



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler  
Lower Gwynedd  
Whitpain

[www.wvalleyhs.org](http://www.wvalleyhs.org)

[info@wvalleyhs.org](mailto:info@wvalleyhs.org)

June 2019

Please join us for our annual picnic on  
Monday, June 10 at 5:30 p.m.  
at Pat Plumb's home  
910 Valley Rd.  
Blue Bell, PA 19422



(In case of rain, picnic relocated to 1895  
School.)

The Society will provide baked ham and  
soft drinks.

Please plan to bring a side dish or a  
dessert that is easy to serve.

Extra chairs would be welcome.

We will also hold our annual "corn  
auction".

Please bring a wrapped item of value (?)  
or interest to be auctioned.

The fun is in seeing what you get.

Please let us know if you can join us so we can plan  
for the number of guests. Hope to see you there!

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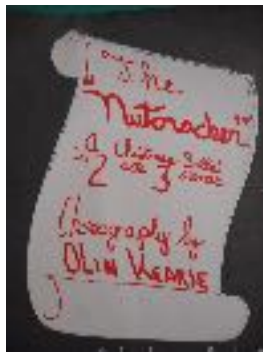
## Recent Donations - and Their Stories

**From Frank Russo** - two architectural items from the original Upper Dublin Lutheran Church. The original church was at the corner of Butler Pike and Susquehanna Road - across Susquehanna from the current church. Its small cemetery is still at the site. Frank happened to be driving by when the demolition took place. He stopped and picked up the two wooden items.

**From new member Joe Langella** - two copies of the Saturday Evening Post featuring the Lower Gwynedd Station. The cover, by Whitpain artist John Falter, features commuters running through the rain and appeared on the Oct. 1961 edition.

**From Linda Prow Reilly** - a large collection of Ambler and family related items. Linda grew up in Ambler in a family with many Ambler connections. One set of items memorializes a ceremony in 1943 at which all of the Keasbey-Mattison employees were honored for their efforts supporting American efforts in WWII. The ceremony was held in Ambler's Opera House.

Another set of materials are from performances by the Koresh Dancing Studio which for many years was located on Main Street. The programs suggest that the dance company supported local charities with their performances and had many participants. If you have any experience with Koresh studio, please share your memories with us.



A program from a celebration of the life of Ambler resident Joseph Cavalier is included in the collection. Cavalier Drive, which connects Butler Pike to the central Ambler parking lot, was named in his honor. He was first elected to the Ambler Borough Council in November 1919 and served continuously from 1920 until 1954. He served on the committee that was responsible for the construction of sewers in Ambler. He emigrated from Italy in 1892

and helped organize the Lodge Russero Boughi, No. 543, Order Sons of Italy in American in 1916.

Other items in this collection will be featured in the July newsletter.

## Mark Your Calendar

**Saturday, June 1** - Hope Lodge's Ales and Petals, Cars and Motorcycles - 10 to 4 (Hope Lodge is open every Sunday from 1 to 2:30 for a short film and tour.)

**Thursday, June 6** - Annual Strawberry Festival at SpringHouse Estates, 9 to 2 - the SpringHouse Questers have been loyal supporters of WVHS

**Monday, June 10** - WVHS annual picnic at Pat Plumb's home - see cover page for details.

**Thursday, June 13** - "Symbols in the Cemetery" at the Historical Society of Mont. Co., Cemetery tour and presentation. - 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Reserve tickets at 610-272-0297 or at [contact@hsmcpa.org](mailto:contact@hsmcpa.org)



**Friday and Saturday, June 14 and 15** - Ambler Arts and Music Festival - starting at 5 p.m. on Fri. and 11 a.m. on Saturday

**Sunday, June 16** - Open House at 1895 Schoolhouse - 1 to 3 p.m. Franklinville School not open on June 16.

**June 14 through November 8** - an exhibit of Signature Quilts at Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg.

### **Docent/Host Orientation for Members**

With the renovation of the 1895 Schoolhouse complete, the society is expecting more visitors to its meetings and open houses. With three floors now open, more docents and hosts are needed. Being a docent/host isn't difficult and we would like to have a list of members who can be called. Docent/hosts are also needed for the Franklinville School. For open houses, we would like to have 3 people at each building. No experience necessary and it is a great way to learn local history.

We are planning short training meeting for those interested - one on Saturday, June 8 at 10 a.m. and another on Thursday, June 20 at 10:30 a.m. The meetings should last about an hour and will include a walk/talk-through of the building.

Please consider attending a training session - learn about the history of the building, the research opportunities, and exhibits. This will be a great chance to share our message. Please call Peg Johnston, 215-542-7753 or Russ Bellavance at 215-643-5048 if you would like to attend or to have more information.

### **Tell Us What Should be Saved**

The Philadelphia Inquirer has shared a series of articles about historic preservation in the city. Locally, we have lost several historic sites in the last couple of years. Most often our responses to threats to historic sites has been too little, too late.

Thinking ahead, what are some sites in Whitpain, Lower Gwynedd, and Ambler that are especially meaningful to you. We need to create an "index" of properties that would require historical review before demolition permits could be issued.

Please share which historic properties and features help make Whitpain, Lower Gwynedd, and Ambler a special place for you. We will share the list and gather documentation.

### **Summer Trip Suggestion**

Thanks to Ethel Hutchinson for sharing this idea for a long day/weekend outing. She recently had an enjoyable trip to Reading, our neighbor to the northwest. She recommends:

Mid-Atlantic Air Museum - Ethel and her son had a very interesting docent who "would have talked as long as we had time and questions". They spent two hours at the museum which has a number of planes on display. On June 7, 8, and 9 there will be the 28th annual WWII Weekend with all kinds of related events.

GoogleWorks - An art and culture center housed in a building that once manufactured safety glasses. On the first floor they have open galleries and a theater. On floors 2 and 3 are studio spaces for working in and for displaying artists' works. If the door is open, the artist will talk about his/her work. Ethel and her son found those

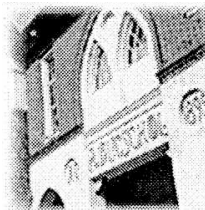
who were open to be very interesting. In an adjacent building there are studios where glass, stained glass, and other kinds of glass being worked on. It offers classes and a kiln. Another building had ceramic related work areas.

They also looked at the Pagoda - not open at the time they visited but with an interesting history and impressive view.

Be sure to check out hours, etc. before you go.

Open House  
At the 1895 Schoolhouse  
Sunday, May 16,  
1 to 3:30

Stop by to see the building renovation and the new exhibits. There will also be activities for children....which adults can try too.



Wissahickon Valley Historical Society  
P.O. Box 96  
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