



Join us for the January meeting

January 11, 2010
at the Blue Bell Library
7:30 p.m.

Program: History of the Elmwood Park Zoo

Learn about this local community
resource and its history.

In 1924 the land and a handful of deer
were donated to the Borough of
Norristown. Over the years it has
focused its collection and expanded its
mission to include fostering the
appreciation of wildlife and habitat. Our
speaker is **William Konstant**,
Executive Director and CEO of the zoo.
A social time follows the program.

Honoring Our Roots

As we celebrate the placement of
our 1895 Schoolhouse on the National
Registry, it seems appropriate to celebrate
longtime members who have made this
possible. This will be a monthly column.
Please consider submitting a short bio of
a member that you would like to honor.

Bill and Helen Missfeldt came to their
first society meeting at the 1970's at Boehm's
Church. When it
was announced
that the
Schoolhouse
furnace needed
attention, Bill
volunteered to
help. He soon
found himself
master caretaker
of the 1895
Schoolhouse -
taking on the job
from **Dutch
Greiner**.



Bill and
Helen have been
stepping up to
meet the needs
ever since. Bill has served as the society's
treasurer, and Bill and Helen have worked on
programs and Market Day and as docents.

Long time members **Art and Janice
Driedger** (see next month's newsletter) first
invited the Missfeldts to a WVHS meeting. Art
and Bill met through Boy Scouts. The Missfeldts
then introduced the Driedgers to the Liberty Bell
Wanderers, a local hiking group.

Born in NYC, Bill and Helen settling on
Mercer Hill Road, Ambler when Bill came to
work for Atlas Chemical Co. A mechanical
engineer, he helped automate the production of
blasting caps.

Always problem solvers, Bill and Helen
have consistently been willing to take on jobs -
big or small - to help the society and its mission.
What a wonderful model for us all. Thanks, Bill
and Helen.

Short Notes: Member **Judy Baigis** was named Citizen of the Week by the The Ambler Gazette in its Dec. 30 issue. Congratulations, Judy. A well deserved honor.

Recent additions to our collection include a woman's Victorian mourning ensemble donated by **Abe Addonizio** and an early print of Spring House Tavern donated by **Ginny Sinn**.

Dave Darnesto recently visited the Schoolhouse looking for photos of historic Ambler to decorate the halls of the Ambler Rest Center/Brighten Health Care.

One of many notes received from Blue Bell students after the third graders visited the Schoolhouse: **Dear Friend, Thank you very much for the tour of the schoolhouse. My class and I learned a lot. One of the things I learned was that the children would have to go to the well for water. Another thing I learned was that there were big windows because there was no electricity. School was different back in 1895. Thanks again, Anna**

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Dates of Interest -

- Jan. 11 General Meeting - Program: History of the Elmwood Park Zoo, 7:30 p.m.
Blue Bell Library, Skippack Pk.
- Jan. 25 Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 8 General Meeting - Program: Meet George Washington's Cook, 7:30 p.m.
Blue Bell Library, Skippack Pk.

Plans for the **May 16th celebration** continue to develop. Please put the date on your calendar.

Check www.wvalleyhs.org for news and updates.



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