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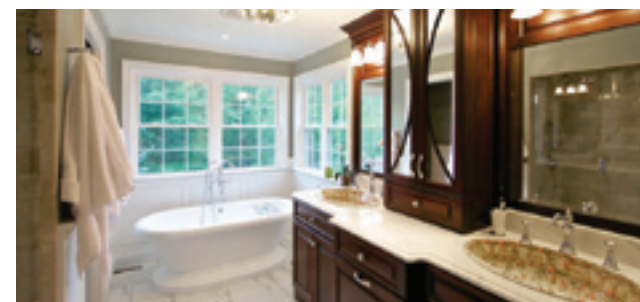
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<i>Fortune</i> – One of America's Top 100 Independent Advisors (2008)
<i>Wealth Manager</i> – 50 Most Influential Women in Wealth (2009)
<i>Worth</i> – One of the Nation's Top Wealth Advisors (2009, 2010, 2011)
<i>The 50 Top Women in Wealth</i> – <i>Wealth Manager Magazine</i> (May 2010)
<i>Philadelphia Business Journal</i> – #2 Top Wealth Advisor (2010)
<i>Registered Rep</i> – Top 50 Independent Broker/Dealer Women Advisors (2011)
<i>Barron's</i> – Top 1,000 Financial Advisors (2006-12) <i>Only 40 Recognized in Pennsylvania (And the Only Woman in 2012!)</i>

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

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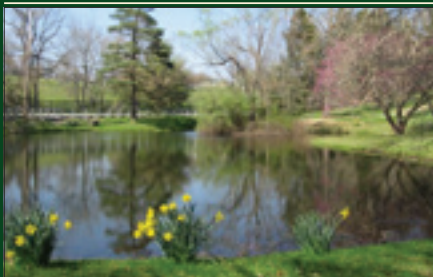
Willistown Township

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March is here—with the promise of spring. And after a February to forget, we should indulge in delights and distractions.

We extend the indulgence of PBS's drama *Downton Abbey*, as season 4 just ended, with Winterthur's divine exhibition "Inside the Closets at *Downton Abbey*," opening March 1. Curator Maggie Lidz previews what's on display from the show. Get a glimpse of life with a family that didn't just dine together but dressed to the nines every night.

If you're inspired to add Edwardian jewelry to your wardrobe or silver to your table, check out our Guides to Regional Antiques Dealers and Shows. For a different kind of vintage, Moira O'Neal reviews vintage wines—what to collect and why, plus what to drink now. To indulge your palate, Laura Brennan shares some favorite Indian food recipes.

On the home front, Laurel Anderson takes you inside Belgrave Farm, an exquisitely restored Chester County farmhouse on 35 conserved acres along Ridley Creek in Willistown Township. It's pure delight to see what architect Richard Zimmerman created. All that's missing is a bird box. Blake Goll of Willistown Conservation Trust tells how a bird box just might attract the bluebird of happiness to your property. And Jane Dorchester highlights historic preservation in West Chester.

To improve your life and your home, consider upgrading your bathroom. Emily Hart shares inspiration in "Yours, Mine and Ours: Bathrooms Built for Two." Or get pampered outside your home, and shake the winter blues over your lunch hour in "No Time for a Holiday? Take a Spa-Liday!" A day trip to Lancaster? Matt Freeman suggests you hit the road. Maybe take in a mud sale.

Finally, what's March without March Madness? Zack Malet gives tips for setting up an office pool and maybe winning \$1 billion. Feeling better about March now?

And as always, check out our Best Local Events.

Thank you for reading *County Lines*.

Jo Anne Durako
Editor

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

March 2014

Volume XXXVII, Number 7

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Brandywine Fine Properties



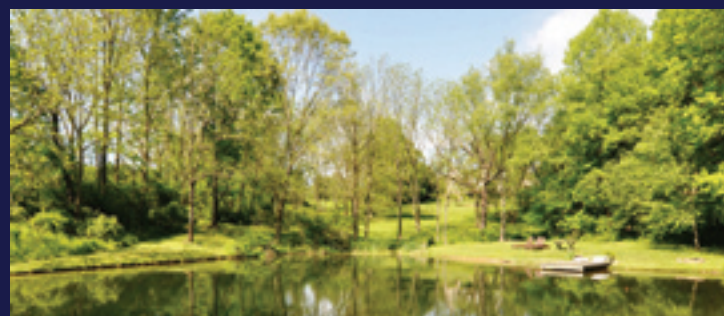
Queens Rangers Lane | Birmingham Township | 4.2 Acres | \$1,695,000



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Cover photo and photo top left: Nick Briggs, Carnival Film and Television Limited 2010

Worth Knowing

Am I Ready For Retirement?

Irvin W. Rosenzweig

As we near retirement age, this question becomes a mantra, "When can I retire, and do I have the assets to retire successfully?"

We spend our entire working lives preparing for the day when we start retirement. Today individuals are faced with the challenge of spending as much time in retirement as they did working to get there. Begin preparing by asking yourself a few preliminary questions.

What are my income and expenses today?

This most basic question is the first step in creating a realistic picture of your retirement needs. Analyze your needs today to determine if you are diligently saving as much money as possible for retirement.

By understanding what your fixed expenses are now, you can begin to project how much reliable income you'll need to retire comfortably and securely in the future.

Am I sufficiently protected?

At the foundation of an investment plan should be guaranteed investments, including bank accounts, U.S. Treasury Securities, and insurance. Benefits from life and disability insurance, annuities and long-term care cover necessities while you are still in the process of building assets for a successful retirement and estate.

What type of benefits can I count on?

Defined benefit pension plans—that provide an income for life—are rare in corporate America today. The future of Social Security is less certain due to political and federal budget concerns. With two of the three legs of the traditional "3-legged retirement stool" absent or in jeopardy, the burden weighs heavily on personal savings to support the structure.

What can I expect from my assets?

Accumulation of assets, while a challenge, is only half the battle. As you look towards retirement, it's time to consider the asset distribution strategies you'll employ. These may include deriving income solely from earnings, establishing a systematic withdrawal plan from investments, spending down principal via "laddering" maturities (strategic intervals), using annuity income strategies, or considering the use of a reverse mortgage.

Ask yourself what amount of income you can realistically expect from your portfolio. A safe withdrawal rate to allow for assets to last during the longevity of today's retiree has long been considered 4%. Due to Fed policy maintaining a historically low interest rate environment and the effects of inflation over time, 4% may no longer be realistic.

A reasonable expectation of investment-generated income is at the heart of the retirement planning challenge. Computer analytics have helped in forecasting the potential for success in retirement. However, even the most comprehensive programs for such forecasting have huge disparities in outcome.

Other disruptions to consistency of returns, referred to as "Black Swan Events" (an unusual and unpredictable event, or outlier, that occurs outside the realm of historical norm), and "Sequence of Returns" (the chronological order of positive/negative years relative to initial account investment) can render retirement forecasts useless.

Keep in mind that you should plan for longevity while fighting inflation and minimizing risk.

There are four key pieces of data for this calculation of expected income: How much money have you accumulated? What amount of income do you need to live on? What amount of risk are you comfortable taking? And how much income can you reliably expect to generate from your investments, considering your tolerance for risk?

How often do I need to review or revise this plan?

Planning for retirement is unlike planning for any vacation you've ever taken—this is one vacation you don't want to end prematurely! Reviewing your plan at least once a year helps keep you on track to realize your goals.

A qualified financial planner can help you with this process. You'll want to choose someone who's an expert in financial planning, who understands the nuances of your goals and needs of your family, and who has the experience and sophistication to harmonize these elements. ♦

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Rosenzweig & Associates WMG, LLC, is a full-service financial planning firm with combined experience in excess of 80 years. Irvin W. Rosenzweig, CFP®, ChFC®, CLU®, CRPS®, AEP®, has received multiple accolades, including selection as one of the "Top 1000 Financial Advisors" by Barron's magazine.




The day is just beginning. Sunlight dances through trees; clouds mosey across a cerulean sky. Flavors beckon from the corner bistro. A short stroll from the heartbeat of vibrant Lititz and park, pubs and shops, there are friends to meet, trails to conquer, new things to learn and hardy old maples extending a warm welcome home.

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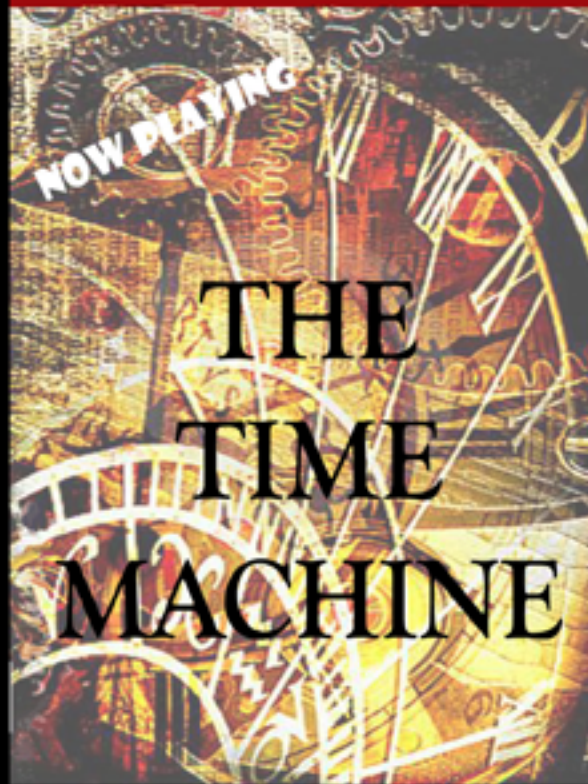
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Good to Know

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

True Blue.

You see red, orange and yellow flowers in just about every garden, but what about blue? Once considered a myth, blue-poppies, native to the Himalayan Mountains, can be spotted at **Longwood Gardens**, one of the few places in the U.S. where they're on view. Catch a glimpse of these four-foot tall, sky blue beauties before it's too late—they last for only ten to 15 days. Pinterest has lots of photos, but find out when you can see blue-poppies in bloom this month at LongwoodGardens.org.



Happy 65th!

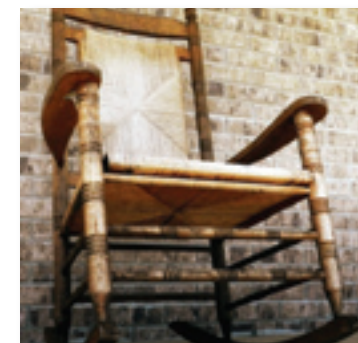
First started by Betsy Wyeth in 1949, the **Chadds Ford Art Sale & Show** celebrates its 65th anniversary March 21 and 22, featuring works by 70 professional artists from the Brandywine Valley and beyond. To mark this year's show, Victoria Wyeth, granddaughter of Betsy and Andrew Wyeth, will speak about her family's art and sign copies of *Andrew Wyeth: Autobiography* by Thomas Hoving on Saturday. Benefits Chadds Ford Elementary School, CFES.ucfsd.org/ArtShow/Index.html.



Take a Hike. Plan an end to cabin fever on **Take a Walk in the Park Day**, March 30. Head out to Chester Valley Trail, which opened Phase II in January (from Uptown Worthington to Old Eagle School Road in Tredyffrin), and is now almost ten miles long. Plans are afoot to expand with phases III and IVa in the works, resulting in the trail running from Exton Park and Ironlake Boulevard to Main Street at Exton west and Oaklands Corporate Center, bringing the trail to about 12 miles total. Join the over 350,000 people who have been using the trail every year since it opened. Join Friends of the Chester County Trail at ChesterCountyTrail.org.

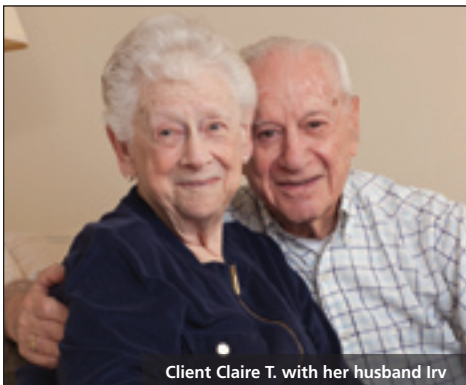
Antiques Are Green.

Not sure how that old rocking chair in your attic can help the environment? Antiques aren't just for museums and your grandmother's house. Recycle the past and join the **Antiques Are Green** movement. This alternative form of recycling conserves our heritage by preventing unnecessary waste of natural resources. By selling, reusing and handing down that old chair, you'll save trees! Learn more at AntiquesAreGreen.org.



Massive Quilting Bee. Want to jump into the world of quilting? Head for Lancaster City, March 12-15, when the American Quilter's Society will host **QuiltWeek** in the Convention Center. It's too late to enter this year's quilter's contests, but come see winning quilts in Best Bed, Best Hand Workmanship and Best Machine Workmanship categories. Whether you're a first-time quilter or an expert, join workshops taught by world-renown quilters, visit the authors' roundtable, or sit in on a quilting lecture. More at AQSSShows.com.





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of Special Note



Philadelphia International Flower Show

March 1–9

This year’s theme, “ARTiculture,” highlights the combination of art and horticulture, and celebrates everyone from Michelangelo to Monet, Picasso to Pollock,

and da Vinci to Dali. Floral and garden designers will take their inspiration from art found in the nation’s leading museums. *PA Convention Center, 12th & Arch Sts., Philadelphia. See website for hours. \$15-\$27. 215-988-8800; The-FlowerShow.com.*



Greater Philadelphia Boat Show

March 7–9

Find the boat of your dreams. Dealers selling saltwater fishing boats, deck boats, jet boats, personal watercraft and more. Shop and compare hundreds of boats and visit with dealers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland. All types of boats will be on display. *Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Fri., 1 to 8 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$7. PhillyBoatShow.com.*

The 32nd Annual Chester County Antiques Show

April 4–6

“Recreation, Hobbies and Leisurely Pursuits” is the theme for this year’s show, featuring 18th- and 19th-century American and Continental antiques and decorative arts, benefitting the Chester County Historical Society. Expert appraisals on Sat., \$5 per item, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. *The Phelps School, Paoli Pk. & Sugartown Rd., Malvern. Preview party featuring hors d’oeuvres, light buffet, cocktails and raw bar on Fri., 6 to 9 p.m., \$130, early admission at 5 p.m., \$200. Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$15. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.*



Surrey Services for Seniors Annual Gala & Auction

March 29

“Blueprint for the Future” is the theme for this year’s gala. Come out for a lovely evening of cocktails, dinner, live and silent auctions and a raffle for the benefit of Surrey Services for Seniors. *Merion Cricket Club, 325 Montgomery Ave., Haverford. 6 to 11 p.m. \$125. 610-647-9774; SurreyServices.org.*

People’s Light & Theatre Live Auction

March 28

An inspiring and celebratory evening to benefit Arts Discovery, the arts education programs at People’s Light & Theatre. Featuring Regency dance with artists from *Pride & Prejudice*, an elegant dinner at The Farmhouse Bistro and an array of unique, whimsical and luxurious items and once-in-a-lifetime experiences up for auction. *People’s Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. 6 p.m. Tickets, \$250-500. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.*



best Local Events

NOTEWORTHY THIS MONTH

MARCH 15

Bridge of Hope's Chester County Garden Luncheon. Luncheon and exquisite garden-themed auction items are featured. David Culp, author of *The Layered Garden*, is the guest speaker and Rob Cardillo offers photos and inspiration. Benefits Bridge of Hope of Lancaster and Chester Counties. Desmond Great Valley Hotel, One Liberty Blvd., Malvern. 10:30 to 1:30. \$65. 610-380-1360; BridgeOfHopeLCC.org.



