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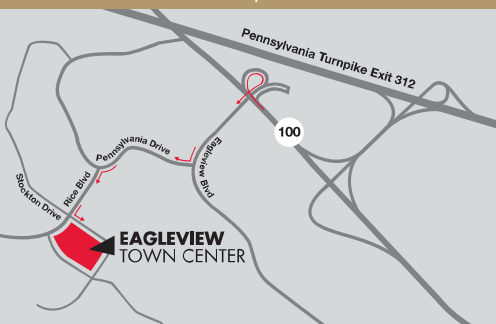
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# County Lines



**NOVEMBER 2011**

Volume XXXV, Number 3

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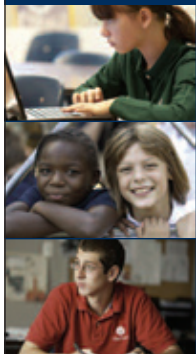
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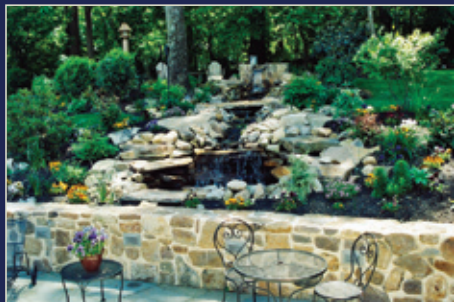
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Photo on cover and above of Phoenixville by Mike Irby

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Sunday, November 6, 1-3:00 pm

Wednesday, November 16, 8:30 am



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# OF SPECIAL NOTE . . .

## Notable Kitchen Tour & Chef Showcase

November 3

From Bryn Mawr to Malvern — take a self-guided tour of eight beautifully designed Main Line kitchens and benefit The Philadelphia Orchestra. Each home will feature a notable local chef or caterer preparing culinary treats. Tour-goers may attend cooking and floral arranging demonstrations at The Wayne Art Center during the day. 10 to 3. \$35; boxed lunch, \$15. [NotableKitchens.com](http://NotableKitchens.com).



## West Chester University LIVE! Family Events

November 5, 11

Look for a vibrant, new cultural arts season at the University — right in our backyard. **Nov. 5**, Tim & The Space Cadets play songs about the important things in life: pizza parties, snow days and summer vacations; 2 p.m. **Nov. 11**, The Jason Bishop Show is “the new wave of magic,” with contemporary music, fast-paced illusions and sleight of hand; for all ages; 7:30. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, West Chester. \$8-\$20. 610-436-2266; [WCUPa.edu.LIVE](http://WCUPa.edu.LIVE).



## 16th Annual Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital Art Ability Exhibit and Sale

November 5 - January 15

Artists from around the world with physical, cognitive, visual and hearing disabilities submit their work to this juried exhibition and sale. **Nov. 5**, Patrons Preview Reception, phone for reservations. 414 Paoli Pk., Malvern. Show hours: daily 9 to 9. 484-596-5710; [MainLineHealth.org/ArtAbility](http://MainLineHealth.org/ArtAbility).



## Kevin & Michael Bacon In Concert For Conservation & Culture

November 18

They're back! Join the Bacon brothers in their 4th benefit concert for the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust and the Association for the Colonial Theatre. At the theater, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 p.m. \$75-\$100. 610-917-1228; [TheColonialTheatre.com](http://TheColonialTheatre.com).





# EVENTS

## Noteworthy This Month

**November 3-6**  
**48th ANNUAL DELAWARE ANTIQUES SHOW.** A premier antiques events, with 60 exceptional dealers of American antiques and decorative arts. Chase Center on the Riverfront, Wilmington. Honorary Show Chair, P. Allen Smith. **Nov. 3,** Opening Night Party, 6 to 9, \$125-\$225. Show: Fri, 11 to 8; Sat, 11 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5. \$15. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.



**November 4**  
**CHESTER COUNTY HIST. SOCIETY'S 2011 GALA.** An evening of dining, dancing and live auction. Benefits the Historical Society. Historic Greystone Hall, 1034 Phoenixville Pk., West Chester. Cocktails, 6 pm; dinner, 7:30. Tickets \$175. 610-692-4800, ext. 267; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

**November 7-9**  
**THE CHRISTMAS SHOP FOUNDATION PRESENTS "THE PERFECT GIFT."** Specialty stores from around the country participate to benefit nonprofit programs that help those in need in Delaware. DuPont Country Club, Rockland Rd., Wilmington. Preview Mon, 6 to 9, \$85-\$175, silent auction, raffle. Tues-Wed, 9:30 am to 8 pm; Thurs, 9:30 am to 4 pm. \$10, for 3 days. 302-654-4435; ChristmasShopFoundation.org.

**November 19**  
**JAZZ BY NIGHT CELEBRATION IN MEDIA.** Enjoy a diverse variety of acts as they perform genuine jazz — from Traditional and Classic to BeBop and Hard Swing and from Avant-Garde to NuJazz. This year's event showcases "The Women of Jazz." State St. 7:30 pm to 1 am. Rain or shine. \$10-\$15. 610-566-5039; StateStreetBlues.com.

## Antiques Shows

**November 12-13**  
**THE MAIN LINE ANTIQUES SHOW.** See article in this issue.



**November 19-20**  
**ANTIQUES AT KIMBERTON SHOW.** This long-standing show features 70 dealers offering a wide variety of antiques. Food and free parking. Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 11 to 4. \$5; \$4 with card or ad. Kimberton Fire Company, 61 Firehouse La. (off Rt. 113) Kimberton. 717-768-7132; AntiquesAtKimberton.VPWeb.com.

**November 25-27**  
**48th ANNUAL CHESTERTOWN ANTIQUES SHOW & SALE.** More than 40 dealers exhibit period to mid-century modern furnishings. Washington College, 300 Washington Ave., Chestertown. Fri, 4 to 7; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 3. \$6. 410-810-4898; KentRidingTherapy.org.

## Art & Craft Shows

**Ongoing**  
**CHESTER COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION.** A nonprofit, cultural organization promoting participation in the arts through instruction and exhibitions. **Through Nov. 11,** PA Watercolor Society's 32nd International Juried Exhibition. 100 N. Bradford Ave. 610-696-5600; ChesCoArt.org.

**November 4-6**  
**SUGARLOAF CRAFTS FESTIVAL IN OAKS.** Over 250 artisans offer a wide variety of crafts, including furniture, home accessories and garden items. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Fri-Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$7. 800-210-9900; SugarloafCrafts.com.



**November 5-6**  
**ARTWORKS ANNUAL STUDIO TOUR IN KENT COUNTY, MD.** Visit the studios and see the work of some 50 artists throughout Kent County. Self-guided tour maps available from their website. 10 to 5. 410-778-6300; ArtworksChestertown.org.

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- **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 7&8 PM**  
Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 4 PM**  
Bryn Mawr College – Thomas Great Hall

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- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 4 PM**  
Daylesford Abbey, Paoli
- **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 7 PM**  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chestnut Hill
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 4 PM**  
St. Katharine of Siena Church, Wayne

#### YULETIDE\*

##### CAMERATA CONSORT

- **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 8 PM**  
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November 5-6

**BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM HARVEST MARKET.** From honey and apples to pottery and jewelry, regional artisans showcase their crafts in the courtyard. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. \$6-\$10. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

November 9-13

**35th ANNUAL PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART CRAFT SHOW.** A premier show and sale of contemporary craft, includes 195 of the finest and most dynamic craft artists in the United States. PA Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Philadelphia. Preview party on Wed, tickets \$100-\$3,000. Thurs-Fri, 10 to 8; Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$5-\$15. 215-684-7930; PMACraftShow.org.



November 11-December 12

**"HAVANA 59," PAINTINGS AND GRAPHICS OF HAVANA, CUBA BY GEORGE H. ROTHACKER.** An exhibition and sale at the Warner Library of Eastern University. Benefits the University's Asperger's Program. Grand Opening, Bolingbroke Mansion, Radnor, 6 to 9, \$95-\$145. Public exhibition at Eastern Univ., 1300 Eagle Rd., St. Davids. Free. 610-975-4312; Havana-59.com.

November 12-13

**PA GUILD OF CRAFTSMEN FINE CRAFT FAIR.** "Buy Local, Give Handmade" is the theme this year featuring master craftsmen in all fine crafts. New location: Lancaster County Convention Center, 25 S. Queen St., Lancaster. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$8. 717-431-8706; PACrafts.org.



November 25-26

**41st ANNUAL BELSNICKEL CRAFT SHOW.** Approximately 140 juried artisans present their fine crafts at Boyertown Sr. High School, 4th and Monroe Sts., Boyertown. Fri, 11 to 7; Sat, 10 to 4. Benefits Boyertown Area Historical Society programs. 610-845-2781; BoyertownHistory.org.

December 2-11

**MAIN LINE ART CENTER'S HOLIDAY FINE CRAFT SALE.** Handmade by professional artists from the region. 746 Pannure Rd., Haverford. **Dec. 1**, Members' Early Shopping, 5 to 7 pm; **Dec. 2**, 10 to 9; **Dec. 3-4**, 9-10, 10 to 5; **Dec. 5-8**, 10 to 7; **Dec. 11**, 10 to 3. 610-525-0272; MainLineArt.org.

December 2-January 21

**WAYNE ART CENTER CRAFTFORMS 2011.** Now in its 17th year, this is one of the leading contemporary craft exhibitions in the country. 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon-Fri, 9 to 5; Sat, 10 to 4. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

## Equestrian

November 6

**77th RUNNING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HUNT CUP.** Join the excitement in the country, with timber racing, food, holiday shopping in the equestrian boutiques. N. of Rt. 926 and Newark Rd., Unionville. Gates open 11 am, Hunt Cup at 3. \$50 per vehicle. Benefits the Chester County Food Bank. 484-888-6619; PaHuntCup.org.

## Family Fun

Through November 17

**READ-ALONG TOURS FOR CHILDREN AT BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM.** Each week features a different story and art activity. Designed for children ages 3 to 6 accompanied by an adult. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. 10:30 am. \$6-\$10. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

November 6, 13, 20

**WEST CHESTER RAILROAD FALL FOLIAGE EXPRESS.** See the Chester Creek Valley in its fall splendor. Trains depart Market Street Station, West Chester. Noon and 2 pm. \$10.50-\$12.50. 610-416-1794; WestChesterRR.com.

November 11

**52nd VETERANS DAY PARADE IN MEDIA.** Veterans of all wars walk together on State St. 11:30 am. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.

November 19-20

**KENNEL CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL DOG SHOW.** Dog lovers enjoy the American Kennel Club (AKC) sanctioned events, where some 2,000 top breed dogs from around the country take to the ring and contend for Best In Show honors. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Sat, 8 to 6; Sun, 8 to 5. \$7-\$14. 610-397-0100; NationalDogShow.com.





## LOCAL FARM MARKETS

**BRYN MAWR FARMERS MARKET**, Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station. Sat, 9 to 1. [BrynMawrFarmersMarket.com](http://BrynMawrFarmersMarket.com).

**EAST GOSHEN FARMERS MARKET**, Veteran's Pavilion, E. Goshen Twp. Park, Paoli Pk., East Goshen. Thurs, 3 to 7. [EastGoshenFarmersMarket.blogspot.com](http://EastGoshenFarmersMarket.blogspot.com).

**LANCASTER CENTRAL MARKET**, 23 N. Market St. Tues, Fri, 6 to 4; Sat, 6 to 2. 717-735-6890; [CentralMarketLancaster.com](http://CentralMarketLancaster.com).

**MEDIA FARMERS MARKET**, State St. between Monroe & Gayley Sts. Thurs, 3 to 7. 610-566-5039; [MediaFarmersMarket.com](http://MediaFarmersMarket.com).

**PHOENIXVILLE FARMERS MARKET**, under Gay St. Bridge accessed by Taylor Alley. Sat, 9 to 1. [PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org](http://PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org).

**WEST CHESTER GROWERS MARKET**, corner of Chestnut & Church Sts. Sat, 9 to 1. 610-436-9010; [WestChesterGrowersMarket.com](http://WestChesterGrowersMarket.com).

**WILMINGTON'S URBAN FARM STAND**, 12th & Brandywine Sts. Sat, 10 to 2. 302-658-6262; [TheDCH.org](http://TheDCH.org).

### November 25

**SANTA'S ARRIVAL & FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS IN MEDIA**. Festivities begin at 5 pm. Santa arrives at 6. State & Jackson Sts., Media. Snow or shine. 610-566-5039; [VisitMediaPA.com](http://VisitMediaPA.com).

### November 26

**BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD PARK CELEBRATES PATRIOTS' DAY**. Step back in time to a small British outpost and see Redcoats & Royal Artillery encamped during the winter of 1777. Artillery firing demos, 18th-century baker, military life and drum and a military medical display. Brandywine Battlefield Park, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. 10 to 4. \$3-\$6. 610-459-3342; [BrandywineBattlefield.org](http://BrandywineBattlefield.org).

