

Beautiful Designs Inspired By You ...

Wood Mode
FINE CUSTOM CABINETS



Sugarbridge
Kitchen & Bath

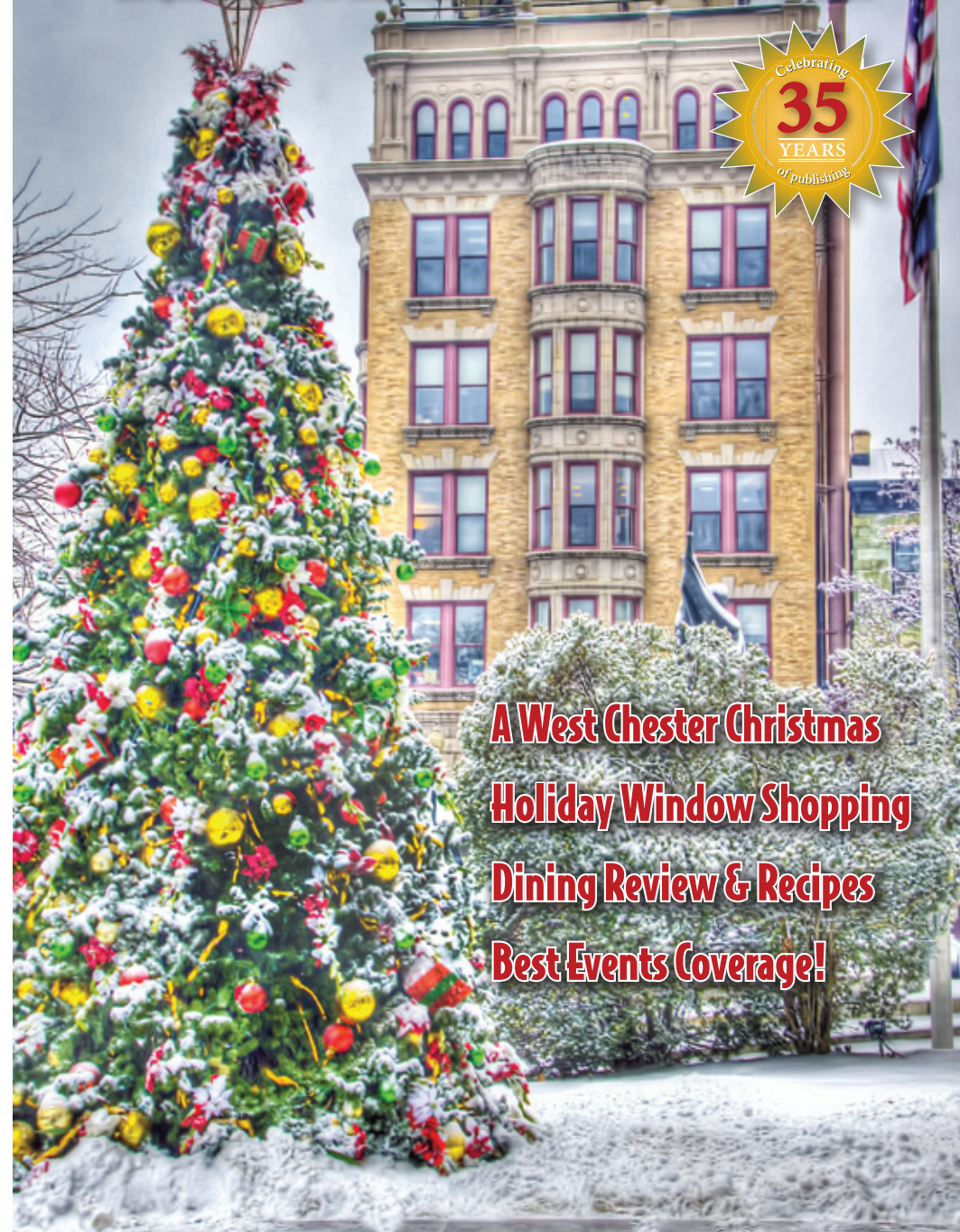
610.524.6091 • www.sugarbridge.com • Paoli, PA

VISIT US AT OUR NEW SHOWROOM IN THE PAOLI DESIGN CENTER

DECEMBER 2011
County Lines

\$3.95

Unique places, interesting events, fine dining, great shopping and
the special lifestyle of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Northern Delaware



**A West Chester Christmas
Holiday Window Shopping
Dining Review & Recipes
Best Events Coverage!**

KURTZ COLLECTION

RUG AND HOME



THE MOST UNIQUE GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

1010 N. UNION ST. WILMINGTON, DE 19805
302.654.0442 WWW.KURTZCOLLECTION.COM

CBS Sunday Morning reports:

YANGMING

IS THE

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT IN AMERICA!

Top 100 Awards
San Francisco

See the video at
yangmingrestaurant.com

two acclaimed chefs
inspired Chinese
and fusion
cuisine



Haverford & Conestoga Rds, Bryn Mawr 610.527.3200

Discover our other award-winning restaurants:

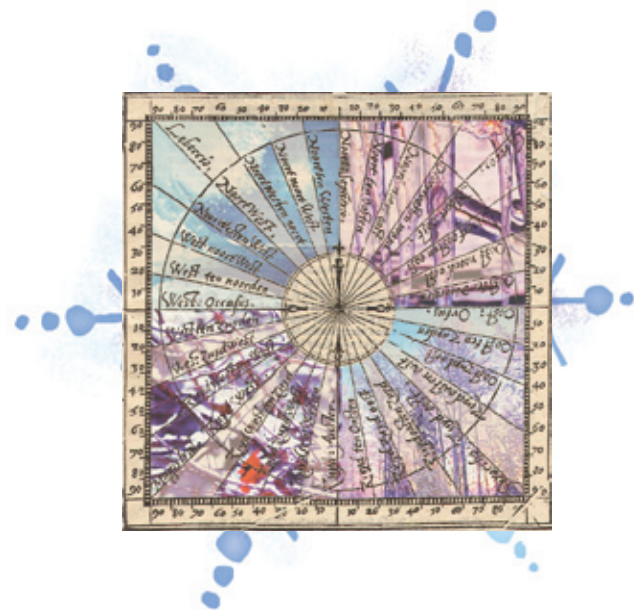
No 1 Gift Idea: Gift Certificates. Order now.

Nectar Berwyn • 610-725-9000
CinCin Chestnut Hill • 215-242-8800
Mandarin Garden Willow Grove • 215-657-3993



other colors

"A new art gallery that looks like it should be located in Manhattan's tony Tribeca or Soho neighborhoods is now open in the Eagleview Town Center." DAILY LOCAL NEWS



W I N T E R ELEMENTS

WINTER ARTWORK IN ALL MEDIA

SHOW RUNS 11.11.11 - 1.14.12 & FEATURES THE WORK OF:

- Nathan Laing
- Jim Graham
- Kimberly Knorr
- Robert Lott
- Yvonne Wilkins
- Bill Rahling
- Mary Brooks Brown
- Nicole Stevenson
- Michele Foster
- John Hannafin
- and more!

Follow Other Colors [f](#) [t](#) [You Tube](#)

610.458.4200 | info@othercolorsgallery.com
543 Wellington Square | Eagleview | Exton, PA 19341

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT EAGLEVIEWSM TOWN CENTER



Eagleview Town Center – comprised of the LiveWork and Town Center businesses – has been designed to perfectly accommodate your lifestyle. Offering superior dining, shopping and a beautifully landscaped park, the Town Center offers a convenient solution for your everyday needs.

For more Town Center info,
go to InEagleview.com

TOWN CENTER BUSINESSES

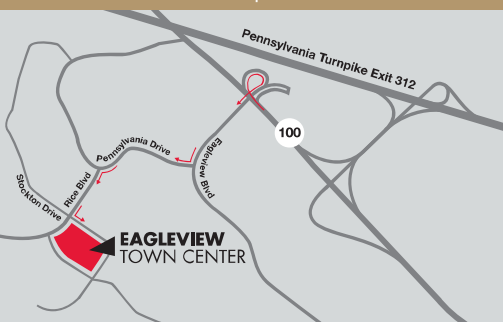
- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Nudy's Cafe | Town Center Pharmacy |
| Gemini Hair Design Studio & Spa | Main Line Lighting & Design |
| Other Colors Gallery | Simply Yoga Studios |
| Wellington Square Bookshop | Chester Springs Family Practice |
| Brickside Grille | Passion for Fitness |
| ALB Accounting Services, LLC | Pediatric Care of Chester County |
| Invitations By Design | The YMCA at Eagleview |
| Edward Jones | |

 **THE HANKIN GROUPSM**

610.458.1900
HankinGroup.com



Directions to Eagleview Town Center in Exton, PA
from Route 100 North or PA Turnpike Exit 312



Nationally Recognized

But Close to Home



Patti Brennan, CFP



1560 McDaniel Drive • West Chester, PA 19380
610.429.9050-phone • 610.429.9279-fax
www.keyfinancialinc.com











RECOGNIZED IN:


Barron's Top 100 Women Financial Advisors (from 2006)
Fortune One of America's Top 100 Independent Advisors (2008)
Wealth Manager 50 Most Influential Women in Wealth (2009)
Worth One of the Nation's Top Wealth Advisors (from 2009)
Philadelphia Business Journal #2 Top Wealth Advisor (2010, 2011)
Barron's Top 1,000 Financial Advisors (from 2006)
Only 40 Recognized in Pennsylvania

Raised in Radnor, PA, Patricia Brennan has been providing Wealth Management advice right here in West Chester for over 25 years. She is a Georgetown University graduate and earned her CFP® designation in 1990. She is a recognized leader in her industry and serves on the National Advisory Board for Royal Alliance. On a local level, Patti, her husband, Ed, and their four children reside in West Chester, where she is also active in her community. Patti currently serves as a board member for the Chester County Economic Development Council, Cuddle My Kids, and was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees for The Chester County Hospital and Health System.

Securities and Advisory Services offered through Royal Alliance Associates, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC and a registered investment advisor. Advisory services offered through Key Financial, Inc., a registered investment advisor, not affiliated with Royal Alliance Associates, Inc. *Fortune's* Top 100 Independent Advisors is based upon assets under management. *Worth's* Nation's Top Wealth Advisors are selected based on experience, education, certifications, fiduciary status, compliance record, wealth management services, methods of compensation, and scope of current business. For more information visit: www.worth.com/index.php/about-worth. Candidates for the *Philadelphia Business Journal* and *Barron's* were determined by The Winner's Circle. Candidates were valued on criteria such as assets under management, revenues, experience, and record of regulatory compliance and complaints. Candidates were further vetted based on in-depth interviews and discussions with management, peers and customers, as well as professional achievements and community involvement. The Winner's Circle does not receive compensation from participating firms or their affiliates, financial advisors or the media in exchange for rankings. In addition to the criteria used for the *Barron's* article and the *Philadelphia Business Journal*, *Wealth Manager* magazine takes into consideration service to industry organizations and mentoring to others. Third-party rankings from rating services or publications are no guarantee of future investment success. Working with a highly-ranked advisor does not ensure that a client or prospective client will experience a certain level of performance or results. These rankings should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor by any client nor are they representative of any one client's evaluation.

KIT ANSTEY REAL ESTATE TEAM

 Kit Anstey 610.836.2348	 Debbie West 610.563.3861	 Cleo Elkinton 610.529.0227	 Brad Moore 610.721.0226	 Barbara Cropper Customer Care Manager 610.430.3001
 Brian Nelson 610.513.1765	 Bobbie Surrick 610.563.4067	 Amy Croce 610.761.7600		

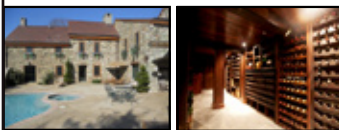
 **Prudential** Fox & Roach, REALTORS® www.AnsteyTeam.com

West Chester Call 610-430-3001 / 610.431.1100x3001

Willistown Township, Malvern

This home is one of four structures on the property. Situated on 5 acres, the original home dates back to the early 1700's with additions from the early 1800's to present. There is a carriage barn that has been completely renovated, a kennel room, a remodeled one bedroom cottage for guests, an 1800's stone bank barn. The main residence has undergone a 5 year total restoration, which features 5 bedrooms, 3 full & 4 partial baths. A wine cellar & wine tasting room. A grand first floor master bedroom suite. The highest of quality in moldings of solid cherry, the finest in stone & tile. Also includes an in ground heated pool.

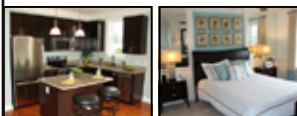
**Great Valley
Schools
\$2,300,000**



New Townhomes in Borough of West Chester



**Union Station
Starting at \$269,900**



www.UnionStationatWestChester.com
West Chester's newest & most affordable Townhome community. Affordably priced from the high \$260,000's. One quick delivery is available, 3 other models available with time to make your own selections. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car garages. 9 ft ceilings, Energy Star. For a limited time, free upgrades are included plus a \$1500 gift card at closing to buyer. Walking distance to public transportation and all downtown Borough of West Chester amenities. Open weekly, visit our furnished model. For more information call Kit Anstey or Brad Moore at 610.721.0226

County Lines



DECEMBER 2011

Volume XXXV, Number 4

PUBLISHER / Edwin Malet

EDITOR / Jo Anne Durako

PRODUCTION MANAGER / Alex Bianco

ASSOCIATE EDITOR / Marci Tomassone

ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION MANAGER / Jane Elizabeth Dols

DINING OUT EDITOR / Lise Monty

FOOD EDITOR / Laura Muzzi Brennan

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES / Sue Sontagh • Vanessa Van Loan

BUSINESS MANAGER / Debra M. French

EDITORIAL INTERN / Jaimielynn Cooper

ASSISTANT WEBMASTER / Amy M. Guthrie

SUBSCRIPTIONS / \$39 — 1 year • Mail to: 893 S. Matlack St., Ste. 150, West Chester, PA 19382
County Lines Vol. XXXV, No. 4. Copyright, 2011 by ValleyDel Publications. All rights reserved. *County Lines* and *County Lines Magazine* (ISSN 0195-4121) are registered names of ValleyDel Publications, Inc. Use of these names without the consent of ValleyDel Publications, Inc. may subject the infringer to penalty and suit as provided by law. ValleyDel Publications, Inc., 893 S. Matlack Street, Suite 150, West Chester, PA 19382. 610-918-9300. info@valleydel.com; CountyLinesMagazine.com.

Happy Holidays, From Our Family to Yours!



Gateway Medical Associates, Chester County's largest independent physician practice, has been serving our community since 1996. Gateway strives to provide the highest quality primary and specialty care with a focus on our patients' wellbeing and health.

Our 33 physicians and nurse practitioners provide quality care from any of our 9 convenient locations, including our newest location in Delaware County at Gateway Newtown/Edgemont Family Practice.

Leader in Quality and Technology to Enhance Your Health Care.

NEW PATIENTS ALWAYS WELCOMED!



NCQA Level 3 Certified Patient
Centered Medical Home Practice

Coatesville

Downingtown

Lionville

Newtown/Edgemont

West Chester



610-423-8181

Visit us on facebook!

twitter

Endocrinology

Family Practice

Geriatric Medicine

Internal Medicine

Distinctive Plants • Home & Garden Accents

MOSTARDI
N U R S E R Y

We'll help you
gather all the special
things you need
this holiday season....

Come visit
our Christmas
garden shop.



4033 West Chester Pike (Route 3) • Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-356-8035 • www.mostardi.com

WALTER J. COOK JEWELER

Established 1946

*Something Beautiful
this Season*

**Diamond Peace
Pendant Necklace**
St. Barth's Collection
by Lika Behar

Chestnut Village Shoppes | 36 Chestnut Road | Paoli, PA 19301

610.644.5347

www.walterjcookjeweler.com

County Lines

December 2011

26

CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE **DuPont Theatre**

Celebrate the season with a holiday dazzler at the beautiful DuPont Theatre, Dec. 6-11.

29

IN STITCHES: **Unraveling Their Stories** Mary Brooks & Ellen Endslow

A rare opportunity to see a sampling of exquisite schoolgirl samplers in this exhibit at the Chester County Historical Society.

33

O' CHRISTMAS TREE Jaimielynn Cooper

Tips for a great (ever)green holiday, plus some local places to cut your own tree.

37

MERLIN'S SURPRISE Cooky McClung

A favorite writer tells a tale of a classic Christmas pageant with some added drama.

40

WEST CHESTER FOR THE HOLIDAYS Katie L. Doherty & Malcolm Johnstone

There's a four-day Old-Fashioned Christmas celebration, shopping, dining and events galore in charming West Chester this season.

54

HOLIDAY WINDOW SHOPPING

Our round-up of wonderful shops, outstanding restaurants and special services for your Yule season. Let us be your guide.



26



29



33



40

65

DINING IN STYLE **Más Mexicali Cantina** Lise Monty

69

BRANDYWINE TABLE **Holiday Cookies** Laura Muzzi Brennan

DEPARTMENTS

13 OF SPECIAL NOTE

14 EVENTS

82 INDEX

Cover photo by Tim Vaughan, TimlynVaughanPhotos.com

GETTING ENGAGED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

Casa di Fiori
THE INN AT LEOLA VILLAGE

Wedding Venues
Outdoor Ceremony Garden
Lodging
Spa



Best of Weddings
The Knot

Premier Destination Weddings



www.TheInnatLeolaVillage.com
717.656.7002



OF SPECIAL NOTE . . .

People's Light & Theatre Presents
Treasure Island: A Musical Panto
Through January 8

Mother Hawkins and Long John Silver return for the holidays singing, dancing, staggering and swimming through a few of the Seven Seas in search of Billy Bones' treasure. A holiday tradition! People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Check for curtain times. \$35-\$45. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.



Vox Ama Deus Camerata Consort
Yuletide Concert
December 16

The a capella voices of Vox Renaissance Consort singers in lush period costume and the mellow yet exciting sound of baroque instruments of Camarata Ama Deus combine forces for their debut as the all new Camarata Consort. Kimmel Center, Perelman Theater, Broad & Spruce Sts., Philadelphia. 8 p.m. \$20-\$60. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.



The Spirit of Christmas in
Historic New Castle, DE
December 10

Private homes open for touring, while shops, museums and restaurants show their holiday finest. Musical events take place throughout the day, plus a Secret Santa Shop and tree lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. Pick up a brochure at New Castle Presbyterian Church, 25 E. Second St., New Castle. 10 to 5:30. All events are free. 302-328-3279; NewCastlePresChurch.org.



A Brandywine Christmas
Through January 8

A holiday tradition featuring an extensive O-gauge model railroad, natural "critter" ornaments made by museum volunteers on holiday trees (Critter Sale, **Dec. 3-4**), and a charming new dollhouse display. Brandywine River Museum, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Open daily (except Christmas), 9:30 to 4:30. \$5-\$8. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.



Photo: Carlos Alejandro

EVENTS

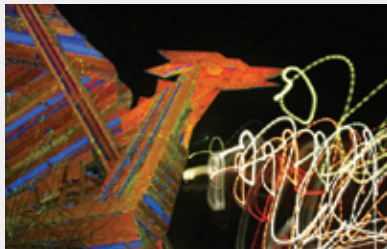
Noteworthy This Month

Through January 15
"THE SOUND OF MUSIC." The Rodgers and Hammerstein classic at The Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Phone or check the website for curtain times. \$37-\$60. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

December 2-3
MALVERN'S VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS. Events begin in Burke Park, for the lighting of the town tree. Then stroll King Street, stop at vendors and visit shops offering complimentary refreshments. Also, musical performances including the Philadelphia Boys' Choir, children's shows, carriage rides and more through Sat. Fri, 6 to 9; Sat, 10 to 2. 610-296-9096; MalvernsVictorianChristmas.org.



December 10
PHOENIXVILLE'S 8th ANNUAL FIREBIRD FESTIVAL. Annual burning of the Firebird (Phoenix) at Bridge St. & Taylor Alley. Activities begin at 4, with arts and crafts vendors and refreshments. The burning of the Phoenix is at 8. 610-917-1228; FirebirdFestival.com.



December 10
DELAWARE ART MUSEUM'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR. This year's tour will feature a remarkable group of studios and beautiful homes decorated for the holidays. Visit the Museum before or after your tour for seasonal music. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 10 to 4. \$25/\$30 at the door. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

Art & Craft Shows

Ongoing
CHESTER COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION. A non-profit, cultural organization promoting participation in the arts through instruction, exhibitions and community outreach. Exhibits: **through Dec. 16**, "Asian Elegance - Paintings by Luo Hong" and "The 5 Agents - Wu Xing." 100 N. Bradford Ave. 610-696-5600; ChesCoArt.org.

Through December 12
"HAVANA 59," PAINTINGS AND GRAPHICS OF HAVANA, CUBA BY GEORGE H. ROTHACKER. An exhibition and sale at the Warner Library of Eastern University. Benefits the University's Asperger's Program. Eastern Univ., 1300 Eagle Rd., St. Davids. Free. 610-975-4312; Havana-59.com.

