



December 2007 Newsletter

December Membership Meeting and Holiday Party

Monday,
December 10, 2007
at 6:00 pm

at the home of Jean and
Russ Bellavance

*(Please check your
membership booklets for
address information)*

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

Our Annual Holiday Dinner Party will be held on Monday, December 10 at 6:00 PM. Our main course entrees will be roasted turkey and baked ham. Members have been asked to bring an assortment of side dishes and desserts ... there will be plenty for the tasting!

Society members and their guests are welcomed back to the home of **Russ and Jean Bellavance** in Ambler. The Bellavance home will be decorated with the theme "**Christmas Past**".

The dining room will feature holiday decorations from the Victorian period featuring tinsel, ribbons and mercury glass balls. The entrance foyer will be decorated in a Colonial period style using natural materials and fruit. The front parlor will be decorated in the 1950's period. Christmas lights, iconic Santas and Snowmen will be featured along with a period Christmas tree and accessories.

Please plan to join us for this fun evening.



FRESH CUTTING

Greens ~ Donations Needed for Holiday Party!

DON'T FORGET ... SAVE YOUR LANDSCAPE TRIMMINGS!

The Society needs donations of fresh-cut greens, pine, spruce, fir, boxwood, holly, etc., for decorating. As the Bellavance's have graciously opened up their home for this event, we offer to decorate their home with fresh-cut greens for the party. Please leave donations at the Bellavance's home by **noon on Sunday, December 9th**.

WISSAHICKON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SERVING AMBLER • LOWER GWYNEDD • WHITPAIN COMMUNITIES

COLLECTIBLES

Gurley Holiday Candles

A hot collectible this holiday season is the vintage Gurley Holiday Candle. You probably remember these tiny heralds of the season as the small choir boys and girls. The Gurley Company was located in Buffalo, NY and was in operation from the 1930's into the 1970's.

Gurley made candles for all the major holidays. Do you remember the turkeys and pilgrims from Thanksgiving? At Easter, it was bunnies and chicks – but beyond a doubt the most valuable as collectibles are those made for Halloween. Witches can bring as much as \$60 – \$75! Not bad for an item that originally sold for five cents to twenty-nine cents.

The candles were sold in dime stores and department stores. They can be found today in antique malls and shops, and some go for very high prices. Remember, condition is important. Prices range from \$5 – \$75.

Reproductions are available, too; they can be purchased from the Vermont Country Store for \$12 – \$20.



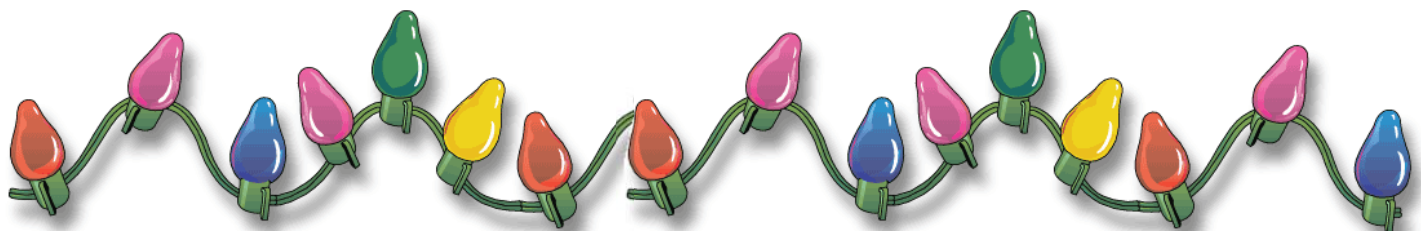
2007-2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES

A BIG Member Thank You!

We would like to extend a special thank you to those members who donated funds above and beyond their general membership dues. These additional funds help WVHS with the many projects and programs that we undertake throughout the year. We truly appreciate your generosity!

Mark Ashton
Donna Cogan
Margaret Krengel
Bob and Gloria Myers

Bernie and Joanne Olszewski
Frank Russo, Jr.
Greg Smith
William and Bette Young



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**Happy
Holiday
Greetings**

... to all our Members and Friends!

