



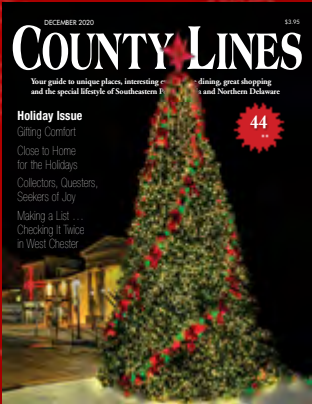
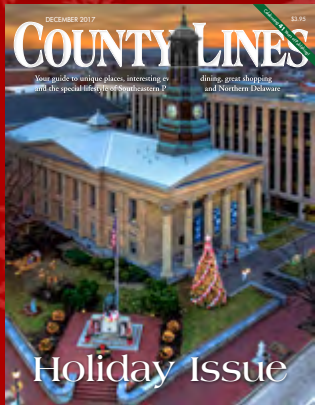
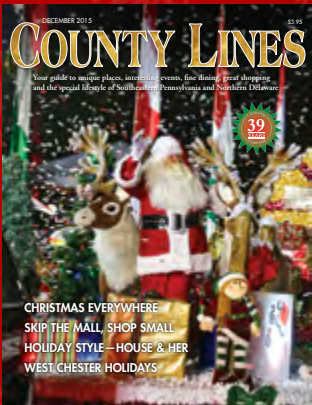
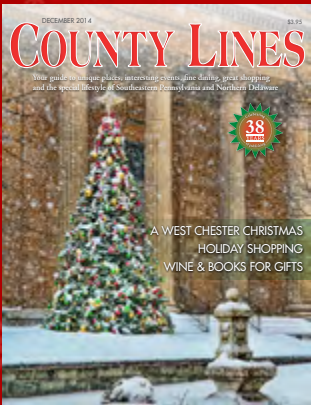
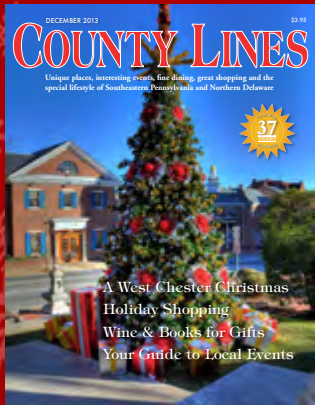
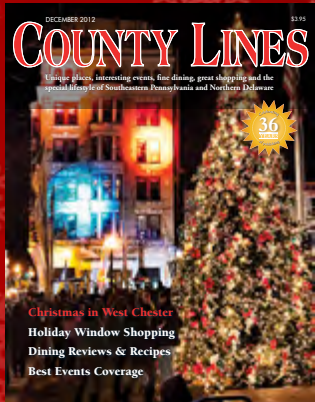
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Holiday Issue



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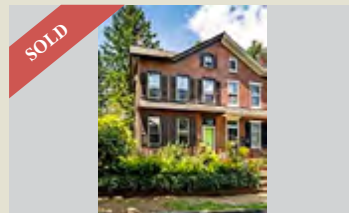
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SOLD

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from the EDITOR

Ho, Ho, Holiday greetings. It looks like some of our favorite ways of celebrating are back — from the West Chester parade to the holiday panto at People's Light.

And at *County Lines*, we're checking our gift lists and shopping for the perfect present. To help, Cara Corridoni suggests we "Enjoy the Gift of Shopping Local," especially in West Chester. She tours fashion boutiques, gift shops, food specialty stores and vinyl record shops. Need eco-friendly gifts? Shannon Montgomery is "Dreaming of a Green Christmas" as she checks out stores with locally sourced gifts, made with sustainable materials.

"Holiday Window Shopping" helps you preview what's at local stores, while "Holiday Style" offers several more stunning ideas. For the gift of books, read "Season's Giving, Book Edition" to find out what Shelley Laurence of Main Point Books picked. Meanwhile Jessica Roberts is thinking whiskey, bourbon, cognac, wine and other spirits for gifts and for yourself in "Cozy Winter Favorites."

For what's happening beyond West Chester and its returning parade (yay!) read "Counting Down the Holi(days) across County Lines" by Lydia Reiss and Peighton Schwalm. From Coatesville to Wilmington, there's plenty of seasonal fun in the nine towns they cover. Beyond the towns, we've also got "Christmas in Two Cities," where William Sokolic highlights holiday happenings in Philadelphia and Bethlehem (PA, that is).

And for something quintessentially Chester County, we have photos of barns in winter, for a bit of a Currier and Ives vibe.

In our "Brandywine Table" feature, Alyssa Thayer explores locally sourced preserves with Sheila Rhodes, owner of Small Batch Kitchen. SBK has low-sugar fruit spreads, perfectly suited for holiday gifting, and essential to her recipes.

As always, *County Lines* has the Best Local Events and tons for Family Fun ideas to get everyone in the spirit.

From all of us at *County Lines Magazine*, we wish you the Happiest of Holidays.

Jo Anne Durako
Editor

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COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

December 2022

Volume XLVI Number 4

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Holiday
DECORATIONS

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Good to Know

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

Main Line Monopoly. Add Villanova University, the Saturday Club, Chanticleer Gardens and more Main Line gems to your family game night with the new **Monopoly Main Line Edition!** This special local version is one of only 13 "Community Edition"



boards and features well-known suburban landmarks, including area universities, parks, retailers and more. See what other local surprises are featured in the Chance and Community Chest cards by buying the game at local stores (\$45), including Main Point Books in Wayne. *Top Trumps.us.*

Pinball Wizard. Polish your pinball skills at the newest addition to the gaming scene in West Chester, **The Pinball Place.** This animated arcade will be taking it old-school by offering open-play nights for hours of fun. Check out over 30 themed pinball machines, including "Stranger Things," "The Walking Dead" and "Wheel of Fortune." The budding business plans to host other events, including private parties and pinball tournaments. Find business hours and their regular livestreams at *ThePinballPlace.biz*. 929 S. High St. #11, West Chester.



An Amish Christmas. Wonder what **Amish communities** do for the holidays? While Christmas Day is typically celebrated at home, "Second Christmas" (the day after) is reserved for celebrating with extended family. During the season, few decorations are strung — the holiday is more low-key and more religious — but stamped, homemade Christmas cards, holiday treats and family feasts are popular traditions (find stamped cards in Lancaster County Amish stores). Children put on annual performances singing songs, performing skits and reciting poems for family and friends at school. *DiscoverLancaster.com.*

Selfie Scene. Cameras ready? West Chester welcomes a **selfie wall**, a new concept to spur giving to Safe Harbor of Chester County, a nonprofit helping homeless individuals in our area. And there's more — for every selfie posted to social media tagging @BenchmarkFCU and using the hashtag #ForLifesBenchmarks, Benchmark Federal Credit Union will donate 25 cents to Safe Harbor. Let's show off those supportive selfies this season and beyond! 20 N. Matlack St., West Chester. *SafeHarborOfCC.org.*



Goat's Gift. Keep the spirit of giving alive this year. Instead of sending your Christmas tree to the landfill, donate it to a local goat farm! The little furry friends will thank you as they munch on their Christmas presents. The **Philly Goat Project** at Awbury Arboretum would love to take your trees, as long as all the decorations are removed and the needles are dried out. Plus, this is a much greener way to dispose of your tree than kicking it to the curb. *PhillyGoatProject.org.*



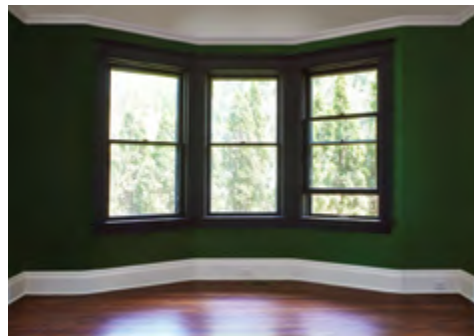
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December Picks

Our Picks for top events this month

Plaid Tidings at Delaware Theatre Company

Through December 18



See a special holiday edition of *Forever Plaid* with Jinx, Frankie, Smudge and Sparky again sent to Earth to put a little harmony into a discordant world by staging a nostalgic holiday extravaganza. A spectacular and fun show for the whole family, *Plaid Tidings* combines favorite tunes from the '50s and '60s with traditional holiday songs and plenty of classic and comical references to the era and its sounds! 200 Water St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

Holidays on the Hill in Chestnut Hill

Through December 31

Philadelphia's Urban Village invites you to enjoy live music, horse-drawn carriage rides on cobblestone streets, an outdoor model train display at Morris Arboretum, late-night shopping hours (Stag & Doe Nights every Wed. between Thanksgiving and Christmas) and Santa strolling the Avenue posing for pictures and handing out candy canes. ChestnutHillPA.com.



Winterthur Celebrates the Season

Through January 8

Explore Henry Francis du Pont's mansion, enjoy a candlelight concert, a new toy train display, brunch with Santa and more. The tour also trees inspired by Christmas trees seen at the White House, a 6-foot gingerbread house display, special programs including Gerald Charles Dickens, great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens, reading "A Christmas Carol" for three performances on Dec. 7. 5105 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Winterthur. Daily, 10 to 5. Timed tickets required. \$8-\$27. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.



Winter Arts Festival at Delaware Art Museum

December 10



Wander the grounds and admire the stalls full of handmade wares while enjoying the sounds of holiday carolers. You'll find a selection of treats from local fine food and beverage purveyors. Shop during kid-friendly hours from noon to 2 p.m., with special activities for children. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$5. DelArt.org.

Annual Firebird Festival in Phoenixville

December 10

A festival of arts and culture celebrating the town through the mythology of the Phoenix. The Festival is thrilling and fun for all with drummers, dancers, fire breathers, food and craft vendors and live music to enjoy throughout the Festival grounds. The lighting of the Phoenix happens at 8 p.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park, 194 Mowere Rd. All the fun happens between 5 and 10 p.m. Visit website for parking info. FirebirdFestival.com.



best Local Events

FAMILY FUN

THROUGH DECEMBER 31

Tinseltown — Holiday Spectacular.

A breathtaking array of light sculptures and displays powered by more than 1.2 million light bulbs. Enjoy photos with Santa, a skating rink, holiday shopping, festive treats and seasonal beverages for all ages. *Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Opens daily at 5. \$13.99–\$19.99. TinseltownHoliday.com.*



THROUGH JANUARY 8

Brandywine Railroad. A holiday favorite since 1972, the Brandywine Railroad offers something for everyone with its dazzling array of both toy and scale model trains, running on 2,000 feet of track with more than 1,000 pieces. New this year, an area depicting the Brandywine Conservancy's Laurels Preserve is in the display. *Brandywine River Museum of Art, 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily, 9:30 to 5. \$6–\$18. Brandywine.org.*



DECEMBER 2 & 3

Christmas Celebrations in Wayne. *Dec. 2*, enjoy carriage rides on S. Wayne & Runnymede Aves., carolers, open houses along N. Wayne Ave., tree lighting at 7:30 pm and Santa's arrival. *Dec. 3*, Radnor Memorial Library

Elves for Shelves Fun Run and 5K at 8 am and the Santa Parade, 9:45 am down Lancaster Ave. with Santa pictures on the veranda of *Rosalie Restaurant, Wayne Hotel, 139 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. WayneBusiness.com.*

DECEMBER 2–30

Christmas in Coatesville. *Through Dec. 30*, pop-up and shop markets; *Dec. 2*, Pavilion of Trees and Tree Lighting Ceremony in Gateway Park; *Dec. 3*, Coatesville Christmas Parade; *Dec. 4*, Christmas Caroling in downtown Coatesville; *Dec. 9*, Iron & Steel Museum Open House. *Visit website for times and details. ChristmasInCoatesville.com.*



DECEMBER 10

Celebrate the Holidays in Downingtown. The hometown Christmas parade features local bands, dancers, scouts and the arrival of Santa. *Starts at Beaver Creek Elementary School and travels Rt. 30 to East Ward Elementary. 3 pm. DTownChristmas.com.*

DECEMBER 10

Brunch with Santa at Winterthur. Enjoy the expansive classic Winterthur brunch buffet, including an omelet station and a donut wall. Santa will fly in from the North Pole, arriving for photos and to spread holiday cheer. *5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. 9 to 2. \$55; \$25 for children 2–12; children under 2 are free. Res. required. Winterthur.org.*



MORE HOLIDAY TRAINS

All Aboard the Holiday Trains! Be sure to check websites for restrictions and ticket info.

