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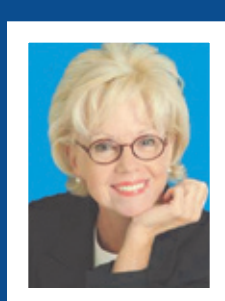
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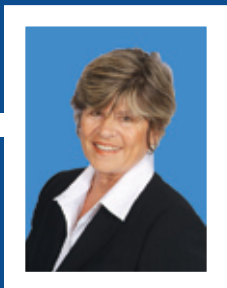
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Patti Brennan CFP®

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 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 was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees for The Chester County Hospital and Health System.



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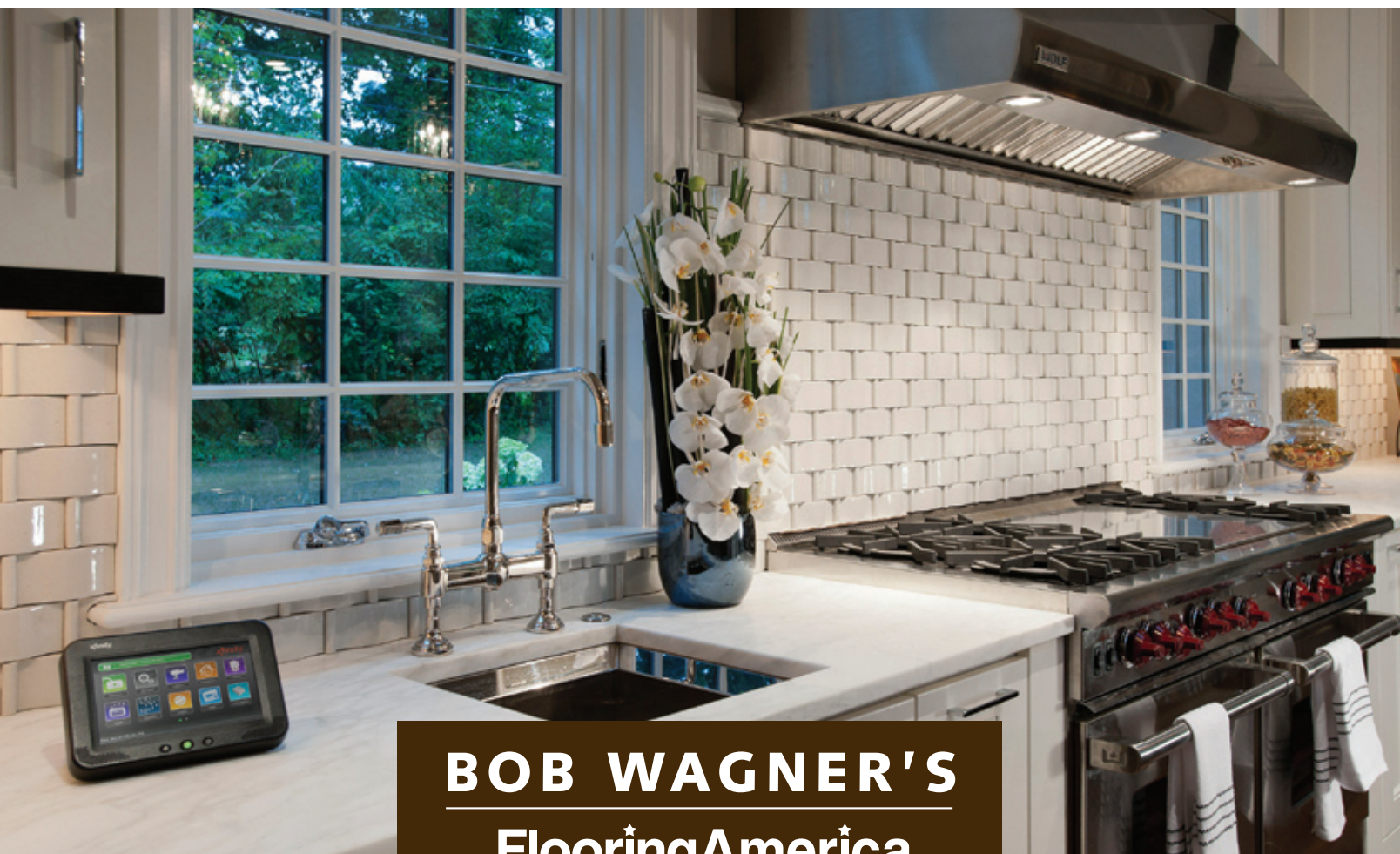
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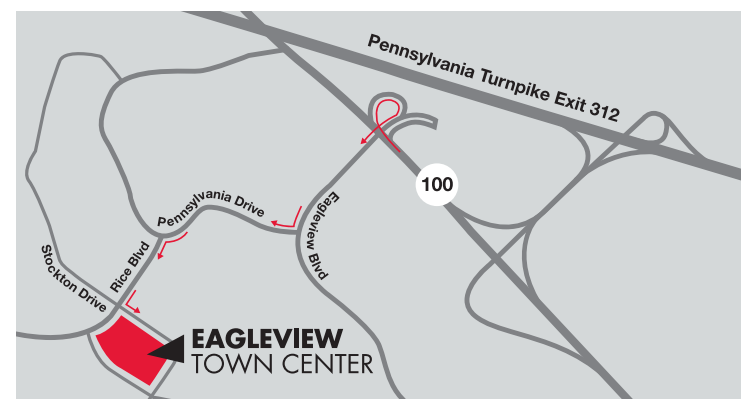
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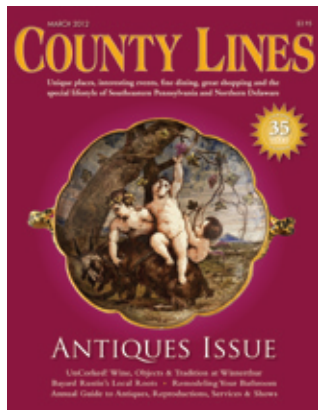
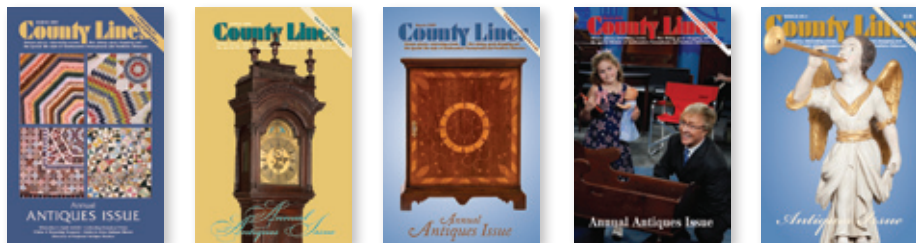
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From the Editor

For March, we highlight history, homes and antiques. Start with our full coverage of area antiques shows—including the top-notch Chester County Antiques Show in mid-March—plus our Dealer Directory, Show Calendar and Antiques Showcase.

Our look at history introduces you to winners of the first West Chester Historic Preservation Awards and to an under-appreciated local figure. He marched in Mississippi and marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. But he grew up in West Chester. Ellen Endslow, of Chester County Historical Society, recounts “Bayard Rustin’s Local Roots.”

Don’t know much about the history of wine? Winterthur Museum will fill that void with its wide-ranging exhibition “Uncorked! Wine, Objects & Tradition,” celebrating society’s love of wine, opening April 28. And get in the spirit and raise a glass to Laura Brennan’s Brandywine Table column, “Cooking With Wine.”

For the home-minded we visit a fascinating property in our Home of the Month feature. Crossroads Farm in Malvern has roots in the 1700s, yet after a five-year total renovation now offers every modern amenity, including a wine cellar. If your bathroom needs a facelift, we have suggestions based on a local project recreating a dream bath from a hotel in Edinburgh, Scotland. Read how in “Your Sparkling Bathroom: Remodels ... Not Regrets.”

We also visit one of our favorites—Yangming—for dinner, put a spotlight on People’s Light & Theatre’s production of *Shipwrecked*, suggest “Four Fabulous Fundraisers” to attend, and tell you about “Stress Testing Your Portfolio” in Worth Knowing.

But don’t spend all your time reading. It’s almost spring!

As always, we’ve got the best events coverage anywhere with what to do in March. We hope you visit our Facebook page for updates and giveaways and sign up for our Events Newsletter.

Thanks for reading *County Lines*. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Jo Anne Durako
Editor
County Lines Magazine

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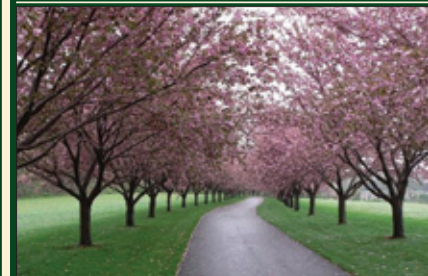
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CONTENTS

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 7 March 2012

38


31


54


COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

49


MARCH 2012

31
BAYARD RUSTIN'S LOCAL ROOTS
Ellen Endslow, Chester County Historical Society

34
**WEST CHESTER HISTORIC
PRESERVATION AWARDS**
Jane E. Dorchester, Awards Committee Chair

38
UNCORKED! WINE, OBJECTS & TRADITION
Leslie Grigsby, Winterthur

44
ANTIQUES SHOWCASE

45
**A DIRECTORY TO REGIONAL
ANTIQUES DEALERS**

49
**2012 CALENDAR OF AREA
ANTIQUES SHOWS**

54
**YOUR SPARKLING BATHROOM
Remodels ... Not Regrets**
Emily Hart

58
HOME OF THE MONTH: Crossroads Farm
Laurel Anderson

62
DINING OUT: Yangming
Lise Monty

66
BRANDYWINE TABLE: Cooking With Wine
Laura Muzzi Brennan

DEPARTMENTS

14 WORTH KNOWING	27 EVENTS SPOTLIGHT
17 GOOD TO KNOW	28 THEATER SPOTLIGHT
19 OF SPECIAL NOTE	65 FOOD NEWS
20 UPCOMING EVENTS	74 INDEX

*Photo on cover and above left, courtesy of Winterthur. Part of the "Uncorked!" exhibit.
On cover, Wedgewood dish inspired by ancient drinking cups, c. 1865.*



Worth Knowing



Stress Testing Your Portfolio

Patricia C. Brennan CFP®

The title of this story makes it sound like it's about portfolio management, but it's really about a far more important issue: the risk that a portfolio doesn't meet expectations, and the domino effect on your financial independence.

Stress testing, or scenario testing, is an important part of any comprehensive financial plan. By adjusting assumptions regarding rates of return, career outlook, inflation, tax rates and other areas, you can attempt to determine the key factors to focus on, and design a plan that meets your individual needs.

Here are a few scenarios for financial plans to test the probability that your money is there when you need it.

Rates of Return

The first test is to determine the baseline, or required, rate of return. All other assumptions held equal, what is the lowest possible rate of return that provides a good chance of maintaining your lifestyle through retirement?

If the rate of return required is low, you may want to consider a conservative portfolio. If it's high, the risk associated with that aggressive portfolio may also be uncomfortably high and you and your financial advisor will look at other ways to close the gap (such as deciding to work longer, spend less, or make similar changes).

Bear Market at Retirement

Before signing on the line to retire, make sure you can, even under a worst-case scenario. While long-term rate of return assumptions are important, the sequence (timing) of these returns is even more so. The order of returns is out of our control, but it is important to be cognizant of how these sequences can affect your portfolio.

These concerns may vary for investors at various stages in their lives, but can make a new retiree very nervous. While bear markets are an inevitable part of the cycle, you would wish for the highest return years when you have the most money in your account, and losses to occur when you have the least amount of money in your account.

A bear market early in retirement, without a thoughtful cash flow management strategy, can devastate a retirement outlook. While far worse things have happened in the past, advisors typically test using a 15% annual decline in the market for each of the first three years in a client's retirement.

Inflation & Income Tax Rates

In addition to the impact of higher inflation and income tax rates on your portfolio, you may want to run some scenarios showing the impact of higher inflation and taxes on your total financial plan. While we all want to defend against the erosion that comes with inflation and higher tax rates, we have to be cognizant that there may be unintended consequences of doing so.

If you invest too conservatively, you may run the risk of not out-pacing inflation on an after-tax basis. If you invest for growth to try to solve this problem, you'll have to be able to live with the ups and downs that could go along with that strategy. As always, balance is the key.

Special Circumstances

Everyone is unique, and therefore risks need to be defined on an individual basis. How secure is your employment? What if you can't sell your home for what you expect? What if a spouse dies unexpectedly? What are

the cash flow and long term planning implications, and what should you do? How are your children faring in these challenging times?

You have your own individual risks that must be considered in every case. When you have an understanding of how you may be affected by unexpected events, you can take steps to guard against more of the risks of life. ♦

Patricia C. Brennan CFP®, President, Key Financial, Inc., 1560 McDaniel Dr., West Chester. 610-429-9050; PBrennan@KeyFinancialInc.com.

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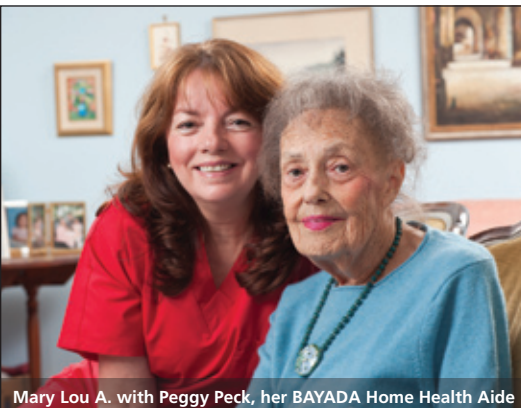


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Good to Know

Just a few things we thought you'd like to know for March



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Get free tickets to things like the Philadelphia International Car Show, *Of Mice and Men* at People's Light & Theatre or *La Cage*

Aux Folles at the DuPont Theatre. We'll be giving away tickets to the Sweet Charity dessert-tasting event at Waterloo Gardens, too.

Plus each Thursday we post the best events for Chester County and beyond. So, log onto Facebook, "like" the County Lines Magazine page, and win free stuff. It's that simple, so tell your friends. [Facebook.com/CountyLinesMagazine](https://www.facebook.com/CountyLinesMagazine).

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Inventing More Daylight. Ben Franklin invented some of our favorite gadgets—odometers, bifocals, swim fins. Did you know Ben is also credited with the concept of **Daylight Savings Time**?

The idea is simple—to make the most productive use of daylight hours, we "spring forward and fall behind." Since World War I, the U.S., Canada and much of Europe have been shifting their clocks with the changing seasons.

Daylight Savings falls on March 11, a few days shy of the start of spring, March 20. What better way to welcome spring than with a few extra hours of sunshine.

Calling All Photogs.

Enter the "I Love Classic Towns" photo contest with your best photos of Kennett Square, Media, Phoenixville or West Chester—the amazing architecture, walkable Main Streets, favorite spots. Amateurs and professionals can submit their best images in 7 categories. Sponsored by the Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia program, the contest is designed to showcase our neighborhoods as great places to live, work and play.

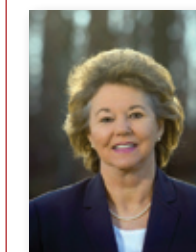
Winners get \$100, plus a \$500 Judge's Choice prize and \$300 Voter's Choice prize. Photographs travel through the 20 Classic Towns.

Photographs must have been taken from January 1, 2010 until the April 14, 2012 deadline. Online voting, April 15 to May 14, with formal judging and winners announced by July 31, 2012. Read the rules at ClassicTowns.org. And snap away!



6th Rebecca Lukens Award Winner—Tamara Cansler.

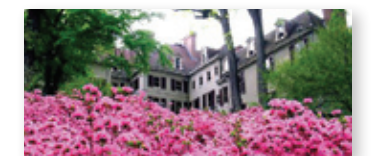
South Carolina schoolteacher, Merck industrial engineer, Coatesville real estate developer are a few roles Tamara Cansler has played. But it's for her work in community development and providing affordable housing—through projects like North Second Avenue Redevelopment and Brandywine Health Center—that she was selected for the **Rebecca Lukens Award**.



Given to a person who exhibits the qualities of America's first female industrialist, Rebecca Lukens, the award will be presented March 23rd at the Lukens Executive Building. For information, contact *The Graystone Society*, 610-384-9282; Graystone@lukensnhd.org.

It's Winter-tour. Learn more than the correct way to pronounce our local treasure of American decorative arts when you become a **Winterthur** volunteer. Get free admission, store and restaurant discounts, plus first-rate networking. Join the 350 current vols who give their time to help the museum, garden and library. For equestrians, over 200 volunteers are needed for the May 6th Point-to-Point fundraiser. A great way to enjoy the first steeplechase of the season.

Contact Margaret Jenkins, VolunteerInfo@Winterthur.org, 302-888-4784; Winterthur.org.





