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and the special lifestyle of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Northern Delaware



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Pool | Tennis Court | Pond
Stream | Exceedingly Private
\$2,750,000



Chester Springs
5 BR, 7.1 BA | 36.6 Acres | Views
Grand Spaces | Very Private
10 Stall Stable | Ring | Paddock
\$2,495,000



Unionville Area
5 BR, 3 BA | 91.9 Acres | Bank Barn
Stone Farm House | Pond/Stream
Organic Farm | Cheshire Hunt
\$2,191,000



West Chester
5 BR, 3.2 BA | 2.1 Acres
Noteworthy Chester County Home
Beautiful Details | Spacious Kitchen
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Unionville
5 BR, 4.2 BA | 23+ Acres
Indoor Pool | Barn | Large Riding Ring
In-Law Suite | Unionville Schools
\$1,795,000



Unionville
6 BR, 3.1 BA | 35 Acres
Indoor Arena Possible | Pond
24 Stall Barn | Unionville Schools
\$1,748,000



Unionville Area
5 BR, 5.2 BA | 31.6 Acres
Private | Separate Apt | Barn
Riding Arena | Cheshire Hunt
\$1,388,000



Chester Springs
Historic Mill | Scenic Waterfall
Perfect Family Compound
5 Residences | Paradise Awaits
\$1,383,000



Chester Springs
4 BR, 2.1 BA | 14.90 Acres
Charles T. Okie Design | Guest Cottage
Beautiful Details | Commuter Convenient
\$1,240,000



Pocopson Township
5 BR, 4.1 BA | 1 Acre
Dazzling Home | Unionville Schools
Cinema Room | Ideal Commuting
\$1,050,000



Downingtown
11.17 Acre Lot | House Site
Low 319 Taxes | Lot \$349,000
Incl. Custom Home
\$820,000+/-



Landenberg
5 BR, 4.1 BA | 0.70 Acres
Protected Views | Avon Grove Schools
Easy Commute to Delaware
\$680,000



Chadds Ford
4 BR, 2.1 BA | 1.09 Acres | Quiet
Great Floorplan | Commuter Convenient
Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools
\$634,900



French Creek Park
4 BR, 3.1 BA | 10 Acres | Barn | Pool
Pond | 2 Rentals | Lots of Potential
Borders French Creek Park
\$599,000



Chadds Ford
4 BR, 3.0 BA | 2.43 Acres | Pool
Single Family Home or 3 Apts
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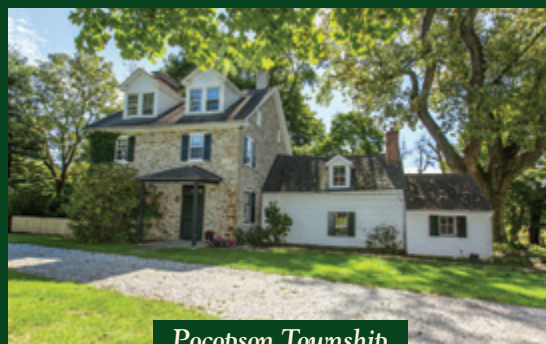


Coatesville
3 BR, 2.1 BA | Townhouse | Garage
New Development | Walking Trails
Customize To Your Needs
\$200,000+/-



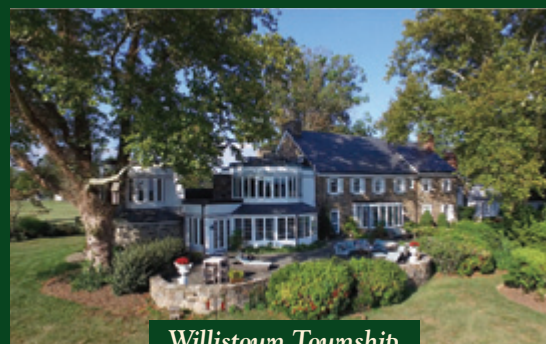
Willistown Township

Quintessential Chester County stone farm house on 19 acres, across from Radnor Hunt Pony Club, and surrounded by other properties also under conservation easement. In the heart of the well known Willistown Township conservation area. First time available in many decades, this property is looking for the next loving owner to bring back to full potential. Stone barn with multi car collector's garage attached. Additional building options available per conservation easement. *Price Upon Request*



Pocopson Township

Classic, charming country property of 10 acres with stone house, barn & rentable apartment on wonderful country road adjacent to conserved land - idyllic! *\$1,175,000*



Willistown Township

Spectacular Radnor Hunt Estate. Iconic Heartwood Farm on 72 acres, includes stunning Chester County stone home, 24 stalls, riding ring, pool, tennis court & breathtaking views. *Price Upon Request*



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from the EDITOR

I'm fond of February. In addition to the usual days to celebrate, add Random Acts of Kindness Day on the 17th.

This fondness extends to the features in this Fine Homes issue, filled with gorgeous photos. Check out "Georgian Glory," where Matt Freeman tours a magnificent Main Line manor house built by architect Warren Claytor. Allie Fillmore focuses on one room in "Making Your Kitchen the True Heart of the Home," showing ways to make that household hub more welcoming. And our Resource Guide offers help for creating every room in your dream home.

There's more on homes as Mary Dolan interviews local realtors in "Smart Home Buying" to learn how to make that process go smoothly. We highlight one historic home among the winners at last year's "West Chester's Historic Preservation Awards." Jane Dorchester covers the people and projects honored, and Timlyn Vaughan captures them in his photos. Kirsten Werner of Natural Lands warns of a danger to the trees in your yard posed by the emerald ash borer in "Ash: The Long Goodbye."

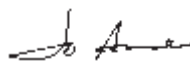
For our school focus, our publisher Ed Malet looks into tuition, scholarships and financial aid in "Affording Independent School." To find out more, see our Guide to Area Independent & Private School Open Houses and plan a visit.

In "Cooking Together," Brandywine Table's Laura Brennan chats with two recently married chef-restaurateurs (of Birchrunville Store Café and Thai L'Elephant) about their process that's "part cultural exchange, part business partnership and all love."

We preview "The Way Back," an exhibit of the late George "Frolic" Weymouth's paintings at the Brandywine River Museum of Art, check in on electronic banking with DNB First's Vince Liuzzi in our Worth Knowing column, and inhale and exhale with Prana House's Jacque Maldonado in "Meditation: How to Begin" in our new Be Fit column.

As always, we've got the Best Local Events for February and every month!

Thank you for reading.


Jo Anne Durako
Editor



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Dreamy Bathrooms
Healthy at Every Age
Downingtown & Exton Town Focus
Antiques Shows & Home Décor
Children's Books • Wine • Soccer



COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

February 2018

Volume XLI, Number 6

PUBLISHER

Edwin Malet

EDITOR

Jo Anne Durako

ART DIRECTOR / PRODUCTION

Alex Bianco

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marci Tomassone

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Mary Irene Dolan

FOOD EDITOR

Laura Muzzi Brennan

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Sue Angelucci Sontagh

Shelly F. Gill

Sandy Mayer McCarthy

Greg McCarthy

BUSINESS MANAGER

Debra M. French

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Laurel Anderson

Leslie Finkel

George Fitzpatrick

Matt Freeman

Emily Hart

Bryan Kolesar

Carol Metzker

Kayleigh Thompson

Cindy Walker

INTERNS

Kaitlin Battiste

Charles Hess

Taylor Stenroos

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Alix Coleman

Wil Moore

Andrew Seymour

Timlyn Vaughan

Contact us at:

ValleyDel Publications, Inc.

893 S. Matlack Street, Ste. 150

West Chester, PA 19382.

610-918-9300. Info@ValleyDel.com

Subscriptions: \$39/year

To find *County Lines*, check our website's "Get A Copy" page, pick one up at Wellington Square Bookshop, West Chester Book Outlet and other newsstands, buy one at Wegmans, or visit advertisers listed in the Index.



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Cover and top photo by Anthony Rugnetta

Meditation: How to Begin

Jacque Maldonado

YOU CAN START WITH JUST TWO WORDS.

INHALE. EXHALE. TWO VERY SIMPLE WORDS THAT CAN help bring an almost instantaneous change to your physical, mental and emotional state. Transforming the “monkey mind” that’s always jumping from thought to thought; always thinking, always moving.

Do you take a moment for yourself during the day to consciously breathe or meditate? If your answer is “no,” you’re not alone.

The idea of stopping to connect with your breath or to begin a meditation practice is still foreign to many. But the number of people in the U.S. who are turning to daily meditation practice is significant—in 2012 it was 8% of adults (over 18 million) and 1.6% of children (927,000). This level was reported by the National Center

of Complementary and Integrative Health—part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—and has continued to grow since then.

Research has shown that meditation can physically change the brain and body and could potentially help improve many physical health problems—such as reducing blood pressure, easing symptoms of anxiety and depression—as well as help people with insomnia and assist in promoting healthy behaviors. Ongoing research is investigating meditation’s effectiveness for pain and as a treatment to quit smoking.

As a meditation practitioner, I’ve noticed shifts in my own body in reducing health symptoms, including pain, and know of many others who have similar experiences through meditation.

Interested? Read on.

Where to begin? Forget the idea of needing a specific place or even having to be seated to begin a meditation practice. Everyone is different, so the approach to the practice will be different.

There’s no need for a studio setting, complete with meditation cushion, spa-like music, incense and the soothing voice of an instructor. Those conditions are all great! If you’d like to try them, they create good ambiance, community and learning. But none of those things is required for effective meditation. Nor do you need money or equipment.

You build up your own timetable to what feels right for you. And you can start as simply as with these two words—inhale and exhale.

Wherever you are and whether you’re sitting or standing, follow the words in the next few lines, physically responding with your breath and body.

Through your nose, *inhale* in and slowly *exhale* out through your nose.

Inhale slowly, deeply in through your nose. *Exhale* slowly out through your nose. Soften your face, unclench your jaw.

Inhale, taking a deeper breath through your nose. *Exhale*, sighing out of your mouth.

Inhale slowly, deeply, through your nose. *Exhale* slowly out of your nose.

Inhale through your nose as your belly expands. *Exhale* through your nose as your belly retracts towards your spine. Keep your jaw soft.

Inhale as your belly expands out like a balloon. *Exhale* through your nose as your belly retracts towards your spine.

Inhale as your belly expands out like a balloon. *Exhale* through the nose as your belly retracts towards your spine.

Take one final big *Inhale* in through your nose. Open your mouth wide and *Exhale*. Let it ALL go!

Begin breathing normally again. Take a moment to check in with your body and thoughts. Did anything change for you in that one minute—physically or mentally? You can repeat the steps above for as long as you’d like, ideally increasing your meditation practice by a minute every day for a minimum of 5 to 10 minutes.

There are many different types of meditation practices. If you’ve ever taken a yoga class, the exercise above or some variation may have seemed familiar. There are also visual, mantra, transcendental and spiritual meditations, plus so many more, along with practices such as reiki, qigong and tai chi that incorporate methods of meditation.

Some people prefer to learn or practice with a meditation teacher or in a group. There are many opportunities locally.

In the end it comes down to two simple words and actions. Inhale and Exhale ... ♦

Jacque Maldonado is a certified herbalist, energy worker, yoga teacher, Usui/Holy Fire Reiki Master, and founder of The Prana House, a new age, organic apothecary and holistic wellness shop at 109 N. Church St. in West Chester. Learn more at ThePranaHouse.com.



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The Intersection of Banking + Technology

Vince Liuzzi, DNB First

THE ADVANTAGES, SECURITY FEATURES, AND FUTURE OF ELECTRONIC BANKING

TODAY, MANY PEOPLE USE ELECTRONIC DEVICES to access their finances. Whether an individual does business with a larger national bank or a local community bank, they most likely have access to electronic banking.

Electronic banking encompasses online banking, mobile banking and over-the-phone banking, and enables customers to access their accounts and perform a wide-range of financial transactions at any time.

TOOLS & SERVICES

In addition to 24-hour account access, customers can easily check account balances, review activity and access their statements through electronic banking.

Individuals can also securely transfer money to accounts within or outside of their financial institution, pay bills, as well as send and deposit checks.

Use of mobile banking in particular continues to increase significantly according to the Federal Reserve's Consumer and Mobile Financial Services report. The number of mobile phone owners using a mobile banking app has doubled in the last five years.

And with recent enhancements to mobile banking apps, we're seeing that customers can now apply for products as complex as a mortgage from their mobile device. Yes, that's right—people can fully complete an application to purchase a home on their smartphone or tablet!

SECURITY FEATURES

In the age of electronic banking, we're also seeing an increase in phishing scams. To combat this problem, financial institutions and banks in particular, have a multi-factor authentication system in place. This approach adds an extra layer of security, requiring more than one

method of authentication that the user must provide to verify a login or other transaction.

Many banks also conduct social engineering tests with their employees. When a hacker is unsuccessful, they may try to manipulate an individual into giving up confidential information. These social engineering tests train employees to spot these types of scams and take appropriate action.

Education plays a key role in combating this type of fraud as well. Many banks provide information and education to help customers and some offer free online tutorials around security measures. Being aware of the nature of these attacks can help to ensure that banks and their customers are prepared.

It's critical that the security features of online banking are balanced with exceptional customer service. Many tools and services that online banking offers are viewed as conveniences but can also double as anti-fraud measures.

For example, customers can set up text or online banking alerts so they're notified when a transaction or ATM withdrawal deviates from normal spending patterns.

Customers can also access their transaction history, at any time, through their bank's online portal or mobile app to keep an eye out for suspicious charges.

THE FUTURE OF BANKING

As banking becomes more digitalized, financial institutions are paying special attention to improving the customer experience. Customers now have access to more powerful online tools to manage their entire financial portfolio, with a focus on ensuring ease of access and creating a more personalized experience.

Biometrics are becoming increasingly popular to help customers access their account information more quickly and to verify their identity and transactions by using human characteristics as a form of identification. Most smartphones today come with built-in technology that supports the use of biometrics recognition, such as a thumb print sensor. Eye scanning and voice recognition technologies are also being tested for use.

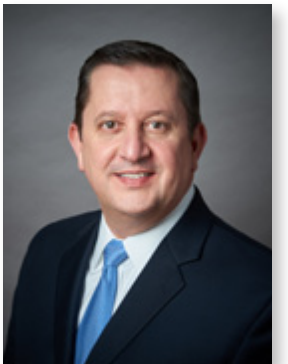
In addition to providing a more user-friendly experience, biometrics can also be used for security purposes as the identi-

fier can never be reproduced, forgotten or shared.

With improved security and ease of use, electronic banking is fast becoming a preferred method of day-to-day banking. However, a big part of overall customer satisfaction is still based on face-to-face banking, as customers continue to visit branches for advice and assistance with important financial decisions. ♦

Vince Liuzzi joined DNB First in 2013 and is responsible for the bank's retail, consumer and

mortgage lending businesses. He was previously Executive Vice President and Region President for a large national bank's 165-branch network in greater Philadelphia, overseeing sales and service for consumer, small business and wealth management segments. DNBFirst.com



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[Good to Know] *Just a few things we'd thought you'd like to know this month*



Ooh La La, Chocolat!

