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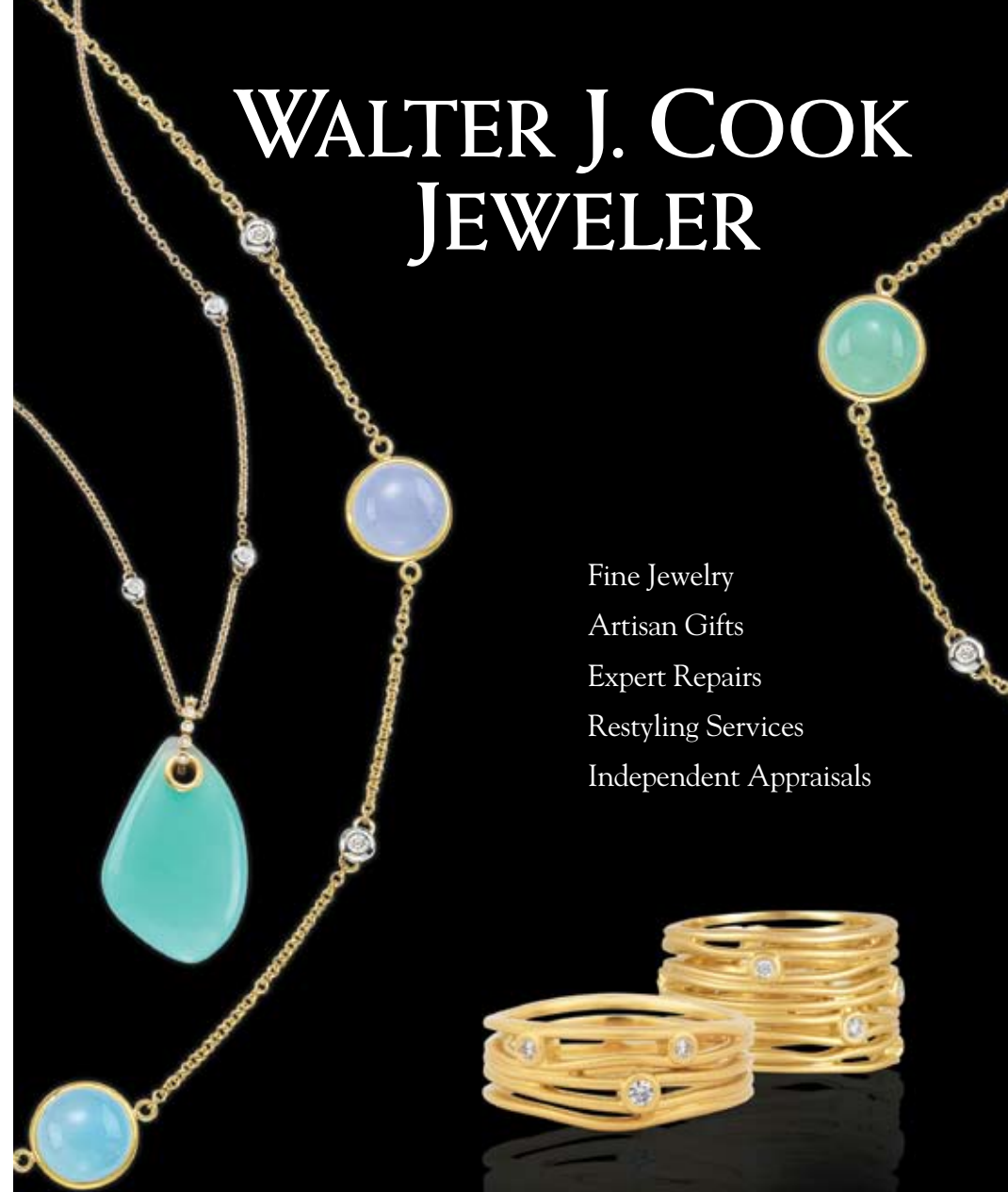
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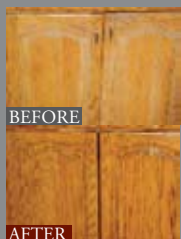
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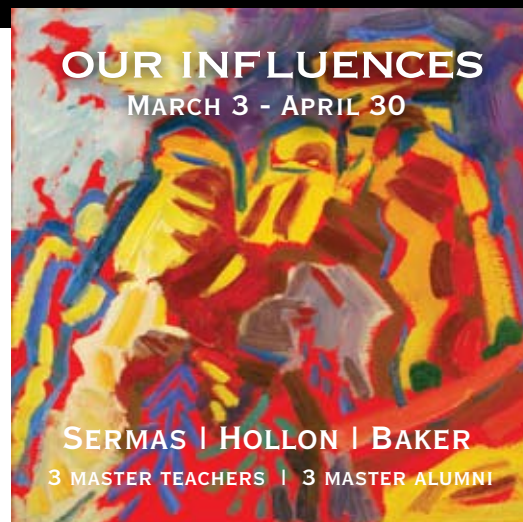
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Volume XXXIV, Number 8

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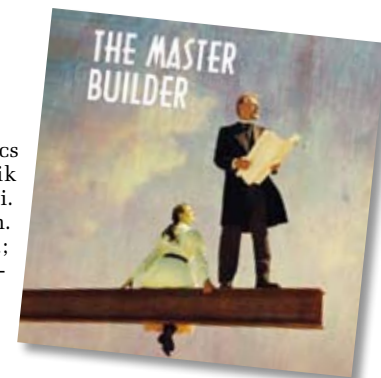
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OF SPECIAL NOTE . . .

“The Master Builder” at People’s Light & Theatre

Through April 17

People’s Light’s tradition of reinterpreting classics continues with this new translation of Henrik Ibsen’s powerful play, directed by Ken Marini. People’s Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Tues-Thurs, 7:30 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 8 p.m.; Sun, 7 p.m.; matinees: Wed, Sat, Sun, 2 p.m. \$25-\$45. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.



Photograph from *Valse Fantaisie*, Choreography, George Balanchine, © The George Balanchine Trust

Brandywine Ballet — “All Mixed Up” April 29-30

Enjoy three diverse performances: George Balanchine’s *Valse-Fantaisie*, a new work, *Requiem*, by resident choreographer Nancy Page, and the premiere of Christopher Fleming’s *Café Music* and *Big Band Sweet*. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 p.m. \$22-\$37. 610-692-6402; BrandywineBallet.com.

Historic Sugartown Day April 30

Travel back in time to experience the rural character of this historic crossroads village and the work of traditional artisans. Enjoy demonstrations, hay rides, dog agility shows, falconry exhibitions, great food, music, tours and the popular Children’s Tent, with arts and crafts, 19th-century games and period dress-ups. Sugartown and Boot Rds., Malvern. 10 to 4. 610-640-2667; HistoricSugartown.org.



Photo by Carol Molyneux



Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Annual Plant Sale April 30-May 1

A not-to-be-missed annual event, this is one of the largest public garden plant sales in our area. Find plants ideally suited for area gardens, such as rhododendrons, azaleas and companion plants not readily available elsewhere. Thousands of native perennials, wildflowers, ferns and slow-growing conifers, plus plants donated from society members’ gardens. 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. Sat, 9 to 3; Sun, 11 to 3. 610-647-8870; JenkinsArboretum.org.

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APRIL EVENTS

Noteworthy This Month

APRIL 1

"Tales With Tails – The Lighter Side of Birding." Willistown Conservation Trust presents Adrian Binns of Wildside Nature Tours to share his birding adventures. Radnor Hunt, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. 5:30, reception and cash bar; 6:15 lecture. \$35-\$125. 610-353-2562; WCTrust.org.

APRIL 8-12

Antiques in Bloom. A juried flower exhibit held in conjunction with the **Philadelphia Antiques Show** pairing area floral designers with antiques dealers, creating displays that enhance the presentation of the objects. The Navy Yard, Phila. Cruise Terminal at Pier One, 5100 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. Preview Gala Fri, 6 to 10 pm, \$150-\$2000. Sat-Tues, 11 to 8. \$12-\$20. 215-387-3500; PhilaAntiques.com.

APRIL 16

9th Annual Americana Roots Ramble. A celebration of the diverse sounds from the Americana Roots World, from folk to bluegrass to blues, rock and beyond. State Street, Media. 7:30 to 1 am. \$15-\$20. 610-566-5039; StateStreetBlues.com.

APRIL 16

Upper Main Line YMCA Healthy Kids Day and Youth Adventure Race 2011. Celebrate healthy kids as 5th-12th graders compete in rock climbing, orienteering, archery, and mystery mental challenges, 11 to 4; \$5. Crafts and activities for 3-7 year-olds, 10 to noon, \$15. Benefits the YMCA's Changing Lives Annual Campaign. 1416 Berwyn-Paoli Rd., 610-647-9622; UMLY.org.

APRIL 25-MAY 1

West Chester Restaurant Week. A seven-day celebration of the culinary scene in West Chester. Participating restaurants offer a special multi-course, fixed-price menu for lunch and dinner, giving diners a chance to discover new eateries or get reacquainted with old favorites at a great value. Stay up-to-date at DowntownWestChester.com.

APRIL 29-MAY 1

7th Annual West Chester Film Festival. An International Short Film Festival. Opening Night Party, Fri, 5:30 to 7, \$25 includes ticket to opening block of films; Closing Night Awards Party, Sun, 6 to 10 at The Note, \$20. Downtown West Chester Borough venues. \$8; \$50 for a weekend pass, online or at the door. WestChesterFilmFestival.com.

Antiques

APRIL 8-10

23rd Street Armory Antiques Show. Forty-five diverse antiques dealers exhibit in room-like settings. Free shuttle service to and from the Philadelphia Antiques Show. Special show exhibit: *Tramp Art: Carving a Legacy*. 22 S. 23rd St., Philadelphia. Fri, 10 to 6, \$15; Sat, 10 to 6 and Sun, 11 to 4, \$12. 845-876-0616; BarnStar.com.



APRIL 8-12

The Philadelphia Antiques Show. More than 50 of the nation's leading dealers and galleries bring together their finest pieces. The 2011 loan exhibit, *"Celebrations: Antiques that Mark the Moment."* Benefits Penn Ovarian Cancer Research Center. The Navy Yard, Philadelphia Cruise Terminal at Pier One, 5100 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. Preview Gala Fri, 6 to 10 pm, \$150-\$2000. Sat-Tues, 11 to 8. \$12-\$20. 215-387-3500; PhilaAntiques.com.

APRIL 9

10th Annual Bucks County Antiques Show. Approximately 30 fine dealers with a variety of antiques. Eagle Fire Hall, Rt. 202 & Sugan Rd., New Hope. 9 to 5. \$5. Benefits the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. 215-860-5211; BucksCountyAntiquesShow.com.

APRIL 9-10

Antique City Fun Fair For Collectors. Dealers offer Americana, fine toys, dolls, trains, furnishings, jewelry, autographs, decoratives, pop culture items and much more. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks. GPS: 1601 Egypt Rd., Phoenixville. Sat 9 am, early entry ticket \$15; Sat 10 to 6, \$12; Sun 10 to 5, \$8. 800-822-4119; AntiqueCityShow.com.

Art Shows & Exhibits

APRIL 29-MAY 15

2011 Yellow Springs Art Show. More than 170 professional artists exhibit in a variety of media. **Apr. 29**, Opening Party, 7 to 10 pm, \$35. **Apr. 30-May 15**, "Art Quest for Kids;" **May 6**, Happy Hour, 5 to 8 pm, free wine and cheese. Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Show hours: daily 11 to 5; Fri, until 8. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.

APRIL 15-16

Westtown Art Show & Sale. More than 70 professional artists present their work at this 2nd annual show which also includes a silent auction. Westtown School, 975 Westtown Rd., West Chester. Fri, 5 to 9, complimentary refreshments and live music; Sat, 10 to 2. 610-399-7916; Westtown.edu/Artshow.



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Design / Home Shows

APRIL 9

Chester County Preservation Fair. All the trades and services needed for historic preservation and restoration under one roof. Architects, masons, roofers, archeologists, carpenters and more gather at The Washington Bldg. in Historic Yellow Springs, Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 9 to 5. \$8-\$10. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.

APRIL 29-MAY 29

36th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens. Regional designers display their creativity in interior and landscape design at Old Glory Farm. See website for special events. 3719 Indian Spring Rd., Buckingham Twp. Mon-Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs-Fri 10 to 7; Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 12 to 6. \$25. Benefits Doylestown Hosp. and Village Improvement Assoc. 215-345-2191; BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

Equestrian

APRIL 3

69th Running of the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point. Exciting steeplechase racing, children's activities and more. Brandywine Valley Assoc., 1760 Unionville-Wawaset Rd., West Chester. Benefits Brandywine Valley Association's watershed education programs. Gates open 10:30 am. 610-793-1090; DVATPT.com.

MAY 1

Kimberton Hunt Club's 66th Annual Horse Show. This annual spring tradition is considered by many as the first "warm up" show for the Devon Horse Show. Vendors and homemade fare. Radnor Hunt Pony Club Grounds, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. 8 am. Free. 610-469-0227; KimbertonHunt.net.



MAY 1

2011 Radnor Hunt Races Preview Party & Auction. Annual event featuring many fabulous items. Food stations will be manned by some of the area's finest caterers. Open bar. Benefits the Open Space Programs of the Brandywine Conservancy. 4:30 to 7:30. For more information and location, phone 610-388-8324; RadnorRaces.org.

Family Fun

THROUGH APRIL 16

Hedgerow Theatre Children's Series — "Charlotte's Web." A musical based on E.B. White's

beloved story. 64 Rose Valley Rd., Media. Saturdays, 11 am. "Meet The Cast" parties follow each performance. \$9-\$11. 610-565-4211; HedgerowTheatre.org.

APRIL 2

"Hide and Slide," Sadecky's Puppets Perform at The Arts Center at Grove United Methodist Church. A marvelous afternoon of positive learning. 400 W. Boot Rd., West Chester. 1 pm. \$6. 610-524-1678; GroveChurch.org.

APRIL 2, 7, 9

WCU Live! Apr. 2, "Alice in Wonderland," 3 and 5:30 pm. \$8-\$10. Apr. 7, "Tamagawa University Taiko Drumming and Dance Troupe," 7:30 pm. Free with ticket. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, S. High St. & University Ave., West Chester. Apr. 9, "Masked Marvels and Wondertales," Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre, Swope Music Bldg., 817 S. High St., West Chester. 11 am and 2 pm. \$8-\$10. 610-436-2266; WCUPA.Edu/Live.

