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From *the*
Editor



February is short and sweet with lots of reasons to celebrate—Superbowl, Valentine’s Day, Mardi Gras, Presidents’ Day, Chinese New Year, Kennett’s Chocolate Festival and my birthday (admittedly a smaller celebration).

For those invigorated by the month, you may enjoy reading “Winter Break: Time for a Family Getaway” to make the most of a long weekend. Pick a resort or State Park a short drive from home and spend your days in the great outdoors.

But if winter makes you want to cocoon, our Fine Homes issue will entertain. Tour an awarding-winning home in our cover feature “This New Old Home,” where Matt Freeman tells how a family got their dream Colonial farmhouse, complete with 21st-century amenities, like an elevator and cell-phone controlled tech.

In three more home features Emily Hart explains that size isn’t everything in “The Grand Small Kitchen,” Kirsten Werner shares the story of a six-year renovation saving Jacob House on Crows Nest Preserve, and Laurel Anderson spotlights a family-friendly home along the Pickering Creek Reservoir in our Home of the Month feature.

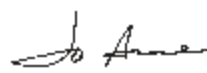
And we offer our “Where To Find It Guide” for the best local resources to help make your home your castle. Plus Laura Brennan focuses on the ultimate comfort food—casseroles—from Irish stew to beef bourguignon in Brandywine Table.

Since February is also a busy time for school open houses, Cindy Walker looks at what some of our local independent schools offer in “Exceptional Education.” Check out our “Guide to Area Independent & Private Schools” of open house dates.

Finally, some advice from the experts: Key Financial’s Patricia Brennan, CFP®, reminds us that last years’ market is no guaranty of future performance in “Avoiding Market Over-Reaction.” And Dr. Kevin Caputo explains Seasonal Affective Disorder, aptly called SAD.

As always, to make the most of the month check out Family Fun and more in our Best Local Events section.

Thank you for reading.


Jo Anne Durako
Editor

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

February 2015

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

On a local level, Patti, her husband, Ed, and their four children reside in West Chester, where she is also active in her community. Patti currently serves as a board member for the Chester County Economic Development Council, Cuddle My Kids, and for The Chester County Hospital and Health System.



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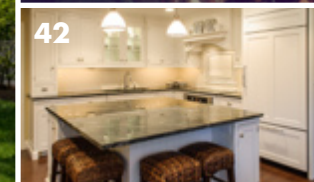
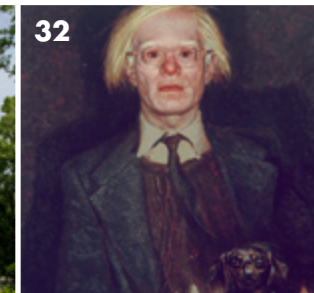
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Understanding Seasonal Affective Disorder

Kevin Caputo, M.D.

It could be more than just a case of the winter blues.

Many people are affected each year by Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), a form of depression that, as the name suggests, is directly related to the seasons. SAD is most common during the fall and winter, yet some people are affected in the spring and summer.

Symptoms of SAD occur during the affected months and get progressively worse. Then, once the seasons change, the symptoms disappear. SAD can be difficult to diagnose separately from depression. But fortunately once it's diagnosed, SAD can be treated.

What Are the Symptoms of SAD

The symptoms are very similar to those of regular depression, but they occur only seasonally. Symptoms can include feeling depressed, having low energy, feeling hopeless or worthless, losing interest in activities, as well as sleep problems, changes in appetite

or weight, difficulty concentrating, feeling sluggish or agitated, or having frequent thoughts of death or suicide.

Some symptoms are specific to either fall and winter SAD or to spring and summer SAD. Fall and winter SAD symptoms include problems getting along with other people, hypersensitivity to rejection, a heavy feeling in the limbs, weight gain and oversleeping. For spring and summer SAD, symptoms include trouble sleeping, weight loss and poor appetite.

Causes of SAD

There are several causes of SAD, and most are related to changes in your circadian rhythm, serotonin levels and melatonin levels. Most of these causes are a result of lower levels of sunlight, which is why SAD is more common in the winter.

Reduced sunlight can affect the body's biological clock (circa-

dian rhythm) and lead to feelings of depression. This change in our circadian rhythm can cause a drop in serotonin levels that can then lead to depression. Seasonal changes can also affect melatonin levels, which play a large part in mood and sleep patterns.

Testing for SAD

If you believe your life is being affected by SAD, you may want to see your doctor or a mental health professional. A physical exam, lab tests and a psychological evaluation can be used to determine if you're suffering from SAD. Sometimes, there can be underlying physical health problems linked to depression, such as thyroid problems, that appear in lab test results.

The most difficult part of diagnosing SAD through a psychological evaluation is distinguishing SAD from depression. *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-5), published by the American Psychiatric Association, identifies four main criteria used to diagnose SAD: depression that begins during a specific season every year, depression that ends during a

specific season every year, no episodes of depression during the season you experience a normal mood, and many more seasons of depression occur than seasons without depression over the lifetime of your illness.

Treatments for SAD

Because SAD is often caused by loss of sunlight in winter, a common treatment is light therapy, also called phototherapy. During this treatment, you sit close to a special light therapy box that emits a bright light that simulates sunlight. The theory is that your body gains the bright sunlight that it's missing during the darker months. This treatment can help with fall and winter SAD.

Medication is another treatment option for SAD, and many who suffer will benefit from antidepressants. Psychotherapy, or talk therapy, is a third treatment option, and it works in similar ways to treating depression.

Lifestyle Changes

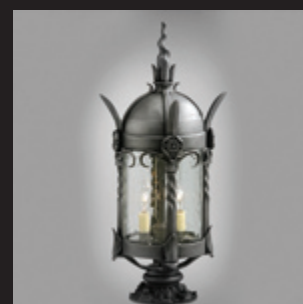
Lifestyle changes can often help those suffering from SAD. For example, you

can get outside more in the sunlight, and make your home environment brighter by opening blinds, shades and windows. Exercising regularly also helps relieve stress and anxiety.

Some over-the-counter supplements can help with SAD symptoms, such as a synthetic form of melatonin and omega-3 fatty acids, which have been shown to lower depression.

The most important part of coping with SAD is living a healthy and scheduled lifestyle. I recommend that you exercise regularly, eat right, reduce stress levels and socialize and surround yourself with people who can improve your mood. ♦

Board certified in adult psychiatry, Kevin Caputo, M.D., is a psychopharmacology specialist who has worked extensively in the areas of adult attention deficit, anxiety disorder and mood disorder. He currently serves as chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Crozer-Chester Medical Center and president of Community Hospital.



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Worth Knowing

Avoiding Market Over-Reaction

Patricia C. Brennan CFP®

What happened last year is not the best guide to what will happen this year.

A year-end summary of financial markets can often be far more interesting than it is useful or actionable. Advisors caution investors about using history as a guide to the future: last year's results are highly unlikely to repeat themselves. As trite as it may sound, financial success usually means investing for the long-term. Most importantly, it means not reacting (or overreacting) to short-term changes in financial data and news headlines.

That being said, I hope to be able to give you some information to help clarify what you read and hear.

Where the Markets Are Now

In the U.S., it's Goldilocks — just right — all over again: both the Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 are trading near

all-time highs. The economic stimulus over the last six years is finally taking hold as real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) has increased 5% as of the end of the 3rd quarter. Unemployment has fallen to 5.8%. Over 2008-2010, the U.S. private sector lost approximately 8.8 million jobs, but has added 10.6 million since then. We still have historically low inflation of 1.7%, compared to a 50-year average of 4.2%. Interest rates remain significantly below historical averages. At least, this was the situation at press time.

It just doesn't get much better than this!

Where the Markets Are Heading

Most advisors seem to accept that interest rates can't go down forever, or they can't go below zero. Technically, though, real interest rates can go below zero (and they have), but we don't think they will.

Janet Yellen, Federal Reserve Chairwoman, expects the Fed to start raising interest rates some time in 2015. So how will stocks and bonds react? In short, it depends.

In the beginning of a tightening cycle, interest rates and equity returns tend to rise together. Increases in interest rates prevent the economy from heating up too quickly—causing runaway inflation—yet stocks tend to love a vibrant economy.

If we keep the caveat about history in mind, stocks don't tend to react negatively until the tail end of the Fed's tightening cycle, when we start seeing signs that the economy is slowing again. Hopefully, it doesn't come to a screeching halt, otherwise known as a recession.

We do need to be wary of the bond category, but as always, prudence dictates not abandoning these important buffers. Often, certain types of bonds have negative correlations (that awful jargon) to Treasury Yields (particularly high yield debt, bank loans, and convertible securities). These asset classes may do well as rates are rising.

Why None of This Is Really Important

Ultimately, we rarely recommend drastic changes in asset allocation to take advantage of market outlook, because there are so many factors that could change the outcome quickly and quite dramatically. A market correction can wipe away gains within weeks. The fact that the economy and the market did so well over the last year is now irrelevant, and no one—including us—can predict the future with any degree of certainty.

Long-term trends are all that is important, as is your financial well-being over time. It will take every ounce of discipline not to move assets out of international and small cap stocks, and increase the U.S. large cap stock exposure. Discipline is your mantra here.

Your asset allocation should be determined by your employment situation, cash flow need, time horizon, risk tolerance and other personal factors, not necessarily market outlook and short-term economic indicators. If you need access to a certain amount of money in the next three years,

consider carving that out of your portfolio and putting it somewhere less volatile.

But don't suddenly shift out of stocks either! Even people who are retired should consider a portion of their portfolio as long-term, as 65 year olds have a high probability of living into their 90s. Those 25 years are a long time by any measure!

Let's make sure your money lasts as long. ♦

Patricia C. Brennan
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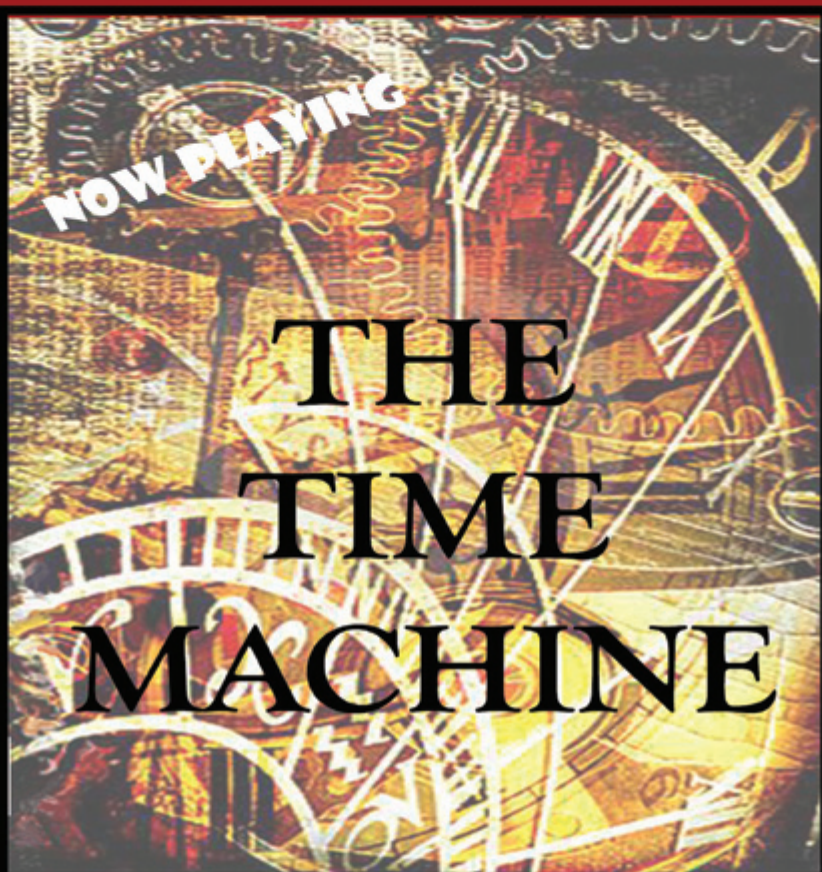
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Join us, as we enter our time machine and transform our community to visit amazing eras such as the roaring 20s, the wild west, and the victorian age. Adventure, entertainment, and education...The Time Machine.

This adventure is **Rated S** for seniors

At the Devon Senior Living, we believe the spirit of adventure and discovery is to be celebrated. Join us as we turn back the clock in February through April as we enter The Time Machine to rediscover past eras.

Stop in for a tour today
The Devon Senior Living
445 N. Valley Forge Road
Devon, PA 19333
610-263-2300
thedevonseniorliving.com



Good to Know

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

Another New Year. The Chinese New Year starts on February 19th this year and there's plenty to do to celebrate the Year of the Sheep, Goat or Ram. Visit the [Delaware Art Museum](#) on February 28th for Chinese art activities and see artist demonstrations, a lion dance and yo-yo performances. Or watch the annual parade in [Media](#), February 21st on State Street. It begins and ends at [Margaret Kuo's Restaurant](#). [DelArt.org](#); [VisitMediaPa.com](#).



Famous Phil.

If you're a Pennsylvania native, you probably know our favorite groundhog, [Punxsutawney Phil](#). But do you know his history of making weather prognostications since 1887? Fans say there's only one Phil, and all the other groundhogs elsewhere are imposters. A group called the Inner Circle, recognizable by their top hats and tuxedos, takes care of Phil all year round and plans his big day on February 2nd. Here's hoping for an early spring! Learn more at [GroundHog.org](#).



Room to Grow. Need office space, but only some or sometimes? [HeadRoom](#) can help! Located in downtown Media, this co-working space is perfect for small businesses and start-ups to brainstorm as a team. There's a range of office sizes to meet diverse needs, plus the option to rent by the hour or the month. And with their helpful administrative support and business resources, they really do provide the means to grow. [24 Veterans Sq., Media](#). 610-548-5278; [HeadRoom.net](#).

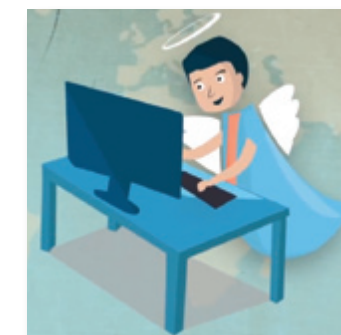
Outstanding Citizen.

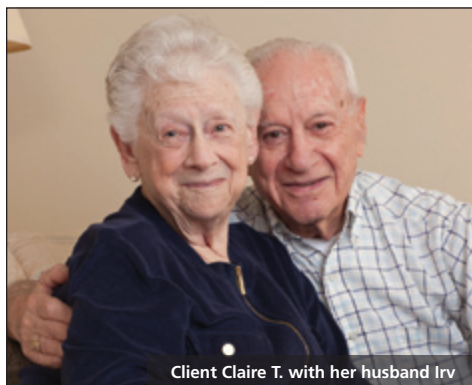
Every year, the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce recognizes an outstanding citizen. The choice for 2014 was [William "Bill" Ronayne](#), owner of Brandywine Valley Heating & Air Conditioning. Bill began volunteering when he was 19, joining the West Chester Fire Department in 1974, and for 40 years he's offered his time and talents to local groups. After all he's done, he's remained humble, being caught off guard when he learned he won the award. Toast Bill at the Annual Banquet in his honor, February 3rd at The Desmond Hotel. [GreaterWestChester.com](#).



Angel's Eyes.

Wish you had someone to check important emails before you send them? Now you can with [eAngel](#), a Chrome editing extension. This unique professional proofreading service is a godsend for those of us who just can't proof our own writing. Emails you select will be reviewed by human (a.k.a. angel) eyes and corrected in any language for spelling, punctuation, grammar and misused words. Try for free or sign up for a small fee and never send an embarrassing message again! [eAngel.me](#).





