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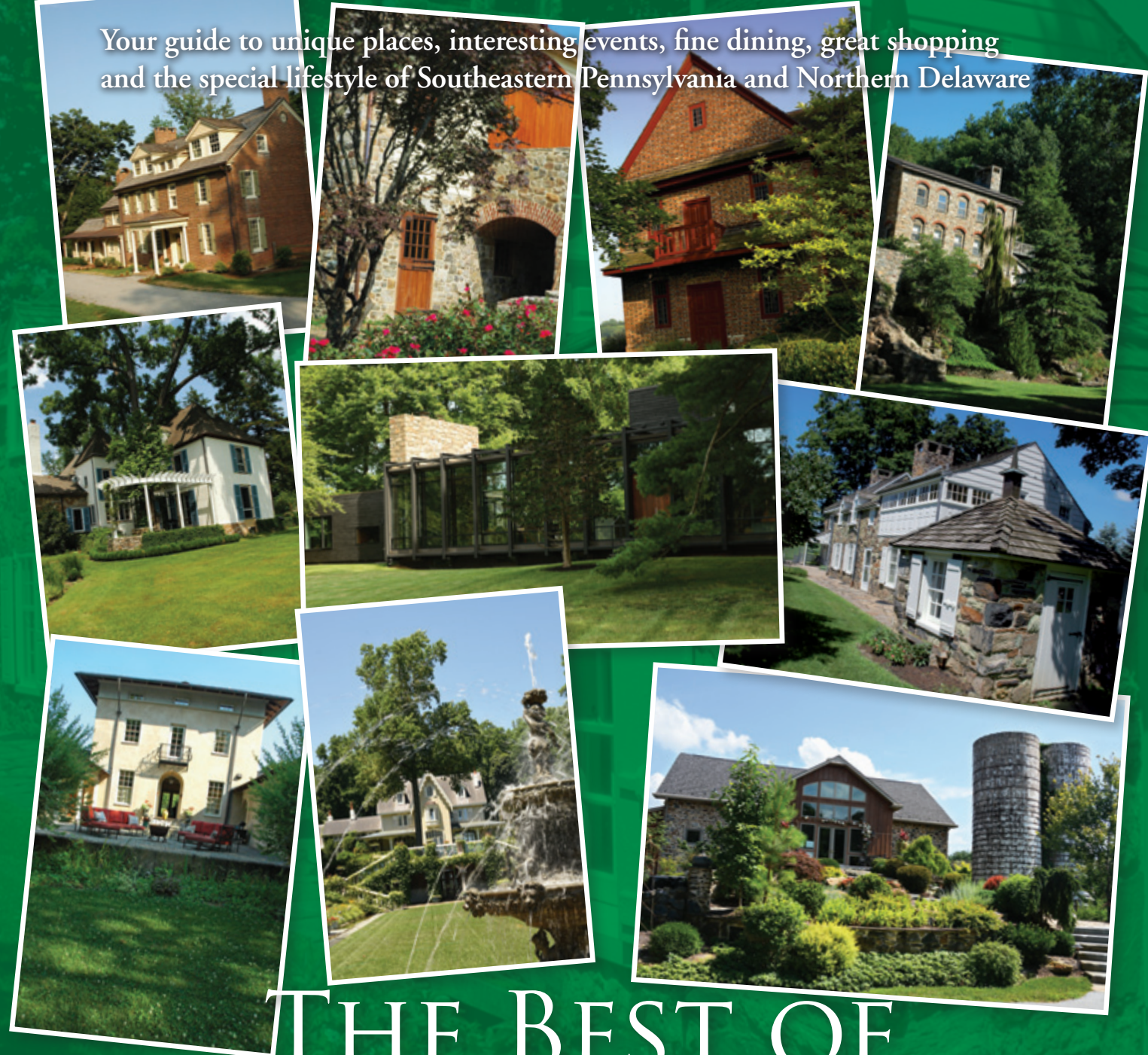
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Birchrunville

63 Acres | Converted Barn | Pool
Par 3 Golf Hole | Apple Orchard
Pond | Subdivision Possible
\$3,250,000



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



Near Marshallton

4 BR, 4.1 BA | 15 Acres | Great Views!
Fabulous Floor Plan | Volumes of Space
Large Barn | Grand Pool Area | A Showcase!
\$2,450,000



Willistown

5BR, 5.2 BA | 4.4 Acres | Builder's Home
High End Features | Fabulous Lower Level
Chef's Kitchen | Luxurious Master Bathroom
\$1,750,000



Unionville

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



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

4 BR, 3.2 BA | 20.5 Acres | Private!
New Construction - Pick from 4 models
Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools!
\$1,480,000



Thornbury Township

Historic 4BR, 5.1 BA. | 7+ Acres
High-end Kitchen | Privately Set
Once Home to F. Scott Fitzgerald!
\$1,125,000



Warwick Township

6 BR, 5.1 BA | 22.5 Acres | Very Private!
Historic Farmhouse, Stone Barn & Pond
Abuts 535 Ac. Warwick Park | Priced to Sell!
\$1,075,000



Chester Springs

5BA, 3.1 BA | 5 Acres | Pastoral Views
Great Pool Complex | Chef's Kitchen
4 Fireplaces | Spacious Master Suite
\$975,000



East Bradford

5BR, 3BA | 1.1 Acres
Voluminous Open Floor Plan!
Great Location! Move-in Condition
\$789,000

SAMPLING OF RECENT SALES



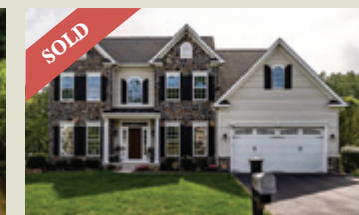
Unionville

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



Chester Springs

5 BR, 3.2 BA | .7 Acres | Private
Overlooks Community Open Space
Chef's Kitchen | Superior Floor Plan
\$848,000



London Grove Township

5 BR, 3.1 BA | Gourmet Kitchen
Part of Inniscrone Golf Club Community
Spacious Floor Plan | Large Master Suite
\$518,000



Avondale

4 BR, 2.1 BA | .79 Acs | Near Open Space
Hills of Sullivan Community | Lg. Family Rm
Kitchen with High End Stainless Appliances
\$435,000

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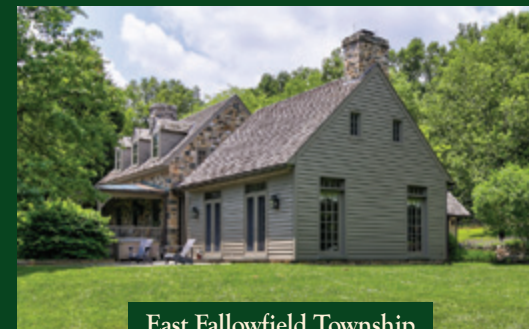
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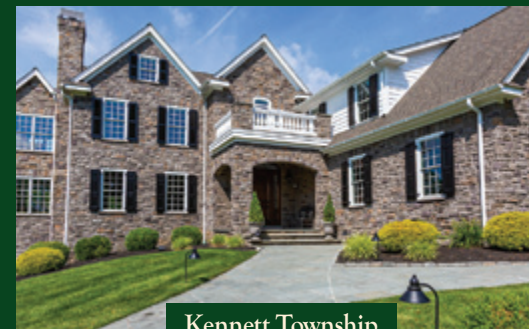
East Fallowfield Township

Exquisite 18th c. historically correct country home w/pool and 4 stall barn on 29+/- acs. Breathtaking views over Cheshire Hunt countryside, near The Laurels Preserve, endless riding.
\$2,675,000



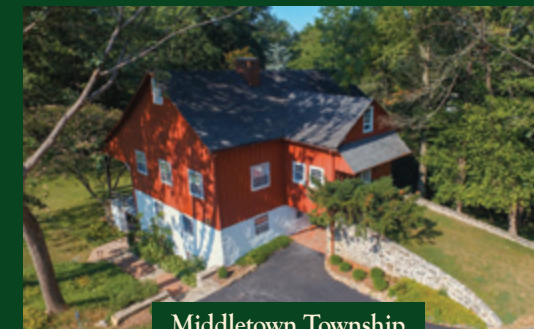
West Marlborough Township

Magnificent views of lush fields and countryside, 78+/- acres under conservation easement (2 primary, 1 secondary houses allowed). Cheshire Hunt country, Unionville Chadds Ford Schools.
\$2,652,000



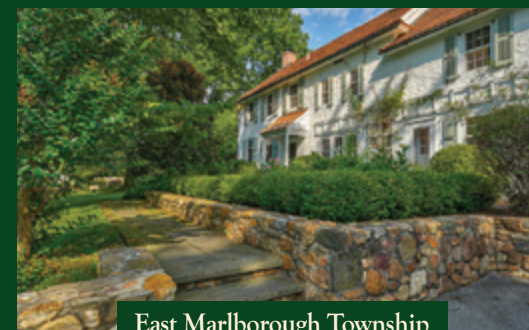
Kennett Township

Premier listing on 4+ acres with 4BR/5.5B home with all amenities. Gourmet kitchen, entertainment areas, heated spa and pool. Impeccably maintained.
\$2,245,000



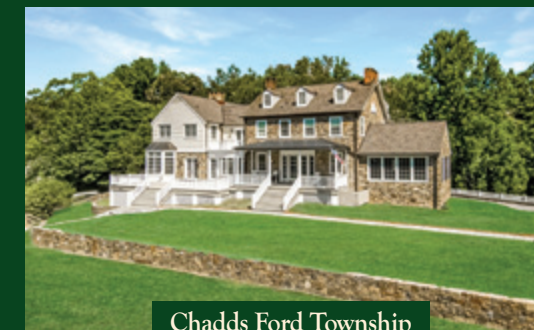
Middletown Township

Early 1700's post & beam bank barn, rebuilt in 1900 & transformed/converted into an amazing family home in 1946 with 5BR/4.1B. Lovely pastures, woods & stream on 5.85 acres.
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East Marlborough Township

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from the EDITOR

Yes, September's here, but the pandemic is still with us. Chester County is adapting, as museums are reopening, farmers' markets are busy and kids are beginning the school year, though primarily online.

We continue our tradition of featuring the Chester County Day Tour. In "The Best of Chester County Day," we highlight the past ten years' of house tours and ask you to pick your favorite home in our Facebook contest. Meanwhile, enjoy a virtual tour online that extends throughout September.

Honoring more local heritage, Madison Meinel explores "Chester County's Equestrian Traditions and Treasures." Although most events are cancelled for the fall season, there's still much to celebrate.

In "Books That Will Make You (and Your Kids) Smarter About Politics," Shelly Laurence of Main Point Books has recommendations for getting beyond simple sound bites and TV news cycles. And a visit to the Delaware Art Museum's "Black Survival Guide" exhibit may change your perspective. Read "Black Lives Still Matter" by Edwin Malet.

Although it's peak season for local produce, too many in Chester County are hungry: over 8% are food insecure. Fred de Long of Willistown Conservation Trust describes ways to help in "Feeding a Community ... One Garden at a Time."

And while large gatherings are still not safe, couples are finding ways to say "I do." Check out local spots for "Vows in Intimate Wedding Venues."

In "Wine Flavors of Fall," Jessica Roberts goes red, but not in that big cabernet way. She suggests a change from summer whites to pinot noirs, GSM blends, barberas and nebbiols. Try them all!

Brandywine Table's Alyssa Thayer writes that during a time of uncertainty, the age-old craft of breadmaking is on the rise. Read "Kneading Comfort" for recipes and the scoop on sourdough starter.

Finally, while most of our favorite fall events are on hold, our Associate Editor, Marci Tomassone, rounds up fun in the "Best Local Things To Do." We hope it helps you enjoy September.

Thank you for reading.

Jo Anne Durako
Editor

COMING IN October

ACROSS COUNTY LINES
Town Focus on Phoenixville
Guide to Private Schools
Fall Gardening • Home of the Month
Brandywine Table, Beer and Much More!

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

September 2020

Volumes XLIV Number 1

PUBLISHER
Edwin Malet

EDITOR
Jo Anne Durako

ART DIRECTOR
Alex Bianco

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Marci Tomassone

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Madison Meinel

FOOD EDITOR
Alyssa Thayer

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Susan Gillespie
Kim Ross
Suzanne Willis

BUSINESS MANAGER
Debra M. French

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Laurel Anderson
George Fitzpatrick / Matt Freeman
Emily Hart / Carol Metzker
Jessica Roberts / Cindy Walker

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Brenda Carpenter
Wil Moore / Timlyn Vaughan

INTERNS
Netanya Brittain
Emily Bunn

CONTACT US AT
ValleyDel Publications, Inc.
515 S. Franklin St.
West Chester, PA 19382.
610-918-9300. Info@ValleyDel.com
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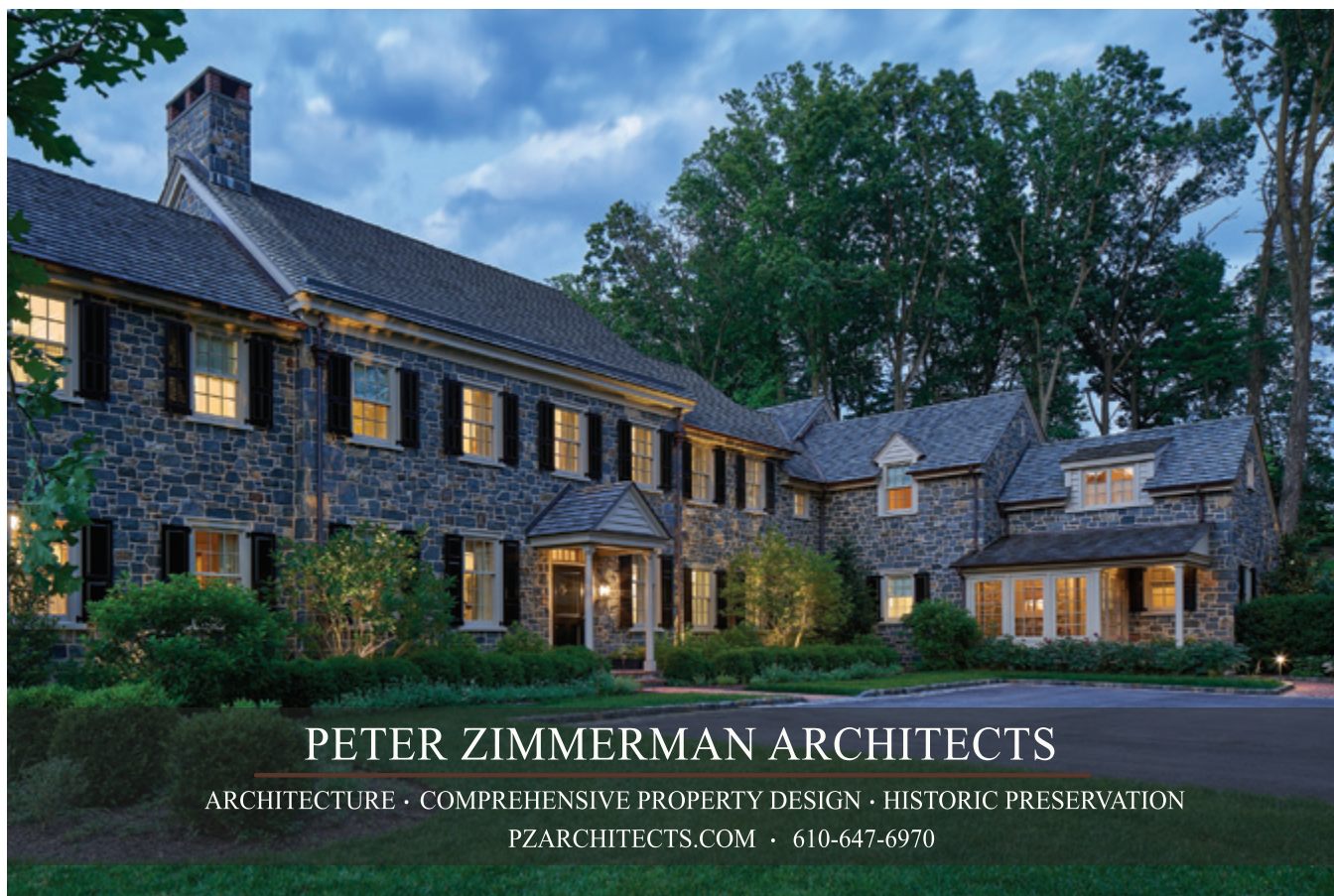


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[Good to Know] *Just a few things we'd thought you'd like to know this month*

Virtual Vacation. Travel across the globe to the Gardens by the Bay in Singapore—virtually of course! Longwood Gardens has partnered with the Gardens by the Bay to connect their audiences and share the beauty of both gardens. You can check out their video on YouTube and enjoy the healing wonders of nature, especially soothing during these times. And take comfort in knowing we're not alone, even if we are distanced. LongwoodGardens.com.