APRIL 9, 30

The Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation. A living history site about the world of a farm family living in 18th-century SE PA. **Apr. 9**, Spring Fun Day; **Apr. 30**, Sheep to Shawl children's event. Ridley Creek State Park, Rt. 3, Edgemont. \$6-\$8. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.

APRIL 9-30

Media Theatre Children's Series — "Snow White." The Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Fri, 9:45 am; Sat, 11 am. \$10-\$12. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

APRIL 12-13, MAY 5-6

DuPont Theatre Children's Series. Apr. 12-13, "Junie B. Jones," based on the books by Barbara Park. **May 5-6, "Stuart Little,"** E.B. White's heroic character. Both, Gr. K-5. DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 9:30 and noon. \$6. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.

APRIL 16

Easter Egg Hunts and Lunch with the Bunny. Hunts: Everhart Park, Corner of Miner St. & S. Bradford Ave., West Chester, 10 am. West Goshen Community Park, Fern Hill & N. Five Points Rds., West Chester, 10:30. Both are for ages 2-9. **Lunch:** Side Bar, 10 E. Gay St., West Chester. Noon, \$12, ages 2 and up. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

APRIL 29, 30, MAY 1, 6, 8

Players Club of Swarthmore Children's Series — "Sleeping Beauty." Players Club of Swarthmore, 614 Fairview Ave., Swarthmore. Fri-Sat, 7; Sun, 11 am. \$10. 610-328-4271; PCSTheater.org.

APRIL 30

Sheep & Wool Day: A Family Heritage Event. Sheep shearing and herding, crafts, music, food, hayrides and Scottish-Irish heritage programs. Springton Manor Farm, Springton Rd., off Rt. 322, Glenmoore. 11 to 3. \$5. 610-942-2450; ChesCo.org/CCParks.

Festivals & Fairs

THROUGH APRIL 15

The Cherry Blossom Festival of Greater Philadelphia. A spring celebration of the culture, craft

Celebrate the Earth in County Lines Country

APRIL 9

All Parks Clean-Up in West Chester. Sign up for a particular park and participate in the clean-up. Snacks/refreshments will be available for those who help. 9 to 10:30 am. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

APRIL 9

Annual Volunteer Day at Fort Washington State Park. Bring a pair of work gloves and help with springtime projects. All ages are welcome. A picnic luncheon will be supplied. Fort Washington State Park, Militia Hill Day Use Area, Fort Washington. 9 to 2. 215-591-5250; DCNR.State.PA.US/Calendar.

APRIL 16

6th Annual Chester Creek Clean-Up. Join Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Assoc. and West Chester-area residents in the cleanup of Goose Creek. 9 to 11 am. 610-892-8731; CRCWatersheds.org.

APRIL 16

Earth Day Celebration 2011 at Brandywine Zoo. Take a walk on the Wild Side at the Zoo. Live entertainment, games, stories, crafts and animal presentations. 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. 10 to 4. \$2-\$4. 302-571-7747; BrandywineZoo.org.

APRIL 22

Academy of Natural Sciences Earth Day Festival. The Academy's Patrick Center for Environmental Research focuses on the environmental health of streams and lakes. 1900 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., Philadelphia. 10 to 5. Free with museum admission of \$10-\$12. 215-299-1000; ANSP.org/Activities.

APRIL 30

Brandywine River Cleanup. The Young Friends of the Brandywine Conservancy will team with the Brandywine Valley Association (BVA) to clean nearly 35 miles of the Brandywine River and its banks. For more information or to register, phone 610-388-8315 or e-mail to KSmith@Brandywine.org.

MAY 3-5

2011 Chester County Envirothon. An educational event for Chester County students measuring their knowledge of environmental subjects. Theme: "Salt & Fresh Water Estuaries." Hibernia County Park, 1 Park Rd., Wagontown. For a complete schedule phone 610-344-5930; ChesCo.org/CCParks.

MAY 7

Green Valleys SpringFest 2011 — "Landscapes for Life." Annual family event highlighting sustainable watershed practices, renewable energy, green building, land conservation and more. Hands-on activities, hikes, live music, mini farm market, microbrew tastings and an edible landscape demonstration. Welkinweir, 1368 Prizer Rd, Pottstown. 10 to 4. 610-469-4900; GreenValleys.org.

and cuisine of Japan with special events taking place throughout Philadelphia. For information, JASGP.org/CherryBlossomFestival.

APRIL 2

American Classics Festival in Phoenixville. Bridge Street is jumping with a street fair, noon to 4:30; a Show Choir Competition, 2 pm, \$5-\$10; then, Phoenixville's first Jerry Blavat Dance Party, 7 to midnight, \$35. Benefits Phoenixville Area Community Services. For more information, 610-933-1105; PACSPHx.org.

APRIL 10

Spring Super Sunday in Media. Eight blocks of State Street and Veteran's Square will be blocked off for this street fair with vendors, music, food kids activities. Benefits local charities. Rain date, April 17. 610-583-4432; VisitMediaPA.com.

MAY 1

West Chester Festival of the Arts & May Day Festival. A festival of the arts with arts and crafts, live entertainment, pony rides, May Pole Dancers, clowns & jugglers, children's make-it-and-take-it, a moon bounce and more. Everhart Park, W. Union St. & S. Bradford Ave., West Chester. 11 to 4. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

Fundraising

APRIL 2

"Thorncroft . . . A Place of Hope and Healing Through Horses" — 26th Annual Thorncroft Victory Gallop. An elegant black-tie evening of dining, dancing and a spectacular live and silent auction. Benefits the therapeutic riding programs at Thorncroft Equestrian Center. Hyatt at the Bellevue, 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. Phone for ticket availability, 610-644-1963; Thorncroft.org.

APRIL 8

People's Light & Theatre's Live Auction Cabaret. Cocktail reception, dinner, live and silent auction. The cabaret features live music from lyricist and composer Michael Ogborn and a raffle drawing for a stay at a luxury Spanish villa. Benefits Arts Discovery programs at People's Light. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. 6 to 11 pm. \$250-\$500. 610-647-1900, ext. 119; PeoplesLight.org.

APRIL 9

Canine Partners for Life 13th Annual Wine Auction. Dog and wine lovers unite with a local nonprofit to provide service dogs to individuals with disabilities. Great wine and food pairings. Auction includes vacations, wines, artwork and more. Chase Center, 815 Justison St., Wilmington. 6 to 10 pm. \$125. 610-869-4902; K94Life.org.

APRIL 9

4th Annual Pink Horse Shoe Gala & Silent Auction — Horse Power for Life Fundraiser Event. Hors d'oeuvres, food stations, music and dancing, silent auction and raffle. Benefits cancer patients and their families. Sheraton Great Valley Hotel, 707 E. Lancaster Ave., Frazer. 7 to 11. \$110. HorsePowerForLife.org.

APRIL 9

6th Annual Evening at the Races. Indoor horse racing, dinner, silent auction and dancing. Benefits Chester County Futures, a mentoring, schol-

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arship and academic enrichment program for low-income Chester County high school students. Concordville Inn Gold Ballroom, Rt. 1, Concordville. 7 pm. \$95. 610-458-9926; CCFutures.org.

APRIL 29

Dining Out for Life. More than 200 of the area's most popular restaurants participate in this fundraising event, benefitting the region's thousands of men, women and children suffering from HIV and AIDS. Each restaurant will donate 33% of the cost of a meal. For a full list of participating restaurants, visit DiningOutForLife.com.

Museums

THROUGH MAY 1

Delaware Art Museum. "Fred Comegys Photographs." For more than 50 years, photographer Fred Comegys has captured international celebrities and local kids for the pages of *The News Journal*. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$6-\$12. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

THROUGH JUNE

Brandywine River Museum. *Through May 22*, "Barry Moser: Bookwright." *Through June*, Andrew Wyeth works that have rarely been on public view. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$10. Free Sun. mornings through November 11. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

THROUGH MAY 30

Delaware Museum of Natural History Presents "Tarantulas: Alive and Up-Close." Challenge your preconceptions about tarantulas, their diversity and natural beauty, while providing engaging learning opportunities. 4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30; Sun, noon to 4:30. \$5-\$7. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2012

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

THROUGH JANUARY 15, 2012

"Wedding Traditions of the du Pont Family, 1813-1915" Exhibit at Hagley Museum & Library. See sidebar in this issue's wedding feature.

Music

APRIL 2-28

Market Street Music Concert Series. *Apr. 2*, Mastersingers of Wilmington present Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, 7:30, \$15; *Apr. 7*, The NAKED organ, David Schelat, organist, 12:30 pm; *Apr. 14*, M6lomanie, 12:30; *Apr. 28*, jazz concert. First & Central Presbyterian Church, 1101 Market St., Wilmington. \$3 donation. 302-654-5371.

APRIL 3

Rose Tree Pops Orchestra Concert, "Musical Colors." The director will demonstrate how instrumentation affects and determines the

colors and moods of the music. Marple Presbyterian Church, 105 N. Sproul Rd., Broomall. 3 pm. Donation. 610-642-1573; RoseTreePops.org.

APRIL 15

Livingston Taylor at The Colonial Theatre. James' brother is back by popular demand. 227 N. Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. \$22-\$32.50. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

APRIL 21

Delaware Art Museum Presents "Concerts on Kentmere." Intimate concerts in the Museum's galleries. Ticket includes coffee, tea and desserts. Pre-concert dinner: \$45. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 7:30. \$50. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

APRIL 22

Vox Ama Deus - "Rebels in Paris: Fauré, Stravinsky and Gershwin." Custom-designed to be part of the first Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA). Kimmel Center, Perelman Theater, Broad & Spruce St., Philadelphia. 7 pm, \$20-\$60. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

APRIL 23

Turtle Dove Folk Club Presents Steel Wheels. An Americana band rooted in blues, old-time sing-alongs and fiddle tunes. West Grove Friends Meetinghouse, 153 E. Harmony Rd., West Grove. 8 pm. \$17. 802-431-3433; TurtleDove.org.

APRIL 29

Main Line Symphony Orchestra. Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46;" "In the Sea" for Marimba and Orchestra; Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No 4 in f-minor Op. 36." Valley Forge Middle School, Walker Rd., Wayne. \$10-\$15. 215-885-1582; MLSO.org.

APRIL 29

Hadley Memorial Fund Concert: Jay Smar Performs Pennsylvania Coal Mine and Mountain Folk Music. Unionville Elementary School, 1775 W. Doe Run Rd., Kennett Square. 7:30. Free. 610-444-1855; HadleyFund.org.

MAY 1

Delaware County Symphony Concert. "Light and Dark," the music of Benjamin Britten and Peter Tchaikovsky. Neumann Univ. Life Center, Meagher Theater, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$12-\$15. 610-356-5673; DCSMusic.org.

It's First Friday Time

APRIL 1, MAY 6

First Fridays Events. Stroll through area towns to find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. *Berwyn*, 610-203-4543; BerwynDevonBusiness.com. *Kennett Square*, 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. *Lancaster City*, 717-509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. *A Main Line ARTitude*, with free trolley from Bryn Mawr to Ardmore, 610-642-4040; FirstFriday-MainLine.com. *Phoenixville*, 484-880-1530; MainStreetPhoenixville.org. *Wayne*, 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. *West Chester*, 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com.

Gardens Alive!

APRIL 2, 9

Japanese Cherry Blossom Celebration. Activities for adults and children alike, with the Hoh Daiko Drummers and a traditional tea demonstration. Morris Arboretum, 100 E. Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia. 10 to 4. \$7-\$16. 215-247-5777; MorrisArboretum.org.

APRIL 30

"Gardening 101 – It's Easier Than You Think." Penn State Coop. Extension in Chester County hosts this gardening fair geared to beginners including workshops, activities and games. 4-H Romano Center, Rt. 322, Honey Brook. Rain or shine. 10 to 3. \$5. 610-696-3500.

APRIL 30

DE Center for Horticulture's 31st Annual Rare Plant Auction at Longwood Gardens. A premier selection of unusual, newly-introduced or difficult to propagate specimens can be found here. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 6:30 to 10 pm. \$100-\$500. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.



APRIL 30

Arbor Day Plant Sale at Tyler Arboretum. Jump start the gardening season with a selection of plants — trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and herbs. This year features edible plants and deer-resistant plants. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 9 to 3. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

APRIL 30-MAY 1

The Delaware Nature Society Native Plant Sale. Over 300 rare and unusual varieties of native plants for all growing conditions. Coverdale Farm at Burrows Run Preserve, 543 Way Rd., Greenville. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, noon to 4. 302-239-2334; DelawareNatureSociety.org.

MAY 1

Malvern Blooms. Fun for the entire family with vendors offering home and garden items, farmer's markets, antiques, children's activities, live music and a food court. King St. and Burke Park, Malvern. 10 to 4. MalvernBusiness.com.

MAY 5-7

91st Annual Wilmington Flower Market. Held for the benefit of the many nonprofit children's agencies in Delaware. Carnival rides, art, plants, gifts, live entertainment. Rockford Park in Wilmington. Daily 10 to 7. 302-995-5699; Wilmington-FlowerMarket.org.



MAY 6

3rd Annual National Public Gardens Day. A celebration to raise awareness of America's public gardens and their role in promoting environmental awareness. Many gardens in our area will participate and have special events. Visit NationalPublicGardensDay.org.

MAY 6-7

Historic New Castle's Annual May Market. A garden sale featuring unusual plants, shrubs and herbs. Benefits Arasapha Garden Club. Market Square and at the Presbyterian Church, Christian Ed Bldg., 2nd St., New Castle. 9 to 4. 302-322-7895; Arasapha.org.

MAY 6-7

Wilmington Community Gardens Spring Plant Sale & Open House Days. Locally-grown vegetable starts and flowering plants that flourish in an urban environment. **May 6**, Hattie Phelan Community Garden, 10th & Pine Sts., 3 to 6 pm; **May 7**, Valley Community Garden, 8th & Jefferson Sts., 9 to 2 pm. 302-658-6262; DEHort.org.

MAY 6-7

26th Annual Landis Valley Museum Herb & Garden Faire. Stands of over 70 vendors of heirloom plants, including tomatoes, roses, native plants, annuals, perennials and art for the garden. 2451 Kissel Hill Rd., Lancaster. 9 to 5. \$8. 717-569-0401; LandisValleyMuseum.org.

