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Ballroom at the Ben

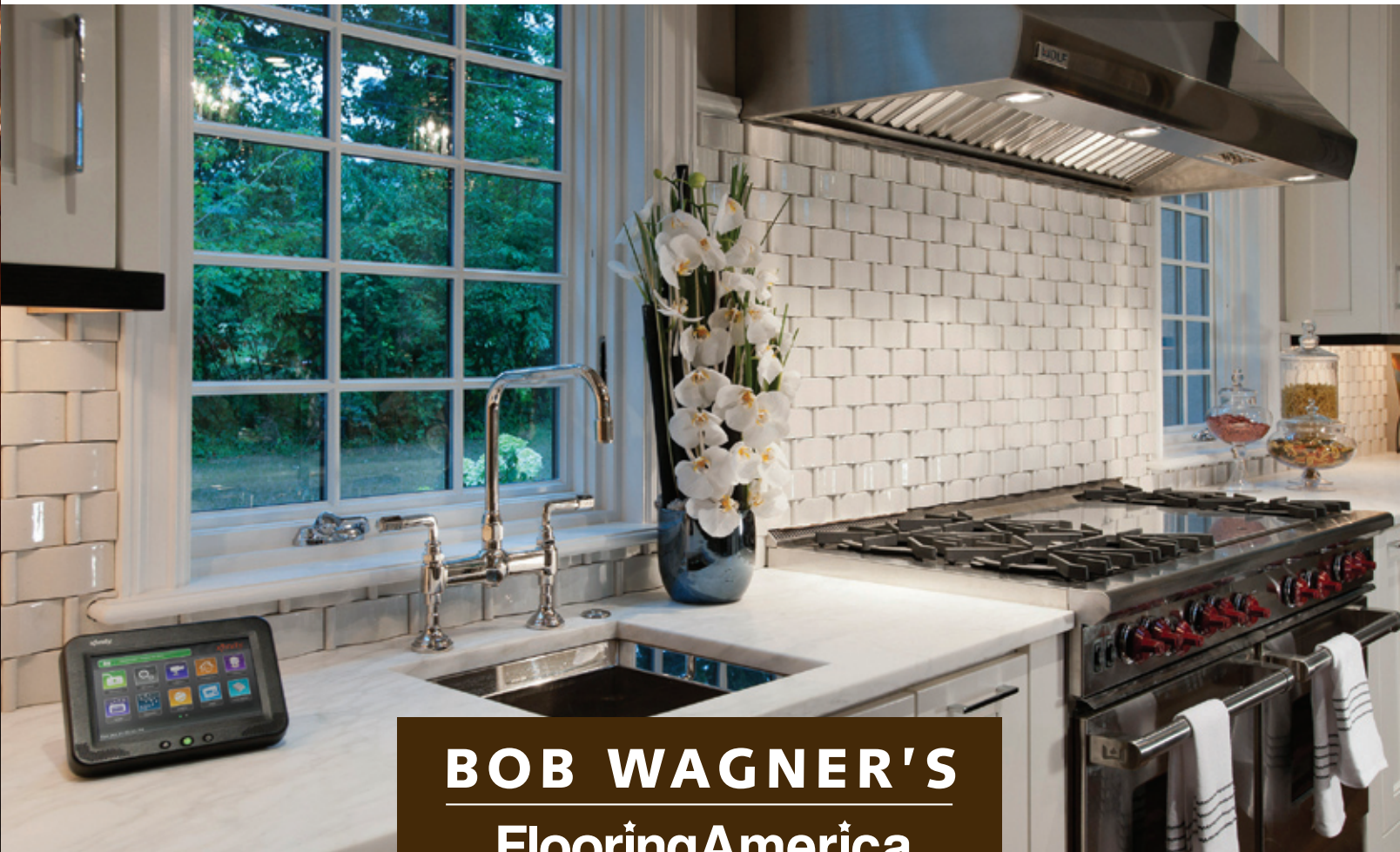


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Raised in Radnor, PA, Patricia Brennan has been providing Wealth Management advice right here in West Chester for over 25 years. She is a Georgetown University graduate and earned her CFP® designation in 1990. She is a recognized leader in her industry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



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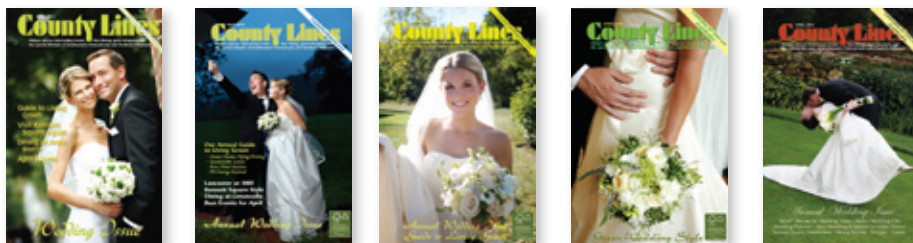
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From the Editor

Spring! Dandelions and dogwoods. Cycles and convertibles. Asparagus and hearts of palm. In April we celebrate all things new, fresh and green.

First, weddings. Carol Metzker counts down, from hiring a wedding planner to fitting the gown and accepting RSVPs in a perfectly planned wedding for the *Time of a Lifetime*. Plus we give you unusual wedding venues for those in the early planning stages.

Next, green. Join architect and space planner Dale and Susan Frens as they *Downsize with Style* and renovate a 19th-century Queen Anne twin in West Chester, balancing green

with aesthetics. We follow up with a *Green-to-Green* treatment of a contaminated brownfield now becoming an up-scale, solar-powered, senior community, with rails-to-trails for the public.

Pawpaws, serviceberries, cornelian cherries, persimmons ... Plant them and eat them? The Delaware Center for Horticulture says these *Fruit Trees Off the Beaten Path* are all good and will grow in your yard.

Then we return to *Kennett Square*, where there's more than just mushrooms. Find out what surprises await visitors to Kennett and Oxford, another gem in southern Chester County. Lise Monty also stops in Kennett to dine at *Lily Asian Cuisine*. She'll be back for sushi Tuesdays.

Tax penalties. Pay them or avoid them? Hmmm. Charles Welde, CPA, offers three useful tips in *Worth Knowing*. And mark April 17th with our Tax Day Cocktail—recipe is in *Food News*.

Catch a performance of *Metropolis* at the DuPont Theatre, celebrate *Historic Sugartown Day*, see Brandywine Ballet's *Beauty and The Beast*, and learn tips from Jimmy Duffy's and Meridith's Catering in *Brandywine Table*.

As always, we've got the *Best Events Coverage* anywhere with what to do this April (also online at *CountyLinesMagazine.com*). For more, sign up for our Events Newsletter. And visit our Facebook page for updates and giveaways. "Like" us and tell your friends!

Thanks for reading *County Lines*. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Jo Anne
Jo Anne Durako
Editor

County Lines Magazine

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

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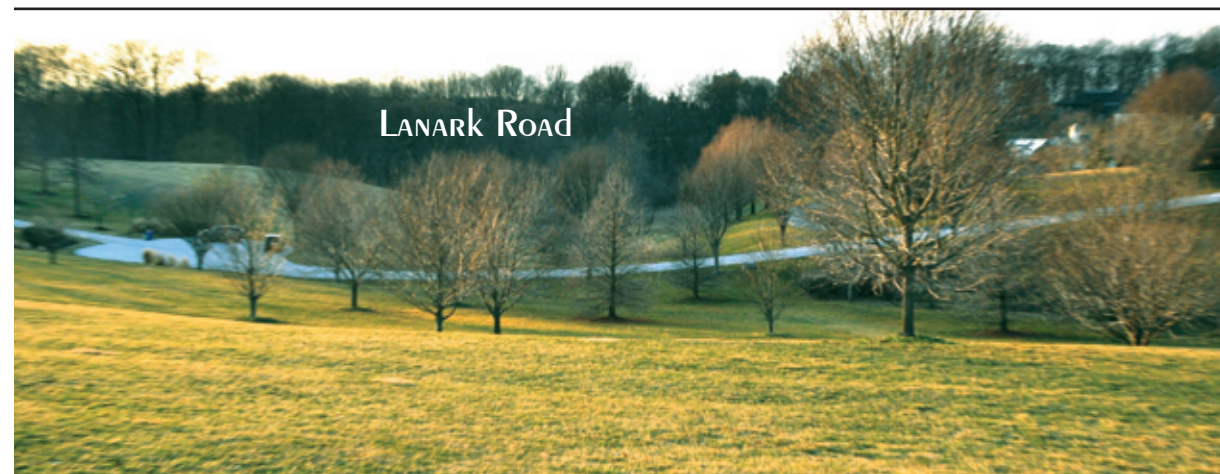
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CONTENTS

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 8 April 2012

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE



APRIL 2012

30

SURPRISING KENNETT SQUARE & SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY

Ginna Goodall, Sue Cole

38

THE TIME OF A LIFETIME: A Perfectly Planned Wedding

Carol Metzker

43

WEDDING VENUES

49

WEDDING STYLE

50

DOWNSIZING WITH STYLE: Green Style

Matt Freeman

55

GREEN TO GREEN From Brownfield to Rails-to-Trails

Ed Malet

57

FRUIT TREES OFF THE BEATEN PATH The Delaware Center for Horticulture

66

DINING OUT: Lily: Asian Cuisine, Sushi & Grill

Lise Monty

70

BRANDYWINE TABLE:

Tips from Caterers

Laura Muzzi Brennan

DEPARTMENTS

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 12 WORTH KNOWING | 29 THEATER SPOTLIGHT |
| 15 GOOD TO KNOW | 69 FOOD NEWS |
| 17 OF SPECIAL NOTE | 74 INDEX |
| 18 UPCOMING EVENTS | |



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Worth Knowing



3 Tips to Avoid Paying Underpayment/Estimated Tax Penalty

Charles Welde

There is no good reason for paying your taxes early. But there is a good reason to avoid underpaying your taxes, specifically your quarterly estimated taxes. Penalties are assessed for underpayment, even if the underpayment is unintended.

Here are three tips that may help you avoid the unpleasant surprise of being assessed a costly penalty for tax year 2012.

Tip #1. Increase End-of-Year Withholding Taxes.

Federal withholding taxes are treated as having been made equally throughout the year, regardless of the actual amounts paid each quarter. This treatment gives

employees the opportunity to avoid an estimated income tax penalty through planning and larger contributions at the end of the year.

If your estimated tax payments for the current year are too low, you can avoid the tax penalty simply by increasing the withholding on your year-end paychecks (or, if applicable, your year-end bonus).

For example, suppose in 2012 you make quarterly estimated tax payments of \$5,000. But near the end of the year, you realize that the actual payment should have been \$5,500. (Maybe you made a mistake or had some unexpected additional income.) To avoid the tax penalty, you could withhold an extra \$2,000 from your paychecks by the year-end. That extra \$2,000 will be treated as having

been paid at a rate of \$500 per quarter (for the necessary \$5,500 per quarter), and the underpayment penalty from each quarter will be eliminated.

This tip is often used by owners of Subchapter S Corporations. During the year, the business owners may have little or no federal withholding tax taken out of their salaries. In December, however, they can give themselves a bonus and withhold the entire amount, thus avoiding a tax penalty.

Tip #2. Withhold Taxes from Your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs).

Older taxpayers are required to take distributions from their IRAs. However, those who don't need to spend their RMDs can use those distributions to have their taxes partially or entirely withheld. This tip can help reduce or eliminate the need to make estimated tax payments during the year.

Taxpayers may choose to withhold as much or as little of their RMD as they desire. All of the IRA custodians include a federal withholding option on their IRA distribution form. Tax withholdings from RMDs are treated the same as tax withholdings from salaries and wages. These amounts are deemed to have been paid evenly throughout the year, even if paid from a distribution that occurs on December 31, 2012.

Tip #3. Take Your IRA Distribution and Replace It Within 60 Days.

What if you have no salaried job from which to have federal taxes withheld? So long as you have an IRA, you might be able to avoid an underpayment/estimated tax penalty. Taxpayers are permitted to take a distribution from their IRA at any time, regardless of age. If under age 59½, taxpayers can avoid a 10% early distribution penalty if they replace their IRA funds used for taxes within 60 days.

For example, suppose in December of 2012, you realize you should have paid \$1,500 in estimated tax payments during each of the first three quarters of the year. By December 31st, you could take a \$6,000 IRA distribution and earmark the entire distribution for federal tax withholding. The withholding will be treated as being paid \$1,500 per quarter, eliminating the estimated tax penalties. Then, within 60 days, you can replace the \$6,000 back into your IRA from other assets (like

a savings account or a taxable brokerage account), resulting in a tax-free rollover.

Note: If you already did a previous rollover into or out of that same IRA account within the past 365 days, the second distribution will *not* be eligible for a tax-free rollover! There is a once-per-year IRA rollover rule that could trigger a tax liability (and a possible 10% penalty if you are under age 59½).

Taxpayers don't like unpleasant surprises. Being aware of these three tips could help you avoid paying an underpayment/estimated tax penalty. ♦

Note: Please consult with a competent tax professional before implementing any of the above tips.

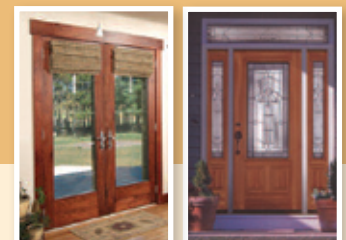
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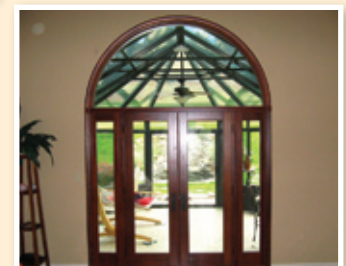
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Good to Know

Just a few things we thought you'd like to know for April



Have a Green Easter. Want to enjoy your Easter holiday the eco-friendly way? Look no further than your kitchen. Made from common foods, **natural Easter egg dye** is an easy-to-make alternative to synthetic,

store-bought varieties. Use red onion skins for sienna eggs, blueberries and purple grape juice for blue eggs, coffee for brown eggs—all the colors of the rainbow created right at home! For an especially green Easter, opt for wooden eggs complete with edible Easter grass. Learn more at Cave2.com.

Shared Green at WCU.

Nature-loving West Chester University students spearheaded the **Outdoor Classroom & Demonstration Garden** on the North Campus, which is now open to visitors. Experience this intimate organic garden while learning how to harvest vegetables, cultivate wildflowers and maintain bird and insect biodiversity. Volunteers are encouraged to help preserve the garden’s native trees, berries and flowers, teach visitors about heirloom plants, take photographs for their Facebook page and more. Learn something new and extend Mother Nature a hand. WCUPA.edu/Sustainability.



Arbor Day Trivia. What’s **Pennsylvania’s state tree**? (Hint: It’s never blue.) The Eastern Hemlock, an evergreen, was officially adopted as the state tree in 1931. Taking 250-300 years to fully mature and sometimes living for more than 500 years, the Eastern Hemlock typically grows to 100 feet, though the tallest is 173 feet. Medium growers (40 feet to 70 feet) are ideal for screening,

grouping and foundation plantings. Consider celebrating Arbor Day, April 27, by planting your state tree and working its name into conversations. Tip: Avoid heavy soils and plant in partial shade two feet apart. Arborday.org/Trees.

And the Award Goes To ...

The best woman filmmaker at the **West Chester Short Film Festival** (April 27-29), will be recognized by the **Regional Center for Women in the Arts**, marking



the sixth year RCWA has awarded the only cash prize at this international film festival. Valetta, RCWA’s director, notes: “Previous women filmmakers have dealt with issues of discrimination, aging, rape, and murder in ways that are both creative and surprisingly gentle.” Past winners have worked in England, Sweden and the U.S.



