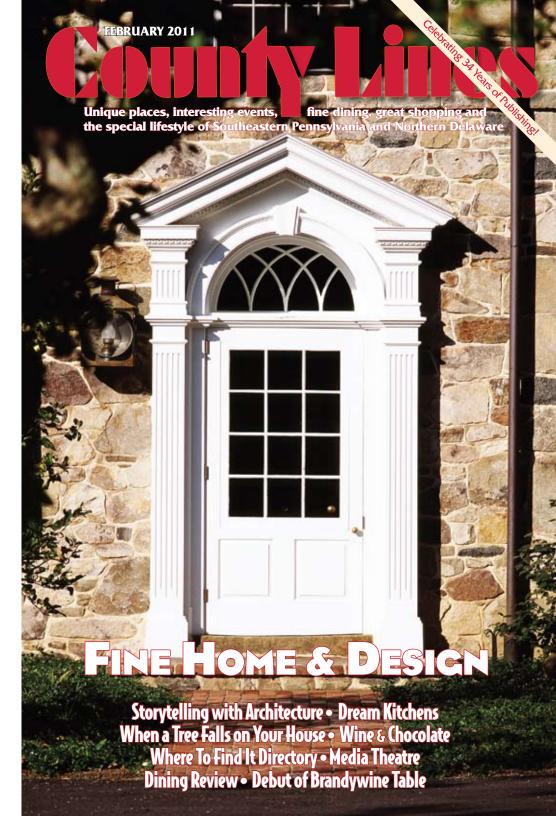




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County Lines



FEBRUARY 2011

Volume XXXIV. Number 6

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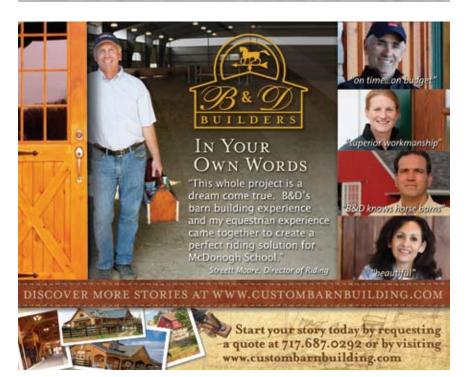


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County Lines February 2011

'THE LAST 5 YEARS" AT **MEDIA THEATRE**

Jesse Cline

STORYTELLING WITH ARCHITECTURE

Matt Freeman

A local home tells Chester County's history.

KITCHEN DESIGNERS' DREAM KITCHENS

George Fitzpatrick Some guidance from the experts.

DISASTER AT HOME: When a Tree Falls on Your House

Michael Pillagalli

Dealing with the aftermath. Stories, advice.

HOME STYLE & DESIGN

WHERE TO FIND IT DIRECTORY

HOME OF THE MONTH: Willow Run

Laurel Anderson

2011 BEST OF THE BEST WINNERS

A recap of some of the best area restaurants.

FEBRUARY FOR WINE & CHOCOLATE

DINING IN STYLE **Ron's Original Bar & Grille** Lise Monty

Kristin Collier Van Riper

NEW FEATURE! BRANDYWINE TABLE Laura Muzzi Brennan

DEPARTMENTS

13 GET TO KNOW **16 EVENTS 15 OF SPECIAL NOTE** 74 INDEX





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Get To Know ...



Michael and Charlie Cowan

Cowan's Flowers

For almost 90 years, Cowan's Flowers has sent bouquets of beauty from the same Wayne location. Third generation co-owner with brother Michael, Charlie Cowan remembers his family literally "living above the store." Growing up in the business has given both brothers a thorough understanding of what it takes to design and deliver great flowers — in person and online.

With the second biggest flower day coming, Valentine's Day is a

good time to get to know the friendly service, competitive prices and customer satisfaction that define Cowan's. Charlie will help you select individual stems for a custom arrangement, offer suggestions or find something for a Valentine who just doesn't like roses! Maybe one of the new Byers' Choice figures?

From classic arrangements to fruit baskets, carnations to birds of paradise, flowers for weddings and births or funerals, Cowan does it all. When asked about the most unusual request, Charlie immediately remembered an arrangement for a sportsman's funeral in the shape of a rifle. Even that was beautiful! *CowansFlowers.net*.

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Any drive through the Brandywine Valley's rolling hills will take you past custom-built automatic gates at the entrances to homes, farms and stables. Some gates keep in prized livestock or keep out deer. Others add a finishing touch to the estate. Still others are for security. Whatever the purpose, homeowners trust Rick Burns to help them design, install and maintain the right quality electric gate system.

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Rick and son Wes Burns

top-quality service have made Leading Edge the go-to source. Offering complete design service, Rick has worked from photos, sketches and descriptions and has even crafted scrollwork to resemble wrought iron. And you can also design your gate online!

With wife Lisa managing the office, and three sons and a daughter also involved, this family business prides itself on dependable and responsive service. That's why they're the Leading Edge. *LeadingEdgeAccess.com*.

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OF SPECIAL NOTE . . .

Brandywine Valley Wine Trail Members Present "Wine & Chocolate Month" Through February

Bring your sweetheart and celebrate with 8 wineries of the Brandywine Valley Wine Trail as you enjoy delicious wine and chocolate tastings and other romantic events each weekend in February. Visit their website for details of events planned at each winery. BVWineTrail.com.



West Chester University Office of Cultural And Community Affairs Presents . . . February 5 Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Play

15

"Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players." Known as an all-star of the indie family music scene, Justin serves up intelligent and whimsically rocking music for kids and their parents. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, S. High St. & University Ave., West Chester. 1 p.m. \$8-\$10. 610-436-2266; WCUPA.edu.



Suburban Home & Garden Show

February 24-27

Ah ... spring. You'll find beautiful gardens created by top landscapers and suppliers of home products and experts to answer questions. "You Bet Your Garden" host Mike McGrath brings organic gardening tips. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Thurs., 2 to 9 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$10. 856-782-2222; PhillyExpos.com.



The Media Theatre Annual Gala February 26

Join the fun at this celebration of musical theater at Media Theatre's premier fundraising event, with opening reception, awards ceremony, concert and closing reception with champagne and desserts. 104 E. State St., Media. 8 p.m. \$100. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.



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FEBRUARY EVENTS

THROUGH MARCH 27 Longwood Gardens Orchid Extravaganza.

A dazzling world of orchids with thousands from around the world, including a living orchid curtain, orchid topiaries and columns, an orchid waterfall and other displays. Rt. 1, Kennett Square. 9 to 5. \$8-\$18. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

FEBRUARY 2-5

20th Annual "Farming for the Future" Conference. PA Assoc. for Sustainable Agriculture's (PASAs) signature event, regarded as the best of its kind in the East, with workshops focusing on practical topics such as poultry production, cheese making, organic certification and raw milk marketing. Penn Stater Conference Center, 215 Innovation Blvd., State College. For registration, 814-349-9856, ext. 23; PASAFarming.org/Conference.

FEBRUARY 3-MARCH 17

Read Aloud Tours for Children at Brandywine River Museum. The tours feature story time in the gallery followed by an art-making activity for children ages 3 to 6 accompanied by an adult. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Thursday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 am. \$6-\$10. Registration requested. 610-388-8382; www.BrandywineMuseum. org.

FEBRUARY 13-27

39th Annual Art Show at Daylesford Abbey. This show presents works in painting, sculpture, miniatures, jewelry, pottery stained glass and more. 220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli. Champagne reception *Feb.* **12**, 3 to 6 pm, \$50. Show: Daily 1 to 4; Wed, until 8. Free. 610-647-2530, ext. 150; Daylesford.org.

FEBRUARY 17-MARCH 13
People's Light & Theatre Family Discovery
Series Presents Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." Everyday is an
adventure, and everyone will thoroughly
enjoy this adaptation. 39 Conestoga Rd.,
Malvern. Thurs-Sat, 7; Sat-Sun, 2. \$24-\$35.
610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

FEBRUARY 24

4th Annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival at Chester County Historical Society. Get inspired by the uplifting and creative environmental films, then enjoy food from Talulas Table, beer from Victory Brewing Co. and local wines. Benefits Stroud Water Research Center. 225 N. High St., West Chester. 6 to 9:30. \$20-\$25. 610-268-2153, ext. 247; StroudCenter.org.

Art Shows & Exhibits

ONGOING

Chester County Art Association. A nonprofit, cultural organization promoting participation in the arts through instruction, exhibitions and community outreach. *Through Mar. 4*, "Art Movement: Abstract" and works by Philip Jamison. 100 N. Bradford Ave., West Chester. 610-696-5600; ChesCoArt.org.

FEBRUARY 4-24

Main Line Art Center Exhibit: "There's Always Room For Dessert." Delicious artwork in all media inspired by desserts. Opening reception, Feb. 4, 6 to 9 pm. 10% of sales at the exhibition will go to support MANNA. 46 Panmure Rd., Haverford. Mon-Thurs, 10 to 8; Fri-Sun, 10 to 4. 610-525-0272; MainLineArt.org.



FEBRUARY 18

10th Annual heART of Friendship Art Auction. Silent and live auctions featuring local artists' original works. Benefits heART of Friendship for people with developmental disabilities. James Street Mennonite Church, 323 W. James St., Lancaster. Silent auction at 6; live auction at 7:30. \$15. 717-656-2466; FriendshipCommunity.net.

Crafts

FEBRUARY 4-24

Main Line Art Center Exhibit: "There's Always Room For Dessert." See "Art Shows & Exhibits."

