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Raised in Radnor, PA, Patricia Brennan has been providing Wealth Management advice right here in West Chester for over 25 years. She is a Georgetown University graduate and earned her CFP® designation in 1990. She is a recognized leader in her industry and serves as the first Chairwoman on the National Advisory Board for Royal Alliance.

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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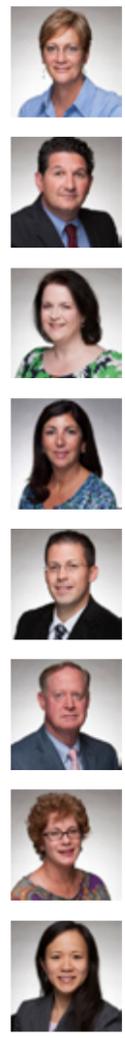


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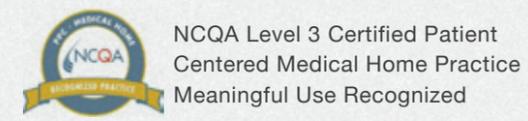
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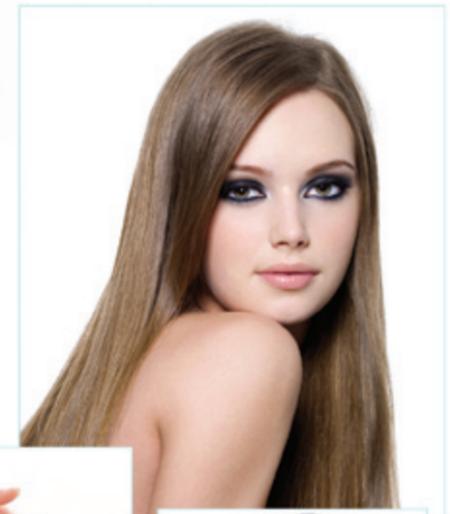
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From *the*
Editor



In like a lamb ... ah, April. Daffodils, flowering trees, daylight on our drive home. And reading *County Lines Magazine* outside if we like.

No national holidays this month, but Carol Metzker covers a personal holiday in "Something Old, Something New, Something Rustic ..." She finds original places for your very special party, we provide an extensive Guide to Wedding Venues, and Cindy DeSau shares spectacular photos.

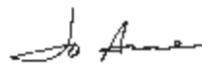
We help with more personal wedding preparations in Mary Irene Dolan's "Spa Day for the Big Day," smile consultant Dr. Jonathan Scharf's "Ready for Your Close-Up," and two attorneys from Macelree Harvey's positive spin in "The Plus Side of Pre-Nups."

From around *County Lines'* country, Matt Freeman tells the "Tale of Two Towns: Downingtown & Exton," and we talk with the daughter of Pook & Pook's founders. Elizabeth Thomas highlights the fun at the 70th Kimberton Hunt Club Horse Show, while Stephanie Loeh recommends a performance of *Guy and Dolls* at the Playhouse on Rodney Square. Associate curator Audrey Lewis previews the Brandywine River Museum's exclusive exhibition of West Chester native Horace Pippin's work, and we introduce Scott Arboretum's Grace Byrne, who advises "Contain Your Excitement: Container Gardening with Tropicals and Annuals."

Fear not foodies: We've got "Chicken" in Laura Muzzi Brennan's Brandywine Table column. It's fast becoming our unofficial national bird. And for your continuing beer education, Mark Edelson of Iron Hill teaches us about "Growlers and Nitro and Cans and Casks! Oh My." More ways to enjoy beer.

Our Family Fun and Best Local Events sections round out our April coverage.

Thank you for reading. I hope you enjoy this issue.


Jo Anne Durako
Editor

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April 2015

Volume XXXVIII, Number 8

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610-918-9300. Info@ValleyDel.com
Subscriptions: \$39/year



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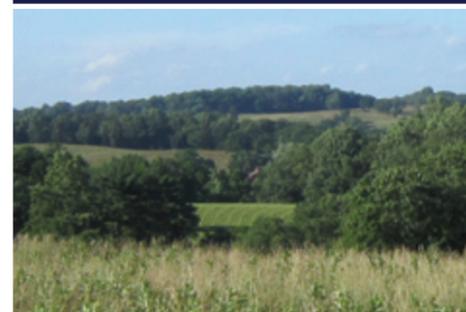
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Cover photo by Cindy DeSau, taken at Holly Hedge Estate; and photos top left and right by Cindy DeSau

Worth Knowing

The Plus Side of Pre-Nups

Marie I. Crossley, Esq. & Jaime M. Jano, Esq.

IS IT YOURS, MINE OR OURS?

Getting engaged is exciting! For most couples, their engagement is immediately followed by a long list of tasks for planning a successful wedding. And, while no newly engaged couple wants to think about it, in reality, misconceptions abound about what happens to a couple's assets if there's a divorce.

For example, many people believe if they owned a business before they got married, kept it solely in their name during marriage, and worked in it while their spouse did not, the business remains their separate property. But that's not true. After the marriage, the business becomes a marital asset, and any increase in value during the marriage could be subject to division upon divorce.

Although it may seem counterintuitive, discussing a prenuptial agreement should be a routine part of every newly engaged couple's checklist—on that list of tasks—when planning a successful marriage.

Here are two major benefits of preparing a prenuptial agreement that can actually help couples in their future marriages.

Financial Disclosures

Disputes over finances can strain any marriage. A dispute becomes even more difficult if it's caused by one spouse's decision-making before the marriage, and next to impossible if the issue was never disclosed.

A pre-nup can help because every prenuptial agreement must contain an accurate, comprehensive financial disclosure by each party. This disclosure lists all assets, liabilities and other financial interests for each party, and it must be shared with the other before signing.

There's no better way to gather a complete picture of your future spouse's financial health than to go through the process of preparing a prenuptial agreement.

Pre-Marital Interests

Most people believe it's only fair that each person leaves the marriage with what each brought to it. But in reality, the nature of a pre-marital interest can change over time and convert to a marital interest—called

“commingling”—even if one or both parties never intended for that to happen. For example, adding your spouse to your pre-marital bank account is frequently viewed as a deliberate decision to share all the funds.

With a pre-nup, the parties will each have a clear understanding of their respective rights to their pre-marital assets and will be able to make decisions accordingly. For example, consider the case where a wife waived any interest in her husband's business as part of their pre-nuptial agreement, and she decides against allowing him to fund his business with an equity credit line for their jointly owned home. Although the husband may not be happy about his wife's decision, he can clearly understand her position.

Special Cases

There are other circumstances when prenups are particularly helpful.

Second Marriages. When spouses marry later in life and have accrued significant wealth, they may want to keep their assets separate during and after the marriage.

Children From Prior Marriages. When one or both spouses have children from previous marriages, they may want to ensure their wealth goes to their children instead of their spouse if they die.

Disparities In Wealth. When one spouse is much wealthier than the other, it can be difficult to predict how much a court will award the less wealthy spouse in a divorce. Both parties can benefit from the certainty a pre-nup provides.

On Second Thought ...

A *postnuptial* agreement is essentially a prenuptial agreement that's signed after the wedding. For some couples, waiting to discuss terms and provisions is preferable because of timing—postnups can be drafted any time after the wedding, not just immediately afterward—or the desire to do so without the pressure of a pending wedding.

Planning a wedding is stressful enough—planning for the rest of your life together shouldn't be. Meeting with an attorney before you get married is the best way to dispel myths and educate yourself about your property rights. For example, in Pennsylvania and Delaware you have the freedom to design your own financial rules for your marriage and divorce. You can tailor your property rights to fit the unique needs of you and your spouse. And that's worth knowing. ♦

The opinions expressed in this article are for general information purposes only and are not intended to provide specific legal advice or recommendations.

Marie I. Crossley and Jaime M. Jano handle a variety of divorce, custody, child support, alimony and other family law matters ranging from mediating small disputes to complex divorce and support litigation. Marie practices in Delaware, while Jaime practices in Chester, Montgomery, Delaware, Philadelphia and Bucks Counties. For more information, visit Macebree.com.



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People want to enhance their smiles for many reasons. Maybe it's a special occasion, like a wedding, and those pearly whites need to look great in pictures. Or, it's a career move calling for a more polished and professional look. Other times, it's simply looking in the mirror and saying to yourself: "It's about time—it's *my* time!"

We're not simply talking about vanity here—an attractive smile is an essential asset that promotes well-being, self-confidence and greater overall success.

Modern Miracles. Some procedures I'll cover here may seem like they've been around for years. But you'll find new dental technology and space-age materials are available, making changes in a patient's smile possible that were once unimaginable.

I subscribe to the philosophy of minimally invasive dentistry, making the best changes with the least intervention. In combination

with new ceramic materials, this approach produces smile transformations that are quick and don't use unattractive metal.

What Can Be Done? Whitening is the most popular option to brighten the color of otherwise healthy teeth. While many patients try over-the-counter whitening strips, the results are short-lived. That's why I strongly recommend professional in-office whitening (\$650-\$1200), which is considerably more permanent and includes touch-up kits that boost the color indefinitely.

For younger patients or adults needing minor aesthetic corrections, direct bonding (\$250-\$950 per tooth) is a good choice. The dentist applies a tooth-colored composite filling material to mask defects and improve teeth contours. This procedure, which requires a skilled practitioner, is usually completed in one visit, and lasts five to seven years.

When there's a more complex aesthetic issue on sound teeth, or for a complete smile makeover, using porcelain veneers (\$950-\$2000) is an effective technique. These ultra-thin porcelain coverings require minimal reduction of the front surface of the teeth and allow for extreme changes in color, shape and size, while producing a life-like surface and beautiful new smile.

If teeth can't accept veneers, porcelain crowns (\$950-\$2000) become the method of choice and produce the same beautiful makeover. Both veneers and crowns may last 20 years and more, depending on your lifestyle and oral hygiene.

For missing teeth, using implants (\$2500-\$5500 per tooth) is now an easy procedure producing an attractive, natural appearance. This method of tooth replacement has the additional benefit of eliminating the need to remove healthy tooth structure, as is done for a conventional dental bridge.

To help with crooked teeth, Invisalign (\$3000-\$6500) can be the perfect choice. Using clear plastic trays to progressively move teeth, this technique usually requires less time than conventional braces and avoids unsightly metal brackets and wires.

How to Decide? A patient interview during an initial office visit is a crucial step in planning the smile makeover. I ask my patients to focus on wants and desires rather than specific procedures. That way I understand what outcome they want so I can be certain at the end of the makeover we've achieved their goals.

Some patients have preconceived notions about the procedures they need. But it's their dentist's job to guide them on the best path to an appropriate treatment plan. Even the most beautiful veneers and crowns are failures if the patient's expectations aren't met. It's critical at the interview visit to establish clear goals and objectives. Open communication is the key to success, right from the start.

Choosing the Right Cosmetic Dentist. Making the right choice can be confusing in the midst of so many advertising claims. For a successful smile makeover that involves specialized skills, patients should seek a cosmetic dentist with proper certification and extensive clinical experience.

The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD) provides professional accreditation and will help patients locate qualified cosmetic dentists in their area. You can visit the AACD website for further information at AACD.com.

If you take this advice, when you're asked to smile for the camera, you'll be ready for your close-up! ♦

Jonathan Scharf, DMD, FAACD, founder of Exton Dental Health Group and The Pennsylvania

Center for Cosmetic Dentistry, has practiced in Exton for 42 years. He's taught at universities, trained dentists internationally and volunteered with Give Back a Smile. A former President and Accredited Fellow of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, he's routinely voted a Top Dentist and Top Cosmetic Dentist. ExtonDental.com.



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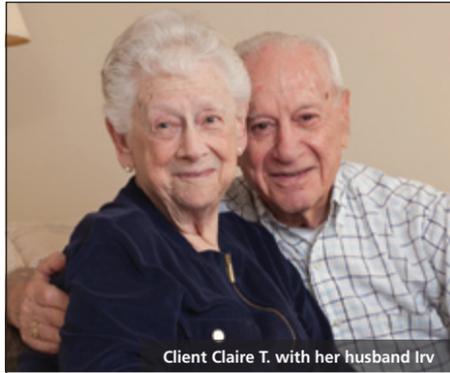
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Good to Know

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



Stones With a Story.

Inspire your bridal party or other group with a kind word. Started by two Chester County women, **PassItOnword** sells semi-precious stones engraved with words like *strength, gratitude, inspire*. Each is

marked with a serial number for tracking its location and posting stories online inspired by the stone. The goal is to create a social network of goodwill by passing on the stone and its meaning. Brides can register their bridal party's stones and read stories about that special day and the stone's continuing journey. PassItOnword.com.

Ethical Rings. What if a symbol of love could also give two people clean water for life? Online jeweler, **Do Amore**, donates wedding ring profits to drill water wells in developing countries. The ring box is made from sustainable wood sources and 95% of the engagement rings and wedding bands are made from recycled precious metals and conflict-free diamonds. Choose a design or create your own. Browse at DoAmore.com.



Action Green. April 22nd is **Earth Day's** 45th anniversary. Mark the day by getting involved in the largest environmental service project in the world and pledge with **A Billion Acts of Green** to help care for and celebrate our planet. Help them top 1.5 billion

green acts this month: switch to fluorescent bulbs, plant a tree, bike to work, do cold-water laundry wash, or use a filtering water bottle. Register your green action at EarthDay.org/take-action.

Write Bots.

Though technology is taking over, it can have a human touch. New York design company, **Bond**, built robots to learn anyone's handwriting and write personalized letters. No more fussing over imperfect penmanship. Create your account—choose a style, use yours or improve it—then type your message online and Bond sends the letter in 48 hours. Perfect for wedding invitations! Each is made to order, so no two notes are alike. \$199 to use your handwriting on HelloBond.com.



Armchair Fashion Week.

If you missed this year's **Spring Fashion Week**, let West Chester author and *County Lines* book reviewer Andrea Kiliany Thatcher take you for a behind-the-scenes look in *From Atelier to Runway*, published by Schiffer Publishing in Atglen. This fourth edition LookBook highlights the spring collections and explores the sketches, inspirations, backstage coverage and pre-runway excitement as hairstylists, makeup artists and 78 designers create the excitement that is American fashion. With 2000 sumptuous images and a trend guide. SchifferBooks.com.



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of Special Note



Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show April 10-12

Showcasing exceptional artisan-made furniture in a unique, creative setting. Discover one-of-a-kind tables, maple rockers, live edge tables and edgy pillows—as well as lamps, clocks, pottery, glass and floor coverings. *23rd Street Armory, 22 S. 23rd St., Philadelphia. Preview Fri., 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. \$40. Show hours: Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$15. PhilaIFS.com.*

9 p.m. \$40. Show hours: Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$15. PhilaIFS.com.

