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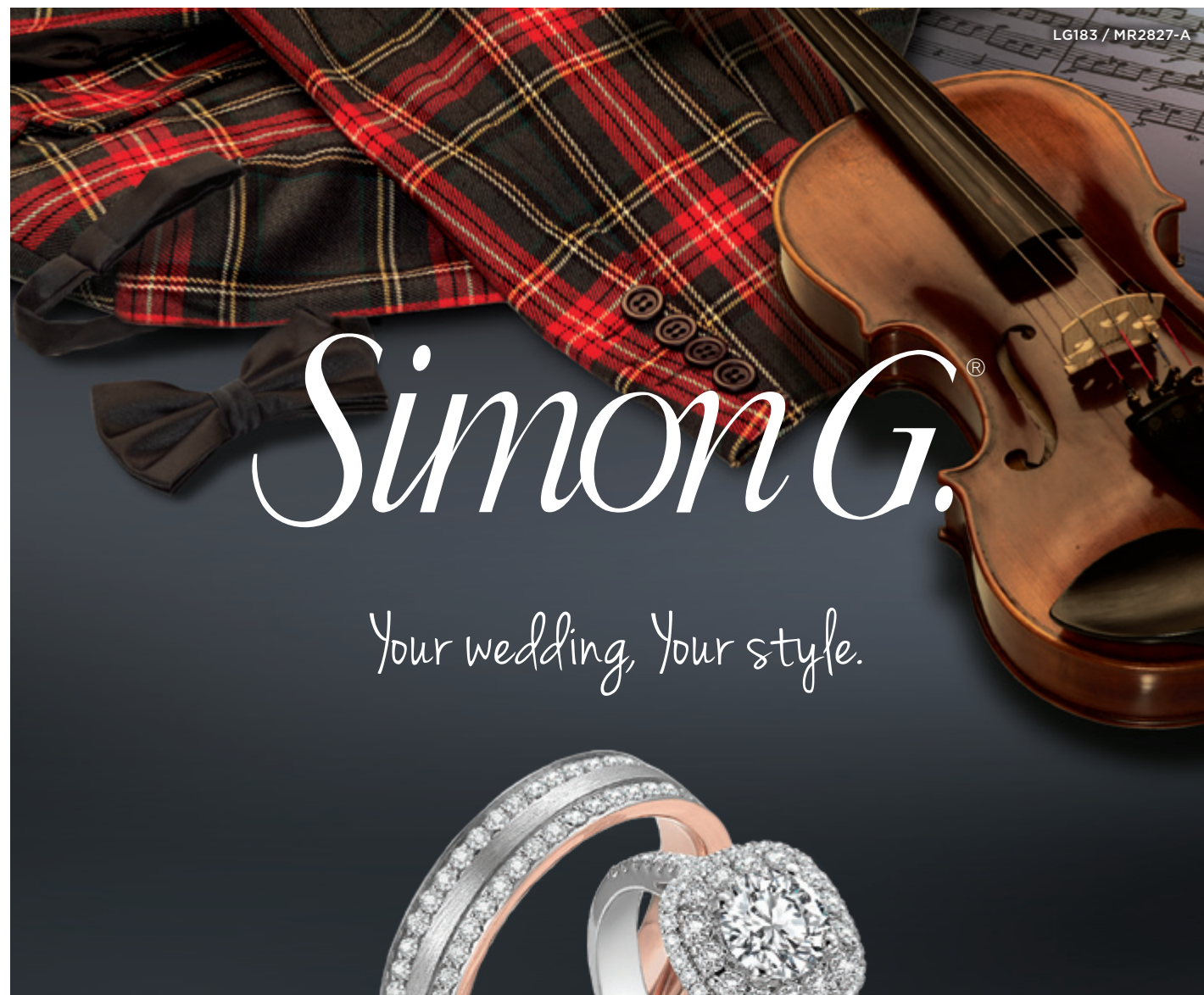
# COUNTY LINES

Your guide to unique places, interesting events, fine dining, great shopping  
and the special lifestyle of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Northern Delaware



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Gift Art, Books & Wine  
Feast of the Seven Fishes  
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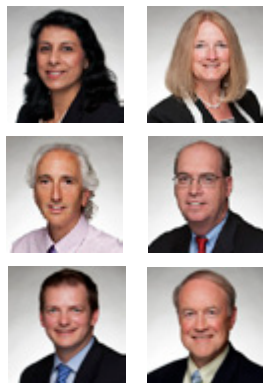
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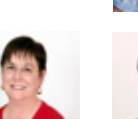
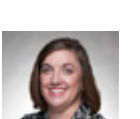
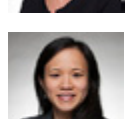
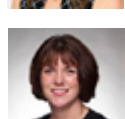
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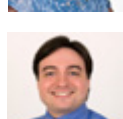
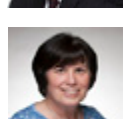
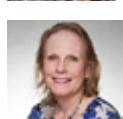


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from the  
**EDITOR**

Are you as ready for the holidays as we are? It's time for shopping, decorating, holiday dining, gift-giving and general good cheer.

Start with the arts and the holiday Panto at People's Light—"Sleeping Beauty" this year. Be prepared to laugh! For more beauty, check out "Artistic Fusion," where the American International Ballet dancers pay homage to Rudolph Nureyev, as captured by Jamie Wyeth's painting at the Brandywine River Museum of Art. And Mary Dolan tells how to shop for one-of-a-kind gifts at art galleries and museum gift shops in "Art: Try Unique this Year."

Christmas celebrations start with Malcolm Johnstone's "An Individual Touch in Downtown West Chester." Then follow Alex Deliso and Abigail Gillespie on visits to Malvern, Wayne, Kennett Square, Phoenixville, Downingtown and Wilmington in "Red, Green & Everything in Between."

At home, we're decorating our mantels with advice from Jennifer Alpher, owner of Barn Pretty. See the results in "Mantel Magic." There's even more inspiration in "Holiday Style" and "Holiday Window Shopping."

Kayleigh Thompson helps with the right wine for the right person in "Make a Gift of Wine" and Andrea Thatcher shares recommendations for the right book in "All I Want for Christmas Is ... a Great Book." In "Finish Lines," Jack Smith examines Detroit's responses to what women want in cars in "The Feminine Mystique," lest you make a major mistake beneath the tree.


And Brandywine Table columnist Laura Brennan adds to holiday cheer with "Feast of the Seven Fishes," a Christmas eve tradition that can rival dinner on the big day!

Check out our "Best Local Events" section, overflowing with things to do to celebrate the season! And, next month, get ready to be hungry for our Annual Dining Guide.

All of us at *County Lines* wish you peace, prosperity and the Happiest of Holidays!


  
Jo Anne Durako  
Editor

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**December 2016**

Volume XL, Number 4

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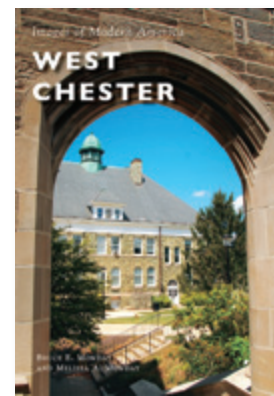
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## [Good to Know] Just a few things we'd thought you'd like to know this month

**Our Modest Past.** Get your own handheld guided tour in the new book, *"Images of Modern America: West Chester."* Authors Bruce and Melissa



Mowday illustrate West Chester's humble beginnings as a pre-Revolutionary pit-stop known as Turks Head as it evolved into the county's seat of government. Discover the places where Frederick Douglass moved citizens to action, where Abraham Lincoln's first campaign biography was published, and so much more. At [ArcadiaPublishing.com](http://ArcadiaPublishing.com) and local bookstores.

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**Ugly and Proud.** The ugly sweater party may be a blurry memory, but you can still put that special outfit to good use. Luckily, there's the **Philadelphia Ugly Sweater Run** on December 17th. Walk or run through the city as holiday music echoes through the streets and marshmallows fly from the sidelines. Register and get a free Ugly Sweater Run knit hat. You'll even have a chance for selfies inside a life-sized sno-globe. Begins at 8 a.m. in Fairmount Park. Benefits One Warm Coat. [TheUglySweaterRun.com](http://TheUglySweaterRun.com).



**Small Business Spirit.** Although Small Business Saturday has come and gone, let's keep the spirit alive this holiday shopping season. **"Shop Small"** isn't just a slogan—it's a way to celebrate the contributions of our many locally owned businesses. Supporting local shops doesn't just help our towns, it helps us. So stay festive, and shop local! Find small businesses at [ShopSmallNow.AmericanExpress.com](http://ShopSmallNow.AmericanExpress.com).



**Little Lincolns.** December 2nd, you arrive in West Chester for the annual Christmas Parade, but you're two hours early. What to do? The historic Lincoln Building is in the middle of the action, so why not check out the **18th Annual Gettysburg's Address Contest?** Hosted by the Chester County Community Foundation, the contest features a handful of local middle schoolers who dress as Abraham Lincoln and deliver the famous speech from the building's balcony. Orations start at 5:45, plenty of time before the parade. [ChesCoCF.org](http://ChesCoCF.org).

**Three Clicks and Secure.** If you let your kids play games on your phone but don't want them answering important business texts, then the iPhone feature **Guided Access** is for you. With just three clicks of the home button, the setting allows you to lock your phone into one app, so your kids can play *Pokémon Go* without deleting your urgent emails. You can even set time limits. No download needed—it's already installed. Details at [ParentingChaos.com](http://ParentingChaos.com).







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## December Picks Our picks for top events this month

### *A Christmas Story: The Musical*

Through January 8



Based on the classic holiday film about the boy who wants nothing more than a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas and his dad who wins that incredible leg lamp, this family show reminds us during its humorous and upbeat story that the holidays are about who you have around you—not what you have surrounding you. *Media Music Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. Wed.–Sun., check website for show times. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.*

### Midnight in the Square 2016

December 31

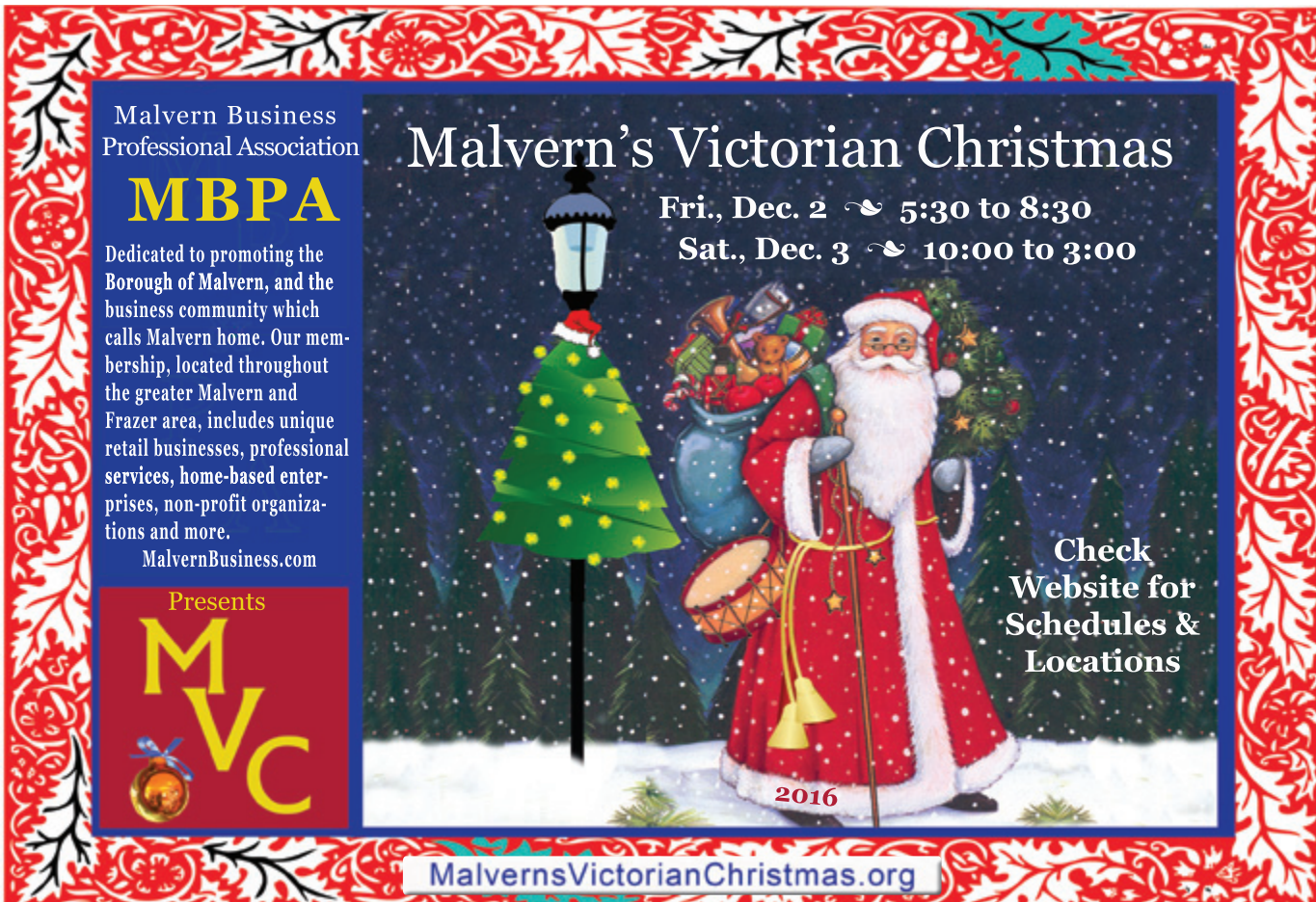
Kennett Square's new annual tradition has something for the whole family. Activities for kids, live entertainment, a laser show, food vendors in heated tents and more. Starts at 6 p.m., the raising and lighting of the 700-lb., 8-ft. lighted steel mushroom is at 8. Admission, non-perishable food items to support Kennett Area Community Service. *MidnightInTheSquare.com.*



### King of Prussia Town Center's Inaugural Winterfest

December 10

Bring friends and family to experience all the brand-new Town Center has to offer while enjoying local school choir performances, winter-themed activities, festive games and more. Check items off your holiday shopping list and give back to the local community (Cradles to Crayons is holding a Coat Drive), all while awaiting Santa's big arrival at the Town Center. *2 Village Dr., King of Prussia. 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. KingOfPrussia-TownCenter.com.*



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Dedicated to promoting the Borough of Malvern, and the business community which calls Malvern home. Our membership, located throughout the greater Malvern and Frazer area, includes unique retail businesses, professional services, home-based enterprises, non-profit organizations and more.  
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**Malvern's Victorian Christmas**  
Fri., Dec. 2 ~ 5:30 to 8:30  
Sat., Dec. 3 ~ 10:00 to 3:00

Check Website for Schedules & Locations

2016

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### Chester County Historical Society Holiday & Greens Sale

December 9–10

It's back! One of the area's finest traditions offering beautiful and affordable handcrafted wreaths, floral arrangements, ornaments and garland, all handmade by CCHS volunteers. Also available are greens and holly in generous bags for the do-it-yourselfer and a bake sale where you'll find delicious holiday favorites. *225 N. High St., West Chester. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.*

### National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum Holiday Open House

December 9–10

On *Dec. 9*, visitors can stroll through candle-lit grounds, listen to carolers, enjoy refreshments and see a train display. Canned goods donations are welcome. *Dec. 10*, Brunch with Santa in Graystone Mansion, 10 a.m. to noon, \$5.50. *S. 1st Ave., Coatesville. 5 to 8 p.m. Free. 610-384-9282; SteelMuseum.org.*





# best Local Events

## FAMILY FUN

**THROUGH DECEMBER 18**  
**DE Children's Theatre**  
**Presents Willy Wonka.**  
 Roald Dahl's classic story of a magic candy man's quest to find an heir to run his chocolate factory. 1014 Delaware Ave., Wilmington. 2 pm. \$14. 302-655-1014; DEChildrensTheatre.org.

**THROUGH DECEMBER**  
**Eastern University Astronomy.** The Julia Fowler Planetarium has shows each month, consisting of a live sky presentation followed by a look at what the Jupiter Juno probe is revealing and a Full-dome movie, Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17. See their website for details. McInnis Hall, Eastern University, 1300 Eagle Rd., St. Davids. 7 and 8 pm. \$10. 610-341-1390; EUAstronomy.com.

**THROUGH DECEMBER**  
**Morris Arboretum's Holiday Garden Railway.** Thousands of sparkling lights adorn a miniature village surrounded by a ¼ mile track with model trains. 100 E. Northwestern Ave., Phila. 10 to 4. Free with gardens admission, \$7-\$16. 215-247-5777; MorrisArboretum.org.