MAY 7

64th Annual Wilmington Garden Day. A self-guided tour of some of the Brandywine Valley's most glorious gardens and homes. Benefits children in need, specifically Friendship House, Inc. and St. Michael's School & Nursery. 10 to 4. \$30-\$35. WilmingtonGardenDay.org.

MAY 7-8

30th Annual Brandywine Museum Wildflower, Native Plant and Seed Sale. Hundreds of varieties for sale to benefit the Brandywine Conservancy's native plant gardens. Conservancy staff available to answer questions. Brandywine River Museum, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. 9:30 to 4:30. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

MAY 7-8, 28-29

Willistown Conservation Trust's Early-Bird Plant Sale. Get a head start with vegetable and flower seedlings early in the month, then come back later for summer favorites. Rushton Farm, Goshen & Delchester Rds., Newtown Square. 11 to 3. RushtonFarm@WCTrust.org.



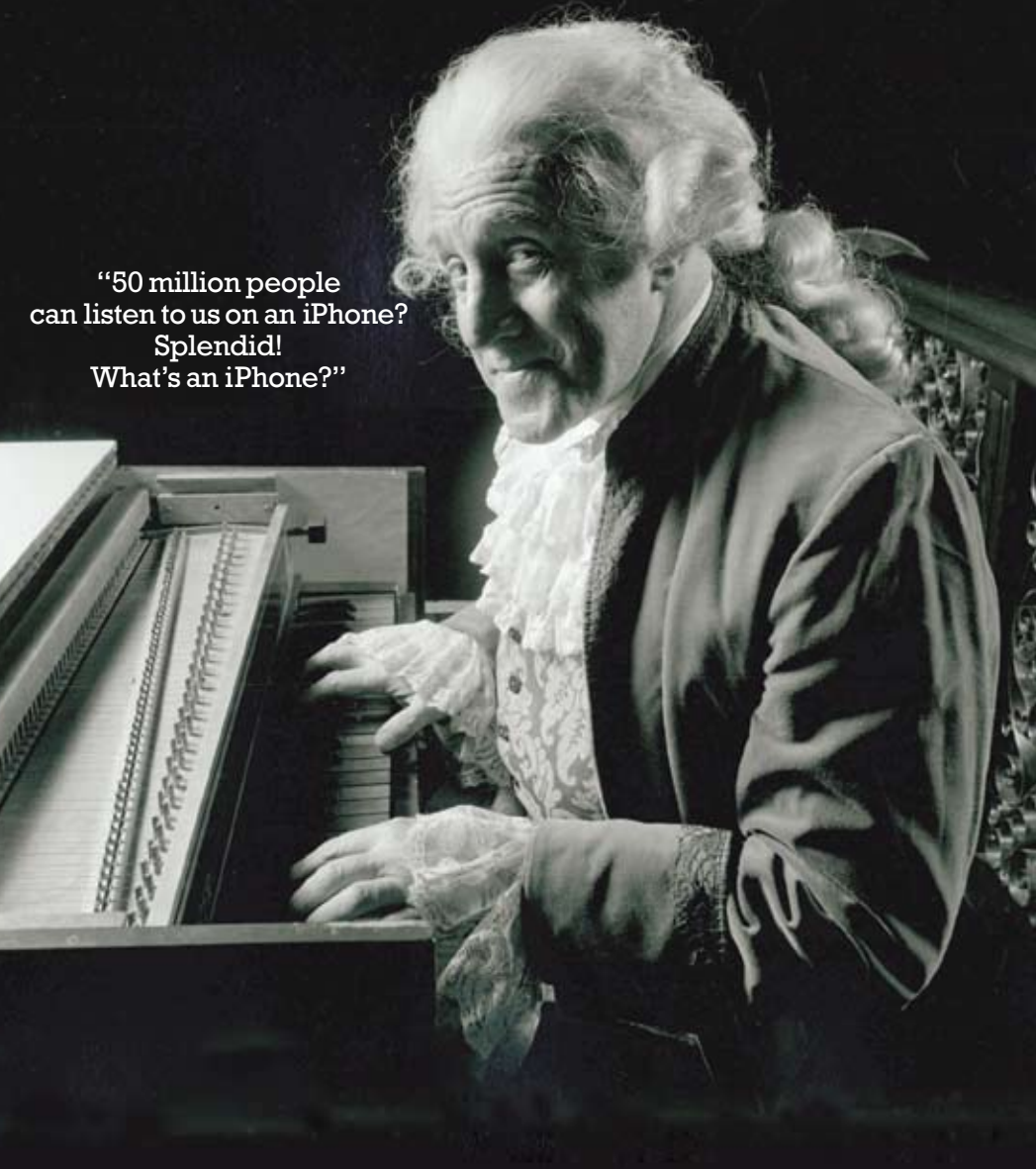
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Outdoor Activities

APRIL 2

17th Annual Parkway Dash for Diabetes. This year, the 5K Run, 2.5K Walk and Children's Run will take place in downtown West Chester, starting at the Chester County Justice Center. Benefits Diabetes Education at The Chester County Hospital. Registration 3 pm, \$25. Race at 4. For more information: CCHosp.com.

APRIL 2

Delco Road Runners Club 18th Annual 10K Trail Run at Tyler Arboretum. Challenges runners of all speeds and abilities with a course that winds through Tyler's extensive trail system. Tyler Arboretum, 515 Painter Road, Media. Registration 8 am; race at 9. \$20. 610-891-0806; Tyler-TrailRun.com.

APRIL 10

David's Run: A 5K Run/1 Mile Fun Walk. Wilson Farm Park in Chesterbrook, Wayne. Benefits the David Gallagher Foundation, which assists organizations helping those with learning disabilities and epilepsy. 9:30 am, rain or shine. 610-642-0604; DavidGallagherFoundation.org.

APRIL 16

Wilmington Flower Market 5K Run/Walk. Run, walk or jog — a fun family event. Strollers permitted on the walk portion. Complimentary T-shirts and refreshments after the race. Begin at Kelly's Logan House, 1701 Delaware Ave., Wilmington. Registration, 9 am, race at 10. \$18-\$22. 302-995-5699; WilmingtonFlowerMarket.org.

APRIL 16-17

West Chester University Chapter of Colleges Against Cancer — Relay for Life. Teams keep one member on the track for up to a 24-hour period, representing that cancer never sleeps. Held on the Academic Quad, West Chester. Noon to 9 am. RelayForLife.org/PAWestChester.

APRIL 17

6th Annual Valley Forge Revolutionary 5-mile Run and National Park Week Kick-Off. The 5-mile run, 3-mile walk and 1-mile youth fun run begins the week-long celebration of National Park Week. Benefits the Park's trail preservation. Park at the Valley Forge Convention Center and take the shuttle to the park. 8:30 am. \$15-\$25. 610-834-1550; RevolutionaryRun.org.

MAY 1

3rd Annual May Day Nature Walk at Hagley. In honor of the du Pont family's tradition of searching for wildlife on the first of May, visitors to Hagley search through this Certified Wildlife Habitat with local experts who will point out the different plants and animals that live there. Rt. 141, Wilmington. 9:30 to 11:30 am. \$4-\$11; walk-only admission, \$5. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

MAY 1

32nd Annual Blue Cross Broad Street Run. A 10-mile, point-to-point course that starts at Central High School Athletic Field at Broad St. and Somerville Ave. and finishes inside the Navy Yard. Benefits the American Cancer Society. 8:30 am. 215-683-3594; BroadStreetRun.com.

Farm Markets

ONGOING

Farm fresh organic produce, breads, meat and artisan cheeses from local farms. **Ongoing, Lancaster Central Market**, 717-735-6890; CentralMarketLancaster.com. **3rd Sat., Kennett Square Farmers Market**, 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **3rd Sat., West Chester Growers Market**, 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

Special Events

THROUGH APRIL 9

Murder at Mount Hope Mansion. An interactive "who-done-it" with Sherlock Homes and Dr. Watson. Guests enjoy a homemade meal with characters while collecting clues. 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. \$39.95. Fri-Sat; check website or phone for times. 717-665-7021; PaRenFaire.com.

APRIL 9

Chester County Chamber Foundation's Spring Auction Gala 2011. Featuring a silent auction of certificates for services, themed baskets, sports items and more. A live auction offers trips and group dinners. Concord Country Club, 1601 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. 6 to 9 pm. \$100. 610-725-9100; CCCBL.org.

APRIL 28-30, MAY 1

Chestertown's 2nd Annual Paint the Town and 4th Annual Taste of the Town. See article in this issue.

Theater

THROUGH APRIL 17

"Bat Boy." In a West Virginia cave, three teens stumble on a curious creature who is half-boy, half-bat. Villanova Theatre, Vasey Hall, 800 Lancaster Ave., Villanova. Tues-Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 2 pm. \$7-\$25. 610-519-7474; VillanovaEdu.

THROUGH MAY 22

The Who's "Tommy." The teenager with an uncanny knack for pinball becomes a superstar. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Wed-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Wed, Sat, 2; Sun, 3. \$22-\$42.50. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

APRIL 5-10

"Blue Man Group." A combination of music, comedy and multi-media theatrics. An intensely exciting and outrageous experience. The DuPont Theatre, DuPont Building, Wilmington. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Wed, Sat, 2. \$50-\$75. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com. ♦

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the month preceding publication.

For more events visit
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A plein air artist at Paint the Town

Picturesque Chestertown, MD has a treat for the starving artist in all of us this month. On April 28-30, browse and bid on works by some of the area's finest local artists during the second annual **Paint the Town** showcase. Stick around Sunday, May 1, for a diner's delight at **Taste of the Town**, with delicious dishes from the finest local eateries. Bring your appetite!

A popular Chesapeake spot for savvy sailors and history buffs, Chestertown's mix of Bay air and historic ambiance is the perfect inspiration for the plein air painting featured at Paint the Town. Starting Thursday, artists choose local outdoor scenes to paint in preparation for the Wet Paint Auction, Saturday, 5 to 7 p.m. A Quick Draw Contest follows on Sunday morning at 10 with the People's Choice winner named at the Taste of the Town event — an exciting upgrade from typical Sunday lunch.

Now in its fourth year, Taste of the Town has become an impressive food affair. The event expanded to include

20 local restaurants and caterers from around Kent County, offering tasty samples of their menus from noon to 3, with a \$12 ticket. With so much variety this year, the only thing unchanged is the line for seconds.

Less than a two-hour drive from Philadelphia, Kent County offers a variety of scenic waterfront attractions and activities year-round. Take advantage of this weekend in Chestertown to get to know your new favorite day-trip destination. ♦

~Robert Waterman

For *Taste of the Town* information, contact: AndySC-Town@verizon.net or TasteofChestertown.com. *Paint the Town*: ArtsLeague@Verizon.net or visit ChestertownArts-League.org.



Chef Robbie Jester, Harbor House Restaurant, Taste of the Town



Visit Kennett Square Again

Kennett Square — It's small-town friendly. In the heart of the Brandywine Valley. Voted a Top 10 Coolest American Small Town (Top 5, but who needs to brag).

There's great dining, tons of shopping, farmers' markets, art strolls, First Fridays, holiday parades, town runs, and a world-famous Mushroom Festival.

And if that weren't enough, here are three more reasons to visit Kennett Square again and again.

Visit the Kennett Flash

If you haven't been to Kennett Square's performance venue the Kennett Flash, what are you waiting for? This listening room located in the heart of downtown Kennett Square was named the #1 place to hear live music in Chester County by the *Daily Local News* and WSTW — 93.7.

On any Friday or Saturday night at this community-supported venue, you can hear live music from a variety of musicians. Singer/songwriters, blues and jazz musicians, poetry readings, folk singers and many diverse musical acts all perform there. Tickets are reasonably priced, and parking is free.

Flash Vision

Bringing people together has been the vision of the Kennett Flash since its founding in January 2009. When the Flash opened its doors, it returned a vital community resource to State Street that had been missing for nearly 50 years since the closing of Kennett's venerable Fireman's Auditorium.

Several evenings a week, audiences and artists gather to perpetuate one of the most fundamental expressions of community — sharing a performance with friends, neighbors and visitors and sharing food and drink. The Kennett Flash has a light menu of tasty salads, sandwiches, pastries and beverages, and is a BYOB venue.

Fun for All Ages

The Flash is an all-ages concert venue where national, regional and local recording artists get up close and personal with 100 of their most loyal fans. Every seat is a front-row seat, where lights, sound and performance immerse the audience. All genres of music — folk, rock, bluegrass, country, blues, jazz, and family shows — make their way to the stage.

Featured national acts have graced the stage, including Chris Smithers, Ellis Paul, The Spinto Band, Graham Parker, Sophie B. Hawkins, Red Molly,

Patty Larkin, Jonathan Edwards and Shemekia Copeland. Regional and local performers add depth to the line-up.

On Sunday nights, singer songwriter Butch Zito hosts an open mic event inviting all levels of singers, songwriters, musicians, poets and comics to wow the crowd. Doors open at 6 and the open mic begins at 7 p.m.

Every Monday, Rob Mastripolito and Biff McNeil host the Blue Monday Jam. The amps, drums and keys are all there — just bring your own instruments and play. If you love to play the blues or just listen, this will be your night out.

Or plan your own party at the Kennett Flash — a great party space. Call the Historic Kennett Square office for details and pricing (610-444-8188). ♦

~Mary Hutchins

For upcoming performances, to buy tickets or to become a supporter of The Kennett Flash, visit KennettFlash.org.

Kennett Symphony Orchestra at 70

It's 10 minutes before the concert begins. You settle into your seat and hear the sounds of musicians warming up on stage. You watch final preparations, music stands adjusted, instru-

ments tuned. The lights dim, the conductor mounts the podium, the music begins. And you are swept up by the art of the orchestra.

Ever wonder what it takes to create Chester County's only symphony orchestra? Or how Kennett Square came to be its home? For 70 years? With the first female conductor of a professional symphony in Pennsylvania? Well, you need to learn more about this local cultural institution.

Kennett Symphony 101

For starters, the Kennett Symphony performs nine concerts annually in venues around Chester County — including a very popular free children's concert with an instrument petting zoo. It's mission is to present a wide range of symphonic music at an affordable price to entertain and enrich the lives of the audience, to educate young and underserved audiences and provide opportunities for young artists to perform.

