



Wissahickon Valley

*historical society*

Ambler  
Lower Gwynedd  
Whitpain

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

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Volume 14, Issue 5

P.O. Box 96, Ambler, PA 19002-0096

215-646-6541

# Holiday Party

## Sunday afternoon, Dec. 9

### 2 to 5 p.m.

Hosted by Jean and Russ Bellavance  
148 S. Bethlehem Pike  
Ambler

Please bring an appetizers, salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

Turkey and ham are provided.

\$5/ adult    \$2.50/children

Consider bringing a potential member.

Families welcome.

215-642-5048



Decorating Party at the Bellavances  
Saturday, December 8 - 2 to ?  
Cookies, coffee, and tea provided.

Wissahickon Valley Historical Society  
Serving Lower Gwynedd, Whitpain, Ambler communities  
Volume 14, Issue 5

## Questers Sponsor New Light-controlling Blinds for Museum

The SpringHouse Questers have continued their support of the WVHS's efforts to update window coverings at the 1895 Schoolhouse. With the addition of state Quester money, their donation totals \$750.

The new window treatments were one of the major suggestions made by the survey team from CCAHA during their visit earlier in the year. Light can cause major damage to most artifacts.

The wooden shades offer excellent protection to our collections, are very attractive, and are easy to use. For years, all exhibits were carefully covered with cotton sheets when the museum was closed. This was a lot of work and was not appropriate for some displays.

John and Keiko Simon have been installing the new shades which look great from both inside and outside of the building.

Many, many thanks to the SpringHouse Quester. Their donation truly shows that "this place matters." A plaque to acknowledge the Quester's gift will be installed soon in the museum.



## Remembering Dot Conard

With sadness we share the news of the passing of Dot Conard. Dorothy was dedicated to the preservation of historic places and succeeded in having several sites listed on the National Historic Registry. She also co-authored the book *Whitpain ...Crossroads in Time*. Dorothy and her second husband, Henry S. Conard, were active members of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society. Henry died in 1991. Our library is named in his honor. Dot's family asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the WHVS.

*words from Emmy Simon:* Years ago, Dot lived in the little Conard house which sits on the corner of Stenton Avenue and Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike, not too far from me. She was interested in history and preservation. She was the first to begin research on placing the Schoolhouse on the National Register. She also did much research on Dawesfield which eventually placed it on the Register. She was always relating, with enthusiasm, stories of places and people in the past. I have learned much from her, and I have been very fortunate to have known her.

More memories of Dot next month.

## Remembering Matt Slish

Matt Slish, who recently joined the WVHS, passed away in mid-Nov. His interest in local history - especially the Native American who lived in this area - always made him interesting to talk to. Though he lived in Hatboro, he attended meetings at several local historical societies.

Our condolences to the families of Dot and Matt.

## **Welcoming New Members**

Welcome to: Gary and Alma Fuess, Ambler

Bob and Sharon Brunner, Blue Bell

Frank Green, Blue Bell

Gary presented the recent program about AmChem and donated the AmChem collection to our museum.

Bob and Sharon and sons helped set up and take down the flea market.

Special invitation to the holiday party to our new members.

## **Senior Projects Help WVHS in its Mission**

Robert Battice, senior at Methacton High School, completed his graduation project at the 1895 Schoolhouse. He cleaned off rust, primed, and painted the second story of the outdoor fire escape. The project involved over 30 hours of effort.

Erin Annunzia, a senior at Wissahickon High School, is currently working on a research project about the Foulke Mansion and the people who have lived there. This involves studying documents and photos and interviewing local historians. The project will be shared as a document or an exhibit. Any relevant information from members would be appreciated.

Amanda Carro, a student at Unionville High School in Kennett Square, PA has created new labels for the artifacts in the WVHS museum. The new labels give a professional look to the displays. She also accessioned, for our inventory, a large collection of Whitpain Public School class photographs from the years 1922 to 1950. The collection includes boys and girls sports teams from 1932 to 1950 and various newspaper articles pertaining to the school.

Many thanks to these outstanding young people. These are important projects for the WVHS. If you know of a student who looking for a project, please suggest us to them. There is a variety of projects available.



## **Mark Your Calendar**

December 8 - Sat., - Decorating for Holiday Party - Bellavance's - 2 to ?

December 9 - Sun., - Holiday Party - Bellavance's - 2 to 5

December 16 - Sun., - Open House - 1 to 4

January 14 - Mon., 7:30 - Monthly Meeting - Program - Civil War Stories -  
presented by Mike Jesburger



**A safe and joyous holiday to all.**



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