**THROUGH JANUARY 15**  
**Delaware Museum of Natural History**  
**Presents "Arctic Adventure & Rainforest Explorers."** Hands-on activities supported by a narrative and colorful graphics make the study of climate change a personal experience. 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, TUESDAYS**  
**Story Time at Wellington Square Bookshop.** Ages 2-5 enjoy songs and cookies and listen to stories come alive in the bookshop. 549 Wellington Square, Exton. 10 to 11 am. 610-458-1144; WellingtonSquareBooks.com.



**THROUGH APRIL 23**  
**The Franklin Institute. Through April 2,**  
 Robot Revolution—a collection of cutting-edge robots curated from innovative global robotics companies and universities. **Through April 23,** Jurassic World: The Exhibition—come face to face with a Brachiosaurus, a Velociraptor and a Tyrannosaurus rex. 215-448-1200; FI.edu.

**DECEMBER 2-4, 9-11**  
**Christmas at the Ironmasters.** The newly renovated 18th-century Welsh Ironmaster's mansion and grounds will be open for self-guided tours to view creative holiday exhibits including an antique Russian sleigh from the 1893 Chicago's World Fair. Homemade refreshments, music and vendors, Welsh Bonfires on Sat. Historic Poole Forge, 1940 Main St., Narvon. Fri, 4 to 8; Sat, noon to 8; Sun, noon to 5. 717-445-0472; HistoricPooleForge.org.

**DECEMBER 3**  
**Colonial PA Plantation's Christmas on the Farm.** Get into the holiday spirit and visit the Plantation on its closing day for the year. Enjoy the decorations, tea tasting, wasailing, textile, woodworking and long rifle demonstrations. Ridley Creek State Park, Media. 11 am to 4 pm. \$8-\$10. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.

**DECEMBER 3**  
**Coatesville Christmas Parade.** Lively event with bands, floats, antique cars, cartoon characters and entertainment. Strode Ave. to 11th St., Coatesville. Starts at 10 am. Coatesville-ChristmasParade.com.

**DECEMBER 3**  
**13th Annual Firebird Festival.** Burning of the Firebird (Phoenix) will be at Friendship Field (at Franklin Ave. & Fillmore St.). The fun begins at 3, burning of the Phoenix at 8:15. 610-933-9199; FirebirdFestival.com.

**DECEMBER 4 & 11**  
**Old-Fashioned Holiday at the Marshall Steam Museum.** Enjoy a special photo exhibit, readings of *The Night Before Christmas* and *The Polar Express*, Victorian and train-inspired holiday crafts and activities, electric train demonstrations and more. 3000 Creek Rd., Yorklyn, DE. Noon to 4. \$5-\$7. 302-239-2385; AuburnHeights.org.

**DECEMBER 4, 29**  
**Holiday Events in Newtown Square.**

**Dec. 4,** Tree Lighting in St. Alban's Circle, off Rts. 3 & 252, featuring Santa's arrival by fire truck, carolling and hot chocolate, 7 to 8 pm. **Dec. 29,** Ring in the New Year party at Newtown Public Library, 201 Bishop Hollow Rd., 11 am, with music, food, games and a countdown at noon. 215-900-1499.

**DECEMBER 7, 10, 17**  
**Brandywine River Museum of Art Christmas Events.** **Dec. 7,** Christmas Party with Santa and Mrs. Claus; **Dec. 10,** Breakfast with the Trains, includes a private tour of the trains; **Dec. 17,** Christmas with the Dolls, a morning of creative crafts and light refreshments. 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. 6 to 8 pm. \$6-\$15. 610-388-2700; Brandywine-Museum.org.



**DECEMBER 10**  
**Firebird Theatre's Holiday Musical Revue.** This family-friendly show features holiday songs and skits to get you in the Christmas spirit. Firebird Theatre's Holiday Revue is performed by kids and teens from their fall workshop. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 2 pm. \$8-\$15. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

**DECEMBER 17**  
**Holiday Cookies and Tins at Wayne Art Center.** Join chef Chiwishi to decorate cookie tins for the holidays and then fill them with cookies you bake yourself. 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. 1 to 3. \$60 for 1 adult, 1 child; \$25 ea. add'l child. Reg. req. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.



## MORE HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS.....

**THROUGH DECEMBER 31**  
**Historic Odessa Fdn. Holiday Events.** **Through Dec. 31,** "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." The Wilson-Warner House is transformed into the home of the Stahlbaums on Christmas Eve. Tues-Sat, 850 Alapocas Dr., Wilmington 10 to 4:30; Sun, 1 to 4:30. \$8-\$10. **Dec. 1,** Historic Delaware Holiday Candlelight Tour, 7 to 8:30, \$15. 201 Main St., Odessa, DE. 302-378-4119; HistoricOdessa.com.

**THROUGH JANUARY 1**  
**Holidays at Hagley: A Child's Delight.** Toys, games and dolls are the decorative theme in the exhibition. Visitors can sample 19th-century holiday dishes including an ornate French dessert service for a Twelfth Night party. Off Rt. 141, Wilmington. 10 to 5. \$10-\$14; free to US Military personnel and families. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.



**THROUGH JANUARY 8**  
**Yuletide at Winterthur.** Featured this year, sparkling trees and American Christmas vignettes, from skating and sleigh ride scenes inspired by Currier & Ives, to a Mississippi family's holiday decorations, to the White House. 5105 Kennett Pk., (Rt. 52), Winterthur, DE. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$5-\$20. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.



**THROUGH JANUARY 8**  
**Holidays at Pennypacker Mills. Through Jan. 8,** see how the holidays were celebrated in the early 1900s. Tues-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 1 to 4. **Dec. 10,** Victorian Christmas Open House, 2 to 8 pm. 5 Haldeman Rd., Schwenksville. \$2 donation. 610-287-9349; MontcoPa.org.

**THROUGH JANUARY 8**  
**Nemours Holiday Celebration.** The Mansion is beautifully decorated with period ornaments and seasonal displays. 850 Alapocas Dr., Wilmington. Tues-Fri, 10 to 4; Sat, noon to 8; Sun, noon to 4. \$7-\$17. 800-651-6912; NemoursMansion.org.



"NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU'VE EXPERIENCED 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' THIS VERSION IS NOT TO BE MISSED"  
 - STAGE MAGAZINE

CHARLES DICKENS' **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**  
 ADAPTED BY PATRICK BARLOW  
 DIRECTED BY STEVE TAGUE

SHOWS SELLING FAST—PLAN YOUR HOLIDAY VISIT TODAY!

**DECEMBER 7 - 30, 2016**

**Audiences rejoice!** Ebenezer Scrooge returns to our stage in this thrilling adaptation of a holiday classic. Using nothing more than props, puppets, fresh physicality, and the power of imagination, seven actors bring some of Dickens' most beloved characters to life right before your eyes. **Get your tickets today for this timeless tale of redemption!**

**302.594.1100 / DELAWARETHEATRE.ORG**



Be sure to look in our special West Chester section for events happening there. And in the article *Red, Green & Everything in Between* for events in Malvern, Wayne, Kennett Square, Phoenixville, Downingtown and Wilmington.





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#### HOLIDAY TRAINS

Trains bring the storybook magic of the season to life and several area railroads offer a series of themed rides and events. Hop on a train and let your imagination soar and don't forget the camera.

**Colebrookdale Railroad.** Through Dec. 30, Santa's Polar Express, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Train and the Snowflake Special. E. 3rd St., Boyertown. ColebrookdaleRailroad.com.

**Strasburg Rail Road.** Through Dec. 18, Christmas Tree Train, Santa's Paradise Express and The Night Before Christmas Train. 301 Gap Rd., Ronks. StrasburgRailRoad.com.

**Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania.** Dec. 3, 10, Christmas with the Conductor Party. RRMuseumPa.org.

**West Chester Railroad.** Through Dec. 18, Christmas Tree Train and the Santa Express. 230 E. Market St., West Chester. WestChesterRR.com.

**Wilmington & Western Railroad.** Through Dec. 30, Santa Claus Express and Holiday Lights Express. Greenbank Station, 2201 Newport Gap Pk., Wilmington. WWRR.com.



THROUGH JANUARY 8

**A Brandywine Christmas.** It's a wonderland with trees and displays, lights, holiday shopping, music, the O-gauge model train display and more. Dec. 2-4, Annual Critter Sale. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30 (closed Christmas Day). \$6-\$15. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

DECEMBER 1-10  
Best Kept Secret's Holiday Highlights Tour

in Chester County. A shopping, food and fun adventure where businesses offer refreshments, gifts, demos, make-and-take projects and a chance to win a \$450 shopping spree—all with your ticket (\$9) to use anytime. 717-721-9409; BestKeptSecretsTour.com.

DECEMBER 2-4

**Hay Creek Historical Assoc. Christmas at Joanna Furnace.** Enjoy the Victorian decorations in this historic building, horse-drawn carriage rides, Christmas Market, bonfire, live nativity and tours. Rt. 10, 3 mi. N. of Morgantown. Fri, 5 to 9 pm; Sat-Sun, 4 to 9. \$7. 610-286-0388; HayCreek.org.

DECEMBER 3

**Scott Arboretum Holiday Sale.** Greens, wreaths, living gifts, marshmallows, hot chocolate. 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. 1 to 3 pm. 610-328-8023; ScottArboretum.org.

DECEMBER 3

**Tyler Arboretum Greens Sale.** The Country Gardeners of Lima hold their annual greens sale in Tyler's maintenance building. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

DECEMBER 9

**Historic Yellow Springs Holiday Stroll.** Lots of activities including an art exhibition and sale, story time in the library, tree lighting and crafts at the Township building, refreshments and Santa. Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 5:30 to 8 pm. Free. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.

DECEMBER 10

**A Sugartown Christmas.** Explore the historic village and hear about Victorian Christmas traditions. Decorate cookies in the carriage museum and make Victorian-style ornaments and cards. 690 Sugartown Rd., Malvern. 11 to 4. \$6. 610-640-2667; HistoricSugartown.org.

DECEMBER 10

**Christmas in Marshallton.** Visit Marshallton United Methodist Church and enjoy breakfast with Santa at 8 am, cookie sale, arts and crafts and a free community lunch, 11:30. Tree lighting and carols at Martin's Tavern at 4. 1282 W. Strasburg Rd., West Chester. 610-696-5247; MarshalltonChurch.org.



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## ART, CRAFTS & ANTIQUES.....

THROUGH JANUARY 29

**Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital Art Ability Exhibit & Sale.** Artists from around the world with physical, cognitive, visual and hearing disabilities submit their work to this juried exhibition and sale. 414 Paoli Pk., Malvern. 484-596-5710; MainLineHealth.org/ArtAbility.

DECEMBER 1-11

**Community Arts Center's Holiday Sale.** Featuring handmade work by members of the Potters Guild with over 20 vendors. Preview

party **Dec. 1**, 7 to 9:30 pm, \$5; **Dec. 7**, Shop-  
pers Paradise with free gift wrap and refresh-  
ments; **Dec. 9**, holiday jazz concert, 7 pm. 414  
Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. Sat-Sun, 10 to 5;



## THE DANCE

### *The Nutcracker*

**Wilmington Ballet Academy of the Dance.** **Dec. 3-4**, The Playhouse on Rodney Square, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Sat, 7 pm; Sun, 2 & 6 pm. \$15-\$45. TheGrandWilmington.org.

**Academy of International Ballet.** **Dec. 10**, Unionville High School, 750 Unionville Rd., Kennett Square. 2 & 7 pm. \$20. AcademyBalletRU.com

**The Pennsylvania Ballet.** **Dec. 6-31**, Academy of Music, 240 S. Broad St., Phila. \$35-\$135. PaBallet.org.

**Brandywine Ballet.** See listing in West Chester Events in this issue.

**First State Ballet.** **Dec. 17-18**, The Grand, Copeland Hall, 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. 2 & 7 pm; Sun, 2 pm. \$14.99-\$50. TheGrandWilmington.org.

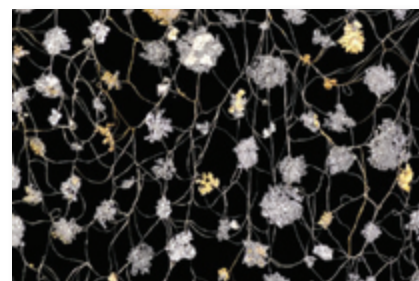
### And ...

**Ballet 180 Holiday Concert-A Charlie Brown Christmas.** **Dec. 16-17**, Rot-witt Theater at Rosemont College, 1400 Montgomery Ave., Rosemont. Fri, 7:30; Sat, 3 pm. \$15-\$35. Ballet180.org.

Mon-Fri, 10 to 8. 610-566-1713; Community-ArtsCenter.org.

DECEMBER 2-JANUARY 28

**2016 Craft Forms at Wayne Art Center.** One of the premiere contemporary craft exhi-



## Local Farm Markets

**Bryn Mawr Farmers Mkt.,** Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station parking lot. **Sat, 9 to 1.** FarmToCity.org.

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

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

**Westtown Amish Mkt.,** 1177 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. **Thurs, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 8; Sat, 8 to 4.** 610-492-5299.

bitions. **Dec. 2**, Opening Gala, 6 to 10, tickets start at \$75; **Dec. 10-11**, Holiday Shopping Weekend. Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon-Fri, 10 to 5; Sat, 10 to 4. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

DECEMBER 4

**Galer Estate Sip & Shop.** Local artisan vendors offer jewelry, ceramics, soaps and more. Galer Estate Winery, 700 Folly Hill Rd., Kennett Square. 2 to 6 pm. Free. 484-899-8013; GalerEstate.com.

DECEMBER 9-11

**Main Line Art Center Holiday Craft Market: Fresh & Local.** Special events, gourmet food trucks, artisanal goods and unique handmade fine crafts made locally. 746 Panmure Rd., Haverford. Kick-Off Party Fri, 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 4. Free. 610-525-0272; MainLineArt.org.

DECEMBER 10-11

**Winter Arts Festival at Delaware Art Museum.** Browse handmade items by diverse local artisans, tour festive works in the collection, enjoy holiday music and more. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 10 to 4. Free. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

## FUNDRAISERS.....

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1

**Women's Committee of Children's Hospital of Phila. Presents A Holiday Boutique.** The area's finest boutiques participate to benefit CHOP. Merion Cricket Club, 325 Montgomery Ave., Haverford. Preview Wed, 5 to 9, \$150; Fri, 9 to 6, luncheon available, \$30. 267-426-5339; CHOPHolidayBoutique.org.

## MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH DECEMBER

**The Wharton Esherick Museum.** "Framed," a juried exhibition and competition of wooden frames selected from entries across the US and Canada. 1520 Horseshoe Trail, Malvern. Tues-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 1 to 4. \$8-\$15. 610-644-5822; WhartonEsherickMuseum.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 22

**Brandywine River Museum of Art.** "Rural Modern: American Art Beyond the City." 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily, 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$15. First Sunday of

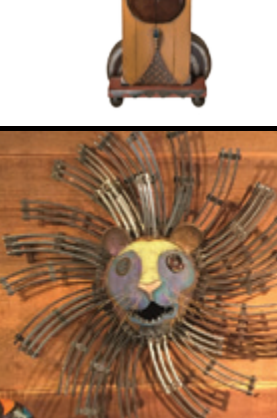
month, free. 610-388-2700; Brandywine-Museum.org.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 12

**The Delaware Art Museum Exhibits.** *Through Jan. 8*, Elizabeth Osborne: The Sixties; *through Jan. 22*, Truth & Vision: 21st Century Realism; *through Feb. 12*, Fluidity, the work of Carla Lombardi, N. Sarangoulis, Libbie Soffer, Valetta. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8, free after 4 pm; Fri-Sun, 10 to 4, free on Sun. \$6-\$12. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

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# THROUGH MARCH

**Freedom: To Secure the Blessings of Liberty.** LancasterHistory.org presents an exhibition where visitors can discover the stories of Lancasterians who sought freedom, lived in freedom and were denied freedom over the course of 300 years. 230 N. President Ave., Lancaster. Mon–Sat, 9:30 to 5. LancasterHistory.org.

# MUSIC, DANCE, ENTERTAINMENT....

## THROUGH DECEMBER 31

**Longwood Gardens Holiday Concerts.** *Through Dec. 22,* celebrate the season with local choirs and musicians. *Dec. 31,* New

Year's Eve Celebration, featuring strolling musicians, the historic organ, a barbershop quartet and more, gardens open until 10 pm. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Free with gardens admission, \$10–\$27. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.



