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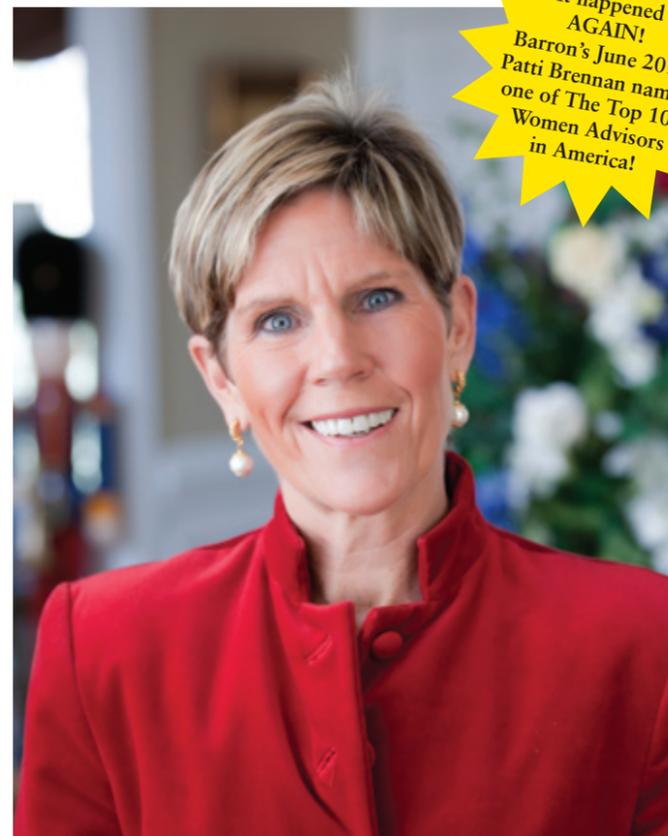
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Raised in Radnor, PA, Patricia Brennan has been providing Wealth Management advice right here in West Chester for over 25 years. She is a Georgetown University graduate and earned her CFP® designation in 1990. She is a recognized leader in her industry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



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From *the*
Editor

Almost spring! And it can't come soon enough. We hope our March issue will help get you there.

For an early taste of the new season, Carol Metzker suggests "Summoning Spring ... at the Spa." There's no better way to rejuvenate than a trip to a Brandywine Valley day spa.

March is also when we focus on the antiques and fine furnishings scene, starting with a preview of Winterthur's spring exhibition. "Common Destinations" charts America's fascination with ... maps. Let X mark the spot on your calendar for the opening, April 20th. We follow up with the little-known story of marking the Mason-Dixon Line, in Kirsten Werner's "Walking the Line." Visit Star Gazer's Stone, which placed a key part in this major scientific achievement, at ChesLen Preserve.

In "Sincerest Form of Flattery," our publisher Ed Malet, visits four fine furniture makers who can duplicate family heirlooms or reproduce a museum masterpiece, accurate in every visible detail. It's inspiring to see such craftsmanship continue in our area.

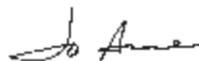
You'll also find a Directory of Regional Antiques Dealers and Calendar of Area Shows, to help you plan outings in 2013. We showcase select antiques and reproductions, and tell you where and how to find them.

"Must love horses" is the message of our March Home of the Month, a 140+-acre premiere equestrian property in Unionville. The residence, featured on the Chester County Day Tour, showcases centuries-old wood in a soaring three-story living area. For a smaller-scale project, Donna Rizzo shares her story "All in Good Time: A New Bathroom, Three Years in the Making." She says it was worth the wait.

For Dining Out, Lise Monty spices things up with a visit to La Tolteca in West Chester. And for dining in, Brandywine Table's Laura Brennan serves up the soothing magic of Comfort Food.

And of course, we've got the Best Local Events anywhere.

Thank you for reading County Lines. Is it spring yet?



Jo Anne Durako
Editor



COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

March 2013

Volume XXXVI, Number 7

PUBLISHER
Edwin Malet

EDITOR
Jo Anne Durako

ART DIRECTOR / PRODUCTION
Alex Bianco

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Marci Tomassone

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Jane Elizabeth Dols

DINING OUT EDITOR
Lise Monty

FOOD EDITOR

Laura Muzzi Brennan

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Sue Angelucci Sontagh
Rick Latham
Susie Smith

SALES ASSISTANT
Sharon Long

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Jaimielynn Cooper

BUSINESS MANAGER
Debra M. French

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Laurel Anderson
George Fitzpatrick
Matt Freeman
Emily Hart
Cooky McClung
Carol Metzker
Kristin Collier Van Riper
William Woys Weaver

EDITORIAL INTERNS

Nicholas Devoe • Elizabeth Tarr

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Alix Coleman

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893 S. Matlack Street, Ste. 150
West Chester, PA 19382.
610-918-9300. Info@ValleyDel.com
Subscriptions: \$39 /year.



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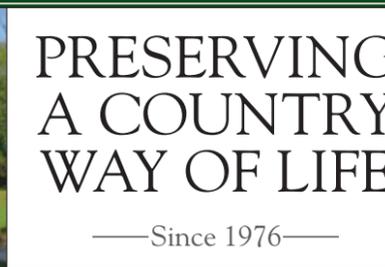
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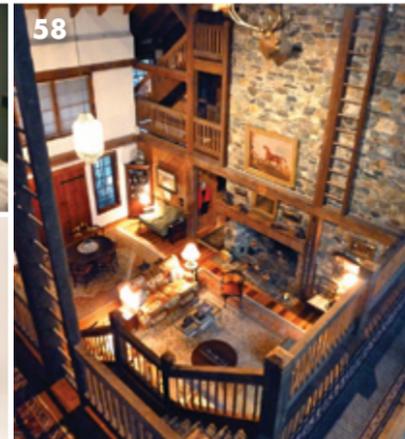
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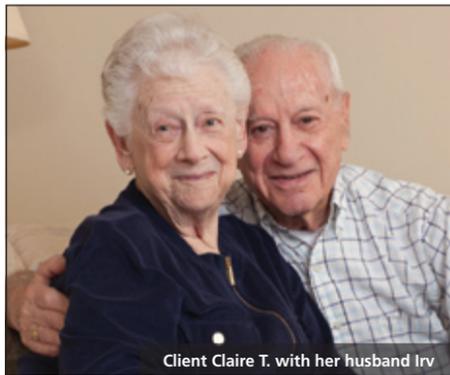
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On the cover: Reproduction Lancaster County Highback Windsor chair by Rolf Hofer and Terrestrial Globe with stand, the Winterthur Museum exhibition.



Client Claire T. with her husband Irv

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Worth Knowing

529 Lesson Plan: High Scores for 529 College Savings Program

Steve Manley, Janney Montgomery Scott

Looking for a tax-advantaged college savings plan that has no age restrictions and no income phaseout limits—and one you can use to pay for more than just tuition?

Consider the 529 college savings plan, an increasingly popular way to save for higher-education expenses, which have more than tripled over the past two decades—with annual costs (for tuition, fees, room and board) of more than \$38,000 per year for the average private four-year college.* Named after the section of the tax code that authorized them, 529 plans (also known as qualified tuition plans) are now offered in almost every state.

The newer variety of 529 is the savings plan. It’s similar to an investment account, but the funds accumulate tax deferred. Withdrawals from state-sponsored 529 plans are free of federal income tax as long as they are used for qualified college expenses. Many states also exempt withdrawals from state income tax for qualified higher education expenses.

Unlike the case with prepaid tuition plans, contributions to 529 plans can be used for all qualified higher-

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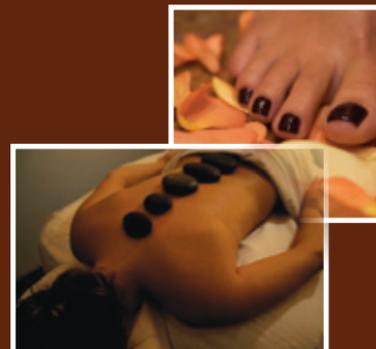
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education expenses (tuition, fees, books, equipment and supplies, room and board), and the funds usually can be used at all accredited post-secondary schools in the United States.

Investment Options

In most cases, 529 savings plans place investment dollars in a mix of funds based on the age of the beneficiary, with account allocations becoming more conservative as the time for college draws closer. But recently, more states have contracted professional money managers—many well-known investment firms—to actively manage and market their plans, so a growing number of investors can customize their asset allocations.

Some states enable account owners to qualify for a deduction on their state tax returns or receive a small match on the money invested. Earnings from 529 plans are not taxed when used to pay for eligible college expenses.

Gifts

Funds contributed to a 529 plan are considered to be gifts to the beneficiary, so anyone—even non-relatives—can contribute up to \$14,000 per year (in 2013) per beneficiary without incurring gift tax consequences. Contributions can be made in one lump sum or in monthly installments. And assets contributed to a 529 plan are not considered part of the account owner's estate, therefore avoiding estate taxes upon the owner's death.

Major Benefits

These savings plans generally allow people of any income level to contribute, and there are no age limits for the student. The account owner can maintain control of the account until funds are withdrawn—and, if desired, can even change the beneficiary as long as the new beneficiary is in the immediate family of the original beneficiary.

Benefits for Grandparents

The 529 plan could be a great way for grandparents to shelter inheritance money from estate taxes and contribute substantial amounts to a student's college fund. At the same time, grandparents also control the assets and can retain the power to control withdrawals from the account.

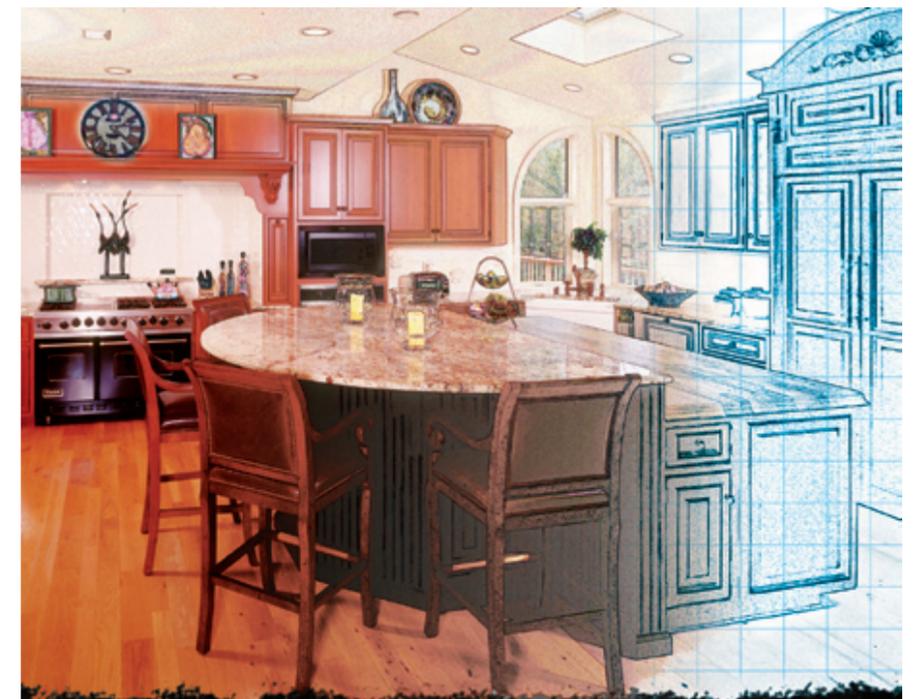
By accelerating use of the annual gift tax exclusion, a grandparent—as well as

anyone, for that matter—could elect to use five years' worth of annual exclusions by making a single contribution of as much as \$70,000 per beneficiary in 2013 (or a couple could contribute \$140,000 in 2013), as long as no other contributions are made for that beneficiary for five years. If the account owner dies, the 529 plan balance is not considered part of his or her estate for tax purposes. ♦

Before investing in a 529 savings plan please contact your financial professional.

*Source: The College Board, 2011

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Good to Know

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



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Chester Municipal Building helps you teach your youngster the value of a dollar. You'll discover age-appropriate ways to teach kids how to save and invest their money, while learning to be more disciplined shoppers. For information, contact West Chester Parks & Recreation, 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

"Smart" Parking.

To make West Chester parking more efficient and driver-friendly—no easy feat—50 "smart" meters were installed in the borough for a 90-day trial, ending in March. The "smart" meters accept Visa, MasterCard and, of course, your extra quarters. Try a high tech meter along Gay and Market Streets and the 700-block of Church Street on West Chester University's campus. To learn more, DowntownWestChester.com/parking.php.



Sounds of Spring.

Enjoy the sounds of a crisp spring night? Join the "First Peep of Spring" hike at Warwick County Park, in Pottstown, Sunday, March 17th, 5 to 6:30 p.m., to learn why frogs and toads call so much this time of year. Gather at Pavilion 2, wearing your trooping shoes as you'll travel into the hiding places of these amphibians. To join, contact Warwick County Park, 610-469-1916; Chesco.org/Calendar.aspx.



Go Fly a Kite.

For kids ages 3 to 7, Springton Manor Farm near Glenmoore has just the Nature Tyke program for you. On March 13th, Park Ranger Pam Marquette will teach kids about the history and science behind flying a kite. For just \$4, kids learn how to build and fly a kite and get connected to Ben Franklin, all in a one-hour session. To register, contact Springton Manor Farm, 610-942-2450; Chesco.org/Calendar.aspx.



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of Special Note



Bridge Of Hope's Chester County Garden Luncheon

March 16

A delicious lunch, exquisite garden-themed auction items and, this year, internationally-renowned gardener and author of *The Layered Garden*,

David Culp, as the featured guest speaker. 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.). \$60. 610-380-1360; BridgeOfHopeLCC.org.*



64th Annual Chadds Ford Art Show & Sale

March 15-16

More than 70 local and regional artists display and sell their art for the benefit of Chadds Ford Elementary School's programs. Featured artist Stephen Brehm and special guest cartoonist John Gallagher. *Chadds Ford Elementary School, 3 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford. Preview Fri., 7 to 10 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and live music; exhibit and sale Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 610-388-1112; CFES. UCFSD.org/Artshow.*

Forever Plaid at Media Theatre

Through March 31

The charming story of The Plaids, a classic 1950s all-male singing group who return from the Great Beyond to perform the show they never got to when they were alive. *Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Check website for curtain times. \$27-\$49. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.*



Chester County Community Foundation's Sweet Charity Event

March 19

Experience colorful spring blossoms while indulging in delectable desserts at this annual fundraiser. Chester County's top chocolatiers and pastry chefs present their finest creations to win the title "Best Dessert." Benefits Chester County Community Foundation, which helps families and businesses become involved in charitable giving. *Waterloo Gardens, 200 N. Whitford Rd., Exton. 6 p.m. Tickets start at \$125. 610-696-2628; ChesCoCF.org.*



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Greater Philadelphia Historic Home Show & Designer Craftsmen Show

March 8-10

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

Best Local Events

Noteworthy in March . . .



March 2-10
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's 2013 Philadelphia International Flower Show, "Brilliant." This year's theme, "Brilliant," draws inspiration from the contemporary culture, design, gardens and landscapes of Great Britain. Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch Sts., Philadelphia. See website for hours. \$15-\$27. 215-988-8800; TheFlowerShow.com.

March 4-10
Lancaster City Restaurant Week 2013. A variety of local restaurants come together to showcase their creative talent and diverse dining opportunities in Downtown Lancaster. Over 40 different restaurants will be offering special, *prix fixe* menus around a 2013 theme. For example a restaurant may offer a 3-course lunch for \$20.13 or pancake breakfast for \$2.13. For a list of restaurants visit Facebook.com/LancasterCityRestaurantWeek.



March 9
St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter's 25th Anniversary Gala. The shelter provides temporary housing and meals to families in need. Join them in celebrating 25 years and lend support at this event which features light fare, live music, an auction and Master of Ceremonies, Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Jason Avant. Phoenixville Foundry, 2 N. Main St., Phoenixville. 7 pm. \$150. 610-933-3097; StMarysFS.org.

March 15
WCU Live! Popovich Comedy Pet Theater. A family-oriented blend of comedy and the juggling skills of Gregory Popovich and his extraordinary performing pets, which were rescued from animal shelters. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, Phillips Memorial Bldg., University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$8-\$10. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu.Live.