The orchestra has been under the direction of Mary Woodmansee Green for over 20 years and launched its 70th season this past fall with Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. "We created a very special 70th Anniversary Season," says Executive Director Barb Bullock, "and there are still lots of exciting concerts and events for music lovers to enjoy."



Celtic drummer with the Kennett Symphony. Photo by Joel Plotkin

April Highlights

Next up on the program is the perfect way to mark the start of spring. Travel back to 1911 Paris, when Igor Stravinsky premiered *Rite of Spring*, a ballet score such as the world had never heard. Of this epic piece Stravinsky wrote, "I have penetrated the secret of the rhythm of spring. ... Each instrument is like a bud which grows on the bark of an aged tree."

Performed April 9, at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Chester, this program is presented in partnership with the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts. PIFA is a three-week festival showcasing creativity, collaboration and innovation throughout Philadelphia's artistic and cultural communities.

Later this month, stop by *Symphony-Scape*, April 28, at 10:30 a.m. at Mendenhall Inn, for home and garden talks, shopping, raffles and a lovely luncheon. This Symposium on Gardens and Design benefits the Kennett Symphony and the Beautification Committee of Kennett Square, and features Drew Becher, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society President and Greg Lawrence, Vice President of Creative Affairs for Calico Corners/Calico Home.

Season Finale

The season ends with the ever-popular Summer Concert Series at Longwood Gardens Open Air Theatre. "On

Saturday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m., we present Chabrier's fiery *España*, Lalo's virtuosic *Symphonie Espagnole* and Ravel's sensuous *Boléro*. On Saturday, August 20, at 7:30 p.m., *Celebrate Freedom!*, a celebration of patriotism by American composers Barber, Berlin, Copland and more!" says Bullock. Both concerts include all-day admission to Longwood Gardens. ♦

~Kennett Symphony

For tickets or volunteer opportunities, 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

Longwood Gardens:

A Wonder in Every Sense

You already know Longwood Gardens is a feast for the eyes: hundreds of thousands of blooming tulips, daffodils, wisteria, flowering trees and more. But this spring, it's a feast for the ears, too.

Longwood invites you to experience not just beautiful sights, but also sounds of the Gardens. Enjoy the whistle of wind through the trees, the ripple of a flowing fountain, the calls of native birds, and the laughter of a child in the gardens. Don't miss the chance to experience the mesmerizing voice of the historic Steinway grand piano highlighted in a new exhibit. And, of course, you can't help but add the sound of your own oohs and ahhs at the extraordinary floral displays, indoors and out.

Global warming demands action.



We're not waiting.

The science is overwhelming. Climate change is happening now, and greenhouse gases (GHGs) due to human activity are a leading cause.

In the United States, the power industry accounts for 35% of all GHGs. Some in Washington are developing legislation to limit GHG emissions from all sources, and we strongly support those efforts. But as the nation's largest electric and gas utility, and as a member of the U.S. EPA's Climate Leaders Program, we are acting now.

As you read this, we are on track to exceed our goal of reducing our GHG emissions by 8% from 2001 levels by the end of this year. But that's not enough. By 2020, we are committed to reducing, offsetting or displacing more than 15 million metric tons of GHGs per year. This would be more than our current carbon footprint and is equivalent to taking nearly 3 million cars off our roads and highways. We will do this by cutting emissions wherever we can: in our generating plants, in our facilities, in our electric markets and in the communities we serve.

It's an ambitious plan that will require a total commitment at all levels in the Exelon family of companies. And that's precisely what we intend to do. For details, go to exeloncorp.com.

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New Cottages will be ready in 2012! Kendal at Longwood is adding 48 new "green" cottages. These new 1,250- to 1,800-square-foot cottages are being built to help sustain both the Earth and an active lifestyle. **Call 610-335-1246 for information.**

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Music from the Trees

Opening April 16, *Notes from the Forest* explores the role of trees in creating musical instruments. Discover the music in trees as you delve into the creation of musical instruments using wood. Learn the unique characteristics that make certain types of wood perfect for creating world-class instruments. See how Steinway crafts its world-renowned pianos and learn the story of Longwood's 1923 custom Steinway grand piano.

This dynamic exhibit featuring the Longwood's Steinway takes place in the Music Room inside the Conservatory, in partnership with Jacobs Music Company and Steinway & Sons. It honors the *International Year of the Forest* as declared by the United Nations General Assembly to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests around the globe.

Glorious Trees and Treehouses

Experience the beauty, importance and majesty of trees during three bark-raising, leaf-blowing weekends of fun, April 22-May 8. **Trees, Glorious Trees**



Celebrate Arbor Day (April 29) at Longwood Gardens.

combines three important days to celebrate the environment: Earth Day (April 22), Arbor Day (April 29), and National Public Gardens Day (May 6). Most activities are Fridays and Saturdays and include special tours of Longwood's Champion Trees — the largest recorded specimens of a particular species or variety, based on measurements of height, spread of the crown, and the circumference of the trunk.

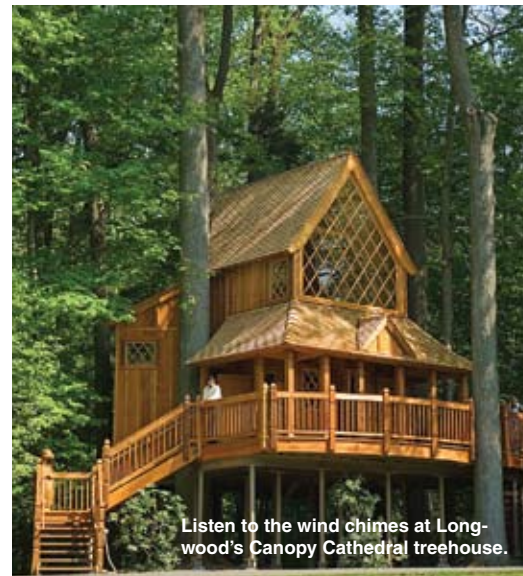
While at Longwood, stop and listen to the sounds of the trees in Longwood's three spectacular, large-scale treehouses. The Lookout Loft treehouse is decked out with sound horns so guests can better hear and enjoy sounds of nature around them. Handmade by Longwood craftsman, the horns are not only beautiful, but accentuate the sounds of nature that we often don't take the time to stop and listen to.

In the stately Canopy Cathedral treehouse, enjoy chimes played by the rustling wind, and in the Birdhouse, create your own music with a collection of wood instruments. Let your inner child come out and play in these three examples of Nature's Castles.

Experience the sounds of Longwood this spring ... you won't believe your ears. ♦

~ Patricia Evans

For event listings and admission information, visit LongwoodGardens.org.



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What's Happening in Kennett Square

Kennett Flash

Ongoing

An all-ages concert venue where national, regional and local recording artists perform in an intimate setting. All genres of music — folk, rock, country, blues, jazz and family shows. Sun, Open Mic Nights. Mon, Blue Monday Jam. **Apr. 16**, The Kennedys; **May 14**, Steve Forbert; **Sept. 23**, Iain Matthews; **Oct. 7**, Chris Smither. 102 Sycamore Alley, Kennett Square. 484-732-8295; KennettFlash.org.

Longwood Gardens Special Events

Through September 17

Ongoing, The Indoor Children's Garden, a safe and engaging space where children can be surrounded by plants and discover the joys of being in a garden. **Apr. 2-May 27**, Spring Blooms at Longwood Gardens. **Apr. 9**, The Jazz Club at Longwood featuring Kenny Garrett. **May 28-Sept. 4**, Festival of Fountains, Thurs-Sat evenings. Fireworks & Fountains

shows: **May 29, June 18, July 3, July 23, Aug. 13, Sept. 3. June 14-Sept. 17**, 2011 Summer Concert Series. Rt. 1. \$6-\$16. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

First Friday Art Strolls

April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2 Arts community open house in downtown Kennett Square from 6 to 9 pm on first Fridays. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Farmers Market Opens

April through October, Fridays

Fresh fruits, vegetables, artisan breads and home-baked goodies sold downtown. 2 to 6. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Kennett Symphony of Chester County Concert, "Meet the Music: Rite of Spring."

April 9

From Stravinsky's "fleeting vision" of a solemn pagan rite, emerged this amazing ballet score. Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Rt. 202, West Chester. 3 and 8 pm. \$5-\$40. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

Spring Sky Tour

April 9

Members of the Chester County Astronomical Society bring their telescopes to Anson B. Nixon Park, N. Walnut St. 7:30 pm.

Kennett Symphony's SymphonyScape

April 28

A symposium on gardens and design with special guests. Benefits the symphony and the Beautification Committee of Kennett Square. Mendenhall Inn, Rt. 52, Mendenhall. 10:30 to 3. \$85. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

Spring Plant Sale

April 30

Annuals, hanging baskets, herbs for sale and planting demonstrations. Brick Walkway at the corner of State and Union Sts. 8 to noon. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

May 3

Celebration of Mexican culture including food, music, entertainment and children's activities. Noon to 5. Downtown Kennett.

16th Annual Trout Rodeo

May 7

Ponds will be stocked with 12-24-inch trout. There will be tagged fish, a fly-tying demonstration, bait and fishing supplies, a raffle, prizes and more. Benefits Anson B. Nixon Park, N. Walnut St. 8 to 4. 610-444-0792.

The 22nd Annual Kennett Run

May 14

Events for all age groups including a 1-Mile Fun Walk, 1-Mile Kids Run, 5K Race Walk, 10K and 5K Runs and a PoweRun biathlon. Race at 9, post-race party on N. Walnut St. with refreshments, music and awards ceremony. Benefits local charities. 610-388-1556; KennettRun.net.

The Willowdale Steeplechase

May 15

In addition to the steeplechase, enjoy Terrier Races, Pony Races, tailgate competition, carriage parade, food, boutiques and antique cars. Benefits Quest Therapeutic Riding Services, Stroud Water Research Center and The Univ. of PA School of Veterinary Medicine at New Bolton. Gates open at 10 am, first race, 1:30. Rt. 926 & Rt. 82. \$20 in adv., \$25 at gate. Reserved Rail Side or Hill Side Parking. 610-444-1582; Willowdale.org.

Beer and Wine on Broad Street

May 21

Enjoy tastings from handcrafted microbrewers and local wineries, great food and live blues. 1 to 5. \$35 includes a \$5 food voucher. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Memorial Day Parade

May 30

The parade honors local veterans and includes antique military vehicles, bag pipers, fife and drums and more. Cypress St. and Mill Rd. 10 am. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Brandywine Polo

June-September, Fridays and Sundays

Spectators are invited to picnic and tailgate at the grounds. Toughkenamon Exit, Rt. 1 S. Fri, 5:30 pm; Sun, at 3. Gates open 1 hour before the match. \$10. Can be cancelled for rain or extreme heat. Phone, 610-268-8692; BrandywinePoloClub.com.

Longwood Gardens Wine & Jazz Festival

June 4

Live jazz, fine regional wines and local fresh fare. Longwood's glorious outdoor stage overlooking the picturesque meadow comes alive at this annual event. Rt. 1. \$25-\$40. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

Summer Concert Series

June 15-August 3, Wednesdays

Enjoy a free concert in the park, from Celtic to Zydeco. Check the website for this year's lineup. 7 to 9 pm. AnsonBNixonPark.org.

Kennett Symphony — "Boléro!" and More

June 25

Concertmaster Eliezer Gutman plays Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole* and Principal Trumpeter Luis Engelke performs classics by Mexican trumpeter Rafael Mendez. Ravel's hypnotic *Boléro* is the grand finale. Longwood Gardens, Rt. 1. 7:30 pm. \$10-\$35, includes garden adm. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

Brandywiners, Ltd. Perform "Kiss Me Kate"

July 8-30, August 4-6

Longwood Gardens Open Air Theatre, Rt. 1. \$20-\$25 includes garden adm; fountain display after the show. 8:30 pm. 302-478-3355; Brandywiners.org.

Murder Mystery Art Stroll

August 5

Kennett Amateur Theatrical Society presents a murder mystery where visitors solve the whodunnit. Families invited. Genesis Walkway, 101 E. State St. 6:30. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Kennett Symphony — "Celebrate Freedom!"

August 20

An All-American Salute! The music of Barber, Berlin, Copland, Harris and Thompson. Longwood Gardens Open Air Theatre, Rt. 1 7:30. \$10-\$35, includes gardens admission. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

26th Kennett Square Mushroom Festival

September 9-11

Annual event attracts big crowds with mushroom-related events, most are free and all are fun. 888-440-9920; MushroomFest.com. ♦

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Traditions Old and New: Weddings to Express YOU

Carol Metzker

Photos by Philip Gabriel Photography

Many couples today orchestrate a wedding as unique as their personalities and relationship.

Discussing plans for their June wedding, Rachel Christopher and Clint Wiggins smile, then laugh. They describe a celebration combining traditional elements and aspects they say are as “offbeat” as their shared sense of humor. Some plans honor Rachel’s grandparents’ 60-year marriage: a traditional vow exchange and her grandmother’s Italian cookies for party guests. Other designs reflect their love of old motorcycles, hot rod cars and jukeboxes.

Philadelphia Naval Shipyard provides a dramatic venue for photos and reception.





Special touches and details make the day.

Like Rachel and Clint, many couples today orchestrate a wedding as unique as their personalities and relationship. Brides and grooms borrow long-time traditions where it suits and start their own traditions for fun. From Italian wedding soup to nutty reception amusement, couples express their sentiments and individuality on their special day.

Something Old

A few months after a dazzling diamond appeared on Rachel's finger, friends received a "Save the Date" refrigerator magnet sporting a black and white photo of Clint and Rachel riding a vintage motorcycle. Announcing a big party for friends and relatives — the day

after their intimate evening ceremony with family — the photo foreshadows the 1950s theme for the event. Guests can look forward to jukebox music, flowers in vintage blue canning jars and old-style sideshow entertainment.

For wedding attire, Rachel headed to David's Bridal and The Wedding Shoppe in Wayne to scope out dresses with fitted waists and flared skirts, reminiscent of Grace Kelly's wardrobe and other vintage-style gowns. Partygoers, invited to appear in past era fashions also, shouldn't be surprised to see quirky hats or guys in suspenders.

Past and Present

Wedding jewelry, with old and new

Today's bridesmaids can wear different styles, different colors and carry different flowers.