Colebrookdale Railroad. *Through Dec. 24*, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas and Santa's Polar Bear Express Trains. 64 S. Washington St., Boyertown. *ColebrookdaleRailroad.com.*

New Hope & Ivyland Railroad. *Through Dec. 30*, Santa's North Pole Express. 32 W. Bridge St., New Hope. *NewHopeRailroad.com.*

Railroad Museum of PA. *Dec. 3 & 10*, Christmas With The Conductor. Hop on board for a lively reading then decorate gingerbread cookies in Jack Frost Station where you'll receive a small bag of special goodies to take home. Register at *RRMuseumPA.org.*

Strasburg Rail Road. *Through Dec. 31*, choose from Santa Claus Limited, Night Before Christmas Train and Santa's Paradise Express. 301 Gap Rd., Ronks. *StrasburgRailRoad.com.*

West Chester Railroad. *Dec. 3–18*, join Santa for a journey through the Chester Creek Valley. *Christmas Tree Train:* *Dec. 5, 12*, take the train to Wiggins Tree Farm, cut down your tree which will be banded up, tagged, and placed on the train. 203 E. Market St., West Chester. *WestChesterRR.net.*

Wilmington & Western Railroad. *Dec. 9–30*, ride the Holiday Lights Express. Greenbank Station, 2201 Newport Gap Pk., Wilmington. *WWRR.com.*

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

THROUGH DECEMBER 24

Christmas Village in Philadelphia. The authentic open-air German-style Christmas Market returns with thousands of lights and the delicious smell of waffles, gingerbread, bratwurst and mulled wine, lots of vendors and rides, too. LOVE Park, 1500 Arch St., Philadelphia. Sun–Thurs, 11 to 7; Fri–Sat, 11 to 8. *Phila.gov/Departments/Philadelphia-Parks-Recreation.*



THROUGH DECEMBER 30

Holiday Season at Nemours Estate. The Christmas decorations at the Nemours Estate mansion are often inspired by the architecture of the home, the customs of the du Ponts or French tradition. Nemours Mansion, 850 Alapocas Dr., Wilmington. Tues–Sun, 10 to 5. \$10–\$20. *NemoursEstate.org.*

THROUGH DECEMBER 31

Historic Odessa Foundation's 34th Annual Christmas Exhibiton. The Corbit-Sharp House becomes wonderfully adapted into scenes based upon *Oliver Twist* or *The Parish Boy's Progress* by Charles Dickens. 201 Main St., Odessa, DE. Tues–Sat, 10 to 4:30; Sun, 1 to 4:30. \$8–\$10. *HistoricOdessa.org.*

THROUGH JANUARY 1

Holidays at Hagley. Hagley celebrates the holiday season with the theme, "Home for the Holidays: A Celebration of Family." Don't miss Hagley's Gingerbread House Contest where individuals, families, classrooms and organizations can



register—all skill levels welcome. Hagley's Library & Soda House, 298 Buck Rd., Wilmington. Daily, 10 to 5. \$8–\$15. *Hagley.org.*

THROUGH JANUARY 2

Herr's Snack Factory Holiday Lights Dis-



play Enjoy the free display of over 600,000 dazzling lights on their corporate campus, 271 Old Baltimore Pk., Nottingham. Dusk to dawn. Free. *Herrs.com.*

THROUGH JANUARY 8

A Longwood Christmas. Celebrate botanical splendor and the beauty and bounty of the natural world. Stroll amid floating floral designs and festive trees indoors. Outside, marvel at botanically-inspired light displays, treehouses and new features that are sure to delight. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. \$16–\$30. Timed tickets req. *LongwoodGardens.org.*

HOLIDAY events IN CAROLINE COUNTY, MD

- Christmas in Ridgely Holiday Light Display**
November 24th through January 2nd
- Denton's Holiday Parade & Lighting of the Green**
Thursday, December 1st
- Denton's Christkindlmarkt Market**
Friday, December 2nd
- Greensboro's Whoville Village Holiday Park**
Fridays & Saturday Nights, December 2nd - 17th
- Christmas Daze in Preston**
Saturday, December 3rd
- Ridgely Lions Club Christmas Parade**
Saturday, December 3rd
- Greensboro's Holiday Parade & Snacks with Santa**
Saturday, December 10th
- Christmas in Ridgely Winter Festival**
Saturday, December 10th
- Federalburg's Christmas Parade & Christmas Open House at the Museum**
Monday, December 12th

LEARN MORE AT **VISITCAROLINE.ORG**

Maryland
CAROLINE COUNTY

Be sure to look in our special West Chester section for more events there. Also, check out *Counting Down the Holl(days)* for details about events in area towns and *Holiday House Tours* for more happenings.

DECEMBER 1-4

Brandywine Museum of Art Annual Holiday Critter Sale. Critters are delightful, distinctive ornaments and tabletop decorations that are handmade using natural materials, each with its own unique personality and expression—no two are exactly the same. Chadds Ford Historical Society, 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Thurs–Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 3. Brandywine.org.

DECEMBER 2-4

Hibernia County Park Mansion Candlelight Tours. The three-story mansion is fully restored and furnished with original artwork and furniture. Walk through the halls and rooms by candlelight as you are told the stories and tales of this ironmaster's home. 1 Park Ave., Coatesville. Sun, 1 & 3 pm. Free. Chesco.org.

DECEMBER 2 & 7

Feel The Holiday Spirit in Phoenixville. *Dec. 2*, First Friday Holiday Edition and tree lighting at Main and Bridge Street Parking Lot, 6 to 8 pm; *Dec. 7*, Luminaria Shopping Night, 5 to 8 pm. PhoenixvilleFirst.org.

DECEMBER 3

Uwchlan Garden Club Christmas Fair. Fresh cut local greens, handmade wreaths and swags, centerpieces and planters, treats, raffle and children's corner. Benefits the 1756 National Historic Site. 1756 Uwchlan Meeting House, 5 N. Village Ave., Lionville. 8 to 2. Uwchlan-GardenClub.org.

DECEMBER 3 & 4, 10 & 11

Kennett Square Holiday Village Market. Shop dozens of curated artisan and vintage vendors while enjoying live music, festive cocktails, food trucks and more. The Creamery, 401 Birch St., Kennett Square. 11 to 5. KennettHolidayMarket.com.



DECEMBER 9

Yellow Springs Village Holiday Stroll. Take a stroll through this beautiful village. 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 5 to 8 pm. YellowSprings.org.

DECEMBER 9

Holiday Open House & Auction at The National Iron & Steel Museum. Walk through candlelit grounds, enjoy holiday refresh-

ments, listen to the Lukens Band, tour decorated historic buildings, delight at the train display and be sure to slip your wish list to Santa. 50 S. 1st Ave., Coatesville. 5 to 8 pm. \$5 donation requested. SteelMuseum.org.



DECEMBER 10

Holiday Open House at Willows Park Preserve. Holiday plant sale, music, light fare and drinks, wreath making, children's crafts and activities. 490 Darby Paoli Rd., Villanova. 11 to 4. WillowsParkPreserve.org.

DECEMBER 10

Spirit of Christmas in Historic New Castle. Activities include tours of historic homes and museums decorated for the season and entertainment throughout the town. The New Castle Presbyterian Church will hold an all-day sale of crafts, homemade food and gifts. Annual tree lighting ceremony and caroling in the Market Square at 5. 25 E. 2nd St., New Castle, DE. Begins at 10 am. Facebook.com/SpiritOfChristmasDE.

DECEMBER 10

Christmas in Marshallton. Come out to Marshallton United Methodist Church to enjoy these holiday favorites. The cookie sale starts at 9 and handmade crafts will be available from 9 to 1. A free community lunch of soup and sandwiches starts at 11 am. 1282 W. Strasburg Rd., Marshallton. MarshalltonChurch.org.



DECEMBER 16 & 17

The Belsnickle: PA Germans Holiday Traditions and the Winter Solstice at Landis Valley Museum. *Dec. 16*, Late Night with the Belsnickle, adults only tour around the museum enjoying an adult beverage and light refreshments, 7 pm, \$40. *Dec. 17*, Putz'n and Brutz'n with the Belsnickle, a family-friendly tour where you'll

Local Farm Markets

Artisan Exchange, 208 Carter Dr. Unit 13 B, West Chester. Sat, 10 to 1. ArtisanExchange.net.

Bryn Mawr Farmers Market, Lancaster Ave. Bryn Mawr train station lot. Sat, 9 to 1. FarmToCityMarkets.com.

Downingtown Farmers Market, Kerr Park, Log House Field, 28 E. Pennsylvania Ave. Sat, 9 to 1. No market 12/24 & 12/31. GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Eagleview Farmers Market, Eagleview Town Center, 570 Wellington Sq., Exton. Thurs, 3 to 6:30. No market 12/29. GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Kennett Square Farmers Market, 401 Birch St. Fri, 3 to 6. KSQFarmersMarket.com.

Lancaster County Farmers Market, 389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. Wed, Fri & Sat, 6 to 4. LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com.

Malvern Farmers Market, Burke Park, 26 S. Warren Ave. Sat, 9 to 1. No market 12/24 & 12/31. GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Phoenixville Farmers Market, 200 Mill St. Sat, 10 to noon. Special Christmas Market Dec. 23, 2 to 4. PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

Thornbury Farmers Market, 1256 Thornbury Rd., West Chester. Fri, noon to 6; Sat, 9 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5. ThornburyFarmCSA.com.

West Chester Growers Mkt., Chestnut & Church Sts. Sat, 9 to 1. WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.

Westtown Amish Market, 1165 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. Thur, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 7; Sat, 8 to 4. WestChesterAmishMarket.com.



learn about PA Dutch holiday traditions and meet the Belsnickle, 1 pm, \$20–\$30. 2451 Kissel Hill Rd., Lancaster. LandisValleyMuseum.org.

DECEMBER 31

10th Annual Midnight in the Square 2022.

Kennett Square will be aglow with the light of a giant mushroom on New Year's Eve. Entertainment includes a laser light show, live music, a DJ and dance performances. Held at the intersection of State and Union Sts. The raising of the mushroom takes place at 8:55 and festivities continue until the countdown and Mushroom Drop at midnight. KennettCollaborative.org.



ART, CRAFTS & ANTIQUES

THROUGH JANUARY 29

Art Ability Exhibition & Sale. Artists with disabilities display and sell their work in this show featuring 400 pieces of art, sculpture and jewelry by 200 artists from around the globe. Benefits Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital and artists with disabilities. Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, 414 Paoli Pk., Malvern. MainLineHealth.org/Specialties/Rehab-Art-Ability.

DECEMBER 2-4

"Deck the Walls" Small Works Art Sale.

An opportunity to purchase original art for your holiday gift giving. Delaware Valley Art League holds their 2022 Small Works Art Sale at Covenant Presbyterian Church Life Center, 384 Lancaster Ave., Malvern. *Dec. 2*, Opening Reception 4 to 7; *Dec. 3*, 11 to 4; *Dec. 4*, 10 to 2. DelalwareValleyArtLeague.com.

DECEMBER 2-JANUARY 23

CraftForms 2022, 27th Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Fine Craft. An interna-



tional juried exhibition of contemporary crafts. *Dec. 2*, Preview Party, 7 to 10, tickets start at \$100; *Dec. 9-11*, Holiday Shopping Weekend featuring local craft and culinary artisans and more. Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. See website for hours. WayneArt.org.

BOOKS

DECEMBER 6

Main Point Book Club. NonFiction Book Group: "Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty" by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe, 7 pm. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. MainPointBooks.com.

DECEMBER 7-8

Wellington Square Bookshop. Holiday Book Club Exchange, Wed–Thurs, 2 pm; Thurs, 7. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

FOOD & BREWS.....

DECEMBER 3

Valley Forge Beer & Cider Festival. Popular local breweries and cideries will be on hand as well as producers from across the country plus food trucks. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Times and tickets, ValleyForgeBeerFest.com.



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MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH JANUARY 8

Brandywine River Museum of Art. “Fragile Earth: The Naturalist Impulse in Contemporary Art.” 1 Hoffman’s Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Wed–Mon, 10 to 4. \$6–\$18. Brandywine.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 8

Winterthur Museum. “Jacqueline Kennedy and Henry Francis du Pont: From Winterthur to the White House,” the collaboration between First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy and Henry Francis du Pont to restore the White House

interiors. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. Tues–Sun, 10 to 5. \$8–\$22. Winterthur.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 29

The Barnes Foundation. “Modigliani Up Close”—Explore how the iconic artist created his paintings and sculpture. 2025 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., Philadelphia. Thurs–Mon, 11 to 5. \$28–\$30. BarnesFoundation.org.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 19

Delaware Art Museum. *Through Jan. 2*, “Wes Memeger: The Square and Other Concerns.” *Through Feb. 19*, “A Marriage of Arts &

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DECEMBER 9–28
Philadelphia Ballet

Academy of Music, 240 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. Times and tickets, PhiladelphiaBallet.org.

DECEMBER 10
Schuylkill Valley Regional Dance Company

Phoenixville Middle School Theatre, 1000 Purple Pride Pkwy., Phoenixville. Times and tickets, SVRDC.org.

DECEMBER 16–18
Brandywine Ballet

Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, BrandywineBallet.org.

DECEMBER 16–18
First State Ballet

Copeland Hall, 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

DECEMBER 16–18
Wilmington Ballet

The Playhouse on Rodney Square, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, WilmingtonBallet.org.

The Holidays in Kent County



The festivities await in Kent County. Take a day trip or plan an extended stay to enjoy all the area has to offer.

December 2–3

Dickens of a Christmas Weekend Main Street Chestertown presents this celebration with live outdoor music performances, horse-drawn carriage rides, street theater, Victorian-inspired food, holiday house tour, holiday tea, Beers & Bonfires, fire jugglers and more. MainStreetChestertown.org.



December 2–18

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat The magical musical is full of catchy songs in a variety of styles, from a parody of French ballads to country-western and calypso. The Garfield Center for the Arts, 210 High St., Chestertown. GarfieldCenter.org.

December 17

Chestertown Holiday Art Walk Dozens of artists and artisans displaying works at galleries, storefronts, restaurants and around town. Live music throughout town. KentCulture.org.



Crafts: Evelyn & William De Morgan.” 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.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

THROUGH DECEMBER 30

American Music Theatre Presents The 2022 Christmas Show: Home for the Holidays. This live, original musical experience features a new cast delivering the same high-quality, Broadway-caliber performances as in years past. It’s an unforgettable experience that’s bound to leave you and your family in the Christmas spirit. 2425 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 888-729-4718; AMTShows.com.

DECEMBER 1–18

The Keswick Theatre Presents. *Dec. 1*, Chris Isaak: Everybody Knows It’s Christmas Tour; *Dec. 2*, Beatles vs. Stones; *Dec. 3*, Martina McBride: The Joy of Christmas Tour; *Dec. 4*, The Temptations & The Four Tops; *Dec. 6*, Blackberry Smoke; *Dec. 8*, Steve Hackett: Genesis Revisited; *Dec. 10*, Love & Laughter; *Dec. 11*, Baby Shark Live! The Christmas Show; *Dec. 15*, Jim Breuer; *Dec. 16*, Real Diamond; *Dec. 17*, An American Celtic Christmas; *Dec. 18*, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy Holiday Show. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Times and tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.



