

COUNTY LINES

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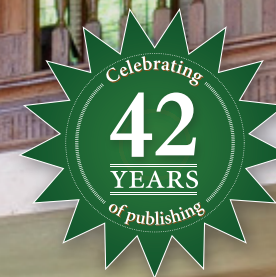
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Bank Barn | Unionville Schools
\$2,295,000



Chester Springs

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In-Law Suite | Unionville Schools
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Unionville

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Unionville-Chadds Ford School District
\$1,685,000



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In-Law Suite | 3 Car Garage
Gourmet Kitchen | Stunning Property
\$1,249,000



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Riding Ring | Cheshire Hunt
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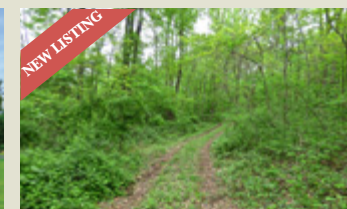
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~David R.



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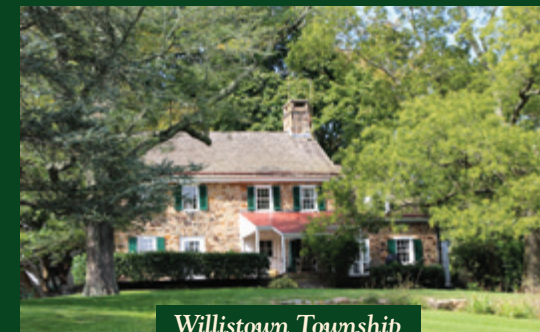


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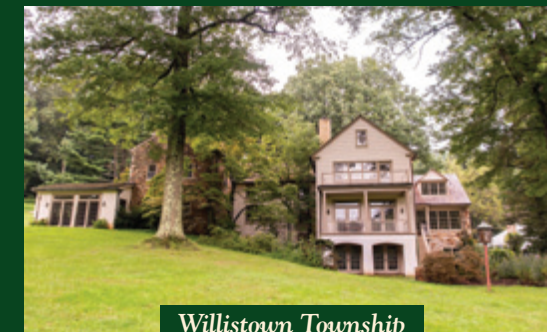


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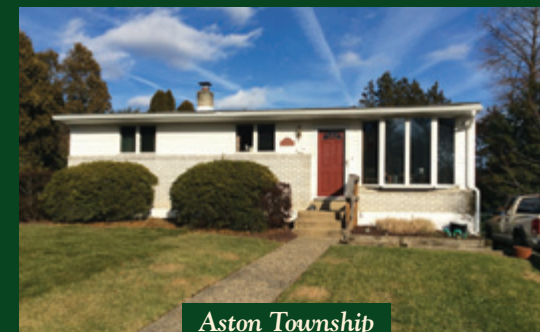
West Marlborough Township

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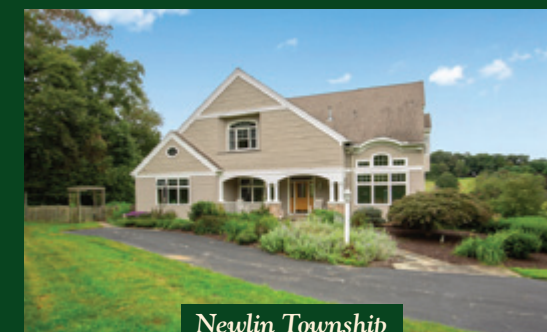
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from the
EDITOR

Our February focus is on fine homes and another important investment: our kids.

We look at independent schools' growing interest in their arts curricula. In "For the Love of Art," Ed Malet tours amazing facilities and visits creative teachers at local schools. Plus, there's a Guide to Area Independent Schools Open Houses to help you find out more on arts teaching.

Our fine home coverage begins with a Chester County home once owned by Dr. Albert Barnes, best known for his art collection. In "Fidèle's House ... Forever Green," Kirsten Werner of Natural Lands discusses the history of this local property, Ker-Feal, and the Barnes legacy.

"A Cotswolds Mansion Recreated in Chadds Ford" by Matt Freeman is our fine home feature, shown on the cover. This manor house is a replica of a place visited on a very special vacation.

Mercedes Thomas writes "A Season for Every Home (Sale)," exploring the best time to sell, and six contractors' ideas in "New Year, New Kitchens and Baths" may give you reasons *not* to sell. For indoor gardening, Elise Brown suggests considering succulents, and perhaps visiting the Philly Home + Garden show, February 15-17. And Jane Dorchester reviews the winners of West Chester's historic preservation awards.

Our town tour heads to "Downingtown and Exton," two very different towns but both worth a visit. Laurel Anderson finds plenty of great dining, beer and much more than malls.

For winter fitness, read Ray Porreca's "Get Fit Without the Fuss" for recommendations for unusual activities—including mall walking and playing in the snow. And foodies should rediscover "Cast Iron Cookery" with the help of Laura Brennan's Brandywine Table column.

We hope you make the most of February with our Family Fun and Best Local Events coverage.

And finally, you may have noticed the size of *County Lines* changed but not our great content. We're now the same size as *Philadelphia Magazine*. Not a bad model!

Thank you for reading!


Jo Anne Durako
Editor

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Fundraiser Calendar & Local Philanthropists
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Guide to Antiques Shows



COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

February 2019

Volume XLI, Number 6

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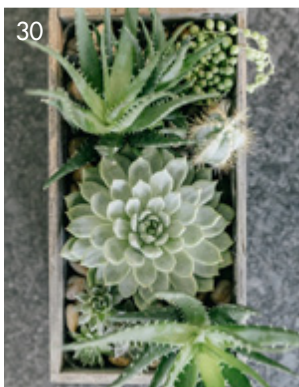
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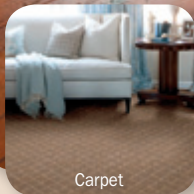
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Cover photo of this month's featured home

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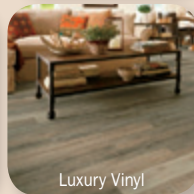


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Get Fit Without the Fuss

Ray Porreca

STAY ACTIVE THIS WINTER WITH OFF-BEAT EXERCISE IDEAS

IN AN ERA WHEN DISAGREEMENTS ARE ALL TOO common, it's hard to find common ground. However, if there's one unifying thought among most people, it's that the biting cold of winter makes finding the motivation to do *anything* difficult. Freezing winds and the inevitable dusting of snow serve as two constant—and cold—reminders that sometimes, it's just better to stay inside.

And while lounging under a warm blanket and sipping hot drinks is a great way to tune out the winter doldrums, it's also an easy way to start packing on the post-holiday pounds. There's no shame in that, of course, but if you're one of the millions of gym-averse, running-reluctant people in the world, winter ranks as the hardest season to stay fit.

Thankfully, *County Lines* has a few recommendations for simple—and sometimes silly—ways to sneak in some additional exercise during winter.

TAKE IT TO THE STAIRS

There's an episode of *The Office* where Dunder Mifflin employees deal with the frustrations of an out-of-order elevator. In the grand scheme of things, it's a non-issue, but on a list of life's most annoying minor inconveniences, being forced to take the stairs has to rank high.

But what if I told you a growing number of people are choosing to climb stairs as their primary form of exercise? Would you believe there are even stair-climbing races where competitors ascend some

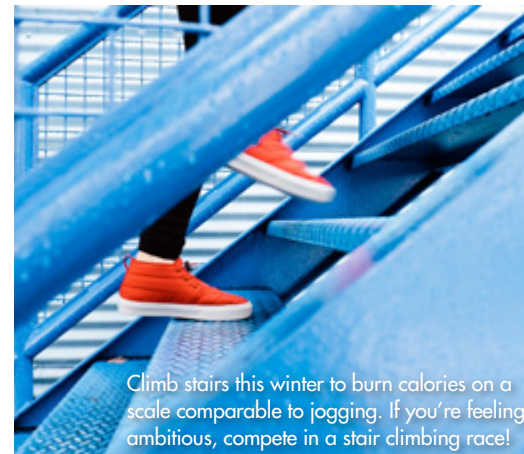
of the country's tallest skyscrapers as fast as possible? Actually, tower-running races, as they're called, are held around the world, in such places as the Eiffel Tower and Empire State Building—the latter with 86 flights, 1576 stairs and a speed record of just over 9.5 minutes.

Stair climbing is generally considered one of the best-kept secrets in outside-the-gym fitness. It's a free, low-impact workout that's astoundingly simple: find a staircase in your area and start climbing. Outdoorsy types can find online resources chronicling lengthy sets of public stairs around the globe.

Finding a building tall enough for indoor stair climbs can be a bit more difficult, and checking with the property's management is always recommended. But if you can find a solid set of stairs, get walking (or running) up them, stick with it and reap the benefits in weeks.

According to StepJockey, an organization dedicated to increasing workplace wellness, climbing a single step burns around .17 calories. By that math, ascending one flight of stairs burns 2 calories. It might not sound significant, but breaking the numbers down on a minute-by-minute scale shows that stair climbing is comparable to jogging. Consider it a better alternative to running in the winter months.

And if you enjoy stair climbing, why not take it to the next level? Philly hosts a few indoor stair climbing races, including the Fight for Air Lung Climb—50-stories up Three Logan Square on March 30—or the Big Philly Climb—a 46-floor hike up the FMC Tower. Both events require preparation and a penchant for pushing yourself up an unfathomable number of stairs, but completing the challenge is the ultimate test of stair climbing mastery.



Climb stairs this winter to burn calories on a scale comparable to jogging. If you're feeling ambitious, compete in a stair climbing race!

STROLL AROUND THE MALL (SHOPPING OPTIONAL)

As author Charles Baxter once pointed out, "there is no weather in malls." Because of this, the distinctly American covered chapels of capitalism have endured popularity among groups of exercise seekers. You've probably heard, or seen, mall walkers at your local shopping oasis. But have you ever considered taking a leisurely stroll yourself?

Mall walking, as you might expect, is a straightforward exercise. Malls are generally well lit and flat, making them an ideal location to walk around and burn a few calories. As an exercise, mall walking is a great option for senior citizens, given the climate-controlled locations. Of course, it's hardly an elder-exclusive exercise, and many towns have dedicated mall-walking groups.

With the Exton Square Mall and King of Prussia Mall nearby, you're likely only a few miles away from a safe place to walk throughout the winter. It might not be the most glamorous form of fitness, but mall walking comes with an added entertainment bonus: there's plenty of people watching and window shopping to do.

USE THE SNOW TO GET IN SHAPE

Death and taxes might be the two best-known certainties in life, but dealing with snow during a Chester County winter is an annoyingly high probability. When faced with the prospect of icy roads and slippery conditions, many people would rather hunker down and avoid leaving the house

once snow starts falling. If you find yourself stuck at home due to a snow storm, consider using frozen precipitation as an off-beat method of working out.

Anyone who has ever shoveled a driveway knows that snow can be deceptively dense. Because of this, a winter wonderland can quickly become an impromptu outdoor gym. Playing in the snow, as it turns out, is an excellent form of resistance training.

Think about it. Something as simple as building a snowman is a great way to work out specific muscle groups. Recreating Frosty isn't just for children—rolling, shaping and building a snow person works your legs, back and arms. And if you're feeling hungry after, just take a bite of the carrot nose when no one's looking.

If you have kids, consider moonlighting as a reindeer once the snow falls. Have the little ones climb into a sled and start pulling them through the winter wonderland. It's a less glorified version of strongmen dragging 18-wheelers, sure, but it's probably much more adorable. Your kids will thank you, and you'll get a great workout, too.

It's not uncommon for people to dislike the snow as they get older. Without the prospect of school closings or early work dismissals, snow can seem like a drag. Greet the next snowfall as a training partner instead of a weather-based annoyance and maybe, just maybe, you'll burn enough calories to enjoy a cup of cocoa loaded with marshmallows once the sun goes down.

IF ALL ELSE FAILS ... JUST WATCH TV

Look, we're not here to judge. The *County Lines* staff is a decidedly pro-television group. We talk about our favorite shows, the upcoming series we want to watch and lament we can't spend every day bingeing reruns of *Parts Unknown*.

It wasn't until recently, though, that we discovered a way to watch TV *and* sneak some extra activity in too—without cumbersome exercise equipment tucked in front of the flatscreen.

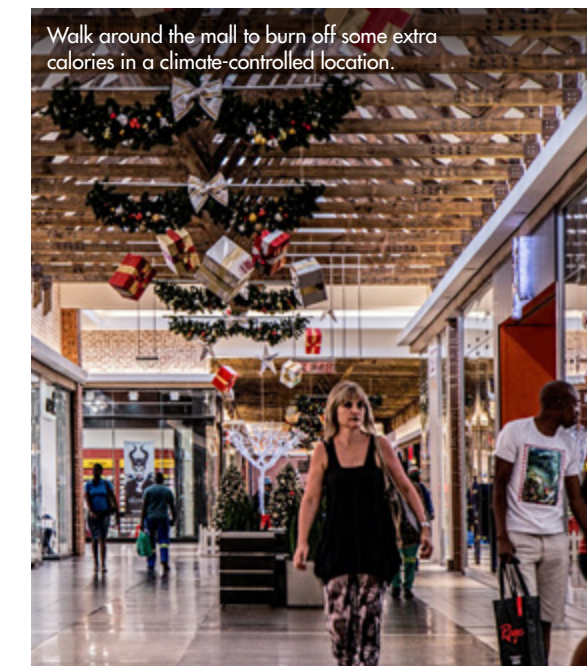
Allow us to introduce you to active TV watching. You can thank us by renewing your subscription to the magazine.

Like the other exercises in this article, active TV watching is so simple you'll be disappointed you didn't start doing it sooner. Here's what you do: put on your favorite show, start watching and use commercial breaks to pump out a few jumping jacks, push-ups or laps around the house.

If it sounds silly, that's okay. You're doing it from the comfort of your own home. Odds are the only people who see your active TV exercises are your closest confidants and family members. They've all seen you do weirder things, I'm sure.

The proposed introduction to active TV watching assumes you're viewing programs on regular cable broadcasts. In our digital world, there are plenty of streaming services that cut out commercials entirely. Fear not. Netflix has a countdown between episodes. Since you're not dealing with commercial breaks when streaming, take the time to pause between episodes—don't let the next one start automatically—and get your exercise in. Consider doing three sets in rapid succession to make up for the missing commercials.

