



October 2007 Newsletter

## October General Membership Meeting

Monday,  
October 8, 2007  
at 7:30pm

at the 1895 Schoolhouse

## Trick or Treat!

Happy Halloween to everyone! It has been a very unpleasant September for me. I underwent surgery on the 14<sup>th</sup> and I am still recovering. My surgery was more difficult than I was prepared for. The pain is subsiding and I should be back soon.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for their kind and encouraging words. I would also like to thank the membership of WVHS for stepping-up to the plate when I was not capable of doing do. **Bill Missfeldt** and **Mary Lou McFarland**, my Vice President, have graciously agreed to preside over the General Membership Meeting and Executive Board Meeting. Thanks for your help.

Behind the scenes there are many members who have contributed their time and money to improve things at the Society; to them I send my heartfelt thanks:

*To **Peg Johnston, Bob Notoris** and **Frank Russo, Sr.**, for adopting a painting project at the Schoolhouse. If you have been to the Schoolhouse lately, you see good changes on the outside.*

*Thanks to the efforts of **Judy Baigis, Emmy Simon, Peg Johnston** and **Grace Pasco**. Our museum is undergoing a much-needed clean out. New exhibits with a more narrow focus will be set up and displayed and ready for opening in November. The museum should look really nice when it's completed.*

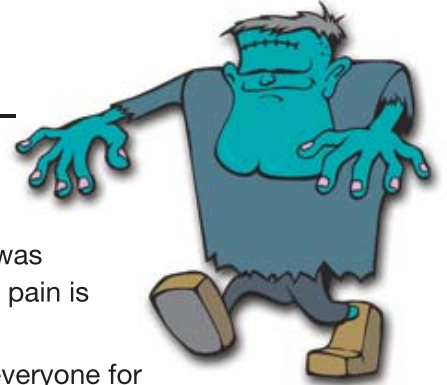
*To **Josephine Sawicki, Mabel Whittock** and others who have worked nonstop in the hot summer to collect, clean and organize the White Elephant for our upcoming Flea Market.*

*To **Emmy Simon, Judy Baigis** and **Marie Russo** for graciously cleaning the Schoolhouse for our September Meeting.*

*To **Jean Bellavance** and **Judy Baigis** for all their work in our Library.*

To all our membership who have made the sacrifice and have volunteered, just know that we couldn't do it without you. We owe you all a debt of thanks.

*Sincerely,  
**Frank J. Russo, Jr., President***




**BEGINNING AT 8AM – 2PM • INDOOR AND OUTDOOR**  
**Fall Flea Market ~ Saturday, October 13, 2007**

**WE'RE GEARING UP FOR ANOTHER GREAT SALE!**

Our Annual Flea Market will be held on Saturday, October 13th from 8 AM to 2PM. This is our big fund raiser for the year so come out and help us. Look over the goods and purchase some of our wide array of bargains – there are some really nice finds!



<p><b>WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE</b></p> 	<p>Our <i>WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE</i> will once again be under the supervision of <b>Josephine Sawicki</b>. It will feature glassware, housewares, silver, brass, china, artwork, toys and books at bargain, bargain prices. Remember: 100% of the sales are 100% profit for us!</p>
<p><b>BAKED GOODS TABLE</b></p>	<p>The <i>BAKE GOODS TABLE</i> will feature homemade goodies from our membership's kitchens. Breads, cakes, cookies, etc. will be for sale. <b>Russ and Jean Bellavance</b> will chair this table. Please bring in your goods in small baggie size portions - if you bake more, we can sell more and make more!</p>
<p><b>VENDOR'S TABLES</b></p>	<p>The <i>VENDOR'S TABLES</i> is chaired by <b>Bob Notoris</b>. We still have dealer space available – are you interested in spending a day selling your own wares and goods?</p>
<p><b>WVHS CAFÉ 1895</b></p>	<p>Our own <i>CAFÉ 1895</i> will be chaired by <b>Marie Russo</b> and will feature a fresh selection of great flea market menu items, including hot dogs, donuts, chili, coffee, bottled water and soft drinks.</p>
<p><b>VOLUNTEERS</b></p> <p><i>(Contact Josephine Sawicki at 610-277-8968 if you are able to assist at any time for the set-up or "personing" an area for the Flea Market. Warm bodies are needed!)</i></p>	<p>People - we just can't buy enough people! (That's why we need you!) Volunteer times are flexible, but we need a few extra hands in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After Monday's General Meeting (to help fold down chairs and set up tables, and bring up the boxes from down below)</li> <li>• During the week of October 8 - anytime ... for set-up of all the goodies!</li> <li>• Opening Staffers - 8am is the kickoff of this event - are you an early riser?</li> <li>• Calling all Bookworms: The front porch book sale needs a few good sellers!</li> <li>• Green Thumbs or Garden Goddesses: If your property is adorned with beautiful fall color, why not share a few clippings with us to fill the hundreds of flowers vases we have that will be displayed throughout the Schoolhouse?</li> <li>• Sellers - anytime throughout the day if you can share an hour or two, we'd enjoy your company. Work with your fellow members and meet great people! It sure would be good to see your smilin' face!</li> </ul>

