



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

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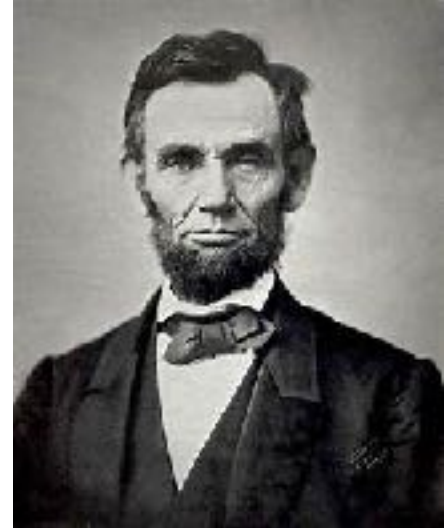
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Please join us
on May 13 at 7 p.m.
for the meeting of the
Wissahickon Valley Historical Society

The Words of Abraham Lincoln

The Emancipation Proclamation,
the Gettysburg Address,
the Second Inaugural Address



presented by Russ Bellavance
who will lead a review of these documents.

From the Desk of the President – Russ Bellavance

Wow! What a great Grand Reopening we had. Scores and scores of people, young and old and in between, came through our doors on Sunday, April 14 to see our beautifully renovated and expanded museum. For many of them, this was their first time visiting us. Our guests were surprised at the depth and breadth of our local history, and of the Society's collection. Even for repeat visitors, there were many new delights, especially in our expansion space in the basement. The expansion space was the vision of our beloved member Bob Whittock, and we were so glad that Mabel could see his dream realized.

So many people have helped to get us to this place in our own history. Three people in particular must be singled out for thanks. The first two are Joan Duxbury and Sally Zeller, our dynamic sisters, who took on the overwhelming task of managing the physical transformation of the building. This was very much a hands-on and daily task. I don't know anyone else who could have done what Joan did in working with all of the contractors. The beauty of the completed space speaks for itself. The third person is Peggy Johnston, our museum curator. Peggy was charged with taking over the space as Joan and Sally made it available, and converting it into the great museum that we have today. In all of this work, we were assisted by a wonderful group of faithful and dedicated volunteers – our Thursday morning crew. Special thanks to Marie, Dot, Jan, Peg D., Ethel, Charlie, and Tom. You know who you are and how much I appreciate what you have done. Towards the end of the project, as we were pushing towards the Grand Reopening, the work group was joined by additional volunteers, including a trio from Blue Bell Rotary Club. (Bob, Tom, and Rik)



At the Grand Reopening itself, our volunteer group expanded even further, and we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of assistance. Ambler Symphony members David Morgan, John Kraybill, and Kevin Reilly provided musical entertainment. The championship Wissahickon Robotics Team took time from their schoolwork, and from their preparations for the world championship competition, to exhibit two of their robots. This was a great delight to all, especially the children (of all ages) among us. Finally, Neal Bradley displayed his vintage fire engine – a classic REO Speedwagon. See right.



We could not have done any of this without the assistance of those who made financial contributions to our capital campaign. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Our principal supporter over the past several years has been Whitpain Township. The Board of Supervisors committed themselves to ensuring that the building itself would be stabilized, with replacement stucco, much-needed site work, improved electric, and new safety systems, among other things. We took the next step of turning that stabilized building into a modern museum. The Whitpain Township staff enthusiastically took their

cue from the Supervisors and provided invaluable assistance throughout, including great advice on our portion of the overall project. Former Director of Public Works Ron Cione and his successor Tom Farzetta were of tremendous help to us. This has been a great example of the power of public-private partnership and we are very pleased that Lower Gwynedd Township and Ambler Borough have recently joined that partnership.

This Grand Reopening begins a new chapter in the life of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, and we urge our members and friends to help us write that new chapter. Please consider becoming a more active participant, perhaps even a board member. We can be open more often if we have more docents. We can mount more special exhibits (such as the current special exhibit on local women in history) if we have more people willing to work on a specific project. We can keep the museum sparkling clean if we have regular workdays. And we can continue to meet our capital project needs at both of our buildings if we have donors and sponsors. We depend on you.

Special Visitors to the Re-opening

Thanks to Chris Raines for sharing these photos of a few of the young visitors enjoying displays at the 1895 Schoolhouse on April 14th.



Encouraging the next generation of young people to be involved in local history is part of the mission of the WVHS.

Special thanks to parents and grandparents who brought the numerous children to the Open House.

Special thanks to Beverly Hahn (see next page) and Jeannie Bellavance for organizing the delicious snacks and helpful

hosts. Thanks to all of those who brought items to share. Dot MacDermott offered to share her recipe for “pizza” - delicious and nutritious.

Dot's Pizza

Lightly spray an 11" x 13" pyrex baking dish. Spread the contents of a container of crescent rolls (from the refrigerator case at the grocery store) in the dish. Bake for 11 minutes at 375 degrees.

Remove from oven and cool. Spread with a mixture of 8 ounce package of cream cheese, 1/2 cup mayonnaise, 1/2 teaspoon of dill, and 1/2 teaspoon chopped onions.

Cover and place in refrigerator until ready to use. Prepare a mixture of chopped black olives, shredded carrots, chopped broccoli, and chopped red pepper.

When ready to serve, sprinkle vegetable mixture on top and cut into squares.



Exhibits at Borough Hall and Township Buildings

The WVHS has display cases at the Ambler Borough Hall and Lower Gwynedd and Whitpain Township buildings. Current topics are Ambler Borough - Mary Ambler and Mary Hough, Whitpain Township - Clara Beck and Agnes Baker Jefferson, and Lower Gwynedd - the Lower Gwynedd train station.

Exhibits are changed every six weeks or so and feature items from our museum's collection. It takes a couple of hours to gather materials, set up the exhibit in its locked case, and return materials to the museum. If you would like to adopt any one of the sites, please contact Peg Johnston at pegathome6@yahoo.com This is an excellent chance to learn more about our collection and share with our communities.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, May 13 - WVHS monthly meeting at the 1895 Schoolhouse - Program: The Words of Lincoln - 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 19 - Open House at both WVHS and Franklinville - 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Monday, June 10 - WVHS picnic at Pat Plumb's house - details in June newsletter.



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