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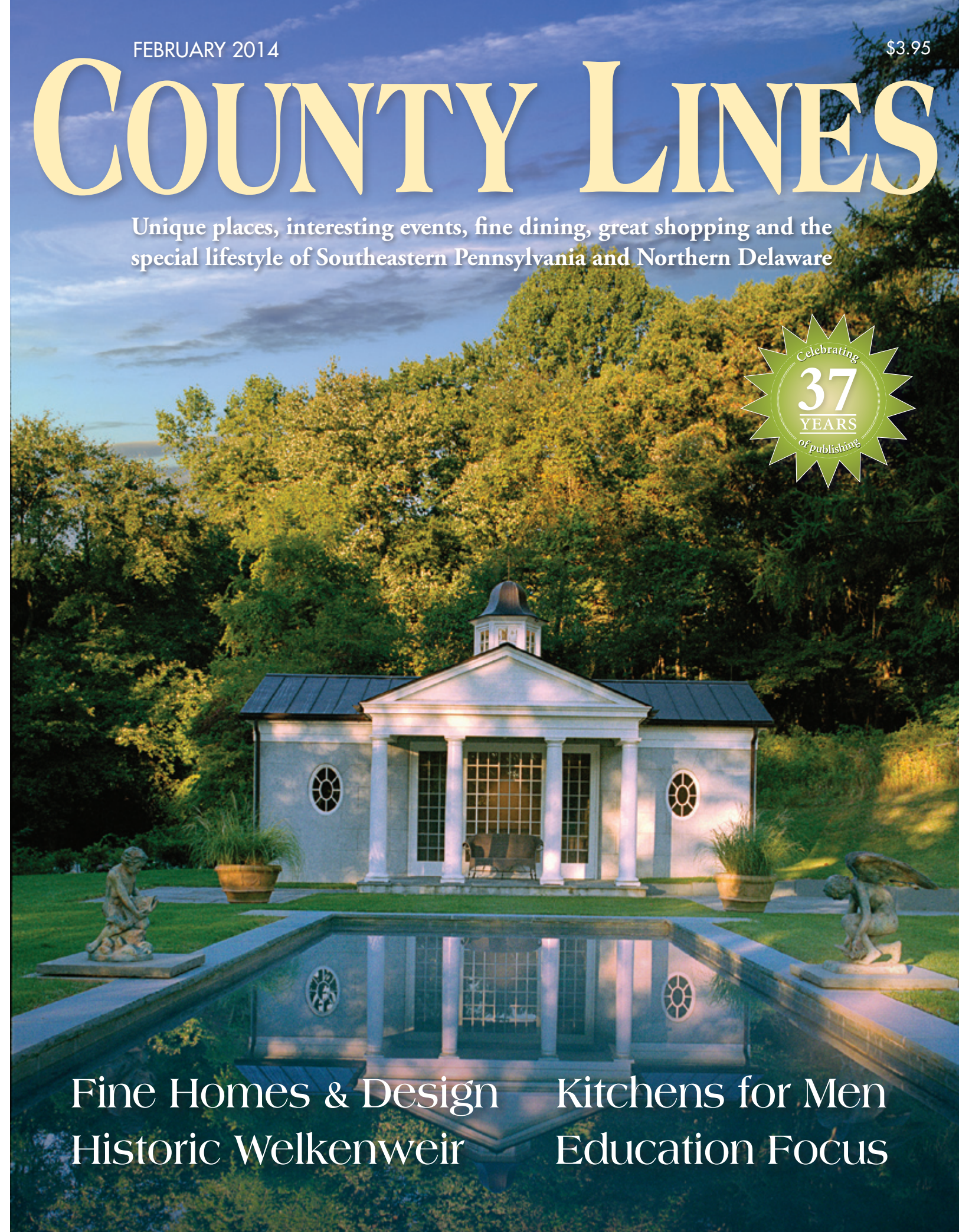
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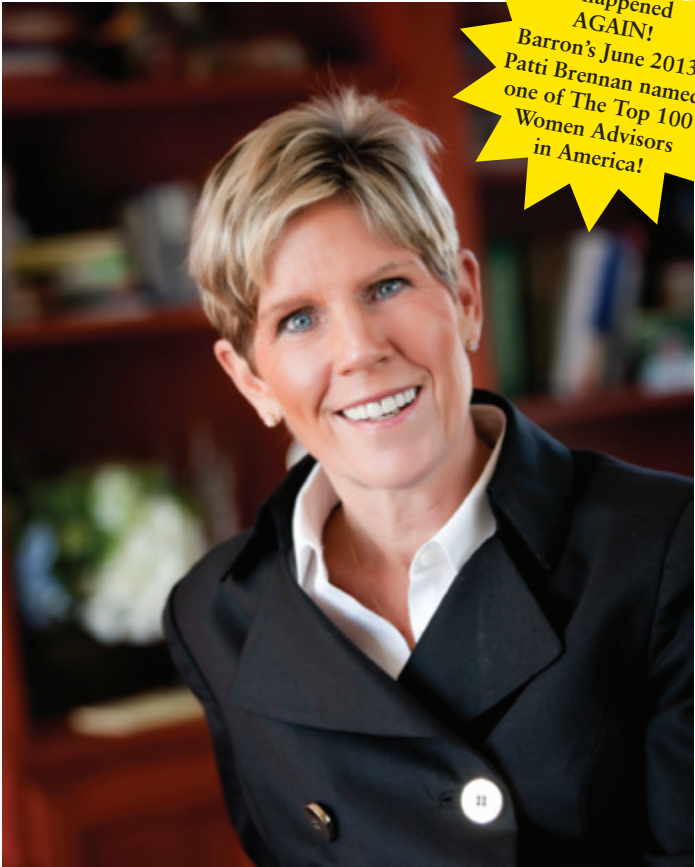
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Wealth Manager – 50 Most Influential Women in Wealth (2009)
Worth – One of the Nation's Top Wealth Advisors (2009, 2010, 2011)
The 50 Top Women in Wealth – Wealth Manager Magazine (May 2010)
Philadelphia Business Journal – #2 Top Wealth Advisor (2010)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

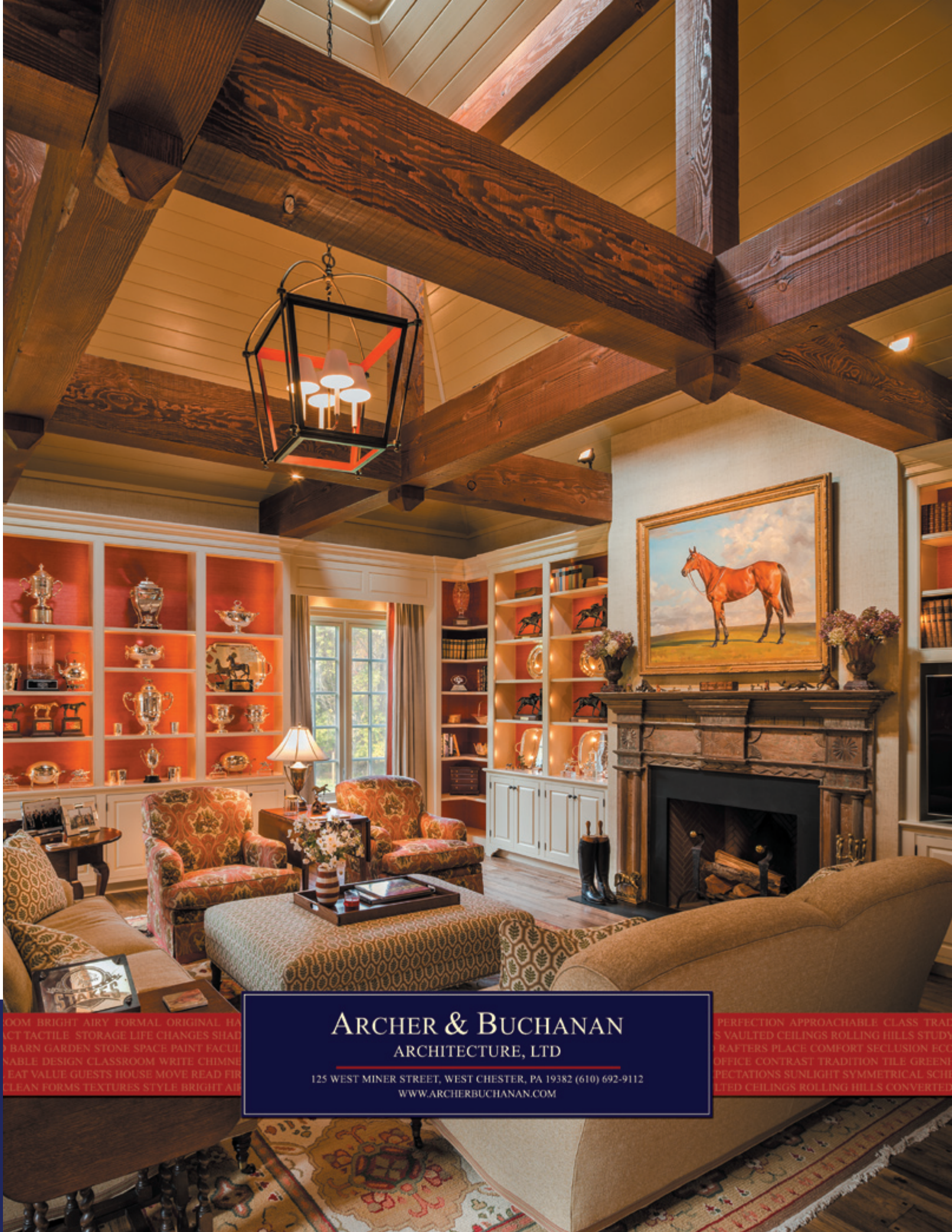
Raised in Radnor, PA, Patricia Brennan has been providing Wealth Management advice right here in West Chester for over 25 years. She is a Georgetown University graduate and earned her CFP® designation in 1990. She is a recognized leader in her industry and serves as the first Chairwoman on the National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



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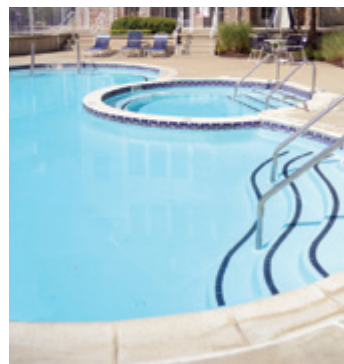


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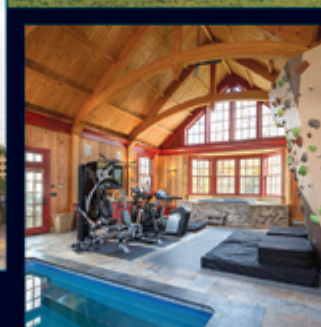
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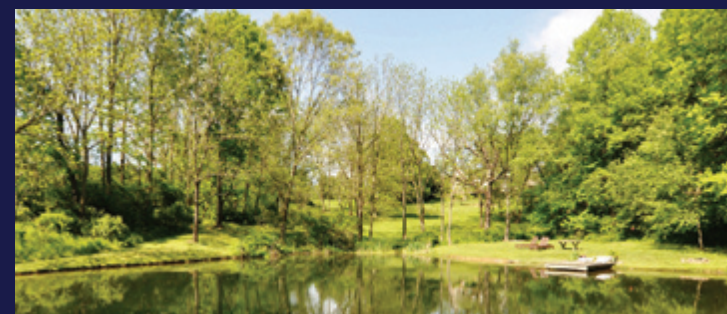
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I

It's cold outside! All the better for reading *County Lines* inside.

Our Fine Homes & Design issue will take you on a visual vacation—delighting your eyes with stunning images of pool houses, beautiful barns, a garden folly and a springhouse converted to a private chapel, all projects

of John Milner's architectural firm. We explore outbuildings and more in this issue devoted to homes, including how best to insure yours in "Protecting the Castle."

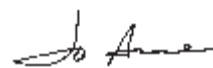
Inside the home, find out what men want ... at least in the kitchen in "A Kitchen for a King." You may be surprised! And you can find what you need for your own kitchen update and more in our resource guide, "Where To Find It."

Fine homes often have history and so we share the story of Welkinweir, meaning where sky meets water. The gorgeous grounds, open to the public, are part of the French Creek Watershed. To protect your grounds, Natural Lands Trust suggests some yard work in "Winter Tree Pruning Tips."

For February we also focus on Independent and Private Schools as we explore the importance of parental involvement in "Beyond Bake Sales." Schools roll out the welcome mat, inviting parents of current students to participate and parents of prospective students to visit during upcoming open houses. We've got a guide, in print and online.

A little indulgence is in order this month. Check out "Winter Glow" with advice on keeping your skin in the pink, "Valentine's Style" for gift ideas, and previews of two plays at Media Theatre, which marks its 20th anniversary. And for the foodies, there's a review of Jimmy Duffy's Catering and Brandywine Table's soul-warming soup recipes in "Soup, Glorious Soup: Yes, Soup for You."

As always, we include the Best Local Events. There's still plenty to do this month. Thank you for reading *County Lines*. Stay warm!

  
Jo Anne Durako  
Editor

## COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

**February 2014**

Volume XXXVII, Number 6

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Cover photo: This neoclassical pool house in Chester County was designed by John Milner Architects, Inc. Photo by Don Pearse.



# Worth Knowing

## Providing for Your Children — With Strings Attached

Kurt Kunsch, Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust

**An incentive trust may work for you and your children.**

**A**s a parent, you may have concerns about your children's ability to handle the assets they will someday inherit from you. Perhaps you feel your children lack the financial maturity to manage and protect a sizable inheritance. Or, maybe you're worried that sudden wealth could have a negative impact on them in terms of retaining values and a good work ethic.

One popular solution to this concern is the use of an incentive trust. This type of trust sets standards of conduct or achievement that must be met before distributions are made to beneficiaries. A trust structured in this way can also help to control estate taxes and provide professional asset management.

### Reinforce Values

You can use incentive trusts to reward a wide range of behaviors

(or discourage certain behavior) on your beneficiaries' part. When you create such a trust, you simply set up guidelines that you believe your children (or other beneficiaries) should follow. Since you create those conditions within a legally binding trust agreement, you can be certain that distributions will be made only if your terms are met.

### Establish Conditions

You can set a variety of conditions on your children's receipt of distributions from the trust. Here are some common types of provisions included in incentive trusts.

- **Education**—You may require your children finish a certain level of education or maintain a certain grade point average to qualify to receive trust funds.

- **Family Business/Employment**—You could reward a beneficiary who takes over a family business. Or, encourage gainful employment by matching a percentage of the income that your children earn.

- **Charitable Causes**—To promote philanthropy, you might set up a trust that will match your children's charitable donations or provide incentives for performing volunteer work.

- **Healthy Lifestyle**—You could restrict the distribution of trust funds to your children if they engage in destructive or illegal activities, such as the abuse of drugs or alcohol.

When placing conditions on an inheritance, it is important to build in flexibility so the trust provisions do not prove counterproductive. Be sure to explain the incentives clearly in your trust agreement. Think carefully about what you're trying to accomplish, and try to make the incentives simple and achievable.

### Proceed with Caution

When used in a sensitive, thoughtful manner, an incentive trust can encourage positive behavior by trust beneficiaries. If the conditions are overly restrictive, however, the result may cause resentment or considerable unhappiness on the part of your children. For example, a child may feel that you are trying to rule "from the grave."

To prevent unwanted results, keep the lines of communication open. By discussing the incentives and restrictions with your children in advance, you can help clarify goals and avoid future problems. What's more, an open dialogue can help your children better plan their financial futures.

Many experienced wealth planning advisors and attorneys recommend holding a family meeting to review wealth transfer plans. Over the past several years, we have found that these meetings are extremely beneficial and provide transparency for all parties involved.

### Choosing the Right Trustee

The trustee you choose when establishing an incentive trust is likely to serve your beneficiaries for a generation or longer and control a substantial amount of your money. You should be aware of what a trustee's responsibilities are and be sure the trustee has the capabilities to perform well for your beneficiaries before naming a trustee. This includes conflicts within the family that

may arise out of some of the guidelines you establish in the trust.

Keep in mind that an incentive trust is not a cure-all for your estate plan—or for family problems. In fact, it may be unnecessary in many cases where your children don't need any incentive to act responsibly. For some families, however, it is a planning option that may produce favorable results. ♦

*Kurt A. Kunsch has been advising affluent families for more than 15 years. His dedication to superior*

*client service through sound business practices has established him as a leader in his field. To learn more please call 610-935-8304.*

*Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust does not provide legal, tax or accounting advice. We encourage you to discuss these strategies with your tax and legal advisors.*



## Where You Go, We Go



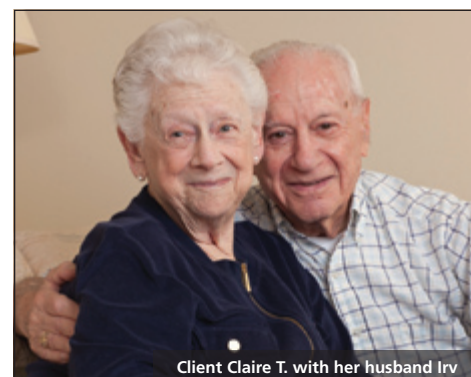
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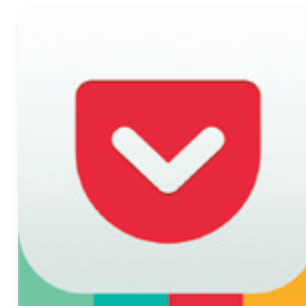
All the info and tickets are at [www.lancasterrootsandblues.com](http://www.lancasterrootsandblues.com)

## Good to Know

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

### Save It For a Rainy Day.

Find something online you want to view later? Put it in your pocket. Or **Pocket**, one of *TIME Magazine's Best 50 iPhone Apps of 2013*. Just download the Pocket link to your browser, save it to your bookmark bar, and sync away. If it's in your Pocket, it's on your phone, tablet, computer and everywhere you are. The best part? You don't need the Internet to view articles. They're saved in an easy-to-view offline format. A frequent flyer's new BFF. At [GetPocket.com](http://GetPocket.com).