Equestrian

FEBRUARY 24-27

9th Annual Pennsylvania Horse World Expo. Leading equestrian clinicians and entertainers come to the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. The Expo is two events in one — the Expo itself, focusing on training riders to train their own horses, and Theatre Equus, a musical equine revue. Cameron & Maclay Sts., Harrisburg. Thurs, noon to 8; Fri, 10 to 8; Sat, 9 to 8; Sun, 9 to 6. \$6-\$12, Theatre Equus, \$12-\$24. 301-916-0852; HorseWorldExpo.com.



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Family Fun

THROUGH FEBRUARY 6

People's Light & Theatre Family Discovery Series Presents "Kidnapped!" An adaptation of the Robert Louis Stevenson novel with lots of high adventure. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Thurs-Sat, 7; Sat-Sun, 2. \$24-\$35. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 26

Hedgerow Theatre Children's Series — "The Snow Queen." Children in the audience will help Gerda rescue best friend, Kai, in a lively musical retelling of the classic fairy tale. 64 Rose Valley Rd., Media. Saturdays, 11 am. "Meet The Cast" parties follow each performance. \$9-\$11. 610-565-4211; HedgerowTheatre.org.

FEBRUARY 5

Pancake Breakfast and Maple Sugaring Celebration at Tyler Arboretum. Tour and demonstration of maple sugaring process. Visitors will try tapping a tree and then learn how sap is turned into syrup. All-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast follows in the Barn. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 8 am to 1 pm. \$5-\$10. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.



FEBRUARY 13

Victorine's Valentine Day at Hagley Museum & Library. Visitors taste gingerbread, make a Vic-

torian Valentine, write Valentine verses with a quill pen, and learn a 19th-century handcraft. A special exhibit features antique Valentine cards and candy wrappers. Hagley Museum & Library, off Rt. 141, Wilmington. 12:30 to 4. \$4-\$11. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

FEBRUARY 13

Victorian Valentines for Kids at Pennypacker Mills. A special winter workshop for kids ages 5 and up, where they will learn about how this holiday came to be, who that little cherub shooting arrows is and fashion their own cards. It's an afternoon of creative fun, hot chocolate and cookies, too. Pennypacker Mills, Skippack Pk. (Rt. 73) and Haldeman Rd., Schwenksville. 1 to 3. 610-287-9349; HistoricSites.MontcoPA.org.

FEBRUARY 18-20

19th Annual Greater Philadelphia Mid-Winter Scottish & Irish Music Festival and Fair. A family-oriented celebration of the Celtic lands of Ireland and Scotland through music with many performing groups, dancers, exhibitions and more. Valley Forge Convention Center, 1160 1st Ave., King of Prussia. Fri, 6:30 pm to midnight; Sat, 9:30 am to midnight; Sun, 10 am to 7:30 pm. \$20-\$30, 610-825-7268: EOHebrides.com.

FEBRUARY 18-20, 25-26

Players Club of Swarthmore Children's Series — "Jack and the Beanstalk." By Phyllis McCallum. Players Club of Swarthmore, 614 Fairview Ave., Swarthmore. Fri-Sat, 7; Sun, 11 am. \$10. 610-328-4271; PCSTheater.org.

FEBRUARY 26

Longwood Gardens OrKID Days Concert. OrKID Days include a kids' performance, craft and the chance to meet exotic animals up close. Andes Manta performs the vibrant music of the Andes on traditional instruments and the Elmwood Park Zoo. 1001 Longwood Rd. (off Rt. 1), Kennett Square. \$8-\$18. 12:30 and 2; animals and zoo times: noon and 3. 610-388-1000; Longwood-Gardens.org.

MARCH 5-APRIL 16

Hedgerow Theatre Children's Series — "Charlotte's Web." A musical based on E.B. White's beloved story about the friendship between Charlotte the Spider and Wilbur the Pig. 64 Rose Valley Rd., Media. Saturdays, 11 am. "Meet The Cast" parties follow each performance. \$9-\$11.610-565-4211; HedgerowTheatre.org.

Film

FEBRUARY 17

Chester County Historical Society's Movie Night. The feature film "Notting Hill," will be preceded by a short film from the West Chester Film Festival. Appetizers and treats, water and soda will be provided. 225 N. High St., West Chester. 7 pm. \$10-\$12. 610-692-4800. To purchase tickets, visit WestChesterFilmFestival.com and print out your PayPal receipt and bring as proof of purchase.

MARCH 4-5

4th Annual Media Arts Council Film Festival. Films screened fall into 4 categories: narrative,

Home / Auto Shows

FEBRUARY 4-6

Greater Philadelphia Historic Home Show & The Designer Craftsmen Show. The Historic Home Show is for anyone who wants to know how to create, decorate, preserve, restore and renovate historical architecture. The Designer Craftsmen Show features quality fine art, traditional crafts, contemporary folk art, museum-quality replicas and fine furniture reproductions. Valley Forge Convention Ctr., 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia. Fri, preview, 6 to 9, \$20. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$12. 800-782-1253; HistoricHomeShows.com.

FEBRUARY 5-6

Philadelphia International Auto Show. Recognized by the industry as one of the top shows in the country, the Auto Show displays over 700 vehicles from a variety of manufacturers. PA Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Philadelphia. Sat, 9 am to 10 pm; Sun, 9 to 6. \$6-\$12. 610-279-5229; PhillyAutoShow.com.

FEBRUARY 11-13

Suburban Pennsylvania Spring Home Show. Designed for homeowners in all stages of remodeling, landscaping and decorating their homes featuring merchandise, product demonstrations and sample interior and exterior vignettes. Lancaster County Convention Center, 25 South Queen St., Lancaster. Fri, 11 to 10; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 6. 888-433-3976; ACSHomeShow.com.

MARCH 6

36th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens Empty House Party. Enjoy a casual Sunday afternoon and glimpse a taste of things to come before the designers begin their work. Old Glory Farm, 3719 Indian Spring Rd., Buckingham. 2 to 6. \$25. 215-345-2191; Bucks-CountyDesignerHouse.org.



documentary, animation and experimental and range from shorts to feature length. Community Center, Media Borough Hall, 301 N. Jackson St., Media. 7 to 10 pm. \$10. MediaFilmFestival.org.

Fundraising

FEBRUARY 10

Fashion Show Benefit at Wagsworth Manor. The hottest in spring fashions for ladies and





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canines. All of the doggie models are available for adoption. Hors d'oeuvres, martini bar, wine and boutique shopping. Benefits BreastCancer. org. 27 Spring Mill Dr., Malvern. 6 to 9 pm. \$50. 610-251-WAGS; BreastCancer.org.

FEBRUARY 19

Delaware Humane Association Presents the 5th Annual Muttini Mixer. You and your dog are cordially invited to "mix and mingle" at this cocktail party/fundraising event for the Humane Association featuring a silent auction and pet portraits. Delaware Center for Horticulture, 1810 N. DuPont St., Wilmington. 5:30 to 9. \$50-\$75. 302-571-8171; DeHumane.org.

MARCH 6-7

9th Annual American Girl Fashion Show Benefit. Educational and entertaining look at styles for girls yesterday and today. Benefits the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and The Saturday Club Children's Charity Fund. The Desmond Hotel, Great Valley Pkwy, Malvern. 11 am and 2 pm. \$45. Phone 610-687-9975 or visit their website: SaturdayClub.org/American-Girl.php.

Gardens

THROUGH JUNE 2011

Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens Presents Wind Through the Trees Outdoor Kinetic and Auditory Sculpture Exhibit. Featuring 67 sculptures in a botanical setting. With the mature tree canopy soaring nearly 100 feet, large scale work was encouraged and many pieces are suspended from the trees. 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. Daily 8 am to sunset. 610-647-8870; Jenkins Arboretum.org.

MARCH 5-13

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's 2011 Philadelphia International Flower Show, "Springtime in Paris." Guests are greeted with a bucolic

Winter Farm Markets

ONGOING

Lancaster Central Market. Located in a beautiful 120-year-old red brick building offering regional food specialties and souvenirs. 23 N. Market St., Lancaster. Tues, Fri, 6 am to 4 pm; Sat, 6 to 2. 717-735-6890; CentralMarketLancaster.com.

3rd FRIDAY THROUGH APRIL

Kennett Square Farmers Market. Downstairs level of Cafe Lindo/Holly Peters' Rugs, off of Broad St. Entrance is off Apple Alley. Hang a left off Broad onto Apple, and you're there. Third Fri of the month, 12 to 4 pm. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

3rd SATURDAY THROUGH APRIL

West Chester Growers Market. Farm fresh and organic produce, breads, meat (including grass-fed) and artisan cheeses from local farms. Check websites for details. Chestnut and Church Sts. Third Sat of the month, 9 to 1, 610-436-9010: West-Chester.com.

park scene along the Seine. Flowering trees, lilacs, roses and borders of lavender lead visitors through gardens inspired by the Tuileries. A Moulin Rouge atmosphere pulses with cabaret performances and carousel topiaries. The Show Marketplace offers quality plants, flowers, gardening tools and gifts. PA Convention Center, 12th & Arch Sts., Philadelphia. Sun, 8 to 6; Mon-Fri, 10 to 9:30; Sat, 8 to 9:30. \$15-\$30. 215-988-8800; TheFlowerShow.com.

Museums

ONGOING

Landis Valley Museum. Living history village dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting history and culture of the PA German community from 1740-1940. 2451 Kissel Hill Rd., Lancaster. Mon-Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 12 to 5. \$6-\$9. 717-569-0401; LandisValleyMuseum.org.

