



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

June 2013
www.wvalleyhs.org

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The Wissahickon Valley Historical Society's annual spring/summer pot-luck

Monday, June 10
appetizers at 5:30, supper at 6
main dish and soft drinks provided -
BYOB



hosted by
Gloria and Bob Myers
1280 Pinetown Rd. Fort Washington
215-628-4949
Please let them know if you plan to attend.

The traditional "corn auction" will be held.
Bring a "goofy wrapped gift" to share.

This is a fun evening to socialize. New members are
especially welcome. Hope you can make it.

Center Square Fire Department Celebrates 100 Years

On Saturday, May 18, the crowd sitting on the front lawn of the WVHS enjoyed a 45 minute parade celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Centre Square Fire Department. The parade included several bands, sponsored cars, local groups, and many fire engines and rescue vehicles - of various eras and from several fire departments.

For video and slideshow of the parade, visit AmblerGazette.com. A community carnival is scheduled for June 11 - 16.

Our own **Mabel Whittock**, riding the Ladies Auxiliary float during the parade, was featured in the Ambler Gazette coverage.



Recent Donations

Nina Martino recently donated 2 mourning dresses - one of black silk, one of black lace. They are both from early 20th century.

She also donated a complete baptismal outfit - including dress, coat, booties, bonnet, and blanket - as well as a photo of herself wearing the outfit.

Nina mother's wedding dress and shoes from 1938 are now in our collection as well. The wedding photo of Eva Martino wearing the dress was included. Thank you very much, Nina.

Right: **Emmy Simon** places one of the donated mourning dresses on a mannequin for museum display.



Programs for 2013-14

At the recent board meeting, possible programs for the next year were discussed. There were several interesting suggestions, but new ideas are welcome. Please let **Russ Bellavance** know if you have fresh ideas for a program at the Schoolhouse or for a field trip. Joint programs with the Historical Society of Whitpain are planned.

Thanks to Bob Whittock for Flags

Each year Boehm's church places flags on the grave sites of those who gave their lives in American wars and holds a special service in their honor. Member **Bob Whittock** transferred flags from last year's ceremony to our use. They were placed in front of our building for use on Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Veterans' Day. Thanks, Bob.

Around the Area - Buildings lost, buildings adapted

Positive progress is being made on the house on Skippack Pike near the Pennlyn-BlueBell



intersection. Remembering what it looked like a year ago, it's careful restoration is a pleasure to see. This is one of the projects of Vic and Tory



Meitner who presented our Oct. program.



The historic house across from Dawesfield was demolished this past year and has been replaced with a large modern house. The well house (draped on the right) was integrated into the design, but the original stone is being replaced with new decorative stone from Oley, near Lancaster.

Around the corner from the Schoolhouse, there has been a lovely wooded lot facing a row of three houses which were originally built by the Randall family (who started Mermaid Lake) for their daughters. Over the years each of the three houses has been individualized by its owner. When the



wooded lot went up for sale, it looked like one large house would be build. Due to smart planning, two smaller homes with many of the trees left will complement School Road's existing atmosphere. Check out also the care being taken by the new owners of house across School Road from our site.





Ambler Boiler House - Adaptive Reuse from "Ambler - Hometown News"

The Ambler Boiler House has completed its impressive transformation, from abandoned Brownfield site, to a clean, green and LEED-Platinum-certified state of the art office space and transit oriented development. The location of the project is considered ideal because of its proximity to the SEPTA rail station and to existing roadways and available utility services.

The first tenant has already taken occupancy in the building with additional tenants to follow through the first half of 2013.

Make Your Calendar -

June 10 - WVHS spring/summer pot-luck. See first page for details.

June 13 - Presentation to Blue Bell third graders

June 15 - Presentation at Conard family reunion

June 16 , July 21, August 18 - Open House at the Schoolhouse, 1 to 4 p.m. New Open House docents are welcome. New docents can be matched with experienced ones.

The painting of the Schoolhouse fire escape will be completed this summer. Anyone wanting to help, please contact Peg at 215-542-7753

Articles and book reviews for the newsletter are always welcome.

Next month - Read about the high school senior projects and Eagle Scout project that have been/will be a big help to the 1895 Schoolhouse and the WVHS.



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