MARCH 21-22

Chadds Ford Elementary School's 65th Annual Art Sale & Show. Artists display and sell their work in an array of mediums. Featured artist is American Realist painter, J. Wayne Bystrom, donating artist is Shawn Faust. Saturday, Victoria Wyeth will speak about her family's art. Plus Children's Art Café and Art Tours. 3 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford. Fri, adults-only reception, 7 to 10; Sat, 10 to 4, children welcome. 610-388-1112; CFES.UCFS.org.

MARCH 24

Chester County Community Foundation's Sweet Charity Event. Chester County's top chocolatiers and pastry chefs present their finest creations to win the title "Best Dessert." Benefits the Foundation, which helps families and businesses become involved in charitable giving. Hosted by William H. Bunch Auctions & Appraisals, 1 Hillman Dr., Chadds Ford. 5:30 to 8:30. \$125. 610-696-2628; ChesCoCF.org.



MARCH 29-30

Reading-Berks 12th Annual Spring Fine Crafts Festival. International and regional craftspeople and artisans display at Kutztown University O'Pake Fieldhouse, 312 Trexler Ave., Kutztown. Refreshments, live music and door prizes. Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. Donation \$6. 610-678-6650; RBCrafts.org.

ART & CRAFT SHOWS

THROUGH MAY 18

Calendar Art Exhibitions at Brandywine River Museum. This exhibition introduces visitors to the once-thriving, lucrative business of illustrated calendars. Howard Pyle, Maxfield Parrish, Norman Rockwell and N.C. Wyeth are represented with some of their best-known images for advertising cal-

endars. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$12. 610-388-2700; Brandywine-Museum.org.

MARCH 1-2

Germantown Friends School 30th 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.

Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, noon to 5. \$10. 215-301-4711; GermantownFriends.org.

MARCH 14-16

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. More than 250 artists and craftspeople display and sell their handcrafted 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 4-6

The Artists Circle 2014 Art Show & Sale. Member artists showcase original works and take part in demonstrations illustrating a variety of painting styles. St. Luke Lutheran Church, Schlack Hall, 203 N. Valley Forge Rd., Devon. Fri, 1 to 9; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, noon to 4. Free. 610-942-3234; TheArtistsCircle.net.



DESIGN, HOME & BOAT SHOWS

MARCH 1-2, 7-9

Spring Maryland Home & Garden Show. Over 300 exhibitors and more than 15 huge, lush, fully-landscaped gardens brimming with vibrant color are part of this year's "Color My World" theme. Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD. Fri, Sun, 10 to 6; Sat, 10 to 9. \$3-\$12. 410-528-5400; MDHomeAndGarden.com.

MARCH 6-9

40th Annual Pennsylvania Home Show. Find everything you need to beautify, update and maintain your home. Attend seminars, participate in Kids' Day activities, browse the Art Walk and enjoy "A Night to Wine." State Farm Show Complex, Exposition Center, Harrisburg. Thurs-Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 6. \$7. 717-232-5595; PAHomeShow.com.

APRIL 4-6

20th Annual Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show. Artisan-quality handmade furniture and furnishings to suit all tastes. 23rd Street Armory, 22 S. 23rd St., Philadelphia. Preview Fri, 6 to 9. Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 5. \$12. 215-387-8590; PhilaIFS.com.

EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY

WEEKENDS THROUGH MARCH

Brandywine Valley Wine Trail Presents Barrels on the Brandywine. Enjoy a standard tasting at each of the six wineries during weekends in March. Purchase a passport online or one of the wineries in advance or on the day of your first visit. \$25. BVWineTrail.com.

MARCH 1

The Mill at Anselma and Historic Yellow Springs Host the 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Celebration. Dance the night away to the sounds of The Hoppin' John Orchestra and savor a selection of libations and light fare. The Washington at Yellow Springs, Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 7 to 10. \$60. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.

MARCH 9-13

Media Restaurant Week. Twenty restaurants offer fixed priced menus (\$30) for 3-5 courses. Reservations suggested. Free parking after 6. VisitMediaPA.com.

MARCH 15

Rock Ford Plantation Hosts Irish-Themed Tavern Night. Good conversation and delicious period food in an 18th-century tavern with musical entertainment and traditional card and board games. 881 Rockford Rd., Lancaster. 6 to 10. \$40; children, \$12. 717-392-7223; RockFordPlantation.org.

MARCH 24-30

Lancaster Restaurant Week 2014. Over 40 local restaurants come together to showcase their creative talent and diverse dining opportunities with *prix fixe* menus around a 2014 theme. Visit Facebook.com/LancasterCityRestaurantWeek.

FAMILY FUN

ONGOING

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

MARCH 1

Banff Mountain Film Festival 2014. From remote landscapes and cultures to the most



exciting action sports, this film festival is an exploration of the mountain world featuring climbing, skiing, kayaking, biking, adventure and the environment. Alumnae Hall, Immaculata University, King Rd., Malvern. 7:30 pm. \$16.50-19. 877-822-7673; PhilaRockGym.com.

THROUGH MARCH 22

Longwood Gardens Orkid Days. On select days during Orchid Extravaganza children can learn about orchids first-hand at discovery stations, go on a Winter Wonders Scavenger Hunt and experience exciting stories at storytelling stations. 1001 Longwood Rd. (Rt. 1),

Kennett Square. Daily, 9 to 5. \$8-\$18. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

MARCH 1

4TH 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. 7:30 pm. \$85/person; \$150/couple. 610-444-1582; Willowdale.org.

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Auto start Generator

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Your Own Country Club w/ deluxe Pool & Spa w/ stone waterfall

- * Lower Level has Great Rm w/ Cherry Bar, FP & doors to Pool. Entertaining is easy w/ Game Rm, ExerciseRm/Guest Suite, full Bath
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Builder's Home is a Big Bonus - if want changes, can be done prior to Settlement

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Upgraded & Ready to go - \$720,000

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Peaceful Setting w/ small Creek & Pond

- * Updated KIT open to FR, DR, & BrkfstRm
- * Cozy & Charming! 3 Car Garage
- * Bigger than it looks from the drive by
- * Ready to finish Lower Level w/ drive in doors (for your Gator) & separate OE
- * Shallow Pond is great for skating parties

Addition on back gives home nice flow & open feel w/ Great Rm, Mudroom, 2nd PR & Master Suite w/ luxe Bath & back stairs

30 LAUREL CIRCLE

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Local Farm Markets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARCH 2

Chester County Futures "Strikes for Futures" Event. Come out for an afternoon of food, fun and bowling benefitting Chester County Futures, a program providing academic, mentoring and scholarship support for motivated, disadvantaged Chester County youth. Palace Bowling and Entertainment, 977 E. Lancaster Ave, Downingtown. 3:30 to 5:30. \$20. 610-787-9045; CCFutures.org.

MARCH 8

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

MARCH 8-9

The Junior League of Philadelphia Presents the American Girl Fashion Show Fundraiser. Enjoy food, fun, raffle prizes, a doll salon and American Girl merchandise. Benefits the Junior

League of Philadelphia's Apple A Day Healthy Living Initiative. Desmond Hotel, Great Valley Pkwy., Malvern. Sat-Sun, 11 am and 2 pm. \$55; \$70 for VIP with premier seating. 610-645-9696; JLPiladelphia.org.

MARCH 29

Delaware Humane Association's 8th Annual Muttini Mixer. A dog-friendly cocktail party fundraising event. World Café Live at the Queen, 500 N. Market St., Wilmington. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash. 7 to 10. \$75. 302-571-8171; DEHumane.org.

APRIL 5

29th Annual Thorncroft Victory Gallop. This year's theme, "Piecing Lives Together," shares the healing power of horses for people with a range of disabilities. 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 30

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

MUSEUMS.....

MARCH 1-JANUARY 2015

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library Presents "Costumes of Downton Abbey" Exhibit. See article in this issue.

THROUGH MARCH

Brandywine River Museum Programs and Activities. **Mar. 2**, "A Walk through Time with Benjamin Franklin," featuring Franklin impersonator Ralph Archbold and the exhibit "N.C. Wyeth's America in the Making," 10 to noon; **Mar. 12**, pianist Catherine Marie Charlton performs original music, 3 pm; **Mar. 19**, screening of *Green Fire*, award-winning documentary of environmentalist Aldo Leopold, 7 pm. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. \$6-\$12. 610-388-2700; Brandywine-Museum.org.

THROUGH MAY 25

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

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THROUGH MAY 26

Delaware Museum of Natural History Exhibit. “Charlie & Kiwi’s Evolutionary Adventure” explores evolution and the connection between dinosaurs and birds. Unravel puzzles, play games and get up close with live birds. 4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30; Sun, noon to 4:30. \$7-\$9. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.

MARCH 14, APRIL 11

Delaware Art Museum’s “Art is After Dark” Friday Night Event Series. Live music, special performances, studio activi-

ties, films, gallery games, tours and more. Plus, stroll the galleries and enjoy a cash bar with snacks in the Thronson Café. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 6 pm. \$10. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT.....

THROUGH NOVEMBER

2nd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

West Chester Story Slam. A monthly event where anyone can take the stage and tell a five-minute true story based on the theme of the night. No notes, no props and no music

allowed. Side Bar & Restaurant, 10 E. Gay St., West Chester. 8 pm. \$8. 610-429-8297 or visit SideBarAndRestaurant.com.

MARCH 1, 28, 29

Point Entertainment Presents ... at The Colonial Theatre. *Mar. 1*, Jim Florentine, 8 pm, \$19.50-\$25. *Mar. 28*, Jake Shimabukuro, 8 pm, \$29.50-\$42.50. *Mar. 29*, Two Funny Philly Guys, 8 pm, \$25-\$30. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

MARCH 2

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

MARCH 2, 9

Kennett Symphony of Chester County Annual Children’s Concerts. The program is called “American Patchwork.” After the performance, the audience is invited to come onstage for the “Instrument Petting Zoo.” *Mar. 2*, Lincoln Univ., International Cultural Center, Lincoln University. *Mar. 9*, West Chester Univ., Emilie K. Asplundh Hall, West Chester. 2 pm for both concerts. \$5. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

MARCH 6-30

Longwood Gardens Music Performances and Dance. *Mar. 6*, Max Raabe and Palast Orchester, 8 pm; *Mar. 18*, Vadym Kholodenko, 8 pm; *Mar. 30*, Assad Family, 7:30. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

MARCH 11

WCU—Live! The Royal Moscow Ballet Presents *Sleeping Beauty*. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, Phillips Memorial Bldg., University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$15-\$20. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu.Live.

MARCH 14, 16

Vox Ama Deus “The Ides of March.” Dramatic Baroque Masterworks. *Mar. 14*, Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 8000 St. Martin’s La., Chestnut Hill, 8 pm. *Mar. 16*, Daylesford Abbey, 220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli, 6 pm. \$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

MARCH 22

Kennett Symphony of Chester County “Welcome Spring!” The program features Beethoven’s Symphony No. 6 in F major, Op. 68, *Pastoral* and Copeland’s *Appalachian Spring*. Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre, 817 S. High St., West Chester Univ., West Chester. 8pm. \$35-\$40. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

MARCH 28

Friday Night Live Concert at Community Arts Center. Music and art presented by the Philadelphia Folksong Society. 7 to 10, \$15. 610-566-1713; CommunityArts-Center.org.

MARCH 28-APRIL 6

Berks Jazz Fest. Jazz enthusiasts return to Greater Reading every year for 10 music-packed days and unique concert experiences. Tickets can be purchased at the VF Ticket Outlet, Santander Arena, Seventh and Penn Sts., Reading or TicketMaster.com. For show information visit BerksJazzFest.com.

MARCH 30

WCU—Live! Todd Oliver. Award-winning comedian and ventriloquist in a family-friendly afternoon of entertainment. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, Phillips Memorial Bldg., University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. 3 pm. \$10-\$15. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu.Live.



MARCH 31, APRIL 5

WCU—Live! Missoula Children’s Theatre Presents *Robinson Crusoe*. Auditions, *Mar. 31*, 4:30. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, Phillips Memorial Bldg., University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. Performance, *Apr. 5*, 3 and 5:30 pm. \$8-\$10. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu.Live.

APRIL 4-5

Main Line Talent Show. Children aged 8 to 18 enter this family-oriented contest, competing in a variety of talent categories. McShain Performing Arts Center, Rosemont College, Rosemont. Benefits The Saturday Club and its Children’s Charity Fund. MainLineTalentShow.org.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

MARCH 15

Willistown Conservation Trust “Birds of the World” Jr. Birding Club. Learn about Birds of Paradise, Puffins and other cool birds you won’t find in Willistown. Discover what they have in common with our own birds and ways to conserve these feathered

creatures and their habitats. 925 Providence Rd., Newtown Square. 9 to 11. 610-353-2562; WCTrust.org.

MARCH 22

The Land Conservancy for So. Chester County Events. “Sky Tour”—join Chester County Astronomical Society for a look at the night sky, 8 to 9:30 pm. “Bucktoe Restoration Hike”—a behind the scenes look at the preserve as an environmental education hub, 9 to noon. Bucktoe Creek Preserve, 432 Sharp Rd., Avondale. 610-347-0347; TLCForSCC.org.

THEATER.....

THROUGH MARCH 30

Why Do Fools Fall In Love? The strength of true friendship and classic songs from the ‘60s make this a must-see. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Call for curtain times. \$25-\$42. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

THROUGH MARCH 30

Pride & Prejudice. A new dance-filled adaptation of Jane Austen’s masterpiece. People’s Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga



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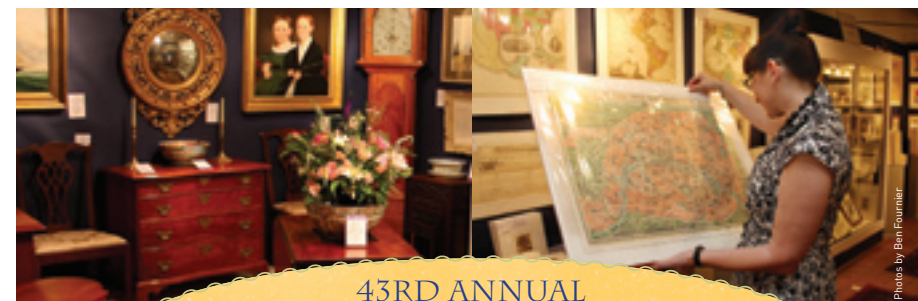


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Zack Malet

How to Run an Office Pool and Maybe Win a Billion Dollars

March Madness office pools—based on the NCAA Men's Division 1 Basketball Championship—are the most popular office pools around. If you're not already in an annual pool, this is the year to join. Quicken Loans, backed by Warren Buffet, has offered a big incentive: \$1 billion for a perfect bracket (that's 1 chance in 9.2 quintillion, though).

Every March since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985, March Madness has become an increasingly anticipated sports event. The excitement of 63 win-or-go-home games played over three weeks—with rounds named Sweet Sixteen, Elite Eight, and Final Four—consume the country's attention. Even non-sports fans join the water-cooler chatter.

