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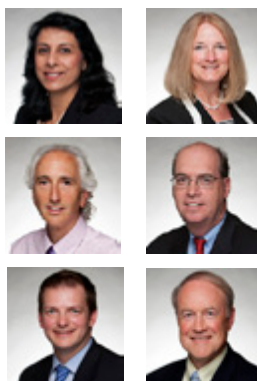
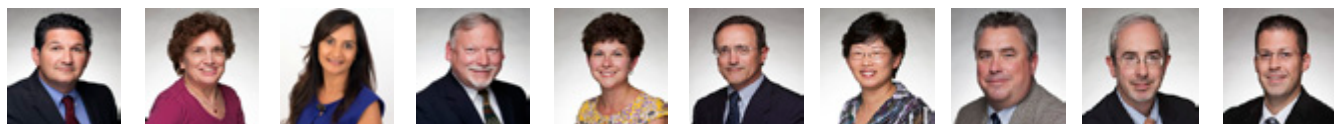


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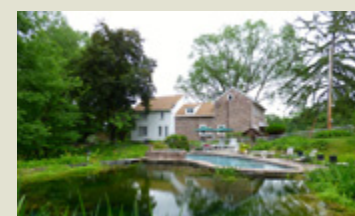
### Crackerjack Farm

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### Newlin Township

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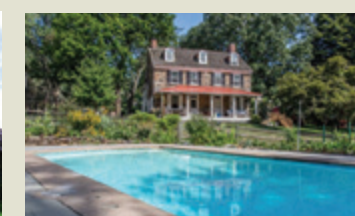
### French Creek Park

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**Willistown Township**  
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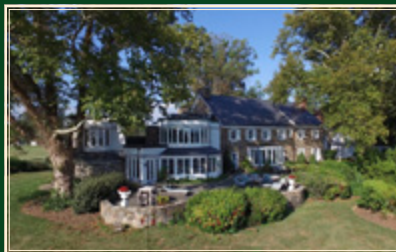
**Kennett Township**  
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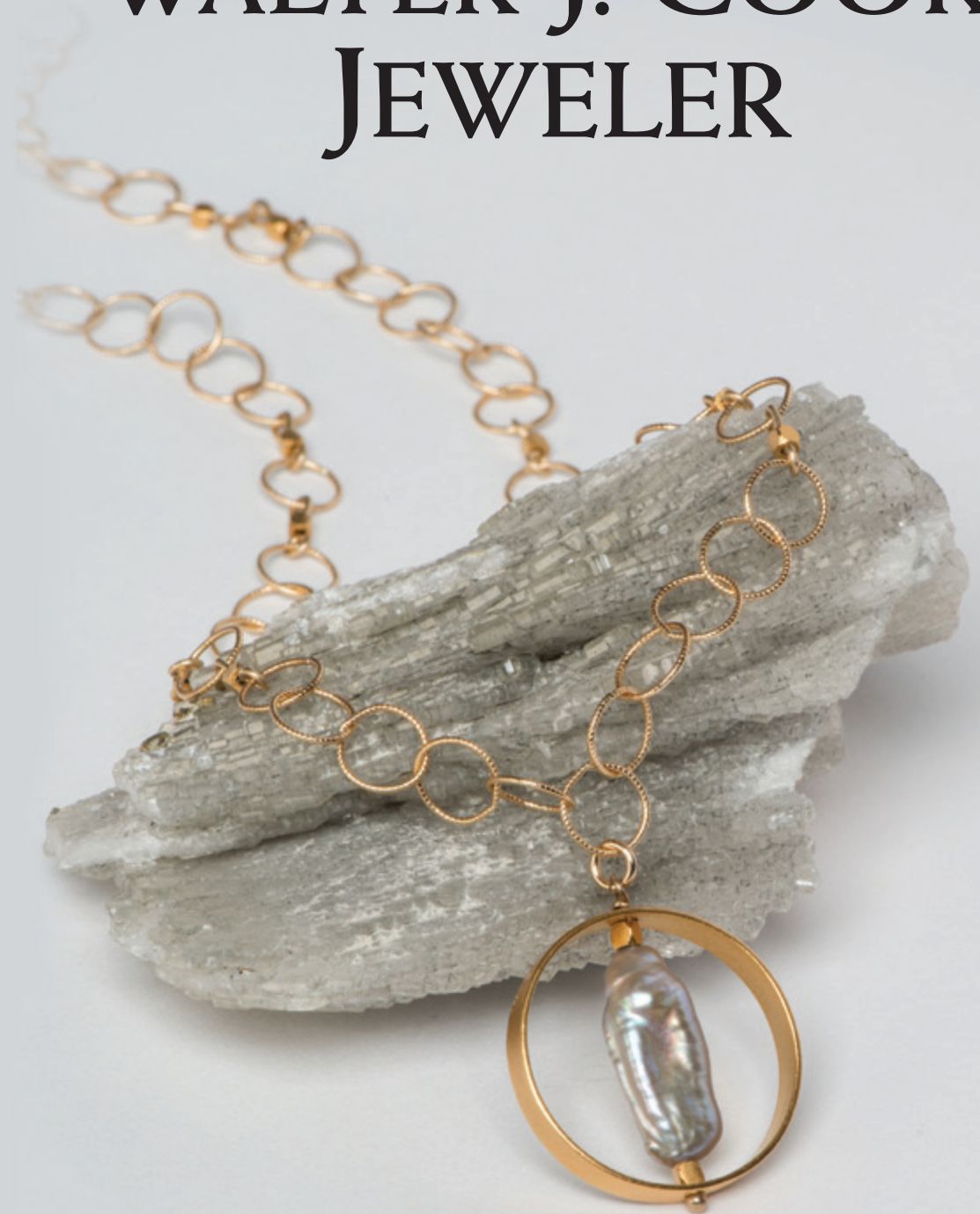
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## from the EDITOR

Black History Month, Groundhog Day, National Wear Red Day, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day—February is a short month packed with meaning. This month's issue is good company.

For our Fine Home issue, the cover photo gives you a glimpse inside a Provencal-inspired dream home in northern Chester County designed by architect John Milner. Jack Smith gives the tour of a family compound perfect for large gatherings and even a few weddings in "A Home to Be Discovered."

There are dream kitchens in our photo layout for inspiration from area kitchen designers and builders. Plus Mary Dolan helps you pick the right location for your next home in "Choosing a Neighborhood," and Natural Lands Trust's Kirsten Werner has ideas for improving your yard, come spring, in "Ever-Important Evergreens." Our Resource Guide tells you where to find help creating your own dream home.

To celebrate our area, Jane Dorchester recaps the sixth annual West Chester Historic Preservation Awards highlighting preservation service, legacy and projects.

And a bit farther afield, Laurel Anderson suggests discovering our neighbor county in "Visit Lancaster in Winter"—it's not just for mud sales and farmstays.

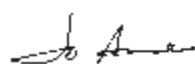
In our Education Guide local schools shared more about the important work they do. For today's students, clearly it's more than getting A's—they must become honest, respectful, compassionate and courageous leaders. "How Independent Schools Help Build Character" provides insights and our School Guide tells you when you can schedule a visit.

For fun, Brandywine Table's Laura Brennan learned about "Bento Boxes"—from 12th century Japanese farmers to the modern Japanese schoolchildren to Lily's Asian Restaurant in Kennett Square. She tells us how to make them too!

And Jack Smith describes how an advanced algorithm personality test helps you find your next car, thanks to CarTron's 30 questions.

We hope you make the most of February with our Best Local Events.

Thank you for reading.

  
Jo Anne Durako  
Editor



## Coming in March!

### Antiques, Boutiques & Uniques

Sustainable Bathrooms  
Guide to Antiques Shops & Shows  
Downingtown & Exton Town Focus  
Healthy at Every Age Medical Features



# COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

**February 2017**

Volume XL, Number 6

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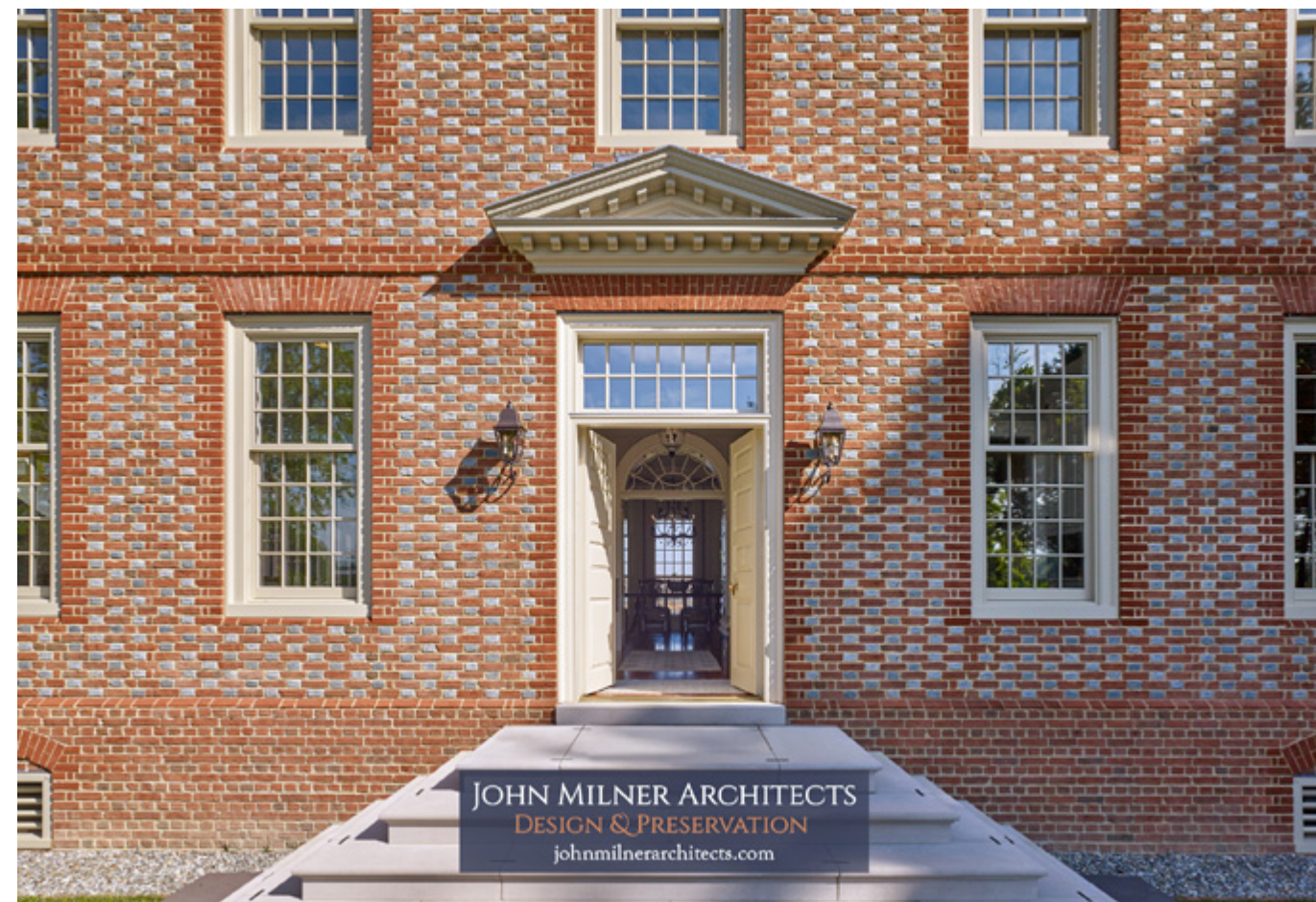
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Cover photo by Geoffrey Gross Photography

## A Guide to Combating the Flu

Dr. Mary-Anne Ost

**FLU SEASON PEAKS IN FEBRUARY AND CAN LAST INTO MAY.**

**T**HERE ARE SEVERAL MONTHS LEFT IN THE FLU SEASON. Here's some advice about how not to join the millions who get sick, hundreds of thousands who are hospitalized and thousands who die from flu every year.

**PREVENTION IS THE BEST MEDICINE.** The best way to avoid the flu is to get immunized. It's that simple—and it's recommended that everyone six months or older do that. Getting a shot at your doctor's office from a nurse you know in familiar surroundings can lessen any shot anxiety. For people on the go, most area pharmacies offer flu shots as early as September.

People sensitive to the vaccine's preservative can get a preservative-free shot. Those allergic to eggs can be tested to see if they're allergic to egg white (the most allergic part) or the yolk (usually non-aller-

genic), from which the flu shot is derived. So, no excuses. In fact, insurance usually covers the cost of the shot.

The immunity from a flu shot lasts about six months, so getting the shot in late October to November gives peak immunity for February's onset of flu season. Prevention obviously saves time, money and inconvenience.

**AVOIDING THE FLU.** As you may remember, flu virus is spread through contact with contaminated surfaces and droplets in the air. The virus's point of entry is the mucous membranes of your eyes, nose and mouth. And the usual way of contracting the flu is by inhaling these droplets or touching contaminated surfaces—common areas like door knobs, public restrooms—with your fingers and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

For prevention, clean surfaces and objects frequently and wash hands, especially before eating.

Also avoid contact with people who have the flu. If you're sick, it's best to stay home to avoid spreading it to others. In Asian countries it's considered proper to wear a surgical facemask during flu season to prevent breathing droplets and to avoid spreading the illness. Though it would be helpful if this were more widely accepted in the U.S., that's unlikely. You'll have to use other preventive steps.

Staying healthy also helps avoid the flu. Get enough rest and exercise to keep your immune system strong. And eat a healthy diet.

**FOODS FOR FIGHTING THE FLU.** One of the best immune system helpers is garlic, which has anti-viral and anti-bacterial qualities. Green tea has polyphenol compounds that may kill the flu virus, and blueberries are particularly high in antioxidants. Drinking plenty of fluid will help flush viral particles out of your body.

Raw honey has been shown to be effective in treating cold and flu symptoms, especially as a cough medicine. Note: children under a year and immune-compromised people should avoid raw honey because it may contain botulism toxin. But most healthy adults are immune.

**VITAMINS AND SUPPLEMENTS.** Vitamin C plays a major role in fighting off infections and is thought to stimulate the body's production of interferon, which fights viral disease. Vitamin D is also important for strengthening the immune system. In winter, it's best obtained in oil-based gel caps, rather than pressed powder pills.

Echinacea, derived from the coneflower, may shorten duration and severity of cold and flu symptoms. Some people take it for the entire flu season. In traditional Chinese medicine, astragalus root, a plant in the legume family, is used to lower stress cortisol and fight disease.

**ANTIVIRAL MEDICATIONS.** A powerful way to combat the flu is to start the medication oseltamivir (Tamiflu) within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms. This drug, which

is not an antibiotic but must be prescribed by your doctor, can dramatically shorten the course of the disease and lessen the intensity of the symptoms. It can also reduce the risk of complications, including ear infections and pneumonia, thereby reducing the need for antibiotics.

**BEST ADVICE.** Getting a flu shot is still the best way to stay healthy during flu season. ♦

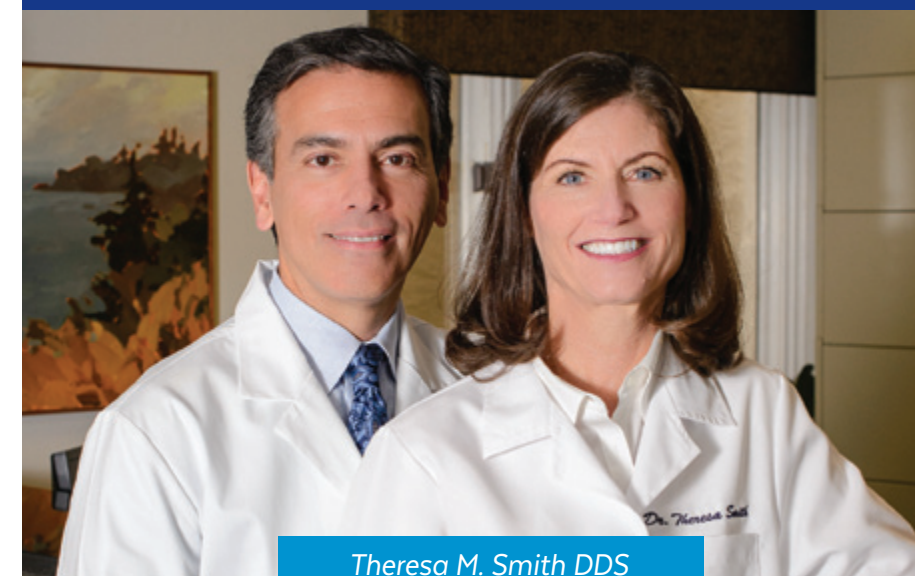
Mary-Anne Ost, M.D., is board certified in

family and geriatric medicine. Part of the MDVIP personalized wellness program, her practice is located in Kennett Square and West Grove, where she provides personal, preventive health care and comprehensive medical care. Learn more about her practice at [MDVIP.com/MaryAnneOstMD](http://MDVIP.com/MaryAnneOstMD).