Wonder why **chocolates** are a default gift for Valentine's Day? It goes back to the Victorians, who believed chocolate was the way to a woman's heart—and they weren't far off! Young men were considered to

have good taste if they gave a woman an expensive box of chocolates—often, with chocolates wrapped in elegant ribbons that imitated ladies' dresses. Learn more chocolate history at Independent.co.uk.



Coffee Confections.

If you've ever dreamed of becoming a coffee shop barista or mastering the art of creating the perfect latte, **Filtru** is the app for you!

It walks you through step-by-step instructions on roasting the perfect brew. Already have the perfect brewing recipe? Share it with friends on the app, and read the recipes of others. You can also track your coffee consumption if you dare. Perfect for any coffee connoisseur! Find it at GetFiltru.com.

Week of Kindness. In our fast-paced world, it's easy to get caught up in our lives and forget to appreciate those around us. So, celebrate **Random Acts of Kindness Week**, from February 11th to 17th. Tell a family member you appreciate them, buy a coworker a cup of their favorite coffee or donate old winter clothes to people in need. Just because the holidays are over, doesn't mean the giving should stop! More ideas at RandomActsOfKindness.org.



Sunday Fun Day. Looking for plans besides just watching the game on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4? Start the day off with **Levante Brewing's 3rd Annual Kegs n' Eggs** event complete with bacon, eggs and beer for breakfast. Then run or walk in **West Chester's Super Bowl 5K** at 2 p.m., starting at Church and Market Streets, finishing at Kildare's before the game starts. And animal lovers won't want to miss the **Kitten Bowl** and **Puppy Bowl** in between the big game! That's a super Sunday.

February Foliage.

Though many associate February with Valentine roses, delicate but hardy **violets and primroses** are actually the flowers of the month. They're the first hints of spring you'll see peeking out from the winter earth—these tough little flowers strong enough to brave the cold. Give violets—symbolizing watchfulness, loyalty and faithfulness—to someone to let them know you'll always be there for them and primroses to someone you can't live without. Now that's romantic! More at Almanac.com.

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[February Picks]

Our Picks for top events this month

11th Annual Trail Creek Outfitters Wild and Scenic Film Festival February 22 & 23

Join Trail Creek Outfitters as they host two nights of inspiring environmental films. The acclaimed independent short films highlight outdoor adventure, environmental concerns and beautiful cinematography. Each evening features light refreshments of local food and drinks and a different selection of short films. Benefits Stroud Water Research Center and The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County. *Chester County Historical Society*, 225 N. High St., West Chester. 7 p.m. One night, \$30; two nights, \$50. TrailCreekOutfitters.com.

Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester County — *Trial By Jury*

February 9 & 10

Come celebrate 30 years as GSSCC presents highlights from 29 previous seasons, including a fully staged production of *Trial by Jury* with full orchestra. An anniversary gala follows the Saturday performance. *Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center*, 226 N. High St., West Chester. Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., 2 & 7 p.m. Show: \$17; VIP ticket \$35 (includes beer and wine); Gala \$75 (includes VIP ticket and party). 610-356-2787; UptownWestChester.org; GSSChesco.org.



Polar Plunge 2018

February 10

Dip a toe or take the plunge in the Brandywine Creek for this annual fundraiser. Benefits the conservation of natural resources of the Brandywine and Red Clay Valleys. *Brandywine Picnic Park*, 690 S. Creek Rd., West Chester. 10 a.m. \$25–\$35. 610-793-3198; BrandywineWatershed.org.

Philly Home + Garden Show

February 16–18



Visitors will find fresh inspiration, helpful tips, innovative products and fantastic deals on remodeling, home improvement, décor and outdoor spaces from hundreds of experts. *Greater*

Phila. Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Fri., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$10. 215-274-1948; PhillyHomeAndGarden.com.

Chadds Ford Historical Society Events

February 3, 15

Feb. 3, Plein Air Paint Out Chadds Ford—Artists paint around Chadds Ford then exhibit their work at a reception at the *Chadds Ford Historical Society Visitors Center*, 6 to 8 p.m. 1736 N. Creek Rd. \$15, includes light refreshments. Paintings remain on display through March 2. **Feb. 15,** Tavern Talks—“Chocolate and Courtship.” Watch chocolate-making demos by Mars’ American Heritage Chocolate, get dating advice from George Washington, taste 18th-century chocolate pairings and learn about courtship in Colonial times. *Barns Brinton House*, 6030 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford. 7 to 9 p.m. \$10. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org.



best Local Events

FAMILY FUN

THROUGH FEBRUARY, Tuesdays

It's Story Time at Wellington Square Bookshop. Ages 1-5 enjoy songs and cookies and listen to stories come alive in the bookshop. 549 Wellington Square, Exton. 10 to 11 am. 610-458-1144; WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

THROUGH FEBRUARY

Kiddie Academy of Phoenixville Family Events at Steel City Coffeehouse. Tuesdays, enjoy the Winter Wonderland stories, interactive activities and a light treat in the new book nook, 10 am; Feb. 4, Judy Tudy, storyteller, 4 pm; Feb. 11, Steve Pullara sings followed by an art program, 4 pm. 203 Bridge St., Phoenixville. Free. 484-924-8425; SteelCityCoffeehouse.com.

FEBRUARY 3

Historic Sugartown Cabin Fever Saturday. Historic crafts, activities, old-fashioned games and demonstrations. Held in the Carriage Museum, 273 Boot Rd., Malvern. 11 to 2. \$6; 2 and under, free. 610-640-2667; HistoricSugartown.org.



FEBRUARY 6

Theatreworks USA Presents The Cat in the Hat. Everyone's favorite cat comes to mischievous life in this Dr. Seuss classic. Keswick Theatre, 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. 10:30 am and 12:30 pm. \$8.50-\$14.25. 215-572-7650; KeswickTheatre.com.

FEBRUARY 10

Wayne Art Center Family Workshop: Personalized Valentine's Cookies. Bring the little ones and create delicious heart-shaped cookies and then personalize them. 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. 1 to 3. \$25. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

FEBRUARY 10

Victorian Valentines at Pennypacker

Mills. Kids enjoy a morning of crafting, refreshments and fun. 5 Haldeman Rd., Schwenksville. 10 to noon. \$5. Pre-register by calling 610-287-9349; MontcoPa.org/PennypackerMills.



FEBRUARY 19, MARCH 17

Longwood Gardens Presents OrKid Days. Explore orchids at discovery stations, enjoy interactive stories and partake in a family seek-and-find in the orchid-filled Conservatory. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 9 to 5. Free with gardens admission, \$12-\$23. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

FEBRUARY 24

Pancake Breakfast and Maple Sugaring Celebration at Tyler Arboretum. Learn how maple sugar is turned from sap into syrup, then satisfy your appetite with Tyler's famous all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast. Snow date March 3. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 8 am to 1 pm. \$10-\$16, under 3 free. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.



FEBRUARY 24

Chinese New Year Celebration at Delaware Art Museum. Celebrate The Year of the Dog with traditional Chinese art activities, a lion and folk dance, a Chinese yo-yo performance, and a performance by Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company—"Red Firecrackers: The Legend of the First Chinese New Year." 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 11 to 3. Free. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

ART, CRAFTS & ANTIQUES.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY 4

Academy of Notre Dame de Namur 45th Annual Fine Art Show & Sale. The exhibition and sale features nearly 100 artists' works in a variety of mediums, including oils, watercolors, acrylics, sculptures, ceramics, and glass. The Mansion, 560 Sproul Rd., Villanova. Daily noon to 4. Free. NDAPA.org/ArtShow.

FEBRUARY 7-11

Malvern Retreat House Art Show & Sale. Featuring nearly 100 juried artists with the theme, "Flora and Fauna—Inspired by Nature." Feb. 8, complimentary wine and cheese social, 5 to 8 pm. Malvern Retreat House, McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center, 315 S. Warren Ave., Malvern. Wed-Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 4. Free. Benefits Malvern Retreat House. 610-644-0400; MalvernRetreat.com.

AUTO & BOAT SHOWS.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY 4

2018 Philadelphia Auto Show. From the new breed of luxury small cars to the latest gen of muscle cars, super-smart eco-rides and big hog trucks, there's something for everyone at the Philly Auto Show! PA Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Philadelphia. Check website for hours and info. \$7-\$14. 215-418-2000; PhillyAutoShow.com.

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 4

The Atlantic City Boat Show. Celebrate life on the water. Climb aboard hundreds of boats for every budget and lifestyle. Atlantic City Convention Center, One Convention Blvd., Atlantic City, NJ. Wed-Fri, 11 to 8; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 6. \$16. 718-707-0716; ACBoatShow.com.



BOOKS.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY

Wellington Square Bookshop. Book Club: The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion. 549 Wellington Square, Exton. Check website for times and more activities. 610-458-1144; WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

BRIDAL SHOWS.....

FEBRUARY 25

The West Chester Wedding Guide. "Love is in the Air" at this annual wedding showcase featuring the area's best wedding professionals.

New location for this year at the American Helicopter Museum, 1220 American Blvd., West Chester. 11 am to 2 pm. Bride and groom free; all other guests \$10. WCWeddingGuide.com.



DANCE.....

FEBRUARY 17-18

First State Ballet Theatre. The Grand Pas Classique from Paquita and The Young Lady and the Hooligan are performed at the Baby Grand Theater, 818 Market St., Wilmington. Sat, 7; Sun, 2. \$30-\$50. 302-658-7897; FirstStateBallet.com.

DESIGN HOMES/HOME SHOWS.....

FEBRUARY 9-11

Suburban Pennsylvania Spring Home Show. Home improvement professionals gather in a fun, interactive environment. Lancaster County Convention Center, 25 S. Queen St., Lancaster. Fri, 11 to 8; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 6. Free. LancasterHomeShow.com.



FEBRUARY 25

Bucks County Designer House & Gardens Empty House Party. Meet the 2018 design team and get a peek at their visions for transforming Cedaridge Farm, this year's designer house. Enjoy music, light fare, raffles and more. 93 Stover Park Rd., Pipersville. 2 to 5. \$30. BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

EQUESTRIAN.....

MARCH 1-4

PA Horse World Expo. The nation's leading equestrian clinicians and entertainers and vendors come to the Farm Show Complex, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg. Thurs, noon to 8; Fri, 10 to 8; Sat, 9 to 8; Sun, 9 to 5. \$6-\$12. 301-916-0852; HorseWorldExpo.com.

dors come to the Farm Show Complex, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg. Thurs, noon to 8; Fri, 10 to 8; Sat, 9 to 8; Sun, 9 to 5. \$6-\$12. 301-916-0852; HorseWorldExpo.com.

FOOD & BEVERAGE.....

FEBRUARY 24

Pottstown Firkin Fest 2018. Serious craft beer enthusiasts enjoy an array of 40+ firkins, crafted by 24 of the top breweries and cideries in the craft brewing world. Admission for this "All-VIP" event includes a premium sampling glass, live music and catered cuisine. Memorial

Park, 75 W. King St., Pottstown. Details at PottstownFirkin.com.

MARCH 3

12th Annual Philly Craft Beer Festival. Sample over 200 beers at this event named one of the "Top 10 Beer Festivals in America" by USA Today. Food trucks, free shuttle service, charity fundraisers and VIP session add to the day's festivities. The Navy Yard, 4747 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. VIP Session, 12:30 to 5, \$75; general admission, 1:30 to 5, \$46. 631-940-7290; PhillyCraftBeerFest.com.

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MARCH 5-11
King of Prussia Restaurant Week. Dine out for a good cause and enjoy the diverse



dining scene in King of Prussia. Prix fixe lunch menu, \$10-\$20; dinner, \$20-\$40. Benefits Children's Hosp. of Phila. KOP Specialty Care Center. 484-681-9452; VisitKOP.com/DineKOP.

FUNDRAISERS.....

FEBRUARY 10
Philadelphia Heart Ball. Gourmet dinner, live and silent auctions and entertainment to celebrate the efforts of all who give their time to the American Heart and American Stroke Associations. Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201

Market St., Phila. 6 to 11 pm. \$1,000. 215-575-5204; PhiladelphiaHeartBall.Heart.org.

FEBRUARY 11
Kennett Chocolate Lovers Festival. Hundreds of chocolate treats are offered in competition for awards to all levels of bakers. New this year: a Kiddie Korner with fun activities. Benefits United Way of Southern Chester Co. Kennett High School, 100 E. South St., Kennett Square. Connoisseur ticket, \$25, noon entry; general admission, \$10, 1 to 3 pm. 610-444-4357; KennettChocolate.org.



FEBRUARY 22
Annual Empty Bowls Event at Red Clay Room. Benefits the Kennett Food Cupboard. Soup and salad are served, attendees enjoy a silent auction and receive a handmade bowl. 423 Dalmatian St., Kennett Square. Lunch, 11:30 to 1:30; dinner, 6 to 8:30. \$25. 610-925-3556; KACSonline.net.

FEBRUARY 24
Cheers for CHOP. An evening of music, cocktails, dancing and an incredible silent auction. Benefits the Division of Orthopaedics, at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Valley Forge Casino Resort, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia. VIPs, 7 pm; event, 7:30 to midnight; post-party, at midnight. Tickets \$150 and up. CheersForChop.edu.



FEBRUARY 24
Jump! For Willowdale Steeplechase. Party the night away with DJ Freeze, a photo booth and a silent auction. Yellow House, 101 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. 8 to 11 pm. \$65. Benefits Stroud Water Research Center, Penn Vet's New Bolton Center and Quest Thera-

peutic Services. 610-444-1582; Willowdale-Steeplechase.org.



MARCH 3
Media Theatre Annual Fundraising Gala. Broadway's Ann Crumb and Nicholas Saverine headline the concert, "There's No Place Like Home." The night includes a reception in the Crystal Room, as well as a lively and fun auction. 104 E. State St., Media. 6:30 pm. \$150. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.



GARDENS.....
THROUGH MARCH 31
Longwood Gardens-Orchid Extravaganza. The Conservatory transforms into a tropical oasis featuring an astonishing display of orchids. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 9 to 6. Timed tickets req., \$12-23. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

MARCH 3-11
The Philadelphia Flower Show. This year's theme, "Wonders of Water," celebrates the beauty and life-sustaining interplay of horticulture and water. America's leading floral and garden designers create tropical jungles,



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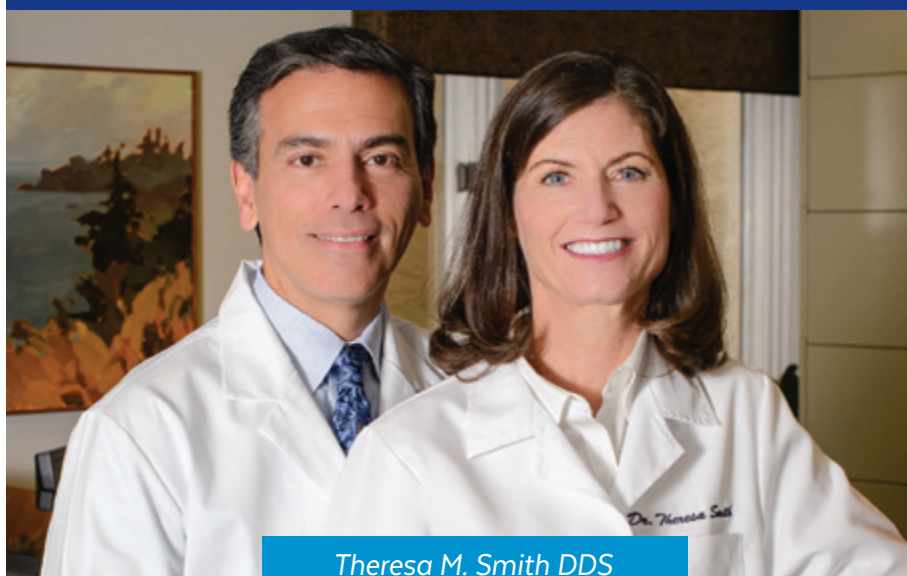
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MUSEUMS.....