If you watch enough TV and commit to an active viewing lifestyle, you'll be in better shape (and considerably more media literate) by the time spring starts poking through the cloudy skies. ♦



Walk around the mall to burn off some extra calories in a climate-controlled location.

Build a snowman with your kids for some resistance training and to work out the muscles in your legs, arms and back.



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[Good to Know]

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

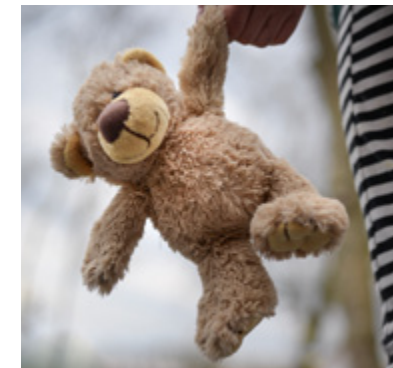


Be My ... Galentine.

Though its roots may be in *Parks and Recreation*, Galentine's Day moved from sitcom to reality and is now a fun tradition for many, um, gals. Each year on February 13—yes, the day before—women meet up to celebrate the joys

of female friendship. So, ladies, group text your besties, do drinks and toast one another as you share why you value these gals. A perfect way to remind the women in your life that they're loved!

Giving Back ... with Bears. This Valentine's day, give double the love by shopping with **Bears for Humanity**. When you buy a teddy bear for your sweetheart, Bears for Humanity also donates a bear to a child in need through their partnerships with several charities. You can send extra love by writing a personalized message along with your donation bear. A perfect way to have a warmer and fuzzier Valentine's Day. BearsForHumanity.com.



Tell a Tale.

Celebrate the special magic of fairy tales on February 26, **National Fairy Tale Day**, by spending time storytelling with your family. Fairy tales, once known as myths or legends told by traveling storytellers, are now sweet stories beloved by children of all ages. Mark your calendar to cozy up under your fluffiest blanket with your kids to read your favorites, their favorites or make up your own new tales and do some family bonding! More at NationalDayCalendar.com.

Spring is Coming.

While Punxsutawney Phil may be the most popular **weather predicting groundhog**, he's certainly not alone. There's Buckeye Chuck, Ohio's official groundhog rep since 1979, Thistle the Whistlepig of Ohio, the youngest of the lot who made her first prediction at 8 months old, and General Beauregard, who boasts a 94% accuracy rating and two honorary doctorates. One thing they all share—they'll crawl out of their burrows to give their best prediction for when spring will arrive!



Valentine Notes.

Looking for a new way to say "I love you" this Valentine's Day? Send your significant other a Singing Valentine delivered by the **Mainliner's Chorus**, an award-winning a cappella group. Your unsuspecting sweetheart will be surprised and serenaded by one of the Mainliners Quartets delivering two love songs, a rose, personalized card and heart-shaped box of chocolate. Make it memorable, and say it with a song. \$60–\$85. More details at Mainliners.org.



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February Picks

Our Picks for top events this month

2019 Philadelphia Auto Show

February 1-10

Visit one of the top auto shows in the country, with over 700 vehicles from more than 40 manufacturers. **Feb. 1**, Black Tie Tailgate, 7 p.m., benefits the Dept. of Nursing at Children's Hospital of Phila. Tickets \$250 and up. *PA Convention Center*,



1101 Arch St., Philadelphia. Check website for show hours and info. \$7-\$14. 215-418-2000; PhillyAutoShow.com.

Nina Simone: Four Women at People's Light

February 27-March 31

Framed by Nina Simone's song *Four Women*, this music-filled contemplation on colorism and Black womanhood features popular hits and iconic Civil Rights anthems from the "High Priestess of Soul." Christina Ham's new play imagines a chance encounter between the legendary songstress and a trio of women at the site of the historic 16th Street Baptist Church bombing. *People's Light*, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. \$30-\$53. Check website for times. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.



Jump! For Willowdale Steeplechase

February 23

Party the night away with DJ Freeze, cocktails, a photo booth and a silent auction at this epic fundraiser that benefits Stroud Water Research Center, The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's New Bolton Center and Quest Therapeutic Services. *Yellow House*, 101 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. 8 to 11 p.m. \$65. 610-444-1582; WillowdaleSteeplechase.org.

Berks County Wine Trail Delicious Chocolate & Wine Event

February 9-10, 16-17

Enjoy two weekends pairing wines with chocolates. Toast Valentines' Day with someone special, or round up friends for an adventure. Take a ride on the wine trail and sample chocolates and confections paired with featured wines of the region. Visit each of the 11 participating wineries along the Berks County Wine Trail to fall in love with your favorite pairing combo. Noon to 5 p.m. \$10-\$12. Check promo code in the January issue of *County Lines*. Visit BerksCountyWineTrail.com for participating wineries.



Kennett Winterfest

February 23

Bundle up and enjoy winter brews from 60 unique craft breweries, live music and food trucks. Ticket price includes unlimited tastings of delicious craft beer. Visit the event website for a complete brewery list. Benefits Historic Kennett Square. 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. 12:30 to 4 p.m., \$60; designated driver, \$15. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.



best Local Events

FAMILY FUN

THROUGH FEBRUARY,
Tuesdays

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

THROUGH MARCH 3

The Snow Queen. A new musical based on Hans Christian Anderson's story. Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. Sun, noon. \$12–\$15. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

FEBRUARY 2

Winter Carnival & Super Science Saturday at Montgomery School. Kids will enjoy face painting, hands-on projects, games, science experiments and more. 1141 Kimberton Rd., Chester Springs. 11 to 1. Free. 610-601-4342; MontgomerySchool.org.

FEBRUARY 9

Wayne Art Center Family Workshop: Day of Clay. Learn how to create a family of polar bears using clay and sculpting tools. 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. 1 to 2:30. \$35. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

FEBRUARY 10

Chinese New Year Celebration at Delaware Art Museum. Celebrate The Year of the Pig with traditional Chinese art activities, a lion and folk dance, a Chinese yo-yo performance, and a performance by the Renaissance Chinese Opera Society. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 11 to 3. Free. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.



FEBRUARY 17

Into the Wild Live! with Jack Hanna at Keswick Theatre. Jungle Jack Hanna has explored the corners of the globe as one of the most respected animal ambassadors and brings his experiences to the Keswick Theatre, 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. 3 pm. \$29.50–\$59.50. 215-572-7650; KeswickTheatre.com.

FEBRUARY 18, MARCH 9

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

FEBRUARY 23

Pancake Breakfast and Maple Sugaring Celebration at Tyler Arboretum. Learn how maple sugar is turned from sap into syrup, then satisfy your appetite with Tyler's famous all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast. Snow date March 2. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 8 am to 1 pm. \$10–\$16, under 3 free. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.



MARCH 2–3

Delaware Mineralogical Society's Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show. The show features exhibits of mineral, lapidary and fossil specimens, displays from regional and university museums, fine dealers of minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry and lapidary supplies, demonstrations and a children's table. DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pk., Wilmington. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 5. \$4–\$6. 410-392-6826; DelMinSociety.net.

ART, CRAFT & ANTIQUES.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY 3

Malvern Retreat House Art Show & Sale. Featuring nearly 100 juried artists. The theme this year will be "Water." Jan. 31, complimentary wine and cheese social, 5 to 8 pm. Malvern Retreat House, McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center, 315 S. Warren Ave., Malvern. Wed–Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 4. Free. Benefits Malvern Retreat House. 610-644-0400; MalvernRetreat.com.



THROUGH FEBRUARY 4

Academy of Notre Dame de Namur 46th Annual Fine Art Show & Sale. Featuring nearly 100 artists' works in a variety of mediums. Academy Mansion, 560 Sproul Rd., Villanova. Art on display Sat–Sun, noon to 4. Free. NDAPA.org/ArtShow.

MARCH 9, 16–17

37th Annual Chester County Antiques and Arts Show. The show features fine collections from 42 antiques dealers. Benefits the collections, conservation and educational activities of Chester County Historical Society. Church Farm School, 1001 E. Lincoln Hwy., Exton. Preview Party Mar. 9, 5 to 9, \$150–\$200. Show hours: Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5. \$15. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.



BOOKS.....

FEBRUARY 7, 21

Wellington Square Bookshop. Non-Fiction: Feb. 7, *The Heminges of Monticello* by Annette Gordon-Reed, 7 to 9; **Fiction:** Feb. 20–21, *Love and Ruin* by Paula McLain, Wed–Thurs, 2 to 4, Thurs, 7 to 9. 549 Wellington Square, Exton. 610-458-1144; WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

BRIDAL SHOWS.....

FEBRUARY 24

West Chester Wedding Guide. Over 45 vendors to meet, a fashion show, complimentary food and drinks and great prizes, including a "Dream Date" in West Chester. American Helicopter Museum, 1220 American Blvd., West Chester. 11 to 2. Free for the bride and groom and 1 guest each. Others, \$10. 267-222-8325; WCWeddingGuide.com.



BOAT SHOWS.....

FEBRUARY 27–MARCH 3

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

DANCE.....

MARCH 8

WCU—Live! The National Dance Company of Ireland—"Rhythm of the Dance." The show includes a large cast of step dancers, live musicians, Irish singers and a sean nós dancer. This is a richly costumed show that marries the contemporary and the ancient. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$15–\$27. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu/Live.



DESIGN HOMES/HOME SHOWS.....

FEBRUARY 1–3

Suburban Pennsylvania Spring Home



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

FEBRUARY 15–17

Philly Home + Garden Show. Visitors will find fresh inspiration, helpful tips, innovative products and fantastic deals on remodeling, home improvement, décor and outdoor spaces from hundreds of experts. Greater Phila. Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Fri, 11 to 9;

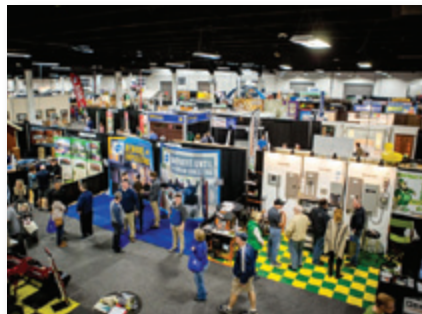


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FILM.....
FEBRUARY 21-22
12th Annual Trail Creek Outfitters Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Enjoy two nights of envi-



ronmental films highlighting outdoor adventure, environmental concerns and beautiful cinematography. Light refreshments served. Benefits Stroud Water Research Center and The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County. Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High St., West Chester. 7 pm. One night, \$30; two nights, \$50. TrailCreekOutfitters.com.

FOOD.....
FEBRUARY 10
The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County—Cooking with Nature Series. Join in for an informative and social cooking experience featuring a specific, seasonal food with a presentation. This month: Maple Syrup. Bucktoe Creek Preserve, 432 Sharp Rd., Avondale. 11:30 am. \$40. 610-347-0347, ext. 109; TLCForSCC.org.



FUNDRAISERS.....
FEBRUARY 9
Philadelphia Heart Ball. Gourmet dinner, live and silent auctions and entertainment to celebrate the efforts of all who give their time to the American Heart and American Stroke Associations. Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St., Phila. 6 to 11 pm. \$1,000. 215-575-5204; PhiladelphiaHeartBall.Heart.org.
FEBRUARY 9
Polar Plunge. Dip a toe or take the plunge in the Brandywine Creek for this annual fundraiser. Benefits the conservation of natural resources of the Brandywine and Red Clay Valleys. Brandywine Picnic Park, 690 S. Creek Rd., West Chester. 10 am. \$25–\$35. 610-793-1090; BrandywineRedClay.org.



FEBRUARY 23
2019 Lights of Life Gala. Join the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition for this year's gala "Havana Nights." Dover Downs Hotel & Casino,

1131 N. DuPont Hwy., Dover, DE. 5 to 9. \$125. DBCC.ejoinme.org/Lights19.

MARCH 2
Cheers for CHOP. An evening of music, cocktails, dancing and an incredible silent auction. Benefits the Division of Orthopaedics, at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The Fillmore Philadelphia, 29 E. Allen St., Philadelphia. VIPs, 7 pm; event, 7:30 to midnight; post-party, at midnight. Tickets \$150 and up. CheersForChop.edu.



GARDENS.....
THROUGH MARCH 24
Longwood Gardens—Orchid Extravaganza. The conservatory transforms into a tropical oasis featuring an astonishing display of orchids. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 9 to 6. Timed tickets req., \$12–\$23. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

MARCH 1-10
The Philadelphia Flower Show. This year's show celebrates "Flower Power," paying tribute to the enormous impact of flowers on our lives. Some special events include: **Mar. 1**, preview party—an elegant fundraiser with dancing and dining, 7 pm, \$500. **Mar. 2**, Beatlemania, an evening of "flower power" and sixties-styled fun among the gardens, 8:30, \$85. PA Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Phila. \$17–\$38. 215-988-8800; TheFlowerShow.com.



MUSEUMS.....
THROUGH JANUARY 5, 2020
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. **Mar. 30–Jan. 5, 2020**, "Costuming *The Crown*," featuring 40 iconic costumes from the award-winning drama. 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 in the Hotel du Pont. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8, free after 4; Fri–Sun, 10 to 4. \$6–\$12, Sun, free. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

THROUGH MAY 27
Brandywine River Museum of Art. *Through Feb. 17*, "Winslow Homer: Photography and the Art of


Painting;" **Mar. 9–May 27**, "American Beauty: Selections from the Richard M. Scaife Bequest." 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 5. \$6–\$18. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT.....
THROUGH FEBRUARY
Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. **Feb. 1–2**, Chosen Dance Company presents Make. It. Funky.; **Feb. 3**, Opera tutti presents "The True Story of Cinderella;" **Feb. 9**, Curtis on Tour; **Feb. 11**, screening of "Live the Stream: The Story of Joe Humphreys;" **Feb. 14**, Dueling Pianos; **Feb. 15**,



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Jazz Cocktail Hour with Paula Johns in a tribute to Burt Bacharach and Dionne Warwick; **Feb. 22**, Blues N' Brews at Uptown! **Feb. 23**, Live at the Fillmore. 226 N. High St., West Chester. 610-356-2787; UptownWestChester.org.