### Sleeping With Steinbeck.

Literary fans rejoice! Maybe you can't escape from life's worries into your favorite novel (for long, anyway), but you can escape to your favorite author's favorite places. **AirBNB**—an online service that lets hosts list unoccupied apartments, houses and lofts—has long been a backpacker's secret. Now you can use the service to satisfy your inner-bibliophile's need for a vacation. Spend the night in John Steinbeck's cottage in Pacific Grove, a weekend in Charles Dickens' London workspace, and even Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald's Montgomery, Alabama home. Check [AirBNB.com](http://AirBNB.com) and search by author's name.



### The Exhibit Has Left the Building.

But the exhibit is still available for viewing. Online, that is. **Winterthur Museum** has expanded its popular Digital Museum Collection to include **Online Exhibitions**, where you can explore more of collections, past exhibitions and digital collaborations with other institutions, all from your very own home. One of our favorites—*Uncorked! Wine, Objects and Tradition*. Want even more Winterthur? Our March issue takes you behind the scene of the "Downton Abbey" exhibit. Can't wait? Visit [Winterthur.org](http://Winterthur.org).

### Go Red!

This February women across America are turning red. For their children, their parents, their pets, and most important, for themselves. Why? Because one woman dies every minute from a heart-related illness. **The American Heart Association's Go Red Movement** was created by women, for women, and the mission is simple: to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Visit [GoRedForWomen.org](http://GoRedForWomen.org) for myths, misconceptions, information and inspiration. What are you going red for?



### WASSUP?!

Millions of Americans gather around their TVs this month for one of the most anticipated televised events of the year. We're not talking about the Superbowl ... exactly. But **Superbowl Commercials**. While they may annoy us, these advertisements have become a cultural phenomenon with favorite bits from high-profile names like Apple, Budweiser and VW (remember the Darth Vader kid?). Pick your favorites by logging on to [NFL.com/Superbowl/48/Commercials](http://NFL.com/Superbowl/48/Commercials) and voting during the game.



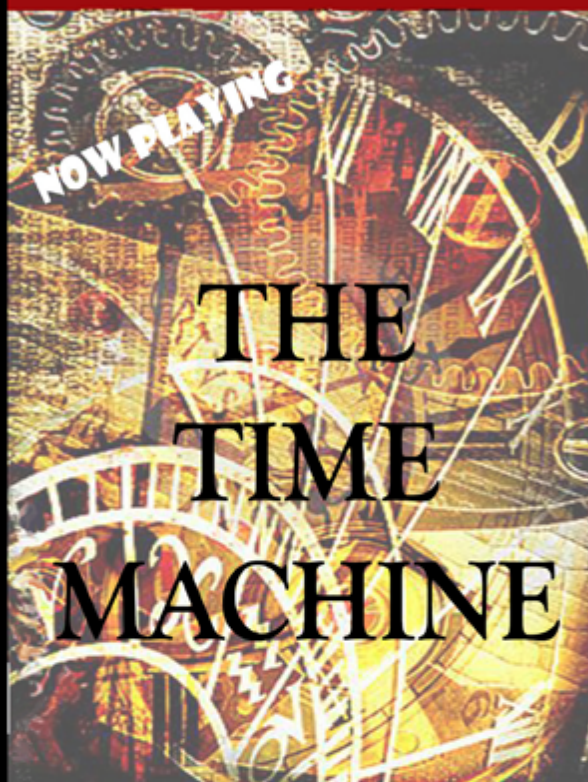


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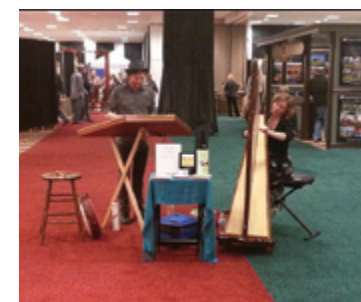
REHABILITATION

## of Special Note

### Designer Craftsmen & Historic Home Show

February 28–March 2

The Designer Craftsmen Show features the highest quality in fine art, traditional crafts, folk art, museum-quality replicas, original artworks and fine furniture reproductions. The Historic Home Show is a resource for restoring, renovating and preserving our nation's architectural heritage. *Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Opening preview, Fri., 6 to 9 p.m., enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres, \$20 (good/3 days). Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$12. 800-782-1253; HistoricHomeShows.com.*



### 6th Annual Paint-Out Chadds Ford

February 8

The Chadds Ford Historical Society hosts the winter Plein Air event with artists from the Mid-Atlantic region. 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. *Exclusive Preview—wine and*

*cheese with the artists and Wet Paint Sale, 5 to 6 p.m., \$50/2 people. From 6 to 8 p.m., wine and cheese with the artists and sale, \$10. 610-388-7376; Chadds-FordHistory.org.*

### Lancaster Roots & Blues A Festival of Music

February 21–22

Break out of the winter doldrums and hear great live music. Over 50 artists perform at 6 venues, with 10 stages all within a few blocks of each other in downtown Lancaster. Check the website for locations, tickets and the fantastic lineup of artists. \$35–\$169. *Lancaster-RootsAndBlues.com.*



### Tyler's Pancake Breakfast and Maple Sugaring Celebration

February 22

Try your hand at tapping a tree and discover how sap is turned into syrup. Then on to the historic barn for an all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast. *Tyler Arboretum, 515 Painter Rd., Media. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$6-\$12; children under 3, free. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.*

### Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester County Presents *Patience or Bunthorne's Bride*

February 6–9

This production, traditionally set in the 19th century, transports the characters to a modern setting to explore the fickleness of fads and fashion. *Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre, Swope Music Hall, West Chester University. Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 2 p.m. \$7-\$19. 610-269-5499; GSSChesCo.org.*





# best Local Events

## NOTEWORTHY THIS MONTH

THROUGH FEBRUARY 7

**Academy of Notre Dame 41st Annual Fine Art Show & Sale.** Exhibition and sale of fine art in the Academy Mansion at 560 Sproul Rd., Villanova. Daily, noon to 4 pm. Free. 610-971-1630; NDAPA.org/ArtShow.



FEBRUARY 1, 9

**Salon du Chocolat and Kennett Chocolate Lovers Festival.** *Feb. 1*, the Salon features chocolates made by local chocolatiers, paired with fine wines and craft beers at the home of State Representative Chris Ross, 6:30 to 9:30, \$75. *Feb. 9*, the festival hosts contestants who compete in a variety of categories for the best chocolate recipes. Benefits United Way of So. Chester County. Kennett High School, 100 E. South St., Kennett Square. 1 to 4. \$5. 610-444-4357; KennettChocolate.org.

FEBRUARY 21-23

**Stomp.** Magnificent rhythms performed on unconventional percussion instruments fill the stage at this always-exciting, explosive show. DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Fri-Sat, 8; Sat-Sun, 2. \$35-\$70. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.



FEBRUARY 23

**Bucks County Designer House & Gardens Empty House Party.** Meet the 2014 Design Team and view their plans for the designer house and gardens at Serendipity Farm, 131 Pine Mill Circle, Doylestown. 2 to 5. \$25-\$30. 215-345-2191; BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

## ART & CRAFT SHOWS.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY 2

**ArtShow 2014 at Malvern Retreat House.** Mark your calendar for this show, where you'll find original juried artwork by more than 100 professional artists. Special feature of the show: "Abstraction—What's the Attraction?" featuring 15 abstract artists. Malvern Retreat House, McShain-Horstmann Family Life Ctr.,

315 S. Warren Ave., Malvern. Wed-Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 4. 484-321-2562; MalvernRetreat.com/ArtShow.

THROUGH MAY 18

**Calendar Art Exhibitions at Brandywine River Museum.** This exhibition introduces visitors to the once-thriving, lucrative business of illustrated calendars. Howard Pyle, Maxfield Parrish, Norman Rockwell and N.C. Wyeth

are represented with some of their best-known images for advertising calendars. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$12. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

## BRIDAL SHOWS.....

FEBRUARY 23

**Bridal Open House at The Farmhouse at People's Light.** A chance for couples to meet preferred vendors and sample light fare at this 230-year-old historic landmark that's surrounded by award-winning perennial gardens and boasts a ballroom with tented patio. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Noon to 4 pm. Free. 610-647-1631; FarmhousePeoplesLight.com.



FEBRUARY 23

**The Bride Guide to West Chester Showcase.** Future brides can speak with vendors, enjoy a delicious brunch, win great prizes and watch a "mock wedding" to see potential vendors in action. Chester Co. Historical Society, 225 N. High St., West Chester. 11 to 2. Free for brides and one guest; others \$10. To reserve space, TheBrideGuideToWestChester.com.



## DESIGN, HOME AND BOAT SHOWS.....

FEBRUARY 5-9

**The Atlantic City Boat Show.** Celebrate life on the water. Climb aboard hundreds of boats for every budget and lifestyle. Atlantic City Convention Center, One Miss America Way,

Atlantic City, NJ. Wed-Fri, 11 to 8; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 5. \$15. 718-707-0716; ACBoatShow.com.



FEBRUARY 20-23

**Suburban Home & Garden Show.** From kitchens and bathrooms to furnishings and contractors, find everything you need for your home. There will also be guest speakers and an Artisans Row. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Thurs-Fri, noon to 8; Sat, 11 to 8; Sun, 11 to 5. \$10; free for everyone on Thurs; 12 and under free. PhillyExpos.com.



FEBRUARY 13-16

**Greater Philadelphia Outdoor Sport Show.** Bringing the great outdoors indoors, offering everything related to outdoor sports. Greater Phila. Expo Center, Oaks. Thurs-Fri, noon to 8; Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 5. \$3-\$12. 610-832-1515; SportsShows.com/Philly.

## EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY....

FEBRUARY 1-23

**Brandywine Valley Wine Trail Member Wineries Present "Wine & Chocolate Month."** Bring your sweetheart and celebrate with 7 wineries of the Brandywine Valley Wine Trail as you enjoy delicious wine and chocolate tastings and other romantic events each weekend in February. Visit the websites for details of events planned at each winery. 866-390-4367; BVWineTrail.com.

FEBRUARY 22

**Kennett Winterfest.** Bundle up and enjoy winter brews from at least 25 unique craft breweries, live music and lots of fun. Tickets

include unlimited tastings and food. S. Broad St. between State & Cypress Sts., Kennett Square. 12:30 to 4 p.m. \$65. 610-444-8188; KennettBrewfest.com.



## EQUESTRIAN.....

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 2

**12th Annual Pennsylvania Horse World**



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## Local Farm Markets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

**Expo.** The nation's leading equestrian clinicians and entertainers come to the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg. Thurs, noon to 8; Fri, 10 to 8; Sat, 9 to 8; Sun, 9 to 5. \$6-\$12. 301-916-0852; HorseWorldExpo.com.

## FAMILY FUN.....

### ONGOING

**Delaware Nature Society Programs.** From kayaking to cooking, hiking and fitness, to birding and botany, you'll find a program for every season at one of their locations: Ashland Nature Center, Coverdale Farm Preserve,

DuPont Environmental Education Center and other area preserves. For more information, visit DelawareNatureSociety.org.



### FEBRUARY 8

**Make, Give & Take Family Event at Main Line Art Center.** Learn the craft of card-making and create get well soon cards for the pediatric patients at Bryn Mawr Hospital (and keep one for yourself, too). 746 Panmure Rd., Haverford. 2 to 3:30 pm. \$20. 610-525-0272; MainLineArt.org.

### FEBRUARY 14-16

**West Chester WinterFest.** Just in time to cure winter doldrums, this 3-day festival features carriage rides, ice sculpting, restaurant specials, luncheon and tours at the Lincoln Building and musical performances at select venues. Free parking on Sundays. For a schedule, visit DowntownWestChester.com.

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS.....

### FEBRUARY 28

**Wilmington Flower Market's "Denim and Diamonds" Casino Night.** Dress in sparkly denim for an evening of casino gambling, an auction, music, great food and fun. Benefits Delaware's children. Ed Oliver Golf Club, 800 N. DuPont Rd., Wilmington. 7 to 11. \$65. 302-477-0609; WilmingtonFlowerMarket.org.

### MARCH 8

**4th Annual Andy Talley Bone Marrow Foundation Mardi Gras Bash.** An evening of dining, dancing, casino games, auctions and prizes. Benefits bone marrow transplant patients and their families. Connelly Center at Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Ave., Villanova. 7 to midnight. Phone or visit website for ticket information. 610-401-7665; Talley-BoneMarrow.org.





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MARCH 8-9

**Junior League of Philadelphia's the American Girl Fashion Show Fundraiser.** Food, fun, raffle prizes, a doll salon and American Girl merchandise. Benefits the Junior Leagues Apple A Day Healthy Living Initiative. The Desmond Hotel, Great Valley Pkwy., Malvern. Sat-Sun, 11 am and 2 pm. \$55-\$65. 610-645-9696; JLPiladelphia.org.

## GARDENS.....

THROUGH MARCH 30

Longwood Gardens Orchid Extrava-

**ganza.** Escape the cold and enter the dazzling world of orchids with thousands to enjoy. 1001 Longwood Rd. (Rt. 1), Kennett Square. Daily, 9 to 5. \$8-\$18. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.



MARCH 1-9

**Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's 2014 Philadelphia International Flower Show.** This year's theme, "ARTiculture," highlights the combination of art and horticulture, and celebrates everyone from Michelangelo to Monet, Picasso to Pollock, and da Vinci to Dali. PA Convention Center, 12th & Arch Sts., Philadelphia. See website for hours. \$15-\$27. 215-988-8800; TheFlowerShow.com.



## MUSEUMS.....

FEBRUARY 8-MAY 25

**Delaware Art Museum Presents "Blessed are the Peacemakers."** Violet Oakley's *The Angel of Victory* is now in the museum's permanent collection and this exhibition reunites the piece with her preliminary studies. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$6-\$12. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

## MUSIC, DANCE, SHOWS.....

FEBRUARY 13-MARCH 1

**Longwood Gardens Music Performances and Dance.** *Feb. 13*, André Watts, 8 pm; *Feb. 20*, Venice Baroque Orchestra, 8 pm; *Mar. 1*, 2014 Flamenco Festival, 1 and 4 pm. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Phone or check website for ticket information. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

FEBRUARY 7

**Vox Renaissance Consort Renaissance Candlemas.** Renaissance Masterworks for voices and period instruments. Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul, 18th St. & Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., Philadelphia.



5 pm. \$10-\$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

FEBRUARY 15-MARCH 1

**Concerts at West Chester University.** *Feb. 15*, Black Violin, Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, Phillips Mem. Bldg. *Feb. 22*, An Evening of Traditional Irish Music and Dance, Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre, Swope Music Hall. *Mar. 1*, The Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus, Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre. Concerts at 7:30. \$15-\$20. 610-436-2266; WCUPA.edu/Live.



FEBRUARY 16

**Immaculata Symphony Youth Concert.** A funny and entertaining concert for children of all ages featuring the music of P.D.Q. Bach. Joseph Gehring, conductor. Immaculata College, Alumnae Hall, 1145 King Rd., Immaculata. 3 pm. \$10. ImmaculataSymphony.org.

FEBRUARY 23, 28

**Concerts at Community Arts Center.** *Feb. 23*, Tri-State Jazz Society Concert, 2 to 5, free. *Feb. 28*, Friday Night Live, 7 to 10, \$15. 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org.

FEBRUARY 27, MARCH 1

**Point Entertainment Presents ... at The Colonial Theatre.** *Feb. 27*, Gaelic Storm, blending indie-folk with Celtic tradition, 8 pm, \$20-\$32.50. *Mar. 1*, Jim Florentine, popular comedian from Comedy Central and VH1, 8 pm, \$19.50-\$25. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.



MARCH 2

**Vox Ama Deus Bach Gala.** Soloists: Valentin Radu (piano & organ), Edward Schultz (flute), Robert Spates (violin). Gladwyne Presbyterian Church, 1321 Beaumont Dr., Gladwyne. 5 pm. \$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

## SPECIAL EVENTS.....

THROUGH NOVEMBER

2nd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

**West Chester Story Slam.** This is a monthly event where anyone can take the stage and

tell a five-minute true story based on the theme of the night. No notes, no props and no music allowed. Takes place at Side Bar & Restaurant, 10 E. Gay St., West Chester. 8 pm. \$8. For information and themes, call 610-429-8297 or visit SideBarAndRestaurant.com.

FEBRUARY 1

**Delaware Historical Society's Sesquicentennial Soirée.** Celebrating 150 years of historic accomplishments, the evening features dinner and dancing at the historic courthouse on Rodney Square, 1000 N. King St.,

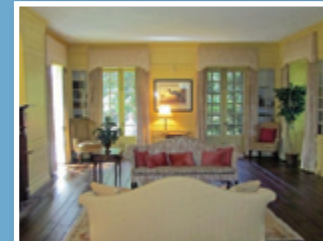
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Wilmington. 6 pm. \$125. 302-295-2392; DEHistory.org.



