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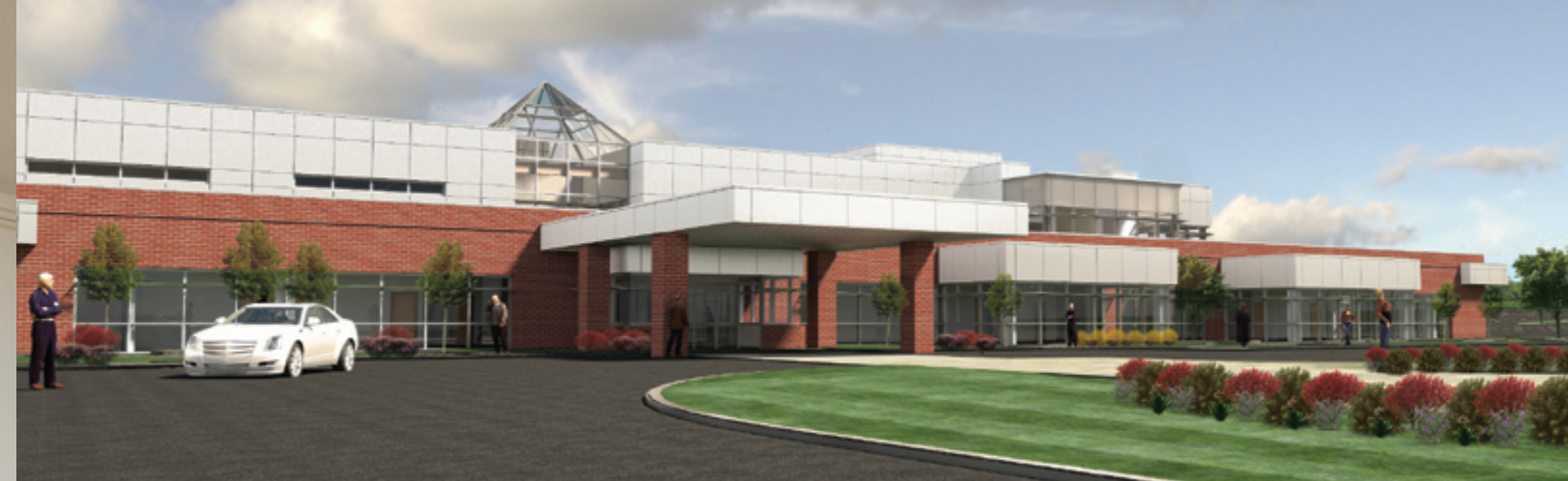
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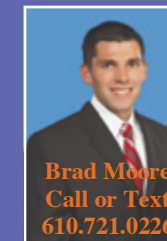
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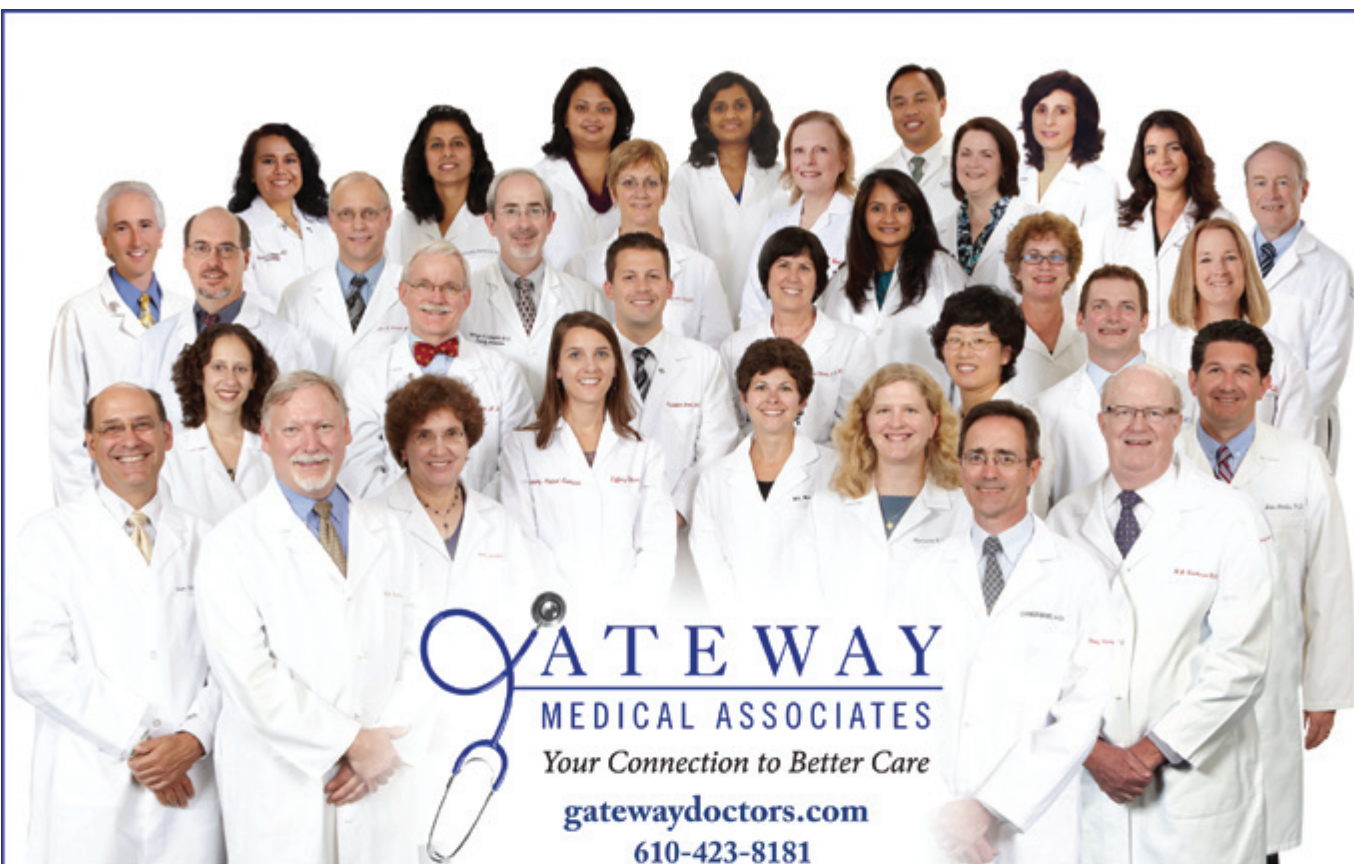
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From *the*
Editor

April can't be the cruelest month. Not after the March we've left behind.

To celebrate the change of season, we begin with a peek at dream weddings. Carol Metzker tells us how to recreate any bride's fondest fantasy close to home in "An Enchanted Event," illustrated with Chadds Ford photographer Amy Tucker's images of happy couples.


Beyond beards, bonnets and buggies, there's a sensational art scene in Lancaster City that Matt Freeman tours in "Not Your Granddad's Lancaster County." He guides foodies, families and history buffs to a place that's full of surprises.

Our publisher Ed Malet gets in the Earth Day spirit—April 22, if you forgot—with ideas for moving the family outside and celebrating Mother Earth more often than one day a year. Check out "Green Family Day" along with Gary Schwetz's "Bigger is Better ... When it Comes to Trees," to learn why size matters in landscaping. In "Eat Your Greens," Brandywine Table's Laura Brennan shares her quest for healthy snacking through kale chips.

Our quick picks: we tour a Home of the Month with a *Dwell Magazine* vibe, preview *Memphis* opening at the DuPont Theatre, brief you on West Chester's Restaurant Week, advise you on finding the right fit to be fit in "Being Well," and alert you to Willowdale Steeplechase's inspired idea for getting us "race-ready" in time for May's full equestrian schedule, with a Shop Around Town event, April 20. And finally, Lise Monty reviews first-rate dining at the elegant Yellow Springs Inn.

As always, we've got the Best Local Events Coverage anywhere for April (online at *CountyLinesMagazine.com*). For more, sign up for our Events Newsletter.

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


Jo Anne Durako
Editor



COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

April 2013

Volume XXXVI, Number 8

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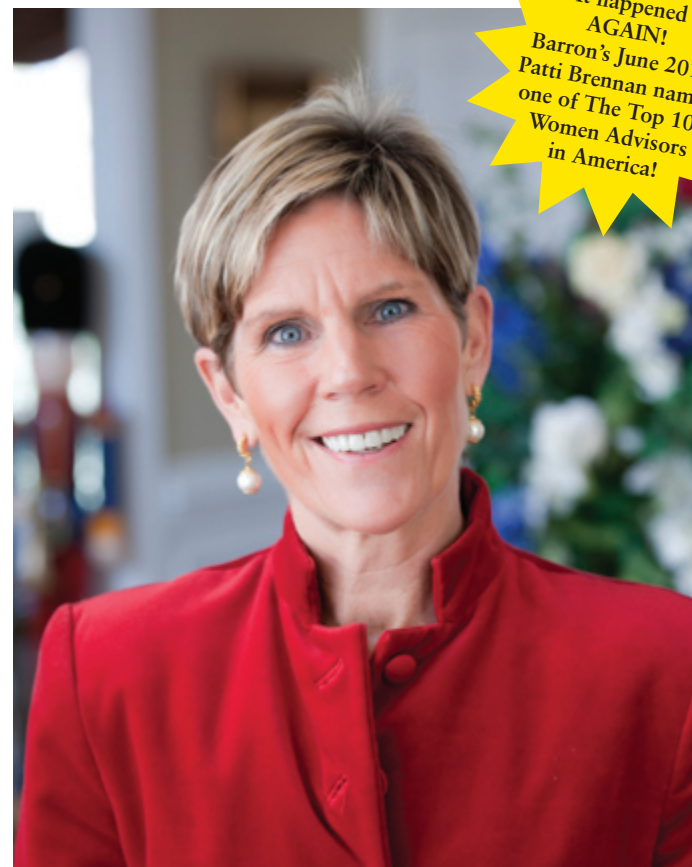
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The 50 Top Women in Wealth – Wealth Manager Magazine (May 2010)

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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 as the first Chairwoman on the National Advisory Board for Royal Alliance. **Patti has just been selected as one of 400 Top Advisors by The Financial Times, another leading global brand and highly respected worldwide.** 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 for The Chester County Hospital and Health System.



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On the cover: A dream wedding at Longwood Gardens. Photo by Amy Tucker Photography

What Do You Do When Your Workouts Aren't Working Out?

Christine Thalwitz

Find the Right Fit to Be Fit.

If you struggle to make working out part of your lifestyle, you're not alone. Nearly all of us want to look good, be healthy and treat ourselves right, but the "exercise" pill can be hard to swallow week in and week out. The demands and deadlines of daily life can undermine our best intentions. The key to sparking your exercise enthusiasm may be to try something completely different.

Do you dread working out? Exercise has to be fun for most of us to stick with it over the long run. "The trick is to think about activities you enjoy and create those types of fitness opportunities in your life," says Amy Clements, of ACAC Fitness & Wellness Centers. "If you love to dance at

weddings or go to nightclubs, you'll love a class like Zumba, where the music and energy draw you in completely."

Ramiro Munguia, a Cardio Dance Party instructor, agrees. "When you come to dance and break away from your everyday routine, it's magical," Munguia says. "Electricity runs through your veins. You can't explain it—you just feel happy." At that point exercise turns into something that people can't wait to do again.

Are you bored? Consider trying something exotic, such as bellydancing. "Most participants have no idea what to expect when they walk through the door," says Grace Wallace, a bellydance instructor. "It's an age-old art form, and

people are drawn to the mystery and sensuous beauty of the dance."

Many of the movements involve torso isolations that gently lengthen and strengthen the spinal column and abdominal muscles. Veils and coin hip-belts accentuate the movements and lend mystique. Wallace notes that it's one of the few classes done barefoot, which can be very freeing. Participants also re-learn stabilization, without the aid of foot gear.

Do workouts take too long?

Look for a workout that maximizes efficiency. If you like group classes or personal training but don't have an hour to spare, try a shorter, more intense workout like Les Mills' 30-minute CXWORX class. Les Mills is the same company that developed the popular BODYPUMP and BODYSTEP classes. It's easy to follow and extremely effective.

Les Mills reports that the average burn during a CXWORX class is 230 calories. Participants can expect not only to work their core muscles, but also to improve functional strength for balance, mobility and reduced risk of injury. The best part is that you need only 30 minutes!

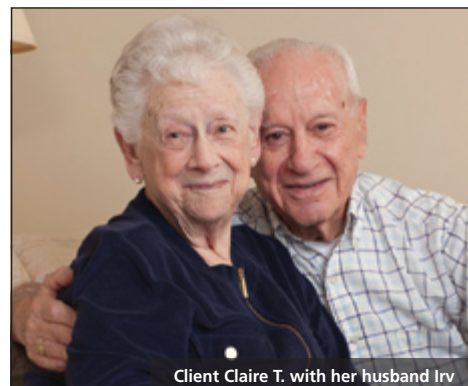
Are you not seeing results? Maybe you've been stuck in two-dimensional exercise patterns for too long. Pushing and pulling exercises are a great start, but they don't fully prepare us for the twists, turns and sideways movements of daily activities. Performing functional exercises with specialty equipment—suspension trainers, kettlebells, sandbags, battle ropes—can be much more varied and fun than grinding through the same old machine-based routines.

