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'Tis the season. Already! And to help you be ready to enjoy all the best our area has to offer, let the pages of our December issue be your guide as we celebrate our historic towns and Main Streets and explore how to shop locally and shop small.

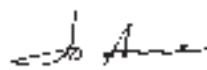
We help you find Santa, book your holiday seats at *The Nutcracker* and this year's panto performance of *Cinderella*, plus get the scoop on Historic Malvern, Downtown Wayne, Kennett Square, Phoenixville, West Chester and more, all at their holiday best. Our Best Local Events guide you to holiday concerts, horse-drawn carriage rides, house tours and family fun. So much to do—you may need a list!

But with a few tips from our pages, shopping will be so easy, you may not need *that* list. Start with some armchair Holiday Window Shopping as we give you reasons to visit shops that offer unique merchandise and are owned by local merchants happy to help. Our tour of West Chester takes you inside special shops before you head out in person and shop locally and well this year.

In "Art of Giving," we share how to pick a memorable gift—of art. Plus more ideas in "Great Books Make Great Gifts," some special wine suggestions, and we rev up your interest with a review of supercars—Maseratis, McLaren and Jaguars. Has anyone on your list been that good?

We also share ideas for enjoying your own holiday party more by having it catered—Robert Ryan Catering offers irresistible choices. And for choices for Christmas dinner, check out suggestions for classic dishes featured in Brandywine Table.

And finally, we wish you the very best of the season and a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year. Thank you for reading *County Lines*!


Jo Anne Durako
Editor



COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

December 2013

Volume XXXVII, Number 4

PUBLISHER

Edwin Malet

EDITOR

Jo Anne Durako

ART DIRECTOR / PRODUCTION

Alex Bianco

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marci Tomassone

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jaimielynn Cooper

DINING OUT EDITOR

Lise Monty

FOOD EDITOR

Laura Muzzi Brennan

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Sue Angelucci Sontagh

Chrisy Holsopple

BUSINESS MANAGER

Debra M. French

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Laurel Anderson

George Fitzpatrick

Matt Freeman

Emily Hart

Cooky McClung

Carol Metzker

Cindy Walker

William Woys Weaver

EDITORIAL INTERNS

Marissa Caldwell

Dana Helm

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Alix Coleman

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Contact us at:

ValleyDel Publications, Inc.
893 S. Matlack Street, Ste. 150
West Chester, PA 19382.

610-918-9300. Info@ValleyDel.com
Subscriptions: Special rate \$19.50/year.



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RECOGNIZED IN:

Barron's – Top 100 Women Financial Advisors (2006-13)
Fortune – One of America's Top 100 Independent Advisors (2008)
Wealth Manager – 50 Most Influential Women in Wealth (2009)
Worth – One of the Nation's Top Wealth Advisors (2009, 2010, 2011)
The 50 Top Women in Wealth – Wealth Manager Magazine (May 2010)
Philadelphia Business Journal – #2 Top Wealth Advisor (2010)
Registered Rep – Top 50 Independent Broker/Dealer Women Advisors (2011)
Barron's – Top 1,000 Financial Advisors (2006-12) <i>Only 40 Recognized in Pennsylvania (And the Only Woman in 2012!)</i>

Raised in Radnor, PA, Patricia Brennan has been providing Wealth Management advice *right here in West Chester* for over 25 years. She is a Georgetown University graduate and earned her CFP® designation in 1990. She is a recognized leader in her industry and serves as the first Chairwoman on the National Advisory Board for Royal Alliance. *Patti has just been selected as one of 400 Top Advisors by The Financial Times, another leading global brand and highly respected worldwide.* On a local level, Patti, her husband, Ed, and their four children reside in *West Chester*, where she is also active in her community. Patti currently serves as a board member for the Chester County Economic Development Council, Cuddle My Kids, and for The Chester County Hospital and Health System.

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Cover photo of West Chester for the holidays by Tim Vaughan, TimlynVaughanPhotos.com

A Holiday List for Uncle Sam

Elizabeth Shevlin Roberts, Bryn Mawr Trust Company

Tax saving tips for more holiday gifts.

As you hurry to make your holiday list, don't forget your financial planning list, which has only a slightly later deadline. There are many year-end planning techniques you can use to minimize your 2013 federal taxes. Here are four to discuss with your tax advisor before New Year's Eve.

Making Gifts

If you plan to make charitable contributions in 2013, consider donating appreciated assets rather than cash. This may avoid tax on the appreciation of the assets while, in many instances, still allowing you to deduct the full market value.

If you're 70½ or over, you can also decrease your taxes by making charitable gifts directly from your IRA to qualified charities before

December 31. You can exclude up to \$100,000 from your annual gross income, and this direct transfer to a charity may also satisfy required IRA minimum distributions for the year.

Finally, to save gift and estate taxes, you can make gifts that are sheltered by the annual gift tax exclusion—currently \$14,000 per recipient. As there's no limit on the number of people to whom you may make gifts, until the end of 2013. You can give up to \$14,000 to as many people as you wish, with no tax on gifts or use of your lifetime federal transfer tax credits.

Planning IRA Contributions

Contributions to your traditional IRA before the end of the year decrease your taxable income. The annual limit in 2013 is

\$5,500, with an additional \$1,000 catch-up contribution for taxpayers who are 50 years or older. If you actively participate in an employer pension plan, there are limitations based on your adjusted gross income for making deductible contributions.

More tax savings are possible by converting your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA before 2014. As you may know, the income limit on Roth IRA conversions does not apply for 2013.

Another strategy: If you converted your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA earlier this year and the value of the investments has fallen, you may reverse that conversion. This strategy is beneficial because you can convert again, now, and pay less tax on the conversion because of the decreased value of the investments. The tax on this conversion must be paid in the year of conversion, though.

And remember, if you're 70½, you must take the required minimum distributions from your IRA or pay a penalty of 50% of the amount not withdrawn.

Adjusting Income and Deductions

Deferring income until 2014 may offer tax savings if you expect to be in a lower tax bracket next year. Similarly, accelerating deductions by prepaying deductible expenses in 2013 can create tax savings by increasing deductions for the 2013 tax year.

A key consideration is the impact the federal alternative minimum tax (AMT) may have on you for 2013. Many tax breaks allowed for purposes of calculating regular taxes are not allowed for AMT purposes or are calculated in a more restrictive way for AMT purposes if you or your spouse is over 65. As a result, in some cases, deductions should not be accelerated. You should obtain professional advice to determine what's best for you.

Investing Strategies

Working with your investment and tax advisors, consider realizing losses on stock while preserving your investment position. There are several ways to do this. For example, you can sell the original holding and then buy back the same securities after a proscribed waiting period.

Be aware of the new 3.8% tax on net investment income, however, which is

imposed once certain income thresholds are reached (\$250,000 for joint filers; \$125,000 for a married individual filing a separate return; and, \$200,000 in any other case).

A final note: These are just highlights of some available year-end tax planning ideas, and restrictions and rules are required to qualify for the tax benefits. Additional tax-savings techniques may be available to you, but each should be evaluated in the context of your individual situation and in consultation with your tax advisor. ♦

Elizabeth Shevlin Roberts is the Chief Fiduciary Officer of the Wealth Management Division of The Bryn Mawr Trust Company. With over 25 years of experience in estate, trust and charitable gift planning and administration, she serves high net worth clients and coordinates charitable gift planning advice to nonprofit clients and donors with philanthropic interests.



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Good to Know

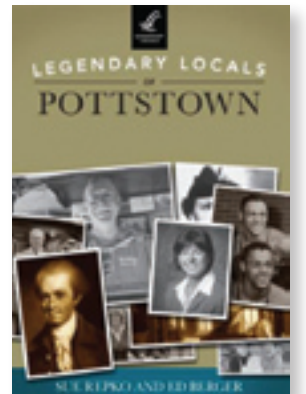
Just a few things we thought you'd like to know this month

Perpetual Poinsettia. Properly pronounced "poin-SET-tee-yah," this vibrant, tropical plant has become a holiday staple—but how? With leaves that resemble the Star of Bethlehem, it was introduced to the U.S. in 1828 by the first Mexican ambassador. Ever since, no Christmas has been complete without at least one potted plant. Keep yours warm at 60-70 degrees, water only when the soil is dry, and be sure to wrap it well during any car trip. Follow these tips, and your warm-weather plant will last well into winter!



Local Legends.

Pottstown native, Sue Repko, authored *Legendary Locals of Pottstown*, a new book that features town figures ranging from Colonial ironworker John Potts to professional athlete Dick Ricketts (playing both basketball and baseball). Engaging, vintage photos of these individuals, as well as new work by noted photographer Ed Berger complement these tales and paint a memorable portrait of Pottstown's rich history. Be sure to snag your copy—a perfect gift for local history buffs!

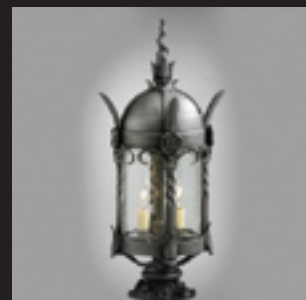


Dance Through the Holidays. For five years, **Carousel Ballroom** has delighted dance enthusiasts all over Chester County. For the holidays, the owners have planned special toe-tapping festivities. On December 21st join the Holiday Dance Party, complete with waltz lesson, open dancing, hot appetizer buffet and desserts. Next up is the Sparkling New Year's Eve Dance Party with a midnight champagne toast. The dress code is your holiday finest! For more information, visit CarouselBallroom.com.

An Acting Anniversary. The oldest continuing community theater on the Main Line celebrates its 85th year. **Footlighters Theater** is known for presenting creative and innovative performances in a charming, converted church with original stained glass window. Check out *Marley's Christmas Carol*, debuting December 6, which recounts Jacob Marley's untold perspective on Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Celebrate with the theater and get a behind-the-scenes look at Marley's attempts to save Scrooge's soul. Tickets at FootlightersTheater.com.



Shop Small. Imagine your favorite local businesses. Now imagine they've suddenly disappeared. **The 3/50 Project** aims to stop just that from happening. In December, pick 3 brick and mortar stores you'd be lost without and spend \$50 in each. By shopping small, you're keeping these businesses alive and benefiting the local economy. For every \$100 you spend at small businesses, \$68 is returned to the community. This holiday, buy small and give gifts you can feel good about. More at The350Project.net.



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of Special Note

Craft Forms 2013

December 6-January 25

The Wayne Art Center's annual, international juried exhibition of contemporary crafts features the finest works in ceramics, wood, fiber, metal, glass and mixed media. **Dec. 6**, Preview Party with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, tickets start at \$75, 6 to 10 p.m. Workshops and special events are offered throughout the exhibition. Check website for details. 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org; CraftForms.org.



Yuletide at Winterthur

Through January 5

This year's tour takes a look at the traditions early Americans brought with them from Europe, the various devices used to safely light up Christmas trees in pre-electricity days, and color wheels and bubble lights of the mid-20th century.

Dec. 4, 11, 18, Yuletide Jazz & Wine. 5105 Kennett Pk., (Rt. 52), Winterthur, DE. Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$5-\$20. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.



The Nutcracker

December 1-31

A holiday tradition with many performances in *County Lines* country. Phone or check websites for schedules. **Dec. 6-8**, Ballet Theater of Lancaster, 717-330-3451; BalletTheaterOfLancaster.org. **Dec. 7-29**, Pennsylvania Ballet, 215-551-7000; PABallet.org. **Dec. 13, 15-16**, Chester County Ballet, 610-431-2333; HarrisonDanceStudios.com. **Dec. 13-22**, Brandywine Ballet, 610-696-2711; BrandywineBallet.com. **Dec. 21-22**, Wilmington Ballet Academy of the Dance, 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com. **Dec. 21-22**, Central PA Youth Ballet, 717-534-3405; HersheyTheatre.com. **Dec. 21-22**, First State Ballet Theatre, 800-37-GRAND; TicketsAtTheGrand.org.



Vox Ama Deus Holiday Concerts

December 6, 8, 13, 15
December 20, 22

The 1749 Covent Garden version of *Handel's Messiah* is performed on original Baroque instruments: **Dec. 6**, Church of the Holy Trinity, 19th & Walnut Sts., Philadelphia, 7 p.m. **Dec. 8**, Daylesford Abbey, 220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli, 4 p.m. **Dec. 13**, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 22 E. Chestnut Hill Ave., Chestnut Hill, 7 p.m. **Dec. 15**, St. Katharine of Siena Church, Lancaster & Aberdeen Aves., Wayne, 4 p.m. **Renaissance Noël**, Renaissance Christmas music of Old Europe: **Dec. 20**, Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 8000 St. Martin's La., Chestnut Hill, 8 p.m. **Dec. 22**, Bryn Mawr College, Thomas Great Hall, 256 N. Merion Ave., Bryn Mawr, 4 p.m. \$10-\$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.



Malvern's Victorian Christmas

December 6-7

Events begin in Burke Park, for the lighting of the town tree. Then stroll King Street and visit shops offering complimentary refreshments. Enjoy many musical performances, children's shows, a live nativity, carriage, pony and hayrides, strolling street performers with many in period garb, Santa and Mrs. Claus and more. **Fri.**, 6 to 9 p.m.; **Sat.**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 610-296-9096; MalvernsVictorianChristmas.org.

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Best Local Events

Noteworthy in December ...

Through January 15
Historic Odessa Foundation Presents "A Madeline Christmas." The National Historic Landmark Corbit-Sharp House is transformed into a special holiday exhibit adapted from the classic children's tale. Other special events at the Historic Odessa Foundation include Candlelight Tours and Holiday Hearth Cooking demonstrations. 201 Main St., Odessa, DE. Tues-Sat, 10 to 4:30; Sun, 1 to 4:30. \$8-\$10. 302-378-4119; HistoricOdessa.com.



December 14
Phoenixville's 10th Annual Firebird Festival. Burning of the Firebird (Phoenix) will be at Friendship Field (Franklin Ave. & Fillmore St.). Transportation provided from downtown to and from the site. The fun begins at 3, burning of the Phoenix at 8:15. 610-933-9199; FirebirdFestival.com.

December 14
The Midtown Men Holiday Hits Show at DuPont Theatre. Celebrate the holidays '60s style with this performance by four stars from the original Broadway cast of *Jersey Boys*. DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 2 and 8 pm. \$50-\$65. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.



December 21
Brandywine Singers Holiday Concert. "An English Christmas," Vaughan Williams, Howells and Britten. St. Agnes Church, Gay St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$10-\$20. TheBrandywineSingers.org.

Antiques Shows

December 1
50th Anniversary Chestertown Antiques Show & Sale. Quality antiques dealers representing Period to 20th-century. Benefits the Kent Association of Riding Therapy. Washington College Lifetime Fitness Center, Chestertown, MD. Fri, 4 to 7; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 3. \$6. 410-810-4898; KentRidingTherapy.org.

Art & Craft Shows

Through December 22
Brandywine River Museum Holiday Market. Regional artisans display and sell their fine handcrafted objects in the courtyard. Artisans vary from week to week. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Sat-Sun, 9:30 to 4:30. Free with museum admission, \$6-\$12. 610-388-2700; BrandywineRiverMuseum.org.

Through December 31
"Home Tweet Home" Birdhouse Exhibit at Wharton Esherick Museum. Visit the juried exhibition featuring 16 unique birdhouses celebrating the museum's thematic woodworking competition. Located just outside of Valley Forge Park. Visits by reservation only. Mon.-Sat., 10 to 5; Sun., 1 to 5. 610-644-5822; WhartonEsherickMuseum.org.



Through January 26
18th Annual Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital Art Ability Exhibit & Sale. Artists with physical, cognitive, visual and hearing disabilities submit their work to this juried exhibition and sale. 414 Paoli Pk., Malvern. Daily 9 to 9. 484-596-5710; MainLineHealth.org/ArtAbility.

December 5-15
Main Line Art Center's Holiday Fine Craft Sale. A popular Main Line craft show featuring fine crafts by professional artists from the region. 746 Panmure Rd., Haverford. **Dec. 5**, Opening Night, 6 to 8; **Dec. 10**, Men's Night, 6 to 8; **Dec. 12**, Bubbles & Baubles, 6 to 8. Mon-Fri, 10 to 7:30; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, noon to 5. 610-525-0272; MainLineArt.org.

December 6-14
Community Arts Center's 11th Annual Holiday Sale. Make it a Handcrafted Holiday. In cooperation with the Potters Guild, the holiday tradition continues with fine, handcrafted work by juried artisans. **Dec. 6**, preview party, 7 to 9:30 pm, \$5; **Dec. 11**, Men's Night Shopping, 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. Mon-Fri, 10 to 8; Sat-Sun, 10 to 5. 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org.