THROUGH FEBRUARY 9

Valley Forge Casino Resort. **Feb. 1**, Brad Trackman; **Feb. 8**, Mike Britt; **Feb. 9**, "Space Oddity" the Ultimate David Bowie Experience; **Feb. 9**, Moody McCarthy and Regina DeCicco; **Feb. 22**, Chuck Nice. 1160 1st Ave., King of Prussia. Visit website for times and tickets. 610-354-8118; VFCasino.com.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 15

The Keswick Theatre Presents. **Feb. 1**, The McCartney Years; **Feb. 2**, Peabo Bryson; **Feb. 7**, Masters of Illusion Live; **Feb. 15**, Who's Bad: Michael Jackson Tribute Band; **Feb. 16**, Neal

Morse Band; **Feb. 17**, Into the Wild Live with Jack Hanna; **Feb. 22**, An Evening of Stand Up Comedy with Seth Meyers; **Feb. 23**, Disco Love: A Tribute to Donna Summer and Barry White; **Feb. 24**, London African Gospel Choir; **Feb. 28**, Travis Greene & Mosaic MSC; **Mar. 2**, Calling All Divas; **Mar. 3**, Alan Parsons Project Live; **Mar. 6**, The Monkees Feat Mike Nesmith and Micky Dolenz. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Visit website for times and tickets. 215-572-7650; KeswickTheatre.com.



THROUGH MARCH 2

Longwood Gardens Performance Series. **Feb. 17**, Parker Kitterman; **Feb. 24**, Curtis Student recitals; **Mar. 2**, Philadanco. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Check website for many more performances and times. Free with gardens admission, \$12–\$23. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

FEBRUARY 2

Point Entertainment Presents. Loudon Wainwright III and Susan Werner perform. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. \$27.50–\$36.50. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.



FEBRUARY 9, MARCH 9

Darlington Arts Center Coffee House Concerts. **Feb. 9**, Heidi Hayes, blues, rock and smooth jazz; **Mar. 9**, Belfast Connection, Irish folk. 977 Shavertown Rd.,

Garnet Valley. 8 pm. \$15. 610-358-3632; DarlingtonArts.org.

FEBRUARY 10

Immaculata Symphony Youth Concert. The symphony performs a program entitled Cosmic Classics. Afterward, children are invited on stage to meet the musicians and their instruments. Immaculata College, Alumnae Hall, 1145 King Rd., Immaculata. 3 pm. \$10. ImmaculataSymphony.org.



FEBRUARY 10

Delaware County Symphony Chamber Series Concert—No Strings Attached. Featuring a potpourri of music for woodwinds, brass and percussion. Neumann University, Meagher Theatre, One Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$15. 610-879-7059; DCSMusic.org.

FEBRUARY 15

WCU—Live! "Married to Broadway." Ron Sharpe and Barbra Russell perform showstopping numbers from *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, *Evita*, *West Side Story* and more. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$15–\$27. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu/Live.



FEBRUARY 22

Friday Night Live Concert at the Community Arts Center. "Acoustic Dead," an unplugged evening of the Grateful Dead. 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. 7:30 pm. \$15. 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org.

FEBRUARY 22–24

Lancaster Roots & Blues. Celebrate the roots of American music as pop artists including Albert Cummings, BB King Blues Band, Live at the Fillmore, Mama Tried and more at various locations through Lancaster. Tickets \$55 and

up. For details, visit their website, LancasterRootsAndBlues.com.



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FEBRUARY 23

Theatre Organ Open Console Event. The Theatre Organ Society of the DE Valley invites everyone, from amateurs to professionals, to bring the mighty Wurlitzer to life during this event and enter the pipe chambers to see the inner workings of the organ. See demonstrations of how the organ is capable of storing, within its memory, music played by world renowned organists in the past. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 10 to 1. Free. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

THEATER.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY 10

Sweat. Winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Sweat* is a 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.

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 24

Julius Caesar. Shakespeare's political thriller tells the story of the conspiracy against Caesar, his assassination and the defeat of his conspirators. Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. Check website for show times and tickets. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

FEBRUARY 6-24

St. Joan. This epic story brings renewed life to one of history's greatest heroines as she pushes the boundaries of a society dominated by political and religious forces. Written by George Bernard Shaw; adapted by Chelsea Marcantel. Check website for times and tickets. 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.



FEBRUARY 8-9

The Vagina Monologues. Bravo Theatre presents this play at Sprout Music Collective, 130 E. Prescott Alley, West Chester. Benefits the Crime Victim's Center of Chester County. 7:30 pm. \$20. 570-766-1139; BravoTheatreCompany.org.

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 31

Nina Simone: Four Women. People's Light. See February Picks.

TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....

FEBRUARY 1, 9, 21

First Fridays, Second Saturdays, Third Thursdays. Feb. 1, 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.

Feb. 9, Second Saturday Arts Stroll: *Media*, 484-445-4161; MediaArtsCouncil.org.

Feb. 21, Malvern Sip & Stroll, Malvern-Business.com. ♦

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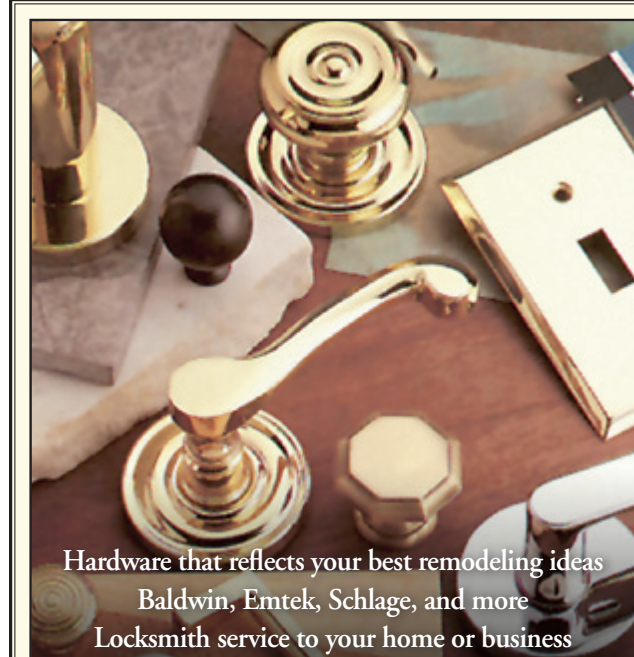
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Front of farmhouse, below, after additions with two automobiles parked in drive, 1941. Virginia Werden. Photograph Collection. Barnes Foundation Archives, Philadelphia, PA

Fidèle's House ... Forever Green

Kirsten Werner, Natural Lands

When I looked out the window at Ker-Feal this morning, God went over the head of all artists in my estimation: He had made a picture of wide fields and luscious hills covered with an immaculate white; and holding the fields and hills together in the composition was a beautiful network of white lines made up of lacy patterns of branches of trees and twigs of bushes.

~ Letter from Albert C. Barnes to Mrs. Owen J. Roberts, March 30, 1942



MOST PEOPLE WHO KNOW OF ALBERT BARNES think of the extraordinary art collection he left in trust for the public, first at his Lower Merion home and then later moved to a modern museum on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia. The world-class collection includes over 181 Renoirs, 69 Cezannes, 59 Matisse's, 46 Picassos and so much more.

But few know about another residence in Chester County, home to a different type of collection.

Here's a short version of that story.

BARNES'S EARLY YEARS

The son of a Philadelphia letter carrier, Albert C. Barnes grew up in the working-class neighborhood of Kensington, and later in a slum area known as "the Neck." Excelling in academics, he went on to earn a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania and then traveled to Germany to study chemistry.

At 30, he went into business with fellow chemist Herman Hille. Together, they created Argyrol, a silver nitrate compound that was used to treat ophthalmic infections and to prevent newborn infant blindness caused by gonorrhea. Barnes's fortune grew when he sold the A.C. Barnes Company, which trademarked Argyrol, just three months before the stock market crash of 1929.

Dr. Barnes used some of the proceeds from the Argyrol sale to amass the priceless art collection he displayed in Merion, Montgomery County, known as The Barnes Foundation. This collection was relocated to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia in 2012 where it is displayed in the same "wall ensembles"—mixing paintings with metal work and other objects—as Barnes created in Merion.

KER-FEAL

Dr. Barnes and his wife, Laura Leggett Barnes, acquired an 18th-century farmhouse in Chester Springs, Chester County in 1940

and called it "Ker-Feal." Named after Barnes's favorite dog, Fidèle de Port Manech, Ker-Feal translates to "Fidèle's House" in Breton. Dr. Barnes adopted the Brittany spaniel mix on a trip to France.

The original fieldstone farmhouse at Ker-Feal was built in 1775 and consists of eight rooms, including the original kitchen. Dr. and Mrs. Barnes expanded the structure with wings on either side, reserving the 18th-century rooms for displaying American decorative arts: Pennsylvania German furniture, elaborate hand-wrought metal work and pottery.

Laura Barnes focused her attention on the out-of-doors, developing the landscape design at the 137-acre property.

As Dr. Barnes once explained, "Ker-Feal is not only a historic monument embodying a proper composition of furniture of the pre-Revolutionary period but the grounds are being made a composition of trees, shrubs, etc., which, together with the house and its contents, forms a larger composition that embodies the practical results of an education in aesthetics—that is intelligent, enjoyable living."

Dr. Barnes was driving Chester County's winding roads back to Merion from Ker-Feal when he ran a stop sign and was struck and killed by a tractor-trailer. Fidèle, Barnes's constant companion, was so injured by the crash that he was euthanized.

Laura Barnes continued to use the country house until her death in 1966.

TODAY

Ker-Feal was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. Just last year, the 137-acre grounds were placed under conservation easement with Natural Lands, ensuring the property will remain the green and lovely setting that Dr. Barnes cherished.

A conservation easement, which protects Ker-Feal, is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust—in this case between the Barnes Foundation and Nat-

ural Lands—to permanently limit uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. Conservation easements must provide some public benefits, such as scenic views, water quality, wildlife habitat and historic preservation.

Chester County and West Pikeland Township provided support for the Ker-Feal easement.

In addition to dense woodlands and sweeping farm fields, Ker-Feal includes other key natural features worthy of protection, including the headwaters of a tributary of Pine Creek, which flows into Pickering Creek. In addition, a section of the 140-mile Horse-Shoe Trail traverses the length of the property. The conservation easement includes provisions for the trail, which runs from Valley Forge National Historical Park to Harrisburg.

"As stewards of this property, we are grateful to Natural Lands, Chester County and West Pikeland Township for the opportunity to preserve the open space and rural character of Ker-Feal in perpetuity," said Thom Collins, executive director and president of the Barnes Foundation.

Preservation of the Ker-Feal property complements the legacy of Dr. Albert Barnes and the Barnes Foundation. ♦

Natural Lands is dedicated to preserving and nurturing nature's wonders while creating opportunities for joy and discovery in the outdoors for everyone. As the Greater Philadelphia region's oldest and largest land conservation organization, Natural Lands has preserved more than 125,000 acres, including 43 nature preserves totaling more than 23,000 acres. Some 2.5 million people live within five miles of land under the organization's protection. Land for life, nature for all. More at NatLands.org.



Black and white photos are from the Library of Congress. The 1942 House & Garden magazine cover of Ker-Feal, with Dr. and Mrs. Barnes and Fidèle, courtesy of Carla Zambelli.

About the Archives' Photos

The earliest photos of Dr. and Mrs. Barnes's country home were most likely taken soon after its purchase in 1940 by one of the Doctor's secretaries, Virginia Werden, who worked for the Barnes Foundation from 1940 to 1944 while attending pre-med night classes at Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Werden's photos of Ker-Feal document the size and condition of the 18th-century fieldstone farmhouse and grounds before Dr. Barnes hired the architectural firm of Kneedler, Mirick & Zantlinger to create two additions—an expansion necessary to accommodate his growing collection of American decorative art and to provide modern living space.

Another set of black and white photos dated September 1941, after the repairs and additions were completed, were stamped by the Jenkintown Camera Shop. Since the negative sleeve bears the name and address of Dr. Werden, who lived in Jenkintown at the time, this set has also been attributed to her. When compared, the two sets of photos offer a "before and after," a remarkable visual record of Dr. Barnes's restoration and renovation of Ker-Feal.



Glam Up Your Indoor Gardening This Winter With Succulents

Elise Brown

Y EARNING TO START GARDENING, DESPITE THE winter temperatures? Consider trendy, exotic-looking succulents, the perfect green option for this time of year. But why succulents?

“Succulents are striking-looking, with a variety of colors, textures and shapes that can add a dramatic, ornamental touch,” says Amy Scipioni, succulent buyer for Floral & Hardy of Skippack, which is hosting the Succulent Bar at the Philly Home + Garden Show at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center from February 15 through 17. “They’re well-suited to almost any interior style and are practically indestructible.”

Succulents are available in a broad range of tender and hardy varieties from garden centers in our area such as Vault + Vine in Philadelphia and other locations in the western suburbs. You’ll find different colors, shapes and sizes of succulents, letting you design your own combinations in planters or terrariums. Check out Mostardi Nursery in Newtown Square and Matlack Florist in West Chester, which sells individual succulents as well as arrangements like Succulent Trio or Simply Succulents.

When selecting plants for your home or office, consider the intended location. Some popular tender (indoor) types include aloe, crassula, jade and kalanchoe, while hardier varieties—such as sedums and sempervivums (hen-and-chicks)—can withstand some frost and add interest to outdoor gardens.

A tip to help relieve the winter doldrums is to experiment with these striking plants, using them solo or mixed in decorative containers that complement their unique look.

Make sure to use containers with good drainage, along with the specially-blended, well-aerated soil that’s formulated for succulents and cacti. Then place the plants in a location that gets 6–12 hours of bright, indirect light per day, such as a south-facing window. Use great restraint in watering (water only enough to dampen the soil, every 10 days or even longer).

Smaller succulents can also be grown in an open terrarium as a miniature garden. Closed terrariums are too humid of an environment for these plants.