ONGOING

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. Displays crafted by Winterthur curators from the collection of 90,000 objects. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur. Tues–Sun, 10 to 5. \$15–\$30. 302-888-4600; Winterthur.org.

THROUGH MAY 27

Delaware Art Museum. *Feb. 10–Apr. 29*, “Point, Counter-Point: Alan Soffer, Brian Dickerson, Moe Brooker;” *Mar. 10–May 27*, “Eye on Nature: Andrew Wyeth and John Ruskin.” 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8, free after 4; Fri–Sun, 10 to 4. \$6–\$12, free, Sun. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

THROUGH JUNE 3

Brandywine River Museum of Art. *Through June 3*, “The Way Back: The Paintings of George A. Weymouth,” featuring approximately 65 of Weymouth’s best works of art; *Feb. 24–*

May 20, “Southwestern Son: The Lithographs of Peter Hurd.” 1 Hoffman’s Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 5. \$6–\$18. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.

THROUGH DECEMBER

Chester County Historical Society. *Through Apr. 14*, “You’ve Got Mail!” highlights the changes in stamps, delivery and postage rates between 1790 and 1890; *Feb. 10–Dec. 31*, “Many Nations/Chester County,” celebrates the diversity of Chester County people. 225 N. High St., West Chester. Tues–Sat, 9:30 to 4:30. \$4–\$8. 610-692-4800; ChesterCo-Historical.org.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY 24

The Keswick Theatre Presents. *Feb. 3*, Tommy Emmanuel CGP; *Feb. 8*, George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic; *Feb. 9*, Masters of Illusion; *Feb. 10*, Who’s Bad: Michael Jackson Tribute Band; *Feb. 11*, Celebrating David Bowie; *Feb. 16*, Vicki Lawrence & Mama; *Feb. 17*, Tape Face; *Feb. 23*, Chefs: A Sizzling Kitchen Showdown; *Feb. 24*, Demetri Martin. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Visit website for times and tickets. 215-572-7650; Keswick-Theatre.com.



THROUGH FEBRUARY 24

Valley Forge Casino Resort. Hosting headline comedians and national musical acts, weekly comedians, karaoke and more. *Through Feb. 17, Saturdays*, Dueling Pianos; *Feb. 2*, Rodney Laney; *Feb. 9*, Andrew Kennedy; *Feb. 16*, Julian McCullough; *Feb. 23*, Buddy Fitzpatrick; *Feb. 24*, Lisa Lampanelli. 1160 1st Ave., King of Prussia. Visit website for times and tickets. 610-354-8118; VFCasino.com.

FEBRUARY 2–MARCH 9

Uptown! Events at Knauer Performing Arts Center. Live music, theater, dance and film. *Feb. 2–3*, Chosen Dance Company “Evolvement,” Fri, Sat, 7:30, Sat, 2, \$12–\$17; *Feb. 11*, Opera Tutti British Invasion, 3 pm, \$20–\$25; *Feb. 12*, 2018 Oscar Shorts, 6:30, \$20; *Feb. 20*, Speaker Series: Victoria Browning Wyeth, 6:30, \$15–\$20; *Feb. 23*, Live at the Fillmore: The Definitive Tribute to the Original Allman Brothers Band, 8 pm, \$25–\$28; *Mar. 9*, Better Than Bacon Improv Show. 226 N. High St.,

Local Farm Markets

Bryn Mawr Farmers Mkt., Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station parking lot. *1st, 3rd & 5th Sat., 10 am to noon.* 215-733-9599; FarmToCity.org.

Downingtown Farmers Mkt., Log Cabin Field, Kerr Park, Pennsylvania Ave. *2nd & 4th Sat., 10 to noon.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Chester County Food Bank, 650 Pennsylvania Dr. *1st & 3rd Thurs., 3 to 5 pm.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Kennett Square Farmers Mkt., 112 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. *2nd & 4th Fri, 3 to 6.* 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

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

Malvern Farmers Mkt., First Baptist Church of Malvern, 146 Channing Ave. *1st & 3rd Sat., 10 to noon.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Phoenixville Farmers Mkt., 200 Mill St., Phoenixville. *2nd & 4th Sat., 10 to noon.* PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

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

Westtown Amish Mkt., 1177 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. *Thurs, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 8; Sat, 8 to 4.* 610-492-5299; WestChesterAmishMarket.com.

West Chester. Check website for details. 484-639-9004; UptownWestChester.org.



FEBRUARY 8

Delaware Art Museum Performance Series. Blue Note Recording artist Kendrick Scott and his ensemble Kendrick Scott Oracle. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 8 pm. \$25–\$35. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

FEBRUARY 11

Immaculata Symphony Youth Concert. The symphony performs *Haleakala* (How Maui Snared the Sun from *Moana*) and various Disney classics. Afterward, children are invited on stage to meet the musicians and their instruments. Immaculata College, Alumnae Hall, 1145 King Rd., Immaculata. 3 pm. \$10. ImmaculataSymphony.org.

FEBRUARY 11, MARCH 4

Delaware County Symphony. Chamber Series: *Feb. 11*, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2, performed by Chadds Ford native Jennifer Nicole Campbell. Symphony Series: *Mar. 4*, "Latin Flair." Neumann University, Meagher Theatre, One Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$12-\$20. 610-879-7059; DCSMusic.org.



FEBRUARY 15

Point Entertainment Presents Hot Rize. One of Colorado's most revered bands brings their unique sound to The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. \$27.50-\$42.50. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

FEBRUARY 23

Friday Night Live Concert at the Community Arts Center. "Cash is King"—celebrating the music of Johnny Cash. 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. 7 to 10 pm. \$15. 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org.

FEBRUARY 24

WCU—Live! Goitse, traditional Irish Traditional music group from Limerick University's Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester, 7:30, \$15-\$27. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu/Live.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

FEBRUARY 3

Supermoon Night Hikes at Tyler Arboretum. Take a fast-paced hike on moderate-to-steep trails to view a full moon supermoon, around the time of the hike. Teens and adults should bring a flashlight. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$20. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

FEBRUARY 25

The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County Wildlife in Winter Series—Bodacious Birds. Examine beaks, feathers, talons and eggs and learn about the importance of migration rest stops and how humans play a role in the survival of migratory bird populations. Bucktoe Creek Preserve, 432 Sharp Rd., Avondale. 10 to noon. \$10. Register 610-347-0347, ext. 104; TLCForSCC.org.



THEATER.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY 4

Morning's at Seven. The lives of four close-knit sisters overturn when one of their sons brings his fiancée home to his eccentric, irreverent family. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd.,

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Malvern. Check website for show times and tickets. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.



THROUGH FEBRUARY 25
Next To Normal. The Pulitzer Prize winner, featuring award winning actors Krissy Fraelich and Ben Dibble, in which a suburban house-



hold is affected by mental illness. Presented with heart, much love and inspiration. Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. Check website for show times and tickets. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

FEBRUARY 7-25
Heisenberg. Regional premiere by Simon Stephens. The show is best suited for mature older teens and adults. Check website for show times and tickets, Wed-Sun. 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.



FEBRUARY 21-MARCH 31
The Diary of Anne Frank. By Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Check website for show times and tickets. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.



TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....
FEBRUARY 2, 10, 15
First Fridays, Second Saturdays, Third Thursdays. *Feb. 2, First Fridays: Kennett Square Art Stroll*, 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. *Lancaster City*, 717-509-ARTS; VisitLancasterCity.com. *Oxford*, 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. *West Chester*, 610-738-3350; West-Chester.com. *Wilmington Art Loop*, 302-576-2135; City-FestWilm.com. *Feb. 10, Second Saturday Arts Stroll: Media*, 484-445-4161; MediaArtsCouncil.org. *Feb. 15, Malvern Stroll*, MalvernBusiness.com. ♦

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

For more events visit:
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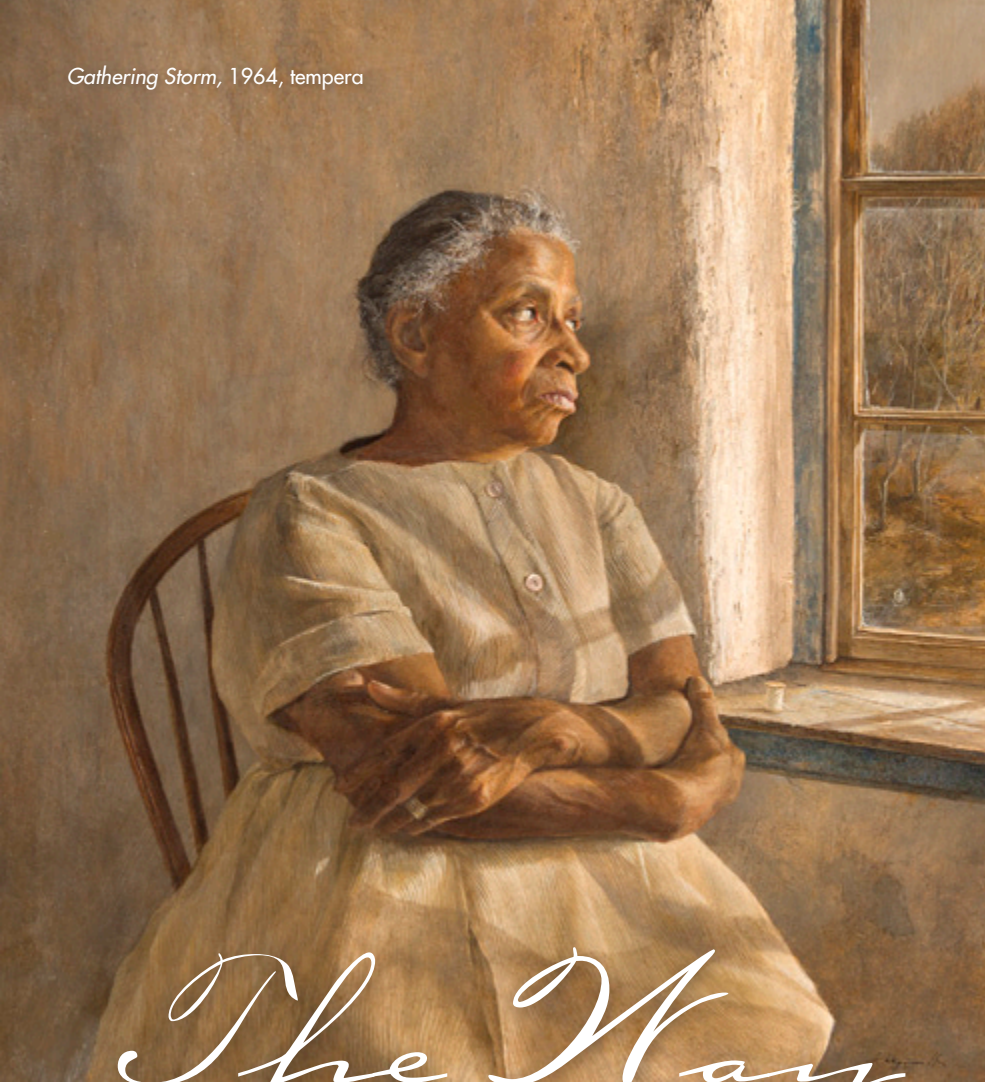
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Gathering Storm, 1964, tempera



The Way Back

THE PAINTINGS OF GEORGE A. WEYMOUTH

Brandywine River Museum of Art
Through June 3, 2018

August, 1974, tempera



GEORGE A. “FROLIC” WEYMOUTH (1936–2016) was perhaps best known for his philanthropic endeavors, in particular as one of the founders and long-time chairman of the Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art. He was also a remarkable artist.

Much like his friend and artistic mentor Andrew Wyeth, Weymouth was very private about his painting. Also, as they were for Wyeth, Weymouth’s subjects tended to be friends and family and the scenery that surrounded him—in Weymouth’s case the bucolic landscape of his estate in Chadds Ford.

Artists going back to the 19th century—among them Jasper Cropsey and William Trost Richards—have celebrated the beauty of the Brandywine Valley. Weymouth both carried on that tradition and created its next chapter. And it’s especially fitting, then, for the Brandywine River Museum of Art to organize the first comprehensive exhibition of Weymouth’s artistic career and examine his contribution to American painting.

“The Way Back: The Paintings of George A. Weymouth” features 65 of Weymouth’s best works chosen by guest curator Joseph J. Rishel. The selection reveals the breadth of the artist’s visual investigations across many mediums.

Encouraged by his mother, Dulcinea “Deo” du Pont, Weymouth expressed an early interest in art. Formal training came when he took art classes while at St. Mark’s School and later at Yale University. As the exhibition displays, his early oils, such as *Chicken Fight* (1948), reveal a loose, energetic style and monochromatic palette.

For the rest of his career Weymouth, influenced by Andrew Wyeth, worked in both watercolor and egg tempera to create haunting, hushed landscapes—such as *August* (1974) and *Swelter* (2011)—that speak eloquently of his passionate love of nature. In these paintings and in his insightful portraits—*Gathering Storm* (1964) and *Portrait of William W. Scranton* (1969)—Weymouth created rich atmospheric works and demonstrated his skill in capturing the effects of light.

The exhibition also includes pencil and watercolor studies Weymouth did in preparation for his tempera paintings. These rarely seen works provide a rich understanding of Weymouth’s keen eye and his artistic process.

Make plans now to see this unique exhibit with very local connections. ♦

~ Nicole Kindbeiter



Portrait of William W. Scranton, 1969, tempera



The Way Back, 1963, tempera



Swelter, 2011, tempera

IF YOU GO:

Where: Brandywine River Museum of Art
1 Hoffman’s Mill Rd., Chadds Ford

When: January 27–June 3; Daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission: \$6–\$18

Information: 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org



Chicken Fight, ca. 1948, oil

ASH: THE LONG GOODBYE

Kirsten Werner, Natural Lands

THE EMERALD ASH BORER IS THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE FOREST INSECT TO INVADE THE U.S. WHAT CAN BE DONE?

A FEW YEARS AGO, A FORESTER DISCOVERED what's believed to be the tallest American chestnut tree in its native range, from Maine to Mississippi. The 95-foot tree is located in woodlands in a small town in southwestern Maine. About 100 years ago—when one in every four hardwood trees in North America's eastern forests was an American chestnut—this tree would have been decidedly unremarkable. But, in 1904, a strange fungus was found on the chestnut specimens at the Bronx Zoo. By 1940, most mature chestnuts had been wiped out by the blight.