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of Special Note



Kennett Square Chocolate Lovers Festival February 8

Bring family and friends to sample the many decadent delights. Contestants compete for awards in three categories: professionals, amateurs and students. Benefits the United Way of Southern Chester County. *Kennett High School, 100 E. South St., Kennett Square. Connoisseur ticket, \$25, 1 p.m. entry; admission, \$10. 2 to 4 p.m. 610-444-4357; KennettChocolate.org.*

Designer Craftsmen & Historic Home Show February 6–8

The Historic Home Show is for anyone who wants to learn about how to restore, renovate, decorate or care for old houses. The Designer Craftsmen Show celebrates American craftsmen, featuring quality fine art, crafts, contemporary folk art, museum-quality replicas, original artworks and fine furniture reproductions. *Valley Forge Convention Center, 1160 1st Ave., King of Prussia. Opening Night Preview, Fri., 6 to 9 p.m., \$20. Show hours, Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$12. 610-354-8118; HistoricHomeShows.com.*



Cabin Fever Saturday at Historic Sugartown February 7

Get the kids out of the house to enjoy family-friendly crafts, old-fashioned games and demonstrations. Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation’s educators will be on hand to demonstrate early American papermaking, then craft a cornhusk doll and create Victorian-style Valentine cards just in time for Valentine’s Day. Complimentary coffee and hot cocoa. Historic Sugartown’s 1880 General Store will also be open for tours. *Carriage House, 273 Boot Rd., Malvern. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$3–\$5. 610-640-2667; HistoricSugartown.org.*



The Philadelphia Flower Show February 27–March 8



inspiration from great cinema. It’s “Lights, Camera, Bloom!” and all the glitz and glamour of a Hollywood premiere. *Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch Sts., Philadelphia. Black tie preview Fri., 6 p.m. Check website for tickets. Show hours: Sat., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun., 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Mon.–Fri., 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun., 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$15–\$27. 215-988-8800; TheFlowerShow.com.*

“Celebrating the Magic of Movies” is the theme for this year’s show with amazing floral and garden designers taking

DuPont Theatre Presents *In the Mood* — A 1940s Musical Revue

February 5

Hop aboard the “Chattanooga Choo Choo” to “Tuxedo Junction” and get “In the Mood” to hear a “Moonlight Serenade” performed by a 13-piece Big Band and six singer-dancers. A fully staged tribute to Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, The Andrews Sisters and Big Band greats of the ‘40s complete with period costumes and choreography. *1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 2 & 7:30 p.m. \$34–\$59. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheater.com.*



best Local Events

ONGOING

FAMILY FUN

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, DelawareNatureSociety.org.



FEBRUARY 7–SEPTEMBER 6

The Art of the Brick at The Franklin Institute. Marvel at more than 70 one-of-a-kind LEGO toy sculptures including reproductions of world-famous works and original pieces including a 20-foot-long T. Rex dinosaur skeleton. 222 North 20th St., Philadelphia. Daily 9:30 to 9. Daytime, \$25.50–\$29.50; evening, \$15.50–\$19.50. 215-448-1200; FI.edu.

FEBRUARY 15

Immaculata Symphony Youth Concert. Download the Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra app on iTunes before the concert and have kids interact with Benjamin Britten's music. Afterwards, children are invited to meet the musicians. Immaculata College, Alumnae Hall, 1145 King Rd., Immaculata. 3 pm. \$10. ImmaculataSymphony.org.

FEBRUARY 16

Presidents' Day Celebration at Chadds Ford Historical Society. Bring the family to see the many exhibits and special activities at the Visitors Center. Enjoy refreshments, costumed interpreters and don't miss bread baking in the beehive oven in the cellar kitchen. The John Chads House, Rt. 100, Chadds Ford. 10 to 3. \$5; under 12, free. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org.

FEBRUARY 16, MARCH 14

Longwood Gardens Orkid Days. These days during the Orchid Extravaganza children

can learn about orchids first-hand, participate in a rainforest activity, enjoy interactive storytelling with puppets and partake in a family seek-and-find. 1001 Longwood Rd. (Rt. 1), Kennett Square. 9 to 5. \$10–\$20. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

FEBRUARY 26–27

Trail Creek Outfitters Wild and Scenic Film Festival. The theme of the 2015 Film Festival is "A Wild Life." Benefits The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County and Stroud Water Research Center. Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High St., West Chester. 7 pm. Tickets include Dogfish Head beer, wine and light hors d'oeuvres. \$25. 610-347-0347; TLCForSCC.org.



FEBRUARY 27–28

Philadelphia Rock Gyms & Schuylkill Canal Assoc. Present the Banff Mountain Film Festival. From remote landscapes and cultures to the most exciting action sports, this is an exploration of the mountain world featuring climbing, skiing, kayaking and biking. Alumnae Hall, Immaculata University, King Rd., Malvern. 7:30 pm. \$16.50–\$19. 877-822-7673; PhilaRockGym.com.



MARCH 7–8

The Junior League of Philadelphia American Girl Fashion Show Fundraiser. Food, fun, raffle prizes, a doll salon and American Girl merchandise. Benefits the Junior League of Philadelphia. The Desmond Hotel, Great Valley Pkwy., Malvern. Sat, 11 am & 2 pm; Sun, 11 am. \$55–\$65. 610-645-9696; JLPhiladelphia.org.

ART & CRAFT SHOWS & EVENTS

THROUGH FEBRUARY 6

Artini: Sip & Spin at the Main Line Art Center. Cocktails are included in Artini workshops combining creative cocktails or wine (for students 21+) with art instruction. The workshop will be divided into two parts to incorporate an introduction to wheel throwing and handbuilding in clay. 746 Panmure Rd., Haverford. 6:30. 610-525-0272; MainLineArt.org.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 7

Academy of Notre Dame 42nd Annual Fine Art Show & Sale. The exhibition features nearly 100 artists' works in a variety of mediums. Academy Mansion, 560 Sprout Rd., Villanova. Daily, noon to 4. 610-977-0807; NDAPA.org.

FEBRUARY 4–8

Malvern Retreat House Art Show. Mark your calendar for this show, where you'll find original juried artwork by more than 100 professional artists. Special feature of the show: "Fiber Art!" Feb. 6, complimentary wine and cheese reception to meet the artists, 5 to 8. 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.

AUTO & BOAT SHOWS

THROUGH FEBRUARY 8

Philadelphia Auto Show. More than 700 vehicles on display from a variety of manufacturers. PA Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Phila. Check website for show hours. \$6–\$13. 855-856-7469; PhillyAutoShow.com.

FEBRUARY 4–8

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.

BRIDAL SHOWS

FEBRUARY 22

The Bride Guide to West Chester Showcase. Future brides can speak with vendors,



enjoy delicious appetizers and sweets, win great prizes and watch or possibly take part in several dance instructions happening throughout the day. Chester Co. Historical Society, 225 N. High St., West Chester. 11 to 2. Free for brides and one guest; others, \$10 cash at the door. To reserve space visit TheBrideGuideToWestChester.com.

FEBRUARY 22

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 a beautiful ballroom with tented patio. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Noon to 4 pm. Free. 610-647-1631; FarmhousePeoplesLight.com.



DESIGN HOME SHOWS

FEBRUARY 19–22

Suburban Home & Garden Show. From kitchens and bathrooms to furnishings and contractors, find everything you need for your home. Plus guest speakers, food, children's activities and performance dogs. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Thurs, 2 to 8; Fri, noon to 8; Sat, 11 to 8; Sun, 11 to 5. \$10; free for everyone on Thurs; 12 and under free. PhillyExpos.com.



EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY

WEEKENDS THROUGH FEBRUARY

Brandywine Valley Wine Trail Presents "Wine & Chocolate Month." Bring your sweetheart and celebrate with 8 wineries of the Brandywine Valley Wine Trail as you enjoy delicious wine and chocolate tastings and other romantic events each weekend in February. Visit their website for details of events planned at each winery. 866-390-4367; BVWineTrail.com.

FEBRUARY 28

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; KennettWinterfest.com.

MARCH 2–8

King of Prussia Restaurant Week. The diverse restaurant scene here offers diners lots of options and fantastic fare. Participating restaurants will offer lunch and dinner prix-

fixe menus at a variety of affordable price points. Phone 484-681-9452; or visit VisitKoP.com/DineKoP.

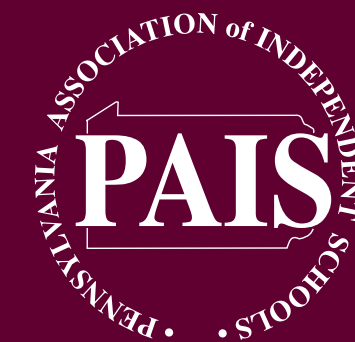
EQUESTRIAN

MARCH 5–8

13th Annual Pennsylvania Horse World 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.



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The Culinary Arts

Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org.

Culinary Arts Workshops with instructors from Jeffrey A. Miller Catering.

Feb. 6, Fancy Desserts. Learn tricks and techniques of the trade and create restaurant-quality desserts such as Pomme Tarte Tatin, Chocolate Berry Clafoutis, Tiramisu and Molten Lava Cakes. 6:30 to 9:30 pm. \$75.

Feb. 20, Pastas of Puglia. Cook stunningly simple and delicious dishes using regional pastas such as Orecchiette con Cime di Rapa (Orecchiette with broccoli rabe) and Penne con Rucola e Pomodorini (Penne with arugula and tomatoes). 6:30 to 9:30 pm. \$75.

Feb. 28-Mar. 1, Bread Baking 101. Delight in the comforting smells of freshly baked artisan bread in wood-burning adobe ovens in very special technique class. 2 days, 10 am to 1 pm. \$90.

Mar. 6, Wood-Fired Pizzas. Prepare the dough and sauce, then let your imagination go wild and top your pizzas with creative combinations. Then fire them up in the adobe oven to sit and enjoy. 6:30 to 9:30. \$75.



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

A seasonal selection of hands-on cooking classes, taught by culinary professionals, for both adults and children.

Feb 5-Mar. 26, Cooking Class—The French Connection: Food and Conversation. Chef Michele Haines of Spring Mill Café leads a hands-on class. \$360.

Feb. 9, Taste of the Town Event—Margaret Kuo's. Celebrate the Year of the Sheep with Margaret Kuo's Restaurant and the Wayne Art Center as chefs from the restaurant prepare one of their specialty dishes. 6:30. \$25.

Feb 17, Cooking Class—Desserts and Wine! Join Chef Karen Bentz for a lesson on desserts paired with complementary wine. 6:30. \$65.

Mar. 18, Taste of the Town Event—Azie on Main. Come by the Kitchen for sushi with Azie on Main and watch the chef to learn a few tricks. 6:30. \$25.

On With The Show ...

JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 15

The Miracle Worker. William Gibson's play based on the true story of Helen Keller's relationship with her governess Anne Sullivan. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Call for curtain times. \$25-\$42. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.



FEBRUARY 11-MARCH 8

The Cherry Orchard. Academy Award nominees David Strathairn and Mary McDonnell join longstanding company members in Emily Mann's acclaimed adaptation of Chekhov's masterwork. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Call for curtain times. \$27-\$47. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.



FEBRUARY 17-22

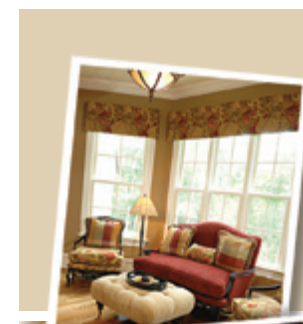
Peter and the Starcatcher—A Grown-ups Prequel to Peter Pan. A dozen actors play more than one hundred characters, all on a journey to answer the question: "How did Peter Pan become The Boy Who Never Grew Up?" The Playhouse on Rodney Square, DuPont Bldg., 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Call for curtain times. \$55-\$79. 302-656-4401; DuPontTheatre.com.



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FUNDRAISERS.....

FEBRUARY 21

Media Music Theatre's Gala Celebration.

"Illuminate the Night" is the theme for this memorable evening featuring Tony Award nominees and other actors who have been featured on The Media Theatre stage, and, in addition, a preview of the 2015–2016 season. More information available closer to event. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

FEBRUARY 26

4th Annual Empty Bowls Event at Red Clay Room.

This event is designed to raise awareness of hunger in the community while raising funds to support the Kennett Food Cupboard. A simple meal of soup and salad is served, attendees enjoy a silent auction and receive a handmade bowl as a reminder of the event. 423 Dalmatian St., Kennett Square. Lunch seating, 11:30 to 1:30; dinner, 6 to 8:30. \$25. 610-444-3573; KACS Online.net.

FEBRUARY 28

5th Annual Willowdale Steeplechase

Mardi Gras Party. An evening of dancing, great fun and food, live music and a silent auction featuring high-end items such as a week in Aspen, a box at the Devon Horse Show or a week in St. Lucia. The Yellow

House at Willowdale, 101 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. 6:30. \$95. 610-444-1582; Willowdale.org.

MARCH 7

5th Annual Andy Talley Bone Marrow Foundation 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; TalleyBoneMarrow.org.

MARCH 8

Chester County Futures "Strikes for Futures" Event.

Come out for an afternoon of food, fun and bowling benefitting Chester County Futures, a program providing academic, mentoring and scholarship support for motivated, disadvantaged Chester County youth. Tickets include pizza and soft drinks. Palace Bowling and Entertainment, 977 E. Lancaster Ave, Downingtown. 3 to 6. \$20. 610-787-9045; CCFutures.org.

GARDENS.....

THROUGH MARCH 29

Longwood Gardens Orchid Extraganza.

Escape the cold and enter the daz-

Local Farm Markets



Downingtown Farmers Mkt., Kerr Park, 1 Park La. Year-round, Sat, 9 to 1. 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

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

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

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

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

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

zling world of orchids with thousands to enjoy. 1001 Longwood Rd. (Rt. 1), Kennett Square. Daily, 9 to 6. \$10–\$20. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH MARCH 15

Delaware Art Museum Exhibits & Events.

Through Mar. 15, "Portable Fire: A History of Match Safes." *Feb. 7–May 10*, "Oscar Wilde's Salome: Illustrating Death and Desire." *Feb. 13*, Art is Social Valentine's Day even with live music, dessert and wine tastings and a gallery scavenger hunt, 7 pm, \$5. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed–Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$6–\$12. Free Sun. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

THROUGH APRIL 5

Brandywine River Museum Exhibit. "Jamie Wyeth." See article in this issue.

MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY 28

Longwood Gardens Performance Series.

Feb. 1, Tim Evers, organist at Wayne Presbyterian Church, 1 pm; *Feb. 12*, Maestro Hector Olivera; *Feb. 19*, O'Connor Quartet; *Feb. 22*, Curtis Student Recit-

al, 1 pm; *Feb. 28*, clarinetist-saxophonist Anat Cohen. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 8 pm unless otherwise noted. See website for tickets. LongwoodGardens.org.



THROUGH NOVEMBER

2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

West Chester Story Slam. 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, props or music allowed. Side Bar & Restaurant, 10 E. Gay St., West Chester. 8 pm. Phone or visit website for tickets. 610-429-8297; SideBarAndRestaurant.com.

FEBRUARY 7

WCU Live! ...

Feb. 7, Black Violin, a blend of classical, hip-hop, rock, R&B and bluegrass music; *Feb. 27*, traditional Irish music and dance with Brian Conway; *Mar. 13*, Masters of Soul, a celebration of the legendary songs and performers that defined Motown

and soul music. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, S. High St., West Chester. 7:30. \$13–\$20. 610-436-2266; WCUPA.Edu/Visiting-Artists/VAS.asp.



