

COUNTY LINES

MAGAZINE

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from the EDITOR

The holidays are here! Celebrate! At *County Lines Magazine*, we certainly will.

Let's start with West Chester. Window displays, twinkly lights, ringing bells, carolers, new shops and old favorites, restaurants, hot chocolate, family, friends and a nationally recognized parade. The town has it all, writes Malcolm Johnstone in "The Festive Season in West Chester."

In "All Hearts Come Home for the Holidays," Angela Grabosky and Elizabeth Weaver hit the holiday highlights in our area—Phoenixville, Kennett Square, Wayne, Malvern, Downingtown and Wilmington fun.

Rather than jumping online or joining the mall madness, Mackenzie Jaros recommends shopping locally. In "Spread the Holiday Cheer and Shop Local This Year," she reviews the many benefits of supporting small business, plus the personal touch that comes with local gifts.

For more gift giving, we've got Leslie Finkel's "Holiday Book Giving," Fred Naddeo's "Festive Wines for Festive Times" (with plenty of sparklers), and our own "Holiday Window Shopping" and "Holiday Style," all filled with great recommendations beyond Amazon's top picks.

If you like experiences as much as presents, let us be your guide. Check out "Holiday House Tours" and "A Brandywine Christmas" to see what's new for the holidays. Theater lovers will enjoy the Resident Theatre Company's screwball comedy, "Lend Me a Tenor" and Media Theatre's new twist on the classic "Wizard of Oz."

Cookie lovers may get inspired to host a holiday cookie exchange. Our Brandywine Table column is filled with favorite recipes as Laura Brennan is joined by *County Lines'* staff.

And, to get in shape for, during and after the holidays, read Ray Porreca's "Keeping Pace During the Winter Months" with tips to see runners through to spring.

As always, we have the Best Local Events to keep you busy this month, plus plenty of Family Fun!

From all of us here, we wish you the Happiest of Holidays!


Jo Anne Durako
Editor

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Keeping Pace During The Winter Months

Ray Porreca

RUNNERS SHARE TIPS FOR STAYING ACTIVE DURING COLD CHESTER COUNTY WINTERS

RUNNERS ARE A SPECIAL BREED OF ATHLETE. IT TAKES dedication and an elusive kind of grit to be the type of person who'd willingly pound their feet against pavement for miles. And in all kinds of weather.

When I asked my father, a career marathoner with over 15 finishes under his belt, about his desire to run the Philly Marathon in rainy weather, he buzzed with excitement usually reserved for children hopped up on sugar. "I love running in the rain," he said. "Not only does it keep people away, but splashing around in the puddles is a great way to amuse yourself for a few hours."

But for runners seeking a straightforward form of exercise, inclement weather is a threat rather than a diversion. And as winter rears its frosty head, committing to any outdoor activity that doesn't involve sprinting from a warm house to a cold car in the morning is no small task.

Nevertheless, if you're willing to put up with freezing temperatures and the occasional snowfall, Chester County's scenic landscapes have the potential to be a runner's winter wonderland.

In preparation for—or perhaps, grim acceptance of—another long winter, I spoke with some of the area's experts (and one overeager father) to learn how to make the most out of running in the cold.

DRESSING THE PART

If there's one thing every runner seems to agree on, it's that wearing the right clothing is essential during winter runs.

Kevin Kelly, owner of Chester County Running Store and a cross country coach with two decades of experience, is quick to mention layering when asked about winter-appropriate gear. Kelly recommends runners dress themselves in layers with reflective tops made from technical fabrics like Nike's Dri-FIT line and clothing with Gore-Tex material. "Cotton's rotten when it comes to exercise," he adds. "Make sure you're wearing materials that pull moisture away from your body."

Despite an emphasis on layering, it's important not to overdress. Bundling up like Randy in *A Christmas Story* might keep you warm, but wearing too much on a long run can make life difficult. "Dress like it's 20 degrees warmer than it really is," says Kelly. "If you dress too warmly, you'll start sweating and find yourself colder than when you started."

Raymond Porreca, Jr., an accomplished marathoner and father, notes that it's important for runners of all skill levels to find a balance between warmth, layers and comfort while running. Gloves, hats and the right kind of warm socks are just as essential as layered tops and running pants.

"Regardless of layers, the head, hands and toes should never be neglected during a run in the winter," he said. "Avid runners will tell you that frozen ears, fingers and toes not only ruin a workout—they're just a short jog to frostbite conditions."

CHOOSING YOUR PATH

Anyone familiar with Chester County knows that it's full of beautiful parks and public spaces. What's less common knowledge is that many of the region's best running trails are not only open during the winter, they're generally well maintained throughout the year.

"Two of the most popular Chester County trails are the Strubel Trail and Chester Valley Trail," Porreca said. "Snow removal—especially on the Chester Valley Trail—is usually great during the winter."

The Chester Valley Trail runs from Exton to King of Prussia, and it's paved, wide and most importantly, it's flat. At 13 miles, the trail is nearly the length of a half-marathon, making it an excellent spot for runners year round and those training for a long race.

For Kelly, Stroud Preserve is a personal favorite. Kelly says the nature preserve, located outside West Chester, is a frequent destination during every season. In addition to Stroud, Kelly mentions the Harmony Hills Trails in East Bradford Township as another worthwhile running destination.

Running on a paved trail isn't just a great way to soak up Chester County's stunning scenery, it's also a smart safety choice for less experienced runners. By design, trails are isolated from traffic and unpredictable road conditions that arise after snowy days.

Snow plows are great for clearing streets, but the massive piles they leave in their wake can force runners dangerously closer to vehicles. And with winter weather comes road salt. According to Porreca, salt is great for increased stability, but it can wreak havoc on modern running shoes' treaded soles.

Of course, traveling to a trail isn't always possible. Many runners stick to the streets and neighborhoods near their own homes.

In that case, both Kelly and Porreca stress the importance of always being aware of your surroundings.

Runners should also literally go out of their way to avoid cars during the winter. If the roads are even somewhat dangerous, many experienced runners will stop as cars pass by to be extra safe.

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

Chester County's running community uses several strategies to stay safe as well as active during winter months. Kelly mentions that his business hosts several running groups throughout the week. "We run a Tuesday morning group that gets between 55 and 60 people," he said. "Training begins at 5:50 a.m., and we get people of all abilities—some who are training for marathons and others that just want to get in shape."

Groups like Kelly's offer warmth and protection during cold Chester County winters. According to Kelly, while the routes the group takes—which snake through the West Chester borough and surrounding developments—aren't too busy during the morning, having a small pack of runners helps keep everyone safe from any distracted drivers who might be on the road.

Thomas Donnelly, head coach of Haverford College's cross county team, also stresses the importance of being alert during the winter months. "It's always best to be with other [runners] when it's dark," he said. "Bring a phone if you're running in an isolated area and always be aware of the neighborhoods you're running through."

KEEPING PACE

While many people might head to an indoor, heated gym during winter months, many runners will recommend staying outside regardless of temperature. Choosing to run indoors means dealing with treadmills or potentially overcrowded gym tracks.

Kelly notes that running outdoors "just feels better" due to improved air quality. Porreca, like many long-distance runners, can't fathom spending hours on a treadmill

when roads, trails and outdoor tracks at area schools are still accessible.

Running occupies the intersection of hard physical activity and introspective thought. And against the backdrop of Chester County's tranquil landscape, it's the go-to activity for many runners, regardless of the season.

Just be sure to dress right, pick your spot and be safe! ♦

Upcoming Area Races

If you need an incentive to keep running in the cold months, here are some local races to inspire you.

Nov. 24. **10th Annual Jingle Elf Run 2 Mile Run/Walk, West Chester.** Runccrs.com

Dec. 1. **Coatesville Red Run Challenge 5K/1 Mile Run, Coatesville.** Runsignup.com/Race/PA/Coatesville/3rdAnnualRedRunChallenge

Dec. 2. **Brian's Run 5K/2 Mile Walk, West Chester.** BriansRun.org

Dec. 2. **Elves Vs. Reindeer Holiday 5K, Malvern.** ElvesVsReindeer5k.ItsYourRace.com

Dec. 2. **Jingle Bell Run 5K, Malvern.** Events.Arthritis.org

Dec. 9. **Funky Santa 5K & 3-Person Relay 5K, Pottstown.** RunSignup.com/Race/PA/Pottstown/FunkySanta5K-ThreePersonRelay

Dec. 30. **Resolution Run 5K at Levante Brewing 5K, West Chester.** RunSignup.com/Race/PA/WestChester/ResolutionRunLevante

Jan. 1. **10th Annual Stanley's Dream 5K & 2.5K Walk, West Chester.** StanleysDream.org

April. **The Chester Co. Hospital Dash for Diabetes, West Chester.** ChesterCountyHospital.org

April 6. **The Saturday Club Shuffle 5K & Kids Race, Wayne.** BrynMawrRacing.com

April 22. **5K Run/Race to Recovery, West Chester.** BrynMawrRacing.com

May 12. **5K for Mother's Day 5K, West Chester.** RunSignup.com/Race/PA/WestChester/5kforMothersDay

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

Podcast Country. We're big fans of podcasts here at *County Lines Magazine*. Easily digestible, on-demand audio shows are a great way to unwind. Which is why we're proud to announce our **podcast series**. Our first episode is "The Bluebird Keeper," with the story of Ken Leister, a charming craftsman who specializes in building beautiful bluebird boxes, plus an interview with the story's writer Blake Goll, from Willistown Conservation Trust. The same content you love, now in audio format. Thanks for listening! CountyLinesMagazine.com.



In a Pickle. Need a new Christmas tradition? Here's an odd one. Hang a pickle on your tree—no, not a real pickle. On Christmas Eve, display a **pickle-shaped ornament** while the kids are fast asleep. The first child to find it Christmas morning gets an extra gift or an omen of good fortune. And if you're craving real pickles, buy them homemade with locally sourced ingredients at PhilaDill-phia Pickling Company. 208 Carter Dr. #13B, West Chester. 484-744-3147; PhilaDillphia.com.



Holiday Lights. 'Tis the season for cheerful, colorful light displays in the winter chill—but these aren't the holiday lights we're talking about. Brighten up your winter with **National Flashlight Day**. It's the same day as winter solstice—the shortest day and longest night of the year on December 21. Anyone with a cell phone flashlight can also enjoy this low maintenance holiday. Tell stories in the dark, make shadow puppets and camp indoors. Share the fun with #NationalFlashlightDay on social media.

Milk and Cookies. Baking treats for Santa is a tasty Christmas tradition. But Santa wasn't the first to receive Yuletide offerings—it dates back to Norse mythology. Late December to January, ancient Germanic people celebrated their god Odin, who rode not a sleigh with reindeer, but an eight-legged horse named Sleipnir. Children would leave out horse food, and Odin would repay them with toys. Check out our recipes in **Brandywine Table** to make cookies for Santa, Odin ... or Mom and Dad.



A Holiday in Philly. Where can you explore Al Capone's jail cell, discover the cave of the first doomsday cult, and throw a penny on a Founding Father's grave? In Philadelphia, of course. Get the scoop in **Secret Philadelphia: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure** by Mary Dixon Lebeau. Use it to plan your next Philly daytrip. And it makes a great holiday gift for hometown fans, avid readers and history buffs. *At your local independent bookstore.*



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 DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL

Friday, December 7 | Noon – 8 pm
Saturday, December 8 | 9 am – 4 pm

Celebrate the season during this family-friendly two-day event! Shop for holiday gifts from 18 regional artisans, listen to festive music performed by local choirs, and enjoy the Museum's seasonal decorations. Visit delart.org for details.

 2301 Kentmere Pkwy | Wilmington, DE 19806
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[December Picks] Our Picks for top events this month

A Longwood Christmas

Through January 6



For the holidays Longwood Gardens pays homage to the Christmas tree with a display featuring traditional favorites and inspiring new twists. From festive firs suspended from above to towering tan-nenbaums created from books, stained glass and other unexpected materials, you can't help but say, "O Christmas Tree!" Outdoors, illuminated trees lead you on a holiday journey through the Gardens. Sip cocoa and warm up by firepits, listen to carolers and take in the wonder of A Longwood Christmas. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Timed tickets, \$16–\$30. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

Main Line Art Center Holiday Craft Market—Fresh & Local

December 14–16

A three-day shoppers' paradise featuring special events, a curated line-up of locally made, unique fine crafts and artisanal goods. The Craft Market will kick off on *Fri.*, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; *Sat.*, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; *Sun.*, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 746 Panmure Rd., Haverford. 610-525-0272; MainLineArt.org.



West Chester Charity Ball

December 1

Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of this noteworthy fundraiser with open bar, gourmet dining stations, auctions and dancing. Benefits The Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children, Outreach, Emergency Family Shelter and the Homeless Prevention Program. *West Chester Golf & Country Club*, 111 W. Ashbridge St., West Chester. 6 to 11:30 p.m. \$175. 610-431-3598; FriendsAssoc.org.

Delaware Museum of Natural History—Holidays at the Museum

December 7–30



Dec. 7, Parents' Night Off Camp, where kids have fun with experiments, movies, games, arts and crafts. Ages 5–10. 5:30 to 10 p.m., \$30.
Dec. 8, Merry Museum Night features winter-themed activities, a scavenger hunt, hot chocolate lab. Wear pajamas and watch the film, *The Polar Express*, playing throughout the Museum. 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., \$5–\$10.
Dec. 9, Breakfast with Santa. 9:15, 10 and 10:45 a.m., pre-registration, \$7–\$14.
Dec. 27–30, Discovery Days is a post-holiday break with live animals, games, science stops, learning stations, food trucks. 9:30 to 4:30 p.m., \$5–\$12. 4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.

Vox Ama Deus, Handel's Messiah and Renaissance Noël

December 2–16

Handel's Messiah: **Dec. 2**, Daylesford Abbey, 220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli. 4 p.m.; **Dec. 16**, St. Katharine of Siena Church, Lancaster & Aberdeen Aves., Wayne. 4 p.m. **Renaissance Noël:** Renaissance Christmas music of Old Europe: **Dec. 8**, Church of the Good Samaritan, Lancaster Ave., Paoli. 8 p.m.; **Dec. 9**, Thomas Great Hall, Bryn Mawr College, 256 N. Merion Ave., Bryn Mawr. 4 p.m. \$10–\$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.



best Local Events

FAMILY FUN

THROUGH DECEMBER 29

Celebrating the Holidays in Kennett Square. *Nov. 23*, Holiday Light Parade, 6 pm; *Nov. 24*, Small Business Saturday; *Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8*, Brandywine Singers caroling, 2 to 5; *Nov. 24–Dec. 29*, Saturday shuttle to and from Longwood Gardens, timed tickets 1:30 to 6:30; *Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9*, Kennett Holiday Village Market, 11 to 5 at The Creamery; *Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23*, carriage rides. 610-444-8188; *Historic-KennettSquare.com*.



THROUGH DECEMBER 1

Christmas in Wayne. *Nov. 30*, strolling open house, train display, carolers, ornament decorating, trolley and horse-drawn carriage rides, tree lighting at Wayne train station at 7:30; *Dec. 1*, Santa Parade at 10 am, meet Santa at The Wayne Hotel until 11:30 am. See website for details, *WayneChristmas.com*.

THROUGH DECEMBER 31

Morris Arboretum's Holiday Garden Railway. Display and buildings, decorated for the holidays with lights, are all made of natural materials. *Morris Arboretum, 100 E. Northwestern Ave., Phila. Daily, 10 to 4, Sat, through Dec. 29, 4:30 to 7:30. \$10–\$19. 215-247-5777; MorrisArboretum.org*.

DECEMBER 1

Coatesville Christmas Parade. Lively event with bands, floats, antique cars, cartoon characters and entertainment. *Strode Ave. to 11th St. Starts at 10. CoatesvilleChristmas-Parade.com*.

DECEMBER 1

Christmas on King. Malvern is set to deck

the halls with this new event, featuring lots of activities, trolley rides, a Santa parade, tree lighting, food trucks and great shopping. *King Street and in Burke Park, Warren Ave. & Roberts Rd. Noon to 8 pm. Malvern-Festivals.com*.