The number of large surviving trees within the American chestnut's former range is now probably fewer than 100, but among them researchers hope to find the key to re-establishing this majestic tree species. By crossing old survivor chestnuts, like the specimen in Maine, to one another, scientists hope to breed a pure American chestnut with blight resistance.

FUTURE OF NATIVE ASH TREES

Tom Kershner, arborist and tree management coordinator for nonprofit Natural Lands (formerly Natural Lands Trust), is thinking of the future of another native tree species as he drills a small hole to insert a tap at the base of a white ash growing

along a trail at Binky Lee Preserve in Chester Springs—one of the conservation organization's 43 nature preserves. Once the tap is installed, Kershner injects a pesticide called Tree-age into the cambium layer where it will be taken up by the tree's vascular system and protect it (hopefully!) from the emerald ash borer.

An Asian insect first identified in Detroit in 2002, the emerald ash borer has become the most destructive forest insect ever to invade the U.S. It's now one of the most damaging pests ever seen in North America—comparable to the chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease.

There are 16 ash species and an estimated eight billion ash trees in North America—all of them are susceptible. In southeast Michigan, scientists have documented 99 percent mortality in infested trees. In 2007, emerald ash borer invasion was noted in western Pennsylvania and has been moving steadily east ever since.

Natural Lands owns nearly 23,000 acres of land, including 3,600 acres in Chester County, so the organization's approach to emerald ash borer is a pragmatic one. Staff members are systematically taking down ash trees that are likely to become hazardous when they die—those within 100 feet of a road, building, parking lot or place where people congregate or rest, such as a bench or kiosk.

“Dead ash trees become brittle very quickly and become dangerous,” says Kershner. “We take our role as stewards of these preserves seriously and, unfortunately, that sometimes means taking down trees. Sadly, with emerald ash borers, it looks like we'll be taking down a lot of trees.”

If circumstances dictate, a more drastic approach may be needed. In 2016, a two-acre grove of ash trees at Hildacy Preserve in Media was proactively removed and sold for lumber. Though gut-wrenching, the decision was not a difficult one. “We're in the business of preserving and planting trees, not logging them,” says Kershner. “But a dead tree has little timber value. Since these trees will all die soon, it's better to log them now and use the proceeds to restore the area.”

On a more hopeful note, Natural Lands' experts have identified notable, robust ash specimens on the preserves that will be inoculated and saved, if possible. The injection equipment and chemicals needed to protect ash trees from infestation are expensive, and so it's not feasible to treat all the hundreds-of-thousands of ashes. “The hope is that we can inoculate a few special and hearty trees against the borers so they can serve as a seed source for future ashes,” Kershner says.

Although the emerald ash borer will have a significant impact, the vast majority of our forests have the diversity to survive the borer's punch and continue to provide important environmental, ecological and recreation benefits. ♦

For more information and options for homeowners, visit the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources site's page on emerald ash borer: DCNR.PA.gov.

Natural Lands is dedicated to preserving and nurturing nature's wonders while creating opportunities for joy and discovery in the outdoors. As our region's oldest and largest land conservation organization, Natural Lands has preserved more than 125,000 acres, including 43 nature preserves. Some 2.5 million people live within five miles of land under the organization's protection. Land for life, nature for all, NatLands.org.



Emerald Ash Borer



Emerald Ash Borer Tree Destruction



Taking Down an Ash Tree

SIGNS OF AN INFESTATION

All native North American ash species and cultivars are susceptible to emerald ash borer. Check for these signs:

- Upper crown dieback
- Bark splits
- Bark flaking
- Epicormic branching
- Tissue damage resulting from woodpecker predation
- D-shaped adult beetle exit holes in the bark
- S-shaped larval feeding galleries just below the bark

Source: PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

West Chester's Historic Preservation Awards

Jane E. Dorchester, Founding Preservation Awards Committee Chair

Photos by Timlyn Vaughan Photography

The people and projects that showcase West Chester's historic legacy

YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT West Chester being nationally recognized for its efforts to preserve its historic fabric. What's less well known from strolling down its tree-lined streets is the effort it takes to physically preserve the individual buildings and landscapes that define the borough's historic character.

It's not just business owners, residents and government officials who have worked to preserve as much of West Chester's historic character as possible. It's also architects, contractors and artisans who physically preserve, restore and rehabilitate West Chester's buildings so they can continue to tell the town's story.

To recognize these continuing efforts, the West Chester

Downtown Foundation established the West Chester Preservation Awards Program in 2010. Since those first awards in 2011, 42 awards have been made in four categories, Bricks and Mortar, Preservation Service, Preservation Legacy and Special Recognition.

The program's goal was to honor a wide variety of preservation projects every year. Once again that goal was achieved.

YEAR SEVEN

The seventh annual awards ceremony built on the success of the program with eight more well-earned awards, including a Special Recognition Award.

AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

The Preservation Legacy Award went to Ray H. Ott, Jr. for "contributions [that] laid the foundation for a good deal of the preservation of West Chester's historic fabric as well as the ongoing planning for the future preservation of its historic character."

The first video tour of 16 of West Chester's historic resources was chosen for the Preservation Service Award. Jonathan Ashton's "West Chester Historical Landmarks" video was honored because it "opens the next chapter on documenting West Chester's past and will hopefully inspire others to follow its innovative trail."

Timothy Coldren, of Monroe Coldren and Son, was presented with a Special Recognition Award for his ongoing efforts to provide top quality restored and reproduction 18th- and 19th-century hardware to preservation and restoration projects.

BRICKS AND MORTAR AWARDS

Five awards in this category recognized a variety of quality construction projects that demonstrated creative ways buildings can be preserved, restored or rehabilitated. The winners were:

119 East Gay Street Retail Property, aka The Social, demonstrates how carefully researched rehabilitation and restoration projects can transform insensitively remodelled buildings into important cultural and economic assets to the community. Since its rehabilitation and restoration in 2002 by Scott Zukin, this Italianate building has become a Gay Street landmark. This project was considered to be of such high quality that it is included in the West Chester Historic District Design Guidelines as a good example of storefront restoration.

Smithworks Design, 511 Mechanics Alley, was recognized because, as a business office, residence for the business owners and open courtyard complex, it illustrates how creatively adapted historic buildings can meet the needs of modern businesses and families. Since 2006, when this 1909 warehouse was renovated, it has been a good example of the potential for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of West Chester's lesser-known and less visible historic properties.

The Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High St., won for the superb 1995 adaptive reuse of the 1848 Horticultural Hall and the 1908 YMCA building into the Society's headquarters. In addition, the Historical Society was recognized

Pre-Civil War era building was restored to replicate the original storefront and is a Gay Street landmark. Designer: Scott Zukin

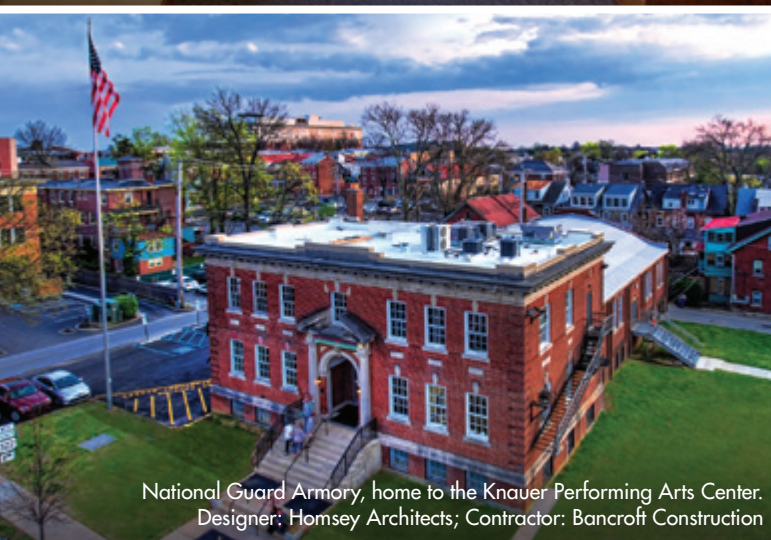
The Social interior retains period details.

Smithworks Design's custom office space

A complex of commercial buildings on Mechanic's and Ash Alleys became the Smithworks office and home. Architect: Mark Avellino; Contractor: Lindsay Construction



Chester City Hist Soc.'s adaptive reuse project linked historic buildings.
Architect: Frens & Frens; Contractor: Wohlsen Construction



National Guard Armory, home to the Knauer Performing Arts Center.
Designer: Homsey Architects; Contractor: Bancroft Construction



Timothy Coldren, below, of Monroe Coldren and Son, won a Special Recognition Award for providing top quality reproduction hardware for historic projects. Samples of hardware for door latches and fireplaces.



for ongoing stewardship of these two important historic resources. This project is a highly visible showcase of the kind of results that can be obtained through exceptional preservation efforts.

Marshall Square Park Fountain, 200 E. Marshall St., was selected for the successful restoration of the 1889 fountain in the northeast corner of Marshall Square Park. The restoration included reconstruction of the masonry fountain basin and its brick plaza, including brick swales and decorative features. This project demonstrates what a group of dedicated community members can accomplish through careful planning and strict adherence to best preservation practices.

West Chester National Guard Armory, 226 N. High St., won for the adaptive reuse of this 1916 military building into the Knauer Performing Arts Center, West Chester's only full-time professional performing arts venue. The project included turning the original drill hall into a 327-seat theater, a 100-seat performance space and a classroom, and creating green rooms, dressing rooms and bathrooms. This project demonstrates, again, the outstanding results a group of dedicated community members can achieve through sensitive historic preservation practices.

YEAR EIGHT

The Eighth Annual Preservation Awards will kick off in April with the opening of nominations, to close in June. Nomination information is available at the West Chester BID office and at *DowntownWestChester.com*. Winners will be announced in July, and the awards ceremony is scheduled for October 19, 2018.

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



Preservation Legacy Award Winner, Ray H. Ott, Jr., was an early urban preservation advocate.



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Making Your Kitchen the True Heart of the Home

Allie Fillmore

HOW TO MAKE YOUR KITCHEN A WARM AND WELCOMING ROOM

IT MUST HAVE BEEN SHORTLY AFTER the discovery of fire that the earliest cave-dweller party hosts discovered it was difficult to stop their guests from congregating in the cooking area. A lot has changed since then, but the kitchen has been the heart of the home ever since.

Today's professional kitchen designers can make that room stylish and modern yet still embodying that elemental sense of welcome and comfort.

FIRST STEPS AND FLOW

Paints and fabrics are the simplest, least expensive way to soften a kitchen, says Katy Wolfington, president of **Waterbury Kitchen and Bath** in Kennett Square. In her showroom there's an alcove painted in a color called "Cocoon," a matte finish greenish-gray, soft and natural, evocative of moss and slate. Old World accessories of wicker or wood can add a touch of softness, too.

Other qualities to make the kitchen your central gathering place have to be built in. Flow is important everywhere in a house, but arguably nowhere more important than in the

kitchen, where people congregate and work at the same time. Wolfington says getting rid of barrier walls to promote flow in and out of the kitchen is a trend today. "You feel like you have a connection to other spaces," she says.

Then there's the design within the kitchen itself. For the last 20 years or so, islands have been a key element—attractive and functional. Trez Pomilo, lead designer and owner of **Sugarbridge Kitchen & Bath** in Paoli, says islands need a kind of Goldilocks-style placement—close enough to other counter space that working in both areas is convenient, but far enough away that it doesn't constrict people moving by.

And there's the relationship with the non-working areas to consider as well, for optimal flow and how you like to work and socialize in the kitchen. Both visually and in layout, the kitchen should invite you in and be comfortable to sit and move in. "The most important thing really is a good plan," Pomilo says.

Family size and children's ages also affect the flow, says Alex Hall, owner and principal designer at **Creative Nook** in Paoli. If you have lots of children constantly coming in the



Nothing says heart of the home like a kitchen fireplace. Existing gas lines make for easy installation.

PHOTO COURTESY: SUGARBRIDGE KITCHEN & BATH



As a change from an all-white kitchen, wood cabinets add warm tones and create a cozy feeling.

PHOTO COURTESY: DILWORTH'S CUSTOM DESIGN

kitchen for juice boxes and such, the refrigerator should be away from the work area.

No kids around? Then a kitchen fireplace is a nice touch, says Andy Madsen of **Madsen's Kitchens and Baths** in Broomall. "It's easy to add a gas source, even to kitchens without an existing gas line," says Madsen. Modern gas fireplaces can be small but add a big impact. And what says heart more than a hearth?

COLOR AND WARM LIGHT

Pomilo has a particular focus on colors and recommends a generally cool, subdued sort of color scheme for the kitchen with "pops" of brighter, more vivid hues here and there. Rich Dempsey, the senior designer and manager of **Christiana Cabinetry** in Atglen, agrees that more neutral shades as your basic room color lend the kitchen a classic, timeless look.

Lighting has gotten more flexible in recent years, especially with LEDs. Wolfington points out that LEDs are now available in warm colors they couldn't achieve when they first came out.

These warmer hues are especially important in all-white and stainless steel designs. For example, one end of Dempsey's showroom has a European-style kitchen design—sleek, clean, with acres of stainless steel surfaces. As he can demonstrate, soft, diffuse lighting is one way to warm up a space that could feel like a restaurant kitchen or laboratory.

MORE WARMTH

Many features today are both functional and capable of adding warmth. Wolfington has one sample kitchen where a large oven with a dark green cast enamel finish gives the entire room a cheerful, upbeat mood. If you don't have a fireplace, Wolfington says, a hood over the stove can evoke that same hearth-like look. Dempsey also identifies the range hood as a feature that draws your attention to any wall it's on. He recommends putting most of the other eye-catching features on that same wall, to make it the visual focus of the room.

Pomilo sees the backsplash as another feature that's both functional and a key design element for today's kitchen designs. Hall says **Creative Nook** recently installed a stamped-tin backsplash for a client that added texture and harmonized well with the entire house, which was built in 1905.



Removing barrier walls will improve flow, as will a well-placed kitchen island.

PHOTO COURTESY: CHRISTIANA CABINETRY



The dark green cast enamel finish on the oven door gives the entire room a cheerful, upbeat mood, while the range hood over the stove evokes a hearth-like feel.

PHOTO COURTESY: WATERBURY KITCHEN & BATH



Color is an easy way to add warmth to a kitchen. And chairs, rather than bar stools, encourage lingering.

PHOTO COURTESY: MADSEN KITCHENS & BATHS



Neutral shades add a timeless look, while the stamped tin backsplash provides texture and a connection with the rest of the home.

PHOTO COURTESY: CREATIVE NOOK

ture of ground quartz, polyester resins and pigments—are on many wish lists. These “engineered” countertops can look pretty much any way the manufacturers want, and it can have any surface finish—from glossy to honed (smooth but more satiny) or textured. Maintenance? None needed. But you still have the elemental look of stone. “Technology gives us the ability to make things look older,” Wolfington says.

If a modern style you like has a cooler, less welcoming quality, materials can help soften it. Hall says the trend toward white cabinets tended to cool the overall feel, but using natural wood in the floor or recycled wood beams in the ceiling help “to give it a little more of that homey, comfortable feeling.”

Natalie Moyer, project coordinator at Dilworth’s Custom Design in Phoenixville, agrees with Hall that wood floors and cabinetry can warm a kitchen. She says many of their clients want a “transitional” approach, with clean lines and not too much detail work, but balanced with warming elements like wood and other natural materials.