## First Friday . . .

### November 4

**FIRST FRIDAYS**. Stroll through area towns to find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. **Berwyn**, 610-203-4543; [BerwynDevonBusiness.com](http://BerwynDevonBusiness.com). **Kennett Square**, 610-444-8188; [HistoricKennettSquare.com](http://HistoricKennettSquare.com). **Lancaster City**, 717-509-ARTS; [LancasterArts.com](http://LancasterArts.com). **A Main Line ARTitude**, with free trolley from Bryn Mawr to Ardmore, 610-642-4040; [FirstFridayMainLine.com](http://FirstFridayMainLine.com). **Oxford**, 610-998-9494; [DowntownOxfordPA.org](http://DowntownOxfordPA.org). **Phoenixville**, 610-933-3070; [PhxFirstFriday.com](http://PhxFirstFriday.com). **Wayne**, 610-687-7698; [FirstFridayWayne.com](http://FirstFridayWayne.com). **West Chester**, 610-738-3350; [DowntownWestChester.com](http://DowntownWestChester.com).

## and Second Saturday

### November 12

**MEDIA'S SECOND SATURDAYS**. Media's version of First Fridays. 610-566-5210; [MediaArtsCouncil.org](http://MediaArtsCouncil.org).

## Fundraising & Benefits

### November 2

**KENNETT SYMPHONY LEAGUE'S LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW**. Food and fashions at this benefit that supports the Symphony's annual free Children's Concert in March. Live and silent auctions, raffle, gift table, luncheon and fashion show. Benefits the Symphony's Free Family Concert series. Mendenhall Inn, Rt. 52, Mendenhall. 10:30 to 2. \$45. 610-444-6363; [KennettSymphony.org](http://KennettSymphony.org).

### November 5

**WEST CHESTER AREA SENIOR CENTER'S 12th ANNUAL GALA, "AN EVENING IN PARIS."** A black tie optional dinner with auction and awards. Benefits the West Chester Area Senior Center. Held at the Center, 530 E. Union St., West Chester. 6 to 11. \$100. 610-431-4242; [WCSeniors.org](http://WCSeniors.org).

### November 5

**"HATS OFF TO T&E CARE" FALL FEST**. Dinner, dancing, hat contest, silent and live auction at this benefit for T&E Care, an organization that provides assistance to local families through a network of dedicated community members. Waynesborough Country Club, 440 Darby-Paoli Rd., Paoli. 7 to 11. \$100; \$900/table of 10. 610-644-0594; [TECare.org](http://TECare.org).

### November 7

**FASHION TO FUND THE FUTURE: ANNUAL FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON BENEFIT**. Boutique shops, women's and children's fashion show, and a fabulous lunch. Benefits Home of the Sparrow, dedicated to improving the lives of homeless women and children. Desmond Great Valley Hotel, 1 Liberty Blvd., Malvern. 11 to 1:30. \$40. 610-647-4940; [HomeOfTheSparrow.org](http://HomeOfTheSparrow.org).

### November 12

**9th ANNUAL S.A.V.E. SHINDIG**. This year's global theme is "The Go Green Gala – Leave Nothing But Footprints." Every point of the compass will be highlighted in live and silent auctions with a wide variety of offerings from around the world. The Stone Barn, 550 Upland Rd., Kennett Square. 6:30 pm. Tickets start at \$75. 610-925-0041; [SavePA.org](http://SavePA.org).

**S.A.V.E.**



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### November 16

**RADLEY RUN COUNTRY CLUB HOSTS WORLD WAR II EVENT**. A presentation on World War II European and Pacific battles and major events. Benefits the Wounded Warrior Project. 1100 Country Club Rd., West Chester. 5:30. Seminar and dinner are free to all WWII veterans; seminar, \$20; dinner available for purchase after event. 610-793-1600.

### November 18-20

**DELAWARE HOSPICE — FESTIVAL OF TREES**. Area businesses sponsor the display of holiday trees and wreaths decorated by local artisans, with a selec-



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The Nutcracker  
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tion of items for sale and special events throughout the weekend. Cokesbury Village, 726 Loveville Rd., Hockessin. Daily 10 to 4. \$6-\$8. 302-479-2577; DelawareHospice.org.



## November 19

**PAOLI HOSPITAL AUXILIARY'S 17th ANNUAL "MISTLETOE & MAGIC."** Cocktail buffet, raffles, live music and auction offering many luxury items. Benefits Paoli Hospital. Aronimink Golf Club, St. Davids Rd., Newtown Square. Begins at 6, with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dessert. Tickets start at \$125. 610-648-1448; MistletoeAndMagic.org.

## December 1-2

**THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA PRESENT A HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE.** The area's finest boutiques participate to benefit CHOP. Vendors will be selling clothing, accessories, fine jewelry, home accessories, art and collectibles. Preview party Thurs, 5 to 9, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, \$100-\$400; shopping Fri, 9 to 3, luncheon available, noon to 2, \$10-\$30. Merion Cricket Club, 325 Montgomery Ave., Haverford. \$10-\$35. 267-426-6489; Giving.Chop.edu.

## December 3

**WEST CHESTER CHARITY BALL.** Begin your holiday season by supporting Chester County's homeless children. This annual event features dinner, dancing and auction. Benefits The Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children, Emergency Family Shelter for homeless families and the Homeless Prevention Program. West Chester Golf and Country Club, 111 West Ashbridge St., West Chester. Cocktail chic or black tie. 6:30 to 11:30. \$150. 610-431-3598; FriendsAssoc.org.

## Gardens

Through November 20

**LONGWOOD GARDENS CHRYSANTHEMUM FESTIVAL.** See unique varieties of mums trained to flow down walls, drape like curtains and form grand archways in this inspiring display. There is a Thousand Bloom mum and a single chrysanthemum plant with 100 different cultivars of mums blooming. Rt. 1, Kennett Square. Daily 9 to 5. \$8-\$18. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

Through November 27

**TYLER ARBORETUM.** Totally Terrific Treehouses. 515 Painter Rd., Media. Mon-Fri, 9 to 5; Sat-Sun, 9 to 6. \$5-\$9. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

## December 3

### SCOTT ARBORETUM HOLIDAY GREENS SALE.

Gorgeous fresh greens and holiday accents at the Wister Center, 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. 10 to 2. 610-328-8025; ScottArboretum.org.

## Holiday Events & Tours

November 12-13, December 3

**COLONIAL PA PLANTATION EVENTS.** Nov. 12-13, visit the troops at this 17th-century camp and see what life was like for them, daily 11 to 4. Dec. 3, Christmas on the Farm, 11 to 4. Ridley Creek State Park, Media. \$6-\$8. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.

November 17-December 30

**HISTORIC ODESSA FOUNDATION HOSTS "A JOYFUL TASHA TUDOR CHRISTMAS."** A special exhibit in the Wilson-Warner House by beloved children's book illustrator Tasha Tudor. Each room will be interpreted based on Tudor's Vermont Christmas celebrations and illustrations. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4:30; Sun, 1 to 4:30 (Mon-Fri, Dec. 26-31.) Odessa is located between Rts. 1 & 13. Houses: Corbit-Sharp House, Wilson-Warner House, Collins-Sharp House, Brick Hotel and Odessa Bank. 302-378-4119; HistoricOdessa.org.



November 19-January 8

**YULETIDE AT WINTERTHUR.** Holiday displays from past Yuletides and holiday traditions of Americans from the Colonial period through World War II. Rt. 52, 6 mi. NW of Wilmington. For the first time, the tour is free to Winterthur members and is included in general adm. (\$5-\$18) for nonmembers. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.





**November 24–January 8**  
**CHRISTMAS AT LONGWOOD.** Dazzling floral displays, stunning trees, holiday music, 500,000 outdoor lights, dancing fountains under the stars create a Christmas fantasy at Longwood. New this year, Longwood is transformed into a gingerbread fantasy featuring imaginative displays throughout the Gardens. Rt. 1, Kennett Square. 9 to 9. **Timed admission tickets only.** 610-388-1000; Longwood-Gardens.org.

**November 25–December 11**  
**HOLIDAY EVENTS IN DOWNTOWN KENNETT SQUARE.** Nov. 25, Holiday Downtown Open House and Parade, Mr. & Mrs. Claus light the town Christmas tree; State St. 6 pm. **Dec. 4, 11, 18,** Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides, throughout town, leaving from State & Union Sts. 12 to 3, free. **Dec. 11,** Annual Holiday Home Tour, homes in the borough will be decked out for the holidays. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

**November 25–January 1**  
**CHRISTMAS AT HAGLEY.** See the du Pont family ancestral home, Eleutherian Mills, dressed for the holidays. Family activities, special sales days at the Hagley Store and other events and programs. 200 Hagley Rd., Wilmington. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$4-\$11. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

**November 25–January 8**  
**A BRANDYWINE CHRISTMAS.** A holiday tradition featuring an extensive O-gauge model railroad, natural "critter" ornaments made by museum volunteers on holiday trees (Annual Critter Sale, **Dec. 3-4**), and a charming new dollhouse display. Brandywine River Museum, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Open daily (except Christmas), 9:30 to 4:30. \$5-\$8. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.



**December 1–4**  
**MARS DRINKS OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN DOWNTOWN WEST CHESTER.** West Chester's 32nd Anniversary of a traditional Victorian-era Christmas. Activities planned throughout the weekend include: **Dec. 1-3,** the Chester County Gil-



bert and Sullivan Society's performance of "Trial by Jury," (see THEATER); **Dec. 2,** tree lighting, the **3rd Annual Jingle Elf 5K Run,** 6:30 pm followed by the parade at 7:15. **Dec. 3,** Breakfast with Santa, Chester Co. Hist. Soc., 8:30 and 10 am, \$12. 610-696-4046; GreaterWestChester.com.

**December 2**  
**COUNTRY CHRISTMAS IN DOWNTOWN OXFORD.** Lots of activities for the whole family and, of course, Santa Claus. High St., Oxford. 5 to 8 pm. 610-467-0301

**December 2–3**  
**WAYNE HOTEL'S OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.** **Dec. 2,** Christmas tree lighting, carriage rides, carols, children's activities and ornament decorating; **Dec. 3,** Santa Parade, Santa will greet children on the porch of the Wayne Hotel, 139 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. 610-687-5000; WayneChristmas.com.

**December 2–3**  
**MALVERN'S VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS.** Events begin in Burke Park, for the lighting of the town tree. Then stroll King Street and visit shops offering complimentary refreshments. Musical performances, horse and carriage rides, a hay ride and more through Sat. Fri, 6 to 9; Sat, 10 to 2. 610-296-9096; MalvernsVictorianChristmas.org.



**December 2–4**  
**HAY CREEK HISTORICAL ASSOC. CHRISTMAS AT JOANNA FURNACE.** Enjoy an evening in the parlors of colonial and Victorian families as they celebrate Christmas. Horse-drawn carriage rides, a Christmas Market, food, a bonfire, live nativity and walking tours. Rt. 10, 3 mi. N of Morgantown. Daily, 5 to 9. \$5. 610-286-0388; HayCreek.org.

**December 2–4**  
**FRIENDS OF HIBERNIA PARK 2011 CANDLE-LIGHT TOUR.** Presented by the glow of candlelight, each room at Hibernia Mansion is decorated featuring a different aspect of what makes Chester County one of the most beautiful counties in Pennsylvania. Cedar Knoll Rd., Wagontown. Fri-Sat 6:30 to 9:30; Sun, 2 to 4. \$5; 11 and under, free. 610-383-3812; ChesCo.org/CCParks.

**December 2–4, 9–11**  
**DEVON IN DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE.** Fresh, locally grown Fraser and Douglas firs and holiday wreaths for sale; activi-



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ties and surprises for children. Benefits Devon Horse Show and Country Fair Foundation and Devon Boy Scout Troop 50. Horse Show Grounds, Rt. 30, Devon. Fri, 4:30 to 7:30; Sat, 8:30 to 6; Sun, 10 to 4. 610-964-0550; TheDevonHorseShow.org.

**December 3**  
**CHADDS FORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 26TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS.** Self-guided holiday tour of historic museums and private homes. 1 to 6. \$16 in advance; \$20 day of tour; \$5, 12 & under. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org.

**December 3**  
**STRASBURG HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR OF HOMES.** Eleven homes in this historic village will be decorated for the holidays and open to visitors, including one of the town's oldest homes (c. 1750). Holiday craft market, decorations and gift ideas. 10 to 4. \$15-\$17. 717-687-3534; StrasburgHeritagePA.org.

**December 3**  
**CHADDS FORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 26TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS.** Self-guided holiday tour of historic museums and private homes. 1 to 6. \$16 in advance; \$20 day of tour; \$5, 12 & under. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org.

**December 3**  
**HISTORIC NEWTOWN'S "TIS THE SEASON" HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR.** An annual tradition that takes visitors into six private residences and a few public buildings including the Half-Moon Inn where you will enjoy period music, colonial cooking demonstrations and refreshments. All sites are within walking distance of each other. 10 to 4. 215-968-4004; NewtownHistoric.org.

**December 10**  
**THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS IN NEW CASTLE, DE.** Private homes open for touring and shops, museums and restaurants show their holiday finest. Musical events take place throughout the day and there will be a Secret Santa Shop and tree lighting ceremony at 5 pm. Pick up a brochure at New Castle Presbyterian Church, 25 E. Second St., New Castle. 10 am to 5:30 pm. All events are free. 302-328-3279; NewCastlePresChurch.org.