Scenic Views. Check out **Great Oak Farm** and admire their magnificent white oak that sits on the property. The 10-acre farm has recently been protected with a conservation easement, meaning the natural areas will be preserved for generations to enjoy. This includes the 300-year-old white oak, which is one of the few remaining trees in Pennsylvania known to exist when William Penn arrived in America in 1682. Take a hike on the nearby trails and enjoy the views of the magnificent, historic tree. NatLands.org.

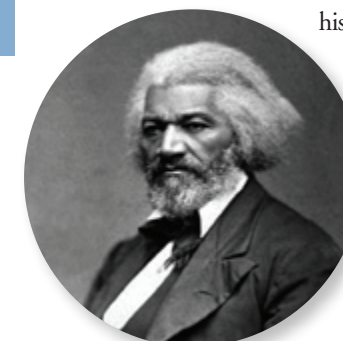


Cloud Watching. Plan a visit to West Chester's newest art gallery. **The David Katz Gallery** recently opened in downtown West Chester and features works by the owner, a.k.a. the "Sky Painter." Katz's paintings focus on the sky and clouds as they float above our favorite locations—Stroud's Preserve, Market Street, Penn's Table. Enjoy the familiar landscapes and remind yourself to stop and take time to admire the sky. *128 E. Gay St., West Chester. DavidKatzGallery.com.*

Equinox Equilibrium. Make time to find peace and serenity on September 22nd for the **Fall Equinox**. Celebrate by making a gratitude list, concentrating on finding balance (like the balance of day and night on the 22nd) and enjoying the natural beauty of the autumn landscape of Chester County. Consider exploring a labyrinth as a meditation tool for gratitude practice, such as the new one at Everhart Park in West Chester. Slow down the daily bustle of life, take a nice stroll and remember to give thanks! Almanac.com.



Back in Time. Calling all history buffs! Chester County Archives and Records Services is launching a fascinating **digital timeline of Chester County**, and it's the virtual boost your September needs. Travel back nearly 340 years to see more than 40 historic events—Battle of Brandywine and Open Space Referendum—that had a major impact on our county's history. Enjoy richly produced photos and engaging descriptions that will show how Chester County has transformed into the place we know and love. ChesCo.org.



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This organization is supported, 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. Left to right: *Untitled* (detail, 2000s, Mitch Lyons 1938-2018), Clay monograph, composition: 40 x 30 inches. Delaware Art Museum, Gift of the artist, 2012; © Estate of Mitch Lyons. | *Ophelia's Light*, 2019, Photo by Joe McFetridge.

[September Picks] Our Picks for top events this month

Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire

September 5–November 1

The castle gates swing wide and the Faire continues on weekends plus Labor Day Monday. Each weekend during the Faire season will showcase an exciting theme that offers a different experience for



your visit, including Oktoberfest, Celtic Weekend, Autumn Harvest and more (subject to change). Social distancing practices will be in place and masks will be required for all themed events. *More information at PARenFaire.com.*

77th Ludwig's Corner Horse Show

September 5–7

At this time, plans are to hold the annual Horse Show but not the Country Fair activities. The Horse Show will not be open to the general public or spectators. The Historic Car Club of PA will hold their show on September 13. 5 Nantmeal Rd., Glenmoore. 610-458-3344; LudwigsHorseShow.com.



Virtual 5K & 10K Trail Runs for Thorncroft

September 3

Thorncroft Equestrian Center, a premier leader in the field of therapeutic horsemanship, is holding Virtual 5K and 10K Trail Runs and a 1-Mile Family Fun Run/Walk/Wheel/or Ride. 190 Line Rd., Malvern. *For more info and to register, 610-644-1963; Thorncroft.org.*



Ryan & Friends: Comedy Calamity Show at Bird-in-Hand Stage

Through October 17

This lighthearted program combines a comedy routine and song parodies in styles ranging from country to Broadway featuring popular comedian, ventriloquist, musician and funny guy, Ryan and his friends. 2760 Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. Call or visit [website for tickets 717-768-1568; BirdInHand.com](http://BirdInHand.com).



Chester County Studio Tour

September 19–20

The mission of the tour is to promote regional artists and contribute to the economic and cultural vitality of our area by presenting original artwork. Routes have been plotted to help you traverse the county with the most scenic roads in mind, making it a day about the journey. Plan your own itinerary by selecting artists or studios you want to see. You can even become a curator by voting for the best artist on the tour. Sat., 10 to 6; Sun., 11 to 5. *For maps and details about artists, visit ChesterCountyStudioTour.com.*



best Things To Do

Many events are on hold for now, but there are still many fun things to do in our area. Please be sure to check websites often for the latest updates. *TBD—to be determined.

FAMILY FUN

THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Brandywine Zoo. Located in beautiful Brandywine Park, the zoo is once again welcoming visitors. 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. Timed sessions, 10 to noon or 1 to 3, must reg. \$5–\$7. 302-571-7788; Brandywine-Zoo.org.



THROUGH SEPTEMBER Thursday–Sunday

Cinema Pop Ups. A movie-going experience with ample and safe guest spacing, state-of-the-art audio streams and an app-based platform to allow for greatly reduced personal contact. Visit website for shows. The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. \$25 per car. CinemaPopUps.com.



THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Chester County Library System. The 18 libraries in Chester County have reopened with status varying at each location. Curbside pickup, in-library pickup, browsing and computer access regulations are listed on their website. Visit CCLS.org to see the guidelines of the library near you.

THROUGH OCTOBER

West Chester Railroad. Take a trip back to a simple time along the beautiful Chester Creek in Chester County. The West Chester Railroad runs 90-minute round trips between Market Street in West Chester, Chester County and the village of Glen Mills, Delaware County. 230 E. Market St., West Chester. Tickets must be purchased in advance on website. 610-430-2233; WCRailroad.com.



Social distancing will be in practice during the tour. Face masks required. In the meadow at 4651 Washington Street Extension, Wilmington. 6 pm. \$3–\$6. 302-395-5555; NCCDE.org.



SEPTEMBER 10, 17

Bird-In-Hand's Cornfield Harvest Banquet. Enjoy a relaxing evening in the country, learn about the harvest season, explore the corn maze and enjoy special fall treats. 2760 Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. 4 to 7 pm. Adults, \$46.95; ages 4–12, \$24.95; under 3, free. 717-768-8271; BirdInHand.com.



SEPTEMBER 26

Charlestown Day—TBD. Food trucks, bounce house, face painting, balloon animals, vendors, live music and kids activities throughout the day. Charlestown Township Park, 100 Academic Way, Phoenixville. 10 to 2. Free. 610-240-0326; Charlestown.Pa.US/parks.aspx.

OCTOBER 4

Radnor Fall Harvest & Great Pumpkin Patch—TBD. Tractor and pony rides, pumpkin patches and painting, hayrides, music and moon bounces. The Willows, 490 Darby-Paoli Rd., Radnor. 1 to 4. Free. Rain date, Oct. 13. 610-688-5600; Radnor.com.

ART, CRAFT & ANTIQUES.....

SEPTEMBER 2–NOVEMBER 6

"CELEBRATE! Art Ability" Exhibit at The Art Trust Gallery. In partnership with Main Line Health System, highlighting contemporary art from their "Art Ability" collection. While the exhibit runs, there's an Art Raffle benefit with each artist contributing a piece, Eat, Drink & Be Artsy Instagram Live interviews every Thursday at 5 and WYWH (Wish You Were Here) short video vignettes bringing the gallery visit to your home. TheArtTrust.org.



SEPTEMBER 12–13

Brandywine Festival of the Arts. A Delaware tradition with something for everyone, 250 artists exhibiting, live music, children's activities and a selection of local food vendors. 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 4. \$5. 302-419-6648; BrandywineArts.com.

SEPTEMBER 27, OCTOBER 23, 25

Brandywine River Museum of Art—Evening at Kuerner Farm Plein Air Event. Artists working in all media are invited to explore the property where they can sketch, paint or photograph the iconic setting. Interpreters will be available throughout the event to answer questions and provide insight into Wyeth's creative process. 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. 4:15 pm. \$20. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.

OCTOBER 2

West Chester Autumn Gallery Walk presented by Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery. Six prominent galleries will combine with dozens of additional "one-night-only" art show hosts throughout downtown West Chester. 5 to 9. Free. GreaterWestChester.com.

OCTOBER 3–10

Delco Arts Week 2020 @ Home. Virtually Travel Delaware County from Aston to Wayne,



Lansdowne to Rose Valley and find the perfect event for you, family and friends. Over 50 virtual arts and cultural attractions are offered to enjoy from the comfort of your home including studio tours, theater, ballet, music and classes for all ages. Visit website for details. DelcoArts.org.

OCTOBER 10

LandArt Events Tailgate Art Show. Artists have the opportunity to create and sell their art, following social distancing guidelines on the beautiful grounds of Radnor Hunt Club. Artists will be creating collectible decorated Breyer

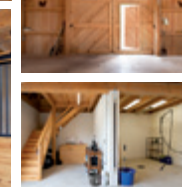
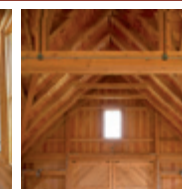
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horses that will be sold to support Willistown Conservation Trust and Radnor Hunt Club, 826 Providence Rd, Malvern. LandArtEvents.com.

AUTO SHOWS.....

SEPTEMBER 13
Historical Car Club of Pennsylvania Show at Ludwig's Corner. This family-friendly club has lots of activities with a little something for everyone. Ludwig's Corner Horse Show grounds, 5 Nantmeal Rd., Glenmoore. 9 am. Please practice social distancing and wear a face covering. HistoricalCarClub.org.



BOOKS.....

SEPTEMBER 9
Reads & Company Virtual Book Event. Reads & Company, in conjunction with the Valley

Forge Audubon Society, welcomes Jonathan Slaght, author of "Owls of the Eastern Ice," for a virtual book event. 7 pm. Books available on the website, \$28. ReadsAndCompany.com.



SEPTEMBER 15
Main Point Books. Virtual Fiction Book Group: "A Burning: A Novel" by Megha Majumdar. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. 1 pm. Main Point Books by Zoom. 484-580-6978; MainPointBooks.com.

EQUESTRIAN.....

THROUGH OCTOBER 28
Fridays & Sundays
Brandywine Polo. Now open to spectators. 232 Polo Rd., Toughkenamon. Friday Twilight Polo—gates open at 5; match at 5:30. Sun, gates open at 1:30; match at 3, \$10–\$15. Cancelled for rain or extreme heat. 610-268-8692; BrandywinePolo.com.

SEPTEMBER 5–7
77th Ludwig's Corner Horse Show. See September Picks.

OCTOBER 8–17
Pennsylvania National Horse Show. One of the largest indoor horse shows in the country. This year closed to spectators, but there will be some classes exhibiting. Check website before heading to the Farm Show Complex, 2300 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg. 717-770-0222; PaNational.org.

FESTIVALS & FAIRS.....

OCTOBER 4
Ryerss Farm Blessing of the Animals. Bring your dogs, cats or other small animals on a leash or in a carrier for a short, non-denominational service and blessing. Refreshments and hayrides offered. 1710 Ridge Rd., Pottstown. Noon to 3. 610-469-0533; RyerssFarm.org.



Local Farm Markets

Artisan Exchange, 208 Carter Dr. Unit 13 B, West Chester. Sat, 10 to 2. Order online for delivery or pickup. ArtisanExchange.net.

Booths Corner, 1362 Naamans Creek Rd., Garnet Valley. Fri–Sat, 9 to 8. BoothsCorner.com.

Bryn Mawr Farmers Market, Lancaster Ave. Bryn Mawr train station parking lot. Sat, 9 to 1. Prepay, pre-order on the website starting Tues. each week, and pick up. Or come to the market. Face masks req. Pick-up schedule on website. FarmToCity.org.

Devon Yard Farmers Market, 138 Lancaster Ave. Wed, 10 to noon. Pre-order by Tues, noon. Email confirmation with pick-up time. 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Downingtown Farmers Market, Log Cabin Field, Kerr Park, Pennsylvania Ave. Sat, 10–12. Pre-order by Fri, 10 am. Email confirmation. 610-836-1391; GrowingRoots-Partners.com.

Eagleview Farmers Market, Eagleview Town Crt., Wellington Sq., Exton. Thurs, 11–1. Pre-order by Wed, noon. Email confirmation. 610-836-1391; GrowingRoots-Partners.com.

Kennett Square Farmers Market, The Creamery, 401 Birch St. Fri, 3 to 6. Some vendors are pre-order only. Seniors & high-risk, 3–3:30; gen'l public, 3:30–6 pm. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Lancaster County Farmers Market, 389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. Wed, Fri & Sat, 6 to 4. Check Facebook to phone for pickup. 610-688 -9856; LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com.

Malvern Farmers Market, Warren Ave. & Roberts Rd. Sat, 2–4. Pre-order by Fri, 10 am. Email confirmation. 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Pete's Produce Farm, 1225 E. Street Rd., West Chester. Daily 9 to 5; higher risk customers 8 to 9 am. Face masks required. Order online for curbside pick-up on Fri. 610-399-3711; PetesProduceFarm.com.