Whether planted solo or in clusters, succulents will provide you with an interesting indoor winter gallery to admire year-round. ♦

FIND OUT MORE AT THE HOME SHOW

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Greater Phila. Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks

WHEN: February 15–17

HOURS: Fri., 11 to 9; Sat., 10 to 9; Sun., 10 to 6

TICKETS: \$11; 12 and under, free

INFORMATION: 610-940-1677; PhillyHomeAndGarden.com



Succulents are available in a great variety of colors and textures to mix and match for your Instagram posts.



Choose a variety of shapes and sizes. Here, an arrangement of graptosedum, echeveria and echeveria sempervivum (Hens and Chicks).



Choose a special planter and put together an assortment. Succulents can be planted together in groups because their light, soil and water requirements are the same, and they have the same growth habit. Here, echeveria Perle Von Nurnberg, aloe Black Gem, String of Pearls, kalanchoe tomentosa.



Close-up of String of Pearls (senecio rowleyanus), which holds water in its bead-like “leaves.”



More shapes and textures. Middle: echeveria runyonii Topsy Turvy, echeveria colorata Special. Bottom: echeveria crenulata, kalanchoe synsepala



Ruby Jones Hall, West Chester University

SAVING HISTORIC TREASURES West Chester's 8th Preservation Award Winners

Jane E. Dorchester, Founding Preservation Awards Committee Chair

Take a closer look at the people and places that contribute to West Chester's special character.

For eight years, the West Chester Downtown Foundation has been celebrating the preservation of West Chester's historic character with its West Chester Historic Preservation Awards Program. These efforts have contributed to the Borough being nationally recognized for its efforts to preserve its heritage. Residents and visitors to this charming Chester County town see evidence of this important work and commitment.

Awards are made for a variety of contri-

butions to preserving the historic fabric of West Chester. This year, for the first time, a private property owner's effort to preserve—at least in part—the historic *landscape* of the Borough was recognized with one of the five Bricks and Mortar Awards made at the awards ceremony on October 18, 2018.

Bricks and Mortar Awards recognize different types of construction projects of sterling quality that demonstrate the creative ways that buildings can be preserved, restored or rehabilitated.



The old Woolworth's building (c. 1920s)
now Iron Hill Brewery



The Dower House and Chimney Hill homes, northeast of High Street

AND THE WINNERS ...

Perhaps one of the most iconic and well-known sites in West Chester, at the corner of High and Gay Streets, is the location of the first winner. **Iron Hill Brewery** (3 West Gay Street) won for the 1998 adaptive reuse of the c. 1920 Woolworth's Building, converting it into a restaurant and micro-brewery. The project included dividing the

original retail space into three different areas for a restaurant, bar and micro-brewery. This project clearly illustrates the benefits to West Chester's historic fabric of carefully adapting historic resources to new uses.

Another winner is also a site that many in West Chester have seen, or maybe even visited. **Ruby Jones Hall** (50 University Avenue) was selected for the successful long-term reha-

bilitation of the old Demonstration School Building into a classroom and office building known as Ruby Jones Hall.

The rehabilitation of this property included façade repairs, foundation damp-proofing, porch roof restoration, and HVAC systems upgrades to connect with the recent campus-wide geo-thermal system at West Chester University. This project demonstrates that careful rehabilitations can retain the historic fabric of older buildings, while still allowing active use.

The Dower House and Chimney Hill Residences (100–102 Goshen Road) received an award in recognition of the Dower House owner's efforts to preserve the historic landscape of the northern entrance into West Chester by subdividing the property into two lots, rather than four, and in recognition of the Chimney Hill owners' efforts to insert a new house in a way that preserved the illusion of open space.

The Biddle Guest House (519 North High Street) was recognized as a good example of how sensitive additions can enhance historic houses and still meet the



The Biddle Guest House, 519 N. High Street

needs of modern families. The back of this house had been burdened with an addition built in an incompatible style.

In 2017, that addition was replaced with a garden room designed at a compatible scale and that used materials and architectural details found throughout the main house. As a bonus, the new addition gives direct access to the garden and allows light into the interior of the house.

The c. 1870 House (401 West Union Street) won for the superb restoration done by its current owners. Over the past 18 years, using historic photographs of their house, the owners have carefully restored the exterior, including the house's wooden architectural elements and the cast iron porch supports and decorative elements, along with the exterior of the carriage house. This project is a highly visible showcase of exceptional restoration efforts.

MORE WINNERS

In addition to the five winners of Bricks and Mortar Awards, two outstanding citizens of West Chester were recognized with individual awards.

Kay "Kate" Eby Moore was posthumously presented with a **Special Recognition Award** for her early advocacy for preserving West Chester's historic resources. Kay was best known as the creator of West Chester's highly successful Old Fashioned Christmas celebration, including its award-winning Christmas Parade.

The **2018 Preservation Legacy Award** went to **Thomas M. Walsh** in recognition of his efforts to educate the public about West Chester's history. His work has been critical in establishing community support for preserving the Borough's historic character, including chairing the predecessor to the Historical and Architectural Review Board.

YEAR NINE

The 9th Annual Preservation Awards will kick-off when nominations open in April (the deadline is in June). Nomination forms and rules are available at the West Chester BID office or on-line at *DowntownWestChester.com*. Winners will be announced in July, with the Awards Ceremony scheduled for October 17, 2019.

Please help recognize projects that have enhanced West Chester's historic character and integrity by submitting a nomination and be part of this important process! ♦



1870 House, 401 West Union Street



West Chesters Christmas Parade, part of a tradition started by Kay "Kate" Eby Moore



Thomas M. Walsh, winner of the 2018 Preservation Legacy Award

Photos for this article courtesy: Timlyn Vaughan Photography

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DOWNINGTOWN & EXTON

Laurel Anderson

TWO VERY DIFFERENT TOWNS, BUT BOTH WORTH EXPLORING AGAIN



Dane Decor's showrooms include a converted church space.



The showrooms were the venue for Downingtown's mayor's wedding reception, duly covered in *The New York Times* wedding section.

DOWNINGTOWN HAS GREAT RANGE.

In just a few miles along Lancaster Avenue, you'll find Philip Bradley's legendary antiques shop with museum-quality treasures, Pook & Pook Auctioneers and Appraisers, where a piecrust tea table once sold for \$1.4 million, along with Dane Decor's sleek Scandinavian designs in a converted 19th-century church, complete with steeple and stained glass windows, abutting a modern glass cube of a furniture showroom.

That converted church in this old paper-mill town was the venue for a late summer wedding reception for the young mayor, Josh Maxwell, to Blair Thornburgh, granddaughter of a former Pennsylvania governor and U.S. Attorney General—all duly covered by local press and *The New York Times* wedding section. When Downingtown first elected a brash 26-year-old mayor in 2009, residents likely had no idea mattresses would someday be moved to make room for a dance floor and wedding reception featuring local beer and a mac-and-cheese bar for 200 in a repurposed church/furniture showroom with sentimental connections to its biggest booster.

Great range, indeed.

RANGE OF DINING OPTIONS

What might once have been seen primarily as a bedroom community has incubated enough restaurants and breweries to merit consideration as a dining destination.

From *The Coffee Cup*, a timeless spot with three generations serving breakfast and lunch since 1956, to the new-ish Farmhouse Coffee and Espresso Bar, with its exposed beams, lemon scones and latte art, Downingtown embraces its roots along with current trends.

For serious dining, visit the mansion outside of town, the Orangery at Glen Isle, serving Tuscan cuisine at one seating three nights a week from a single chef-selected menu. Chef Sabrina Lutz oversees the intimate BYO experience.

There's more upscale dining, seven days a week for lunch and dinner, at Amani's BYOB, helmed by celebrated chef Jonathan Amann. Here the cuisine focuses not on regional cooking but on the best of our region, with locally sourced, farm-fresh, seasonal dishes.



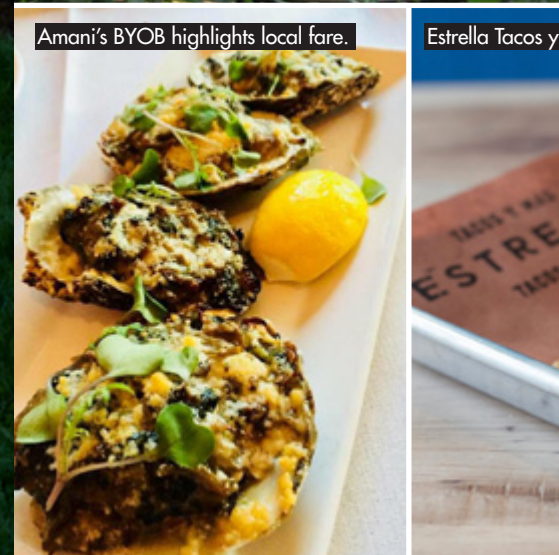
The Coffee Cup has a classic feel.



Farmhouse Coffee and Espresso Bar is the spot for a latte.



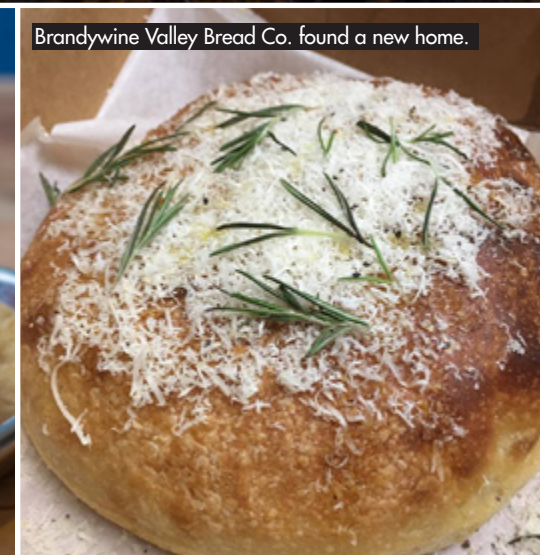
Orangery at Glen Isle for Tuscan cuisine



Amani's BYOB highlights local fare.



Estrella Tacos y Mas is a new gathering spot.



Brandywine Valley Bread Co. found a new home.

By late summer another destination dining option plans to open in the historic paper mill, former home to Firecreek, Barra Rossa and Milito's restaurants. Soon Enoteca Tredici, which transformed a warehouse in Bryn Mawr into a hip bar in the 'burbs, will bring its magic and Mediterranean fare to Downingtown.

Or go casual and old-school at the Downingtown Diner, family-owned and operated, open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The classic diner menu includes a nod to their claim to fame—Special Blob Sandwiches—from the diner's cameo in the 1958 cult classic *The Blob*.

For a newer place with a different vibe, Estrella Tacos y Mas offers "tacos, brisket and love," at its location on the first floor of a historic stone building—formerly the Minquas Fire Station and later Molly Maguire's. Try breakfast tacos, all day tacos and yes, "Mas" is actually listed on the menu. This self-described taco truck meets craft beer bar is a growing community hangout.

Other food purveyors also demonstrate range. There's fabled Jimmy Duffy's Catering, now run by its fourth generation and boasting connections back to the 1920s to F. Scott Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra and Grace Kelly, plus a Pope and assorted presidents. With a mere 30-year history, Bakers at Buffington have iced decades of wedding and special occasion cakes. And 2018 saw a new-comer transition from farmers markets to a storefront when the Brandywine Valley Bread Company baked up delectables like tomato garlic thyme focaccia.



The Downingtown Diner had its moment.



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Victory Brewing calls Downingtown home.



Bottle Room and Station Taproom are beer destinations.

CRAFT BEER TO LOCAL CIDER

Downingtown offers beer options. Local craft beer pioneer **Victory Brewing**—started by childhood friends in 1996—expanded beyond its headquarters to a second brewery in Parkesburg and an additional brewpub in Kennett Square. Since 2006, it's expanded in other ways, partnering with Southern Tier Brewing Co. under parent company Artisan Brewing Ventures (ABV, get the beer joke?). And last year the Downingtown location got a \$500,000 renovation providing more seats, better brewery views and a German beer-hall feel.

For more intimate sipping, head for **Station Taproom**, across from the SEPTA station and boasting great beer *and* great food. A wide variety of beers are on rotation, showing the deep knowledge of the owners, along with Chef Tim Smith's strong menu with faves like mussels, poutine, Thai red curry and fish and chips, attracting fans since 2010.

Next door, under the same ownership, is the **Bottle Room** offering a short, sweet and changing snack menu, heavy on small plates, cheese and charcuterie boards. The brick-walled space has a welcoming bar and central community table, plus 16 beers on tap and plenty of, well, bottles. We snagged a bottle of Dressler's Still Cider (a *County Lines* Best of the Best winner and another Downingtown star, though with no brick and mortar location).

For the newest brewery—at least at press time—walk upstairs from Estrella Tacos to **East Branch Brewing Co.**, "crafting beer in the heart of Downingtown, ten barrels at a time." That capacity will be expanded, along with the physical space—plans are afoot for a third floor beer garden to open this spring. Childhood friends Kevin McGovern and Dylan Meanix's long-term partnership resulted in yet another spot to enjoy craft beer and good food from a Southern/Korean inspired menu, where pickle boards meet brisket noodles with, kimchi, sesame noodles, peanuts, scallions and szechuan chili oil.

A RANGE OF FUN

Most fun events in Downingtown happen in Kerr Park, the municipal park off Brandywine Creek. You'll find everything there from kids' trout fishing to Earth Day to Good Neighbor Day on July 4th.

For a different kind of park and fun—indoors and suitable for birthday parties and snow days—head for **Urban Air Trampoline and**



East Brewing Co. found a home in this historic building.



Urban Air Trampoline and Adventure Park lets kids burn off energy.

Adventure Park (with a new location opening in Springfield). Kids can burn off steam on the climbing wall, warrior course, tubes playground, and of course, trampolines. Or host a glow party when the lights are off and the lasers, disco, lights and black-lights are on.

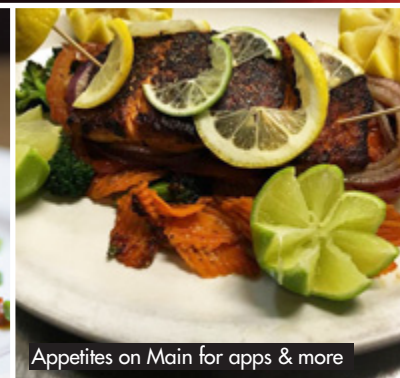
If it's artistic energy that needs an outlet, the **School of Rock** is your destination. Not the Jack Black movie, but here's a place for music lessons—beginning kids to accomplished adults—in singing, drumming, guitar and more, all options to develop your performing arts talents.