DECEMBER 1–20

At The Grand in Wilmington. *Dec. 1*, Claudia Oshry: Not Like Other Girls, at The Baby Grand; *Dec. 10*, Irish Christmas in America; *Dec. 10*, Eric Mintel Quartet, at The Baby Grand; *Dec. 20*, Nefesh Mountain. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. TheGrandWilmington.org.

DECEMBER 2 & 3

Lancaster Symphony Orchestra Performs Handel’s Messiah. Handel’s legendary oratorio hails the season of peace and goodwill. The Lancaster Symphony Chorus and sensational soloists join the LSO in this festive favorite. First Presbyterian Church, 140 E. Orange St., Lancaster. Fri, 7:30; Sat, 2 & 7 pm. \$39–\$79. LancasterSymphony.org.

DECEMBER 4

Christmas Concert at Immaculata University. The Immaculata University Chorale

will join with the Symphony to perform this entertaining program complete with audience sing-alongs and festive favorites that will get your family in the holiday spirit. Immaculata Univ. Alumnae Hall, 1145 West King Rd., Immaculata. 3 pm. \$10; children and students free. AllEvents.In/Immaculata.

DECEMBER 9

Jessica Lynn’s A Very Merry Country Christmas. A full multi-media presentation featuring dancers, marching bands, choirs and special effects. With all of the traditional holiday songs you know and love, people of all ages become a part of the show and experience the magic of Christmas while raising money and collecting toys for Toys for Tots. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 7 pm. \$22–\$32. TheColonialTheatre.com.

DECEMBER 10

Chester County Choral Society. Performing Carols and Lullabies featuring Spanish language carols and a variety of Christmas and Hanukkah pieces. Church of the Good Samaritan, 212 W. Lancaster Ave., Paoli, 7:30, \$5–\$20. ChesCoChoral.org.



DECEMBER 10

Philadelphia Orchestra Family Concert. Enjoy a joyful holiday celebration filled with sing-alongs, your favorite sounds of the season and special guests. Listen closely for sleigh bells—you never know who might pay a special visit to Verizon Hall. 300 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. 11:30. \$27–\$56. KimmelCulturalCampus.org.

DECEMBER 17

Valley Forge Chorus. The women’s a cappella chorus performs their holiday show entitled “The Gift of Holiday Harmony” at Players Club of Swarthmore, 614 Fairview Rd., Swarthmore. 3 pm. \$15–\$20. ValleyForgeChorus.com/Holiday-Show.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY 28

Flight on Ice. An outdoor “real” ice skating rink brings a season full of family fun, including ice skating sessions, fire pit lounge areas, heated private event tents, local entertainers and DJs, theme nights, food and beverages. A portion of proceeds are donated to the Delaware County Veterans



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Memorial Association. 4901 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square. Wed–Thurs, 4 to 8; Fri, 3 to 10; Sat, 11 to 10; Sun, 11 to 8. For tickets visit FlightOnIce.com.

DECEMBER 9–11
Winter Luminary Nights at Jenkins Arboretum. A celebration of winter light as the Arboretum is aglow with luminary-lined paths, hot beverages and the warmth of friends and neighbors. 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. 5 to 6:30 & 6:30 to 8. \$25–\$35. JenkinsArboretum.org/Luminary.

THEATER
THROUGH DECEMBER 23
The Butterfingers Angel at Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. The whole family will enjoy this original, funny and heartfelt retelling of the greatest story ever told. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, 610-356-2787; UptownWestChester.org.

THROUGH DECEMBER 23
Irving Berlin's White Christmas at The Candlelight Theatre. A show filled with laughter, romance, spectacular dance numbers and

unforgettable songs. 2208 Millers Rd., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-475-2313; CandlelightTheatreDelaware.org.

THROUGH DECEMBER 24
A Christmas Carol Comedy at Hedgerow Theatre Company The US premiere of a fun and festive new adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* featuring two actors as Scrooge and everybody else. A celebratory spectacle for all ages that bursts to life and is sure to make spirits bright. 64 Rose Valley Rd., Media. Times and tickets, HedgerowTheatre.org.

THROUGH DECEMBER 31
The Christmas Tree Ship at Bird-in-Hand Stage. A ship. A storm. And a Christmas tale of heroic proportions. One family's unsinkable mission to save Christmas. 2760 Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. \$18–\$42. Check website for times. 717-768-1568; Bird-in-Hand.com/Stage.



THROUGH DECEMBER 31
White Christmas at Fulton Theatre. Enjoy this timeless show based on the classic film. The Fulton, 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-397-7425; TheFulton.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 8
Elf The Musical at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. This modern-day holiday classic is sure to make everyone embrace their inner elf. 510 Centerville Rd., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-898-1900; DutchApple.com.

THROUGH JANUARY 8
The Sound of Music at Media Theatre. The final collaboration between Rodgers & Hammerstein and one of the world's most beloved musicals. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

DECEMBER 1–4
Hairspray at The Grand Opera House. Tony Award-winning musical comedy phenomenon is back on tour. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-652-5577; TheGrandWilmington.org.



DECEMBER 3–28
Elf Jr. at Media Theatre Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. 104 E. State St., Media. Sat, 11 am; Sun, noon. \$17–\$22. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS
THROUGH DECEMBER 18
Public Tours at Wolf Sanctuary of PA. Gray wolves roam their natural landscape once more. Take a guided public tour to see some of the packs, hear their stories and learn about wolf conservation and biology. 465 Speedwell Forge Rd., Lititz. Sat–Sun, from noon; Tues & Thurs, from 10 am. Res. req., \$13–\$15. WolfSanctuaryPA.org.



DECEMBER 2, 10, 15
1st Fridays, 2nd Saturdays, 3rd Thursdays. First Fridays: Dec. 2, Lancaster City, 717-509-ARTS; VisitLancasterCity.com. Oxford, 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. Phoenixville, 610-933-3253; PhoenixvilleFirst.org. West Chester, 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com. Wilmington Art Loop, 302-576-2135; CityFestWilm.com.

Second Saturday Virtual Arts Stroll: Dec. 10, Media, 484-445-4161; MediaArtsCouncil.org.
Third Thursday Malvern Stroll: Dec. 15, MalvernBusiness.com. ♦

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



DECEMBER 3
58th Annual Christmas in Odessa Holiday House Tour. Join a self-guided walking tour of private homes and public buildings, many dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, decorated for the holidays. Fresh greens sale at the Fieldstone Stable, 202 Main St., Odessa, DE. Sponsored by the Women's Club of Odessa as a fundraiser for local student scholarships. 10 to 5. \$30. ChristmasInOdessa.com.



DECEMBER 3
Holiday Home Tour in Strasburg. Eight lovely homes will be decorated for the season, as well as the Shroy House — built in 1803 — and some local churches. Many homes are in downtown Strasburg, making it an easy walking tour. 10 to 4. \$25. StrasburgHeritageSociety.org.



DECEMBER 3
Phoenixville's Annual Candlelight Holiday Tour. See decorated homes and churches plus crafts, music and refreshments. Benefits Ann's Heart, The Clinic, Phoenixville Area Senior Center, Firebird Children's Theatre and Phoenixville Children's Library. 4 to 8. \$25. 610-933-9181; PhxHolidayTour.Weebly.com.



DECEMBER 3
Dickens 2022 House Tour in Chestertown, MD. Stroll iconic Water Street on the Chester River, where six festively decorated historic homes bring the gracious living of bygone days into the 21st century. 118 N. Cross St., Chestertown, MD. 10 to 2. \$50. MainStreetChestertown.org/Dickens.



DECEMBER 3-18
West Chester Public Library Holiday Home Tour and Holiday Door Tour. *Dec. 3*, the Holiday Home Tour will showcase eight homes in the borough, a tour of First Presbyterian Church and a free ornament from Clayborn Pottery & Textiles Open House. 10 to 3, \$40. *Dec. 3-18*, the Holiday Door Tour is a self-guided tour of West Chester doors and porches. To attend, make a donation of any size to the 2022 Holiday Appeal, receive a map and a list of scavenger hunt items to look for among the decorations. WCPublicLibrary.org.



DECEMBER 4
Pottstown Historic House Tour. Join in the Pottstown GoFourth! 4th Annual Historic Pottstown Holiday Tour, featuring homes and churches in the Rosedale section of Pottstown. Map pickup at St. James Lutheran, corner of High & Price Sts. Bring receipt from the online ticket purchase for proof of payment to receive your tour map. 1 to 5. \$25. PottstownGoFourth.com.



Alice in Wonderland The People's Light Panto Returns

THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2023

Above photo: *The Three Musketeers*
(*The Later Years*): *A Musical Panto*

A BELOVED HOLIDAY TRADITION RETURNS TO People's Light with the world premiere of "Alice in Wonderland: A Musical Panto." We suggest you make time in your holiday schedule to share this special kind of local fun.

Do you remember the story? On her first day of skiddle mool — oops, that should be middle school! — Alice Liddle stumbles upon a strange book in the library and ends up in a mysterious, magical place. Young Alice follows the White Rabbit into a hole and meets a variety of creatures, including the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter, the March Hare, the Dormouse, the Queen of Hearts and others.

Cheer the heroes, boo the bad guys and help Alice find her way home in this panto-tastic take on Lewis Carroll's madcap classic (book by Jennifer Childs, music and lyrics by Alex Bechtel, directed by Bill Fennelly). This year's People's Light panto is entertainment for the entire family, and the audience is part of the action.

As "the nation's primary creator of such specialized tomfoolery" (*Newsworks*) for almost two decades — past pantos have included "Aladdin," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Sleeping Beauty," "Cinderella" and others — People's Light has adapted the British pantomime into its own unique brand of holiday hilarity. Audiences of all ages participate in the songs, dances, topical jokes and jovial camaraderie of this longstanding tradition.

Playwright Jennifer Childs — co-founder of 1812 Productions, the only professional theater company in the country dedicated to comedy — is a big fan of audience participation. Childs says, "I love that the panto addresses real things that kids experience ... in a fun and engaging way." Her goal for the audience is "to make you laugh with abandon and cry just a little."

When asked what he loves most about the panto, composer and lyricist Alex Bechtel says, "There's a surprise at every turn. And at every surprising turn is joy, delight, irreverence and play, both among the cast and with the audience. Panto forms an instant family, but it's not a saccharine family. It's a real family in which everyone is yelling and throwing food."

"After the last few years of darkness, we want to bring some light," adds director Bill Fennelly. "We've been away from the theater for a few years, and the panto feels like the perfect way to bring the community back together."

Recommended for ages 5 to 105! Run time is 2 hours and 15 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission. Share the holiday spirit with Alice and friends this season. ♦

PHOTO CREDIT: MARK GARVIN.

IF YOU GO

What: Alice in Wonderland: A Musical Panto

Where: People's Light, Leonard C. Haas Stage
39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern

When: Through January 1, 2023

Box Office & Info: 610.644.3500; PeoplesLight.org

School Groups: Arrange a 10 a.m. show, 610.647.1900 x111

Masks: Currently required indoors regardless of vaccination status. Check for updated protocols.

Relaxed Performance: Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 pm

Audio & Visual Aids: Limited availability

Clockwise from left:

Little Red Robin Hood: A Musical Panto

Arthur and the Tale of the Red Dragon: A Musical Panto

Cinderella: A Musical Panto

Sleeping Beauty: A Musical Panto



Dreaming of a green Christmas

GIVE ECO-FRIENDLY GIFTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Shannon Montgomery

THIS YEAR, WE'RE DREAMING OF A GREEN Christmas. That's green as in eco-friendly, though we're still, of course, hoping for a snowy, white holiday.

While we're making our holiday plans, it's important to remember that the season's festivities can have a significant impact on the environment — from shipping- and travel-related carbon emissions to packaging waste and more. The EPA reports that between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Americans produce an extra million tons of waste per week — that's 25% more trash than the rest of the year.

Luckily, there are ways to reduce environmental damage created during the holidays. We've come up with ideas for gifting green this holiday season, from sustainability-focused shops to choosing art and antiques, there's something for everyone on your list.

GIVING GREEN

Looking to give your friends and family some environmentally friendly gifts? Fortunately, there are plenty of local stores that stock green goodies for everyone on your holiday list.

West Chester's **Pine + Quill** offers lots of locally sourced and environmentally conscious gifts. Owner Dianna DeStefano recommends Geometry tea towels made from recycled plastic bottles — now available in holiday patterns. They also offer all-natural, cruelty-free soaps and bath salts.

For the self-care guru in your life, head to **Odella, Marie & Patrice**, also in West Chester. This Black woman-owned business offers sustainably made, vegan beauty products. Their Fraser & Coconut holiday gift sets are packed with goodies like artisan soap, wooden wick candles and coconut lip balm.

Pine + Quill



More green gifts await at **Clean Slate Goods** in Kennett Square. Choose from a variety of sustainable and eco-friendly goods — throw blankets made from recycled cotton and mini photo frame ornaments made with recycled glass and metal. For the kiddos, check out their collection of hand-knit rattle toys made from organic cotton — they're machine washable.

Know someone who's trying to live a greener life? Phoenixville's **Community Eco Store** has an assortment of products to help everyone lead a more sustainable lifestyle. Try ECOBAGS reusable grocery bags and Soma glass water bottles. They also have eco-conscious gifts from local crafters, including all-natural soaps from Nether Providence Soap Company and Amish-made wooden toys. Plus, the store is all-volunteer and not-for-profit, donating all profits to other local nonprofits.

VINTAGE FINDS

For the fashionistas in your life, consider giving vintage clothing this holiday season. Buying secondhand is a great way to shop sustainably and find unique pieces at affordable prices.