# THROUGH JANUARY 15

**The Grand Wilmington.** *Dec. 10,* The Mavericks Sleigh Bells Ring Out!; *Dec. 11,* Jim Brickman; *Dec. 11,* Carols In Color; *Jan. 15,* The Olate Dogs. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. 302-658-7897; visit TheGrandWilmington.org for tickets.

## DECEMBER 4

**Immaculata Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concert.** Features the Immaculata University Chorale and a variety of holiday favorites, 3 pm. 1145 King Rd., Immaculata. \$8–\$15. 610-316-1731; ImmaculataSymphony.org.

## DECEMBER 4

**Theatre Organ Society of the Delaware Valley's Annual Holiday Concert.** Annual holiday special under the direction of Wayne Zimmerman featuring great songs by various individuals on the TOSDV 3/24 Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 2 pm. \$5–\$10. 610-917-1228; TOPSDV.org.

## DECEMBER 4–18

**Vox Ama Deus. Handel's Messiah.** *Dec. 4,* Daylesford Abbey, 220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli. 4 pm. *Dec. 18,* St. Katharine of Siena Church, Lancaster & Aberdeen Aves., Wayne, 4 pm. **Renaissance Noël,** Renaissance Christmas music of Old Europe: *Dec. 9,* St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 22 E. Chestnut Hill Ave., Chestnut Hill, 8 pm. *Dec. 11,* Thomas Great Hall, Bryn Mawr College, 256 N. Merion Ave., Bryn Mawr, 4 pm. \$10–\$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

## DECEMBER 5

**Kennett Symphony Orchestra—"Pops Goes the Holiday."** Bring the family to enjoy the Children's Chorus and First State Ballet Theatre performing cherished holiday favorites. Unionville High School, 750 Unionville Rd., Kennett Square. 7:30 pm. \$10–\$53. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

## DECEMBER 9, 11, 15

**Concerts at The Colonial Theatre.** *Dec. 9,* The Weight Band, 8 pm, \$22–\$32; *Dec. 11,* City Rhythm Orchestra: Holiday Style, 7 pm, \$10–\$25; *Dec. 15,* Charlie Brown Jazz:



# A BRANDYWINE Christmas

NOVEMBER 25 – JANUARY 8



## SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

### ANNUAL CRITTER SALE

Thursday, December 1, 5–9 p.m.  
Friday–Sunday, December 2–4, 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

### THE POLAR EXPRESS READ-ALoud PAJAMA NIGHT

Thursday, December 1, 7–8 p.m.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 7, 6–8 p.m.

### BREAKFAST WITH THE TRAINS

Saturdays, December 10 & 17, 8:30–10 a.m.

### CHRISTMAS WITH THE DOLLS

Saturday, December 17, 11 a.m.–noon

### TERRIFIC TRAINS FAMILY PROGRAM

Saturday, January 7, 10 a.m.–noon

Tickets are available at [brandywine.org/events](http://brandywine.org/events) or by calling 610.388.8326.

*A treasured family tradition with model trains, dolls and critter ornaments.*



**BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM OF ART**

Chadds Ford, PA [brandywine.org](http://brandywine.org)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016  
7:15PM

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West Chester

**Christmas PARADE**

Hosted by  
The Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce

WEST CHESTER, PA

GREATERWESTCHESTER.COM

HISTORIC POOLE FORGE

**CHRISTMAS AT THE IRONMASTER'S 2016**

**SHOW HOURS**

FRIDAY DEC. 2<sup>ND</sup> 4-8PM  
SAT. DEC. 3<sup>RD</sup> 12-8PM  
SUNDAY DEC. 4<sup>TH</sup> 12-5PM

FRIDAY DEC. 9<sup>TH</sup> 4-8PM  
SAT. DEC. 10<sup>TH</sup> 12-8PM  
SUNDAY DEC. 11<sup>TH</sup> 12-5PM

\$5 ADMISSION FREE (UNDER 12)

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484 797-5302 [www.historicpooleforge.org](http://www.historicpooleforge.org)

Community Arts Center & The Potters Guild

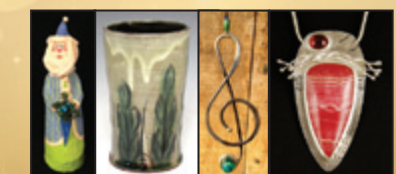
# HOLIDAYSALE

## December 2–10

**PREVIEW PARTY**  
Thursday, December 1

414 Plush Mill Road  
Wallingford, PA 19086  
610-566-1713

[www.CACholidaysale.org](http://www.CACholidaysale.org)



*Make it a Handcrafted Holiday*

# THE NUTCRACKER

Unionville High School  
750 Unionville Rd,  
Kennett Square, PA 19348  
<http://uhs.ucfsd.org>

December 10th at 2pm  
December 10th at 7pm

Tickets available  
online at  
[www.academyballetru.com](http://www.academyballetru.com)  
or  
866-908-5666

presented by  
Academy of International Ballet  
Artistic Directors  
Anastasia Babayeva  
Denis Gronostayskiy





An Evening with the Eric Mintel Quartet performing "Charlie Brown Jazz," 7:30 pm. \$15–\$20. 227 N. Bridge St., Phoenixville. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

#### DECEMBER 10

**Wolf Performing Arts Center—The Velveteen Rabbit.** The beloved tale that centers on a very important, very much loved toy rabbit. This is a sensory-friendly performance (lower sound levels). The Rotwitt Theatre at McShain Performing Arts Center, Rosemont College, 1400 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr. Fri–Sat, 7 pm; Sat, 11 am; Sun, 3 pm. 610-642-0233; WolfPerformingArtsCenter.org.

#### DECEMBER 11, 16

**The Chester County Pops Orchestra Winter Concerts.** Under the direction of Joseph Gehring, the Pops performs familiar carols with sparkling new arrangements. *Dec. 11*, Immaculata University, 1145 W. King Rd., Immaculata. *Dec. 16*, Unionville High School, 750 Unionville Rd., Kennett Square. 7 pm. \$15–\$20. 610-594-9178; ChescoPops.org.

#### DECEMBER 11, 18

**Carols Concerts at Brandywine River Museum of Art.** Listen to international opera singer Peter Campbell sing songs of the holiday season. 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds

Ford. 1 to 3 pm. \$6–\$15. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

#### DECEMBER 14

**Chester County Concert Band.** While you're out shopping, if you find yourself at the Exton Square Mall, stop by to listen to the band and get into the holiday spirit. On the first floor, in front of Boscov's at 7 pm. CCCBand.org.

#### DECEMBER 17

**Pennsylvania Symphonic Winds Holiday Concert at Exton Mall.** Premiere wind bands play beautiful holiday selections to brighten your season. 260 Exton Sq. Pkwy., Exton. 2 pm. Free. PennsylvaniaSymphonicWinds.org.

#### THEATERS.....

##### THROUGH DECEMBER 31

**Our Christmas Dinner.** A hilarious look at family tradition, holiday expectations and the real meaning of Christmas. Bird-In-Hand Stage, 2760 Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. 800-790-4069; Bird-in-Hand.com/Stage.

##### THROUGH JANUARY 15

**Sleeping Beauty: A Musical Panto.** See article in this issue.

##### DECEMBER 3–JANUARY 15

**The Road: My Life with John Denver.** A

regional music premiere and rare glimpse of the man behind the music. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. \$46–\$51. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

#### DECEMBER 7–30

**A Christmas Carol.** A stunning adaptation of the timeless holiday classic. Delaware Theatre Company, 200 Water St., Wilmington. Check website for show times, Wed–Sun. \$15–\$40. 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

#### DECEMBER 13–18

**Kinky Boots.** Songs by Grammy and Tony-winning pop icon Cyndi Lauper and book by four-time Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein. The Playhouse on Rodney Square, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. \$40–\$90. 302-888-0200; ThePlayhouseDE.org.



#### TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....

##### DECEMBER 10, 15, JANUARY 6

**First Fridays, Second Saturdays, Third Thursdays.** *Dec. 10*, Second Saturday: **Media**, 484-445-4161; MediaArtsCouncil.org. *Dec. 15*, Malvern Stroll, MalvernBusiness.com. *Jan. 6*, First Fridays: **Kennett Square Art Stroll**, 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City**, 717-509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. **Oxford**, 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **West Chester**, 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com; **Wilmington**, 302-576-2489; WilmingtonDE.gov. ♦

Stay in the know with everything going on in County Lines country. Sign up for our monthly Events Newsletter at [Newsletter@ValleyDel.com](mailto:Newsletter@ValleyDel.com)

Send a description of your activity to [Info@ValleyDel.com](mailto:Info@ValleyDel.com) by the first of the month preceding publication.

For more events visit:

[CountyLinesMagazine.com](http://CountyLinesMagazine.com)



#### Delaware Art Museum Holiday House Tour: Houses

**with History.** Visit the Greenville area's most spectacular historic homes (many duPont family homes) decorated for the holidays. One is the estate that inspired the Brandywine Valley moniker "Chateau Country" and another was the manor house location for meetings of the National Woman's Party. *Dec. 10*, 10 to 4. \$35–\$60 (with luncheon option). 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

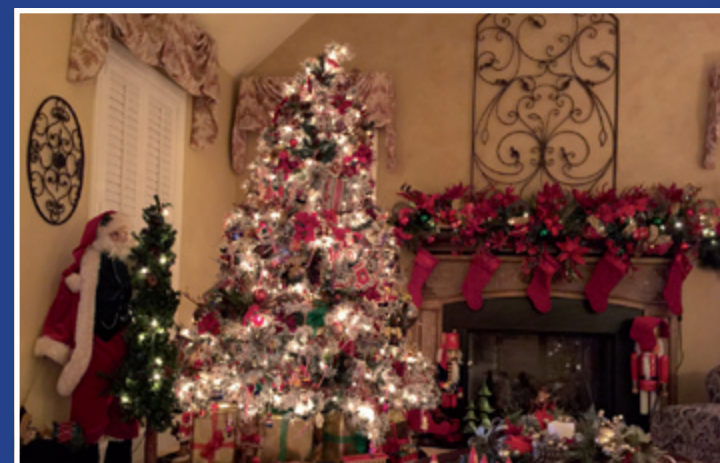


#### The Spirit of Christmas in

**New Castle, DE.** A full day of concerts, house tours, shopping and refreshments, street theater performances of *A Christmas Carol*, ending with a tree lighting. *Dec. 10*, 9:30 to 5:30. New Castle Presb. Church, 25 E. Second St., New Castle, DE. Free. 302-328-3279; NewCastlePresChurch.org.



**West Chester Public Library's Holiday Home Tour.** Walking tour of eight beautiful homes in the northwestern quadrant of West Chester including the Greek Revival Mayfield Mansion built in 1851. Benefits the library. *Dec. 3*, 10 to 3. Tickets at the Library, 415 N. Church St. or online. \$30–\$40. 610-696-1721; WCPublicLibrary.org.



#### Friends of Chester Springs Library Christmas House Tour & Holiday Reception.

Tour beautifully decorated homes followed by a holiday reception at The Montgomery School, 4:30 to 6. Includes holiday cheer and light supper. *Dec. 4*, 1 to 4:30. Tickets at the library, 1685 Art School Rd., and Gardner's Landscape Nursery, Chester Springs. Advance sales only. \$50. 610-724-2925; Friends-CSL.com.

**Holiday Open House Tour in Boyertown.** Tour homes, historic buildings, Festival of Trees. Maps and tickets at Hist. Soc., 43 S. Chestnut St. Trolleys and buses provided. *Dec. 2*, 3 to 9. \$12–\$15. 610-369-3054; BoyertownPa.org.

**Candlelight Christmas in Chadds Ford.** Tour of local historic sites and churches. *Dec. 3*, 1 to 6 pm. Meet at Barns Visitors Center, 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. \$20–\$25. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org.

**Strasburg Holiday Tour of Homes.** Visit decorated homes in Historic Strasburg and stroll down Main Street to enjoy the shops, craft market and light fare. *Dec. 3*, 10 to 4. First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 101 S. Decatur St. \$20. 717-687-9039; StrasburgHeritageSociety.org.

**Annual Candlelight Holiday Tour in Phoenixville.** Beautifully decorated homes and churches, crafts, music, refreshments. Benefits Ann's Heart Code Blue Shelter and Firebird Theatre. *Dec. 3*, 3 to 7. First Presbyterian Church, 145 Main St. \$25. 610-933-9181; PhxHolidayTour.weebly.com.

**Holiday Home & Dinner Tour in Kennett Square.** Enjoy a progressive dinner through four historic Kennett homes. *Dec. 11*, 5:30 to 9. \$100. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

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# Red, Green & Everything In Between

Alex Deliso & Abigail Gillespie

## GET READY FOR THE HOLIDAY IN COUNTY LINES COUNTRY!

**O**UR LOCAL TOWNS WILL BE VERY MERRY AND BRIGHT as the holidays near. 'Tis the season to enjoy timeless town traditions, clever crafts for kids, and parades in nearly every neighborhood. Trees light up with dazzling decorations and festive favorites return. Make every weekend a family memory and don't miss a single celebration. Or parade!

### MALVERN TRADITIONS OLD & NEW

Spark your holiday spirit with Malvern's Victorian Christmas, Friday and Saturday, December 2nd and 3rd. Enjoy carolers in period dress, hayrides and carriage rides through town, and a Christmas tree lighting at Burke Park.

New to the Friday festivities on West King Street is an Animals of the Nativity petting zoo, with donkeys, lambs and sheep—oh, my! Prefer art instead? Check out the new Kringle Mart Art Show & Sale at St. Patrick School. Buy art and take the holiday magic home.

Saturday morning, get the family together and head to Malvern Bible Chapel and craft your own gingerbread house.

Or start a new tradition with a visit to nearby Historic Sugartown for A Sugartown Christmas, December 10th. Explore the charming crossroads village as it's decked out for the holidays and let your kids recreate their own version in gingerbread. When your sweet tooth is satisfied, craft Victorian-style ornaments.

More at [MalvernsVictorianChristmas.org](http://MalvernsVictorianChristmas.org) and [HistoricSugartown.org](http://HistoricSugartown.org).

### CHRISTMAS IN WAYNE

Travel back in time at Christmas in Wayne and enjoy old-fashioned carriage rides down twinkling South Wayne Avenue, Friday, December 2nd from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Snap photos with reindeer and make ornaments at the Fire House. Sip hot chocolate and listen to costumed carolers from the Chorus at Valley Forge Music Fair and Radnor High School.

And at 7:30, Santa arrives—just in time for the tree lighting ceremony at the Wayne Train Station.

On Saturday, December 3rd, grab a good spot for the Santa Parade at 10 a.m., featuring holiday floats, Radnor High Marching



Santa in Wayne



Carriage Rides in Wayne



The Wilmington Ballet's Nutcracker

Phoenixville Firebird Festival



Band and, of course, jolly old St. Nick. Stroll down Lancaster Avenue to The Wayne Hotel for hot chocolate, cookies and pictures with Santa. You won't want to miss any of it!

More at [WayneChristmas.com](http://WayneChristmas.com).

### KENNETT SQUARE: EXPLORE LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Celebrate the beauty of the holidays with Christmas in Kennett. Marvel at the decorations throughout Kennett Square, send your letter to Santa at Mala Galleria, and on Sunday, December 18th, have Breakfast with Santa in the Red Clay Room.

On Sundays until December 18th, enjoy an enchanting horse-drawn carriage ride through historic downtown Kennett. Hop on at the corner of State and Union Streets, and enjoy your ride through town.

Explore nearby Longwood Garden's spectacular winter display, full of lights and over 6,000 winter-themed plants decorated in Christmas-colored ornaments, until January 8th. Need a photo for your Christmas card? Take one in front of the 30-foot-tall floral tree made of hundreds of red poinsettias.

More at [HistoricKennettSquare.com](http://HistoricKennettSquare.com) and [LongwoodGardens.org](http://LongwoodGardens.org).

### PHOENIXVILLE MEANS FIREBIRD FESTIVAL AND MORE

Kick off the season in Phoenixville and watch the annual Christmas Parade, December 2nd at 7 p.m. on Bridge Street. Follow Santa on a fire truck to Bridge and Main Streets to witness the Christmas Tree Lighting at 8 p.m.

The fun continues on December 3rd from 3 to 7 p.m. with the Phoenixville Candlelight Holiday House Tour. Gather at the Parkside Church at Third and Main to see the town's loveliest decorated homes.

At 3 p.m. help Phoenixville support its local talent at the 13th Annual Firebird Festival. Enjoy local performers, vendors and artists and support local art projects. At 8:15 p.m., head for Friendship Field for the burning of the giant wood Phoenix, built by local artists. And for those participating in the Village Art Center workshops, remember to pick up your clay Phoenix creations to be baked in the fire!