Art & Craft Shows

Through March 12
Professional Artists' Exhibition at Main Line Art Center. 746 Pannure Rd., Haverford. Mon-Thurs, 9 to 9; Fri-Sat, 9 to 5. Free. 610-525-0272; MainLineArt.org.

Through March 16
11th Annual "Expressions of Radnor" Exhibition at Wayne Art Center. A celebration of the many gifted artists living in Radnor township.

413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon-Sat, 10 to 4. Free. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

March 1-3
Germantown Friends School 29th 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, 6 to 9, \$35-\$40. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, noon to 5. \$10. 215-301-4711; GermantownFriends.org.

March 15-17
Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. More than 250 artists and craftspeople display and sell their hand-crafted items in sculpture, glass, fashion, metal, furniture and fine art. Live music, children's entertainment, food vendors and demonstrations. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Fri-Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$8-\$10. 800-210-9900; SugarloafCrafts.com.



April 6-7
Reading-Berks 11th 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 2-3, 8-10
Maryland Home and Garden Show. This year's theme "Films in Flowers" will showcase blockbuster gardens. Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD. Fri, Sun, 10 to 6; Sat, 10 to 9. \$3-\$12. 410-863-1180; MDHomeAndGarden.com.

March 2-10
39th Annual Pennsylvania Home Show. Over 300 exhibitors display at this show, which also features a Showcase Home (open for touring), Remodelers Row, Log Cabin Showcase and more. State Farm Show Complex, Exposition Center, Harrisburg. Mon-Thurs, noon to 6; Fri, noon to 8; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 6. \$8. 717-232-5595; PAHomeShow.com.

March 8-10
Greater Philadelphia Boat Show & Sale. This is the time to buy the boat of your dreams. Dealers selling Saltwater Fishing Boats, Deck Boats, Jet Boats, personal watercraft and more. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Fri, noon to 8; Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 5. \$8. PhillyBoatShow.com.

April 5-7
Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show. Artisan-quality handmade furniture and furnishings to suit all tastes. 23rd Street Armory, 22 S. 23rd St., Philadelphia. Friday Preview Party/Charity Auction benefits Cerf+ (Craft-Emergency.org) and focuses on artists and

Local Winter Farm Markets

Bryn Mawr Farmers Market, Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station. Winter Hours, 1st and 3rd Sat, 10 to noon. BrynMawrFarmersMarket.com.

Kennett Square Farmers Market, downtown. Winter Hours, 1st & 3rd Fri, 2 to 5. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Lancaster Central Market, 23 N. Market St. Year-round, Tues, Fri, 6 to 4; Sat, 6 to 2. 717-735-6890; CentralMarket-Lancaster.com.

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

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

New Indoor Markets:

See "Food News" in this issue.

Artisan Exchange, 208 Carter Dr., West Chester. Through Apr. 27, 10 to 2. Indoor market featuring a variety of organically produced foods and specialty items. 610-719-0282; ArtisanExchangeWCPA.com.

The Market at Liberty Place, 148 W. State St., Kennett Square. Vendors offer fresh seafood, produce, baked goods and other retail foods. 610-925-3411; LGB-Properties.com.

craftspeople affected by Hurricane Sandy, 6 to 9 pm, \$15. Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 5. \$12. 215-387-8590; PhilaIFS.com.

Eat, Drink & Be Merry

March 2-30
Mason-Dixon Wine Trail Tour de Tanks Event. More than 20 family-owned wineries and one distillery open their doors and invite you into their cellars to experience new vintages and tank and barrel tastings. Various locations in PA and MD. Sat-Sun, noon to 5. \$25; designated driver, \$15. 888-858-YORK; TourDeTanks.EventBrite.com/#.



March 6-10
Mid-Atlantic Wine & Food Festival. More than 40 events celebrating fine wine, gourmet food, premium spirits and craft beers, all to benefit nine Delaware arts organizations. International chefs and winemakers join regional celebrity chefs to prepare meals and tastings in some of the state's most prestigious venues, from the Brandywine region to the shores of Delaware's "Culinary Coast." For more information visit MidAtlanticWineAndFood.com.

Family Fun

March 2, 30
The Colonial Theatre. Mar. 2, "Release Your

Inner Superhero," join storyteller Kristin Pedemonti for true tales of every day superheros. Ages 5 and up. **Mar. 30,** Balloon Freak John Cassidy brings his bizarre antics to mesmerize one and all. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 2 pm. \$8.50. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

March 3, 10
Kennett Symphony of Chester County—Family Concert & Instrument Petting Zoo. The symphony presents "Jack and the Beanstalk ... and Other Orchestra Favorites." After the performance, the audience is invited to come onstage for the "Instrument Petting Zoo." **Mar. 3,** Lincoln Univ., International Cultural Center, Lin-

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coln University. **Mar. 10**, West Chester Univ., Emilie K. Asplundh Hall, West Chester. 2 pm. \$5. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

March 16

Delaware Center for Horticulture Family Workshop, Natural Egg Dyeing. Learn how to dye eggs with common foods and flowers. Designed for families with children ages 4 to 10. 1810 N. DuPont St., Wilmington. 10 am. \$28/family. 302-658-6262; The DCH.org.

March 16

Longwood Gardens OrKID Days Performance. "Arpeggio Jazz Ensemble"—soft, contemplative melodies, to energetic, multi-rhythmic arrangements with dance-worthy pulsating beats. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Noon and 2 pm. Gardens adm., \$8-\$18. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

March 17

Spring Eggstravaganza. Annual spring egg hunt for ages 12 and under, family entertainment, crafts, food, the Easter Bunny and more. Clem Macrone Park, 810 Conestoga Rd., Rosemont. 1 pm. Rain date, Mar. 24. Free. 610-688-5600; RadnorRecreation.com.

March 22-24

Reading Pet Expo. So much fun with an all new classic K9 Dog Show, Dancing with Your Dog demonstrations, a Rainforest Reptiles Show, a Parade of Breeds and much more. Greater Reading Expo Center, 2525 N. 12 St., Reading. Fri, 4 to 9; Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 5. \$5-\$12. 610-898-9910; Horse-AndPetExpo.com.

March 23

Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Everhart Park. Bring your own bag or basket to collect eggs at the park. Miner St. & S. Bradford Ave., West Chester. 10 am. For ages 2 to 9. Free. 610-692-7574; West-Chester.com.



March 30

Children's Saturday Afternoon Easter Tea. Children ages 3-8 enjoy a themed afternoon tea with a delicious menu, craft activity, storytelling and storybook gift, sing-a-long

and a visit by E.B. The Radnor Hotel, 591 E. Lancaster Ave., St. Davids. 1 to 3. \$59.95, one adult and one child. 610-341-3146; RadnorHotel.com.

Fundraising

March 2

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

March 2-3

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-Sun, 11 am and 2 pm. \$55-\$65 per person. 610-645-9696; JLPhiladelphia.org.

March 9

8th Annual Miriam Quigley Dance-A-Thon. Dancing, a silent auction and raffle, a showcase of Irish dancers and more for this benefit for the Miriam's Kids Research Foundation, advancing the development of therapies to help children suffering from brain tumors. St. Katherine of Siena School, 229 Windermere Ave., Wayne. 1 to 4. 610-688-7218; MiriamsKids.org.

March 9

"Let's Dance! 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 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. \$75. 610-363-0800; WaterlooGardens.com.

March 9

3rd 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 22

West Chester Parks & Recreation Hosts 3rd Annual Casino Night. Benefitting the "Send a Kid to Camp Fund," this is a fun event featuring black jack, craps and roulette tables, door prizes, hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Milestone Events, 600 E. Market St., West Chester. 7 to 11. \$40/\$75 per couple. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com/Recreation.

March 23

Delaware Humane Association's 7th 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 6

28th Annual Thorncroft Victory Gallop. This year's theme, "A Tribute to Heroes," acknowledges and thanks all our heroes who serve others. Black-tie dinner, dancing and silent auction benefits therapeutic riding programs

at Thorncroft. Hyatt at The Bellevue, 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. 6 to midnight. Tickets start at \$225. 610-644-1963; Thorncroft.org.

Gardens

Through March 24

Longwood Gardens Orchid Extravaganza. Enter the dazzling world of orchids with thousands to enjoy, including a living orchid curtain, orchid topiaries, columns, waterfalls and other displays. 1001 Longwood Rd. (Rt. 1), Kennett Square. Daily 9 to 5. \$8-\$18. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.



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Museums

Ongoing

Chester County Historical Society. Ongoing. "On The Edge of Battle: Chester County and The Civil War." **Apr. 5-7**, Chester County Historical Society Antiques Show, see 2013 *Calendar of Antiques Shows* in this issue. 225 N. High St. Wed-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

Through May 27

"Glow: Living Lights" at Delaware Museum of Natural History. What makes a firefly glow, or sea creatures light up the deepest



depths of the ocean? This is a journey into the world of bioluminescence, a living organism's ability to produce its own light, what it is and how it differs from other forms of light. 4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30; Sun, noon to 4:30. \$7-\$9. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.

March 22, April 12

Delaware Art Museum Presents "Art is After Dark" Friday Night Event Series. The museum stays open late offering a variety of events and activities for adults. **Mar. 22**, Salsa Dancing, snacks and cash bar, \$10. **Apr. 12**, test your art knowledge in a game of Quizzo, and there will be prizes, 7 pm, \$10. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 7 pm. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

Music, Dance & Live Shows

March 3

Vox Ama Deus "Bach Gala." Soloists: Valentin Radu (piano & organ), Julie-Ann Green (soprano), Rainer Beckmann (recorder), Robert Spates (violin). Gladwyne Presbyterian Church, 1321 Beaumont Dr., Gladwyne. 5 pm. \$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

March 3

Delaware County Symphony Concert. "Images of Eastern Europe" featuring the music of Dvorak, Szymanowski and Kalinikov. Neumann Univ., Meagher Theater, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$8-\$10. 610-356-5673; DCSSMusic.org.

March 8

WCU Live! An Evening of Traditional Irish Music. Brian Conway, Billy McComiskey and Brendan Dolan perform. West Chester University, Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre, 817 S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$15-\$20. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu.Live.

March 9

Point Entertainment Presents. "Two Funny Philly Guys," Joe Conklin and Big Daddy Graham at The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. \$25-\$30. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

March 14

"The Boys Who Wore Green: Songs and Stories of Irish Civil War Soldiers including Delaware's Own." Lots of lively music ranging from old Irish ballads to Civil War-era songs based on old Irish melodies, as The Delaware Historical Society celebrates the state's rich and diverse heritage. Old Town Hall, 5th & Market Sts., Wilmington. 6 pm. \$10. 302-655-7161; HSD.org.

March 15

Concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra in Concert—David Kim & Friends. An exceptional evening of music at Delaware County Christian School, 462 Malin Rd., Newtown Square. 8 pm. \$30. DCCS.org.

March 15

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 22, 24

The Colonial Theatre—Point Entertainment Presents ... **Mar. 22**, Steve Forbert & Paul Thorn, 8 pm, \$19.50-\$29.50. **Mar. 24**, WXPN Welcomes The David Brombert Quartet & Tom Rush, 7:30 pm, \$29.50-\$42.50. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

March 29

Vox Ama Deus Ensemble "Bach St. John Passion." Soloists, chorus, Baroque instrument orchestra and special guests, the Philadelphia Boys Choir. Kimmel Center, Perelman Theater, Broad & Spruce Sts., Philadelphia. 8 pm. \$70. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

April 5

WCU Live! Tamagawa University Taiko Drumming. Thunderous Taiko drum and Japanese folkloric dance in a return performance to Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, Phillips Memorial Bldg., University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$5. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu.Live.

In Towns & Burroughs . . .

March 1, April 5

First Fridays. Stroll through area towns to find galleries, restaurant specials and extended hours. **Kennett Square**, 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City**, 717-509-ARTS; Lancas-terArts.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; Phx-FirstFriday.com. **Wayne**, 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. **West Chester**, 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com; **Wilmington**, 302-576-2100; ArtLoopWilmingtonDE.com.

March 9, April 13

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

Theater

Through March 3

The Winter's Tale. Internationally-acclaimed director Guy Hollands reinvents this tale of kings and queens, revenge and betrayal. People's Light & Theatre, Main Stage, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Thurs-Sun, 7; Sat, Sun, 2. \$25-\$45. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

March 13–April 7

The Trip to Bountiful. A beautiful story by Horton Foote about a woman who decides to undertake one last pilgrimage to the place she calls "home." People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Wed-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Wed, Sun, 2; Sun, 7. \$25-\$45. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

March 15

WCU Live! Broadway's Next Hit Musical. An improvised show where performers gather made-up, hit song suggestions from the audience and create a spontaneous evening of music and humor. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, Phillips Memorial Bldg., University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$10-\$15. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu.Live.

April 2–7

Dreamgirls. The story of an up-and-coming 1960s singing girl group, and the triumphs and tribulations that come with fame and fortune. DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market

St., Wilmington. \$60–\$75. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Wed, Sat, Sun, 2; Fri-Sat, 8. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com. ♦

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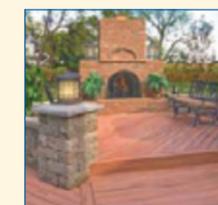


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*Summning
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Carol Metzker

Create Your Own Day of Spring at a Brandywine Valley Spa.

There's always that day in March. You know the one—the dreaded morning when your hair looks like a hay stack, and your skin feels like industrial-strength sandpaper. Winter has taken its toll and spring feels far away. Instead of retreating under the covers, pull out your phone and order an early day of spring.

Luxurious day spas and salons in the Brandywine Valley are ready to awaken your senses, rejuvenate your body and bring a breath of spring to your soul. Designed to pamper you from over-processed head to untended toe, treatments can transform you in glorious settings of fresh flowers, soft lighting, bubbling fountains and luscious springtime aromas—jasmine, orange blossom, lemongrass and lavender.

All in a Day

In just one day, nearby day spas and salons can revitalize you with a signature package, or a la carte services exactly the way you like them. Countless combinations of body scrubs and polishes, massages, facials, manicures and pedicures, and hair and make-up makeovers revive your skin, muscles and hair within a few hours.

A great way to begin a day, say many experts, is to start with a treatment to shed your winter skin. Don a cozy robe and fuzzy slippers, and head across the heated floor at The Spa at Montchanin Village in Wilmington for the ultimate in shedding last season's skin and stress—the Hammam Body Ritual.



Be sure to cap off your spring revival with a new do. Photo: Cole Wellness Spa.

Based on ancient bathing rituals in Turkey and Persia, the seven-step process uses different techniques and temperatures to remove old skin and stimulate the new. Clays and oils with earthy scents—lemon, jasmine, mint, cardamom, clove—delight the sense of smell as the scrubs, purifiers, soothers and sprays work magic into your body. When your final warm shower is finished, all thoughts of icicles have melted away.

Other body treatments include detoxifying seaweed wraps, a Sea Salt glow—a popular exfoliating rub with salts and oils—and a scrumptious Orange Cream Sugar Scrub at Calista Grand Salon and Spa in West Chester.

If a healing soak in the tub is what you seek, head to Harmonia Healing Arts Spa in Wayne for an unhurried hour in a Vanilla Bath. In a hydrotherapy tub—akin to a personal Jacuzzi tub with 100 jets for a sublime underwater massage—the lightly foaming bath with the warm scent and rich color of vanilla invites serenity and health benefits for the lymphatic system.

Rubbing Out Winter

When your body is warm and rested, your muscles are ready for the next level of relaxation. Massages and deep tissue therapy can help alleviate muscular, as well as mental, tension.

The Swedish massage at Nicholas Anthony Salon and Day Spa in Kennett Square is one that a delighted customer admitted with a laugh, she would “like to

“Just as the tulips are coming up, we need to rejuvenate, too,” said Kristy Cole, owner of Cole Wellness Spa in Wayne. Chapped lips and rough or dry cheeks require a regimen that helps heal damaged skin, protect it from harsh elements and help it age more gracefully. The spa’s Nutrient Facial employs natural products for deep exfoliation, then soothing and hydration. “We’ll also remind you to drink more water, which will help bring a glow to your skin,” continued Cole. “Your skin looks better and feels better.”

Another hydrating face-saver is Harmonia Healing Arts Spa’s Organic White Tea Facial—a gentle and refreshing process of cleansing, massaging and masking using organic products based on the anti-oxidant, white tea extract.

