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CHESTER COUNTY
CUISINE & NIGHTLIFE

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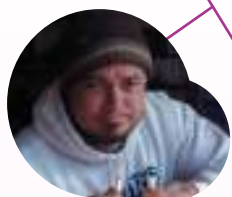
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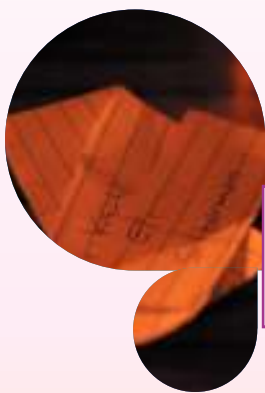


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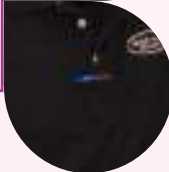
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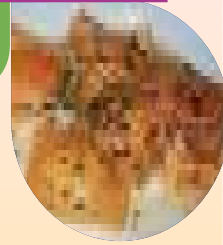
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COMMENTS:

Send comments to: ccfood@dailylocal.com ccentertainment@dailylocal.com

MARY'S MESSAGE:

Greetings all!

Don't forget to join us on Facebook and Twitter to get the latest news and updates on all of the amazing food and musical events happening in Chester County. With so much going on, we want to keep you updated in between issues and these are two great ways to stay connected.

In this issue, you'll find two exciting contests for our readers. One gets your name on a high-profile menu and a FREE dinner for 15 of your friends, and the other gets you access to the sweetest event in Chester County with all-you-can-eat desserts! Details inside.

See if love was in the air for our recent "He Said, She Said" couple. Need another dose of love? Check out our upcoming February issue for ideas on how to wine and dine your sweetie for Valentine's day and (for the anti-"Hallmark holiday" fans) get tips on how to avoid the holiday all together.

Until then...



Cheers!
Mary Bigham
Contributing Editor
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Sunday FUNday

BY SARAH ALDERMAN
SPECIAL TO CC

Sittin' Pretty in Steel City



IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, THE STREETScape OF DOWN-TOWN PHOENIXVILLE HAS BECOME ALMOST UNRECOGNIZABLE TO ME, A RESIDENT JUST 4 YEARS AGO. THE TOWN ENERGY ONCE FELT SO GREY AND DINGY; NOW THERE'S A CERTAIN BRIGHTNESS ON BRIDGE STREET. EVEN BEFORE ITS FACELIFT, PHOENIXVILLE AND ITS SURROUNDING AREA HAVE BEEN TEEMING WITH QUIANT, LESSER-KNOWN POCKETS OF AWESOMENESS. HERE'S AN IN-THE-KNOW PEEK AT ONE OF CHESTER COUNTY'S HOTTEST TOWNS:

Morning...

First stop: Kimberton Whole Foods. Their café offers an amazing selection of healthy gourmet goodies as well as the tastiest, strongest coffee you will ever sip. Try the Café Alturra Biodynamia for a

Red Bull-like jolt. While you're there, check out their schedule of wellness seminars and classes and take a poke around their gift section. Plan on making this a daily stop—just don't forget your re-usable grocery bags.

For a sit-down breakfast, follow Route 23 East to the G-Lodge. The service is excellent and their daily menu covers all of the standards. You can't beat a joint that gives you the choice of hash browns OR home fries with your scrapple! Their French toast and quiche specials are also a must.

...Noon...

Mother Nature's best flanks Steel City on all sides. Take a stroll through Valley Forge Park, its sprawling expanse crisscrossed with paved trails for the stroller, or unbeaten paths for the adventurous. Feeling hardcore? Bike the Schuylkill Trail, starting in the park and ending in Center City.

In warm weather, take to the water with a kayak rental from USS Port Providence Fleet, located behind Fitzwater Station on the Canal. An above-average, family-run restaurant, The Fitz has an outdoor Summer Concert series on Sundays from 4 to 8 P.M. and is the perfect place to unwind after a long day of paddling.



Stop at Steel City Coffeehouse for a mid-day caffeine blast while you plan your night. No Starbucks in this town (yet).

...and Night!