Now more than 50 million Americans are involved in March Madness pools. According to an MSN poll, office pools lead to an estimated \$2 billion in employee productivity losses. Maybe that's another reason pools are not exactly legal in most states—check with your HR department. And check to see if there's already an office pool before starting one—you don't want to step on any toes by creating a competitor.

Bracketology 101

Here's the short course. How are the teams chosen, you ask? The tournament's 64 brackets are filled with 32 automatic bids given to the champion team of every college conference, then rounded out by the 10-member NCAA Tournament Selection Committee. The Committee also determines "seeds."

First seeds—there are four—are those thought most likely to win; the 16th seeds, most likely to lose. In the 1st round of the tournament, the 1st seeds play the 16th seeds, 2nd seeds play the 15th, and so on to form four regional brackets that feed into the final Championship Game.

But don't bet on the top seeds always winning their bracket. The seeding allows lower-regarded teams—often from smaller schools—a shot at upsetting powerhouse teams, like Duke, Kansas and Syracuse. Last year, Philadelphia's La Salle University became a household name after defying the odds and beating Boise State, Kansas State and Ole Miss on their way to the Sweet 16.

You'll find many resources to help you fill out your bracket confidently—or, at least more knowledgeably. Drexel Hill native

and ESPN College Basketball analyst Joe Lunardi shares his projected tournament field in his web-column "Bracketology." Some of the most relevant advice is offered on "Selection Sunday," March 16th, when the tournament field is announced and experts analyze each match-up.

Starting Your Pool

There are two main ways to run an office pool: (1) manually tallying scores on printed brackets from newspapers or downloaded, or (2) using an online website that automatically calculates scores and determine standings. Websites such as ESPN and CBS Sports provide printable brackets that show seed, round, game date/time, and location.

Some things to consider: Running a pool by hand introduces human error, uses lots of paper, especially if you print copies after each round. Internet pools, in contrast, make score-keeping fast, save trees and time, and minimize errors. Just saying.

Running a pool on most internet sites is free and gives you extra features. CBS Sports shares its expert picks, while ESPN lets you to stack your picks against President Obama's bracket. Yahoo Fantasy Sports provides a good user interface, and Facebook lets you to compare your scores to your friends'.

Whether tallying printed brackets or running an online pool, be very clear about the scoring system you will use. CBS Sports and Yahoo allow you to give different weights to each round, but some pools prefer to count all winning picks equally.

Each person's point total is found by multiplying the number of correct predictions of winning teams by the weight, if any, for each round. For example, in a pool with weighted brackets: 1 point for a correct 2nd round winner, 2 points for a 3rd round winner, 4 points for a Sweet 16 winner, 8 for the Elite 8 winner, 16 for each Final 4 winner, and 32 for the right champion pick.

The tie-breaker is generally the score of the final game. The person with the most points is the lucky winner.

Deadlines, Payout and Tips

Once you've determined the format and scoring, next set a firm collection date for money and filled-in brackets from all participants. Most pools disregard the first 4

play-in games, instead choosing Thursday, March 20th before the first early afternoon tipoff, as the deadline.

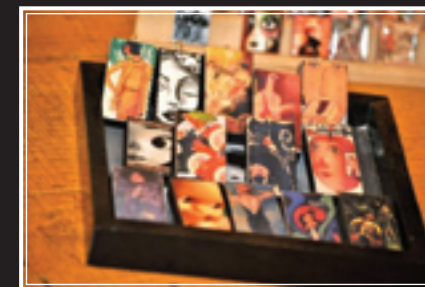
Also, make sure your payout rules are set and communicated. It doesn't have to be winner-takes-all. Typically, 1st place gets three-quarters of the pot and 2nd place gets the rest. Payout will be determined after this year's National Championship game on April 7th in Dallas Cowboys Stadium.

I'd love to provide advice to defy the 1 in 9.2 quintillion chance of a perfect bracket,

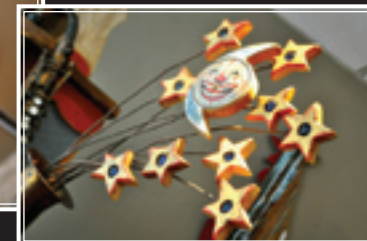
but having been bested by my mother for the last three years, all I can say is, enjoy the madness!

Oh, and don't pick the Final 4 based on vacation destinations—currently, Wichita State and Syracuse are undefeated. Besides, the winner of your pool will probably be someone who picked the teams based on mascot height. ♦

Zack Malet is a member of the ESPN College Sports Programming & Acquisitions Team.



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Bird Boxes:

Windows into the Lives of Birds, the Mysteries of Nature and the Joy of Conservation

Blake Goll, Nature Education Coordinator, Willistown Conservation Trust

It was late March as I stood gazing out at the bustling bird feeders set up buffet-style on the railing of our deck. Finches, chickadees, titmice, blue jays, cardinals and wrens were contentedly stuffing their little beaks full of hulled sunflower seeds on this blustery, wintery spring day.

As I did every day that winter, I wistfully waited for “someone in particular” to appear at the window feeder stocked with dried mealworms and insect-filled suet balls. My gaze drifted off until I heard a familiar tap on the window as the weight of a bird landed briskly on the feeder.

The most beautiful deep Mediterranean blue was surrounded by a round red breast under an inquisitive cocked head peering at me through the glass. “They don’t call it the bluebird of happiness for nothing,” I thought. As he grabbed a dried worm and shot me one last suspicious look before fluttering off, I couldn’t help but notice a twinkle in his eye.

I raced to the backyard to check on our new bluebird box, and sure enough, there he was—and there SHE was—proudly perched on top of the box where the pair had taken up residence. I was the guardian of this bird box for the coming season!



Clockwise from top left:
Eastern bluebird at a bird box,
Bluebird eggs, a demanding
swallow chick and chicks inside
the bird box.





Speckled house wren eggs.



Children monitoring a nest box.

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Bird Box Thrills

The thrills of bird box ownership are indeed many, as the 40 participants in the Willistown Conservation Trust's (WCT) Homeowner Bird Box Program discovered last year. Through this new program, homeowners were able to advance bird conservation in their own yards by maintaining and monitoring bird boxes installed in early spring by a WCT bird box team. Teams visited properties in the Willistown area, assessed the habitat, offered advice about bird species likely to be attracted there, and placed boxes for optimum probability of birds using them.

WCT experts stayed in contact with the homeowners during the breeding season to track the success of the 113 bird boxes. Many of the boxes provided great enjoyment as the homeowner families watched families of bluebirds, house wrens, chickadees, tree swallows, and kestrels fly in and out of the boxes hundreds of times a day feeding their ravenous nestlings.

Some were lucky enough to witness the fledging—when the young take their first staggering flight out of the box and into the world! There's no better bond formed with nature than when a child

gently opens a bird box and has her first peek at speckled little eggs or tiny baby birds, their wobbly necks outstretched and beaks gaping wide with expectation.

If You Build It ...

Each species of bird has specific habitat requirements, but sometimes the motto, "if you build it, they will come," applies in even marginal habitat. One homeowner blew the WCT experts away when she called and exclaimed excitedly, "I have bluebirds!"

She bought a bluebird box but was warned not to expect bluebirds because she didn't have a big enough grassy area to suit their ideal habitat needs. Consequently, the experts expected to hear she had one of the other usual occupants like chickadees or wrens. But not only did bluebirds take up residence in her "less-than-ideal habitat," they successfully fledged two broods of young from that box!

New Habitat in Your Backyard

In addition to connecting homeowners to nature, bird boxes are essential conservation tools that provide vital habitat to cavity-nesting birds, many of which are declining. Eastern Bluebird populations in Pennsylvania, for example, were down by 90% in the mid-1900s as a result of habitat loss, pesticides and competitive invasive species like House Sparrows and European Starlings. Today, our local bluebird population has recovered because of closely monitored nest boxes that are safeguarded against invasive competition.

Yet bluebirds are still threatened, like many other insect-eating birds, by pesticides on lawns and agricultural lands, plus other perils: feral and house cats kill 3 billion birds annually in the U.S., and window collisions kill up to 1 billion birds annually. It's no wonder we've lost half the birds that filled the skies just 40 years ago.

Dick Eales, Chair of WCT's Bird Conservation Committee, dreamt up the Bird Box program to benefit as many birds as possible. The program also helps engage more people in conservation and raises awareness about the need to protect the natural areas we have left and to see our yards as habitat.

When people understand that conservation can happen in their own back-

yards, that long awaited bluebird of happiness may just tap on their window. ♦

Due to great demand, the Bird Box Program is full this year. If you're interested in participating next year, contact Willistown Conservation Trust (Land@WCTrust.org). Visit NestWatch.org to learn about nests and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's citizen science project.

Photos by Adrian Binns, Susan Butterworth, John Fosbenner, Blake Goll, Gloria Ives, Mike Rosen-garten and Justin Thompson.



Tree swallow chick.

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A spacious his-and-her bathroom in historic All Around Farm
PHOTO: E.C. TRETHEWAY



Yours, Mine &
Ours

Bathrooms Built for *Two*

Emily Hart

Meander down bucolic Grubbs Mill Road in Malvern. Wend your way down a driveway bordered by horse pastures to a charming farmhouse. Above a tavern room dating back to the 1600s, sits a newly designed and built masterpiece bathroom for two. Welcome to Crumdale Farm, where a spectacular space combines the elements of a historic home and the ultimate modern master bathroom.

One of those elements—the stone chimney of the tavern room's walk-in fireplace—became part of a magnificent shower, explains Ted Trethewey, president of E.C. Trethewey III Building Contractors and creative force behind the bathroom. The exposed chimney, raw brass fixtures that will tarnish to look antiquated and the wooden floor honor the age of the home, while a frameless glass shower door, multiple shower heads, and timeless white marble tiles give the room with a vaulted ceiling a fresh, modern feel and functionality. Separate shower and claw-and-ball-footed tub, plus his-and-hers vanities honor the owners' individuality while making the bathroom perfect for two.

While most bathrooms are built for multiple users, Brandywine Valley couples are carefully considering what's "yours, mine and ours." Most often, sinks and drawers in a double vanity are designated—partners "choose sides." Showers and tubs might be shared—simultaneously or sequentially—but elements such



Although some couples are trading tubs for supersized showers, other relish a relaxing soak. PHOTO: ABK TODAY

as multiple showerheads are designed and installed to accommodate individuals of different sizes and preferences.

Replacing the Splash

This year many couples are trading tubs and small showers for supersized showers, according to Pam Warren, design consultant at Giuseppe Kitchen and Bath, based in West Chester. And they're replacing the splash of a bath for multiple shower heads: rain showers, often preferred by men who love lingering in water; stronger sprays for women rinsing shampoo from long hair; or steam showers for everyone.

Showers have a seat or bench, custom shower heads that spray from different directions, corner shelves for two individuals' favorite toiletries, and often pebble or tile mosaic floors, all enclosed in beautiful glass doors. "Couples can have their own spa in their own home," says Warren.

Trez Pomilo, owner and lead designer at Sugarbridge Kitchen and Bath Design, in the Paoli Design Center, also sees

couples foregoing the standard tub for a larger shower with steam and a seat. Her tips: If you want jets—especially when you're trading a whirlpool bath for a large shower—take measurements for both bathers so that the jets are installed at the correct height. During the design phase of a renovation, analyze how each person uses the shower; if a man likes to shave there instead of at the sink, consider installing a lighted shaving mirror that won't fog in the steam.

For folks who still want a tub—for a party of two or one—there are some wonderful new options for heat and water massage. UltraBain air tubs pipe warm air into bathwater to keep it cozy or provide a hydro-thermo massage for muscle relaxation. A client who is an artist, continues Pomilo, also enjoys a bath with chromatherapy. Colored lights in the tub make it easy to rejuvenate after a long day or to set a mood. For a simpler bathing experience, Victoria & Albert tubs constructed with volcanic

limestone keep water insulated for a longer, warmer soak.

Shades of Gray

Although the bathroom might be "ours," plenty of storage and counter space designated "yours" and "mine" is a priority, designers and owners concur. Fortunately, even for small spaces, there are plenty of options for holding everyone's belongings.

Drawers, cabinets or shelves and any combination thereof for organizing and storing items are among the suggestions from Carol Feather, a designer at Wall & Walsh. Tall cabinets for linens, or open cabinetry or shelves for rolled towels, provide convenience and the feel of a spa. Drawers can be shallow for her cosmetics, deep for his hair dryer, and anything in between for shared products.

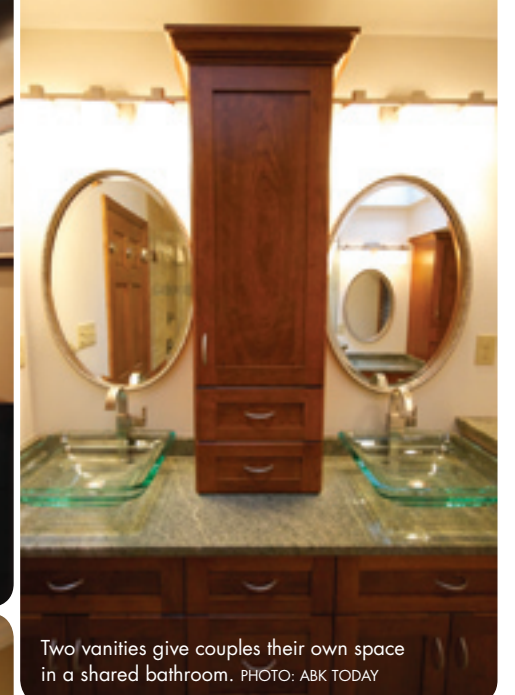
Gray is the new neutral, adds Feather. Light or dark gray cabinetry with glazing for subtle, sophisticated variations in color please both proprietors of the bathroom.



Most couples agree you can't have too much storage or too much mirror space. PHOTO: SUGARBRIDGE KITCHEN & BATH



Some couples choose deep sinks, perfect for shaving. PHOTO: WATERBURY KITCHEN & BATH



Two vanities give couples their own space in a shared bathroom. PHOTO: ABK TODAY



Just for Jack & Jill

There are tricks to designing a bathroom that's cute for two kids but still functional, so competing for space or a pail's worth of water isn't an uphill battle.

Katy Wolfington of Waterbury Kitchen and Bath offers a few tips on what works and what doesn't.

- Create and assign ample storage for each child's toiletries and styling products.
- Install separate medicine cabinets for each child.
- Place the trashcan where both Jack and Jill have easy access.
- Decorate with neutral colors that work for everyone.

Pomilo at Sugarbridge adds, if space limitations force a choice between two sinks and extra counter space in the children's bathroom, opt for the larger countertop. After a certain age, kids don't use the bathroom at the same time, but they will need more grooming space. In a pinch, they might agree to stand in front of a mirror simultaneously. If space isn't limited, add a bathroom storage bench where seated little tykes can have their tiny toes dried by parents and teens can place mountains of belongings.



Sleek designs and metallic details make for a modern double bathroom. PHOTO: WALL & WALSH



Even small bathrooms can be transformed for two. PHOTO: SUGARBRIDGE

Building separate vanities for men and women can preserve marital harmony, advises Katy Wolfington of Waterbury Kitchen and Bath in Kennett Square. A taller vanity and a wider bowl accommodate a man who shaves at the sink. Women tend to appreciate more counter space, so a smaller bowl is better. Two sinks, say most designers, are a “must.”