## THEATER.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY 9

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

THROUGH FEBRUARY 16

**The Diary of Anne Frank.** Dramatic and ultimately inspiring, this is one of the most beloved plays of all time. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Phone or check website for curtain times. \$25-\$42. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 30

**Why Do Fools Fall In Love?** The strength of true friendship and classic songs from the '60s make this a must-see. Media Theatre

for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Call for curtain times. \$25-\$42. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 30

**Pride & Prejudice.** A new dance-filled adaptation of Jane Austen's masterpiece. People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Sun, 7; Wed, Sat, Sun, 2. \$26-\$46. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

## TOWNS, BOROUGH, TOURS.....

FEBRUARY 7, MARCH 7

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

**West Chester,** 610-738-3350; Downtown-WestChester.com; **Wilmington,** 302-576-2100; ArtLoopWilmingtonDE.com.

FEBRUARY 8, MARCH 8

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



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)

## THEATRE SPOTLIGHT



# 20 YEARS

## February Brings Two Incredible Shows As Media Theatre Marks 20 Years

Over two decades, Media Theatre has brightened the theatrical landscape and now celebrates its 20th anniversary. Big names—Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Wanda Sykes, Andrea McArdle—have shared the stage with other national and local performers as the theater garnered honors and awards for its creative productions. With previous shows like *The Sound of Music*, *Rent* and *Chicago*, it's no surprise Media Theatre was recognized by the Delaware County Council for its cultural impact on the region. Offering musical theater (with a full orchestra) and educational programs for all ages, the theater has something for actors and audience members alike.

To mark the milestone, February offers two performances and the annual Gala on February 22. This special Gala will allow patrons and supporters to enjoy a memorable concert and a preview of the upcoming production of *Les Miserables*.

# IN THE MAKING

## The Diary of Anne Frank

This Tony award winning play tells the well-known and well-loved story of a young girl during a harrowing time in history when the Frank family hid from the Nazis in war-torn Amsterdam. Anne's diary records in moving detail her hopes and dreams, as well as her family's attempt to live a normal life in extreme circumstances.

Horrifying yet inspiring, the story can be appreciated by both children and adults as the message of hope amidst fear unfolds on stage. Watch the Frank family in one of the most dramatic stories ever told, January 29 through February 16.



## Why Do Fools Fall in Love?

For an entirely different story later this month, what begins as a bachelorette party quickly turns into a discussion of the love lives of four women. As the drinks flow so do the secrets as the women tell their stories through song.

You'll hear classics of the '60s as the women sing "I Will Follow Him," "Hey There Lonely Boy," the title song, and more in this upbeat production. Be reminded of the importance of friendship and how no struggle is too much with good friends by your side, February 16 through March 30. ♦

—Kim Zapfel

If You Go: For tickets and information, 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

## THE FARMHOUSE AT PEOPLE'S LIGHT

Join us for an open house!  
Sunday February 23rd, 2014  
12-4pm  
(No ticket charge.)



A premier venue hosting the most elegant weddings and special events in Chester County, The Farmhouse is a 230-year-old historic landmark surrounded by award-winning perennial gardens.

- Beautifully appointed ballroom with tented patio
- On-site event coordinator
- Customized menus

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[iovino@peopleslight.org](mailto:iovino@peopleslight.org)

## National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum

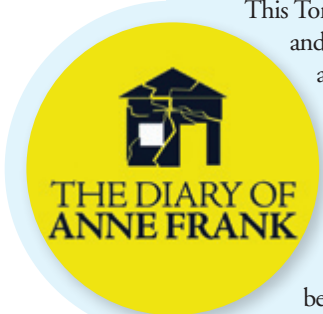
### Upcoming Events

**Goodman vs. Lukens**  
February 6th. - Black History Month Lecture

**The Coatesville Ladies Aid Society**  
March 6th. - Women's History Month Lecture

**8th Annual Rebecca Lukens Award Presentation**  
March 20th.

Open 10 to 4 Monday - Saturday  
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# TIP TOP TREES: Winter Tree Pruning Tips

Kirsten L. Werner, Natural Lands Trust

Yes, you read that right — **winter** tree pruning.



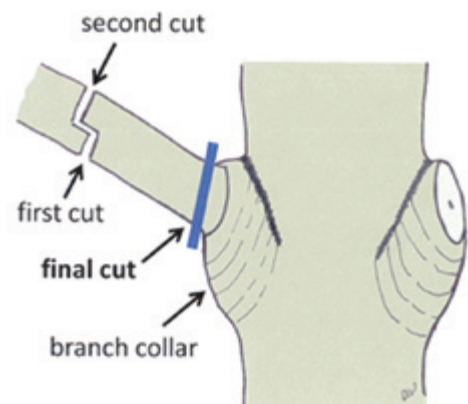
I know, I know ... It's cold outside and you thought outdoor chores were finished until spring. But it's the perfect time to give your trees some much-needed attention. So read on, sharpen your tools, and get to work. (Just don't forget your gloves!)

### Why Winter Pruning?

"There are several good reasons to prune a deciduous tree in winter," says Tom Kershner, tree management coordinator for Natural Lands Trust. "For one thing, without foliage, the tree's branching structure is clearly visible, so you can make better, safer cuts."

Photo by Andrew Keyes





Photos of Tom Kershner

Other compelling reasons include:

- The tree is dormant, which means it won't "bleed" sap from fresh cuts. (There are some exceptions to this, so read on.)
- Smart pruning can help a tree better withstand the effects of snow, wind and ice that can snap branches.
- Winter pruning results in a vigorous burst of new growth in the spring.

Though winter pruning is a good idea for most deciduous trees, oak species in par-

ticular should only be pruned then. Freshly cut oak emits an odor that attracts certain beetles to the wound sites. These insects can carry fungal spores from other trees afflicted with oak wilt, a serious disease that often kills infected trees. Because beetles hibernate during winter, they're unlikely to cause this problem.

Several other varieties of trees are also less likely to contract diseases when pruned during the winter. Prune locust to prevent

stem canker. Prune apple, crabapple, mountain ash, and hawthorn to avoid fire blight. More good reasons for winter pruning.

### A Few Dos and Don'ts

Some tips before you head out in the cold with your tools.

**DO** cut at an angle that mirrors the branch collar—the furrow of bark where branch and trunk meet. "Trees don't heal, they seal," says Kershner. "A healthy tree

will respond to a clean, well-placed cut by forming a callus around the cut." The callus will eventually cover the cut, creating a protective barrier to disease.

**DO** cut large branches in three parts. First, cut off about one-third of the branch to reduce the weight. Next, undercut the remaining stub so the trunk bark won't rip when the stub falls free. Last, make the final cut from the top, beside (but not cutting into) the branch collar.

**DON'T** leave stubs behind. Instead, make clean, smooth cuts.

**DON'T** top your trees. A tree with a flat-top looks ugly, and it will grow weak, new shoots in place of healthy branches. Cut to the tree's natural shape and let it mature gracefully.

### Tools of the Trade

To avoid damage to your trees, make sure your tools are in good working order and the blades are sharp.

- Hand pruners are generally used to remove branches up to the size of your ring finger.
- Loppers are a better choice for branches of about two to three inches in diameter.
- Pruning saws are specialized saws, with widely spaced teeth, that handle branches up to about eight inches in diameter.

When you're finished your pruning project, take the time to clean your tools. You may even want to rinse them in a 10-percent bleach solution to prevent spreading diseases. Before putting them away, be sure the tool blades are dry to avoid rust.

### Exceptions to Every Rule

Your elementary school English teacher was right: there are, indeed, exceptions to every rule and Mother Nature has a few.

- Much like the veins in our body, the tree's vascular system transports sap, a sugary liquid filled with water and nutrients, throughout the tree via the phloem and xylem. If a cut is made in the trunk, the sap may start oozing out. Maple, horse chestnut, birch and walnut trees all bleed extensively, even towards the end of their dormant season, so prune these species in mid-summer after new growth has matured.
- Trees and shrubs that bloom in early spring should be pruned immediately

after their blooms fade. Some examples are chokeberry, flowering cherry, serviceberry and deciduous flowering magnolia.

• Most conifers grow in such a way that they require little or no regular pruning. Occasionally you may need to remove damaged or distorted growth. This light pruning is best done in late summer.

### Learn More

Join Tom Kershner for a hands-on tree pruning workshop on Saturday, February

23, from 10 to noon at Gywnedd Wildlife Preserve, when he'll cover the basics of winter tree pruning and demonstrate tool sharpening and oiling techniques. The workshop is free, but pre-registration is required through NLT. ♦

*Celebrating its 60th year, Natural Lands Trust is dedicated to protecting the forests, fields, streams and wetlands that are essential to the sustainability of life in eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. For information on preserves to visit, events and more, go to NatLands.org.*



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Jaimielynn Cooper

Chester County didn't always look the way it does today. In 1682 when the county, one of the first in Pennsylvania, was founded, the land was awash with dense woodland, lush forests and abundant wildlife. A summer haven for Philadelphians, the county became home to quiet country houses that soon sprang up, offering solace and quiet in contrast to fast moving city life. And so began the history of Welkenweir.



### Forging History

It wasn't long until industry too found its way here, on the backs of steel-made millionaires who saw their fortunes in the forests of Chester County.

Furnaces and forges quickly began to appear here. One of the first revolutionary blast furnaces used for iron manufacturing, Reading Furnace joined the many that soon made the county their home. Among them, Hopewell Forge and Furnace, Coventry Forge and Works, and Joanna Furnace.

The 18th century saw Pennsylvania's steel industry booming and becoming one of the driving forces behind the American Revolution and America's push to become an independent economic power. Iron also played an instrumental role in the American Revolutionary victory. This victory, however, cost more than money and soldier's lives. The land suffered as well.

By the beginning of the 19th century, although iron and steel continued to be lucrative for the United States, the way they were produced changed dramatically.

Furnaces across Pennsylvania and the forests cut to fuel their fires were left barren and abandoned. One of these forests, Hopewell Big Woods, which played a key role in the industry's expansion, suffered a long history of deforestation and re-forestation. No longer relying on massive logging, but instead



Rodebaugh addition under construction, 1940



Grace and Everett Rodebaugh, early 1940




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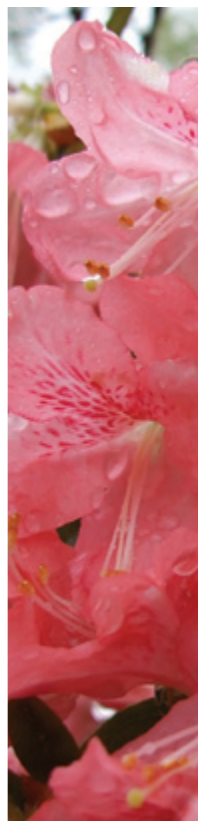


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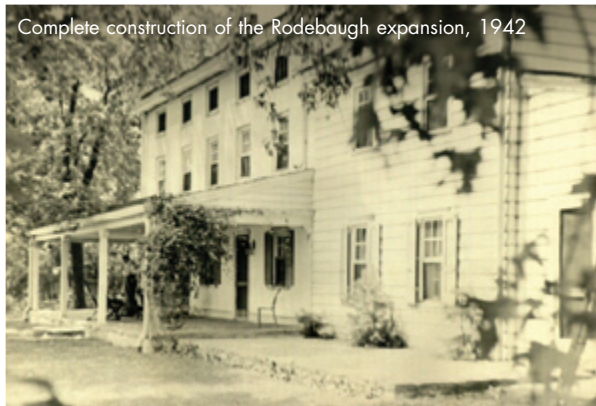




Original main house, 1750



Complete construction of the Rodebaugh expansion, 1942



Welkinweir foundation under construction, 1940.



using other means for fuel, forges prospered in Hopewell, while area forests were allowed to regrow.

### A Last Hope

In 1820, blacksmith William Morris purchased a piece of property, complete with a 17th-century log cabin and surrounding farmland, located on the fringes of Hopewell Big Woods.

Eventually Morris inherited the mill he worked for through marriage to the owner's daughter, Mary Ann Rea. Together they ran the mill and expanded onto the cabin, adding five bedrooms in 1830. In 1855, Morris's son Edwin took over operation of both the forge and the farmhouse's expansion, raising the roof and building an addi-

tion in 1865. After Edwin's death in 1898, the property was sold.

Over the next 30 years, the stone and frame farmhouse would change hands countless times, and both the house and land would bear the brunt of instability.

### Stability & Sustainability

The farmhouse and land were sold for the last time in 1935. Originally purchased by Grace and Everett Rodebaugh as a summer retreat, the investment was laughable. How could the couple expect to turn the crumbling house and declining lands into a vacation destination?

The Rodebaughs refused to see the property for what it was, but instead saw it for

what it could be. They set out first to restore the barren land surrounding the farmhouse, with plans for an arboretum and planting exotic and ornamental plants with the help of a Delaware nursery.

Soon after building a series of man-made ponds on the south side of the farmhouse, they hired architect Fridtjof Tobiessen, a close friend, to make their vision a reality. Known for his work designing civic buildings, Tobiessen was an unusual choice. However, he soon proved to be the perfect partner for this project, making the Rodebaughs' dream a reality.

The finished product is a two-and-one-half story Colonial Revival mansion, faced with stone taken from the property. While

previous owners had torn down and replaced elements of the original farmhouse, the Rodebaughs insisted it be preserved and restored. Their vision of placing the native land before invasive industrialism is obvious in the large windows and breathtaking views—elements the Rodebaughs insisted on.

By the start of World War II, Grace and Everett abandoned their Main Line home and moved permanently to their summer house. Grace called her new home Welkinweir, Old English for "where sky meets water," in reference to the reflection on the new pond's surface.

### Happy Ending

Today the land tells the story of Welkinweir. Acres of preserved land, once deforested and destroyed, turned to charcoal and burned, have been restored. Its 197 acres are a natural oasis, complete with wetlands, woodlands and meadows.

Exotic wildflower fields bloom from early spring through to the end of autumn. Colonies of trout lilies and rosebay rhododendron edge the pond.

Welkinweir itself sits in the land, instead of above it, as an artistic example of environmental concern and a gardener's love of nature. Large windows in the house face south, and make you feel as though you're walking outside when you've only just stepped in.

There's more: An Azalea Lane, with blooms cascading over a stonewall onto the driveway, mixed with dahlias and wildflowers. A Sunken Garden, countless trails and woodlands filled with native and ornamental horticulture.

Grace and Everett's dream extended beyond their home. In 1964 these conservation visionaries founded the French Creek Watershed Association which is now Green Valleys Watershed Association. The organization has worked to protect and sustain the ecologically diverse French Creek Watershed for 50 years. By partnering with Natural Lands Trust, Welkinweir is also protected and promises to be a living laboratory for future generations.

Driving down the winding roads of Chester County, it's sometimes possible to catch a glimpse of the way the county was in 1682. Perhaps the best views come

from the roads that lead to Welkinweir—an estate that was forged in steel. ♦

*Welkinweir is open to the public, for both house and garden tours, and its trails, which link with the Horseshoe Trail, are wonderful for hiking. For more information, or to plan a visit, go to [Welkinweir.org](http://Welkinweir.org).*

*Want to know more about Green Valleys Watershed Association's 50th Anniversary and their sustainability efforts? Visit [GreenValleys.org](http://GreenValleys.org).*



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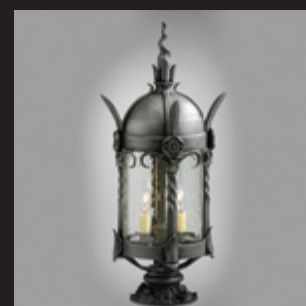
There are no simple answers, but how you approach your insurance program can affect what you experience.

### Insurance Evolution

The business of fire insurance—now homeowner’s insurance—has transformed dramatically in the last century. It began humbly, with fire departments and insurance companies working together.

In the English tradition, insurance companies owned their own fire brigades, and the homes that were protected displayed a ceramic or metal medallion called a fire mark. Although no longer required, these historic, very collectable emblems can still be found on several buildings in our community [see photos].

Today, not only are many more perils covered by home insurance (e.g., wind, hail, water, aircraft, vehicles), but there are also specialty programs catering to homes worth in excess of \$1 mil-



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## Covered or Not?

Under a standard homeowners policy, are you covered?

**Q:** If you decide not to rebuild your house after a fire, you can choose to get the limit shown on the policy.

**A:** NO. Not unless the policy includes a cash-out option.

**Q:** Out buildings, such as party barns, will be covered to their full replacement value.

**A:** NO, in general. Outbuildings are generally limited to 10% of the main house limit.

**Q:** Breakage of my collectables is automatically covered.

**A:** MAYBE. There are two different types of floater endorsement that apply: one covers breakage; the other doesn't.

**Q:** I have the right to choose cash or replacement on stolen (scheduled) jewelry.

**A:** NO. Most policies give that option to the insurance company.

lion. Offering a suite of value-added services, these programs feel like personal concierges managing your risk.

In addition to extended coverage, it's also about service: in particular, the right people. Well-trained company personnel that provide extra, complimentary risk management services and adjusters that settle claims quickly with no haggling over cost or requiring extensive documentation are standard. Once a homeowner has experienced this high level of service, the slight additional cost—sometimes as little as 10-20%—becomes almost irrelevant.

