



HISTORIA

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 4

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2004

Architect Mira Nakashima to Speak at our November Dinner Meeting



Our November dinner meeting will feature architect designer **Mira Nakashima-Yarnall**, daughter and apprentice of George Nakashima. Mira was born in Seattle, Washington and brought up mostly in New Hope, Pennsylvania. As a child she spent most of her time in her father's woodworking shop which was founded in 1943. After graduating from Harvard in 1963 and achieving a master's degree in architecture from Waseda University in Tokyo in 1966, Mira returned to work in the Nakashima studio.

Mira is fully embracing her father's philosophy, that, 'the woodworker's responsibility is to the tree itself, which has been sacrificed to live again in the woodworker's hands...' contrary to popular belief, the Nakashima woodworking concern was a one-man operation only in the beginning. George Nakashima employed some of the world's finest craftsmen who remain devoted to the man and his ideas, and after 40 years of service are still working at the Nakashima studio today. After George Nakashima's death in 1990 the studio is operated by his daughter, Mira, along with her brother Kevin and her mother Marion.

In addition to raising 4 children and enjoying 2 grandchildren, Mira designed and built a memorial reading room at the Michener museum in 1993, curated and constructed several shows and built and sent two peace altars/ tables to India and Russia in 1996 and 2001. In 2003 Mira presented a retrospective show of George Nakashima's work at the Mingei international museum in San Diego and a book was published "Celebrating the Nakashima Legacy." A film documentary by her cousin John Terry Nakashima is scheduled for release in 2005.

Please join us for dinner and this wonderful talk by Mira Nakashima. Due to library renovations the meeting will be held at the North and Southampton Reformed Church on Bristol road near the intersection of Bustleton Pike and Bristol roads. Please bring a vegetable, salad or dessert dish. All are welcome. Please bring a friend.

November meeting location changed. Elections postponed until March.

Due to renovations at the Northampton library the November NTHS dinner meeting will be held at the North and Southampton Church on Bristol road just west of Bustleton Pike. It is expected that our meetings will resume at the library complex in the fall of 2005. Also due to unexpected delays the election of new officers will be postponed until our March 2005 meeting. Nominations for all offices are now being taken and can be sent to our post office address.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members:

This will be my last letter to you as President of Northampton Township Historical Society. In this issue of the HISTORIA you will find an annual report on the goals and progress made over the past two years during my tenure. I hope all of you will take the time to read and reflect upon it.

Now that I have served two months in my new administrative position in Council Rock, I realize that the leadership experience I acquired during my term with NTHS has been most valuable. One of the most important lessons I have learned about being an effective leader is to have a mission, goals, and vision.

Again I wish to say a heartfelt thank you to the officers, directors, and members with whom I have worked that have been so supportive and worked so hard for the organization. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would also like to express our appreciation to Steve Rovner who has done much pro bono work for the Society.

I leave you with a call to action. This is "your" organization. Please share your talents and energy so that the Society may continue to grow and move forward. Any organization that refuses to think "out of the box" eventually will stagnate.

Join us for our November dinner meeting for our annual election and what promises to be an interesting program given by Mira Nakashima. Bring a covered dish, either a vegetable or a dessert. The officers and directors will provide the "meats." Bring a friend who might be a potential new member!

Shalom,

Debbie Glessner



**Fred Stewart selling raffle tickets
at our September meeting.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

NTHS Dinner Meeting

Mira Nakashima

Wednesday November 17 - 6:30 PM

Richboro School Reunion 2005

Friday May 27, 2005

Northampton Country Club

Contact:

Emma Walker Worthington

215-943-0108

MERCER MUSEUM

Pine and Ashland Streets, Doylestown, PA
(215) 345-0210 Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10-5, Sun.
Noon-5, Tues. until 9 Admission: \$6, \$5.50
seniors, \$2.50 Ages 6-17, Free to members
and children under 6

Animals on the loose, A Mercer Menagerie
Through 2005

Ducks, Decoys and the Delaware
Through January 2, 2005

The Doan Outlaws
Tuesday November 9 - 7 -8:30 PM

Mercer and Michner Open House
Tuesday December 14 - 7-9 PM

Fonthill Guided Candlelight Holiday
Evening Tours
Thurs/Fri, December 16/17 - 7-9 PM

After Christmas Sale Mercer Museum Shop
Sun-Fri, December 26-31

The Underground Railroad in Bucks County
Sunday January 16 - 2-4 PM

**Northampton Township Historical Society
President's Annual Report
2003 and 2004**

As President of Northampton Township Historical Society, I am responsible for submitting an annual report to the Board of Directors and the general membership. Such a document is an important vehicle by which we can reflect on the past year and the progress we have made with our goals. The process of such reflection gives us VISION and assists in setting goals for the upcoming year.