West Chester hosts its 8th film festival designed to entertain, enlighten and educate through an international selection of juried short films (max of 30 minutes). For a fun-filled weekend, find out more at WestChesterFilmFestival.com.



Get Your Barnes Ticket Now.

Although the new home for the fabled **Barnes Foundation** collection (remember the film “The Art of the Steal”?) on the “cultural corridor” in Philadelphia doesn’t open until May 19th, advance tickets are already on sale. Curious to see if the building and galleries truly reflect Dr. Barnes’ quirky layout and the unique character of the original home in Merion? Wonder if the protracted and costly legal battle was worthwhile? So many reasons to see this \$25+ billion collection of 19th- and 20th-century art. BarnesFoundation.org.

Great Schuylkill Clean Up.

From April 1 (not a joke) to May 31, over a dozen environmental groups band together for the **Schuylkill Scrub**. Volunteers clean miles of roads, streams and parklands along the river to help keep our drinking water clean, and since nearly 2 million people drink tap water pumped from the Schuylkill and its tributaries, we should thank them. Or better yet, join them. Green Valleys Association and Hay Creek Watershed participate, or you can join on your own. Find out more at SchuylkillScrub.org.





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Of Special Note



Historic Sugartown Day

April 21

Travel back in time to a rural 19th-century crossroads village as it magically comes alive to celebrate spring. Enjoy hay rides, dog agility shows, a colonial magician, birds and falconry, great food, music, tours, traditional artisans and a Children's Tent, with period games and dress-ups. Sugartown and Boot Rds., Malvern. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 610-640-2667; Historic-Sugartown.org.

Delaware Center for Horticulture's 32nd Annual Rare Plant Auction

April 28

Calling all plant lovers. Enthusiasts from across the country gather for this annual event to bid on more than 500 rare and unusual specimens. Auction items also include antiques, artwork and garden accents. This year's auctioneer is Marc Porter, president of Christie's Americas. Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 5:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets begin at \$125 and include gardens admission, cocktails and dinner. Benefits the Center's Community Greening Program. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.



Canine Partners for Life Unleashed & Uncorked

April 28

"Party Your Paws Off!" is the theme for this year's spring fundraiser. Enjoy live music, great food and drink, an auction and the fantastic dogs that will be attending and are a major focus of the evening. World Cafe Live at the Queen, 500 N. Market St., Wilmington. 6 p.m. \$125. 610-869-4902; K94Life.org.



Brandywine Ballet Presents *Beauty & The Beast*

April 27-29

A tale as old as time . . . with captivating castle, village and forest scenes that come to life with music, lighting and dance. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. Fri., 10 a.m.; Sat., 4 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. \$25-\$40. The Ballet will also host *Be Our Guest*,

a meet-the-cast event, Sun., at 4 p.m. in the Philips Memorial Library above the concert hall, \$18. 610-696-2711; BrandywineBallet.com.



Kimberton Hunt Club's 67th Annual Horse Show

April 29

Warm up for the Devon Horse Show at this spring tradition, which also features vendors and a legendary food tent offering delicious home-made fare. Radnor Hunt Pony Club Grounds, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. 8 a.m. Free. 610-469-0227; KimbertonHunt.net.

Upcoming Events

Noteworthy in April . . .

April 14, 16, 21
Japanese Cherry Blossom Celebration. Activities celebrating art, culture and the gardens for adults and children alike, with the Kyo Daiko Drumming Crew, traditional tea demonstration, Samurai Arts Group and more. Morris Arboretum, 100 E. Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia. 10 to 4. \$7-\$16. 215-247-5777; MorrisArboretum.org.



April 21
10th Annual Americana Roots Ramble. A celebration of the diverse sounds of Americana and Roots Music, from folk to 1950's rock and roll, rockabilly, countrified rock and beyond. State Street, Media. 7:30 pm to 1 am. \$15-\$20. 610-566-5039; StateStreetBlues.com.

April 27-May 1
Antiques in Bloom at the Philadelphia Antiques Show. A juried flower exhibit held in conjunction with the Philadelphia Antiques Show pairing area floral designers with antiques dealers. PA Convention Center, 12th and Arch Sts., Philadelphia. See show listing under ANTIQUES for more information.



April 28-29
The Delaware Nature Society Native Plant Sale. "Invasives Out, Natives In!" More than 300 rare, unusual and favorite varieties of native plants for all growing conditions, including drought-tolerant and species that attract birds and butterflies. Coverdale Farm, 543 Way Rd., Greenville. Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 11 to 4. 302-239-2334; DelawareNatureSociety.org.

Antiques

April 14-15
Antique City Fun Fair Festival. Over 250 international exhibitors offer furniture to fine art, jewelry to jukeboxes, collectibles and more. Benefits the Good Shepherd Hospital Pediatric Unit and the Animal Sanctuary at Haafsville. Special Exhibition Full Head of Steampunk! Lehigh University Rauch Fieldhouse, GPS: 123 Goodman Dr., Bethlehem. Preview Sat, 8 am, \$10. Show, Sat, 10 to 6 and Sun, 10 to 4, \$8. 800-822-4119; AntiqueCityShow.com.

April 27-29
23rd Street Armory Antiques Show 2012. Forty-five diverse antiques dealers exhibit in room-like settings featuring American and Continental formal and country furniture, fine and folk art, silver, marine artifacts, textiles and more. Free shuttle service to and from the Philadelphia Antiques Show. Gourmet café, special show exhibit: Bucket Brigades: A Collector's Passion. 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 27-May 1
The Philadelphia Antiques Show. Fifty-seven of the nation's leading antiques dealers and galleries bring together their finest pieces. PA Convention Center, 12th and Arch Sts., Phila. Preview Fri, 6 to 10, \$225-\$600. Sat, Mon, 11 to 8; Sun, 11 to 6; Tues, 11 to 4. \$12-\$20. 610-902-2109; PhilaAntiques.com.

Art & Craft Shows

Ongoing
Chester County Art Association. A non-profit, cultural organization promoting participation in the arts through instruction, exhibitions and community outreach. 100 N. Bradford Ave. 610-696-5600; ChesCoArt.org.

Through April 14
Happenings at Beauty Art, Antiques, Rugs. John Pompeo, "Breaking the Silence." 3857 Providence Rd., Newtown Square. Tues, Wed, Fri, 11 to 6; Thurs, 11 to 7; Sat, 10 to 4. 610-353-4569; BeautyArtGallery.net.

April 27-May 13
39th Yellow Springs Art Show & Sale. With over 180 juried artists, and nearly 3,000 pieces of original artwork to view, there is surely something for everyone to enjoy. Preview, **Apr. 27**, features butlered hors d'oeuvres, champagne and musical entertainment, 5:30 to 10, \$60-\$120. Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Show hours: daily 11 to 5; Fri, until 8. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.

April 28-29
Paint the Town Plein Air Event in Chestertown, MD. More than 30 artists paint scenes in and around Chestertown. **Apr. 28**, Wet Paint sale and reception, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Cross St. 5 to 7 pm. **Apr. 29**, Quick Draw timed painting competition, 9:30 to 11:30 am in the historic district, followed by voting and display of artwork at Fountain Park, Cross and High Sts., Chestertown. Begins at noon with Chestertown's "Taste of the Town," see listing under FOOD & DRINK. ChestertownArtsLeague.org.



May 4-6
Art on the Avenue of the States Plein Air Competition. On the Chester Waterfront. For details contact L.Brace@comcast.net.

Design / Home Shows

April 21
2nd Annual Chester County Preservation Fair. All the trades and services needed for historic preservation and restoration under one roof. Washington Bldg., Historic Yellow Springs, 1701 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 9 to 5. \$8-\$10. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.

May 6-June 3
37th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens. Regional designers display their creativity in interior and landscape design at Spring Valley Farm. See website for special events. 3864 Spring Valley Rd, Doylestown. Mon-Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs-Fri 10 to 7; Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 12 to 6. \$25. Benefits Doylestown Hosp. and Village Improvement Assoc. 215-345-2191; BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

Equestrian

April 1
70th 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 Assoc. watershed education programs. Gates open at 11 am. 610-793-1090; DVATP.com.

April 22
2012 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; RadnorHuntRaces.org.

April 22
The Inaugural Running of the Fair Hill Point-to-Point Races. Enjoy a fun day of fast horses and excitement for the whole family. Live music, a carriage parade, stick pony race, jockey autograph session and much more. Rts. 213 & 273, Cecil County, MD. Gates open 10 am, first race, 11:30. Program, \$5. 610-384-4290; FairHillP2P.com.

May 6
34th Annual Winterthur Point-To-Point. The thrill of steeplechase racing, the pageantry of antique carriage parades and lots of family fun. This year, celebrity chefs Dana Herbert and Jennifer Behm will have cooking demonstrations and a Hunt Brunch will be served trackside in the Hospitality Tent featuring sparkling wines, a catered menu, gracious table settings and VIP parking. Rt. 52, Winterthur. Gates open at 10:30 for tailgating; 11:30 for general admission. Advance tickets only, \$15-\$30. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

Family Fun

April 5, 11
West Chester University LIVE! **Apr. 5**, The Tamagawa University Taiko Drumming and Dance Troupe, \$5. **Apr. 11**, Stig Rossen Presents Showstoppers of Broadway and Beyond, \$15-\$20. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, West Chester. Performances, 7:30. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu.LIVE.

April 7-28
The Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation. A living history site about the world of a farm family living in 18th-century SE PA. **Apr. 7**,

Easter Egg Hunt; **Apr. 14**, Civil War Boot Camp; **Apr. 21**, Spring Fun Day; **Apr. 28**, Sheep to Shawl children's event. Ridley Creek State Park, Rt. 3, Edgemont. \$6-\$8. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.

April 14
Family Fun at The DCH. Go Green! explores what it means to be green, organic and eco-friendly. The Delaware Center for Horticulture has introduced monthly family workshops, each including a fun lesson, a hands-on project and a walk in the garden. Best for ages 4-10. 1810 N. DuPont St., Wilmington. 10 to 11:30 am. \$30-\$40. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.

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April 15
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 22. 610-583-4432; VisitMediaPA.com.

April 26
Children's Series at the DuPont Theatre — *It's Not Mean To Be Green.* A musical that explores what it means to "go green." Gr. K-5. DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 9:30 & noon. \$6. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.

April 28
Springton Manor Sheep & Wool Day. The sheep are losing their winter wool and you're invited to the shearing. Spend a day on the farm experiencing artisans, activities, live music, demonstrations and animals. 860 Springton Rd., Glenmoore. 11 to 3. 610-942-2450; ChesCo.org/CCParks.

May 6
Malvern Blooms Spring Family Festival. Fun for the entire family with vendors, children's activities, antique and hot rod car show, batting cage and more. New this year will be a Beer Garden, a Mid-Atlantic BBQ Assoc.-

sanctioned Grilling Contest, three music stages and headline performer. King St. and Burke Park, Malvern. 10 to 4. Benefits Teach Anti-Bullying, Inc. MalvernBusiness.com.

Food & Drink

April 29
5th Annual Taste of the Town in Chestertown, MD. Signature dishes from Chestertown and Kent County's finest restaurants, caterers and local producers, ranging from nouvelle cuisine to regional classics. Live auction, raffle, book sale and "Paint the Town" artwork, see ART & CRAFT SHOWS. Fountain Park, Cross and High Sts., Chestertown. Noon to 3. \$15. 410-810-4898; TasteOfChestertown.com.



First Friday, Second Saturday

April 6
First Fridays. Stroll through area towns to find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. **Berwyn,** 610-203-4543; BerwynDevonBusiness.com. **Kennett Square,** 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City,** 717-509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. **A Main Line ARTitude,** with free trolley from Bryn Mawr to Ardmore, 610-642-4040; FirstFridayMainLine.com. **Oxford,** 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **Phoenixville,** 610-933-3070; PhxFirstFriday.com. **Wayne,** 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. **West Chester,** 610-738-3350; Downtown-WestChester.com.

April 14
Media's Second Saturdays. Media's version of First Fridays. 610-566-5210; Media-ArtsCouncil.org.

Fundraising & Benefits

April 13
Chester County Chamber Foundation's Spring Auction Gala 2012. Live and silent auctions of great items. Benefits the Foundation as well as the Bob Thompson scholarship fund. Chester Valley Golf Club, 430 Swedesford Rd., Malvern. 6 to 9 pm. \$100. 610-725-9100; CCCBI.org.

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April 13

Wine Benefit: Canine Partners for Life.

The Brandywine Valley Wine Trail and Hilton Garden Inn host an evening of wine tasting to benefit Canine Partners for Life, an organization that places service and companion dogs. 815 E. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square, 6 to 8:30. \$25. 610-444-9100; BVWineTrail.com.

April 14

Lancaster County Garden Luncheon. Luncheon, silent auction and presentation, "Art and Artistry of Chanticleer Gardens," by Chanticleer's Horticulturalist Dan Benarcik. Benefits Bridge of Hope of Lancaster Co., helping homeless single mothers and their children. Eden Resort and Conference Center, 222 Eden Rd., Lancaster. 10:30 to 1:30. \$50. 610-380-1360; BridgeOfHopeLCC.org.

April 14

Horse Power for Life 5th Annual Pink Horse Show Gala. Hors d'oeuvres, food stations, music and dancing, silent auction, raffle, formal attire. Benefits cancer patients and their families. Crowne Plaza Valley Forge, 260 Mall Blvd., King of Prussia. 7 to 11 pm. \$120-\$1400. 484-341-8393; HorsePowerForLife.org.

April 14

Chester County Futures 15th Anniversary Black Tie Gala. The theme for this evening is "Passport to Possibilities" and includes a 4-course dinner, open bar, dancing and prizes. Benefits Chester Co. Futures, for after-school mentoring for at-risk students. Phoenixville Foundry, 2 N. Main St., Phoenixville. 7 to 11:30. \$150. 610-458-9926; CCFutures.org.

April 26

Dining Out for Life. More than 200 of the area's most popular restaurants participate in this 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 list of participating restaurants, visit DiningOutForLife.com.

April 28

6th Annual Safe Harbor Spring Fundraising Event. Silent and live auction items, music, food and fellowship for the benefit of Safe Harbor of Chester County, a nonprofit org. providing food, shelter, counseling and recovery opportunities to homeless men and women. QVC Atrium, 1200 Wilson Dr., West Chester. 4 to 7. \$75. 610-692-6550; SafeHarborOfGWC.org.

April 28

Baker Industries Spring Gala. Cocktails, dinner and silent auction at this annual fundraiser for the nonprofit work rehabilitation program located in Malvern. Merion Cricket Club, 325 Montgomery Ave., Haverford. 6 pm. \$150. 610-296-9795; BakerIndustries.org.

April 28

Chester County Night School Fashion Show Fundraiser.

Area boutiques and vendors participate at a luncheon for the benefit of the night school and Unite for Her! breast cancer initiative. West Chester Golf and Country Club, 111 W. Ashbridge St., West Chester. 11:30 am. \$35. 610-329-6298; ChesterCountyNightSchool.org.

May 4

"Sunny Days" Benefit for the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County. Enjoy dinner from area restaurants and caterers, live entertainment, dancing and live and silent auction. Brandywine Manor House, 120 Germany

Hollow Rd., Honey Brook. 6 to 10 pm. \$125. 610-431-3546; DVCCC.com.

May 6

Recipe For Success Kitchen Tour in Radnor.

The first annual tour of ten stunning kitchens in Wayne and Villanova to benefit Radnor A Better Chance and Radnor High School Scholarship Fund. 1 to 5 pm. RadnorABC.org.

Gardens & Plant Sales

April 21, May 5

Tyler Arboretum Events. Apr. 21, Go Green to celebrate Earth Day and participate in

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planting a vegetable garden, 10 to 11:30. \$8. **May 5**, Annual Plant Sale offering hard-to-find varieties, butterfly-attracting and deer-resistant plants, 9 to 3, free. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

April 28
Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Chester County Garden Fair. Classes, plant sale, demonstrations and a silent auction. East Goshen Twp. Bldg., 1580 Paoli Pk., Paoli. 9 to 3. Talks and activities, \$25; plant sale, free. 610-696-3500.