Phoenixville Farmers Market, 200 Mill St. Sat, 10 to noon; seniors, 9–10. Order deadlines vary by vendor. Check the newsletter. Curbside pick-up, if requested by Fri, noon. PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

Pottstown Farmers Market, 100 E. High St. Every other Sat. beginning June 13. 9 to 1. Masks required. 484-948-6061; PottstownFarm.org.

SIW Farmers Market, 4317 S. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily, 9 to 6. 610-388-7491; SIW-Vegetables.blogspot.com.

Swarthmore Farmers Market, 121 Park Ave. Sat, 9:30 to 1:30. Pre-order, prepay, pickup only. Some vendors offer home delivery. 215-733-9599; SwarthmoreFarmersMarket.org.

Sugartown Strawberries, 650 Sugartown Rd., Malvern. 10 to 6. 610-647-0711; SugartownStrawberries.com.

Thornbury Farmers Market & CSA, 1256 Thornbury Rd. Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 11 to 5. Pre-pay, bag your own. CSA Pickup Thurs, 12:30 to 6:30. ThornburyFarmCSA.com.

West Chester Growers Market, Chestnut & Church Sts. Sat, 10 to 12. Pre-order for some vendors. Contactless payment encouraged. Vendors pre-package. 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowers-Market.com.

Westtown Amish Market, 1165 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. Thur, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 7:30; Sat, 8 to 4. Curbside pick-up, \$10. 610-492-5700; WestChesterAmishMarket.com

Wolff's Apple House, 81 S. Pennell Rd., Media. Daily 9 to 5; 8 am to 9 am for seniors. Curbside pickup is available for grocery items. 610-566-1680; WolffsAppleHouse.com.

FOOD & BREWS.....

SEPTEMBER 2, 16, 30
Field to Fork Dinners at SIW. This special summer dining series returns to SIW Vegetables. *Sept. 2*, Executive Chef Liz Sempervive of the Millstone Café at Brandywine River Museum of Art; *Sept. 16*, Chef Dan Butler of Toscana; *Sept. 30*, Dan Tagle of Crazy Kat's Restaurant at the Inn at Montchanin Village. Dinners limited to a smaller seating capacity and diners will be provided with any specific information related to masks, social distancing, etc. 4317 S. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. \$93. SIW-Vegetables.blogspot.com.



OCTOBER 3
2020 Kennett Brewfest. Enjoy a variety of exceptional beers from 48 renowned breweries in the safety and comfort of your own backyard. Choose either the Kennett Case or the Brewfest

case, each including 24 distinct beers in 16 oz cans (see website for varieties included in each). Pickup is Oct. 3 at 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square between 10 and 5. Tickets \$105. Purchase at KennettBrewfest.com.



FUNDRAISERS.....

SEPTEMBER 22
The Water's Edge—A Virtual Gala. The Wa-



ter's Edge is moving to a virtual format, but the elegance will remain the same. Guests will enjoy a delivered gourmet dinner, a virtual champagne toast, and a presentation by the 2020 Stroud Award for Freshwater Excellence recipient, The Redford Center, founded by Robert Redford and his son Jamie. Tickets can be purchased at StroudCenter.org/Events.

GARDENS.....

THROUGH SEPTEMBER
Mt. Cuba Center. Experience summer in the Brandywine Valley and connect with nature. There are shaded walking paths, a vibrant meadow, ponds, stately formal gardens and the summer garden. 3120 Barley Mill Rd., Hockessin. Check website for guidelines. 302-239-4244; MtCubaCenter.org.



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THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Longwood Gardens. The beauty of Longwood is waiting for you as the gardens are now open to members and ticket holders. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Mon, Wed, Thurs, Sun 10 to 6; and Fri–Sat, 10 to 10. Closed Tuesday. Check website for guidelines. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Chanticleer Garden. Chanticleer is open by reservation with limited capacity to manage safe distancing. Purchase individual tickets and 2020 Season Passes online. 786 Church Rd., Wayne.

Wed–Sun, 10 to 5. Check website for guidelines. 610-687-4163; ChanticleerGarden.org.

MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH JANUARY 5, 2020

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. Outdoor areas and the first-floor galleries are now open, as is the Winterthur Store. Some in-person programs are available, including guided garden walks and garden tram tours. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. Tues–Sun, 10 to 5. \$15–\$30. 302-888-4600; Winterthur.org.

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THROUGH JANUARY 5, 2020

Brandywine River Museum of Art. *Through Sept. 27*, Votes for Women: A Visual History. *Through Nov. 1*, Witness to History: Selma Photography of Stephen Somerstein. *Through Jan. 10*, Betsy James Wyeth: A Tribute. *Sept. 23, 30*, Virtual Gallery Talk with Victoria Browning Wyeth. Advance reservations are highly recommended. 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Wed–Mon, 10 to 4. \$6–\$18. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.



THROUGH JANUARY 17, 2021

Delaware Art Museum. *Through Sept. 3*, Happy Hour Thursdays—relax and unwind with the museum's popular Happy Hour series, 5 to 7:30. *Through Sept. 27*, "Black Survival Guide, or How to Live Through a Police Riot." *Through Sept.*, Art Chat Weekly, Thursdays—a virtual conversation with curators and guest speakers. *Through Jan. 17, 2021*, "Layered Abstraction: Helen Mason and Margo Allman." *Sept. 4*, Art is Tasty—dive into a work of art with a virtual tour and discussion, noon to 1. 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.

SEPTEMBER 17–NOVEMBER

Wharton Esherick Museum. The museum is again open for tours, celebrating and preserving the legacy of American artist Wharton Esherick, who worked primarily in wood to create furniture, furnishings, utensils, interiors, buildings and more. Sept. 13, 2020 WEM Annual Party: From Esherick's Kitchen to Yours, a fundraiser for the museum. Visit website for details. 1520 Horseshoe Trail, Malvern. All visitors must have advance reservations. \$8–\$15. 610-644-5822; WhartonEsherickMuseum.org.



MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT.....

SEPTEMBER 3, 6

David Lutken's Hootenanny at Home at People's Light. David Lutken and "The Seat of the Pants Band" are back by popular demand this Labor Day for another virtual hootenanny. This free special event includes a mix of pre-recorded songs, live jam sessions and requests from the audience. Sept 3, 7:30; Sept. 6, 2 pm. Register for this virtual event at PeoplesLight.org.



SEPTEMBER 17, 19, OCTOBER 3

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. *Sept. 17*, More Than Your Jazz Standards, 7 pm, \$15–\$33; *Sept. 19*, Studio Two Early Beatles Tribute, 7:30 pm, \$35; *Oct. 3*, The Bill Withers Project: Re-Imagined, 7:30 pm, \$15–\$30. 226 N. High St., West Chester. 610-356-2787; UptownWestChester.org.

OCTOBER 10

Point Entertainment presents This Filthy World: An Evening with John Waters. A rapid-fire one-man spoken word "vaudeville" act that celebrates the film career of John Waters. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 7:30. \$25–\$49.50. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6

Bikes and Beers Social Distancing Ride. Cyclists and Brews of America present the Virtual Cycling Event you can do anywhere, anytime, and support local craft breweries! Just sign up, start riding, log your miles and get your finisher medal package and SWAG. Benefits Gates Foundation Philanthropy Partners for COVID-19 Relief. BikesAndBeers.com.

SEPTEMBER 3

Virtual 5K & 10K Trail Runs for Thorncroft. See September Picks.

SEPTEMBER 12 & 26

Canoe & Dine at Northbrook Canoe's Twilight Dinner Trips. Gather the group to enjoy a 1.5-hour evening canoe trip arriving back at Northbrook for a catered dinner served in the picnic grove. Dinner is accompanied by live music and followed by a bonfire under the stars to finish off the evening. 1810 Beagle

Rd., West Chester. 6 p.m. \$70. 610-793-2279; NorthbrookCanoe.com.

SEPTEMBER 16–30

Phoenixville Area Time Bank—"Let's Out Run, Walk 'n Roll the Virus Virtually." 1 mile, 5K, 10K, half-marathon and marathon distances that you can do at any location over a 15 day period. Benefits Orion Communities and Phoenixville Area Time Bank to secure shelter, food and life's basics to those in need. \$25. To register visit OrionCommunities.org/Run-Walk-Roll-2020.

SEPTEMBER 17

Fifth Annual FORE Fresh Water Golf Invitational. Hit the links to enjoy a beautiful day playing on a very exclusive course while supporting clean fresh water. The Stroud Center will have recommended precautions in place to ensure everyone's safety and comfort while playing in the golf outing. Bidermann Golf Course, Greenville, DE. For details visit, StroudCenter.org/Events.

THEATER.....

THROUGH OCTOBER 17

Ryan & Friends: Comedy Calamity Show at Bird-in-Hand Stage. See September Picks.

THROUGH OCTOBER 23

The GÜT Life at Bird-in-Hand Stage. An in-

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THROUGH DECEMBER
Coming to People's Light. Throughout fall and winter 2020, People's Light will offer two or three filmed plays along with a digitally streamed holiday concert featuring traditional music and original songs from their in-progress adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Check website for details. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

SEPT. 12, 26, OCT. 3, 17
Peddler's Village Murder Mystery Dinner Theater. *Cheers to Murder* comedy dinner theater show returns to the Cock 'n' Bull Restaurant, Rt. 263 and Street Rd., Lahaska. 8 pm. \$69.95. 215-794-4051; PeddlersVillage.com.

TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....
THROUGH SEPTEMBER
Open-Air Market in West Chester. The Gay Street Open-Air Market will be a place where visitors to the borough can shop and eat while

maintaining proper social distance. Closed between Matlack to Darlington Sts. Visit DowntownWestChester.com for details.



THROUGH SEPTEMBER Wednesdays
Outdoor Dining & Shopping in Media. Outdoor dining and shopping from Monroe St. to end of trolley line at Orange St. All restaurants are required to accept reservations and retailers are invited to come in front of their store fronts. Face mask and social distance are observed. 5 to 11 pm. Parking is free. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER, Thursday-Sunday
Dining On State Street in Kennett Square.

The east side of the 100 block of State Street is open for outdoor dining. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.



SEPTEMBER 4
First Fridays. Lancaster City, 717-509-ARTS; VisitLancasterCity.com. **Oxford,** 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. ♦

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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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HANK WILLIS THOMAS EXHIBIT AT THE DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

Edwin Malet

ABOUT 52 YEARS AGO, ON APRIL 4, 1968, MARTIN Luther King, a renowned minister and leader of the Civil Rights Movement, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, most well-known for his “I Have a Dream” speech in Washington, D.C. in 1963, was shot dead by James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old career criminal and prison escapee. Ray wasn’t caught until two months later outside London at Heathrow Airport. Meanwhile, besides the manhunt, King’s death launched riots and demonstrations in over 100 U.S. cities, including Wilmington.

In Wilmington, four days after King’s assassination and the day before King’s funeral in Atlanta, a brick was thrown through a store window at 4th and Market Streets. More rocks were thrown and fires set. For two days, the violence continued and spread. Four hundred were arrested. Thirty were injured. At least 15 buildings were burned. State police were enlisted. Calling for “law and order,” Governor Charles Terry called in the Delaware National Guard, which didn’t leave for nine months.

Nine months. Riot gear, billy clubs, tear gas, guns, bullying language. Reportedly, this was one of the longest deployments of any National Guard on American soil since the Civil War.

On April 29th, Douglas Henry, a 35-year-old Black man, was shot dead. The National Guardsman who handled the gun wasn’t charged. The announcement only inflamed a combustible situation.

What had initially been an outpouring of grief by Wilmington’s Black community over King’s death became an “occupation” and, over objection and resistance of its citizens, including Wilmington’s mayor, continued through the summer, through the fall, into the winter. In May, the occupation was expanded to include Rehoboth Beach and the campus of historically Black Delaware State College. Local groups, citizens, students, churches and the media resisted and protested.

In August, over a hundred members of the Wilmington Youth Emergency Action Council were arrested and the occupation began to get national attention. Increasingly there were calls to remove the National Guard, but Governor Terry resisted. In November, Governor Terry lost the election, replaced by Russell Peterson. In January, within a week of Peterson’s inauguration, the head of the National Guard was fired and the troops sent packing.

For the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King’s assassination and the subsequent riots and occupation, the Delaware Art Museum commissioned a work by Hank Willis Thomas to commemorate the events. Thomas, a photographic and conceptual artist living in Brooklyn, with works exhibited nationally and internationally, produced a piece entitled *Black Survival Guide, or How to Live Through a Police Riot*. Thomas is also a sculptor and an author of *All Things Being Equal*, *Pitch Blackness*, and *Winter in America*.

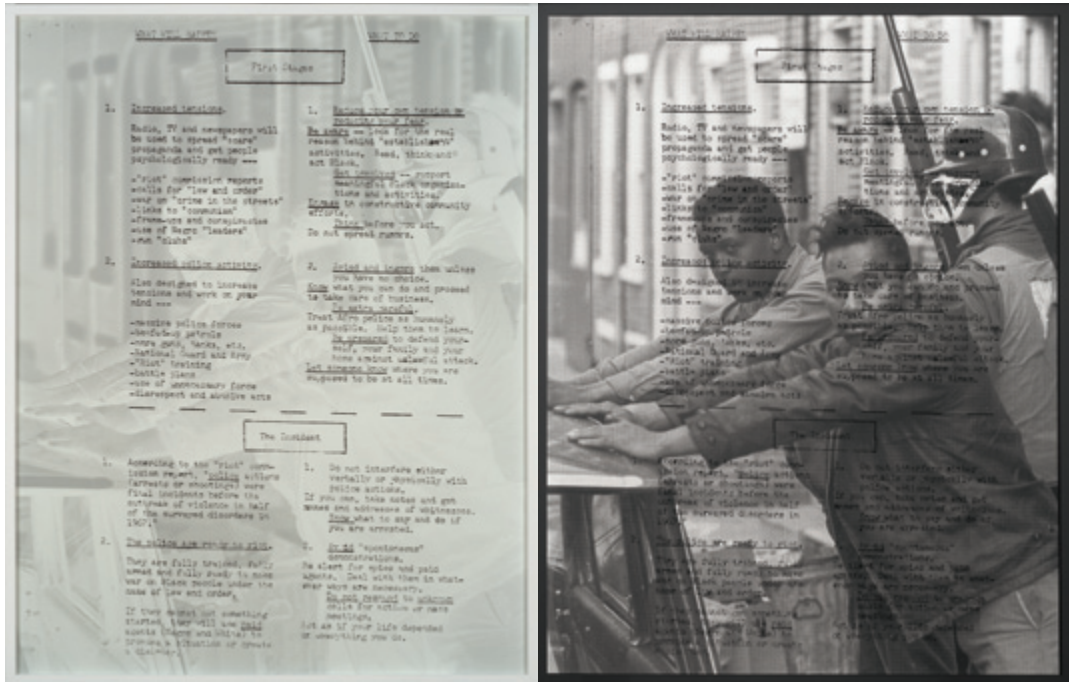
The *Black Survival Guide* was exhibited in the Museum in 2018, and is on view again in 2020 until September 27, following the violent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and others. It consists of 12 large panels, about 5' x 4', overlaying the words of the original *Black Survival Guide*, which was written and distributed by the Northeast Conservation Association during the 1968 tensions.