FEBRUARY 12-MAY 1

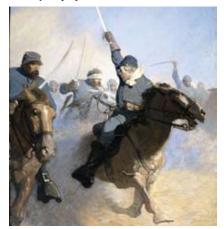
Delaware Art Museum. "Fred Comegys Photographs." For more than 50 years, photographer Fred Comegys has captured international celebrities and local kids for the pages of *The News Journal*. The Museum is best known for its collection of British Pre-Raphaelite art, works by Howard Pyle and urban landscapes by John Sloan. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$6-\$12. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

FEBRUARY 12-MAY 30

Delaware Museum of Natural History Presents "Tarantulas: Alive and Up-Close." Challenge your preconceptions about tarantulas at this exhibit that focuses on their diversity and natural beauty, while providing engaging learning opportunities. Visitors can observe the attributes that allow tarantulas to live in varied habitats and participate in hands-on activities. 4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30; Sun, 12 to 4:30. \$5-\$7. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.

THROUGH MARCH 20

Brandywine River Museum. "Romance in Conflict: N. C. Wyeth's Civil War Paintings," examines how Wyeth prepared for these commissions and



how, sometimes creating a picture at odds with its text, he portrayed the war as a courageous struggle and the combatants as noble warriors. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$10. Free Sun. Mornings through Nov. 11. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

MARCH 1

Winterthur Museum & Gardens. Winterthur will be closed to the public until March 1, 2011. Rt. 52, 6 mi. NW of Wilmington. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$10-\$20. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

Music

FEBRUARY 1

Chesco Pops Concerts: Titled "Love is in the Air," the program features Broadway love songs by George and Ira Gershwin, Frank Loesser and Rodgers and Hammerstein Fugett Middle School, 500 Ellis La., West Chester, 7:30 pm. \$5-\$10. 610-701-5701; ChesCoPops.org.

FEBRUARY 5

Main Line Ringers Concert. This advanced level community hand bell ensemble performs at the Performing and Creative Arts Center, Grove United Methodist Church, 490 W. Boot Rd., West Chester. 7 pm. \$5. 610-675-6664; GroveChurch.org.

FEBRUARY 5, MARCH 6

The Music School of Delaware's Family Concert Series. Feb. 5, A Musical Storybook: Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" and Ridout's "Ferdinand the Bull" are featured. Ages 4 and up. Mar. 6, "Carnival of the Animals" & Instrument Petting Zoo where children meet their favorite instruments. Ages 6 and up. 4101 Washington St., Wilmington. Both concerts, 3 pm. \$5. 302-762-1132; MusicSchoolOfDelaware.org.

FEBRUARY 6

Delaware County Symphony Chamber Series Concert. "All That Jazz." featuring original arrangements by the DCS Jazz Ensemble. Neumann Univ., Meagher Theater, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$8-\$10. 610-356-5673; DCSMusic.org.

FEBRUARY 13, MARCH 5

Hadley Memorial Fund Concerts. Feb. 13, musicians from the Curtis Institute of Music perform, 3 pm. Mar. 5, Johannes Brass Quintet concert, 7 pm. Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church, 101 Old Kennett Rd. (Rt. 52), across from Winterthur Museum. 610-444-1855; HadleyFund.org.

FEBRUARY 19, MARCH 5, APRIL 9

The Jazz Club at Longwood Gardens. Enjoy a night of sizzling jazz in a floral paradise. Feb. 19, Kurt Elling Quartet; Mar. 5, Regina Carter's "Reverse Thread;" Apr. 19, Kenny Garrett. Rt. 1, Kennett Square. Concerts are at 5:30 and 8 pm. \$40-\$50. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

FEBRUARY 20

Tea & Symphony Chamber Music Concert. The Copeland String Quartet performs at The Highlands Mansion, Sheaff La. & Skippack Pk., Fort Washington. Premium Estate Teas and baked goods will be served. 2 to 4. \$20-\$25. 215-641-2687; HighlandsHistorical.org.

Live On Stage

FEBRUARY 13

The Historical Society of Montgomery County Hosts An Afternoon With Mary Todd Lincoln. Historical interpreter and actor, Melissa Yiaski Rabinsky, portrays the troubled First Lady as she recounts stories of her childhood in Kentucky, her family, courtship with Mr. Lincoln, the loss of her children, her years in the White House and her 1876 insanity trial instigated by her son, Robert. Society Headquarters, 1654 DeKalb St., Norristown. Free. 610-272-0297.

FEBRUARY 22

No Reservations: An Evening with Anthony Bourdain. Internationally acclaimed chef, author and host of Travel Channel's hugely popular show, "No Reservations," offers his blunt observations about the world of restaurants, chefs and cooking. The DuPont Theatre, DuPont Building, Wilmington. 8 pm. Tickets \$39.50-\$49.50; VIP ticket \$85.50 includes post-show meet and greet. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.

FEBRUARY 27

The Philadelphia Trio. Elizabeth Keller, piano; Barbara Sonies, violin; Deborah Reeder, cello. The music of Beethoven and Dvorák will be featured at Main Line Unitarian Church, 816 S. Valley Forge Rd., Devon. 3 pm. \$13-\$18. 610-664-0346.

FEBRUARY 28

Delaware County Symphony Concert. "Sounds of the Universe," the music of Marcello, Bach and Holst. Neumann Univ., Life Center, Meagher Theater, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$12-\$15. 610-356-5673; DCSMusic.org.

MARCH 5-6

Kennett Symphony of Chester County — Free Family Concert and Instrument Petting Zoo. Join the symphony for a family favorite, "Peter and the Wolf." After the performance, the audience is invited to come onstage for the "Instrument Petting Zoo." *Mar. 5*, Lincoln University, International Cultural Center, Lincoln University. *Mar. 6*, West Chester Univ., Emilie K. Asplundh Hall, West Chester. 2 pm. Free. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

Outdoor Activities

FEBRUARY 13

5th Annual Feel the Love: Couples 5K. The two people making up the couple run the course in opposite directions. Scoring consists of the combination of a couple's final times. Benefits Parkinson's Disease Foundation. Coopertown Elementary School, 800 Coopertown Rd., Bryn Mawr. Registration 2 pm; race, 3:30. 610-527-5510; BrynMawrRunningCo.com.

FEBRUARY 19

Birding at Black Rock Sanctuary. A morning bird walk exploring the meadows and wetlands where you will learn about the birds that inhabit the natural areas and techniques to identify different birds. 953 Black Rock Rd., about 1 mi. N of Phoenixville on Rt. 113. 8 to 10 am. 610-469-1916; ChesCo.org/CCParks.

Theater

FEBRUARY 8-13

"Grease." Take a trip to a simpler time of poodle skirts, drive-ins, and T-birds and fall in love all over again to the tune of your favorite songs. The DuPont Theatre, DuPont Building, Wilmington. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Wed, Sat, 2. Tickets \$50-\$75. 302-656-4401; 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.

FEBRUARY 8-20

"The Cherry Orchard." Anton Chekhov's last and arguably greatest play. Villanova Theatre, Vasey Hall, 800 Lancaster Ave., Villanova. Tues-Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 2 pm. \$7-\$25. 610-519-7474; Villanova.Edu.

FEBRUARY 9-27

"The Last Five Years." See the article in this issue. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Wed-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Wed, Sat, 2; Sun, 3. \$22-\$42.50. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

FEBRUARY 11-26

"Deathtrap." Ira Levin's cleverly crafted comic mystery holds the record as the longest-running comedy-thriller in Broadway history. Players Club of Swarthmore, 614 Fairview Ave., Swarthmore. Thurs-Sat, 8; Sun, 2. \$8-\$15. 610-328-4271; PCSTheater.org.

MARCH 1-6

"Young Frankenstein." Wickedly inspired reimagining of the Frankenstein legend based on Mel Brooks' classic comedy masterpiece. The DuPont Theatre, DuPont Building, Wilmington. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Wed, Sat, 2. \$55-\$80. 800-338-0881: DuPontTheatre.com.

Tours

MARCH 5-27

UnCork York Wine Trail Presents 2011 Tour de Tanks Weekend Events. Come into the cellars for the ultimate wine tasting experience. Celebrate the arrival of new vintages with special tank and barrel tastings to preview the season's upcoming wines before they are bottled at the 13 award-winning wineries of the wine trail. Sat-Sun, 11 to 5. \$25 (good for 4 weekends); \$15 for Designated Driver. 888-858-YORK; UnCork-York.com.

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

For more events visit
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Enliven your February with a night of live theater. If you haven't discovered what some call the "miracle on State Street," it's time you did.

edia Theatre just closed an almost two-month run of "Annie," with Emmy award-winner Wanda Sykes as Miss Hannigan. And now the theater shifts gears for February, with a one-act, two-actor modern love story titled "The Last 5 Years."

Struggle for Love

An emotionally powerful and intimate musical that delivers more than an ordinary boy-meets-girl story, "The Last 5 Years" has bold contemporary music, lyrics and book by Tony awardwinner Jason Robert Brown. Debuting in 2001, the play tells the story of a young couple who fall in and out of love over the course of their five-year relationship.

The show's unconventional structure consists of Cathy, the struggling actress, telling her story backwards, starting with the end of the marriage, while Jamie, the rising novelist, tells his story chronologically, starting when the couple first meet. The musical unfolds as a kind of he-says, she-says series of solos. The two characters meet only once in the play, at their wedding, in the middle of the show.

Fluidly mixing diverse musical genres – pop, jazz, classical, klezmer, Latin, rock, folk – to trace the arc of the relationship, Jason Robert Brown moves us from "See I'm Smiling" to "Still Hurting," while showing us the perils of "Moving Too Fast." The sophisticated and singable tunes won Brown the Drama Desk Awards for the music and the lyrics.

Adding to the poignancy of the play is the interesting backstory that "The Last 5 Years" was inspired by Brown's failed marriage to actress Theresa O'Neill. In fact, O'Neill threatened legal action, claiming the story was too closely based on their relationship. As a consequence, Brown changed the song "I Could Be In Love With Someone Like You" to "Shiksa Goddess" among other things to reduce the similarity between the character Cathy and O'Neill.