Teal shoes give a hint of the bride's personality.

features, portrays individual tastes. According to Ron Gadol, owner of Big Diamond Importers and Fine Jewelry in West Chester, couples are selecting intricate antique-style engagement rings, bands lined with diamonds, and designer halo rings — smaller diamonds encircling larger stones.

Additionally, Big Diamond offers custom work for grooms adding heirloom gems to new settings. Gadol keeps a Bride's Wish List of cherished styles and finger size to ensure delight (and to keep the groom from having to steal back the ring to get it resized).

For some couples, reception candy buffets are perfect for merging past and present traditions. "Candy evokes all sorts of wonderful, warm memories," says Laurel Lamparelli, owner of Christopher Chocolates in Newtown Square. At buffets of bonbons for nibbling at the reception or scooping into take-home gift bags, brides dish up a taste of nostalgia.

Recently, one bride chose an array of sweets from the couple's childhood: Smarties, Sweet Tarts and Razzles, Lamparelli said. Another doled out family preferences — Dad's beloved malted milk balls and a sibling's favorite chocolate covered raisins.



Unique heirloom jewelry links the generations.

Candy displays can tie into color schemes, too, continues Lamparelli. Colorful coated candies, layers of gummy bears, or goodies wrapped in foil can be matched to flowers and dresses. For another walk down memory lane, set childhood photos of the bridal party next to dishes of sweets, she suggests.

A Love of Nature

Ceremony venues express a couple's passion for locations or outdoor natural settings: beaches, parks and woodlands in warm weather and halls with great views in all seasons. Historic buildings in scenic Chester County provide the ultimate backdrop for festivities and photographs.

The Stone Barn in Kennett Square offers lush spring flowers, summer greenery and autumn foliage or indoor facilities for nuptials. For an outdoor wedding ceremony against a bucolic landscape, followed by an indoor candlelight reception, Loch Nairn Golf Club in Avondale presents beautiful grounds and a choice of the charming Farmhouse Restaurant or elegant Greathouse. Or stage your reception at another 18th-century landmark with glorious perennial gardens — The Farmhouse at People's Light and Theatre in Malvern.



An enchanted evening in the park and a few private moments on the big day.

Inside or out, Matlack Florist of West Chester can transform any setting into a botanical wonderland. Beyond creating beautiful bouquets, their experts decorate columns, arches or gates with garlands, or drape chuppahs, arbors and canopies in wildflower, exotic or locally grown blooms.

Add a touch of “green” with fair trade-produced invitations of renewable Lokta bush paper, available at The Paper Market/Eco Boutique in Kennett Square. “The party starts when the invitation hits the mailbox,” asserts owner Doug Harris. Colors, materials, “pocket-fold” styles — to hold enclosures — and artistic designs of stationery articulate couples’ values.

Enchanted Evenings

Some brides dream of storybook days and enchanted evenings. Families continuing or beginning a legacy of romantic elegance — through unparalleled music, exquisite ballrooms, glorious menus, and sweet endings with luscious frosted layer cakes or tiers of scrumptious cupcakes — often consult specialists at Jimmy Duffy’s Catering.

They find the perfect gift or jewelry — magnificent bridal sets or distinguished watches to get everyone to the church on time — to commemorate their storybook milestone at Walter J. Cook Jeweler in Paoli.

Brides can enjoy a fairy tale wedding without mortgaging the castle, however.





Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed . . .

Something du Pont! Hear wedding bells ring at “Wedding Traditions of the du Pont Family, 1813-1915,” at the Hagley Museum and Library’s exhibit through January 15, 2012.

Exploring the origins of wedding traditions, this exhibit highlights traditions the du Pont family cherished and chronicles how the family’s weddings transformed over a century from small family celebrations to large, elaborate formal events.

Included in the tour of Eleutherian Mills, the first du Pont family home in America, the exhibit showcases six weddings from the first generation of du Ponts (1813-1837) and three weddings of E. I. du Pont’s great-grandchildren (1900-1915). Built by E.I. du Pont in 1803 and situated on a hill overlooking the Brandywine River, Eleutherian Mills is furnished with antiques and memorabilia of five generations of du Ponts.

From heirloom jewelry and bridal portraits to hair decorations and wedding gowns, exhibits give visitors a first-hand look at the du Pont family’s treasured wedding artifacts. Items worn by du Pont brides, such as elaborate seed pearl jewelry sets worn by Julia Sophie du Pont and Margaretta Lamot in 1824, and other memorabilia will also be featured.

Spring into the wedding season with this intriguing exhibit.

~ KT
Hagley Museum & Library, 298 Buck Rd. East, Wilmington. For information: 302-658-2400; Hagley.Lib.DE.US.

Envisioning the link between weddings and pageantry, Maria Valentino of Doylestown started TiaraTrade.com, a web site for selling gently worn gowns and sparkling accessories at reasonable prices.

Charlie Cowan, co-owner of Cowan’s Florist in Wayne, helps brides complement favorite color schemes with in-season blossoms to keep hand-held bouquets, table centerpieces and wedding cake decorations within a reasonable budget.

Many area caterers offer a selection of reception packages including salads, buffet meals and miniature pastry tables to fit a variety of pocketbooks. Their planners on staff help brides choose linens for their venue and work closely with florists and cake bakeries.

Splurge!

Budget constraints aside, some splurges can relieve stress before tying the knot.

Foregoing a bachelorette party, Rachel Christopher and friends are planning a night out at the interactive dinner theater experience, “Tony n’ Tina’s Wedding” in Philadelphia. The longest-running off-Broadway show transforms theatergoers into cast members in the roles of wedding guests.

A luxurious massage at Toppers Spa/Salon in Wayne rubbed away Melissa Koomson’s pre-wedding jitters. Some bridal parties head to Calista Grand in West Chester for a royal day of relaxing beauty treatments or a rejuvenating soak in a hydrotherapy tub.

Bridesmaids express consumerism with a conscience when they hold a party to decorate Tom’s Shoes in advance of the wedding, says Doug Harris, owner of The Paper Market/Eco Boutique. Whether they purchase a pair of white, sparkly silver or glittering pink, Tom’s donates a pair to a child in need.

Perfect Memories

Even if excitement or tears of happiness make wedding activities a blur, a great photographer and a wedding



A great photographer can capture special moments that make the day distinctive and memorable.

album capture and hold clear pictures of precious moments forever.

Photographer Ryan Estes’ recent images of newlyweds under a canopy of groomsmen’s swords reflected the groom’s studies in medieval history and themes of chivalry and honor. He photographed another reception as a rock concert when the groom, a musician, and his band took the stage to entertain guests and serenade the bride with an original song.

Some photographers takes portraits of the bride and groom before the big event — where they met or at their special spot in the city — to judge their reactions to the lens and to get to know their unique qualities in order to reveal their best on their special occasion.

At the close of the perfect day, brides and grooms have their choice of finale: a ride into the honeymoon sunset by limousine, hot rod or horse-drawn carriage. All that’s left is the ending ... living happily ever after. ♦

This couple’s save-the-date magnet says it all!



Wedding Gifts 2011-Style


Stuck on gift ideas for the newlyweds? Items for the home are always a good choice, so long as it’s not the tenth toaster or more sets of carving knives.


But what becomes an heirloom and what collects dust in the attic? With on-line registries and gift guides, the margin for error has narrowed.



Here are some of our favorite ideas from recent weddings.

- Foodies love Keurig coffee makers or a French press to start the day, or high-end cookware, like Le Creuset, cookbooks or a panini press.
 - Both brides and grooms appreciate months of house cleaning services or an added splurge on their honeymoon, like a couples massage.
 - Philanthropic couples can celebrate generously by registering with the I Do Foundation or specifying a local charity for contributions.
 - The sports-minded may have registered with their favorite bike or running store. Or give them season tickets to cheer on their favorite team.
 - Go in with other guests for a big ticket item on the couple’s list. Wine fridges, outdoor grills, or new electronics for the tech-savvy pair.
 - “Of-the-Month” clubs provide luxury and a monthly reminder of your thoughtfulness. Try fresh flowers, fruit, wine or chocolate.
 - Personalized gifts stand out in a creative and distinctive way, whether it’s towels or engraved silver.
- Take time to match the gift with the couple, so that when the dust settles from wedding hubbub, none falls on your choice.

~ RW





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215-685-4827; PhiladelphiaHistory.org

Brandywine River Museum
Route 1, Chadds Ford
610-388-8112
www.BrandywineMuseum.org

Community Arts Center of Wallingford
414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford
610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org

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215-448-1165; www2.FI.edu

Hagley Museum & Library
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302-658-2400, ext. 203; Hagley.org

Independence Seaport Museum
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Phila. 215-413-8622; PhillySeaport.org

Moore College of Art & Design
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215-965-4097; Moore.edu

Mulberry Art Studios
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717-295-1949; MulberryArtStudios.com

National Constitution Center,
525 Arch St. Phila., 215-409-6780
ConstitutionCenter.org

National Liberty Museum
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215-925-2800; LibertyMuseum.org

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215-972-2013; PAFA.org

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215-545-4302; PhilArtAlliance.org

The Print Center

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215-735-6090; PrintCenter.org

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610-688-3048; BolingbrokeMansion.com

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610-942-2200
BrandywineManorHouse.com

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1001 Rockland Rd., Wilmington, DE
302-654-4435; DuPontCountryClub.com

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6401 Germantown Ave., Phila.
215-848-1797; Cliveden.org

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215-563-3103; CollPhyPhil.org

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302-658-6262; DEHort.org

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297 Adams Dr., Chesterbrook, Wayne
610-644-4840; DuportailHouse.com

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Physick House, 321 S. 4th St., Phila.
856-296-4578; PhilaLandmarks.org

Powel House, 244 S. Third St., Phila.
856-296-4578; PhilaLandmarks.org

Racquet Club of Philadelphia
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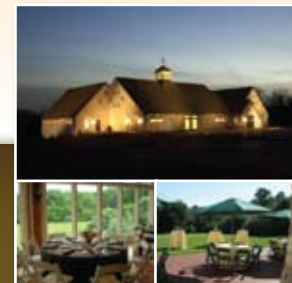
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From Farm to Green

J.F. Pirro



Jim Pepple, Wyncote Golf Club

Wyncote Golf Club, one of the country's best public golf courses, designed with Scottish influence, is in our own backyard.

Shannon Pepple, a longtime dairy farmer, always taught his sons that the only place you keep score is on the bottom line. Jim Pepple listened and took the lead reigns from his dad. By the mid-1980s, he grew the family farm operation into the largest in Pennsylvania. Then, in a risky, but rewarding move in the early 1990s, he converted the farm into one of the nation's best public golf courses.

Jim still keeps score, though with the golf course, a restaurant and event center, estate lots for sale — and his own golf tally — there are a few bottom lines at Wyncote Golf Club, where Route 1 and Route 10 meet in Oxford.

Destiny's Decision

Shannon Pepple bought the farm in 1957. It grew to about 1,200 acres by the time Jim earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in biochemistry. In

1973, Jim took over operations, planting alfalfa, corn and wheat. He milked a herd of 750 cows when Turkey Hill was milking 700. All totaled, Pepple had 1,500 head in the herd, and was farming 2,500 acres from Oxford to West Chester, with 800 acres of alfalfa alone. "Hey, I was nuts," he admits.

Then, in 1986, with a national surplus in milk production, the federal government offered an early-retirement incentive to dairy farmers. Jim took it, sold the herd, then pondered his next step with the family land.

He put 350 acres into agricultural rights with the county, sold another 300 to Amish farmers, then turned the rest into the Brian Ault designed Wyncote Golf Club and a small neighborhood of estate houses. Wyncote is Welsh for "windy cottage."

Pepple opened nine holes in April 1993, then the back nine that June. *Golf*

Digest instantly hailed it the third best public course in America.

Shannon died a week after the course opened. Though ill, he saw the course under construction, and told son Jim, "The herd took care of me. Now, I hope the golfers take care of you."

Constructing the Course

It helped that Jim Pepple was a farmer first, and he still is, at heart. Growing turf is as challenging as bringing a crop to harvest. But with Lancaster County just over the property's ridge, the existing soil had good genes. It just needed to be bulldozed, spread and shaped for its new life. Four inches of rich topsoil was his base. "We were playing with great genetics," Pepple says.

Ironically it was his first summer vacation in years — in 1988, at the British Open golf championships at St. Andrews in Scotland — that determined his career destiny. Jim saw in golf's birthplace a treeless track that mimicked the openness of his home farmland. When Pepple returned home, he cancelled an order of 20,000 trees destined for the course.

"(The trip) lit a fire," he says. "We could put moguls (series of low-lying undulating mounds along the edge of

fairways) and have the course be wind swept — and really Scottish."

Upscale public golf courses weren't in vogue then (St. Andrews is also a public course). "It didn't exist, but we did it," Pepple says. "We're offering a private experience at a public price."

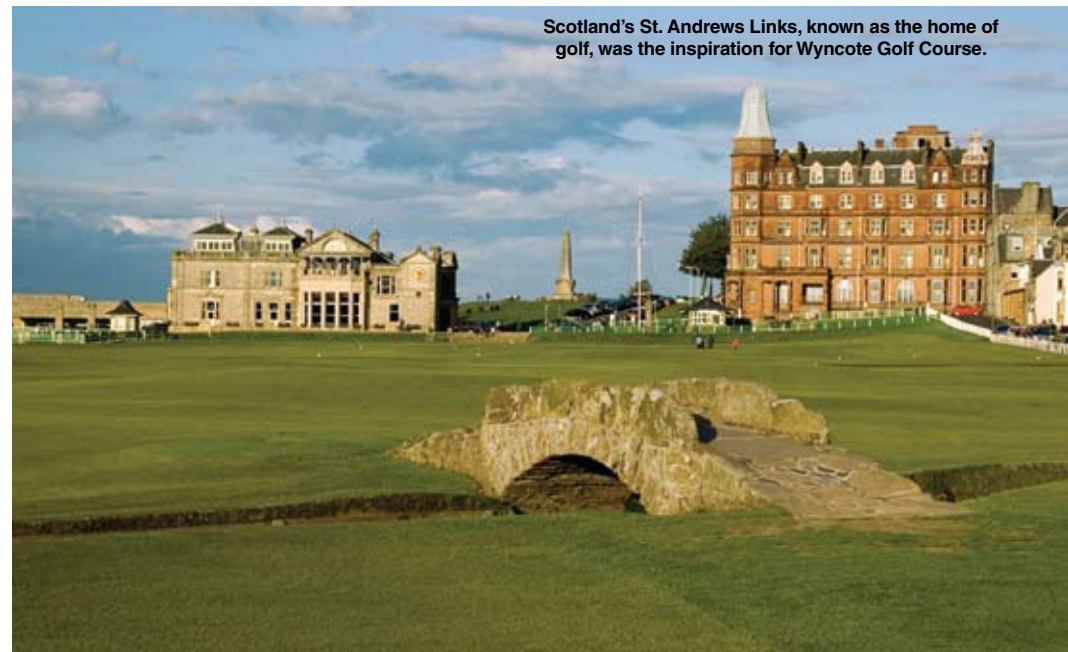
Wyncote's turf is bent grass from every tee to every green, while most public courses are standard rye grass. Wyncote is certified in all six levels of the Audubon Society's rating system for habitat, wildlife and other categories. Course care has an organic element. A chicken manure and molasses mixture replaces some fertilizers, minimizing chemical spraying.