Ron's Original Bar & Grille serves up healthy fare.



Vickers Restaurant for an elegant meal



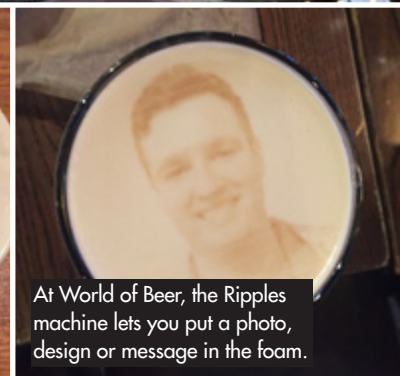
Appetites on Main for apps & more



Eagleview Town Center hosts events year round.



Bright Spot Café at Eagleview



At World of Beer, the Ripples machine lets you put a photo, design or message in the foam.

EXTON IS STILL MALLS ... BUT MORE

Exton has a decidedly different vibe from Downingtown. Known for its malls—**Exton Mall** and **Main Streets**—the town is a hub for national chains of all sorts. From the new **First Watch**—the daytime café—to a **Nothing Bundt Cakes**—offering fresh-baked bundt cakes, bundtlets and buntinis for every occasion, from baby gender reveals to thanks a bundt cakes.

Yet, you'll also find distinctive locally owned businesses here, too.

Some of our long-time favorite independently owned restaurants are in Exton. Family-friendly **Ron's Original Bar & Grille** has a menu long enough to satisfy everyone yet filled with plenty of healthy options. Despite being in the Main Streets Mall, non-chain **Appetites on Main** continues to be a destination for appetizer lovers, sports fans and diners with pets—it's been a recognized pet-friendly dining spot for years.

For something more upscale for a special occasion, with table-side prep and flaming desserts, **Vickers Restaurant** has provided polished service since 1972 in its historic 1820s farmhouse.

EAGLEVIEW TOWN CENTER

More distinctive dining options await at Eagleview Town Center, a community within the town of Exton, where you can live, work, shop, play as well as dine. Enjoy Eagleview's free events—from concerts to farm markets—beautiful park, independent bookstore—**Wellington Square Bookshop**—and burgeoning Restaurant Row.

A bright spot on Restaurant Row is the newest dining option—aply named **Bright Spot Café**, serving fresh locally sourced breakfast and lunch with options like skillet dishes and avocado toast.

Our Best of the Best awards acknowledged **Bluefin Eagleview** for its innovative sushi, sushi bar and daily specials, while **Suburban Restaurant and Beer Garden** got a nod for one of our favorite things—beer gardens! Can't wait for the right season to enjoy beer outdoors again.

YES, THERE'S BEER

Every town in Chester County must have craft beer. Luckily Exton has several choices. Among them is newcomer **Stolen Sun Craft Brewing and Coffee Roasting Co.**, where you should “come for the coffee, stay for the beer.” We suggest sampling the great menu from their carnetaria as well as enjoying the comfy ambiance at this *County Lines* Best of the Best winner.

One final suggestion on this eclectic Exton excursion is **World of Beer**, previously independently owned, but now part of a Florida-based corporate group. Home to Beerunch—a favorite meal—their l-o-n-g list of bottles and drafts runs from local 2SP Up & Out IPA to Young's Double Chocolate Stout from England, and beyond.

We're told that as part of corporate, WOB will soon have access to the magic machine that lets you personalize you beer by printing images in the foam with a malt extract. See the photo.

We wish we could end with a message on top of a beer. ♦

See upcoming events in Downingtown and Exton online at CountyLineMagazine.com.



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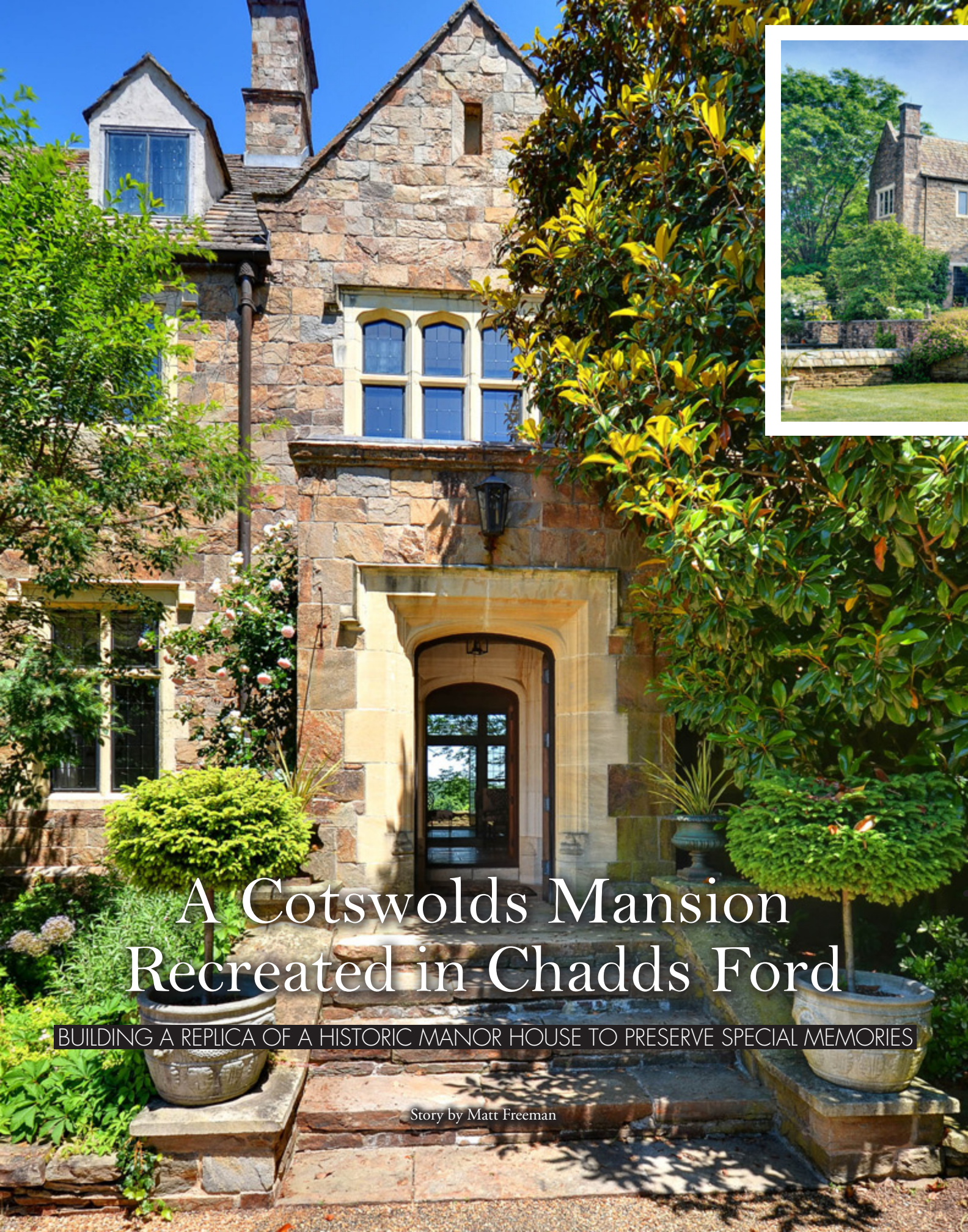
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A Cotswolds Mansion Recreated in Chadds Ford

BUILDING A REPLICA OF A HISTORIC MANOR HOUSE TO PRESERVE SPECIAL MEMORIES

Story by Matt Freeman

M

any couples find a spot in their travels they want to memorialize in some way back home, and the owners of a distinctive Chadds Ford home were no different.

Most people content themselves with a framed photo of a favorite B&B, say, or buy that book of local history to display on their coffee table where visitors just might happen to notice it.

But evidently this particular couple didn't feel those sorts of things were equal to their affection for charming Buckland Manor, an aristocratic home built centuries ago and now welcoming visitors to England's fabled Cotswolds, among the rolling hills (the "wolds") in the south-central region.

So they built their own—as close a replica as they could—so they could enjoy its charms and their memories daily, without the inconvenience of having to cross the Atlantic.

THE DREAM

Although Southeastern Pennsylvania has a wealth of historic buildings and reproductions, European architecture is many centuries older. And so reproducing Buckland Manor posed some special challenges.

The Manor's operators say parts of the building date back to the 13th century, but generally it belongs to the transitional period when English aristocrats stopped building battle-worthy castles and started building recognizable houses better suited to gracious living.



One visible feature that helps date the original structure is the liberal use of the “Tudor arch,” a flattened, often gently pointed arch that was a prominent feature in English architecture of the 15th and early 16th centuries. That feature and the modern-looking square-topped windows help distinguish the architecture from the earlier Gothic styles, with their steeper arches.

THE PLANS

As a first step in this project, the couple persuaded the Buckland Manor management to let a local architect come in and create plans to work from to design their home. Then, to keep the replica as authentic as possible, they began looking for appropriate building materials to use.

They found slate for the roofs at a local chapel, and also tried to get stone from the Cotswolds. But bringing over the distinctively colored Cotswold stone—a yellow limestone—for the walls was too difficult logistically. Fortunately, they found a similar stone back in Pennsylvania, in Avondale, and showed their masons how to cut it in a way to replicate the original stone.

Extra effort went into making the historic styles be energy efficient as well as authentic looking. The large windows in the original building were a sign of wealth, but today represent wasted energy dollars. For modern dual-paned windows to look like the originals took ingenuity from the glazier and the stonemasons to achieve the dual goals.

The house took three years to build, given the complexities involved, and the owners spent another three years working on the grounds to create the compatible setting.

Betsy Wyeth, wife of artist Andrew Wyeth, was among the people they enlisted to help. One of her notable contributions to the property is a lovely winding driveway with a small wooden bridge and cobblestones leading to an allée bordered by sycamore trees. She knew the approach and design would allow visitors first see the stables that seem to emerge from the surrounding landscape, and then the house itself.

Another part of the experience was making the house, as well as the surroundings, look like six centuries had





passed since it was built, not just six years. The cobblestones of the allée were made to look as if they'd seen generations of use. The roof of the garage had a slight sagging curve built into it, by design. The Amish carpenters working on the project questioned that part of the design, but were assured it was what the owners wanted—to show how gravity works on a building over the generations and centuries.

Perfection, so often the enemy of the good, was also in this case the enemy of the authentic. Ingenious ways to mimic the subtle signs of age are a huge part of architectural reproduction, and this project had more centuries than most to capture those effects.

RURAL ENGLAND IN CHESTER COUNTY

But it would be wrong to overemphasize the ways in which the house is different from others in our area.

It's often observed that Chester County and rural England share a certain visual DNA. And this Chadds Ford manor house exemplifies that. The house sits quite comfortably in its surroundings, despite the distance in time and space from the original.

The stone and slate exteriors are certainly familiar to our area, with visual interest added by gables that extend slightly beyond the roofs. The rectangular chimneys would look familiar on either end of a classic Federal home, and the long, square-topped windows pull the design out of the medieval era and into the more delicately elegant modern styles that would follow it.

INTERIOR

The spacious house has a great hall with abundant wood- and metal-work in an English style that also resembles the Spanish styles of the period. The fireplace and a wood-framed door both feature the distinctive Tudor arches.

Other rooms are decorated in an eclectic variety of styles, like the original Buckland Manor. There's a formal dining room that would harmonize with any 18th- or 19th-century home, and other rooms in the same historically elegant vein.

The library, with cabinetry from ceiling to floor, houses a profusion of eye-catching details like the large globe stand



and a beautifully carved wooden chest, originally meant for ice storage, that the owners found in England.

And there are also more casual dining and entertaining areas with exposed timbers and stone walls. The traditional pub-styled area was deliberately painted off-white because that's how a pub where people smoked for decades would look. Although there's no smoking permitted today, the easygoing attitude of the more tobacco-tolerant past was meant to be part of the ambiance.

GROUPS

The natural world was well in mind as the house was created. There's an eye-catching whimsical square storage shed next to the potager—a garden to supply fresh vegetables and herbs to the kitchen. The late Rosemary Verey, a famed English horticulturalist, designed the potager and other gardens that surround the house. Tending them has become a passion for the owners.

The 240-acre grounds, all under conservation easement, include a number of outbuildings, among them stables that the owners, who once drove horses on their six miles of trails, now rent out.

Since moving in 22 years ago, the owners have keenly appreciated life on their own historic property. British troops crossed the land in 1777, heading for battle along the Brandywine, and the views the owners look out at are much the same today.

In all that time, the couple have lived in a recreated piece of the Old World, built in what Europeans once called a New World. And they've enjoyed, literally, the best of both. ♦

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Mercedes Thomas

KNOW THE BEST TIME TO PUT YOUR HOME ON THE MARKET

SELLING YOUR HOME CAN SEEM LIKE A DAUNTING task. Finding the right agent, decluttering the interior, prepping the exterior, making needed repairs, getting the “beauty” shots of the property, holding open houses, fielding multiple offers (you hope)—the to-do list may seem longer than your list of New Year’s resolutions. And that doesn’t even include preparing yourself mentally for leaving your home in the hands of ... strangers.

Figuring out the best time to list your house is yet another detail to add to your busy schedule. So, how do you know when the optimal time is to put your home on the market? Don’t worry, we’re here to help you think through that part of the sale process.

BEST SEASON TO SELL

When it comes to selling your home, the time of the year can have an impact. The consensus among the realtors we talked with was that late spring-early summer is generally the best time to put a house on the market. Kids are finishing the school year,

tax refunds are coming in, and the days are getting longer and sunnier for open house visits.

Holly Gross from the Holly Gross Group of Berkshire Hathaway suggests listing your home mid-March. “If you think you want to sell your home, and you don’t have any time pressure, plan on putting your home on the market late winter to get ready for the spring market,” says Holly.

