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Pond | Subdivision Possible
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Chester Springs

Antique 4 BR, 1.1 BA | 57.4 Acres
Abuts Bryn Coed Preserve | Barn w/15 stalls
Great Easement Potential | Oversize Ring
\$2,890,000



West Marlborough

3BR, 2.1 BA | 59.2 Acs. | Great Stable
Allowed to Build Primary Residence
Heart of Equestrian Area | Great Schools
\$2,490,000



Unionville

4 BR, 3.2 BA | 54.5 Acres | Pool
Fabulous Master Suite | Stable
Perfect for Entertaining | Tennis Court
\$1,990,000



Unionville

4 BR, 3.2 BA | 20.5 Acres | Private!
New Construction - Pick from 4 models
Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools!
\$1,790,000



West Marlborough

6 BR, 3.1 BA | 35 Acres
Indoor Arena Possible | Pond
24 Stall Barn | Unionville Schools
\$1,699,000



West Marlborough

46.2 Acre Parcel | On quiet country road
Midst of equestrian area | Protected views
Unionville-Chadds Ford School District
\$1,685,000



Unionville

77 Acres | Mix of Open & Woodlands
Fabulous Views of Protected Countryside
Equestrian Area | Unionville Schools
\$1,685,000



Newlin Township

5 BR, 5.1 BA | Great Floor Plan
Sought-after Glenelg Farm Community
Superior Schools | Unionville Schools
\$1,425,000



Warwick Township

6 BR, 5.1 BA | 22.5 Acres | Very Private!
Historic Farmhouse, Stone Barn & Pond
Near 535 Ac. Warwick Park | Priced to Sell!
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East Bradford

Charming 4 BR, 2.2 BA | 2.9 Acres
Ann Capron Designed
Fabulous Master Suite | Finished Basement
\$817,000



Honey Brook

3 BR, 2.2 BA | 7.8 or 4 Acres
Spacious Great Room with Kitchen
Super Master Suite & Bath | Lg. Garage
\$662,500



East Bradford

5 BR, 3.1 BA | 2 Private Acres
Open Floor Plan | Large Family Room
Newer Kitchen | West Chester Schools
\$599,900



East Fallowfield

4 BR, 2.1 BA | 2 Private Acres | Pool
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from the EDITOR

We welcome April, as we continue to slide into Spring. And at *County Lines*, we celebrate with a look at weddings, gardens, gorgeous homes, weekend getaways and great events.

Second weddings are, well, different—smaller, less lavish, more relaxed than the first. Matt Freeman takes a closer look in “Things are Different . . . the Second (or Third) Time Around.” You’ll still need a venue, even if it’s smaller, so check out our “Guide to Wedding Venues and Services.” And if you need a smile makeover, read our Being Well column where Dr. Joseph Abrams lays out some things to consider before the big day.

We also offer ideas for epic bachelor/bachelorette parties (and suggest combining them). Of course we focus on local options from casinos, to sports outings, to tastings and even axe throwing in Ed Malet’s article, “Make It Memorable.”

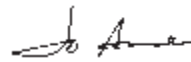
For homes and gardens, we highlight an Industrial Farmhouse in Malvern. You’ll have to read our Home of the Month feature to find out more (hint, it was a Home of the Year in *Custom Home* magazine). In the garden, Chanticleer’s Anna Kruschwitz describes ideas for creating natural habitats in “Gardening for Wildlife,” incorporating hugelkulters, tree snags and bee hotels.

Mercedes Thomas, who grew up in Lancaster County, shares ideas for visiting her old stomping grounds with two different themes in mind in “Spring Getaways in Lancaster County.”

This month is full of fun things to do. Maria Marabito and Lindsey Miller recommend catching a performance of “Mama Mia!” at the Media Theatre and a three-day “BV Brewscene Craft Beer Weekend”—for behind-the-scenes tours, VIP tastings and more. Or you may want to catch the 16th Annual West Chester International Short Film Festival in late April.

In Brandywine Table, Alyssa Thayer explores the seasonality and tastes of goat cheese with help from Catharine and Al Renzi of Yellow Springs Farm in “New Kids on the Cheese Block.”

And as always, we offer plenty of Family Fun and the Best Local Events to keep you going. Thank you for reading.


Jo Anne Durako
Editor



COMING IN
May

Annual Equestrian Issue

Devon Horse Show • Steeplechases
Main Line Town Focus • Mocktails
Gallery Round-up • Garden Tours
Home of the Month • Brandywine Table



COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

April 2020
Volume XLIII, Number 8

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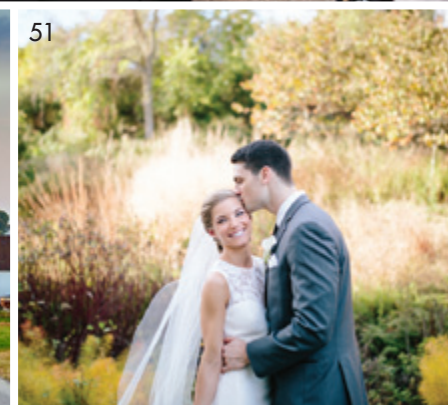
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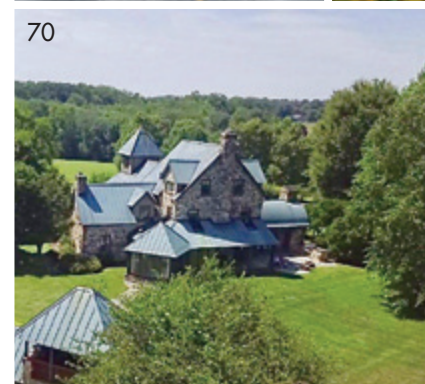
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Cover photo by Crissy Everhart Photography

Want a smile makeover for your big day?

WORKING WITH A COSMETIC DENTIST CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

Dr. Joseph Abrams

A BEAUTIFUL SMILE SPEAKS VOLUMES EVEN BEFORE you say a single word. In fact, studies have shown people with beautiful smiles are seen as warmer, happier, more confident, more successful and even more intelligent.

If you're considering cosmetic dental care, do a few things before consulting with a dentist to ensure you're on the road to achieving the smile of your dreams. The best results come from collaboration between doctor and patient sharing a well-thought-out common vision.

Your dentist has knowledge, experience and skill, but as a patient, your understanding of your needs, desires and circumstances provides an invaluable part of achieving your optimal result. No matter how committed a dentist is to a vision of your smile, these are your teeth and it's your life.

So where to begin?

First, take a self-inventory. Include what you'd like to change about your smile and why. Look on the web at aspirational smiles and at previous pictures of yourself to help your dentist understand your goals. And evaluate your life circumstances to decide if investing in your smile and how much is appropriate now.

Second, educate yourself about the types of procedures available—pros, cons and costs. Then you're not overloaded with information during your dental consultation or suffer sticker shock at your visit.

With recent advances in the field, cosmetic dentistry can address many aesthetic objectives. It's helpful to have some understanding of the types of changes possible and the procedures performed. Remember, cosmetic dentistry truly combines art and science and often offers more than one way to achieve a goal.

An ideal smile depends on many variables—including your teeth's

color, shape and position, your gum and gum line's appearance, and the balance of your smile with your facial features. All these can be enhanced through cosmetic dental procedures.

Whitening performed by a dentist can dramatically change your teeth's color far more effectively than over-the-counter products. Options involve doing in-office whitening (typically one visit), using custom fitted trays for whitening material applied daily to teeth (2 to 3 weeks) or a combination. These procedures are generally inexpensive (less than \$600) and some practices offer promotions.

Orthodontics may be the best treatment if the appearance of your teeth is satisfactory but they are poorly aligned. Although this takes longer than purely cosmetic procedures, it's recommended because it doesn't involve altering the tooth structure.

In more complex situations—changing the shape or appearance of previously damaged or restored teeth, and teeth slightly out of position—dental bonding, porcelain veneers and cosmetic crowns can help. These treatments are faster than braces, usually completed within a few weeks.

Dental bonding involves applying a putty-like material to the teeth that's cured using a bright light. Bonding takes one visit and is less expensive than porcelain veneers or crowns. A disadvantage is the material is less strong or stain resistant than porcelain, and it often has to be replaced or repaired within 5 to 7 years. But it's usually less than half the cost of crowns or veneers and some insurance covers it.

Porcelain veneers and **cosmetic crowns** generally involve removing a layer of tooth structure. The porcelain is fabricated by a laboratory that creates the structure that's cemented to your teeth. Cosmetic crowns are stronger and often better for individuals who have a strong bite or grind their teeth.

Veneers and crowns are the most aesthetic, strongest and longest-lasting restorations. Most Hollywood celebrities with smile makeovers had this type of treatment. The cost ranges between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per tooth in our area.

Altering the appearance of your gums can also enhance your smile. Cosmetic gum surgery can raise or lower the gum line and balance the relationship of gums to teeth. In complex smile makeovers, it's often performed along with porcelain veneers.

A final part of your preparation is to research potential dentists. Ideally, you'll choose one who emphasizes cosmetic care, is well-respected and has extensive experience. Check websites to see treatments actually performed and read patient reviews. Once you've identified prospects, get a consultation to evaluate your rapport with the dentist.

Here's hoping you're one or two steps closer to the smile of your dreams! ♦

Dr. Joseph Abrams graduated from Temple Uni-

versity School of Dental Medicine, then completed his postgraduate residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center. He has extensive postgraduate training and experience in delivering cosmetic dental care and has been serving families in the tri-state area for nearly 30 years. He practices at the Abrams Center for Cosmetic Dentistry in Frazer. AbramsCosmetic-Dentistry.com.



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

Stroud Proud. The **Stroud Water Research Center** is in the spotlight this month thanks to Visionaries, Inc.'s documentary series highlighting their work, to be broadcast on PBS. Stroud will appear in an episode featuring scenes of their research team in Costa Rica and of their Avondale headquarters. Since 1967, Stroud has been committed to finding solutions for preserving and restoring fresh water. Now its mission will be broadcasted across the country with its PBS debut. Watch local! StroudCenter.org.



Meet for Green Drinks. And we don't mean kale shots! **Green Drinks** are informal monthly meetups for eco-minded workers and supporters that have spread to over 600 cities around the globe. To participate locally, the Chester County Environmental Alliance is hosting a Green Drinks meetup on the 22nd—no coincidence that's also the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Head to the Slyfox Brewpub in Phoenixville around 7 p.m. and mingle with other greenies. 520 Kimberton Rd., Phoenixville. More at ChescoEnvt.org.

Say 'I Do' Sustainably. Weddings can produce tons of waste and CO₂ emissions, but you can reduce your first carbon footprint as a married couple. Find the dress of your dreams at Downingtown's **Blessing Brides Ministry**, which offers beautiful secondhand and vintage dresses plus accessories, all with a boutique experience. Donate leftover food to Exton's **Chester County Food Bank**, which accepts perishables. Offer your flowers to local hospitals, senior homes or shelters. Every decision counts! More ideas at GoingZeroWaste.com. [Blessing Brides on Facebook](http://BlessingBrides.org). ChesterCountyFoodBank.org.



Picture It. J.K. Rowling has said, "I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book," and librarians of the Henrietta Hankin Branch Library agree. In February, the branch began **Picture It! Book Club**, a biweekly book club that invites adolescents and adults living with intellectual and developmental differences to experience the magic of reading through picture books. April meetings on the 1st and 15th, 12:30–1:30 p.m. 215 Windgate Dr., Chester Springs. ChescoLibraries.org.



Books are My Bag. **Independent Book Store Day** on the 25th is the perfect excuse to buy books. Wayne's Main Point Books will celebrate with author visits, giveaways and food, and Exton's Wellington Square Bookshop also marks 10 years of business. Support other local bookshops like Phoenixville's Reads & Co., West Chester's Baldwin's Book Barn and Kennett's Macaluso Books. And shop local online, too, with Bookshop.org, a digital bookstore that donates to independent bookshops. MainPointBooks.com. WellingtonSquareBooks.indielite.org. ReadsAndCompany.com. BookBarn.com. [Macaluso Books on Facebook](http://MacalusoBooks.org).



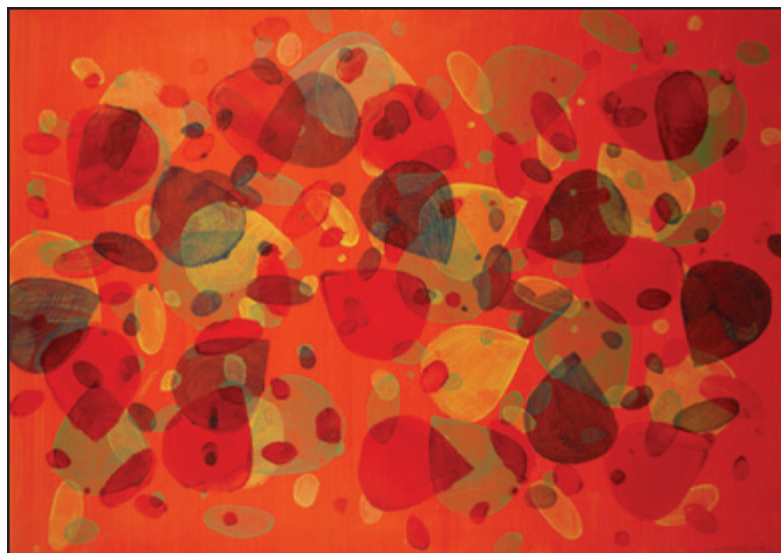


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March 21 – September 6, 2020

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Layered Abstraction: Margo Allman & Helen Mason was organized by the Delaware Art Museum. This exhibition is made possible by the Emily du Pont Memorial Exhibition Fund. Additional support is provided, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com. Top to bottom: *Universal Possibilities*, 1980. Margo Allman. Acrylic on paper, sheet; 27 x 39 1/4 inches. Courtesy of the artist. © Margo Allman. | *High Speed*, 2012. Helen Mason. Rubber and wood, 21 x 52 x 6 inches. Courtesy of the artist. © Helen Mason.

[April Picks]

Our Picks for top events this month

Spring Fundraiser for Camp Geronimo

April 19

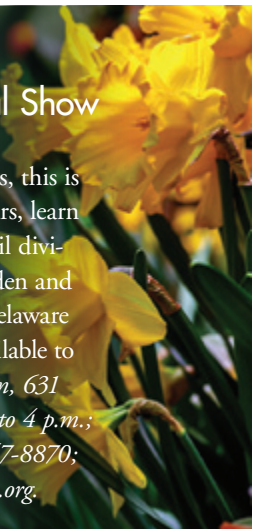
Spend an evening with friends and neighbors at a casual cocktail party at Abbott's Barn and support Camp Geronimo, a one-of-a-kind summer camp program for children with disabilities. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine and a program featuring the dean of Penn Vet, Dr. Andrew Hoffman, sharing his vision that human health, animal health and ecosystem health are all linked. 315 N. Creek Rd., West Chester. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$50. 610-793-1037; Springbrook-Farm.org/Spring-Event.



Annual Delaware Valley Daffodil Society Regional Show

April 11–12

If you love springtime and daffodils, this is an opportunity to see many cultivars, learn more about the 13 different daffodil divisions, resistance to pests in the garden and landscape planting. Members of Delaware Valley Daffodil Society will be available to answer questions. *Jenkins Arboretum*, 631 Berwyn-Baptist Rd., Devon. Sat., 1 to 4 p.m.; Sun., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. 610-647-8870; JenkinsArboretum.org; DaffodilUSA.org.