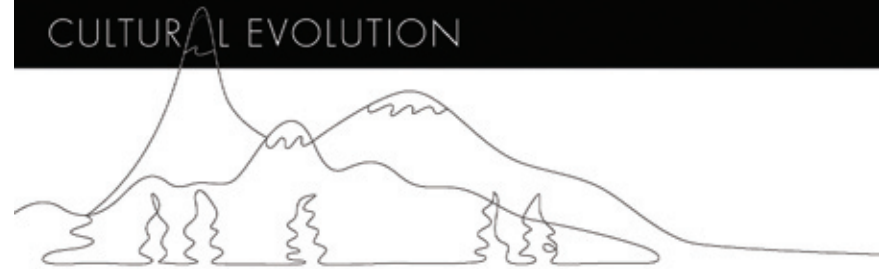
Through January 15
16th ANNUAL BRYN MAWR REHAB HOSPITAL ART ABILITY EXHIBIT & SALE. Artists from around the world with physical, cognitive, visual and hearing disabilities submit their work to this juried exhibition and sale. 414 Paoli Pk., Malvern. Daily 9 to 9. 484-596-5710; MainLineHealth.org/ArtAbility.



December 2-11
MAIN LINE ART CENTER'S HOLIDAY FINE CRAFT SALE. Handmade by professional artists from the region. 746 Panmure Road, Haverford. **Dec. 1**, Members' Early Shopping, 5 to 7 pm; **Dec. 2**, 10 to 9; **Dec. 3-4, 9-10**, 10 to 5; **Dec. 5-8**, 10 to 7; **Dec. 11**, 10 to 3. 610-525-0272; MainLineArt.org.



CULTURAL EVOLUTION



Rustic - refined.
 RUSTIC STYLE MEETS BALDWIN QUALITY.



BALDWIN | *Make a Statement.*

WWW.BALDWINHARDWARE.COM

Wolfe's Baldwin Brass Center

Family owned and operated for over 26 years
**** Preferred Baldwin Showroom with the largest selection in the area ****



101 East King Street
 Malvern, PA 19355
 610-408-8533

www.wolfebrass.com

VoxAmaDeus | 2011-2012 SEASON XXV

Silver Anniversary Season

RENAISSANCE NOËL

VOX RENAISSANCE CONSORT

- **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 8 PM**
The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Chestnut Hill
- **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 7&8 PM**
Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 4 PM**
Bryn Mawr College – Thomas Great Hall

HANDEL'S MESSIAH*

AMA DEUS ENSEMBLE

- **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 7 PM**
The Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia
- **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 7 PM**
Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 4 PM**
Daylesford Abbey, Paoli
- **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 7 PM**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chestnut Hill
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 4 PM**
St. Katharine of Siena Church, Wayne

YULETIDE*

CAMERATA CONSORT

- **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 8 PM**
Kimmel Center – Perelman Theater

GERSHWIN GALA

AMA DEUS ENSEMBLE

- **FRIDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 8 PM**
Kimmel Center – Perelman Theater

*BAROQUE INSTRUMENT ORCHESTRA

FOR INFORMATION AND TICKETS 610.688.2800 | www.VoxAmaDeus.org

www.KimmelCenter.org | 215.893.1999

December 2–January 21
WAYNE ART CENTER CRAFTFORMS 2011. Now in its 17th year, this is one of the leading contemporary craft exhibitions in the country. 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon-Fri, 9 to 5; Sat, 10 to 4. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

Family Fun

See also: *Holiday Events & Tours*

December 3–4
SCHUYLKILL VALLEY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE. See model freight and passenger car trains rumbling over high trestle bridges, through towns, around mountains and through tunnels. 400 S. Main St., Phoenixville. 1 to 5 pm. Free. 610-935-1126; SVMRRC.com.

First Friday, Second Saturday

December 2
FIRST FRIDAYS. Stroll through area towns to find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. **Berwyn**, 610-203-4543; BerwynDevonBusiness.com. **Kennett Square**, 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City**, 717-509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. **A Main Line ARTitude**, with free trolley from Bryn Mawr to Ardmore, 610-642-4040; FirstFridayMainLine.com. **Oxford**, 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **Phoenixville**, 610-933-3070; PhxFirstFriday.com. **Wayne**, 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. **West Chester**, 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com.

December 10
MEDIA'S SECOND SATURDAYS. Media's version of First Fridays. 610-566-5210; MediaArtsCouncil.org.

Fundraising & Benefits

December 1–2
THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA PRESENT A HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE. The area's finest boutiques participate to benefit CHOP, selling clothing, accessories, fine jewelry, home accessories, art and collectibles. Preview Thurs, 5 to 9, \$100-\$400; shopping Fri, 9 to 3, luncheon available, noon to 2, \$10-\$30. Merion Cricket Club, 325 Montgomery Ave., Haverford. \$10-\$35. 267-426-6489; Giving.Chop.edu.

Gardens & Greens

December 3
SCOTT ARBORETUM HOLIDAY GREENS SALE. Gorgeous fresh greens and holiday accents at the Wister Center, 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. 10 to 2. 610-328-8025; ScottArboretum.org.

December 3–6
TYLER ARBORETUM GREENS SALE AND WREATH WORKSHOPS. **Dec. 3**, The Country Gardeners Annual Greens Sale with fresh greens, hand-made wreaths, swags, ornaments and other natural holiday decorations available, 9:30 to 1:30. **Dec. 4-6**, Holiday Wreath Workshops – create a unique holiday wreath using plant materials from

the Arboretum's extensive collections, Sun, 1 to 3:30; Mon-Tues, 7 to 9:30 pm. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

December 6
FESTIVE WREATH WORKSHOP AT THE DELAWARE CENTER FOR HORTICULTURE. Create a beautiful wreath or table arrangement from an unusual collection of fresh greens, dried flowers, seeds, fruit and ribbons. 1810 N. DuPont St., Wilmington. 5:30. \$30-\$40. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.

Holiday Events & Tours

See *West Chester* section for more events

Through December 19
HOLIDAY EVENTS IN DOWNTOWN KENNETT SQUARE. **Dec. 4, 11, 18**, Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides, throughout town, leaving from State & Union Sts. 12 to 3, free. **Dec. 5, 12, 19**, Holiday Movies at Kennett Flash. **Dec. 8**, Ladies Shopping Night. **Dec. 10**, Breakfast with Santa at Kennett Square Inn, res. req. and Teddy Bear Tea Party with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Bayard Taylor Library. **Dec. 11**, Annual Holiday Home Tour, see TOURS. **Dec. 15**, Men's Shopping Night. **Dec. 18**, Breakfast with Santa at Kennett Fire Co., res. req. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.



Through December 30
HISTORIC ODESSA FOUNDATION HOSTS "A JOYFUL TASHA TUDOR CHRISTMAS." A special exhibit in the Wilson-Warner House by beloved children's book illustrator Tasha Tudor. Each room will be interpreted based on Tudor's Vermont Christmas celebrations and illustrations. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4:30; Sun, 1 to 4:30 (Mon-Fri, Dec. 26-31). Odessa is located between Rts. 1 & 13. 302-378-4119; HistoricOdessa.org.

Through December 31
MORRIS ARBORETUM'S HOLIDAY GARDEN RAILWAY. Visitors of all ages will be "wow-ed" by a quarter mile of track featuring loops and tunnels with different rail lines and cable cars, bridges and model trains, all set in the lovely winter garden of the Morris Arboretum. The display and build-





Hardwood Furniture

American Hardwood
Unlimited Designs
Wood & Finish Options
Old World Quality
Hand Finished

Leather Furniture

American Made
Hardwood Frames
Eight-way Hand-tied
Top-grain Leather



Ph: (610) 970-4340
Rt. 100 | Pottstown, PA
www.allegacyfurniture.com

MADE IN USA

Furniture with a future!

LOCAL FARM MARKETS

BRYN MAWR FARMERS MARKET, Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station. Sat, 9 to 1. BrynMawrFarmersMarket.com.

EAST GOSHEN FARMERS MARKET, E. Goshen Park, Paoli Pk., East Goshen. Thurs, 3 to 7. EastGoshenFarmersMarket.blogspot.com.

KENNETT SQUARE FARMERS MARKET, downtown. Winter Market, 1st, 3rd Fri, 2 to 4. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

LANCASTER CENTRAL MARKET, 23 N. Market St. Tues, Fri, 6 to 4; Sat, 6 to 2. 717-735-6890; CentralMarketLancaster.com.

WEST CHESTER GROWERS MARKET, Chestnut & Church Sts. Dec-Apr, 1st & 3rd Sat, 9 to 1. 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.

WILMINGTON'S URBAN FARM STAND, 12th & Brandywine Sts. Sat, 10 to 2. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.

ings, including Philadelphia-area landmarks, are all made of natural materials to form a perfectly proportioned miniature landscape. 100 E. North-western Ave., Philadelphia. Daily 10 to 4. \$7-\$16. 215-247-5777; MorrisArboretum.org.

Through January 1

CHRISTMAS AT HAGLEY. See the du Pont family ancestral home, Eleutherian Mills, dressed for the holidays. Family activities, special sales days at the Hagley Store and other events and programs. 200 Hagley Rd., Wilmington. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$4-\$11. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

Through January 8

YULETIDE AT WINTERTHUR. Holiday displays from past Yuletides and holiday traditions of Americans from the Colonial period through World War II. Rt. 52, 6 mi. NW of Wilmington. For the first time, the tour is free to Winterthur members and is included in general adm. (\$5-\$18) for nonmembers. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

Through January 8

CHRISTMAS AT LONGWOOD. Dazzling floral displays, stunning trees, holiday music. New this year, Longwood is transformed into a gingerbread fantasy featuring imaginative displays throughout the Gardens. Rt. 1, Kennett Square. 9 to 9. \$8-\$18. **Timed admission tickets only.** 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

Through January 8

VICTORIAN HOLIDAY TOURS: "A CURRIER & IVES CHRISTMAS." Experience Christmas at



the turn of the 20th century at historic Penny-packer Mills. The theme throughout the house this year will reflect Currier & Ives winter scenes. 5 Haldeman Rd., Schwenksville. Tues-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 1 to 4. Free (\$2 donation). 610-287-9349; MontcoPA.org.

December 2

CHRISTMAS PARADE IN PHOENIXVILLE. The parade starts at 7 at the Borough Hall, 140 Church St., and continues to Starr St. then Bridge St., where the tree lighting will be at the corner of Bridge and Main Sts. 8 pm. 610-933-8801; Phoenixville.org.

December 2

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS IN DOWNTOWN OXFORD. Lots of activities for the whole family including carriage rides, jingle hayrides, tree lighting, holiday scavenger hunt, and, of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus. High St., Oxford. 5 to 8 pm. 610-467-0301.

December 2

HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS HOLIDAY STROLL. Tree lighting ceremony followed by carol singing and refreshments, children's holiday crafts and a story time. Special food treats and a visit from Santa make the evening a treat for all. Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 6 to 8:30 pm. Free. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.



December 2-3

WAYNE HOTEL'S OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION. **Dec. 2,** Christmas tree lighting, carriage rides, carols and ornament decorating; **Dec. 3,** Santa will greet children on the porch of the Wayne Hotel. WayneChristmas.com.

December 2, 15

LITITZ HOLIDAY EVENTS. **Dec. 2,** Christmas in the Park tree lighting and songfest in Lititz Springs Park, 18 N. Broad St., 6 pm; **Dec. 15,** Carol Sing at the Moravian Church, 8 Church Square, 7 pm. 717-627-4723; LititzPA.com.

December 2-4

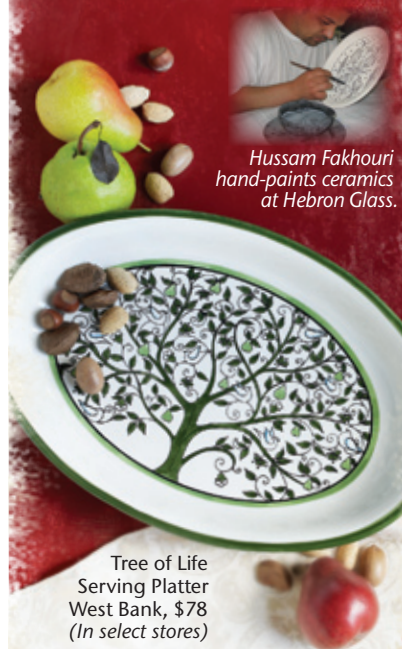
HAY CREEK HISTORICAL ASSOC. CHRISTMAS AT JOANNA FURNACE. Enjoy an evening in the parlors of colonial and Victorian families as they celebrate Christmas. Horse-drawn carriage rides, a Christmas Market, food, a bonfire, live nativity and walking tours. Rt. 10, 3 mi. N of Morgantown. Daily, 5 to 9. \$5. 610-286-0388; HayCreek.org.

December 2-4, 9-11

DEVON IN DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE. Fresh, locally grown Fraser and Douglas firs and holiday wreaths for sale; activities and surprises for children. Benefits Devon

Gifts WITH JOY & PURPOSE

A graceful, hand-painted serving piece to treasure, from a family workshop.



Hussam Fakhouri
hand-paints ceramics
at Hebron Glass.

Tree of Life
Serving Platter
West Bank, \$78
(In select stores)



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES®

CENTER CITY CHESTNUT HILL
EXTON KING OF PRUSSIA MEDIA
SOUDERTON WILMINGTON
www.tenthousandvillages.com

**Bring in this ad to receive
25% OFF one item.**

Offer valid at participating stores until 12/31/11.
Not valid with other discounts, purchase of
gift cards or Oriental rugs. 0604811

A Brandywine Christmas

November 25 through January 8

Open daily 9:30-4:30 • Open until 6, December 26-30

Delightful antique
dollhouse and dolls



Memorable
model trains



Charming
"critter" ornaments



BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM
A Museum of American and Regional Art
US Route 1, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania
610-388-2700 • brandywinemuseum.org

A Brandywine Christmas is supported by Otto's BMW, Herr Foods Inc., The Snelling Group at Merrill Lynch and The Frelinghuysen Foundation.

Horse Show and Country Fair Foundation and Devon Boy Scout Troop 50. Horse Show Grounds, Rt. 30, Devon. Fri, 4:30 to 7:30; Sat, 8:30 to 6; Sun, 10 to 4. 610-964-0550; TheDevonHorseShow.org.

December 2-18

DOWNTOWN LANCASTER FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Celebrate the holiday season in the City of Lancaster at the following events: **Through Dec. 18**, Visits With Santa, Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, 25 S. Queen St., Lancaster, Fri, 6 to 9; Sat, 10 to 3; Sun, noon to 3. **Dec. 3**, Breakfast with Santa, Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, 8:30 am, \$10. **Dec. 2, 9, 16**, horse-drawn carriage rides, departing from Fulton Bank, Penn Square, 6:30 to 9:30, \$2-\$5. For a complete list of all the entertainment and activities, visit LancasterCityEvents.com.



December 3

PHOENIXVILLE FEDERAL BANK & TRUST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AT COLONIAL THEATRE. Meet Santa, get your face painted, sing Christmas carols, and watch a movie at this annual holiday event. The party is free, but tickets are required and can be picked up at any PFB&T branch. 227 Bridge St. 2 pm. 610-917-0223; TheColonialTheatre.com.

December 3

COLONIAL PA PLANTATION CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM. See the farm decorated for the holidays. Ridley Creek State Park, Media. 11 to 4. \$6-\$8. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.

December 3-4

BRANDYWINE VALLEY WINE TRAIL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE. The wineries will be decorated in their holiday finery and will be hosting carolers, holiday musicians and special holiday sale pricing. For a complete list and schedule of events phone 866-390-4367 or visit BVWineTrail.com.

December 8-23

HOLIDAY EVENTS IN MEDIA. **Dec. 7, 14, 21**, carriage rides departing from the front of the Media Court House, Front St., 6 to 9 pm, \$5-\$10. **Dec. 10, 17-23**, Visit Santa, Santa's Village, Franklin Mint Credit Union, State & Olive Sts. 3 to 7. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPa.com.

December 9

THE GRAYSTONE SOCIETY "DECKS THE HALLS" WITH HOLIDAY MANSION TOURS AND A TOY TRAIN DISPLAY. Let the luminaries light your path. This is Christmas as it was during the turn of the century. Terracina will be decorated with Victorian-style ornaments. The Lukens Office Building has a multi-track O-gauge toy train

The Nutcracker DECEMBER 2-31

A holiday tradition with many performances in **County Lines** country. Phone or check websites for schedules and tickets.

Dec. 2-4: Ballet Theater of Lancaster

Lancaster Mennonite High School
2176 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster
717-672-0826
BalletTheaterOfLancaster.org

Dec. 10-31: Pennsylvania Ballet

Academy of Music, 1101 S. Broad St.
Philadelphia. 215-551-7000; PABallet.org

Dec. 9-11, 15, 17-18: Brandywine

Ballet, Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall
West Chester University, West Chester
610-696-2711; BrandywineBallet.com

Dec. 16-18: First State Ballet Theatre

302-658-7897; FirstStateBallet.com

Dec. 17-18: Wilmington Ballet Academy of the Dance

DuPont Theatre
1007 N. Market St., Wilmington
800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com



layout. The Brandywine Mansion will be opened to the tour for the first time. Santa will greet guests from a vintage fire truck. Canned goods are requested for the Coatesville Food Cupboard. Lukens Nat'l Hist. District, 50 S. First Ave., Coatesville. 4 to 7. 610-384-9282; LukensNHD.org.



December 10

THE MILL AT ANSELMA HOLIDAY FESTIVAL - AN 18TH CENTURY CHRISTMAS. An old-fashioned winter experience including craft-making, letter-writing to Santa, holiday gift shop and fea-

PEOPLE'S LIGHT & THEATRE

Treasure Island

THROUGH JANUARY 8TH
Everybody say "aargh!"

HIJINKS AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
CALL 610.644.3500 OR VISIT PEOPLESLIGHT.ORG

tured artisans from the summer farmer's market. 1730 Conestoga Rd. (Rt. 401), Chester Springs. 10 to 4. \$3-\$5. 610-827-1906; AnselmaMill.org.

December 11

HOLIDAYS AT THE WILLOWS. Holiday celebration that includes entertainment, music, refreshments and even a visit from Santa. The Willows Mansion, 490 Darby-Paoli Rd., Villanova. 2 to 4. 610-688-5600; RadnorParksAndRecreation.com.

December 12

BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM'S YOUNG FRIENDS YULETIDE REUNION. The Young Friends of the Brandywine Conservancy host their annual reunion with Santa. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Members and children, free; non-members \$10-\$15. 610-388-8315; YoungFriends.org.

Museums

Through January 8, 2012

WINTERTHUR MUSEUM. "Paint, Pattern & People: Furniture of Southeastern PA, 1725-1850," featuring nearly 200 objects focusing on the culture and creativity of the area's English- and German-speaking inhabitants. Winterthur, Rt. 52, 6 mi. NW of Wilmington. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$5-\$18. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

Music, Music, Music

December 2-4

VOX RENAISSANCE CONSORT — RENAISSANCE NOEL. Annual Christmas concert of motets and carols celebrates Renaissance music. **Dec. 2,** The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 8000 St. Martins La., Chestnut Hill, 8 pm; **Dec. 3,** Longwood Gardens, Rt. 1, Kennett Square, 7 and 8 pm; **Dec. 4,** Thomas Great Hall, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, 4 pm. \$10-\$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

December 2, 3-4, 10-11, 18

BRANDYWINE SINGERS HOLIDAY CONCERTS. **Dec. 2,** Old-Fashioned Christmas in West Chester; **Dec. 3-4, 10-11,** Chaddsford Winery, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford, 2 to 5 pm; **Dec. 18,** Carols By the Brandywine, Longwood Gardens, Rt. 1, Kennett Square, 7, 8 pm, included in gardens admission. TheBrandywineSingers.org.

December 3-4

KENNETT SYMPHONY'S "SOUNDS OF THE SEASON" HOLIDAY CONCERTS. Start your season festivities with the symphony's annual holiday concert — a family tradition. **Dec. 3,**



Kennett High School, 100 E. South St., Kennett Square. **Dec. 4,** International Cultural Center, Lincoln University. Both concerts, 2 pm. \$5-\$40. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

December 4

IMMACULATA SYMPHONY. Christmas Concert, "The Snowman," classical holiday favorites and a sing-along. Alumnae Hall, Immaculata University, King Rd., Immaculata. 7:30 pm. \$5-\$12. ImmaculataSymphony.org.

December 4

DELAWARE COUNTY SYMPHONY CONCERT. "From the Fleisher Collection," the music of Butterworth, Mozart, Lambert and Hindemith. Neumann Univ., Life Center, Meagher Theater, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$12-\$15. 610-356-5673; DCSMusic.org.

