph Zebrowitz

Richard Zeghibe

Gordon/Burroughs Family

Brenda and Charles Caper

Young/Cinotti Family

David Clements

Charles Cohen

Dardashti Family

Eric Eckstein

Zillig/Engard Family

Kristin and Timothy Fairbanks

Diane Ferber

Robert Field

Paul Fink

Lock/Finkelstein Family

David Fraimow

Eric Garvey

J. William Gaynor

Ronkin/Gerson Family

Sonia Gilbert

Bruce Golboro

Spencer Golden

Goldfine Family

Henry Goldman

Joel and Marlene Goldwein

Frederick Golec

Brian and Julie Gordon*

Coyne/Green Family

Stephen Greenberg

Mary Wood Groves

Michael Hafter

Neil Haimm

Cacas Hanafee Family

Hassan Family

Jon Hillsberg

Hirsh Family

Philip Ivory

Thomas Jackson

Patrick Johnston

Koch Family

Martin and Patricia Kohn

Jerome Kolker

Jane Krumrine

William Landsburg

Michael Lee

Kenneth Lehrer

Stuart Leibach Family

Gary Lichtenstein

Smith/Lizandra Family

James MacDonald

Henry Maguire

David Maltz

Stephen Martin

Samantha and William Matthai

McConnell Family

Meckling Family

Menachem Meller

Karl Middleman

Michael Mooreville

Kevin and Amy Murphy*

Nakahara Family

Owen/Oliner Family

Orne Family

Lee Pearch

Lindgren/Pearson Family

David Prince

David and Jessica Rae

Rogoff Family

David Romano

Adam Rosen

Janet and David Rutzel Family*

Bernardini/Savastani Family

John Senior

David Shakow

Burrell/Sorensen Family

Armen/Stevenson Family*

Frank Strawbridge Family

Jennifer and William Strouse

Sved Family

Katz/Swenson Family

Leonard and Barbara Sylk

John Tighe

Valik Family

John UngarMichael Wachs

Freedman/Wash Family

Ronald Weller

Grohsgal/Weinryb

Crainic/Wien Family

Oliver/Worthen Family

Jonathan and Victoria Ziss

Katherine and Kenneth

Zoldan

COUPLES LEVEL \$25.00 & BELOW

William Abrams

Jacob B. Adams III

Carol and Michael Albert

Michael Asbell

Arthur Axelrod

Liss/Baumgarten Family

Buddy Bear

Harold/Beaton Family

Beltran Family

E.M. Berkowitz

Ellen and Perry Berman

Brandt/Berthold Family

Brenner/Biloon Family

Randy and Lumaria Blakeney*

William Blount

Sharon Wolfson and Gary Blum

Siegel/Bowring Family

Sandra and Peter Brown

Joseph Camardo

John Carson

Rolf Charlston

Martin Cohen

Lita and Stanley Cohen*

Craig Culbert

Andrea and John Danial

Frank Diamond

Jordon Driks

David Elesh

David Ellis

James and Dot Ettelson*(P)

Eric Michael Exley

Daniel Fife

Alfred Fitoussi

June Franklin

Dorothy Fread

Reisman/Friedman Family

Leonard Ginsburg

Joel and Irene Glickman

Daniel Gold

Larry Goldberg

Yale Goldman

George Goldstone

Gerald Gornish

Richard Hanak

Rutstein/Haneman Family

Ann and Dwight Hartzell

James Henwood

FAMILY LEVEL \$35.00 & BELOW

Raymond Alexander

Steven Asher Family

Ronald Barg

Mei Chen Liao and Derek Barnes

Jay W. Barnett

Kleinman/Bernstein Family

Biben Family

Thomas Biron

Stanton Braid

Lawrence Brown

Barry and Eileen Bruckman

David Buckman

MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION DUES LEVELS OF GIVING 2008-2009