Media Theatre Presents *Hello Dolly* April 22–May 24



Based on Thornton Wilder's *The Merchant Of Yonkers*, *Hello Dolly* won Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, Best Score and seven other Tony Awards. The Media Theatre is thrilled to present Andrea McArdle in the lead role of Dolly Levi. *Note: Ms. McArdle will not be in the production May 1, 2 or 3. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Call for curtain times. \$25–\$42. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.*

Canine Partners for Life's 25th Anniversary Gala April 11

Celebrate CPL's silver anniversary at this black tie affair and enjoy a three-hour premium open bar, cocktail hour with fabulous hors d'oeuvres, a three-course dinner with a dual entrée of filet mignon and scallops, live entertainment, complimentary valet parking and a special surprise performer. Benefits CPL's life-transforming mission to raise and train service dogs. *Winterthur Museum and Country Estate, 5105 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. 7 p.m. \$250. Learn more at K94Life.org.*



Historic Yellow Springs 40th Anniversary Celebration April 11

Everyone who has been a part of HYS is invited to come and relive the history of the village and the outstanding accomplishments achieved over the past 40 years. Enjoy cocktails, light fare, a silent auction and live music. *The Washington, 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. \$50. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.*



West Chester Public Library's Literacy Links Invitational



April 24–25
Support West Chester Public Library by playing miniature golf between the stacks! Choose *The Masters* on Fri., 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., miniature golf with hors d'oeuvres, wine & beer, business casual attire, \$75. Or join the *Family Fun Round* on Sat., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$5 per person to play. *415 N. Church St., West Chester. 610-696-1721; WCPublicLibrary.org.*

best Local Events

FAMILY FUN

THROUGH MAY 24

Magic Tree House: The Knight At Dawn Kids.

Based on the best-selling book series, Jack and Annie journey to the Middle Ages and learn the power of hope. *Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Fri-Sun; call for curtain times. \$12-\$15. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.*

THROUGH DECEMBER

Wharton Esherick Museum. The 43rd tour season begins with special children's tours every Saturday at 11 am, with hands-on activities and lots of fun. *1520 Horseshoe Trail, Malvern. \$6-\$12. Tours by reservation, Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 1 to 5. 610-644-5822; WhartonEsherickMuseum.org.*

APRIL 3-4

Auburn Heights Preserve Easter Egg Hunt. Bring an Easter basket and join the hunt for thousands of eggs scattered around the Auburn Heights mansion. The hunt is limited to 100 kids on Friday and 200 kids on Saturday—to ensure plenty of fun (and eggs) for all. *3000 Creek Rd., Yorklyn. Noon to 3. \$8. For tickets, 302-239-2385; AuburnHeights.org.*



APRIL 4

Breakfast With the Easter Bunny at Longwood Gardens. Savor a gourmet breakfast buffet in the Ballroom, then meet the Easter Bunny. *1001 Longwood Rd. (Rt. 1), Kennett Square. Seatings: 8 and 9:30 am. \$5-\$42. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.*

APRIL 5

73rd Running of the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point. Bring along a tailgate lunch and spend Easter Sunday with the family watching riders, enjoying children's activities and the

Easter Bunny. Benefits the Brandywine Valley Association. *Myrick Conservation Center, 1760 Unionville-Wawaset Rd., West Chester. Gates open at 10; race, 1:30. \$20/car. 610-793-1090; BrandywineWatershed.org/PointToPoint.*



APRIL 5

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

APRIL 12

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. 19. *610-583-4432; VisitMediaPA.com.*

APRIL 19

3rd Annual Wheels of Wayne. Cruise on in to see hundreds of antique, classic and custom cars and motorcycles. Rain date, Apr. 26. *N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. 1 to 4 pm. Free. 610-688-5600; Radnor.org.*

APRIL 21

Arbor Day Celebration in Wayne. The 2015 event marks 23 years of Radnor Township being designated a Tree City USA with the annual tree planting ceremony at *Friends of Radnor Trail Park, 304 Liberty La., Wayne. 6 pm. 610-688-5600; RadnorRecreation.com.*

APRIL 24-MAY 2

Philadelphia Science Festival. More than 100 institutions collaborate in this community-wide celebration of science (see website



for sites) showcasing the impact of science and technology. **May 2, Science Carnival on The Parkway,** with exhibitors offering family-friendly activities and live entertainment. *215-448-1128; PhilaScienceFestival.org.*

APRIL 25

Springton Manor Sheep & Wool Day. The sheep are losing their winter wool and you're invited to the shearing. Enjoy live music, demonstrations and animals. *860 Springton Rd., Glenmoore. 11 to 3. Parking, \$5. 610-942-2450; ChesCo.org/CCParks.*

APRIL 25

Mini Golf at Grove United Methodist Church. Play 9 holes on a creative course through the church building. Benefits youth service projects. Refreshments available. *490 W. Boot Rd., West Chester. 4 to 8 pm. \$8 person/\$25 family. 610-246-7562; GroveChurch.org.*

MAY 2

Fairville Friends School Fun Fair. Lots of fun planned with pony rides, moon bounce, crafts and cookie decorating. Children can even dig for buried treasure, see farm animals or pretend to drive a tractor. *On school grounds, 216 Pond View, Chadds Ford. 11 to 3. Free. 610-388-1268; FairvilleFunFair.org.*

MAY 2-3

Malvern Blooms Festival. Celebrate Malvern at the festival that includes activities for the whole family, great shopping and dining, antique car show, fashion show and live music. *King St. & Warren Ave., Malvern. Sat, noon to 6; Sun, 11 to 4. GrowingRoots-Partners.com/About-Malvern-Festivals.*



MAY 2-3

Greater Reading Family & Pet Festival. A family-oriented festival featuring demonstrations, hands-on-petting, attractions and pet adoptions. Leashed pets are welcome. *Reading Fairgrounds, 1216 Hilltop Rd., Leesport. \$10 parking, free adm. 800-677-4677; HorseAndPetExpo.com/Greater-Reading-Family.*

ANTIQUES.....

APRIL 17-19

Early American Art Exhibition. Antiques and reproductions by members of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration. Lancaster Host Resort & Conference Center, 2300 Lincoln Hwy., Lancaster. Fri, 3 to 11; Sat, 9 to 11; Sun, 9 to noon. Free. HSEAD.org.

APRIL 24-26

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

MAY 1

Vintage Garage Sale in West Chester. Vintage home goods, antiques, collectibles, architectural salvage, vintage jewelry, clothing and original art and photography. Food trucks on site, along with live music. Chestnut Street Parking Garage, 14 E. Chestnut St. 4 to 9. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

ART & CRAFT SHOWS.....

APRIL 17-19

The Artists Circle Annual Art Show & Sale. Member artists showcase original works and take part in demonstrations illustrating a variety of 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 17-SEPTEMBER 6

Moderne Gallery Exhibit. Wharton Esherick: The Rose and Nathan Rubinson Collection. An exhibition and sale of furniture, sculptural objects and woodcuts, all by Wharton Esherick, the "Dean of American Craftsmen." 111 N. 3rd St., Philadelphia. Daily noon to 5. 215-923-8536; ModerneGallery.com.

APRIL 24-MAY 10

42nd Annual Yellow Springs Art Show. With over 180 juried artists and nearly 3,000 pieces of original artwork to view, there's surely something for everyone to enjoy. **Apr. 24,** preview party, 6 to 9, \$75. 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Daily, 10 to 4; Fri, until 8. Free. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.



MAY 1

Gallery Walk in West Chester. Enjoy the work of local, national and international artists featuring styles from traditional to contemporary and everything in between. Five prominent galleries will combine with more than a dozen "one night only" show hosts throughout the downtown business area. Free parking at the


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Elliott Erwitt: Dog Dogs is organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions. This exhibition is made possible, in part, by grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. Left: New York, 1999. Elliott Erwitt (born 1928). Gelatin silver print. © Elliott Erwitt / Magnum Photos.



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Vintage Garage Sale in Chestnut Street Garage. 610-696-4046; GWCC.org.

MAY 3

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

BOOKS.....

APRIL 8, 10, 12, 30

Book Signings at Chester County Book Company. Purchase your book in-store or on the website and bring your receipt to have your book signed by the author. **Apr. 8,** Philip Kerr, *The Lady from Zagreb*; **Apr. 10,** Robin Oliviera, *I Always Loved You*; **Apr. 12,** I.W. Gregorio, *None of the Above*; **Apr. 30,** Paul Halpern, *Einstein's Dice and Schrödinger's Cat: How Two Great Minds Battled Quantum Randomness to Create a Unified Theory of Physics.* 7 pm. 967 Paoli Pk., West Goshen Center, West Chester. 610-696-1661; ChesterCounty-Books.com.

APRIL 16

15th Anniversary Author Luncheon Event. The Council of Friends of Lancaster County's Public Libraries and Aarons Books host a luncheon featuring authors Sue Miller and Jennifer Chiaverini. Benefits public libraries in Lancaster County. Calvary Church, 1051 Landis Valley Rd., Lancaster. 10:45. \$45 includes Sue Miller's *The Arsonist*. 717-354-8016; LancasterLibraries.org.

BRIDAL.....

APRIL 29

Spring Bridal Open House at your "Neighborhood Downton Abbey." Couples are invited to tour the site, sample food from three caterers: Feastivities Events, John Serock Catering and Sage Catering and enjoy musical entertainment and door prizes. Vendors will be on site. 1034 Phoenixville Pk., West Chester. 6 to 9 pm. Free to engaged couples, \$15 for guests. 610-696-1272; GreystoneHall.com.

DANCE.....

MAY 1-3

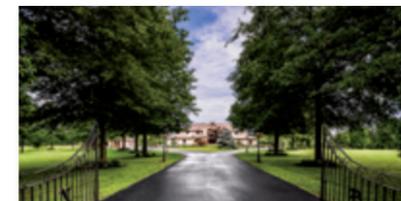
Brandywine Ballet Presents *Sleeping Beauty*. Based on the original choreography by David Kloss. Emilie K. Apslundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. Fri, 10, Sat, noon & 5 pm; Sun, 2. \$25-\$40. 610-696-2711; BrandywineBallet.org.

DESIGN HOME SHOWS.....

APRIL 24, 26-MAY 30

40th Bucks County Designer House &

Gardens. Regional designers display their creativity in interior and landscape design at Villa d'Braccia, a Mediterranean-style villa. Benefits Doylestown Hospital and Village Improvement Assoc. 745 Stump Rd., Chalfont. **Apr. 24,** Preview Gala, 6 to 10, \$150-\$2,500. Show: Mon-Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs-Fri, 10 to 7; Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$25. 215-345-2191; BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.



EQUESTRIAN.....

MAY 3

37th 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 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.

FILM.....

APRIL 24-26

11th Annual West Chester Film Festival. A weekend devoted to short film from around the world. For information visit WestChester-FilmFestival.com.

FOOD.....

APRIL 19

Celebrity Chefs' Brunch. Chefs from across the country display their talents, including The Beekman Boys (winners of *The Amazing Race*), Nicholas Elmi and Joy Crump (winners of *Top Chef*). Benefits Meals on Wheels in Delaware. Hercules Building, 1313 North Market St., Wilmington. 11 to 2. \$175. 302-656-3257; MealsOnWheelsDE.org.

FUNDRAISERS.....

APRIL 11

85th Radnor Hunt Races Anniversary Dinner Dance & Auction. Benefits the Open Space and Clean Water programs of the Conservancy. 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. 6:30 to 11. \$150. Brandywine.org.

APRIL 11

8th Annual Dress for a Good Cause. Sale of gently-worn prom, party and picnic dresses to benefit projects for survivors of human trafficking. Westtown School, 975 Westtown Rd., West Chester. 1 to 3 pm. 610-793-4387; Dress-ForAGoodCause.com.

APRIL 12

Annual Fashion Show. Great food, raffle baskets, local vendors and colorful spring fashions for men and women. The Soroptimists support local programs to help meet needs of women and girls. Rivercrest Golf Club and Preserve, 100 Golf Club Dr., Phoenixville. 11 to 2. \$40. 484-678-9311; Facebook.com/PXVSoroptimist.

APRIL 18

Showtime at Surrey Gala & Auction. Enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, live and silent auctions and a raffle for the ben-

efit of Surrey Services. Merion Cricket Club, 325 Montgomery Ave., Haverford. 6 to 11. Tickets start at \$125. 5610-647-6404; SurreyServices.org.

APRIL 18

30th Annual Thorncroft Victory Gallop. This year's theme, "Growing Together One Family at a Time," celebrates the power and strength of the family unit. 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.

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APRIL 18
Chester County Hospital Gala. "An Evening in the Secret Garden" is the theme for this year's gala. The Pre-Party will be held at Galer Estate Vineyard & Winery, 700 Folly Hill Rd., Kennett Square, 5:45 to 7, parking and trolley from Longwood Gardens. The Gala begins at 7 at Longwood with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dancing. Black tie optional. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. \$185. 610-431-5328; ChesterCountyHospital.org.

APRIL 25
Safe Harbor's 20th Anniversary Celebration. The evening includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and live and silent auctions. Benefits Safe Harbor, providing shelter, encouragement and recovery opportunities to single, homeless men and women. Mendenhall Inn, 323 Kennett Pk., Chadds Ford. 6 to 10. \$120. 610-692-6550; SafeHarborOfGWC.org.

APRIL 25
Chester County Night School's 3rd Annual Fashion Show and Fundraiser. Enjoy a buffet lunch, see fashions from local boutiques, shop with local vendors, bid on silent auction items. The Desmond Hotel, 1 Liberty Blvd., Malvern. 11 to 3. \$50. 610-692-1964; ChesterCountyNightSchool.org.

APRIL 26
Car Show & Chicken BBQ to Benefit ALS. Come out and enjoy the show and great food for a worthy cause. Wagontown Fire House, 412 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. Rain date, Apr. 27. 11 to 2:30. \$10/ meals; car registration, \$25. 215-664-4127; ALSPhiladelphia.org.

MAY 1
"A Hollywood Evening With Our Stars" Fundraiser for Domestic Violence Center of Chester County. A gala designed to celebrate the supporters of the agency in a glamorous fashion with host Tracy Davidson. Cocktail reception followed by a gourmet dinner. Mendenhall Inn Gold Ballroom, 323 Kennett Pk., Mendenhall. 7 to 11 pm. For tickets, 610-431-3546; DVCCC.com.

