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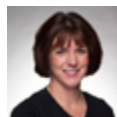
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The sunlit bride on our cover captures our hopes for a glorious April in an issue bursting with color and images of spring.

From Carol Metzker's article "Something Old: Romantic Vintage Weddings" with Alison Conklin's gorgeous photos, to our Guide to Wedding Venues and Wedding Style, we

explore the return to old-fashioned elegance and traditional weddings in all their glory.

For a bit of "Small Town Heaven," Jaimielynn Cooper takes us to Downingtown for some history and a tour, with plenty of green space and great dining options to enjoy. Downingtown is also home to Victory Brewing Company, and its co-founder, Bill Covesleski, suggests we "Discover Wheat Beer This Spring." Great advice.


Avid gardeners know Downingtown is also home to David Culp's Layered Garden. Andrea Miller gives you a virtual tour, but you can see the garden for yourself on an in-person tour April 30. Another treat for plant lovers is Andrea Thatcher's "Grow Your Library of Gardening Books This Spring," including selections like *Wicked Plants* and bestseller *The Drunken Botanist*.

Other kinds of green are covered in Jack Smith's review in "Up To Speed" of three EVs (Electric Vehicles, for the uninitiated) and in "Restoring the River," a preview of The Brandywine River Conservancy's 21st Annual River Cleanup on April 6.

Food fans should check out Lise Monty's review of Black Power Tavern—read about the transformation of the former Winberie's. And Laura Brennan explores the "Pleasures of Pasta" with recipes and tips for making your own. Plus our Food News column has pranks for April Food's Day and food crafts for spring.

As always, we've got the Best Local Events coverage anywhere—in print and online. Sign up for our Event Newsletter for updates.

Thank you for reading *County Lines*. We hope you enjoy this issue—and enjoy April.


Jo Anne Durako
Editor



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April 2014

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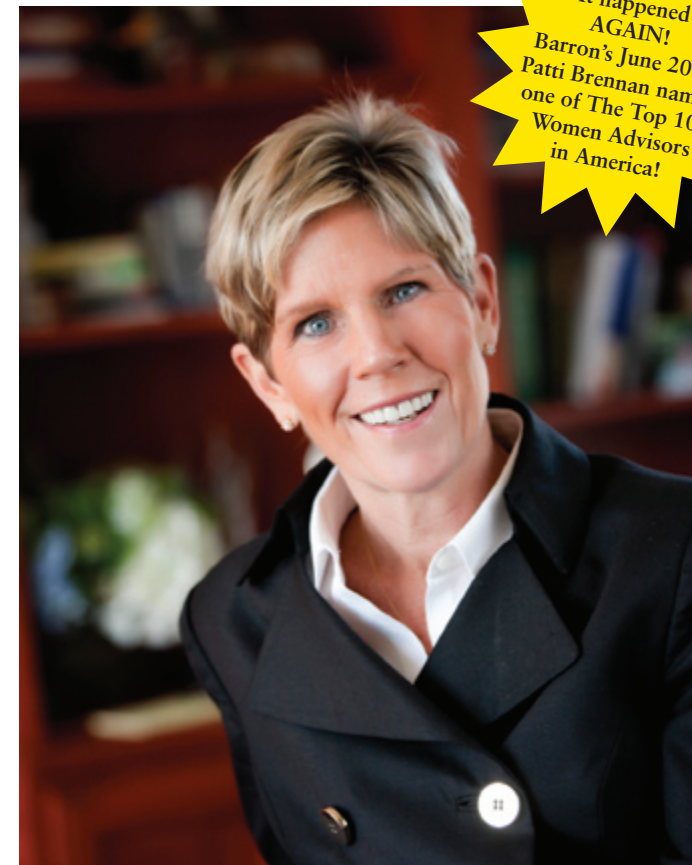


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The 50 Top Women in Wealth – Wealth Manager Magazine (May 2010)
Philadelphia Business Journal – #2 Top Wealth Advisor (2010)
Registered Rep – Top 50 Independent Broker/Dealer Women Advisors (2011)
Barron's – Top 1,000 Financial Advisors (2006-12) <i>Only 40 Recognized in Pennsylvania (And the Only Woman in 2012!)</i>

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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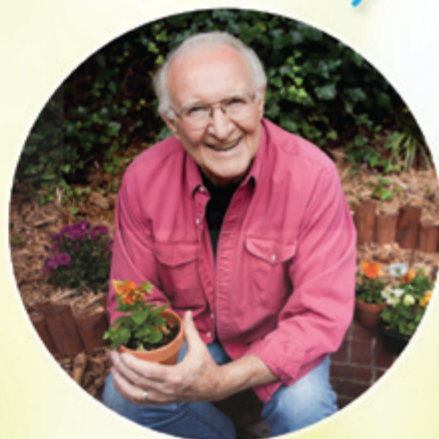


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Cover photo by Alison Conklin

What Is Your Mouth Saying About You?

David J. Montgomery, DDS

It's about more than just your teeth.

Whether it's a cheerful postcard in the mail, a voice-mail on our home phone, or a text reminder of a scheduled appointment made almost six months ago, we all know we should visit our friendly neighborhood dentist at least twice a year.

Most patients think teeth cleaning is the only real reason we should go. But, your semi-annual trip to the dentist's office can be far more beneficial to your overall health than just getting your pearly whites polished.

The mouth has been described as a "window into the body," based on the clinician's ability to detect and diagnose many illnesses by simply paying close attention to what's found during a routine

dental exam. Certain signs and symptoms can help your dentist and dental hygienist detect possible health issues: oral cancer or pre-cancerous lesions, vitamin deficiencies, gastric reflux disease, teeth grinding or even diabetes.

Early Detection Saves Lives

Despite great advances in diagnosis, treatment and recovery of nearly every other form of cancer, the five-year survival rate once an oral malignancy is detected remains at 50 percent. This disappointing prognosis can be attributed to the extensive lymphatic and blood supply in the mouth and surrounding area, making it easier for cancerous cells to metastasize.

Even if a dentist or hygienist detects an abnormality and treatment begins immediately, it's a coin flip's chance that the cancer has already spread to other parts of the body. Early detection is the key to giving a patient the best chance at winning this battle. And this detection can only occur if patients have expert eyes keeping watch over their mouth.

What to Look For

When patients ask us to look at a specific area they've recently noticed, we know we've done our job in raising awareness about oral health. We can't do this alone since most patients visit our office only twice a year, while you look at yourself in the mirror every day.

As a part of your daily oral hygiene routine, your dentist wants you to note any red, white or dark spots or patches that look odd or unusual to you. Generally, they'll disappear within 10 days to two weeks if they were caused by a traumatic injury. But, if that blemish is still there after two weeks, it's time to get your dentist involved.

In some cases, your dentist will perform an OralCDX "brush biopsy" and send your swabbed cells to a laboratory for evaluation. This is a painless, non-invasive way to check that suspicious area and get results within a few days. For larger or more significant lesions, your dentist may elect to perform a scalpel biopsy or refer you to an oral surgeon. Either way, you're taking a proactive approach toward staying healthy and reducing your risk of oral cancer.

The Tongue Speaks Volumes

When it comes to our daily oral hygiene routine, most of us completely ignore our tongue. By failing to brush our tongue, we're missing a great opportunity to remove colonies of bacteria and food particles that lead to bad breath and illness. A white coating on the tongue can be a sign bacteria are multiplying beyond what's considered normal. Daily tongue cleansing with a toothbrush or a tongue scraper can help.

Another cause of a white coating on the tongue is *Candida albicans*, yeast fungi that normally lives in the mouth and our intestinal system without being visible or causing any problems. If it's present in abnormally large amounts, though, a patient's immune

system may be compromised or she may be suffering from an immunity disorder.

Color and character of the tongue can also tell your dentist that you have a vitamin deficiency. The absence of taste buds and a smooth, bald, irritated appearance of the tongue may lead the dentist to recommend a vitamin B supplement.

Where Is the Wear?

From an early age, we all learn different ways to deal with the stress of daily life.

Some of us deal with stress when we sleep by grinding our teeth. This habit—known as bruxism—can be identified by worn areas on the biting surfaces of our teeth or chipped edges of the enamel. Your dentist will recognize these signs and recommend a custom-made plastic night guard to help protect you from premature shortening of the teeth or even tooth loss.

A different form of "wear" can also be seen on the enamel on your teeth. Acid erosion from gastric reflux will cause thin-

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ning of the enamel and loss of tooth structure surrounding fillings or dental work. Your dentist should then refer you to a gastrointestinal specialist to confirm this diagnosis and prescribe medication to help prevent further loss of tooth structure.

Diabetes and the Dental Office

Diabetes remains the leading cause of kidney failure, non-traumatic limb amputations, and new cases of blindness as well as one of the major causes of stroke and heart disease. Although there's no single symptom that can lead the dental team to a definitive diagnosis of diabetes, there are many signs that can help us guide a patient toward seeking medical advice that may lead to that important diagnosis.

The medical history you complete at your dentist's office likely includes questions about whether you suffer from increased appetite, thirst and frequent urination—the three main indicators of diabetes or a pre-diabetic condition. Evidence of gum disease has also been shown to correlate with undiagnosed diabetes.

An even more promising finding was suggested in a recent article in the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, calling for finger-prick blood testing of patient's hemoglobin (HbA1C) levels at dental practices. One study correctly predicted diabetes or pre-diabetes in 92 percent of patients who had four or more missing teeth, periodontal pockets of 5mm or deeper in a quarter of their gum sites, as well as high HbA1C levels. All this adds up to an even better chance of discovering diabetes before its damaging effects can take hold.

So, the next time you visit your dental office for your cleaning and checkup, you'll know more about some of the signs and symptoms we're evaluating. But we still may ask you some questions while we have our hands in your mouth! ♦

Dr. Montgomery is senior partner at Chester County Family Dentistry in West Chester, where he's practiced for the past 20 years. He's a member of the ADA, the Academy of General Dentistry and is on staff in the West Chester Area School District. He's received numerous awards and has been named an area "Top Dentist." Check out his "Flossophy" at ChesterCountyFamilyDentistry.com.



Good *to* Know

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

Tea and Poetry.

Like chatting about poetry while sipping tea—extended pinkie optional? Celebrate **National Poetry Month** by heading to West Chester University's Poetry Center to talk about Gertrude Stein's *Tender Buttons*, a Modernist poetry book published in 1914. Led by Poetry Center's Janna Moretti, the Poetry Tea is free and open to the public, so grab a friend and get ready to talk poetry! 823 S. High St., West Chester. April 10, 7:30 p.m.; WCUPoetryCenter.com.



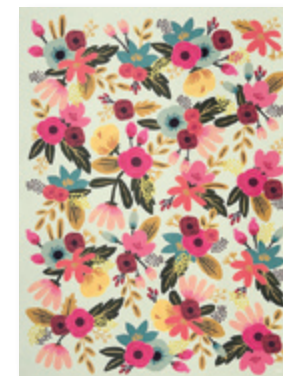
Secret Room.

Secret Room. Did you know there's a hidden room beneath the sidewalk at South Church Street in West Chester? Discovered back in October, the brick room, now covered over with concrete, had an opaque window, metal chair and bottle inside. Was it a hiding place for slaves along the Underground Railroad? A root cellar or beer storage for the nearby Mansion House Hotel (demolished in the 1970s)? Restoration architect, Rob Petito, suggests it was a cistern used to store water for fire fighting. What's your theory? Look for updates on *DowntownWestChester.com*.



Source for Paper.

Planning a special event or need custom coasters, wedding stamps, address embossers or favor boxes? **Paper Source**, new to Paoli, showcases artisanal cards, paper, gifts and more. For special events like weddings and celebrations, you'll find custom and DIY perfect paper products. Stick around for daily demos, workshops, private parties and videos so you can "do something creative everyday." With paper. 82 E. Lancaster Ave., Paoli. Visit Paper-Source.com.



Small Town,
Big Film, Big
Talent. Most fans

Talent. Most fans of *Anchorman I* and *II* don't realize the director and co-writer, Adam McKay, is from Chester County! A graduate of



Great Valley High School in Malvern, McKay started as a writer for SNL before working on the *Anchorman* movies with Will Ferrell. Will West Chester help launch a new local talent this month? Come out to the **10th Annual West Chester International Short Film Festival** to see a wide variety of juried, independent short films (30 minutes max) by amateurs and accomplished filmmakers from around the world. You just might discover a star. *At local venues, April 25-27. WestChesterFilmFestival.com.*





MALVERN BLOOMS FESTIVAL

May 4th, 2014
11 AM - 4 PM
Downtown Malvern

The 2014 Malvern Blooms Festival offers something for everyone. Browse the collection of artists and crafters, featuring a special exhibit by the Chester County Craft Guild. Children will have fun with games and activities. Music lovers will enjoy a 10 piece swing band, as well as local talent. Bring your appetite for delicious foods and a bacon cook-off competition!

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APRIL 27 – MAY 31, 2014



Designed to Care

Explore Serendipity Farm

the 2014 Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

A 245-year-old farmhouse with spectacular views and the charm of old Bucks County. Join us and experience how a team of design experts has transformed this stunning estate.