December 9

BERKS CLASSICAL CHILDREN'S CHORUS "HERE WE COME A-CAROLING." Music and readings of the season are presented at Trinity Lutheran Church, 527 Washington St., Reading. 7:30 For tickets, 610-898-7664; BCCCSings.org.

December 9, 10

COLONIAL THEATRE EVENTS. **Dec. 9,** Point Entertainment presents Dar Williams, 8 pm, \$20-\$35.50. **Dec. 10,** Billy Kelly and the Blah, Blah, Blahs, 2 pm, \$8.50. 227 Bridge St. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

December 11

OPEN MIC NIGHT AT THE OXFORD ARTS ALLIANCE. Performers of all trades are invited to schedule a 5-minute performance in a family-friendly atmosphere the second Sunday of the month. Oxford Arts Alliance, 38 S. Third St., Oxford. 5 to 8. \$2. 610-467-0301; OxfordArt.org.

December 11

MUSIC AT EMMANUEL, POTTSTOWN. The Reading Choral Society presents "Celebration of Light," music that will uplift, inspire and bring the joy the season. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 150 N. Hanover St., Pottstown. 5 pm. Free. 610-323-4312; EmmanuelPottstown.org.

DECEMBER 12, 19

VOX AMA DEUS ENSEMBLE — HANDEL'S MESSIAH. **Dec. 11,** Daylesford Abbey, 220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli, 4 pm. **Dec. 17,** St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 22 E. Chestnut Hill Ave., Philadelphia, 7 pm. **Dec. 18,** St. Katharine of Siena Church, 104 S. Aberdeen Ave., Wayne, 4 pm. \$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

December 16, 18

LANCASTER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — "SOUNDS OF THE SEASON." A concert for the whole family with familiar songs, sing-along carols and even yodeling. Franklin & Marshall College, Barshinger Center, College Ave., Lancaster. Fri, 7:30; Sat, 3 pm. \$22-\$42. 717-291-4420; LancasterSymphony.org.

DECEMBER 17

PENNSYLVANIA SYMPHONIC WINDS HOLIDAY CONCERT AT EXTON MALL. This premiere wind band performs beautiful holiday selections to brighten your season. 260 Exton Sq. Pkwy., Exton. 1 pm. PennsylvaniaSymphonicWinds.org.

PETER ZIMMERMAN ARCHITECTS
www.PZArchitects.com

Dutchie's Stone Works, LLC

- Patios
- Outdoor Living Spaces
- Fireplaces
- Historic Restoration
- Custom Homes
- Additions
- Retaining Walls
- Pool Decks

Stone • Brick • Block • Pointing
Dave Fisher • 717-587-8789 • www.dutchiesstoneworks.com

With Bayada...



“I am able to share the holidays with my family.”

- Home health aides provide companionship and assistance with daily living activities
- Nurses provide skilled care and manage chronic conditions
- Accredited and state licensed
- Direct billing to insurance companies
- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

BAYADA
NURSES
Home Care Specialists

King of Prussia **610-992-9200** | Main Line **610-658-7150** | Media **610-891-9400**



MORE TIME – MORE FRIENDS – MORE CHOICES – LIFE AT FOULKWAYS

Setting Standards of Excellence in Retirement Living Since 1967



1120 Meetinghouse Road, Gwynedd, PA 19436
215-643-2200 • www.foulkeways.org

Guided by Time-Honored Quaker Values



Foulkeways® at Gwynedd does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or sexual orientation.

Outdoor Fun

December 4

FUNKY SANTA 5K INDIVIDUAL OR 3-PERSON RELAY. Put on your best holiday costume and come out to this fun and festive event. There will be awards, food and prizes. Montgomery County Community College, 101 College Dr., Pottstown. Registration, 7:30 to 9 am; race starts at 9:15. \$18; \$45 for a team. 610-970-6500; MakeBreak.com.

December 11

2011 JINGLE BELL RUN AND WALK FOR ARTHRITIS. Kick off the holidays by helping others. Wear a holiday-themed costume, tie jingle bells to your shoelaces and run or walk a 5K route. Doggie Expo, 8 am. General Wayne Elementary School, 20 Devon Rd., Malvern. Registration, 8 am; run at 10. \$15-\$25. 800-283-7800; Active.com.

December 22

2011 WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION. Join The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County in celebrating the longest night of the year and the beginning of the winter season at the 82-acre Stateline Woods Preserve. There will be a bonfire, hot chocolate and stargazing equipment to view the night sky. 814 Merrybell La., Kennett Square. 610-347-0347; TLCForSCC.org.

Theater

Through December 31

“HAIRSPRAY.” Winner of 8 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, just in time for the holidays. Fulton Theatre, 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8 pm; matinees, 2 pm. \$20-\$58. 717-397-7425; FultonTheatre.org.

December 1-4, 8-11, 15-17

“CRAZY FOR YOU.” One of George and Ira Gershwin's most toe-tapping musicals presented by The Players Club of Swarthmore, 614 Fairview Rd., Swarthmore. Thurs-Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 2 pm. \$13-\$25. 866-811-4111; PCSTheatre.org.

December 1-24

“A CHRISTMAS CAROL.” Annual presentation of the classic Dickens tale at Hedgerow Theatre, 64 Rose Valley Rd., Media. Phone or check website for curtain times. \$20-\$29. 610-565-4211; HedgerowTheatre.org.

December 3, 10, 17, 29, 30

“ALICE IN WONDERLAND.” A new take on the Lewis Carroll fantasy novel that has all of the unforgettable characters dancing to a fun pop score and at the play's end, Alice's trial becomes a country-western hoedown. Fulton Theatre, 1 N. Prince St., Lancaster. 11 am and 2 pm. \$10-\$20. 717-397-7425; TheFulton.org.

December 6-10

“CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE.” See article in this issue.

Tours: Homes & Towns

December 2-4

FRIENDS OF HIBERNIA PARK 2011 CANDLELIGHT TOUR. Presented by the glow of candlelight, each room at Hibernia Mansion is deco-

rated featuring a different aspect of what makes Chester County one of the most beautiful counties in Pennsylvania. Cedar Knoll Rd., Wagontown. Fri-Sat 6:30 to 9:30; Sun, 2 to 4. \$5; 11 and under, free. 610-383-3812; ChesCo.org/CCParks.

December 3

PHOENIXVILLE'S 11TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT HOLIDAY TOUR. Beautifully decorated homes and churches, crafts, music and refreshments. Benefits Phoenixville Library and The Clinic. Tickets and tour programs available at 2:30 pm at the Phoenixville Senior Center, 153 Church St. 3 to 7 pm. \$20-\$25. 610-933-9181; PhoenixvilleHistoricalSociety.org.

December 3

CHADDS FORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 26th ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS. Self-guided tour of historic museums and private homes. 1 to 6. \$16 advance; \$20 day of tour; \$5, 12 & under. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org.

December 3

STRASBURG HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR OF HOMES. Eleven homes in this historic village will be decorated for the holidays and open to visitors, including one of the town's oldest homes (c. 1750). Holiday craft market, decorations and gift ideas. 10 to 4. \$15-\$17. 717-687-3534; StrasburgHeritagePA.org.



December 3

HISTORIC NEWTOWN'S “TIS THE SEASON” HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR. An annual tradition that takes visitors into six private residences and a few public buildings including the Half-Moon Inn where you will enjoy period music, colonial cooking demonstrations and refreshments. All sites are within walking distance of each other. 10 to 4. 215-968-4004; NewtownHistoric.org.

December 11

11th ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOME TOUR IN KENNETT SQUARE. A church, businesses and a selection of homes highlighting the unique and varied history of the Borough are featured on this year's self-guided tour. 4 to 7. \$20. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. ♦

Send a description of your activity to Info@ValleyDel.com by the first of the month preceding publication.

For more events visit

CountyLinesMagazine.com





CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH A NEW HOLIDAY PRODUCTION AT THE DUPONT THEATRE, DECEMBER 6 – 11

Cirque Dreams Holidaze, a delicious confection of charm, sparkle and talent by the sleigh-load, will light up the holiday season when it transforms the stage at the DuPont Theatre into a wonderland of fantasy and disbelief, December 6-11. Cirque Dreams, an American theatrical production company, brings its critically acclaimed entertainment brand to Wilmington for eight glorious holiday performances.

What You'll See

Cirque Dreams Holidaze is an original musical extravaganza of ornaments that come to life when costumed characters perform astonishing feats that celebrate the holiday season with spectacle, imagination and whimsical dreams.

An international cast of 30 artists transform into gingerbread men flipping midair, toy soldiers marching on thin wires, plus snowmen balancing, icemen sculpting, penguins spinning, puppets caroling and reindeer soaring high above

a landscape of holiday wonderment in this high-flying holiday performance.

With holiday favorites accompanying an original musical score and hundreds of spectacular costumes adorning a magical tree of dreams in a setting of gigantic gifts, colossal candy canes, and 30-foot-tall towering toy soldiers, *Holidaze* is sure to leave you in a holiday daze.

Critics and audiences alike have praised Cirque Dreams shows as everything from "the grandest circus spectacle east of Vegas" says *New York Magazine* to "a whiz-bang family friendly spectacle," according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Some say the show is so electric it could put the oil business out of business!

Cirque Dreams

Since 1993, the Cirque Dreams brand has entertained more than 50 million people worldwide under the artistic direction of Neil Goldberg. Cirque Dreams shows have appeared in theaters, theme parks, at sea and on Broadway.

In his latest masterpiece, Neil Goldberg re-imagines the holiday season: "Cirque Dreams Holidaze continues the spirit of our brand ... to present quality, accessible entertainment throughout the world integrating limitless imagination with multiple performance genres. We are proud to share our creations and bring joy to so many."

Broadway in Delaware

The DuPont Theatre has been presenting professional Broadway productions since 1913. The stage of the lovely 1,252-seat Victorian theater has been graced with some of Hollywood's biggest stars, including Orson Wells, Lucille Ball, Audrey Hepburn, Robert Redford, Bette Davis and James Earl Jones. Refusing to convert to a movie house, the DuPont Theatre is the longest continuously operating legitimate theater in the nation!

Bringing the Holidays Home

In January 2012, sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment, the first ever Cirque Dreams World Tour will begin performing at military bases in ten countries, giving soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines a taste of the holiday spirit they miss during deployments away from home.

What better way to forget holiday stresses and rediscover the magic of the season! ♦

If You Go

What: *Cirque Dreams Holidaze*

Where: The DuPont Theatre at the Hotel du Pont, 11th & Market Sts., Wilmington

When: Dec. 6 & 8, 7:30 pm; Dec. 7, 2 pm & 7:30 pm; Dec. 9, 8 pm; Dec. 10, 2 pm & 8 pm; Dec. 11, 2 pm

Tickets: Starting at \$35; Military discount

Information: 800-338-0881
DuPontTheatre.com

Upcoming Shows: *Blast!*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Lord of the Dance*, *Metropolis* and *Andrea Martin in Final Days! Everything Must Go!*



• AUTHENTIC PERIOD REPRODUCTIONS • CUSTOM DESIGNS •
• FULL CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICE •



E. JACOBSEN

FURNITURE MAKER, LLC

610.547.4983 Kirkwood, PA www.ejfm.com



IN STITCHES: *Unraveling Their Stories*

Mary Brooks, Westtown School, and
Ellen Endslow, Chester County Historical Society

“*A pair of Scissors,
Thread-case, and
Thimble, Work-bag,
and some plain sewing or
knitting to begin with ...*”

Joint Exhibit

In a rare opportunity, visitors can see a wide array of the well-known samplers owned by Westtown School and the Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) in one place when the “In Stitches” exhibit opens December 2 at CCHS in West Chester. In addition to the popular samplers, other embroidered items made by girls in Chester County and the surrounding area over 200 years ago will be on display.

Visually pleasing and technically interesting, these works by hand also serve as documents that tell the maker’s story.

TOP: Girls with advanced needlework skills at Westtown may have made embroidered silk globes (left, silk on silk with watercolor and ink) or Views of the Boarding School (right, silk on linen with watercolor). This view of the school’s original building was stitched by an unknown girl sometime before 1804, when the school deemed these needlework views “superfluous” and making them contrary to the “original design of the Institution.” Thus, very few were made by Westtown students. Making the globe, however, was a useful exercise that enhanced needlework skill and knowledge of geography, a subject in the girls’ curriculum. Upon completion, the student had a globe for reference. This globe is attributed to Susan Ecroyd, who attended Westtown from 1839 to 1841. (Westtown)



Since 1932, Ball and Ball has set the standard for the finest reproduction and restoration of 18th Century through Victorian Era antique hardware and lighting. Meticulously crafted period house and furniture hardware, fireplace accessories, sconces, chandeliers, lanterns and candlestands are all made on the premises in brass, tin, copper, pewter, hand-forged iron, and bronze. HOURS MON-FRI 8-4:30, SAT 9-1(OCT-MAR)

BALLANDBALL.COM

EXTON, PA

1.800.257.3711



◀ Mary Gibson Hill, of Darby, PA, was admitted to Westtown in 1799. That year – significant as Westtown's first – is stitched along the left border. Note her spelling as West-Town; variations are found including West Town, West-Town, West-town and Weston, until the mid-1800s when the school settled on the spelling used today. Note the half medallions on the border, floral motifs, facing birds, gliding swan and squirrel. Initials are those of Mary's Westtown classmates and teachers. (Owned jointly: CCHS and Westtown)

▶ Zillah Harry Monks made this 1829 sampler in the Kennett area, using silk thread on linen, with cross stitch, queen's stitch, Irish stitch and rice stitch. Several alphabets are arranged in bands above floral motifs typical of Chester County needlework. Note the initials of Zillah's family members, with black cross stitch for deceased members. (CCHS)



◀ In 1809, Martha Vastine (1798–1873) of Coatesville created this picture with satin stitch, outline stitch, French knots and hand painting. Two years after the pictorial sampler was finished, Martha made a less elaborate piece also on display that includes floral motifs often found on local samplers. (CCHS)



Westtown's Collection

Westtown students produced a great body of needlework, most styled after samplers made in Quaker schools in England. These styles include darning, marking (some with the distinctive bellflower cut corner border), extracts (verses stitched in an undulating oval vine), and more stylized samplers with geometric medallions often accompanied by animal and floral motifs.

The needlework collection at Westtown School includes over 130 flat samplers and nine embroidered silk globes (made only at Westtown), plus other items sewn or knitted by hand.

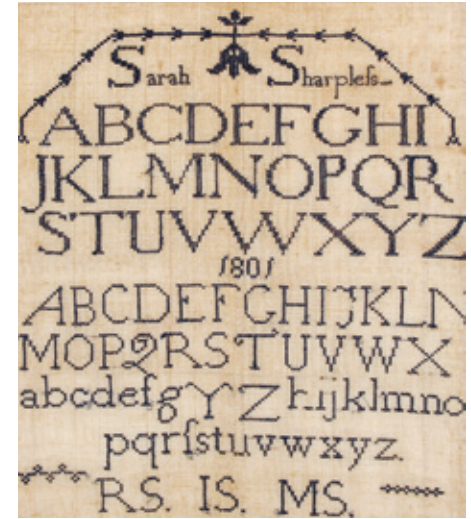
The collection also includes samplers made by Westtown students while not in attendance at the school and others with no direct connection to Westtown, offering a contrast to the Quaker styles for which the school is known.

Historical Society's Collection

The Chester County Historical Society has been collecting since 1893, and its textile collection now includes 270 samplers from the mid-1700s through the late 1800s. The sampler collection reflects the trends of the region and sampler-making in general, including multi-colored silk embroidery arranged in bands of alphabets with borders and floral motifs, samplers that document the maker and her family, and large decorative pastoral scenes with a mélange of sheep, rabbits, flowers and trees. Also on display are pin-balls (a type of pin cushion) and needlepoint wallets.

Together, the Chester County Historical Society and Westtown School needlework collections are a valuable resource for a better understanding of the lives of these young women in a particular time and place.

The exhibit runs from December 2 through September 7, 2012. ♦



▶ Sarah Sharpless came to Westtown when it opened in 1799. Sarah's 1801 marking sampler includes the cut corner bellflower border and the Roman style alphabet favored by Quaker schools. Westtown's collection also includes a 1773 sampler made by Sarah's mother. (Westtown School)

Mary Louisa Thomas, who attended Westtown from 1835-36, employed a wide variety of needlework stitches to create this elaborate pictorial sampler in 1832. She also included her family members in the cartouche. This sampler is typical of those made by girls who studied with Elizabeth Passmore, a teacher in East Goshen Township. (CCHS) ▼





HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Get your home ready for the holiday dinners and parties!

Add the finishing touches to your home with artwork, floral designs, lamps, and accessories. Great selection of holiday silk designs, wreaths, ornaments, holiday accessories, and more. If you need custom colors & sizes, we can make custom silk designs for your décor.

STOP BY FOR GREAT HOLIDAY DECORATING IDEAS!



Call for an Appointment Today: 717-354-2233

1064 Main St. (Rt. 23) Blue Ball, PA • www.HeritageDesignInteriors.com
Showroom hours: Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 9-5 • Thurs 9-7 • Sat 9-2

W E N D E L L **WA** A U G U S T



IN THE HISTORIC ASHBRIDGE BARN MAIN STREET AT EXTON
103 WOODCUTTER ST. | EXTON PA 19341 | 610.363.2426
WWW.WENDELLAUGUST.COM



O' Christmas Tree

Tips for a great (ever)green holiday!

Jaimieliynn Cooper

There's no doubt about it — underneath rainbow lights and colorful decorations, a Christmas tree is the essence of green. But just how green? As green as you want it to be.

At *County Lines*, we believe wishing for a green Christmas is just as important as wishing for a white one. So, since Christmas just wouldn't be ... well ... Christmas without a tree, we're sharing tips on how to make your tree as green as can be.

Forever Green

Your first inclination may be to buy an artificial tree. A word of advice — don't.

While faux trees can be used for years and you avoid messy pine needles, you'll see just a six-year life before having to buy another. And, keep in mind that artificial trees are made from PVC plastic that's environmental poison and difficult to break down — meaning they're darned expensive to recycle and less green than you think!

A better option is to visit your local tree farm and cut down your own. Pennsylvania is home to 272 such farms, and these trees are raised specifically for Christmas, so no worries about deforestation. Not only does cutting down O' Tannenbaum make for a fun family

tradition, but it also helps sustain local tree farmers whose livelihood is planting and harvesting holiday trees.

Or, opt for a balled-and-burlap tree. With their roots still attached and surrounded by a ball of soil, these trees can be planted as a living, growing reminder of the happy holiday season after you de-decorate them.

When the time comes to take down your Christmas tree, remember most tree disposal bags are made of plastic and require additional recycling. Instead, turn your tree into mulch to protect your spring gardens and you'll have even more green in the months to come.

Green Lights

While old-style LED lights looked harshly fluorescent, newer versions have taken a turn for the better. Now LED lights are typically brighter than normal bulbs because the light comes from a small chip surrounded by a colored cap. Look for trendy warm hues this year that have replaced the cold colors of the past.

While they may cost up to 4 times as much as regular lights, LEDs last up to 12 times longer and burn nearly 90% less energy. You do the math.

Also, because LED lights use less energy, if one burns out the rest stay

lit, meaning fewer costly replacements and much less frustration! And because they're cool to the touch, they're definitely safer to use on live foliage and near live kids.

With countless options, ranging from the classic rainbow-colored strands to icicle twinkle lights, LED lights are fashion forward and eco-friendly!

Green Decorations

How do you keep your evergreen green while decorating? Let's count the ways.

First, replace tinsel with ribbon — a great alternative because it's reusable and less harmful to children and pets. And removing tinsel can be a huge hassle, plus the silver strands are made of the same PVC plastic as faux trees.

Better still, make garland strands out of popcorn and cranberries. They're fun to make and you'll have a tasty Christmas treat for local squirrels and birds.

When you trim your tree — trim it of its lower branches — keep those extra branches to make your own holiday wreath. Another fun, family project.

Rather than buying expensive and breakable ornaments, make paper snowflakes or other handmade decorations. And recycle treasured ornaments by passing them down from generation to generation. Heirlooms are the oldest type of green.

Now it's actually getting easier to be green! ♦

Where to Cut Your Own

Cutting down your own tree can become a highly anticipated family tradition and make for a great day in the country. Be sure to ask about balled-and-burlap trees, too, at the sources below. After the holiday season is over, b-and-b live evergreens can be planted as a Christmas memory as they grow in your yard.