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Walter Hofman
 Robert Hornik
 Gilbert Horwitz
 James and Charlotte Hyer
 Lund/Katz Family
 Fren and Marian Kazan
 Edwin and Wilma Kellerman
 Michael Krekstein
 Cramer/Laddon Family
 Carol and Joseph Lavoritano*
 Sylvia and Murray Lefkowitz
 Louise Leibman
 Joan and Peter Leon
 A. Leo Levin
 Ned Levine
 Gilbert Ling
 Ludwig Family
 Peter Maruca
 Aronowitz/Mathiesen Family
 William McLaughlin
 Joseph Miele
 Christine Mitchell
 James Mueller
 Clement Nahmias
 Paul Newman
 Victor Nibauer
 Michaela and Richard Perez
 Barry Pransky
 Frank Prestileo
 Henry Protas
 George Ross/Lyne Raymond
 Elizabeth Rich
 Stephen Richman

Lewis Rose
 Katy Ruckdeschel
 David Ruderman
 Rita Sales
 Sheldon Salzman
 Jacob and Jeanne Schachter
 Paul Schick
 Rosalind and Michael Seiden*
 Goetsch/Schiavone Family
 Thomas Schmuhl
 Maury Shulman
 Joseph Shein
 Ralph Siskind
 Joseph Slap
 Bromley/Smith Family
 Alexis Sokil
 Margot and Paul Soven
 Leslie Spero
 Stephen Stamm
 Eli Steele
 Don Stephens
 Robert Stern
 Steven Stern
 James Stevens
 Robert Tarampi
 Nassberg/Tarantiono Family
 Nancy and Ray Tompkins*
 Kenneth Trotter Jr.
 Niescior/Tulli Family
 Ellis Weinberger
 Phillipson/Weiner Family
 Stephen Weinstein
 Leon Weiss

Richard Wender
 Samuel Wilf
 Thomas Wood
 Arthur and Jill Zierner

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL \$15.00 & BELOW

Jeanne Adams
 Lawrence Albert
 Francine Bader
 Eileen Berko
 Philip Bolts
 Paul Buttacavoli
 Alice Carroll
 Stephen Charney
 Carol Clymer
 Joyce Cooper
 Vincent Cristofalo
 Thomas Dougherty
 Leonard Duboff
 Virginia Ebert
 Gloria Fraimow
 Irene Frank
 Herbert Friedman
 Marisa Fusaro
 Libby Goodman
 Helen Guy*
 Edwin Hoover
 Scott Isdaner
 Stanley Isenberg
 Jothi Jurkofsky
 Chassem Kalani
 Joan Kaufman
 Al Jarmas

Harriet Lam*
 Marvin Levitties
 Adele Lindenmeyr
 Michele Mantell
 Wayne Martin
 Gary Miller
 Karla Moras
 Lisa Morein
 Elizabeth Mouser
 James Nealon
 Nina Orehoff
 Edith Panzer
 Ralph Penza
 Veniese Pommer
 Judith Richter
 Antoinette Roman
 Howard Rosenthal
 Barbara Scheer
 Paul Schimmel
 Ronna Schuller
 Fred Schwartz
 Bernard Sitnick
 DiFalco/Stauffer Family
 Valerie Swarbrick
 J.D. Testa
 Marianna Thomas
 Glenn Umberger
 Margaret Vance
 Yssabella Watt
 Deborah Weinstein
 Cynthia Weiss

*Board Member (P) Past President

PLEASE JOIN THE MCA

- Hold public meetings with the community and members of the school board
- Work with St. Joseph's University
- Work with the Friends of the Barnes Foundation
- Monitor the condition of street lights, trees and roads
- Sponsor Historical Walking Tours
- Keep abreast of Township issues
- Sponsor various concerts and speakers
- Beautify the Train Station and Post Office Grounds



MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION

"To be nation right and state right we must first be community right." — EDWARD BOK/Founder, 1913