December 7
Kimberton Holiday Craft Fair. Crafts and collectibles for the holidays. Benefits the fire company. Kimberton Fire Company, 752 Pike Springs Rd. Kimberton. 9 to 2. Free. 484-645-9033 or 610-917-2270.

Eat, Drink & Be Merry

January 14, 2014
12th Annual "A Taste of Phoenixville."

A premier food, wine, beer event featuring selections from some of Phoenixville's finest restaurants and caterers. Live music, silent auction and dancing. Benefits the Good Samaritan Shelter. Phoenixville Foundry, 2 N. Main St. \$85. 6 to 10. 610-933-9305; TasteOfPhoenixville.com.

Family Fun

Through January 12
Longwood Gardens Garden Railway. This is a whimsical display set into motion with G-scale model trains traveling in and out of bridges, tunnels, and special water features. 1001 E. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square. Through Jan. 12, 9 am to 10 pm. Mon-Fri, \$8-\$18; Sat-Sun, \$11-\$25. Timed admission tickets are required. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

Holiday Events & Tours

Through December 31
Holiday Events at Delaware Art Museum. **Dec. 6**, "Art is Social: Ugly Sweater Party," featuring karaoke, holiday drinks and prizes, 8 to 11, \$5. **Dec. 7-8**, Winter Art Fair, local artists exhibit and sell their original works, noon to 4. **Dec. 21**, Winter Solstice Labyrinth Walk & Luminaria Labyrinth Walk, 1 to 2 pm; 4:30 to 5:30. **Dec. 31**, New Year's Eve Celebration, 10 pm to 1 am, \$100. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.



Through January 5
A Brandywine Christmas. A holiday tradition featuring an extensive O-gauge model railroad, natural "critter" ornaments (Annual Critter Sale, **Dec. 7-8**), and rare antique dolls dressed in period clothing, in dollhouse rooms (see article in this issue). Brandywine River Museum, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily, 9:30 to 4:30; **Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26** until 9 and **Dec. 27-30** until 6. \$6-\$12. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

Through January 5
Pennypacker Mills Holiday Tours. The historic site, once home to PA Governor Samuel Pennypacker, is decorated in true Victorian style for the holidays. 5 Haldeman Rd., Schwenksville. Tues-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 1 to 4. Donation, \$2. 610-287-9349; MontcoPA.org/PennypackerMills.



Through January 5
Morris Arboretum's Holiday Garden Railway. Thousands of sparkling lights

adorn a miniature village surrounded by a ¼-mile track with model trains zipping in and out of tunnels, over bridges and through the woods—all outdoors in the winter garden. 100 E. Northwestern Ave., Phila. 10 to 4. \$7-\$16. 215-247-5777; MorrisArboretum.org.

Through January 12
A Longwood Christmas. Wander through half a million twinkling lights, thousands of poinsettias and magnificent trees. Organists share the sounds of the season and fountains dance in this holiday wonderland. 1001 E.

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Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square. Through Jan. 12, 9 am to 10 pm. Mon-Fri, \$8-\$18; Sat-Sun, \$11-\$25. Timed admission tickets are required. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.



December 1, 7-8, 14-15
Brandywine Valley Wine Trail Holiday Open House. The wineries will be decorated in their holiday finery and will be hosting carolers, holiday musicians and special holiday sale pricing. All wineries, weekends, noon to 5. Free. Wineries may charge regular price for tastings. 866-390-4367; BVWineTrail.com.

December 1, 8, 15, 22
Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides in Kennett Square. Horse-drawn carriage rides throughout town, leaving from the cor-

ner of State and Union Sts. \$5. Sundays, noon to 3 pm. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

December 4-31
Holiday Events in Media. **Dec. 4, 11, 18,** carriage rides departing from the front of Media Court House, Front St., 6 to 9 pm, \$5-\$10. **Dec. 14-23,** Visit Santa, Santa's Village, Franklin Mint Credit Union, State and Olive Sts. Mon-Fri, 3 to 7 pm; Sat-Sun, 12 to 4 (add'l evening time on Dec. 14, 6 to 9). **Dec. 31,** New Year's Ball Drop, ring in the New Year at State and Jackson Sts. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPa.com.

December 5-6
Women's Committee of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Presents A Holiday Boutique. The area's finest boutiques participate to benefit CHOP. Merion Cricket Club, 325 Montgomery Ave., Haverford. Preview Thurs, 5 to 9, \$125-\$1,000 (includes Fri); Fri, 9 to 3, luncheon available, \$30. 267-426-6489; Giving.Chop.edu.

December 5, 12, 19, 26
Brandywine River Museum Holiday Programs. The museum and restaurant will remain open on Thursday evenings until 9 pm with holiday entertainment, storytelling and more. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. \$6-\$12. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

December 6
Historic Yellow Springs Holiday Stroll. Tree lighting ceremony followed by carol singing and refreshments, children's holiday crafts and a story time. Special food treats and a visit from Santa make this a fun-filled evening for all. Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 6 to 8:30 pm. Free. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.



December 6
Phoenixville Christmas Parade. The parade starts at 7, from the 300 Block of Bridge Street, then along Bridge St. for the tree lighting at Bridge and Main Sts. at 8 pm. 610-933-8801; Phoenixville.org.

December 6
Country Christmas in Downtown Oxford. Lots of activities for the whole family including carriage rides, jingle hayrides,

Local Farm Markets

While many outdoor farm markets close for the winter months, there are a few that stay open and some that are happy to welcome you indoors.

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

Downingtown Farmers Mkt., Kerr Park, Rt. 30. **Year-round,** Thurs, 3 to 7. 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

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

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

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

West Chester Growers Mkt., Chestnut and Church Sts. **Through Dec.,** Sat, 9 to 1. 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.



tree lighting, holiday scavenger hunt, and, of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus. S. Third St., Oxford. 5 to 9 pm. 610-998-9494.

December 6-7
Old Fashioned Christmas In Wayne. **Dec. 6,** 5:30 to 7:30, horse-drawn carriage rides, carollers, kids activities; 7:30, Christmas tree lighting at Wayne Train Station led by 6ABC Action News reporter Vernon Odom. **Dec. 7,** Santa Parade along Lancaster Ave. ending at the Wayne Hotel, 139 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne, where children can visit with Santa, enjoy cookies and hot chocolate. Parade begins at 10 am. 610-687-5000; WayneChristmas.com.

December 6-8
Hay Creek Historical Assoc. Christmas at Joanna Furnace. Enjoy an evening in the parlors of colonial and Victorian families as they celebrate Christmas. Horse-drawn carriage rides, a Christmas Market, food, a bonfire, live nativity and walking tours.



Rt. 10, 3 mi. N of Morgantown. Daily, 5 to 9. \$5; 12 and under. free. 610-286-0388; HayCreek.org.

December 6-8, 13-15
Devon in December: Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale. Fresh, locally grown Fraser and Douglas firs and holiday wreaths for sale; Benefits Devon Horse Show Foundation. Adjacent to the Horse Show Grounds, Rt. 30, Devon. Fri, 4:30 to 7; Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 4. 610-964-0550; TheDevonHorseShow.org.

December 7
Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation's Christmas on the Farm. Get into the holiday spirit and visit the Plantation on its closing day for the year and enjoy tea tasting, wassailing, plus

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Dec. 6 & 7, 2013



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textile and long rifle demos. Ridley Creek State Park, Media. 11 to 5. \$8-\$10. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.

December 7
Chadds Ford Historical Society's Candlelight Christmas Holiday House Tour. See article in this issue.

December 7
Coatesville Christmas Parade. Lively and festive with bands, floats, antique cars, cartoon characters and entertainment. Strobe Ave. to 11th St., Coatesville. 10 am. CoatesvilleChristmasParade.com.

December 7
28th Annual Chestertown Holiday House Tour. Tour of notable private residences and public buildings decorated for the holidays. Purchase tickets at the start of the tour: Emmanuel Episcopal Church Chester Parish, 101 N. Cross St., Chestertown, MD. Noon to 3. \$15 in advance, \$20 day of tour. 410-810-2643; Chestertown.com.

December 7-January 6
Holidays at Hagley. Programs based on early du Pont family holiday celebrations and New Year's traditions including an elab-

orate Twelfth Night display in the dining room. Rt. 141, Wilmington. 9:30 to 4:30. \$10-\$14; under 14, free. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

December 8
Holidays at The Willows. Holiday entertainment, refreshments, music, crafts, face-painting and Santa. Willows Mansion, 490 Darby-Paoli Rd., Radnor. 2 to 4:30. Fireworks follow at 5. Free. 610-688-5600; RadnorRecreation.com.

December 8
Annual Candlelight Holiday Home Tour in Kennett Square. Historic homes will be decked out for the holidays and open to visitors. Tickets required. 610-444-8141; KennettSquareHistory.org/CandlelightHome-Tour.html.



December 13
National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum Holiday Open House. Stroll through the candle-lit grounds, enjoy holiday refreshments and the train display, listen to carolers, tour beautifully decorated historic buildings and be sure to slip your wish list to Santa. 50 S. 1st Ave., Coatesville. Suggested donation of a canned good for the Coatesville Emergency Food Cupboard. 5 to 8 pm. 610-384-9282; SteelMuseum.org.



December 14
The Spirit of Christmas in New Castle, DE. See article in this issue.

December 14
Christmas in Marshallton House Tour. See article in this issue.

December 28
Firebird Theatre's Holiday Revue at The Colonial Theatre. Fun for the entire family, this year's revue is based on Frank Capra's *It's A Wonderful Life*, in a 1940s radio show-style



Here Comes Santa Claus

An at-a-glance guide ... where to find Santa in County Lines country.

Dec. 1, Winter Festival at Oakbourne

Dec. 6, Phoenixville Christmas Parade

Dec. 6, Country Christmas in Downtown Oxford

Dec. 6, Historic Yellow Springs Holiday Stroll

Dec. 6-7, MARSdrinks Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration in West Chester

Dec. 6-7, Malvern's Victorian Christmas

Dec. 6-7, Old Fashioned Christmas In Wayne

Dec. 7, Coatesville Christmas Parade

Dec. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, West Chester Railroad's Santa's Express

Dec. 8, Holidays at the Willows, Radnor

Dec. 13, National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum Holiday Open House

Dec. 14, Santa Arrives by Helicopter at The American Helicopter Museum

Dec. 14-23, Santa's Village in Media



adaptation of the beloved holiday movie. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 1 and 7 pm. \$8-\$15. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

Towns, Boroughs, Tours

December 6, January 3
First Fridays. Stroll through area towns to find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. **Berwyn,** 610-203-4543; BerwynDevonBusiness.com. **Kennett Square,** 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City,** 717-

509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. **A Main Line ARTitude,** 610-642-4040; FirstFridayMainLine.com. **Oxford,** 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **Phoenixville,** 610-933-3070; PhxFirstFriday.com. **Wayne,** 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. **West Chester,** 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com; **Wilmington,** 302-576-2100; ArtLoopWilmingtonDE.com.

December 14, January 11
Media's Second Saturdays. Media's version of First Fridays. 610-566-5210; MediaArtsCouncil.org.



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www.brandywinemuseum.org

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Valentin Radu, Artistic Director & Conductor

HANDEL MESSIAH

Ama Deus Ensemble
Valentin Radu, Conductor

Friday, December 6 at 7 PM
The Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia

Saturday, December 7 at 7 PM
Nassau Christian Center, Princeton, NJ

Sunday, December 8 at 4 PM
Daylesford Abbey, Paoli

Friday, December 13 at 7 PM
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chestnut Hill

Sunday, December 15 at 4 PM
St. Katharine of Siena Church, Wayne

RENAISSANCE NOËL

Vox Renaissance Consort
Valentin Radu, Conductor

Friday, December 20 at 8 PM
Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Chestnut Hill

Sunday, December 22 at 4 PM
Bryn Mawr College – Thomas Great Hall

GERSHWIN BLUE

Gershwin – Ravel –
John Williams

Peter Donohoe- piano
Ama Deus Ensemble
Valentin Radu, Conductor

Friday, January 3 at 8 PM
Kimmel Center, Philadelphia

www.KimmelCenter.org 215.893.1999 | www.VoxAmaDeus.org 610.688.2800



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CHURCH OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN PAOLI

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Entrance Exam

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Saturday, December 14

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Malvern Prep is an Independent, Augustinian, Catholic, college preparatory school for boys in grades 6 – 12.

Museums

Through January 5

Delaware Museum of Natural History Exhibit, "Ice Age Imperials." Touch and interact with real fossils from ancient animals such as the cave bear, the largest breed of lion and shaggy elephants. 4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30; Sun, noon to 4:30. \$7-\$9. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.

Through January 12

Delaware Art Museum Exhibit. "Femfolio," a print portfolio of 20 women artists important to the feminist movement of the 1970s. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$6-\$12; under 6, free; Sun, free. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

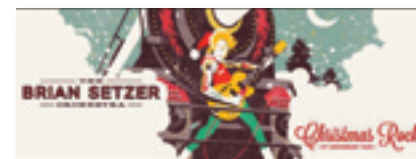
Music, Dance & Live Shows

December 1, 8

Holiday Concerts at The Colonial Theatre. **Dec. 1,** City Rhythm Orchestra: Holiday Style, 7 pm, \$10-\$25. **Dec. 8,** Holiday Pipe Organ Concert, 3 pm, \$5-\$10. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

December 5

Brian Setzer Orchestra at The Grand Opera House. Performing both familiar and novelty holiday tunes with his signature mix of neo-swing, jump blues and rockabilly rhythms. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. 8 pm. \$60-\$90. 302-658-7897; TheGrandWilmington.org.



December 7

Kennett Symphony's "Spirit of the Season." This annual holiday concert is a family tradition in Chester County. Kennett High School, 100 E. South St. 8 pm. \$5-\$40. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

December 8

Immaculata Symphony. Christmas Concert featuring a selection of holiday favorites. Alumnae Hall, Immaculata University, King Rd., Immaculata. 3 pm. \$8. Visit ImmaculataSymphony.org.

December 13, 15

Celebrate Your Holidays with the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Music memories from heartwarming holiday movies and television specials. Franklin & Marshall College, Barshinger Center

for Musical Arts, Lancaster. Fri, 7:30; Sun, 3. \$19-\$42. 717-397-7425; LancasterSymphony.org.

December 14

The Sound of Christmas Starring Elisabeth Von Trapp with the Carolian Brass at The Grand Opera House. The most musical granddaughter from the acclaimed *Sound of Music* family sings familiar carols of the season and tells stories of Christmas traditions from her Austrian childhood. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. 8 pm. \$31-\$37. 302-658-7897; TheGrandWilmington.org.

December 14–15

Chester County Choral Society Presents "Holiday Traditions." Get in the holiday spirit with your choice of concerts: **Dec. 14,** Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 212 S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. **Dec. 15,** Church of the Good Samaritan, 212 W. Lancaster Ave., Paoli, 3 pm. \$5-\$15. ChesterCountyChoralSociety.org.

December 21

Pennsylvania Symphonic Winds Holiday Concert at Exton Mall. Premiere wind bands beautiful holiday selections to

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Saturday Dec. 7th 12:00 to 8:00
& Sunday Dec. 8th 12:00 to 5:00

Info: www.TimlynVaughanPhotos.com 610-842-2289

brighten your season. 260 Exton Sq. Pkwy., Exton. 2 pm. Free. PennsylvaniaSymphonic Winds.org.

Outdoor Events, Sports

December 7
4th Annual Festive 5K Run/Walk in Coatesville. All ages and fitness levels are welcome to participate in this fundraiser for the Coatesville Youth Initiative. Scott Middle School, 800 Olive St., Coatesville. 8 am registration, start at 9. \$25. 610-380-9080; CoatesvilleChristmasParade.com.

December 15
24th Annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis. Wear a holiday-themed costume and run or walk a 5K route with your team members and celebrate the season by giving. This is a dog-friendly event. Great Valley High School, Phoenixville Pk., Malvern. Registration, 8 am; run at 10. \$15-\$25. JBR-Philly.Kintera.org.

Theater

Through December 22
Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Scott

Langdon performs his one-man interpretation of the original Dickens masterpiece. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Fri, 9:45 am; Sat, 11; Sun, 7 pm. \$10-\$12. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.



Through January 4
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The Biblical story of Joseph and his jealous brothers is brought to musical life. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Call for curtain times. \$25-\$42. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

Through January 12
Cinderella: A Musical Panto. See "Theater Spotlight" in this issue.

December 3-8
West Side Story. Don't miss this thrilling presentation of one of the most memorable musicals and greatest love stories of all time. DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Tues-Thurs, 7 pm; Fri-Sat, 8 pm; Wed, Sat-Sun, 2 pm. \$30-\$85. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.