The words of the *Guide* are superimposed over photographs, originally taken by photographers from Wilmington's *News Journal*, of the occupation—gun-toting Guardsmen in riot gear confronting and arresting Black citizens—printed on retroreflective vinyl with aluminum backing. The photos become visible only when viewers shine a flashlight directly on the print. The curator of the exhibit, Margaret Winslow, compares

it to headlights beaming on an interstate highway sign. It “amplifies the urgency of the message.” ♦

If You Go

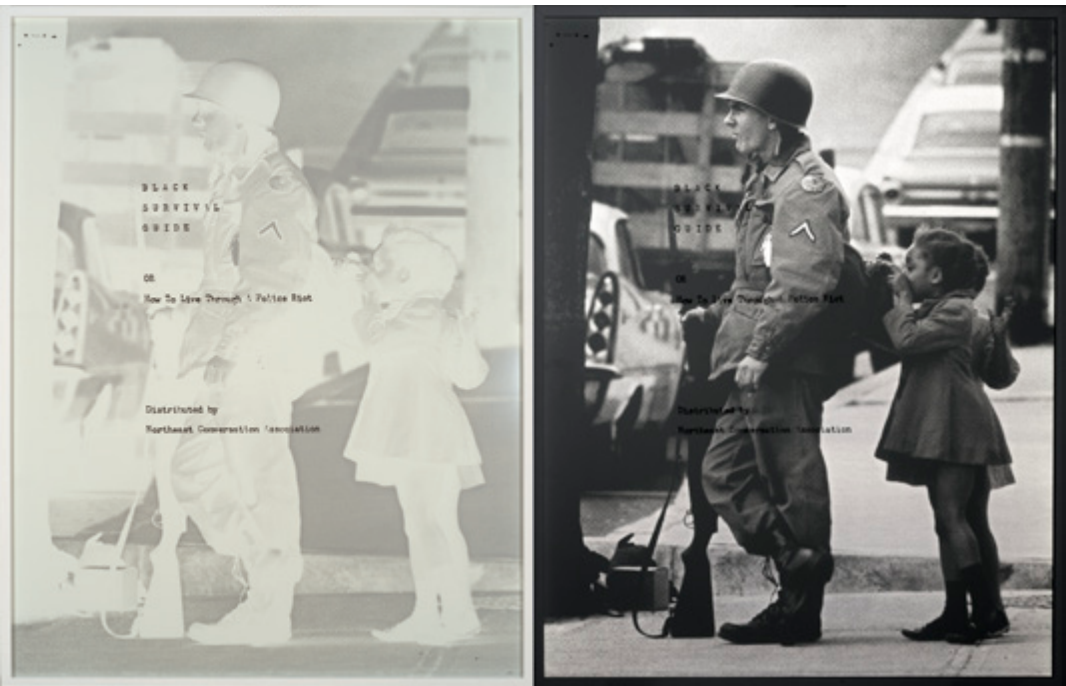
Where: Delaware Art Museum
2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE
When: Through September 27
Tickets: 302-571-9590; DelArt.org



[*Black Survival Guide, or How to Live Through a Police Riot*], 2018, Hank Willis Thomas (born 1976), Screen print on retroreflective vinyl with aluminum backing, 62 x 48 inches. Delaware Art Museum, F. V. du Pont Acquisition Fund, 2019. Commissioned by the Delaware Art Museum. Text from Northeast Conservation Association, *Black Survival Guide, or How to Live Through a Police Riot*, c. 1960s. Daniels Collection, courtesy of the Delaware Historical Society. © Hank Willis Thomas.

LEFT: *First stages*. Photograph of Wilmington Riots and National Guard Occupation by Godfrey C. Pitts, 1968. Courtesy of *The News Journal*.

BELOW: *How to Live Through a Police Riot* Photograph of Wilmington Riots and National Guard Occupation by Frank Fahey, 1968. Courtesy of *The News Journal*.



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Books That Will Make You (and Your Kids) Smarter About Politics

Shelley Laurence

ADD A BOOK WITH TOPICAL THEMES TO YOUR FALL LIST.

THIS IS NORMALLY THE TIME BOOK LOVERS ARE looking for the next big book of the year. Fall is typically the target season for many of the biggest book releases.

But these are extraordinary times, and the publishing world is among the many industries rocked by COVID-19.

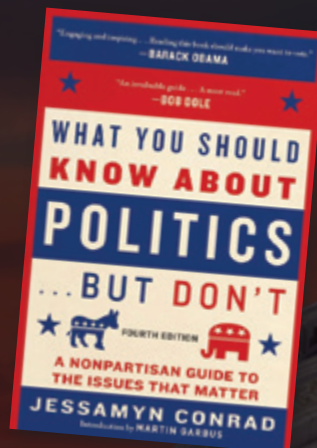
The political landscape has also taken an unprecedented turn. And with an important presidential election on the horizon, this may be a good time to brush up on the issues facing us all.

Here are some recommendations to help sharpen your political knowledge. And who couldn't use a little help in that direction ... in any year?

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT POLITICS ... BUT DON'T

by Jessamyn Conrad

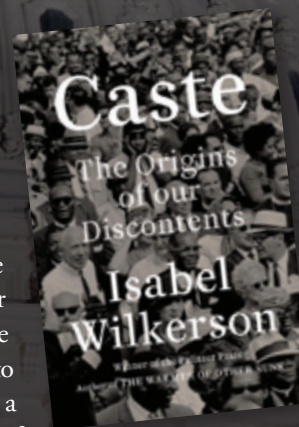
If the cable news channels are giving you a headache, here's a good antidote. Conrad offers up spin-free information on health care, the economy, education, immigration and climate change. Whether you're a Democrat, a Republican or somewhere in between, this book breaks it all down for you. It's the perfect choice for a deep dive into a single topic or a broader understanding of American politics. Look for the 4th edition, updated in January 2020.



CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS

by Isabel Wilkerson

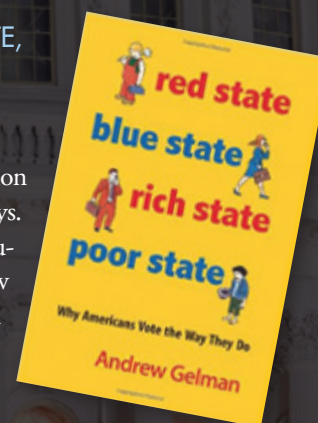
"The hierarchy of caste is not about feelings or morality. It is about power—which groups have it and which do not." The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Warmth of Other Suns" examines the unspoken caste system that's shaped America's past and present. Wilkerson illustrates its insidious effects through the stories of real people like Martin Luther King, Jr. and baseball's Satchel Paige. She shows how the Nazis studied the U.S. to plan their assault on the Jews and takes a close look at the surprising health costs of caste, which Wilkerson says impacts everything from mental health to life expectancy.



RED STATE, BLUE STATE, RICH STATE, POOR STATE: WHY AMERICANS VOTE THE WAY THEY DO

by Andrew Gelman

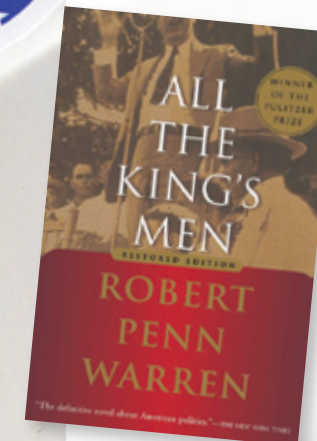
There's no denying we are a nation divided by things like guns, God and gays. But are the culture war stereotypes accurate? Gelman, a Philly boy, and fellow political scientists crunch hard data and



polling numbers and come up with conclusions that may surprise you. This is an interesting read for anyone looking to make sense of today's fractured political landscape.

ALL THE KING'S MEN

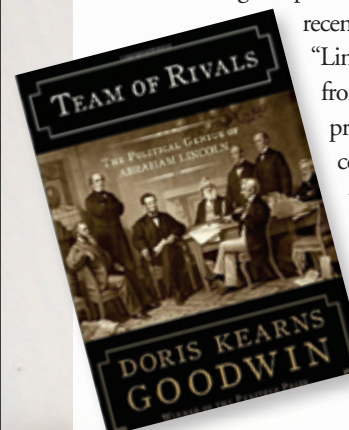
by Robert Penn Warren



This book was first published in 1946 but has lost none of its power or relevance. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this classic novel is regarded as the finest ever written on American politics. It chronicles the career of Willie Stark, a backcountry lawyer whose idealism is overcome by his lust for power. Those of a certain age may remember the Academy Award winning film starring Broderick Crawford. The book packs the same punch, especially in today's political climate. This is one of my all-time favorites.

TEAM OF RIVALS: THE POLITICAL GENIUS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

by Doris Kearns Goodwin



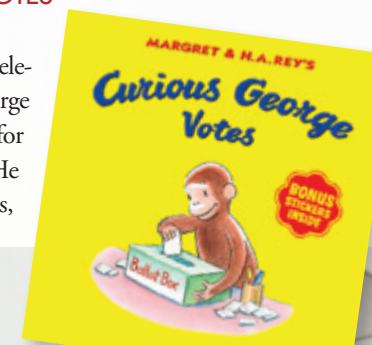
No list of great political books is complete without Goodwin's recent classic, the inspiration for the 2012 movie "Lincoln." "Team of Rivals" traces Lincoln's rise from prairie lawyer to one of the most beloved presidents in history. Lincoln stunned the country by beating three prominent rivals—then turned around and appointed all three to his cabinet. Historian Goodwin reveals how Lincoln's surprising but brilliant actions helped steer the country through some very dark days.

And let's not forget the future voters of America! Here's something for the youngest among us.

CURIOUS GEORGE VOTES

by H.A. Rey

It's Election Day at the elementary school and George takes part in the vote for the new school mascot. He learns about the candidates,



collects campaign stickers and casts a lot of ballots. But what happens when his hijinks get in the way?

THE NEXT PRESIDENT: THE UNEXPECTED BEGINNINGS AND UNWRITTEN FUTURE OF AMERICA'S PRESIDENTS

by Kate Messner and Adam Rex



This is a breezy, middle grade survey of American history and presidents. When George Washington took office, there were nine future presidents already alive in America, doing things like practicing law or studying medicine. Currently, there are at least 10 future presidents waiting in the wings. They could be playing basketball, reading books, making art or already making change. Who will be the next president? Could it be you?

THIS IS MY AMERICA

by Kim Johnson



"The Hate U Give" meets "Just Mercy" in this young adult novel exploring racial inequality in the American justice system. Tracy Beaumont is determined to save her father, an innocent man on death row. This 17-year-old spends her time writing letters to an innocence group, begging for help. With time running out, another shoe drops. Her older brother goes on the lam after police accuse the promising track star of murdering a white girl. Tracy must pick through the skeletons of her Texas town's racist history to save her family.

Need more ideas? How about joining Main Point Books virtual non-fiction book club? The group will tackle Ezra Klein's "Why We're Polarized" on October 29 at 7 p.m. Sign up on the website and join the conversation. ♦

Shelley Laurence is a bookseller at Main Point Books, an independent bookstore with a handpicked selection for every member of the family. Check out their great events, book groups and children's activities at MainPointBooks.com or on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Order on-line for delivery or pick-up. 484-580-6978; 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne.

Chester County's Equestrian Traditions and Treasures

DON'T HANG UP YOUR SADDLE YET! THERE'S STILL PLENTY TO CELEBRATE THIS EQUESTRIAN SEASON.

Madison Meinel

IT'S NO SECRET THAT CHESTER COUNTY ENJOYS A RICH equestrian history that continues to grow with each passing decade.

And even though many of our favorite local equestrian events—Devon Fall Classic, Dressage at Devon, Plantation Field International Horse Trials, Fair Hill International—may be on hold this year, there are still equestrian traditions and treasures to be thankful for.

Let's make sure we help keep them flourishing.

EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS

Whether it's the sport of kings—that's polo, by the way—a community riding group or a way for the kiddos to learn about horses and responsibility, our area has spectator sports, foxhunt-

ing clubs and pony clubs to engage fans of all ages and introduce them to our equestrian traditions.

If you're looking for thrills from exciting equestrian competition, look no further than the Brandywine Polo Club, at its home base in Toughkenamon. The polo club, founded in 1950 by former Yale intercollegiate player James McHugh, continues to share their passion for polo as well as the spirit of community—especially appreciated during these times.

This sports club has continued their scheduled season—after a slight delay—with matches open to spectators and tailgaters, with social distancing, of course. Bring your own picnic (including masks and adult beverages), sit 6 feet apart and enjoy the matches and the outdoors!



The Kimberton Hunt Club



Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines

With 2020 marking their 70th anniversary, what better time to discover the Brandywine polo scene? For more background see “Discover the Brandywine Polo Club” on our website, CountyLinesMagazine.com.

Tickets available at BrandywinePolo.com for matches Friday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. 232 Polo Rd., Toughkenamon.

For those itching to ride and not just watch the action, check out the clubs focused on teaching proper technique to riders of all experience levels.

As all riders know, horseback riding is a sport filled with traditions established hundreds of years ago, and love of the sport is what helps keep it and the lifestyle alive. Riders have established and nurtured local hunt clubs and pony clubs in Chester County, creating groups with a long history.

Dating back to 1870, [The Kimberton Hunt Club](#), founded in Chester Springs, is considered one of the oldest hunt clubs in the United States. Most years, members sponsor a horse show, hound show, blessing of the hounds (Thanksgiving morning) and hunt ball. And, as their website says, “a day of good sport is the norm.” Even better, it's generally followed by a hearty hunt breakfast and party.

Almost 150 years later, foxes are still plentiful in our area, as the foxes are not

killed—they're merely chased and go to ground (down a hole). Despite the area becoming more suburbanized, the foxhunting tradition continues in our area at this and other hunt clubs.

The Kimberton Hunt Club is a great place for those new to the sport, since riders move at a slower pace, over hills and through the woods, allowing new riders to focus on technique. Following by car or truck is another option.

If you're interested in hunting as a guest, find out more on the website, Kimberton-Hunt.org.

One way to keep younger fans engaged and learning key traditions is through pony clubs, one of the leading junior equestrian organizations in the world. Chester County has several to choose from including the [Radnor Hunt Pony Club](#), [Northern Chester County Horse and Pony Club](#) and [Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds Pony Club](#).

Located in Unionville, Mr. Stewart's Club helps pass appreciation for the sport on to the next generation. Focusing on growing skills, Mr. Stewart's mounted program helps kids practice jumping, eventing, mounted games, tetrathlon, dressage, foxhunting and horsemanship along with responsibility, generosity, volunteerism and

environmental stewardship. Their “unmounted” meetings highlight the importance of feeding, shoeing, veterinary care and general horse management.

With the help of these pony clubs, we just might see your kiddos participating in the Devon Horse Show in a few years!