Located at 131 Pine Mill Circle, Doylestown, PA 18901

TICKETS

\$25
AT THE DOOR

\$20
ADVANCE SALES (UNTIL APRIL 25)
AND SENIORS (AGE 62+)
Group Rates Available
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Closed Memorial Day

215.345.2191
BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org



Tour the Estate | Shop the Boutiques & Designer Décor | Indulge at the Café
charming farmhouse | cozy cottage | grand barn | inviting pool & pool house | serene pond



Doylestown Hospital

Sponsored by the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown. Benefits Doylestown Hospital and the mission of the VIA.

of Special Note



Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point

April 6

Exciting horse and pony steeplechase races, a parade of foxhounds, a raffle, and plenty of children's activities are all part of the fun that is the 72nd running of the oldest point-to-point

in the Delaware Valley. Whether you're a racing enthusiast or just want to enjoy a day in the country, this is the place to be. *Myrick Conservation Center, 1760 Unionville-Wawaset Rd., West Chester. Gates open at 11 a.m.; first race at noon. Admission is by carload, \$20–\$150 for premium spots. 610-793-1090; BrandywineWatershed.org.*



39th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

April 27–May 31

Regional designers display their creativity in interior and landscape design at Serendipity Farm, a 245-year-old farmhouse in Bucks County. Many special events happen throughout the

month. Check the website for details. Benefits Doylestown Hospital and Village Improvement Assoc. *131 Pine Mill Circle, Doylestown. Apr. 26, Preview Gala, 6 to 10 p.m. \$150–\$2,500. 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.*

Brandywine Ballet's Beauty and the Beast

May 2–4

Upbeat music, colorful and inventive costumes, and plenty of energetic dancing in this traditional fairy tale adapted for ballet. *Emilie K. Apslundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. Fri., 10 a.m., \$10–\$18; Sat., 4 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. \$25–\$40. Enjoy snacks, sweets, favors and more with the cast at the "Be Our Guest" Tea, Sat., 2:30 p.m., \$25. 610-696-2711; BrandywineBallet.org.*



PHOTO: ROB CARDILLO

The Delaware Center for Horticulture Rare Plant Auction

April 26

Staged throughout Longwood Gardens, this gala features beautiful, rare, newly introduced and difficult-to-propagate specimens that entice collectors throughout the region to beautify their gardens. Benefits the Center's programs that reach underserved populations and events that educate new plant enthusiasts and experienced green thumbs. *1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 5:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets begin at \$125 and include gardens admission, cocktails and dinner. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.*



Wheels of Wayne

April 27

Cruise on in for the second annual car and motorcycle show in downtown Wayne. Vintage, classic and exotic cars, trucks and motorcycles compete for top prize in a variety of categories. This community event also features entertainment, a DJ, food, prizes and more fun for the whole family. *Rain date, May 4th. North Wayne Ave. 1 to 4 p.m. 610-688-5600; Radnor.com.*

best Local Events

NOTEWORTHY THIS MONTH

APRIL 2–NOVEMBER 2

Chanticleer. *Apr. 2* marks opening day at this 35-acre pleasure garden, known as one of the most visually exciting, imaginative and romantic public gardens in the country. Be sure to treat yourself to a visit. 786 Church Rd., Wayne. Wed–Sun, 10 to 5. \$5–\$10. 610-687-4163; ChanticleerGarden.org.



APRIL 4–6

Chester County Antiques Show. Exceptional 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 pm, \$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.

APRIL 25–27

10th Annual West Chester Film Festival. See award-winning short films from around the world. Opening Night Party, Fri, 5 to 7, \$25 includes ticket to opening block of films; Closing Night Awards Party, Sun, 6 to 10, \$20. Daily film block, \$8; \$50 for a weekend pass, online or at the door. For locations visit WestChesterFilmFestival.com.



APRIL 27

Kimberton Hunt's 69th Annual Horse Show. Get ready for Devon at this annual event featuring a full schedule of hunter, equitation and pleasure classes, a legendary food tent and shopping in the vendor tent. Radnor Hunt Pony Club Grounds, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. 8 am. Free. 610-469-0227; KimbertonHunt.org.

ANTIQUES.....

APRIL 26–29

The Philadelphia Antiques Show. Approximately 65 leading antiques dealers and galleries bring their finest pieces. The Loan Exhibit, *Art and Life in an Extraordinary New England Village*, features 30 objects celebrating the diversity of collections at Historic Deerfield in Deerfield, MA. Benefits The Penn Center for Human

Performance. Pennsylvania Convention Center, Hall F, 12th & Arch Sts., Phila. Preview Fri, 6 to 9:30, early admission at 5, \$175–\$600. Sat & Mon, 11 to 8; Sun, 11 to 6; Tues, 11 to 4. \$12–\$20. 610-902-2109; PhilaAntiques.com.

MAY 1–3

Historic East Berlin PA Antiques Show. Dealers from many states offer a wide variety of antiques. Benefits the Historic Preservation

Society in this 18th-century town. E. Berlin Area Community Center, 405 North Ave. Thurs, early buying, 5 to 8, \$15. Fri, 10 to 6; Sat, 9 to 3. \$8. 717-308-2158.

ART & CRAFT SHOWS.....

THROUGH MAY 3

ArtQuilt Elements at the Wayne Art Center. An international, contemporary art quilt exhibition benefitting the center's educational and outreach programs for children and adults. 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon–Fri, 9 to 7; Sat, 9 to 4. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

APRIL 4–6

The Artists Circle 2014 Art Show & Sale. Member artists showcase original works and take part in demonstrations illustrating a variety of painting styles. St. Luke Lutheran Church, Schlack Hall, 203 N. Valley Forge Rd., Devon. Fri, 1 to 9; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, noon to 4. Free. 610-942-3234; TheArtistsCircle.net.

APRIL 4

Evening of the Arts in Kennett Square. Local and regional artists, live music, local wine and beer and a sampling of foods from area restaurants. Benefits Historic Kennett Square. Genesis HealthCare Corp. Office, 101 E. State St., Kennett Square. 5 to 8:30. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

APRIL 4–6

19th Annual Tri-County Art Show & Sale. Artists and potters display and sell their work at Caernarvon Township Community Center, 3307 Main St., Morgantown. Preview Fri, 7 to 10, serving food and wine, \$25. Sat–Sun, 10 to 5. Free. 610-286-7689; TriCountyArtShow.org.

APRIL 26

Art on the Square Fine Art & Craft Festival in Kennett Square. Artisans display their fine arts and crafts and vintage vendors bring their treasures displaying along E. State St. walkways; S. Broad St. will be closed to traffic. 10 to 5. 610-998-5892.

MAY 2

Gallery Walk in West Chester. In addition exhibits at the galleries, the evening also includes a variety of one-night shows designed to focus on the work of an individual or group of artists. 5 to 9. 610-696-4046; GWCC.org.

DESIGN, HOME SHOWS.....

APRIL 4–6

20th Annual Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show. Artisan-quality handmade furniture and furnishings to suit all tastes. 23rd Street Armory, 22 S. 23rd St., Philadelphia. Preview Fri, 6 to 9. Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 5. \$12. 215-387-8590; PhilaIFS.com.

MAY 3–JUNE 1

Community Art Center Designer Show House. The house is located in downtown Swarthmore, close to the center of town, Swarthmore College and public transportation. Benefits the Art Center. Wed, Fri, Sat, 10 to 5; Thurs, 10 to 8; Sun, noon to 5. For information, 610-566-1713; CACDesignerHouse.org.

EQUESTRIAN.....

APRIL 12–13

2014 Plantation Field Spring Horse Trials. Top riders compete in the sport known as "eventing," a mix of dressage, cross country and show jumping. 387 Green Valley Rd., 2 mi. N of Unionville, off Rt. 82. 610-347-2024; PlantationFieldHorseTrials.com.

APRIL 27

2014 Radnor Hunt Races Preview Party & Auction. Enjoy delicious food from some of the area's top restaurants and caterers and bid on fantastic silent and live auction items. Benefits Open Space Programs of the Brandywine Conservancy. 4:30 to 7:30. For reservations, 610-388-8324; RadnorHuntRaces.org.

MAY 4

36th Annual Winterthur Point-To-Point. The thrill of steeplechase racing, the pageantry of antique carriage parades, tailgating and lots of family fun including pony rides, stick horse races, face painting and canine-friendly activities for your dog. Rt. 52, Winterthur. Gates open at 10:30 for tailgating; 11:30, general admission. \$15–\$50. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

FAMILY FUN.....

APRIL 12

West Chester Parks & Recreation Easter Egg Hunt. Bring a bag or basket to Everhart Park, Miner St. & S. Bradford Ave., West Chester. For ages 2–9. 10 am. 610-436-9010; WestChester.com.

APRIL 12, 19

Auburn Heights Preserve Easter Egg Hunt. Bring a basket and join in the hunt for more than 2,500 eggs scattered around the grounds. 3000 Creek Rd., Yorklyn. Noon to 3. \$8. 302-239-2385; AuburnHeights.org.

APRIL 13

Spring Super Sunday in Media. Eight blocks of State Street & Veteran's Square will be blocked off for vendors, music, food and kids' activities. Benefits local charities. Rain date, Apr. 27. 610-583-4432; VisitMediaPA.com.

APRIL 20

Earth Day Celebration at the Brandywine Zoo. Learn what you can do to help save spe-

cies and make every day Earth Day. Meet live animals, talk with a volunteer docent and learn about your "Carbon Footprint." 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. 10 to 3:45. \$3–\$7. 302-571-7747; BrandywineZoo.org.

APRIL 22

Arbor Day Celebration in Wayne. The 2014 event marks 22 years of Radnor Township being awarded the designation Tree City USA. There is an annual tree planting ceremony at Friends of Radnor Trail Park, 304 Liberty La., Wayne. 6 pm. 610-688-5600; RadnorRecreation.com.

APRIL 25–MAY 3

Philadelphia Science Festival. More than 100 institutions collaborate in this community-wide celebration of science showcasing the impact of science and technology past, present and future. *May 3*, Science Carnival on The Parkway, with exhibitors offering family-friendly experiments, activities, games and live entertainment. 215-448-1128; PhilaScienceFestival.org.

APRIL 26

Springton Manor Sheep & Wool Day. The sheep are losing their winter wool and you're invited to the shearing. Spend a day

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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 26

Arbor Day at Scott Arboretum. Bring the family to receive a free sapling tree (one per family) and enjoy refreshments and a scavenger hunt. 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. 10 to 2. Free. 610-328-8025; ScottArboretum.org.

APRIL 30, MAY 1

Chester County Envirothon. Students from

public, private, parochial and home schools celebrate months of research, exploration and preparation with an outdoor competition. Hibernia County Park, Park Rd., Coatesville. **Apr. 30**, grades 3–5; **May 1**, grades 6–12. 610-344-6000; ChesCo.org/CCParks.

MAY 2–4

Greater Reading Pet Expo. Bring the family (and your pets) to the new Reading Fairgrounds and enjoy the fun. 4-H Center, Hilltop Rds., Leesport. Fri, 2 to 7; Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 5. \$10. 800-677-4677; FamilyPetShows.com.

MAY 4

Malvern Blooms Festival. Celebrate Malvern's 125th anniversary with over 100 artists, crafters and retailers, music, gardening ideas and lots to do with the kids. You'll also find some of the areas finest food trucks and restaurants, a wine garden and a Bacon Cook-Off. King St. & Warren Ave., Malvern. 11 to 4. GrowingRootsPartners.com/About-Malvern-Festivals.

MAY 4

May Day Festival of the Arts in West Chester. A celebration of the arts with music, art, crafts and kids' activities at Everhart Park, 100 S. Brandywine St., West Chester. 11 to 4. Free. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

MAY 4

Cinco de Mayo Festival in Kennett Square. A celebration of the arts, culture, cuisine and community in downtown Kennett Square. Noon to 6 pm. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

FILM.....

APRIL 4–6

5th Annual Media Film Festival. A juried competition showcasing the best in local film plus selected independent films from around the world. The Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. Daily, 7 pm. \$12–\$22. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

FOOD & DRINK.....

APRIL 1–MAY 6

Culinary Classes at Wayne Art Center. **Apr. 1**, demonstration and tasting with Blue Monkey Catering. 6:30, \$25, BYOB. **Apr. 5**, Best Brunch Ever cooking class with Chef Chiwishi Joy Abney. 1 to 3, \$50. **Apr. 30**, demonstration and tasting with chefs of Ella's American Bistro. 6:30, \$25, BYOB. **May 6**, demonstration and tasting with Michele Haines of Spring Mill Café. 6:30, \$50. 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS.....

APRIL 5

29th Annual Thorncroft Victory Gallop. This year's theme, "Piecing Lives Together," shares the healing power of horses for people with a range of disabilities. Black-tie dinner, dancing and silent auction benefit therapeutic riding programs. Hyatt at The Bellevue, 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. 6 to midnight. Tickets start at \$225. 610-644-1963; Thorncroft.org.

APRIL 6

Soroptimists of Phoenixville Fashion Show & Luncheon. Benefits Change Purse (committed to fighting sex trafficking) and Stephanie's

Local Farm Markets

Booths Corner Farmers Mkt., 1362 Naamans Creek Rd., Garnet Valley. **Year-round**, Fri, 9 to 9; Sat, 9 to 8. 610-485-0775; Booths-Corner.com.

Bryn Mawr Farmers Mkt., Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station. **1st, 3rd Sat, Dec.–Apr.**, 10 to noon. BrynMawrFarmersMarket.com.

Downingtown Farmers Mkt., Kerr Park, 1 Park La. **Through Apr., 1st, 3rd Thurs**, 4 to 6. 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

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

Kennett Square Farmers Mkt., downtown. **1st, 3rd Fri, Dec.–Apr.**, 2 to 4. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

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

West Chester – Artisan Exchange Indoor Artisan Foods & Farmers Mkt., 208 Carter Dr. **Year-round**, Sat, 10 to 2. ArtisanExchangeWCPA.com.