MAY 6
"Treasures for Change" Event at Warwick Jewelers. Warwick Jewelers is teaming up with Home of the Sparrow for a special evening to celebrate Home of the Sparrow's 20th anniversary, donating 20% of the proceeds that night to the organization. Wine and cheese will be served while you browse the treasures. White-land Towne Center, 165 W. Lincoln Hwy., Exton. 5 to 8. 610-594-2441; WarwickJewelers.com; HomeoftheSparrow.org.

Local Farm Markets

Downingtown Farmers Mkt., Dane Decor Warehouse Lot, 216 Washington Ave. Year-round, Sat, 9 to 1. 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Town Ctr., Wellington Square. Year-round, Thurs, 3 to 7. 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Lancaster County Farmers Mkt., 389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. Year-round, Wed, Fri, 8 to 6, Sat, 8 to 4. 610-688-9856; LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com.

Kennett Square Winter Farmers Mkt., State St. between Union and Broad Sts. 1st & 3rd Fri, 2 to 4. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Malvern Farmers Mkt., Burke Park, Roberts Rd. & S. Warren Ave. Year-round, Sat, 9 to 1. 610-836-1391; GrowingRoots-Partners.com.

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

GARDENS.....
APRIL 12
Garden Walk and Tea at Graystone Mansion. Sip tea inside Graystone Mansion then take a garden walk to view and learn about the grounds of the Lukens National Historic District. 50 S. 1st Ave., Coatesville. Noon to 4. \$25 for the tea, donation for the walk. 610-384-9282; SteelMuseum.org.

APRIL 25
Delaware Center for Horticulture 35th Rare Plant Auction at Longwood Gardens. Beautiful, rare, newly introduced and difficult-to-propagate specimens are featured, raising funds to enrich lives by supporting local communities and urban green spaces. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 5:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets begin at \$125 and include gardens admission, food and drink. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.



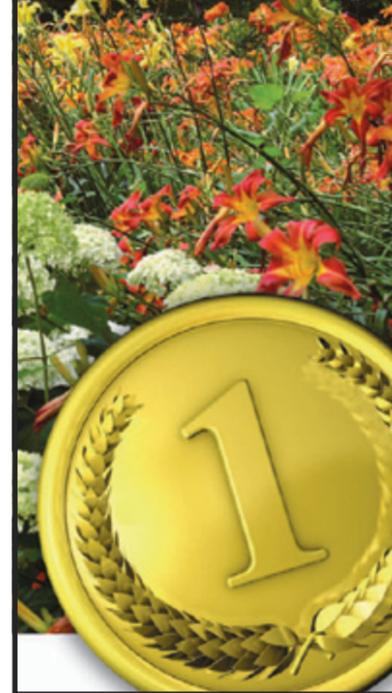
APRIL 25
Arbor Day at Scott Arboretum. Bring the family to receive a free sapling tree (one per family) and enjoy refreshments and a scavenger hunt. 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. 10 to 2. Free. 610-328-8025; ScottArboretum.org.

APRIL 26
11th Annual Wildflower Celebration at Mt. Cuba. Enjoy a stunning display of spring wildflowers at this annual celebration of the season. The first 1,000 households receive a free native plant. 3120 Barley Mill Rd., Hockessin, DE. 10 to 4. Free. 302-239-8883; MtCubaCenter.org.

MAY 2
Tyler Arboretum's Plant Sale. Tyler's annual Plant Sale offers gardeners options and hard



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to find trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and herbs. This year's sale features a special selection of tough plants for tough spaces and an assortment of deer-resistant plants. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 9 to 3. Free. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

MAY 2-3

Delaware Nature Society Native Plant Sale. "Blooms with Impact: Plants for People and Pollinators," featuring more than 300 rare varieties of native wildflowers, trees, shrubs and others for all growing conditions. Coverdale Farm, 543 Way Rd., Greenville. Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 11 to 4. 302-239-2334; DelawareNatureSociety.org.

MAY 2

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 2-3

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 5. 610-647-8870; JenkinsArboretum.org.

MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH JULY 19

Brandywine River Museum Exhibit. *Through Apr. 5,* "Jamie Wyeth," a major retrospective of his art spanning 60 years and featuring 109 works. *Apr. 25-July 19,* "Horace Pippin: The Way I See It," see article. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$15. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

THROUGH MAY 10

Delaware Art Museum Exhibits & Events. *Through May 10,* "Oscar Wilde's Salome: Illustrating Death and Desire." *Through May 24,* "Dog Dogs," photographs by Elliott Erwitt. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, Fri, Sat, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 4. \$6-\$12. Free Thurs after 4 and all day Sun. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

THROUGH AUGUST

Chester County Historical Society Exhibit. "The 1960s Pop Culture: Movies, Memorabilia and the Media, The Steve and Michell Friedman Collection." 225 N. High St., West Chester. Wed-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

THROUGH NOVEMBER

Christian C. Sanderson Museum. Two new exhibits: *opening Apr. 16,* The Abraham Lincoln Exhibit. New this year, "Sanderson's Summer Stories" where children enjoy an interactive book reading and participate in a related craft and snack. 1755 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Thurs-Sat, noon to 4 or by appt. \$5. 610-388-6545; SandersonMuseum.org.



MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT.....

THROUGH APRIL

World Cafe Live at the Queen. With so many shows, it's impossible to list them all. Check their website for more. *Apr. 2,* Megan

85TH RADNOR HUNT RACES

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015

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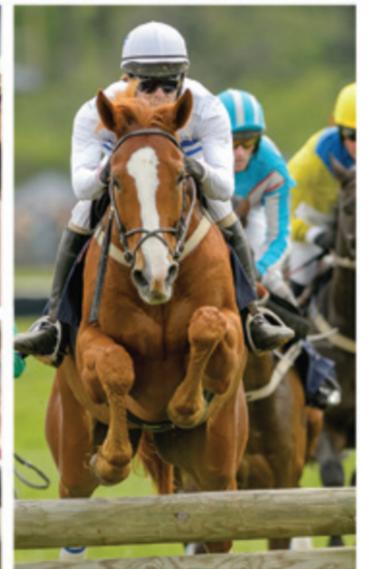
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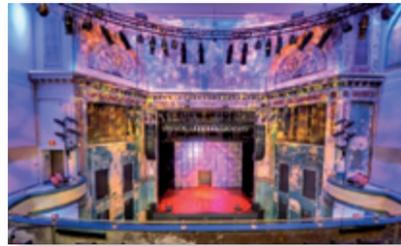
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Betley; *Apr. 4*, Splintered Sunlight; *Apr. 18*, Rust, Neil Young Tribute; *Apr. 23*, Grilled Cheese and Craft Beer Tasting; *Apr. 29*, Sheila E. 500 N. Market St., Wilmington. 302-994-1400; Queen.WorldCafeLive.com.



THROUGH APRIL

The Grand Opera House. Talent, variety, artistry ... all in our backyard. Here's a sample: Check their website. *Apr. 9*, David Sedaris; *Apr. 11*, Jay Ungar & Molly Mason; *Apr. 25*, Rock & Roll Legends. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. 302-652-5577; TheGrandWilmington.org.

APRIL 2

Uptown! Entertainment Alliance. Instrumentalist/vocalist, Brian Fitzy. Ballroom at Westside, 430 Hannum Ave., West Chester. 6 pm. \$5-\$10. 484-639-9004; Uptown-WestChester.org.

APRIL 3

Vox Ama Deus Ensemble, Bach B Minor Mass. Bach's crowning achievement, written over a 20 year period and never performed during his lifetime. Kimmel Center, Philadelphia. \$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

APRIL 10-19

Berks Jazz Fest. Jazz enthusiasts return every year for 10 music-packed days. Tickets at the VF Ticket Outlet, Santander Arena, Seventh & Penn Sts., Reading or TicketMaster.com. 610-898-1930; BerksJazzFest.com.

APRIL 18

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. State Street, Media. 6 pm to 1 am. \$15-\$20. 610-566-5039; StateStreetBlues.com.

MAY 3

Chester County Choral Society Concert. A 150th Anniversary Retrospective featuring Beck's Philadelphia Brigade Band and a new arrangement of Bruce Montgomery's "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address." Bayard Rustin High School, 1100 Shiloh Rd., West Chester. 4 pm. ChesterCountyChoralSociety.org.

MAY 3

Chester County Concert Band. Performing a wide variety of music including The Magic of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Irving Berlin Showstoppers. J.R. Fugett Middle School, Paoli Pk. & Ellis La., West Chester. 2:30. \$7-\$10. 484-639-9118; CCCBand.org.



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

APRIL 4

Parkway Dash 4 Diabetes 2015. 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. Benefits Diabetes Education at Chester County Hospital. Registration 2:30 pm. Kids run, 3:15. Race at 4. \$25. CCHosp.com.

MAY 3

Blue Cross Broad Street Run. A 10-mile, point-to-point course. Race starts at Cen-

tral High School Athletic Field, Broad St. and Somerville Ave., Philadelphia and finishes inside the Phila. Navy Yard. Benefits the American Cancer Society. 8:30 am. 215-683-3594; BroadStreetRun.com.



THEATER.....

THROUGH APRIL 4

Jason and the Argonauts. The acclaimed Scottish company, Visible Fictions arrives at People's Light with their take on the ancient Greek myth. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Call for curtain times. \$27-\$68. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

APRIL 6

Beautiful Boy. This is a beautiful piece full of life, humor and deep love by actor/director Pete Pryor telling the story of the care and love for one family's autistic child. People's

Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. 7 pm. \$20. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

APRIL 14-19

Camelot. Lerner & Loewe's classic as you've never seen it before. The Playhouse On Rodney Square, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Call for curtain times. \$35-\$79. 302-656-4401; ThePlayhouseDE.org.



APRIL 29-MAY 24

Biloxi Blues. The semi-autobiographical Tony Award-winning play by American comedic genius Neil Simon. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Call for curtain times. \$27-\$68. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

TOWNS & BOROUGHS.....

APRIL 3

First Fridays. Stroll through area towns to

find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. **Kennett Square**, 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City**, 717-509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. **Oxford**, 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **Wayne**, 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. **West Chester**, 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com; **Wilmington**, 302-576-2100; ArtLoopWilmingtonDE.com.

APRIL 16

Malvern Stroll, Third Thursdays. The shops on King Street are open until 8 and offering special trunk shows, demonstrations, entertainment and refreshments, plus the restaurants offer specials. MalvernBusiness.com. ♦

Stay in the know with everything going on in *County Lines* country. Sign up for our monthly Events Newsletter at Newsletter@ValleyDel.com

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

For more events visit:

CountyLinesMagazine.com

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THEATRE SPOTLIGHT



At The Playhouse on Rodney Square
MAY 12-17

YOU DON'T NEED TO TRAVEL TO TIMES SQUARE FOR the excitement of New York City. Broadway's musical revival of *Guys and Dolls* brings it to Wilmington, May 12 through 17! Experience the Tony Award-winning Broadway show making a stop on its national tour at the Playhouse on Rodney Square (formerly the DuPont Theatre) for what *The New York Times* calls "The show that defines Broadway dazzle!"

Join the gamblers, gangsters and sassy showgirls of 1940s New York City for an evening of what some consider the perfect musical comedy. See for yourself why after making its Broadway debut in 1951, *Guys and Dolls* ran for 1200 performances and earned five Tony Awards, including Best New Musical.

The show's success continued when *Guys and Dolls* won another four Tonys in 1992, including Best Revival of a Musical. This classic musical's plot and characters spring to life from Damon Runyan's short stories and inspired the witty book and lyrics by Joe Swerling and comedy legend Abe Burrows.

Continuing the legacy of actors like Frank Sinatra, Marlon Brando and Nathan Lane in truly memorable roles, this revival cast is sure to dazzle Delaware audiences. Some of the show's colorful characters include the upright but upright Sarah Brown played by Kayleen Seidl, high-rolling gambler Sky Masterson portrayed by Matthew J. Taylor, lady of lamentation Miss Adelaide performed by Lauren Weinberg, and floating crap game leader Nathan Detroit played by Christopher Swan.

By the show's finale, everyone will have a favorite tune (or two) after humming along to Frank Loesser's toe-tapping score. Whether it's upbeat "Luck Be a Lady," the dreamy duet "I've Never Been in Love Before," or the show's spirited "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat" featuring Nicely-Nicely Johnson, songs from this celebration of Broadway's golden era will be stuck in your head long after the last encore.

Don't miss the chance to experience live theater and this epic musical production of *Guys and Dolls*. Who knows, you might end up loving the show "a bushel and a peck." ♦
~ Stephanie Loeh

IF YOU GO:
Where: The Playhouse on Rodney Square
11th & Market Sts., Wilmington DE
When: May 12-17
Box Office: 302-888-0200; ThePlayhouseDE.org



PHOTOS: PATRICK MCNABB

Horace Pippin: The Way I See It

Brandywine River Museum, April 29 through July 19

GET TO KNOW A LEADING FIGURE OF 20TH-CENTURY ART WITH A LOCAL CONNECTION.

West Chester native Horace Pippin's bold, colorful and expressive paintings of family life, history, religion and war will be on view exclusively at the Brandywine River Museum of Art starting April 25. This exhibition, the first in 20 years, will include 65 paintings—half Pippin's known work.

Although Horace Pippin (1888–1946) grew up in Goshen, New York, he returned to West Chester in 1920 after serving in World War I as part of the renowned African-American regiment, the “Harlem Hellfighters.” His right arm was severely injured by a sniper while serving in France. Yet by 1930, Pippin had begun teaching himself to paint using his left arm to support his right hand.

Pippin's art was first championed by N.C. Wyeth and art critic Christian Brinton in 1937, after they saw the self-taught artist's work on display in a West Chester storefront. Pippin was quickly

embraced nationally by museums such as the Museum of Modern Art, as well as galleries, critics and collectors, including Albert C. Barnes of the Barnes Foundation.

Among the works in the exhibition is *The End of the War: Starting Home* (1930-33), a seminal work representing the horrors of a war that Pippin said “brought out all the art in me.” A muted palette with bursts of red evokes the sense of desolation amidst the chaos of battle. It's Pippin's first known oil painting, demonstrating his early method of building layer upon layer of pigment in an almost sculptural manner.