Unionville; [MrStewartCheshireFoxHounds.PonyClub.org](#). Malvern; [RadnorHuntPC.org](#). Northern Chester County; [NCC4H.org](#). More at [Eastern PA Pony Club](#); [EasternPA.PonyClub.org](#).

EQUESTRIAN TREASURES

Our rich equestrian history has also spurred the creation of equestrian treasures that help keep both horses and their riders happy and healthy, whether providing therapy, in retirement or for veterinary needs.

People need horses just as much as horses need people, and [The Thorncroft Equestrian Center](#) is a shining example of the special connection and trust between the two.

Specializing in therapeutic horseback riding for both children and adults who have mental, emotional and physical disabilities, Thorncroft provides a space that encourages healing and growth for humans and their horses.

Established in 1969, Thorncroft is considered a pioneer among therapeutic eques-

trian centers and serves more than 350 students a week through lessons, summer camps and clinics on over 70 acres, with the help of 30-plus horses and 20-some staff.

Other therapeutic riding centers in Chester County provide additional services. [Horse Power For Life](#), in Glenmoore, has a 16-week program of therapeutic horsemanship to support cancer patients and survivors of all ages. And [Quest Therapeutic Services](#) of West Chester focuses on pediatric therapy to enhance the lives of children with disabilities.

These organizations provide support for those with disabilities and help them focus on the beauty of their minds and bodies while also learning about horses and having fun.

Malvern; [Thorncroft.org](#). Glenmoore; [HorsePowerForLife.org](#). West Chester; [Quest-Therapeutic.com](#).

Like our aging relatives, horses also need a place to spend their days when their peak competitive years are over. [Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines](#) provides a caring home for aged, abused or injured horses to spend their golden years, literally out to pasture.

Founded in 1888, Ryerss is the oldest nonprofit horse sanctuary in the U.S. and provides a comfortable home for horses to live out their golden years as part of a herd in the bucolic countryside.

Ryerss is now open for visitors, between 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and while there's no admission fee, donations are appreciated

to help keep the farm running. Can't visit? You can donate on their website to help endow a stall, bench or pasture.

Or you can volunteer at the farm or sponsor a horse for \$500 a year. Sponsorships help with necessary costs like feed, dental care, veterinary care and shelter. Sponsors receive a picture, certificate and biography of their horse along with private time to groom and get to know their horse.

Gather the family and stop by to keep our equine friends company and maybe meet your future sponsored horse! *Pottstown; [Ryerss.org](#).*

Last but perhaps one of the most important local equestrian resources is [Penn Vet's New Bolton Center](#). Keeping your horse

healthy and happy is always a main priority and one made much easier by virtue of having a world-class equine hospital nearby. Its 700-acre campus handles one of the largest caseloads of any academic large animal hospital—from 2006 Kentucky Derby winner, Barbaro, to working horses on local farms to beloved pet ponies.

Doctors at New Bolton are working on state-of-the-art medical treatments to help horses recover safely and quickly from injuries, ranging from creating programs for performance horses—equine athletes—in the sports medicine center to providing advice about helping pets cope with the quarantine.

You can check out the latest research and medical journals on the website to help horse owners and trainers keep their horses healthy. *Kennett Square; [Vet.Upenn.edu](#).*

EQUESTRIAN LIFESTYLE

Finally, whether you're a participant or a spectator in our local equestrian lifestyle, it's important to look the part. Some of our favorite local shops can help you do just that. We hope you'll support local tack shops in our area—especially if you plan to continue riding.

A key stop to make sure you're dressed for the occasion is [Malvern Saddlery](#), a boutique specializing in tack, riding gear, saddles, fashion and gifts. Despite current circumstances, the shop continues to support customers by offering scheduled shopping times. Make an appointment to shop for your equestrian essentials. *1 East King St., Malvern. [MalvernSaddlery.com](#).*

Gather up more gear at [Ricks Saddlery's](#) West Chester location. Rick's offers sportswear, boots, vet supplies and of course lots of saddles. Need more? Visit their new Equestrian Superstore in Cream Ridge, NJ, which also offers an education center dedicated to learning about horses through seminars, lectures and product shows. *1340 Pottstown Pk., West Chester. [SaddleSource.com](#).*

With all these options there are plenty of equestrian clubs, shops and activities to enjoy and help keep the spirit of the season alive in our community. ♦



Radnor Hunt Pony Club



New Bolton Veterinarian Hospital



Thorncroft Equestrian Center

THESE EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

LUDWIG'S CORNER HORSE SHOW

Septemer 5-7

5 Nantmeal Rd., Glenmoore

610-458-3344

[LudwigsCornerHorseShow.com](#)

The 77th Annual Ludwig's Corner Horse Show, scheduled for Labor Day Weekend and a Chester County tradition, currently plans to hold the horse show but not the Country Fair activities. The horse show is open only to competitors, trainers, owners, grooms, support staff and show officials, but not to the general public or spectators.

DRESSAGE AT DEVON

Cancelled for September 2020

23 Dorset Rd., Devon

954-647-7940

[DressageAtDevon.org](#)

Dressage has been called poetry in motion and ballet on horseback. Its beauty dates back hundreds of years and is a blend of power and artistry. Competition involves a series of movements based on a horse's action, not unlike gymnastics or figure skating competitions.

DEVON FALL CLASSIC

Cancelled for September 2020

Devon Horse Show Grounds

Rt. 30, Devon

610-964-0550

[DevonHorseShow.net/Fall-Classic](#)

An exciting all-jumper competition featuring riders, ages 5 to adult, with all experience levels soaring over obstacles, rac-

ing for the fastest time. There are plenty of family activities at the Midway, with rides, games, carnival food and Ferris wheel plus over 30 unique vendors.

PLANTATION FIELD INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS

Cancelled for September 2020

347 Green Valley Rd., Unionville

302-547-0695; [PlantationField.com](#)

Plantation Field's 350 acres welcome serious equestrian fans. Seasoned Olympic competitors as well as the next generation of international eventing stars compete in dressage, cross country and show jumping in what's considered an equestrian triathlon. The event isn't complete without tailgating, and spectators put out their best silver and tasty treats to impress the tailgate judges. Also a Kids Korner and Country Fair for plenty of family fun.

FAIR HILL INTERNATIONAL

Cancelled for October 2020

378 Fair Hill Dr., Elkton, MD

410-398-2111; [FairHillInternational.org](#)

The Inaugural Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill is postponed until 2021. One of only two 5 Star events in the U.S., and seventh worldwide, this prestigious designation is the pinnacle of the sport of eventing, a kind of equestrian triathlon. Debuting in October 2021, the event marks a new chapter for Maryland's equestrian tradition, showcasing four days of competition in dressage, cross country and show jumping at the new Fair Hill Special Event Zone in Elkton, MD.



Crowds at Plantation Field

79 1/2

Best of

CHESTER COUNTY DAY

by Laurel Anderson
Photos by Matt Freeman

This image was taken by much beloved Miss Jean Oakes, former Executive Vice President at Chester County Hospital for many years and Chair of Chester County Day for several years after she retired. The photo was taken from Route 100, just north of where the By-pass intersects it, on land once owned by Mark Rowan then later sold and developed as Crosspointe. The view is now gone. COURTESY: CHESTER COUNTY DAY COMMITTEE

OVER 80 YEARS AGO WHEN THE ORGANIZERS planned the first Chester County Day Tour—a major fundraiser for Chester County Hospital—they certainly never imagined a virtual tour.

But that's exactly what the creative problem-solvers on the Tour Committee created during this pandemic to keep this tradition alive. Yes, Virtual 79½ Chester County Day will be online and happily extends far beyond its usual singular day on the first Saturday in October.

This year's online experience begins in early September and visits all four geographic quadrants of Chester County, rather than being limited by time to just one. Visit one quadrant each week—starting in the northwest quadrant for the week of September 7, then the northeast (September 14), on to the southeast (September 21), ending in the southwest quadrant during the final week of September 28. The southwest quadrant will be the focus of the 2021 tour.

The interactive experience with photos, slideshows and video interviews on Facebook and Instagram includes features such as tours of homes, a featured home of the week, special themed menus, plus historical articles, trivia and more. Follow the Chester County Day Tour's social media for daily postings to see highlights of each quadrant and interviews with homeowners and others on topics such as the challenges of restoring a barn or living in a historic property with a young family.

For our part, *County Lines* has revisited the homes we've profiled over the past ten years, selecting memorable homes to showcase again—in most cases these are our cover homes for past ten September issues. A single interior and exterior photo were chosen, along with the description published in the official Chester County Day Tour map. We hope you'll enjoy revisiting some of the stunning homes from past tours on the following pages.

In these extraordinary times, it's reassuring that some traditions continue—albeit with variations for safety's sake. Plans in 2020 balance the legacy of the oldest continuously run house tour with the health of tourgoers, homeowners and volunteers.

We are also reminded of the critical importance of having a world-class hospital in our community. Chester County Day has already contributed over \$5 million to Chester County Hospital, and is working on a \$1.25 million campaign—their Heart to Heart Pledge—to the hospital's Heart and Vascular Program.

Yes, this year's tour will be different—as is much of 2020. But we hope to see you on the official 80th Chester County Day Tour, always on the first Saturday in October — October 2, 2021!

FOR MORE VIRTUAL FUN

County Lines will host a contest on Facebook to let you vote for your favorite Chester County Day house from the past ten years. Look through the following pages to find your favorite. Then go to @CountyLinesMagazine on September 1st to find out more.



2019 Stop 21

Westtown Bank Barn

Stable Lane, West Chester

Maria McCool and Nick Gianoulis

Enjoy viewing two levels of this 1867 bank barn, which began life as a dairy barn and then became a horse stable with training rings. The history of the barn, converted to a house on 5 acres of land in 2003, is retained with exposed stone walls, structural beams and the skeleton of a hay shoot now used to divide the living and dining area. There are slate floors throughout; large windows open to a patio, pond and pool with waterfall feature.



2018 Stop 3

Soledad Mansion

Old Valley Road, Exton

Bob & Maria Soledad Hollenshead

Built in 1851 and renovated in 1901 by Clarence Sears Kates, this spectacular Gothic Revival Picturesque Cottage home was given a new life by the present homeowners who purchased it in 1998. The homeowners preserved many original features of the house including the carved wood beamed ceilings and small-paned, leaded-glass windows. The gardens, with multiple fountains and numerous plantings, will be open for strolling, as well as the pool house and carriage house.





2017 Stop 30

Beech House

This sleek modern glass house of steel, stone and wood, was built in 2007 and has 5 landscaped acres planted with many varieties of beech trees. Featured in *Elle Décor* and *International Architecture and Design*, this masculine structure acknowledges the Pennsylvania aesthetic of rugged steel farm tools, stone walls and use of Pennsylvania bluestone. Stroll the yard with its swimming pool, vegetable garden and numerous trees including copper beech, weeping beech and American beech.



2016 Stop 21

Marlboro Road

Kennett Square

Wayne and Colleen Simpson

Although it is only about 15 years old, you might feel as if you have been transported to 17th century Tuscany as you enter the gravel courtyard. The inviting interior, filled with period and modern furniture and local art, reflects the values of its occupants: simplicity, craftsmanship and natural beauty.





2014 Stop 2

Willowbrook Farm

North Valley Road, Malvern

Chris and Meg Veno

Willowbrook Farm took root in the early 1700s and has evolved over the years with many identities. It has been transformed from a typical PA farmhouse to a gentrified European-influenced farm that sits on the banks of Valley Creek. It is filled with history, had enjoyed visits by esteemed politicians and entertainment figures and is now a small family “farm” with many beautiful outbuildings, including a large, unique restored barn.



2015 Stop 3

Dower House

Goshen Road, West Chester

Lisa and Tait Norden

Regarded as one of the oldest continually inhabited houses in West Chester and situated on the oldest road in West Chester, this house was built circa 1750 for or by Thomas Hoopes. The house was restored in the 1920s by architect R. Brognard Okie for the novelist Joseph Hergesheimer, who wrote the book *From an Old House*, about the design and construction process. The home has been updated recently but still retains its three staircases, six fireplaces and craftsman-like excellence.





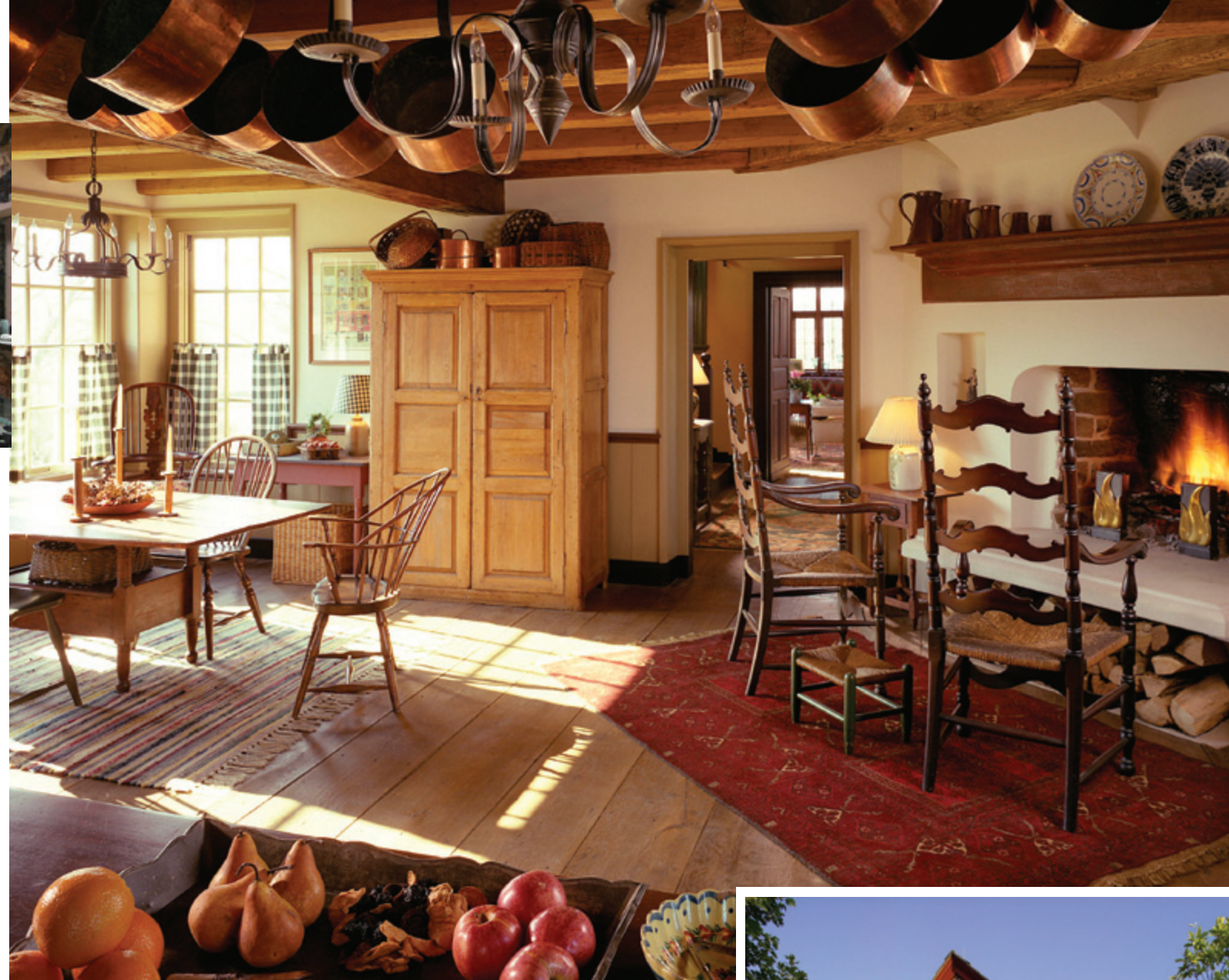
2013 Stop 20

Isabella Furnace

Bollinger Road, Elverson

Ted and Debby Flint

Isabella Furnace was a cold blast charcoal iron furnace named after Isabella Potts, wife of a member of the Potts ironmaking family. It was the last iron furnace to be built in the country in 1835 and went out of blast in 1894. The remains of the furnace complex have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1991. Today it is a lovely home and country estate. Enjoy visiting the restored blast house, the private residence, the coalhouse and see the remains of the original stack of the furnace.