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

House (funding homes for women with autism and other mental disabilities). River Crest Golf Club & Preserve, 100 Golf Club Dr., Phoenixville. 11 am. \$40. 610-323-8344.

APRIL 10

Comedy Night to Benefit Gundaker Foundation. Enjoy comedy, a great meal and cash bar at the Great Valley Sheraton, 707 E. Lancaster Ave., Frazer. 6 to 9. \$45. 610-768-0801.

APRIL 12

Horse Power for Life 7th Annual Pink Horse Show Gala. Food stations, music and dancing, silent auction, raffle, formal attire. Benefits cancer patients and their families. The Radison at the Valley Forge Casino, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia. 7 to 11 pm. \$120. 484-228-8358; HorsePowerForLife.org.

APRIL 24

Paoli Hospital's Taste of Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show. See the newest summer styles for men and women. Benefits the hospital. Waynesborough Country Club, 440 Darby-Paoli Rd., Paoli. 11:30. \$50. 484-565-1380; PaoliAuxiliary.org.

APRIL 24

Dining Out for Life. More than 200 area restaurants participate in this event, benefitting those suffering from HIV and AIDS. Each participating restaurant will donate 33% of the cost of a meal. DiningOutForLife.com.

APRIL 26

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

APRIL 26

Chester County Night School's 3rd Annual Fashion Show and Fundraiser. Enjoy a sit-down luncheon with cash bar and shop for jewelry, fashion and accessories at vendor tables. Downingtown Country Club, Downingtown. 11 to 3. \$35. 610-692-1964; ChesterCountyNightSchool.org.

APRIL 26

"Night at the Races" Benefit for the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County. A pre-party event for the Kentucky Derby, with a cocktail reception followed by a gourmet sit-

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down dinner. Gold Ballroom of the Mendenhall Inn, Rt. 52, Mendenhall. 7. \$150. 610-431-3546; DVCCC.com.

GARDENS & PLANT SALES.....

APRIL 26

48th Annual Plant Sale in Kennett Square.

This year, both shade and sun loving annuals and perennials will be highlighted alongside the numerous hanging baskets, kitchen herbs and vegetable plants available for purchase. Genesis Healthcare walkway, 101 E. State St. 10 to 5. 610-998-5892.

MAY 3

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 3

Tyler Arboretum's Plant Sale. Hard to find trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and herbs. This year's sale features a special selection of plants ideal for compact gardens and containers and an assortment of deer-resistant plants. 515

Painter Rd., Media. 9 to 3. Free. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

MAY 3-4

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

Plant Sale at Rushton Farm. Vegetable, flower and herb plants grown organically by Rushton Farm staff are offered for sale. Rushton Woods Preserve, Delchester Rd., just S of Goshen Rd., Newtown Square. 9 to 3. WCTrust.org.

MAY 3-4

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.....

THROUGH MAY 18

Brandywine River Museum Exhibits. "A Date with Art: The Business of Illustrated Calendars," featuring Howard Pyle, Maxfield Parrish, Norman Rockwell and N.C. Wyeth. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. \$6-\$12. Free Sunday mornings, 9:30 to noon. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

THROUGH MAY 26

Delaware Museum of Natural History Exhibit. "Charlie & Kiwi's Evolutionary Adventure" explores evolution and the connection between dinosaurs and birds. Unravel puzzles, play games and get up close with live birds. 4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30; Sun, noon to 4:30. \$7-\$9. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.

THROUGH JUNE 1

Delaware Art Museum Exhibits. *Through May 25*, "Blessed are the Peacemakers," Violet Oakley's *The Angel of Victory* is now in the museum's permanent collection. *Through June 1*, "Fashion, Circus, Spectacle: Photographs by Scott Heiser." 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$6-\$12. Free on Sun. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 2015

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library Presents "Costumes of Downton Abbey." Forty costumes and accessories, worn on the period drama television series, will be displayed in Winterthur's galleries. Rt. 52, Wilm-



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Ann Marie Ellis, Accompanist



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THROUGH APRIL 6

Berks Jazz Fest. Jazz enthusiasts return to Greater Reading every year for 10 music-packed days. Tickets at the VF Ticket Outlet, Santander Arena, Seventh & Penn Sts., Reading or TicketMaster.com. For information, BerksJazzFest.com.

APRIL 4

Rhythm in the Night: The Irish Dance Spectacular. The tale of an epic journey of good versus evil told through Irish dance with an original soundtrack and thunderous movement. DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$40. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.

APRIL 4-5

Main Line Talent Show. Children aged 8 to 18 enter this family-oriented contest, competing in a variety of talent categories. McShain Performing Arts Center, Rosemont College, Rosemont. Benefits The Saturday Club and its Children's Charity Fund. MainLineTalentShow.org.

APRIL 5

WCU—Live! Missoula Children's Theatre Presents Robinson Crusoe. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. 3 and 5:30 pm. \$8-\$10. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu/Live.

APRIL 5

The Brandywine Singers. Performing Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* with the Immaculata Symphony. Immaculata University, Alumnae Hall, King Rd., Immaculata. 7:30 pm. \$6-\$12. TheBrandywineSingers.org.

APRIL 7

WCU—Live! Tamagawa University Taiko Drumming and Dance Troupe. Taiko drumming and Japanese folkloric dance. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$5-\$8. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu/Live.

APRIL 12

Media Americana Roots Ramble. A diverse variety of American Roots Music: from early rock 'n roll, rockabilly and classic rhythm and blues to alternative country, folk and zydeco, presented in over 20 indoor venues. State Street, Media. 7:30 pm to 1 am. \$15-\$20. 610-566-5039; StateStreetBlues.com.

APRIL 12

Point Entertainment Presents ... at The Colonial Theatre. Al Stewart. 227 Bridge St., Phoe-

nixville. 8 pm. \$42.50. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

APRIL 18

Vox Ama Deus Ensemble. Mozart's *Requiem* and Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, a Good Friday performance of two masterworks of Western music at St. Katharine of Siena Church, Lancaster & Aberdeen Aves., Wayne. 7 pm. \$10-\$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

APRIL 25

WCU—Live! Dragonfly Orchestra. Enter this multimedia, artistic world with dramatic music,

dance, acrobatics and Kung Fu artistry. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$15-\$20. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu/Live.

APRIL 27

Opera Libera Dinner & Recital at Concordville Inn. Talented opera singers perform popular selections from Grand Opera including *The Marriage of Figaro*, as well as traditional songs. The Concordville Inn, Rts. 1 & 322, Concordville. 4 pm. \$75 includes dinner and donation. 610-431-2222; OperaLibera.org.

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MAY 3

Chester County Choral Society Presents *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff. Bayard Rustin High School, 1100 S. Shiloh Rd., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$5-\$15. ChesterCountyChoralSociety.org.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

APRIL 5

Parkway Dash 4 Diabetes 2014. The 5K Run, 2.5-Mile Walk, Fun Run takes place in downtown West Chester, starting at the Chester County Justice Center, 201 W. Market St. Ben-

efits Diabetes Education at Chester County Hospital. Registration 2:30 pm. Kids run, 3:15. Race at 4. \$25. CCHosp.com.

APRIL 27

Upper Main Line YMCA Triathlon. Swim 450 meters in a heated outdoor pool, bike 10-mi., and run a challenging 5K. Registration, individual, \$75; relay, \$125. 610-647-9622, x2500; UMLY.org/tri.

APRIL 27

Westtown School's 2014 Splash & Dash. Choose from the student triathlon, a 5K run/walk or a kid's sprint for ages 7 and under.

Benefits the school and Chester County Food Bank. 975 Westtown Rd., West Chester. Noon. Registration, individual, \$10; team, \$60. 610-399-0123; Westtown.edu/SplashAndDash.

MAY 4

35th Annual Blue Cross Broad Street Run. A 10-mile, point-to-point course. Race starts at Broad St. & W. Fisher Ave. and finishes inside the Phila. Navy Yard. Benefits the American Cancer Society. 8:30 am. Registration, individual, \$43; team, \$250. 215-683-3594; BroadStreetRun.com.

THEATER.....

APRIL 16-MAY 18

Sunset Boulevard. Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical about an aging star of silent screen. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Call for curtain times. \$25-\$42. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

APRIL 2-27

Dear Elizabeth. An intimate portrait of two American poets: Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell. People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Sun, 7; Wed, Sat, Sun, 2. \$26-\$75. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

TOWNS, BOROUGH.....

APRIL 4, MAY 2

First Fridays. Stroll through area towns to find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. **Berwyn**, 610-203-4543; BerwynDevonBusiness.com. **Kennett Square**, 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City**, 717-509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. **A Main Line ARTitude**, 610-642-4040; FirstFridayMainLine.com. **Oxford**, 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **Phoenixville**, 610-933-3070; PhxFirstFriday.com. **Wayne**, 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. **West Chester**, 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com; **Wilmington**, 302-576-2100; ArtLoopWilmingtonDE.com.

APRIL 12, MAY 10

Media's Second Saturdays. Media's version of First Fridays. 610-566-5210; MediaArtsCouncil.org. ♦

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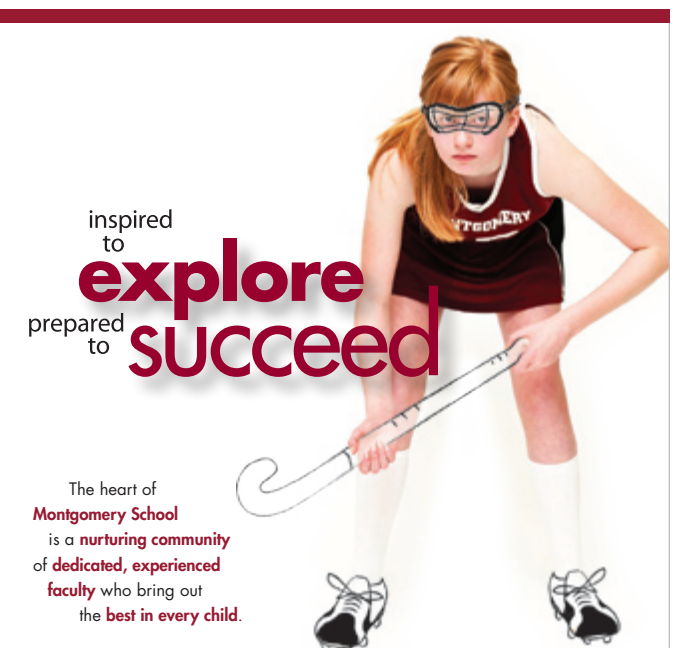


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Restoring *the* River

BRANDYWINE RIVER CLEANUP ON APRIL 6

Refrigerators, picnic tables, a surfboard, a bed frame, car batteries and hundreds of tires. Just some of the things hauled from the banks of the Brandywine over the past 20+ years.

With the help of hundreds of volunteers, The Young Friends of the Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art have hosted the Brandywine River Cleanup since the first such project in 1994. The groups have removed 30-something tons of trash along a 10-mile route, from the Lenape Bridge in Pennsylvania to Thompson's Bridge in Delaware.

Each year families, school groups, scout troops and concerned citizens come out to volunteer and clean up the banks of the beautiful Brandywine. Local business and national partners such as American Rivers get into the act by donating dumpsters, trash bags and supplies as well as refreshments and lunch for the hard-working volunteers. In July, the Tip-a-Canoe and Barbecue, Tool! event lets everyone admire their handiwork as they float past the river banks they cleaned in April.

"Lawn chairs, a floating dock that got swept downstream, even a huge stuffed purple gorilla have been removed from the banks of the Brandywine over the years," said Avery L. Draper, Chairman of the Young Friends of the Brandywine Conservancy. "We're grateful for the hard work of the volunteers who come out each year, rain or shine. Their efforts help to preserve and protect the Brandywine watershed."

This trash is more than just an eyesore—it contaminates our drinking water. The river cleanup helps provide a healthier habitat for wildlife, a safer environment for recreational activities, and cleaner water for communities like Coatesville, Downingtown and the City of Wilmington that depend on the Brandywine as a source of their drinking water. More than 140,000 residents in Pennsylvania and Delaware get their drinking water from the Brandywine.

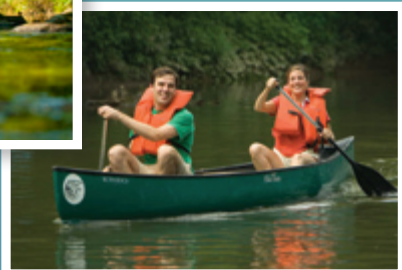
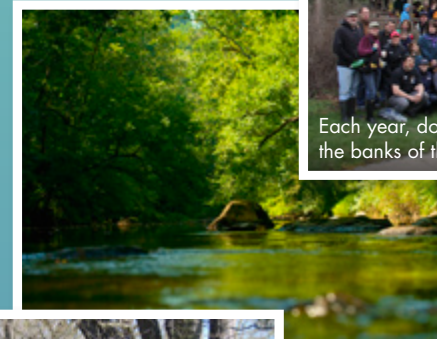
Join this worthy project. ♦

~ Hillary Holland

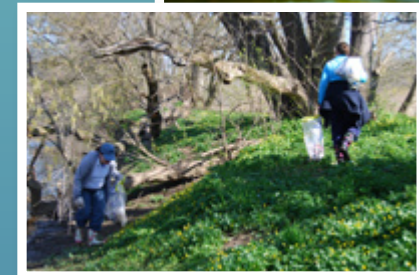
This year will mark the 21st Annual Brandywine River Cleanup scheduled for Saturday, April 6. Volunteers are asked to register by contacting the Young Friends office at 610-388-8315 or YoungFriends@Brandywine.org.