And from data on the Chester County market, Trish Keegan of Styer Real Estate notes that the largest number of homes are listed and go under contract in March through June. “Statistically, spring is the most opportune time for sellers to list,” Trish says. “Buyers with families typically shop during the spring market so they can complete the school year and then make any potential change in the fall when the new school year begins.”

Chances are, your home will also shine brightest during the mid-Atlantic spring. After weeks of warming temperatures and frequent showers, the grass is a lush green, the flowers, shrubs and trees—tulips and daffodils, azaleas and lilacs along with

dogwoods, redbuds and cherry trees—are in their blooming glory, and the sun adds a sparkle to your picture-perfect, fully prepped, ready-for-the-market home.

“That’s when the properties look the best,” says Amy McKenna from Country Properties of Berkshire Hathaway. “It’s right after the gray of winter, and there’s a sense of freshness and regrowth.”

Your home will have some serious curb appeal, which is bound to get homebuyers excited and through the door.

THE FALL MARKET

Though spring is the most popular time of the year to sell, it certainly isn’t your only option. Homebuyers don’t simply disappear when the warm weather does. During every season, there’s someone out there looking to buy. And the late-summer/fall market tends to find its own group of potential buyers.

People returning from vacation who weren’t ready to move—or weren’t thinking about moving—during the spring market have enough time to shop for a new home later in the year.

Although traditionally, the fall market has been slower for those buying and selling homes, Holly Gross notes that this market is becoming larger and busier. It may soon become comparable to the spring market.

And it’s all thanks to the Internet!

“People are looking online for properties now,” Holly says. “They’re able to shop year-round from any location.” In fact it’s now more common to see homebuyers first looking online for homes, and selecting the properties they want to see in person later. All this can be done while enjoying your summer vacation, when you have time to browse the many home listing sites. Now you can look for your new dream home while relaxing and sipping a beachside piña colada.

SELLING YEAR-ROUND

Remember, the real estate industry is a year-round business because there are always people who want or need to move. Those without children aren’t tied to a school year calendar. There are also buyers who will look at properties for a full calendar year, just to

find that special place they’ll call home.

“Buyers who are looking for historic, custom or distinctive homes tend to be year-round shoppers who will carefully monitor the market and will patiently wait for the perfect property in their ideal location,” explains Trish Keegan. These one-of-a-kind properties are worth waiting for, and there are buyers who will search for them, even in the winter.

You’ll also find some variations in types of buyers depending on the season you choose to sell. Fall and winter homebuyers are usually more serious buyers, who want to close fairly quickly. And who can blame them—no one wants to go to open houses in a foot of snow!

People who have to relocate for business usually don’t have much flexibility in when they choose to buy. Instead, they often need to act quickly and can’t wait until the busy spring market rolls back around.

Corporate relocations help keep the local real estate market busy even during slow selling seasons. “Overall, movement of a company into an area is really going to help that area,” Bob Frame of Coldwell Banker Preferred says. “It means that there’s a business there.”

In our area large employers also account for off-peak-season home sales. For example, QVC in West Chester and SAP in Newtown Square bring in many new employees to our area, making year-round relocations a viable part of the local real estate market.

BEST TIME FOR YOU

No matter the season, you want to be sure you’re selling at the time that’s best for you—and your family, of course. Selling your home is a big and time-consuming change, and so are buying and moving into your next new dream home.

When it comes time to put your house on the market, the best plan of attack is to make a plan. Write down the steps needed to get your home ready to sell, and how long each *should* take—note the use of *should*!

“The best strategy is to have a plan; determine your goals and make an assessment of your needs to fulfill these goals,” Amy McK-

enna suggests. Having a better idea of what you want to accomplish and what you need to do makes the whole process more achievable. And if you haven’t yet bought your new home, don’t forget to consider those steps in your plan as well.

You’ll likely want to find the right agent, too. “Whenever you’re buying or selling a house,” Bob Frame says, “you really want to interview several serious agents so the process can go smoothly.” An agent should be working with you and working to get your house sold close to the asking price and on your schedule. Taking the time to find the right agent is key.

“When it comes time to put your house on the market, the best plan of attack is to make a plan. Write down the steps needed to get your home ready to sell, and how long each should take—note the use of *should*!”

One way to figure out the best time frame is by working backwards from your target closing date. Consider how long it typically takes to sell and to close on a home in your neighborhood. In some cases, the process could be wrapped up in a few weeks—but it’s more likely to be four months or it could be even longer. So if you want to have your home sold before the start of the new school year in late August, you may want to aim for listing it in the peak months of March or April.

Whenever you may be selling, remember, there’s a market for every season—and a buyer looking for a home as special as yours. ♦

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Do you keep deferring plans to tackle that kitchen redo or bathroom update? Take a tour of what local designers and builders have created in area homes and think about shifting your priorities. Whether it's a soaking tub, sit-down vanity or heated floor for your private oasis or a bigger island, more storage or updated colors for the place where everyone gathers, invest in an upgrade to your life this year.



This amazing master bedroom-and-bath renovation completed in a historic 1910 Main Line home complement its historic charm with modern luxuries. Custom millwork, doors and mirrors adorn the dressing room alongside a

luxurious bath accented with marble and porcelain. Completing this master suite, is the simple charm of a cozy bedroom paired with a fireplace.

PHOTO COURTESY: E.C. Trethewey Builders



This kitchen in Newtown Square features Wood-Mode custom cabinetry with a soft island finish and a classic white finish on the perimeter. The island countertop is a Calacutta marble and the perimeter features a custom walnut wide plank top with a marine fish oil finish. The appliances are integrated into the cabinetry for a seamless look with matching refrigerator panels.

PHOTO COURTESY: Sugarbridge Custom Kitchens & Baths

Light, bright, airy and clean. This custom formulated soft grey color is both classic and refreshingly contemporary. Traditional elements like the wood hood and armoire styled pantry cabinets are met with more modern elements, like open shelving and brushed brass hardware. The countertops add a classic clean white to the space, while the black trimmed windows and black metal stools add a necessary pop of contrast.

PHOTO COURTESY: Main Street Cabinet Company





This gorgeous master bathroom remodel created a retreat for a his-and-hers style bath experience. This bathroom has all the bells and whistles including—radiant heated floors, heated towel bar, USB charging ports, hammered nickel sinks, and Swarovski crystal lighting.

PHOTO COURTESY: I.M. Contracting LTD



This elegant kitchen features grand floor to ceiling glass cabinetry to display the homeowner's blue and white china collection. The navy island and bar add depth and contrast up against simple understated white cabinetry on the perimeter. The gold hardware and lighting give the room a warm and classic feel. Marble countertops finish the look perfectly.

PHOTO COURTESY: Waterbury Kitchen and Bath

Sometimes architectural features or high ceilings can pose a problem for kitchen designers. Instead of just using shorter cabinets, a combination of stacked and tall wall cabinets were paired with shorter ones creating a perfect look—a good solution to a tough problem. And the weathered grey finish is a welcome change from an all-white kitchen.

PHOTO COURTESY: Madsen Kitchen and Bath



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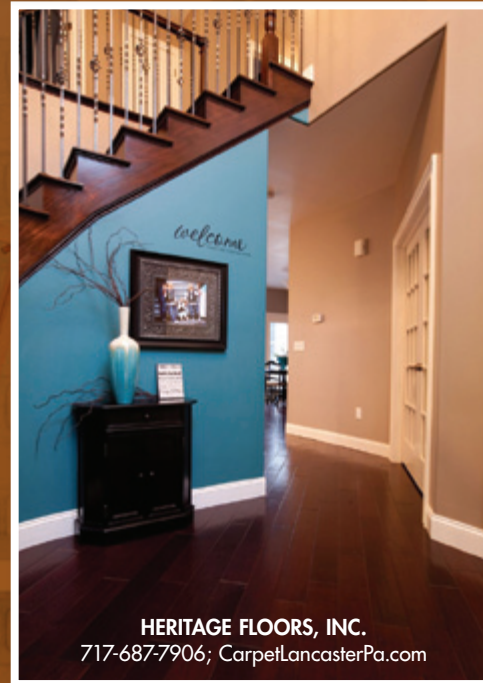
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ARTS EDUCATION AND THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

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Friends' Central School
PHOTO COURTESY: CHOYA CHEN



"The Shape of Things" at Episcopal Academy



Westtown School Theater Department

ARTS EDUCATION IS ON THE RISE AT OUR AREA'S independent schools. Local independent schools' arts facilities and resources continue to grow. Teachers are placing more emphasis on creativity and expression. The bright line between STEM—science, technology, engineering and math—and STEAM—add art to STEM—has blurred. And in some schools, STEAM, not STEM is the hot, new thing.

But what is arts education? Is creating art merely talent, discoverable but not teachable? Or is it a skill—one that can be practiced, developed, honed? Or does it matter? Whether it's a talent or skill, the central question may be how best to develop the artistic mind and personality.

At the independent schools of *County Lines* country, with their extraordinary resources, we wondered what was happening. And we found the answer was complicated.

MAKING STUFF

They're "making stuff," says Chris Fox, as he looks over the boys in his shop at the Haverford School, where he currently chairs the Art Department. Once known as an "old-school college prep school," the school now offers "more arts courses than you can take," says Fox.

For his part, Fox teaches the visual arts: woodworking, two-dimensional art (drawing, painting), three-dimensional art (sculpture, woodworking, metalworking, etc.) and visual communications (photography, video, animation). Each discipline involves foundations, design and portfolio courses, as well as a thesis, and follows concepts like structure, balance, shape and form, and techniques, like drawing and sculpture. Students are also exposed to great artists.

The training shows, opening young minds to new ideas. Will Clark, a senior headed for Davidson College, loves to work with

new materials and learned how to sew and make a dress out of paper. Junior Drew Paradis is drawn to tools: currently, it's the router. Garrett Johnson, gregarious and entrepreneurial, worked on a huge mural in West Philadelphia and plans a career of "making connections."

Then there's Intel Chen, recently accepted at the University of Pennsylvania. Marrying art to technology, he breezily shows off his stunning photography and discusses his contributions to Haverford's robotics team, which finished 4th at the world VEX competition.

At Friends' Central School, a student inspects and fiddles, after-class, silently and seemingly obliviously, with a mandala she created: a piece of jewelry used in meditation inspired by ancient Sanskrit culture. Around her, the walls and shelves of the second-floor studio are brimming with student work: pottery, bracelets, baskets, handbags.

The curricular focus, explains Hilary Weiss, Chair of the Arts Department, is "wearable art." Through all these media, the thread is technique and composition. She shows me an exhibit of her students' finished works—photography, etched glass, ceramics, fiber basketry, for example. It's awesome. A student stops at a photo display, contemplates, and studies for several minutes on his way to lunch.

INSPIRED TO CREATE ... AND DRIVE

David Sigel, Chair of Episcopal Academy's Visual Arts Department, believes that art is teachable. "We're creative beings. Art is within all of us. It's a learnable process."

At the Crawford Campus Center is "The Shape of Things," a modernist exhibit of sculpture: abstractions, made of cast cement, modeled in plaster, lighter than they look, in groups of twos, threes and fours. The students "think about process, but don't get bogged down in process." They come "to think of art as an intellectual pursuit," says Sigel.

Thirteen students contributed to "The Shape of Things." An "Install-It" club is constantly searching for on-campus places to display student work, building their appreciation of art as well as teamwork. At Episcopal, students are busy: fitting art between

academics and sports. It's rare that the school day ends before six.

Jane Chesson, a Tower Hill School teacher of the visual arts, highlights "process over the product." Art, she says, is "a naturally collaborative process." She recalls two boys, until then disengaged and distant, who learned to sew—their idea—to make a dragon pillow. Ultimately, they became leaders of the class.

Matt Kator, Department Chair, com-



Orchestra at Tower Hill School

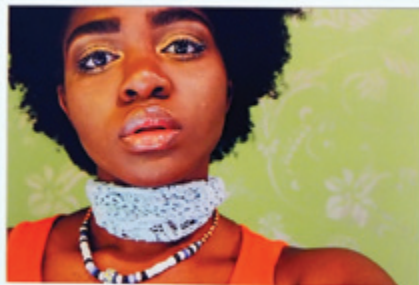
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Linden Hall, work by Tobi Makinde

BUILDING LIFE SKILLS

In her acting class at Tower Hill School, Rachel Marlowe guides upper school students as they rehearse lines from the play *Picnic*. She makes suggestions, has them do another take, tells them enthusiastically to “lean into it.”

In another room, five students are designing a piece of scenery for this spring’s production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Enabled by laptops, the students question, research, offer hypotheses and answers.

Learning “how to build things” is an example of “life skills,” explains Kator, well aware that few will go on to art careers. Yet set design, an idea’s implementation, the compromise between cost and functionality are all practical lessons learned.

Will Addis, *Westtown School’s* Director of Theater Arts, shows me their on-campus theater. It’s immense, modern and “constantly used.” Students in the upper school will perform three plays this year: the spring play will consist of several short plays about life in high school. And, through its clubs, the students, on their own, are building the sets and designing the lighting.

A prop—a huge puppet—hangs over the back-stage workroom, explains Sarah Sullivan, the lead theater technician, who works directly with the students. “The old idea is that the parents do it. Now students do it.”

JOIN THE ENSEMBLE

Last fall, Friends’ Central School produced the fairy tale, *The White Snake*. In March, it will produce *Newsies*. Drama Teacher Terry Guerin details the grueling schedule for the actors and stage crew: about a quarter of the student body. She looks, above all, for “commitment.”

Through the year, the school may take the students to Philadelphia or New York to see a play. Some will go to the American Shakespeare Center in Virginia.

A few will continue performing upon graduation. Benj Passack, class of 2003, for example, won an Academy Award for his song *City of Stars* in the movie *La La Land*. Guerin recognizes that, for most, however, their experience as part of the “ensemble” will “build their confidence, broaden their comfort zone, raise their social consciousness, push boundaries, and increase their humanity.”

DISCIPLINE OF MUSIC

Two hundred years ago, when Westtown School was founded, its students were forbidden to sing. Today, they can participate in chorus, jazz ensemble, a symphonic band, string orchestra, the pit orchestra for the theater and an a cappella club. There is fast-growing interest in digital music as well. Times have changed.