"There are an unlimited number of ways to use all these 'toys' to improve strength, power, flexibility and endurance," says Clements. She sees small group training as a growing trend in clubs across the country. "It's a great way to get personalized instruction on the latest training gear without the one-to-one price tag."

Bottom line: Redefine the term exercise for yourself. Working out doesn't have to mean cycling or running on the treadmill. The best exercise regimen is comprised of activities you enjoy that mesh with your daily routine.

Keep trying new things until you find what works for you. With all the variety at local health clubs, YMCAs and community classes, there's something that's the right fit for you! ♦

Christine Thalwitz, at ACAC, has 25 years' experience as a group instructor, trainer and continuing education provider. Once a "gym class dropout," Christine hopes to inspire others to discover a love of activity and lead happier, more fulfilled lives. To learn about ACAC programs, call 610-431-7000; ACAC.com.



Client Claire T. with her husband Irv

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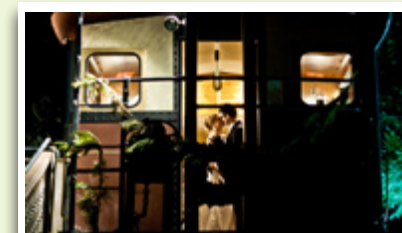
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Good to Know

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



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hike or bike in local parks. Visit the iTunes store to download your free app. Apple.com/iTunes.

Celebrating the Disturbingly Informative.

The Mütter Museum of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia has been disturbingly informative for 150 years. With wax models, medical oddities and more, this collection is guaranteed to be unlike anything you've ever seen. Help the museum commemorate its 150th anniversary at a unique fundraiser, the Mütter Ball on April 6th. The theme is Mad Men and Medicine, so don your skinny ties and cat-eye glasses and enjoy the night. Register at CollegeOfPhysicians.org.



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An April March for a Cause.

Interested in raising awareness and money for a good cause? Consider joining the March of Dimes walk, April 28, at Marshall Square Park in West Chester. Celebrating 75 years of supporting improved health of babies, the March of Dimes gives hope to babies born too soon or too sick. The money you raise supports programs in our community that help moms have healthy, full-term pregnancies, and it funds research on serious problems that threaten our babies. To learn more, 610-945-6050; MarchForBabies.org.



Semi-Centennial Season. Presenting outstanding shows for 50 years, West Chester University is proud to announce its 50th season of student performances in the theater and dance department. With shows such as *A Midsummer Night Dream* (April 11-14) and *#OCCUPYUDC*, a dance concert from ballet to hip hop (debuting April 18-20), you can join this annual spring concert. Tickets, \$10-\$15. For details and show times, WCUPA.edu/CVPA/TheatreDance.

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April 27

Acclaimed for an unsurpassed selection of unusual, newly-introduced or difficult-to-propagate specimens, this event attracts hundreds of plant lovers from across the nation. Bid on more than 500 rare and unusual specimens. Auction items also include antiques, artwork and garden accents. *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 Community Greening Program. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.*



PHOTO: Rob Cardillo



38th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

April 26–May 26

Regional designers display their creativity in interior and landscape design. Events throughout the month include a fashion show, an opportunity to meet the design teams and, on **Apr. 26**, "An Evening with Gatsby Preview Party," featuring cocktails and buffet, from 6 to 9 p.m. \$150-\$2,500. Benefits Doylestown Hosp. and Village Improvement Assoc. *Clement Doyle House, 360 Old Dublin Pk., Doylestown. Show hours: Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sun., noon to 4 p.m. \$25. 215-345-2191; BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.*



40th Yellow Springs Art Show & Sale

April 26–May 12

With over 180 juried artists and nearly 3,000 pieces of original artwork to view, there's surely something for everyone to enjoy. Preview, **Apr. 26**, features butlered hors d'oeuvres, champagne and musical entertainment, 5:30 to 10, \$60-\$120. *1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Show hours: daily 11 to 5; Fri., until 8. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.*

Chester County Antiques Show

April 5–7

Exceptional dealers specializing in 18th- and 19th-century American and Continental furniture and decorative arts. Benefits Chester County Historical Society. *The Phelps School, 583 Sugartown Rd., Malvern. Preview Fri., early adm. 5 p.m., \$200; regular adm. 6 to 9, with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, buffet, \$130. Sat., 10 to 6; Sun., 11 to 5; appraisals, Sun., 11 to 1. \$15. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.*



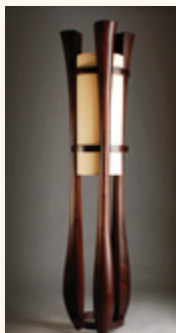
Brandywine Ballet Premieres *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

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The timeless story about the power of friendship and family with world premiere choreography by the ballet company's resident choreographer, Nancy Page. A treat for young and old alike. *West Chester University, Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. Fri., 10 a.m.; Sat., 4 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$40. 610-696-2711; BrandywineBallet.org.*

Best Local Events

Noteworthy in April . . .



April 5-7
Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show. Exceptional artisan-quality furniture and furnishings for all tastes. 23rd Street Armory, 22 S. 23rd St., Philadelphia. Friday Preview Party/Charity Auction benefits Cerf+ (CraftEmergency.org) with a specialty focus on artists and craftspeople affected by Hurricane Sandy, 6 to 9 pm, \$15. Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 5. \$12. 215-387-8590; PhilaIFS.com.

April 12-14
23rd St. Armory Antiques Show. A diverse group of antiques dealers exhibit American and Continental formal and country furniture, fine and folk art, silver, oriental carpets, period accessories and more. Free shuttle service to and from the Philadelphia Antiques Show, see *Antiques Shows*. Exhibit: "Opening Doors: The Private Doorstop Collection of Jeanne Bertoia." 22 S. 23rd St., Phila. Fri, 10 to 6, \$15; Sat, 10 to 6 and Sun, 11 to 4. \$12. 845-876-0616; BarnStar.com.



April 23
Arbor Day Celebration. This is the 21st year that Radnor has been named a 2012 Tree City USA. Events include a tree planting ceremony, Tree City USA Recognition and "How to Plant a Tree" demonstration. Friends of Radnor Trail Park, 304 Liberty La., Wayne. 6 pm. 610-688-5600; Radnor.com.

April 21
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.



Antiques Shows

April 5-7
Chester County Antiques Show. See *Of Special Note*.

April 12-15
The Philadelphia Antiques Show. Approximately 65 leading antiques dealers and galleries bring their finest pieces. Loan Exhibit, *Pewter: The Philadelphia Story*, showcasing 150 Philadelphia pewter pieces (18th- & 19th-centuries),

and largest public display of items by premier pewterer William Will. Benefits Penn's Dept. of Emergency Medicine & Center for Resuscitation Science. PA Convention Center, 12th & Arch Sts., Philadelphia. Preview Fri, 6 to 9:30, \$175-\$600. Sat, 11 to 8; Sun-Mon, 11 to 6. \$15-\$25. 610-902-2109; PhilaAntiques.com.

May 3-4
Eastern National Antiques Show & Sale. features fine jewelry, furniture, clocks, art, prints,

books, maps, pottery and more. Carlisle Expo Ctr., 100 K St., Carlisle. Fri, 10 to 6; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$7-\$8. 610-437-5534; Eastern-NationalShows.com.

Art & Craft Shows

April 1-September 30
Southern Chester County Sculpture Trail Opens. Enjoy the sculptures of 13 artists along Old Baltimore Pk. from West Grove to Nottingham. Map and listing can be found at OxfordArt.org.

April 5-May 4
Wayne Art Center Exhibit: "Reigning Cats & Dogs." Juried exhibition and sale of original works in a variety of media. Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon-Fri, 9 to 5. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.



April 6-7
Reading-Berks 11th Annual Spring Fine Arts & Craft Festival. Juried international and regional craftspeople and artisans display at Kutztown University Student Gallery, S. Campus Dr. and Baldy St., Kutztown. Refreshments, live music and door prizes. Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. Donation \$4. 610-678-6650; RBCrafts.org.

April 19-May 12
Main Line Art Center Presents "Jewels & Treasures: A Fine Art and Jewelry Exhibit and Benefit." Exquisite jewelry and works of art on display. Preview, Apr. 19, 7 to 9:30 pm. Benefits the Center's programs and community outreach. Mon-Thurs, 10 to 8; Fri-Sun, 10 to 4. Free. 610-525-0272; MainLineArt.org.

April 26-28
Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. More than 250 artists and craftspeople display and sell their hand-crafted items during this celebration of American creativity and craftsmanship. Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD. Fri, Sun, 10 to 6; Sat, 10 to 5. \$8-\$10. 800-210-9900; MDHomeAndGarden.com.

April 27
2nd Annual Art On The Square in Kennett Square. Juried fine arts and crafts festival held along the main streets in the borough. 9 am to 4 pm. Rain date, April 28. 610-998-5892.

May 5
May Day Festival of the Arts in West Chester. Artists set up booths to sell high-quality arts and crafts. Strolling musicians, mimes, jugglers, children's crafts will also be part of the day's activities. Everhart Park, 100 S. Brandywine St., West Chester. 11 to 4. Free. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

Design, Home Shows

April 19-21
Greater Philadelphia Spring Home Show. Designed for homeowners in all stages of remodeling, improving and decorating with hundreds of exhibits. Valley Forge Casino Resort, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia. Fri, 11 to 7; Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 6. Free. 888-433-EXPO; ACSHomeShow.com.

Eat, Drink & Be Merry

April 28
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. Fountain Park, Cross and High Sts., Chestertown. Noon to 3. \$15. 410-810-4898; TasteOfChestertown.com.

Equestrian Events

April 7
71st 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; DVAPT.com.

April 13-14
2013 Plantation Field April Horse Trials. Top riders compete in the sport known as "eventing," a mix of dressage, cross country and show jumping. Dressage on Sat, Stadium, Sun. 387 Green Valley Rd., 2 mi. N of Unionville, off Rt. 82. 610-347-2024; PlantationField-HorseTrials.com.

April 21
2013 Radnor Hunt Races Preview Party & Auction. Annual event featuring many fabulous items. Food stations by some of the area's finest caterers. Benefits Open Space Programs of the Brandywine Conservancy. Brushwood Stable, 737 Sugartown Rd., Malvern. 4:30 to 7:30. 610-388-8324; RadnorHuntRaces.org.

April 28
Kimberton Hunt Club's 68th Annual Horse Show. Warm up for the Devon Horse Show at this spring tradition, which also features vendors and a legendary food tent offering delicious homemade fare. Radnor Hunt Pony Club

Grounds, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. 8 am. Free. 610-469-0227; KimbertonHunt.net.

May 5
35th Annual Winterthur Point-To-Point. The thrill of steeplechase racing, the pageantry of antique carriage parades, tailgating and lots of family fun. A Hunt Brunch will be served trackside, and you can join Dogfish Head at the 35th Anniversary Hospitality Tent to enjoy food and beverages, \$100. Rt. 52, Winterthur. Gates open at 10:30 for tailgating; 11:30, general admission. Advance tickets only, \$15-\$50. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

Family Fun

April 6
Family Fun Fishing Derby at Linvilla Orchards. No experience required for this fun event—it's all about helping children catch their first fish, which they can take home. No fishing license required. 137 W. Knowlton Rd., Media. 9 to 2. \$14.99. 610-876-7116; Linvilla.com.

April 6
Delaware Center for Horticulture Family Workshop, ECO-Papermaking. Learn the process of turning seeds, leaves, petals and

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old paper scraps into pieces of paper. Each family makes several sheets of homemade paper. Designed for families with children ages 4 to 10. 1810 N. DuPont St., Wilmington. 10 am. \$28/family. 302-658-6262; The DCH.org.

April 7-28
The Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation. A living history site about the world of a farm family living in 18th century. **Apr. 6**, Opening day. **Apr. 13**, World War II Camp; **Apr. 20**, Running a Household Still at the Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation; **Apr. 28**, Sheep to

Shawl children's event. Ridley Creek State Park, Rt. 3, Edgemont. 11 to 5. \$8-\$10. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.

April 14
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 and kids activities. Benefits local charities. Rain date, April 21. 610-583-4432; VisitMediaPA.com.

April 18-28
Philadelphia Science Festival. More than 105 institutions collaborate in this 10-day event

showcasing the impact of science and technology past, present and future. **Apr. 20**, Carnival on The Parkway, with exhibitors offering family-friendly experiments, activities, games and live entertainment. 215-448-1128 or visit PhilaScienceFestival.org.

April 20
Earth Day Celebration at the Brandywine Zoo. The annual Party for the Planet visits the Wild, Wild West this year. Learn about animals that come from the other side of the U.S., enjoy live entertainment, learning activities, crafts, live animal presentations and more. 1001 North Park Dr., Wilmington. 10 to 3:45. \$3-\$5. 302-571-7747; BrandywineZoo.org.

April 21
Wheels of Wayne. Cruise in for the inaugural car and bike show in downtown Wayne. Antique, classic and custom cars and bikes will line N. Wayne Ave., along with entertainment, food, prizes and fun for the whole family. Noon to 4. 610-688-5600; Radnor.com.