DE Center for Horticulture Rare Plant Auction

April 25

The 40th and final Rare Plant Auction at Longwood Gardens is a benefit that enriches urban neighborhoods through the power of plants. Featuring a live auction, access to hundreds of rare and exceptional plants and entrance to Longwood, open bar, fine food and valet parking. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 6:30 to 10 p.m. \$200 and up. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.



The Philadelphia Show – Antiques | Art | Design

April 23–26

Sixty antiques dealers and fine art galleries exhibit outstanding selections at this show. New this year is Museum Day, Fri., when visitors with a membership to any museum in the country enter for free; Family Day, Sun., with a scavenger hunt and activity table; daily meet-and-greet Dealer Talks; and a special loan exhibit, "All Creatures Great and Small." Benefits the Phila. Museum of Art's Division of Education and Public Programs. *The Navy Yard*, *League Island Blvd. & Kitty Hawk Ave.*, Philadelphia. Preview party, Thurs., \$150–\$600. Fri., 11 to 8 p.m.; Sat., 11 to 6 p.m.; Sun., 11 to 5 p.m. \$20, under 18, free. ThePhiladelphiaShow.com.



Springtime at Winterthur

Through April 30

It's an exciting time of year at Winterthur, with lots to do for the whole family. *Apr.–Oct.*, 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Story Time in the Enchanted Woods; *Apr. 12*, Easter Brunch with the Bunny, reservations requested; *Apr. 14–17*, Spring Break Bash, egg-decorating demos, tiny petting zoo, games, crafts and music; *Apr. 18*, Daffodil Day, enjoy Winterthur's amazing daffodil display with tours, kids' crafts and a daffodil show; *Apr. 30*, Garden Tailgate Tour through the Azalea Woods. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur. Check website for times and tickets. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.



best Local Events

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Story Time, Reads & Company. Every Wednesday morning at 11 am back at the Reading Rocketship. *Reads & Co. Bookshop, 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 484-920-3695; ReadsAndCompany.com.*

APRIL 4
Media-Providence Friends School Dazzle Dash and Family Fun Day. A day of family fun with races including a run, walk and relay, auctions, music, food, bounce house and more. *Rose Tree Park, 1671 N. Providence Rd., Media. 7:30 am to 1 pm. Pre-register for race. MPFS.org.*

APRIL 4
Join the Continental Army at Valley Forge National Historical Park. Children are invited to join the Continental Army and experience a day in the life of a Continental soldier. *Visitors Center, 1400 N. Outer Line Dr., King of Prussia. 10 am. Free. 610-783-1099; NPS.gov.*

APRIL 4-5
Time Travel Through History at The Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation. Meet the earliest settlers, chat with members of the Revolutionary generation, time travel to the Civil War, First and Second World Wars and more. *3900 N. Sandy Flash Dr., Newtown Square. 11 to 4. \$6-\$10. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.*

APRIL 5
Malvern Borough Easter Egg Hunt. Children 10 and under should bring their baskets and join the crowd and the Easter Bunny at *Paoli Battlefield, Monument & Wayne Aves., Malvern. 2 pm. MalvernBusiness.com.*

APRIL 5, 10
Brandywine River Museum of Art—First Sundays for Families & Stroller Tours. *Apr. 5,* First Sundays for Families are designed to engage visitors of all ages in creative art activities and performances, free, 11 to 2. *Apr. 10,* Stroller Tours: Spring Landscapes, free with museum admission, \$6-\$18, 10:30. *1 Hoffman's Rd., Chadds Ford. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.*

APRIL 11
Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Farm at Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation. Fun activities, entertainment, demonstrations and crafts will be part of the fun. There are 3 hunts, divided by age group. First group starts at 11 am. Pre-registration suggested. *3900 N. Sandy Flash Dr., Newtown Square. \$9. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.*



APRIL 18
Healthy Kids Day. This is the YMCA's national initiative to improve the health and well-being of kids and the importance of staying active. Find events across Chester County with lots of fun activities such as moon bounces, games, arts and crafts, demonstrations and more. *Visit YMCAGBW.org/HKD for locations and details.*

APRIL 19-MAY 24
Disney's The Jungle Book Kids at The Media Theatre. The jungle is jumpin' with a jazzy beat and a host of colorful characters singing your favorite songs from the movie. *104 E. State St., Media. Noon. \$14-\$17. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.*

APRIL 23, MAY 14, 28
Books & Boots at Myrick Conservation Center. Children 3-5 listen as Potter the Otter reads a book. Next, the story continues into



a real-life, outdoor adventure. Adult participation optional; snack provided. Register by Wed. before class. *1760 Unionville-Wawaset Rd., West Chester. 10 to 11:30. \$10. 610-793-1090; BrandywineRedClay.org.*

APRIL 25
BTCC Kids Fishing Derby. Brandywine Trout & Conservation Club hosts a fishing derby for kids. *Kerr Park, Park Ln., Downingtown, near the Kid's Playground. 9 to 2, reg. at 8 am. Free. BrandywineTrout.net.*

APRIL 25, MAY 16
Newlin Grist Mill's Public Archaeology Days. Assist professional archaeologists with site excavation, artifact screening and care in the area between the 1704 Grist Mill and the 1730s Archive Building. *219 S. Cheyney Rd., Glen Mills. Free. 610-459-2359; NewlinGrist-Mill.org.*

APRIL 26
Wheels of Wayne. Cruise on in to see the antique, classic and custom cars and motorcycles. Participate in the pulled pork and pizza contests to determine the best. *N. Wayne and West Aves., Wayne. 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Free. 610-688-5600; Radnor.com.*

MAY 2
Sheep and Wool Day at Springton Manor Farm. The sheep are losing their winter wool, and you're invited to the shearing. Enjoy live music, demonstrations and animals. *860 Springton Rd., Glenmoore. 11 to 3. Free. 610-942-2450; ChesCo.org/CCParks.*

MAY 3
May Day Festival of the Arts in West Chester. A celebration of the arts with artisans displaying and selling their hand-crafted wares. The family-friendly event includes a moon bounce and children's rides. *Everhart Park, 100 S. Brandywine St., West Chester. 11 to 4. Free. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.*

MAY 3
It's Tea Time! At Rock Ford Plantation. Kitty Hand, wife of Revolutionary War Gen. Edward Hand, welcomes guests to an afternoon of tea and sweets as they learn about historical fashion during a fashion show plus activities, games and a craft. *881 Rockford Rd., Lancaster. 2 pm. \$12-\$15. Rec. for ages 5 and up and their family members. 717-392-7223; RockFordPlantation.org.*

ANTIQUES, ART, CRAFTS.....

APRIL 17-19
The Artists Circle Annual Art Show & Sale. Member artists showcase original works. St. Luke Lutheran Church, 203 N. Valley Forge Rd., Devon. Fri, 1 to 8, opening reception 5 to 8, live music and refreshments; Sat-Sun, 10 to 5. Free. 484-514-2001; TheArtistsCircle.net.

APRIL 21-26
Life's Patina Spring Barn Sale. Find vintage accents and furniture, European imports, architectural salvage and artisanal food offerings from local food purveyors and food trucks. Willowbrook Farm, 1750 N. Valley Rd., Malvern. Preview Tues, 6:30 to 9, \$40; sale Thurs, 10 to 4; Fri-Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 3. Free. LifesPatina.com.

APRIL 24-MAY 10
47th Annual Yellow Springs Art Show. A juried exhibit featuring works by artists from the Delaware Valley and beyond that benefits the arts, education, preservation and environmental protection of the village of Yellow Springs. *Apr. 24,* Opening Gala, 6 to 9, \$75. 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Sat-Thurs, 10 to 4; Fri, 10 to 8. Free. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.



APRIL 30-MAY 3
The Potters Guild Spring Sale. Annual sale offering handcrafted functional and decorative pottery. Duke Gallery, Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. Preview Thurs, 6:30 to 9, \$5. Fri, 10 to 8, Sat-Sun, 10 to 5. Free. ThePottersGuild.com.

MAY 1
Gallery Walk in Downtown West Chester. The Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce hosts its Spring Gallery Walk presented by Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts. Receptions



and exhibits provide the perfect opportunity to experience downtown West Chester. 5 to 9. Free parking after 5. 610-696-4046; GreaterWestChester.com.

BOOKS.....

APRIL 2-30
Main Point Books—Readings with Q&A and Signing. *Apr. 2,* *The Great Upending*, by Beth Kephart, 7 pm; *Apr. 21,* Fiction Book Group: *Celestial Bodies* by Jokha Alharthi; *Apr. 25,* Independent Bookstore Day; *Apr. 30,* Non Fiction Book Group: *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland* by

Patrick Keefe. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. 484-580-6978; MainPointBooks.com.

DESIGN HOMES.....

APRIL 26-MAY 24
45th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens. Tour Creekside, a circa 1850 farmhouse, outbuildings and gardens after premier area designers and landscapers transform this 17-acre property. *Apr. 26,* Opening Night Gala, 6 to 10, \$165 and up. Show: Mon-Wed, Fri-Sat, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 7; Sun, noon to 4. \$30-\$35. 215-345-2191; BucksCounty-DesignerHouse.org.



BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM OF ART

ANTIQUES SHOW

PREVIEW RECEPTION
 Friday, May 22, 6-9 p.m.
 \$125 members, \$150 non-members

BREAKFAST & TOUR
 Saturday, May 23, 9 a.m. \$30

A PASSION FOR COLLECTING, DEALERS' TALKS
 May 24 & 25, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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Proceeds from the Antiques Show support the Museum Volunteers' Purchase Fund and Art Education and Programming.

BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM OF ART
 US Route 1, Chadds Ford, PA 19317 • 610.388.2700 • www.brandywine.org

May 23rd - 25th
 2020
 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 \$20

EQUESTRIAN.....

APRIL 5

78th Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point. A family tradition celebrating the first race of the season! See pony races, lots of activities for kids and great raffle prizes. Dogs on leashes welcome. Benefits Brandywine Red Clay Alliance's programs. Myrick Conservation Center, 1760 Unionville-Wawaset Rd., West Chester. \$20. 610-793-1090; BrandywineRedClay.org.

APRIL 9

Radnor Hunt Races Pre-Race Event—Pop-Up Shops. Shop from pop-up boutiques and spe-

cialty stores for all you need to be Race Day ready. Radnor Hunt, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. 610-388-8383; Brandywine.org/events.



APRIL 26

Kimberton Hunt Club's 75th Annual Horse Show. Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the club and the 75th annual horse show. Food tents and vendors on hand. Benefits the Kimberton hounds. Ludwig's Corner Horse Show Grounds, 5 Nantmeal Rd., Glenmoore. 8 to 6. Free. 610-469-0227; KimbertonHunt.org.

MAY 3

42nd Annual Point-to-Point at Winterthur. Enjoy a day of elite horse racing, kids' activities, festive tailgating, carriage parade, Best Dressed Head-to-Toe Contest, pony races, beautiful hospitality tents with elegant luncheons and more. Gates open 11:30; first race at 2. Gen. adm., \$25-\$40. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

FILM.....

APRIL 2-4

Media Film Festival. Sponsored by the Media Arts Council and showcasing short films from the community and around the world. Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. \$15-\$30. Check website for times. MediaFilmFestival.org.

APRIL 24-26

West Chester International Film Festival. See April Picks.

FOOD & BREWS.....

APRIL 4

5th Annual Rails & Ales at the Railroad Museum of PA. All aboard for a craft beer tasting event that includes food trucks, live music and historic trains. 300 Gap Rd., Strasburg. VIP hour: 6:30 to 7:30, \$50; 7:30 to 10:30 pm, \$40. 717-687-8628; RRMuseumPA.org.

APRIL 5-17

Media Restaurant Week. Select restaurants offer fixed priced menus, \$25-\$45. Reservations are suggested. Free street parking after 6. VisitMediaPA.com.

APRIL 7-JULY 14

Every Other Tuesday Food Truck Tuesdays in King of Prussia. Eat to the beat with live music and food trucks during your lunch break for King of Prussia District's roving food truck series. Locations TBA. See website for details closer to event. VisitKOP.com.

APRIL 20-25

City Restaurant Week in Wilmington. Offering everything from Thai to Chilean to Italian, you can sample this creative cuisine with prices of \$15 for a two-course lunch and \$35 for a three-course dinner. CityRestaurantWeek.com.

APRIL 24-26

BVBrewScene Craft Beer Weekend See article in this issue.

MAY 2

Phoenixville Food Truck Festival. Over 30 food trucks grace the streets with globally influenced eats. Both city-based and local trucks and vendors participate. Free shuttle service from Phoenixville Area Middle School and Schuylkill Elementary School. Bridge St., Phoenixville. Noon to 6 pm. 610-933-3070; PhoenixvilleFirst.org.



FUNDRAISERS.....

APRIL 3

People's Light 45th Anniversary Gala The premier fundraising event for the theater starts with a cocktail reception, followed by a silent auction and dinner in The Farmhouse Pavilion. Then a look at how art-making and civic exchange come together at People's Light. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. 6 to 10. \$500 and up. 610-647-1900; PeoplesLight.org.

APRIL 4

13th Annual Pink Horseshoe Gala. Horse Power for Life hosts to benefit local families battling cancer. "Havana Nights" will include hors d'oeuvres, cocktail hour, dinner, open bar, music, dancing, auctions and raffles. Sheraton Valley Forge Hotel, 480 N. Gulph Rd., King of Prussia. 6 to 11. \$150. HorsePowerForLife.org.

APRIL 11

Coaches vs. Cancer Basketball. Hosted by Philadelphia's NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Coaches and their wives, this black-tie evening features dinner, entertainment, auctions and dancing. Park Hyatt at the Bellevue, 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. 6:30 pm. To register, PhiladelphiaBasketBallGala.org.



APRIL 16

Wine Women & Shoes: Sip, Savor and

Shop. Women gather to support Opportunity House, changing lives by educating, housing, feeding and empowering people. Savor wine and culinary tastings, bid on auction items and shop the marketplace. Doubletree by Hilton, 701 Penn St., Reading. 5 to 9. \$125 and up. WineWomenAndShoes.com.

APRIL 16

The Exchange Club Family Center's "Comedy for a Cause." An improvisational comedy show featuring Better Than Bacon. Benefits the Exchange Club, that works directly with families to prevent child abuse and neglect. Uptown!

Knauer Performing Arts Center, 226 N. High St., West Chester. 7:30. \$25-\$50. Uptown-WestChester.org.

APRIL 18

Delaware Art Museum Gala—"Your Museum, Your Night Out!" Join the museum for an evening of drinks and dancing to celebrate the new museum. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 7:30 to 11. \$125-\$250. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

APRIL 25

Safe Harbor's Spring Celebration. Enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and auc-

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APRIL 25
Stoneleigh "Buds & Suds" Plant Sale, Happy Hour and Plein Air Event. Shop a selection of exceptional plants while enjoying a variety of beers and wines. Bring a picnic dinner, listen to live music and admire plein air artists as they paint throughout the garden. 1829 E. County Line Rd., Villanova. 4 to 8. Free, res. suggested. 610-353-5587; NatLands.org.



MAY 1-2
DE Nature Society Native Plant Sale. More than 300 rare varieties of native wildflowers, trees, shrubs, ferns and aquatic plants for sale. Some from nearby Mt. Cuba Center and many species that attract wildlife. Coverdale Farm, 543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. Fri, 3 to 7; Sat, 9 to 3. 302-239-2334; DelNature.org/NPS.