Each year, dozens of volunteers help to clean the banks of the Brandywine.



During Tip-A-Canoe and Barbecue, Tool!, in July, the Young Friends paddle down the Brandywine to see the beauty of the river.



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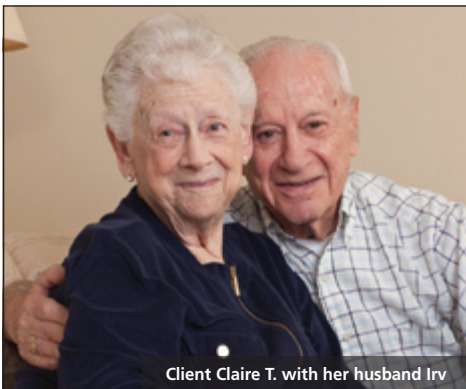


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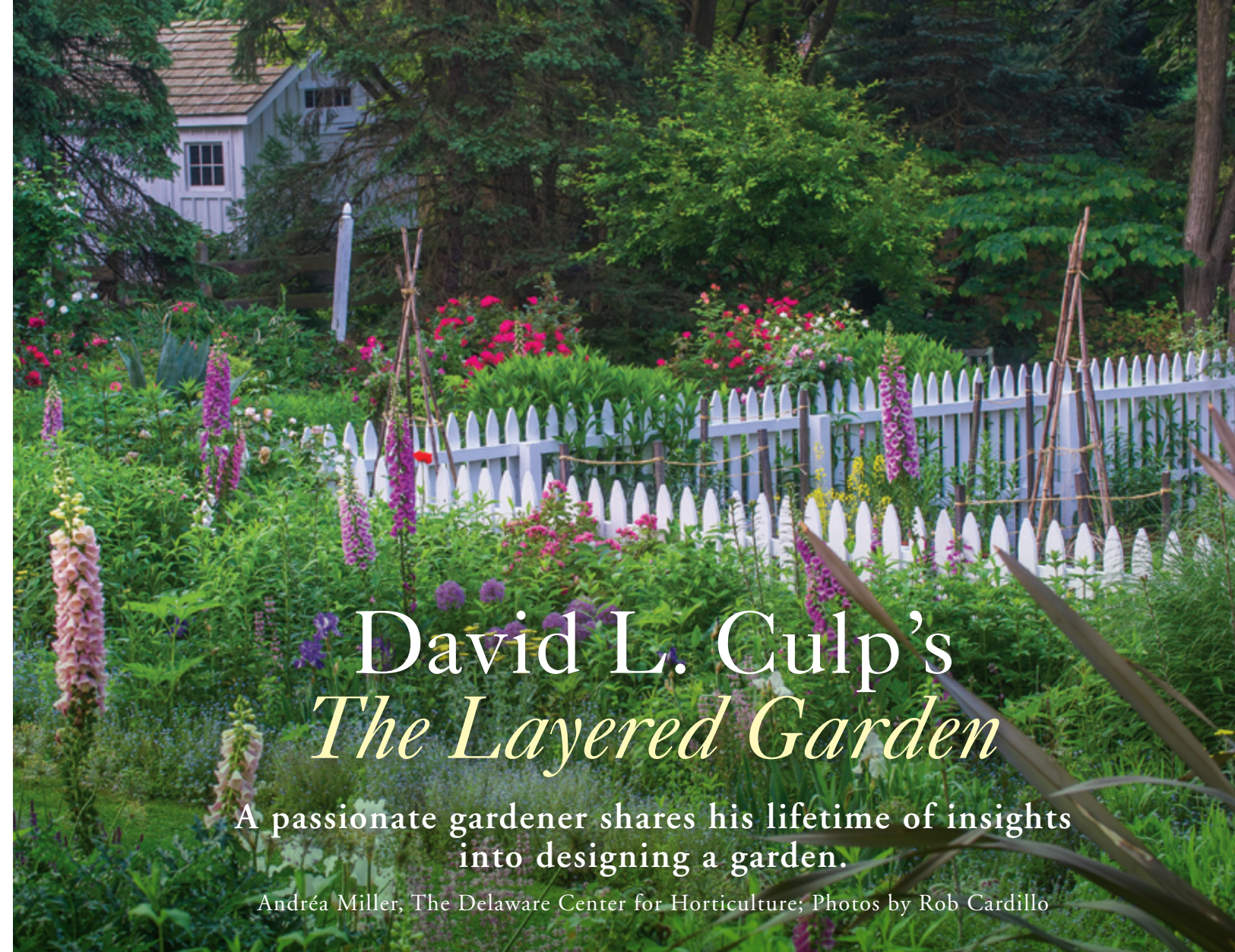
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David L. Culp's *The Layered Garden*

A passionate gardener shares his lifetime of insights
into designing a garden.

Andréa Miller, The Delaware Center for Horticulture; Photos by Rob Cardillo

Having signature shapes is as important as having a signature color. Culp likes vertical shapes, for the sense of drama they impart to the garden.

When expert plantsman David Culp is talking horticulture, it's no dry academic discourse on soil conditions. Culp's tone is warm and intimate as he speaks of getting to know this plant's *personality*, or that one's *willingness* to grow, or how he asks others to help him accomplish a garden goal.

It often sounds as if he's talking about old friends, and in many ways, he is. A passionate gardener since childhood, Culp's relationship with plants flourishes today in his breathtaking, romantic two-acre Brandywine Cottage in Downingtown—a Smithsonian Institution American Gardens treasure.

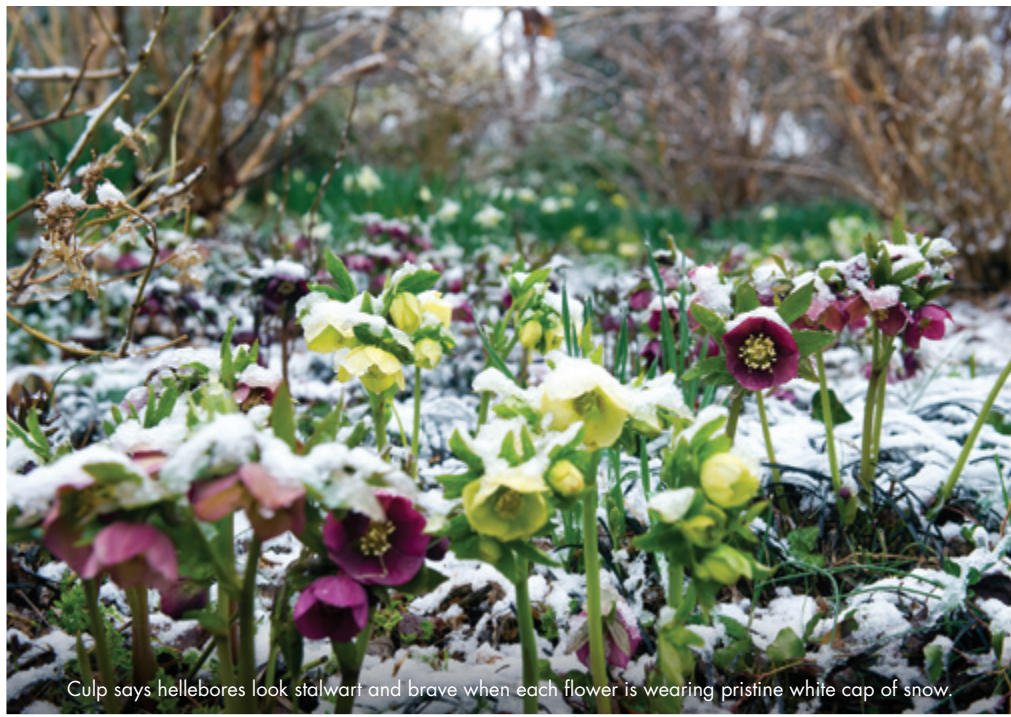
When Culp—a Longwood Gardens instructor, sought-after lecturer, and developer of the Brandywine strain of hellebores—gives advice about creating a successful garden, he stresses the fundamentals: develop a vision, make a plan, use a strategy, implement it. Then observe and revise. It's a recipe that instills ownership of the process and creates lifelong learners and gardeners who enjoy a love affair with their garden.

No mistake, Culp generously dispenses specifics of his deep plant knowledge in lectures and in *The Layered Garden*, a book that's equal parts practical information, memoir and philosophy. But he's emphatic about starting with a strong foundation.

Develop a Vision. When gardeners plan a space, they often immediately fixate on specific plant favorites. But Culp advises to first take a big step back and ask an important question: What mood do you want to create?

“If my garden is a symphony, I hope it is a romantic one. I want my garden to seduce me, to draw me in, to make me forget about the rest of the world as long as it holds me under its spell,” Culp writes in *The Layered Garden*.

Compare that to “I love peonies,” or “I want formal symmetry,” and the benefit of a vivid vision becomes clear. “A garden will only give you what you ask of it,” he says, “so don't be afraid to ask it to do a lot.”



Culp says hellebores look stalwart and brave when each flower is wearing pristine white cap of snow.



The delicate pastels of spring give way in fall to the warm vibrant colors. The foliage of tropicals provides a bold structure in the looseness of the autumn border.

GROW YOUR LIBRARY OF GARDENING BOOKS THIS SPRING

Andrea Kiliany Thatcher
Chester County Book Company

And, make it personal: vision unfolds most vibrantly when the concern for what others expect diminishes and what makes you feel happy and comfortable in your garden unfurls, Culp says.

Use a Strategy. For Culp, the strategy of layered gardening is more than a fancy word for succession planting—designing for blooms to follow one another throughout the season. Layered gardening is working with a complex and nuanced understanding of living things, visually and temporally: how plants change over time and relate to each other, how beds develop and relate to each other, and how the garden as a whole changes through the years.

A layered garden is an ever-changing thing, he says. So, if your ideal strategy aims for autopilot between spring planting to fall cleanup, if it's almost not worth it to plant specimens whose blooms are fleeting, then layered gardening probably isn't for you.

Make a Plan. Culp's romantic garden is decidedly eclectic—he aims for studied chaos. But he's not an anarchist—he does have a plan. A good garden plan has unity and diversity. Aim to repeat and vary signature colors, textures, shapes and plant genus to create themes throughout the garden, he says.

In Culp's garden, the signature shapes are vertical, so he uses upstanding plants and man-made elements to advance the theme, including rose pillars, bamboo teepees and a picket fence.

If the vision stage is the time to focus on mood and feelings, planning is the time to bring in love of specific plants. Use favorites liberally to inform and inspire your plan, Culp says. For the gardener who's both a designer and avid plant collector, it can be a challenge to create a unified space with a collector's cache of rarities—unless you “throw away the rule book.”

That's a practice he advocates because disregarding the tried-and-true can result in fantastically memorable garden moments. For example, Culp commits just about every no-no in an intriguing bed that combines lilies, vegetables, perennials, herbs and ornamentals.

Get Started. Culp has the confidence to put outrageous combinations together to striking effect because he's spent a lifetime learning attributes of each plant through its life cycle and adjusting according to what he learns.

So what can a gardener do to develop a personal garden vocabulary? “Eighty percent of it is getting it in the ground,” Culp says. “Then observe.”

That's why, while a good plan is action-

able and explicit, perhaps the most important thing is that the gardener's attitude toward it is flexible, he says. If something is not working, or if you have a fresh idea, never be afraid to pull a plant out of the ground, even if it was a foundation in the original plan. Plans are more like a roadmap than a rulebook and plants are less fragile than we imagine them to be.

And most important, gardening is about change. ♦

Inspiration For Your Garden Vision

The Delaware Center for Horticulture (TheDCH) hosts a tour of David Culp's Brandywine Cottage on April 30. This private tour is the first in the “**Learning from Great Gardens Series**,” featuring strolls through exquisite private gardens led by those who created them.

On April 26, TheDCH also hosts the **Rare Plant Auction** staged throughout the Longwood Gardens conservatory. This gala fundraiser features silent and live auctions of exquisite, rare, newly introduced and difficult to propagate plants, shrubs and trees. Proceeds benefit programs for underserved populations and events for plant lovers.

For more information and to register, visit TheDCH.org.



You don't need a green thumb to enjoy a good gardening book. These selections are of interest to everyone from the armchair gardener who prefers to look at gardens from air conditioned comfort to the accomplished four-season layering gardener. Some whimsical (a look at gardens that inspired Beatrix Potter), some practical (self-sufficiency on a quarter acre) and some just fun (your pick).

Whether you're looking for an indoor plant, a chance to join the terrarium fever or advice on small space gardening, you should find something here.

The Layered Garden: Design Lessons for Year-Round Beauty from Brandywine Cottage by David L. Culp and Adam Levine — If you dream about a nonstop

parade of color that takes you from heirloom daffodils and hellebores in spring to a jewel-tone blend of Asian wildflowers in late fall, then you'll want to pick up this book. Lessons from Brandywine Cottage, Culp's two-acre Pennsylvania garden, start with the basics of layering and are as practical as they are inspiring. (The Delaware Center for Horticulture tells you more in this issue.) A perfect guide, by a local gardener, for anyone who aspires to the perfect four-season garden.

Mini Farming: Self-Sufficiency on 1/4 Acre by *Brett L. Markham* — For the serious yet amateur gardener, Markham explains basic gardening for a robust three-season harvest in easy-to-understand plain speak. Other self-sufficiency topics like raising backyard chickens and home canning are also covered. This book is a few years old and has inspired several spin-offs, like *The Mini Farming Guide to Vegetable Gardening* and *The Mini Farming Guide to Composting*. If you find you enjoy Markham's voice and instruction, you'll want to add this to your collection.