When the Board of Directors revised the society's bylaws, it became clear that the original intent of the founding members of Northampton Township Historical Society was to be a conscientious working organization. Although the organization is not a social club, we all recognize that social time is important; it is through interaction with each other that we forge the bonds that enable us to work together for a common cause and good.

Let our bylaws serve as a constant reminder that we have an obligation to enforce the organization's mission and purpose, which is:

- To promote interest in the historical heritage of Northampton Township and Bucks County.
- To preserve that which has historical or architectural value.
- To encourage research, study, and the preparation of written documents of an historical nature.
- To encourage the community at large to become actively involved in the preservation of our historical heritage.
- To promote fund raising to accomplish the goals and purposes of the society.

With the society's mission and purpose in mind, action was taken on the following goals which were agreed upon by the Board of Directors.

Goals:

1. To revise the organization's bylaws.

In the fall of 2003, the Board of Directors voted to begin a revision and update of the society's bylaws. As president I took the original bylaws and created a new working document, including edits, additions, revisions, and amendments. The Board of Directors was involved in an ongoing review. In January 2004 a special bylaw meeting was held in the presence of Steven Rovner who provided legal counsel as we reviewed the articles and made our final additions and changes. The new bylaws were voted upon and accepted unanimously at the February 2004 Board of Directors meeting. The new bylaws were then presented to the membership at the March 2004 general meeting where a quorum unanimously voted to accept them. The Board of Directors signed the resolution in the presence of the members in attendance.

Because bylaws establish a foundation for an organization, it is vital that the officers and Board of Directors follow the bylaws in the day-to-day operation of NTHS.

2. To develop job descriptions for officers and committees.

At the April 2004 Board of Directors meeting, the officers and directors agreed that it would be prudent to have job descriptions for all officers, directors, and committees. Having job descriptions accompanying the newly revised bylaws spells out clearly what the responsibilities are for each officer, director, and committee. The job descriptions were written, reviewed, revised, and approved by a unanimous quorum vote at the August 2004 Board of Directors meeting. These job descriptions have been bound into a handbook, with the new bylaws, for the executive board, directors, and committee chairpersons of the organization.

3. To organize an archaeological dig for the youth residing in the general area.

At the March 2003 general meeting when I asked for possible recommendations for a site to hold an archaeological dig, member Clyde Cobb volunteered his property, the Willett-Knight House in Feasterville. Under the professional leadership of members Vivian Braubitz (archaeologist), and Michael Tomkins (archaeologist and historical researcher), we held two weekend archaeological digs in May of 2003 and May of 2004. Between ten and twelve children participated each year. Michael Tomkins gave the children an historical background of the house and property. Vivian Braubitz oriented the children to basic archaeological facts and techniques. The goal was to locate the foundation of a third building that once stood on the property. Although the foundation was not located in the 2003 dig, the children unearthed many artifacts and shards. In 2004, the children did locate a section of the foundation. It was a most successful activity, and the parents of the participants praised NTHS for offering such a well-organized and educational experience for the children. I recommend that this activity be continued as an annual event, involving more society members, and raising the participation fee. All of us have a commitment to reach out to the youth of today. They are our future and are waiting to be challenged to develop an appreciation for our history and preservation.

4. To update the membership dues and add new membership levels.

In the fall of 2003, the Board of Directors voted to increase membership dues and create new membership categories. After much discussion, it was decided to initiate the following membership levels and raise the dues to:

Individual:\$15 Senior Citizen:\$10 Family:\$20

Student:\$10 Sustaining:\$50 Sponsor:\$100

Patron:\$250 NTHS Circle \$500 or greater

A number of members opted to contribute at the higher levels to support the work and future of the organization. I urge the Board of Directors to encourage members and people in the community to consider NTHS as a possible recipient for bequests.

5. To extend the organization into the community.

This is an ambitious goal and needs much more support from the general membership. In the last few years NTHS has extended the organization into the community through the struggle to save the Spread Eagle Inn and the Old Richboro School. Other activities were the annual poster and birdhouse contests offered to Northampton Township school children in conjunction with the National Trust's annual preservation week celebrated in May. The archaeological dig was another activity sponsored by the society for children in the community. I recommend that NTHS continue to organize and sponsor activities where the organization "gives" to the community. This type of continued outreach will eventually attract new members who are interested in becoming active in the organization.