More at [PhoenixvilleFirst.org](http://PhoenixvilleFirst.org).





Malvern Victorian Christmas



Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade  
PHOTO BY ANDREW SEYMOUR

## YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD DOWNTOWN

Gather your neighbors at Lancaster Avenue for the wintery wonder that is the Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade, Saturday, December 10th. While you're waiting, lively entertainment along the route will get you pumped for the excitement ahead. Then at 3 p.m., local bands, including the Downingtown Blue and Gold Marching Band, will fill the streets with songs and Christmas cheer.

In a mellow mood? Hang out with Santa at the Log House near Pennsylvania Ave.

On Saturday, December 3rd, from 1 to 4 p.m., St. Nick returns to the house that's almost as old as he is! Bring your Christmas list and have a jolly-old chat with Santa in one of Downingtown's oldest buildings.

More at [Downingtown.org](http://Downingtown.org) and [DTown-Christmas.com](http://DTown-Christmas.com).

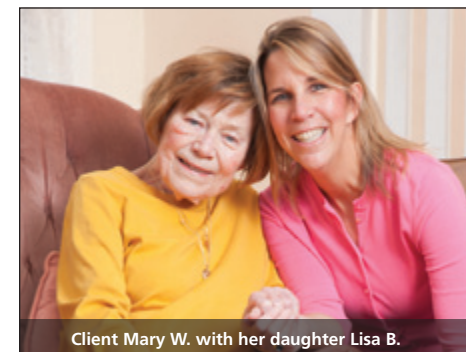
## WILMINGTON WONDERS

Christmas cheer is non-stop in Wilmington. December 3rd and 4th, journey to the Land of Sweets with The Wilmington Ballet's 50th annual Nutcracker. This timeless tradition takes place at The Playhouse

at Rodney Square and features professional dancers from New York City Ballet, The Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and a live orchestra and chorus.

Next, why stand in line to see Santa at the mall when he'll ride with you on a train? Weekends through December 18th, ride with St. Nick at the Wilmington and Western Railroad—Greenbank Station, aka, the Santa Claus Express. Bring your camera and pose with Santa on this roundtrip ride to Ashland. Refreshments and chocolate treats are part of the fun.

More at [Visit.Delaware.com](http://Visit.Delaware.com). ♦



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# It's Panto Time!

## The most wonderful time of the year!

### The Stars Come Out in *Sleeping Beauty*: A Musical Panto at People's Light Through January 15

IT'S MAGIC TIME AT PEOPLE'S LIGHT! TIME FOR WATCHING another original, music-filled, joyfully outrageous Holiday Panto, a beloved and much anticipated annual event.

Inspired by the British tradition, where the panto form came into its own, creative teams at People's Light take a well-known folk or fairytale and turn it on its ear. This year, Panto veteran co-authors Samantha Reading and Pete Pryor, along with newcomer Alex Bechtel, chose *Sleeping Beauty* for the Panto's madcap chaos.

But this isn't your grandmother's *Sleeping Beauty*. In the 1959 Disney version of a tale that can be traced back to the 1300s, the main character—who has all of 18 lines—is given the gifts of beauty and song by fairies.

The Panto's Princess Aurora—with more than 120 lines—is given old television antennae by her Aunt Tikki, who trades in antiques (get it?), so Aurora can build a laser interferometer to “listen to space.” And the Princess's engineering and astronomy aspirations aren't confined to a medieval castle, but are set in the soulful and pulsing world of 1960s rock 'n' roll.

Inspired by the recording industry and lives of studio musicians—such as the Wrecking Crew and the Swampers in Muscle Shoals, Alabama—Panto creators set this story in the mythical swampland of Paoli Shoals and infused it with the music and spirit of that era.

Instead of a spinning wheel spindle, the very bad fairy Chanteuse (whose look and behavior are inspired by bad boy Keith Richards) declares the prick of a record player needle will be Princess Aurora's doom. Record needles are banned for 16 years, and so the fate of Aurora and the music of the land are bound together.

The People's Light Panto turns 13 this year, and like any teenager, the Panto makers are challenging boundaries. Pete Pryor, director of the past eight Pantos, asserts: “We push ourselves to keep innovating. We're not interested in repeating ourselves.” So in addition to a complete revision of this story's presumed setting, co-writer Samantha Reading has thrown the Moon, the Stars and the Sun into the narrative. These ethereal and cosmic bodies are characters that expand the world beyond the swamp and into the sky. And we can dream even bigger.

These new frontiers are also anchored by Panto traditions that audiences have come to love:

- The Dame: a larger-than-life mother figure played by a man in spectacular dresses
- A basic story of good vs. evil, with a heroine to cheer! And a villain to boo!
- A “messy bit”: a slapstick routine that's anything but clean, orderly or predictable
- A “candy bit”: when candy is thrown into the audience
- Music, dance and local references
- And last, but most important of all, audience participation, which is what truly lifts the Panto into the cosmos!

The essential alchemy of the Panto, however, is not necessarily found on the stage. Actor Mark Lazar, who's played the Dame since Pantos began at People's Light, says Pantos bring two and even three generations into the same room, all leaning into a story and laughing together. “That's what I'm most proud of,” Lazar affirms.

After all, isn't that the real magic of the holiday season? ♦

—Gina Pisasale

Artwork by Tori Harvey



### If You Go

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

**When:** Through January 15

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

**Next:** *The Matchmaker*, Feb. 15 – Mar. 12;

*I and You*, Mar. 29 – Apr. 23;

*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*,  
Apr. 29 – June 4, and more.



# Artistic Fusion

Dancers from the American International Ballet pay homage at Brandywine River Museum of Art.



"AS LONG AS MY BALLETS ARE DANCED, I WILL LIVE."

~ Rudolf Nureyev

The dancers gathered in the Brandywine River Museum of Art's gallery. They adjusted their pointe shoes and began to stretch, bend and prepare their bodies.

Anastasia Babayeva, Artistic Director of the American International Ballet, spoke to the assembled dancers in French, then in English, to perfect each pose and offer inspiration. After many years of practice, rehearsals, performances, the dancers were ready for this moment. They grew quiet as they posed with Rudolf Nureyev, captured in Jamie Wyeth's evocative paintings.

Denis Gronostayskiy, co-Director of the AIB, remarked on the priceless collection of Wyeth's paintings of Nureyev. "When Nureyev arrived on the ballet scene, it was a burst of new creative energy .... It was transformative to the art form but also for the role of the male dancer."

He added, "Considering they jump higher than NBA players and lift women over their heads on a regular basis, the male ballet dancer consistently delivers performances that rival any professional athlete."

He and Babayeva were preparing for a unique photo shoot at the museum, bringing together two art forms. The shoot was designed to create an artistic fusion of dancers and paintings focused on the world of classical ballet.

Babayeva commented, "Doing this photo shoot with Nureyev is a reminder to us all that classical ballet shares with us the privilege of having a soul. It offers us unconditional beauty. It is a role model for being alive."

See the AIB perform *The Nutcracker* on December 10 at 2 & 7. Details at [AcademyBalletRU.com](http://AcademyBalletRU.com).

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK PRIEUR



# All I Want for Christmas Is A GREAT BOOK!

Andrea Kiliany Thatcher  
Wellington Square Bookshop

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But be warned—you'll likely end up putting a lot more new books in your personal to-be-read pile as well!

Here are eleven recommendations to consider before your trip to your nearest palace of books.

## POPULAR CHOICES

*The Underground Railroad*  
by Colson Whitehead

One of the most talked about books of the year, it's also one of a few highly recommended books with different takes on race and slavery in America (along with Yaa Gyasi's moving "Homegoing" and Ben H. Winters' scarily realistic "Underground Airlines") in a year when we're waking up to how much work is ahead of our Nation on this important topic. This book takes the metaphor out of the Underground Railroad and our protagonist discovers new worlds at each stop on the literal railway system the story is built around.

*A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

A bookseller favorite, this novel from "Rules of Civility" author Amor Towles brings to life the story of Count Alexander Rostov, who's sentenced to house arrest in a grand hotel across from the Kremlin. A diverse cast of characters are forced to intermingle and learn a bit of empathy during their confinement, with poignance and not a little humor.

*Moonglow* by Michael Chabon

The more experimental reader on your list may enjoy this novel based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning author's real-life grandfather's deathbed confessions. Described as a story of truth and lies, family legends and existential adventure, this is speculative fiction meets existential autobiography. You can expect to see this on the *New York Times* Bestseller List. (Released Nov. 22)

## FOR YOUNG(ER) READERS

*Capture Your Style: Transform Your Instagram Images, Showcase Your Life, and Build the Ultimate Platform* by Aimee Song

Be the cool aunt and give the young adult who confuses you by taking no fewer than 23 pictures of her shoes in the middle of family events Aimee Song's "Capture Your Style." Of the Instagram style pack, Song is one of the most role-model-worthy young women on the scene. She assures readers "there is no such thing as a wrong outfit as long as you're authentic" and dishes equal proportions of easy-to-follow technical guidelines to creative advice.

*Crooked Kingdom* by Leigh Bardugo

Young Adult readers (but don't limit this audience by age; as a literary genre, YA spans decades) will be well aware of Leigh Bardugo's work with the Grisha Trilogy and eagerly anticipating this follow-up to "Six of Crows." This pick will be a hit especially if they enjoy a dose of fantasy in their fiction. And if they're equally as enamored of "Game of Thrones" and soapy teen dramas, you may even get a thank-you note.

*Ada Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beaty

If you're looking for a children's book, Andrea Beaty's recently released "Ada Twist, Scientist" fulfills your obligation to encourage art, reading and STEM subjects equally. If you'd like to bestow a cute, quirky and inspiring library, add Beaty's previous two books "Iggy Peck, Architect" and "Rosie Revere, Engineer." Kids learn about a variety of professions with colorful, graphic illustration and lovable characters.

*The Popcorn Princess* by Jacqueline McComas

For even younger readers, this book from a local author has the added gift of proceeds going to Royer-Greaves School for Blind in Paoli. Enjoy the story of Penelope, who loves popcorn so much she puts it in her swimming pool! And popcorn was this Popcorn Princess's first word. Learn what happens when there's too much of a good thing. And get a surprise recipe.

## SPECIAL INTERESTS

*French Country Cooking: Meals and Moments from A Village in the Vineyards* by Mimi Thorisson

You must have a cookbook lover on your

list and chances are your favorite armchair chef is already obsessed with Mimi Thorisson's Instagram account (@MimiThor). On her blog, Thorisson says this is more than a cookbook, "it is also the story of a house, a place in France, a story of how life can take you places you never expected to go." The chapter on Sunday suppers *en famille* will inspire you to gather your own loved ones around a family table.

*Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders* by Joshua Foer, Dylan Thuras and Ella Morton

Travel junkies will devour this selection from the founders of the popular Website *AtlasObscura.com*, whether they're absorbing information on how to best evade guards at oddball attractions or prefer their off-the-beaten-path travels on the page. From a cool Icelandic Elf School to a hot Door to Hell—a fire burning in the Turkmenistan desert for over 45 years—readers learn about the interesting and the obscure.

*Christmas at Designers' Homes Across America* by Katharine McMillan and Patricia McMillan

This glimpse into the homes and holiday décors of professional interior designers provides beautifully photographed eye candy for those who prefer their décor inspiration on the physical page instead of on Pinterest. Give this as a hostess gift to your friend whose tablescapes is always enviable or the person for whom holiday decorating is half the joy of the season.

*Victoria* by Daisy Goodwin

A novel from the creator and writer of the Masterpiece Theater presentation of "Victoria," this novel will capture the imagination of the historical fiction buff on your list. If they read a ton of Philippa Gregory or are still mourning the end of "Downton Abbey," they'll love this fictionalized account that gives the oft-portrayed queen a bit more wit and verve than she's typically credited for. (Released Nov. 22) ♦

*Wellington Square Bookshop, an award-winning independent bookstore, hosts a café, book-related events, monthly fiction and non-fiction book clubs, staff picks and an Avid Reader podcast available on Podomatic, plus events with authors on site and on the website. 549 Wellington Square, Eagleview Town Center, Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com.*



**NEWLYWED'S FAMILY:** The first holiday together as a married couple is special! This mantel captures not only their day of love and memories, but also highlights their joined families and the love they share. With hints of gold, white and silver, this mantel is a sparkling dedication to their love and their families.



# Mantel Magic

Let your holiday mantel express your personality.

**I**N PAST YEARS WE'VE LOOKED FOR HOLIDAY DECORATING inspiration through Christmas trees and holiday dinner table settings. So this year we turned to mantels—the hearth and heart of the home.

We asked Jenna Alpher, owner of Barn Pretty in Schwenksville, to use her talents to perform some mantel magic and create holiday focal points. We added the special challenge that each should reflect a distinctive personality. Drawing on her eclectic, ever-changing collection of architectural salvage items, statement pieces plus gorgeous rustic and handmade treasures from her shop, she created four engaging themes to inspire you this season.

Which will you try—family (newlyweds, here), rustic, Santas or equestrian?

*Styled by Jenna Jones Alpher, Barn Pretty/Delphi Antiques; Photos by Wil Moore Photography  
Jenna is a designer and a Make-it Take-it workshop leader for Philly Home + Garden Show.*



**RUSTIC CABIN:** Grab some hot chocolate, light the fire, turn down the lights, and enjoy a rustic cabin holiday! This mantel inspires a charming feel by using the homeowner's vintage winter accessories. From antique snowshoes, to wooden sleds, ice skates, reindeer and more, it's a scene right out of a holiday wonderland.



**SANTA COLLECTION:** Ask kids what's a fireplace for, and chances are they'll tell you it's Santa's door to their home! If you collect Santas, here's a simple, yet traditional mantel. You may choose just a few favorites and balance the Santas with vintage books, gold trees and an angel to enhance the spirit.



**EQUESTRIAN THEME:** It's hard to imagine a holiday in the country without horse-drawn carriage rides on snow-covered trails. For your mantel, rich images of horses add something lovely to the holidays. Mix pops of red and black with natural fibers, for an equestrian-themed mantel that's charming and bright!







Try a handcrafted mug for coffee and tea lovers on your list.  
PHOTO COURTESY CHESTER COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION



Something outside the box for fashion risk takers.  
PHOTO COURTESY WAYNE ART CENTER



Give your friends with a green thumb a necklace to match!  
PHOTO COURTESY THE DEMUTH MUSEUM

# Art: TRY UNIQUE THIS YEAR

Mary Irene Dolan

## GIVE YOUR FAVORITE PEOPLE A GIFT AS UNIQUE AS THEY ARE AS YOU SHOP AT LOCAL MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES.

WHERE DO YOU GO TO find the perfect holiday gift for the special folks on your list? Some shoppers head to the nearest mall, superstore or outlet in search of a one-size-fits-all solution. The more community-conscious visit favorite neighborhood boutiques and shops to shop local and shop small.

But this year—and any year, actually—we suggest you step farther outside the box ... and into your local art gallery or museum gift shop.

You'll find much more than just paintings, and you'll have plenty of choices more meaningful than a generic gift card that's never used. Plus local artists and galleries will sing your praises!

### ONE OF A KIND

Our overly commercialized holiday culture begs for something with a little more intention. When you gift art, the artists' personalities and style are infused into their creations, producing a personal, memorable gift that you can't find anywhere else.

"You're giving something that no one else has. That's special," says Paul Downie at Community Arts Center in Wallingford. "By carefully selecting artwork just for them, you're telling them you think they're special too!" Make shopping easy with unique handmade fine jewelry and pottery from the Potters Guild and the region's finest artists at the CAC Handcrafted Holiday Sale from December 2 to 10.

In addition to being unique, art can "tell a story, share a memory or an experience that's meaningful to the recipient," notes Sandra Riper from Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Art Gallery in West Chester. Maybe an image reminds your loved one of a trip you took together or a painting's message is one you know they'll enjoy seeing every day. And it'll be much more personalized than your typical "Happy Holidays" Hallmark card.

But not all artwork is a practical size for wrapping paper. That's a reason Sunset Hill's 18th Annual Miniature Show (through December 24) is a holiday favorite for gift-friendly sizes and prices. Everything is scaled down—12 x 12 inches or smaller—with original works from 26 local artists on display for purchase.

### LOCAL SUPPORT

The season for giving is even better if you give back to the community. And buying art from local galleries gives back in so many ways.

Year round, Wayne Art Center's Gallery Shop does just that by offering space for artists to sell their work. This support is amped up in the annual holiday Craftforms exhibition and sale. The international juried show features art, crafts and more—ceramics, jewelry, glass, fiber, wood, metal, mixed media—all perfect for gifting and on sale, December 2 through January 28.