A Taste of Spring

Restore your energy during a day at the spa with a delicious, healthy lunch between massages, manicures and pedicures. The Spa at Montchanin Village offers a menu by Crazy Kat’s, whose executive chef changes the fare seasonally. Try a cheese plate, dried fruits, artisan breads or exquisite salads, with hot herbal tea or fruit extract water.

Indulge in a spa lunch in a French countryside atmosphere at Toppers Spa Salon in Devon. Or enjoy drinks and light fare at Calista Grand.

Taking Time to Erase Time

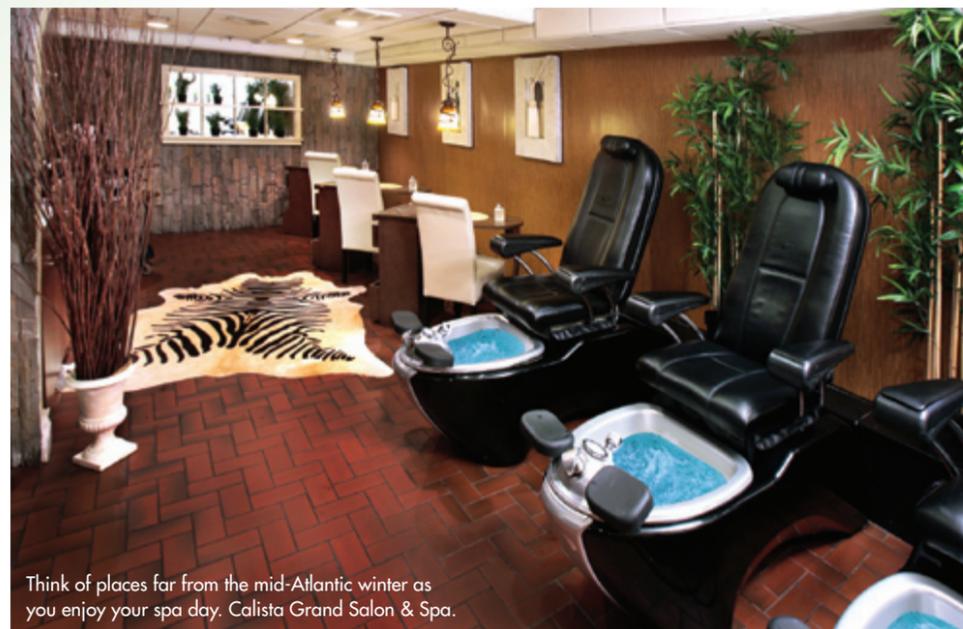
When their complexion no longer matches their youthful spirit, and the effects

become addicted to.” The deep muscle therapy relieves tight and sore muscles while releasing excess lactic acid. For mothers-to-be, there’s a special pregnancy massage on a custom-designed table. And for a more thorough rub, try the spa’s massage with heated stones. Fragrant essential oils used with massages—rosemary, peppermint and lemon peel—melt away every muscle memory of shoveling snow.

Calista Grand’s Mu Xing massage—warm bamboo rolled over stiff muscles—also relaxes muscles and renews the mind.

Facing the New Season

There’s nothing like a facial to create petal-soft skin and a rosy glow.



Think of places far from the mid-Atlantic winter as you enjoy your spa day. Calista Grand Salon & Spa.

Local Day Spas Prepare You to Be Transported

For centuries, women worldwide have turned to warm mineral waters and hot springs to recapture their youthful glow, heal sore muscles and renew energy. Visits to spa centers in Babylon, Greece, Scandinavia, Japan and Belgium often included cleansing rituals, massages and beautification regimens with anointing oil; they also served as social gatherings.

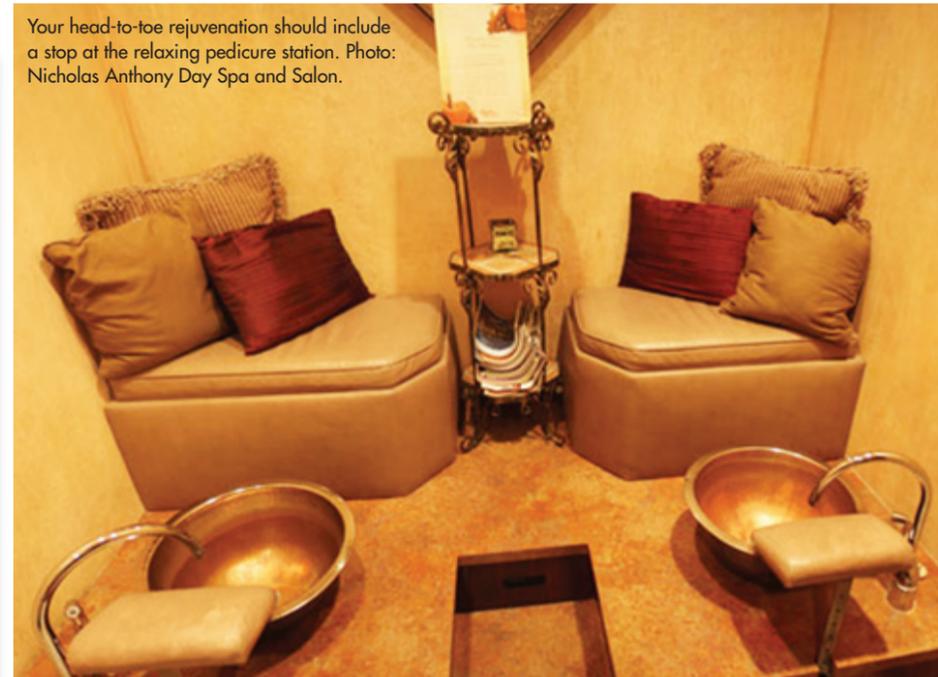
The same treatments and more are available today at Brandywine Valley’s well-appointed day spas and salons, without time travel or a passport. Just a few: the Swedish massage at Nicholas Anthony, Japanese Body Ritual at The Spa at Montchanin Village, French manicure at Calista Grand, European Facial at Toppers.

Local spas also continue to serve as places for social gatherings in lavish, yet relaxing, spaces. Many offer packages for memorable bridal party beautification days, and intimate retreats for two. For the latter, what could be better after a long week than allowing your minds to drift away together during a foot soak and massage, and a shared plate of exotic cheeses!

of Mother Nature’s harsher elements cannot be erased by a day at the spa, many women and men seek more intensive help.

A series of microdermabrasion treatments at Glow Skin Boutique Spa in Phoenixville

Most day spas offer a menu of massages: Swedish, sports, deep tissue, hot stone and more. Photo: Glow Skin Boutique Spa



Your head-to-toe rejuvenation should include a stop at the relaxing pedicure station. Photo: Nicholas Anthony Day Spa and Salon.

can provide amazing results. For comprehensive skin care and aesthetic surgery, Cirillo Cosmetic Detmatology Spa in Bryn Mawr offers a vast array of solutions for creating beautiful lips, skin and facial contours: Botox, liquid facelifts for softening wrinkles and lines without surgery; skin tightening with RadioFrequency Therapy; laser removal of age spots or tattoos; and plastic surgery.

The Grand Finale

With glowing skin and relaxed muscles, complete your metamorphosis with a new hairstyle and sensational makeup. At Nicholas Anthony, crown your day with salon services that leave you blooming. Experts behind the chairs sug-

gest this spring’s trends. For a fresh hair design, try a dazzling new hair color, a short-cropped style, beautifully tousled waves or an undone “updo.”

Leave your mittens behind after a hand treatment and the addition of colorful nails of bright poppy red, deep blue, jade green or creamy nude or white. Let Calista Grand’s artists highlight your eyes with a palette of bronze, smoky chocolate or champagne for a glimmering sultry look, or apply pale shimmering blue, glistening purple or light pink for a springy appearance. Just before your refreshed, reinvigorated body and spirit re-enter the outside world, add a final touch of creamy red or coral to your lips to spotlight your new smile.

Ready to summon spring? Kick off your winter boots and head to the spa. The slippers are waiting. ♦

Day Trip & Day Spas

A short trip to Lancaster County will give you a chance to explore more spa options. Here are two of our favorites.

Inn & Spa at Intercourse
3542 Old Philadelphia Pk.
Intercourse
717-768-2626; Inn-Spa.com

Destinations Spa, Inn & Spa at Leola
38 Deborah Dr., Rt. 23, Leola
717-656-7002
TheInnAtLeolaVillage.com



From left: Andersen & Stauffer's showroom included a Berks corner cupboard, carved mahogany game table, Pope valuables cabinet, Hollingsworth chair with ball & claw foot, and Montgomery County paint-decorated secretary.



SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY

Ed Malet

Reproduction furniture that would
look at home in a museum.

Outside the town of Christiana, a furniture maker silently guides his carving chisel. His care is concentrated, practiced, firm, gentle, rhythmic. I'm at E. Jacobsen Furniture Maker. Surrounding him are intricate hand carvings drawn on solid mahogany planks. I take in the aroma of freshly hewn wood.

An hour away in Lititz, is Andersen & Stauffer Furniture Makers. Upstairs in the show room are Newport chairs, Philadelphia chests, a New York inlaid game table. An experienced skill is expressed in the wood. It speaks of people who care deeply about their craft. And harkens back to a shop from centuries gone by.

Is It an Antique?

Near me at Andersen & Stauffer is an 18th-century Montgomery County paint-decorated secretary desk and bookcase, its face finished in the greenish-blue hue typical of the era. The grooves of three centuries of angry pens are etched in the surface. The tiny drawers, the hand carvings, the wear on the hinges ... This and the other pieces in the collection look like fine antiques. They have the patina of antiques. But are they?

It turns out that Alan Andersen, who works on restoration, is one of the few who can distinguish an original from its repro-

duction. "He deduces through experience, scientific testing and physical examination," says Tom Stauffer, Andersen's partner. Furniture carvers each have a distinctive style. The paint and varnish age. So collectors, museums and auction houses come to Andersen to answer the question.

Or a Reproduction?

The reasons for creating reproduction pieces vary. Larry Crossan of L.W. Crossan

Cabinetmakers in Lyndell tells of a corner cupboard he's currently building. The original belongs to an elderly woman who's moved into her new home. Eventually, one child will inherit the family heirloom. But the remaining child, who bought the mother's house, is left with an empty spot where the beloved cupboard used to be.

Crossan can help. He has studied the cupboard, photographed it, experimented with the carving, and now is

building a precise duplicate to keep peace in the family.

Sometimes a customer likes the style and functionality of a piece but simply can't get access to it, especially at the price that must be paid for an original. Rolf Hofer of Windsor Reproductions in Pottstown tells of a customer who wanted four matched chairs, but had only a pair. Now he has all four.

Another customer may have a treasured piece that's been seriously damaged. Repair



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Rolf Hofer's Windsor chairs do more than just look like the originals—they're also light and flexible, like true Windsors.



and restoration, Hofer says, may be more costly than building what amounts to a perfect replacement. Merely copying the chair won't work, however. Hofer notes, a true Windsor, or a fine reproduction, has a remarkable property—the back is flexible; you can twist it. And it's extremely light.

portions and carving details. Mahogany was selected for the wood so the curves of the base and drawers could be carved from a solid plank, in the same fashion as was done for the original. The hardware, reproduced from original hardware using the lost wax casting process, is also accurate in every detail, finishing a new masterpiece.

A New Masterpiece

In some cases, the desired piece of furniture is in a museum's collection. Perhaps it's one-of-a-kind. Maybe a prospective owner is a collector, but can't afford the million dollars or more to buy an original. The collector can, though, afford a quality reproduction.

Eric Jacobsen gives an example. Contracted to build an 18th-century Massachusetts bombe chest, Jacobsen knew of only six originals to study. He began with photographs of the originals and then made several trips to a museum to study a chest in person. Next, full-size drawings were done to confirm accurate pro-

portions and carving details. Mahogany was selected for the wood so the curves of the base and drawers could be carved from a solid plank, in the same fashion as was done for the original. The hardware, reproduced from original hardware using the lost wax casting process, is also accurate in every detail, finishing a new masterpiece.

Jacobsen says, "It is a privilege to be able to immerse myself in the technical challenges of compound joinery, and the artistic world of the original craftsman." But for those of us challenged to saw a straight line, we'd find this process of meticulous reproduction daunting. At A&S—which maintains licenses with the Winterthur Museum, Historic Old Salem and others—gaining access to the original pieces, making casts, and following the pattern is all in a day's work. The licenses actually require that the reproductions be accurate in every detail of their appearance. (Note: The interiors, however, are not aged,

and the pieces are clearly labeled as reproductions to avoid confusion.)

A&S maintains a collection of the hundreds of carvings it has used: of Ben Franklin, of John Locke, of an eagle's talon, of the sculptured expressions of 300-year-old craftsmen. The shop will match the wood, make and fit the mortises and tenons, forge the fittings, carve the inlays, and analyze and reconstitute the paint. Often, the original tools must be found or replicated for authenticity's sake. A&S—and Crossan, Hofer and Jacobsen—will do whatever it takes.

Passion for the Wood

Fine reproduction is also the story of fine wood. For Jacobsen, the proportion and

Larry Crossan can create an exact duplicate of a family heirloom to keep the peace or create a new treasured desk, chair or chest.



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Right: The original Willard clock is on display at the Winterthur Museum. The reproduction, shown at right, is a meticulous replica by Andersen & Stauffer. ▶

◀ Left: For Eric Jacobson, fine reproduction is also about finding the right wood, displayed here in this pie crust table made from a 32-inch-wide walnut crotch, and a classic spice box displaying distinctive grain on the door and drawers. ▼



meticulous execution are extremely important, yet it's the wood that's the inspiration. The grain, the knots, the crotches. Each board is harvested with a particular use in mind. Then it's catalogued in his warehouse, where his inventory consists of the select, chosen and increasingly difficult-to-find ingredients for his works of art.

Reproduction of antiques can require extraordinary slabs of wood, available mainly in the old growth forests from the 18th century. Today, much of this wood can be acquired only from trees of that period that have succumbed to severe storms that visited Pennsylvania's Colonial estates.

Jacobsen mills and dries the lumber himself, then works with clients to select their walnut, cherry, tiger maple and mahogany. Highly figured specimens are carefully matched and showcased in prized pieces. Making a pie crust table from a single walnut crotch, he says, is inspiring.

Own a Museum Piece

As a buyer of early American furniture, you can have antique pieces reproduced by these craftsmen. All finely crafted and custom made, to standards not often seen in modern furniture. Sadly, few have the skills to make this quality of furniture today. And these furniture makers can get backed up with commissioned work, sometimes for years. Moreover, some are retiring and not being replaced as quickly in the next generation.

When it comes to fine reproduction furniture, I heard again and again, it's a "good time to be buying." And, until you sell your museum-quality piece, no one will require you to tell if it's an antique or a reproduction—unless you want to. ♦

Resources

Andersen & Stauffer Furniture Makers
Lititz, 717-626-6776
AndersenAndStauffer.com

L. W. Crossan Cabinetmaker
Lyndell, 610-942-3880
LWCrossan.com

E. Jacobsen Furniture Maker LLC
Kirkwood, 610-547-4983;
EJFM.com

Rolf Hofer Windsor Reproductions
Pottstown, 610-495-7391
HoferWindsors.com

DESIGNER CRAFTSMEN SHOW HISTORIC HOME SHOW

THE DESIGNER CRAFTSMEN SHOW celebrates American craft and presents quality fine art, traditional crafts, contemporary folk art, museum-quality replicas, original artworks and fine furniture reproductions.

THE HISTORIC HOME SHOW features period authentic old house products and services for the restoration, renovation and decoration of historic buildings.

If you are an American crafts collector, an architectural history buff or an old-house owner, decorator or just an enthusiast, this event is for you. Visit us at the Valley Forge Convention Center adjacent to the King of Prussia Mall, March 8-10, 2013.

OPENING NIGHT PREVIEW AND RECEPTION

Friday, March 8: 6 - 9 pm Admission: \$20 per person, \$30 for two.