The Drunken Botanist: The Plants That Create the World's Great Drinks by *Amy Stewart* — A conversation starter for your coffee table, or more appropriately your bar, this is a charming look at both common and uncommon plants that are turned into alcohol as well as an extensive cocktail recipe reference. Stewart takes you around your garden and grocery store for garnishes, mixers and more to make truly handcrafted cocktails. Cheers!

Pocket Gardens: Design Ideas for Small Space Gardening by *Fine Gardening* — *Fine Gardening* magazine proves that luxurious gardens are not the exclusive province of the multi-acre homeowner with this book on small-space gardening. High-yielding, small-space vegetable gardens and decorative small spaces that take up less dirt and less square footage than expected are both included. You'll find garden designs, advice on choosing plants, and strategies to keep them healthy in cramped spaces.

The New Terrarium: Creating Beautiful Displays for Plants and Nature by *Tovah Martin* — If you haven't been on Pinterest lately perhaps you've missed the boom in terrarium gardening, but the trendy hipsters down the street are surely experts by now. You can be, too, with this guide to whimsical yet practical gardens under glass. Merge your finds from the forest or beach treasures into your home or office environment seamlessly in a terrarium. From cases to plants to techniques, Martin guides you from start

to finish with lots of creative ideas and inspiring photos.

How to Buy the Right Plants, Tools & Garden Supplies by *Jim Fox* — Don't be confused and daunted when you go to Home Depot this spring. Let Fox demystify what you need to know before visiting the garden center, how to tell if a plant is worth the money, what size you should buy, and more. Nor will you be befuddled into buying tools you don't need as he also discusses what supplies are really necessary and which are well made.

Private Edens: Beautiful Country Gardens by *Jack Staub and Rob Cardillo* — Take a tour of private country garden paradises from Virginia to Connecticut without leaving home. Design expert Staub is the owner of the historic Hortulus Farm in Wrightstown, PA and is a passionate edible gardener and locavore advocate. But this tome focuses on a dreamy stroll through spaces like a romantic cottage garden and a countryside-meets-

Himalayan retreat, showing what all home gardeners can achieve with imagination. Plus fabulous photos by Rob Cardillo.

Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities by *Amy Stewart* — Another history-meets-horticulture book from Amy Stewart. You'll never consider a plant harmless again after putting this volume down. Neither a scientist nor botanist, Stewart instead brings a writer and gardener's perspective to a collection of plants from history and literature that entertains, alarms and enlightens. A garden party never seemed so sinister.

Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life: The Plants and Places That Inspired the Classic Children's Tales by *Marta McDowell* — If you're already a fan of Beatrix Potter, this book will bewitch you as much as her whimsical tales, and if you're not, it will surely ignite a flame of fandom. Potter's love of gardening and plants was not fictional, and this book tells the tale of how those passions informed her stories and illustrations. Potter's life is explored through both the places and moments that defined her and a season-by-season guide to what was blooming in Beatrix's garden.

The Unexpected Houseplant: 220 Extraordinary Choices for Every Spot in Your Home by *Tovah Martin* — Another selection by Tovah Martin. Those without an outdoor space need not be excluded from the love of plants! Martin gives readers an extensive list of unexpected houseplants for every seasons. Grow everything from herbs to asparagus to orchids inside your home! The beautiful photos will also give you a ton of inspiring ideas for creative vessels for your new finds. ♦

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April Events: Apr. 23: *AJ Mass* signs *Yes, It's Hot In Here: Adventures in the Weird, Woolly World of Sports Mascots*, 7 p.m. Apr. 25: *Craig Johnson* signs his new book in the *Longmire* series, *Any Other Name*, 7 p.m.



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Carol Metzker
Photos by Alison Conklin

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Open the natural paper envelope. The hand-lettered wedding invitation beckons guests to a clapboard British-style farmhouse—designed by the bride's father who is a restoration architect—on five acres graced with flowers and surrounded by woods. A vintage diamond-studded band that once glittered on the finger of the bride's grandmother sparkles in anticipation of arriving at the hand of its new wearer. The May wedding of Chester County residents Sarah Bourne and John Rafferty promises a trace of something old and more than a hint of romance.

Like Sarah and John, many brides and grooms in the Brandywine Valley are bringing elements of the past to romantic

ceremonies today. Old venues, period decorations and epoch cuisine make memorable events where couples begin their own chapter in history.

BACK IN TIME

A short drive from Chester County, bridal parties and guests travel back in time more than 100 years to the Inn at Leola Village. Situated in the beautiful countryside of Lancaster County, the Inn is a charming spot for an indoor or outdoor destination wedding. Two 19th-century farmhouses with guest rooms—no two alike, some with four-poster beds and some with fireplaces—welcome guests for the duration of the festivities, as well as

the bride and groom on their wedding night. The Wedding Garden or main room fireplace provide the perfect backdrop for nuptials and photographs; the master chef provides exquisite reception fare at the on-site Forbes-five-star restaurant.

Step back another century into the Farmhouse at People's Light. Surrounded by English perennial gardens, the 230-year-old landmark's ballroom can hold a buffet for 300 or seated dinner for 200. The Farmhouse Bistro hosts smaller, more intimate celebrations.

For 200-year-old elegance, tie the knot at Hilltop House in Devon. The farmhouse sits atop a hillside of picturesque meadows, gardens and orchards. Brides

can descend a grand staircase at an indoor ceremony; afterwards attendees can enjoy reception cocktails on the veranda.

At a recent wedding at the Phoenixville Foundry, a bride surprised her groom and guests with an added old-fashioned touch. After the music had begun and the bridal party was in place, a brief moment of silence revealed the click of hooves. The bride's grand entrance from a horse-drawn carriage was a magical moment to start the festivities. Built in 1882 along French Creek, the renovated foundry is a spectacular place to make a dramatic entrance, dance the night away under 60-foot ceilings or enjoy a stunning view of guests from the mezzanine.

FORGET-ME-NOT FLOWERS FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENT

Whether vintage means antique or a nod to the 1940s, glorious era-inspired flowers can set a tone for a magnificent event.

A consultant for weddings at Valley Forge Flowers, David Bashnick's creative flair and passion for his work is evident in his conversations about flowers as well as in Valley Forge Flowers' exquisite bouquets and decorations. For a period celebration at a 17th-century inn, he suggests Williamsburg-style arrangements of lush garden flowers—romantic roses, peonies and violets. For a wedding reenacting the roaring '20s, he suggests

flapper-fashioned floral decorations with painted feathers, and for the '40s, nostalgic cascading bouquets of flowers, ferns and ribbon streamers.

Along with flowers, vintage-style accessories lend a sentimental air to the ambiance. One bride bought 275 antique plates of different china patterns to set the tables at the Phoenixville Foundry. Other couples choose tablescapes with old lace, lanterns, or linens that look like they are from an era past: patterns, floral or tapestry.

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

Reception cuisine also brings out a vintage feel and can be matched to the era of a historic inn, home or wedding theme.



All around Philadelphia and Chester County, Jimmy Duffy Catering is known for its talent for blending timeless classics and modern flair. Its creative chef finds recipes to fit an era—a Williamsburg-style feast, for instance—or a more modern decade-themed wedding. An easy and fun way of connecting an era with a palate is serving a signature cocktail or craft beer from the time period: a roaring '20s gin and tonic or classic martini from the end of the '40s.

For a recent reception, Robert Ryan Catering prepared food stations that represented fare during each decade dating back to the 1960s: homemade chicken pot pies and miniature Shepherd's pies for the 1960s; a homemade salsa bar and stuffed Chester County mushrooms for the 1970s; and marinated beef tenders served with orzo and radish sprouts, and jumbo shrimp with purple potato salad and tomato saffron vinaigrette representing the 1980s.

TALK ABOUT VINTAGE!

Springfield Country Club now has a ballroom that can hold 1000 guests for an elaborate Indian marriage ceremony or a wedding with white lace gown and veil made classic by Queen Victoria in 1840.

Indian ceremonies—renowned for their grandeur, pageantry, rich colors, lavish flowers, and adornment of silk and gold—incorporate age-old rituals and ancient religious practices. Springfield Country Club has hosted many such beautiful traditions including the baraat, the parade of the groom's friends and family dancing and singing on the way to the ceremony. At one baraat, a groom made his grand entrance on an elephant; another once entered on horseback. The parade ends in a ceremony in which the families of the bride and groom greet each other in an old ritual symbolizing the joining of the two families.

VINTAGE DAZZLE

No theater-goer to the 2013 remake of *The Great Gatsby* could forget the radiant 1922-style diamond gleaming on the hand of Daisy Buchanan ... least of all, any soon-to-be bride. Sentimentality, as well as the movie, has played a huge influence on the popularity of antique-looking engagement and wedding rings.

Martin Moon, a Chester County metalsmith who works in small sculpture and jewelry, describes what makes jewelry look vintage: patination—controlled tarnishing—that makes recesses in the metal dark instead of shiny; engraving with swirls, scrolls and nature motives to affect how light hits the metal and catches the eye; and design elements with gems.

Continental Jewelers in Wilmington offers beautiful wedding jewelry with settings that look vintage—with filigree, lacy designs, white gold or platinum and

countless small diamonds. The jeweler also carries heirloom and previously-loved jewelry, which can be more affordable for some couples just starting out. Chrysa Cohen, owner, recommends checking the condition of the filigree, prongs and the band, and considering that the piece might need restoration or repair after a few anniversaries.

Michael J. Cook at Walter J. Cook Jeweler concurs. "You wouldn't drive an antique car on a daily basis. Likewise, a

precious metal vintage ring on a bride's hand today may not hold up to daily activities like going to the gym." With plenty of gorgeous reproduction engagement rings to choose from, couples don't need to buy an antique to enjoy a vintage appearance. The Main Line jeweler also offers wedding gifts for the couple to bestow upon each other: antique-style cufflinks or a classic wristwatch from the bride to the groom, and earrings or lustrous pearls from him to her.

To point guests in the right direction for gifts for their own little house, couples can register at the Little House Shop in Wayne. Select from romantic pieces of yesteryear and more: reproduction carriage clocks and Georgian candlesticks, Antique Iris china with a pattern dating back to the 1850s and picture frames to hold memories of a wonderful day.

New beginnings often start with something old—the perfect opening for an ageless love story. ♦

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610-388-8112; BrandywineMuseum.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

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

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302-656-6466, ext. 7111
TheDCCA.org

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215-925-2800; LibertyMuseum.org

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FarmhousePeoplesLight.com

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If you're looking for small town heaven, look no farther than Downingtown.



Jaimielynn Cooper
Photos by Andrew Seymour

A long historic Lincoln Highway—the first paved road to span from Atlantic to Pacific—lies Downingtown, just 33 miles west of Philadelphia. As part of one of the oldest counties in Pennsylvania—Chester County's history predates 1776—Downingtown has history to spare. Taking a trip downtown will leave you feeling like you stepped back into the past—and walked into the future—all at the same time.

The Last Stop

Originally using the unassuming name Milltown, the town began as a small village, home to the last mills before travelers ventured into the unsettled west—what today is bustling Lancaster County.

As one of the town's entrepreneurs and member of a prominent local family, Thomas Downing was responsible for developing an industrial mill complex along Lancaster Road. Today, the Downingtown Log House, built in 1705 and once home to Thomas's family, still stands in its original location. After a few name changes, Downingtown was the choice that stuck, a nod to the contributions of the Downing family.



Downingtown Christmas Parade

Kerr Park

Downingtown Good Neighbor Day Fireworks

The Orangery at Glen Isle

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Victory Brewing Company

Kerr Park

Downingtown Farmer's Market

Stella Rossa Ristorante

Stella Rossa Ristorante

Because of its location, Downingtown served as a hub for stagecoach service between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. As coaches gave way to railroads, Downingtown saw an industrial boom. New jobs were created and, in the wake of the Industrial Revolution, the once-small village's population exploded. The newly prosperous town became an example of the advantages of embracing change.

Visit Downingtown today and you'll see that change all around. Traveling along historic Lancaster Avenue will give visitors a glimpse into the past—with 20 historic structures reflecting Downingtown's rich history. Yet the town is ever evolving.

Green Living

Ask Mayor Joshua Maxwell to describe his town, and he'll smile and say it's, "small town heaven." It's easy to see why.

Although only 2.2 square miles in size, Downingtown has more open space than any other borough in Chester County. Its five parks have plenty of bike and hiking trails, ponds for fishing and lawns for picnicking. On April 19 and 26, you can head to the local Orvis store for Flyfishing 101, then onto the stream-stocked, trout-filled Brandywine River—five minutes away. You'll wish springtime had come a lot sooner this year!

In keeping with the Downingtown tradition of keeping up with the times, the town touts a developing Main Street district. But while the town may welcome the new, it still values the old.

Since 1950 Philip H. Bradley Antiques has specialized in 18th- and early 19th-century American tall case clocks, furniture and decorative accessories. The shop has long been a destination for antiques lovers and collectors. For some antiques excitement, stop by an auction at Pook & Pook, where a Philadelphia piecrust tea table once sold for \$1.4 million! Check their auction schedule online and mark your calendar for the auction on April 25 and 26.

What better way to be green than to buy antiques?

Destination Dining

If you're not lucky enough to call Downingtown home, trust that their dining scene is definitely worth the drive. From early morning tea to late night snacks, Downingtown serves up something tasty all day long.

