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# FROM THE FRONT PORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF MOORESTOWN



### House Tours and Gift Shop Hours:

2nd & 4th Sunday 1-3 PM  
Tuesdays 1-4 PM

### Research Library Hours:

Tuesday 1-4 PM  
Second Sunday of  
each Month 1-3 PM

### Address

Historical Society of  
Moorestown  
Smith-Cadbury Mansion  
12 High St.  
P.O. Box 477  
Moorestown, NJ 08057

### Phone

856-235-0353

### Web Site

moorestownhistory.org

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moorestownhistory/

*Published Quarterly by  
The Historical Society  
of Moorestown*

## View From the Porch

I know that it seems like it is a long time away from now, but the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution will be here before we know it. In 2026, every state in the nation will be commemorating this special occasion through events, programs, and ceremonies. The Historical Society of Moorestown is officially partnering with RevolutionNJ, and we will be leveraging that partnership to take advantage of the assistance that they have to offer including online resources, collaborative opportunities with the other partners, and ongoing programming.

RevolutionNJ is a joint effort of the New Jersey Historical Commission and the Crossroads of the American Revolution. The goal of the organization, and by extension our goal, *"is to foster new connections that help communities to effectively tell true accounts of our history in an effort to recognize the*



**RevolutionNJ**  
1776 • 2026 | ENGAGE THE PAST. SHAPE THE FUTURE.

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*wholeness of our humanity, experiences, and culture. By doing so, we want to empower all New Jerseyans with the necessary resources, knowledge, skills and platforms to advance our historical understanding, while embracing our diversity. This way, we can – together – create a state that celebrates freedom and liberation of all people."*

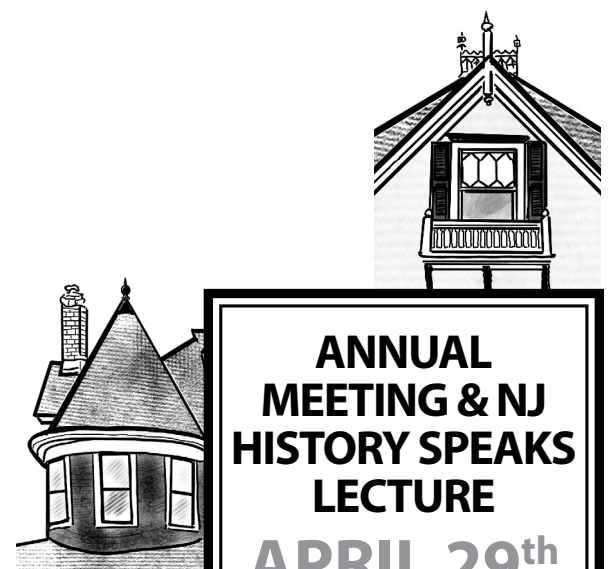
Over the next few years the Trustees will be working to bring events and activities such as reenactments, educational events, and scholarly programs to our members and the community at large. Our plan is to build this programming around the important events that occurred during the American Revolution right here in Moorestown. These will include Lafayette's visit to Moorestown and the Smith-Cadbury Mansion, the important role Moorestown

played in the battles that occurred in Mt. Holly in December of 1776 in the lead-up to Washington's attack on Trenton, the Hessians takeover of the town during their retreat from Philadelphia in 1778, and more.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Moorestown to focus attention on the important role our town played in the nation's War of Independence and the impact we had on the nation's history.

If you are interested in being part of this effort, please reach out to me via e-mail at lwagner559@comcast.net.

**Lenny Wagner, President**



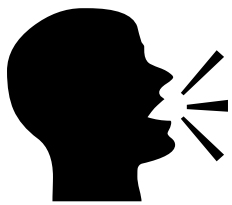
**ANNUAL  
MEETING & NJ  
HISTORY SPEAKS  
LECTURE  
APRIL 29<sup>th</sup>  
Moorestown  
Library, 7:00**

*What makes a building a  
valuable part of a community,  
or more broadly, significant  
in cultural terms?*

*Should one think of  
landscape and open spaces  
in the same way?*

**March 2024**





# NEW JERSEY HISTORY SPEAKS LECTURE SERIES

The New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series, hosted by the Historical Society of Moorestown and the Moorestown Public Library continues in 2023/2024. All lectures that are part of the New Jersey History Speaks series are free and open to the general public.

