



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

**Vol. 11, Issue 7,
May 2010**



Join us as we
celebrate our
35th
Anniversary
and the listing
of the Whitpain
Public School -
1895 Building
on the National
Registry of
Historic
Places.

Tours and children's activities.
Sunday, May 16, 2010. 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Donations of cookies for refreshments are welcome.

***See page 3 for details about the
May 10 meeting.....Collecting and Rebuilding
Classic/Antique Cars***

Wissahickon Valley Historical Society
Serving Ambler, Lower Gwynedd, Whitpain Communities
Volume 11, Issue 7 - May 2010

Work Crew Readies Schoolhouse for the 16th

On Saturday, May 1, numerous society members dusted, vacuumed, mopped, and enjoyed each other's company. It only took a couple of hours with all the busy hands. Thanks to **Russ and Jean Bellavance, Donna Cogan, Jeffrey Hahn, Peg Johnston, Jerry Miklosh, Josephine Sawicki, Emmy Simon, and John and Keiko Simon. Margaret Cass** stopped by to deliver the final check for the stained glass window restoration and installation. **Neal Bradley, John**



Simon, and Bob Whittock constructed the showcase and lighting for the window.



Many thanks!



Join us for the May 10 meeting of the Society

Members **Neal Bradley and John Simon** will share their enthusiasm for and expertise about old cars (classic and antique). They will bring their examples (i.e. treasures) for inspection and answer questions - e.g. what is the difference between a classic car and an antique car, where do you get parts,

The final plans for the 16th will be shared, and light refreshments will be served by the **Missfeldts** and the **Johnstons**.

Meet at the Schoolhouse at 7:30 on May 10. Bring a friend.

Honoring Our Roots



This month we honor **Marie and Frank Russo Sr.** - founding members of the society and parents of long time president Frank Jr.

In Oct. this year Marie and Frank will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Having lived in the area their whole lives, they have a rich and deep set of local memories.

Marie grew up in Ambler and various members of her family worked for the Keasby-Mattison enterprises. Marie and Frank met when Frank attended a dance at what is known as the Sons of Italy. After WWII the couple married and settled in Ambler. Frank worked as a presser at H. Freeman & Co. - one of the areas many clothing manufacturing companies. He also worked as a barber in his own shop in Ambler. (When he retired, he donated many items from his shop to

our museum - now on display.)

Marie says that son **Frank, Jr.** was always interested in history and took the family on many trips. They traveled to D.C., Williamsburg, Winterthur - some times on the bus. Frank also had his parents drive him to the King Manor antique mall in Bridgeport each week where Frank, from the age of 13, had his own shop. Marie's brother, Bob, encouraged Frank, Jr.'s interest in antiques.

Both Marie and Frank helped with the original restoration of the Schoolhouse. Frank remembers that when the society moved in, the wall between the kitchen and the bathroom was only 6 feet tall. He and Dutch Greiner built the wall to the ceiling. (Thanks, guys!) Marie for many years cleaned the Schoolhouse before each meeting.

Many thanks, Frank and Marie, for your hard work and inspiration.

Mark Your Calendar -

May 10 - May meeting - 1895 Schoolhouse - 7:30 p.m.

Program - Collecting and Rebuilding Classic/Antique Cars

Neal Bradley and John Simon

May 16 - Open House - 1895 Schoolhouse - 1:30 - 4 p.m. Celebrating the Society's 35th Anniversary and its naming to the National Registry of Historic Places

Also on May 16 - Open House at the Franklinville School on Morris Road and the Evans Mumbauer Mill - 1 - 4 p.m.

News Briefs

*Many thanks to **Jeff Hahn** who has replumbed the bathroom at the Schoolhouse.

***Emmy Simon** recently donated items used in spinning and weaving that complement our existing collection. Watch for an article on spinning and weaving in a fall newsletter.

***Sandra Wilson** recently donated two AMCHEM tie tacks that belonged her father **Frank**.

*If you have an idea for a program for next year, please share it. This years programs resulted from ideas from numerous members.

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