April 27
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.

April 27
Historic Sugartown Days. Hands-on activities, demonstrations, children's activities, musical and performances, great local food and tours of the village's historic buildings and Carriage Museum. Sugartown & Boot Rds., Malvern. 10 to 4. 610-640-2667; HistoricSugartown.org.

May 4
NatureFest at Hagley Museum & Library. This family event is a learning opportunity for kids and encourages them to explore our environment. They can scale an oak tree using a climbing harness, explore a giant ant hill and more. 298 Buck Rd., Wilmington. 10 to 3. \$5. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

May 5
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta In Kennett Square. Celebration of Mexican culture with authentic Mexican food, music, entertainment and children's activities. Noon to 5. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

May 5
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. King St. and Burke Park, Malvern. 10 to 4. Benefits Teach Anti-Bullying, Inc. MalvernBusiness.com.

Film

April 26-28
9th Annual West Chester Film Festival. An International Short Film Festival. Opening Night Party, Fri, 5:30 to 7, \$25 includes ticket to opening block of films; Closing Night Awards Party, Sun, 6 to 10. \$8; \$50 for a weekend pass, online or at the door. WestChesterFilm-Festival.com.

Fundraising

April 6
2nd Annual F.O.C.U.S. Food Festival in Phoenixville. Tasty treats will be provided by local restaurants and specialty food shops in Phoenixville as well as live music, raffles and lots of fun. Benefits the FOCUS 2013 Post Prom Celebration, Keeping Our Kids Safe on Prom Night. Phoenixville Area High School, 1200 Gay St., Phoenixville. 5 to 8 pm. \$15-\$25. OPFocus.Weebly.com.

April 6
Thorncroft Victory Gallop. This year's theme, "A Tribute to Heroes" thanks all of our heroes who serve others. Black-tie dinner, dancing and auction benefits therapeutic riding programs at Thorncroft. Hyatt at The Bellevue, 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. 6 to midnight. Tickets start at \$225. 610-644-1963; Thorncroft.org.

April 13
4th Annual Dinner Dancing & Auction to Benefit Coatesville Area Senior Center. Auction items include art, cultural and sporting events, themed baskets, jewelry and more. Coatesville Country Club, 143 Reservoir Rd., Coatesville. 5 pm. \$50. Reservations, 610-383-6900.

April 13
Horse Power for Life 6th Annual Pink Horse Show Gala. 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 20
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. 6:30 pm. \$150. 610-296-9795; BakerIndustries.org.

April 24
Paoli Hospital's "A Taste of Spring" Fashion Show and Luncheon. A luncheon and fashion show featuring beautiful outfits for the whole family. Benefits Paoli Hospital's Maternity Ward and Nursery expansion. Waynesborough Country Club, 440 Darby-Paoli Rd. (Rt. 252), Paoli. 11:30 a.m. \$40. 610-469-6638.

April 25
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 27
Canine Partners for Life Presents "Unleashed and Uncorked." A fabulous night of fun, food, drink and live music with all proceeds going to this life-transforming organization. World Cafe Live at the Queen,

500 N. Market St., Wilmington. 7 to 11 pm. \$125. 610-869-4902; K94Life.org.

April 27
Friends of Safe Harbor Spring Celebration. Great auction items, music and food for the benefit of Safe Harbor, a nonprofit providing food, shelter, counseling and recovery opportunities to the homeless. Whitford Country Club, 600 Whitford Hills Rd., Exton. 5 to 9. \$100. 610-692-6550; SafeHarborOfGWC.org.

April 27
Chester County Night School's 2nd Annual Fashion Show and Fundraiser. Boutique

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shopping, raffles, silent auction and a fashion show benefitting the Night School and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Action News Meteorologist and JDF spokesperson Karen Rogers is Master of Ceremonies. Downingtown Country Club, Downingtown. 11 to 3. \$35. 610-692-1964; ChesterCountyNightSchool.org.

April 27

Chester County Chamber Foundation's Spring Auction Gala 2013. Live and silent auctions of great items. Benefits the Foundation and the Bob Thompson scholarship fund. Chester Valley

Golf Club, 430 Swedesford Rd., Malvern. 6 pm. \$100. 610-725-9100; CCCBL.org.

April 27

Surrey Services for Seniors Spring Gala & Auction. Come out for a lovely evening of cocktails, dinner and auction for the benefit of Surrey Services. Merion Cricket Club, 325 Montgomery Ave., Haverford. 6 to 11 pm. \$125. 610-647-9774; SurreyServices.org.

May 3

"Night at the Races" Benefit for the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County. A pre-party event for the Kentucky Derby, guests will

be served complimentary Mint Juleps, hors d'oeuvres as they try their hand at pari-mutuel betting and bid on auction items. Join the race to end domestic violence at the Phoenixville Foundry, 2 N. Main St., Phoenixville. 7 to 11 pm. \$125. 610-431-3546; DVCCC.com.

Gardens & Plant Sales

April 3–November

Chanticleer, A Pleasure Garden. Asian Woods is just one of 11 pleasure gardens here, along with The Teacup Garden, the Terrace at the Chanticleer House, the Pond area, the Ruin and Gravel Garden and Bell's Woodland area. 786 Church Rd., Wayne. Through Oct, Wed-Sun, 10 to 5; May-Labor Day, Fri, until 8. \$5-\$10. 610-687-4163; ChanticleerGarden.org.

April 6, May 4

Tyler Arboretum Events. *Apr. 6*, 10K Trail Run, see *Outdoor Activities*. *May 4*, 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 27–28

Delaware Nature Society Native Plant Sale. "Plants For All Seasons," featuring plants with year-round color and interest—flowers in spring and summer, foliage in fall, form, texture (and berries) in winter. Coverdale Farm, 543 Way Rd., Greenville. Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 11 to 4. 302-239-2334; DelawareNatureSociety.org.

May 3–4

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 3. 302-322-7895; Arasapha.org.

May 4

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 4–5

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.

Museums

Ongoing

Chester County Historical Society. *Ongoing*, "On The Edge of Battle: Chester County and

The Civil War." 225 N. High St. Wed-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

Ongoing

National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum. The museum has acquired The Grutzka Art Collection, the works of German-born artist, Klaus Guido Grutzka. Visitors will be able to view first-hand the works of this master of machine imagery—paintings are on permanent display at NISHM. 50 S. First Ave., Coatesville. Mon-Sat, 10 to 3. 610-384-9282; LukensNHD.org.

Ongoing

Landis Valley Museum. A living history village and farm that collects, preserves and interprets the history and material culture of an early Pennsylvania German settlement and the ongoing creation and exploration of a diverse collection of artifacts. 2451 Kissel Hill Rd., Lancaster. Mon-Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, noon to 5. \$8-\$12. 717-569-0401; LandisValleyMuseum.org.

Through May 19

Demuth Museum Exhibit "A Formal Realist: The Works of John Dubrow." The exhibit surveys urban scenes, landscapes made during travels abroad and self-portraits from throughout Dubrow's career. 120 E. King St., Lancaster. Tues-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 1 to 4. Free. 717-299-9940; Demuth.org.

April 12

Delaware Art Museum Presents "Art is After Dark" Friday Night Event Series. The museum stays open late offering a variety of events and activities for adults. *Apr. 12*, test your art knowledge in a game of Quizzo and win prizes. 7 pm, \$10. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

Music, Dance & Live Shows

April 5

WCU Live! Tamagawa University Taiko Drumming. Thunderous Taiko drumming and Japanese folkloric dance in a return performance to Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, Phillips Memorial Bldg., University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$5. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu.Live.

April 5–7

Lancaster Symphony Orchestra—The Four Seasons: Vivaldi, Piazzolla and Carney. Four seasons, two composers and one master violinist, Jonathan Carney. Fulton Opera House, 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Fri-Sat, 8; Sat, 3; Sun, 7:30. \$26-\$64. 717-397-7425; LancasterSymphony.org.

April 6, May 4

Point Entertainment Presents. *Apr. 6*, comedian Craig Shoemaker, \$25-\$38.50; *May 4*, Paula Poundstone, \$25-\$38. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

April 13

Simple Gifts Concert. This award-winning duo plays everything from Irish jigs to American reels, and Klezmer to Gypsy melodies. Oxford Arts Alliance Concert at Bethany Christian School, 1137 Shadyside Rd., Oxford. Donation, \$8; \$20/family. 610-457-0301; OxfordArt.org.

April 13

WCU—Live! Missoula Children's Theatre Presents *Blackbeard the Pirate*. Auditions, *Apr. 8*, 4:30. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, Phillips Memorial Bldg., University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. Show times, *Apr. 13*, 3 and 5 pm. \$8-\$10. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu.Live.

April 19

DuPont Theatre Presents *Ralphie May, "Too Big to Ignore."* One of America's comedy treasures brings his no-holds-barred style to the DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 8 pm. \$32.50-\$42.50. 302-656-4401; DuPontTheatre.com.

April 20

Americana Roots Ramble. A celebration of the diverse sounds of Americana and Roots Music. State Street, Media. 7:30 pm to 1 am. \$15-\$20. 610-566-5039; StateStreetBlues.com.

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Outdoor Activities

April 6

Parkway Dash 4 Diabetes 2013. The 5K Run, 2-Mile Walk, Fun Run takes 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. Kids run, 3:30. Race at 4. \$25. CCHosp.com.

April 6

Tyler Arboretum 10K Trail Run. Test yourself against a course that runs through the heart of the beautiful and historic Tyler Arboretum.

The course is fast and challenging, with many elevation changes and four shallow creek crossings. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 8 to 2. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

April 21

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

April 28

Upper Main Line YMCA Triathlon. Swim 450 meters in a heated outdoor pool, bike

10-mi. through the rolling hills of Easttown Township, and take a challenging 5K run. Ideal for the novice, first-time athlete or the seasoned vet looking for a pre-season tune-up. 610-647-9622, x2511; UMLY.org.

May 4

Justice4PAKids 5K Run and 1 Mi. Fun Run/Walk. Come out for a great cause. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, t-shirts for all and free refreshments. Chester County Trail, 140 Church Farm La., Exton. 8 am. RunCCRS.com or Justice4PAKids.com.

May 5

34th 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 7

The Trip to Bountiful. People's Light & Theatre, Steinbright Stage, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Wed-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Wed, Sun, 2; Sun, 7. \$25-\$45. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

Through May 25

Pinkalicious. The first area presentation of the Off-Broadway sensation about the girl who only likes things 'pink' and how it affects everyone around her. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Sat-Sun, 11 am. \$10-\$12. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

April 2-7

Dreamgirls. The story of an up-and-coming 1960s singing girl group, and the triumphs and tribulations that come with fame and fortune. DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. \$60-\$75. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Wed, Sat, Sun, 2; Fri-Sat, 8. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.

April 17-May 19

Mame. A classic musical with many favorites songs, including "Bosom Buddies" and "We Need A Little Christmas." Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. \$27-\$49. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

April 30-May 5

Memphis. See article in this issue. ♦

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

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CountyLinesMagazine.com



Award winning *Memphis* hits the DuPont Theatre, April 30th – May 5th.

Take a Trip to Memphis

Inspired by actual events, *Memphis* takes you to the smoky halls and underground clubs of the segregated 1950s. You'll meet Huey Calhoun, a young, white DJ, who fell in love with everything he shouldn't: rock and roll and an electrifying black singer, Felicia Farrell. He wants to change the world, and she is ready for her big break.

Memphis is an original story about the cultural revolution that erupted when his vision met her voice, and the music changed forever. The musical takes you along on their incredible journey to the ends of the airwaves—filled with laughter, soaring emotion and roof-raising rock 'n' roll.

Some Bon Jovi, Lots of Dazzling Dance

Memphis arrives at the DuPont Theatre with a brand new Tony Award winning score with music by Bon Jovi's founding member and keyboardist David Bryan and lyrics by Bryan and Joe DiPietro, author of the play's book. The score has something for everyone—haunting and soulful at times, yet roaring and upbeat at others.

Renowned choreographer Sergio Trujillo (*Jersey Boys*) breathes new life into the '50s with some of the most dazzling dancing on stage today. The energy will leave you tapping your toes all the way home.

Roof-raising rock 'n' roll gives audiences the real feel of the '50s seedy underground dance scene. David Bryan's music, as *The New York Times* wrote, "evokes the powerhouse funk of James Brown,

the hot guitar riffs of Chuck Berry, the smooth harmonies of the Temptations, the silken, bouncy pop of the great girl groups of the period."

Award Winning Performances

New Jersey native Bryan Fenkart delivers a pitch-perfect performance in the lead role of Huey Calhoun. With powerful singing and deep emotion, Felicia Boswell makes the role of Felicia her own, delivering a Broadway passion for music. Winning four 2010 Tony Awards—including Best Musical and Best Original Score, plus three Drama Desk Awards—*Memphis* will blast you out the door humming and happy.