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Of Special Note



Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show

March 23-25

You'll find exceptional artisan-quality furniture at this long running exhibition displaying an amazing array of handmade furniture and furnishings to suit all tastes. 23rd Street Armory, 22 S. 23rd St., Philadelphia. Preview Fri., 6 to 9 p.m., \$15. Sat., 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$12. 215-387-8590; PhilaIFS.com.



Chester County Historical Society Antiques Show

March 16-18

See the finest antiques from exceptional dealers specializing in 18th- and 19th-century American and Continental furniture, rugs, paintings, porcelain, glass,

silver, jewelry and decorative arts. Preview Fri., early admission 5 p.m., \$200, regular admission 6 to 9 p.m., with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and buffet, \$130. Sat., 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; appraisals, Sun., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Show admission, \$15.

DuPont Theatre - La Cage Aux Folles

March 6-11

Riotously funny ... sensational ... heartwarming ... timeless ... just a few words to describe this winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical. George Hamilton and Christopher Sieber bring magic to their roles at the DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Tues.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Wed., Sat., Sun., 2 p.m. \$35-\$85. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.



13th Annual Chester County Garden Luncheon

March 17

Celebrate nature's beauty and help homeless single mothers and their children find permanent housing and financial self-sufficiency. The luncheon includes a lively silent auction and presentation, "American Idols: Native Plants to Love." Benefits Bridge of Hope of Lancaster and Chester Counties. Desmond Great Valley Hotel, One Liberty Blvd., Malvern. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (silent auction opens at 10:30 a.m.). \$55. 610-380-1360; BridgeOfHopeLCC.org.



Sugarloaf Crafts Festival

March 16-18

More than 250 top artisans display and sell unique creations. Greater Phila. Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Fri.-Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun., 10 to 5. \$9. 800-210-9900; SugarloafCrafts.com.

Upcoming Events

Noteworthy in March . . .

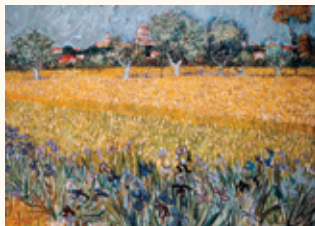
March 4-5

Banff Mountain Film Festival. From remote landscapes and cultures to the most exciting action sports, this film festival is an exploration of the mountain world featuring climbing, skiing, kayaking, biking, adventure and the environment. Alumnae Hall, Immaculata University, King Rd., Malvern. 7:30 p.m. \$16.50-19. 877-822-7673; PhilaRockGym.com.



Through May 6

The Philadelphia Museum of Art Presents "Van Gogh Up Close." This exhibition focuses on the artist's tumultuous years that began in 1886 and continued until his death in 1890. 26th St. & Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., Philadelphia. Tues-Thurs, 11 to 5; Fri, 11 to 8:45; Sat-Sun, 10 to 5. Paid tickets required, \$12-\$25. 215-235-7469; PhilaMuseum.org.



March 18

Vox Ama Deus: Bach Birthday Gala. A birthday soirée musicale reminiscent of those held in the music room of "Castle Somewhere" over 300 years ago, now celebrating Johann's 327th. Gladwyne Presbyterian Church, 1321 Beaumont Dr., Gladwyne. 5 pm. \$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.



March 23-24

63rd Annual Chadds Ford Art Show & Sale. The works of over 70 regional professional artists including Paul Scarborough and Stephen Brehm. Special guests Catherine Quillman, and Barbara Walsh, author of the new children's book *Sammy in the Sky*, illustrated by Jamie Wyeth, who will pre-sign copies. Barbara will co-sign at the Show. Chadds Ford Elementary School, 3 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford. Preview Fri, 7 to 10 pm; Sat, 10 to 4. Free. 610-388-1112; CFES.UCFSO.org/ArtShow.



Antiques

See Calendar of Antiques Shows in this issue.

Art & Craft Shows

Ongoing

Chester County Art Association. A nonprofit, cultural organization promoting participation in the arts through instruction, exhibitions and community outreach. **Mar. 2-Apr. 5, "Water,"** all media, styles and interpretations of water. 100 N. Bradford Ave., West Chester. 610-696-5600; ChesCoArt.org.

Through March 10

Wayne Art Center – Decorative Objects from Chanticleer A sampling of furniture, bridges, fences, railings, fountains, metal work, decorative pathways and architecture, all designed by Chanticleer staff and shown for the first time outside of their usual garden context. 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon-Sat, 10 to 4; 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

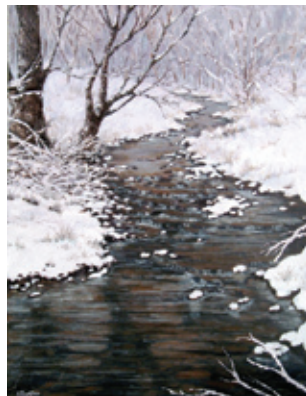
Through March 26

Art Trust Gallery Exhibit – "Ethereal Material." Diverse fiber artists explore interlaced

materials, investigating the extremely delicate/substantive, graceful/strong, temporal/unearthly, to discover new ways of interpreting what we observe. **Feb. 10,** artists' reception, 5 to 8:30. Meridian Bank, 16 W. Market St., West Chester. Weekdays 9 to 4:30. 484-467-1664; TheArtTrust.com.

Through April 14

Happenings at Beauty Art, Antiques, Rugs. John Pompeo, "Breaking the Silence." 3857 Providence Rd., Newtown Square. Tues, Wed, Fri, 11 to 6; Thurs, 11 to 7; Sat, 10 to 4 and by appointment. 610-353-4569; BeautyArtGallery.net.



March 2-4

Germantown Friends School 28th Anniversary Juried Craft Show. The nation's top craft artists exhibit their work at this show, ranked among the top 10% of the nation's craft shows. 31 W. Coulter St., Philadelphia. Preview Fri, with a silent auction of hand-crafted works donated by the exhibitors, 6 to 9, \$35-\$40. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, noon to 5. \$10. 215-301-4711; GermantownFriends.org.

March 24-25

Reading-Berks 10th Annual Spring Fine Arts & Craft Festival. Juried international and regional craftspeople and artisans display at Kutztown University Student Gallery, S. Campus Dr. and Baldy St., Kutztown. Refreshments, live music and door prizes. Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. Donation \$4. 610-678-6650; RBCrafts.org.

Design / Home Shows

March 3-11

38th Annual Pennsylvania Home Show. 350 exhibitors display at this show, which also features several "Shows-Within-the Show," such as a Showcase Home (open for touring with the newest "green" technologies), a Garden Faire, the Go Green expo and more. State Farm Show Complex, Exposition Center, Harrisburg. Mon-Fri, noon to 9; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 6. \$8. 717-232-5595; PAHomeShow.com.

March 4

37th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens Empty House Party. Meet the 2012

Design Team and view their plans for the designer house & gardens with Tuscan-inspired delicacies, a wine tasting and silent auction and raffles. Spring Valley Farm, 3864 Spring Valley Rd., Doylestown. 2 to 5. \$25-\$30. 215-345-2191; BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

March 9-11

Greater Philadelphia Historic Home Show and Designer Craftsman Show. A resource for restoring, renovating and preserving historical architecture and quality fine art, traditional crafts, folk art, replicas, original art and fine furniture reproductions. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Preview Fri, \$20, 6 to 9 pm; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 4. \$12. 800-782-1253; OldHouseOnline.com/Designer-Craftsman-Historic-Home-Show.

March 23-25

Greater Philadelphia Spring Home & Hot Tub Show. Designed for homeowners in all stages of remodeling and decorating with hundreds of exhibits. Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1160 Arch St., Philadelphia. Fri, 11 to 10; Sat, 10 to 10; Sun, 10 to 6. Free. 888-560-EXPO; ACSHomeShow.com.

Equestrian

Through March

Short Courses at Penn Vet's New Bolton Center. Intensive, two-day courses, open to the public. **Mar. 8-9,** Mare and Foal Care and Behavior; **Mar. 15-16,** Stallion Handling; **Mar. 22-23,** Horse Behavior; **Mar. 29-30,** Is It Physical, Psychological or Both? To register visit Vet.UPenn.edu/Labs/EquineBehavior.

Family Fun

March 2-24

West Chester University LIVE! Mar. 2, Golden Dragon Acrobats mix award-winning acrobatics, traditional dance, costumes and theater technique. **Mar. 16,** an evening of traditional Irish music with



March 10, April 14

Family Fun at the DCH. The Delaware Center for Horticulture has introduced monthly family workshops. Best for ages 4-10. **Mar. 10,** Homemade Ice Cream—make a batch of vanilla ice cream and a delicious topping. **Apr. 14,** Go Green! explores what it means to be green, organic and eco-friendly. 1810 N. DuPont St., Wilmington. 10 to 11:30 am. \$30-\$40. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.

March 23-25

20th Annual Greater Philadelphia Mid-Winter Scottish & Irish Music Festival

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and Fair. A family-oriented celebration of the Celtic lands of Ireland and Scotland through music and dance. Valley Forge Convention Center, 1160 1st Ave., King of Prussia. Fri, 6:30 pm to midnight; Sat, 9:30 am to midnight; Sun, 10 am to 7:30 pm. \$20-\$30. 610-825-7268; EOHeb-rides.com.

March 31
Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch with the Easter Bunny. Bring a bag or basket to Everhart Park, corner of Miner St. & S. Bradford Ave., for the hunt at 10 am sharp. Then register for lunch with the Bunny at Side

Bar & Restaurant, 10 E. Gay St., West Chester. \$12 (age 2 and up). Noon. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

And More Fun

March 17
Watson Adventures Presents The Murder at the Franklin Institute Scavenger Hunt. Someone, or some thing, has been bumping off Franklin Institute staffers. Your team will have to crack a code and uncover the museum's secrets to solve the mystery and stop the killings. 222 N. 20th St., Philadel-

phia. 2 to 4:30. \$33. 877-946-4868; WatsonAdventures.com.

First Friday, 2nd Saturday

March 2, April 6
First Fridays. Stroll through area towns to find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. **Berwyn,** 610-203-4543; BerwynDevonBusiness.com. **Kennett Square,** 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City,** 717-509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. **A Main Line ARTitude,** with free trolley from Bryn Mawr to Ardmore, 610-642-4040; FirstFridayMainLine.com. **Oxford,** 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **Phoenixville,** 610-933-3070; PhxFirst-Friday.com. **Wayne,** 610-687-7698; First-FridayWayne.com. **West Chester,** 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com.

March 10, April 14
Media's Second Saturdays. Media's version of First Fridays. 610-566-5210; Media-ArtsCouncil.org.

Fundraising & Benefits

See Fundraising article in this issue.

March 3
2nd Annual Andy Talley Bone Marrow Foundation Bash! An evening of dining, entertainment, silent auction and raffle. Benefits bone marrow transplant patients and their families. Connelly Center at Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Ave., Villanova. 7 to midnight. \$75. 610-401-7665; TalleyBone-Marrow.org.

March 3-4
The Junior League of Philadelphia Presents The American Girl Fashion Show Benefit. Educational and entertaining look at styles for girls yesterday and today. Benefits the Junior League and its services. The Desmond Hotel, Great Valley Pkwy, Malvern. Sat, 11 am; Sun-Mon, 2 pm. Tickets \$55-\$65 for parent and child. 610-645-9696; JLPPhiladelphia.org.

March 9
2nd Annual Willowdale Preview and Mardi Gras Party. Willowdale Steeplechase invites you to kick off the race meet season with delicious food, great music and entertainment. Benefit will be held at the Yellow House of Willowdale, 113 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. 7 to 10 pm. \$75/person; \$130/couple. 610-444-1582; Willowdale.org.

March 16
5th Annual Murder Mystery Dinner Show and Auction. The evening features hors d'oeuvres, dinner, silent auction and this year's show, *Murder Me, I'm Irish*, which will

be performed by actors from Phoenixville's Forge Theatre. Benefits Phoenixville Area Community Services. RiverCrest Golf Club, 100 Golf Club Dr., Phoenixville. 6 pm. \$75 per person. 610-933-1105; PACSPhx.org.

March 24
"A Taste in the Garden Evening Gala" for ALS Hope Foundation Hosted by Waterloo Gardens. Celebrate life and support funding for the cure for ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) at this 14th annual gala, featuring a chef's tasting from area restaurants as well as live entertainment, dancing and a silent auction. 200 N. Whitford Rd., Exton. 7 to 10 pm. \$60. 610-363-0800; WaterlooGardens.com.

March 30
West Chester Parks and Recreation Department's Casino Night. Annual fundraiser for the "Send a Kid to Camp Fund," providing underprivileged youth the opportunity to attend summer camp. Games of chance, hors d'oeuvres, door prizes and more. Milestone Events, 600 E. Market St., West Chester. Must make reservations. 7 to 11 pm. \$40/person; \$75/couple. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

March 31
Delaware Humane Association's 6th Annual Muttini Mixer. A cocktail party fundraising event. Delaware Center for Horticulture, 1810 N. Dupont St., Wilmington. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash. 5:30 to 9. \$50-\$75. 302-571-8171; DEHumane.org.

April 14
Horse Power for Life 5th Annual Pink Horse Show Gala. Hors d'oeuvres, food stations, music and dancing, silent auction, raffle, formal attire. Benefits cancer patients and their families. Crowne Plaza Valley Forge, 260 Mall Blvd., King of Prussia. 7 to 11 pm. \$120-\$1400. 484-341-8393; Horse-PowerForLife.org.



Gardens

Through March 25
Longwood Gardens Orchid Extravaganza. A dazzling world of orchids with thousands from around the world. Experience 20 rooms of sunshine where spring has never left, and you won't want to either. 1001 Longwood Rd. (Rt. 1), Kennett Square. Daily 9 to 5. \$8-\$18. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

March 4-11
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's 2012 Philadelphia International Flower Show, "Hawaii: Islands of Aloha." Towering palms, bamboo and a plant canopy will immerse visitors in the Hawaiian rainforest. PA Convention Center, 12th & Arch Sts., Philadelphia. Sun, 8 to 9:30, final Sun, 8 to 6; Mon-Fri, 10 to 9:30; Sat, 8 to 9:30. \$15-\$27. 215-988-8800; TheFlowerShow.com.

March 31-November 4
Chanticleer, A Pleasure Garden. Asian Woods is just one of 11 pleasure gardens here, where innovation and the whimsical

touch all of the gardens. New this year, Bell's Woodland area, which will feature native plants. 786 Church Rd., Wayne. Through Oct, Wed-Sun, 10 to 5; May-Labor Day, Fri, until 8. \$5-\$10. 610-687-4163; ChanticleerGarden.org.



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For Your Health...

March 31, April 1

2nd Annual Living Dynamically Wellness Expo. Bring a friend, bring your family and get healthy this year. There will be lectures, demonstrations, samples and lots of vendors to help you learn how to be a healthier you! Waterloo Gardens, 200 N. Whitford Rd., Exton. 10 to 4. Free. 610-363-0800; WaterlooGardens.com.

Local Farm Markets

Check our website, **CountyLinesMagazine.com** for a complete list of winter farm markets.

Museums

Ongoing

Chester County Historical Society Exhibits. *Now open*, "If Walls Could Talk"—built in 1848, Horticultural Hall, the main museum building, was the epicenter for current issues, politics and civil rights in Chester County during the Civil War. "Bayard Rustin's Local Roots" see article. *Through Sept. 7*, "In Stitches: Unraveling Their Stories." 225 North High St., West Chester. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

Through March 11

Brandywine River Museum — "Comic Catharsis: A Gift of Cartoons by William Steig."

Best known today as the creator of Shrek, William Steig first achieved fame for his cartoons and covers for *The New Yorker*. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$10. Free Sun. mornings through Nov. 18, 9:30 to noon. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

Through April 8

Delaware Art Museum — "Beyond Words: The Symbolic Language of Plants." An exhibition of works in various media that emphasize the historic and symbolic meanings of plants in art. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$6-\$12. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

Through April 15

The Franklin Institute Presents "Giant Mysterious Dinosaurs." The world's largest and most unusual dinosaurs invade The Franklin Institute for a limited time. Excavate a dig pit and watch animatronic dinosaurs come to life in this interactive exhibit. 220 N. 20th St., Philadelphia. Sun-Thurs, 9:30 to 5; Fri-Sat, 9:30 to 8. \$6-\$25. 215-448-1254; FI.edu.

March 1–June 24

Wharton Esherick Museum. Special events celebrate the museum's 40th anniversary: *Mar. 21–June 24*, Fischer Corner Desk, considered one of Esherick's masterpieces; *Mar. 31*, Woodblock Printing Demonstration. 1520 Horse Shoe Trail, Malvern. \$6-\$12. 610-644-5822; WhartonEsherickMuseum.org.