"Artwork purchased directly effects the local individual artists' well-being as



From prints to canvas, this will be a gift they'll appreciate everyday day.  
PHOTO OF VISUAL EXPANSION GALLERY COURTESY OF TIM VAUGHAN



Spark someone's creativity with coloring, activity or art books.  
PHOTO COURTESY DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

well as supporting our community-driven art institution," says Karen Louise Fay. "Thousands of local artists have the opportunity to make a living while creating something beautiful that will be treasured and shared with generations."

It's not just the artists who benefit; residents do, too. "Buying locally energizes a community," says Angela Deal Meanix at Chester County Art Association in West Chester. "It supports a culture of connection in a way not found in big box stores. We're that conduit between the artists' vision and the buyers' search for something soulful."

CCAA has plenty going on to serve as that connection for the holidays. Their Annual Group Art Exhibition 300 & Under is an exhibition for budget-conscious art enthusiasts, with prices at \$300 or less. In addition to their Exton Square store offering goodies, new this year, their Bradford Avenue. Gift Shop for the Holidays is stocked with handmade jewelry, pottery, scarves and much more—through December 22.

### LOCAL SCENERY

Many Chester County residents value their deep connection with the land and history of our area, and local artists follow suit with creations inspired by their surroundings.

"So many local artists take advantage, study and create work from all our beautiful architecture and landscape," says Andrea Strang of newly opened Gallery 222 Malvern. "These familiar scenes may invoke a memory from childhood or simply conjure up good emotions."

Visit their first Annual Kringle Mart Art Show at Malern's Victorian Christmas, December 2 to 3, to find that perfect piece that

speaks to fond experiences or see art inspired by nature on view through December 17.

And for more nostalgic images from well-known names—like Andrew Wyeth and Timlyn Vaughan—Visual Expansion Gallery in West Chester has a selection of over 40 resident artists sure to spark memories with iconic shots for the everything-local fans on your list.

### SEE & SHOP

Double your fun by visiting a museum for a day of viewing and shopping. Local museums keep us busy every holiday season with festive tours and exhibits—while their gift shops are packed with artful gifts that go beyond mere art reproductions.

At the Brandywine River Museum of Art, "A Brandywine Christmas" exhibit is running in all its timeless glory, with model

trains and the magnificent Ann Wyeth McCoy dollhouse and antique doll collection, through January 8. The Annual Critter Sale (December 1 to 4) is another must-see, with mini natural ornaments made by volunteers—the perfect unique stocking stuffers!

Their museum gift shop holds even more delights—like beeswax candles from hives in the Brandywine area, hand-painted bird ornaments, recycled wool mittens, hats and gloves, or vintage silverware necklaces.

"The gift of art appeals to those who look to celebrate not only the treasures of the Brandywine Valley," says the museum's Tamanya Garza, "but the magic of Christmas in this very special place." And who wouldn't want to be gifted a piece of that magic?

Delaware Art Museum also has some very special things happening this season,



Not sure what you're looking for? Spend the day browsing and maybe treat yourself in the process!  
PHOTO COURTESY COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER





PHOTO COURTESY GALLERY 222 MALVERN



PHOTO COURTESY SUNSET HILL JEWELRY & FINE ARTS GALLERY



PHOTO COURTESY BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM OF ART

like their 30th Annual Holiday House Tour & Winter Arts Festival (December 10-11). Take the tour, then browse 20 unique vendor booths or the museum store.

Sometimes the best gift for your artistic friends is one that sparks their own creativity. From coloring books, doodle boxes, ergonomic crayons to hold in either hand, to books, games, prints and more—Delaware Art Museum's gift shop will get you and your

giftees inspired. Jessica Jenkins sees these gifts as a means to “contemplate the beauty around you and express your own creative side.”

In Lancaster, The Demuth Museum's Holiday Gift Shop is bursting with interesting, creative finds, too—handmade felted soaps, woodcut prints of seasonal scenes, and living floral jewelry made from succulents to name a few.

And while you're picking out something

special, don't miss their much-loved holiday tradition, “Trees Galore” with a Willy Wonka Wonderland theme, through December 9. The mini trees decorated by local designers and handmade ornaments made by local students are all on sale. ♦

*To find out more about current gallery and museum exhibitions, read our Best Local Events section, then get out there and get art shopping!*



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# An Individual Touch in *Downtown West Chester*

Story by Malcolm Johnstone, Executive Director, West Chester BID  
Photos by Timlyn Vaughan

## A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT CHRISTMAS IN WEST CHESTER



Phineas Gage



Emily Alice Salon

**W**HAT MAKES THE HOLIDAYS SO ANTICIPATED? Treasured traditions, seasonal fun, the special charm that fills our local towns. There are plenty of distinctive towns to choose from this holiday season. But you'll understand why I'd like to share some of the reasons you should consider including West Chester in your holiday outings.

For unique shopping, a spectacular Christmas parade and holiday events to fill the month to the brim with activity and fun, West Chester should be on your holiday calendar.

### UNIQUE HOLIDAY SHOPPING

This year, the holiday shopping season boasts new shops in downtown West Chester that reflect the individual touch that only local, family owned businesses can create—a hallmark of small-town America. That spirit is alive and well in the heart of the Brandywine Valley.

By popular demand, the Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) revived one of its finest traditions. The Holiday and Greens Sale offers an array of beautiful and affordable handcrafted wreaths, floral arrangements, ornaments, garlands and more, all made by talented CCHS volunteers and with proceeds benefiting the museum and library. DIYers will find bags of dried and fresh greens so they can do what they love and create their own decorations. Mark your calendar for Friday and Saturday, December 9 & 10, from 9:30 to 4:30 at 225 N. High St.

While you're there, drop into the CCHS Gift Shop, where you'll find books on local history—great stocking stuffers. Some new releases with local connections: "West Chester: Images of Modern America" by Bruce and Melissa A. Mowday. And by the late CCHS President Rob Lukens and wife Rebecca, "Man With a Backpack," a chronicle of Rob's journey from diagnosis to finding a visionary, spiritual guide to help him through his fatal illness.

### NEW SHOPS TO VISIT

Ladies, is there a man in your life who's prone to regrettable fashion statements? You'll find the cure at Phineas Gage, a new men's store offering stylish yet casual menswear, at 29 S. High St.

Originally, the store was to be named "Phineas Eachus," after the bartender who opened a tavern in 1762 in what became West Chester. But unbeknownst to owner Jaime Weisbrot, Wikipedia (usually such a reliable source) incorrectly led her to believe that Phineas Gage opened the first tavern. Gage was a young man with a much higher historical distinction than Wikipedia credits him for.

In fact, Phineas Gage is known for surviving an 1848 accident in which a large iron rod was driven completely through his head. "It's a great story of a handsome man experiencing an unfortunate turn in his life with style and class," says Jaime. And so "Phineas Gage" became the name. Stop in for "a wide selection of popular styles from an array of American designers."

In the floors above Phineas Gage, women will find Emily Alice Salon, which relocated from a few doors down the block. "We tie together all the components that contribute to making you look and feel like your best self," says owner Emily Alice Ryan. Besides hair styling there are organic enzyme peels, makeup lessons, custom hair painting, lashes, image consulting, Pilates and more.

Both stores would make great "Girl's Night Out" adventures. Here's to looking good at every turn in your life.

For unique design, head for Tesoro, Italian for "treasure," located a few doors away. This custom-only leather company was started in 2013 by Brit Reed, who later teamed up with Emily Pisano. The two entrepreneurs have grown Tesoro into what it is today.

"We're a handcrafted, ready-to-wear, leather goods company that combines our respective fashion backgrounds into a perfect collaboration of creativity," says Brit. Their "all-girl factory" is behind the building at 21 S. High St., sporting what has to be the coolest

entryway anywhere: a 50-foot tunnel leading from High Street. Tesoro products are manufactured in West Chester and sold at several locations downtown.

One location selling Tesoro leather goods is The Brow Bar, which will also give you a new holiday look at Tara Giorgio's salon, at 131 W. Gay St. You'll find both a retail component, where you can pick up locally made products, and beauty services. Stop by for specialized services for a well-groomed lady, including brow consultation, mapping, waxing, tweezing and styling, plus waxing services with cool names like "The Fresh Peach."

Another downtown clothing designer who makes and sells her own styles is Rachel Godwin Becker, proprietor of H. Rose Boutique, 141 W. Gay St. Rachel describes the shop as a "Mom-Mom, Mommy and Me Boutique with sizes from newborn–6 months, 6 months–6 years, tween sizes 7–16, and women's sizes small–3x." Perfect for moms and grandmothers who like their kids to dress in style.

For a more formal style, remember December is a huge wedding month. Now you can find formal wear at Sabrina Ann Couture, West Chester's spot for brides-to-be and other special occasion formal wear, at 128 N. High St. They've quickly become a welcome part of the downtown community with finely curated samples and never-worn bridal and evening gowns.

This is the second location for owner Sabrina Sigler, who opened in Ardmore in 2004. West

Chester store manager Rachel Kooperstein shares her knowledge of the bridal business, as well as her strong fashion sense with clients. You'll also find stylish accessories—jewelry, wedding veils and hair accessories.

### SHOPS TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Get a jump on New Year's resolutions with help from two new shops with health and beauty products to change your life.

When Jacque Maldonado opened The Prana House, 109 N. Church St., she committed to creating a warm and inviting space offering products and information for preventative care and wellness. Prana, Sanskrit for "life force," is a Hindu philosophy that includes yoga and Indian medicine.

"What we offer respects and honors the offerings given by Mother Earth for mind, body and soul," says Jacque. "We strive to be a sustainable business while lifting up our community."

Not too long ago, Tavish Steele and fiancée, Faith Daniels found themselves looking for a new place to settle and discovered the vibrancy of downtown West Chester. "We loved the hometown feel the downtown gave us," says Faith. "It reminded me of where I grew up."

Faith and Tavish, both advocates of fitness and body building, decided to follow their passion and open Steele House Nutrition, at 237 E. Gay St. They provide everything you need to get lean and fit, featuring delicious fla-



Tesoro



The Brow Bar





Sabrina Ann Couture



The Prana House



Steele House Nutrition



H. Rose Boutique



WCU Ram Shop

vors like vanilla ice cream and strawberry milk shake.

Most products are from local businesses with many being exclusive to Steele House. Inside tip: when you visit, make sure you say “hi” to their four-legged friend Rhea.

### SPECTACULAR CHRISTMAS PARADE

Another reason to visit, West Chester’s Christmas Celebration has everything to make the season bright and ring in the holidays. The centerpiece of the celebration is the 37th Annual QVC West Chester Christmas Parade that kicks off this holiday season on Friday, December 2nd.

Once again, the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce hosts this beloved tradition that attracts bigger crowds each year. Come see spectacular floats, giant inflatable character balloons, dozens of marching bands, dance troupes and antique cars that make up the holiday merriment, all orchestrated by Under the Sun Productions. And listen for Santa’s silver bells as he

flies through the streets in his sleigh.

Before the parade, join the 8th Annual Jingle Elf Run for children’s races, one-mile walks and two-mile runs. Register early online at [RunCCRS.com](http://RunCCRS.com) and get a jingle elf hat to wear!

Pick your spot to watch the fun as Friday’s parade starts from New and Market Street, travels east on Market past the Christmas tree at the Historic Courthouse then north on Matlack, west on Gay Street, before circling back to New Street.

Thousands come from near and far to celebrate this tradition and welcome Santa Claus. QVC will broadcast live from the parade and rebroadcast Christmas Day on QVC so you can recapture the spirit.

Join in as the entire weekend is filled with events from holiday open houses hosted by local businesses before the parade to Saturday breakfast with Santa.

Downtown West Chester will have everybody in the holiday spirit. Learn more at [GreaterWestChester.com](http://GreaterWestChester.com). ♦



West Chester Christmas Parade



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*Bride Guide*  
to West Chester

**2017 BRIDAL SHOW**

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2017 Bridal Showcase: *Locally Ever After*  
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The WCU RAM SHOP  
134 N. High Street • West Chester  
wcuramshop.com



Holiday Hours: Mon-Sat 10AM-5:30PM and Sun 11AM-5PM

# HOLIDAY FUN IN West Chester

**THROUGH DECEMBER 24**  
18th Annual Miniature Show. See 26 local artists display miniature artworks. Sunset Hill Gallery, 23 N. High St. Mon, 9:30 to 5:30; Tues, Thurs, Fri, 9:30 to 7; Wed, until 8; Sat, 10 to 6. 610-692-0374; SunsetHillGallery.com.

**DECEMBER 2-3**  
Christmas in West Chester. Dec. 2, ABC's Adam Joseph, QVC's Carolyn Gracie and Dan Hughes host. Jingle Elf 5K Run, 6:30 pm; tree lighting at 7; QVC Christmas Parade at 7:15. 400 luminaria at Marshall Sq. Park. Soup & Sandwich Parlour at the Knights of Columbus, 5:45 to 8:30. Dec. 3, Breakfast with Santa at Chester County Hist. Soc., 8:30 & 10 am, \$16. Details at GreaterWestChester.com.

**DECEMBER 3**  
WCU—Live! The Greatest Pirate Story Never Told. With audience participation. Madeline Wing Adler Theatre, 817 S. High St., 2 pm. \$5-\$8. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu/Live.

**DECEMBER 3**  
West Chester Library Holiday Home Tour. See House Tours page in this issue.

**DECEMBER 3**  
West Chester Charity Ball. Dinner, dancing, auction. Benefits local charities. West Chester Golf & Country Club, 111 W. Ashbridge St., 6 to 11:30. \$175. 610-431-3598; FriendsAssoc.org.

**DECEMBER 3-4, 10-11, 17-18**  
West Chester Railroad's Santa's Express. Join Santa for singing holiday songs on the train ride. Plenty of photo ops with Santa. Trains depart Market St. Station, 230 E. Market St., 11 am, 1, 3 & 5 pm. \$7-\$23; under 2, free. 610-430-2233; WestChesterRR.com.

**DECEMBER 4**  
Holiday Festival at Oakbourne Mansion. The mansion is decked out for the holidays. Enjoy holiday crafts, games, music and refreshments. 1014 S. Concord Rd. 10 am to 1 pm. Free. 610-692-1930; WesttownPA.org.

**DECEMBER 11**  
Brian's Run. Started as fundraiser for an injured 15-year-old football player. Races start at Henderson High School, 400 Montgomery Ave., Kid's race, 12:50 pm, \$5. 5-Mile, 1 pm, \$25-\$30. Sign up at BriansRun.org.

**DECEMBER 9-11, 15-18**  
Brandywine Ballet Presents *The Nutcracker*. A beloved holiday classic that's still fresh. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, West Chester Univ., 700 S. High St. Dec. 9, 15, 10 am; Dec. 10, 17, noon & 4 pm; Dec. 11, 2 pm; Dec. 18, 6 pm. \$18-\$45. BrandywineBallet.org.

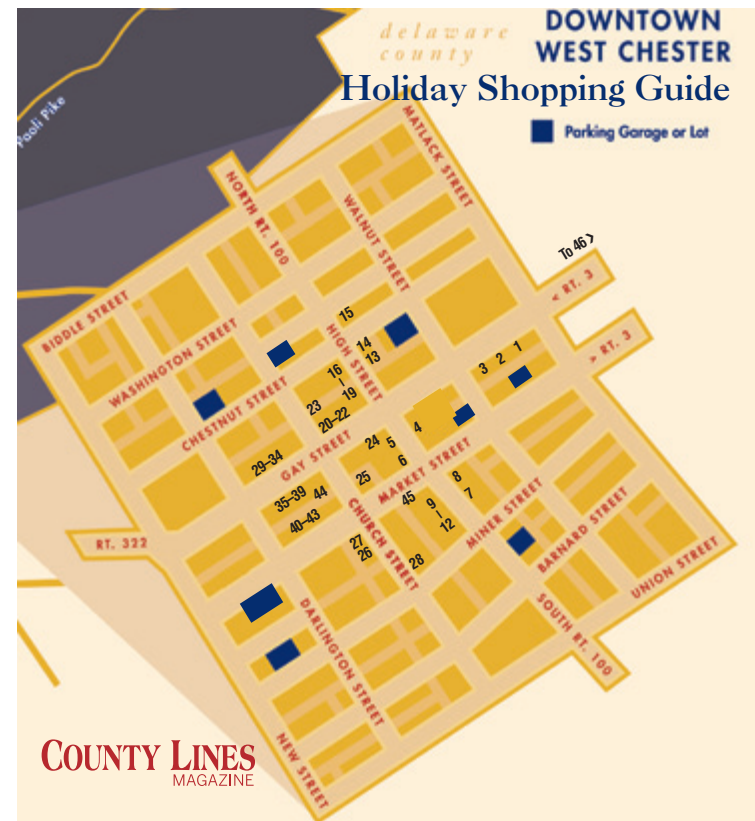
**DECEMBER 10**  
SantaFest at American Helicopter Museum. See Santa arrive by helicopter. 1220 American

Bldv. 10 am to 1 pm; Santa arrives at 11, helicopter rides after. Admission, \$10pp for holiday activities and snacks. Helicopter rides \$60pp. 610-436-9600; AmericanHelicopter.Museum.