Vida Beale Consignment in West Chester is stocked with trendy women's clothing and accessories at attractive price points. Shop your favorite designer brands, from Louis Vuitton to Christian Louboutin. Then head to the back room for gently used furniture and home décor for every taste.

To double your good work, look for consignment or thrift stores that benefit local organizations. For example, proceeds from **The Encore Shop** — stocked with quality jewelry, clothing and home goods — in Kennett Square benefit Chester County Hospital.

Clean Slate Goods



Vida Beale Consignment



REDUCE & REUSE

Like vintage clothing, antiques are another gifting choice to reduce waste and support local businesses. Head to the **Pennsbury-Chadds Ford Antique Mall** on Baltimore Pike and browse gift options from over 100 dealers in a 200,000-square-foot space. More than just antique furniture, the mall has a wide range of treasures for someone on your list — from Wyeth prints to vintage records and rare books to antique silver with that special soft patina.

For something unusual, visit **Merchant of Menace Re-Imaginers Gallery** in Marshallton. The gallery specializes in the "re-imagination" of found objects and reclaimed materials into unique pieces of art. Featured works include found-art sculptures by Jason Lyons, wooden rocking chairs from Tom Bazis and "Reimagined Style" — Tracy Phillips' jewelry made from heirloom ceramics and china.

And for a truly one-of-a-kind gift with a local legacy, the **Brandwyne River Museum** has thousands of "Critters" available at their annual Holiday Critter Sale. These charming ornaments are handcrafted by museum volunteers using only natural materials — teasel, pinecones, eggshells, flowers and seed pods — and on sale November 30 to December 4 at the Chadds Ford Historical Society. Can't go in person? Buy online at Brandwyne.org/Critters. Proceeds support the museum's art education and public programming.

Just about every year we suggest buying art during the holidays, and this year is no exception. It's the gift that keeps on giving — it can be treasured and passed down for generations. Drop by a local art gallery, like **David Katz Gallery** in West Chester, and buy a bit of nature captured in his paintings of the sky, or **Gallery 222** in Malvern, for a special gift that will never be thrown away.



Merchant of Menace
Re-Imaginers Gallery



Brandywine River Museum



Matlack Florist

ALL-NATURAL GIFTS

Of course, you can't go wrong with a plant — the original “green” holiday gift! Clare Malloy, owner of **Matlack Florist** in West Chester, recommends snake plants, low-maintenance plants known to remove toxic air pollutants found in the home. While you're there, pick up a candle from Lancaster-based Fontana Candles — 100% nontoxic, MADESAFE certified and scented with essential oils.

The experts at **Mostardi Nursery** in Newtown Square suggest swapping traditional poinsettias for cyclamens, paperwhites or amaryllis plants. Gift them while in bloom or, for the green thumbs out there, as a bulb for the satisfaction of growing them from scratch.

Or drop by Kennett Square newcomer **Hilltop Flower Co.** Along with their collection of home goods — including all-natural, hand-made soaps from Miche Scott — they offer stunning floral gifts. Check out their dried floral wreaths, made from flowers left over from their wedding arrangements.

For the nature lover in your life, gift a membership to one of our area's many public gardens — after all, this is America's Garden Capital! A membership to **Longwood Gardens** includes year-round general admission, a 10% discount on Garden Shop purchases, dining and tickets, and access to Member Appreciation days and members-only hours. Similar benefits are available at other local gardens, such as Wayne's **Chanticleer** and the **Mt. Cuba Center** in Delaware.

FLAVORFUL FAVORS

Want to ensure your gift never ends up in a landfill? You can't go wrong with gifts of food. Shop locally sourced foods to reduce your carbon footprint and support the local economy — double the good!

Head to West Chester's **Artisan Exchange** on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a market full of handcrafted, sustainable foods from local small businesses. Try a charcuterie board loaded with local ingredients from **Olive & Meadow**, homecooked family meal from **Dragonfly Catering** or gluten-free, seasonally-inspired treat from **Swheat Escape**.

Family-owned **Swarmbustin' Honey** in West Grove offers delicious local honey and bee products, like 100% beeswax candles and honey candy. Just in time for the holidays, try giftwrapped sets of their most popular honey varieties, including “The Purest” set — 14-ounce jars of their Golden Nectar Honey, Black & Gold Honey and Fall Wildflower Honey — or create your own custom gift set.

For farmstead cheese made from grass-fed cows, sheep and goats, visit **The Farm at Doe Run** in Unionville. Their Black Swallowtail, Runnymede, Willow and English Cream cheeses have all won awards from the American Cheese Society this year and will win the hearts of foodies.

Of course, you can't have cheese without wine. Pick up a bottle from Kennett Square's **Galer Estate Vineyard & Winery** for wine made exclusively from locally-grown grapes, or invite friends and family to their tasting room for fine wine and live music. Or maybe try something a little stronger from a local distillery — we featured some of our favorites in the July issue — like Revitalist Gin or Resurgent Whiskey, distilled and bottled onsite at **Brandywine Branch Distillery** in Elverson. Then toast yourself for a job well done for finishing your holiday shopping and doing some good along the way!

This holiday season, reduce your environmental impact by shopping sustainably. We wish you a happy — and green — holiday. ♦

Counting Down the Holi(Days) Across County Lines

NINE TOWNS CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

Lydia Reiss and Peighton Schwalm



Santa in Wayne

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS! And everywhere you look, you'll see towns preparing to help us celebrate the season with those we love.

Local towns have prepared for the holidays with all sorts of activities ranging from horse-drawn carriage rides to a lighted river walk to a giant mushroom drop to ring in the New Year.

So, grab some hot cocoa and read about holiday happenings in Chester County and beyond.

Christmas in
Wayne



ROCKIN' AROUND COATESVILLE'S PAVILION OF TREES

Coatesville will be buzzing this year, and we don't mean just the Christmas lights! Get into the holiday spirit during the first weekend in December with three special seasonal events. Starting December 2, visit the Pavilion of Trees and stroll among 30 community-sponsored decorated trees. Then enjoy holiday festivities, including music, food trucks, carolers and the tree-lighting ceremony. On the following Saturday, the fun continues with the Coatesville Christmas Parade, a tradition that's filled the streets with spectators since the 1950s. *ChristmasInCoatesville.com*.



Coatesville's Pavilion of Trees

DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS (IN DOWNINGTOWN)?

The holiday season is all about traditions, which is why you'll want to watch the annual Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade. On December 10 at 3 p.m., local bands, dance groups, scouts and Santa himself will make their way down the 1.7-mile stretch along Lancaster Avenue. This hometown Christmas event is sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit. DTownChristmas.com.



Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO ... KENNETT

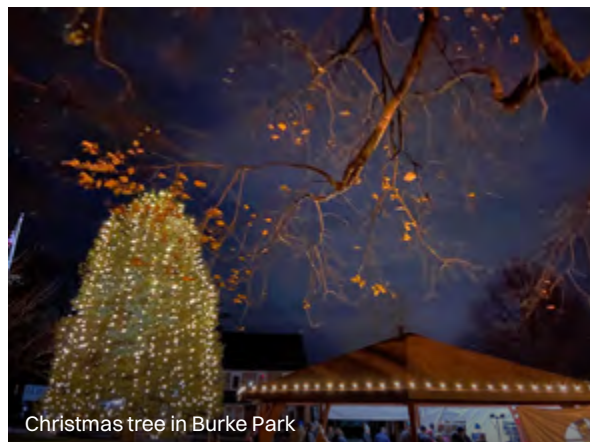
And he's gonna find out why Kennett Square is such a nice place to celebrate the holidays. Thanks to Christmas in Kennett 2022, the town will shine with even more holiday decorations — new lighting, décor and horticultural displays. Be sure to head to the Kennett Square Holiday Village Market on December 3 & 4 and 10 & 11 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at The Creamery (401 Birch St.) for artisan and vintage shopping, ice sculptures, live music, fire pits, Santa Claus and, of course, handcrafted and warming festive drinks and cocktails for adults. More at KennettHolidayMarket.com. And for those visiting "A Longwood Christmas," park in town and take the shuttle service. Then wrap up the year with a special celebration on New Year's Eve by watching the brightly lit, 8-foot mushroom drop to close out 2022 and welcome in the New Year. MidnightInTheSquare.com.



Holidays in Kennett Square

HAVE A CUP OF CHEER IN MALVERN

If you didn't hear, you can sip a little more than hot chocolate in Malvern this year. At the Sip-n-Shop Stroll on the third Thursday, December 15 (5 to 8 p.m.), shop for gifts on King Street, where stores will be open late with holiday treats and drinks to sample. Although Santa arrived earlier, during the month of December, the holiday tree will be brightly lit in Burke Park. Tip: Join the Malvern Insider's Text Club for insider-only deals. Malvern.org.



Christmas tree in Burke Park

SLEIGH RIDE TOGETHER IN MEDIA

Climb inside a life-size snow globe, drink free hot chocolate and ride around the State Street District in a horse-drawn carriage. Find these fun activities every Wednesday between Thanksgiving and Christmas in Media, definitely on the nice list this year. Check out live performances of "Elf Jr.: The Musical" at the Media Theatre, or hit one of the dozens of local restaurants to relax and unwind with some holiday cheer and a nice warm meal. Ring in 2023 at the annual Ball Drop on New Year's Eve and mark your calendar for an exciting new ice carving festival in January. VisitMediaPA.com.



Christmas in Media

SANTA BABY, HURRY TO NEWTOWN SQUARE

Newtown Square's holiday festivities start Sunday, December 4, with their Christmas Market (5 to 5:45 p.m.) at St. Albans Circle. Afterwards (5:45 p.m. to 7 p.m.), enjoy carolers, hot chocolate, chocolate covered pretzels and children's dance performances from the Goddard School, From the Top and Twirl. For the finale, a fleet of firetrucks mark Santa's arrival for the tree lighting. More at NewtownSquareMag.com.

BURNING BRIGHT FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN PHOENIXVILLE

Phoenixville lights up the holidays starting on First Friday, December 2, with their annual tree lighting (6 to 8 p.m.). Then the following Saturday is Phoenixville's Annual Candlelight Holiday Tour (4 to 8 p.m.) starting at the Phoenixville Area Senior Center. Mark your calendars for the Luminaria Shopping Night on December 7 (5 to 8 p.m.) and follow the trail of lights while you shop for special offerings, including holiday sales, goodie bags and free gifts with purchases. Remember to dress warmly Saturday, December 10, to watch the burning of the 25-foot-tall Phoenix at the Annual Firebird Festival, a unique and highly anticipated event each year. Free parking every Saturday until December 24 in Lots 1-4. More at PhoenixvilleFirst.org and FirebirdFestival.com.



Holidays in Phoenixville

WINTRY WONDERLAND IN WAYNE

Ho-ho-hope you visit Wayne this holiday season. The fun begins December 2 and 3 with the Christmas Celebration in Wayne. Friday, enjoy carolers, carriage rides, a tree lighting and Santa's arrival. Step up that Saturday for the Elves for Shelves 5K Fun Run hosted by the Radnor Memorial Library, starting at 8 a.m., followed by the Santa Parade down Lancaster Avenue. Can't make the parade? Santa makes another appearance on the veranda of Rosalie restaurant at the Wayne Hotel for pictures with complimentary cookies. Wayne welcomes extended, late-night shopping hours so you can find the perfect gift this holiday season. And Free Parking Saturdays continue to the end of December. For more, visit WayneBusiness.com.



Christmas in Wayne

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR ... IN WILMINGTON

"Yule" want to make your way to the first annual Wilmington's Holiday Riverwalk Lightshow, featuring thousands of lights illuminating trees, pavilions and light poles along the Riverfront and highlighting a 1.25-mile stretch from the Riverfront Market to the DuPont Environmental Education Center. From there, make a beeline for the return of Blitzen, a holiday-inspired bar serving up spirits and good cheer, open until December 24. Warm up by their fireplace with a Mrs. Claus' Chocolate Sauce or a Moose Milk cocktail. For the youngsters, Santa makes an appearance December 10 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Hare Pavilion. The following week, see an ice sculpture demo (December 17), along with musical performances throughout the month and carolers strolling Riverwalk. More at Blitzen-TheBar.com and VisitWilmingtonDE.com. ♦



The holidays in Wilmington

Enjoy the Gift of Shopping Local

PARK YOUR CAR AND SHOP IN A
WINTER WONDERLAND

Cara Corridoni

PHOTO BY GARY ALTOONIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

SURE, YOU CAN HUNKER DOWN AND GET ALL your holiday shopping checked off by hopping online or stalking the aisles of a big box store. But this soulless experience will make you lose sight of the reason for the season as gift-giving turns into a massive to-do list.

To embrace the joy of giving, you need to add a little spirit into your shopping experience.

How do some twinkling lights sound? Maybe a few dozen garlands of evergreens, expertly designed snow-decked store windows and perhaps a caroler or two?

Downtown West Chester has it all. Delight-inducing gift-buying mixed with the melodic sounds of the Brandywine Singers. Charming brick sidewalks to stroll, gingerbread houses to view and a vast array of stores to help you happily surprise everyone on that list. Plus, if you hang out in town long enough, you just may bump into the big, jolly fellow himself — or at least spot him waving from the back of a firetruck.

Insider's Tip: Don't stress searching for a parking spot along West Chester's notoriously fully-occupied street parking. Instead head straight to one of the three parking garages to easily find a space.

FASHION FINDS ON GAY STREET

Start your day on bustling Gay Street with the five ladies of West Chester's fashion scene: H.Rose, Blink, Green Eyed Lady, May 23 and Malena's. Each is different enough to ensure you'll find something for every fashionista on your holiday list.

H. Rose Boutique is a mommy-and-me store featuring an inclusive line that runs from 0–3 months to 5T (for the kiddos) and through plus sizes (for mommas). A few doors down is stylish **Blink**, which will take the mystery out of shopping with their edited collection of contemporary clothes and cocktail party must-haves. “Everything is happy and bright this year,” said owner Ilysa Biles about the winter collection. Keep an eye on their Instagram for all the latest arrivals and 12 Days of Christmas sales.

