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Wedding Issue

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Bittersweet Drive | Pocopson Township

Set on 7.3 exceedingly private acres in Pocopson Township, sits this spectacular, tutor style home featuring a wonderful main level Master Suite with “His” and “Her” bathrooms, Walk-in Closets, a private Office, and a large Bedroom. The home boasts 5 Bedrooms, 8.3 Bathrooms plus a four room guest/in-law suite easily accessed by way of the home’s three level elevator. The main level Living Room, Dining Room, incredible Kitchen, and stellar Family Room must be seen to be appreciated! All of the Bedrooms enjoy En-Suite Bathrooms. The Lower Level features an amazing Wine Cellar, Theater, Game Room and second Family Room. This fabulous property is located with easy access to Wilmington plus set in the nationally ranked Unionville-Chadds Ford School District!

\$3,990,000



Kennett Square

Cedarcroft may be the most famous home in the tri-state area! Constructed in 1860 by legendary Bayard Taylor, Cedarcroft’s visitors included Ralph Waldo Emerson and Horace Greeley. The property’s late owner took great pains to ensure the significant architectural features of the home were well maintained. The Living Room, Library, and Dining Room all feature 13’ ceilings, stunning wood flooring, incredible moldings, and fireplaces. Upon entry, you are greeted by a stately staircase that ascends to the second level. Upstairs is a Master Suite with a fireplace, private bath, and large closet/dressing area. There is another large bedroom with a fireplace and five additional bedrooms, some of which could easily have walls removed to make larger spaces. Additional restoration is required.

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from the EDITOR

It's April! At *County Lines*, we're celebrating spring in bloom!

We start with the "Highlight of a Mid-Atlantic Spring." Victoria Laubach of Welkinweir tours the 224-acre arboretum and explains more about gorgeous azaleas in our region.

It's wedding season, and modern weddings make personal statements. Read how weddings reflect couples and their lives in "Weddings with Perfect, Personal Touches" by Carol Metzker. "Wedding Style" and "Guide to Wedding Venues and Services" have more ideas.

To get in the mood for nuptials (or for another celebration), choose a "Signature Drink." Elizabeth Hughes collected four, but you can invent your own.

For bachelorette parties, destination outings are still popular, but many are opting for local (and less expensive) options. Shannon Montgomery shares ideas in "Brilliant Bachelorette Parties."

Nearby Lancaster County offers a surprising amount of family fun. In "Lancaster Unplugged," Cara Corridoni finds something for every family. Meanwhile, our publisher, Ed Malet, found his fun at his first mud sale. Quilts, Amish crafts, antiques, carriages, farm supplies, whoopie pies, pretzels — all there in "Off to the Mud Sales."

In a tranquil corner of East Fallowfield Township, Laurel Anderson visits a unique 180-acre family compound for our Home of the Month. "El Brio" affords its next owners a very special country or equestrian lifestyle.

Brandywine Table writer, Courtney Diener-Stokes, looks at country-inspired event planning with Terrain Events. In "Feasting & Foraging in the Field," she shares recipes highlighting local providers using a "garden-centric" approach.

Plus we've got finalists for our Foodies Photo Contest. Pick your favorite and vote on Facebook. The winner gets a \$250 gift certificate from Fearless Restaurants.

And as always, our Best Local Events section is filled with things to do for you and your family. Oh, and Dr. David Montgomery offers advice for those experiencing dental anxiety — a little something extra this month.

Thank you for reading.

Jo Anne
Jo Anne Durako
Editor

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

April 2023

Volume XLVI Number 8

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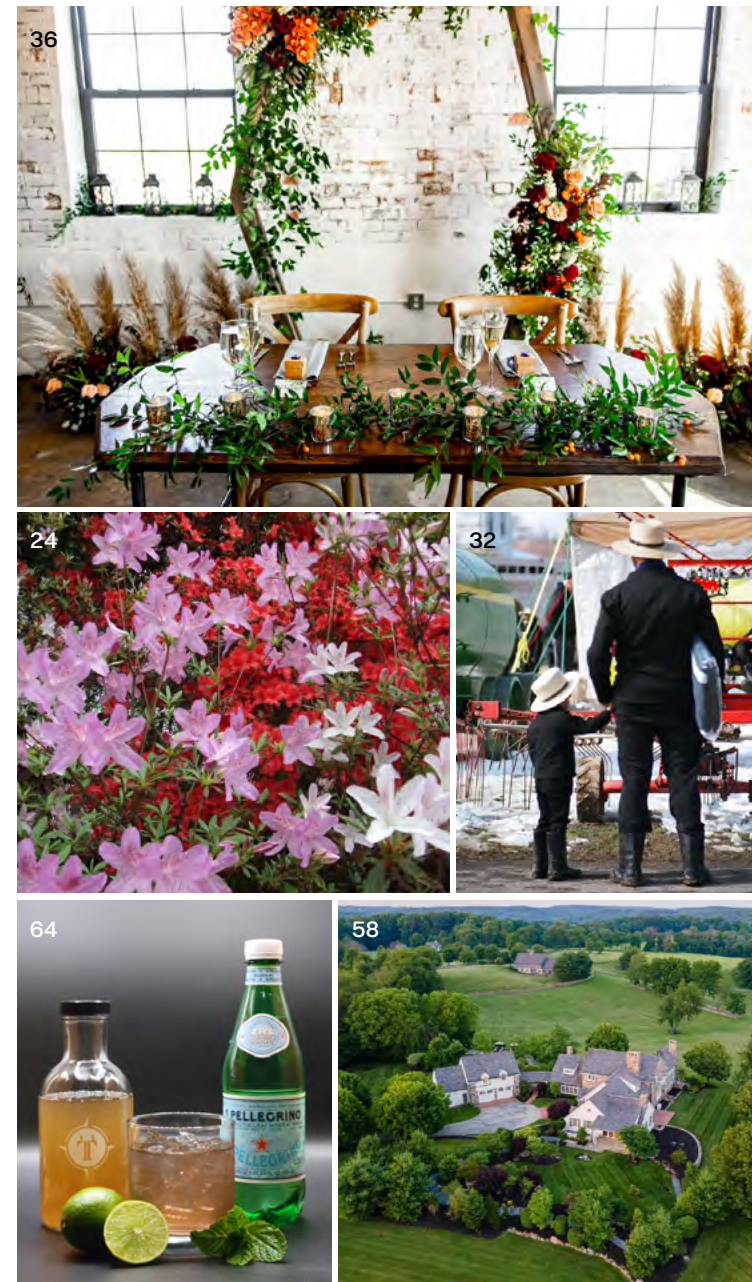
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Cover photo by Campli Photography

Dental Anxiety

IT'S MORE COMMON THAN YOU THINK.

Dr. David J. Montgomery, Chester County Family Dentistry

IT'S A SCENARIO THAT'S SEEMINGLY PLAYED OUT for as long as the profession has been in existence. Fear of going to the dentist affects nearly one in every five Americans, and one-third of these patients could be classified as having an extreme fear or "dental phobia." For this especially fearful group, even the thought of going in for a routine dental exam can lead to increased heart rate, difficulty breathing, sweating and physical illness.

Many patients can't pinpoint the origin of their fear. They know it's irrational, but they're unable to do much about it. They avoid scheduling appointments until their dental issues continue to worsen to the point when they absolutely must see the dentist.

Yet, most of those who are fearful can usually come up with a past experience or belief that led to their negative feelings toward dentistry.

If patients can determine the true cause of their anxiety, the dental team can work more effectively with them to minimize their fear.

Here are several possible causes and potential solutions to consider.

Dental Office Sights and Sounds: Everyone is aware that dental offices have specific sights, sounds and smells that take us back to our first dental visits as kids. For anxious patients, these aren't welcoming to the senses.

If these sounds and smells cause you concern, consider bringing your own music and noise-canceling headphones or earbuds. Most offices will also offer dark sunglasses to help further block the sensory overload.

Fear of Needles: With vaccinations in the spotlight during the past three years, we've all become a little more desensitized to shots. But

to many people, injections in the mouth are much different than getting them in the arm.

In today's dental offices, using small gauge needles and computer-regulated anesthetic flow have made pain-free injections the rule rather than the exception. In addition, some offices offer laser dentistry, where many procedures can be done without using a drill, virtually eliminating the need for local anesthetic!

Lack of Control Over the Situation: We all want to have control over our environment. In a dental office, many patients may feel they've lost this power, which can lead to a feeling of helplessness.

Consider asking the dental team to explain what's happening during each stage of the procedure so you can follow the progress. You should also establish a signal — such as raising your hand — to alert the dentist that you need a break or you're feeling some discomfort. The dental team will appreciate this kind of communication.

Time of Day: Timing can play an important role in dental office anxiety. The bustle of a busy office may be enough to make some uneasy. Discuss your anxiety with the appointment coordinator when booking your visits. Scheduling at a time when the office is less crowded can help tremendously.

Knowing Your Dental Team: Stick with the same providers, if possible. When your dental hygienist, assistant and dentist are all aware of your anxiety, they can work together to avoid putting you in situ-

ations that trigger that emotion. Most offices have several hygienists and more than one dentist on staff. Try out several team members to find the combination that makes you feel the most comfortable.

Nitrous Oxide: This form of analgesia can provide a distraction to take your mind off your dental surroundings and help you relax. The gas takes effect in minutes and wears off quickly. Although not all dental offices offer this service, call or visit the website to see if this treatment option is available.

While not every technique will work for every patient, there are many simple strategies that can help reduce or even eliminate dental anxiety for a majority of patients.

Remember that this condition is very common. Your dental team is ready to give you the best experience possible to help you maintain your smile for a lifetime. ♦

Dr. Montgomery is senior partner at Chester County Family Dentistry in West Chester, where he's practiced for the past 27 years. He's a member of the ADA, the AGD and is the examining dentist for the West Chester Area School District. He donates his services at Community Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) and was named a Top Dentist in Philadelphia Magazine's 2023 issue.



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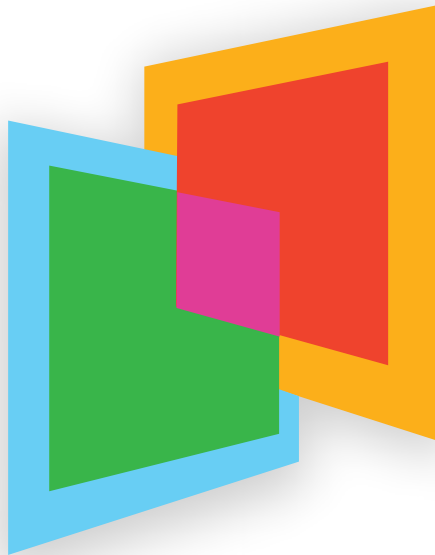
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[Good to Know] *Just a few things we'd thought you'd like to know this month*

For the Birds. Help migrating birds by joining Bird Safe Philly's **Lights Out campaign**. Every year, tens of millions of birds pass through our area during their spring migration. But artificial lights at night can confuse the birds and cause them to crash into buildings. From April 1 to May 31, turn off your lights or cover windows between midnight and 6 a.m. Save the birds while saving money on your electric bill! [BirdSafePhilly.org](#).



New Heights. Notice the major construction along West Chester's Gay Street? The former Thatcher's/Rite Aid building was demolished to make way for **Hotel Indigo**, a six-story boutique hotel with 108 rooms and a 6,000-square-foot seafood restaurant on the ground floor. Look for local photos from the Chester County History Center and more evidence of West Chester's character when construction is completed sometime in 2024. [BizJournals.com/Philadelphia](#).

Fab Photos. Congrats to Mark Lucas and Lilly Zhang, West Chester residents and winners of the **Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation's annual photo contest**. These photos were among just 20 winners from over 600 entries. Mark won the Judge's Choice Award in the Forests category for his



PHOTO BY MARK LUCAS

photo in Gallitzin State Forest, and Lilly earned the People's Choice Young Photographer Award for her shot of Marsh Creek State Park. Enjoy all the winning pics on the Foundation's Facebook page. [PAParksAndForests.org](#).

Booming Businesses. Update your look this season with a visit to new businesses on South High Street in West Chester! **OutLash** offers lash extensions, lifts and tints as well as skincare and other beauty services from a licensed esthetician. And **Jawn Supply** moved from Downingtown Vintage to their own space, offering their extensive collection of vintage clothing with lots of Philly sports gear. [OutLash.org](#). [JawnSupply.com](#).



Giving Life. Did you know April is **National Donate Life Month**? There are over 100,000 people on the national transplant list, and 17 people die every day waiting for a transplant. To learn how to become a donor, visit [OrganDonor.gov](#). Also consider getting involved with the Transplant Alliance Foundation, headquartered in Pottstown, which supports local donors, recipients and families. They host fundraising events throughout the year, including Luxury Designer Bag Bingo on April 16. [TransplantAlliance.org](#).



April is National Donate Life Month



Transplant Alliance Foundation serves transplant patients and their families as well as donor families by providing grants and financial assistance, while also raising awareness about the importance of organ donation.

- **Medical Grants** for organ transplant related expenses.
- **Fundraising Assistance** to help with organ transplant fundraising.
- **Donor Family Assistance** to help with financial needs.

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Organ Donation Awareness Days for 2023

- Donate Life Living Donor Day – April 5
- Blue & Green Spirit Week – starts April 8
- National Donate Life Blue & Green Day – April 14
- National Pediatric Transplant Week – April 2 – 29

Learn more about our organization and fundraising at: TransplantAlliance.org | StateStreetBingo.com

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April 28th to 30th, 2023

See World Class Short Film!

See award-winning short film from around the globe, meet film makers, writers, directors and stars, and help make this year the best ever!

Stay tuned for film schedule and online ticket sales at www.WestChesterFilmFestival.com

[April Picks] Our Picks for top events this month

JUMP! Make a Splash for Willowdale Steeplechase

April 1

Make A Splash as you JUMP! back into the swing of things and help support Willowdale's beneficiaries, Stroud Water Research



Center and Penn Vet's New Bolton Center. Enjoy a DJ and dancing, an open bar, great food, an oyster bar and a silent auction. *Yellow House, 101 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. 8 to 11 p.m. \$99. Willowdale.org.*

Ryerss Run for the Horses

April 22

Everyone is welcome to come visit the horses and take a 10K or 5K run or 1-mile walk on a cross country course at Ryerss Farm. Benefits the farm's retired and rescued horses, providing lifelong care and shelter for these beautiful animals. *1710 Ridge Rd., Pottstown. Noon. Donation options on website, RyerssFarm.org.*



Fortnight of Festivities: Celebrating 400 Years of Shakespeare

April 9-23

West Chester University is celebrating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio. WCU is among a few who own a complete set of the Folio — only 235 are known to exist. Planned events include an edible book contest, "Shakespeare and the Heavens" in the Mather Planetarium and a talk by Pulitzer Prize-winner James Ijames (*Fat Ham*). The finale is an outdoor performance of *Twelfth Night* on the Quad. More at WCUPA.edu/Arts/Shakespeare-Fortnight.