96 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MERION AREA COMMUNITY 1913-2009

PLEASE JOIN THE MERION ASSOCIATION

Enclosed are my/our dues for 2009:

<input type="radio"/> \$15.00 Individual	<input type="radio"/> \$25.00 Couples	Name _____
<input type="radio"/> \$35.00 Family	<input type="radio"/> \$50.00 Business	Address _____
<input type="radio"/> \$100.00 Institutional	<input type="radio"/> \$100.00 Patron	City / State / Zip _____
<input type="radio"/> \$500.00 Sponsor	<input type="radio"/> Other	Phone Number / Email _____

Please make checks payable to **MCA** and return with this form to: **Merion Civic Association, Merion, PA 19066**
 Merion Civic Association is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your dues are tax-deductible. Please ask your company if they will match your donation.

Merion, Pennsylvania 19066 | 610.664.0441 | email: mca.secy@merioncivic.org

MERION NEEDS COMMUNITY WATCH VOLUNTEERS

By Marjorie Mudrick

WHAT IS COMMUNITY WATCH?

Founded in 1977, the Lower Merion Community Watch is a volunteer mobile crime watch patrol that works in close cooperation with the Lower Merion Police Department. Oversight for Community Watch is provided by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of representatives from the various civic associations in Lower Merion.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS?

Community Watch is attempting to rebuild its membership which has dwindled in recent years. **Currently, there are no Community Watch volunteers from the Merion area. Since volunteers usually patrol their own neighborhood, this means that Merion has no one patrolling our neighborhood at this time.**

HOW DOES COMMUNITY WATCH WORK?

Community Watch essentially extends “the eyes and ears” of the police force. Working in conjunction with the police, a pair of Community Watch volunteers patrol their neighborhoods on one Friday or Saturday every month (could be more or less depending on the availability of the volunteer). Generally it is hoped that volunteers patrol a minimum of four times per year. The pairs are comprised of a driver and an observer. Each team is trained prior to patrolling the streets and while out on patrol simply watch for unusual happenings in their neighborhoods. The team radios into police headquarters once every half hour to report whether there is any suspicious activity. Community Watch volunteers do not get involved in any situation they may witness; they simply radio information about the incident to the police.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Interested volunteers need to submit an application and participate in one evening of training. For information on how you can become involved in the program, please contact Civic Association **Director Marjorie Mudrick** at **610.667.5470** for a Community Watch Application or call the Lower Merion Police, Crime Prevention Unit at 610.645.6240.



NEW POSTMASTER

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She acknowledged that some smaller post offices, such as ours, risk being closed. She advised that the best way to preserve our local post office is to patronize it.

Hours at the post office are Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Saturday 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. The phone number is 610.664.1484, Fax 610.664.1839. The USPS number is 1.800.ASK.USPS.

LOWER MERION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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out in the corn fields of Merion, using the trains as transportation to the city where they were the captains of industry. Most of these huge homes have been demolished over the years but there are occasional gate houses or other out-buildings which remain as reminders of the elegant past.

If you are interested in more stories of the fabulous homes in Lower Merion just email note to the Civic (mca.secy@merioncivic.org) and we'll continue the story of Lower Merion.

To contact the Society:

P: 610.664.3216

E: LMHistory@comcast.net

Mailing Address: Lower Merion Historical Society, Box 2602, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

To Visit: Lower Merion Academy, 506 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

THE BARNES FOUNDATION ARBORETUM SCHOOL SUMMER WORKSHOPS

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION: FOUNDATION DRAWING AND WATER COLOR

June 8 and 9, 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
One day: \$100; Both days: \$190
Instructor: Marylyn Waltzer

Foundation Drawing for Botanical Illustration

Workshop: Learn skills for drawing plant specimen accurately with graphite pencil. This workshop will help develop industry standards of form, measurement, foreshortening, and perspective.