6. To recruit a larger membership base.

Our membership has increased over the last 3 years. From approximately 50 paid members in 2002, the membership has grown to about 115 in 2004. The archaeological digs and the Frederick Holzwarth Tribute Dinner have both attracted new and renewal memberships. This goal should be ongoing. The Board of Directors should creatively explore functions and activities that will increase and strengthen the society's membership base, resulting in a stronger and more active organization.

7. To encourage more membership involvement in the organization.

At each general membership meeting and in my president's letters in the HISTORIA, I have continually called for and urged our members to become involved. I am concerned about the non-inclination of members to come forward and volunteer. I feel it is important to encourage members to "give back" to their organization and community by becoming involved in worthwhile missions. It has become clear to me that the only way we are going to encourage this is to ask individuals to volunteer for specific tasks. There are many members who have talents and expertise to offer. They need to be approached and encouraged to become involved. I urge the Board of Directors to make this an ongoing goal and assign a committee to be recruiters.

8. To put the finances and financial records in good standing.

When Michael Tomkins came on board as Treasurer, he spent hours reorganizing the society's finances. Thanks to Michael's dedication and efficiency, the society's books are now in good order.

9. To clarify our registration as a non-profit organization.

Along with reorganizing our finances, Michael Tomkins also completed all the paper work involved to verify that our registration as a non-profit organization was current and in order with the state.

10. To dovetail with other like-minded organizations in becoming involved with historical and preservation projects.

The Board of Directors voted to join the Churchville Nature Center and the Heritage Conservancy. This is a first step in sending the message to other organizations that we support their mission and work. NTHS needs to become involved with these two organizations and participate in and support their historical and preservation projects. I also recommend that NTHS join the Bucks County Historical Society. It is through outreach that we will become a stronger force as an organization. I urge the Board of Directors to make this a priority and an on-going goal.

REFLECTIONS:

As I leave the office of president, it is a bittersweet feeling. I would very much like to run for a second term to continue the work we have begun the past two years. However, with the demands of my new position as district library-media coordinator in Council Rock School District, I realize that I will not have the time or energy to devote to the society. While I hope to stay involved with Northampton Township Historical Society, I send a strong call to the Board of Directors and membership of the organization to "heed the future." If the society is allowed to stagnate, it will eventually fade and die. I challenge all of you to think "outside the box" as we move into the society's thirty-first year. To offer direction for the continual forward movement of Northampton Township Historical Society, I recommend these goals for 2005.

1. To follow the bylaws and job descriptions in the day-to-day operation of the society.
2. To recruit volunteers to serve as chairpersons and to activate the following committees.
Education, Historical Research and Preservation, Library Liaison and Historical Artifacts, Living Tree, Ways and Means
3. To continue to organize and sponsor activities in which NTHS "gives" to the community.
4. To creatively explore functions and activities that will increase and strengthen the society's membership base.
5. To work with other like-minded organizations in becoming involved with historical and preservation projects.

It has been a privilege to serve Northampton Township Historical Society as your president. I have enjoyed working with the Board of Directors as we have worked to re-establish the organization's working foundation. We now have a solid base on which to build and move forward. I extend my appreciation and gratitude to all of those who have supported our efforts during my tenure, especially Mary Seader, Sylvia Amato, Michael Tomkins, Doug Crompton, Jean Gallagher, Betty Luff, Pat Komelasky, Diane Martin Davis, Steve Rovner, and Vivian Braubitz.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah I. Glessner, president (2003-2004)

**Northampton Township
Historical Society
Treasurer's Annual Report
2003-2004**

Summary of Assets:

General Funds	10,439.84
Building Funds	45,866.59
Community Development Grant 2	5,040.46
Holzwarth Annual Dinner Fund	5,475.17
Total:	\$66,822.06

Revenues:

Membership Dues	3,191.00
Fund Raising and Donations	1,290.92
Interest	944.17
Total:	\$5,426.09

Expenditures:

Guest Speakers – General Meetings	\$200.00
Insurance	\$569.00
Membership Gifts	\$253.73
Office Supplies	\$484.68
Society's Memberships	\$100.00
Postal Service	\$465.68
Printing of Historia	\$410.34
Donations	\$581.00
Annual Holzwarth Dinner	\$2,492.59
Bank Fees	\$20.00
Other	\$78.30
Total:	\$5,655.32

Submitted by, Michael Tomkins, Treasurer

Congratulations to the following NTHS members that gave above and beyond their normal membership dues.