West Chester International Short Film Festival

April 28-30



The festival presents over 60 films at the West Chester Film Festival, the Family Film Festival (presented by the West Chester Friends School) and Young Filmmaker Film Festival. *Apr. 28*, Opening Night Party with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. *Apr. 30*, Closing Night Party where top films in each genre get awards. Pop-Up Films will be shown at locations around the borough — main venue is the *Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St., West Chester. Tickets \$5-\$12. WestChesterFilmFestival.com.*

Kimberton Hunt Club Horse Show

April 30

Watch the youngest competitors on their lead line ponies to the pros jumping the highest fences, and don't miss the junior or adult high jump competitors take turns jumping the fence that's raised every time it's cleared until the last competitor to make it over clear wins the class and the money. Breakfast, lunch and dinner available on site. *Ludwig's Corner Show Grounds, 5 Nantmeal Rd., Glenmoore. Gates open at 8 a.m. Free. KimbertonHunt.org.*



best Local Events

FAMILY FUN

THROUGH AUGUST
Disney 100 — The Exhibition. Created for the 100-year celebration of The Walt Disney Company, the world premiere exhibition features rarely seen original artworks and artifacts, costumes, props and memorabilia. Exclusively for this exhibition, Disney has curated special behind-the-scenes glimpses into the creation of the company's most popular characters, films, shows and attractions. *Franklin Institute, 222 N. 20th St., Philadelphia. Daily 9:30 to 5. \$25. FI.edu.*



APRIL 1
Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Everhart Park. The hunt features two different age groups: one for children 2-5 and another for children 6-9. They'll be searching for more than 5,000 eggs filled with candy and toys as well as raffle tickets for prizes. *100 S. Brandywine St., West Chester. 10 am. West-Chester.com.*

APRIL 2
Family Festival at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The festival highlights new collection areas with art-making around the museum. Meet and make art alongside local artists, watch performances, take tours of the collection designed just for kids and make art as a family. *2600 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy.,*



Phila. 10 to 3. Pay what you wish; kids 18 and under, free. PhilaMuseum.org/Calendar.

APRIL 4-7
Spring Fling for Families at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. Celebrate the things that make spring special. Play games, make crafts, hear stories and see demonstrations that explore the new life emerging this spring on the estate. *5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur. 10 to 2. \$8-\$22. Winterthur.org.*

APRIL 8
Egg Hunt and Pictures with the Easter Bunny. Bring the little ones for the hunt that will be split into 3 groups: 5 years and under; 6-8 years; 9-12 years. *New Garden Park, 8936 Gap Newport Pk., Landenberg. 1 to 3 pm. Free. NewGarden.org.*

APRIL 11
WCU-Live! Presents Tamagawa University Taiko Drumming & Dance. Nearly 30 drummers and dancers from Tamagawa University make a return appearance on campus for an athletic and graceful performance that includes thundering taiko drumming and Japanese folkloric dance. *Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. 7 pm. \$12-\$25. 610-436-2266; WCUPA.edu/Live.*



APRIL 15-MAY 7
Disney's Moana Jr. at Media Theatre. The thrilling and heartwarming coming-of-age story follows the strong-willed Moana as she sets sail across the Pacific to save



her village and discover the truth about her heritage. *104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.*

APRIL 22
The Lights Festival at Plantation Field. Ignite your personalized sky lantern and let it take flight. Enjoy food, live music, dancing and the breathtaking sight of lighting the sky with thousands of lanterns. *1547 W. Doe Run Rd., Kennett Square. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. \$35 includes lantern kit. Ages 4-12 receive a Fun Kit (no lantern). \$10 parking. TheLightsFest.com.*



APRIL 22 & 23
26th Annual Youth Trout Derby. Boys and girls ages 5-13 are invited. Trophies to those catching the 10 largest fish in each session. *Darby Creek at Saw Mill Park, 666 Earles Ln., Newtown Square. Sat, 8 to 11 am and 4 to 7 pm; Sun, 9 am to noon. Free. Pre-register at RadnorRecreation.com.*



ART, CRAFTS & ANTIQUES.....
THROUGH APRIL 8
Berwyn Indoor/Outdoor Vintage Flea Market. Shop antiques, collectibles, vintage fashions, jewelry, textiles, vinyl, art and more. *260 Swedford Rd., Berwyn. Sat-Sun, 9 to 4. 215-625-3532; PhilaFleaMarkets.org.*

APRIL 14 & 16
Brandywine River Museum of Art—Kuerner Farm Spring Plein Air Day. Artists working in all media are invited to explore the property where they can sketch, paint or photograph. Kuerner Farm, 415 Ring Rd., Chadds Ford. 9:30 to 2:30. \$20. Visit website to register. *610-388-2700; Brandywine.org/Events.*

APRIL 27-30
The Philadelphia Show. Celebrating 60 years at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and featuring 40 outstanding exhibitors specializing in fine art, Americana, antiques, folk art, ceramics, textiles and decorative arts. Preview *Apr. 27. 2600 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., Phila. Visit ThePhiladelphiaShow.com.*

APRIL 28-MAY 14
50th Annual Yellow Springs Art Show. Works from 220+ juried artists available for purchase. *Apr. 28, Art Show Party, an evening of art, music, cocktails, dinner and auction. May 14, Art Around the Village, a free community event with demonstrations, music, kids activities. Benefits Historic Yellow Springs. 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. YellowSprings.org.*



MAY 5
West Chester Spring 2023 Gallery Walk. Explore the vibrant art scene in downtown West Chester, celebrating the community of artists and galleries. Many stops will have refreshments. Presented by Sunset Hill Jewelers and Fine Arts Gallery and hosted by the West Chester Business Improvement District. 4 to 8 pm. *Downtown-WestChester.com.*

MAY 6 & 7
Haverford Guild of Craftsmen's Spring Art & Fine Craft Show. Pick up a unique handcrafted gift for Mother's and Father's Day from juried artists whose work includes basketry, ceramics, fiber, glass, jewelry, mixed

Haverford Guild of Craftsmen

2023 Spring Art & Fine Craft Show

Welcome Spring with Us!

10AM to 5PM 🌸 Saturday, May 6 & Sunday, May 7

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media, painting, photography and more. Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center, 9000 Parkview Dr., Haverford. 10 to 5. \$5. HaverfordGuild.org.

BOOKS.....

APRIL 5–20
Wellington Square Bookshop. Classics Book Club: *Apr. 5*, “Doctor Zhivago” by Boris Pasternak, 2 pm. **NonFiction Book Club:** *Apr. 6*, “The Long Walk” by Slavomir Rawicz, 9:45 pm. **Fiction Book Club:** *Apr. 19 & 20*, “The Christie Affair” by Nina de Gramont, Wed, 2 pm; Thurs, 2 & 7 pm. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

APRIL 27
Main Point Book Club. NonFiction Book Group: “We Don’t Know Ourselves” by Fintan O’Toole, 7 pm. Temp. location, 122 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. MainPointBooks.com.

APRIL 27
DelArt Readers Book Club. Held onsite and virtual, this community-led event meets monthly to discuss, debate, celebrate and share works of fiction and nonfiction. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 6 to 8 pm. Free. DelArt.org.

CAR SHOWS.....

APRIL 30
Wheels of Wayne Car Show. The annual car show is in downtown Wayne with antique, classic and custom vehicles, entertainment, food and prizes. Fun for the whole family. N. Wayne and West Aves. 1 to 3:30 pm. Free. Rain date, May 7. Radnor.com/WOW.



DANCE.....

APRIL 22–23
First State Ballet Theatre — Don Quixote. A family-friendly ballet full of adventure, humor and romance. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Fri, Sat, 7 pm; Sun, 2 pm. \$22.99–\$65. TheGrand-Wilmington.org.

EQUESTRIAN.....

APRIL 1
80th Annual Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point. The races signify the beginning of spring and are a family tradition. Enjoy lots of activities

for kids and great raffle prizes. Myrick Conservation Center, Rt. 842 between Unionville and West Chester. Gates open at 10 am, first race at 11. \$20 per carload. BrandywineRedClay.org.

FOOD & BREWS.....

APRIL 1
Rails and Ales at The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. An evening of responsible adult fun as you taste unique craft brews among the historic trains in the Museum’s Rolling Stock Hall. Benefits the Museum. 300 Gap Rd., Strsburg. 5:30 to 9. \$40–\$50. RailsAndAles.org.

APRIL 2
In Person & Online Wine Tasting with Coach Dick Vermeil. Join Hall of Fame football coach Dick Vermeil in person or via Zoom for a wine tasting event to support Camp Geronimo and The Barn at Spring Brook Farm. 360 Locust Grove Rd., West Chester. Times and tickets, SpringBrook-Farm.org/Spring-Fundraiser.

APRIL 24–29
City Restaurant Week in Wilmington. Sample creative cuisine at a selection of the city’s premier local restaurants with prix fixe menus. For details, VisitWilmingtonDE.com/Events.

APRIL 30
Annual Celebrity Chefs’ Brunch. The Celebrity Chefs’ Brunch guests indulge in exquisite tastings prepared by world-renowned chefs as well as brunch cocktails, live entertainment and a silent auction. Benefits Meals on Wheels in Delaware. DuPont Country Club, 1001 Rockland Rd., Wilmington. MealsOnWheelsDE.org.

FUNDRAISERS.....

See also: Food & Brews and Outdoor Activities

APRIL 1–29
Transplant Alliance Fundraisers. *Apr. 1*, Spring Raffle Basket Fundraiser; *Apr. 16*, Luxury Designer Bag Bingo; *Apr. 21*, Friday Night Cash Bingo; *Apr. 22*, Sportsman Bingo; *Apr. 29*, Kid’s Bingo with Magic Show from Ran’D Shine. Events held at 799 State St., Pottstown. Times and tickets, Transplant-Alliance.org.

APRIL 15
19th Annual Coaches vs. Cancer Annual BasketBall. Business, health care and philanthropic leaders come together to make a difference in the fight against cancer. This year’s event honors Jay and Patty Wright. Benefits the American Cancer Society. The Bellevue, 200 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. 6:30 pm. Tickets, PhiladelphiaBasketBallGala.org.



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, 10 to noon. FarmToCityMarkets.com.

Downingtown Farmers Market, Kerr Park, Log House Field, 28 E. Pennsylvania Ave. 2nd, 4th Sat, 10 to noon. GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Eagleview Farmers Market, Eagleview Town Center, 570 Wellington Sq., Exton. 1st, 3rd Thurs, 11 to 1. 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. 1st, 3rd Sat, 10 to noon. GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Phoenixville Farmers Market, 200 Mill St. Sat, 10 to noon. PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

Thornbury Farmers Market, 1256 Thornbury Rd., West Chester. Open by appointment through winter months. ThornburyFarmCSA.com.

West Chester Growers Mkt., Chestnut & Church Sts. 1st, 3rd, 5th Sat, 10 to noon. WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.

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



APRIL 21
Kennett Education Foundation's Annual Spring Soiree. Dust off your dancing shoes and get ready for a fun evening of live music, lawn games, open beer and wine bar and delicious fare. All proceeds provide education grants and student scholarships for the Kennett Education Consolidated School District. Hartefeld National, 1 Hartefeld Dr., Avondale. 7 to 10. Tickets, KennettEducationFoundation.org.

APRIL 21
GWCCC Annual 10 Grand Club Event. The Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce fundraiser is a 1-in-200 chance to win \$10,000 cash and other great prizes. Enjoy dinner and open bar (beer, wine and signature cocktails). Loch Aerie Mansion, 700 Lancaster Pk., Malvern. Tickets, GWCC.org.

APRIL 22
The Art of the Cocktail at Delaware Art Museum. An evening of glitz and glam at this swinging cocktail lounge featuring surprise guest bartenders, delectable bites from local chefs, live music, games, raffles and a silent auction. Benefits the Museum’s children’s programs. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 7 to 10. Tickets, DelArt.org/Event/Cocktail.

APRIL 27
“All That’s Purple Affair” Embracing Hope and Healing! The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County invites you to their annual fundraising gala featuring entertainment and silent auction, hosted by NBC 10’s Tracy Davidson and 4-time TEDx speaker, Jen Croneberger. Mendenhall Inn, 323 Kennett Pk., Mendenhall. 6 pm. Tickets, DVCCCPA.org.



APRIL 30
Unite For HER At Home—Bloom Spring Fashion Show. View the latest spring fashions and celebrate the members of Unite for HER Wellness Program, a celebration of life and community. Proceeds support local breast and ovarian cancer patients. Drexelbrook, 4700 Drexelbrook Dr., Drexel Hill. UniteForHER.org.

APRIL 29
Peter’s Place Annual Benefit & Auction.

“Constellations: A Night of Shining Stars” is the theme for this benefit for Peter’s Place, a family grief support agency. Aronimink Golf Club, 3600 St Davids Rd., Newtown Square Newtown Square. Tickets \$225 and up. Times and tickets, PetersPlaceOnline.org.

APRIL 29
Chester County Hospital Gala—Fly Away to Rio. Friends of Chester County Hospital celebrate their mission and support community outreach programs. Dance the night away while supporting Chester County Hospital. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. ChesterCountyHospital.org/Giving.

MAY 4
22nd Annual Bringing Hope Home Great Guys Dinner. Held for families dealing with the financial hardships a cancer diagnosis. Join the great guys (and gals) for dinner, cocktails, auctions and more. Springfield Country Club, 400 W. Sproul Rd., Springfield. BringingHope-Home.org.

MAY 4
An Evening of Wine and Chocolate. United Way of Southern Chester County invites you to soak in the vistas of southern Chester County while enjoying wine, chocolate and appetizers in support of the southern Chester County community. Held at a new secret local estate each year. Tickets and information, UnitedWaySCC.org.



MAY 6
Humane Pennsylvania's 46th Annual Walk for the Animals. A relaxing, one-mile walk along the river with your pup, family and friends in support of Humane PA’s mission and the animals they serve. Enjoy live music, vendors, food trucks, games and a dog contest. Jim Dietrich Park, 4899 Stoudts Ferry Bridge Rd., Reading. HumanePA.org.

GARDENS.....

APRIL 8, MAY 13
Director’s Garden Walk at Winterthur. Join the director of Winterthur on a special walk highlighting interesting and seldom seen parts of the landscape. *Apr. 8*, Winterhazels and Early Rhododendrons; *May 13*, Azaleas and

Spring Flowers. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur. 1 to 2:30. \$8–\$22. Winterthur.org.