Separate & Equally Marvelous

Square footage and budget permitting, some couples opt for separate bathrooms.

For the Fairlawn estate in Devon, Trethewey created a master bath suite. His-and-hers custom bathrooms adjoining a shared sitting area each with its own shower, toilet and vanity.

Although the rooms are unique and tailored to the individual spouse’s taste, both are elegant and in keeping with the period of the home’s construction in 1906. The masculine bathroom is trimmed in dark wood and boasts a mosaic tile floor in a pattern that resembles an oriental rug of subtle greens, tans and browns, bordered in white marble. The feminine bathroom has a white marble tile floor with occasional white flower medallions and a marble slab atop a painted white vanity with plenty of doors and drawers. Her shower—slightly smaller than his—has similar frameless glass doors for a clean and modern appearance. Both bathrooms offer heated floors, plus instant hot water for equal comfort and luxury.

Sometimes, space constraints don’t permit double features. Fortunately there are solutions, says Andrew Madsen, president of Madsen Kitchens and Bathrooms. When a small bathroom cannot fit a 48-inch vanity to hold double sinks—anything shorter and “someone’s elbow is going to be in somebody’s ear,” he quips—a second vanity can go into a section of the owners’ bedroom. This solution has the added bonuses of allowing hair to be styled in less moisture than in the bathroom and being less expensive than knocking down walls to change the bathroom’s structure.

Is someone knocking at your bathroom door? Go ahead and let them in—there’s room for two. ♦

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History all around

West Chester’s Historic Preservation Awards

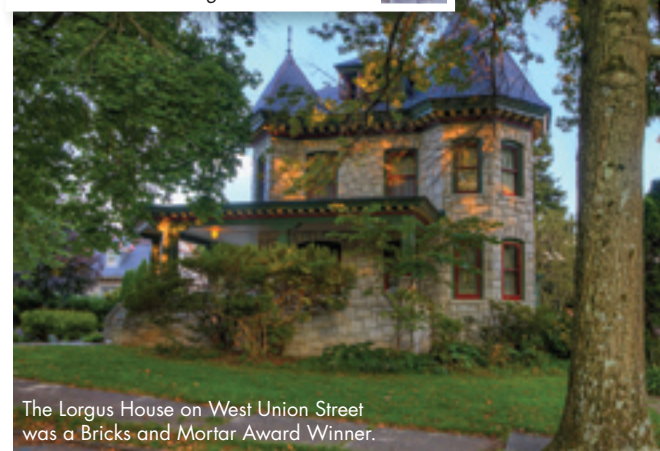
Jane E. Dorchester, Awards Committee Chair

Photos by Timlyn Vaughan

If you missed the awards ceremony in October, here’s your chance to learn a few more reasons to love West Chester. We suggest you take your own heritage hike and visit the winners.



The Preservation Service Award went to the authors of *Walking the East End*.



The Lorgus House on West Union Street was a Bricks and Mortar Award Winner.

Visitors to West Chester quickly recognize that the Borough’s historic character—benefiting from charming period storefronts, brick sidewalks, tree-lined streets—creates a special ambience for shopping and dining here. That character is a result of the concern, efforts and foresight of residents, business owners and community leaders to preserve the collection of historic buildings that create West Chester’s streetscapes, both in the downtown district and surrounding neighborhoods.

From the monumental Old Courthouse by famed architect Thomas U. Walter to the many two-story, Federal-style row homes lining side streets, the Borough boasts a significant concentration of irreplaceable buildings ripe for adaptive reuse. That’s part of the reason West Chester is also a heritage tourism destination and one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Dozen Distinctive Destinations. The Pennsylvania Statewide Historic Preservation Plan also found West Chester to be one of the state’s most successfully preserved towns.



The award for the Lorgus House recognized the owners' sustained efforts to maintain this distinctive residence.



Jack's Steak Building's restoration protected this section of East Gay Street from demolition.



The David Townsend House on North Matlack is a good example of rehabilitation of a very early residential property.



In recognition of past preservation efforts and to encourage their continuation, the West Chester Downtown Foundation has presented an increasingly popular Preservation Awards Program during the past three years to recognize projects exemplifying best preservation practices. While the awards emphasize the physical preservation of West Chester's historic resources, they also acknowledge that publicizing, encouraging and educating about historic preservation are also important. Here are the latest to be recognized.

And The Winners Are...

The third **West Chester Preservation Legacy Award** was given posthumously to **Paul A. Rodebaugh**. The committee wrote that Rodebaugh should be recognized for "his consistent and valuable role in the early efforts to preserve West Chester's historic fabric, thus helping to lay the foundation for the revitalization of the Borough." His contributions included service as Chairman and member of the West Chester Historical and Architectural Review Board (HARB), coordinator and guide for the West Chester Town Tour, and long-

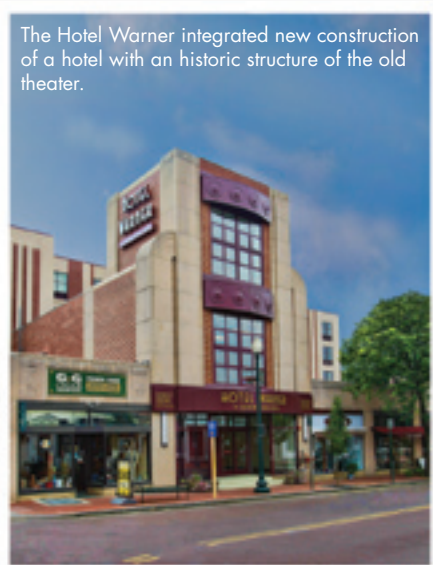
standing guide for West Chester's Old-Fashioned Christmas Walking Tour.

The **Preservation Service Award** went to **Sarah Wesley** and **Catherine Quillman** for their book *Walking the East End: A Historic African-American Community in West Chester, Pennsylvania*. This book was honored because it encourages readers to seek out the historic resources associated with the African-American history of West Chester and to make the connection between its historic resources, the

Borough's history, and the people who lived that history.

Five **Bricks and Mortar Awards** recognized construction projects of exceptional quality that had a positive impact on the preservation of West Chester's historic fabric and character.

• **Hotel Warner**, 120 N. High St., was recognized as an excellent example of how new construction can be integrated with historic structures. The Hotel Warner married the remains of an iconic historic



The Hotel Warner integrated new construction of a hotel with an historic structure of the old theater.

resource (the Warner Theater) with compatible construction on a long-vacant lot. This project helps preserve West Chester's historic character by saving the original building's Art Deco features, while contributing to the economic revitalization of West Chester's downtown by providing much-needed hotel space.

• **Lorgus House**, 500 W. Union St., won for the efforts by its owners to maintain this distinctive historic house. This project reminds us that the careful maintenance of West Chester's historic buildings is the best preservation practice there is. In this case, the owners had the exterior stonework meticulously cleaned and all the exterior wood trim carefully painted, resulting in a stunning preserved residence.

• **David Townsend House**, 225 N. Matlack St., won because it is a good example of rehabilitation, in this case of a very early residential property. The modern additions to the house, enhanced by the restoration of the south porch and main entrance, met the challenge of creating a six-bedroom house with attached three-car garage without diminishing the historic integrity of the structure. This project raises our awareness of how his-

toric resources can be expanded without prejudicing their integrity.

• **Jack's Steaks Building**, 16 E. Gay St., was selected as an excellent example of how historic buildings can be rescued and rehabilitated, even after being severely damaged by neglect. The reconstruction of this building used quality materials in a manner that respected the design and architectural elements of the original building. The project rescued this building on East Gay Street's historic streetscape from certain demolition, demonstrating the feasibility and desirability of rehabilitating historic resources. (Note: Although the eatery is now closed, the building remains an important part of the neighborhood.)

• **East End Project**, E. Barnard, S. Bolmar, S. Poplar, & S. Worthington Sts., was selected because this Habitat for Humanity project successfully integrated into the East End neighborhood affordable housing that's compatible with the historic fabric of the area and therefore respects its historic character. This project raises our awareness that it's possible to preserve the historic character of the Borough and provide affordable housing at the same time and at the same place.



The East End Projects compatibly integrated affordable housing into the historic fabric of the neighborhood.

Ready For Year Four

The fourth annual Historic Preservation Awards will kick off April 15th with the opening of nominations, through June 13. Winners will be announced in July, with an Awards Ceremony in October.

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

Get nomination forms at the West Chester BID office or online at DowntownWestChester.com.



The Crawley family and guests dressed for dinner each evening. Jewels and gowns for the ladies and white tie for the men were *de rigueur*. Below: The family, including the Dowager Countess, Countess and Earl of Grantham, enjoy a concert in their finery.



A Look Inside the Closets at **DOWNTON ABBEY**

Maggie Lidz, Winterthur Estate Historian

The Costumes of Downton Abbey, opening March 1, promises to be one of the most popular exhibitions Winterthur Museum has ever staged.

THE ENORMOUS POPULARITY OF THE BRITISH TELEVISION SERIES *DOWNTON ABBEY*—DEPICTING THE LIVES OF THE PRIVILEGED CRAWLEY FAMILY AND THEIR SERVANTS ON A YORKSHIRE ESTATE DURING THE POST-EDWARDIAN ERA—HAS MADE PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD INTERESTED IN THEIR OWN LOCAL VARIATIONS OF COUNTRY ESTATES AND STORIES ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED AND WORKED THERE.

Among the many rich cultural features of our area, the Brandywine Valley boasts America's largest concentration of public gardens, most of which, from Chanticleer to Longwood to Winterthur, were once private country houses. Although there are significant differences between the British and American country homes, these estates were created somewhat in the manner of the fictional *Downton Abbey* (filmed on location at stunning Highclere Castle in Hampshire, England).

Open Wide the Closets

On March 1, the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, among the nation's premier examples of a historical country estate, opens a new exhibit, *Costumes of Downton Abbey*. In keeping with the country estate theme, the 40 costumes on view were worn on the acclaimed series by the large cast of upstairs as well as downstairs characters. The costumes in this successful period drama, which recently completed its fourth



Lady Sybil Crawley's shockingly modern harem outfit turned heads in Season 1.



Cosprop Ltd., London. All Rights Reserved



Costumes worn by the Dowager Countess, played with wicked glee by Dame Maggie Smith, are on display in the exhibit and show rich detail, such as the beading of this blue dress.

season on PBS, are a main attraction for ardent viewers.

The exhibit is organized chronologically, following *Downton* characters through the day, from the servant's early morning work to the gentry's evening entertainments. The costumes range from Thomas Barrow's footman livery to Matthew Crawley's white tie ensemble and from Daisy's kitchen-maid outfit to Lady Mary's engagement dress.

Downstairs activities depicted in the exhibit include clothes brushing, silver polishing and cooking. Shooting and cricket will be featured as daytime sports, with beautifully tailored tweeds and classic cricket whites on display.

A highlight of the show for many will be the wedding section. Edith Crawley's wedding gown, flanked by the dresses and hats her sisters wore to the event, is featured in a special section. The finale includes evening clothes, showcasing Lady Sybil Crawley's infamous blue harem outfit from Season 1.

Behind the Scenes

Most of costumes in this exhibition are owned by Cosprop Ltd., London, one of the world's premier theatrical costumers. John Bright, founder of the company, is a leader in advocating for more historically accurate costumes in modern television, theater and movie productions.

While the costume designers for *Downton Abbey* strive for a semblance of historically accurate clothing, they have only five weeks to complete every character's wardrobe for an entire season—that's the turnaround time between receiving the season's script and beginning production.

In the words of costume designer Susannah Buxton, their creations are actually "translations" of period dress, inspired by the past but influenced by modern styles and enhanced for dramatic television effect—all the better for the viewers' pleasure. There's a mix of old and new in crafting the costumes. Vintage fragments of lace, pleating and silks are incorporated into new fabric that's dyed and distressed to create what appears to be a coordinated whole (at least on television). New costumes are



Lady Edith, middle Crawley sister, is dressed for her wedding, shown here flanked by sisters Lady Sybil and Lady Mary. The wedding ensembles are a high point of the exhibit.





Highclere Castle, where the drama is filmed in Yorkshire, England, provides a lavish background for *Downton Abbey*.



Gentlemen dressed for sporting events—for shooting in classic tweeds and for cricket in whites.



Lady Mary and Lady Sybil in their everyday evening finery.

constructed and those from prior seasons are repurposed.

Part of the pleasure in viewing these costumes up close at the exhibit is seeing evidence of use and construction, as the details are often unseen or unnoticed on the screen. For example, every one of the buttons on Thomas's coat is embossed with the Grantham coat of arms.

The Downton Years

The British television series *Downton Abbey* spans the years 1912 to 1923. The years between the wars, as the era from 1918 to 1939 is known, was a time of transition for the British—as their power flagged—and for Americans—as their power grew.

Julian Fellowes, creator of *Downton Abbey*, has successfully mined this dramatic territory before, most notably in his 2002 Oscar-winning film *Gosford Park*. Fellowes' fiction about Edwardian English country houses has many precedents. Novelists from Henry James and Oscar Wilde to Agatha Christie and the contemporary writer A.S. Byatt have used the Edwardian country house as a dramatic backdrop.

Ironically, in the 1880s, as the economic base of the British country house began to decline, the stately homes came to symbolize success, stability and permanence. Today these majestic estates function as a keystone of British tourism and provide endless fodder for interior designers, filmmakers and murder-mystery writers.

And, just like the *Downton Abbey* costumes, there is a gap between the fantasy and reality of the British country house.

An American Downton Abbey

Winterthur's *Costumes of Downton Abbey* offers a comparison of English country estates—as exemplified by the fictional *Downton Abbey*—and real American estates of the same time period, as typified by Henry Francis du Pont's Winterthur.

One difference that you will learn from the exhibit is that Americans, unlike the British, were not averse to new technology. Modern comfort was central to Winterthur and other great American houses of the period. American houses



Lady Mary wore this scalloped burgundy dress the evening of her engagement. Note the detail of the beading, at right.



Thomas, the scheming underbutler, wears the vest shown on the opening spread of this article. Note the detail of the family coat of arms on the buttons.



Mrs. Hughes, the housekeeper, and Mr. Carson, the butler, oversee the downstairs staff.



Anna, a lady's maid, serves tea on the grounds.



Cosprop Ltd., London. All Rights Reserved

bristled with new devices: from elevators and telephones to vast walk-in refrigerators and blue-tiled, heated swimming pools with underwater lighting.

The du Pont house on the Winterthur estate, like many other local properties, was not just a residence, but also a place of work. From 1904 to 1969, about 250 people lived and worked on the Winterthur property, which included a train station, a post office and 20 working farms.

To run the Winterthur house efficiently, between 24 and 34 people were needed, depending on the season and the particular year. The butler, housekeeper and cook each supervised their own staff, which included footmen, maids, laundresses, night watchmen, and the like. In addition, a personal staff (valet, lady's maid, children's nurse, secretaries) reported directly to the du Ponts.

Indoor employees, most of whom lived in the house, were distinct from those who worked outside. Gardeners, farm-workers, dairymen, carpenters, electricians, painters and chauffeurs lived in their own houses on the estate and did not regard themselves as domestic employees. However, even the people who worked in the house and whose wages included a room with a shared bath somewhere within the nine-story mansion avoided calling themselves "servants." It was a word the du Ponts also shunned. As H.F. du Pont's daughter, Ruth Lord (born in 1922), said recently, "Servant is a word I am unable to use. I can't imagine my father using it."