If music is your thing, spend a Friday or Saturday night at Chaplin's Music Café in Spring City. It's the perfect venue to catch a set by your favorite local band.

If you prefer to stay in downtown Phoenixville, The Colonial Theater offers screenings of vintage classics, children's hits and independent releases.

Keep your eye on the town's many street festivals, parades, and special events by adding <http://www.guess-whatscoming.org/> to your bookmarks.

And, remember, every event is special with a Sly Fox Helles Golden Lager in your hand. A trip to the 'Ville is never complete without a visit to this hometown micro-brewery.

Get to it, 'Villians!



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BY
JAMES
LEE
BURK

QUIT!

Did you know that I quit smoking? My lungs say thank you and please pass a smoke. Twenty one days really doesn't sound like a lot of time but when counted in puffs of smoke it is like a whole story told in smoke signals by a drunken Indian chief on an extremely cloudy and windy day.

What kind of sense does quitting anything really make? I've been told my whole life that being a quitter is like being a loser and a loser wins nothing – nothing. I have had only a small problem in quitting. My style of quitting is called cold turkey. What a turkey has to do with quitting anything I'm still not sure but I know turkey is delicious whether it's warm or cold.

Now back to quitting. If I had quit other things in life it would signify my being lazy and a quitter but in this case if a case of cold turkeys will help me not smoke then I sir will hang with my cold turkeys hanging out.

Smoking is such a disgusting habit and it makes you cough and smell like a used ash tray, makes your teeth yellow, your breath stink and I miss it like you miss the smell of a urinal cake when someone steals it and your only left with the smell of yesterday's coffee.

Smoking in society is represented in many conflicting ways. When your born, people celebrate your birth with a fat smelly cigar, when they get ready to execute you with a hail of bullets they ask you if you want a last smoke.

If you have made any New Year's resolutions, keep resolute and remember you're not the only one. Good luck in your quitting or resolve to complete things.

I have decided to start the New Year trying to have a better out look on my health by stopping some things and starting others. So, remember, if you see me don't offer me a cigarette.

If my arms look buffer and my stomach flatter it's just because all the smoke isn't obscuring your vision anymore. Lots of luck in your resolutions.

James Lee Burk



Independent Voices ring out at Center Theatre

BY
CARRIE
COMPTOR
SPECIAL
TO CC

Iron Age Theatre co-founder John Doyle isn't the type to let the economy hinder his desire to bring the arts to Norristown. Doyle, faced with the economic downturn and the limited access to grant funding that goes along with it, has decided, in the face of restricted funding, to mount a festival. Seems a bit backwards at first, but to hear Doyle speak of the Independent Voices Festival, the idea sounds nothing but logical.

"[The idea for the festival] comes from two different angles: there are works that have

played in our space that we thought deserved a second play, things people asked about and that we wanted to put back in the public eye, and to mount performances that take advantage of the small-cast shows we have. It's difficult to assemble a whole production and we really just wanted to keep it simple."

In the spirit of keeping it simple, the festival will feature several different performances — three plays and one vocal act — all consisting of a small number of performers per show. The Centre Theatre put on the nationally touring Howard Zinn hit, "Marx in Soho" Jan. 23 and vocal soloist Krissy Johnson last week-end.

From Jan. 29 through 31, "Slave Narratives Revisited," mounted by Mosaic Theatre, will cap off the festival

and kick off Black History Month.

The festival, born of economic necessity, will not unduly burden the audience either. Mounted over the course of three weekends for a rate of \$15 per ticket, with one-third off all additional tickets purchased (with the exception of "Slave Narratives Revisited"), the festival well undersells a night at the movies. Below is a quick guide of what to expect from each performance slated to take place at the Independent Voices Festival.

"Slave Narratives Revisited" by Ed Shockley

"Slave Narratives," the Iron Age Theatre's tribute to Black History Month and final selection in the Independent Voices Festival, is pretty much

what it sounds like. However, do not let yourself assume that this two-man show will focus solely on slavery as it pertains to America.

The piece, brought to the festival as a result of collaboration between the Iron Age and Mosaic theatres, touches on every form of slavery from mail order brides to political prisoners spanning across the globe.