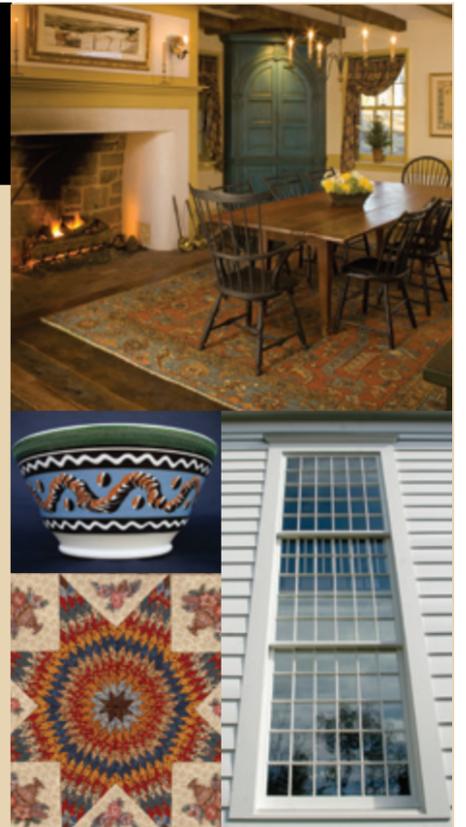
EXHIBITION, CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

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Admission \$10 when you preregister, \$12 on-site.

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www.oleyvalleyantiqueshow.com*



The Washington Family by Edward Savage, 1798-1805, shows the famous family enjoying one another's company over a map.



Common Destinations: Maps in the American Experience

Martin Brückner

If X marks the spot on treasure maps, mark your calendars for the “Map Exhibition” at Winterthur Museum, April 20, 2013 – January 5, 2014.

On April 20, Winterthur opens a path-breaking exhibition that charts objects and imagery related to America’s historical fascination with maps. Researched and conceived by University of Delaware professor Martin Brückner, the main focus is on the importance of maps in everyday American life, from the 1750s to the 1870s.

This innovative show illustrates how maps were central to the social and commercial activities of Americans. In six sections featuring more than 100 items from Winterthur’s collections—giant wall maps and tiny pocket globes, hefty folio atlases and fragile map handkerchiefs—the exhibition highlights the rise of American maps from rare collectibles to popular objects available to Americans of all backgrounds.

You’ll see how men used maps at home and abroad; how women and children engaged with maps to foster family

ties; and how maps became the social glue that would bind strangers into a community during times of change and development. Join special map-related programs held at Winterthur during the exhibit. And let X mark your calendar: April 20 to January 5.

The Big Idea

Throughout history, maps have defined the American experience. From the early 1500s, maps introduced the American continent to European explorers and colonists. After the American Revolution, maps shaped the image of our new nation. During the 19th century, maps documented westward expansion, civil war and the closing of the frontier.

Today we use historical maps to tell the American story to history buffs and movie fans alike. However, what we’re not used



Liberty Displaying the Arts and Sciences by Samuel Jennings, 1792.



Portrait Miniature, watercolor painting on ivory, 1820-30.

to seeing is how the very maps that declared independence or measured the progress of the nation were used day-in and day-out by people who went about their business in spite of social change and political crisis.

Emphasizing everyday habits and material culture, each of the exhibition’s sections presents particular map genres and map users, asking the basic question: How would you—based on education, gender, age, and even race—engage with maps in early America?

Sociable Maps in Parlors & Pubs

Maps were a visible and vital part of social life in early America. They could be

found hanging in taverns, shops, town halls and train stations. In private homes maps were more abundant, especially among the affluent and middle class.

Placed in high-traffic areas such as parlors, dining rooms and hallways, maps occupied spaces reserved for rituals of conviviality. In these settings, maps fostered dialogue among friends and strangers, prompting people to ask for directions, engage in polite conversation, test geographic knowledge, play geographical games, or, as illustrated by the Washington family in Edward Savage’s painting (at left), to simply enjoy one another’s company.

Outside American homes, maps were fixtures in public spaces between the Seven

Years’ War (1756–63) and the Civil War (1860–65). Maps were posted on walls next to newspaper racks and train schedules in taverns, coffee houses and inns. Bookstores and apothecaries sold maps as well as things like geographical playing cards and satirical prints that mocked politicians for their lack of geographical knowledge.

In places of public life—from State Houses to churches—total strangers discovered maps to be the perfect medium for striking up a conversation. Huge county maps offered a common ground for local people to ask about neighbors, road conditions or properties for sale.

Travelers consulted state maps in many different forms, ranging from pocket maps to emigrant manuals. Always at the center of a public space, national maps provided fuel for discussions about politics as patrons traced maps with fingertips while debating their future.

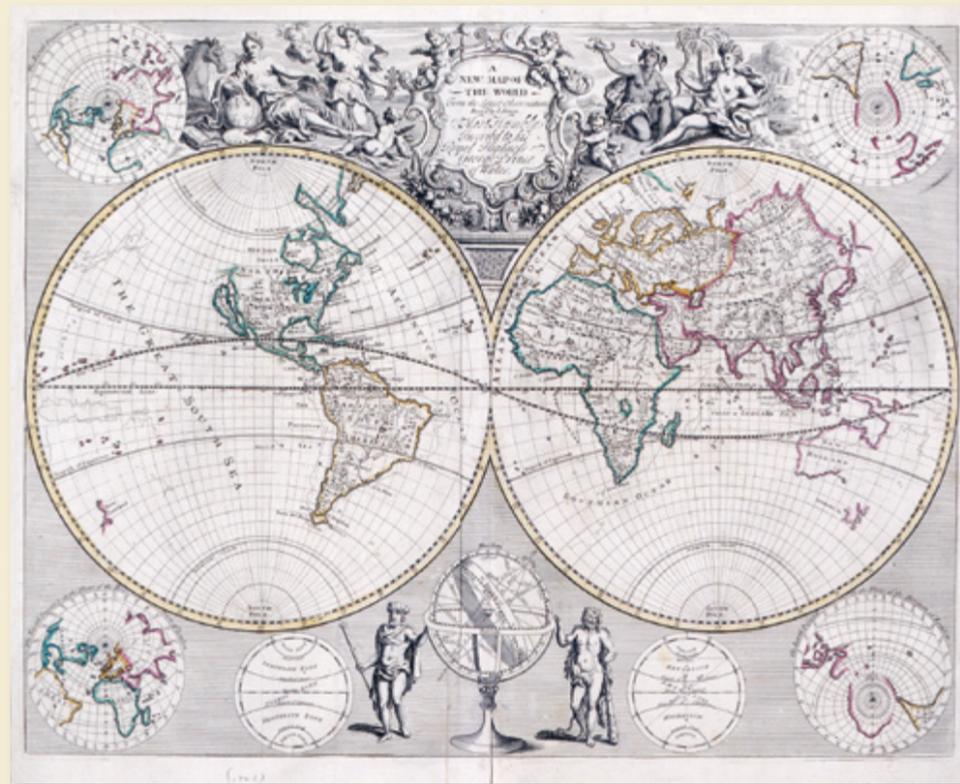
Indoors, Outdoors: Men and Their Maps

Historically, maps have been considered the province of men. In America it wasn’t monarchs and ministers, but farmers and merchants, who depended on maps to govern and stay connected.

For men, maps were an integral part of private life. Displayed in studies and libraries, maps shaped masculine attitudes toward reading, writing and interior décor. Maps were also essential tools for outdoor activities such as traveling, surveying or landscaping.



The Bowie Children by Dominic W. Boudet, 1812-15, posing around a globe.



A New Map of the World from the Latest Observations, engraved by John Senex, printed by Daniel Browne, c. 1721-1740.

Above all, circulating in a culture in which social status was defined by land ownership, property maps—also called surveyor’s plats—were at once useful and symbolic objects illustrating male identity and self-worth.

Upstairs, Downstairs: Maps in a Woman’s World

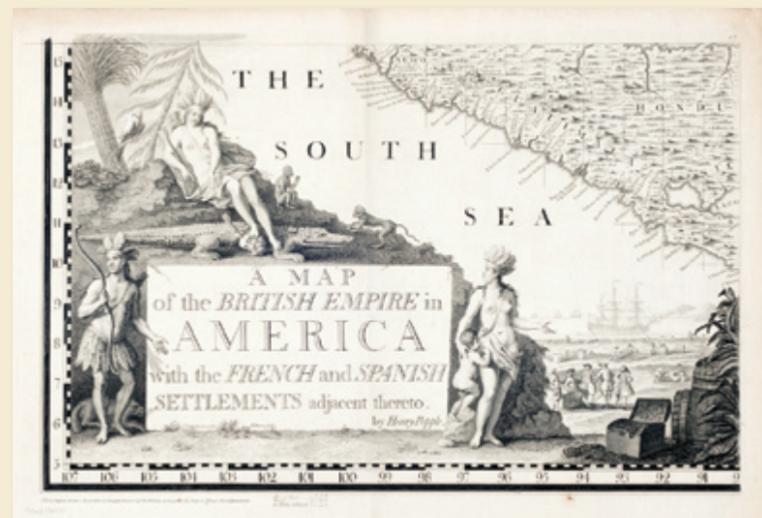
You might be surprised to learn that American women were deeply invested in maps, mapmaking and map displays. Female academies and mothers who home-schooled their children

held competitions in map drawing and map reading. Needlework samplers and embroidered maps were staples of interior decoration in parlors, studies and bedrooms. In public, fashion-minded women used map fans or handkerchiefs as accessories when celebrating military victories or national holidays.

Artists frequently transferred map motifs—especially those showing individual states of the Union—to textiles and ceramic wares, enabling their female users to participate in the nation’s civic affairs.

Significantly, maps offered middle- and working-class women the chance for mobility. A burgeoning map industry enabled women to work from home as map painters.

Maps also provided the kind of “useful entertainment” through which women and children could bond at home and treat themselves to rare moments of carefree “travel.” As diaries and ladies’ magazines of the day tell us, with the aid of maps, women turned into “armchair geographers” who could visit distant relatives or exotic places without physical constraint or moral prejudice.



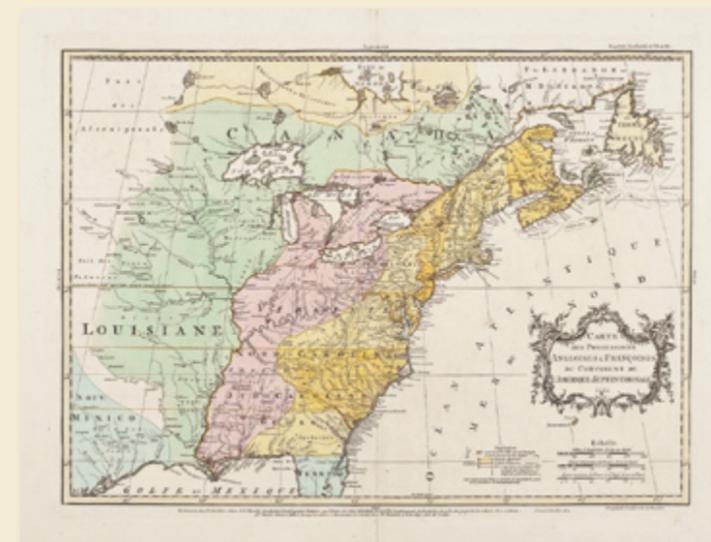
Detail from A Map of the British Empire in America, drawn by Henry Popple, engraved by William Henry Toms & R. W. Seale, shows the cartouch details—decorative elements that display such information as the title, scale and maker of the map, often placed in the corner of a map, c. 1733.



Pocket Globe by Holbrooks Apparatus Manufacturing Co. Wethersfield, CT, 1830-59.



City of Washington, worked by Elizabeth Graham, is silk embroidery on linen, framed, Baltimore, MD, 1800-1803.



Carte des Possessions Angloises & Françaises du Continent de L’Amérique Septentrionale, drawn by Jean Palairt, engraved by Thomas Kitchin, 1755.

Colonial Cartography: Baroque and Decorative

In the years before our nation’s independence, colonists supported the ideals of the Enlightenment, including the project of mapping the world. Starting around 1750, two kinds of overview maps were most popular: those showing European imperial possessions and sectional close-up plans of local places. Both types looked decidedly modern. Place names, topographic symbols and grid lines all but erased the century-old tradition of using pictures of wild beasts, human figures, or city views for distinguishing places or peoples. The leaner, more scientific look allowed mapmakers to distance themselves from accusations of misrepresentation and mythmaking.

Yet, pictures were not banished completely from maps; they were simply moved to the map margins and to the elaborately engraved cartouches (decorative elements on a map that show the title, scale and name of the maker).

Cartouches function, however, as much more than reference tools. Using pictures and patterns borrowed from emblem books and symbolic figures like the “American Princess,” the map cartouches by Henry Popple (1733) and Braddock Mead (1774) appeal to the senses, offering a variety of approaches to the map: Is it a scenographic landscape? An ethnographic portrait? An advertisement for transatlantic trade? Or, is it a display of erotic images? Pleasing to behold, cartouches enabled maps to make the leap from practical utility to fashionable entertainment.

National Maps: Building a New Community

American map culture changed dramatically after the Revolution. From 1783 on, citizens demanded more maps showing North America and the new nation, and entrepreneurs responded in kind. In 1790 alone, more than 90 percent of the maps made in the United States depicted only the nation’s territory.

By 1800, the image of the national map had become an easy-to-recognize logo decorating textile prints, furniture and paintings. A powerful symbol of political unity, it was used as a metaphor in the *Federalist Papers* (1787-88) and in President Washington’s “Farewell Address” (1796).

A puzzle map, with corresponding box like the one pictured, was used as a form of entertainment for people of all ages.



Map fans were often used by fashion-minded women as accessories. L'Amérique by Jean Lattré is a fan made of engraving with watercolor, wood and brass, 1779-80.



The Illustrated Hand-book: A New Guide for Travelers through the United States of America by John Calvin Smith is a map that could be folded up and placed in a hand-held book, 1847.



Orations, sermons and novels referenced the national map when debating American history or the nation's character. For many citizens—ranging from statesmen to farmers, ministers to schoolgirls—it was the key for building a new society.

Maps and Masses: Cartography in the Industrial Age

Westward expansion, immigration and military conflicts made the study of maps a priority in the lives of men, women and children during the antebellum decades and beyond. Major surveying projects and

advances in printing technology—such as the invention of lithography and the steam-powered rotary press—turned maps into an industrial product.

Mass production ensured universal access, and maps were transformed into a flexible consumer good. They addressed diverse needs. Thematic maps showing gold fields and election campaigns competed with miniature guides and gigantic overviews.

Long before the Civil War, wall maps had become permanent fixtures in schoolrooms. They even entered window

Artists frequently transferred map motifs to ceramic ware, like this lead-glazed earthenware pitcher, 1790-1810.



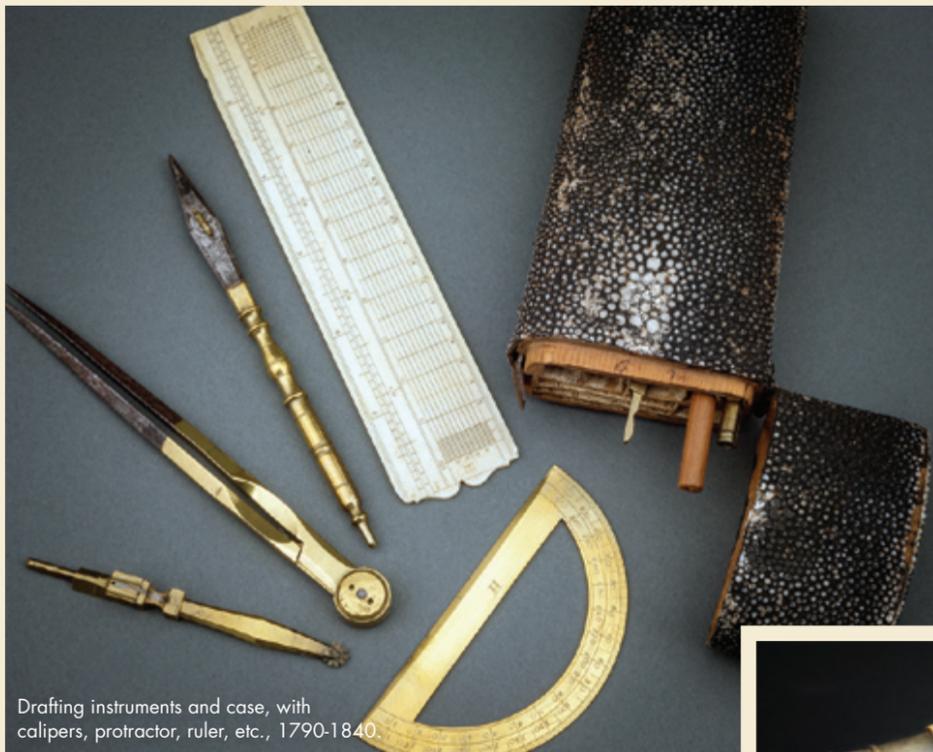
displays in America's first shopping districts and were feted at commercial fairs, including the 1853 Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations in New York City's Crystal Palace.