January 16-February 9
Ghosts. Henrik Ibsen's scathing commentary on 19th-century morality. People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Sun, 7; Wed, Sat, Sun, 2. \$26-\$46. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org. ♦

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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New Beginnings

Dating back to the Babylonians in 4000 BC, New Year's resolutions were largely developed by the Romans. Worshippers offered resolutions of good conduct to the god of beginnings and ends—Janus, namesake of January. And so January 1st became the official day of new beginnings.

Firing Up the Celebration

A long-standing New Year's Eve tradition, fireworks are credited to the Chinese, who used them to scare away evil spirits with loud noise and bright fire.

In the U.S., fireworks were first part of New Year's Eve in 1904 when *New York Times* owner Alfred Ochs planned a celebration commemorating the completion of his new headquarters, Times Tower. Over 200,000 people attended the all-day street festival, ending with a dazzling fireworks display at midnight.

The Making of the Ball

When fireworks were banned from Times Square as too hazardous, the New Year's Eve ball was born. The original 1907 ball was made of iron and wood, a hundred 25-watt light bulbs, and weighed 700 pounds.

In the past century, the ball has seen several transformations, and now weighs 11,875 pounds, is made of Waterford crystal, and shines with over 30,000 LED lights. Today nearly one million people watch the ball drop on New Year's Eve in Times Square.

Birth of the New Year

A different kind of celebration, the First Baby of the New Year is a title recognized at many hospitals. Baby and family generally receive media attention and gifts. And the first baby born during the New Year is said to bring good luck to the family.

Your Own New Year

If you don't want to join the throng in the Big Apple for the ball drop, go local. Media hosts a New Year's Eve ball drop downtown on State and Jackson Streets. Join the crowd at 11 p.m. for live entertainment by local band Philly Gumbo.

Or, make your resolutions, pop open a bottle of champagne, and celebrate among family and friends at home or in a local restaurant.

However you ring in the New Year, *County Lines* wishes you the best of luck and happiness for 2014! ♦

~ Marissa Caldwell



Join the celebration of 10 years of
Holiday Panto fun at People's Light & Theatre.

Cinderella

A Musical Panto

Gina Pisasale



It's Holiday Panto time! This year, People's Light & Theater marks its 10th Holiday Panto with *Cinderella: A Musical Panto*, by Kathryn Petersen, music and lyrics by Michael Ogborn. Get ready for another music-filled and unfailingly entertaining production—a much-anticipated and beloved holiday tradition.

If you don't know about the Holiday Pantos, you don't know what you're missing. Harking back to the 18th century, pantos were adapted from familiar folk and children's tales, making them popular with adults and children alike. As Petersen explains, "I'm still telling the tale of *Cinderella* [but] I'm going to tell it a way an audience has never heard it before, and I'm going to twist it and have fun with it. But there's still the essence of the story."

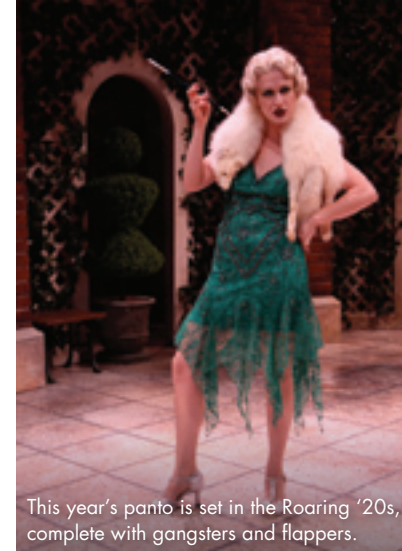
You'll see a "mash up" of various versions of the Cinderella folk tale. That's why in this panto version, rather than a Fairy Godmother popularized by the 1950 Disney film, you'll meet a fairy godtree that grants Ella Opfinder (derisively called Cinderella by her mean-spirited stepsisters because of soot on her face) her wishes to go to the ball.

Other twists on the tale include setting the story in the roaring '20s. Cinderella's animal pals are gangster-types that help her with her chores, but also help solve the crime of what really happened to Cinderella's mother. The evil stepsisters, Poisianna and Invasia Loosestrife, are wannabe flappers who greet folks with a "Hey-ho, daddy-o" and ask Barnaby, the Prince's valet, to dance or "Charlie this joint" at a speakeasy. Petersen has also taken cues from vaudeville teams to create hilarious exchanges between the Prince of Sargasso, who seeks relief from his princely duties, and his valet, who values protocols and social responsibilities.

Pantos Come to People's Light

How pantos came to People's Light reads a lot like a classic American story of cultural integration and reinvention. While attending one of Peterson's adult theater classes, Dr. Gary Smith, a British-born, renowned epidemiologist, adapted the popular English folk tale, *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, into a panto. Petersen fell in love with the form and produced it as part of the theater's Outside the Box Festival in 2001. Petersen recalls, "It was so much fun because it was so audience interactive."

By that time, People's Light had gotten off the *Christmas Carol* train, Smith was commissioned to write the theater's first Holiday Panto, *Sleeping Beauty*. The panto proved to be a valuable addition to family programming at the theater.



This year's panto is set in the Roaring '20s, complete with gangsters and flappers.



Cinderella was last performed in 2009. Here's a shot of that cast. Come see what they've done for this year!

Over the years, the Holiday Panto has been adapted to audience tastes in Malvern. Since its debut in 2004, and thanks to the flexibility of the form itself, People's Light pantos have been tailored to local audiences' sensibilities and humor. A few examples: *Cinderella* is set in Malvernistan; when the Prince threatens to abandon his royal duties, he says he'll leave "on the R5 in the morning;" and Cinderella's animal pals improvise a football play with her infamous shoe and chant "E-A-G-L-E-S EAGLES!"

A core group of artists have honed the development and performance style of pantos at People's Light to truly make them their own. Pete Pryor, Associate Artistic Director and director of the past five pantos at People's Light, observes "Everyone that's been in the panto rehearsal room has developed a kind of performance vocabulary that's unique to this process. It's all about invention, giving and taking, flexibility, and expert levels of coordination."

Bringing Generations Together

Acting company member Mark Lazar has been in all the Holiday Pantos playing the key role of the Dame, who Petersen describes as "the big man in drag, with a fabulous costume." Lazar reflects that he's most proud that the panto brings two and sometimes three generations of families to the theater and "puts them all in the same room at the same time, having a good time." Lazar has noticed pantos seem to "work best when there's a mix of everybody" in the audience.

Petersen shares this belief, saying, "I love standing in the wing looking down a row of audience and seeing a whole family from kids to grandparents, all of them rapt and laughing. Real credit



Mark Lazar plays the key role of the Dame in the Holiday Pantos. He'll be making an appearance in *Cinderella*.

goes to the whole team for making that happen year after year, but there's something about the form that, if we do our job right, respects everybody in the room."

As People's Light marks its tenth anniversary of Holiday Pantos, we remember the past and celebrate those who have come together to make it such a joyful, raucous and entertaining event for the holidays. The performers who create what's up on stage pitch in to the fun, but audience members are also full participants.

Please join in this year's romp through the beloved tale of *Cinderella*, and bring parents, grandparents and children from 5 to 105 to share the Holiday Panto's joyful future. ♦



If You Go:

Where: People's Light & Theatre
39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern

When: Through January 12

Box Office: 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org

Next: *Ghosts*, Jan. 15–Feb. 9;

Pride & Prejudice, Feb. 26–Mar. 30;

Dear Elizabeth, Apr. 2–27; and more.





PHOTOS: DAVE JENSEN

Holiday House Tour — On a Small Scale

Christine B. Podmaniczky

Take a different kind of house tour as your imagination opens the doors to the enchantment of dollhouses.



The Brandywine River Museum is all “dolled up” for the holidays with dozens of rare antique dolls dressed in beautiful period clothing “living” inside a unique dollhouse from the museum’s collection. And this is no ordinary dollhouse—clearly no Barbie’s hot pink Dreamhouse. Instead, you’ll find an 8 x 10-foot dollhouse that once belonged to artist and composer Ann Wyeth McCoy (1915-2005), filled with exquisite, hand-crafted furnishings.

The dollhouse on display as part of “A Brandywine Christmas” exhibition is large—at 9½ feet high—but the rooms and furnishings are sized for dolls only 16 to 24 inches. Because of the space limitations, you’ll see the façade of the dollhouse, surrounded by recreations of rooms filled with Mrs. McCoy’s antique dolls and hundreds of miniature furnishings.

A lifelong doll collector, Mrs. McCoy received a large dollhouse in 1966 from her husband, artist John McCoy, when he renovated an outdoor shed, dividing it into two floors and six main rooms, adding a bow window, chimney and front porch. Mrs. McCoy decorated the rooms, using doll-sized furniture, rugs and other accessories. Most of the furniture was hand-crafted by John McCoy and other family members, including Nathaniel Wyeth, Ann’s older brother.

Other members of the extended Wyeth family contributed special pieces to the dollhouse as well. There are even several miniature reproductions of paintings by N.C., Andrew and Jamie Wyeth. Curtains and other items were made for the house or purchased from antiques shops.

Mrs. McCoy rearranged the dolls and furnishings each year. A special delight was decorating the house for Christmas, recalling her own childhood when her father, the renowned artist N.C. Wyeth, created Christmas celebrations for his family. From the decorated Christmas tree to the scaled reproduction of N.C. Wyeth’s *Old Kris* that hangs above the mantelpiece in the living room, the McCoy dollhouse is a charming miniature world.

Nearby, another display with larger-sized dolls recreates the living room of N.C. Wyeth’s house. Among the toys on view are a miniature barn made by N.C. Wyeth for his daughter, Carolyn, filled with animals; miniature furniture made by son Nathaniel; miniature soldiers given to Andrew; and books given to all of the children. The tree is decorated with ornaments used by the Wyeth family over decades, adding to the holiday scene.

Of course, it wouldn’t be “A Brandywine Christmas” without also making time to visit to the museum’s train collection. With more than 1,000 pieces—locomotives, passenger and freight trains, clockwork sets and trolleys—all moving along 2,000 feet of track, the annual exhibition is one of the largest modular model railroad installations in the world. The trains move through a landscape loosely based on southeastern Pennsylvania scenery and pass a small town, a farm, factories, a drive-in movie theater and even a carnival.

Your final stop should be to see the thousands of whimsical “Critters,” ornaments and decorations handcrafted from natural materials by Brandywine Conservancy volunteers and displayed on towering trees soaring up through the museum’s three-story rotunda. ♦

If You Go:

A Brandywine Christmas, through Jan. 5, 2014
Brandywine River Museum, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford
610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org

Ann Wyeth McCoy





Chadds Ford Historical Society's
Candlelight Christmas Tour



West Chester Public Library
Holiday Home Tour



Christmas in Marshallton House Tour

There's No Place Like Homes for the Holidays

Dana Helm

Get in the Spirit with a Holiday House Tour.

Part of the charm of the holiday season is enjoying homes decked out in their full glory of holiday finery. Our area goes well beyond strings of lights and plastic reindeer posed on lawns, instead festooning homes with welcoming Christmas wreaths, old-fashioned stockings nailed over the fireplace, candles burning in frost-covered windows, and so much more.

For those who can't get enough of these traditional holiday scenes, here are Holiday House Tours to help you get your holiday fix.

Chadds Ford Historical Society's Candlelight Christmas Tour

This 15-stop tour leads you through the wintry hills of

Chadds Ford to beautiful period homes sure to spark your holiday spirit. Visitors can start at any site, then walk or drive to other festively decorated tour destinations in the self-guided program.

One property of special note is the John Chad House, built in 1725 of Brandywine bluestone, which played an important role in the Battle of Brandywine. Make sure you see The Yellow House of Willowdale and the Marlborough Meetinghouse, too.

The tour ends at the Galer Winery and Farmhouse, decorated for the occasion and welcoming guests with a wine tasting for holiday spirits of a different kind. *Sat., Dec. 7, 1 to 6. \$20 advance; \$25 day of tour at Chadds Ford Historical Society. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org.*

West Chester Public Library Holiday Home Tour

Celebrating its 125th Anniversary, the West Chester Public Library plans to make this year's Holiday Home Tour extra special. Eleven picturesque homes, dating from 1787 to 1959 and each with a unique history, will be open for touring in the Borough.

Seven featured homes surround the beautifully preserved Everhart Park. West Chester University will also participate in the fun, serving refreshments at the University Alumni House and opening Tanglewood, home to University Presidents, to visitors. Do stop by the Library and celebrate with a slice of birthday cake! *Sat., Dec. 7 (snow date Dec. 8), 10 to 3. \$30, \$40 day of tour. 610-696-1721; WCPublicLibrary.org.*

The Spirit of Christmas in Historic New Castle

Get in the holiday spirit with this all-day event sponsored by the New Castle Presbyterian Church and the Visitors' Bureau. You can tour notable museums and historic homes all turned out for the season.

The Amstel House will be decorated for traditional Colonial Christmas festivities, while the Dutch House will feature a celebration of St. Nicholas' Eve. At the Court House, and throughout town, you'll find musical performances and other entertainment. Stop by the Church to peruse crafts, books, gifts and homemade, stomach-warming soups on sale.

Visitors will be welcomed with special discounts at shops and restaurants throughout Old New Castle. The festive fun concludes with the annual tree-lighting and caroling in the Market

Square. *Sat., Dec. 14, 10 to 5. All events are free. 302-328-3279; NewCastlePres Church.org.*

Christmas in Marshallton House Tour

View the tranquil beauty of the Village of Marshallton during this 21-stop tour of historic homes and public areas. All the stops, including a stately serpentine stone home and one of the oldest homes in Marshallton, will be done up in holiday splendor. The United Methodist Church will host a luncheon, holiday cookie sale, gallery of local artists' work and other events with no tour ticket required. *Sat., Dec. 14, 10 to 4. \$25 in advance; \$30 day of the tour. 610-696-5247; Marshallton Church.org.*



The Spirit of Christmas in
Historic New Castle, DE



West Chester Public Library
Holiday Home Tour

Candlelight Holiday Home Tour in Historic Kennett Square

This year's tour will visit homes and public buildings that highlight the unique and varied history of Kennett Square. The Presbyterian Church will kick off its upcoming 150th anniversary (in 2014) and serve as one of the stops on the tour and open up the home of its first pastor.

Other houses represent all periods in Kennett Square history. The oldest home is a brick, Federal-style home built in 1844 and the "newest" is a charming bungalow.

This self-guided tour includes a brochure describing a brief history of each home and what you can expect to see there. Sat., Dec. 8, 4 to 7. Tickets, \$20. 610-444-8141; Historic KennettSquare.com. ♦



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Great Books Make Great Gifts

Andrea Kiliany Thatcher,
Chester County Book Company

Book lovers on your gift list may happily give up their reading wish lists, but sometimes it's more fun to surprise them! With so many choices, happy readers may not be sure which tome they want to cuddle up with in front of the fire once the wrapping paper is discarded.

Here are a few of our favorites to help you delight everyone on your holiday list—even the (gasp!) self-proclaimed non-readers.

For Fiction Fans

Dear Life by Alice Monroe – This newly minted Nobel Prize winner for Literature has been on everyone's lips and everyone's night tables. If you've already read this short story collection, you can't go wrong with another selection from Monroe's impressive catalog.

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt – Tartt has emerged as an impressive figure in American letters and her latest is an old-fashioned tale of loss and obsession, survival and self-reinvention and the ruthless machinations of fate. A big book getting big praise.

The Signature of All Things by Elizabeth Gilbert – Fans of Gilbert's writing style from *Eat, Pray, Love* will enjoy the author's newest novel set in the 18th and 19th centuries. It's another global exploration from Gilbert with a strong female protagonist.

A Little Non-Fiction

Camelot's Court: Inside the Kennedy White House by Robert Dallek – With the 50th anniversary of JFK's assassination, there



have been several new books on the iconic first family. This is one of the best.

A History of the World in 100 Objects by Neil MacGregor – The history of humanity is told through the species' invention and innovation from the first chopping tool to the credit card.

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai – This controversial memoir tells the story of Yousafzai, the girl who was shot by the Taliban when she was 15 for being an advocate of girls' education.

Coffee Table Books

Humans of New York by Brandon Stanton – Fans of photography or portraits of the human spirit will enjoy a look through this catalog of New York's most aesthetically interesting residents. Inspired by the blog of the same name.

Life In Color: National Geographic Photographs curated by Annie Griffiths – A book that explores not only beautiful photography but also the dif-

ferent cultural connotations colors evoke around the world.