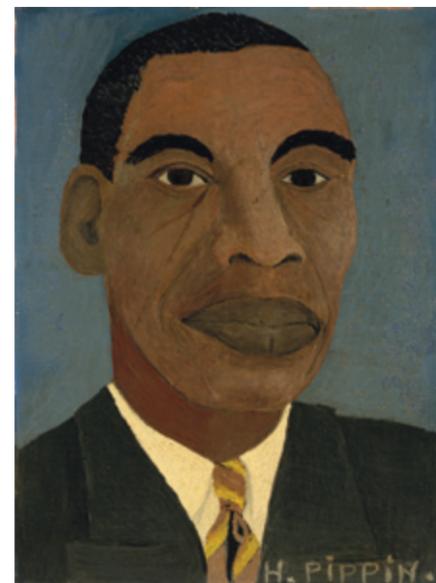
Pippin completed two major series with historical themes, one on the life of the abolitionist John Brown and the other on Abraham Lincoln. *John Brown Going to His Hanging* (1942) is one of Pippin's most visually and emotionally engaging paintings. Brown is portrayed at the center, sitting atop his coffin



John Brown Going to His Hanging
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia



The Holy Mountain III
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.



Self-Portrait (III)
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York



Interior
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.



Harmonizing
Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, Ohio

while being driven to the gallows. As the crowd looks on, a figure to the far right stares out from the painting, representing Pippin's mother, who was said to have witnessed the event.

Religious themes also held particular significance for Pippin, including the theme of the Holy Mountain, the basis for four paintings (1944–1946). Inspired in part by Edward Hicks's *Peaceable Kingdom* series, Pippin focused on the Old Testament text by Isaiah that told of God's founding of his city on the Holy Mountain. Pippin's interpretation goes beyond the biblical into a reflection on the nature of war, peace and racial injustice.

Pippin's art is highly personal, and the

artist often drew upon his own life as subject matter in paintings, such as *Interior* (1944). He also created several paintings that depicted everyday life in West Chester, including the captivating *Harmonizing* (1944), which portrays an a cappella quartet singing on a street corner.

The exhibition will present a comprehensive, nuanced examination of this seminal artist, the varied sources of inspiration and traditions that informed the evolution of his style, and introduce Pippin's fierce vision to a new generation. ♦

—Audrey Lewis, Associate Curator

IF YOU GO ...

Where: Route 1, Chadds Ford. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org

When: April 29 through July 19. Daily 9:30 to 4:30

Admission: \$15, adults; \$10 seniors; \$6, students with ID and children 6-12; free, under five and Conservancy members. Free most Sunday mornings until noon, through Nov. 22.

Other African-American Art: This is one of six special exhibitions that join Philadelphia's permanent African & African-American art collections. More at VistiPhilly.com/BlackArt

Special Events

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR TIMES, ADMISSION AND RESERVATIONS.

Horace Pippin: Visions of War. Sunday, April 26

Pippin is the only known World War I African-American soldier to have created both a visual and textual archive of his war experiences. With Celeste-Marie Bernier, author of *Suffering and Sunset: World War I in the Art and Life of Horace Pippin*.

A Splash of Red—PNC Arts Alive First Sundays for Families. Sunday, May 3

Experience Horace Pippin's bold use of color and experiment with vibrant hues while learning more about the artist. With Jen Bryant, author of a children's book, *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin*.

True to Himself: The Art and Life of Horace Pippin. Wednesday, May 6

Trace Pippin's development as a self-taught artist and his place in American art history. With Audrey Lewis, curator of the exhibition, joined by scholars Jacqueline Francis and Anne Monahan.

African Americans in World War I. Wednesday, June 3

Pippin's experiences as a soldier in World War I greatly influenced his work as an artist. With Chad Williams, author of *Torchbearers of Democracy: African American Soldiers in the World War I Era*.

Local Connections: Horace Pippin in West Chester

A special guide to sites and locations near West Chester of significance to Pippin's life and work. Available online at Brandywine.org. Created in collaboration with the Chester County Historical Society.



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It's spring! What a perfect time for a horse show. Start the season at the 70th Anniversary of the Kimberton Hunt Club Horse Show, April 26, at the Radnor Hunt Pony Club Grounds in Malvern.

One of the oldest hunt clubs in the U. S., the Kimberton Hunt Club was founded in 1870 to preserve the rural countryside and to continue the traditional sport of fox hunting. Funds from this annual horse show keep the environment safe and allow more people to enjoy the sport.

The horse show is also the region's first outdoor United States Equestrian Federation "C" rated show—meaning locally affiliated—for the 2015 season. Equestrian fans will not want to miss the excitement as riders from several states gather to compete in the popular Hunt Team Class, Hunter Pairs, Pleasure, Hunt, Equitation, three Lead Line classes and more. Plus, this is a golden opportunity for local riders to warm up before the Devon Horse Show in late May.

Many prizes will be awarded this year including prize money, beautiful trophies and select awards such as Grand Hunter Horse, Grand Hunter Pony, Grand Short/Shortest Champion, and Trainer. Plus 70th Anniversary goodie bags are also part of the prize mix.

Before settling in for the show, grab a bite in Kimberton Hunt's famous food tent where you can sample delicious homemade food served up by club members. Be sure to save room for some of the tastiest French fries in Chester County. Then shop at the vendor's booths for everything from equestrian necessities to fine art.

Make this event your tribute to spring and help Kimberton Hunt Club protect local hunting grounds while you enjoy the beautiful day under the shade of cherry blossom trees. ♦

~ Elizabeth Thomas

Kimberton Hunt Club Horse Show, Apr. 26th, 8 to 6, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. For more information, KimbertonHunt.org.



Something Old Something New Something Rustic

Carol Metzker
Photos: Cindy DeSau

TYING THE KNOT IN UNIQUE VENUES—OLD BARNs, MUSEUMS, HISTORIC SITES— IS CATCHING ON WITH COUPLES LOOKING FOR SPACES WITH FLAIR.

KEARA AND DREW LOVE HIKING in the Adirondacks and hanging out with friends and family. So it was no surprise when they announced an October wedding at a farm—with an outdoor ceremony in a clover meadow overlooking an idyllic wooded valley.

In addition to a traditional exchange of vows followed by a formal cake-and-champagne reception (“I’m a ‘dessert first’ girl,” Keara Gilligan Allshouse admits), the weekend-long event included a host of other activities. There was a late-afternoon party with grilled ham-

burgers, story-telling about the bride’s and groom’s childhood antics around an evening bonfire, a tent camp-out for adventurous guests, and a Sunday morning breakfast with pancakes cooked on the farmhouse kitchen’s old wood stove. The celebration “was everything I could have dreamed of,” said Keara.

Tying the knot in original venues—old barns with fresh renovations, museums with ancient relics and modern masterpieces, and nontraditional historic settings—is catching on with couples looking for spaces with unique flair. Beyond booking formal and

fairy-tale ambiance, they’re creating settings that are funky, whimsical, exotic and trendy “shabby chic.” Wedding parties and guests revel in s’more desserts on unmatched china, glowing lantern light, seats of fabric-covered hay bales; tables adorned with mason jars of flowers and vintage forks newly engraved with “I do,” “Me, too” for the first bite of wedding cake.

Many events also come with a more relaxed attitude and philosophy that every detail doesn’t have to be flawless for the day to be perfect. When something unplanned happens, couples go

with the flow and turn it into the story of a day unlike that of any other couple.

At the Allshouse wedding, temperatures dropped unexpectedly. Drew’s groomsmen pitched tents inside the farm’s big barn for warmth. Too cold for guitarists’ fingers, guests happily sang a capella. Keara made last minute wardrobe adjustments—wearing running tights under her flowing wedding gown and trading wedding shoes for hiking boots for the outdoor reception. The situation added mirth to the day and memorable photos.



Something Rustic

Rustic chic weddings are in, according to Tracy Jaworski, events manager at the Barn on Bridge, an 18th-century barn in Collegetown that lends charm to wedding celebrations. “Some couples want the fairy tale ballroom and puffy dress, but others don’t want something so fancy,” she said. “They want something to reflect their casual lifestyle, maybe less extravagant, and they want to have a good time.” Couples who choose barn celebrations may have grown up on farms or simply want a low-key venue that can support relaxed fun.

The Barn on Bridge is perfect for a party. Up the spiral staircase, two lofts are connected by a catwalk—a fanciful spot for a first dance. Behind the barn, a wooden swing for two is an ideal spot to steal a private moment or to kick back while the photographer snaps away.

Robert Ryan Catering’s interactive s’more dessert station is a crowd-pleaser at Barn weddings. While guests watch, a chef torches homemade marshmallow fluff on a graham cracker, then applies milk or white chocolate to individuals’ tastes.





The Barn brings out couples' creativity, Jaworski continued. Receptions feature donut or hot dog trucks that roll in as a finale. Grandparents build handmade benches for guests to sign, replacing yesteryear's guest books. A bride and groom who worked at the Philadelphia Zoo invited unusual guests—owls, hedgehogs and other critters for family and friends to enjoy.

Other homesteads around the Brandywine Valley also provide glorious wedding space. Depending on the number of farm tables, wagon wheels and croquet courts to be accommodated, they can hold shindigs for hundreds or intimate ceremonies for close family and friends.



Something Historic

Situated on spacious grounds, Oakbourne Mansion in Westtown recently hosted a playful wedding picnic that featured lawn games and a ceremony in a grove of trees. Oakbourne's stone tower, whose tiny windows and pointed arch doors evoke images of a small castle, often serves as backdrop for nuptials. The Victorian-era mansion—with carved woodwork surrounding the fireplace and stunning stained-glass windows along a grand staircase—can be dressed up or down to suit rustic or regal tastes.

Up the pike, Douglassville's Yellow House Hotel built in 1801 can't be beat for its novel history. Originally a stagecoach stop, later a

general store, then the site of the village's post office and telephone switchboard, today the B&B gives plenty of subject for conversation at intimate weddings, showers, bridesmaid luncheons or rehearsal dinners.

Down the pike, to the delight of family and friends, Chris and Anne exchanged rings and vows at a Mexican restaurant bursting with hand-painted tables and chairs and quirky folk art. The venue, buffet with margaritas and party were as effervescent and extraordinary as the couple.

And in West Chester, the stately English-style country estate Greystone Hall is a stunning backdrop for those searching for a bit of the gilded age. Couples stroll along the white columned pergola, toast each other in the Palm Room and join their guests in the Tent Pavilion—all under the watchful gaze of the mansion's many gargoyles.

For a bit of historic Philadelphia, near Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, there's the Union Trust, a renovated 1888 bank building with 65-foot illuminated ceilings. Finley Catering combines regal Philly with a new vibe in this space.

Something Chic

For a sophisticated yet edgy scene to wow guests, the Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts on the Wilmington Riverfront offers theater-style seating, a lobby for dinner or cocktail tables, and seven art galleries with continually changing exhibits where wedding guests can wander and take eye-catching photos. The transformed former railroad car factory easily stands up

to minimal decorations or adapts to any wedding theme.

Taking "something old" to new heights, the Penn Museum offers couples an ancient and dramatic backdrop for vows: an exquisitely lighted gallery with a 3,000-year-old granite sphinx. For families who prefer architectural elements other than a royal Egyptian palace, the Museum offers a Chinese Rotunda for weddings under a 90-foot dome, the outdoor Stoner Courtyard and other unique spaces.

The Penn Museum also presents Simple and Sweet wedding packages for couples who want a magnificent setting but don't have the royal palace's treasury. During regular daytime museum hours, Mondays through Thursdays, couples and their guests can hold a simple ceremony in a gallery closed to the public for a short time, then meander the museum halls afterward.

Something New

Like Keara and Drew who laid in a supply of hand-pressed apple cider for their farm wedding, other couples are embracing the trend of making fresh local food part of down-home or uptown festivities.

At one of the area's newest wedding venues, Springton Manor Farm, couples saying "I do" to fabulous farm-to-fork menus. Enjoy Chester County artisanal cheeses and Kennett Square mushroom hors d'oeuvres at the Manor House's wrap-around veranda or gracious lawn tent. Among wine barrels and wooden farm tables, relish dishes concocted from ingre-

dients from nearby North Star Orchard and Wyebrook Farm.

After delighting in country fare, take a stroll to visit Springton Manor's perennial gardens, sheep and Scottish Highlander cattle. Or relax under centuries-old Penn Oak trees after a magnificent day.

Still not set on the best bucolic venue for your special day? Among beautiful trees, flowers and a lake, The Willows in Radnor Township expects to re-open by 2016 with a new ballroom for 200-plus guests.

When the last party guest has left, the lanterns are dark and the barn door is closed for the night, what's left are great memories of an event like no other... and maybe a happily-ever-after honeymoon breakfast cooked on the farmhouse's old wood stove. ♦



[*Spotlight Stealers*]



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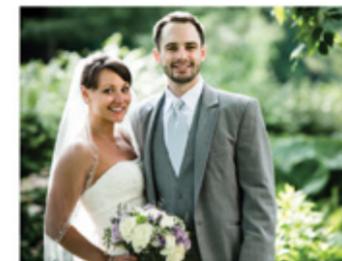
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OAKBOURNE MANSION
610-692-1930; OakbourneMansion.org

GUIDE TO Wedding Venues and Services

Wedding Venues

BARNs

- The Barn on Bridge**
385 Bridge St., Collegeville
610-287-8771; BarnOnBridge.com
- Country Barn**
211 S. Donerville Rd., Lancaster
717-872-1554; CountryBarnWedding.com
- Gables at Chadds Ford**
423 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford
610-388-7700; GablesAtChaddsFord.com
- Harvest View Barn at Hershey Farms**
338 Sunnyburn Rd., Elizabethtown
717-665-7284
- The High Point**
2475 St. Peter's Rd., Malvern
610-644-2261; TheHighPointGV.com
- John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove**
1201 Pawlings Rd., Audubon
267-455-3521; JohnJames.Audubon.org
- Meredith Manor**
2270 Pottstown Pk., Pottstown
610-469-1700; ChesterCountyWedding.com

BED & BREAKFAST / INNS RESORTS

- Eden Resort**
222 Eden Rd., Lancaster
717-569-6444; EdenResort.com
- Faunbrook Bed & Breakfast**
699 W. Rosedale Ave., West Chester
610-436-5788; Faunbrook.com
- Hilton Garden Inn**
720 E. Eagleview Blvd., Exton
610-458-8822
HiltonGardenExtonWestChester.com
- Inn & Spa at Intercourse Village**
3542 Old Philadelphia Pk., Intercourse
717-768-2626
Inn-Spa.com/Intercourse-PA-Inn
- Sweetwater Farm**
50 Sweetwater Rd., Glen Mills
610-459-4711; SweetwaterFarmBB.com