FEBRUARY 8

Vox Renaissance Consort Renaissance Candlemas. This evening is a perfect remedy for the "February blues" featuring Renaissance Masterworks for voices and period instruments. Daylesford Abbey, 220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli. 6:30 pm. \$5–\$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

FEBRUARY 8

Delaware County Symphony Chamber Series. The music of Philippe Gaubert and Bohuslav Martinu. Neumann University, Meagher Theatre, Aston. 3 pm. \$12. 610-879-7059; DCSDMusic.org.

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Celebrate Valentine's Day with your main squeeze or friends at the Delaware Art Museum! The evening includes a performance by Philadelphia singer/songwriter Jesse Ruben, dessert and wine tastings, a gallery scavenger hunt, and an interactive love letter wall.

Visit delart.org for details and tickets.

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delart.org

Left to right: Lady Lilith, 1866–1868 (altered) 1872–1873) Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828–1882). Oil on canvas, 38 1/2 x 33 1/2 inches. Samuel and Mary R. Bancroft Memorial, 1935. Photograph by Leslie W. Kipp. | Photograph courtesy of Jesse Ruben.

FEBRUARY 19, MARCH 19

Uptown! Entertainment Alliance Jazz Cocktail Hour Series. *Feb. 19*, vocalist Erin Dickins, founding member of The Manhattan Transfer, performs. *Mar. 19*, jazz pianist and bassist, Jason Long and the Jason Long Quartet. Ballroom at Westside, 430 Hannum Ave., West Chester. 6:30 to 7:30. \$15. 484-639-9004; UptownWestChester.org.

FEBRUARY 27, MARCH 27

Concerts at Community Arts Center. Friday Night Live Concerts, a monthly event that brings together live music and live art. *Feb. 27*, music: Corey Harris, solo acoustic blues and Sonoma Sound, eclectic roots music. Art: David Guinn and Joseph Iacona. *Mar. 27*, music: John Vanore and Abstract Truth, contemporary jazz. Art: members of the CAC Abstract Studio and Juan Dimida. 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. 7 to 10 pm. \$15. 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org.

FEBRUARY 28

Chester County Choral Society Dinner and Song Gala. "Coast to Coast: Songs from across America" is the theme for this event held at Penn Oaks Country Club, 150

Penn Oaks Dr., West Chester. 6 pm. \$55. ChesterCountyChoralSociety.org.

MARCH 1

Delaware County Symphony Series Concert. The music of Márquez, Tchaikovsky and Schumann. Neumann University, Meagher Theatre, Aston. 3 pm. \$18. 610-879-7059; DCSMusic.org.

MARCH 6-7

Point Entertainment Presents ... At The Colonial Theatre. *Mar. 6*, An Evening with Jorma Kaukonen, founding member of two legendary bands, The Jefferson Airplane and the still-touring Hot Tuna, 8 pm, \$37.50-\$42.50. *Mar. 7*, Jerry Douglas and the Earls of Leicester, 8 pm, \$22-\$34.50.



227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

MARCH 8

Ama Deus Ensemble Presents a "Bach and Handel Gala." Soloists: Valentin Radu (piano & organ), Robert Spates (violin) and Elin Frazier (trumpet). Gladwyne Presbyterian Church, 1321 Beaumont Dr., Gladwyne. 5 pm. \$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

MARCH 21

DuPont Theatre Presents Chubby Checker and the Wildcats. The King of "The Twist" is back to electrify audiences of all ages. 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 8 pm. \$29-\$69. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheater.com. ♦

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The Art of Jamie Wyeth

Brandywine River Museum, through April 5

See over a hundred paintings, spanning six decades, by a Brandywine Valley favorite.

The Brandywine Valley, with its picturesque farms, meandering river and rich history has inspired dozens of artists, most notably three generations of the Wyeth family. Through April 5th, more than a hundred paintings depicting the landscapes of the Brandywine Valley and coastal Maine, family members and fellow artists—plus chickens, dogs, pigs, sea gulls and other domestic and wild animals—are now on view in a major retrospective exhibition of artist Jamie Wyeth.

Family of Artists

Born into a renowned family of artists, including his grandfather N.C. Wyeth (1882-1945), his father Andrew Wyeth (1917-2009), and his aunt Carolyn Wyeth (1909-1994), Jamie Wyeth was given the opportunity and support to pursue painting seriously at a young age. Interestingly, he never formally studied art, instead learning from his aunt Carolyn.

Over the course of his career, Wyeth continued in the footsteps of his family by painting nearly exclusively in the Brandywine Valley and in Maine, while developing a highly personal approach to his art and exploring subjects and themes over several decades.

Six Decades of Work

The exhibition will present a full overview of Jamie Wyeth's works, beginning with childhood drawings, his first virtuoso portraits, and early images inspired by his participation in NASA's "Eyewitness to Space" program. The exhibition also includes paintings made during his time in New York with Andy Warhol at the Factory and his sketches and paintings of ballet star Rudolf Nureyev.

Wyeth's work in book illustration, examples of which will be on view, harkens back to his grandfather's professional successes. His large-scale portraits of barnyard animals and birds are forerunners to his series of the Seven Deadly Sins as portrayed by seagulls, which displays Wyeth's range and brilliant technique.

The Brandywine Valley inspired Wyeth to paint the barns, objects and landscapes of the picturesque agrarian region where he was born. Works focusing on the area surrounding his childhood home in Chadds Ford and on Wyeth's own farm along the Brandywine include youthful landscapes and a series of carriage scenes depicting his wife Phyllis.



Clockwise from top left: *Draft Age*, 1965; *Portrait of John F. Kennedy*, 1967; *The Sea, Watched*, 2009; *Kleberg*, 1984

The exhibition also features new work, including a series of paintings made since 2009, depicting a recurring dream of his artistic mentors—Winslow Homer, Warhol, N.C. Wyeth and Andrew Wyeth—posed in various configurations on the dramatic shore of Monhegan Island.

Other recent works include two mixed media assemblages that the artist calls "tableaux vivants": *The Factory Dining Room* and *La Côte Basque* (2013), both recalling Wyeth's experiences in New York. Never shown before this exhibition, these two miniature compositions—painted and sculpted at one-sixth life scale—connect Wyeth's vision to a long tradition of surrealist and realist assemblages, and introduce yet another dimension of the imaginative worlds that inspire his creative process and, ultimately, his compositions. ♦

— Amanda C. Burdan, Ph.D.

IF YOU GO ...

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

When: Through April 5. Daily 9:30 to 4:30

Admission: \$6–\$12

Exhibition Tours, Fri. & Sat., Feb. 6 through Mar. 14, 10 & 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 3 p.m.

Guided Studio tours leave from the Museum (see below). Limited tickets for this special experience are available at the Museum on the day of the tour. \$10 in addition to adm.; \$5 for members.

Special Events

"Loves and Obsessions" Lecture, Feb. 4, 6 p.m.

Elliot Bostwick Davis (John Moors Cabot Chair Art of the Americas, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and curator of the *Jamie Wyeth* exhibition) will discuss the artist's six decades of expansive work. Museum opens at 5:30, presentation at 6, and a reception to follow. \$20, nonmembers; \$15, members. Call for tickets: 610-388-8326.

In conjunction with Jamie Wyeth's major retrospective, visit two of the Museum's National Historic Landmark sites that have particular significance to his development as an artist. The N.C. Wyeth Studio, built by Jamie Wyeth's grandfather, is where the young artist studied painting with his aunt, Carolyn Wyeth. And the Andrew Wyeth Studio is a restored schoolhouse that was the home of Andrew and Betsy Wyeth and their two sons, Nicholas and Jamie. Later, when the entire structure became Andrew Wyeth's studio, the building was the location of Jamie Wyeth's first studio and where he painted important works including *Draft Age* and *Portrait of John F. Kennedy*.

WINTER BREAK

Time for a Family Getaway

Ed Malet

CHECK OUT THE OPTIONS FOR WINTER FUN, JUST A SHORT DRIVE FROM HOME.

ON THE WINDOW PANES, THE FROST IS BUILDING. Heavy clouds are gathering. Snow is in the air. *Snow!* The family bundles up and goes outside. Snow? Tiny crystalline snowflakes seem to be forming. But *will it snow?* Thick, white, soft ... We've been fooled before. Should we head for the mountains for the weekend?

It's agreed. *Yes!*

But *where?* It's got to be under three hours; ideally, two. We wish for Aspen, Heavenly Valley, but, alas, we're on the East Coast. At least, the skiing should be uncrowded. Downhill, we decide, is less important than the pristine brilliance of a winter landscape.

If we can find a place, we'll ski cross-country. We also wouldn't mind sledding, ice boating or even snowmobiling. And, at day's end, we have visions of a fine meal and crackling fireplace

Skytop Lodge

Our first thought is Skytop Lodge. Dating from 1928, about 2½ hours north of West Chester, it's 5500 acres of bliss. Camel-

back, with its 34 slopes, 14 lifts, 6 terrain parks and more, is only 17 miles away.

Onsite, about a mile from the Lodge, is downhill skiing and snowboarding with four lifts and snowmaking capability, according to Krysta Kulp, Sales and Marketing Coordinator. The cross-country trails—the same as are used for snowshoeing—are ample although ungroomed. A 30-foot tall tobogganing chute dumps you onto a frozen lake, if it's been cold enough. The ice skating is spectacular: on the lake, if it's cold enough, or in a protected rink.

Skytop is not your average hangout in the Poconos. The Lodge has 125 rooms and suites, tastefully decorated in English-country style. Meals are luscious, served in the Windsor Dining Room, where men don jackets and women and children dress semi-formally. And there're at least five other eateries and bars.

Eagle Rock Resort

Out of the bustle around Camelback, deep in the Blue Mountains, about a half hour closer to West Chester than Skytop, is Eagle

Rock Resort, a modern alternative to Skytop, dedicated to downhill in winter. Joe Sando, Marketing Director, says it's a Double-Diamond resort, offering 14 lighted slopes for skiing, snow boarding and snow tubing. There's a 1000-foot half pipe and a terrain park with 16 rails, a rhythm section, gaps and jumps.

Accommodations are in the 48-rooms-with-fireplaces Lodge, the 14-rooms-and-suites Inn, all with views of the slopes, or the Condos. And you can eat at the Club House, Slope Side Restaurant at the Base Lodge or Panorama Grill.

There's a spa, with many treatments available, and a fitness center, complete with a number of cardio machines, as if downhill isn't enough.

The Inn at Pocono Manor

A sleigh ride through fresh fallen snow! Now that's a greeting I can appreciate. Since 1902, updated in 2011, the Inn at Pocono Manor has been welcoming their guests to 237 guestrooms on 3000 acres. The Inn stands northwest of Stroudsburg, about 120 miles and 2½ hours from West Chester.

No downhill skiing on site, but, like Skytop, it's near Camelback. According to Sales and Marketing Director Alan Lenton, there are cross-country trails: *groomed!* And there's snowshoeing on mountain trails, ice skating on the Manor Pond, ice fishing for bass and trout, snowmobiling, dog sledding and horseback riding—the horses, he says, *like* the snow. The sledding is on three hills: for beginners, intermediate and a "high slope for experienced sledders." Indoors, there's a fitness facility, too.

Afterwards, eat at The Exchange or the Lamplighter Lounge, with juke box, dance floor, pool table. Entertainment, usually on Fridays and Saturdays.

Crystal Lake Ski Center

In Hughesville, nestled in the Endless Mountains, about 150 miles north of West Chester, is Crystal Lake Ski Center, the only substantial area devoted to cross-country skiing that we've been able to find in the area. It's far, but on the plus side, they've got over 30 miles of *groomed* trails! Joe Smith, who handled marketing, calls it a "very special place," comparing favorably with many locations in the U.S. and Canada.

Accommodations are Spartan. This is *not* a resort: no clubhouse, no condos. The Bellevue Cottage, near the entrance, is co-owned by the resort's manager, Anna Alford. It's a bed and breakfast. There are also cabins to rent. About 16 miles away, is the Copper Roof Bed & Breakfast; about 20 miles away, Keystone Mountain Park Trust. These are OK if we want to rough it. But not after a 3-hour drive.

The famous Eagles Mere Inn, however, is about 20 miles away. They'll lend cross-country skis, and we can easily imagine retreating into one of their specialty suites or whirlpool rooms. The dining room, emphasizing local produce, cheeses and meats, chef-prepared, would make it worth the 3-plus-hour drive.



Eagle Rock Resort



Skytop Lodge



The Inn at Pocono Manor



Crystal Lake



The Inn at Pocono Manor



Eagles Mere Inn



Crystal Lake Cross-Country

Winter Sports in the State Parks

As long as we're considering separating where we stay and where we play, we'll consider a State Park. Frankly, though, it's hard to pick: they are large, rustic, diverse. There are no lodges or inns, though sometimes there's one nearby.

None, of course, work for downhill skiing. It's the state, after all. All, more or less, support cross-country skiing, though none have groomed trails. We count about 18 parks within three hours of West Chester with cross-country trails, ranging from Chester County's French Creek State Park, relatively close, with over 7700 acres, to distant Tobyhanna State Park, in

Gouldsville, with over 5400 acres. Plus others beyond.

Several—Hickory Run, Promised Land, Tyler—offer ice skating on their frozen lakes. We have visions of little Dutch children singing merrily as they skate on a frozen canal. Another option is sledding (at Frances Slocum, French Creek, Nockamixon, Ridley Creek).

Similarly, ice boating—essentially sailing on ice—is possible, though you need your own boat. As, of course, you need your own skates and any other equipment in a state park. And, while last year's weather put a firm cap of ice on the lakes—we need four inches to be

safe—ice boaters (and skaters) should beware.

It's remarkable how many parks allow ice fishing—Beltzville, Frances Slocum, French Creek, Memorial Lake, Nockamixon and others. We've never been ice fishing, and probably won't try it. Not this winter anyway. Nevertheless, someone may yearn for the experience of Minnesota and be interested that it's available so close.

Snowmobiling is also allowed in a few parks—Hickory Run, Lehigh Gorge, Promised Land, Tobyhanna, World's End. Again, we're not interested, but for those who crave the always-growling din of chainsaws as you chew up the winter landscape, it's there. ♦

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NEW LIFE FOR THE JACOB HOUSE

Kirsten L. Werner, Natural Lands Trust

A SIX-YEAR RENOVATION PROJECT AT CROW'S NEST PRESERVE.

“CROW'S NEST, A 640-ACRE FARM GIVEN TO the Philadelphia Museum of Art by John T. Dorrance, the late chairman of Campbell Soup Co., is on the market,” the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported in July 1990. Dorrance purchased the farm in 1959 and used it as a weekend hunting retreat. When he died earlier that year, Crow's Nest became the property of the museum, which had no interest in owning a farm in rural Chester County.

Fortunately, a local family stepped up to purchase most of the farm, saving it from subdivision and development. The donors helped Natural Lands Trust, one of the region's oldest and largest conservation organizations, buy a 79-acre parcel. More parcels have been added over the years.

Postcard Perfect

A visit to Crow's Nest Preserve is a picture postcard of the best of Chester County: rolling woodlands, meadows and farm fields stretch for miles along French Creek. Just beyond the Preserve's 620 acres is French Creek State Park, Pennsylvania State Game Land, and Hopewell National Historic Site—all part of an area known as the Hopewell Big Woods, the last large, unbroken forest left in the area and an important natural resource.

The natural beauty is complemented by picturesque farmhouses and barns, evidence of colonists who farmed Chester County's fertile soil. Natural Lands Trust recently completed renovating such a farmhouse at Crow's Nest Preserve—a six-year process of bringing the house into the 21st century while honoring its historical charm.