Buck Run Evergreen Farms
1479 Hall Rd., West Chester
570-449-4534

Clarks Christmas Tree Farm
235 Pusey Mill Rd., Cochranville
610-358-4933
ClarksChristmasTrees.com

Coventree Farm
661 Ebelhare Rd., Pottstown
610-495-6710

Indian Orchards
24 Copes Ln., Media 610-565-8387

Linvilla Orchards
137 W. Knowlton Rd., Media
610-876-8796; Linvilla.com

Tricolor Tree Farm
1480 Hall Rd., West Chester
610-269-1034; TricolorTree.com

Westlake Tree Farms
2421 North Hill Camp Rd., Pottstown
800-564-TREE WestlakeTreeFarms.com

Wiggins Christmas Trees
1257 Westtown Thornton Rd.
West Chester
2176 Gap Newport Pk., Cochranville
WigginsChristmasTrees.com



Specializing in Career Counseling
Experiential Collaborative Learning
Challenging Classes for Promising Students

**CALL FOR YOUR
PERSONAL APPOINTMENT**



Route 926 & Westtown Road - Westtown, PA
610-399-1135 - www.theconceptschooll.org

MORE THAN FRIENDS.
BROTHERS.

Malvern

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Entrance Exams
Saturday, December 10 • Saturday, January 21, 2012
8:30 a.m.

Wishing for Summer Already?
Think Malvern Prep's Summer Programs!
www.malvernprep.org/SummerPrograms

www.malvernprep.org • 484-595-1173

Malvern Prep is an independent, Catholic, college preparatory school for boys, grades 6-12, sponsored by the Augustinians.



HERR'S snack
FACTORY TOUR

FUN!
FREE!

HERR'S
CRISP 'N TASTY
POTATO CHIPS

1-800-63-SNACK
WWW.HERRS.COM

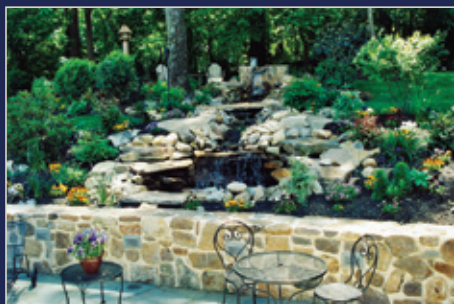


The Herr's name and logo are registered trademarks of Herr Holdings, Inc. "Herr's Snack Factory Tour" and logo are trademarks of Herr Holdings Inc. and are used under license. ©2011 Herr Holdings Inc. All rights reserved.

FLOWING SPRINGS LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Serving the Main Line & surrounding areas for 29 years

**Let Our Talented Designers and Craftsmen
Unlock Your Property's Full Potential**



- Patios • Walks & Stone Walls
- Quality Nursery Stock
- Custom Swimming Pools - Design/Build
- Water Gardens, Ponds & Waterfalls
- Specialists in natural stone work
- Professional Tree & Shrub Pruning and Care
- Total Property Maintenance
- Holiday Decorating

610.408.0739

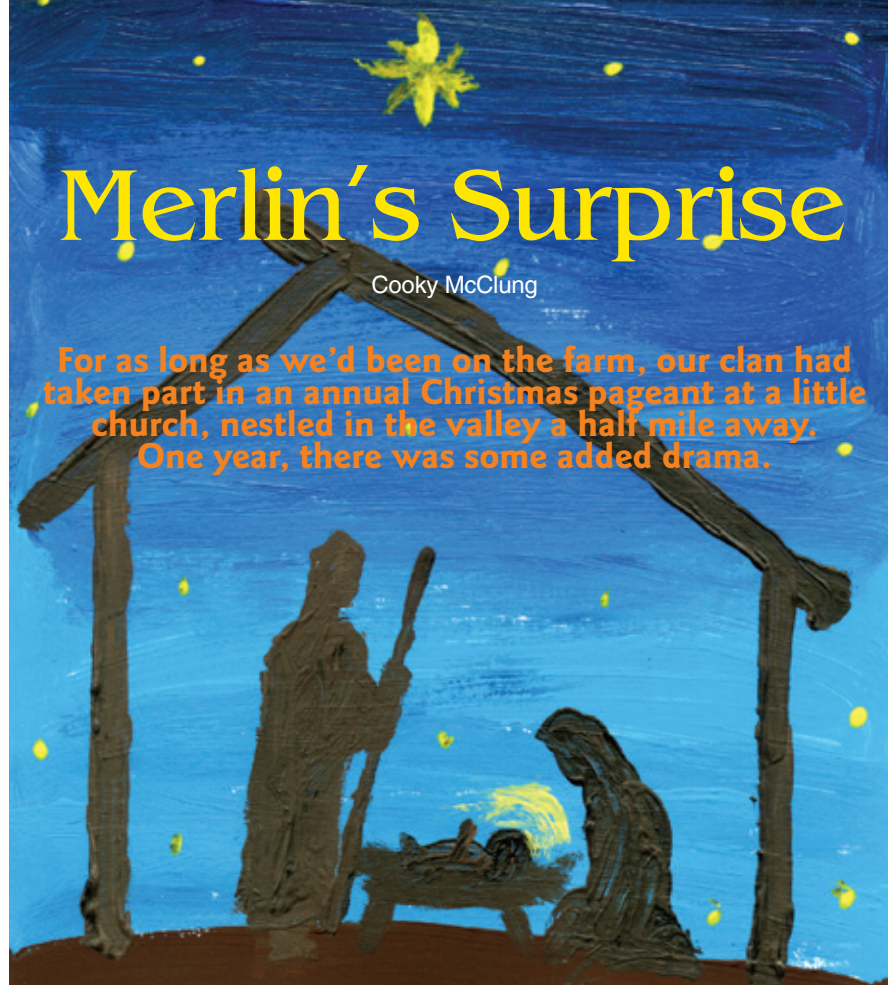
*Creative Design • Custom
Building • Historic Restoration*

Excellent References • Richard T. Burns, Horticultural Designer, Owner
426 Old Conestoga Road • Malvern, PA 19355
Visit us at www.flowingspringsdesign.com

Merlin's Surprise

Cooky McClung

For as long as we'd been on the farm, our clan had taken part in an annual Christmas pageant at a little church, nestled in the valley a half mile away. One year, there was some added drama.



As December arrived, between fox-hunting, buying and wrapping presents, foxhunting, writing cards, and more foxhunting, I'd don my Martha Stewart hat and attempt to transform bathrobes and dish towels into Old Testament costumes.

My eldest son had snatched the starring role of Joseph, not because he was a gifted Sunday school actor, but because we owned Donkey Whoatee.

Donkey Whoatee's Story

A peculiar little animal, Donkey Whoatee arrived at our farm one winter

night from who knows where, though I suspect he was dropped off at the end of our lane. We kept him to fill the role of babysitter for my lovely, if terribly spoiled, thoroughbred.

Though the donkey appeared eager to fill his new role, the mare returned the favor by flattening her ears and hissing through her teeth if he got within 20 feet of her loveliness. Nevertheless, her bad manners did little to deter Donkey Whoatee from expressing his affection, which she returned by flattening her ears and hissing through her teeth.

While the mare made it clear she had

no time for him, the donkey had our herd of children and their friends to entertain him. Tiny, elderly and harmless, Donkey Whoatee roamed the farm at will, including our front porch if his breakfast was 20 seconds late.

Starring Role

But his starring role presented itself on his first Christmas Eve with us. He earned his oats for the rest of the year by becoming a vital part of the Annual Yuletide Pageant and Living Nativity at our little church down the road.

Led by Pony Clubber "Joseph," Donkey Whoatee carried Pony Clubber "Mary" and "Baby Jesus" (a Cabbage Patch doll with one eye), stepping proudly down the lane in front of the church to the makeshift stable. There he'd stand reverently while Joseph helped his wife dismount and place the child in the

But within an instant his face brightened. "I know! I can use Merlin. He'll be great!" he shouted.

Actually, odds were Merlin wouldn't be great. In fact, he probably wouldn't even be allowed in the manger.

Merlin's Story

Able to escape any enclosure or barrier known to man — a questionable talent — Merlin's other skills included popping the feed box latch, slipping under pasture fences and picking paddock gate locks. Additional specialties were an inability to stand still more than eight seconds, an insatiable taste for sweets, and a propensity to immediately sit on his haunches or roll over when asked to do something he wished not to do.

His only similarity to Donkey Whoatee was that he was gray and small. In every other way, it was like comparing

Devastated, my son was certain he'd have to forfeit his long-awaited starring role for want of a donkey.

converted feedbox/manger to top off the traditional live Christmas scene.

For three years, Donkey Whoatee basked in this role, shuffling behind Joseph as they made their way to the shed where he remained, dozing beside the Three Wise Men, while appreciative villagers donated pieces of silver for the church coffers.

The year my youngest son finally graduated from Wise Man to Joseph, Donkey Whoatee developed a fever and cough on December 23. Clearly the donkey would miss the manger scene this year.

Devastated, my son was certain he'd have to forfeit his long-awaited starring role for want of a donkey, since the hard and fast rule was that Joseph provide transportation for his family.

My son pleaded with me not to tell the Living Nativity Committee that his ride was out of commission. "They might give the part to someone else, and I don't want to be a regular Wise Man," he wailed. "I don't even know what the heck myrrh is!"

St. Francis to Jack The Ripper. Where Donkey Whoatee was placid, slow and sweet, Merlin was the poster pony for hyperactivity. The only thing he loved more than his midnight forays into the surrounding countryside, gardens and occasional swimming hole, was eating.

Amazingly, this diminutive pony had the appetite of a bull elephant. He adored snacks, his favorite being Frosty Crunch cereal, which the youngsters kept in their pockets to bribe him to stay upright. And because Merlin was, without question, one of the cutest examples of ponydom, treats were offered frequently and freely. He was badly spoiled by family and visitors alike.

The Stand-In

"Mom," my son wailed, "I have to use Merlin or I can't be Joseph. He's exactly the right size and color. Besides," he added, as if the idea was new, "I'll take a whole box of Frosty Crunch to get him down the road."

I shook my head sympathetically. "Sweetie," I answered, picturing the

Merlin's Surprise Continued on page 79

WEST CHESTER DENTAL Arts

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SMILE...



Give the gift of a brighter smile...

Eric N. Shelly, DMD Margaret Lee, DMD Eric A. Fort, DMD

- Implant Dentistry
- Sedation Dentistry
- Same day appointments available
- Zoom Teeth Whitening \$299
- Free Exam & X-Rays for all new patients
- Free Nitrous

Oral Sedation
AND GENERAL DENTISTRY

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 7am-7pm
Wednesday 8am-7pm, Friday 8am-5pm**

403 N. Five Points Road, West Chester
610-696-3371

WWW.WCDentalArts.com

Visit us on face book and twitter  



*The **MARS** drinks Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade & 3rd Annual Jingle Elf Run*

MARS Drinks North America, a division of MARS, Incorporated

Katie L. Doherty

Get ready to ring in the season with the **MARS drinks Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade** in Downtown West Chester, set to kick-off at 7:15 p.m. on **Friday, December 2.**

Presented since 1980 by the Chamber of Commerce of Greater West Chester, the parade is the highlight of the four-day Old-Fashioned Christmas celebration, Thursday, December 1 through Sunday, December 4. The long weekend celebration features over 40 events including theatrical and musical performances, guided walking tours, the Jingle Elf Run, a holiday craft bazaar and breakfast with Santa.

As organizer of the event, the Chamber is delighted to welcome MARS drinks, a division of Mars, Inc., as title sponsor for the third year.

"The Chamber of Commerce of Greater West Chester is proud to partner with MARS drinks on this project," said Katie Doherty, Chamber president. "Their continued title sponsorship of this much-loved parade demonstrates their support not only of the Chamber but of the entire West Chester community."

"Mars Drinks is excited about our con-

tinued sponsorship of the West Chester Old-Fashioned Christmas parade," said Brian Miller, Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Mars Drinks North America. "This is a great opportunity for us to give back to the community through one of the premier events in the area. Mars Drinks and our family of office beverage brands — Alterra Coffee Roasters, The Bright Tea Company, Flavia and Dove — will continue to participate in the local events that shape our community. We look forward to enjoying the festivities with everyone during the event."



Pre-Parade

Prior to the parade, many businesses throughout the downtown will host **Holiday Open Houses** featuring refreshments and seasonal entertainment. Stop in for some good cheer and local holiday shopping.

Guides in period costumes will lead the **Walking Tours of Historic Downtown West Chester** for the 32nd year. Choose from two routes — both include stops at winners of the recent Historic Preservation Awards. Tours begin at 5, 5:10, 5:20 and 5:30 p.m. and start at the Lincoln Room, 28 W. Market Street.



At 6:30 p.m., the **Third Annual Jingle Elf Run** kicks off at Market and High Streets with a 2-mile run and a 1-mile walk that follows the parade route (see below). Sponsored by First Niagara Bank, the run's proceeds will benefit **Safe Harbor of Chester County**, which provides single men and women a safe and warm place to stay. For more, go to SafeHarborofGWC.org.

Parade Highlights

With **6abc Action News** meteorologists **Adam Joseph** and **6abc news reporter Cathy Gandolfo** serving as masters of ceremony, the parade promises spectators a mix of traditional and new elements.

A host of local schools, businesses, volunteer fire companies and service organizations will be represented among the marching bands, floats and antique vehicles that have become a mainstay of Old-Fashioned Christmas.

Spectators of all ages will be entertained by first-time participant **Elizabeth Toal**, a **West Chester University** senior and the featured singing performer at this year's parade, and returning favor-

ites **Caporales "San Simon" Bolivian Dancers** and the **Fraternidad Cultural Pachamama Bolivian Dancers**.

Thanks to the efforts of parade-producer **Todd Marcocci**, president of **Under the Sun Productions, Inc.**, attendees will also be moved by a special salute to our armed forces, including the Silver Dolphins, Chester County Marine Corps League Color Guard and the Valley Forge Military Academy Music Band, just to name a few.

Pick Your Spot on the Route

Starting at New and Market Streets, the parade will circle through historic downtown West Chester and travel north on New Street, east on Gay Street, south on Matlack Street, west on Market Street through to New Street (without stopping at the old Courthouse). With last year's crowd estimated at 25,000, the longer route provides more opportunity for front-row viewing.

Arrive early to find your spot! ♦

For more on the weekend's events, go to the Chamber's website: GreaterWestChester.com.



(Bring this ad for 30% off all in store jewelry!)



BIG
DIAMOND IMPORTERS & FINE JEWELRY

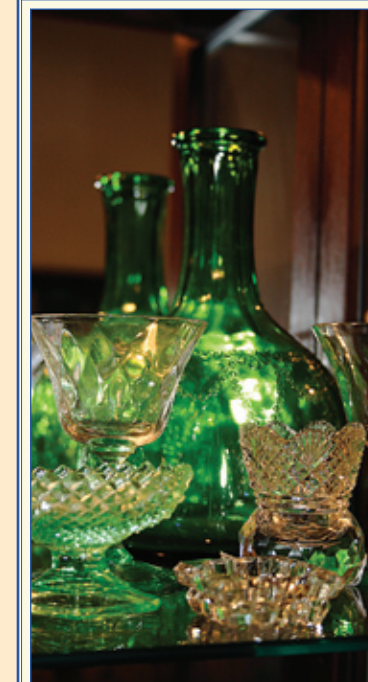


****WHOLESALE PRICES ON DIAMONDS****

15 W. GAY STREET, WEST CHESTER, PA 19380
www.BigsDiamonds.com 610-692-7707



Gabriel & Co.
NEW YORK



*An Eclectic Collection of Fine China
& Glassware, Including Rare
English Staffordshire China,
Heisey Glassware, Depression Glass,
Fiesta Ware & Distinctive Furniture.*

Open Mon-Fri, 10-5 and Sat, 10-1

THE ANTIQUE SHOP

11 NORTH CHURCH STREET
WEST CHESTER, PA
610-344-0657



FASTFRAME®
EXPERT PICTURE FRAMING

FastFrame of West Chester
27 West Gay Street
(Between Iron Hill
Brewery & Fairman's)
(484) 947-5154

**\$50 off custom framing
and 25% off gallery art
now thru January.
(West Chester location only)**

Other Area Locations:

Newark Peoples Plaza (302) 838-1275	Wilmington Pike Creek Center (302) 994-9141
--	--

Nationally Known, Locally Owned

Design & Craftsmanship, your total satisfaction guarantee
www.fastframe.com Over 300 locations worldwide

December 2, 2011 - September 7, 2012

Don't miss this rare opportunity to see large portions of the needlework collections of Westtown School and Chester County Historical Society in one exhibition.

Learn how commonplace pieces become heirloom treasures.

Enjoy select samplers and other embroidery made by girls from Chester County and the surrounding area 200 years ago.

For information on gallery hours and special programs contact

CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
225 NORTH HIGH STREET
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380

610-692-4800

ChesterCoHistorical.org

in STITCHES
Unraveling Their Stories

On view at
CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WEST CHESTER, PA

DECEMBER 2, 2011 - SEPTEMBER 7, 2012

Ho, Ho, Head for West Chester

For Shopping, Dining & Fun Things This Season

Malcolm Johnstone



Photo: Tim Vaughan

Out, December 14. Guys will meet at **Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant** (Gay & High Sts.) at 5 p.m. to kick off the evening with good food and a seasonal brew (or two).

Next stop is the retail shops for an evening of one-night-only special sales, complimentary gift wrapping, and refreshments. Participating retailers include Ruby Slippers, Jane Chalfant, Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery and more.

To see historic homes in West Chester decked out in their holiday finery, join the **West Chester Public Library's Walking Tour** of 13 beautiful homes (from 1836 to 1948) located in the north-east section of the borough, December 10, from 10 to 3 (snow date: Dec. 11). The tour is limited to 500, with tickets at \$25 before December 9th. Learn more at WCPublicLibrary.org.

What could get you more into the spirit of the season than spending a day walking, shopping, dining and enjoying historic downtown West Chester? With new holiday wreaths hung on the lampposts with care (thank you, Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce) to the seasonal sounds of live musicians, West Chester has Holiday Spirit to spare!

Holiday Happenings

You'll hear a **quartet of minstrels**, dressed in Victorian garb, singing in the doorways and shop fronts Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons, December 9 & 10 and 16 & 17. The perfect musical accompaniment to your "Shop Local" agenda.

Ladies: make a list (and check it twice) and send the guys out to pick up great gifts for everyone during **Men's Night**



Historic Home Walking Tour



For another step back in time, climb aboard **Santa's Express** on the **West Chester Railroad**. This season, members of the West Chester Railroad Heritage Association continue the tradition with Santa's Express every Saturday and Sunday through December 18. The excursion train travels through the scenic Brandywine Valley to Glen Mills. Board at the Market Street Station (E. Market St. near Matlack St.; WestChes-terRR.net).

If theater gets you in the spirit, check out the timeless favorite **Trial by Jury** by Gilbert & Sullivan, at its new location in Courtroom 1, Chester County Justice Center (201 W. Market St., GSS-ChesCo.org). This award-winning farce about love and marriage has become an Old-Fashioned Christmas tradition. And, plenty of free parking at the garage across the street.

Nearly every day there's a concert or event at **West Chester University**, just a few blocks south of downtown. The new **Performing Arts Center** has been praised as among the top teaching and performing venues in the nation! Most School of Music events are free and open to the public; ticketed performances range from \$10 to \$20, a great value. Check the calendar at WCUPA.edu.

Shop Local

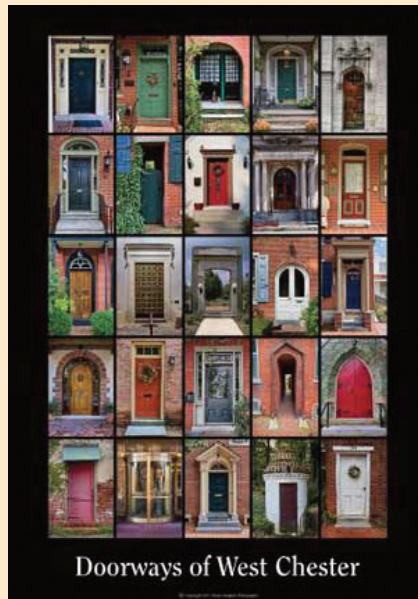
Remember that West Chester is a **3/50 Project** supporter, promoting shopping at locally owned businesses to make a positive impact on the local economy. More specifically, the point of the project is to pick three local stores you'd miss if they were gone, and spend \$50 there each month (that's the 3/50; The350Project.net). The hard part is picking just three!

We suggest you walk the several square blocks of the downtown area to take in the diverse shopping available or go to WCBid.com/shopping for a virtual tour. You'll find everything you need to complete your holiday shopping – from art at **Serpentine Gallery**, antiques at **The Antiques Store** (no surprise there!), running gear at **Chester County Running Store**, or formal wear at **Main Line Custom Clothier's** new location on Market Street.



For a tasty treat, there's the world's best caramels at **Éclat Chocolate** or great flavors from around the world at **A Taste of Olive** close by on High Street.

And there's no shortage of shops offering services, like custom framing of treasured items that become family heirlooms at **Fast Frame**, and custom invitations at **Penwick design** for your holiday parties.



Tim Vaughan's West Chester poster

Celebrate the Season!



Holiday Centerpieces & Arrangements
Holiday Gourmet Baskets
Silk Arrangements & Wreaths
Poinsettias & Holiday Garden Baskets
Evergreen Wreaths, Swags & Roping
Corporate Gift-Giving
Local Delivery or Worldwide!