DECEMBER 1, 8

Family Culinary Workshops. *Dec. 1*, Holiday Cookie Tins—decorate cookie tins then fill them with cookies you bake yourself. *Dec. 8*, Gingerbread House Decorating—materials provided. *Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Visit website for registration (req.). 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org*.



DECEMBER 2

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. Performing hits seen on *Disney Jr.*, Disney's "Choo Choo Soul with Genevieve" features sing-alongs with the kids, dancing and audience participation. *226 N. High St., West Chester. 1 & 4 pm. \$35. 610-356-2787; UptownWestChester.org*.

DECEMBER 2

Tree Lighting in Newtown Square. Christmas Tree Lighting in St. Alban's Circle featuring Santa's arrival by fire truck, dance exhibitions, live Christmas music, carols and hot chocolate. *Off Rts. 3 & 252. 7 to 8 pm. 484-424-6140; NSBPA.com*.

DECEMBER 4, 8

Days of the Belsnickel at Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum. Lunch or dinner will be served as visitors enjoy storytelling, period dancing and a vignette with the Belsnickel. *Dec. 4*, dinner, 5:30 to 9; *Dec. 8*, lunch, 10:30 to 2. \$35–\$50. *2451 Kissel Hill Rd., Lancaster. 717-581-0590; LandisValley-Museum.org*.

DECEMBER 6–9

Valley Forge Kennel Club—Dog Show, Obedience & Rally. Over 1500 dogs com-

pete in this all-breed conformation show featuring owner-handler series, beginner puppy competition, junior showmanship, obedience and rally trials and vendors. *Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. ValleyForgeKC.org*.

DECEMBER 7

Phoenixville Christmas Parade. Introducing the Winter Wonderland Village in the *Main and Bridge Street Parking Lot, 5 to 9 pm. Parade at 7 from the 300 block of Bridge St., then tree lighting at Bridge & Main Sts. 8 pm. 610-933-3070; Phoenixville.org*.

DECEMBER 7–30

Delaware Museum of Natural History—Holidays at the Museum. See *December Picks*.

DECEMBER 8

Sweet Holiday Celebration in Bird-in-Hand. Gingerbread cookies and carriage rides, caroling and Santa Claus. *Bird-in-Hand Bakery & Café, 2715 Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. 9 am to noon. Free. 717-768-1501; Bird-in-Hand.com/Event/Sweet-Holiday-Celebration*.



DECEMBER 8

A Sugartown Christmas. Explore the historic village decorated for the holidays and learn about Victorian Christmas traditions. Visit with Santa, decorate cookies in the Carriage Museum and make Victorian-style ornaments. *Park at 260 Spring Road, Malvern. 11 to 3. \$6. 610-640-2667; Historic-Sugartown.org*.

DECEMBER 22

"We Kids Rock" Holiday Show at Kennett Flash. A fun, upbeat musical experience for families. The band features originals as well as traditional favorites in fun musical styles. *102 Sycamore Alley, Kennett Square. 11:30 am. \$10–\$14. 484-732-8295; Kennett-Flash.org*.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.....

See also: *Family Fun*

THROUGH DECEMBER 30

2018 Holidays in Historic Odessa, DE. Celebrating the 175th anniversary of *A Christmas Carol, In Prose, Being a Ghost Story of Christmas*, the Corbit Sharp House will be transformed into scenes based on the classic book. Visit their website for a complete listing of tours and events. *201 Main St., Odessa, DE. Mon, by reservation; Tues–Sat, 10 to 4:30; Sun, 1 to 4:30. \$8–\$10. 302-378-4119; HistoricOdessa.com*.

THROUGH DECEMBER 30

Holiday Tour at the Nemours Estate. Celebrate the holiday season and explore the estate's home, gardens, antique automobiles and more. *Alapocas Dr. & Rt. 141, Wilmington. Daily (except Mon), 10 to 5. \$8–\$18. Through Dec., show proof of ticket purchase to Hagley Museum for 50 % discount at Nemours. NemoursMansion.org*.



THROUGH JANUARY 1

Holidays at Hagley. "The Magic of Miniatures" is the theme this year. Visitors are invited to view gingerbread houses created by community groups and individuals. *200 Hagley Creek Rd., Wilmington. \$6–\$15. Through Dec., show proof of ticket purchase to Nemours Estate for 50 % discount at Hagley. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org*.

THROUGH JANUARY 6

Yuletide at Winterthur. Tour Henry Francis du Pont's former home decorated with sparkling holiday displays, including a specially built bandstand in a re-creation of a Christmas tree lighting in early 20th-century small-town America. *5105 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Winterthur, DE. Tues–Sun, 10 to 5. \$5–\$20. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org*.



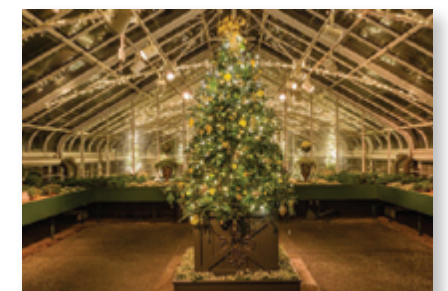
THROUGH JANUARY 6

Holidays at Pennypacker Mills. See how the holidays were celebrated in the early 1900s. Tours of the mansion, Tues–Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 1 to 4. *Dec. 8*, Victorian Christmas Open House, 2 to 8 pm. *5 Haldeman Rd., Schwenksville. \$2 donation. 610-287-9349; MontcoPa.org*.

THROUGH JANUARY 6

A Longwood Christmas. This year Longwood Gardens pays homage to the Christmas tree displaying traditional favorites and new twists. Outdoor firepits, colorful fountains, music, a

half-million lights and carolers fill the gardens. *1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Timed admission tickets req. LongwoodGardens.org*.



Brandywine Christmas



NOVEMBER 23–
JANUARY 6

ALL ABOARD
FOR A LIFETIME
OF MEMORIES!



BRANDYWINE
RIVER MUSEUM
OF ART

Route 1, Chadds Ford, PA
brandywine.org/museum

Be sure to look in our special West Chester section for events happening there. And, *Holiday House Tours* and the article *All Hearts Come Home for the Holidays* for details about events in Malvern, Wayne, Kennett Square, Phoenixville and Downingtown.

THROUGH JANUARY 6

A Brandywine Christmas. See article in this issue.

NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 2

Hay Creek Historical Assoc. Christmas at Joanna Furnace. A vintage Christmas celebration. Enjoy the Victorian decorations in this historic building, horse-drawn carriage rides, Christmas Market, bonfire, live nativity and tours. Rt. 10, 3 mi. N. of Morgantown. Fri, 5 to 9 pm; Sat–Sun, 4 to 9. \$7. 610-286-0388; HayCreek.org.

NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 2, 7–9

Historic Poole Forge—Christmas at the

Ironmasters. Enjoy homemade refreshments, music, vendors, Sat. evening Welsh bonfires, a Christmas Marketplace and photos with Santa. 1940 Main St., Narvon. Fri, 4 to 8; Sat, noon to 8; Sun, noon to 5. 484-797-5302; HistoricPooleForge.org.

DECEMBER 1

Scott Arboretum Selections: Holiday Sale. Greens, holiday accents, wreaths, living gifts and fun for the whole family. Roast marshmallows and create kids nature crafts. 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. 1 to 3 pm. 610-328-8023; ScottArboretum.org.



HOLIDAY TRAINS

Several area railroads offer a series of holiday-themed rides and events. Hop on a train or stop in a museum and let your imagination soar.

Colebrookdale Railroad. Through Dec. 30, Santa's Polar Express, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Train and the Snowflake Special. E. 3rd St., Boyertown. ColebrookdaleRailroad.com.

National Toy Train Museum. Dec. 1, 8, 15, Santa will be at the National Toy Train Museum, 300 Paradise La., Paradise. NTTMuseum.org.

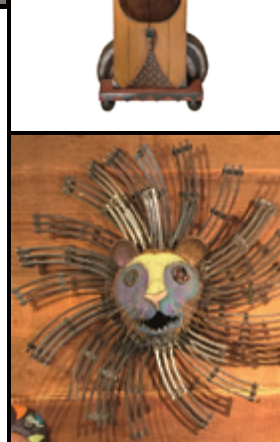
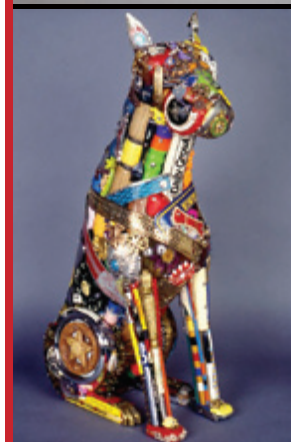
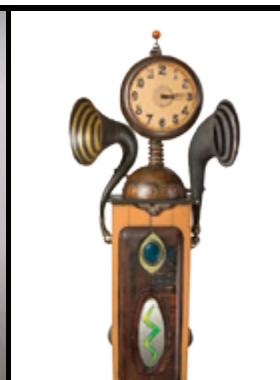
New Hope & Ivyland Railroad. Through Dec. 31, Santa's Steam Spectacular and the North Pole Express. 32 W. Bridge St., New Hope. NewHopeRailroad.com.

Railroad Museum of PA. Dec. 1, 8, Christmas with the Conductor Parties on one of the historic railroad cars. 300 Gap Rd., Strasburg. RRMuseumPa.com.

Strasburg Rail Road. Through Dec. 22, Christmas Tree Train, Santa's Paradise Express and The Night Before Christmas Train. 301 Gap Rd., Ronks. StrasburgRailRoad.com.

West Chester Railroad. Through Dec. 23, Christmas Tree Train and the Santa Express. 230 E. Market St., West Chester. WestChesterRR.com.

Wilmington & Western Railroad. Through Dec. 30, Santa Claus Express and Holiday Lights Express. Greenbank Station, 2201 Newport Gap Pk., Wilmington. WWRR.com.



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Local Farm Markets

Artisan Exchange, 208 Carter Dr. Unit 13 B, West Chester. *Sat, 10 to 2.* ArtisanExchange.net.

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

Downingtown Farmers Mkt., Log Cabin Field, Kerr Park, Pennsylvania Ave. *Dec. 10, 17, 10 to noon.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Chester County Food Bank, 650 Pennsylvania Dr., Exton. *Thurs., noon to 2.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Kennett Square Farmers Mkt., 112 S. Broad St. *1st & 3rd Fri, 2 to 4.* 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. *Sat, 10 to noon.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Phoenixville Farmers Mkt., 200 Mill St. *Dec., Sat, 10 to noon.* PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

Pottstown Farmers Mkt., 300 E. High St. *Thurs–Fri, noon to 7; Sat–Sun, 9 to 5.* 610-323-5400; PottstownFarm.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.

DECEMBER 1

The Country Gardeners Annual Greens Sale at Tyler Arboretum. Holiday arrangements and trimmings, handmade wreaths, ornaments, fresh greens and more. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 9:30 to 1:30. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

DECEMBER 2

Winterfest at Eagleview. Get in the holiday spirit and take pictures with Santa, enjoy kids activities, cookies, hot cocoa and special performances from local schools. Eagleview Town Center, 565 Wellington Sq., Exton. 3 to 5 pm. EagleviewTownCenter.com.

DECEMBER 7

National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum Holiday Open House. Stroll through candle-lit grounds, listen to carolers, enjoy refreshments, see a train display and give Santa your wish list. 50 S. 1st Ave., Coatesville. 5 to 8. Free. 610-384-9282; SteelMuseum.org.

DECEMBER 7

Historic Yellow Springs Holiday Stroll. Lots of activities including holiday stories, snacks, music and holiday music. Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 5:30 to 8 pm. Free. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.

DECEMBER 18

National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum Presents "A Local Christmas" Tour. Tour the Brandywine River Museum of Art and see the museum's holiday traditions and decor. Then on to Primitive Hall, the ancestral home of the Pennocks, an influential farming family

who established Brandywine Iron Works. 8:30 to 3:30. \$70–\$75. Register, 610-384-9282; SteelMuseum.org.

DECEMBER 31

Midnight in the Square—Kennett Square Mushroom Drop. Kennett Square's annual tradition has something for the whole family with activities for kids, live entertainment, a laser show, food vendors in heated tents and so much more more. Kick off the celebration at 6 pm, followed by "Raising and Lighting" the mushroom between 7 and 8. Admission, non-perishable food items to support Ken-



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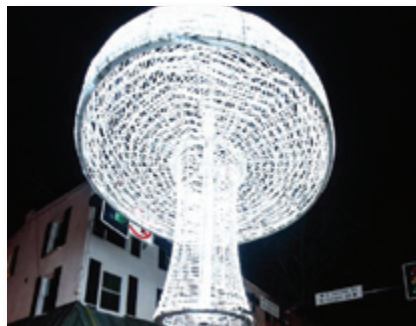
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nett Area Community Service. Midnight-InTheSquare.com.



DECEMBER 31
New Year's Eve Community Celebration and Ball Drop in Media. Come on out, snow or moonlight, to State and Jackson Sts. in Media to ring in the new year. Music at 11 pm, ball drop at midnight. VisitMediaPA.com.

ART, CRAFT & ANTIQUES.....
THROUGH JANUARY 27
Juried Craft Exhibition at Delaware Art Museum. Contemporary crafts by artists working locally and throughout the region. 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 JANUARY 27
Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital Art Ability Exhibit & Sale. Artists from around the world with physical, cognitive, visual and hearing disabilities submit their work to this juried exhibition and sale. 414 Paoli Pk., Malvern. 484-596-5710; MainLineHealth.org/ArtAbility.

NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 2
Havertown Open Studio Tour 2018. More than 25 fine local artists in 12 Havertown art studios open for tours. Maps available at each location. Fri, 5 to 8; Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 11 to 4. Free. www.HavertownOpenStudioTour.com.

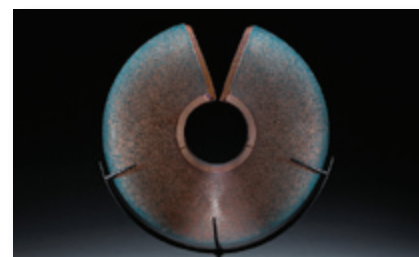
NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 8
Community Arts Center's Holiday Sale. Featuring handmade work by members of the Pottery Guild. **Nov. 29**, preview, 6:30 to 9 pm, \$5. Refreshments served. Holiday Sale, **Nov. 30, Dec. 3**, 10 to 8; **Dec. 1, 8**, 10 to 5. 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. 610-566-1713; CACHolidaySale.org.

DECEMBER 6
Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital Craft & Vendor Fair. A large variety of vendors offer their wares, from food items to crafts to jewelry, home accessories and more. Benefits patient programs. 414 Paoli Pk., Malvern. 11 to 6. Free. 484-596-5599.

DECEMBER 7–8
Winter Arts Festival at Delaware Art Museum. Browse handmade items by diverse local artisans, tour festive works in the collection, enjoy holiday music and more. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Fri, noon to 8; Sat, 9 to 3. Free. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.



DECEMBER 7–JANUARY 26
2018 Craft Forms at Wayne Art Center. An international juried exhibition of contemporary



crafts and companion exhibition and show, “CAST: Art & Objects.” **Dec. 7**, Opening Gala with heavy hors d'oeuvres, chocolate delights, signature martinis, fine wines and live music, 6 to 10, \$75 and up. Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon–Fri, 10 to 5; Sat, 10 to 4. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

BOOKS.....
DECEMBER 12
Wellington Square Bookshop. Holiday Book Swap, 2 to 4. 549 Wellington Square, Exton. 610-458-1144; WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

FOOD & BREWS.....
DECEMBER 1
8th Annual Valley Forge Beer & Cider Festival. Try over 150 beers and ciders, enjoy food trucks, holiday festivities and more. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Hall A, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Session 1, 12:30 to 4; session 2, 5:30 to 9. Gen. adm., \$40; VIP, \$55. Designated driver, \$10. 631-940-7290; ValleyForgeBeerFest.com.