Starring playwright Ed Shockley and actor/writer Larry Moten, the piece reminds audiences of the fragile yet incredibly powerful human necessity for freedom. The poignant and critically acclaimed "Slave Narratives Revisited" will play all weekend Jan. 29 and 30 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 31 at 3 p.m.

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BY
MARY
BIGHAM
WC
DISH

TASTE LOCAL: A Celebration of Regional Food, Wine & Beer

There seem to be new food events popping up every month, but here is one that should not be missed. Rolling Barrel Events and The Desmond Hotel have teamed up to present The First Annual TASTE LOCAL! Celebration of Regional Food, Wine & Beer, which will take place at The Desmond Hotel in Malvern, February 5 and 6.

In recent years, the Desmond hosted a beer festival for brew fans but, this year, with the help of Rolling Barrel Events, they've created something much tastier. "I was a huge fan of the Main Line Brew Festival that used to be held at The Desmond," Co-owner of Rolling Barrel Events Corey Krejcik said, "to the point that my friends and I had unofficial score cards to rate the beer, so it was really fun to plan some ideas for this festival. We decided to do a food, wine and beer event that would stay very local and regional and keep in tune with our Taste Local events in Philly. We worked with The Desmond to help give people a fun understanding about what eating locally and food pairing is all about."

Through classes, demonstrations, tastings and friendly competitions, local foodies will learn how to "Taste Local," all while enjoying some of the finest fare the Delaware Valley has to offer. Events and mini-courses will include:

- A Chili Cook-off
- Cooking Demonstrations with the Desmond
- Wine, Cheese & Chocolate — A Trip to the Farmer's Market
- A Taste of Italy in Pennsylvania
- Stouts & Chowders — A Belly Warming Experience
- A Tailgater's Guide to Local Beer
- Mixing and mingling with neighbors and local food purveyors

"There are a wide range of consumable goods being produced in Philadelphia's back yard, and it benefits us all to consume locally," said Mike Chain, General Manager of the Desmond Hotel. "We hope this event gives our neighbors some ideas about how to enjoy more of the

wonderful things that our region grows, raises, produces, prepares, creates, brews and ferments!"

With less distance to travel, locally grown produce tends to be more fresh and nutritious. Less travel is also better for our environment. What's more, consuming locally-grown goods helps keep dollars within the community, strengthening the local economy.

The key of the event is to help foster local awareness and appreciation for locally produced goods, including those from:

Breweries

- Appalachian Brewing Company
- Dock Street Brewery
- Lancaster Brewing Company
- River Horse Brewing Company
- Sly Fox Brewing Company
- Troegs Brewing Company
- Victory Brewing Company
- Weyerbacher Brewing Company

Wineries

- Chaddsford Winery
- Paradox Vineyard
- Wycombe Vineyards
- Penns Woods Winery
- Black Walnut Winery

Schedule of events: Friday 1st Annual TASTE LOCAL! Chili Bowl Competition 6:30-9 P.M.

Teams will vie for the title of "Best Chili" in this heated — and we don't just mean spicy — battle! First prize is a certificate for a 2-hour Desmond cocktail party, including drinks and hors d'oeuvres for 10 people, on the Sunset Grille Deck this summer. In addition to participation in the chili competition, this package includes full admittance to the Meet the

Brewmaster/Winemaker reception.

Cost: \$250 per team; Maximum 5 participants per team.

TASTE LOCAL! Chili Bowl Spectators — Meet the Brewmaster/Winemaker Reception 7-9 P.M.

Can't take the heat of competing in the Chili Bowl Competition? Join us as a Spectator and help us pick a winner. The Spectator package includes admittance to the Meet the Brewmaster/Winemaker Reception, where attendees mingle with representatives from Victory Brewing Company and Chaddsford Winery while enjoying a variety of hors d'oeuvres, chili dinner with all the accompaniments and an open bar featuring Victory Brewing Company Beer, Chaddsford Wine and premium spirits.

Cost: \$40/person

TASTE LOCAL! Prix Fixe Pairing Dinner

Served from
5-9 P.M.