Hours: 9-5:30 M-F, 9-5 Sat.
210 N. Chester Rd., (Rte. 352) • West Chester
610-431-3077 • www.matlackflorist.com

Book Your Holiday Party Now!

Más has the perfect space for your holiday celebration.



"Like" us on Facebook | 102 E. Market Street, West Chester, PA

Holiday Shopping at its Best!



More than 65 retail shops.

DowntownWestChester.com

N.C. Wyeth's *The Giant*



Giclées available in
two unframed sizes
20" x 16" - \$165
30" x 24" - \$325

*price includes tax & shipping
within the continental US*

To order please call
610-399-7941
or email
alumni@westtown.edu

Happy Holidays from
Westtown School

Westtown School, 975 Westtown Road • West Chester, Pennsylvania 19382



For a gift that truly says West Chester, there's a new poster by Timlyn Vaughan, **The Doors of West Chester**, now on sale at **Visual Expansion Gallery**, **The 5 Senses Gallery** and **Chester County Art Association**. The colorful poster has every variety of door, from historic to modern and unique to peculiar.

If there are just too many great choices for you to pick just one gift, you can never go wrong with a **West Chester Gift Card**. It's available in amounts from \$10 to \$500 and comes with a directory of downtown shops and restaurants, so the recipient can choose. The perfect way to give that perfect gift! Purchase one at **Fox Chase Bank**, corner of High & Chestnut, or visit DowntownWestChester.com to learn more.



Eat Local

After you shop local, remember to eat local. Newly opened **Roots Cafe** (8 W. Gay St., 484-887-8290; RootsCafeWC.com) focuses on making great food while supporting a sustainable environment. Owner Daniel Celluci believes using produce from nearby farms provides the best ingredients and helps the local economy. Plus they use biodegradable and recycled containers for to-go food.

During the hectic shopping season, sometimes you need to relax and recharge. **Eat Drink Om Yoga Cafe** (117 W. Gay St., 215-499-8472; EatDrinkOm.com) offers just that. Based on the belief that moms and kids need to take time out for practicing wellness, patrons will find a place that's quiet and healthy.

The Social Lounge & Bar (29 E. Gay St., 610-738-3948; TheSocialWC.com) is a new party venue with the sexy warmth of a village-style vibe. Entertainment offers everything from acoustic jam sessions to dancing the night away with the area's hottest DJs. Serving lunch and dinner.

Check out the new menu at **Más Mexicali Cantina** (102 E. Market St., 610-918-6280; Mas-Mexicali-Cantina.com) for something warm, spicy and comforting. Try the innovative interpretations of Mexican classics added to the long list of favorites. See the dining review in this issue.

And finally, back by popular demand, **The Lincoln Room** (28 W. Market St., 610-696-2102; LincolnRoomWestChester.com), reprises Fondue Friday, December 9 at 7 p.m. A classical guitarist will play holiday favorites. Call for reservations now! ♦

See Holiday Window Shopping for more shopping and dining in West Chester.





Holiday Fun in West Chester

More Old-Fashioned Christmas Events:

Dec. 1-3, "Trial By Jury" & Carol Sing. Presented by the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester County. New location: Chester County Justice Center, 201 W. Market St. Thurs, 8; Fri, 5:30 & 6:30; Sat, 2 & 8. \$5-\$12. 610-269-5499; GSSChesCo.org.

Dec. 2, Chester County Historical Society Open House. Holiday music performed by the Chester County Choral Society and Rustin High School Choral Group. 225 N. High St. 5 to 8. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

Dec. 2, Old-Fashioned Christmas Walking Tours. Explore downtown decked out for the holidays and discover West Chester's architectural treasures. The Lincoln Room, 28 W. Market St. Tours depart every ten minutes from 5 to 5:30. \$2. 610-696-4046.

Dec. 2, Old-Fashioned Soup & Sandwich Parlor. Knights of Columbus, 116 W. Market St. Grab something hot and delicious during the Christmas Parade. 5:45 to 9. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com/Recreation.

Dec. 3, Gingerbread House Making. West Chester Municipal Bldg. 2 to 4 pm, \$9. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com/Recreation.

Dec. 3, Breakfast with Santa. Chester County Historical Society. 8:30 and 10:30 am. \$12. 610-696-4046; GreaterWestChester.com.

Through December 16

Brandywine Valley Artist Exhibit at West Chester University. The art of Karl Kuerner

in an exhibit entitled "Places to Go, Things to See, at The New Gallery at the E. O. Bull Center for the Arts, High St. Mon-Fri, 9 to 4; Sat, noon to 4. 610-436-2755; WCUPA.edu.

December 3

23rd Annual West Chester Charity Ball. Annual fundraiser featuring dinner, live music, live and silent auctions. Benefits The Friends Assn. for the Care and Protection of Children. West Chester Golf and Country Club, 111 West Ashbridge St., 6:30 to 11:30. \$150. 610-431-3598; FriendsAssoc.org.

December 3-4, 10-11, 17-18

Santa's Express. Old St. Nick will be on board the West Chester Railroad with a treat for the children and entertainment. Trains depart Market Street Station at 11 am, 1 & 3 pm. \$5-\$20. 610-430-2233; WestChesterRR.net.

December 4, 11

Christmas Tree Train. West Chester Railroad takes passengers to Wiggins Tree Farm where they can pick and cut their tree, and take it back to the station. Trains depart Market Street Station. 8 to 10 am. \$6-\$12. 610-430-2233; WestChesterRR.net.

December 4

34th Annual Brian's Run. A 5-mile race through West Chester and North Hills. Benefits Homes For Our Troops, a nonprofit organization that makes homes handicap accessible for wounded veterans and Camp Joy, a special needs camp. Henderson High School, 400 Montgomery Ave., 1 pm. BriansRun.org.

December 4

Winter Festival at Oakbourne. Sing carols, make arts and crafts, have some hot chocolate and cookies and see Santa in the mansion, which will be beautifully decorated for holiday season. 1014 S. Concord Rd. 3 to 5. 610-692-1930; WesttownPA.org.

Dec. 4, West Chester University Baroque Ensemble at Chester County Historical Society. Holiday music from the renaissance and baroque musical periods. The performers will be playing authentic instruments popular in their day. 225 N. High St. 3 pm. Free. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

December 5

West Chester University Trombone Benefit Concert. Benefits Compeer Chester County, a nonprofit organization helping people recover from mental illness. Grove United Methodist Church, 490 W. Boot Rd. 7:30 pm. \$10. 610-436-4445; CompeerChesCo.org.

December 10-11

A Christmas Wonderland – A Musical Holiday Spectacular. A high-energy, family-oriented song and dance extravaganza with costumes, songs and special effects. West Chester Univ., Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre, 817 S. High St. Sat, 7:30; Sun, 2. \$15-\$20. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu.LIVE.

December 10, 11

Chester County Choral Society Presents "Feliz Navidad – Christmas in the Southwest." The 80-voice chorus sings Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies" and creative arrangements of seasonal favorites. **Dec. 10,** St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 109 E. Doe Run Rd., Unionville, 7:30; **Dec. 11,** St. Agnes Catholic Church, 233 W. Gay St. 3 pm. ChesterCountyChoralSociety.org.

December 10

Holiday Home Tour. West Chester Public Library presents a walking tour of 13 beautiful and historic homes in the borough, built between 1836 and 1948, most within walking distance of each other. 10 to 3. Tickets at the Library, 415 N. Church St., Chester Co. Book & Music Co. or online. \$25; \$35 day of tour. WCPublicLibrary.org; DowntownWestChester.org.

December 17

Santa Arrives by Helicopter at the American Helicopter Museum. Bring the children and a camera for a meet and greet with Santa, refreshments and holiday activities. Family helicopter rides will be offered all day. 1220 American Blvd. Visit with Santa at 11 am and 1:30 pm. \$7-\$10. 610-436-9600; HelicopterMuseum.org. ♦

Your Membership in The Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce Will...

- Help You Grow Your Business
- Bring You Referrals
- Help You Build Business Relationships
- Provide Educational Opportunities
- Help you to become involved in the Community



So contact us today and find out how you can start to take advantage of your Chamber membership!
119 N. High Street West Chester
610-696-4046

GreaterWestChester.com



Boyle's
Floor & Window Designs

Winner Best Flooring Store 6 years



705 E. Gay Street, West Chester, PA
610-429-9773 www.boylesflooring.com
residents . interior designers . builders . architects welcome

like us 



A Tea Room

- Tea & Lunch
- Rentals
- Special Events

28 W. Market St., Lower Level
610.696.2102
www.LincolnRoomWestChester.com


Welcome Neighbor!

Our sponsors make it possible!

It is through the thoughtfulness and caring of many fine local businesses and professionals that our visits to newcomers and other celebrants are made possible.


We have some room in our basket for a few more sponsors. You can learn about Welcome Neighbor and our unique personal promotion service at our web site:
www.welcomeneighbor.us

Request Our Power Point Presentation: 610-358-0580




Penn Liberty Bank is honored to be a part of the West Chester community. We are a locally owned and managed community bank dedicated to providing unsurpassed customer service to our clients.

Stop by and experience exceptional banking!



PENN LIBERTY BANK
FRIENDLY • SMART • LOYAL

WWW.PENNLIBERTYBANK.COM 

Blue Bell 472 Norristown Rd. 610-535-4800	Chester Springs 210 Font Rd. 610-535-4830	Exton/Downingtown 654 W. Lincoln Hwy. 610-535-6820	Limerick 543 N. Lewis Rd. 610-535-4880
Malvern 199 Lancaster Ave. 610-535-4820	Paoli 1 W. Lancaster Ave. 610-535-4890	Trooper 2724 Ridge Pike 610-535-4860	Wayne 724 W. Lancaster Ave. 610-535-4580



Best of Delaware
1993-1999 & 2002-2010
-Delaware Today Magazine

Best Mexican Restaurant
1994-1996 & 1998-2006
-Wilmington News Journal



LA TOLTECA
Mexican Restaurante
Authentic Mexican Food

Bienvenidos Amigos (Welcome Friends)

907 S. High Street, West Chester, PA
610-429-8101

2209 Concord Pk, Rte 202 & Silverside Rd.,
Wilmington, DE 302-478-9477

4015 S. Concord Pk, Rte 202
Fairfax Shopping Center, Wilmington, DE
302-778-4646




NEWLY RENOVATED APARTMENTS ARE READY— DON'T WAIT, CALL NOW 610-388-1441.

1660 E. Street Road
Kennett Square, PA
www.kcc.kendal.org

KENDAL~CROSSLANDS® Communities
Together, transforming the experience of aging.®
A Continuing Care Retirement Community • Not-for-Profit • Quaker-Related



Quilts

- Over 50 years in business
- Many of Emma's own designs
- Over 100 quilts in stock
- Custom colors and patterns

Witmer Quilt Shop

1076 West Main St. • New Holland, PA
Mon. & Fri. 8 to 8, Tues., Wed., Thurs. & Sat. 8-6
all major credit cards
717-656-9526

"Pride of the Garden" — Pretty Tulips Everywhere
— Over 100 year old pattern

Holiday Window Shopping



The Lincoln Room, West Chester, PA
610-696-2102; LincolnRoomWestChester.com

'Tis that time of the season. The candles are lit, bells are ringing, lights glow amidst fresh greenery. Snow is in the air. The aroma of pine mixes with gingerbread, eggnog and hot cider, wafting gently over the town's streets.

Mom's in a hurry, juggling packages, mentally checking the shopping list, rehearsing the holiday menu. She turns to see her child stopped by a store window. Peering inside, the child's eyes widen, nose to the glass, mouth open in wonderment. Mom smiles, and will make one more stop. 'Neath the tree, tomorrow morning, the child will find today's discovery.

In this month's issue, we go holiday window shopping in Chester County and beyond, with a special stop in West Chester. Let the following pages be your guide to shopping locally and well this year. We also take in West Chester's Old-Fashioned Christmas parade, culminating in the lighting of the tree at the Old Courthouse. And if you want to cut your own tree this year, we've got a list of places to go. You'll read Cooky McClung's tale of a live and surprising nativity scene. And Laura Brennan shares recipes for the best holiday cookies to bake and share.

From all of us at County Lines, our wish is simply the happiest of holidays, full of joy, good cheer, great gifts and the best company. We thank our advertisers as well, and wish them a profitable holiday season and a year of local shopping. And we wish everyone good luck in 2012.

In January, we begin a new era at County Lines: a major expansion of our magazine. Our magazine goes BIG, doubling its size to 8½ x 11 inches! We hope it doubles your pleasure.

Happy holidays!

Jo Anne Durako
Editor

Ed Malet
Publisher

• PENNSYLVANIA •

BLUE BALL

For all your windows, walls and finishing touches, stop by **Heritage Design Interiors**, 1064 Main St. (Rt. 23, next to the bank). They offer everything from color and design consultation, custom draperies, valances, blinds and bed ensembles to floral designs — including wonderful custom florals for the holidays, art, mirrors, lamps and accessories. Of course, gift certificates are available. They're located in a historic home, with an open staircase and six fireplaces, and now, you can follow them on Facebook. 717-354-2233; HeritageDesignInteriors.com.

BERWYN

For a very special gift that lasts more than a lifetime, consider an addition to, or historic restoration/renovation of your house. **Peter Zimmerman Architects** will respond to your personalized requirements as well as the individual characteristics of your site and house to create spaces that engage and enrich your life. For almost 30 years, their comprehensive design process, individualized service, and elegant solutions have produced award-winning projects across the country. Peter Zimmerman Architects, 828 Old Lancaster Rd. Berwyn 610-647-6970; PZArchitects.com.

BRYN MAWR

You'd be amazed what a talented and creative window designer can do to change the ambiance of a room — or an entire home. We've had personal

experience with **Shady Lady, Inc.**, at 872 Penn St., whose proprietor specializes in custom window treatments, including interior wooden shutters and fabric treatments, and we can tell you first-hand that this great company's work is absolutely first rate. Hours by appointment, so call 610-527-4268 or 800-791-2424 to arrange yours now.

A big hit on the Main Line ever since it opened, **Yangming** was named "The Best Chinese Restaurant in America" by *Chinese Restaurant News*, nationally

reported on by the *CBS Sunday Morning News* and named one of the "top 10 great places to dine on fine Chinese food in the U.S." by *USA Today*. You must stop by and see their new look — they recently completed a half million dollar renovation. Consider, too, using their European Chef de Cuisine's artistry for holiday parties, special events and receptions in their Continental Room. First class for first-class



Waterbury Kitchen & Bath, Kennett Square, PA
610-444-9190; WaterburyDesign.com

affairs, they prepare both Continental and Oriental cuisines. The mood is always festive, but especially so at this time of year. 1051 Conestoga Rd. 610-527-3200; YangmingRestaurant.com.

CHADDS FORD

Find the perfect gift at the **Brandywine River Museum Shop**. From art reproductions and books to "critter" ornaments and distinctive handcrafted jewelry, there's something for everyone on your list. Or, give the gift of membership, which includes free admission to the

Museum, shopping and dining discounts, and more, all year long. Don't miss the annual "Crittter Sale," Dec. 3 and 4. Located on Rt. 1. Phone 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

DOWNINGTOWN

Visit **Brandywine Flags**, 146 Wallace Ave., where you'll find everything in U.S. flags, flag poles and flag accessories, plus seasonal decorative flags, banners, welcome slates, welcome mats, mailbox covers and more. They offer a lovely selection of Legacy Greeting Cards as well as Good Sense scented candles and pot-pourri. This year, the handpainted ornaments of various Downingtown churches are available. Brandywine Flags has unique small gifts and stocking stuffers. *They Conquer Who Endure*, a collection of 28 local veterans stories, written by Jeanne M. Rapp, the owner of Brandywine Flags is available. Phone 610-269-5800, or shop online at BrandywineFlags.com.

DREXEL HILL

Here's joy to the antique lover's world. **Ardmart Antique Mall**, State Rd. & Lansdowne Ave., the Philadelphia-area's largest antique center, with 25 shops under one roof, is beginning its 24th year in Drexel Hill. They have a larger-than-life 12,000-square-foot space filled with quality antiques, collectibles, and better used furniture ... at affordable prices ... and their central, easy-to-reach location is a big plus! Be sure to visit their Showcase Gallery. Phone for hours and directions, 610-789-6622, or visit their website, ArdmartAntiques.com.

EXTON

Whether you're looking for that perfect gift or preparing to deck your halls for the holidays, be sure to visit **Ball & Ball**, Rt. 30, 463 W. Lincoln Highway, where you'll find a remarkable selection of original and reproduction furniture, lighting fixtures, door locks and fireplace accessories. Also available are many out-of-the-ordinary gift items. Open Mon-Fri, 8 to 4:30; Saturday hours, Oct. through Mar., 9 to 1. 610-363-7330; BallAndBall.com.



Big Diamond Importers & Fine Jewelery
West Chester, PA 610-692-7707
BigsDiamonds.com

Here is where one-stop shopping for everyone on your list means a visit to **Eagleview Town Center**, located on Rt. 100, north of Rt. 113. The **Town Center** includes the Brickside Grille, Nudy's Cafe, Gemini Hair Design Studio and Spa, Wellington Square Book Shop and Other Colors Art Gallery. Also part of the town center: The Lionville YMCA at Eagleview and the LiveWork Shops on Wharton including Invitations By Design, Town Center Pharmacy,

Simply Yoga Studios, Main Line Lighting, Passion for Fitness and many more. InEagleview.com.

For a gift that delights the eye as well as the soul, visit **Other Colors Gallery**, located in the Eagleview Town Center, during their Winter Elements exhibit, through January 14. Other Colors Gallery, a new sustainably built forum for aspiring and established regional artists in all media, features work by over a dozen artists in this glittering winter show. There's sure to be something unique to brighten

the season for that special someone on your gift list! 543 Wellington Square, Eagleview, 610-458-4200; OtherColors-Gallery.com.

Ten Thousand Villages, located in Center City, Chestnut Hill, Exton, King of Prussia, Media, Souderton and Greenville, DE, offers unique, handcrafted gifts, jewelry, home decor and personal accessories representing the diverse cultures of artisans around the world. As one of the world's largest fair trade organizations, they strive to improve the livelihood of tens of thousands of artisans in 36 countries. Ten Thousand Villages encourages artisan partners to use environmentally friendly processes, sustainable natural resources and recycled materials to ensure each product offered has been crafted responsibly. Visit them this holiday season to find unique gifts and home décor for everyone on your shopping list. 271 Main

St., Main Street at Exton, 610-594-2370. Media: 101 W. State St., 610-892-5020; TenThousandVillages.com.

This holiday season visit **Wendell August** for "made in America" gifts and home accents. Affordable, elegant metal giftware is handcrafted using time-honored traditions. Here, you will shop from a distinctive selection of unique gifts that range from ornaments to serving trays and an Upcycled Jewelry line, and personalize your gifts with custom engraving. Wendell August ... for life's special memories. Located at 103 Woodcutter St. in the Historic Barn, Main Street at Exton. 610-363-2426; Wendell-August.com.

INTERCOURSE

Here's an idea for a spectacular gift for yourself, your family, or a very special friend. A weekend getaway at **The Inn & Spa at Intercourse Village** is an enchanting way to decompress — a step back in time, but with all the amenities of today's discerning lifestyles. The Inn itself is a beautifully restored 1909 home in a charming little village in beautiful and serene Amish country. Accommodations are luxurious, in elegant Victorian rooms or grand, oversized suites, all offering top-of-the-line comforts, plus candlelit breakfast in the ornate period dining room. Add a Spa Package, and you'll

be transported to a place of tranquility, relaxation and renewal you have to experience to believe! Rt. 340 (Main St.). 800-801-2219; AmishCountryInns.com/Inn-And-Spa.



FastFrame, West Chester, PA
484-947-5154; FastFrame.com

KENNETT SQUARE

Looking for distinctive gifts

this holiday season? Be sure to go to **The Carriage House**, Willowdale Town Center, Rts. 926 & 82, where gift giving just got easier! There's always something new and interesting to capture your attention and make your shopping experience a happy one. Choose from their unique selection of handcrafted ornaments, Santas and snowmen as well as Byers' Carolers. Distinctive floral designs, wreaths and prints, all add further charm to this shop and distinctive jewelry, seasonal scents, music, cards and gourmet treats complete the holiday. Open Mon-Sat, 10 to 5:30; Sun, 12 to 4. 610-444-6770; WillowdaleTownCenter.com/CarriageHouse.

Drawing fans in Kennett is the new **Lily's Asian Cuisine, Sushi & Grill**, 104 W. State St. This pan-Asian eatery is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. In addition to fresh raw fish, their menu also includes other Japanese dishes like teriyaki and teppanyaki. Thai food lovers will find different curries on the menu and chicken or seafood pad Thai. They also offer Chinese food like Kung Pao chicken and orange chicken. And the best part — all you can eat sushi on Tuesdays! BYOB. 610-925-3700.