MAY 5 & 6
May Market in Historic New Castle. Flowering and herb plants, indoor yard sale, arts/crafts vendors and Mother’s Day gifts. Benefits Arasapha’s programs. Behind New Castle Town Hall, 201 Delaware St., Historic New Castle, DE. Fri, noon to 5; Sat, 9 to 3. Free. Arasapha.org/May-Market.



MAY 5 & 6
DE Nature Society's Native Plant Sale. The sale promotes backyard habitats and gardening for wildlife and water. Hundreds of native wildflowers, trees, shrubs, ferns, aquatic and drought-tolerant plants suitable for all growing conditions are available. Coverdale Farm Preserve, 543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. Member Day, Fri, 2 to 7; open to public, Sat, 9 to 3. Free. DelNature.org.

MAY 6
Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden—Spring Flowering Tree Tour. Join Stoneleigh staff and explore the fascinating collection of early-blooming trees, from dogwoods and redbuds to silverbells and serviceberries. 1829 E. County Line Rd., Villanova. 10:30 to noon. \$15. StoneleighGarden.org.

MAY 7
Chestnut Hill Home & Garden Festival. Explore plants, crafts and artwork from over 150 vendors as home and garden design and supplies take the spotlight. Vintage goods and collectibles, live music and great food. Germantown Ave., Chestnut Hill. 11 to 5. Rain date May 21. ChestnutHillPA.com.

MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH JULY 1
Chester County History Center. “Seventeen Men” — an exhibit discovering the men of the U.S. Colored Troops and their role in the Union Army during the Civil War. 225 N. High St., West Chester. Tues–Sat, 9:30 to 4:30. \$5–\$8. MyCCHC.org.

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THROUGH JULY 13
Brandywine River Museum of Art. "Home Places: Andrew Wyeth and the Architecture of Chadds Ford." 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Wed-Mon, 10 to 4. \$6-\$18. Brandywine.org.

THROUGH JULY 16
Delaware Art Museum. "Our Red Planet" an exhibition by Anna Bogatin Ott. 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

APRIL 1
Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. Echoes, the American Pink Floyd. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, Uptown-WestChester.org.

APRIL 1-28
Longwood Gardens Indoor Performance Series. *Apr. 1*, Kat Edmonson; *Apr. 13*, Trio Mediaeval; *Apr. 15*, Open Organ Console Day; *Apr. 16*, organist Seung Hee Cho; *Apr. 22*, Lyric Fest presents The Metamorphoses of Plants; *Apr. 28*, organist Raúl Prieto Ramírez. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Times and tickets, LongwoodGardens.org.

APRIL 1-29
The Keswick Theatre Presents. *Apr. 1*, The Mavericks; *Apr. 6*, The Concert: A Tribute to ABBA; *Apr. 8*, Sonja Morgan; *Apr. 14*, Bruce-O-Rama; *Apr. 15*, Floyd Nation; *Apr. 16*, Napoleon Dynamite Live; *Apr. 19*, Judy Collins and Madeleine Peyroux performing with a 35-piece symphony orchestra; *Apr. 21*, Back to the '80s Show With Jessie's Girl; *Apr. 27*, Star Talk Live with Neil deGrasse Tyson; *Apr. 28*, The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass; *Apr. 29*, Heavy Hittas of Comedy. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Times and tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.

APRIL 1-30
American Music Theatre. *Apr. 1*, Herman's Hermits with Peter Noone; *Apr. 2*, The Concert: A Tribute to ABBA; *Apr. 13*, Josh Turner: Long Black Train 20th Anniversary Tour; *Apr. 14*, The Temptations and The Four Tops; *Apr. 19*, One Night of Queen Performed by Gary Mullen and The Works; *Apr. 20*, Clint Black; *Apr. 21*, Our Planet Live In Concert; *Apr. 28*, Scotty McCreery; *Apr. 30*, Rain - A Tribute to The Beatles. 2425 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 888-729-4718; AMTShows.com.

APRIL 1-MAY 6
At The Grand in Wilmington. *Apr. 1*, Leo Kottke; *Apr. 7*, Yamato; *Apr. 13*, Rain: A Tribute to The Beatles at The Playhouse; *Apr. 13*, Raul

Midón at The Baby Grand; *Apr. 14*, Paula Poundstone; *Apr. 16*, Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives; *Apr. 22*, Jim Messina; *May 4*, Graham Parker, *May 5*, Vic DiBitetto; *May 6*, Jay Ungar & Molly Mason. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrand-Wilmington.org.

APRIL 2-15
Point Entertainment Presents at The Colonial Theatre. *Apr. 2*, The Rush Tribute Project; *Apr. 12-13*, Graham Nash: Sixty Years of Songs & Stories; *Apr. 15*, Better Than Bacon Improv. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. Times and tickets, 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.



APRIL 8-28
KennettFlash. *Apr. 8*, Anthony "Turk" Cannon; *Apr. 14*, Solar Federation: A Tribute to Rush; *Apr. 21*, Know Return: A Tribute To Kansas; *Apr. 28*, Arlen Roth. 102 Sycamore Alley, Kennett Square. Times and tickets, 484-732-8295; KennettFlash.org.

APRIL 16
Delaware County Chamber Children's Concert. Neumann University, Meagher Theatre, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$12-\$15. DCSMusic.org.

APRIL 28
Main Line Symphony Orchestra Concert-Spring Bouquet: Spanish Roots. Spanish and Latin American themes: Gershwin's *Cuban Overture*, De Falla's *Three Cornered-Hat* and Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* featuring classical guitar virtuoso John Marcel Williams. Valley Forge Middle School, 105 W. Walker Rd., Wayne. 8 pm. \$15-\$20. MLSO.org.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

APRIL 16
Valley Forge Revolutionary 5-Mile Run. A challenge for runners of all skill levels happening over National Park Week. Benefits VF National Historical Park. To register, ValleyForge.org/Revolutionary-Run.

APRIL 22
Radnor Recreation Orienteering Event. An introductory orienteering course that teaches how to navigate through the woods. The Wil-

lows Park, 490 Darby Paoli Rd., Villanova. Beginner instruction, 11:30. Event, noon to 1 pm. Free. Pre-register at RadnorRecreation.com.

APRIL 23
Delaware Marathon Running Festival. Runners enjoy majestic views along the Riverfront and through downtown. Benefits Delaware College Scholars and the Cardiac Center, Nemours/Alfred I. du Pont Hospital for Children. Tubman Garrett Riverfront Park, 815 Justison St., Wilmington. DelawareMarathon.org.

APRIL 29
American Cancer Society of Lancaster County Presents Bark For Life. Featuring a Strut Your Mutt Parade, games, contests, giveaways, demos. Please bring blankets, treats, toys, food, cleaning supplies for the rescues. New Life Fellowship Church, 420 E. Fulton St., Ephrata. 10 to 2. Free. Facebook.com/ACSBarkForLife.



APRIL 30
Blue Cross Broad St. Run. Line up for a 10-mile, point-to-point course starting at Central High School Athletic Field in Philadelphia and finishing inside the Navy Yard. Benefits the American Cancer Society. BroadStreetRun.com.

MAY 4
Bournelyf Special Camp 2023 Hand to Hand 5K Run & 2K Walk. The race will begin and end at the corners of Church & Gay St., West Chester. After-party hosted by Wrong Crowd Brewing Company. Register or sponsor, BSCWC.org.

MAY 4-7
Ashbridge Tree Planting with Willistown Conservation Trust. Become a steward to the land and water by planting trees along Ridley Creek. Help protect the creek from pollution and transform our natural landscape for generations. Ashbridge Preserve, 1691 E. Strasburg Rd., West Chester. 9 to noon; 1 to 3. Free. WCTrust.org/Calendar.

MAY 6
Kennett Run. Events for everyone with your choice of the 5K, 10K, one mile or PoweRun 5K and 10K races through Kennett Square. Bring kids under 10 for the free pond run. Benefits area nonprofits. 405 N. Walnut Rd., Kennett Square. Registration, 6:30 am, start at 9. \$35-\$60. KennettRun.net.



THEATER.....

THROUGH APRIL 23
I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change at The Candlelight Theatre. Described as "*Seinfeld* set to music," it explores the journey from dating to love to marriage. 2208 Millers Rd., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-475-2313; CandlelightTheatreDelaware.org.

APRIL 1-MAY 20
Footloose at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. Based on the 1984 movie. 510 Centerville Rd., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-898-1900; DutchApple.com.



APRIL 6-OCTOBER 28
Bird-in-Hand Stage. *Apr. 6-July 27*, *Dear Solider Boy*, musical comedy set in the heart of Amish Country. *Apr. 7-Oct. 28*, *Ryan & Friends: Never Speechless*, a multimedia variety show with comedy routine and song parodies. 2760 #A



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Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. Times and tickets, 717-768-1568; Bird-In-Hand.com/Stage.

APRIL 12-30

***Man of La Mancha* at Delaware Theatre Company.** One of the world's most popular musicals and winner of five Tony Awards. 200 Water St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

APRIL 20-MAY 21

***Titanic* at Fulton Theatre.** A musical play that examines the causes, conditions and characters on the Titanic. The Fulton, 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-397-7425; TheFulton.org.

APRIL 26-MAY 21

***Songs for Nobodies* at People's Light.** A one-woman performance with the music of Judy Garland, Patsy Cline, Billie Holiday, Edith Piaf and Maria Callas performed by Bethany Thomas. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets, 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

APRIL 26-JUNE 11

***Million Dollar Quartet* at Media Theatre.** The extraordinary twist of fate that brought Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley together at Sun Records in Memphis for what would be one of the greatest jam sessions ever. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....

APRIL 7, 8, 20

1st Fridays, 2nd Saturdays, 3rd Thursdays. **First Fridays:** *Apr. 7, Lancaster City,* 717-509-ARTS; VisitLancasterCity.com. *Phoenixville,* 610-933-3253; PhoenixvilleFirst.org. *West Chester,* 610-738-3350; DowntownWest-Chester.com. *Wilmington Art Loop,* 302-576-2135; CityFestWilm.com.

Second Saturday Virtual Arts Stroll: *Apr. 8, Media,* MediaArtsCouncil.org.

Third Thursday Malvern Stroll: *Apr. 20,* MalvernBusiness.com. ♦

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Kennett Amateur Theatrical Society Celebrates Its 23rd Season

MAKING THEATER FUN SINCE 2001

Shannon Montgomery



THE ARTS ARE ALIVE AND WELL IN OUR AREA, especially when it comes to theater — from Media Theatre and People's Light in Malvern, to newcomers like West Chester's Uptown. And in Kennett Square, a local organization has brought their unique brand of entertainment to the region for more than 20 years.

The Kennett Amateur Theatrical Society was founded in 2001 by a group of friends with the goal to stage British pantomimes (or pantos) while providing a fun, inclusive environment for amateurs of all ages and abilities — from actors to stage crew to writers and directors.

Today, KATS is 100 members strong, attracting hundreds of fans to their performances each year with fun, interactive theater. "I think what makes them so special is how inclusive they are — welcoming all ages, walks of life and theatrical ability," says Daniel Embree, Executive Director of Kennett Collaborative. "We love supporting organizations that make Kennett a more welcoming — and fun — place to be, and KATS is right there."

WHAT'S A PANTO?

"Imagine a fairy story done in a vaudeville style with songs, music, terrible jokes, cross-dressing and humor that can be appreciated — if not always understood — by the entire family," explains KATS co-founder Gary Smith.

With origins in 17th-century England, the panto is a twist on well-known fairy tales and fables, filled with slapstick comedy, musical numbers and dancing. The audience cheers the heroes, boos the villains and sings along.

Since 2002, KATS has staged pantos every January, performing through snowstorms, fire alarms and even Covid-19 (on Zoom in 2021). All pantos are written and staged by KATS members and filled with local commentary, British humor and outrageous costumes.

AND MORE

Beyond the annual panto, there's more fun to be had from KATS, with one-act plays in Anson B. Nixon Park and at Kennett Flash, plus free murder mysteries on the streets of Kennett Square every summer.

Their popular murder mysteries put costumed suspects in or around participating stores for members of the public, acting as "detective assistants," to stop by each shop and interview the characters to discover who had the means, motive and opportunity to do the dastardly deed.

"It's proved to be a popular event," says Caroline Smith, KATS co-founder and board member. "Retailers say it's been an ice-breaker, encouraging people who hadn't visited their stores before to come back later to look around and make purchases."

Look for details later this spring about the next murder mystery — on Facebook, Instagram or their website, CallKATS.org. ♦





Highlight

of a Mid-Atlantic Spring

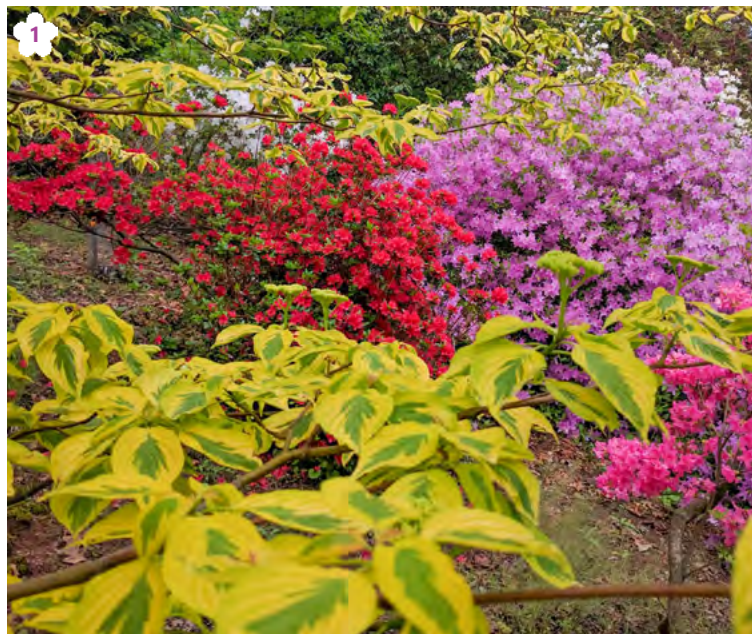
AZALEAS THRIVE IN OUR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GARDENS

Victoria Laubach, Welkinweir

IF YOU'RE A FAN OF AZALEAS, OR SIMPLY ENJOY THE beauty of nature, a visit to Welkinweir during the spring bloom season is an experience not to be missed. An area known as Azalea Lane in Welkinweir's arboretum showcases many of the hybrid azaleas mentioned in this article and even more — ranging from soft pastels to vivid pinks, reds and purples — all in a breathtaking display of color.

This collection represents one of the great booms in American azalea breeding during the 1940s to 1950s, in particular in the mid-Atlantic. The June to August summer color and intoxicating fragrance of the American azalea hybrids can best be found near the estate house on the Welkinweir grounds.