May 4-5
Arasapha Garden Club Annual May Market in Historic New Castle. A garden sale featuring unusual plants, shrubs and herbs, White Elephant, book sales and Kids Korner. Benefits Arasapha Garden Club. Market Square and at the Presbyterian Church, Christian Ed Bldg., 2nd St., New Castle. Fri, 9 to 6; Sat, 9 to 4. 302-322-7895; Arasapha.org.

May 5
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 5-6
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Annual Plant Sale. One of the largest plant sales in the area, sponsored by the Valley Forge Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. Sat, 9 to 3; Sun, 11 to 3. 610-647-8870; JenkinsArboretum.org.



May 10-12
92nd 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; WilmingtonFlowerMarket.org.

May 12-13
31st Annual Brandywine Museum Wildflower, Native Plant and Seed Sale. Hundreds of varieties for sale to benefit the Brandywine Conservancy's native plant gardens, many attract songbirds, hummingbirds and butterflies. Brandywine River Museum, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. 9:30 to 4:30. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

For Your Health

April 1
2nd Annual Living Dynamically Wellness Expo. Bring a friend, bring your family and get healthy this year. There will be lectures, demonstrations, samples and lots of vendors to help you learn how to be a healthier you! Waterloo Gardens, 200 N. Whitford Rd., Exton. 10 to 4. Free. 610-363-0800; WaterlooGardens.com.

April 14
Keep Your Children Safe Seminar. How to teach your child safety skills without scaring them. The Upper Main Line YMCA, 1416 Berwyn-Paoli Rd., Berwyn. 9 to 11 am. Free. 610-647-9622; Justice4PAKids.com.

Local Farm Markets

Check our website, **CountyLinesMagazine.com** for a complete list of farm markets.

Museums

Ongoing
Chester County Historical Society. *Now open*, "If Walls Could Talk"—built in 1848, Horticultural Hall was the epicenter for current issues in Chester County during the Civil War. *Now open*, "Bayard Rustin's Local Roots" looks at this West Chester native who was active in the struggle for human rights and economic justice. **Through Sept. 7**, "In Stitches: Unraveling Their Stories." 225 N. High St., West Chester. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

Through June 24
Wharton Esherick Museum. Special events celebrate the museum's 40th anniversary: **through June 24**, Fischer Corner Desk, considered one of Esherick's masterpieces. **Apr. 19**, Talk at Penn State in Great Valley. **May 20-June 19**, "Poplar Culture: A Celebration of a Tree" an exhibition of over 40 artists and their work created from one of Esherick's poplar trees. 1520 Horse Shoe Trail, Malvern. 610-644-5822; WhartonEsherickMuseum.org.

Through July 15
Delaware Art Museum. **Through Apr. 8**, "Beyond Words: The Symbolic Language of Plants," the symbolic meanings of plants in art. **Through July 15**, "Painted Poetry: The Art of Mary Page Evans." 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$6-\$12. Free on Sunday. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

April 28-January 6, 2013
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library's "Uncorked! Wine, Objects & Tradition." This exhibition explores the range of objects associated with the history of wine drinking, especially in Britain and America. Check the website for events related to this exhibit. 5105 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Winterthur. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$5-\$18. 302-888-4600; Winterthur.org.

Music & Entertainment

April 1
The Philadelphia Trio. Elizabeth Keller, piano; Barbara Sonies, violin; Deborah Reeder, cello. Main Line Unitarian Church, 816 S. Valley Forge Rd., Devon. 3. \$13-\$18. 610-664-0346.

April 1
Delaware County Symphony Chamber Concert. Neumann Univ., Life Center, Meagher Theater, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$8-\$10. 610-356-5673; DCSMusic.org.

April 6
Vox Ama Deus — "Verdi Requiem." Nicknamed "Verdi's best opera," this is an extraordinary masterpiece. Kimmel Center, Perelman Theater, Broad and Spruce St., Phila. 8 pm. \$20-\$60. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

April 13, 14, 28
The Colonial Theatre. **Apr. 13**, Leo Kottke, \$24.50-\$38.50; **Apr. 14**, Suzanne Westenhoefer, \$20-\$35; **Apr. 28**, Two Funny Philly Guys, Joe Conklin and Big Daddy Graham, \$25-\$30. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

April 21
Immaculata Symphony Concert Spring Concert, "Modern Masterworks". 20th-century Russian composers are featured. Alumnae Hall, 1145 King Rd., Immaculata. 7:30 pm. \$6-\$12. ImmaculataSymphony.org.

April 28
TurtleDove Folk Club Presents The Honey Dewdrops. Original songs focusing on vocal harmonies and tight instrumentation. West Grove Friends Meeting House, 153 E. Harmony Rd., West Grove. 8 pm. \$15-\$17. 802-431-3433; TurtleDove.org.

Outdoor Activities

Through May 19
Local Relay for Life Events. Relay-style event where teams camp out overnight around a track and members of each team take turns



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walking around the track, keeping one member on for up to 24 hours. **Apr. 28**, West Chester Univ., West Chester; **May 11**, Great Valley High School, Malvern. **May 19**, Downingtown West High School and Garnet Valley High School, Glen Mills. For information or to register, visit RelayForLife.org.

April 14
Parkway Dash 4 Diabetes 2012. This year, the 5K Run, 2-Mile Walk Fun Run will take place in downtown West Chester, starting at the Chester County Justice Center, 201 W. Market St. Benefits Diabetes Education at Chester County Hospital. Registration 2:30 pm. Race at 4. \$25. CCHosp.com.

April 22
7th Annual Valley Forge Revolutionary 5-Mile Run. A 5-mile run, 3-mile walk and 1-mile youth fun run. Parking is at 1000 First Ave., King of Prussia. Race begins at 1400 N. Outer Line Dr., King of Prussia. 8:30 am. \$15-\$25. 610-834-1550; RevolutionaryRun.org.

April 28
3rd Annual Trinity Berwyn 5K Run/Walk and Pancake Breakfast. Beginning at the church, this run/walk continues through the lovely neighborhoods of Berwyn, followed by a pancake breakfast at the church.

640 Berwyn Ave., Berwyn. 9 am. Registration, \$25-\$30. 610-644-0932; Berwyn-Trinity5K.org.

April 28
NatureFest—New All-Day Family Event at Hagley. Celebrate the outdoors at this new family program combining the themes of Arbor Day, Earth Day and May Day. 298 Buck Rd., Wilmington. 10 to 3. \$3. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

May 6
33rd 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 Philadelphia Navy Yard. Benefits the American Cancer Society. 8:30 am. 215-683-3594; BroadStreetRun.com.

Theater

Through April 15
Shipwrecked! The Amazing Adventures of Louis DeRougemont. Travel from the exotic islands of the Coral Sea to Queen Victoria's garden to the Royal Geographic Society. A Family Discovery Series production at People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Thurs-Sun, 7 pm; Sat, Sun, 2 pm. \$25-\$45. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

April 13-15
Metropolis. See article in this issue.

April 18-May 20
Spring Awakening. Landmark musical and winner of 8 Tony Awards including Best Musical. The Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Phone or check the website for curtain times. \$27-\$60. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

April 26-May 20
A Wrinkle In Time. A Family Discovery Series presentation of the Newbery Medal-winning book by Madeleine L'Engle. People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Thurs-Sun, 7 pm; Sat, Sun, 2 pm. \$25-\$45. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org. ♦

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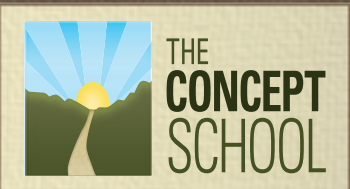
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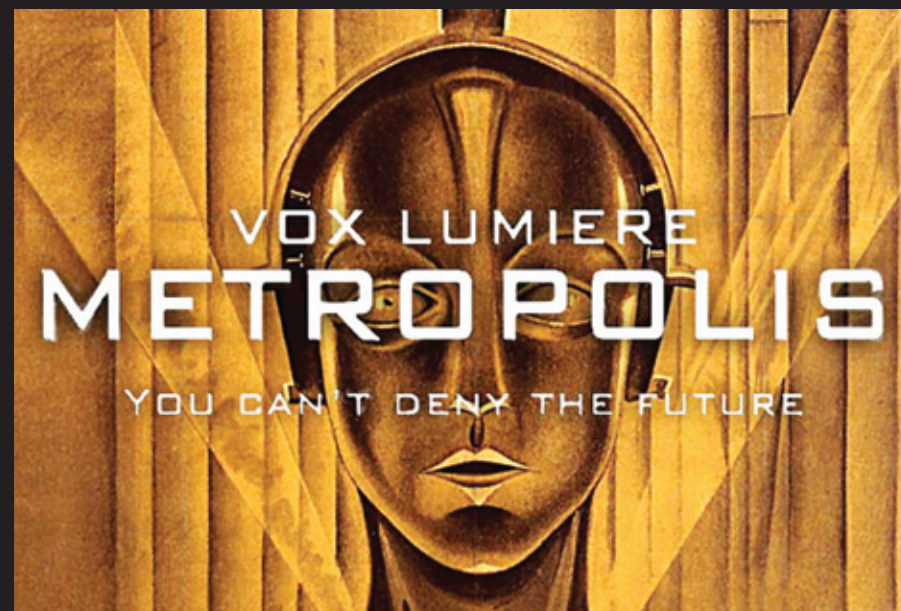
Antique and Unique Cars

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Tailgate Competition

Carriage Parade and Exhibit

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Silent Film Meets the Stage. A Theater Spectacular!

What if we took the excitement of a rock concert and mixed it with great storytelling and fantastic new technology? Find out at Vox Lumiere's *Metropolis*, April 13-15 at the DuPont Theatre.

A Theater Thriller

Vox Lumiere's *Metropolis* is the next evolution in entertainment, where rock concert comes together with theater and silent films. Its originality and daring have viewers comparing *Metropolis* to Cirque du Soleil as a one-of-a-kind, must-see theatrical sensation.

During this critically acclaimed production, Vox Lumiere unites a live performance of composer Kevin Saunders Hayes' original music and lyrics with Fritz Lang's 1927 silent movie "Metropolis." A time-tested classic, "Metropolis" meets mod music and brilliant staging for a spellbinding production that will thrill everyone from the youngest to the most mature audience members.

Tap your toes to catchy rock'n'roll tunes, witness astonishing new technology and enjoy the exciting new entertainment everyone is talking about!

Vox Lumiere

A Los Angeles-based theater/concert production company, Vox Lumiere (meaning "voices of light") began in 2000 when Kevin Saunders Hayes presented *Metropolis* at the Avignon/New York Film Festival. Since then, Vox Lumiere has put together productions of the 20th-century silent films "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Phantom of the Opera," "Peter Pan" and "Intolerance."

With five first-round Grammy Nominations and two 21st Century Filmmaker awards, Vox Lumiere has critics nationwide raving about their productions. The *Los Angeles Times* proclaims Vox Lumiere performances "absolutely riveting!" and the *Dallas Morning News* declares them "a multidimensional hi-decibel blast of visual and auditory splendor!"

Glimpse the Future

Step into tomorrow and experience a stunning journey that will leave you breathless. An electrifying adventure to a fantastic world where the impossible is a way of life. Passion, greed and really cool gadgets... who doesn't want to see the future?

~ Lori N. Brooks

If You Go

What: *Metropolis*

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

When: April 13-15; Apr. 13, 8 p.m.; Apr. 14, 2 & 8 p.m. Apr. 15, 2 p.m.

Box Office: 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com

Upcoming Shows: Andrea Martin in *Final Days!*
Everything Must Go! May 15-20



SURPRISING KENNETT SQUARE

Ginna Goodall

From farmers markets to upscale boutiques, Kennett Square has it all!

A walk along the tree-lined sidewalks of downtown Kennett Square will hold surprises for anyone who's not visited in the past year or so. Over a dozen new surprises, in fact, counting new businesses that have opened here recently.

"New business is a sure sign of the lively economic development activity occurring downtown," said Mary Hutchins, executive director of Historic Kennett Square, a nonprofit organization serving as the Main Street organization for the borough. And there are positive signs aplenty!

A common denominator among many of the new businesses is the seasoned experience of their owners—merchants who've had successful experience in other locations and chose to move their business or to open a new "branch" in the Kennett area. They've come from as far away as Avalon, New Jersey (Chef Brett Hulbert at Portabello Restaurant), or from as close as around the corner in Hockessin, Delaware (Liz Marden Bakery).

Find Your Favorite New Shop

Just opened in February, **Mystique** adds a new element to the high-end boutiques along State Street in Kennett, selling both women's and men's clothing. After considerable research, this shop moved here from Wilmington after more than two decades in Trolley Square.

Two businesses have come to Kennett Square to open their third branches. **Greenable** is a green building and design center that provides materials and finishes for building projects of all types. And **Polished Nail Salon** features healthy, natural nails in a safe, fume-free environment.

Another distinctive new business in Kennett is **The Centre for Vibrant Living**, working to provide a nurturing sanctuary for health and well-being through spiritual and emotional growth. And embracing a vintage theme is **Scout & Annie**, a new source of home goods that range from mission to mid-century to modern.

Restaurant Revival

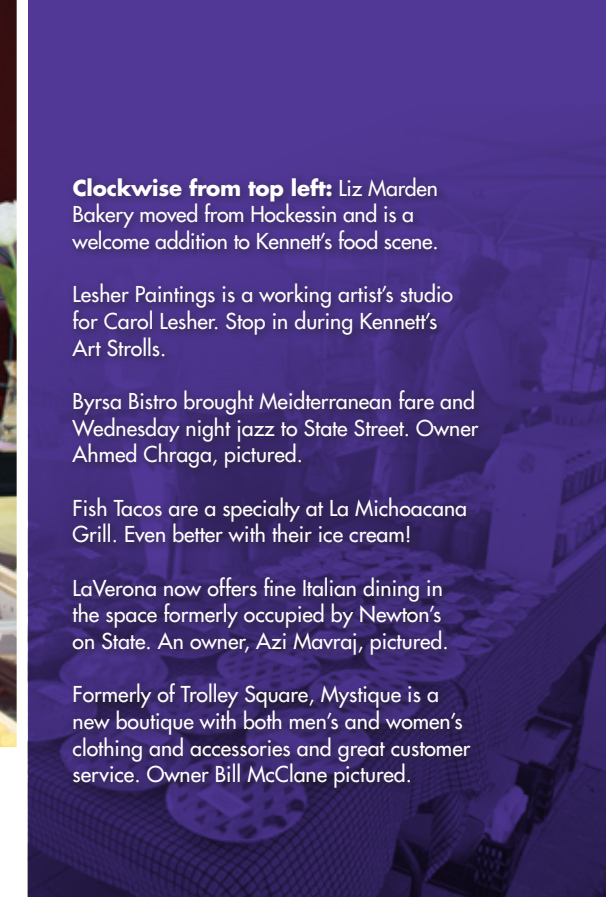
With the arrival of four new restaurants, Kennett Square continues to grow its reputation as a go-to destination for good eating. The new additions have a high bar to meet, set by **Talula's Table**, recently awarded "four bells" from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* food critic Craig LeBan.

Lily's Asian Cuisine restaurant has created a wonderful buzz in town, especially with their all-you-can-eat sushi evenings on Tuesdays (see the review in this issue).

La Verona has stylishly replaced much-loved Newton's on State Street with a fresh take on Northern Italian cuisine. La Michoacana, of the Mexican ice cream shop fame,

has opened **La Michoacana Grill** and serves authentic burritos, quesadillas and tacos. The latest addition to the local eateries is **Byrsa Bistro**, which transformed a former shop into an intimate Mediterranean eatery.