Start with a cup of tea from Pureblend Tea. This darling of the farmer's markets has a bricks-and-mortar tea shop on Brandywine Avenue with over 25 organically grown blends to choose from. Join their Tea of the Month club to keep up with

flavorful blends like Clean Green and Alice in Wonderland.

Around lunchtime head for East Lancaster Ave. to family-owned Georgio's Restaurant and Bar, celebrating 30 years in business and serving three meals a day. You'll find a Mediterranean menu—gyros, souvlaki, stuffed pita and more—and as the weather gets warmer, ask to sit outside on the patio.

Relative newcomer Stella Rossa Ristorante, in the former space of Firecreek Restaurant, is another lunch option if you're craving Italian. Their signature hot and cold small plates are perfect for sharing, and if you're in the mood to sip, sample the selection of 50 Italian wines. Or come back for happy hour or dinner.

For farm fresh, seasonal cuisine, Amani's BYOB is a can't miss. Using ingredients from local farmers and helping promote local business, Chef Jonathan Amann—three-time Best Chef of Chester County—puts a delicious twist on the traditional BYOB. Try creative dishes featuring sublime sauces, like Meyer Lemon Air or Yuzo Pomegranate, over the best selections from land and sea.

Enjoy up-close and personal attention with chef-side dining at Avalon Pasta Bistro, prepared by Chef John Brandt-Lee—a multi-course meal that's great for celebrations.

If you'd like a side of history with your meal, dine at The Orangery at Glen Isle. Located in a secluded historic home, The Orangery offers authentic Tuscan cuisine. Insider tip: make your reservations early—there's only one seating per night.

To sample the local brew—Victory Brewing Company started in Downingtown—head for their Brewpub. The bar menu will make you want to stay for one more round. After a late night out, a local favorite is the Station Taproom for brunch—try Chicken & Waffles or Shrimp & Grits. Then stop back to sip something on tap or bottled—the list is long, the options top notch, so plan accordingly.

Or if you'd rather stay in and cook at home, all the freshest ingredients you'll need are available at Kimberton Whole Foods. Finally, for a snack fact—Auntie Anne's Pretzels started here, at a market stand in the Downingtown Farmer's Market.

Make a Day of It

Shake away the last vestiges of the polar vortex with a walk in the park. Located along the Brandywine Creek, Kerr Park offers a perfect option for open space and sunshine. Stop by for the Downingtown Farmer's Market, featuring the area's best farmers and food artisans, produce, poultry and dairy.

Meet your neighbors on Good Neighbor Day, held on July 4th every year. This day-long event is one of the most popular—the town nearly triples in size. Starting with a 5K for Freedom Walk, the event features fabulous food, crafts, vendors and family fun activities, with a grand finale of fireworks at dusk.

In September, don't miss the Downingtown Fall Fest. Hosted by Victory Brewing, the event is jam packed with live music and entertainment, with local gifts and goodies, and best of all—the Beer Garden.

If a visit to Downingtown isn't enough, consider calling it home. AVE Downingtown is the perfect place for those looking for a chic condo in a sophisticated resort-style community for both long-term and extended-stay rentals. Ashbridge Manor and Simpson Meadows offer another option for those looking to move to apartment communities perfect for seniors wanting to downscale in size, but upscale in lifestyle.

Don't wait another minute! With all these places to shop, eat and explore, plus exciting events all year long, you're sure to find your piece of small town heaven in Downingtown.

Maybe we'll see you there! ♦

For all the latest Downingtown news, visit Downingtown.org or DowningtownMainStreet.com.



"Welcome To Friendly Downingtown — No Need For Speed!" so say the four new signs that were erected last Friday at the entrances to the Borough by the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce. A fifth sign is to be put up on Rte. 113. The project took many months of negotiating with property owners, sign makers and the weather and the Chamber hopes that they will play some small part in persuading the transient motorist to slow down, enjoy our town and leave our children and fenders undamaged. (From *The Archive*, May 1951)

PHOTO BY ANDY EPPOLITO

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Up to
Speed

Electrifying News from the Automotive Front

Jack Smith



Chevy Volt



BMW i3



Ford Focus

According to *Consumer Reports*, 2014 is the year electric cars turn the corner. This may be, but along the way Electric Vehicles can be counted on to generate as much heat—rhetorically speaking—as power.

To be sure Electric Vehicles (EVs) offer numerous benefits over gasoline-powered cars. They're cheaper to operate, costing about a quarter as much as a gas-powered car to run. They're also far quieter, produce no tailpipe emissions, and consume no imported petroleum. But their purchase price is typically higher (despite federal and some state tax credits), they have limited driving range, and can require long recharge times, not to mention that hard-to-discard lithium battery.

Curiously while car-makers love to describe their models as electric, they dance around the implications of the word "hybrid."



BMW i3

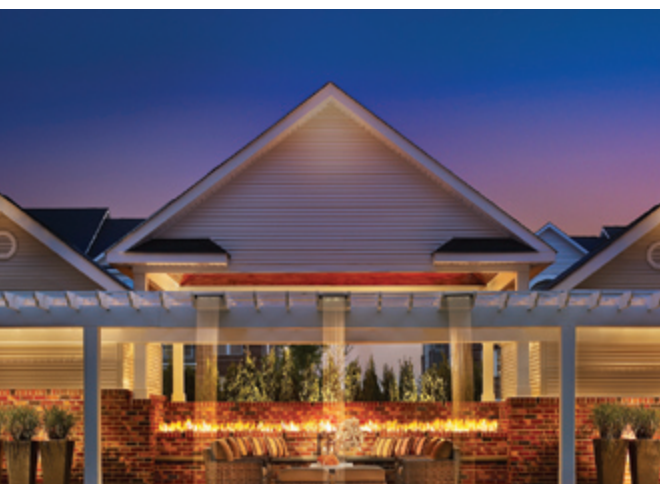
Chevy Volt

Take the Chevrolet Volt, whose very name, come to think of it, is electric. "The lower price and cost savings from driving on electricity provide Volt owners an unmatched balance of technology, capability and cost of ownership," says a Chevrolet press release.

Okay, we're being picky on this EV vs. hybrid thing. Basically what it all comes down to is a vehicle with two engines—a lithium-ion motor and a 1.4-litre back-up gas engine. Once the lithium-ion battery's charge is depleted, the 1.4-liter engine acts as a generator to extend the range by 315 miles, thus eliminating "range anxiety" (fear of being stranded when your EV's battery has died).

But say, isn't that battery/gas back-up the definition of hybrid?

In its electric mode the Volt delivers 99 miles per gallon, which is good news. The bad news is, it will deliver this kind of mileage for all of 38 miles before that lithium battery runs out and you have to switch to gas (with 37 m.p.g. EPA rating for gas). You may then begin looking around for a recharging station. Once you've found



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one, recharging will take from 10 to 16 hours. But since the 38-mile range covers the daily driving distance of about three-quarters of Americans, most commuters may not mind too much.

Chevrolet figures show Volt owners who charge regularly typically drive 900 miles between fill-ups and visit the gas station about once a month, saving about \$900 in annual fuel costs. And that's in a car that can do 0 to 60 in 9 seconds, with a top speed of 100 m.p.h. And General Motors estimates annual energy use to be 2,520 kilowatt-hours—less than required for a typical water heater.

The Volt, priced from \$34,995, is the best-selling “plug-in” vehicle in America and more than 70 percent of Volt buyers are new to General Motors. The vehicle most frequently traded-in for a Volt is the Toyota Prius, I mean Prius, which may come as a shock. Maybe garnering the World Green Car award and being #1 on the Sierra Club's list of plug-in hybrids helped.

BMW i3

BMW is making its official shift into the realm of electric mobility with the release of the all-electric BMW i3. With “green” as its watchword and retaining “visionary design,” BMW aims to take driving to a whole new dimension where tail-pipe emission-free vehicles are a standard way of life. Leading motoring authority Autocar calls the i3 (MSRP \$41,350) “a junior Tesla Model S.”

Since a car that's lightweight can go farther and faster more efficiently, BMW chose to use Carbon Fiber Reinforced Plastic (CFRP) as the foundation for the BMW i3 and i8. CFRP is a material that's as strong as steel, but about half the weight, allowing BMW to set new standards in lightweight vehicle construction and safety.

The upcoming BMW i3 and BMW i8 Concept vehicles will mark the first mass produced cars to use CFRP. In keeping with the BMW's green-ness, this exterior material is currently being produced in Moses Lake, Washington at an ultra-modern plant that's completely powered by renewable, hydroelectric power, and the car's interior leather is tanned with a natural agent derived from olive leaves. Like I said, green.

The design philosophy of BMW is simple: create beautifully efficient, high-performance cars through sustainable materials and processes. Aerodynamics play an important role in the design of BMW i vehicles. Fully concealed underbodies help prevent wind turbulence under the car, while aero-flaps improve the flow of air through the wheel arches and side sills behind the front wheels. By reducing wind resistance, the vehicles become even more energy efficient.

BMW's lithium-ion high-voltage battery goes up to 100 miles on a single charge. Its uniquely intelligent battery heating/cooling system ensures that the range of the BMW i3 is less affected by temperature fluctuations than other electric vehicles (EVs), contributing to the overall life of the battery cells, allowing drivers to get the most out of their EV. And with Brake Energy Recuperation, every time the driver lets off the accelerator, kinetic energy is converted into electricity to extend the battery's charge.

BMW offers an elegantly designed home charging solution that gives drivers an easy and safe way to charge and a full charge in about 3 hours. The standard charging cable is designed to have your battery topped off by simply plugging into a dedicated 120-volt outlet. There are plans for a fast charging system that charges the i3 up to 80 percent full in 20 minutes and 100 percent in 30 minutes.

And the BMW i3 offers a Range Extender—a rear-mounted, two-cylinder, 647cc scooter-derived engine that works as an on-board power station—that takes you farther, doubling your electric driving range, allowing you to breathe a little more easily on those longer road trips. Yet one critic of adding a gas engine to an EV has called that “the coward's choice.”

Ford Focus

Introduced at the turn of the century, the first Ford Focus was a pretty good car. It was fun to drive, versatile and available in a wide range of body styles. But as the years went on, newer and more polished rivals relegated it to mid-pack status.

Not so with the current-generation Focus, which debuted for 2012 and ranks among the best picks in the compact car segment. Major reasons to consider the 2014 Ford Focus five-passenger sedan and hatchback include sprightly performance, an upscale interior, a refined ride and—in its Ford Electric variant—excellent fuel economy, at \$35,170 MSRP.

Another key attribute is the Focus's abundance of available high-tech convenience features. One such luxury-like standout is the automated parallel parking system that can neatly slip the car into a curbside spot without the driver ever touching the steering wheel. The MyFord Touch interface (which consists of configurable control screens), meanwhile, has drawn mixed reviews, which is no less than one might expect for such a cutesy name. There's more. The MyFord Mobile app locates the nearest charging station and a brake coach helps train drivers to maximize the regenerative braking system.

The Focus Electric has a 107-kilowatt (143 hp) electric drive motor that draws power from a 23 kWh lithium-ion battery pack. Power is sent to the front wheels through a single-speed direct-drive transmission. The EPA gives the Focus Electric an energy efficiency equivalent rating (m.p.g.e) of 110 m.p.g. city/99 m.p.g. highway and 105 m.p.g. combined. The EPA also estimates the Focus Electric has an effective range of about 76 miles between charging. But as with all electric cars, actual range will be highly dependent on driving style and environment.

The Focus Electric has a motor that can be recharged in about four hours from a 240-volt power source, but about 18 to 20 hours with a 120-volt source. Owners of the electric Focus can keep tabs on its charging state via smartphone integration. There's an app, of course, to help schedule recharging for non-peak hours.

From the upscale Tesla, more affordable Nissan Leaf, stylish Fiat 500e, or these three, there should be an EV that suits you. ♦

Discover WHEAT BEER This Spring

Bill Coveleski
Victory Brewing Company

And drink other beers, too.
It's the perfect season for them.



Way back on February 2, after the brief winter of 2014 already dropped nearly 20 inches of snow in Chester County and surrounding areas, good old Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow. With that revelation, many residents of the Northeast, including the team here at Victory Brewing, shed a collective tear.

But then we headed to the pub for a refreshing glass of our spring seasonal, Swing Session Saison, and all hope that we will indeed see springtime sun upon bright green grass again was restored.

You see, when meteorologists can't offer certainties and ground-hogs become spooked, we beer lovers let our brew schedule be our guide! As I sit here penning this article in what we hope will be the final, cold dark weeks of winter, our team is busy cranking out new packaging designs, recipes and, of course, fresh beer in styles perfect for the warmer days and longer nights of the spring season.

When I last wrote about beer—“Craft Beer 101” in the January issue of *County Lines*—I shared my personal introduction to the world of craft beer, highlighting just some of the vast history of our





favorite beverage and giving you an overview of what creates the very essence of beer. I hope it made a convert out of many of you.

As a quick refresher: Every brew begins with four simple ingredients—water, malts, hops and yeast—that brewmasters combine in various ways to develop the harmonious flavors, aromas and body that give each brew its own unique character. Changing the source or variety of even just one of these ingredients has a profound impact on the final outcome of the beer and helps define whether the brew is considered an ale or a lager.

While both ales and lagers include styles that are especially tempting in warmer months, a particularly appropriate style for the spring season is a wheat beer. Enjoying a resurgence of popularity starting in Bavaria in the 1980s, wheat beers were selected for

this issue as they are consummate warm weather refreshers that, in some varieties, feature enough malty-grainy mouthfeel and substance to match spring's fresh, but substantial, flavors.