The strong writing and performances make this bittersweet musical romance more elegy than epitaph for the failed marriage and a moving portrait of two people fighting the universal struggle for love. Jennie Eisenhower returns to Media Theatre to play the role of Cathy. "The Last 5 Years" runs February 9-26.

Another Backstory

To understand why Media Theatre is called the miracle on State Street, a little background helps. To start, it's extraordinary that a borough Media's size has a professional theater that employs equity actors and brings quality musical theater to us. This quality has resulted in numerous awards, including 11 Barrymore award nominations for excellence in theater, and a *Philadelphia Inquirer* "best of" award.

In short, Media Theatre has made Media a destination, attracting 50 thousand visitors each year. This influx contributes to the economic life of Media's restaurant row as visitors enjoy dinner and a show. Plus, Media Theatre with its audience, staff, actors and musicians contribute \$2.8 million to the local economy, in addition to being the second largest employer in the borough.

The School

To further its mission to bring musical theater to young people as an art form that's relevant to their lives and cultural heritage, Media Theatre operates a theater school. The only school in the Philadelphia area devoted exclusively to musical theater, Media's school teaches acting, dance and voice (singing) to over 300 students.

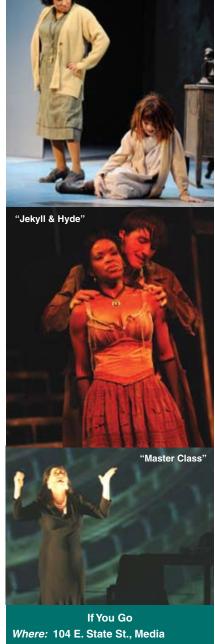
During the summer, the theater operates a summer camp for young people interested in musical theater, last year enrolling 280 campers. All classes in the school and summer camp are taught by music theater professionals.

Live Theater

Simply put, music theater is the great American contribution to live theater. And as Betty Buckley, best known as "The Voice of Broadway" and for her role in "Eight Is Enough," said as she stood on Media Theatre's stage "This theater is a temple. It is a holy place. Theater is about the human spirit and we can be whoever we want to be with no danger. No electronics can compare with the live experience of theater."

We hope you agree. •

-Jesse Cline, Media Theatre's Artistic Director



"Annie"

If You Go

Where: 104 E. State St., Media

When: February 9 to 26

Box Office: 610-891-0100

MediaTheatre.com

What's Next: The Who's "Tommy,"

March 30 to May 22



And now you see that the house, sheltered in this quiet hollow in a rural part of Willistown Township, is one of those many-sectioned homes that tell a story about the history of Chester County. You see these classic houses everywhere — first the small, rough stone house, then the later additions, larger, of different architectural styles. All reflect the passing of the years, the changing fortunes of their owners, and different ideas over the centuries about what lends beauty and charm to a home.

Something Old, Mostly New

Although the six-bedroom home in Willistown Township does have some 18th-century construction at its core, most of the building is new, less than ten years old. But noted architect Peter Zimmerman and his team brought to its design tremendous knowledge about historic construction techniques and styles. The result is a home that feels rooted in the past because the past dictated how it would be built, from overall concept to smallest details.

The owners had been living abroad

and had the house built when they came back to the United States. Zimmerman says they wanted it to reflect history in its smallest details, and from the beginning, he says, "They really fell in love with the whole notion of it being a true, authentic story over time." Another quality the owners asked for was that the house harmonize with its setting, and not dominate it.

New Additions

After careful study of the site, the architects removed the additions from the already existing house and created a new home meant to represent an 18th-century miller's house in the center, with additions on either side added as the decades and centuries passed.

You first notice a large, relatively formal addition on the left, framed by the hills behind it. On the right is an addition with the gable end facing out, and a variety of features to look at — two different kinds of windows, a glassed-in porch, and roofs and walls meeting in ways that suggest this one section of the house was added to at three different times.

The view from the back of the house, meant to represent an 18th-century miller's house in the center, opens toward Ridley Creek, which bends toward the house in a large oxbow.



Storytelling

The hill embraces the right end of the house, and once your eve is done absorbing the details there, it travels to the smaller central portion, the original part in fact, as well as in the story the architects created for the new home.

The yard slopes down to the left, where Ridley Creek, here resembling a classic trout stream, bends toward the house is a large oxbow. Standing in the yard in front of the house, you can hear what you suspect is a waterfall, but you can't quite see it because the architects left an old wooden playhouse standing where it partially blocks the view.

This is not an accident; like almost every other detail of the home and grounds, it was designed to help people experience the site as a story that unfolds in a series of episodes.

The wooden bridge was meant to signal by sound as well as sight that you'd crossed the stream. You hear the waterfall as you approach but don't see it right away because of the playhouse.

"If that weren't there you would see too much of the waterfall too early in the sequencing," Zimmerman says. It's like storytelling, he says, giving your mind clues about what you're likely to see next.

Details

Another characteristic of the site is that the architects strove for historical accuracy, from the most fundamental design elements to the most particular. In the oldest sections of the house, the ones that would be the original house in a historic home, the stonework would have been done by the family, and in particular the reinforcing corner stones, known as "quoins," would be relatively small.

In the larger, newer part of the house, the owners would typically be more prosperous and would hire stonemasons, who would finish the stones with more sophistication and use larger quoins.

Small details were handled just as carefully. Zimmerman opens the front door and points out that it's made of heavy, solid wood. And the builders used a thick type of paint that would blunt the sharpness of the millwork. This imitates the multiple layers of paint typically found on woodwork in historic homes.

You might not consciously notice such details as these, but subliminally they register and add to the impression of age and history.

More Light

Historic homes have classical proportions and period details that please and charm even the modern eye. But people today also find many of older homes dark and hard to move around in, by modern standards. Zimmerman solves the problem by making extensive use of natural light (see sidebar), putting large openings between rooms, and building in other features that make it easy to navigate the house. "It's all about passage," he says.

The Willistown home has the large openings where appropriate — arched hallways, for example, lead your eye from the fover to the formal living room. Enclosed porches also provide flow between areas.

To link the original section with the two new additions. Zimmerman added a passageway through the house, from the foyer past the kitchen, family room, office, billiard room, guest room, all the way to the mud room, storage areas and enclosed porch at the other end of the front facade.

As you look the length of the passageway, you can see several doorways that represent places where an addition would have been joined. Some have transoms, to show they were originally outside doors. It creates a kind of hall-ofmirrors effect, and Zimmerman points out that this gives your eye details to linger over and think about.

Because of the large wall openings and interior windows used, varietyfilled interior vistas offer visual interest throughout the house — you're often looking not just at one room, but into one or two others, with a wealth of details for your eye to linger on.



Authentic period details charm in this light-filled bedroom.



add visual interest and reenforce the impression that different sections were built at different times.



Painting with Architecture

Even looking out the front door at the grounds offers views that hold the eye with their Old World charm when, in fact, little that you see was left to chance. From a large pond away to the left, your eye travels along the hills and trees upwards to the left, where the barn with its typical conical forebay supports lead you further up and around, past the stone storage shed and back to the house. All seems perfectly natural, but Zimmerman points out that the architects actually enlarged the pond to make it more of an element in the landscape.

With Zimmerman as guide, it becomes clear that the entire site is meant to strike you like a first-rate photograph or painting that seems real and natural, and yet is filled with deliberately placed structure and detail that compel your eye to linger and explore.

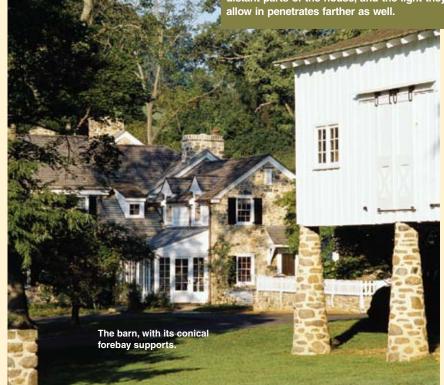
"Architecture is very much the same," he says. "You've got to think about it the same way, to make truly timeless architecture." •

Bringing in the Light

One feature of the Willistown home's design is its use of natural light, and one place where this is obviously emphasized is the formal living room. The windows here are large, like in many of the later additions in the area, typically built when the owners were more prosperous and could afford more and larger windows. But in the Willistown house, they're also unusually long, extending nearly to the ceiling and down to shin height. The window jambs are angled outward toward the room, allowing in more sunlight.

In the original part of the house, where small windows and dark rooms were typical, the architects arranged for two rooms atop each other to be made into one. Then they put a window in the top, allowing natural light to flood down from above — especially appropriate since the room is decorated as a traditional library and is used as an office.

Enclosed porches not only increase access to various rooms, they provide a great deal of natural light as well. And with the emphasis on visual variety and long, wide vistas in the interior through the use of interior windows and large openings between rooms, many of the natural-light sources can be seen from distant parts of the house, and the light they allow in penetrates farther as well.





Kitchen Designers' Dream Kitchens

George Fitzpatrick

Riddle: If forty is the new thirty and brown is the new black, what is the new family room? The kitchen, of course.

hat's the answer according to Katy Wolfington, president and principal designer of Waterbury Kitchen and Bath Design in Kennett Square, who creates "living spaces to cook in." Since a kitchen is much more than a place to sling hash, folks craving a new one often become overwhelmed by the number of choices: gas or electric, granite or stainless steel, hardwood or ceramic tile? For a little guidance, I asked talented, local designers to tell us about their dream kitchens.

Layout and Storage

Wolfington and almost every designer told me that an ideal kitchen begins with an inviting layout — usually one that includes an island with seating — and ample storage.