DECEMBER 1–2
6th Annual Coffee & Tea Festival: Valley Forge. A celebration of all things coffee and tea with seminars from well-known industry pros and pioneers, pairings, tastings, sweet and savory foods and more. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$20. 877-987-4687; CoffeeAndTeaFestival.com.



FUNDRAISERS.....
DECEMBER 1
Paoli Hospital Auxiliary Mistletoe & Magic—A Night in Monte Carlo. The evening includes open bar, cocktail hour, hors d'oeuvres and a sit down dinner. Entertainment and casino gaming for prizes, a live and silent auction,

as well as a “Raise the Paddle” for Unite for Her. Benefits Paoli Hospital. The Desmond, 1 Liberty Blvd., Malvern. 6:30 to 11 pm. \$200. 484-565-1380; PaoliAuxiliary.org.



DECEMBER 31
Uptown! Entertainment Alliance is “Puttin’ On the Glitz” New Years Eve. Ring in the New Year and support Uptown! The celebra-



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tion includes dinner, dancing and a performance of RTC's "Broadway in the Borough." 226 N. High St., West Chester. 7:30. \$150. 610-356-2787; UptownWestChester.org.

MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH DECEMBER

Chester County Historical Society. "Many Nations/Chester County." 225 N. High St., West Chester. Tues-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30 pm. \$4-\$8. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 6, 2019

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library.

"Follies: Architectural Whimsy in the Garden." 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$15-\$30. 302-888-4600; Winterthur.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 13

Delaware Art Museum. "Wonders of Wilmington: Gifts from the Hotel du Pont Collection," features 13 works of art previously on display in the Hotel du Pont. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wednesday, 10 to 4; Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm, free after 4; Friday-Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. \$6-\$12, free, Sunday. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT.....

DECEMBER 1

Kennett Symphony Orchestra—"Pops Goes the Holidays." Featuring the Kennett Symphony Children's Chorus. West Chester East High School, 450 Ellis Ln., West Chester. 7:30. \$10-\$58. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

DECEMBER 1-2

Valley Forge Chorale Concert. Christmas Joy. Lower Providence Presbyterian Church, 3050 Ridge Pk., Norristown. Sat, 7 pm; Sun, 3 pm. \$25. ValleyForgeChorale.org.

DECEMBER 2

Immaculata Symphony Orchestra Concerts. The Christmas Concert features the Immaculata Univ. Chorale, 3 pm. 1145 King Rd., Immaculata. \$10-\$15. 610-316-1731; ImmaculataSymphony.org.

DECEMBER 2

Delaware County Symphony Concert. The program is called "Over the River and Into the Woods." Neumann University, Meagher Theatre, One Newmann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$17-\$20. 610-879-7059; DCSMusic.org.

DECEMBER 2, 9, 12

Concerts at The Colonial Theatre. *Dec. 2*, City Rhythm Orchestra, Holiday Style, 7 pm, \$10-\$25; *Dec. 9*, Theatre Organ Society of DE Valley Holiday Concert, 2 pm, \$5-\$10; *Dec. 12*, Charlie Brown Jazz, 7:30, \$15-\$20. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.



DECEMBER 14

The ChesCo Pops Orchestra Holiday Pops. Classics like *There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays*, *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree* and more. Audience sing-along and plenty of fun for all. Unionville High School, 750 Unionville Rd., Kennett Square. 7 pm. \$15-\$20. 610-594-9178; ChescoPops.org.

DECEMBER 15

WCU—Live! Cashore Marionettes—"Simple Gifts." Redefining the art of puppetry in a program of touching portrayals and poignant scenes from everyday life. Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre, 817 S. High

St., West Chester. 2 pm. \$10-\$15. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu/Live.



THEATER.....

THROUGH DECEMBER 9

Saturday, Sunday Delaware Children's Theatre Presents Scrooge The Musical. The Christmas Carol story always delights. 1014 Delaware Ave., Wilmington. 2 pm. \$14-\$15. 302-655-1014; DEChildrensTheatre.org.

THROUGH DECEMBER 23

A Sign of the Times. Regional premiere of this new musical. Delaware Theatre Company, 200 Water St., Wilmington. Check website for show times. \$40-\$60. 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

THROUGH DECEMBER 24

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The family classic is offered in two ways: *through Dec. 2*, Jared Reed's one-man performance and *Dec. 7-24*, the traditional performance now in its 26th year. 64 Rose Valley Rd., Rose Valley. See website for times. \$20-\$37. 610-565-4211; HedgerowTheatre.org.



THROUGH DECEMBER 30

Media Theatre Presents Jack Frost Saves Christmas. The heartfelt musical about a boy who is unique because everything he touches turns to ice. 104 E. State St., Media. Sun, noon. \$12-\$15. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 1

Bird-in-Hand Stage. *Nov. 6-Dec. 29*, *A Christmas to Remember—Unexpected Treasures ... in Unlikely Places.* *Nov. 7-Jan. 1*, *Magic & Wonder: Christmas—Holiday Fun for the Whole Family.* 2760 Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. Mon-Sat, 1 & 7 pm. \$17-\$57. 800-790-4069; Bird-in-Hand.com/Stage.



THROUGH JANUARY 6

Cinderella: A Musical Panto. The holiday tradition continues at People's Light in song,

dance, hilarity and merriment. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. \$30-\$53. Check website for times. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.



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THROUGH JANUARY 13
The Wizard of Oz. See Theater Spotlight in this issue.



DECEMBER 8
Peabody Opera Theatre Children's Opera—Hansel & Gretel. Just in time for the holidays, this is a condensed version of the children's opera. Opera Delaware Studios, 4 S. Poplar St., Wilmington. 10 am and 1 pm. \$5–\$10. 302-442-7807; OperaDE.org

DECEMBER 14–30
Lend me A Tenor. See Theater Spotlight in this issue.

JANUARY 16–FEBRUARY 10
Sweat. Winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Sweat* is an extensively researched

portrait of Reading, PA and an incisive examination of deindustrialized America. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. \$30–\$53. Check website for times. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....
 THROUGH DECEMBER
Best Kept Secrets Tours. Shopping tours to off-the-beaten-track small businesses. Tickets \$10. Visit website to get in on the next tour! BestKeptSecretsTour.com.

THROUGH JANUARY 4
Friday & Saturday Paranormal Tours of the William Brinton 1704 House. A three-hour investigation of one of the oldest houses in Pennsylvania, home to generations of the Brinton family led by expert staff. 21 Oakland Rd., West Chester. 9 am to noon or 10 pm to 1 am. \$400/10 people. BrintonFamily.org.



DECEMBER 7, 8, 20
First Fridays, Second Saturdays, Third Thursdays. Dec. 7, 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; CityFestWilm.com.
 Dec. 8, Second Saturday Arts Stroll: *Media*, 484-445-4161; MediaArtsCouncil.org.
 Dec. 20, Malvern Sip & Stroll, Malvern-Business.com. ♦

Stay in the know with everything going on in *County Lines* country. Sign up for our Events Newsletter (sent twice monthly) at Newsletter@ValleyDel.com

Send a description of your activity to Info@ValleyDel.com by the first of the month preceding publication.
For more events visit:
 CountyLinesMagazine.com

Ephrata Cloister Historic Site and Museum Store

December 10 & 11
 Christmas at the Cloister
 6:30 and 8:00
 Advance Tickets Required

December 26 – 29
 Lantern Tours
 6:30 – 8:00
 Advance Tickets Required

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 ephratacloister.org

Delaware Museum of Natural History Holidays at the Museum

Holiday Activities
Weekends in December.

Parents' Night Off Camp
Friday, December 7, 5:30-10 p.m.
\$25 DMNH Members, \$30 Non-members

Merry Museum Night
 featuring *The Polar Express*
 Saturday, December 8, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Breakfast with Santa
 Sunday, December 9, 9:15, 10 and 10:45 a.m.
 Pre-registration required:
delmnh.org/events

and Discovery Days

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 3:30 to 8:30pm

100 Years of the 206" Rolling Mill Lecture
 Thursday, December 13
 6:00 to 8:00pm

"A Local Christmas" Bus Tour
 Tuesday, December 18
 9:00am to 3:30pm

50 South 1st Avenue, Coatesville, PA 19320
 610-384-9282 | admin@steelmuseum.org | steelmuseum.org

Community Arts Center & The Potters Guild

HOLIDAY SALE

November 30 – December 8, 2018
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HOLIDAY House Tours

SPARK YOUR HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH A HOUSE TOUR.

DECEMBER 1

West Chester Public Library's Holiday Home Tour. Tour 9 homes, the Chester Co. Art Assoc. and Antique Ice Tool Museum. \$40–\$50; VIP ticket (\$60) adds a tour of a West Chester Preservation Award winner and a small box of Éclat Chocolate. 10 to 3. Tickets at library, 415 N. Church St. or online. 610-696-1721; WCPublicLibrary.org.

DECEMBER 1

Chadds Ford Historical Society Candlelight Christmas Tour. This year's tour will be at the Chads House, Barns-Brinton House, Springhouse and the Chadds Ford Historical Society Visitor Center. Enjoy 18th-century holiday décor with hearth cooking, Colonial dancing and light refreshments. 1736 N. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. 1 to 6 p.m. Ticket price TBD. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org.

DECEMBER 1

Christmas in Marshallton House Tour. The Marshallton United Methodist Church hosts a tour of 19 homes and public buildings in this quaint village setting. Box lunch available, plus an arts and crafts show and live music. 1282 W. Strasburg Rd., West Chester. 10 to 4. \$25–\$30. 484-653-1622.

DECEMBER 1

Annual Candlelight Holiday Tour in Phoenixville. Visit homes decorated for the holidays, complete with Christmas trees, lights and other classic elements. Benefits Ann's Heart Code Blue Shelter and Firebird Theatre. 3 to 7. \$25. Info, 610-933-9181; PhxHolidayTour.weebly.com.

DECEMBER 8

Delaware Art Museum Council's Holiday House Tour. This year's theme is "Celebrating Timeless Classics," which takes a look inside some of the new grand homes of the Brandywine Valley. 10 to 4. Tickets \$35–\$39; luncheon, \$25. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

DECEMBER 8

The Spirit of Christmas in New Castle, DE. A full day of concerts, house tours, shopping and refreshments, ending with a tree lighting. New Castle Presbyterian Church, 25 E. Second St., New Castle, DE. Free. 302-328-3279; NewCastlePresChurch.org/Spirit.



West Chester Public Library's
Holiday Home Tour



Chadds Ford Historical Society
Candlelight Christmas Tour



Christmas in Marshallton House Tour



Annual Candlelight Holiday Tour in Phoenixville



Delaware Art Museum Council's Holiday House Tour



The Spirit of Christmas in New Castle, Delaware



LEND ME A TENOR

At the Resident Theatre Company, December 14–30



NOW IN THE HEART OF ITS SECOND SEASON, The Resident Theatre Company (RTC) is presenting the show that catapulted RTC Founder Kristin McLaughlin Mitchell's directing career when she joined the directing team of the Broadway production. Charles Isherwood called her work "true comic delirium" in the *New York Times*, and the production earned three Tony nominations including Best Revival of a Play.

That play is *Lend Me a Tenor*, a hilarious farce complete with comic mishaps, elaborate costumes, surprising plot twists, slamming doors and mistaken identities. "I feel it's a perfect show for the holiday season because it keeps the audience laughing for two hours straight. It's one of the funniest scripts I've ever worked on," said Mitchell.

The story takes place in Cleveland, Ohio in 1934, on a very important night for the Cleveland Grand Opera Company. Tito Mirelli, the world-famous Italian tenor, is set to perform the starring role in *Otello*. The General Manager of the company is worried about everything turning out right and insists that his assistant,

Max—a nervous, young man with a secret talent—watch over Tito's every move to ensure he shows up at the theatre on time.

But this task proves to be harder than anyone could have imagined. Throw in Tito's fiery Italian wife, an ambitious female co-star, Max's giddy girlfriend, a flirty board member of the opera guild, and a meddling bellhop fighting for Tito's attention and you have a recipe for comedic disaster.

This show is a must-see for the holiday season. Great for a date night, girl's night out, or a way to entertain family and friends over the holiday break.

It's New York theater in West Chester! ♦

—Rachel Lutchner

IF YOU GO:

Where: Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center
226 N. High St., West Chester

When: December 14–30

Tickets: RTCwc.org. Group and senior discounts

Coming Soon: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, March 29–April 21

GO SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON WITH MEDIA THEATRE'S
PRODUCTION OF THE WIZARD OF OZ.



Be enthralled by the beloved tale of a Kansas farm girl discovering the magical power of home that has entertained audiences for generations. After its 1939 release, the movie version has been an annual treat on the small screen for families and kids of all ages.

Now the story comes to life in this stage musical version by Media Theatre.

As a whirling tornado sweeps young Dorothy away to the magical Land of Oz, she must use her wits and three brainless, cowardly and heartless allies to find her way to the City of Oz to convince The Wizard to take her back home.

But her journey is fraught with peril. The Wicked Witch of the West is after Dorothy and the ruby shoes the Good Witch Glinda gave her for the journey. Will she make it to Oz safely? No spoilers here! See the show to find out.

For this special production, a live orchestra conducted by Media Theatre's Resident Music Director, Ben Kapilow, will perform on a raised platform throughout the show to highlight the memorable songs, including "Over The Rainbow," "If I Only Had A Brain/A

Heart/The Nerve" and "We're Off To See The Wizard (Follow The Yellow Brick Road)."

Anna Rosenthal is off to see the wizard, as she plays Dorothy. This talented young actress from Philadelphia is no stranger to Media Theatre's stage, with prior roles in *Billy Elliot* and *Bridges of Madison County*.

Oz is brought to life by a professional cast of actors, including several other of Philadelphia's award winning stars—Jennie Eisenhower (Wicked Witch), Elisa Matthews (Glinda), Kelly Briggs (Cowardly Lion), Bob Stineman (Tin Man), and Carl Smith (Scarecrow). JP Dunphy is Uncle Henry and the Gatekeeper, and Media's own Roger Ricker is The Wizard.

As a special treat, two separate casts of youngsters, ages 6 to 13 from The Media Theatre's School, will join the talented cast as The Munchkins, singing such favorites as "Muchkindland"—better known as "Ding Dong! The Witch Is Dead."

So grab your flying monkeys, but leave your buckets of water at home, and witness the incredible journey down the yellow brick road.

—Mackenzie Jaros

IF YOU GO:

Where: 104 E. State St., Media

When: November 13 to January 14

Tickets: \$34–\$59, available at MediaTheatre.org

Coming Soon: Julius Caesar



Brandywine Christmas

THROUGH JANUARY 6, 2019

Share the tradition that is a Brandywine Christmas.

Nicole Kindbeiter

BRANDYWINE CHRISTMAS IS THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF the year at the Brandywine River Museum of Art! Spanning decades, this annual holiday tradition for all ages features a gallery filled with an expansive model train display, towering trees decorated with whimsical Critter ornaments and lights, plus a wide selection of holiday events and programs for the whole family to enjoy.

Of special note is the Brandywine Railroad O-gauge model train display (see photo above), a holiday family favorite since 1972. Each year, new operating trains are added to nearly 2,000 feet of track, plus new interactive and visual elements for visitors to discover and enjoy. More than a thousand detailed pieces are featured in the display, including locomotives, passenger and freight trains, and trolleys that pass through a small town, a farm, factories, a drive-in movie theater and even a carnival.



Beth Krommes, *Change the world before morning...*



Owl teasel Critter ornament



Squirrel teasel Critter ornament

HOLIDAYS & SNOWDAYS: ILLUSTRATIONS FOR THREE CHILDREN'S BOOKS

New to this year's Brandywine Christmas offerings, is a special exhibition, "Holidays & Snowdays: Illustrations for Three Children's Books," adding a colorful twist to seasonal favorites. Inspired by those delightfully illustrated stories we enjoy this time of the year, "Holidays & Snowdays" presents a selection of work by three highly talented artists—Beth Krommes, James Ransome and Matthew Trueman—who have recently envisioned additions to the children's library of seasonal classics.