Come enjoy the story, music and dance of *Memphis*, as they combine into one powerful performance that speaks to the heart, inspires us to tap our toes, and reminds us why we love to come to the theater in the first place. ♦

—Nicholas Devoe

If You Go:

Where: DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington

When: April 30-May 5; Apr. 30 & May 1 & 2, 7:30 p.m.; May 1, 4, & 5, 2 p.m.; May 3 & 4, 8 p.m.

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

More: *Dreamgirls*, April 2-7. *Menopause: The Musical*, June 8-9

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Charles Demuth, Daisies, 1932, watercolor and graphite on paper, 9 3/4 x 13 5/8 in., Collection Demuth Museum, Lancaster, PA


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Beyond the well-known buggies and bonnets, Lancaster County has a vibrant arts scene.

NOT YOUR GRANDDAD'S LANCASTER COUNTY

Matt Freeman

Traditional on one side of the street, trendy on the other,
and both equally accessible for a fun day's excursion.

The problem with living in the Brandywine Valley, just an hour or so from Lancaster County, is that most of us have been to Lancaster a few times and think we know the deal: beards, bonnets and buggies, plus some shoo-fly pie and so forth. And while there's no denying that the Amish and similar groups (it's complicated) are fascinating in their centuries-old dogged nonconformity, there's much, much more going on in Lancaster County than that—especially these days.

You'll find brew pubs and gallery strolls, a symphony orchestra and an opera company, shopping from antiques to outlets, all in Lancaster County. Go there for fun and interesting out-of-the-way museums, outdoor sports, restaurants of all types and fanciness levels. And, because of the county's famously rich soil, Lancaster County has become something of a well-kept secret destination for foodies who want to browse markets in search of top-notch ingredients. It's all there. And more.

For Families, Foodies & More

Are the kids bouncing off the walls? Bundle them in the car and head out to Lancaster County, there's plenty for whole families to do. Want a peaceful, romantic getaway? The county has historic villages with charming bed and breakfasts.

There's even one town—all right, it's Lititz—where you can buy chocolate from the Wilbur Chocolate Company, then walk off its wares in a charming park with a stream running through it and a large gazebo where you can imagine yourself twirling a parasol at the turn of a distant century.

And a few blocks away, there are scads of hip boutiques up and down the tree-lined sidewalks. That's today's Lancaster County in microcosm—traditional on one side of the street, trendy on the other, and both equally accessible for a fun day's excursion.

A Bevy of Brewpubs

In the late 1980s, Ed Stoudt opened one of the first brewpubs in Pennsylvania in his Stoudts Black Angus Antiques Mall in Adamstown. He'd been wondering why he couldn't get great beer at home like he found on visits to Germany, where his forebears were from, and decided to do something about it.

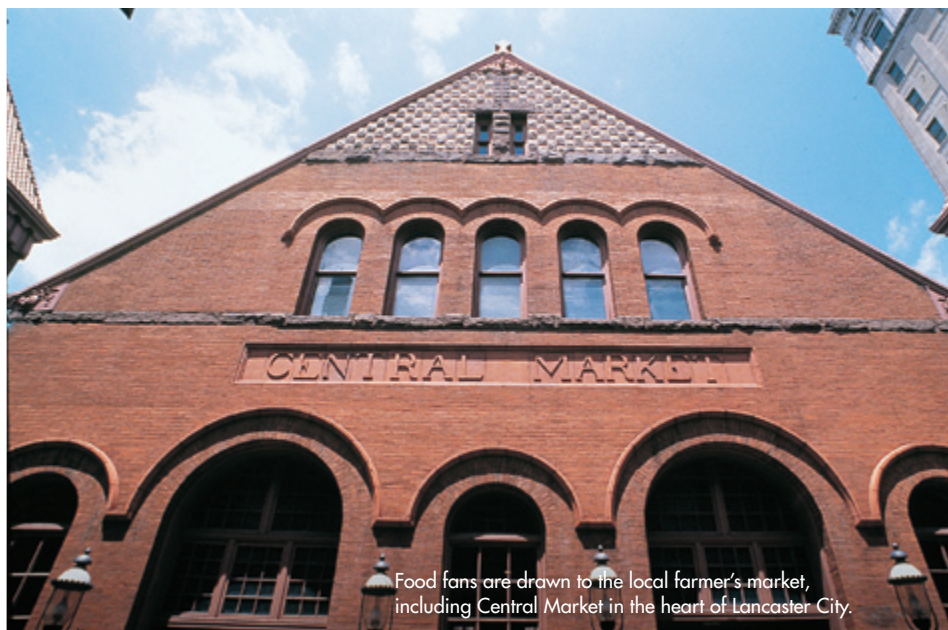
Stoudt's is still going strong, and has been joined by a number of equally worthy brewpubs, including the well-regarded Lancaster Brewing Company in Lancaster City, also home to a branch of the Iron Hill Brewery, a happily familiar name to Brandywine Valley residents. The Spring House Brewing Company is another city brewpub worth a visit.

Others outside the city include Bube's Brewery in Mount Joy, Rumspringa Brewing Company in Bird-in-Hand, and the Swashbuckler BrewPub in Manheim, on the Mount Hope Estate.

The county is dotted with wineries, too, so fans of local wines have a number of targets for a weekend of tasting. (For more information on this and everything else Lancasterian, visit PaDutchCountry.com.)

The county always had restaurants that offered traditional fare and fine dining, but today there's a whole new wave of contemporary food. Some 40 restaurants were part of an early March restaurant week event in Lancaster City, according to Jennifer Baker, director of the mayor's

A trip to Lititz lets you mix browsing in chic shops lining tree-shaded streets with visiting a chocolate manufacturer.



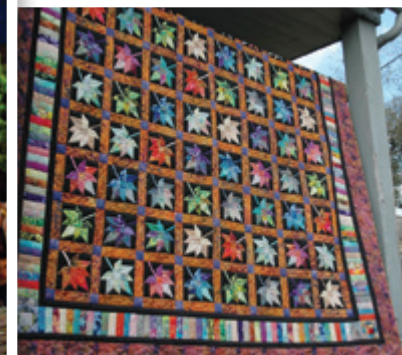
Food fans are drawn to the local farmer's market, including Central Market in the heart of Lancaster City.



Brewpubs and breweries have brought the beernocenti to Lancaster. Stoudts and Lancaster Brewing Company are among the better known. Mt. Joy is home to Bube's Brewery.



Third Fridays have music as their focus with plenty of outdoor performances for all ages.



For more traditional shopping, Amish quilts are still widely available.

office of special events. "Our restaurants are phenomenal," Baker says, and foodies across the region agree.

But if you want to cook yourself, the county's rich land furnishes all kinds of food sold fresh in farmers' markets like the city's Central Market, the Green Dragon in Ephrata, Shady Maple Market in East Earl, and many more. Come back this summer to sample the small roadside stands throughout the county.

An Arts Explosion

You want a side of food for the soul with that? The arts have been famously flourishing in the city, which has one of the best-regarded First Friday art strolls in the region.

Starting about ten years ago, the galleries, performance spaces, city government and others began promoting the city as an arts destination. The city hosts a symphony orchestra and opera company in addition to the visual arts spaces.

Enjoy live music? Every third Friday is Music Friday, with live music all over the city. "There's always activity going on," Baker says.

This comes as news to people who've only ever visited the attractions on Route 30 a time or two. "I don't think they even realize there's a city here," Baker says, with a laugh. But if browsing the city's Gallery Row on Prince Street interests you, or you enjoy music and theater and other cultural offerings, visit LancasterArts.com and DowntownLancaster.com.

Shopping Options

Lancaster County's day-trip options for shopping come in several flavors. Outlets have boomed in recent years, particularly in the Tanger and Rockvale Outlet centers along Route 30.

There are antiques all over, but if that's a real passion you'll want to visit Adamstown, which has several large and many small antiques malls all through town with literally thousands of dealers. You can get everything from five-figure fine furniture to a copy of *Life Magazine* printed the week your grandfather was born—it's all there.

There are fun, hip boutiques all over Lancaster City as well as in Lititz, Strasburg and Intercourse, which is where to go for the famous Amish geometrically patterned handmade quilts.

Don't Miss the History

History buffs have plenty to choose from, but won't want to miss the Ephrata Cloister. The multi-story, steep-gabled buildings created by a German religious community in the early 18th century attracted tourists even then, being the tallest buildings outside Philadelphia. Today, they're a vision of historic Europe right out of those 16th-century landscapes by Pieter Breugel the Elder.

Other history-oriented stops include the Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum near Lancaster and the Amish Country Homestead at Plain & Fancy Farm in Bird-in-Hand (that's a town, by the way). For more, check "Heritage" *PaDutch-Country.com*.

Also worth a visit is the DeMuth Museum in Lancaster City. A famous artist of the early 20th century, Charles DeMuth hobnobbed with William Carlos Williams and Alfred Steiglitz plus other modernist luminaries, but was a lifelong resident of Lancaster.

Family Fun

Joel Cliff, media relations manager for Pennsylvania Dutch Country, says don't forget about out-door fun. Refreshing Mountain in Stevens has zip-lining, and Shank's Mare Outfitters in Wrightsville can get you equipped for hiking and kayaking. And the quiet roads offer bicyclists views of pastures, fields and Amish homes with clothes drying on a line.

For family fun you've got the traditional buggy rides and farm visits, and the Strasburg Railroad and Dutch Wonderland are still very much going concerns.

Designed like an old-time train station, Strasburg's National Toy Train Museum hosts one of the world's largest collections, with models from the 1800s, delighting kids of all ages. Well worth a stop.

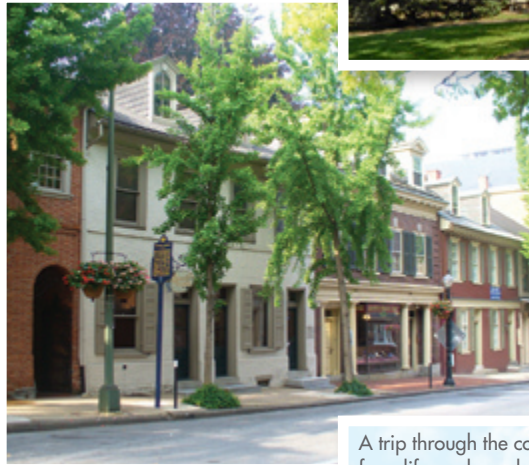
Travel writer Therese Boyd, author of a book on Pennsylvania's many esoteric little museums, says kids will also enjoy the Turkey Hill Experience in Columbia, a colorful exploration of cows, milk, ice cream, and how it all relates. Grownups can giggle at the life-size plastic cows, and milk a mechanical one if that's their heart's desire.

With all this variety, every family member should be able to find something fun and interesting to do in the new and improved Lancaster County—traditional mixed with trendy, all just a day-trip away. ♦

PHOTOS: DiscoverLancasterPA.com



History buffs will enjoy Ephrata Cloister, above, while art fans should stop at the DeMuth Museum, left.



A trip through the country will include scenes from everyday farm life, such as clotheslines flapping in the wind.



Strasburg's National Toy Train Museum is a must-see stop for kids of all ages.



And Dutch Wonderland—a kingdom for kids—will delight with rides, attractions and more.

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Green Family Day



Edwin Malet

Celebrate Earth Day—April 22—with family activities.

Saturday afternoon. “I’m bored,” announces the 10-year-old. The 14-year-old has been texting, and is moments from heading for the mall. Your husband declared it “Family Day,” but has settled in with his iPad and is sinking deeper.



Brandywine River Museum Native Plant Sale



Thornbury Farm



Northbrook Canoe

Plant a Seed

So you want to get the family going? And going green? Why not try family gardening? You’ll need a rake, a hoe, something to plant . . .

To get the kids excited, visit a nursery for seeds, seedlings and inspiration. Mostardi Nursery in Newtown Square and Waterloo Gardens in Exton offer wide selections and expert advice.

To go native, get your plants from the Brandywine Conservancy’s Annual Wildflower, Native Plant & Seed Sale on May 12 and 13. Or Yellow Springs Farm, which has Native Plant Sales the last three weekends in May. And there’s Tyler Arboretum’s Annual Plant Sale, May 3, featuring fragrant plants this year.

Now pick out a sunny patch of your yard. Add some compost, fertilizer, plants or seeds, and top with mulch. Add water as needed. Sit back and watch ‘em grow.

Grow Your Own

If your gardening ambitions are food-oriented, you can join a CSA (Community-Supported Agriculture). CSAs bring together producers and consumers to share the risks and rewards of local food production. For families, it’s a popular way to buy local, seasonal fruits, vegetables and more, all directly from community sources. For farmers, it helps them diversify their crop, specialize and still get the benefits of scale and predictable sales.

Some CSAs in our area are Rushton Farm (read their *Wild Carrot* newsletter), Kimberton (the first CSA in PA), Thornbury Farm (also selling through their market), and Pete’s Produce Market (offering a flexible CSA).

Clean the Stream

Children splashing, frogs hopping, trout leaping: our area teams with streams, and the best way to experience them is on them. If you don’t own your own canoe or kayak, Northbrook Canoe, for example, will outfit you. Take in the spring on a leisurely paddle down the Brandywine.

For a more epic experience, join the Schuylkill Sojourn in June. Going from Schuylkill Haven to the skyscrapers of Philadelphia: 112 miles, seven days (you can choose just a day or two), and a guided tour of history and ecology. The Sojourn fills up early, so register now.