If you plan to attend one or all of the events, please contact the Moorestown Public Library at (856) 234-0333 to register.

Those who are not registered will be admitted to the event as space allows.

(Photos: Greg Chinn)



**APRIL: The Historical Society of Moorestown's New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series continues its 2023/2024 season on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Moorestown Library (7:00 PM). William Whitaker, Curator of the University of Pennsylvania Architectural Archives, will present "Of Dusk and Death-Rays: A Reflection on Architecture and Change".**

What makes a building a valuable part of a community, or more broadly, significant in cultural terms? Should one think of landscape and open spaces in the same way? Whether in the neighborhood or in distant locals, built heritage tells the story of culture in solid material terms. And yet, as time goes by, a community's relationship to its built environment changes. Sometimes the rate of change is barely perceivable over a life time, or it can come more suddenly at an exponential rate. In this talk, William Whitaker, will explore these questions through the work of Louis Kahn, Malcolm Wells, Frank Lloyd Wright, and a number of local landmarks.

(Photo: Barrett Doherty)



William Whitaker is curator of the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design. He is coauthor (with George Marcus) of *The Houses of Louis Kahn* and *Uncrating the Japanese House: Junzo Yoshimura, Antonin and Noemi Raymond, and George Nakashima* (with Yuka Yokoyama). Trained as an architect at Penn and the University of New Mexico, Whitaker works closely with the archival collections of Louis I. Kahn, Lawrence Halprin, and the partnership of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, in support of teaching, scholarship, preservation, and public engagement.

He has co-curated over forty exhibitions including *Anne Tyng: Inhabiting Geometry* (Graham Foundation and Penn's ICA), and *Design With Nature Now* (with the McHarg Center) – a major program of exhibitions, conference, and public programs that highlight the dynamic and visionary approaches to landscape design and development in the face of climate change and global urbanization. Most recently he served as project director for, *What Minerva Built*, an exhibition and book project charting the life and work of America's first independent female architect, *Minerva Parker Nichols*.

## Saving the History of the WECC: Richard Gray spoke at our February 20<sup>th</sup> NJ History Speaks Lecture



A full house listened to Moorestown native Richard Gray (top) discuss the history of the West End Community Center (WECC), and his plan to protect the legacy of a place so important in the history of Moorestown. Mr. Gray is Director of Community and School Development for the Center for Collaborative Education and a lecturer at the Columbia University Law School. The WECC was originated and managed by Black women and men in the West End neighborhood as a space where residents could congregate, celebrate, and create programs to build strong community relationships, in the face of the discriminatory policy which prohibited African-American residents of the town from using the Community House on Main Street. The building was destroyed after the Community House was eventually integrated in the 1960s.

In addition, Deputy Mayor Quinton Law and Councilwoman Sue Mammarella presented a facsimile check for \$25,000.00, representing the amount awarded to the Historical Society as part of the New Jersey Historical Commission 2024 Inclusive History Grant for the West End Community Center Oral History Project, to Richard Gray and Historical Society President Lenny Wagner (for more information, see page 8).

The Historical Society  
of Moorestown

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## Our current exhibit, **One Man's Crusade to Save the Environment Through Architecture**, highlights the visionary works of Malcolm Wells.

Wells has authored numerous books and articles about underground houses and buildings which are gentler to the land where they are built. And while he is serious and committed to reclaiming and preserving the land, he also has a wonderful sense of humor.

Sometimes the humor takes the form of an architectural detail such as the tunnel in his house that extends from his children's wing to the family room.

So as not to disturb the adults in the main living area, the tunnel connects the bedrooms on a lower floor and ends at a trap door under the baby grand piano in the family room.

And his humor is evident in his writing. He penned his own obituary where he describes himself as an atheist, a Democrat, and a skinny old, bearded guy. In his book *The Success Contractor*, he takes a lighthearted look setting down rules for record keeping, payment, conservation, dress, and even coffee. He writes "A happy job can be told by the number of coffee cartons on the ground."

He also took on the jargon of baseball. He says that he was a latecomer to the game of baseball and was intrigued by the sayings which we have all come to understand over the years.