If these walls could talk ...

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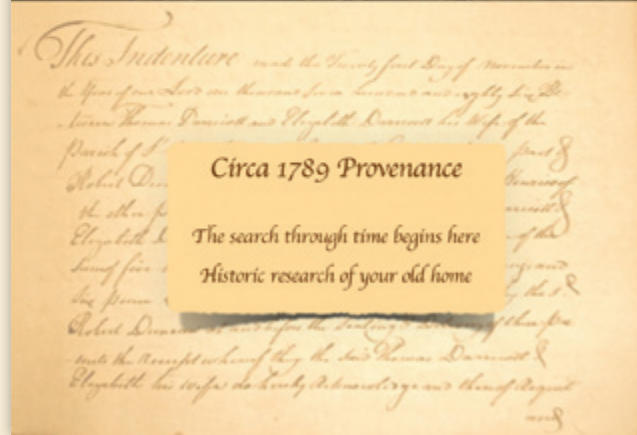
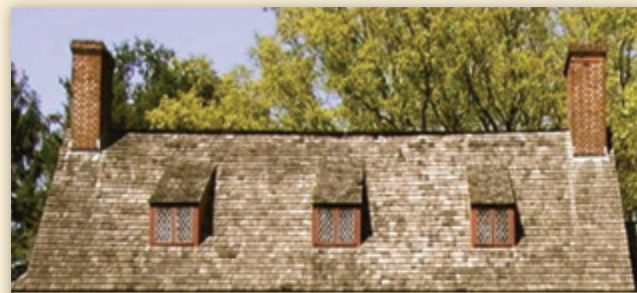
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Practicality Plus Aesthetics

The house was designed as a Federal-style stone building with a center hall and an “ell.” A date stone above the front door bears the initials “HS + ES” (Henry and Elizabeth Swinehart, owners from 1809 to 1883) and the date 1817. Known as the Jacob House—for the family that lived there in the mid-20th century—it’s one of seven Colonial buildings at Crow’s Nest Preserve and the fifth to be fully renovated.

“We haven’t built a building yet,” said Preserve Manager Dan Barringer. Instead, staff renovate existing barns and farmhouses to serve as employee housing, offices and educational facilities.

When Natural Lands Trust acquired the Jacob House, the farmhouse was “just this side of derelict,” said Bob Johnson, director of building stewardship. But the organization viewed the building as an important part of local cultural history. “We didn’t acquire the land to save the building, but we did save the building to service the land,” said Johnson.

They also approached the project with pragmatism; the farmhouse needed to support the organization’s conservation mission by serving as housing for staff, and the renovation had to follow Natural Lands Trust’s environmentally friendly ethos.

To that end, the crew of staff members stripped the interior walls down to the stone and furred them out to allow for two layers of R15 insulation, though you wouldn’t know it from the artful re-plastering. Thermal-pane window sashes were installed to further improve the house’s R-value. Crew leader Steve Holmberg replaced all the wiring and fixtures; the home now boasts energy-efficient LED and fluorescent lighting.

The crew worked to retain as many original features as was practical. Some original flooring was salvaged; rotted boards were replaced with those milled from trees felled by Mother Nature on the Preserve. Master Carpenter Scott DiBernadinis recreated period-accurate interior woodwork when the original was missing or damaged. A man of many talents, DiBernadinis also rebuilt the house’s chimneys. All four fireplaces are now fully functional, including the kitchen’s walk-in fireplace. Outside, the team stripped the unsightly plaster, revealing beautiful, original stonework, which they repointed.



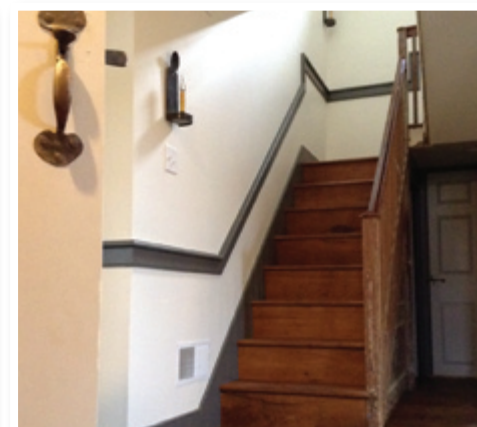
Jacob House with stucco and after stucco removal, revealing original stonework (right)



Bedroom before and after (at right)



Interior iron hardware was reproduced for handles and tin sconces were fabricated



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The formerly dank, cramped basement gained two feet of headroom when the crew dug it out and carried the dirt outside, one wheelbarrow load at a time. Next, they poured a new concrete floor, which set the stage for state-of-the-art systems such as the geothermal unit for heating and cooling.

While practicality was a top priority, the team didn't ignore aesthetics. Staff member Luke DiBernadinis (and Scott's son) hand-crafted much of the house's iron

hardware, including strap hinges, latches and the walk-in fireplace's bake oven door. He even learned to work with tin so he could fabricate the replica sconces that light many rooms.

Old Home, New Family

Though originally a single-family home, during its history the building had been a multi-family residence, leading to a dual-residence design during renovations. The larger portion is now the Preserve Man-



Carpenter Scott DiBernadinis also rebuilt chimneys so all four were functional.

ager's residence, while a smaller apartment houses an intern. "Natural Lands Trust has a long history of housing its preserve managers on the properties they care for," said Molly Morrison, Natural Lands Trust's president. "We're excited to continue that tradition with the Jacob House."

For Preserve Manager Dan Barringer—whose family moved into the Jacob House—the renovation of this historical property is another example of the kind of recycling that goes on at Crow's Nest Preserve. "We're extremely mindful of our footprint and ways to shrink it. We surface our hiking trails with wood chips from downed trees, harvest seeds from our meadows to plant on other preserves, and employ goats and cattle as invasive weed control," said Barringer. "The Jacob House project was a smart way to adapt and reuse the building, while preserving a piece of Crow's Nest's past."

Dan is enthusiastic about his new home and about sharing its history with his six-year-old son, Owen. For now, though, he has boxes to unpack. ♦

Natural Lands Trust is dedicated to protecting the forests, fields, streams and wetlands essential to the sustainability of life in our region. Since 1953, it's preserved more than 100,000 acres, including 42 nature preserves. Millions enjoy the healthy habitats, clean air and water, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty provided by the lands the organization has preserved. For more photos of Jacob House and information, visit NatLands.org.



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the Grand small kitchen

Emily Hart

SIZE ISN'T EVERYTHING WHEN IT COMES TO KITCHENS.

FOODIES DOMINIC MARINUCCI AND HIS WIFE Becky Stipdonk may have a modest kitchen, but for serving up great food for hungry crowds, it's the place to be. One summer, they staged a Hawaiian luau of such epic proportions that it made the lines of Da Philly Food Critic's blog. Dozens of people filled the deck and the kitchen—headquarters for preparation of Hawaiian dishes including kahlua pork and an assortment of luscious fruity drinks.

How did that happen without space the size of a commercial kitchen? Advance preparation, the right kitchen tools and appliances, and a kitchen layout that fits their needs, according to Marinucci.

Make It Grand

Like a baby grand piano—a small version of a concert grand that dazzles in a cavernous music hall—a small kitchen can still be a great room that serves as the heart of the home.

"I often hear, 'I have an old house,' or a ranch or split level. There aren't high ceilings or huge spaces," says Trez Pomilo, lead designer and owner of Sugarbridge Kitchen and Bath Design, LLC. "People think that because they don't have a huge house, they have to do something ordinary. Some of the best kitchens are small, but classy and useful."

Alyssa Baldassarre, designer at ABK Today, a kitchen remodeling and bathroom renovation company, concurs: "A small kitchen can



Sugarbridge Kitchen and Bath Design, LLC

still be grand and glorious!" "One of our goals is to make sure that a kitchen in a historic or modest home can have conveniences like those in a large home. The modern take on kitchens is that they should be big; we spend time and put a lot of stuff in them. But clever designs include all we need and some comforts on top of that."

Tips from Designers

Designers throughout the Brandywine Valley reveal tips to make a small kitchen grand:

- * Retain the vintage feel of the home, whether from 1760 or 1960.
- * Use clean, simple lines—not too much "gingerbread" woodwork.
- * Enlarge a window and choose pale colors for walls and cabinetry to make the room feel airy.
- * Recessed lighting, under-cabinet lighting and appropriately-sized pendant lamps create bright areas that feel open.
- * Add a few high-quality backsplash tiles—no busy patterns. Try pale colored glass to give a slightly reflective quality.

* Granite countertops and high quality hardware, lighting and appliances create an exceptional kitchen.

* Stay true to the size and shape of the room. Keep design elements proportional. Avoid corner cupboards that make a room look busy.

* Custom cabinetry, including furniture-looking wood panels to fully-integrate dishwasher and refrigerator, maximize space and make a room gorgeous.

Make It Functional

Make the kitchen useful for your lifestyle. Baldassarre recommends beginning a kitchen project by identifying the best use of the space. "Find out what each homeowner is looking for and how each uses the kitchen space," she says.

Different functions require different designs—cooking, baking, entertaining or relaxing. If entertaining is top priority, add a place to serve beverages at the perimeter of the kitchen; if food preparation tops your list, allot plenty of horizontal surface area. Regardless of kitchen size, ensure

plenty of light and ventilation, reminds Alex Hall, owner of Creative Nook, a leading design/build firm.

Custom Cabinets

Most kitchen designers say that custom or semi-custom cabinetry is the best way to maximize space. Adding a little more square footage than a standard cupboard has can mean holding a few more dishes or goodies. "Gaining three inches in a space is golden," says Pomilo.

Storage space must look good while still offering everything a place to stay, says Skip Rudderow of Main Street Cabinet of PA. "We try to design our cabinetry to look like furniture," he says. To create space in a smaller kitchen, Main Street uses space above the refrigerator and opts for drawers for cooking utensils, pots and pans. They install roll-out shelves in tall pantries so nothing gets lost in the back.

Perfect Appliances

Small appliances can gobble up workspace and clutter a counter. If every small appli-

PHOTO: JAY GREEN PHOTOGRAPHY



ance on the market—waffle iron, deep fat fryer, iced tea maker and more—has found its way to your kitchen, consider what you really like to do and eat. You don't need to pitch anything—just decide what's most important and store rarely-used items elsewhere.

Baldessare suggests, if you don't want to store all your small appliances or camouflage them—white appliances in a white kitchen, for example—choose your favorite and use it as decoration, such as a bright blue mixer in a baker's kitchen.

Before choosing large appliances, think about the ways you like to cook. Do you need two gas ovens or an oven and a micro-convection oven? For small kitchens, consider appliances that give the best bang for the buck in space, appearance and function—such as Sub-Zero freezer drawers and Miele speed ovens.

Make It Efficient

Professional chef MacGregor Mann has the ultimate cooking space at Junto, an acclaimed Chadds Ford restaurant,

but at home he is the solo cook in a small kitchen. “I don't cook at home the way I do at my professional work kitchen,” he admits. “I make a lot of one-pot meals—chilis and meat stews—in a crock pot and salads that require lots of space for knife work.”

So that the counter remains clear for chopping and other food preparation, Mann uses the tops of cupboards for storage, and he washes a dish after using it. Vegetable or chicken scraps go straight into a pot to boil for broth; extra meal portions go into his freezer. Along with making the most economical use of his kitchen space, he also makes economical use of his time and food!

Creative Nook's Alex Hall explains how a kitchen's “triangle” works for utmost efficiency. The refrigerator, sink and cooktop form three points of a triangle; standing in the middle, the most-used features are within a few steps. From that zone, cooking for one or 21 can be efficient, easy and fun.

Whether your kitchen is cozy or small, embrace the space. ♦



BIG TIPS ON SMALL KITCHENS

Small can certainly be beautiful and with great design, a small kitchen can also be efficient—another kind of beauty. We learned from talking with the experts that with less space there's more need for thoughtful design and planning.

Small kitchens can be very high functioning if designed properly. More so than large kitchens. **Katy Wolfington of Waterbury Kitchen & Bath** says, “Usually less space means we must be much more creative with every inch of space. So I recommend you go for the best faucet, extravagant hardware and surfaces that have impact, like rare marbles or hand painted tiles. Quality wins over quantity any day.”

Ann M. Trethewey, of E.C. Trethewey Building Contractors says small kitchens can still have a huge impact. “We suggest putting the focus in the details. Organization is key and can be easily attained through custom cabinetry with storage details, like utensil trays and slide out tray storage. Appliances are also a focus but can be made to look like cabinets with wooden inserts. Get creative with hardware choices and stone countertops,” she recommends.

One of the biggest challenges in small kitchens is storage. Some recommendations from **Andy Madsen, Madsen Kitchen & Bath**: make the wall cabinetry 15 instead of just 12 inches deep, and make the cabinets 15 inches off the counter instead of the conventional 18 inches—that still gives you plenty of room on the counter. And use the 24-inch deep space above the fridge for specialized storage, like cookie sheets, baking trays and muffin trays, using vertical dividers.

Historic homes pose special challenges with their limited space. But **Custom Cabinetry Unlimited** came up with a transformation into a highly functioning kitchen—building under sink organizers, top and bottom Lazy Susans, silverware dividers and custom double trash cans—one just for dog food—among other details. Finishing touches included painting the window trim to match the bead board using bright custom colors.



This New 2012 Old Home

Matt Freeman

IT'S POSSIBLE TO GET YOUR DREAM STONE FARMHOUSE,
YET STILL ENJOY EVERY 21ST-CENTURY COMFORT.

IF ANY TYPE OF ARCHITECTURE TYPIFIES CHESTER County and the Brandywine Valley, it has to be the iconic stone farmhouse, often found presiding over a more recently developed neighborhood that sets off its Colonial-era grace and grandeur all the more.

The popularity of this style is no great mystery—these houses seem to have a timeless quality, an eye-pleasing general just-right-ness. Of course for some of them, the timelessness comes in part from actually having stood for centuries.

But for other, newer examples of this style such as Diana and Gary Shank's Berwyn home, the Colonial-era farmhouse is an expression of what has become an ongoing tradition that is very much alive.

NEW HOME BUT IN AN OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

A few years ago, Diana Shank says, she and her husband decided they needed more room for themselves and their four children. They looked at houses both old and new and especially

admired the historic homes. But they didn't find any that were right for the family and their pets. They loved one in particular that "needed so much work, it was ridiculous," Shank says.

Then a lot became available in their own neighborhood. "That's when the wheels started turning," Shank says. "It was just total coincidence that this happened."

The Shanks wondered why they couldn't build a house like the historic homes they loved right in their neighborhood, where they were comfortable and had many friends. They searched for architects who specialized in historic residential styles, and one name they came up with was Joseph Mackin, co-founder and president of Period Architecture Ltd. in West Chester.

MIXING THE OLD WITH THE NEW

Mackin was prepared to help the Shanks not only because of his training and experience but also thanks to a long tradition, centered in the Philadelphia area, of using Colonial architectural styles



for inspiration. Most authorities agree the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876 helped to reawaken an interest in this area's past and the styles of building prevalent then.

The Sesquicentennial in 1926 had a similar effect, and noted individual architects in the area—such as R. Brognard Okie—carried the tradition forward into the mid-20th century. The intent was not to slavishly reproduce particular buildings as much as to incorporate the general eye-pleasing grace and charm of the originals into buildings that also took advantage of modern technologies.

Shank says the couple had a general idea of what size house they wanted, how many bedrooms and such, but left most of the details—both interior and exterior—to Mackin. The architect began by ensuring that the house would embody Old World charm, literally from the ground up by excavating the site so you look down on the house from the road—the house seems nestled into its grounds, not pasted down on them. The planners also took care to preserve the mature trees that seem to embrace and frame the house.