MAY 1-2
Arasapha Garden Club's Annual May Market. Flowering and herb plants, indoor yard sale,

arts and crafts vendors, baked goods, Mother's Day gifts. Market Square, 201 Delaware St., New Castle, DE. Fri, noon to 5; Sat, 9 to 4. Free. 302-322-7895; Arasapha.org/May-Market.

MAY 2
73rd Annual Wilmington Garden Day. Homes and gardens are featured at this rain-or-shine event. It's a grand tradition that benefits Delaware's children in need. 10 to 4. \$35. WilmingtonGardenDay.org.

MAY 2-3
Rushton Farm Plant Sale. Shop for organically started early vegetable and annual flower seedlings, raspberry canes and a limited supply of wildflowers and perennials. 911 Delchester Rd., Newtown Square. Free. Visit website for times. 610-353-2562; WCTrust.org.

MAY 3
Chestnut Hill Home & Garden Festival. Explore plants, crafts and beautiful artwork from over 150 vendors as home and garden design and supplies take the spotlight. 8000 to 8600 blocks of Germantown Ave., Chestnut Hill. 11 to 5. Raindate May 17. 215-247-6696; ChestnutHillPa.com.

MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH JUNE 14
Brandywine River Museum of Art. Through

June 7, "Votes for Women: A Visual History." Through June 14, "Witness to History: Selma Photography of Stephen Somerstein." 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily, 9:30 to 5. \$6-\$18. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6
Delaware Art Museum. Through Apr. 12, "Angela Fraleigh." Through May 10, "Julio daCunha: Modernizing Myths." Through Sept. 6, "Layered Abstraction: Margo Allman & Helen Mason." 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8; Fri-Sun, 10 to 4. \$6-\$12, Sun, free. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 23, 2021
Winterthur Museum Garden & Library. "Re-Vision 20/20: Through a Woman's Lens." 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$6-\$20. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

APRIL 4
Smithsonian Magazine's 16th Annual Museum Day. An initiative in which participating museums across the US open their doors for free to those who download a branded ticket. To get yours, visit Smithsonianmag.com/museumday.

APRIL 18
Delaware Museum of Natural History's Tropical Luau Party—Wear your grass skirt and put on your leis to explore the Tropical Odyssey Exhibit and participate in live bird encounters. Enjoy beach music, dancing, limbo and a Tiki Bar. 21+ only. 4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. 7 to 9 pm. \$35. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT.....

APRIL 2
Brandywine River Museum of Art—Songs of Suffrage. Folk musicians and music historians present engaging songs of the suffrage movement. 1 Hoffman's Rd., Chadds Ford. 2 pm. Free. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.



APRIL 3, 30
Delaware Art Museum Performance Series. Apr. 3, Step Afrika!, The Grand Opera House, 818 N. Market St., Wilmington, 8 pm, \$32-\$45; Apr. 30, Pyxis Piano Quartet. 2301

Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington, 7:30, \$25-\$35. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

APRIL 4
In-The-Round Concert at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Spotlight Concert Series continues with three great singer-songwriters: Craig Bickhardt, Thom Schuyler and Tony Arata. 640 Berwyn Ave., Berwyn. 7 pm. Free with reg. Trinity-Berwyn.com/Music-and-Dance/Concerts.

APRIL 4, 5, MAY 3
Kennett Symphony Concerts. Apr. 4, "Reimagined Symphony Experience," Mendenhall Inn, 323 Kennett Pk., Mendenhall, 1 pm, \$10-\$45. Apr. 5, "Ethereal Spaces," Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Rd., Longwood, 7:30 pm, \$10-\$55. May 3, "A Percussion Journey," with the Philadelphia Orchestra Percussion Group at Mendenhall Inn, 2 pm, \$75. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

APRIL 5
Delaware County Symphony Chamber Concert. "Peter and the Wolf," an interactive family concert. Neumann University, Meagher Theatre, One Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$12-\$15. 610-879-7059; DCSMusic.org.

APRIL 11, 19, MAY 1
Longwood Gardens Performance Series. Apr. 11, Open Organ Console Day; Apr. 19, Chris Gage; May 1, Thomas Heywood. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Check website for more performances, times and tickets. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

APRIL 16, 18, 25
Point Entertainment Presents ... Apr. 16, Clem Snide featuring Scott Avett, 8 pm, \$39.50-\$69.50; Apr. 18, This Filthy World: An Evening with John Waters, 7:30, \$25-\$79.50; Apr. 25, Two Funny Philly Guys, 8 pm, \$25-\$35. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

APRIL 17-30
Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. Apr. 17, Jazz Cocktail Hour, The Last Big Band; Apr. 18, Steve Bjork Comedy; Apr. 19, Alejandro Escovedo; Apr. 23, Magical Mystery Doors—Reimagining Led Zeppelin, The Doors & The Beatles; Apr. 28, West Chester Area School District, Sensational Strings; Apr. 30, Dueling Pianos. 226 N. High St., West Chester. 610-356-2787; UptownWestChester.org.

APRIL 17-MAY 3
OperaDelaware Presents the 2020 Festival. Apr. 17, 28, 29, May 2, "Speed Dating Tonight!" Apr. 25, 29, 30, May 2, "The Coronation of Poppea." Apr. 26, May 1, 3, "The Tales of Hoffman." 4 S. Poplar St., Wilmington. \$35-\$99. Check website for times. 302-442-7807; OperaDE.org.

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APRIL 18

Americana Roots Ramble. Celebrate the blues with performances at the Media Theatre, inside 20+ restaurants and coffee houses, and at two outdoor stages on or near State Street, Media. 6 pm to 1 am. \$20. Free parking at meters. Rain or shine. 610-566-5039; StateStreetBlues.com.

APRIL 26

Chester County Choral Society Presents "Celebrating Women and Children!" The spring concert is a salute to 21st-century American women composers and also features John Rutter's "Mass of the Children," with the Kennett Middle School Treble Choir. Church of the Good Samaritan, 212 W. Lancaster Ave., Paoli. 3:30 pm. \$20. ChesCoChoral.org.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

APRIL 4

Tyler Arboretum 27th Annual 10K Trail Run. A 10K course, known to be fast and challenging for the fittest trail runner and fun for novices, due to wide paths, frequent elevation changes and creek crossings. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 9 am. \$34. Runners must register, 610-891-0806; TylerTrailRun.com.

APRIL 18

Greater Philadelphia Congenital Heart Walk.

Take a walk through the Philadelphia Zoo. Benefits the Adult Congenital Heart Association and The Children's Heart Foundation. 3400 W. Girard Ave., Philadelphia. Visit website for more information. 855-CHD-WALK; Events.CongenitalHeartWalk.org.

APRIL 18

The 2020 Schuylkill River 50K Relay & Ultra Marathon. Race solo or in teams of 3 or 6 runners. Starts and ends at St. Michael's Park in Mont Clare, across the river from Phoenixville. Benefits the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. 484-945-0200; SchuylkillRiverRelay.com.

APRIL 19

15th Annual Valley Forge Revolutionary 5-Mile Run. Run the hilly terrain of Valley Forge Park, ending at the Visitors Center. Also a Three-Mile Walk and Young Patriot's



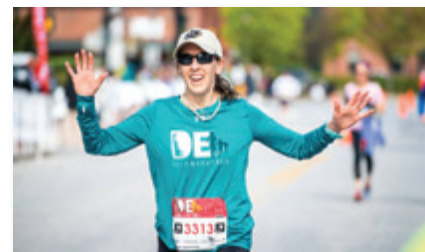
Run. Parking at 1000 First Ave., King of Prussia with shuttle buses to start. Starts 8:30 am. \$20-\$40. Must register before race day. ValleyForge.org/Revolutionary-Run.

APRIL 25-OCTOBER 24

Last Saturday of the month Newlin Grist Mill Bird Walks. Explore the wonderful world of bird life with naturalist-led walks through the 160-acre park. Families and beginners are welcome! 219 Cheyney Rd., Glen Mills. 8 to 10 am. Free. NewlinGristMill.org.

APRIL 26

Delaware Marathon Running Festival. Travel across Brandywine Park and through the historic neighborhoods. Benefits the Cardiac Center at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children and other charities. Tubman Garrett Riverfront Park, 815 Justison St., Wilmington. 7 am. \$120. DelawareMarathon.org.



MAY 3

Cinco de Mayo Benefit Bike Ride & Walk. A day of scenic routes, great food and inspiring athletes as cyclists with and without disabilities come together to support the PA Center for Adapted Sports. Valley Creek Corp. Ctr., 220 Valley Creek Trail, Exton. Reg., 7:30 am. \$45. CincoDeMayoRide.org.

MAY 3

Blue Cross Broad Street Run. A Philadelphia tradition for over 40 years. The 10-mile, point-to-point course starts at Central High School Athletic Field, Broad St. and Somerville Ave., and finishes inside the Navy Yard. Benefits the American Cancer Society. 7:30 am. \$57. 215-683-3594; BroadStreetRun.com.

THEATER.....

THROUGH APRIL 5

The Gin Game. By D.L. Coburn, directed by Peter Delaurier. Hedgerow Theatre Company, 64 Rose Valley Rd., Rose Valley. Check website for show times and tickets. 610-565-4211; HedgerowTheatre.org.

THROUGH APRIL 19

Hold These Truths. A solo play inspired by the true story of Gordon Hirabayashi. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Check

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

APRIL 2-OCTOBER 23

Upcoming Shows at Bird-in-Hand Stage. Apr. 2-Oct. 23, *Josiah for President*; Apr. 8-Oct. 17, *Ryan & Friends: Comedy Calamity*; Apr. 16-Oct. 17, *Our Plain & Simple Life*. Bird-In-Hand Stage, 2760 Old Philadelphia Pk. #A, Bird-in-Hand. \$17-\$38. Check website for times. 800-790-4069; Bird-in-Hand.com/Stage.



APRIL 15-MAY 10

Million Dollar Quartet. The famed recording session that brought together rock 'n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins. Delaware Theatre Company, 200 Water St., Wilmington. Check website for show times and tickets. 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

APRIL 15-JUNE 14

Mamma Mia! Media Theatre. See Theater Spotlight in this issue.

TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....

APRIL 3, 16

First Fridays, Third Thursdays. Explore special sales, extended hours and more at your favorite local shops and businesses.

Apr. 3, **First Fridays: Kennett Square Art Stroll**, 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City**, 717-509-ARTS; Visit-LancasterCity.com. **Oxford**, 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **West Chester**, 610-738-3350; West-Chester.com. **Wilmington Art Loop**, 302-576-2135; ArtLoopWilmington.org.

Apr. 16, **Third Thursday Malvern Stroll**, MalvernBusiness.com. ♦

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

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Sophie spent her whole life without a father ... and then three arrive.

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An instant success, this musical premiered in 1999 and has been performed in over 40 countries and was adapted to the big screen in 2008. Remember Meryl Streep singing?

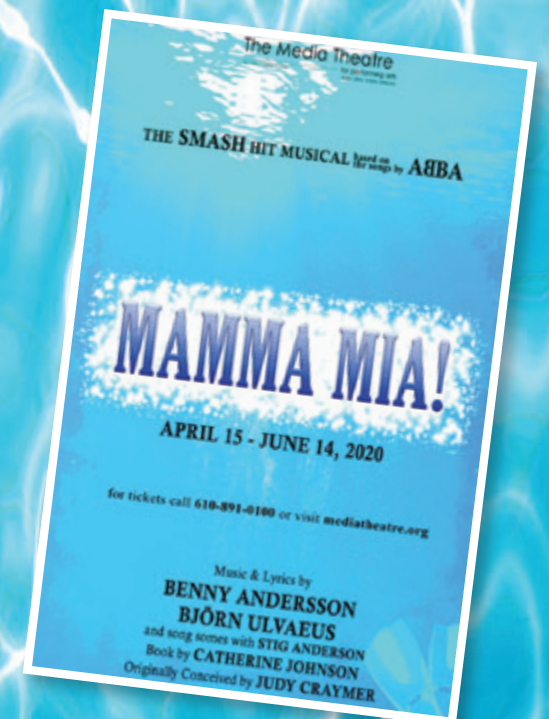
Mamma Mia! tells the story of Sophie and her former hippie mother, Donna, who live together in a crumbling, failing hotel built on a Greek island paradise. Sophie spent her whole life not knowing her birth father and decides impulsively to send letters to her mother's past lovers, inviting them to Sophie's upcoming wedding.

Drama, hilarity and revelations ensue to the tune of an ABBA soundtrack when Sophie's three possible fathers arrive on the island, to the surprise of Donna and Sophie's fiancé, Sky.

It's no surprise this incredibly popular musical is playing at Media Theatre, nationally known for its live orchestra and musical talent. The only professional theater in the Brandywine Valley, it's won 86 Broadway World Awards for 'Best of Philly Theatre' from 2012–2017, among other achievements. Since 1994, Media Theatre has been giving people of the Brandywine Valley a Broadway experience without the stress of going into the city.

See *Mamma Mia!* in its original form—on the stage! We dare you to go and not leave singing. ♦

—Maria Marabito and Lindsey Miller



IF YOU GO

Where: The Media Theatre
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When: April 15–June 14

Tickets: 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

Gardening for Wildlife

Ideas for creating a natural habitat in your garden

Anna Kruschwitz, Chanticleer Garden
Images courtesy of Chanticleer, by Lisa Roper

SUCCESSFUL AND RESPONSIBLE GARDENING IN today's ever-changing climate calls for including wildlife in the garden. As natural habitats disappear, it's more important than ever for gardeners to create wildlife-friendly environments wherever possible.

From an urban container garden to a rambling country estate, many different kinds of sites can invite wildlife to make a temporary stop, a seasonal nest or permanent home in your garden. A visit to your local arboretum or public garden (Chanticleer's Bell's Woodland, in particular) provides examples of how a garden can be a welcome habitat for birds, fish, insects and pollinators.

Here are some ideas to help you create a home garden that supports and encourages wildlife.

CHOOSE NATIVE PLANTS

All wildlife needs the basics—food, water and shelter. Plants and wildlife native to our region evolved symbiotically over time, so choosing native plants creates a welcoming natural habitat. Many birds

and pollinators are drawn to native plants for food, shelter and rearing their young. And wildlife does its part by helping plants reproduce by dispersing pollen, berries or seeds.

Fortunately, native plants can be a fascinating, attractive and environmentally positive addition to your garden plantings. You'll find that most local nurseries grow a selection of native plants—including grasses, perennials, ferns, wildflowers, shrubs and trees—and can help you choose what best suits your garden, based on factors such as soil type, moisture condition and sunlight.

There are plenty of choices that will bring visual beauty and wildlife to your garden year round. Early spring is marked by delicate wildflowers and flowering native shrubs and trees. Then come the vibrant colors of flowering summer perennials.

Many native shrubs and trees produce attractive fruits and berries in the summer and autumn months. And don't forget the glory of colorful fall foliage and attention-grabbing tree bark in the winter.

Native plants will provide a year-round wildlife show of flitting but-

terflies and moths, swooping and singing birds, and a variety of seen and unseen beneficial insects.

For inspiration, try a walk through Chanticleer to find native plants for your garden.