**December 10**  
**DELAWARE ART MUSEUM'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR.** This year's tour will feature a remarkable group of studios and beautiful homes decorated for the holidays. Visit the Museum

before or after your Tour for seasonal music. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 10 to 4. \$25/\$30 at the door. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

## Museums

**Through November 20**  
**BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM** marks their 40th Anniversary with special exhibitions including Wyeth's illustrations for *Treasure Island*, seen together for the first time in public, a celebration of Howard Pyle, masterpieces by Andrew and Jamie Wyeth and more. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$10. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

**Through January 8, 2012**  
**WINTERTHUR MUSEUM.** "Paint, Pattern & People: Furniture of Southeastern PA, 1725-1850." Winterthur, Rt. 52, 6 mi. NW of Wilmington. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$5-\$18. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

**Ongoing**  
**CHESTER COUNTY HIST. SOCIETY.** Programs, activities, museum, research library, interactive exhibits, a History Lab and events relating to the history of Chester County from 1600 to today. **Special Exhibits: through Dec. 2012,** "On the Edge of Battle: Chester County and the Civil War," an exhibit focused on the County's role in the war and the effect the conflict had on our community. 225 N. High St., West Chester. Wed-Sat, 10 to 5. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

## Music, Music, Music

**November 4, 20**  
**CONCERTS AT THE CATHEDRAL.** Local and international musicians perform in the sonic splendor of the historic Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul. **Nov. 4,** Tenebrae Choir from London, performs medieval chant and renaissance works, contemporary compositions, 8 pm. **Nov. 20,** The Williamson Voices Westminster College Choir, 18th St. at Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., Philadelphia. 7:30. \$15-\$35. CathedralPhila.org



**November 5, December 4**  
**IMMACULATA SYMPHONY CONCERTS.** **Nov. 5,** Fall Concert, "Symphonic Treasures," featuring the music of Verdi, Broughton and Dvorák. **Dec. 4,** Christmas Concert, *The Snowman*, classical holiday favorites and a sing-along. Alumnae Hall, Immaculata University, King Rd., Immaculata. 7:30 pm. \$5-\$12. ImmaculataSymphony.org.

**November 6**  
**CONCERT TO FIGHT ARTHRITIS.** The First Ladies of Rock and Soul perform the songs of The Supremes, Ronettes, Shirelles, Mary Wells and more. There will be a free buffet from Limoncello and gift bags from Calista Tools. This is a pre-party to the Jingle Bell Run/Walk held on Dec. 11 at General Wayne Elementary School. The Note, 132 E. Market St., West Chester. 4 to 8 pm. \$25. FirstLadiesOfRockAndSoul.com/Arthritis.htm.

**November 13, December 11**  
**OPEN MIC NIGHT AT THE OXFORD ARTS ALLIANCE.** Performers of all trades — musicians, poets, storytellers — are invited to schedule a 5-minute performance in a family-friendly atmosphere the second Sunday of the month. Refreshments. Oxford Arts Alliance, 38 S. Third St., Oxford. 5 to 8. \$2. 610-467-0301; OxfordArt.org.

**November 13**  
**PENNSYLVANIA GIRL CHOIR PERFORMING AT GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** An assembly of girls, 7-17, who have toured internationally with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Opera Company of Philadelphia perform at 490 W. Boot Rd., West Chester. \$10. 4 pm. 610-696-2282; GroveChurch.org.

**November 19**  
**TURTLE DOVE FOLK CLUB CONCERT.** Singer-songwriter Audrey Auld performs country, folk and Americana music at West Grove Friends Meetinghouse, 153 E. Harmony Rd., West Grove. 8 pm. \$15. 802-431-3433; TurtleDove.org.

**November 20**  
**DELAWARE COUNTY SYMPHONY CHAMBER SERIES CONCERT.** The music of Bartók, Glazunov and Von Weber. Neumann Univ., Life Center, Meagher Theater, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$8-\$10. 610-356-5673; DCSSMusic.org.

**December 2-4**  
**VOX RENAISSANCE CONSORT — RENAISSANCE NOEL.** Annual Christmas concert of motets and carols celebrates Renaissance music. **Dec. 2,** The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields,



8000 St. Martins La., Chestnut Hill, 8 pm; **Dec. 3,** Longwood Gardens, Rt. 1, Kennett Square, 7 and 8 pm; **Dec. 4,** Thomas Great Hall, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, 4 pm. \$10-\$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

**December 3-4**  
**KENNETT SYMPHONY'S "SOUNDS OF THE SEASON" HOLIDAY CONCERTS.** Start your season festivities with the symphony's annual holiday concert. **Dec. 3,** Kennett High School, 100 E. South St., Kennett Square. **Dec. 4,** Int'l Cultural Center, Lincoln University. Both concerts, 2 pm. \$5-\$40. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

**December 4**  
**DELAWARE COUNTY SYMPHONY CONCERT.** "From the Fleisher Collection," the music of Butterworth, Mozart, Lambert and Hindemith. Neumann Univ., Life Center, Meagher Theater, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$12-\$15. 610-356-5673; DCSSMusic.org.

**December 5**  
**"ARTS AT THE GROVE" TROMBONE BENEFIT CONCERT.** West Chester University's Trombone Ensemble performs. Benefits Compeer Chester County, a nonprofit helping adults in recovery from mental illness. Grove United Methodist Church, 490 W. Boot Rd., West Chester. 7 pm. \$10. 610-436-4445; CompeerChesco.org.

**December 11**  
**OPEN MIC NIGHT AT THE OXFORD ARTS ALLIANCE.** Performers of all trades — musicians, poets, storytellers — are invited to schedule a 5-minute performance in a family-friendly atmosphere the second Sunday of the month. Refreshments. Oxford Arts Alliance, 38 S. Third St., Oxford. 5 to 8. \$2. 610-467-0301; OxfordArt.org.

**December 11**  
**MUSIC AT EMMANUEL, POTTSTOWN.** The Reading Choral Society presents "Celebration of Light," music that will uplift, inspire and bring the joy the season. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 150 N. Hanover St., Pottstown. 5 pm. Free. 610-323-4312; EmmanuelPottstown.org.

## Outdoor Fun

See sidebar in "Cold Runnings" article in this issue for a list of area races.

## Theater

**Through November 6**  
**"CHICAGO."** The universal tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz ... featuring "American Idol's" Justin Guarini. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Wed-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Wed, Sat, 2; Sun, 3. \$27-\$49. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

**Through November 20**  
**"THE PHILLY FAN."** See article in this issue.

**November 16-January 8**  
**"TREASURE ISLAND: A MUSICAL PANTO."** Mother Hawkins and Long John Silver return for the holidays singing, dancing, staggering and



swimming through a few of the Seven Seas in search of Billy Bones' treasure. People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Phone or check website for curtain times. \$35-\$45. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.



**November 17-20**  
**GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF CHESTER COUNTY PRESENTS "THE SORCERER."** Musical comedy about a couple who enlist a sorcerer to concoct a love potion, with many unintended results. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, Philips Memorial Bldg., S. High & University Ave., West Chester Univ., West Chester. Thurs-Sat, 8; Sat-Sun, 2. \$7-\$23. 610-269-5499; GSSChesco.org.

**November 18-20**

**"THE RAT PACK."** The next best thing to seeing Frank, Dean and Sammy themselves in a Vegas-style show. This group recreates the original standards such as "You Make Me Feel So Young," "A Foggy Day," "That's Amore" and "Mr. Bojangles." Fri-Sat, 8; Sat-Sun, 2. \$50-\$70. DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.

**November 22-January 15**

**"THE SOUND OF MUSIC."** The Rodgers and Hammerstein classic at The Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Phone or check the website for curtain times. \$37-\$60. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

**December 1-3**

**"TRIAL BY JURY" AND CAROL SING,** presented by the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester County during West Chester's Old-Fashioned Christmas. Courtroom 1, Chester Co. Justice Center, 201 W. Market St, West Chester. Thurs, 8; Fri, 5:30 & 6:30; Sat, 2 & 8. \$5-\$12. 610-269-5499; GSSChesCo.org. ♦

Send a description of your activity to [Info@ValleyDel.com](mailto:Info@ValleyDel.com) by the first of the month preceding publication.



For more events visit

**CountyLinesMagazine.com**



Thurston Nichols booth, 2010

## ANTIQUES EXTRAVAGANZA FOR A GOOD CAUSE

### MAIN LINE ANTIQUES SHOW, NOVEMBER 12-13

Jaimieliynn Cooper

**T**housands of art and antiques enthusiasts will join over 30 renowned dealers from the East Coast selected to exhibit at the Radnor Valley Country Club, November 11 through 13, as the only antiques show in the heart of the Main Line returns.

Now in its sixth year, The Main Line Antiques Show is better than ever. Show Manager, Nick Vandekar, known for his antiques expertise — his family has been in the antiques business for over 100 years — says, "This year's show is the best it's ever been. There is an amazing balance between the antiques and beautiful venue. And we're doing all of this for a wonderful charity." Surrey Services for Seniors is once again the beneficiary of this distinctive event.

The antiques extravaganza kicks off on Friday with the Opening Night Party, one of the Main Line's smartest social events, hosted by Mrs. J. Maxwell Moran and Mrs. S. Matthews V. Hamilton, Jr, Antiques Show honorary co-chairs. This first look event offers a special opportunity to purchase, while enjoying cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a light buffet.

The festivities continue the rest of the weekend as a superb selection of important antiques from fine art to folk art, paintings to furniture, textiles to jewelry, and ceramics of all types, are put on display.

With a little bit of everything to intrigue and tempt showgoers, the Antiques Show is timed perfectly for holiday shopping!



**Open daily 10am - 6pm**  
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## Family Attraction & Museum



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**December 24th**

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Memorial plate, Earle Vandekar of Knightsbridge

### Exciting Exhibitions

Don't be surprised if some dealers at this show look very familiar! Dixon-Hall Fine Art in Phoenixville will be showcasing 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings, while Van Tassel-Baumann American Antiques of Malvern brings coveted schoolgirl samplers. West Chester's Timothy Coldren, Monroe Coldren Antiques, is also exhibiting his well-known 18th- and 19th-century original hardware and antiques.

### Learn A Little History

A special highlight of this year's show will be three lectures from local architectural historians Jeff Groff, of Winterthur Museum, and Jim Garrison, author and architect at Frens & Frens. The lectures — "More English Than England," "Wilson Eyre – Artist and Architect," and "Radnor Valley Farm and its Neigh-



Hobart Stitt painting, Dixon-Hall Fine Art

bors" — will spotlight the era of the great Main Line iconic estates including, among others, Ardrossan, Launfal and Beaupre.

### For A Good Cause

Again this year, The Main Line Antiques Show is a major fundraiser for Surrey Services for Seniors, an organization dedicated to helping over 7,000 older adults throughout Chester and Delaware Counties live in their homes with independence and dignity while remaining active members of the community. For over 30 years Surrey has worked to enhance the lives of our elderly neighbors.

Join The Main Line Antiques Show in supporting local seniors and who knows? You might just end up with a treasured collectable you can call your own! ♦

### If You Go

**When:** Nov. 12, 10 to 5 pm  
Nov. 13, 11 to 5 pm

**Where:** Radnor Valley Country Club  
555 Sproul Rd., Villanova

**Tickets:** \$12.  
Discount tickets online.

**Preview:** Opening Night Party,  
Nov. 11

**Lectures:** Nov. 12, 1pm & 3pm;  
Nov 13, 1pm

**Benefits:** Surrey Services  
for Seniors

**Information:** 484-580-9609  
MainLineAntiquesShow.com



Schoolgirl sampler, Van Tassel-Baumann

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**DILWORTHTOWN INN**

# One **PHILLY FAN** Speaks Out

What else is new?




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### Bad reputation?

Yeah, Philadelphia sports fans have one.

Even though we've been called everything from "boo" birds to downright rude, there's no denying that Philly fans are also some of the most dedicated and loyal. Join People's Light & Theatre, through November 20, and find out why it's no coincidence our baseball team's mascot is a fanatic.

In *The Philly Fan*, a one-man tour de force, actor Tom McCarthy takes audiences on a journey through Philadelphia's sports history of the last 50 years.

Who better to tell you all about it than playwright Bruce Graham. In his own words. Of course.

### Notes From The Philly Fan

BRUCE GRAHAM: *In all the years I've been writing plays here in Philly I don't think I've ever done one of these 'Author's Notes' things. Probably because there's no money in it. I've spent enough time writin' the damn play, I don't need the*

*extra work, thank you very much.*

The *Philly Fan* is a little different. Most plays go through a long gestation. Sometimes it takes years finding the story, characters, act break, laughs and what Aristotle calls the "thought." The *Philly Fan* started with a phone call from Tom McCarthy.

TOM MCCARTHY: *Hey, you wanta' write a play about a frustrated Philadelphia sports fan?*

GRAHAM: Yeah. Okay.

So much for art. (Of course if the cliché 'one must suffer for art' is true, then everybody who ever spent any time in the 700 level is an artist. Especially with the Eagles. You listenin', Jeff Lurie?)

Ahh, but I digress.

In some ways *The Philly Fan* is the most autobiographical thing I've ever written. I started it on a flight to London — possibly to assuage homesickness — and it just kind of poured out. All those days and nights of screaming back at the television, of pontificating in bars, of crumpling up sports pages were finally having a purpose.

The hardest part was keeping it to a reasonable length. You're probably going



to walk away saying, 'Hey, he shoulda' mentioned (fill in the blank).' Well, in the first draft I probably did mention whatever it is you missed. Unfortunately, there's a lot of history (not to mention angst) here and that early version would've run about five hours. I cut and cut ... and now it lasts about as long as Michael Vick in the backfield.