Schuylkill River Sojourn



Valley Forge National Historical Park

But how to preserve our streams? Sadly, it’s been several centuries since William Penn sipped from them directly. Today our streams require cleanup. Plastic bags, tennis balls, hubcaps, motor oil and worse all make their way down to our streams.

You can do your part by being careful. Or your family can do more by joining a stream-cleaning crew. In April, join the 8th Annual Chester Creek Cleanup, organized by the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association. Or join other clean-ups, like Willistown Land Trust’s cleanup on May 4, or the West Chester Rotary’s event in late summer. Make it a family tradition and plan one every year!

Watch the Birds

There are many things you can do with birds: feed them, build houses for them. And you can count them. Although you missed the 2013 four-day national Great Backyard Bird Count, mark your calendar for next February.

It’s early—the best time is fall—but a family birding trip to Hawk Mountain, about 90 minutes from West Chester, will let you see as many as 15 species of raptors. More great bird watching at Conowingo Dam, about an hour away in Maryland, known for gulls, herons, ducks and eagles.

Closer to home, consider a visit to our local arboreta. Philadelphia’s Morris

Arboretum, for instance, offers a walk through its top birding habitats on April 27. Jenkins Arboretum claims 109 species have visited its 46 acres in Devon.

Bring binoculars, a spotting scope, or a high-powered lens and camera. And your life list (the list of all bird species you’ve identified during your life).

Take a Hike

Strap on your hiking boots and walk. The area is rich in hiking opportunities. There’s the Horseshoe Trail, roughly 140 miles long, from Valley Forge to Stony Mountain. (It’s a bridle path too, for the record.) Don’t expect to do it in one day.

For shorter hikes, consider the Valley Forge Historical Park. The 7,730-acre French Creek State Park has 35 miles of trails. (Download a free mobile app, Pocket Ranger, from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.) Another option is one of the four parks operated by Chester County Parks and Recreation: Hibernia, Nottingham, Warwick and Wolf’s Hollow, each with five to nine trails, some more than three miles long.

If you’re interested in helping maintain the trails, contact the Chester County Trail Club. Work crews are organized by the club once each quarter. They mark paths, clear debris and cut back plant

growth. You’ll burn some energy and get that warm feeling in your heart.

Or Ride a Bike

It’s that time of year when your bicycle beckons, but don’t plan a long ride first time out. Check your tires, brakes, chain. Take a test ride or two. Then pick a scenic route and head out.

If you’re ambitious, try the Schuylkill River path—130 miles from Pottsville to downtown Philadelphia. And it connects to other shorter, more rugged paths (each about 20 miles long), including Wissahickon, Perkiomen and Blue Marsh Lake. If you go to the western end, at Port Clinton, just before Pottsville, you’ll cross the Appalachian Trail—2,181 miles from Georgia to Maine. But don’t expect to bicycle. It’s forbidden.

At the other end of the difficulty scale, try the Chester Valley Trail (one mile, currently) or the Struble Trail (three miles open, 15 miles planned). Or try the back roads of Chester County, south and west of West Chester. But make sure you ride as a group to aid visibility for drivers who don’t expect cyclists.

Back to the Land

On a trip to Australia years ago, I discovered “farm-stays,” a very different option than, say, the Melbourne Hyatt.



Morris Arboretum Out On A Limb



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Then I found one stateside, Crow Farm on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Recently, I discovered the Olde Stone Guesthouse in Atglen, built in the late 1700s, growing crops and keeping poultry. Although they don't encourage participating in the work of the farm, you may still bring your blue jeans. And a corn-cob pipe.

Celebrate Earth Day

At the DuPont Environmental Education Center in Wilmington, there's an Earth Day Festival on April 20 from 11 to 3. The White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Program plans an Earth Day Planting on April 20. Also on the 20th, Philadelphia's 32nd Annual 5K Run for Clean Air has pledged to be sustainable and zero-waste.

For the ultimate in green, your family may want to create its own way to celebrate the earth. And more often than Earth Day. ♦

Farmers Markets

Your family may not consider going to the supermarket a family outing, but a visit to a local farm market is different. You can meet the farmers, sample the produce, and maybe bring home a special gift. Plus, most are outside.

Bryn Mawr Farmers Market, Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station. Winter Hours, 1st & 3rd Sat, 10 to noon. BrynMawrFarmersMarket.com.

Kennett Square Farmers Market, downtown. Winter Hours, 1st & 3rd Fri, 2 to 5. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Lancaster Central Market, 23 N. Market St., Lancaster. Year-round, Tues, Fri, 6 to 4; Sat, 6 to 2. 717-735-6890; CentralMarketLancaster.com.

Lancaster County Farmers Market, 389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. Year-round, Wed, Fri, Sat, 6 to 4. 610-688-9856; LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com.

West Chester Growers Market, Chestnut and Church Sts. Dec-Apr, 1st & 3rd Sat, 10 to noon. 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.

New Indoor Markets:

Artisan Exchange, 208 Carter Dr., West Chester. Through Apr. 27, 10 to 2. Indoor market featuring a variety of organically produced foods and specialty items. 610-719-0282; ArtisanExchangeWCPA.com.

The Market at Liberty Place, 148 W. State St., Kennett Square. Vendors offer fresh seafood, produce, baked goods and other retail foods. 610-925-3411; LGB-Properties.com.

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An Enchanted Event

Carol Metzker
Photos by Amy Tucker Photography



From The Church at Big Bend, to The Mansion at Ridley Creek, and the Water Tower at Oakbourne Mansion, couples have venue choices galore in the Brandywine Valley.



when she married the post-transformation “Beast.” And then they built their woodland home with the help of forest animals.

Some of those girlhood visions are soon to become reality. In May, Cole continued, she marries her “beloved” among family and friends at a remote pavilion in Ridley Creek State Park. Her fiancé’s littlest cousin Walter will serve as ring bearer, dressed in a furry little costume, ready to “caper off into the woods with their rings tied to a pillow.”

Destination: Chester County

With glorious food in spectacular settings, caterers are transforming local festivities into destination weddings. For one couple, happy memories of time in Italy

inspired their wedding theme. Brandywine Caterers, based in Chadds Ford, created a menu and table design that transported the bridal party and guests to a romantic Tuscan countryside villa, all on the grounds of the bride’s family’s Chester County home. Seated at long tables in the style of large family gatherings in a Tuscan hall, guests enjoyed luscious Italian seafood dishes, a gorgeous antipasto display, a salmon decorated with cucumber scales, and wonderful Italian wedding wine.

If your enchanted evening includes walking down the aisle through magnificent gardens of a DuPont estate, exchanging vows by a reflecting pool at sunset, or being photographed among period antiques, a Winterthur wedding is for you. Its exclu-

sive caterer, Restaurant Associates, and preferred list of vendors—from audiovisual experts to wedding planners—can create superlative wedding scenes for long and short guest-lists.

Other romantic venues include Appl’ford’s tented terrace—with a built-in dance floor—adjoining a charming field-stone farmhouse in Villanova that accommodates 200 guests from April through November. For a Center City venue, try the Crystal Tea Room and the Ballroom at the Ben Franklin House, where Finley Caterers dishes up sumptuous reception fare among hand-carved columns, crystal chandeliers and turn-of-the-century elegance.

The picturesque 19th-century Hibernia Mansion on the National Register of His-

CREATING A DREAM WEDDING CLOSE TO HOME.

Dream weddings—in magical forests, in the starlit Tuscan countryside, on flower-filled estates of yore—are whisking local brides and grooms into happily ever after ... without leaving the Brandywine Valley. With ingenuity and passion, couples and vendors are bringing fantasies to life.

Fairy Tales Come True

Hannah Grace Cole’s upcoming wedding is made of fairy tale charm. According to Cole, her “childhood bridal dreams were a mix of Burnett’s *A Little Princess* and Disney’s *Snow White* when she finds the dwarves’ empty cottage.” In her imagination, Cole is wearing a dress sewn from leaves



If an outdoor reception is your dream, try The Manor House at Prophecy Creek.



Brides spend a quiet moment—and show off stunning gowns—at Knowlton Mansion and The Mansion at Ridley Creek.



toric Places serves as a beautiful backdrop for brides and grooms who arrive by horse and carriage for elaborate pavilion weddings at Hibernia Park. One couple's grand entrance was made by hot air balloon!

Dream Dresses

When a girl closes her eyes and thinks of a wedding, she pictures herself in a beautiful dress, said Colleen Wilson. The image is “the girl, Prince Charming and the

dress.” The co-owner of Claire's Fashions in Wilmington—which offers gowns for brides, bridesmaids, mothers and others; cocktail dresses for parties and rehearsal dinners; and shoes—described a typical sequence of getting engaged, setting the date, securing the venue, and then finding the gown, which shapes other plans. Different dress styles lead the way for simple elegance for an afternoon on the beach or lavish luxury at a princess's ballroom.

In fact, many brides, bridesmaids and family members say that dress shopping is one of the best parts of wedding preparations. Nicole deFuria concurs, recalling designing simple gowns when she and a childhood friend drew pictures of their future wedding dresses. Years later, her friend is a bridesmaid and her crayon renditions foreshadowed the sleek, stylish gown she chose for her September 2013 ceremony and reception at the Union League in Philadelphia.



The quest for a dress extends to the youngest members of the wedding party.



Rosalyn Lorgus, too, attests to the thrilling quest for a dress. Years ago, she was in heaven trying on dresses to wear as flower girl in her aunt's wedding. This spring, Kayte, six-year-old daughter of the same aunt, experienced the same ecstasy upon finding a “twirly” flower girl dress for Rosalyn's wedding.

La Bella Moda, although a hint past the borders of Chester County, is well worth the drive, according to many brides. The

luxury bridal boutique in Conshohocken offers designer wardrobe and accessories. Many wedding parties flock to The Little House Shop in Wayne for their bridal registry and exquisite stationery.

Beautiful Blooms

While brides dream about the dress, mothers envision beautiful flowers, according to Ilonka Comstock, owner of Ilonka Floral Decorator in Malvern. The

award-winning wedding and event florist said she is not a budget florist, but she is “always custom.” Exquisite floral chandeliers and bouquets and breathtaking and inventive designs for floral “candelabra” or “fountain”-styled centerpieces make gorgeous decorations for dream weddings and cherished details in photos. Ilonka also offered practical advice: “If your family hugs a lot at special occasions, substitute posies for big orchid corsages

The iconic tree at Loch Nairn Golf Club has been a gorgeous backdrop for countless weddings.



Special details make each wedding the couple's dream. Wedding pies are trending.





A rustic country barn and the Pavilion at Longwood Gardens both set the stage for enchanted events. And the rings add a bit of bling.



that will likely become crushed after a hearty embrace.”

Blue Moon Florist in Downingtown and Flowers by the Greenery in West Chester also offer blossoms and blooms for weddings—garlands, crowns, cake decorations and more.

A Touch of Sparkle

Beyond ensuring that guests safely navigate nighttime wedding tents, indoor and outdoor wedding lighting is now becoming highly orchestrated to conjure dramatic ambiance. Taking twinkle lights and candles to a new level, venues and vendors are offering clear tents that allow for star-gazing, glowing globes of Japanese lanterns for soft mood lighting, “pin spots” to highlight centerpieces, and color washes to blanket ceilings with romantic hues.

Although some venues, florists and disk jockeys include pin lights or “up-lighting” as part of their services, lighting designers—many with theatrical backgrounds—now top lists of preferred vendors. Light Action, Inc. of Delaware transformed a Chadds Ford wedding tent into a sublime scene evoking thoughts of the aurora borealis.

Jewelry stores and designers also provide sparkle through glittering gold and flashing diamonds. Not everyone has Nicole deFuria’s connections in which a

family friend—who once owned a jewelry store and told Nicole that he would ensure she had a dream ring when she grew up—flew from Chicago to the East Coast with jewel packets in his pocket for her fiancé to inspect. But, local stores—Walter J. Cook Jeweler in Paoli and Wayne Jewelers, among others—offer dazzling arrays of diamonds and bands close to home.

At the close of a dream day, couples make their grand exit in antique cars, horse-drawn carriages, deluxe limousines or VW. That’s just the start of the storybook ending. ♦

Father of the bride contributed his vintage VW for the couple’s getaway.



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Winterthur Museum & Gardens
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Route 1, Chadds Ford
610-388-8112; www.Brandywine-Museum.org

Comm. Arts Center, Wallingford
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610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org

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

Delaware Art Museum
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302-571-9590; DelArt.org

Delaware Ctr. for Contemporary Arts
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302-656-6466, ext. 7111; TheDCCA.org

Fleisher Art Memorial
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215-922-3456; Fleisher.org

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215-448-1165; www2.FI.edu

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215-545-4302; PhilArtAlliance.org

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215-848-1797; Cliveden.org

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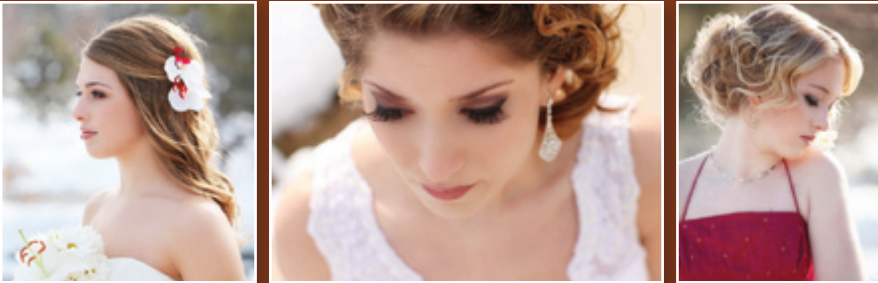
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BIGGER is Better... When It Comes to Trees

Article and Photos Gary Schwetz, The Delaware Center for Horticulture

Learn why size matters in landscaping.