Memos: The Vogue Years by Diana Vreeland – This sizable tome contains more than 250 pieces of the legendary editor's personal correspondence. Her inimitable wit and wisdom illuminate topics from fashion and glamour to creativity and fantasy.

Of Local Interest

Di Bruno Bros House of Cheese by Tenaya Darlington – For an Italian, a native Philadelphian, a cheese fanatic—this book would work for so many people on your list. Get a peek behind Philadelphia's oldest and biggest cheese counter with 30 recipes and a full course of cheese commentary.

The Hidden History of the Main Line by Mark E. Dixon – This book takes a look behind the grand façades of the Main Line and explores the region's off-beat and oft-forgotten history. Plenty of socialite antics, too.

The Phillies Experience by Tyler Kepner – This large and beautifully illustrated history of the Philadelphia Phillies is a must-have for the baseball fan on your list.

Dream of Gardening

The Golden Age of Botanical Art by Martyn Rix – For the botanist or historian, this book features 250 rare or unpublished images by some of the world's most important botanical artists.

The Layered Garden: Design Lessons for Year-Round Beauty from Brandywine Cottage by David Culp – Learn how to recreate Culp's beloved two-acre Pennsylvania garden where he mastered the design technique of layering—interplanting different species so as one plant passes its peak, another takes over. For the gardener who aspires to a four-season garden.

Private Edens: Beautiful Country Gardens by Jack Staub, photos by Rob Cardillo – Garden design expert Staub presents more than 20 beautiful and sumptuous private country gardens in

the Northeast, from a romantic garden with cottagey plantings to a splendid Eden of Maryland countryside meets Himalayan serenity.

Just For Fun

Tequila Mockingbird: Cocktails With a Literary Twist by Tim Federle – Perfect for book club members or dinner party enthusiasts, this conversation-starter includes recipes such as Vermouth the Bell Tolls, Gin Eyre, Are You There God? It's Me Margarita and Bridget Jones's Daiquiri.

The Wit and Wisdom of Tyrion Lannister by George R.R. Martin – This is pretty much what you'd expect: a collection of quotations from *Game of Thrones* resident vertically-challenged bad boy who has a way with a witty phrase (and the ladies).

A Reader's Book of Days by Tom Nissley – Book lovers will revel in both the mentions of their favorite works and the new books they discover through this charming guide. Filled with memorable and surprising tales from the lives and works of everyone from Tolstoy to Stephen King.

For The Young Reader

It by Alexa Chung or *Man Repeller: Seeking Love. Finding Overalls.* by Leandra Medine – Teens with a passion for fashion, celebrity and/or blogging will equally love either of these memoirs by the young stars of the stylish blogosphere. You will definitely be the cool mom/uncle/grandparent for gifting one of these.

Atlantis Rising by T.A. Barron – Get your teen fantasy fan hooked on Barron before his Merlin series hits theaters in a few years (the script is in development) and you'll both be ahead of the curve. Great for fans of *Harry Potter*, *Lord of the Rings* and *Percy Jackson*.

Madeline and the Old House In Paris by John Bemelmans Marciano – There's a new Madeline book for fans of the beloved series! Madeline and her partner in mischief, Pepito, embark on a great adventure to a spooky old house in

Paris. Parents who grew up on Madeline will enjoy this one, too.

Fairy Tale Comics by Chris Duffy – Seventeen fairy tales are adapted into comic format. Cartoonists like Raina Telgemeier, Brett Helquist and Cherise Harper take on the classic tales and few obscure ones. ♦

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WEST CHESTER'S HOLIDAY SEASON

Malcolm Johnstone § Photos by Timlyn Vaughan

Come for the events and stay for the great local shopping.

Fresh evergreen wreaths have been hung with care on historic storefronts by holiday elves (aka community volunteers). Window displays reflect the spirit of the season as shop owners roll out new merchandise to tantalize browsers and delight shoppers.

Once again it's the Holiday Season and historic downtown West Chester knows how to celebrate with a mix of yesterday's charm and tomorrow's fashion. There's a little something for everyone to get into the spirit.

With so much to enjoy, you might want to make a shopping visit to West Chester an excursion and stay the night at the [Hotel Warner](#) (120 N. High St.; [HotelWarner.com](#)). Enjoy a day of browsing in downtown boutiques, then heading to a favorite restaurant to relax with a great meal. A short stroll and your warm room awaits for a perfect staycation!

Holiday Happenings

Sounds of the season fill downtown West Chester to keep you humming and in the spirit. Here are some of our favorites, with more in our Holiday Fun section.

Strolling musicians, decked in Victorian costumes, perform on the first three Friday nights and Saturday afternoons in December. Sponsored by the West Chester Downtown Foundation, this has become a beloved tradition and a perfect soundtrack for shopping.

A [Cappella Pops](#), a mixed-voice a cappella chorus, presents "Do You Hear What I Hear," a celebration of the season with special guests KeyStone A Capella. Catch them at 7:30, Saturday, December 7, at the [Madeleine Wing Adler Theater, West Chester University](#). Details at [AcappellaPops.com](#).

Theater-lovers have several choices. Experience the award-winning *Trial by Jury*, a sparkling [Gilbert & Sullivan](#) musical

comedy, December 7–8 at the Swope Music Building, West Chester University with an early show before the Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade. Learn about this joyous farce of love and marriage at [GSSChesCo.org](#).

After the Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade, stroll over to North Walnut Street and follow the luminaries to Marshall Square for [Luminaria in the Park](#). Join a growing Brandywine Valley neighborhood event as the streets light up with a traditional candle-lit walk.

For a timeless holiday experience, catch the [Brandywine Ballet's](#) performances of *The Nutcracker*, as its genteel romance unfolds against a backdrop of animated action, December 13–22, at West Chester University. For information, see [BrandywineBallet.com](#).

Visit ten beautifully decorated homes for the annual [Holiday Home Tour](#), December 7, 10 to 3 p.m. For information visit [WCPublicLibrary.org](#) and see the article in this issue.

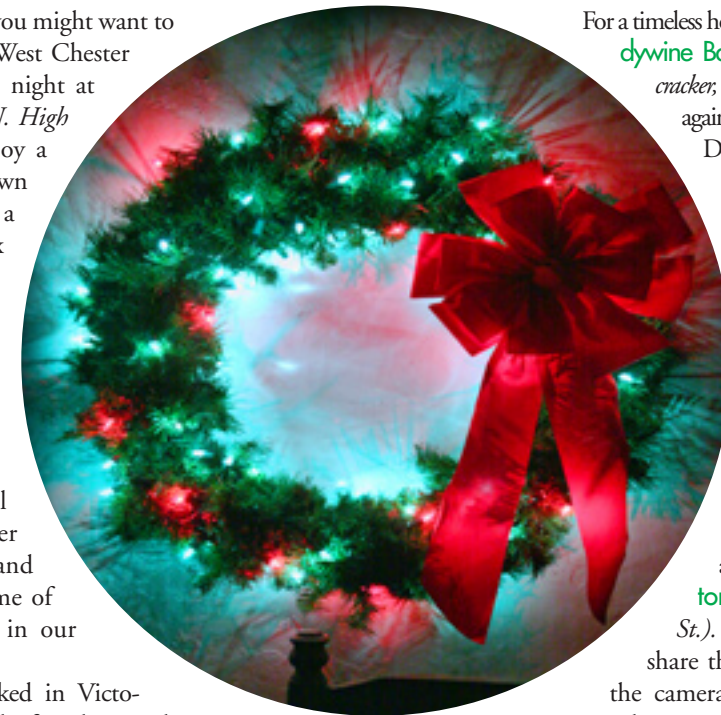
Great Kids' Stuff

Enjoy Breakfast with Santa at the [Chester County Historical Society](#) (225 N. High St.). Children sit with Santa to share their wish lists, so don't forget the cameras! Limited seating Saturday,

December 7, at 8:30 and 10 a.m., so pre-register. Contact [West Chester Borough Parks & Recreation](#), 610-436-9010.

And children can make gingerbread houses bedecked with holiday candies—all parts supplied—at the [West Chester Municipal Building](#), 401 E. Gay St. On Saturday, December 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. Limited to 30, so pre-registration is required. Contact [West Chester Borough Parks & Recreation](#), 610-436-9010.

The [West Chester Railroad's Santa Express](#) departs for a 90-minute excursion through the Chester Creek Valley on weekends. Santa greets children of all ages at the East Market



Street Station before the ride to Glen Mills. Plenty of photo ops on Santa's lap. Details at WestChesterRR.net.

Shopping Local at Its Shopping Best

West Chester offers more shopping opportunities than ever! One-of-a-kind gifts, personalized service and the friendly atmosphere that only small-town hospitality can provide. You'll find gifts of every variety from locally made chocolates, fine Brandywine Valley art, hand-crafted gifts, and gifts you can make yourself.

The holiday shopping season got into full swing the day after Thanksgiving—Black Friday—followed by a local favorite—Small Business Saturday, a day dedicated to supporting small businesses. We hope you made the most of this three-day weekend full of Shopping Specials and continue to “Shop Small” and support local small businesses that give back so much to our community.

To help us to remember to shop small, the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce has **Think-ShopBuy...Local!** in full swing, with discounts from Chamber members to please any shopper.

Downtown shops also make it easy for men to find that perfect gift. “Men's Night Out” events are happening at select stores during the first two weeks of December. See details at DowntownWestChester.com.

New on the Shopping Scene

Looking for unique ideas for a great shopping experience? We've selected just a few that will delight for the season.

New to the shopping scene is **Tish Boutique** (138 E. Gay St. 610-692-7500; TishStyle.com), with the fashion passion for finding that individual style in every woman. Create a holiday wish list to send to your man for Men's Night—on Wednesdays—serving up a little beer and lots of expert personal assistance. The perfect combo.

Add a healthy note to your holiday season and get a jump on your New Year's resolutions with an invitation to **Nutrition Does It**, now open at 113 N. High St. (484-995-7357; NutritionDoesIt.com). “It's a nutrition club where people can come in, relax and sample our health products,” says owner Anita Vasko.



Tish Boutique



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The 5 Senses



The Lincoln Room

Looking to give your peepers a pick-me-up?
Artistic Eyewear, at 127 N. High St. (610-738-7150; ArtisticEyewear.com), features a large selection of designer frames and sunglasses from around the world.

You'll find an array of notions, lotions and potions at **Silvanus** (121 W. Market St. 484-319-6215; Silvanus-Online.com), offering custom crafted products to fit your personal needs. It's the West Chester retailer for Crio Brü, roasted cocoa beans brewed into a hot drink with high antioxidant value and mineral benefits for natural energy. Great stocking stuffers.

Remedi Day Spa (136 W. Market St. 610-436-7546; RemediDaySpa.com) is also brand new to the scene providing an integrative approach to beauty and wellness. Browse the retail skin care products and gift sets for an innovative and surprising gift.

For the skateboarder in the house, **Fairman's Skate Shop** (43 W. Gay St. 610-344-9959; Fairmans.com) has lots of longboard skateboards to choose from. No need to worry about picking the right one, just send the skater in and sign up on the Christmas wish list. Santa's helpers do the rest.

It's an intriguing name—Good & Evil—but then, it's not just a chocolate bar. It's a new product by Master Chocolatier Christopher Curtin, created with the rarest and finest cacao beans being grown today. A rare treat from **Éclat Chocolate** (24 S. High St. 610-692-5206; EclatChocolate.com).

The 5 Senses, at 133 W. Market St. (610-719-0170; The5Senses.com), has added to its collection of fun and funky decorative items for everyday use—hand-blown cocktail and wine glasses from the Glass Forge and totally cool wall clocks by Andrew Barwick.

Nestled in the lower level of the historic Lincoln Building at 28 W. Market St., the **Lincoln Room** (610-696-2102; LincolnRoomWestChester.com), West Chester's only tea room, is decorated for the holidays and offering 20 percent off select items. Make a lunch reservation at this classic tearoom and browse the retail section.

Lots of good reasons to shop in West Chester this holiday season! We bet you'll find even more. ♦

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Old-Fashioned Christmas in West Chester

Even *USA Today* knows this is one of the top ten places to experience the arrival of Santa Claus during the holidays.

The Parade!

Ring in the holiday season with the Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade in downtown West Chester, starting at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, December 6th. Presented since 1980 by the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce, the parade is the highlight of this fun-filled holiday weekend, December 5 through the 8th. Festivities include 40-some events including theatrical and musical performances, guided walking tours of the borough, and breakfast with Santa. Many organizations host Holiday Open Houses in town offering refreshments and seasonal entertainment.

This year's parade promises a mix of traditional and modern elements. A host of local schools, businesses, volunteer fire companies and service organizations will be there among the marching bands, floats and antique vehicles. DNB First and The Rotary Club of West Chester's joint float honors military veterans, with a representative from each armed forces branch.

New parade sponsor QVC will broadcast highlight from the event during Christmas Day, so tune in if you miss the fun in person. Adam Josephs, of 6abc, will serve as masters of ceremonies, and MarsDrinks returns for its fifth year as title sponsor.

Note: There's a new route this year: Starting at New and Market, the parade goes east on Market (not west), north on Matlack, west on Gay and south on New Street. Come early for the best seats!

The Run!

Before the parade, the 5th Annual Jingle Elf Run takes off at 6:30 p.m. from the corner of Market and High Streets. The event includes a 2-mile run and a 1-mile walk, with prizes to age group winners, cash to top finishers in the 2-mile run, awards for the most creative holiday outfits, and a cash prize for the best elf costume. Register online at RunCCRS.com.

The Toys to Donate!

Get in the spirit of the season by joining the Chamber of Commerce's holiday Toy Drive Breakfast. New, unwrapped toys are collected and given to nonprofit organizations that work with families in our community. And WSFS Bank collects toys, November 4th–December 9th, at several locations and along the Christmas Parade route.

Toys collected will be presented to two worthy organizations: The ARC of Chester County and the Friends Association for the Care and Protection of Children. For over 60 years, The Arc has provided programs and services for people with disabilities in Chester County and fought for the rights of individuals with disabilities. The Friends Association is committed to helping families stabilize their lives and find or maintain permanent housing. ♦

A complete list of events will be posted at GreaterWestChester.com.



HOLIDAY FUN IN WEST CHESTER



December 1

Winter Festival at Oakbourne. Carols, arts and crafts, hot chocolate, cookies and Santa in the mansion, which will be beautifully decorated for holiday season. 1014 S. Concord Rd. 3 to 5. Free. 610-692-1930; West-townPA.org.

December 1

36th Annual Brian's Run. A 5-mile race through West Chester and North Hills, benefitting "The One Fund Boston" this year. Eight Brian's Run organizers ran in the tragic 2013 Boston Marathon and were inspired to honor their fellow runners. Henderson High School, 400 Montgomery Ave., 1 pm. BriansRun.org.



December 5-8

The Forty-Niners Present "Christmas, Again!" An original musical presentation at Stetson Middle School, 1060 Wilmington Pk. Good-will offering requested. Thurs-Sat, 7:30; Sat-Sun, 2 pm. 49ersChorus.org.

December 6-8

MARSdrinks Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration in West Chester. **Dec. 6,** 5th Annual "Jingle Elf 5K Run" at 6:30. Parade begins at 7:15. **Dec. 7,** Breakfast with Santa at Chester County Historical Society, 8:30 to 10 am, \$14, limited seating. Gingerbread House Making, West Chester Municipal Bldg., 2 to 4 pm, \$12. Caroling at Brandywine Hall Care Center, 800 W. Miner St., 7 to 8 pm. **Dec. 7, 8,** *Trial By Jury*, Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester Co., at Gates Recital Hall, Rm. 100, Swope Music Bldg., West Chester Univ., 817 S. High St., Sat, 2 & 8; Sun, 2 pm. 610-696-4046; GWCC.org.

December 7

West Chester Library Holiday Home Tour. See article in this issue.

December 7

West Chester Charity Ball. Dinner, dancing and auction. Benefits The Friends Assoc. for Care and Protec-

tion of Children, Emergency Family Shelter and the Homeless Prevention Program. West Chester Golf and Country Club, 111 West Ashbridge St. Cocktail chic or black tie. 6:30 to 11:30. \$175. 610 431 3598, ext. 219; FriendsAssoc.org.

December 7

Uptown! Entertainment Alliance Presents It's A Wonderful Life. The American holiday classic is presented as a 1940s radio broadcast at Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High St. 6 pm. \$5 donation. After the show, join the PA Academy of Performing Arts Singers for candlelight carolling. 610-738-3350.



December 7-8, 14-15, 21-22

West Chester Railroad's Santa's Express. Join Santa for a 90-minute journey to Glen Mills, singing holiday songs along the way. Trains depart Market Street Station, 230 E. Market St., 11 am, 1 and 3 pm (5 pm last two weekends). \$6-\$22; under 2, free. 610-416-1794; WestChesterRR.com.