Trez Pomilo, owner and lead designer of Sugarbridge Kitchen and Bath in Exton and Paoli, confesses that she doesn't love to cook but thinks she just might become Julia Child in a well-designed space. She's seen many clients go from being "I-cook-to-live" to "I-live-to-cook"

types once their kitchens had been redone. "Comfort" is the word Pomilo repeats, and for her, comfort means a "stationed" kitchen, i.e., one divided into distinct areas for food prep, cooking, cleanup, serving and even socializing. That way, the cook can ice the cake and chat with friends instead of icing her friends and chatting with the

cake. Much better for everyone!

It's difficult to achieve kitchen bliss if you have to rearrange the cabinets to make room for new groceries or claw through the broom closet to get the dust buster. That's why storage tops the lists of so many designers. Carol Feather at Wall and Walsh in Upper Darby envisions the ease of lazy susans in cabinets, roll-out shelves, pull-out bins for trash and recycling, and soft-close doors and drawers.

Chris Bowen, a carpenter and designer who's built kitchens in Wayne

and Haverford, thinks getting the most out of every space is essential, so cabinet doors outfitted with can racks are his must-have.

So far as the look of those cabinets, designers dream of sturdy, custom-made cabinets with a few glass doors for showing off treasured objects. Too much glass, and comfort goes out the window, according to Trez Pomilo. Who wants the pressure of having to keep every cabinet neat? For her dream kitchen, she'd choose cabinets with clean lines and cover most appliances, except the

range and farm sink, to create a neutral canvas.



A decorative backsplash and finely crafted cabinets make this kitchen a place where everyone wants to be. Photo by Wall & Walsh

Appliances

If a large refrigerator, six-burner range and quiet dishwasher make their wav into your kitchen fantasy, you're in good company. Almost all designers waxed poetic about the Subzero Refrigerator. Ron Laudenslager at Muhly KBA in West Chester praises the Sub-



High-end appliances are part of every kitchen fantasy, with Wolf ranges and Sub-Zero refrigerators topping the list (even when behind cabinets).



Cabinets with a few glass doors allow for display without the need to keep everything picture perfect.

zero for its ability to keep foods fresh and flavorful for longer periods than other models.

When designers talked cooktops, many named Wolf as their brand of choice, and most preferred six burners powered by gas for better temperature control. And, as Trez Pomilo explains, "There's just something homey and basic about putting food on a fire." When it comes to ovens, designers share one sentiment: make mine a double! A few coveted Miele convection speed ovens, which cook more quickly than conventional ovens.

With all this sautéing and braising going on, Chris Bowen would make a ductless range hood a priority. Not only will it keep air cleaner, it's more efficient than an outside-vented hood. For quiet, water-efficient clean-up, Bosch and Miele dishwashers garnered kudos, and designers who enjoy entertaining entertain the idea of putting in a second dishwasher.

Smaller appliances also got kitchen experts' attention. For coffee connoisseurs like Ron Laudenslager, a Dacor countertop coffee machine is an object of desire, while Trez Pomilo thinks a steamer built right into the counter would be ideal for healthy cooking. A few would love an under-cabinet wine refrigerator, plus a refrigerator drawer. For a party, guests can help themselves

to beverages without a nasty trip through the condiment jungle in the fridge. Others jonesed for a warming drawer, which they swore makes pre-prepared food taste like just-cooked.

In the Background

Not so long ago, backsplashes barely warranted a mention. Now people give a great deal of thought to the colors and design of the one-time wall-

flower. Joe Miller at Madsen Kitchens and Baths in Broomall prefers porcelain because it imitates natural stone but is more stain resistant and less expensive. Chris Bowen loves the look of colored glass tiles.

Granite countertops were the choice of many designers, as was hardwood flooring. Chris Bowen is intrigued by the new ceramic tiles made to look like

A wet bar and wine fridge add extra convenience and panache.



A spacious island with seating and separate work areas for prep, cooking, serving and clean up make this an "I-live-to-cook" kitchen. Photo by Sugarbridge Kitchen & Bath

hardwood. Attractive and practical: they won't chip or break easily, and it's easy to replace one tile without taking up the entire floor.

Quality flooring and countertops are important, but to make them and the rest of your kitchen really pop, lighting is key. Joe Miller likes LED lights in high hats and under the cabinet because they last longer, are energy efficient, and add no extra heat. Over-

the-cabinet lights that illuminate the ceiling appeal to Chris Bowen's tastes, while Ron Laudenslager extols the virtues of natural light and would love to install a 12-inch-deep garden window.

If all this conversation about a new room to cook in has you inspired, visit the many showrooms in our area. In these art galleries with appliances, you'll find it all — except perhaps kids who clean up the first time you ask. •



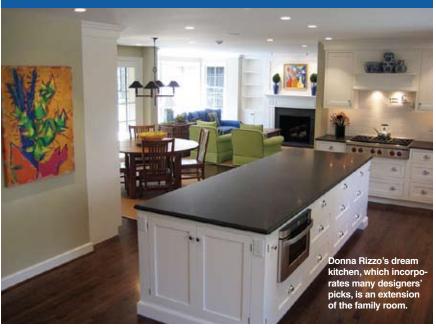
Advice From a Veteran

Donna Rizzo of Haverford just got her dream kitchen, a space that incorporates many designers' picks, and boy is she thrilled.

The Shaker-style cabinets lend a classic simplicity to the room. The Sub-Zero refrigerator keeps produce farm-fresh, and the 11'x4' island is an ideal spot for guests to gather and children to do homework. The Wolf range really does give her control over cooking temperatures, and as anyone who's ever waited for caramel to get to the soft crack stage can tell you — and Donna's a confectioner at holiday time — temperature control is the difference between gloppy mess and heavenly toffee.

Since Donna researched her choices thoroughly, her advice is a helpful starting place for those with dreams of kitchen grandeur. First, she says, compare bids in terms of price, timeline and work to be done. If one bid is significantly lower (or higher), ask why.

Next, be realistic about the "stuff" you have (more than you think) and how you plan to use the space. That way, it's easier to design storage and layout. Finally, don't ignore the mundane questions. Granted, where you place electrical outlets probably won't solve the sustainable energy crisis, but it just might go a long way toward making your kitchen the most comfortable and functional room in your home.



Resources:

Chris Bowen, Carpenter & Designer Roxborough; 267-825-6687

Madsen Kitchens and Baths

2901 Springfield Rd., Broomall 610-356-4800

MadsenKitchensAndBathrooms.com

Muhly KBA

7 N. Five Points Rd., West Chester 610-696-9191; MuhlyKBA.com

Sugarbridge Kitchen and Bath

407 E. Lincoln Hwy., Exton and Paoli Design Ctr., 1604 Lancaster Ave. 610-524-6091; Sugarbridge.com

Wall and Walsh

8320 West Chester Pk., Upper Darby 610-789-8530

Waterbury Kitchen and Bath Design 818 E. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square

818 E. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square 610-444-9190; WaterburyDesign.com



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Disaster At Home: When a Tree Falls on Your House

Michael Pillagalli

A sudden storm in late June dropped a 100-foot white pine tree on my house, crashing into the second floor.

s I was driving home during the flash summer storm, I had an uneasy feeling, especially after seeing so many downed trees along the way. Then I spotted the top of the stately 42-inch-diameter pine tree now hanging over the front of my house, creating a hole in the ridgeline of the roof. All my worst feelings were confirmed.

When I arrived, the burglar alarm was blaring as it detected motion in the house. Some motion! I ran through the downpour and immediately went to the second floor to see what had happened to my home. Rain was streaming into the bedroom through the gaping

hole, falling on top of an 18th-century chest of drawers, then onto the Oriental rugs. Pure adrenalin allowed me to pick up the entire chest and move it to a dry area. Luckily, the rugs could better handle the water.

After the Rain Stopped

The storm ended as quickly as it began; within 20 minutes, the rain had stopped. But that was not the end of the story. On the first floor, I saw water coming through the plaster ceiling and streaming onto the top of another 18th-century chest of drawers, this one of solid walnut, six feet high and weighing

a ton. After removing bottom drawers, I somehow hefted the solid chest to safety. Next in my triage of damaged property was finding towels to mop up water on the hardwood floors.

For what seemed like hours, I was running from room to room, floor to floor, assessing damage and rescuing what I could in my four-bedroom home. Later, in a moment of reflection, I thought of the devastation caused by massive disasters such as Katrina hitting New Orleans or the earthquake in Haiti. The mess I was facing after this summer storm, was a disaster for me, but a manageable one.

To pass on what I've learned, I kept a daily log of what happened. One tidbit, when Labor Day came the Amish roofers worked as they said, "Is it not what one is to do but work on Labor Day?"

Home, Sweet Home

My home of many years is a brick house, solidly built in the late 1940s, that sits on the highest point of ground in my neighborhood, a former 19th-century nursery. I was later told by an insurance adjuster that if this were new construction, my home would have been destroyed beyond repair. If it had been a car, it would have been totaled.

Among its charms, the house's interior was outfitted with woodwork by Marshall Brinton, a Chester County craftsman of note, when it was built. My home also housed my extensive collection of American antiques, accumulated over 35 years. And given its modest historical significance, the house has been included in the Chester County Day Tour many times. It was clearly worth saving!

After an hour or so of mopping up, I realized I should notify my insurance company. A bright spot in this otherwise dark day, Chubb Insurance was amazing. They asked a few questions and upon learning the tree was "in" my house, causing a gaping hole in half of the roof, and I could see the sky from the second floor, they assured me they'd take care of things. And, did they ever!

While You're Here ...

After essential decisions were made, like what kind of roof shingle would cover the gaping hole, my contractor asked what was on my wish list. Wish list? Who knew that wonderful results could come out of this disaster!

All I could think about was getting my house back to the way it was. But, many necessary projects created the perfect time to tackle wish lists projects. Although at my expense, not the insurance company's, the wish list projects were still more economical to do while the insurance work was underway.