BUILD A HUGELKULTER BED

Hugelkultur, (pronounced hoo-gul-cul-ture) meaning hill culture or hill mound, is a gardening technique that creates a mound from fallen branches and other decaying wood debris, covered with compost, topped with soil and later used as a raised bed. As the wood and debris decompose, the mound comes alive with microbial activity, creating valuable nutrients for plant growth.

This method works wonders for improving poor or compacted garden soil. When properly constructed, it's self-fertilizing, self-irrigating and self-aerating. Chanticleer Horticulturist Przemek Walczak has been incorporating hugelkultur throughout Bell's Woodland to enrich the soil and encourage growth of beneficial organisms.

To construct a hugelkultur bed, begin with a bottom layer of large branches or logs—preferably hardwoods because they decompose slowly and provide years of organic matter and microbial activity. Take care to avoid black locust (which won't

decompose) and black walnut (which has juglone toxin).

Next, layer smaller branches and compostable materials, such as leaves, grass clippings, straw, cardboard, petroleum-free newspaper, manure or compost. The final topping is soil. Voila! You've created a welcome home for beneficial organisms to thrive and a new planting bed for your garden.

LEAVE A SNAG

Another valuable practice that improves wildlife habitat is leaving snags in the landscape. Snags? Yes, trunks of dead or dying trees left standing to decompose naturally—with limbs removed for safety—to provide shelter and food for birds, animals and insects. Decomposing snags also enhance microbial growth and enrich the soil.

Chanticleer has been leaving snags in the garden for over a decade. These snags have encouraged birds to nest in the dead tree cavities, attracting many woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, flycatchers and owls. Because most cavity-nesting birds eat insects, they play a critical role controlling tree-killing bark beetles and other unwanted insects.

If you're inspired to add a snag to your landscape, it's best to work with your local tree care professional. Depending on the species of the tree, snags decompose at different rates and stand for varying lengths of time. That makes safety an important consideration. A safe height for a snag depends on where it's located, avoiding proximity to buildings, walkways, roads and seating areas.



A honey bee and a bumblebee collect pollen from *Liatris* in the Winter Shrub Border

Lonicera sempervirens 'Major Weheeler' is a cultivar of our native honeysuckle.



Hugelkultur in Bell's Woodland



A tree snag



A young Eastern Screech-owl
fledges in Bell's Woodland



A bug house—made from scraps of wood,
terracotta pots, pine cones and other rem-
nants—is located behind the Potting Shed.

If your garden isn't conducive to snags, leaving logs and branches is a good alternative, since they also provide habitat and food for wildlife. With this new-found knowledge, you may also want to talk with your neighbors about the ecological value of snags.

CREATE A BEE HOTEL

Attracting pollinators to your garden is a top priority because of their importance to the life cycle of flowering plants and food crops. One of the most effective pollinators in our region is the solitary bee, which generally includes mason bees, leafcutter bees and miner bees.

These solitary bees differ from honey-bees and bumblebees because, as the name implies, they don't live in colonies. Nor do they produce honey or have a queen. Solitary bees are also native, non-aggressive and don't swarm, so they're considered safe around children and pets.

You can build a hotel to attract hole-nesting bees to your garden. All you need is untreated wood, a hammer, drill with bits. The design can be as simple and rustic as a 4x4 block of wood with holes drilled into it.

Hole nests are created by drilling holes of varying diameters—between 2mm and 10mm—with a depth about the length of a drill bit. Make sure the holes have smooth entries with no splinters. Fix the nest to a wall or post that faces the sun, at least three feet off the ground.

Fancier hotels can include small bee hotels and found objects enclosed in a wooden frame with a protective roof. A good example can be found at Chanticleer behind the Potting Shed.

If you're interested in attracting wildlife to your backyard, you can learn about more techniques by joining Chanticleer staff for evening classes on ecological gardening,

ornamental vines and other topics. Learn more about these classes on the website. ♦

Chanticleer is a dynamic garden that's ever changing. The staff welcomes guests to visit, observe the garden through each season, and ask questions when you see someone tending an area. The garden opens April 1st and remains open through October, Wed.—Sun., 10 to 5, and until 8 p.m. on Fri. from May to Labor Day. 786 Church Rd., Wayne, ChanticleerGarden.org.



A gardener-made bee house, which
gives cover for bees, can be found tucked
beside a rock in Bell's Woodland



Sarracenia flava, the yellow
pitcherplant flowers in the
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Spring Getaways in Lancaster County

Mercedes Thomas

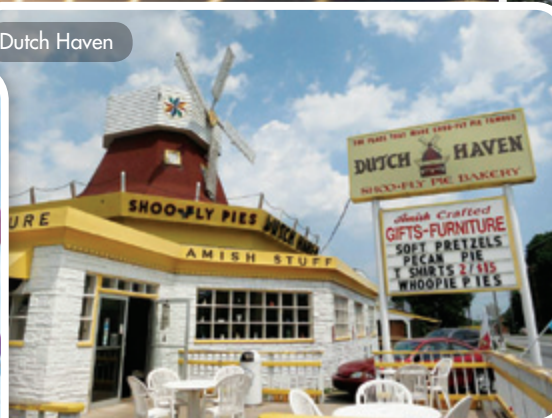
Lazy days in the countryside or spring fun by the Susquehanna River—there's plenty to discover!



Amish wagon crossing the street
PHOTO COURTESY: BRYAN THOMAS PHOTOGRAPHY



Dutch Wonderland



Dutch Haven



Cartoon Network Hotel



Kitchen Kettle Village



The Amish Village



Bird-in-Hand Family Inn



One room schoolhouse at Plain & Fancy Farm



Inn at Kitchen Kettle Village

OPTION 1: ICONIC AMISH COUNTRYSIDE

DID YOU KNOW ...

Heading west from Chester County, you'll pass through small towns with eccentric names like Blue Ball, Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse, to name a few. They're all prime destinations for traditional farm town getaways.

In fact, these towns have attracted visitors for as long as they've been around. Bird-in-Hand, established in the early 1700s, was a bustling town of travelers passing through as well as residents doing business there. Because many travelers and residents spoke different languages, early inns painted images on their signs to make them recognizable. The town "Bird-in-Hand" likely got its name from some such 18th-century sign depicting that exact, vivid image.

Intercourse—formerly known as "Cross Keys" and considered the heart of the Amish Country—was founded in 1754, then renamed in 1814. Former Old King's Highway (now Route 340) running from Wilmington to Erie, intersected here, making Intercourse a hub where locals, Amish, visitors, farmers and craftsmen came together for business and conversation.

GREAT STAYS FOR FARM GETAWAYS

From small inns to themed hotels, the Lancaster countryside has plenty of comfortable places to rest your head. Along Route 340 in the middle of Amish farmlands, you'll find Plain & Fancy Farm, an inn, restaurant, one-room schoolhouse, stables for buggy rides, country store and more spread across 10 acres. Spend a few days trying out all they have to offer in this quintessential farmstead.

ALTHOUGH I GREW UP JUST A FIVE-MINUTE DRIVE from the heart of downtown Lancaster City, much of my time was spent in more iconic parts of the County—in small towns and on winding back roads.

Spring and summer were for touring Amish villages and farmers markets while passing horse-drawn carts and for taking lazy kayak

trips down the Susquehanna. I enjoyed visiting one-room schoolhouses, shopping in boutiques and antiques shops, and hiking trails in parks along the river.

Lancaster County is more diverse than most people expect, with something new to see with every visit. This spring, try one—or both—of these Lancaster getaways in the heart of the towns I love.



In Bird-in-Hand, an obvious choice is the [Bird-in-Hand Family Inn](#), a resort-style hotel with multiple pools, tennis and basketball courts, an on-site restaurant and more—a bit less traditional. And in Intercourse, book a stay at [The Inn at Kitchen Kettle Village](#) and enjoy complimentary breakfasts from Kling House Restaurant and easy access to all the shops at Kitchen Kettle Village.

If you're looking for something the kids will love, try out the new [Cartoon Network Hotel](#) off Route 30. Stay in the character-themed rooms—like Blossom, Bubble and Buttercup from *The Powerpuff Girls* or Ben from *Ben 10*. Then enjoy outdoor screenings of your favorite shows—*Adventure Time*, *The Amazing World of Gumball*, *We Bare Bears*. You can grab a bite to eat at one of the on-site dining options. During your stay, get tickets to Lancaster's amusement park, [Dutch Wonderland](#), right next door.

SHOPPING, TOURS & FOOD TO TRY

Unwind with some shopping—or window shopping—during your visit. Browse home goods like lighting, candles, décor and more at one of the country's largest floral and décor retailers, [Flower & Home Marketplace](#), in Blue Ball, find beautiful hand-sewn gifts at [Fisher's Hand-made Quilts](#) in Bird-in-Hand, and admire simple, Amish-made furniture at [Peaceful Valley Furniture](#) in Intercourse.

For more shopping options, visit Intercourse's [Kitchen Kettle Village](#), with over 40 local shops in one outdoor shopping village. Highlights include garden gifts and specialty plants from [Perfect Pots](#), artwork by nationally and internationally acclaimed

artists from the region at [Dutchland Galleries](#) and sweet treats from [Pepper Lane Fudge and Sweets](#).

While in Intercourse, rent a bike from [Intercourse Bikeworks](#) for a private or guided bike tour of the back roads. Try the Amish Dinner Tour, an eight-mile ride through rolling hills ending with dinner with a welcoming Amish family.

In Ronks, [The Amish Village](#) offers authentic Amish experiences with its guided tours of an authentic Amish farmhouse, shopping in the Amish-operated shops and self-guided tours of the schoolhouse and outbuildings.

And a trip to Lancaster County is not complete without sampling Pennsylvania Dutch cooking. Try *The Daily Meal's* one restaurant you have to try in PA, [Shady Maple Smorgasbord](#) in East Earl, for a 200-foot buffet of delicious PA Dutch Fare, from eggs, pancakes and French toast, to fried chicken, meatballs, corn and mashed potatoes. For a tasty souvenir of your visit pick up *TIME Magazine's* best ShooFly Pie at [Dutch Haven](#), along with homemade pretzels, whoopee pies, local jams and jellies.

OPTION 2: RIVER TOWNS ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA

RICH HISTORY OF THE RIVER TOWNS

Already visited Amish Country and want something different? The river towns along the Susquehanna may just be your new favorite destination, with plenty of history and fun for visitors to enjoy.

Did you know these towns have Chester County ties? In 1726 Quakers from Chester County, led by evangelist John Wright, settled Columbia to preach to the indigenous

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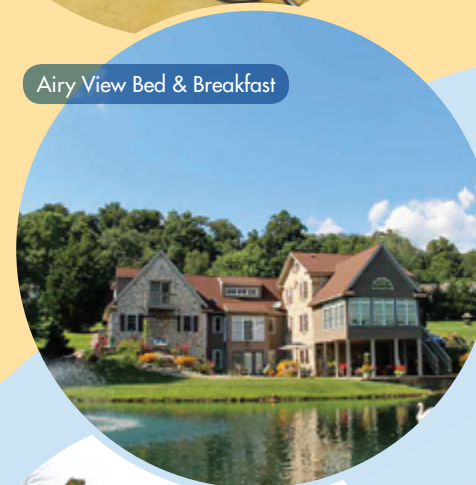
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Susquehanna National Heritage Area in Columbia

Native Americans. Soon the town became a major transportation hub for those coming by land, rail and river. The river towns—Columbia, Marietta, Wrightsville and Bainbridge—were also known as hubs for key businesses involving lumber, coal and grain.

A little-known historical fact: the river towns had an important role to play during the Civil War. In June 1863, Robert E. Lee planned to lead his Confederate soldiers into Philadelphia through Lancaster, using the Columbia-Wrightsville bridge. But instead, locals burned down the bridge blocking Lee, causing him to turn and march towards Gettysburg instead.

Every year on the last Sunday of June—June 28 this year—this historic event is commemorated with [Riverfest](#)—an evening of live music, food, festivities and reenactments with the lighting of three braziers on the rebuilt Columbia-Wrightsville bridge.

BED & BREAKFASTS WORTH THE TRIP

Plan a relaxing river-town stay at one of the quaint B&Bs along the Susquehanna. For a quiet spot minutes from Route 30 and a five-minute drive from Columbia, choose

[Airy View Bed & Breakfast](#), a four-and-a-half acre home complete with a koi pond, waterfall, outdoor patio and fire pit.

Or book a room in town in Marietta, just a few blocks from the Susquehanna, river trails and parks. [Ascot House Bed & Breakfast](#) has six spacious rooms great for a romantic weekend or family gatherings, while the [Railroad House Inn](#) has eight rooms plus a speakeasy-inspired bar and restaurant.

TOURS, TRAILS & TOP PLACES TO GO

The river towns will keep you busy! Head to Columbia for tours of local museums. Tour the [National Watch & Clock Museum](#), with the most comprehensive collection in North America of clocks, watches and tools. Then check out displays of ceramics, glass, metals, textiles and PA furniture from 1700–1750 at [Wright's Ferry Mansion](#).

The kiddos will love a trip to the [Turkey Hill Experience](#). Take a self-guided tour through interactive exhibits to learn how the products are made, sample teas from around the world at Tea Discovery, and, perhaps the highlight of any tour, make your own ice cream in the Taste Lab.

Schedule some time by the river, too! The [Susquehanna National Heritage Area](#) is open to visitors and offers guided tours of the trails, information about nearby historic sites and exhibits featuring local history, art and culture. Hop on a [River Discovery Boat Tour](#) for a trip down the Susquehanna as you enjoy the beautiful wildlife around you.

[Chiques Rock Outfitters](#) has canoes, kayaks and bicycles for rent, so you can also explore the Susquehanna your way.

Finish your getaway with a drink ... or two. Tastings and winery tours are available at Wrightsville's [Moon Dancer Winery](#) and [Nissley Vineyards](#), just north of Marietta. Grab a glass and stay for a while.

Beer-lovers can sample specialty brews or buy other locally bottled beers at Marietta's [Pig Iron Brewing Company](#). [Columbia Kettle Works Brewpub](#) is another great option for brews, wines and cocktails, all with locally-made alcohol.

Whether you prefer traditional farm stays and shopping in the middle of the Amish Country or outdoor river adventures in small towns with history, you'll find a memorable destination the whole family will love. ♦



Moon Dancer Winery



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Things are *Different...* the Second (or Third) Time Around

ENCORE WEDDINGS HOLD
THEIR OWN SPECIAL CHARMS.

Story by Matt Freeman
Photos by Crissy Everhart Photography

FACE IT—WE THINK OF SECOND MARRIAGES differently. They're not laden with the same kind of starry-eyed hopes a first marriage can evoke, and they follow a marriage that didn't exactly have a fairytale ending.

But if we think about it a little more, that seems not only unfair but not quite accurate.

It's like Paul McCartney sang long ago—love seems like a pretty big deal when you're in it. And if you're in love enough to get married, what came before never seems to matter quite so much. If it led you to the happy place you're now, it was all for the good. And what's wrong with that?

That said, second (and of course subsequent) marriages are different. Almost anyone who's seen a few will tell you they're typically smaller, less lavish and more relaxed than the first time around.

Gift-giving is downplayed—everyone already has a wafflemaker. Or two.

Nobody's fretting nearly as much over "the color of the napkins," says Diane Smith-Hoban, executive director of Journeys of the Heart, a service that provides officiants for weddings and other ceremonies.

One color question that tops the list of FAQs, though, is can the encore bride wear white? The answer is, of course she can if she wants to!