Dempsey remembers one couple who had opposing views—the woman wanted the sleek metallic European style, and the man hated it. Dempsey suggested a similarly clean, geometric approach but with wood instead of metal, and everyone was happy.

That’s just one more example of kitchen design today, with professionals helping clients navigate a thicket of choices and options to get, as Wolfington says, a modern, updated stylish kitchen that still embodies the age-old warmth and welcoming feeling that’s glowed since the cave days from the family hearth. ♦

Wood cabinets can add warm tones and evoke the feel of a cozy den. If you don’t want the metal and electronics of your appliances to show, it’s easy to hide them behind wood cabinetry in the same style as the rest of the kitchen. At the Christiana Cabinetry showroom you can find storage space behind one door; behind an identical panel the dishwasher waits until it’s needed.

Having comfortable seating is another way to create a natural gathering place. Madson suggests building a window seat in a bumped out window, designing seating for chairs rather than less comfortable bar stools, or adding a banquette that demands lingering over meals or coffee.

TECHNOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL MATERIALS

Materials are another area where age-old traditions and today’s technology harmonize. A kitchen has “got to look modern and updated, but it’s got to be warm at the same time,” Wolfington says, and materials are a favored way to do that. Natural materials like handmade tiles can help, and so can technology.

Stone countertops have been popular for years—think of all the granite and marble out there. Now quartz countertops—a mix-

RESOURCES

To find out more contact:

Rich Dempsey, Christiana Cabinetry
Atglen, 610-593-7500

Alex Hall, Creative Nook
Paoli, 610-644-6665

Dave Dilworth, Diworth’s Custom Design
Phoenixville, 610-917-9119

Andy Madsen, Madsen Kitchens & Baths
Broomall, 610-356-4800

Trez Pomilo, Sugarbridge Kitchen & Bath
Paoli, 484-318-8367

Katy Wolfington, Waterbury Kitchen & Bath
Kennett Square, 610-444-9190



Georgian Glory

Story by Matt Freeman
Photos by Anthony Rugnetta

WHETHER IN ENGLAND, FRANCE OR THE MAIN LINE, THERE'S not much mistaking a manor house. Even the driveway, like a European boulevard with the courses of brickwork and shrubberies that line it, leads your eye irresistibly to the home itself, where the facade spreads outward from a four-columned portico, the roofline rising and falling over the projecting wings with turret-like sections standing forward like sentries.

Manor houses were meant to be noticed, to stand above all other buildings with their grandeur and beauty. They were the homes of the aristocrats over the centuries, the residential top of the food chain, meant to bowl you over and powerfully impress you from the first moment you saw them.

GEORGIAN STYLE

This architectural style had certainly made an impression on a client who came to Wayne-based architect Warren Claytor some years ago with a vision for a new home based on the manor houses he had seen in his travels around England and France. The client had also been struck by some of the architecture he'd seen while pursuing his education in Philadelphia and Boston. And he had images to illustrate the sort of buildings he wanted his new home to resemble.



Looking at the images and discussing them with the client, Claytor decided the Georgian style was the best way to realize what the client was envisioning. Named for the first four Hanoverian kings of England, Georges I through IV, Georgian was the predominant style of architecture in the 18th century in both England and the Colonies.

Unlike some architectural genres that are rather strictly defined, Georgian varies widely in the features it uses, and has more to do with a certain effect: formal, symmetrical, elegantly restrained exteriors are its hallmark. This style looks back to Greek and Roman architecture as revived in the Renaissance.

If the 18th century seems to have a certain grandeur today, Georgian architecture has a lot to do with that. Growing industrial strength at home and military might abroad were making England a world power, and on both sides of the Atlantic the increasingly grand buildings going up reflected that rising confidence.

GEORGIAN STYLE ADAPTED

Some Georgian manor houses are long and rectangular, with a flat facade, what Claytor calls a “boxcar” look. But given the style’s freedoms, Claytor opted for more visual interest in this project.

The view from the home’s front shows the central part of the facade flanked by rounded, turret-like extensions with wings extending beyond them. This made it possible to have rounded, sunlit rooms that could be used for an office or cheerful breakfast space.

The exterior of the home is brick, with traditional limestone detail on the cornices and quoins—the alternating large stones used in traditional construction to reinforce a corner—along with tile roofing.

The owner opted for a relatively restrained approach to landscaping, with mostly open areas lined with shrubs along the perimeter.

INTERIOR DESIGNS

Like many other homes inspired by traditional styles, there’s an accommodation with modern ideas about how homes ought to look and be used in the interior. Claytor says within the home’s Georgian-styled exterior is a modern American floorplan that’s open and geared to today’s ideas about how people live and move around in a home.



The interior includes a few traditional features like timber framing by Hugh Lofting over the swimming pool, but for the most part the color is white and the ambiance is airy. The owner says this is no accident—he wanted the interiors to resemble Europe’s modern museums, with rooms open and high-ceilinged, drenched in light.

That concept can be seen in one of the home’s eclectic sources of inspiration: the Fisher Fine Arts Library on the University of Pennsylvania’s campus. Designed by Frank Furness, the library features a four-story reading room with large windows that furnish light to the other rooms inside. The Main Line home’s library uses the same idea, with light wood paneling to help brighten the atmosphere (see the cover photo).

Modernity also informs the home’s functioning, and its aesthetics too. The owner told the builder, Michael Haines, the president of Waverly Custom Homes, to strive for low energy usage. The zoned heating and cooling can be controlled with a smart phone or tablet. There’s geothermal technology and the most advanced insulation available.

Where appropriate, modern materials are used: the traditional quoins are actually made of “cast stone”—powdered stone in a resin composite—and the clay tile roof, built to “outlast us all,” Haines says, has a special glazing designed to quickly take on the age-appropriate appearance for a house built a couple of centuries ago.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Although it draws from faraway times and places, the house embodies some local history as well. The sports-enthusiast owner wanted a basketball court among the other amenities, and while buying the materials from Harriton High School in Lower Merion, Haines found the bleachers were available as well. These were 20-foot mahogany boards, he said, that now form the bar and walls of an elegant space where friends can gather for drinks.

The natural world is also part of the design. Many





rooms include ample doors and windows opening on the greenery outside, and balconies and porches open it up even more.

Claytor says porches were a prominent feature of fine homes in the days before air conditioning. Today they're a place to enjoy the outdoors and the fresh air, he says, a place to keep the family together and connected. Accordingly there's a large, well-furnished porch facing an interior courtyard. Atop it sits a balcony from which to enjoy the hilltop view of the surrounding area.

It's no accident that the house enables you to appreciate the surroundings. Claytor is not only an architect; he has a master's degree in landscape architecture and studied with famed landscape architect Ian McHarg. He's as aware as anyone, then, that no matter how magnificent and striking a home may be to look at, its residents spend their time looking in the other direction, appreciating a sunset, say, or a rabbit on the lawn one dewy morning.

"We're constantly bringing the outside in," Claytor says, "and the inside out." ♦



RESOURCES

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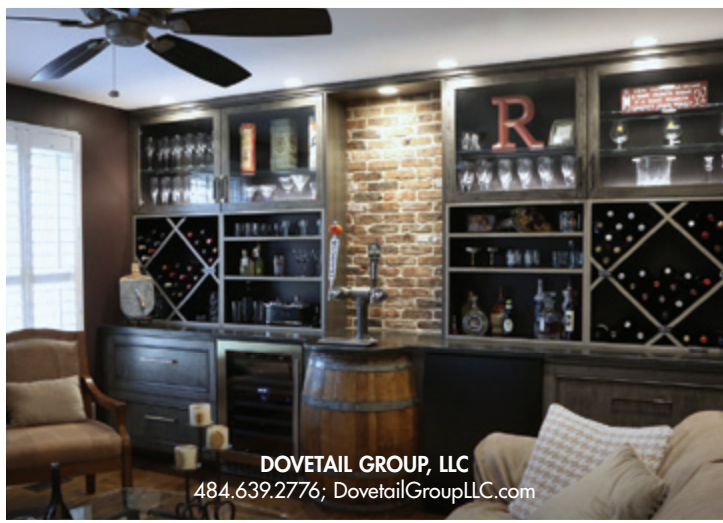
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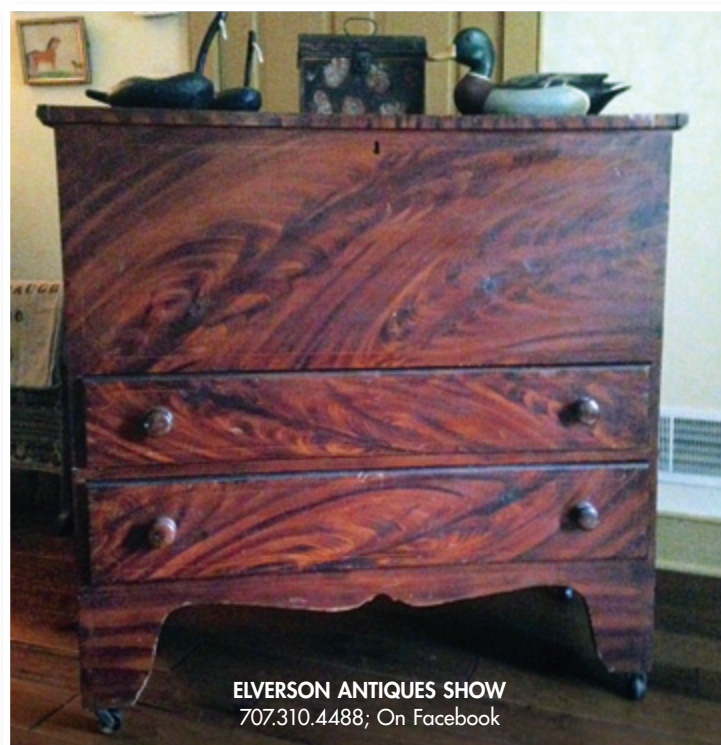


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SMART HOME BUYING

Mary Irene Dolan

HOW TO FIND YOUR DREAM HOME

BUYING A HOME IS A VERY BIG DEAL. IT'S PROBABLY the biggest purchase you'll ever make, and it's one you'll have to live with—literally and figuratively—every day. The process can seem overwhelming, confusing and downright frustrating at times. But when you find your dream home, the one that resonates with you and makes you smile, it's *so* worth it.

How do you get there? For starters: know yourself, do your research, find a realtor, practice being a good listener *and* communicator, and go from there ...

GETTING STARTED

First things first—know what you want. Holly Gross from the Holly Gross Group of Berkshire Hathaway recommends sitting down with your spouse and making three wish lists of what you're looking for in a home—one list you write, one your spouse writes and one you write together. How many bedrooms? Need a chef's kitchen? A backyard?

"This will help you decide together which things are wants versus needs," Holly explains. And if you're both in the same neighborhood, so to speak.

The next step is to find out what you can realistically afford. "It's so important to me that my clients are connected with their bank or a mortgage broker and are pre-approved before hitting the pavement," says Margot Mohr Teetor of RE/MAX Preferred.

This information will prevent major disappointments from looking at houses out of your price range. It should also get you excited about focusing on what is realistically available to you. A good real estate agent should be able to refer you to a broker they trust who's worked with other clients.

You'll also want to do research online about school districts and neighborhoods to see which are a good fit for your family's

“Although it's easy to get caught up in all the details and technicalities, don't forget that this will be your home, not just a house. It's the place where you'll spend most of your time, and it needs to be right for you.”

needs. And you may want to start looking at homes online to get a sense of what's available in your price range and dream areas.

But as Cindy Orr from Country Properties of Berkshire Hathaway reminds us, "Buying a house should be fun! And it's as

much an emotional decision as a practical one." Although it's easy to get caught up in all the details and technicalities, don't forget that this will be your *home*, not just a house. It's the place where you'll spend most of your time, and it needs to be right for you.

SHOPPING AROUND

Once you've pre-qualified for a mortgage, done your research and looked at homes online, it's time to go out and look for yourself. This is the fun part!

"When touring a home, it's important to pay attention to your initial feel of the house," says Holly. "The light, the energy and the surroundings are all very powerful." You want to be able to see yourself there, going about your daily life. Will you love the view from the bedroom in the morning? Is the dining room big enough to entertain your close family and friends? This is the time your lists of dreams and deal-breakers can be put to the test.

It can be challenging to picture yourself in a home that isn't staged or presented well—maybe the purple bathroom is not your thing or you'd never furnish the living room that way. That's where a good realtor comes in. "Your agent will be able to help reconceptualize the space and help you overlook objectionable things," Holly notes. The agent's job is to have the vision and clarity that you may not have—especially after visiting so many homes in a short time!

One way to counter that overwhelmed feeling is to keep a record of all the houses you visit. "I give every buyer I go out with a clipboard, pen and copy of the listings in the order that we're visiting," says Margot. Then you can jot down what you liked and disliked and what was important about each property. When you're musing at night, you'll be able to recall that cozy cottage you liked best based on your notes and comments, not just online listings.

Besides the homes themselves, it's also a good idea to scope out the neighborhoods and do a "drive by," according to Cindy. "Visit at different times of day, take notice if there're a lot of people around or if it's more private, and think about what suits your needs best," she advises. A realtor who knows the area is a great source of informa-

tion about things you may not immediately notice, like busy roads, what's nearby and planned mega-developments.

When working with your realtor, don't be afraid to speak up, ask questions and tell them all the things, big or small, that matter to you. The more you communicate, the more they can help. And don't worry about being out of your element! Home buying is complex. That's why you have an agent.

INSPECTION TIME

When it's time to find a home inspector, make sure you get one that's right for you and for the property. "I always ask my buyers if they know of someone through a family member or friends," says Margot. "Otherwise I give them a list of three or more inspectors that I've worked with and trust."

If you're looking at one of the many historic homes in our area, it's important to choose an inspector who understands the special features of those properties.

"Historic homes don't have the same red flags a newer home may have," notes Cindy. "Something that may be an issue in a newer home could be perfectly acceptable in an older one"—for example, unusual duct work from retrofitting the A/C in a 300-year-old house or plaster insulation instead of modern R-30 in a stone home. The key is to use an inspector who knows the difference.

Many times, especially for first-time buyers, the information from an inspector can sound daunting—what do you know about septic tanks, radon levels and stucco remediation? "We can help prioritize the important parts and break down the findings into something that makes sense to the buyer," explains Cindy.

Having a buyer's agent on your side will help with negotiations based on discoveries from the inspection and help sifting through any confusing jargon.

WHAT KIND OF AGENT?

Buyer's? Listing? Dual? What's the difference with these kinds of agents and does it matter? The short answer: It depends ...

According to Kit Anstey from the Kit Anstey Real Estate Team of Berkshire Hath-

away, "A buyer's agent and listing agent are both doing similar things for the buyers and sellers, respectively: acting in their client's best interest, including making a conscientious and good faith effort in representing them."

A dual agent, however, "represents both and is unable to take any action that is adverse to either party." The dual agent remains a neutral mediator and can be a good choice for uncomplicated sales.