In her illustrations for *Before Morning*, written by Joyce Sidman, Caldecott medalist Beth Krommes conveys the beauty of an unexpected snowstorm. Krommes uses scratchboards to produce black and white images that recall the visual qualities of wood engravings and then adds delicate color washes to convey a feeling of being "snowed in."

James Ransome, winner of the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, sets a traditional holiday story in the jazz-inspired Harlem of the 1920s with his illustrations for *The Nutcracker in Harlem* by T. E. McMorow. Working with collage and mixed mediums, and using saturated colors that almost seem to sing on the page, Ransome evokes the sheer pleasure and energy of dance, music and theater.

Matthew Trueman depicts an unlikely twosome—a young immigrant and a polar bear—to illustrate the spirit of Hanukkah in *Simon and the Bear, a Hanukkah Tale*, written by Eric A. Kimmel. Working with mixed media, crushed paper and collage techniques, Trueman brings rich colors and textures to this age-old tale of miracles, wonder and awe.

Brandywine Christmas is a glorious celebration of color and cheer for audiences of all ages to enjoy during the holiday season. ♦



James Ransome, *The Nutcracker in Harlem*



Matthew Trueman, *Simon and the Bear, a Hanukkah Tale*

Holiday Events

In addition to the ongoing exhibits in the Museum's galleries:

November 29
The Polar Express Read-Aloud Pajama Night,
7 to 8 p.m.

November 29–December 2
Holiday Critter Sale

Thurs., 5 to 9 p.m.
Fri.–Sun., 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

November 25–December 30, Sundays
Carols Concerts
1 to 3 p.m.

Through December
Sounds of the Season Concerts
Weekdays and some weekends

December 5
Children's Christmas Party
6 to 8 p.m.

December 8, 15
Breakfast with the Trains
8:30 to 10 a.m.

January 5
Sensory-Friendly Train Morning
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

January 5
Terrific Trains
10 a.m. to noon



All Hearts Come HOME for the HOLIDAYS

Angela Grabosky & Ellie Weaver

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM SIX HO-HO-HOMETOWN CELEBRATIONS!

UNWRAP THE GIFT OF A FUN-FILLED HOLIDAY SEASON with these wintery celebrations at area towns. No need to travel far—with everything from twinkling lights and trees to prancing dancers and elves—each local town is guaranteed to make spirits bright.

These hometown treasures prove that holiday magic isn't just for the North Pole!

THE FIRE IS SO DELIGHTFUL IN PHOENIXVILLE

Celebrate the holidays at Phoenixville's Annual Candlelight Holiday Tour, December 1st, 3 to 7 p.m. Tour the town's gorgeous homes and churches bedecked with twinkling lights, Christmas trees and holiday adornments. Stop by Ellie's Choice and Foresta's Market downtown for tickets.



Catch the 15th annual Firebird Festival in Phoenixville.

The following week, make merry at the Phoenixville Christmas Parade, December 7th. This season introduces the Winter Wonderland Village, 5 to 9 p.m., for shopping for holiday gifts and grabbing pre-parade snacks. The parade starts at 7 p.m. from the 300 block of Bridge Street, followed by the Christmas tree lighting at Bridge and Main Streets.

The highlight of the weekend is Phoenixville's 15th Annual Firebird Festival, December 8th. The fun begins downtown at 3 p.m., with a pub crawl, local food and craft vendors, street performers and live music. At 8:15 p.m., the night is ablaze with the Burning of the Phoenix (a large wood figure of a phoenix) at Veteran's Park. In the spirit of the New Year, the firebird symbolizes rebirth—and warms up the chilly December evening!

Do you hear what I hear? The Theatre Organ Society of Delaware Valley brings us goodness and light with their annual Holiday Concert, December 9th. Enjoy an afternoon of holiday music favorites at The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St. at 2 p.m.

More at Phoenixville.org, TOSDV.org, and FirebirdFestival.com.

DREAMING OF A MUSHROOM CHRISTMAS IN KENNETT

Holiday cheer lasts all season long in Kennett Square. First, the Holiday Village Market at The Creamery is a must for savvy shoppers. This open-air market offers food trucks, ice sculptures, seasonal craft workshops and more at 401 Birch St., 11 to 5 p.m., on December 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th. Stop by on a Sunday through December 23rd for horse-drawn carriage rides.

Or catch a shuttle and jingle all the way to A Longwood Gardens Christmas, through January 6th. This year Longwood reimagines the Christmas tree like you've never seen it before—with suspended firs, "trees" made of stained glass, and more



Kennett Square offers plenty of holiday cheer.



Kennett Square has holiday fun around town.

new twists. A half million lights dazzle as you stroll among outdoor fire pits, colorful fountains and carolers.

Mush-room for fun, indeed! New Year's Eve revelry is "capped" at midnight at Kennett Square's Annual Mushroom Drop, starting 6 p.m. The whole family can enjoy live music and entertainment, laser light show and indoor festivities with The Garage Community and Youth Center. It's only fitting that at midnight, the Mushroom Capital of the World drops an 8-foot-tall, stainless steel mushroom!

More at HistoricKennettSquare.com, LongwoodGardens.com, MidnightInTheSquare.com.

A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS IN WAYNE

Enjoy the classic traditions of Christmas past, including horse-drawn carriage and trolley rides, at Christmas in Wayne, 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, November 30th. Feast your eyes on magical holiday decorations at the open house and train display. Even Scrooges will love Christmas carolers, ornament decorating and face painting in town.



Wayne is full of classic holiday fun—including carriage rides.



Malvern

That evening, Santa gives the reindeer a vacation! At 7:30 p.m., Saint Nick arrives on a cherry red firetruck for the Christmas Tree Lighting at the Wayne Train Station. Gather with friends and family as twinkling lights brighten the dark winter night.

On Saturday, burn off holiday treats at the Elves for the Shelves 5K and Fun Run, December 1st at 8 a.m. Run—or walk—with Santa and his helpers. Take #Elves for Instagram to show your holiday spirit. And in the spirit of giving, event proceeds go to Radnor Memorial Library. Check Elves for

the Shelves 5K and Fun Run on Facebook for registration info.

Later on Saturday, stroll over to Lancaster Avenue for the Santa Parade at 10 a.m., featuring music, cheerleaders and more. Follow Santa to the Wayne Hotel for hot chocolate, cookies and photos until 11:30.

More at WayneChristmas.com.

CHRISTMAS IS KING IN MALVERN

Celebrate like royalty at Christmas on King—King Street, that is—Saturday, December 1st from noon to 8 p.m. The family fun happens on Malvern's main shopping street, King Street, and in Burke Park, at the intersection of Warren Ave. and Roberts Rd. Kids will love arts and crafts, plus cute and fuzzy farm animals at the Burke Park Petting Zoo. Free pony rides are available for little princes and princesses.

And let's face it, dogs are our kids too. Strike a pose with your well-dressed pup at the Canine Christmas Corner, noon to 4 p.m., and you could win a special drawing full of Christmas goodies for your doggie!



Malvern

Frosty ice sculptures are the perfect backdrop for family photos and Instagram pics. Watch the ice carver in action and keep an eye out for a stilt walker and wandering illusionist. Then, enjoy some adult holiday



Join the Downingtown tree lighting.

spirits at The Christmas Cheer Fest Cocktail Lounge next to Wolfe's Baldwin Brass on King Street.

Other festivities include a Santa Parade at 5 p.m. along King Street, the Snow Globe Ballet at 4 and 5 p.m. at the Malvern Buttery, plus trolley rides, tree lighting, food trucks and great shopping.

The following week at Historic Sugartown outside Malvern, experience a Victorian holiday at A Sugartown Christmas, Saturday, December 8 from 11 to 3 p.m. Explore the historic village, festively decorated for the season. You can even try your hand at crafting Victorian ornaments and cards like they did in the ol' days.

Take the kids to meet jolly Saint Nick in historic 1805 William Garrett House, and satisfy their sweet tooth by decorating holiday cookies and a gingerbread village. Admission is \$7, free for 2 and younger.

More at Malvern-Festivals.com and HistoricSugartown.org.

DECK THE HALLS IN DOWNINGTOWN

Experience your Hallmark moment at the Downingtown Christmas tree lighting in Log House Field, November 24 at 6 p.m. This year's tree will be bigger and better than ever—20 feet tall crowned by a three-foot star! Warm up under holiday lights with cookies and hot chocolate, a



MORE PERFORMANCES OF THE NUTCRACKER

Brandywine Ballet. **Dec. 7-16**, Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. Visit website for times. \$25-\$45. BrandywineBallet.org.

The Pennsylvania Ballet. **Dec. 7-31**, Academy of Music, 240 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. \$45-\$159. PaBallet.org.

s'mores station, music, face painting and small crafts for kids. Santa will visit around 6:30 p.m.

For more fun, join the crowds along the sidewalks for the Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade on Route 30, December 8 at 3 p.m. This free and fun family event has floats, music, dancers, Santa and more.

Downingtown businesses get festive by competing in the Storefront Decorating Contest, where shop windows turn into winter wonderlands. Stroll down bedecked streets and vote for your seasonal favorites through December 8th.

More at DtownChristmas.com.

DANCING AND PRANCING IN WILMINGTON

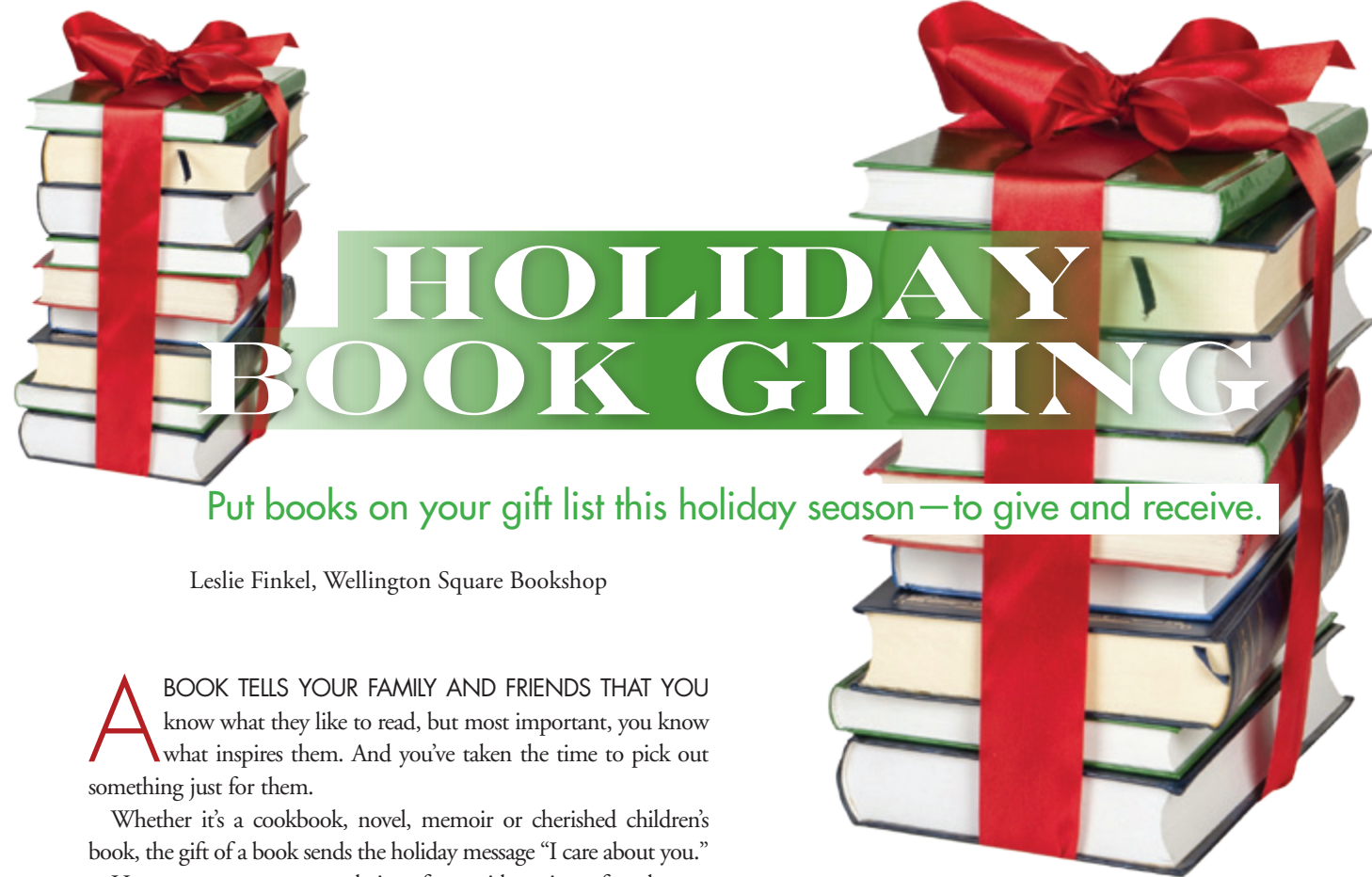
Are visions of sugar plums dancing in your head? Time for not one, but two productions of *The Nutcracker* in Wilmington this month. On December 8th and 9th, join 100+ dancers from the Wilmington Ballet at the Playhouse in Rodney Square. Later this month, revisit the magic with the First State Ballet, December 21st through 23rd, at The Grand Opera House.

Santa Claus is coming to town—on a train, that is. Meet Saint Nick on the Santa Claus Express with the Wilmington and Western Railroad. Have the kids pose for pics with Santa during this hour-and-a-half round-trip to Ashland. Trains depart Saturdays and Sundays from Greenbank Station, 2201 Newport Gap Pike. All aboard!

More at TheGrandWilmington.org and WWRR.com. ♦



Downingtown



HOLIDAY BOOK GIVING

Put books on your gift list this holiday season—to give and receive.

Leslie Finkel, Wellington Square Bookshop

A BOOK TELLS YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS THAT YOU know what they like to read, but most important, you know what inspires them. And you've taken the time to pick out something just for them.

Whether it's a cookbook, novel, memoir or cherished children's book, the gift of a book sends the holiday message "I care about you."

Here are some recommendations for a wide variety of readers on your shopping list. Happy shopping and Happy Holidays!

LITTLE WOMEN

by Louisa May Alcott, 150th Anniversary Edition (*Classic*)

Alcott's beloved masterpiece, *Little Women*, celebrates its 150th anniversary, making it a timely gift.

Set during the Civil War, the book follows the lives of the March family. Mr. March is fighting for the Union, while Marmee and their four children—Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy—stay at home, in reduced financial circumstances. The girls follow different paths as they grow into women. Meg and Amy marry, Beth dies young, and Jo, the rebel, initially resists courtship and marriage, but eventually finds the right man and becomes a writer. Alcott fully develops the characters in the context of the Civil War. The reader feels

like she knows the family personally. At the end of the book, you will not want to leave. *Penguin Classics published a new annotated edition with a foreword by the singer/writer Patti Smith, a long-time admirer.*



THE CLOCKMAKER'S DAUGHTER

by Kate Morton (*Fiction*)

In the summer of 1862, a group of young British artists, including Edward Radcliffe, go on a retreat to Birchwood Manor on the shores of the Upper Thames. By the end of the retreat, one

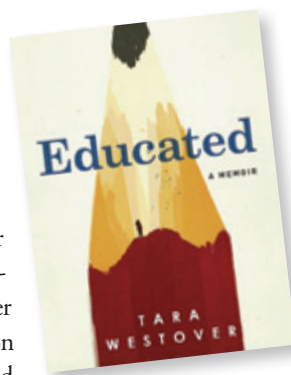


woman is dead, a second missing and Radcliffe's life is in ruins. Jump ahead 150 years as a woman discovers mysterious items that harken back to that retreat at Birchwood. The story is told by multiple voices over time and leads the reader through a murder mystery infused with art, love and loss. Woven throughout the book is the voice of the clockmaker's daughter, a woman who has been forgotten but has watched everything unfold. For fans of Morton (*The Lake House, The Secret Keeper*), this is a must-read.