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## Chester County Hearth & Home



## [Good to Know]

*Just a few things we'd thought you'd like to know this month*

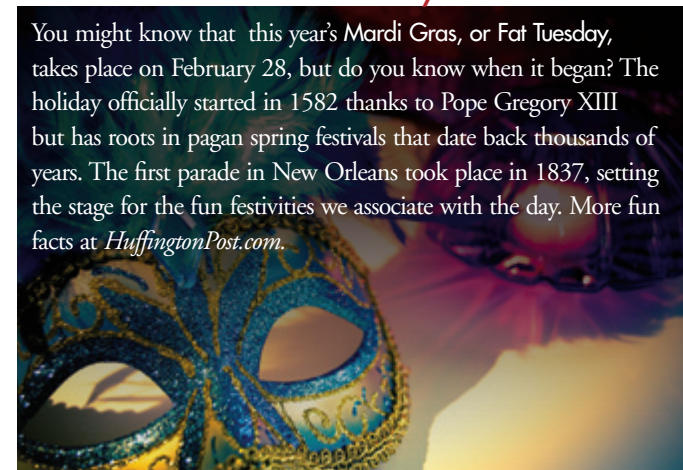


### New Books in an Old Space.

We've mourned the July closing of beloved Chester County Book Company, but did you know that in November a new bookshop took its place? Tentatively named **West Chester Books**, the store is owned by former longtime Chester County Book Co. employee Michael Fortney who believes there's still life left in the brick-and-mortar book business. Reader favorites from its predecessor—author visits, poetry readings, story time—are in the works, along with new features. Follow them at [Facebook.com/WestChesterBooks](#).

### Not Just Another Tuesday.

You might know that this year's Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, takes place on February 28, but do you know when it began? The holiday officially started in 1582 thanks to Pope Gregory XIII but has roots in pagan spring festivals that date back thousands of years. The first parade in New Orleans took place in 1837, setting the stage for the fun festivities we associate with the day. More fun facts at [HuffingtonPost.com](#).



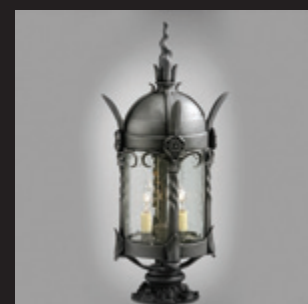
**Fit for Royalty.** February's birthstone, the **amethyst**, may no longer be one of the most valuable gemstones, but its history as the "Jewel of the Gods" suggests otherwise. Since purple was traditionally the color of royalty, this member of the quartz family was used to adorn the richest and most powerful monarchs and rulers. Its name, meaning "sober" in Greek, reflected the belief that wearing it could prevent drunkenness and give the wearer security and wisdom. Worth a try? More at [AmethystMine.com](#).



### Putting Human Back Into Humane.

Though we love our animal companions, too many have yet to find their forever homes. Luckily the **Brandywine Valley SPCA** is here to help—4,860 animals found homes in 2016 alone! Last year also saw new programs and improved former practices—like alternatives to pet relinquishment and reducing stray cats through spaying and neutering. For these efforts and more, the SPCA was Greater West Chester's 2016 Community Service Award recipient. Find out what else they do at [BVSPCA.org](#).

**Booming Boyertown.** This charming town is finally getting the recognition it deserves! Ranking right after Martha's Vineyard, **Boyertown** was named the 4th most popular northeastern US town in 2016 by *Getaway Mavens*. Loved for its heart, history and soul not often found in bigger towns, Boyertown has a bright future with plans to return to its walking roots—with Main Street business opportunities, streetscapes, sidewalks and more on the way. Keep up at [BoyertownPA.org](#).



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## February Picks Our Picks for top events this month

### WCU Live! Presents Cirque Zuma Zuma

February 17

As seen on season 6 of *America's Got Talent*, Cirque Zuma Zuma packs every show with non-stop action and incredible features that keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Many describe it as an African-style Cirque du Soleil—such is the standard of Zuma Zuma's performers and the quality of the show's live musical score. *Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 p.m. \$13–\$20. 610-436-2266; WCUPATix.com.*



### Kennett Chocolate Lovers Festival February 12

Calling all chocoholics! Hundreds of chocolate treats are offered in competition for awards to professional, amateur and student bakers. Benefits United Way of Southern Chester County. *Kennett High School, 100 E. South St., Kennett Square. Connoisseur ticket, \$25, noon entry; general admission, \$10, 1 to 3 p.m. 610-444-4357; KennettChocolate.org.*



### The Bride Guide to West Chester February 26

Create the wedding of your dreams, from engagement to honeymoon, as a wide variety of wedding professionals offer friendly, first-class service. The theme this year is "Locally Ever After." *Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High St., West Chester. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bride, groom and one guest, free; others \$10. TheBrideGuideToWestChester.com.*



### Tyler Arboretum's Pancake Breakfast and Maple Sugaring Celebration

February 25

Bundle up and enjoy this annual celebration of the maple tree's sweet offerings. Learn how sap is turned into syrup and try your hand at tapping a tree. Then enjoy a hearty all you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast. Snow date: March 5. *515 Painter Rd., Media. 8 to 1. \$8–\$12. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.*



### The Playhouse on Rodney Square — Riverdance: 20 Years

February 21–26

It's back by popular demand! The international Irish dance phenomenon propels Irish dancing and music into the present day, capturing the imagination of audiences across all ages and cultures. One of the most popular shows in Playhouse history. *1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. \$40–\$85. 302-888-0200; ThePlayhouseDE.org.*



# best Local Events

## FAMILY FUN

### THROUGH APRIL 23

**The Franklin Institute.**

**Through April 2,**

**Robot Revolution—**

this is a collection of

cutting-edge robots

curated from inno-

vative global robotics

companies and uni-

versities. **Through April**

**23, Jurassic World: The**

**Exhibition—**come face to face

with a Brachiosaurus, a Velociraptor and a

Tyrannosaurus rex. 215-448-1200; [FI.edu](http://FI.edu).

### FEBRUARY 4

**Historic Sugartown Cabin Fever Saturday.**

Historic crafts, activities and old-fashioned

games. *Held in the Carriage Museum, 273*

*Boot Rd., Malvern. 11 to 2. \$6; 2 and under,*

*free. 610-640-2667; [HistoricSugartown.org](http://HistoricSugartown.org).*

### FEBRUARY 4–MAY 29

**Dinosaur Revolution at Delaware Museum**

**of Natural History.** An interactive learning

experience within a maze setting where visi-

tors experience reptilian role-play activities

and become junior paleontologists. *4840*

*Kennett Pk., Wilmington. Mon–Sat, 9:30 to*

*4:30; Sun, noon to 4:30. \$7–\$9. 302-658-*

*9111; [DelMNH.org](http://DelMNH.org).*



### FEBRUARY 11

**Chinese New Year Celebration at Dela-**

**ware Art Museum.** Celebrate The Year of the

Rooster with traditional Chinese art

activities, a scavenger hunt, folk dances and

a performance by Chinese acrobat, Yang

Xiao Di. *2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington.*

*11 to 3. Free. 302-571-9590; [DelArt.org](http://DelArt.org).*

### FEBRUARY 18–20

**Presidents Day at the National Constitu-**

**tion Center.** Visitors learn about the role of

the President and what it takes to be

commander-in-chief. Craft activity tables,

tours, Presidential Trivia, a Presidential Cos-

tume Contest and a Kids Town Hall. *525*

*Arch St., Philadelphia. Mon–Sat, 9:30 to 5;*

*Sun, noon to 5. \$8–\$14.50. 215-409-6600;*

*[ConstitutionCenter.org](http://ConstitutionCenter.org).*

### FEBRUARY 11, 18, 25

**Hagley Museum Events.** *Feb. 11,* Valen-

tine's Day Celebration with craft activities,

hot chocolate and gingerbread, 11 to 4. **Sci-**

**ence Saturdays:** *Feb. 18,* Float Your Boat—

discover how boats float. *Feb. 25,* Pump It

Up!—build a hydraulic-powered machine.

*200 Hagley Creek Rd., Wilmington. 1 to 4.*

*\$5–\$14. 302-658-2400; [Hagley.org](http://Hagley.org).*

### FEBRUARY 20, MARCH 18

**Longwood Gardens Orkid Days.** Explore

orchids firsthand at discovery stations,

observe orchid illustrators in action, create

an orchid illustration of your own and enjoy

a family seek-and-find in the Conservatory.

*1001 Longwood Rd. (Rt. 1), Kennett Square.*

*11 to 2. \$13–\$27. 610-388-1000; [LongwoodGardens.org](http://LongwoodGardens.org).*

### FEBRUARY 23–24

**Trail Creek Outfitters Wild & Scenic Film**

**Festival.** Enjoy environmental films fea-

aturing outdoor adventure, environmental

concerns and beautiful cinematography.

Light refreshments offered. Benefits Stroud

Water Research Ctr. and The Land Con-

servancy for So. Chester Co. *Chester Co.*

*Hist. Society, 225 N. High St., West Chester.*

*7 pm. \$25–\$45. [TrailCreekOutfitters.com](http://TrailCreekOutfitters.com).*

### MARCH 3–4

**Philadelphia Rock Gyms Present the Banff**

**Centre's Mountain Film Festival.** From

remote landscapes and cultures to the most

exciting action sports, this is an exploration

of the mountain world featuring climbing,

skiing, kayaking and biking. *Alumnae Hall,*

*Immaculata Univ., King Rd., Malvern. 7:30*

*pm. \$16.50–\$19. 877-822-7673; [Phila-RockGym.com](http://Phila-RockGym.com).*



## ART, CRAFTS & ANTIQUES.....

### THROUGH FEBRUARY 5

**Academy of Notre Dame de Namur 44th**

**Annual Fine Art Show & Sale.** The week-

long exhibition features nearly 100 artists'

works in a variety of mediums, including oils,

watercolors, acrylics, sculptures, ceramics,

and glass. The Mansion, 560 Sproul Rd.,

Villanova. Daily noon to 4. Free. [NDArtShow.ArtCall.org](http://NDArtShow.ArtCall.org).



### FEBRUARY 1–5

**Malvern Retreat House Art Show.** Works

from about 100 juried artists, a featured

exhibit of figurative art and a complimen-

tary wine and cheese social on **Feb. 2,** 5 to

8. Malvern Retreat House, McShain-Horst-

mann Family Life Ctr., 315 S. Warren Ave.,

Malvern. Benefits the Retreat House. Wed–

Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 4. 484-321-2562;

[MalvernRetreat.com/ArtShow](http://MalvernRetreat.com/ArtShow).

### FEBRUARY 3

**Main Line Art Center—Artini Sip & Spin:**

**Make Your Own Mug.** In the gallery and

enjoy beer, wine or other beverage, then on to

the ceramics studio for an intro into the art of

pottery. BYOB. 746 Panmure Rd., Haverford.

6:30 to 9 pm. \$45. 610-525-0272; [Main-LineArt.org](http://Main-LineArt.org).



### MARCH 4

**Chadds Ford Historical Society's Plein Air**

**Event—Paint Out Chadds Ford.** Artists set up

their easels around the area and display their

work in an exclusive preview party at the Barn

Visitors Center, 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford,

from 5 to 6 pm, \$60 for two. Wine & Cheese

reception and wet paint sale from 6 to 8, \$15.

610-388-7376; [ChaddsFordHistory.org](http://ChaddsFordHistory.org).



## AUTO & BOAT SHOWS.....

### THROUGH FEBRUARY 5

**Philadelphia Auto Show.** Catch a glimpse

of the industry's latest models at the Penn-

sylvania Convention Center. 1101 Arch St.,

Phila. Check website for show hours. \$7–\$14.

215-418-2000; [PhillyAutoShow.com](http://PhillyAutoShow.com).

### MARCH 1–5

**The Atlantic City Boat Show.** Celebrate life on

the water. Climb aboard hundreds of boats for

every budget and lifestyle. Atlantic City Con-

vention Center, One Convention Blvd., Atlantic

City, NJ. Wed–Fri, 11 to 8; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun,

10 to 5. \$16. 718-707-0716; [ACBoatShow.com](http://ACBoatShow.com).



## DESIGN / HOME SHOWS.....

### FEBRUARY 17–19

**Philly Home & Garden Show.** Innovative

products and hundreds of experts under one

roof. Celebrities on hand include Jeff Lewis of

Bravo's *Flipping Out*, Hilary Farr of HGTV's

*Love It or List It* and more. Greater Phila. Expo

Ctr., 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Fri–Sat, 10 to 9;

Sun, 10 to 6, \$8–\$10. 215-274-1948; [Philly-HomeAndGardenShow.com](http://Philly-HomeAndGardenShow.com).



### FEBRUARY 23–26

**Greater Phila. Outdoor Sportshow.** Find the

latest gear, book a dream outdoor experience,

and have a great time with the entire family.

There's a fishing simulator, archery range,

paintball, live birds of prey and a mechanical

bull! Sunday is Family Day. Greater Phila.

Expo Ctr., 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Thurs–Fri,

noon to 8; Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 5. \$3–\$12.

603-431-4315; [SportShows.com/Philadelphia](http://SportShows.com/Philadelphia).

### FEBRUARY 26

**Bucks County Designer House & Gardens**

**Empty House Party.** Meet the 2017 design team

and get a peek at their visions for transforming

Hill Crest Manor, this year's designer house.

Enjoy music, light fare, raffles and more. 3690

Burnt House Hill Rd., Doylestown. 2 to 5. \$30;

\$40 before-and-after ticket includes Empty

House Party and house tour. [BucksCounty-](http://BucksCounty-DesignerHouse.org)

[DesignerHouse.org](http://DesignerHouse.org).

## EQUESTRIAN.....

### MARCH 2–5

**PA Horse World Expo.** The nation's leading

equestrian clinicians and entertainers and ven-

dors come to the Farm Show Complex, 2301

N. Cameron St., Harrisburg. Thurs, noon to 8;

Fri, 10 to 8; Sat, 9 to 8; Sun, 9 to 5. \$6–\$12.

301-916-0852; [HorseWorldExpo.com](http://HorseWorldExpo.com).





**FOOD & DRINK.....**  
**THROUGH FEBRUARY**  
**The Kitchen at Wayne Art Center.** Culinary arts shine with a selection of hands-on cooking classes, taught by professionals, for adults and children. 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. \$30–\$65. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

**FEBRUARY 25**  
**5th Annual Kennett Winterfest.** Winter brews from at least 50 breweries, food trucks and live music. Benefits Historic Kennett Square. Broad and State Sts. 12:30 to 4, \$60; designated driver, \$15. Connoisseur tasting, 11:15

to 12:30, includes gourmet food and festival adm., \$100. Designated driver, \$15. 610-444-8188; KennettWinterfest.com.

**MARCH 4**  
**11th Annual Philly Craft Beer Festival.** See why this has been selected as one of the top ten beer fests in the country. VIP Session, 12:30 to 5 pm, \$75, and a General Session, 1:30 to 5, \$46. Food trucks, too. Benefits Phila. Committee to Benefit Children. Navy Yard, 4747 S. Broad St., Phila. 631-940-7290; PhillyCraftBeerFest.com.

**MARCH 6–12**  
**King of Prussia Restaurant Week.** Dine out for a good cause and enjoy the diverse dining scene in King of Prussia. Prix-fixe lunch menu, \$10–\$20; dinner, \$20–\$40. Benefits Children's Hosp. of Phila. KOP Specialty Care Center. 484-681-9452; VisitKOP.com/DineKOP.



**FUNDRAISERS.....**  
**FEBRUARY 4**  
**Philadelphia Heart Ball.** Gourmet dinner, live and silent auctions and entertainment to celebrate the efforts of all who give their time to the American Heart and American Stroke Associations. Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St., Phila. 6 to 11 pm. \$1,000. 215-575-5204; PhiladelphiaHeartBall.Heart.org.

**FEBRUARY 11**  
**Take a Polar Plunge for the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance.** You can dip a toe or take the plunge in the Brandywine Creek for this annual fundraiser. Benefits the conservation of natural resources of the Brandywine and Red Clay Valleys. Brandywine Picnic Park, 690 S. Creek Rd., West Chester. 10 am. \$25–\$35. 610-793-1090; Brandywine-Watershed.org.



**FEBRUARY 23**  
**Annual Empty Bowls Event at Red Clay Room.** Benefits the Kennett Food Cupboard. Soup and salad are served, attendees enjoy a silent auction and receive a handmade bowl. 423 Dalmatian St., Kennett Square. Lunch, 11:30 to 1:30; dinner, 6 to 8:30. \$25. 610-925-3556; KACSONline.net.