Americans, especially in this region, disdained using the word servant. "Help" or "employee" was preferred, words that emphasize the exchange of pay for labor rather than class and status differences.

This contrast in the use of language is just one of many key differences between the English and Americans that are examined in the exhibition. ♦

The Costumes of Downton Abbey is a wonderful vehicle to view clothing worn by some of our most beloved television characters as well as to look at our local, sometimes mysterious, country estate history. The exhibition runs until January 4, 2015. More at Winterthur.org

PHOTOS: NICK BRIGGS, JOSH BARRATT, GILES KEYTE, Carnival Film and Television Limited 2010, 2011, 2012

COSTUMES OF DOWNTON ABBEY PROGRAMMING

March 1-January 4, 2015 — This original exhibition inspired by the award-winning drama series features 40 historically inspired costumes and accessories worn upstairs and downstairs by the characters in *Downton Abbey*. Also on display are photographs and vignettes inspired by the fictional program and real life at Winterthur. Plus an exciting range of related programs.

Members-only Preview on *Costumes of Downton Abbey* Day

March 3, 10 to 5 p.m. — Behind the Scenes of *Costumes of Downton Abbey*, an informal and illustrated lecture by Tom Savage, director of museum affairs, and Maggie Lidz, estate historian, who will describe her London visit to choose the costumes. Guided Gallery Walks. Lectures at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Museum Stores and cafés open. Members free, guests admitted with guest pass. Call 800-448-3883 or 302-888-4600 for reservations.

~ Afternoon Lectures

Downton Within, Downton Beyond: Lunchtime Lecture Series. Lunchtime Lectures are at 12:15 p.m. in the Rotunda at Winterthur. The lectures offer an opportunity to consider the artful presentation of television fiction as well as the varying histories, values, issues and clothing of *Downton*'s evolving eras. Period undergarments spark your interest? Jazz and mixed societies? Changing roles of women and fashion? Members free. Included with admission.

March 20: How to Costume the Costume Drama: Design, Adaptation and Recycling at Downton. Alden O'Brien, Curator of Costume and Textiles, DAR Museum, Washington DC. How does the costume designer put together the look of a costume drama? Using vintage garments and vintage fragments in newly made designs, while designing new outfits and reusing costumes from earlier productions are all strategies used to create the cohesive and beautiful look of *Downton Abbey*.

April 17: Behind Jack Ross: Jazz, Romance and High Society Harlem. A'Lelia Bundles, Madam C. J. Walker biographer and Chairman, Foundation for the National Archives. Before Leslie Hutchinson—the inspiration for Jack Ross—arrived in London, he was part of a thriving community of African Americans traveling to Europe since the 19th century. Bundles has explored Harlem's elite and the fascinating network of trans-Atlantic American, British and French friendships and liaisons between the wars.

May 15: Downton Undressed: Underwear and the Fashionable Ideal in the Teens and Twenties. H. Kristina Haugland, Le Vine Associate Curator of Costume and Textiles & Supervising Curator for the Study Room, Dorrance H. Hamilton Center for Costume and Textiles, Philadelphia Museum of Art. Feminine undergarments changed dramatically during the *Downton* years, as curvaceous corsets and voluminous layers were replaced by flattening brassieres and scanty underthings. This generously illustrated talk explores the undergarments and attitudes behind the revolutionary shift from Edwardian to modern aesthetics.

~ Evening Lectures

This series is held at 6 p.m. at Copeland Lecture Hall.

March 11: Dumfries House: A Georgian Masterpiece Saved. The Hon. Mrs. Chetwode (Lucinda), Trustee of the Royal Collection Trust, will acquaint you with one of Scotland's most beautiful country houses. Completed by Robert Adam in 1759, the remarkably intact interiors were furnished by Chippendale and Edinburgh cabinetmakers. The contents were scheduled to be sold in 2007 until saved by HRH The Prince of Wales at the eleventh hour. Members \$5 / Non-Members \$15.

April 11: Castle Howard: Family Home and Restoration Drama. The Honorable Simon Howard discusses Castle Howard, home to the Howard family for over 300 years. This magnificent 18th-century residence is set on 1,000 acres of breathtaking landscape in the heart of North Yorkshire. Castle Howard became known to millions in 1981 as the location for the television adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, starring Anthony Andrews and Jeremy Irons. Members \$5 / Non-Members \$15.

~ Afternoon Teas & English Brunches

Held at the Winterthur Visitor Center

Afternoon Tea: March 15 & 16, 22 & 23, 29 & 30; April 12 & 13; May 18.

English Brunch: April 4 & 5, 19 & 20.

~ Historic Autos Display & Lecture

May 17: Display of Motorcars of the *Downton Abbey* era, 1912-30 and Lecture on Grand Motor Cars and Great Country Houses, 1905-41.

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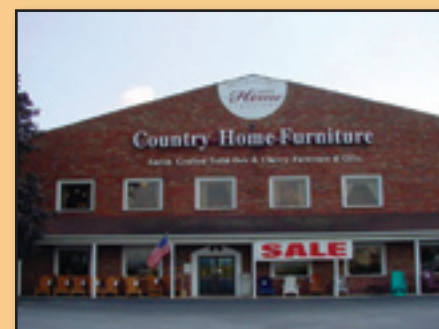
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Hit the Road

For day trips in Lancaster County.

Matt Freeman

It could be a scene from a film from the '60s—you, whizzing along on a scooter down country roads through postcard-perfect landscapes, passing farmhouses where clotheslines splash color in the sky, where sheep and cows pause their grazing to watch you pass, where sunflowers and bluebirds wheel past as a cheerful top-of-the-pops song plays in the soundtrack of your life.

And it's also a scene you could cast yourself in pretty much any time you feel like making a day trip to Lancaster County.

We've all been there already to see the traditional barns and buggies, of course—the Amish heritage has a world-famous

fascination. But Lancaster County is so close, so accessible, and most of all so diverse, that it richly rewards even casual exploration if you're looking for surprises and fun.

Rural Roads and Rails

Strasburg is south and east of Lancaster City, and for *County Lines*' readers, it's one of the closest of Lancaster County's more interesting villages. It's the home, unsurprisingly, of Strasburg Scooters, who'll put you atop a cute motorized two-wheeler (you only need a regular driver's license) and lead you down some of the area's most charming byways.

There's also the famous Strasburg Rail Road, where you can spend 45 minutes enjoying the mystique of a steam train rolling through those same farmlands. You can also visit an immense model-train layout at the nearby Choo Choo Barn and full-size trains at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania.

Strasburg has a strollable main street where you'll find the Springerle House Bakery and Strasburg Creamery both worth a stop. The Old Mill Antique Store is also in the area along with the Hershey Farm Restaurant & Inn and The Amish Village, where the kids and you can learn about life as lived by the Plain People of the area.



The Hotel Hershey has a luxurious spa, known as the Chocolate Spa, on site.



Adamstown is home to antiques malls and hearty restaurants, like Stoudt's Black Angus.



Cap a visit to Strasburg, a must for railroad fans, with a ride on a steam train.

Europe centuries ago, as if you'd stepped into a painting by Pieter Bruegel the Elder. The site offers excellent tours and interpretive materials; it's a must-see place for anyone interested in area history.

Lancaster County, with some of the most fertile soil in the world, is also a regional breadbasket, and if you want a side of locally grown groceries and traditional foodstuffs to go with the history, check out Ephrata's Green Dragon Farmer's Market & Auction. They're open Fridays with a wealth of the meats, baked goods and other foods the area is famous for.

If you love farm markets, you'll also want to visit the famous Shady Maple. It's off by itself in East Earl, which is okay because it's so big it needs the room.

Awash in Antiques

Let's say you're interested mainly in antiques—very, very interested in antiques. Then you'll want to head north to Adamstown, one of those places where antique vendors congregate in amazing profusion.

The main place to visit here is Stoudt's Black Angus Antiques Mall, mostly open Sundays, with more than 500 dealers of high-end antiques. The other main antiques outlet is Renninger's Antique Market, with more of a focus on collectibles and fun, church-sale style variety.

There are plenty of other dealers up and down the road, where you can keep on shopping until you're nearly dropping and need to stop back at Stoudt's, which also features a restaurant and the first microbrewery in Pennsylvania.

For History Lovers and Locavores

Southwest of Adamstown is Ephrata, home of the Ephrata Cloister. This complex of buildings, founded in 1732 by a German religious order, has been a tourist attraction since the 18th century, when people came to see the tallest buildings you could find outside of Philadelphia.

Today the fascination is more in the way the architecture lets you imagine yourself in central

Chocolate and Tchochkes

Lititz, a bit farther southwest from Ephrata, is a town with traditional tourist attractions that's since added a variety of upscale boutiques and become more of a strollable downtown.

The town is anchored by several longstanding sites, including the Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery, America's first commercial pretzel bakery. They have a tour that explains the history of the snack and then gives you a chance to tie your own pretzel and then eat a bunch of the finished product to build back your strength.

Lititz is also home to the Wilbur Chocolate Factory—one whole end of town smells like chocolate. You can visit the Wilbur Chocolate Factory Store, located next to a charming small-town park with a stream running through it.

In recent years, the town has seen an influx of hip boutiques you can dip in and out of as you stroll the tree-lined streets. There are also cafés to refresh yourself in, but for an old-world restaurant experience with the chance to drink and dine al fresco on nice days, visit the General Sutter Inn, where you can stay overnight if you're loving Lititz that much.

Southeast of Lititz is Intercourse. History does not record why it is named that—possibly as a test of visitors’ maturity—but there are nice shops to visit there, plus the Inn & Spa at Intercourse for longer stays. The town is something of a center for the region’s famous quilts with their geometric, Mondrian-style designs. One central place for shoppers to stop is the Kitchen Kettle Village.

Hip and Hopping City

People in Lancaster City don’t mind telling you it was pretty quiet there 15 or 20 years ago, but they’re even happier to tell you that has greatly changed. Much like Phoenixville, Lancaster City used the arts to draw people into its downtown, and its First Friday arts stroll is now considered one of the region’s best.

If you’re interested in the arts you’ll want to visit the Demuth Museum, home of life-long Lancaster resident Charles Demuth, an acclaimed modernist painter who

studied in Paris and hobnobbed with William Carlos Williams.

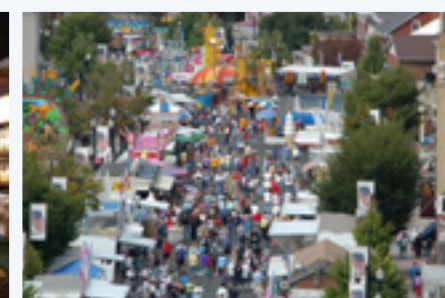
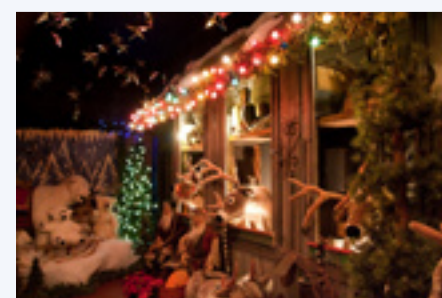
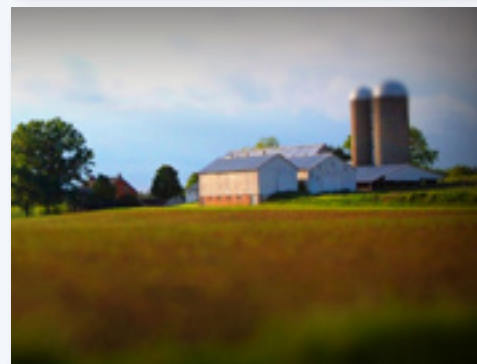
It’s not just the visual arts that have brought life to Lancaster City. There’s plenty of music—on the street and at Lancaster Symphony—plus theater, opera and other cultural activity going on in the city these days.

And if it was good enough for Charles Demuth a century ago, he’d be pretty psyched to come back and see what’s going on today. If he did, and found himself hungry and thirsty from the trip, he could stop off at the Central Market, the nation’s oldest continually operating farmer’s market. Or if he didn’t feel like cooking, he could visit the Lancaster Brewing Company or check out many other local options.

Spring in Lancaster County brings the traditional auctions called mud sales (read more in the sidebar), and of course you can always visit or revisit the well-known attractions to be found up and down Route 30. Outdoor activities are also part of the mix.

A good way to see what’s available is to visit the county’s tourism website *PaDutchCountry.com*, but all you really need for your own surprising, fun Lancaster County day trip is a little free time and an appetite for a bit of convenient, accessible adventure. ♦

Photos courtesy: Rob Swatski and PA Dutch Country



Mud Sales

It’s Mud Sale time again: That time when the fire departments of Lancaster County auction off buggies, carriages, farm equipment, furniture, antiques, local crafts, home-made quilts, livestock, tools, produce, garden items, and much, much more. Like Old McDonald’s farm buffet. Or should I say *das Buffet der alt Bauer Stolzfluss*.

The first mud sales were held in the ’60s, with profits going to support fire companies. They’ve been expanding ever since. Some draw 20,000, with as many as eight auctions conducted at once.

The sales occur primarily in March, April and May, but Strasburg has already held its first. The name Mud Sales comes from the spring thaw plus the tromping of farmers’ boots leaves the site in a well, muddy condition.

So, don’t dress up for it. Thousands of Amish—men mainly in felt or straw hats and black pants; women in black dresses, bonnets or head scarves—congregate in fields around 8 a.m., mainly on Saturdays. About half the crowd is Amish; about half is “English,” or not Amish.

Even if you’re not in the market for, say, a pig or a plow there’s always good home-cooked food for sale. Enjoy a sticky bun, funnel cake or pretzel. Then watch the auctioneer call the auction and the bidders get excited.

Upcoming Mud Sales

(most benefit local fire companies)

Mar. 1 & 15, Bart Township Auction & Mud Sale, 11 Furnace Rd., Quarryville, 717-786-3348

Mar. 8, Gordonville Spring Mud Sale & Auction, Old Leacock Rd., Gordonville, 717-768-3869

Mar. 15, Penryn Volunteer Fire Co Sale, 1441 N. Penryn Rd., Manheim

Mar. TBD, West Earl Fire Co Quilt & Consignment Auction, 14 School Lane Ave., Brownstown, 717-989-5986

Mar. 21-22, Gap Fire Co Sale, 802 Pequea Ave., Gap, 717-442-9549

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Painted English cabinet, mid-19th century, with hand-carved rope trim detail.
Antiquities
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Antiques in the Valley Show
610-779-0705; OleyValleyAntiqueShow.com



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 CarriageHouse.html
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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

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

NEW HOLLAND

Martin's Chair

124 King Court
 717-355-2177; MartinsChair.com
 Family-owned and operated for over 50 years, Martin's Chair has been the premier name for 18th-century reproduction Windsor chairs, tables and cupboards. These pieces can be found in homes throughout the world and well-known places such as Colonial Williamsburg, the White House, Mt. Vernon and the Guggenheim Museum. The Martin family welcomes you to come visit their showroom and workshop. It's time to take your heirloom home.

Witmer Quilt Shop

1070–76 W. Main St. 717-656-9526
 More than 100 antique quilts dating to 1875 and later, along with a good selection of new, traditional Amish-made quilts and wall hangings, displayed in three rooms in an old farmhouse. Emma Witmer also does special orders and custom-made designs.