Since I wrote the play times have changed — sort of. The Phillies moved out of the Vet and finally got off their wallet, putting a winner on the field. Even with a hundred wins this season and the best pitching staff in history, however, true Phillies fans are waiting for the other shoe to drop. There's no such thing as a "sure thing" in Philly. Not to us old timers who are still haunted by the collapse of '64. (We did add an epilogue to the play to honor the World Series. That was fun to write.)

Since I wrote the play the Flyers almost got a Stanley Cup.

And the Eagles ... well, let's talk some more about the Phillies.

The Philly Fan is my valentine to a loud, angry, drunk, frustrated, knowledgeable, funny, loyal, occasionally violent bunch of guys. (I told you it was autobiographical.) Enjoy. But remember, you're in the theater not at the Linc. Anyone caught booing or throwing stuff will be ejected and your right to buy People's Light season tickets will be revoked.

Search The Philly Fan clips on YouTube to catch a sneak peek at Tom McCarthy's one-man rant.

### If You Go

**Where:** 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern

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PeoplesLight.org

**What's Next:** Treasure Island:

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## A Conversation with the New President of the Chester County Historical Society

### Dr. Robert Lukens

Last month, Rob Lukens completed a journey that began nearly 20 years ago when he was a volunteer at the Chester County Historical Society. A former West Chester resident and respected museum professional with strong leadership skills and a doctorate in American history, Rob succeeded Kim Hall at the helm of CCHS. He shares his vision of the Historical Society in this interview.

**Q:** What do you feel you bring to the President's position at the Chester County Historical Society?

**A:** I'm honored to have been chosen for this position and feel like it's the opportunity of a lifetime. I have a deep passion for preserving, interpreting and promoting Chester County's past. That's an essential part of who I am as an individual and professional.

Being away from the county for a couple of years has made that even more evident. That love for the county's heritage is the fuel that will keep me going during the good times and tough challenges ahead.

Passion can, however, only get you so far. Fundraising will, of course, comprise a major part of my work. The position will require a healthy mix of day-to-day management, while adhering to broad long-range plans. My academic understanding and technical experience will help provide a solid foundation for leading the organization.

With most all organizations I've worked for, I've been involved in leading change. At the Chemical Heritage Foundation, it was a new collections and exhibition program. At Historic Yellow Springs, it

was the merger with the Chester Springs Studio. At the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, my challenge was advocating the formation of educational programs.

At CCHS, our challenge is remaining relevant and fiscally healthy in an era when all nonprofits are experiencing declining funding. Ultimately, I will rely heavily on the talented individuals around me at CCHS.

Like most other historical organizations across the U.S., CCHS has seen many challenges in the last decade. How will you address some of these lingering issues such as budget concerns, endowment and capital needs, audience development?

I look forward to helping continue the great work that Kim Hall did in strengthening the organization's finances. Building financial security is priority number one. At the end of the day, that's what allows us to preserve the county's heritage, teach about it, and enable staff to do their jobs.

There is, however, an iterative process between expanding an organization's programming (exhibits, preservation, education, etc.) and its finances. Focusing on just one won't work — they



have to move forward in tandem. We are, after all, here to serve our mission first and foremost.

One way we can serve that mission is by looking at how we use technology, which has transformed how people learn and participate in museums. Successful 21st-century museums function more like forums than lecture halls or stagnant display spaces. People experience the past differently today.

Our goal is to help people learn about what it means to be a Chester Countian today by looking at its past. Who are we? What traits do we share and how are we beautifully diverse? These are the questions we'll seek to answer by looking at the past, or perhaps I should say, we'll allow our audiences to discover these answers for themselves.

In these challenging times, institutions like CCHS need to really think deeply about what their core mission is and stick to it, and do it well.

**What will you do to help CCHS become more integrated into the community?**

Open dialogue. We will seek out and find ways to hear from our communities (there are many) about what we can do for them. Likely it will be the informal feedback that will help us better connect.

This is not a one-way street. We expect to hear from established and new residents, young and old Chester Countians, school groups and specialized researchers, and diverse audiences about their needs. We can't be all things to all people, but we can certainly try



A school group listens to a museum guide



Welcome Gallery at the Historical Society

to understand our audiences and make sure our initiatives match the current reality.

I feel particularly strongly about reaching out to the K-12 educational community. Knowing how we can help social studies, history and civics teachers educate their students using the local lens is very important to CCHS.

**What are your impressions of CCHS's Board of Directors and staff?**

The people of the organization are its greatest asset — that was clear from the start and one of the main reasons I came to CCHS. The staff has incredible talent, knowledge and passion for their work. The board is dynamic, smart and dedicated to thinking outside of the box to advance the organization.

**What are your thoughts on CCHS's history education programs and exhibitions?**

Relevance — they must be relevant. Although they both have their value and we will continue to do both, I prefer thematic over collections-based exhibitions and programs. People really engage more with stories than with most stand-alone objects.

Educational programs and exhibitions need to be fully integrated. Instead of isolated exhibits or one-off special

continued on page 80



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## Local Hero Nate Hoffer

### Good Samaritan Shelter, Phoenixville

As Christmas approaches, we think of trees, lights, presents. But we lose sight of the basics: a roof over our heads, food on our plates, an overcoat for the cold. While we enjoy the season, we sometimes forget those who suffer it.

Nate Hoffer, Executive Director of the Good Samaritan Shelters in Phoenixville and Lancaster, however, remembers. All year. Several hundred homeless men will seek refuge at the Phoenixville Shelter; homeless women and children at the Lancaster facility. Some are referred by hospitals. Others show up on the front step. Perhaps they're jobless, suffer from mental disabilities or substance abuse problems. As likely, though, they're just on the other side of luck.

For those unacquainted with the realities of homelessness, there's always a story. At root, though, is the importance of relationships. Inevitably, it seems, they have "burned their bridges ... Whether they've lost friends, family, their employer, a spouse, they've become like isolated islands," says Nate.

Chester County estimates about 1100 without shelter. If admitted to the Good Samaritan Emergency Center (four are turned away for each accepted), there's a bed for up to 45 days. A longer stay is possible in the Transitional Center, but that requires rent payments, sobriety, chores and a clean arrest record. East

of Coatesville, the Phoenixville Shelter is the "only ticket in town."

The Shelter's name is getting out there through Nate's efforts. Assets are up by more than half. Volunteers from local churches and other groups perform maintenance, provide counsel and lead classes in life skills. In the last fiscal year, 24 left the Emergency Shelter with a job; only 9 entered with one. Good Samaritan raised more than \$30,000 at the Taste of Phoenixville, a fete in January featuring food from local restaurants (see our January 2011 issue).

For Nate, the work fits. He has "a heart for people." He meets individually with residents and serves on the Shelter's facilities committee, budget and audit committee, and development committee. He sees himself as an educator, helping the community understand the issues residents are facing and connecting them with ways to support the Shelter's work.

Nate has always worked with non-profits, providing services to those in need. He served with Bread for the World in Washington, D.C., with Loving & Caring in Lancaster, and with a human rights agency in Kingston, Jamaica. With his wife, Rebekah, he has distributed backpacks to orphans in Europe and Asia.

More than a local hero. ♦

To volunteer or contribute, contact Nate at: 610-933-9305; GoodSamShelter.org.



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**PHOENIXVILLE**  
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# Phoenixville's Hip Vibe

Matt Freeman  
Photos by Mike Irby

A former steel town comes alive with art and entertainment, plus holiday shopping and great dining.

If you visit downtown Phoenixville these days and stroll the 100 and 200 blocks of Bridge Street and parts of Main Street, you might think you were in some of the livelier blocks of Manayunk or Center City. That's the vibe you get. Especially at night.

Up and down the brick sidewalks you see rows of 19th-century buildings housing brightly painted restaurants with al fresco dining, sophisticated shops, art galleries, music and street performers —

everything you'd expect to see in a place known for art and entertainment.

## **Rebirth With Arts & Entertainment**

It didn't happen overnight. Just eight years or so ago, the town was much quieter. But the borough's Main Street program made an aggressive effort to transform the downtown into a destination for shopping, dining, music, and fun generally. The borough brought in new office spaces to increase foot traffic,

renovated downtown streets, and created special events to draw people in.

And eventually, like its mythical namesake, this onetime steel town was reborn.

A linchpin in the town's rebirth as an arts and entertainment center was the Colonial Theatre, famously featured in the movie *The Blob* (mark your calendar for July 2012's Blobfest). A grant enabled it to expand seating and book big-name musical acts. It still does this today, and

also offers art and indie films along with classics, horror films, shows for kids and events like a TED simulcast in March.

If you like smaller venues, check out Steel City Coffee House for live music at "the finest coffeehouse in the galaxy." And live music is a big part of the borough's very popular First Friday events, drawing 3,000 visitors this summer, according to Jessica Capistrant, business manager for the Phoenixville Regional Chamber of Commerce.



### Shop While You Stroll

If you need to whittle away at your holiday shopping, the downtown area is ready for you with an eclectic mix of shops. One of the newer ones is Bridge Street Chocolates, where chocolatier Gail Warner changes up her flavors every season and can give you a box of treats to hang around the neck of that bottle of wine you're bringing to the party. Also new is Taste, which sells Sand Castle Winery wines and high-end olive oils, more great hostess or holiday gifts.

You'd expect art for sale in a town that supports the arts so enthusiastically, and Phoenixville delivers. On Bridge Street you'll find the Diving Cat Studio and Gallery, the Artisan's Gallery and Café, and Charmed Spirit, featuring handcrafted pieces from all over North America. The Phoenix Village Art Center has a gallery with special showings on First Fridays.

Looking for holiday adornments? Stroll along Bridge Street and visit Mystic Clothing, Desings Devine, Ellie's Choice ("candles to clothing and everything in between," says Ellie Acampora), Wolfberg Jewelers, and Romantic Jewelers.

Bridge Street is home to lots of interesting specialty shops. At the Potomac Bead Company, you can put together your own holiday accessories. There's also Smokey's Smoke Shop and Natural Creations, with hand-sculpted stone tabletop fountains, cave candles and garden sculptures.

If you bought a bicycle at Auntra Bicycle Repair and Sales, you could pedal around the corner to Main Street and keep on shopping, or of course, you could just walk the few steps. On Main Street you'll find clothes and accessories at Best Friends, Lulu Boutique and Gifterie. Don't miss Generations for "things old and new."

And if you're interested in furnishings to spruce up your home as the weather cools, check out All Things Primitive, Country Charm Furnishings and Artifact.

A little farther afield, see what's available at the Thrift Shop of Phoenixville Hospital on Church St. The hospital also has used books at its Bookworm store.

If you need a break from shopping, just stop by Gateway Bodyworks & Wellness Center for a hot stone massage or some rain drop therapy. That should help!



### Dining Diversity

Bridge Street has a wide variety of food options in just a couple of blocks. At one end of the shopping district is Marly's, an upscale American Continental BYOB. If you're in the mood for Asian, you'll find another BYOB, Thai L'Elephant, at the other end (see the dining review in this issue).

Many of the fine-dining options, such as Majolica, are relatively new arrivals, but the Columbia Bar and Grille has been around since 1893. Daddy Mims Creole is a popular BYOB, and The Fenix serves tapas and martinis.

Pepperoncini Sotto offers Italian dishes, and Franco Ristorante serves Italian in a casual atmosphere. PJ Ryan's Irish Pub, Molly Maguire's Irish Restaurant and Pub, and Iron Hill Brewery have pub fare and tasty beers to wash it down with.

Other options include Bistro on Bridge and Black Lab Bistro. And you can BYOF — Bring Your Own Food — to the Black Walnut Winery's popular tasting room.

A local in the know says to keep an eye out for a new Mexican restaurant on Bridge, furthering the diversity of the offerings there. There's even a Guatemalan BYOB restaurant, Antigua Guatemala, around the corner on Main.

The locals get an old-fashioned breakfast and lunch at Nudy's, over on Bridge Street, some distance from the downtown area.

And there are plenty of other options if you just want a snack or dessert. On Bridge there's Strawberry Fields Juice and Smoothie Bar and Soltane's Breads and Spreads. Brown's Cow on Main is the place to go for ice cream.

### Long Weekend

If you want to make an overnight trip out of it, Phoenixville even has its own hotel downtown on Bridge, the Mainstay Inn. Pepperoncini is downstairs there, and the parking lot next door is where the music plays on First Fridays, making this a one-stop entertainment center.

As if all that weren't enough, a \$65 million downtown mixed-use project called The Shoppes at French Creek is in the planning stages, and will bring 90,000 square feet of additional retail space to the area.

The once-quiet town of Phoenixville is reborn and on a roll that seems likely to continue for some time to come. ♦



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PHOENIXVILLE

### Wine, Wit & Wisdom – Phoenixville Public Library Celebrating 110 Years November 3

Fine wine and an auction. Guest speaker is CBS3 meteorologist and Phoenixville native, Kate Bilo. RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve, 100 Golf Club Dr. 5:45 to 9 pm. \$125. 610-933-3013, ext. 31; PhoenixvilleLibrary.org.

### 5th Annual "Empty Bowls" Event November 4

Help fight hunger in the community by purchasing a simple meal of soup and bread served in a handcrafted bowl created by an area artist or student. Keep the bowl as a reminder of the need to end hunger. Covered Bridge Room at Kimberton Fire Company, 752 Pike Springs Rd. & Firehouse La., Phoenixville. 4 to 9. \$20. 610-933-1105; PACSPHx.org.