In a culture that prided itself on attaining universal literacy, maps emerged as the guides to good citizenship. They were crucial for forging unity out of diversity.

By considering this expressed faith, the "Common Destinations" exhibition not only recognizes the historical value of maps but offers a new approach for comprehending their true significance in American history. ♦

Martin Brückner, Associate Professor in American Literature and Material Culture Studies at the University of Delaware, is the author of The Geographic Revolution in Early America: Maps, Literacy, and National Identity, which received the Louis Gottschalk Book Prize in 18th-Century Studies. He has published widely on the relationship of cartography and early American culture.

ALL PHOTOS: COURTESY OF WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, GARDEN AND LIBRARY.



Drafting instruments and case, with calipers, protractor, ruler, etc., 1790-1840.



Incised powder horn, carved by Daniel Roberts, c. 1757.

Events Related to The Exhibition

~ *Common Destinations: Maps in the American Experience* events will include lectures, a conference, special Members-only experiences, group tours and more. For information, contact 302-888-4600; Winterthur.org.

~ *Opening Celebration*
Rarely seen examples from the Winterthur collection as well as map-related ceramics and other objects illuminate the importance of maps in everyday lives. Join Director David Roselle for a private viewing and cocktail reception celebrating the exhibition. *April 18, 5:30 to 8 p.m.*

~ *Member Preview Day*
Members are invited to view the exhibition prior to its public opening. Guided Gallery Walks throughout the day. Members free, guests with passes. *April 19, noon to 7 p.m.*

~ *Lunchtime Lecture Series*
Presentations from professors, historians, conservators and collectors who will discuss exhibition themes. Members free; included with admission. *Thursdays in the Rotunda. Apr. 25, May 30, June 27, Sept. 19, Oct. 24, Nov. 21 and Dec. 5. 12:15 p.m.*

~ *Family Programs*
Saturday programs will explore themes of the exhibition, such as the popular Hands on History Cart, an interactive, mobile display that enables guests of all ages to touch, see and learn about objects from the past. *Saturdays, 1 to 3 p.m.*

~ *Teacher Workshop*
Active teachers are invited for an in-depth look at the exhibition and ideas about how to use maps in the classroom. *Reg. req. \$15; Members free. Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*

~ *Winterthur Conference*
Common Destinations: Maps in the American Experience. Lectures, workshops, gallery tours. Oct. 11-12.



Brian F. Tucker painting from The Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors and The Mason Dixon Line Preservation Project.

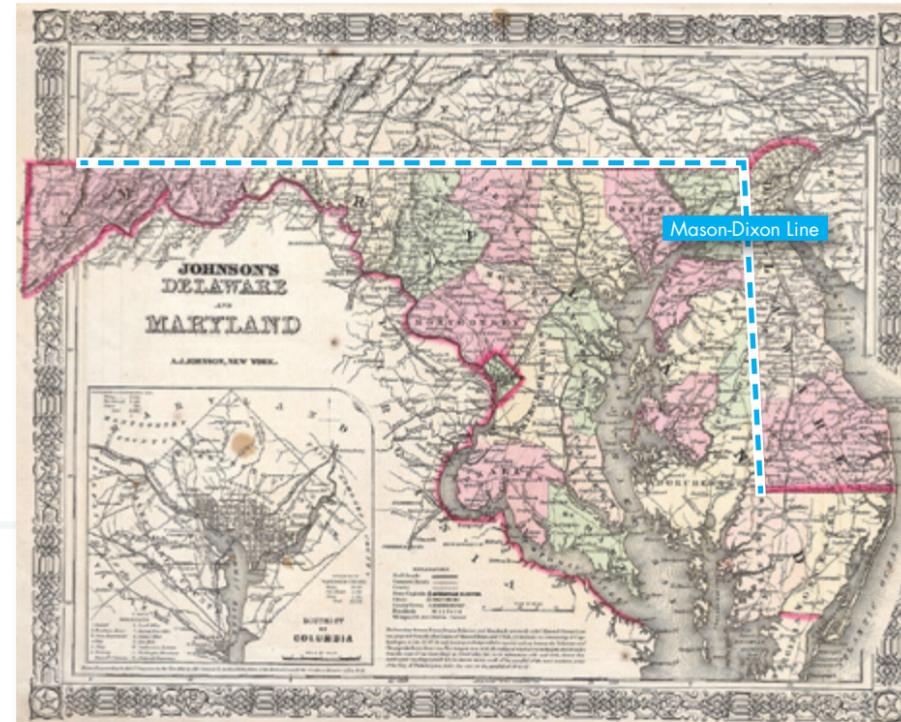
Walking the Mason-Dixon Line

Kirsten Werner, Natural Lands Trust

In 1763, 240 years before the widespread use of GPS, surveyors and astronomers Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon came to the New World to end a bloody, 80-year boundary dispute between Pennsylvania and Maryland. Their survey, which established the official line between the two colonies, stands among the greatest scientific achievements of the time. And you can visit where it all started at Star Gazers' Stone.

For many Americans, the Mason-Dixon Line connotes less a physical boundary between two states and more a cultural divide between two states of mind. Despite popular belief, this line was not the demarcation for the legality of slavery, since Delaware—which had slavery until

1865—is north and east of it. Yet the line has come to represent the unofficial border between North and South. The conflict and violence that developed over this boundary predates slavery—in fact, the seeds of the dispute were sown during America's infancy, in the 17th century.



As shown on the map at left, the Mason-Dixon Line runs 233 miles between Pennsylvania and Maryland and 83 miles between Maryland and Delaware. It took five years to mark.

Bottom: Limestone monuments were placed at 1-mile intervals marked with P or M facing the respective colonies. The monument shown in the photo was set in 1849 at the northeast corner in Maryland, near Strickersville, PA in Chester County, the eastern terminus of the Mason-Dixon Line. Photo courtesy: Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA

Inset: Every 5th mile was marked with a crownstone showing the Penn and Calvert families' coats of arms.

Fixing the Boundary

Bit by bit, the Calverts retreated or were pushed from their charter position as Pennsylvania colonists moved southward. The increasingly hostile border dispute escalated in the 1730s with a series of violent incidents.

Dueling Borders

Some background: In 1632, King Charles I granted Lord Baltimore lands stretching from the Potomac River to the 40th parallel (locating Maryland's northern border in present-day Philadelphia). Trouble arose in 1681 when William Penn was granted his own colony—Pennsylvania—by King Charles II, under a charter stating the border of Penn's territory be determined "on the south by a circle drawne [sic] at twelve miles distance from New Castle northward and westward unto the beginning of the fortieth degree of northern lati-

tude." However, the fortieth parallel is so far north of New Castle (25 miles) that this intersection didn't exist.

For the next eight decades, the Penn and Calvert families fought for land each believed it had a legitimate claim to. More than just a debate over acreage, the border controversy had significant financial implications because shifting the line just a few miles along the Delaware estuary meant securing or depriving Pennsylvania of a harbor with enormous commercial potential. And, there was the question of which colony was entitled to quit-rents, an early form of property tax.

Despite three attempts by agencies of the Crown to settle the dispute, agreement was impossible without an accurate, unbiased determination of the border. Yet the technical capacity for accurately fixing boundaries in the unsettled wilderness was limited. Colonial surveyors tried and failed—more than once—to draw the boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland.

So the Penns and Calverts contacted James Bradley, "astronomer royal" at the Royal Greenwich Observatory, for assistance. Bradley recommended his assistant, Charles Mason, and Jeremiah Dixon, a skilled surveyor.

Mason and Dixon Begin

In 1763, the duo set sail for the New World with an array of state-of-the-art equipment including several telescopes, a reflecting quadrant, a precision clock, measuring rods and chains, logarithm and trigonometric tables, and star almanacs. Their fee was to be paid by the Penns and Calverts. For both families it was an expensive undertaking, costing the equivalent of about \$100,000 in modern currency.

A 1760 royal decree had established the boundary to be exactly 15 miles south of the southernmost



point in Philadelphia. Thus, Mason and Dixon began in Philadelphia, determining the “southernmost point” to be the north wall of a house on Cedar Street (now 30 South Street, though the house is no longer standing).

But if they traveled 15 miles due south from that point, they'd have ended up in the Delaware River. So they selected a clear geographical location due west of Philadelphia—the forks of the Brandywine Creek in Embreeville—to begin their work.

Five-Year Project

Mason and Dixon negotiated with local farmer John Harlan to use his property as home base and set up an observatory from which to make their calculations. A reference point, now known as Star Gazers' Stone, was placed to mark the astronomical meridian line north of their observatory.

Using a device with a six-foot-long brass telescope that allowed them to establish their position relative to the stars, they spent the winter charting the night sky ... when the skies were clear, that is. Cloudy evenings were spent at nearby taverns, according to local accounts.

In spring 1764, they ventured due south from the Harlan farm with a team of axemen clearing a wide swath through dense forests. Using chains and levels, they surveyed in straight, 12-mile segments, then made detailed astronomical calculations to adjust to the exact latitude. Where their survey chains could not span a river, they



A visit to see the Star Gazers' Stone can be combined with a day enjoying ChesLen Preserve. Open dawn to dusk, entrance to the 1263-acre property is free. Photo: Geoff Creary, Simon Collins Landscape Architecture



used their reflecting quadrant to measure the river's width by triangulation.

It was grueling, painstaking work. All told, the survey took five years—through farm fields and woodlands, frigid winters and oppressive summers, Colonial villages and sometimes-hostile Native American territories—before Mason and Dixon were satisfied. They'd established the 233-mile-long boundary line between Pennsylvania and Maryland, and the 83-mile-long north-south boundary between Maryland and present-day Delaware. It was done.

Marking the Line

The survey party marked the final boundaries with limestone monuments placed at one-mile intervals. Each massive stone—weighing 300 to 600 pounds—was inscribed with a “P” and an “M” on opposite sides (for the bordering colonies); every fifth mile was marked with a crownstone with the Penn and Calvert families' coats of arms.

Sadly, many markers have been lost or damaged by weather, vandals, thieves, or even an errant snowplow or farmer's plow, though some still remain.

The Star Gazers' Stone marker and the Harlan House (now a private residence)

Star Gazers' Stone marked the astronomical meridian line north of Mason and Dixon's original observatory when they began their undertaking. The remains of the historic stone are actually quite small.

where Mason and Dixon stayed are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Star Gazers' Stone is also designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, one of 125 sites in the country.

Exploring Star Gazers' Stone and ChesLen Preserve

Now part of Natural Lands Trust's ChesLen Preserve, Star Gazers' marker is easily visited thanks to a new parking area located on Rt. 162, just east of Stargazers Road. The marker and the preserve are open daily, dawn to dusk, free of charge.

Grab a trail map from a visitor kiosk at the preserve or download one online (NatLands.org/preserves-to-visit/list-of-preserves/cheslen-preserve/) and explore the 1,263-acre property. ♦

Natural Lands Trust is the region's largest land conservation organization, preserving open space in eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. Find details about nature preserves open to the public, upcoming events, ways to support Natural Lands Trust, and more online at NatLands.org.



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MainLineAntiquesShow.com

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Lisa Vonderstuck
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Chadds Ford, PA 19317
610-388-6060

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10am-5pm
Lisa@BrandywineView.com

www.BrandywineView.com

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Peter W. Chillingsworth, Show Manager

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BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM
US Route 1, Chadds Ford, PA 19317
610.388.2700 www.brandywinemuseum.org



Pair of Chinese Export Garden Seats, c. 1850
Earle D. Vandekar of Knightsbridge, Inc.
The Shops at Surrey
610-647-8632; SurreyServices.org



"Index Horse" Weather Vane, attributed to
J. Howard & Co., 1850, copper and cast
zinc, private collection.
Brandywine River Museum
610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org



20th-century Henredon Leather Chairs
McLimans Furniture
610-444-3876; McLimans.com



Rare Chinese Rose Medallion
Cadogan Wine Pot
(or Teapot), c. 1840.
The Philadelphia Antiques Show
610-902-2109; PhilaAntiques.com



19th-century English Bureau Bookcase
Antiquities
610-688-4077; AntiquitiesWayne.com



Reproduction Canton Tureen and Platter by Mottahedeh.
The Little House Shop
610-688-3222; LittleHouseShop.com

Antiques Showcase



PA-painted Pie Safe with punched
tin panels, early 1900s.
White Horse Mill Antiques
717-768-0960; WhiteHorseMill.com



Sheet metal Weather Vane retaining its
original surface, c. 1875-1900.
Antiques in the Valley Show
610-779-0705; OleyValleyAntiqueShow.com



Pine Stepback. Bottom panel door,
original red paint inside, c. 1840.
Brandywine View Antiques
610-388-6060; BrandywineView.com

Directory to Regional Dealers

Fine Antiques, Collectibles, Reproductions & Related Services

Antiques

Berwyn
The Shops at Surrey
810 Lancaster 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 dis-
play. Surrey Services for Seniors also offers professional
downsizing services. Visit the Shop or phone for more
information. Mon-Fri, 9:30 to 5; Sat, 10 to 4.

Chadds Ford
Brandywine View Antiques
1301 Brintons Bridge Rd. & Rt. 1
610-388-6060; BrandywineView.com

An historic home with three floors holding over
5,000 square feet of quality merchandise including
country, primitive, English, architectural and industrial
antiques. They also carry silver and jewelry, and you
can find incredible bargains on their 1,000-square-foot
wraparound porch.

Collegeville
The Power House
Rt. 29 North; 610-489-7388
Only on Sundays, 35 antiques dealers gather at The
Power House, the building that at one time held the
generators that supplied electricity for the trolley cars in
Collegeville. Dealers here offer a variety of wares: from
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.

Gap
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.

Kennett Square
McLimans Furniture
940 W. Cypress St.
610-444-3876; McLimans.com
See their listing under Fine Reproductions.

Phoenixville
Romantic Jewelers
241 Bridge St.
610-933-3833; RomanticJewelers.com
Their specialty is heirloom jewelry, fine estate pieces and
antique engagement rings, and meticulously handcrafted
reproduction jewels created in 18kt gold with rose-cut
diamonds and precious gemstones. They also carry a
large array of necklaces, earrings, bracelets, rings, pins,

broaches, lavalieres and pendants as well as men's jewelry—tungsten rings, wedding bands, pocket watches, and cuff links. Tues-Fri, 11:30 to 5:30; Sat, 11 to 5.

Wayne

Antiquities, etc.

122 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-688-4077; AntiquitiesWayne.com
Opened in Wayne eight 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, lamps, books and library accessories. Tues-Sat, 10:30 to 4:30, or by chance or appointment.

The Antique Store in Wayne

161 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-687-1900

TheAntiqueStoreInWayne.com

Visit this award-winning antiques 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, gift certificates.

Fine Reproductions & Restoration Services



K. Marietta Faragalli
122 W. Lancaster Ave.
Wayne, PA 19087



Tuesday through Saturday
and by Chance
610-688-4077



www.antiquitieswayne.com

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.

Kennett Square

The Carriage House at Willowdale Crossing

Rts. 926 & 82; 610-444-6770
WillowdaleTownCenter.com/
CarriageHouse.html

Fine reproduction furniture, distinctive home accessories and gifts makes this shop a must see stop. A "blend of urban chic and rustic charm." The Carriage House offers personalized service that brings customers back for repeat visits to find the perfect gift—something unique, or something for yourself to finish the look in your home. Open Mon-Sat, 10 to 5:30.

McLimans Furniture

940 W. Cypress St.
610-444-3876; McLimans.com

Selling clean, well-maintained, traditional wood furniture to the tri-state area and beyond since 1976. Stop in and you'll find solid cherry, mahogany, maple, walnut and pine pieces, a bit of 19th-century and quality old reproductions (1920-1960). They also carry fine, used name brands such as Ethan Allen and Thomasville as well as new antique reproductions.

Phoenixville

Romantic Jewelers

241 Bridge St.
610-933-3833; RomanticJewelers.com
See their listing under Antiques.

Pottstown

18th Century Restorations, Inc.