POTTSTOWN

Alegacy Furniture

Rt. 100, between Rts. 422 & 23
 610-970-4340; AlegacyFurniture.com
 Who doesn't love American-made home furnishings? Alegacy Furniture's showroom features room settings of many styles of hardwood furniture and top-grain leather seating, all MADE IN USA! The hardwood furniture is made to order, with options for modifying existing styles or custom designing furniture for your home. Visit their showroom and make your dreams reality!


WEST CHESTER

The Merchant of Menace Art Gallery

1351 W. Strasburg Rd.
 215-704-7419; TheMerchantOfMenace.net
 Specializing in the re-imagining of found objects into new art forms by crafting everyday items into living testaments to the possibilities of second acts for all of us. From furniture crafted from barn wood, to animal sculptures from antique tractor parts, the Merchant of Menace sees art in them all. ♦



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2014 REGIONAL ANTIQUES SHOWS

MARCH 1-2

Heart of the Valley Antiques Show

The Ice House, 56 River St.
Bethlehem, 610-588-6961; WDIY.org

MARCH 8-9

Atlantic City Antiques Show

Trump Taj Mahal
1000 Boardwalk at Virginia Ave.
Atlantic City, NJ, 973-927-2794; JMKShows.com

MARCH 8-9

Elverson Spring Antiques Show & Sale

Twin Valley High Sch. 4897 N. Twin Valley Rd.
Elverson, 610-207-7105

MARCH 15-16

The Baltimore Antique Arms Show

Maryland State Fairgrounds Cow Palace
2200 York Rd. (Rt. 45), Timonium, MD
301-865-6804; BaltimoreShow.com

MARCH 15-16

Antiques at Kimberton Show

2276 Kimberton Rd., Kimberton
AntiquesAtKimberton.VPWeb.com

APRIL 4-6

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 pm, with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, buffet, \$130. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5; appraisals, Sun, 11 to 1. \$15.

APRIL 26-29

The Philadelphia Antiques Show: Antiques & Art 17th-20th Century

Pennsylvania Convention Center, Hall F
12th & Arch Sts., Philadelphia
610-902-2109; PhilaAntiques.com

Approximately 65 leading antiques dealers and galleries bring their finest pieces. The Loan Exhibit, *Art and Life in an Extraordinary New England Village*, features 30 objects celebrating the diversity of collections at Historic Deerfield in Deerfield, MA. Show benefits The Penn Center for Human Performance. Preview Fri, 6 to 9:30, early admission at 5, \$175-\$600. Sat & Mon, 11 to 8; Sun, 11 to 6; Tues, 11 to 4. \$12-\$20.

APRIL 12-13

Antique City Fun Fair Festival

Lehigh University Rauch Fieldhouse



Chester County Antiques Show

GPS: 123 Goodman Dr., Bethlehem
800-822-4119; AntiqueCityShow.com

APRIL 24-26

Renningers Antiques & Collectors Extravaganza

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

APRIL 27

Renningers Antiques Market Sunday

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

MAY 1-2

Greater York Antique Show

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

MAY 23-26

Brandywine River Museum 43rd Annual Antiques Show

Rt. 1 at the Museum, Chadds Ford
610-388-8318 (preview)
610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org
Outstanding dealers from across the nation present American and English 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

Lititz Historical Foundation's 51st Annual Antiques Show & Sale

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

JUNE 20-21

Antiques in the Valley

Oley Valley Middle School
3247 Friedensburg Rd., Oley
710-310-4488; OleyValleyAntiquesShow.com
Sixty of the most respected antiques dealers showcase their finest 18th-, 19th- and early-20th-century furniture, folk art, primitives, textiles, china and related decorative arts. Plus a special display of items from the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center. Benefits scholarships to worthy students at Oley Valley High School. Fri, 11 to 6; Sat, 10 to 4. \$10.

JUNE 26-28

Renningers Ant. & Coll. Extravaganza

See April 24-26 listing.

JUNE 29

Renningers Antiques Market Sunday

See April 27 listing.

AUGUST 21-24

Baltimore Summer Antiques Show

Baltimore Convention Center
One West Pratt St., Baltimore, MD
561-822-5440; BaltimoreSummerAntiques.com

AUGUST 23

Lititz Springs Park Antique Show

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

AUGUST 24

Historic New Castle, DE Antiques Show

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

SEPTEMBER 25-27

Renningers Ant. & Coll. Extravaganza

See April 24-26 listing.

SEPTEMBER 28

Renningers Antiques Market Sunday

See April 27 listing.

OCTOBER

Berks County Antique Art Show

Greshville Antiques & Fine Art



Before

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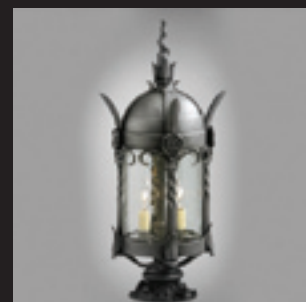
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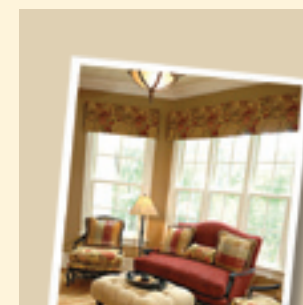


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610-367-0076; GreshvilleAntiques.com

OCTOBER
The Greater York Antique Show & Sale
See May 17-18 show listing.

NOVEMBER
Bucks Cty. Antiques Dealers Assn. Show
Eagle Fire Hall, Rt. 202 & Sugan Rd., New Hope
215-860-5211; BCADAPA.org

NOVEMBER 7-9
51st 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 14-16
The Main Line Antiques Show
Cabrini College
610 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor
484-580-9609; MainLineAntiquesShow.com
Many distinguished dealers offer 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. 14. Details TBA. ♦

ANTIQUES in the VALLEY

Special Note – The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center plans to discuss and display items from Berks County plus artifacts from their museum collection.

June 20th & 21st, 2014
Friday, 11am-6pm Saturday, 10am-4pm

Oley Valley Middle School
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60 Outstanding Antique Dealers will be Showcasing their Finest 18th, 19th and early 20th Century Pieces

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We're getting ready for Spring with an extensive new selection of home furnishings, garden accessories, seasonal florals, primitives, pottery, scents and other accents to create a fresh new look for your home both inside and out. Don't miss our distinctive new line of personal gifts & jewelry.

Spring Open House

Fri. March 7th 10-7
Sat. March 8th 10-5:30
Sun. March 9th 1-5

We've been Spring Cleaning at
The Carriage House

Rts. 926 & 82 in Willowdale Town Center,
Kennett Square, PA
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No Time for a Holiday? Take a Spa- liday!

Jane Gallagher

*Running short on time, but in
desperate need of a trip to the spa?
Relax! You can get polished and
pampered in a lunch hour with these
quick spa fixes.*

Work has you stressed out, kids' activities fill your calendar, and your spouse needs some attention. Between preparing family dinners, meeting this week's work deadlines, and attending next week's school events, when March rolls around you barely have time to breathe, let alone take a break.

When you least have time for a little indulgence is exactly when you need it most. And while summer holidays are still a dream, a spring spa-liday doesn't have to be!

Spas and salons across *County Lines* country know that every minute is important. That's why they've come up with a menu of services that won't take long, but will last you through the rest of the winter. So you'll feel like you spent a weekend away, when all you did was take a lunch break.

Healthy Hair in Half the Time

Bad hair in the morning can ruin your whole day. Avoid any chance of a bad day, and take your lunch break in your hair stylist's chair.

Balance Hair Spa in Exton is a prime destination for those looking for expert, fashion-forward color and style. Their trained colorists begin every session with an in-depth consultation about the health and strength of your hair—before finding the ideal shade to match your lifestyle, wardrobe and coloring. Next, you can sit back and order a delicious salad or sand-

wich from a local restaurant, while they work their magic right before your eyes.

Then shift to a comfy leather styling chair for the latest cut. Before you head back to the office, they'll teach you how to make sure your hair doesn't just look great as you come out of the salon, but all the time.

According to owners Thomas Crisp and Biff Piner, "Each new guest receives a custom, take-home prescription slip recommending an at-home regimen and products to preserve the integrity of their color and style." Perfect for those on the go and to extend the life of your new 'do.

If you're looking to refresh and update your 'do, but aren't ready to commit to a new cut and color, then a blowout at Currie, Hair Skin & Nails might be just the ticket. Enjoy a relaxing wash, professional blow drying and on-trend styling, and in less than 40 minutes you'll return to the office as a beauty, before you boss even realizes you were gone.

Best Face Forward

First impressions are important. And let's face it ... they start with your face.

Environmental factors, inadequate sleep and worry all take their toll on your face. For those out in Lancaster County, a stop at The Inn & Spa at Intercourse Village can help improve the overall health of your skin with an Express Facial. The treatment takes only 30 minutes, working to oxygenate your skin and relax the senses by using pure essential oils and botanical extracts, and

"What I think we do is to encourage a sense of community. We happen to sell real estate and farms but in the end, we really help people find where they are supposed to be."
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Winter Wellness

is the perfect experience when the stress of life becomes too much.

If your concerns are more than skin deep, go beneath the surface with a Lunchtime Facelift. West Chester's La Difference Salon & Day Spa can help reduce fine lines and wrinkles, blend blemishes and hyper pigmentation, or even remove the appearance of pores or age spots with their progressive (not aggressive!) micro-dermabrasion treatments.

Want to look fresh and radiant fast? How about as fast as a New York minute? At Currie, Hair Skin & Nails you can cleanse, tone and moisturize in a fraction of the time with their New York Minute Facial.

Other fantastic face treatments at these and other area spas that you can do quickly but with long-lasting results include a revitalizing eye rescue, which removes dulling debris, while firming and toning your tired eyes until they look renewed. A super smoothing masque helps reduce irritation to leave your skin glowing. And nourishing lip treatments—exfoliating, a lip masque, a lip contouring massage—will leave you with softened, plumped and luscious lips. And a sunnier smile.

Take a Full Body Beauty Break

Winter months are when your skin craves moisture most. Satisfy your body's need in a surprisingly speedy way—with a treatment that's like a facial, but from head to toe.

Body polishes, like those at Polished Spa and Salon in Wayne, are designed to exfoliate and hydrate your skin, leaving it smooth and soft.

Owner Marina Selverian's Transforming Body Polish combines a relaxing surface massage with exfoliating marine salts to slough away dry and dead skin

cells. Sometimes called a salt scrub, the treatment is followed by a soothing rinse. All in just 50 minutes.

Another time-saver is a stress-relieving Swedish massage, concentrating on releasing tension in the back, neck and shoulders, which relieves the strain, tightness and knots caused by holding in stress and tension. The perfect way to refresh and relax your body between the seasons—also in less than one hour!

If you normally spend your lunch hour in the gym, why not switch things up and spend that time at the spa. Blossom MedSpa in Lancaster offers a 60-minute Sport Massage that's specially designed for those with a mean tennis backhand or a quick six-minute mile. Special stretching techniques that are part of this sports massage also work to enhance motor performance and rehabilitate sore muscles.

Standing on your feet all day can cause a slew of health problems, from back aches to neck stiffness. Solve the problem at the source. Cambio Salon Spa in Media offers Foot Focus Reflexology, a 30-minute treatment that uses pressure-point massage to restore the flow of energy throughout the body. Rejuvenation from head to toe.

So Many Options, in So Little Time

Maybe a manicure is all you need to feel refreshed. Or a pedicure to put a bounce in your step. Better yet—why not both?

Head to Avante Spa and Salon in West Chester, and get a perfect 20 in under 10, minutes that is. A two-in-one mani/pedi will pamper your hands and feet at once. Save even more time and opt for a long-lasting gel manicure that can stay chip-free for up to two weeks.

If you just can't wait for a natural summer glow, Glow Skin Care Spa in Phoenixville is where you'll get beautifully bronze skin all year long. Their Airbrush Treatments—a cocktail of color and skin enhancing nutrients like aloe vera and coenzyme Q10—are applied by trained technicians to make sure your skin is healthy and happy, and not sun-damaged or orange.

Blossom and Polished also offer makeup application sessions. Invest just 45 minutes with a professionally trained makeup artist to learn the latest tricks and trends and give your look a boost. You'll look great both night and day with products that are actually good for your skin.

If you don't ask, you won't know! We suggest that if you have limited time to spare, ask your spa or salon professionals to recommend the best services for your busy schedule. They can customize a mini-spa package that's perfect for you and your calendar.

With no more excuses, and so many options, why not send yourself on a spa-day ... today? ♦



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BELGRAVE FARM

Laurel Anderson

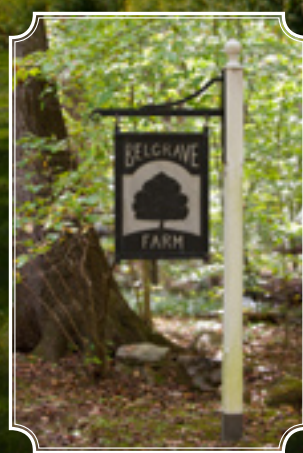
History Exquisitely Restored in Willistown Township

Willistown Township contains some of the most beautiful land in the Delaware Valley, wrote John Charles Nagy and Penny Teaf Goulding in *Acre of Quakers*, describing open fields that slope into Ridley Creek valley and along winding banks of Crum Creek. The area also boasts distinctive examples of 18th- and 19th-century vernacular architecture. Belgrave Farm is one of those special properties.

Enjoying the privacy afforded by 35 conserved acres surrounding the main residence, barn, riding ring, paddock, pond and landscaped grounds, Belgrave Farm is sheltered in a quiet hollow along Ridley Creek. Set back from Garrett Mill Road, the home is reached by a winding drive across a stream. You'll pass the barn that has housed horses as well as a spacious playroom and note its period conical stone forebay supports. Then you will pass the Quaker shed that is now used a three-car garage, as you approach the magnificent main house.

History of a Home

A circular drive brings you to the site of a classic Chester County farmhouse, identified in *Acre of Quakers* as the Edward Sill House, c. 1840, with roots in the late 18th century, but now most notable for its meticulous restoration and 21st-century amenities. Like most old stone farmhouses of the region, this one tells the story of the history and prosperity of the owners through the several obvious, yet compatible, additions marked by intersecting rooflines.



The home's four major sections result from the careful design by noted architect Peter Zimmerman, of Berwyn, who transformed the property about ten years ago. Requesting a home that was true to the period and in harmony with the landscape, the owners had prior additions torn down so the redesign could be done right, down to the details. And there's

beauty in those details.

The resulting home is a masterpiece of understated, elegant design that capitalizes on views of Ridley Creek and sounds

from the 11-foot waterfall upstream. The L-shape of the home's footprint allows many windows, porches and decks to open to the creek. With 20 rooms in about 10,000 square feet, the home's interior unfolds in a comfortable, surprisingly light-filled space.

Five bedrooms, six full and two half baths, seven fireplaces, modern kitchen, family room, office/library, billiard room, au pair suite, sauna and more are connected through two stories by spacious hallways, several with interior windows for added light.