### First Friday in Phoenixville November 4, December 2

Stroll through the streets on a self-guided tour of local art galleries, studios, stores and restaurants. The theme for November is a food drive for the Baptist Church of Phoenixville; December has a holiday theme. Bridge St. from Starr St. to Gay St. 6 to 10 pm. 610-935-2272; PhxFirstFriday.com

### Family Foliage Walk at Black Rock Sanctuary November 5

Join the group "Activate Phoenixville Area" for a beautiful walk on the ¾ mi. trail. Free snacks and face painting for the kids. 953 Black Rock Rd., Phoenixville. 8:30 am. 610-917-9890; ActivatePhoenixvilleArea.org.

### Colonial Theatre Events November 20-December 10

Nov. 5, Segal Puppet Theatre & Co.: "Bartholomew Bear's Moon Misadventure," 2 pm, \$8.50. Nov. 18, Bringing Back the

Bacons, see "Of Special Note." Nov. 26, Point Entertainment presents comedian Craig Shoemaker, 8 pm, \$25-\$38. Dec. 9, Point Entertainment presents Dar Williams, 8 pm, \$20-\$35.50. Dec. 10, Billy Kelly and the Blah, Blah, Blahs, 2 pm, \$8.50. 227 Bridge St. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

### Christmas Parade in Phoenixville December 2

The parade starts at 7 at the Borough Hall, 140 Church St., and continues to Starr St. then Bridge St., where the tree lighting will be at the corner of Bridge and Main Sts. 8 pm. 610-933-8801; Phoenixville.org.

### Phoenixville's 11th Annual Candlelight Holiday Tour December 3

Beautifully decorated homes and churches, crafts, music and refreshments. Benefits Phoenixville Library and The Clinic. Tickets and tour programs available at 2:30 pm at the Phoenixville Senior Center, 153 Church St. 3 to 7 pm. \$20-\$25. 610-933-9181; PhoenixvilleHistoricalSociety.org.

### Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust Annual Christmas Party at the Colonial Theatre December 3

Meet Santa, get your face painted, sing Christmas carols, and watch a movie at this annual holiday event. The party is free, but tickets are required and can be picked up at any PFB&T branch. 227 Bridge St. 2 pm. 610-917-0223; TheColonialTheatre.com.

### Phoenixville's 8th Annual Firebird Festival December 10

Annual burning of the Firebird (Phoenix) at Bridge St. & Taylor Alley. Activities begin at 4, with arts and crafts vendors and refreshments. The burning of the Phoenix is at 8. 610-917-1228; FirebirdFestival.com. ♦



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# COOKING WITH ESTHER

## *Vignettes from an Old-Time Chester County Thanksgiving*

William Woys Weaver

Over 45 Thanksgivings ago, on one of those rare occasions when my extended family — cousins, aunts, uncles and some of the older generation — managed to convene in one place, my grandmother Grace Hickman Weaver, with the assistance of her housekeeper Bertha Cole, organized a once-in-a-lifetime feast that after all these intervening years still resonates with everyone who attended.

How my grandmother was able to send forth from the kitchen such a flotilla of French pickles, corn puddings, stuffed hams, cream and sponge cakes, cottage cheese pies, tea biscuits, doughnuts, gingerbreads, jellies and molded ice creams was truly baffling. And she still had energy left at the end to take a glass of champagne with the rest of us.

### **SOUTH KENSINGTON SCHOOL OF COOKERY**

It came out that while she and Bertha had been cleaning the kitchen cupboards a few weeks earlier, they had come across my great-grandmother's handwritten cookbook. Great-grandmother began writing the cookbook in 1881 after attending a lecture in Philadelphia given by Matilda Lees Dods of the South Kensington School of Cookery in London. That experience had left a deep impression and inspired my great-grandmother to sign up for courses at the Philadelphia Cooking School in 1884-1885, doubtless quite a world apart from the Pocopson Township farm where she grew up.

My great-grandmother was Esther Hannum, daughter of Samuel P. and Susan Darlington Hannum, whose farmhouse, now much altered, still stands



Pennsylvania Cooking School, 1884, left. Esther Hickman, 1889, above.

along Folly Hill Road just north of Red Lion. The neighborhood was called Dugdale in those days, and rife with stories about the Underground Railroad, which had connected many farms in the area.

It wasn't long before Esther's foray into culinary arts became something of a local legend that assumed a life all of its own because not only was she determined, Esther was extremely good in matters of the palate. It was my grandmother's idea to recreate one of the memorable dinners that her mother had cooked back in the days when the family lived on a farm along Pocopson Creek and neighbors came from far and wide to feast at the Hickman table.

### **PENN ESTHER STOVE**

Esther married Will Hickman in 1889, and one of the first things he bought

for her in their newly renovated home was a Penn Esther cook stove. That iron monster cast in Reading came down to Pocopson via the railroad line that fed into Will Hickman's slaughter houses, where he made scrapple and other pork products for the local market. The stove was shipped in pieces so it had to be bolted together in the kitchen where it was meant to be used — once assembled there was no moving it.

Esther and her symbiotic relationship with a stove of the same name became a metaphor for the hospitality she and her husband shared with friends and neighbors.

It was my grandmother's memories of her mother's parlors filled with highly waxed mahogany furniture, the marble topped sideboard in the dining room arranged with polished coin silver

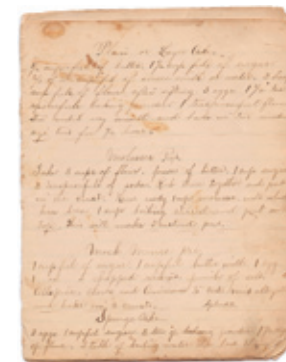


Plate from *The Household Companion*, 1871.  
Esther's 1881 cookbook, cover & excerpt with dessert recipes.



and glass stands covered with jellies, puddings and fragrant cakes, stacks of cookies, and neatly sliced pies, that inspired her to recreate that memorable Thanksgiving dinner many years ago.

### LEGACY COOKBOOK

Most of the dishes came right out of Esther's handwritten cookbook, and not one missed the mark. Some of the recipes have names jotted beside them referring to their source:

Aunt Mary Speakman, Aunt Lavinia Darlington, and Maude E. Harry (a friend).

Very few seem to be inspired by the bland white gravy cookery of Mrs. Rorer's Philadelphia Cooking School, probably a good thing. For all her famous showmanship, did Mrs. Rorer even know how to make a "proper"

Chester County stuffed ham for Thanksgiving? It took a special knife to remove the bone and the best kind of hearth-baked bread to make the filling.

### HEARTY CONVERSATION

As my grandmother had pointed out, Esther always surrounded herself with

good culinary advice and brisk conversation. Many a time the Thanksgiving dinner table included an assortment of ancient Quakers, great-great-grandmothers, cousins and traveling ministers, some born in the late 1700s.

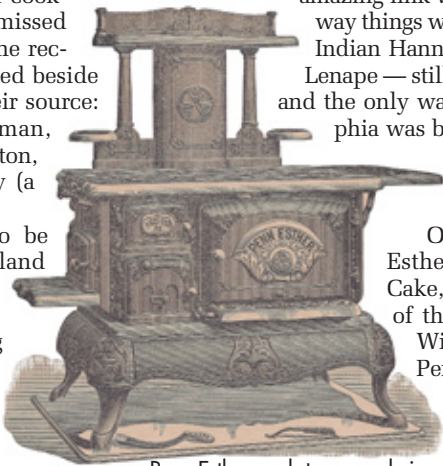
The oral traditions that generation brought to the dinner table created an amazing link with the past and the way things were in the days when Indian Hannah — the last of the Lenape — still lived at Northbrook and the only way to get to Philadelphia was by wagon.

### WELCOME AND MADEIRA CAKES

On those occasions, Esther made Welcome Cake, named in honor of the ship that brought William Penn to Pennsylvania.

But the dessert that stood out every Thanksgiving was Esther's Madeira Cake. It had its spe-

cial pan and in those days, the hickory nuts came right off the farm. A mocha-chocolate butter cream icing sprinkled with chopped toasted hickory nuts is all this cake needs to evoke the flickering gas-lit dining room in Esther's old stone farmhouse that has long since dissolved into the mists of memory.



Penn Esther cookstove, made in Reading, PA



### Madeira Cake

- $\frac{3}{4}$  C. unsalted butter
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  C. sugar
- 1 oz. bitter chocolate
- 4 eggs, separated
- $\frac{3}{4}$  C. sweet Madeira or sherry
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- $1\frac{1}{4}$  C. soft pastry flour (cake flour)
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. ground cloves
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ground allspice
- 1 C. (8 oz.) chopped hickory nuts or walnuts

Preheat the oven to 350°. Cream the butter and sugar. Melt the chocolate and combine with the sugar and butter. Beat the egg yolks until lemon color, then combine them with the chocolate mixture. Add the Madeira and vanilla.

Sift together the flour, baking powder and spices. Do this twice, to fully distribute the dry ingredients. Fold into the batter.

Whisk the egg whites until they form stiff peaks, and fold them into the batter. Gently fold in the chopped nuts.

Pour the batter into a greased 8 to 9-inch spring-form cake pan and bake for approximately 1 hour. Then turn back the temperature to 325°, and continue baking an additional 15 to 20 minutes or until the cake tests done in the center. Cool on a rack.

Ice according to preference, or just dust with confectioner's sugar. The un-iced cake can be served in bowls with a glass of Madeira poured over it.

*Yield: Serves 8 to 10.*

As a special Thanksgiving treat, I'll share my family recipe. ♦

*William Woys Weaver is a well-known food historian and author of 15 books. Born in Chester County, he's a four-time winner of the prestigious IACP Cookbook Awards, his most recent gold medal for Culinary Ephemera, a survey of old advertising materials. His next book, Deep Fried and Dutchified: Essays on Pennsylvania Dutch Food and Culture will be published by the Univ. of Penn. Press, spring 2013. Weaver is also founder of the Keystone Center for the Study of Regional Foods. Temporary website: WilliamWoysWeaver.com.*

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# Cold Runnings

Zack Malet

*Whether you're prepping for a spring 5K race or dreaming of next year's Philadelphia Marathon (or day-dreaming of the Half-Marathon), cold weather training requires dedication and planning.*

On Sunday, November 20th, 25,000 eager runners of various shapes, sizes and fitness levels will suit up for the Philadelphia Marathon and Half-Marathon. Racing past historical landmarks like Betsy Ross's house and the Liberty Bell, then paralleling the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, through crowds of enthusiastic spectators in University City and Manayunk, the leaders will finish more than two hours later, with the last runners trailing hours after that. It's 26.2 miles of putting one foot in front of the other.

Afterward, some will climb the Art Museum steps and prance triumphantly in homage to Rocky. Others will collapse,

exhausted, at the finish line. All will remember the journey that began with a detailed training plan that progressed through autumn training months. Some will even start planning their training for next year.

From casual exercisers to former college athletes, completing a distance run can be a satisfying goal to motivate you to train through all seasons.

Dr. Michael Glassner of Gladwyne agrees. "I started training as a stress-release from work, then I became addicted and wanted to conquer the challenge of a half-marathon. A year later, and I'm training for the full marathon this November."

## Effective Preparation

As a former collegiate runner, I often get asked to share some hard-earned training lessons with new runners. Here are the best — plus tips gathered from other successful distance runners on keeping motivated through winter workouts.

A first consideration is that training for distance races is a part-time job, so schedule accordingly. The time needed for proper training is related to the length of the race and your overall fitness. At the extreme end, for a marathon, the training period for beginners to experienced runners ranges from 8 months to 18 weeks out from the race date — so novices start training April 1st for the Philadelphia Marathon.

Given the time commitment, you'll want to design the most efficient and effective program with consistent training, the right equipment, a healthy diet, and realistic expectations. Each is more difficult during cold weather running.

## Consistent Training

While dedicating yourself to tiring exercise in harsh weather for half a year may sound like a drag, there's good news. By beginning now, you'll get in great shape for shorter, spring runs, like the Chester County area 5Ks (see sidebar).

If your goal is to complete a spring 5K comfortably and in a time you're happy with, you'll need to progressively build up your weekly mileage and train consistently. For reliable advice on training tailored to your level, check out *RunnersWorld.com*, which recommends for 5K beginners (with a few months' experience of regular running): a Week 1 run of 5-6 miles, building up to 15 miles a week two weeks before your race, and tapering off to 10 miles for race week. For an 8-month marathon training program, the first week long run is 3 miles, in a week totaling 6-7 miles.

Staying healthy is as important as running 5 to 6 days a week because missing training days sets you back. Although it's hard to stay healthy with winter colds and flus around, your physical fitness has to be a priority.

Varying your training courses is also important. To ease the toll running takes on your muscles and bones, train on a variety of surfaces, such as running tracks, hiking trails and grassy parks. Jean Boller of West Chester University recommends the 5-mile trail at WCU's South Campus as well as loops at both West and East Goshen Parks.

Running different routes can be a great way to explore your neighborhood. Says Austin, TX '09 Marathon finisher, Nicholas Neely, "Coming down the home stretch of my first marathon felt like the beginning of a new chapter in my life. But the real joy of my training was discovering the area I lived in on foot, as my runs grew in length."

## Right Equipment

The right shoes are a key component of your training. After all, they're just about all you need, except for cold-weather gear. Shoes are designed to fit feet with different arches, pronation (amount your foot rolls after striking the ground) and widths. If a shoe doesn't fit well, parts of the foot can be exposed to overuse, which leads to stress fractures. Local running stores can help you find the best shoes for your body and running style. Ask their advice.