Read on to learn more about azaleas and consider adding them to your home garden.



ABOUT AZALEAS

Azaleas are celebrated for their role in springtime displays, transforming the landscape into a riot of vibrant color. Popular for their striking beauty, azaleas are widely grown in gardens and landscapes around the world. Their abundant, vivid colored flowers are eye-catching, whether a single plant or a grouping of plants. They are simply gloriously gorgeous!

The blooming season of azaleas in the Brandywine Valley typically runs from late April to early May, with peak bloom occurring around Mother's Day. So, plan your visits to azalea destinations and bloom times in your garden accordingly.

While all azaleas are technically "rhododendrons," the opposite is not true. Azaleas differ from rhododendrons, as azaleas have smaller, thinner, fuzzy leaves lacking scales on the leaf bottom. Azaleas can be

evergreen or deciduous, have habits from ground-hugging to spreading, upright, open or bushy, but it's their showy, trumpet-shaped flowers in vibrant hues that find them a prized place in our gardens.

Hybrid azaleas are the most widely available variety, with different flowering times: early, mid-season, late and yes, even repeat bloomers. There are literally thousands of named (and unnamed) hybrid azaleas to choose from and enjoy.

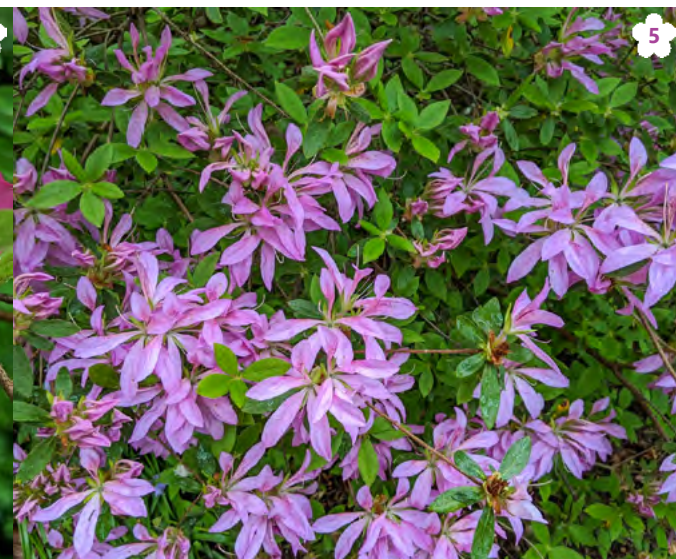
HYBRIDS AND HYBRIDIZERS

With so many hybrids available, selecting azaleas for your garden can be challenging. Azalea hybrids are often grouped by the name of the person who created them. For example, well-known varieties — Aromi, Kehr, Gable — were all developed for specific characteristics such as bloom time, flower size, growth habit or hardiness.

Many of the best-known hybrid groups are well represented at public gardens in the Brandywine Valley.

In the early to mid-season bloom category, one of the best-known groups is the **Glenn Dale** hybrids, developed by Ben Morrison at the U.S. Plant Introduction Station in Glenn Dale, MD in the 1940s. Morrison wanted to create a group of hardy, evergreen azaleas with large flowers. Popular Glenn Dales include the clear pink Day-spring, white Glacier, pink Aphrodite and Martha Hitchcock, sporting frilly white with a magenta-purple edge. The Glenn Dales generally mature into large plants, 6 to 8 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet wide.

Kurume azaleas are one of the oldest groups of hybrid evergreen azaleas, originating in Japan in the mid-1800s and imported to the U.S. in 1918. They bloom from early to mid-season and have good



1. Welkinweir's Azalea Lane
2. Aphrodite
3. Glacier
4. Martha Hitchcock
5. Koromo Shikibu



cold hardiness, with brightly colored, small to medium flowers. Flowering before the new growth, the entire plant appears covered in flowers! Sherwood Orchid, a pinkish-purple with deep color throat, is one of the most popular. And Koromo Shikibu is a unique azalea, known as the purple spider azalea for its strappy purple-pink flowers.

In mid-season, the **Gable** hybrids, developed by Pennsylvania nurseryman Joseph Gable, begin blooming. Gable's azaleas came to public prominence when profiled in a March 1954 *Saturday Evening Post* article that featured his farm. The Big Joe is very hardy with showy trusses of pink flowers, while the intense, bright orange-red flowers of Stewartstonian complement the mahogany-color new growth.

The **Ghent-Knaphill-Exbury** hybrid deciduous azaleas bloom in mid-season and lose their leaves in the fall. Nurserymen in Ghent, Belgium (1825) crossed native American azaleas with the European yellow azalea. Sweet-scented Narcissiflora, a bright, double-flowered yellow, is a Ghent. England's Knaphill Nursery (1880) incorporated the California native western aza-

lea, Japanese and Chinese azaleas into the breeding, while Lionel de Rothschild in Exbury, England worked from the 1920s to 1940s to improve these hybrids, creating the show-stopping Exbury azaleas. Two of the best-known and widely available Exburys are Gibraltor (bright orange) and Klondyke (golden yellow).

Robin Hill azaleas, developed by Robert Gartrell in Wycoff, NJ (1950–70), are relatively small to medium in size, 3 to 4 feet high, hardy with evergreen foliage, and very large flowers (up to 4 inches) blooming later, generally from mid to late May through June. Robin Hill Nancy has beautiful baby pink flowers, while Robin Hill Gillie has salmon pink blooms.

There are also a growing number of American azalea hybrids, hybridizing native deciduous species to create plants with large flowers of heavy substance, bright colors, fragrance and adaptability to specific growing conditions. Weston Nurseries **Summer Series** azaleas bloom from June to September in a wide range of colors, many with strong fragrance. Popsicle (June), Weston's Parade (July) and Pennsylvania

(August) offer color and fragrance beyond the typical azalea season.

BEST GROWING CONDITIONS

To find the best spot in your garden for azaleas, find a spot with high shade (from a canopy of trees) and slightly acidic (pH 5.5–6.0), moist but well-drained soil. Azaleas have shallow root systems that are best protected by complementary perennial groundcovers (plants such as tiarella, gingers, ferns and sweet box). A protective cover of organic mulch (oak leaves, pine straw) is also beneficial. This habitat of layers of growing plants (canopy, understory, shrub and herbaceous) mimics a healthy woodland where azaleas and related plants thrive, also creating shelter for a variety of wildlife.

To see a prime example of a thriving habitat, visit Azalea Lane at Welkinweir, which is also an excellent spot for birding. ♦

Welkinweir is a 224-acre arboretum and nature preserve, where history, horticulture and habitat meet. Located in East Nanmeal Township, 1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown, Welkinweir is free and open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 610-469-7543; Welkinweir.org.

- 6. Gibraltor
- 7. Klondyke
- 8. Weston Nurseries Summer Series
- 9. Sherwood Orchid



PHOTO CREDIT: DISCOVER LANCASTER-GABE MCMULLEN

LANCASTER Unplugged

NO MATTER YOUR FAMILY'S VACATION STYLE, LANCASTER HAS A NO-DEVICE-NECESSARY DAY FOR YOU!

Cara Corridoni

A HORSE-DRAWN BUGGY EDGES DOWN THE ROAD, slowing your car and the traffic behind to a speed not seen for a century. You have entered Lancaster County, home to one of the oldest Amish communities in the country. While Lancaster retains its reputation as a sleepy destination bound to another time, there's a surprising amount of activity going on here.

From back-in-time tours to roller-coaster thrills, miniature horses, ziplines and enough putt-putt golf to support a windmill-filled PGA, Lancaster has something for every family vacation style — from the thrill seekers to the chill seekers. Not only that, it's an easy drive from Chester County.

Sometimes it takes a literal roadblock to get us to take a beat in our hectic lives and slow down.

ONE WITH NATURE

Time spent surrounded by nature's wonders can be an excellent way to recharge those internal batteries. Get your bearings on the



Kayaking on the Susquehanna River



1



3



2

1. Cherry Crest Adventure Farm
2. Zip Line Canopy Tours at Refreshing Mountain
3. Lancaster Science Factory

14-mile [Northwest Lancaster County River Trail](#), which traces the Susquehanna River northwest from Columbia to Falmouth. Then hike up the short (0.5 miles) but rewarding [Chickies Rock Overlook Trail](#) for a spectacular view of the river and the rural landscapes beyond.

After seeing it from above, get up close and personal with Pennsylvania's second-longest river. [Kayak LanCo](#) will help you build a water tour customized to your family's skills and confidence in the water. Their [Conestoga River Tour](#) is a good option for adventurers of all ages.

Have anglers in the family? Then you'll want to carve out some fishing time. For something different, arrange a [wade trip](#) with an expert guide to help navigate your group through famous fishing streams to a truly immersive experience. Guide and gear provided — just remember your fishing license for casters over 16.

If your family is still going strong after a morning of hiking and an afternoon on the water, get out those bikes and tackle the county's popular [29 historic covered bridges bike tour](#). Visit the Discover Lancaster website for details (and you can drive it, too).

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

If your family likes a thrill, you probably already know [Dutch Wonderland](#), Lancaster's award-winning theme park. But have you checked out [Cherry Crest Adventure Farm](#)? Just outside Paradise (got to love those Lancaster town names), Cherry Crest is part amusement park, part farm tour, plus 25 acres of low-tech family fun. Conquer the Amazing Maize, climb the Straw Bale Tower, or visit the chick hatchery. And pull up a feed sack and slide down the Straw Bale racer.

Another must is a stop at [Refreshing Mountain Zipline](#). Take in stunning views while zipping high over Lancaster County farmland. Choose from three different zipline courses and other challenges, like the 22-element elevated obstacle course.

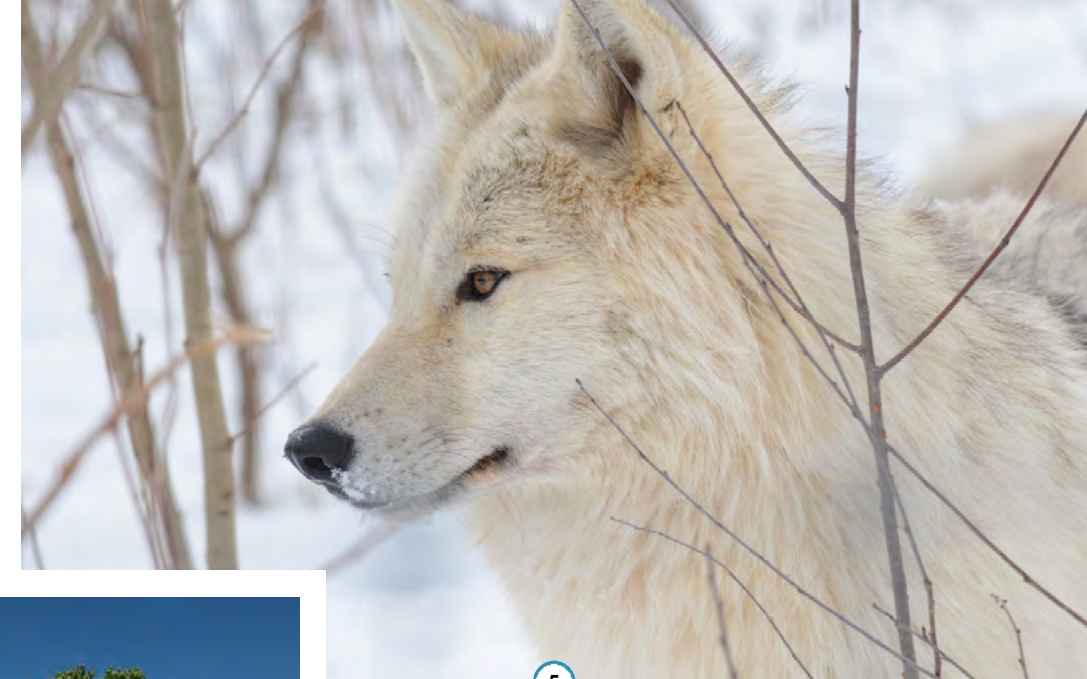


4

4. Amish Village

PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN EVANS

5. The Wolf Sanctuary of PA



5

Aspire to even greater heights? Then [Lancaster Balloon Rides](#) is for you. The hot air balloons rise nearly a mile in the air, delivering a spectacular view of the rolling countryside.

KNOW-IT-ALLS

Does your family live by the motto, "you learn something new every day?" Lancaster can help you meet your daily quota and then some with a variety of hands-on educational experiences.

Start at the [Lancaster Science Factory](#) in downtown Lancaster City. The museum features 75 interactive STEM exhibits for kids in grades K–8. Plan at least two hours here as the kiddos work their way through the exhibits.

Note: The museum is free on the first Friday of each month and is a short walk from the [Lancaster Brewing Company](#), so you can make an evening of it.

Another fun learning experience is the [Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum](#), which provides an authentic look at early Pennsylvania German life. For something unique, plan ahead and reserve space in a one-of-a-kind class — Basic Bake Oven Cooking or Intro to Blacksmithing.

And what would a trip to Lancaster County be without a look at Amish life? As you head west past Soudersburg, take a left onto Route 896 and drive to [Amish Village](#). Settled on 12 acres, the Village ground provides an insider's look at, and appreciation for, a way of life that has changed little over the last 300 years.

ANIMAL LOVERS

Lancaster offers several ways to see nature's creatures, starting with the big, bad wolf. Kidding.

Wolves are majestic creatures with a storied if sometimes misinformed history. [The Wolf Sanctuary of PA](#), the 80-acre home in Lititz to more than 50 gray wolves and wolf dogs, is committed to correcting that story. This nonprofit sanctuary's mission is to ensure this endangered species is around tomorrow. As their website says, "extinct is forever."

Not sure little legs will be up for a wolf adventure? Let [Eastland Alpacas](#) introduce you to the gentle, lovable alpaca. After your tour, stop by the Farm Store Boutique and commemorate your visit with a pair of cozy socks. Fiber from the alpaca, similar to that of a sheep, can be woven into a variety of products.



6

6. Lancaster Miniature Horse Farm



7

7. Turkey Hill Experience

Note: Both the Wolf Sanctuary and Eastland Alpacas require you to book a tour ahead of time.

Another option is the [Lancaster Miniature Horse Farm](#). Admission to the farm and petting zoo is free. Miniature horse rides are \$7 per child.

COMPETITORS

While some families like to stroll, others like to score. If that sounds like your crew, Lancaster County offers plenty of ways to one-up each other, starting on the putting green. Among the many traditional miniature golf courses, [Village Greens](#) is a local favorite. Tucked among 13 acres of countryside gardens, Village Greens weaves two courses — one 18 holes and one a challenging 23 holes — through spring daffodils, natural obstacles and a dramatic waterfall.