Hot, dry summers like last year's? No problem. Wyncote plays better when it's hard and dry. "Like in Scotland," says Pepple.

Weathering the Storm

Wyncote opened as golf's popularity boomed with the early success and marketability of Tiger Woods. Consumers had discretionary money and time for recreation. There was a need and greed for entertainment. Wyncote's first seven years flourished, then 9/11 hit, and then the recession. Now the economy is making its slow recovery.

Scotland's St. Andrews Links, known as the home of golf, was the inspiration for Wyncote Golf Course.



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A heathlands style course, Wyncote Golf Course is windswept with low-lying mounds along the fairways.

Pepple says no courses should have been built after that. Also, golf courses were increasingly incorporated into developments and used as marketing lures to sell homes. That, too, flooded the golf course market. "I built a course to stand alone," he says. "The houses followed (five years later)."

Selling lots at Wyncote was an insurance policy, but Pepples never pushed that aspect. Sixteen one-acre lots still remain of the 63 set aside for single-family homes. Jim and wife Sandy sold 25 lots themselves, then four years ago moved into a former model home. They sold the remaining lots to a builder.

The Next Phase

As for the golf, Jim, 61, is counting on Baby Boomers like himself and luring former private-club players to his private-like public course. Although the economy zapped disposable incomes and corporate golf budgets, junior programs are up, as is play among women.

When Pepple lowered fees two years ago, play increased. "But 'If you build it, they will come' isn't so true anymore," he says.

To get Wyncote's story out, Jim uses e-mail blasts, offers online tee-time registration, free birthday rounds and other incentives. There's a league on Wednesdays, with plans for more, plus a senior weekday rate, making seniors the largest growth sector. "Seniors are extremely sensitive to the value of a dollar, but they're also willing to pay if they know they're getting value," he says.

These innovations seem to be working. Hits on Wyncote's website (Wyncote.com) are up 250 to 800 times a day. Just check out the "Accolades" page on the site and see that even Zagat's Golf Survey is a fan. ♦

Dream of Par

Jim Pepple's dream is shooting an even-par round on his own course. His career best at Wyncote is a 74, but par is 72 for both the men and ladies. His favorite foursome remains himself, his sons, Nathan and Ian, and brother, Bob. Years ago, when Jim played his boys, it was for the right not to mow the grass at the farmhouse.

Pepple says Wyncote is consistent and adaptable. Though he admits no advantage, a nod goes to players who can hit low and hard tee shots (so-called wind balls) for distance, and to those who avoid the meadow-mix high grass — Wyncote's No. 1 hazard. "In some places it's so thick, you won't find your ball," Pepple says.

Wyncote's longest hole is the par-5 No. 9 that ascends to a 585-foot uphill plateau and features eight sand traps and a two-tiered green. "If you don't hit the fairway to the right, you're dead," Pepple says. The shortest hole is the par-3 No. 2, with hazards of adjacent wetlands and a redan green (sloping off the back side).

"Don't worry if you don't play well," Pepple says, admitting he often doesn't. "You may leave with the same conclusion others do: 'I should have shot better. Next time I'm back, I'll do better.'"

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Oh no. What a mess! Like old dishes falling from a now bottomless box. Fallen limbs, broken shrubs, gouges in the lawn, broken sprinklers. You'll want to call your contractors early for spring clean-up. They'll be very busy this year.

Some things you may want to do yourself. Maybe get in the spirit by buying something new, like garden gloves, a new trowel or loppers. Or add a bluebird nest box to your garden (see the article in this issue).

Most important, make a plan. Here's our checklist to get you started toward a glorious garden.

1. Prepare. Start by walking around your yard. It probably needs a thorough raking. Remove weeds and overgrowth. Collect and remove anything that's dead. Send it all to the compost pile. (More on that later.) Get your tools

ready, too. Check mower blades, your shredder, and other parts that move: sharpen, clean and lubricate them.

2. Amend the Soil. A good garden needs the right soil. Home pH kits are cheap. (Soil geeks may go deluxe and test for nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus.) The pH should be around 6.2: slightly acid. For higher acidity, start thinking rhododendrons and azaleas. More basic and it's pink hydrangeas. Work with your natural soil, not against it. Test in several places as acidity may vary considerably. Be aware, if you try to modify your pH, it will take time: months or years to do it right.

3. Check Sunlight. Note how the sunlight falls on your property. A year of tree growth may have added to your canopy by several feet, turning your full-sun garden into a partial shady grove, with implications for what thrives beneath. You may have to change your ground plan. Solution: move plants or prune.

4. Compost. If you don't have one, make this the year you start a compost pile. You've intended to do it since last

century. Pick a convenient place. Everything biological can go in: food, leaves, pruning, etc. (but no meat, unless you like raccoons). Keep it balanced between brown (carbon-rich) and green (nitrogen-rich). Chop anything large to accelerate decomposition. Turn the pile regularly. If you're eager for results, try a compost bio-activator.

If you've got compost, you're in luck. When transplanting anything, make sure to work it into the soil. Or spread it on top, if you're lazy. When planting seeds, clear the planting area, cultivate the soil to a foot or so, and add compost. Might as well add manure, too.

5. Touch-up the Lawn. Your lawn is the heart of your landscape, and it may well be damaged by the winter. For ordinary wear and tear, just mix some soil and grass seed, fill and level your divots. Keep grass seed moist, covering with straw to prevent birds from feeding. Use a high phosphorous fertilizer for the roots. For the first mowing of the year, set the blades high.

6. Prune. Prune while shrubs and trees are dormant. Pruning allows more light to reach the leaves, more air to circulate. Some of your plants should be pruned early, some later, all in the spring. Cut back roses, butterfly bushes and the like to the woody sections. For spring-blooming shrubs and trees, prune after flowering. Don't prune after budding, as you'll run the risk of infection.

7. Plant and Transplant. Adding new stuff is the fun part. If you shop for seeds from catalogs, start early! Plant bare-root trees and shrubs early, ideally after the last frost. Container-grown plants and perennials can be transplanted anytime during the growing season. A cloudy, cool day is ideal. Rule number one: keep the roots moist.

8. Fertilize. When new growth appears, apply fertilizer around trees, shrubs and perennials. It's the one time of year to emphasize nitrogen. High-acid fertilizer or pine-needles works for acid-lovers, like azaleas and rhododendrons.

9. Spray Insecticide/Fungicide. April is a good time to spray fungicides, insecticides and horticultural oils, if there's ever a good time. Read instructions carefully. Try not to harm the animals and insects we like.

10. Mulch and Weed. Mulching will conserve moisture, reduce weeding and produce a neat appearance. But keep a few inches away from the plants themselves to avoid fungal infections. Dig out weeds now, and you'll prevent larger ones and their progeny later. Want to eradicate them? There are products, but use them judiciously.

If it sounds like lot of work, it is. Consider hiring a pro for heavy lifting, boring and otherwise tedious tasks. Reserve for yourself what's fun and manageable.

Now sit back, and enjoy your garden. ♦



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Bluebirds in Your Backyard

Andrew R. Gilchrist & Kirsten L. Werner, Natural Lands Trust

It's hard not to smile when you see a bluebird. With their beauty, cheerful song and springtime activity, they've come to symbolize love, happiness and renewal. Have you started humming "Bluebird of Happiness" yet?

While bluebird populations have been increasing over the last few decades, their numbers are still low. Read on to learn more about this charming native bird and how you can help make your yard and community more bluebird friendly!

Bluebird Basics

The Eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), the kind we have in our area, is a member of the thrush family. About the size of a sparrow, the showy male bluebird is a bright blue with a reddish breast and throat. The female is a lighter blue with a more subdued orange-brown breast and throat and a grey head.

Bluebirds generally prefer grassy, open areas with a few scattered trees that the birds use for perching and nesting. This type of meadow habitat offers a great source of insects — caterpillars, earthworms, beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, snails, spiders — the bulk of their warm-weather diet. Bluebirds are

often spotted swooping to the ground to snatch a juicy critter, then fluttering to a nearby perch to consume it.

Bluebirds are secondary cavity-nesters, which means that because their beaks are not strong enough to excavate their own nests, they reuse cavities created by other birds (like woodpeckers) or use human-made nest boxes.

The male entices the female to join him by bringing nest material to the cavity and showing off with a flutter of his wings. Then the female takes over, building the remainder of the grass-and-moss nest and incubating a clutch of two to seven beautiful blue eggs by herself.

Human Impact

Like many grassland bird species, bluebird population levels are directly affected by human activity and land use. In fact, with only one exception (weather), historical changes in bluebird populations have been directly correlated with human activities.

Bluebird populations grew steadily in the latter part of the 18th and the first half of the 19th centuries as enterprising settlers cleared forests and planted crops.

During the height of their population, bluebirds were as common as American robins are today. But their numbers declined dramatically in the mid-20th century with the loss of open space to development, changes in farming practices, increased reliance on pesticides, and the introduction of invasive bird species like the house sparrow and the European starling that compete for nesting sites.

Lend a Helping Hand

Bluebird populations have rebounded in the last 30 years, due in large part to awareness about their decline and efforts to support them. Consider the following "dos and don'ts" so you can help bluebirds in your community.


DO:

- Add wooden nest boxes to your property or contact local officials to encourage nest box installation on township property (local parks or sports fields are ideal locations).
- Place nest boxes in open areas away from woodlands (bluebirds prefer to have scattered trees within 50 feet of the nest boxes) about 100 yards apart at density of about one per acre.
- Build your own nest box. Simple plans can be found on many websites, including Sialis.org/plans.
- Install boxes soon because bluebirds begin nesting in early April.
- Monitor nest boxes and clean out old nests after baby birds have left the nest to encourage a second brood.
- Consider converting a portion of your lawn to native meadow grasses, which offer ideal feeding grounds for hungry bluebirds.
- Plant native trees and shrubs (dogwoods, viburnums, winterberry holly, bayberry, blueberries, chokeberries, shadbush, red cedar) to provide fall/winter food and shelter for bluebirds.

DON'T:

- Don't install nest boxes in wooded areas or too close to shrubbery, which invites attacks by house wrens.
- Don't mount boxes on trees or





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Nest Box Cam

Natural Lands Trust has been installing and monitoring bluebird nest boxes on several nature preserves, including Binky Lee Preserve in Chester Springs. Last spring, 222 bluebird chicks fledged (left the nest) from the 169 nest boxes there.

Check out chicks up close on the nest box cam. Hildacy Farm Preserve in Media boasts a bluebird box with an infrared camera! Visit NatLands.org to get a bird's-eye view of the spring activity.

Want to volunteer to be a nest box monitor? Contact NLT at 610-353-5587.

fence posts; both provide easy access by predators like raccoons and snakes.

- Don't use pesticides or herbicides in your garden or lawn, if you can avoid using them.

- Don't get discouraged if bluebirds don't nest in your box the first year. It can take some time for them to find the cozy home you've installed for them. ♦

Natural Lands Trust is the region's largest land conservation organization, preserving open space throughout eastern PA and southern NJ. Their Center for Conservation Landowners offers consulting services to landowners interested in creating more sustainable landscapes, including bluebird habitat! Contact: 610-353-5587; NatLands.org.

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MAGAZINE

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Maryland's Upper Eastern Shore on the Chesapeake Bay

County of Kent

Chestertown, Rock Hall, Betterton, Galena, Millington



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Fun, Serenity, Awesome Views... all Less Than a Two-hour Drive

A way from the hustle and bustle, and less than a two-hour drive from Philadelphia, are the shorelines of the County of Kent, Maryland. Visiting the historic towns of Chestertown, Rock Hall, Galena, Betterton and Millington is like stepping back in time, when receiving a friendly smile and a genuine hello were the foundation of a community. Along with the laid-back atmosphere and friendly locals of this country setting, you will find that there are plenty of things to do, great places to explore and even more ways to relax.

An oasis so close to home, where you will find shopping along tree-lined, red-brick sidewalks, antiques, sidewalk cafes, art galleries and studios, performing arts theaters in Chestertown and Rock Hall, museums, quaint beaches in Betterton and Rock Hall, waterfront parks, terrific paddling on the calm tributaries of the Bay, exploring the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, cycling on the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway.

Bring your bicycle or rent one to get out and feel the crisp country air against your face. A long ride on these flat, winding country roads will surely work up your appetite. Known for its terrific restaurants, you will find one here for every taste. From mouthwatering burgers to gourmet seafood entrees, the flavor is yours to choose. From

waterfront vistas to historic red-brick sidewalks, the view is yours to pick. Seafood so fresh that you may even see a waterman returning from a day on the water with their catches.