As Chester County's only consignment shop focusing exclusively on quilt-related handcrafts, **The Quilt Sampler** offers hundreds of pieces, including crib to king-size bed quilts, wall-hangings, table-top pieces, bags, pillows and small gift items. Everything from practical potholders to exquisite pieces of quilted art. And for the season, a selection of holiday quilts, tree skirts, stockings, ornaments, gift bags and baskets. The historic stone farmhouse location provides a beautiful backdrop for this gallery of antique pieces and locally made contemporary quilts. Open Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 5. 719 W. Baltimore Pk. 610-444-1887.

The Stone Barn and Foxfire, see Unionville.

Waterbury Kitchen & Bath, 818 E. Baltimore Pk., is where you'll find the ultimate gift. Perhaps an AGA Cooker in Claret Red, a soaking tub for two in hammered copper (see photo), or a John Boos professional island in stainless steel for the gourmet. For Him, a "Michael Berman" lavatory faucet in polished nickel; for Her, the "Estelle"

faucet by Herbeau in Antique Brass. Or let Waterbury design and build the ultimate kitchen or bath for both of you. Come visit their showroom where you can explore two thousand square feet of kitchen and bathroom products offered only by Waterbury. Phone 610-444-9190; WaterburyDesign.com.

KIMBERTON

Visit **Kimberton Whole Foods** for unique and earth-friendly gifts for the holidays. From ceramic mugs and organic clothing, to one-of-a-kind artisan housewares and hand-crafted lotions and soaps, you're sure to find the best gifts for your list. Gift cards available, too. While you're there, stock up on gourmet cheeses, local dairy, plus meats and produce for all your holiday party needs. Locations in Kimberton, Downingtown, Douglassville and Ottsville. Visit Kimberton-WholeFoods.com.



E. Jacobsen, Kirkwood, PA
610-547-4983; EJFM.com

KIRKWOOD

E. Jacobsen Furniture Maker, LLC executes important commissions of the finest period reproduction furniture. Eric consults with clients to develop the vision for each creation, using historical documentation and close physical study. The finest materials and techniques are used to build and finish museum quality pieces. Versatile, Eric can solve unique needs through collaborative design/build projects. Full restoration service also available. Follow recent projects at: www.facebook.com/E.JacobsenFurniture and view his portfolio on his website. 610-547-4983; EJFM.com.

LANCASTER

To make the season extra bright, **American Period Lighting**, 3004 Columbia Ave., has been building handcrafted lanterns, post lights and chandeliers for over 35 years. The Period Collection is known across the country for traditional, colonial and reproduction lighting fixtures. Select from over 100 standard models in multiple sizes produced in solid brass. Custom designed and historical replicas in electric and candled styles are available with custom lamp posts and standards produced of solid cedar and polymer. 717-392-5649; American-Period.com.

We especially enjoy dining out at historic places during the holidays. That's one of the reasons that **Stockyard Inn**, at 1147 Lititz Pk., is a great favorite of ours. Built in 1752, the original inn was once owned by President James Buchanan. Serving the finest steaks, chops, prime rib, fresh seafood and chef's daily specials, they are well-known for their warm spirit and generous hospitality, combining Old World charm with contemporary American cuisine. 717-394-7975; StockyardInn.com.



Dutchie's Stoneworks, Paradise, PA
717-587-8789; DutchiesStoneworks.com

LEOLA

Discover the luxury accommodations, historic charm and gracious hospitality offered at this Lancaster County Inn. Nestled on acres of gardens, the **Inn at Leola Village** is ideal for romantic escapes, destination weddings, corporate retreats and social gatherings. Stay in one of the Inn's restored antique Amish homes; enjoy a relaxing massage in the

spa, dine in one of the European-inspired restaurants and enjoy the very best of Lancaster County. 38 Deborah Dr. 717-656-7002; TheInn-AtLeolaVillage.com.

Dine at **Restaurant Mazzi**, The Inn at Leola Village, 38 Deborah Dr., and experience the flavors of Europe, fine wines from boutique Italian vineyards and the award winning 4 Diamond services of America's best restaurants. Savor refined Italian cuisine created from the freshest ingredients, all bursting with flavor. Rated the "Best Dining Experience in Lancaster County," Restaurant Mazzi is ideal for client dinners, intimate

weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and special romantic evenings. Private salon for 40. Private parties for 90. 717-656-8983; TheInnAtLeolaVillage.com.

Experience the warm, casual atmosphere and rustic Italian fare of **Osteria Avanti**, also at The Inn at Leola Village, 38 Deborah Dr.

Designed to be a classical Italian Country restaurant boasting gold stucco walls, hand painted plates and the feel of Italy. Enjoy a variety of pastas, salads, meat and fish dishes, antipasto, small bite and sharing plates. Their wine list features over 450 options, plus a full bar and numerous beers. No reservations needed simply great food and fun! 717-656-8983; TheInnAtLeolaVillage.com.

MALVERN

At this time of year, your mind might not be on water gardens, ponds and landscape design. But the fact is that this is the ideal time to plan for what you'd like to see going on in your landscape this

spring, and the talented designers and craftsmen at **Flowing Springs Landscape Design**, 426 Old Conestoga Rd., can make it happen. They offer expert consultation on creative design and custom building for your property. In addition to water gardens and ponds, they'll create waterfalls, patios, landscape lighting, walks and stone walls, and design and build a custom swimming pool that will delight you for years to come. They offer professional tree and shrub care, as well as quality nursery items and have been serving the Main Line and surrounding area for 29 years, so they have excellent references. Phone them and ask about their holiday decorating services. 610-408-0739.

For over 27 years, **Wolfe's Baldwin Brass Center**, at 101 E. King St., has been selling quality decorative hardware and home accents. Visit their showroom to see the wide selection of hardware

from manufacturers such as Baldwin, Emtek, LB Brass, Top Knobs Schaub and so much more. Enjoy shopping for Christmas with unique choices like solid brass bells on leather straps, Galileo thermometers, compasses, Byers' Choice carolers and Baldwin Christmas ornaments. Friendly and knowledgeable staff will be happy to serve you to help find the perfect gift or accent for your home. For information, 610-408-8533 or visit WolfeBrass.com.

MEDIA

Ten Thousand Villages, see listing under Exton, PA.

MORGANTOWN

For years we've made it a point to stop

in regularly at **The Mill Property Antiques**, a multi-dealer mall featuring antiques, accessories and one-of-a-kind decorative items in a wide variety of periods and styles. You never know what sort of treasure you're liable to come upon, but we have several unique items in our home that we found there. There are offerings in country primitive, traditional, Victorian and retro modern styles, as well as antique kitchen wares, tools, clothing, jewelry, textiles, memorabilia and collectibles of all sorts. It's all spread over 10,000 square feet on two floors and there is ample off-street parking. They are open seven days, 10 to 5:30. 2910 W. Main St. (Rts. 23 & 10, PA Tpk. exit 298). Phone 610-286-8854 or visit their website, TheMillProperty.com.



Evelyn & Harriette's, Oley, PA 610-987-6055

NEW HOLLAND

The intricate and practical art of quilting lends itself to the Christmas season, with

colorful and unique designs that make very beautiful gifts. **Witmer Quilt Shop**, 1070 W. Main St., provides an abundant selection of wall hangings, pillows and all sizes of bed-size quilts. Your choice includes one-of-a-kind antique quilts, as well as special orders and custom-made designs, handquilted in the patterns and colors you desire. They have over 150 Queen Size quilts in stock. The shop has been operating for over 50 years in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country. You're sure to be delighted with the wonderful selection of gifts for that special relative or friend. For the month of December, they're giving 10% off any bed-size quilt in stock. Gift certificates available. 717-656-9526.

NEWTOWN SQUARE

Exceptional gift baskets and luscious fine chocolates are two great reasons to stop at **Christopher Chocolates** at 3519 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3). They have a great selection of gourmet foods, candies and fine chocolates to fill their gift baskets, which can then become your gift baskets, adding a handmade decorated bow to the delight of anyone. Goodies from today and retro from yesteryear for the child at heart (no matter the age). Pick up a brochure for your gift-giving needs. They ship and deliver. Celebrating 25 years of making life sweeter! Phone 610-359-1669, or check their website, ChristopherChocolates.com or Twitter.com/ChrisChocolates for the latest deals and coupons.

At **Mostardi Nursery**, 4033 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3), west of Newtown Square, holiday shoppers will find a fresh approach to gift giving. They have added a new dimension to their long-standing excellent selection of quality live wreaths, plants and greens of the season. Their Christmas Shop has a wonderful assortment of very tasteful garden accents, plus ornaments and accessories that will be received with great pleasure by even the most challenging on your gift list. Gifts that celebrate the home and garden throughout the year, from one of our region's premier nurseries. 610-356-8035 or visit Mostardi.com.

NOTTINGHAM

Come enjoy the tastiest educational trip you'll ever experience with **Herr's Free**

Snack Factory Tour, 285 Old Baltimore Pk. See potato chips, pretzels, cheese curls and popcorn being made before your very eyes; sample tasty chips, fresh and warm from the cookers. Share family fun during guided tours, stop and shop at the gift shop, sip and sup at Chipper's Café and watch their grand video. Small and large groups easily accommodated. Handicap accessible. (They even schedule birthday parties!) More than a day trip, a tour of Herr's is educational fun you'll remember. 610-932-6516; 800-637-6225; Herrs.com.

OLEY



Ball & Ball, Exton, PA
610-363-7330; BallAndBall.com

Remember when holiday celebration was an exchange of thoughtful gift giving? Gifts had lasting value and were cherished for many years to come. **Evelyn & Harriette's Gifts**, 1232 Oysterdale Rd., is based on the philosophy that "nice things do not have to be costly," offering beautiful items from around the world such as historic pewter, jewelry, Polish pottery, hand-blown glass, original art, traditional old-world ornaments and a wide selection of

quality wood toys, puzzles, books, and games. No buttons, no batteries, just hands and minds required. Join them for their Open House on Dec. 2-4, Glucks Poinsettia Show on Dec. 3-4 and 6. Stop in and see them. You'll be surprised at what you'll find. 610-987-6055.

PAOLI

For fine jewelry, artisan gifts and collectibles, visit **Walter J. Cook Jeweler** in Paoli. New this holiday season, the St. Barth's Collection from Lika Behar,

a new generation of elegant watches by Tavannes Watch Company and the Scribble Shadow Collection by Dana David. Michael Cook and his knowledgeable staff will help you select the perfect gift for a person near and dear to your heart. Serving the Main Line area since 1946, Walter J. Cook Jeweler is located in the Chestnut Village Shoppes, 36 Chestnut Rd. 610-644-5347; WalterJCookJeweler.com.

Enjoy the beauty and warmth of a new kitchen designed by **Sugarbridge Kitchen and Bath Design**, Paoli Design Center, 1616 E. Lancaster Ave. Using custom cabinetry by Wood-Mode, their kitchens are distinguishable by their unique designs, as well as the finest materials and attention to detail. 610-524-6091; Sugarbridge.com.

PARADISE

It's fitting that Paradise is where you can find a perfect gift for your home. The skilled masons of **Dutchie's Stoneworks** can use stone, slate or brick to revitalize your home by adding a new feature for the New Year. New stone façade, brick driveway or slate patio for the exterior? Or fireplace, kitchen or a custom project for the interior? Their craftsmanship and professionalism have customers saying Dutchie's "exceeded all expectations." For projects large and small, contact 717-587-8789; DutchiesStoneworks.com.

POTTSTOWN

Furniture shopping? It doesn't have to give you headaches. **Alegacy Furniture**, 1486 S. Hanover St. (Rt 100), specializes in creating American-made, hard-

wood furniture just for you. Their showroom displays a broad range of furniture styles in fully accessorized room settings for you to browse at your leisure and evaluate your furniture needs and dreams for any room in your home. You are welcome to modify, customize or bring your own ideas! All made to order, your furniture will be custom crafted with your choice of renewable American hardwood, finish color, and hardware. 610-970-4340; AlegacyFurniture.com.

UNIONVILLE

Treat family and friends to a Sunday Brunch at **The Stone Barn**, located in a charmingly restored historic barn. And don't miss Brunch with Santa, Dec. 4, 11 and 18! A delicious array of breakfast, dinner and dessert selections complement the scenic views in Unionville's fox hunting

country. Brunch served 10 to 3. Brunch Gift Certificates make your holiday shopping a breeze. It's not too late to book a holiday party in one of the private dining rooms, accommodating up to 200 guests. BYOB. 550 Upland Rd. 610-347-2414; TheStoneBarn.com.

Treat family and friends to casually elegant dining at **Foxfire at the Stone Barn**, featuring Chef Ray Maxwell's acclaimed Farm to Table cuisine, including freshly prepared dishes made with local produce, sustainable seafood, free-range chicken and PA farm-raised game. Thurs, Fri, Sat, for lunch and dinner. BYOB. Gift Certificates to Foxfire make your holiday shopping a breeze. 550 Upland



Walter J. Cook Jeweler, Paoli, PA
610-644-5347; WalterJCookJeweler.com

Rd. Phone 610-347-2414, or visit their website, TheStoneBarn.com.

WAYNE

What's Christmas without poinsettias? Pick your red and white posies from the only perennial FTD Top 100 florist in the suburbs — **Cowan's Flowers**, 195 E. Lancaster Ave. Stop at their location in the heart of Wayne. Choose fancy fruit baskets, festive holiday arrangements and poinsettias. Want to send a bouquet out of town? Cowan's is the largest FTD sender in Chester and Delaware Counties. Cowan's wishes you Happy Holidays! Phone 610-688-5150 or visit their website CowansFlowers.com.

WEST CHESTER

Collectors of fine china and glassware discover a treasure-trove at **The Antique Shop**, 11 N. Church St. Co-owners Alice Thomas and Jean Newsome specialize in rare English Staffordshire china and Heisey glassware, famous for its elegant etchings, cuttings and engravings. They also showcase Fiesta Ware, Candlewyck items, pink, green and cobalt blue Depression glass, china cabinets, distinctive furniture and other rare collector pieces. Look for their popular Christmas window display. Open Mon-Fri, 10 to 5; Sat., 10 to 1. Phone 610-344-0657.

To add sparkle to the holidays, visit **Big Diamond Importers & Fine Jewelry**, 15 W. Gay St., specializing in ideal cut diamonds, engagement rings and wedding bands at wholesale prices. Come see their new designers collec-

tion for 2012 — Gabriel & Company, Frederic Duclo, Natalie K, Jorge Revilla-Spain, LK Design and much more. You will also receive 30% off on all in-store jewelry for mentioning this article. If you don't see what you want, they'll get it for you or help you with a custom design. 610-692-7707; BigsDiamonds.com.

Fast Frame of West Chester, 27 W. Gay St., is now bringing framing to your home. For West Chester area customers, they offer a variety of framing selections; the in-home service will help ensure design selections work with your décor. They also offer installation services, which can be especially important on large projects. They recently finished installing three large mirrors in the home of local garden designer, Phillip Watson, whose popular line appears regularly on QVC. Phone 484-947-5154; FastFrame.com.



American Period Lighting, Lancaster, PA
717-392-5649; AmericanPeriod.com

Feliz Navidad!
Spice up the season

with a holiday visit to **La Tolteca**, one of West Chester's favorite Mexican restaurants. They have been serving authentic Mexican food at six locations in Delaware for a dozen years and have been voted Best Mexican Restaurant for the last 10 years, so you know they're good at what they're doing. And they are locally owned! The atmosphere is bright, the service is friendly — and don't forget dessert, it's really good! 907 S. High St. Open Mon-Thurs, 11 to 10; Fri-Sat, 11 to 10:30; Sun, 11 to 9. 610-429-8101; LaTolteca.net.

Located in one of West Chester's most famous historic structures, **The Lincoln Room**, 28 W. Market St., provides a charming place to enjoy a luncheon and tea menu. Enjoy Fondue Friday, Dec. 9th, with cheese fondue and a rich chocolate dessert fondue in a beautiful, candlelit setting, with the sounds of classical guitarist Malcolm Johnstone. 7 to 9 pm. Fondue Friday sells out quickly, so phone for reservations. \$20 per person, BYOB. For luncheon and tea, Tues-Sat, 10 to 2. Open Mondays in December. Closed Sunday, but available for private rentals. 610-696-2102; LincolnRoom-WestChester.com.

When Joanne and John Caulfield took over Coyote Crossing in 2009, they wanted to create a destination for everyone to enjoy. At **Más Mexicali Cantina**, whether you are at the first floor Cantina, the second floor Velvet Lounge or "Más on the Roof," you'll find award-winning authentic Mexi-can cuisine with a rock-n-roll flare. Quickly becoming one of West Chester's top destinations for dining and late night action. You can always expect more at Más! 102 E. Market St. 610-918-6280; Mas-Mexicali-Cantina.com.

Not only is **Matlack Florist** the place to go for all your fresh floral needs, the giftshop is overflowing with Christmas décor, silk arrangements and wreaths, jewelry, accessories and giftware for holiday entertaining. Visit them at 210 N. Chester Rd (Rt. 352). 610-431-3077; MatlackFlorist.com.

Give the gift of a beautiful smile, for yourself or a loved one, this holiday season.



Christopher Chocolates, Newtown Square, PA
610-359-1669; Christopher-Chocolates.com

West Chester Dental Arts, 403 N. Five Points Rd., offers services such as implant dentistry, Zoom Teeth Whitening, sedation dentistry and free exams and x-rays for all new patients. At West Chester Dental Arts, their priority is to deliver quality care to informed patients in a comfortable, convenient setting. 610-696-3371 or visit WCDentalArts.com.

WESTTOWN

Looking for a unique holiday gift? **Westtown School** is offering beautiful giclée reproductions of N.C. Wyeth's famous painting *The Giant*. Each print is generated from high-resolution digital scans, printed with archival quality inks on museum quality canvas and accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity from the Westtown School Archives. To purchase a giclée or for more information, please contact the Alumni Office at 610-399-7941 or alumni@westtown.edu.

• DELAWARE •

WILMINGTON

Come visit **Kurtz Collection**, to find the most unique gifts for the holiday season including animal ornaments, artisan jewelry, pottery and many one-of-a-kind home accessories. Their hip and chic staff has a keen eye for this seasons' hottest trends. Come in and put them to the test! Whether looking for a special gift or something to freshen your own home, there's something for everyone. 1010 N. Union St. 302-654-0442; KurtzCollection.com. ♦

We hope you will patronize these fine local shops, restaurants and services. Happy holidays.

DINING IN • STYLE



MÁS MEXICALI CANTINA

Owners: John and Joanne Caulfield

102 E. Market St., West Chester • 610-918-6280 • Mas-Mexicali-Cantina.com

Open Monday-Sunday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Private parties: Up to 120 in Tequila Bar and Velvet Lounge on second floor

Lise Monty

Fiesta time never stops at this vibrant, bustling cantina. It's easy to get swept up in its spirited feel-good vibe. From the minute we arrived, we couldn't keep our eyes off the vast array of intriguing and fun decorative images, so we just took time to check them out even before we even ordered a margarita.

"Más" emphatically means "more" at Mexicali — tastefully over the top and delightful, which applies to the food as well as the exuberant décor.

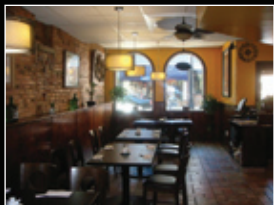
Traditional winners like chunky guacamole, sizzling fajitas and huge burritos get high marks. So do several new menu items, some of them innovative inter-

pretations of Mexican classics. Take the fusion-y Oceanside Enchiladas. They're finished with a Newburg sauce, an oldie-but-goodie I associate with toast points, which now seem quaint. Más adds a slightly spicy touch that kicks up the creamy goodness and makes it a perfect topping for the tequila-marinated shrimp, bay scallops and Cojito cheese wrapped in a flour tortilla.

The best-selling Mini Chimi appetizer, a first-place winner at the 32nd annual Chester County Restaurant Festival this year, comes with a sweet/spicy/fruity dipping sauce probably never seen in any restaurant in Mexicali, Mexico. Its crispy wrap encases shredded chicken,

Lily's: Asian Cuisine, Sushi and Grill

BYOB, all you can eat sushi every Tuesday.
Private party room available.



lily
asian cuisine sushi & grill

104 W State St, Kennett Square, PA 19348

610-925-3700

lilysushiandgrill.com [lilyspa](https://www.facebook.com/lilyspa)

Christopher
CHOCOLATES FINE FOODS

A CANDY STORE WITH
A WHOLE LOT MORE!

Scrumptious Chocolates & Truffles
Gift Baskets of Tasty Treats for All Occasions
Retro Candies - Memories From the Past

3519 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, PA
610-359-1669
www.christopher-chocolates.com

Follow Us On



CANDY BUFFETS

Great for Weddings, Birthdays,
Family Gatherings or Grand Openings.
Make Your Candy Choices &
We'll Design the Buffet!



chili-braised onions and peppers and cheddar jack cheese. The sauce makes it sing.