December 14-15

Chester County Choral Society Presents "Holiday Traditions." Get in the holiday spirit with your choice of concerts: **Dec. 14,** Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 212 S. High St. 7:30 pm. **Dec. 15,** Church of the Good Samaritan, 212 W. Lancaster Ave., Paoli, 3 pm. \$5-\$15. ChesterCountyChoralSociety.org.

December 1-31

The Nutcracker. A holiday tradition with many performances in *County Lines* country. Phone or check websites for schedules. **Dec. 13-22,** Brandywine Ballet, 610-696-2711; BrandywineBallet.com.

December 14

Santa Arrives at the American Helicopter Museum. Bring your camera to see Santa arrive by helicopter. 1220 American Blvd. Santa arrives at 11 and 1:30. Helicopter Rides from 11 and



3. \$8-\$10 includes holiday activities and snacks. 610-436-9600; HelicopterMuseum.org.

December 21

Brandywine Singers Holiday Concert. "An English Christmas," Vaughan Williams, Howells, Britten. St. Agnes Church, Gay St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$10-\$20. TheBrandywineSingers.org. ♦



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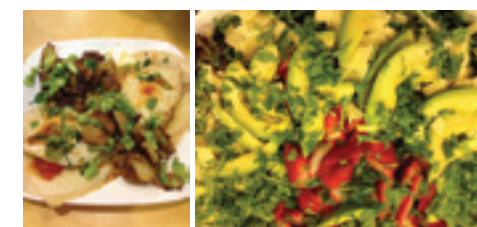
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Art of Giving

Jaimielynn Cooper

There are two families—the one we’re given, and the one we give ourselves. How do we learn to give meaningful holiday gifts to those in our new family?



Lucky Hill by Tim Vaughn

This holiday season marks a start for more than just the New Year for me. It marks the beginning of a new life, in a new home, with someone who makes me excited for the future. And since sharing a life with someone doesn’t mean just sharing a space, but sharing yourself, gift-giving this year has extra dimensions.

One of those dimensions is my connection to Chester County. And living and working here has immersed me in its history and culture, with a key part of that being the art that embodies and chronicles our county.

So, as we begin our new life together, I decide I want to give him a piece of me, and a piece for our new home. I go in search of art.

Love at First Sight

Google “Chester County art” and over 10,000 images appear. The sheer volume is overwhelming. As I click through the images, past well-known paintings and famous names, I can’t quite seem to see what I know I should. It all becomes an impersonal blur.

So I decide to step away from the screen and head into real life ... going south, to Wyeth Country.

Home to an impressive collection of Wyeth prints, Chadds Ford Art Gallery is the first stop on my hunt for the perfect home warming gift. *The Raven* by Jamie Wyeth and *Love in the Afternoon* by his father Andrew, are favorites. But, I’m reminded that tastes in art can differ, and my favorites may not be his.

I head deeper into the Brandywine Valley, to Longwood Art Gallery in Kennett Square. Owners Marge Kuhn and Sheila Washington welcome me, and begin asking questions about the gift’s intended. What kind of art does he like? What’s he like? His interests? My answers speak to his positive personality and the current newly colorful trend in local art.

That direction is toward artists like Jack Giangulio. And while I think this may be a good match, I’m unsure. “Don’t pick something you don’t think he’ll love. Buying art is a big commitment,” Marge says. “You don’t want to buy something you’ll both hate in a few years.”

The gallery owners suggest planning a night out together—first dinner in Kennett Square then a casual gallery visit. The options—tell him why we’re there and let him pick his favorite, or gauge his reaction and return later—are appealing. But I imagine Christmas morning, watching his face as he rips open the wrapping paper.

I tuck the ideas away and keep searching.

Close to Home

My search continues in our new hometown, West Chester. On first impression, Sunset Hill Jewelers doesn’t strike me as a gallery, though Fine Art Gallery is part of its name. Upstairs is where they keep the art—by the late artist Harry Dunn. If owner Sandy Riper is passionate about gems, she’s even more passionate about art, especially the art of a dear friend.

“It says something; it tells a story,” Sandy tells me when I

ask why people buy art. As she shows me around, I understand what she means. “When I show people Harry’s work, I feel like a tour director. I’m not just showing them a painting, I’m showing them a time and a place and a story.”

As I prepare to leave, Sandy shares a suggestion. Sunset Hill’s Annual Miniature show started with Harry Dunn and continues with 20 artists and over 200 small paintings for sale this year. “Perfect for those just starting to collect real art.” Shop small—sounds familiar.

Lucky Find

If a picture is worth 1,000 words, is a painting worth more? How about a picture that looks like a painting? That’s what I find as I window shop at Visual Expansion Gallery.

Tim Vaughn’s *Lucky Hill* immediately catches my eye. Vaughn is a local artist with a special connection to *County Lines*. (Have you seen our cover?) And while I’ve worked with his photos in the past, I’m enchanted by those on display here. They’re better in real life.

Owner Mary Manning advises me, “Men love maps,” when she catches me lingering by her collection of antique maps. “That might be exactly what you’re looking for.” She asks where my new home will be and then looks for a map that includes it. This certainly will serve the purpose—marking a time and a place. But I’m still unsure, something Mary senses.

“If you do buy a piece,” she tells me, “you could take it home on approval.” The process allows buyers to make a deposit, take their purchase home, and live with it for a few days.

It’s a good idea, and as I leave, I consider the advice I’ve collected. It all makes sense, but I’m still stuck.

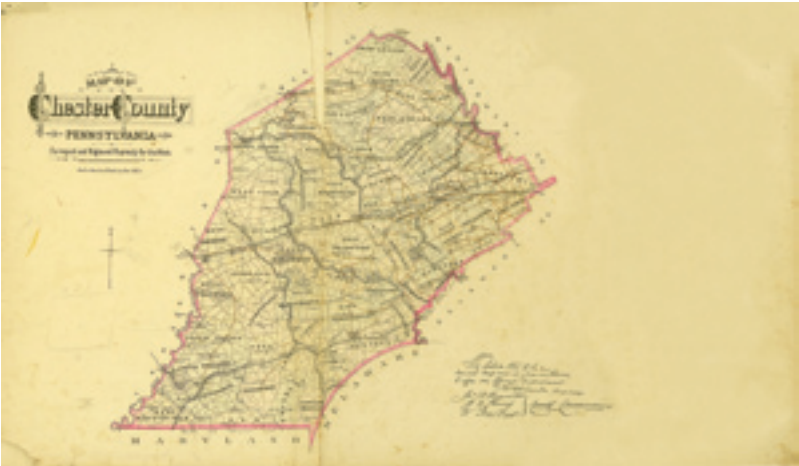
The Last Place

They say it’s not until you stop looking that you find what you’re searching for, and they say when you do find it, it will be in the last place you expect.

Whoever they are, they’re right. My last stop is at the Merchant of Menace: Re-Imaginers Gallery in the historic Village of Marshallton, where owner Michael Arizin is far from menacing. As I walk through his gallery, sur-



Merchant of Menace



1886 Chester County Map, Courtesy of the Radnor Historical Society

rounded by one-of-a-kind pieces, all created from reclaimed pieces of everyday material, I explain my problem.

“Great pieces of art find their own places,” Arizin shares. “Don’t just buy something to check the box, so to speak. Buy it because it’s right.”

How will I know?
“You just will.”

Like all art forms, true giving takes time to refine. I want to mark my first year together with something special—something to commemorate this moment in our lives, something that will last. Something that’s right.

There’s still time before Christmas, and we’ll have a lifetime after that. I know I’ll find it.

For now, I’m giving myself a gift—of a deep breath and more time. There is an art to that, too. ♦



Playmates Come Out and Play by Harry Dunn



Love in the Afternoon by Andrew Wyeth

Art is Everywhere

Want to give art to someone on your list? A few more suggestions.

Find American art from the 18th to early-20th century and classic Chester County landscapes at **H L Chalfant** in West Chester.

For the best in Berks County art, take a trip to **Greshville Antiques and Fine Art** in Boyertown.

And if found art and fine crafts are more your style, visit these shops and galleries for handmade, often one-of-a-kind pieces:

- 5 Senses**, West Chester
- Artworks & Metalworks**, Kennett Square
- Artiaqt**, Phoenixville
- Cactus Wren**, New Castle
- Diving Cat Studio**, Phoenixville
- Turning Point Gallery**, Media



Along the Dock by Jack Giangulio

Holiday Window Shopping



Celebrate the season! It's time to surprise family and friends with an expression of appreciation during the holidays. We suggest you shop locally and well this year.

Our towns are well stocked with unique shops offering special treasures and knowledgeable owners happy to help you find the right gifts this season.

You'll find some in the following pages, so start your armchair window shopping now!

All of us at *County Lines* send our heartfelt good wishes for the happiest of holidays to our loyal readers and advertisers. May your season sparkle and be bright. Happy holidays!



Winterthur Museum Gift Store
610.527.4268 ~ Winterthur.org

★ Pennsylvania ★

BLUE BALL

Specializing in window treatments and home décor, **Heritage Design Interiors**, 1064 Main St. (Rt. 23, next to the bank), is where you'll find everything from custom draperies, valances, blinds, shades/shutters and bed ensembles to floral designs—including wonderful holiday florals, art, mirrors, lamps and accessories. They offer color and design consultations for new construction and renovations and decorating tips and ideas to enhance your home or workplace. Gift certificates available. Check them out on Facebook for specials and events. 717-354-2233; HeritageDesignInteriors.com.

BRYN MAWR

A creative window treatment designer can change the ambience of a room—or an entire home. **Shady Lady, Inc.**, at 872 Penn St., offers interior wooden shutters and fabric treatments. Their work is absolutely first rate. Hours by appointment, so call 800-791-2424 to arrange yours now. ShadyLadyWindowTreatments.com.

Yangming, 1051 Conestoga Rd., was named “The Best Chinese Restaurant in America” by *Chinese Restaurant News*, nationally reported by the *CBS Sunday Morning News* and named one of the “top 10 great places to dine on fine Chinese food in the U.S.” by *USA Today*. Consider, too, using their European Chef de Cuisine's artistry for holiday parties, special events and receptions in their Continental Room. 610-527-3200; YangmingRestaurant.com.

CHADDS FORD

Find the perfect gift at the **Brandywine River Museum Shop**. From art reproductions and books to “critter” ornaments and distinctive handcrafted jewelry, there's something for everyone on your list. Or, give the gift of membership, which includes free admission to the Museum, shopping and dining discounts, and more, all year long. Don't miss the annual

“Critter Sale,” Dec. 7–8. Located on Rt. 1. Phone 610-388-2700; Brandywine-Museum.org.

If you're looking for something special, for yourself or to gift to someone, be sure to stop in to **That's Hats**, (Rt. 202), 103 Wilmington-West Chester Pk., where you'll find hundreds of hats, from designer to everyday wear, in a wide variety of prices. Since they also carry silk scarves, handbags, umbrellas, jewelry and even beautiful hat boxes, you can fill most of your gift-giving needs in one stop and always be greeted with the most pleasant service. XS-XXXL in stock. 610-358-5995; That'sHats.com.

CHESTER SPRINGS

Limoncello Ristorante & Caterers, 499 Uwchlan Ave. 610-524-3112; LimoncelloCS.com. Lunch buffet at this location, Mon-Fri, 11:30 to 2. *See their listing under WEST CHESTER.*

DOWNINGTOWN

With classic family recipes and tasty desserts, let **Jimmy Duffy Catering** provide all the trimmings for this holiday season. Available for pick up or delivery. For Christmas Day delivery orders, you can order by 4 p.m., December 20th, or to pick up your Christmas meal, order by 2 p.m., December 24. 284 Boot Rd. 610-647-0160; JimmyDuffy.com.

ELVERSON

The hearth is the heart of the home, and **Chester County Hearth and Home** will make it safe and beautiful. When you visit their showroom, 19 Park Ave., you will find quality hearth products from Regency, Hampton, Enviro, Piazzetta and others, including CSIA certified chimney service, NFI certified gas fireplace service and C-DET certified dryer vent service. 610-913-0730; ChesterChimney.com.

EXTON

Whether you're looking for that perfect gift or preparing to deck your halls for the holidays, be sure to visit **Ball & Ball**, Rt. 30, 463 W. Lincoln Highway, where you'll find a remarkable



Heritage Design Interiors
717.354.2233 ~ HeritageDesignInteriors.com



Walter J. Cook Jeweler
610.644.5347 ~ WalterJCookJeweler.com

selection of original and reproduction furniture, lighting fixtures, door locks and fireplace accessories. Also available are many out-of-the-ordinary gift items. Open Mon-Fri, 8 to 4:30; Saturday hours, through Mar., 9 to 1. 610-363-7330; BallAndBall.com.

Yoga and fitness classes; bestselling novels and puzzles; a makeover or a spa treatment; gourmet dinner, delectable breakfast; or elegant lamps, beautiful jewelry and pottery ... these are a few of our favorite things. Satisfy all your holiday needs this year as you shop amongst the twinkle lights and cool crisp air at the **Eagleview Town Center**, 540 Wellington Square. Visit InEagleview.com for more information.

GAP

Exploring antique shops for gifts during the holiday season can be quite memorable—especially if they're located in a historical building. This is the ambience of the **White Horse Mill Antiques**, located in an 18th-century grist mill. This quality, multi-dealer shop features a handpicked selection of 18th through 20th-century antiques, fine art, folk art and accessories. Enjoy antiquing the way it should be. Open Mon, Thurs-Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, noon to 5; closed Tues and Wed. 107 Cambridge Rd. 717-768-0960; WhiteHorseMill.com.

GLEN MILLS

Trail Creek Outfitters is a “must not miss” this holiday season for all the adventurous types on your gift list. TCO has the largest selection of apparel, footwear and accessories from the greatest brands, including Patagonia, The North Face, Arc'teryx, Prana, Uggs, Merrel and many more. Located in the Glen Eagle Square shopping center, 487 Wilmington Pk. Phone or check their website for hours. 610-558-4006; TrailCreekOutfitters.com.

KENNETT SQUARE

Looking for distinctive gifts this holiday season? At **The Carriage House**, Willowdale Town Center, Rts. 926 & 82, gift

giving just got easier! Choose from their unique selection of handcrafted ornaments, Santas and snowmen as well as Byers' Carolers. Distinctive floral designs, wreaths and prints, distinctive jewelry, music, cards and gourmet treats, all add further charm to this shop. Open Mon-Sat, 10 to 5:30; Sun, 12 to 4. 610-444-6770; WillowdaleTownCenter.com/CarriageHouse.

Drawing fans in Kennett is **Lily's Asian Cuisine, Sushi & Grill**, 104 W. State St. This pan-Asian eatery is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. In addition to fresh raw fish, their menu also includes other Japanese dishes like teriyaki and teppanyaki. Thai food lovers will find different curries on the menu and chicken or seafood Pad Thai. They also offer Chinese food like Kung Pao chicken and orange chicken. And the best part—all you can eat sushi on Tuesdays! BYOB. 610-925-3700.

Waterbury Kitchen & Bath, 818 E. Baltimore Pk., is where you'll find the ultimate gift. Perhaps an AGA Cooker in Claret Red, a soaking tub for two in hammered copper, or a John Boos professional island in stainless steel for the gourmet. Or let Waterbury design and build the ultimate kitchen or bath for both of you. Come visit their showroom where you can explore the kitchen and bathroom products offered only by Waterbury. 610-444-9190; WaterburyDesign.com.

MALVERN

It's not too early to plan your spring landscape. The talented designers and craftsmen at **Flowing Springs Landscape**



Eagleview Town Center
InEagleview.com



UpHome, Ltd.
484.318.7109 ~ UpHomeLtd.com

Design, 426 Old Conestoga Rd., offer expert consultation on creative design and custom building. In addition to water gardens and ponds, they'll create waterfalls, patios, landscape lighting, stone walls and design-and-build a custom swimming pool. They offer professional tree and shrub care, and have been serving the Main Line and surrounding area for 30 years. Ask about their holiday decorating and lighting services. 610-408-0739; FlowingSprings-Design.com.

Mark your calendar for **ArtShow2014 at Malvern Retreat House**, January 29–February 2, 2014, where you'll find original juried artwork by more than 100 professional artists. Hours: Wed–Sat, 10 to 7, Sun, 10 to 4. Special feature of the show: “Abstraction—What's the Attraction?” featuring 15 abstract artists. Come to the complimentary wine and cheese reception, Fri., Jan. 31, 5 to 8. A portion of sales benefits Malvern Retreat House; no PA sales tax; 35% of all artwork sales are tax deductible. Malvern Retreat House, McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center, 315 S. Warren Ave. 484-321-2562; MalvernRetreat.com/ArtShow.