Monitor the use of your shoes, too. Scott Purcell, co-owner of Chester County Running Store, says, "We highly recommend you change your shoes every 6 to 8 months or 300 to 500 miles, whichever comes first. And listen to your body. A new knee pain may mean your shoes are dead." Best to rotate your shoes, too.

Cold weather running is more comfortable with the right gear. On winter runs, you'll want to protect yourself from the cold and wind. Long miles are tough enough on your immune system. As Ed Camelli of Trail Creek Outfitters in Glen Mills says, "There's no such thing as bad weather ... just bad clothing."

Investing in the right equipment will keep you healthier and less apt to hurt a muscle. Invest in tight-fitting, cold-gear — tights, gloves and just about anything that's quick drying and wicking. Even those crazy looking balaklavas have a purpose — and I don't mean robbing Wawas.



### Healthy Diet

Your body needs proper fuel during winter training, such as a high-carbohydrate diet. This doesn't mean a massive pasta dinner every night, but rather a good portion of wheat bread, whole-grain starch, bananas, potatoes, apples and the like. A rule of thumb: You are what you eat, and you run like it, too.

Eat a few hours before a run and an hour after. *RunnersWorld.com* suggests almonds, high protein cereal, mixed berries and low-fat yogurt as post-run snacks. Top American female runner Suzy Favor Hamilton's book *Fast Track*, suggests you eat low-glycemic foods; more protein; frequent, small meals throughout the day; and balanced meals.

And because 75% of your muscle is made of water, hydration is also key, even in winter. Cold weather running may not make you thirsty, but drinking is still essential.

### Daily Preparation

To maximize your training, performance and recovery time, establish a daily exercise routine. Stretching in the morning, before and after a run, as well



### Area Races to Motivate You for Winter Training

**National Brain Tumor Society's Race for Hope:** Nov. 6. Phila. RaceForHopePA.org

**Alex's Lemonade Stand 3rd Annual Lemon Run 5K:** Nov. 13. Philadelphia. AlexsLemonade.org.

**Philadelphia Marathon/Half-Marathon:** Nov. 20. Philadelphia. PhiladelphiaMarathon.com

**Chester County Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk:** Nov. 24. Downingtown. Runcrrs.com

**Jingle Elf Run 2 Mile Run/Walk:** Dec. 2. Downtown West Chester. Runcrrs.com

**34th Annual Brian's Run 5 Miles:** Dec. 4. West Chester. BriansRun.org

**Funky Santa 5K and 3-Person Relay:** Dec. 4. Pottstown. MakeBreak.com

**Jingle Bell Run and Walk for Arthritis:** Dec. 11. Malvern. Active.com

**Holiday Triple Threat 3-Person Relay/5 Miles:** Dec. 17. West Chester. Active.com

### 2012 Runs. Check for dates

**Tyler Arboretum Trail Run 10K:** Apr. Media. TylerTrailRun.com

**West Chester Downtown Grand Prix 12 5K races:** Through Dec. Runcrrs.com

**Parkway Dash for Diabetes 5K Run/Walk:** April. West Chester. CCHosp.com

**David's Run 5K:** April. Wayne. DavidGallagherFoundation.org

**7th Valley Forge Revolutionary 5 Mile:** Apr. Valley Forge Pk. RevolutionaryRun.org

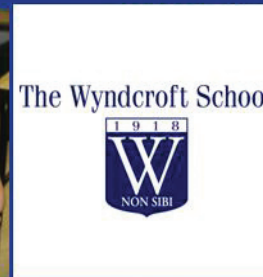
**33rd Broad Street Run 10 Mile:** May. Philadelphia. BroadStreetRun.com

**23rd Kennett Run 10K:** May. Kennett Square. KennetRun.net

**11th Berwyn Victory Run 5K:** May. BerwynVeteransMemorial.com

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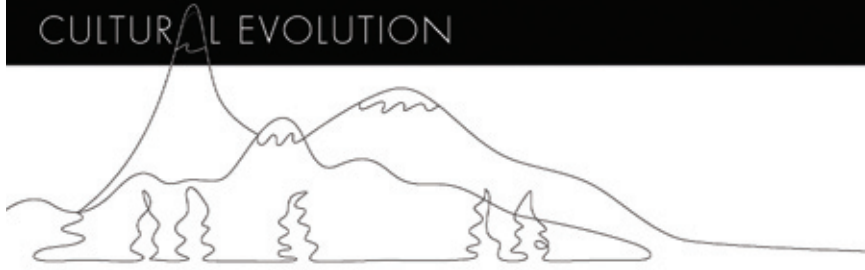
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## Holiday Shopping



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For over 40 years, Witmer Quilt Shop has been offering a huge selection of antique and new quilts to savvy shoppers who travel to Lancaster County just to stop there. At any given time, there are more than 150 quilts in stock. You'll find an abundant selection of wall hangings, pillows and all sizes of bedding, including one-of-a-kind antique items. They also do special orders and custom made designs, hand-quilted and appliqued in the patterns and colors you desire. A perfect gift!

### Witmer Quilt Shop

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**Christopher Chocolates - Fine Foods**, 3519 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3), Newtown Square  
610-359-1669; [Christopher-Chocolates.com](http://Christopher-Chocolates.com)





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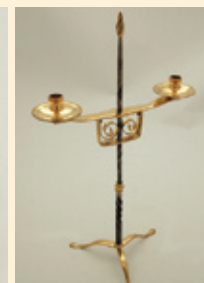
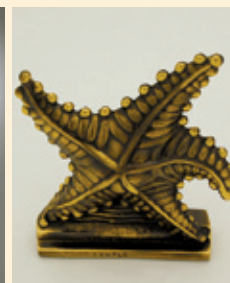
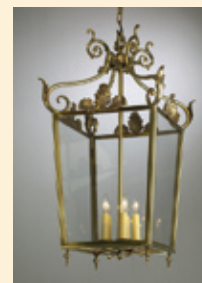
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## Holiday Shopping

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one of several lighting styles for interior and exterior lighting; a handsome brass starfish to proudly serve as a doorstop or an accent on your mantel; and one of several table-size candle stands to enhance any decor. Mon-Fri, 8 to 4:30; Sat, 10 to 3, Oct-Mar: 9 to 1.

**Ball and Ball**, 463 W. Lincoln Hwy., Exton  
 610-363-7330; 800-257-3711; BallandBall.com



For gifts of distinction that will remain memorable keepsakes, take a drive in the country to Greshville Antiques and Fine Art. This nationally known gallery, in an 18th-century renovated stone barn in the beautiful rolling hills of Berks County, features 19th- and 20th-century American and European artwork. Regional Pennsylvania art from Berks, Bucks, Chester and Lehigh Counties and Pennsylvania Academy artists are featured along with antique grandfather clocks and furniture, from country to formal. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4, or by appointment.

**Greshville Antiques and Fine Art**  
 1041 Reading Ave. (Rt. 562), Boyertown  
 610-367-0076; GreshvilleAntiques.com

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610-692-7707; BigsDiamonds.com



**Candlelight Holiday Home  
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610-444-8141; KennettSquareHistory.org



**Matlack Florist**  
210 N. Chester Rd., West Chester  
610-431-3077; MatlackFlorist.com



**Wendell August**  
103 Woodcutter St., Main Street at Exton  
610-363-2426; WendellAugust.com



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



**November 1-5  
Dragonfly Decor**  
1600 Yellow Springs Rd. Chester Springs.  
610-827-1220; DragonflyDecorHome.com.  
4th Anniversary Sale.

**November 3-6  
The Carriage House**  
Rts. 926 & 82, Willowdale Town Ctr.,  
Kennett Square. 610-444-6770; Willowdale-  
TownCenter.com/CarriageHouse.html.  
Refreshments. Thurs, 5 to 9; Fri, 10 to 8;  
Sat, 10 to 5:30; Sun, 12:30 to 4:30.

**November 4-5, 11-12  
Heritage Design Interiors**  
1064 Main St., Blue Ball. 717-354-2233;  
HeritageDesignInteriors.com. Stop by their  
Open House and enjoy refreshments. Fri,  
9 to 7; Sat, 9 to 4.

**November 5  
Wendell August**  
103 Woodcutter St., Exton. 610-363-2426;  
WendellAugust.com. Meet the artist, Richard  
Bollinger, as he signs the 2011 collection of  
his ornaments and the Annual Plate created  
by Wendell August. 11 to 1 and 2 to 4.

**November 5-6  
Waterloo Gardens**  
Exton: 200 North Whitford Rd., 610-363-  
0800; Devon: 136 Lancaster Ave., 610-

293-0800. WaterlooGardens.com. Holiday  
Open House with amazing sales and grand  
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**November 12  
Ten Thousand Villages**  
Center City: 1122 Walnut St., 215-574-2008;  
Chestnut Hill: 8331 Germantown Ave., 215-  
242-3040; Exton: Main Street at Exton, 271  
Main St., 610-594-2370; Media: 101-103  
West State St., 610-892-5020; TenThou-  
sandVillages.com. Holiday Bag Sale. 20%  
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**November 17  
Renaissance Academy**  
40 Pine Crest St., Phoenixville. 610-983-  
4080; RAK12.org. Girls Night Out —  
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**November 19  
Walter J. Cook Jeweler**  
Chestnut Village Shoppes, 36 Chestnut Rd.,  
Paoli. 610-644-5347; WalterJCookJeweler.  
com. Holiday preview — meet the designer,  
Lika Behar. 11 to 4.

**November 23  
Ten Thousand Villages**  
Souderton Shopping Center, 787 Rt. 113,  
Souderton. 215-723-1221; TenThousand-  
Villages.com. Holiday Bag Sale.



**November 24-January 1**

**Herr Foods**

Rt. 1 to Rt. 272 to Herr Dr., Nottingham. 800-63-SNACK; Herrs.com. Holiday light display open to all from dusk 'til dawn.

**November 26-December 24**

**Walter J. Cook Jeweler**

Chestnut Village Shoppes, 36 Chestnut Rd., Paoli. 610-644-5347; WalterJCookJeweler.com. Holiday Open House with refreshments. Saturdays, 11 to 4.

**November 26, December 4, 11, 18**

**Christopher Chocolates — Fine Foods**

3519 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square. 610-359-1669; Christopher-Chocolates.com. Special tastings, demonstrations in chocolate and great gift ideas. 11 to 4.

**December 2-3**

**Matlack Florist**

210 N. Chester Rd. (Rt. 352), West Chester. 610-431-3077; MatlackFlorist.com. Holiday Light refreshments, door prizes, sales and specials. Fri, 9 to 5:30; Sat, 9 to 5.

**December 2-4**

**Evelyn & Harriette's**

1232 Oysterdale Rd., Oley. 610-987-6055. Holiday Open House. 10 to 5.

**December 3, 10**

**Christopher Chocolates — Fine Foods**

3519 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square. 610-359-1669; Christopher-Chocolates.com. Chocolate dipping, tastings, discounts — come see what's new. 9:30 to 5:30.

**December 7**

**Dragonfly Decor**

1600 Yellow Springs Rd., Chester Springs. 610-827-1220; DragonflyDecorHome.com. Open House, light refreshments. 10 to 8.

**December 10**

**The Spirit of Christmas in New Castle**

The whole town is having an open house. Visit charming shops, museums and private homes. Pick up a brochure at New Castle Presbyterian Church, 25 E. Second St., New Castle. 10 to 5:30. Free. 302-328-3279; NewCastlePresChurch.org.

**December 13**

**Wendell August**

103 Woodcutter St., Exton. 610-363-2426; WendellAugust.com. Enjoy holiday shopping while sipping hot cider and eating Christmas cookies. Free hand-hammered metal art souvenirs and crafts for the kids while you shop. 5 to 8. ♦



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*Drink something unexpected this holiday season.*

Kristin Collier Van Riper

November announces the beginning of the holiday entertaining season, so it's time to start planning. And whether you're a guest or a host, one thing is for sure: a good bottle of wine enlivens any gathering.

So get out of that rut. You wouldn't bring the same old tuna casserole to every potluck. Why bring the same old tired wine? California Chardonnay, Oregon Pinot Noir, Italian Pinot Grigio, French Bordeaux blend. What do they have in common? That they're all common.

This year ditch the safe, everyday selections and make a wow choice that will get everyone at the table talking. There are wonderful wines coming from regions you may not have considered.

So be adventurous. These wines warrant a second glance, and a second glass!

### NEW CHOICES IN WHITES

Greece is home to the Parthenon, ancient ruins and majestic islands. And it's also home to a variety of vineyards producing interesting and virtually undiscovered wines.

*Muses Estates 9 Muses (\$11.99)* is a great inaugural wine to get a taste of the country. Its main grape is the relatively

unknown Assyrtiko (50% Assyrtiko, 30% Trebbiano, 20% Sauvignon Blanc). With a floral-fruit nose, a rounded, balanced body and a medium-long finish, it's an ideal accompaniment to fresh grilled fish, shellfish, green vegetables and any light appetizers. Granted, you may get some snickers when you present a Greek wine to the table. But by the end of the bottle, everyone will be singing your praises.

Looking for a unique grape from a not so unique place? *Tenuta Le Calcaie Vernaccia (\$16.99)* from Italy is a perfect selection. Italian wines have been respected and enjoyed for centuries, but as varietals come in and out of popularity, it's always exciting to try "the next big thing." Vernaccia may be that thing.