3380 Coventryville Rd.
610-469-6649; 18thCenturyRestoration.com
18th Century Restorations, Inc. provides skilled restoration services in the Delaware Valley region to clients who exercise stewardship in historic properties. Their primary business is preservation and restoration, adaptive reuse of and sympathetic additions to structures built in the 18th- and early 19th- centuries. They are experienced carpenters, barn wrights and timber framers.

Wayne

The Little House Shop

503 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-688-3222; LittleHouseShop.com

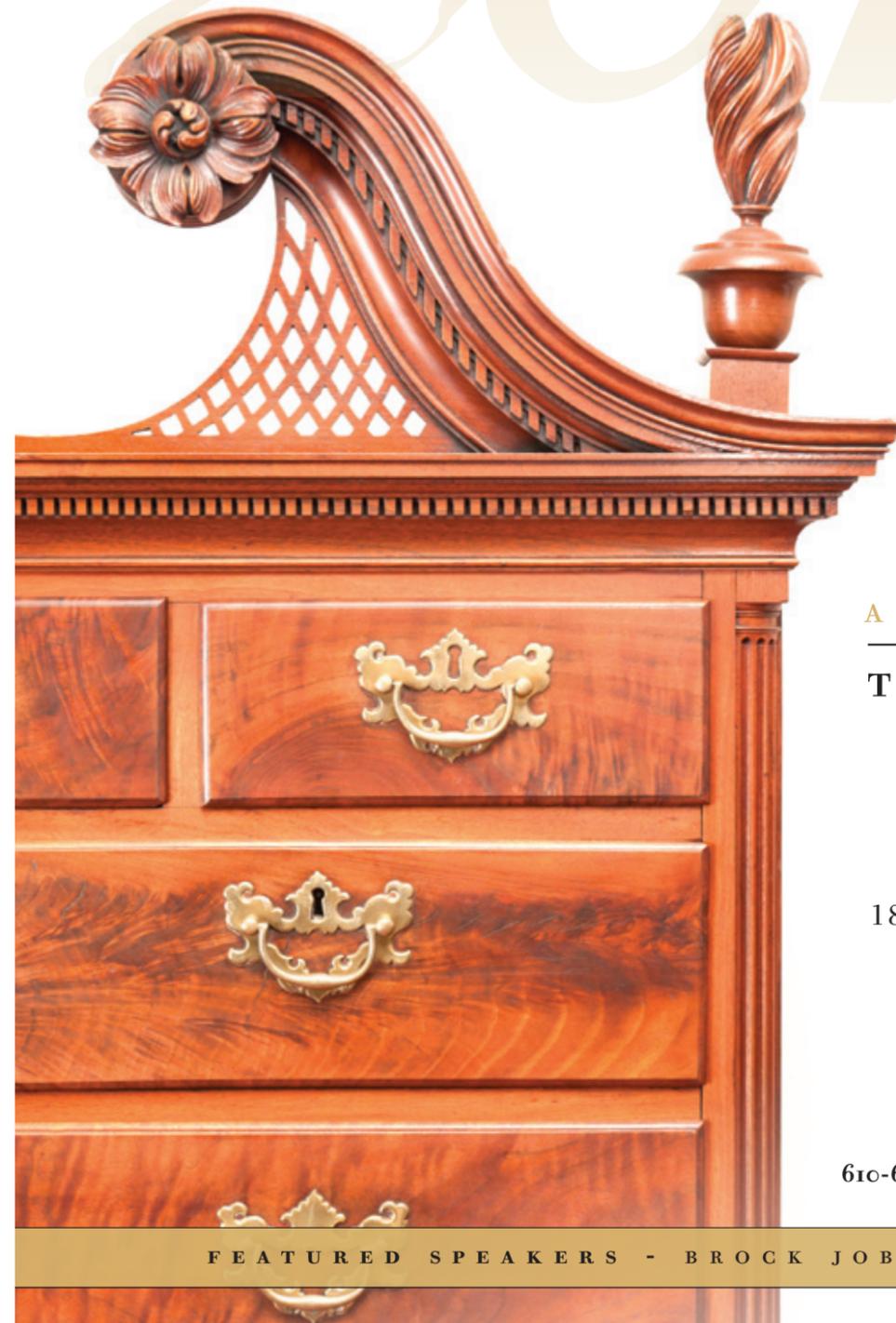
In operation since 1934, The Little House Shop is filled with an exquisite selection of gifts, home furnishings, accessories, fine stationery and invitations for every occasion—including a Bridal Registry. Open daily with a knowledgeable and friendly staff ready to help with your gift-buying needs. ♦



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23rd Street Armory Show



Main Line Antiques Show

2013 Regional Antiques Show Calendar

March 2-3

Heart of the Valley Antiques Show
The Ice House, 56 River St.
Bethlehem, PA 610-588-6961; WDIY.org
Twenty-five dealers specializing in American country antiques. Benefits Lehigh Valley Com. Public Radio. Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$7.

March 8-10

Greater Philadelphia Historic Home Show & Designer Craftsman Show
Greater Phila. Expo Ctr. 100 Station Ave., Oaks, 800-782-1253; HistoricHomeShows.com.
See "Of Special Note."

March 9-10

Elverson Spring Antiques Show & Sale
Twin Valley High Sch. 4897 N. Twin Valley Rd. Elverson, 610-207-7105
Semi-annual show, offering antique pieces you won't want to miss. 40 dealers display country furniture, primitives, American folklore, quilts, and more. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 4. \$5-\$6.

March 16-17

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 Assn presents this show known as the "crown jewel" of arms col-

lectors' shows, featuring 1000 tables of weapons, swords and militaria for exhibit and sale. No modern handguns are allowed. Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 9 to 3. \$5-\$10.

March 16-17

Antiques at Kimberton Show
2276 Kimberton Rd. Kimberton, 610-273-2066; AntiquesAtKimberton.VPWeb.com
Features 70 dealers offering a wide variety of antiques, some in room settings, in two buildings. Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 11 to 4. \$4-\$5.

March 23-24

Atlantic City Antiques Show
Atlantic City Con. Ctr., 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, 11 to 5. \$15; \$25/weekend pass.

April 5-7

Chester County Antiques Show
The Phelps School, 583 Sugartown Rd., Malvern 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 adm. 5 pm, \$200; regular adm. 6 to 9, with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, buffet, \$130. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5; appraisals, Sun, 11 to 1. \$15.

April 12-14

23rd Street Armory Antiques Show
22 S. 23rd St., Philadelphia, PA 845-876-0616; BarnStar.com
Forty-five diverse antique dealers exhibit in room-like settings featuring American and Continental formal and country furniture, fine and folk art, silver, oriental carpets, period accessories and more. Free shuttle service to and from the Philadelphia Antiques Show. Gourmet café, special show exhibit: Opening Doors: The Private Doorstop Collection of Jeanne Bertoia. Fri, 10 to 6, \$15; Sat, 10 to 6 and Sun, 11 to 4. \$12.



Baltimore Antique Arms Show

April 12-15

The Philadelphia Antiques Show: Antiques & Art 17th - 20th Century
Pennsylvania Convention Center 12th and Arch Sts., Philadelphia 610-902-2109; PhilaAntiques.com
Approximately 65 leading antiques dealers and galleries bring their finest pieces. Loan Exhibit, *Pewter: The Philadelphia Story*, showcasing 150 Philadelphia pewter pieces (18th- & 19th-centuries), and largest public display of items by premier pewterer William Will. Benefits Penn's Dept. of Emergency Medicine & Center for Resuscitation Science. Preview Fri, 6 to 9:30, \$175-\$600. Sat, 11 to 8; Sun-Mon, 11 to 6. \$15-\$25.

April 13-14

Antique City Fun Fair Festival
Lehigh University Rauch Fieldhouse GPS: 123 Goodman Dr., Bethlehem 800-822-4119; AntiqueCityShow.com
Over 250 exhibitors of furniture to fine art, jewelry to jukeboxes, and more. Preview Sat, 8 am, \$12. Show, Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$8.

April 25-27

Renningers Antiques & Collectors Extravaganza
Noble St., S of Kutztown 610-683-6848; Renningers.com
Over 1200 dealers and collectors buy and sell to themselves and to the public. Thurs, 10 to 4, \$15, Fri, 8 to 4, \$6; Sat, 8 to 4. \$4.

April 27-28

Black Angus Antiques Extravaganza Weekend
2800 N. Reading Rd., Adamstown 717-484-4387; StoudtsBeer.com
Sunday market expands to Saturday. 400 dealers. Daily 7:30 to 4 inside; opens 5:30 am outside.

April 28

Renningers Antiques Market Sunday
Rt. 272, Adamstown 717-336-2177; Renningers.com
Year-round market offering 375 dealers inside and up to 300 outside. 7:30 to 4. Free.

**May 3-4
Eastern National Antiques
Show & Sale**

Carlisle Expo Ctr., Carlisle
610-437-5534
EasternNationalShows.com
Features fine jewelry, furniture,
clocks, art, prints, and more. Fri,
10 to 6; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4.
\$7-\$8.

**May 16-18
Historic East Berlin
Antiques Show**

Community Center, 401 North Ave.
E. Berlin, PA 717-259-9866
"Great Country Show" with Ameri-
cana dealers. Preview Thurs, 5 to
8:30. \$12. Show: Fri, 1 to 7; Sat, 9
to 3. \$6.

**May 17-18
The Greater York Antique
Show & Sale**

Memorial Hall East,
York Expo Center
334 Carlisle Ave., York, PA
717-872-2778;
JimBurkAntiqueShows.net
Quality dealers of 18th- and 19th-
century American and English furni-
ture and more. Benefits the Y's Men's
Club of York. Fri, 10 to 6; Sat, 11 to
5. \$8-\$10.

**May 24-27
Brandywine River Museum
42nd Annual Antiques Show**

Rt. 1 at the Museum, Chadds Ford
610-388-8318 (preview)
610-388-2700

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

**June 1
Historic New Castle, DE
Antiques Show**

On the waterfront, Battery Park
W. 3rd St., New Castle
DFShows.com
Nearly 100 dealers offer quality
antiques. Benefits Hist. New Castle
Visitor's Bureau. 10 to 4. \$8.

**June 14-15
Antiques in the Valley**

Oley Valley Middle School
3247 Friedensburg Rd., Oley
610-987-3312; OleyValley
Antiquesshow.com
Sixty of the most respected antique

dealers showcase their 19th-centu-
ry items. Special display by the
Berks Cty Hist. Society. Benefits
scholarships at the high school. Fri,
11 to 7; Sat, 10 to 4. \$10.

**June 27-29
Renningers Ant. & Coll.
Extravaganza**

See April 25-27 listing.

**June 28-29
Lititz Historical Foundation's
51st Annual Antiques Show
& Sale**

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

40 dealers offer furniture, redware,
yellowware, pewter and more. Fri,
10 to 5; Sat, 10 to 4. \$6.

**June 29-30
Black Angus Antiques
Weekend**

See April 27-28 listing.

**June 30
Renningers Antiques Market
Sunday**

See April 28 listing.

**August 22-25
Baltimore Summer
Antiques Show**

Baltimore Convention Center
One West Pratt St., Baltimore, MD
561-822-5440
BaltimoreSummerAntiques.com
500 exhibitors, many experts. Thurs,
12 to 8; Fri-Sat, 11 to 7; Sun, 11 to
6. \$15.

**August 24
Lititz Springs Park
Antique Show**

Rt. 501 N, Lititz
717-626-5727; LititzSpringsPark.org
100 dealers participate. Show hours:
9 to 4. Free.

**August 25
Historic New Castle, DE
Antiques Show**

On the waterfront, Battery Park
W. 3rd St., New Castle DFShows.
com

See June 1 listing.

**August 30-September 1
161st York Antiques
Show and Sale**

York Expo Center,
334 Carlisle Ave., York
302-875-5326; TheOriginal
YorkAntiquesShow.com
90 exhibitors offer 18th- and 19th-
century American, English, primi-
tive and period furniture and acces-
sories. Fri-Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 11 to
5. \$10.

**September 26-28
Renningers Ant. & Coll.
Extravaganza**

See April 25-27 listing.

**September 28-29
Black Angus Ant. Mall
Extravag. Weekend**

See April 27-28 listing.

**September 29
Renningers Antiques Market
Sunday**

See April 28 listing.

**October 6-13
Berks County
Antique Art Show
Greshville Antiques
& Fine Art**

1041 Reading Ave. (Rt. 562),
Boyertown, PA
610-367-0076

GreshvilleAntiques.com
Museum-quality paintings by Berks
County artists, c. 1820-1920, including
works by Ben Austrian, Christopher H.
Shearer, John H. Raser and more. Oct.
6, 12 to 7; Oct. 7-12, 10 to 7; Oct. 13,
12 to 5. Free.

**October
The Greater York Antique
Show & Sale**

See May 17-18
show listing.

**November 9-10
Bucks Cty Antiques Dealers
Assn. Show**

Eagle Fire Hall, Rt. 202
& Sugas Rd., New Hope
215-860-5211; BCADAPA.org
High quality show with 30 exhibi-
tors. Appraisers on Sun. only, 12 to
3. \$10 per item. Show hours: Sat, 10
to 5; Sun, 11 to 4. \$6.

**November 8-10
50th Annual Delaware
Antiques Show**

The Chase Center on the Riverfront
Wilmington, DE 302-888-4600
800-448-3883; Winterthur.org/DAS
One of the East Coast's premier
antiques events, featuring 60 of the
country's most distinguished dealers
of American antiques and decorative
arts, including furniture, paintings,
rugs, ceramics, jewelry, and more.
Show hours TBA.

**November 15-17
The Main Line Antiques Show**

Radnor Valley Country Club
555 Sproul Rd., (Rt. 320), Villanova
484-580-9609

MainLineAntiquesShow.com
Over 30 distinguished dealers
offering 18th-, 19th- and 20th-
century fine and decorative arts,
jewelry, furniture and folk art for
both seasoned and new collectors.
Benefits Surrey Services for Seniors,
a nonprofit that helps older adults
remain in their homes and live as
active members of the community.
Opening party Nov. 15. Details
TBA. ♦

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LEFT: Mirror, mirror on every wall in the old bathroom, plus a tub and no shower, made a bathroom renovation a top priority.

RIGHT: During construction, surprises may require the help of a creative plumber. See sidebar.

BOTTOM: The homeowners got a beautiful, spacious shower, with glass walls they keep pristine with RainX, available at auto care retailers, rather than more costly ShowerGuard.

All in Good Time: A New Bathroom, Three Years in the Making

Donna Rizzo

A pause before demolition, to consider the whole house, resulted in a very different bathroom and home.

When my husband and I bought our 1955 Colonial home in Haverford three years ago, remodeling the master bathroom was at the top of our long list of planned improvements. It was missing a shower, after all—and we're not tub people.

Maybe we were so overwhelmed by the sheer number of changes required to adapt the home to our family of five that we decided to pick something seemingly isolated to get started. And so we forged ahead, designing the floor

plan, interviewing contractors, selecting finishes, but then stopping—just shy of demolition.

That's when it occurred to us to consider the grand scheme. The whole house. Had we thought this plan through? Were our priorities in order? How could we optimize the flow and function of the space to best meet the needs of our family?

We hadn't a clue. So we put our bathroom project on hold and hired an architect.

Going With a Pro

Hiring a professional was an important step, and one that served us well. It allowed us the time and perspective to think about our lifestyle and needs, guided by an expert in space planning who knew all the right questions to ask.

"Most people think they know exactly what they want when we start, yet often choose a very different plan at the end of the process," says Emily Crane, principal at French and Crane Architecture in Narberth. "It's so important to invest the time up front to avoid having to redo something later."

And so we did. We considered what we loved about the house and what we

didn't. What we wanted and what we needed. We dreamed, brainstormed, calculated and negotiated. And ultimately, we crafted a balance between what would be best for us and best for the house—and its future salability—all within our financial comfort zone.

Pulling It All Together

Emily helped us plan the big picture, then break it down into phases and prioritize.

Although she warns, "Not all plans lend themselves to staged construction. And sometimes the decision to move in one direction precludes the ability to add on later. And that's fine," she adds, "as long as it's something you choose up front."

Fortunately, our plans could be staged easily. And so we opted to tackle the first floor projects in our new home first and postpone the rest until we were ready.