**FEBRUARY 25**  
**Media Theatre Annual Fundraising Gala—Star Struck.** Black tie optional, catered event featuring silent and live auctions and special guest, Tony Award-winner Alice Ripley. 104 E. State St., Media. Tickets start at \$150. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.



**FEBRUARY 25**  
**A Night for the Fight Formal Event.** The Main Line Chapter of the Board of Associates for Fox Chase Cancer Center presents an evening of dinner, dancing, music and philanthropy. Formal attire required; black tie optional. Pomme, 175 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor. 6 to 10 pm. Tickets start at \$160. 215-728-2441; MainLineFCCC.org.

**FEBRUARY 25**  
**Cheers for CHOP.** Entertainment, cocktails and silent and live auctions. Benefits the Division of Pulmonary Medicine at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Valley Forge Casino Resort, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia. Tickets start at \$150. CheersFor.Chop.edu.

**MARCH 4**  
**The Willowdale Steeplechase Water Jump Ball.** Celebrate the 25th anniversary of Willowdale Steeplechase at this black tie and silver event with dinner, dancing and live music. Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 7 to 11 pm. For tickets, 610-444-1582; WillowdaleSteeplechase.org.

**MARCH 5**  
**Chester County Futures "Strikes for Futures" Event.** An afternoon of food, fun and bowling benefiting Chester County Futures, a program

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## In a Theater Near You ...

### THROUGH FEBRUARY 5

Loudon Wainwright III's *Surviving Twin*. Created and performed by Grammy Award-winning Loudon Wainwright as a "posthumous collaboration" with his late father. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. \$33-\$53. Check website for times. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

### THROUGH FEBRUARY 19

*Romeo & Juliet*. Shakespeare's legendary play has never lost its relevancy. Media Music Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. Wed-Sun, check website for times. \$25-\$50. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.



### FEBRUARY 1-19

*White Guy on the Bus*. Written by Bruce Graham. A candid perspective on the racial divide present today. Check website for show times and tickets, Wed-Sun. 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

### FEBRUARY 7-12

Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. Delighting audiences with its contemporary take on the classic tale, this features an incredible orchestra and jaw-dropping transformations. The Playhouse on Rodney Square, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Check website for show times \$40-\$85. 302-888-0200; ThePlayhouseDE.org.



### FEBRUARY 15-MARCH 12

*The Matchmaker*. Thornton Wilder's wild mix of outrageous misbehavior, mistaken identity and spontaneous romance—the inspiration for *Hello, Dolly*. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. \$33-\$53. Check website for times. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

## Local Farm Markets

Winter markets are open at least once a month or are indoors. Check their websites for details.

**Bryn Mawr Farmers Mkt.**, Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station parking lot. **1st, 3rd, 5th Sat, 10 to noon.** FarmToCity.org.

**Downingtown Farmers Mkt.**, Kerr Park parking lot, Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown. **2nd, 4th Sat, 10 to noon.** 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

**Eagleview Farmers Mkt.**, Chester County Food Bank, 650 Pennsylvania Dr., Eagleview. **1st, 3rd Thurs, 3 to 5 pm.** 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

**Kennett Square Farmers Mkt.**, 112 S. Broad St. **2nd, 3rd Fri, 2 to 4.** 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

**Lancaster County Farmers Mkt.**, 389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. **Wed & Fri, 8 to 6; Sat, 8 to 4.** 610-688-9856; LancasterCounty-FarmersMarket.com.

**Malvern Farmers Mkt.**, First Baptist Church of Malvern, 146 Channing Ave., Malvern. **1st, 3rd Sat, 10 to noon.** 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

**Phoenixville Farmers Mkt.**, 200 Mill St., Phoenixville. **2nd, 4th Sat, 10 to noon.** PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

**West Chester Growers Mkt.**, Chestnut & Church Sts. **1st, 3rd, 5th Sat, 10 to noon.** 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.

**Westtown Amish Mkt.**, 1177 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. **Thurs, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 8; Sat, 8 to 4.** 610-492-5299; Westtown-AmishMarket.net.

providing academic, mentoring and scholarship support for disadvantaged Chester County youth. Palace Bowling and Entertainment, 977 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. 3:30-5:30. \$25. 610-458-9926; CCFutures.org.

## GARDENS.....

### MARCH 11-19

*The Philadelphia Flower Show*. "Holland:



Flowering the World," showcases the extraordinary plants, creativity and talent of this region's top horticulturists and designers with award-winning landscape and floral designers from the Netherlands. PA Convention Ctr., 12th & Arch Sts., Phila. \$17-\$35. 215-988-8800; TheFlowerShow.com.

## MUSEUMS.....

### THROUGH MAY 14

*The Delaware Art Museum Exhibit. Through Feb. 12*, "Fluidity," the work of Carla Lombardi, N. Sarangoulis, Libbie Soffer, Valetta. *Feb. 4-May 14*, "No Jury, No Prizes: The Society of Independent Artists, 1917-1944." 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8, free after 4; Fri-Sun, 10 to 4, free, Sun. \$6-\$12. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

### FEBRUARY 2

*National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum Lecture*. For Black History Month, this lecture explores the connection of African-American history and the history of the iron and steel industry in America. 50 S. First Ave., Coatesville. Doors open 5:30 with light refreshments served; lecture at 6. \$5. 610-384-9282; Steel-Museum.org.

### FEBRUARY 25-MAY 21

*Brandywine River Museum of Art*. "From Homer to Hopper: Experiment and Ingenuity in American Art," reflects on the diversity of style and expression between 1870 and 1950. 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 5. \$6-\$15. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.

## MUSIC, DANCE, ENTERTAINMENT.....

### THROUGH NOVEMBER

#### 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

*West Chester Story Slam*. Take the stage and tell a five-minute true story based on the theme that night. No notes, props or music. Side Bar & Restaurant, 10 E. Gay St., West Chester. 8. \$10. 610-429-8297; SideBarAnd-Restaurant.com.

### FEBRUARY 2-MARCH 3

*The Keswick Theatre Presents. Feb. 2*, Junie B. Jones *Essential Survival Guide to School*; *Feb. 4*, Jack Hanna; *Feb. 8*, Gad Elmaleh; *Feb. 11*, Capturing Pablo, an evening with Javier Pena & Steve Murphy; *Feb. 17*, Masters of Illusion; *Feb. 18*, Earth, Wind & Fire Tribute Concert; *Feb. 19*, Al Jarreau; *Feb. 23*, Gaelic Storm; *Feb. 25*, Hayes Grier & The Boys; *Mar. 3*, Martina McBride. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. 215-572-7650; KeswickTheatre.com.

### FEBRUARY 9-MARCH 4

*The Grand Wilmington. Feb. 9*, Battle of the Sexes Comedy Tour; *Feb. 16*, Cyrille Aimee; *Feb. 16*, Taj Express; *Feb. 18-19*, First State

Ballet—Elegant Souls: A Triple Bill; *Feb. 19*, KML & DOEC Present Two Trains Running; *Feb. 21-26*, "Riverdance: 20 Years" see *February Picks*; *Feb. 24*, The DE Symphony Orchestra; *Feb. 25*, April Verch; *Mar. 2*, Gaelic Storm; *Mar. 3*, Seldom Scene; *Mar. 4*, Ricky Skaggs, Bruce Hornsby with Kentucky Thunder. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. 302-658-7897; tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

### FEBRUARY 12

*Immaculata Symphony Youth Concert*. The symphony performs classical music in a program called "Heroes & Villians." Afterward, children are invited on stage to meet the musicians and their instruments. Immaculata College, Alumnae Hall, 1145 King Rd., Immaculata. 3 pm. \$10. ImmaculataSymphony.org.

### FEBRUARY 12

*Vox Renaissance Consort Renaissance Candlemas*. This evening is a perfect remedy for the "February blues" featuring Renaissance Masterworks for voices and period instruments. Daylesford Abbey, 220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli. 6:30 pm. \$10-\$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

### FEBRUARY 12, 16

*Uptown! Events at Knauer Performing Arts Center*. Live music, theater, dance and film coming to the new theater. *Feb. 12*, Opera tutti! Valentine's Brunch, 11:30, \$70; *Feb. 16*, Sara Michaels hosts the Jazz Cocktail Hour with saxophonist Lynn Riley and The World Mix, 6:30, \$10-\$15; 226 N. High St., West Chester. Check website for details. 484-639-9004; UptownWestChester.org.



### FEBRUARY 16

*Delaware Art Museum Presents Concerts on Kentmere—Elegant Melodies Among the Pre-Raphaelites*. The concert is preceded by a short curator talk that connects the evening's music to Museum exhibitions or artworks and features coffee and desserts at intermission. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 7:30. \$50. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

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## Window Treatment Sale

Draperies, Valances, Sheers, Blinds, & Shutters  
Sale ends 2/28/17

FEBRUARY 24  
**Community Arts Center Friday Night Live Concert.** Lisa Chavous and The Phila. Blues Messengers. 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. 7 to 10 pm. \$15. 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org.

FEBRUARY 25–MARCH 8  
**WCU—Live! Feb. 25,** Committed, an a cappella group, Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre, 7:30, \$15–\$20; **Mar. 3,** The Divine Hand Ensemble, Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre, 7:30, \$15–\$20; **Mar. 8,** Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel, “An American Sa-

lute,” Philips Autograph Library, 7:30, free. West Chester Univ. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu/Live.

#### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

FEBRUARY 19  
**Wildlife in Winter: Birds.** Go birding on the preserve and learn about the importance of migration rest stops and how human activity plays a major role in the success of many native and migratory bird populations. The Land Conservancy for So. Chester County, Bucktoe Creek Preserve (432 Sharp Rd.,

Avondale). 10 to noon. \$10. 610-347-0347; TLCForSCC.org.



#### TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....

FEBRUARY 3, 11, 16  
**First Fridays, Second Saturdays, Third Thursdays.** **Feb. 3, First Fridays: Kennett Square Art Stroll,** 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City,** 717-509-ARTS; VisitLancasterCity.com. **Oxford,** 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **Wilmington Art Loop,** 302-576-2135; CityFestWilm.com. **Feb. 11, Second Saturday Arts Stroll: Media,** 484-445-4161; MediaArtsCouncil.org. **Feb. 16, Malvern Stroll,** MalvernBusiness.com.

FEBRUARY 16  
**Chadds Ford Hist. Society—Tavern Talks.** A new series for adults, focusing on early American history and culture with activities, food and drinks. This month, “Chocolate and Courtship.” Barns Brinton House, 6030 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford. 7 to 9. \$10. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org. ♦



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Send a description of your activity to [Info@ValleyDel.com](mailto:Info@ValleyDel.com) by the first of the month preceding publication.

For more events visit:

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# Visit Lancaster in Winter

Laurel Anderson

## IT'S NOT JUST FOR SPRING MUD SALES, SUMMER FARMSTAYS AND AUTUMN LEAF-PEEPING.

**A**LTHOUGH IT MAY NOT BE YOUR FIRST IDEA FOR A winter vacation destination, Lancaster County offers peaceful serenity, fun festivals and seasonal variations on its assortment of cultural attractions, entertainment, good food and great shopping.

You can find cozy B&Bs with crackling fires or full-service resorts in the middle of the action, or just visit for day trips and make it home to sleep in your own bed.

Lancaster should be in your winter plans, with fun ranging from horse-drawn sleigh rides to zip lines.

**Cultural Attractions:** Check out the many theaters offering everything from Broadway-caliber shows to dinner theater—at the Fulton, Dutch Apple, American Music, and Sight & Sound Theatres. Or sample from a broad selection of art and history museums—DeMuth & Lancaster Museum of Art, North Museum of Nature and Science, Lancaster Science Factory and Wheatland, President James Buchanan's home.

**Special Events:** You'll also find Lancaster is home to a vibrant collection of art galleries that host fun First Friday open houses in Lancaster City. Visit Liz Hess, Red Raven or the many others on Gallery Row filled with fine art, crafts and things of beauty.

February is when the Roots and Blues Festival of Music and the Lititz Fire & Ice Festival light up the calendar and attract visitors from far and wide. See sidebar for more events and details.

**Tours:** Choose from a pretzel or chocolate tour in Lititz, a Turkey Hill factory tour in Columbia, or your own antiques tour in Adamstown, aka Antiques Capital, USA and home to over 5,000 antiques dealers. Join a steam engine rail road tour in Strasburg, see two dozen covered bridges on a driving tour through the county, or enjoy a farmers market walking tour in downtown Lancaster's Central Market, housed in a 1889 building.

**Outdoors and Indoors:** You can take a horse-drawn buggy or sleigh ride in Amish Country, watch the snow geese and tundra

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Lititz Fire & Ice Festival

swan migration at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, or head out to York for snow tubing at AvalancheXpress.

For indoor fun, you'll find the Sky Zone trampoline park, Laser Dome for laser tag and high tech fun, plus the Caribbean Indoor Water Park for a change of pace.

**Dining:** From smorgasbords to PA Dutch restaurants, like Good 'N Plenty and Plain & Fancy, to brewpubs like Lancaster Brewing Co., there's something for every taste and mood. So eat your fill at family-style tables or check out something new. Try Food Network's Alton Brown's top restaurant pick for 2016, Ma(i)son, a 28-seat BYOB celebration of sustainable dining.

**Shopping:** Whether you're looking for Amish quilts, crafts and hand-built furni-

ture or trendy clothes and accessories in fashionable boutiques, Lancaster has what you're looking for.

And for bargain shoppers, Rockvale Outlets feature more than 90 brands, while Tanger Outlets have great shopping with over 60 stores—from ASICS to Zales. So bring home your prize from Coach, Polo, Pottery Barn or Under Armour.

Consider heading to Lancaster County this winter for fun, food and shopping. Or take in the theater or area events.

You might even return this spring! ♦

**If You Go:** The Visitor Center has an ATM, Wifi, restrooms, plus plenty of brochures, maps and advice to help plan your visit. 501 Greenfield Rd., Lancaster. [DiscoverLancaster.com](http://DiscoverLancaster.com).



Fulton Theatre

## LANCASTER AREA EVENTS

Theaters, museums and towns offer many options for entertainment this winter.

### THROUGH MARCH

**Freedom: To Secure the Blessings of Liberty.** Discover the stories of Lancasterians who sought freedom, lived in freedom and were denied freedom over 300 years. 230 N. President Ave., Lancaster. Mon–Sat, 9:30 to 5. [LancasterHistory.org](http://LancasterHistory.org).

### THROUGH MARCH 30

**American Music Theatre.** *Feb. 2*, Dwight Yoakam; *Feb. 3*, Three Dog Night; *Feb. 10*, Masters of Illusion; *Feb. 12*, The Everly Brothers; *Feb. 17*, Switchfoot & Reliant K; *Feb. 18*, Spring Doo Wop Cavalcade; *Feb. 19*, Air Supply; *Mar. 3*, Ricky Skaggs and Bruce Hornsby; *Mar. 4*, Martina McBride; *Mar. 11*, The Oak Ridge Boys; *Mar. 17*, Amos Lee; *Mar. 19*, John Denver Musical Tribute; *Mar. 24*, Rain, A Beatles Tribute. 2425 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster. 800-648-4102; [AMTShows.com](http://AMTShows.com).

### THROUGH APRIL 2

**Fulton Theatre.** *Feb. 4–18*, *Alice in Wonderland*; *through Feb. 19*, *Annie Get Your Gun*; *Feb. 21–Mar. 12*, *Disgraced*; *Mar. 14–Apr. 2*, *In the Heights*. 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. 717-397-7425; [TheFulton.org](http://TheFulton.org).

### THROUGH MAY 14

**Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre.** *Through Feb. 4*, *Shear Madness*; *Feb. 9–Mar. 18*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*; *Mar. 23–May 14*, *My Fair Lady*. 510 Centerville Rd., Lancaster. 717-898-1900; [DutchApple.com](http://DutchApple.com).

### FEBRUARY 4–26

**Demuth Museum of Art**—Annual Invitational Exhibition. Lancaster artists are invited to create a work based on a Charles Demuth-inspired theme. 120 E. King St., Lancaster. Tues–Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 1 to 4. 717-299-9940; [Demuth.org](http://Demuth.org).

### FEBRUARY 17–20

**12th Annual Lititz Fire & Ice Festival.** Over Presidents Day weekend, enjoy live ice carvings, vendors, games, food, entertainment, chili cookoff, indoor winter carnival and more. [LititzFireAndIce.com](http://LititzFireAndIce.com).

### FEBRUARY 24–26

**Lancaster Roots and Blues**, A Festival of Music. Musicians from across the country celebrate the roots of American music at several venues in Lancaster. Featuring jazz, Americana, folk, rockabilly, rock 'n roll, bluegrass and more. \$55 and up. 717-875-2772; [LancasterRootsAndBlues.com](http://LancasterRootsAndBlues.com).

### MARCH 11–OCTOBER 14

**Sight & Sound Theatre** — *Jonah*. A Bible classic comes to life on stage in jaw-dropping scale with special effects and live animals—on stage and in the aisles. 800-377-1277; [Sight-Sound.com](http://Sight-Sound.com).



