

# Merion

## Civic Association



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E-mail: merioncivic@yahoo.com

Merion, PA 19066

### In Memoriam

By Cynthia DeStefano



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of the Merion Civic Association's President, Margot Flaks, on Monday April 14, 2008.

Margot played an active role as a Director in the Merion Civic Association for over 20 years, and prior to becoming President of the organization, served as head of the Social Committee as well as the chair of the History Committee. At the

beginning of her tenure as President, Margot set a number of goals for herself, the Association and the community. In her almost two years in office as president of the Association she managed to accomplish a majority of these. Margot saw the need to increase the number of active Directors on the Board, and even opened her home for a reception for prospective nominees. As a result, we are now fortunate to have several new directors for the Association. She also understood the importance of Merion residents becoming more actively involved in the Community Watch program, and now, we have a representative to this organization and a number of new community volunteers. Margot, being a forward thinking individual, recognized the value of the establishment of a Merion Civic website, and oversaw its development and creation. She also worked tirelessly with the Friends of the Barnes, hoping to keep the Barnes Foundation in what she fervently considered to be its rightful home, Merion.

Margot may be best remembered by the community as a co-creator and leader (with Rolf Charleston) of the Merion Walks. She knew the history of Merion as well as any person in our community and had plans to investigate having several houses in Merion historically registered. She delved continuously into the past of this rich and fascinating neighborhood in which we live, and thoroughly enjoyed sharing this knowledge with others.

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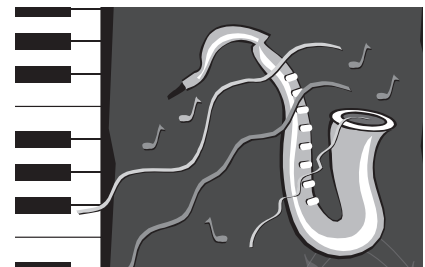
### Flag Day Concert

By Frances Quinn

The Merion Civic Association will host its annual **Flag Day Concert on Thursday, June 12, beginning about 7:15 PM.** Weather permitting, the Merion Concert Band will play on the terrace of the Merion Tribute House to the audience on the Tribute House lawn. If the weather is poor, the Concert will be held in the Ballroom of the Tribute House.

The Merion Concert Band (and a companion Symphony) was founded in 1977 by Craig and Mary Culbert of Merion. While the Symphony ceased after about ten years, the band is now in its 31st season and is directed by Tim Mullen. Some of the players are professional musicians and music educators, many of the players come from a variety of occupations, none are reimbursed – but all play for the love of music.

So, come early! Bring a picnic, blankets, chairs, and let all the family be part of this Merion tradition!





## Commissioner's Report

By Brian Gordon

*"I cannot think of Margot without remembering her frequent and engaging smile which was a reflection of all of her wonderful qualities."*

— Brian Gordon



I would like to begin my Commissioner's Report by honoring the memory of Merion Civic Association's President, Margot Flaks. Margot was a caring and thoughtful community leader who possessed immense intelligence and energy. She was an effective spokesperson working to retain the Barnes Foundation in Merion. Her eloquent advocacy at Township meetings helped to secure unanimous passage of the 2006 Township Barnes resolution as well as the 2007 ordinance change, (which set the stage for the County petition to retain the Foundation in Merion), in light of new financial circumstances. I cannot think of Margot without remembering her frequent and engaging smile which was a reflection of all of her wonderful qualities. I am saddened with her passing, and I will miss Margot, as will so many others whose lives she also touched.

In news around Merion, St. Joseph's University's acquisition of Episcopal Academy proceeds through Lower Merion Township land development in anticipation of their August closing date. St. Joseph's has proven itself to be an excellent neighbor, and its annex of the Episcopal Academy campus promises to retain the beauty of this part of our neighborhood. We credit St. Joseph's with positive changes during the past two years. For example, St. Joseph's bought and closed down the Muddy Duck, which became a nuisance bar to surrounding neighbors. St. Joseph's also mitigated incompatible uses between Sullivan Hall and Latch's Lane Condominiums and paid for a long fence abutting The Condos. Additionally, St. Joseph's constructed a large multi-use parking facility at 54th and City Avenue to absorb the parking demands of a growing campus.

Their land development application involves no new buildings and the demolition of two garages and a squash court. The application will also involve converting a soccer field into a college baseball field and converting other fields into intramural playing areas. St. Joseph's has met with Merion Civic Association, the Latch's Lane Neighbors, the York Lynn Manor Condominium Association, and Lower Merion Township staff. In doing so, there has been a healthy dialogue with joint problem solving. St. Joseph's has made the following commitments: to deal with storm water and traffic, to not light its playing fields at night, to erect a net to contain home run baseballs, and to provide necessary visual and auditory buffers for homes on Berwick and Raynham Road by exploring a public address system with speakers in or near the bleachers instead of blasting sound from a traditional elevated sound system. Conversation with Township staff have addressed environmental issues including storm water management, opening a new inlet to the City Avenue sewer system, the retention of mature trees, bio-filters in parking areas, and planting trees between the fields to provide the visual and auditory buffers to near neighbors.