WORLD CAFE LIVE
302-994-1400; Queen.WorldCafeLive.com



EDEN RESORT
717-569-6444; EdenResort.com



HILLTOP HOUSE
610-341-3928; HilltopDevon.com



PHOENIXVILLE COUNTRY CLUB
610-933-3727; PhoenixvilleCC.com



THE GREATHOUSE AT LOCH NAIRN GOLF CLUB
610-268-2235; lngolf.com/weddings



SPRINGFIELD COUNTRY CLUB
610-690-7600; SpringfieldCC.net
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THE FARMHOUSE AT PEOPLE'S LIGHT
610-647-1631; FarmhousePeoplesLight.com



AMERICAN HELICOPTER MUSEUM
610- 436-9600; AmericanHelicopter.Museum

COUNTRY CLUBS

- Brantwyn, DuPont Country Club**
1001 Rockland Rd., Wilmington, DE
302-654-4435; DuPontCountryClub.com
- Coatesville Country Club**
143 Reservoir Rd., Coatesville
610-384-3200; CoatesvilleCountryClub.com
- The Greathouse at Loch Nairn Golf Club**
514 McCue Rd., Avondale
610-268-2235; lngolf.com/weddings
- Phoenixville Country Club**
355 Country Club Rd., Phoenixville
610-933-3727
PhoenixvilleCC.com
- Springfield Country Club**
400 W. Sproul Rd., Springfield
610-690-7600; SpringfieldCC.ne

GARDENS & ARBORETUMS

(With Manor House or Mansion)

- Alban's Garden**
3625 Chapel Rd., Newtown Square
610-356-2873
StAlbans-ns.org/Albans-Garden
- Bolingbroke**
424 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor
610-688-3048; BolingbrokeMansion.com
- Highlands Mansion & Gardens**
7701 Sheaff Ln., Fort Washington
215-641-2687; HighlandsHistorical.org
- Hershey Gardens**
170 Hotel Rd., Hershey
717-534-3492; HersheyGardens.org
- Morris Arboretum**
100 Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia
215-247-5777; UPenn.edu/arboretum
- Read House and Gardens**
Historical Society of Delaware
42 The Strand, New Castle, DE
302-322-8411; HSD.org
- Tyler Arboretum**
515 Painter Rd., Media
484-365-7468; TylerArboretum.org
- Welkinweir Estate**
1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown
610-469-0889; GreenValleys.org

MUSEUMS & GALLERY SPACES

- Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia**
15 S. 7th St., Philadelphia
215-685-4827; PhiladelphiaHistory.org
- Brandywine River Museum**
Route 1, Chadds Ford
610-388-8112; BrandywineMuseum.org
- Community Arts Center, Wallingford**
414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford
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
- Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts**
200 S. Madison St., Wilmington, DE
302-656-6466; TheDCCA.org
- Fleisher Art Memorial**
719 Catharine St., Philadelphia
215-922-3456; Fleisher.org
- Franklin Institute**
222 N. 20th St., Philadelphia
215-448-1165; www2.FI.edu
- Hagley Museum & Library**
Buck Rd., Wilmington, DE
302-658-2400, ext. 203; Hagley.org
- Independence Seaport Museum**
211 S. Columbus Blvd. & Walnut St., Phila.
215-413-8622; PhillySeaport.org



DELAWARE ART MUSEUM
302-571-9590; DelArt.org



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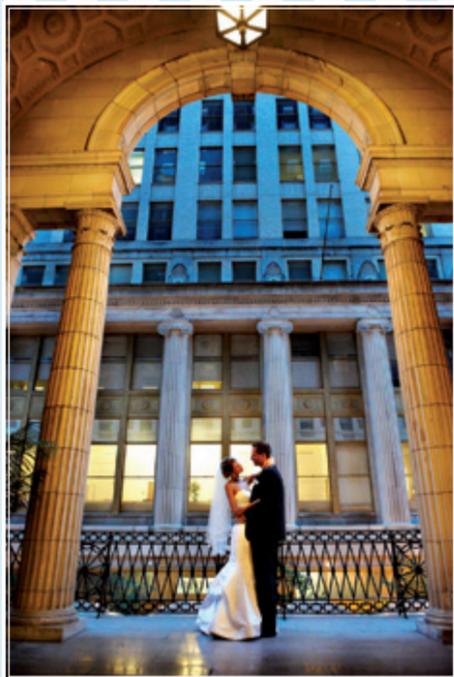
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CRYSTAL TEA ROOM, FINLEY CATERING
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Rockwood Museum
610 Shipley Rd., Wilmington, DE
302-761-4340; Rockwood.org

Wayne Art Center
413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne
610-688-3553; WayneArt.org

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

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

(Some with gardens and terrace)

Anthony Wayne House at Historic Waynesborough
2049 Waynesborough Rd., Paoli
610-647-1779; PhilaLandmarks.org

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

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

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

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

Columbia Station
4 Bridge St., Phoenixville
610-933-6336; TheColumbiaStation.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oakbourne Mansion
1014 S. Concord Rd., West Chester
610-692-1930; OakbourneMansion.org

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

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

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

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

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

Radnor Hunt
826 Providence Rd., Malvern
610-725-9420; RadnorHunt.org

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

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

Springton Manor Farm
860 Springton Rd., Glenmoore
610-733-2516; SpringtonManorFarm.com

The Union League of Philadelphia
140 S. Broad St., Philadelphia
215-563-6500; UnionLeague.org

Union Trust
717 Chestnut St., Philadelphia
215-627-5100
FinleyCatering.com/Union-Trust

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

The Washington at Historic Yellow Springs
Art School Rd., Chester Springs
610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org

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

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 610-316-2046; BaldwinSchool.org
- College of Physicians of Philadelphia**
 19 S. 22nd St., Philadelphia
 215-563-3103; CollegeOfPhysicians.org
- The Great Hall at Immaculata University**
 1145 King Rd., Immaculata
 610-647-4400; Immaculata.edu
- Valley Forge Military Academy**
 1001 Eagle Rd., Wayne
 610-688-1800; VFMAC.edu
- Villanova University Conference Center**
 601 County Line Rd., Radnor
 610-523-1777
 ACC-VillanovaConferenceCenter.com
- Wyndham Alumnae House**
 Bryn Marw College, Merion Ave.
 Bryn Mawr, 610-526-5236
 BrynMawr.edu/Wyndham

TRANSPORTATION & RELATED VENUES

- American Helicopter Museum**
 1220 American Blvd., West Chester
 610-436-9600; AmericanHelicopter.Museum
- Moshulu**
 401 S. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia
 215-923-1245; Moshulu.com
- Riverlink Ferry**
 Penn's Landing, Philadelphia
 215-828-7629; RiverlinkFerry.org
- Wilmington & Western Railroad**
 2201 Newport-Gap Pk., Wilmington, DE
 302-998-1930; WWRR.com

OTHER VENUES

- Ballroom at the Ben**
 The Ben Franklin
 834 Chestnut St., Philadelphia
 215-627-5100; FinleyCatering.com
- Clothier Room**
 630 Clothier Rd., Wynnewood
 610-446-6400; FinleyCatering.com
- Crystal Tea Room**
 100 Penn Square East
 Wanamaker Bldg., Philadelphia
 215-627-5100; FinleyCatering.com
- Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (and Academy of Music)**
 Broad & Spruce St., Philadelphia
 215-790-5853; KimmelCenter.org
- Milestone Events**
 600 E. Market St., West Chester
 610-918-4704; MilestoneMoments.net
- Philadelphia Zoo**
 3400 W. Girard Ave., Philadelphia
 215-243-5628; PhiladelphiaZoo.org
- World Café Live at The Queen**
 500 N. Market St., Wilmington
 302-994-1400; Queen.WorldCafeLive.com

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- Walter J. Cook Jeweler**
 Chestnut Village Shops, 36 Chestnut Rd.
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 241 Bridge St., Phoenixville
 610-933-3833; RomanticJewelers.com
- Big Diamond Importers & Fine Jewelry**
 15 W. Gay St., West Chester
 610-692-7707; BigsDiamonds.com

Warwick Jewelers

165 W. Lincoln Hwy., Exton
 610-594-2441; WarwickJewelers.com

FLOWERS & FOOD

- Christopher Chocolates / Fine Foods**
 3519 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square
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Grace Byrne, Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College

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FOR MANY GARDENERS, CONTAINER GARDENING provides a vignette of horticulture in a bold, liberating way, especially when tropicals and annuals are involved. Whether you're rolling in the green (and I don't mean plants) or sticking to a budget, this rapidly growing gardening trend has picked up speed as it accommodates nearly every taste.

And, when it comes to container gardening, your imagination is the only limit!

Choosing Your Container

While it's true that a single container can be captivating in its own right, as you begin your project consider how it will be part of a larger picture as you select the right size, style and material of the vessel itself.

Is your canvas a front stoop or an acre lot? A mature garden or a blank slate? Identifying the appropriate scale to suit your space will help you plan the composition of your design as well as how much growing medium you'll need to keep your plants happy and healthy.

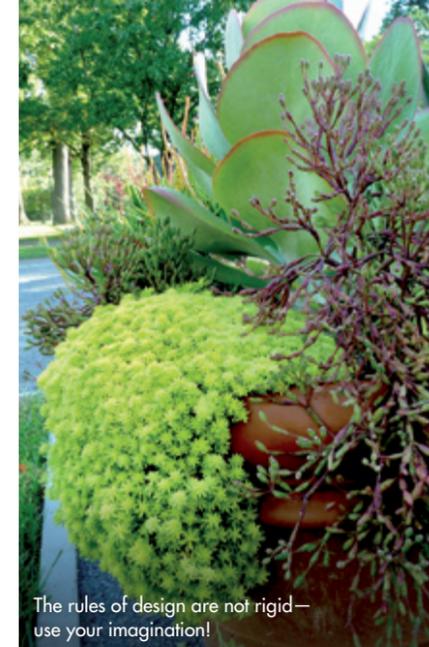
Choosing the largest container for your space and budget is best, as larger amounts of growing media help hold moisture in the soil. And it provides a smaller margin of error.

If you're partial to smaller containers, create groupings in threes to experiment with design elements such as texture, repetition and juxtaposition of unlikely neighboring plants. Regardless of size, it's better to use peat-free, compost-based, manufactured soils, since they're more porous than garden soil and provide better drainage.

A combination of flowering plants and exciting foliage makes for a long-lasting design.



The use of spillers, fillers and thrillers maximizes your container's presence in the landscape.



The rules of design are not rigid—use your imagination!



Incorporate visually stimulating foliage, like coleus, instead of relying solely on flowers.

When it comes to the material of your container, consider alternatives to standard terra cotta or cast stone. In recent years, gardeners have become experimental, using everything from whiskey barrels to watering cans as new homes for their plants. But, if you plan to use your summer containers for winter interest, then consider concrete, metal, lead, plastic or fiberglass composite containers because they weather the elements well.

Fortunately, there are nearly as many variations in container styles as there are plants! Once you've decided on the scale and material, next consider the "theme" or "personality" of your composition. If your plants will be wild and exciting, a modest container may work best. Or, if you want to feature muted plant personalities, a showier vessel will carry the weight of the design.

Designing With Plants

Container gardening reflects each gardener's personal style, so you'll see a wide array of designs—one size definitely does not fit all containers! Even so, you'll want to keep in mind two strategies to guide your composition—selecting equal parts foliage and flowers and categorizing your selections into "spillers," "fillers" and "thrillers"—terminology coined by the late Kathy Pufahl, founder of Beds and Borders, Inc.

Flowers are natural attention-grabbers—it's exactly the role they were born to play to attract pollinators. So it's not surprising

gardeners use flowering plants for an instant wow-factor. Yet, as charming as they are, flowers are also fleeting, and if the weight of your design relies heavily on these transitory blooms, you'll be left with a lackluster show once they're spent.

To bolster the longevity and interest of your design, choose half your plants for either exciting foliage—think bromeliads or elephant ears (*Colocasia* sp.)—or quirky forms, like corkscrew rush (*Juncus effusus* 'Spiralis'). That way flowering plants can run the other half of the show.

As you select your plants, visualize their roles as potential spillers, fillers or thrillers. Spillers provide a base that gracefully cascades from the container, giving the composition a more vertical form. Sweet potato vine's (*Ipomoea batatas*) vigorous growth and intense color make it a favorite among spillers.

Fillers weave throughout, for a happy medium that unifies the composition. Coleus, Swedish ivy (*Plectranthus* sp.) and begonias are excellent fillers with varieties of color and texture.

Thrillers, of course, are the stars of the show. Often dominating containers with intense form, color or size, thrillers demand attention and are typically the crown jewel of an eye-catching display. Cannas are often used as thrillers for their dramatic vertical form, saturated blooms and bold foliage. Bananas (*Musa* sp. and *Ensete* sp.) instantly add an exotic twist and ornamental flax (*Phormium* sp.) offers a kaleidoscope of colored stripes to suit any container design.

Be Bold!

When it comes to container gardening with tropicals and annuals, don't be afraid to experiment with a variety of plant combinations and design strategies. Like any art form, design guidelines can be tweaked, stretched or abandoned altogether to make way for something completely new and completely you! Your imagination is the only limit! ♦

To find tropicals and annuals, visit the Unusual Tropicals and Annuals Sale at Scott Arboretum, Sat., May 16. Offering over 200 exotic selections not found in your average garden center, the Arboretum will have plant experts to answer your questions. For details, visit ScottArboretum.org/TropicalSale. Set on 300 acres of the Swarthmore College campus, the Arboretum is open to the public every day from dawn to dusk and displays thousands of ornamental plant species.