Chestertown, 1706

Whether you are exploring its history or shopping the red-brick, tree-lined sidewalks of Historic Downtown, you will quickly fall in love with Chestertown. Once a thriving colonial port town, Chestertown is a well-



kept historic treasure, located on the shores of the Chester River. It is one of America's Distinctive Destinations, a designation of the National Historic Trust for unique and lovingly preserved communities. It is also a designated Maryland Main Street. Enjoy the Geddes-Piper House Museum ca. 1784, guided and self-guided historic tours, the Schooner Sultana 1768 public sails, Prince Theatre's live performances, 1st Fridays Arts & Entertainment, specialty shops, art galleries, fabulous restaurants and more. Be sure to take a taste of "Made in Kent County" home with you, by stocking up at the Chestertown

continued

Farmers' and Artisans' Market on Saturday mornings in Fountain Park. If you want to cruise-in to Chestertown, American Cruise Lines has added this historic port to its Philadelphia and Potomac eight day, seven night cruises. www.americancruiselines.com

The Town of Rock Hall

This small-town treasure is rich in maritime history, with watermen continuing to harvest the bounty of the Bay. Enjoy live performances at Mainstay Theater, find unique shops, more than a dozen marinas, a small

Upcoming Events

Mainstay Concerts
April 2nd
"Dick Morgan Quartet" Jazz; 8pm
April 9th
"Chester River Runoff" Bluegrass; 7:30pm
April 16th
"Sue Matthews" Magic of Johnny Mercer; 8pm
 For concert calendar, visit mainstayrockhall.org
3rd Fridays on Main Street
Rock Hall Cruise Night; thru Oct.; 6-8:30pm
May 1st
BikeFest, Bayside Landing & Park; 10am-5pm

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beach with a quaint boardwalk and gazebo, Three story-filled museums: The Rock Hall Museum, Tolchester Beach Revisited Museum and Waterman's Museum. Fish with a licensed fishing captain, charter a sailboat or go kayaking. Bird watchers will be delighted with their finds too, especially while taking a nature walk on a trail to a waterfront bench or an observation deck at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, only seven miles from Rock Hall.


The Town of Betterton

Located on the northern shores of the County, this Bay front town offers spectacular views of the Chesapeake Bay, a favorite of photographers. Don't miss the Betterton Day Celebration, always the first Saturday in August.


The Town of Galena

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gift shops, antique shops, a seafood market and family style restaurants. Stop in for the famous All-You-Can-Eat Ham and Oyster Dinner at the Galena Fire House. Check the web site calendar for these and the famous Fire House Sunday breakfasts at www.kentcounty.com/events. Nearby is Georgetown on the Sassafras River, where you will find boating, waterfront dining and lodging.

The Town of Millington

A great spot for paddling, Millington is located at the northern tip of the Chester River, just off of route 301. With it's mouthwatering dining, it is a terrific day trip or a perfect travel stop to stretch your legs and have a delicious bite to eat.

Did we mention the events and festivals, held throughout the County? There just

isn't enough room here to list them all. Find the event listings online at www.kentcounty.com/events.

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Upcoming Events

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Farmers' and Artisans' Market
Saturdays 8am-1pm; Fountain Park; www.chestertown.com/market

April 8th, 9th, 10th and 15th, 16th, 17th
Prince Theatre presents "Arsenic and Old Lace"
Fri. & Sat.: 8pm; Sun.: 2pm; 210 High St; princetheatre.org

April 23
Mutt Strut & Earth Day Festival
9am-1pm; Fountain Park & Courthouse

April 28 to May 1
Paint The Town, a Plein Air Weekend
Painting, Thurs. thru Sun.; "Wet Paint" Exhibition & Sale, Sat. 5-7pm;
"Quick Draw" Competition, Sun. 10am and "People's Choice" Awards at
Taste of the Town at noon; www.chestertownartsleague.org

May 1
Taste of the Town, Fountain Park; noon-3pm

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Recycling 101

Ed Malet

Where does it all go? Not the true garbage, but the good stuff. The morning paper, when we're finished reading it. The glass mayo jar and soda can, when they're empty. What exactly is "disposable" anyway? Certainly our trash doesn't evaporate!

It's called recyclable, but what does recyclable really mean? Do elves clean and reuse it? Does it go in a bin headed for an impoverished country, where 9-year-old children strip it?

To Each Recyclable, Its Own Process

A short overview of common recycling may help. First, each household material — paper, glass, metal, plastic — has its own recycling process. Getting the trash into that process, free of impu-

rities, is a large part of returning materials to a valuable, reusable condition.

Once sorted and cleaned, the processing tends to be short. But, because of mistakes and misinformation, the wrong stuff often ends up in the recycling streams. And so a big part of the effort goes into making sure that each category of recyclable is pure. Another reason to read the recycling instructions we get from our township or borough.

Paper And Cardboard

Let's start with paper. Paper is ultimately reused. But it must first be cleaned, then separated from plastic, tape, metal staples and various other wrappers. Then it's generally de-inked and, with water, turned into slush. Wood pulp is added. Next it's pureed and

continued on page 79

DINING

I N • S T Y L E



Aneu Bistro & Wine Bar

Owner: Meridith McLoughlin

575 Lancaster Ave., Berwyn • 610-251-9600 • AneuBistro.com

Dinner: Sunday-Thursday 5 to 9; Friday-Saturday 5 to 10

Lunch: Monday-Friday 11 to 3

Brunch: Saturday 10-3, Sunday 9 to 3; Bar Menu: 3 to closing

Private Dining Room for up to 50; Corporate and residential catering

Lise Monty

City chic feels right at home in the Berwyn burbs at Aneu, a stylish bistro that debuted last October where Meredith's Bistro had thrived for eight years. It's a total comfort zone, blending rustic and modern themes in both the ambiance and the food. Culinary standards like calamari, spinach salad, crab cakes, filet and even chicken pot pie — the ultimate comfort food — combine the best of the old with updated touches that are sophisticated and satisfying.

The décor's masculine/feminine play works beautifully. Huge clock faces that recall those on town square towers throughout Europe stand out boldly on the exposed brick walls.

Soft touches, especially the room-dividing swaths of textured sheer fabrics that hang from the ceiling and puddle on the floor, provide balance and appeal. The sheers not only look beautiful, they act as subtle barriers between tables and also keep the kitchen door hidden behind wraps.

Wrought-iron chairs and handsome pendant lamps of different sizes and shapes, some made of agate glass (according to my companion) and decorated with wrought-iron designs, enhance the old/new atmosphere. We got some Tuscan vibes from the sturdy wood tables and admired the sleek, look-at-me, marble-topped bar at the front of the house. All in all, it represents well the meaning of the Greek word *aneu* — “without compare.”

Owner Meridith McLoughlin, who's been in the restaurant, catering and event-planning business since 1992, has created a gem for Berwyn and beyond with successful catering and events operations, important parts of her business.

American Fusion

Like all savvy restaurants, Aneu adheres to the buy local/seasonal/healthful themes that today's dining-out fans expect. Slices of both golden and red beets starred in the *Roasted Beet Salad* (\$9), a tasty toss of arugula, candied almonds and goat cheese, lightly dressed with roasted shallot vinaigrette, light and flavorful. Aneu's *Tomato Flatbread* (\$8) rose way above the average with its earthy crust and roasted roma tomatoes topped with melted buffalo mozzarella and a generous sprinkle of chopped basil.

Other appetizers included truffle fries, raw oysters, artisan cheese display, ginger shrimp, tempura, calamari, filet tips bruschetta, mussels and zucchini fries.

Salads are taken seriously here, the options including Caesar, ice house wedge with frizzled onions and creamy bleu cheese dressing, spinach salad with strawberries and papaya vinaigrette, and Aneu's signature salad of field greens, pistachios, cran-raisins, Granny Smith apples, bleu cheese and strawberry vinaigrette. Salads are especially popular on the lunch menu, favored by the large number of female guests who get together around Aneu's tables for a glass of white wine and a satisfying salad.

The Main Event

Osso Buco (\$26) met all my expectations, the braised veal shank tender and coming away from the bone in fall-apart softness, its sweet, meaty flavor enhanced by the braising liquid, its dark-brown goodness aromatic with wine and herbs. The silky, almost-melted marrow was a welcome bonus. Perfect partners were sautéed Swiss chard, colorful and tasty, and excellent risotto flavored with good reggiano that added a tangy touch.

Grilled Hawaiian Butterfish (\$24), a firm white fillet with slightly buttery texture, sat on another delicious and colorful risotto, thanks to roasted tomatoes. Adding pizzazz: caramelized six-onion relish and swirls of olive tapenade. It's one of Aneu's most popular dishes, I learned later.

Another popular choice is the seared scallops, which are served with spinach, fried egg, buttered leeks and truffle gastrique sauce. The couple at the next table told us they were enticed to Aneu by the Filet Gorgonzola they spotted on the website menu. They pronounced the steak “delicious” and also praised the blue cheese potato purée, rosemary onions and wilted spinach.

Other entrée options include Maryland crab cake with grain mustard sauce, bacon smashed fingerlings, asparagus and orange marmalade; grilled salmon with parsnip frites, Swiss chard and red wine vinaigrette; brined pork chop with sweet potato purée, haricots verts and roasted apple compote; penne with broccoli rabe, pine nuts, roasted tomatoes and Barolo wine sauce; risotto with grilled seasonal vegetables, goat cheese, charred tomatoes and vinaigrette; and white truffle gnocchi with caramelized onions, spinach, sun-dried tomatoes and light truffle cream sauce.

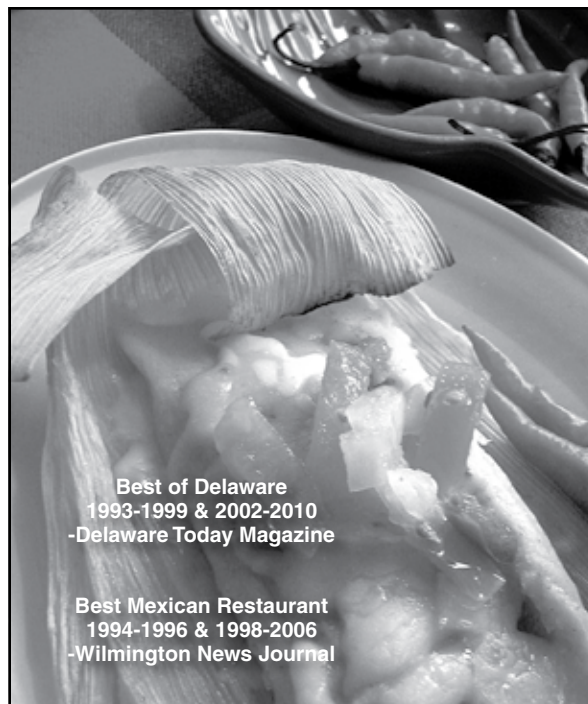
Aneu's diverse wine list focuses on boutique vineyards and includes a “30 wines under \$30” feature. There's a full array of cocktails, a tempting bar menu — crab cake sliders, short-rib quesadillas and cheesesteak spring rolls, for example — and BYO service with corkage fees.



Aneu Bistro and Wine Bar, formerly Meridith's American Bistro, is a sophisticated bistro in the heart of Berwyn. You'll recognize the same quality cuisine, style, and charm with a fresh twist on the décor. Enjoy your favorite wine or cocktail at our gorgeous new full-service bar. Lunch & dinner daily, weekend breakfast, bar menu 3pm-5pm daily. Our private dining room is the perfect place for your next event, rehearsal dinner, or bridal shower! The ambience provides for a romantic feel leading up to your special day. Introducing Aneu Events, specializing in corporate and residential catering. With 20+ years of experience, Meridith or Dana will provide you with an effortless, exquisite event.



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Sweet Things

The desserts we sampled exemplified the homey/haute theme. The sweetened fruit slices in *Warm Apple Tart* (\$8) were encased in a pretty fold of flaky pastry, its appeal boosted by caramel sauce, cinnamon whipped cream and vanilla ice cream. There were no biscuits providing a base for the *Strawberry Short Cake* (\$8) but they weren't missed, because it was totally delectable in its own fashion. Thick layers of strawberry-cream icing were spread between layers of moist, rich yellow cake.

Other desserts the pastry chef whips up include lavender crème brûlée, molten chocolate cake (always a winner, city or country) with raspberry sauce, angel food Napoleon with citrus supreme and chocolate banana brioche bread pudding.

Hurry Up Spring

The countdown is on. Fans are checking off the days until Aneu's lovely patio opens for all the winter-weary among us. Keep visiting the web-

site to find out when. Until then, the refreshing, updated space inside will make you happy.

So will brunch, which rocks at Aneu. It's a popular gathering time on both Saturday and Sunday. The long list of breakfast favorites includes huevos rancheros, apple cinnamon French toast, California omelet with shrimp and avocado, and buttermilk pancakes.

If it's lunch you're looking for, there are several burgers — Italian and Swiss 'shroom among them; sandwiches like Southwest wraps and pulled pork; and a host of enticing entrée salads.

Many choices to help keep your sunny-side up. ♦

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Recycling 101 *continued from page 73*

dried. Then it can be treated like other paper: refined differently depending on the end product. About 63% of paper is recovered overall.

Cardboard is generally handled in much the same way. There are two kinds, boxboard and corrugated. Both are pulped and blended with woodchips. And then handled like other cardboard.

Glass

Many recyclable materials must be melted after a process to ensure the material is pure. Glass, for instance, must first be cleaned and then separated by color. Clear, green and brown glass: each has a different chemistry.

The next step is for the glass to be broken and separated from bits of metal (like bottle tops) and paper (like labels). The cullet — the sand-like broken glass — is then melted. Finally it can be reformed into new products. About 80% of glass is recycled.

Metals

Aluminum containers, cans and otherwise, go through a process like glass. Typically, they're compacted first to make them cheaper to transport and are also cleaned. Next they're shredded and crushed; then melted in a furnace with new aluminum. They're ultimately made into 25-foot ingots, the industry standard.

Other metals — nickel, steel, copper — follow a similar process. Each metal must be separated from the others. They must then be made free of other extraneous material. And finally, they, too, are made into ingots.

Plastic

Plastic is more complex: principally in the initial separation. Actually, plastic is a variety of materials: some recyclable, some not. To simplify, a code with numbers 1 through 7 is used to distinguish the different types.

PET (polyethylene terephthalate) is #1. Often used in beverage bottles (for soda and water), it's one of the most commonly recycled materials. To begin,

it must be sorted from other plastics, then sorted by color, crushed into bales, washed, separated, dried and shredded. Impurities are removed resulting in pure "PET flakes," which are made into fibers (used in clothing, pillows, carpets), sheets and strapping.

HDPE (high-density polyethylene) is #2 and is used primarily in making slightly heavier containers (for milk, bleach, shampoo). Recycled, it results in plastic lumber, rope, toys and trash cans.

PVC (polyvinyl chloride), #3 finds itself in hoses, clothing, upholstery, pipe, and many other applications. But only about 3% is recycled, mainly because of additives. LDPE (low-density polyethylene), #4, is used mostly as film and lightweight plastics, and is also not widely recycled. Number 3 is used in paneling, flooring, cables and mats; #4 is made into trash cans, floor tiles and other heavy-duty materials.