If competition isn't your thing but you're interested in Tasting Local, we invite you to enjoy a special 3-course dinner in our Hunt Room. Join us for a unique opportunity to enjoy a special Desmond dinner prepared with local ingredients and paired with local beers and wines

Cost: \$36/person plus tax and gratuity; Reservations required.

Saturday TASTE LOCAL! Festival Noon-3:30 P.M.

Wander through the festival, featuring more than 15 breweries and wineries, and sample local food, wine and beer. Attend a few "Savor Sessions," where you get to learn and taste unique food and drink pairings. Sessions include:

- Cooking Demonstration with the Desmond
- Wine, Cheese & Chocolate — A Trip to the Farmer's Market
- A Taste of Italy in Pennsylvania
- Stouts & Chowders — A Belly-Warming Experience
- A Tailgater's Guide to Local Beer

Cost: \$40 at the door, \$35 if ticket is purchased in advance; VIP Ticket for 11 A.M. admission is \$50 in advance only.

VIP Packages start at \$180 and include tickets to TASTE LOCAL as well as overnight accommodations.

Prix Fixe Pairing Dinner Served from 5-9 P.M.

We invite you to enjoy a special 3-course dinner in our Hunt Room. Join us for a unique opportunity to enjoy a special Desmond dinner prepared with local ingredients and paired with local beers and wines.

Cost: \$36/person plus tax and gratuity; Reservations required.

For details on all the Taste Local! offerings, please call 610-249-2180 or visit www.desmondgv.com.



BAR TENDER

a few questions with SHAUN LAPP

of Iron Hill

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How long have you been bartending?

About three years at Iron Hill and a couple more at other establishments.

How did you get started?

I've been in the restaurant business my entire life. I started at a Bob Evans in high school cleaning pancake syrup off of plates and since then have held pretty much every position you could have. I don't have the ability to sit still so this is a good job for me to have.

What are your biggest pet peeves?

People that are condescending.

What is your favorite drink?

To make... I love making mojito's and frozen drinks that involve five or more steps. To drink... after a long day there's nothing better than a filthy martini.

What's special about working at Iron Hill?

I knew that Iron Hill was not only a great restaurant but a great organization as well. I'm lucky to work with some of the best people in the industry, especially Matt Radebach.

Are there any fun things going on at Iron Hill?

We're a pretty tame place so there's never been anything to the extreme. There was an occasion when I was breaking-up a fight and a guy told me he would, "take me outside and curb me." I didn't take him up on the offer, but I'm hoping to bump into him in public at some point...

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LOVE STORIES, LIVE



WANNA SLAM YOUR EX IN FRONT OF A CROWD? READ ON.

BY
MARY
BIGHAM
WC
DISH

A trend is sweeping the country, called "Story Slams," a live event based on the simple formula of great storytelling that anyone and everyone can take a crack at. I caught up with the founder of West Chester Story Slam, Jim Breslin, to get the scoop.

It started with Poetry Slams - competitions at which poets read or recite original work. These performances are then judged on a numeric scale by previously selected members of the audience. These Slams began in the mid '80s in Chicago and soon spread to other cities. Story Slams,

which follow the same general guidelines, started soon after that. In Philadelphia, First Person Arts began running 2 Story Slams a month.

Jim had "become hooked on listening to storytelling podcasts, such as This American Life and The Moth, based out of New York City."

And, it started with a tweet. "One day, I sent a tweet out asking if anyone knew of a Story Slam in this area."

The result? West Chester's lovable techie nerd and blogger, John Young (www.tikaro.com)

retweeted that he didn't know of one but, if Jim created one, he would be interested.

With that, Jim sent e-

mails, tweets and Facebook posts to friends and fellow writers and had a trial run at his house in November. "We had 11 storytellers and their friends in my living room telling stories on the theme "New Beginnings." We had so much fun that night, I knew I'd have to find a public space."

Stories should fit into the theme of the night.

Stories should be true as you remember it.

Stories should be no longer than 5 minutes in length.

No Notes, No Props, No Music.

That's right, folks - No notes.

The first public story slam was held in early January on the second floor of Ryan's Pub and left standing-room only for attendees.