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# Ever-Important Evergreens

Kirsten Werner, Natural Lands Trust

## CONSIDER PLANTING NATIVE EVERGREEN TREES AND SHRUBS IN YOUR YARD THIS YEAR.

IT'S OFTEN HARD TO THINK OF THE COLD, BITING WINDS and drifts of deep snow during the balmy gardening season. So make a note now in your spring calendar to add a few evergreens to your yard to enjoy next winter.

Beyond adding beauty to the winter landscape, native evergreen plants are an essential part of backyard biodiversity, providing essential food and shelter for wildlife.

### YOUR YARD AS WILDLIFE PRESERVE

"You've probably never thought of your property as a wildlife preserve representing the last chance we have to sustain plants and animals once common throughout the U.S. But that's exactly the role our suburban and urban landscapes are now playing," Dr. Doug Tallamy noted in a 2009 edition of *American Forests* magazine. Tallamy is an acclaimed author, ecologist, educator and member of Natural Lands Trust's Board of Trustees.

The U.S. population is expected to grow by 100 million people in the next five decades. Chester County is growing even faster—faster than any other county in our region. With this increase in residents comes development, turning once-wooded areas into ecologically barren yards of chemically treated lawns and ornamental—and often non-native—trees. In doing so, we've virtually eliminated the habitat needed for wildlife to survive.

Of all the plants and animals native to Pennsylvania, one in ten is imperiled, 156 have been lost entirely, and 351 are threatened or endangered. Why should we care about this sharp decline in biodiversity? Frankly, we can't afford not to.

"The ecosystems that support us are run by biodiversity," said Dr. Tallamy. "It's biodiversity that generates oxygen and cleans water, creates topsoil out of rock, buffers extreme weather events like droughts and floods, pollinates our crops, and recycles the mountains of garbage we create every day."



American Robin on American Holly



Eastern Red Cedar

The good news is that the solution is actually quite simple: plant native species in our yards. Dr. Tallamy advocates a goal of tripling the number of native trees and shrubs in suburban landscapes.

Certainly not all of these need to be—or should be—evergreen species! But evergreens do play an important role in suburban wildlife gardens. Check out these Natural Lands Trust staff favorites.

### EVERGREEN TREES

**Eastern Red Cedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*). One of the best trees you can plant for wildlife habitat, this native tree sports blue berries through the winter that are consumed by songbirds like the cedar waxwing. Tolerant of a wide variety of soil conditions, this plant does require full sun. Eastern red cedars generally grow 30 to 40 feet high.

**Eastern White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*). Preferring well-drained slightly acidic soil, this fast-growing pine can quickly reach 100 feet tall! Its seeds are favored by chipmunks, rabbits, squirrels and birds, including black-capped chickadees, pine warblers, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, and white-breasted nuthatches, to name a few. White pines provide nesting sites for many songbirds and raptors (hawks, owls and eagles).

**Balsam Fir** (*Abies balsamea*). This exceptionally hardy evergreen maintains its attractive, pyramid shape as it grows, reaching

about 25 feet at maturity. The seeds and buds are food for grouse, squirrels, mice and voles. Their dense growth offers winter shelter for white-tailed deer, songbirds and small mammals.

**American Holly** (*Ilex opaca*). The state tree of Delaware, American holly is best known for its shiny green foliage and red berries that persist through winter. These berries are eaten by grouse, quail, wild turkeys and many songbirds. Its inconspicuous spring flowers are attractive to bees. Be sure to plant a male specimen nearby to ensure berry production.

**Sweetbay Magnolia** (*Magnolia virginiana*). This native magnolia, which grows up to 20 feet tall, tolerates a wide variety of soil and sun conditions, and even tolerates wet areas. The fruit is eaten by squirrels and mice, as well as a variety of songbirds including vireos, towhees, northern flickers and blue jays. Its glossy, dark green leaves generally remain intact throughout winter, especially if planted in a somewhat sheltered location.

### EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Don't have room for new trees in your yard? No problem. Here are some native evergreen shrubs to add year-round color and biodiversity to your property.

**Mountain Laurel** (*Kalmia latifolia*). Mountain laurel is the state shrub of Penn-

sylvania and thrives here. Celebrated for its showy spring flowers, this species also provides winter shelter for small birds. Mountain laurel prefers partial shade and acidic soil.

**Rosebay Rhododendron** (*Rhododendron maximum*). Growing to 30 feet tall, this native evergreen rhododendron sports large pink flowers in mid-summer and supports a wide array of wildlife. Think of the cool, moist ravines you would naturally find this growing when you choose a home for this particular plant. Don't plant it in hot, dry locations.

**Inkberry** (*Ilex glabra*). Inkberry is a great choice for an easy-care, evergreen shrub that requires no pruning. A member of the holly family, it produces small black fruits in the fall (as long as a male specimen is nearby) that are eaten by a myriad of birds as well as raccoons, coyotes and opossums.

Next winter, feel happy about your contribution to biodiversity as you survey your private nature preserve. ♦

*Natural Lands Trust is dedicated to protecting the forests, fields, streams and wetlands that are essential to the sustainability of life in eastern PA and southern NJ. Since its founding in 1953, it has preserved more than 100,000 acres, including 43 nature preserves totaling more than 22,000 acres. Today, some 2.5 million people live within five miles of land under the organization's protection. Visit Natlands.org.*



Cedar Waxwing on American Holly



Northern Parula on Eastern Red Cedar

PHOTOS COURTESY BILL MOSES

# PRESERVING AND CELEBRATING HISTORY

Jane E. Dorchester, Preservation Awards Committee

## HIGHLIGHTS OF WEST CHESTER'S SIXTH HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

**S**TROLLING ALONG THE STREETS OF THE BOROUGH OF West Chester is like scrolling through a series of history lessons, each historic building adding a chapter to the unfolding story of the town's rich past. Happily, West Chester can tell its long and interesting story through its collection of buildings because of the ongoing efforts of business owners, residents and government officials to preserve the Borough's historic fabric.

To encourage the continuing efforts to preserve the Borough's unique character, the West Chester Downtown Foundation established a Historic Preservation Awards Program in 2010. Since the first preservation awards ceremony, 34 awards have been made covering buildings, preservation service, preservation legacy and special recognition. It was hoped that recognition gained through the awards would encourage further sound preservation practices. And it now appears that cycle has become well established.

The Sixth Preservation Awards Ceremony continued the success of the program with eight more awards to add to the growing list. Nominations covered all three awards categories—Preservation Legacy, Preservation Service and Bricks and Mortar—plus, for only the third time, a Special Recognition Award was presented.

### AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

The 2016 Preservation Legacy Award went to William Leo "Bill" McLaughlin of West Chester to recognize his "tireless, at times fearless, [advocacy] for the preservation of West Chester's historic fabric" and his efforts to educate the public about the need to preserve the physical evidence of West Chester's history.

An invaluable guide to understanding West Chester's transportation history, Dr. Jim Jones' *Railroads of West Chester* was chosen for the Preservation Service Award. This "is an important and informative book" that "documents a critical piece of West Chester's history."

A Special Recognition Award was presented to The Barclay Grounds Preservation Alliance for their successful effort to preserve the Barclay Grounds, part of the Hartshorne Estate and on the National Register of Historic Places, in part because the park-like grounds are home to "one of the finest collections of specimen trees in West Chester."

### BRICKS AND MORTAR AWARDS

These five awards recognized construction projects of exceptional quality that had a positive impact on the preservation of West Chester's historic fabric and character. The winners were:



Barclay Park

The Sharpless Works, 300 East Evans St., won for both its innovative rehabilitation from a vacant, dilapidated industrial complex to a desirable 155-unit apartment complex and for its careful maintenance over the last 32 years. This project is one of West Chester's first examples of adaptive reuse and remains one of its most visible. It is a showcase for creative solutions enhancing best preservation practices.

Broadlawns, 601 North Church St., was recognized for ongoing efforts of its current owners to bring this 1881 T. Roney Williamson-designed house back to its original glory, while adapting it to modern use with a new addition that complements the house's exuberant Queen Anne style. The continued stewardship of this neighborhood landmark significantly contributes to West Chester's historic fabric.

The Neiblum and Rosenberg Residence, 603 North Walnut St., (photo on prior page) won for the rehabilitation of this 1922 French Norman house that accomplished a complete restoration of the exterior and interior, while successfully addressing the need for modern conveniences, including state-of-the-art, energy-efficient mechanical and electrical systems. The project included structural repairs and demonstrates how a historic building can be reinvigorated while respecting historic character.

The Lowe Residence, 424 North Malack St., was selected for the successful rehabilitation of this 1859 Italianate house that married a complete restoration of the exterior with an updating of the interior. The project included the reconstruction of the building's floor structure and rooftop widow's walk. The efforts of the current owner and her design team returned this building to its original prominence as an anchor of Marshall Square Park.

Synchrony Headquarters, 22 North Church St., won for the adaptive reuse of this c. 1845 commercial building that restored the interior and exterior while creating a headquarters building for a modern business. The project included restoring the loft and exterior hoist shaft and installing a new insulated roof system. This project demonstrates how historic properties can be adapted to new uses through sensitive historic preservation practices.

### YEAR SEVEN

The Seventh Annual Historic Preservation Awards kick off April 10 when nominations open and close June 9. For information, check the West Chester BID office and [DowntownWestChester.com](http://DowntownWestChester.com). The 2017 winners will be announced in July, and the Awards Ceremony will take place on October 19, 2017.

Please help recognize the projects that enhance West Chester's historic character and integrity by submitting a nomination! ♦



The Sharpless Works



Broadlawns



The Lowe Residence



Synchrony Headquarters

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This customized kitchen was added to a classic stone manor house that was on the Chester County Day tour. Locally crafted custom cabinetry, soapstone countertops, plaster walls and new custom columns adorn the kitchen. Tongue and groove bead board ceiling and hand planed beams create the window cupola, while beautiful salvaged heart pine floors add charm and character to this addition.

COURTESY E. C. TRETHEWEY BUILDING CONTRACTORS



This kitchen will always be a favorite. The warm white cabinets and walnut island top create such an inviting feel, while the depth of the natural soapstone adds character and the black island grounds the room. The unique hood design and custom lighting are what make this kitchen personal.

COURTESY WATERBURY KITCHEN & BATH



A stunning, contemporary kitchen featuring high gloss cabinets, stainless steel accents and two islands. The unique and functional center island is a combination of materials—maple cabinets, stainless steel drawers, tubular legs and butcher block countertop. The barrel vault ceiling detail softens the angular design of the space.

COURTESY CREATIVE NOOK

# Dream Kitchens

Get inspired to tackle that kitchen re-do by these dream kitchens from local designers and builders.

Chrystal white Colortone cabinets with a pewter glaze brighten this traditional styled kitchen—a classic bright white look. An ebony colored island adds an accent to the center and a whisper of Old World charm to the space. Granite countertops and stainless steel appliances complete the kitchen's new design.

COURTESY KITCHEN MAGIC



This design has a minimal modern aesthetic that's still inviting, spacious and warm. It incorporates a subtle and diverse range of greys—from a darker grey with hints of blue to a lighter grey marble backsplash that's almost white—offset by the darker floor that grounds the kitchen's lighter aesthetics. The layout of the cabinets, as well as the recessed island, open up the feel of the kitchen.

COURTESY BLACK FOREST DESIGN & BUILD



When designing a new kitchen, it's important to stay consistent with the existing overall aesthetics of the home. This kitchen complements the French Country style of the home as well as function for a family that loves to cook and entertain. The details of the new kitchen transition well with the clients' home.

COURTESY SUGARBRIDGE KITCHEN & BATH. PHOTO BY LETITIA CLARK



A 300-year-old ballroom was converted to a bright kitchen, with custom coffered ceilings and floor-to-ceiling millwork. A track and rolling ladder were installed to provide access to the upper cabinetry that reaches the 12-foot ceilings. Dark marble countertops on the custom built island contrast with the light white Carrara marble backsplash for an elegant space.

COURTESY GARDNER FOX ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION



This space has a crisp yet comfortable transitional style. Kitchen cabinetry is maple with a coastal gray stain for a "weathered" look that warms the room while retaining a cool palette. Black 30-shen paint on the bar cabinetry separates kitchen and dining spaces. For sparkle—stainless steel appliances, brushed satin nickel hardware, backsplash mirror, glass doors and chandeliers.

COURTESY MAIN STREET CABINET CO. PHOTO BY JAN GREENE PHOTOGRAPHY



# Choosing A Neighborhood

Mary Irene Dolan

FINDING A COMMUNITY THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

IF HOUSES ARE LIKE SPOUSES, NEIGHBORHOODS ARE like extended family. Except unlike your spouse's extended family, you see your neighborhood "family members" everyday. And you'll never be happy in your dream home if the surrounding area isn't dream-worthy as well.

So before day dreaming about the perfect house with the perfect view, take the time to envision your ideal neighborhood.

Need help? Try these brainstorming tips to spark your imagination!

## THE WISH LIST

You can't start looking for your dream neighborhood if you don't have some idea of what you want. So, ask yourself the big questions. What are your must-haves? What do you want now? In the future? Do you envision a starter home or are you planning to stay put? And so on.

Gary Scheivert of Berkshire Hathaway suggests making a list of your present and future needs and see how different areas match up. For example, "Do you plan to have children in the future? If so, you may want a neighborhood that has a tot lot and sidewalks," says Gary. And of course, a great school district.

"Singles or couples without kids might prioritize other benefits," notes Gary. Things like walkability, proximity to activities and restaurants, plus your commute to work are all important to consider.

For couples, Holly Gross of The Gross Realty Group recommends each client makes a list separately, then both make a list together. "This way you'll be able to see what you can compromise on, what you can't, and go from there," she explains.

## THE LIFESTYLE

A close-knit community with locally owned shops, dining and a theater at its center. A quiet rolling landscape with a handful of homes across acres of open farmland. A suburban family town mixing the best of city and country life just a short drive from great shopping. Which sounds most appealing to you? Anything else on your wish list?

Usually location and its corresponding personality are the first things people think about. "It might sound trite and obvious," says Holly Gross, "but it really is the most important selling point to many people." And just like your place in your extended family, you want to feel you fit in and are part of the larger community.

Some people will even sacrifice convenience or higher price if the area feels like the right fit. "If you're really set on that rural landscape, driving 20 minutes to get to the grocery store doesn't feel like an inconvenience," says Holly.

If you know you can't stand cramped city life or you'd feel isolated if your nearest neighbor was acres away, you'll have a much easier time narrowing down your options.

## THE SURROUNDINGS

Going hand in hand with an area's overall lifestyle, neighborhood amenities are equally important. "Most buyers are very concerned with what's around them, depending on their stage of life," notes Missy Schwartz of Berkshire Hathaway. That's where your wish list comes in handy.

"I always recommend driving around a little, at different time of the day, night and week," says Missy. "It's the best way to get a first-hand feel for the area." Safety is always a top priority—those daytime verses nighttime visits are good tests in your research.

Being close to amenities like quality shopping, dining, hospitals, cultural attractions or nature might also be important to you. Or perhaps you'd feel better if your child's school was minutes away, regardless of whether you choose a public or private school.

The vast amount of information on the internet has made the research process a lot easier. "Buyers coming to our area are very educated these days, not only about the individual properties, but also the region's numerous perks," agree agents Amy McKenna and Cindy Orr of Country Properties. "When they've already chosen their ideal town, it allows us to spend more time assisting buyers in finding the home to match their specific needs."

## THE PEOPLE

A neighborhood is also defined by the people who live there. Especially if you're community minded and like to get to know your neighbors, you'll want to move somewhere that will make you feel connected. For this reason, towns with plenty of local events tend to be popular.

Also think about your stage of life. Parents might want to move to an area full of families they and their kids can make friends with. Singles will likely feel more comfortable around others in the same stage of life than with those families with little ones. And empty nesters and retirees looking for peace and quiet might not find it in a lively college town.

## THE SPECIFICS

We all want the best value for our money, so it's important to know budget limitations and overall cost of living in the target neighborhoods. Mortgages, resale values, property taxes, homeowner's asso-

ciation fees and zoning regulations are all things to take into consideration.

If the value of your home increases, make sure you can afford the resulting increase in taxes. Likewise, if you're not planning to stay forever, you'll want to be aware of resale trends in an area.

Also think about the amount of freedom you'd like to have on your property. Check for rules and restrictions about home additions like pools, fences, siding and landscaping, plus limits on other things like motorcycles, noise and animals. Typically condos and private developments will have more rules governing what you do to and in your home. Do some soul searching to decide whether those restrictions will feel limiting or if they might be the perfect solution to past neighborhood pet peeves.