Riding lessons make a great gift! **Thorncroft Equestrian Center of Malvern** welcomes seasoned riders and beginners to exercise their skills at walk, trot, canter and over fences. They offer services for children and adult riders, with and without special needs, in private or group lessons. Come experience the joy of horses and riding in the comfort of their two indoor arenas. 190 Line Rd. 610-644-1963; Thorncroft.org.

For unique gifts without aimlessly wandering the mall, go to **UpHome Ltd.** in Malvern and enjoy your holiday shopping. You'll find stocking stuffers, antiques and art from France, bed linens, furniture, mirrors, glassware, American art, French cutlery, things for baby, lamps, pillows, jewelry and so much more—all unique and all in one place. Come and see them at their NEW location, 233 E. King St., Ste.

105. For hours and events go to UpHomeLtd.com or call 484-318-7109.

NEW HOLLAND

“All I Want For Christmas Is ... My Martin's Chair!” Stop in this season for the gift you've been longing to give. At **Martin's Chair** you'll find an exceptional array of authentic 18th-century reproduction Windsor chairs, tables, cupboards and bedroom furniture in a wide selection of paints, stains and antiqued finishes. Pick up or order online. Your heirloom is waiting! Open Mon to Fri 9 to 5; Sat 10 to 4. 124 King Ct. 717-355-2177; MartinsChair.com.

The intricate art of quilting naturally lends itself to the Christmas season, with colorful, unique creations that make beautiful gifts! At **Witmer Quilt Shop**, 1076 W. Main St., you will find wall hangings, pillows and bed-size quilts, over 150 queen-size quilts in stock. Choose antique quilts or custom designs, handmade in patterns and colors you desire. Quilting by hand for over 50 years in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country. Gift certificates are also available. 717-656-9526.

NEWTOWN SQUARE

Exceptional gift baskets and luscious fine chocolates are two great reasons to stop at **Christopher Chocolates**, at 3519 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3), celebrating more than 26 years of making life sweeter! They have a great selection of gourmet foods, candies and fine chocolates to create a customized gift basket to delight all on your gift list. Pick up a brochure for your gift-giving needs. They ship and deliver. 610-359-1669; visit Christopher-Chocolates.com or Facebook for deals and coupons.



Ball & Ball
610.363.7330 ~ BallAndBall.com



Gie Gie Lingerie & Breast Care
610.296.7626 ~ GieGieLingerie.com

At **Mostardi Nursery**, 4033 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3), west of Newtown Square, holiday shoppers will find a fresh approach to gift giving. They have added a new dimension to their long-standing excellent selection of quality live wreaths, plants and greens of the season. Their Christmas Shop has a wonderful assortment of very tasteful garden accents, plus ornaments and accessories that will be received with great pleasure by even the most challenging on your gift list. 610-356-8035 or visit Mostardi.com.

NOTTINGHAM

Come enjoy the tastiest educational trip you'll ever experience with **Herr's Free Snack Factory Tour**, 285 Old Baltimore Pk. See potato chips, pretzels, cheese curls and popcorn being made before your very eyes; sample tasty chips, fresh and warm from the cookers. Share family fun during guided tours, stop and shop at the gift shop and watch their grand video. Small and large groups easily accommodated. Handicap accessible. (They even schedule birthday parties!) More than a day trip, a tour of Herr's is educational fun you'll remember. 610-932-6516; 800-637-6225; Herrs.com.

PAOLI

For fine jewelry, artisan gifts and collectibles, visit **Walter J. Cook Jeweler** in Paoli. This season everything sparkles with SUNA Brothers' beautiful heirloom quality diamond and colored stone jewelry, Italian jewelry designer, Mattioli, and the newest collection from Lika Behar. Michael Cook and his knowledgeable staff will help you select the perfect gift for a person near and

dear to your heart. Serving the Main Line area since 1946, Walter J. Cook Jeweler is located in the Chestnut Village Shoppes, 36 Chestnut Rd. 610-644-5347; WalterJCookJeweler.com.

Gie Gie Lingerie & Breast Care meets the needs of every woman! All women should experience a custom bra fitting in an environment where her feelings and consciousness are as important as the garments she wears. Gie Gie has certified fitters, skilled in fitting the most difficult client issues. They fit ALL women in ALL phases of life. 36 Chestnut Rd. 610-296-7626; GieGieLingerie.com

Enjoy the beauty and warmth of a new kitchen designed by **Sugarbridge Kitchen and Bath Design**, Paoli Design Center, 1604 E. Lancaster Ave. Using custom cabinetry by Wood-Mode, their kitchens are distinguishable by their unique designs, as well as the finest materials and attention to detail. 484-318-8367; Sugarbridge.com.

PARADISE

It's fitting that Paradise is where you can find a perfect gift for your home. The skilled masons of **Dutchie's Stoneworks** can use stone, slate or brick to revitalize your home by adding a new feature for the New Year. New stone façade, brick driveway or slate patio for the exterior? Or fireplace, kitchen or a custom project for the interior? Their craftsmanship and professionalism have customers saying Dutchie's "exceeded all expectations." 717-587-8789; DutchiesStoneworks.com.

WAYNE

Located just outside Valley Forge National Historical Park, **Black Powder Tavern**, 1164 Valley Forge Rd., combines local flavors (edible AND sip-able) with American history. The menu



Martin's Chair
717.355.2177 ~ MartinsChair.com

features a variety of small and entrée-sized plates, and highlights the flavors, ingredients and culinary trends Philadelphia has become known for—and that pair well with their extensive craft beer offerings. Looking to host a holiday event? Be sure to ask about their private dining options. Call 610-293-9333 or visit their website BlackPowderTavern.com.

Wayne Art Center's Holiday Shopping Craft & Cuisine Day on Sat, December 14, 10 to 3, is where local artisans showcase their original craft and culinary delights. Browse the Gallery Shop showcasing jewelry, glass, ceramics, wood, fiber, ornaments, stationery, gourmet oils and vinegars, chocolates, soups and other delectable foods. And be sure to take in **Craft Forms 2013**, the 19th annual international juried exhibition of contemporary craft and "Nature in Craft," on view in the galleries. 413 Maplewood Ave. 610-688-3553; CraftForms.org and WayneArt.org.

WEST CHESTER

Whether you are looking to create a fabulous holiday meal, need the perfect gift for your holiday hosts, or want a unique gift for the foodies on your holiday list, **A Taste of Olive**, 26 S. High Street, makes the season delicious. In addition to their selection of premium Extra Virgin Olive Oils and Balsamic Vinegars on tap, you'll find artisanal sea salts, tapenades and spreads, pasta and pasta sauce and much more. Don't miss their new line of custom, hand-painted Italian pottery from Deruta. They also create custom gift baskets. 610-429-0292; ATasteOfOlive.com.

Looking for local, artisanal crafted foods and home goods? **Artisan Exchange**, located at 208 Carter Dr., Ste. 13B, is the place for you. Grab a bite to eat, a free cup of organic coffee, listen to live music and watch the kids get creative



Waterbury Kitchen & Bath
610.444.919 ~ WaterburyDesign.com



The Merchant of Menace Art Gallery
610.344.7774 ~ TheMerchantOfMenace.net

in the kids corner as over 50 vendors help with your weekly or holiday gift shopping. A gift basket takes the guesswork out of your shopping. From the "chocolate lover" to the "snack obsessed" on your list, you'll find a unique gift basket to make their holidays bright. Saturdays, 10 to 2. Artisan ExchangeWCPA.com.

Bordley House Grille is in a quaint, historic farmhouse and is the perfect setting for your holiday get-togethers this year. From their gourmet food to the crackling fireplace, this will be an experience to remember. Their accommodating staff is trained to take care of every detail, from inception to completion, so you'll feel like an actual guest in the cozy atmosphere of your own party. Located at 1520 Tattersall Way. Call Bonnie Hall for more details, 610-738-4410 ext. 13; BordleyHouseGrille.com.

You still have time to impress your holiday dinner guests with a beautiful, new granite counter top and tile back splash from **Giuseppe Kitchen and Bath**, 129 East Gay St. Most tops can be installed in a day or two. Stop by to see the largest selection of granite, marble, quartz and tile in Chester County and be sure to ask about their \$38.99 granite special. 610-436-8161; GiuseppeKitchenAndBathDesign.com.

Limoncello Ristorante & Caterers, 9 N. Walnut St., serves Southern Italian cuisine and features a full-service bar and charming atmosphere. They offer an award-winning lunch buffet Mon-Sat, 11:30 to 2; BYO, Sun, Mon, Tues. Their award-winning team can also bring their legendary Italian cuisine and exceptional service to your home or preferred venue, guiding you through every step of the event and providing their



Brandywine River Museum
610.388-2700 ~ BrandywineMuseum.org

own professional servers. Look for them at their new location in Chester Springs. 610-436-6230; LimoncelloWC.com.

Located in one of West Chester's most famous historic structures, **The Lincoln Room**, 28 W. Market St., provides a charming place to enjoy a luncheon and tea menu. They also offer a wide range of Special Events, including the very popular Fondue Fridays. Open Mondays in December. Closed Sunday, but available for private rentals. 610-696-2102; LincolnRoom-WestChester.com.

Not only is **Matlack Florist** the place to go for all your fresh floral needs, the giftshop is overflowing with Christmas décor, silk arrangements and wreaths, jewelry, accessories and giftware for holiday entertaining. Visit them at 210 N. Chester Rd (Rt. 352). 610-431-3077; MatlackFlorist.com.

Make this holiday season anything but ordinary. **The Merchant of Menace Art Gallery**, 1351 W. Strasburg Rd., specializes in the re-imagining of found objects into new art forms. Michael Arizin, the man behind the Merchant, collects everyday items, crafted into living testaments to the possibilities of second acts for all of us. From furniture crafted from barn wood, to animal sculptures from antique tractor parts, the Merchant of Menace sees art in them all. Along with The Merchant's main gallery in Marshallton, for the holidays (Nov 27-Dec 26) The Merchant will also be operating a "pop-up gallery" at 117 W. Gay St., so stop in and see them at either location. 215-704-7419; TheMerchantOfMenace.net.

Great food from the ground up! **Roots Café**, a new gem in West Chester, serves local, organic and sustainable food. Their mission: to serve the well-being of people and the planet by supporting sustainable farming practices and a healthy lifestyle. Take a break from the hassles of the season and treat yourself to a delicious meal, where almost every-

thing is made from scratch to ensure freshness. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Tues-Wed, 8 to 4; Thurs-Sat, 8 to 3 and 6 to 10; Sun, 8 to 3. BYOB. 133 E. Gay St. 610-455-0100; RootsCafeWC.com.

★ Delaware ★ WILMINGTON

Find the perfect gift for anyone on your list in the **Delaware Art Museum's Store!** Browse the Museum's unique selection of prints, books, handcrafted jewelry, accessories, ceramics and textiles. Be sure to visit their website or call to find out more about the Museum's festive holiday offerings, events and special exhibitions for all ages. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

Looking for a unique holiday gift? Shop at the **Winterthur Museum Stores** for outstanding gifts, books and home décor inspired by their museum, garden and library. Check their website for monthly Museum Store special offers and events. Or, give the gift of membership, which includes free admission to Yuletide at Winterthur—a guided tour of Henry Francis du Pont's dazzling home decorated in holiday style. Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, 5105 Kennett Pk., (Rt. 52). 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org. ♦

We hope you will patronize these fine local shops, restaurants and services. Happy holidays.



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PHOTO: EVAN WAWRZYNIAK

McLaren 12C Spider

I'll Take It.

Jack Smith

What's It Like to Drive a Supercar?

This is what it's like to be the most envied man in the world. Women blush and watch you from the corner of their eyes. Men grin conspiratorially and give you the old thumbs up. Small dogs bark and wag their tails, and young boys smile and wave excitedly, certain that some day *they* will be the ones rolling down the road at the wheel of an exotic sports car. "Every car makes a statement about its

driver," says Phil Tegtmeier. "But it's even more dramatic when it's a supercar." Tegtmeier would know. Since 1982 he's been a fixture on the European car show circuit, both as judge at events like the Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance and as mentor to buyers of rare and costly motor cars. These include such high-powered vehicles as sensuous Ferraris, menacing Lamborghinis,



Ferrari F12 Berlinetta

sophisticated Maseratis, charismatic Bugatti Veyrons, rocket-like McLarens, and most recently, shapely Jaguar F-type coupes and convertibles.

Of course, nobody needs to travel as fast as a supercar will carry you. But then, exotics aren't about need—they're about fantasy. Unlike conventional automobiles—which are built to transport—exotics are works of art, built to inspire and reward. They evoke a world of unrelenting excitement, a place where cost is no object and traffic jams and speeding tickets don't exist.

Perilous Trip

Alas, as Tegtmeier reminds us, the real world can be especially cruel to the person driving a brand new \$300,000 Ferrari. Say, for instance, you're invited to a party in a part of town you don't know. The experienced Ferrari owner might first make a dry run to chart the route and the hazards—potholes, gravel, heavy traffic patterns—that might be encountered. "It can cost several thousand dollars to repair a scraped front air spoiler on a vintage 328 cabriolet and far more on some models," says Tegtmeier.

Valet parking is something to be avoided, too. "Unless a valet owns his own Ferrari, he has no idea how to park one," says Tegtmeier.

Peril also lurks on the street, where the driver of an SUV might not see your low-slung coupe or roadster. "Its driver is likely to roll right over you,

fore or aft, and crush your hood and trunk," says Tegtmeier.

On the road other drivers can be hazardous. "They'll tailgate you admiringly, forgetting that their old Buick won't stop as fast as a high performance sports car," he continues.

Paradoxically, these risks and costs are all part of the appeal, says Tegtmeier. "If it were convenient and economical to own one of these cars, a lot of owners wouldn't want one." But it is not, and so they do.

Needs More Noise

To understand the lure of the exotics, all you have to do is take a spin in the McLaren MP4-12C, a descendant of one of the most memorable race cars in history—the F1 McLaren, winner of the 1995 24 Hours of Le Mans. Anybody

who's ever ridden in the F1 will always remember that singular experience.

This was due to more than its performance, though its acceleration and handling were remarkable. Rather, it was the driver's and passengers' environment, with a cockpit configured like the command deck of a rocket ship, the driver's seat in the middle and passenger seats offset to the rear on each side. Any driver planning to travel a turnpike had to carry a left-side passenger just to grab a ticket or pay the toll.

Today this troika configuration is a thing of the past and the McLaren you'll find in the showroom—whether MP-12C coupe or Spider—is a handsome, wedge-shaped two-seater with a mid-mounted, 618 horsepower, twin-turbocharged V8. The attention getters are the huge vents aft of the doors, which allow access by swinging up and forward like the "slicer dicers" seen on TV.

Unlike most other supercars, the 12C pushes automotive technology to its limits, while accommodating the most stringent environmental concerns. Thus the McLaren can accelerate from 0 to 62 m.p.h. in little more than three seconds or rocket from 0 to 186 m.p.h. in 17 seconds, while leaving behind a carbon footprint equivalent to that of a mere Honda sedan.

The source of this wizardry is a supercharged, eight-cylinder power plant visible beneath a glass window on the rear



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deck. The power is managed via a seven-speed, dual-clutch automatic transmission. Some may gripe about the absence of a manual shift, though that's more a boast that gear changes might be faster with Mr. Speed Shift at the wheel.

One of the 12C's more useful features is the Vehicle Lift system, which can raise the car a nominal amount, front and rear, at lower speeds to minimize the risk of scraping expensive carbon-fiber air dams.

The real surprise—once you get past that MSRP of some \$268,250—is how easy it is to drive this barely “street legal” exotic. “People are always surprised how little noise there is when you're driving a McLaren,” says Phillip Jones, General Sales Manager for Philadelphia.

When asked if there is any one thing a McLaren lacks that Ferrari buyers might desire, Jones laughs and says, “Yes. More noise.”

A Super Car

Noise is no less popular among Jaguar buffs and with the debut of the new F-Type Jaguar, the big cat from Britain gives its fans one more thing to like—an active exhaust system. Once the ignition is fired, the power train goes operatic. Out on the highway I punch the throttle and eight cylinders ululate up the scale like an octet of metal-throated Pavarottis as the British roadster launches itself over the horizon.

This is the first all-new Jaguar since 1961 when the E-Type arrived on the scene. Nonetheless, Jaguar doesn't call the F-Type a homage to the E and with good reason; aesthetically and functionally it feels completely different—and is far more powerful—than its revered predecessor.