“We preserved as much of the site as we could,” Mackin says. “That’s part of making sure the home feels connected to the property. It has to feel as though it’s literally grown out of the ground.”

BEST OF THE OLD

Growth is an apt metaphor for a type of home that typically involves additions over the years as styles and the owners’ needs change. For Mackin, the Shanks’ home—which the firm dubbed the “New Old House”—began with a four-bay main section all in stone. Other sections extend





outward from the right of the facade, with stone on the ground floor and woodwork siding above to reflect what a later owner would consider in vogue.

The interior was designed to serve two primary purposes, Mackin and Shank say: formal entertaining on the one hand, and informal family life on the other. Formal areas include a center hall, parlor with a coffered ceiling and hidden wet bar, dining room, and butler's pantry. For daily life there's the kitchen, breakfast room and family room as well as a family entry and mudroom.

Some of the more notable of the abundant period touches are the wood trusses for the cathedral family room as well as beams and floorboards all salvaged from a barn built in central Pennsylvania in the 1790s and recently demolished by a tornado. Many of the windows have splayed or curved jambs, both for visual interest and to let in more light. Formal areas include wide expanses of paneling and cabinetry, with woodwork and hardware all appropriate to their historical setting.

The freedom to interpret history allows houses like the Shanks' to have a variety of personal touches. An antique bell sits atop one section in a cupola, and the bell motif is echoed in window cutouts and a light fixture on the door. One newel post includes a "mortgage button," a white disc engraved with the owners' initial (outlined above) traditionally used to show the mortgage had been paid.



PLEASURES OF THE NEW

Besides the traditional features, “new” old houses have modern conveniences and improvements their predecessors can’t. The house has a central vacuum system, elevator, geo-thermal heat and air conditioning—at 7,500 square feet, the house doubles the size of their old one, Shank says, but is no more expensive to heat and cool. There’s a hidden in-wall speaker system the owners control with a cell phone.

The home won Period Architecture a Gold Award for outstanding excellence for 2014 from the Pennsylvania Council of the Society of American Registered Architects’ prestigious 11th Annual Design Awards competition. Mackin says the firm would not have achieved the success it did without the help of hardware from the Coldren Company Inc. of North East, Maryland, lighting from Heritage Metalworks in Downingtown, and finished cabinetry from McGinnis Millwork in Parkesburg.

Most of all, the Shanks got the home they were hoping for. They enjoy living there. And unlike many historic homes, “the house flows beautifully,” Shank says. They have a covered outdoor porch with a fireplace and pool, a space they use “until it’s freezing out.”

Shank is grateful to Mackin: “He really nailed it,” she says. The New Old House does seem to embody the Colonial Revival ideal: contemporarily casual comfort, up-to-the-minute technology, and timeless elegance and charm. ♦

PHOTOS: ANGEL EYE PHOTOGRAPHY

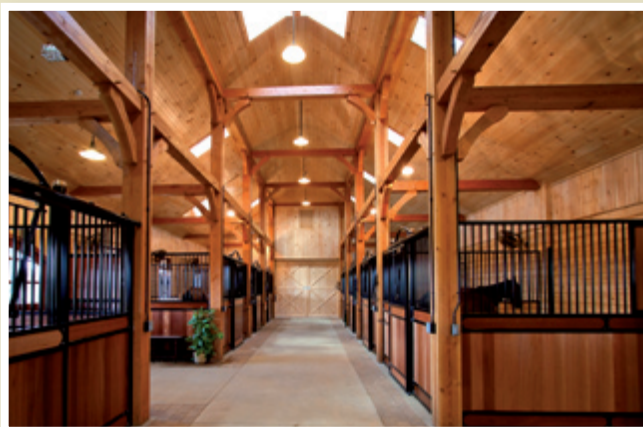


Fine Homes & Design

WHERE TO FIND IT GUIDE



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888.354.4740; KingBarns.com



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SHUTTER TECH, INC.
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ARCHITECTS

Period Architecture, Ltd.
120 N. Church St., West Chester
610-719-0101; PeriodArchitectureLtd.com

BRASS ACCESSORIES & HARDWARE

Ball & Ball
463 W. Lincoln Hwy., Exton
800-257-3711; BallAndBall.com

BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS

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Creative Nook
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610-644-6665; CreativeNook.com

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717-587-8789; DutchiesStoneWorks.com

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Chester Springs
610-827-7990; GriffithsConstruction.net

King Construction Co., LLC
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484-593-0334; ECTBuilders.com

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610-593-5999
WhiteHorseConstructionPA.com

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Chester County Hearth & Home
19 Park Ave., Elverson
610-913-0730; ChesterChimney.com

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Snowdenville
610-608-8948; Circa1789Provenance.com

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Horst Insurance

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610-459-8285; HorstInsurance.com

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In the town of Blue Ball; 717-354-2233
HeritageDesignInteriors.com

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717-656-9170
CustomCabinetryUnlimited.com

Giuseppe Kitchens & Bath

129 E. Gay St., West Chester
610-436-8161
GiuseppeKitchenAndBathDesign.com

Sugarbridge Kitchen & Bath

Paoli Design Center, 1604 E. Lancaster Ave.
Paoli, 484-318-8367; Sugarbridge.com

Wall & Walsh

8320 West Chester Pk., Upper Darby
610-789-8530; Wood-Mode.com

Waterbury Kitchen & Bath, Inc.

818 E. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square
610-444-9192; WaterburyDesign.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

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717-587-8789; DutchiesStoneWorks.com



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610-347-2065; TheCountryProperties.com

Missy Schwartz – Berkshire Hathaway Fox & Roach Realtors

Devon: 610-651-2700; 610-888-3349
Missy@MissySellsHomes.net

Kimberly Swanson Berkshire Hathaway / Fox & Roach Realtors

484-614-1231 (cell); 610-527-6400 (office)
KimberlySwanson.FoxRoach.com

Karen Nader / Brett Jones Brandywine Fine Properties Sotheby's International Realty

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610-286-5115; OldeBulltown.com

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So we devote untold hours to searching for a "right fit" school that will ensure our kids are engaged, challenged and successful. We look for schools that offer creative instruction, state-of-the-art resources, global studies, endless opportunities and teaching that's customized to the specific needs of our child.

But with shrinking state and local education budgets, individualized education is increasingly difficult to find. Fortunately, we have a wealth of choices among our exceptional independent schools.

And, if you visit these schools for their open house tours in the coming months, you'll see just what's possible inside and outside a 21st-century classroom!

Check the Guide following this article for information about open house dates.

National Recognition

Wilmington Friends is the first Quaker and only Delaware Valley school to receive a national Malone Scholars Program endowment, recognizing exceptional schools for gifted students. "What distinguishes Wilmington Friends," says Ken Aldridge, Assistant Head of School for Academics, "is the mutually reinforcing combination of unsurpassed

and individually responsive learning program, emphasizing global engagement, with a community that's welcoming and challenging, principled and uplifting."

Check the Tech

These days, most students have their own laptops and other devices as they engage happily and (too) often with technology. Merely having technology in the classroom doesn't make a school innovative anymore. The bar has been raised and independent schools clear that bar by leveraging technology.

That happens when talented teachers find ways for students to be active learners using platforms like Voicethread, where students continue conversations from class while online at home—yes, kids really do that. Other technologies—Learning Catalytics, Smart Boards—let teachers assess an entire class's level of understanding. Teachers can immediately adapt their teaching to better suit students' needs—all in real time. This innovative feedback loop happens regularly at Delaware Valley Friends School, says Jason Seggern, Dean of Students.

Blending tradition with innovation, Episcopal Academy uses state-of-the-art Google

Glasses in the lower school, a one-to-one Macbook Air program in grades 4 through 8, Smart Boards throughout all levels, and a Maker Space in Middle School (emphasizing the creative process through the power of play to develop innovative and critical thinking skills). By pairing technology with a classical, liberal arts education, the goal is to prepare students for tomorrow's fast-paced, global society.

Montgomery School also places an emphasis on emerging 21st-century technologies, particularly through use of the Google platform. The school has a dedicated computer lab, chromebooks, iPads, and netbooks on campus, as well as devices that students bring to school. Students learn about robotics, desktop publishing, multimedia presentations, and can learn coding through programs such as Bee Bots, Python and Kodable.

At Villa Maria Academy, technology integration is becoming seamless as faculty and students use iPads, Smartboards, WiFi technologies, flipped classroom models, curricular apps and interactive software. Students collaborate in new computer labs and a renovated and technology-infused Learning

Commons, and will soon be creating projects with 3D printing. Villa Maria's iPad program for students and teachers helps change how teaching and learning occur.

And for full tech, there's the Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School, a K through 12 online public school, where "learning never stops." One example of nonstop education is the Asynchronous Classroom for elective and enrichment courses. These classes can be completed at any time and don't require a live component, providing students with the flexibility to complete schoolwork when it's convenient and when they're most motivated—always a plus.

Specialized Groups

Not every school is the best fit for every child—some school years and some environments pose more challenges than others. For a good fit, parents may prefer schools that focus on just part of the Pre-K to 12th grade continuum or single sex schools. These schools can create an environment designed to best meet the needs of students of a certain age, development level or gender.

For example, Agnes Irwin School optimizes its all-girl environment and is a leading



Agnes Irwin School

proponent of STEAM—Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics—education for girls that makes successful entry into technical disciplines a real possibility. Its Femme Tech Fatale robotics team is one of only 20 all-girl teams participating in an international program involving hundreds of teams all over the world.

With grade levels from three years through 8th grade at Rosemont School of the Holy Child, Head of School Tom Lengel says, "Our Middle School students literally are leaders in school to the younger children." These students are leaders athletically, in play, chorus, ensembles and assemblies. Middle schoolers also get a small taste of the college application process when they apply to area high schools.

Wyndcroft School also focuses on pre-school through 8th grade students and has built a program that prepares students to live and thrive in a global community—learning French from day one and Latin in 5th grade and beyond. The school's annual cyclical review of curriculum ensures teaching remains academically sound and responsive to global changes.

While at the upper school level, Malvern Prep focuses its attention on helping boys grades 6 through 12 convert their high potential into true ability. Head of School Christian M. Talbot says, "Through a student-centered environment, exemplified by our Learning Commons, we infuse our premiere college preparatory education with a 'learn by doing' attitude." Among other

initiatives, global and local Christian Service opportunities and Experiential Learning program prepare graduates to be leaders in the global economy.

Different Learning Styles

"Twice-exceptional" is a term used for students who are gifted but have learning differences or other disabilities. These differences often go undetected because the differences and gifts mask each other, sometimes making students appear average. Specialized schools can help focus on these students' abilities and allow them to have challenging instruction along with support for their learning differences.

For example, Centreville Layton School offers a rigorous educational and cultural experience for students who learn differently. The program identifies academic and social needs and provides a curriculum that focuses

on problem solving and critical thinking. Through intervention and strengthening learning strategies, the school empowers students to reach their full potential.

Hallmarks of the Hill Top School experience include a unique, customized program, strong support services and a caring community for students with performance-based learning differences. The low student-teacher ratios and emphasis on students' social and academic development are effective and underscore the importance of this specialized approach.

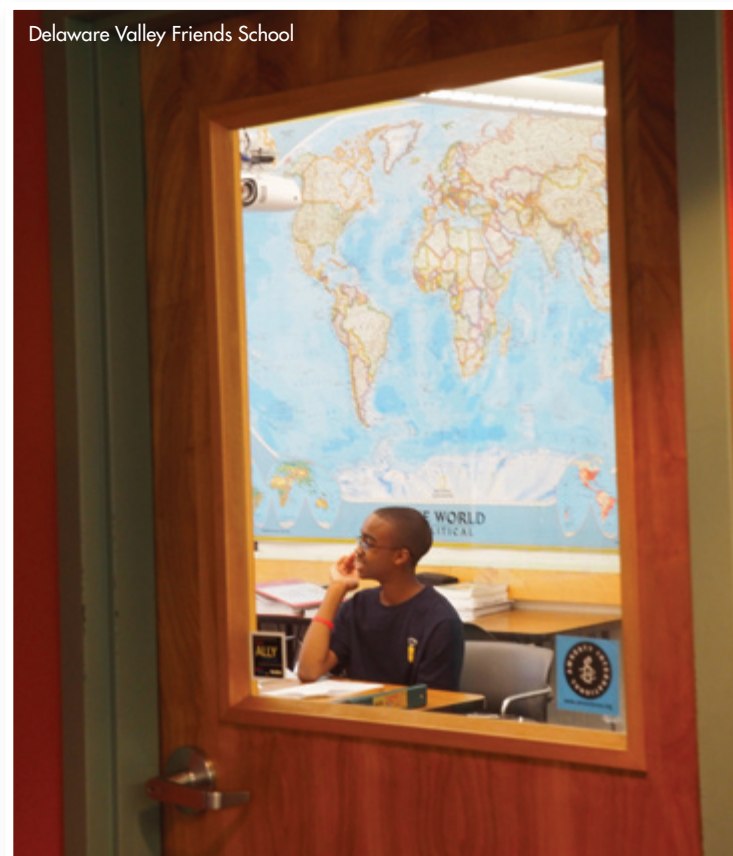
Head of School Robb Gaskin of Benchmark School says, "Any time people engage in an activity, there are a host of internal and external distractions that can divert their attention, cloud their perception and diminish their performance. Consequently, at Benchmark School, we teach our students strategies that promote clarity and focus and these strategies facilitate attention, communication, stress reduction, resilience and overall performance."

For those who need more, additional treatment services are available. Devereux partners with families, schools and communities to help some of our area's most vulnerable individuals achieve happiness and personal fulfillment. They provide a continuum of care for children, adolescents and adults faced with mental health challenges and intellectual and developmental disabilities, with a special focus on autism assessment.

And to think these are just a few examples of the area schools offering exceptional education to help prepare your children for productive and satisfying futures! ♦



Malvern Prep



Delaware Valley Friends School



Wilmington Friends School

Delaware Valley
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Country Day School of the Sacred Heart
480 S. Bryn Mawr Ave.
610-527-3915
CDSSH.org



CDSSH is an independent, Catholic, college preparatory school for girls Pre-K through 12, where girls develop through rigorous academics, comprehensive electives, performing arts and athletics. Students engage in AP courses, integrated humanities, STEM curricula, Diocesan Scholars program, 1:1 iPad use, leadership development, international travel, and service. Students of all grades are involved in the many facets of their vibrant education.

*All School Open House: Jan. 31 from 11 to 1
Come & Play Day:
Feb. 21 for Pre-K-Gr. 2 from 9:30 to 11*

Chadds Ford

Fairville Friends School
216 Pond View Dr.
610-388-1268; 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. 26 and Mar. 25 at 9 am
Mar. 22 from 2 to 4 pm*

Chester Springs

Montgomery School

1141 Kimberton Rd.
610-827-7222

MontgomerySchool.org



Montgomery is a nurturing community for students, Pre-K through 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.

*Open House: Mar. 15 at 1 pm and
May 5 at 6:30 pm*

*Pre-K Visit Day: Feb. 7 and Apr. 4 at 10 am
To register for an event call or visit their website.*

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Phila. / Eastern
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888-722-9237; PaCyber.org

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Devon

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905 S. Waterloo Rd.
610-353-6522; 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



Devon Prep is a private, Catholic, college preparatory school for young men in grades



PA Cyber School



Delaware County Christian School



Villa Maria Academy



The Luma Center, Valley Forge Educational Services

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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.