2012 Stop 5

Abiah Taylor House

North Creek Road, West Chester

Wynne and John Milner

Quaker immigrant Abiah Taylor built this house in 1724, which is one of the oldest houses in this section of Pennsylvania. John Milner and his wife, Wynne, restored and expanded the house in the early 1990s. It is suspected that the house was erected upon an ancient Native American burial ground. The one level stone barn on the property was built in 1753 and is said to be the earliest documented intact rural barn in the state.





2011 Stop 31

Au Soleil d'Or

Dutton Mill Road, Malvern

Sharon and Richard Jones

This lovely home was originally built as a farm in 1859 by a member of the Garrett family. The current owners have made many additions. As the name suggests, the house has a yellow exterior. The interior features period furniture with French furnishings. A wine storage and tasting room have recently been added. The newly completed reclaimed barn was procured from the Pittsburgh area and features a gathering area and place for the owner's horses.



2010 Stop 18

Town's End Farm

Hillsdale Road, West Chester

Bob and Sue Hogan

This 1806 Federal home, built by William Townsend, is constructed of bricks made on the premises. The home was totally restored by Archer and Buchanan architects. There are splendid examples of carved wainscoting and cornices and a mantel in the family room that were from an old Philadelphia house. This home was on the "first" Chester County Day Tour in 1936. There are lovely oriental carpets and a gourmet kitchen. Each room has its own personality.



A Few More of our Favorite
Chester County Day Moments



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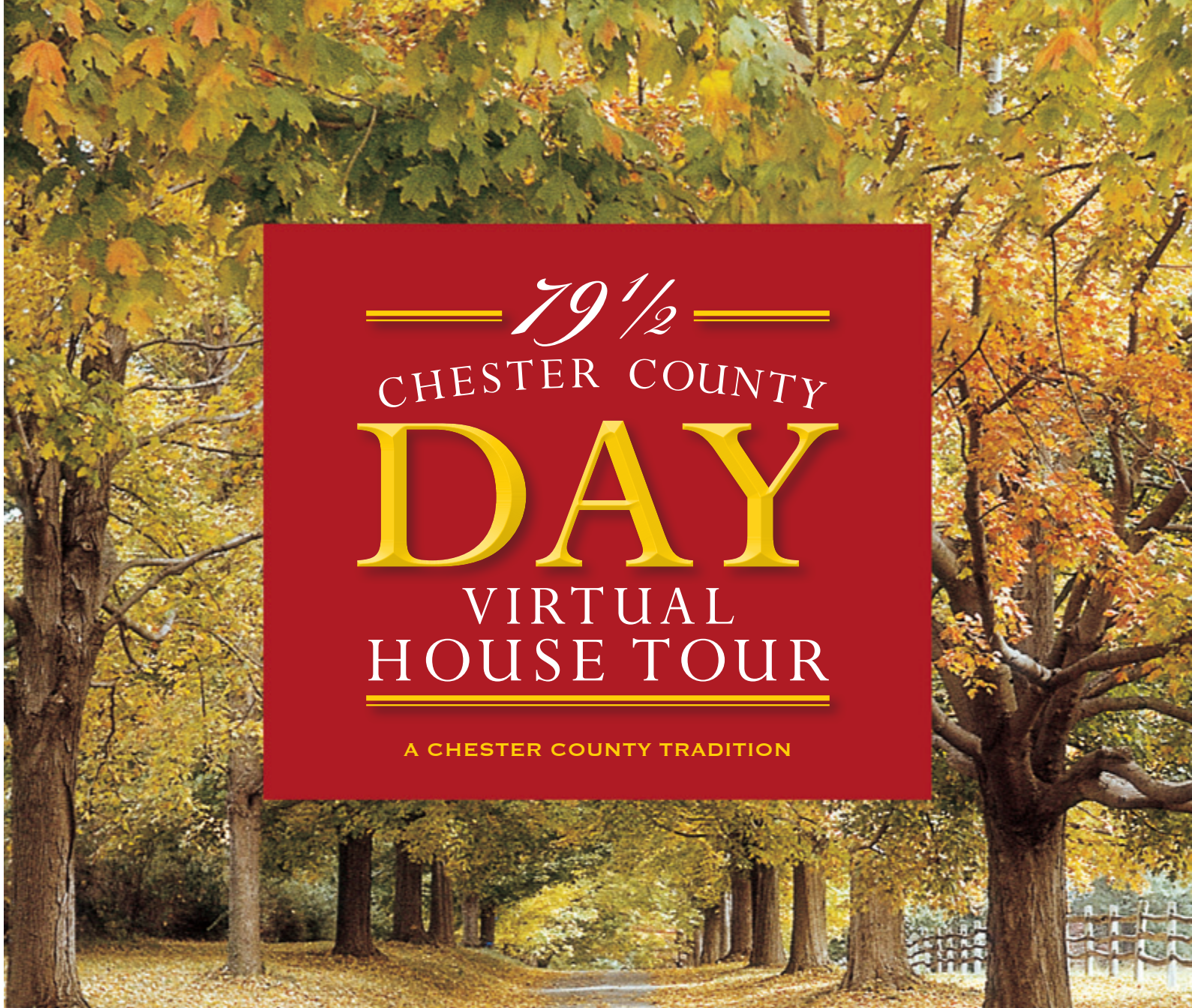
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— 79½ —
CHESTER COUNTY
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HOUSE TOUR

A CHESTER COUNTY TRADITION

JOIN US AS WE KEEP THE TRADITION ALIVE

SEPTEMBER 2020

Enjoy some of the county's most beautiful homes, exquisite gardens and historic landmarks in an interactive format.

Follow us @chestercountyday on Facebook and Instagram
For more information, visit www.chestercountyday.com

BENEFITTING
 **Penn Medicine**
Chester County Hospital

Vows in Intimate Wedding Venues

While our world is changing to keep us all safe, so too are wedding venues. Less is more for upcoming nuptials, making extravagant events take a back seat as many couples return to the basics. Here are some local venues that are working with couples to create the perfect day—just one in a more intimate, personal and safer way for everyone involved. Here's to the happy couples that find a way to say "I do!"



CHESTER COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

Share your vows surrounded by our area's rich history at the Chester County History Center. A Micro-Wedding package is now available for couples looking to say "I do" in a special setting in downtown West Chester. The History Center is planning to make the big day as stress-free as possible with the couple's only job being to arrive dressed and ready to marry! The wedding will be tailored to the couple's personal style, along with a live stream for family and friends who are unable to attend the in-person ceremony. This venue offers an elegant yet affordable option for an intimate wedding of up to 25 guests. 225 N. High St., West Chester. 610.692.4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

THE FARMHOUSE IN DELAWARE

Truly intimate and romantic setting, The Farmhouse is one of Delaware's hidden gems of a wedding venue with its historical property and beautiful outdoor ceremony site. On four acres of manicured grounds and gardens, couples can celebrate their love through an intimate ceremony tucked away on the large country estate that includes a newly added pergola as a perfect backdrop for an outdoor ceremony. The Farmhouse now offers an intimate ceremony package to help couples keep their dream wedding a reality (just on a smaller scale). An all-inclusive ceremony for up to 55 guests with a flexible cancellation and rescheduling policy. 5600 Old Capitol Trail, Wilmington. 302.999.8477; TheFarmhouseDe.com.



FAUNBROOK BED & BREAKFAST

Always a popular West Chester venue, Faunbrook Bed & Breakfast specializes in small wedding ceremonies and this year is no different. Located in a charming Victorian inn set atop a hill overlooking two wooded acres, Faunbrook provides a romantic and idyllic setting for weddings and other events. The inn offers a "Love Can't be Quarantined" special that takes the guess work and stress out of wedding planning during these uncertain times. With a maximum of 25 guests, the package includes everything from photographer to the cake, making it the perfect place for couples to celebrate their love with their closest family and friends. 669 W. Rosedale Ave., West Chester. 610.436.5788; Faunbrook.com.

GENERAL WARREN

An intimate wedding location in Malvern, General Warren is ready to help couples tie the knot pandemic or not. This venue combines a unique historic setting, including a 250-year-old springhouse, with exquisite cuisine to make each couple's wedding day memorable. The beautiful lawn and formal gardens make a perfect backdrop for an intimate moment to share with close family and friends. Their attentive staff and complimentary event planner will help make sure your wedding goes smoothly. Enjoy historic hospitality in historic times as you plan for your perfect day! 9 Old Lancaster Rd., Malvern. 610.296.363; GeneralWarren.com.



GREYSTONE HALL

On a private estate on 34 acres in the Brandywine Valley, Greystone Hall offers a unique setting at this turn-of-the-century mansion. The ceremony takes place on the formal terraced garden, in front of the wrought iron arbor overlooking the grounds and 56-column pergola. To accommodate couples during this time, Greystone Hall has recently added a custom-made tent stretching almost the entire width of the house and providing ample space for social distanced tables as well as a dance floor for a night of dancing and celebration. The sides of the tent can be rolled up for views of the beautiful garden. Visit their open house on Wednesday nights to see the venue for yourself. 1034 Phoenixville Pk., West Chester. 610.696.1272. GreystoneHall.com.

LOCH AERIE

Your wedding day can feel like it's set in a fairy tale at Loch Aerie Mansion in Malvern. This Swiss Gothic Revival mansion boasts elegant period details including large windows, balconies, chandeliers and a grand staircase for dramatic entrances. New owners brought Loch Aerie back to its original 1868 glory to create a wedding and special events venue—perfect even for smaller weddings. Enjoy an intimate ceremony with a 21-guest maximum (plus 4 waitstaff from exclusive caterer, John Serock Catering) on the first floor. This is a timeless space where guests can practice social distancing as the bride and groom exchange their vows. 700 Lancaster Ave., Malvern. 484.320.7055; LochAerieMansion.com.



THE STONE BARN

Nestled in the heart of Chester County's rolling hills, The Stone Barn offers rustic country charm perfect for a smaller ceremony. With two outdoor ceremony areas as well as an indoor site, there are options to ensure that every wedding vision becomes reality. The Dogwood Knoll provides an intimate garden setting and a picture-perfect backdrop for "I Do's." Plan your ceremony with beautiful flowers and lush greenery for the special day. Or choose the indoor alternative in The Fireside Room, with wood burning fireplace, as a cozy setting for the couple's vows. The sliding barn doors close off the adjoining rooms for a more private space during the ceremony. 100 Stone Barn Dr., Kennett Square. 610.347.2414; TheStoneBarn.com. ♦



Katerina and Fred delivering first 2020 donation to West Chester Food Cupboard



West Chester Food Cupboard

FEEDING A COMMUNITY, ONE GARDEN AT A TIME

Fred de Long, Director of Community Farms Program,
Willistown Conservation Trust

AND YOU CAN HELP

IT'S PEAK SEASON FOR LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE.

Ripe fruits and vegetables are in abundance. Summer crops are still producing their bounty as the fall crops begin to reach maturity. Tomatoes are heavy on the vines, potatoes are being dug up from the soil, lettuce and greens are thriving, and winter squash is almost ready to be harvested.

This is a great time to enjoy the bounty of local produce in the mid-Atlantic region.

Still, not everyone is able to afford the fresh, nutritious vegetables that abound this time of year. That's why our local food banks play such an important role for those in need. And you can help.

ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY

You may be surprised to learn that according to estimates from the national anti-hunger group Feeding America, there are about 43,000 food insecure individuals in Chester County alone. That number accounts for about 8.4% of the total population of the county.

Food insecurity, as broadly defined by the Chester County Food Bank, refers to a household without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable and nutritious food at any given time. And although Chester County is the wealthiest county in Pennsylvania, food insecurity remains a serious issue for too many of our neighbors.

Often when people who want to help think of donating food, their first thought is collect canned goods or non-perishable items that can be stored long term. While this kind of food has an important role in providing meals, fresh fruits and vegetables afford the best nutrition options. And fresh is tastier, too.

Collecting enough fresh produce, however, takes extra effort by food banks. Fortunately, spring, summer and fall in the mid-Atlantic region offer ample opportunities for local farms and backyard gardens to grow food to donate regularly to our local food banks. These food banks play the important role of seeing that the food harvested goes to those who need it most.

Formed in 2009, the Chester County Food Bank plays an important part in meeting the needs of families facing food insecurity. The Food Bank's goal is not just distributing food to those in need but supporting other organizations with the same mission. Today the Chester County Food Bank serves 120 partner agencies in the County and distributes over 3 million pounds of food per year.

A unique aspect of their donation program is the partnership with local farms.

PARTNER FARMS

A prime example of a local partnership, Pete's Produce Farm at Westtown School has a long history of donating fresh fruits and vegetables to area food banks and has worked with the Chester County Food Bank since it started. Early on, owner Peter Flynn dedicated two acres of his farm to grow and glean food solely for donation.

Today Bill Shick, Director of Agriculture at the Food Bank, helps oversee volunteers who come out regularly to help maintain and harvest thousands of pounds of diverse crops ranging from peppers to collards and broccoli grown on the farm. These community volunteers help get fresh food to those in need through this direct method of local food donation.

Another local source, Rushton Farm, part of Willistown Conservation Trust's Community Farm Program, grows food in their fields and gardens to donate to the West Chester Food Cupboard. Rushton Farm was one of the first farms to

contribute fresh produce for distribution to the Food Cupboard.

There's also a dedicated donation garden at Rushton Farm, run by volunteers, that harvests and donates all the food grown there throughout the season. Called Henry's Garden after Henry Jordan who helped develop the Chester County Food Bank, this garden welcomes volunteers every Wednesday from 9 to 4 to come out and help manage over 700 pounds of crops a year that are harvested for donation.

Rushton Farm itself donates an additional 3,000 pounds of food a year with the help of volunteers. Today members of Rushton Farm and Willistown Conservation Trust volunteer not just in the fields but also in the donation centers helping to collect, pack, weigh and distribute the fruits and vegetables that come in each day.