Basically the new F-Type is a two-seat, fabric-top roadster that's available in base, S and V8 S trims. The top of the line F-Type V8 S—the model in question—deploys a 500 horsepower, V8 engine, 20-inch wheels, high-performance brakes, electronic active differential, dual-zone automatic climate control, full leather upholstery, 12-way adjustable power seats (with power lumbar), and driver-seat memory functions.

It is also, naturally, very fast. Perhaps not quite as insanely so as the McLaren, but when measured in terms of sheer pleasure—the only metric that matters—it's every bit the match for the Porsche 911 Turbo and BMW M3.

By the same token, nobody would mistake it for a full-bore race car, such as the McLaren. So in a way it defines the difference between a supercar and, for a mere \$86,865, a truly super car.

In Your Dreams

If you want to give somebody a good laugh, go into a Ferrari dealership and ask the salesmen how much they want for that sleek, gleaming F12 Berlinetta in the showroom. It's a harmless way to pass the time, and what red-blooded American wouldn't enjoy getting a close-up look at one of Italy's finest and fanciest exotics, the most powerful and high-performance Ferrari road car ever launched? You might point out the car's features, its advanced fluid-dynamics

efficiency, vehicle architecture, aerodynamics, and electronic controls.

Thus impressed, the guys in the showroom might let you take it out for a drive, just to get the feel of a \$330,000 exotic, the most powerful “street legal” the company has ever built.

There's just one thing wrong with this picture—it will never happen. Worse, you'll be hooted out of the showroom and decried as a bumpkin wearing the wrong shoes. “It doesn't matter how much money you have,” says Phil Tegtmeier. “Unless you already own a Ferrari, chances are you will never own one.”

The reasons for this, he says, are simple: the demand for Ferraris, new or pre-owned, far exceeds the supply. Of course, if you have your heart set on a Ferrari, and have come into money, it might be a good idea to acquire one that's pre-owned, even if it's a model you don't care for. Then you can devote several years to establishing a relationship with your local dealer.

Or, the prospective buyer can seek advice from someone who's spent decades in the marketplace, who knows the cars and their owners. Somebody, for instance, like Tegtmeier. “If somebody asks, ‘Can you help me?’, and if it's someone I know, I am likely to say yes. If it is someone I don't know, I am more likely to say no.”

But there's one thing Tegtmeier can't do. “No matter how much of a fee I am offered, no matter who the prospective buyer, there is nothing I can do to persuade the Ferrari factory in Maranello to make one extra car.” ♦

Jack Smith has been a car buff since childhood, when his father designed auto bodies for Philadelphia's E. G. Budd Company. His work has appeared in The New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, Town & Country, GQ and the Robb Report, where he created the “Connoisseur at Large” column. He won three gold “Motos” for automotive travel writing.



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Liberation from "Wine Gift" Frustration!

Bob Trimble

Spread good cheer with fine spirits this year.

So it's that wonderful, spirited time of year again, but the pressure is on to select thoughtful holiday gifts personalized for each friend, colleague and loved one.

After aimlessly trudging through the malls and racking your brain, in a moment of inspiration—or desperation—you decide the perfect gift for everyone on your list will be a bottle of fine wine! Something to bring cheer to the spirit and to the palate, and it's one-stop-shopping, too. You picture the recipients swirling, sniffing and savoring every sip as they reflect on what a truly special friend you are.

But then you snap back to reality and wonder: How on earth can you select the right bottle for each person? Dealing with different tastes and different price points?

It might be easier than you imagine if you use the services of a wine specialist at your favorite wine store.

Making a Wine Gift List, And Checking It Twice

Before you rush off to the store, create a list of gift recipients. Then for each person, answer three questions:

First, how much do you want to spend? This will help you stay on budget and narrow your choices for the wine specialist to make recommendations. Suggesting "a range between \$40 and \$60," for example, is more helpful than "I'd like to keep it reasonable." One person's "reasonable" might be \$20; but another's might be many times more.

Second, do you think red, white or sparkling wine would be most appreciated? Again, this will help to narrow the possibilities, making it easier to get better recommendations.

Finally, is there a region or particular wine you'd like to buy? Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon? A Tuscan red? Vintage port?

With this information in hand, the wine specialist can use your parameters to make some great recommendations.

Off to Your One-Stop Shopping

Here are some suggestions I'd share for the wine lovers on your list if you asked me for help with your gift giving.

~ Sparkling Wine Is a Great Gift

For a California sparkling wine, I suggest *Schramsberg Vineyards Blanc de Noirs, 2008* (\$37.99). It's hard to beat their quality and consistency for vintage sparklers from the golden state. Celebrate now or age it a few more years.



A new, hot trend in Champagne, is "Grower Champagne," a.k.a. Farmer Fizz, where the grower of the fruit also makes the wine. This was not a common practice in Champagne, but is now growing in popularity. Pierre Péters is a Champagne to seek out for just this reason. Farming just shy of 50 acres, Pierre Péters produces fewer than 14,000 cases, which is a tiny output compared to the big commercial houses with production in the millions. Try the *Blanc de Blancs* (\$54.99), 100 percent chardonnay from all Grand Cru village grapes. Superb!

~ White Wines are Perennial Favorites

A classic California chardonnay, *Ramey, Russian River Valley, 2010* (\$37.99) is a world-class chardonnay with richness, complexity and elegance from one of California's most gifted winemakers, David Ramey. A great choice.

For Riesling lovers, try *Maison Trimbach Cuvée Frédéric Emile, 2005* (\$54.99), a world benchmark for dry-style Rieslings from the Grand Cru vineyards of Osterberg and Geisberg in Alsace, France.

~ Reds for the Holidays

If you have Malbec lovers on your list, step it up a few notches and try a single vineyard Malbec from Trapiche. Single vineyard wines are unique expressions of a particular piece of ground, showing complexities that are often overshadowed when you blend many vineyard sources. I recommend *Trapiche "Terroir Series" Malbec, 2009* (\$43.99).

California pinot noir has come a long way in the past ten years, due in part to new cool-climate sites like the Russian River Valley, Anderson Valley, Santa Rita Hills and Sonoma Coast. Way under the radar is *Merry Edwards Pinot Noir, Sonoma*



Coast, 2011 (\$49.99). Merry is a recent James Beard Award winner and has a way with cool-climate pinot noir.

For syrah, I suggest you choose from Washington State. You'll find a superb example made by an old friend and Master of Wine, Bob Betz. The Betz Family Winery *La Serenne Syrah, Yakima Valley, 2010* (\$54.99), comes from a single-vineyard production that has richness and power, yet is silky and packed with character.

Wine from Ribera del Duero, the northern plateau of Spain, is not yet well known here, but the Tinto Fino, a.k.a., Tempranillo, that the region produces can be haunting. A superb example is the famous *Dominio Pingus Psi, Ribera del Duero, 2010* (\$41.99). Peter Sisseck, who created that wine has established a new benchmark for greatness in Spanish wine. His efforts of working with the region's best growers, giving them the tools, capital and vision to make a wine they can be proud of has really paid off.

Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon is the gold standard for that grape variety in California and some of the most powerful examples hail from mountain vineyards, like Howell Mountain. *Cade Cabernet Sauvignon, Howell Mountain, Napa Valley, 2009* (\$74.99) is grown on 21 acres, 1,800 feet above the valley floor, where the entire property is organically farmed. This cabernet is sure to impress.

For the Italian wine lover, Brunello di Montalcino is usually near and dear to their hearts for some of the best expressions of Sangiovese in Tuscany. *Col D'Orcia, Brunello di Montalcino, 2008* (\$39.99) is sure to make a super holiday gift at a reasonable price.

~ An Unexpected Classic

Vintage port is a wonderful and special gift, but often overlooked. Well after tasting the 2011 vintage ports a few months ago, I'm almost willing to say it could be the best port vintage ever! One of my favorites is *Taylor Fladgate Vintage Port, Portugal, 2011* (\$45.99, 375 ml; \$85.99, 750 ml).

I hope this makes it a bit easier to spread good holiday spirit this year. Cheers! ♦

Bob Trimble is the wine specialist at the Fine Wine & Good Spirits Premium Collection at King of Prussia. The wines he's recommended are available throughout Chester County and the Western Main Line. To feed his 30-year passion for wine, Bob has traveled extensively through the world's great wine regions. Career highlights include a "Best of Philly" award for Best Wine Class and conducting tastings for the Congressional Wine Caucus on Capitol Hill.



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Lise Monty

As we entered the grand, historic Columbia Station, a train rumbled by on the adjacent tracks as if cued by a stage director. Recalling the building's roots, it was a perfect welcome to the high-ceilinged spaces of the elegant catering facility.

Robert Ryan Catering purchased the ideally located, distinctive building in 1982. Built in 1858, it had been serviced by the Reading Railroad until 1972. Today it's the corporate headquarters for the thriving on- and off-premise catering operation that has grown to include several other appealing sites throughout the area. Owner Bob Ryan says prospective clients have asked if he can arrange to have a train go by during their special event. As much as he wants to honor every client request, that's one he can't control.

Recent extensive updates of Columbia Station have created a welcoming, refined environment. On our way to the Club Room for a multi-course tasting, we peeked into the Grand Ballroom where guests mingled at a lunch-time gathering. Lovely crystal chandeliers hanging from the two-story-high ceiling dramatized the room's grandness. Wooden beams on the ceiling toasted its earlier days as a bustling passenger station filled with folks waiting for trains to arrive.

An impressive antique wooden bar with new granite top anchors the Club Room. My tasting companion and I applauded the

chic grass wallpaper, warm wainscoting, handsome sconces and eye-catching chandeliers, the latter for different reasons. She was intrigued because their wrought-iron swirls reminded her of an old clock's gears and springs. They looked sculptural and contemporary to me. We agreed the room was comfortably contemporary with vintage touches that accented the warm ambiance.

An Abundance of Appetizers

Owner Bob Ryan is proud that his large kitchen staff is creative and adept at customizing menus. "If someone has a special request, we can accommodate them. If they tell us most of the guests are coming from the Midwest, say, we'll offer an array of simple, hearty dishes ... meat and potatoes." While the staff works hand-in-hand with clients, it maintains close relationships with local farmers, often featuring displays of their products on buffet tables.

The five appetizers we savored ranged from ethnic to trendy to combinations of the two that were new to me, a total feast of flavor and texture blends attractively presented on stylish white dishes. *Wild Mushroom & Truffled Goat Cheese Crostini* blended the piquant cheese with sautéed mushrooms on a toasted bread rectangle that was perfectly crisp. Like all the other appetizers, it combined several compatible flavors and textures in one small package.

The deep-fried *Curried Chicken and Butternut Squash Samosa* couldn't miss with its seasonal vegetable/meat pairing and just

the right touch of curry. *Chorizo, Smoked Gouda, Apple Butter Panini* showed how multi-national flavors can work together beautifully. And the *Miso-Glazed Pork Belly Tostada*, with a peppery kick in the creamy cheese base, totally won us over, after initial misgivings. The small *Pumpkin Cornbread Muffin* brought big seasonal flavor to the appetizer feast.

Next came a "Short Plate" or small plate course—*Tuscan Chicken-Wing Osso Bucco*—a tasty adaptation of the Milanese veal specialty with artichokes, sun-dried tomatoes, olives and white beans.

From Soup to Mousse

A mini cheddar loaf sat in the bowl of vibrant *Tomato Soup*, served family-style and totally satisfying. *Sautéed Sturgeon*, one of our favorites, combined cubes of meaty, moist sturgeon with toasted quinoa salad, its crunchiness a perfect foil for the smooth parsnip purée. Lightly dressed with fig vinaigrette and topped with slender fig slices, it was totally delectable.

The combination entrée (think surf and turf) featured melt-in-your-mouth *Braised Beef Short Rib* with a pan-fried fillet of *Mediterranean Sea Bass*, fresh and light, on wild mushroom risotto croquettes with crunchy crust, plus plump asparagus spears and appealing piquillo-pepper cream sauce.

We were delighted the dessert was not only light but small and served in a lovely stemmed glass. *"Pumpkin Pie" Pumpkin Mousse*, true to its name, was graced with candied walnuts, a pirouette cookie, and, of course, a dollop of whipped cream.

Our House. Their House. Your House. Your Business, Too.

Ryan's off-premise catering has expanded to include corporate headquarters, historic mansions, outdoor farms, museums, private residences and tented backyards. And, it's included on numerous preferred-vendor lists throughout the area.

The company recently purchased The Barn on Bridge in Collegeville, a former dairy farm built in the 1700s, which has

been completely renovated, keeping original wood beams, exposed stone walls and large windows overlooking expansive pastures. And Ryan's has been designated as the exclusive caterer for the Welkinweir Estate, a scenic property bounded by 192 acres of wooded hills and tranquil pond in Pottstown.

Brides planning warm-weather weddings especially like Columbia Station's charming 1930's train caboose that's used as the bridal suite. It's adjacent to a lovely garden area, bordered by a tall stonewall, with a gazebo as the perfect setting for the ceremony.

We Are Family

Bob Ryan, chief operating officer, prides himself on the 23-year-old company's success as a family-owned and operated business. Daughter Stephanie Ryan, who has worked in the industry since her early teens, oversees staffing, among other duties and son Mark Ryan, who has 16 years experience in the industry, is owner/chef. Definitely a family affair. ♦

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Food News

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

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Get in the true spirit of the season by giving to our local food bank. The **Chester County Food Bank's** website provides—sadly—a long list of food cupboards in the area. Consider donating your time, money and food, or running a food drive and giving the gift of a full belly to area residents in need. For more information about how you can help, visit ChesterCountyFoodBank.org. 650 Pennsylvania Dr., Exton. 610-873-6000.



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For that small group of folks on your gift list who are both hockey fans and wine lovers, you'll find something perfect at **Chaddsford Winery**. A selection of everyday red and white wines will display the Philadelphia Flyers logo all season long. You'll also find Chaddsford wines by the bottle or glass at the Flyers' home arena, Wells Fargo Center, and other local sports bars. 632 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford. 610-388-6221; ChaddsFord.com.



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Relax & Refresh. If the holidays start to overwhelm you, decompress with some yoga ... and beer. **Victory Brewpub** hosts Beer & Yoga on Saturday, December 14. Come out to the beer hall and relax during a soothing yoga class.



Afterwards, re-energize with light appetizers paired with refreshing Victory beers. Pre-register, \$25. Dec. 14, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 420 Acorn Ln., Downingtown. 610-873-0881; VictoryBeer.com.

Outdoor Dining in December.

For those surprisingly sunny December days, dream of spring weather as you dine outside at **Tavola Restaurant & Bar** at Springfield Country Club. Their recent outdoor dining and lounge features a fire pit, large heaters and an enclosed and heated bar for the cold weather months. Tavola will also host outdoor Eagles Tailgates throughout the football season. Gather at the lounge for tailgating specials on food and drink as you cheer on the team. 400 W. Sproul Rd., Springfield. 610-543-2100; Tavolas.com.





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Classic Holiday Foods

Laura Muzzi Brennan

Keeping holiday traditions alive is the main ingredient.

Under the tree and in our stockings, we want the trendiest gadget, the hottest ticket, the latest best-seller. But on the holiday table, our tastes go retro: we crave familiar, traditional dishes, “slow” food that invites us to linger in each other’s company.

“As crazy a world as it is, as splintered and broken as the family can be, Christmas brings everyone to a halt,” observes Patrick Byrne, proprietor of Malvern’s **General Warren Inne**. “It brings people back into a routine.” For some, that means booking a family lunch every year on December 27th and relaxing for hours in the inn’s dining rooms decorated with ever-greens and glowing with firelight.

For others, it’s all about feasting on the 268-year-old inn’s classic Christmas comfort foods. Savory indulgences include beef Wellington, sherry-laced snapper soup, chateaubriand for two, crab cakes and a knockout Caesar salad prepared table-side. Sweet offerings range from Bananas Foster, cobblers and bread puddings to gluten-free options such as caramel-apple panacotta and chocolate olive oil cake.

Right after Christmas, I plan to spoil myself with a holiday lunch at the General Warren, but before I embrace this new tradition, I’m looking forward to honoring a few old ones: attending friends’ Canadian Christmas party, making gingerbread and cooking lots of seafood.

Every Christmas Eve while I was growing up, my eldest uncle and his family hosted the Feast of the Seven Fishes, an Italian-American celebration that I revived for my own family

almost a decade ago. (Granted, some years I make four types of seafood and conk out, but I digress.)

The Feast’s origins are up for debate: some say the seven fish represent the seven sacraments or the seven deadly sins. Others point out that the number seven signifies perfection in the Bible. The point is that Italians “fast”—in the loosest sense of the word—by refraining from meat while waiting for the Christ child to arrive.