## Sometimes You Just Need to See It ...

For instance, I recall the day I insured my first \$2 million home. The property was in the rolling hills of Chester County: a newly constructed home of a well-respected physician. As he opened the door on this frigid winter day, I saw stunning entryways with extravagant marble flooring going from the two-story entrance into every room. Above, I noticed the stained tray ceiling with inlaid millwork and lots of detail. Even the outside porch had extra detail that likely took a skilled carpenter months on a scaffold.

But what stood out was the doctor: he was standing there in bare feet on marble floors in the dead of winter! Reaching down, I touched the floor and realized the house had radiant floor heat. More important, I knew this home would take much more than the typical \$175-to-\$200-per-square-foot cost to rebuild. It needed a higher coverage limit.

When you have a unique property, there's no replacement for having someone who understands its unique features and understands the

care you've taken to create a one-of-a-kind home, restore an old farmhouse, or renovate a historic inn. You're creating a certain ambience and lifestyle, and that's what you want to protect and recreate, if needed. And so the number one thing every owner of a unique home should look for is the re-creation cost obligation in the insurance contract.

## Cream of Coverages

When a homeowners policy specifies "the cost to replicate," rather than "like kind and quality," it means the insurer will work to help you recreate exactly what you had—not merely something similar.

For example, consider a home that featured unique woodwork but the equipment to make it is no longer available. An ordinary insurance company would suggest the homeowner find the best match from the local hardware store. But, when confronted with this problem under a "cost to replicate" policy, an insurance company paid to have the original tools remade. Similarly with mosaic, marble and tile: "recreate" includes expenses for a special artisan to do the work.

## It's in the Details

This cost-to-replicate coverage is why high-end insurers do detailed room-by-room inspections and document the homes they insure: to make sure the limits are sufficient to re-create what's there. One company even interviews contractors several times a year to update construction costs so estimates are as accurate as possible.

It's true that personal insurance for some is becoming more and more commoditized, as decisions for insuring your most personal assets may be made by phone with agents that have never evaluated your property. This might be acceptable for someone in an average home, but those with unique homes need to find specialized professionals and coverage.

Like hiring the right attorney, accountant or financial advisor, the process starts with interviewing the insurance broker. The broker will

## Historic firemarks



guide the selection of your insurer and contract. And to ensure that your unique home is adequately protected, the contract must promise to replicate what you might lose and provide you with the services you value.

Don't get lost in those details. Working with a qualified insurance professional to protect your one-of-a-kind investment for all it's worth will let you rest easy. ♦

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## Special Policy

Many specialized homeowners policies have extra coverages, such as:

- "Cost to replicate" (vs. "like kind or quality")
- Claim response within 6 hours; check issued within 48 hours
- Finding comparable temporary housing
- "Cash-out option" if you don't rebuild
- Waived deductibles
- Preferred contractor lists
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## Chester County Hearth & Home







# A Kitchen for a

# King

Matt Williams

Many area kitchens are ruled over and designed by the man in the house.

Think that a man's kitchen is all about cooking over a flame or microwaving macaroni and cheese? And that the décor consists of five unmatched mugs on the counter, a rack of antlers above the table, and a fishing pole by the door? Think again!

You may not find lacy curtains or doilies, but you'll discover amazing amenities in spaces fit for a king: rooms with sophisticated, sleek styling and high-end, high-tech appliances. When men who are the sole or primary household cook design their kitchens, they tend to create living and entertaining spaces that will welcome—and often accommodate—a major portion of the kingdom.

## Where the Kingdom's Feast is Prepared

In West Chester resident Patrick McCoy's newly remodeled kitchen in a century-old home, the coffee pot next to the sink—just one of many well-thought-out details—"is the first thing on in the morning and the last thing off at night," he says. McCoy, an architectural engineer, set out to create a kitchen where family, friends and three King Charles spaniels could hang out together while he and multiple chefs could use state-of-the-art stainless steel cooking appliances to prepare food for them all.

ABKToday





See what area kitchen designers can do in these photos of dream kitchens. Clockwise from top left: Sugarbridge Kitchen & Bath, Creative Nook, Inc., Simeral Construction, Madsen Kitchen & Bath, Sugarbridge, ABKToday, Creative Nook, Inc.

Its hub is a center island with an oven, six-burner stovetop, and overhead ventilation hood. It also has seating space at a granite counter where four people can talk to the cook, watch a flat screen television on the wall, chat with folks at a nearby large table or work at laptops. With a built-in power strip, McCoy and guests can pore over evening e-mail after pouring coffee.

### Built by Design

McCoy's kitchen is a textbook example of high-end kitchens designed for men, as described by Andrew Madsen, president of Madsen Kitchens and Bathrooms. The Broomall-based company, which handles kitchen design and construction all the way down to the plumbing and heating, has created numerous kitchens for men. According to Madsen, while women view a super-sized appliance as a "You-buy-it-you-clean-it" nuisance, men

go for 48-inch or six-burner cooking ranges and oversized refrigerators like the one McCoy owns for stocking enough food, beer and wine for guests. As for washing up, self-cleaning ovens are "in" and indoor grills for splashy ribs and meat are "out."

In addition to asking for high-functioning appliances with lots of bells and whistles, men more often request a modern or contemporary style, says Alex Hall, owner of Creative Nook, Inc., in Paoli, providing creative kitchen designs since 1979.

Again, McCoy's kitchen is the perfect model. Like an enticing invitation, the bright, open, modern room beckons people to enter. It is sunlit—with eight-foot-long windows above a window bench where the dogs lounge on sunny days—and illuminated with modern light fixtures.

The flooring is also light—hickory boards recovered from an old barn in Lan-

caster that resist scratches by the pups or traffic coming in from the back door. Light and neutral cabinets, some with floor-to-ceiling glass where wine glasses and china belong and some with a hint of deep green, also contribute to the airy, spacious feel of the large room.

### Putting Away Power Tools

Many men forego the chance to use their power tools and hire companies with expertise and time dedicated to getting the kitchen-remodeling job done expeditiously. No one likes the disruption of a home construction site—especially when it involves a living room with a refrigerator and microwave, and a bathroom sink that's the site for washing cereal bowls.

When Bill Stuckey, a resident of Oxford, renovated his kitchen, the project was a collaborative effort of Stuckey and a contractor. In the 1939 home that

once belonged to Stuckey's grandmother, Stuckey and the builder replaced an old wall, crumbling cabinetry and "ugly" linoleum flooring with new insulation and drywall, light-colored maple cabinets and weathered-looking hardwood floors for a simple, yet warm and welcoming look. Stuckey's design details for cooking convenience included an overhead rack for hanging utensils, a spice cabinet on the wall above the stove, and a knife rack built into the counter.

Mark Horst, cabinet shop manager at Simeral Construction whose custom cabinets are found throughout the greater Philadelphia area, has built cooking centers for men who want an area within the family kitchen, but separated from the female cook's domain. One such space used wood and décor that matched the main kitchen, but had its own sink, lighting, storage for the husband's mixing bowls and

a cabinet with a mixer lift—a spring-loaded mechanism that raises a shelf holding a heavy (and heavy-duty) mixer upon opening the cabinet door.

### Kingly Kitchen Devices

Designers and builders concur: appliances with bells and whistles and ultimate functionality are priorities for men. Great gizmos and king-sized cookers are the noble power tools of the kitchen.

J. D. Burkholder, co-owner of ABK Today—kitchen designer and builder based in Lancaster—lists amenities that men request when going for a \$60,000-80,000 custom remodeling job: monster-sized or double stovetops by Thermador, Miele self-cleaning double ovens with memory settings for favorite recipes, trash pull-outs—sliding drawers for containers for trash and recyclables, lift-up shelves and three-tiered roll-out spice racks.

### Other Regal Must-Haves

- Double-drawer dishwashers that can clean a regular or half-size load using less water and energy.
- Under-the-sink water purifiers by Seagull (a local company!) that reduce the expense and waste of plastic water bottles and are more attractive than faucet filters.
- Dimmable LED bulbs—now shaped more like traditional or chandelier bulbs, says Paul Banghart, owner of Kitchen and Bath By Design in Media.
- Smart power strips—a brand new invention with electrical and USB outlets to simultaneously run a coffeemaker, computer and food processor while charging an iPhone and iPad—no more tangled cords or adaptors wasting counter space.

The output from these kingly kitchens is likely to be a smorgasbord of gourmet dishes—not just rustled up grub—fit for a regal banquet. Get set to raise your glass... and your fork. ♦





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# Second Lives for Special Buildings

*Outbuildings, land forms, mature trees, gardens and orientation to the sun all contribute to the creation of an intimate residential setting. ~ John D. Milner, FAIA*

Matt Freeman

Houses, for all their variety, have one thing in common—they're the generalists of the architectural world, playing a variety of basic roles. All of them keep out the elements, provide a place to eat and sleep, and give you a place to take delivery on packages from Amazon.

And then there are the specialists—the outbuildings. A couple of centuries ago, these buildings had a specific job to do in the daily life of the times. Springhouses kept perishable foods cool, barns kept livestock in.

Today few people use spring houses for their original purpose, and keeping horses, while still an avocation for many, is no longer widely done just for transportation. But as a number of relatively recent projects done by John Milner Architects, Inc. shows, outbuildings still have roles to play. The Milner firm is widely famed for its authentic period renovation and traditional design, but life and architecture change with the passing years. Accordingly, some of the projects are updated versions of classic structures that continue to serve their traditional purpose, and others have been imaginatively transformed to be used in a new, but still specialized, way.

## From Cooling to Contemplation

One of the more unusual redirections in function was a project in which the Milner designers converted a springhouse on a large farm into a private chapel. Christina Carter, a principal with Milner, says a low shed in the building still is a working springhouse, but the owners saw “an opportunity to take over a portion of the building for this unique function.” On the outside it's fieldstone and shingles, with rounded door and window tops, set at the bottom of a hill near a narrow stream. But the interior of the chapel has unadorned white walls, spare wooden furniture that harks back across the centuries, and an austere serenity that fits its new role

Although it retains part of its function as a springhouse, this outbuilding now serves as a family chapel.







### Barn for Entertaining

The Barn for Entertaining or “Party Barn” project gives a traditional structure, in this case a Gothic-style barn, a new role to play. Carter said the barn had gone downhill over the years, but the owners “saw the original charm underneath that,” especially the beauty of the wood. The designers saved as much of the original material as possible and added salvaged 19th-century wood where necessary.

Edward Wheeler, a Milner senior associate, says that like many owners who don’t want to keep animals in the barn, the owners of this particular barn converted it into a space for socializing.

The large interior glows with golden wood from the floor to the vaulted ceiling. A chandelier hovers high above a seating area with leather-upholstered couches and easy chairs, and a bar occupies one corner. Carter points out the party barn concept is convenient for socializing, since the space is designed specifically for that, and it gives the homeowners a chance to take a different aesthetic approach, often something less formal, more rustic and casual than the main house.

Providing second lives for old barns, party barns are prime spots for socializing—often in less formal settings.





**Working Barn**

P lenty of people in the area have barns for their horses, of course, including some clients of Milner’s who wanted a barn that would harmonize with their home. “It’s all function,” Wheeler says, “very much a working barn.” But don’t be mistaken—it’s also very much an attractive barn, with traditional fieldstone walls, wood shingles on the roof, and brick arches over handsome red-trimmed windows and doors.

The interior is just as refined, with carriage lanterns above a brick floor, wood paneling everywhere, including the sliding box-stall doors, and ironwork with a traditional feel throughout. Carter says it reminds her of the sort of barn you might see in the racehorse-breeding farms in Kentucky.

Barns used for animals can still be beautiful and well-integrated into the land, like this one.





Pool House



Pool Barn

## Pool Projects

The private swimming pool is mostly a 20th-century thing, but several Milner outbuilding projects built around pools are inspired by architectural traditions and the natural settings around them.

The Pool House takes what Carter calls an “English Garden” approach. The house itself is a dignified neoclassical building that looks out over a dark pool accented with statuary, more like a reflecting pool in a formal garden than a typical swimming pool. For another pool house project not pictured, the owners “wanted to have a kind of duality in the way it looked,” Carter says, because the house looks out over the pool toward the Chesapeake Bay, and the designers made the interior of the pool dark so the water would harmonize with the look of the bay waters in the distance.

In contrast, the Pool Barn is a straightforward structure in which a pleasantly rustic building provides the amenities for swimmers to enjoy the pool area without having to go back and forth to the house. The building shelters beneath a stand of tall trees, and a diving rock lends an old-time, swimming-hole flavor.

The Pool Pavilion project has two open pavilions topped with red-shingled hipped roofs and connected by a pergola. There are bathrooms for changing and a grilling area in one and open space for sitting and enjoying the outdoors in the other. Hardscaping extends outward so people can sit and gather, but the pool itself (not visible in the photo) is surrounded by grass. Wheeler says the idea was to limit the hardscaped area to keep the setting open and natural.



Pool Pavilion



Doesn't everyone want a garden folly?  
A fanciful decorative outbuilding.



## Garden Folly

In architecture, a “folly” is traditionally a fancifully decorative outbuilding, and this one is accordingly “whimsical,” Wheeler says, “something a little playful.” The idea was to create a pleasant space to sit and relax in with views of the owner’s garden and reflecting pool. The folly shows in the design, with a dash of Asia in the roof and a soupçon of the Near East in the exterior decorations, but Wheeler says the designers kept practicality in mind as well. A typical addition would have blocked some second-story windows in the main house, so the folly was placed farther out, more like a separate pavilion. ♦



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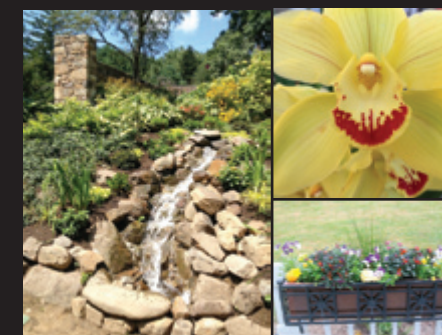
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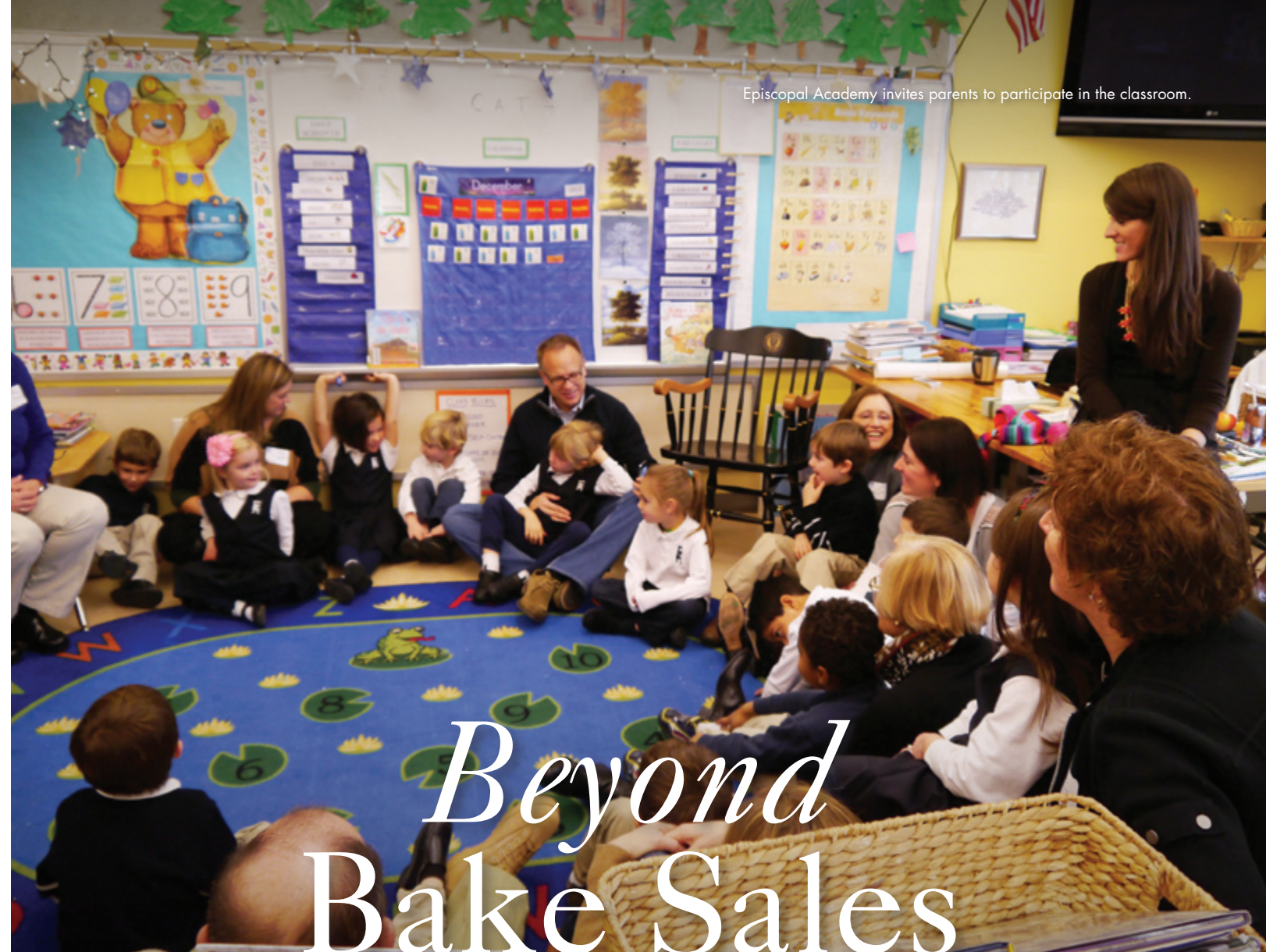
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Episcopal Academy invites parents to participate in the classroom.