At *Wilmington Friends School*, Performing Arts instructor Margaret Butterfield reports a full menu of performance activities are available: the symphonic band, jazz band and chorus. Students perform at a series of in-school activities, the Delaware Choral Festival, in the pit at school plays and other events. They experiment with arranging music.

The orchestra of *Linden Hall* scored “top orchestra” at Hershey Park last year. Violinist Cathy Liu and flutist Angelica Chen were accepted in the Pennsylvania Music Educator’s District 7 Orchestra. Violinist Elizabeth Helm made it into the Central Region Orchestra, the next step after the District Orchestra. This spring, the chorus expects to perform at the Church Farm Schools choral festival.

Each of these events is a reason to practice and improve. In each, the student is working toward mastery of skills.

ART FOR A “DEEPER PURPOSE”

With a unique educational philosophy, *Kimberton-Waldorf School* is “not an art school but all Kimberton Waldorf students do art.” Director of Enrollment Lisa Cordner explains that art serves “a deeper purpose” in its curriculum. “Success is measured by using skills of problem solving, creativity, following

directions and overcoming struggles, not in the outcome of the art itself.”

From the earliest grades, art is integrated into the school day, which also weaves together math, music, history and other subjects. With *Moby Dick*, for example, the students learn whaling songs, how to tie sailor knots and to make scrimshaw. They also visit the whaling museum and study the migration of whales.

OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE

Samantha Salazar, art teacher at the *Tatnall School*, explains that she’s “always looking for students ... to step out of their comfort zone.” She wants “to see how creative they can be with concept, cohesion and willingness to work with new mediums as they produce artwork through a variety of techniques. Not every piece will be a success, but the willingness to complete a project and learn from the experience is important.”

FINAL THOUGHTS

Art, it seems, is taught for several purposes at our area independent schools.

The first is straightforward: to teach skills and knowledge of tools. Whether painting, sculpture, woodworking, music or other art forms, students learn to communicate. Sometimes, learning supports so-called life skills.

Second, students learn to compose: to harness the skill’s strength and, partially in concert with other skills, dedicate it to a message.

Third, for most undertakings, collaboration and teamwork—the benefits of the ensemble and collective experience—must be developed. If art is to communicate, it must be premised on awareness of how another feels.

And, fourth, basically through practice and experience, confidence and ultimately art emerge. Persistence and drive will bear on this.

Our schools are trying to capture, share and instill these lessons. ♦



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Guide to School Open Houses

AT AREA INDEPENDENT & PRIVATE SCHOOLS

PENNSYLVANIA

Bryn Mawr

Sacred Heart Academy Bryn Mawr

480 S. Bryn Mawr Ave.
610-527-3915; SHABrynMawr.org



Established in 1865, Sacred Heart Academy (SHA) is an international, independent, all-girls, K-12 Catholic school on the Main Line. SHA is a proud member of the International Network of Sacred Heart Schools. The school has been committed for over 150 years to educating girls through faith, intellect, service, community and personal growth.

Open House: (All School K-12):

Feb. 2*, 11 to 1
(Kindergarten Discovery Day):
Feb. 2*, 9 to 1

Scholarship/Entrance Exam:

(5th & 6th Gr.): Feb. 2*, 8:45
*Feb. 2, snow date Feb. 9

Chester Springs

Montgomery School

1141 Kimberton Rd.
610-827-7222

MontgomerySchool.org

Your child's Pre-K-8 learning experience should never be just "good enough." Children deserve a vibrant, supportive learning environment where they can feel comfortable and inspired to explore who they are and cultivate who they want to become. The school's mission is to ignite each child's love of learning and foster their individual talents in order to prepare them for future success. **STEM Competition:** Mar. 9, 1 to 4



Crum Lynne

The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School

Phila. Area Regional Office
1553 Chester Pk.,
Ste. 103; 888-722-9237; PACyber.org



The learning never stops at the Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School, one of the nation's largest, most experienced and most successful online public schools. PA Cyber's personalized instructional methods and curricula connect students and families with highly qualified teachers and rich academic content. As a tuition-free public school, enrollment is open to any school-age child residing in PA.

Online Info Sessions: visit PACyber.org

Devon

Delaware County Christian School

905 S. Waterloo Rd.
610-353-6522; DCCS.org
Lower campus, Pre-K-5.
See listing under Newtown Square

Haverford

Friends School Haverford

851 Buck La.
610-642-2334

FriendsHaverford.org



Guided by Quaker principles since its founding in 1885, Friends School Haverford provides an intellectually rich and powerful values-based program. They promote academic scholarship, creativity, respect, integrity and self-awareness while creating a culture of stewardship and kindness. Students are enriched with time outdoors, interscholastic sports and an extraordinary music and arts program. Nursery school (2 years & 7 months by Sept.

1) through grade 8.
Open House: Apr. 10

Haverford School

450 Lancaster Ave.
484-417-2780; Haverford.org

The Haverford School, a nonsectarian college preparatory day school for Pre-K-12, provides a superior liberal arts education for qualified boys of differing backgrounds. They are committed to developing the full intellectual, artistic, athletic, and moral potential in each boy, and aim to graduate young men with strong character who possess a passion for learning and the necessary problem-solving skills to make a difference in the world.

Open House: (Lower School): Apr. 11, 24,
May 8, 9 am
(Middle School): Apr. 25, May 2, 9 am



Malvern

Malvern Preparatory School

418 S. Warren Ave.
484-595-1100
MalvernPrep.org



An Augustinian school, Catholic and Independent for young men in grades 6-12. Malvern's curriculum balances rigorous academics, extracurricular commitment, spiritual development and Christian service, providing an experience that places students at the center of learning.

Preview Mornings: May 8, 8:30 am
Entrance Exams: Feb. 9, Apr. 13, May 11,
8:30 am

Villa Maria Academy High School

370 Central Ave.
610-644-2551; VMAHS.org





Haverford School



Renaissance Academy



Media-Providence Friends School



Goshen Friends



Westtown School



Woodlynde School



Waldron Mercy Academy



Wilmington Friends School



Friends School Haverford



Centerville Layton School

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

Visit Villa Days: (7th Gr.): May 13, 14
Preview Breakfast: (6th & 7th Gr.): Apr. 8, 10 am
Practice Exam: (7th Gr.): Mar. 23 or 30

Open House: (Lower Campus):
 Mar. 5, Apr. 16, 9 to 11
 (Upper Campus): Mar. 12, Apr. 9, 9 to 11

Episcopal Academy

1785 Bishop White Dr.
 484-424-1400

EpiscopalAcademy.org

Episcopal Academy, a Pre-K-12, coeducational, independent day school, offers a classical yet innovative academic program, renowned for excellence in the humanities and sciences and focused on social responsibility and ethical leadership. Episcopal's commitment to indi-



vidual attention and to building an engaging, supportive school experience builds self-confidence and fosters a love of learning in all students.

Open House: Apr. 16

Phoenixville Renaissance Academy

413 Fairview St.
 610-983-4080; www.RAK12.org



Founded in 1999, Renaissance Academy Charter School is a K-12, tuition-free, college-prep, fully-accredited, public Charter School located in Phoenixville. Currently educating 1060 students from 21 surrounding school districts, the academy's

Media

Media-Providence Friends School

125 W. Third St.
 610-565-1960; MPFS.org



A Quaker school in downtown Media for students age 3 through grade 8. Small classes allow for a whole child approach to learning and differentiated instruction in a rich academic environment, where students find their passion with purpose.

MPFS offers full-day preschool and kindergarten as well as an Afterschool Enrichment program with a diverse selection of classes from cooking and crafting to robotics and rock band.

Open House: Mar. 16, 9 am (includes student-led tours and current parent Q&A)

Merion Station

Waldron Mercy Academy

513 Montgomery Ave.
 610-664-9847;
WaldronMercy.org



Waldron Mercy Academy is a co-educational preschool to grade 8 independent Catholic school, located on 35 acres in Greater Philadelphia. They celebrate academic progress and encourage students to develop confidence and assume leadership in the global community, with Montessori and traditional preschool early learning tracks, a state of the art science lab, integrated STEM program, and award-winning choir and Spanish language programs.

Open House: Mar. 5, Apr. 9, 9 to 10 am

Newtown Square

Delaware County Christian School

462 Malin Rd.; 610-353-6522; DCCS.org



College preparatory. Christ-centered. We prepare students for a life of impact in a complex world. Invested faculty mentors help students reach their full potential—academically, spiritually, as leaders for today and tomorrow. A DC education is an investment impacting the course of your child's entire life. Attend an Open House or schedule a personal tour. More info at DCCS.org.

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The Pilot School has been helping students with language-based learning differences develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed in a traditional academic environment.

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Pilot School

(302) 478-1740

208 Woodlawn Road
 Wilmington, DE 19803

www.pilotschool.org



mission is to prepare children for success as students, workers and citizens by providing them with a high-quality liberal arts, college preparatory education.

Open House: Mar. 7, 5 to 7. RSVP requested.

West Chester

Goshen Friends

814 N. Chester Rd.

610-696-8183; GoshenFriends.org

Goshen Friends School, an independent Pre-school and Pre-Kindergarten founded in 1959, offers a nurturing environment that emphasizes the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship. The maximum class size of 12 in Preschool and 15 in Pre-K allows for small-group and one-on-one instruction. Students participate in art, music, Spanish, outdoor education classes and monthly service projects. The campus features a fenced-in playground with age-appropriate equipment.

Open House: Feb. 3, 1 to 3



DELAWARE

Wilmington

St. Ann School

2006 Shallcross Ave.

302-652-6567; TheSaintAnnSchool.org

St. Ann School has a proud history of academic excellence rooted in the Catholic faith. Students from P-K3-8 flourish in their strong community. They provide accelerated math, Spanish language instruction, a variety of music and art offerings and a host of academic and athletic extra-curricular activities as well as extended day both before and after school.

Open House: (All School): Feb. 5-6, 9 to 2
(Early Childhood Program): Feb. 5, 9 am



Wilmington Friends School

101 School Rd. (Rts. 202 & 95)

302-576-2900; WilmingtonFriends.org

Wilmington Friends is a great place to grow up. They offer an unsurpassed academic program with



Westtown School

975 Westtown Rd.

610-399-7900; Westtown.edu

Westtown, a Quaker, Pre-K-12, independent, college preparatory school offers a challenging, diverse

curriculum emphasizing action-based learning, critical thinking, creative problem solving, collaboration, service and social action. Westtown provides opportunities for students to find their voice and use it to develop confidence and stand up for deeply held beliefs, inspiring and preparing its graduates to be stewards and leaders of a better world.

Open House: May 18

Meet Us on Monday: Every Monday



LEARNING DIFFERENCES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

PENNSYLVANIA

Downingtown

Devereux Autism Assessment Center

600 Boot Rd.

610-431-8830

Devereux.org/Autism

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



Malvern

Devereux Schools

484-595-6773

Devereux.org

Also: Downingtown,
Glenmoore & West Chester

Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health has offered excellent educational programs addressing a wide variety of learning issues for 105 years. Small classroom ratios allow for individualized instruction in a safe, therapeutic setting. Using Positive Behavior Intervention & Support approach, community-based instruction and work study programs, Devereux helps students return to local educational communities. Educational enrichments include a petting zoo at the Learning Center, and greenhouse programs at Mapleton and Brandywine schools. As an Approved Private School, Devereux is able to offer 4010s to school districts. *Schedule a tour today*

Media

Benchmark School

2107 N. Providence Rd.

610-565-3741



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8:30-10:00 am

open house

Wednesday, April 24

6:30-8:00 pm

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PreK - Grade 8

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814 N. Chester Rd., West Chester
610-696-8183 | www.goshenfriends.org



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WESTTOWN SCHOOL

INNOVATION DAY

Who: 3rd - 5th graders

When: Sunday, April 14, 2019

What: An integrated day of design, invention, and collaboration.

Where: Westtown School Science Center

Open To All: Registration Required
westtown.edu/innovation



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& Current Parent Q&A

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Devereux Schools



Montgomery School



Villa Maria High School



PA Cyber Charter School



St. Ann School



Delaware County Christian School



Pilot School



Malvern Preparatory School



Episcopal Academy



Sacred Heart Academy Bryn Mawr



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Open House: Feb. 7, Apr. 4, May 9, July 18, 9 to 11

Strafford/Wayne

Woodlynde School

445 Upper Gulph Rd.
610-687-9660

Woodlynde.org

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

Open House: Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr. 9, May 14, 8:45 am



DELAWARE Centreville

Centreville Layton School

6201 Kennett Pk.
302-571-0230

CentrevilleLayton.org

Centreville Layton School offers a robust educational and cultural experience for students who learn differently. The program identifies the academic and social needs of the individual and provides a curriculum that focuses on problem-solving and critical thinking. Through intervention and strengthening learning strategies, the school empowers each student to reach his or her potential. Pre-K-12, and postgraduate program.

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



Wilmington

Pilot School

208 Woodlawn Rd.
302-478-1740

PilotSchool.org

Since 1957, Pilot has provided an individualized, therapeutic learning environment for children with language-based learning differences. Pilot's unique goal is to return children to a traditional educational environment. The state-of-the-art



facility is built on 50 acres that adjoin more than 2,000 acres of parkland, allowing for integrated indoor/outdoor learning experiences.

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

EDUCATION SERVICES

PENNSYLVANIA

Plymouth Meeting

PAIS

37 E. Germantown Pk., # 302
610-567-2960

PAISPA.org

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



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EMPOWERING GIRLS K-12



OPEN HOUSE | FEBRUARY 2*

Grades K-12 | 11 am - 1 pm

Kindergarten Discovery Day | 9 am - 10 am

5th and 6th Grade Scholarship Exam | 8:45 am

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Tuesday, April 9th @ 9AM



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7th graders
March 23 or 30

VISIT VILLA DAY

7th graders
May 13 or 14

PREVIEW BREAKFAST

6th & 7th graders & their families
April 8 or 10

Register online at www.vmahs.org

370 Central Avenue, Malvern, PA 19355 ★ 610-644-2551

Station Taproom

207 W. Lancaster Ave.,
Downingtown, PA 19335

stationtaproom.com



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bottleroomdtown.com



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[Food News]

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



Cherry Month. It's no surprise February is **National Cherry Month**. In addition to the George Washington connection, cherries' vibrant ruby hue fits right in with the pinks and reds that highlight other monthly events. And beyond being tasty, cherries are darn healthy—full of vitamins A, B, C and E and packed with antioxidants to help slow your skin's aging and ward off Alzheimer's. Even better, they're a sweet snack low in calories—unless you bake them in a pie!