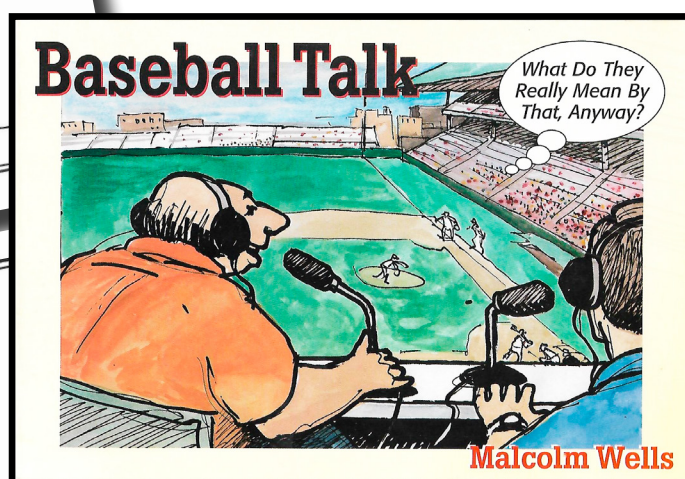
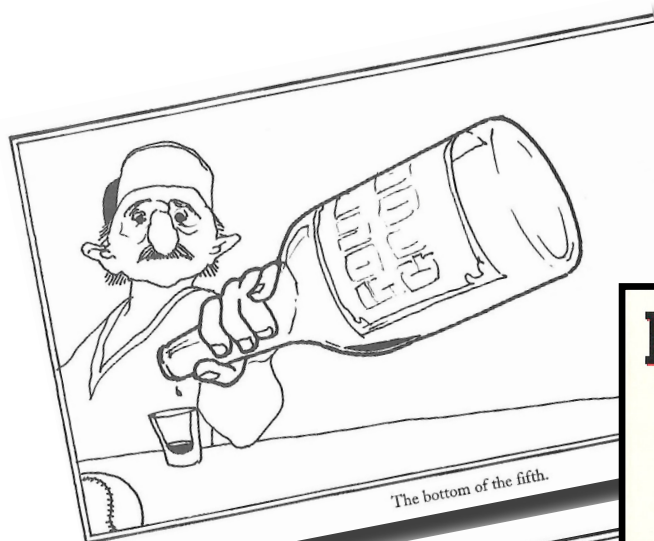
In his book, *Baseball Talk*, Wells draws almost 200 cartoons to illustrate phrases such as "*The bottom of the fifth*" or "*He was caught stealing*." Here are a few cartoons from his book to get you in the right frame of mind as baseball's Opening Day approaches. His books will be at the Smith-Cadbury Mansion until **the exhibit closes on May 14th — National Underground America Day.**

— Linda Vizi



MALCOLM WELLS EXHIBIT

**Malcolm Wells: One Man's Crusade to Save the Environment Through Architecture**



Wells, Malcolm. (1997). *Baseball Talk: What Do They Really Mean by That, Anyway* (Revised edition) Willow Creek Pr.



We, who volunteer in the Historical Society Library, often say that we find or learn something new every time we come up to this one-room treasure trove of all things Moorestown and more. Two recently discovered shoe boxes contain the cassette audio tapes from most of the oral histories in our collection that have been done over the years. But closer inspection revealed a number of tapes that had never been transcribed. Thanks to the talents of volunteer transcribers David Sullivan and student intern Briana Pepe, we now have four new oral histories providing insights into the lives of Moorestown residents and their memories.

One interview was conducted in 1979 with an 86-year old Mrs. Anne Rogers, wife of the president of the J.S. Rogers building company. Mrs. Rogers was a tireless volunteer and board member for a number of Moorestown organizations including

the Visiting Nurse Association, the Public Library, the Woman's Club and the Field Club to name a few.

Another interview was conducted with Dr. Clarence Henderson who had a dental office at 9 E. Main St. for nearly 60 years. He reminisced about volunteering for 16 years at the state of New Jersey's first low-cost dental clinic in a public school that he organized

with Mrs. Mabel D'Olier. He also discussed how the practice of dentistry has changed over the years.

A 1991 interview with Carroll Kennedy teaches us about life in the Stanwick section of Moorestown from the 1920s to the 1970s. As one of the developers of Moorestown Club Estates, he recalls the earliest houses on Golf View Road selling for \$25,000 and shares great memories about the Field Club.

An interview with Mr. Frank Eldridge conducted in 1989 revealed many interesting reminiscences about life as a Black resident in Moorestown. His almost photographic memory painted a vivid picture of the businesses and locations throughout town.