Drawing From an Expert

Based on her years of experience as an architect and space planner, Emily shares three pieces of advice for prospective renovators to ensure a positive experience.

Creative Plumbing

It's not uncommon to run across an obstacle in the midst of a construction project. In fact, it's quite common. But with a little creativity—and a savvy contractor—most problems can be resolved within the scope of the project.

Ours was a practical problem. Given the glass surround planned for the shower, the showerhead had to be mounted on an external wall, which could result in freezing pipes.

Our contractor, Jonathan Sweet of J.M. Sweet Home Improvements, presented two options: 1) build out the external wall, allowing insulation but encroaching on shower space (not to mention looking a little awkward); or 2) install the shower plumbing and controls on an internal wall and mount a hand-held showerhead to a bar on the adjacent external wall.

Problem solved, as the photo at left shows.





A new kitchen, mudroom (inset), master suite and more were completed before the original bathroom.

• **Be open to a master plan.**

The design process is often one of discovery. No matter how certain your vision or narrow your scope, being open to other possibilities can often yield surprising and positive results.

A master plan takes a holistic approach, considers existing constraints and provides a context for individual projects. Be sure to bring to the table all the things you're thinking about even if your current objective is one specific project.

And include your partner. Your views need not be identical, but both perspectives should be represented up front.

• **Be patient.**

It's natural—and common—to want a quick fix. Yet, the most successful projects are the ones that evolve slowly. Time has a way of illuminating and resolving. Don't rush decisions you'll have to live with for a long time in your home.

Take the time to think things through, like floor plans (flow, storage, window placement), HVAC (insulation, efficiency, ventilation, heating & cooling), finishes (moldings, cabinetry, counter tops, tile), fixtures (lighting, plumbing), and décor (hardware, mirrors, paint, window treatments).

The extra weeks or months of planning and choosing will long be forgotten when you're happy with the final product and enjoy it every day.

• **Be clear about how much you'll spend.**

How much are you comfortable spending right now? And, how much are you comfortable investing in the property overall?

Your budget will influence your design choices. Better to be forthright about this

up front than fall in love with a plan you're not in a position to execute.

Consider how long you plan to live in the home, its resale value compared to others in your neighborhood, and maintenance costs associated with improvements, such as higher taxes and utility bills.

Best Laid Plans

As it turned out, our grand plan relegated what was originally the master bathroom to a secondary bathroom slated for our teenage daughter. This didn't change the need for a shower, but certainly gave us pause about splurges usually reserved for a master bath, such as combination shower fixtures, double sinks, pocket doors, marble floor and upgraded fixtures.

We still chose a marble top for the vanity and semi-custom cabinets, but installed a single sink and porcelain tile for the floor that looks like Carrera marble rather than the real thing.

So now, three years later, we finally finished the bathroom. What started as our first small step—a bathroom rehab—resulted in a new kitchen, mudroom, master suite, fifth bedroom, laundry room, and home office, all within our existing space.

Was it worth the wait? Absolutely. Slowing down and stepping back—and hiring a professional—led to a better home, a smarter investment, and a bathroom that's decidedly more pink. ♦

Donna Rizzo is a freelance writer and photographer living in Haverford. DonnaBarretteRizzo.com

Planning to Stay

Gearing up for gearing down is trending among baby boomers. According to certified kitchen and bathroom designer, Jean Buchen of K.T. Highland in Lancaster, more people in their 50s and 60s are incorporating potential future needs into their renovation plans.

"Simple modifications to a bathroom renovation project could mean the difference between staying at home and going to a rehabilitation or nursing facility," says Jean. Called "aging in place," the idea is to lay groundwork for making the bathroom—or any room in the house—handicapped-ready in the future. Popular features include pocket doors, grab bars, a comfort-height toilet, open knee space at the vanity, and a linear or trench drain.

"If there's sufficient space for drain pipes, a linear drain can be installed without a threshold and will allow easy access to the shower by wheelchair or walker," says Jean. "There's no better time than a renovation, while walls are open, to add reinforcement, such as extra framing and blocking between studs, for future needs."

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HOME OF THE MONTH

HOME OF THE MONTH

Laurel Anderson

Laurel Hill Farm — Must Love Horses

Most who know the charming town of Unionville in southern Chester County think immediately of its equestrian connections. Its rolling hills are home to horse farms outlined by wooden fences that mark property lines but don't limit pleasure riders or members of Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Hunt. Home to Olympic riders, as well as The Laurels Preserve and Willowdale Steeplechase, the area draws those who love horses, open space and a certain type of country life.

And so, when a premier equestrian estate comes on the market, it's more than local news. And when that property boasts appearances on the Chester County Day Tour, that's a headline.

Set on over 140 acres, Laurel Hill Farm is a singular equestrian compound consisting of a 14-stall barn with all the amenities—tack room, wash stall, storage loft, office, powder room, two-bedroom caretaker's apartment; large indoor arena and outdoor arena; fenced

paddocks, most with covered run-in sheds; and acres of prime pastures providing unparalleled views. In short, a horse lover's paradise.

More Than a Converted Barn

Drive along aptly named Hilltop View Road to find the residence at the end of a private lane. You'll notice magnificent vistas extending over thousands

of acres of conserved land, preserved in perpetuity. A millstone design stamped into the gracious entrance driveway sets the stage to receive visitors for a party, family weekend, or excursion on the miles of riding trails.

Much more than a converted barn, the main house was crafted from reclaimed materials from an 1800s barn on the Mather Estate, now Radley Run Country Club. The home's unique design integrates the solid feel of a Chester County barn in a thoroughly modern and family-friendly way.

With a soaring three-story central interior space showcasing centuries-old wood beams, siding and rustic details, the contemporary design improves upon the barn conventions. Now there's a soaring fieldstone fireplace, multi-story atrium, many modern amenities, and stunning views of the countryside—the owners say you can see to Honey Brook. On both sides of the home's core, thoughtfully planned additions by local architect Richard Buchanan expand and update the living spaces, now including a three-car garage, five bedrooms and five full plus three partial bathrooms.

One-of-a-Kind

The home's traditional façade gives no clue to the dramatic design within. Each space is uniquely tailored to maximize the character of the materials, incorporating beamed ceilings, stone walls and fireplaces, and wood everywhere. Master craftsmanship is displayed at every turn, from embedding the property name in the entry's slate floor to custom built-ins, and details like pegged construction, barn hinges, ladders and a hay fork incorporated into the design.





And More

A second family room on the lower level extends to two additional, unusual features. A three-plus-story atrium, with its custom-built water feature, is surrounded by lush greenery to raise spirits on even the bleakest winter day. And then there's the Narnia playroom, named for the exquisite murals on the walls. There, a large stuffed lion guards the wardrobe, with a door that opens in the back.

As magical as Narnia, Laurel Hill Farm can perhaps best be appreciated from the terrace, where breathtaking vistas combine with the sight of your horses frolicking in the afternoon sunlight.

This premier equestrian property with residence and outbuildings set on over 140 acres, is offered at \$5,885,000. For information, contact the Holly Gross Group, 484-678-0367; HollyGross.com.



With a mix of privacy and communal space, the main floor flows from the gracious entry area to a spacious library/music/game room, three-story living room, formal dining room, modern butler's pantry and kitchen, cozy family

stairways and balconies, the room draws you in.

Distinctive Sleeping Spaces

Five-plus bedrooms are tucked into the upper-level loft spaces, accessible by three staircases. From the largest, with space and a full bath perfect for a visiting family on an extended stay (or converting into an office or studio), to a smaller space on the top level with a bird's-eye-view of the living room, each is distinctive, beautiful, comfortable and versatile. Easily converted into sitting rooms or playrooms, each bedroom has details—fireplace, stone wall, sleeping porch—to make it special.

The master suite is similarly matchless, with its hallway/photo gallery entrance, sitting room, closet room (yes, a 20'x25' room, not a mere walk-in), and two-story ceiling. Of the many details in the splendid master bath, the Jacuzzi tub with a view is perhaps the most appreciated.

room, plus mudroom, dog room, and office. Most rooms have walls of windows, access to screened porches, and spectacular views of the property.

Unlike many unused living rooms, this one is welcoming despite its grand scale. With soothing water sounds floating up from the atrium, two-stories of glass windows framing the view, and added interest from open



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Dining Out



Lise Monty

For nine years, the "Benvenidos" mat at West Chester's La Tolteca has greeted a continuing stream of folks hungry for tasty quesadillas and tacos, spicy steak ranchero and every other Mexican dish you can think of. We found some enticing surprises, too, like the Hawaiian Fajitas on the separate "special dinners" menu. The delicious creation came in a large pineapple half sporting grill marks. More later.

An upbeat cantina vibe prevails with colorful painted tiles accentuating architectural details like the arched room dividers. The walls are textured, the tables covered in cloths printed with Mayan-themed designs. It's a comfortable atmosphere that's popular with families, professionals young and seasoned, and students from West Chester University, which is down the street. Even though it's a BYOB with no bar, the TV at the back of the restaurant was airing a lively game of soccer. What else?

Owner José Lopez, an experienced and successful restaurateur, has opened six La Tolteca restaurants, most in northern Delaware, including the first 20 years ago. He subsequently sold two of them. The Tolteca name salutes an historic Mexican-Indian tribe that was absorbed by the Mayans, who built Chichen-Itza, the World Heritage site that's a mega tourist attraction in Mexico. Chichen-Itza's iconic pyramid inspired La Tolteca's logo. Lopez's latest venture is Taco Maya, which opened January in Exton.

Delicioso

Fill a small crock with warm gooey Mexican cheese, stir in lots of crumbled chorizo sausage, serve with house-made corn tortilla chips, and you've got a genuine guilty pleasure called *Choriqueso* (\$4.25). With the *Guacamole Dip* (\$3.25), cool and classic, and

the slightly spicy fresh salsa, our dinner was off to a good start.

Other appetizer choices include chili con queso, crispy taquitos, quesadilla with chorizo, a beans/nacho-cheese/chili creation with enchilada sauce, guacamole salad and jalapeños stuffed with cheese. There's a special shrimp cocktail including avocado and pico de gallo. The house salad, with lettuce, tomatoes, carrots, mushrooms, bell peppers and grated cheese, comes in a crispy flour-tortilla bowl.

A fan of La Tolteca's had shared a good suggestion about its BYO status: Bring some tequila and you can make your own margarita. At our server's suggestion, I ordered one of the non-alcoholic "margaritas" and added the tequila myself. It was good to control how much tequila to pour into the *Lime Margarita* (\$2.50), but next time I'll bring a shot of triple sec, too.

Toltecan, Texan ... and Hawaiian

The winning presentation of the *Hawaiian Fajitas* (\$13.50) was matched by the tasty toss of shrimp and strips of chicken with green bell peppers, mushrooms, onions, tomatoes and chunks of grilled sweet pineapple. It came with beans, guacamole salad, sour cream and flour tortillas. One of my companions, a Californian who's enjoyed Mexican food all her life, admitted the pineapple-half presentation was a first. And she liked it.

Her husband went southwestern with the *Texas Fajitas* (\$13.50), its ample size and colorful personality a tribute to the Lone Star State. Tender beef strips, chicken and shrimp were tossed with onions, tomatoes, green bell peppers and mushrooms, all brightly seasoned and paired with cheese-topped fried beans, guacamole salad, sour cream and warm flour tortillas. In short, Texas size!



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Savory Mexican flavors gave the 14-ounce T-bone *Tolteca Steak* (\$13) a winning personality with the help of diced tomatoes, bell peppers, mushrooms and onions. Spanish rice, refried beans and pico de gallo were good partners. Partners?

A sampling of the many other dinner choices on the expansive menu: Del Mar fajitas with shrimp and scallops; carne asada (marinated roast beef); soft or fried chimichangas; nachos; and various taco salads.

Promising a bit of a kick are enchiladas poblanas featuring chicken with a spicy chocolate-spiked sauce; pollo ranchero—grilled chicken breast with special spices and hot ranchera sauce; and carnitas—pork chunks cooked golden brown and seasoned with “secret spices,” herbs and beer.

There’s plenty for vegetarians and a kids menu. From the “special dinners” menu, which gets updated regularly: tilapia a la Mexicana, Mexico Special rib-eye topped with five grilled shrimp, and Cancun special combo of roast beef, chicken and shrimp.

Dulce Time

Fried Ice Cream (\$2.95), a mega-sized serving enough for three, combined crunch, creaminess and mucho sweetness in a single serving. French vanilla ice cream encased in a crispy coating sat in a flaky edible bowl, all of it lavished with honey and whipped cream plus toasted coconut and chocolate syrup. Yum. *Flan* (\$2.80), the classic Mexican-style custard, was rich, dense and flavored with a vanilla syrup.

Other desserts include buñuelos, fried dough with butter, honey and a sprinkle of cinnamon; sopapillas, fried tortilla pieces with honey and a sprinkle of cinnamon; and xangos, a creamy cheesecake wrapped in a pastry tortilla, deep fried and sprinkled with sugar and yes, more cinnamon.

Tomorrow’s Lunch

Each of us brought home some of our entrées to enjoy later. Add generous servings to La Tolteca’s list of positives. ♦

Owner: José Lopez
Open: Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday & Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
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BYO: Wine and beer are welcome, as well as tequila, triple sec and whatever else you like in a margarita. La Tolteca provides the rest.

Food News

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

Local Markets in Winter. Willing to brave the cold for fresh produce? West Chester Grower’s Market stays open on the first and third Saturdays of the month—barring blizzards—to sell food and more produced by its vendors. You’ll also find baked goods, coffee and teas, artisan soaps, homemade preserves and local cheeses. 1st and 3rd Sat. through April, 10 to noon; then, every Sat. through December. *N. Church & W. Chestnut Sts., West Chester. 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.*



In From the Cold. Vendors from East Goshen’s outdoor farmers market set up indoors at the Artisan Exchange during the cold months. This winter you can indulge in the likes of Jenny and Frank’s Artisan Gelato, Fresh A Peel Hummus, Veronica’s Doggie Delights, Sally B’s Gluten-Free, Carmen B’s Honey and 20-some more. A new sweet treat, Brûlée Bakery, recently joined the Exchange selling yummy croissants, muffins, cakes, quiches. With a mission to support sustainable methods of crafting products. Saturdays through April 27, 10 to 2. *208 Carter Dr., West Chester. 610-719-0282; Artisan-ExchangeWCPA.com.*



Much More Than Mushrooms. At Kennett Square Winter Farmer’s Market, you can sink your teeth into Rex Farm’s varietal apples and sip their tasty award-winning apple cider. You’ll find fresh herbs, locally made honey and free-range eggs from Guinea Hen Garden. And

visit God’s Country Creamery for specialty cheeses from grass-fed cow’s milk. Check it out, outside on 1st and 3rd Fridays, 2 to 4. *State & Union Sts., Kennett Square. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com/farmers.html.* And for “a fusion of local ingredients and classic cuisine,” visit the new indoor Market at Liberty Place, in Kennett, opening February 28 with up to 15 vendors. *TheMarketAtLibertyPlace.com.*

Why Not Eat Healthy? Family owned and operated, Why Not Farm stays open through the winter so you can buy beef from grass-fed cows raised in an all-natural environment. An alternative to your grocer’s butcher, this farm sells beef by the pound, plus custom orders of quarters, halves or even a whole steer! The farm store has other local products including fresh ground organic peanut butter, Pennsylvania maple syrup and goat milk soaps. So, why not stop by? *3108 Conestoga Rd., Glenmoore. 610-458-5408; WhyNotFarm.com.*



Year-round in Oxford. At the edge of downtown Oxford, you’ll find a year-round, indoor market run by a handful of Amish families offering fresh farm products to winter food lovers. The Oxford Farm Market also serves up rotisserie BBQ chicken guaranteed fresh straight from the farm. Enjoy sensational pies (apple is great) and cider donuts from the bakery. Give the market a try. *Thur., 8 to 7; Fri., 8 to 8; Sat., 8 to 5. 193 Limestone Rd., Oxford. 610-932-8048.*

Comfort Food

Laura Muzzi Brennan

Comfort food never goes out of style. If anything, its popularity appears to be soaring. Witness the prevalence of gussied up mashed potatoes and lobster mac and cheese on menus. And consider the rise of restaurants that pay homage to bacon, grilled cheese, red velvet cake, and, of course, all-day breakfasts.