At Last! The long awaited **Whole Foods Market** has finally opened in Newtown Square on West Chester Pike! And it's sure to please any shopper—even if you don't have Amazon Prime. Check out its selection of local foods, grab-and-go options and natural and organic groceries. Have time to kill? Visit the Darby Creek Café—the in-store dining venue serving 12 local beers on tap, curated wine, sherry-based cocktails and pub-inspired food. Only the best for *County Lines* country!

Heart-y Food. February is **heart month**, so why not give your own some extra love? Leafy greens, nutritious whole grains and juicy berries are just a few foods that reduce the risk of heart disease—and they're tasty too! So throw in some extra kale and spinach to your salad, trade in white rice for brown and enjoy a snack of blueberries or raspberries next time the afternoon munchies hit. Your heart—and taste buds—will thank you!



Perfect Match. Chocolates, caramels, truffles, hot chocolate, chocolate drops ... Neuchatel Swiss Chocolates has the perfect gift for everyone this month. And for sweet and salty enthusiasts, **Neuchatel's Swiss Chips** are sure to delight! Salty potato chips surrounded by rich, imported milk chocolate—you'll fall in love with just one bite. Buy two packages, and share with your Valentine. They promise a distinct savoriness that will be an unforgettable experience. More options at *NeuchatelChocolates.com*.



Flip for Flapjacks. Celebrate **National Pancake Week**—the fourth week of February. Make fun animal pancakes with your kids. For dog pancakes, use one large circle as the head, two smaller ovals as ears, strawberries for the nose and tongue, blueberries for eyes and chocolate chips for a mouth. Or just lay out the pancakes and toppings and let your kids make their own fun shapes. With a whole week to celebrate, try pancakes for dinner. Sure to become a new favorite family tradition!



Cast Iron Cookery

THE VERSATILITY OF CAST IRON COOKWARE—IDEAL FOR SAUTEING, PAN- AND DEEP-FRYING AND BAKING

Laura Muzzi Brennan



Chef Jarrett Young

LONG AFTER INSTAPOTS AND QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS have fallen out of fashion, your cast iron cookware will still be going strong. With proper care, these workhorses keep their looks and function beautifully for decades.

It's no wonder then that cast iron cooking has been enjoying a renaissance, so much so, that last fall, when **Chef Jarrett Young** taught a class on the subject at **Main Line School Night**, it sold out immediately. When he added a second class, that sold out too.

I caught up with Chef Young this winter in the kitchen of Central Montco Technical High School where he is the Culinary Arts instructor. Before joining the faculty at CMTHS—where his photo hangs on the wall of notable alums—this CIA-trained chef honed his skills in various upscale kitchens, including Savona in Radnor. He's also worked with renowned chef Peter Gilmore at Delaware County Community College's culinary arts program, and he teaches classes and runs culinary camps for kids through his business, **Create-A-Cook**.

Young ticks off the reasons that everyone—from millennials in tiny apartment kitchens to grandmothers with cupboard space to spare—treasures cast iron. It's reasonably priced and low maintenance. It conducts heat evenly, and its versatility makes it ideal for sautéing, pan- and deep-frying and baking. And when you ask it to go from stovetop to oven, it does so with ease. But perhaps its greatest virtue is its ability to lend a deep golden crust to steaks, pizza and bread, giving you the sense that all is right with the world.

When it comes to seafood, Young says, most people don't reach for the cast iron ... but they should,

especially for scallops and sturdy fish and fish steaks. And dessert? Let's just say that when Young mentioned a skillet-baked salted caramel apple crumble, I was sold.

While there are few iron-clad rules for cooking in cast iron, it's best to avoid acidic ingredients like tomatoes and citrus juice until your cookware is highly seasoned. (For how to season and care for cast iron, see the sidebar.)

For our menu that evening, Young drew inspiration from his grandmother, as he offered me innovative versions of dishes he remembers her cooking in a large skillet. He fried chicken thigh roulade in a cast iron wok, which I immediately decided to purchase. He served fancy mac and cheese (cavatappi with gruyere and cheddar) in a classic skillet as well as in a tri-legged mini Dutch oven that, given its contents, bore a striking resemblance to a pot of gold.

Besides feeling lucky to taste Young's cooking, I left our dinner with a newfound appreciation for the myriad shapes, sizes and functions of cast iron cooking equipment.

The bottom line: find the piece (or pieces!) that suit your kitchen and get cooking.



Classic Crusty Cavatappi with Gruyère and Cheddar

A terrific take on mac and cheese from Chef Jarrett Young.

- 2 lb. cavatappi pasta
- 4 Tb. olive oil
- 8 Tb. unsalted butter (1 stick)
- ¼ C. onion, cut into small dice
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ C. all-purpose flour
- 6 C. half-and-half, cold
- ½ tsp. freshly ground nutmeg (optional)
- Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 3 C. shredded Gruyère cheese
- 3 C. shredded white cheddar cheese
- ½ C. grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ C. panko (Japanese bread crumbs)
- 2 Tb. chopped parsley

Preheat oven to 375°.

Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil over high heat. Add the pasta, stirring occasionally. Undercook the pasta—2 minutes less than the package instructions. Before draining, reserve some of the pasta water to thin the sauce if needed. Transfer drained pasta to a large bowl and drizzle with the olive oil. Stir well.

Return the saucepan to medium-high heat and melt the butter. Add the onion and sweat until the onion is translucent, about 3–4 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for 1 more minute until fragrant. Then add the flour and cook, stirring well, until the flour is thoroughly incorporated, 1 to 3 minutes. Whisk in the cold half-and-half, nutmeg and a generous pinch of salt, and bring to a boil.

Lower heat and simmer, whisking frequently to smooth out any lumps, for 4 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Add a pinch of pepper and two-thirds each of the Gruyère and cheddar. Stir until smooth.

Pour the cheese sauce onto the pasta and stir well. Transfer to a cast iron skillet and top with the remaining one-third Gruyère and cheddar and all the Parmesan. Sprinkle evenly with the panko bread crumbs.



Caring and Seasoning of Cast Iron

When you take care of your cast iron cookware, it will take of you, rewarding you with decades of great dishes. Just keep these tips in mind.

Keep it clean and dry. Hand wash cast iron with warm water or just wipe it out. To release stubborn stuck-on bits, rub with coarse salt and wash. Never let cast iron soak. Dry thoroughly with a dishtowel or put it on the stove on low heat for 10 minutes.

Season and re-season. Some cast iron cookware, like many Lodge products, come preseasoned. If yours does not, wash it with mild soap and dry it well. Rub cookware all over (including handles) with vegetable or canola oil. Heat oven to 200–250° and place a piece of aluminum foil on the bottom of oven to catch drips. Put cookware upside on rack and “bake” for an hour. Cool before storing away.

Get rid of the rust. Use steel wool and a little water to remove rust spots. Then, re-season the piece.

Personal note: It took me ten SOS pads and one solid hour of scrubbing and rinsing to remove the layer of rust covering 90% of the cast iron skillet I'd ignored in the basement for years. But once I'd reseasoned it, the pan looked almost new!

~From Chef Jarrett Young and KitchenToTheTable.com

Bake until the top is lightly browned, and the sauce is bubbly, 15 to 20 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes and sprinkle with parsley before serving.

Makes 8–10 servings.

Chicken Thigh Roulade

Chef Jarrett Young's fancy take on fried chicken is a labor of love as you can see from this lengthy recipe.

Notes: Moo glue is a natural enzyme that binds protein-based foods together. You can purchase it online. A sous vide machine or stick allows you to put food in a plastic pouch and cook it in a temperature-controlled water bath. They used to be found only in professional kitchens, but nowadays, it's easy to find them at most cooking stores. Or, if you were lucky enough to find an Instant Pot (or InstaPot) under the tree this year, you may see a sous vide function on it.

- 4 chicken thighs, boneless, skin on
- 3 tablespoons RM Transglutaminase, aka “moo glue”
- 1½ C. all-purpose flour
- 1 Tb. garlic powder
- 1 Tb. onion powder
- 1 Tb. sweet paprika
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper
- ½ Tb. ground cumin
- Iodized salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 C. buttermilk
- 1 Tb. hot chili sauce, such as Sriracha

Peanut oil, for frying (substitution: canola, safflower or other oil with neutral taste and high smoke point)
 ¼ head garlic, smashed, husk still attached
 ¼ bunch fresh thyme
 3–4 sprigs sage
 2 big sprigs fresh rosemary



Gently peel skin away from chicken thighs, being careful not to tear skin. Lay skin on plastic wrap with the outside of the skin on the plastic wrap. Position plastic wrap and skin in the same direction on your workspace (positioned north to south). Trim all fat off chicken thigh meat and cut in half (from top to bottom). Butterfly each half at the thickest point of the meat.

Sprinkle “moo glue” on the skin and place one half of thigh meat on top of the skin closest to you. Sprinkle “moo glue” on top of the first half of meat. Then place second half of meat on top, and sprinkle “moo glue” on top of second piece of meat. Roll the thigh meat in the skin, making sure to cover all meat in skin. Trim excess skin once all meat is rolled. Then tightly roll chicken in plastic wrap as to remove all air. Twist ends of plastic wrap in opposite directions and tie ends with kitchen twine to secure. Trim excess plastic wrap and twine from ends. Repeat with remaining chicken thighs.

Place in sous vide machine set to 145° and cook for 1–1½ hours. Chicken thighs will be firm and spring back when done. Keeping them wrapped, place cooked chickens in an ice bath to cool. Once cooled, continue to the next step or refrigerate overnight.

In a large shallow platter, mix the flour, garlic powder, onion powder, paprika and cayenne until well-blended; season generously with salt and black pepper. In another platter, combine buttermilk and chili sauce with a fork and season with salt and black pepper.

Remove chicken from plastic wrap and pat dry. Using a sharp knife slice off the ends of the chicken. Slice the chicken in half and then slice those halves in half again to make 4, 1” to 1 ¼” cylinders. Dredge the pieces, a few at a time, in the buttermilk and then dip

them in the seasoned flour. Repeat this dipping process twice. Let the chicken rest while you prepare the oil.

Fill a cast iron skillet about three-quarters full of oil. Add the garlic, sage, thyme and rosemary to the cool oil and heat over medium-high heat until the oil registers 350° on a deep-fry thermometer. Remove herbs when fragrant and right before they’re browned. The herbs and garlic will perfume the oil with their flavor as the oil comes up to temperature.

Working in batches of 3 to 4 pieces at a time, carefully add the chicken to the pot and fry, turning once, until golden brown and cooked through, about 4–6 minutes.

Remove the chicken from the pot with a skimmer, shaking off as much oil as you can, and put them on a cooling rack to drain. Season all sides with salt and a dusting of black pepper. Repeat with the remaining chicken pieces. You can use the fried herbs and garlic for garnish if you’d like.

Serve chicken immediately with prepared Harissa Cream and Lemon-Honey Drizzle.

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Harissa Cream

¼ C. plain Greek yogurt
 ¼ C. sour cream
 Salt and black pepper, to taste
 1 Tb. spicy harissa paste
 ½ tsp. chopped thyme leaves
 ½ lemon, juiced and zested

Place yogurt and sour cream in a small bowl; season with salt and pepper. Add harissa paste, thyme, lemon juice and zest. Mix well and adjust to taste.
 Makes ½ C.

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Lemon-Honey Drizzle

2 Tb. honey
 ½ to 1 tsp. lemon juice, to taste
 ¼ tsp. lemon zest
 Salt to taste

In small bowl, combine first honey, lemon juice and zest and mix well. Season to taste with salt.

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The Perfect Steak

When it comes to pan-cooking the perfect steak, Chef Jarrett Young cites Gordon Ramsay and Heston Blumenthal as influences. I studied up on their methods as well as consulting my go-to guy, J. Kenji Lopez-Alt of Serious Eats and The Food Lab fame. Here’s my take.

1 ribeye, 1½” thick, ¾–1 lb.
 Kosher salt
 ¼ C. canola oil
 2 Tb. butter

Pat steak dry with paper towels. Salt steak generously on both sides and let sit at room temperature for 10 minutes. Lopez likes to salt two days in advance, but if you don’t have time, rest assured that I’ve taken a steak directly from the refrigerator, salted it and let it sit for 10 minutes, and no one’s complained about the final result.

Heat oil on high in a 10” or 12” cast iron skillet until it just starts to smoke. Add steak and cook for 2 minutes. Flip and cook for another 2 minutes.

Add butter and reduce heat to medium-high. Using a turkey baster, baste the steak with butter and flip after 20–30 seconds. Flip again after 20–30 seconds, baste and repeat the process until steak reaches desired temperature. For medium rare, remove steak from pan when internal temperature reaches 120–125°.

Place steak on serving plate and pour juices over. Cover very loosely with foil. Rest for 10 minutes.

Save juices for individual Yorkshire puddings.
 Makes 1–2 servings.

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Individual Yorkshire Puddings

You can eat these with a knife and a fork alongside your steak or slathered with butter and eaten out of hand like a bigger, flatter popover.

1½ Tb. drippings from steak, plus more for greasing mini skillets
 1½ C. all-purpose flour
 3 large eggs, room temperature
 1½ C. whole milk, room temperature

Preheat oven to 425°. Whisk together drippings, flour, eggs and milk. Grease 4–5, 6” cast iron skillets and place in middle rack of oven to heat for a minute or two. (Leave 6” between middle rack and top rack or remove top rack completely because puddings will puff up.)

Working quickly, pour batter nearly halfway up sides of each skillet. Bake for 12–15 minutes until puddings are puffed and golden. Try your hardest not to open



oven while puddings bake. You don’t want them to fall!
 Makes 4–5 servings. ♦

Laura traces her love of all things culinary to the first time she leafed through her mother’s Betty Crocker’s Cooky Book—which still occupies a place of honor among her 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 Millions jackpot.



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