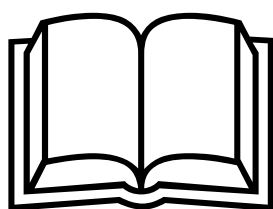
Another recently acquired oral history was shared with us by Dennis Weaver of the Maple Shade Historical Society. The interview with 70-year Lenola resident Betty Coneby, was conducted in 2010. Mrs. Coneby talks about the businesses, churches, farms, schools and general landscape in Lenola from 1936 onward.

These, and all the oral histories in our collection are available to read at the HSM Library during our open hours.

— Stephanie Herz



ORAL HISTORIES PROVIDE INSIGHT



**LIBRARY NEWS**



# Historic Architects & Architecture in Moorestown

As many people walk, bike or drive around Moorestown, they often fail to appreciate the many architectural treasures found in our lovely town. Treasures that were designed by some of the leading architects of their era. The website "Philadelphia Architects and Buildings" at [philadelphiabuildings.org](http://philadelphiabuildings.org) is very useful in studying these architects and their commissions throughout the area.

**Horace Trumbauer** (1868-1938) of Philadelphia was one of the most prominent and prolific architects of his time. His nearly 650 commissions include the *Philadelphia Museum of Art*, "The Elms" in Newport for E. Berwind, "Chetwode" in Newport for the Astor family, the *St. James Hotel* and the original *Ritz-Carlton Hotel* in Philadelphia, *Irvine Auditorium* on the Penn campus, many of the buildings on the campus of Duke University in North Carolina, the *Keswick Theatre* in Glenside PA and the *Central Library* of Philadelphia.

When his career was first getting started in the 1890s he also designed five houses in Moorestown, several of which are still standing. None are quite as opulent as the Newport or Main Line mansions he was later known for, but the houses below were Horace Trumbauer originals:

- **Charles Laessle Residence, 1891 – 265 E. Main Street** (this house narrowly escaped demolition in 2019 by the owners of the assisted living/rehab/nursing home next door when they wanted to expand their facility)
- **Harry Middleton Residence, 1892 – 11 E. Central Avenue**
- **Scott Wonderland Residence 1892 – 230 Union Street** (front porch detail in sketch, below)



**Walter Smedley** (1862-1939) was a prolific and noted Quaker architect. He designed the *Atlantic City Free Public Library*, *Cooper Hospital* in Camden, the *Fairmount Rowing Association* on Boathouse Row, *Friends Hospital Asylum* in Philadelphia, and the *Pocono Manor Resort* among many other businesses, schools, and residences.

In Moorestown, Smedley designed:

- **Thomas W. Elkinton Residence, 1915 – 45 E. Maple Avenue**
- **Moorestown 1897 Friends Meeting House (the West building) and Friends Academy additions and alterations**
- **Joseph Roberts Residence, 1914 – 215 E. Central Avenue**
- **W.H. Roberts Residence, 1911 – 508 Chester Avenue**
- **Breidenhart Residence, 1894 – 255 E Main Street** (once the home of Samuel Allen and later, Eldridge Johnson; it is now the Cambridge Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center)

## **Wilson Brothers & Company** (1876-1902)

This prestigious architectural firm was started by Joseph and John A. Wilson and Frederick Thorn. In 1899, younger brother Henry Wilson and John MacArthur Harris and Howard S. Richards were added to the firm. After Joseph Wilson died in 1902, the company continued until around 1935 with the younger members of the organization.

Some of their well-known projects include *The Academy of Natural Sciences* and *The Franklin Institute*, the astronomical *Observatory of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point*, a variety of churches including the *Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul* in Philadelphia, a variety of colleges including *Chestnut Hill College*, a wide variety of train stations including *Reading Terminal*, a variety of hotels including the historic *Sagamore Hotel* in Lake George NY, and the *United States Mint* building in Philadelphia. Although mainly well-known for their commercial and industrial projects, they also designed many residences, churches and resort hotels. With some 300 commissions to their name, these are some of the residences they built in Moorestown:

- **J. Elfreh Watkins Residence, c. 1887 – 405 E. 2nd Street**
- **Edwin Pierce Residence, c. 1888 – 412 E. 2nd Street**
- **John S. Rogers Residence, c. 1890 – 417 E. 2nd Street**
- **John H. & Minnie Perkins Residence, c 1890 – 334 Chester Avenue** (long neglected, the future of this house in uncertain; pictured in sketch on page 7)