Music & Entertainment

March 2

Benefit Drum and Dance Concert at West Cheser Friends School. Authentic West African dance and drum as the Croatan Drum and Dance Studio teams up with HomeAID for Africa to raise funds for the women and children of Malawi. 415 N. High St., West Chester. \$5/person; \$20/family. 610-399-0823; HomeAidForAfrica.org.

March 3

Concert by Melomanie. This group presents provocative pairings of early and contempo-

rary works in innovative chamber music collaborations. Grace United Methodist Church, 900 Washington St., Wilmington. 8 pm. \$15-\$20. 302-764-6338; Melomanie.org.

March 4

Vox Ama Deus Concert: Baroque Masters. Baroque instrument orchestra performs at Daylesford Abbey, 220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli. 6 pm. \$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

March 11

Concerts at the Cathedral – The Archdiocesan Choir of Philadelphia. Sacred choral music of the Lenten season. Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, 18th St. at Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., Phila. 8 pm. \$25-\$35. 215-587-3696; CathedralPhila.org.

March 16

Immaculata Symphony Chamber Concert. Musicians present chamber concert music masterpieces from the Classical and Romantic repertory. Immaculata College, Villa Maria, Memorial Hall, 1145 King Rd., Immaculata. 7:30. \$5. ImmaculataSymphony.org.

March 17

"The Cake Boss" Buddy Valastro at DuPont Theatre. America's favorite baker returns to the DuPont Theatre. 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 3 and 7 pm. \$35.75-\$75. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.

March 22, 30

The Colonial Theatre. *Mar. 22*, George Winston, \$27.50-\$39.50; *Mar. 30*, Leon Redbone, \$24.50-\$34.50. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

March 23

Music at Haverford College. Guest Artist series presents Lyric Fest performing "A Very Good Year—Happy Birthday to 1912," a snapshot of what was composed in that year and what was going on historically. Roberts Hall, Marshall Auditorium, Haverford. 8 pm. \$5-\$15. 610-896-1011; Haverford.edu.

March 24

TurtleDove Folk Club Presents The Sweetback Sisters. Traditional, country music styles. West Grove Friends Meeting House, 153 E. Harmony Rd., West Grove. 8 pm. \$15-\$17. 802-431-3433; TurtleDove.org.

April 1

The Philadelphia Trio. Elizabeth Keller, piano; Barbara Sonies, violin; Deborah Reeder, cello. Main Line Unitarian Church, 816 S. Valley Forge Rd., Devon. 3. \$13-\$18. 610-664-0346.

Theater

Through March 25

Of Mice and Men. Heartwrenching tale of a pair of migrant workers, George and Lenny, during the Depression era. Peo-

ple's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Sun, 7; Wed, Sat, Sun, 2. \$25-\$45. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

Tours

March 3–April 1

Mason Dixon Wine Trail Presents the 7th Annual Tour de Tanks Weekends. Join the fourteen wineries of the new Mason-Dixon Wine Trail for the event where winemakers open their doors to give visitors an exclusive opportunity to sample wines straight from the barrel. Sat-Sun, noon to 5. \$25 (good

for 4 weekends); \$15 for Designated Driver. 888-858-YORK; UnCorkYork.com. ♦

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

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Clockwise from top-left: 3rd Annual Viva Las Vegas “Denim and Diamonds” Casino Night, Chester County Community Foundation’s Sweet Charity Event, 27th Annual Thorncroft Victory Gallop, 7th Annual St. Patty’s Day Beef • Beer • Boogie

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY



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Comments by the Class of 2012

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Continue your fun-filled evening with live music and a silent auction. This is one night in Vegas you won’t want to miss. *Tickets \$55 (includes \$10 in casino chips). Mendenhall Inn, Rt. 52, Mendenhall. 302-995-5699; WilmingtonFlowerMarket.org.*

Do a Little Jig, Make a Little Difference

Eat corned beef, sip a satisfying brew, help your local community, and boogie down this St. Patrick’s Day. Sponsored by the Greystone Branch of the Women’s Auxiliary to the Chester County Hospital, the **7th Annual St. Patty’s Day Beef • Beer • Boogie** includes a dinner buffet, beer, silent auction and live musical entertainment by Ben Singleton and The Peoples Choice.

Auction items range from an overnight stay at Faunbrook B&B and golf outings at local country clubs to restaurant gift certificates and—wait for it—a vacation in Ireland! *March 17, 7 p.m. at the West Chester Golf & Country Club, 111 W. Ashbridge St., West Chester. Benefits the Auxiliary’s “Pledge of Hope.” Tickets \$45. 610-431-5329; CCHosp.com.*

Pastries with a Purpose

Experience the blend of heavenly aromas, surround yourself with colorful spring blossoms, and indulge in delectable desserts at the Chester County Community Foundation’s **Sweet Charity Event**, March 27, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

A benefit at Waterloo Gardens, this evening brings together Chester County’s top chocolatiers and pastry chefs to present their finest creations. But only one selection will win the title “Best Dessert.” Satisfy your sweet tooth and support a worthy cause!

Benefits the Chester County Community Foundation, which helps families and businesses become involved in charitable giving through their legacies. *Tickets start at \$85. 200 N. Whitford Rd., Exton. 610-696-2628; ChesCoCF.org.*

Pony Up for a Good Cause

Dress to impress at the **27th Annual Thorncroft Victory Gallop**, a black-tie affair to remember. This year’s theme, “Harnessing Magic,” promises that you’ll have an enchanting evening of dining, dancing and live and silent auctions.

Benefits the therapeutic riding programs at Thorncroft Equestrian Center in Malvern, which aims to strengthen the well-being of all people, with particular focus on those with special needs. *March 31 at the Hyatt at the Bellevue, 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. Phone for tickets. 610-644-1963; Thorncroft.org.*

~ Lori N. Brooks



**Do wombats really fly?
Can you ride a sea turtle?**

Find out the answer to these questions and many more when People's Light & Theatre presents *Shipwrecked!*, March 22 – April 15.

An Entertainment

Written by Donald Margulies and directed by Jackson Phippin, *Shipwrecked!* launches the audience on the delight-filled traveler's tale of Louis de Rougemont, an imagination fueled adventurer desperate to see the world with his own eyes.

As a child in 19th-century London, Louis passes his lonely days by listening to his mother recount the stories of Robinson Crusoe and Aladdin. By his sixteenth birthday, the young lad decides to set sail and see the Seven Wonders for himself.

This yarn-spun tale takes you from exotic islands of the Coral Sea to Queen Victoria's garden to the Royal Geographic Society.

In what can only be described as "an entertainment," Louis narrates his memoir, which of course, may or may not be true. We leave it to you to decide.

Captivating Casting

Playing the leading role, Graham Smith recounts chapter after chapter of de Rougemont's fantastic escapades, but he isn't alone in the mesmerizing production. Accompanying him are Mary McCool and James Ijames. The duo portray a cast of unforgettable characters that will leave you simultaneously arching your eyebrows in suspicion and clutching your sides in hilarity.

An important component to the production is the soundscape—composed, designed and directed by Daniel Perelstein. From wind chimes to bubble wrap, the atmosphere is sure to stimulate every one of your senses.

Setting the Stage

You don't have to look far for great live entertainment this season—People's Light & Theatre Company, a non-profit professional theatre, is located right here in Chester County. Founded in 1973 by a group of young artists, People's Light is committed to putting a contemporary spin on much-loved classics.

Since its founding, People's Light has produced over 273 plays, both classic and contemporary, 36 of which were world premiers. The theater serves over 100,000 playgoers each year.

Small Stage, Big Entertainment

Premiering on the more intimate 170-seat Steinbright Stage, *Shipwrecked!* will have you questioning whether Louis had a grand adventure, or if he's suffering from grand delusions.

While best appreciated by ages 9 and up, Mr. Margulies' play will have even the most experienced audience questioning what was real and what was just a whimsical story.

As a special treat, audiences are encouraged to join the artists after each performance for a conversation about the production.

An amazing adventure awaits, get your tickets now!

~ Jaimieliynn Cooper

If You Go

Where: 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern

When: *Shipwrecked!* March 22 – April 15

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

What's Next: *A Wrinkle in Time*, Apr. 26 – May 20; *Shakespeare's Will*, May 30 – Jun. 24; *Mr. Hart and Mr. Brown*, Jul. 18 – Aug. 19



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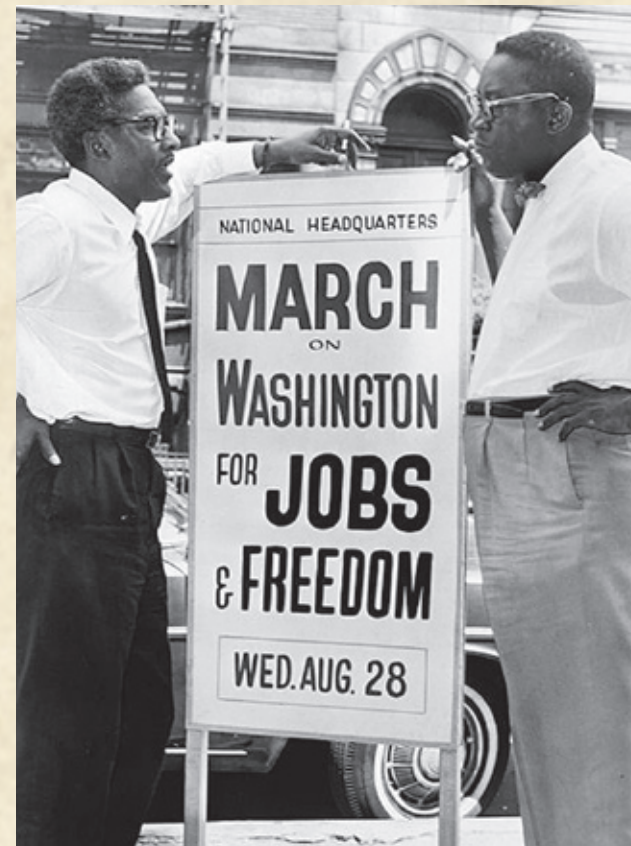
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Bayard Rustin (left) was chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, pictured here with Cleveland Robinson.



Rustin's West Chester High School Senior Photograph, with signature.

Bayard Rustin's Local Roots

Ellen Endslow – Chester County Historical Society

Many in this area know his name primarily in relation to West Chester's newest high school, but for most this influential figure who coordinated the most significant protests of the 1940s, 50s and 60s remains a mystery.

Black History Month in February should not be the only time to learn more about the contribution of local African-American figures. This year the Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) made it easier for us to reflect on the legacy of one Civil Rights leader, Bayard Rustin (1912-1987), by launching their new exhibit last month.

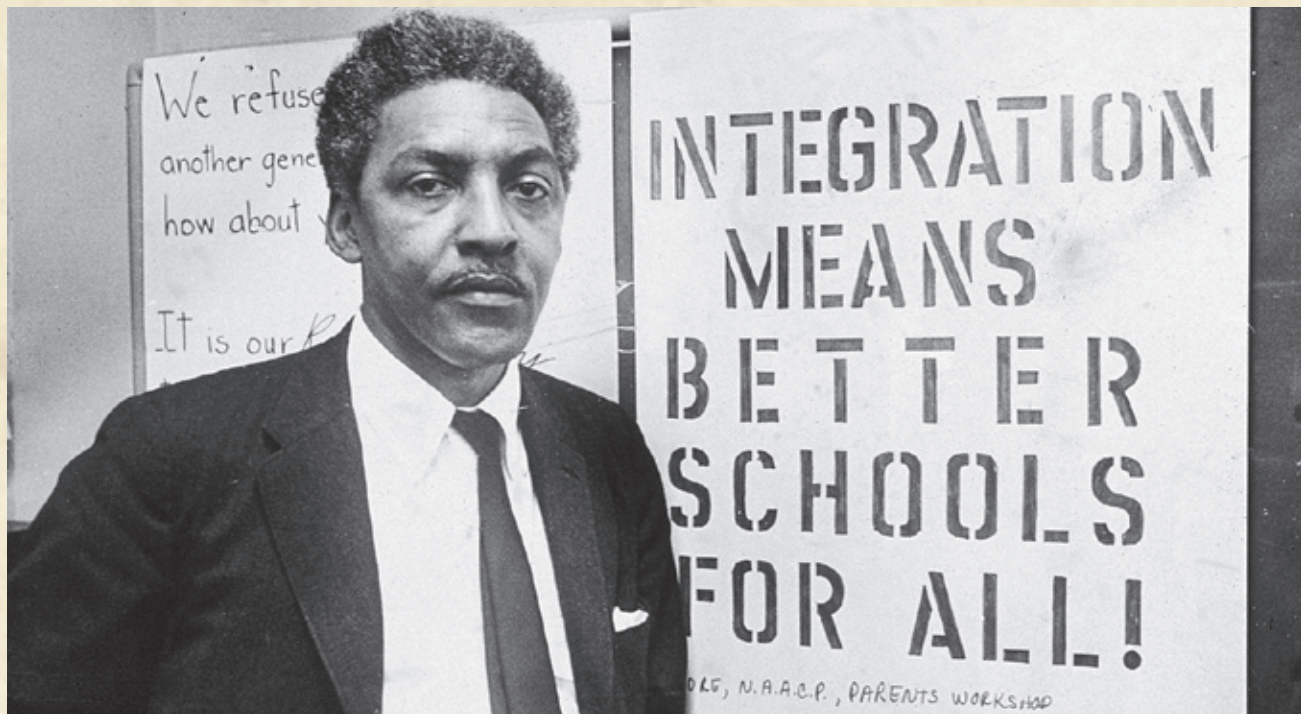
During the 100th anniversary of Rustin's birth, CCHS, in collaboration with several community organizations, is hosting a retrospective exhibition that explores his life and focuses on his local connections, making Rustin less of a mystery.

Local Support

Like many exhibits at the Historical Society, the Rustin exhibit is enriched by contribution from dedicated community members. Many have offered images,

objects and stories to help tell of Rustin's remarkable life and local influences and to complement the oral history interviews and recordings of spirituals sung by Rustin that allow this exhibit to have its distinctive local character.

The Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center in West Chester has been a particularly strong partner in these efforts. (Melton was a friend, activist and executive director of the West Chester Community Center from 1966 to 1980.) Center spokeswoman, Renee Cookie Washington, recognizing the close friendship of Melton and Ruston says, "I think this exhibit is bringing two old friends together." She adds that with portions of the exhibit also on view there, "It is only fitting that the two friends are together again in this exhibit. Both men fought for justice, one on the local level and one on the national level."



Bayard Rustin fought against segregation all over the country and the world.

Early Years

From his earliest years, Bayard Rustin's life appeared to be marked by greatness. Born in West Chester in 1912, he was raised by his grandparents, Julia and Janifer Rustin, who were both very involved in the community. Both were active in the Bethel A.M.E. Church and the Gay Street School, were founding members of the Chester County branch of the NAACP, and helped establish the West Chester Community Center (now the Charles A. Melton Community Center).

Rustin was the great-grandson of a man born into slavery, and his grandmother

was the only African-American student in her class at West Chester Friends School. His grandparents' work in their community undoubtedly instilled Rustin with the desire to work towards social and economic justice during the 50 years of his career.

Rustin's conscience and actions reflected the environment fostered by his home, upbringing and community. He attended Gay Street School, a top quality but segregated elementary school. West Chester High School (Henderson today) was the only high school in town and was integrated. There, Rustin excelled in a variety of activities, including football,

track, French Club, Classics Club, Science Club, Chorus, and won many speaking and essay contests.

Activism Begins

While in high school, Rustin began asserting himself against the social injustice he saw. For example, Rustin protested segregation at the Warner Theater on High Street in West Chester. And while traveling with his track team, he and his teammates refused to stay in separate, segregated hotel quarters.

Programs with the exhibition and the Rustin Centennial

- "Bayard Rustin's Local Roots" Open House, with a luncheon, keynote speaker Rev. Anderson Porter, and tour of the exhibition. March 3, 2012.
- Bayard Rustin Panel Discussion and documentary film "Brother Outsider," about Rustin's life. May 19, 2012.
- Melton Center will host walking tours related to Rustin and the African-American community. Spring/summer.
- Visitors can fill out pre-addressed postcards to express their views to their elected state and federal officials, which CCHS will send.



Rustin, front row, third from right was a star athlete on the football and track teams in high school.



Bayard was raised by his grandparents, Janifer and Julia Rustin, known to all as Ma and Pa.

After attending Wilberforce University in Ohio and Cheyney University in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Rustin threw himself full force into early Civil Rights efforts. The exhibit highlights many other examples of Rustin's early activism, pacifism and dedication to nonviolent action.

Civil Rights Work

In 1942, when Rustin refused to sit in the back of a bus in Nashville, Tennessee, he was beaten by police officers. He was later released without being charged.

A pacifist who believed in nonviolent protest, Rustin was imprisoned for over two years for refusing to register for the draft. While in prison, he organized protests against segregated seating in the dining hall.