Next door is another West Chester favorite, the **Green Eyed Lady**, with casual, affordable fashions you won't find anywhere else. Perfect for your little sister — or the “cool mom.” Then pop across the street to **May 23**, and say hello to Atticus Finch, the store's resident canine, while you peruse racks of men's and women's novelty tees. “I Went to West Chester and All I Got Was This Parking Ticket” and Atticus's signature tee are personal favorites. Gifts here may



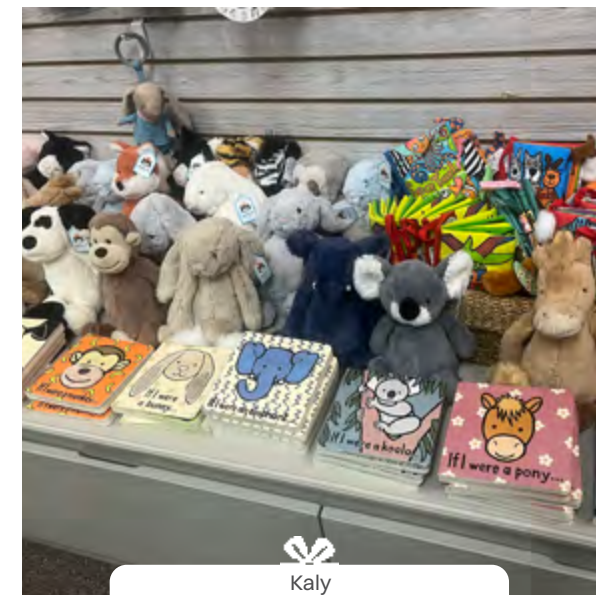
May 23



Malena's Vintage Boutique



Salty Paws



Kaly

be ironic enough to earn the appreciation of your teenage niece or nephew. Get the Harry Styles celebrity saint candle and know you're killing it.

Another stop on your fashion spree is **Malena's Vintage Boutique**, West Chester's nationally renowned vintage destination. On Black Friday/Small Business Saturday weekend there's wine, music and 25 additional showroom racks to browse. The showroom, usually reserved for industry professionals (Netflix stylists and Anthropologie buyers) opens only twice a year to the public. Plus, you'll get 20–50% off your purchase.

Insider's Tip: Ask to have your purchases gift wrapped. It's complimentary at most retailers in town.

PLACES OLD & NEW

Also on Gay Street, visit **Kaly**, the Borough's oldest boutique, now run by its third-generation owners. Kaly carries women's and some kid's clothing (under 2), plus large jewelry and gift collections. It's a favorite spot for hostess gifts. “We have some funny things to make people laugh. And people need that now,” said current owner Polly Zobel. For a chuckle, check out their silk-screened coaster collection (“This Christmas don't forget to set your scale back 10 pounds.”).

Insider Tip: Kaly has limited customer parking behind the store.

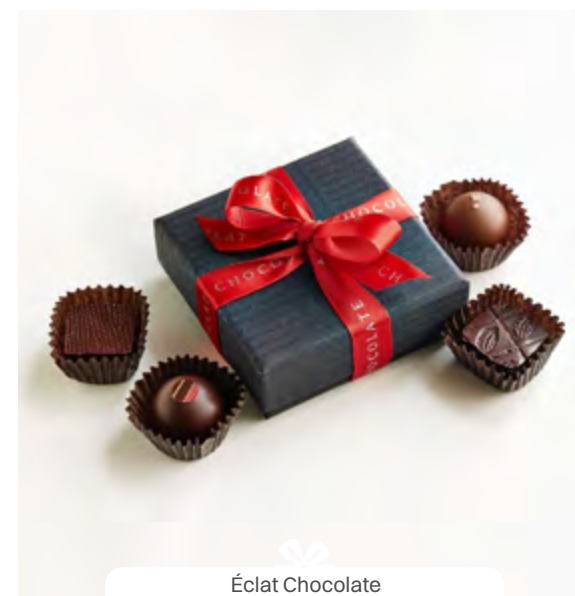
Just a few doors east is a new treat for the dogs on your list and those who love them. **Salty Paws**, an ice cream parlor with strictly



Tish Kids



A Taste of Olive



Éclat Chocolate



The 5 Senses



Turk's Head Café

canine customers, opened this fall. The shop takes the “pup cup” to the next level with lactose-free flavors such as Maple Bacon and Blueberry Peanut Butter, along with offering an assortment of treats and accessories. During December look for holiday-themed biscuits and fun events like dog photos with Santa.

On the far east end of Gay Street, you'll find another new West Chester addition, **Tish Kids**. West Chester's latest children's boutique comes to you from the same trendy team as the parent location, Tish, across the street. Find fashions for tiny to toddler to preteen from top brands like Rylee + Cru.

Inhaling the crisp December air as you stroll under the glow of a thousand twinkling lights may make you crave caffeine. Take a brief detour on Church Street to West Chester's newest coffee house, **Turk's Head Café**. Enjoy a soul-warming mocha latte and perhaps catch a little live music before returning to your shopping mission.

FOR FOODIES AND MORE

Next head over to High Street to **A Taste of Olive**, a must-stop for anyone on your list who likes to cook (or eat). Each year the shop releases a unique gift set featuring a collection

of seasonal favorites. After tasting your way through their collection of globally-sourced oils and vinegars, visit **Éclat Chocolate**, just a few stores away. Warm up with house-made hot chocolate (\$5 for an 8 oz. cup), while you decide between delectable flavors of treats like ginger caramel, dark Pennsylvania Dutch pretzel, and new for the season, mulled wine or gingerbread domes.

Insider's tip: For stocking stuffing, grab a few Éclat's molded chocolate Santas, available only at this location.

Next stop is West Market Street at **The 5 Senses**, an arts and gifts shop, where you'll want to grab a little gift for your holiday tree. Each year the store stocks handmade ornaments crafted from everything from felt to handblown glass. While you're there, browse their eclectic gift collections from local and independent artists. The felt forest creature planter covers are particularly adorable and the ice cream-shaped sidewalk chalk is sure to deliver hours of delicious fun.

Finally, wind down your day with a pour and some tunes at **Hop Fidelity**. Acoustic performances by local artists are planned throughout the month, but even without live entertainment, the atmosphere is lively and festive. Browse thousands of new and used vinyl records and you just might spot something for your personal collection. Earlier



Hop Fidelity



Electric Avenue Music

this season “A Charlie Brown Christmas” was still in the racks.

Hop Fidelity is one of several record stores in the Borough, including **Creep Records** and **Electric Avenue Music**. If you have a chance, come out on Record Store Day (November 25, aka Black Friday) for an exclusive list of releases available only at independent retailers. “Dream Widow,” a collaboration between Foo Fighters’ Dave Grohl and hard rock guitarist Jim Rota, is already generating a lot of buzz.

Your bags are filled, your gifts are wrapped and your spirits are high knowing everyone on your list is sure to be delighted. Along with the independent shop owners you supported.

Your work here is done. It’s time to kick back and celebrate at one of West Chester’s more than 60-some restaurants. You deserve it. ♦

Cana Corridoni lives in West Chester, is a huge fan and writes the weekly e-newsletter “Hello, West Chester.”



GREYSTONE

Owning a new home in Greystone is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Situated on a 100-year-old estate just 3 minutes from the West Chester borough, this new community is set amid a 163-acre nature preserve with three lakes, nearly seven miles of walking trails and beautiful stone bridges that cross winding creeks.

Twin Homes • Single-Family & Estate Homes The Woodlands at Greystone 55+ Homes



Downtown West Chester



Holiday Shopping Guide

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Tish Kids | 25. Mainline Custom Clothiers |
| 2. Old Soul Décor | 26. Kaplan's Fine Jewelry |
| 3. Artistic Eyewear | 27. Hop Fidelity |
| 4. Chester Co. History Center, Paper Moon @ CCHC | 28. Ever After Bridal |
| 5. G&G Cigars | 29. Woman's Exchange |
| 6. Sabrina Ann Couture | 30. Church Street Gallery |
| 7. Visual Expansion Gallery | 31. Kilwin's West Chester |
| 8. Fairman's Skate Shop | 32. La Chic Boutique |
| 9. KALY | 33. Coins of Chester County |
| 10. Salty Paws | 34. All the Dogs |
| 11. Big Diamond Importers & Fine Jewelry | 35. Vida Beale Consignment |
| 12. Le Berger | 36. Art Trust Gallery at Meridian Bank |
| 13. Creep Records | 37. Kati Mac Floral Designs |
| 14. May 23 Clothing & Accessories | 38. A Taste of Olive |
| 15. Precision Eye Care | 39. Éclat Chocolate |
| 16. Malena's Vintage Boutique | 40. Bryn Mawr Running Co. |
| 17. Vape & Beyond | 41. Phineas Gage |
| 18. Kerkula's Jewelry | 42. Ginkgo Arts |
| 19. H. Rose Boutique | 43. Sunset Hill Jewelers Fine Arts Gallery |
| 20. Blink | 44. Pine + Quill |
| 21. Green Eyed Lady | 45. Tish Boutique |
| 22. Taylor's Music Store & Studio | 46. David Katz Gallery |
| 23. Thistle Be Perfect | 47. Prince of Puff |
| 24. The 5 Senses | 48. G-Spot Thrift Boutique |

NVHomes.com/Greystone • 484.209.1460

West Chester Events

**THROUGH DECEMBER 17

Santa on a Fire Truck and Making Spirits Bright Holiday Music Series. Local performers entertain with favorite holidays songs on the steps of the courthouse on High Street, 2 to 3 pm. *Nov 26*, The Uptown Singers!; *Dec. 3*, Time to Leap Dance Studio; *Dec. 10*, Henderson HS Jazz Band, Peirce MS Jazz Band and Fugett MS Chorale; *Dec. 17*, The Brandywine Singers. Santa arrives on the fire truck at 3 pm.

THROUGH DECEMBER 23

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center — *The Butterfingers Angel*. Created by William Gibson ("The Miracle Worker"), this touching, funny and highly imaginative retelling of the Nativity story is presented from a fresh and richly creative point of view. 226 N. High St. 610-356-2787; *UptownWestChester.org*.



****THROUGH JANUARY 2 Gingerbread House Competition.** Professional builders include: Cakes and Candies by Maryellen, Carlino's, John Serock Catering, Kilwins West Chester, Yori's Church Street Bakery and The Master's Baker. To vote: visit display locations and scan the QR code there.

THROUGH JANUARY 6 "Gifted"—17th Annual Holiday Exhibit at The Art Trust. Give the gift of original art. Twenty-two talented artists display and sell their works. *Dec. 1*, enjoy Bourbon & Bubbles, 5 to 8:30. 16 W. Market St. Gallery hours, Mon–Fri, 9 to 4:30. 484-301-2784; *TheArtTrust.org*.



**DECEMBER 3

Santa at the Square. The borough of West Chester will host pictures with Santa at Marshall Square Park, 405 N. Franklin St. 4:30 to 6:30.

DECEMBER 3

Breakfast with Santa. Come over to the Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St., to meet Santa and enjoy breakfast. 9:30 to 11 am. \$15. Pre-registration req. *West-Chester.com*.

**DECEMBER 3

Little Lincolns Gettysburg Address Competition. Middle school students from across the county put on their best Lincoln attire and recite the Gettysburg Address. Historic Courthouse Steps on High Street. 11 am to noon. Presented by the Chester County Community Foundation.

DECEMBER 3

2022 West Chester Charity Ball. Friends Association celebrates 200 years of serving families in our community, and the Charity Ball has helped in their mission to end homelessness in Chester County. Enjoy dinner, music, dancing, auctions and more. West Chester Golf & Country Club, 111 W. Ashbridge St. 6 pm. For tickets, *FriendsAssoc.org/Charity-Ball-2022*.

DECEMBER 3-18

West Chester Public Library Holiday Home Tour and Holiday Door Tour. See *Holiday House Tours* in this issue.

**DECEMBER 10

Scrooge. Follow Scrooge's journey to the true Christmas spirit in this dance version of the Dicken's classic "A Christmas Carol." West Chester United Methodist Church, 129 S. High St. Two shows, 1 & 3 pm. Tickets, \$12; seniors and children 11 and under, \$10. For info and tickets: 610-692-3398.

**DECEMBER 10

Photos with Santa. Stop by M&T Bank in downtown West Chester at 10 N. High Street for free photos with Santa and free hot chocolate and coffee. Santa will arrive at 3:30 pm after stepping off his ride on the firetruck that afternoon! Hosted and sponsored by M&T Bank.

DECEMBER 10

American Helicopter Museum Presents SantaFest 2022. Santa arrives via helicopter at 11 am ready to hear children's wish lists in the colorful Santa's Workshop. Bring your cameras to take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. SantaFest will feature holiday-themed crafts and movies in the theater. Friends from Paws for People will be there, too. 1220 American Blvd. 10 to 3. \$7–\$10. *AmericanHelicopter.Museum*.

DECEMBER 16-18

Brandywine Ballet Presents *The Nutcracker*. Ring in the season with Tchaikovsky's timeless score and be transported with Clara to the magical Land of Sweets. West Chester University, Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St. Thurs, 10 am; Fri–Sat, 11 am & 5 pm. \$25–\$45. 610-696-2711; *BrandywineBallet.org*.

**DECEMBER 18

Touch a Truck. Head for the parking lot at the corner of Chestnut and Church Streets. See ambulance, police and West Chester Fire Department Trucks, along with some construction vehicles. Meet the firefighters, get hands-on with a firetruck and more. This event is being led by the West Chester Business Improvement District.