What Makes a Beer a Wheat Beer

Wheat beer refers to ales that use malted wheat in place of a large portion of malted barley. Their range includes German-style hefeweizens, Belgian-style witbiers, saisons and crisp, clear weizens. Wheat malt is often cited as bringing a citrus quality to beer, while the higher proportion of proteins in wheat over barley allows this style to exhibit more stable, frothy heads atop often cloudy, pale to orange tinged bodies.

But what also helps differentiate wheat-style beers from others are the pleasing and distinctive qualities and flavors derived as

fermentation by-products of the small but mighty organism that also gives beer its buzz—active yeast.

Generally, wheat styles are brewed with Bavarian yeast strains, which are known to develop a number of very refreshing flavors, including somewhat spicy qualities derived from the chemical compounds naturally occurring from fermentation—phenols and esters. These natural compounds produce flavor impressions of clove, vanilla, nutmeg and smoke, as well as banana, candy or bubblegum and may also impart quenching lactic flavors that are so satisfying on a hot day. Sound good so far?

But that's not all the magic the Bavarian yeast works on this beer style, found by many to be among the most approachable for those just discovering the delight of craft beer. Wheat beers feature higher carbonation (CO₂) levels, adding a refreshing lift. While the lower pH values typical of this style support the pleasantly tart flavors these ales offer making them, perhaps, more refreshing than beers with higher pH levels.

Enjoying Wheat Beers

As you also learned from our crash course in January, because of unique flavor profiles and nuances exhibited in each variation of style, craft beer can be successfully paired with food to make for a delicious and complete dining experience. And despite the winter weather that threatens—and recently pummeled—residents of the Northeast, the climate in this region also fosters a bountiful foodshed in warmer months.

Ours, in particular, is an area where a rich tradition of local production and consumption is supported by a growing consortium of local food and farm artisans dedicated to quality, creativity and sustainability. And with the abundance of enticing colors, flavors, textures and weights the spring harvest provides, creating and enjoying delicious combinations of food and wheat beer is especially fun this time of year.

Special Pairing

To get you started, below are a few of my favorite foods to enjoy with a spring-style wheat beer or saison.

The Light: Spring Pea Risotto or Risotto Primavera. With plenty of fresh lemon zest, these items work together as the toothsome, cereal qualities of rice and peas naturally connect with wheat malt flavors, while both the beer and dishes have bright, citrus qualities.

Paired with: Allagash White Ale

The Balanced: Prosciutto Wrapped Asparagus. Drizzle with lemon juice and olive oil and dust with Parmesan cheese for a more Mediterranean effect, or substitute smoked, Black Forest ham to go the Germanic route. Whichever you choose, crisp, grassy asparagus focuses wheat beers' light and spicy attributes for a delightful combination.

Paired with: Victory Mad King's Weiss

The Fusion: Edamame Hummus. All hummus recipes shine with wheat beers because of the synergy of lemon and grain flavors. Incorporating nutty edamame, this twist on traditional chickpea hummus can be further enhanced with the addition of peas, cumin and coriander, which all have spicy hooks that work well with soothing texture of wheat brews.

Paired with: Tired Hands SaisonHands

The Classic: Veal Weisswurst and Sweet Mustard. An entire nation can't be wrong! Seasoned lightly with parsley, succulent mild veal weisswurst and sweet mustard to taste is a Bavarian spring and summer staple.

Paired with: Franziskaner Weissbier

Remember, when pairing consider strength and depth of flavors and aromas to choose combinations that are complementary considering complexity, contrast, and harmony. But most important, have fun and enjoy the experience of delicious food and beer.

Cheers! ♦

Bill Covalski is the co-founder and co-brewmaster of Downingtown-based Victory Brewing Company,



which brews over 100,000 barrels of delicious and diverse beer annually. For the beer labels gracing the bottles, it's not surprising to learn Bill was a graphic designer in an earlier life. VictoryBeer.com.



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Veal Burger



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Lise Monty

It's always good to honor our nation's history, and Black Powder Tavern does it with a bang and with class in its well-preserved building that has stood strong since 1746. The popular restaurant's name salutes the black powder munitions stash kept there for George Washington and the Continental Army trying to survive an earlier horrendous winter, the one of 1777-78 at nearby Valley Forge.

Period sconces and varied images of our first President decorate the warm wood-paneled walls that extend up to the high paneled ceiling. Subtly striped draperies frame tall, large paned-glass windows. The wide-plank, reclaimed barn-wood floor and sturdy wood tables with roomy chairs to match enhance ye-olde-tavern feeling. Two antique armoires double as conversation pieces and service areas. One is in the bar area, the other in the separate Anthony Wayne Room, available for private parties. The large bar area, separated from the main dining room by a glass wall, includes several tables for dining.

The updated restaurant, formerly Winberie's and owned by Select Restaurants, opened last October. Regional Manager Sam Sberna says business has been going “extremely well.” When we visited, it was hopping with a high-energy vibe filling the upscale/homey atmosphere.

From the friendly valet attendants to the gracious host and attentive waiters, the non-stop excellent service impressed the three of us. Valet parking is free and available at lunch, too.

Raising Spirits

My two companions happily sipped their well-chilled *Tanqueray Martinis* (\$8.95), toasting them with a clink of their classic long-stemmed glasses. It was daunting but fun to check out the massive menu of brew choices: two dozen-plus on tap, from American rotating drafts to Belgian and IPA drafts, plus Belgian ciders and bottled IPAs, along with pilsners, stouts and porters. A cool draft of *DeSchutes Mirror Pond Pale Ale* (\$6), one of the Portland, Oregon craft brewery's favorites, delighted, thanks to its seriously hoppy flavor and aroma.

Plenty of cocktail and wine choices, too, plus “adult” desserts like white chocolate and apple liqueur fondue, a special when we visited. You'll also find liqueur-laced milkshakes like the Night Rider made with Kahlua and Ghirardelli chocolate syrup or the Candy Cane, kicked up with Peppermint Schnapps.

Hearty, Tasty, Satisfying

The broad range and variety of popular American dishes, many creatively interpreted—shaved and grilled Broccoli Salad, for example—means there's something for everyone. Large portions prevail, even when they're “small plates,” which we found perfect for sharing. There was no resisting the crusty, Italian-style bread, which we were told comes from Tribeca and is baked in-house.

The *Pork Wings* (\$11) “small plate” inevitably led to one-liners about pigs flying as we sampled the hearty and tasty serving of two

bone-in portions of lean, tender pork in a robust Hoisin sauce, all sweet and salty, plus a sprinkle of sesame seeds. The perfect partner: a side of tangy cole slaw. *Melted Cambozola in Cast Iron* (\$10), a crowd-pleasing blend of caramelized onions and mushrooms topped with gooey cheese, came with crisp herb-enhanced flatbread. Yum! The sophisticated *Beet Salad* (\$10) won us over with its uniform slices of golden and red beets, apples and fennel with a sprinkle of pumpkin seeds, dressed with a tangy yogurt dill sauce and crumbled Gorgonzola.

Other appetizers: traditional mussels, Revolutionary (code for spicy) mussels, onion soup dumplings, calamari, hummus, chicken wings and polenta fries. Several soups—Lafayette’s onion, for one—and salads, too.

Winning Entrées

Sam Adams Pork Osso Bucco (\$22) showed that the Americanized pork-braised-in-beer interpretation can be as delicious as the Italian veal-and-white wine classic. Robust and full-flavored, the fall-off-the-bone meat sat on a heap of rich mashed potatoes

with slender carrot sticks and green beans adding color and crunch.

From the sea, *Chilean Sea Bass* (\$29) scored, the moist fillet topped with sundried tomatoes, shiitake mushrooms and scallions in a fresh basil reduction sauce. Well-matched partners: plump spears of al dente asparagus and a Kansas rice medley—white, brown and wild.

We agreed you can’t visit an all-American tavern without trying a burger and were happy we did. The *Veal Burger* (\$15), a hefty patty of quality meat, was topped with sautéed peppers and onions, a bright marinara sauce and fried provolone.

Other specials included Santa Fe Porterhouse steak, tuna Oscar, chicken and shrimp Chasseur, and grilled lobster tails. On the Large Plate menu: New York strip steak, char-grilled marinated flank steak, cedar-plank salmon, and three popular carryovers from the Winberie’s menu: chicken Marsala, fish and chips, and chicken pot pie.

The Burgers & Sandwiches list includes a pork hoagie, hot dog, honey-mustard chicken sandwich, smoked-salmon pastrami Reuben and a black bean vegetarian burger.

Sweet Satisfaction

We were intrigued by the *Hand-dipped Ricotta Cheese* (\$7) dessert—we tried it and absolutely loved it. The whipped scoop of soft creaminess sweetened with honey and studded with amaretto crumbs and salted almonds was delectable. Crisp pizzelles added the perfect crunch. It was relatively light compared to the *Toll House Pie* (\$7), a wedge of warm richness topped with ice cream, roasted pecans and chocolate fudge.

Other temptations: Valley Forge campfire S’mores, chocolate ganache and Franklin Fountain ice cream of the day. And, of course, those adult milkshakes.

Warm Weather Thoughts

When the time finally comes for al fresco dining—and it can’t come soon enough—the patio will be ready to greet you. ♦

Owner: Select Restaurants

Dinner: Monday-Thursday, 4 to 10 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, 4 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, 2 to 9 p.m. Bar open one hour later.

Lunch: Monday-Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday Brunch: 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Last Dinner on the Titanic.

The Hamanassett Bed and Breakfast hosts their annual **Last Dinner on the Titanic cooking class** led by Executive Chef Melissa Walsh.

Relive the extravagance of the Edwardian Era with the final dinner from the First Class Salon on that fateful voyage with exotic dishes like Peaches in Chartreuse Jelly, Consommé Olga and Waldorf Pudding. Enjoy the April 11-12 weekend at this picturesque B&B while learning to create an elegant, historic meal. Bon voyage and bon appetit! Hamanassett.com/CookingSchool.html.



60 Years of Peepsonality.

Love em’ or hate em’ you can’t deny that **Peeps** are part of our Easter candy tradition.

The most well-known

Easter image—next to the big bunny himself—these marshmallow icons have been sticking to our teeth since 1945 when Bethlehem, PA’s Just Born candy company invented a way to mass produce the signature chick shape. Since then the peeps product line has grown to include Christmas peeps in peppermint and gingerbread and Halloween peeps shaped like jack-o-lanterns. For fun recipes check out MarshmallowPeeps.com.

Crafting Spring Fever?

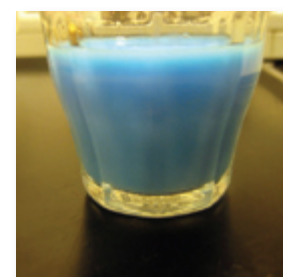
Thanks to an extremely addicting little website called **Pinterest** people are becoming more and more creative with crafting and recipes. As Easter approaches, crafters and foodies alike

are on the hunt for new ideas. Some of our favorites: white chocolate strawberries colored orange to look like carrots, chicks made from Nutter Butters, chocolate and M&Ms (see photo), and Easter egg popsicles made from fruit juice and plastic egg shells! See more on Pinterest@CountyLines.



April Foods’ Day.

Surprise family and friends this **April Fools’ Day** with fun food pranks. Turn your kitchen topsy turvey by putting blue food coloring in the milk carton and grossing out the breakfast table, making meatloaf and mashed potatoes masquerade as a cupcake, or putting tooth paste in the Oreos to startle your kids. Use these recipes and more to be the ultimate prankster before your family pulls one over on you! Spoonful.com/april-fools-day/april-fools-day-recipes



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The Pleasures of Pasta

Laura Muzzi Brennan

From the metaphysics of pasta to grandmothers' secrets ...

Of food's many mysteries, this one's a real stumper: how does a simple amalgam of flour, oil, eggs and water yield so much gustatory pleasure? Aristotle might dismiss the question by reminding me that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, but it's two local chefs who really help me understand the metaphysics of pasta.

Joe D'Andrea, owner of **Vera Pasta** in West Chester, believes that every ingredient and technique in the pasta making and cooking process deserves the utmost attention. He imports Italian "00" flour, a soft, white wheat flour free of GMOs and preservatives; he cuts pasta by hand, wielding a wide-bladed knife for pappardelle or pushing dough through a family heirloom called a chitarra (a pasta "guitar"). He sells his pasta and sauces including Sunday gravy (a pork ragu) and marinara at his small retail shop, local farmers markets and to restaurants and wholesalers.

Hearing this young, affable chef talk about how long to knead the pasta dough ("until it's as smooth as a baby's butt") and how thin to roll ravioli dough ("until you can see the creases in your hand through it") is like being let in on an Italian grandmother's secrets—not surprising since he learned so much from his as he watched her cook Sunday family dinners. He also spent a year studying with expert pasta makers in Italy.

Chef Paul Mingrino also has pasta in his blood. Along with his siblings,



Joe D'Andrea, owner of Vera Pasta, holding a chitarra (pasta guitar)



Freshly-made ravioli from Vera Pasta

wife and parents, he owns **Limoncello Ristorante and Caterers** with locations in downtown West Chester and Chester Springs. Before opening Limoncello, he worked at Criniti's, his uncle's restaurant in South Philly, and then cooked at his family's Havertown establishment, Porta Rosa. Chef Mingrino holds a culinary degree from The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College.

Like D'Andrea, Mingrino insists on fresh ingredients and holds definite opinions about the brand (Sperry Organic) and proportions of flour that go into his pasta. And when it comes to putting pasta in water—whether it's his perennially popular lobster ravioli, linguine for chicken Limoncello or spaghetti to pair with meatballs—he's adamant about one thing: do not overcook it.