For example, since the original bath had to be demolished, I had the chance to expand and redo it, now with my dream stone floor and rain forest shower.

Damaged windows also had to be replaced, so I changed out most of the others to match and be more energy efficient.

Replacing your roof gives you the chance to raise your ceiling and install ceiling fans in bedrooms. Another long-term wish list project.

And because the enclosed porch had to come down, it was replaced with a larger four-season room, something I've wanted since I bought this house. Who cared about more dust and construction mess when that room more than doubled in size and was now heated?

Disaster Team and More

Less than two hours after my insurance call, a tree company was at my house, apologizing that they couldn't get a crane to remove the tree that evening. The next morning at 9 a.m. sharp, the crane crew began removing the massive tree. Next came a disaster team, also sent by the insurance company. Their assessment: "This is major."

By that afternoon, the property adjuster was at the house. He announced that reconstruction and restoration would take six to eight months. Next came a structural engineer to assess the integrity of the house. All this was accomplished in less than 24 hours!



The disaster team worked in the house for five days, first erecting a giant blue tarp over the roof, removing wet insulation, rugs and plaster from walls and ceilings on the first and second floors. They moved and wrapped furniture in plastic to keep clean.

Six to eight months for repairs seemed like a long time. But I figured since my teaching schedule left me free in July and August to oversee things, the initial work would be done by the start of school. Little did I know . . .

Your Contractor is Your Family

The insurance company asked me to find contractors to supply bids for the work to restore the house to the way it was because my coverage provided for replacement, not just repair. In the end, the insurance company told me to choose the contractor I wanted to work with on the project. This was a key decision because I needed a contractor versed in restoration work, who would honor the workmanship of Marshall Brinton. That choice led me to Michael Hazley Builders, who had experience with quality older homes, both restorations and construction.

To say that you develop a close relationship with your contractor is an understatement. I've seen my contractor or one of his children, who work in the business, almost every day since we signed his proposal — over six months. This close relationship led me to write the sidebar, "While You're Here," because it's been like having a craftsman in residence — when an idea arises, you can say, "while you're here, would it be possible to . . . ".

Little did İ know I'd live almost three months under the blue tarps! Although the insurance company offered me temporary quarters and storage for my furniture, I preferred to stay with the house and contents. The kitchen, library and finished basement weren't compromised so I "camped out" there.

I'm still there, more than six months later as this article goes to press. Living has been very basic; I shower at the fitness facility where I teach. And I have a new holiday traditions, placing a garland around the contractors' sign at the end of the drive and calling it quits!

The Second Wave

The turmoil of living with a disaster is overwhelming. To come home every day to see what was accomplished — or delayed until another project is com-

pleted — is draining, even under my good circumstances.

When the disaster team packed up and the contractor moved in, the work started in earnest. The roof was the first thing to be replaced and that was three months after the storm. Three months later, I'm still awaiting new gutters and replacement lightning rods.

Similarly, the bathroom story moved from designing the space to seven months of waiting to use it when the final piece — frameless shower door — arrived. The second wave of windows is yet to come, which leads to work by the insulators, then framers to return or replace trim work that matches the original, then plasterers to touch up around window frames and then the painting.

One of the final jobs will be the floors. Some may have to be replaced due to water damage and others refinished. Again, it's a "while you're here" situation as I considered having the remainder of the floors refinished to match and thoughts of replacing the kitchen floor with brick.

You'll have to wait to find out what happened! ◆

To Be Continued . . .



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Continued on page 70

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CHESTER SPRINGS: Situated on an exceedingly quiet road is this Ann Capron-designed, 5BR, 3.1 BA home on 3.7 private acres. The home has a grand Great Room with stone fireplace & elegantly appointed rooms, most of which have views of the private rear yard, the wonderful in-ground pool and hot tub. \$739,900

CHESTER SPRINGS: Antique home enthusiasts will love this charming c. 1780 home set on 4.8 acres. The home features a bright NEW Kitchen, several fireplaces, plenty of outdoor living space on the terrace (hot tub too!) & perennial gardens - all overlooking two ponds! \$675,000





CHESTER SPRINGS: This is a stellar c.1740 log & stone home complete with a classic stone barn on 5 acres. The home as the original floors, THREE walk-in fireplaces, a corner fireplaces yet has new systems (including central air conditioning!) & a new Kitchen. This is a "Must See"! \$425,000

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The chance to design their dream house, with every amenity, drew one couple to a 60-acre property in Cochranville.

It takes a special place to lure world travelers from their adventures, but 16 years ago one couple found that in southern Chester County's rolling hills. "Love at first sight" is how they described this magnificent property with breathtaking views of horse farms and Cheshire Hunt countryside. So they built their retirement home here, to house collections and mementos from years of globe-trotting, and to share with children, grandchildren and friends.

In an enviable neighborhood, with virtually every other parcel under conservation easement, Willow Run gets its name from the willow-lined tributary of the Doe Run that flows through the valley below. The setting is among the best of Chester County, yet is a manageable commute to New York, Philadelphia, Wilmington and Washington, D.C. (the owner commuted for years).

Dream Design

A curving drive lined by 44 Kwanzan cherry trees makes a dramatic approach in any season to the beautiful circular courtyard that welcomes you. Five exquisitely landscaped acres ring the residence and draw you into this home





designed for complete enjoyment, functionality and ease of living. The home is as thoughtfully designed as the property itself. The overall design focused not only on the individual, but also for important family gatherings when used as a family country retreat.

A dream home can include a bounty of amenities. Willow Run has pleasures to delight everyone – from a climate controlled indoor pool with entertainment area, to a home theater, to a five-bay garage – so meticulously maintained that garage walls have framed photos of family and favorite cars.

Every room has a story in its design and decoration, from custom window treatments, decorative columns and moldings, and a sound system playing bird melodies. A trophy room showcases a model car collection, perfectly lit on display shelves. The Doll Room is a Victorian stage, with tin ceiling, for a lifelong collection of antique dolls. Many of the features were gathered during the owners' world travels. The African room has a three-dimensional teak mantle carved in Bangkok, along with collectibles from that continent displayed on carved shelves.

Sophisticated Ease

Built with the best materials and an eye to easy maintenance, this solid structure looks brand new, despite being enjoyed for 16 years. Ideally situated on the property to maximize views of the valley, the home blends quality, sophistication and ease.

A stunning, two-story, marble foyer, with crystal chandelier, opens onto the main floor and the two-story living room, which captures the valley view and boasts a fireplace, carved moldings and light ash floors. An equally elegant dining room is a perfect room for entertaining, highlighted with a fireplace mantle and sconces designed from carvings purchased in Hong Kong. Built-in display cases and adjacent butler's pantry complete this area.

A spacious, light-filled kitchen has every dream detail. The large eat-in area includes Balinese carvings around



the fireplace, French doors opening to the deck, and an adjacent family room, clearly a favorite gathering spot. Next door is a craft room, laundry room, an optional au pair suite, and back stairs to the second and lower levels.

At the other side of the house in the front, there is a wood-paneled library, with an office center. Even the library boasts a stained glass window set among built-in cherry bookshelves and cabinets made by local craftsmen.

Master Suite and More

To complete the living space on the main floor there is a master suite with silk-lined walls, a sitting area with fireplace and a television in the ceiling for watching in bed. Warm, neutral colors are used throughout. An adjoining solarium has views through the valley and access to the deck. The master bath features a soaking tub set beneath a stunning stained glass window, two sink areas, mirrors galore, walk-in showers and water closets. The dressing area includes a dressing table, his and hers closets (hers with a window), as well as his and hers cedar closets.

An adjacent full bath leads to an exercise room, then on to the spectacular pool and entertainment area with wet bar. The year-round indoor pool area features three sides of arched win-

dows marked by columns, and vaulted ceiling. An inviting Jacuzzi makes this space hard to leave in any season.

Second and Lower Level

Three spacious, private suites with large, private baths, fill the second level, each different but equally inviting. The flowered suite has a window seat to take in the view, plus a large bath, with Jacuzzi tub, double sinks, skylight. The rose suite is even more spacious and has access to the back stairs. A third suite makes weekend guests a pleasure.

Then there's the lower level, which houses the home theater. With plush seating for nine and a screen the size of some mall theaters, this room is a delight for all ages. Outside the theater is a full kitchen, dining room, large family room, plus the African room.

There's also a landing with Asian collectibles and space on the far side that's yet to be put to use. Storage space with shelving is abundant. Just another feature that makes life easy and organized in this dream of a home. •

This immaculate country estate on 60+ acres of rolling southern Chester County hills is available at \$3,395,000. Contact Georgianna Stapleton or Amy McKenna at Country Properties, 610-347-2065; TheCountryProperties.com.



The **Best** of the **Best**

If you missed our Annual Dining Guide, with the "Best of the Best" restaurants in our area, here's a sample to whet your appetite. For more, visit CountyLinesMagazine.com.

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February is for Wine and Chocolate

When two of life's distinct pleasures merge, it can be a delicious symphony!

ou know you've done it. Standing in line at the checkout counter, you spot them, enticing you with their shiny packages. The creamy, sweetness calls out to you. Before you know it, the chocolate has migrated from the rack to your hand. You barely wait until your seatbelt is buckled before you're savoring its sweet creaminess.

Chocolate: an addiction for some, a treat for others, beloved by all. Many believe that the rich decadence of chocolate is dessert, and therefore savored only with a dessert wine or port. Not true! There are many robust red wines that will enhance the flavor of your favorite dark delicacies.

Reds and Chocolates

When looking for a red wine that pairs well with chocolate, try one with

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a hint of sweetness. This sweetness in the wine can be brought to the forefront by the sweetness in the chocolate.