So, it depends. Kit believes there are certainly benefits of having a buyer's agent, especially as a buyer. "A good agent should have expertise in the area you're looking to buy in," he says. In some cases, he recommends using two agents, for example if you're looking in several different areas that one agent doesn't cover.

Where a buyer's agent is most useful is "educating the buyer thoroughly on the complicated process of buying a home," says Kit. Buyer's agents should be experienced negotiators and understand all the details of the sales transaction, preventing their clients from feeling they're blindly signing away their life when it's time to sign the many, many documents at closing. (We didn't cover that here.)

"Really, we're like teachers," says Holly Gross. "We're here to help guide buyers to the perfect home for them." Basically, they've got your back! ♦

RESOURCES

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Each school has its own policies for tuition and financial assistance. And although responsibility for tuition costs rests primarily with each family, almost all schools offer need-based aid and scholarships to help make that dream school a reality.

There are more options than many parents imagine.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Unlike tuition-free public school, private schools have many different tuition options—some with lower tuition than others and most with lower tuition in lower grades. Catholic schools are, on the whole, less expensive. Bishop Shanahan High School, for example, charges under \$10K annually—even less if you're Catholic and have more than one child enrolled.

Other Catholic schools—such as Villa Maria Academy, Notre Dame Academy, Sacred Heart Academy—generally charge above \$10K for kindergarten and top \$20K for upper school. Devon Prep's tuition also increases from middle to upper school.

Schools in the state of Delaware and in Lancaster County generally have lower tuition costs than schools in Philadelphia (Friends Select is over \$35K) and the Main Line (Jack Barrack Hebrew

Academy tops \$32K). You'll find Tower Hill School, Wilmington Friends School and Tatnall School, all in Wilmington, with lower tuition costs, along with Linden Hall in Lititz, for non-boarding day students

Throughout Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, independent school have annual tuition costs ranging from about \$10K to the \$30K range. For example, Church Farms School, an Episcopal school, charges under \$20K, and that's before tuition assistance, which 90% of the families accept.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE

Nearly every school offers payment schedules for tuition costs, allowing families to avoid a lump-sum payment. Even so, \$20K or \$30K is a significant family expense. Your family may want to consider financial aid options.

Financial aid is more common than many parents think. Some schools—The Hill School, Westtown School, Episcopal Academy, for example—disburse more than \$7 million annually. At Westtown, nearly half the students take some measure of assistance. Similarly at The Hill School, about 40% of its students get financial aid. More commonly, about a quarter to a third of the student body gets some assistance—mainly to upper school students. Still, there's help for quite a few families.

The grants awarded to students can be substantial. Malvern Prep, for instance, reports the average grant is nearly \$15K, almost half the

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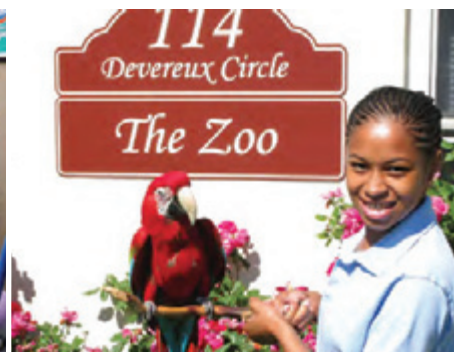
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TAXES, COVERDELLs AND 529s

Until recently, there was little tax relief for families of private school students. That has changed, however, beginning in 2018 with the new tax legislation.

Other options, such as the Coverdell account (which has been around since 1997), facilitate saving for college as well as K–12. It allows a set-aside of up to \$2,000 per year, can be self-directed and can be drawn down tax-free for “qualified educational expenses.” But if your modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$95K—double for joint filers—you’re not eligible for a deduction.

The Coverdell’s main drawback is its income ceiling. And \$2,000 per year isn’t much to shelter.

But, beginning in 2018, under the recently enacted Tax Cut and Jobs Act, you can put \$10,000 per year per student into a 529 plan that covers education expense for grades K–12. You won’t get any deduction, and a 529 is conservatively invested, so it won’t build a fortune. But, when you pull out the money, as long as it’s for school, its growth will be without tax.

Families in Pennsylvania can deduct up to \$14K per beneficiary on state taxes. At 3.09%, that’s about \$430. In Delaware, there’s no deduction, but your investment will grow tax-free.

tuition bill. Similarly, The Hill School provides almost \$22K of aid, though that goes for boarding expense as well. Tower Hill and Wilmington Friends provide about \$12K on average.

APPLICATION PROCESS

In general, financial aid decisions are entirely need-based and separate from admissions decisions—much like some colleges.

Each school manages its own requirements, but most follow the same basic process. The family files a **Personal Financial Statement** (PFS) together with supporting statements, such as your 1040, W-2s, K-1s, 1099s, mortgage statements, etc.

These documents are sent to **School & Student Services** (SSS), which makes a recommendation about whether and how

much assistance you will need. This is an annual decision: you may apply each year if circumstances change.

The application process itself is online, costs \$49, and is supported by a helpful web seminar (about 30 minutes). The application form is simple (but lengthy) and asks about your income and expenses: standard stuff. If your situation is at all unusual, it’s recommend that you answer the optional question 20, which provides

an opportunity to explain special circumstances and why you need aid.

What will come of your application, assuming you’ve met the deadlines—they vary by school but most are in mid-January and early submission is recommended—is a recommendation regarding your financial need. You can then discuss the SSS’s recommendation with a school financial officer. Hopefully, the school will provide enough for your family.

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GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

No matter your child's talent, the school will look at your family financial situation and make a decision on that basis. In general, the process is almost entirely need-based and virtually blind to the student's or family's unique circumstances. There are, however, a few scholarships available.

Mary Kay Napoli, Director of Admissions at Villa Maria, reports that 22% of its students benefit from its need-based

Marian Grants. To be eligible a student must do well in class and score in the 97th or 98th percentile on the entrance exam. She can also take advantage of an IHM Charism Scholarship—partial grants for students who demonstrate Villa Maria's ideals of "fidelity, creative hope, and love." Leadership, service, character and academic performance are also considered. In addition, there are music and art scholarships.

Similarly, at Archmere Academy, Director

of Admissions Andrew Cocco says about 70% of its students get need-based aid, including grants. A student must score in the top 15% on an admission exam to be eligible for the up-to-\$2,000 grant.

MERIT AND OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

Need-based aid is also common at Westtown School. However, the school offers merit scholarships as well. Averaging \$5,000 per year, they're awarded to "exceptional students" in academics, leadership, the arts, athletics and global engagement. About 5% of students get those awards. There's also a Sarah Barton grant, for which Quaker students may apply.

Military families will find favor at The Hill School. Chris Bala, Director of Financial Aid, reports the school offers a Wallach Family Military Scholarship, covering room, board, tuition, books and more: basically a "full-ride." At least one parent must be a 10-year member of the armed forces.

At Episcopal Academy, Assistant Head of School Paul Sanders reports its financial aid is entirely need-based and separate from the admission decision. He emphasizes that the school values diversity and will go to great lengths to include a promising student. There are some monetary awards, which are comparatively small.

There are no merit-based scholarships at The Kimberton Waldorf School because they have no grades, explains Lisa Cordner, Director of Enrollment. Its need-based grant program serves about 30% of its students, but is supplemented by several small scholarships, generally for families who have a crisis.

In summary, sending your son or daughter to private school will make demands on your family budget. But careful choices, grants and tax policies will help reduce the costs. Especially if you plan ahead, the cost can be significantly reduced.

And investing in the right school for your child—the confidence and preparation for life gained there—will undoubtedly be well worth the cost, paying dividends for a lifetime. ♦

See our Guide to Independent and Private Schools Open Houses in this issue and online.

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DevonPrep.com



A private, Catholic, college prep school, grades six to twelve, focused on the holistic education of young men for life. There is a 1:9 Teacher-Student ratio; on average \$160,000.00 in Merit college scholarships per student; There are 21 AP courses; business oriented electives; a 2018/19 Catholic League member; art, music and theater programs; partnership program with Villanova University. *Middle School Scholarship/Entrance Exam:*
Feb.11, 8:30 am
Spring Open House and 7th Grade Practice Exam:
Apr. 21, 8:30 am

Downingtown
Bishop Shanahan High School

220 Woodbine Rd.
610-518-1300

Shanahan.org

BSHS offers an educational journey of academic excellence, rich extracurricular opportunities and a Christ-centered community. They also feature 25 varsity sports; 43 clubs; 21 AP courses; and dual enrollment with Immaculata, Widener & Neumann Universities. 100% of the Class of 2017 were accepted into college and received \$23.5 million in scholarships. The Class of 2018 has 9 National Merit Commended Scholars & 1 Semi-Finalist.

Shadow Current Student Days:

Mon-Fri, 8:30 to 2

7th Grade Visitation Day: Mar. 14, 8:30 to 1:30

Spring Open House: Mar. 21 at 7 pm

7th Grade Practice Test: Apr. 7, 8 am to noon

Haverford
Friends School Haverford

851 Buck La.
610-642-2334

FriendsHaverford.org



Guided by Quaker principles since its founding in 1885 and providing an intellectually rich and powerful values-based program. They promote academic scholarship, creativity, respect, integrity and self-awareness while creating a culture of stewardship and kindness. Students are enriched with international travel and study, inter-scholastic sports and ultimate frisbee. Nursery school (2 years & 7 months by Sept. 1) through grade 8. *Open House: Jan. 24, Feb. 7, Mar. 6, May 9*



**SACRED HEART
ACADEMY**
— BRYN MAWR —

brave heart
AT SACRED HEART ACADEMY

FAITH INTELLECT SERVICE COMMUNITY GROWTH

At Sacred Heart Academy, your daughter will receive a stellar education, make friendships that last a lifetime, and strengthen her brave heart so she can boldly go far.

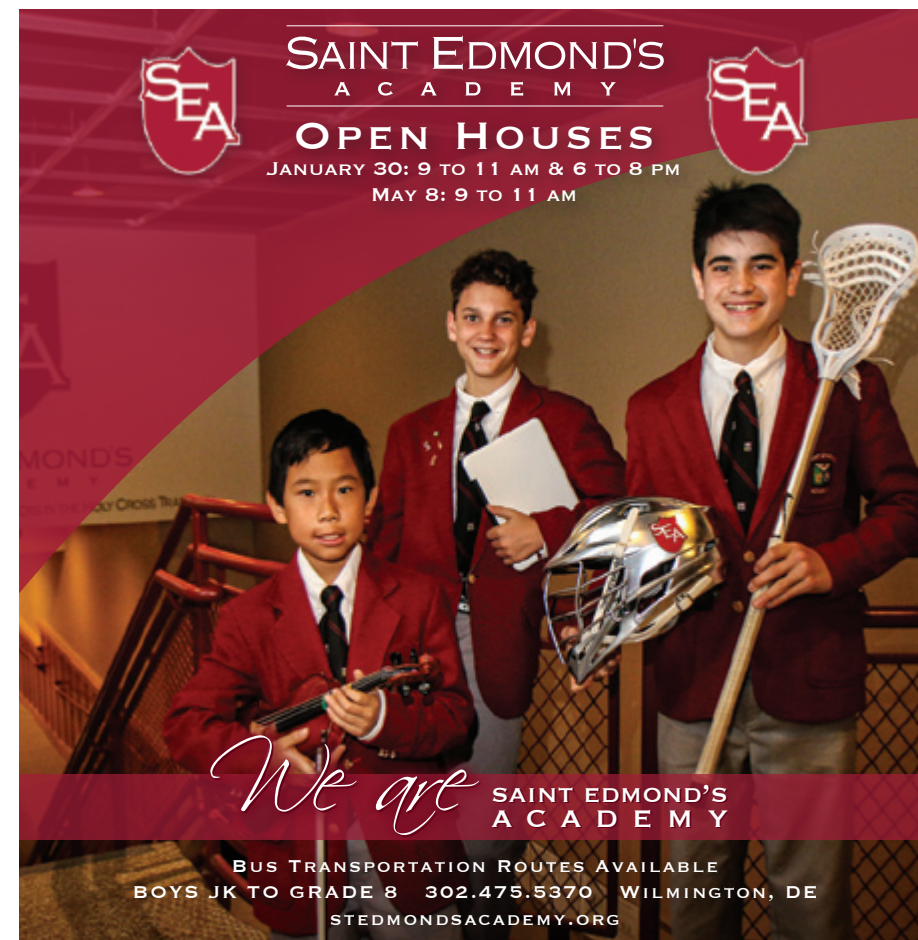
Schedule a private tour and shadow day at 610-527-3915 ext. 214.

Proud member of the international Network of Sacred Heart Schools

Established in 1865, Sacred Heart Academy Bryn Mawr is an independent, Catholic, college preparatory school for young women K - 12.

480 S. BRYN MAWR AVENUE • BRYN MAWR

SHAbrynmaur.org



**SAINT EDMOND'S
ACADEMY**
OPEN HOUSES
JANUARY 30: 9 TO 11 AM & 6 TO 8 PM
MAY 8: 9 TO 11 AM

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ACADEMY**

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Delaware Valley Friends School

Building bright futures for students who learn differently

Lower School

GRADES 3-5

Closing the gap in foundational skills at just the right time



Middle School

GRADES 6-8

Rediscovering excitement in learning

Upper School

GRADES 9-12

Preparing for success in college and beyond



ACADEMICS | CHARACTER | COMMUNITY

Learn more at www.dvfs.org/admissions
See our new video at www.dvfs.org/video



GRADES 3-12

610.640.4150 19 E. Central Ave., Paoli, PA

SCHOOL



Where can
a learning
difference
be turned
into a
SUCCESS?



Woodlynde School

Where Great Minds Learn Differently

College Prep for Diverse Learning Styles
Grades K-12 | Co-ed | Strafford, PA

Open Houses: The second Tuesday of every month
October - May at 8:45 a.m.

www.woodlynde.org



Wilmington Friends School

Meet us on Mondays!

Visit us at wilmingtonfriends.org or call 302.576.2930
to register or to customize your tour.

Quaker matters. Come see why.

Serving students in preschool through
12th grade. Tuition assistance available.



Immaculata

Villa Maria Academy Lower School

1140 King Rd.

610-644-4864; VillaMaria.org

Villa Maria Academy is an independent, Catholic school for girls in K-grade 8 and a coeducational preschool. Since 1872, Villa Maria has empowered young women through leadership and service opportunities in the traditions of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At Villa, each student is encouraged to reach her full potential academically, spiritually, socially and morally.

Open House: Feb. 9, Mar. 14 at 9:30 am



Lititz

Linden Hall School

212 E. Main St.

717-626-8512; LindenHall.org

Founded in 1746 in small-town Lititz, Linden Hall enrolls 220 girls from 32 countries and 16 states as boarding, day and five-day boarding students. Students come for a place where they can be known and valued as individuals, participate in signature programs such as engineering and equestrian, and be empowered to excel in their future adult lives.

Open House: Mar. 4, 3 to 5

Student Visit Day: Mar. 5, 3 to 5



Malvern

Malvern Preparatory School

418 S. Warren Ave.

484-595-1100

MalvernPrep.org

Malvern Prep is an independent, Catholic, Augustinian college preparatory school for young men in grades 6-12. The all-boys education balances rigorous academics, deep extracurricular commitment, spiritual development, global citizenship and Christian service.