Rustin also helped organize the 1947 "Journey of Reconciliation," in which blacks and whites rode buses throughout the South refusing to sit in racially designated seating. Drawing on his background in nonviolent action, Rustin helped coordinate the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycotts in 1955 with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Two years later, he formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Dr. King.

The pinnacle of his Civil Rights efforts came in 1963, when Rustin organized the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It was the largest-ever political rally with over 200,000 people who wit-

nessed historic speeches, including Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

Through the 1970s and 1980s, Rustin became actively involved in gay rights issues, particularly after meeting his life-partner Walter Neagle in 1977.

Despite his broad national impact, Rustin returned home to West Chester. Here, among other activities, he helped to organize and participate in the Fair Housing Demonstration in West Chester in 1966, spoke at local events and to West-

town students over the decades.

A remarkable legacy! ♦

"Bayard Rustin's Local Roots" is part of Chester County Historical Society's mission to preserve and share Chester County's heritage in relevant ways. The exhibit and associated programming allow visitors to understand Rustin's impact. The exhibit runs through August 2, 2012 and is supported by The Philadelphia Foundation, The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through the Heritage Philadelphia Program, and PGN.

For more information, visit ChesterCoHistorical.org. Photos are courtesy of the Estate of Bayard Rustin.



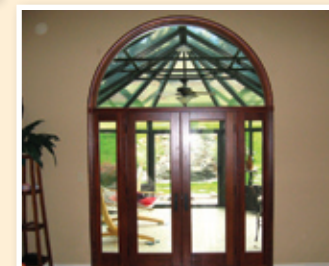
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WEST CHESTER'S FIRST HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Jane E. Dorchester
Awards Committee Chair

Preservation of Chester County's rich historic character—the charm and beauty of our historic buildings and landscapes—is an enduring source of community pride. We freely acknowledge the importance of preventing the loss of our historic resources that serve as a primary connection to our past. Think about the loss of historic character in our local buildings when wood windows are replaced with vinyl and historic façades are covered by modern siding. Or worse, when that part of our history is destroyed.

It may be surprising to learn that no municipality in the county had recognized local preservation projects. That is, until recently.

West Chester—a heritage tourism destination and one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Dozen Distinctive Destinations—recently established a Preservation Awards Program. This initiative should not be surprising considering that the Borough saw a 19th-century architectural and cultural awakening, led in part by the construction of buildings designed by

the preeminent architect Thomas U. Walter, and was called "The Athens of Pennsylvania."

Birth of a Plan

West Chester's preservation awards program was a local initiative. In 2008, the Board of Directors of the West Chester Downtown Foundation decided it was time to recognize local preservation efforts and established a task force to look into the feasibility of establishing an awards program. The following year, the task force recommended creation of a committee to administer West Chester's Historic Preservation Awards Program. The Foundation's board approved the idea and the Awards Committee was formed with members who were broadly representative of the community.

The Purpose

The first task of the Awards Committee was to define the purpose of these new awards. Among other things, the awards were established to encourage the physical

preservation of all our historic resources—residential and commercial—not just the monumental examples.

Preservation includes sensitive additions to historic resources and new construction that's compatible in scale. The committee agreed that it's important to make sure additions made to any façade of a historic resource, whether visible from the street or not, are done in a manner sensitive to the historic character. Additions that may not be visible from the street are visible to the neighbors and are often visible along West Chester's many alleyways.

Good examples of preservation, wherever they may occur, sensitize the public to sound preservation practices and inspire them to make well-informed decisions about the preservation of West Chester's historic fabric and character. Ideally, this becomes a cycle, encouraging sound preservation practices by honoring the best examples and thus fostering even more sound preservation practices.

The Nominations

The first year of the program was a gratifying success bringing in 14 nominations for 12 projects. Nominations covered all three awards categories: Preservationist of the Year, Preservation Service, and Bricks and Mortar Awards. For the Bricks and Mortar category, projects had to follow the *West Chester Borough Design Guidelines*, which are based on the U. S. Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Preservation, Restoration, and Rehabilitation*. And for new construction, projects had to be compatible with the neighboring buildings and streetscape.



Preservationist of the Year, A. Roy Smith

And the Winners Are...

The first **Preservationist Award**, went to **A. Roy Smith**. The nominating committee wrote in support of Smith's award: "because of the strength of his commitment to preservation, he has helped to foster the importance of retaining and restoring our historic fabric. It is an understanding that is slow to develop and needs the reinforcement of advocates like Roy."

An authoritative guide to future preservation efforts, the **West Chester Comprehensive Preservation Plan** was chosen for the **Preservation Service Award**. The Plan was honored for the breadth of research undertaken to identify the Borough's historic resources and which were most at risk of deterioration or demolition, and for recommending steps for preservation.

Bricks and Mortar Awards were presented to recognize construction projects of exceptional quality that have a positive impact on the preservation of West Chester's historic fabric and character. In alphabetical order, the five winners are:

The Martin House, 316 South Darlington Street, won for its addition along the length of the side of the house. The addition was clad in clapboard to distinguish it from the original brick house, following the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards*. The addition added much-needed interior living space while preserving exterior characteristics of a middle-class Queen Anne residence. To tie the addition to the house, the front porch was extended across the front façade of the addition.

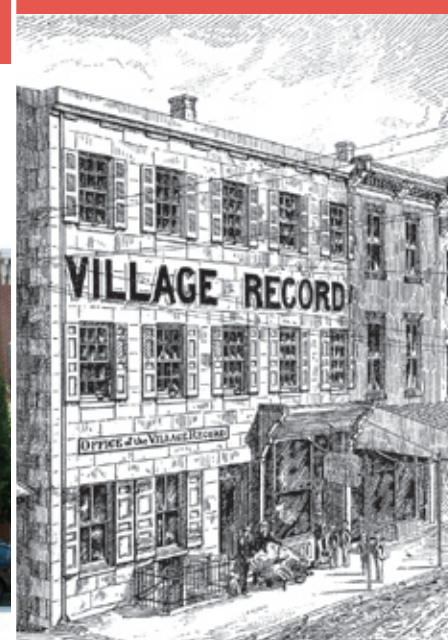
The Mercner-Wood Building, 116-118 West Market Street, was recognized as a new office building designed to be sensitively integrated into its historic streetscape without sacrificing its modern integrity. This integration was accomplished through the use of brick and a portico, both characteristic of West Chester, and through its scale—it's actually a five-story building constructed to look like four stories.

The Varney-Wallace House, 315 North Matlack Street, received an award for its two additions at the back of this 1912 stone Colonial Revival house. Both clapboard additions replaced earlier wood-clad construction, an entryway and a screened-in porch were replaced with an enlarged entryway and a breakfast room, without losing the historic fabric of the back wall. Original stone from the house was used in the additions' foundation.

The Village Record Building, 15 North Church Street, was selected for excellence of the rehabilitation of one of West Chester's oldest (1833) and most historic buildings, and because the building's continued existence was doubtful before its rehabilitation.

The Mercner-Wood Building, which is new construction, won for its sensitive integration into the modern streetscape along West Market Street.

One of the most historic buildings in West Chester, the Village Record Building's continued existence was doubtful before its rehabilitation.





The superb interior and exterior renovation of the West Chester Library added much-needed space. Photos: Tom Bernard, for Frens & Frens Architects

tence was doubtful before the rehabilitation was undertaken.

The West Chester Public Library, 415 North Church Street, won for the superb exterior and interior rehabilitation of this 1888 building that successfully addressed the need for more usable interior space. The project included expansion of the base-

ment, restoration of a Palladian window, and an expanded children's library.

Year Two

The second annual Historic Preservation Awards kicks off April 2nd this year, with the opening of nominations, which close June 1, 2012. Nomination forms and rules

will be found at the West Chester BID office or online at *DowntownWestChester.com*. Winners will be announced in August, with awards made in October 2012.

Please help recognize the projects that have enhanced West Chester's historic character and integrity by submitting a nomination! ♦

The Martin House addition, visible from the street, preserved the exterior character of this Queen Anne residence.



The Varney-Wallace House preserved the historic fabric of the back stone wall and used the stone for the additions' foundation.



ALL UNCREDITED PHOTOS: PHILIP YOCUM

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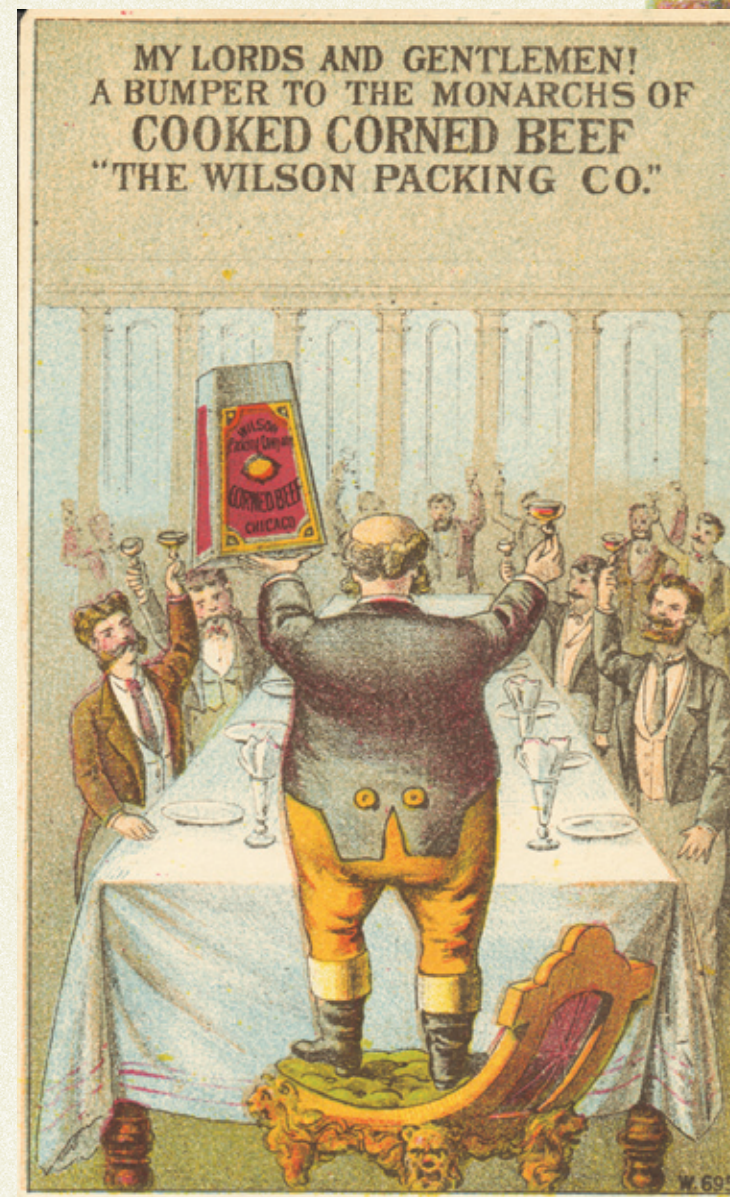
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Trade cards illustrating wine-drinking. United States, c. 1880



Uncorked! Wine, Objects & Tradition

Leslie Grigsby

Raise a glass to a fascinating exhibition opening April 28 at Winterthur that celebrates objects and imagery related to society's love of wine.

Anticipation. In late April this year, Winterthur opens a major new exhibition that's a joyous celebration of objects and imagery inspired by society's love of wine.

Researched and conceived of by Senior Curator of Ceramics and Glass, Leslie Grigsby, the main focus is on how wine was marketed, consumed and enjoyed in America and Britain from the 1600s through the 1800s.

The delightfully broad exhibition includes over 300 items, some locally-made, from the Winterthur collections and promised gifts, in categories ranging from glassware and cellarettes (cases or furniture holding bottles of wine or liquor) to song sheets and paintings. Special programs will include lectures, tastings and more!

So raise a glass and put this exhibit on your calendar: April 28 to January 6, 2013.



Wedgwood jasperware vase inspired by ancient wine vessels.
Staffordshire, England, c. 1787



Silver pitcher by Edward Lownes. Philadelphia, 1827



Pewter monteith for rinsing or cooling glasses. England, 1725-75



English wooden bottle case with glassware.
Bohemia, 1800-1830

Major Themes

The exhibit encompasses six main themes. History buffs can start with *Classical References*, highlighting connections between Greek and Roman wine vessels and deities and designs of later objects and motifs such as grapevines. *The Business of Wine* section considers how wine and related items were bought or sold and illustrates some “tricks of the trade” that unscrupulous merchants used to increase profits.

The largest section of the exhibit, *Consumption & Equipage*, focuses on vessels

associated with specific types of wine, settings where wine was consumed, and the part wine played in social life.

In *Politics, Patriotism & Taxes*, wine-related objects commemorating important political figures and events are highlighted. The *Religion* section, not surprisingly, provides a glimpse of vessels created for use in the church as well as items made for the home and reference prayers and the activities of the clergy.

In the final section, *Temperance*, the objects illustrate some of the many and

varied attempts over time to reduce drunkenness. Well worth a visit.

Focus on Social Life

Rather than focusing just on wine production, this well-researched and often humorous exhibition focuses on the vessels, imagery and social life that accompanied wine service. Among the surprises visitors will discover is the fact that some ancient wine vessels inspired later objects that would be put to totally unrelated uses. Huge, bell-shaped *krater vases*, for example,

originally employed for mixing wine and water before serving, inspired many more modern garden urns and sports trophies.

Marketing of wine also changed over time. Until fairly recently, wine-related businesses were divided into those that sold wine and those that sold wares for storing, serving and drinking wine.

You’ll learn that European wines were most popular in America and preferences depended on wine availability, as well as on cultural background and pocketbook. Although the wealthy sometimes purchased wines from wholesalers or retailers or from agents overseas, through the mid-1700s, taverns played a major role in distributing wine to the general public. The later 1700s saw wine stores beginning to dominate the off-premises wine and spirits trade.

American merchants who sold glasses, decanters and other wine equipment

imported the majority of their wares until well after the Revolutionary War. By then, average incomes were increasing, not surprisingly motivating manufacturers and merchants to offer a broader range of goods at different prices. Consumers who once could now only afford a single set of wineglasses could purchase a greater variety of sizes and types.

As was true of wine bottle and decanter shapes, the features of wineglasses evolved over time with bowl, stem and foot styles, as well as ornament, all reflecting the latest fashion. Fashion even dictated how wineglasses were to be held. Early paintings and prints show wine drinkers grasping filled glasses by the foot, rather than the stem or bowl, to keep the beverage cool.

Some bottles and decanters used in America and Britain were enhanced with the names of particular wines. Titles such

as “Madeira,” “Claret” or “Sherry” (not to mention “Gin” and “Whiskey”!) were engraved or painted in enamel directly on the vessels or were inscribed on special hanging labels or stoppers.

Pubs and Taverns

Americans and Englishmen who wished to go out for a drink could choose from several types of public houses, which, ideally, were located in urban centers or along important roads and waterways. Taverns served wine, other beverages and often food and also sold alcohol in bottles or small vessels for resale or “take-away.”

Inns often served wine, beer, ale, cider and food, offered accommodations, and provided stabling for horses. The term *restaurant* was uncommon until the 1800s and referred to certain dining establishments, many of which offered wines with meals.



Glass decanters. England and America, 1700-1850



Wine goblets (left to right), America, Bohemia and China, 1690-1860



Puzzle jugs for drinking games. England and America, 1750-1814



Games and Puzzles

In homes, taverns and inns, alcoholic beverages often accompanied card playing and board games or formed the centerpiece of entertainments themselves. Elaborate “puzzle jugs” were pierced in secret places to make them a challenge to the drink from; some pitchers and mugs had holes causing the beverage to spill on the would-be drinker—much like modern “dribble cups.”

Other vessels featured painted or three-dimensional animals or figures that slowly emerged as the glass or mug was drained. Cheerful inscriptions hinted at friendly gatherings just for fun, as evidenced by a punchbowl cheerfully inscribed “Drink Fair Don’t Swear”!

Religion and Wine

On a more serious note, wine also formed an important part of many religious ceremonies. Winterthur’s impressive collection of early American silver and pewter from communion services features a wide selection of beakers, chalices and flagons.

Other wine-related objects were made for use at home and display biblical references or satirize some churchmen who showed greater interest in a luxurious lifestyle than in spreading religious teachings.

Temperance, Temperance

Although many of us think of the Temperance Movement as an early 20th-century initiative, throughout history some members of society have pushed for greater moderation or abstinence in terms of alcoholic beverage consumption.

Ancient Greek and Roman writings prove educated society felt it was crude and unsophisticated to become inebriated, and the same was true in later centuries throughout Europe and America. As distilled spirits such as gin and whiskey became cheaper and more widely available after the early 1700s, however, alcoholism increased among the poor who had traditionally drunk beer or ale, which were lower in alcohol content.

