



Wissahickon Valley
historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

www.wvalleyhs.org

info@wvalleyhs.org

215-646-6541

Please join us on
Monday, January 13 at 7 p.m.
at the 1895 Schoolhouse

Program: The Writings of
George Washington

Presented by Russ Bellavance

Followed by a social hour
with light refreshments.



Mark Your Calendar

Mon., **January 27** - WVHS board meeting at the 1895 Schoolhouse, 7 p.m.

Mon., **February 10** - WVHS meeting at the 1895 Schoolhouse, 7 p.m. Program: The Battle of
Whitemarsh presented by Bob Bradley

Mon., **February 24** - WVHS board meeting at the 1895 Schoolhouse, 7 p.m.

Watch for the WVHS special exhibit at the Wissahickon Valley Public Library/Blue Bell in
February. Anyone interested in helping preparing or setting up the display please contact Peg
Johnston, 215-340-7229

An amicable groups of members meets each Thursday at the 1895 Schoolhouse on Thursday
mornings from 9 to noon. We work on displays for the schoolhouse and for Whitpain and
Lower Gwynedd township and Ambler borough buildings. Hopefully this spring we will restart
displays at the local elementary schools. We also accession additions to the society's
collection. Housekeeping is always needed too. All are welcome. Please call 215-656-6541
with any questions.

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From the President's Desk
by Russ Bellavance

People often think of historical societies as resistant to change because they want to preserve the past. But the purpose of studying history is to understand change over a period of time - especially evolutionary change. Historical societies themselves are not exempt from the need to change and evolve. The Wissahickon Valley Historical Society is in the midst of change right now - as we work to find ways to appeal to the rising generation of local residents.

One of these changes is evident in our most recent newsletter which is the first of our new quarterly newsletters. Newsletters have always served many functions, and we have come to understand that some of these functions are better served through electronic means rather than through a monthly newsletter. Almost all of our members and friends use e-mail regularly, and our main methods of communications will now be through e-mail, our website, and Facebook. The quarterly newsletter will focus on articles about local history.

We are in the process of rolling out a new website supported by a completely new and more robust architecture. (The URL will remain the same - valley.org.) The new website will provide much more content to visitors. We will have entire new sections such as our Speaker's Corner which will list all of our available speakers and programs. We will have a new section to recognize supporters among the business and non-profit community. We will even enable visitors to join the Society on-line or make a purchase or a contribution through PayPal. We are grateful to Bob Bradley, Joan Duxbury, Barry Johnston and Sally Zeller for their work on the new website and to Emma Siegel and her father Keith Siegel for their work on our social media.

The evolutionary changes are also evident in our Board. During the past 18 months four of our longest-serving members have asked to step down from the Board, and we thank Pat Plumb, Emmy Simon, Dot MacDermott, and Peg Johnston for their dedication and contributions over the years. They have been replaced on the Board by Charlie Miller, Joe Langella, and Carol Kalos. They have already brought new ideas and energy to the Society, and I know that you will start to see more positive changes in the coming year.

We are definitely a work in progress, and we will make mistakes along the way. I am excited by our new directions though, and I am convinced that we will continue to improve the important local history service we provide to our Ambler-Lower Gwynedd-Whitpain community.

Watch for the next quarterly newsletter in March. There will be articles about several local artifacts "written in stone" and about the recently donated "first edition" of the Ambler Gazette.



Wissahickon Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 96
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