Many new merchants cite the warm welcome they received from fellow business owners, the sense of community and collaboration, and the expertise of Historic Kennett Square's Mary Hutchins as influencing their decision to settle in Kennett Square. From choosing colors for new signage to advising on municipal codes on renovations, there's help and support for new businesses as they navigate their new town.



Clockwise from top left: Liz Marden Bakery moved from Hockessin and is a welcome addition to Kennett's food scene.

Leshier Paintings is a working artist's studio for Carol Leshier. Stop in during Kennett's Art Strolls.

Byrsa Bistro brought Mediterranean fare and Wednesday night jazz to State Street. Owner Ahmed Chragha, pictured.

Fish Tacos are a specialty at La Michoacana Grill. Even better with their ice cream!

LaVerona now offers fine Italian dining in the space formerly occupied by Newton's on State. An owner, Azi Mavraj, pictured.

Formerly of Trolley Square, Mystique is a new boutique with both men's and women's clothing and accessories and great customer service. Owner Bill McClane pictured.





An Amish buggy in downtown Oxford



Oldest continuously operating business in Oxford



Community Collaboration

Kennett Square shop owners and restaurateurs have been collaborating on special events and promotions around town. **Girls' Night Out** shopping events in the spring and fall are organized by several boutiques and offer shoppers extended shopping hours and provide live music, refreshments and discounts to entice customers.

Liz Marden Bakery now provides desserts for several local restaurants, introducing more diners to her renowned pastries. The bakery also serves fine teas from **Mrs. Robinson's Tea Room** and together these two food purveyors offer a monthly English tea, for a touch of elegance in Kennett.

A chocolate-themed dinner was the inspiration for the partnering of the new owners of **Portabello's Restaurant**, **Flickerwood Wines**, **Liz Marden Bakery**, **Sweet Christine's** gluten-free bakery, and the organic fair trade chocolates from **Eco Boutique**. Working together on these projects is definitely enjoyable for the merchants, but ultimately is a key to their continuing success. "Rising tides float all boats," says Portabello co-owner Brett Hurlbert.

More to Come & More to See

The trend of unique businesses seeking out Kennett Square is not over yet. There's **Reginajoans**, an art gallery/gift shop with photography classes. And check back later this year for the long-awaited new project by local restaurateur **Jack McFadden**—a new wine bar and tapas restaurant.

That's just a few recent additions to what makes Kennett Square small town friendly. And don't miss the longtime businesses that have attracted visitors for decades. For 30 years, family-owned **Country Butcher** has brought the finest quality food in a warm and welcoming environment that reflects the best of Kennett. And though time has changed the original 1929 store, it's not changed what **Bove Jeweler's** clients have learned to expect: quality, service, selection. Go a bit out of the downtown district to find **McLimans Furniture**, where since 1976, they've offered 13,000 square feet of antiques and more. And that's just a few.

But you have to come back often to see what you'll discover the next time you visit one of the coolest small towns in America!

For more, HistoricKennettSquare.com. ♦



Embrace the Charm!

Make plans to visit the historic village of Oxford. Named after Oxford, England, it's served as the halfway point between Baltimore and Philadelphia for early travelers. Today, it's an enchanting borough tucked among hearty cornfields and sprawling dairy farms deep in southern Chester County.

Marvel at the town's two-century-old buildings on streets where everyone greets you with a friendly smile. Enjoy the sights and sound of Amish buggies. Shop at the weekly Village Farmers' Market, where the sheer friendliness and simple lifestyle of the locals will captivate you. Imagine bright beautiful colors of fresh fruits and vegetables, smells of fresh baked goods and fragrances of fresh cut flowers—all harvested from area Amish farms that very morning.

Enjoy a live reading from a children's author or leave an artistic creation on the chalkboard wall at Petey Possum's Hangout at the center of town. Local artists beautify many shops offering "one of a kind" pieces on display. Stopping in at Oxford Art Alliance's gallery, where you'll find new art exhibits each month, as well as live performances for all ages.

You'll find old and new riches from repurposed, shabby chic furniture and accessories to handmade soaps to high-end jewelry and gifts. If being kind to the environment is important to you, unique shops offer slightly touched treasures such as antiques and collectibles to fit every decorative style.

Plan on stopping in at Morning Glories Coffee & Tea Shop for a refreshing cup of tea and scrumptious scone. Don't forget to hand scoop a pound of fresh gourmet coffee to take along!

Reserve your space at Muse, an upscale American restaurant where "farm to table" is their specialty, or enjoy an Italian feast at LaSicilia while you laugh with friends over a bottle of wine (BYO).

Just some of the reasons to discover Downtown Oxford, a treasure trove of fun. Visit soon!

~Sue Cole

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Events in Kennett Square

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Ongoing

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Longwood Gardens Fireworks and Fountains

Through September 17

Swan Lake—May 26, July 21, 9:15; Sept. 1, 8:15. *Stars & Stripes*—July 3, 9:15. *The Amazing 80s!*—Aug. 11, 9:15, Sept. 29, 7:15. 1001 Longwood Rd. \$22-\$38. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

First Friday Art Strolls

April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7

Arts community open house in downtown, 6 to 9 pm. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Mélanie

April 29

Performance is part of the Oxford Arts Alliance Performing Arts Series. Oxford Presbyterian Church, 6 Pine St., Oxford. 3 pm. \$15-\$20. 302-764-6338; Melomanie.org.

Farmers Market Opens

May 4 through October, Fridays

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

Star Party

April 21

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

Kennett Symphony, “Leopold’s Violin”

April 22

Mozart’s father’s 1680 Cremona violin belongs to violinist Christopher Collins Lee, who will perform Mozart’s *Violin Concerto No. 3* with the symphony. Exhibition Hall, 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 7 pm. \$5-\$35. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

Arts on the Square

April 28

KARMA sponsors this juried art festival along State Street, from Willow to Lafayette Sts., with tables and booths and lots of fun. Rain date, April 29. 9 to 4. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Kennett Beautification Plant Sale

April 28

Annuals, hanging baskets, perennials, herbs for sale and demonstrations. Brick Walkway at State & Union Sts. Proceeds go to downtown planting containers. 8 to 2. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Kennett YMCA: Healthy Kids Day

April 28

Promote healthy lifestyles, including a health fair, demonstrations, moonbounce and other kids activities. 10 to 1. South Broad St. 610-444-9622.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

May 6

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

17th Annual Trout Rodeo

May 5

Ponds will be stocked with 12-24-inch trout. Tagged fish, bait and fishing supplies, a raffle, prizes and more. Benefits Anson B. Nixon Park, N. Walnut St. 8 to 4. Tickets at Buck’s Hunting, 809 Gap-Newport Pk., Avondale. 610-444-0792. AnsonBNixonPark.org.

The 23rd Annual Kennett Run

May 19

For all ages. 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. Benefits local charities. 610-388-1556; KennettRun.net.

The Willowdale Steeplechase

May 13

Steeplechase, plus Terrier Races, Pony Races, tailgate competition, carriage parade, food, boutiques and antique cars. Benefits Quest Therapeutic Riding Services, Stroud Water Research Center and Univ. of PA School of Veterinary Medicine at New Bolton.

Gates open at 10 am, first race, 1:30. Rt. 926 & Rt. 82. \$25 in adv., \$30 at gate. Reserved Rail Side or Hill Side Parking. 610-444-1582; Willowdale.org.

Memorial Day Parade

May 28

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 can picnic and tailgate at the grounds. Toughkenamon Exit, Rt. 1 S. Fri, 5:30; Sun, at 3. \$10. Cancelled for rain or extreme heat. Phone, 610-268-8692; BrandywinePoloClub.com.

Longwood’s Wine & Jazz Festival

June 2

Live jazz, fine regional wines and local fresh fare. Longwood’s glorious outdoor stage overlooking the picturesque meadow comes alive at this annual event. 1001 Longwood Rd. \$25-\$40. 12 to 5:30. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

Longwood’s Summer Performances

June 13–August 23

June 13, Jonny Lang & Robert Randolph; *June 19*, David Sanborn & Brian Culbertson; *July 7*, Barbara Cook; *July 10*, The Bacon Brothers; *July 11*, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. 1001 Longwood Rd. \$25-\$40. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

Summer Concert Series at Anson B. Nixon Park

June 13-August 1, Wednesdays

Enjoy a free concert in the park, light supper available. Check the website for this year’s lineup. 7 to 9 pm. AnsonBNixonPark.org.

Kennett Symphony, “Guitarra!”

June 23

A tribute to the great Spanish writer and poet Garcia Lorca by Mexican composer Silvestre Revueltas, Rodrigo’s beloved guitar concerto, and Manuel de Falla’s *Love, the Magician* with Marija Temo and flamenco dancer Ulrika Frank. Longwood Gardens, Rt. 1. 7:30 pm. \$5-\$40, includes garden adm. Rain date, June 24. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

Sidewalk Sale

July 21

Merchants set up tables outside their stores. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Brandywiners, Ltd. Perform “Hello Dolly”

July 26-28, August 2-4

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

Family Art Day

April 28

Community event featuring artwork, hands-on activities, performance art, refreshments and more. 10 to 3. AnsonBNixonPark.org.

Murder Mystery Art Stroll

August 3

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, “Water Music: Titanic 100 Years”

August 18

Celebrate music inspired by water: Handel’s *Suite on the River Thames*, a trip to the *Blue Danube*, Richard Rodgers’ WWII classic and the grand music from the film *Titanic*. The voyage ends with a spectacular Fountain Show. Longwood Gardens Open Air Theatre, Rt. 1. 7:30. \$5-\$40, includes gardens admission. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

27th Kennett Square

Mushroom Festival

September 8-9

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



Photographer Amy Tucker

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Carol Metzker

Pictures By Todd Photography

Chad Wilkinson and Nicole Cirone were childhood friends. On their first date in 1998, after dinner, they talked on a park bench. College and life's adventures took them separate ways, but they met and began to date again two winters ago. Just before Valentine's Day last year, Chad and Nicole walked past the site of their early date. For fun, Nicole sat down on the park bench. Instead of joining her on the bench, Chad knelt and proposed.

On July 23, they celebrated their marriage. To accommodate Nicole's teaching schedule, and foregoing a long engagement after knowing each other for years, they started summer wedding plans the week of their engagement.

The result: an elegant wedding and reception as tailored to their style as they were for each other. A gown by new designer Theia, hand-made invitations and wedding favors, custom wedding bands, a reception at Haverford College, and the company of loving family and friends at a beautiful ceremony marked the time of a lifetime.

Not all brides and grooms could have pulled off such an exquisite event in short order. Luck and love were on their side.

"I'm spontaneous," Nicole says, laughing. "My husband is less so—as we found out during wedding plans. I think things will work themselves out. He is organized." The combination of attitudes and skills worked to their advantage.

Popular wedding venues, like the Hotel du Pont, require long-term planning for summer dates.



A park bench was the site of Chad and Nicole's first date ... and proposal.



A Timeline for a Lifetime Event

According to Kristen Albright, event planner for Albright Events, when brides contact a professional wedding planner at the get-go, they seize an opportunity for someone else to negotiate discounts and extras—ice sculptures or candy buffets. Albright says she can recommend an appropriate venue for a specific size or style of wedding, help create a budget, and reply to numerous text messages from the start of the planning process to the moment of "I do." A wedding specialist can also set a timeline and help the wedding party adhere to it.

Whether your wedding is elaborate or uncomplicated, guidelines for timing can get everyone—and everything—to the church on time. Here are some timeline tips.

18 Months Beforehand

- ✿ Hire a wedding planner.
- ✿ Book settings for wedding and reception.
- ✿ Select a caterer, if the venue does not have its own.

Event coordinators at Chester County venues concur. Depending on the season and location's popularity, book a hall nearly two years in advance. Slots for summer Saturdays go quickly. A Thursday evening in February, however, might be secured with as short notice as three months or three weeks.

Some venues work with preferred lists of caterers, bakeries and other vendors, which can save time searching or making decisions.

Chester County can boast of some of the most beautiful venues in the world. On the highest hilltop in Great Valley, The High Point in Malvern offers wedding parties sublime background scenery for photographs and a large hall with great acoustics. The Stone Barn in Kennett Square, with picturesque landscaping and a magnificent stone fireplace, gives brides a choice of rooms: The Hunt Room with a dance floor and elevated stage for a band; and Banquet Rooms that seat 50 to 250 guests.

Looking for a historic feel for your special day? The Saturday Club in Wayne, a quaint Tudor style cottage on the National Register of Historic Places, features a wood-beamed ceiling and hardwood floors.

Hotels and charming local Bed and Breakfasts also provide opportunities for



Formal, whimsical, non-traditional:



wedding styles, and cakes, run the gamut.



receptions, bridal showers or parties. Area country clubs offer reception sites: the Phoenixville Country Club's 18th-century farmhouse and, in West Chester, Penn. Oaks Country Club's grand banquet hall, where golf cart "limo" valet service can add fun to the day. (See Wedding Venue directory in this issue.)

After selecting the venue, book the caterers. Like venues, a top caterer might require booking more than a year in advance for a popular date, yet might have an opening three months ahead. Ask caterers what a package covers: number of hours, service charges, tables and special serving pieces.

Perfect Setting Caterers in Berwyn posts an online wedding guide with valuable details—suggestions for food stations, information about cakes and liquor, and specifics about the attire of their servers. For an event of a lifetime, every detail counts

... down to the specifics of salt and pepper shakers on reception tables. Perfect Setting's guide includes that, too!

6 to 8 Months And Counting

- ✿ Engage a photographer.
- ✿ Select invitations.
- ✿ Purchase a wedding gown.

When online communication bloomed, the invitation business changed. Although some couples choose engraved invitations from a stationer, many employ the Internet to order printed invitations, find templates to create them on home computers, or simply e-mail invitations.

The week after their engagement, Chad and Nicole asked an artist to hand-draw 100 invitations. The hand-made paper they ordered, however, did not arrive on time. They made a quick trip to the

store and bought card stock, which ultimately worked perfectly. Chad created a spreadsheet of guests' names and addresses for generating address labels. Later, they used the spreadsheet to track reception responses, menu requests and gifts.

Perfect Dress, Perfect Day

Experts at The Wedding Touch in Frazer suggest ordering a dress five to six months before the wedding. Usually imported, gowns must arrive from a designer, then often require alterations. Some designers will accommodate rush orders.

Some bridal salons carry dresses that can be carried home that day, though the dress might need last-minute changes. Bridesmaids' and mothers' gowns and other wedding attire take approximately the same length of time for ordering and altering.

Veils and hats can be ordered at the same time, or later. A fascinator—a headpiece of

feathers or flowers whose popularity was renewed by last year's Royal Wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton—can be handmade or purchased in a jiffy online.

Designer and seamstress Rita Schaer offers other delightful possibilities for wedding attire. The owner of Maridadi Couture (Maridadi—"beautiful" in Swahili, and Couture—"high fashion" in French, reflecting Rita's past homes), at a new location in Exton, can transform a legacy dress into this generation's masterpiece. Recently, she altered a dress worn by a bride's grandmother and mother. The bride carried it on a plane to Scotland, the site of her wedding and new home.

4 Months To Go

- ✿ Arrange for a cake.
- ✿ Order flowers.

Flowers by the Greenery in West Chester can usually find tulips for a May bride, New Zealand lilacs in February, and roses, daisies and carnations most months of the year. But even when importing flowers, some types aren't available. Finding and pricing exotic or out-of-season blossoms—not advance time—are the issue.

With a huge selection of so many beautiful blooms, however, brides can find magnificent bouquets and table decorations in colors and styles that suit their tastes, even a month before the ceremony.

Instead of a bouquet, Nicole carried a fan of feathers—peacock, white ostrich and brown pheasant. The custom-designed piece took five weeks from placing the order to arrival at her door. Her bridesmaids carried fans of hand-made paper from Anthropologie's wedding website.