Botanical Watercolor Workshop: Learn how to use watercolor for botanical illustration, using the interaction of light and shadow in correct hues and values. This workshop will allow students to focus on selecting colors, producing a pleasing composition, and creating accurate botanical painting. Participants may bring a bag lunch and all materials; a material list will be mailed with a confirmation letter.

INDOOR ORCHIDS, TIPS FOR GROWING AND BLOOMING

June 16, 4:00 to 7:00 PM • CLASS COST: \$60
Instructor: Dr. Jacob Thomas, Arboretum Director

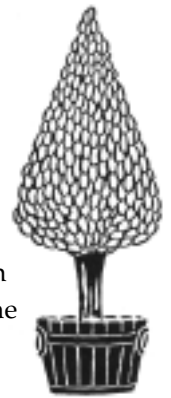
Learn simple and easy tips to grow and bloom colorful orchids inside your house. The workshop will be held in the state-of-the-art- greenhouse of the Barnes Foundation, and will include a general lecture on orchids, discussion about proper containers and propagation methods, hands-on demonstration of planting repotting, and a question and answer session. Participants are encouraged to bring in his or her orchid for advice on care and maintenance.

SHADE GARDENS UNDER MATURE TREES

June 23, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM • CLASS COST: \$75
Instructors: Kathryn Belville & Harriet Cramer

Learn how to create and sustain a lush, beautiful landscape in the shade of mature trees. This class will explore one of the most common, yet most challenging, of all

landscape situations. Limited light, compacted soil, fierce competition for nutrients, and less than ideal air circulation are only some of the obstacles we'll examine in depth. We'll talk about what you need to do before you plant, the diversity of herbaceous and woody plants able to thrive here, and what to do to ensure the long-term health of both your mature trees and what you plant under them.



BUILDING BETTER GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHS

June 30, 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM • CLASS COST: \$100
Instructor: Rob Cardillo

Join professional garden photographer Rob Cardillo as he explores and demonstrates what goes into creating dramatic vistas and inspired floral portraits. Using examples of his own work, Rob will begin the day with an illustrated lecture on how great garden images are found, designed and translated through the lens. Students will then head into the arboretum to find and capture their own compelling images. We'll reassemble after lunch to download photos and engage in a lively critique. Whether you're a point and shoot beginner or a mega pixel maniac, you'll walk away with a healthy handful of stimulating ideas, hints and tips on making your own garden photos stand up and sing. Bring your digital camera, lenses, laptop and tripod if you use one. Also bring five jpegs of your best garden images.

GARDENING FOR BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS

July 21, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM • CLASS COST: \$75
Instructor: Jim Bobb

This course covers two topics: designing gardens that attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds; and management requirements to incorporate a honey bee hive into your garden area. We plan a special bonus look inside the hives at the Barnes Arboretum, weather permitting.

For more information please call Dr. Jacob Thomas at 610.667.0290, Ext. 1071

For registration please call Nancy Rosner at 610.667.0290, Ext. 3825

www.barnesfoundation.org • The Barnes Foundation, 300 North Latch's Lane, Merion, PA 19066

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

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While Pennsylvania law forbids such lights to spill over into the surrounding neighborhood, questions arise such as whether the lights can be placed on timer to wind down as the neighborhood goes to sleep. The matter is now where it belongs: before the Township Zoning Hearing Board. This is Lower Merion's zoning court where the application for new sports facilities will be decided in accordance with the rule of law. Virtually every neighbor would seek conditions to ensure no loud public address systems and a commitment never to light the fields. Every neighbor wants the fields to fit within the neighborhood.

I continue to encourage the University to make their athletic field development plans fit within the neighborhood. I have opposed loud public address systems and the University has responded with an engineered system. I encourage the University to do a mock up, as requested by the MCC, to see if the engineered PA system will be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and sound ordinances. I have asked the University to reduce concerns about future development by making a commitment to light the fields in the future. While it has been represented to me that users of the fields, other than existing clubs and camps, would require SJU to return to the Zoning Board, I would like the University to make this a written commitment that this procedure be followed. The University is within its right to go through land development. Unfortunately, for the neighbors and the university the process is cumbersome, inexact and expensive.