Spring Open House: Apr. 19 from 9 to 11 am
Practice Entrance Exam: Apr. 19 at 8 am

Downingtown

Bishop Shanahan High School

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610-518-1300

Shanahan.org

A Catholic co-ed high school, part of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on a beautiful 80-acre site. The focus is on each student finding and developing full potential in a safe, faith-filled environment. 100% of graduates pursue higher education at a college or university. The Class of 2015 has 12 National Merit Students; 3 Semi-Finalists and 9 Commended. There are 64 Advanced Placement Scholars, 25 varsity sports, 40 clubs and great student life. Dual enrollment is offered with both Immaculata and Widener Universities. Scholarships awarded.

7th Grade Visitation: Apr. 16

Open House 6th, 7th & 8th Grades: Apr. 30

bshs

Malvern

Malvern Preparatory School

418 S. Warren Ave.

484-595-1100

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.

Spring Open House: Apr. 22 at 8:30 am

Practice Entrance Exams: Mar. 21 and Apr. 25



Montgomery School



Media-Providence Friends



Wilmington Friends School



Renaissance Academy



Malvern Preparatory School



The Wyndcroft School



Centreville Layton School



Devon Preparatory School



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7th GRADE VISITATION DAY

April 16, 2015 • 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

6th, 7th & 8th GRADE OPEN HOUSE

April 30, 2015 • 7 pm

Parents and families are invited!

Register at www.shanahan.org under Admissions, Upcoming Events

SHADOW
DAYS
AVAILABLE

220 WOODBINE ROAD, DOWNINGTOWN, PA
610.343.6206 shanahan.org

PEOPLE OF GOD; PEOPLE FOR OTHERS

Villa Maria Academy
High School
370 Central Ave.

610-644-2551; VMAHS.org

A Catholic college-preparatory school for girls, rooted in the philosophy of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, empowers young women to lead lives of spiritual growth, intellectual inquiry and Christian service. Founded in 1872, Villa Maria Academy combines rigorous academics, extensive extracurricular opportunities and innovative real-world experiences, preparing young women with the skills and the confidence they need to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Middle School Breakfast, 6th & 7th Grade,

Apr. 24, May 8, May 11

7th Grade practice exam, Apr. 25 and May 2



Media

Media-Providence Friends

125 W. Third St.

610-565-1960; MPFS.org

Media-Providence Friends School is a Quaker school in downtown Media, PA for students in preschool through 8th grade. Every day at MPFS, teachers encourage students to imagine, explore, question and create in a challenging academic environment. Small classes allow for differentiated learning where students are seen, heard and known.

Call to schedule a personal tour.



Newtown Square

Delaware County Christian School

462 Malin Rd.

610-353-6522; DCCS.org

Serving 780 students in grades Pre-K through grade 12 on two campuses in Newtown Square and Devon. Providing a rigorous liberal arts, college preparatory education within the context of a Christian worldview, DC students are equipped to reason critically, act biblically and to impact the world for Christ.



Delaware Valley Friends School



Fairville Friends School



Devon Preparatory School



Hill Top Preparatory School



The Agnes Irwin School



Episcopal Academy



Country Day School of the Sacred Heart

DC DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, February 11th 9:30 - 11:30 am



610-353-6522 ext. 2285 dccc.org

A Distinctive Christian College Preparatory School
Serving Grades Pre-K-12 On Campuses In Newtown Square And Devon

Exceptional fine arts, athletics and additional cocurricular activities enhance student experiences and provide comprehensive learning.
Feb. 11, 9:30 to 11:30; Apr. 11, 9 to 11

Episcopal Academy

1785 Bishop White Dr.
484-424-1400

EpiscopalAcademy.org

For 230 years, Episcopal Academy has offered a strong tradition of excellence, providing a challenging and nurturing coeducational program for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. The school's unparalleled facilities and innovative curriculum, anchored by its talented teachers, successfully combine classical and cutting-edge methods. All of Episcopal's graduates attend college and more than half gain acceptance into the nation's top-tier schools. The school's graduates go on to become leaders across the globe in a range of diverse fields.

Apr. 28 and May 12 from 8:30 to 10



Phoenixville

Renaissance Academy

40 Pine Crest St.
610-983-4080

www.RAK12.org

A tuition-free, college-prep, award-winning, public charter school for grades K through 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. Renaissance Academy has the highest score of any K-12 charter school in the state and is in the top 90th percentile of all public schools in Pennsylvania according to the PA Department of Education's Pennsylvania's School Performance Profile.



Pottstown

The Wyndcroft School

1395 Wilson St.
610-326-0544

Wyndcroft.org

The Wyndcroft School is a co-ed day school

The Wyndcroft School



OUR Promise

FAITH • COMMUNITY • EXCELLENCE

Join us at our Spring Events

Middle School Breakfast — 6th and 7th Graders
April 24, May 8, or May 11

Practice Entrance Exam — 7th Graders
April 25 or May 2

Register online at www.vmahs.org



VILLA MARIA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN SINCE 1872

370 Central Avenue, Malvern, PA 19355 610-644-2551 www.vmahs.org



Join us for an OPEN HOUSE:

February 11
March 18
May 6

(RSVP to Lois - 610.527.3230)

HILL TOP
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL
PROVIDES
LIFE-CHANGING
EXPERIENCES
FOR BRIGHT
& CREATIVE
STUDENTS
WITH COMPLEX
LEARNING
DIFFERENCES



HILL TOP Preparatory School

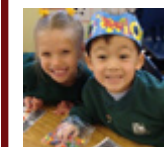
737 South Ithan Avenue
Rosemont, Pennsylvania 19010
610.527.3230 | www.hilltopprep.org



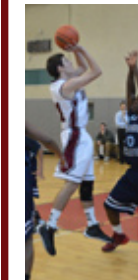
Renaissance Academy

CHARTER SCHOOL

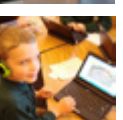
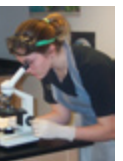
Building Lifelong Learners



K-12
Tuition Free
Small Learning
Community



College Prep
Award-Winning
Public Charter School



-OPEN HOUSE-
March 18th, 2015
9am-11am or 6pm-8pm

Renaissance Academy has the highest score of any K-12 charter school in the state and is in the top 90th percentile of all public schools in Pennsylvania according to the PA Department of Education's Pennsylvania's School Performance Profile.

40 Pine Crest Street, Phoenixville PA
WWW.RAK12.ORG



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610.388.1268

FAIRVILLEFRIENDS.ORG

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



SCHEDULE A
TOUR TO
LEARN MORE!

Now enrolling students aged 3-Grade 8
Media, PA • 610.565.1960 • www.mpfs.org

CENTREVILLE LAYTON SCHOOL

Visit Our Open House
First Wednesday of each month
9:00-11:00am
centrevillelayton.org/openhouse



Now Enrolling PreK-12



Centreville Layton School offers a rigorous educational experience for students who learn differently. Our program identifies academic and social needs of individuals and provides a curriculum that focuses on problem solving and critical thinking. Through intervention and strengthening learning strategies, the school empowers each student to reach his or her potential.



302.571.0230

centrevillelayton.org

6201 Kennett Pike • Centreville, DE 19807



DEVON PREP

Educating Boys. Graduating Leaders.



Inspiring Young Men to be Responsible and Compassionate Leaders.

SPRING OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, April 19 9 - 11 AM

PRACTICE ENTRANCE EXAM

9th grade Practice Entrance Exam for 7th graders
Sunday, April 19 at 8 AM

610-688-7337

www.devonprep.com admissions@devonprep.com

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

The Wyndcroft School

An Excellent Education in a Nurturing Setting for students
in Early Childhood through 8th Grade



Join us for an Open House on Sunday, Feb. 8 at 1:00 p.m.



1395 Wilson Street, Pottstown, PA 19464

(610) 326-0544 - www.wyndcroft.org



for children in grades Pre-K through 8th. They offer a rigorous academic program enabling the child to establish a foundation for a happy and successful future. The focus is character development, and pursuing excellence in English, history, math, science, foreign languages and the arts. Small class setting provides a nurturing environment fostering creativity, personal integrity, determination and respect for others.

Feb. 10 and Mar. 10 from 9 to 11

Rosemont

The Agnes Irwin School

Ithan Ave. & Conestoga Rd.

610-525-8400

AgnesIrwin.org



With more than 140 years of experience in all-girls' education, The Agnes Irwin School is one of the premier independent college preparatory schools in the Philadelphia region for grades Pre-K through 12. Agnes Irwin's mission is to empower girls to learn, to lead and to live a legacy.

Apr. 8 for All School from 5:30 to 7:30

Apr. 30 for Middle/Upper School from 8:30 to 10

May 7 for Lower School from 9 to 11

Rosemont School of
the Holy Child

1344 Montgomery Ave.

610-922-1010

RosemontSchool.org



An independent, coed, Catholic school preparing students from 3 years to 8th grade for success. Rosemont School nurtures excellence—more than 70% of 7th and 8th graders receive national recognition for outstanding standardized test scores. Their joyful community celebrates every student's talents. Rosemont School graduates are confident leaders—in 2014, 91 of 93 8th grade applications were accepted by prestigious independent high schools.

Feb. 11 and April 8 at 9 am

DELAWARE

Wilmington

Wilmington Friends School

101 School Rd. (Rts. 202 & 95)

302-576-2989; WilmingtonFriends.org



Wilmington Friends School is a community as well as a great place to grow up. They offer an unsurpassed academic program with depth, asking students to question, collaborate,



Rosemont School of the Holy Child

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

Quaker matters. Come see why.



OPEN HOUSE Monday, April 6 from 9-11am

Visit us at wilmingtonfriends.org or call 302.576.2930 to register or to arrange a customized tour. Wilmington Friends School serves children in preschool through 12th grade.



Opening in 2015 - Global Learning Center and New Design Lab for our STEAM Program

Rosemont School of the Holy Child

Nurturing Excellence in a Joyful Catholic Community

Visit rosemontschool.org



OPEN HOUSES
February 11 & April 8 • 9:00 a.m.

Independent • Coed • Catholic
3 years to Grade 8



1344 Montgomery Avenue • Rosemont, PA 19010 • 610-922-1010

Malvern

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

An Augustinian School

INNOVATIVE
LEARNING
BUILT ON
TIMELESS FAITH.



**Academic Scholarship and Entrance Exam
for 6th, 7th, 8th Grades
Saturday, February 7**

**6th Grade Practice Exam for 4th Graders
9th Grade Practice Exam for 7th Graders
Saturday, March 21**

Register Today!

MalvernPrep.org/Admissions

• malvernprep.org/UNITAS

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT?

At The Luma Center, we understand that each child's interests and strengths provide the foundation for successful learning. Identifying the underlying need is key to matching the right intervention and achieving positive learning outcomes.

We Offer

- Therapeutic preschool programs
- Social skills groups
- Comprehensive occupational and speech-language evaluations
- Individual speech-language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Specialized Childhood Apraxia of Speech services
- Consultation



A Program of Valley Forge Educational Services

Contact us, and we can guide you through the process of finding the right program and services for your child.

610.296.6725 x183
lumacenter.org

1777 N. Valley Road
Malvern, PA

be creative and take risks, all within a caring community that balances focus on the individual with responsibility to the common good. Laptops for all students in grades 5-12. Serving students Preschool through grade 12. New Design Lab for STEAM program and Global Learning Center opening in Fall 2015. Join them for an Open House or arrange a visit during a school day that works with your schedule.

All School Open House: Apr. 6 from 9 to 11

LEARNING DIFFERENCES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

PENNSYLVANIA

Conshohocken

AIM Academy
1200 River Rd.

215-483-2461; AIMPA.org

AIM Academy—Innovative

Teaching. Fearless Learning. A

grade 1 through 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. 8, from 1 to 3

Feb. 18, Mar. 12, Apr. 15, May 6, from 9 to 11

If you cannot make an Open House date, phone to arrange a Thursday group tour.



Downingtown

Devereux Autism Assessment Center

600 Boot Rd.

267-788-6892

Devereux.org/Autism



The Devereux Autism Assessment Center in Downingtown provides comprehensive services to address questions and concerns about Autism Spectrum Disorder. This program offers the gold-standard in Autism assessment including the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS). And this program strives to efficiently deliver the highest quality of services from intake, to thorough assessment, to intensive follow up. This center is in line with Devereux's mission of providing individualized and comprehensive services for children and adults with special needs.

Glenmoore

Devereux. See Malvern.



AIM Academy

Looking to make
the best
educational
choice
for your child?

Choose Pennsylvania's
most experienced,
tuition-free, K-12
online public school.



The Learning Never Stops
PAcyber.org

BenchmarkSCHOOL

Transforming Futures. Empowering Success.



A comprehensive academic program tailored to the way each student learns best.

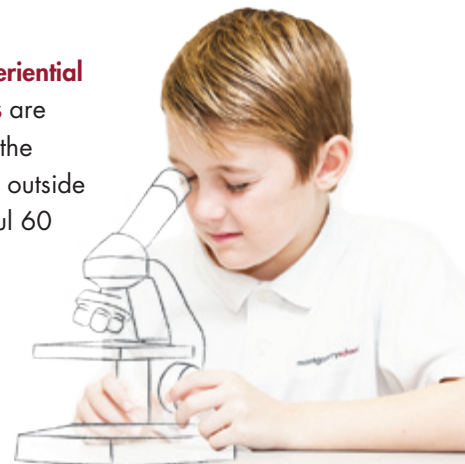
ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSES:
January 22, March 5, April 16, & May 21 • 9:00-11:00 AM

BENCHMARK SUMMER CAMP:
June 29-July 31 • For children entering grades 1-6
Develop reading & writing skills • Gain confidence & self-esteem

2107 N. Providence Rd., Media, PA • 610-565-3741 • BenchmarkSchool.org

inspired
to
explore
prepared
to
succeed

Hands-on experiential science lessons are taught both in the classroom and outside on our beautiful 60 acre campus.



Open House
Sunday, March 15 at 1 pm

Call 610.827.7222 to schedule a personal tour.

montgomeryschool
montgomeryschool.org



Malvern

Devereux
484-595-6773
Devereux.org



With 103 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.

The Luma Center, A Program of Valley Forge Educational Services
1777 N. Valley Rd.
610-296-6725
LumaCenter.org



The Luma Center offers comprehensive evaluations, therapeutic preschool programs, social skills group, occupational and speech-language therapy, consultation and professional training to support children across home, school and community environments. Contact them so they can guide you through the process of promoting the growth and development of your child. Offering school year and summer programs for children 2-12 years of age.

Tours available upon request.

Media

Benchmark School
2107 N. Providence Rd.
610-565-3741;
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.

Mar. 5, Apr. 16 and May 21 from 9 to 11

Paoli

Delaware Valley Friends School
19 E. Central Ave.
610-640-4150; DVFS.org



Bright Futures. Delivered. A national leader in educating bright students (grades 6-12) with reading, writing and other language-based learning differences. Students receive a comprehensive, research-based, college prep curriculum, individualized instruction, cutting-edge assistive technologies, successful college placement, and an emphasis on self-advocacy within a community based on Quaker values. DVFS is the only school program in PA, DE and NJ accredited by both IMSLEC and IDA—the leaders multisensory instruction.

Registration required:

Mar. 11, Apr. 29, May 27 at 7 pm

Mar. 25, Apr. 11, May 13 from 9 to 11 am

June 17 Open House with Alumni Panel at 7 pm

Rosemont

Hill Top Preparatory School

737 S. Ithan Ave.

610-527-3230; HillTopPrep.org



Hill Top Preparatory School educates students in grades 5-12 with diagnosed learning differences. Often, these students find traditional school challenging because they have difficulties with nonverbal learning issues including anxiety, and navigating social situations.