"The theme was 'Embarrassing Moments' and 8 storytellers told some marvelous and funny stories. Although technically it is a competition with judges and scoring, the focus is to make it an entertaining night for the audience. I'm excited for our February Story Slam, with the theme of 'Love Hurts.' I think we'll hear a broader range of stories - some funny ones, but I'm sure some touching stories as well."

The Judging: Three judges are selected from the audience. Each storyteller is given a score on a scale of 1-10 based on content and presentation. The storyteller with the highest score wins and is given a spot in November's Grand Slam.

The winner of the last story slam was Shirley Landis Van Scoyk, who told her story of raising pigs. You can see videos of storytellers from last month's slam at www.wcstoryslam.com.

**WANT
TO
GIVE
IT A
GO?**

The next West Chester Story Slam is **February 9th 7 P.M.**

Ryan's Pub

118 W. Gay Street
West Chester

**The Theme:
Love Hurts!**

Come tell a story or listen to stories.

If you would like to tell a story, register upon arrival. Ten names will be drawn out of a hat to decide order of presentation.



Wanna WIN YOUR NAME on a menu and FREE Dinner For 15 People?



BY
MARY
BIGHAM
WC
DISH

AVALON RUSTIC ITALIAN BYOB



There are some exciting things happening at Avalon Rustic Italian BYOB in West Chester.

They are now serving **Sunday Night Family Dinners** for groups of 4 or more. The Prix Fixe menu is designed to encourage families (& groups of 4 or more) to come together for an old-fashioned Sunday Night Family Dinner to share good conversation & hearty Italian cuisine.

Three prix fixe menus offer a wide variety of choices – designed to please every palate – foodies, vegetarians, traditionalists and even picky children. Highlights include Pardella Pasta with Lamb Bolognese;

Baked Salted Cod Piccata; Pork Trio, Tenderloin, Shoulder, Sausage with Bell Pepper Stew. Adult prices for antipasti, pasta and dolci start at \$20.95 with the option of adding a fourth dish for \$27.50 to \$37. Half-price for children ages 11-15. Free for children under 10. Reservations suggested 610/436-4100.

Recipe Contest

Another exciting opportunity is a Recipe Contest where the winner get a FREE Sunday Night Dinner for 15 people & 15 Minutes of Fame!

Submit your family's favorite Italian recipe to Avalon Restaurant by February 21, 2010 and you could win:

- * Sunday night dinner in Avalon's private dining room for 15 people
- * Addition of your name & dish to the Avalon menu

Everyone who submits a recipe gets:
* \$15 gift certificate for a Sunday night dinner at Avalon Restaurant (one per family)

Here's how:

- * Drop your recipe off at Avalon, 312 S. High Street, West Chester on a Sunday night between 5-10 p.m.
- * Or email your recipe to Avalon at john@avalonrestaurant.net
- * Include your name, phone number, address & email address
- * Deadline: February 21, 2010
- * Winners chosen by Chef John Brandt Lee & Me! Winners will be interviewed on WCHE 1520am and featured in Chester County Cuisine and Nightlife... and, of course, on wcdish.com

The Final Dish:

What do you have to lose? Enter to win TODAY! I can't wait to try your creations!

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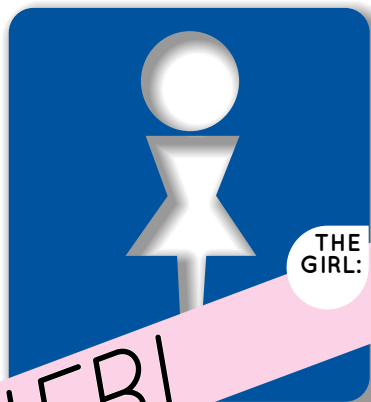
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HE SAID / SHE SAID / WHERE TWO SINGLES MEET AND REVIEW the food & each other.

JAN. 27, 2010 / PAGE 12

BY:
MARY
BIGHAM
WC DISH



THE
GIRL:

SHERI

AGE: 25

JOB: Recruiter

HOBBIES: Working out, music, movies, travel, being outdoors, dining out.