A Labor of Love

Owners John and Joanne Caulfield planned long and worked hard to create their ideal restaurant that celebrates their passion for Mexican cuisine and L.A. rock 'n' roll. Stylized images of roses and skulls show up everywhere, even on the updated exterior of the large three-story building in the historic district of restaurant-rich West Chester. Think lovingly of Guns 'n' Roses, the Grateful Dead and Day of the Dead. You've just gotta love a culture that makes skeletons and skulls seem so charming and happy.

A whole garden of large star-shaped lights in classic punched-tin design hang from the ceiling, each decorated with small, multi-color lights. Displays of these lights pop up throughout the large dining room prompting my companion to cheer: "It feels like Christmas."

The exposed brick wall, which soars up two floors, boasts an enticing mural of Mexicali Rose, a buxom babe in a clingy red dress with a red rose in her long hair. The muralist is co-owner Joanne Caulfield's sister, Nance Markel, of Garnett Valley. Caulfield recalls how the song "Mexicali Rose" was a family favorite when they were growing up.

Large sepia-toned photographs of Mexican revolutionaries, looking rugged and tough, of course, add a touch of history. So do huge, handsome wrought-iron chandeliers. A low-rider bike hangs behind the bar as a contemporary work of art. Margarita fans can toast the bike or Lady Guadalupe in her brightly colored tequila shrine a few feet away. And there are hubcaps — lots and lots of hubcaps have been polished 'til they gleam. They show up as sconces and even covering the entire ceiling in the second floor Velvet Lounge. They never looked so good.

What's New

So, what new dishes have the kitchen folks cooked up? *The Frijole Ensalada*, a new salad, scores with its toss of black, kidney and cannellini beans dressed with

a refreshing lime-cilantro vinaigrette and served in a crisp tortilla. *Sopa del Dia*, the soup of the day, now supplements the chicken tortilla soup and black bean soup that continue as standard fare.

The Signature Salad — romaine, avocado, roasted corn, radish, queso fresco, roasted pepitas, pico de gallo and crispy tortilla strips — still tops the ensalada list. Also included: L.A.-style chopped romaine salad, grilled fajitas salad, crisp tostado salad and a spinach version with the option of adding beef, shrimp, chicken or marinated tofu.

A new appetizer, the *Triple Dip*, has generous scoops of guacamole, zesty chipotle hummus and queso blanco. Regulars will be happy with the Mexican shrimp cocktail, flaming queso fundido, "Bad Boy" nachos, killer quesadillas, Más wings and tempting Grande Sampler.

The "Taco-Licious!" offerings that continue: Corona fish, steak al carbon, marinated chicken, Mexicali short ribs, Cabo-style shrimp and grilled mahi mahi. The West Chester crowd loves the Tofu Taco, says co-owner Joanne Caulfield, so it stays. It includes marinated tofu, avocado, Mexican slaw, pico de gallo and salsa verde.

Specialties: Homey & Haute

Eager to satisfy both the meat-and-potato guy and full-scale foodies, the kitchen introduces two new burgers: the *Johnny Cash* and the *Caballero* ("gentleman" in Spanish). Both macho-size beauties begin with organic beef. The delicious Caballero, wrapped in pastry, looks like a perfect "en croute" creation Julia Child would have made. With its chipotle rub, plus goat cheese and avocado, all encased in perfectly browned pastry, it's a four-star burger. The manly Johnny Cash can't miss with its prime beef, jalapeno-pepper-jack cheese and avocado, plus chipotle sauce, all on a good burger bun.

Beyond the delectable *Oceanside Enchilada*, the "Specialties" entrée options also include honey chipotle salmon, marinated pork with tequila honey butter, chili relleno, Baja-style

paella, pasilla-braised short ribs, grilled chicken breast, and free-range organic chicken Guadalajara with sausage, peppers and spinach.

The celebrated “1/2 kilo in weight” burritos remain. No one even thought of giving them the axe.

Party Time

The fresh-shaken margaritas rock, of course. And none more than the woo-hoo *El Diablo* with its slices of peppery Serrano chilies. The cool cucumber version is never better than when it’s sipped on the Más Rooftop. This popular, open-air dining spot touted as “West Chester’s only rooftop dining destination,” is now closed, awaiting al fresco season. But not to worry. The partying goes on, whatever the day or weather outside.

“Family Funday Sunday” kicks off every new week with live acoustic music; Monday brings Poker Night; on Wednesdays, you can “jam with the band.”

A local psychic medium shows up periodically, which makes sense since

several staff members and even co-owner John have experienced “lingering spirits.” These range from ghostly views of a woman in a long white dress to sudden and intense cold chills.

The good news: These spirits have absolutely no influence in the kitchen. More good news: You can still get all those popular dishes that have made Más such a hot spot. Now, the new items give you even more choices. ♦

***Note:** Prices are not included because the new menu items (now available) were still a work in progress at press time. The owners said all prices would continue to be moderate, with the high-end entrées (salmon, short ribs, etc.) in the \$10.99-\$14.99 range.*

County Lines *Online*
Visit
CountyLinesMagazine.com
“Dining & Recipes” has more reviews.
“Food News” keeps you in the know.



**AT THE
STONE BARN**
FARM TO TABLE CUISINE
Thurs-Fri-Sat, Lunch & Dinner
BYOB
www.thestonebarn.com
Route 842, Kennett Square PA
610-347-2414

Sunday
Brunch
Buffet w/
Santa!
Dec.
4, 11, 18


Weddings
Banquets
&
Holiday
Parties



**THE
STOCKYARD
INN**

Old World Charm with
Contemporary American Cuisine
The Finest Steaks, Chops & Fresh Seafood
1147 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA
717.394.7975 • www.stockyardinn.com

Winner
“Top 10 Romantic Inns”
Award




3542 Old Philadelphia Pike
POB 598, Intercourse, PA 17534
800.664.0949
www.amishcountryinns.com



HOLIDAY COOKIES

Laura Muzzi Brennan

The average American eats 300 cookies a year, and I’m guessing around half get gobbled down when the winter holidays are in full swing. After all, who can resist a homemade treat tucked into a brightly colored box and delivered by one who wishes you well?

That’s why we’ve devoted December’s “Brandywine Table” to cookies and the folks who mix the dough and pipe the icing.

Maryellen Bowers, owner of **Cakes and Candies by Maryellen**, learned to bake from her Nana — and she still calls upon Nana’s recipes to create her baked goods. At her retail shop on West Chester Pike, Bowers earns high praise from local sweet tooths.

Among her most popular offerings are lace, chocolate chip, iced sugar and sugar oatmeal cookies. She kindly shared a few of her basic recipes with us. To taste her tweaks on them, however, you’ll just have to visit her shop, open Tuesday through Sunday. It’s not hard to find: just look for the pink door!

Like Maryellen Bowers, Christine Ruggio of **Sweet Christine’s Bakery** in Kennett Square counts her grandmother as an important influence on her baking. In fact, her grandmother not only passed on her recipes, she officially bequeathed her pizelle iron to Christine!

Diagnosed with Celiac disease in 2005, Ruggio refused to give up the

baked goods she loved. Instead, she adapted recipes to suit a gluten-free diet and opened her bakery in 2008. While her business is mainly wholesale, her shop is open to all Wednesday through Saturday.

Devotees appreciate Ruggio’s all-natural ingredients and frequently remark that her baked goods are every bit as delicious as their gluten-filled counterparts. Try her pizelle recipe, and you’ll taste what all the fuss is about.

Rounding out the roster of bakers are members of our **County Lines**’ staff. They’ve graciously jotted down the recipes that consistently garner accolades at family gatherings and holiday parties.

Now what to do when your id begs you to try every cookie recipe but your superego interferes with a reality check?

Get in touch with your inner Martha Stewart: host a cookie exchange. They are an ideal way to celebrate the season with friends while adding variety to your holiday cookie supply.

Here’s the plan: invite 5-10 buddies over for the afternoon. Ask each to bring several dozen of their favorite cookie as well as a few empty tins. Then, let the fun begin! Nibble on each other’s creations, fill your tins with the ones you like best, and give out awards for “Most Original,” “Prettiest” and “Most Likely to Disappear First from the Cookie Tray.”

Come to December’s Table where holiday cookies take the cake!

James A. Cochrane, Inc.

Realtor

379 Templin Road
Glenmoore, PA 19343
Tel: (610) 469-6100



James A. Cochrane Inc.
REALTOR



Private location in the country, yet around the corner from local schools, county parks and much more! Megill, custom built home with spacious, light-drenched rooms, this home features an open floor plan with many high end finishes! Four bedrooms, 3 1/2 half baths, immaculately maintained! Set on 1.54 acres, mature

trees & thoughtful landscaping complete this picturesque property which backs up to woods and 90+ acres of preserved land. Recreation opportunities abound nearby, easy commute or work from the sanctuary you call home! Listed for \$649,000. Visit our website www.cochraneinc.com or call 610-469-6100 for info.



9-TIME AWARD WINNER 2011 BEST COMMUNITY BANK



A Rewarding Banking Experience.™

Berwyn	610.251.9585
Concordville	610.558.1555
Coventry	610.469.6201
Exton	610.363.1700
Lionville	610.594.6400
Malvern	610.647.7944
Paoli	610.993.6200
Westtown	610.399.8000

www.malvernfederal.com

Member
FDIC

Classic Chocolate Chip Cookies

"Chocolate chips make everything better," says Maryellen Bowers of Cakes and Candies by Maryellen. Here's her standard recipe.

2¼ C. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
1 C. butter
¾ C. granulated sugar
¾ C. brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
2 large eggs
2 C. chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 375°. Mix flour, baking soda and salt in small bowl.

Beat butter, sugars and vanilla in large mixer bowl until creamy. Add eggs and beat in. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in chocolate chips.

Drop by round teaspoon onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake for 9-11 minutes or until golden brown. Makes 5-6 dozen.

Gingerbread Cookies

Courtesy of Maryellen Bowers.

¼ C. light molasses
2 Tb. water
⅔ C. butter
½ C. brown sugar
1 egg
2¼ C. all-purpose flour, plus extra for rolling out dough
1 tsp. ground ginger
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. ground cloves
raisins or jimmies, optional

Preheat oven to 350°. In a saucepan, stir molasses and water over medium heat until hot. Remove from heat. Stir in butter and brown sugar until smooth. Stir in remaining ingredients.

Divide dough in half and shape into 2 disks. Wrap each in plastic wrap. Refrigerate 1 hour.

On a floured surface, roll one disk of dough to ⅛-inch thickness. Cut with floured 3-3½-inch gingerbread boy and girl cookie cutters. Decorate with raisins or jimmies as desired. Place cut-outs on an ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake for 7-9 minutes or until set. Remove cookies from cookie sheets to cooling racks. Makes 5-6 dozen.

Lace Cookies

These cookies fly out of Maryellen Bowers' shop.

6 Tb. butter, softened
¼ C. brown sugar
3 Tb. granulated sugar
3 Tb. corn syrup
¼ C. flour
dash of salt
¼ C. almonds, chopped or ground, cook's preference
1 Tb. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350°. In a saucepan bring butter, sugars and syrup to a boil. Remove from heat. Add flour and salt. Stir in almonds and vanilla.

Drop by rounded teaspoon on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 8-10 minutes. Makes 4 dozen small cookies.

Pizelles

As satisfying as the traditional Italian waffle cookie — only gluten-free. You can purchase an electric pizelle iron at a cooking supply store. Christine Ruggio says her children like to eliminate the anise oil, but her Italian grandmother would never hear of it. Either way, these cookies are "Molto Delizioso!"

1 C. tapioca flour
1 C. potato starch flour
¾ C. white rice flour
½ C. sorghum flour
1 tsp. xanthan gum
1 Tb. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
1 stick butter, melted and cooled
3 eggs
2 Tb. anise oil
1 C. sugar
confectioners sugar, optional

Mix the first 7 ingredients in a medium-sized bowl. In a larger bowl, combine eggs, butter and sugar. Mix well. Gradually add anise oil. Slowly add dry ingredients to wet ingredients in large bowl.

Turn on pizelle iron. Spray with oil. Place a spoon full of dough in the middle, and cook for 30 seconds. Repeat with remaining dough. Sprinkle with confectioners sugar, if desired. Makes 42 cookies.

Kifflets

A lifetime ago, when I was a high school English teacher, I used to receive these every Christmas from one of my students. Before she went to college, she gave me the recipe. After an exhaustive search for the history of these buttery cookies, I can only conclude that they're a simpler version of the traditional Hungarian kiffle, a pastry-like cookie filled with nuts and fruit.

1 lb. butter (must be butter!) room temp.
½ C. granulated sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
4 C. flour
1 C. confectioners sugar for dredging

Preheat oven to 350°. With an electric mixer, cream butter with sugar and vanilla. With your hands, mix in flour. Dough should be smooth, not sticky or crumbly. If dough is too soft, add a little more flour.

By hand, form into crescents, about 1 to 1½ inches long.

Bake for 10 minutes. Cookies are done when they are firm to the touch (don't worry if they brown slightly on the bottom).

As soon as cookies have cooled enough for you to touch them, dredge each by hand in confectioners sugar. They should be hot so the sugar coats them, but if the first one crumbles, wait a few minutes and try again. Makes 80 cookies.

Winter Crystal Cookies

Sugar crystals make these sparkle like fresh snow. Turbinado sugar is raw, amber-colored with large crystals.

1 C. butter, room-temperature
1 C. sugar
3 large egg yolks
2½ C. sifted flour

2¼ tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
¾ C. sugar crystals or turbinado sugar

Cream butter and sugar. Add egg yolks and mix thoroughly. Add flour, baking powder and vanilla. Blend well. Wrap dough in plastic wrap and chill 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 350°. Pick off table-spoon size chunks of dough and roll into balls. Place on lightly greased cookie sheet and sprinkle with a little sugar. Flatten each with fingers or with the bottom of a glass dipped in the sugar.

Bake about 15 minutes, or until lightly browned. Makes 36 cookies.

Orange-Infused Coconut Macaroons

For a sweeter macaroon, feel free to add more confectioners sugar. Orange oil can be found at gourmet spice shops and in some grocery stores, but a few tablespoons of orange juice or the finely grated zest of 1 orange could also work.

3½ C. sweetened flaked coconut, divided
¼ C. confectioner's sugar
¼ tsp. orange oil
2 oz. cream cheese, room temp.
1 Tb. milk
3 Tb. all-purpose flour
1 large egg white
½ tsp. vanilla
pinch of salt

Preheat oven to 325°. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.

In a food processor, finely chop 2 cups coconut and mix in rest of ingredients (except remaining coconut) until well-combined. The dough should be moist. (Avoid making the mixture into a purée!)

Place the remaining 1½ cups coconut in a shallow pie plate. Form dough into small balls, about 1 to 1½" in diameter. Roll each ball in coconut.

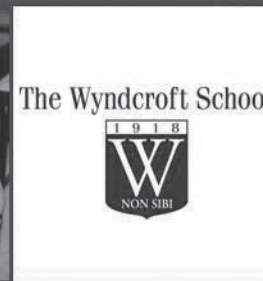
Bake 35 minutes until golden brown. Cool on a rack. Makes 15 cookies.

Chai-Spiced Cookies

Liz Dols, daughter of County Lines' associate production manager, Jane Eliza-

WYNDCROFT

Excellent Academics in a Nurturing Setting



**Information Sessions
Sundays:**

**February 5th
April 15th**

1:00 p.m.



- Independent Day School for boys and girls Pre-School through 8th Grade

- Superior Curriculum

- Traditional yet creative way of teaching

- Small classes

1395 Wilson Street • Pottstown, PA 19464

For more information call 610-326-0544 or visit our website at www.wyndcroft.org

ALL CLASSICAL ALL THE TIME

**"50 million people
can listen to us on an iPhone?
Splendid!
What's an iPhone?"**



BrandywineRadio.com

News so local that we report lost dogs

The Carriage House at Willowdale Crossings



'Tis the Season...

Everything you need to bring the warmth & charm of the holidays into your home awaits you at the Carriage House • Choose from our unique selections in handcrafted ornaments, Santas & Snowmen • Byers' Carolers • Distinctive wreaths & floral accents custom designed for you • One of a kind selections for your decorating and gift giving needs • Gourmet goodies are great for holiday entertaining • Seasonal scents, music • Original jewelry & gift items

Rts. 926 & 82 in Willowdale Town
Center, Kennett Square, PA
610-444-6770

beth Dols, discovered this recipe on the Whole Foods website. She tweaked the quantities a bit to create a cookie infused with the flavors of her favorite tea.

- ½ C. unsalted butter, softened
- ¼ C. granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 C. all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp. ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp. ground ginger
- ½ tsp. ground cloves
- ¾ tsp. ground cardamom
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¾ C. powdered sugar, sifted

Preheat oven to 350°. Line two cookies sheets with parchment paper.

Beat butter, sugar and vanilla in a medium bowl until blended. Stir in flour, spices and salt until just combined.

Roll dough into small (teaspoon-sized) balls and place about one inch apart on cookie sheets.

Bake 15-20 minutes until lightly golden. Cool for 5 minutes.

Roll warm cookies in powdered sugar and let cool completely on a rack. Makes about 30 cookies.

Thumbprint Cookies

Everyone seems to have a favorite version of these cookies. I like the one my friend Ashley makes the best, adapted from one at www.SimplyRecipes.com.

- 1 C. butter, room temperature
- ½ C. sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- pinch of salt
- 2 C. flour
- ¾ C. jam

Using an electric mixer, cream butter and sugar for 3 minutes. Add egg yolks and vanilla. Combine. Add flour and salt. Mix until just combined.

Wrap dough in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 350°. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper.

Roll dough into 1" balls and place on cookie sheets. Press thumb into each cookie to make a slight indentation and fill with jam.

Bake for 12-15 minutes or until slightly firm. Cool on a wire rack. Makes 2 dozen.

Chocolate Truffles

Associate editor, Marci Tomassone, contributed this recipe which she calls "an absolutely wonderful addition to the cookie tray." Whatever you don't give away will keep in the refrigerator for weeks.

- ½ lb. good quality semi-sweet chocolate
- ½ lb. good quality bittersweet chocolate
- 1 C. heavy cream
- 2 Tb. orange flavored liqueur (optional)
- 1 Tb. prepared coffee
- ½ to 1 tsp. good vanilla extract
- confectioners sugar
- cocoa powder

Thinly slice or shave chocolate into a heat-proof bowl.

In a small saucepan, heat heavy cream until it just barely comes to a boil. Turn off and let stand for 30 seconds. Pour through a sieve (or cheesecloth) into the chocolate shavings and, using a wire whisk, mix well until chocolate is melted. Add coffee, vanilla and, if you like, the liqueur.

Let sit at room temperature for an hour. The mixture will start to harden enough to work with. Form balls and put on parchment-lined baking sheet. (I use a melon baller to scoop, then quickly roll into a ball. Don't handle for too long.) Refrigerate for 1 hour.

Roll in confectioner's sugar, or cocoa powder. Makes about 60.

Snickerdoodles

Also from associate editor, Marci Tomassone. No one really knows where the cookie got its name, but theories abound. The Joy of Cooking guesses that it evolved from the German word for "snail dumpling" and another source says it comes from New England where cookies were often tagged with whimsical names.

- 2¾ C. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda

Evelyn & Harriette's Furniture-Gifts-Nice Things

1232 Oysterdale Rd., Oley, PA 19547
Located 1 mile north of the Rt. 73 Pleasantville traffic light.

610-987-6055

Open: 10-5 Tues-Sat



TRADITIONAL BAVARIAN PEWTER ORNAMENTS
BY WILHELM SCHWIETZER, GERMANY

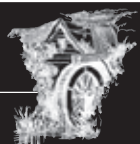
Celebrating Our Tenth Anniversary of
Presenting Quality Gifts, and Toys, From
Around the World.

Visit our Holiday Open House December 2, 3, & 4

We have Polish pottery, hand blown glass,
historic pewter, classic toys, art, and much more.

Ask for a shops guide at any Oley shop or restaurant.

THE MILL PROPERTY ANTIQUES



After Christmas Storewide Sale! Dec. 26- Dec. 31

Over 10,000 Sq. Ft. of Multiple Dealers offering
an eclectic mix of antiques, collectibles, books,
tools, furniture, vintage clothing and more!

Silent Auction Begins December 1

Open 7 Days A Week: 10 am to 5:30 pm
610-286-8854 • 2910 Main Street • Morgantown, PA
www.themillproperty.com

We wish you the Happiest, Healthiest & Wealthiest 2012!

We invite you to call us or visit
www.hollygross.com
to review our listings starting
at \$200,000.

