



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

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January 2009 Newsletter

From the President's Desk

Happy New Year – the last year of the Oughts. We start 2009 with some changes - the January and February meetings will be held in the Community Room at the Wissahickon Valley Public Library, 650 Skippack Pike (just south of the 1895 Schoolhouse). The meetings will still be on the second Monday (January 12 and February 9) and will still start at 7:30. The January meeting will raise our hopes for a short winter by focusing on gardens. Please bring a green-thumbed friend and join us.

The annual Holiday Dinner Meeting was a great success, with (as always) lots of good food and fellowship. Thanks to Marie Russo for organizing the party and thanks to Frank Russo for working with Jeannie and me to decorate for it. Jeannie and I have certainly continued to enjoy the decorations.

We have just received a report from Whitpain Township, the owner of the 1895 Schoolhouse, evaluating the physical condition of the building and its likely capital project needs going forward. The Board will review this report at its meeting on Monday, January 5 and report to the Society at our January general meeting.

Russ Bellavance, President

Thank you, Thank you!!

The members listed below have generously contributed above and beyond the regular membership donation. The historical society is very grateful for your thoughtfulness and as you know your donation will be a great benefit to the society.

Russ and Jean Bellavance, The Croke Family, Margaret Kregel, Herb and Floss Levy, Jim and Peg Johnston, Bob and Mary Lou McFarland, Bernie and Joanne Olszewski, Frank Russo, Jr., Greg Smith, William and Bette Young

WISSAHICKON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SERVING AMBLER • LOWER GWYNEDD • WHITPAIN COMMUNITIES

www.wvalleyhs.org

Upcoming Events!

January 12th at 7:30 p.m. at the Wissahickon Valley Public Library in Blue Bell, the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society will be honored with a presentation by Peg Johnston discussing the history of the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women which is now part of Temple University at the Temple-Ambler campus. The Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women was among the first in the nation to educate women for careers in horticulture and agriculture. In 1910, Jane Bowne Haines and a “congress of women” managed the construction of numerous buildings and established gardens and farm plots and an arboretum at the site of Meetinghouse Road in Upper Dublin. During WW1 and WW11, the school trained women to grow and preserve food for the war effort. In 2002, the school was recognized by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The grounds of the arboretum are open to the public.

When you visit the Blue Bell Wissahickon Valley Public Library, please notice their showcase. The historical society is sharing information and items from our museum. The focus is on the history of Whitpain, and school items. Check our website www.wvalleyhs.org for photos of the exhibit.

On February 9th, 2009, at the monthly membership meeting, the historical society will present the history of the Phillies, our region’s 2008 World Series Champions. The meeting will be held at the Wissahickon Valley Public Library in Blue Bell at 7:30.

Notes of Interest!

On December 14, 2008, Cub Scouts from Troop 422, visited the schoolhouse. Peg Johnston, Grace Pasco and Emmy Simon entertained and educated an interested and well behaved group of scouts. They sat in the old school desks and practiced their penmanship and asked many great questions. Emmy shared her den mother outfit, using it to show the boys how artifacts are cataloged and stored. For photos, please check our website, www.wvalleyhs.org. If you know of other groups who may be interested in the museum and would enjoy tours, we will be glad to set up a special visit.