This Tuscan wine has always been considered a "local wine" until recently, when some amazing bottles have pushed it from the Tuscan table onto ours. It tends to be a crisp wine with good acidity, hints of lemon and lime with a nice complex finish. This wine could definitely pair with a roasted chicken, light pasta dish or antipasta. This interesting Italian choice could, without a doubt, replace the many predictable bottles of Pinot Grigio crowding the bar.



## NEW REDS

Every dinner or holiday party must have a red wine, so what country do we suggest? Spain. Like Italy, Spain has been a force in winemaking for many years. Known for their affordability and versatility, Spanish wines are assets to any evening.

*Alto Almanzora Este* (\$9.99) is a relatively new vineyard offering an interesting blend (47% Monastrel, 23% Tempranillo, 12% Syrah, 6% Garnacha, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot) for a great price. Most people have tried these grapes or some of these grapes before, but the combination is an explosion of flavor. There are hints of vanilla, wood, spice, cherry and black pepper. This wine would be an amazing accompaniment to anything from burgers to soups, crockpot meals to an array of easy appetizers.

Next we head to Lebanon. Most people (even most wine geeks) don't know that Lebanon is one of the oldest wine producing regions in the world. (Amaze your friends with that tidbit.) Nor do they know that Lebanon pro-

duce only about a half million cases per year. It does produce well-known grapes but the terroir recreates them in a way you've never tasted.

*Chateau Kefraya Les Breteches* (\$16.99), a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Cinsault, Mourvedre, Tempranillo, Carignan and Grenache, is woodsy with fruity undertones and hints of berries and figs. Pairing this wine with honey baked brie or bites of London broil with a buttery béarnaise would make your evening complete. But this is a wine that will spark a conversation with or without food.

Whether you're entertaining or gifting the hostess, let the wine you drink shine! You never know what will happen when you introduce people to undiscovered gems of the wine world. ♦

*Collier's of Centreville has many classes this holiday season. Plus, for the first time, a Scotch class. Check out the website for the exciting schedule. December 5th, sign up for our bubbly walkabout and raise a glass for the 30th anniversary!*

# DINING I N • S T Y L E



## THAI L'ELEPHANT

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Friday & Saturday 5 to 10 p.m.

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Lise Monty

Phoenixville's dining-out scene, which has blossomed in the past few years, was kicked up a significant notch early this year when Thai L'Elephant opened at the corner of Bridge and Gay streets, moving from its Route 23 location. "It was a good decision," says owner Nui Kullanna, delighted with the uptown restaurant's popularity.

Its extensive menu offers an abundance of light and flavorful favorites, plus some innovative creations. I'd never had apples in Thai cuisine, for example, but they're added judiciously and with

tasty results. Kullanna's reputation persists as a hands-on owner/chef who fusses in the kitchen over preparation and presentation and also enjoys mingling with the guests.

In the front room of the 100-seat restaurant, a long, exposed-brick wall, rustic and earthy, and the embossed tin ceiling that recalls Victorian times, salute the building's historic roots and blend beautifully with the contemporary furniture and look-at-me Asian artwork.

I was happy the dramatic fiber-art hangings that honor Thailand's revered

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elephant that I'd first enjoyed in its previous location had survived the move downtown. One particularly beautiful tapestry, thickly padded and lavishly trimmed, glows softly, thanks to all the gold threads woven into its design. Two modernistic Buddha portraits, hand-made in Thailand and complete with sparkling sequins, and an ornately carved frame, a period piece, stand out on the brick wall.

Elephants show up in black-and-white photos, too, and as small statues on shelves. Kullana continues the traditional practice of displaying a photo of a Thai King, in this case the late Rama V. "We believe he brings good luck," she says. Two small dishes of food are placed before his photo every day, another long-held custom in her religion, she explains. Tall shoji-style floor lamps softly light the comfortable and welcoming dining rooms.

#### **A Touch of Galangal, Lemon Grass & Other Delights**

Coconut soup with shrimp is simply irresistible to me, and this was one of the best I've enjoyed over the years. The *Tom Kha* (\$4.95 with chicken, \$6.95 with seafood, and \$5.95 with shrimp) was creamier than most and more "coco-nutty" with firm white mushrooms and large shrimp. The classic seasonings that imbued it with pronounced, well-balanced flavors and gave it a little zing included galangal (somewhat like ginger), lemon grass, kaffir lime leaves and lime juice. Days later, the thought of it makes my mouth water.

Diced apples added a touch of sweetness to the tasty mushroom and leek filling in the *Fuji Dumplings* (\$5.95), wrapped in thin, translucent skins. Served with a delicate soy/vinegar dipping sauce, it was a delightful appetite-enhancing dish, and one of six vegan appetizers.

Other appetizer choices include crispy pork and glass noodle roll; chicken Satay with peanut dressing; fried ground pork/water chestnut dumplings; tulip dumplings with shrimp, chicken and crabmeat; shrimp sarong, an eye-appealing

creation (we saw one served at an adjacent table) with marinated shrimp generously wrapped in egg noodles and deep-fried, served with plum sauce; and even the ubiquitous calamari, served with spicy sweet and sour sauce. Also, two hot and sour soups, one Thai, one Northeast Thai, and ravioli made with ground chicken and shrimp.

Salad choices include fresh green papaya with grilled shrimp, Aubergine or Asian eggplant, tenderloin with roasted sticky rice and chopped crispy duck with pineapple.

Thai Treasure, a glorious sampler enjoyed during an earlier visit, includes chicken Satay, tulip dumplings, fried ground pork dumpling, crispy roll and cabbage salad.

#### **Enticing Entrées**

The straightforward menu description for *Mae-Nam* (\$22.95), a listing of its primary ingredients, didn't do it justice. The seafood feast of sautéed shrimp and deep-fried tilapia fingers that somehow stayed crispy under the tasty vegetable mix was topped off with a perky lobster tail, puffed up and sprinkled with toasted onion flakes. The salsa of green mango slices and slender sticks of Granny Smith apple, crisp and refreshing, was wonderful. Included in the cooked vegetable toss were broccoli bites, slivers of red bell pepper and Bermuda onion, shredded carrots and chopped parsley. Key to the dish's success was the excellent sweet/sour sauce that made everything sing. The intricately carved carrot garnish was the exclamation point.

*Himmaparn* (\$15.95), one of seven Wok Specialties, scored with its savory blend of sautéed chicken and shrimp, onions, Napa cabbage, carrots, snow peas, red peppers and pineapple chunks, with a light soy-based sauce and chopped cashews on top. This is a good choice for Thai-food newbies.

Other appealing entrée choices include peppercorn catfish, apricot salmon, shrimp and scallops in a champagne cream sauce (French influenced, obviously), jumbo shrimp stuffed with crab, marinated Cornish hen with coconut

milk, tamarind duck with mango and "Bangkok Fish," striped bass or red snapper served with a red chili/garlic sauce. Also, several noodle and fried rice specials, five different "aromatic curry" dishes and many vegan choices.

A customer favorite is the Chu Chee Duck, a crispy semi-boneless half duck with a zippy red curry sauce flavored with pineapple and basil.

Thai L'Elephant's amusing description of the "how hot do you want it?" question ranges from "mild with a little sting" to "tongue and lips tingling" to "Awakening...best with Thai's iced tea.

#### **Save Room for Dessert**

We were surprised to have a dessert tray presented — unusual in an Asian restaurant. The chocolate mousse, chocolate lava cake, butterscotch lava cake and lemon-blueberry cake looked pretty, but we had decided to go with the *Homemade Coconut Ice Cream* (\$6.95), scrumptiously creamy and rich with coconut flavors and shredded coconut.

I would have loved some of the homemade Sticky Rice with Mango, enjoyed in an earlier visit, but it's a seasonal item and good mangos were not available.

#### **Gracious Service**

Every server, male or female, was friendly and accommodating. The women wear attractive sarong-style skirts made of Thai printed fabrics — with elephant designs, of course — each with a flower in her hair.

When we realized the restaurant's BYOB status, the server informed us that Black Walnut Winery was right across the street and they had a wide selection. It was good information and a sign that Thai L'Elephant has comfortably settled into its new home. ♦

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## THANKSGIVING CLASSICS — WITH A TWIST

Laura Muzzi Brennan

Since the beginning of 2011, "Brandywine Table" has had me chatting with growers at farmers markets, chasing down chefs between the lunch and dinner rush, and savoring an elegant meal at an Eastern Shore farm.

But for my November column — twists on classic Thanksgiving side dishes — all roads pointed toward home.

What that means is that, besides thumbing through my own recipes and trying to recreate the mushroom stuffing my mother made in 1989, I called on the friends whose tables I've shared this year.

Since birds of a feather really do flock together, my buddies are the kind of people who can't decide whether it's more fun to bake sea salt brownies, talk about them or devour them with a tall glass of whole milk. One writes a cooking blog; another runs a farmers market; still another seems to host a potluck every other week.

In picking their brains and leafing through their files, not only did I get their recipes, I gained further insight into their personalities and Thanksgiving traditions.

Turns out, I have very few friends who are compulsively rulebound.

Sure, a few told me they followed the directions to a teaspoon. Most of them, however, handed me recipes with scribbled notes in the margins directing that I crank up the oven temperature, replace the brown sugar with maple syrup, soak the cherries first.

Even these culinary renegades, however, shied away from bucking Thanksgiving tradition entirely. Sure, they may riff on typical bread stuffing, but stuffing would definitely be in its rightful place next to the bird.

One friend told me that her family so frowns upon even slightly tweaking a dish, they actually made up a rule: if you're going to cook a "new" dish, you must cook the original as well. That way, folks who've been looking forward to potatoes mashed with only butter, salt and cream won't go hungry when tangy goat cheese and chives show up in the mix.

Come to the Thanksgiving table where, with a little help from friends, classic side dishes take on some new twists.

Nothing too crazy, I promise!





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### **Roasted Baby Pears with Herbed Goat Cheese**

*Sara adapted this recipe from the Food Network's Tyler Florence. Serve as an appetizer or place 2 pear halves on top of mixed greens for a warm salad. You'll never go back to jello salad again!*

**8 oz. goat cheese, room temperature**  
**2-3 Tb. herbs de Provence**  
**2 Tb. extra virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling**  
**2-3 Tb. honey**  
**salt and pepper to taste**  
**12 baby pears**  
*(Sara uses Seckel pears.)*

Preheat oven to 375°. Mix together goat cheese, herbs, 2 Tb. olive oil and honey. Season with salt and pepper.

Halve the pears. Remove seeds and core. Place on a baking sheet. Stuff each pear half with 1 Tb. goat cheese mixture. Drizzle olive oil over pears and add additional salt and pepper to taste.

Bake 25-30 minutes until pears are tender. Makes 24 appetizers.

### **Cherry Wild Rice Stuffing**

*Sara's family has made this recipe for so long that no one can remember where it originated.*

**9 C. chicken broth**  
**1 C. raw wild rice, rinsed and drained**  
**2 C. raw long-grain white rice**  
**2 Tb. butter**  
**1 C. diced onion**  
**1 C. diced celery**  
**1 C. dried cherries**  
**zest from 2 oranges**  
**2 tsp. dried or 2 Tb. fresh thyme**  
**2 tsp. dried marjoram**  
**2-3 tsp. dried sage or rosemary**  
**Salt and pepper to taste**  
**1 C. pecan halves, toasted**  
**1 C. chopped, dried apricots or dried cranberries or combination of both**

Preheat oven to 350°. In a heavy saucepan, bring 4½ C. chicken broth to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low, add wild rice and simmer uncovered for 45

minutes or until rice is tender. Strain rice and put in a large bowl.

In another heavy saucepan, bring remaining 4½ C. broth to a boil. Add white rice. Return to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 25 minutes or until broth is absorbed and rice is tender. Fluff with a fork and add to wild rice.

Melt butter in a large skillet over medium low heat. Add onion, celery and cherries. Stirring occasionally, cook until vegetables are just starting to soften, about 5-10 minutes. Toss into rice mixture.

To rice/vegetable mixture, add remaining ingredients. Spread in a large casserole dish and bake, covered, for 20 to 25 minutes. Makes 10-12 servings.

### **Mushroom Stuffing**

*What would a County Lines' Thanksgiving be without local mushrooms? My mother made a version of this stuffing years ago and promptly lost the recipe. I've done my best to recreate it here, substituting light cream for what I remember were many tablespoons of butter.*

**1 French baguette**  
**5½ Tb. unsalted butter, divided**  
**2 celery ribs, small dice**  
**1 large or 2 small onions, small dice**  
**1 lb. white button mushrooms, stems removed, cut in half**  
**1 tsp. (or to taste) poultry seasoning**  
**salt and pepper to taste**  
**½ C. light cream, room temperature**  
**2 C. chicken broth**

Preheat oven to 350°. Cut baguette into ½-inch cubes. Spread on baking sheet and bake for 15-20 minutes, just long enough to dry out the bread. You'll have 8-9 cups. Let cool. Place in a large bowl.

In a large skillet, melt 2 Tb. of butter over medium heat. Add celery and onions and cook, stirring frequently, until vegetables begin to soften and brown, about 10 minutes. Add another 1-2 Tb. butter to the skillet and toss in mushrooms. Cook until mushrooms



soften and yield their juice, 5-10 minutes. Add poultry seasoning, salt and pepper and stir, cooking 1 minute more. Add vegetables to bread and toss.