When choosing what to plant around your home, consider the benefits of larger trees. Small flowering trees are beautiful and fit neatly into small spaces, but they shouldn't be the only trees on your property. For many reasons, large trees are vital to a livable environment.

We need big trees for the wide range of benefits they provide to our communities, both tangible and intangible. The Delaware Center for Horticulture (TheDCH) has conducted several years of research to measure the benefits and economic value of trees and reviewed findings from other tree research to find that many millions of dollars worth of benefits accrue from trees each year for the services they provide to our communities. Trees produce oxygen and clean our air of particulates and other pollutants, improve our water quality and reduce flooding, save on energy costs, improve our property values and reduce crime. (More information is available at TheDCH.org.)

Though all trees have value, research shows that large trees—especially those taller than 20 feet—provide benefits that are exponentially greater than those from small trees. In other words, a large tree that's twice as big as a small tree is much more than twice as valuable for the health of our planet. You get much more bang for your big tree.

Eight Times Better

Large trees have many more leaves than small trees, and, consequently, a tree that's twice as big as a small tree will be at least eight times more beneficial in removing carbon dioxide and adding oxygen to our air. Large trees can store much more carbon in their branches, trunks and roots. Big trees extract dust and pollutants from the air much better, and absorb stormwater significantly better too.

And those extra leaves also cool the air much better, reduce energy costs and make shaded air conditioning units run noticeably more efficiently. For example, one healthy large tree has the cooling effect equal to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day—at no cost to you!

So it's not just the beauty and increased property value that large, mature shade trees will bring to your home. The investment in growing large trees will be quickly paid back—and with interest. (Calculate the economic and ecological benefits of your trees with this online calculator: TreeBenefits.com/calculator.)

Great Trees for the Brandywine Valley

Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). A wonderful aspect of living in the Brandywine Valley is the explosion of color in the fall. Black Gum

Black Gum, aka Black Tupelo, dazzles in the fall.



(aka Black Tupelo) is a native tree that puts on a spectacular autumn show. This tree has a pyramid shape in youth, irregular rounded crown in maturity, and a brilliant red display every fall. In summer, its oval-shaped leaves are a pleasant glossy, dark green, and the female trees have small, blue-black fruits that birds love.

Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*). My favorite native trees are the oaks, in part because they support butterflies and moths and other wildlife that eat acorns. Since

Red Oaks are susceptible to blight (bacterial leaf scorch), TheDCH has searched for resistant alternatives. The most commonly recommended white oak for planting along streets is the Swamp White Oak, which can withstand urban conditions such as soil compaction, salt and extremes of temperature and moisture. Another excellent white oak for towns is the Regal Prince Oak, a cross between the Swamp White Oak and English Oak, an oval-shaped, medium-sized oak with handsome foliage.



The benefit of trees is proportional to the number of leaves and volume of its canopy. This large oak dwarfs city buses on the street and has 10 to 20 times more leaves than a small flowering trees nearby. It provides at least 10 to 20 times the environmental value.

Left: The #1 plant to support butterflies and moths in our region is oak trees. More than 530 species of butterflies and moths depend on oaks, and their acorns feed many other species of wildlife.

Below: The elm, a classic large shade tree, was nearly exterminated in the 20th century by Dutch elm disease. These two are on the University of Delaware campus.



Fast and Shady

Sadly, few trees planted along town streets live more than 30 years. Those that survive longer generally grow more slowly as they age. Since most urban trees will never reach the maximum size predicted, faster growing trees may better suit your needs for benefits during your lifetime.

American Elm (*Ulmus Americana*). Magnificent and fast growing, the native elm was once one of this country's dominant trees lining the streets of nearly every American city. This classic large shade tree was nearly exterminated in the 20th century, however, by Dutch elm disease. Happily, several disease-resistant varieties are now readily available including 'Princeton,' 'Harmony' and 'Valley Forge.' These newly developed elms offer us the opportunity to restore a piece of American heritage.

When you plant an elm, you bring an exceptionally city-tolerant shade tree back into the urban environment with the added satisfaction of watching it achieve a mature size in your lifetime.

Common Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*). Another fast-growing native tree is the Common Baldcypress. Although not often used as a street tree, it's ideal—with a tough disposition and a dazzling burnt sienna fall color. An entire street or driveway lined with these trees is a sight to behold.



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The fast-growing Common Baldcypress turns a dazzling burnt sienna in the fall.

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Mistaken Identity: Invasive Plants and their Native Look-Alikes in the Mid-Atlantic:
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Two additional large native trees that can tolerate urban conditions are **Kentucky Coffeetree** (*Gymnocladus dioica*), which creates a graceful airy canopy and pleasant light shade, and **Shagbark Hickory** (*Carya ovata*), which requires a larger area of open soil than other recommended trees, but offers brilliant seasonal interest and deliciously edible hickory nuts. ♦

The Delaware Center for Horticulture (TheDCH) plants big trees to enhance Delaware's urban landscapes; supports community gardens; leads regional community forest projects; beautifies roadsides and traffic medians with native landscaping; and provides fun educational programs. TheDCH.org.

Callery Pears. TheDCH does not recommend planting Callery pears such as Bradford Pears, an Asian tree with attractive white flowers. These pear trees have been used extensively for landscaping, but have escaped our neighborhoods and are growing in natural areas. Callery pears are now an invasive problem, crowding out the plants that support our native wildlife. If you like the qualities of a Callery pear, consider native alternatives, such as Butterflies Magnolia, Horse Chestnut, or American Linden.



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HOME OF THE MONTH

SIMPLIFY, SIMPLIFY.

Laurel Anderson
Photography by Jim Albert

A humble rancher metamorphosed into a sleek contemporary.

With its crisp white structure echoing the iconic design of a classic Chester County farmhouse, this sleek contemporary offers many surprises. The architect-designed transformation is far closer to a shelter magazine stunner—feel the *Dwell Magazine* vibe—than the original 1950s ranch-style house that was its foundation.

Just a glance around the main living space makes clear why the owners hope to replicate this same look and feel when they relocate to the West Coast. Lucky new own-

ers can reap the benefits of the meticulous care taken in creating this family home—from details like the welcoming tangerine front door (painted the 2012 Pantone color of the year) to the walls of white lacquered closets that keep life's details in their place.

Life Made Easy

Begin in a quiet, family neighborhood with a country feel in the Chadds Ford/Unionville School District.

Choose a location just minutes from major highways for easy commuting to Philadelphia, Wilmington and other points. Design a home with quality construction, high-end and “green” materials that’s easy to care for, inside and out. And then have the owner/designer pick the details for his dream home.

This livable home has what modern families need, in its five bedrooms, three full and one half baths, with in-law suite and four car garages on over an acre of level land.

The main living space flows from the open, sun-filled great room through the dining area with gas fireplace and uninterrupted to the spacious kitchen. There are no formal living or dining rooms collecting dust until the holidays, no walls to prevent adding tables for large family gatherings or major entertaining. Instead, the space is open and flexible, with walls of windows on one side and walls of cabinets on the other so only what’s needed is in view and all else is easily stored.

Even the magnificent open kitchen, anchored by an 80-square-foot counter, was designed for ease. The professional-grade double refrigerator, two dishwashers, coffee station and massive

amount of built-in storage make cooking a pleasure.

Design and materials work to minimize maintenance and maximize simple living and efficiency. Radiant heating is comfortable, energy efficient and eliminates radiators and vents. A metal roof gives 50 years of life. Other eco-friendly choices include James Hardie

plank siding, Azek trim material, Timber Tech deck, and hardwood and polished concrete interior flooring. Added insulation, high-end energy efficient windows and multiple heating and cooling zones keep energy costs in check.

White walls add brightness as painted





accent walls add a pop of color for interest. Here is space that's clean and uncluttered, a perfect respite at the end of a hectic, stressful day.

Master Suite

Above the great room is the private master suite, separate from the open, communal space below. Four panels of floor-to-ceiling windows flood the suite with light (more windows on two other sides) and provide a view over the rear deck and property. The

A pristine master bath continues the clean design, with white tile and gray floor. High-end Grohe fixtures look like sculpture in a gallery setting. An oversized German-made Duravit whirlpool bathtub, inspired by the owners' honeymoon, propels bubbles up from the bottom surface for a soothing soak.

Kids Wing and More

Just a hint of the prior home remains in the kids' wing that's off the kitchen. There, you'll find a child's bedroom, playroom, guest room, completely updated bath and more storage.

Off the opposite side of the kitchen is a well-designed laundry room with built-in appliances, all crafted by Chester County Custom Woodworking & Remodeling, which did the major construction on the renovation. A large, dry, unfinished basement remains to be

transformed into a home gym, media room, or other space.

Separate Suite

Currently used as an in-law suite with a separate entrance that can be closed

off from the rest of the home, a second-floor suite includes a living and dining area, kitchen with full-sized appliances, bedroom and full bath, with grab bars and shower seat. Filled with light from windows on three sides, the living room would charm any guests or an au pair with the view. The oversized picture window suggests other uses—studio space or the best home office. Well-designed space is always flexible.

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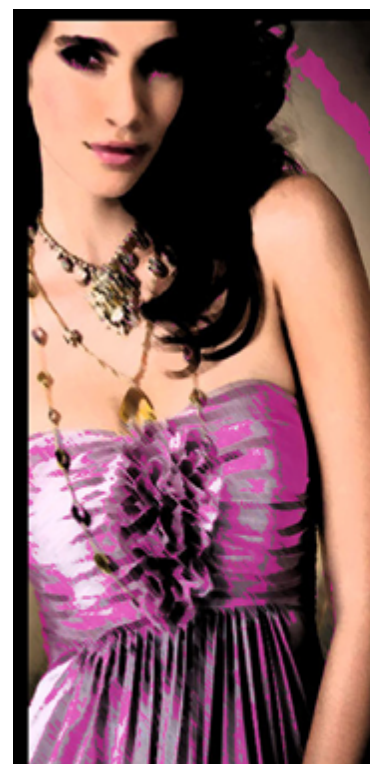
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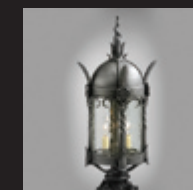
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Shop Around to Get "Race Ready"

Need an excuse for a little shopping?
Here are two: spring and the steeplechase season.

It's time to give your wardrobe a spring update. And if you're planning to attend any, or all, of our area's four steeplechase events next month—Winterthur, Willowdale, Radnor Hunt, Fair Hill—you may need more than one new outfit or hat.

To help race-goers find the latest "must haves" for the spring race season, the Willowdale Steeplechase and local retailers are partnering for this fashion cause with a Shop Around Town event, April 20. Whether you're shopping for the perfect tailgating outfit or a memorable Mother's Day gift, here are five great ideas to inspire you for spring.

Fashion for the Feet. Spring weather can be as finicky as a filly, so the best way to dress for racing includes a backup plan. In cold or wet weather, nothing beats a pair of Dubarry Boots—the sales rep stands in a pan of water to demonstrate! But remember, a cold, windy day can quickly turn sunny and warm, so put a pair of Jack Rogers wedges in the car just in case. You'll look stylish in any weather.

Heads Up. Nothing transforms you—or your mother—like a great pair of sunglasses and the perfect hat. Race day attire can showcase an elaborate hat worthy of the Kentucky Derby (think flowers, feathers) or a simple driving cap. The key is to be

"race ready," to see and be seen at the rail. Scarves are also big, with fabulous florals adding flare to any fashionista.

Preppy Dressing. Is there anything that shouts spring quite like a bright, fresh look for the ladies, colored twills for the gentlemen, and coordinated children's outfits? Do your part to help liven up the scene around the tailgates with spring colors. Local style mavens head to J. McLaughlin in Greenville, DE for a great selection for the ladies and winners circle-worthy attire for gentlemen.

Bling. For the perfect Mother's Day, take Mom to the Willowdale Steeplechase (a Mother's Day tradition), paired with a great gift. What better way to show your love than with a big statement necklace? They're all the rage, so go bold and give a gift that says your mom is special in a big way.

Shop Around Town Saturday. Local retailers in Kennett Square, West Chester, Glen Mills and Greenville encourage you to shop for your Mother's Day gifts and race day outfits on April 20. Participating retailers promote the Willowdale Steeplechase by giving away one ticket to the races when you spend \$100 or more at their store. Find out more at Willowdale.org. ♦

— Lisa Hatcher



West Chester is a Moveable Feast

Get ready for Restaurant Week, May 9 through 16.