Most years, fried smelts and baked cod were on my uncle’s table as was my all-time favorite, angel hair pasta with olive oil and anchovies. Nowadays, in addition to the angel hair, I serve shrimp cocktail along with oysters and clams on the half shell topped with a mignonette sauce.

And every Christmas Eve, I add a new dish to my repertoire; this year, it’s going to be linguine with red clam sauce. Next year, I might challenge myself with baccala alla vesuviana (salt cod with tomatoes and capers) or cioppino (the Italian-American version of bouillabaisse), two recipes on my “when I have extra time” list.

This holiday season, I hope you find yourself with an abundance of hours: to cook, to eat, to savor, but most of all to linger in the company of those you love.



Beef Wellington
General Warren Inne



Tourtiere



Cremini Mushroom & Brie Soup
General Warren Inne

Caramel Bread Pudding

Says Patrick Byrne, proprietor of The General Warren Inn, "We find that using older bread, baguettes, croissants or even hot dog rolls—anything with more crust—is better than fresh sliced sandwich bread due to texture and how well it goes with caramel sauce and even topped with ice cream."

For the bread pudding:

- 8 eggs
- 2 C. milk or water
- 2 C. heavy or light cream
- ½ C. sugar

- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ C. Myers (any Caribbean) dark rum
- 1½ lbs. bread (see note above)
- Butter (not melted) for greasing pan

For the caramel sauce:

- 1 C. packed brown sugar
- ½ C. half and half
- 4 Tb. butter
- Pinch of Salt
- 1 Tb. vanilla extract
- optional: vanilla, caramel or coffee ice cream

Preheat oven to 350°. In large bowl,

combine eggs, milk, cream, sugar, vanilla, salt and rum until blended and sugar is dissolved. Add bread and ensure it soaks up all the liquid by stirring carefully or pressing lightly to help absorption. Allow to sit for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, make the caramel sauce. Mix the brown sugar, half and half, butter and salt in a heavy-bottom sauce pot over medium-low heat. Cook while whisking gently for 5 to 7 minutes, until mixture thickens. Add the vanilla and cook another minute to thicken further. Turn off the heat.

In a 9-inch baking pan, coat bottom and sides with butter, add bread mixture, using back of spoon to press bread evenly into pan. Pour caramel sauce evenly over bread and bake for 75 minutes, until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

Allow to rest 10 minutes before serving. Add ice cream on top or side and serve.

Makes 8 servings.

Cremini Mushroom and Brie Soup

A creamy, decadent addition to the holiday table. Recipe courtesy of The General Warren Inn. **Chef's notes:** 1. If you want a chunkier soup or don't have a stick blender, mushrooms can be chopped finely in advance. 2. The type of beer will affect flavor: a darker lager or stout will yield a richer soup, while a lighter beer will simply give the soup an overall smooth flavor. 3. To make cornstarch slurry, use a fork to mix equal parts cornstarch and cold water in a small bowl. Start with 2 Tb. of each, and add to recipe a little at a time to achieve desired thickness.

- 2 Tb. vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 Tb. chopped garlic
- 3 Tb. chopped shallot
- 1½ tsp. dried thyme
- 2-3 lbs. cremini mushrooms, roughly chopped (see note above)
- 3 C. chicken stock or broth
- 2 C. heavy cream
- 1 bottle beer, cook's choice (see note)
- Salt and Pepper, to taste
- Worcestershire Sauce, to taste
- 8 oz. brie, trimmed of all rind, cut into dime-sized pieces for quick melting
- Cornstarch slurry (see note)

In a heavy-bottomed pan, heat oil and sauté onions, garlic and shallots over medium heat until tender but not brown.

Add thyme and stir for an additional

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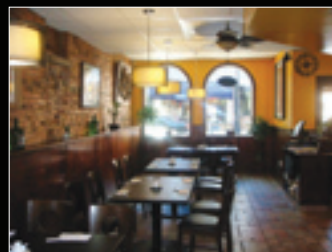
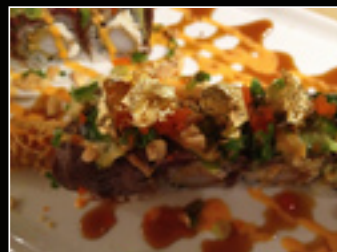
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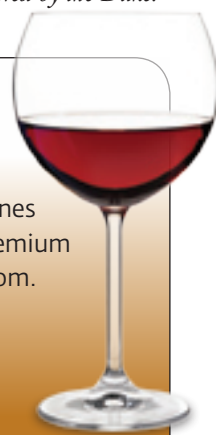
minute or two. Increase heat to high and add mushrooms, stirring until mushrooms release their juices, about 3-4 minutes. Add all other ingredients, except brie and cornstarch slurry. Allow to come to a boil. Add brie and stir for 15 minutes on medium heat, careful not to let cheese stick to bottom. Add cornstarch slurry to thicken.

Purée, using handheld food processor. Adjust seasonings. The soup can be re-heated but make sure to use a heavy-bottomed pan and stir frequently.

Makes 8 servings.

General Warren Individual Beef Wellingtons

Other than making the mushroom duxelles in advance, cook this dish from start to finish for optimal flavor and correct doneness. A dash of history: This rich dish is named for Arthur Wellesley, the First Duke of Wellington, who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815. Culinary lore has it that the Duke was indifferent to gastronomic pleasures, so his cooks worked extra hard to impress him. This dish did the trick! Another theory about the recipe's name: when the dish comes out of the oven, its shiny crust resembles the highly polished riding boots ("Wellingtons") favored by the Duke.



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For the mushroom duxelles:

2 Tb. butter
½ lb. mushrooms (white, wild or cremini), finely chopped
3 Tb. shallots, finely chopped
½ tsp. dried thyme or
1½ Tb. fresh thyme leaves
2 oz. dry white wine
Salt and pepper, to taste

For the Beef Wellingtons:

6, 8-oz. filet mignons
6 slices country paté (2" x 2")
6 heaping Tb. mushroom duxelles
6 sheets thin puff pastry (12" x 12")
optional: braided puff pastry for decorating
Egg wash (1-2 eggs beaten with a few drops of water)

To serve:

Wild mushroom or other demi-glace or brown gravy, available at gourmet food shops.

Make the mushroom duxelles:

Melt butter in sauce pan over medium high heat and add mushrooms, shallots and thyme. Stir until moisture from mushrooms evaporates and add wine, salt and pepper.

Reduce heat to medium and cook while stirring until "dry," but not sticking to pan. Remove and set aside. (Can be prepared 2 days in advance and stored in the refrigerator.)

To make the Beef Wellingtons:

Preheat oven to 425°. Season filets with salt and pepper and grill or pan sear until one full doneness below final serving doneness (e.g., cook to rare if you want medium rare Wellington).

Place filet on cutting board or plate and top with 1 heaping tablespoon of duxelle per filet, one slice paté. Then lay puff pastry square on top. Carefully lift filet and tuck puff pastry under filet like wrapping a gift, making sure filet sits level and pastry under filet is evenly distributed and smooth. Brush egg wash over pastry. (Add optional braid as decoration; then, apply more egg wash.)

Place on greased cookie sheet or low sided baking pan and immediately place in oven. Bake until puff pastry is golden brown. Serve immediately by placing Wellingtons on top of a few spoonfuls of demi-glace or brown gravy.

Makes 6 servings.

Capellini with Anchovies and Olive Oil

Channeling my grandmother and aunts, I make this dish every Christmas Eve after rushing home from church. It comes together in the time it takes to sing a few carols and pour the wine.

8 oz. capellini, spaghetti or linguine
2, 2-oz. tins flat anchovies rolled with capers in olive oil
6-8 cloves garlic, minced (to taste)
2-3 Tb. olive oil
2 Tb. capers
optional: 1 C. diced tomatoes in garlic and basil
¼ C. chopped Italian parsley
Parmesan cheese

Cook the pasta according to package directions and drain. In a large, deep sided skillet, heat oil from anchovies along with 2-3 additional Tb. oil. Add garlic and sauté until just beginning to brown. Add anchovies and mash them with a spatula. Add the capers and mix well.

If using tomatoes, add them and heat through. Toss pasta into the skillet and coat with sauce.

Add parsley and toss again. Serve with Parmesan cheese.

Makes 4 servings.

Linguine with Red Clam Sauce

My aunts Mary and Amelia and cousin Bonnie prepare a 7 fish dinner every Christmas Eve. When I got them on the phone to talk about their recipes, they did what they always do: talked fast, made me laugh and reminded me once again that I'm lucky to be a member of the Muzzi-Aiello clan.

Note: While you can serve the sauce on the same day you make it, it's best to prepare it 2-3 days before to allow flavors to deepen. Freeze leftover sauce.

¼ C. olive oil
3, 29-oz. cans tomato sauce (preferred brand: Tuttorosso)
2 cloves fresh garlic minced
4, 6.5-oz. cans chopped clams
¼ C. fresh chopped Italian parsley, plus more for garnish
Salt and pepper, to taste
1 lb. linguine, fettuccini or spaghetti
optional: red pepper flakes

In a large saucepan, heat olive oil. Add garlic and sauté for about 2 minutes. If

garlic begins to brown, remove pan from heat. Add remaining ingredients except for pasta. Simmer sauce for an hour.

Cook pasta according to package directions. Serve family-style garnished with parsley.

Makes 8 servings.

Clark Family's Reveillon Tourtière

Every year, our good friends Laurie and Tim Clark invite us to their Canadian Christmas party where Reveillon Tourtière claims center stage on a table laden with classic Canadian dishes. Explains Laurie, "In Quebec, Reveillon is the name for the joyous Christmas Eve of feasting, dancing, storytelling, and parties that follow midnight Mass. Tourtière, a lightly spiced and herbed pork filling in a flaky pastry, is at the heart of Reveillon festivities." This original recipe comes from Tim's grandmother, a Mohawk Indian who relocated to Quebec after being forced off her Ontario reservation for marrying a non-native. No matter where the Clarks have moved—Alberta, Newfoundland, Philadelphia—this holiday dish travels with them.

2 lb. ground pork shoulder
1 Tb. vegetable oil
1½ C. beef stock
3 onions, finely chopped
6 garlic cloves, minced
2 C. sliced mushrooms
1 C. celery, finely chopped
¾ tsp. salt
½ tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. coriander
½ tsp. allspice
½ tsp. nutmeg
½ tsp. cumin
¼ tsp. ground cloves
½ tsp. dried savory
½ tsp. dried thyme
½ tsp. dried rosemary
½ tsp. dried marjoram
½ tsp. dried sage
1 C. fresh breadcrumbs
½ C. fresh parsley, coarsely chopped
Double crust pie pastry for 9-inch pie plate
Egg wash (1-2 eggs beaten with a few drops of water)

optional: extra pastry for decorating

Preheat oven to 375°. Cook pork thoroughly with oil in a large skillet, breaking up bits. Stir in the remaining ingredi-

Latkes

Although Hanukkah fell closer to Thanksgiving than Christmas this year, I could not write December's Brandywine Table without giving a nod to one of my favorite classic holiday foods. Whether topped with applesauce, dolled up with caviar or served au naturel—hot and crispy from the pan—latkes just feel festive. This recipe comes from my friend Laura K. who throws her Latke-palooza every Hanukkah. She adapted this recipe from Jewish cooking maven, Joan Nathan.

Spinach Latkes

10 potatoes, scrubbed and peeled (keep in cold water until ready to use)
3 medium onions
3 medium eggs
¾ C. matzoh meal (alternatives: flour or bread crumbs)
1, 10-oz. package frozen chopped spinach, thawed
Salt and pepper to taste
Vegetable oil

Food process the potatoes and onions. (While Joan Nathan recommends alternating between the small and large holes on a manual grater, Laura pulverizes most of the potatoes and adds finely grated potatoes to vary the texture.)

Move the potato/onion mixture to a cheesecloth (or paper towel or non-terrycloth dish towel) -lined colander and squeeze the moisture out into a bowl beneath it. Try to get the mixture as dry as possible. Save the potato starch that accumulates at the bottom of the bowl.

Mix potato and onion mixture with eggs, matzoh meal, salt and pepper. If the mixture seems dry, add another egg. Mix in the potato starch from bowl.

Squeeze as much moisture out of the spinach as possible. Add to the batter.

Heat 1 inch of oil in a frying pan. Drop about 1 tablespoon of mixture for each latke and fry, turning once until crisp and golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Serve with apple sauce. Makes 8-10 servings (aka a lot of latkes!).

ents up to the breadcrumbs. Simmer on medium-low heat for 45 minutes until most of the liquid is absorbed, although you want it slightly moist. Stir in breadcrumbs and parsley and let cool.

Put filling into bottom pie pastry. Then top with the second pie crust. Cut steam vents.

(Laurie cuts extra pastry into holly leaf shapes and places on top of crust for decoration.)

Brush with egg wash. Bake 40-50 minutes.

Makes 1 pie, 8 servings.

Gingerbread with Grand Marnier Raisin Sauce

No Christmas is complete without gingerbread. This cake, adapted from Susan Simon's "spirited gingerbread" recipe in The Nantucket Holiday Table, pays tribute to the bold flavors typical of old-fashioned New England desserts such as Indian pudding and spice cake. Simon adds rum to her batter, which is delicious. I eliminated the rum, but tried it with this Grand Marnier sauce. Either way, it's a spirited sweet end to the holiday meal!

For the gingerbread:

½ C. unsalted butter, softened

½ C. sugar

1 egg

2½ C. all-purpose flour

1 tsp. kosher salt

½ tsp. ground cinnamon

1 Tb. ground ginger

½ tsp. ground cloves

1 C. dark molasses

¾ C. hot water

¼ C. finely chopped crystallized ginger

1 C. raisins

For the sauce:

¼ C. Grand Marnier

1 C. raisins

½ C. unsalted butter

pinch of salt, to taste

1 C. heavy cream, room temperature

optional: vanilla ice cream

To make the gingerbread:

Preheat oven to 350°. With an electric mixer, mix together butter, sugar and egg until well-combined.

In a separate bowl, mix together flour, salt and spices. Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and mix to combine. Add molasses and water, and mix on medium high to high speed until batter is smooth, scraping down sides of bowl frequently. Stir in raisins.

Butter a deep-dish pie plate. Add batter and cook for 45 minutes until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool slightly in pan. Cut into wedges.

To make the sauce:

Put all ingredients, except cream, in a sauce pan set over medium heat. Stir frequently until butter melts, sugar dissolves and mixture starts to darken and thicken, about 5 minutes. Stir in cream and cook for another 1-2 minutes.

To serve:

This cake really is best when the gingerbread is still warm. Top each wedge of cake with a scoop of ice cream and a few spoonfuls of warm sauce. Have a small pitcher of extra sauce on the table as someone is bound to want more!

Store leftover sauce in the refrigerator and reheat slowly adding a little extra cream to thin it out.

Makes 8 servings.

Champagne Vinaigrette

For those who can't stand to waste the last drop of champagne...

½ C. olive oil

¼ C. flat champagne

¼ C. champagne vinegar

1 tsp. coarse-grain Dijon mustard

1 tsp. lemon thyme leaves

Pinch kosher salt

Shake all ingredients together in a jar.

Makes 1 cup. ♦

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

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

Wish You Were There

At some of the best fundraisers, local events and antiques shows of the season



Kennett Symphony Fashion Show and Luncheon

33rd annual fundraiser show held November 6 at Mendenhall Inn Grand Ballroom. Shown left to right are Vicki Pollert, Sharon Small, Cathy Williams, and Peggy Gerety. Fashions were provided by Jane Chalfont/Kiki Boutique, JOYA Boutique, and Ree Gallagher Jewelry.



Main Line Antiques Show

A grand gathering at the annual benefit for Surrey Services for Seniors. Pictured from left are Presenting Sponsors and Opening Night Sponsors of the 2012 show, Kathy Bajus, Leonard King, Betty Moran, Matt Hamilton and Anne Hamilton.



Chester County Futures Annual Wine Tasting & Dinner

Chef Patrick Feury of Nectar takes a moment to pose with Chester County Futures staff from left: Lori Crenny, Marjorie Dawkins, Chef Patrick, Nicole Fiorilla and Susanne Motta. Chester County Futures provides students college readiness and life skills needed for self-sufficiency.



The Mane Event at Oberod 13th Annual Benefit for Reins of Life

Oh, what a night! Live and silent auctions, a delicious catered menu and open bar. Reins of Life provides equestrian therapy for disabled children.



Delaware Antiques Show Preview Party

Antiques expert, author and television personality Leigh Keno and guest enjoyed an evening of fine antiques, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at Chase Center on the Waterfront, benefiting Winterthur.



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