It may be surprising to learn that some temperance groups even praised beer and ale as healthier alternatives to spirits!

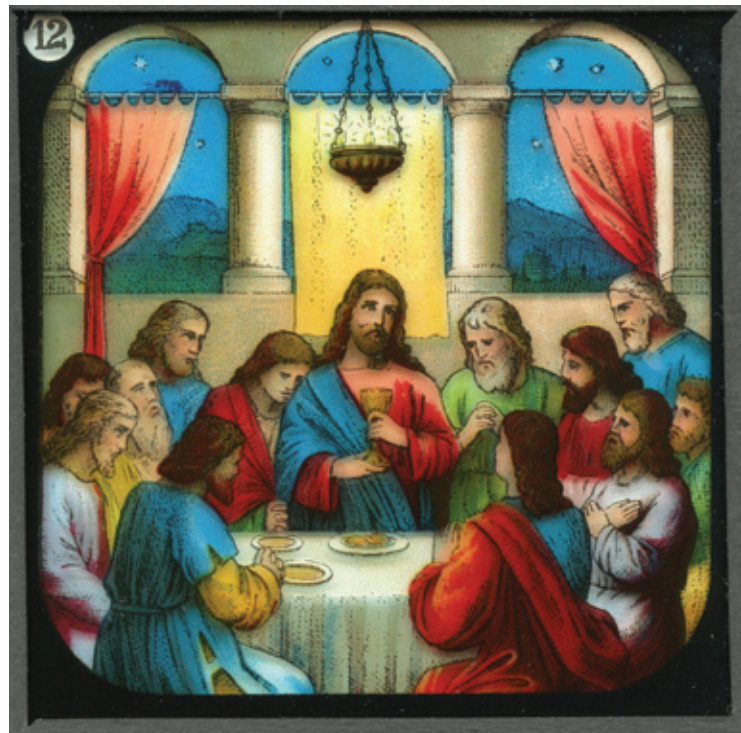
Grape Appeal

The beautiful and sometimes humorous objects displayed in this exhibition, combined with the recent, growing fascination with locally produced wines and wine connoisseurship, make “Uncorked!” sure to attract a broad range of audiences, from the novice to the expert. ♦

For more about the exhibition and a slideshow of selected objects, visit Winterthur.org/Uncorked.

Leslie Grigsby is Senior Curator of Ceramics and Glass at Winterthur Museum.

Photos for this article are courtesy of Winterthur.



Lantern slide. America or Europe, 1800s



Game for teaching temperance and other virtues. London, England, 1818



Poster design from Specimens of Theatrical Cuts... Philadelphia, 1872 or 1878

Related Events

Uncorked! programming will include lectures, wine tastings and more!

Long-term features of the display include a small booklet to accompany the show and an online version of the exhibition permanently available on the Winterthur website. For more information, to become a member, or to register for events, contact 302-888-4713; Winterthur.org/Uncorked.

Member Preview Day

April 27, 12 to 7 p.m. Members are invited to preview the exhibit and enjoy guided gallery walks. Members free.

Winterthur Ceramics Conference: Dining & Ceramics!

April 26-27. Attend lectures and hands-on workshops on beverage and dinner wares and the entertainments that included them in the 17th to 19th centuries. Learn about period documents, advertisements, archaeological evidence, and, of course, ceramics! \$355; \$310 members; \$175 (students with ID).

Guided Uncorked! Gallery Walks

Saturdays-Sundays at 11:30 a.m., 1 and 2 p.m.

Lecture: Dining by Design 1680-1860

March 15, 5:30 p.m. Copeland Lecture Hall. Peter Brown, Director of the York Civic Trust in North Yorkshire, England, will explore the relationship between developments in cuisine, presentation of food on the table and rules of behavior which governed “Polite Society.” Members free. Included with admission.

Lunchtime Lecture Series: Uncorked!

Thursdays: May 3, 17; June 7, 21; Sept. 6, 27; Oct. 4, 25 Nov. 15, 29. 12:15 p.m., Rotunda. Talks from a variety of curators, wine and alcohol connoisseurs, collectors and historians who will discuss different wine-related themes. Members free. Included with admission.

Always Time for Wine! A History of Ceramic Drinking Vessels

May 3, 12:15 p.m. Leslie B. Grigsby, Senior Curator of Ceramics and Glass, will explore ceramic drinking vessels and the alcoholic beverages served from them from ancient times through the early 1800s.



Coffee pot, attributed to Harvey Filley workshop Phila., 1830–53. **Brandywine River Museum** 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org



Quarter-sawn oak turn-of-the-century, slant-front desk. **Beauty Art, Antiques & Rugs** 610-353-4569; BeautyArtGallery.net



Recreated Pennsylvania Daniel Rose Chamber Clock. Leonard Marschark, **18th Century Clocks** 215-795-0375; 18thCenturyClocks.com

Antiques Showcase



Antique Ferregghn Sarouk rug, c. 1900. **Kurtz Collection** 302-654-0442; KurtzCollection.com



Chester County Linen Press (reproduction). **E. Jacobsen Furniture Maker, LLC** 610-547-4983; EJFM.com



PA 18th-century Conestoga Wagon Box. **Antiques in the Valley Show** 610-779-0705; OleyValleyAntiqueShow.com



Custom-made reproduction double Wellington chest. **Antiquities**, 610-688-4077; AntiquitiesWayne.com

Directory to Regional Dealers

Fine Antiques,
Specialties,
Collectibles,
Reproductions &
Related Services

Antiques
• Pennsylvania •

Berwyn

The Shops at Surrey

810 Lancaster Ave. & 28 Bridge Ave.
610-647-8632; SurreyServices.org
An incredible source for antiques, jewelry, accessories, furniture and eclectic gifts. The Shops at Surrey are filled with treasures waiting to be discovered and great deals waiting to be had. The inventory changes daily; furniture, china, silver, paintings, vintage jewelry and clothing are just some of the beautiful items on display. Surrey Services for Seniors also offers professional downsizing services, including the appraisal and sale of antiques, collectibles and household goods. Be sure to visit them or phone for more information.

Boyertown

Greshville Antiques & Fine Art

1041 Reading Ave. (Rt. 562)
610-367-0076
GreshvilleAntiques.com
Antique country and formal furniture, 19th and 20th century European and American art, including regional Pennsylvania paintings, and American tall case, wall and shelf clocks. New Berlinville exit off Rt. 100, three mi. on Rt. 562 west.

Bryn Mawr

Sandy DeMaio Antique & Fine Jewelry

860 Lancaster Ave. 610-525-1717
SDMAntiqueJewelry.com
This quaint gray building is home to an impressive selection of antique and fine jewelry and collectibles, including vintage pieces by Tiffany & Co., Cartier and

Bulgari, among others. Specialties include diamond jewelry, engagement and wedding rings, engraved antique bangle bracelets, men's cuff links and so much more. Repair and restoration services available. Special requests are welcome. Open Tues-Sat, 10:30 to 5; closed Sat, Jul-Aug.

Collegeville

The Power House

Rt. 29 North; 610-489-7388

Only on Sundays, 35 antiques dealers gather at The Power House, the building



Heart of the Valley Antiques Show

that at one time held the generators that supplied electricity for the trolley cars in

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FURNITURE MAKER, LLC

610.547.4983 Kirkwood, PA www.ejfm.com

Collegeville. They offer a variety of wares: fine antiques to baseball cards to vintage clothing, rare books, jewelry and furniture. It's one of those markets where you never know what kind of treasure you're likely to find. A fun, and often rewarding way to spend some time. Sun, 9 to 5.

Frazer

Frazer Antiques

351 Lancaster Ave.; 610-651-8299
A 20+ dealer shop with quality antiques

and collectibles including fine china, crystal, silver, oil paintings and prints, primitives, Early American furniture, painted furniture, lamps and lighting, Majolica, Victoriana and early kitchenware. Open daily, 10 to 5.

Kennett Square

McLimans Furniture

940 W. Cypress St.

610-444-3876

McLimans.com

See their listing under FINE REPRODUCTIONS.

Narberth

Antiques @ 236

236 Haverford Ave.

610-668-1871

610-283-1865 (cell)

A favorite of discerning Main Line and out-of-area collectors and decorators since opening 10 years ago, there's always something to discover in this friendly, boutique-like shop. Enjoy browsing the carefully selected glassware, clocks, English tiles, furniture and so much more. Specialties include cast iron doorstops and doorknockers, decorative china and California tile-top tables. Additional inventory (even mid-century modern) is stored off-site, so do make inquiries.

Newtown Square

Beauty—Art, Antiques & Rugs

3857 Providence Rd.

610-353-4569

BeautyArtGallery.net

Master furniture makers RJ Horner and George Hunzinger would be intrigued to see their furniture artfully staged alongside modern paintings, rugs and accessories; and so likely will you be upon visiting Beauty. Stop in to acquire distinctive antique tables, chairs, benches, desks, bookcases and much more. Accessories and modern artful gifts round out the offerings. Open Tues-Sat and by appointment. Like us: www.Facebook.com/BeautyArtGallery.

Wayne

The Antique Store in Wayne

161 W. Lancaster Ave.

610-687-1900

TheAntiqueStoreInWayne.com

Visit this award-winning antique center that provides high quality antiques, store integrity and a professional, educated and courteous staff with over 6,000 square feet of heirloom treasures. Services include a bridal registry, certified appraisals, custom framing and gift certificates.

Antiquities, etc.

122 W. Lancaster Ave.

610-688-4077

AntiquitiesWayne.com

Opened in Wayne seven years ago, this shop has become a popular resource for homeowners and designers alike. Carefully chosen English furniture and decorative accessories are beautifully displayed in room settings. Frequently changing inventory includes furniture (antique and some handmade replicas), antique engravings, mirrors, English and Chinese porcelain and



Historic East Berlin Antiques Show

library accessories. Tues-Sat, 10:30 to 4:30, or by chance or appointment.

White Horse Mill Antiques

107 W. Cambridge Rd.

717-768-0960

WhiteHorseMill.com

A multi-dealer shop showing four floors of 18th- to 20th-century rural American antiques and accessories tastefully displayed in an historic 18th-century gristmill. Phone or check their website for hours.

• Delaware •

Wilmington

Kurtz Collection

1010 N. Union St.

302-654-0442

KurtzCollection.com

Enjoy tax-free shopping at this design showroom specializing in all types of home décor including rugs, furniture, lighting, fabric, artisan jewelry, ceramics and accessories. They strive to have the most unique and eclectic selection around and offer the finest selection of rugs in the area ranging from antique to antique reproduction to contemporary. Home to the nationally recognized New Moon line, one of the leading Tibetan rug companies in the world.

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• Pennsylvania •

Bedminster

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215-795-0375

18thCenturyClocks.com

Leonard & Eve Marschark handcraft tall case clocks of uncompromising quality in their Bucks County Pennsylvania shop. Finely figured woods and traditional joinery are the hallmark of these accurately recreated clocks

with the magnificent look of 18th-century originals. A custom painted dial and expertly crafted brass movement completes each masterpiece. Made one at a time, each heirloom treasure is numbered and signed with only a limited number created each year.

Exton

Ball & Ball

463 W. Lincoln Highway

610-363-7330

BallAndBall.com

For 80 years and four generations, Ball and

Ball has been handcrafting the finest period brass and iron reproductions for homes. They offer fine quality door hardware, lighting and furniture hardware as well as fireplace accessories. They do custom work and their own forging. Visit their showroom Mon-Fri, 8 to 4:30; Sat (Oct-March only), 9 to 1.

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610-547-4983; EJFM.com

Facebook.com/E.JacobsenFurniture
E. Jacobsen Furniture Maker LLC executes important commissions of the finest period reproduction furniture. Eric consults with clients to develop the vision for each creation using historical documentation and close physical study. The finest materials and techniques are used to build and finish museum quality pieces. Versatile, Eric can solve unique needs through collaborative design/build projects. Full restoration service also available. Check his website to view his portfolio and follow recent projects on Facebook.



Yellow Garage Antiques Festival

Lancaster

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717-392-5649; AmericanPeriod.com

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You'll find unique, quality items of lasting value, including furniture, gifts and unique items from 27 states and 34 countries. They carry old-fashioned toys for creative minds, art, quality reproduction pewter, blown glass, Polish pottery and more. Stop by for their Spring Open House April 9 & 10 featuring new items. Tues-Sat, 10 to 5. Call for seasonal hours.

• Delaware •

Wilmington

Kurtz Collection

1010 N. Union St.
302-654-0442
KurtzCollection.com

See their listing under ANTIQUES. ♦



23rd Street Armory Show



Philadelphia Antiques Show



Main Line Antiques Show



Brandywine River Museum Antiques Show

2012 Regional Antiques Show Calendar

March 3-4

12th Annual Heart of the Valley Antiques Show & Sale

The Ice House, 56 River St.
Bethlehem, PA 610-588-6961; WDIY.org
Twenty-five dealers specializing in American country antiques including quilts and textiles, formal, painted and country furniture, folk art and more. Benefits WDIY, Lehigh Valley Community Public Radio. Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$6.

March 17-18

Antiques at Kimberton Show

Kimberton Fire Company, 61 Firehouse La. (off Rt. 113), Kimberton, PA 610-273-2066
AntiquesAtKimberton.VPWeb.com
This long-standing show features 70 dealers offering a wide variety of antiques, some in room settings, in two buildings on the same grounds. Food and free parking. Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$4-\$5.

March 10-11

Atlantic City Antiques Show

Atlantic City Convention Center
One Convention Blvd., Atlantic City, NJ 973-927-2794; JMKShows.com
Over 300 exhibitors at this huge show. Early buying on Sat, 9 to 10 am, \$30. Show hours Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$15; \$25 for weekend pass.

March 10-11

Elverson Antiques Show & Sale

Twin Valley High School
4897 N. Twin Valley Rd., Elverson, PA 610-207-7105
Join the fun at the 85th semi-annual show, offering plenty of antique pieces you won't want to miss. This year, 40 dealers display fine country furniture, primitives, American folklore, quilts, linens, baskets, tools, toys and more. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 4. \$5-\$6.

March 17-18

The Baltimore Antique Arms Show

Maryland State Fairgrounds Cow Palace
2200 York Rd. (Rt. 45), Timonium, MD 301-865-6804; BaltimoreShow.com
The Maryland Arms Collectors Association presents this show known as the "crown jewel" of arms collectors' shows, featuring 1000 tables of weapons, swords and militaria for exhibit and sale. No modern handguns are allowed. Sat, 9 to 5, \$10; Sun, 9 to 3, \$5.

March 16-18

Chester County Antiques Show

Westtown School, 975 Westtown Rd. Westtown, PA 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org
Exceptional dealers specializing in 18th- and 19th-

century American and Continental furniture and decorative arts. Benefits CCHS. Preview Fri, early admission 5 pm, \$200; regular admission 6 to 9, with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and buffet, \$130. Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 11 to 5; appraisals, Sun, 11 to 1. \$15.

April 27-29

23rd Street Armory Antiques Show 2012

22 S. 23rd St., Philadelphia, PA 845-876-0616; BarnStar.com
Forty-five diverse antiques dealers exhibit in room-like settings featuring American and Continental formal and country furniture, fine and folk art, silver, marine artifacts, textiles and more. Free shuttle service to and from the Philadelphia Antiques Show. Gourmet café, special show exhibit: *Bucket Brigades: A Collector's Passion*. Fri, 10 to 6, \$15; Sat, 10 to 6 and Sun, 11 to 4, \$12.

April 27-May 1

The Philadelphia Antiques Show

Pennsylvania Convention Center
12th and Arch Sts., Philadelphia, PA 610-902-2109; PhilaAntiques.com
Fifty-seven of the nation's leading antiques dealers and galleries bring together their finest pieces. Loan Exhibit, *Where History Meets Medicine: Antiques from the Nation's First Hospital*, features paintings and sculpture by noted artists, rare furniture and

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books and objects from Pennsylvania Hospital. Benefits Penn Lung Transplant Program. Preview Fri, 6 to 10, \$225-\$600. Sat, Mon, 11 to 8; Sun, 11 to 6; Tues, 11 to 4. \$12-\$20, good every day.

April 14-15

Antique City Fun Fair Festival

Lehigh University Rauch Fieldhouse
GPS: 123 Goodman Dr., Bethlehem, PA
800-822-4119; AntiqueCityShow.com

Over 250 international exhibitors offer furniture to fine art, jewelry to jukeboxes, collectibles and more. Benefits the Good Shepherd Hospital Pediatric Unit and the Animal Sanctuary at Haafsville. Special Exhibition *Full Head of Steampunk!* Preview Sat, 8 am, \$10. Show, Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 4; \$8.