PHOTOS: THE SCOTT ARBORETUM OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE



Grouping your containers together creates a more intricate composition with endless possibilities



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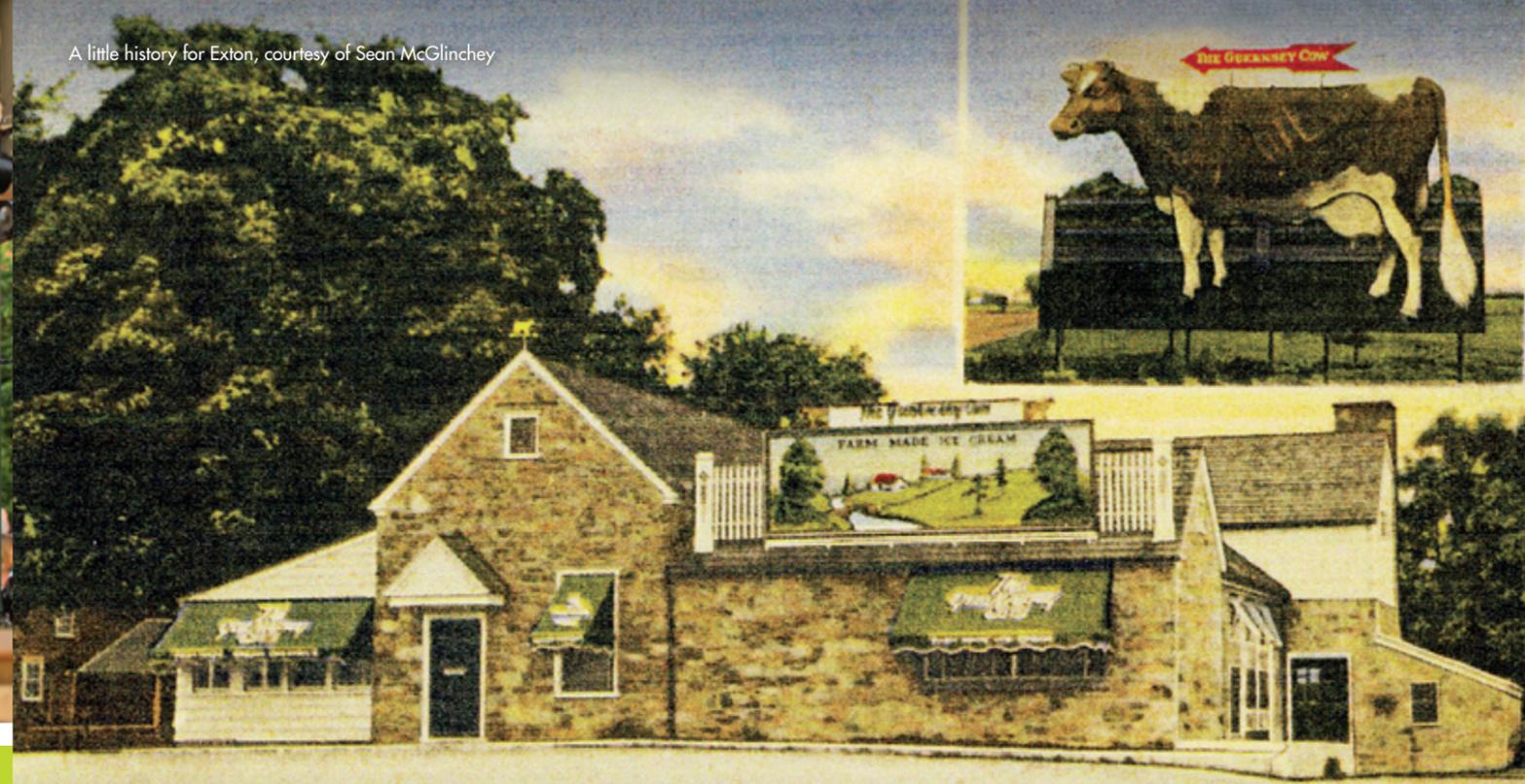
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A little history for Exton, courtesy of Sean McGlinchey



Tale of Two Towns: Downingtown & Exton

Matt Freeman

Though only a few miles apart, Downingtown and Exton are very different sorts of places. They always were, yet the ways they're different have changed radically over the years. But they do have one thing in common—if you find yourself in the area, you'll find worthwhile places to spend your time if you stop and check both of them out.

IF YOU TOOK WASHINGTON IRVING'S RIP VAN WINKLE and sent him to sleep in Exton in the 1960s, then woke him up today, the shock might kill the poor old fellow.

Brandywine Valley old-timers remember Exton as a crossroads, with a business or two on each corner and not much else around. It had been that way for centuries. Some speculate the crossroads got its name because it looked like an "X" on the map. Historians

think it's more likely a local landowner named the town after his home in England—there are several Extons there, and very few towns anywhere named after letters of the alphabet.

At any rate, for centuries it was a sparsely populated crossroads with people mostly passing through on their way elsewhere. Then the Exton Square Mall, opened in 1973, touched off a firestorm of development.



Victory Brewing and BrewPub are in Downingtown



Main Street at Exton is an open-air mall.



The enclosed Exton Mall is an area landmark



1830 Duling-Kurtz Restaurant and B&B



Downtown Downingtown



Eagleview hosts many events, including popular summer concerts.



Independent bookstore fans should visit the Wellington Square Bookshop.



Downingtown's Log House



Wyebrook Farm has a store, cafe and chef's dinners.

Malls and More

Today, Rip Van Winkle would be goggling in disbelief at the shopping centers, strip malls and wide highways that resemble King of Prussia. Exton Square expanded over the years, and then another shopping center, Main Street at Exton, was built on the southeast corner of the crossroads. Vast numbers of businesses sprang up nearby along the highways.

Exton Square is a traditional-style mall, recently renovated; Main Street was designed to be walkable, like an actual town center, hence its name. Both have typical upscale offerings, if that's what you're after, and neither will let you go hungry or thirsty.

But the booming development and activity surrounding it have brought some interesting newcomers to the Exton scene, and buoyed longtime businesses as well. In the mood for South Asian food? Nala Indian & Thai Cuisine, 126 Woodcutter Street, has lots of fans who enjoy watching the naan being made fresh almost as much as they enjoy eating it. If you've shopped and now want to drop into a seat with a fine malt beverage, try the Drafting Room, 635 N. Pottstown Pike. They've got a wide array of fine beers on tap and even wider variety in bottles, plus gastropub-style food to go with it.

Love traditional décor? Check out Ball and Ball Antique Hardware Reproductions, 463 W. Lincoln Highway, a local institution for generations. Interested in a fine meal or a night's stay in a historic home? You'll want to know about the Duling-Kurtz House & Country Inn at 146 South Whitford Road.

The point is there are big-name department stores in Exton, but there's also much that's unique as well.

Town Within a Town

Main Street at Exton was designed to look like a real town, but Eagleview, a few miles north of Exton's crossroads, was designed to actually be one. The 800-acre community has residential, commercial and retail areas, but what many people don't know is it also has a Town Center with restaurants like the Brickside Grille, the Wellington Square Bookshop (it's an indie, if that matters and it should), and many other offerings.

Eagleview's Town Center also has a two-acre open-air gathering place with live music, theater, movies, farmers' markets and other community events. Rip Van Winkle might find the Exton area greatly changed in recent decades, but once he wakes up and checks it out, he'd find plenty to keep him awake.



Scale the heights at Downingtown's Vertical Extreme



Indian food at Bangles (above), Memorial Day Parade (below)



Milltown Crossing pedestrian bridge (above), Rincon Tarasco selections (below)





SOME THINGS TO DO ...

Downingtown Library is holding a fundraiser, **Readers on the Run**, April 11, a 5K Run/1 Mi. Walk and 100 Yard Dash starting on Green St.

The May 25th Downingtown **Memorial Day Parade** starts at Beaver Creek Elementary School then travels to the Veterans' Memorial at Kerr Park.

New this year is the **Fine Arts Festival**, May 30-31, along the 100-200 block of E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown with food vendors and live music.

Summer 2015 marks the 22nd anniversary of the popular West Whiteland Township **Summer Concert Series in Miller Park**, 220 Miller Way, Exton. Bring a blanket, chair, snack and relax.

There's even a **Mac-n-Cheese Cook-off** set for June 7 at Kerr Park hosted by the Rotary Club of Thorndale-Downingtown.

Good Neighbor Day is Downingtown's traditional Fourth of July celebration in Kerr Park and a great festival with fireworks spectacular enough to bring spectators from miles around.

Downingtown Fall Fest, presented by Victory Brewing Company, Sept. 27th, features food and craft vendors, Victory Brewing Beer Garden, live entertainment and more.

Eagleview has lots going on including a **Spring Festival**, June 14 and **Summer Concerts on the Square** and **Movie Nights** from June through August.

If you're looking for fresh produce, baked goods, meats, dairy, food artisans ... be sure to stop by **Downingtown Farmers Market**, Dane Decor Warehouse Parking Lot, 216 Washington Ave., Saturdays, from 9 to 1 and **Eagleview Farmers Market** in Wellington Square on Thursdays, 3 to 7.

Check the Events in *County Lines* for more and updated information.

More History, Less Change in Downingtown

Downingtown has a different history. Because of the mills built in the 18th century, it was a full-fledged village centuries ago. The Downingtown Log House, a source of local pride, was built around 1705 and still stands, lovingly and expensively preserved. Taverns, coach service and the railroad all helped the town grow.

The upshot is that if we summon Mr. Van Winkle back, put him to sleep in Downingtown around 1875 or so, then woke him up today, he'd find that things hadn't changed that much. The horseless carriages and styles of dress might take him aback, but much of the town's architecture is from the 19th century. The East Lancaster Avenue Historic District was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, and you can have fun picking out the different styles—Georgian, Federal, Italianate and Queen Anne among them—as you stroll through the neighborhood.

Browsing, Dining and Enjoying Downingtown

But Downingtown has more than ambiance to offer. Interested in antiques? Pook and Pook Inc. holds 12 auctions each year at its Lancaster Avenue location. You can also bid by phone and online. (Learn more in the Talking With feature in this issue.) Nearby is Philip H. Bradley Antiques, specializing in fine American 18th- and early 19th-century pieces.

If the walking and shopping make you hungry, there's local mainstay Georgio's Restaurant and Bar offering Mediterranean cuisine in a casual atmosphere. Barra Rossa, formerly known as Stella Rossa (and more formerly than that, the location for Firecreek before it closed) offers well-regarded Italian food. Barra Rossa has a wide selection of wines, but if you want to bring your own try Amani's BYOB, serving New American cuisine. In a Mexican mood? Try Rincon Tarasco.

Victory Brewing Company is widely known and loved for its beers and its casual, tasty food offerings. Less well known, according to area photographer and consultant Andrew Seymour, is an indoor rock-climbing facility called Vertical Extreme nearby on Acorn Lane. This would be convenient for working off a few calories before (not after) visiting Victory.

If you're feeling adventurous there are new restaurants in the area to try. Bangles is a new Indian restaurant people are talking about, and Filet of Soul offers soul food and music, including a gospel brunch. Wyebrook Farm's café, about eight miles northwest of the borough, was set to reopen after its winter hiatus some time in March, once again offering meals from local, organic sources to its many local fans. And there's always plenty of fresh tastes at the local farmers markets. ♦



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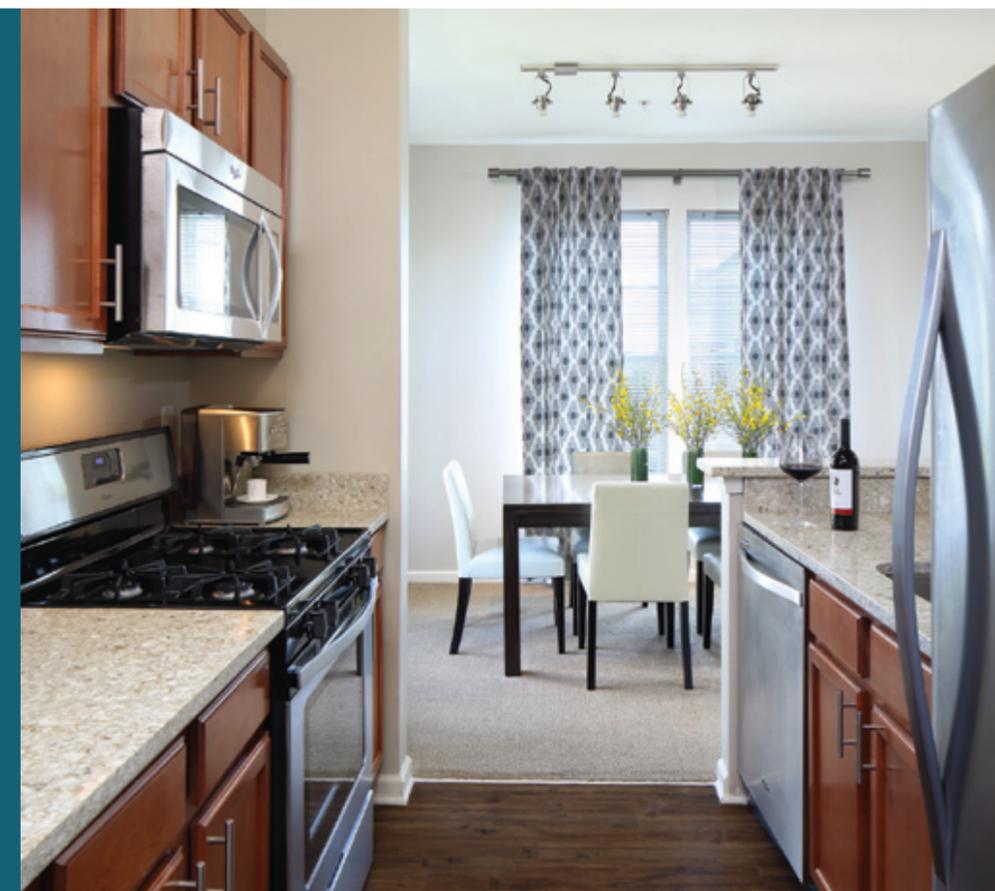
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Mary Irene Dolan

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But if you're not a regular at your local spa or salon, the wide range of pampering and beautifying options available may be overwhelming. Luckily, we've got the scoop on services to consider and where to go to enjoy them ... and yourself!

Plan Ahead

Not all spa treatments are suitable for the days, or even weeks, before your big day. The last thing you want to memorialize in photos and selfies is irritated skin. So, best to start booking intensive or first-time treatments as early as a few months before your special occasion.

For lots of options, Eden Day Spa and Salon's menu of facial services will leave you wanting to try them all—although we suggest not all at once! Pick from their moisturizing 12 Flower Corrective Facial, exfoliating Pumpkin Refresher, or anti-aging Vitamin C



Cole Wellness Spa

Facial. With many more to choose from, it's easy to see why they were on the Philly Hot List for Best Day Spa.

To make your skin look younger, brighter and more even, treatments like facial peels and micro-dermabrasion work wonders over time. Cole Wellness Spa offers variations for different skin types, like their gentle Rosacea Facial with Organic Grain Micro-dermabrasion and their sun damage-targeting Pigment Peel. A complimentary consultation will help you decide which is best for you.

If silky smooth skin is what you want, treat yourself to a professional waxing session, but allow for a week before your event. To minimize the redness waxing can cause, AME Salon and Spa uses French wax specifically formulated for sensitive skin and also offers sugaring, an even gentler form of natural hair removal.