NTHS

- Circle - Doug Crompton
- Patron - Margaret and Lewis Hull
- Sponsor - Elinor Crompton, Stanley and Dorothy Davis, Norman Turner
- Sustaining - Kathy and Larry Belikoff, Thersa Craven, Christine and Joseph Fluehr, Deborah Glessner, Patricia and George Komelasky, Florence Leedom, Lois Leitenberger III, Virginia Smith, Michael LaVanga

**HISTORIC REMINDERS
AS CHALLENGE**

by Dottie Glessner

Having enjoyed a parade of old, beautifully preserved homes built during Bucks County's agricultural past, my pleasure in viewing these lovely homes of an energetic community, was alerted by the recurring phrase, "... this farm is now covered by new development."

Open space has become a disappearing fact as Penn's Woods loses its productive good soil to more and more development. To achieve a balance between growth in population and the preservation of farmland is a difficult dilemma for all local governments.

Any historical group has a stake in community standards of growth and preservation. Family farms have practically become a rarity. Let us preserve what is left as a legacy for our children.

It is not too late to retrieve the greening of Bucks County. As Doug Crompton remarked at the September presentation, "...reclaiming of history — houses, barns, covered bridges, cold caves, smoke cabins, all are a nostalgic reminder of our heritage." He also commented on the increase of tree planting in our area. This bodes well as a basis for a partial renewal of Penn's Woods.

As for topsoil removal by over-development — I have no solution. We need the services of agronomists and soil analysis. A challenge for the historical society — this land is also part of our preservation agenda.

This is one person's response to a pictorial review of Northampton's heritage of historical farms and buildings. Our thanks to Doug Crompton and Betty Luff for a compelling trip.

NORTHAMPTON DAYS 2004

Thank you to the NTHS officers and members who helped with our booth on Northampton Days.

To Sylvia and Carmen Amato for helping to set up and volunteering in the morning, to Vivian Braubitz who weathered the hot sun to sell tee-shirts and promote the 50-50 raffle, to Doug Crompton for bringing the banner and display boards and taking pictures, to Debbie Glessner for helping to set up and manning the booth, to Jim Kelly for helping to set up, to Pat and George Komelasky for helping to set up and volunteering in the morning, to Betty Luff for staying all day and answering questions from the public, to Mary Seader for bringing drinks and cookies, staying all day, and helping to clean up, to Michael Tomkins for helping to set up and tear down as well as supporting NTHS while running his own booth.

We sold over \$20 worth of tee shirts and over \$100 worth of 50-50 raffles — the raffle drawing was held at our September meeting, and we gave the attending membership the opportunity to purchase tickets as well. We gave out all but about 20 copies of the **Historia**. Many people stopped to look at the display boards.

Historical Society's first meeting draws 150



Mrs. Lida Luff, Richboro, who celebrated her 92nd birthday Sept 5, points out the location of her 200 year--old home on a rare, 1859 map of Northampton Township to five year--old Jennifer Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Smith, Holland, at last week's organization meeting of the Northampton Township Historical Society. Mrs. Luff, who has lived in her landmark home for two thirds of her life, was the oldest prospective charter member of the new society, and Jennifer- the youngest.

(DVA PHOTO and article reprinted from the October 3, 1973 edition)

The Northampton Township Historical Society got off to an auspicious start last Thursday evening when the first meeting attracted about 150 residents and former residents to the meeting at the Council Rock Intermediate School--Richboro. Robert Crompton presided and introduced officers of Historic Langhorne Association, Bucks County Historical Society, Newtown Historical Association and the Bucks County Conservancy who, together with Northampton Township Supervisors' chairman Robert Day, all gave greetings to the new society: The new Northampton Township Historical Society will meet quarterly. Nov. 29 will find the Society meeting at the Addisville Chapel, Second Street Pike, Richboro, to hear Charles Miller, interior decorator and a former president of the Newtown Historic Association give his color slide show "Tine Doors of Historic Deerfield." At the Nov. 29 meeting, nine directors, including five officers will be elected. Mrs. Muriel Briggs was named chairman of a five member nominating committee. Last Thursday's feature was Ed Herzog's slide show of historic Northampton homes. It was agreed by all those who had seen them during last fall's anniversary dinner that a second viewing of the slides is even more appreciated than the first.

These are the partial minutes from an organizing meeting of what was to become the Northampton Township Historical Society. Minutes for May 3, 1973 - Contributed by Betty Luff

Mr. John Bieler, a past president of the "Historic Langhorne Association" was invited for any information he could give us that might be helpful in forming such a group.