## **Moses & King**

Guy King and Arnold H. Moses started their careers in the office of the Wilson Brothers. They were described in a publication of their time as "thorough masters in their profession." In the short existence of their company (1885 – 1896) they designed over 200 residences, businesses, churches, YMCAs, Fire Departments, hotels, and schools, mostly in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Some of their well-known commissions include the *Vesper Boat Club* on Boathouse Row, *Merchantville Fire Engine Co.*, the Methodist "Old Folks Home" in Collingswood, *Epiphany Lutheran Church* and the *YMCA* in Camden and the *Masonic Temple* in Mt. Holly.

(continued on page 5)

## BUSINESS CORNER

### BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

Local businesses play an important role when they support the preservation of Moorestown's history. We welcome and thank our business members and we ask our members to patronize them!!

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Your generous support helps to sustain the Society's commitment to preserving Moorestown's heritage for generations to come.

**Again, thank you!**

New Business memberships are always welcome! We'll feature your company's name on our website and in our award winning quarterly newsletter.

For details, visit us at <http://moorestownhistory.org/membership/become-a-business-partner/>

The Historical Society is a registered 501(c)(3)



**We are so pleased to welcome two new Crazy Quilts into our textile collection. And we are also fortunate to know who made these stunning quilts.**

The first quilt, which is unfinished, was made by **Helen Ena Atkinson Collins**. Ena, as she was called, grew up in Canada and came to live in Moorestown after her mother died when she was 6 years old. She never finished her Crazy Quilt, which showcases commemorative ribbons from places in Canada. She later married Arthur John Collins of Moorestown. When her unfinished quilt was donated to the Historical Society, it was accompanied by an oil painting of Ena. Rarely do we get to see the quiltmaker of these historic textiles.

The second quilt was made by **Marianna Darnell**. Marianna, born in 1845, was the daughter of David Darnell and Mary Cowperthwaite Evans. She was a member of the Society of Friends and is buried at Cropwell Friends Burial Ground in Evesham. The quilt has the date "1886" embroidered on one of the squares and contains beautiful motifs of flora and fauna.

Throughout the early and mid-1800s, patchwork quilts made with calico fabrics were all the rage. But during the Civil War, fabrics were in short supply and expensive. Following the conflict, patchwork faded in popularity and a more colorful and elaborate style emerged: the Crazy Quilt. Crazy Quilts were popular from the 1870s to the mid-1880s. According to the article "Going Crazy for Historical Quilt Design" by Pam Weeks, published in the January 2024 issue of *American Quilter*, an aesthetic movement of the times focused on a more artistic approach to architecture, gardening, fashion, and home décor. And trends in quilting began to shift to embroidery.

Without the benefit of modern devices such as television or the internet, women looked for ways to spread the word of new fashions and designs. The 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia popularized modern materials, designs, threads, and embellishments. The designs and techniques were influenced by the Royal School of Art Needlework as well as a



Above: Detail of unfinished quilt by Helen Ena Atkinson Collins and oil painting of Ena. Below: Detail of a Crazy quilt made by Marianna Darnell.