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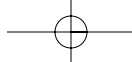
### Streets, Lights, Traffic and Potholes!

For any concerns you may have, please phone Renee Hill, chairperson of the Merion Civic Association's Streets, Lights and Traffic Committee. 610-664-0441.

### Please Remember to Pick Up After Your Dogs

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.





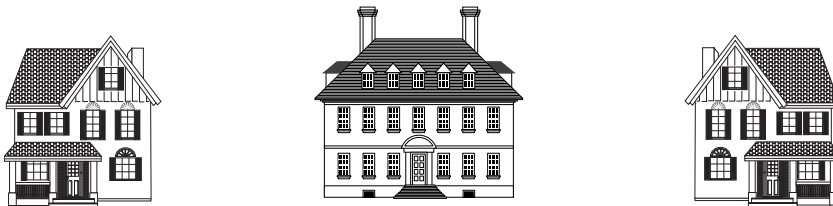
# Landmark Tour Explores Merion

By Frances Quinn

On **Sunday, July 6, at 2:00 PM**, Rolf Charleston, famous for his many Merion (and Philadelphia) walks, as well as his lectures on art, architecture and history, and his hosting of many of the music programs on WRTI, will lead a walking tour of the north side of Merion Station, strolling through the beautiful Merion Botanical Garden and by the great estates of the many steel, railroad and publishing leaders who made their homes in Merion.

The tour meets on the inbound side of the Merion Train Station. Admission is \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for students with ID's and FREE for children under 10 accompanied by an adult.

The tour will go on, rain or shine, and will last approximately one-and-a-half to two hours. So come and learn more of the extraordinary history, art and architecture of our village. No reservations are necessary.



## In Memoriam

*Continued from page cover*

In addition to all of these accomplishments and contributions, Margot will also be remembered as an exceptional cook and someone who entertained with an eye toward detail. While her cooking was always exquisite, it was also indicative of her generosity and community spirit. Attendees of the Associations Annual Meeting always eagerly anticipated her signature poached salmon, roast beef and chocolate cake logs, which she made for other events, such as the New Residents' Reception as well. In her professional life, Margot was a faculty member in the Philadelphia school district for 40 years. At a recent Board meeting, Merion Civic Association Board member Randy Blakeney fondly remembered Margot as a talented educator whom their daughter was fortunate to have as a teacher. In her many years with the Philadelphia school district, she was involved in a number of updates, revisions and renovations to school curriculum and programs. She was always looking for ways to improve the status quo. In all her roles, Margot worked diligently and tirelessly, and our community has profited invaluably from her commitment and caring.

In addition to her husband, Joel, Margot is survived by her daughters Sarah and Judith, and her brother Michael Hoffman. Margot's warm smile, cheerful spirit, dedication and community activism will be missed by all who knew her.



## Please Join the Merion Civic Association

Enclosed are my/our dues for 2008:

- \$15.00 Individual
- \$25.00 Couples
- \$35.00 Family
- \$50.00 Business
- \$100.00 Institutional
- \$100.00 Patron
- \$500.00 Sponsor

Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

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E-Mail

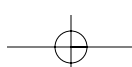
### Your dues will help your Civic Association

- 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** is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your dues are tax-deductible. Please ask your company if they will match your donation.

Please make checks payable to **MCA** and return with this form to:

**Merion Civic Association,  
Merion Station, PA 19066**





## Merion Civic Association Welcomes New Directors to Board

At the April meeting of the Merion Civic Association, Merion residents Mrs. Marjorie Mudrick and Mr. Scott Kalner were elected to the Board of the Association.



Marjorie Mudrick

**Mrs. Mudrick** moved to Merion Station from Chadds Ford in the fall of 2006. She and her husband moved to the area to be closer to the city and because they love older homes and the rich history of the area. She and her husband lived in Chadds Ford for twenty years where they raised their two children. They have a daughter who is currently living in London for a work assignment. Their son lives in New York City. Marjorie received her Masters from Drexel University in Human Services Management and has served as the Executive Director of Chester County Night School for six years prior to her move to Merion Station. Subsequent to that position, she served as the Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of Delaware for approximately eight years. Currently, she is working as an adjunct psychology instructor at Delaware County Community College.



Scott Kalner

**Scott Kalner** was born in Brooklyn, NY and he grew up there and on eastern Long Island where he attended public school. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of City Planning and he holds a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a registered architect with over 23 years of experience working on projects of all scales and types including professional and academic laboratories, library renovations, historic renovation projects, public schools – including the renovation and addition at Merion Elementary School and the new Harriton High School, currently under construction.