To watch some competition, put away your tiny pencil and catch a game at Clipper Magazine Stadium, home to the [Lancaster Barnstormers](#) — or “Stormers” as they’re known to their fans. Did you know Clipper Magazine Stadium has been voted Best MLB Partner League Ballpark for three years in a row? Now that’s something to brag about.

FAMILY FOODIES

Home to the Pennsylvania Dutch and the country’s largest Amish population, Lancaster has more than a few local delicacies to try. Shoo fly pie, anyone? A stop at any farm stand will provide a good selection of local treats, but maybe you want to get the backstory on your favorite goodies.

Pennsylvanians’ obsession with pretzels can be traced back to their German heritage. German immigrants who settled here in the late 18th century would bake the twisted dough treats at home, just like their ancestors.

That was until Julius Sturgis decided the savory treat deserved a larger audience and opened the country’s first commercial pretzel bakery in Lititz. The [Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery](#) is still open for tours and pretzel-twisting lessons. The region is so pretzel obsessed they host an annual [Lititz Pretzel Fest](#) on the first Saturday in May.

Next, wash down that dough with farm-fresh milk. [Kreider Farm Tour](#) has an inside look at modern dairy farming. Kids, and maybe adults too, will be amazed at the journey milk takes before it hits their cereal bowls each morning. It’s worth a visit just for the look on the kiddos’ faces when they taste real farm-fresh milk for the first time.

Continue your dairy journey with a trip to the [Turkey Hill Experience](#). Located 30 minutes west of Lancaster City, near the banks of the Susquehanna River, the Turkey Hill Experience invites you behind the scenes of one of the country’s most popular ice cream brands. While you’re there, design your own virtual ice cream flavor, milk a mechanical cow and star in your own TV commercial. Plus, each tour comes with samples!

While your brain is buzzing with plans and ideas for your next family outing, remember the real joy of Lancaster is in the doing. So, get ready to slow down, unplug and enjoy the wonder.

For more, visit [DiscoverLancaster.com](#). ♦

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Off to the MUD SALES



A RITE OF SPRING IN LANCASTER COUNTY

Edwin Malet

I'M OFF TO A MUD SALE! IT'S A VERY COLD, EARLY-February morning as I set off on my drive just after sunrise. I'm headed to my first mud sale — this one about 40 miles away in Strasburg in Lancaster County — and I want to arrive early to take in the whole show.

WHAT IS A MUD SALE?

The Strasburg Spring Consignment & Mud Sale is one of about 20 such sales — eight in March, three in April, three in May, the remainder scattered through summer and fall — that take place this year in Lancaster County. This mud sale — getting its name from the seasonal thawing ground, churned by thousands of sale-goers' boots and buggies — is the first of the season.

For about 60 years, mud sales have provided much of the funding for the local fire departments' operations. Ivan Fisher, President of the Strasburg Fire Department sales committee, expects about 4–5 thousand people to attend today.

As I drive through Lancaster County, I catch sight of a horse-drawn carriage, clapping along, probably headed for the sale. Then another. Time to slow down and enjoy the journey. There are no road signs for my destination. Strasburg's not large, I figure.

STRASBURG

When I arrive in Strasburg after about an hour, I drive down Main Street and notice a sign for the fire station, where the sale is located. A line of cars, trucks and straw-hatted, plain-clothed pedestrians and yellow-jacketed attendants tell me I'm there. A map tells me there are eight lots scattered around the town, several only for "teams." Of horses, I guess?

Still before eight, when the first of the auctions begins, the grounds of the firehouse are already crowded. Although I'm not shopping for anything in particular, I'm looking forward to getting close to the Amish, their food, their quilts, their crafts. I'm told there will probably be carriages, farm equipment and supplies, sheds and

household items auctioned off as well. Not that I need anything, I remind myself.

Still, I register and get a bidding number, no cash required. You'll need this number to check out and pay for your items when you leave. I will need cash, though, for the whoopie pies, donuts, breakfast roll-ups, strawberry pies, barbecue chicken, sausage and brisket sandwiches, chicken corn soup, whole milk cheeses, hot dog-filled pretzels and coffee.

SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF AN AUCTION

The murmur of the crowds subsides as the auctions begin. I stop first in the "crafts" tent, filled with antiques, dolls, birdhouses, chairs, all apparently used. About 80 people are seated, mostly "English" (not Amish), several chairs are empty, and more bidders are standing around the perimeter, near the space heaters, which are on full blast.

Standing on an elevated podium, the auctioneer calls quickly, rhythmically and continuously into his microphone. I think he's saying "what do you say" before each price increment as he gavel the winning bid, interrupted only for several seconds as he prepares for the next item.

The auctioneer is surrounded by several assistants. One displays the item. Two spot bids — with a yelp to alert the auctioneer. Another records. A youth delivers the item to the winner. Others shuffle the merchan-



dise in preparation for the next bids. The auction proceeds quickly, each item considered for only a minute or two. I try to understand how, at this pace, the auctions will last into the late afternoon. But there is much to move.

It's time to head to the next tent where I spot furniture: tables, beds, chairs, bookcases and the like. The set-up is similar, although the number of participants is fewer, the auction team is smaller, and the bidding on each item longer.

QUILT AUCTION

Next I head into the fire station itself after stopping for a breakfast roll-up. A teenage girl at the food stand, wearing a white bonnet, greets me with a smile, asks me where I'm from, and points me toward the fire house. In the background, about five

women are buttering pretzels, some with cinnamon or garlic.

In the fire station, I discover the quilt auction. When presented, each quilt is hung with clothes pins and raised for viewing by the audience. Several large quilts are on the wall. This merchandise is new, handmade. Some quilts, called wall hangings, are small — about 3' by 3' and selling for about \$30 to \$80 — while large 10'-by-8' quilts sell for \$700 or more. Many are striking, with colorful designs.

About 250 to 300 people attend the quilt auction, which will last all day. Several bidders, checking and noting their itemized lists, are clearly shopping for resale at stores around Lancaster County and elsewhere. When sold, quilts are carefully folded by the auction team, carried to checkout and presented to their new owners.



“ Personally, I’m attracted to the carriages — about 12 to be auctioned off today. A few are new, black, shiny.



OTHER AUCTIONS

Around noon, I tour more sales, after sampling some irresistible strawberry and cream pie and buying donuts and whoopie pies to bring home. Several outside auctions — about twelve held at various times of the day, most conducted simultaneously — feature tools and supplies, sheds, farm machinery, building materials, electrical items, horse tack, hunting and fishing supplies, and shrubs.

In one tent, the auctioneer is hawking ammunition, fishing rods and camouflage wear. The bidders seem serious. At another site, butterfly bushes, roses and other ornamental plants are sold. In the yard, where perhaps a hundred straw hats have gathered, new and used farm equipment — tractor-drawn rakes, cultivators, large sprayers, manure spreaders — is being sold, often for several thousand dollars. Beyond that, truckloads of hay and straw are auctioned.

Personally, I’m attracted to the carriages — about 12 to be auctioned off today. A

few are new, black, shiny. Inside they offer protection from the elements, upholstery, light switches, windshield wiper controls. Not much else. I’m told they’ll sell for a few thousand dollars each. About ten Amish men stand around and wait. The auction is scheduled for 1 p.m. I wait until 2, but no auctioneer shows.

GATHERING THE GOODS

Amish boys, maybe 12 to 14 years old, scoot around the grounds with wagons ... when they’re not playing. They’ll help carry the purchases to your car using carts filled to the brim. Larger purchases must be picked up within a week.

At about 4 p.m., the auctioneers will go silent, ending the mud sale for this year. On Monday, Ivan Fisher will declare the mud sale a success.

If you’re interested in attending a mud sale, you can find a schedule at Discover-Lancaster.com/Amish/Mud-Sales. ♦

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**SOMETIMES IT'S
THE LITTLE THINGS...**

Carol Metzker

WHEN HANNAH AND DAVID MARRIED, EVERY moment and every detail of their wedding weekend told a story of love, family and friends.



PHOTO CREDIT: THIS BIG MOMENT PHOTOGRAPHY

Hannah and David's wedding

They exchanged vows in front of a grand stone fireplace at a park bordered by a farm belonging to generations of Hannah's family and close to David's family's home. Between festivities, guests hiked trails among ferns, evergreens and bubbling brooks to a suspension bridge — the site of the couple's engagement photo.

The couple's scrumptious, sumptuously decorated wedding cake was adorned with chocolate peanut butter cups, a favorite of the groom. As in the Quaker tradition, families and friends had the opportunity to speak during the ceremony — to share special memories, bestow wisdom and welcome them as a married couple.

Whether sparkling fairy tale, simple ceremony or event like no one has seen before, weddings today are personal — reflections of the couples and their lives.

As Time Goes By

Casablanca — one of Chester County's newest micro-wedding venues — gives a nod to the classic romantic drama about love. Its backstory is an inspiring tale that reminds couples and their guests of romance, mystery and intrigue that are part of every couple's journey.

Longtime wedding photographer Matt Rauppius was visiting the sand dunes of Morocco with friends in March 2020 when the pan-

demie became an international crisis. Countries' borders began to close. While European airports shut down, Rauppius searched for any combination of airports that could ferry him to any location in the U.S. He left on one of the last flights from Casablanca to the Middle East and flew from there to Atlanta.

Returning to Pennsylvania, Matt's plans to open a photography studio changed. The new goal was to create a place where people could escape to feel love, family and a new start. Enter the venue, Casablanca.

Once a factory, the boho chic venue's white brick walls and Moroccan touches, including a structure for suspended floral arrangements or glass ornaments, lend themselves to a couple's creative expression. Its affordable packages streamline tasks — booking caterers, finding flowers or wondering which bakery is a trusted source for cake or nontraditional desserts (such as a heart-shaped almond cake or tiers of cannolis from Casablanca's preferred vendor Bakers of Buffington). Services leave couples time and energy to focus on their upcoming marriage, instead of stressing about preparation.

Say Yes ... to the Shoes, the Veil and the Dress

Recently, a bride-to-be waltzed into bridal boutique Ever After with a glamorous gift from her future mother-in-law: wedding



Casablanca wedding venue

PHOTO CREDIT: ES EQUINE PHOTOGRAPHY



Maybe not *those* Manolos, but gorgeous blue shoes

PHOTO CREDIT: CAMPLI PHOTOGRAPHY



Hilltop Flower Design urn at Grace Winery

shoes. Not just any shoes — Manolo Blanik's royal blue stilettos with dazzling jewel buckles, rendered iconic by "Sex and the City" movie character Carrie Bradshaw when marrying Mr. Big. Not unlike Cinderella, first she said yes to the groom, then to the glass slippers, and then to the gown to fit the spectacular shoes.

According to Ever After's owner, Andrea Oligasti, women consider many options for dresses. They ensure comfort for eating and dancing, often ending up with detachable trains, sleeves and overskirts. When caught between two choices, they return to the shop with the eyes of a trusted advisor — often selecting a modern style when helped by friends or a traditional style when supported by a mother or grandmother.

Ever After recently helped two brides looking for dresses to wear with their mothers' veils. An heirloom sheer tulle cathedral-length veil was breathtaking with an elegant dress with button-down back. A late 1980s lace veil paired perfectly with a modern gown with a sheer lacy, beaded overlay.

Memorable Touches

Flowers, too, are meaningful touches. At Hannah and David's December reception, a table with roses and boughs reflecting the park's evergreens held photos of their parents' weddings.

This year, Hilltop Flower Design harvests wedding flowers from two local farms. Blooms travel from field to cooler, to their shop and then wedding venue. Owner-designers Dannie and Amanda work closely with couples and, if a bride feels overwhelmed, use their creativity to generate ideas for color palettes and styles. Wild, whimsical

table designs match hues of linens with complementing blossoms, candles of different heights and room arrangements, including increasingly popular aerial arrangements.

Wearable flowers are trending, including Hilltop's wrist corsages attached to gold bracelet cuffs, flower crowns and a new accessory for tuxedos. Pocket square boutonnieres look like miniature gardens growing out of a breast pocket. These inserts eliminate the need for a pin that will accidentally poke someone sooner or later.

Last year Hilltop's English garden-style urns appeared at an outdoor ceremony — still popular for health and beauty — at the Inn at Grace Winery.

A sprawling estate in Glen Mills, Grace Winery offers space for indoor or outdoor weddings and related festivities. From glorious



Special jewelry detail on bouquet

PHOTO CREDIT: CAMPLI PHOTOGRAPHY

weekend affairs at the historic farmhouse-turned-inn and charming guest cottages to engagement parties with delectable fare or pre-wedding wine tastings, the options are numerous. Every inch of the property is a photo backdrop: pink and purple sunsets over the stone inn and grapevines, a bridal dance under the barn's beams or sublime moments when a horse or alpaca wanders to the fence to find out what the music is all about.

Something Old, Something New

At Kerkula's, a new jewelry shop in West Chester, every piece is custom made. Owner-jeweler Kevin Kerkula says he repurposes grandmothers' or great-grandmothers' jewelry to become sparkling new engagement rings or wedding bands tailored for and by newer generations.

With the aid of three-dimensional software, jeweler and couple create a design with modern flair, more diamonds or different precious metals until a ring is their dream come true.

Just for Fun

Latest festivities also create moments that are fun, fanciful and for smiling. Before the nuptials, brides paint the ring finger with a color



different from the rest of the manicure — “so he can’t put the band on the wrong one?” postulated Hannah.

Family wedding photos, amusing backdrops and customized-corn hole games entertain guests at festivities. Fun fare — Greek sliders or crispy cheesesteak egg rolls at a Grace Winery bridal shower, or donuts and charcuterie boards between vows and receptions — leaves everyone with a great taste in their mouth.

Perfect, personal touches leave a lasting reminder that “I do” is just the beginning. ♦

PHOTO CREDIT: CAMPLI PHOTOGRAPHY



A photo gallery of family weddings



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Brilliant Bachelorette Parties

MAKE IT A DAY, NIGHT OR EVEN WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

Shannon Montgomery



1. Bluebird Distilling
2. Harvest Ridge Winery
3. Sly Fox Brewhouse & Eatery
4. Wandering Picnics

YOUR BEST FRIEND JUST ASKED YOU TO BE HER maid of honor. Congratulations! Now it's time to plan an amazing bachelorette party.

Don't know where to start? Here's what's new in the world of bachelorette parties.

Though destination parties — think Las Vegas, New Orleans, Nashville — are still popular, more brides and bridesmaids are opting for less expensive, more laidback options. A recent survey by OnePoll found 27% of respondents preferred a relaxing bachelorette party to one jam-packed with activities, and 42% preferred the party be local. And like other aspects of the wedding, bachelorette parties are becoming more personalized, tailored to the bride's passions and interests.