April 26-28

Renningers Antiques & Collectors Extravaganza

Noble St., S of Kutztown, PA
610-683-6848; Renningers.com

Over 1200 dealers and collectors gather to buy and sell among themselves and to the general public. Thurs, 10 to 5, \$15, good for 3 days; Fri, open to the public, 8 to 5, \$6; Sat, 8 to 5, \$4.

April 28-29

Black Angus Antiques Extravaganza Weekend

2800 N. Reading Rd., Adamstown, PA
717-484-4387; StoudtsBeer.com

This Sunday market expands to include Saturday for the Extravaganza weekends with over 400 dealers offering their best collections. Daily 7:30 to 4 inside; opens at 5:30 am outside. Free.

April 29

Renningers Antiques Market Special Sunday

Rt. 272, Adamstown, PA
717-336-2177; Renningers.com

Year-round market offering 375 dealers inside and up to 300 outside. 7:30 to 4. Free.

May 4-6

Eastern National Antiques Show & Sale

Carlisle Expo Ctr., Carlisle PA
610-437-5534; EasternNationalShows.com

This is a general show, featuring fine jewelry, furniture, clocks and watches, art, prints and maps, books, dolls, toys and games, tools, vintage clothing and selected collectibles. Fri, 10 to 6; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$7-8.

May 17-19

Historic East Berlin Antiques Show

Community Center, 401 North Ave.
E. Berlin, PA 717-259-9866

The "Great Country Show" featuring Americana dealers. Preview on Thurs evening, 5 to 8:30, \$12. Show hours: Fri, 1 to 7; Sat, 9 to 3. \$6.

May 18-19

The Greater York Antique Show & Sale

Memorial Hall East, York Expo Center
334 Carlisle Ave., York, PA
717-872-2778; JimBurkAntiqueShows.net

Quality dealers featuring 18th- and 19th-century American and English furniture and accessories, American silver, folk art, pottery and more. Benefits the Y's Men's Club of York. Fri, 10 to 6; Sat, 11 to 5. \$8-\$10, good for both days.

May 25-28

Brandywine River Museum 41st Annual Antiques Show

Rt. 1 at the Museum, Chadds Ford, PA
610-388-8318 (preview); 610-388-2700
www.BrandywineMuseum.org

Outstanding antiques dealers from across the nation present a variety of American and English furniture, glass, metalware, ceramics, folk art, quilts, Oriental and European porcelain, rugs and fine collectibles. Benefits the Museum Volunteers' Art Purchase Fund. Preview Fri, 6 to 9, featuring cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, music, \$125; res. required. Show: Sat-Mon, 10 to 5. \$15.

June 9

June Festival of Antiques Gloucester County 4H Fairgrounds

Rt. 77, Mullica Hill, NJ
856-478-0300; YellowGarageAntiques.com

Over 100 exhibitors from throughout the eastern U.S. offer a wide variety of antiques at this one-day show. BBQ lunch available. 9 to 4. \$6.

June 15-16

Antiques in the Valley Oley Valley Middle School

3247 Friedensburg Rd., Oley, PA
610-987-3312; 610-779-0705

OleyValleyAntiqueshow.com
Sixty of the most respected antique dealers showcase their finest 19th-century products. This year's special display is *Exploring the Civil War in Berks County*. Benefits scholarships to worthy students at Oley Valley High School. Fri, 11 to 7; Sat, 10 to 4. \$10.

June 28-30

Renningers Antiques & Collectors Extravaganza

See April 26-28 listing.

June 29-30

Lititz Historical Foundation's 48th Annual Antiques Show & Sale

John R. Bonfield Elementary School
Front & Oak Sts., Lititz, PA 717-626-7059

More than 40 leading dealers from several states offer furniture, primitives, redware, yellowware, pewter and more. Fri, 10 to 5; Sat, 10 to 4. \$5-\$6.

June 30-July 1

Black Angus Antiques Mall Extravaganza Weekend

See April 28-29 listing.

July 1

Renningers Antiques Market Special Sunday

See April 29 listing.

August 31-September 2

159th York Antiques Show and Sale

Memorial Hall East, York Expo Center
334 Carlisle Ave., York, PA 302-875-5326
TheOriginalYorkAntiquesShow.com

Over 90 exhibitors offering 18th- and 19th-century American, English, primitive and period furniture and accessories. Fri-Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5. \$10.

August 25

Lititz Springs Park Antique Show & Sale

Rt. 501 N, Lititz, PA
717-626-5727; lititzspringspark.org

Approximately 100 dealers participate. Show hours: 9 to 4. Free.

Continued on page 73

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Sunday March 25

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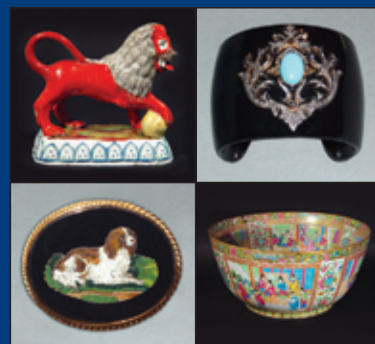
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SUNDAY, APRIL 29
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Your Sparkling Bathroom: Remodels ... Not Regrets

Emily Hart

When Curtis Roberts and his family moved into their rambling fieldstone home in Berwyn several years ago, the main bathroom's construction, layout and decorative tiles were high-end and chic ... for 1927.

The Roberts' Main Line house was solid—built nine decades ago for a prominent Philadelphia architect. But with a toilet in a separate closet, an outdated layout, and aging plumbing, renovating the bathroom seemed like the perfect start to their home make-over.

Several steps and a few months later, the bathroom was transformed into a sensational space for relaxing, as well as bathing. Today, a spectacular claw-footed

soaking tub—in the expanded room with a separate steam shower, fireplace and custom bookshelves—provides the ultimate haven for reading in a bubble bath while a cheery fire warms slippers and robe.

And, according to Roberts, a renovation project working with architect Tom Weston and builder Corbett Hall is something he'd repeat—the ultimate compliment! And not one that every homeowner can bestow after the dust settles.

From Big Headache to Big Bathroom

Headaches—leaky pipes, cracked tiles or countertops, and shoe-box-sized storage drawers—aren't the only reasons for renovating a bathroom. Remodeling can help you enjoy your home now and be an investment for the future.

With proper planning, the process can be accomplished painlessly. Well, relatively painlessly. (Without planning, prepare for new headaches.)

Here's some advice from the pros for steps to a new bathroom:

1. Take stock. Assess current space, needs, limitations and budget.
2. Create a vision. Merge dreams with practicality—constraints and resources.
3. Select an architect and contractor. Get recommendations and references. Conduct site visits.
4. Get it in writing. Review proposals. Read contracts and revise, if necessary.
5. Ready, set, go! Prepare for workers to arrive. During construction, monitor progress. After completion, take a final walk-through.

1. Take Stock

Measure your current space. Determine priorities. Bear in mind: a bathroom doesn't have to possess gold-plated details to add value. Aim for durable fixtures installed with high-quality workmanship.

Set your budget. To determine what you can afford, use resources like the National Association of the Remodeling Industry's (NARI) Homeowner's Budget Worksheet (check NARI.org). It reminds you to con-

sider factors including the length of time you'll stay in your home and walks you through financial calculations.

Bob Connolly, owner of Con-Lyn Home Improvement Co. LLC in Avondale, recommends, "See what's out there—tile, toilets and vanities. It will make it easier for everyone involved in the process—architects, designers, contractors and homeowners."

2. Create a Vision

"Have an idea of what you want to do," suggests Roberts. "Improvising could leave you without anything to fall back on. [The project] might work out great, but it might not."

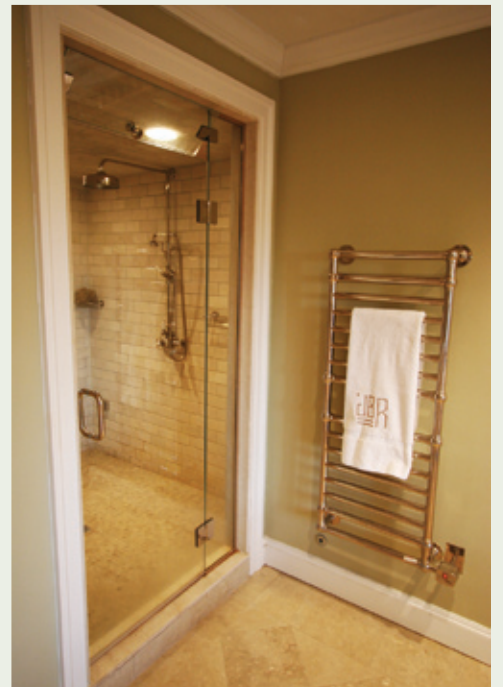
He and his wife discovered their dream bathroom in Edinburgh, Scotland. They photographed it from every angle, Roberts says, and phoned the hotel later to learn where to find the same tiles and accessories.

Bring architects and contractors on board early to help a plan take shape.

3. Select an Architect and Contractor

Ask trusted friends who've recently completed renovations and ask realtors for recommendations. Then, winnow the list of referrals by checking references, credentials, registrations and insurance certificates. Visit completed project sites.

Corbett Hall, president of C.D. Hall, builder of distinguished Philadelphia region homes, offers some sage advice: "Ask for several references and actually contact them. Many people do not actually call references, which can lead to problems since websites alone can be misleading."



Determine whether a general contractor is a member of professional associations, such as a Home Builders Association chapter, NARI or an association that is relevant to your specific project, Hall continues. "If you have an older home, make sure the builder is certified by the Environmental Protection Agency in the safe renovation and repair of buildings with lead paint." (For residences built before 1978, see "Renovate Right," at EPA.gov.)

Pennsylvania's Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act requires contractors who perform at least \$5,000 worth of home improvements per year to register with the Attorney General's Office. Verify your prospective contractor's registration (AttorneyGeneral.gov/hic.aspx; 888-520-6680). Request that the contractor's insurance agent send you a copy of the certificate of insurance.

For architects, says Tom Weston, principal at McIntyre Capron Architects in Paoli, ask about membership in the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Membership isn't required, but it "shows a level of professional commitment." Architects must be licensed and registered with the state. Drawings for renovations must comply with local codes for safety and be submitted to the township, then approved.

Roberts says he obtained half a dozen references and then put together a checklist of important questions to ask. He looked for answers that were positive and consistent, then visited completed projects. (See "Checklist" at CountyLines-Magazine.com.)

Roberts, Hall and Weston emphasized the importance of collaboration and communication early on. Architects can help

realize designs for dreams; builders will provide a realistic perspective about walls, heating ducts and plumbing that will inform blueprints, the building process and timelines.

4. Get It In Writing

Carefully review all quotes, proposals and contracts.

According to Weston, his architectural work—after conversations with homeowners—begins with a proposal incorporating rough costs and time estimates. Once accepted, like many architects in AIA, his firm uses a standard contract that's about 2½ pages long and written in plain English.

Pennsylvania's Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act is specific about home improvement contracts, required for work over \$500. Dive into the scintillating 14-page law at AttorneyGeneral.gov. Or consider NARI's guide for a well-written contract, which includes:

- Contractor's name, phone number, address and registration number.
- Details for what the contractor will and won't do, and specific products to be installed (including brand, model numbers, colors, etc.).
- Approximate start and completion dates.
- Financial terms, including total price, deposit, payment schedule, and any cancellation fees.
- Warranties, including workmanship for one year, and details about manufacturers' or vendors' guarantees for products (specific to the product and maker).
- Details for dealing with disputes and contract cancellation.

(For the full document: NARI.org/pdf/

Expect the Unexpected

"Hiccups can occur with any project," says Thaddaeus Fisher, general contractor. "You won't know the extent of damage from a leaky shower until you explore beneath the floor. So make sure your contractor is experienced and can handle anything discovered during the demolition phase."

For any changes to the original plans and contract, Fisher uses an addendum to the contract—or change order—signed by homeowner and builder.

Hold money in reserve to cover unanticipated items and to avoid disruption of work flow. According to NARI, it's "wise to save 10–20 percent of your budget to allow for items added to the scope of work."

Timely and open communication help keep surprises to a minimum.

For more tips, including a "Checklist for References," go to CountyLines-Magazine.com.

NARI_How_To_Select_A_Remodeling_Pro.pdf). Get signatures and copies.

5. Ready, Set, Go

Not every family has the opportunity to be away from their home for six to ten weeks during renovation, as the Roberts family did. But you can aim for the regular, ongoing communication with your contractor to which the Roberts attribute their renovation's success.

Families should prepare for altered routines and for workers to arrive. According to Thaddaeus Fisher, owner of T.P. Fisher General Contractors/Remodelers, LLC, routines during a renovation can feel very disrupted. Do-It-Yourself home improvement shows can lead homeowners to believe that projects can be accomplished stress-free over a weekend. "It isn't possible," he says. "But a good builder or remodeler will help set realistic expectations."

When work is finished, do a final walk-through with your contractor. Ensure the room is what you expected and fixtures work smoothly.

Then go ahead ... make a splash in the bath! ♦

Photos at left of before and after project, by Thaddaeus Fisher, T.P. Fisher General Contractors.

Other photos of the Roberts bathroom, by Tom Weston, McIntyre Capron & Associates.



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CROSSROADS FARM



Laurel Anderson

Solid. Solid as a rock. That's the surprising feeling you get as you walk the floors, open the doors and tour this stone home dating back to the 1700s.

Every detail of this fully restored property conveys the craft and quality that have gone into preserving this Malvern home. The original Colonial residence, built of local green serpentine stone, grew to over 8,000 square feet through three additions beginning in the early 1800s and culminating in a five-year renovation that took the structures down to the stone walls.

To preserve the original character, additions used matching serpentine stone from a former 1800s schoolhouse in Thornbury. And to create a home that would be livable and low-maintenance, a complete rebuilding was undertaken: oak studs were reinstalled and the interior was drywalled; every inch of electrical wire

and plumbing pipe were replaced; modern insulation was added throughout; and old windows and frames were replaced with historically correct double-insulated modern versions.

From the roof to the floors, every aspect of the home was improved. For example, the old roof was removed and new roof trusses installed, reinforced with steel beams, then finished with Ludowici tiles that simulate a 1700s tree-bark roof, but with a 100-year warranty. Wood floors were refinished and replaced while new granite and tumbled marble and travertine floors were added, along with radiant heat installed below the floors. Old pine moldings were used as models for replicas made of solid cherry. Perfect in every detail.

Entry

Beyond this solid structure, details large and small make for a unique showpiece of a home. Enter through the dramatic front door, originally from St. Patrick's Church in Malvern, to the two-story Foyer and Great Room for a stunning first impression of a surprisingly spacious interior.

A stone wall from the exterior of the original residence is complemented by the new floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace, straight ahead, flanked by custom bookshelves that form the focal point of this breath-taking

space. To the left, a grand mahogany staircase begs for movie-star entrances. Large stone tiles of golden onyx travertine add warmth to the glowing entry.

Main Living Space

Through the stone archway to the right, into the original section, is a Dining Room, large enough for a table for twelve to dine by the original stone fireplace. Adjoining the Dining Room is a welcome surprise—a modern, Gourmet Kitchen. The eat-in Kitchen, with doors to the pool and patio,

is warmed by custom cherry cabinets, with granite counters and commercial-grade stainless steel appliances. Details here include a tumbled travertine backsplash accented by a hand-painted rustic Italian scene behind the cooktop and imported Italian porcelain tile floor, with radiant heat. A large walk-in pantry with ample shelving, laundry room and mudroom, with powder room, make for a livable, convenient layout in this space just off the two-car garage.

On the opposite side of the house, in the addition, is the Library, complete with





British pub bar, with water and service area. Like other rooms, the Library has tasteful details such as black bamboo floors, cherry moldings, and a large recessed tray ceiling.

In the same wing is the spacious, first-floor Master Suite. A sitting area, private balcony overlooking the property, large walk-in closet with built-ins, and details such as recessed tray ceilings and eight-foot solid mahogany doors, make this a secluded sanctuary. More tumbled marble is found in the Master Bath, which also boasts travertine walls, solid marble accent moldings, and over-sized steam shower.

In the lower level below the Master Suite is the equally large Game Room, with polished granite floors. Perfect for a pool table or media room, this space also has radiant heat. Access is provided to the completely upgraded Systems Room (with the zone heating, air conditioning, geothermal, air purification and fresh air systems—it's got it all) with ample storage space.

Second Floor

The second floor of the addition includes two large, modern Bedrooms with Jack-and-Jill bath and large walk-in closet. On the second floor of the original residence, in the opposite wing, are two more Bedrooms, with quaint period details, like wide windowsills, and an adjacent bath, providing great privacy for guests.

A charming Home Office, with beamed ceiling and period flooring, could be a third Bedroom. The final detail is an interior balcony, overlooking the entry foyer.