HTPS supports students with accommodations, including an individualized curriculum complemented by counseling support and a mentoring program. Visit their website to learn more. Choose Hill Top for education, for friendship, for life.

Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 18, May 6, 9:30 to 11

West Chester

Devereux. See Malvern.

DELAWARE

Centreville

Centreville Layton School

6201 Kennett Pk.

302-655-3280

CentrevilleLayton.org



Committed to the success of its students, Centreville Layton School is motivated by two fundamental goals: to provide children with learning differences a vibrant and challenging curriculum comparable to those found at any Pre-K to 12th grade school, and to offer each student the specialized and focused support he or she needs.

First Wednesdays from 9 to 11 am ♦



The joy of fearless learning.

Now, bright children who learn differently can learn fearlessly. AIM Academy delivers a rigorous college-prep curriculum taught in an empowering environment of experience, expertise, and understanding, and coupled with a rich range of sports and extra-curricular pursuits.

Grades 1 - 12 • 1200 River Road Conshohocken, PA



Innovative teaching, fearless learning.

OPEN HOUSES MONTHLY Feb. 8, 1-3 pm & Feb. 18 & Mar. 12, 9-11 am
Register at www.aimpa.org or 215-483-2461

EDUCATING HER MIND

OPENING HER HEART

Pre-K-12

COME & PLAY DAY OPEN HOUSE
Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade
Saturday, February 21
9:30 am - 11:00 am



Country Day School of the Sacred Heart
480 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue



Bryn Mawr
610-527-3915
WWW.CDSSH.ORG

Agnes Irwin

OPEN THE DOOR



SPRING OPEN HOUSES

April 8 • April 30 • May 7

For information about Spring 2015 Open Houses, visit agnesirwin.org/openhouse or call **610.526.1667**

The Agnes Irwin School
Ithan Avenue & Conestoga Road, Rosemont PA 19010

HOME OF THE MONTH

VALLEY PARK

*Family-friendly living near
Pickering Creek Reservoir*

Laurel Anderson

NOT FAR FROM THE ROLLING hills of Valley Forge National Historic Park—with its nature trails, bike paths and horse trails—is a secluded enclave of 31 homes arranged along a looped road. That's where you'll find 102 Waverly Circle, set in the Valley Park neighborhood of gracious homes blending privacy and a sense of community on the edge of Pickering Creek Reservoir.

In this undeveloped section of Chester County—home to nesting bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, horse stables and golf courses—the Home of the Month is also close to King of Prussia, Great Valley and the Main Line, with easy access to the expressway to Philadelphia. And it offers timeless design from Bentley Builder's 40 years of experience constructing premier estate-quality homes.

Looking for More Space

Happy in this convenient corner of Chester County, the current owners moved less than two miles eight years ago to Waverly Circle, in search of more space. And they certainly found it—over 5,000 square feet in this 5-bedroom, 3.2-bath, 3-car-garage home, with a full unfinished lower level. Plenty of space for just the two of them, their dog and an amazing orchid collection!

The couple also found more space on their large homesite that abuts the conserved green space of Pickering Creek Reservoir—land that's free to enjoy without the responsibility of ownership and maintenance. Three outside patios of Pennsylvania bluestone and Techo-Bloc, accented by a pergola and lush landscaping, provide a perfect setting for months of cookouts and outdoor relaxation in the fenced yard with country views.

But now it's time to downsize, as the couple needs less space and plans another short move.

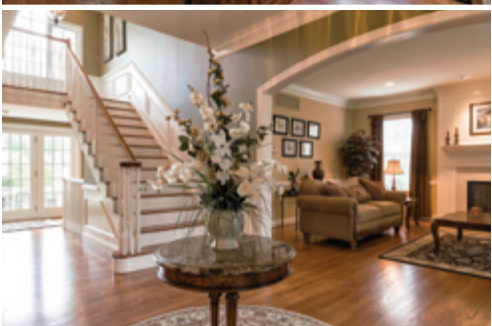
A Classic Home

A classic center-hall Colonial design, this home mixes the best of traditional style and craftsmanship with modern amenities and conveniences. The layout is familiar, welcoming you into the gracious 11x30-foot foyer, with a stunning main staircase begging to be used for grand entrances and photo backdrops.

You immediately see custom details—arched doorways, crown moldings, chair rails, wainscoting up the stairs and in the dining room. Plus the gleam of red-oak, site-finished wood floors that run throughout most of the first floor.

Anchored by a wood-burning fireplace with custom mantel, the open, airy formal





living room is through the archway to the right. To the left is the formal dining room, accented by custom wainscoting.

From the dining room, through the butler's pantry—with sink, built-ins and wine refrigerator—you come to the 19x18-foot gourmet kitchen. Yes, it's the heart of the home and an open and welcoming space where everyone at every party will congregate around the huge center island. Meeting every cook's wish list—granite counter tops, stainless steel top-of-the-line appliances, custom designed cabinets, built-in desk—the kitchen tops the list with gorgeous views out back. Boasting a tray ceiling, the adjacent morning room, with sunset views, is the perfect spot any time of day.

But what makes this home so family-friendly is the two-story 20x17-foot great room. A wall of palladium windows frame the view, a field-stone fireplace adds warmth, and plush wall-to-wall carpeting helps make this the place where quality time will be shared.

Also enjoying the view of the backyard, the private, in-home office is separated from family life by wood-stained French doors and accented with cherry moldings and details. A powder room is accessible from both the home office and living room.

Rounding out the first floor is a large mudroom with butler's entry and individual storage cubbies as well as another powder room.

Upper and Lower Levels

One wing of the second floor is reserved for the bright and private master suite. Entered through a 13x11-foot sitting room, the 19x16-foot master bedroom has a tray ceiling, adding a spacious feeling to the already large room. Pass his-and-her walk-in closets on either side on your way to the master bath.

Here, too, are his-and-her amenities on either side—this time vanities and dressing tables—as you head for the view of the reservoir green space. Another set of large windows frames this view over the luxurious, built-in jetted tub. A large glass-door shower and water closet flank the tub.

The remainder of the second floor has four spacious bedrooms, two with en suite baths, the others with hall access baths, plus ample storage and a convenient second-floor laundry room.

On the lower level, new owners can make their mark. Although unfinished, this space has 8-foot headroom, rough plumbing for a powder room, and large windows bringing in natural light. Perfect for a media room, home gym, in-laws or au pair suite—or all three—this space is a blank canvas for the next family to paint their own picture of home. ♦

This meticulously maintained home off Valley Park Road in Phoenixville is offered for \$1,279,000. For more information, contact Kimberly Swanson, 484-614-1231; Kimberly.Swanson@FoxRoach.com.

PHOTOS: JMB PHOTOWORKS, WWW.JMBPHOTOWORKS.COM

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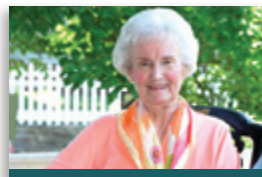
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www.dutchiesstoneworks.com

Where *friends* become *family*.

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.

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

INDEPENDENT LIVING • PERSONAL CARE • SKILLED NURSING

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



LIVE HOW YOU'VE ALWAYS IMAGINED.



WESTTOWN RESERVE—COME SEE YOUR NEW HOME

Westtown Reserve, an active adult community with 8 spacious floor plans ranging in size from 1,386 to 1,795 sq. ft. 2 bedrooms, with walk-in closet in master, 2 full baths, dining & living room or one large great room, foyer with hardwood flooring, full kitchen and laundry room, terrace or balcony (in select models).

Constructed by the Moser Group, features include: secure underground garage, private storage spaces, fitness center, solarium with balcony, nine-foot ceilings, granite countertops in kitchen, spacious kitchen pantry.

Westtown Reserve is located in the heart of Chester County – surrounded by restaurants, shops, golf courses, parks, a university, and more.

Visit our decorated model off Skiles Boulevard in Westtown Township Friday through Tuesday, 12:00 to 5:00 pm. Call 215-910-3064 or visit WesttownReserve.com.

WESTTOWN RESERVE

An Active Adult Community

Food News

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



Hungry for a Win?

Looking for a spot to watch the 2015 Superbowl while enjoying delicious food and beer? **Appetites on Main** in Exton is just the place. With 11 high definition TVs, missing a play is not an issue. Plus their excellent bar food and growing beer selection—14 on tap and over 80

craft bottles—is worth coming back for no matter what sports season it is. Bring your whole family, and root for your favorite team! 286 Main Street, Exton. 610-594-2030; AppetitesOnMain.com.

Zoup for You. Waiting for the winter weather to warm up? In the meantime, check out the new location of **Zoup! Fresh Soup Company** just west of the Exton Square Mall. Their award-winning soup menu features hundreds of hearty options—customer favorites include Chicken Potpie,



Lobster Bisque and Vegetarian Split Pea. And if you have specific requests like dairy or gluten-free, Zoup! has you covered. Stop by to cozy up with your favorite before winter ends. 470 W. Lincoln Highway, Exton. Zoup.com.



Baguettes in the Borough. It's officially time to get ready for another addition to West Chester's delightful eateries with **La Baguette Magique** opening in early 2015. This traditional French bakery and café will feature handmade breads, breakfast pastries, lunch and desserts. Dream of freshly made croissants, French macarons, decadent éclairs and other tasty treats while following their opening progress on Facebook. 202 W. Market St., West Chester. 610-590-4950.

Good Luck Foods. Chinese New Year is around the corner this February 19th! Just in time, **SideChef**, a Top 10 iTunes step-by-step cooking app, has some great "Good Luck Foods" thought to symbolize good fortune. Featuring recipes from top bloggers, these wealth, health and prosperity-bringing foods will delight your appetite if nothing else. Try Spicy Soba Noodles for Longevity, Glazed Orange Ricotta Cake for Abundance or Pulled Pork Sliders for Progress. Find them and more at SideChef.com.



Pancakes and Patties.

February has tons of food holidays to get excited about like National Pistachio Day and Peppermint Patty Day—although we're still not sure if it's "patty" or "pattie." One thing we do know is that **Pancake Day**, traditionally known as **Shrove Tuesday**, takes place February 17th this year. Take advantage and make pancakes at home with your family or eat out at a local diner. Check out our *January Dining Guide* to learn about the best breakfast spots in the area.



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Ever watched people at restaurants taking pictures of their food? Now you can be one of them ... but with a good reason! Enter the *County Lines* food photo contest! Send your best food photo (just one!) taken at a local restaurant to Info@ValleyDel.com by February 10, 2015. Semi-finalists will be published in our March issue and entered to win 2 tickets to Table Tours. Check our website and Facebook page for details. Good luck and happy eating!

COUNTY LINES
MAGAZINE





Casseroles & Stews

Laura Muzzi Brennan

No-nonsense meals perfect for a chilly winter evening—or anytime.

THERE'S NO "I" IN CASSEROLE or stew: no superstar ingredient, no flashy cooking technique, no fancy equipment. These dishes are unpretentious, rock-solid and no nonsense—just the sort you want on your side when you're aiming to score big in the dinner game.

Traditional Irish stews and casseroles draw raves from diners at **Kildare's Irish Pub** with five locations including West Chester and Newark, DE. When Kildare's original executive chef, Stephanie Gray, visited Ireland, she became enamored of the down-to-earth, "what you see is what you get" cuisine.

This ethos infuses Kildare's Guinness beef stew and shepherd's pie, two of the restaurant's most popular items. "Even during the summer, people come in for these dishes because it reminds them of their grandmother's cooking," says Gray who now serves as purchasing manager but remains involved in menu decisions and recipe development.

Like Gray, Chef Chris Siropaides appreciates the simple pleasures of classic stews and casseroles. Last fall, he took over as chef at **Sips Bistro & Bar**, a French bistro in downtown Phoenixville that offers dinner seven nights a week and brunch on Sunday.



Wednesday and boeuf bourguignon (beef stew made with wine and vegetables) on Saturday. The beauty of these dishes—and the reason they are classics according to Siropaides—is that they're generally cost-friendly and composed of familiar ingredients. "Everyone in America has been raised on beef stew," he jokes.

While most of these dishes really don't require a wealth of culinary know-how, keeping a few simple

guidelines in mind goes far in teasing out each ingredient's best qualities.

First, when preparing meat for stews or casseroles, make sure to cut all the pieces into the same size so they cook evenly. Also, as a general rule, brown meat to increase depth of flavor.

Second, before adding pasta to casseroles, cook it first—but only partially. Aim for 2 to 4 minutes under the suggested cooking time.

Third, if you want to preserve the flavor or texture of quick-cooking vegetables such as spinach or delicate herbs like basil, stir them in toward the end of cooking time.

Finally—unless you are being chased by wild dogs or ravenous children—always allow the dishes to sit for a good 10 to 15 minutes before serving. The flavors meld, the sauce thickens, and you, dear cook, sip your wine. Win, win, triple win.



Guinness Beef Stew

Recipe courtesy of Chef Stephanie Gray, Kildare's.

5 lbs. beef, cut into 1" cubes
 ½ C. flour plus more for thickening stew
 2, 14.9-oz. cans Guinness
 2 C. celery, chopped
 3 carrots, chopped
 1 white onion, chopped
 1 qt. beef stock
 1 bay leaf
 1 tsp. fresh thyme
 1 tsp. fresh parsley
 1 garlic clove, chopped
 1 lb. potatoes, cut into medium dice
 4 oz. tomato paste
 Salt and pepper to taste

Coat beef with flour in a large pot and add half of the Guinness to dissolve flour. Add all of the ingredients except tomato paste, salt and pepper to the pot.

Bring to a boil and then reduce to a simmer. Cook until the meat and all of the vegetables are tender.

Add the tomato paste and season to taste with salt and pepper. Add more flour and water mixed together and whisk into the stew as needed to thicken.

Makes 6-10 servings.

Shepherd's Pie

Recipe courtesy of Chef Stephanie Gray, Kildare's.



For the meat and vegetables:

2 oz. butter
 ¼ C. minced garlic
 1 white onion, cut into medium dice
 2 carrots, cut into medium dice
 2 ribs celery, cut into medium dice
 2 C. frozen peas
 5 lbs. beef, cut into 1" cubes
 ¼ C. flour
 1qt. beef stock
 Salt and pepper to taste

For the mashed potatoes:

3 lbs. Idaho Potatoes, peeled and cut into large pieces or cubes

Ye Olde Casseroles

While lasagna never goes out of style, many beloved casseroles including tuna noodle have fallen from grace over the last few decades. Here's a look at some former A-listers that might just deserve a second chance.

Turkey Tetrazzini: Named for Italian soprano Luisa Tetrazzini, who toured the U.S. in the early 20th century, this dish combines spaghetti, mushrooms and turkey in a creamy Parmesan sauce flavored with wine or sherry. Best known as the ideal way to use up Thanksgiving turkey, it can be made with ham and chicken, too.

Chicken à La King: In its mid-20th century incarnation, this noodle casserole relied on iconic convenience foods such as Velveeta and condensed cream of chicken soup. Pimentos, celery and slivered almonds round out the dish whose origins can be traced to Brooklyn's Brighton Beach Hotel where the chef prepared it to the delight of hotel owner, E. Clark King.

Stuffed Cabbage Rolls: Eastern European in origin, these rolls are stuffed with a beef, onion and rice mixture, topped with tomato sauce and baked much like stuffed peppers. So why do today's cooks embrace stuffed peppers but snub stuffed cabbage? It's not naked discrimination; it's that parboiling cabbage leaves and double-wrapping meat takes up too much time.

Pork Chops and Scalloped Potatoes: Old cookbooks abound with recipes for this dish. In her 1960 *The I Hate to Cook Book*, Peg Bracken simply mixes a can of condensed cream of mushroom soup with milk, pours it over sliced potatoes, tops with pork chops and bakes. Now that pork has enjoyed a renaissance, maybe this dish will follow suit.