THE
GUY:

TIM

AGE: 36

JOB: Marketing

HOBBIES: Golf, tennis, music, cooking

THE RESTAURANT: Avalonn Rustic Italian BYOB

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FIRST IMPRESSIONS?

• **SHERI:** My first impression was that Tim was well put together and handsome. I had already seen a picture, but he was definitely equally as good looking in person. Tim has a great smile!

• **TIM:** When I first saw Sheri I thought "WOW, the rest of the guys in the restaurant are going to be jealous." She was definitely my type and she looked great.

• **SHERI:** He was also quite the gentleman. I pick up on the little things and upon my arrival he immediately stood up and greeted me. He also did not know what type of wine I liked and brought a bottle of white and red, which may seem like a small detail but to me was thoughtful and considerate.

• **TIM:** Her top was a slinky black number that showed some shoulder, which was sexy in a discreet way. I'll admit that I did get distracted by that shoulder a few times.

THE DATE:

• **SHERI:** We had a dinner date, which I think is great for a first date. You can talk and get to know each other's likes, dislikes, personalities, etc. We had a great location and it was very much my style in dining atmosphere.

• **TIM:** We had dinner at Avalon, a BYOB gem slightly off the beaten path in West Chester. They seated us at a table close to the fireplace, which was nice as it was pretty cold that night.

THE CONVERSATION:

• **SHERI:** I was insanely nervous because I had never been on a blind date before. The first thing I said was that I had never been on a blind date and asked Tim if he had. I did not feel awkward at any point in the date at all. It was very comfortable, almost as if I already knew him.

• **TIM:** The conversation went very well, so well that 3 hours just flew by. When we got up to leave, we were both shocked that our dinner lasted that long; we were the last table in the restaurant. We talked about our jobs, what we like to do in our free time, music, movies and stuff like that. We have a lot in common, but some different tastes, too, which I like. I don't think there were any awkward moments.

THE RESTAURANT:

• **SHERI:** The atmosphere was very comfortable. They placed us at a table that was directly in front of the fireplace, which added to the already romantic ambiance. I had never been to Avalon before and was insanely impressed by their assortment of food.

• **TIM:** Avalon had a warm, comfortable atmosphere. Everything was excellent; the food was delicious and the staff were friendly and helpful with menu recommendations, etc. I will definitely go back. If you haven't been there, you're missing out.

DRINKS:

• **SHERI:** Tim brought a Pino Noir and Pino Grigio, so I could pick. I prefer white, but the kitchen did bring us a complimentary fruity vodka drink, which was very tasty. I can't remember the name of the drink but it was delicious!

• **TIM:** Not knowing if Sheri was a red or white wine person I brought along a bottle of each. It was a battle of the Pinot's, and the Grigio ended up beating out the Noir. I honestly don't remember the vineyard or year I

brought; my main priority was that it had a cork and not a screw top. At one point the waiter brought us a little cocktail that the chef put together for us. I think it was a combination of some fruit and prosecco; whatever it was, it was really tasty.

THE SERVICE:

• **SHERI:** The service was remarkable. I have to say that they were very friendly and did not rush us at all. They took their time and were very considerate when Tim and I were mid conversation, etc. We were the last people in the restaurant around closing time and they did not rush us out at all.

• **TIM:** The service, like everything at Avalon, was just right. Our server's name was Jill. She provided recommendations for us both, and checked in periodically to make sure that everything was in order. There were also 2 waiters that saw to it that our wine and water glasses were never empty.

THE FOOD:

• **SHERI:** For an appetizer I had an excellent caesar salad. We also had an assortment of cheeses and sliced bread with an eggplant pepper topping. For the entree, I had the butternut squash ravioli, which were a bit sweet but still very tasty.

• **TIM:** The food really was tasty. We started with crostini's with olive tapenade (I think). Then we were brought a small cheese plate, which was really, really good. We each then had a salad and I had the braised beef mezzaluna as my main course. Everything was delicious.

• **SHERI:** Finally, for dessert I had the chocolate lava cake. We tasted each other's desserts and it was all yummmmy!