Wine Cellar

A unique feature of the home is the Wine Cellar and Tasting Room in the lower level of the original residence. Repointed stone walls and cooking fireplace from the 1700s provide ambiance to a room now updated with slate floors, mahogany ceiling and wall mural of the Italian countryside. A perfect setting for storing and enjoying a wine collection! A hall to a second entrance to the

Service Room also adjoins a powder room with tumbled marble walls and floor.

Outside

An outdoor entertainment and patio area include a covered dining space with serpentine stone walls, gas fireplace, as well as a heated pool, waterfall and Jacuzzi whirlpool, all set among landscaped gardens.

A completely renovated Carriage Barn provides garage space for two cars, an equipment shed and kennel room. A renovated Stone Bank Barn from the 1800s is located on the west edge of the property. And a separate one-bedroom Guest Cottage, with kitchen, and living, dining and laundry rooms is also on the property. ♦

Situated on five level acres in Malvern, this stone home with five bedrooms, three baths, four powder rooms and three additional buildings is offered at \$2,300,000. For information, contact Kit Anstey, 610-836-2348; Kit@AnsteyTeam.com.



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Dining Out

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Lise Monty

It happens every time I see the life-size statue of the Chinese foot soldier that greets you in Yangming's entryway. My appetite automatically kicks in, anticipating the tantalizing and eclectic choices that await.

What new creations will be on the seasonal menu? What zingy dishes make up the list of Szechuan specialties? Will multi-cultural winners like the crab cakes with wine sauce and mango chicken with mirin brandy sauce still be available? Happily, they are.

For my two companions, experiencing Yangming for the first time, the terra cotta warrior triggered memories of their recent visit to China. They savored the Chinese specialties and were pleasantly surprised by the variety and quality of international and American choices. Check this out, they said, noting the winter apple/Vermont cheddar salad, with toasted pumpkin seeds, dried cranberries, and apple cider/maple vinaigrette on the seasonal menu. Not traditional Chinese fare, for sure.

That's when I told them of the two autonomous kitchens, one Western and one Chinese, each with its own chef. The salad also illustrated their adherence to the local/seasonal standards we've come to expect.

The elegant ambiance impressed my guests, too. White tablecloths, stylishly modern lighting, intriguing calligraphy canvases and the beautiful etched-glass panels that divide various rooms add up to a fine-dining feel.

We weren't sure if our Tuesday-at-7-p.m. dinner would mean a wait, but there was no problem. Even when it's crowded, the staff's professionalism keeps everything running smoothly. Our waiter made efficiency seem easy. The mixed crowd, mostly adult couples but a few families, dress casually, pretty much the standard today.

East Meets East

Dumplings Two Kinds (\$8.50) was a perfect beginning, half Japanese and half Korean. The Japanese dumplings, filled with a combo of naturally sweet kabocha (Japanese pumpkin) and its country-mate shiitake mushrooms, were earthy yet bright. On the other side of the oblong plate: chicken dumplings with Korean nuances and in the middle, a small heap of kimchee—think Asian salsa—a super-spicy, fermented cabbage condiment that gave the dish some attitude.

Other appetizer offerings from the Winter Specials list: Peking chicken roll, grilled jumbo shrimp with panko-crisped green tomato and Vietnamese nuoc mam (fish) sauce, and a combo of wok-seared day boat scallops and filet mignon medallions.

We admired the picture-ready *Golden Crabmeat Purses* (\$10.95), an enduring favorite. Three plump purses, filled with a subtle crabmeat/cream cheese blend and deep fried to a crispy golden brown, showed off their stuff in a puddle of zippy, colorful chili sauce. Slightly sweet, a little salty, a bit spicy, crispy, creamy. It couldn't miss.

Shrimp Coconut Soup (\$5.95) was a pleasing Thai experience with its aromatic and creamy broth featuring coconut milk, shiitake mushrooms, glass noodles, leeks and a gentle touch of gingery galangal, lemongrass and Thai basil.

The appetizer list includes spring rolls, char-grilled satay lamb, grilled Thai chicken, Chinese pizza, chicken curls in lettuce, spicy veal ravioli and dim sum sampler for two.

An International Affair

We went from a purse to a basket for another visual winner and long-time favorite, *Seafood in Flower Basket* (\$19.95). The elaborate edible container created from woven noodles with a swirly rim brimmed with a colorful toss of shellfish and vegetables. Ginger and garlic flavored the light and tasty sauce that coated the lobster meat, jumbo shrimp, scallops, broccoli, snow peas and slivers of green and yellow bell pepper.

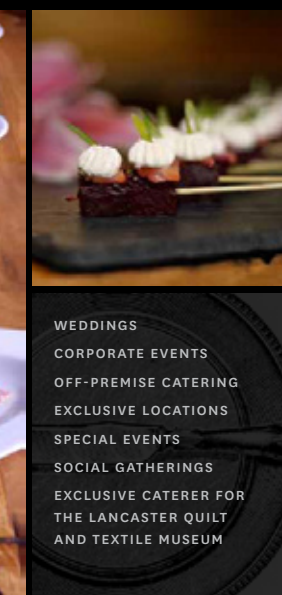
The spiciness of a winter special, *Thai Chili Chicken* (\$14.95), sparked a welcomed warm glow, thanks to the abundance of dried chilies that gave a spicy boost to the chicken morsels, onions, sweet peppers, Chinese parsley, Chinese broccoli and honeyed almonds. We agreed the dried peppers should be left whole to facilitate picking them out.

Spicy Orange Beef (\$17.75) continues as one of my favorite meat/fruit blends with its slices of tender beef and intense, gently bitter dried orange peel that gives it personality.

The multitude of entrée choices varies from Mandarin sweet and sour pork to grilled Norwegian salmon and the ever-popular jumbo shrimp with honey walnuts.

From the seasonal menu: gunpowder chicken with nectarines, wok-tossed soft shell crabs with snow peas and garlic-hoisin sauce, steamed red snapper with tender

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tofu, crispy plum duck and grilled Black Angus sirloin with roasted corn salsa.

Szechuan offerings, promising those bold flavors and pungent personalities, got a separate page of their own with the word "hot" appearing frequently—beef in hot pepper sauce, chili lamb in cooking pot, Chongqing crispy chicken with hot dry pepper and fish fillet in hot pepper sauce. Whew!

While there's a large selection of wines and cocktails, we opted for beer, my favorite with Chinese food. We enjoyed *Tsingtao* (\$4.95/bottle) with dinner, its crisp, cool characteristics a good match for the variety of dishes we enjoyed.

There were ten suggested wines on the seasonal specials list alone—from California, New Zealand, Italy, Germany, Argentina and Australia. A friend who's a long-time Yangming fan swears they make one of the best martinis in town.

Sweet Fusion

You can enjoy some sweet lychee fruit and get your vitamin C, if you must, but I recommend you go European for dessert. Enjoy the delectable *Cappuccino Crème Brûlée* (\$5.95), a prime example of this universal star enhanced by imported Belgian white chocolate and cappuccino.

Our second dessert choice brought more fusion fun. Though basically Asian, the *Fried Banana* (\$4.95), its panko-crusted banana segments still warm and sprinkled with chopped peanuts, came with a lovely chocolate sauce.

Other dessert options: mud pie (yup!), Edelweiss (a white chocolate creation with fresh raspberries), tiramisu and chocolate toffee tarte that combines mousse, a pecan crust and chocolate ganache.

Abundance of Awards

In this Year of the Dragon, Yangming exhibits several of the Zodiac sign's traits. "Everything Dragons do is on a grand scale ... big ideas, ornate gestures, confident, almost inevitably successful."

Yangming's boatloads of awards, from local to national, attest to its big reputation and consistent popularity. ♦

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Food News

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

March without Madness. In Winter I'm a one-subject, mono-directed person, pointed only and always toward Spring, the season of rebirth. But this Winter's extraordinarily pleasant balmy weather combined with the fact that my family is no longer in or around Manhattan on St. Patrick's Day (an occasion that is and has always been a nightmare), but instead in the Eden of Chester County, are reasons to celebrate March. Plus the special joy in the mid-month holiday dedicated to Ireland's patron saint and those truest harbingers of spring's wonder and bounty—shad and shad roe.

Shad Roe. Shad and the spring shad run in the Delaware River have an elemental place in Philadelphia's history. Originally considered a poor people's food, shad and its roe later achieved the status of a delicacy. Several recipes I like a lot, included because they are a little unusual, can be found at *CountyLinesMagazine.com*. The most important thing to remember (as with all fish) is that you must not overcook shad or shad roe.

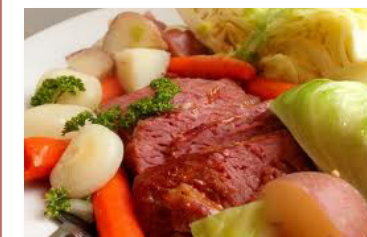
We buy our shad at **Seafood USA** in Wayne or Paoli. Ask about other types of fish roe (e.g., flounder and mackerel) also. You won't be sorry. *330 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne; 21 E. Lancaster Ave., Paoli; TheSeafoodUSA.com.*



St. Pat's Classics. Some people think of St. Patrick's Day and fix on a traditional meal of corned beef and cabbage. Although some culinary authorities like Malachi McCormick contest the primacy, even the Irish identity of corned beef and cabbage (in *Irish Country Cooking*, he calls it "a New World dish!"). Others like Darina Allen, proprietress of the famous Ballymoe Cooking School, strongly differ.

Ms. Allen's corned beef feast (served with buttered cabbage, champ and rhabarb bread and butter pudding) can be found at *CountyLinesMagazine.com*.

Readers wishing to elaborate on the Irish mood are directed to West Chester's **Abbey Green Irish Shop, 1036 Wilmington Pike, West Chester.**



Irish Smoked Salmon. My own Irish thoughts and memories, which are extensive and frankly ecstatic (if I could celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Horseshoe Bar at the Shelburne Hotel in Dublin, I would ... celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Horseshoe Bar at the Shelburne Hotel in Dublin), center around Irish smoked salmon, which is the best in the world.

My friend Patricia Kellaghan advises that Irish mothers traditionally welcome returning sons and daughters with smoked salmon, good dark bread and smiling eyes.

Closer to home, **Sugartown Smoked Specialties'** smoked salmons (various styles) and other smoked fish and seafood are exquisite and unbeatable. *306-1Q Westtown Rd., West Chester; SmokedFood.com.*

Tea for Thee. Finally, to fortify against March chills (and accompany any meals or even just bouts of contemplation), the **Pureblend Teas** created by Chester County native Kari Dandrea are ideal elixirs. Having formed our own tea tastes in England, Ireland and India, we find Pureblend's new and ever-developing organic tea assortment exciting and excellent.

Current offerings include Mint Mojito (a black tea), Alice in Wonderland (a white tea), and best of all (I think) one of their tonic matcha (finely milled green tea; you consume the whole leaf) blends. As Pureblend states on their website: "Green is the new Black." Available at local farmers markets and online at *PureblendTea.com*.



About Curtis Roberts. *I'm a lawyer who also does other things, including appreciate regional food. My family returned to the area to reclaim my wife's deep Chester County roots, educate our daughter in the right Philadelphia way, and enjoy the food. For more of my gastro-adventures, check my blog, ACravan, ACravan.blogspot.com, which is so varied, there may just be something you'll find interesting.*

Cooking With Wine

Laura Muzzi Brennan

W.C. Fields once wisecracked, “I cook with wine; sometimes, I even add it to the food.” While he might make my list of dream dinner—and certainly drink—companions, I’d prefer someone else commanding the burners, ensuring the wine got into the pot. Done right, cooking with wine brings out the flavors in other ingredients, adds a welcome acidity, and in the case of meat, tenderizes even the toughest cuts. In short, wine propels a dish from ordi-

nary to sophisticated, something chefs John Mims, Peter Gilmore, and Joseph Maguire know all about.

“I use lots of wine here,” says Mims of Phoenixville’s Daddy Mims’ Creole BYOB, “That’s what makes food taste good.” His mussels in a white wine, Asiago and garlic butter sauce, red wine braised short ribs, and lobster bisque bear out his words.

At Gilmore’s, a romantic BYOB in West Chester, Peter Gilmore calls on wine to create classic French dishes with an American twist. The former Chef de Cuisine at Le Bec-Fin for 22 years, Gilmore braises snails in champagne, sauces confit of duck leg with a port demi-glace, and of course, makes the classic beurre rouge and beurre blanc sauces with wine.

Joseph Maguire, executive chef at The Farmhouse Bistro at Malvern’s People’s Light & Theater, praises wine’s ability to add intensity, depth and richness that



Creamy Tomato Soup

spices alone cannot accomplish. The proof: his rib-eye with port wine demi-glace, chicken marsala and shrimp scampi.

The general rule for choosing a wine for cooking is to pick one you’d like to drink, definitely not those labeled “cooking wine” on grocery store shelves. That doesn’t mean that home cooks must use expensive vintages. Best to keep those for drinking, says Gilmore. But, advises Mims, steer clear of very cheap bottles as they may lack complexity. Some good choices, suggests Maguire, include whites such as Chablis, sauvignon blanc, and not-too-oaky chardonnays, as well as reds like merlot, cabernet and burgundy.

Chicken Pot Pie



Lobster Bisque

This rich soup is a meal in itself. Recipe courtesy of John Mims. He serves it as part of his four-course lobster tastings.

- 1 C. butter
- 6 Tb. flour
- 5 shallots, chopped
- 1 C. port wine
- 4 Tb. tomato paste
- 4 qt. lobster, crab or shrimp stock
- 1 qt. heavy cream
- Splash of V.S.O.P. cognac
- 2 lb. lobster meat

In a large, heavy duty soup pot, melt butter. Add flour stirring until mixture forms a paste. Add shallots and cook for 5 minutes. Stir in port wine and tomato paste, and cook for 3 minutes. Add stock and cream. Simmer on medium heat for 30 minutes. Splash with cognac.

Five minutes before serving, add lobster meat and simmer for 5 minutes.

Makes 12–14 appetizer servings or 8–10 entrée servings.

Creamy Tomato Soup

I adapted this recipe from Food and Wine Magazine, and I have made it when I wanted a comforting, quick meal. The basil makes the soup taste like margherita pizza in a bowl.

- 2 Tb. butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1, 28-oz. can crushed tomatoes
- 1, 14.5-oz. can whole peeled plum tomatoes
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1½ C. vegetable or chicken broth
- ½ C. white wine
- 1 C. heavy whipping cream
- ½ C. basil or parsley (optional)

Melt butter in a large pot over medium high heat. Add onion and cook until translucent, 3–5 minutes. Add garlic and cook for 1 minute or less. (Do not allow garlic to brown.) Add tomatoes, salt, broth and wine. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally until liquid has reduced by half.

Remove pot from heat, and allow tomatoes to cool slightly. Purée the soup with a stick blender or in batches in a food processor. Return soup to pot. Add cream. Cook until heated through, about 2 minutes. Garnish with basil or parsley right before serving.

Makes 6–8 generous servings.

Saga Blue and Mascarpone Torte with Sauternes and Sage Jelly

Sauternes is a French sweet wine. (Sauterne is a less sweet American wine.) Recipe courtesy of Peter Gilmore.

For the jelly:

- ½ C. water
- 2 Tb. chopped fresh sage
- 1½ C. Sauternes
- ¾ C. sugar
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1 bay leaf
- ½ C. liquid pectin

For the torte:

- 1 wheel Saga blue cheese
- 1 lb. mascarpone cheese
- 1 C. chopped toasted hazelnuts

To make the jelly: Steep together water and sage for 15 minutes. Strain. Bring liquid back to ½ cup. Combine sauternes, sugar, salt and bay leaf with liquid. Bring to a boil, and simmer for 5 minutes. Whisk in pectin and return to a boil. Remove from heat. Remove bay leaf and let jelly cool.

To make the torte: Cut cheese in ½ along the equator and “ice” as you would a birthday cake with the mascarpone cheese. Decorate the outside with the nuts. Cut

into 20 wedges and serve with sauternes and sage jelly.

Makes 20 servings.

Mussels in White Wine, Asiago and Garlic Butter Sauce

Recipe courtesy of John Mims.

- 60 mussels, shells removed
- 1 C. grated Asiago cheese
- 3 Tb. butter
- ½ C. crisp white wine such as sauvignon blanc
- 2 Tb. chopped garlic
- Cajun spice, to taste

Place all ingredients in large pot or large sauté pan. Bring to a boil and simmer for 10 min. Serve over crusty bread.

Makes 6 servings.

Gilmore’s Mussels Meuniere

Anisette is a liqueur with a licorice/fennel flavor. Panko bread crumbs the flaky Japanese version often used for frying.

- ½ c. white wine
- 1 finely diced shallot
- 2 Tb. anisette
- 4 C. cleaned mussels, in shells
- 1 Tb. finely ground Panko bread crumbs

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From the Winemaker's Recipe File

With so many wineries popping up in the Brandywine Valley over the past decade, I just had to check in with the folks who live, drink and dream wine. Turns out, they cook with it too. At Avondale's Va La Vineyards, I spoke with owner Anthony Vietri who graciously shared this family favorite, which he says proudly "features three children of Avondale—mushrooms, dandelions and La Prima Donna Wine."