***Part of Chester County Hospital Lights Up Holiday Weekends in West Chester, presented by the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce.*

PHOTO: GARY ALTOONIAN PHOTOGRAPHY



THE 5 SENSES

jewelry | pottery | glass | metal | candles | cards

133 West Market Street
West Chester, PA 19382
the5senseswc@gmail.com
610.719.0170
www.the5senses.com

What Sets US APART

Damian Milillo, DMD

Merle Saldivar, DDS

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It's Back!



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REVELATIONSVIDEO,
GARY ALTOONIAN PHOTOGRAPHY



West Chester Christmas Parade Returns!

IN A YEAR WHEN CONNECTING WITH LOVED ONES and sharing memorable experiences top the holiday wish list, the return of the beloved West Chester Christmas Parade comes at the perfect time.

"This treasured tradition began as a volunteer-driven effort by the residents and businesses of West Chester back in 1980, and this year's parade really brings back that flavor by celebrating its hometown roots," said Katie Walker, President of the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce.

The parade is a major highlight of "Chester County Hospital Lights Up Holiday Weekends in West Chester" — six weekends full of holiday festivities and thousands of twinkling lights that transform the streets of West Chester into a winter wonderland. From Thanksgiving through New Year's, pack up the family to enjoy time with Santa, free outdoor holiday concerts, carolers, a gingerbread house competition and more. Plus Mom and Dad can pop into West Chester's one-of-a-kind shops to find gifts you won't discover anywhere else.

The experience starts and ends with holiday treats at West Chester's award-winning restaurants, which range from family casual to culinary sophistication.

"It really is a hometown holiday experience you won't find anywhere else, and we're thrilled to support it once again for our

community," said Michael J. Duncan, President & CEO, Chester County Hospital.

Parade lovers can expect 60 live parade elements with hundreds of performers on a one-mile loop through West Chester's historic district along Market and Gay Streets. Gabc's Adam Joseph emcees as dazzling floats are unveiled and all eyes are on nationally acclaimed local groups. See hometown favorites including antique cars, a selection of national performers, and regional and high school marching bands.

The excitement culminates with Santa's arrival on a unique display. The parade will be held on Friday, December 2, at 7 p.m., following the annual tree lighting at the Historic Chester County Courthouse at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers get a front-row seat for the action! *Sign up at GWCC.org.* ♦ — Kristen Stewart



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

Nov. 26-Jan. 2: 6 weekends of holiday festivities with thousands of twinkling lights during Chester County Hospital Lights Up Holiday Weekends in West Chester

Dec. 2: 6:30 p.m., Tree Lighting. **7 p.m.,** West Chester Christmas Parade

Presented by the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce. *Details & parade map, GWCC.org.*

Sip. Shop. Dine.

During 6 weekends of holiday festivities with thousands of twinkling lights!

Nov. 26-Jan. 2

.....

West Chester Christmas Parade Returns!

Dec. 2

Daily event details at GWCC.org

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November 18, 2022 - January 8, 2023



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This program is being funded in whole or in part with funding from the Hotel Tax Grant Program through the County of Northampton Department of Community & Economic Development

Christmas in the Two Cities



PHOTO BY J. FUSCO FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA

LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAYS WITH VISITS TO PHILADELPHIA AND BETHLEHEM

William Sokolic

THE HOLIDAY SEASON SERVES AS A TIME NOT only to meet with friends but to take advantage of exploring nearby places and enjoying a different perspective. To the east, Philadelphia beckons. And to the north, the Christmas City, Bethlehem, offers a variety of Christmas cheer. Why not visit both?

PHILADELPHIA FESTIVITIES

Philadelphia has long had a love affair with electrifying moments, and the holiday season is no exception. Sure, the Phillies and Eagles provided their share of electrifying moments in the fall, but we're talking about real electricity, the kind Ben Franklin tinkered with using kite and key.

Of course Macy's at 13th and Market Streets presents a spectacular light show concert, dating back to 1956 at the Wanamaker's Building, and the 15th year of the Christmas Village at LOVE Park will light up the night sky.

But let's try something different, shall we?

South 13th Street

South Philadelphia has cultivated a unique perspective on life over the years, and nothing illustrates that more than the Christmas celebration, Miracle on South 13th Street. Take an evening stroll down the 1600 block between Tasker and Morris Streets and prepare to have your senses dazzled (from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day).

There are about 50 homes along this stretch of 13th Street, and almost all are decorated for the holiday season. Some go for simple; others go all out and over-the-top. Taken together, every house on the street shines, thanks to efforts that grew more organized with time and now encompass several blocks.

There are three good ways to see the Miracle on South 13th Street. Drive up 13th Street from Morris (the street isn't blocked off). Driving will keep you warm and also provide an overview. For a closer look, park your car on an adjacent street — if you can find a parking space — and stroll the neighborhood. Or be green and take the Broad Street Subway to the lights.

For more on this and other festivities in Philadelphia, VisitPhilly.com.

Franklin Square

You've heard of Rittenhouse Square and Independence Square, but neither holds a candle this time of year to Franklin Square, which has established its own corner at 6th and Race Streets.

Trip the light fantastic with the incredible Ben Franklin-themed Electrical Spectacle Light Show. The Square glows with more than 200,000 lights, centered around the historic Franklin Square Fountain. The production features "Feliz Navidad" and the "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies," among other festive tunes.

Shows run every 30 minutes from 5 p.m. to closing. Try a round at Chilly Philly Mini Golf, with Philly landmarks, or take a spin on the Parx Liberty Carousel. Add comfort food, local beers and hot beverages (including spiked hot chocolate) at Franklin's Winter View. Outdoor fire pits and an indoor heated tent round out the festivities.

Morris Arboretum

Electrifying in its own way, the famed Morris Arboretum excites the senses with its annual Holiday Garden Railway through January 4. A quarter mile of track features seven loops and tunnels with 15 different rail lines and two cable cars, nine bridges (including a trestle bridge you can walk under) and bustling model trains, all set in a winter garden.

The display and buildings are made of natural materials: bark, leaves, twigs, hollow logs, mosses, acorns, dried flowers, seeds and stones. The holiday installation creates a miniature landscape complete with small streams.

In a program dubbed "Friday Night Lights," white lights sparkle along the train tracks and around the accompanying landscape. Miniature greens adorn miniature buildings, including local landmarks like Independence Hall.

Advance tickets are required. Morris Arboretum is located at 100 E. Northwestern Avenue. Visit MorrisArboretum.org for more information.



1. Miracle on South 13th Street
2. Franklin Square

PHOTO CREDITS: 1. K. KELLY FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA 2. M. EDLOW FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA



NOT SO LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Think Bethlehem. Think Christmas. Think Christmas City. Think ... Wait. We need context.

On Christmas Eve in 1741, Count Nicholas von Zizendorf founded a small Moravian settlement on the banks of the Monocacy Creek and named it Bethlehem. Fast-forward to 1937. The Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, mindful of Bethlehem's first Christmas, declared: "Why not make Bethlehem the Christmas City for the entire country?"

Just like that. We declare these truths to be self-evident. Bethlehem is the Christmas City. And to cement the declaration, there's a star on the hill, shining down from South Mountain, above Lehigh University, reminding all of the Biblical guide of the Magi. And just an hour-and-a-half drive from West Chester.

At the time of the Chamber of Commerce's declaration, the steel industry in the U.S. was in its heyday. If you didn't work for Bethlehem Steel, you worked for a business that supported Bethlehem Steel. But when the steel industry fell onto hard times and Bethlehem Steel shut its gates in 1998, the company left a large, unsightly, dirty acreage.

Not everyone in Bethlehem saw an eyesore. An umbrella organization known as ArtsQuest saw a way to turn the land into a sort of artists colony, a purveyor of music, comedy, film and other performances under the moniker of the SteelStacks. Visit [ArtsQuest.org](https://www.artsquest.org) to learn more.

Start your visit with a holiday tradition. Take a horse-drawn carriage ride through downtown North Bethlehem. Catch the ride in front of Central Moravian Church, 73 West Church Street. Offered weekends through the end of the year.



- 3. Morris Arboretum
- 4. SteelStacks

PHOTO CREDITS: 3. R. KENNEDY FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA 4. LISA BOEHM

CHRISTKINDLMARKT

Come Christmas season, ArtsQuest brings a tented, open-air market, Christkindlmarkt, for five weekends, through December 18. On the culinary side, the market showcases a variety of holiday fare like strudel, German bratwurst, German roasted almonds, German mac and cheese, piping hot poutine, mashed potato balls and more.

The market also features handmade works by more than 50 of the country's best artisans. Or make your own holiday-themed crafts at the Crayola Creativity Station or glass artworks at ArtsQuest Hot Glass Experience.

Twice recognized as one of the country's best holiday markets by *Travel + Leisure* and *USA Today*, Christkindlmarkt takes place at PNC Plaza at SteelStacks, 101 Founders Way.

A new addition to the holiday landscape, The Ice Rink at SteelStacks is located at the base of the historic blast furnaces, open from Thanksgiving through the holidays. It's also the only outdoor, authentic ice rink in the area.

PEEPSFEST

The holiday season and the year close out December 30 and 31 with a celebration of the decorative marshmallow yummys known as Peeps, made in Bethlehem at Just Born Quality Confections since 1953.

The city takes out the old year not with a ball drop but with the dropping of a 400-pound lighted Peeps chick. And it happens twice from within SteelStacks. Tickets are \$5 and include Just Born goodie bags for kids under 12, a coupon for a free s'mores kit for kids, and access to live music and entertainment.

Not enough Christmas cheer? Nazareth is less than a half-hour drive farther north! ♦

- 5. Carriage ride though town
- 6. PeepsFest



PHOTO CREDITS: 5. LEHIGH VALLEY WITH LOVE



SEASON'S GIVING, Book Edition



SAY "HAPPY HOLIDAYS" WITH A GOOD BOOK.

Shelley Laurence, Main Point Books

THE HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON BRINGS JOY to some and dread to others. If you fall into the second category, a trip to your local bookstore can be a stress-free solution. There's a book for every person on your holiday shopping list.

Don't believe me? Read on for some suggestions.

A signed book makes a great gift, especially from a famous local author. Madeline Miller (*Circe*) returns with *Galatea: A Short Story*. Miller reimagines the myth of Galatea and Pygmalion in her own inimitable way. She'll even personalize a copy for you, if you catch her at Main Point Books. It's the perfect present for a Miller fan!

Do you know someone who likes to walk the dark, dystopian side? *Saturnalia*, by local author Stephanie Feldman, is just the ticket. We like it so much we've recommended it before. Feldman paints a dismal and dangerous picture of future Philadelphia during an ancient pagan festival, honoring the Roman agricultural god, Saturn. Paul Tremblay (*The Pallbearers Club*) gives *Saturnalia* a rave, saying, "On one hand, Feldman's striking novel is an unblinking side-eye at our apocalyptic near-future. On the other, it's a soaring dark fantastic romp full of alchemy, blood and life."

Looking for the gift of literary fiction? *Lucy by the Sea* is a great choice. Pulitzer Prize-winner Elizabeth Strout follows the steadfast heroine of *My Name is Lucy Barton* through the start of the pandemic. Main Point Book's Ben Tanter is a big fan of this one. "In her latest adventure, writer Lucy navigates life in lockdown with her ex-husband in a house on the Maine Coast. Beautifully written," says Ben.

Ian McEwan, the beloved author of *Atonement*, returns with *Lessons*, the epic tale of a man's life across generations and historical upheavals. *Kirkus Reviews* describes it this way: "McEwan's imagina-

tion delivers plenty of family secrets and reflects on 'so many lessons unlearned' in a world that's clearly wobbling off its axis."

Know someone who loves mysteries? Louise Penny offers up *A World of Curiosities*, book 18 in the Chief Inspector Armand Gamache series. A man and woman reappear in the town of Three Pines, years after their troubled mother was murdered. Are they back for good or evil? *Publishers Weekly* calls this "Virtuoso ... blends nuanced characterization with nail-biting suspense ... This tale of forgiveness and redemption will resonate with many."

For the music lover in your life, there's *Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story* from Bono, the artist, activist and lead singer of the iconic rock band U2. It's an honest and irreverent look at his remarkable life, the challenges he's faced and the friends and family who kept him going. According to Bono, "Surrender is a word freighted with meaning for me ... I am still grappling with this most humbling of commands. In the band, in my marriage, in my faith, in my life as an activist. *Surrender* is the story of one pilgrim's lack of progress ... With a fair amount of fun along the way."

Or, how about the *Philosophy of Modern Song* by Bob Dylan. Yes, THAT Bob Dylan. He's written 60 essays, focusing on songs by other artists, ranging from Stephen Foster to Elvis Costello, Hank Williams to Nina Simone, each penned in Dylan's unique style. The essays are not just about music — they're also meditations and reflections on life and the human condition. The book includes nearly 150 photos, which make it a must for any music fan.

Cookbooks also make great gifts, and you may even reap the delicious benefits! The Barefoot Contessa has you covered, with delicious, go-to recipes that will please any palate. In *Go-To Dinners*, Ina Garten shares satisfying, uncomplicated meals that can be made

ahead and popped into the oven right before serving. It's a real time-saver for busy cooks or anyone who likes to feed folks with little effort.

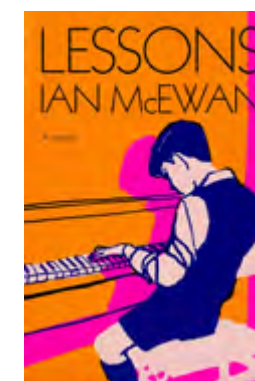
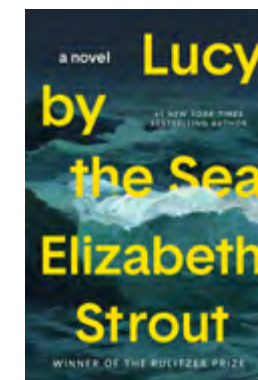
Who doesn't love freshly baked bread? *Evolutions in Bread* shows you how to up your game to the next level. It's from Ken Forkish, the author of *Flour, Water, Salt, Yeast*. It doesn't matter if you're an expert or novice. You'll learn to craft artisan pan breads and rustic Dutch oven loaves at home with consistent results.