Now that you're armed with your list and knowledge, you're one step closer to buying your next home! ♦

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# A Home *to be* *Discovered*

Story by Jack Smith  
Photos by Geoffrey Gross Photography

## CHADDS FORD ARCHITECT JOHN MILNER CREATES A PROVENCAL DREAM HOUSE ON THE PICKERING CREEK

IT IS THE STUFF OF PICTURE POST CARDS, WITH FIELDSTONE walls the color of autumn straw, baked clay tiles spiking the silhouette of its roofs, and a columned loggia with fountain and spy holes opening to an enclosed courtyard. There's a warmth about this home—in Provence, they call it *chaleur*—but it's no less appealing when this element takes shape along the Chester County countryside.

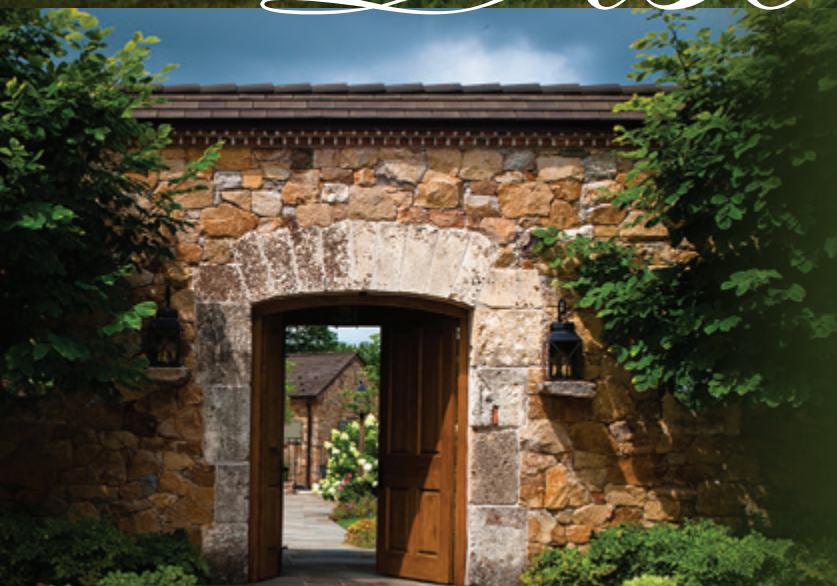
It didn't happen by accident, says architect John Milner, the person the home's owners commissioned to make their dream of a Provencal country home come true. "We wanted to evoke the feel of a French farm house with outbuildings and guest house, an agrarian compound that has evolved over time to accommodate large family gatherings," says the architect.

### ROOM FOR LARGE FAMILIES

As the lady of the house explains, the capacious farmhouse style suited her family's needs and tastes. "Both my husband and I are from large families—he's from a blended family of eight children and I'm one of five, with all of them within an hour of us."

So the Chester County couple were used to large spaces. The home where she and her husband had raised their own three children was a 250-year-old converted stone bank barn along the Pickering Creek outside Phoenixville.

"Our living room was 25 feet by 50 feet with a 27-foot ceiling. Not only was it a wonderful place to raise a family, it allowed us the space to gather the large families together for numerous celebrations and holidays. It was not uncommon for our tables to be set for 40 to 50 people. We always swore that we would not move unless an amazing piece of land became available," she says.





### A SPECIAL PROPERTY

“Amazing” described the property that came onto the market in 2005. It was a 40-acre spread of land on an open, rolling hillside in the northwestern quadrant of Chester County, just a stone’s throw from Routes 202, 29 and 30. What made this property even more special was that all three of their children fondly remembered spending summer days playing in the Pickering Creek Valley.

After acquiring the property the couple began the process of interviewing architects, including Milner. What they had in mind, they told him, was a stone home, at least five bedrooms, with a European feel, like those they’d seen in southern France. There should be numerous outdoor gathering spots, arches, courtyards and intimate spaces.

Later she would think back on that first meeting with Milner and laugh. Had she been interviewing him? Or was it the other way around? The fact was, Milner wasn’t just a world-class architect whose works included some of this region’s most prestigious structures, he was also selective about the kinds of projects he undertook.

### THE RIGHT ARCHITECT

On a recent evening Milner sits in his office—a place chock-a-block with remnants of farm implements and decorative pieces—and recalls the time a famed sports figure approached the architect to create a home for him.

What he wanted, said the celebrity athlete, was a house so spectacular people would drive 50 miles out of their way just to see it. With that in mind Milner drew up a list of ten other architects who’d be delighted to create such a home. It just wasn’t Milner’s style.

“There are lots of architects who’d be happy to design that kind of place. It’s a common mistake,” says Milner. “It’s like placing a house on top of a hill, to create a sense of grandeur. As Edgar Allen Poe said—grandeur for its own sake fatigues and depresses.”

It would be far more rewarding, he felt, to create a home with a bit of mystery to it. “The understanding of the house should evolve as you move from space to space. You don’t want to experience a place all at once; rather, it should gradually reveal itself, giving it a sense of discovery,” Milner says.

The first step in creating the Provence house was deciding how to situate it on the land. “There should be a reason for the placement of a house. People sometimes forget that the largest windows should face south for maximum sunlight, while the smallest should face north for protection from the wind,” he continues.

### DECISIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

While Milner was occupied with blueprints for the house, his clients were busy with other details. Having lived in an old barn, they’d undertaken numerous renovation projects, but this was the first home they’d ever built from the ground up.

The lengthy process of building permits and open space conservation issues allowed them the time to focus on the details of each and every room. The couple’s wish lists were identical: large kitchen with lots of counter space, large outdoor porch with a fireplace, infinity-edge pool, lots of reclaimed wood, brick and beams, high ceilings, and so on.



Ultimately he took charge of the electrical details, HVAC, generators, security system and audiovisual components, while she handled most of the details that involved tile, paint, decorating and plants. Ground for the new house was first broken in March of 2006 and the house was completed in December of 2008.

Typical of Milner's work, the house emanates a sense of discovery. "There is a tree line on the land but instead of placing the house in front of the trees, I placed it behind, to create the effect of it being veiled," says the architect.

#### GETTING THE DETAILS RIGHT

Close up, the sense of detail becomes apparent everywhere. The main entrance leads through a small double door with a weathered limestone surround from Abt, in France. "You don't enjoy the best view of the house until you're through the doors and onto the loggia," says the architect. "The stones in the walls were hand set in recessed mortar to give it a 'dry stack' look, a technique that calls for a highly skilled artisan."

The doors lead into the loggia where the sound of water comes trickling from a fountain in the wall and a small circular fenestration offers a glimpse of the courtyard within. Here and there, the stones are touched with patches of moss and other growths, a reference to the passage of time.



Inside, the home remains true to its Provencal roots. The living space is organized around a spacious great room with ceilings 19 feet high to accommodate large family gatherings. “We wanted to create the sense of a family compound rather than a literal copy of a barn,” says Milner.

Antique oak beams, warped and worn over time, were sawed into floorboards. Butternut wood—common in ancient French churches—was used for intricate carvings and millwork. Poplar was used for painted areas and where brushstrokes showed through, they were sometimes allowed to remain.

“Imperfections tell a story,” says Milner. “They related to the human element. They say there’s a bit of history here.”

However, the architect and his client didn’t agree on every detail. “There was a balcony railing that they wanted to do in iron, and I thought it would be better in wood,” Milner continues. On reaching a compromise they produced one more subtle point of discovery—wooden stair railings inlaid with iron strips.

In spite of being told repeatedly by others how stressful the construction process would be, thanks to Bob Griffiths and Wayne Rowland of Griffiths Construction, the owners realized the opposite to be true. “They all made the building process so pleasant,” she says.

“So did the masons of L&L Restoration of Parkesburg. “It was so touching to see the masons who worked here each weekday make the trip back with their families on weekends to share their handiwork,” she says.

As for the interior, says Milner, the lady of the house deserves the credit for the handsome Provencal-inspired décor.

Of course, a home that’s the product of so much craftsmanship and authenticity deserves grounds to match and for this, the owners turned to landscape designer Jonathan Alderson. “I have always had a passion for flowers, shrubs, trees and gardening,” says the wife. “But it took Jonathan to sort out which plants or shrubs would achieve the European garden look while surviving the Pennsylvania hot summers and cold winters.”

#### SHARING THE DREAM

After eight years in their dream house, the owners still pinch themselves that they live there. “We don’t take it lightly or for granted the amount of incredible talent and expertise contributed by all who helped build this house. It has been the scene of countless celebrations of friends and family, including three backyard weddings.

“When our friends and the ever-growing families gather and thank us for hosting, our response is often, ‘You are welcome ... we built this home to share ... so glad you can be here!’” she says with a smile. ♦



#### RESOURCES

*Architect* John Milner Architects

*Builder* Griffiths Construction

*Landscape Designer* Jonathan Alderson Landscape Architects

*Stonemasons:* L&L Restoration of Parkesburg

*Millwork* David Dougan Cabinet Maker and Ralston Shop

*Hardware* Michael M. Coldren Company

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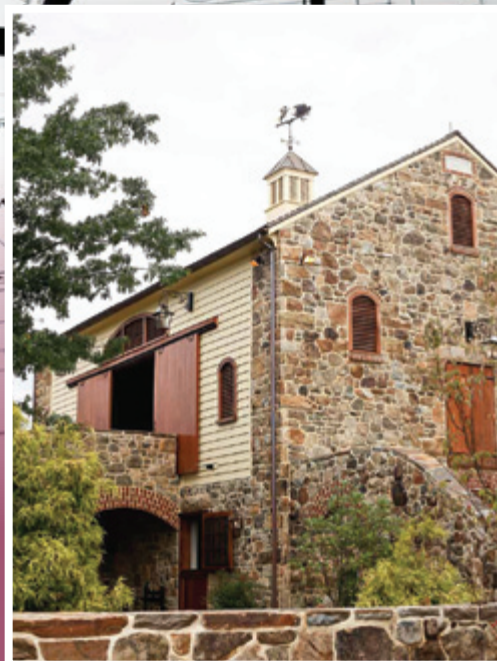
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104 Lakeview Dr., Chaddsford  
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See: Kitchens, Cabinetry & Baths

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Chester Springs  
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#### King Construction Co., LLC

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## IT'S IN EVERYTHING THEY DO

**W**E WANT A MORAL COMPASS FOR OUR CHILDREN. We'd like them to have "character." We expect they'll get the values embodied in character from us, their parents. But we *trust* our schools to model the values; maybe teach them; hopefully develop them.

But what do we mean by character?

To some, character is basically honesty, not only to others, but also to oneself. George Washington, we think, was a paragon of character because he could "not tell a lie."

Second, we include respect. Think deeper about respect—of ourselves, of others, of our community and environment—and the subject blends into notions of responsibility, fairness and citizenship. Our children should learn to be thoughtful, balanced and fair.

Compassion is third. It's the ability to be empathetic. Compassion is the opposite of bullying.

Fourth we include perseverance. Some call it grit or courage. A moral being will take responsibility for results, not merely hope or purpose, trying to overcome difficulty or opposition.

Fifth is worship of God, or, more secularly, modesty before a force we do not fully understand.

We talked with area independent schools to learn more about how they approach building character in today's students.

### HONESTY

Honesty is the most basic element of the character traits taught in our independent schools, very likely the first we learn. The schools have various ways of enforcing honesty, ranging from private discussions, to public discussions, to establishing an honor code, to convening an honor council when needed.

At the Tatnall School, honesty is one of the nine "daisy values"—the daisy being a symbol of how a child thrives, blossoms and adds grace to the earth. At the Baldwin School, honesty is a Core Value. The Hill School, in its Core Tenets, embraces "honesty and genuineness."

### RESPECT, COURTESY & GRATITUDE

Respect initially invokes manners: how we behave towards others. For instance, a student is taught to be attentive while another is speaking. The protocol is simple—the Golden Rule—to "do unto others as we would have others do unto us."

"Advanced respect," however, requires that the student absorb a code. Honesty involves only the action of one person. Respect, on the other hand, requires two or more, as in respect for our elders, respect for the rules, respect for the environment, respect for the community.

To learn respect also involves knowledge of consequences. At Church Farm School, respect is one of their four core values, together with responsibility, integrity and brotherhood. The Hill School embraces "honesty and genuineness, courtesy and respect, and gratitude and concern for the greater good." The school calls on its students to "serve the common good." The Tatnall School emphasizes concern for the environment.

Similarly, Westtown School's "SPARK" values—spirit, participation, academic excellence, respect and kindness—for the most part concern a student's impact on others. Thus, equality, simplicity, peace, integrity, stewardship and community find their way into Westtown's actionable credo.

### COMPASSION, CARING & EMPATHY

Nancy van Arkel, Principal of Westtown's Middle School, tells the story of a student going to bat at a critical point in a ballgame. In tears, the batter is sure he'll strike out. But the older co-captains calm him. "We'll win or lose as a team," they say to him.

Compassion begins with a sense of community: "belongingness," according to Reverend Ned Sherrill, Church Farm School's Head of School. Whether because of their youth or their disadvantaged backgrounds—about 90% receive financial aid, over 60% are non-white, about 15% international—Church Farm students learn to form and nurture bonds. In class, after class, in clubs and sports, they share their experience, and their initial bonds become life-long friendships.

At Baldwin, students are engaged in a host of service learning projects—how girls are educated around the world, preparations for Martin Luther King Day, the school's winter clothing drive, to name a few. Contribution is pervasive and reflected in its graduates. Many choose government, board membership or nonprofits as careers. Dr. Maria Porges, current Head of School

and an alumna, served in the Navy after graduation.

Episcopal Academy has a Volunteer Service and Learning Cooperative to serve the needs of others "as if their needs were our needs." Through a wide variety of projects, the school challenges students "to make a difference" and "to be compassionate citizens, using their education and talents for the good of humanity."

As Devon Prep's new Headmaster, Reverend Francisco Aisa also led the school

in a "hard turn" to service. The school's Christian Action Program completed a food drive, its 6th graders created peace posters, and its 7th graders picked peppers to help the Chester County Food Bank.

There's a formal leadership development curriculum at The Hill School that contributes to building character. In addition, the school's Student Philanthropy Council meets regularly to provide grants to local nonprofit groups. And through required jobs—ranging from setting tables at meals to assisting staff

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with office tasks—Hill students learn fairness, responsibility and empathy.

According to Tim Quinn, Head of Tannall's Upper School, building character is "integrated into everything we do." The students' caring extends "to others, to themselves, and to the environment." It's "not a separate program" and it "asks students to go beyond simply being nice and respectful."

#### GRIT & PERSEVERANCE

Honesty, respect, compassion are, well,

good things. We want and encourage these traits. But, we also want and value leaders: persons of character who will take on a tough battle; see it through; persist.

At Westtown, they call them "up-standers." An up-stander will stand up; "fight for it;" "not give up." An example is a project at its sister school in Ghana, where Westtown built an electricity-generating windmill. After early efforts failed—the tower collapsed in a windstorm—the school sought a grant to finish the project.

At Church Farm, says Reverend Ned Sherrill, the typical student enters "raw" and leaves "polished"—a trustworthy, curious, fully engaged and courageous leader; a young man who "in the midst of crisis, will do the right thing."

#### MODESTY UNDER GOD

Another part of character is modesty: to accept responsibility for what you've accomplished while attributing to others—whether the weather, the economy, luck or team members—your actual experience and results.

Westtown is founded on Quaker values: "There is that of God in everyone." Equality, simplicity, peace, integrity, stewardship and community all speak modesty. There are quiet times—times to "go inward and think." The aim, on the whole, is to make "new and better versions of themselves."

Devon Prep, founded on and still driven by Catholic values, attributes its teaching to the Piarists, who professed "vows of poverty, chastity and obedience." Today the school's mission statement calls upon its students to "develop an intellectual curiosity of the world and have a strong moral and ethical compass to both anchor and guide them." Observes Mark Aquilante, Director of Academic Affairs, character is pursued through guest speakers, discussions, retreats and "framing of teachable moments." But, he says, there's "no silver bullet."

At The Hill School, there's an all-school chapel service, where students often speak about the experiences that have shaped their character. At Church Farm, worship, matters of spirit and religious study are integral parts of school life.