PHOTO: Timlyn Vaughan; TimlynVaughanPhotos.com

Driving through West Chester, you're bound to see them. Several dotted along almost every block. The aromas bring you in and the flavors keep you coming back. Irish, Italian, Indian and Thai, plus more international and domestic choices—whatever you can imagine, you'll find it here.

Have you guessed it? Yes, we're talking about downtown West Chester's famous restaurant scene.

With West Chester Restaurant Week fast approaching—mark May 9th to the 16th on your calendar—plan to dine out with friends and family at an old favorite or try a new spot. Join the seven-day celebration of the culinary scene in downtown West Chester and dine out for a great price.

Once again, participating restaurants are proud to offer special multi-course, fixed-price menus for Restaurant Week. There's lunch or dinner—and many restaurants are doing both—to give diners the chance to explore and indulge in the wide variety of restaurants at irresistible prices.

Dine with a side of history at restaurants in historic buildings. Make reservations for a romantic dinner in the fine-

dining destinations. Or, if the day turns spring-like, try Limoncello, The Side Bar & Grill, Teca, Kildare's Irish Pub or more for an outdoor setting to enjoy good weather and great food.

See why dedicated diners keep returning, as West Chester Restaurant Week “gives our downtown chefs an opportunity to show off their tastiest dishes,” says Malcolm Johnstone, Executive Director of the West Chester Business Improvement District, a sponsor of the event. “It's also a great value.”

To whet your appetite and see menus at participating restaurants, go to DowntownWestChester.com/Dining. For a worry-free night, use one of the parking garages located throughout West Chester (you can find one at DowntownWestChester.com/Parking). And you can download a map of downtown restaurants at CountyLinesMagazine.com.

Bon appetit! ♦

Elizabeth Tarr



Food News

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

Garden-Fresh Cooking Class.

Usher in spring by learning to cook a dinner inspired by ingredients from the farmers' market. The Wednesday, April 17th class at Williams-Sonoma will feature recipes from their Farmers' Market cookbook. From the menu: crostini with fava bean spread, shaved artichoke and blue cheese salad, spaghetti with roasted asparagus and cream, and tangy rhubarb-strawberry pie. Yum. Reservations, \$45. 937 Baltimore Pk., Glen Mills. 484-840-1950; Williams-Sonoma.com.



More Than Soy Sauce.

If you're planning to celebrate National Soyfood month—and who isn't—you've got decisions to make. With a thousand-year history, soyfoods are more than a condiment—think soy milk, soy snacks, tofu, edamame and even soy frozen yoghurt. This heart-healthy food is easily grown in your garden as beans or purchased as a meat alternative (Morningstar Farms, Boca Burgers). So whip up some edamame hummus or tofu cheesecake and help your family pay tribute to soyfoods. Recipes and rules for a Twitter contest at SoyFoodsMonth.org.



Make Mine Maitake.

There's a new menu at Kennett's La Verona, with new takes on its popular Northern Italian cuisine. Local mushroom industry leaders and some media types shared a recent tasting and positive opinions reached a crescendo with Braised Beef Short Rib Agnolotti. The homey pasta, stuffed with a rich beef mixture, came in a dynamite mushroom broth. That's maitake, cheered two mushroom growers. So good you may want to lick the plate. Kudos to owner Jack Mavraj and new chef Louis Thompson. 114 E. State St., Kennett Square. 610-444-2244; LaVeronaPa.com.

Whoopie Pie Mani/Pedi?

Bring to life the fresh-from-the-oven aroma of whoopie pie desserts. A new sweet treat for your hands and feet, whoopie pie products and treatments have arrived at—where else—The Spa at Hotel Hershey. Enjoy the sugary-sweet scent of cream shea butter or melt into a whoopie cream bath soak. Then light a whoopie confectionary candle. It's easier than baking! 100 Hotel Rd., Hershey. 717-520-5888; ChocolateSpa.com.



Beyond Canned Goods. Want to help fight hunger locally? To do more than just donating canned goods, join Triskeles, a nonprofit that's partnered with Chester County organizations to increase access to healthy, fresh food to those in need. Triskeles builds raised-bed gardens and trains volunteers at projects that donate at least 50% of their harvest to local food pantries. Local partners include QVC, Vanguard, Immaculata University, and the YMCA. To make a donation or volunteer, contact Triskeles, 707 Eagleview Blvd., Suite 105, Exton. 610-321-9876; TriskelesPrograms.org.

YELLOW SPRINGS INN

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Berkshire Pork Tenderloin



Wild-caught Florida Grouper

Lise Monty

The quaint village of Yellow Springs is tiny. Its colorful history is big and impressive. Residents can drop George Washington's name, for example. The Yellow Springs Inn, which has its own fascinating stories to tell, shines as an elegant, romantic, fine-dining destination restaurant. Refined regional fare, with inspired touches of classical and continental cuisines, suits its setting perfectly.

Owner Charlie Orlando, a successful local restaurateur since 1972, put the village on the map while operating the popular Inn at Historic Yellow Springs, located in the huge Washington Building, named in honor of you know who. When he decided to downsize, he purchased the Victorian gem long known as the Jenny Lind house just down the street. He spent two years updating the historic site, creating the appealing Yellow Springs Inn. Lind, the renowned Swedish opera star, slept here in 1850, during her P.T. Barnum-sponsored concert tour. She'd feel right at home there today in the elaborately decorated period rooms, as would those who came to bathe in the mid-19th century in the luxurious spa retreat fed by iron-rich "yellow" springs.

The three of us were like kids in a candy store checking out the opulent décor's array of treasures. From our solid, round oak table warmed by a perfect wood fire in the smaller of two dining rooms, we savored the rich wall coverings, elegant carpets, antique clocks and huge oak bar with a massive period cash register, complete with a crank, and pretty oval paintings framed in gold. Inquiring minds wanted to know more about the enchanting glass globe lampshades painted with pink flowers. They're "Gone With the Wind" designs, our server reported. How perfect.

A Fine Start

Our appetizers set the tone—each totally different and each first-class. *Roasted Red and Golden Beet Salad* (\$11) blended super-fresh

greens, slices of tasty beets—both red and golden—and a slice of excellent goat cheese, breaded and sautéed, all brought together by a refreshing grapefruit vinaigrette. With its French personality, *Lobster Mousseline* (\$13) promised a lot and it delivered. The light aspic creation studded with poached shrimp and lobster nuggets and seasoned with dill and a dash of nutmeg was scrumptious, especially with the rich sherry cream sauce. Oo-la-la.

Kennett Square's mushroom growers got a chance to shine with the *Stuffed Portobello Mushroom* (\$10) winner. The large earthy specimen, filled with a tasty blend of breadcrumbs, artichoke and Parmesan, sat on wilted spinach leaves and was topped with a slightly piquant tomato sauce.

Other hors d'oeuvres choices include tri-colored ravioli, duck and chestnuts in pastry and a pâté du jour combination. Also, Thai steak salad, ricotta salata, wild mushroom soup and pheasant soup. The latter is a rarity we had to miss. Maybe next time.

The Main Event

A whole lot of regional-cuisine love was going on with the pecan-encrusted *Berkshire Pork Tenderloin* (\$30), its full-flavored tenderness brightened by Granny Smith apple chutney. Sweet potato squares and pleasantly plump asparagus spears were perfect partners.

Owner Orlando and his wife, Barbara Orlando, who's the chef, spell out their food philosophy on the menu. They are committed to working with regional farmers and suppliers and to serving heritage breeds of beef, pork and poultry. "For over 300 years, Berkshire hogs have been recognized as producing supreme quality gourmet pork ... the superior taste as prized as Kobe beef." The

pork tenderloin made us believers. All of their meat is hormone-free, antibiotic-free and steroid free.

Cooked in parchment paper, the *Wild-caught Florida Grouper* (\$32) retained its subtle flavor and moistness, gently seasoned by a coconut-cilantro sauce with thin slivers of carrots and leeks. A leaf of purple radicchio cradled the couscous side dish, brightened with lime juice.

One of the evening's four specials, the *Veal Chop* (\$45), totally charmed with its generous size and succulent flavor. It was topped with sun-dried tomatoes and paired with homey mashed potatoes and braised fennel. Other specials, which are regularly the most popular choices, according to Orlando, included venison, rack of lamb and pork loin.

Other menu entrées: grilled Piedmontese strip steak, *Mélange à la Maison* (filet mignon and crab-and-lobster cake), boneless breast of free-range pheasant, veal medallions and King salmon. You may want to check out the entrées online before you dine; the better to select the right special bottle for this BYOB.

Irresistible Desserts

You can't go wrong with the classics, especially that most ubiquitous of desserts *Crème Brûlée* (\$8), which we never seem to get enough of. Yellow Springs' vanilla-spiked custard was super creamy; the burnt-sugar top super crunchy. Life is good.

It seems every kitchen has its take on apple tarts, but few rival this one. *Apple Custard Tart* (\$8) had all the basics in perfect proportions, topped with a scrumptious pecan caramel sauce and cinnamon whipped cream. How could it miss?

Other desserts include a flourless chocolate cake, chocolate peanut butter torte and profiterole filled with white chocolate mousse.

A Few More Things

Our server was a complete pro, friendly yet totally attentive, and ready to share historic facts when asked.

The inviting front porch beckons as warm weather arrives, which could be right now. It's the perfect time to slow down and enjoy dinner while taking in the charming village where so much has happened over the past couple of centuries.

The pretty setting begs to be used for weddings or other celebrations, too. ♦

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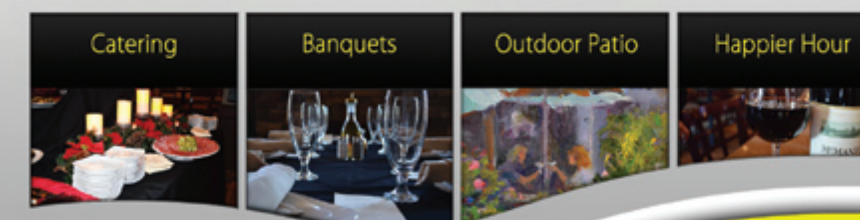
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Eat Your Greens

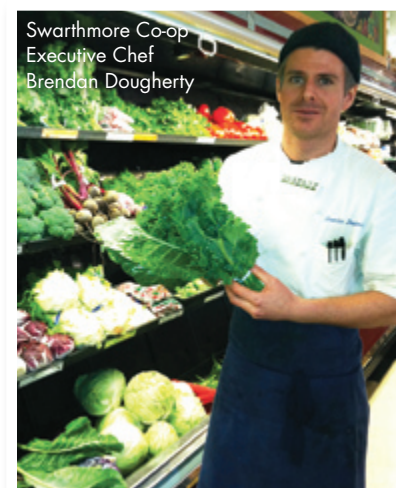
Laura Muzzi Brennan

No one knows for sure exactly what inspired Kermit the Frog's 1969 lyric "It's not that easy being green." Maybe he'd been teased about his color by a band of mean Muppets. Maybe he couldn't find a shirt that flattered his skin tone. More likely, though, he visited the produce aisle where the slim pickings—wilted spinach and spotted Brussels sprouts—laid his heart low. But this spring, some four and a half decades later, Kermit's words seem as dated as floor model televisions. High quality leafy green vegetables abound at farm-stands, food co-ops and grocery stores, prompting cooks to sing a happier tune.



Swarthmore Co-op

At the 76-year-old Swarthmore Food Co-op, produce manager Ed Farace and executive chef Brendan Dougherty (yes, the Co-op has an executive chef) talked with me among scarlet-stemmed chard, feathery frisee and sturdy-ribbed kale.



Swarthmore Co-op
Executive Chef
Brendan Dougherty

The Co-op prides itself on offering sustainably produced local food, defining "local" as within 150 miles.

"Over the past five or six years, people have been asking where their food comes from," says Farace "and now they really want to know what they're eating, what vitamins and min-

erals are in their food." Leafy greens, it turns out, are nutritional gold medalists, providing vitamins A, K and C as well as iron, calcium, fiber and potassium and folate. Some, like broccoli, spinach, romaine lettuce and kale, contain significant amounts of protein.

The sheer variety of available greens has cooks excited. Both the Swarthmore Co-op and Livengood Family Farm (with stands at many farmers markets and the recently opened West Chester Artisan Exchange) offer greens in an array of hues with flavors ranging from mild to intense. Popular Asian ones, like bok choy, once the domain of specialty food stores, now nestle leaf-to-leaf with collards and turnip greens, longstanding staples of Southern comfort food more in demand than ever above the Mason-Dixon.

Probably the freshest news on greens is the growing interest in foraged items, the ones your grandmother or great-grand-

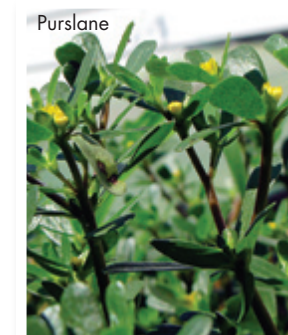
mother stopped to pick on the side of the road. Dwain Livengood fields frequent requests for burdock, lamb-squarters and wild garlic. Swarthmore Co-op customers might just find dandelion and purslane in the produce section, say Farace and Dougherty. Procuring foraged items is a hit-or-



Wild Garlic

miss proposition for an obvious reason: these items grow only in the wild, making Mother Nature the sole supplier.