Our Fall Flea Market has become a highlight of the season in the Wissahickon Valley. Tell your friends and bring your family and enjoy the day. Help us make some money for our operating expenses.

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:**

**The Amana Society of Iowa**

*Presented by: Arthur Driedger, WVHS Member*

The Amana Societies are a group of settlements of German Pietists in Iowa comprising seven villages. Calling themselves the Ebenezer Society or the Community of True Inspiration, die Gemeinde der wahren Inspiration, they first settled in New York state near Buffalo in what is now the Town of West Seneca. However, in order to live out their beliefs in more isolated surroundings they moved west to the rich soil of east-central Iowa (near present-day Iowa City) in 1855. They lived a communal life until the mid 1930s.



Today, Amana is a major tourist attraction known mainly for its restaurants and craft shops. Included in the shops are woodworking shops, wine shops, and even a brewery called Millstream. The colonies as a whole are currently listed as a National Historic Landmark.

**GET OUT OF THE SUN!!**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We have the shades. We have the hardware. All we need is the man (or woman) power to install the roller shades for the 2nd floor WVHS Museum. The shades are *VERY IMPORTANT* ... they will protect our artifacts from the harmful rays of the sun. Contact Judy Baigis to volunteer for this bright assignment!



**INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE**

**Adopt-a-Schoolhouse Project**

Adoption is easy. You don't need to travel far, just to your favorite historical society building, the 1895 Schoolhouse!



**HERE'S A REASON TO BE IN THE DARK:**

**WVHS GHOST WALK OF AMBLER**

On Sunday evening, October 28, 2007, Wissahickon Valley Historical Society and Ambler Main Street program will host its **Annual Ghost Walk of Ambler** at 6:00 PM. Plans are still pending but mark your calendar and meet with us for a haunting evening of spooky stories and history to celebrate Halloween.

**UPCOMING Events:**

**October 13**  
Fall Flea Market

**October 28**  
Ghost Walk in Ambler

**November 12**  
Meet General Meade  
*Presented by Pennsylvania Humanities Council Speaker Anthony Waskie*

**December 10**  
Holiday Party



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER!**

**Membership Chairperson:**  
*Mary Lou McFarland*

Please remember to complete your membership renewal form and mail it to:

**WVHS Membership**  
**500 Trinity Place**  
**Ambler, PA 19002-5836**

Checks should be made payable to WVHS. If you have any questions, please call me at 215-542-9381.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS ~ October 2007 and upcoming events!

# Wissahickon Valley Historical Society

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Mon., Oct. 8	<b>General Business Meeting</b> . . . . . 7:30 pm • <i>Lecture: The Amana Society of Iowa – Arthur Driedger, WVHS Speaker</i>
Sat., Oct. 13	<b>Fall Market Day / Flea Market</b> at the Schoolhouse . . . 8:00am-2:00pm
Mon., Oct. 22	<b>WVHS Board Meeting</b> . . . . . 7:00 pm
Sun., Oct. 28	<b>Ghost Walk in Ambler</b> . . . . . time to be announced
Mon., Nov. 12	<b>General Business Meeting</b> . . . . . 7:30 pm • <i>Lecture: Meet General Meade – Presented by Pennsylvania Humanities Council Speaker Anthony Waskie</i>
Mon., Nov. 26	<b>WVHS Board Meeting</b> . . . . . 7:00 pm
Mon., Dec. 10	<b>General Business Meeting/Holiday Covered Dish</b> . . . to be announced

*The Wissahickon Valley Historical Society Newsletter is published once a month during the membership season.  
General Membership Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month, and are open to the public.*

**Wissahickon Valley Historical Society • 799 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 • 215.646.6541 • [www.wvalleyhs.org](http://www.wvalleyhs.org)**

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