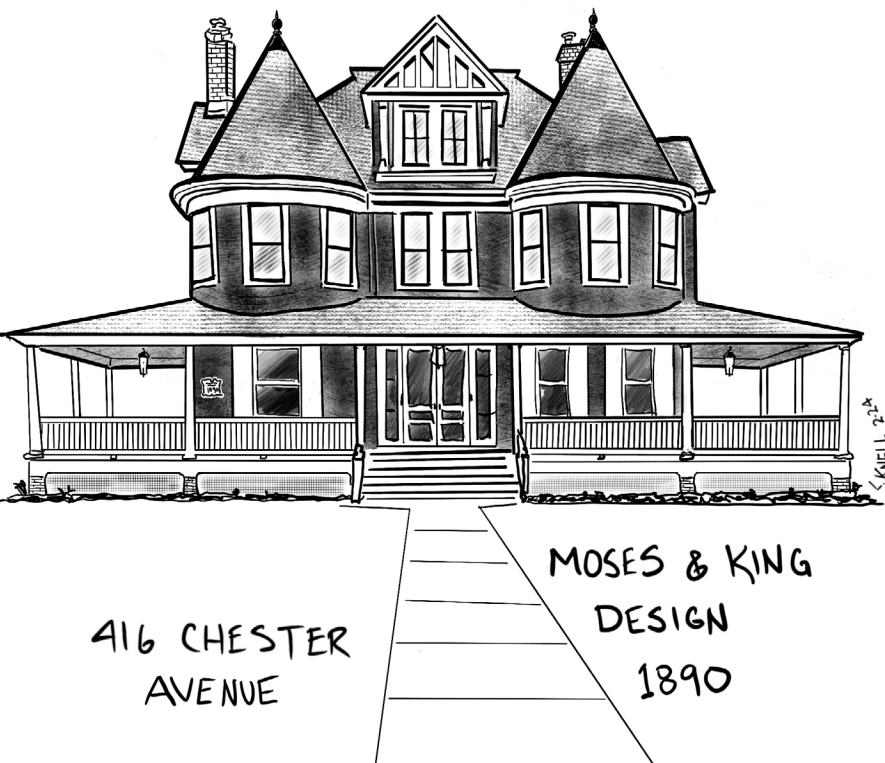
new fascination with Eastern culture, especially Japanese design. Calico cottons were replaced by silks, satins, and velvets. Quilt patterns were now random rather than neatly arranged. Early Crazy Quilts were elaborate and were adorned with intricate stitches, painting, and even machine-embroidered motifs. Sometimes, ribbon was used, and even commemorative ribbons made their way into quilts.



The Crazy Quilt faded in the 1920s, but is now enjoying a resurgence among today's quilting communities.

— Linda Vizi

(continued from page 4)



Buildings designed by Moses & King in Moorestown include:

- **Dr. S.C. Thornton Residence, 1886 – Southwest Corner Church and Main Streets** (the future of this house is uncertain)
- **Emma Thompson Residence, 1886 – 141 East Oak Avenue**
- **First Presbyterian Church, 1890 – 318 Chester Avenue**
- **Mr. May, 1886 – 148 W Central Avenue**
- **John C. Belton, 1887 – 239 W. Main Street**
- **Dr. Alfred Mattson, 1890 – 416 Chester Avenue** (pictured in sketch at left)

There are many reasons to preserve our historic homes in Moorestown. Their age, the people who lived in them, the style of their architecture, and the people who designed them all make them historically significant and worthy of our care and preservation. (To be continued in the next issue of From the Front Porch).

If this article piqued your interest, be sure to attend the Historical Society's upcoming lecture at 7:00 PM on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Moorestown Library. William Whitaker, Curator of the University of Pennsylvania Architectural Archives, will be giving a presentation on architecture and change (for more information, see page 2).

— Stephanie Herz



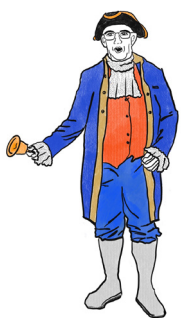
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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Hello Members!

A big thank you to those who responded to our Year End Giving appeal: *Mark & Carolyn Nachmias, Thomas Wittmann, David Homer, BAYADA Home Health Care, Anne Woolley, and Kathleen Slotman.* We truly appreciate your generosity!

We are thrilled that 20 families joined us this past year. If you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested in supporting the Historical Society feel free to share this newsletter with them, or better yet, gift them a year's membership! Membership renewal letters go out in late April and we hope you'll continue to support our mission here at Smith-Cadbury. We are enormously grateful to all of you.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members:  
• **Chris & Marty Adryan • Robin & Jim Dryden • Angela Presner • Susan Reel-Panish • Danyell Peter • Marcianne Waters •**

We hope you take a look at the beautiful color version of this newsletter at our website!  
([moorestownhistory.org/newsletter/](https://moorestownhistory.org/newsletter/))

*Jill Weiss, Membership Chair*  
[moorestownhistory@comcast.net](mailto:moorestownhistory@comcast.net)



**Want a unique Tote bag?  
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printed with a drawing  
by Malcolm Wells!**

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Contact us at 856-235-0353  
Tuesdays 1-4, or at other  
times, leave a message.  
E-mail us (a better option) at  
[moorestownhistory@comcast.net](mailto:moorestownhistory@comcast.net)