For a beautiful bronze glow, try a sunless tanning option. Joseph Anthony Retreat Spa and Dry Bar, set to open at the Springfield Country Club this spring, will offer body exfoliation and sunless tanning treatments that leave you looking sun-kissed and polished. Be sure to experiment ahead of time and don't forget to get waxing done first!

Hair & Makeup

We all know a great cut and color do wonders for your confidence and overall image. When it comes to those big days,

you'll also want your hair styled just right with makeup to match. We know who to go to!

Many salons offer pre-wedding day—or any special day—trial runs complete with a veil test and makeup application to ensure you look exactly as you envisioned walking down the aisle. Style Masters Salon and Spa's Classic Bride Package is the perfect gift for brides-to-be, with formal hair and makeup styling both before the wedding and the day of.

If you're looking to change up your look dramatically or just get a fresh cut and color, Balance Hair Spa offers everything you can think of—from hair cutting for all hair types to coloring, texturizing, scalp

treatments and more. Plus they'll give you personalized advice on how to keep your new style looking salon-perfect for as long as possible.

And for gorgeous special-event makeup, Calista Grand Salon & Spa's professional makeup artists will make you feel glamorous while still looking like yourself.

Bring Your Friends

If you're planning a birthday or bachelorette bash, a spa is a great place to relax and bond with your BFFs. To make that easy, Eden Day Spa and Salon offers "Girls Night Out" on Fridays and Saturdays, complete with a massage, gentle facial and spa manicure and pedicure. Perfect for the night before the wedding, so you and your bridesmaids will feel relaxed and ready for the coming excitement.

Many spas offer pampering packages and private parties. Cole Wellness Spa will close their doors just for your party, while Balance Hair Spa will give you a Balancing Spa Date for Two, designed for couples, newlyweds or you and your bestie.

For convenience and luxury, Joseph Anthony Retreat Spa and Dry Bar has pampering choices right on site at the popular country club wedding venue. Go with a friend to try their new Experience Sauna for a traditional Turkish Bath. Or explore their decadent selection of relaxing body wraps, floats (sumptuous soaking treatments) and massages.



Eden Day Spa and Salon

PHOTO BY KELLY O'KEEFE PHOTOGRAPHY



Joseph Anthony Retreat Spa and Dry Bar

Don't forget your nails! Plan a day at Calista Grand Salon & Spa with the girls for customizable manicures and pedicures along with a hand and foot spa treatment.

A Groomed Groom

Don't let your man be intimidated by words like facial or manicure. Men's skin, hair and nails can take a beating from years of shaving, working and outdoor activities.

Many of the services for her also aim to restore and invigorate him and are especially suitable for those memorable days. For men who want to look their best—but with a little less primping—many area spas have the perfect options.

Style Masters Salon and Spa is a great

go-to spot for a modern haircut, but they don't just stop there. They also offer natural-looking hair coloring, waxing, facials, massages and "man-icures" specifically for him.

And they're not the only ones! Eden Day Spa and Salon features a Gentlemen's Spa, designed for male guests to reduce tension, stress and fatigue while renewing the body, mind and spirit. And Body Serene's Groom-to-Be package—complete with a 60-minute massage and Gentlemen's Manicure and Pedicure—is perfect for transforming a nervous man into a calm and content groom.

This is just a small taste of what area spas have to offer. Visit their websites for more information, then go out and get relaxing! ♦



Balance Hair Spa

SPA DIRECTORY

There's so many great area spas to visit for your special day or for a spring reboot. Here are a few of our top picks. Some local spas and salons are participating in the 2015 Spa Week, April 13-19, where select services are priced at only \$50! We hope you enjoy yourself!

AME Salon and Spa *
111 Waynewood Ave., Wayne
610-995-2631; AMESalonAndSpa.com

Balance Hair Spa *
826 N. Pottstown Pike, Exton
484-872-8457
150 E. Gay St., West Chester
610-314-4300
BalanceHairSpa.com

The Body Serene Day Spa *
4007 Skippack Pike, Skippack
610-584-72-84; TheBodySerene.com

Calista Grand Salon & Spa
1211 Wilmington Pike, West Chester
610-399-6677; CalistaGrand.com

Cole Wellness Spa
101 N. Wanye Ave., Wayne
610-688-7546; ColeWellnessSpa.com

Eden Day Spa and Salon
378 W. Main St., Collegeville
610-489-0800
EdenDaySpaAndSalon.com

Elements Spa *
934 N. Providence Rd., Media
610-566-4732; ElementsSpaInc.com

Flawless Facials
3225 Lincoln Hwy, Thorndale
484-786-9042
FlawlessFacialsAndMore.com

Joseph Anthony Retreat Spa and Dry Bar at Springfield Country Club
400 W. Sproul Rd., Springfield
610-690-7600
JosephAnthony.com; SpringfieldCC.net

Style Masters Salon and Spa
549 Lancaster Ave., Malvern
610-640-0677; StyleMastersOnline.com

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Growlers and Nitro and Cans and Casks! Oh My!

Mark Edelson, Iron Hill Brewery

SO MANY WAYS TO ENJOY YOUR FAVORITE CRAFT BEER

MOST BEER IS CONSUMED in two very familiar ways—draft and bottled. But with the explosion of craft beer comes the revival of some tasty historic delivery methods for beer that were too long forgotten. The craft movement brings not just choices for *what* beer to drink, but also *how* to drink it.

This gives me an excuse to share some of my favorites—Cask Conditioned Ales, Nitro Beer, Growlers and Cans.

Cask Conditioned Ales

From my younger days, I recall the common misconception that folks in Britain drank their beer warm and flat—the very opposite of the clear American preference for an ice-cold, fizzy brewski. What I came to learn as part of my beer education was that the Brits were actually drinking cask conditioned ales—some of the most flavorful beers I've ever tasted.



Growler



Nitro Tap



Beer Engine for Casks

Just to clarify, this time-honored British beer-drinking tradition is not to serve the brew at room temperature as many believe, but at *cellar* temperature—about 55°F. Certainly not cold enough to turn the mountains blue on a Coors Light can, but a far cry from a tepid 75°F.

Finding a pub that serves cask conditioned ales is getting easier and easier. Just look for the long upright wooden (or ceramic) handle and a bartender pulling it like he's doing reps at Planet Fitness.

Let me explain why you should try a glass, beginning with a little history.

Cask conditioned ales are brewed just like any other beer, but the final fermentation is carried out in—you guessed it—a cask, which allows it to carbonate naturally. Casks, known as firkins (11 gallons), were delivered to pubs to finish fermentation. There, in the days before refrigeration or modern keg systems, beer was stored in the tavern cellars, keeping it at a cool 55°F.

Taverns had employees who took care of the beer, known as cellarman—a position almost as important as the brewer. The cellarman was responsible for ensuring the beers finished their fermentation and were properly set up for serving.

When ready, casks were hooked up to a hand pump, known as a beer engine, and the barkeep “pulled” a proper pint from the cask to the glass. This type of system resulted in beer much lower in carbonation and higher in temperature than what Americans generally drink.

Most American pubs today have no such cellar, so they and craft brewers find various ways to recreate this method of serving ales. Why would anyone today want beer served in this manner? The higher temperature and lower carbonation of the beer bring out and enhance the aroma and flavors, making it a far superior way to experience high quality ales.

You can now find cask conditioned beers in many brewpubs and pubs that sell craft beer. It's worth a try.

Get To Know Nitro

Nitro is a method of serving beer that's gained popularity over the last 20 years, and is most recognizable as the method used for serving Guinness draft. Poured slowly, the beer shows bubbles cascading up through the glass, forming a thick, creamy head on top—thick enough to float a bottle cap!

This serving method was perfected by Guinness, once the largest brewery in the world. Realizing that traditional cask conditioning was not practical for selling beer in Guinness's many far-flung markets, they developed a method that gave beer some of the benefits of cask beer, yet could be used in any pub. This serving method produces beer that's lower in carbonation and uses nitrogen (not nitro glycerin or nitrous oxide) to produce that wonderful cascade appearance when poured, plus the characteristic thick, creamy head.

This method, more often used with porters and stouts (see January *County Lines* for more on those fine beers), brings out and accents wonderful characteristics of the beer. At Iron Hill, we've put the same batch on tap side by side—part with normal carbonation (with carbon dioxide) and part on nitro—and there's always a noticeable difference with nitro producing a smoother, creamier mouthfeel.



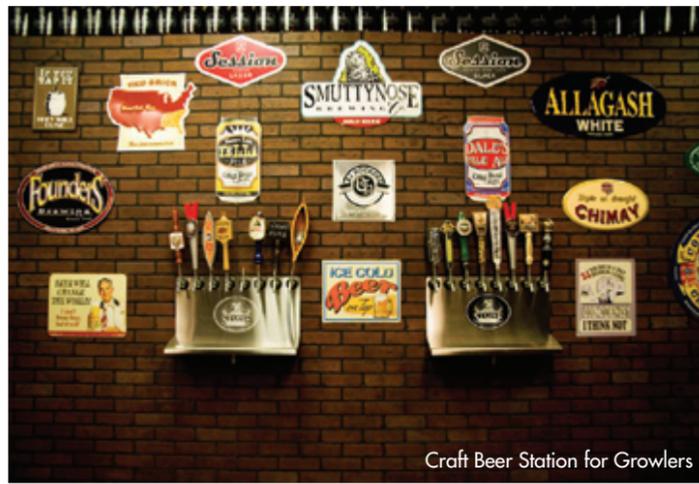
Guinness on Nitro



Gravity Tap Cask



Iron Hill Growler



Craft Beer Station for Growlers

Most brewpubs and craft pubs will have a nitro tap on one of their draft towers, such as Sierra Nevada Brewing, Sly Fox Beer and Yards Brewing Company. Go ahead and ask for a beer “on nitro.” You might just like it.

Growlers are Growing

The popularity of the growler—a dark glass jug (usually 64 oz.), sometimes resembling a moon-shine jug, used to fill beer from the tap and take home—has also exploded with the proliferation of craft beer production.

The growler itself dates back to pre-Prohibition days, when retail liquor stores didn't exist. People brought beer home by going to the local tavern and filling a galvanized bucket. Legend has it the term growler comes from the fizzing noise the beer made as it sloshed around on the way home.

Fast forward to today, when most brewpubs don't sell their products in retail stores or in buckets. The growler is a perfect way to offer customers who loved craft beer an opportunity to enjoy it at home. In Pennsylvania, pubs are also permitted to sell growlers, and as their tap selections have grown, so has customer desire to buy these beers for take-out.

If you enjoy a certain beer at your local brewpub, ask them if you can take some home to enjoy later! Just remember to refrigerate it and drink it within a few days for best flavor.

Yes, Craft Beer in a Can

Last month marked the 80th anniversary of the first canned beer. I hope you celebrated appropriately. For the longest time,

this package option was rife with problems related to flavor. It wasn't until the 1970s when the largest brewers introduced the aluminum can with a protective interior coating—rather than tin-plated steel cans—that beer in cans took off.

As craft beers grew in popularity, their roots were based in traditions, ingredients and flavors making beer in cans far from anyone's mind. Then, in 2002, Oskar Blues, a Colorado pub and brewery, successfully put craft beer in a can. And craft beer drinkers around the country said, “why not?” especially since cans keep beer fresh longer by eliminating damaging effect of light and oxygen. The can became cool among craft beer drinkers.

And now craft cans are readily available everywhere. Even Iron Hill offers take-out cans a few times a year, and Sly Fox went so far as to create a 360 degree opening on top. Glass bottles are restricted in so many venues—think stadiums, parks and pools—that craft beer lovers couldn't enjoy their favorite beverage while out for a day of fun. Happily, with the proliferation of the craft beer can, now they “can.”

Four more ways to enjoy craft beer. Cheers! ♦

Mark Edelson is Iron Hill's Director of Brewery Operations. Under Edelson's leadership, Iron Hill's hand-crafted beers have received 42 medals in 18 consecutive years from the prestigious Great American Beer Festival (GABF), which also named Iron Hill “Large Brewpub of the Year” in 2005. In addition, Iron Hill has earned 25 medals at the biennial World Beer Cup, including the coveted award for “Champion Brewery & Brewmaster – Small Brewpub” in 2010, 2012 and 2014. Iron-HillBrewery.com.



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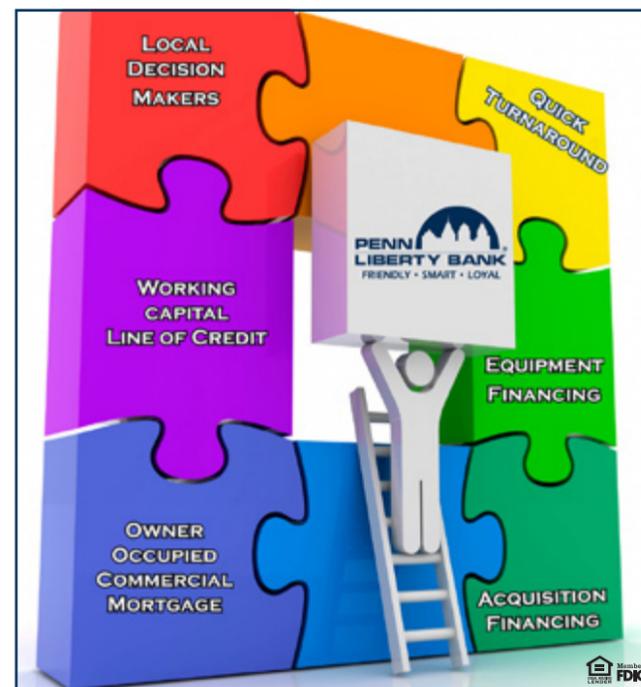
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Chicken

Laura Muzzi Brennan

FAST BECOMING OUR UNOFFICIAL NATIONAL BIRD.

Granted, the majestic eagle flies high on the President's flag, military insignia and stack after stack of dollar bills. But on the table, it's the unassuming chicken that represents America these days. A few years ago, chicken consumption in the U.S. surpassed beef for the first time in 100 years. With Americans eating an average of 60 pounds of chicken per year, we thought it high time to devote a column to our unofficial national bird.

Chicken dishes abound at **Yangming**, a local gem in Bryn Mawr that's garnered numerous awards including being named one of America's Best Chinese Restaurants by *Travel and Leisure* in 2013. The restaurant boasts two kitchens—one Chinese, one Western—and two co-executive chefs, Muyang Shen and Vince Viola, who've worked together and learned from each other since Yangming opened in 1991.