EDUCATED

by Tara Westover (*Memoir*)

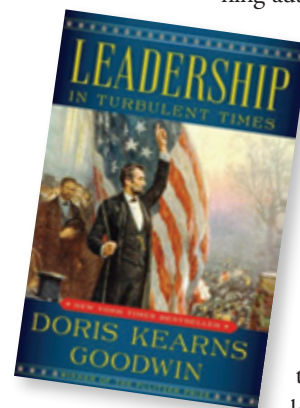
Tara Westover shares the story of her unusual upbringing in remote Idaho in this coming-of-age book. Her parents were survivalists as well as religious zealots. She didn't have a birth certificate and never went to school or to a doctor. Her brother was sadistic and violent—he tortured her while her parents looked away. Her father's moods ran from severe depression to tyrannical rage. Her mother acquiesced. Although her description of the abuse and neglect in the family can be shocking, that's not the focus of the book and there's no self-pity on the pages. Westover gets "educated" not only in school (she has a Ph.D. in history from Cambridge) but in the understanding of herself and her past.



LEADERSHIP IN TURBULENT TIMES

by Doris Kearns Goodwin (*Non-fiction*)

This is the latest in a long line of books by Doris Kearns Goodwin, renowned presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author. In this book she



explores leadership by studying Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lyndon B. Johnson. These men were ambitious and had a capacity for resilience that allowed them to lead the country forward against nearly insurmountable odds. This pivotal work is a guide for established leaders, beyond political figures, and is particularly relevant to the turbulent times we live in today.

OTTOLENGHI SIMPLE

by Yotam Ottolenghi (*Cookbook*)

Renowned chef Yotam Ottolenghi once again brings his Middle Eastern flair, this time to simpler recipes that require 30 minutes to prepare and 10 or fewer ingredients. The Autumn/Winter dishes



here include pumpkin, saffron and orange soup and Chili fish with tahini. Your holiday table might boast Arnold's roast chicken with caraway and cranberry stuffing along with roasted baby carrots with harissa and pomegranate. What's for dessert? Nutella, sesame and hazelnut rolls are a treat. With tantalizing photographs, this is a must for Ottolenghi fans.

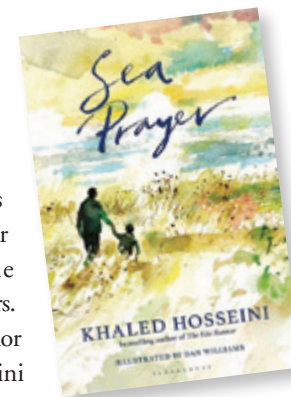
SEA PRAYER

by Khaled Hosseini

(*Middle School to Adult*)

An exquisitely written and illustrated book, *Sea Prayer* is composed in the form of a letter from a father to his son on

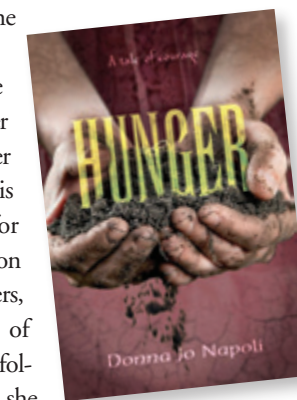
the eve of their journey as refugees. Written in simple prose, the book is appropriate for middle grade and adult readers. Best-selling author Khaled Hosseini (*Kite Runner, A Thousand Splendid Suns*) will donate author proceeds to the UN Refugee Agency to help fund relief efforts for refugees around the globe.



HUNGER: A TALE OF COURAGE

by Donna Jo Napoli (*Middle School*)

Set in Ireland during the potato famine, *Hunger* tells the story of a family destitute because of the potato blight. The book's narrator, the 12-year-old daughter Lorraine, has never faced a situation this grim. Known for her historical fiction for middle schoolers, Napoli (author of *Hidden* and *Hush*) follows Lorraine as she fights for her family's survival—will they stay in Ireland or flee to greener pastures?



YOU BELONG HERE

by M.H. Clark (*Picture Book, newborn to young toddler*)

"You are a dream that the world once dreamt and now you are part of its song, that's why you are here ... right where you belong." (*Excerpt from You Belong Here*). Birds, deer, turtles, rabbits, foxes and more figure in the landscape that's beautifully illustrated by award winner Isabelle Arsenault. The gentle and lyrical prose tells



the child that wherever they are, there they belong. *You Belong Here* is a delightful book for new parents and grandparents to read to new babies, young toddlers and adopted children. ♦

Find the Wellington Square Bookshop on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The Bookshop hosts a café, weekly story times on Tuesdays for children (ages 1–5), monthly fiction and nonfiction book clubs, author events with book signings and an Avid Reader podcast available on Podomatic. 549 Wellington Square, Eagleview Town Center, Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com.





THE FESTIVE SEASON

in

West Chester

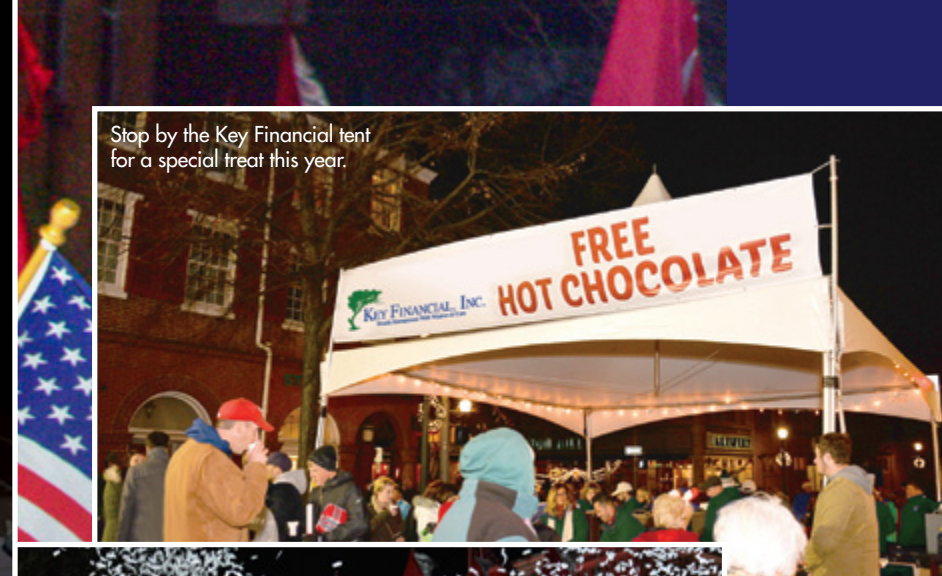
Story by Malcolm Johnstone
Timlyn Vaughan Photography

SO MANY REASONS TO ENJOY WEST
CHESTER FOR THE HOLIDAYS

WEST CHESTER
UNIVERSITY



The arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus is always a highlight.



Stop by the Key Financial tent for a special treat this year.



Maybe it's the energy you feel while strolling with friends and family along the downtown sidewalks bordered by small shops and charming restaurants, all decorated for the season. Or the brightly lit holiday window displays and lamp-posts with twinkly lights that beckon you to browse the boutiques.

Maybe it's the wide array of restaurants pumping out tantalizing aromas and offering a warm welcome for visitors yearning for a delicious meal or late night bite. Or the many bars and taphouses bustling with crowds full of holiday cheer. And beer.

Carolers can be found singing holiday favorites throughout the downtown (find a full schedule at DowntownWestChester.com), while Christmas decorations bedeck the Historic Courthouse lawn. And a nationally recognized parade will fill the downtown with excitement and cheer on one special night.

There's so much that makes West Chester the spot to be for this festive holiday season.

AN ANNUAL TRADITION

Folks from miles around are drawn to West Chester for its annual Christmas parade, this year on Friday, November 30. Hosted by the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce with the support of title sponsor QVC, this holiday parade promises to fill the streets

of the downtown district with spectacular floats, giant inflatable character balloons, dozens of marching bands—from West Chester University and local high schools—dance troupes, antique cars and much more, which of course includes Santa's arrival!

Join the fun accompanying the parade at the Holiday Village on High Street where vendors and local businesses offer complimentary treats and plenty of family fun. Make sure to stop by the Key Financial tent for a yummy cup of hot chocolate.

Work up an appetite with a sprint around the borough for the Jingle Elf Run, a walk/run event for all ages with prizes for the best costume and for top finishers.

So mark your calendar for November 30 to join the celebration in person, watch it on TV or catch the rebroadcast of the parade during the holidays. Plenty of ways to enjoy the fun!

NEW FACES AND PLACES

Although Small Business Saturday is designated as the Saturday after Thanksgiving—November 24 this year—there are many reasons to shop small, locally owned brick and mortar businesses all year long.

And more fun can be found every day exploring stylish shops and unique boutiques for new seasonal favorites while discovering



Luxey Little Ones



Thrifty Vintage



All the Dogs



La Chic Boutique

recently opened shops in town. This year, a half dozen new shops add to the retail mix, making West Chester your one-stop shopping destination for everyone on your list.

Are you expecting a new addition to your family? Is there a child or grandchild who could use new nursery items or clothes? **Luxey Little Ones** (135 E. Gay St.), recently opened by Jennifer Poe, is a luxury baby and child boutique from Rittenhouse Home.

It's actually more like a style showroom, carrying exclusive private label bedding, hand-crafted luxury furnishings, and must-have designer items for babies and toddlers. Jennifer's work with her award-winning luxury interior design, furniture and cabinetry studio at Rittenhouse Home helps her curate amazing interiors. Her team of experienced interior designers can professionally design your child's nursery or bedroom to reflect your personal style.

When you step into **Thrifty Vintage** (14 N. Church St.), your first impression is a cozy, rustic vibe. Which is good, since that's the shop's theme. It's easy to see how hard Beth Stiles, owner and proprietor, has worked to achieve a funky and creative gift and home decor shop.

And Beth is not shy about applying her own imagination and originality to other pieces as she refinishes furniture and collaborates with homeowners on decorating projects. You may even catch her working with decoupage and digital scrapbooking.

Is there a furry friend on your list you just love to spoil? Of course, we all have one. And for those who love the canine branch of the family, there's **All the Dogs** (13 S. Church St.) as your gift destination. You'll find lots of crafted doggy gear, healthy treat selections, toys galore and even skincare products to support the wellbeing of your pet.

Owner Becky Hoffman and her cousin Cori Hoffman are dedicated to offering products they believe are healthy for pups of every breed and need. They're constantly testing what they offer to ensure we humans get it right. You can follow their thoughts on dog care along with their adventures at their All The Dogs blog.

Step into **La Chic Boutique** (14 W. Gay St.) and it feels like a bit of Manhattan has come to West Chester. Owner Alysha Martinelli takes care to select clothing designed for women



Creep Records



ClutchWC

seeking styles suited for a professional look or an elegant evening. Each designer item, from belts to dresses, will transform you and create a distinctive and chic style all your own.

Retro is big with music fans as evidenced by **Creep Records** (133 W. Gay St.), now bringing vinyl-focused recordings to collectors. Recording styles for music are changing, but vinyl is still viable and new vinyl is as much a part of the scene as quality used vinyl. The store has genres ranging from indie and punk to metal and hip hop. There's mainstream and there's underground, and customers will have a great time exploring the music experience at this new shop.

With **Clutch WC** (25 S. High St.), you'll find carefully sourced brands that won't fade with changing trends. Store owner Lauren Speakman has embraced a charitable mission and works with companies like Pura Vida, Lokai and the Awesome Company, where a portion of the proceeds go to support good causes. But the quality is never compromised and customers will find each item fashionable and durable.

NOTABLE IN THE BOROUGH

Downtown West Chester has much more to offer beyond new shops and long-time favorite shops serving generations.

Look for **44West**, a project from E. Kahn Development, which has broken ground at the old Mosteller Building site at the corner of Gay and Church Streets. Although it's already begun, the 44,000-square-foot mixed-use development (office and retail) won't be completed until next winter. You'll see a plaza that includes public art and a two-level courtyard foun-

tain with cascading water. Plans are to minimize local traffic disruption with only sidewalks closed around the construction site. Yes, things are happening downtown.

As always, there's plenty to do at the **Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center** for the holidays, including Resident Theatre Company's *Lend Me a Tenor*, December 14-30 (see the article in this issue). There are also the monthly Jazz Cocktail Hour, popular Dueling Pianos, Holiday Cheer & Show, Family Jazz Night with classic soundtracks of holiday cartoon music, like "A Charlie Brown Christmas" featuring Grant Youngblood and Chadds Ford area school choirs.

Capping another great year is Puttin' On the Glitz, a New Year's Eve celebration. Join the fun and support Uptown! as you enjoy dining, dancing and entertainment. See the West Chester Events section for details.

And finally, Chester County and the West Chester Borough have partnered to launch a new walking route. Part of a national **WalkWorks** program, the route begins on North Walnut Street and is designed to encourage people to walk a 2.4-mile scenic tour capturing West Chester's heritage and beauty while passing downtown West Chester, West Chester University, Everhart Park, the Justice Center, and ending at the Chester County Historical Society. Signs are posted at each turn along the way, with maps available at the start. Something fitting for the 2017 Great American Main Street Award winner.

For more information about events in West Chester, go to DowntownWestChester.com. ♦

HOLIDAY FUN *in West Chester*

THROUGH DECEMBER 1

Christmas in West Chester. **Nov. 30**, Soup & Sandwich Parlor, Knights of Columbus, 5:45 pm; Jingle Elf Run, 6:30 pm; Holiday Village, 5 to 9 pm; QVC West Chester Christmas Parade, 7:15 pm. **Dec. 1**, Breakfast with Santa at The Chester County Historical Society, 8:30 & 10 am, \$16. For a schedule of weekend events, GreaterWestChester.com.

THROUGH DECEMBER 23

West Chester Railroad Santa's Express. See *Trains in Local Events* section.

THROUGH DECEMBER 24

20th Annual Miniature Show & 3rd Annual Bow Lighting Event. Over 20 of Chester County's best artists' paintings ready for holiday gift giving at Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Art Gallery. Opening reception with artists, **Nov. 23**, 4 to 8 pm. The Annual Bow Lighting takes place **Nov. 23**, 23 N. High St. 610-692-0374; SunsetHillJewelers.com.

NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 31

Uptown! Events at Knauer Performing Arts Center. **Nov. 30–Dec. 1**, WC Studio at Uptown! presents Holiday Cheer & Show; **Dec. 1**, Pennsylvania Philharmonic Holiday Brass; **Dec. 2**, Disney's Choo-Choo Soul with Genevieve!; **Dec. 6**, Dueling Pianos; **Dec. 14–30**, RTC: The Resident Theatre Company presents *Lend Me A Tenor*; **Dec. 20**, Family Jazz Night, The Cartoon Christmas Trio; **Dec. 31**, New Year's Eve Gala, "Puttin' On The Glitz!" 226 N. High St. UptownWestChester.org.

DECEMBER 1

West Chester Public Library's Holiday Home Tour. See *Holiday House Tours*.

DECEMBER 1

West Chester Charity Ball. Dinner, dancing and auction. Benefits The Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children, Outreach, Emergency

Family Shelter and the Homeless Prevention Program. West Chester Golf and Country Club, 111 W. Ashbridge St., 6 to 11:30 pm. \$175. 610-431-3598; FriendsAssoc.org.

DECEMBER 2

Brian's Run. Started as a fundraiser for an injured 15-year-old football player. Races start at Henderson High School, 400 Montgomery Ave. 12:40 Diaper Dash, up to age 3; 12:45 Tot Trot, ages 3-8; 12:50 Fun Run, ages 9 and older; 1 pm Brian's Run, 5 mile. \$25–\$30. Sign up at BriansRun.org.

DECEMBER 7–9, 13, 15, 16

Brandywine Ballet Presents *The Nutcracker*. See *Town Celebrations*.

DECEMBER 8

American Helicopter Museum Santa Fest. See Santa arrive via helicopter to greet and hear the wish lists of good girls and boys. Bring your own camera for a photo opp in Santa's Workshop. Features music, snacks, crafts and more. 1220 American Blvd. Starts at 10 am. Santa arrives at 11 am. AmericanHelicopter.museum.