In the same skillet, melt ½ Tb. butter and whisk in light cream and chicken broth. Whisking frequently, cook over medium heat for 5 minutes, until liquid starts to thicken. Pour liquid onto bread/vegetable mixture and combine well. Allow to sit for 5 minutes or until liquid is absorbed.

Spread mixture in a 9x9 casserole dish and bake for 25-30 minutes or until desired crispness. Makes 6 generous servings.

### **Ellen's Cornbread Sausage Stuffing**

*Ellen adapted this recipe from one that appeared in the Cleveland Plain Dealer in the 1970s. When she moved from Ohio, she brought the recipe with her and has made it every Thanksgiving for decades. Because she doesn't want to lose a crumb, she makes sure to have a large disposable roasting tin on hand in which to mix the ingredients.*

- 1 lb. good quality sausage, casings removed
- 1 lb. butter, divided
- 2 C. onions, chopped (or fennel)
- 2 C. celery, chopped
- 10 C. crumbled cornbread
- 2-4 C. white bread, cut into 1" cubes, lightly toasted
- 1 C. fresh Italian parsley, chopped
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 Tb. dried sage
- 1 Tb. dried marjoram
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- chicken broth

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large skillet, cook sausage until just cooked through. Drain excess fat, and toss sausage into large roasting tin or large bowl.

Wipe out skillet, melt 3-4 Tb. butter in it and sauté onions and celery until they begin to soften. Put vegetables into roasting tin and toss to combine with sausage, breads, herbs and spices.

Melt remaining butter in skillet or microwave and pour into mixture, tossing well to combine. If mixture seems dry, add vegetable or chicken broth ¼ cup at a time until you reach desired level of moisture.

Spread in a large casserole dish and bake for 30 minutes until hot throughout. Makes 15-20 servings.

### **Party Potatoes**

*Everyone adores a helping of piping hot mashed potatoes, but almost no one loves mashing them while decked out in their Thanksgiving best. Enter Party Potatoes, shared by my friend Liz. You can make the dish up to 5 days ahead, refrigerate and pop it in the oven when you're ready.*

- 5 lbs. potatoes
- ½ pint sour cream
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- ⅛ tsp. garlic salt
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. onion salt
- ¼ C. butter

Preheat oven to 350°. Peel and cook potatoes in salted water until tender. Drain. Mash potatoes and add all other ingredients.

Spread mixture in 9x13 pan. Bake for 45 minutes. Makes 12-16 servings.

### **Roasted Carrots and Sweet Potatoes with Cardamom and Ginger**

*"Sara without the H" loves the piquant flavors in this dish. Cardamom is a popular spice used in Indian and Middle Eastern cooking. Although cooks sometimes use a combination of ground cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, mace, allspice and clove as a substitute, Sara recommends using the real thing. But don't add too much, as a little cardamom goes a long distance.*

- 6 Tb. unsalted butter
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- ¼ to ½ tsp. ground cardamom

- 2 Tb. maple syrup
- ½ C. orange juice
- scant Tb. Cognac or bourbon, optional
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1½ lbs. carrots, sliced on diagonal, ½" thick
- 1½ lbs. sweet potatoes, cut into 1" pieces

Preheat oven to 400°. In a small saucepan, melt butter. Add ginger, garlic, cardamom and cook over medium heat until spices release their fragrance, 1 minute or less. Add maple syrup, orange juice, Cognac or bourbon, salt and pepper and cook on low to medium heat for about 3 minutes until sauce has thickened.

In a large bowl, toss butter mixture with carrots and sweet potatoes. Spread vegetables in a single layer on a baking sheet and roast until vegetables are caramelized and can be pierced with a fork, about 45 minutes. Makes 10-12 servings

### **Sweet Potato Casserole with Streusel Topping**

*My buddy Debbie happened upon the recipe for this dessert-like side dish in a cookbook put together by the nursery school her children attended. The recipe is attributed to Wendy Stupp.*

*For the sweet potatoes:*

- 8 cooked, mashed sweet potatoes (can be baked in the oven)

- 1 C. sugar
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 eggs
- ½ stick butter
- ½ C. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla

*For the topping:*

- ⅓ C. butter
- 1 C. brown sugar
- ⅓ C. flour
- ½ C. chopped pecans
- ½ C. flaked coconut, optional

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine ingredients for the sweet potatoes and put in greased casserole dish. Mix the topping ingredients together and spread evenly on top. Bake for 35 minutes. Serves 8.



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## Stuffing Variations

Almost every one of my friends puts a special spin on the humble bread stuffing. Do try these ideas at home!

- Soak apples rings in Calvados. Drain, chop and toss into stuffing.
- Use clam or oyster juice in place of chicken broth to keep your stuffing moist. Then, add shucked oysters, which you can buy canned or at the seafood counter.
- Rehydrate a variety of exotic dried mushrooms in white wine. Drain and roughly chop. Then, add mushrooms along with some of the wine to stuffing.
- Toss in a cup of grated parmesan or Gruyère cheese, a pinch of red pepper flakes and chopped steamed chestnuts. You can find whole steamed chestnuts in a jar at many grocery stores.
- Sauté apples in butter until they begin to soften. Add cider or wine, dried cranberries, salt and pepper. Simmer for 5 minutes to concentrate flavors and reduce liquid.
- Mix chopped, dried apricots, dates and prunes into stuffing. For meat lovers, top with crumbled bacon just before serving.

## Sarah With the H's Three Post-it Note Carrots

The high heat brings out the carrots' sweetness, so you don't need to add sugar.

- 1½ lbs. carrots, sliced ½" thick on an angle**  
**4 cloves garlic, sliced thinly**  
**2 Tb. olive oil**  
**1 Tb. fresh cilantro, chopped**  
**1 Tb. fresh Italian parsley, chopped**

Preheat oven to 425°. Toss all ingredients together in a large bowl. Spread in a single layer on a rimmed a baking sheet. Bake for 40 minutes, turning once. Makes 6 servings.

## Roasted Brussels Sprouts

*I've never heard anyone say they eat Brussels sprouts like candy until I got a hold of this recipe. If there's any recipe that can elicit this type of praise for the oft-maligned vegetable, it's this one, developed by my friend Pam.*

- 1 stem or 1 bag fresh Brussels sprouts**  
**3-4 Tb. olive oil**  
**2-3 cloves garlic, minced**  
**1 red pepper, cut into strips**  
**2 Tb. pomegranate molasses**  
**salt and pepper to taste**  
**fresh pomegranate seeds, optional**

Preheat oven to 375°. Cut sprouts off stem (or remove from bag). Trim ends, cut in half (top to bottom) if large. Pour oil into a large roasting pan and coat bottom. Add sprouts, garlic and red pepper strips and stir to coat. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Roast in oven for 40-50 minutes, stirring every 10-15 minutes, so sprouts roast evenly.

After removing from oven, drizzle sprouts with pomegranate molasses. Sprinkle more salt and pepper and stir to coat. Add fresh pomegranate seeds and stir again. Makes 4-6 servings.

## Sara's No-Longer-a-Secret Baked Cranberry Jam

*This recipe is great for busy cooks because you don't have to constantly stir it on top of the stove. Says Sara, "Nobody ever believes that such a simple recipe can be so tasty until they make it. I have never given this recipe to anyone without having them call or e-mail to tell me it was the best cranberry sauce they ever had."*

- 12 or 16 oz. bag fresh cranberries**  
**1¼ - 1½ C. sugar**  
**½ C. water**

Preheat oven to 300°. Mix all ingredients together in a ceramic casserole dish. Read a book or take a nap while the berries bake and bubble for 1 hour.

Check to make sure all sugar has dissolved. If any clumps remain, stir and bake for 5 more minutes. It may seem

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too liquidy when you take it out, but don't worry because it thickens as it cools. Makes approximately 3 cups.

### Easy Cranberry Relish

*Liz has a knack for serving delicious dishes that take only minutes to make. This one's a real crowd pleaser, which is good since there always seems to be a hungry crowd around Liz's table.*

- 1 can whole cranberries
- 1 can jellied cranberries
- 1 can pineapple tidbits, drained
- 1 can Mandarin oranges, drained

Mix all ingredients together and refrigerate until serving. Makes 8 cups.

### Laura's Twist on Liz's Fresh Corn Pudding

*Liz makes her corn pudding with sugar and vanilla. For a savory version, I replaced them with ground chipotle and shredded cheese.*

- 2 C. milk
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 Tb. butter, melted
- ¼ C. flour
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp (or to taste) ground chipotle
- 2 C. fresh corn kernels
- 1 C. sharp cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix first 6 ingredients together. Fold in corn and cheese. Put mixture in a greased casserole dish. Bake for 30-40 minutes. Makes 4-6 servings. ♦

To contact Laura, please e-mail her at [LauraBrennan@ValleyDel.com](mailto:LauraBrennan@ValleyDel.com).

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### Brining a Turkey

I just couldn't write about side dishes without mentioning the bird in the room. My friend Kathy who writes the blog Kath—What's for Dinner Tonight? always surprises me with her creative takes on classics. Inspired by Thomas Keller's Ad Hoc at Home cookbook, she's been experimenting with brining as a way to maintain moisture and add depth of flavor to her turkey. Kathy advises making the brine 24 hours before brining the bird to give it plenty of time to cool completely, so you don't cook your bird in the brine! And use a brining bag.

#### Brine for a 10-12 lb. Turkey

- 5 lemons, halved
- 2 oranges, halved
- 1 large bunch of Italian parsley, chopped
- 2-3 Tb. dried thyme
- 1 Tb. fresh sage
- 24 dried bay leaves
- ¼ C. black peppercorns
- 1 head of garlic, halved crosswise
- ½ C. of honey
- 1½ C. Kosher salt \*
- 2 gallons water

*\* Use David's or Diamond Crystal, not Morton's, as it has a caking agent that gives the brine a metallic flavor.*

Combine all ingredients in a very large non-reactive stockpot and bring to a boil. Boil for 1 minute and stir to dissolve the salt and honey. Remove from heat and let cool completely before brining.

When you're ready to brine, make sure you completely submerge the bird in the brine. If you're using a brining bag, pour the brine into the bag and squeeze out the air before sealing it. Place the brining bag in a large pot in a cooler. (Kathy keeps the cooler in her shed outside and weights it down with bricks to deter raccoons and squirrels.) Fill the cooler with bags of ice and let the turkey sit in the brine for at least 24 hours before cooking. You can also put the bird in the fridge to brine if you have the space.

When you remove the turkey from the brine, rinse it thoroughly. Rub the bird with olive oil before cooking. Do not salt it, as it will have picked up plenty of seasoning from the brine.



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## Cold Runnings

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as before bed will help ensure your muscles remain healthy and minimize injury and damage.

An overlooked part of long-distance training is core exercise. Duriel Hardy, a West Chester East High School alum and 2010 5K Ivy League Champion, preaches these exercises. "Stretching, core and strength training are great for injury prevention so that you can train harder and longer, making your training more efficient and helping you do your best." Those daily situps, pushups, planks and "supermans" will help you go a long way — even farther than 5K.

As for treadmills, they do offer fitness and calorie burning benefits. But because treadmills lack air resistance and changing terrain, and they may change your running form, outdoor training is far superior. You really do have to run in the cold most days.

### Benefits

Completing a long-distance race, from 5K to marathon, is an accomplishment. The health benefits of long-distance races are well-known: superior calorie burn, lower blood pressure, bolstered lung and heart strength, slower heart rate. But the physical improvements are just part of it. As important is the psychic value.

Tony DeSabato, runner for 30 years and veteran of the Boston, New York and Philadelphia Marathons, plus Brian's Run, sums it up well:

*The miles trekked in preparing to complete a full marathon are worth the investment. Whether the goal is to cover the distance, run a personal best time, or qualify for the Boston Marathon, when you finish, the feelings of elation overwhelms the fatigue and soreness that inevitably come with the effort. Long after the tiredness and stiffness wane, the knowledge that you've accomplished something so mentally and physically difficult endures and often inspires you to keep lacing them up and getting out there day after day. ♦*

Zack Malet has run competitively (from 400M to 10K) for 11 years, including 4 years of varsity track at Brown University.



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school programs, I want the institution to think about broad, holistic initiatives that incorporate all facets of the organization.

I also believe that history is, by its nature, interdisciplinary. It needs to be taken out of a vacuum and discussed in other contexts.

Specific initiatives I'd like to pursue include looking at technology through the lens of local history, exploring the county's food heritage, and reaching out to diverse communities across the county.

Why do you like history? What do you see as its value?

History is an infinite pursuit for me — understanding it, teaching it, preserving it, etc. My entire career has been sparked by that intellectual curiosity — the pursuit of something we can't ever fully understand.

Anyone that thinks history is lifeless or stale doesn't pay attention to the news or politics — it's everywhere, and as a museum professional I am compelled to help audiences realize that.

As a father of two young kids, I feel that one of the greatest rewards this line of work gives is witnessing children marveling at their heritage.

What about personal interests?

It's difficult to have personal interests when I love my work so much and spend as much time as possible with my family. Any real spare time gets filled in with reading and writing, exercising, and working on miscellaneous home renovations (another "infinite pursuit").

I aim to publish a book from my dissertation, "American Arctic Exploration: A Social and Cultural History, 1890-1930," but that will take several years.

I keep telling my wife that I want to get back to seriously playing the guitar, but I'm not sure when I'll ever have time to do that! ♦

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