Out of Viola's kitchen comes the popular Wok-seared Stuffed Mirin Chicken and the winter special, Pan Seared Green Tea Pomegranate Chicken Breast. Diner's favorites from Shen's kitchen include Tarragon Chicken with Shiitake Mushrooms as well as Spicy Szechuan Sesame Chicken. As for which dish more customers should try, Viola ultimately settles on the Mango Chicken with Mirin Brandy sauce.

But for all 24 years of the restaurant's tenure, General Tso's Spicy Chicken has been Yangming's undisputed best-selling



Yangming co-executive chefs Muyang Shen and Vince Viola

chicken dish. Chef Viola thinks the combination of different tastes and textures—crispy, soft, spicy, sweet—is responsible for the dish's popularity, adding, "There is no scientific data to back me up on this, but I think General Tso's is high on the list of America's guilty culinary pleasures."

Besides talking with the chefs about Yangming's various dishes, I also wanted to know about techniques they use for keeping chicken moist, especially skinless, boneless breasts. One method, poetically named "velvetizing," involves marinating chicken in a mixture of oil, egg whites, cornstarch and seasonings. Another is poaching—cooking in gently simmering water or broth. The Tarragon Chicken recipe calls on both techniques.

Yangming's chefs also encourage home cooks like me to experiment with all different parts of the chicken—wings, breasts, thighs and drumsticks. For a long time, Americans overwhelmingly preferred white meat to dark. That trend seems to be slowly losing steam as many people rediscover the moist, rich flavor of drumsticks and thighs. For the truly adventurous, the Yangming chefs suggest chicken feet. "Yes, the feet!" says Chef Viola. "They are considered a delicacy in many Asian cultures."

And while you won't find feet on the Yangming menu or in any of the recipes in this column, here's hoping you will discover a few new ways to savor the familiar bird.



Tarragon Chicken with Shiitake Mushrooms



Spicy Szechuan Sesame Chicken



Pan Seared Green Tea Pomegranate Chicken Breast

General Tso's Spicy Chicken

Diners have made this Yangming's top-selling chicken dish for 24 years running.



For the sauce:

- ¾ C. soy sauce
- ¾ C. white wine vinegar
- 1½ C. sugar
- ¼ C. ketchup
- ½ C. premium rice wine
- 1½ C. chicken stock
- ½ C. orange juice
- Ground white pepper, to taste
- Five spice powder, to taste

For the chicken:

- 4 eggs
- 2½ lbs. boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into bite-sized pieces
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of ground white pepper
- ½ C. premium rice wine (Yangming chefs recommend Shaoxin brand.)
- 1 C. cornstarch
- ½ C. canola oil

To prepare:

- 1 gallon canola oil for frying
- 2 Tb. canola oil
- 1 Tb. minced garlic
- ½ C. diced green onion
- 1 Tb. chili sauce
- 1 Tb. sundried peppers
- 1 Tb. cornstarch and 1 Tb. water mixed together to make a slurry
- 4 C. broccoli for decoration

Mix sauce ingredients together in a small bowl and set aside.

Beat the eggs in a big mixing bowl. In another big bowl, mix chicken with salt, white pepper, and rice wine evenly. Then add the cornstarch until all the chicken pieces are coated with batter. Add the beaten eggs to chicken and mix them evenly. Then add canola oil to chicken and mix well.

In a deep fryer or large pot, heat the oil

to 350°. Fry until the chicken is golden brown on the outside. Drain on a paper-towel-lined plate.

Heat 2 Tb. canola oil in a wok or large skillet. Add garlic, green onion, chili sauce and sundried peppers to wok for a few seconds and stir. Stir in the sauce mixture, and bring to a boil. Add the slurry to the sauce to make the sauce thicker. Add the chicken and stir until the chicken pieces are well-coated with the sauce.

Steam broccoli and place it around plate for decoration.

Makes 4 servings.

Tarragon Chicken with Shiitake Mushrooms

Recipe courtesy of Yangming.

For the sauce:

- 4 Tb. rich chicken stock
- 2 Tb. soy sauce
- 1 Tb. sugar
- ½ Tb. tomato ketchup
- ½ Tb. white vinegar
- ½ Tb. oyster sauce
- 1 tsp. minced fresh garlic
- 1 tsp. minced ginger*
- 1 tsp. hot pepper sauce
- Pinch black pepper
- Pinch white pepper
- ½ tsp. sesame oil
- Pinch 5 spice powder

* Chef Shen recommends using young ginger, which is less tough and fibrous than the mature root.

For the chicken and vegetables:

- 1 lb. boneless chicken breasts, sliced
- 2 egg whites
- 2 Tb. cornstarch
- ¼ tsp. ground white pepper
- 1 Tb. vegetable oil
- ¾ Tb. olive oil
- 1 tsp. minced fresh ginger
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- 10-12 shallots, peeled and quartered
- ⅓ lb. fresh snow peas, trimmed and quartered
- ⅓ lb. fresh shiitake mushrooms
- 10-12 fresh sprigs tarragon

In a bowl, mix the sauce ingredients together. Set aside.

In a large bowl, combine sliced chicken, egg whites, cornstarch, white pepper and vegetable oil. (Some cookbooks refer to this

as velveting the chicken.) Set aside in refrigerator until ready to cook.

Poach the velveting chicken: Fill a pot with enough water to cover the chicken by an inch. Bring the water to a boil and then reduce to a simmer. Simmer uncovered until barely cooked. Set aside.

Heat wok. Add olive oil and heat. Then, add ginger, garlic and shallots. Stir fry for a few seconds. Add poached chicken, snow peas, mushrooms and tarragon. Stir fry quickly until crisp tender, adding a little water as needed to prevent sticking. Add sauce mixture and heat through. Mix well.

Remove to a platter. Garnish with fresh tarragon sprigs and any carve-able vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers and carrots.

Makes 4 servings.

Pan Seared Green Tea Pomegranate Chicken Breast

A popular winter special at Yangming, this dish is served with Brussels sprouts, sweet potatoes, onions and carrots.

For the pomegranate sauce:

- 2 Tb. minced shallots
- 2 Tb. blended oil*
- 1 C. port wine
- 2 C. pomegranate juice
- 2 Tb. pure maple syrup (or to taste)
- 2 Tb. cornstarch plus 2 Tb. water, mixed well to make a slurry
- 2 Tb. butter, at room temperature

For the chicken:

- 1 Tb. green tea powder
- 1 Tb. ground coriander seeds
- 1 Tb. ground pepper (combination of green, red, white and black)
- 1 tsp. ground star anise
- 1 tsp. ground Szechuan peppercorn
- 8, 8-oz. boneless chicken breasts with skin on
- 4 Tb. blended oil*

*Yangming uses a blend of 90% vegetable oil and 10% olive oil.

To make the pomegranate sauce:

Sauté shallots in 2 Tb. blended oil until soft but not brown, approximately 1-2 minutes. Add port wine and bring to a boil. Then turn heat to a low and simmer to reduce port wine by half.

Add the pomegranate juice and bring

to a boil before turning heat to medium. Cook for 5 minutes. Add the maple syrup and return heat to high and bring sauce back to a boil.

While the sauce is boiling, slowly add the slurry in a slow stream, stirring the whole time and cook until sauce coats a spoon. Return to a boil and then turn off heat and let sauce stand. In 5 minutes, add the butter in small pieces to the sauce, stirring constantly.

To make the chicken:

Preheat oven to 400°. In a large bowl, mix together green tea powder, coriander, pepper, star anise and Szechuan peppercorn.

Combine chicken breast and seasoning mix and evenly coat both sides of the chicken. Add 4 Tb. blended oil to a hot sauté pan.

When oil is hot, pan sear the chicken with skin side down and cook until skin becomes crispy brown. Turn chicken breast and cook until the internal temperature of the chicken registers 165° on a meat thermometer.

Place chicken breast on a pan and place in the oven while finishing the sauce.

To finish the dish:

Pour off the excess oil from the sauté pan that was used for cooking the chicken breasts and add the sauce to the pan. Bring the sauce to a boil while scraping the bottom of the pan to release the bits of flavor into the sauce.

Plate the chicken breast with your favorite vegetables and add sauce.

Makes 8 servings.

Roast Chicken with Potatoes, Artichokes and Olives

I adapted this recipe from The Smitten Kitchen by Deb Perelman. By removing its backbone and laying the chicken flat (also know as "spatchcocking"), you cut down on cooking time and end up with an evenly cooked bird. And the vegetables basted in chicken drippings? Pure heaven!

- 1 1/2 lbs. small red potatoes
- 2, 14-oz. cans artichoke hearts packed in water
- 8-10 cloves garlic, peeled
- 1/2 C. pitted Kalamata olives
- 2 Tb. olive oil

- 1/2 lemon
- 1-2 Tb. kosher salt, divided
- 3 1/2 lbs. chicken
- 1-2 tsp. Za'atar
- Pepper to taste



Preheat oven to 400°. Toss potatoes, artichokes, garlic and olives with 1 Tb. olive oil, lemon and a little kosher salt to taste. Place in a large casserole dish.

Remove backbone from chicken with kitchen shears. (This may sound difficult, but just cut down one side of the backbone and then the other and then pull to release the bone. Save bone to make stock.)

Rub salt on cavity of chicken. Then flip chicken over so it's breast side up. Brush with 1 Tb. olive oil and rub in 1-2 Tb. salt and 1-2 tsp. Za'atar. Place chicken over vegetables.

Roast for 45 minutes to 1 hour until a meat thermometer inserted in the thigh registers 165°.

Halfway through cooking, lift chicken up and stir vegetables around. If the skin starts to burn, cover loosely with aluminum foil. Allow to rest 10 minutes before serving.

Makes 4 servings.

Chicken a la King

When I was writing about casseroles and stews, I discovered this dish was a go-to for many mid-20th century home cooks. Hardly anyone makes Chicken a la King anymore, but I believe it's time to give this comfort food a second look. If you're in a hurry, serve it over rice or couscous cooked in the leftover poaching broth. But if you have time, make buttermilk biscuits and spoon the creamy stew over top.

- 1 lb. skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- 4-5 C. chicken broth (enough to cover chicken to poach plus 1 1/2 C. in reserve)
- 3 Tb. butter

- 2 stalks celery, cut into small dice
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 medium onion, cut into small dice (about 1/2 C.)
- 1/2 red pepper, cut into small dice
- 2 Tb. flour
- 1 C. light cream
- 1/2 lb. cremini or button mushrooms, sliced
- 1-2 Tb. sherry, optional
- chopped Italian parsley or snipped chives, optional

Place chicken breasts in a pot and add enough chicken broth to cover by an inch. Bring to a boil and then reduce to a simmer and poach chicken until cooked through. (A meat thermometer should register 165°.) Allow to cool in the broth and then cut into bite-sized cubes. Reserve broth.

In a Dutch oven or high-sided pan, melt butter over medium heat. Add celery and a pinch of salt. Cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring frequently.

Add onions and red pepper, and more salt if desired. Cook for another 5 minutes until vegetables are medium-soft. Sprinkle flour over vegetables and cook for 1 minute. Add 1 1/2 C. reserved broth, light cream, mushrooms and sherry if using. Bring to boil, then reduce to a simmer and cook for 5 minutes until mushrooms are tender and sauce has thickened. Add chicken and heat through, another 1-2 minutes.

Garnish with parsley or chives.

Makes 4 servings. ♦

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



For more great recipes visit Foodily.com/u/CountyLinesMagazine

talking with

Deirdre Pook Magarelli, at Pook & Pook

You may have passed the striking 1761 stone inn on the corner of Routes 30 and 113 as you've driven through Downingtown and wondered what happens at Pook & Pook at the twelve auctions held there each year. We wanted to find out more and so we talked with the founders' daughter and current vice-president, Deirdre Pook Magarelli.



Pook & Pook's major business is auctions. Why auctions?

My parents started off as antique dealers when we moved into the 1761 building on Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown in 1977. For many years, the downstairs of the old stone inn was an antique shop and we lived upstairs. That antiques business evolved into the auction business. Ultimately, the auctions were such a success that we closed the antique shop and put all our energies into auctions. Since Ron and Deb, my parents, started off as antique dealers, they have a great relationship with local dealers who buy at our auctions. We're all interested in the same thing—selling beautiful antiques.

Can you tell us a bit about how an auction operates? To start, where do you get the items?

All the items we get for auction are taken on consignment—we typically don't buy anything outright. Our consignors bring in everything from a single item to an entire house full of antiques. We take in a huge range of things including: Native American and Asian items, books and manuscripts, carpets, clocks, contemporary art, currency, decorative accessories, fine art, folk art, furniture, glass, jewelry, metalware, porcelain, pottery, silver, textiles, toys, weapons, wine.

And we work with hundreds of museums. Nonprofit organizations get several free services—Ron and Deb have always been huge supporters of nonprofits. For example, we offer them commission rates as low as 0%, as well as free advertising in our published catalogues.

Who comes to the auctions?

We see everyone walking through our doors—collectors, dealers, interior designers, museums directors and more. We've been seeing lots of new faces in the last few years including younger collectors. Young couples like antiques because they're unique, beautiful and sturdy. If you're a parent, like I am, you don't have to worry if your child has asthma or allergies because with antiques you won't find many of the chemicals used in new furniture and carpets. Plus, antiques trend up in value. When did you ever assemble a bookcase with an Allen wrench and make a profit on it?



How much bidding is done online and on the phone, versus in person?

That depends on the kind of auction and personal preference of bidders. Auctions with an in-house audience offer bidding in person, by phone, absentee and online. For these we see a nice mix of all four types of bidding.

Last August we launched Bidsquare with five other auction houses around the country with great success. With Bidsquare, we hold online-only auctions and all bidding takes place online, although we still offer exhibition times at the gallery.

What are a few of the more memorable items auctioned?

Everyone remembers the \$1.4 million piecrust tea table (photo below) because it was the first time a single antique sold at auction for more than \$1 million outside New York City. But Pook & Pook has broken dozens of other records—for stoneware and redware pieces and for several artists.

The most unusual thing we ever sold was probably the preserved whale penis from the Ripley's Believe It or Not estate, but you probably can't print that in your magazine. [Editor's note: yes we can.]

How can people find out about the auctions and attend one?

We email those on our mailing list a few times before each auction. For some auctions, we also publish a catalogue that's mailed to regular customers and subscribers. The calendar for our upcoming auctions and gallery exhibition time are posted on our website, PookandPook.com, so anyone can check there. And there's news on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and other social media, too. Antiques auctions are very 21st century! ♦

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