**DECEMBER 15**  
Uptown! West Chester—Lori Fulton. It's a Jazz Cocktail Hour with vocalist Lori Fulton and her "Love Lori Orchestra." Sprout Music Collective, 130 E. Prescott Alley, 6:30 pm. \$15. 484-639-9004; UptownWestChester.org.

**DECEMBER 31**  
New Year's Eve Gala Opening at Uptown! Entertainment. The Celebration of the Century will showcase the restoration of the historic Armory building for use as a theater, now The Knauer Theater for the Performing Arts. 226 N. High St. *This event has SOLD OUT, but check the website for other exciting happenings at Uptown! UptownWestChester.org.* ♦

For more events see DowntownWestChester.com.



**SHOPPING GUIDE**

|                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. G-Spot Thrift Boutique    | 23. The Prana House           |
| 2. tish Boutique             | 24. Acorn Cottage Style       |
| 3. Hybrid Cycles             | 25. The Antique Shop          |
| 4. Sunset Hill Jewelers      | 26. Woman's Exchange          |
| 5. Fine Arts Gallery         | 27. Church Street Gal-        |
| 6. Coins of Chester County   | 28. lery                      |
| 7. Ruby Slippers Boutique    | 29. Halladay Florist          |
| 8. Phineas Gage              | 30. Malena's Vintage Boutique |
| 9. Emily Alice, upstairs     | 31. Mad Platter               |
| 10. Tesoro Design            | 32. May 23 Clothing           |
| 11. Kati MacFloral Designs   | 33. & Accessories             |
| 12. A Taste of Olive         | 34. Rimons Coffee & Grocery   |
| 13. Chester County           | 35. Great Craft Works         |
| 14. Running Store            | 36. H. Rose Boutique          |
| 15. Éclat Chocolate          | 37. Greene Street             |
| 16. Jane Chalfant /          | 38. Consignment Shop          |
| 17. Kiki Boutique            | 39. Taylor Music Store        |
| 18. Artistic Eyewear         | 40. Moonflower                |
| 19. Chester Co. Hist. Soc.   | 41. Green Eyed Lady           |
| 20. Paper Moon @ CCHS        | 42. Blink                     |
| 21. G&G Cigars               | 43. The 5 Senses              |
| 22. Sabrina Ann Couture      | 44. Mainline Custom Clothiers |
| 23. Visual Expansion Gallery | 45. Old Soul Décor            |
| 24. WCU Ram Shop             | 46. Kaplan's Fine Jewelry     |
| 25. Fairman's Skate Shop     | 47. Second Reading Books      |
| 26. Kaly                     | 48. Art Trust Gallery at      |
| 27. BIG Diamond Importers    | 49. Meridian Bank             |
| 28. & Fine Jewelry           | 50. Steele House Nutrition    |



# Holiday WINDOW SHOPPING

Marci Tomassone

What a year this has been! As December nears, let's look forward to some festive time with friends and family and immerse ourselves in the joy and traditions of the holidays. Check our events column for all the fun things to do this month.

To make it even more enjoyable for you, we've compiled a list of shops, restaurants and services—everything you'll need to complete your list, whether it's holiday shopping or finding just the right piece you've been looking for to spruce up your home. Make a day of it and visit the truly unique and talented merchants *County Lines* country has to offer.

For our part, we wish you the happiest of holidays and, as always to our readers and advertisers, our most heartfelt thank you. Happy New Year!

## ★ PENNSYLVANIA ★

### Avondale

**Loch Nairn Golf Club** is a "Jewel In The Country." Offering fine dining in **The Farmhouse**, a charming 17th-century farmhouse featuring excellent food and service. Serving lunch on Saturdays and dinner Thursday–Sunday, including Prix Fixe Menu each Thursday and Sunday (excluding holidays). You'll find casual fare in the **Greathouse**, including hearty comfort foods and craft beers. They have a sports bar and fireplace. Open daily for lunch and dinner. 514 McCue Rd. 610-268-2235; [LochNairn.com](http://LochNairn.com).

### Chadds Ford

The perfect gift awaits at the **Brandywine River Museum of Art**. Shop the unique selection of gifts inspired by art and nature, including notecards and art reproductions featuring the iconic works of the Wyeth family, handcrafted jewelry, exclusive silk scarves and accessories, toys for children, a unique selection of books and more. Don't miss the annual Critter Sale, December 2–4. Located on Rt. 1. 610-388-2700; [Brandywine.org](http://Brandywine.org).

### Chester Springs

**Moore's Furniture** has been helping families furnish their homes for over 54 years. They specialize in custom ordering furniture and

they offer quick delivery of stock items for every room in your home. Their knowledgeable and friendly sales associates can help you find just what you're looking for. They have two convenient locations: 90 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs, 610-458-8001 and 3291 W. Ridge Pike, Pottstown, 610-495-5252; [MooresFurniture.com](http://MooresFurniture.com).



### Moore's Furniture

610-495-5252 • [MooresFurniture.com](http://MooresFurniture.com)

### Collegeville

Relax for an afternoon or a full day at **Eden Day Spa and Salon**. This award-winning suburban oasis is dedicated to pampering and beautifying experiences in an inviting environment. With warm stone massage, Keratin hair smoothing, expert Brazilian waxing, and world-class skin care, Eden assures that your time there will make you or that special someone feel balanced and beautiful. 378 W. Main St. 610-489-0800; [EdenDaySpaAndSalon.com](http://EdenDaySpaAndSalon.com).



### Eden Day Spa and Salon

610.489.0800 • [EdenDaySpaAndSalon.com](http://EdenDaySpaAndSalon.com)

### Elverson

If the hearth is the heart of the home, **Chester County Hearth and Home** will warm your home's heart with their quality products and services. With products from Regency, Marquis and Enviro, the shop features a variety of stoves, inserts and fireplace accessories as well as custom fireplace designs. They also provide CSIA and NFI certified chimney and gas fireplace services. Make your chimney safe for Santa! 19 Park Ave. 610-913-0730; [ChesterChimney.com](http://ChesterChimney.com).



### Chester County Hearth & Home

610-913-0730 • [ChesterChimney.com](http://ChesterChimney.com)

### Exton

Deck the halls this holiday season with 18th-century through Victorian era original and reproduction furniture, lighting fixtures and furniture hardware. Visit **Ball & Ball**, 463 W. Lincoln Hwy. (Rt. 30), to find unique gift ideas including candlesticks, bookends, lanterns and fireplace accessories made on premises in brass, tin, copper, pewter and hand-forged iron and bronze. All perfect gifts this holiday season. Open Mon.–Fri., 8 to 4:30; Sat. hours, October–March, 9 to 1. 610-363-7300; [BallAndBall.com](http://BallAndBall.com).



### Ball & Ball

610.363.7300 • [BallAndBall.com](http://BallAndBall.com)

Gift cards to new trendy restaurants; best-selling novels, unique toys and games; elegant home décor ... these are a few of our favorite things. Satisfy all your holiday needs this year as you shop amongst the twinkling lights and cool crisp air in beautiful **Eagleview Town Center**, 510 Wellington Square. [EagleviewTownCenter.com](http://EagleviewTownCenter.com) for more information.



### Eagleview Town Center

[EagleviewTownCenter.com](http://EagleviewTownCenter.com)

There's no place like **Ron's Original Bar & Grille** this holiday season! Come and indulge in some "Real Food, for the Health of it." Offering a family atmosphere, Italian fare, live music and some of the best craft beer around, they invite you to stop in for a bite, enjoy some take-out or delivery, or call them to cater your next event! 74 E. Uwchlan Ave. 610-594-9900; [RonsOriginal.com](http://RonsOriginal.com).

### Kennett Square

Using only the finest and freshest ingredients, highlighting the northern region of Italy, **La Verona** is committed to making your meal a memo-



rable one, with professional service in a welcoming, vibrant, social atmosphere. They have a private dining area for parties up to 65, and they invite you to join them for Happy Hour, Mon.–Fri., 4 to 6. Come and join them in celebrating their 5th Anniversary. 114 E. State St. 610-444-2244; LaVeronaPA.com.

Drawing fans in Kennett since 2011 is **Lily's Asian Cuisine, Sushi & Grill**, 104 W. State St. This stylish, modern Asian restaurant serves Japanese, Chinese and Thai dishes insisting on high quality food, freshly prepared with finest ingredients. Meet friends for lunch, have dinner with family or come for a celebration. All-you-can-eat sushi on Tuesday, with hot starters. Enjoy the comfortable ambience, delicious food and excellent service in Lily's. BYOB. 610-925-3700; LilySushiAndGrill.com.

**Lancaster**

The **Museum Store of LancasterHistory.org** offers an unequaled selection of gifts by local artisans including art, crafts, books and holiday items. You'll find fraktur, scherenschnitte, pottery and distinctive decorations for the holidays as well as gifts for children and everyone else on your list. Two Lancaster locations: 4 W. King and 230 N. President Ave. on the Campus of History. Unusual. Distinctive. Different. They're ready for the holidays! Are you? 717-392-4633; LancasterHistory.org.

**Landenberg**

**Paradocx Vineyard**, nestled among the rolling hills of southern Chester County, combines current technology and handcrafted secrets to create unique wines from homegrown grapes and from selected custom growers. They have over 100 acres and 30 of those are under vine. By providing only the finest, they are able to provide their head winemaker, Gabriel Rubilar, with the best possible start for a quality wine in the bottle. 1833 Flint Hill Rd. Also in the Market at Liberty Place in Kennett Square. 610-255-5684; Paradocx.com.



**Paradocx Vineyard**  
610.255.5684 • Paradocx.com

**Malvern**

There's something special at **Nota Bene Boutique** for you and other style-lovers on your Christmas list! They offer clothing, gifts and acces-

sories for women of all ages. Treat your friends and family to something as beautiful as it is unique. Stop in at their downtown boutique and enjoy a fun day of shopping in a friendly and helpful atmosphere. 117 W. King St. 610-644-5016; NotaBeneBoutique.com.

Give yourself a treat this holiday season and stop in to **Tonino's Pizza & Pasta Co.** to savor the freshest ingredients in their authentic, homemade Neapolitan pizza, pasta and signature Italian dishes. This family-run business invites you to come in and dine, BYOB, or call for delivery. Having a party? Their party trays make the planning easy—perfect for holidays and celebrations at home or at work. 235 Lancaster Ave. 610-240-9566; ToninosPizzaAndPasta.com.

**Marshallton**

This holiday season, why not introduce some creativity, art, innovation and fun to your gift-giving? Visit the **Merchant of Menace Re-Imaginings Gallery** and check the whimsical and inventive items that will delight everyone! Their artists see possibilities everywhere and create amazing works from a variety of reclaimed materials. Find furniture crafted from New England barn wood, animal sculptures made from antique tractor parts, jewelry created from silverware and much more! 1351 W. Strasburg Rd. 215-704-7419; TheMerchantOfMenace.net.



**The Merchant of Menace Art Gallery**  
215.704.7419 • TheMerchantOfMenace.net

**Newtown Square**

Gourmet gift baskets and luscious fine chocolates are two reasons to stop at **Christopher Chocolates**, making life sweeter for 30 years as a family-owned and operated business. They have a great selection of gourmet foods, candies, sugar-free items and fine chocolates for a customized gift basket to delight all on your list. They ship and deliver. Open daily from Thanksgiving to Christmas. 3519 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3). 610-359-1669; Christopher-Chocolates.com.



**Christopher Chocolates**  
610-359-1669 • Christopher-Chocolates.com

Get your Christmas plants and flowers at **Mostardi Nursery**. Featuring distinctive plants for every season, Mostardi offers a selection that will have your home looking greener and even better than last Christmas. The Christmas Shop features trees, wreaths, poinsettias, garden accents, ornaments and accessories. Mostardi is dedicated to providing avid gardeners and homeowners with plants for every season and every reason. 4033 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3); 610-356-8035; Mostardi.com.



**Mostardi Nursery**  
610.356.8035 • Mostardi.com

**Paoli**

This holiday season **Walter J. Cook Jeweler** marks 70 years on the Main Line with fine gifts designed to celebrate life's special occasions. Browse the newest collections specializing in unique designs with alternative metals, diamonds in all colors and a multitude of gemstones. Visit them for fine jewelry, artisan gifts and collectibles. Located in the Chestnut Village Shoppes, 36 Chestnut Rd. 610-644-5347; WalterJ-CookJeweler.com.



**Walter J. Cook Jeweler**  
610.644.5347 • WalterJCookJeweler.com

**Gie Gie Lingerie**, 36 Chestnut Rd., supports all women, in every phase of life, to feel feminine and confident, able to experience a custom fitting in an environment where her feelings and consciousness are important. Besides their inventory, they are known for their compassionate and supportive style in helping women who are undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Their sales team provides great conversation, laughter and a refuge from the trials and tribulations of everyday life. 610-296-7626; GieGieLingerie.com.

**Parkesburg**

**Greg Pilotti Furniture Makers** create authentic reproductions, custom furniture, beautiful antique American-inspired furniture, and many types of cabinetry. They will add crown molding to existing cabinets, do cabinet door upgrades and built-in cabinetry units. They work closely with each client to bring their ideas to life, create exacting replicas, or modify a piece to meet a modern need. 484-764-6956; GPFurnitureMakers.com.



**Greg Pilotti Furniture Makers, Inc.**  
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BALLANDBALL.COM

EXTON, PA

1.800.257.3711

## Pottstown

**Moore's Furniture** 3291 W. Ridge Pk. 610-495-5252; MooresFurniture.com. See their listing under Chester Springs.

## Royersford

Owner Cathy Calhoun of **Calhoun Jewelers** and her staff are ready to make your best moments even more memorable. The team works to provide a pleasant experience from your first step into the store to the moment you slip on your new jewelry and beyond with their private collection, custom designs, signature collection, estate jewelry and jewelry repairs. 500 Main St. 610-948-8515; CalhounJewelers.com.

## Wallingford

Make it a handcrafted holiday. **Community Arts Center** and the **Potters Guild** present their Holiday Sale featuring functional and decorative ceramic, mixed media, fiber art, jewelry, papier-maché, flowers, wood, soaps, baskets, metal and holiday décor from over 60 artists, Dec. 2-10. Special shopping events include a preview party and concert with Cartoon Christmas Trio. 414 Plush Mill Rd. CACHolidaySale.org.

## Wayne

In a free-standing Road House at the crossroads of Rts. 202 and 252, **Black Powder Tavern** is a friendly, casual restaurant serving traditional and modern versions of American comfort foods, including seasonal small plate offerings, plates to share, and homemade desserts. Black Powder Tavern's broad offerings of beverages includes an extensive list of craft beers on draft and in bottles, quality libations, and extensive wine list. Gift cards—perfect for the holidays! BlackPowderTavern.com.

## West Chester

To add sparkle to the holidays, visit the ultimate jewelry store—**Big Diamond Importers & Fine Jewelry**, 15 W. Gay St., specializing in Ideal Cut Diamonds, engagement rings and wedding bands at wholesale prices. See their big and unique engagement rings and fashion jewelry collection for 2016. They are also a full-service jeweler, including in-house repair, custom design and appraisals. Receive 30% off on all in-store jewelry for mentioning this article. 610-692-7707; BigDiamonds.com.



**Big Diamond Importers & Fine Jewelry**  
610.692.7707 • BigDiamonds.com

Since 1933, the Jane Chalfant shop has provided casual fashions in a friendly atmosphere. Today, **Jane Chalfant / Kiki Boutique** features sweaters, pants and jackets for your everyday life style. Everyone is pleasantly surprised by the size of the shop, which enables them to carry a great selection including fun, fashion accessories. It's worth the trip! Free parking behind the shop at 123 N. High St. 610-696-0290; JaneChalfant.com.

**Emily Alice boutique salon and day spa**, at 29 S. High St., is beauty redefined, taking a holistic approach and providing organic enzyme peels, one-on-one makeup lessons, custom hair painting, Pilates, and more. In addition to individual services, they are a destination for private groups, bridal parties and girls' night out events. Come in for a tour, browse their product selection and learn more about what may make you look and feel better. 610-696-3990; EmilyAlice.com.