#### EVERYTHING THEY DO

For years, there's been a growing chorus calling on our schools to teach character. It's been a response to cheating, bullying and a decline in empathy. The independent schools may not have solved the problem. But they have absorbed the lesson. In fact, these schools view character as a way of life: built into everything they do. ♦

## BISHOP SHANAHAN HIGH SCHOOL

CATCH THE SHANAHAN SPIRIT!

bshs



### COME AND SEE! SPRING 2017 VISIT DATES

7th Grade Visitation Day

Wednesday, March 29 • 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

7th Grade Practice Test

Saturday, April 1 • 8 am - Noon

Spring Open House

Wednesday, April 5 • 7:30 pm

Now Enrolling  
for 2017-2018

220 WOODBINE ROAD, DOWNINGTOWN, PA  
610.343.6206 [shanahan.org](http://shanahan.org)

To register for  
all events visit  
[shanahan.org](http://shanahan.org)

SHADOW  
DAYS AND  
TOURS  
AVAILABLE

PEOPLE OF GOD; PEOPLE FOR OTHERS

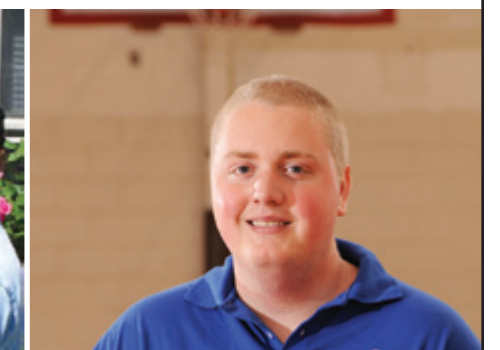


An independent day and boarding school offering college preparatory education for boys in grades 9-12

Day student applications for 2017-2018 extended until April 30!  
Contact [admissions@gocfs.net](mailto:admissions@gocfs.net) to learn more about how you can be inspired to fulfill your dreams!

610.363.7500 | [www.gocfs.net](http://www.gocfs.net) | 1001 E. LINCOLN HWY. EXTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 19341

## Devereux Changes Lives and Nurtures Human Potential



We are committed to improving the lives of children and adolescents through excellence in psychiatric, psychological, clinical, therapeutic and educational care, thus allowing the individuals to maximize their potential and live their lives full of promise.

- Educational Day Schools\*\*
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- School-based Consultation & Support
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*"At the heart of Devereux story is family. Tens of thousands of families have been touched by the support and care Devereux provides."*

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For more information, please visit [www.devereux.org](http://www.devereux.org) or call 610/542-3000 • 800/345-1292

\*\*4010 funding available to school districts



# FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

## Spring OPEN HOUSES

Middle & Upper School  
April 18 • 4-6 pm

Lower School  
April 20 • 9 am

Register at [friendscentral.org](http://friendscentral.org)

Educating for Excellence Since 1845 • [friendscentral.org](http://friendscentral.org)



## Come See the Archmere Difference!

**Archmere**  
ACADEMY  
*Inspiring Students to Distinction*

- Top Academics
- Expert Faculty
- Competitive Athletics
- Award-winning Arts
- State-of-the-art Facilities



# Guide to School Open Houses

at Area Independent & Private Schools

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Bryn Mawr

#### The Baldwin School

701 Montgomery Ave.  
610-525-2700

[BaldwinSchool.org](http://BaldwinSchool.org)

The Baldwin School is an independent day school for girls that combines the region's premier college preparatory curriculum with distinguished arts, athletics and community service programs. Located in Bryn Mawr, Baldwin attracts talented girls for Pre-K–grade 12 who seek a dynamic, globally focused curriculum within a supportive and encouraging community.

*All School Open House: Apr. 19*

*Lower School Tours: Mar. 16*

*Middle School & Upper School Open House: Mar. 9*

*Private tours available upon request*



#### Country Day School of the Sacred Heart

480 S. Bryn Mawr Ave.  
610-527-3915; [CDSSH.org](http://CDSSH.org)

CDSSH is an independent, Catholic, college preparatory school for girls, K–grade 12 with membership in the Sacred Heart Network of 24 U.S. and Canada schools, ADVIS and Middle States. Established 1865, the school has been committed for over 150 years to educating young girls through an active faith,



intellectual values, social awareness, Christian community and personal growth.

*6th Grade Scholarship/Entrance Exam: Feb. 1, Feb. 3 at 8:30 am, register online*

*7th Grade Pre-HSPT Prep Exam: May 6, 8:45 am to noon, register online*

*All School Open House: Jan. 28, snow date, Feb. 4, 11 to 1*

#### St. Aloysius Academy

401 S. Bryn Mawr Ave.  
610-525-1670

[StAloysiusAcademy.org](http://StAloysiusAcademy.org)

St. Aloysius Academy, established by the IHM Sisters, is the only private, Catholic elementary school for boys and a co-ed Montessori pre-school in the Philadelphia metro area. They are committed to the spiritual, moral and academic development of each child. They prepare young children to assume with confidence roles of Christian leadership and service and to develop their God-given talents.

*Open House: Feb. 15, Apr. 27 at 9:30 am;*

*Mar. 19 at 1 pm*



### Chadds Ford

#### Fairville Friends School

216 Pond View Dr.  
610-388-1268; [FairvilleFriends.org](http://FairvilleFriends.org)

Fairville Friends is a small Quaker preschool and kindergarten, serving children ages 24 months to 6 years, located in a charming, 100 year-old farmhouse on 2.5 acres of fenced play yards, gardens and meadows.  
*Open House: Mar. 12, 2 to 4 pm*  
*(includes activities for the children)*  
*Please call to schedule a tour*



### Crum Lynne

#### The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School

Philadelphia Area Regional Office  
1553 Chester Pk., Ste. 103  
888-722-9237

[PACyber.org](http://PACyber.org)

The learning never stops at the Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School, one of the nation's largest, most experienced, and most successful online public schools. PA Cyber's personalized instructional methods and curricula connect students and families with highly qualified teachers and rich academic content. As a tuition-free public school, enrollment is open to any school-age child residing in PA.

*Online Info Sessions: visit [PACyber.org](http://PACyber.org)*





Tatnall School



Wilmington Friends School



Country Day School of the Sacred Heart



Centreville Layton School



Delaware Valley Friends School



The Wyndcroft School



PA Cyber Charter School



Villa Maria Academy High School



Church Farm School



Pilot School



St. Aloysius Academy



Westtown School



Devereux



Media-Providence Friends School



Schedule your visit today:

**MIDDLE & UPPER:** March 9, 8:30 a.m.

**LOWER:** March 16, 8:30 a.m.

**ALL SCHOOL:** April 19, 8:30 a.m.

Private tours also available. Register at [BaldwinSchool.org/openhouse](http://BaldwinSchool.org/openhouse).

Established in 1888, The Baldwin School is an independent day school for girls. Baldwin combines the region's premier college preparatory curriculum with distinguished arts, athletics and community service programs. Located in Bryn Mawr, Baldwin attracts talented girls for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 who seek a dynamic, globally focused curriculum within a supportive and encouraging community.

# Baldwin

701 MONTGOMERY AVENUE, BRYN MAWR, PA

An Independent College Preparatory Day School for  
Girls Pre-K through Grade 12

## Fostering the Potential Within...

**Imagine** a school where children who are vision impaired and developmentally disabled can grow academically, physically and emotionally...

**Imagine** a nurturing educational staff committed to supporting the unique needs of students ages 4.5 – 21 years in a welcoming, homelike setting...

**Imagine** a highly individualized delivery of services including a deaf/blind program, orientation and mobility, occupational therapy, life skills, specialized academics, aquatics, music therapy and more...

**Imagine no further.**

Royer-Greaves School for Blind is right here, in your community, and has been supporting the unique needs of children with vision impairments and disabilities since 1921.

At Royer-Greaves, the potential within every individual is fostered daily, thus enabling students to enjoy a quality of life not otherwise available to them.

Why not contact us to arrange a tour today?

[info@royer-greaves.org](mailto:info@royer-greaves.org) • 610-644-1810

[www.royer-greaves.org](http://www.royer-greaves.org)

118 South Valley Road, Paoli, PA 19301

**Royer-Greaves**  
SCHOOL FOR BLIND



## Devon

### Delaware County Christian School

905 S. Waterloo Rd.  
610-353-6522; [DCCS.org](http://DCCS.org)  
Lower campus, Pre-K–5.  
See listing under Newtown Square

### Devon Preparatory School

363 N. Valley Forge Rd.  
610-688-7337  
[DevonPrep.com](http://DevonPrep.com)  
Devon Prep is a private, Catholic, college-prep school, grades 6–12, focused on the holistic education of young men for life. The school is committed to the Piarist Fathers' mission of preparing young men for the rigors of 21st century life by modeling in word and deed, the values of charity, humility, patience, respect and simplicity.  
Open House: May 6, 9 to 11 am  
Scholarship/Entrance Test: Feb. 5 at 8:30 am  
7th Grade Practice Entrance Exam: April 23, 8:30 to 11:30 and May 6, 8 to 11



## Exton

### Church Farm School

1001 E. Lincoln Hwy.  
610-363-7500  
[GoCFS.net](http://GoCFS.net)  
Provides a financially accessible, college-preparatory education in the Episcopal tradition to young men, grades 9–12, within a boarding and day school environment. The rigorous academics, athletics, residential life and community service programs emphasize STEM, ethical leadership and core values of integrity, responsibility, respect and brotherhood. Since 1918, CFS graduates have matriculated to the nation's leading universities and colleges.



Day student applications extended through April 30

## Haverford

### Friends School Haverford

851 Buck La.  
610-642-2334  
[FriendsHaverford.org](http://FriendsHaverford.org)  
Guided by Quaker principles since its founding in 1885 and providing an intellectually rich and powerful values-based program. They promote academic scholarship, creativity, respect, integrity and self-awareness while creating a culture of stewardship and kindness. Students are enriched with international travel and study, inter-scholastic sports, horseback riding and ice skating. Nursery school (2 years & 7 months by Sept. 1) through grade 8.  
Open House: Feb. 8, Mar. 7, May 10



## Immaculata

### Villa Maria Academy Lower School

1140 King Rd.  
610-644-4864  
[VillaMaria.org](http://VillaMaria.org)



Villa Maria Academy is an independent, Catholic school for girls in K–grade 8 and a coeducational preschool. Since 1872, Villa Maria has empowered young women through leadership and service opportunities in the traditions of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At Villa, each student is encouraged to reach her full potential academically, spiritually, socially and morally.  
Open House: Feb. 8, Mar. 15 at 9:30 am

## Malvern

### Villa Maria Academy High School

370 Central Ave.  
610-644-2551  
[VMAHS.org](http://VMAHS.org)  
Villa Maria Academy is a Catholic, college preparatory school for girls, rooted in the philosophy of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Founded in 1872, Villa Maria Academy combines rigorous academics, extensive extracurricular opportunities and innovative real-world experiences, preparing young women with the skills and the confidence they need to meet the challenges of the 21st century.  
Preview Breakfast for 6th–7th Grade and Families:  
Apr. 3 or 6 at 8:30 am  
7th Grade Practice Exam: Apr. 29 or May 6 at 9 am  
Visit Villa Day for 7th Grade: May 10, 15, or 18, at 7:45 and 10:30 am



## Media

### Media-Providence Friends School

125 W. Third St.  
610-565-1960  
[MPFS.org](http://MPFS.org)  
A Quaker school in downtown Media for students age 3–grade 8. Students of all ages have access to their newly updated Maker-space: a classroom solely dedicated to building, imagining and creating with low-tech tools and high-tech tools like a 3D printer. Small classes allow for differentiated learning in a rigorous academic environment where students find their passion with purpose.  
Open House: Feb. 10 at 9 am



## Newtown Square

### Delaware County Christian School

462 Malin Rd.



## Phoenixville

### Renaissance Academy

413 Fairview St.  
610-983-4080; [www.RAK12.org](http://www.RAK12.org)  
A tuition-free, college prep, fully-accredited, public charter school for grades K–12. Their mission is to prepare children for success as students, workers and citizens by providing them with a high-quality liberal arts, college preparatory education.  
Spring Open House: Mar. 22, 6 to 8 pm, RSVP req.



## Downingtown

### Bishop Shanahan High School

220 Woodbine Rd.  
610-518-1300  
[Shanahan.org](http://Shanahan.org)  
A Catholic coed high school in the Archdiocese

experience  
CURIOSITY

experience  
DISCOVERY

experience  
TOWER HILL  
SCHOOL

2813 West 17th Street, Wilmington, DE 19806 [www.towerhill.org](http://www.towerhill.org)

OPEN HOUSES  
TUESDAY, FEB. 28, 9 A.M.  
WEDNESDAY, APR. 5, 9 A.M.  
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 9 A.M.

Register at 302-657-8350 or  
[www.towerhill.org/openhouse](http://www.towerhill.org/openhouse)

The love of  
learning grows  
inside and out.

For nearly 60 years,  
The Pilot School has  
been helping students with  
language-based learning  
differences develop the skills  
and confidence they need to  
succeed in a traditional  
academic environment.


In November 2016,  
we opened our doors to our  
new 50 acre school,  
thoughtfully designed to  
provide a calm-yet-stimulating  
educational environment  
both inside our building and  
throughout the woodlands  
surrounding it.

 Pilot  
School

208 Woodlawn Road  
Wilmington, Delaware 19803  
[www.pilotschool.org](http://www.pilotschool.org)

Come experience  
the Pilot difference...


in our campus and  
in our students' lives.



# SAINT EDMOND'S ACADEMY

## OPEN HOUSE

FEBRUARY 2, 2017  
AM & PM TOURS AVAILABLE



*We are* **SAINT EDMOND'S ACADEMY**

BOYS JK TO GRADE 8 302.475.5370 STEDMONDSACADEMY.ORG



**An education that responds to the academic, athletic, spiritual, social, and emotional needs of EACH GIRL.**

*Opening hearts and minds since 1865.*



CDSSH  
Independent, K-12, Catholic, College Preparatory, All-Girls  
480 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue • Bryn Mawr  
[www.cdssh.org](http://www.cdssh.org)

**Schedule a Tour: Contact Mary Lee FitzPatrick**  
**610-527-3915 ext. 214**


### Pottstown

#### The Wyndcroft School

1395 Wilson St.  
610-326-0544  
[Wyndcroft.org](http://Wyndcroft.org)

The Wyndcroft School is a coed day school for children in Pre-K-grade 8. They offer a rigorous academic program enabling the child to establish a foundation for a happy and successful future. Their focus is character development, and pursuing excellence in English, history, math, science, foreign languages and the arts. Their small class setting provides a nurturing environment, fostering creativity, personal integrity, determination and respect for others.

*Walk-In Wednesdays: Mar. 22, 29, Apr. 12, 8:30 to 11 am*  
*Open House: Feb. 12, Apr. 2, 1 to 3 pm*




### Rose Valley

#### The School in Rose Valley

20 School Ln.  
610-566-1088  
[TheSchoolInRoseValley.org](http://TheSchoolInRoseValley.org)

The School in Rose Valley (SRV) offers a Pre-K-grade 6 program just minutes from Media, based on the progressive principles of experiential learning, integrated curriculum and democratic values. SRV students explore topics deeply, play with energy and enthusiasm and develop a passion for and love of school. Full and half day preschool and kindergarten.

*Call or email for a personal tour.*  
*Open House: Feb. 15, Mar. 15, Apr. 19, May 17, 9 to 11 am*  
*School & Summer Camp Open House: Mar. 11, 10 to noon*




### Rosemont

#### The Agnes Irwin School

Ithan Ave. & Conestoga Rd.  
610-525-8400; [AgnesIrwin.org](http://AgnesIrwin.org)

The Agnes Irwin School is a nationally recognized all-girls' independent college preparatory day school for Pre-K-grade 12 that has provided an exceptional liberal arts education since 1869. They offer rigorous academics, coupled with competitive athletics and diverse visual and performing arts, and combine current educational thinking with well-established teaching practices that serve girls best.

*All School Open House: Mar. 15, Apr. 26, 8:30 to 10 am*  
*Touring Tuesdays: Feb. 14, 21, Mar. 7, 21, Apr. 11, 18, May 2, 9, 8:30 am. Campus tour, meet admission staff.*  
*No appointment needed.*




### West Chester

#### St. Agnes School

211 W. Gay St.  
610-696-1260  
[SaintAgnesSchoolWC.org](http://SaintAgnesSchoolWC.org)

The mission of St. Agnes School is to develop every student from Preschool to 8th Grade spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally and socially in a joyful, faith-based environment that inspires integrity, citizenship, leadership and service to others in the Church and in the world. St. Agnes School has been recognized by the Department of Education as a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence!

*Open House: Feb. 1 at 9 am; Feb. 12 at 11:30 am*  
*Tours every Tuesday at 10 am*




### Westtown School

975 Westtown Rd.  
610-399-7900; [Westtown.edu](http://Westtown.edu)

Westtown is a Quaker, coed, Pre-K-grade 12, day school with boarding options in grades 9-12. Westtown School offers a challenging, diverse curriculum emphasizing action-based learning, critical thinking, creative problem solving, collaboration, service and social action. For over 200 years, Westtown has inspired and prepared its graduates to be stewards and leaders of a better world.

*All School Open House: Apr. 24 at 9 am*



### Wynnewood


#### Friends' Central School

1101 City Ave.,  
(Grades 6-12)  
228 Old Gulph Rd.,  
(Nursery-Grade 5)  
610-649-7440; [FriendsCentral.org](http://FriendsCentral.org)

Friends' Central School is a Quaker, independent, coeducational, college-preparatory day school for students in Nursery-grade 12. Located on 41 acres across two campuses, Friends' Central cultivates the intellectual, spiritual and ethical promise of students. Guided by Quaker values, since 1845, they have been educating for excellence, inspiring tomorrow's leaders, honoring each individual, and encouraging students to peacefully transform the world.