Just 1 More Month

- ✿ Alter gown.
- ✿ Obtain marriage license.
- ✿ Accept RSVPs.
- ✿ Get set for a glorious day.

The Perfect Time

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Ballroom at the Ben, Ben Franklin Hotel
215-627-5100; FinleyCatering.com



The Farmhouse at Loch Nairn Golf Course
610-268-2235; lngolf.com/weddings

Unusual Settings for Weddings



Photos this page: Pictures By Todd Photography



Museums & Gallery Spaces

Academy of Natural Sciences
1900 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., Philadelphia
215-299-1000; ANSP.org

Atwater Kent Museum of Phila.
15 S. 7th St., Philadelphia
215-685-4827; PhiladelphiaHistory.org

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

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

Cultural Center at Chester County Historical Society
225 N. High St., West Chester
610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org

Delaware Art Museum
2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington, DE
302-571-9590; DelArt.org

Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts
200 S. Madison St., Wilmington, DE
302-656-6466, ext 7111; TheDCCA.org

Fleisher Art Memorial
719 Catharine St., Philadelphia
215-922-3456; Fleisher.org

Franklin Institute
222 N. 20th St., Philadelphia
215-448-1165; www.2.FI.edu

Hagley Museum & Library
Buck Rd., Wilmington, DE
302-658-2400, ext. 203; Hagley.org

Independence Seaport Museum
211 S. Columbus Blvd. & Walnut St. Phila.
215-413-8622; PhillySeaport.org

Moore College of Art & Design
20th Street & Pkwy., Philadelphia
215-965-4097; Moore.edu

Mulberry Art Studios
21 N. Mulberry St., Lancaster
717-295-1949; MulberryArtStudios.com

National Constitution Center
525 Arch St. Phila., 215-409-678
ConstitutionCenter.org

National Liberty Museum
321 Chestnut St., Philadelphia
215-925-2800; LibertyMuseum.org

PA Academy of the Fine Arts
118 & 128 N. Broad St., Philadelphia
215-972-2013; PAFA.org

Philadelphia Art Alliance
251 S. 18th St., Philadelphia
215-545-4302; PhilArtAlliance.org

The Print Center
1614 Latimer St., Philadelphia
215-735-6090; PrintCenter.org

Rockwood Museum
610 Shipley Rd., Wilmington, DE
302-761-4340
Co.New-Castle.DE.US/Rockwood

FUEL House
249 Arch St., Philadelphia
215-592-8400; TheTrustVenue.com

Historic Buildings & Gardens

Alban's Garden
3625 Chapel Rd., Newtown Square
610-356-2873

Aldie Mansion
85 Old Dublin Pk., Doylestown
215-348-3509; AldieMansion.com

Appleford
770 Mt. Moro Rd., Villanova
610-527-4280; ApplefordEstate.com

Baldwin Ballroom at The Baldwin School
701 W. Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr
610-316-2046; BaldwinSchool.org

Beale Manor
200 S. Church St., Parkesburg
610-857-5555; BealeManor.com

Bolingbroke
424 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor
610-688-3048; BolingbrokeMansion.com

Brandywine Manor House
120 Germany Hollow Rd., Honey Brook
610-942-2200
BrandywineManorHouse.com

Brantwyn, DuPont Country Club
1001 Rockland Rd., Wilmington, DE
302-654-4435; DuPontCountryClub.com

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Chester County Historical Society**
610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org

Cliveden of the National Trust
6401 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia
215-848-1797; Cliveden.org

College of Physicians of Phila.
19 S. 22nd St., Philadelphia
215-563-3103; CollPhyPhil.org

Delaware Center for Horticulture
1810 N. Dupont St., Wilmington, DE
302-658-6262; DEHort.org

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

**The Farmhouse at People's
Light & Theatre**
39 Conestoga Rd.
Malvern, 610-647-8060
PeoplesLightFarmhouse.com

Faunbrook Bed & Breakfast
699 W. Rosedale Ave., West Chester
610-436-5788; Faunbrook.com

Franklin Hall, Franklin Commons
400 Franklin Ave., Phoenixville
610-983-4640; FranklinCommons.net

Glen Foerd Mansion
5001 Grant Ave., Philadelphia
215-722-8082; GlenFoerd.org

The Historic Grange Estate
143 Myrtle Ave., Havertown
610-446-4958; TheGrangeEstate.org

Garrett Williamson Foundation
395 Bishop Hollow Rd.
Newtown Square, 610-353-7690
GarrettWilliamsonFoundation.org

Greystone Hall
1034 Phoenixville Pk., West Chester
610-696-1272; GreystoneHall.com

Highlands Mansion & Gardens
7701 Sheaff Ln., Fort Washington
215-641-2687; HighlandsHistorical.org

Hill Top Mansion
737 S. Ithan Ave., Rosemont
610-269-1000; FairCatering.com

Hilltop House
570 Beaumont Rd., Devon
610-341-3928; HilltopDevon.com

Historic Rock Ford Plantation
881 Rockford Rd., Lancaster
717-799-8751; RockFordPlantation.org

Knowlton Mansion
8001 Verree Rd., Philadelphia
215-722-8082
ConroyCatering.com/Docs/Knowlton.html

Merion Tribute House
625 Hazelhurst Ave., Merion Station
610-664-1267; TributeHouse.com

Morris Arboretum
100 Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia
215-247-5777; UPenn.edu/arboretum

Normandy Farm
Rt. 202 & Morris Rd.
Blue Bell, 215-616-8500
NormandyFarm.com

Pearl S. Buck International
520 Dublin Rd., Perkasie
215-249-0100; PSBI.org

Pennsbury Inn
883 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford
610-388-1435; PennsburyInn.com

Phoenixville Foundry
2 N. Main St., Phoenixville
610-917-8400; PhoenixvilleFoundry.com

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

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

Racquet Club of Philadelphia
215 S. 16th St., Philadelphia
610-622-3700; RCOP.com

Read House and Gardens
42 The Strand, New Castle, DE
302-322-8411; HSD.org

Saturday Club
117 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne
610-688-9746; SaturdayClub.org

Shofuso Japanese House
Horticultural & Lansdowne Dr., Philadelphia
215-878-5097; Shofuso.com

Springton Manor
860 Springton Rd.
Glenmoore, 610-942-2450
ChesCo.org/CCParks

Sweetwater Farm
50 Sweetwater Rd., Glen Mills
610-459-4711; SweetwaterFarmBB.com

Tyler Arboretum
515 Painter Rd., Media
484-365-7468; TylerArboretum.org

University & Whist Club
805 N. Broom St., Wilmington, DE
302-658-5125
UniversityAndWhistClub.com



The Farmhouse at People's Light
39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern
610-647-1631; PeoplesLightFarmhouse.com

Historic Waynesborough
2049 Waynesborough Rd., Paoli
610-647-1779; PhilaLandmarks.org

Welkinweir Estate
1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown
610-469-0889; GreenValleys.org

Wheatland
1120 Marietta Ave., Lancaster
717-392-8721; Wheatland.org

The Willows
490 Darby-Paoli Rd., Wayne
610-694-9288; PartySpace.com

Winterthur Museum & Gardens
Delaware Rt. 52, Winterthur, DE
800-448-3883; Winterthur.org

Wyndham Alumnae House
Merion Ave., Bryn Mawr
610-526-5236; BrynMawr.edu/Wyndham

The Yellow House of Willowdale
113 E. Street Rd., E. Marlborough
610-444-1236
YellowHouseOfWillowdale.com

Transportation & Related Venues

Corinthian Yacht Club of Phila.
300 W. 2nd St., Essington
610-521-4705; CYCOP.com

Moshulu
401 S. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia
215-923-1245; Moshulu.com

Riverlink Ferry
Penn's Landing, Philadelphia
215-828-7629; RiverlinkFerry.org

Wilmington & Western Railroad
2201 Newport-Gap Pk., Wilmington, DE
302-998-1930; WWRR.com

Other Venues

Ballroom at the Ben, The Franklin
834 Chestnut St., Philadelphia
215-627-5100; FinleyCatering.com

Bellevue Hall, Bellevue State Park
720 Carr Rd., Wilmington, DE
302-761-6952; DEStateParks.com

Clothier Room
630 Clothier Rd., Wynnewood
610-446-6400; FinleyCatering.com

Crystal Tea Room
100 Penn Square East,
Wanamaker Bldg. Philadelphia
215-627-5100; FinleyCatering.com

Fairmount Park
(Belmont Mansion; Lemon Hill Mansion;
Mount Pleasant Mansion and more)
215-683-0200; FairmountPark.org

The Farmhouse at Loch Nairn
514 McCue Rd., Avondale
610-268-2235; lngolf.com/weddings

Greenbank Mill
500 Greenbank Rd., Wilmington, DE
302-999-9001; GreenbankMill.org

The Great Hall at Immaculata University
1145 King Rd., Immaculata
610-647-4400; Immaculata.edu

The High Point
2475 St. Peter's Rd., Malvern
610-644-2261; TheHighPointGV.com

Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (and Academy of Music)
Broad & Spruce St., Philadelphia
215-790-5853; KimmelCenter.org

Meredith Manor
2270 Pottstown Pk., Pottstown
610-469-1700; MeredithManor.info

Milestone Events
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610-918-4704
MilestoneMoments.net

PECHE Radnor Opening May 2012
175 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor
215-657-3111

Philadelphia Zoo
3400 W. Girard Ave., Philadelphia
215-243-5628; PhiladelphiaZoo.org

Sunnybrook Ballroom
50 Sunnybrook Rd., Pottstown
610-327-1341; SunnybrookBallroom.net

Valley Forge Military Academy
1001 Eagle Rd., Wayne
610-688-1800; VFMAC.edu

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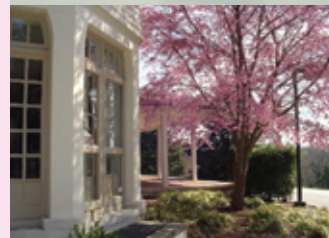
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610-359-1669; Christopher-Chocolates.com

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Downsizing with Style — Green Style

Matt Freeman
Photos by Rick Echelmeyer

See what an architect specializing in historic preservation and a space planner with membership in the Green Building Council did when they designed their downsized dream home.

Sometimes you can say exactly what it was that made you fall in love. Dale and Susan Frens were house-hunting a few years ago, because they wanted to downsize. They walked into the foyer of an 1887 Queen Anne on West Chester's Miner Street, opposite Everhart Park, and there they saw the stairs

Between the floor and the ceiling, the stairs go up a few steps, turn right, then turn left and go up a bit more, then make another left as they rise to the floor above. The stairs themselves and the Gothic-finished bannisters that run along them create a cheerful jumble

of angular shapes with all the visual interest of a Cubist painting by Picasso or Braque.

"The staircase won our hearts," says Susan. But it wasn't only the stairs, of course. The Frenses have devoted their lives to historic buildings—their firm, Frens and Frens LLC, specializes in architectural restoration, and some of their notable projects include the West Chester Public Library and the Ephrata Cloister, among many others.

And they say they have always had a special love for Queen Anne homes.



For Susan and Dale Frens, it was love at first sight. They fell in love with their new Queen Anne home when they first saw the staircase.



A large, new modern kitchen, in the addition, was a key part of the dream house.



Windows in a closet and bath were liberated when the space was converted into a second-floor sitting area.

Queen Anne is King

The Frenses' house was designed by T. Roney Williamson, the architect for a number of buildings in West Chester—coincidentally enough, the West Chester Public Library and the house that now serves as the office for Frens and Frens.

The renovation project that began when they bought the house in May of 2010 became a kind of collaboration between Williamson and the Frenses, who loved and respected Williamson's design but had some ideas of their own.

"We really wanted to preserve the original features," Dale says, "but insert modern elements into them."

Adding Some Green

The Frenses respected Williamson's work enough that most of the modern elements are invisible. And they wanted to use the most environmentally sound building practices possible, so they started by installing a 1,500-gallon rain water collector below ground in the yard. Water from the house's downspouts ends up in the tank and is used for irrigating the perennial garden in the yard.

The yard has no grass—a factor that can help secure certification by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

There are other cutting-edge green aspects to the house—the heating and cooling are handled by heat pumps and a geothermal system, and much of the decorative materials were recycled from the original building or salvaged from other sites.

But in balancing the past and the future, history and sustainability, the Frenses decided not to seek LEED certification for the house after all. Susan says one prerequisite for the certification is to strip the exterior walls to the studs and install insulation. "We said, that's not historic preservation," she recounts. "We're not doing that."



A smaller living room was part of the downsizing plan. Note the gas burner instead of a fireplace.



A round window lights up Dale's fly tying room. Queen Victoria adds a touch of whimsy to the half-bath.

says wood was a consciously considered theme in the house.

The Netherlands is another. Both Frenses have Dutch ancestors, and the kitchen lamp is Dutch, along with Flemish or Dutch pewter and brass pieces in the dining room that came down through their families.

Touches of whimsy are yet another theme throughout: a picture of Queen Victoria presides over the half-bath past the kitchen, since the Queen Anne Revival happened during Victoria's reign.



Main House

The living room is relatively small for a historic home, but the Frenses point out that part of the goal in moving was to downsize, after all. One original feature that seems to foreshadow today's green movement is the lack of a drafty fireplace. Instead, there's a small gas burner on the north wall. "It's a vestigial fireplace," Susan says. They put an equally small mantel above it, as a whimsical visual complement. A coffin sofa with handsomely figured wood faces the front windows and the park beyond.

The original front bedroom is now a guest room, and includes Susan's bed from when she was growing up. Almost every-

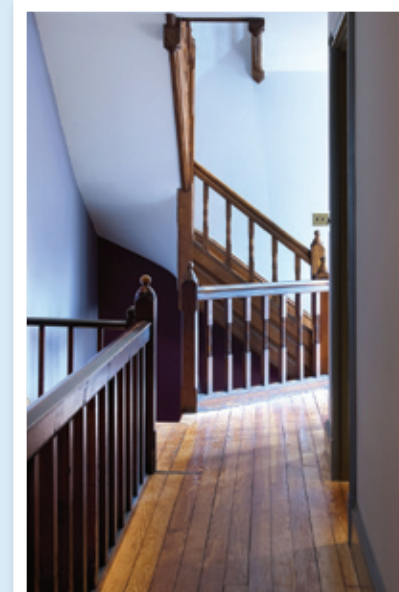
thing in the house, she says, has some family history. The Frenses converted another small bedroom into a second-floor laundry area, a step-saver they'd always wanted.

The main bath has a white vessel sink based on a marble table from the kitchen (more recycling). Then there's a clothes-storage space on either side of the hallway, which Susan jokingly calls a "walk-through closet."

The new main bedroom, part of the addition, has a small balcony outside. Another guest room has a gabled ceiling and casement windows that lend a Gothic flavor. Down the hall, a round window that once illuminated an attic today lights up what is now Dale's fly-tying room—a window liberated, literally, from obscurity.

The Frenses might have had a friendly professional disagreement with the original architect Williamson about his penchant for putting windows in places they couldn't do much good. In addition to liberating the fly-tying room window, on the second floor they converted a bathroom and small closet into a sitting room. Windows that were in the original bathroom and closet, and thus rarely taken advantage of—"the windows were essentially buried," Susan says—now pour light into the sitting area. And there's an angled part of one bedroom wall that provides a window into the bathroom to give it what Susan calls "borrowed light."