DECEMBER 9

Holiday Festival at Oakbourne Mansion. Enjoy holiday crafts, games, music and refreshments. New this year is a gingerbread contest with prizes. 1014 S. Concord Rd. 10 am to 1 pm. Free. 610-692-1930; WesttownPA.org.

DECEMBER 14–30

Resident Theatre Company — *Lend Me a Tenor*. See *Theater Spotlight*.

DECEMBER 15

WCU—Live! Cashore Marionettes: Simple Gifts, a series of touching portrayals and poignant scenes from everyday life set to stunning music by such composers as Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven and Copland. Madeleine Wing Adler Theater, 817 S. High St. 2 pm, \$10–\$15. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu/Live. ♦

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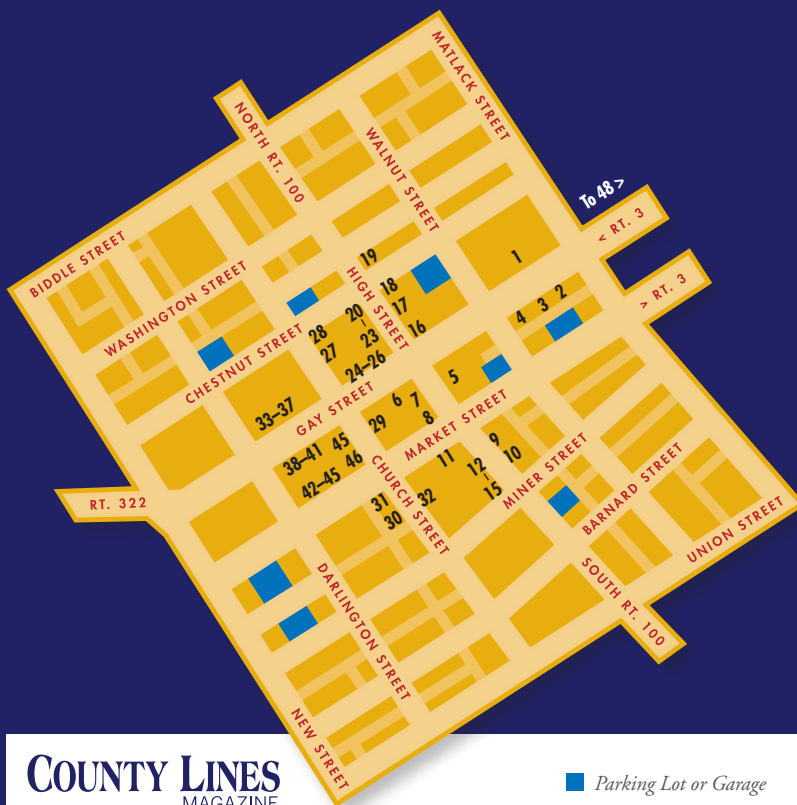
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DOWNTOWN WEST CHESTER

HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE



1. Luxey Little Ones
2. G-Spot Thrift Boutique
3. tish Boutique
4. Hybrid Cycles
5. Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery
6. La Chic Boutique
7. Coins of Chester County
8. Ruby Slippers Boutique
9. Phineas Gage
10. Clutch WC
11. Art Trust Gallery at Meridian Bank
12. Kati MacFloral Designs
13. A Taste of Olive
14. Éclat Chocolate
15. Chester County Running Store
16. VK Veruzka
17. Jane Chalfant / Kiki Boutique
18. Artistic Eyewear
19. Chester Co. Hist. Soc.
20. Paper Moon @ CCHS
21. G&G Cigars
22. Sabrina Ann Couture
23. Visual Expansion Gallery
24. Emily Alice
25. Fairman's Skate Shop
26. KALY
27. The Prana House
28. TranquiliTEA
29. The Antique Shop
30. Church Street Gallery
31. Woman's Exchange
32. All the Dogs
33. H. Rose Boutique
34. Creep Records
35. Rimons Coffee & Grocery
36. May 23 Clothing & Accessories
37. Malena's Vintage Boutique
38. Taylor Music Store & Studios
39. Moonflower
40. Green Eyed Lady
41. Blink
42. The 5 Senses
43. Mainline Custom Clothiers
44. Old Soul Décor
45. Kaplan's Fine Jewelry
46. Second Reading Bookstore
47. Thrifty Vintage
48. Steele House Nutrition

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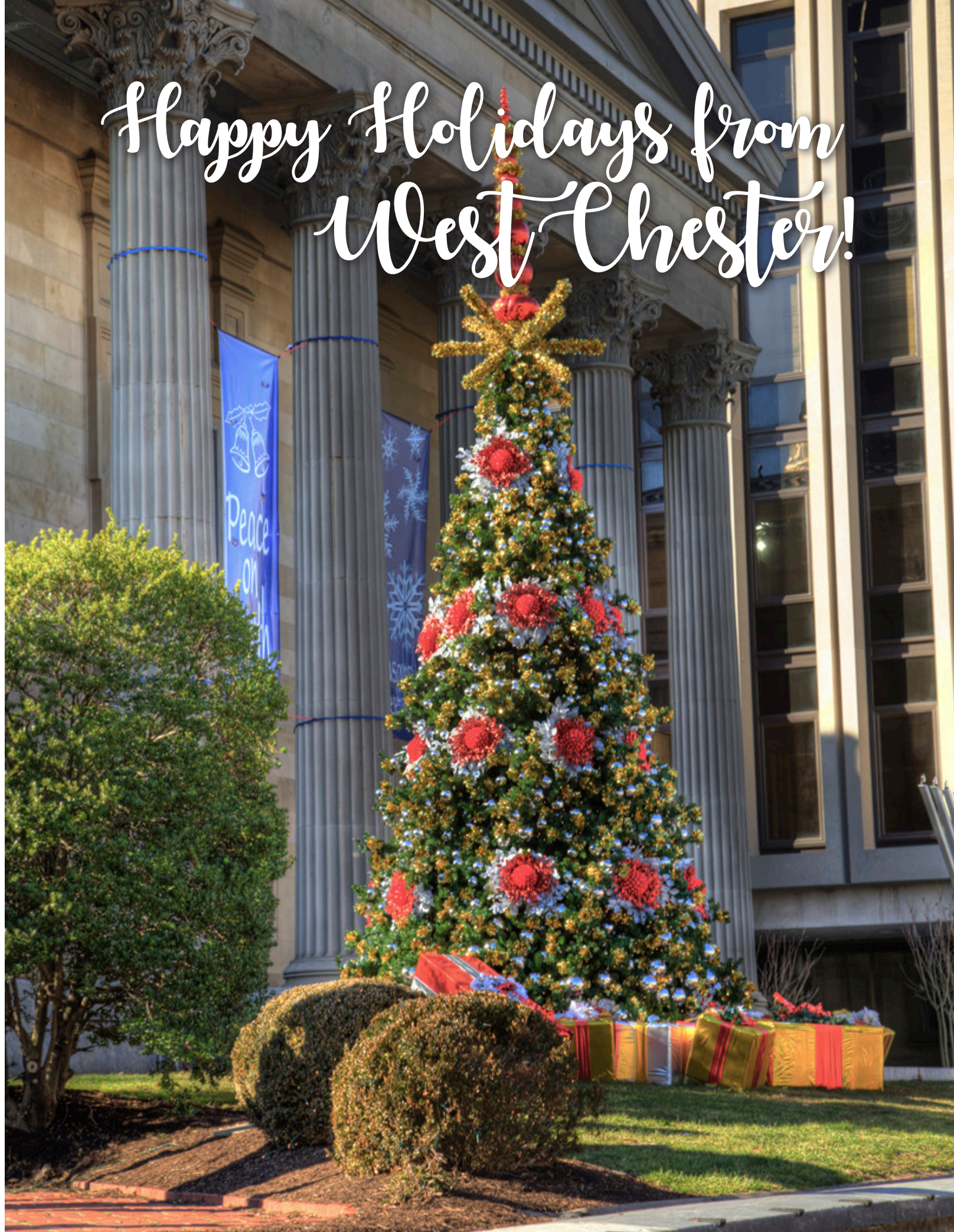
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IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. YOUR GIFT LIST IS GROWING, and you're wondering what to get your family and friends for the holidays—these special gifts to express how much you care.

Before you reflexively jump online or join the madness at the mall, consider the reasons for shopping at local businesses. Shopping local has many more benefits than you may be aware of.

And, if done locally, holiday shopping can be a pleasure instead of a chore.

WHY SHOP LOCAL?

Shop Local! That's a message you've likely heard before. And supporting local businesses has become increasingly popular thanks in part to the impact of Small Business Saturday.

Since 2010, Small Business Saturday has been the name given to the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It's a way to celebrate and support small businesses during that blockbuster retail weekend. Originally

sponsored by American Express, Small Business Saturday has grown into a nationally recognized day, almost as popular as Black Friday and Cyber Monday. There's also Giving Tuesday and Sofa Sunday But we're getting off track here.

Now with almost 3.5 million likes on Facebook and 56.7 thousand followers on Twitter, this special day highlights the importance of supporting small business.

But Small Business Saturday isn't the only day to support these businesses. You can show your support by shopping in locally owned small brick and mortar stores all through the holiday season. Here are some reasons you should.

IT BENEFITS OUR COMMUNITY

Love thy neighbor this holiday season. And local stores are owned by your neighbors and friends. When you shop small and local, you're supporting them.

Your money is paying for groceries and providing for a family that owns the small business—paying for things like piano lessons for the owner's son. It's supporting local nonprofits. Local businesses are more likely to donate to community causes than chain stores. Because local storeowners are also more likely to shop local themselves, the money from your purchase has a multiplier effect.

Remember your dollar also has more local impact—and benefit to you—when you shop locally. The money you spend at a local store on that scarf for Aunt Susie goes to a local shop owner and back into your community—rather than adding to the bottom line of a national big box company or e-commerce giant.

Fun fact: For every \$100 spent at a locally owned small business, \$68 returns to the community in some form. Local merchants are part of that community as are their employees. They're paying local taxes just like you. That's why local shopping returns three times more to the community than purchases at chain stores.

The money you spend on Aunt Susie's scarf has a bigger impact than you think!

IT'S PATRIOTIC

Shopping local is good for the country. When you shop local, you're supporting American goods and fair trade laws. For example, Karen Cavin of **The 5 Senses** in



West Chester says all her store's merchandise is handmade in North America along with some Fair Trade, which guarantees fair living wages for the artists.

By selling American goods, local businesses help keep Americans working. The money you're spending is staying in this country, and you can feel good that your gifts were made by people who were paid and treated fairly.

Cavin adds, "We can also tell you how things are made. We know exactly where they came from and who made them." You get a little history and an interesting story with each purchase, making the gift more personal.

Old Soul Décor's Krystal Rhinehard says her customers want organic, non-toxic, locally made and fair trade goods. Customers can rest assured they're buying products that are made from quality ingredients at her store and can get that fact verified.



Shopping local is also greener. There's less outsourcing, which results in less fossil fuel use and packaging waste. Not only is going local better for the country, it's better for the world.

IT BRINGS US CLOSER TOGETHER

Shopping local also creates a sense of community. Margaret Smith of the **Wilmington Country Store** says they've been helping customers shop for generations—since opening in 1952—and offering personalized service to each customer and their family members.

Local shops are where customers visit for the holidays, making these community stores meeting spots to see old friends and neighbors. Most shops are decked out with decorations to get you into that holiday spirit to make shopping more fun.

And if decorations aren't enough to spark some holiday spirit, many shops, like **Phineas Gage** men's clothing store in West Chester, host open houses during the season and for special events like the annual Christmas Parade. Stores serve wine, hot drinks and refreshments when customers stop in, say hello and celebrate the season.

Another plus to improve your shopping experience.



IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS

There's that extra personal touch that comes with a local gift. You took time to think about the recipient, considered options and found that special gift rather than scrolling through Amazon's top picks.

Local gifts also tend to be unique, so your gift will stand out. Karen Cavin of **The 5 Senses** says, "The things we sell can't be found anywhere else!" Local stores are filled with one-of-a-kind gifts, like handcrafted jewelry and pottery from local artisans.

And if convenient shipping is the draw to online shopping, know that most local stores will send packages for you. Shopping locally for your out-of-area family or friends is easy.

Aside from shipping, many local shops have services online stores can't provide—like onsite seamstresses and customized free gift-wrapping that can add that extra personal touch to any gift.

YOU'RE NOT JUST ONE IN A MILLION

You matter more at local stores, and their personal customer service proves it. Not only will you likely see shorter lines, but sales associates in local shops are more attentive and knowledgeable. They know their store's curated inventory and know regular customers' preferences, and maybe even their names. They give you the kind of attention chain stores simply can't.

Studies show customer satisfaction is higher among local shoppers. In a brick and mortar store, you can see and feel the gift to know exactly what you're buying. This is much better than ordering online, staring at the screen, scrolling through hundreds of reviews and hoping for the best.

Local shops also choose their merchandise to suit their local customers. Margaret Smith of the **Wilmington Country Store** says that as a buyer, she shops with her customers in

mind and knows what they like and can't find online.

That's a sentiment echoed by Jaime Weisbrot from **Phineas Gage**, who adds, "We take a lot of time sourcing our products to bring the best things to our customers, so they can count on the quality and uniqueness of our items. It's our customer service that sets us apart from big corporations."

When you're choosing where to shop this holiday season, consider small local brick and mortar stores in our area. You can make a fun day of it. Start with a meal at a local restaurant and know you're supporting your community and choosing personal gifts for those you love.

Spread that holiday cheer and shop local this year! ♦

For more ideas for shopping local, check out our Holiday Window Shopping and Holiday Style sections in this issue.

Celebrate the Season

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Holiday Style

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Diana Rosh Cashmere Wrap with Fur Trim
Jane Chalfant, West Chester



18k White Gold Fantasy Diamond Ring
Sunset Hill Jeweler, West Chester



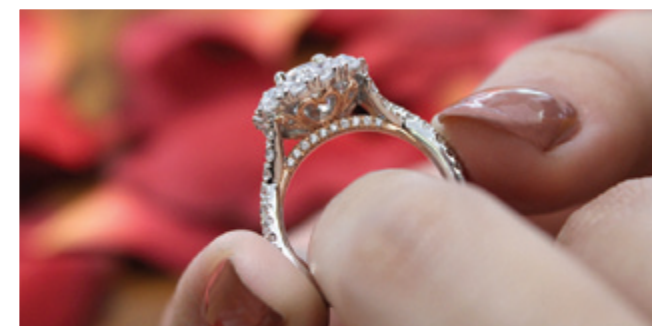
Sterling Garden Spade Cuff by Hattie Weselyk
Merchant of Menace, West Chester



Labradorite, Turquoise and Moonstone set in Sterling Silver on a braided black leather bracelet
5 Senses, West Chester



Aquamarine and Diamond pendant by Suna
Walter J Cook Jeweler, Paoli



Round cut engagement ring— 14k white/rose gold double cushion halos, a criss-crossing pave diamond band and rose gold accented gallery.
Big Diamond Importers & Fine Jewelry, West Chester



Rodd & Gunn Cashmere Blend Sweater,
Mizzen + Main 125 Shirt,
Jach's Cords Pants, SeaVees Leather Sneaker
Phineas Gage, West Chester

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Holiday Window Shopping

It's the time of year when we look forward, making special memories with family and friends, taking in the lights and decorations, planning a holiday excursion (check our Best Local Events column for all the fun things to do this month) and ... shopping.

To make it easier for you, we've compiled a guide to shops offering something for everyone and, to make a day of it, restaurants where you can rejuvenate with a beverage, a meal, some apps with friends ... a breather so you can check your list twice.

For our part, we wish you the Happiest of Holidays and, as always to our readers and advertisers, our most heartfelt thank you. Happy New Year!

Happy Holidays!