## Beyond Bake Sales

Parents are key partners in education at independent schools,  
doing much more than baking cupcakes.

Cindy Walker

One are the days when parents popped up on school grounds only for the occasional bake sale. Today at area independent schools, parents are fully involved in their children's education. Parent participation is deep, broad and beneficial.

You may find parents visiting as guest readers and sharing the books they've read at The Agnes Irwin School, working next to their kids in a community garden at Fairville Friends School, or joining for morning coffee with the head of school at Rosemont School of the Holy Child and Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, among many other local schools that invite parents to engage regularly in two-way communication.

The doors are open and the welcome mat is out for parents to join schools in the important task of education.

### Key Partners

There's little doubt that parents have a positive impact on their children's education. Decades of research shows that the more parents participate in the education process, in a sustained way and at every level—as advocates, in decision making and oversight roles, as fund-raisers and boosters, as volunteers and para-professionals, and as home teachers—the better for their children's achievement.

Schools are well aware of the many benefits of parental involvement and endeavor to engage families. Our area schools have developed a variety of methods, and just like the old bake sales, PTAs—or their equivalent—are just a small part of that process. For example, last year Westtown School created a special Office of Parent Engagement, with a mission





The Agnes Irwin School's Science Symposium, parents are both audience and students as they learn from their daughters' presentations.

to support their Parents' Councils and provide parents opportunities to get to know one another, as well as faculty, staff and administrators.

Several schools have programs like the one at Episcopal Academy, where parents, grandparents and special friends may be included in the education team—a team that also has teachers, advisors and coaches among its members. And Delaware Valley Friends School requires parents to attend student conferences that are structured to prepare students for increasing levels of self-advocacy and independence they will need at the university level.

#### Positive Outcomes

When schools and families work together to support education, students benefit in many ways. They tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more. More specifically, research shows that with parental involvement, students earn higher grades and better test scores, and enroll in more higher-level programs; they attend school more regularly, are promoted, pass their classes, and earn more credits; they have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school, among other positive outcomes. Clearly a win-win!

And parents get great satisfaction from being involved in these important years when school is a central part of their children's lives. Plus there's peace of mind knowing what's happening during the long school day packed with hours of extra-curricular activities.

#### How Parents Become Education Partners

Schools invite parents on campus for a range of activities, big and small, but all with an emphasis on strengthening lines of communication, through conferences, visits, newsletters and online contact. With e-newsletters, website portals and parent pages, Twitter, Facebook pages, and even homework help lines, parents have many opportunities to stay connected with schools and learn about ways to participate.

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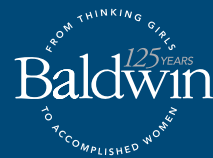




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full of happenings and upcoming events, volunteering opportunities and activities like parent trips to Broadway. Expanding social media contact with parents is planned at VMA and at most other area schools.

Parents are invited on-site as well. At West Chester Friends School and Rosemont School of the Holy Child, parents are welcomed to special presentations on parenting topics, like child development and cyberbullying. And while Tatnall School also sponsors speakers, it plans informal get-togethers to encourage family communication at breakfasts on campus at “Muffins with Mom” and “Donuts with Dad.”

At West Chester Friends School, informal activities include Family Game Night and Movie Night, treats for the whole family. And at The Agnes Irwin School parents become both audience and students at the annual Science Symposium as parents learn from their daughters who present science projects.

Partnering with Parents for Student Success, a new program at Benchmark School's middle school, focuses on formalizing home-school collaboration through parent/school discussions and much more. Wyndcroft School's parents are also active in school activities, such as “The World in Wyndcroft,” a week-long celebration highlighting a region that's part of the school community, with special classroom projects, themed lunches and all-school assemblies—all planned and supported by parents.

### Volunteers and More

Volunteering is an age-old but still valuable way for parents to stay involved. Wilmington Friends School boasts an almost 100-year-old Home & School Association, in which parents are active leaders in service and events like the annual Parents for Multiculturalism dinner and film night, programs that deepen students' experience and values.

You'll find Westtown School parents volunteering to chaperone field trips, decorate for school dances, host international students, and work on this year's FallFest, an event for all students, families, friends and alumni that was also open to the community.

Episcopal Academy sings the praises of its parent library volunteers and its community service program, with parents hosting EA's first annual “Alternative Gift Market” table at the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

At Tatnall's Spring Day Carnival, parent volunteers develop the theme and manage the event. And at Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, parents volunteer to moderate student clubs and share special talents, in addition to help with school fundraising events, such as the annual auction and golf outing.

Parent involvement in The Baldwin School's new DREAM Lab (Design, Robotics, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) is yet another example of the power of parent involvement. Beginning with enthusiastic parental support through seeking grants and fundraising, the new lab's appearance and design also benefited from parental input during construction. Further parent participation is planned for programming exercises, resulting in a lab better than the school “dreamed” it would be. ♦



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We offer a student: teacher ratio of 7:1. We serve grades 9-12. Please visit our open house held on the first Wednesday of every month from 8:30-10:00am.



6201 Kennett Pike Centreville, DE 19807  
(302) 655-3280 [LaytonPrep.org](http://LaytonPrep.org)



# Guide to Area Independent and Private Schools & Services with Open House Listings

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Bryn Mawr

#### The Baldwin School

701 Montgomery Ave.  
610-525-2700

[BaldwinSchool.org](http://BaldwinSchool.org)

The Baldwin School is an independent, all-girls college preparatory school for PreK-12 students. The school was founded in 1888 by Florence Baldwin under the traditions of academic excellence, integrity and community. Today, Baldwin develops talented girls into confident young women with vision, global understanding and the competency to make significant and enduring contributions to the world.

Feb. 9 at 2 pm; Apr. 16 at 9 am

Athletics Open House: Feb. 9 at 3:30 pm



### Chester Springs

#### Montgomery School

1141 Kimberton Rd.

610-827-7222; [MontgomerySchool.org](http://MontgomerySchool.org)



Montgomery is a nurturing community for students,

PreK-8th grade, that seeks to bring out the very best in each child, guiding and supporting them through childhood, preparing them to make the most of their secondary school and college experience and beyond. Montgomery students are inspired to explore and prepared to succeed.

Feb. 1: Adm. Winter Carnival at 11 am

Feb. 8, Apr. 5: PreK Visit Day at 10 am

Apr. 10, May 6: Open House at 7 pm

preparatory school for young men in grades 6-12, conducted by the Piarist Fathers and located on Philadelphia's Main Line. Through challenging academics, competitive athletics, devotion to Christian values, and a commitment to service, Devon Prep students are prepared to be responsible, compassionate leaders able to face the challenges of life with confidence.

*Scholarship Exam on Feb. 1 at 8:30 am*

*Open House on Apr. 27 at 9 to 11 am*

*Practice Entrance Exam on Apr. 27 at 8 am*

### Haverford

#### The Haverford School

450 Lancaster Ave.

610-642-3020; [Haverford.org](http://Haverford.org)



Offering a liberal arts education for boys in Jr. K-grade 12, in a challenging, supportive environment that fosters integrity, leadership, friendship and community. Prepares boys for life by emphasizing the joy of learning, the importance of self-knowledge, and developing full intellectual, artistic, athletic and moral potential. Numerous advanced electives and honors level courses, 16 varsity sports, and integration of technology into all aspects of the curriculum.

### Malvern

#### Malvern Preparatory School

418 S. Warren Ave.

484-595-1100

[MalvernPrep.org](http://MalvernPrep.org)



Malvern Prep is an Independent, Catholic, Augustinian college preparatory school for young men in grades 6-12. The all-boys education balances rigorous academics, deep extracurricular commitment, spiritual development, global citizenship and Christian service. Malvern Prep offers each student innovative learning based on timeless faith.

*Preview morning, Apr. 30 - 8:30 to 10:45*

*Practice Entrance Exams,*

*Mar. 15, May 3 at 8:30 am to noon*

### Devon

#### Delaware County Christian School

905 S. Waterloo Rd.

610-353-6522; [DCCS.org](http://DCCS.org)

Elementary campus, PreK-5.

*See listing under Newtown Square, PA.*

#### Devon Preparatory School

363 N. Valley Forge Rd.

610-688-7337

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



Devon Prep is a private, Catholic, college



### Country Day School of the Sacred Heart

480 S. Bryn Mawr Ave.

610-527-3915; [CDSSH.org](http://CDSSH.org)

Sacred Heart is an independent, Catholic, college prep school for girls, grades Pre-K12. Offering rigorous academics, comprehensive electives, performing arts and athletics (with ten PIAA varsity sports), students can engage in all facets of a vibrant education. Students are offered AP courses, integrated humanities and STEM curricula, Diocesan Scholars program, leading-edge technology, leadership development, summer international travel, and service opportunities.

Feb. 8 for PreK-12 at 11 to 1

### Chadds Ford

#### Fairville Friends School

216 Pond View Dr.

610-388-1268

[FairvilleFriends.org](http://FairvilleFriends.org)

Fairville Friends is a small Quaker preschool and kindergarten, serving children ages 24 months to 6 years, located in a charming, 100-year-old farmhouse on 2.5 acres of fenced play yards, gardens and meadows.

Feb. 27, Mar. 26 at 9 to 10:30 am

Mar. 30 at 2 to 4 pm



## Woodlynde School

College Prep for Diverse Learning Styles  
Grades K-12 • Coed

*Where Great Minds...*



*...Learn Differently*

UPCOMING OPEN HOUSES  
February 11 • March 11 • April 8  
at 8:45 a.m.

[www.woodlynde.org/admissions](http://www.woodlynde.org/admissions)

445 Upper Gulph Road, Strafford, PA 19087

## PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

SMALL CLASS SIZE  
OUTDOOR LEARNING  
QUAKER VALUES  
ORGANIC FOOD PROGRAM  
LUNCH & SNACKS PROVIDED  
FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

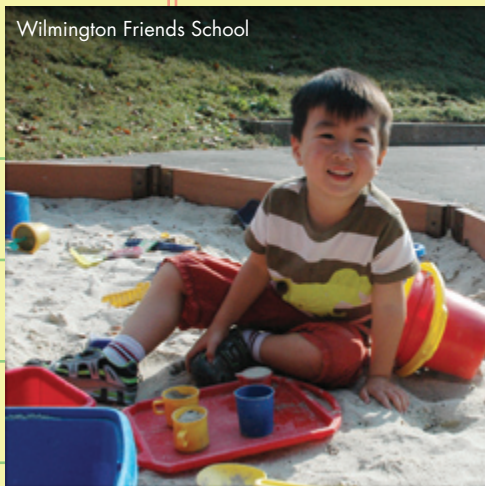
CHADDS FORD, PA

**610.388.1268**

[FAIRVILLEFRIENDS.ORG](http://FAIRVILLEFRIENDS.ORG)



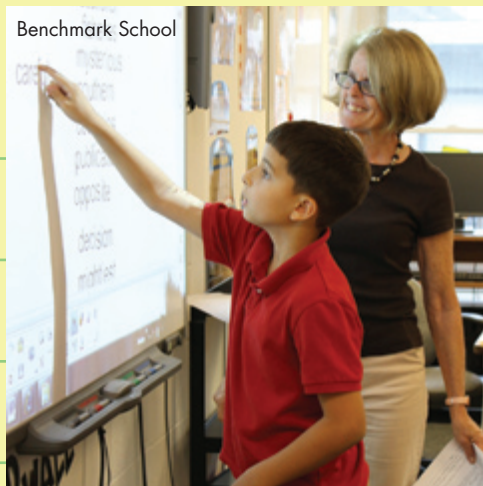




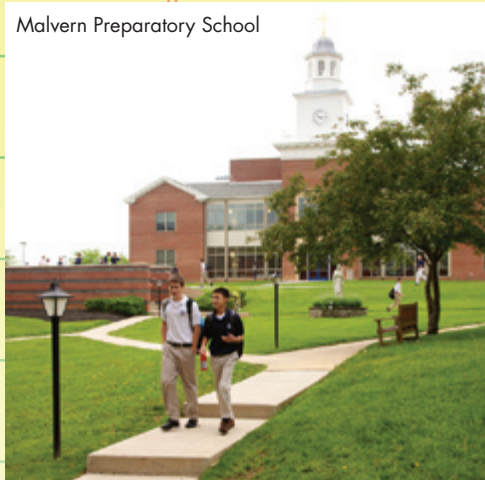
Wilmington Friends School



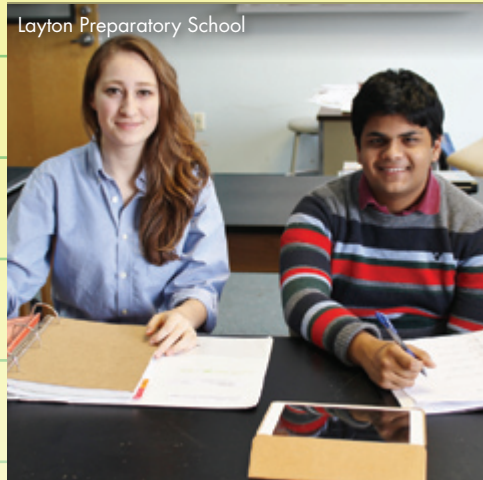
The Wyndcroft School



Benchmark School



Malvern Preparatory School



Layton Preparatory School



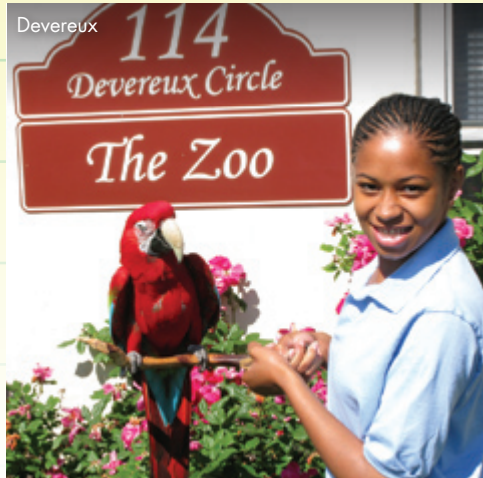
Montgomery School



Devon Preparatory School



The Haverford School



Devereux



Delaware Valley Friends School



Woodlynde School



Rosemont School of the Holy Child

### The Phelps School

583 Sugartown Rd.  
610-644-1754  
[PhelpsSchool.org](http://PhelpsSchool.org)

The Phelps School is an all-boys boarding and day school offering a diverse and safe learning environment where the faculty can provide individualized support and academic intensity. With a 70-acre campus boasting numerous athletic teams, an international student body and an average class size of 7, the Phelps School is one of Chester County's most affordable options.

Apr. 27 at 1 to 4 pm



### Villa Maria Academy High School

370 Central Ave.  
610-644-2551; [VMAHS.org](http://VMAHS.org)

Villa Maria Academy High School, a Catholic college preparatory school in the tradition of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, empowers young women to lead lives of spiritual growth, intellectual inquiry and Christian service. Villa Maria prepares young women to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Call for appointment

Open House: October

Entrance / Scholarship Exams: November

### Media

#### Media-Providence Friends

125 W. Third St.  
610-565-1960; [MPFS.org](http://MPFS.org)

Every day at MPFS, experts in early childhood, elementary and adolescent education craft meaningful learning experiences that encourage students to imagine, explore, question and create, while discovering joy in learning and acquiring the skills they'll need to make the world a better place. Learning is a journey... start here.

Feb. 7, Mar. 7 at 9 am



### Newtown Square

#### Delaware County Christian School

462 Malin Rd.  
610-353-6522; [DCCS.org](http://DCCS.org)

Delaware County Christian School (DC) serves 740 students in Grades Pre-K–Grade 12 on two campuses in Newtown Square and Devon. Providing a rigorous, college preparatory education within the context of a Christian worldview, DC offers excellent fine arts and athletic programs as well. For more information, visit their website.

Feb. 12 at 9:30 to 11:30; Apr. 6 at 2 to 4



## Genius Starts Here

### Dr. Terry Plank, Class of '81

Scientist and Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University



Awarded the 2012 MacArthur "Genius" Grant, volcano expert Dr. Terry Plank attributes much of her success to her education at The Tatnall School. "Tatnall was a superior experience. It gave me the confidence and motivation to achieve."

Dr. Plank is not alone. We've seen our top-notch teaching staff and inspiring curriculum ignite the spark in generations of young, impressionable minds. Light your child's educational journey and explore Tatnall today.

College Preparatory Education for Age 3 to Grade 12  
(302) 998-2292 | [www.tatnall.org](http://www.tatnall.org)

## StarPoint™

Guiding Children, ages 4-5, of All Abilities and Needs

Providing a positive classroom experience for the child who needs an alternative solution, and a specially-designed program that supports the development of the foundational skills needed to jump start his or her education.

- Tailored to each child through the development of a learning profile so learning experiences correlate with his or her specific abilities and needs.
- Aligned with PA Standards, the StarPoint™ program utilizes research-based curriculum for early literacy, writing and numeracy.
- Twice a week, students will have 60 minutes of group occupational therapy and 60 minutes of group speech-language therapy.
- Developed by a team of educators, occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists who have worked with young children for over three decades.