The Frenses say the renovation was gratifying personally and professionally—their house is exactly the way they want it, from bottom to top, and they're the ones who made it that way. "It's really satisfying," as Dale puts it, "to live in your own work." ♦



Resources for the Green Conversion

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- Thomas DiOttavio**
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- Sugarsbridge Contractors, Roofing**
- Brandywine Valley Heating & Air Conditioning**
Geothermal Heating and AC
- Chris Larkin, Interior Millwork**
- Doughten & Doughten**
Communications
- LED Lighting, Contech Lighting**

Added Space

The exterior is a textbook example of Queen Anne Revival, with a profusion of visual detail everywhere you look. The walls are mostly brick, then show a strip of stucco, then more brick with shingles on the top.

To make this into their dream house the Frenses built an addition on the other end of the house from the street, but in complete harmony with the style and scale of the original home.

The addition allowed the Frenses to create a large, modern kitchen, the centerpiece of which is an island with a Silestone counter—quartz, Dale says, in an epoxy terrazzo matrix. Surrounding it are large windows (sealed, insulated glass) with expansive views of the grounds below. "This really has become a treehouse," Dale says.

The floors in the kitchen are oak, to complement the original pine floors. Dale



Original pine floors in the dining room lead to the new oak floors in the new kitchen at the rear of the house.



The master bath boasts a Japanese soaking tub, glass tile and pebble-stone floor in the shower area.

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Ed Malet

A brownfield site became a rails-to-trails bikeway and home to a large solar array.

If it stays on plan, by the end of 2013, the 100-acre brownfield property near the intersection of routes 202 and 30 will be a spectacular “green” development—over 200 units of luxury senior living (in Phase I), organized as a Continuing Care Retirement Community—lush with verdant gardens, served by a “rails-to-trails” bikeway and one of the largest solar arrays in Pennsylvania.

Today, however, it's a nearly-vacant lot. It stands off South Bacton Hill Road in Exton, south of Swedesford Road, east of the Church Farm School, and north of a PECO substation. Once, most of the property belonged the Foote Mineral Company, which had over 50 buildings on it. Today, it is nothing: a miniature desert, surrounded by a chain-link fence. A blank on Google Earth.

A Desert in the Making

Closer up, you see that the land is, well, disturbed. Bulldozers, front-end loaders and other manner of earth-moving equipment have carved and scarred the surface. Some of the hills are grass-covered, though the grass is mainly a dirty gray, covered with dust. Makeshift, puddled roads snake around massive mounds of excavated dirt. A few large-diameter sections of conduit and nondescript concrete forms wait to be installed. If you look carefully, the U-shaped foundations of new construction are visible.

It's hard to imagine only three centuries ago, this was a virgin Pennsylvania forest, dominated by native oak and chestnut trees, maybe with a stream running through it. Or, two centuries ago, it

was farmland, recently settled by sturdy, pioneering folk. Or even less than a century ago, it was becoming industrialized, led by large, loud limestone crushers. There was the Chester Valley Railroad, which was finally attaining financial stability. And A.E. Foote, on its way to becoming a major international mineral company.

The Trace of Lithium

In its heyday, Foote Minerals was a large processor of lithium. Lithium ore, which arrived at the Exton plant by rail primarily from Nevada, was pulverized using heavy iron balls. It left the plant mainly as lithium compounds and metals, and was used in glass manufacture, electronics, and a variety of other products. Later, it would be used in medicine, as an additive to rocker propellants. It also found a potential use in the nuclear industry: as a liquid, lithium or its molten salts might be used in fusion reactors.

The future looked bright for lithium and Foote, especially during the mid-20th century, when nuclear energy was deemed “too cheap to meter.” Unfortunately, that light dimmed as the century later unfolded.

No one is known to have suffered any ill effects from operations at Exton, but, by the 1970s, lithium ingestion was shown to have negative health effects. At Exton, it was discovered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that lithium—as well as chromium, boron, arsenic, and other chemicals—had leaked into the groundwater. Drums were buried. Organic solvents were inciner-



ated. Two former limestone quarries, one below the water level, were used for waste and debris. Over 40,000 people were potentially affected.

Restoring the Property

In 1975, some of the unsafe disposal practices at Foote had been halted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, and in 1991, the plant closed. In 1992, the EPA put the site on the Superfund List. Over a dozen hazardous materials had been found.

In 1998, the last of the Foote buildings was demolished. The bottoms of the quarries were, effectively, concreted over. The contaminated soil was consolidated in the quarry area on the east side of the site, then capped with a “geo-synthetic sheeting”—read “reinforced Hefty bag”—never to contaminate human activities again. At least twice, the remediation program was expanded: the second time to take care of a few small areas of low-level radiation.

Not until the fall of 2010 had the clean-up been finished. Mitch Moss of Sustainable Resources Group, Inc., of Exton, supervised

much of the last five years of clean-up. In the end, it has left him proud.

As of February 2012, the Continuing Care Retirement Community permit was but a few months away. The building certificate for a new solar farm was “ready and waiting.” The panels were in a warehouse in Ephrata. Dan Sevick, President of Frazer/Exton Development Company, was beaming. Roskamp Management Company, the current owner of Frazer/Exton Development, had spent over \$35 million to contain and remediate the property.

Clean and Green

Once conceived as over 800 units, Makemie at Whiteland and Presby’s Inspired Life now aims for 202 units: blame the housing bust for down-sizing. Envisioned is a five-story mix of apartment and villas, a 43,000-foot commons, underground parking, indoor pool, three dining rooms, wellness center and library. That’s on the west end, which was always clean.

On the east end of the property, above “the protective cap,” on which no substantial construction is allowed, will be a large photovoltaic array, enough to yield

90-100% of the planned community’s electricity demand. At 1.8 megawatts, it will be the largest solar facility supporting a senior community in Pennsylvania. And, it will be hidden from view by trees and its orientation. Green and unseen.

Lastly, the railroad tracks, which passed the property on the north, have been removed. The railroad last chugged its way from Downingtown to Bridgetown in 1991 under Conrail, which had taken over from the Reading Railroad in the 1970s.

County governments, working with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, have pulled up the tracks and built a walking, running and cycling trail: the Chester Valley Trail. The trail passes several parks, including the Battle of the Clouds and Valley Creek Park, and is easily accessible to both those in the senior community.

To his satisfaction, according to Sevick, residents of the senior center “will be able to bicycle to their grocery shopping at Wegmans.”

And the local community can enjoy the brownfield turning green. A great new “green” outdoor recreational site for all. ♦



Fruit Trees Off the Beaten Path

THE DELAWARE CENTER FOR HORTICULTURE

Ever heard of a pawpaw? Most people haven't.

Serviceberry? Cornelian Cherry? Persimmon?

Plant some unusual species that are edible and ornamental!

When we think of fruit trees, it's usually apples or peaches or other common grocery store items. But there are actually many delicious—and less common—fruit trees that we can grow very easily in our region. Many are even native species to the Brandywine Valley and will thrive without intensive care and attention. Not only will these less common trees reward you with a bounty of fruit, they're also quite ornamental.

Care and Feeding of Fruit Trees

If you're interested in adding fruit trees to your garden this year, here are a few thoughts to start you in the right direction. With any type of gardening, “right plant, right place” is important, and this is especially true of fruit trees. Full sun is best, although some varieties will produce fruit sufficiently in partial shade.

Also important are good air circulation and some level of winter protection. These will expand the palette of trees you are able to grow on your property. You'll need to consider the mature size of the tree you're planting and make sure you'll have enough space. Most of the trees profiled here will mature at heights of less than 25 feet and be suitable for even the smallest yards.

Key tip: make sure you keep your new fruit trees well-watered for the first *two* years, as the plants settle in and get established in their new home. Mulching with a good quality organic compost will help keep them from drying out and will be all the fertilizer they'll need.

April is an excellent time to plant fruit trees and other edible landscaping. Cornus mas, for example, flowers very early (see photo next page), so it will be done flowering for this year by April, but the other plants would be just warming up for their spring display—some are flashier in the spring than others!

George Washington's Favorite

A native understory tree (a small tree that can grow in the shade of taller trees), the pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) grows wild in much of the eastern and northern mid-western United States. The unusual, almost tropical look of pawpaw foliage makes it stand out in a woodland or landscape. It's said to have been George Washington's favorite fruit.

Pawpaw fruits are unassuming, even ugly in appearance, and consequently often go unnoticed. Picture a fist-sized grey lima bean. Then consider that the flowers are pollinated by carrion flies. Luckily a pawpaw tastes far better than it sounds!

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Native serviceberries taste like blueberries.



Pawpaws' unusual fruit tastes like mango.



Cornelian Cherry is commonly grown for its yellow blossoms and is one of the first flowering trees to usher in spring. Unfortunately many people seem to overlook the fruit, which ripens in late summer and can be harvested for a long period.

Plant at least two trees for good pollination. Trees will reach 15-20 feet in height with a similar spread. A few cultivars of the common species have been developed, but can be difficult to find.

A Pair of Persimmons

American persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) is a native tree found in our area. These trees are most notable in fall when their leaves take on fiery shades of red and orange and branches droop heavily with fruit.

The trees are quite tough and adaptable, though they require full sun and well-drained soil. Expect mature height

of 20-25 feet, although some varieties can grow larger. The fruit shouldn't be harvested until late in the season, usually soon after the leaves drop in the fall.

Many varieties are self-pollinating, so one tree is sufficient. Try *Meader* or *Szukis*, both of which are self-pollinating.

Asian persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*) is sometimes found in grocery stores in fall and winter. It's usually gently cushioned in fancy packaging and commands a high price. This gem is easily grown in our area if planted in a somewhat protected area. We're on the northern edge of its hardiness, but many trees thrive in the Brandywine Valley with little winter protection.

Some local sources

Delaware Nature Society or Univ. of DE Botanic Gardens plant sales

Gateway Garden Center, Hockessin, DE; GatewayGardens.com

Octoraro Native Plant Nursery, Octoraro; Octoraro.com/retail.php

Redbud Native Plant Nursery, Glen Mills; RedBudNativePlantNursery.com

Great mail order sources

Adams County Nursery ACNursery.com

Burnt Ridge Nursery BurntRidgeNursery.com

Edible Landscaping EdibleLandscaping.com

Raintree Nursery RaintreeNursery.com

For an excellent resource on the basics of growing fruit trees—from pruning and pest control to siting and fertilizing—try Lee Reich's newest book *Grow Fruit Naturally*. What sets this book apart is the in-depth look at plants that do well in the Northeast.

With glossy green leaves that are attractive all season, Asian persimmons would be gorgeous trees even if they didn't bear fruit. The tree is shapely and may reach 15-20 feet in our region. The fruit is best late in the season after the leaves have dropped.

Many will yield fruit as a single plant, but production is better with at least two different varieties. Try *Fuyu*, *Saijo* and *Eureka*.

Five great ways to enjoy the fruits of your labors. ♦

To learn more about landscaping with fruiting plants, visit TheDCH gardens in the Trolley Square neighborhood of Wilmington. These public gardens include a small-scale urban orchard featuring selections and uses of fruiting plants that do well in this region. Disease-resistant apples rub shoulders with Asian pears, blueberries, cranberries, currants and chokeberry. The orchard is also home to two hives of honeybees that keep TheDCH gardens well pollinated and supply gallons of honey each summer. For more information, check TheDCH.org.

Photos courtesy of TheDCH and Edible Landscaping, see EdibleLandscaping.com.



American Persimmon



Cornelian Cherry is early to bloom. It tastes like sweet cranberries.



The pawpaw's texture is like banana custard with flavor notes akin to mango. The large seeds and short shelf life prevent it from being commercially viable. Unless you grow it yourself, or spend a lot of time wandering the woods in September, you may never have an opportunity to try one—unless you plant the tree.

Pawpaw will grow in shade but produces best with more sun. For pollination and good fruit production, plant at least two varieties. Cultivars to look for include *Sunflower*, *Wilson*, *Mango* and *Pennsylvania Golden*.

Just Like Blueberries

With the increased interest in native plants, serviceberries (*Amelanchier* sp.) have become quite popular in recent years. They are native to many parts of North America and are known in different regions by colorful common names, such as Shadblow, Juneberry and Saskatoon.

Serviceberry is a fantastic tree adaptable to many situations and known for its beautiful white spring flowers and outstanding fall color. You may have heard how much birds enjoy the fruit, but rarely will modern descriptions of this tree tell you how delicious the fruit is to us humans. Serviceberries taste like blueberries, but are much easier to grow. The berries taste best fresh from the tree but also make great pies, muffins and preserves.

There several different species of serviceberry in our area, all of which produce fruit. Serviceberry will grow in quite a bit of shade, but for best fruit production, more sun is best. Some of the better varieties include *Autumn Brilliance*, *Regent*, *Prince William* and *Princess Diana*.

These trees are all self-pollinating, so you need just one for fruit. Size and growth rate are different with each variety, but most are medium to large shrubs or small trees.

Tasty Dogwood

Despite its name, Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*) isn't a cherry at all. It's actually a species of Dogwood. Though the fruits are red with a pit, they taste more like a sweet cranberry than a cherry.



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County of Kent

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Chestertown, Rock Hall, Galena, Millington, Betterton



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It's Time to Get Away to Country Quaint

Away from the hustle and bustle, and less than a two-hour drive from Philadelphia, are the shorelines of the County of Kent. Maryland's smallest county, per capita, boasts an abundance of amenities, but with "Country Quaint" not megalopolis hype. 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 and terrific paddling on the calm tributaries of the Bay. You will be able to explore the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area and cycle along the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway.

Think about bringing your bicycle, or you may want to 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 mouth-watering burgers to gourmet local seafood and grass-fed beef entrees, the flavor is yours to choose. From waterfront vistas to historic red-brick sidewalks, the view is yours to pick. You may even choose to experience a farm-to-table dinner at a local farm.

Chestertown, 1706

Whether you are exploring its history or shopping the red-brick, tree-lined, shady 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



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lindsay phillips

County of Kent

Only 7 miles from Rock Hall, Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge is a major feeding and resting place for migrating and wintering waterfowl. More than 100,000 ducks, geese and swans seek sanctuary here each year, as do migrating and breeding songbirds and shorebirds. Bald eagles thrive here year-round. This 2,285-acre island refuge provides a variety of recreational opportunities. Open to visitors sunrise to sunset, nearly nine miles of trails and roads, including universally-accessible boardwalks and a waterside trail, provide excellent wildlife viewing and spectacular views of the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay. Facilities for boating, fishing, and crabbing are available. fws.gov/northeast/easternneck

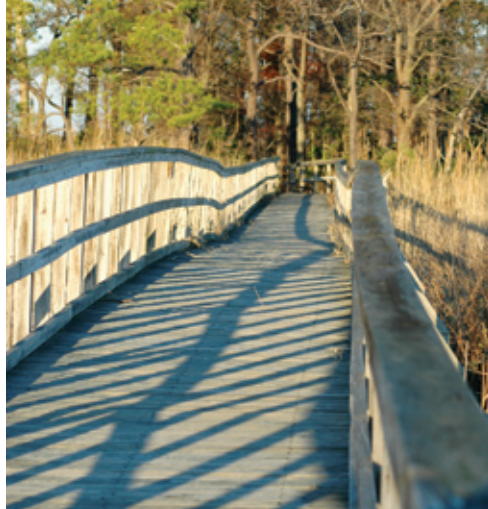
Distinctive Destinations, a designation of the National Historic Trust for unique and lovingly preserved communities. It is also a designated Maryland Main Street. Enjoy the Geddes-Piper House Museum ca. 1784, guided and self-guided historic tours, the Schooner Sultana 1768 public sails, Prince Theatre's live performances, 1st Fridays Arts & Entertainment, specialty shops, art galleries, fabulous restaurants and more. Be sure to take a taste of "Made in the County of Kent" home with you, by stocking up at the Chestertown 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. On Sunday, April 29th, and a favorite of locals and visitor alike, is the scrumptious "Taste of The Town" event, featuring signature dishes of local restaurants.