To sample this white wine and other Va La vintages, visit the winery for a tasting. For more information, visit VaLaVineyards.com.

Anthony's Avondale Oyster Mushrooms and Wild Dandelions

Serve as a side dish to a main course, or toss into fresh made pasta.

3 lbs. fresh Avondale oyster mushrooms
One gallon bag filled with fresh cut dandelion greens
Extra virgin olive oil
Black pepper and coarse Kosher salt
4 cloves garlic, minced
2 Tb. butter
1 glass (about 4–6 oz.) Va La La Prima Donna

Clean mushrooms, removing stumps and heavy stems. Cut tops into strings.

Rinse dandelion greens thoroughly, removing any excess dirt, and root sections.

Chop dandelions coarsely, and place in sauce pan with enough water to cover.

Add lid and bring to boil. Boil dandelions approximately 2–4 minutes so that they cook lightly but do not become limp. Remove from water and place in strainer.

Coat bottom of sauté pan with extra virgin olive oil. Add salt, pepper and garlic. Over medium heat, sauté garlic for about 1 minute. Add cut mushrooms along with butter.

Mix thoroughly. Turn up heat while continuing to stir for 2 minutes. Carefully add the glass of wine to pan. Continue to stir as liquid cooks down. Once the liquid becomes creamy, mix the previously blanched dandelions into the pan. Cook for 1 minute. Remove from heat.

Serves 8–12 as a sidedish.

¼ lb. softened sweet butter,
cut into tablespoon slices
Salt and pepper to taste
Parsley for garnish

Combine wine, shallot and anisette in a saucepan, and bring to a boil. Add mussels and cover. When mussels are fully opened, remove from the pot and set aside. Reserve the cooking liquid.

Whisk the panko bread crumbs into the liquid and slowly whisk in the butter, 1 Tb. at a time, until emulsified. Season with salt and pepper. Pour the hot liquid over the mussels. Garnish with parsley.

Makes 1–2 servings.

Merlot-Braised Beef Short Ribs

John Mims suggests reserving the cooking liquid to make a delicious sauce. Simply bring liquid to a boil and cook until reduced by half. Thicken with up to 3 Tb. butter.

6, 6-oz. boneless beef short ribs
1 bottle good-quality merlot
2 Tb. minced garlic
2 C. beef broth or stock
3 sprigs rosemary
1 Tb. tomato paste
Salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 150°. Place all ingredients in a large Dutch oven or deep baking pan. Cover. If using a baking pan, cover with plastic wrap and then aluminum foil. Cook for 10 hours or overnight. If you want to speed the process, heat oven at 400° and cook for 5 hours.

Makes 6 servings.

Individual Chicken Pot Pies

This pot pie serves up generous portions of both chicken and vegetables. If you don't have the time or desire to cut out puff pastry circles, simply put ingredients in one large casserole dish, and top with puff pastry sheets.

5 Tb. butter, divided
1 Tb. olive oil
1 large onion, chopped
3–4 carrots, cut into medium dice
2 celery stalks, cut into ¼-inch pieces
Salt and pepper to taste
½ C. flour
2 C. chicken broth
1 C. milk
¼ C. heavy cream
¼ C. white wine
2 tsp. dried Parisien herbs (mix of chives, dill, basil, tarragon, chervil)
3 C. cooked chicken, cut into bite-sized pieces

1 C. frozen peas
1 C. frozen pearl onions
½ C. fresh Italian parsley, chopped
2 sheets puff pastry
1 egg

Heat oven to 400°.

In a large skillet, melt 1 Tb. butter and olive oil. Add chopped onion, carrots and celery, a pinch of salt, and cook over medium heat for 10 minutes, stirring frequently so that veggies do not caramelize. Remove vegetables to a bowl and set aside.

In same skillet, melt 4 Tb. butter. Mix in flour a little at a time to form a roux. (It may seem as if you have lots of flour, but don't worry.) Cook for 1 minute until flour is incorporated. Add broth, milk, cream, wine and dried herbs. Allow sauce to thicken, but break up any lumps. Turn off heat.

Add cooked vegetables and chicken to skillet. Add peas, pearl onions and parsley and stir until well mixed. Add salt and pepper to taste. Fill a large casserole dish or 6 ramekins with 1 C. each of mixture.

Cut out 6 circles of puff pastry just slightly larger than the ramekin. Place pastry on top of each ramekin and place all on baking sheet.

Beat one egg in a small bowl. Using a pastry brush, brush a little egg wash over puff pastry. Bake for 20 minutes or until top is golden brown.

Makes 6 servings.

Chicken Marsala

This classic recipe comes courtesy of Chef Joseph Maguire. Marsala, a fortified wine available in sweet and dry versions, takes its name from a Sicilian seaport city.

4, 7-oz. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
Salt and pepper to taste
Flour for dredging
5 Tb. olive oil
½ C. Marsala wine
½ C. demi-glaze or beef stock
1 Tb. chopped garlic
2 Tb. chopped shallots
¼ lb. medium mushrooms, sliced
1 Tb. fresh thyme, chopped
1 Tb. butter, room temperature

Lightly pound chicken breasts evenly with a mallet to tenderize. Season with salt and pepper. Lightly dredge the chicken in flour, shaking off excess flour.

Pour the olive oil into a non-stick sauté pan, and put over medium heat.

When oil is hot, place the chicken

Steps to Perfect Wine Pan Sauce

Want to jazz up a chicken breast or a steak? With a splash of wine, a few pats of butter and these simple steps courtesy of Chef Joseph Maguire, you can fashion a perfect pan sauce in minutes. A general rule of thumb: use 1½ oz. wine and 1 Tb. butter per serving. For example, to make enough sauce for four chicken breasts, use 6 oz. wine and 4 Tb. butter.

1. Sear meat in a little oil until it develops a golden or brown crust. Remove meat from pan and finish cooking in the oven.

2. Pour off excess oil from pan, but leave the drippings. Those little browned bits add a punch of flavor to the sauce.

3. Off the heat, pour wine around the rim of pan. This technique, known as deglazing, ensures that even browned bits stuck to the side make it into the sauce.

4. Over medium to high heat, scrape off any drippings that may still be stuck to pan, and reduce the wine's volume by half.

5. Remove from heat and swirl in butter and chopped fresh herbs such as rosemary or thyme.

breasts in pan. Sear on both sides until golden brown, about 3–4 minutes per side. Remove chicken breasts.

Deglaze pan by adding Marsala wine. (Be sure to remove the pan from the fire when adding wine.) Let simmer for 2 minutes. Add demi-glaze or beef stock, garlic, shallots and mushrooms. Simmer another 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Add thyme and butter. Stir well.

To plate, start by putting your vegetable and starch of choice in place. Then using a pair of tongs place chicken in the center of the plate and pour marsala sauce over.

Makes 4 servings.

Shrimp Scampi

Recipe courtesy of Chef Joseph Maguire.

5 Tb. olive oil
1½ lb. shrimp (16–20 per pound), removed from shell and deveined
1 Tb. chopped shallots
1 Tb. chopped garlic
½ C. white wine
Juice of 2 large lemons
4 Tb. butter
1 Tb. chopped fresh dill
1 Tb. chopped fresh tarragon
Pepper to taste
4 portions of capellini or angel hair

(about ½–¾ lb. dried pasta)
12 Tb. freshly grated Parmesan cheese
4 Tb. finely diced tomato (optional)

Heat olive oil in a medium size sauté pan. Add shrimp, shallots and garlic. Sauté until the shrimp are cooked (pink in color).

Deglaze the pan by adding the white wine and lemon juice. (Be sure to remove the pan from the fire when adding wine.) Let simmer for 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Add butter and fresh herbs. Season with fresh ground black pepper. Mix well. Place over pasta and top with the grated parmesan and tomato. Serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

Farmhouse Red Wine Poached Pears

At The Farmhouse Bistro, these pears add elegance to their signature Farmhouse Salad, a mix of greens, gorgonzola and candied walnuts dressed with a balsamic shallot vinaigrette.

12 Bartlett pears, peeled
1, 750 ml. bottle of inexpensive Burgundy wine
½ C. granulated sugar
8 whole cloves
2 cinnamon sticks
2 vanilla bean pods

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Place pears in a saucepan. Pour in red wine, and if necessary, enough water to submerge pears. Add sugar, cloves, and cinnamon sticks.

Heat the vanilla bean pods for about 20 seconds in the microwave. Split lengthwise, scoop out the seeds with a table knife. Add seeds and pod to the saucepan.

Bring the liquid to a steady simmer and let cook for 45 minutes. Remove pears very gently and cool completely. Slice and serve over salad. (Note: The poaching liquid can be refrigerated up to 6 weeks and used again.)

Makes 12 servings.

White Wine-Chocolate Pears

Lemongrass lends an exotic dimension to these dessert pears. To up the gourmet quotient even more, Chef Joseph Maguire suggests garnishing with crème anglaise and fresh mint.

12 Bosc pears, unpeeled, stems intact
1, 750 ml. bottle inexpensive white wine such as sauvignon blanc
½ C. granulated sugar
8 whole cloves
2 Tb. chopped fresh ginger, unpeeled
1 stalk lemongrass, minced

2 vanilla beans

10 oz. dark chocolate, chopped

1 C. blanched almond slices

Place pears in a saucepan. Pour in red wine, and if necessary, enough water to submerge pears. Add sugar, cloves, ginger and lemongrass.

Heat the vanilla bean pods for about 20 seconds in the microwave. Split lengthwise, scoop out the seeds with a table knife. Add seeds and pod to the saucepot.

Bring the liquid to a steady simmer and cook for 45 minutes. Remove pears very carefully. Cool completely. (Note: The poaching liquid can be refrigerated up to 6 weeks and used again.)

Melt the chocolate in a double boiler. (A bowl set over a saucepan of boiling water works well also.) Holding the pear by the stem, dip the lower half of the pear in the chocolate. Spin pear to coat evenly.

Sprinkle the toasted almond slices over the still soft chocolate so they will stick to the pears. Cool completely; serve chilled.

Makes 12 servings.

Gilmore's Poached Pears

Star anise, used in Chinese cuisine, adds its licorice flavor to these dessert pears.

12 pears

For the poaching liquid:

2 C. Port wine or Sauternes

2 C. red wine

1 cinnamon stick, broken in half

1 Star anise

4 whole cloves

1½ tsp. peppercorns

1 vanilla bean, cut in half lengthwise

Peel and core pears. Slice a small piece off of the bottom so that they sit flat for plating. Smooth out edges with new green nylon scouring pad. Place pears in large pot, and cover with poaching liquid. Top pears with a plate to weight them down.

Bring liquid to a simmer. (You'll see bubbles around the edges). Then lower temperature. Cook for at least an hour, depending upon how hard or ripe the pears are to begin with.

Remove and let cool on rack.

Serve with ice cream and drizzle with some of the poaching liquid.

Makes 12 servings. ♦

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

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continued from page 51

September 27-29

**Renningers Antiques
& Collectors Extravaganza**

See April 26-28 listing.

September 29-30

**Black Angus Antiques
Mall Extravaganza Weekend**

See April 28-29 listing.

September 30

**Renningers Antiques
Market Special Sunday**

See April 29 listing.

October 4-14

**Berks County Antique Art Show
Greshville Antiques & Fine Art**

1041 Reading Ave. (Rt. 562), Boyertown, PA
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to 7; Oct. 5-13, 10 to 7; Oct. 14, 12 to 5. Free.

October 19-21

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October 26-27

The Greater York Antique Show & Sale,
see May 18-19 show listing.

November 3-4

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November 16-18

Eastern National Antique Show & Sale

See May 4-6 show listing.

November 17-18

Antiques at Kimberton Show

See March 17-18 show listing. ♦

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Index to Advertisers

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ANTIQUES

The Antique Store in Wayne	72
Antiques @ 236	72
Antiquities, etc.	18, 44
Beauty Art, Antiques & Rugs	44, 77
Sandy DeMaio	74
Frazer Antiques	74
Greshville Antiques & Fine Art	52
McLimans	71
The Power House	74
White Horse Mill Antiques	71
ANTIQUES, REPRODUCTIONS	
18th Century Clocks	44, 46
* American Period Lighting	51
Ball & Ball	29
E. Jacobsen Furniture Maker	44, 45
ANTIQUES, SHOWS	
Antiques at Kimberton	72
Antiques in the Valley	37, 44
Brandywine River Museum	12, 44
Chester County Antiques Show	12
Elverson Spring Antiques Show	72
Greater York Antiques Shows	23
Heart of the Valley Antiques Show	52
Main Line Antiques Show	52
Maryland Arms Collectors	73
Philadelphia Antiques Show	37
23rd Street Armory Antiques Show	53
ART—GALLERIES, FRAMING SUPPLIES	
Beauty Art, Antiques & Rugs	44, 77
Greshville Antiques & Fine Art	52
BANKS	
* Malvern Federal Savings Bank	15
BUILDING CONTRACTORS	
INCLUDING REMODELING	
* Dutchie's Stone Works, LLC	8
* The Hankin Group	9
King Construction	29
CABINETS & CUSTOM WOODWORKING	
NHance	24
CANDY	
* Christopher Chocolates	30
CATERERS	
Jimmy Duffy Caterers	63
* Meridith's Catering	25

CLOCKS

18th Century Clocks	44, 46
DOORS, WINDOWS	
Chapman Windows & Doors	33
Tague Design Showroom	57
DRAPERIES—WINDOW TREATMENTS	
Heritage Design Interiors	18
* Shady Lady Inc.	74
EVENTS	
Historic Sugartown Days	22
Philadelphia Furniture Show	52
FINANCIAL PLANNING (Incl. Long Term Care)	
* Key Financial	5
FLOORING, HARDWOOD	
Boyle's Floor & Window Design	64
NHance	24
Bob Wagner's Flooring America	6
FLORISTS	
* Cowan's Flowers	71
FURNITURE—HOME FURNISHINGS	
Alegacy Furniture	48
Ball & Ball	29
* Evelyn & Harriette's	71
Kurtz Collection Rug & Home	30, 44
McLimans	71
FURNITURE—REPRODUCTIONS AND RESTORATIONS	
E. Jacobsen Furniture Maker	44, 45
GARDEN CENTERS, GREENHOUSES & NURSERIES	
Mostardi Nursery	16
GIFTS & SPECIALTY SHOPS	
* Christopher Chocolates	30
* Evelyn & Harriette's	71
Ten Thousand Villages	50
HOME HEALTH CARE	
* Bayada Home Health Care	14
HOMES	
* Eagleview Town Center	9
HOSPITALS / HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS	
Chester County Hospital	21
INSURANCE	
Levy Insurance Agency, LLC	70
INTERIOR DECORATING/DESIGN	
Heritage Design Interiors	18
JEWELERS & JEWELRY	
* Walter J. Cook, Jeweler	3

Sandy DeMaio	74
Ten Thousand Villages	50
KITCHENS & BATH	
* Sugarbridge Kitchen & Bath Design	cover
Tague Design Showroom	57
LANDSCAPE & GARDEN DESIGN	
* Dutchie's Stone Works, LLC	8
* Flowing Springs Landscape Design	51
LIGHTING (Including Outdoor)	
* American Period Lighting	51
LODGING (Including B&B's)	
* The Inn & Spa at Intercourse	70
MUSEUMS	
Brandywine River Museum	12, 44
Chester Co. Historical Society	12
National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum	50
Winterthur Museum & Library	75
RADIO STATIONS	
Brandywine Radio	64
REALTORS/REAL ESTATE	
Brandywine Fine Properties	2
* James A. Cochran, Inc.	73
* Pru. Fox Roach / K. Anstey	4
Pru. Fox Roach / Country Prop.	11
* Pru. Fox Roach / H. Gross	7
Sotheby's Int'l Realty	2
RESTAURANTS	
Firebirds Grill	63
* Foxfire at The Stone Barn	74
* La Tolteca Mexican Rest.	67
RETIREMENT / ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES	
Foulkeways at Gwynedd	26
RUGS & FLOORING	
Beauty Art, Antiques & Rugs	44, 77
Kurtz Collection Rug & Home	30, 44
SCHOOLS	
* The Concept School	26
Episcopal Academy	61
St. Mark's High School	69
* Wyndcroft School	16
SENIOR SERVICES	
Surrey Services	69
SPAS	
* The Inn & Spa at Intercourse	70
TILE & TILE DESIGN	
Bob Wagner's Flooring America	6
WELCOME SERVICES	
Welcome Neighbor	74
WINDOWS / SHUTTERS	
Boyles Floor & Window Design	64
Chapman Windows & Doors	33
* Shady Lady Inc.	74

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