A Program of Valley Forge Educational Services

For more information or to arrange a tour, please call  
610.296.6725 x308  
[info@lumacenter.org](mailto:info@lumacenter.org)

1777 N. Valley Road, Malvern  
610.296.6725 x308

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



**Episcopal Academy**  
1785 Bishop White Dr.  
484-424-1400  
[EpiscopalAcademy.org](http://EpiscopalAcademy.org)



The mission is simple, yet powerful at Episcopal Academy: We inspire boys and girls to lead lives of purpose, faith and integrity. Located on a beautiful 123-acre campus, Episcopal features a widely-respected academic program as well as excellence in the arts and athletics.

*All School: Apr. 10 at 8:30 am  
Apr. 29 at 7 pm; May 13 at 4:30 pm*

## Phoenixville

**Renaissance Academy**  
40 Pine Crest St.  
610-983-4080  
[RAK12.org](http://RAK12.org)



A tuition-free, college-prep, award-winning, public charter school for grades K–12. Their mission is to prepare children for success as students, workers and citizens by providing them with a high-quality liberal arts, college preparatory education.

*Mar. 5 at 9 to 11 am  
6 to 8 pm*

## Pottstown

**The Wyndcroft School**  
1395 Wilson St.  
610-326-0544  
[Wyndcroft.org](http://Wyndcroft.org)



The Wyndcroft School is a coeducational day school for children in Pre-School–8th grade. They offer an academic program designed to establish a firm foundation for a happy and successful future. In a small class setting, the school fosters creativity, learning, personal integrity, determination and respect for others.

*Feb. 9, Apr. 13 at 1 pm*

## Rosemont

**The Agnes Irwin School**  
Ithan Ave. & Conestoga Rd.  
610-525-8400  
[AgnesIrwin.org](http://AgnesIrwin.org)



Spanning more than 140 years of excellence in all-girls' education, The Agnes Irwin School is a premier independent college preparatory school in the region for girls in grades PreK–12. Agnes Irwin fosters the intellectual and personal growth of girls and young women, preparing each student to lead and to enrich the world.

*Apr. 24 for Lower School at 9 to 11  
May 1 for Middle/Upper School at 8:30 to 11*

**Rosemont School of the Holy Child**  
1344 Montgomery Ave.  
610-922-1000  
[RosemontSchool.org](http://RosemontSchool.org)



Rosemont School of the Holy Child is an independent, coeducational, Catholic school that educates students from Nursery through 8th grade. Academics, arts, athletics, community service and spiritual awareness comprise the magic of Rosemont School, where children are prepared for success in a joyful, nurturing environment in which 98 percent of graduates traditionally are accepted at their first-choice high schools.

*First Wednesdays, through May at 9 am*

## West Chester

**West Chester Friends School**  
415 N. High St.  
610-696-2937; [WCFriends.org](http://WCFriends.org)



Academically enriched elementary education. Co-ed, The Friends Play School preschool, through 5th Grade. Students encouraged to "Listen, Learn, Wonder, Decide" in the con-

text of Quaker values: respect for all, responsibility to community, peaceful conflict resolution. Teachers guide academic, social, spiritual growth, caring leadership. Studio Art/Art History, Music, Science, Technology, Spanish, Sports and more. Financial Aid, BC/AC, 7:30 am to 6 pm.

*Feb. 5, Mar. 5 at 9 am*

*Open House / Science Fair, Feb. 26 at 9 am*

## Westtown

**Westtown School**  
975 Westtown Rd.  
610-399-7900  
[Westtown.edu](http://Westtown.edu)



At Westtown School, students transform and leave a lasting mark. Located on a 600-acre campus and providing an all-school global education program, Westtown's academic excellence and deep love of each student have made it the school of choice for thousands of difference-makers since 1799. PreK–12, coed, Quaker, college-preparatory.

*Apr. 21 at 9 am*

## DELAWARE

### Wilmington

**Tatnall School**  
1501 Barley Mill Rd.  
302-998-2292; [Tatnall.org](http://Tatnall.org)



Founded in 1930, The Tatnall School is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory day school situated on a pastoral 110-acre campus. Tatnall is composed of four academic divisions that enroll students from age 3 through Grade 12. Tatnall provides a balance of rigorous academics, athletics and the arts.

**Wilmington Friends School**  
101 School Rd. (Rts. 202 & 95)  
302-576-2900; [WilmingtonFriends.org](http://WilmingtonFriends.org)



At Wilmington Friends, students learn to engage complex issues intellectually and in action, in and outside of the classroom, with a sense of confidence and responsibility. Wilmington Friends serves students from age two through 12th grade, including students from New Jersey, Maryland, and 18 zip codes in Pennsylvania.

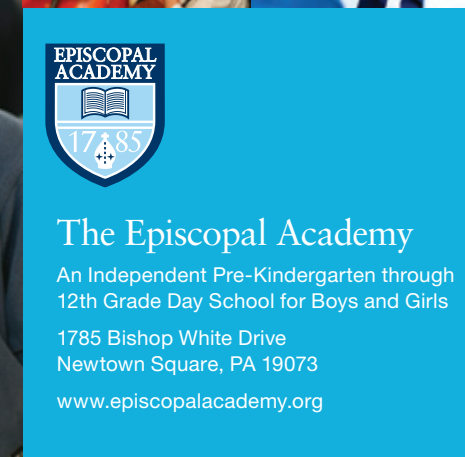
*Meet Us On Mondays: Year round at 8:30 to 10 am; 5 to 6:30 pm*



Villa Maria Academy High School

**Unmatched  
excellence  
in academics,  
the arts, and  
athletics...**

**Because you  
shouldn't have  
to choose.**

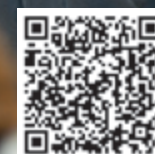


**The Episcopal Academy**

An Independent Pre-Kindergarten through 12th Grade Day School for Boys and Girls

1785 Bishop White Drive  
Newtown Square, PA 19073

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



Please join us for an  
**Open House**  
or call to schedule a personal tour of our campus

**Wed., February 12**  
9:30-11:30am

**Sunday, April 6**  
2:00-4:00pm




**Call Today: 610-353-6522 ext. 2285**

**[www.dccs.org](http://www.dccs.org)**

**REASON CRITICALLY ♦ ACT BIBLICALLY**






# Renaissance Academy


CHARTER SCHOOL

## Building Lifelong Learners

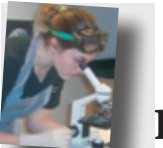


**K-12**

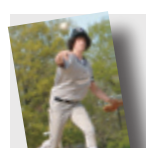
**Tuition Free**



**Small Learning Community**




**College Prep**




**Award-Winning Public Charter School**

**-OPEN HOUSES-**  
**March 5th, 2014**  
 9am-11am or 6pm-8pm  
*to RSVP for the Open House or to schedule a tour, visit our website at [www.rak12.org](http://www.rak12.org)*



**40 Pine Crest Street**  
**Phoenixville, PA 19460**



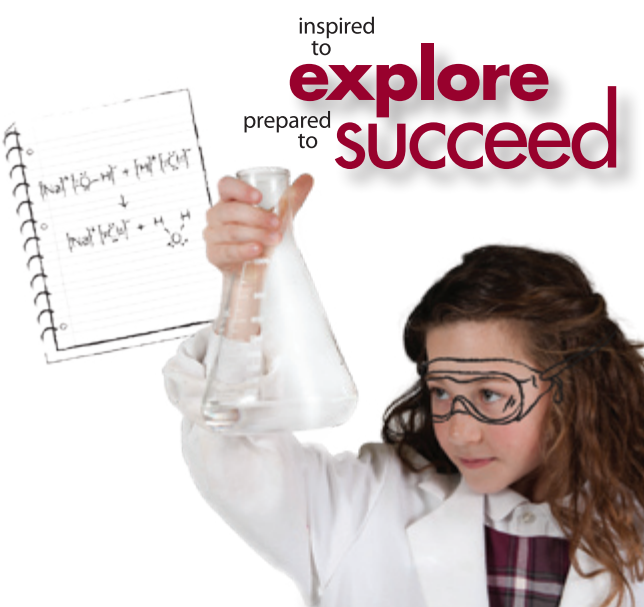
**[www.rak12.org](http://www.rak12.org)**

inspired to

# explore

prepared to

# succeed



**preK visiting days**  
 saturday, february 8th at 10:00 am  
 saturday, april 5th at 10:00 am

**open houses**  
 thursday, april 10th at 7:00 pm  
 tuesday, may 6th at 7:00 pm

To arrange a personal tour call 610.827.7222

**montgomeryschool**  
[montgomeryschool.org](http://montgomeryschool.org)

# Media-Providence Friends School

Preparing creative, compassionate, critical thinkers for a lifetime of learning and doing



**FIRST FRIDAY OPEN HOUSES**  
**FEB 7 & MAR 7**  
**9 AM**

challenge  
 opportunity  
 leadership  
 depth  
 engagement  
 small classes  
 inspiration  
 joy

Now enrolling students aged 3-Grade 8  
 Media, PA • 610.565.1960 • [www.mpfs.org](http://www.mpfs.org)



# DEVON PREP

Educating Boys • Graduating Leaders •

## OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, April 27 9 - 11 PM

## Practice Entrance Exam

Sunday, April 27 8 - 11 AM  
 9th grade practice entrance exam for 7th graders

**610-688-7337** **[devonprep.com](http://devonprep.com)**

*Devon Prep is a private, Catholic, college preparatory school for young men in grades 6 through 12 conducted by the Piarist Fathers and located on the Main Line.*

## LEARNING DIFFERENCES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION


### PENNSYLVANIA Conshohocken

**AIM Academy**  
 1200 River Rd.  
 215-483-2461; [AIMPA.org](http://AIMPA.org)  
 AIM Academy—Innovative Teaching. Fearless Learning. A grade 1–12 independent school providing extraordinary educational opportunities for children with language-based-learning differences such as dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia. AIM delivers a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum as well as a rich range of extra-curricular arts, music, clubs and sports.  
*Registration is required. Feb. 19, Mar. 13, Apr. 16, May 7 at 9 to 11 am*  
 If you cannot make an Open House date, phone to arrange a Friday group tour.

**Downingtown & Glenmoore**  
 Devereux. See Malvern.

**Malvern**  
 Devereux  
 484-595-6773; [Devereux.org](http://Devereux.org)





With 102 years of high quality programming and instruction, Devereux continues to offer excellent educational programs addressing such issues as Autism Spectrum Disorders, Learning Disabilities, Behavioral Problems, Serious Emotional Disturbances and Intellectual Disabilities. Small classroom ratios allow for individualized instruction in a safe, therapeutic setting. Using Positive Behavior Intervention & Support approach, community-based instruction and work study programs, Devereux helps students reach their full potential and return to local educational communities. An Approved Private School and is able to offer 4010s to school districts. Schedule a tour with the admissions office.

**Luma Center for Development & Learning**  
 1777 N. Valley Rd.  
 610-296-6725  
[LumaCenter.org](http://LumaCenter.org)


**Valley Forge Educational Services**, specialized educational services focused on guiding learners, ages 2–21 to independence. Educational programs are: **The Vanguard School**, **Vanguard Transition Center**, **The Luma Center for Development and Learning** and **Summer Matters**.  
 The Center is a place for families to find support and services for children with developmental or learning challenges. Offers early intervention, occupational and speech/language therapy, pre-school- and kindergarten-complementary pro-

# Devereux

Inspiring hope. Empowering lives.

Educational Day Schools  
 Assessments & Evaluations  
 School Consultation & Support

## Educational Centers of Excellence for Children with Special Needs



*In our 102nd Year of Quality Programming and Instruction!*

**DEVEREUX'S APPROVED PRIVATE SCHOOLS (APS):\***

- Devereux Mapleton — Malvern
- Devereux Brandywine — Glenmoore
- Devereux Leo Kanner Learning Center — West Chester
- Devereux Day School — Malvern
- Devereux CARES — Downingtown

\* 4010 funding available to school districts

**Devereux**  
 Inspiring hope. Empowering lives.

[www.devereux.org](http://www.devereux.org)  
[jbyrnes@devereux.org](mailto:jbyrnes@devereux.org)  
 484-595-6773 • 610-425-6309





Fairville Friends School



Renaissance Academy



PA Cyber Charter School



Media-Providence Friends School



West Chester Friends School



Country Day School of the Sacred Heart



Delaware County Christian School



The Baldwin School



The Phelps School



Tatnall School

## The Wyndcroft School

An Excellent Education in a Nurturing Setting  
for students in Pre- school through 8th Grade



Call for  
a tour!

The Wyndcroft School



1395 Wilson Street, Pottstown, PA 19464  
(610) 326-0544 - [www.wyndcroft.org](http://www.wyndcroft.org)

## THE PHELPS SCHOOL

Our many faces of success



OPEN HOUSE  
Sunday, April 27th | 1 pm-4 pm

[thephelpsschool.org](http://thephelpsschool.org)



Empowering Young Women Since 1872  
VILLA MARIA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

OUR *Promise*

FAITH • COMMUNITY • EXCELLENCE



We invite you to discover the VILLA advantage:

7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PRACTICE TEST

Saturday, April 5 • 9am - 12:30pm

Call the Admissions Office for More Information  
or to Schedule a Tour!

Register online at [www.vmahs.org](http://www.vmahs.org)  
or call Admissions 610-644-2551

370 Central Avenue  
Malvern, PA 19355

## Rosemont School of the Holy Child

Nurturing Excellence in a Joyful Catholic Community

15 athletic teams  
with a combined  
31 league  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
since 2007



Visit [rosemontschool.org](http://rosemontschool.org) to learn more

Independent • Coed • Catholic  
Nursery - 8th Grade





grams, social skills groups, tutoring/academic support, therapeutic services and private consultation. Day and evening. Ages:2-16.

## Media

### Benchmark School

#### Benchmark School

2107 N. Providence Rd.

610-565-3741; [BenchmarkSchool.org](http://BenchmarkSchool.org)

Serving students who learn differently, helping them become confident, self-advocates. Students typically arrive with labels such as dyslexia, auditory processing difficulties, ADD and ADHD. Benchmark develops an understanding of each student's strengths and challenges and uses this profile as a basis for instruction. Graduates know who they are as learners and can apply the strategies they develop here to take charge of their learning and meet with success in high school, college and their careers.

Feb. 6, Mar. 6, Apr. 3

May 8, June 5 at 9 to 11 am

## Paoli

#### Delaware Valley Friends School

19 E. Central Ave.

610-640-4150

[DVFS.org](http://DVFS.org)



UNLOCKING THE POWER TO LEARN

Educating students (6th–12 grades) with language-based learning differences, accredited by IMSLEC (International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council). Their Adolescent Literacy Program is designed for bright students who learn differently and exceeds standards in literacy education. DVFS offers a comprehensive research-based college preparatory curriculum, individualized instruction, leading-edge assistive technology, and an emphasis on self-advocacy within a nurturing and supportive community-based on Quaker values.

Registration. Required:

Mar. 5, Apr. 5, July 9 at 9 to 11 am

Feb. 9 at 1 to 3 pm; May 14 at 8:15 pm

Monthly Walk-In Wednesdays (no reg.):

Feb. 19, May 21 at noon, Mar. 26 at 5 pm

Apr. 23, May 7 at 9:30 am; July 23 at 10 am

## Strafford/Wayne

#### Woodlynde School

445 Upper Gulph Rd.

610-687-9660

[Woodlynde.org](http://Woodlynde.org)

Woodlynde School is a leading college-prep school in the region for students in grades K–12 who learn differently. Woodlynde students gain access to caring experts in education, thrive in a nurturing environment, benefit from specialized



Where Great Minds Learn Differently

teaching methods and strategies, rise to the challenge of a college-prep curriculum, and emerge with the tools and self-confidence necessary for success in college, career and life.

Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 8,

May 13, July 8 at 8:45 am

## West Chester

Devereux. See Malvern.

## DELAWARE

### Centreville

#### Layton

#### Preparatory School

6201 Kennett Pk.

302-655-3280

[LaytonPrep.org](http://LaytonPrep.org)

Layton Preparatory School expands educational opportunities for students who learn differently and those who seek an upper school program that focuses on the academic needs of the individual. They offer a challenging college prep curriculum designed to strengthen learning strategies, cultivate unique talents and empower students to successfully meet the challenges of higher education and life. Student: teacher ratio of 7:1. Grades 9–12.

First Wednesdays at 8:30 to 10 am ♦



# 906 music?

music excellence for everyone!

Try private study: 30 instruments & voice!

Join our summer camps & classes!

Attend a free concert!

FREE OPEN HOUSE FEB. 24 5-8 PM

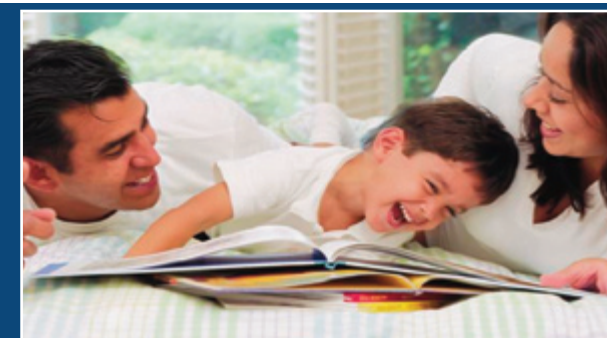
THE Music School OF DELAWARE

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

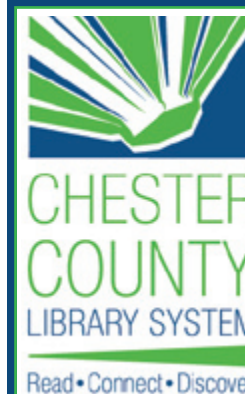
STATEWIDE LOCATIONS!