But even if it's generally true that second weddings are easier and less stressful, there's some variation to the pattern, says Lisa Marie Chimento, director of marketing and lead planner for Kaleidoscope Solutions, a wedding-planner group formerly in Wayne, now in Conshohocken. Some couples want the opposite of what they did the first time.

Another difference is age. If the partners are around 45 or younger, there tend to be kids involved in the wedding. If the bride and groom are older—with offspring college-age or older—the event is usually more subdued and intimate. It might even be something like a nice dinner with close friends at a country club.

BIG PARTY

Of course, some second-time brides and grooms just want a big party.

One couple Chimento worked with decided to make it a real occasion because, for one partner, it *was* a first marriage and the other partner wanted the occasion to be accordingly festive.

Plus people in second marriages are further along in their careers and have their own money to spend along with their own well-established styles.

Rather than choosing the traditional trappings they'll opt for "the wow factor," Chimento says. They'll have fun details—everything from an extravagant cake and edible glitter in the drinks to aerial dancers a la Cirque du Soleil—something to make the day extra special.

Many are used to corporate holiday parties at this point in their lives, so second-marriagers will sometimes take that as a model.

Splitting the difference is another way to go. For example, one local couple currently planning a marriage includes a woman who had a big, traditional first marriage in a large landmark area venue (okay, it was in the Hotel du Pont). The man involved in this wedding is getting married for the first time. So, while she'd be content with a trip to the courthouse and a nice dinner, they're planning a somewhat larger group party in a less traditional local venue that can easily accommodate the 50 to 75 people they plan to invite.

Venues designed for mid-size groups have been popping up in recent years, according to Lori Zytkowicz, the owner of one of them, Faunbrook Bed & Breakfast in West Chester. The Victorian mansion can accommodate groups up to 100, but they host a lot of small, casual weddings—sometimes so small, Zytkowicz says, that it's just the two people getting married and the officiant doing the marrying. (Note to couples: While Pennsylvania doesn't require witnesses, Delaware does.)





DIY

And some couples opt to do the whole thing themselves. One West Chester repeat bride says her second marriage was very much in that pattern—the event was held in the front yard and decorated with flowers from a local supermarket. A friend took over the bartending chores, her brother-in-law did a video, and everyone took photos.

“It’s just as meaningful, in a different way,” says Peggy Kilkenny Hecksher, who runs the Chester County-based wedding planner service Love on a Shoe String. Like other wedding planners, she says some people opt for a very low-key approach, just a small gathering of friends and family. Or they may choose an exotic destination.

Many couples will take care to put their own stamp on the event. After all, they’re fully adult now and, frankly, parents aren’t paying for it or likely involved in the process. If they want to pick an unusual location or theme, they can do that. “It’s their day,” Hecksher says.

KIDS

Second marriages often include children, and when they’re young enough the kids become part of the planning. Chimento says they’re often part of the bridal party, walking down the aisle with the other participants, or they’ll play music or take part in some other way.

And of course, they’re a part of the families being blended and many couples will acknowledge that. Presumably there’s already a reasonable degree of acceptance all around, but Hecksher says the wedding can be an occasion to validate and formalize that.

In the vows portion of the ceremony, the partners can make a point of welcoming the kids into their lives and showing they’re important members of the new family. “It makes it real,” Hecksher says. Some couples want to have the kids do vows as well as the partners, but officiants often discourage that, says Smith-Hoban, reasoning that vow-making is really not a kid thing.

But there are other ways, including the “sand ceremony” in which family members pour sand of different colors into a glass vessel to symbolize both their individuality and their membership in a new family unit. (A more whimsical approach, Smith-Hoban says, is to use colored M&Ms.)



For some second marriages, a destination wedding is the right choice. Going to an exotic location may be easier for both the couple and guests. Others may choose a more traditional style that they wanted but didn’t have for their first wedding celebration.





Details—from place settings to rings to flowers to wedding dresses—are often highly personalized.



Chimento says second marriages don't include the traditional vows as often—people are more comfortable writing their own, or having a friend or officiant work on vows with them. Men in particular are more comfortable writing their own the second time around, she says. People are older, more experienced, they've learned about themselves and what makes relationships work, and all that shows up in how they pledge to treat one another.

Some people even make the casualness of it the whole point, says Smith-Hoban, like the couple that opted to get married at home, on Christmas Day, in pajamas, with the family all around. "The marriage is more important than the wedding," Smith-Hoban says.

And no matter how informal an approach people might take, if the feelings are there, as Paul McCartney pointed out, it isn't silly at all. ♦

No matter what number the wedding is, there's always cake!





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Guide to WEDDING & VENUES SERVICES

So many options for venues for a Brandywine Valley wedding. Here are some of our favorites, plus additional services.

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699 West Rosedale Avenue, West Chester
610-436-5788; Faunbrook.com

Faunbrook is a perfect location for couples who want to celebrate in an intimate afternoon event, or a whole wedding weekend for 2 to 100 guests. Overnight guests stay in seven beautifully appointed rooms with a farm-to-table breakfast each morning. The 1860s Victorian mansion offers picturesque views on two acres of wooded land on the south side of West Chester and is ideal for weddings, showers, rehearsal dinners, business meetings or quiet getaways.



GENERAL WARREN

9 Old Lancaster Rd., Malvern
610-296-3637; GeneralWarren.com

Historic 1745 country inn with on-site lawn and gardens for outdoor ceremonies and receptions, along with 8 charming guest suites. Perfect for intimate weddings and receptions for 15–125 guests, rehearsal dinners for 75 guests, with three private dining rooms, honeymoon/guests suites. Award-winning American cuisine with attentive, professional service. Formal wedding and casual celebrations are their specialty.



CATERERS

JOHN SEROCK CATERING

See Loch Aerie Mansion under Historic Buildings.

COUNTRY CLUBS

PHOENIXVILLE COUNTRY CLUB

355 Country Club Rd., Phoenixville
610-933-3727; PhoenixvilleCC.com

Located in Chester County, next to the Valley Forge National Historic Park, this beautiful location with its century-old farmhouse and panoramic course views is an ideal venue for your memorable event. They tailor your special day to make your dreams a reality, down to the last detail. Personalized service, culinary delights and warm ambiance combine to make your day perfect.



RADLEY RUN COUNTRY CLUB

1100 Country Club Rd., West Chester
610-793-1660; RadleyRunCountryClub.com

Radley Run Country Club is proud to boast some of the area's most unique facilities in which to accommodate bridal showers, rehearsal dinners, wedding ceremonies and receptions. The charm and character of their 18th-century facilities, sprawling grounds and mansion will envelop you and your guests in a rustic ambiance.



SPRINGFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

400 West Sproul Rd., Springfield
610-690-7600; SpringfieldCC.net

Springfield Country Club is an award-winning venue, open to the public, with impressive ballrooms, indoor and outdoor ceremony spaces, delectable cuisine and talented event staff. The incredible venue offers impressive on-site amenities including a Courtyard Marriott hotel with luxury guest suites, full service restaurant and bar with al fresco dining, 18-hole public golf course, and full service spa and salon.



GALLERY & MUSEUM SPACES

BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM OF ART

1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford
610-388-8112; BrandywineMuseum.org

The Brandywine River Museum of Art features an outstanding collection of American art housed in a 19th-century mill with a dramatic steel and glass addition overlooking the stunning banks of the Brandywine. Ceremonies and seated dinners for up to 120 guests; stations receptions for up to 400 guests.



DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org

Unique, inspiring and sophisticated—whether a lively cocktail party, intimate dinner or unforgettable wedding in their grand public spaces, the staff will make your event memorable. Located near I-95, just 30 miles south of Philadelphia, in a historic Wilmington neighborhood. Seated: up to 200 guests; cocktails and ceremony: up to 300 guests.



HISTORIC BUILDINGS

BALLROOM AT ELLIS PRESERVE

3821 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square
610-298-5530; FinleyCatering.com

A historical Greek Revival building in a pastoral green setting underwent a \$3-million total renovation that includes a grand ballroom with a state of the art lighting system, outdoor patio, expansive bridal suite, as well as an outdoor setting for ceremonies. Dancing: 250 guests; no dancing: 600 guests. I/O. Exclusive caterer. No restrictions for music or alcohol.



BALLROOM AT THE BEN

The Ben Franklin, 834 Chestnut St., Philadelphia
215-627-5100; FinleyCatering.com

Guests can mingle on the mezzanine upper level overlooking the ballroom where Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence danced in *The Silver Linings Playbook*. Dancing: 350 guests; no dancing: 500 guests. Exclusive caterer.

CRYSTAL TEA ROOM

100 Penn Square East, Wanamaker Bldg., Philadelphia
215-627-5100; FinleyCatering.com

Close to City Hall, guests enjoy their cocktail hour in the indoor atrium featuring a fountain and greenery with dinner and dancing in the grand ballroom. Dancing: 600 guests; no dancing: 800 guests. Exclusive caterer.



THE FARMHOUSE AT PEOPLE'S LIGHT

39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern
610-647-1900, ext. 156; FarmhousePeoplesLight.com

The Farmhouse at People's Light blends modern elegance with rustic charm to create an exquisite setting for your special day. This restored 18th-century farmhouse features a ballroom, indoor pavilion and historic bistro that can also be reserved for rehearsal dinners, showers and other celebrations or corporate events. Accommodates up to 200 for seated dinner; 250 for cocktail style events.



GRAYSTONE MANSION

53 S. 1st Ave., Coatesville
610-384-9282; SteelMuseum.org/BookVenue/Graystone.cfm

Built in 1889, ageless grandeur is blended with modern convenience making Graystone Mansion a unique venue for events. From its circular drive, to its gorgeous grounds, to its hardwood moldings, Graystone Mansion is a perfect place to host catered events of distinction. It's easy to envision Graystone Mansion as the backdrop for an elegant wedding reception, celebration or corporate meeting.



GREYSTONE HALL

1034 Phoenixville Pk., West Chester
610-696-1272; GreystoneHall.com

Spring Open House on May 19, from 11 to 1 p.m. Transport your guests to a European destination site that will create memories for years to come. Greystone Hall is a turn-of-the-century Tudor-Jacobean mansion on a 35-acre estate located in the Brandywine Valley. You will dine and dance overlooking the terraced landscape with fountains, statues and a 56-columned pergola. Greystone Hall is classic romance for your Enchanted Evening.



HISTORIC POOLE FORGE

1940 Main St., Narvon (Churchtown)
484-797-5302; HistoricPooleForge.org

Against the backdrop of a charming covered bridge, old-fashioned gardens, stately Ironmaster's mansion and quiet beauty along the Conestoga River, your wedding photos will convey your unique story with the rustic beauty lent to each occasion. Multiple ceremony/reception locations, on-site B&B, air-conditioned mansion, pet friendly and spacious bridal room overlooking the park and gardens. Customizable packages available.



LOCH AERIE MANSION

700 Lancaster Ave., Malvern
610-640-2836; LochAerieMansion.com

Loch Aerie Mansion, Chester County's newest wedding venue, is rich in history and has recently undergone a restoration. The Swiss Gothic Revival Mansion located in Malvern dates to 1865. The mansion is exclusively partnered with John Serock Catering for its exquisite cuisine and outstanding service. Holding up to 300 guests for your special event, Loch Aerie delivers exceptional quality in every aspect.



OAKBOURNE MANSION

1014 South Concord Rd., West Chester
610-692-1930; OakbourneMansion.org

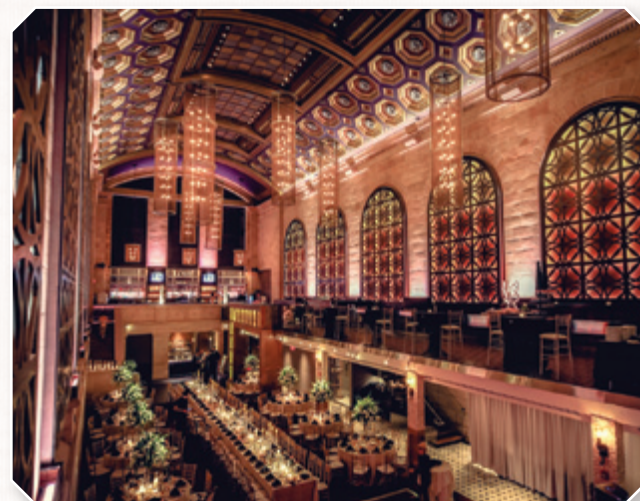
Whether you're looking for the formality of a Victorian mansion or a more casual setting, Oakbourne Mansion and Park offers both. Use the accredited arboretum and distinctive castle-like water tower as your backdrop for outdoor ceremonies. Quaint indoor chapel can be used for small ceremonies. Indoor seating up to 128 guests or tent outdoors for more. Choose your own caterer. Curfew at 10 p.m. for music and bar.



UNION TRUST

717 Chestnut St., Philadelphia
215-627-5100; FinleyCatering.com

Sixty-five-foot illuminated ceiling, architecturally accented walls, multiple private rooms and a balcony that overlooks the whole site. Union Trust is a blend of the old, regal Philadelphia infused with a new, vibrant pulse. Dancing: 180 guests; no dancing: 500 guests. Exclusive caterer.



THE WASHINGTON AT HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS

1701 Art School Rd., Chester Springs
610-827-7414; Washington.YellowSprings.org

Say "I do" in one of the three outdoor ceremony sites: garden fountain space, beech tree or ancient ruins. Finish getting ready in one of the two suites, then enjoy cocktails between the fountain garden area, famous porch and brick room. Up to 150 guests can dine and dance in this quaint 1700s building. Preferred caterers. BYOB. Making history is what they're about, and they'd love to be part of *your* history.



OTHER VENUES & REHEARSAL DINNERS

BLACK POWDER TAVERN

1164 Valley Forge Rd., Wayne
610-293-9333; BlackPowderTavern.com

Black Powder Tavern's historic venue can provide you and your guests a memorable experience for rehearsal dinners and bridal showers. Several menu options are available with accommodations for seated functions up to 50 guests and cocktail parties or receptions for groups up to 70. Allow them to raise your guests' spirits!



COLUMBUS INN

2216 Pennsylvania Ave., Wilmington, DE
302-571-1492; ColumbusInn.net; 302-545-5743; TasteCICatering.com

Columbus Inn is the perfect historic venue for all your wedding needs. Private dining spaces available for parties of 12 to 75 guests for engagement parties, bridal showers, rehearsal dinners, post wedding brunches and smaller weddings. Conveniently located in Wilmington with on-site parking. They also offer full service catering and their events team can customize your menu and experience to fulfill your wedding vision.



Wedding Services

FLOWERS, FOOD & GIFTS

CHRISTOPHER CHOCOLATES / FINE FOODS

3519 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square
610-359-1669; Christopher-Chocolates.com

DE BREAST CANCER COALITION'S GREAT STUFF HOME

Talleyville Center, 4113 Concord Pk., Wilmington
302-477-1870; GreatStuffResale.com

MATLACK FLORIST

210 North Chester Rd., West Chester. 610-431-3077; MatlackFlorist.com

MOSTARDI NURSERY

4033 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square. 610-356-8035; Mostardi.com

INSURANCE

UNRUH INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

1344 Main St. East Earl & 2350 North Reading Rd., Suite 13, Denver
877-854-3309; UnruhInsurance.com

A full-service independent agency, able to meet all your auto, home, personal, life, health and business insurance needs. Their friendly team of professionals is dedicated to exceptional customer service, including providing fast, competitive rate quotes, taking the time to explain your coverage and options, assisting you in every step of the claims process. The Unruh Team is committed to serving you.