With this in mind, we've gathered ideas for brides of every taste, all while staying local and without breaking the bank. Of course, you can mix and match activities to create your perfect bachelorette party experience, so here's a start.

WINE AND DINE

Instead of the traditional bachelorette bar crawl, take your bridal party to a tasting. Our area is a wine lover's dream, with a bounty of vineyards and wineries dotting the Brandywine Valley countryside. Try a stop or two along the [Brandywine Valley Wine Trail](#), like Chaddsford Winery, Paradox Vineyard in Landenberg or Harvest Ridge Winery, with locations in Toughkenamon and Marydel, Delaware.

For those with a taste for something stronger, head for a local distillery. Relax and unwind with a cocktail at [Bluebird Distilling](#), an award-winning grain-to-glass distillery in Phoenixville, or learn

how whiskey is made in their Barrel Room. Another option is Elverson's [Brandywine Branch Distillers](#), makers of Revivalist Gins, Resurgent Whiskeys and ready-to-drink cocktails. Drop by the on-site Brandywine Branch Bistro and pair your drink with a farm-to-table meal. For more distilleries, check out "Raise a Glass to Local Distilleries" in our July 2022 issue on our website.

Prefer beer to the hard stuff? Then take your party to Phoenixville and see how many breweries you can visit before you call it a night. From mainstay [Sly Fox Brewhouse & Eatery](#) to the newer [Rec Room by Conshohocken Brewing Company](#), plus local favorites like [Root Down Brewing Company](#) and [Iron Hill Brewery](#), this town has enough craft brews to satisfy even diehard hopheads.

For the foodie bride, why not book a private dining experience? Be sure to make a reservation well in advance for renowned [Talula's Table](#) in Kennett Square. Your party will be treated to an exquisite eight-course chef's tasting menu that changes seasonally, at the Farm Table (for eight to 12) or the smaller Nook Table (for four to eight). Another option is [Peter Clark Kitchen](#) in West Chester, which offers a private five- to seven-course dinner on the weekends for between eight and 22 guests. Got a favorite local restaurant? They may have a private room to book for your party.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Get in tune with nature before the big day at one of Chester County's many state and local parks or a local nature preserve. Plan seasonal outdoor activities, like hiking and biking, or get on the water with a kayak or canoe trip. Companies like [Brandywine Outfitters](#)



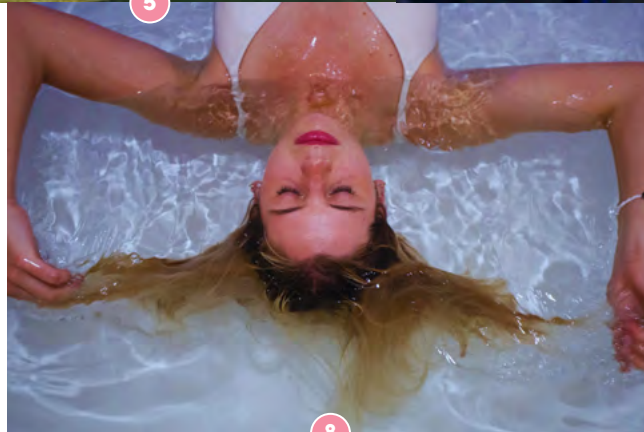
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5. Air Ventures Hot Air Balloon Flights
6. iFLY Indoor Skydiving
7. Pamper Perfect Mobile Spa
8. East Coast Float Spa

tunnels and experience freefall — or at least as close as you can get without actually jumping out of a plane!

You can take your bachelorette party to new heights with a hot air balloon ride. Enjoy the scenic Chester County countryside from above with [Air Ventures](#) in Paoli. Their balloons can carry up to seven people (plus pilot), and they offer Champagne Dinner and Sunday Brunch flight packages to let you follow up your ride with a delicious meal.

in Coatesville or West Chester's [Northbrook Canoe Co.](#) have everything you need for a fun-filled day of pre-wedding bonding on the Brandywine River.

Make your outing extra special with an upscale picnic. West Chester-based [Wandering Picnics](#) will provide everything you need — drinks, decorations, flowers, dinnerware and even a record player or Bluetooth speaker. Personalize your picnic with tons of add-ons or a custom theme.

Or extend your bachelorette party with a glamping trip. You can go DIY or get help from [Make Memories Glamping & Picnic](#). Their all-inclusive package features a decorated weatherproof tent that fits four to six, memory foam bed with linens and pillows, and, of course, setup and breakdown. Sleeping outdoors not your style? Book an Airbnb for the weekend. Keep it local, try a Lancaster County farm stay or get away to a mountain cabin in the Poconos.

FEELING ADVENTUROUS

Looking for something unique? Bring your bridal party to an escape room and test your friendship. Your group will have 60 minutes to find clues, solve puzzles and make your escape. Try the *Stranger Things*-inspired room at [Escape West Chester](#), or see if you can "Escape from Oz" at [Elite Escape Room](#) in Exton.

For the thrill-seeking bride, take your party indoor skydiving at [iFLY](#) in King of Prussia. Step into their state-of-the-art vertical wind

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Want a bachelorette party that will have you feeling good the day *after*? Round up your bridal party and schedule a group session at a local yoga studio, like [Be and Breathe Yoga Studio](#) in West Chester or [Zia Yoga & Wellness](#) in Exton. Or, if you're looking to get in better shape before the wedding, book a private session with a local gym or fitness instructor, or schedule a private spin class at [SoulCycle](#) in Ardmore. Who says bridal boot camp has to be just for the bride?

Afterwards, relax and unwind with a group trip to a spa. For a different kind of spa experience, head to [East Coast Float Spa](#) in West Chester. Their custom-built float rooms are large enough to walk in and stand inside, with no lid that closes in on you. The water is filled with over a thousand pounds of medical-grade Epsom salt to ease muscle pressure and relax and rejuvenate your mind. Or opt for an infrared sauna, zero-gravity massage chairs and an oxygen bar.

For the ultimate luxury, bring the spa day to you with [Pamper Perfect Mobile Spa](#). They provide all the classic spa treatments — facials, massages, manicures and pedicures — wherever you like.

This is just the beginning when it comes to the perfect bachelorette party. The possibilities are endless, and the only limitation is your imagination — and budget!

Have fun, and happy planning! ♦

5117 LINCOLN HIGHWAY, GAP | 717.442.1037 | [weddings@whitechimneys.com](#) | [WHITECHIMNEYSESTATE.COM](#)

[info@roaminglibations.com](#) | 717.725.0110 | [ROAMINGLIBATIONS.COM](#)

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[elizabethfurnace.com](#)

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Event Planning
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Guide to

Wedding Venues & Services

From B&Bs to Museums and Historic Sites, we've got you covered with ideas for any size wedding you're planning. Here are some of our favorites, plus additional services.

Caterers, B&Bs, Hotels, Inns and Resorts

The Yearsley Barn by the Reservoir



Let us create your dream wedding. Start your ceremony in rustic elegance or pristine surroundings. Your wedding service can take place in our restored, historic Yearsley Barn or outdoors with classic Chester County rural views. Our picturesque grounds provide beautiful photo opportunities. Our ballroom can be configured for intimate and large-scale events. Your guests will be treated to top shelf beverages and fine dining prepared to your exact requests by our Executive Chef. Our experienced wedding planners will assist you to ensure your special day is filled with unforgettable memories.

Call 610.384.3200 or email Events@CoatesvilleCountryClub.com

Coatesville Country Club d/b/a The Yearsley Barn by the Reservoir

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Spirits Premium Collection
store or shop online at
FineWineAndGoodSpirits.com.

**FINE WINE &
GOOD SPIRITS**

Alexander Catering Company

326 W. Cedar St., Kennett Square
610-291-2850; Alexandercateringco.com

Alexander Catering Company is family owned and operated, providing boutique culinary services for bridal parties, weddings, showers and more. Based in Kennett Square, their full-service catering is provided at homes and venues throughout Chester County, Delaware County and Lancaster County. As a boutique caterer, they pride themselves on the small details that make your event a memorable one.



Faunbrook Bed & Breakfast

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

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

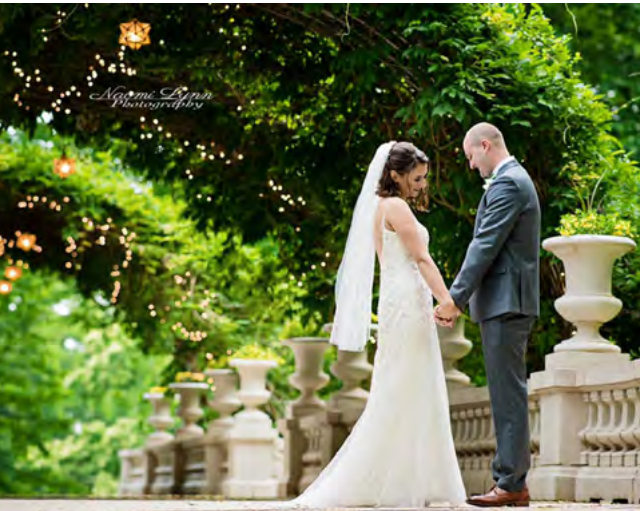


MOON LOOP PHOTOGRAPHY

Harford County, MD – Liriodendron Mansion

502 W. Gordon St., Bel Air, MD
410-879-4424; Liriodendron.com

Harford County, Maryland is home to some of the most beautiful wedding venues in the region. From historic mansions to rustic barns and waterfronts, there's a venue for every taste and style. The county's picturesque landscapes provide the perfect backdrop for your special day. With top-notch amenities, accommodations, and catering services, make Harford County your ideal destination for tying the knot.



Kaleidoscope Weddings

48 W. 7th Ave., Conshohocken
610-964-8400; KScopeWeddings.com

Award-winning wedding planners in PA, NJ, NY, DE and destination areas. Kaleidoscope specializes in the planning, logistics and overall design of your wedding day to make the process fun and enjoyable and to bring your vision to life. Services include premier wedding planning for the lavish bride, full wedding planning for the sophisticated bride and day-of-coordination for the DIY bride, which begins two months out from your wedding date.



The Lebanon Valley

115 Springwood Dr., Suite 500, Lebanon
717-277-0100; VisitLenanonValley.com

Nestled in the hills between Hershey and Lancaster, you'll discover the Lebanon Valley. From rustic character to modern elegance, lakeside meadows to exquisite mansions, the Lebanon Valley can accommodate your large soirees or intimate celebrations. When you are ready to start planning, take time to discover the unexpected in the Lebanon Valley.



Worcester County, Maryland

107 W. Green St., Snow Hill, MD
410-632-3110; VisitMarylandsCoast.org

Why wouldn't you want to get married in "America's Coolest Small Town" or on a pristine Ocean City beach? In Worcester County, you can have a small ceremony in a historic turn-of-the-century bed and breakfast inn or go barefoot in your wedding dress at Assateague Island. From the preparations, ceremony, reception and accommodations, VisitMarylandsCoast.org for your one stop wedding planner.



Country Clubs

John Serock Catering

Loch Aerie Mansion, 700 Lancaster Pk., Malvern
610-640-2836; SerockCatering.com

Host your wedding celebration in Chester County's historic yet timeless setting. Loch Aerie Mansion, built circa 1865, includes two ready suites for the couple and attendants to prepare for the big day. You can exchange your vows at the wedding wall in the Grand Ballroom, or outside in the beautiful gardens. Enjoy the exquisite cuisine with excellent dining services provided exclusively by Serock Catering. Celebrate in the Grand Ballroom with over 250+ of your friends, family and guests.



Lakefield Weddings

429 Hossler Rd., Manheim
717-664-7000; LakefieldWeddings.com

Lakefield is a family-owned and operated farm nestled in the rolling hills of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The restored barn boasts a rustic, open-air space for receptions. The ponds provide a spacious and serene backdrop. Customize your day with the open vendor policy, or a coordinator and local vendors can be recommended. 2023 dates still available. Schedule a tour today.



The Oaks Waterfront

25876 Royal Oak Rd., Royal Oak, MD
410-745-5053; The-Oaks.com

Located on Oak Creek, less than 3 miles from St. Michaels, MD, The Oaks offers a mini-destination wedding experience on the Eastern Shore for an outdoor ceremony with a covered dock for cocktail hour and a temperature-controlled waterfront ballroom for your reception. Spectacular food, drinks and hospitality. The Oaks can accommodate up to 250 guests.



Coatesville Country Club – Yearsley Barn

143 Reservoir Rd., Coatesville
610-384-3200; CoatesvilleCountryClub.com

Wedding services take place in the restored, historic Davis M. Yearsley Barn (circa 1790) or outdoors with classic Chester County rural views, both overlooking the beautiful Coatesville Reservoir. The ballroom can be configured for intimate and large-scale celebrations, and guests will be treated to top shelf beverages and fine dining prepared to your exact requests by their executive chef. Experienced wedding planners are available to assist you.



Historic Buildings

Phoenixville Country Club

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

Located in Chester County, near Valley Forge National Historic Park, historic churches and multiple hotels, beautiful Phoenixville Country Club, with its century-old farmhouse and panoramic course views, is an ideal venue for your memorable day. They tailor your special day to make your dreams a reality, down to the last detail, including the wedding cake. Personalized service, culinary delights and warm ambience, with an all-inclusive price, combine to make your day perfect. All are welcome!



Elizabeth Furnace

2121 Furnace Hills Pk., Lititz
717-723-9480; ElizabethFurnace.com

A National Historic Landmark, Elizabeth Furnace recently completed an award-winning renovation preserving the charm and romance of its 18th-century origins, while adding modern amenities expected of a premier venue. The 33-acre estate features tiered English perennial gardens, expansive lawns, mature wooded glens and 11 colonial-era stone buildings. All play a part in creating the Elizabeth Furnace Experience.



Oakbourne Mansion

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

Whether you're looking for the formality of a Victorian mansion or a more casual setting, Oakbourne Mansion and Park offers both. Use the accredited arboretum and distinctive castle-like water tower as your backdrop for outdoor ceremonies. A quaint indoor chapel can be used for small ceremonies. Indoor seating for up to 128 guests or tent outdoors for more. Preferred caterers. The Mansion is yours for ten hours!



The Washington at Historic Yellow Springs

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

The Washington offers historic charm with modern amenities. Get ready for your big day on location in one of their two suites. Say "I do" in one of three picturesque outdoor ceremony sites, then dine and dance the night away in the heart of the beautiful 1700s building with room for up to 150 guests. Choose from one of the preferred caterers. BYOB. Yellow Springs' history with your history makes an everlasting love story.