Spring Preview Morning: May 1 at 8:30 am

Practice Entrance Exams: Apr. 7 and May 5



Villa Maria Academy High School

370 Central Ave.

610-644-2551; VMAHS.org

Villa Maria Academy is a Catholic, college preparatory school educating young women to be critical thinkers, creative problem solvers and collaborative citizens with strong communication skills. Rigorous academics, combined with innovative real-world experiences and extensive extracurricular opportunities, prepare young women with the skills and the confidence they need to meet the challenges of the future.

Preview Breakfast for 6th and 7th graders & families,
Apr. 17 or 20

Practice Exam for 7th graders, Apr. 21 or 28

Visit Villa Day for 7th graders, May 14 or 15

Register online at VMAHS.org



Media

Media-Providence Friends School

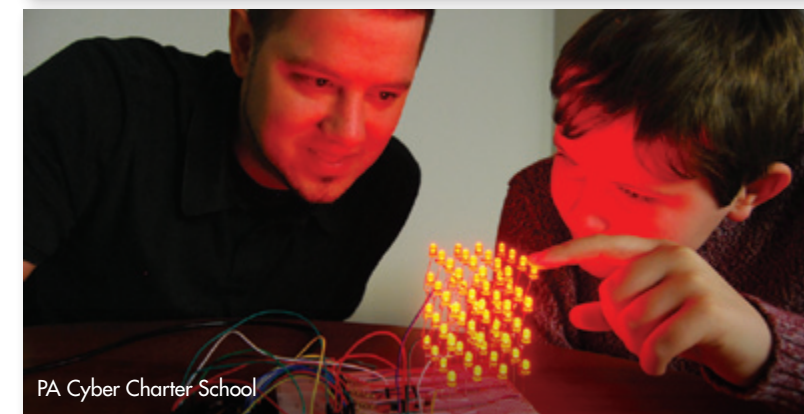
125 W. Third St.

610-565-1960; MPFS.org

A Quaker school in downtown Media for students age 3-grade 8. Students of all ages have access to their newly updated Makerspace: a classroom solely dedicated to building, imagining and creating with low-tech tools and high-tech tools like a 3D printer. Small classes allow for differentiated learning in



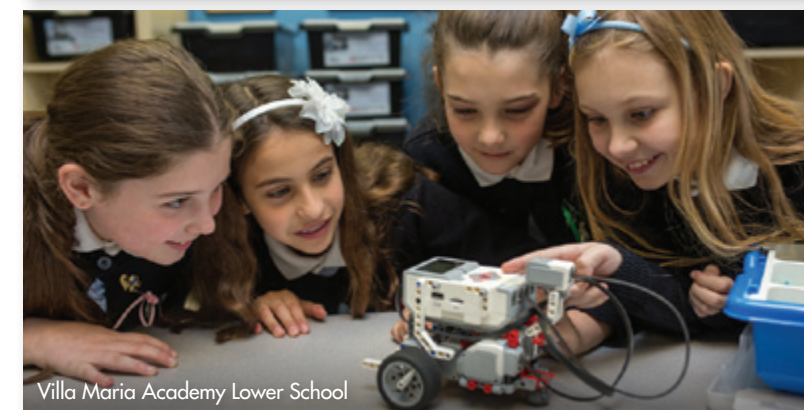
Woodlynde School



PA Cyber Charter School



Wyndcroft School



Villa Maria Academy Lower School



Linden Hall School

a rigorous academic environment where students find their passion with purpose.
Open House: Feb. 9, Mar. 16 at 9 am

Newtown Square

Episcopal Academy

1785 Bishop White Dr.
484-424-1400

EpiscopalAcademy.org

For 230+ years, Episcopal Academy has offered a tradition of excellence, providing a challenging and nurturing coeducational program for Pre-K–grade 12. The school's unparalleled facilities and innovative curriculum, anchored by its talented teachers, successfully combine classical and cutting-edge methods. Teachers work individually with students in small class settings to foster strengths, build self-confidence and inspire a love of learning.

Spring Open House: Apr. 17



Pottstown

The Wyndcroft School

1395 Wilson St.
610-326-0544; Wyndcroft.org

The Wyndcroft School engages students who love learning and families that value education. With an updated approach to a classic curriculum, Wyndcroft's faculty guides students through an

academic program that provides a firm foundation and cultivates a sense of gratitude and responsibility. Beginning in preschool, students develop leadership skills, so that from middle school they emerge confident, poised, and prepared to succeed at the best secondary schools and beyond.

Kindergarten Sneak Peek: Mar. 22 at 7 pm

Upper School Sneak Peek: May 10 at 7 pm



Wynnewood

Friends' Central School

(Grades 6–12), 1101 City Ave.

(Nursery–Grade 5)

228 Old Gulph Rd.

610-649-7440

FriendsCentral.org

Friends' Central School is a Quaker, independent, coeducational, college-preparatory day school for students in Nursery–grade 12. Located on 41 acres across two campuses, Friends' Central cultivates the intellectual, spiritual and ethical promise of students. Guided by Quaker values, since 1845, Friends' Central has been educating for excellence, inspiring tomorrow's leaders, honoring each individual, and encouraging students to peacefully transform the world.

Parent Info Sessions: Feb. 7, Mar. 7, Apr. 4, May 2,
Lower School, 9 am



Middle/Upper Schools, 8:30 am

Spring Open House: Apr. 19, 9 to 11

Walk-in After Work Tour Middle & Upper Schools:

Apr. 24, 5–6 pm, (1101 City Ave.)

Walk-in Wednesday Tours: 9 am each week

DELAWARE Claymont

Archmere Academy

3600 Philadelphia Pk.

302-798-6632

ArchmereAcademy.com

An independent, Catholic, coeducational college preparatory school, grades 9–12. Founded in the Norbertine tradition, the education focuses on the whole person, developing students into empathetic leaders and inspiring them to reach their potential. Top academics, expert faculty, competitive athletics, award-winning arts and state-of-the-art facilities create an exceptional educational experience. Visit and learn about what it means to be an Auk.

7th Grade Practice Test: Apr. 21

7th Grade Open House: May 2



Wilmington

Saint Edmonds Academy

2120 Veale Rd.

302-475-5370; StEdmondsAcademy.org



Saint Edmond's Academy, a Catholic, independent school, educates the hearts and minds of boys in the Holy Cross tradition from JrK–grade 8. Their heritage incorporates contemporary thought with individualized instruction and a challenging 21st-century curriculum. The program at the Academy creates a foundation for the future that prepares boys with values and skills for life.

Open House: Jan. 30, 9 to 11 am and 6 to 8 pm

May 8, 9 to 11

The Tatnall School

1501 Barley Mill Rd.

302-892-2292; Tatnall.org

The Tatnall School is an independent, coeducational college preparatory day school situated on a pastoral 110-acre campus in the Greenville area. Composed of four academic divisions that enroll students in PK3–grade 12, Tatnall provides a strong, balanced foundation with exceptional academics, outstanding athletics, unparalleled arts, and authentic relationships. Partner with Tatnall today to start your child on the path to success.

Admissions Preview Night: Oct. 11, 5:30 to 7

Fall Open House: Nov. 8 from 9 to 11:30

Wilmington Friends School

101 School Rd. (Rts. 202 & 95)

302-576-2900; WilmingtonFriends.org



Founded in 1748, Wilmington Friends is a great place to grow up. They

offer an unsurpassed academic program with depth, asking students to question, collaborate, be creative and take risks, all within a caring community that balances focus on the individual with responsibility to the common good. International Baccalaureate program, 1:1 laptop program, STEM Labs and programming and Reggio Emilia-inspired preschool. Tuition assistance available.

Meet Us on Monday: Every Monday

LEARNING DIFFERENCES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

PENNSYLVANIA

Conshohocken

AIM Academy

1200 River Rd.

215-483-2461

AIMPA.org

AIM Academy—Innovative Teaching.

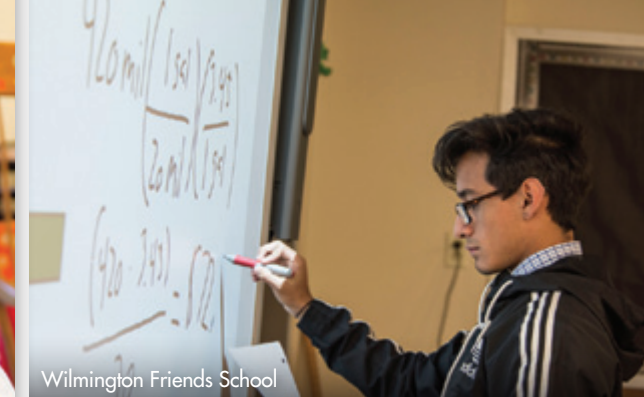
Fearless Learning.

A grade 1–12 independent school providing extraordinary educational opportunities for children with language-based learning differences such as dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia. AIM delivers a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum featuring global learning, entrepreneurship, engineering and the arts as well as a rich range of arts, music, clubs and athletic opportunities.

Open House: Feb. 22, Mar. 21, Apr. 12, May 11,



Pilot School



Wilmington Friends School



Montgomery School



Malvern Prep



Episcopal Academy



Villa Maria High School

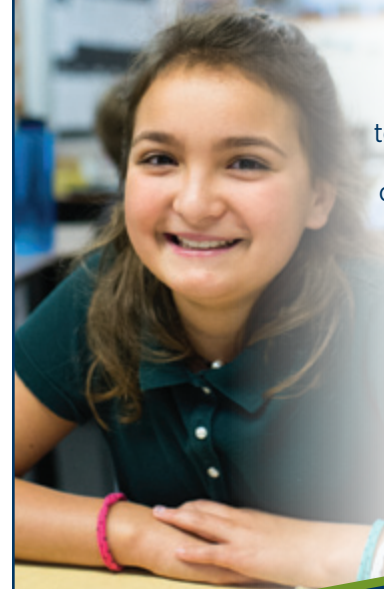


Delaware Valley Friends School



Benchmark School

EXCEPTIONAL *educators.* EMPOWERED *students.*



Celebrating 48 years of helping bright students who have yet to reach their academic potential become confident and strategic thinkers, learners, and problem solvers.

Admission Open Houses:
March 22 & May 10
9:00–11:00 AM

Or call for a private visit.

BenchmarkSCHOOL
610-565-3741 • BenchmarkSchool.org

VILLA MARIA ACADEMY

GIRLS K-8 | CO-ED PRESCHOOL

Empowering Young Women through Leadership and Service in the IHM Tradition



EXPERIENCE VILLA

DISCOVER THE OPPORTUNITIES UNIQUE TO OUR ALL-GIRL ENVIRONMENT

Open House sessions begin at 9:30 a.m.

February 9

March 14

Register Online
www.villamaria.org



1140 King Road, Immaculata, PA 19345

(610) 644-4864

July 12, 9 to 11 am, registration required
If you cannot make an Open House date, phone to
arrange a tour.

Downingtown

Devereux Autism Assessment Center

600 Boot Rd.
267-788-6892
Devereux.org/Autism



Provides comprehensive services to address questions and concerns about Autism Spectrum Disorder, offering the gold-standard in Autism assessment including the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS). The program strives to deliver the highest quality of services from intake, to thorough assessment, to intensive follow up. It's in line with Devereux's mission of providing individualized and comprehensive services for children and adults with special needs.

Throughout Chester County

Devereux Schools

484-595-6777; Devereux.org
Also: Downingtown

Glenmoore & West Chester

Devereux has offered excellent educational programs addressing a wide variety of learning issues for 105 years. Small classroom ratios allow for individualized instruction in a safe, therapeutic setting. Using Positive Behavior Intervention & Support approach, community-based instruction and work study programs, Devereux helps students return to local educational communities. An Approved Private School, Devereux is able to offer 4010s to school districts. Schedule a tour today

Media

Benchmark School

2107 N. Providence Rd., 610-565-3741

BenchmarkSchool.org

Serving students in grades 1-8 who learn differently, helping them become confident, self-advocates. Students typically arrive with labels such as dyslexia, auditory processing difficulties, ADD and ADHD. Benchmark develops an understanding of each student's strengths and challenges. Graduates know who they are as learners and can apply the strategies they develop here to take charge of their learning and meet with success.



Open Houses: Mar. 22, May 10, July 19
from 9 to 11 am

Paoli

Delaware Valley Friends School

19 E. Central Ave.

610-640-4150; DVFS.org

Delaware Valley Friends is a coed Quaker, college preparatory school for bright students, grades 3-12, who struggle with reading, writing, math, memory, processing, ADHD, executive functioning and other learning differences. DVFS teachers are education specialists with unparalleled experience and expertise drawing out students' unique strengths while tackling their academic challenges. Students are scholars, athletes, leaders, artists, adventurers and global citizens.

Open Houses: Feb. 11 from 1 to 3 pm

Mar. 21, Apr. 11, May 9, July 11, 9 to 11 am

Apr. 25, June 13 at 6:30 pm

Lower School Focus: Mar. 7, 11 am



Strafford/Wayne

Woodlynde School

445 Upper Gulph Rd.

610-687-9660; Woodlynde.org

Woodlynde School is a leading college-prep



school in the region for students in grades K-12 who learn differently. Woodlynde students gain access to caring experts in education, thrive in a nurturing environment, benefit from specialized teaching methods and strategies, rise to the challenge of a college-prep curriculum, and emerge with the tools and self-confidence necessary for success in college, career and life.

Open House: Feb. 13, Mar. 13, Apr. 10, May 8,

July 10 at 8:45 am

DELAWARE

Centreville

Centreville Layton School

6201 Kennett Pk.

302-571-0230

CentrevilleLayton.org

Centreville Layton School offers a robust educational and cultural experience for students who learn differently.

The program identifies the academic and social needs of the individual and provides a curriculum that focuses on problem-solving and critical thinking. Through intervention and strengthening learning strategies, the school empowers each student to reach his or her potential. Pre-K-grade 12.

Open House: First Wed. each month, 9 to 11 am



Wilmington

Pilot School

208 Woodlawn Rd.

302-478-1740

PilotSchool.org

Since 1957, Pilot has provided an individualized, therapeutic learning environment for children with language-based learning differences. Pilot's unique goal is to return children to a traditional educational environment in 3-5 years. The new state-of-the-art facility is built on 50 acres that adjoin more than 2,000 acres of park land, allowing for integrated indoor/outdoor learning experiences.

First Wed. each month, 9 to 11 am



EDUCATION SERVICES

PENNSYLVANIA

Exton

Mathnasium of Exton

305 N. Pottstown

Pk., Suite 104

484-331-6284

Mathnasium.com/Exton

Specially trained math instructors teach children, pre-K-12, how to understand math in an individual setting. They design a customized learning



plan for teaching the concepts the student needs to master and use a combination of proprietary materials and instruction techniques to ensure your child masters these concepts. The Mathnasium Method has transformed the way kids learn math for over a decade across 800+ centers in the US and Canada.

Plymouth Meeting

PAIS

37 E. Germantown Pk., # 302

610-567-2960

PAISPA.org

Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools' accreditation is a family's assurance that the school meets standards of excellence in administration, program, personnel, health and safety, and physical facilities. Member schools provide academic excellence, value the arts and athletics, and prepare students for a global society. PAIS is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education to accredit schools in the Commonwealth. ♦



Visit CountyLinesMagazine.com
for Open House updates throughout
the school year.