In addition to his work as a professional, Scott has also been an adjunct professor, teaching a course in professional practice to students at Philadelphia University. Scott has lived in Merion since August 2001 with his wife, Linda, and their two daughters, currently 14 and 12.

### In Memoriam

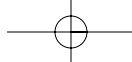
In Memory of Margot Flaks (z'l) donations are being accepted for planting of trees and a bench in the Merion Botanical Park. Please make checks payable to the Merion Civic Association noting "For Memorial" and mail to: Merion Civic Association, Merion, PA 19066



### *Commissioner's Report, Continued from page 2*

We must remember that as the St. Joseph's development occurs, we will continue to see and hear the students of St. Joseph's University, just as we now see and hear the students of Episcopal Academy. The goal is to work together to mitigate unnecessary impact on the surrounding neighborhood and make reasonable improvements to the environment as is done in every Lower Merion land development application. Your input, as active neighbors, is essential to this process. I thank all of you who have met and expressed your concerns. A healthy dialogue between all community members will allow us to continue to address issues as they arise and ensure a beneficial outcome for everyone involved.

**biangordon4@aol.com • Home 610.667.4500 • Cell 215.939.1441**



# Annual Station Planting and Spring Clean-up a Success

By Janet Rutzel and Scott Feuer

On Sunday May 4th, Merion Civic Association members and residents of Merion joined together in the annual spring clean-up and planting of the window boxes 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, Gil Karash, Murray and Sylvia Lefkowitz, The Murphy family, Janet Rutzel, Ann and Phil Bagley, Carol Lavoritano, Helen Guy, Sharon Wolfson and Gary Blum, The Gordon family, Bob Levin, Michael Seiden and Anita Hill from the Post Office.

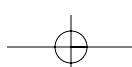


# Give to Your Community: Join Community Watch

By Janet Rutzel and Marjorie Mudrick

At the Merion Civic Association Meeting, Matt Peskin, Executive Director, for Lower Merion *Community Watch*, made a plea for volunteers to join the *Community Watch* patrol here in Merion.

Mr. Peskin describes *Community Watch* as a program in which residents of Lower Merion work to "extend the eyes and ears of Lower Merion's police force." Working in conjunction with the police force, a pair of *Community Watch* volunteers patrol their neighborhoods on one Friday every month or so. 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 in to 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. *Community Watch* is fun for couples or friends to do. It is also a great way to meet someone new in your neighborhood. For information on how you can become involved in this program, please contact **Merion 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.





**Merion**  
 Civic Association  
 Merion, PA 19066  
 Email: merioncivic@yahoo.com

U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Merion Station, PA  
 19066  
 Permit No. 28

**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 (c/o Merion Civic Association, Merion, PA 19066).

**Officers and Directors of  
 The Merion Civic Association**

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| President              | <b>Margot Flaks (z'l)</b> |
| 1st Vice President     | <b>Scott Feuer</b>        |
| 2nd Vice President     | <b>Kevin Murphy</b>       |
| 3rd Vice President     | <b>Janet Rutzel</b>       |
| Treasurer              | <b>Bob Levin</b>          |
| Secretary              | <b>Cynthia DeStefano</b>  |
| <b>Ann Bagley</b>      | <b>Gil Karash</b>         |
| <b>Randy Blakeney</b>  | <b>Harriet Lam</b>        |
| <b>John Brogan</b>     | <b>Lauren Lavin</b>       |
| <b>Lita Cohen</b>      | <b>Robert Marmon</b>      |
| <b>Bruce Eisenberg</b> | <b>Marjorie Mudrick</b>   |
| <b>James Ettelson</b>  | <b>Martin Piltch</b>      |
| <b>Peter Gardner</b>   | <b>Frances Quinn</b>      |
| <b>Brian Gordon</b>    | <b>Jim Stevenson</b>      |
| <b>Renee Hill</b>      | <b>Nancy Tompkins</b>     |
| <b>Scott Kalner</b>    |                           |

**Newsletter Committee**

- Janet Rutzel**, editor  
**Scott Feuer**, design & layout  
**Cynthia DeStefano**, distribution

**Merion Civic Association Meetings  
 at Merion Tribute House:**

- June 24, 6:00 PM**  
**September 23, 7:45 PM**  
**Oct 28, 7:45 PM**

**Community Calendar**

**June 12, 7:15 PM  
 Flag Day Band Concert  
 Merion Tribute House Grounds**

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 6, 2:00 PM  
 Walking Tour of Merion  
 with Rolf Charleston**

Meet at the in-bound side of the Merion Train Station. Cost for the tour is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students. Children under 10, accompanied by an adult, are free. The tour will be held rain or shine. No reservations are necessary.

**September 1  
 Labor Day Holiday**

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

**October 19, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 Merion Civic Association Annual Meeting**

Merion Tribute House, Hazelhurst Avenue.