Touch ... Sight ... Taste ... Smell ... Sound ... **The 5 Senses**. You can find something for everyone on your shopping list for any occasion (and a little something for you as well) at this shop. They offer North American and Fair Trade, handmade, functional works of art, from pottery to candles to jewelry and gift art. They also have a large selection of all-occasion cards. 133 W. Market St. 610-719-0170; The5Senses.com.



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For the artsy friends and family members on your shopping list, the **Delaware Art Museum** is sure to offer something unique just for them. Browse a selection of treasures, including handcrafted jewelry, vases, ceramics, textiles and books in the Museum Store or during the Winter Arts Festival, December 10 and 11. Visit their website to find out more about festive holiday offerings, events and special exhibitions for all ages. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.



### Delaware Art Museum Store

302.571.9590 • DelArt.org

For those interested in live theater, **Delaware Theatre Company** is the place to be. Located on Wilmington's beautiful Riverfront, it's the only theater in Delaware that develops new works for Broadway. In the last three years, celebrities such as Michael Learned, Peter Strauss, Duncan Sheik, Donna Pescow and Sheryl Crow have worked on their stage. This December, see the timeless classic, *A Christmas Carol*. 200 Water St. 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

When you're liquidating an estate or just downsizing, remember that **Whitten's Fine Jewelry** is always looking for fine vintage jewelry and watches. They also purchase diamonds that need a new home. Whitten's Fine Jewelry has access to over 250 dealers around the world who specialize in different facets of the jewelry industry making them able to evaluate and determine value. Stop by for a free appraisal and offer to purchase. Midway Shopping Center, 4719 Kirkwood Hwy. 302-995-7464; WhittensFineJewelry.com.

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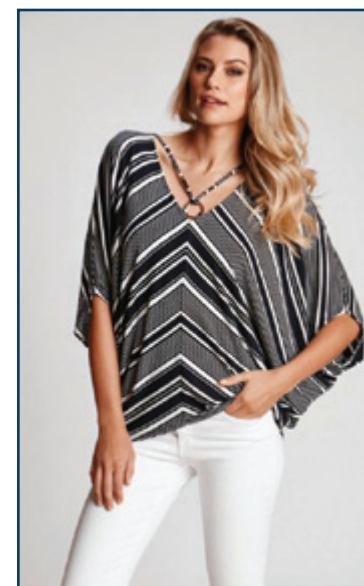
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**Old Soul Décor**, West Chester



# Make a Gift

## INSPIRATION FOR GIFTING THE RIGHT WINES

Kayleigh Thompson

A MAJOR CHALLENGE IN NAVIGATING THE HOLIDAYS is choosing just the right gift for each person on your list. For grown-ups, wine is a great and personalized choice that just about everyone can appreciate. But with so many different styles and vintages, how do you know what to buy? And for the kids on your list ... you need to find another source for advice!

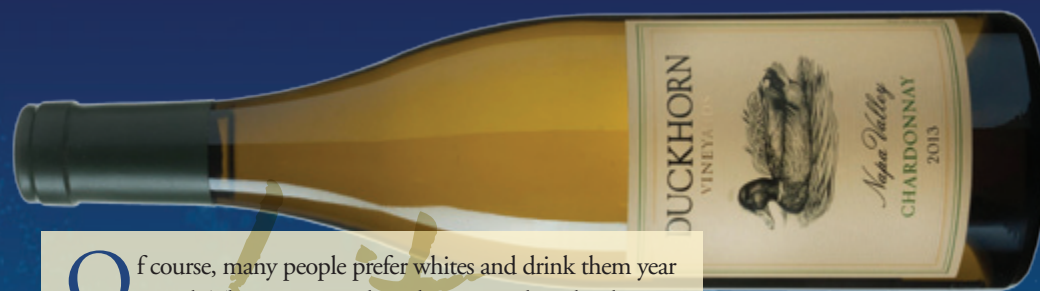
Here are some recommendations to give you ideas and inspiration for what to buy this season. And here's hoping this makes your trip to your local wine store a little easier and more enjoyable.

Most wine drinkers—especially experimental millennials—like a variety of types of wine, so the options are great. Since reds and fortified wines are generally best suited for the colder months, why not start there?

Doña Paula Estate Black Edition Red Blend Lujan de Cuyo 2013 (90 points *James Suckling*\*, \$14.99), from a sub-region of Mendoza in Argentina, combines the appeal of malbec and red blends—both very hot right now. A heavy, dark blend of 60% malbec, 37% cabernet sauvignon and 3% petit verdot, this wine will please California cabernet lovers, malbec enthusiasts and Bordeaux fans alike with aromas and flavors of herbs, plum, spices, blueberries and red pepper. These flavors are complemented by silky tannins and a long finish.

For the wine connoisseur or collector on your list, you may want something truly special. Joseph Phelps Vineyard Insignia Napa Valley 2013 (100 points *Wine Advocate*, \$219.99) marks the 40th vintage of this world-renowned Napa Valley red Bordeaux blend. In my opinion, it may be the best in recent years, though the 2011 and 2012 that are still in stores are stunning as well.

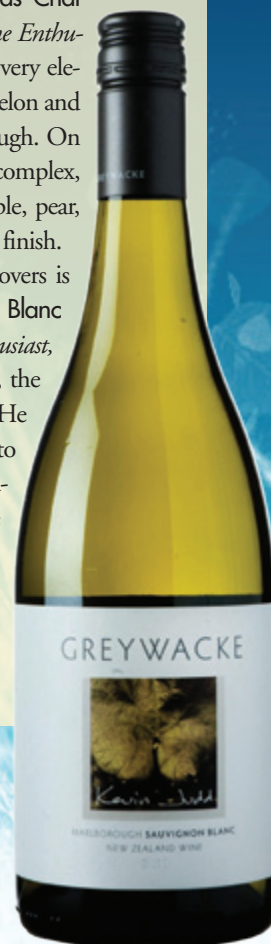
The 2013 Insignia is a blend of 88% cabernet sauvignon, 5% petit verdot, 3% merlot, 3% malbec and 1% cabernet franc aged for 24 months in 100% new oak barrels. A deep, inky purple, this wine expresses aromas of blackberry, plum, flowers and espresso. Rich, concentrated flavors of dark fruit, vanilla bean, black pepper and chocolate combine with elegant tannins and well-integrated wood for a powerful experience. For optimal drinking, wait at least five to six years for the tannins to open up more fully. This beauty should continue to age well for up to 30 to 40 years.



Of course, many people prefer whites and drink them year round. The most popular white varietal is chardonnay and it's an easy go-to if you're not sure what style a person prefers. Aged in 45% new French oak, 45% second-use French oak, and 10% stainless steel, Duckhorn Vineyards Chardonnay Napa Valley 2013 (90 points *Wine Enthusiast*, \$31.99) is classic California style, done very elegantly. This wine has aromas of ripe peach, melon and lime with a hint of vanilla and pecan pie dough. On the palate, this wine is medium-bodied and complex, with well-balanced acidity and flavors of apple, pear, lemon and sweet oak leading to a silky, long finish.

Another fantastic choice for white wine lovers is a sauvignon blanc. Greywacke Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2015 (91 points *Wine Enthusiast*, \$21.99) is a newer endeavor by Kevin Judd, the founder and winemaker behind Cloudy Bay. He allowed a portion of the juice for this wine to undergo spontaneous natural yeast fermentation, which adds complexity. Aromas of ripe pear, peach, apple, passion fruit and lemon jump out of the glass, with subtle notes of jasmine following. The palate is silky with intense flavors of fresh grass, stone fruits, melons and oranges.

\* Wine critic and former Wine Spectator senior editor who started his own wine website, [JamesSuckling.com](http://JamesSuckling.com).



For those who love sweeter wines, pick up Adesso Cagnina di Romagna Dolce 2015 (\$9.99). This great-value red wine is made from 100% Refosco from Le Rocche Malatestiane, by a wine cooperative with 990 vine-growing members in Italy's Emilia-Romagna region, south of Venice. Adesso is a low-alcohol, medium-bodied red with flavors of raspberry, cherry and spice that's easy to drink, with medium sweetness.



And if you are still not sure what to buy, stop by your local wine store and ask to speak to the wine specialist. There are so many more choices to match with every person on your holiday list.

Happy Holidays and cheers! ♦

*Kayleigh Thompson has worked in the wine industry for over six years and has earned the Certified Specialist of Wine certification from the Society of Wine Educators. She works as a Wine Specialist at the Fine Wine & Good Spirits Premium Collection store in King of Prussia, now at its new location on DeKalb Pike. Learn more at [FineWineAndGoodSpirits.com](http://FineWineAndGoodSpirits.com).*



Whether you need a bottle for ringing in the New Year, toasting an engagement, celebrating a family gathering, or just mixing a mimosa at brunch, some occasions simply demand sparkling wine.

Made from pinot noir grapes from ten grand cru villages in Montagne de Reims and Côte de Bouzy, Laurent-Perrier Brut Rosé NV (92 points *Wine Spectator*, \$79.99) is a beautiful, elegant Champagne. The gorgeous salmon color comes from the red grape skins staying in contact with the juice for three days before fermentation. The wine has an expressive bouquet of orange, raspberry, ginger, flowers and stone. The palate is dry, creamy and well-balanced, with fine bubbles and peach, almond, red raspberry, white pepper, chalk and baked bread flavors. It ends with a long, crisp, floral finish. This Champagne is delicious with a variety of hors d'oeuvres.

For sparkling cocktails or toasts with large groups, you don't need to spend a fortune. Cava is a great choice because it's delicious and inexpensive, plus the bubbles stand up well to mixing!

Beautiful Cava Brut Nature NV (88 points *Wine Enthusiast*, \$11.99) is a lively blend of 80% macabeo and 20% chardonnay from north-facing vineyards in Requena, Spain. Aged in the bottle for 15 months on the yeast cells, it has citrus and green apple aromas with a hint of celery and toast. On the palate, the wine is full and citrusy with bright tangerine, grapefruit and lime flavors and a long, crisp finish.





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## [Food News] *A few of our favorite things to share this month about local food and drink*



### No Nod for Eggnog.

This December, combat the cold with **warm winter cocktails**. Try sweet and savory hot chocolate with bacon, bourbon and hazelnut, or spice it up the Aztec way with chili, cinnamon and Mezcal. Suffering from a stuffy nose and cough? Ease your sore throat with a Scotch hot toddy. Or add hazelnut liquor to

your morning brew and enjoy an Alps Coffee. Avoid the eggnog and try these and more homemade recipes from *Drinks.SeriousEats.com*.

**Try Dry.** Yes, 2017 will be here soon, so what's your New Year's resolution? This January, join millions who pledge a **Dry January, aka Drynuary**. Help start a better new year and see how an alcohol-free month can benefit your liver, your sleep, your wallet and your waistline. Download the iDrinkSmarter app to track your progress. So plan ahead and throw that spirited Christmas party now, or hide your extra bottles before the ball drops.

**More Italian.** Chef Steve DiFillippo brings Philly's famous **Davio's Steakhouse** to **King of Prussia's Town Center**. The new 10,000-square-foot restaurant serves seasonally inspired northern Italian cuisine, featuring home-made pasta, fresh seafood and salads, and premium beef dishes. Sip from over 200 wines, or take your pick of Italian craft beers. Open for brunch, lunch, dinner and private parties. Just one of the many new dining options at the Town Center. More info at *Davios.com*.



### Beat the Sweets.

Nothing says "Christmas" like a warm kitchen, a floury mess on the table, and the smell of sugar cookies browning in the oven. But is this tradition a little *too* sweet? This year, avoid the sugar overload and try some **healthy and creative snacks** to get your kids in the holiday spirit. Turn strawberries and bananas into mini Santas or make pita and guacamole Christmas trees. You can even give frozen peanut butter treats pretzel antlers to make reindeer bites. More recipes at *CleanAndSensible.com*.



**No More Dinner Disasters.** Cooking a family feast is no small feat, and with the holiday season in full swing, who has time to invent new recipes? Stay ahead of the curve with the **BigOven app**. Browse over 350,000 new and exotic recipes for appetizers, main courses and desserts from around world. You'll even find variations on this month's Brandywine Table "Feast of the Seven Fishes." Get ingredient lists, detailed cooking instructions and even recipes for leftovers. *BigOven.com*.







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## [Brandywine Table]

# Feast of the Seven Fishes

Laura Muzzi Brennan

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITION RIVALING THE NEXT DAY'S DINNER.  
OR, AS MY AUNTS WOULD SAY, 'IT WON'T KILL YOU TO TRY A FRIED SMELT!'

I KNOW IT IS NOT POLITICALLY CORRECT TO STEREOTYPE, but one thing I love about Italians—including my father's side of the family—is their ability to turn sacrifice into pleasure. Traditionally, La Vigilia (Christmas Eve) is a day when many Catholics abstain from eating meat before receiving communion at Christmas Mass. The Italian response? Put on the Feast of the Seven Fishes, a celebration that rivals Christmas Day dinner in abundance, flavor and the spirit of la dolce vita.

But getting such a banquet on the table involves a great deal of work—or at the very least, a great deal of planning and ordering—so before you decide whether to cook the Feast at home or to dine out on Christmas Eve, it's helpful to hear from the pros.

At La Verona in downtown Kennett Square, co-owner Jack Mavraj and executive chef Gilles Moret have hosted the Feast of the Seven Fishes every Christmas Eve since 2012.

Mavraj is a native of Italy who grew up in Munich and moved with his family to the U.S. nearly two decades ago. He's celebrated the Feast ever since childhood. Before settling in Pennsylvania, he brought the tradition to his previous restaurants on Long Island and Manhattan. Moret hails from France and did his culinary training in Paris.

While Mavraj and Moret tweak the \$65 prix fixe menu every year, it always includes a soup, salad, pasta, main dish and dessert. Diners at the 2015 dinner savored lobster bisque; fried calamari and smelts with tomato pesto and fresh tomato sauce; grilled octopus salad; capellini with clams and sardines; and sautéed bronzino in a lemon white wine sauce accompanied by risotto and escarole. Housemade tiramisu and cannoli sweeten the meal's end. La Verona's regular menu is also available on Christmas Eve, so you can have that chicken Parmesan Vice President Joe Biden ordered when he visited in July.

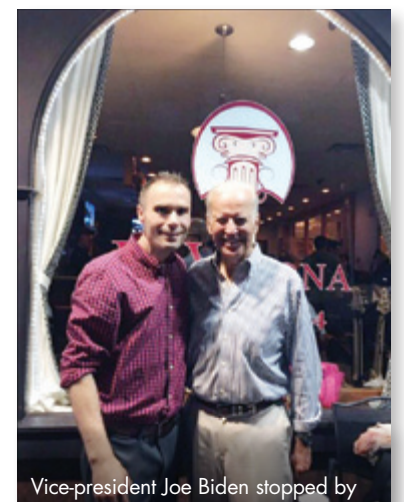
For cooks who want to host the Feast at home, Mavraj and Moret generously shared a few of their recipes and advice. While it's a given that you should buy from a reputable purveyor, be sure to



choose fish with shiny, not cloudy, eyes and bright red gills. When selecting octopus and smelts, purchase small ones: they are easier to work with and more tender. The same applies to clams, making little necks a good choice for the meal.

Most of all, whether cooking or eating, be open-minded. In other words, as my Italian aunts would say, "It won't kill you to try a fried smelt!" (For the record, not only did it not kill me but fried smelts became one of my favorite Christmas Eve dishes.)

Whether you take the DIY route or East State Street directly to La Verona, we at *County Lines* wish you Buon Natale.



Vice-president Joe Biden stopped by



### Exotique Sauce

This is a jazzed up version of Thousand Island dressing that makes a flavorful dipping sauce for chilled shrimp. Adapted from a 1996 Zanne Stewart recipe in Gourmet.

½ C. mayonnaise  
3 Tb. ketchup  
1½ Tb. Cognac  
2–3 tsp. lime juice  
Pinch of salt  
Few dashes of hot sauce (Tabasco or other)

Whisk all ingredients together and chill for 1–2 hours.

Makes a generous ½ C.

### Mignonette Sauce

A classic sauce for oysters. You can make this sauce days in advance. In fact, the longer it sits, the better because the shallots will have a chance to mellow.

½ C. champagne vinegar  
½ C. minced shallots  
½ tsp. fresh coarsely ground white pepper  
Pinch of kosher salt  
Pinch of sugar

Whisk all ingredients together. Refrigerate at least 4 hours. Taste and adjust seasonings.