5. Mr. Crompton hopes that all seven members can be present at the next meeting to vote on a date to set up a public meeting for the purpose of forming an historical society. There was a discussion about how it should be advertised. Mr. Herzog agreed to show his slides at this meeting and Mrs. Geyer suggested that if they were shown last, those attending could watch half or the complete showing.

6. The chairman also suggested and it was agreed that each of the seven members bring to the next meeting three (3) names of persons they have contacted and who are interested in helping to start a local society. The members are to ask these people if they would be willing to take leadership roles and suggest a tentative date for a meeting of this group of 21 people for June 14, 1973. Each member is to report at the June 7th meeting on the persons he/she contacted. Mrs. Luff is to call Mr. Solly concerning this and to remind him of the two meeting dates, June 7th and June 14th. Mr. Herzog agreed to call Mrs. Overholt about the same.

7. Mr. Crompton appointed Mrs. France as chairman of the nominating committee, assisted by Mr. Solly and Mr. Herzog. They are to nominate a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer. Mr. Crompton stressed that he would decline any nomination for office. All candidates are to be contacted to determine their willingness to serve. Their names will then be offered for nomination and election at the next meeting. If elected, they will be expected to take office then.

8 The meeting was adjourned and the next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 1973, at 8:00 in Mr. Guzley's office in the township building. Mrs. France will obtain the key and open.

Subsequent to this meeting, Mr. Crompton informed me that he had received a letter from the Pennsylvania Historic Commission, stating that his home, Hampton Hill, had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, DC. Copies of this letter will be distributed at the next meeting. Mr. Crompton also suggested I enclose the attached list of members' addresses and telephone numbers for our future reference.

Elizabeth C. Luff, Acting Secretary



NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 732, RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954-0732

www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

2004 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President	Debbie Glessner	215-357-2449	dglessner2@comcast.net	PA Relay 800-654-5988
Vice President	Mary Seader	215-355-4467	tiogacbnrjs@aol.com	
Secretary	Sylvia Amato		CAmato@voicenet.com	
Treasurer	Michael Tomkins	215-504-1998	michaeltomkins@comcast.net	
Membership	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com	
Ways and Means	Vacant			
Social Committee	Pat Komelasky	215-355-0649	gkomelasky@msn.com	
Director (Past Pres.)	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com	
Director	Jean Gallagher	215-968-5222		
Director	Betty Luff	215-357-3767		
HISTORIA Editor	Doug Crompton	215-355-5307	doug@crompton.com	

HISTORIA is published quarterly by the Northampton Township Historical Society. The Society meets four times each year at the Northampton Township Cultural Center, Upper Holland Road, Richboro. Everyone is welcome at our meetings. Meetings start at 7:30 PM with refreshments, general meeting, and a featured speaker. For more information visit our web page or email us at nths@NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org Past issues of the HISTORIA, in color, are available on our web page www.NorthamptonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org The HISTORIA is edited by Doug Crompton. Articles are always welcome.

Meeting Dates for 2004/2005

November 17	Dinner Meeting	6:30 PM
March 16	General Meeting	7:30 PM
May 18	General Meeting	7:30 PM
September 21	General Meeting	7:30 PM

Board Meetings 2005

February 8, April 12,
August 9, October 11
7 PM - Call for location

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL CLASSIFICATIONS

This will be your membership for the calendar year of 2005 (January 2005 to December 2005)

INDIVIDUAL - \$15 SENIOR - \$10 STUDENT - \$10 SPONSOR - \$100 PATRON - \$250 (5 year membership)
FAMILY - \$20 SUSTAINING - \$50 NTHS CIRCLE - \$500 or greater (Life membership)

Note - Applications received after October 31 will be credited for the following year. This application is sent with all editions of the HISTORIA. Please check your mailing label for the expiration year. Normal renewal time is the first quarter of the year or when the March HISTORIA is received. If your membership is current, please pass this application on to others who may be interested in our society. Please consider a contribution of more than the minimum membership to help defray increasing society costs.

Send to:

Northampton Township Historical Society
PO BOX 732
Richboro, PA 18954-0732

NAME: _____ Membership Classification _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ DUES ENCLOSED: \$ _____

EMAIL: _____ Shirt Size [S] [M] [L] [EXL] - (Sponsor and higher)

May we count on you to serve on one of our committees ? : Y _____ N _____ MAYBE _____

Please give us your ideas for speakers at future meetings : _____

Would you be willing to write an article for the HISTORIA _____

Your comments and suggestions are welcome : _____