PP (polypropylene), #5, is used in a range of products including rope, heated for hot foods, bottle caps, and automotive parts. Its toughness, strength and resistance to chemicals and moisture also make it attractive for packaging.

PS (polystyrene), #6, is derived from food packaging, carry-out containers and compact disc jackets. Recycled, it may be used in insulation, light switch plates, egg cartons and foam packing.

The #7 is a miscellaneous category. Basically, it's rarely recycled.

Advanced Recycling

Which, unfortunately, leaves lots of other stuff: batteries, paint, your last computer, and so on. These things consist of materials that are too valuable, too toxic, or too intermingled to throw away, yet too integrated with other materials to separate and sell economically. Paint, for instance, must largely be dried and brought to the landfill.

And so, in order to waste less, the rule is to use less. In this world, after all, we've learned that there is no such thing as garbage.

Today's garbage, for better or worse, is tomorrow's landscape. ♦

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New Feature!



“GREEN” IN THE KITCHEN

Laura Muzzi Brennan

After the heavy blankets of white this past winter, the green of spring is welcome change. When I see those chive blades bravely pushing their way through the softening earth, I get a little giddy. I become almost lightheaded when the flat-leaf parsley joins the garden party. And just planning the dishes I'm going to concoct with spring's first lettuces, beans and asparagus makes me feel healthy and ready to kiss my stew pot goodbye.

Green, of course, is much more than the color of spring vegetables. To Acting Chef Stephen Calise at **Harvest Seasonal Grill and Wine Bar** in Glen Mills, being “green” means nothing short of “saving the planet.” In his kitchen, he uses sustainable, organic products. He cooks in harmony with the seasons and supports local farms as frequently as possible. Printed at the top of Harvest's menu — even before descriptions of the dishes — is a list of the farmers who supply the restaurant, a reminder that every satisfying meal comes from the earth.

Back in February, Chef Calise, who also serves as Harvest's Director of Research and Development, told me he was excited to start working on the spring menu. “Spring,” he explained, “is a great time to get back to using local products,” a real challenge in winter. Bidding goodbye to halibut, in season from December to February, he couldn't

wait to say hello to King Salmon, which starts running in the spring.

Chef Calise was also planning to expand the menu's salad section and kindly shared his recipes for Wood Grilled Atlantic Salmon and Spicy Shrimp salads. And I must say, listening to him rhapsodize about lima and fava beans convinced me to include them on my spring table.

What most struck me, however, is that Chef Calise really does what those California and French cooks have been advising for years: go to the market, see what's fresh and make up your menu from there. When I asked him to get specific about dishes that would appear on the spring menu, slated to debut March 20th, he told me he couldn't make any firm plans without first talking to the farmers about what would be available. His simple statement — “everything depends on the weather” — spoke volumes.

Being green is about being open to what nature gives and making the most of it. So come to the table — set with many shades of green.

Wood Grilled Atlantic Salmon Salad

To get the wood grilled flavor, Chef Calise advises home cooks to add a smoke box filled with hickory chips to

the grill. Make sure to coat the grill with oil or to use a fish cooking basket so the fish doesn't stick. At Harvest, a pomegranate vinaigrette dresses the salad, but experiment with your favorite fruit vinaigrette.

4, 6-oz. salmon filets
4 romaine hearts, julienned
32 kalamata olives, sliced
4 oranges, segmented
24 teardrop tomatoes
2 C. cucumbers, diced

Season salmon with salt and pepper. Grill 3½ minutes on each side.

Toss remaining ingredients, including your choice of vinaigrette, in a large bowl. Divide salad mixture among four plates and top with salmon. Serves 4.

Spicy Shrimp Salad

This recipe combines the best of spring and summer produce. Chef Calise grills the shrimp on skewers. To prevent wood skewers from burning, soak them in water for a half hour before grilling. To dress this salad, try a roasted pepper vinaigrette as they do at Harvest. Note on technique: Chiffonade means cut into long, thin strips. I usually stack the leaves on top of each other, roll them and cut across with a very sharp (non-serrated) knife.

20 jumbo shrimp
4 oz. sweet chili sauce
4 Tb. chili powder
2 heads Bibb lettuce, julienned, reserving 8 leaves
4 grapefruits, segmented
1 red onion, diced
1 C. roasted corn
1 avocado
4 tsp. mint chiffonade; 4 mint sprigs
48 teardrop tomatoes

Grill the shrimp until just cooked through. (They'll turn a light pinky-orange.) Set aside.

On each of four chilled plates, overlap two Bibb lettuce leaves to form a "lettuce cup."

In a large bowl, combine the julienned Bibb lettuce with the remaining ingredients including vinaigrette. Divide the

salad mixture among the four "cups" and top with five shrimp. Garnish with mint sprigs. Serves 4.

Fava Bean Salad with Ham and Mint

Long an Italian and Spanish favorite, fava beans are gaining popularity in the U.S. as many Americans are gaining interest in the health benefits of the Mediterranean diet. Shelling fava beans takes a little work because they come twice-protected: they have a thick outer pod and each individual bean is covered by a layer of skin.

3 C. shelled fava beans (about 3 lbs. unshelled)
2 C. baby spinach leaves, rinsed well
3 oz. thinly sliced Serrano ham or prosciutto, sliced into thin strips
½ C. shredded fresh mint
1 large shallot, finely chopped
¼ C. extra virgin olive oil
2 Tb. sherry or champagne vinegar
2 Tb. fresh lemon juice
½ tsp. Dijon mustard
1 small garlic clove, minced

To prepare the fava beans, either use a knife or your thumb to split the pod open at its seam. Remove the individual beans and plunge them into boiling water for 2-4 minutes, until just tender. Drain in a colander, rinse in cold water and remove skin. If you don't have the time or inclination, use shelled lima beans or edamame.

Gently toss the fava beans, spinach, ham, mint and shallot in a bowl.

In a small jar, shake olive oil, vinegar, lemon juice, mustard and garlic until emulsified. Toss the salad and dressing together. Add salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste. Serve immediately. Serves 4 to 6.

Parmesan Baskets Filled with Spring Lettuce and Creamy Chive Dressing

You can't get any more "green" than eating the bowl your salad comes in! Wash and dry the lettuce thoroughly before putting it in the parmesan bowls. Immediately before serving, drizzle 1 tablespoon dressing over lettuce.

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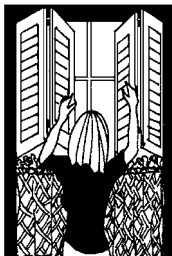
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surprised at what you will find.*

For parmesan baskets:

2 C. shredded parmesan cheese,
divided
cooking spray (if not using a nonstick
skillet)

Spray a 10-inch skillet with cooking
spray and place over moderate heat.
Sprinkle ½ cup of shredded parmesan,
so that it covers the surface of the skillet
(like a wafer-thin pancake). When the
edges and underside of the pancake
begin to turn golden (about 1 minute),
remove it carefully with a spatula.
Working fast, drape it over a glass that
has been turned upside down and
form a bowl. Allow to cool completely.
Repeat process three times. Makes 4
baskets.

For Spring Lettuce Salad with
Creamy Chive Dressing:

4-5 C. butter lettuce (Bibb or Boston)

2 Tb. lemon juice

5 Tb. extra virgin olive oil

2 Tb. half-and-half

2 heaping Tb. snipped fresh chives

½ tsp. sugar

pinch of salt

Put all ingredients into a small jar
with a lid. Shake vigorously until mix-
ture is emulsified. Makes about ½ cup.

The Many Moods of Roasted Asparagus

*Asparagus is harvested from mid-
February to June, but it's at its peak
in April. You can roast the spears
and serve as a warm side dish or cut
them into 1-inch pieces and toss into a
pasta primavera. They're also delicious
cooled and drizzled with the Creamy
Chive Vinaigrette (above), but one of
my very favorite ways to enjoy roasted
asparagus is sandwiched between pro-
sciutto and gruyere on crusty country
white bread.*

Roasted Asparagus

1 lb. asparagus

3 tsp. olive oil

Kosher salt

Preheat oven to 375°. Snap off aspar-

Waste Not, Want Not!

One person's kitchen or compost scrap
is another person's secret ingredient.
Check out these ideas for using every
last bit!

**Parmesan or other hard cheese
rinds** can be tossed into minestrone
or tomato sauce for extra flavor. Just
remember to remove the rind before
serving.

**Greens that come attached to
beets, kohlrabi or turnips** can be
turned into a vitamin-packed, savory
side dish. Tear leaves into 1-inch pieces.
Boil in water or steam until tender (1-2
minutes). Drain well, removing as much
water as possible. Toss with a mixture
of sesame oil and soy sauce, to taste.
Note: I tried this with carrot greens and
decided they were better suited to my
compost bin.

Lemons have many lives left once
you've extracted their juice. Lemon
peels can be zested and the zest mixed
into vinaigrettes or sugar cookie batter
for a little zing. Other ideas: cut the peel
into small pieces, add them along with
water to ice cube trays and freeze for
a refreshing addition to any cool drink.
For an all-natural way to clean a porce-
lain sink, rub the cut side of a lemon on
it, and stains will vanish.

Bananas — especially overripe ones
— can be peeled, frozen and saved for
future use. Thaw and mash them into
banana bread. Don't thaw and blend
them with yogurt and apple juice for
a healthy smoothie. FYI: Some folks
claim that rubbing the inside of a
banana peel on tarnished silver brings
back the shine. Not true! I spent a good
half hour experimenting, and my silver
bowl was no better for it. On the upside,
my hands were smooth from all that
banana pulp.

Bread just starting to go stale can be
pulsed in a food processor to make
breadcrumbs or cut it into 1 to 2 inch
cubes for strata or bread pudding.
Freeze crumbs or cubes until you need
them. No need to thaw before using. Or
use stale bread for homemade croutons
for salads. Toast with olive oil and garlic
to add crunch.

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How Green is Your Kitchen?

Dear Fellow Cooks:

One thing I've learned about cooks is that we are a social bunch. Not only do we love to feed friends and family, we love to talk food, to exchange recipes, to lift the lids of each other's pots.

One of my hopes for Brandywine Table is to create a community of culinary enthusiasts, so every once in a while, I'll ask for your ideas and recipes. In keeping with this month's theme, I'm inviting you to share ways you've "greened" your kitchen.

Have you discovered a way to cook or eat that's better for you or the planet? If so, I'd love to hear about it. E-mail me at LauraBrennan@valleydel.com. *County Lines* will publish the most interesting ideas on our website.

Together we'll make the Brandywine Valley an even healthier place.

Happy Cooking,
Laura

agus woody ends. Toss with olive oil and kosher salt to taste.

Spread in a single layer on a baking sheet. Roast for 8-10 minutes (depending on thickness). Be careful not to overcook. Asparagus should have a bright green color and still retain some crunch. Makes 4 servings.

Grilled Prosciutto, Gruyere and Asparagus Sandwich

I love when the asparagus sticks out over the edges of the bread, giving a hint of the delicious meal that awaits. If you've got a Panini maker, use it here. If not, a large griddle works just as well, especially if you weight the sandwiches down with a bacon press.

8 slices crusty white or multigrain bread slices (½-inch thick)
8 oz. prosciutto, sliced thinly
8 oz. gruyere, sliced thinly
16 spears roasted asparagus (recipe above)
olive oil

Heat a large griddle. Brush one side

of each slice of bread with olive oil. Place four slices, oil side down, on the griddle. Top with 2 oz. gruyere, 4 spears of asparagus and 2 oz. prosciutto. Top with remaining bread slides, oil side up.

Cook on both sides until cheese is melted and bread is golden. Makes 4 sandwiches.

Chicken Mozzarella with Parsley Pesto

Even though basil is the most common type, pestos can be made with many types of green herbs. The parsley pesto in this recipe lends a bright spring flavor to an Italian-American favorite. Toss the leftover pesto with linguine for a satisfying vegetarian entrée or spread on baguette slices and top with thinly sliced roasted red peppers for a quick appetizer. Note: Pesto keeps in the freezer for at least 6 months.

For parsley pesto:

½ C. pine nuts, toasted
4 C. fresh parsley leaves, loosely packed (No worries if you include a few stems; they are flavorful, too.)
1 small garlic clove
½ C. grated parmesan cheese
½ C. extra-virgin olive oil
salt, pepper and squeeze of lemon (optional)

In a food processor, pulse the pine nuts, parsley, garlic and parmesan until finely chopped. With the processor running, slowly pour in olive oil until well-mixed. Season with salt, pepper and lemon to taste. Makes 1 generous cup.

For Chicken Mozzarella:

1 Tb. olive oil
4, 6-oz. chicken cutlets, pounded to ½-inch thickness
4 Tb. parsley pesto
8, 1-oz. slices fresh mozzarella
2 C. tomato sauce

Preheat oven to 450°. Heat olive oil in an ovenproof skillet and cook chicken breasts 4-5 minutes on each side. Remove from heat.



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Spread 1 Tb. parsley on each chicken breast and top with 2 slices mozzarella. Ladle tomato sauce around chicken breasts and pop in oven. Cook until chicken reaches an internal temperature of 170° and cheese melts (5-10 minutes).

Rhubarb Crisp

Bakers often combine rhubarb with strawberries to make a tasty, late spring dessert. But why wait for the strawberries? I remember enjoying this crisp at a friend's house a few years ago, and the rhubarb was delicious all on its own.

4-5 C. rhubarb, cut into 1-inch pieces

1½ C. granulated sugar, divided

1½ C. flour, divided

1 tsp. cinnamon

8 Tb. butter, very cold, cut into small dice, plus butter to grease baking dish

¾ C. oatmeal

½ C. brown sugar

Toss ¾ cup of sugar with rhubarb. Let sit one hour and drain rhubarb juice.

Combine remaining ¾ cup sugar with ¾ cup flour and mix into rhubarb. Place rhubarb mixture in buttered baking dish.

Heat oven to 375°.

Make topping: In a food processor, combine cinnamon, ¾ cup flour and butter. Process until mixture forms coarse crumbs. Remove from food processor and by hand, mix in oatmeal and brown sugar. Distribute topping evenly over rhubarb. Bake 45 min. to 1 hour. Serves 8-10. ♦

If you'd like to contact Laura Muzzi Brennan, please e-mail her at Laura-Brennan@ValleyDel.com



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