*Admission Parent Info Sessions: Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, May 3, June 7*  
*Lower School at 9 am*  
*Middle & Upper School at 8:30 am*

*Spring Open Houses:*  
*Middle & Upper School: Apr. 18, 4 to 6 pm*  
*Lower School: Apr. 20, 9 to 11:30 am*  
*Walk-in Wednesday Tours: 9 am each week*



When faced with a challenge, I have learned to ask

## How might I?



**STEAM Day**

Grades 2-5  
Sunday, April 9

[www.westtown.edu/communityevents](http://www.westtown.edu/communityevents)



## WESTTOWN SCHOOL

Westtown School is a Quaker, co-ed, preK-12, day school with boarding options in grades 9-12.

Daily transportation available to our 600-acre campus in West Chester, PA

## The Agnes Irwin School

**TOURING TUESDAYS**  
Drop by Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. to tour our campus & meet our Admission team. No appointment necessary.

February 14 & 21  
March 7 & 21  
April 11 & 18  
May 2 & 9

**SPRING OPEN HOUSES**  
Wednesday, March 15, 8:30-10 a.m.  
Wednesday, April 26, 8:30-10 a.m.  
To register, visit:  
[agnesirwin.org/openhouse](http://agnesirwin.org/openhouse)





**Empowering girls to learn, to lead, and to live a legacy**

Ithan Avenue & Conestoga Road, Rosemont, PA 19010 • 610.526.1667



Saint Agnes School



Devon Preparatory School



Villa Maria Academy Lower School



The School in Rose Valley



Bishop Shanahan High School

## DELAWARE

### Claymont

#### Archmere Academy

3600 Philadelphia Pk.

302-798-6632; [ArchmereAcademy.com](http://ArchmereAcademy.com)

An independent, Catholic, coeducational college preparatory school, grades 9–12. Founded in the Norbertine tradition, the education focuses on the whole person, developing students into empathetic leaders and inspiring them to reach their potential. Top academics, expert faculty, competitive athletics, award-winning arts, and state-of-the-art facilities create an exceptional educational experience. Visit and learn about what it means to be an Auk.  
7th Grade Practice Test: Apr. 8, 9 am  
7th Grade Open House: Apr. 26 at 7 pm



### Wilmington

#### Saint Edmonds Academy

2120 Veale Rd.

302-475-5370

[StEdmondsAcademy.org](http://StEdmondsAcademy.org)

Saint Edmond's Academy, a Catholic, independent school, educates the hearts and minds of boys in the Holy Cross tradition from JK–grade 8. Their heritage incorporates contemporary thought with individualized instruction and a challenging 21st-century curriculum. The program at the Academy creates a foundation for the future that empowers boys with values and skills for life.

Open House: Feb. 2, May 4

Visit website for advanced registration.



#### The Tatnall School

1501 Barley Mill Rd.

302-892-2292

[Tatnall.org](http://Tatnall.org)

The Tatnall School is an independent, coeducational college preparatory day school situated on a pastoral 110-acre campus. Composed of four academic divisions that enroll students from age 3–grade 12, Tatnall provides a strong, balanced foundation with exceptional academics, outstanding athletics, unparalleled arts and authentic relationships. Partner with Tatnall today to start your child on the path to success.  
Open House: Feb. 23, 9 to 11; Apr. 20, 8:30 to 10:30; Apr. 29, 10 to 11



#### Tower Hill School

2813 W. 17th St.

302-657-8350; [TowerHill.org](http://TowerHill.org)

Tower Hill School inspires students to be their best in a supportive environment that balances challenging



academics with athletics, the arts and service learning. Character education is integrated throughout the innovative curriculum to encourage active, global citizenship. Tower Hill embraces diverse cultures and beliefs, fostering a strong sense of community. A coeducational independent school serving ages 3–grade 12.  
Open House: Feb. 28, Apr. 5, May 9 at 9 am

#### Wilmington Friends School

101 School Rd.

(Rts. 202 & 95)

302-576-2900

[WilmingtonFriends.org](http://WilmingtonFriends.org)

Wilmington Friends is a great place to grow up. They offer an unsurpassed academic program with depth, asking students to question, collaborate, be creative and take risks, all within a caring community that balances focus on the individual with responsibility to the common good. Reggio Emilia inspired preschool, 1:1 laptop program, STEM Labs and programming, and International Baccalaureate program. Preschool–12.  
Meet Us on Monday: Every Monday



## LEARNING DIFFERENCES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Conshohocken

#### AIM Academy

1200 River Rd.

215-483-2461; [AIMPA.org](http://AIMPA.org)

AIM Academy—Innovative

Teaching. Fearless Learning.

A grade 1–12 independent school providing extraordinary educational opportunities for children with language-based learning differences such as dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia. AIM delivers a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum as well as a rich range of extracurricular arts, music, clubs and athletic opportunities.

Open House: Feb. 15, Mar. 16, Apr. 5, May 4,

Jul. 20, 9 to 11 am, registration required

If you cannot make an Open House date, phone to arrange a tour.



### Downingtown

#### Devereux Autism Assessment Center

600 Boot Rd.

267-788-6892; [Devereux.org/Autism](http://Devereux.org/Autism)

Provides comprehensive services to address questions and concerns about Autism Spectrum Disorder, offering the gold-standard in Autism assessment including the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS). The program strives to deliver the highest quality of services from intake, to thorough assessment, to intensive follow up. It's

## The gift of fearless learning.



Innovative teaching,  
fearless learning.

This summer, bright children who learn differently can learn fearlessly. At AIM Academy, summer learning and summer fun go hand in hand. **Summer Enrichment Program**, July 3–28. See how fearless your child can become. All levels: Launch Into Learning for 5–6 year olds, Elementary (1–5), Middle & Upper School (6–10), College Prep (11–12)

1200 River Road, Conshohocken, PA

## OPEN HOUSES

Wed., Feb. 15th, Mar. 16th and Apr. 5th, 9–11 am  
Free Reading Screening for Students in Grade K–3  
Register at [www.aimpa.org](http://www.aimpa.org) or 215-483-2461



## PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

SMALL CLASS SIZE  
OUTDOOR LEARNING  
QUAKER VALUES  
ORGANIC FOOD PROGRAM  
LUNCH & SNACKS PROVIDED  
FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

CHADDS FORD, PA  
610.388.1268  
[FAIRVILLEFRIENDS.ORG](http://FAIRVILLEFRIENDS.ORG)

## The Concept School

### Who We Are

The Concept School is an independent school with educational programs for students in Middle and High School. We excel in creating a challenging and supportive environment for students who have difficulty with focusing, reading comprehension and social interaction.



### Our Core Values

- Providing a safe environment
- Building teacher/student rapport
- Fostering teacher/parent communication
- Educating the whole child
- Reducing stress in learning
- Customizing learning plans
- Motivating small-group work
- Modeling social skills



Where unique minds learn  
in unique ways

Register for an Open House  
at [www.theconceptschooll.org](http://www.theconceptschooll.org)

1120 East Street Road  
Westtown, PA 19395

610-399-1135  
[info@theconceptschooll.org](mailto:info@theconceptschooll.org)  
[www.theconceptschooll.org](http://www.theconceptschooll.org)

## HANDS ON...minds on



Friends  
SCHOOL Haverford

SMART EDUCATION IN A CULTURE OF KINDNESS

COME VISIT! OPEN HOUSE DATES:

JANUARY 25, FEBRUARY 8, MARCH 7, MAY 10

9:00 - 11:00am | Nursery School - Grade 8

Register Online: [FriendsHaverford.org/open](http://FriendsHaverford.org/open)

Private Tours Available, Call: 610-642-2334  
851 Buck Lane | Haverford, PA 19041



Delaware County Christian School




Friends Central School



The Concept School



Renaissance Academy




## St. Agnes Catholic School



Generations of Excellence in Catholic Education since 1873

**2015 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE**


**Open Houses**

January 29<sup>th</sup> at 9am  
February 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am  
February 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am



  [www.saintagnesschoolwc.org](http://www.saintagnesschoolwc.org)

211 W. Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380 | 610-696-1260




## St. Aloysius Academy

Experience **St. Aloysius Academy** Leadership & Service

Feb. 15 – 9:30 am • March 19 – 1 pm • April 27 – 9:30 am  
Or call for a private tour at 610-525-1670

- K-8 private Catholic Academy for boys
- Co-ed Montessori pre-school
- IHM Sisters sponsored—120 years of tradition
- Faith-based engaging learning
- Strong sense of community and family
- Smaller class size with high expectations
- Tech-infused curriculum and world language offerings
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May 17, July 12, 9 to 11 am; May 3 at 6 pm;  
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Middle School Information Session:

visit MS classes and have lunch with MS  
faculty Mar. 8, 10 to 11:45 am

Collaborative Reg. Independent Schools Adm.

Fair at The Shipley School: Apr. 5,  
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Information Session with DVFS Alumni Q&A:  
June 14 at 7 pm

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118 S. Valley Rd.

610-644-1810

Royer-Greaves.org

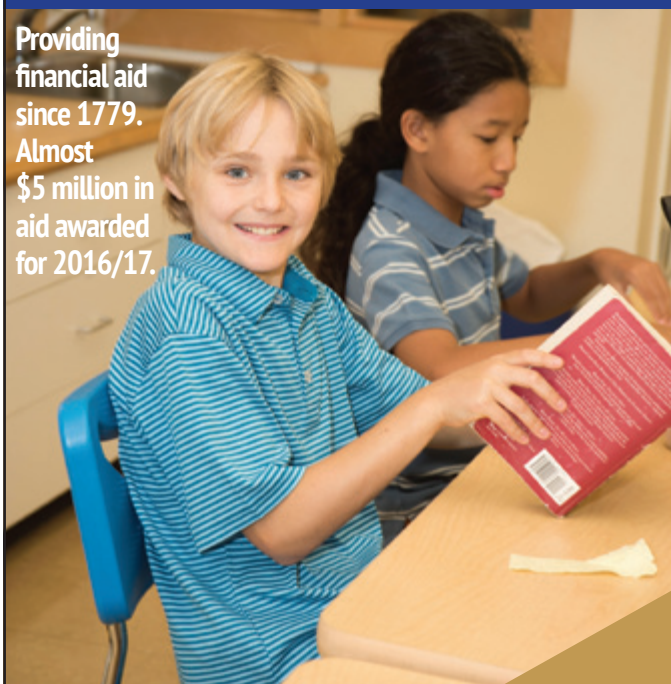
Royer-Greaves School for Blind is a PA-approved private school serving the unique needs of students ages 4.7–21 with vision impairments and developmental disabilities in small classes. Academic programs include math, reading, pre-Braille and Braille. Therapeutic and support services include: music therapy, physical education, aquatics, speech and language therapies, orientation and mobility, and occupational therapy.

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[TheConceptSchool.org](http://TheConceptSchool.org)

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#### Centreville Layton School

6201 Kennett Pk.

302-571-0230

[CentrevilleLayton.org](http://CentrevilleLayton.org)

Centreville Layton School offers a rigorous educational and cultural experience for stu-

dents who learn differently.

The program identifies the academic and social needs of the individual and provides a curriculum that focuses on problem solving and critical thinking. Through intervention and strengthening learning strategies, the school empowers each student to reach his or her potential. Pre-K–grade 12.

Open House: First Wed. monthly through May, 9 to 11 am



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[PilotSchool.org](http://PilotSchool.org)

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You can visit [CountyLinesMagazine.com](http://CountyLinesMagazine.com) for Open House updates throughout the school year.

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## [Food News] *A few of our favorite things to share this month about local food and drink*



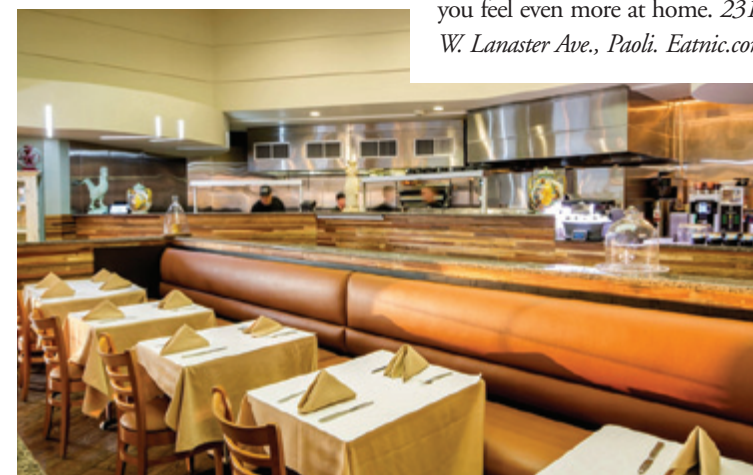
### Recipe for Romance.

Who says romance has to cost an arm and a leg? This Valentine's Day, skip the stress of reservations and big restaurant tabs and opt instead for an **intimate home-cooked meal**. In the time it takes to order and wait, you can prepare a delicious shrimp scampi for two and impress your special someone. Better yet, put on some sweet tunes and tackle

the kitchen together to create a shared surf-and-turf feast. Plan your special evening in with easy-to-follow recipes at [FoodNetwork.com](http://FoodNetwork.com).

**4 Score & 6 Ingredients.** If you've ever seen West Chester's Lincoln Building in February, you know that Chester County goes big for **Honest Abe's birthday**. On February 12th, celebrate the Emancipator's 208th with his favorite dessert, French Almond Cake. The cake's simple, 6-ingredient recipe is easy to follow and takes only an hour to whip up. Mark the day in a new way and try Lincoln's favorite cake at home. It's as delicious as it is old. Recipe at [Parade.com](http://Parade.com).

**Son of Saladworks.** Former Saladworks CEO John Scardapane teamed up with CIA-trained chef Tom Courtney to open the latest local-farm-to-your-fork restaurant, **EatNic**, an urban farmhouse eatery and BYOB in Paoli. With a comfy, shabby chic vibe, EatNic's all-scratch kitchen is open from 8 to 8 so you can order anything you want—from basic to fancy—off the breakfast, lunch and dinner menus, seven days a week. They're soliciting favorite family recipes to make you feel even more at home. 231 W. Lanaster Ave., Paoli. [Eatnic.com](http://Eatnic.com).



### Hunger Knows No Season.

Though the holidays have passed, there's no reason to stop spreading goodness and cheer. As winter ramps up, food donations fall off. This year, fight that bad trend and donate to the **Chester County Food Bank** through to spring. Whether it's a bag of groceries or a food drive, every donation makes a difference. Help the giving spirit live all year. More at [ChesterCountyFoodBank.org](http://ChesterCountyFoodBank.org).



**Delicious Duo.** Whether it's deep dish or thin crust, everyone agrees pizza is a favorite worth celebrating. Good thing February 9th is **National Pizza Day!** What better way to revel than with a slice and a glass of ... wine? That's right. February also hosts **National Drink Wine Day**, on the 18th. Kill two birds with one pairing and try healthy veggie pizza with a glass of chardonnay or a meat-lover pie with a rich cabernet sauvignon. More pairings at [Babble.com](http://Babble.com).



# Bento Boxes

Laura Muzzi Brennan

DISCOVER THE GOODNESS IN THESE HANDY, LITTLE COMPARTMENTS.

WHEN YOU WANT A TASTE OF THIS AND BITE of that for your midday meal, the bento box—or Japanese lunchbox—is the ideal solution. At **Lily Asian Restaurant**, a BYOB in downtown Kennett Square, owner Tony Liu fills the compartments of these lovely serving pieces with food influenced not just by Japan but his native China, Thailand and adopted home of Pennsylvania.

The bento traces its roots to 12th-century Japanese farmers who carried balls of rice to eat while they worked the fields. The word “bento” comes from the Southern Song dynasty’s slang term for convenience, and some historians say the design derives from a farmer’s seed box.

Over the centuries, bento boxes have spread throughout Asia and across the world. They’ve gone through many iterations including koshi-bento (“waist” bento) carried by sightseers, makunouchi bento (“between-the-acts” bento) eaten by theatergoers at Kabuki performance intermissions, and ekiben (“station” bento) box lunches sold to train travelers.

Many Japanese school-children still carry bentos for lunch, and writers’ have chronicled the pressure parents

feel to pack the most attractive, creative bento. Bentos can be plain or elaborately decorated, made from bamboo, aluminum or lacquered wood, but the idea behind them is the same: a well-balanced meal composed of various dishes.



Every Lily bento box meal begins with a small bowl of warming miso soup. In the box itself, there are crispy gyoza (pork and chicken dumplings) and a small salad topped with sesame dressing, an interesting change from the standard carrot-ginger. The sweet potato roll—earthy sweet potato fried in tempura batter, nestled in seasoned rice and wrapped in nori (seaweed paper)—is a real treat.