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 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 Harbor of this fishing village is also a perfect venue to hear the chatter of nesting Osprey, commonly called "Fish Hawks". Watch as this large raptor prepares its nest for a Spring courtship that leads to offspring in late May, early June. Osprey usually begin their summer vacation in the County of Kent around St. Patty's Day and stay, until migrating back home in September. Time your weekend away to include Rock Hall Cruise Night, held on 3rd

Continued ...



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Upcoming Events

Mainstay Concerts
April 13th - "John Jorgenson Quintet"
Gypsy Jazz; 8pm

April 21st - "Tempest" Celtic Folk Rock; 8pm
For concert calendar, visit mainstayrockhall.org

3rd Fridays on Main Street
Rock Hall Cruise Night; thru Oct.; 6-8:30pm

April 21st - Beginner's Bird Walk, Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge 8:30am-Noon

May 6th - Rock Hall BikeFest
Bayside Landing & Park; 1-5pm

KENT COUNTY MARYLAND
Photograph by Bernadette Van Pelt

Savor the Flavors of Kent County at Taste of the Town

Chestertown • Kent County • MD

Sunday, April 29

12pm-3pm | Fountain Park in Historic Downtown Chestertown
• Local Chefs • Local Food • Local Wine • Local Beer

Rooted in history, adapted to contemporary life, historic downtown Chestertown captures small town living in a way that will capture your heart.

A **Saturday Farmers & Artisans Market** fills Fountain Park with the colors and aromas of a region filled with homegrown foods and artists. The feeling carries over in galleries, restaurants, and businesses that reflect the nature of our area. **The Finishing Touch** offers paintings, photographs, ceramics and carvings by local artists – something to take home and remember your day by. Browse the Chesapeake Bay themed items at **Houston's Dockside Emporium**, your one-stop shopping for traditional to trendy apparel for ladies and gents, as well as accessories, jewelry, gifts, books and so much more. Another great find, **River City Upholstery & Sewing** offers a selection of fine fabrics, upholstery supplies, and free estimates on Custom Upholstery, Slip Covers and boat cushions at wonderfully affordable small town prices. Expert attention to detail, with all work done on-site, makes for a customized personal experience.

It's a place that draws you down its brick-paved sidewalks, filled with interesting shops, individually owned and full of character. Like **Bookplate**, an anything-but-ordinary used bookstore with a unique emphasis on Chesapeake Bay, Maryland Eastern Shore and nautical history. And in the back, 1000s of titles in fiction,

literature, mystery, sci fi, gardening, cooking, travel, nature and much more. Visit **Robert Ortiz Studios** where you'll find a 300 year Chestertown Tradition of making furniture alive and well. Come in and visit, see the shop, smell the wood and meet the craftsman. Next door, **Gabriel's of Chestertown**, a delightful sensory experience of uptown style and small town prices, with just the right clothes, scarves, jewelry, bags, accessories, gifts, entertaining and party-ware – even something fun for the kids!

Look past the commerce to see the community and history behind it. **The Historical Society, Washington College's Custom House** – each recalls the forces that shaped Chestertown, and continues those traditions. Stroll toward the Chester River to sail on the 1768 schooner **SULTANA**, an authentic replica of a British ship that patrolled the Chesapeake Bay in the 1760's. Check the schedule at the **Garfield Center for The Arts at The Prince Theatre** – for a blend of diverse theatre, music and film events plus unique educational opportunities. Time it right and find a Studio Sale at **Sophisticated Vintage**, purveyors of furnishings, accessories and stylish finds from a collaborative of antiques dealers and decorators.

Pick just about any time of year to visit – you'll find a festival. **The Chestertown Tea Party**, the **Locavore Lit Fest**, the **Chestertown Book or Jazz Festivals**, the **Historic House Tour**, **Chestertown Wildlife Exhibition &**

Sale, and **Artists' Studio Tour**. See the Tall Ships in October at **Sultana Projects' Downrigging Weekend** – the largest annual Tall Ship and Wooden Boat Festival in the Mid-Atlantic. Or come on any **First Friday** of the month, and enjoy the town lit up and filled with life.

Take some time to get the feel of our town. You might find you like it so much you'll want to call it home. Visualize your dreams with **Chesapeake Architects**, specializing in Waterfront Architecture and Historically Sensitive Design. Chestertown's dramatic Chester River Pavilion is their work, as is the historic Garfield Theatre on High Street, both open to the public. Stop in at **Chester River Landing**, a waterfront community now featuring the award winning Chatham Model with three distinct home styles to fit your lifestyle needs, and 1st Floor Master Suite now available. You'll find the Maintenance Free Resort Style Living you deserve with the Single Level Living life you desire. Or, if you dream of living in history, visit **Maryland Heritage Properties**, a real estate brokerage with over forty-years experience representing fine old buildings to purchase or restore and preserve. Properties that define one's lifestyle.

Discover us **April 29 at our 5th Annual Taste of the Town** – local Chefs, foods, wines and beers – set around our iconic fountain, surrounded by the artists of **Paint the Town** as we capture the magic of Chestertown. It's a flavor you'll savor for a long time to come!

Visit all these places online at www.downtownchestertown.org and then visit us in person!

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Fridays on Main Street. Everyone is welcome to clean up that rod and cruise on down, or just come for the fun and check out the cars, music, and relive the 60s. No registration necessary.

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

This historic town is dotted with unique gift shops, antique shops and family style restaurants. Try the famous All-You-Can-Eat breakfasts at the Galena Fire House. Be sure not to miss the Galena Dogwood Festival this year on May 12th, featuring lots of food, fun and music. This year's parade will be themed War of 1812, commemorating the fearlessness of the famous Miss Kitty Knight and the invasion of the British of nearby Georgetown, where you will also find boating, dining, lodging and fantastic views of the Sassafras River.

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 its mouth-watering dining, it is a terrific day trip or a perfect travel stop to stretch your legs and have a delicious bite to eat.

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Upcoming Events

Chestertown's 1st Fridays
Arts & Entertainment Venues throughout Downtown

Farmers' and Artisans' Market
Saturdays 8am-1pm; Fountain Park

April 13th
Garfield Center for the Arts at Prince Theatre presents
"Chester River Runoff" 8pm; princetheatre.org

April 21st - Schooner Sultana Public Sail
2-4pm; Cannon St. Pier; sultanaprojects.org

April 21st
Garfield Center for the Arts at Prince Theatre presents
"Peabody Ragtime Ensemble" 8pm; princetheatre.org

April 26th - 29th - Paint The Town, a Plain Air Weekend
For schedule: chestertownartsleague.org

April 28th - Schooner Sultana Public Sail
11am-1pm & 2-4pm; Cannon St. Pier; sultanaprojects.org

April 29th - Taste of the Town
Fountain Park; noon-3pm

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Dining Out

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Lise Monty



Lily's casual/cosmopolitan personality broadens and brightens Historic Kennett Square's appealing restaurant scene. The area's first pan-Asian restaurant, it's been buzzing with happy patrons since it opened in May 2011.

On its menu and in its décor, Lily incorporates some Americana into its mix. A rustic brick wall salutes the area's history and charm, as does the prominent display of works by local and regional artists, Wyeth family members included. The art comes from the neighboring Artworks Gallery, whose owner Olen Grimes says he and his wife love Lily's and eat there at least twice a week. Kennett is that kind of friendly town.

Vibrant, gold-colored paint on the non-brick walls celebrates Lily's Asian vibe, as does a traditional Japanese noren (split curtain) hanging in the door to the kitchen and featuring images of two hefty sumo wrestlers. We admired the colorful illustrations and chuckled that we hoped they didn't influence people to limit their calorie intake at dinner. The good news is that many Lily dishes are on the light side.

In the small entryway, a serene yet dramatic image of a Buddhist temple is particularly inviting. We asked about the huge decorative egg with beautiful porcelain images that sits at the end of the sushi bar and greets you as you enter. It's Asian, we were told, and it represents "Good Luck."

If you're lucky and get to sit at the table between the two tall arched windows at the front of the restaurant, you'll have an up-close-and-personal view of Kennett's lively State Street scene. Dark-stained wood wainscoting and modernistic furniture and lighting throughout the long dining room span centuries of style.

We appreciated the team approach to service. Any server passing by was happy to help.

For Starters

Sauces get respect here from light soy-based classics for dipping to spicy citrus specials and even a balsamic glaze. Two zippy

winners added oomph to our appetizers. We kept adding a little more of the creamy and lively peanut sauce that came with the *Lettuce Wrap* (\$6). It was a happy match for the finely diced chicken filling with crunchy water chestnuts, gently seasoned with hoisin, that we spooned into crisp romaine leaves, rolled up and savored.

Satay Seafood (\$10) scored with its marinated and grilled shrimp and scallops on wooden skewers, Indonesian satay style. It had a little Peruvian fusion going on, thanks to the spicy anticucho sauce associated with a popular street food in the South American country.

Other appetizer options included steamed edamame, shrimp phyllo with spicy citrus sauce, coconut shrimp with pineapple mustard sauce, deep-fried crabmeat dumplings, pork gyoza (dumplings), crispy calamari (the ubiquitous appetizer is served here with spicy citrus sauce), vegetable spring roll, seared tuna with spicy ponzu sauce (citrus-based sauce), and tuna or salmon tartar.

Seafood Tom Yum Soup (\$5), a winner with Thai roots, begins with a light, slightly spicy broth enriched with a touch of coconut milk, the delicious base for scallops, shrimp, exotic mushrooms and squares of red bell pepper.

Salad choices include Kennett Square salad (add regional to the list of cuisines), gorgonzola pear salad and even a spinach strawberry salad with walnuts and bleu cheese. Also, seaweed salad, salmon skin salad with cilantro spicy ponzu sauce, and grilled steak salad on spinach.

Sushi: As You Like It

Sushi offerings and interpretations abound, from more than 20 different rolls to individually fashioned sushi and sashimi orders to various dinner entrées, including seasonally themed selections. And there's an ongoing "Any 2 rolls" special for \$8, including a bowl of miso soup.

My sushi-loving companion, a NYC sophisticate, opted for the *Winter Sushi Dinner* (\$17) and gave it an enthusiastic stamp of approval, as did I. The uniformly high quality ingredients, perfectly cut and beautifully presented, included three pieces of salmon, three pieces of yellowtail, smoked eel, shrimp and a California roll with crab, cucumber and avocado.

Among the signature rolls offered are the Lily Lobster with cream cheese, asparagus, avocado and spicy sweet sauce; the Haru roll with tuna, salmon, yellowtail, flying fish roe and avocado; and the mango shrimp version with shrimp tempura, avocado and mango.

There were specials, too—seven creations including the sunset roll made with shrimp tempura, crab, tuna, avocado and spicy balsamic sauce. *The Coconut Shrimp Almond Roll* (\$12), sampled during a later visit, represents how far basic sushi has evolved. Crunchy coconut shrimp, avocado and cucumber rolled the traditional way with rice and nori was topped with sliced almonds and a drizzle of sweet balsamic sauce.

Good news for fans: "Every Tuesday is All You Can Eat Sushi." And there's a lunch service and four party platters to go.

Pork Chops & Curries Teppanyaki & Teriyaki

The lovely flavor of mango can always make a dish sing, and so it did with the simply named *Mango Shrimp Scallop* (\$16), a sautéed toss of the seafood and fruit, with slim asparagus, peppers and water chestnuts. A nice Thai sweet chili sauce accented the satisfying harmony of tastes and textures. *Alaskan Wild Salmon* (\$17) included three lovely fillets, lightly poached, atop spinach, mushrooms and snow beans, in a tasty black bean sauce that enhanced the fish.

Among other entrées were surprises like Pacific mahi mahi with spinach, mango and caper-lemon sauce; pork chop with spinach fondue drizzle; and chicken with bleu cheese, spinach, artichokes and red peppers.

From the Asian section: Kung Pao chicken with Szechuan hot sauce; Thai red curry with basil and coconut and Thai green curry with either chicken or tilapia. And there's more: several teriyaki options and teppanyaki or hibachi choices; more than 20 bento boxes; and a kids menu.

Sweet Endings

The dessert list is short but inviting. Cheesecake tempura and banana tempura with ice cream sounded tempting, but we agreed to try these next time.

My companion wasn't interested in the mochi ice cream, made with a pounded sticky rice confection that the Japanese love on its own and filled with ice cream, as it is here in red bean, green tea, mango and vanilla flavors. The *Crème Brûlée Trio* (\$5) we shared was perfect—small servings of green tea, red bean and coconut flavors in a

three-section plate. We gave each a taste and agreed the coconut was our favorite.

We just learned Lily's has hired the neighboring Liz Marden Bakery, known for its enticing European-style desserts, to provide custom-made treats like lemongrass mousse with vanilla cake. This is good news and more reason to visit Lily Asian Cuisine. ♦

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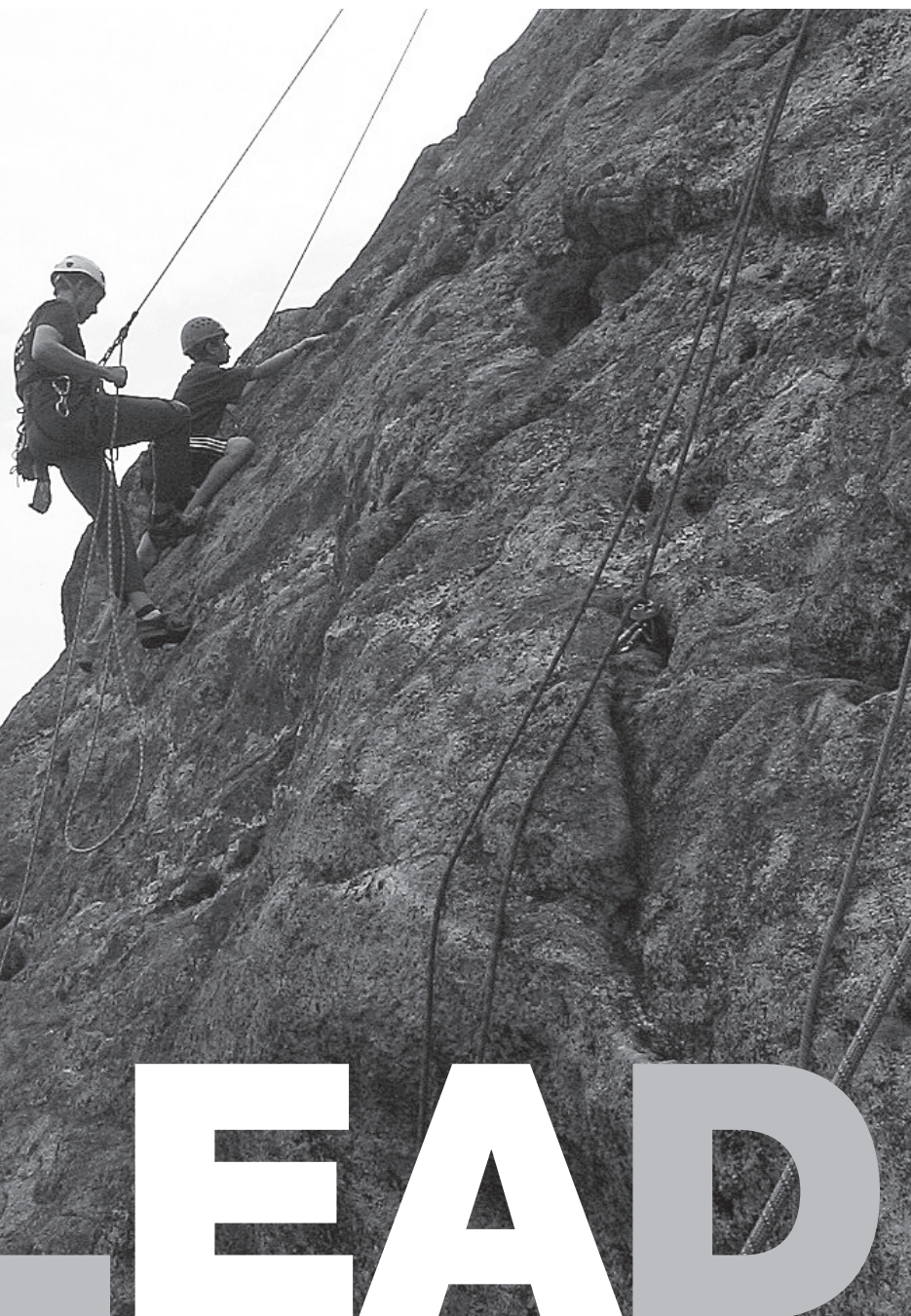


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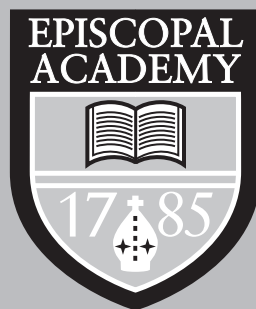


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Food News

*A few of our favorite things to share
this month about local food and drink*

Appreciating April. Unlike England's 19th-century peasant poet John Clare, who wrote "the winter is the spring," for me spring begins earnestly in April, which includes **Easter and Passover** holidays and my own birthday, not to mention the 237th anniversary of **Paul Revere's freedom ride** and April 15th's "rendering unto Caesar" **tax payment** rituals (on the 17th this year). It's time to toast rebirth, budding flowers, greening lawns and the promise of warm weather. Time to visit **Chaddsford Winery**, Chaddsford.com, (their 2009 Barrel Select Chardonnay is excellent; ditto the 2008 Pinot Grigio), **Longwood Gardens**, LongwoodGardens.org, and its Terrace restaurant, and **Chanticleer**, ChanticleerGarden.org, in Wayne.