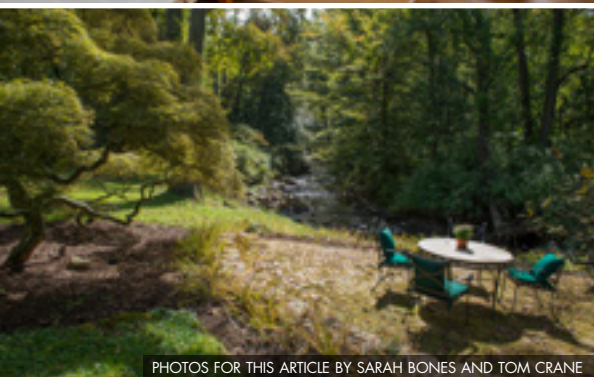
Main House and Grounds

The main foyer takes you through an archway to the sun-filled living room, with French doors and large windows—12-over-12—on three sides. Decorative moldings, built-ins, paneling, a fireplace and other details make the space as beautiful as it is comfortable. The rough-sawn, wide-oak plank wood floors give this 21st-century addition the feel and warmth of hundreds of years of history.

Through the back hall you enter the gourmet kitchen with impressive Aga range, Viking refrigerator and marble

island. An informal dining space off the kitchen has the feel of a garden room, with its perfectly framed view of Ridley Creek. A large butler's pantry separates this space from the formal dining room.

Perhaps a prime example of creative use of old space converted for contemporary living is the new library/office. Rather than retaining two small, low-ceilinged rooms in the original house, architect Zimmerman created a two-story open space with bookshelves lining the walls and stairway. This gem—with sculptural staircase, cozy feel and creek-view—is a dream space.



PHOTOS FOR THIS ARTICLE BY SARAH BONES AND TOM CRANE

A family room, stunning billiards room with the feel of a hunting lodge, and guest suite with a private screened porch round out this section.

Through the family entrance, a mud-room/sports room—complete with benches for taking off cleats or riding boots—dog room and potting room keep the traffic and animals separate from the more formal areas. An au pair's suite, with private entrance, is upstairs.

Above the new living room is the equally new master suite, also with windows on three sides and creek views, along with separate his-and-her bathrooms, dressing areas and large screened porch. Again, ample built-ins make for easy living and the onyx floor and shower, with warm wood wainscoting and dressing area in "his" bath, make living luxurious. More bedrooms and

baths and the third-floor sauna complete this space.

Woods border the road while spacious level fields and sweeping lawn are a fitting backdrop for the gracious home and outbuildings. Ridley Creek provides trout, as well as the waterfall soundtrack, while the pond provides space for a floating dock. The barn, paddock, and riding ring can support equestrian dreams. And the landscaped gardens—with crabapple trees by the front door, formal boxwood garden by the rear entrance, and perennial plantings—will satisfy any gardener. ♦

Belgrave Farm, an exquisitely restored mill house with 5 bedrooms and 6.2 bathrooms set on 35 acres, is offered by Country Properties, Berkshire Hathaway, Fox & Roach. Contact Georgianna Hannum Stapleton for pricing and more information, 610-347-2065; TheCountryProperties.com.



Rather than retaining two small, low-ceilinged rooms in the original house, architect Zimmerman created a two-story, open library with bookshelves lining the walls and stairway in this creative use of old space.



C'est VINTAGE

Moira O'Neal

Find out what's important before you put a few bottles aside for special occasions.

How do we know how wines will age? Which wines are worth setting aside in the wine cellar? How long should we let them age? Do they “go bad”? All questions a wine collector may ask before investing in wines for the future.

Although one article isn't enough to let you stock a wine cellar, here are a few fundamentals that will help you understand more about what makes a fine vintage, plus some good recommendations.

First, certain wines are classic “aging” appellations: Barolo from Piedmont, Italy; Sauternes and Chateauneuf-du-Pape from France; Ribera Del Duero from Spain; Rieslings from Germany; Vintage ports from Portugal. Looking for wines from these areas is a good start. And some California are worth adding to your cellar.

Next, a good vintage chart is an important tool to have. This resource advises on vintages worth collecting and when specific vintages are ideal to consume. You can find one at FineWineAndGoodSpirits.com (under Learn, then Resources), among other places.

It's also worth knowing what happens when wines age. There are four components of wine—acid, tannins, sugar and fruit—that determine if it will improve over time. The extent and interplay of these factors affect a wine's capacity to age well. For example, as wine ages, its acidity flattens out, so a wine that starts out with a higher acid content will have a longer aging capacity. When tannins break down, the wine becomes softer and this allows the secondary fruit flavors to develop. You'll find that wines with a high sugar content—Sauternes and ports—are great candidates for aging because sugar is a preservative. And finally, a wine's fruit

components must be in balance with the acid, tannins and sugar or the resulting aging will be for naught.

One more point: most wines are produced to be drunk shortly after you buy them. Those worth keeping for a few years—to let them age—tend to be more expensive than what you'll grab for your weekly Saturday sipping.

FOR YOUR CELLAR

With that quick introduction, you're ready for some suggestions of wines worth investing in.

Barolos from Italy's Piedmont (northwest and bordering France) are made from the Nebbiolo grape, which is very high in tannins. These wines can age for at least a decade. A young Barolo exhibits notes of strawberry and cherry fruit, with tobacco, leather and licorice. Yet as it ages, the wine's flavors and aromas change to dried flowers, stewed fruit, menthol, tar and baking spices. Try *Vietti Barolo Castiglione 2009* (\$39.99), good through 2030.

Chateauneuf-du-Pape, from the southern Rhone Valley in France, is a powerful wine. A blend of up to 13 different varietals, this wine can have great aging potential. The wine shows earthy aromas of leather, tar and dark fruit as well as flavors of cherries, kirsch, black pepper and spice. Aging gives these wines a silky mouth



feel. Try *La Guigasse Chapelle St. Theodorice Chateauneuf-du-Pape 2011* (\$49.99), good through 2023.

Here in the United States, California produces some great wines with cellar potential. Try something from Napa, the premier wine region, like a blend of Cabernet Franc and Merlot that shows notes of black cherries, mint, licorice, sage and tobacco. Try *Anderson's Conn Valley Right Bank Blend* (\$69.99*), good through 2027.

For white wine lovers, Rieslings from The Mosel in Germany (along the Mosel River on the western border) have long been considered some of the most age-worthy wines. Grapes are picked at such a high acid level and fermentation is halted at a fairly low alcohol level, so the acid/sugar balance is perfect. The resulting flavors include peach and marmalade with honey and sometimes show aromas of petrol. Try *Dr. Pauly Bergweiler Riesling Spatlese Mosel Bernkasteler Badstube 2011* (\$29.99), good through 2030.

DRINK IT NOW

If you're looking for vintage wines that are good to drink now, try some older wines from Spain. Spanish wines are classically powerful with smoke, mineral, oak and fruit.

Vega Sicilia Valbuena from Ribera Del Duero is a striking wine that's dark purple and very fragrant, with aromas of graphite, cassis, brioche and blackberries. The complex layers of flavors wash over your palate with richness, and it's superbly balanced. Try this one now, or hold: *Vega Sicilia Valbuena 2003* (\$161.49*), good through 2025.

Another delightful choice, Claraval from Calatayud, has glass-coating viscosity and a purple hue. It has intriguing scents of smoke, black cherry, violets and earth with layers of spice, sweet dark fruit and dried flower flavors. Ripe but softened tannins, good balance and a long finish carry this wine through. Try this one now, or hold: *Bodegas Y Vinedos*

Del Jalon Claraval 2006 (\$35.99), good through 2020.

DESSERT WINES

Sweet dessert wines are well known for their longevity. Sauternes, from the Bordeaux region in France, are made from Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc grapes that are affected by Botrytis cinerea. Botrytis, a fungus known as Noble Rot, essentially dries out the grape so the sugars and flavors become concentrated and powerful.

As a younger wine, Sauternes have aromas of almond, honey and melon, but with age these flavors gain depth and show brioche, fig, crème brûlée and salted caramel. Try *Chateau Guiraud Sauternes 2009* (\$53.99 for 375 mL), good through 2040.

Port is a fortified dessert wine with a remarkable aging potential. Young ruby ports show characters of blackberry, cherry and black currant. As port ages, the tannins and fruit flavors soften to become velvety smooth and nuanced with a nuttiness and butterscotch aroma that will develop. The color changes as well, going from deep red to brick to amber.

For a special treat, try vintage port, made from the very best fruit of an outstanding vintage. There can often be three to five years between “declared” vintages, and 2011 is reportedly outstanding, so stock up now. Coffee, chocolate and licorice aromas blend with violets and resin, while dark fruit and cherry flavors show great depth. Try *Taylor Fladgate Vintage 2011 Port* (\$45.99 for 375 mL), good through 2045.

The last question: “Does wine go bad?” Yes, a wine can be aged past its prime. It can become oxidized and lose its fruit flavors, and will soften to the point it's no longer enjoyable. So, final advice: drink your wine in its prime. Don't hoard your wine or wait for “the perfect”—the perfect meal, the perfect guests, the perfect occasion (something I'm personally guilty of). Your cellar is meant to be enjoyed, so celebrate!

* Online exclusive through Pennsylvania's Fine Wine and Good Spirits website.

Moira O'Neal, a Southern Chester County native, has 15 years of experience in the wine industry. She's grown wine grapes in McLaren Vale, South Australia and The Finger Lakes in New York. Then in 2002, she became an assistant winemaker at The Chaddsford Winery. She's currently The Retail Wine Specialist at the Fine Wine & Good Spirits West Goshen Store.



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



Food For Thought.

Sing and dance your way to healthy living with **Nature Jams**. Rob Young and Zach Ladin write and perform

music about nutrition, the environment and learning how to play music by touring schools and other venues in Chester County. The guys perform an interactive show as a fun and quirky way for kids to learn about nature and healthy eating. We hear they do a kickin' song about an avocado! Learn more at NatureJams.Net.

The Lincoln Room's Final Address.

Four score and seven years ago ... well, actually more like six years ago, Susan Johnstone brought forth to West Chester **The Lincoln Room** and opened its doors to tearoom fans. We're sorry to say they're closing them in May. With a delectable menu of soups, sandwiches, quiche, scones and looseleaf teas, The Lincoln Room has been a monument to West Chester's history and dining scene. Make sure to have a cuppa before it's too late. LincolnRoomWestChester.com.



Green Day.

Put on your "Kiss Me I'm Irish" t-shirt or emerald-colored anything and prepare for the big day in green. Visit West Chester's signature Irish pubs—**Kildare's** and **Ryan's**—for some traditional Irish hospitality. Head out of town to **The Blarney Stone**, north to **Molly Maguire's** in Phoenixville, or over to **McKenzie Brew House** in Malvern, Devon and Glenn Mills for some Guinness or O'Reilly's Irish Red. Eat something substantial, like corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie, and Irish potatoes—the cooked or candy style. *Erin go bragh!*

Farm to Food Truck.

One woman on a mission: to satisfy pie lovers across Chester County with her home-made pies. Can she do it?

Molly Johnston is serving up a slice of something special with her award-winning collection of pies and quiches. From traditional sweet pies—blackberry and pecan—to savory pies—spicy cilantro chicken and sausage tomato mozzarella—**Nomadic Pies** has food made from local, organic, sustainable sources. You can find Molly and her signature purple latticed truck at local farm markets, like West Chester Artisan Exchange, Kennett Square Farmers Market and more. NomadicPies.com.



How Bizarre.

March pays homage to familiar food favorites from Irish potatoes to corned beef and cabbage. But for foodies, there's more to March than meets the eye, or

the mouth. Each of its 31 days celebrates an unusual food: **National Absinth Day** (also **Cheese Doodles Day**) on the 5th, **National Artichoke Heart Day** on the 16th, **National Melba Toast** on the 23rd, and **National Water Day** on the 22nd. Be sure to check out all the other wacky food holidays March has to offer. TheNibble.com.



Indian Food

Laura Muzzi Brennan

Add some spice to your March cooking.

One forkful of creamy, tangy chicken tikka masala, and I fell for Indian food. We were blissfully happy for years, meeting in restaurants, keeping our relationship as light as naan. But when I decided I wanted more—to cook my own mindblowing vindaloos, to grind cumin seeds by hand—things got complicated. With lamb patties crumbling in the skillet and a bland chana masala (a vegetarian dish with chick peas) to boot, I experienced firsthand the bumpy path of true love. I've stayed on it, though, doing lots of research—both the eating and reading kinds—and enlisting the advice of a professional.

Pushpinder Singh and his family run Shere-E-Punjab in Glen Mills, Media and Drexel Hill where they serve dishes native to the Punjab region of northern India. (Incidentally, the overwhelming majority of the world's Indian restaurants serve northern Indian dishes.)

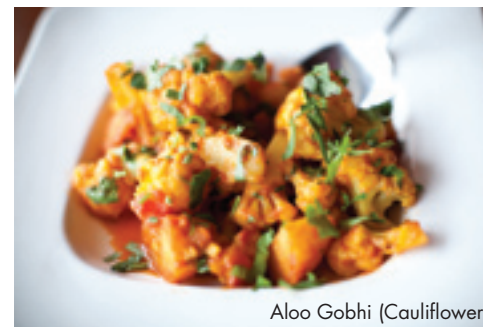
About the differences between northern and southern Indian cuisines, Singh explains, "Northern Indian is not as spicy as southern, and we eat more bread than rice." Since fresh vegetables are the corner-

stone of many northern dishes, his family grows their own organically in their home gardens.

All that said, Shere-E-Punjab's menu does not lack for meat or rice, and diners may choose the spice level of any dish, from a mild 1 to a fire alarm 5. Popular offerings at the several branches include lamb vindaloo, chicken tikka masala and saag paneer, (a dish with paneer cheese and spinach).



Chicken Tikka Masala



Aloo Gobhi (Cauliflower)



Lamb Vindaloo

The last one, Singh says, lends itself well to home cooking. Given my earlier failures, I ask plenty of questions. Is ghee necessary to achieve a rich flavor? Not at all. Since many of his patrons want to eat healthfully, he uses olive and soybean oil in place of the clarified butter. Should I purchase any special equipment? No. Singh assures me

I probably already own all the necessary frying pans, bowls and dishes. Last, must I make spice blends from scratch? Ideally, yes. In Shere-E-Punjab's kitchens, they buy whole spices, toast if necessary and then grind them.

Once informed, I took to cooking Indian food with renewed passion. After four solid days in the kitchen, I gained an insight or two into its delicious idiosyncrasies. The main one: Indian cooking is slow cooking, especially for the uninitiated. There's ginger to be grated, rice needing a soak and chicken that requires an all-day bath in yogurt marinade. A shortcut is okay here and there: after making one batch of garam masala, (a spice mixture with cardamom seeds, cinnamon sticks, coriander, whole cloves, black peppercorns and cumin seeds) I purchased the next from a high quality spice vendor, and my shrimp biryani turned out just fine.

But in Indian cooking as in romance, taking the time to do the little things yields the greatest happiness.



Tandoori Mixed Grill

Chicken Tikka Masala

There are hundreds of recipes for chicken tikka masala. I adapted this one from Aarti Sequeira of *The Food Network*.

Note: When I found myself a little short of fresh ginger, I reached into my spice cupboard for the crystallized ginger used for sweet baked goods such as gingerbread. It worked just fine and saved me a trip to the market.