These farms and local food banks provide an excellent opportunity for individuals to help fellow community members.

SHARED VICTORY GARDENS

Of course, it's not just area farms that provide produce to local food banks.



Cleaning potatoes for donation

Where to Volunteer to Help

There are plenty of ways you can volunteer at a local food bank or a farm that produces food for those in need. Here are organizations that support volunteers for local food donation. These organizations, of course, also welcome financial donations to support their ongoing efforts to feed communities in Chester County and beyond.

Chester County Food Bank
ChesterCountyFoodBank.VolunteerHub.com

**Willistown Conservation Trust/
Rushton Farm**
WCTrust.org/Volunteer

West Chester Food Cupboard
WestChesterFoodCupboard.org/
Ways-To-Help-2

FoodPantries.org
FoodPantries.org/CI/Pa-West_Chester

Food Pantries in the Philadelphia Region
HungerCoalition.org/Food-Pantries

Backyard gardeners can also play an essential part.

Families and individuals often take a portion of their harvest and donate it to local food banks and food cupboards. These individual growers contribute generous amounts of food each year. For many it's a way to engage community members of all ages in the joy of growing food that's greatly appreciated by those who rely on it.

When growing a garden with the goal of donating part of your harvest, consider vegetables like beans, squash, cucumbers and peppers—crops that are not as perishable as others, like tomatoes. See more tips in the sidebar.

Remember, whatever you grow will be a welcomed addition to a meal.

Volunteering at a farm that donates food, donating food from your garden, or volunteering at a food bank are great ways for both adults and children to become involved in the rewarding experience of helping others in our community. ♦

The Willistown Conservation Trust Community Farm Program and Rushon Farm are dedicated to conserving agricultural land, providing food and educating people about the importance of local food to support a community. More at WCTrust.org.

Home Gardeners Can Help

Are you a home gardener with an overabundance of crops (think zucchinis in August), or just looking to give back to your community? Here are some tips when planting and harvesting your own produce for donation.

- When planning your garden for the year, contact your local food bank to find out what types of produce are most needed and the requirements for donation.
- In the spring, plant an extra row or bed of each crop to be donated to your local food bank.
- Partner with neighbors or other local gardeners to increase your donation size, and take turns making trips to the food bank donation center each week.

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WINE FLAVORS OF FALL

Jessica Roberts

IS YOUR PALATE READY FOR SOMETHING NEW FOR THE FALL?

WELL, WE'VE MADE IT TO FALL! LOOKING back on the year so far, it's clear we deserve a little something special to place on our table at our next special meal.

And watching the leaves change from bright green to deep red is a good reminder to think about how our wine buying should reflect the seasons, too. Your palate is likely telling you it's time to cozy up with a bottle of red to match the cooler temperatures and fall menus.

But before jumping straight into a heavy cabernet sauvignon or syrah, you may enjoy other options well matched to this transitional season.

THE GO-TO RED

Most wine fans will agree that pinot noir is the standard go-to wine for this time of year. And there are many reasons we keep going back for more. This versatile grape creates a very light red wine that can take a slight chill at summer's end as well as pair nicely with a holiday meal.

Pinot noir is also a great crowd pleaser for any event, big or

small. It's a wine that can be found in many regions throughout the world, at any given price point. Although wine fans know that Oregon and Burgundy, France, produce the best pinots in the world, most should know there are other sources that deserve recognition.

For example, try the 2016 Saintsbury Pinot Noir from the Carneros district of Napa Valley, California—a bargain at \$19.99. This wine smells of rose petals, dark cherries and baking spices reflected on the palate with a long, smooth finish. Plus, *Wine Enthusiast* awarded it 91 points.

The second pinot noir recommendation goes by its German name of Assmannshäuser Spätburgunder by Fritz Allendorf. This wine originates from the Rheingau region of Germany and is priced at \$21.99. The palate is very savory with notes of dried herbs and fruits and a slight earthy accent in the finish. If you want fall in a bottle, this is the wine for you!

Both this and the Saintsbury will pair equally well with a traditional Thanksgiving meal or with a good book in your backyard.

DISCOVER GSM BLENDS

Grenache-based blends offer harvest-style spice and pair well with many fall dishes without going overboard. These wines can be appreciated on their own and offer more robust characteristics than traditional pinot noir. Most of these blends (often called a GSM blend for grenache, syrah and mourvèdre, three grapes from the Cote du Rhone region of France) come from southern France and Australia, although there are producers in Spain and the U.S. as well. The first suggestion for a grenache-based blend is the 2016 Domaine Lafage Bastide Miraflores from Côtes du Roussillon. This wine is a bold blend

of syrah and grenache with a lot to offer, such as ripe blackberry and dried earthy tones on the palate. It scored 94 points from Jeb Dunnuck and is well priced at \$17.99.

Next is the 2016 Château Juvenal La Terre du Petit Homme Ventoux at \$19.99. A true GSM blend, this wine has a rating of 93 points from Jeb Dunnuck. True fall notes can be found in this bottle, with tastes such as deep black fruit, baking spices and truffles.

ITALIAN OPTIONS

For some contrast, let's head to Italy. The Piedmont region offers some of the best age-worthy and food-friendly wines in the world. Nebbiolo and barbera—great medium-bodied wines—can be enjoyed at summer's end and even into the holiday season. This is a good choice for anyone looking for a bigger red but who isn't yet ready for a hefty cabernet.

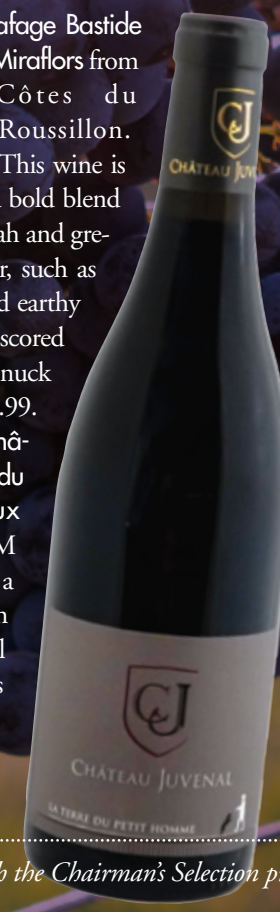
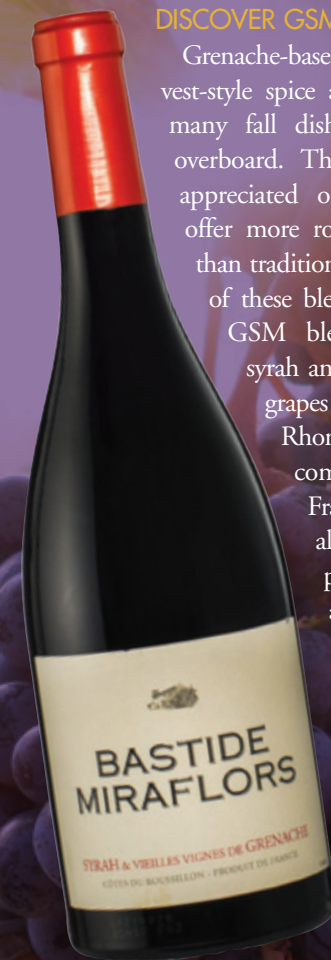
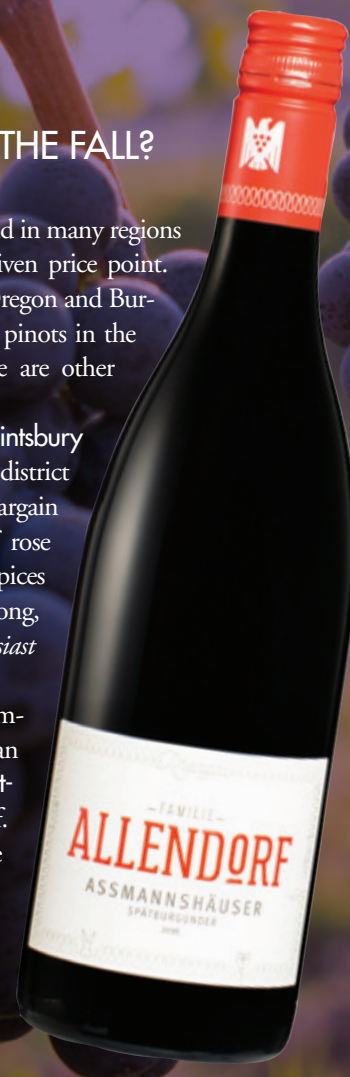
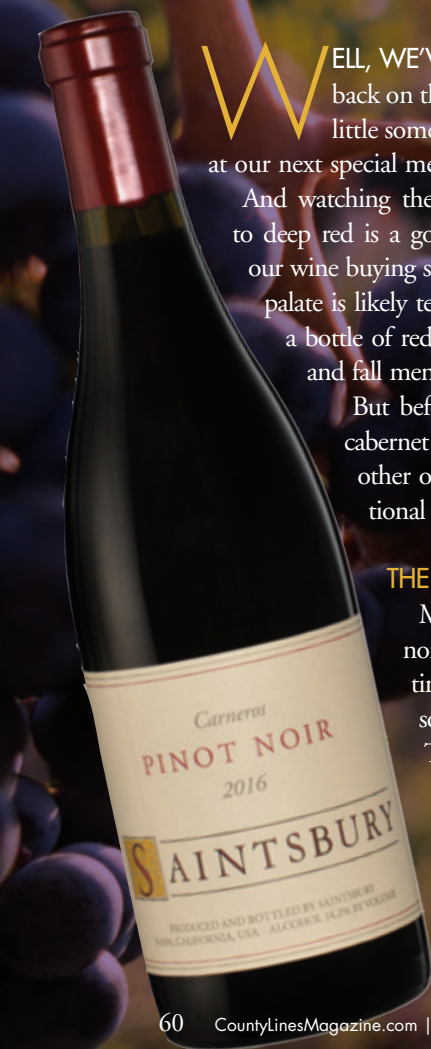
Try the 2015 Roberto Sarotto Barbaresco Riserva, which offers a delicate aroma of rose petals and violets with a taste of ripe plums, warm spices and dried cherries. This nebbiolo is elegant, yet holds a lot of character for a wine priced at \$17.99*. Barbera is often referred to as the younger sibling of nebbiolo because it's very similar in flavor profile but is less well known.

Another example from this region is the 2015 Bersano Generala Barbera Nizza Riserva at \$14.99*. This is a very fruit-driven wine with a hint of vanilla accompanied by toasted herbs on the nose.

Both these Piedmont wines crave a hearty meal, such as dark meats, mushrooms, herbaceous cheeses and roasted veggies.

These are just a few of the many lighter red wine choices available. Now is a wonderful time to sample new wines as you search for your perfect fall wine. Just as there are many shades of falling leaves, there are many flavors of wines. Ask your local wine store for more suggestions. ♦

Jessica Roberts has worked with Fine Wine & Good Spirits for six years, taking the position of Wine Specialist a year and a half ago. What began as a hobby soon blossomed into a satisfying career. Jessica works at the Premium Collection store in Phoenixville. Stop by for one of her tastings or just to ask a question. Learn more at FWGS.com.



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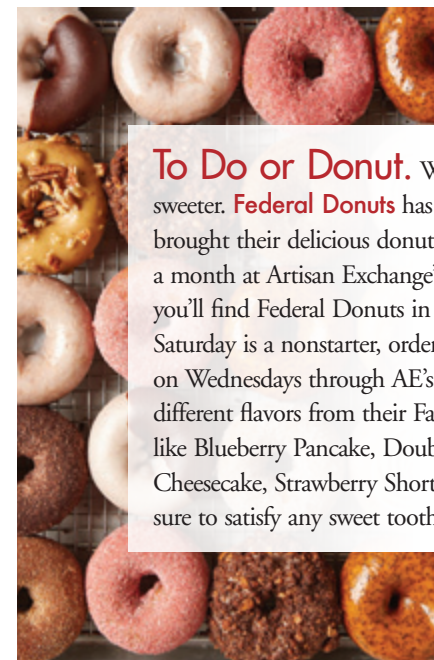
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[Food News]

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



To Do or Donut. West Chester just got sweeter. **Federal Donuts** has come to town and brought their delicious donuts with them. Once a month at Artisan Exchange's Saturday market, you'll find Federal Donuts in Chester County. If Saturday is a nonstarter, order donuts every week on Wednesdays through AE's website. Relish the different flavors from their Fancy Variety options, like Blueberry Pancake, Double Chocolate Cheesecake, Strawberry Shortcake and Churro—sure to satisfy any sweet tooth. *AEDirect.Shop.*

Holy Guacamole! September 16th is **National Guacamole Day**. Invented by the Aztecs, guacamole or ahucamolli comes from Aztec words for avocado and sauce. To mark the day, try a traditional version or spice up your guac game by adding mango bites or mixing in sun-dried tomato and bacon. Don't feel like DIY? Visit Plaza Aztec in Kennett Square, Estrella Tacos in Downingtown or Más Mexicali Cantina in West Chester for a nice night of guacamole and margaritas! *TheAdventureBite.com.*



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Coming Soon? Just a few months ago, West Chester was to see even more new dining options added to the Borough. Though COVID delayed some openings, look for **Greystone Oyster Bar's** fresh seafood, **Sedona Taphouse's** comfort food plus plenty of beer, and **Stove & Tap's** big flavors at their third location, this one on Gay Street. Here's hoping we see these and more spots open for business. Check for the latest at *DowntonwWestChester.com.*

Small but Mighty. As plant-based lifestyles are becoming more mainstream, along come more new trends. Recently **pea protein** has been popping up as a vegan alternative to whey and collagen powders (both of which come from animal sources). The protein can be added into colorful smoothies as a treat, protein shakes for after the gym, or simply in a glass of water at the start of the day to make sure your getting all your necessary nutrients. Give pea protein a chance. *HealthLine.com.*



Culinary Staycation. Tired of staying at home but want to stay safe? Change your scene and enjoy a Culinary Staycation courtesy of **Di Bruno Bros.** at **Wayne B&B**. Escape, dine and unwind in the five-bedroom inn (all to yourself + guests), complemented by personalized, no-contact gourmet food service. Reconnect with friends and family, lounge by the pool, explore the charming town of Wayne, and enjoy tasty treats at your great get-away close to home! 211 Strafford Ave., Wayne. *BnBInn.com.*



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[Brandywine Table]

Kneading Comfort

**DURING A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY, THE
AGE-OLD CRAFT OF BREADMAKING IS
ON THE RISE.**

Alyssa Thayer

MARCH 2020 MARKED THE START OF THE GLOBAL pandemic, and with it, a seismic shift in the way we conduct our lives. We went from eating out and traveling, to being cooped up at home.

The silver lining of this new reality was time, and the opportunity to return to pastimes that had all but vanished from our frenzied lives. Breadmaking, in particular, became so ubiquitous that flour and yeast shortages plagued grocery shelves, and photos of homemade loaves took over our social media feeds.