Other Venues & Rehearsal Dinners

Pietro's Prime

125 West Market St., West Chester
484-760-6100; PietrosPrime.com

Pietro's Prime, an upscale yet casual Steakhouse and Martini Bar located in the heart of downtown West Chester, is perfect for your rehearsal dinner, shower or small wedding. Their quality cuisine and remarkable service will be just what you're looking for to create your special memories. The private dining room or outside patio offer a perfect atmosphere for your special occasion for up to 55 guests seated or 75 in a cocktail-style setting.



Gallery & Museum Spaces

Delaware Museum of Nature and Science

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

The Delaware Museum of Nature and Science is a unique and social location with a variety of indoor and outdoor options for your ceremony and reception including formal seated dinners, casual cocktail receptions or anything in between. Spaces include the Global Journey Gallery's African Savanna, Arctic Tundra, Tropical Rainforest and Deep Sea, among the dinosaurs in the PaleoZone, or surrounded by trees in the Regional Journey Gallery, where you can dance across a map of Delaware.



Graystone Mansion

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

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



White Chimneys Estate

5117 Lincoln Hwy., Gap
717-442-1037; WhiteChimneysEstate.com

White Chimneys Estate in eastern Lancaster County boasts over 300 years of American history. The historic grounds and buildings host weddings and events of all sizes. They offer a 2,000-square-foot Bridal Suite, a climate-controlled tobacco barn with tables, chairs and on-site decor rentals. Formal gardens grow herbs for Roaming Libations Mobile Bar, a bartending service which provides unique infusions and beverages and offers custom services including the champagne garden greeting and a visit from horses, donkeys or ponies carrying unique cocktails!



Photo: Moon Loop Photography

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

1014 South Concord Road, West Chester, PA
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Ageless grandeur blended with modern convenience makes Graystone Mansion a unique venue for weddings.

From its circular drive, to its gorgeous grounds, to its hardwood moldings, Graystone Mansion is the perfect host for catered events of distinction.

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Graystone Mansion
In The Lukens Historic District
53 South First Avenue
Coatesville, PA 19320
610-384-9282
admin@steelmuseum.org



Wedding Services Design, Flowers, Food & Gifts & Libations

Christopher Chocolates / Fine Foods

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

Kati Mac Floral Designs

36 S. High St., West Chester
610-431-9414; KatiMacFloralDesigns.com

Matlack Florist

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

Roaming Libations

717-725-0110
RoamingLibations.com

S.A.C. Design

1050 Colwell Ln., Bldg. 4, Conshohocken
484-243-6143; SACDesignCo.com

Jewelers

Walter J. Cook Jeweler

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

Photography

David Campli Photography

338 E. King St., Malvern
610-889-0189; CampliPhoto.com

More Venues Barns

The Barn at Stonybrooke

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

The Barn on Bridge

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

Barn at Bournelyf

1066 S. New St., West Chester
610-692-8280; Brinehart4.wixsite.com/mysite

Barn at Silverstone

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

Brandywine Manor House

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

The Country Barn

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

Farm at Eagles Ridge

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

The Gables at Chadds Ford

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

Harvest View Barn at Hershey Farms

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

The High Point at St. Peter's

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

Inn at Grace Winery (Sweetwater Farm)

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

Life's Patina at Willowbrook Farm

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

Meredith Manor

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

Normandy Farm

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

Terrain

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

Bed & Breakfast / Hotels, Inns and Resorts

The Desmond Hotel

1 Liberty Blvd., Malvern
610-296-9800; DesmondGV.com

The Inn at Swarthmore

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

The Inn at Osprey Point

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

Wild Wisteria Bed & Breakfast (formerly: Pennsbury Inn)

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

Gallery & Museum Spaces

The Carriage House at Rockwood Park

610 Shipley Rd., Wilmington
302-761-4340; Rockwood.org

Community Arts Ctr., Wallingford

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

Chester County History Center

225 N. High St., West Chester
610-692-4800; MyCCHC.org

Delaware Art Museum

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

The Delaware Contemporary

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

Franklin Institute

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

Hagley Museum & Library

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

James A. Michener Art Museum

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

PA Academy of the Fine Arts

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

Wayne Art Center

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

Winterthur Museum & Gardens

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

Gardens & Arboretums (With Manor House or Mansion)

Bolingbroke

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

Morris Arboretum of the Univ. of Pennsylvania

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

Parque Ridley Creek

351 Gradyville Rd., Newtown Square
484-580-8260; ParqueRidleyCreek.com

Tyler Arboretum

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

Welkinweir Estate

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

Historic Buildings

Anthony Wayne House at Historic Waynesborough

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

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www.VisitMarylandsCoast.org

- Appleford

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

297 Adams Dr., Chesterbrook, Wayne
610-644-4840; DuportailHouse.com
- Fern & Fable at People's Light

39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern
610-647-1900; FarmhousePeoplesLight.com
- Franklin Hall, Franklin Commons

400 Franklin Ave., Phoenixville
610-983-4640; FranklinCommonsEvents.com
- Historic Rock Ford Plantation

881 Rockford Rd., Lancaster
717-799-8751; RockFordPlantation.org
- John James Audubon Center

1201 Pawlings Rd., Audubon
610-990-3411; JohnJamesAudubon.org
- Manor House at Springton Manor

860 Springton Rd., Glenmoore
610-733-2516; SpringtonManorFarm.com
- Merion Tribute House

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

2 N. Main St., Phoenixville.
610-917-8400; PhoenixvilleFoundry.com
- Radnor Hunt

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

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

117 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne
610-688-9746; SaturdayClub.org
- University & Whist Club

805 N. Broom St., Wilmington
302-658-5125; UniversityAndWhistClub.com
- Washington Memorial Chapel

Rt. 23, Valley Forge National Park
Valley Forge
610-783-0120; WMChapel.org
- Wheatland

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

490 Darby Paoli Rd., Villanova
484-580-8260; WillowsVillanova.com

- Other Venues & Rehearsal Dinners

Cairnwood Estate

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

Chase Center on the Riverfront

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

General Warren

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

Radley Run Country Club

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

Schools & Universities

Ballroom at the Baldwin School

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

Great Hall at Immaculata University

1145 King Rd., Immaculata
610-647-4400; Immaculata.edu
- Perelman Quadrangle at the University of Pennsylvania

Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce St., Rm. 307, Philadelphia
215-898-5552
VPUL.UPenn.edu/PerelmanQuad
- Valley Forge Military Academy

1001 Eagle Rd., Wayne
610-989-1509; VFMAC.edu
- Villanova University Conference Ctr.

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

American Helicopter Museum

1220 American Blvd., West Chester
610-436-9600
AmericanHelicopter.Museum

New Hope Railroad

32 W. Bridge St., New Hope
215-862-2332; NewHopeRailroad.com

Spirit of Philadelphia

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SpiritCruises.com/Philadelphia/Wedding/Venue
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CHESTER SPRINGS, PA
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Wedding Style

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Walter J. Cook Jeweler

See ad on page 8

For over 75 years, Walter J. Cook Jeweler has worked with couples creating wedding jewelry for their special day and life thereafter. Schedule your in-person appointment with Michael Cook to complete the search for that perfect ring!



PHOTO CREDIT: ALISON CONKLIN

S.A.C. Design

See ad on page 46

S.A.C. Design is a full-service floral and design event production company that loves creating new and unique designs for their clients. Whatever you envision for your wedding or special event can come to fruition because of the expertise and artistic expression of their talented designers.



Christopher Chocolates

See ad on page 68

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



PHOTO CREDIT: REBEKAH MORGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Kati Mac Floral Designs

See ad on page 55

Kati Mac Floral Designs is a full-service wedding and retail florist with the goal of making your vision a reality. Call or email to order an arrangement fit for any occasion, or to schedule a personal one-on-one consultation with their wedding design team.



Matlack Florist

See ad on page 56

Their team of talented floral design experts specializes in bringing your wedding dreams to life. Let them help you set the scene for an unforgettable event with exceptional design and first-class service.



El Brio

A 180-ACRE OASIS ON THE FORMER KING RANCH

Laurel Anderson

WITH STUNNING PROTECTED VIEWSHEADS in every direction — including out to The Laurels Preserve — El Brio is a unique family compound in a tranquil corner of East Fallowfield Township. This collection of main house with pool and attached carriage house, guest house, two barns and caretaker's cottage (on a separate and included 70-acre parcel) affords its next owners a very special country or equestrian lifestyle.

NEW OLD HOUSE DESIGN

A dream home designed to represent the best of a “new old house” — new construction incorporating modern methods and amenities but with the charm and tradition of old homes — the main house appears to be a classic 18th-century Pennsylvania farmhouse that grew over generations. The story of the home's design, and a fictional history of how the home could have evolved over time, is told in the 2007 book, *Creating a New Old House, Yesterday's Character for Today's Home*.

Arriving at the home through the main gate and up the meandering driveway, you spot the oldest log section, which appears to have been added on to by fieldstone wings and then a more

modern clapboard section, each displaying a distinct building style. A curved breezeway connecting the home to the three-bay garage, with apartment above, folds around the welcoming entrance and parking circle.

Noted local architect Peter Zimmerman captured the look of the traditional farmhouses that dot the Brandywine Valley landscape when he designed this multi-year project, completed in 2002. From the 1998 two-bedroom guest house farther down the slope, the owners could oversee construction of the main home, along with the stone walls, walking paths, gardens, barns and outbuildings.

The “new” aspects of the home include such elements as vaulted ceilings, large rooms, modern windows, open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, wine storage and a newer great room addition designed by Archer & Buchanan Architecture.

As for the “old home” aspects that add a sense of history, the main residence incorporates old oak random-width floors, reclaimed wood, period hardware, a walk-in fireplace and salvaged antique timbers for the log cabin family entryway as well as colonial cabinets in the butler's pantry. Even the Chesterfield blend stone used on the exterior was aged to simulate classic Pennsylvania fieldstone.



THE MAIN HOUSE

The spacious three-story main residence is comprised of three bedrooms and three-and-a-half baths over 7.4 thousand square feet. The formal entrance foyer in the fieldstone section creates a period feel and leads to the billiards room, powder room, stairs to the bedrooms and hallway to the main living area. A separate family entrance, from the breezeway and through the log cabin section, leads to the mudroom, full bath, laundry room, butler's pantry and back stairs to the home office. The level below is currently used as a home gym and game room.

Skylights, a cathedral ceiling and wall of French doors create a light and airy main gathering space, where the newer great room blends seamlessly into the more formal living room and gourmet

kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances. A live-edge breakfast bar that seats ten bridges the spaces, and large stone fireplaces anchor the rooms. The main living space capitalizes on the south-facing views of the property.

Views of the grounds fill every window — past the patios, plunge pool with infinity edge, man-made pond and out to the rolling hills and open space. Hardscaped paths lead to the grill area and pool with waterfall, stone features and spa — also with grand views over the ha-ha wall.

Accessed by stairs in the foyer, the large primary suite with fireplace and vaulted, beamed ceiling shares more stunning views of the property through a wall of folding windows that blur any division of indoors and out. Beyond are a private patio, gardens and



more walking paths. The suite includes a walk-in closet and well-appointed bath with stall shower. Up a few steps is an oversized dressing room with a wall of built-in cherry cabinetry and large sitting area.

Also on this level are two additional bedrooms — with walk-in closets, one with a balcony and a shared Jack-and-Jill bath. Under the dormers is a private office with reclaimed box-winder staircase, completing the upper level.

OTHER BUILDINGS

The large two-bedroom guest house, where the owners first lived, is a walkable distance from the main house and visible down the gently sloping hill. Farther away and out of sight is a recently renovated four-bedroom caretaker's cottage on an abutting 70-acre parcel.

This 180-acre property is a horse-lover's dream with its fenced pastures, waterers, run-in sheds and rolling grasslands. The striking eight-stall horse barn, built by King Construction, includes a large utility section, three large tractor bays and an apartment. An additional four-stall barn is also on the property.

This new old house, an oasis of tranquility in a spectacular setting, awaits its next owners. ♦

For more information about this 180+-acre property — partially protected by conservation easement and comprised of a main house with 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, pool, 3-bay garage with apartment; guest house with 2 bedrooms and 2-car garage; 8-stall and 4-stall barns, plus run-in sheds; and caretaker's cottage with 4 bedrooms on an included 70-acre parcel — offered by Berkshire Hathaway, Fox & Roach, contact Price upon request. Rob Van Alen, 610-347-2065 or 610-212-5470. TheCountryProperties.com.

Food News

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

New Cookie in Town.

Viral sensation **Crumbl Cookies** recently opened two locations in Chester County — at Main Street at Exton and on Wilmington Pike in Glen Mills. The bakery is known for its weekly rotating menu of giant cookies, made from more than 200 unique flavors like Muddy Buddy, Funfetti, Rocky Road and Hazelnut Sea Salt. Order in store or online for pickup or delivery. CrumblCookies.com.



Through the Grapevine.

Ever wanted to own a winery? Now's your chance! Award-winning **Galer Estate Vineyard and Winery** in Kennett Square is up for sale. Owners Lele and Brad Galer are moving on after 15 years and intend to sell to someone who shares their vision of producing high-quality grapes and wine. The 7.5-acre vineyard, winery, house, bed-and-breakfast and dream can be yours for about \$3.4 million. 700 Folly Hill Rd., Kennett Square. GalerEstate.com.



Surf and Turf. Good news for local foodies: the historic National Bank of Coatesville building will become an upscale steak and seafood restaurant. **30 Prime Seafood & Chophouse** is the latest project from Chef Phil Ferro, owner of Coatesville's Kings Tavern and Chadds Ford Tavern. Ferro also plans to convert the building's basement into a banquet hall offering a lunch buffet. Both are slated to open in 2024, once renovations are finished. 112 E. Lincoln Hwy., Coatesville.

Feel-Good Food. Keep an eye out for a second **Rosalie** location coming to Glen Mills. Located in the former Ruby's Diner at the Shoppes at Brinton Lake, across from White Dog Café (also owned by Fearless Restaurants), it will feature the same Italian soul food from executive chef Merick Devine loved by fans of the Wayne Hotel location. The new Rosalie is expected to open before the end of the year. 919 Baltimore Pk., Glen Mills. RosalieWayne.com.



Boba Bliss. April 30 marks **National Bubble Tea Day**, honoring the trendy drink from Taiwan known for its chewy tapioca "bubbles," also known as boba. Celebrate by ordering from a local tea shop, like Cup of Dreams in Paoli, Cocobear in Pottstown or Kung Fu Tea, with locations in West Chester, Ardmore, Media and more. Customize your drink with different flavors, milk varieties and toppings. And post online, of course. CupOfDreamsCoffeeAndTea.com. CocobearPPO.com. KungFuTea.com.



Chester County FOODIES Photo Contest

We know people love taking photos of their food, so we asked our readers to send us their favorite pics from local restaurants. During April, we'll showcase each finalist's photo on Facebook. To vote, just follow and like our page, then like your favorite photo. The entrant with the most *likes** will win a \$250 gift certificate to Fearless Restaurants (owners of White Dog Cafes, Autograph Brasserie, Rosalie and more).