The wine you choose can be dry or bold depending on the chocolate. Some wines work best with dark chocolate, some with nutty, others with white and still others with milk chocolate. Think about the flavors in the chocolate, the flavors in the wine and what you want to complement. A lighter chocolate (like milk chocolate) pairs best with a lighter wine with the same level of sweetness (think Pinot Noir). The darker you go with chocolate, the richer you should go with the wine. A true dark chocolate needs a robust wine (think Zinfandel).

If you're making a rich dessert, make sure the wine is not sweeter than the dessert or the tastes will be off balance. For example, a dark chocolate cake with a creamy chocolate ganache frosting would need something smoother than a Zinfandel, perhaps a Merlot.

Suggestions for Your Pairing Party

The best way to find your perfect pairing is to experiment with your very own wine and chocolate pairing party! Here are two suggestions to get you started.

Santa Ema Merlot (\$12.99) is a Chilean Merlot that's the little engine that could of merlots. Released in the U.S. in the post-Sideways, anti-merlot era, this became one of the top-selling merlots around. The reason is simple: it tastes like chocolate-covered cherries with subtle hints of vanilla. A slightly off-dry wine, it pairs perfectly with lighter meats or pastas and chocolate. Try it with milk chocolate and berries. Fondue anyone? A wine that you can drink with all your dinner courses!

If you like your wines and chocolates a little heavier, try the *Barista Pinotage* (\$14.99), a South African wine that's a blend of Pinot Noir and Cinsault. Pinotages are known for their smoke and earth and are robust reds that would be enhanced by some grilled beef or a hearty stew.

After you've enjoyed your dinner, serve some flourless chocolate cake with coffee ice cream, or simply serve dark chocolate covered coffee beans to accompany the last of the pinotage.

Red wine doesn't have to be just for dinner anymore. Curl up in front of your fireplace on a cold snowy night with a bottle of great red wine and your favorite sweet treat. It will make for a special winter night, especially around Valentine's Day!

- Kristin Collier Van Riper

Join us at Collier's in Centreville on February 3rd for Wine and Food Pairings and February 7th to explore Ports. These are the last two classes before Collier's switches to the spring class schedule, available online or by calling 302-656-3542. Need help planning your next party, event, dinner, trip? Visit our website, Colliers-Concierge.com.



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Take-out and delivery No reservations

Lise Monty

Ron's Original does it with gusto. The menu is huge, the flavors big and happy, the bar overflowing with choices and people, and the family-friendly personality upbeat. No wonder it has thrived for 20 years.

Since it was updated and renovated three years ago, graduating from Ron's Schoolhouse Grille to Ron's Original Bar & Grille, it's even more popular. Our 30-minute wait on a Friday night visit is customary for weekend evenings. But time passed quickly, thanks to the super dirty martini sipped in the lively bar. I toasted the mixer's generous dose of olive "juice" or brine that made the drink cloudy or "dirty," and deliciously salty.

While adults play in the bar, where beer fans ponder what to order from the 20 brews on tap or 100-plus bottled varieties, kids scramble over the school bus in the entryway. Make that the front section of a school bus attached to the wall, a carryover from its previous "schoolhouse" days. Management doesn't want to disappoint the kids who are catered to with crayons, paper, coloring contests and plenty of choices on the menu.

Italian & Friends

Just about every mainstream Italianinspired dish you've heard of, from stromboli to veal parmigiana, is offered on the multi-page menu with a few twists on the familiar. A handful of other high-profile ethnic options blend right in, among them quesadillas, nachos, Creole shrimp, seared Ahi tuna with Thai chili sauce, chicken Française and teriyaki stir fry.

Owner Ron Inverso prides himself on cooking everything from scratch with natural, additive-free, non-processed ingredients. Two examples: soups start with stocks made in house, and all the turkey used in sandwiches comes from fresh breasts roasted daily.

The platter of Antipasto (\$8.95/with Italian meats \$9.95) was the first to wow us with its heft and its top-shelf ingredients. Boldly flavored salami, capicola and mortadella (I think) scored, as did the sharp provolone and mild mozzarella. Completing the appetizer party: marinated mushrooms, green and black olives and roasted red peppers, all heaped on a bed of crisp romaine, radicchio and chicory, ideal choices because they hold up well and add flavor. With the smooth balsamic vinaigrette on the side and a crunchy roll, it could have been a terrific meal in itself. The basic antipasto is also offered with crab salad. for \$11.95.

Headlining the winning *Caprese di Parma* (\$7.95): thinly sliced prosciutto and fresh mozzarella. The can't-miss duo sat on good mixed greens and chopped tomatoes, and a hard-to-resist slice of aromatic garlic bread.

Other appetizer options include: fried calamari, broccoli rabe, bruschetta, hot crab dip, spinach and artichoke dip, sausage and peppers, meatballs mari-



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nara, eggplant rollatini, crab salad and Italian roasted peppers and provolone. We agreed that next time we'd have to order the mussels, a full pound offered "red, bleu smoke or Belgian style," with a bread basket.

The Soul of Italy

It's a safe bet there's no end in sight for our love affair with pizza and pasta, two of Italy's national dishes that are now international phenoms. Ron's Original enthusiastically celebrates the relationship with homestyle pasta dishes that are classy comfort food and dozens of pizza varieties from the most basic to some your Nonna wouldn't recognize.

The house specialty "oval pizzas," described as open-faced stromboli, have no tomato sauce. Their non-traditional toppings include potatoes, ranch dressing, cheddar and mozzarella on the Yo Vince (love the name); char-grilled chicken, jalapeños, black olives, mozzarella and cheddar on the Cha Cha Chicken; and spinach, diced tomatoes, roasted peppers and the same two cheeses on the Sorrento, plus some 20 more oval options.

Buffalo Chicken Pizza (12-inch, \$10.50) turns the bar-food winner into a tasty pie with thin crust, finely chopped chicken, zesty Buffalo sauce, bleu cheese and mozzarella. Same flavors, same tangy spiciness, different package. It's a shoo-in.

So is the tantalizing idea of a hot-from-the-oven pasta-and-cheese creation baked to a bubbly, ozzy state with crusty edges. Ron's takes its *Spinach Lasagna* (\$11) to yet another level. We oohed and aahed over its promise and then oohed some more with every bite, loving the sautéed fresh spinach and garlic that gave it a little oomph and the three quality cheeses — Pecorina Romano, provolone and mozzarella, all melty and stretchy. There was enough left over for two lunches the next day.

Other choices from the menu's Traditional Italian section: eggplant parmigiana, orecchiette carbonara, spaghetti Bolognese, penne marinara, spaghetti and clams, cioppino, fettucini Alfredo,

cheese ravioli, stuffed shells, gnocchi, arrabiata, shrimp scampi, sausage scaloppini and chicken marsala.

For those who prefer "American" food, there's hand-cut, char-grilled, Black Angus strip steak and filet mignon. Also, filet surf and turf with jumbo shrimp or topped with crab imperial, grilled salmon, chicken or veal piccata, twin crab cakes, sesame-crusted tuna, Black Angus meatloaf and roast turkey. Lots of burgers and steak sandwiches, too, plus grilled sandwiches and many hoagies.

La Dolce Vita

We knew the dessert list would be long — ten choices for cheesecakes alone, including pumpkin with caramel pecan topping and rum crumble. But we still struggled with our selections.

Tira Misu (\$3.99) was a must, we agreed. And what a "pick-me-up" it was, a large serving at a great price. The must-have coffee and chocolate components came though loud and clear balancing the abundant creaminess, lighter than the classic. Delectable.

Besides its intriguing name, the *Pineapple in the Middle Cake* (\$3.99) pleased with its moist, homemade yellow-cake texture studded with pineapple chunks. And not too sweet.

More dolce options: crème brûlée, apple crisp, ricotta pie, twin cannolis and an interesting sounding chocolate crème depot.

Much More

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Ron's stages live entertainment every week with bands from Classic Rock and Top 40 to Motown, blues and a little bit of funk. Details on the website. And you can buy 25-ounce bottles of beer at the bar or pick up growlers to go.

Life is good. ♦

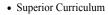
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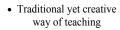
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LOVE AT THE TABLE

Laura Muzzi Brennan

Velcome to the debut of "Brandywine Table"! Here you'll meet chefs, farmers and restaurateurs who make dining in the Brandywine Valley a mouthwatering adventure. They'll share their ideas and recipes with you; I'll add in a few of my own, and together, we'll celebrate the seasons and our region's bounty.

I'm excited to take on *County Lines*' new food column, and I thank my predecessor, Margie McCreight who gave us "Fare with Flair" for many, many delicious years.

A Bit of Background

While Margie was stirring things up in the kitchen, I had the opportunity to jump into the local food scene. Whether traipsing out to West Chester to interview a goat cheese artisan, savoring locavore dinners with farmers and winemakers at Chaddsford Winery or writing about towns with exploding restaurant scenes such as Phoenixville, I felt lucky to live in a place with an abundance of fresh ingredients and creative cooking. Inspired by local farmers markets. I cofounded one in my neighborhood that just finished its first season.

Besides writing about food and working on the new farmers market, I love to be at the stove. And I devour cookbooks the same way I read novels — cover to cover, always hoping for a satisfying ending. My kitchen shelves can't contain my 600+ cookbooks, so they've spilled over into every room of the house. More than once, I've found myself in our family room exercising on Wii Fit while leafing through the latest Barefoot Contessa cookbook, plotting Sunday brunch!

Let's Talk Food

Now that you know a bit about me, let's get down to talking food: specifically, let's talk Valentine's Day dishes that will cause your sweetie to swoon. For menu suggestions, I talked with Karen Nicolas, who was the executive chef at Simon Pearce in West Chester.