From the Desk of the President:

This is my last message as your President. I want to thank everyone for his or her encouragement and support over the last fifteen years. We have accomplished a lot and there is much of our work to continue with in the coming years. I have the foundation for your continued success and it is now in your hands. Change is good, please go forth and be a society to be reckoned with.

We have made a reputation to stand for historic preservation – it is very important work. My hope is that we continue to take an unpopular stand.

I hope to see everyone at the holiday dinner party, I'm sure it will be a fun evening with great food, ambiance and good friends. I wish everyone a very happy holiday season.

*Peace! Sincerely,
Frank J. Russo, Jr.
President*

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP NEWS: **Nominating Committee**

At our November meeting, I asked for volunteers to serve as a nominating committee. The following people will serve on the committee: **Russ Bellavance, Mary Lou McFarland, Floss Levy, and Jim Johnston.**

This committee will meet and develop a slate of officers to serve from 2008 – 2010. It is a daunting task but please be generous in your response to the committee when they call you to fill a position. We need your help. Positions open are:

Recording Secretary • Library/Archives • Newsletter
WVHS President

General Meade with Young Recruits

At our November General Membership Meeting, we were fortunate to have enjoyed the vibrant history of General George G. Meade, best known for defeating Confederate General Robert E. Lee at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

Among the audience were several visitors including these fine young men, all dressed in vintage clothing. It was a great lecture, hope you didn't miss it!

Pictured is (left to right) Andrew M., General Meade (Andrew Waskie) and Connor H. at the conclusion of November's fantastic lecture on General Meade.



THE SEASON OF GIVING, DON'T FORGET ... **Adopt-a-Schoolhouse Project**

This holiday season is a time for giving, and why not give a little to the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society. There's plenty of projects that can be planned for our **1895 Schoolhouse** - and the winter months will help us put together a strategy for the spring months ahead. We've made some progress and want to continue the momentum. Thanks to all of our members who have donated or volunteered their time to accomplish an item that needed attention in the Schoolhouse.

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Upcoming Events:

December 4

Hanukkah (*begins at sundown*)

December 10

Holiday Party

December 25

Christmas Day

Dec. 26-Jan. 1, 2008

Kwanzaa

January 1, 2008

New Year's Day

January 14

Civilians in the Civil War:
Fighting the War on the Home Front

*Presented by Paula Gidjunis,
Civil War Expert*

February 11

Members Share:
Their Collections
and Expertise

*Presented by the Membership
of the WVHS*

February 29, 2008

Leap Year!

March 10

History of Bethlehem
Baptist Church
in Penllyn

*Presented by Rev. Quann,
Pastor*

April 14

Second Empire: What's
That? A Survey of
Architectural Styles

*Presented by Peg Johnston,
WVHS Member*

May 12

Handcrafted Folk
Music Instruments

*Presented by Joan MacMillan,
Instrument Maker*



Calendar of Events ~ December 2007 and upcoming events!

Wissahickon Valley Historical Society

Mon., Dec. 10	General Business Meeting/Holiday Covered Dish 6:00 pm <i>Holiday Dinner Party at the home of Jean and Russ Bellavance</i>
Mon., Jan. 14	General Business Meeting 7:30 pm <i>Lecture: Civilians in the Civil War: Fight the War on the Home Front Presented by Paula Gidjunis, Civil War Expert</i>
Mon., Jan. 28	WVHS Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Mon., Feb. 11	General Business Meeting 7:30 pm <i>Topic: Members Share: Their Collections and Expertise</i>
Mon., Feb. 25	WVHS Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Mon., Mar. 10	General Business Meeting 7:30 pm <i>Topic: History of Bethlehem Baptist Church Presented by Rev. Quann, Pastor</i>
Mon., Mar. 24	WVHS Board Meeting 7:00 pm

*The Wissahickon Valley Historical Society Newsletter is published once a month during the membership season.
General Membership Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month, and are open to the public.*

Wissahickon Valley Historical Society • 799 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 • 215.646.6541 • www.wvalleyhs.org



Wissahickon Valley Historical Society
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Members' Holiday Party