Wilmington 302.762.1132

Milford 302.422.2043



# Great Counties have GREAT Libraries



Atglen Public Library · Avon Grove Public Library · Bayard Taylor Memorial Library · Chester County Library & District Center · Chester Springs Library · Coatesville Area Public Library · Downingtown Library · Easttown Library & Information Center · Henrietta Hankin Branch Library · Honey Brook Community Library · Malvern Public Library · Oxford Public Library · Paoli Library · Parkesburg Free Library · Phoenixville Public Library · Spring City Public Library · Tredyffrin Public Library · West Chester Public Library

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

450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton, PA 19341  
610.280.2600

Read • Connect • Discover

# The Agnes Irwin School

## Girls in Action

### GIRL-BOTICS

Saturday, Feb. 8

## Tumbling Tots

Saturday, Feb. 22

## aRt Actually

Saturday, Mar. 15

Free and open to the public.

The Agnes Irwin School invites girls ages 3-9 and their parents to join us for a series of fun activities designed to engage girls in the ways they learn best!

For more information, visit: [www.agnesirwin.org](http://www.agnesirwin.org)



The gift of fearless learning.

Now, bright children who learn differently can learn fearlessly. AIM Academy delivers a rigorous college-prep curriculum as well as a rich range of extra-curricular arts, music, clubs and sports.

Grades 1 – 12  
1200 River Rd.,  
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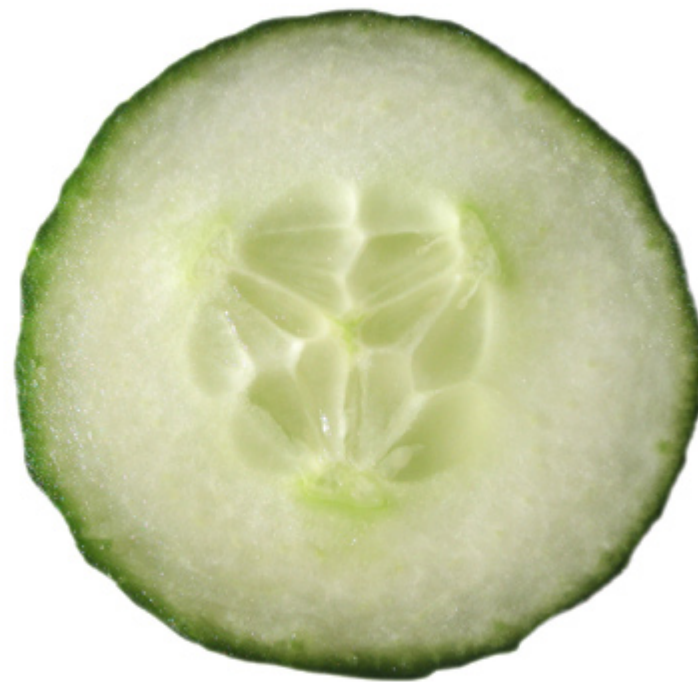
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# Winter Glow

*We're sharing secrets on how to have sun-kissed skin all winter long.*

Jane Gallagher



examine potential problem areas, from overly red skin to blotchy spots. From there, client concerns are analyzed and individually addressed, “ensuring that the right products and treatments are selected in order to ensure a beautiful result,” which is key according to the skin specialists.

## Shine On

Although you may not feel it, the sun still shines in the winter—and is just as dangerous, sometimes even more so, than summertime rays. Our skin has to combat the sun’s damaging UV rays during the winter when the strength of the rays can be magnified as they bounce off the snow. Combined with environmental effects like dry air in our homes and offices, winter conditions make our skin prone to a slew of unwanted conditions like scaling, cracking and peeling.

A trend at many spas, facials aimed at specifically addressing these unique drying conditions can work to counteract winter’s worst by recognizing problem areas, removing dead, unhealthy skin and restoring moisture and hydration. *Avante Salon and Spa* offers facials specifically designed to slow down the negative impact of environmental-related dehydration, providing immediate luminosity and vitality.

Treatment includes a careful cleansing, specialized toning, rejuvenating massage and application of essential vitamins that are often lost when our skin is dehydrated.

## Facials in a Fraction of the Time

There’s no better time to pamper your skin than now ... if you can find the time, of course. To meet their client’s busy schedules, spas now offer a popular solution—a lunchtime facial. And who wouldn’t choose that over a burger and fries?



For quick results plus a relaxing experience, *Allure MediSpa’s* Fire and Ice facial is a great option. Beginning with an intensive resurfacing peel (the fire), followed by a cool rejuvenating masque (yes, the ice), this powerful facial is designed to smooth, soften and safely resurface and stimulate your skin. All in about the time it takes to decide which topping you want on your pizza.

## Remove, Replenish, Restore

Finally, the secret to keeping your skin healthy and radiant all year long isn’t a secret at all. At least, it shouldn’t be.

According to Kristy Cole, owner of *Cole Wellness Spa* in Wayne, the key to having a glowing face when the mercury dips doesn’t start in a spa ... but at home. “The products that we use at home, and how we use them, make all the difference, especially the ones we use at night.”

Nourishing your skin with a moisturizer, toner and serum designed specifically for your skin type can pay big dividends and save you time, money and stress in later years.

Cole recommends following the 3 R’s:

**Remove** makeup with a soft cleanser before bed to unblock pores as step one. Step two is removing dead skin by exfoliating in the morning.

**Replenish** dry skin by remembering to compensate for the big chill outside and moisturizing often.

**Restore** the surface of your skin by applying a serum nightly, ensuring your skin is smooth, soft, clear and radiant when you wake up.

Most important, remember that healthy skin depends on a healthy body. Get a full night’s sleep, take a deep breath, and drink a tall glass of water.

Sometimes the simplest things can be the smartest. ♦

*Stay tuned for next month when we share how you can turn back the clock, and watch it at the same time, with quick spa and beauty treatments designed with your schedule in mind.*



# Dining Out

## JIMMY DUFFY'S CATERING

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Clockwise from top left:  
Goat Cheese, Orange & Roasted  
Beet Salad, Chocolate & Raspberry  
Torte, Chicken with Fines Herbes and  
Balsamic Glaze, Short Ribs Tian,  
Macadamia Encrusted Sea Bass with  
Red Curry Sauce, Insalata di Pera

### Lise Monty

His grandfather Jimmy Duffy, who started the family business in 1931, loved to hang out with F. Scott Fitzgerald. “They were drinking buddies,” says Pol Duffy, president of the highly rated Jimmy Duffy Catering based in Downingtown.

Pol enjoys sharing the celebrity buzz that’s a colorful part of his family’s food-service business history, but it comes second to his pride in the firm’s long-lasting success. Pol is the third generation, taking over in 1999 from his father Paul Duffy. He changed his name to Pol, the Gaelic spelling, to avoid confusion.

It was at the original Jimmy Duffy’s Café on Walnut Street in Philadelphia that the deal was sealed for Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra to provide the musical score for the legendary 1940 Disney film *Fantasia*. When Walt Disney and the famous conductor hashed out details at a Jimmy Duffy’s table, they probably never dreamed their art would become so beloved and prosper for decades. One can only imagine how many hits a Disney/Stokowski selfie would have generated.

There’s more. Famed socialite Hope Montgomery Scott, the inspiration for *The Philadelphia Story*’s Tracy Lord character, “was our very first client,” says Pol. “And we still do work

for the Montgomery family,” a high-profile example of the firm’s many long-term client relationships. “We’re doing weddings for the children of people whose own weddings were in the ‘70s.”

In December 2013, Pol and his staff catered a wedding for an 89-year-old woman whose first wedding was done by his grandfather. Now that’s loyalty! And it illustrates the company’s flexibility, consistency and what Pol calls “attention to detail ... whether we’re doing a very high-end event or the best BBQ in town.”

### Good Neighbors

Duffy has long-term relationships with area farmers, whose quality and abundance he praises. “My go-to guys are Elmer Stoltzfus and his protégés John and Ethel Stoner” for their consistent quality and resourcefulness. They came through when Willistown Conservation Trust wanted a dinner with “everything local and organic.” In May! Growing produce out of season was a daunting challenge, but they succeeded, using all their resources.

Duffy’s appreciation for the valuable contributions arts organizations and other non-profits make to their communities has him

eager to work with their varied budgets and special needs. He takes pride in Duffy’s long-time relationships with institutions like the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Chester County Historical Society and the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts in Wilmington, among others.

New and exclusive relationships on the books include Ardrossan Hall at the Radnor estate where Hope Montgomery Scott lived. Also, Excelsior Hall in Lancaster, part of the historic Sprenger Brewery that is being renovated. At the iconic Excelsior Hall, “We’ll have two floors and two outdoor venues for parties and events,” Duffy says.

### In Excellent Taste

The enticing array of clients’ favorites that Chef Marc Zaslow prepared for tasting showed that he’s a master who’s in tune with evolving culinary tastes. From the Amuse Bouche selection: *Wild Mushroom Ragout* with gorgonzola, richly flavored and a bit woodsy; bite-size *Shrimp and Dill Puff*; delicate and delightful; and *Asparagus and Pancetta Bundle* with perfectly roasted spears wrapped in crispy pancetta strips.

Salads included one tossed, one tower and

one timbale—each delightful. An artfully sliced pear poached in port wine graced the *Insalata di Pera*, its bed of mixed greens coated with a knock-out port wine reduction/white balsamic dressing and topped with crispy prosciutto bits and crunchy glazed walnut halves.

The *Goat Cheese, Orange and Roasted Beet Salad* was a colorful tower of refreshing and piquant flavors on sassy arugula greens. *Maryland Crab Timbale* was pure pleasure with its lightly dressed perfect round of beautiful crab topped with thinly sliced cucumbers and a pouf of micro greens.

*Short Ribs Tian* showcased the popular comfort food in an elegant presentation: neatly shredded bites of full-flavored braised beef atop mashed potatoes in a tower with a puddle of robust, red-wine sauce with Asian accents. Carrot sticks seasoned with a wonderful Moroccan vibe were the perfect partner, and a Parmesan crisp topped off the heap of good eating.

We were wowed by the *Macadamia Encrusted Sea Bass with Red Curry Sauce* with its plump, moist fillet and gently zingy sauce. Couscous and green beans were perfect in their supporting roles. *Chicken with Fines Herbes and Balsamic Glaze* was classy comfort food, with grilled asparagus and *Potatoes Dauphinoise*.

Every dessert made us happy. *Deconstructed Peanut Butter and Chocolate Torte*, a play of creamy vs. crispy, with two layers of pastry, one a crunchy rectangle of crust with almonds, the other Rice Krispies-like, with chocolate filling in between plus rich caramel and creamy Anglaise sauces. So many flavors, so little time.

*Goat-cheese Panna Cotta* is where creamy meets zesty and they fall in love. The cool white cheese and lively winter-berries sauce warmed with cinnamon and nutmeg were made for each other. *Chocolate/Raspberry Torte*, elegant and luscious, sported a beautiful dark chocolate coating, with perfect raspberry sauce and three sweet red raspberries. Also a chocolate-cookie spoon (yup!) dusted with powdered sugar.

### Family Matters

Pol’s wife Bernadette and his sister, Helene Wilson, are part of the 20-person full-time staff. Both work in marketing. Helene’s two children fill in on the firm’s 20-to-120 part-time staff. A continuing family affair.

### Destination Weddings. Here

Duffy has catered weddings for out-of-towners at the Chester County Historical Society—“they like its historic charm”—and Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts, a good “urban chic” environment, among countless venues in Chester County and beyond. ♦

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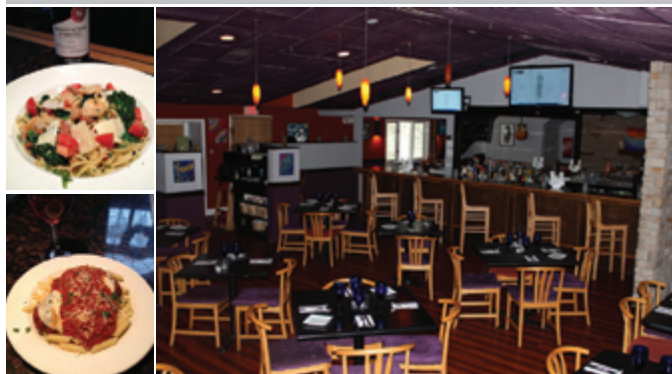
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## Food News

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

**On Trend.** Interested in food trends for 2014? Multi-tasking at the table is more popular than ever for some—so much to do and so little time. And so restaurants are creating one-handed eating options for those on the go. But another trend is **no cell phone zones** at places that value conversation and in-person companionship. Whether you want to save time or spend time with loved ones, there's a food trend for you. Visit [FoodChannel.com](http://FoodChannel.com) for more.



## Appetizing Apps.

We're big Foodily fans, but there are plenty of other apps for food lovers to get the latest recipes and food news. If you love to shop locally for in-season foods, try **Locavore**, the app that uses your location to find farmers markets in your area. For food lovers of a more traditional flavor, try the **Betty Crocker Cookbook** app that allows users to get classic recipes right on their phone. This free app lets you hold 9 thousand recipes in your hand! For more, visit your favorite App Store.



## Local Food Fight.

The Rotary Club of Thorn-dale-Downingtown has challenged the Rotary Club of Coatesville in its first **Annual Food Fight to benefit the Chester County Food Bank**. While the holidays bring in many donations, when the season is over pantries empty quickly and donations slow down. The Rotary Clubs provide collection spots so we can all help to fill the Food Bank as part of this competition for charity. Visit [Downingtown.DOES.com](http://Downingtown.DOES.com) for donation spots and info.



## Homebrewer Turned Pro.

Steve Armstrong has taken his love of craft ale to Phoenixville with his one-man brewery, **Armstrong Ales**. Since early 2013, Armstrong has successfully introduced beer fans to a mix of ever-changing flavors he's created. With several different styles and flavors, like Old Tosser ESB and Scrupulous Lupulus IPA, there's sure to be something you'll love. Soon, Armstrong's signature IPA will be on tap at Phoenixville's **Bistro on Bridge** and other spots. Follow his progress on [Facebook.com/ArmstrongAlesLLC](http://Facebook.com/ArmstrongAlesLLC).

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## For Love of Nutella.

In a month that brings us National Dark Chocolate Day and National Sticky Bun Day, join in to celebrate **February 5th as World Nutella Day**. You can keep it simple and spread the yummy chocolate hazelnut confection on a piece of toast for breakfast or dip a pretzel in the jar for a sweet snack. Or try recipes like Strawberry Wraps with Nutella, Bruschetta topped with Nutella and blackberries, or Nutella S'mores Pizza. More at [NutellaUSA.com](http://NutellaUSA.com).





# Soup, Glorious Soup!

Laura Muzzi Brennan

Yes, soup for you.

Soup is the menu equivalent of the little black dress. Gussied up for a soiree, dressed down for a casual party, it's your go-to, your old reliable, the ace in your apron pocket.

"Soul-warming comfort food in winter, cooling and refreshing in summer" is how **Good Spoon Foods** owner Kate Hartman describes the beloved bowlful. In the four years since she left her Madison Avenue marketing job to start her company, she's developed a following at farmers markets and restaurants including Rittenhouse and Bryn Mawr Saturday markets, Farm to City's Winter Harvest Buying Club, and Valley Forge's Café Fleur. To meet increasing demand, this spring Good Spoon will move from Wyndmoor to Fishtown into a larger commercial kitchen and small retail shop.

Good Spoon offers familiar seasonal classics such as butternut squash with apple and ginger; chilled sweet pea and mint; and many chicken soup varieties.

The Senegalese chicken and peanut stew and curried red lentil choices point to Hartman's international influences as does the sweet corn and poblano bisque that had me asking for her business card within seconds of my first spoonful.

How does a home cook achieve Hartman's lofty goal of highlighting ingredients in a wholesome way? "Start from scratch," says Hartman, "and whenever possible, use in-season ingredients at their peak of freshness."

(Hartman sources most ingredients from local farms.) Also, don't be afraid to season with salt and pepper. "I know people worry about eating too much salt," Hartman explains, "but if you make your own stock, you're already in a good place as far as sodium intake goes."

Like Hartman, Chef Jeremiah Smith of **The Brandywine River Museum** puts hours into creating quality soups. Each day, he offers two varieties at the museum's restaurant, which serves daily lunch and Sunday breakfast. For Smith, the secret to great soup lies in layering flavors. Many cooks begin that process on the stovetop, but Smith starts at the oven, roasting beef bones and lobster shells for broth and caramelizing mirepoix to tease out its flavors.

"Look to balance spice with sweetness," suggests Smith. He loves the zing of ginger in roasted carrot soup and a hit of cayenne in potato leek. Another favorite, Tabasco, adds complexity to his mushroom soup.

As for finishing touches, Smith has ideas galore. He adds lemon juice or zest to brighten flavors and drizzles honey or maple syrup for sweetness. For an interesting texture, he tops pureed soups with a smattering of vegetables. Think springtime cream of asparagus served

with sautéed asparagus tips. (For more "Soup Accessories," see recipe card.)