Yours sincerely, Brian Gordon

Brian A. Gordon

W: 610.667.4500 • C: 215.939.1441 • E: briangordon4@aol.com

MERION COMMUNITY FAMILY

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Lastly, another successful planting was completed at the Merion Train Station and Post Office on Sunday, May 17th. Civic Association directors and many residents of Merion assisted with planting the window boxes and cleaning, weeding and planting the gardens along the inbound side of the train tracks. Someone even donated a park bench and we are very appreciative of this.

I wish you all a great summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall. — **Scott Feuer, MCA President**

MERION RESIDENT, HENRY S. DRINKER

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It was Drinker who assisted the Trapp family in their struggles to establish their singing tours in the United States during their three year stay in Merion and after. Of course, the von Trapp family story was immortalized in the musical and film *Sound of Music* in 1965 with Julie Andrews. As portrayed in the *Sound of Music*, the von Trapp family was a traveling musical ensemble, performing in European capitals and American cities before and after fleeing Austria in 1938.

Drinker's historical marker will be one of more than 2,000 historical markers located across Pennsylvania chronicling people, places, and events that have made Pennsylvania notable.

Drinker's actual roadside marker installation and the dedication of the marker will follow within the coming year. PHMC considers nominations for people who are no longer living and whose accomplishments have become established. The person commemorated has to have had a meaningful impact on its times and be of statewide or national rather than only local historical significance. It should be noted that J. Margot Flaks (z'l), former president of the Merion Civic Association, and Vicky Donohoe were instrumental in the Drinker nomination for the historical marker. Very special recognition and appreciation goes to Narberth resident Vicky Donohoe who conducted extensive research on the life of Drinker and prepared the lengthy application required for the Drinker Historical Marker Nomination.



MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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THE MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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Harriet Lam	

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Janet Rutzel, editor
Scott Feuer, design & layout
Helen Guy, distribution



THE MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Meets at 7:45 PM (7:30 PM in winter months) the fourth Tuesday of each month except December, July and August at the Merion Tribute House. (Call 610.664.0441 to confirm time).

To address the association, please call 610.664.0441 and request to be added to the agenda. Community members are always invited to attend the meetings, contact the Association with a concern or submit articles of community interest to the newsletter.

Send to: Merion Civic Association
Merion, PA 19066
P: 610.664.0441
E: mca.secy@merioncivic.org
www.merioncivic.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



JUNE 11 • FLAG DAY BAND CONCERT, MERION TRIBUTE HOUSE GROUNDS • 7:15 PM

Mark your calendar for the seventh annual Flag Day Concert. The concert will be held on the grounds of the Merion Tribute House. Bring a picnic supper to enjoy prior to the performance by the Merion Concert Band. The concert will be held indoors in case of inclement weather.

JULY 4 • INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY

Township Administration Building Closed. All township libraries closed. No refuse or recycling collection.

JULY 12 • WALKING TOUR OF MERION WITH ROLF CHARLESTON • 2:00 PM SPONSORED BY THE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Meet at the in-bound side of the Merion Train Station. Cost for the tour is \$10 for adults. Children under 10, accompanied by an adult, are free. The tour will be held rain or shine. No reservations are necessary.

SEPTEMBER 7 • LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Township Administration Building Closed. All township libraries closed. No refuse or recycling collection.

OCTOBER 25 • MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Merion Tribute House, Hazelhurst Avenue.

SAVE THE DATES!

Merion Civic Association Meetings at Merion Tribute House:

JUNE 23 • 6:15 PM Short meeting and then follows with Directors picnic

SEPTEMBER 22 • 7:45 PM

OCTOBER 27 • 7:45 PM