It seems that beyond the gratification of making something from scratch, folks have found something truly cathartic about the bread-making process. "It makes you use all your senses in a slow and quiet way," says Mark Doberenz, owner of **Green Lion Breads**, a nonprofit micro-bakery in Phoenixville.

Mark first learned to bake 15 years ago, as a social therapist at a Camphill Community in upstate New York. These communities integrate young adults with disabilities with full-time residents and their families. He refers to his first few times baking bread as 'religious experiences' and credits the therapeutic setting with keeping him grounded and teaching him how to work with people of all abilities.

He kept perfecting his craft and eventually moved his family to Camphill Soltane where he helped open the popular Soltane Cafe in



downtown Phoenixville. The cafe was the first off-campus enterprise of Camphill Soltane, providing inclusive professional development opportunities for members of their community.

"Growing up, bread was bread and flour was flour," Mark admits. But somewhere along his baking journey, he cultivated a deep appreciation for the ingredients.

Four years ago, Mark opened Green Lion Breads, with the vision of baking artisan loaves and milling his own local flours. "We're milling spelt from a quarter mile away and baking with it the next day," he says proudly.

As anyone who's tried their hand at sourdough can tell you: flour matters! The wild flora and fauna of the grain is what create and feed the culture. And the more a flour has been stripped of nutrients (think bleached white flour) or has sat on a shelf, the less it has to offer. "Our grains are alive," boasts Mark, describing the difference between his offerings and generic sacks of all-purpose flour.

Although breadmaking can feel intimidating, Mark reminds us all that it couldn't be simpler: flour, water, salt. "There is patience involved," he admits. "You just need to commit to the path."

You can purchase Green Lion bread and their freshly milled flour online and pick it up at various community locations including the Devon Yards Farmer's Market.

Green Lion stays true to its social mission of creating an inclusive environment for individuals with intellectual and developmental differences. Pictured here, Nathaniel Poly (left) and their lead baker Brendan Graham (right), both of whom helped found Green Lion Breads.



Ancient Grain Sourdough

The spelt and einkorn bread is a favorite at Green Lion Breads, offering ease of digestion and wonderful flavor. This bread can be made with whole-grain einkorn or spelt flour or a half-and-half combination. This recipe assumes your sourdough starter has been ‘refreshed,’ brought to room temperature and fed at least once before using.



Sourdough Feed

- ½ C. einkorn/spelt whole grain flour (50 grams)
- ¼ C. + ⅛ C. filtered or well water (30 grams)
- 1 Tb. sourdough starter (10 grams)

Full Mix

- 1 tsp. + ⅛ tsp. sea salt (9 grams)
- 3¾ C. einkorn/spelt whole grain flour (437 grams)
- 1½ C. + ⅛ C. filtered or well water (75°F) (350 grams)
- ⅓ C. sourdough starter (remember to save a small amount to keep culture going)

Culture Feed (to be done the night before baking)

8-12 hours before mixing, incorporate starter and other “feed” ingredients. Cover and let it sit out and ferment in a warm spot (in the mid-70s is optimal).

Mix:

After 8-12 hours of fermentation, you’re ready to begin the mix. In a large bowl, incorporate salt into flour and set aside. In a separate bowl, mix additional water into sourdough. Add watery sourdough to the flour and salt mixture.

With one wet hand, mix by stirring and squeezing dough through fingers. Turn the bowl with your other hand as you do this for one minute. The dough will be shaggy and wet and not smooth.

Rest 15 minutes.

Stretch/Folding Sequence

Wet one hand and gently fold the edges of the dough by grabbing an underneath section of the dough at the 12 o’clock position and

There’s something about sourdough

Besides the apparent yeast shortage from the home-baking boom, there are other great reasons to try sourdough starter. The depth and complexity of flavor are unparalleled, and it actually predigests the grains, making sourdough bread more nutritious and easier to digest.

Here are the basics about sourdough starter:

What is it? Sourdough “starter” or “seed” is a live culture that’s fermented using natural bacteria and yeast present in your environment. The starter allows bread (and other leavened sourdough products) to rise without using commercial yeast.

What can you use it for? In addition to bread, the starter can also be used to make delicious doughy pancakes, biscuits, pizza dough and even soft pretzels.

Where do you get it? Depending on your sense of bread-venture, you can start from scratch, buy a dried starter mix, or ask for a small portion of someone else’s starter. Some of the oldest starters have been passed down for generations! *Note: Mark’s is 8 years old.*

How do you make it? The basic premise couldn’t be simpler: Mix 1:1 ratios (by weight) of water and flour in a wide-mouth jar or crock to start. Many recipes recommend leaving the top off for a few hours to allow the yeasts and bacteria from the air to enter the mixture.

How do you maintain it? That’s right folks, it’s alive and falls somewhere between houseplant and pet in terms of neediness. Once activated, the starter must be fed regularly. Frequency of feedings depends on warmth of the environment. In its early days, a starter will need to be fed daily or perhaps twice a day. Later, it can be moved to the fridge and fed weekly.

Mark’s Tip: When using it out of the fridge, it needs to be reactivated. Take it out and feed at least 2 times before adding it to a recipe.

How to deal with discard? A portion of the starter is discarded each time it’s fed. It may seem wasteful, but maintaining an ever-growing starter would quickly become a drain of resources and counter space. Good news: you can use the starter discard in other recipes, like the soft pretzel recipe, next page.

How do you get good quality? Starters do best on whole-grain flours such as rye, varietal wheat and spelt. Admittedly, these can get expensive, so one option is to combine whole grain and all-purpose flour as you go.

- Starter does not like bleached flour or chlorinated water.
- Purists recommend a digital kitchen scale. But you can find recipes that translate weight ratios into approximate volume (cups and tablespoons) measurements.
- If mold appears, ditch the whole thing. It’s painful because it equates to time and resources, but it’s better than making yourself or others sick!

If you see a dark liquid form on top—called hooch—just pour it off and feed your culture. It’s hangry!

Full step-by-step instructions from The Clever Carrot are online, TheCleverCarrot.com.

stretching up and over to the middle without ripping. Press down gently to hold in place. Do this at 3, 6 and 9 o’clock positions as well. Repeat this folding sequence two times. Then flip the dough over so the smooth side is up.

The dough is starting to develop and will ferment for an additional 3 hours.

Repeat the folding technique in 1 hour and then again at the 2-hour mark.

At hour 3, prepare a 9” x 5” loaf pan by brushing the sides and bottom with oil.

Stretch and fold at 12, 3, 6 and 9 o’clock positions again. Now stretch and fold at 12 and 6 again. Then flip over onto seam to maintain the shape.

With two wet hands, pick up and set into the bread pan seam side down.

Proof

Proof for 2 hours, protecting the top from direct air by covering with a big bowl or sprinkling flour and covering with a linen towel.

With 30 minutes left of proofing, preheat oven, with a rack in the lower middle, to 450°. Put a cookie sheet or shallow pan underneath this rack to be used for steaming.

Once the 2 hours of proofing is completed, the dough should be domed. This assumes it has been fermenting at 75-78°. If you are in a cooler space, wait an additional 30 minutes. If it’s warmer, you may need to put it in the oven 30 minutes earlier.

Put the bread in the center of the middle rack and pour 2 cups of water into your preheated shallow pan that’s below the loaf.

Close the door! Turn the oven down to 435° and bake for 40 minutes.

Let the loaf rest for 30 minutes for good slicing or 15 if you want it to melt the pad of butter you have smothered onto it. Yum!

Makes one 9” x 5” loaf.

Sourdough Scrap Soft Pretzels

Given our proximity to Philly, we had to include at least one soft pretzel recipe. Use your sourdough starter discard and reinvent it into a crowd-pleasing snack. P.S. This is a great recipe to make as a family—everyone gets to pick their own toppings!

**Adapted from Foodie With a Family.*

Dough:

- 1 C. whole wheat flour
- 3 C. all-purpose flour
- 1½ tsp. fine salt
- 1 Tb. granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. instant yeast
- 2¼ C. whole milk
- ½ C. sourdough discard

Pretzel Boil Solution:

- 8 C. water

Mark’s Tips and Tools for home bakers:

- 1. Never use a mixer at home.** Mark uses hand stretching and folding techniques for his home breads.
 - 2. Get to know your temperatures.** Dough likes warmer spots, on average around 78°. Find the best spot in your house to help it thrive ... And that might not even be the kitchen!
 - 3. Bread likes steam.** If you want soft loft loaves with a crusty exterior, make sure the loaf has moisture while it bakes. One method is to bake your loaf in a crock or Dutch oven with the top on for half the baking time, then remove the lid for the final minutes to get a golden crust.
 - 4. Keep your dough moist.** Moisture is essential for the fermentation and rise. You can always add more flour but it is very hard to bring back an overly dry dough. Aim for a smooth and just slightly tacky consistency.
 - 5. Tips for storing the goods.** True whole grain bread will last longer than white bread but nearly as long as grocery sandwich bread. Mark recommends leaving artisan loaves in a paper bag the first two days, then switching to plastic to keep it from hardening. If you know you have extra, slice and freeze half and take it out piece by piece for toast.
- Key Tools:**
- **Pastry scraper** – Not expensive and worth every penny, this little handheld blade is a must for getting dough off the kneading surface.
 - **Proofing basket** – Great for letting your dough rise and shape, but if you don’t have one, just line a bowl or other basket with a floured kitchen towel.
 - **Bread/Pizza stone or cloche** – This isn’t essential for the beginner, but their radiant heat becomes important for hearth (read: non-loaf pan) breads.

- 2 Tb. baking soda

Toppings:

- Course salt
- Everything bagel seasoning
- Cinnamon and sugar
- Coconut oil and shreds
- Shredded Parmesan cheese
- Make up your own!

Mix by Hand:

Start by whisking flour, salt, sugar and yeast in a large bowl. Stir in sourdough starter and milk until the mixture gathers and forms a soft dough. Place dough onto a floured surface and knead gently for 10 minutes, adding flour when dough starts sticking too much.

Using a Mixer:

Start by mixing flour, salt, sugar and yeast in a mixer bowl. Make sure dough hook attachment is on before adding sourdough starter and milk.

Mix until dough forms. Then let the mixer run on low for an additional 30 seconds to 1 minute more—until you have a smooth, soft dough. Note: Be careful not to over-flour the dough—it should remain tacky and soft.

Place dough into a new clean bowl, cover with a damp cloth and leave in a warm place to rise 1½ to 2 hours. The dough is ready when it has almost doubled in size.

Prepare 2 cookie sheets with lightly floured dish towels.

Depending on the size pretzel you want, this recipe yields from 8-12 pretzels. Slice the dough evenly and begin shaping the pieces. Using light finger pressure, roll each piece into a thin rope (think playdough). Holding the ends, create a U-shape. Twist the top ends around each other twice before folding twisted part back down over the curve of the U. Presto, it's a pretzel!

Place each shaped pretzel onto prepared toweled/floured trays, leaving lots of room between them. Cover both trays with damp cloths and let them rise again and turn puffy (about 25 minutes).

As rising time winds down, prepare the pretzel boil and preheat the oven to 400°.

Slide tea towel of pretzels gently onto the counter and coat the now-empty cookie sheets with oil.

Heat water in a large, wide, non-reactive pot (stainless steel, glass, glazed ceramic). Once boil is reached, reduce heat to a hard simmer and add baking soda.

Carefully transfer the pretzels into the pot, letting them cook 40 seconds on each side. Use tongs or large slotted spoon to carefully remove the pretzel from the hot water, draining excess liquid, and placing onto oiled cookie sheet again with plenty of room in between.

Note: You can do more than one pretzel at once, but don't crowd them. I prefer doing one pretzel at a time, but that, of course, takes more time.

As each pretzel is placed on the oiled tray, sprinkle generously with desired toppings. Once all pretzels are ready to go, bake until golden brown. Depending on size and desired crispiness, this can range from 14 to 18 minutes.

Allow to cool slightly, but definitely enjoy warm!

Store at room temperature in a non-air-tight container for up to 2 days and transfer extras to the freezer.

Makes 8 to 12 soft pretzels.



Miracle No-Knead Bread

It's okay to tiptoe into the world of bread baking with a simple no-knead recipe. We won't tell, but you might . . . once you take your Insta-worthy boule out of the oven.

**Adapted from Pinch of Yum.*



- 1 tsp. yeast
- 2 C. warm water
- 1½ tsp. fine salt
- 3 C. whole wheat flour
- 1 C. all-purpose flour

Mix yeast, warm water and salt well until dissolved. Stir in one cup of flour at a time, pausing after the third to make sure the dough is fully mixed. Then slowly incorporating the final cup to find the desired texture. The dough should be moist and tacky, but not loose or watery. It should just barely hold its shape and be spongy.

Note: The type of flour and humidity contribute to needing more or less flour, so try to use its texture to gauge.

Place plastic wrap over the bowl and let the dough rest/rise overnight (12 to 18 hours).

When ready to bake, preheat oven to 450° and place your Dutch oven inside to warm (30 minutes).

By this time the dough should have risen and fallen a bit, leaving it loose, spongy, bubbly and sticky. Turn out onto a well-floured surface. Remember, it's a no-knead bread, so you don't want to over-handle. That said, turning it over a few times in flour is still needed. Take sides of the dough and pull them out and under, to create a domed circle.

Place the dough onto a sheet of parchment and lift up from corners to lower sheet and dough into the hot Dutch oven (be careful not to touch sides, since they're hot!). Replace lid and bake for 30 minutes covered. Then remove the lid to brown the crust for an additional 10 to 12 minutes, or until you reached your desired crust.

Makes one round loaf.

Whole Wheat Banana Bread

While yeast and sourdough continue to intrigue us, there's comfort in going back to basics. Try this quick and delicious loaf next time you're running high on overripe bananas.

- 2 C. whole wheat flour (can use Green Lion's Redeemer whole wheat flour from Heritage Acres farm in Kinzer, PA)
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ¼ tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. salt
- 4 medium-sized bananas
- ⅓ C. maple syrup
- ½ C. coconut oil (warm enough to be soft or liquid)
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- ¼ C. honey
- 2 large eggs
- ⅓ C. chopped walnuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 350° and oil your loaf pan.

Begin by whisking together all dry ingredients (flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt) in a large bowl. Set aside.

In a blender, puree bananas with all other liquid ingredients (maple syrup, coconut oil, vanilla, honey and eggs). Stop when

smooth. *Note:* If you're like me and keep overripe bananas in the freezer for smoothies, thaw them completely before blending. Otherwise, they will harden the coconut oil.

Pour blended banana mixture into flour bowl and mix to incorporate thoroughly, scraping down sides and bottom of the bowl to grab any lingering pockets of flour. Stir in walnuts, if desired. Batter should be thick and sticky.

Pour batter into greased pan and place in the oven to bake for 50 minutes. Cover with foil and return to oven for 12 more minutes.

Let stand for 10 minutes before slicing in.

Best enjoyed warm with a side of fresh coffee. It will last in aluminum foil or plastic wrap on your counter for several days, or freeze it to enjoy later.

Makes one 9" x 5" loaf. ♦

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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