Makes enough for 2–3 dozen oysters on the half shell.

### Bronzino in Lemon Caper Wine Sauce with Risotto and Escarole

Bronzino, also called European or Mediterranean sea bass, is a mild white fish that's very popular on restaurant menus. Recipe courtesy of Jack Mavraj and Gilles Moret, La Verona.



½ C. chopped onion  
8 oz. extra virgin olive oil, divided plus more to cook bronzino  
1 lb. risotto  
2 qts. chicken or fish stock or broth, divided  
4 oz. butter, divided  
¼ C. chopped basil  
1 C. grated Parmesan  
2 heads escarole  
1 Tb. chopped garlic  
6 bronzino filets, 8 oz. each  
1 Tb. flour plus more for dusting filets  
2 C. white wine  
2 Tb. capers  
¼ C. chopped parsley  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
Juice of 2 lemons or to taste

Sauté chopped onion in 4 oz. olive oil. Add the risotto and 1 qt. stock and cook on low heat for 10 minutes. Add another ½ qt. stock and cook for an additional 10 minutes, stirring frequently, until al dente. Stir in 2 oz. butter, chopped basil and Parmesan. Cover and set aside.

Chop escarole into ½-inch pieces. Wash and drain. In a large skillet, sauté chopped garlic in 4 oz. olive oil until golden. Add escarole and sauté until it softens. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Rinse bronzino filets. Dry and lightly flour all over. Set a large skillet over medium high heat and add just enough olive oil to prevent fish from sticking. Place filets flesh side down and cook for 3 minutes. Flip and cook for an additional 3 minutes. Remove fish to a plate.

To the skillet used to cook fish, add 2 C. white wine, 2 Tb. capers, 2 oz. butter, 1 Tb. flour, ½ qt. chicken or fish stock and parsley. Add salt, pepper, and lemon juice to taste. Cook over medium high heat until sauce reduces by two-thirds.

Serve bronzino with a generous helping of risotto and escarole and extra sauce on the side.

Makes 6 servings.

### Angel hair with Clams and Sardines (Capellini vongole e sardines)

Recipe courtesy of Jack Mavraj and Gilles Moret, La Verona.

18 little neck clams  
4 Tb. extra virgin olive oil, divided

### Feast by the Numbers

Celebrity chef Mario Batali jokes that the Feast of the Seven Fishes is "what Italians do when they say they're fasting." Some families, he notes, even indulge in as many as 13 fishes! Other families limit the seafood dishes to 3. But what's behind the numbers? Food historians disagree, but here is a smorgasbord of theories to chew on.

**3:** the Wise Men; the Holy Trinity

**7:** the days of the week, the sacraments of the Roman Catholic church; the seven deadly sins (Gluttony, anyone?); the hills surrounding Rome

**11:** the 12 apostles minus Judas

**13:** the 12 apostles plus Jesus

3 Tb. chopped garlic  
2 C. clam juice  
1 C. white wine  
¼ lb. butter  
2 Tb. flour, plus more for dusting sardines  
Crushed red pepper flakes, to taste  
12 small sardine filets  
1 lb. angel hair (fresh or dry)  
2 lemons, cut in half  
½ C. chopped parsley



*To clean the clams:* In a large bowl, toss the clams with a little bit of kosher salt. Add water halfway up the clams and swish around. Change water 2 or 3 times. Lift clams out of the water, leaving any grit behind. Discard clams with broken shells.

In a large saucepan, heat 3 Tb. olive oil with garlic over low heat. When the garlic is very light brown, add the clams, clam juice and white wine. Bring to a boil. Then reduce to a simmer. Cover and cook until the clams open, about 5 minutes. Discard any clams that do not open.

Mix butter and 2 Tb. flour together with your fingers or a fork. Add the butter-flour mixture and crushed red pepper flakes to the saucepan. Remove from heat and set aside.



Rinse sardines under running water and pat dry. Lightly dust the sardines with flour. In a heated sauté pan with 1 Tb. olive oil, add the sardine filets skin side down first. Cook for 2 minutes each side. Remove pan from heat.

Cook the angel hair for 2 minutes in salted water. Drain and mix into clams in the saucepan.

Dish out onto large serving tray or individual serving plates with clams towards edge. Place the sardines next to the clams.

Arrange lemon halves around the platter and sprinkle chopped parsley all over.

Makes 6 servings.

### La Verona Octopus Salad

- 1 lb. baby octopus
- 1 small carrot, chopped
- 1 rib celery, chopped
- 1 Tb. chopped onion
- 1 garlic clove
- 2 bulbs fennel

- 2 Tb. extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 tsp. fresh basil
- 1 tsp. fresh parsley
- 2 lemons
- 2 large heads radicchio
- ½ lb. baby arugula



Wash octopus and blanch in a pot of boiling water for 30 minutes along with carrot, celery, onion and garlic. Remove octopus and place in an ice bath. Drain octopus, cut into 1-inch strips and place in the refrigerator.

Wash the fennel. Shave it on a mandoline or cut it by hand into ⅛-inch thick slices. Blanch in a fresh pot of boiling water for 1 minute. Remove fennel and place in an ice bath. Drain.

Heat extra virgin olive oil in a sauté pan set over low to medium heat. Add fennel, octopus, salt, pepper, basil, parsley and juice of 1 lemon. Cook just to heat through, about 1–2 minutes.

You can serve this dish family style on a large platter or on individual plates. Place radicchio leaves on the outside of platter and put arugula leaves in the center. Spoon octopus/fennel over the lettuces. Garnish with lemon wedges and serve immediately.

Makes 6 servings.

### Crab Pie

*This recipe is a hybrid of two recipes I've kept in my "to try" binder for the last few years. I borrowed the sour cream crust from a Moravian chicken pie recipe printed in the December/January 2012 issue of Cook's Country magazine. I adapted the crab filling from a Penzey's Spices reader recipe. The pie is rich and celebratory—just right for Christmas Eve. It can be prepared a few days early and warmed up in the oven.*

For the crust:

- 2½ C. all purpose flour
- 1½ tsp. salt
- 12 Tb. unsalted butter, cut into ½" pieces and kept chilled
- ½ C. sour cream, chilled
- 1 large egg

For the filling:

- 1 Tb. butter
- ¼ C. diced onion
- ¼ C. diced celery
- ½ C. mayonnaise
- 2 Tb. flour
- 2 eggs, beaten
- ½ C. whole milk
- 8 oz. lump crab meat, picked over to remove shells
- 8 oz. shredded cheese \*
- 2 Tb. pimentos
- 2 tsp. Old Bay seasoning

*\*I used a Mexican blend that included mild cheddar and Monterey Jack. Feel free to use any mild cheeses you want. The trick is to not overpower the crab.*

### Surviving the Feast: Advice from a Home Cook

I started hosting the Feast at my house 10+ years ago. What began as an intimate sit-down dinner for 5 has evolved into a raucous buffet for 15 to 20, meaning I've had to adjust the dishes and my expectations to keep from having a Christmas Eve meltdown.

Here are the two most important tips I can give you:

1. Serve no more than two hot dishes. Without a lot of kitchen help and chafing dishes, it's impossible to keep too many hot foods at the right temperature.

2. Take shortcuts whenever you can. Seven fishes does not mean seven distinct courses, so go ahead and whip up a fish stew or seafood lasagna.

Easier still, assemble a raw bar: buy cooked shrimp with the shells already removed and get the oysters and clams shucked at the store. (Lots of places do this free of charge.)

Then, all you have to do is whisk together a couple of sauces and uncork the Prosecco.

To make the crust:

Pulse flour and salt together in a food processor. Add butter to flour mixture and pulse until you get pea-size pieces.

Whisk together sour cream and egg in another bowl. Add half of sour cream mixture to food processor and pulse to combine. Add remaining sour cream mixture and pulse until dough begins to form.

On a lightly floured surface, knead dough until it just comes together. Divide it in half and shape it into two 4-inch

discs. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least an hour or overnight, until dough is firm. You need only 1 disk for this recipe, so freeze the remaining one for another use.

To make the filling and assemble:

Preheat oven to 350°. Melt butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Add onions and celery and cook for 2–3 minutes until they start to soften but do not turn golden. Set aside to cool.



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In a large bowl, mix mayonnaise, flour, eggs and milk together. Stir in crab meat, cheese, pimentos, onions and celery and Old Bay and mix until combined.

Roll out dough and press into bottom and up the sides of a 10-inch pie plate. Spoon in crab mixture and bake until set in the middle and golden brown on top, about 40–50 minutes. If crust or top starts to brown too quickly, cover loosely with aluminum foil.

Makes 6 main dish servings.

Serve with freshly grated Parmesan cheese and freshly ground black pepper if desired.

Makes 6-8 servings. ♦

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



For more great recipes visit  
[CountyLinesMagazine.com](http://CountyLinesMagazine.com)

### Spaghetti with Anchovies

*Every Christmas Eve on their way to midnight Mass, my Uncle Pat and Aunt Mary delivered a large bowl of spaghetti with anchovies to my father. Although this was decades ago, I still remember smelling the garlic seconds before the doorbell rang. This spaghetti is true peasant food—simple, flavorful and easily adjusted to your taste. If you love garlic and capers, add more. If you have a fresh tomato on hand, dice and toss it in the sauce.*

- 1 lb. spaghetti, dried or fresh
- 2, 4.25 oz. jars rolled anchovies with capers in olive oil, drained
- 5–6 Tb. olive oil\*
- 1½–2 Tb. minced garlic (or more if you love garlic!)
- ¾ C. chopped parsley
- 2–3 Tb. capers, optional
- Grated Parmesan cheese, optional
- Freshly ground black pepper, optional

*\* You can use the olive oil from the anchovies and add your own to make 5 Tb. but depending on the brand of anchovies you use, the olive oil might not be full-bodied enough.*

Cook spaghetti in a large pot of salted boiling water until al dente.

While spaghetti cooks, heat olive oil over medium heat in a large skillet. Add garlic and cook for a minute. Reduce heat to medium low. Add the rolled anchovies and cook for another 2–3 minutes, breaking up anchovies with the back of a spatula. The anchovies will almost become liquefied.

Using tongs, lift spaghetti directly out of cooking water and place in skillet. Add parsley and extra capers if using and toss to evenly distribute sauce. (I leave the skillet on low heat while I'm doing this.)

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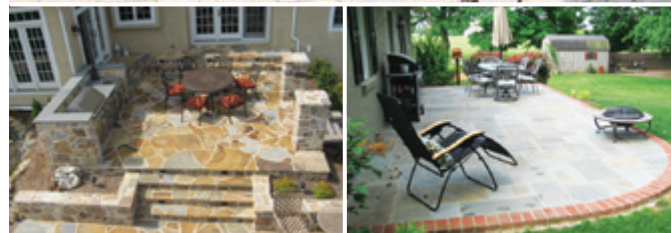
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# THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE

Dodge La Femme 1956

Jack Smith

## CAR MAKERS HAVE TO ASK, WHAT DO WOMEN WANT?

WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE ANTICIPATION IN the Dodge showrooms that day in 1955, when the carmaker from Auburn Hills, Michigan unveiled the newest addition to their lineup. “La Femme” wasn’t just a new model, it was the key to capturing the hearts of female car buyers, then emerging as a whole new market in the tradition of Rosie the Riveter.

The new Dodge beckoned to women in a number of ways, not all of them subtle. There was the color scheme—pink on the outside and “orchid jacquard” on the inside. Since women, it was thought, love to accessorize, “La Femme” came with a color coordinated pink purse, umbrella and raincoat, comb, compact, lipstick case and cigarette lighter. It was, as its ads had it, “The first and only car designed for Her Majesty, the modern American woman.”

Only, as it turned out, the American woman didn’t want to be courted like some proto-Barbie doll, so La Femme turned out to be La Flop. The car was pulled from production the very next year.

Since then the female car market has become bigger than ever, with women buying more than 65% of all new vehicles and decisively influencing 93% of all vehicle purchases.

But what do women want? Millions of dollars hang on the answer and the answers range from the obvious to the fanciful.

You might think an all-wheel-drive SUV descended from vehicles built for prowling the African savannah might target males. But

not when it’s a Range Rover Special Edition Evoque. The brain-child of Spice Girl Victoria Beckham, the Special Edition’s interior comes with an abundance of rose-gold accents, vintage tan leather upholstery to remind its lucky passengers of La Beckham’s time in California, and a four-piece set of matching luggage. Of course, it costs twice as much as the standard \$40,000 Evoque.

Interestingly some men have found themselves unwittingly at the wheel of a car that signals the opposite gender. That’s the premise of one episode of “Seinfeld,” when the comedian has an altercation with another driver who says, sneeringly, that he’d never seen a man driving a Saab convertible before.

Beetle buyers of the late 1990s often confronted the same conundrum. When the German subcompact first arrived on these shores



Volvo XC90



Range Rover Evoque 2016

it was gender neutral—the epitome of cheap transportation for the masses. But with its redesign in 1998, it morphed into something more cartoony and cutesy, plus its built-in flower vase left no doubt of its girly intentions.

Fourteen years later Volkswagen exorcized that feminine image with a Beetle that was longer and lower, with bigger wheels and bigger engine, and sales to men soared.

And what can we say of the Dodge Caravan mini-van that hasn’t already been said? Its practicality and capacity—the same attributes that made it the favorite of contractors and delivery men—eventually made it synonymous with soccer moms and the antithesis of manly cool.

In 2011 Dodge tried to recast its “ballet class and brownies” image by making it more powerful, lower to the ground, giving it a more powerful engine and wider tires, dark leather interior, and dubbing it the “man van.” For 2017 Dodge replaces the Caravan with the Chrysler Pacifica.

Shopaholics will appreciate such conveniences as side doors that slide open at the touch of a button and a tailgate that lifts with the kick of a foot. The Pacifica’s Parallel Park Assist is capable of locating a space and then—using ultrasonic parking sensors instead of craning your neck around and spinning the wheel this way and that—steering the van into place. Moms who have ever had to lug a vacuum cleaner out to the car to clean up cookie crumbs from a carload of kids will love the Stow’n Vac, the vacuum cleaner built into the Pacifica’s side.

For some carmakers, appealing to women seems to be second nature. If you were to somehow combine all those virtues prized by women—safety, practicality, comfort and value—you might get a vehicle that looks a lot like a Volvo.



Jeep Wrangler 2017



Chrysler Pacifica 2017

For years, the Swedish marque has prided itself as one of the safest and most reliable on the road. It was a pioneer in the use of three-point safety belts and crumple zones, and now Volvo plans to raise the bar on this tradition with a pledge to make the car free of any fatal accidents or serious injuries by the year 2020.

Regardless of gender, even better than walking away from an accident is avoiding one, and the Volvo XC90 makes this all the more likely with a boat load of new driver-assist systems. Its new City Safety system tells when vehicles, bikes or pedestrians are on the road ahead, while its Cross Traffic Alert warns of oncoming traffic up to 230 feet in advance. The Pilot Assist system is ideal for stop-and-go driving, as it will brake and accelerate to match traffic speed while steering in line with the car ahead up to 30 mph.

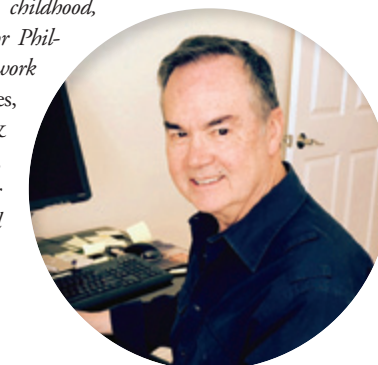
For faster highway speeds, Volvo offers an Adaptive Cruise Control with automatic braking. It’s all in keeping with the kind of engineering we’ve come to expect from Sweden, even if Volvo’s current owners—the Zhejiang Geely Holding Group—are based in China.

Paradoxically, one marque that’s found a loyal following among women was originally designed for GI Joe. And where other marques stress new features and sleeker designs, the Jeep Wrangler lures with sheer immutability and ruggedness.

“A Jeep—any Jeep—stands out on its own,” says Ana Sieracki-Carter, proud owner of a 2006 Grand Cherokee and who represents the brand at Courtesy Jeep in Chester County. “You feel powerful in a Jeep. You feel like an individual. It’s iconic. It’s a hot convertible or an off-road vehicle. You can accessorize it any way you want. You can paint it in camouflage or in pink. It looks great either way. You can add big gnarly wheels or even add a snorkel for crossing deep water.”

Most people, she says, like to express how they feel about their Jeep with a bumper sticker. An especially popular one, she explains, goes: “Silly boys, Jeeps are for girls.” ♦

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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