Eaten with a silver spoon or sipped directly from the cup, a satisfying soup, like your little black dress, makes you feel ready for anything.



Chicken with Rice Soup



Asparagus Soup



Crab Soup

## Cheese Crackers

*My friend Germaine adapted this recipe from one that appeared a decade ago in Saveur magazine. Just remember that a little cayenne goes a long, long way.*

12 Tb. (1 ½ sticks) butter  
1 ½ C. grated sharp white cheddar cheese  
¼ C. grated Parmesan  
1 ½ C. flour  
1 tsp. kosher salt  
¾ tsp. cayenne pepper or to taste

Mix all ingredients to form a ball. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least one hour.

Preheat oven to 450°. (Double check temp!) Roll out dough on floured surface to desired thickness (⅛" to ¼" works well.) Cut with biscuit cutter or cookie cutter.

Bake on greased cookie sheet until light golden brown around edges, Approximately 8-10 minutes. Number of servings varies depending on size of crackers.

## Basic Chicken Broth

*Some cooks brown the chicken and sauté vegetables before putting them into the water. I just throw all the ingredients into the pot, turn on the heat and let the wonderful aroma fill the house.*

3-4 lb. whole chicken or chicken pieces  
2 carrots, cut into large pieces  
2 stalks celery, cut into large pieces  
1 onion, cut in quarters  
2-3 tsp. salt  
Optional: bunch of fresh parsley  
5-6 qts. water

Put all ingredients in the pot. Bring to a boil. Then reduce to a simmer and cook, uncovered, until chicken is cooked through, 2-3 hours, occasionally skimming foam off the top.

Strain solids and either discard or shred chicken meat and use in soup. After broth cools, remove additional fat from the top.

Makes 2½ quarts.

## Maryland Crab Soup

*Recipe courtesy of Chef Jeremiah Smith, Brandywine River Museum. Chef Smith suggests making your own shellfish stock, if possible. If not, pick some up at your local gourmet grocer. Also, he prefers super lump crabmeat but says that backfin works just as well.*

## SOUP ACCESSORIES

Nothing's wrong with a humble broth slurped from a mug while lounging in pajamas. But on those occasions when you crave pizzazz, simply look in your pantry or refrigerator for these soup accessories:

- Pesto
- Olive Tapenade
- Salsa
- Grated Parmesan or Cheddar
- Cooked Bacon or Pancetta Pieces
- Chopped Nuts
- Crumbled Feta

- Crème Fraiche
- Sour Cream or Yogurt

Swirled in, dolloped on or sprinkled all over, these ingredients take soup from ok to OKAY!

And if you want to go one better, make the savory, flaky Cheese Crackers, recipe at left.

2 Tb. olive oil  
¼ C. chopped onion  
2 stalks celery, chopped  
1 clove garlic, minced  
Salt and pepper to taste  
2 qts. crab or shellfish stock  
1 tsp. fresh lemon juice plus more to add at end, if desired  
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
1-2 Tb. (or to taste) Old Bay seasoning  
1 bay leaf  
2 C. diced potatoes, small dice  
½ C. lima beans (fresh if possible)  
1 C. fresh green beans  
1, 28-oz. can diced tomatoes with juice  
1 lb. crab meat  
A few dashes of Tabasco sauce, optional

In a stockpot, heat olive oil over medium-high heat and sauté onion, celery and garlic with salt and pepper until tender and starting to caramelize. Season with salt and pepper

Add stock, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, Old Bay and bay leaf. Bring to a boil.

Add potatoes and cook till they are tender. Add beans. (You can also substitute carrots and green peppers for the lima and green beans if you like.)

Add tomatoes and stir in the crabmeat and extra lemon (if desired) until heated through.

Makes 12-16 servings.

## Lemon, Chicken and Rice

*This soup fills you up without weighing you down. Chef Smith likes to use basmati rice, but most other types work just fine.*

1 Tb. olive oil  
¼ C. diced sweet onion

¼ C. diced carrot  
½ C. diced celery  
1 green pepper, cut into small dice  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
3 qt. chicken stock  
2 C. cooked rice  
2 C. diced grilled chicken  
Juice and zest of 2 lemons  
Tabasco sauce, to taste  
½ tsp. lemon pepper seasoning

In a stockpot, heat olive oil and sauté onion, carrot, celery and green pepper with salt and pepper until vegetables start to soften and caramelize.

Add chicken stock and cooked rice. Heat on a simmer for 5 minutes.

Add diced chicken, lemon juice and about half the zest. (Add the other zest towards the end if you need more zip.)

Adjust seasonings with salt, pepper, Tabasco sauce and lemon pepper.

Makes 10-12 servings.

## Cream of Asparagus

*Recipe courtesy of Chef Jeremiah Smith. To deepen the asparagus flavor, Smith makes his own asparagus stock (recipe below). You can substitute with vegetable stock.*

4 bunches of asparagus, about 1 lb. each

1 Tb. olive oil  
¼ C. sweet onion, cut into small dice  
½ C. celery, cut into small dice, leaves and ends discarded or saved for asparagus stock

¼ C. leeks, white parts only, sliced thinly  
Salt and pepper, to taste

¼ C. butter  
¼ C. flour

3 qt. asparagus stock\* (see recipe) or vegetable stock



1 C. heavy cream  
Cayenne pepper, to taste  
1 Tb. butter

Snap the woody ends off the asparagus and either discard or save for making asparagus stock. Roughly chop the asparagus, reserving the tips of two bunches for garnish.

In a large stock pot, heat the olive oil. Sauté asparagus, onion, celery and leeks along with salt and pepper until vegetables are starting to soften and caramelize.

In a separate pan, make the roux by melting butter over low heat, then mixing in flour and cooking for 10 minutes until the roux comes away from the sides of pan and the flour flavor is gone.

Add the stock to the vegetable mixture and bring to simmer. Add a few ladles of stock into the roux and mix well so that there are no lumps. Then stir the roux mixture into the stock pot.

Purée the soup with either an immersion or a free-standing blender. Add cream and heat through. Add salt, black pepper and cayenne pepper to taste.

Lightly sauté remaining asparagus tips in butter and either add to soup as a whole or as a garnish to individual bowls.

Makes 10-12 servings.

## Asparagus Stock

*Making this stock is more artistic endeavor than lab experiment, as you don't have to measure ingredients. A great way to use up kitchen scraps!*

In a large stockpot, combine celery leaves and ends, a roughly chopped peeled onion, asparagus ends (the woodiest parts removed), 3-4 quarts water, salt and pepper. Simmer 40 minutes and strain out solids.

## Winter Beet & Apple Soup

*Sweet Gala apples mingle with earthy red beets and hints of fresh horseradish and dill for a vibrant winter soup. Recipe courtesy of Kate Hartman, Good Spoon Foods.*



4 lbs. red beets  
2 Tb. olive oil  
1 medium yellow onion, chopped  
2 tsp. minced garlic (about 2 cloves)  
4 celery stalks, diced  
5 medium apples (Gala or another sweet

variety), peeled, cored and chopped into large pieces  
2 Tb. fresh grated horseradish root  
2 qt. homemade vegetable stock plus extra for thinning soup  
2 tsp. salt  
½ tsp. black pepper  
1 Tb. fresh dill, chopped  
½ tsp. white wine vinegar  
½ tsp. raw cane sugar, optional

Wash beets and place in large pot. Cover with cold water and a pinch of salt. Bring to a boil and let simmer for about 30 minutes.

Drain beets and let them rest until cool enough to handle. Then peel (skins should come off easily by hand) and chop into large pieces.

Heat olive oil in a large stock pot or Dutch oven. Add onions and cook until golden. Add garlic and then celery, and sauté for another 5 minutes or so. Add the beets, apples, and horseradish, then the stock, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, then lower the heat and simmer, partially covered, for about 15-20 minutes.

Add the fresh dill just before blending with an immersion blender. Stir in vinegar, sugar, and salt to taste. Adjust the thickness with water or additional stock if necessary.

Makes 8-10 servings.

## Caldo Verde

*I adapted this recipe from The Nantucket Holiday Table by Susan Simon. "Caldo verde" means green broth. Portuguese settlers—many of whom worked as fishermen—introduced this hearty soup to New England. It's a belly-warmer whether you've been scouting whales on the icy seas or just ice skating at your local rink. Simon notes that the longer this soup sits, the more developed the flavors become.*

½ lb. chorizo, cooked or uncooked  
2-3 Tb. olive oil  
1 medium onion, chopped  
2-3 medium carrots, cut into half moons about ¼" thick  
1 stalk celery, cut into small dice  
6 C. chicken stock  
1 large potato, cut into quarters and sliced ¼-½" thick  
1 lb. kale, stems removed and chopped into bite-sized pieces  
1-2 Tb. sherry or red wine vinegar

If you buy uncooked chorizo links, remove the casings and cook on medium

heat in 1 Tb. olive oil in a large stockpot. (If you buy chorizo already cooked, just cut it into discs or small dice and set aside.) Remove chorizo from stockpot.



Add remaining 2 Tb. olive oil and cook onion, carrots and celery on medium heat until onion softens, about 5 minutes, then add broth, potato, kale and cooked chorizo. Bring to a boil and then reduce to a simmer.

Cook for 15-30 minutes until potatoes are tender. Stir in vinegar. If desired, serve with a cruet of vinegar so people can add in a few extra drops for more zing.

Makes 8 servings.

## Cheddar Cheese & Beer Soup



*My younger daughter calls this "fondue soup." I like my vegetables with a little crunch, but if you want them soft, cook them longer. This soup is best served immediately, but if you want to reheat, use a double boiler or a heavy bottomed pot set over low heat. Don't allow the mixture to boil when reheating.*

3 Tb. butter  
1 onion, minced,  
3 medium carrots, minced  
1 stalk celery, minced  
2 cloves garlic, minced

1 tsp. dried thyme  
2 Tb. flour  
2 C. chicken stock  
2 C. half and half  
1½ C. beer (I prefer a light ale.)  
Cayenne pepper, to taste  
4 C. shredded extra sharp cheddar cheese  
1 Tb. Dijon mustard  
Salt to taste

In a large stock pot over medium heat, melt butter. Cook onion, carrots, celery, garlic and thyme for 3-5 minutes. Sprinkle flour over vegetable mixture. Mix constantly and cook for 1-2 minutes until well combined.

Add chicken broth, half and half and beer. Bring to a boil. Then reduce to a simmer and cook for 5-10 minutes. Whisk in cayenne, cheese and mustard and turn off heat as soon as cheese melts. Season with salt to taste.

Makes 6-8 servings.

## Celeriac & Apple Soup With Blue Cheese

*Garnish with thin apple slices.*



3 Tb. butter  
2 C. sliced leeks, white and light green parts only  
2½ lbs. celeriac, peeled and cut into ½" pieces  
Pinch of salt  
2 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored and cut into large pieces (about 1")  
6 C. chicken or vegetable stock  
1½ C. milk (not skim)  
½-¾ C. crumbled blue cheese

Melt butter in a stockpot over medium heat. Add leeks, celery root and salt. Cook 4-5 minutes, stirring frequently. Add apples and cook 3 minutes.

Add broth. Bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer, and cook uncovered for 15-20 until celery root is tender.

Working in batches, purée in a blender or food processor until smooth. Return to pot. Stir in milk and heat through.

Off the heat, stir in the blue cheese and allow it to melt right into the soup. Alternatively, you can sprinkle it on top of each bowl of soup.

Makes 6-8 servings.

## Spicy Sweet Potato Soup

*If you want a spicier soup, use ¼ tsp. of both the chipotle and cayenne, but remember that peppers intensify as soup simmers and broth reduces.*

2 lbs. sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into ½-1" cubes  
4 cloves garlic, peeled  
3 Tb. butter, divided  
1 Tb. brown sugar  
1 medium onion, chopped  
J-¼ tsp. ground chipotle  
J-¼ tsp. cayenne  
½ tsp. ground cinnamon  
½ tsp. ground ginger  
1 tsp. dried sage  
6 C. chicken or vegetable stock plus extra for thinning  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Sour cream, optional

Preheat oven to 425°. Spread sweet potatoes and garlic in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet. Melt 2 Tb. butter in microwave in a small bowl. Stir in brown sugar. Drizzle butter mixture on potatoes and garlic and toss to coat. Roast until tender and starting to caramelize, 20-30 minutes. Set aside.

In a Dutch oven or stockpot over medium heat, cook onion in remaining 1 Tb. butter until starting to soften, about 3 minutes. Add spices and stir for another minute. Add sweet potatoes and broth to the onion spice mixture. Bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook for 15-20 minutes.

Working in batches, purée in a blender or food processor until smooth. Season with salt and pepper. Thin with broth to desired consistency. Serve with a dollop of sour cream.

Makes 8-10 servings.

## Creamy Tomato Soup

*One of my friends brings this to pot-lucks when she doesn't have much time to cook. Even in winter, she splurges on*

*fresh basil—the soup wouldn't be the same without it.*



2 Tb. butter  
1 C. chopped onion  
2 cloves, garlic, minced  
3, 15-oz. cans diced tomatoes, drained  
1 tsp. salt or to taste  
1½ C. chicken or vegetable stock  
½ C. white wine  
1 C. heavy cream, room temperature  
½ C. chopped basil

Melt butter in a stockpot over medium high heat. Add onion, cook until translucent, about 3 minutes. Add garlic, stir until fragrant but not brown, about 1 minute.

Add tomatoes, salt, stock and wine. Bring to a boil. Then reduce to a simmer, stirring occasionally until liquid is reduced by half, about 20 minutes.

Remove from heat and purée the soup with an immersion or freestanding blender. Return to pot, add the cream and turn heat on low until heated through.

Mix in basil immediately before serving or add to individual soup bowls.

Makes 8-12 servings. ♦

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

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



Photo by Jamie Lazarus



## Valentine's Style



1. Precision Set diamond engagement ring

2. One-pound assortment of milk & dark chocolates

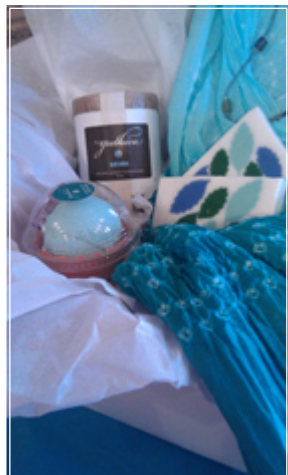


3. Silk gown with lace trim



7. Milk chocolate coated pretzels

6. Yuthica Nirvana wax candle & bath accessories.



## VALENTINE'S DAY gift guide

Fall in love with these gift ideas



5. Freshly dipped milk & dark chocolate strawberries



4. Hand-forged sterling and fine silver earrings by Hattie Weselyk.

**1. Walter J. Cook Jeweler**  
36 Chestnut Rd., Paoli  
610-644-5347, WalterJCookJeweler.com

**2. Christopher's Fine Chocolates**  
3519 W. Chester Pk., Newtown Square  
610-359-1669, Christopher-Chocolates.com

**3. Gie Gie Lingere**  
36 Chestnut Rd., Paoli  
610-296-7626, GieGieLingere.com

**4. Merchant of Menace**  
1351 W. Strausburg Rd., Village of Marshallton  
215-704-7419, MerchantOfMenace.net

**5. Bridge Street Chocolates**  
158 Bridge St., Phoenixville  
610-935-8100, BridgeStreetChocolates.com

**6. R-P Nurseries**  
649 Unionville Rd., Kennett Square  
610-444-1116, RPNurseries.com

**7. Herr Foods**  
20 Herr Dr., Nottingham  
610-932-9330, Herrs.com

## Wish You Were There

At some of the best fundraisers, local events and tastings of the season



### Kennett Square Mushroom Drop

The First, but certainly (and, hopefully) not the last, Mushroom Drop brought out a crowd to watch the fully-lit 700-lb. stainless steel ball drop from the sky.



### Chester County Historical Society's Autumn Benefit

The theme of this year's benefit marked the premiere of the exhibition, "Profiles: Chester County Clothing of the 1800s." Guests enjoyed wonderful food, an auction and music.



### 2014 Lemon Ball

Another sold-out crowd contributed to Alex's Lemondade Stand Foundation's raising close to \$900,000 at the 8th Annual Lemon Ball held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown.



### A Taste of Phoenixville

Food Fabulous Food! The Phoenixville Foundry was the site for this annual event, with over 25 restaurants participating for the benefit of the Good Samaritan Shelter.



### Whisky Tasting

If you were lucky enough to get a ticket, you tasted some fine whiskies, artisanal cheeses and outrageous chocolates, all for the benefit of the Classic Film Series at The Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville.



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For more than 100 years, Friends Home in Kennett has been a special part of historic Kennett Square. Here, we've created a community that's ideal for both our family of friends and the families who love them. Our guiding philosophy is to practice supportive care, giving residents the assistance they need while honoring their independence.

Supportive Independent Living residents have the comfort of knowing that they can receive personal care without having to move. Our dedicated staff brings the care to them. Focusing on quality of life, combined with a comfortable setting, makes Friends Home unique. However it is the residents who fill the community with their vitality and spirit that make this a very special place, indeed.

**Friends Home in Kennett**

Call (610) 444-2577 for more information or to schedule a personal tour.

Friends Home in Kennett | 147 West State Street | Kennett Square, PA 19348  
Phone: (610) 444-2577 | Fax: (610) 444-9129 | [www.friendshomeinkennett.org](http://www.friendshomeinkennett.org)

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