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Gift Shop is open during all Smith-Cadbury open hours or visit our website, [moorestownhistory.org](http://moorestownhistory.org), for a selection of our most popular items

## MARCH 2024

**Ongoing EXHIBIT:** *Malcolm Wells: One Man's Crusade to Save the Environment Through Architecture*

- 5 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 10 Smith-Cadbury Second Sunday tours & research Library, 1-3
- 12 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 19 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 24 Smith-Cadbury Fourth Sunday tours & research Library, 1-3



## APRIL 2024

**Ongoing EXHIBIT:** *Malcolm Wells: One Man's Crusade to Save the Environment Through Architecture*

- 2 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 9 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 14 Second Sunday tours & research Library, 1-3
- 16 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 23 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 28 Smith-Cadbury Fourth Sunday tours & research Library, 1-3
- 29 **Annual Meeting and NJ History Speaks Lecture** William Whitaker on "Of Dusk and Death-Rays: A Reflection on Architecture and Change", 7:00 PM at the Moorestown Library



## MAY 2024

**Ongoing EXHIBIT: FINAL DAY May 14<sup>th</sup>**

*Malcolm Wells: One Man's Crusade to Save the Environment Through Architecture*

- 7 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 13 Smith-Cadbury Second Sunday **closed** for Mother's Day
- 14 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 14 **NATIONAL UNDERGROUND AMERICA DAY!** Celebration at Smith-Cadbury, check our website for details
- 21 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 26 Smith-Cadbury **closed** for Memorial Day
- 28 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4



**Many have asked lately — What is the status of Historic Preservation in Moorestown?** They fear for the fate of the Cowperthwaite House at the corner of Kings Highway and Lenola Road and the former Lankenau Funeral Home at 334 Chester Avenue (corner of Central and Chester Avenues; historically the *John H. & Minnie Perkins Residence*; shown in sketch).

In fact, new residents moving into an older home in town, often call the Historical Society to ask what restrictions we impose on renovations. The answer, of course, is and always has been, none! The Historical Society is not a governing body and therefore we will never offer anything more than guidance to those seeking an authentic historic renovation.

The Township has previously tried to pass a local Historic Preservation Ordinance, in keeping with the ideals of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), which aims to preserve historically significant sites including archeological sites impacted by Federal projects.

A Historic Preservation law (ordinance) in Moorestown would be an important tool to help guard against demolitions and renovations that are out of character. A local law is the only real form of protection. The honor of a historical designation and being on the National or State Register of Historic Places, part of The National Park Service duties, is really just an honor. It confers no local protection. A local Historic Preservation Ordinance will regulate what can be seen from the street; regular municipal building code will govern everything else as it does now.

If we protect our historic charm — which is essentially our "brand" — it adds to the value of our properties and the economic growth of our Business District by attracting people to Main Street.

Moorestown has applied for and received a 2024 grant from the NJ Historic Trust to hire a professional planner to help create an ordinance that will be fair and strong. The ordinance will create a commission or review board, to review projects in the designated historic district (i.e., the Main Street Business District) and part of Chester Avenue. In the future perhaps other areas of town could be protected, but for now this is the area specified.

There will be ample opportunity for the public to engage and ask questions at public forums as the process proceeds. In fact all stakeholders are encouraged to participate!

In 2006 a Historic Preservation Ordinance was passed by referendum in town. However, it was challenged in court by a group of residents, and overturned on a technicality — the legal process of notifying residents was required to be by certified mail and the citizen-led effort had used regular mail as a cost saving measure; therefore, the process was deemed incomplete.