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610-834-7975; Valleyforge.org/Weddings

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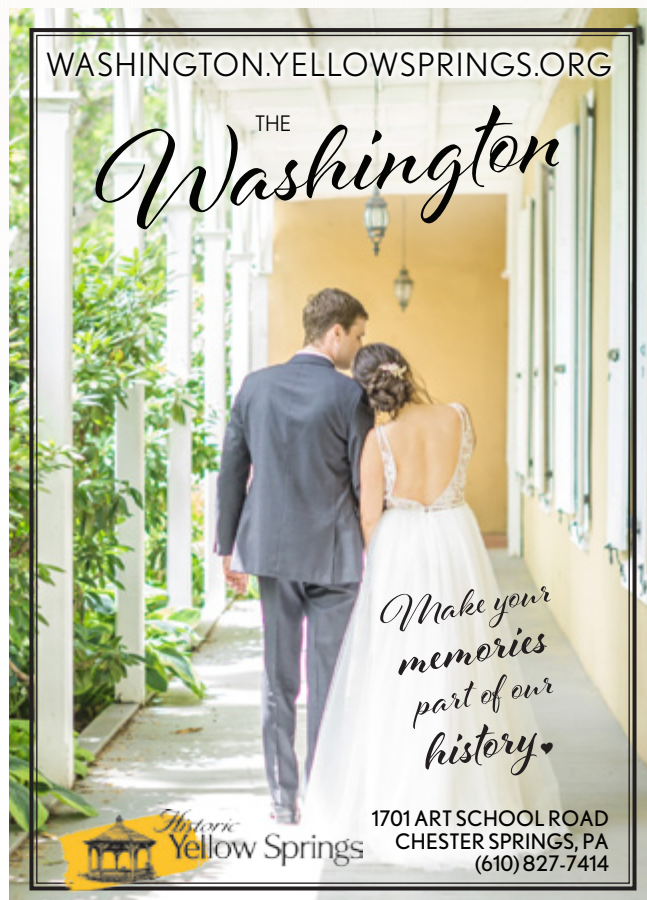
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CHESTER SPRINGS, PA
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or thefarmhouse@peopleslight.org.



JEWELERS

WALTER J. COOK JEWELER

Chestnut Village Shops, 36 Chestnut Rd., Paoli
610-644-5347; WalterJCookJeweler.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

CRISSY EVERHART

260 Spring Rd., Malvern
Cell: 610-308-7066; Studio: 484-328-3183;
CrissyEverhart.com

Other Venues

BARNs

THE BARN AT STONYBROOKE

4740 Lower Valley Rd., Arglen
717-723-5183; TheBarnAtStonybrooke.com

THE BARN ON BRIDGE

385 Bridge St., Collegeville
610-287-8771; BarnOnBridge.com

BARN AT SILVERSTONE

62 Bowman Rd., Lancaster
855-687-8920; TheBarnAtSilverstone.com

BARN AT BOURNELYF

1066 South New St., West Chester
484-574-6631; Brinehart4.wixsite.com/mysite

BRANDYWINE MANOR HOUSE

120 Germany Hollow Rd., Honey Brook
610-942-2200; BrandywineManorHouse.com

THE COUNTRY BARN

211 South Donerville Rd., Lancaster
717-872-1554; CountryBarnWedding.com

FARM AT EAGLES RIDGE

465 Long Ln., Lancaster
717-584-5179; FarmAtEaglesRidge.com

THE GABLES AT CHADDS FORD

423 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford
610-388-7700; TheGablesAtChaddsFord.com

HARVEST VIEW BARN AT HERSHEY FARMS

338 Sunnyburn Rd., Elizabethtown
717-665-7284; HarvestViewBarn.com

THE HIGH POINT AT ST. PETER'S

2475 St. Peter's Rd., Malvern
610-644-2261; TheHighPointGV.com

INN AT GRACE WINERY (SWEETWATER FARM)

50 Sweetwater Rd., Glen Mills
610-459-4711; GraceWinery.com

LIFE'S PATINA AT WILLOWBROOK FARM

1750 North Valley Rd., Malvern
610-952-2254; LifesPatina.com

MEREDITH MANOR

2270 Pottstown Pk., Pottstown
610-469-1700
ChesterCountyWedding.com

NORMANDY FARM

1401 Morris Rd., Blue Bell
215-616-8500; NormandyFarm.com

TERRAIN

914 Baltimore Pk., Glen Mills
610-459-2400; ShopTerrain.com

BED & BREAKFAST / HOTELS, INNS AND RESORTS

THE INN AT SWARTHMORE

10 S. Chester Rd., Swarthmore
610-543-7500; TheInnAtSwat.com

THE INN AT OSPREY POINT

20786 Rock Hall Ave., Rock Hall, MD
410-639-2194
OspreyPoint.com

WILD WISTERIA BED & BREAKFAST (FORMERLY: PENNSBURY INN)

883 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford
610-388-1435
WildWisteriaBNB.com

GALLERY & MUSEUM SPACES

COMMUNITY ARTS CTR., WALLINGFORD

414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford
610-566-1713
CommunityArtsCenter.org

CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North High St., West Chester
610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org

THE DELAWARE CONTEMPORARY

200 South Madison St., Wilmington
302-656-6466; DEContemporary.org

DE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington
302-658-9111; DelMNH.org

FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

222 North 20th St., Philadelphia
215-448-1165; www.FI.edu

HAGLEY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

298 Buck Rd., Wilmington
302-658-2400; Hagley.org

JAMES A. MICHENER ART MUSEUM

138 South Pine St., Doylestown
215-340-9800; MichenerArtMuseum.org

PA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS

118 & 128 North Broad St., Philadelphia
215-972-1609; PAFA.org

PENN MUSEUM

3260 South St., Philadelphia
215-898-4000; Penn.Museum

ROCKWOOD MUSEUM

610 Shipley Rd., Wilmington
#02-761-4340; Rockwood.org

WAYNE ART CENTER

413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne
610-688-3553; WayneArt.org

WINTERTHUR MUSEUM & GARDENS

5105 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Winterthur
800-448-3883; Winterthur.org

GARDENS & ARBORETUMS

(With Manor House or Mansion)

BOLINGBROKE

424 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor
610-825-8082; BolingbrokeMansion.com

MORRIS ARBORETUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

100 E. Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia
215-247-5777 ext. 158
MorrisArboretum.org

TYLER ARBORETUM

515 Painter Rd., Media
610-213-3097; TylerArboretum.org

WELKINWEIR ESTATE

1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown
610-469-7543; Welkinweir.org

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

ANTHONY WAYNE HOUSE AT HISTORIC WAYNESBOROUGH

2049 Waynesborough Rd., Paoli
610-647-1779; PhilaLandmarks.org

APPLEFORD

770 Mt. Moro Rd., Villanova
610-527-4280; ApplefordEstate.com

DUPORTAIL HOUSE

297 Adams Dr., Chesterbrook, Wayne
610-644-4840; DuportailHouse.com

FRANKLIN HALL, FRANKLIN COMMONS

400 Franklin Ave., Phoenixville
610-983-4640; FranklinCommonsEvents.com

HISTORIC ROCK FORD PLANTATION

881 Rockford Rd., Lancaster
717-799-8751; RockFordPlantation.org



The historic Oakbourne Mansion and surrounding park grounds offer multiple settings for indoor or outdoor weddings. The water tower is a unique focal point, and the freshly painted mansion and carriage house with beautiful woodwork, copper details, and stained glass windows provide stunning backdrops for your memories.

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1100 Country Club Road
West Chester, PA
610.793.1660
RadleyRunCountryClub.com



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Featured Anniversary Event!

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610-733-2516
SpringtonManorFarm.com

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625 Hazelhurst Ave., Merion Station
610-664-1267
TributeHouse.com

PHOENIXVILLE FOUNDRY

2 North Main St., Phoenixville
610-917-8400; PhoenixvilleFoundry.com

RADNOR HUNT

826 Providence Rd., Malvern
610-644-4439; RadnorHunt.org

THE SAGE FARMHOUSE

5561 Pennell Rd., Media
610-361-9301; SageFarmhouse.com

SATURDAY CLUB

117 West Wayne Ave., Wayne
610-688-9746; SaturdayClub.org

UNIVERSITY & WHIST CLUB

805 North Broom St., Wilmington
302-658-5125; UniversityAndWhistClub.com

WHEATLAND

1120 Marietta Ave., Lancaster
717-392-4633; Wheatland.org

OTHER VENUES & REHEARSAL DINNERS

CAIRNWOOD ESTATE

1005 Cathedral Rd., Bryn Athyn
215-947-2004; Cairnwood.org

CHASE CENTER ON THE RIVERFRONT

815 Justison St., Wilmington
888-862-2787
CenterOnTheRiverfront.com

CLOTHIER ROOM

630 Clothier Rd., Wynnewood
215-627-5100; FinleyCatering.com

THE FUGE

780 Falcon Circle #200, Warminster
215-589-0611; VisitBucksCounty.com

MANAYUNK BREWING COMPANY

4120 Main St., Philadelphia
215-482-8220; ManayunkBrewery.com

SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES

BALLROOM AT THE BALDWIN SCHOOL

701 West Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr
484-988-2973;
BaldwinEvents.com

CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE – ST. JOSEPH'S HALL & THE COMMONWEALTH CHATEAU AT SUGARLOAF

9601 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia
215-248-7000
CHC.edu/Event-Rentals

GREAT HALL AT IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY

1145 King Rd., Immaculata
610-647-4400
Immaculata.edu

PERELMAN QUADRANGLE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce St., Rm. 307,
Philadelphia
215-898-5552;
VPUL.UPenn.edu/PerelmanQuad

VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY

1001 Eagle Rd., Wayne
610-989-1509; VFMAC.edu

VILLANOVA UNIV. CONFERENCE CENTER

601 County Line Rd., Radnor
610-519-7580
VillanovaConferenceCenter.com

TRANSPORTATION VENUES

AMERICAN HELICOPTER MUSEUM

1220 American Blvd., West Chester
610-436-9600
AmericanHelicopterMuseum

MOSHULU ON THE WATERFRONT

401 South Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia
215-923-2500
Moshulu.com

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Wedding Style

Unique gowns, dazzling jewelry, vibrant flowers—every bride wants to sparkle on her big day! And if you’re planning a wedding in the Brandywine Valley, local style-makers can help. Jewelers, boutiques, florists and more add their own flair to wedding style.



Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition
Some “Champaign Sparkle” for the bride at her rehearsal dinner or perhaps honeymoon cocktails. Sue Wong Nocturne dress with floral beaded appliqué, size 8, \$69. Available at Great Stuff Savvy Resale, gently repurposed clothing and accessories generating revenue for the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition.



Christophers Chocolates
Personalize your wedding guest favors with Christopher’s decadent chocolates. Or pick from candy buffets, trays of chocolates, truffles and chocolate covered pretzels to add that sweet touch to your special day!



Walter J. Cook
For over 75 years, Walter J. Cook Jeweler has worked with couples styling wedding jewelry for their big event. Meet with Michael Cook to design your one-of-a-kind, custom diamond wedding bands. The bridal collection features several designers with exquisite diamond rings in a variety of styles in platinum and 18 karat gold—all produced in the USA.



Mostardi Nursery
Love is in the air this spring season! Delicate air plants floating in hand-crafted birch-bark covered hearts add a beautiful touch to an outdoor or rustic wedding.



Matlack Florist
It’s the extra details that can make a backyard wedding special. A fully-flowered heart-shaped wreath hanging on a lamppost adds that special touch, and provides a great photo-op!



MAKE IT MEMORABLE

Edwin Malet

Planning an Epic Bachelor or Bachelorette Party in *County Lines* Country

YOUR BEST FRIEND IS GETTING MARRIED. AND SO, as best man or maid/matron of honor, part of your role—maybe your most important role—is to plan a memorable bachelor or bachelorette party.

Sofie Grossman of Connoisseur Travel in Kennett Square says that the parties are getting larger, more elaborate, “different.” Wine tasting in the Finger Lakes, golfing in the Caribbean, Essence Fest in New Orleans ... Five days, perhaps 20 people. At some level, each “must outdo the last.”

What to do? Where to go? So many choices ... We plan modestly. And locally.

GROUND RULES

We offer a few ideas, based on a party of six to 12, in the spring, lasting from three hours to three days, within a three-hour drive. Also, we suggest you consider combining the bachelor and bachelorette parties: the idea of separating the men and women seems a bit antiquated anyway.

As you consider the ideas here, think about combining activities. A vineyard visit followed by a ballgame. Spa in the morning followed by casino at night. Mix and match, in other words. Axe throwing, for instance, may be a blast, but we doubt your party wants to do it for a whole weekend.

TASTING TOURS—AND CIGARS

Whether it’s a winery, brewery or distillery, tours that include tastings are growing in popularity and are satisfying to most groups.

Gather your squad for a tasting at one—or more—of Brandywine Valley’s fine wineries. **Galer Estate Vineyard**, near Kennett Square, has won over 100 medals and awards for its wines. It’s close to Longwood Gardens, and a couple of guests can stay overnight at a cottage on the property.

In Glen Mills you’ll find the charming **Inn at Grace Winery**. Besides tastings, you can play disc golf, horseshoes, billiards, ping pong, bocce and croquet. Swim in the pool, take a dip in the jacuzzi or exercise in the fitness center.

In Chadds Ford, **Penns Woods Winery** is highly regarded for its Cabernet Franc. It will set up a tent so your party also enjoys a beautiful view of the vineyard.

Nearly every brewery has a tasting room and you can generally, with enough notice, reserve it for a gathering. **La Cabra** in Berwyn is known for great beer and has a second floor party space. **Braeloch Brewing** in Kennett Square and **Sterling Pig**, either in Media or West Chester, are good choices. But there are plenty others. See the **sidebar**. It’s Pennsylvania, after all.

No need to stop at beer. Several distilleries—**Brandywine Branch** and **Pennsylvania Distilling**—offer tours and tastings, serving whiskey, bourbon and rum, straight or in special cocktails. Again, see our **sidebar** and make your own itinerary.

Top your liquor off with a fine smoke. **Pairings Cigar Bar** in Media serves spirits, wine, beer and small plates. **Cigar, Cigars** offers convenience with about seven locations in *County Lines* country.

You’ll definitely want someone else to do the driving on your tour. Consider one of the many van or limo services in our area instead of Ubering to each place.

SPAS

Next, a classic—a spa day or getaway. The **Spa at the Lodge at Woodloch** is under three hours away, set away in the Poconos. Relax. Get a luxurious massage, facial, manicure or pedicure. Visit a sauna, steam room or whirlpool. Swim in the indoor pool, exercise in the cardio-weight room or bicycle in the woods. Golf and tennis, too. And, of course, bond with the wedding party.

Closer to home, choose from day spas. **Joseph Anthony** in Glen Mills has a variety of treatment options, generally starting with an Alpine herbal steam, moving on to a float service, and ending with one of its suite of brine services. For food, bring your own or cater. **Toppers Spa** in Wayne, **La Difference** in West Chester and **Sanctuary Day Spa & Salon** in Paoli also offer their own versions of luxury.

GAME DAY

Is your bachelor or bachelorette a sports fan? Then head for Philadelphia. A sky-box at **Wells Fargo Center** to watch the 76ers or Flyers, or box seats at **Citizens Bank Park** for the Phillies will let them cheer in style. Cater the day with pretzels and cheesesteaks. Or something more sophisticated, if you like.