*** PENNSYLVANIA ***

Chadds Ford

The perfect gift awaits those on your list at the **Brandywine River Museum of Art**. Shop the unique selection of gifts inspired by art and nature, including notecards and art reproductions featuring the iconic works of the Wyeth family, handcrafted jewelry, exclusive silk scarves and accessories, toys for children, a unique selection of books and more. Don't miss the annual Critter Sale, November 29–December 2. 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.



Brandywine River Museum of Art
610.388-2700 • Brandywine.org

Chester Springs

From Radnor Hunt comes *The Fox's Kitchen*, a beautiful cook-book reflecting the intersection between a beloved sport and



The Fox's Kitchen
TheHoundsFoundation.org

country living and entertaining. Radnor Hunt epitomizes the best of eating, drinking and making merry! The elegant, nearly 300-page, book celebrates fox hunting and food, and is a fund raiser for the Hounds Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization. TheHoundsFoundation.org.

Ephrata

Have you been looking for real Bayberry Candles? Take a scenic drive out Route 322 West to **Ephrata Cloister Museum Store**. In addition to beautiful candles, you'll discover a world of unique gifts. Choose from their selection of local cookbooks, linen greeting cards, handmade soap, redware ornaments, treenware, table runners, prints and more. 632 West Main St. 717-733-2592; EphrataCloister.org.



Ephrata Cloister Museum Store
717-733-2592 • EphrataCloister.org

Exton

Appetites on Main, located in Main Street at Exton, offers casual American comfort food at a good value. It's a great place to stop and relax during the busy holiday season. Happy hour daily, 4 to 6 p.m., includes \$2.50 select domestics, \$1 off all appetizers, craft beer and cocktails. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., full menu until 1:30 a.m. 286 Main St. 610-594-2030; AppetitesOnMain.com.

Deck the halls this holiday season with 18th-century through Victorian-era original and reproduction furniture, lighting fixtures and furniture hardware. Visit the showroom at **Ball & Ball** to find unique gift ideas including candlesticks, book-ends, lanterns and fireplace accessories made on the premises in brass, tin, copper and hand-forged iron and bronze. All perfect gifts this holiday season. Open Monday–Friday,



Ball & Ball
610.363.7300 • BallAndBall.com

from 8 to 4:30; Saturday hours, October–March, 9 to 1. 463 W. Lincoln Hwy. (Rt. 30). 610-363-7300; BallAndBall.com.

There's no place like **Ron's Original Bar & Grille** this holiday season! Come and indulge in some "Real Food, for the Health of it." Offering a family atmosphere, Italian fare, live music and some of the best craft beer around, they invite you to stop in for a bite, enjoy some take-out or delivery, or call them to cater your next event! 74 E. Uwchlan Ave. 610-594-9900; RonsOriginal.com.

Celebrate the season with Old World elegance at **Vickers Restaurant + The Plantation Ballroom**. Sip champagne fireside in the refurbished 1820s farmhouse and enjoy dishes like Steak Diane and Bananas Foster, flambéed tableside. Four private dining rooms are perfect for holiday celebrations. Open for lunch, dinner and happy hour and on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. Gift certificates available online. 192 E. Welsh Pool Rd. Phone or see the website for hours. 610-363-7998; VickersRestaurant.com.

Kennett Square

Using only the finest and freshest ingredients, highlighting the northern region of Italy, **La Verona** is committed to making your meal a memorable one, with professional service in a welcoming, vibrant, social atmosphere. They have a private dining area for parties up to 65, and they invite you to join them for Happy Hour, Monday–Friday, 4 to 6. 114 E. State St. 610-444-2244; LaVeronaPA.com.

Drawing fans in Kennett since 2011 is **Lily's Asian Cuisine, Sushi & Grill**. This stylish, modern Asian restaurant serves Japanese, Chinese and Thai dishes and insists on high quality food, freshly prepared with the finest ingredients. Meet friends for lunch, have dinner with family, or come for a celebration. All-you-can-eat sushi on Tuesday, with hot starters. Enjoy the comfortable ambience, delicious food and excellent service in Lily's. BYOB. 104 W. State St. 610-925-3700; LilySushiAndGrill.com.

Landenberg

Paradocx Vineyard, a 100-acre farm nestled among the rolling hills of southern Chester County, combines current technology and handcrafted secrets to create unique wines from estate grapes and selected growers. By selecting only the finest fruit, they are able to provide their winemaker, Gabriel Rubilar, with the best start for a premium wine. Paradocx Vineyard offers four retail locations: 1833 Flint Hill Rd., Landenberg, The Market at Liberty Place, Westtown Amish Market, and Booths Corner Farmers Market. 610-255-5684; Paradocx.com.



Paradocx Vineyard
610.255.5684 • Paradocx.com

Malvern

The holidays can be a hectic time of year. Let **Tonino's Pizza & Pasta Co.** take care of your party planning needs with custom party platters for family get-togethers or office parties. Everything from delicious antipasti to homemade classic pasta dishes and Italian favorites. Tonino's now offers private party rooms. Call to plan your holiday festivities today. Gift certificates available. 610-240-9566; ToninosPizzaAndPasta.com.

Marshallton

This holiday season, why not introduce some creativity, art, innovation and fun to your gift-giving? Visit the **Merchant of Menace Re-Imaginers Gallery** and check the whimsical and inventive items that will delight everyone! Their artists see pos-



The Merchant of Menace Re-Imaginers Gallery
215.704.7419 • TheMerchantOfMenace.net

sibilities everywhere and create amazing works from a variety of reclaimed materials. Find furniture crafted from New England barn wood, animal sculptures made from antique tractor parts, jewelry created from silverware and much more! 1351 W. Strasburg Rd. 215-704-7419; TheMerchantOfMenace.net.

Newton Square

Gourmet gift baskets and luscious fine chocolates are two reasons to stop at **Christopher Chocolates**, making life sweeter for more than 30 years as a family-owned and operated business. They have a great selection of gourmet foods, candies, sugar-free items and fine chocolates for a customized gift basket to delight all on your list. Open daily from Thanksgiving to Christmas. 3519 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3). 610-359-1669; Christopher-Chocolates.com.



Christopher Chocolates
610-359-1669 • Christopher-Chocolates.com



Mostardi Nursery
610.356.8035 • Mostardi.com

Get your Christmas plants and flowers at **Mostardi Nursery**. Featuring distinctive plants for every season, Mostardi offers a selection that will have your home looking greener and even better than last Christmas. The Christmas Shop features trees, wreaths, poinsettias, garden accents, ornaments and accessories. Mostardi is dedicated to providing avid gardeners and homeowners with plants for every season and every reason. 4033 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3). 610-356-8035; Mostardi.com.

Paoli

This holiday season, **Walter J. Cook Jeweler** has curated a fresh collection of unique gems designed to fit many styles and price points. Owner Michael Cook has selected exquisite diamonds, one-of-a-kind colored gemstones and both classic and contemporary pearls. Wonderful gold items as well as mixed metal artisan jewels help complete this year's collection. Chestnut Village Shoppes, 36 Chestnut Rd. 610-644-5347; WalterJCookJeweler.com.



Walter J. Cook Jeweler
610.644.5347 • WalterJCookJeweler.com

Springfield

Tavola Restaurant + Bar offers upscale casual dining serving American cuisine, brick oven classics and contemporary menu selections with seasonal ingredients. Newly designed indoor dining room, heated outdoor bar and lounge, golf course views, fire pits and private party rooms; great for drinks and dining year-round. DJs and live, local acoustic music weekly and nightly specials. Serving lunch, dinner and Sunday Brunch. 400 W. Sproul Rd. 610-543-2100; Tavalas.com.

Wallingford

Make it a handcrafted holiday. **Community Arts Center and the Potters Guild** present their Holiday Sale, featuring functional and decorative ceramic, mixed media, fiber art, jewelry, papier-maché, flowers, wood, soaps, baskets, metal and holiday décor from over 60 artists, Nov. 29–Dec. 8. Special shopping events include a preview party and holiday happy hours. 414 Plush Mill Rd. 610-566-1713; CACHolidaySale.org.



Community Arts Center
610.566.1713 • CommunityArtsCenter.org

West Chester

To add sparkle to the holidays, visit the Ultimate Jewelry Store—**Big Diamond Importers & Fine Jewelry**, specializing in Ideal Cut Diamonds, engagement rings and wedding bands at wholesale prices. See their big and unique engagement rings and fashion jewelry collection for 2019. Italian and Spanish designer jewelry is available in all price ranges. They are also a full-service jeweler, including in-house repair, custom design and appraisals. 15 W. Gay St. 610-692-7707; BigsDiamonds.com.



Big Diamond Importers & Fine Jewelry
610-692-7707 • BigsDiamonds.com

Since 1933, the Jane Chalfant shop has provided casual fashions in a friendly atmosphere. Today, **Jane Chalfant / Kiki Boutique** features sweaters, pants and jackets for your everyday lifestyle. Everyone is pleasantly surprised by the size of the shop, which enables them to carry a great selection including fun, fashion accessories. It's worth the trip! Free parking behind the shop at 123 N. High St. 610-696-0290; JaneChalfant.com.

You'll find fresh, handcrafted beers, creative New American cuisine and friendly and attentive service at **Iron Hill Brewery**. Their beers have won national and international acclaim for over 20 years. They're open 7 days, for lunch and dinner, with Happy Hour Mon.–Fri., 5 to 7. Buy \$75 in gift cards from Black Friday through December 31 and receive a \$20 bonus card. 3 W. Gay St. 610-738-9600; IronHillBrewery.com.

Landmark Americana Tap & Grill is the spot to have your holiday get-togethers, offering a large private room with full bar perfect for any party. Or, take time from your hectic schedule and stop in for a wide variety of burgers, tacos, finger foods or healthy and gluten-free options. Open Mon.–Sun., 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. 158 W. Gay St. 610-701-9900; LandmarkAmericana.com.

Stop by **The Lincoln Room** and enjoy a quiet lunch or a cozy tea for two (or more) in the lower level of the circa 1833 Lincoln Building. Select from the extensive menu of holiday or specialty teas, sweet and savory scones, quiche specialties and leave room for their signature dessert—Croissant Bread Pudding with crème Anglaise. BYOB. Private parties, Sunday–Tuesday; lunch and Tea offered Wednesday–Saturday from 11 to 3. Reservations suggested. 28 Market St. 610-304-9576.

Looking for a fun and unique place to host your holiday party or next private event? Look no further than **Más Mexicali Cantina**. Family owned and operated since 2009, Más has been hosting private events for 20–500 people for years. From buffet style to intimate sit-down dinners, Más' award



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winning menu and exceptional customer service is sure to exceed your expectations! 102 E. Market St. 610-918-6260; MasMexicali.com.

Visit **Matlack Florist** for all your holiday needs. Centerpieces and fresh flower arrangements make a great holiday gift. The Greenhouse is bursting with poinsettias, Noble Trees and Holiday Garden Baskets. Fruit and Gourmet Baskets with local items are sure to please. Stop by the gift shop for a wonderful selection of home décor items, accessories and holiday giftware. Same-day local delivery is always available. 210 N. Chester Rd. 610-431-3077; MatlackFlorist.com.

Looking for the perfect gift for the men in your life? Check out **Phineas Gage**, located in downtown West Chester for a great assortment of men's contemporary clothing and accessories. They carry everything from outerwear, sweaters, wovens, denim to socks, belts and wallets. Let them help you pick the perfect gift to outfit your man from head to toe! 29 S. High St. 484-266-7344; Phineas-Gage.com.

Pietro's Prime is an upscale yet casual Steakhouse and Martini Bar located in the heart of downtown West Chester. They are known for their quality cuisine and remarkable service. Whether your celebrating a milestone event or just looking for a delicious meal, Pietro's Prime is the place to go. 125 Market St. 484-760-6100; PietrosPrime.com.

With a focus on craft beer, whiskey and quality food, **Rams Head Bar and Grill** is the perfect place to visit this winter. Try out their new menu items, or book your holiday parties in their spacious lower level. Visit the amazing bar staff for happy hour every weekday from 5 to 7 p.m. 40 E. Market St. 484-631-0241; RamsHeadBarAndGrill.com.

Finding the perfect gift for that special someone is part of the holidays. **Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery** is ready to help with beautiful jewelry for everyone's taste and budget along with an Art Gallery filled with miniature paintings of all styles by over 20 area artists. A trusted jeweler in Chester County for over 35 years, they have a kind and knowledgeable staff with years of experience to help you make the perfect choice. 23 N. High St. 610-692-0374; SunsetHillJewelers.com.

Touch ... Sight ... Taste ... Smell ... Sound ... **The 5 Senses**. You can find something for everyone on your shopping list for any occasion (and something for yourself as well) at this shop. They offer North American and Fair Trade, handmade, functional works of art, from pottery to candles to jewelry and gift art. They also have a large selection of all-occasion cards, gift cards, gift wrapping and shipping. 133 W. Market St. 610-719-0170; The5Senses.com.

Dress up your eyelashes this holiday season with luxury eyelash extensions created just for you at **Timeless Sage Beauty by Design**. Your individual lash application will look and feel natural and flawless. Treat yourself or someone special and visit them at 535 N. Church St. 484-318-8438; TimelessSage.com.

*** DELAWARE *** Wilmington

For the artsy friends and family members on your shopping list, the **Delaware Art Museum** is sure to offer something unique just for them. Browse a selection of treasures, including handcrafted jewelry, vases, ceramics, textiles and books in the Museum Store or during the Winter Arts Festival, December 7 and 8. Visit their website to find out more about festive holiday offerings, events and special exhibitions for all ages. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org. ♦



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Fred Naddeo

FIND A NEW FAVORITE SPARKLER FOR TOASTING THE HOLIDAYS

THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US. And as we gather with family and friends, we may want something special to commemorate the occasion. What better way to celebrate than with a bottle of festive sparkling wine?

For sparklers, the first wine you likely thought of was Champagne. While it's the most famous sparkling wine, and probably the best, it's not the only option for celebrations.

First, a little background on the wine-making process. Sparkling wines are made in two steps. First, grapes from the vineyards are fermented into a still wine. Then the wine is fermented a second time to create the bubbles. The second step is done in a sealed container to trap the gas.

The traditional method—called the Champagne method—performs the second fermentation in the bottle you purchase. In the other process—called the Charmat method after Eugène Charmat who perfected the process—the second fermentation is done in a large tank rather than in the bottle. After the second fermentation, the sparkling wine is bottled.

CHAMPAGNE

Easily the most recognized sparkling wine in the world, Champagne has become synonymous with celebration and luxury. Typically made with chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier grapes, these wines can be expensive for several reasons.

First, the Champagne region is relatively small—about the size of Napa Valley—and worldwide demand is very large. Because Champagne must come from that limited region, the supply is

small. Second, the production is very labor intensive. The bottles were once turned by hand, a process called riddling, which allows for removing sediment from the finished Champagne. Today this turning is largely automated, but there's still extensive hand labor needed for production.

Thankfully, it's possible to find good values in Champagne by looking for smaller producers with lower demand in the marketplace. One such producer is Champagne Moutard, with wines that are bright with fresh fruit flavors as opposed to dried fruit notes. Look for **Grande Cuvée Brut**—a dry style Champagne—and **Grande Cuvée Demi-Sec**—a sweeter style Champagne—each for \$28.99. The **Grande Cuvée Brut** recently received a score of 91 Points from *Wine Spectator* along with tasting notes describing flavors of white raspberry, verbena, pastry and honey in this wine.

CAVA

The next option for a sparkling wine for holiday toasting is Spanish Cava. The name Cava is not a region, a grape variety nor even a production technique. It's the name of

the storage cellars where the wines are aged. The name was adopted in 1970 as French authorities were trying to protect the name Champagne.

First produced in the 1870s by Josep Raventós after he traveled to France, the wine was originally called *Cham-paña*. Because Raventos was trying to reproduce the wine he had in France, he used the same techniques as Champagne but used grapes that were locally available. These grapes have traditionally been macabeo, parellada and xarel-lo, but chardonnay and pinot noir are now also included.

An excellent example of Cava to try is **Biutiful Cava Brut Nature**, at a very affordable price point of \$11.99. This wine was rated at 90 Points by *Vinous.com*, with flavors of orange zest and honeysuckle.