What's so interesting is that as vociferously as food lovers disagree on other subjects, we tend to identify the same dishes as comforting: velvety soups, hearty stews, pasta, potatoes and just about anything with gooey cheese. Whether described as old-fashioned, contemporary or just-like-your-mama's, comfort food warms us up, belly and soul.

At The Orchard Restaurant in Kennett Square, chef-owner Gary Trevisani serves what he calls well-dressed comfort food.



Gary Trevisani
The Orchard Restaurant

"Comfort food is simple food, a dish you grew up with," says Trevisani. In the kitchen of his elegantly appointed BYOB, he plays with familiar, beloved foods, adding unexpected twists and layering flavors. His parsnip soup surprises with its hint of star anise, while the popular filet of beef "à la Bourgogne" boasts the richness of bacon, garlic and thyme essence. Currently, Trevisani is developing a seafood cassoulet.

Over in Malvern, Tom Farrell treats guests to satisfying breakfasts and lunches at The Classic Diner. "I can't think of anything more familiar and comforting than soup and breakfast," remarks the executive chef and co-owner of one of the Main Line's most popular casual hotspots. Menu offerings like split pea and ham soup as well as from-scratch pancakes

with fresh fruit and fennel sausage come straight out of Farrell's childhood in Glen Mills. "Growing up with five brothers and sisters, soup and breakfast were not only wholesome and comforting, they were economical and featured in lunch and supper as well."

Comfort, of course, goes beyond ingredients. It's an attitude. "I work very hard to make sure that each guest feels as comfortable as they would in my home," explains Gary Trevisani. "I want people to feel relaxed, not rushed. I instruct my wait staff to be there when diners need them, but not there when diners don't."

Farrell, too, believes service is paramount, training his staff to treat every customer as if she were at the first table of the day. "There is always a smiling face and a genuine concern that our customers are happy and do not go home hungry," says Farrell. And if you're lucky enough to be a regular at The Classic Diner, most likely your waiter will know your order even before you sit down.

While comfort food can't raise the temperature outside or heal a broken heart, it offers its soothing magic and takes you back home again.



Split Pea with Ham Soup
The Classic Diner



Turkey Pepper Hash
The Classic Diner

Turkey Pepper Hash

A popular breakfast dish at The Classic Diner where regulars top it with a poached egg.

- 8 red baby bliss potatoes
- 2 Tb. olive oil
- ½ red onion, cut into ½" dice
- ½ red pepper, cut into ½" dice
- ½ green pepper, cut into ½" dice
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 shallots, minced
- 4 white mushrooms, quartered
- 2 portabella mushrooms caps, sliced
- 2 lbs. ground turkey
- 4 Tb. melted butter
- 5 Tb. flour
- 2 Tb. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 Tb. molasses
- 2 Tb. barbecue sauce
- 3 Tb. Marsala wine
- 8 oz. beef stock
- 1 Tb. fresh chives
- 2 Tb. chopped parsley
- 1 Tb. fresh thyme
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper

Boil potatoes in salted water until they are fork tender. Cool, cut into bite-size pieces and set aside.

Heat large sauté pan over high heat. Sauté vegetables in olive oil until seared and caramelized.

Cook turkey over medium heat until just brown, about 10 minutes.

Add vegetables (except potatoes) to turkey and mix. Add melted butter. Sprinkle flour over vegetables and turkey. Mix through.

Add potatoes and remaining ingredients. Simmer 5-8 minutes until sauce thickens. Makes 8 servings.

Parsnip Soup

At The Orchard Restaurant, Chef Gary Trevisani garnishes this velvety soup with raw clams and parsley oil. You can make the soup ahead of time: it lasts 5 days in the refrigerator.

- 2 to 3 Tb. butter
- 3 whole leeks (white and light green parts), cut in half, cleaned and sliced
- 4 lb. parsnips, peeled and cut into medium-size pieces
- ¼ C. whole garlic cloves, peeled
- 6 C. chicken stock
- 1 sachet with 2 pieces star anise, 2 Tb. black peppercorns, and 2 bay leaves *
- 2 C. heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

* Make sachet by placing spices in a square of cheesecloth and tying it with twine.

Heat butter in large sauce pan or stock pot. Add the leeks and cook until softened. Add the parsnips and toss in with the butter and leeks. Add the garlic and coat with the butter.

Cover with the stock. Add sachet and bring to a boil.

Reduce to a simmer and simmer until the parsnips have softened completely, approximately 1 hour. Remove the sachet from the sauce pan and discard.

Remove the solid ingredients and using a blender, purée with enough stock to make the mixture smooth.

Transfer the purée to a large saucepan or stock pot and stir in more stock if needed. Then add the cream to the desired thickness and heat through. Season with salt and pepper. Pour into heated bowls.

Note: As the soup sits, it will thicken, and you'll need to thin it with more stock or cream.

Makes 10-12 servings.

Split Pea with Ham Soup

Recipe courtesy of The Classic Diner.

- 3 Tb. butter
- 2 Tb. olive oil
- 1 C. finely chopped yellow onions
- ½ C. finely chopped carrots
- ½ C. finely chopped celery
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- ¼ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 lb. ham steak, cut into ¼" pieces
- 1 ham hock
- 8 C. chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 tsp. fresh thyme
- 1 lb. dried split peas
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper
- Crème fraiche or sour cream

In a heavy stockpot, heat butter and oil. Add onions, carrots, celery, garlic, pepper flakes and ham steak. Sauté until lightly brown.

Score ham hock and place in pot. Add stock, bay leaf, thyme, dried peas and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer and cook, stirring occasionally, until the peas are tender, about 1 hour. Add more stock as needed, if the soup becomes too thick or dry.

Remove the bay leaf and discard. Adjust the seasoning to taste, and serve immediately with crème fraiche or sour cream and buttered toast points.

Makes 8 servings.

Cookbooks as Comfort

Cookbooks hit you where you live. You want comfort; you want security; you want food; you want to not be hungry; and not only do you want those basic things fixed, you want it done in a really nice, gentle way that makes you feel loved. That's a big desire, and cookbooks say to the person who's reading them, "If you read me, you will be able to do this for yourself and others. You will make everybody feel better."

-Laurie Colwin, *More Home Cooking*

Like Laurie Colwin, I find that my dog-eared cookbooks sustain me as much as a steaming bowl of pasta with butter and Parmesan. Here's a list of books I settle into again and again.

Home Cooking (1988) and *More Home Cooking* (1993), Laurie Colwin. The late novelist and food writer reminds me that simple food prepared with good humor and an adventurous spirit satisfies even the pickiest eater.

The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook (2012), Deb Perelman. Obsessive in a good way, blogger-cum-cookbook author Deb Perelman gives such specific directions that she's become my newest go-to kitchen guru.

The Barefoot Contessa Cookbooks, Ina Garten. Whenever Garten pens a new cookbook—she just released her eighth—I buy it the first day it's available and pay full price. Garten's genius is cutting unnecessary steps without compromising flavor, and her tagline, "How easy is that?" bucks up the most timid cook.

What We Eat When We Eat Alone (2009), Deborah Madison and Patrick McFarlin. One of America's foremost experts on vegetarian cooking, Deborah Madison joined with her husband, the artist Patrick McFarlin to discover the quirky combinations ordinary people cook when dining solo. Part recipe collection, part informal anthropological study, the book rings out with the authors' voices and also the in-their-own-words stories of the folks who threw wide their kitchen doors.

In the Kitchen with A Good Appetite (2010), Melissa Clark. If you don't know Melissa Clark, meet her or at least read her *New York Times* weekly column, "A Good Appetite." Either way, after she fills you in on her family's eating habits and the mishaps and triumphs of each dish, she'll feel as familiar as your best friend from elementary school.

The I Hate to Cook Book (1960), Peg Bracken. I love this cookbook because it evokes the *Mad Men* era where convenience foods like condensed cream soups meant women's liberation and a longer cocktail hour.

Italian Wedding Soup With Escarole

Recipe courtesy of Tom Farrell, *The Classic Diner*.

For the meatballs:

- 1/3 C. chopped fresh Italian parsley
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- 1 slice fresh white bread, crust trimmed, bread torn into small pieces
- 1/2 C. grated Parmesan
- 1/2 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 lb. ground pork
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper

For the soup:

- 12 C. chicken stock
- 3 stalks celery, cut into small dice
- 3 carrots, cut into small dice
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 lb. escarole, chopped
- 2 large eggs
- 2 Tb. freshly grated Parmesan, plus extra for garnish
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

To make the meatballs: Stir the first 4 ingredients in a large bowl to blend. Stir in the cheese, beef and pork. Using 1 1/2 teaspoons for each, shape the meat mixture into 1/2" diameter meatballs. Place on a baking sheet.

To make the soup: Bring the stock to a boil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add celery, carrots and onion. Cook until tender. Add the meatballs and escarole and simmer until the meatballs are cooked through and the escarole is tender, about 8 minutes.

Whisk the eggs and cheese in a medium bowl to blend. Stir the soup in a circular motion. Gradually drizzle the egg mixture into the moving broth, stirring gently with a fork to form thin strands of egg, about 1 minute. Season the soup with salt and pepper.

Ladle the soup into bowls and serve. Finish soup with additional Parmesan and serve with crusty Italian bread.

Makes 8 servings.

Mexican Corn Soup

I was inspired to create this hearty soup after I tasted esquites at Distrito, Jose Garces' restaurant in West Philadelphia. Esquites is a warm, creamy corn salad served by street vendors.

- 1 Tb. butter
- 1 tsp. olive oil

- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 lbs. frozen corn, thawed and drained
- 1, 4-oz. can diced green chiles
- 4 C. vegetable broth
- 2 Tb. lime juice or more to taste
- 1 C. half-and-half
- Garnish: lime wedges, chipotle powder, shredded cheddar cheese

Heat butter and olive oil together over medium-high heat. Add onion and cook until soft. Add corn, chiles and broth. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer. Cook uncovered for 20-25 minutes. Remove 2 C. of soup and set aside.

With a stick blender or food processor, purée soup so that it retains some texture. Return to low heat. Stir in 2 cups of soup that you removed, lime juice and half-and-half.

Heat through and serve with lime wedges, a sprinkle of chipotle powder and a spoonful or more of cheddar cheese.

Makes 10 servings.

Filet of Beef "à la Bourgogne"

Recipe courtesy of Gary Trevisani, *The Orchard Restaurant*. The sauce will keep up to one week in the refrigerator.

For the sauce:

- 1/2 lb. bacon cut into 1/4" x 1/4" by 1" pieces (these are called lardons)
- 1 lb. beef trim or scraps
- 2 shallots, peeled, cut in half, sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled and sliced
- 4 C. red burgundy wine
- 4 sprigs thyme
- 3 bay leaves
- 2 Tb. black peppercorns
- 1/2 C. veal stock

For the filets:

- 4, 6-oz. filets
- 2 Tb. butter
- Salt and freshly cracked black pepper

To make the sauce: Cook the bacon in a pan until cooked through. Remove from pan. Set aside until ready to cook filets.

Place beef scraps in pan with bacon fat and brown. (Make sure you brown the meat very dark.) Add the shallots and cook until the shallots soften. Add garlic and cook until it too has softened, but do not brown the garlic. Add the wine, thyme, bay leaves, peppercorns and veal stock.

Bring to a boil. Then reduce heat to a simmer. Simmer very slowly until slightly thickened. Remove from heat and strain

herbs and peppercorn. Place in refrigerator or freezer to cool completely. The fat will come to the surface and solidify. Remove the fat.

To make the filets: Season filets with salt and pepper. Heat a sauté pan until smoking hot. Place filets in the pan and brown on both sides.

Remove from the pan and place in a very hot oven (over 415°) to cook to desired temperature. For rare, cook the filet until it reaches an internal temperature of 120-125. Deglaze the pan with the sauce and reduce until just thickened.

Add the lardons (bacon). Then turn off heat and whisk in the butter and allow the butter to emulsify into the sauce. Season with the salt and pepper. Spoon some sauce on to each plate and place filet on top.

Makes 4 servings.

Moullard Duck Breast with Poblano Chili-Chocolate Sauce

A cross between a Muscovy and Peking duck, Moullard ducks are bred for foie gras, and their breasts are bigger and meatier tasting than other duck breasts. Cook them only to medium rare because they become dry and tough when cooked to a higher temperature. At *The Orchard Restaurant*, Chef Gary Trevisani likes to serve this dish with braised endive and celery root puree.

For the poblano chili-chocolate sauce:

- 2 Tb. sliced shallots
- 1 Tb. butter
- 3 poblano chili peppers, roasted, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 1/4 C. port wine
- 1 sachet containing 2 Tb. toasted cumin seeds*

- 2 C. chicken stock
- 1/2 C. veal stock, optional
- 1/4 C. heavy cream

- 1 Tb. semi-sweet or bitter-sweet chocolate, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

* Make sachet by placing spices in a square of cheesecloth and tying it with twine.

For the duck breasts:

- 2 Moullard duck breasts, cut in half
- Salt and freshly cracked black pepper

To make the sauce: Cook the shallots in the butter until translucent. Add the poblano peppers and toss with the shal-

lots. Add the port wine and reduce by half or until all the alcohol has evaporated.

Toss in the sachet and chicken stock. Bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and simmer for 45 minutes. Add the veal stock (if you have it) and cook an additional 15 minutes. This gives the sauce a bit more body.

Remove the sachet from the sauce and place the ingredients in a blender. Blend until liquefied. Depending on the blender, you may want to strain sauce.

Place sauce back in sauce pan and add the cream. You may need more stock to thin out the sauce. Add the chocolate and whisk until well blended. Season to taste with the salt and pepper. Can be made 3 days in advance and kept refrigerated.

To make the duck breasts: Place duck breast skin side down in sauté pan, over low heat cook to render as much fat as possible. Turn breast to lightly brown the meat side of the duck breast.

Remove duck breast from pan and place in very hot oven (415° or above) to finish cooking. Do not cook beyond medium rare.

To serve: If you made the sauce in advance, pour some of the sauce into a sauté pan and heat. Adjust salt and pepper if necessary. You may also need to adjust the thickness by adding cream or stock. Spoon sauce on to heated plate. You will have leftover sauce.

Says Chef Trevisani, "At the restaurant, I present this dish by cutting the portion in half and arranging the two pieces of the breast, one standing up next to the other. You can slice the breast and fan the slices if you like or leave the breast as is and serve it on the sauce. I prefer seeing the color of the meat in contrast with the sauce."

Makes 4 servings.

Michele's Chicken Broccoli Casserole

My sister makes this casserole all the time. Served over rice with a side of steamed carrots, it defines comfort food.

- 2, 10-oz. packages frozen broccoli
- 2 Tb. olive oil
- 4-5 boneless, skinless chicken breasts cut into 1-1/2-in. cubes
- 1 Tb. paprika
- 1 Tb. garlic powder
- 1 Tb. curry powder
- 1 C. mayonnaise

- 1, 10 3/4-oz. can cream of chicken or cream of mushroom soup
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 1 C. shredded cheddar cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350°. Steam or boil broccoli until tender, but do not overcook.

Brown chicken cubes in olive oil. Add paprika, garlic powder and curry powder while cooking, and mix to coat chicken.

In separate bowl, mix mayonnaise, soup and lemon juice. Toss cooked chicken and broccoli into cream mixture and mix so all is covered.

Pour mixture into large baking dish and cook for 25 minutes. Top with cheddar cheese and bake for 5 more minutes.

Serve over white or brown rice and with steamed carrots and salad

Makes 4-6 servings.

Una's Irish Soda Bread

My mother hails from County Sligo, Ireland, and although she married a "Yank" and has lived in the U.S. for over 50 years, she's never lost her touch when it comes to making this comfort food from her childhood.

- 3 C. flour
- 3 tsp. baking powder

- 1 tsp. baking soda
- Dash of salt
- 1 egg
- 3 Tb. vegetable oil or melted butter
- 1 3/4 C. buttermilk
- 1/2 C. raisins

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour a loaf pan.

In a large bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, whisk egg and oil together. Add egg/oil mixture to flour mixture. Then, mix in buttermilk and raisins until just combined. Do not overmix.

Pour batter into greased loaf pan, and using a knife, make a cross on top. Bake for 50-60 minutes until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Cool in pan for 15 minutes. Then remove and cool completely on a baking rack.

Makes 1 loaf. ♦

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

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