For the garlic-ginger paste:

- ½ C. cloves garlic, peeled (about 10 large)
- ½ C. pieces of fresh ginger
- 1 Tb. olive oil

For the chicken and marinade:

- 1 C. plain yogurt
- 3 Tb. garlic-ginger paste
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- Pinch of black pepper
- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1" chunks

For the sauce:

- 3 Tb. butter
- 2 tsp. olive oil
- ⅓ C. garlic-ginger paste
- 2 Serrano chiles, seeded and minced
- 2 Tb. tomato paste (I used the double concentrated variety in a tube.)
- 1 tsp. garam masala
- 2 tsp. sweet smoked paprika (or cook's choice)
- 1, 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes, with juices
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- ½-1 C. water
- ¾ C. heavy cream

To make the garlic-ginger paste:

Pulse ingredients in a food processor or blender to form a paste. It will still have some finely minced pieces to add a little texture, but you don't want anyone to bite into a large chunk.

To make the marinade:

Combine yogurt, garlic-ginger paste, salt and pepper in a large bowl. Toss chicken to coat. Cover and refrigerate for 4-6 hours or overnight.

To make the sauce:

Melt butter and olive oil in a high-sided skillet or Dutch oven

Indian Cuisine: Cheat Sheet

Don't know a dal from a masala? Here's a quick guide to some common terms.

Biryani: a spice-infused rice dish containing meat, seafood and/or vegetables.

Curry: a catch-all term that refers to any stew-like dish with meat and/or vegetables cooked in a sauce of classic Indian spices (cumin, coriander, chiles and turmeric).

Curry leaves: shiny, dark green leaves with a lemony flavor. A popular ingredient in South Asian cooking, these leaves have no relation to curry powder.

Curry powder: a spice mix created by the British in the 1700s. It usually includes cumin, coriander, turmeric, and pepper among other spices such as ginger and fenugreek.

Dal: dried legumes such as lentils and split peas or a soup-like dish made from dried legumes.

Ghee: clarified butter, made by boiling butter, allowing liquid to evaporate and

removing milk solids so only pure butterfat remains.

Korma: a mild to moderately spicy dish of braised meat in a thick, creamy sauce.

Masalas: spice mixtures at the heart of Indian cooking. The popular garam masala usually contains cardamom seeds, cinnamon sticks, coriander, whole cloves, black peppercorns and cumin seeds dry roasted in a skillet and ground either by hand with a mortar and pestle or a spice grinder.

Saag or saagwala: a dish made with leafy greens such as spinach or mustard leaves.

Vindaloo: a spicy hot dish made with meat or poultry infused with vinegar, garlic, tamarind and chiles. "Vindaloo" comes from "vin d' alho" meaning "wine and garlic" and reflects the dish's Portuguese origins.

over medium heat. Add garlic-ginger paste and Serrano chiles. Cook for 2 minutes.

Mix in tomato paste and cook another 2-3 minutes. Add garam masala and paprika and cook for 1 minute more. Add tomatoes, salt and ½ C. water.

Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer and cook until thickened, about 20 minutes. Add more water if the sauce seems too thick.

To assemble the dish:

While the sauce cooks, heat a grill pan on medium-high heat until almost smoking. Brush with oil. Cook chicken until just cooked through, turning once, about 5-6 minutes.

Blend the sauce in a food processor or blender until desired texture. (I prefer a sauce with little pieces of tomato rather than a perfectly smooth one.) Pour sauce back into skillet. Add chicken and simmer for about 10 minutes. Stir in cream. Serve with rice.

Makes 4-6 servings.

Shrimp Biryani

Labor-intensive but worth the effort. If you want to use uncooked shrimp,

just add a minute or two to the cooking time.



- 2 C. basmati rice
- 1-1½ lb. cooked shrimp, peeled and deveined, tails on
- ½ tsp. salt, plus more to taste
- ½ tsp. ground turmeric
- ½ bunch cilantro
- 2 Serrano chiles, seeded
- 1, 1" piece ginger, peeled
- ½ C. unsweetened coconut shreds or chips
- 4 large garlic cloves

- 3 C. plus 3-4 Tb. water, divided
- 4 Tb. vegetable oil, divided
- 2 tsp. garam masala
- 1 large onion, chopped
- Leaves from 4-5 sprigs mint, chopped
- 2 Tb. butter
- 1 bay leaf
- Juice from ½ lime

Preheat oven to 350°. Rinse rice and soak in cold water. Set aside until needed.

Toss shrimp with ½ tsp. salt and turmeric and refrigerate until needed.

Put cilantro, chiles, ginger, coconut and garlic in food processor and pulse. The mixture will be dry, so add 3-4 Tb. water, 1 Tb. at a time, until thick paste forms.

Heat 3 Tb. oil in an oven-safe, high-sided pan or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add garam masala and cook 30 seconds. Add onion and mint and cook, stirring constantly, 3-5 minutes, until onion starts to brown and soften. Stir in half of the paste and cook another 1-2 minutes. Add 3 C. water and salt to taste. Bring to a boil.

Drain rice and add it, along with butter, to boiling mixture. Bring back to a boil. Cover and place in oven and bake for 20 minutes.

While rice is in the oven, heat 1 Tb. oil in sauté pan over medium heat. Add remaining paste and bay leaf and cook for 1-2 minutes.

Add shrimp to paste and combine well. Cook until heated through, 1-2 minutes. Remove bay leaf. Toss shrimp and lime juice with cooked rice.

Makes 8 generous servings.

Chana Masala

Many of the recipes I looked at for this vegetarian dish were versions of Madhur Jaffrey's classic recipe. A renowned cookbook author and winner of the James Beard Award, Jaffrey is recognized as one of the world's authorities on Indian food. Here's my take on all of those adaptations. This dish improves with age; I like it best on the second or third day when the chickpeas have soaked up all those spices. Reheat slowly, adding

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a little vegetable broth or water if it's too thick. Serve with a dollop of cucumber raita.



- 1 Tb. vegetable oil
- 2 medium onions, minced
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1-2 tsp. grated ginger
- 1 Serrano chile, seeded

- and minced
- 1 Tb. ground coriander
- ¼ tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp. ground turmeric
- 1 Tb. ground cumin
- 2 tsp. smoked sweet paprika
- 1 tsp. garam masala
- 1, 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes, with juices
- 1 C. water
- ½ tsp. salt or to taste
- 2, 19-oz. cans chickpeas, drained & rinsed
- Juice of ½ lemon

Heat vegetable oil over medium high heat. Add onions, garlic, ginger and chile. Stirring frequently, cook for 3-5 minutes until onions brown.

Turn heat to medium and mix in coriander, cayenne, turmeric, cumin, paprika and garam masala. Cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring so that spices and onion mixture are well combined.

Add tomatoes, water, salt and chickpeas. Simmer uncovered for 10-15 minutes. Stir in lemon juice and adjust salt to taste.

Makes 6-8 main dish or 8-12 side dish servings.

Cucumber Raita

This cooling yogurt and cucumber condiment makes a pleasing contrast to many spicy Indian dishes and is delicious on naan. Some cucumber raitas include a seeded chopped Serrano chile, so feel free to add one.

1 large cucumber, seeded and cut into small dice
½ tsp. salt
1½ C. plain yogurt
1 Tb. chopped cilantro
1 Tb. chopped mint
1 tsp. cumin seeds
1 tsp. mustard seeds

Toss cucumber with salt and place in a colander. Drain for 15 minutes.

Mix drained cucumber in a bowl with yogurt, cilantro and mint. Refrigerate.

Meanwhile put cumin seeds and mustard seeds in a pan set over medium heat. Once seeds pop, remove from pan and allow to cool. Sprinkle over raita and return to refrigerator for 30 minutes or more. Serve cold.

Makes 2-2½ C.

Carrots with Fresh Dill

This is a subtly flavored side which provides a welcome balance to sauce-heavy dishes. I adapted it from Linda Fraser's The Book of Curries and Indian Foods. Asafetida powder, available at



Indian grocery stores and at a number of local spice stores, has a powerful scent that's difficult to describe. Some people say it smells like sweat; others note that when heated, it releases a garlicky, oniony aroma especially important to Indians who refrain from onions and garlic for religious reasons. If you can't find it, substitute minced garlic.

1 Tb. olive oil
2 Tb. butter
½ tsp. cumin seeds
Pinch of asafetida powder
2 tsp. minced ginger
1 Serrano chile, seeded and minced
1 tsp. ground coriander
¼ tsp. ground turmeric
1 lb. carrots, cut diagonally into ¼" disks
⅓ C. water
Lemon juice to taste
Salt to taste
3-4 Tb. chopped fresh dill

Heat olive oil and butter together over medium heat in a large skillet. Toss in cumin seeds and cook until they start to pop. Add asafetida, ginger, chile, coriander and turmeric and cook 1-2 minutes. Add carrots and water.

Cover and cook for 5-7 minutes until carrots are tender. Stir in salt, lemon juice and dill.

Makes 4-6 servings.

Broccoli and Cauliflower Dal Curry

I use red lentils with this dish because they cook faster than brown or green, and they lose their shape, making a more soupy dal.

4 Tb. butter
2 medium onions, chopped
1 tsp. chili powder
Pinch of black pepper
2 tsp. cumin
1 tsp. ground coriander
2 tsp. turmeric
1 C. red lentils
Juice of 1 lemon, divided
4-5 C. vegetable or chicken broth

½ C. unsweetened shredded coconut
Salt to taste
2 C. broccoli florets
2 C. cauliflower florets
¼ C. raisins, optional



Melt butter in a large saucepan or Dutch oven. Add onions and cook until they start to brown and soften, 3-5 minutes. Add chili powder, pepper, cumin, coriander and turmeric. Cook for 1 minute.

Add lentils, half of the lemon juice, 4 C. broth, coconut and salt to taste. Bring to a boil and then reduce heat. Simmer uncovered for 40 minutes, until lentils are tender.

As lentils cook, add additional water, ¼ C. at a time, if dal is getting too thick and dry. Add additional lemon juice and salt to taste.

Place broccoli and cauliflower in a microwave safe bowl with 2-3 Tb. water. Cover loosely with plastic wrap and microwave until they can just be pierced with a fork. (I like them to have some crunch left, but if you like more tender vegetables, increase the cooking time). Drain vegetables.

Mix into dal and cook for a few more minutes. Toss in raisins if desired. Serve over rice.

Makes 6-8 servings.

Garam Masala

Each cheftweaks the quantities in garam masala to suit her particular tastes, but most garam masalas contain the same 5 or 6 spices. Madhur Jaffrey explains that

according to ancient Ayurvedic medicine (a holistic approach to health that's been practiced in India for 5000+ years), this spice mixture is intended to heat the body. I follow Jaffrey's proportions, but I toast the spices before grinding them.



1 nutmeg
3 Tb. cardamom seeds
3 tsp. whole cloves
3 tsp. whole black peppercorns
3 tsp. cumin seeds
3, 3" cinnamon sticks, broken into pieces

Wrap nutmeg in a dishtowel and use a hammer or mallet to break into small pieces.

Place nutmeg and other spices into a skillet over medium heat. Stirring frequently, toast 5-10 minutes.

Remove from pan and allow to cool. Grind to a powder in a coffee or spice grinder or using a mortar and pestle.

Store away from heat and light in an airtight container for up to 2 months.

Naan

A staple of Indian cuisine, this flatbread may be baked in the oven, cooked on the stovetop in a skillet or directly on



the grates of a gas or charcoal grill. If you happen to have a tandoor (a large cylindrical clay oven heated by fire), by all means use that! Most of us don't, so I've found that using a cast iron grill pan set over high heat on the stove will yield the crispy, browned, bubbly bread I like.

4 C. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. kosher salt plus more for sprinkling on cooked bread
1 egg, beaten
6 Tb. plain yogurt
5 Tb. melted butter, divided
¼ C. milk

Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In a stand mixer or by hand, mix egg, yogurt and 3 Tb. butter into flour mixture.

With the mixer running, add milk gradually, ¼ C. at a time, until dough is soft. (You will use between 1 and 1¼ C.) Cover the mixing bowl with a damp cloth and set in warm place for 2 hours.

On a floured surface, knead the dough for 2-3 minutes. Divide into 8 pieces and form into balls. Roll each into an oval between ¼" and ⅛" inch thick.

Heat grill pan over high heat until almost smoking. Right before placing dough on grill, brush dough lightly with water. Place dough water-side down and cook for 1-2 minutes.

Dough will start to bubble. Turn dough over. Cover with lid and cook for 30 seconds to 1 minute. Remove from pan.

Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with salt. Repeat with remaining dough.

Makes 8 servings.

Sweet Mango Lassi

In At Home with Madhur Jaffrey, Jaffrey advises using fresh or canned mangoes. I used frozen and fiddled with the quantities of the other ingredients until I got a lassi that was refreshing but not overpowered by the flavor of cardamom.

2 C. frozen mango pieces
¼ C. warm water
1-2 cardamom pods
1½ C. plain yogurt (I used Greek 2%.)
2 Tb. granulated sugar

Put all ingredients in a blender and process until smooth and cardamom pods are just specks.

Makes 3-4 servings. ♦

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

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



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Kennett Chocolate Lovers Festival

Even the threat of snow couldn't keep the chocolate lovers away from Kennett High School in early February. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their favorite confections for the benefit of the United Way of Southern Chester County.



Wayne Art Center's CraftForms

CraftForms Artist Stephen Maurer and Lena Vigna, juror of this international juried exhibition, at the 19th annual show.



Delaware Historical Society's Sesquicentennial Soirée

The Historic Courthouse on Rodney Square was the site for dinner, dancing and celebrating 150 years of historic accomplishments.



Academy of Notre Dame Art Show

The halls were decked with fine art at the 41st Annual Fine Art Show and a fabulous time had by all.



Malvern Retreat House Art Show Reception

The Family Life Center was the place to be for wine, cheese, meeting the artists and enjoying the beautiful artwork.



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JUNE 16-AUGUST 8

SUMMER SESSIONS CAMPS
Fun for grades K-5 including
* Holiday Cooking * Adventures in Art
* LEGO Stop Motion Film * Ropes Course
* Outdoor Adventurers

JUNE 16-AUGUST 18

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT CLASSES For grades 6-12
* Scrapbooking * Things Blow Up!
* Ropes Course * Tennis Clinics * SAT Prep
* Drivers' Ed * Writing for Success

JUNE 23-AUGUST 1

FOR CREDIT SUMMER CLASSES
High school classes for credit including
* Algebra * Geometry (Regular and Advanced)
* Chemistry (Regular and Advanced)
* Writing Seminar * US History * Economics



WSI
WESTTOWN SCIENCE INSTITUTE
inspiration | investigation | innovation

JUNE 23-AUGUST 1
Classes for grades 3-12
including High School courses for credit

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IN OUR BRAND NEW BUILDING!



NEW THIS YEAR!



GRADES 3-5
* LegoBots: Introduction to Designing, Building & Programming
* The Natural World: Exploring Westtown's Biodiversity



GRADES 6-8
* Sustainable Energy Exploration: Wind, Water & Solar Solutions
* The Robot's Brain: Prototyping with Microprocessors



GRADES 9-12
* Design & Collaborative Engineering: Introductory Robotics
* From Paper to Pixels
* Multimedia Java: An Introduction to Structured Programming

* Sustainable Solutions: Designing Answers to Environmental Challenges
* Imagineering through Digital Fabrication: Constructing Solutions
* CSI @ WSI: Forensic Investigation
* Digital Production & Illustration