Also consider a soccer game at the **Subaru Stadium** in Chester. There’s a deck with a perfect view of the pitch and

the Delaware River. Or choose anything from field-side seating to private boxes. The Union soccer team, by the way, had their first playoff win last year.

HORSES AND CASINOS

Maybe your party is too late in the season for a steeplechase, but horse racing is still on the agenda. Then **Delaware Park** is the ticket. Afterwards, the Park is right next to the casino, where you can try your luck at blackjack, craps, poker, roulette or other games of chance.

Mohegan Sun, up in the Poconos, is also a possibility. It has live racing and a casino, as well as a hotel, spa, restaurants, comedy club and live entertainment. It’s about two and a half hours away.

For harness racing, go to **Harrah’s Philadelphia**, located in Chester. There’s something elegant about the trotters. Harrah’s has a casino as well.

BREWERIES

La Cabra Brewing; Berwyn. 14–16 beers, brewed in-house (hefeweizen, witbier, kolsch, stout, IPA) plus 2nd floor room with fireplace, couches for private events. Southwestern food.

Levante Brewing Company; West Chester (brewery) and Downingtown (beer garden). 15 beers, IPAs, stouts, pilsner, witbier and hard seltzer. Food trucks at brewery, farmhouse feel at beer garden.

Sterling Pig Brewery; West Chester and Media. Great food with 10–15 beers. Try shoot pilsner, IPAs, porters, lagers, weissbiers and ales, seasonally or on rotation. Spacious loft for private events.

Iron Hill Brewery; 5 in *County Lines* country, 20 over all. Great menu. Try award-winning Russian stout, Belgian tripel, plus many more. Also, spirits and seltzer.

Stolen Sun Brewing & Roasting Co.; Exton. 10–15 beers, IPAs, stouts, ales, Belgian tripel, cider and seltzers plus cocktails. Simple but good menu. Taproom or loft for private events.

Braeloch Brewing; Kennett Square. 7 beers, stout, porter, IPAs, ales and saisons. Taproom with living room section, private rooms for events. Brewery tours. Shareables food menu.

Victory Brewing Company; Downingtown and Kennett Square. 20–24 beers on tap including lagers, IPAs, sours, pilsners and stouts. Craft beer-infused menu. Brewery tours.



If the future bride or groom wants the casino without horses, head for the **Valley Forge Casino**. There are plenty of restaurant and entertainment venues, both within the casino and nearby in King of Prussia. Stay onsite, in one of their two towers, and enjoy their spa and outdoor pool.

SAIL AWAY

Rock Hall, St. Michaels, Annapolis ... Feel the breeze. Marvel at the stars. Hear the geese honk. West Chester is only about two and a half hours from the Chesapeake Bay where you can charter a yacht. **Cruise Annapolis**, for instance, has a 54-foot dream boat. Sailing may not be for everyone, but the experience is magical and great for bonding.

You can meet the non-sailors in your party for a crab feast at the **St. Michaels Crab & Steak House**. Spend the night at the charming **Inn at Perry Cabin**—spa, pool, golf—and take advantage of their sail or power boats for a cruise of the Bay.

CHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

For an in-town party with some activity built in, join the trend of axe throwing. Our area has growing options: **Tilted Axes** and **Stumpy's Hatchet House** in West Chester, **Bury the Hatchet** in King of Prussia, and the **Chop Shop** in Kennett Square.

Generally, you'll want two hours for hurling hatchets. But, at Tilted Axes, you can also supplement your time with some pool, air hockey, giant jenga or any of about a dozen other games. Bury the Hatchet has an Escape Room next door for more group fun. Yes, axe-throwing. It's all the rage.

These are only a few ideas, intended more to stimulate your thinking than anything else. As we said, mix and match.

And finally, remember the fun must suit the bride and groom. It's their party, after all! ♦



DISTILLERIES

Brandywine Branch Distillery; Elverson. Known for Revivalist Gins including their award-winning DragonDance. Bistro and distillery tours available for private events. Pick up spirits at the shop.

Bluebird Distilling; Phoenixville. About a dozen spirits made on-site, whiskey, gin, vodka, bourbon, rum, brandy and Agave Blanco Salvaje. Cocktail bar and Barrel Room.

Manatawny Still Works; Pottstown. Rum, whiskey, gins and vodka. Bottling workshops, distillery tours and tasting room.

Boardroom Spirits Distillery; Lansdale. Vodka, flavored vodka, rum, gin and triple sec. Tasting room with about 60 cocktails and Foodie Fridays with food trucks or in-house catering.

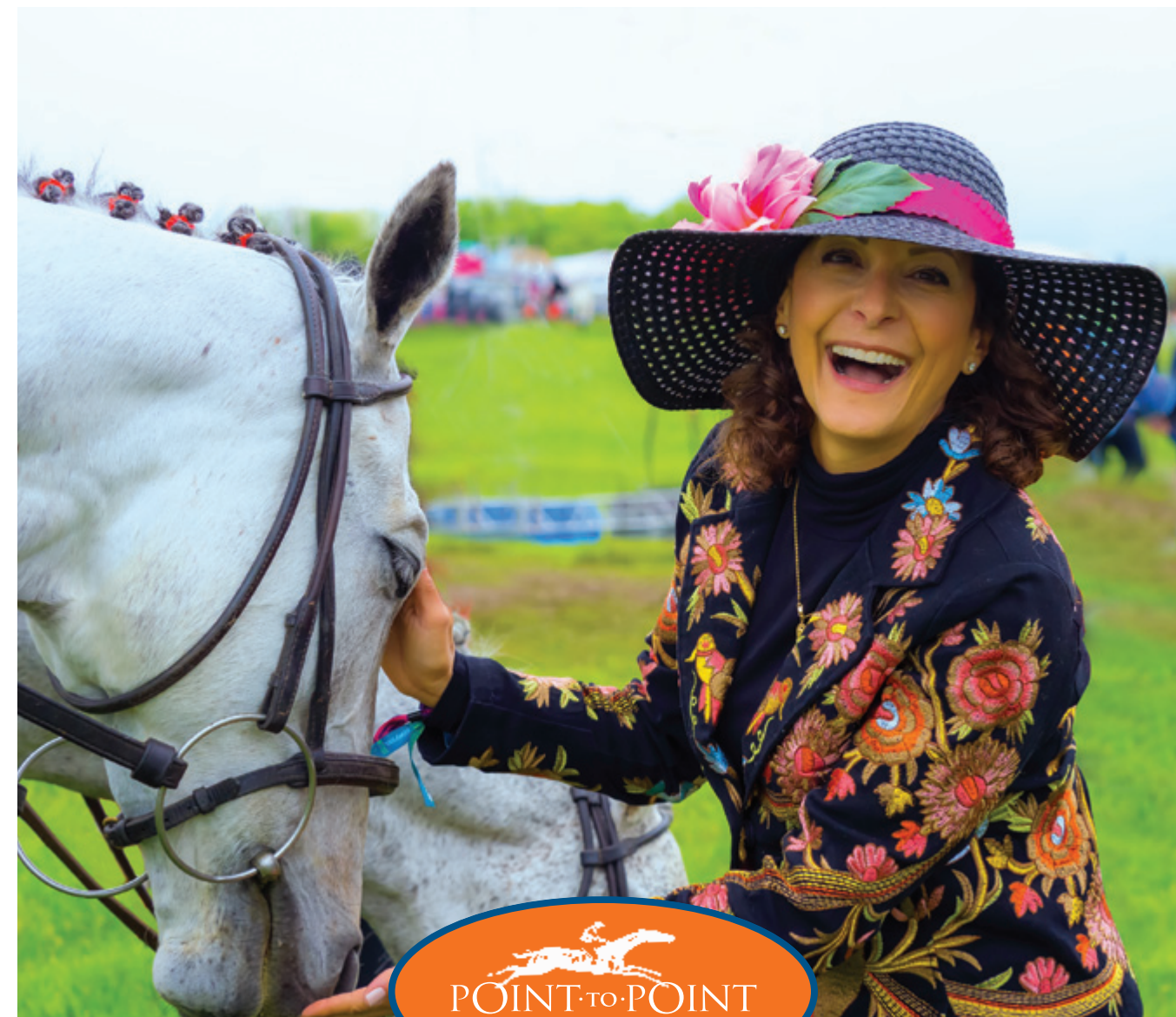


Photo by Suchat Pederson

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WEST CHESTER INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

APRIL 24–26, 2020

One of the Best Kept Secrets in Chester County



FOR THREE DAYS EVERY APRIL, THE WEST CHESTER International Short Film Festival takes over Downtown West Chester to celebrate the spirit of independent film. Spend April 24th to 26th exploring new lands, perspectives, stories and worlds, all contained in a single block of films.

This year's 16th annual festival includes over a dozen Oscar-winning, nominated or short-listed films, submissions from more than 20 countries, along with stories from our own backyard. In total, there will be about 60 juried films of 30 minutes or less enjoyed by over 3,000 fans at sites throughout West Chester.

There's something for everyone at the festival that's designed to entertain, enlighten and educate. The Family Film Festival on Saturday morning is perfect for the whole family, and free for kids 10 and under. There's also a Young Filmmaker Festival featuring student-made films, plus filmmaker workshops led by industry professionals, a Filmmaker Meet & Greet, and an Opening Night Party.

Enjoy the thrills at the late-night Horror Block of scary films or Coffee & Cartoons on Sunday morning, part of the new Pop-Up Film Block series. And at the not-to-be-missed Closing Night Awards Party, you can walk the red carpet, enjoy a cocktail with winning filmmakers, and watch the best films of the festival one more time!

This Festival involves more than just watching films—it's a community of people experiencing new stories together. Come find out why past guests call the West Chester Film Festival one of their favorite events in Chester County.

Find a new favorite film, a new friend and become part of the celebration. From Opening Night to the closing credits, you won't want to miss any of the fun at the West Chester Film Festival! ♦

—Victoria Flickinger

IF YOU GO:

WHEN: April 24–26, 2020

WHERE: Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center,
226 N. High Street and other spots around
Downtown West Chester

TICKETS: WestChesterFilmFestival.com



An Industrial Farmhouse in Willistown

YES, EVEN THE ARCHITECT AGREES THAT TERM COMES
CLOSEST TO CAPTURING THE UNIQUE DESIGN.

Laurel Anderson

SET ATOP A HILL, WITH COMMANDING and protected views of the Willistown countryside, this month's featured home defies easy description. A classic stone Colonial-style farmhouse is in the center of the design, but the wings, balconies, courtyards, tower and crowning copper roof make clear this home is much more.

Originally part of a family compound—created when parents divided 50 acres of prime farmland into 10-acre parcels for their adult children—this home was named “Home of the Year” by *Custom Home* magazine in 1992.

THE DESIGN

Architect Peter Zimmerman says, “The inspiration was the look of a turn-of-the-century millhouse refurbished with modern touches.” You'll find a millstone in the entryway along with a mix of steel beams, stone, brick, flagstone and reclaimed wood

throughout a design that's full of angles and surprises in the five-bedroom, four-full, three-half-bath home.

Zimmerman refined the design when the current owners wanted to maximize the views and enjoyment of the home by expanding the kitchen area, which now includes reclaimed wood from Daniel Boone's original homestead. “Adding a glassed-in breakfast room and sunroom helped catch the sunrise over the hills,” says Zimmerman. Adjacent conservation easements ensure this protected viewshed remains in perpetuity.

This same sense of place in a home that's less than 30 years old resonates throughout the design and construction. For example, the copper roof—which the original owner called a “forever roof” in all its verdigris glory—and the solid feel of the construction convey permanence, from massive steel beams down to the heft of details like the very solid bannisters.



THIS IS IT

When the current owners discovered the property listed for sale online, the only photos were, surprisingly, of the three-car garage and guest suite. The husband recalls, “On a lark, my wife (now deceased) visited the property. She walked through the rooms, went into the kitchen, saw the hillside view and started to cry. ‘This is it,’ she said.” And he agreed.

The home has been a perfect place to raise a family, allowing privacy in the recesses and community in the common rooms. “Every room has a view. Everyone has his own space,” he says, the ambivalence of the decision to downsize as an empty-nester in his voice.

A TOUR

A simple description of this unique home is impossible, although there's a virtual tour available on the listing realtors' website along with more than 70 stunning photos. Yet neither adequately captures its qualities.

Enter through an enchanting gate to a large courtyard, the scene of countless parties, some tented in cooler weather. The courtyard is bordered on one side by the vaulted great room, which has French doors lining both long walls. When the French doors are thrown open, festivities can spill out from the courtyard to the great room, then the patio and on to grassy lawn beyond.



The pool area, surrounded by stone walls designed to resemble crumbling structures from centuries past, provides another party venue. This space is complete with a sapphire swimming pool, hot tub, flowering-vine-covered trellis and, of course, more spectacular views from the two-story pool house.

In addition to memorable Halloween parties, the property has hosted a recent wedding on the grounds. Less formal gatherings happen on the lower five-acre parcel, the site of a built-in bonfire pit.

INTERIOR SPACES

Entertaining and everyday living are equally enjoyable inside the home. The spectacular barrel-vaulted great room with 15-foot ceilings is anchored by a massive stone fireplace on a wall recreated to depict the ruins of a stone barn. This space flows seamlessly into the dining room and renovated kitchen and new sunroom.

A luxurious first-floor master suite with two walk-in closets and baths, opens up to the huge upper-level home gym.

Other bedrooms include two mirror-image, two-level kids' bedrooms—each with a sitting room and sleeping loft—connected by a shared bath, and a guest suite with a tower sitting room complete with panoramic views of the countryside. A separate wing houses a private in-law suite, with fireplace and mini-kitchenette.

Common spaces include a second great room/family room on the second floor, open to the gallery-style entry foyer below, making it a perfect music room. A spacious two-level home office, with an industrial vibe, was originally a private refuge, but evolved into a “hang out” space for watching movies and playing video games.

THE SETTING

The property consists of two equal parcels in prime Radnor Hunt Country, where the

local hunt can be seen from the many windows or guest suite tower. The lower parcel is under conservation easement, but allows for construction of a four-stall barn.

This industrial farmhouse, on a private dead-end lane, awaits the next family to call it home. ♦

For more about this 10+ acre-property with 7,000-square-foot home in Willistown Township—offered by Country Properties, Berkshire Hathaway, Fox & Roach at \$4,395,000—contact Rob Van Alen, 610.212.5470 (cell); Jody VanDegrift, 484.354.2474 (cell); or 610.347.2065 (office); 8StillmeadowLane.com.



BV Brewscene Craft Beer Weekend



APRIL 24–26, 2020

Chester County's first craft beer tour and food festival!



JOIN THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCE SAMPLING LOCAL BREWS and palate pleasing pairings at the inaugural BV Brewscene Craft Beer weekend! Beer lovers get behind-the-scenes tours, VIP tastings and live entertainment at sites throughout Chester County, April 24th to 26th.

Brush up on your craft beer lingo, sharpen your palate and learn more about your favorite styles of lagers, ales, stouts and more.

The weekend kicks off Friday night with a craft beer and food festival at the American Helicopter Museum. Fans can enjoy music, games and self-guided tours of helicopters on display, plus small plate pairings from some of the area's best breweries and restaurants. You'll get your swag bag, souvenir tasting glass, tour lanyard with beer passport and tasting notes to start off the weekend.