DEVON
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Check out the **BEST Catholic High School in Pennsylvania!**
-Niche.com

Sunday, February 11, 8:30 am
Middle School Scholarship/Entrance Exam

Saturday, April 21, 8:30 am
Spring Open House & 7th Grade Practice Exam

Register at devonprep.com

Education for Life.

EPISCOPAL ACADEMY

Inspiring
future leaders
since 1785.

Discover EA at Open House: Tuesday, April 17

> learn more at episcopalacademy.org/events
The Episcopal Academy | Independent | Pre-K through 12 | Co-ed

Devereux | PENNSYLVANIA

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health Pennsylvania's Approved Private Schools – located in Downingtown, West Chester, Malvern and Glenmoore – offer high-quality, innovative special education programs that work in tandem with families and school districts to ensure that students can return to their local schools and communities with the tools they need to succeed. **Populations served:** I/DD, behavioral health and autism.

We are hiring Special Education Teachers and Educational Support Staff.

Apply today at jobs.devereux.org/pa
EEO/Drug Free Workplace-Testing required

We make math make sense.

NOW ENROLLING FOR YEAR ROUND MATH PROGRAMS AND WEEKLY SUMMER CAMPS

Exton (484) 331-6284 305 N. Pottstown Pk., Suite 104 Exton, PA 19341 www.mathnasium.com/exton	Paoli (610) 644-2306 36 Chestnut Road Paoli, PA 19301 www.mathnasium.com/paoli
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Media-Providence Friends School

Meaningful Learning, Purposeful Life

Summer Camp!
June 18th - Aug 17th

Admissions Open House Dates:
Feb 9th & March 16th, 9am
125 W 3rd St • 610-565-1960 • mpfs.org/RSVP

FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

Admission Info Session - Feb. 7
9 am • Lower School
8:30 am • Middle & Upper School

Lower School Open House
April 19 • 9-11 am

Walk-in Wednesday Tours also available each week!

Experience the Joy of Learning at Friends' Central Lower School

Educating for Excellence Since 1845 • friendscentral.org

Delaware Museum of Natural History

Meet your microbes.

The Human Microbiome

ZOO in YOU

El Microbioma Humano

Zoo in You, our new special exhibit, explores the trillions of microbes living inside our body, how diverse they are, and their importance to our personal health.

Sponsored by

4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807 | delmnh.org | 302-658-9111

Food News

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



jalapeno-infused DragonDance. Hang out in the cozy bistro with its local, new American menu and see what the buzz is about. 350 Warwick Rd., Elverson; RevivalistSpirits.com.

Botanicals & a Bistro.

Two years strong in Elverson, **Brandywine Branch Distillers** continues to be more than your run-of-the-mill distillery—if there is such a thing. Focusing primarily on bourbon and gin, their spirits have a unique twist, particularly their botanical-based gins. Pick from seasonally inspired flavors like Equinox, Summertide, Harvest and award-winning Solstice Expression or try their

Keep Calm and Veggie On.

Looking to move to a plant-based diet? Whether for health, ethics or both, going vegetarian or vegan doesn't have to be difficult. For inspiration and direction, consider a meal plan service like **eMeals**—with the added perk of making sure your diet is well-rounded, exciting and stress-free. Dining out? Not-just-salad veggie options are popping up, with newbies like **Love Again Local** in West Chester, **The Greyhound Café** in Malvern, and reinvented **TASTE** in Phoenixville. More at eMeals.com, LoveAgainLocal.com; TheGreyhoundCafe.com; SandCastleWinery.com/ Taste-Phoenixville.



Sweet Local Treats.

It just isn't Valentine's Day without chocolate! So set your sights on the good stuff since our area is packed with quality goodies to satisfy any chocoholic. Try Phoenixville's **Bridge Street Chocolates**, Newtown Square's **Christopher Chocolates** or West Chester's **Éclat Chocolate** and impress your Valentine with local sweets. Find them at BridgeStreetChocolates.com, Christopher-Chocolates.com and EclatChocolate.com.



Heart-Warming.

What if chocolates aren't your sweetheart's thing? Then get creative! A heart-felt, **heart-shaped breakfast** with all the fixings—from pancakes, cinnamon rolls, hash browns and fruit—is sure to impress. Check Pinterest to confirm there's no limit to how many hearts you can make. And cookie and ice cream lovers will go head-over-heels for fresh-baked goodness

from West Chester's **Baked** or **Insomnia Cookies**. Look for Valentine's Day specials! BakedWC.com; InsomniaCookies.com.



Ramen Ready.

Grab your fanciest chopsticks and celebrate because February 6 is **National Chopsticks Day!** Don't worry if you haven't perfected your technique—practice makes perfect and YouTube tutorials abound. And, just two days before, on February 4, it's **National Homemade Soup Day**. Our suggestion? Combine the two with a delicious bowl of heart-warming ramen. Check out newly opened **Rai Rai Ramen & Hawaiian BBQ** in West Chester for an authentic taste with countless varieties, or make some yourself.

Cooking Together

THE STORY BEHIND THE GLOSSY MAGAZINE PHOTOS.

Laura Muzzi Brennan



Francis and Nui Pascal

IN HONOR OF VALENTINE'S DAY, GLOSSY COOKING magazines feature couples engaged in a flawless kitchen waltz. One peels, the other dices. One whisks, the other adds broth in a steady stream. Neither complains "you added too much salt!" and both prefer their filet medium rare. Their kitchen is roomy, light-filled, nary a dirty dish in sight.

The story behind the scenes is messier and infinitely more interesting. When the featured couple is a married pair of successful chef-restaurateurs from different continents, it's a foodie love story worth its weight in truffles.

Francis and Nui Pascal met nearly a decade ago. He is chef-owner of **Birchrunville Store Café**, a French-Italian BYOB tucked away in the Chester Springs countryside. The Café garnered effusive praise from Craig LaBan and consistently tops "Best of" lists. Nui's Thai

L'Elephant in Phoenixville boasts rave reviews and a loyal following—including Francis who, after sampling Nui's cuisine, made her restaurant his go-to for Thai. The couple married in March 2015. Last February, they embarked on a joint venture: **ButterScotch Pastry Shop** across the road from the Café.

Nui manages the front of this cozy breakfast and light lunch spot. She refers to herself as "the smiling person" while Francis and his long-time pastry chef, Jane Urban, prepare the food daily in the Café kitchen. Butterscotch cake, peanut butter tart and banoffee pie (dessert pie made from bananas, cream and toffee) are immensely popular. Other favorites: milk chocolate banana croque monsieur, pecan sticky buns, croissants, lobster salad and quiche.

When I ask Francis and Nui about cooking together, they exchange

looks and laugh. "We're both used to controlling things," Nui says and tells me about the time Francis poked her spring rolls and told her they were too loose. Now their typical MO is to divide and conquer: she cooks one dish from start to finish, and he does another.

Nui is a typical Thai cook, creating dishes where each distinct flavor is preserved whereas Francis, who trained in classic French cuisine, focuses on blending flavors to create new tastes. Nui's dishes involve only one pan. Francis uses every pot within reach. (For the record, he happily does dishes.)

While they usually cook separately, the couple influences each other's menus. Francis incorporates fish sauce into sauces and accompanies his lobster bisque with lobster and corn shoot summer rolls. Nui sometimes substitutes heavy cream for coconut milk in her tom yum soup. Her shrimp and scallops with champagne sauce and shrimp in paradise (shrimp stuffed with crab in a panang curry cream sauce) bear Francis's mark. For New Year's Eve, Francis made lobster bisque with curry for Thai L'Elephant.

When they eat at home, they keep the food simple. Nui adores Francis's Bolognese ... which she spices up with chili pepper. In summer, they enjoy grilled whole fish with ginger and pepper, wrapped into lettuce leaves. ("Nui has to have lettuce," Francis says smiling.) And they love unwinding over a glass of wine—"a 6- or 7-year-old California Cabernet sauvignon," says Francis—and triple crème cheese, Nui's favorite.

Francis and Nui Pascal's relationship is part cultural exchange, part business partnership and all love—richer than any glossy magazine can convey.



Tempting treats at ButterScotch Pastry Shop

Seafood Vol au Vent with a Touch of Thailand

With a wink and a nod to wife Nui, Chef Francis Pascal introduces staples of Thai cuisine—coconut milk and curry paste—into this classic French dish. If you're adventurous, says Chef Pascal, make your own puff pastry. Otherwise, frozen, store bought sheets of puff pastry work just fine.

For the puff pastry:



Puff pastry sheets (enough for 8, 4" circles)
1 egg mixed with a splash of water for egg wash

For the seafood filling:

1 lb. fresh lobster
½ lb. shrimp
4 diver sea scallops
8 large or 12 medium-sized mussels
½ C. white wine
1 tsp. canola oil
1 tsp. butter
½ C. celery, diced
½ C. carrots, diced
1 onion, diced
1 tsp. red Thai curry paste
1 tsp. cornstarch
½, 13.5-oz. can coconut milk
Salt and pepper to taste

To make puff pastry:

Preheat oven to 400°. Cut eight 4" circles from the puff pastry sheets. Place first 4 puff pastry circles on an ungreased baking sheet 2 inches apart. Brush with egg wash. Stack the remaining 4 puff pastry circles on top and brush again with egg wash. Refrigerate uncovered for 30 minutes. Bake for about 20 minutes or until golden.

To make seafood filling:

Cook lobster in a large pot of boiling salted water for 1 minute. Save 5 oz. of the cooking water. Transfer the lobster to an ice bath. Clean the lobster.

Peel and clean the shrimp. Clean scallops by removing the muscle. Wash and dry. Clean the mussels by scrubbing and removing the beard.

In a stock pot, bring mussels and white wine to a boil. Cover and cook for 5 minutes. Save 2 oz. of the wine. Remove mussels from the shell and set aside.

Heat canola oil in a nonstick saute pan on medium heat, add

Delicious Reads

This Valentine's Day, when you want a peek into the intertwined food and love stories of other couples, pick up one (or all!) of these books.

Cooking for Mr. Latte: A Food Lover's Courtship, with recipes by Amanda Hesser

Before Amanda Hesser co-founded Food 52, she was a feature writer and food editor at *The New York Times*. In her charming, funny book, she recounts the meals (and food fights) she shared with Mr. Latte from their first date—when he commits the faux pas of ordering a latte after dinner—to their wedding feast.

Lunch in Paris: A Love Story with Recipes and Picnic in Provence: A Memoir with Recipes by Elizabeth Bard

Elizabeth Bard was starting a master's in art history when she fell in love with a Frenchman and his cuisine. *Lunch in Paris* details their early relationship in all its delicious cross-cultural glory. *Picnic in Provence* picks up as they embark on the adventure of becoming parents, moving to the countryside and opening an artisanal ice cream shop.

Downtime: Deliciousness at Home by Nadine Levy Redzepi

Released in late 2017, *Downtime* answers the question "What do famous chefs eat at home ... when someone else is cooking?" That someone else is Nadine Levy Redzepi who cooks every day for her three young daughters, mother and husband Rene Redzepi, owner of Copenhagen's Michelin-starred Noma and one of the world's most influential chefs. Rene's foreword and Nadine's essay, "A Life in the Home Kitchen," bookend the recipes with insight into the couple's views on food and family.

shrimp and salt and saute until they are pink and firm. Let shrimp cool and cut into pieces.

In the same pan used to cook the shrimp, add butter, celery, carrots and onions and cook until the onions are translucent. Add red Thai curry paste and stir. Add corn starch and mix. Add 5 oz. of reserved lobster cooking water and the 2 oz. of reserved wine from mussels, bring to a boil and cook for 1 minute.

Add coconut milk, salt and pepper to taste, scallops, shrimp, lobster and mussels. Cook for 5 minutes.

Once the seafood mixture is cooked, immediately fill the puff pastry and serve.

Makes 4 servings.

Tarte Tatin

Francis and Nui Pascal both love this simple dessert.

4 apples, Granny Smith or Pink Lady

200 g sugar (about 1 C.)

Pinch of salt

130 g butter (about ½ C.)

1 sheet puff pastry, cut into 4 pieces to fit tart pans

Preheat oven to 375°.

Peel apples and cut into quarters.

In a sauce pan, make caramel by heating sugar over



medium heat until light brown. Add salt and butter. Whisk until homogenous. Divide caramel evenly into four non-stick tart pans. Cover with all of the apples and top with puff pastry. Bake until puff pastry is crisp and brown, about 20 minutes. Remove from oven. Let rest for 1 minute; flip tart onto plate being careful not to burn yourself on the hot caramel. Serve with ice cream.

Makes 4 servings.



Bill's Chili

Often when I say I'll make vegetarian chili for dinner, my husband Bill, an avowed carnivore, volunteers to make this rib-sticking, meat lovers bonanza. He puts just enough vegetables in it to keep me happy, uses turkey because our younger daughter never eats pork and rarely beef, and liberally adds Old Bay seasoning, a staple of his cooking. My only role is to stir the pot every so often. Even better, he shops for all the ingredients and makes enough for a couple of dinners! Win-win in the kitchen.

6 Tb. vegetable oil
3 C. chopped onion

2 lbs. ground turkey
1 lb. uncooked sweet Italian turkey sausage, casings removed
3, 1.25-oz. packages chili seasoning
3 C. red peppers or a mix of red and green, diced
3, 6-oz. cans tomato paste
4, 7-oz. cans mushrooms (pieces and stems), drained
2-3 Tb. Old Bay seasoning
Accompaniments: Sour cream, shredded cheddar or Monterey Jack, scallions



Heat the vegetable oil over medium high heat. Add onions, ground turkey and turkey sausage. Stirring frequently, cook until meat begins to brown. Reduce heat to medium. Add chili seasoning, red peppers and tomato paste. Keep stirring and cook for another few minutes. Reduce heat to low. Add mushrooms and Old Bay. Let cook for a half hour or more, stirring occasionally. The chili can sit on the stove all afternoon. Makes 12-16 servings.

Egg Salad and Smoked Salmon on Pumpnickel Party Bread

Over the winter holidays, my husband and I went to a party where the host made Deb Perelman's smoky deviled eggs with marcona almonds and crisped jamon. Like everything Deb makes—I like to think we are on a first-name basis—they were fabulous and inspired me, along with my husband's love of capers and smoked salmon, to make this spread just a few days later.



6 hard boiled eggs, peeled
2-3 Tb. mayonnaise
1-2 tsp. Dijon mustard, more to taste
¼ tsp. smoked sweet paprika (hot is fine), more to taste
3 Tb. capers, drained
1 Tb. minced shallots
Salt and pepper to taste
Juice of ½ lemon

½ loaf party pumpnickel or crackers of your choice
12 oz. smoked salmon*

*I use Foppen's Norwegian Smoked Salmon slices from Costco, which come in 3 varieties (dill, traditional and pepper).

Peel eggs and press through a potato ricer for a fine texture or mash with a fork for

a chunky texture. Add mayonnaise, Dijon mustard., smoked paprika, capers and shallots. Taste and add salt, pepper and lemon juice.

Serve with pumpnickel party bread and thin slices of smoked salmon.

Makes 6-8 appetizer servings. ♦

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



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