Holly Gross Group

Honesty ♦ Professionalism
Unparalleled Service

Holly Gross ♦ Gus Brown
Linda Day ♦ Harry Price ♦ Tara Rucci
Michael Sheaffer ♦ Dick Gross
Direct 484-678-0367 Office 610-431-1100



Prudential
Fox & Roach REALTORS®

Almost No-Cook Holiday Treats

Want to give a homemade treat but don't want to crank up the oven? Try these recipes that require little heat but pay the sweetest of dividends.

Rocky Road Fudge

I adapted this recipe from one I found 5 years ago in Good Housekeeping magazine. The original was by Byrtle Swinehart of Eugene, Oregon.

- 1, 12-oz. pkg. dark chocolate chips
- 1 C. butterscotch or peanut butter flavored chips
- 1 C. crunchy peanut butter
- 1 Tb. butter
- ½ C. dried cherries, chopped
- 1, 10.5-oz. pkg. miniature marshmallows

Grease a small square (8" x 8") baking pan. Line it with parchment paper or plastic wrap.

In a saucepan, combine chocolate and butterscotch chips, peanut butter and butter. Stirring constantly, cook over medium heat for 2-3 minutes, until ingredients are just melted. Remove from heat.

Stir cherries and marshmallow into mixture. Pour mixture into pan and spread evenly. Cover pan with parchment paper or plastic wrap. Refrigerate until firm, about 3 hours.

To remove fudge from pan, invert pan onto cutting board. Remove paper or plastic. Turn fudge right side up. Cut into small squares. May be stored in the refrigerator.

Makes 2-3 dozen pieces of fudge depending on how large you cut your squares.

Buckeyes

These candies resemble the nuts from the buckeye tree, Ohio's state tree. I first fell in love with them when a friend from Cleveland made me a batch.

- 1½ C. peanut butter
- 1 C. butter, softened
- ½ tsp. vanilla
- 4 C. confectioners sugar
- 4 C. dark chocolate chips

With an electric mixer, combine peanut butter, butter, vanilla and confectioners sugar.

Roll dough into 1-inch balls and place on waxed cookie sheet. Stick a toothpick in the top of each ball. Cover with plastic wrap and freeze until firm, 30-60 minutes. Don't take them out until the toothpick is frozen in place.

Melt chocolate chips in a double boiler or on high in the microwave. Stir until smooth.

Dip each ball into chocolate, leaving a small circle of peanut butter on the top. Return to cookie sheet. Refrigerate until serving. Makes 4 dozen.

A Sweet Bite of History

Cookies were a happy accident. Centuries ago, bakers tested the heat of their oven by dropping a spoonful of cake batter onto the cooking surface. Those little drops, especially when sugar was added, turned out to be quite tasty. Now people of almost every culture have a cookie they call their own.

Dutch immigrants introduced the cookie to America in the 18th century. "Cookie" derives from the Dutch word "koekje" meaning little cake.

Betty's Crocker's Cooky Book, originally published in 1963, remains one of America's favorite cookbooks. When it went out of print, cookie lovers bombarded General Mills with so many requests that the book was re-released in 2002.

A *Reader's Digest* survey a few years ago found that chocolate chip and sugar cookies were America's two most beloved holiday cookies. Third place winners varied by state. In the **County Lines** territories of Pennsylvania and Delaware, the pizelle, the traditional Italian waffle cookie, took the bronze.

- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ C. shortening
- 8 Tb. (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 1½ C. plus 3 Tb. sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 Tb. ground cinnamon

Sift flour, baking soda and salt into a bowl and set aside.

Beat together shortening and butter (hand or standing mixer). Add 1½ cups sugar and continue beating until light and fluffy (5-7 minutes). Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add flour mixture, blend until smooth.



The Quilt Sampler

*Hundreds of
home-made quilts—
antique to contemporary!*

*Bed quilts of all sizes
Wallhangings
Tabletop pieces
Handbags & Gifts
Quilting Fabric*

Monday-Saturday, 9:30-5:00

*719 W. Baltimore Pk.
Kennett Square, PA
(follow State St. through town—just past
Rite-Aid on the right)
610-444-1887*



**195 E. LANCASTER AVENUE
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA**

**www.cowansflowers.net
610.688.5150**





Chester County Library
610-280-2600 • www.ccls.org

A library card...it's small enough to fit in your hand, powerful enough to change your life!

It's **FREE**, and you need only **one card** to use at all 18 libraries!

Atglen • Avon Grove • Bayard Taylor • Chester County • Chester Springs • Coatesville • Downingtown Easttown • Henrietta Hankin • Honey Brook • Malvern • Oxford • Paoli Parkesburg • Phoenixville • Spring City • Tredyffrin • West Chester

Shady Lady, Inc.®

Custom Window Treatments



*Offering
uncompromising
quality &
meticulous
workmanship,
for over
20 years.*

Specializing in:

- Interior Wood Shutters: Traditional & Wide Blade
- Drapery & Valances
- Castec Window Shading for Greenhouse Windows
- Cellular & Pleated Shades
- Blinds • Custom Roller Shades

Visit our showroom located at
872 Penn St., Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
hours by appointment only

610-527-4268 • 800-791-2424

Mix the 3 tablespoons sugar with the cinnamon in a small bowl. Roll the dough, by hand, into 1½-inch balls. Roll the balls in the cinnamon sugar. Flatten the balls into ½-inch thick rounds, and space evenly on unlined cookie sheets. Bake until light brown, but still moist in the center, 10-12 minutes. Cool on a rack. Makes about 5 dozen cookies.

CocoLocos

These cookies are a grab-bag of flavors. The recipe originally appeared in Bon Appétit. I have rewritten the directions to make the recipe easier to follow.

½ lb. butter, softened
⅔ C. light brown sugar, packed
⅔ C. granulated sugar
1 large egg
1 tsp. vanilla
1¾ C. all-purpose flour
½ tsp. baking soda
¼ tsp. salt
½ lb. chocolate, cut into ½-inch pieces
1½ C. old-fashioned rolled oats
1 C. sweetened grated coconut
½ C. chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 375°. Using an electric mixer, cream butter with sugars until fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually mix in flour, baking soda, and salt. By hand, stir in chocolate, oats, coconut and pecans.

Drop rounded tablespoons of dough on a cookie sheet. Bake for 12 minutes until cookies are golden. Cool on a rack. Makes 3 dozen. ♦

To contact Laura, please e-mail her at Laura-Brennan@ValleyDel.com.

County Lines Online

Visit
CountyLinesMagazine.com
for more great recipes.

Merlin's Surprise Continued from page 38

100-pound bag it would take to keep the pony quiet for the evening production, "even with treats, I don't know if we can count on Merlin to, you know, be responsible enough to carry Mary and the Baby. It's a very important role, and he's not the quietest pony in the world. Perhaps someone could lend you something more placid." Like a Tasmanian Devil, I thought. "Just to be safe."

But time was of the essence and there seemed to be nothing along the equine line that could body-double Donkey Whoatee.

I called the pageant organizer to tell her we'd be making a switch this year.

"Oh, no problem," I fibbed to the pageant lady. "We have the perfect substitute." Providing Mary had a little rodeo experience.

"Don't worry, Mom," my son said. "Merlin will be good. Besides, remember, I'll be leading him."

'We have the perfect substitute.' Providing Mary had a little rodeo experience.

I worried, recalling Merlin's recent foray one sleety afternoon when, after unlatching his stall with prehensile lips, he led my husband on a merry chase across a newly planted winter wheat field. Even after Merlin was captured, it took an hour for my husband to coax Merlin home from his sitting/kneeling/upside-down position.

To complicate the capture, my husband had failed to bring any Frosty Crunch with him for the chase. And if he had, I suspected it wouldn't have ended up in the pony's mouth.

The Show

Christmas Eve dawned with a gentle snow falling, coating trees and fields with picturesque white lace. By pageant time, there was no wind and a full moon lit the roadway for our short trip to the church. Joseph piled two sweatshirts under his bathrobe, wrapped the dish towel around his head and went down to the barn to get Merlin.

The plan was to meet Mary and the Baby at the foot of the hill for the short ride to the church and outdoor manger scene. Erroneously, I believed the walk would get any kinks out of Merlin. He'd been turned out in our most secure paddock most of the day to remove the edge that could lead him to playfully trample the Wise Men.

Adding to the authenticity of pony-as-donkey, my son secured a pair of rabbit ears (rescued from a Halloween costume) to Merlin's head with sticky tape and baling twine. While I believed Merlin would have them under his chin quicker than you could say "follow that star," Merlin didn't even give his head a toss ... as long as Frosty Crunchies were within taste.

In the dark, with a raggedy wool blanket over his saddle and if he'd been tranquilized, Merlin might have passed for our docile donkey. But standing still

had never been the pony's strong suit, and he danced gleefully sideways as we hooked the lead on his halter. Thrilled with the prospect of a night out, the pony bounced and skittered as we negotiated the snow-covered lane to meet Mary.

"You're kidding, right," were her first words. "Who's holding Merlin for an hour ... Hulk Hogan?"

To the Manger

Ignoring this uncharitable barb, we boosted Mary up on only the third try, while she jammed the Babe under her arm and held on tightly to Merlin's mane with both hands. The tradition was for Joseph to lead the donkey and his family past the crowd to the manger where the minister read the Christmas story and accepted offerings.

I admit, Merlin's 500-yard trip down the road wasn't as dicey as I'd anticipated, though Joseph had run through half a bag of Frosty Crunch and we were facing an hour of manger posing.

Still, so far the pony hadn't attempted to sit down or roll over in the road and hadn't even loosened his satin ears, which frankly gave him a more Disneyesque than Biblical appearance.

The snow began falling as the trio approached the manger, and the minister began reading the Christmas story. Carols played from a tape recorder and more snowflakes fell, while the brilliant moon lit the road.

The Wise Men waited patiently for the little family to enter before presenting their gifts of gold (a Pony Club trophy), frankincense (a bottle of olive oil), and myrrh (vanilla potpourri) to the "Child" in perfect timing with the minister's reading.

It was a Currier & Ives momnet.

The script required Joseph to lead the donkey into the stable and help Mary dismount and place the Babe in the converted feedbox/manger to receive worshippers. Flush with success at getting this far without his family landing in a ditch, Joseph was basking in the limelight.

Miracle of miracles, the story seemed to be unfolding without a hitch.

Then Merlin spied the goat.

Got His Goat

Staked out unobtrusively in back of the manger, the goat had a minor role as one of the adoring animals, which this year included half a dozen chickens, an ancient dairy cow, two miniature colliers and a de-scented skunk on a leash (a leap of artistic license).

Merlin lived with chickens and dogs, tolerated cows, and figured the skunk was just another breed of barn cat. But he had always hated goats. Never a politically correct pony, he hated the way they looked, smelled and, most especially, sounded.

Few people watching even noticed this particular goat tucked in the dim recesses of the shed. But Merlin would have noticed if the goat had been staked out on the church's steeple.

Refusing to budge, the pony planted his feet, flung his head and snorted

like a steam engine. With the minister approaching the part in his reading that required Mary to place the Babe in the manger, a crisis loomed.

Sensing disaster, Mary grabbed the Babe by the head and stuffed him under her arm, hoping at best for a voluntary dismount. But now in full battle stance, Merlin pawed the ground and danced sideways.

The crowd, not linking Merlin's bad behavior to the little goat, seemed puzzled by the pony's refusal to enter. The pageant organizer grew pale and the minister turned "Silent Night" up a few notches.

As Joseph tugged harder, Merlin danced sideways faster, and Mary considered bagging the script, stuffing the Babe in her pocket and leaving her husband to cope with his pseudo-jackass.

Big Save

Seeing his first big starring role disintegrating in humiliation, Joseph gave Merlin's halter one last yank. And, as if on cue instead of in temper, Merlin dropped down on his knees.

An agile Pony Clubber used to irascible ponies and emergency dismounts, Mary pretended it was part of the script as she slid over the pony's head and landed gracefully on her feet, the Babe safely tucked under her arm.

Still unruffled — though her father was visibly hyperventilating — Mary walked calmly to the manger, tucked the infant safely inside, and settled herself in the straw beside him.

Seeing a golden opportunity in his new role, Joseph kept pressure on Merlin's halter, and the pony remained on his knees while the crowd erupted into applause. Merlin had become a star.

For weeks to come the locals discussed the "lovely touch" the pony added by kneeling before the manger.

Joseph accepted accolades for "training" the clever pony, and Merlin discovered two bags of Frosty Crunchies in his feed tub Christmas morning. ♦

Gift Cards Available for the Holidays! Come in and get yours!
www.KimbertonWholeFoods.com



Locations in Douglassville, Downingtown, Kimberton and Ottsville, PA

Local & Organic Produce • Gluten Free Foods • Natural Bodycare
 Organic Beef & Poultry • Supplements • Raw Milk



**Brandywine Flags
& Country Gift Shoppe**

*Everything in Flags, Flag Poles,
Banners and Accessories*

Unique Selection of Gifts • Scented Candles
 • Cards and Much More

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL FLAGPOLES

146 Wallace Avenue
 Downingtown, PA 19335 • (610) 269-5800
www.brandywineflags.com
 Tues., Wed. & Fri. 10 - 5:30, Thurs., 10 - 6:00, Sat. 10 - 4:00

Ardmart Antiques Mall

State Road & Lansdowne Ave.
 Drexel Hill, PA 19026
610-789-6622

Dealer Space Available

Visit our website:
www.ardmartantiques.com

Air Conditioned • Ample Free Parking
 3/4 mile from Route #1
Dealer Inquiries Invited
 Open Fri., Sat. & Sun. 11-5
25 Dealers

Traditional & Period
LIGHTING
 For The Home & Garden™



★
 717-392-5649
americanperiod.com
Drive A Little to Save A Lot.

**AMERICAN PERIOD
 LIGHTING**
 3004 Columbia Ave., Lanc., PA

County Lines
 MAGAZINE



**WE HAVE
 BIG NEWS!**

County Lines is going BIG.

Our area is growing, and so are we.
 After 35 years, we're **DOUBLING** our size!
 Look for our January Dining Guide.

It's going to be BIG!

Still the Best Area Events Coverage anywhere!
 Visit us on Facebook  & CountyLinesMagazine.com

Index to Advertisers

County Lines is available at the following advertisers (* indicates 12-time advertisers who have copies each month). See our Advertiser Directory on CountyLinesMagazine.com.

ANTIQUES

The Antique Shop..... 43
* The Carriage House..... 74

ANTIQUES, MARKETS

Ardmart Antiques Mall..... 81
* The Mill Property..... 74

ANTIQUES, REPRODUCTIONS

* American Period Lighting..... 63, 81
Ball & Ball..... 28, 61
E. Jacobsen Furniture Maker..... 28, 58

ARCHITECTS

Peter Zimmerman Architects..... 23

ART—GALLERIES, FRAMING

Fast Frame..... 44, 57
* Other Colors..... 5

ART SHOW & SALE

Westtown School Art Sale..... 48

ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES

(See: *Retirement / Assisted Living*)

BANKS

* Malvern Federal Savings Bank..... 70
Penn Liberty Bank..... 52

BATH DESIGN CENTERS

(See: *Kitchens & Bath*)

BRASS

Wolfe's Baldwin Brass Center..... 15

BUILDING CONTRACTORS

INCLUDING REMODELING

* Dutchie's Stone Works..... 23, 59
* The Hankin Group..... 4
Waterbury Kitchen & Bath..... 55, 83

CANDY

* Christopher Chocolates..... 64, 67

CARPETS & RUGS

Boyles Floor & Window Design ... 52
Kurtz Collection Rug & Home..... 2

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber of Commerce of
Greater West Chester..... 51
West Chester BID..... 48

CONCERTS

Vox Ama Deus..... 16

DENTISTS

West Chester Dental Arts..... 39

DRAPERIES/

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Boyles Floor & Window Design ... 52
Heritage Design Interiors..... 32
* Shady Lady Inc..... 78

ENTERTAINMENT

Vox Ama Deus..... 16

EVENTS

Brandywine River Museum..... 20
Chamber of Commerce of Greater
West Chester Events..... 50-51
Chester Co. Historical Society..... 44
Westtown School Art Sale..... 48
West Chester BID Events..... 50-51

FABRICS

* The Quilt Sampler..... 77
* Witmer Quilt Shop..... 53

FINANCIAL PLANNING

(Incl. *Long Term Care*)

* Key Financial..... 6

FLAGS

* Brandywine Flags..... 81

FLOORING, HARDWOOD

Boyles Floor & Window Design ... 52

FLORISTS

* Cowan's Flowers..... 77
Matlack Florist..... 47

FOOD, SPECIALTY

* Christopher Chocolates..... 64, 67
Herr Foods..... 36
Kimberton Whole Foods..... 81

FURNITURE —

HOME FURNISHINGS

Alegacy Furniture..... 18
The Antique Shop..... 43
Ball & Ball..... 28, 61
* The Carriage House..... 74
* Evelyn & Harriette's..... 60, 75
Kurtz Collection Rug & Home..... 2
Wolfe's Baldwin Brass Center..... 15

FURNITURE — REPRODUCTIONS AND RESTORATIONS

E. Jacobsen Furniture Maker..... 28, 58

GARDEN CENTERS,

GREENHOUSES & NURSERIES

Mostardi Nursery..... 8

GIFT BASKETS

* Christopher Chocolates..... 64, 67

GIFTS & SPECIALTY SHOPS

* Brandywine Flags..... 81
* The Carriage House..... 74
* Cowan's Flowers..... 77
* Evelyn & Harriette's..... 60, 75
Matlack Florist..... 47
Mostardi Nursery..... 8
Ten Thousand Villages..... 19
Wendell August..... 32
Wolfe's Baldwin Brass Center..... 15

HARDWARE

Wolfe's Baldwin Brass..... 15

HISTORIC RESTORATION &

PRESERVATION SERVICES

* Dutchie's Stone Works..... 23, 59
E. Jacobsen Furniture Maker..... 28, 58

HOME HEALTH CARE

* Bayada Nurses..... 24

HOMES

* Eagleview Town Center..... 4

INTERIOR DECORATING &

DESIGN

Heritage Design Interiors..... 32

JEWELERS & JEWELRY

Big Diamond Importers &
Fine Jewelry..... 43, 56
Walter J. Cook, Jeweler..... 10, 62
Ten Thousand Villages..... 19

KITCHENS & BATH

(Incl. *Countertops & Remodeling*)

* Sugarbridge Kitchen
& Bath Design..... cover
Waterbury Kitchen & Bath..... 55, 83

LANDSCAPE & GARDEN DESIGN

* Dutchie's Stone Works..... 23, 59
* Flowing Springs
Landscape Design..... 36

LIBRARIES

* Chester County Library..... 78

LIGHTING (Including Outdoor)

* American Period Lighting..... 63, 81

LODGING (Including B&B's)

* The Inn & Spa at Intercourse... 68
The Inn at Leola Village..... 12

MUSEUMS

Brandywine River Museum..... 20
Chester Co. Historical Society..... 44

MUSIC

Vox Ama Deus..... 16

PHYSICIANS OFFICE

Gateway Medical..... 9

QUILTS & QUILT SUPPLIES

* The Quilt Sampler..... 77
* Witmer Quilt Shop..... 53

RADIO STATIONS

Brandywine Radio..... 73

REALTORS/REAL ESTATE

* James A. Cochrane, Inc..... 70
* Pru. Fox Roach / K. Anstey..... 7
* Pru. Fox Roach / H. Gross..... 75

RECEPTIONS

Casa di Fiore..... 12
* The Stone Barn..... 68

RESTAURANTS

* Foxfire at The Stone Barn..... 68
* La Toltca Mexican Rest..... 53
Lily's Asian Cuisine, Sushi & Grill..... 66
The Lincoln Room..... 52
Más Mexicali Cantina..... 47
Restaurant Mazzi..... 12
Osteria Avanti..... 12
* Stockyard Inn..... 68
* The Stone Barn..... 68
Yangming..... 3

RETIREMENT / SENIOR LIVING / ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES

Foulkeways at Gwynedd..... 24
Kendal-Crosslands..... 53

RUGS (See also: *Carpets*)

Boyles Floor & Window Design ... 52
Kurtz Collection Rug & Home..... 2

SCHOOLS

* The Concept School..... 35
Malvern Preparatory School..... 35
Westtown School..... 48
* Wyndcroft School..... 73

SPAS

* The Inn & Spa at Intercourse... 68
The Inn at Leola Village..... 12

TEAROOM

The Lincoln Room..... 52

THEATER

People's Light & Theatre..... 20

TOURS

Herr Foods..... 36

SHOPPING AREAS

* Eagleview Town Center..... 4
West Chester..... 48-51

WELCOME SERVICES

Welcome Neighbor..... 52

WINDOWS / SHUTTERS

(See: *Draperies/Window Treatments*)
Boyles Floor & Window Design ... 52
Heritage Design Interiors..... 32

* Shady Lady Inc..... 78

This Index is provided as an additional service to our advertisers. County Lines takes no responsibility for errors.



WATERBURY KITCHEN & BATH

818 East Baltimore Pike Kennett Square, PA

610.444.9190

www.waterburydesign.com