For ten years before its recent closing, the restaurant's views of the Brandywine and innovative cuisine made it a prime romantic dining spot. Chef Nicolas shared her thoughts on romantic food, which tended toward "aromatic, silky, decadent and smooth." Her Oyster Beignets with Caviar Crema and White Chocolate Ice Cream with Passion Fruit Soup manages to be all four at once!

Taking her words to heart — especially "decadent" — I've included other recipes to wow your significant other. Each dish contains at least one aphrodisiac, some classics such as oysters







and chocolate, some lesser-knowns like pine nuts, rosemary and chili peppers. All recipes make four servings so you can recreate the feast the next day or invite another couple to dinner if you're feeling social. Whether you celebrate Valentine's Day as a cozy couple or with a group of friends, come to the Table!

Oyster Beignets with Caviar Crema

Chef Nicolas combines two classic romantic ingredients, oysters and caviar, to create a tempura-like appetizer. For the caviar, American hackleback, paddlefish or white sturgeon are flavorful and affordable options.

For the Oyster Beignets:

2 C. all-purpose flour

2 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. salt

2 C. chilled club soda (or champagne for that extra Valentine's Day touch)

12 oysters, shucked and drained of any oyster liquor (reserve the liquor for making the caviar crema) oil for frying

Combine the dry ingredients. Quickly whisk in the club soda until batter is smooth. Do not over-mix. Allow the batter to rest in refrigerator for 15 minutes, as the batter works best when chilled.

Place oysters in the batter and coat completely. Heat oil in a pan until temperature reaches 375°. With a fork, drop one oyster at a time in oil. Remove beignets when the batter is golden brown and crispy. Season with salt to taste.

For the Caviar Crema:
1/2 C. crème fraiche
1-oz. bottle of caviar
reserved oyster liquor
1 Tb. finely minced shallots

With a whisk, whip the crème fraiche until stiff peaks form. Fold in the caviar. Stir in the reserved oyster liquor and shallots. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Spoon Caviar Crema over Oyster Beignets. Serves 4.

Aphrodisiacs: A Bite of History

Montezuma, whose harem numbered 600 women, and Casanova, whose conquests were legendary, trusted in the potency of *chocolate*. Turns out, their trust was not misplaced: scientists have discovered chocolate contains the same chemical released in the brain of a person in love.

Asparagus is rich in vitamin E, a key nutrient for hormone building. Three courses of asparagus were served to 19th century bridegrooms due to its reputed aphrodisiac powers.

Oysters and pine nuts pack high levels of zinc, which plays a key role in producing testosterone, thus affecting sexual performance in both sexes.

Rosemary has long been a symbol of lovers' fidelity. Brides wore it as a garland and newly married couples presented rosemary branches, often gilded, to their wedding guests. Medieval women added sprigs to their baths, believing the scent would attract men.

Chili peppers start the heart racing and the cheeks blushing. Dr. John Harvey Kellogg — yes, the inventor of cornflakes — was a famous health authority who warned nymphomaniacs to steer clear of lust-inducing peppers.

Some Common Ones . . .

An apple a day helps keep bad breath away (and your partner closer).

Bananas contain bromelain, an enzyme thought to boost male libido.

Caviar is high in zinc, which stimulates the formation of testosterone, maintaining male functionality.

Figs are rich in amino acids that may set your desire afire.

Garlic helps boost blood flow.

Ginger is a circulatory system stimulant which can increase sexual powers and desire.

Ginseng increases desire for physical contact.

Sweet Basil is thought to stimulate the sex drive and boost fertility.



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White Chocolate Ice Cream with Passion Fruit Soup

This eye-catching dessert, also by Chef Nicolas, strikes a lovely sweet/tart balance. For a more formal presentation, try a tableside pour: put one scoop of ice cream in each bowl and pour the soup as guests look on. If you have a flair for the dramatic, do your best imitation of Etta James crooning "At Last" while pouring the soup. Now your guests will know why we call hosting a party "entertaining"!

For the White Chocolate Ice Cream:

3 C. heavy cream
1 C. milk
1 C. sugar
4 egg yolks
8 oz. white chocolate, chopped
½ tsp. salt

Scald cream and milk with sugar over medium-low heat until dairy is warm and sugar is dissolved. Carefully mix a few tablespoons of the hot mixture into the egg yolks and whisk. Add the egg yolk mixture back into the remaining hot cream/milk/sugar mixture. Whisking constantly, slowly cook over medium heat until mixture becomes a thickened custard. Add this hot custard to the chopped chocolate. Then add salt. Whisk until smooth. Refrigerate overnight.

Churn through ice cream maker. Each ice cream maker has its own directions, so read carefully.

For the Passion Fruit Soup:

1 C. water
¼ C. sugar
1 Tb. minced fresh ginger root
6 mint leaves
¼ tsp. vanilla extract
2-3 C. passion fruit juice

In a pot, bring water, sugar, ginger and mint to a simmer. Take off heat and cover, allowing to infuse 1-8 hours.

Strain the mixture, discarding solids. Add vanilla. Add passion fruit juice to taste, a little at a time until desired sweet-to-sour balance is reached. Pour over White Chocolate Ice Cream for 4.

Chocolate Silk Pudding with Blackberry Purée

It's worth splurging on high-quality chocolate and cocoa powder. This dessert is labor-intensive but well worth all that whisking.

2 Tb. cornstarch
3 T. unsweetened cocoa powder
½ C. sugar, divided
½ C. whole milk, divided pinch of salt
1 large egg
2 large egg yolks
5 oz. semisweet or bittersweet chocolate chips
2 Tb. unsalted butter, cut into large dice
1 tsp. vanilla extract

10 oz. frozen blackberries

for garnish 8 small mint leaves, for garnish

16 whole fresh blackberries,

Purée frozen blackberries in a blender or food processor. Refrigerate. If you dislike blackberry seeds, strain the purée.

In a medium bowl, whisk cornstarch, cocoa powder and ¼ cup of the sugar. When blended, whisk in ¼ cup of the milk. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk egg and egg yolks. Set aside.

In a medium saucepan, combine 2 cups milk, ¼ of the sugar and pinch of salt. Bring to a boil over moderate heat, stirring constantly to dissolve sugar. Remove from heat.

Whisking constantly, add cornstarch mixture into hot milk mixture and again, bring to a boil over moderate heat. Reduce the heat to low and simmer, whisking constantly, until the pudding coats the back of a spoon, 2 minutes or less.

Ladle about 1 cup of the pudding slowly into the egg mixture and mix until incorporated (pour the hot mixture very slowly and mix well to avoid scrambling the eggs). Then, return to the saucepan.

Cook over moderate heat, whisking constantly, until the pudding just begins to boil, about 2 minutes.

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Transfer the pudding to a large heatproof bowl. Add chocolate chips, butter and vanilla and whisk until chocolate and butter are melted and pudding is smooth, about 2 minutes. Refrigerate until chilled. The pudding can last up to 4 days in the refrigerator, as long as it's covered with plastic wrap.

When ready to serve, place 1 blackberry in each of 4 martini glasses. Top with a layer of chocolate pudding, a layer of blackberry purée and another layer of chocolate pudding. Garnish each serving with 3 blackberries and 2 mint leaves.

Green Salad with Toasted Goat Cheese Hearts. Pine Nuts and Champagne Vinaigrette

The goat cheese hearts add a whimsical touch to this otherwise simple salad. Pine nuts can be tricky to toast as they burn easily. My friend Kathy simply heats a small frying pan, takes it off the flame when it's hot, tosses the pine nuts in and stirs them for 3-4 minutes until they're golden.

4 C. salad greens (cook's choice; I'm a fan of baby romaine) 1/3 C. toasted pine nuts

For the toasted goat cheese hearts:

5 oz. goat cheese, softened 1 Tb. milk

4 Tb. plain breadcrumbs

1 egg, beaten oil for frying

For the Champagne Vinaigrette (Yield: 1 C.):

²/₃ C. extra virgin olive oil

1/3 C. champagne vinegar

½ tsp. Dijon mustard

1/4 tsp. sugar

¼ tsp. salt

Mix the goat cheese with milk. Divide mixture into 4 parts and shape each into a heart. Freeze the hearts on wax paper for 15-30 minutes. Dip hearts into egg and then coat with breadcrumbs. Fry in ¼ inch oil until golden.

Whisk vinaigrette ingredients together

and set aside so flavors develop.

Divide salad greens among 4 plates. Spoon desired amount of vinaigrette over greens. Place one goat cheese heart on top and sprinkle with pine nuts.

Rosemary-Mustard-Jalapeno Filet Mignon

As a welcome to the White Dog Cafe, which recently opened a new location in Wayne, I adapted this recipe from the White Dog Cafe cookbook that I've been using ever since I first visited the original restaurant in West Philly. Boneless sirloin would also work in this recipe. Serve with a side of couscous.

1 Tb. fresh rosemary leaves, chopped 1 shallot, chopped 1-2 tsp. jalapeño pepper, minced 1 Tb. sov sauce 4. 8 oz. filet mignons freshly ground black pepper to taste 4 Tb. olive oil

3 Tb. Dijon mustard

In a blender or food processor, pulse together the mustard, rosemary, shallot, ialapeño and sov sauce to create a smooth paste. With the blender still running, add oil gradually until the mixture resembles a creamy salad dressing. (Yield: ½ C.)

Brush filets with the rosemary-mustard-jalapeño dressing and allow to sit at room temperature for a half hour.

Broil or grill until desired doneness $(125^{\circ} \text{ for medium rare}).$

If desired, spoon extra sauce over filets. ♦

If you'd like to contact Laura Muzzi Brennan, please e-mail her at Laura-Brennan@ValleyDel.com

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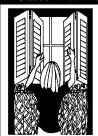
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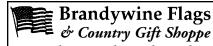
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