Scotch Egg. Easter and Passover season prompts egggy thoughts, which lately for me seem to focus on the mostly unloved (in these parts) **Scotch Egg** and also the greatly revered **Deviled Egg**. The former, supposedly invented at London's wondrous Fortnum & Mason in 1738, is for the uninitiated, a hard-boiled egg wrapped in sausage meat, coated in breadcrumbs and deep-fried. Indifferently prepared, it's horrible. But **The Whip Tavern**, TheWhipTavern.com, in **West Marlborough** makes the best Scotch Eggs to order, bringing to mind the dish's ultimate origin as a Middle Eastern baked kibbeh variation. **Philadelphia's Dandelion** restaurant's Deviled Eggs are worth your long, special detour.



Tax Day Cocktail. Oscar Wilde's April 1889 letter to England's IRS is the greatest piece of tax correspondence I've ever read. **Kettner's**, the old Oscar Wilde/Lily Langtry pub hole in London, created the **High and Wilde** in his honor. A superb and stylish (like Wilde himself) tax day stress reliever, here's how:

1 sugar cube
2 tsp. absinthe
2 tsp. crème de pêche
3.5 oz. Prosecco
Fennel slice

Cut some fresh fennel lengthways into a long, slim slice. Drop sugar cube into a champagne flute. Soak sugar cube in absinthe. Add crème de pêche. Top with Prosecco. Garnish with fennel.



Always Asparagus. Spring and asparagus pairing is the best type of culinary cliché: we all do it because it's inevitable, it makes us happy, it works. My late mother-in-law, Caroline Prutzman of West Chester, patiently developed an annual asparagus garden. It was the BEST. So is the **Cream of Asparagus Soup** at **Alfredo's BYO**, AlfredoBYO.com, in Berwyn. Like the rest of the menu, it's a subtly elegant wonder, which transformed my vegetable-phobic daughter into an ardent asparagus consumer. The quality of the asparagus crop at **Pete's Produce**, PetesProduceFarm.com, in Westtown (reopening April 19) is always excellent. So are these **two asparagus recipes** by the legendary Bert Greene at CountyLinesMagazine.com.

Hearts Of Palm. April's holy days point my inward eye toward Levantine palm trees and my food desires in the direction of heart of palm (a.k.a. palm heart, palmito, burglar's thigh, chonta, palm cabbage, swamp cabbage), a vegetable harvested from the inner core and growing bud of certain palm trees. Associated mainly with Brazilian cuisine (important to our family and our Portuguese-speaking daughter), heart of palm is extremely versatile. It's possible, however, that its mild top-note tastes and firm/silky texture show best dressed in the perfect olive oils and vinegars found at West Chester's **A Taste of Olive**, ATasteOfOlive.com.



About Curtis Roberts. *I'm a lawyer who also does other things, including appreciate regional food. My family returned to the area to reclaim my wife's deep Chester County roots, educate our daughter in the right Philadelphia way, and enjoy the food. For more of my gastro-adventures, check my blog, ACravan.blogspot.com, which is so varied, there may just be something you'll find interesting.*

Brandywine TABLE

Tips From Caterers

Laura Muzzi Brennan

Before the first guest arrives at my house, I've often wished for a blizzard or a power outage, sometimes even the onset of a highly contagious but short-lived ailment. It's not that I don't love entertaining or my friends, it's just that by party time, I'm worn out. I've shopped, I've polished, I've cooked—or truth be told, I'm still cooking and fretting I don't have enough food. I always get over what writer Gretchen Rubin calls “hostess neurosis,” but I'd prefer to avoid it altogether and hire professionals to cater my next party, or, the next best thing: learn from them.

Also, says McNally, consider the time of your party when deciding which dishes to serve. For a 4 to 7 p.m. weekday get-together, a few hors d'oeuvres and a cheese tray will suffice. However, if the bash lasts from 6 to 11 on Saturday night, serve heartier fare. No matter the time, let guests know whether to expect a nibble or a feast.

Part of planning is having the necessary serving pieces on hand (translation: not in a closet under your winter boots). Some hosts lay out platters and utensils the day before. Marc Zaslow keeps extra forks, large spoons and spatulas handy so if friends come bearing a dish to share, he's ready.

And what's a party without festive libations? To avoid playing bartender all night, keep drink choices simple and set up a place where guests can serve themselves. Marc Zaslow thinks that, in addition to beer and wine, a bar with the basics—gin, vodka, scotch, bourbon and sliced lemons and limes—does the trick. Donna McNally likes offering a signature drink, made ahead of time and kept in pitchers. Raspberry Burst Cocktails and Peach Sangria have been hits at warm-weather parties she's planned.

The most important ingredient for a successful party, however, is a relaxed host, so follow Donna McNally's advice: answer the door with a cocktail in your hand and the music playing. Your guests will know immediately there's no place else they'd—or you'd—rather be.

Marc Zaslow, executive chef at Jimmy Duffy's Catering and Donna McNally, the event planner at Meridith's Catering, agree that careful planning makes the difference between a party that's *the* bomb and *a* bomb. Choose dishes you can prepare in advance. A good rule of thumb, according to Zaslow, is to serve only one hot item and the rest at room temperature. That way, you won't squander your time checking the oven when you should be mingling. McNally suggests having a theme in mind—fiesta and Mediterranean are popular choices—to give your menu direction.



Raspberry Burst Cocktail

Ideal for a spring or summer party, this cocktail comes courtesy of Chef David Kinsey at Meridith's Catering.

¾ C. frozen raspberries
3½, 12 oz. bottles of beer
 (chef's choice), chilled
1, 12-oz. container frozen raspberry lemonade concentrate, thawed
½ C. vodka
Sliced lemons and limes for garnish
 Stir together and serve in glass pitchers for guests to pour over ice.
 Makes 6 servings.

Peach Sangria

This light-colored sangria sparkles with Mexican or Spanish food. It's also great with grilled meat. Recipe courtesy of Chef David Kinsey at Meridith's Catering.

1, 750-ml bottle dry white wine
¾ C. peach flavored vodka
6 Tb. frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed
¼ C. granulated sugar
1 lb. white peaches, pit removed and cut into slices
¾ C. seedless red grapes, halved
¾ C. seedless green grapes, halved

In a large pitcher, combine wine, vodka, lemonade concentrate and sugar, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Add cut fruit.

Refrigerate sangria until well chilled (at least 2 hours or overnight) to blend flavors. Serve over ice. Makes 6 servings.

Poached Salmon

This dish continues to be a favorite for elegant get-togethers. If you like, serve it with cucumber-dill sour cream sauce. Recipe courtesy of Chef Marc Zaslow at Jimmy Duffy's Catering.

1 side of fresh salmon, approx. 4 lbs.
Salt and pepper
1 C. white wine
Water to cover fish

Preheat oven to 350°.

Place salmon in roasting pan. Season with salt and pepper. Add white wine and enough water to cover fish. Cover pan with a lid or foil. Bake in oven for about 15 minutes. Remove from oven and remove lid.

Let salmon cool. Using 2 spatulas, very carefully remove salmon from pan and place on serving platter. Serve at room temperature.

Makes 8-10 servings.

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Cucumber-Dill Sour Cream Sauce

2 C. sour cream
½ small cucumber, peeled, seeded and cut into small dice
¼ C. chopped fresh dill
Salt and pepper to taste

In a small bowl, mix all ingredients together.

Berry Sour Cream Tart

I adapted this recipe from one I found in Bon Appetit's July 2001 issue. I have made it with strawberries, raspberries and blueberries, depending on what's in season. This is a great do-ahead dessert because all you have to do at the last minute is top the tart with berries. Just make sure they're washed and dried well!

For the crust:

8 whole graham crackers, broken
¼ C. light brown sugar, packed
¼ C. unsalted butter, melted

For the filling and topping:

6 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
⅓ C. sugar
½ C. sour cream
2 tsp. fresh lemon juice
½ tsp. vanilla extract
2-3 C. berries (if using strawberries, cut in half or quarters)

To make the crust:

Preheat oven to 375°.

In a food processor, blend graham crackers and brown sugar until coarse crumbs form. Add butter and process until mixture is moist. Press the crumb mixture into a 9 diameter tart pan with a removable bottom. Bake until crust is firm, 8-10 minutes. Cool on rack.

To make the filling and topping:

Beat together cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add sour cream, lemon juice, and vanilla extract. Spread evenly into crust. Cover and chill 4 hours or overnight. Arrange berries over filling. Makes 6-8 servings. ♦

*To contact Laura, please e-mail her at
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* American Period Lighting.....74

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Beauty Art, Antiques & Rugs.....20

ART CENTERS

Regional Center for
Women in the Arts.....8

ART SHOWS / TOURS

Historic Yellow Springs Art Show.....19

BAKERY

The Country Butcher.....33

BANKS

* Malvern Federal Savings Bank.....24

BANQUET FACILITIES

(See: Receptions)

BUILDING CONTRACTORS

INCLUDING REMODELING

* Dutchie's Stone Works, LLC.....16

Hugh Lofting Timber Framing.....56

CANDY

* Christopher Chocolates.....21, 49

CARPETS & RUGS

See: Rugs & Flooring

CATERERS

Finley Catering.....2

* Meridith's Catering.....23

CLEANING SERVICES

Cleaning Services by MiMi.....74

CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

The Hickory Stick.....61

CONCERTS

Vox Ama Deus.....22

DRAPERIES / WINDOW TREATMENTS

Heritage Design Interiors.....16

* Shady Lady Inc.....74

Shutter Tech, Inc.....59

ENERGY

Exelon.....54

EQUESTRIAN EVENTS

Radnor Hunt Races.....10

Willowdale Steeplechase.....28

EVENTS

A Taste of The Town.....63

West Chester Film Festival.....8

FINANCIAL PLANNING

* Key Financial.....4

C.P. Welde.....36

FLOORING, HARDWOOD

Boyle's Floor & Window Design.....37

Heritage Floors.....12

Bob Wagner's Flooring America.....3

FLORISTS

* Cowan's Flowers.....73

Matlack Florist.....44, 49

FOOD, SPECIALTY

The Country Butcher.....33

FURNITURE — HOME FURNISHINGS

Country Home Furniture.....22

Dragonfly Decor.....72

* Evelyn & Harriette's.....73

McLimans.....33

GARDEN CENTERS, NURSERIES

Mostardi Nursery.....14

Waterloo Gardens.....21

GIFTS & SPECIALTY SHOPS

* Christopher Chocolates.....21, 49

Dragonfly Decor.....72

* Evelyn & Harriette's.....73

The Hickory Stick.....61

The Little House Shop.....48

Mostardi Nursery.....14

Waterloo Gardens.....21

HISTORIC SITES & TOURS

Historic Waynesborough.....74

HOME HEALTH CARE

* Bayada Home Health Care.....14

HOMES

Chester River Landing.....64

INSURANCE

Levy Insurance.....73

INTERIOR DECORATING / DESIGN

Heritage Design Interiors.....16

INVESTMENTS

* Key Financial.....4

C.P. Welde.....36

INVITATIONS

The Little House Shop.....48

JEWELERS & JEWELRY

Big Diamond Importers &
Fine Jewelry.....44, 49

Bove Jewelers.....34, 49

* Walter J. Cook, Jeweler.....7, 49

KITCHENS & BATH

* Wall & Walsh, Inc.....cover

Waterbury Kitchen & Bath.....75

LANDSCAPE & GARDEN DESIGN

* Dutchie's Stone Works, LLC.....16

* Flowing Springs Landscape Design.....25

Valley View Perennial Growers.....36

LIGHTING (Including Outdoor)

* American Period Lighting.....74

LODGING (Including B&B's)

* The Inn & Spa at Intercourse.....73

The Inn at Osprey Point.....62

LOG HOMES / TIMBER FRAME

Hugh Lofting Timber Framing.....56

MARINA

The Inn at Osprey Point.....62

MUSIC

Vox Ama Deus.....22

POWER COMPANIES

Exelon.....54

REALTORS/REAL ESTATE

Brandywine Fine Properties.....9

* James A. Cochran, Inc.....67

* Pru. Fox Roach / K. Anstey.....6

* Pru. Fox Roach / H. Gross.....5

Sotheby's Int'l Realty.....9

RECEPTIONS

Ballroom at The Ben.....2, 43

Chester Co. Historical Society.....47, 45

Clothier Room.....2, 48

Crystal Tea Room.....2, 43

Farmhouse at People's Light.....37, 46

Farmhouse Restaurant.....47, 45

Finley Catering.....2, 48

Hilltop House.....48

Limoncello Ristorante.....41

* The Stone Barn.....41

RESTAURANTS

The Farmhouse Restaurant.....47

Firebirds Grill.....71

* Foxfire at The Stone Barn.....41

The Inn at Osprey Point.....62

* La Tolteca Mexican Rest.....72

Limoncello Ristorante.....41

Ron's Original Bar & Grille.....71

Stockyard Inn.....74

* The Stone Barn.....41

Winberie Restaurant & Bar.....36

RETIREMENT / SENIOR LIVING

Kendal-Crosslands.....33

RUGS, CARPET

Boyle's Floor & Window Design.....37

Heritage Floors.....12

Bob Wagner's Flooring America.....3

SCHOOLS

* The Concept School.....27

Episcopal Academy.....68

Layton Preparatory.....36

Montgomery School.....27

Upland Country Day School.....35

* Wyndcroft School.....26

SPAS

* The Inn & Spa at Intercourse.....73

STEEPLECHASE RACING

Radnor Hunt Races.....10

Willowdale Steeplechase.....28

TILE & TILE DESIGN

Bob Wagner's Flooring America.....3

TOURISM & SHOPPING AREAS

Chestertown Business Assoc.....65

Historic Kennett Square.....34

Kent County, MD Tourism.....60-65

Rock Hall Business Assoc.....62

TRAVEL CONSULTANTS

Travel Services Company.....48

WELCOME SERVICES

Welcome Neighbor.....37

WINDOWS / SHUTTERS

(See: Draperies/Window Treatments)

Boyle's Floor & Window Design.....37

Chapman Windows & Doors.....13

* Shady Lady Inc.....74

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