Being green—whether as defined by Kermit the Frog or the Sierra Club—still presents daunting challenges, but given our local food scene, eating your greens doesn't have to be one of them.



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Dandelion



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Braised Baby Bok Choy

Swarthmore Co-op's executive chef Brendan Dougherty shared the recipe for this Asian side dish. He suggests serving it with fish or teriyaki grilled beef. Or, he adds, "You could also chill the bok choy and the liquid and use as a salad, mixing the braising liquid with some olive oil to make a vinaigrette and finishing with some lime."

6 baby bok choy, whole
2 qts. fresh squeezed orange juice
3 oz. (about 3-4 Tb.) ginger, roughly chopped
4 cloves garlic, peeled and roughly chopped
2 lemongrass stalks, roughly chopped* or 1 tsp. lemon zest
½ C. soy sauce
1 Tb. sesame oil
4 star anise pods
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 325°. Combine all ingredients in a casserole dish and cover with aluminum foil. Bake for 30 minutes or until bok choy is tender.

Makes 4-6 servings.

*Central to many Southeast Asian recipes, lemon grass adds a bright lemony flavor to many Southeast Asian dishes. Use only the bottom third of the plant, approximately 5-6". Strip away the tough outer leaves, and chop the soft, inner core.

Sautéed Romaine Hearts Slow Cooked in Butter

Romaine is not just for Caesar salad! In this recipe, Chef Brendan Dougherty gives romaine hearts their time in the heat. He recommends serving these leafy greens alongside poached halibut or crab cakes.

1 C. butter
4 romaine hearts, split in ½ lengthwise
4 garlic cloves, peeled and sliced
2 medium Spanish onions, cut into medium dice
1 thyme sprig
¾ C. sherry wine vinegar

Preheat oven to 325°. Place a high-sided, ovenproof skillet on medium heat and add the butter. When the butter is melted, increase the heat slightly. Place the romaine hearts, cut side down in the skillet and brown the leaves. Once brown, remove from the pan and set aside.

Lower the heat back to medium. Add garlic, onions and thyme sprig. Sweat the onion and garlic until translucent and soft, about 3-5 minutes. Once it's at this stage, deglaze the pan with the sherry wine vin-

egar and cook this down until the vinegar smell disappears.

Add romaine hearts to the liquid, cover with aluminum foil. Cook in the oven for 20 minutes or until leaves are soft.

Makes 4-6 servings.

Sausage and Greens Soup

Dwain and Audrey Livengood of Livengood Family Farm make this soup with common greens like spinach, kale and watercress as well as less familiar ones such as dandelion, lambsquarters, purslane and burdock. Garlic scapes, an optional ingredient, are those curly green shoots that sprout from the hard garlic bulb. With a taste like a garlic-flavored scallion, they add a fresh punch to this soup.

½ lb. sausage or kielbasa, cut into bite-sized pieces
1 C. chopped onion, green onions, or chives
Garlic scapes, minced, to taste (optional)
4 C. chicken or vegetable broth
1 C. potatoes or carrots, cut into bite-sized pieces
Salt and pepper to taste
1½ C. milk (optional)
1-3 C. greens
Parsley, chopped (optional)
Chopped hard-cooked eggs (optional)

In a large soup or stock pot, cook the meat. Remove from pot and set aside.

In the reserved fat from the meat, cook onion and garlic scapes until tender, about 3-5 minutes. Return sausage to soup pot.

Add broth, potatoes or carrots and salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until potatoes are soft, about 10-15 minutes. Add milk and greens. Cook until greens are tender. (Spinach takes just a minute, but tougher greens like kale and dandelion will take longer.)

To serve, ladle into bowls and top with parsley and hard-cooked eggs.

Makes 4 servings.

Greens in Peanut Sauce

This vegetarian dish bursts with flavors popular in Indian and Thai cuisine. To satisfy meat lovers, Audrey and Dwain Livengood suggest adding cooked sausage.

1 Tb. oil or lard
1 medium onion, chopped
2-3 cloves garlic, minced
1 medium tomato, diced (optional)
½ tsp. ground coriander
½ tsp. ground cumin
¼ tsp. salt or to taste

Kale Chips: One Woman's Quest for Healthy Snacking



Once the cool weather equivalent of zucchini—gardeners couldn't give it away—kale's undergone a reputation makeover. Never the prettiest leafy green in the produce section, its A-list nutritional profile has earned it a "Superfood" designation and a secure place on many restaurant menus. As a stalwart champion of inner beauty, I congratulate kale. I wish it continued success. I cannot, however, support its bid to corner the chip market.

I have friends who swear on their children's BMIs that kale chips rival potato chips in family taste tests. On their advice, I made my own batch. I thoroughly washed and dried the kale; removed tough stems; lovingly massaged the leaves with olive oil and sprinkled them with kosher salt. While they baked at 350 for 8-10 minutes, I awaited Michelle Obama's phone call inviting me to serve as an advisor to her "Let's Move" campaign.

When the chips emerged from the oven, they looked ... worth a try. And try I did. I forged my way through forests of the crispy greens. Maybe I needed to temper my expectations, maybe I needed to add red pepper flakes, maybe I needed to find new friends.

Kale chips, I concluded while flossing the green flecks from my teeth, are to potato chips what purgatory is to heaven: not the worst place but nowhere you'd want to spend eternity.

⅛ tsp. ground cloves
8 C. chopped kale, collard greens or Swiss chard
½ C. water
2-3 Tb. peanut butter
1-2 tsp. hot water

In a large soup or stock pot, heat oil and sauté onions and garlic until onion softens, 3-5 minutes. Add tomato and cook 2-4 minutes. Add spices and cook, stirring frequently, for 2 minutes. Add greens and ½ C. water and steam, uncovered, until greens are soft but not mushy. Stir occasionally to coat greens with spices.

While greens cook, mix together peanut butter and hot water. Add mixture to greens at the end of the cooking time.

Makes 4-6 servings.

Greens with Cheesy Grits

Trader Joe's sells a Southern Greens Blend made up of spinach along with mustard, turnip and collard greens. Pre-washed and pre-cut, this mix saves prep time. One suggestion: don't use more than ½ spinach in the mix or the dish might get too watery.

For the greens:

4 oz. bacon
1½ C. chopped onions
1 lb. mix of hearty greens (e.g., kale, chard, collards)
1, 28-oz. can whole, peeled plum tomatoes with basil
2 C. chicken or vegetable broth
1 tsp. garlic salt
Salt and pepper to taste

For the grits:

2½ C. milk
2 C. grits (also called polenta)
5 C. chicken or vegetable broth
2-3 C. shredded cheddar cheese
Chopped parsley, optional

To prepare the greens: In a large, deep skillet, cook the bacon, but don't make it crisp. Remove the bacon, tear it into small pieces (about ½" each) and set aside.

Drain all but 2 Tb. of bacon fat from the skillet. Add onions and cook over medium heat until onions start to become tender, 3-5 minutes. Add greens and sauté for 3-5 minutes. Add tomatoes, broth, garlic salt, salt and pepper. Break tomatoes into smaller pieces with the side of a spoon. Bring to a boil.

Reduce to a simmer and cook until greens become tender, about 15-25 minutes depending on the type of greens you use. For a soupy consistency, cook for a shorter time. For a stew-y consistency, cook for a longer time.

To prepare the grits: In a large saucepan off the heat, stir grits and milk together. In another saucepan, heat broth to boiling. Once broth boils, whisk it into the grits mixture and again bring to a boil. Whisking constantly, cook for 5 minutes or until mixture thickens. (You might want to wear oven mitts while you whisk, as the grits sometimes bubble up and can burn your skin.) Stir in cheese.

To serve, put a ladleful of grits in each bowl, and make a well in the middle with the bottom of the ladle. Spoon a ladleful of greens into the well. Sprinkle with extra cheese and parsley if desired.

Makes 8-10 servings.

Italian Chicken and Greens

This entrée can be served sandwich-style for a casual lunch or dinner. Pick up some rolls, stuff with chicken and greens, and top with a spoonful of marinara sauce.

For the chicken:

1½ C. panko bread crumbs
2 Tb. dried Italian herbs (A blend of oregano, basil, marjoram, thyme and rosemary works well.)
2 eggs, beaten
2 lbs. (about 8 pieces) chicken breast cutlets, ½" thick
⅓ C. olive oil, plus more for replenishing frying oil

For greens:

1 lb. Swiss chard
1 lb. spinach
3 Tb. olive oil
1½ Tb. minced garlic or to taste
Pinch of salt

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Pinch of red pepper flakes, optional

For topping:

6 oz. very sharp provolone cheese, shredded or cut in 1/4" thick slices

To prepare the chicken: Preheat oven to 350°. Mix bread crumbs and Italian herbs together. Dip chicken breast in egg and coat well with bread crumb mixture. Heat 1/3 C. olive oil in large 12" skillet over medium-high heat. Fry chicken in batches until cooked through, 2-3 minutes per side. (After the first or second batch, you may notice small crumbs of burned breading littering the oil. Either remove them with a slotted spoon or replace oil altogether.) Set cooked cutlets aside on a plate lined with paper towels.

To prepare the greens: Wash greens well, removing any sand hiding in the leaves. If you prefer, remove stems. Tear greens into 2-3" pieces.

In a large skillet, heat 3 Tb. of olive oil over medium-high heat. Add garlic and cook for 30 seconds. (Don't allow garlic to burn.) Add chard, salt and red pepper flakes. Stirring frequently, cook for 1-2 minutes. Add spinach and cook an additional 1-2 minutes or until greens are tender.

To assemble: Place cutlets on a large cookie sheet. Top with provolone cheese, and bake for 5 minutes or less, just until cheese melts. Place 1-2 cutlets on each plate and top with greens.

Makes 4-8 servings.

Garlic-Ginger Broccoli Salad

In her 2010 cookbook, In the Kitchen with A Good Appetite, Melissa Clark offers her recipe for Garlicky Sesame-Cured Broccoli Salad which I've made many times. I wanted to see what it would taste like if I fiddled with some quantities, added minced ginger and replaced red wine vinegar with rice vinegar. I like this one just as much.

1 Tb. rice vinegar
1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
8-9 C. bite-sized broccoli florets
1 C. olive oil
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 1/2-2 tsp. minced fresh ginger
1 tsp. ground cumin
1 Tb. roasted sesame oil
Pinch of red pepper flakes
Sesame seeds, optional

In a large bowl, mix the rice vinegar and the salt. Toss in broccoli and coat well.

In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil until it shimmers. Add garlic, ginger and cumin and cook for 1 minute. (Don't allow garlic to burn.) Stir in sesame oil and red pepper flakes.

Pour entire mixture over broccoli. Let sit for a few hours at room temperature and serve. The longer the broccoli marinates, the more flavorful it becomes.

Makes 8-10 servings.

Brussels Sprouts Slaw

The bacon and blue cheese add richness to this slaw, so serve it with a simple roast chicken or pork tenderloin. Save yourself some time by purchasing pre-shredded Brussels sprouts.

1/2 C. plain Greek yogurt
1/4 C. mayonnaise
2 Tb. cider vinegar
2 oz. blue cheese
3-4 C. shredded Brussels sprouts
3-4 pieces bacon, cooked and crumbled
Salt and pepper to taste
1/4 C. chopped pecans, optional

In a food processor or blender, pulse yogurt, mayonnaise, vinegar and blue cheese until desired consistency. (Some people like to leave small chunks of blue cheese.)

Toss dressing with Brussels sprouts and bacon. Add salt and pepper. Mix in pecans if desired.

Makes 6-8 servings.

Seared Tuna and Mixed Baby Lettuce Salad

Sushi-grade fish generally refers to fish that's safe enough to eat raw. Usually, that means it's been frozen for a certain period of time to eradicate any harmful bacteria or parasites. When buying fish, make sure you and your fishmonger define sushi-grade in the same way!

1 lb. sushi-grade tuna fillet, 1" thick, cut into 2 pieces
1/2 C. olive oil, plus more for brushing tuna filets
Salt and pepper to taste
Juice of 2 1/2 limes (6-7 Tb.)
1 Tb. soy sauce

1 tsp. (or to taste) wasabi powder
2 Tb. finely chopped fresh cilantro
4 C. tightly packed baby lettuces
2 avocados, peeled, pit removed and cut into large pieces
4 Tb. chopped scallions

Preheat a grill pan over medium-high heat for a few minutes. Brush each side of tuna with olive oil. Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste. Add tuna to pan and cook for 1-2 minutes per side. Set aside to cool.

To make the dressing, whisk together 1/2 C. olive oil, lime juice, soy sauce, wasabi,

cilantro and 1 tsp. salt (or to taste).

Slice tuna into pieces 1/4" thick. Place 1 C. lettuce on each plate. Divide tuna and avocados among plates. Sprinkle with scallions and top with desired amount of dressing. (The recipe makes approximately 1 C., so save the rest for a future salad.)

Makes 4 first course servings. ♦

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

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