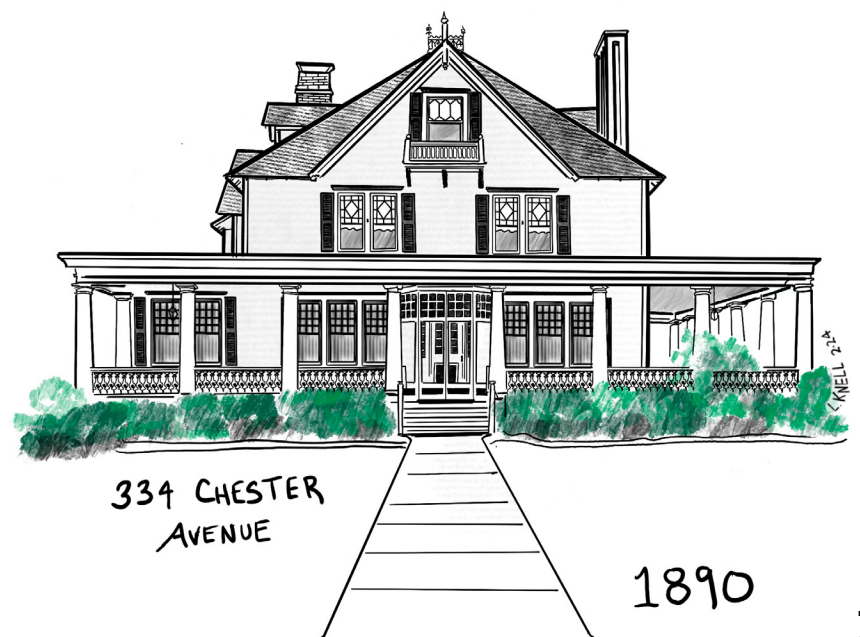
This time a subcommittee of the Township's Appearance Committee that

includes Sue Mammarella, a member of Town Council, has hired Steven Smolyn, AIA of *Architectural Heritage Consultants, LLC* to guide us through the process. We are confident that Moorestown will soon have protections for this valuable cultural fabric.

It has been exciting to learn how the practice of Historic Preservation has evolved. Sustainability and "green building initiatives" are being encouraged! Adaptation and reuse of old buildings is encouraged! Many towns, like Cape May, who have had commissions in place for years, are in the process of rewriting them to include new materials and processes that have been deemed acceptable.

Another really exciting thing is that favorable tax incentives will be available to those in the historic district. Please stay tuned as we forge our way in the realm of true historic preservation. Don't miss the opportunity to learn all you can and to voice your views on this important matter.

— Julie Maravich

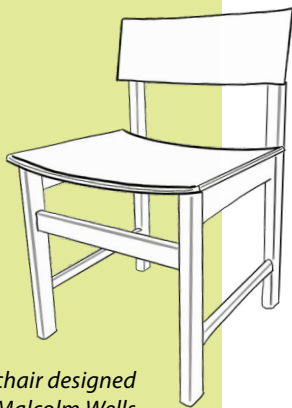


There is a rare opportunity to own this architecturally important grand old house on Moorestown's historic Chester Avenue! If interested, contact Julie Maravich ([juliemaravich@gmail.com](mailto:juliemaravich@gmail.com)) or Lenny Wagner ([lwagner559@comcast.net](mailto:lwagner559@comcast.net)).

**Historical Society of  
Moorestown**

Smith-Cadbury Mansion  
12 High Street, Box 477  
Moorestown, NJ 08057

**Non-Profit  
Organization**  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077  
Permit NO. 183



A library chair designed  
by Malcolm Wells

• Historical Society of Moorestown Membership Year  
April 30, 2023—May 1, 2024 / Time Travelers Member •

**MARCH 2024**

**ON MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>**



(Artwork: Malcolm Wells)

**"Malcolm Wells : One  
Man's Crusade to Save the  
Environment Through  
Architecture "is on display  
at the Smith-Cadbury  
Mansion until May 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Check the Calendar on  
page 7 for our hours.**

**HSM Awarded Inclusive History  
Grant to Document History of  
West End Community Center**

The Historical Society has been notified that we have received an operating support grant from the *New Jersey Historical Commission*, a division of the NJ Department of State. Specifically, the grant in the amount of \$25,000.00, is part of the Commission's *Inclusive History Grant Program* which has been set up to fund the exploration of under-represented narratives with a goal of "expanding inclusive, community-centered interpretations" offered by historic sites throughout the state.

For Moorestown, the funds will be used for the **"West End Center Oral History Project."** Conceived by Moorestown native Richard Gray, the project will gather oral histories, photographs, and other artifacts associated with the community center in the west end of town that served the African American community in the days when the Community House on Main Street was restricted to white residents of the town only.

The West End Community Center (WECC) was located on Church Street at the current site of *Yancy-Adams Park* and served residents of the West End of town from 1944–1968. **"As people with first hand experience with the Center begin to get older, we run the risk of having the story of this important community asset forgotten"** Richard Gray said, adding that **"the goal of this project is to make sure that this important part of the history of Moorestown is not lost."**