Inspired by these two chefs, I tried my hand at gnocchi. While I didn't have access to the flours they prefer, I used high quality organic flour as well as organic eggs. Just as important, I carved out plenty of time and kept my expectations in check ("No one makes perfect pasta on the first attempt," D'Andrea reminded me.) What's more, I followed the chefs' cooking tips to a "t." (See recipe card.)

When my gnocchi swam to the top of the pasta pot, my heart swelled with pride. And the taste: let's just say I'll dream of potato-y pillows for weeks to come.



Making linguine at Limoncello



Chef Paul Mingrino (r.) with assistant Erasmo Carranza

Fusilli Bolognese

The corkscrew shaped pasta has lots of grooves to hold the meaty sauce. Double or triple the recipe as need be. Courtesy of Chef Paul Mingrino, Limoncello.



- ¼ C. olive oil
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- ⅛ C. chopped onions
- ⅛ C. finely chopped celery
- ⅛ C. finely chopped carrots
- 1½ oz. lean ground beef (90/10)
- 1 C. tomato sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 basil leaves, chopped
- 5 oz. fusilli, cooked
- ¼ tsp. grated Parmesan cheese

Heat olive oil in frying pan over medium-high heat. Add garlic, onions, celery and carrots. Cook until vegetables start to soften, about 3-5 minutes.

Add ground beef and cook through. Add tomato sauce and reduce to a simmer. Cook for 2 minutes. Add salt, pepper and chopped basil leaves.

Cook until sauce is reduced by half. Add pasta and toss. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese on top.

Makes 1 serving.

Chicken Limoncello

Recipe courtesy of Chef Paul Mingrino.

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, trimmed of fat
- ½ C. all purpose flour
- 3 eggs, beaten
- ½ C. olive oil
- 1 tsp. butter
- 4 Tb. bread crumbs
- ¼ C. freshly squeezed lemon juice, seeds removed
- ¼ C. white wine
- 2 C. chicken stock
- Pinch of finely chopped Italian parsley
- 2 oz. jumbo lump crabmeat
- 4 stalks cooked asparagus
- 4 oz. cooked linguini

Perfect Pasta Every Time

Since Chefs **Joe D'Andrea** and **Paul Mingrino** produce a combined total of almost 1000 pounds of pasta per week, they've got lots to say when it comes to bringing out the best in their handiwork. Follow the tips below to create pasta dishes with just the right flavor and texture.

1. Use lots of water (5 quarts per pound of pasta). Fresh pasta especially needs a lot of room to swim around.
2. Bring water to a rolling boil before adding pasta.
3. Generously salt the water until it's as salty as the sea. Salt brings out the flavor of the wheat allowing you to really taste the pasta.
4. Stir frequently and do not leave the

stove, especially when cooking fresh pasta as it's ready in a matter of minutes.

5. Don't add oil to the water. It doesn't prevent pasta from sticking and wastes good oil.

6. For pasta cooked *al dente*—softer on the outside and harder toward the center—remove pasta from the water 30 seconds or a minute before the instructions recommend.

7. Reserve the pasta water. Adding ½ ladle of the starchy water to the sauce makes the sauce creamier and helps it cling to the pasta.

8. Heat the sauce while the pasta cooks and allow the pasta to finish cooking in the sauce.



- 4 sea scallops
- 2 oz. squid rings
- 12 mussels (Maine) in shell
- ¼ C. white wine
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 C. chicken stock
- 1 C. bread crumbs
- 4 oz. cooked linguine



Heat oil over medium high heat in a frying pan. Add garlic and basil and cook until garlic browns.

Add lobster tail, scallops, squid rings and mussels. Sauté for 2 minutes. Add wine, salt and pepper, chicken stock and bread crumbs. Cook until shellfish open and sauce thickens, about 2 minutes.

Place cooked linguine in a pasta bowl and add seafood with sauce. Garnish with fresh basil.

Makes 1 serving.

Ravioli with Sage Butter Sauce

Chef D'Andrea at Vera Pasta offers ravioli in many different flavors from traditional ricotta to porchetta, spinach and provolone.

This sauce pairs well with any of them.

- 1 lb. (12 pieces) ravioli, any flavor
- 2 Tb. butter
- 1 bunch fresh sage
- ½ ladle of reserved pasta water
- ¼ C. Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, freshly grated right before serving

Place the ravioli in boiling water.

Put cold butter in a saucepan over medium heat. When butter starts to bubble, add the fresh sage and sauté until sage becomes fragrant. (No need to chop the sage. Just throw the whole sprigs in, allow them to flavor the butter and then discard.) Make sure not to burn the butter, so if raviolis are not finished cooking, take sauce off heat.

When the raviolis are done, remove with a spider spoon and place into the sauce and sauté for a couple of minutes. Add 1 Tb. of pasta water at a time and stir until sauce starts to turn a white color. This means it is emulsifying.

Once sauce comes together, remove from heat and grate cheese on top of ravioli.

Makes 2 entrée or 4 appetizer servings.

Ravioli with Garlic And Olive Oil Sauce

Recipe courtesy of Chef Joe D'Andrea.

- 1 lb. (12 pieces) ravioli, any flavor
- 1 crushed garlic clove
- ¼ C. high quality extra virgin olive oil
- ½ ladle of reserved pasta water
- ¼ C. Pecorino cheese, freshly grated right before serving
- 2 Tb. chopped fresh parsley

Place the ravioli in boiling water.

Put a saucepan under medium heat and place crushed garlic and extra virgin olive oil in pan. Heat the garlic until it turns brown and discard it.

Once the raviolis are done, place in garlic oil and add pasta water 1 Tb. at a time. Be careful not to make the sauce watery. Sauté for 1 or 2 minutes.

Once sauce comes together, take off heat and add grated Pecorino cheese and parsley. Serve and enjoy.

Makes 2 entrée or 4 appetizer servings.

Spaghetti alle Vongole

Says Chef Joe D'Andrea, "This is one of

the most beloved pasta dishes in Italy, originating in Venice but now made all along the coast of Italy. There are many variations of this dish, but knowing a couple techniques can take this dish from ordinary to delicious. Please keep in mind there are not exact measurements for each ingredient, as it's meant for you to cook to your taste."



For the Pasta:

- 5 qts. water
- 3 Tb. salt
- 1 lb. fresh linguini

For Clams:

- ¼ C. olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, smashed
- Stems from 1 bunch Italian parsley and 2 Tb. chopped parsley leaves, divided
- 1 large pinch crushed red pepper flakes
- 4 dozen littleneck clams, scrubbed under cold running water*
- 1 C. white wine
- ½ C. water
- Drizzle of high quality extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 coffee cup full of reserved pasta water
- *Several hours before cooking, put clams on a sheet tray with water half way up the edges. Add 3 Tb. salt. The salt will help remove sand and grit from inside the clams.

Bring 5 qts. of water to a rolling boil. Sauté the smashed garlic and parsley stems in olive oil over medium heat in a large sauté pan. Once the garlic is a blonde color, use tongs to discard it (its only purpose is to flavor the oil).

Add the crushed red pepper flakes and throw in the clams. (Be careful because they will splatter.) Cover for 2 minutes. Then, add the white wine and ½ C. water. Cover again. The clams should open up after about 8 to 10 minutes. Discard the clams that do not open.

Once all the clams are open, pick out with tongs and separate the actual clam from the shell. Discard the shells

and place the clams in the clam broth in a bowl. You don't want the clams to overcook; that's why the clams should be taken off the heat.

By this time, the pasta water should be boiling. Put 3 Tb. salt into the water. After water has returned to a boil, lay in fresh linguine.

In the meantime, pour the clam broth and clams back into the sauté pan and bring to a simmer.

Cook the fresh linguine for about 1½ minutes. Scoop out using a spider spoon or tongs and place the pasta in the sauté pan with clams.

Finish cooking the pasta in the sauce so the pasta can marry with all the flavors. Take about half a ladle of pasta water and put into the sauce with pasta. Add a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil.

Remove pan from the heat. Using your tongs, twirl pasta in a circular motion. You are looking for the right balance of water, broth and oil to bring all three elements together as one. Add the fresh parsley on top and serve.

Makes 4 servings.

Pappardelle with Chunky Mushroom Cream Sauce

When I finished my interview with Joe D'Andrea at Vera Pasta, he sent me home with a pound of his pappardelle. Here's the dish I served that night.



- 1½ Tb. olive oil
- 1½ Tb. unsalted butter
- 4-5 anchovy filets packed in oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2, 10-oz. packages of cremini mushrooms, roughly chopped
- 1 C. dry white wine
- ½ C. heavy cream

Salt and freshly ground black pepper,
to taste
1 lb. fresh pappardelle
Fresh chopped Italian parsley, optional
½ C. Parmesan cheese, freshly grated

Heat olive oil and butter over medium high heat. Add anchovy filets and break them up with the side of a spatula. Add onion and cook 1-2 minutes. Add mushrooms. Stirring frequently, cook for 10-12 minutes until mushroom juices have almost evaporated completely.

Add wine and cook for 5 minutes until wine is reduced by half. Reduce heat to medium and stir in cream. Cook for 2-3 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Cook pasta until desired doneness, reserving a cup of pasta water. Drain pasta and put in a bowl.

Stir in ½ ladleful of pasta water into pasta/sauce. Toss sauce and parsley with pasta. Serve with Parmesan cheese.

Makes 6-8 servings.

Homemade Gnocchi with Lemon Cream Sauce

In Giada De Laurentiis' Everyday Pasta, she gives a recipe for gnocchi with thyme butter sauce that I've adapted here. The gnocchi were much easier to make than I expected, so if you're a novice pasta maker, this recipe is a good place to start.

For the gnocchi:

1½ lbs. russet potatoes,
2 large or 3 medium
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
¾ C. all-purpose flour



For the lemon cream sauce:

2 C. heavy cream
Grated zest of 2 small lemons
⅛ tsp. kosher salt or to taste
2-3 turns of the black pepper grinder
¼-½ C. grated Parmesan cheese
Finely chopped Italian parsley, optional

To make the gnocchi:

Wash the potatoes and pierce them all over with a fork. Microwave them on high until the flesh can be pierced easily with a fork, 10-12 minutes. Cut potatoes in half lengthwise and allow to cool slightly. When they are cool enough for you to handle, scoop out the flesh into a large bowl and mash with a fork. Discard the skin. Mix in the egg, salt and pepper.

Using a flour sifter or a fine mesh strainer, sift the flour over the potato mixture and mix until just combined.

Take a tennis-ball-size portion of dough and roll it into a rope with a ½" diameter. Using the dull side of a dinner knife or a dough cutter, cut each rope into 1" pieces. Press the tines of a fork into each piece to create grooves (better to hold the sauce!). Pinch both ends slightly so that each piece resembles a free-form crescent. Repeat with remaining dough. (If you don't plan to cook the gnocchi for an hour or so, place them on a cookie sheet, cover with paper towel and refrigerate.)

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Salt generously. Add gnocchi. Stirring gently but frequently, cook just until gnocchi rise to the top. Remove with a slotted spoon.

To make lemon cream sauce:

Place all ingredients in a saucepan and turn heat to medium-high. Cook until reduced by half, about 5 minutes. The sauce will bubble up while cooking, so don't leave it unattended and stir frequently.

To assemble:

Spoon sauce onto a large platter or individual plates and top with gnocchi. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and parsley.

Makes 4-6 main dish servings or 6-8 appetizer servings.

Tuna Pasta

I make this dish a few times a month when we need a quick lunch or dinner that pleases everyone. The recipe is so basic that I wasn't going to include it here, but my kids insisted that everyone likes tuna pasta. To pack in more vegetables, add halved cherry tomatoes, diced celery and carrot ribbons.

1 lb. elbow macaroni or small shells
2, 5-oz. cans solid white albacore tuna in water
½ C. mayonnaise
2 Tb. minced shallot or onion
2 tsp. garlic salt or more to taste
Salt and pepper to taste



Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse under cold water. (Since you're making a cold dish, you want the pasta to stop cooking.)

While pasta cooks, mix tuna, mayonnaise, shallot and garlic salt in a large bowl, breaking up large tuna pieces with a fork. Add cooked pasta and toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper.

Makes 6-8 servings. ♦

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

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



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Betty Moran Honored by Penn Vet's New Bolton Center

With a new award created in her name, Elizabeth R. Moran received the first Award for Exceptional Service to Penn Vet New Bolton Center. (L-R) Jane Simone, Elizabeth R. Moran, Penn Vet Dean Joan C. Hendricks, VMD, PhD.



Gala Opening of "Costumes of Downton Abbey" Exhibit at Winterthur

Jamie Wyeth (grey suit & knickers) and his wife Phyllis (on right) at the gala. The exhibition of exquisite designs from the award-winning television series continues through January 2015.

Bucks County Designer Show House Empty House Party

Visitors came to meet the 2014 design team and view their plans for Serendipity Farm, while savoring light fare, wine and craft beer.



Wilmington Flower Market's "Denim and Diamonds" Casino Night

Guests enjoyed a "sparkling" evening of fun, food and gaming at Ed Oliver Golf Club, all for the benefit of Delaware's children.



Chester County Futures "Strikes For Futures" Event.

Corporate teams, like WSFS Bank's, enjoyed food, fun and bowling to benefit Chester County Futures, which provides academic, mentoring and scholarship support for motivated, disadvantaged Chester County youth.

Courtesy of Winterthur. PHOTO: LASZLO BODO

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