Rice and a small entrée of choice round out the meal. Favorite dishes include Kung Pao chicken, orange chicken and bang bang shrimp (jumbo shrimp dipped in tempura batter, breaded with panko and fried). All of the Thai curry dishes are also popular. Vegetarians especially enjoy the fried tofu “steak.” For a true taste of Kennett Square, owner Tony Liu suggests the mushroom delight, a mix of white, shitake, portobello and oyster varieties in a garlic-cream sauce.

In place of cooked entrées, diners may order sashimi (8 pieces) or sushi (5 pieces). What’s wonderful—besides the quality of the raw fish—is that guests can customize their sushi with a mix of 7 grains or the usual white and brown rice. Once they’ve sampled the uber-fresh sushi bento box, a return trip on Tuesdays for all-you-can-eat, made-to-order sushi is a must.

Attractive and balanced with eclectic tastes, a bento box makes the perfect lunchtime companion.



## Thai Basil Stir Fry Tofu

Recipe courtesy of Tony Liu, Lily Asian Restaurant.

Canola oil for frying (2" high in a deep-sided pot or skillet) plus 1 Tb. oil  
8 oz. block tofu  
8 cloves garlic, minced  
6 bird's eye chilis, minced or 1 tsp. dried red hot pepper flakes  
1 C. chopped bell peppers  
1 C. chopped onions  
2 Tb. fish sauce  
2 Tb. soy sauce  
1 Tb. sweet soy sauce  
1 Tb. oyster sauce  
¼ C. holy basil leaves\*

\*If you can't find holy basil (also called by its Indian name, tulsi), substitute sweet basil or Thai sweet basil.

Cut the tofu into thin slices (2" long x 1" wide x ¼" thick). Deep fry the tofu in oil and remove when it turns golden.

Heat 1 Tb. oil in a large skillet or wok over medium-high heat. Add garlic, chilis or hot pepper, bell peppers and onions and stir fry until fragrant. Add tofu, fish sauce, both soy sauces and oyster sauce. Stir fry until vegetables are cooked through. Add basil and stir fry briefly until it wilts.

Makes 4 servings.

## Miso Soup

At Lily Asian Restaurant, this traditional Japanese soup comes with every bento box. Dashi is the Japanese broth with a savory umami flavor. It serves as the basis for many soups and noodle dishes. Kombu is dried kelp. Bonita flakes are dried and smoked skipjack tuna that's been shaved into thin flakes.

For the dashi:

1 qt. water  
2 pieces kombu  
½ C. bonito fish flakes  
3 pieces dried shitake mushrooms

For the soup:

1 qt. dashi  
2 oz. brown miso  
2 oz. white miso  
4 tsp. diced tofu  
1 Tb. diced scallions  
2 Tb. dried seaweed flakes

To make the dashi:

In a saucepot, combine water, kombu,

bonita fish flakes and dried shitake. Bring to a boil and remove all solids.

To make the soup:

Mix both types of miso into dashi and stir well. Add the tofu, scallions and dried seaweed flakes.

Makes 4 servings.

## Sweet Potato Roll (Maki)

You will have a lot of rice left over. Since you have your bamboo mat out, try making other kinds of sushi maki. See sidebar for maki tips. Recipe courtesy of Tony Liu, Lily Asian Restaurant.



For the sweet potatoes:

2 C. tempura flour plus more for dredging  
2 C. water  
1 sweet potato, peeled and cut into ¼" slices  
Canola oil for frying (2" high in a deep-sided pot or skillet)

For the sushi rice:

4 C. short grain rice  
5–6 C. water (for a rice cooker, about 4 C.)  
1 C. rice vinegar  
2 Tb. sea salt  
¾ C. sugar  
4, 4"x7" sheets nori (seaweed paper)  
Sesame seeds

To make the sweet potatoes:

Mix 2 C. tempura flour with 2 C. water to make the batter. Dredge sweet potato slices in dry flour. Then dip them in batter and shake off excess. Carefully place slices in hot oil and fry until outside of sweet potato is lightly golden and crispy.

Remove and place on paper towels.

To make the sushi rice:

Place the rice in a fine mesh strainer and rinse under running water until the water runs clear. (This step is to remove excess starch from the grains.) Place the rice in a rice cooker and cook until rice is tender.

## Mastering Maki

“Maki” refers to rice rolls stuffed with vegetables and fish wrapped in nori. While it takes years to perfect the art of maki sushi, here are a few tips from Lily Asian Restaurant owner Tony Liu to get you started.

1. Shop smart. When you’re eating raw fish, you want it to be of the highest quality, so buy only from reputable fishmongers.

2. Go easy on the rice. If you use too much, you won’t be able to close the roll. Rule of thumb: spread the rice thinly enough that you can see the nori underneath.

3. Sharpen your knife skills. Begin with a super sharp chef’s knife. Bring the knife back toward you, slide it forward and cut with a gentle sawing motion. Don’t rush. Dip the knife into cold water between cuts.

4. Think outside the roll. There are no rules governing fillings for maki. Chef Liu likes to experiment, using local, seasonal vegetables and fruit, so go ahead and be creative.

Alternatively, bring water and rice to a boil in a large saucepan. Cover and reduce heat to low. Cook until rice is tender, adding more water if rice starts to dry out before it is cooked.

While rice cooks, combine rice vinegar, sea salt and sugar in a small saucepan. Cook over medium heat until sugar dissolves. Set aside.

Combine cooked rice and vinegar mixture.

To roll the sushi:

Place a bamboo mat covered with plastic wrap on your cutting board or work surface. Place a sheet of nori on top. Take a handful of sushi rice (about 4 oz.) and spread it thinly over the entire surface of the nori (you should be able to see the nori beneath the rice). Sprinkle sesame seeds on top of rice. Cut the fried sweet potatoes into smaller pieces so they can be wrapped easily into the roll.

Flip the nori over so the rice faces down. This way, the finished roll will have the rice outside. Put the sweet potato in a horizontal line in the center, halfway between the top and bottom.

Starting at the bottom, roll the sushi away from you until it is a tight roll. With the bamboo mat, shape the roll. Slice into 6 pieces. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

Makes 4 servings.

## Pepper Steak

Recipe courtesy of Tony Liu, Lily Asian Restaurant.

- 1 Tb. oil
- 16 oz. strip loin
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 hot red pepper such as Thai chili, seeds removed and sliced
- ½ red pepper, sliced thinly
- ¼ onion, sliced thinly
- 8 asparagus spears, cut into 2" pieces
- 2 Tb. soy sauce
- 2 Tb. oyster sauce
- 1 Tb. sugar

Heat the oil in a skillet set over medium-high heat. Cut the steak against the grain into strips (2" long and ½" thick). Add steak, garlic, peppers, onion and asparagus and cook until steak is medium.

Mix together soy sauce, oyster sauce and sugar and add to skillet. Cook for a few minutes until sauce reduces and thickens.

Makes 4 servings.

## Bang Bang Shrimp

Recipe courtesy of Tony Liu, Lily Asian Restaurant.

- 2 C. tempura flour plus more for dredging
- 2 C. water
- 16 jumbo shrimp, shells and tails removed
- 4 C. panko bread crumbs
- Canola oil for frying (2" high in a deep-sided pot or skillet)
- Thai sweet chili sauce

Mix 2 C. tempura flour with 2 C. water to make batter. Dredge shrimp in dry flour. Dip into batter and shake off excess. Dredge in panko, covering all of shrimp evenly. Pat well to make panko adhere.

Deep fry shrimp until they turn golden. Serve with chili sauce.

Makes 4 servings.

## Chicken and Watercress Dumplings

I adapted this from Grace Parisi's Watercress and Tofu dumpling recipe and took some advice from J. Kenji Lopez-Alt's cookbook The Food Lab regarding cooking techniques. (Side note: If you don't know him or his website "Serious Eats," they're worth checking out.)

For the dumplings:

- 1 lb. ground chicken

- 1 tsp. Asian sesame oil
- 1 C. finely chopped watercress\*
- 2 cloves garlic, minced or run through a garlic press
- 2 scallions, finely chopped (about ¼ C.)
- ¼ C. finely chopped water chestnuts
- 1 large egg
- Salt, to taste
- Optional: grated fresh ginger to taste
- 35–40 potsticker (gyoza) or wonton wrappers\*\*
- Oil for cooking (canola works well)

\*Remove the root end. It's fine to use the stems as long as you finely chop them.

\*\*Potsticker wrappers are a bit thicker, but wonton wrappers are easier to find in your average grocery store. They work fine.



For the dipping sauce:

- ½ C. soy sauce
- ½ C. rice wine vinegar
- 1 tsp. sesame oil

Optional: finely minced ginger, garlic chili paste, pinch of sugar or honey, finely minced scallions

To make the dumplings:

In a large bowl, mix the chicken and sesame oil together. Add watercress, garlic, scallions and water chestnuts and mix together. Add egg and salt to taste and mix well with your hands.

Line a few baking sheets with parchment paper. Fill a small bowl with water.

Place a tablespoon of chicken-watercress mixture in the center of each wrapper. Moisten the edges with water—you can use your fingers—and fold to form a triangle (if using wonton wrappers) or a half-moon (if using potsticker wrappers). Press edges together to seal.

Place dumplings on a baking sheet, leaving space in between them. Freeze for 20–30 minutes. You might be tempted to cook them right away, and that's fine, but

freezing them makes them easier to work with and gives them more stability.

Heat 1 Tb. oil in a 10" skillet set over medium heat. Once the oil shimmers, put dumplings in skillet, leaving a little room between them. Swirl oil around dumplings to promote browning and crisping. Cook for 2 minutes or until bottoms brown and dumplings release from pan.

Very carefully add ½ C. water. Turn heat to medium high and cover. Cook for 5–6 minutes or until filling is cooked through. Most of the water will have evaporated when you remove the cover, but if some remains, cook uncovered for a little longer. Repeat with remaining batches.

To make the sauce:

Whisk together soy sauce, vinegar and sesame oil. This sauce is wonderfully vinegar-y, but if you want to cut the sharpness, add one or more of the optional ingredients listed above.

Serve with homemade dipping sauce or store-bought sweet chili sauce.

Makes 35–40 dumplings.

## Five-Veggie Stir-Fry

When my older daughter was a freshman in high school, she learned how to make this simple stir-fry in her cooking class. I like it because it's full of vegetables and comes together quickly once you've finished slicing and chopping. I also like remembering how proud she was when she mastered this dish. Her teacher graciously offered to allow me to publish the recipe.

- 2 Tb. corn starch
- 2 Tb. sugar
- ½ tsp. ground ginger
- 1 C. orange juice
- ¼ C. soy sauce
- 2 garlic cloves, minced or run through a garlic press
- 4 tsp. oil, divided
- 1 carrot, peeled and sliced into ¼–½" disks
- 2 C. broccoli florets
- 2 C. cauliflowerets
- 1 C. quartered mushrooms
- 1 C. snow peas

In a small bowl, whisk the cornstarch, sugar and ginger. Stir in the orange juice, soy sauce and garlic. Set aside.

In a wok or large skillet, heat 3 tsp. oil. Add the carrots, broccoli and cauliflower. Over medium high heat, stir fry (keep moving the veggies around with a spatula or wooden spoon) for 4–5 minutes.

Add the remaining 1 tsp. oil, mushrooms and snow peas. Stir fry for 3 more minutes. Add the orange juice mixture. Bring to a boil. Cook and stir until sauce thickens, about 3–5 more minutes.

Serve over rice.

Makes 4 servings.

## Cucumber Salad

I believe the original recipe for this zingy salad appeared in Gourmet. Here's my version.

- 2 medium cucumbers
- 1–1½ tsp. kosher salt
- ½ C. rice vinegar
- ½ C. water
- 3 Tb. sugar
- Sriracha to taste (start with ⅛–¼ tsp.)
- ¼ C. thinly sliced onion
- 2–3 tsp. fish sauce
- Optional: fried wonton strips



Peel cucumbers and cut in half lengthwise. Scoop out seeds with a teaspoon. Thinly slice and toss with kosher salt. Set into a colander and drain for an hour. Rinse. (This process draws out excess moisture and makes the cucumbers crisp.)

In a small saucepan, combine vinegar, water, sugar and sriracha. Bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook until reduced to ½ C. (about 20–25 minutes). Cool.

Pour over cucumbers and onions. Stir in fish sauce. Allow to sit for 15–30 minutes to let flavors bloom.

Break wontons into small pieces and sprinkle on top right before serving.

Makes 4 servings. ♦

Laura traces her love of all things culinary to the first time she leafed through her mother's Betty Crocker's Cooky Book—which still occupies a place of honor among her 600+ cookbooks. A passionate supporter of local food, she co-founded a farmers market, judges area food contests, and anticipates restaurant openings with the excitement most people reserve for winning a Mega Millions jackpot.



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# PERSONALITY PLUS

Jack Smith

## CARTRON'S NEW PSYCHOANALYSIS SYSTEM KNOWS MORE THAN YOU DO

I WAS PERUSING THE LATEST OFFERINGS FROM FACEBOOK the other day when—sandwiched between videos of cute kittens and websites touting Oprah's weight loss secret—I came across an item that made my jaw drop. According to a recent study over 60% of new car buyers and 70% of used car shoppers have no specific car model in mind when they begin their odyssey for a new set of wheels.

I slumped back in my chair, stunned at the implications of this bit of news. Even with access to the internet, that seemingly endless fountain of consumer advice and opinion, the average car buyer turns to Jello when confronted with the chance to buy a car.

To be sure, for some of us deciding on a new car might seem to be a piece of cake. Given the choice between, say, a used Prius and a new Lamborghini, the Lamborghini might get the nod every time.

But that's just the problem. According to CarHub, the global portal purporting to connect all aspects of the auto world, the job of matching car and driver is too important to be left to the buyer. Instead, CarHub directs buyers to CarTron, a scientific "recommendation engine" that uses an Advance Algorithm Personality

Test (AAPT), designed by leading experts in behavioral science and statistics, as well as the automotive industry.

This is, we might recall, much the same thinking that gave us the long lamented Edsel, the American Motors' truncated Gremlin, and the oddly downscale Cadillac Cimarron.

Psychobabble aside, CarTron claims to be fun, fast and free. Basically, CarTron is a series of 30 questions designed to equate your personality with your finances and your needs.

However scientific, CarTron has one thing in common with a bad date, in that the first thing it wants to know is, how much money do you have?

After stating your budget—either in terms of total purchase price, a monthly loan payment or lease—you'll be asked what style body you prefer. Of car, that is. If you're unsure what type of body you're looking for you may go to the "&" step and CarTron, recognizing that it has a serious case of uncertainty on its hands, will consider all vehicles for you by default.

In my case, no such robotic intervention was called for, and I answered "sedan."

Then the fun began with the kinds of questions you would never hear from a car salesman. Like: if you could have your choice of superpowers, would you prefer flight, time travel, strength or mind reading? I said flight, feeling that I didn't want to know what people around me were thinking, and I was already a paragon of physical fitness, except for a nasty case of tennis elbow.

Did I like high tech? Yes or no. I said sort of.

Did I like to read history? Yes or no. I said sure.

What's most important in a friend? Fun or dependability? Obviously the former.

What would I want to be put in my neighborhood—a police station, church, bar or university? I opted for the university, since that would lead to an exploration of metaphysics and self-policing and ultimately attract a bar.

What's most important in a mate, looks or brains? I said the latter, though great looks worked, as well.

What kind of music did I prefer—classical, rock, country or electronic? I said rock. Do I like children? Sure, I guess.

What would I prefer to see hanging on a wall—a picture of a robot, flowers in a vase or trees? I said trees, as a default move.

And so on.

It was pretty straightforward stuff, nothing that would shock Freud, though sometimes it seemed CarTron tripped over its own ambiguities and limitations.

For instance, CarTron asked if I'd like to see more public transportation or highways built? I said public transportation, not because I was Mr. Greenpeace but rather, since buses and subways would cut down traffic and give me more room on the road for me and my car.

After answering all 30 questions I hit "submit" and waited to see what this most advanced technology decided I was best suited for. Something exotic, no doubt. Perhaps a sleek new Porsche Panamera? A Maserati Quattroporte four-seater? Maybe even a Bentley Continental Flying Spur?

But no, my motoring ideal, said CarTron, was that most commonplace of vehicles, a Chevrolet Impala. In second place was a Toyota Corolla and in third, a Nissan Sentra.

However humbling the experience, I could take consolation in the knowledge that according to CarHub, its know-it-all device never stops learning. The more people interact with the system, the smarter it gets.

Which is more than we can say of the other drivers on the road. ♦

*Jack Smith has been a car buff since childhood, when his father designed auto bodies for Philadelphia's E. G. Budd Company. His work has appeared in The New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, Town & Country, GQ and the Robb Report, where he created the "Connoisseur at Large" column. He won three gold "Motos" for automotive travel writing.*



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