1 C. milk
 4 oz. Butter
 Salt and Pepper to taste

Sweat garlic and all vegetables except peas in butter until soft and translucent. (Sweating means cooking over low heat in a little fat.) Add in beef coated in flour and cook until browned. Add in stock. Season with salt and pepper.

Bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer. Simmer until all meat and vegetables are tender.

To make the mashed potatoes, put the potatoes in cold water. Bring to a boil and boil until tender. Drain and add back to the hot pot. Add in milk and butter and mash. Taste and season with salt and pepper.

Put meat/vegetables in a casserole dish and top with mashed potatoes. (Note: You may have mashed potatoes left over.) Brown under the broiler or bake at 350° until heated through.

Makes 6-10 servings.

Beef Bourguignon

Recipe courtesy of Chef Chris Siropaides, Sips Bistro & Bar.

3 lbs. beef chuck shoulder or short ribs, cut into 1" pieces
 Salt and pepper to taste
 2 Tb. flour
 Oil to coat Dutch oven
 6 oz. bacon, cut into small pieces
 1 onion, cut into medium dice
 1 Tb. tomato paste
 3 C. red wine
 3 C. beef stock
 8 sprigs thyme

1 bay leaf
 2 Tb. butter
 1 lb. mushrooms, quartered
 20 pearl onions, blanched

Season meat cubes with salt and pepper. Then coat in flour. Coat the bottom of a Dutch oven with oil. Sear beef until browned on all sides. Remove to a side plate. Add bacon to the skillet and render the fat. Add diced onion and cook until lightly browned. Add tomato paste and fry for a minute. Add beef and red wine.

Simmer to cook out alcohol, about 3 minutes. Add stock and herbs. Cook on low until meat is tender but not mushy. When done, discard the herbs.

In a separate skillet, sauté mushrooms in butter until tender and browned, about 5 minutes. Add pearl onions and heat through. Add mushrooms and onions to the beef.

Makes 6-8 servings.

Coq Au Vin

Recipe courtesy of Chef Chris Siropaides, Sips Bistro & Bar.

8 oz. bacon
 Oil
 2, 3-4 lb. whole chickens, cut into 8 pieces
 Salt and pepper to taste
 1 lb. carrots, cut into 1" pieces
 2 onions, cut in large pieces
 2 tsp. minced garlic
 1 bottle red wine (750ml)
 2 C. chicken stock
 20 sprigs thyme
 3 Tb. flour
 6 Tb. butter, divided

1 lb. cremini mushrooms, quartered
 1 lb. pearl onions, blanched

Preheat oven to 325°. Render bacon in Dutch oven until crispy. Remove to a side plate.

Season chicken with salt and pepper. Add enough oil to the bacon fat in the Dutch oven to bring level to ¼". Brown chicken. Remove to a side plate. Add carrots, onion and garlic. Cook until slightly caramelized. Add chicken and half of the bacon back into the pan.

Add red wine and simmer to burn off the alcohol, about 3 minutes. Add chicken stock and thyme. Cover and place in oven for an hour until chicken is tender.

Remove chicken and set aside. Strain liquid into new pan and discard vegetables. Bring liquid to a simmer. In a small bowl, mix flour and 4 Tb. butter together with a fork or spoon. Whisk into liquid and simmer until sauce coats the back of a spoon.

Sauté mushrooms in 2 Tb. butter until tender and browned, about 5 minutes. Add pre-blanching pearl onions and remainder of the bacon and heat through.

To serve, top the chicken with the sauce, mushrooms and onions.

Makes 4-6 servings.

Truffle Mac and Cheese

A little truffle oil goes a long way so add judiciously. Recipe courtesy of Chef Chris Siropaides, Sips Bistro & Bar.



2½ Tb. butter
 3 Tb. flour
 2 C. warm milk
 Salt and pepper to taste
 6 oz. grated gruyère cheese, divided
 Truffle oil as needed
 6 C. cooked elbow macaroni

To make the mornay sauce, melt butter over low heat and add flour. Cook for

a minute to prevent floury taste. Stir to prevent burning, and don't let the mixture brown.

Whisk in milk slowly to prevent lumps. Add salt and pepper to taste. Stir frequently with a wooden spoon while heating up to a simmer. (Note: The sauce sticks to the bottom easily while the milk is thickening.) When milk has reached a simmer and achieved full thickening, add 2 oz. gruyère, and stir in until melted.

Add a few drops of truffle oil to get desired flavor and stir in macaroni.

Put mixture in a casserole dish, top with 4 oz. gruyère, and broil for a few minutes until the top is lightly browned.

Makes 6-8 servings.

Eggplant Rollatini Casserole

Here's one of those rare vegetarian entrées without pasta or grains that actually fills you up.

2 medium eggplants
 4 eggs, divided
 2 Tb. plus ½ C. grated Parmesan cheese, divided
 1 Tb. water
 1 tsp. kosher salt
 1 tsp. dried oregano, divided
 ¼ tsp. garlic powder
 1, 25-oz. jar of your favorite pasta sauce
 1 can cherry tomatoes in juices
 2 C. frozen broccoli florets
 15 oz. whole milk ricotta cheese
 4 C. shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
 ¼ C. chopped Italian parsley
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Torn basil leaves for garnish

Preheat oven to 400°. Spray two cookie sheets with cooking spray. Slice tops off eggplant. Cut eggplants lengthwise into 6-8 slices, ⅓" thick. Discard the end slices (the ones that have a lot of skin).

Whisk together 3 eggs, 2 Tb. Parmesan, water, salt, ½ tsp. oregano and garlic powder. Dip each eggplant slice into egg mixture and place on cookie sheet.

Bake for 12-15 minutes until just starting to brown. Loosen eggplant from cookie sheet using the flattest spatula you have. (A fish spatula works well.) Reduce oven temperature to 350°.

While eggplant bakes, pour sauce and cherry tomatoes into a saucepan and heat on low, breaking up the cherry tomatoes with a potato masher. (You still want some chunks.)

In a skillet, bring ½ C. water to a boil. Add broccoli florets and cook until tender or water evaporates, whichever comes first. Remove from pan and allow to cool slightly.

In a bowl, combine ricotta cheese, 2 C. shredded mozzarella, ½ C. Parmesan, parsley, 1 egg and salt and pepper to taste. Gently fold in broccoli.

Spread a few ladles of sauce on bottom of a large casserole dish. Spoon 2 heaping tablespoons of cheese mixture into the middle of each piece of eggplant and roll up. Place seam side-down in the casserole dish, really snuggling the rolls up next to each other. Top with 2 C. mozzarella and sprinkle with ½ tsp. oregano.

Bake for 25-30 minutes until cheese bubbles. Immediately before serving, top with basil leaves.

Makes 6-8 servings.

Baked Risotto with Chicken, Spinach and Mushrooms

1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast or breast tenders, cut into 1" pieces
 1 Tb. butter
 3 Tb. olive oil, divided
 1 med. onion, finely chopped (2 C.)
 2 C. Arborio rice



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2½ C. chicken broth
1, 10¾-oz. condensed
cream of chicken
or cream of mushroom soup
1 C. grated Parmesan
1, 13.25-oz. can mushroom stems and
pieces, drained
6 oz. baby spinach leaves, roughly torn



Preheat oven to 400°. In a Dutch oven, melt butter and 1 Tb. olive oil over medium heat. Add chicken and cook until just cooked through. Remove from Dutch oven.

Heat 2 Tb. olive oil in Dutch oven. Add onion and cook over medium heat until just beginning to soften and become translucent, about 3-5 minutes. Stir in rice, making sure it's coated with the olive oil. Stir in chicken broth and soup.

Cook, stirring frequently, for 8-10 minutes over medium-low heat. (The rice will still have a fairly hard center, but don't worry as it will continue to cook and soften in the oven. I usually remove the rice mixture from the heat when I can drag a wooden spoon through it, leaving a clear path for a second or two.) Off the heat, stir in Parmesan and mushrooms.

Cover and bake for 15 minutes. Stir in spinach and bake for another 15 minutes until almost all liquid is absorbed.

Makes 6-8 main dish servings.

Cheesy Shrimp and Grits Casserole

The inspiration for this recipe came in equal parts from Bobby Flay and Southern Living. Keep Tabasco sauce on hand for a bit of heat.



6 oz. bacon
2 scallions (white, light and dark
green parts), sliced into ½" pieces
2½ C. chicken broth
1½ C. milk
1 C. grits (not quick-cooking)
1 large egg, beaten
1½-2 C. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
1 lb. shrimp, cooked and shells removed

Preheat oven to 350°. Cut bacon into 1" pieces and cook until most of the fat has rendered. Remove bacon with a slotted spoon and set aside on paper towels. Discard all but 2 Tb. bacon fat and cook scallions in it for 2 minutes. Set aside.

In a Dutch oven, bring chicken broth and milk to a boil. Whisking constantly, add grits in a steady stream. Reduce to a simmer and whisking frequently, cook grits for 10-12 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in bacon, scallions, egg and cheese.

Cover and bake for 15-20 minutes. Stir in shrimp. Cover and bake for another 10-15 minutes until shrimp is heated through. (With room temperature shrimp, bake for only 10 minutes, but for shrimp that has been frozen and thawed—and is still a little chilly—go for the 15 minutes.)

Makes 6 servings.

Colcannon Soup

While neither a stew nor a casserole, this soup is included because it's hearty and warming, the ideal antidote to a raw February day. Colcannon is a traditional Irish dish made with mashed potatoes and cabbage. Recipe courtesy of Chef Stephanie Gray, Kildare's.



3 lbs. Idaho potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
½ bunch leeks (white and light green parts only) chopped
¼ head green cabbage, chopped
1 qt. vegetable stock plus additional stock for thinning soup
¼ C. white wine
½ qt. heavy cream
Salt and pepper to taste

Place all ingredients except heavy cream and salt and pepper into a large pot and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook until ¾ of liquid is gone. Then add heavy cream and seasonings at the end. Using a stick or stand blender, purée. Adjust salt and pepper as needed. If too thick, add some more stock.

Makes 6-8 servings.

French Toast Casserole

My sister serves this dish on holiday mornings. Fry up some bacon, put out a bowl of strawberries and call it a brunch.

1 C. brown sugar
½ C. butter
2 Tb. dark corn syrup
5 large eggs
1½ C. milk
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 French baguette (sliced 1" thick)

In a medium pot, melt butter, brown sugar and corn syrup over medium-low heat. Set aside.

In a bowl, combine eggs, milk and vanilla extract. Grease a 9"x13" casserole dish with cooking spray. Pour butter mixture on bottom. Place slices of bread on butter mixture. Pour egg mixture over bread. Cover and let sit in refrigerator overnight.

Bake uncovered at 350° for 30 minutes or until egg mixture is set. Broil for a minute to brown the top.

Serves 6-8. ♦

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



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

talking with Jane Dorchester

It was no surprise when the 2014 West Chester Historic Preservation Special Recognition Award went to Jane Dorchester, architectural historian and historic preservation consultant with over 30 years of experience in the field. A frequent lecturer and former member of West Chester's HARB (Historical and Architectural Review Board), Jane is often seen leading tours around the borough and is easily recognizable by her Tilley hat. We talked with her about local preservation efforts.



You have an unusual job. How did you choose it?

I started out as a historic researcher, but then I began conducting historic resource surveys and National Register of Historic Places nominations. I realized I was competing for those projects with consultants who had Masters degrees, so I went to the University of Pennsylvania for mine. I was fortunate to study at Penn when John Milner was teaching there and was able to take his courses. Luckily for me, John became my thesis advisor.

Why do people and organizations need your services?

Basically three reasons: They don't have the time, they don't have the expertise, or they don't have either the time or the expertise.

What accounts for Chester County's success in preserving its architectural resources?

It probably goes back to the Quaker habit of frugality—there was an inclination to reuse existing buildings, rather than to demolish them. And the area had a wealth of important buildings. More recently, the credit for raising the public's and county officials' awareness of the importance of historic preservation goes to Jane Davidson. She was the first Chester County Historic Preservation Officer and helped found the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, the only county-wide preservation nonprofit organization.

What are your most notable projects and successes?

Two come to mind. First, I successfully nominated the Chandler Mill Bridge near the south of the Bucktoe Preserve in Kennett Township to the National Register because it's an excellent example of a through-girder bridge. The bridge was being threatened with demolition, but after a great deal of hard work led by The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County, the Board of Supervisors voted to take back ownership of the bridge to preserve it.

Second, I helped Ray Ott, of Ray Ott & Associates, create the West Chester Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan, which the Borough Council adopted in 2011. This plan is used as a model for other municipalities to follow to create their own plans.

You helped establish the West Chester Downtown Foundation's Historic Preservation Awards program. Why is this program important?

Because it helps raise the public's awareness of the need to preserve our historic resources by restoring and rehabilitating historic buildings as well as maintaining them. Important as the program is, it relies on nominations from the public, so I'd urge your readers to get involved and nominate worthy projects for 2015.

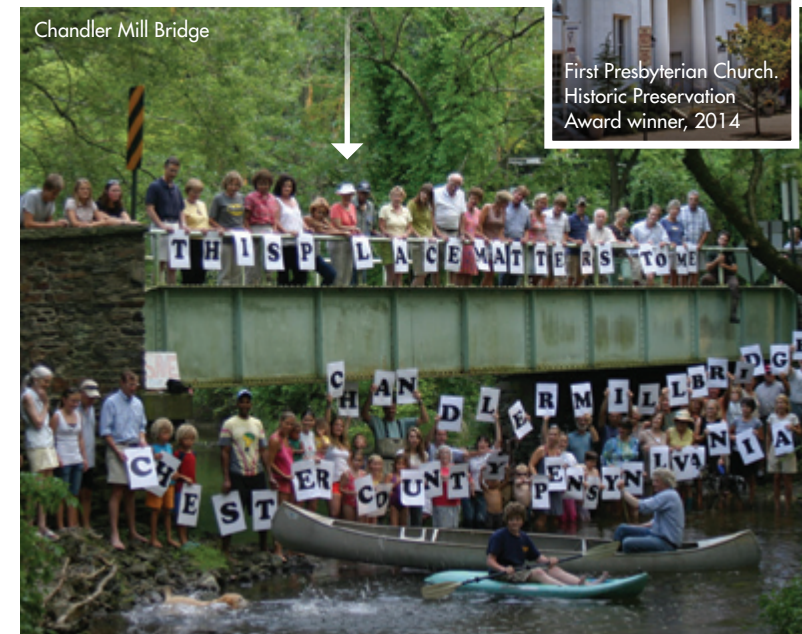
What's the next big challenge for historic preservation in Chester County?

As one of the fastest growing counties in the state, Chester County's biggest preservation challenge is the tremendous development pressures both in rural and urban areas. While the county government has supported historic preservation in the past, with the amount of development going on, it needs to do more. There's a legacy of local nonprofits, like the Brandywine Conservancy, French and Pickering Creek Conservancy, and The Land Conservancy of Southern Chester County, melding open space conservation and historic preservation. The county government needs to do a better job of doing the same thing, to strengthen their support of historic preservation.

And, property owners need to become more creative in finding ways to preserve and rehabilitate historic resources as part of the development process. This is especially true in urban areas, like West Chester, where development pressures are so great that they threaten to destroy the very fabric and character that makes these areas so popular and livable.

How can people get more involved?

The best way is to make it clear to your elected local and county officials just how important historic preservation is to you. You can do things like the folks did in the photo, below, of the Chandler Mill Bridge! (That's me holding the L.) ♦



Chandler Mill Bridge

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