**Check the rules on our website.*



Laura French
Taco Mar, West Chester



Tracy Fauntleroy
Teca, West Chester



Liam Murphy
Joey Chops, Malvern



Jenn Smith
Kooma, West Chester



Kim Greer
Teca, West Chester



Mark Dieterich
Bistro on Bridge, Phoenixville



Jane Sosnowski
Sovana Bistro, Kennett Square



Suzanne Taylor
Chadds Ford Tavern, Chadds Ford



Diane DiAntonio
Carlino's Market, West Chester



Chloe Talbot
Hibachi, Downingtown



Ali Ford
Bardea Food & Drink, Wilmington



Catherine Gallagher
Two Fourteen, Media



Emily Speer
Nifty Fifties, Newtown Square



Jenn Gossman
Teca, West Chester



Marie Williams
Joey Chops, Malvern

Signature Drinks

PERSONALIZE YOUR WEDDING WITH THESE UNIQUE COCKTAILS

Elizabeth Hughes

WHAT BETTER WAY TO ADD THAT PERSONAL touch to your wedding or special event than with a signature drink? Work with a local bartending or

catering service to create a cocktail with a special significance — inspired by the season, a special place or a favorite spirit. Here are a few ideas from local mixologists to get you started.



SPRING FLING

From 13th Street Cocktails

1.5 oz. The Botanist gin
¼ oz. Ramazzotti Aperitivo Rosato
½ oz. lemon
½ oz. raspberry grapefruit cordial*

Combine all ingredients in a shaker with lots of ice. Shake for 10 seconds, then strain over fresh ice. Garnish with a lime wheel (dehydrated, if available) and edible flowers.

*Raspberry Grapefruit Cordial

1 pt. 1-to-1 simple syrup,
1 C. raspberries, fresh, skin-on
grapefruit wheels (from
1 large grapefruit)
Simmer on medium-low heat
for 5 minutes. Allow syrup to
cool before straining. Store in
the fridge for up to 2 weeks.



Kappa Kanpai Smash

From Alexander Catering Company

3 oz. strong green tea
1.5 oz. dry sake
¾ oz. Japanese whisky
1 oz. simple syrup
3 thin slices of cucumber
½ oz. Fever-Tree ginger beer
Cucumber slice for garnish

Add tea, sake, whisky and
simple syrup to a cocktail
shaker with a scoop of ice and
cucumber.
Shake vigorously for 10
seconds, then pour into a
rocks glass.
Float the ginger beer over top
of the cocktail, and add ice
to fill the glass. Garnish with
cucumber slice and enjoy.



BLUEBERRY LEMON FIZZ

From Roaming Libations

2 oz. vodka
½ oz. lemon juice
½ oz. blueberry syrup*
3 oz. lemon seltzer water

Combine ingredients in a
glass with ice. Garnish with
fresh lemon and blueberries
and enjoy.

*Blueberry Syrup

1 C. water, ½ C. fresh
blueberries, 1¼ C. sugar
Bring water and blueberries
to a simmer. Add sugar and
stir until dissolved. Cool and
store in a glass container for
up to 1 week.



Kiss My Ace

From The Traveling Tap

½ oz. Malibu rum
½ oz. Appleton Estate rum
½ oz. Captain Morgan spiced rum
1.5 oz. sour mix
½ oz. orange juice

Add ingredients to shaker.
Shake with ice and serve.



Dessert table in 2007
with pies made from
local apples

[Brandywine Table]

Feasting & Foraging in the Field

MINDFULLY SOURCED EVENT MENUS AND DECOR CAN HIGHLIGHT THE LOCAL BOUNTY OF THE SEASON

Courtney H. Diener-Stokes

WHEN I REFLECT ON THE PLANNING OF our wedding in 2007, I distinctly remember the many things we did that kept the land around us in mind. Most important, we focused on what it had to offer for our happy event in the fall season. We were fortunate to have plenty of open space at my family's farm to grow sunflowers for the bridal bouquets and forage for bittersweet vines to complement the locally grown apples anchoring our centerpieces at the reception.

In keeping with our seasonal theme of apples, we filled up a humongous wooden barrel with pony-sized jugs of locally pressed cider to give out as wedding favors. And instead of cake for dessert, we served up homemade apple pie, accompanied by a trio playing old-time fiddle tunes.

Since I had only recently moved back to the area from New York City, I was overly excited to fully immerse myself in country-inspired event planning, which led me to take on much more than I likely should have. Since not everyone is inclined to forage for their wedding and would likely prefer more help and guidance, a mission-aligned event business might be the answer.

Terrain Events

is a service that offers an 'In the Field' farm-to-table experience that enables couples to celebrate their union beyond the confines of Terrain's event spaces in Devon, Glen Mills and most recently, Doylestown. Bri-

anna Alcorn, Terrain's Director of Sales, says their In the Field offering came to fruition when many customers began requesting a preference to have their event in a home or in the field under a tent.

Like the cafe menu in Devon (which happens to be a favorite lunch spot), Terrain's event menus are mindfully curated — always reflecting seasonality and using locally sourced ingredients. Their signature garden-centric approach comes from the selection of the food they source from places like Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative, which is their go-to for produce; Farm of Cultures, also in Lancaster County and which makes all their yogurts; The Farm at Doe Run in Chester County, which provides all their cheeses; and their micro-greens from High Hill Hydro in Delaware County.

Steve Linneman, Terrain's Culinary Director, enjoys visits to High Hill. "They have an incredible hut on their property where they will grow based on our wants and needs," he says. "The owner personally delivers it and is my friend."

Whether a main course, salad, bread or dessert, Terrain's relationships with those who make or grow many of the ingredients in their recipes elevates the culinary experience for diners in both taste and presentation. Here are some customer favorites from their cafe and events for you to try at home.



In the Field event by Terrain



Note: Liquor brands were recommended by bartenders. Each recipe yields one drink.

Your Guide to Black Salt

Considered one of the unique types of gourmet salts, black salt adds bold flavors and dramatic colors, making it ideal as a finishing salt or added to the rim of a cocktail. The Salt Box (distributor of organic sea salts from around the globe, TheSaltBox.com.au) breaks down the characteristics of some black salts that can elevate the visual experience of everyday meals and festive beverages. Hopefully the serving suggestions below, as well as Terrain's Black Lava Sea Salt Chocolate Chip Cookie recipe, will inspire you to add some black salt to your pantry.

Hawaiian Black Lava Sea Salt

Hawaiian black lava salt is a delectable Pacific Ocean sea salt that has been imbued with rich black charcoal. It's a perfect addition to the pantry of any adventurous chef. The delicate texture and alluring color of black lava salt make it perfect for use as a finishing salt. The coconut shell charcoal also imparts a subtle earthy flavor, which can add an interesting dimension to fish and meats. It's at its best when paired with pork, fish, eggplant, potatoes, sashimi, scallops, fruit, kale, buttered popcorn and avocado, and it's right at home on the rim of your favorite cocktail.

Indian Black Salt

Of all the world's black salts, Indian black salt is the most revered. Also known as *kala namak*, it's made from crushed Indian volcanic rock salt. Contrary to its name, it's a pinkish brown color. While Indian black salt may smell a little odd, this dissipates very quickly once in food, and what it lacks in smell it certainly makes up for in taste — bold and distinct on the palate, and by no means ordinary. *Kala namak* is widely used in Southern Asian cuisines, such as those from Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Pakistan. It's a central ingredient in chaats, chutneys, raitas and many other savory Indian foods. Because of its rich mineral taste, it's excellent as a condiment too, particularly good in salads and on fruit.

Cyprus Black Flake Salt

Harvested from the Mediterranean Sea off the Cypriot coast, Cyprus black salt is unique and exotic, with large black pyramid-shaped flakes that give it loads of crunch. The large, pyramid-shaped flakes make it perfect as a finishing salt. Their size makes it a powerful addition to any meal, and it's exceptional on meats, sashimi, roast veggies or as a seasoning for homemade bread or pretzels. The distinct, earthy flavor makes it a perfect addition to a caprese salad, frittata or fresh veggies like tomatoes or cucumber, and over fruit. It's also fantastic as a garnish: sprinkle it around the edge of a white plate at a dinner party, or coat the rim of a cocktail glass.

Signature Black Lava Sea Salt Chocolate Chip Cookies

Black lava sea salt offers a unique finish to the appearance of these cookies while adding a subtle earthy and smoky flavor. This beloved sweet and salty treat at Terrain makes a great addition to a dessert table at any event, but will be enjoyed just as much by your family at home. Pair with red wine or milk.

Makes 1 dozen

$\frac{2}{3}$ C. unsalted butter
 $\frac{3}{4}$ C. light brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C. granulated sugar
1 large egg
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 C. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. kosher salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C. semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 C. dark chocolate chips
Black lava sea salt



Preheat oven to 350°. In a stand mixer with paddle attachment, cream butter and sugars on low until light and fluffy, approximately 10 minutes. Add egg and mix until fully incorporated. Add vanilla and mix.

Add flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt and mix to combine. Add chocolate chips and mix until fully incorporated. Refrigerate cookie dough for 1 hour.

After refrigeration, make 12 portions of the dough and place each onto an ungreased baking sheet. Press down on each dough mound to create $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick discs. Sprinkle with black lava sea salt. Bake until golden brown, approximately 8–10 minutes.

Store in an airtight container for up to five days, or freeze for up to a month and thaw for an hour before eating.

Mini Flower Pot Bread

Whether dining at their cafe or one of their events, you'll remember that meals by Terrain traditionally begin with the smell of their amazing bread that's baked golden brown and served in the same terracotta pot it's baked in. The bread is always accompanied by a seasonal, flavored butter on the side, such as lavender. If you want to bypass the terracotta pots, a muffin tin works just as well.

Makes 6 mini loaves

$4\frac{1}{3}$ C. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. fresh yeast
4 tsp. granulated sugar
2 tsp. kosher salt
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ T. milk
1 C. water, 80°
1 egg
Olive oil for greasing bowl and baking pots



Mix all ingredients (except olive oil) in a standing mixer on low speed for 9 minutes. Place dough in a greased bowl and proof until doubled in size.

Punch down dough and portion into 6 dough balls. Place each ball into a greased, small terracotta baking pot (or muffin tin) and proof again.

Preheat oven to 375°.

When dough balls double in size, spray with olive oil and bake for 15–20 minutes, until golden brown.

Best if eaten fresh, directly after baking. Storage not recommended.

Terrain's Mushroom Soup

Terrain sources their mushrooms right in their backyard from Kennett Square for this mainstay soup that you'll find on their menu all year round. This rich soup has a creamy texture and layered flavors. Balsamic vinegar and tamari deepen the flavor, while rosemary freshens it up. The long cooking time is worth the wait. Pair with your favorite crusty bread.



Serves 4

For the caramelized onions:

Sunflower oil
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C. Spanish onions, diced
Coarse kosher salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. granulated sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. balsamic vinegar

Additional soup ingredients:

3 lbs. button mushrooms, cleaned (keep stems on)
1 medium russet potato
1 clove garlic, peeled

- 1/2 C. tamari sauce
- 1/2 C. balsamic vinegar
- 4 C. water
- 1/2 C. unsalted butter
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary (remove leaves from stem)
- 4 C. (1 quart) heavy cream



Step 1: Caramelize the onions:
Add oil to a large saucepan on low heat. Add onions and a generous sprinkle of salt. Cook uncovered for 1 hour, until caramelized, stirring occasionally to prevent onions from sticking to the bottom of the pan.

Next, add sugar and balsamic vinegar and mix with the onions to combine. Cook for 30 more minutes to reduce mixture.

Step 2: Prepare the soup:
Place the caramelized onions in a large pot. Add remaining ingredients, except the butter, heavy cream and fresh rosemary. Cover and simmer on low heat for 6 hours.

Step 3: Puree the soup:
After 6 hours, remove the pot from the stove and add the butter, heavy cream and rosemary. Place in a blender and puree until smooth. Reheat right before serving. Salt to taste.
Can be stored in a mason jar or other sealed container for up to one week. ♦

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRAIN

Courtney Diener-Stokes is an award-winning journalist, author, food writer, photographer and food stylist. Most recently she co-authored the Kimberton Whole Foods Cookbook and Farmhouse Manna: Nourishing Recipes and Rituals for Head, Heart, Hands & Soul. She lives in the Oley Valley countryside with her husband, three children, two Babydoll Southdown sheep, a flock of bantam chickens and a Bernedoodle named Daisy.



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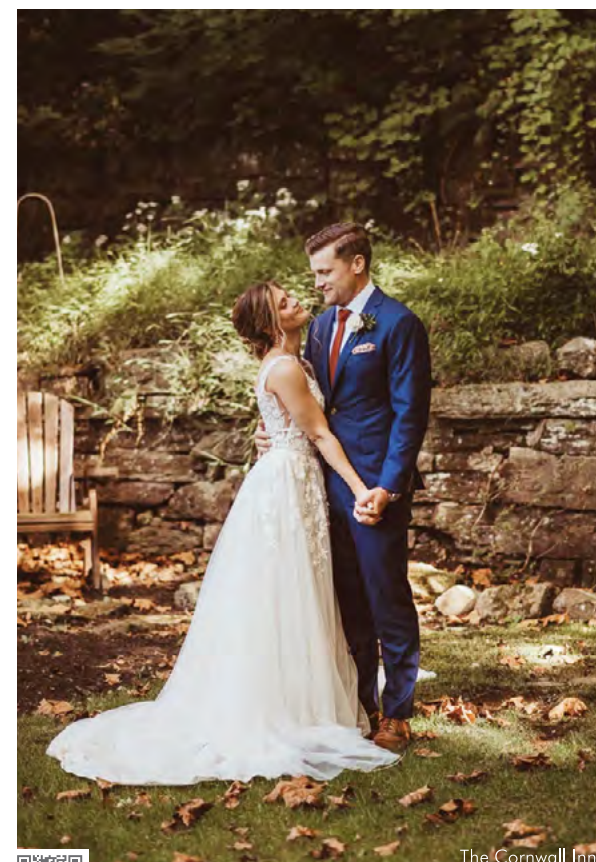
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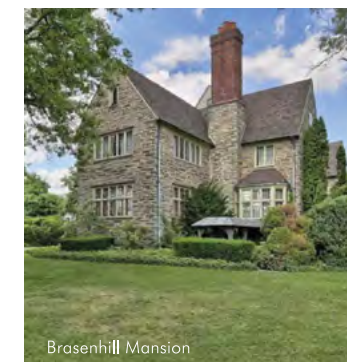
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