Let's not forget the younger ones! *Green is for Christmas* by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers is sure to delight. This Christmas story features the crayons from *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Green is sure he's the only Christmas color in the box, but Red, White, Silver and Tan beg to differ! It's a perfect stocking stuffer for any kid who likes to color.

Want to delight a Harry Potter fan? A full-color, illustrated edition of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* is now available. This is a real visual feast, featuring all the beloved characters. It's the perfect gift for any Potter-crazy kid.

Need more ideas? Stop by your local independent bookseller to get help making a dent in your holiday gift giving list. That's a promise! ♦

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 events, book groups and children's activities at MainPointBooks.com or on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Order online for delivery or pick-up. 484-580-6978; 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne.





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Walter J. Cook Jeweler, Paoli
See ad page 10



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Pine + Quill, West Chester
See ad page 50



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Merchant of Menace,
Marshallton
See ad page 22



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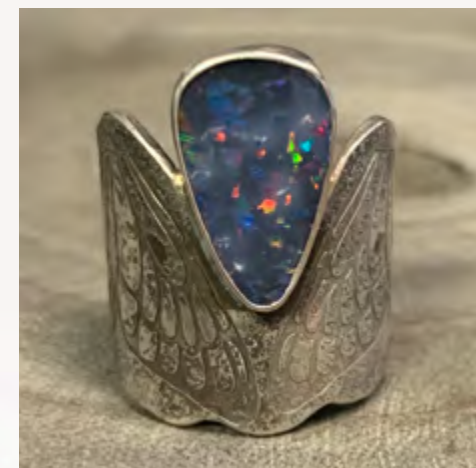
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4. Tell us where the photo was taken and the name of the dish.



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The 5 Senses, West Chester
See ad page 41



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Sunset Hill Jewelers, West Chester
See ad page 50

Holiday WINDOW SHOPPING

It's the time of year when we look forward to making special memories with family and friends — the perfect time to gather together and head to one of the many events featured in this issue or plan a day of visiting some of the unique boutiques and galleries you'll find right here.

Make a day of it. Browse the shops on these pages, stop in a museum, be inspired by the artistry of fine handcrafted furniture and accerssories and be sure to schedule in a festive lunch or dinner, too.

At *County Lines*, we wish you happy shopping! And the happiest and most wonderful of holidays! To our readers and advertisers, we say thank you. Your season, we hope, will bring you great joy.



PENNSYLVANIA

Glen Mills

Team Toyota of Glen Mills wants you to drive safe this holiday season. Whether you're looking for a new or used vehicle, you'll find it here. They also have service specials to keep you on the road this winter. *Visit in store, 1050 Baltimore Pk., call 484-845-7921, or visit TeamToyotaGlenMills.com. Happy Holidays!*



Team Toyota
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Exton

Deck the halls this holiday season with 18th-century through Victorian-era original and reproduction furniture, lighting fixtures and furniture hardware. Visit the showroom at **Ball & Ball** to find



Ball & Ball
610-363-7300 • BallAndBall.com

unique gift ideas including candlesticks, bookends, lanterns and fireplace accessories made on the premises in brass, tin, copper and hand-forged iron and bronze. All perfect gifts for this holiday season. Open Monday–Thursday, 8 to 4:30; Friday, 8 to 1. *463 W. Lincoln Hwy. (Rt. 30). 610-363-7330; BallAndBall.com.*

There's no place like **Ron's Original Bar & Grille** this holiday season! Offering a family atmosphere, Italian fare and some of the best craft beer around, they invite you to stop in for a bite, enjoy some take-out, delivery or curbside pickup, or call them to cater your next event! Eat Clean. Live Well. Feel Good. Ron's. *74 E. Uwchlan Ave. 610-594-9900; RonsOriginal.com.*

Malvern

The holidays can be a hectic and stressful time of year. Let **Tonino's Pizza & Pasta Co.** take the worry out of planning your holiday gatherings with custom party platters featuring all your Italian favorites. They also offer private holiday dining. Tonino's gift certificates make a great gift that you can pick up at the restaurant. Delivery and curbside pick up are always available. *235 Lancaster Ave. 610-240-9566; ToninosPizzaAndPasta.com.*

Marshallton

This holiday season, why not introduce some creativity, art, innovation and fun to your gift-giving? Visit the Merchant of Menace Re-Imaginers Gallery and check the whimsical and



Merchant of Menace Re-Imaginers Gallery
215-704-7419 • TheMerchantOfMenace.net

inventive items that will delight everyone! Their artists see possibilities everywhere and create amazing works from a variety of reclaimed materials. Find furniture crafted from New England barn wood, animal sculptures made from antique tractor parts, jewelry created from silverware and much more! *1351 W. Strasburg Rd. 215-704-7419; TheMerchantOfMenace.net.*

Newtown Square

Gourmet gift baskets and luscious fine chocolates are two reasons to stop at **Christopher Chocolates**, making life sweeter since 1986 as a family-owned and operated business. They have a great selection of gourmet foods, candies, sugar-free items and fine chocolates for a customized gift basket to delight all on your list. Open daily from Thanksgiving to Christmas. *3519 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3). 610-359-1669; Christopher-Chocolates.com.*



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

Get your Christmas plants and flowers at **Mostardi Nursery**. Featuring distinctive plants for every season, Mostardi offers a selection that will have your home looking greener and even better than last Christmas. The Christmas Shop features trees, wreaths, poinsettias, garden accents, ornaments and accessories. Mostardi is dedicated to providing avid gardeners and home-

owners with plants for every season and every reason. 4033 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3). 610-356-8035; Mostardi.com.



Mostardi Nursery
610-356-8035 • Mostardi.com

Paoli

Walter J. Cook Jeweler is proud to continue providing signature personalized customer service. Their exquisite collection of exceptional jewels from around the world are personally curated by owner Michael Cook. Dazzling diamonds, elegant one-of-a-kind colored gemstones and lustrous pearls in both classic and contemporary styles are artfully displayed in the showroom. Handcrafted gold and silver designs complete the collection again this year. Chestnut Village Shoppes. 610-644-5347; Walter-JCookJeweler.com.



Walter J. Cook Jeweler
610-644-5347 • WalterJCookJeweler.com

Phoenixville

Foresta's Market has all your holiday favorites. Rib roasts and filet roasts using the tastiest Certified Angus Beef. Honey Baked Hams sliced to your liking, made with their homemade glaze, topped with a pineapple ring and cherry. For those in the mood for a holiday bird, Foresta's has Jaiindl Grand Champion

turkeys, ducks and geese. 1098 W. Bridge St. 610-935-1777; ForestasMarket.com.



Foresta's Market
610-935-1777 • ForestasMarket.com

West Chester

The 5 Senses hosts a collection of functional art objects chosen to satisfy one or more of your five senses. Located in historic downtown West Chester, The 5 Senses opened in the spring of 2005. Their focus is on North American handcrafted functional items, including 25 local artists. They pride themselves on providing insight into each artists' work. 133 W. Market St. 610-719-0170; The5Senses.com.



The 5 Senses
610-719-0170; The5Senses.com





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This holiday season, give the gift of membership to the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science:

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Our 36th Anniversary!



Pietro's Prime is an upscale yet casual steakhouse and martini bar in the heart of downtown West Chester, known for their quality cuisine and remarkable service. Whether you're celebrating a milestone event or just looking for a delicious meal, Pietro's Prime is the place to go. *125 Market St. 484-760-6100; Pietros-Prime.com.*

Pine + Quill, located in downtown West Chester, has all your holiday favorites. From home decor to gifts, furniture and art, you'll be sure to find something for everyone on your shopping list — including yourself! You'll find a lot of locally sourced items, from hand-poured candles, wall art, jewelry and reclaimed wood creations. Black Friday weekend kicks off holiday shopping AND celebrates two years in business. Shop Tuesday–Saturday, 10 to 6; Sunday, 11 to 5. *23 N. Walnut St. 610-692-0374; PineAndQuillShop.com.*



Pine + Quill Shop
610-692-0374; PineAndQuillShop.com

Beautiful jewelry is a gift from the heart, precious and personal. This holiday, create a meaningful memory with the gift of fine jewelry from **Sunset Hill Jewelers**. Family owned for almost four



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decades and renowned for attentive service, Sunset Hill Jewelers is trusted for their expertise and integrity. *23 N. High St. 610-692-0374; SunsetHillJewelers.com.*

DELAWARE

Wilmington

Stroll through the **Delaware Museum of Nature & Science's** new ecosystem-based exhibits then shop in the Museum Store for gifts inspired by the galleries, featuring an expanded inventory with a wide variety of books for all ages, science kits, rocks and minerals, science-themed apparel and accessories, plush animals and more. Or, give the gift of membership to the newly-renovated museum! *4840 Kennett Pk., 302-658-9111; DelMNS.org.*



Delaware Museum of Nature & Science
302-658-9111; DelMNS.org



BARNs in Winter

As you drive over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house ... or another destination this holiday season, you might just spot an iconic barn in the distance. Whether it's historic, renovated or a new barndominium, the scene is quintessentially Chester County.



The Lyster barn, or "barndominium," is a newly constructed home located in Honey Brook. The standing seam metal roof is topped with an 8-foot windowed cupola that's open to the timber frame main floor below. The new owners marked the season with decorations on their entry fence.

✱ **King Construction**



It's a Willistown Winter Wonderland! This party bank barn features an open floor plan design, amplified by 30-foot ceilings and timber frame structure, with a chef's kitchen, loft, fireplace and a cozy corner to watch your favorite holiday movies with friends and family.

✱ **Period Architecture**



This 1743 historic barn is part of Sweetwater Farm Bed & Breakfast and Winery. It was gutted and completely renovated, maintaining the historic integrity of the structure and using compatible materials (board, batten, stone) and adaptive reuse. This charming reception facility, wine tasting space, wine production and a storage area are open to the public.

✱ **Peter Zimmerman Architects**



This horse barn in New Holland features a scissor truss roof and timber frame exterior. When the owners planned a photoshoot with a horse and carriage, the weather surprised them with some snow to provide a perfect setting. The picture was featured on their Christmas cards.

✱ **Precise Buildings**



Cozy Winter FAVORITES

FOR GIFTING OR ENJOYING YOURSELF

Jessica Roberts

THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN MOST OF US are shopping for friends, family, coworkers and perhaps even restocking our supplies for the coming holidays. We may be ticking off items on our gift list, buying for company and entertaining, or getting ready for simply sitting by the fire.

There are endless choices for gift-giving and seasonal sipping, so here are some tried-and-true crowd-pleasers that almost everyone will appreciate and enjoy.

START WITH STRONG SPIRITS

Spirits that warm our souls are must-haves for the coming colder months. Perhaps you're looking to stock your bar cart with whiskeys to enjoy while watching the snow fall. **Uncle Nearest 1884 Tennessee Whiskey** and **Writers' Tears Copper Pot Irish Whiskey** are two excellent bottles to sip alone or offer to special guests. Sampling whiskeys from some of the best areas in the world — Tennessee and Ireland — lets you experience all these spirits have to offer.

For a smooth and easy drinking whiskey, try **Writers' Tears** (\$39.99), a beautiful single-malt variety. It's triple distilled, non-peated and matured in American oak bourbon casks.

If you prefer something with a little more bite, choose a high-proof option like **Uncle Nearest** (\$49.99). Each small batch has its barrels hand-selected by one of the founders, ensuring its exceptional quality. Both whiskeys can be enjoyed on their own, on the

rocks or in any popular whiskey-based drink such as an old fashioned, Manhattan or hot toddy.

Looking for something a little different from whiskey but the still delivers a soul satisfying sip? A top pick for any wintertime drink is a fragrant cognac. **Ferrand 10 Générations Cognac** (\$59.99) is by far one of the best out there. This cognac is full of lovely baking spices, honey and baked pear flavors. It can be sipped on its own, or level it up with a maraschino cherry and a little juice for an elegant cocktail.

SIP SOME SPARKLERS

Tonic- and seltzer-based drinks took over the market this past summer, and their popularity doesn't seem to be ending any time soon. For the bubbly cocktail lover in your life, choose a vodka- or gin-based option. **Reyka Vodka** from Iceland is relatively new on the market, but it's making a splash at an affordable price point (\$19.99). Iceland's terrain is influenced by massive glaciers and subterranean volcanoes, making for some truly unique ingredients in this competitively priced vodka.

Or, for someone who likes a little more pep in their glass, bring out the **Oregon Spirits Gin** (\$29.99). This is an all-American choice with beautiful botanical notes. You'll be greeted with all the traditional flavors of citrus, pine and juniper that every gin lover craves.

Speaking of bubbles, it wouldn't be the holiday season without sparkling wine for toasting and celebrating. This year, why not bring out the traditional **Pol Roger Champagne Brut Reserve** (\$62.99) from Champagne, France? This family-owned winery has been in business for almost 200 years, and their hard work is evident in every glass. If you love a sophisticated, toasty and mounded sparkler, Pol Roger is for you. Only a few thousand cases are made and exported each year, so be quick to snatch up a bottle!

ADD A FEW WINES

If pinot noir from Willamette Valley isn't on your radar yet, go to your local wine shop to pick up a bottle of the **2017 Fullerton Five FACES Pinot Noir** (\$35.99). This bottle is the perfect balance of Burgundy meets Carneros in a style that's definitively Oregon. Your glass will be full of bright, ripe cherries with an earthy undertone. Pinot noir has always been an excellent companion to a wide variety of food, so if you aren't gifting this bottle, it should be on your table.