Day two is for brewery tours in the Brandywine Valley, when a bus whisks you from place to place with a beer at each of the four stops. Sleep in before the 2 p.m. departure and enjoy your day of brewery hopping.

Sunday, day three, is for more sampling and snacking at four more breweries, again chosen by City Brew Tours, the nation's leading brewery tour operator, showcasing over 150 breweries across North America. Learn the history and inner workings of local craft breweries on the tour.

VIP Pass holders have even more fun at a party on Saturday night and get a commemorative souvenir along with exclusive access to a Bottle Share—where you exchange some of your favorite brews with your new friends—and a brewery founder's talk.

Mix and mingle with other beer lovers and makers while sampling specialty craft beers at this unique event. You'll make memories you won't soon forget. Cheers! ♦

—Maria Marabito & Lindsay Miller



IF YOU GO

WHEN: April 24–26, 2020. Friday party, 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturday VIP Reception, 5 to 6 p.m. Tours Sat. & Sun.

WHERE: Friday at Am. Helicopter Museum, 1220 American Blvd., West Chester. Tour buses leave from participating hotels

TICKETS: \$175 Genl Adm.; \$225 VIP (prices will increase). CityBrewTours.com/BVBrewscene

COMING SOON: Phoenixville Beer and Wine Festival, May 9, 2020



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The South Reimagined. If you're tired of your usual lunch spots, head over to newly opened **Farm Boy Fresh** for something tasty, like breakfast all day. Let Chef/owner Paul Marshall wow you with Southern flavors and treats like beignets from his Louisiana childhood. Marshall spent time learning Asian techniques in Hong Kong, so try some Japanese Karagge Fried Chicken or have a Kimchi Burrito. Still not hungry? Just check out their Facebook page. *Sunoco, 7 Lancaster Ave., Malvern.*



Cheese, Please. What's better than a delicious slice of cake? While your answer may be "nothing," **cheese wheel cakes** are becoming a savory choice—even at weddings. These cakes are typically topped with a soft cheese, so the lucky couple can still follow all cake-cutting traditions. It may not be the dessert you're used to, but it's a pleasant twist that still delights both eyes and mouths. Also makes a great appetizer, for another tasty option.



Say Hey to Hay. Want to ditch plastic straws but don't want to carry around your own glass or metal straw? **Hay straws** may be the answer. This rustic material, often mixed with wheat, works great for hot and cold drinks and won't get soggy like paper straws. A cheap alternative, hay straws are available in bulk so you're not breaking the bank while saving the planet. Feel good with these eco-friendly substitutes in your home, office or favorite restaurant. *More at HayStraws.com.*

Have a Healthy Cheat Day. When starting a new diet, finding alternatives to your favorite treats can be challenging. Thankfully, local shops are here to help. Try one of **Éclat Chocolate's** many gluten free and vegan options, like a Syrian inspired Chile & Pink Peppercorn Destination Bar or a Dark Chocolate Organic Bar. Want sugar-free options? Check out **Christopher Chocolates**. Make dieting easier with these sweet spots. *24 S. High St., West Chester, EclatChocolate.com. 3519 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square, Christopher-Chocolates.com.*



No Ordinary Cupcakes. Malvern's sweet new addition, **Sublime Cupcakes**, will drive cupcake lovers wild. These gourmet cupcakes go beyond the basics with unique flavors like Champagne, Snickerdoodle and Vanilla Salted Caramel. Cupcake options vary daily, so drop in often to try new flavors. And Sublime cupcakes never go to waste because leftovers are donated to local charities at all three locations. *30 Liberty Blvd., Malvern. 141 Market St., Collegeville, SublimeCupcakes.com.*




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[Brandywine Table]

New Kids on the Cheese Block

EXPLORING THE SEASONS AND TASTES BEHIND LOCAL GOAT CHEESE

Alyssa Thayer

THE FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING ARE HERE: THE GROUNDHOG has shared his prediction, backyard bulbs are poking their heads up out of the ground, and local goat farmers, like Catherine and Al Renzi of **Yellow Springs Farm**, are in their busiest and most productive time of year.

For many Americans who are used to a year-round supply of cheese at the supermarket, the idea of cheese seasonality might seem odd. Lest we forget, since the original purpose of goat milk is to nurture baby goats (aka kids), it makes sense that the availability and properties of the milk are tied directly to annual breeding cycles.

Shorter, cooler days following the fall equinox spark fertility for goats and, with a gestation period of five months, “kidding season” falls in March and April. When asked about springtime on the farm, Catherine laughs and replies with one emphatic word, “Chaos!” And she’s not kidding (baby goat pun definitely intended). Given their herd size of 150, the Renzis can have up to five births in just one afternoon!

Catherine and Al are present at most of the births, name all the newborn kids and give them the best chance of success possible.

Yellow Spring Farm raises Nubian Goats, which are known for milk with high levels of butterfat. Originally from equatorial Africa, these goats have big ears to help keep them cool in warmer temperatures—and make them extra cute.



Catherine and Al Renzi are the owners of Yellow Springs Farm, a Native Plant Nursery and Artisanal Goat Cheese Dairy in Chester Springs.

Sometimes this can even mean welcoming the littlest newborns into their home for warmth and extra feedings. “We think of the goats as the most valuable employees on the farm. You can’t make good cheese without good goats,” Catherine says proudly.

During the spring, when the kids are born, milk production is most plentiful. Also during this time the goats transition from munching on dry hay to grazing on new spring grass. All these factors contribute to the fresh, herbal, fruity notes of spring cheeses. In summer and fall, milk yields lessen and become richer in taste and fat content.

While commercial cheese manufacturers strive for uniformity in taste and texture throughout the year, artisan cheesemakers like the Renzis work to accentuate these differences and create unique flavor profiles for each of their products.

Yellow Springs Farm’s deliciously diverse line of cheeses is made exclusively on their farm and ranges from mild brie-like cheeses to pungent cave-aged blues. The cheeses are crafted using age-old European techniques (from Italy and France) and avoid the use of stabilizers or artificial ingredients.

You can find Yellow Springs Farm cheeses online, at local specialty grocers and at the West Chester Growers Market from May through December. And if you’re interested in meeting the goats and learning more about the farm, check out the website and social media for upcoming Farm Days in May.

If any of the kids need extra attention, the Renzis may bring them into the house. “We have kids in the living room, bathtub and all around the house,” says Catherine.



Goat Cheese and Asparagus Quiche

Convene your brunch buddies and pour the mimosas, for this spring-inspired dish is a true gem. Feeling ambitious? Check out the recipe online for a DIY shredded potato crust.



- 1 large bunch of asparagus
- 3 Tb. olive oil, divided
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- ½ red onion finely chopped
- 10 eggs
- ½ C. milk
- 2 tsp. finely chopped oregano (fresh or dried)
- ½ tsp. thyme
- 1 C. fresh goat cheese crumbled (recommend chèvre or Cloud Nine for more pungent flavor)
- 2, 9" pie crusts, (if making from scratch, blind baking recommended. If store-bought, make according to directions.)
- * See online recipe for Potato Quiche Crust

Preheat oven to 400°. Cut off asparagus tips and place in a small bowl. Slice the rest of the asparagus stalks into small ¼" round pieces, leaving off any woody, fibrous parts at the end (generally the bottom 1–2 inches).

Drizzle 2 tsp. of the olive oil and a pinch of salt over asparagus tips and toss until fully coated. Place in a single layer (not crowded) on a cookie sheet and roast until the tips soften and get a slight char, approximately 10–15 minutes (depends greatly on the thickness of stalks). Remove from heat and reserve for later.

Turn oven down to 350°.

Meanwhile, saute onion in remaining olive oil over medium heat until translucent. Then add asparagus stems and continue to saute until tender and bright green (5–8 minutes). Let them cool slightly in pan.

In a larger bowl whisk eggs and milk together. Mix in herbs and cheese. Once asparagus stem and onion mixture has cooled slightly, stir into egg mixture.

Goat Primer

For many of us, our knowledge of goat cheese starts and stops at the 6-oz. log in the grocery store. But there's so much more to know and taste. Goat milk—like cow or sheep milk—can be made into all sorts of cheeses, including brie, blue, gouda and ricotta. Time to learn a bit more.

- **Better Bellies:** Goat milk products are considered by many to be easier to digest than cow milk counterparts. Goat milk properties are more similar to human milk in composition and structure and contain slightly less lactose.
- **Seasons of Flavor:** Weather and diet, as well as the point in the lactation cycle, all affect the goat milk supply and taste. These factors produce herbal, fruity cheeses in the spring and richer cheeses in fall and winter.
- **Find Your Type:** Determining which of three general categories a particular cheese is—fresh, soft-ripened, aged—depends on its taste, moisture content, age and treatment.

~ **Fresh:** Mild and tangy in taste, and creamy/crumbly in texture. Made using acid to coagulate the milk. Maintains an extremely high moisture content, which makes it highly perishable. Has no rind and is often sold in plastic tubs. Ex: chèvre, feta, ricotta.

~ **Soft Ripened Cheese:** "Ripened" using mold and bacteria until the cheese develops a soft, white, "bloomy" rind, which is edible. Remains soft, creamy and sometimes even runny in the middle (since the cheeses ripen from the rind inward). Sold and kept in cheese or wax paper to let it breathe. Ex: Brie and Camembert.

~ **Aged Cheese:** Tends to have the most robust flavor, hardest texture and least water content, making it the least perishable. Aging times, along with the rind/taste/texture, differ greatly depending on the variety of cheese. A milder melty American-style cheese can be ready in just a few weeks, while certain Parmesans take up to a year to develop peak flavor.

Pour evenly into 2 prepared pie crusts and bake for 35–40 minutes (or until knife comes out clean). After 10 minutes in the oven, sprinkle roasted asparagus tips over top.

Let quiches sit and cool for at least 15–20 minutes before serving.

Serve warm or at room temperature.

Makes 2, 9" pies and serves 12–16.

Roasted Beet Salad

- 4 oz. fresh chèvre (recommend YSF Honey and Sage)
- ¼ C. plain bread crumbs
- ¼ C. walnuts
- 1 egg
- 2 beets
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme (can use dried)
- Drizzle of extra virgin olive oil
- 1 lime, juiced and zested
- 1 orange, juiced
- 1 Tb. apple cider vinegar
- 1 tsp. honey

- 1 Tb. orange marmalade
- ⅓ C. extra virgin olive oil
- 3 C. mixed salad greens



For the Cheese Disks

Scoop out 5 portions of cheese and roll into equal sized balls.

In the small bowl of a food processor, process dried bread crumbs and walnuts, until most of the nuts are in fine pieces. Some larger chunks will remain.

Whisk the egg and put into a small shallow container. Gently place each ball into the container with a spoon or fork and roll to coat with egg. After each is "washed," place into the nut-crumb mixture and use a spoon to gently cover the cheese balls completely. Once the balls have a general coating, use your fingers to apply a small amount of pressure to ensure the mixture sticks to the cheese.

Place the balls in a plastic freezer bag. Gently press down on each cheese ball to make into more of a disk shape—about 2 inches in diameter.

Freeze for at least 2 hours (overnight is even better). Note: cheese disks must be fully frozen, or they'll make a mess when baking.

Save the remaining crumb mixture.

For the Roasted Beets

Preheat oven to 425°. Trim off beet tops and bottoms. Place the beets in the center of a piece of foil, drizzle with olive oil, sprinkle with salt and pepper and several thyme sprigs. Wrap the foil up around the beets to completely seal them, with no opening facing down (2 layers of foil recommended).

Roast in the oven at 425° for 90 minutes.

Remove and let sit until they're cool enough to handle. Peel the beets using a combination of a peeler and your fingers. Slice thinly into ¼-inch slices and set aside.

For the Vinaigrette:

Combine all ingredients (lime through olive oil) in a small bowl and whisk. This will be enough for leftovers. (You'll thank us later.)

To Assemble:

When ready to serve, preheat oven to 475°. Place frozen cheese disks on a baking sheet lined with Silpat or parchment paper. Lightly

Seasonal Sensations

Coming off the depths of winter, our palates are yearning for something bright and exciting. Try these Yellow Springs Farm fan favorites on a cheese plate, crumbled over a salad or in one of the beautiful recipes in this article.

• **Chèvre** – The most well-known goat cheese variety is creamy and tangy at the same time. Farm-fresh local chèvre lets you taste the subtle bright herbal notes from the season.

Pair it with: almost anything! Its bright flavor and smooth texture give it versatility. Roll in fresh herbs, top with oozy jam or crumble over salads and pasta.

• **Cloud Nine** – Creamy, soft French-style cheese with a soft, white rind much like a Brie.

Pair it with: fruity notes like berries, honey or a light pinot noir.

• **Black Diamond** – Also a soft-ripened cheese, it gets coated in vegetable ash as it ages. It's both creamy and complex in flavor. *Pair it with:* stone fruit or charcuterie. This style of cheese is originally from the Loire Valley where they also make Sancerre (similar to a Sauvignon Blanc) so this is a match made in heaven!

Craft a Crostini – Here's an easy way to make your taste buds jump for joy. Slather any of these three cheeses onto piece of toasted bread with a drizzle of local honey.



brush with olive oil, and bake 7–10 minutes on the top rack until golden and not quite oozing. Sprinkle remaining crumb mixture on the same tray and toast while the cheese is baking. (Start paying close attention after 6 minutes to ensure they don't melt out of their shape.)

Mix together the salad greens and toss with the vinaigrette. Plate the dressed salad. Top the salad with beet slices and warm goat cheese. Sprinkle with some of the toasted crumb mixture. Enjoy!

Serves 2.

Goat Cheese And Arugula Penne

Early spring is a tricky balance—the weather is starting to turn but is still stubbornly chilly. This dish fits the bill, serving us fresh veggies nestled into comforting warm pasta.

4 C. or 8 oz. penne pasta

5½ oz. fresh chèvre (recommend YSF Pepper and Garlic)

2 C. arugula



- 1 C. cherry tomatoes
- ¼ C. olive oil
- 2 Tb. lemon juice
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- ½ Tb. salt
- ½ tsp. ground black pepper

Cook pasta in a large pot of boiling, salted water according to package or until al dente.

Crumble goat cheese into a large serving bowl. Add arugula, cherry tomatoes, olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, salt and pepper.

Drain pasta, and toss with goat cheese mixture.

Serves 3–4.

Goat Cheese Pesto

The taste of soft goat cheese is more present in this California version of pesto than Parmigiano-Reggiano is in its basil pesto counterpart. This is a Swiss Army knife kind of recipe: dip, sauce and spread.

- 4 oz. soft goat cheese, crumbled and at room temperature (recommend YSF chèvre or Cloud Nine)
- 1 C. packed flat-leaf parsley leaves (1–2 bunches)
- ½ C. packed fresh oregano leaves (1 bunch)
- 2 Tb. water
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp. freshly ground pepper
- ¼ tsp. salt

Place all ingredients in a food processor, pulse a few times, then process until fairly smooth, or to the desired consistency, scraping down the sides occasionally.

Place at the center of a crudite platter, slather onto bread or sandwiches, or dollop generously as the base to a delicious flatbread. Enjoy! ♦

Alyssa Thayer found her love of food at an early age, frolicking around her mother's organic farm and eating her weight in berries and snap peas each summer. She is a self-proclaimed urban farm girl, whose mission is to bring inspired ideas to life, passionate people together, and good food to every table.



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