Another new wine term worth noting for sparkling wines—brut nature or brut natural—refers to the fact that no sugar was added at the time of second fermentation. These wines tend to be the driest of all sparkling wines.

PROSECCO

Italy also has its own popular sparkling wine, prosecco. While Champagne and Cava exclusively use the traditional method of sparkling wine production, prosecco uses the tank, or Charmat, method.

Cava wines tend to be light with fresh fruit flavors instead of the richer and fuller taste of Champagne.

The biggest difference between prosecco and Champagne, other than price, is the mouthfeel or mousse as it's referred to in France. Champagne tends to have a smooth bubble feel that's almost creamy, while prosecco has a sharper bubble feel more like ginger ale.

That difference can be attributed to the way the second fermentation is done—the bubbles are created in a small container with the traditional method but in a large production tank in the tank method.

A good choice to try is **La Marca Lumino Prosecco** at \$24.99. This wine, from the Conegliano Valdobbiadene zone of Italy, scored 88 Points from *Wine Spectator* and garnered tasting

notes of melon, white peach and lemon. This prosecco will be on sale at Fine Wine & Good Spirits stores in December for \$21.99, good timing for holiday sipping.

would allow fermentation to begin again, and the sealed container would capture the bubbles. Voila, sparkling wine.

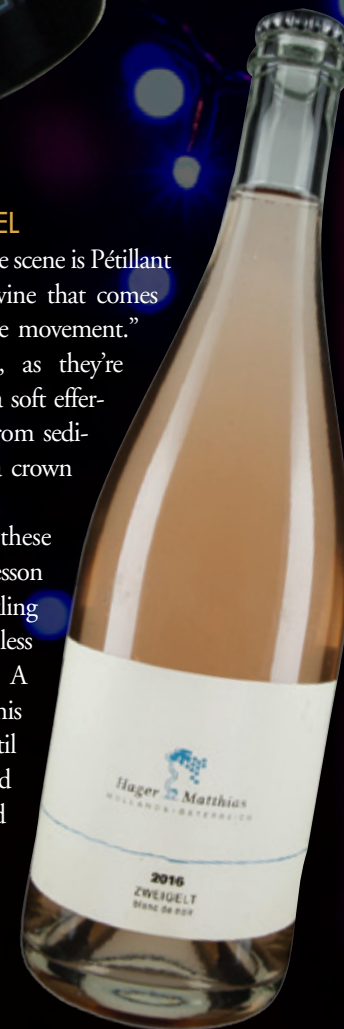
Even though there's a bit more technical sophistication today, winemakers are reproducing this early form of sparkling wine. The term pét-nat dates back to the late 1990s, when natural winemaker Christian Chaussard from France's Loire Valley introduced it.

If you're new to pét-nat, a good place to start is with **Matthias Hager Zweigelt pét-nat**, \$24.99, from Austria. This biodynamically produced wine is not as rustic as many pét-nat wines. It's bottled clear and has crisp flavors of raspberries and white peaches.

These wines are more difficult to find, so look for Pétillant Naturel, méthode ancestrale or Col Fondo on the label.

No matter which you choose, here's to a sparkling holiday season! Cheers! ♦

What started as a hobby is now a career. Fred Naddeo began his wine journey more than 20 years ago when his wife bought a bottle of Black Tower Riesling to try something different. It marked the beginning of an exploration of the amazing world of wine that continues to this day. Fred is a wine specialist at the Springfield Fine Wine & Good Spirits store on Baltimore Pike. Learn more at FineWineAndGoodSpirits.com.



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[Food News] *A few of our favorite things to share this month about local food and drink*

Veggie Tales. New Year's resolution diets are tough, but **veggie carb substitutes** make them simple. Swap the carbs for your daily dose of veggies—it's easy, plus they're less than half the calories. Remix noodle



dishes with zucchini "zoodles" and fiber-rich chickpea pasta. Wedge butternut squash and parsnips into low-starch fries. And trade Uncle Ben's for riced cauliflower and squash risotto. Shop local farmer's markets for fresh vegetables and stop by Rize Pizza in West Chester for cauliflower crust for your pizza. RizePizza.com.

Keep it Kosher. We'll eat Jewish culinary creations any day. But with Hanukkah kicking off December, **latkes** are the perfect addition to holiday dinner. No need to run to the butcher for kosher meat—latkes are vegan, so they're perfect for every dinner guest. Tip: pop your potatoes in a food processor for easy grating. Dip them in locally sourced applesauce from Weaver's Orchard, Morgantown. The holiday season is all about inclusivity—and your taste buds will thank you! WeaversOrchard.com.

Major Mixology. Anxious about last-minute holiday entertaining? **Two-ingredient cocktails** drown the stress. Anglophiles will



love gin-and-T's, remixed gin and tonic with London Dry Gin and Earl Grey tea. Get seasonal with a Cape Coddier—vodka and cranberry juice, garnished with lime. Top mulberry gin with sparkling rosé for a Rosé Royal. Fall firepits are incomplete without hot chocolate, spiked with Kahlua or peppermint schnapps. With just two ingredients, holiday cheer will never be a chore. Recipes on BestLifeOnline.com.

Sip, Sip Hooray. This month 85 years ago, Americans toasted with a well-deserved drink. Prohibition Repeal Day, December 5, marks the day that "America's noble experiment" was revoked. What better way to celebrate your Constitutional right than pouring a glass of your favorite spirit? Grab a friend (or three) and head to happy hour at Black Powder Tavern in Wayne or The Gables at Chadds Ford. Beer drinkers have tons of choices in our area and causes for celebration. BlackPowderTavern.com; TheGablesAtChaddsFord.com.



Outside the Gingerbread Box.

Say "bah, humbug" to plain old gingerbread. Try fun new **twists on gingerbread houses** and create a family tradition. For a salty take on a sweet classic, exchange gingerbread for mini pretzel sticks. Cover upside-down ice cream cones with green icing, coconut shavings and gumdrops for a Christmas forest. Try stick gum for mint condition roofing and siding. Use leftover trail mix to cover the house with your favorite nuts—and remember the pistachio "trees." Recipes on Pinterest.



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[Brandywine Table]

Holiday Cookies

ADD SOME NEW FAVORITES TO YOUR TABLE THIS YEAR.

Laura Muzzi Brennan & County Lines Staff



EVERYONE LOVES COOKIES. Some stats say 7 billion are enjoyed each year in the U.S., with about half of those goodies coming from home bakers. And with the spokesperson for this tasty treat being *Sesame Street's* beloved Cookie Monster, what's not to love?

Thinking on a somewhat smaller scale, we've found that on average, Americans eat about 300 cookies a year. And it's likely that around half get gobbled down when the winter holidays are in full swing. After all, who can resist a homemade treat tucked into a brightly colored box and delivered by one who wishes you well?

So that's 300 reasons (or 7 billion) why we decided to share our Holiday Cookie column again this year—updated with some new contributions. We've devoted “Brandywine Table” to holiday cookies and the folks who

mix the dough and pipe the icing—Santa's other helpers.

Rounding out the roster of bakers are members of our *County Lines'* staff. They've pulled out battered old recipe boxes and pulled up their computer folders and Evernote files to find their favorites—the special ones that consistently garner accolades at family gatherings and holiday parties.

Now what to do when your id begs you to try every cookie recipe but your superego intervenes with a reality check?

Get in touch with your inner Martha Stewart: host a cookie exchange. That's an ideal way to celebrate the season with friends while adding variety to your holiday cookie supply. See the sidebar for tips about how to host a holiday cookie swap.

This December let Holiday Cookies take the cake!



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Kifflets

A lifetime ago, when I was a high school English teacher, I used to get these every Christmas from one of my students. Before she went to college, she gave me the recipe. After an exhaustive search for the history of these buttery cookies, I can only conclude that they're a simple version of the traditional Hungarian kiffle, a pastry-like cookie filled with nuts and fruit.

1 lb. butter (must be butter!) room temp.
½ C. granulated sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
4 C. flour
1 C. confectioners' sugar for dredging.

Preheat oven to 350°. With an electric mixer, cream butter with sugar and vanilla. With your hands, mix in flour. Dough should be smooth, not sticky or crumbly. If dough is too soft, add a little more flour.

By hand, form into crescents, about 1 to 1½ inches long.

Bake for 10 minutes. Cookies are done when they are firm to the touch (don't worry if they brown slightly on the bottom).

As soon as cookies have cooled enough for you to touch them, dredge each by hand in confectioners' sugar. The cookies should be hot so the sugar coats them, but if the first one crumbles, wait a few minutes and try again.

Makes 80 cookies.

Classic Sugar Cookies

Here's our Betty Crocker recipe that Business Manager Debbie French has used and enjoyed for years. She's a fan of the Butterscotch variation, too.

¾ C. shortening (part butter or margarine softened)
1 C. sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla or ½ tsp. lemon extract
2½ C. flour (not self-rising flour)
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 400°. Mix together shortening, sugar, eggs and vanilla. Mix in dry ingredients—flour, baking powder and salt.



Cover the dough and chill in the fridge for at least an hour.

Prepare a lightly-floured, cloth-covered board. Roll out the dough to about ⅛-inch thickness. Use cookie cutters to cut dough into desired shapes. Place on an ungreased baking sheet and bake for 6 to 8 minutes (should be very light brown).

Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

Hints: To avoid crumbling and breakage, cut with rounded edges on the cookie cutters, rather than sharp edges.

To mail: wrap cookies back to back or cut them only slightly smaller in circumference than a soup or fruit juice can. Then stack baked cookies, wrap and place in can to mail.

Butterscotch Variation: Use brown sugar instead of white sugar, plus 1 cup of chopped black walnuts.

Chocolate Truffles

Associate Editor, Marci Tomassone, contributed to this recipe, which she calls "an absolutely wonderful addition to the cookie tray." Whatever you don't give away will keep in the fridge for weeks.

½ lb. good quality semi-sweet chocolate
½ lb. good quality bittersweet chocolate
1 C. heavy cream
2 Tb. orange flavored liqueur (optional)
1 Tb. prepared coffee
½ to 1 tsp. good vanilla extract
Confectioners' sugar
Cocoa powder



Cookie Swap

Between shopping, decorating and wrapping presents, holiday baking may get left on the back-burner. The solution? Host a cookie swap—like a potluck, but guests leave with dozens of different kinds of tasty cookies. Here are tips for before, during and after a very merry cookie party.

Pre-party

- Holiday schedules get packed so send invites three weeks to a month beforehand.
- Have guests bring a dozen cookies for every guest. A half dozen works if the party is over ten.
- Coordinate who brings what ahead of time, so everyone gets a yummy assortment.
- Thick, sturdy cookies are ideal, so they survive the car ride home. Think gingerbread, snickerdoodles, macaroons.

At the Party

- Display cookies on festive platters, plates and cake stands. Use place cards to label each variety and who baked them.
- Set up a packaging station with paper bakery boxes, ribbon and other trimmings.
- Make it a contest! Have guests vote on their favorite—winner takes home extra cookies or a bottle of bubbly!

Post-Party

- Have guests email their recipe afterward. Compile them and email to all the guests. Now they'll have a holiday baking cookbook for next season.

Thinly slice or shave chocolate into heat-proof bowl.

In a small saucepan, heat heavy cream until it just barely comes to a boil. Turn off and let it stand for 30 seconds. Pour through a sieve (or cheesecloth) into the chocolate shavings and, using a wire whisk, mix well until chocolate is melted.

Add coffee, vanilla and, if you like, the liqueur.

Let sit at room temperature for an hour. The mixture will start to harden enough to work with. Form balls and put on parchment-lined baking sheet. (I use a melon baller to scoop, then quickly roll into a ball. Don't handle for too long.)

Refrigerate for 1 hour. Roll in confectioner's sugar or cocoa powder.

Makes about 60.

Snickerdoodles

Also from Associate Editor, Marci Tomassone. No one really knows where the cookie got its name but theories abound. The Joy of Cooking guesses it evolved from the German word for "snail dumpling" and another source says it comes from New England where cookies were often tagged with whimsical names.

2¾ C. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
½ tp. salt



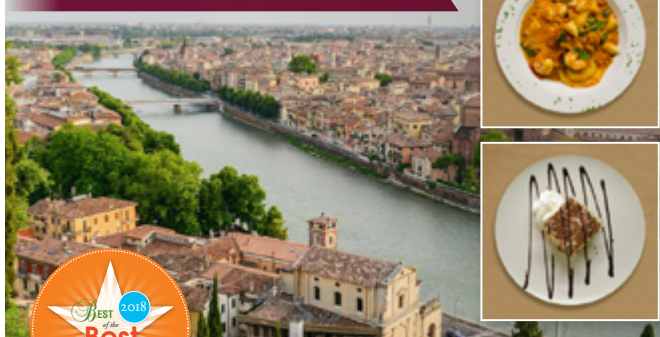
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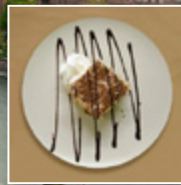
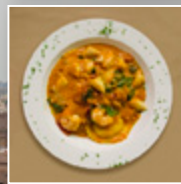
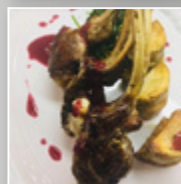
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½ C. shortening
8 Tb. (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
1½ C. plus 3 Tb. sugar
2 large eggs
1 Tb. ground cinnamon



Sift flour, baking soda and salt into a bowl and set aside.

Beat together shortening and butter (hand or standing mixer).
Add 1½ cups sugar and continue beating until light and fluffy
(5–7 minutes).

Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add
flour mixture, blend until smooth.

Mix the 3 tablespoons sugar with cinnamon in a small bowl. Roll
dough, by hand, into ½-inch balls. Roll the balls in cinnamon
sugar. Flatten balls into 1½-inch thick rounds, and space evenly on
unlined cookie sheets.

Bake until light brown, but still moist in the center, 10–12 min-
utes. Cool on a rack. Makes about 5 dozen cookies.

Coco Locos

*These cookies are a grab-bag of flavors. The recipe originally appeared in
Bon Appétit. I've revised the directions to make the recipe easier to follow.*

½ lb. butter, softened
⅔ C. light brown sugar, packed



A Sweet Bite of History

Cookies were a happy accident. Centuries ago,
bakers tested the heat of their oven by dropping a
spoonful of cake batter onto the cooking surface.
Those little drops, especially when sugar was added,
turned out to be quite tasty. Now people of almost every
culture have a cookie they call their own.

Dutch immigrants introduced the cookie to America in
the 18th century. "Cookie" derives from the Dutch word
"koekje," meaning little cake.

Betty's Crocker's Cooky Book, originally published in
1963, remains one of America's favorite cookbooks.
When it went out of print, cookie lovers bombarded
General Mills with so many requests that the book was
re-released in 2002.

A Reader's Digest survey a few years ago found
that chocolate chip and sugar cookies were America's
two most beloved holiday cookies. Third place win-
ners varied by state. In the County Lines territories of
Pennsylvania and Delaware, the pizelle—the traditional
Italian waffle cookie—took the bronze.

And Cookie Monster fans may be interested to know
that the chocolate chip cookie is not his favorite. Instead,
Cookie's fave is actually a sugar cookie, with a recipe
published in the 1970's Big Bird book.

⅔ C. granulated sugar
1 large egg
1 tsp. vanilla
1¾ C. all-purpose flour
½ tsp. baking soda
¼ tsp. salt
½ lb. chocolate, cut into ½-inch pieces
1½ C. old-fashioned rolled oats
1 C. sweetened grated coconut
½ C. chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 375°. Using an electric mixer, cream butter with
sugars until fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla.

Gradually mix in flour, baking soda and salt. By hand, stir choco-
late, oats, coconut and pecans.

Drop rounded tablespoons of dough on a cookie sheet. Bake for
12 minutes until cookies are golden. Cool on a rack.

Makes 3 dozen. ♦

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 occu-
pies a place of honor among her
700+ 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 Mil-
lions jackpot.



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