Fuller-bodied reds are desired by wine lovers for the winter sipping season for the same reasons many people enjoy whiskey — it's comforting and warms you up. For this fuller tasting style of wine, try the **2017 Il Molino di Grace Chianti Classico Riserva** (\$24.99). Considered a Super Tuscan, this wine is packed with lovely notes of wild berries, dried herbs and rose with an insatiable blue-violet nose. Pair with a big steak for a match made in heaven.

Another option is the **2020 Les Demoiselles de la Font du Loup Châteauneuf du Pape** (\$39.99) from the Rhone Valley of France. The equal blend of grenache and syrah grapes is produced from organically grown old vines. This bright and lush wine can hold its own against hefty food, including gamey meats or smoked barbecue.

SOMETHING EXTRA SPECIAL

What to buy for that extra special person on your holiday gift list? If you decide to splurge on a bottle, you'll want to make sure the bang is worth the bucks. A solid choice is the **2017 Guarachi Family Wines Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$94.99). This 98-point wine from Napa Valley has flavors of black currant, fig compote and crushed blackberry that melt in your mouth, followed by graphite notes. Aged in 100% French oak barrels for 20 months, this expertly crafted cabernet sauvignon will have your special someone (or you, if you buy a second bottle) savoring every drop.

Not enough options? Ask your wine specialist for some one-on-one help. And as always — be safe, stay healthy and enjoy responsibly. Cheers! ♦

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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Food News

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

Table Traditions. Kennett Square diners discovered **Trattoria La Tavola** following their soft opening October 11. Gather around the *tavola* (table) for a taste of their homemade bread plus authentic pasta entrees like the Bellfish Pasta Allo Scoglio (spaghetti with mixed seafood) and handmade pumpkin ravioli tossed in sage brown butter sauce with Parmesan. Sample more dishes influenced by Italy's culinary traditions. Open seven days, noon to 9 p.m. 127 E. State St., Kennett Square. Trattoria-La-Tavola.com.



Charcuter-Tree. Pick this simple prepare-ahead *tree-t* for your next holiday gathering and impress your guests. Assemble your **charcuterie-tree** on the best wooden board you have or go 3D by using a Styrofoam cone — toothpicks required. Customize it using nibbles — including plenty of green and red edibles — such as cheeses, cured meats, fruits, nuts, veggies, olives, crackers and condiments like jams and mustards. Choose colorful pickin's for a pretty presentation. GetOnMyPlate.com.



Something's Brewing. And not just beer. **Mayday Coffee Shop** plans an early 2023 opening in West Chester's former Jane Chalfant space. Expect artisan coffee drinks, fresh flowers and good vibes with West Coast-inspired ambiance. Royersford welcomes **Lost Planet Brewing Company**, stationed in the historic Humane Steam Fire Engine Co. building, serving up gastropub fare and craft beers like their hazy Space Walk and West Coast IPA Blondies Revenge. 123 N. High St., West Chester; MaydayCoffeeShop.com. 301 Walnut St., Royersford; LostPlanetBrewing.com.

Trending Tapas. Iron Chef and James Beard Award-winner Chef Jose Garces plans to bring a new **Amada** (his modern tapas restaurant in Philly) location to Radnor, nearby newly opened Buena Onda. Expect a selection of Amada's signature Spanish dishes such as Paella Valenciana (rabbit and chorizo paella) and classical favorites like fish tacos, nachos and churros. Plans for 2023 include indoor/outdoor dining for 200+ guests, including two outdoor patios and a private dining room. 555 E. Lancaster Ave., Radnor. ChefGarces.com.



Mean Martini. Amaze your friends with a mean cocktail this holiday season. The **Grinch Martini** takes only 5 minutes to make. Just shake together 2 oz. Midori melon liqueur, ½ oz. lemon juice and ½ oz. simple syrup over ice. Pour into a chilled martini glass, and add a maraschino cherry as garnish. Complement this Christmas cocktail with a cake-drip rim using melted icing for the Grinch's collar. Who wants to give this drink a try? HappyHourProjects.com.



Spread the Joy

LOCALLY SOURCED AND CRAFTED PRESERVES MAKE THIS YEAR'S HOLIDAYS EXTRA DELICIOUS.

Alyssa Thayer

HOLIDAYS ARE THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF novel and known. We delight in the familiarity of the classics while coveting the chance to break out something a little extra.

For Sheila Rhodes, owner of **Small Batch Kitchen** in Lansdale, the family favorite was always a good ol' block of cream cheese with spicy pepper jelly spooned overtop. So, when she started her business in 2014, she knew a pepper spread had to be one of her products.

The Small Batch Kitchen story started the way many farmers market food businesses start — as a passion project. Sheila and her husband moved to a one-acre plot in Harleysville with a mission of growing on the land. As their yields grew, Sheila began to experiment with different methods of preservation.

She used recipes to guide her through each process, but when it came time for fruit preserves, she found them lacking. "The first batch I made was so sugary sweet that I couldn't even taste the fruit," she remembers. Realizing most recipes she tried were that way, she took matters into her own hands by teaching herself the science and safety of food preservation and inventing new vibrant recipes.

It wasn't long before she had developed a full line of products, all of which she was making by hand and giving out to friends

and family. After tasting these creations, everyone encouraged her to take the next step and sell her goods at the local farmers market. And so it began.

By the end of that first year, she'd cultivated quite a following and landed multiple wholesale accounts. Then she began to think about the business differently. "It happened much faster than I expected, but because our products are lower in sugar and taste like fruit it was something that people really gravitate towards."

In 2017 she left her corporate

job to focus exclusively on Small Batch Kitchen, and in 2019 she moved to a storefront in Lansdale with a larger processing facility and cafe.

Even now, with products in 200 stores nationwide, everything remains true to their "Small Batch" name and locally minded mission. "We source all our produce from local farms and orchards," she says, adding, "Summers are very busy. We still do everything ourselves and by hand."

Small Batch Kitchen's line of 25 unique, delectable products range from low-sugar fruit spreads to savory condiments. When asked how they come up with all the flavors, Sheila says, "That's the fun part." She and her production manager, Rochelle, cook, experiment and draw inspiration from the local bounty.

Sheila notes the products are perfectly suited for holiday enjoyment and as gifts. "We have a lot of diabetic customers, which can be very difficult during the holidays," she says. The Cranberry Cabernet is their most popular item around this time and is delicious on cheese plates, in a leftover turkey sandwich or inside a baked brie.

You can find the products online, at their Lansdale location, or at local retailers such as Kimberton Whole Foods and Longwood Gardens. Now, let's get cooking!



Small Batch Kitchen creates a full line of bold and fruit-forward flavors.



Sheila at her first market in 2014



This goat cheese and hot pepper spread on a cracker is a jazzed-up version of the simple cream cheese and pepper jelly treat Shiela's family enjoyed.

Recipes

During the holidays we like to gussy up our dishes to make them look and taste their best. Preserves and savory spreads are uniquely suited for the job of elevating everyday ingredients into swoon-worthy holiday bites. Take a look at these recipes, which fall into the coveted "simple yet elegant" category.

Puff Pastry Rolls

These can be sweet and savory or strictly savory, depending on your tastes. Create them as a satisfying starter, or as one component of a festive finger food spread.



Makes about 6-8 rolls, depending on thickness

- 1 roll frozen puff pastry, thawed
- ½ jar (8 oz.) low-sugar jam (smoked onion, jalapeño or apple pie spread would be great)
- 1 C. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 C. chopped bacon

Preheat oven per puff pastry package directions. Unroll thawed puff pastry sheet, and lightly roll to stretch. Spread jam across rolled-out puff pastry sheet.

Mix all other toppings together and sprinkle over pastry sheet. Roll up like a jelly roll. Slice depending on your preference of thickness. 6-8 will make them thick enough to bake without burning the jam. Also, using a low-sugar jam will help reduce burning.

Place on a cookie sheet, and bake per package directions. ****Note:** The key to achieving flaky perfection is preventing the dough from getting warm during prep. Some directions even recommend thawing in the fridge rather than at room temperature.

Jammy Phyllo Brie Bites

Cheese and jam are one of those matches made in heaven. Add the crunch of the phyllo dough shell and a little heat to make it all ooze together, and you've hit hors d'oeuvre gold! Just make sure to double or triple the recipe if you are hosting ... they tend to go quick!

Jam Jargon

Who knew shopping for the perfect PB&J ingredients could leave us with so many questions? Jam or jelly? Preserve or conserve? With a myriad of different choices, we thought a preserve primer might be the perfect accompaniment to this piece.

Jelly – The most smooth and clear of the bunch, it's made using only the juice of the fruit and then thickened (generally with pectin) to achieve its jiggly consistency.

Jam – This is made using the full fruit, but it's used in a finely chopped or pureed form. Unlike jelly, the finished product will often include the seeds and skin and have a chunky, spoonable texture.

Fruit Butters – During the fall we often see apple and pear butters hit the shelf. These are generally made by cooking down the pulp of the fruit into a rich, thick texture. Some have added sugar, but many obtain their sweetness from the concentration of natural sugars that occurs as it cooks down.

Preserves – Large chunks or full fruit are cooked and suspended in some type of syrup. This tends to be slightly looser in texture.

Marmalades – It's a type of preserve that happens to contain citrus ingredients. The high pectin content of citrus peels can give them a jelly-like consistency.

Fruit Spreads – To commercially label a product as a jam or jelly, it must have a certain sugar content. Fruit spreads, like the ones Small Batch Kitchen creates, are a lot like jam in composition, but don't contain enough sugar content to be called a jam.

Compotes – Made using heat, fruit and sweetener, but they're generally made to be enjoyed right away and not preserved in any way.

Chutneys – These are a combination of sweet and savory, which usually include fruit, vinegar and spices.

Makes 15 bites

- 1 pkg. premade frozen phyllo tarts
- 6 oz. brie cheese
- 8-oz. jar jam of choice (hot pepper or smoked onion spread recommended)

Preheat oven per package directions, generally around 350°.

Cut brie into ½-inch squares. You can leave the rind on or off, depending on your tastes.

Place phyllo tart shells into a mini muffin tin.

Note: The shells usually hold their shape on a cookie sheet as well.



Inside each tart shell, place a brie square and a teaspoon of jam in the center.

Bake per package directions. Timing will depend on thickness, often around 7 minutes. Watch carefully to ensure shells don't burn. Take them out of the oven when shells are golden brown and brie is soft.

Allow to cool just slightly and serve warm.

Easy Cheese & Charcuterie Plate

Nothing says festive like a plate of curated meats, cheeses and accompaniments. Here is a general guide to how Sheila puts together her cheese plates. To make it that much easier, Small Batch Kitchen provides specific cheese pairing recommendations on the back of each jar.



- 3 different types of cheese (soft, hard and other)
Examples: chevre, cheddar, blue, brie, Manchego, smoked Gouda
 - 2-3 different types of meat
Sheila recommends at least one on the mild side (more crowd-pleasing) and one a little sharper/spicier.
 - 2-3 different types of crackers or bread
Sheila likes to choose one heartier whole wheat cracker and some lighter crisps to balance out the texture and look of the board.
 - 2-3 spread flavors
Smoked onion, blueberry basil and hot pepper spread are Sheila's favorites
 - Dried or fresh fruit, nuts or seeds, olives or cornichons, mustards and honey are great additions if you have them
- Arrange on a platter and enjoy. Have fun experimenting with different cheese and topping pairings to see how the flavors change.

Jelly Donut Muffins

If the holidays are about treating ourselves and finding ways to make us feel like kids again ... look no further. This is the recipe we've all been looking for — fun to make and delicious to enjoy, these muffins are the perfect holiday morning addition.

Makes 10 muffins

For the Muffins:

- 2 C. all-purpose flour
- 2/3 C. granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3/4 C. milk
- 1/3 C. vegetable oil
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 5 to 6 tsp. jam (sour cherry spread or apple pie spread)

For the Topping:

- 1/4 C. granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 3 T. unsalted butter, melted



Preheat oven to 350° .

Grease 10 standard-size muffin cavities.

Stir together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Make a well in the center of the mixture.

In a separate bowl, mix together the milk, oil, egg and vanilla. Add into the flour mixture, stir until just combined.

Fill each muffin cup about 2/3 full with batter, leaving about 3 tablespoons of batter in the bowl. Make a little indent in the batter of each of the muffin wells. Place about 1/2 teaspoon of jam in each indent. Top with just enough of the reserved batter to cover the jam.

Bake for 18–20 minutes, or until the edges are browned and the muffins are set. Set aside to cool slightly while you make the topping.

To make the topping, combine sugar and cinnamon in a shallow bowl. Brush the melted butter over the tops of each muffin. Dip each muffin, top side down, into the cinnamon-sugar mixture to coat.

Last Bit Vinaigrette Dressing

This recipe is perfect if you have a little jam left in your jar. I like to add the oil and vinegar to the jam jar, shake it up, and use the jar to store the dressing!

Serves 4–6

About 1 tsp. of jam (blueberry basil, balsamic strawberry or peach ginger)

1/4 C. olive oil

2 T. white wine vinegar or cider vinegar

Salt and pepper to taste

Add all ingredients to the jam jar, close the lid tightly and shake. Taste and adjust salt/pepper and acidity as needed.



Other ways to use your preserves

- Layer into yogurt parfaits
- Dollop onto pancakes or waffles. Add a bit of whipped cream to get extra fancy.
- Spoon over oatmeal. We love brandied pear spread for this purpose.
- Spread onto pizza/flatbread. Make or buy a favorite crust, slather in a favorite spread, and sprinkle with cheese (smoked onion and goat cheese is a favorite).
- Add to your grilled cheese. Elevate a simple sandwich into something special.
- Spoon over grilled chicken or fish. Peach ginger spread over salmon is delicious.

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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