• **TIM:** For dessert, Sheri had the chocolate lava cake and I ordered a banana bread type thing with a creamy sauce. Both were good, but

after we tried each other's we agreed that Sheri clearly won with the lava cake. I felt bad when she tried mine because she almost burned her mouth because the side that she took a forkful from was still really hot, while my side had cooled down. She forgave me (I think).

DID YOU EXCHANGE NUMBERS?

• **SHERI:** We did!
• **TIM:** Yep. I was very happy once I got those digits stored in my phone.

WAS IT A MATCH?

• **SHERI:** For me it was most definitely a match. I felt an instant connection with Tim.
• **TIM:** I would say yes, definitely.

WAS THERE A KISS?

• **SHERI:** There will be no kissing and telling. But I can assure you there was a little spark.
• **TIM:** I'll just say we walked Sheri to her car and closed the evening with a special moment. A great end to a great evening, and hopefully a preview of more to come.

WILL THERE BE A SECOND DATE?

• **SHERI:** I think there will be and definitely hope there will be.
• **TIM:** I can say with reasonable confidence, yes.

HOW DID YOU LEAVE IT?

• **SHERI:** Tim was very straight forward (which I appreciate), and said he definitely had a good time and wanted to go out again. He walked me to my car and let me know he would be in touch.
• **TIM:** We left it that I would call her, which I'm going to do right now.

UPDATE: This couple has already been out on 2 more dates and are loving every moment of getting to know each other.

CALLING ALL SINGLES!

If you would like to take part in HE SAID, SHE SAID, please email your name, age, job title and hobbies along with a picture to wcdish@gmail.com. When we have a match for you, we will let you know.

Rock and Roll After School showcases student's talent during the Winter Concert Showcase

BY
AMY
STRAUSS
SPECIAL
TO CC

Joe Bush of Valley Forge, the father of two musically inclined sons, always desired that an alternative music program be offered locally for his children. Seeking out several music schools for school-aged students, he found that many were located in Philadelphia or further, and they were not at all convenient to his family. Then, Rock and Roll After School opened in Phoenixville, and his dream for his music-loving kids to participate in a rock school became a reality.

Joey Bush and Sam Bush, Joe Bush's sons, are active participants in the local after school program, and recently performed in the school's Winter Showcase among a handful of their musical comrades, held Fri., Jan. 8 and Sun., Jan. 10 at the school's Franklin Commons' space.

The Winter Showcase, a seasonal concert highlighting the group efforts of the school's band program, featured the talents of 7 musical acts formed within the school, in addition to the savvy sounds of their student DJ, Lauren Malamed.

Joey Bush, seemingly the star of the show, performed with his band, Keep the Fame, sweetly serenading the well-attended audience with his eloquent keyboard playing and perfect pitched vocals. Premiering an original titled "2nd of May" with bandmates Logan Cuthbert, Quinn McGunnigle and Rina Patel, aside two covers, "Use Somebody" by Kings of Leon and "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen, Bush was just one obvious example of the impressive skills that many of the students at Rock and Roll After School possess.

Taylor Houghton, a member of two bands highlighted in the showcase, Sixth Sense and Shadow Garden, allowed for the attending public to see the admirable dedication that many of the students put forth in being part of the local music program. Houghton, coming from a family of singers and musicians, enjoys participating in the after school activity

because music has always been a great influence on her life. The petite singer also revealed that she loves to share her skills in singing with as many people as she possibly can, which is why when the school's music director, Michael O'Brien, asked her to participate in two bands, she dutifully accepted.

The band program, led by O'Brien, consisted of 12 weeks of training for participating students, which totaled around 30 individuals. "Whether mastering current pop songs or composing original tunes, our kids can be very proud

of what they have accomplished," scribed O'Brien in the showcase's handout. The director, who also emceed the concert and jammed with several of the performing groups on stage, couldn't have been more impressed with the outcome of the program.

Other bands performing included: Unhinged, Feedback, Blackout and Against the Ropes. Each band with members ranging from 8 - 18 years of age, hosted a three to four song set per performance, with a majority of their songs being required to be their

own written material. Cover songs were occasionally intermixed into the show, which included Sixth Sense performing "Come Together" by The Beatles, Feedback premiering "Plush" by Stone Temple Pilots, Blackout delivering "21 Guns" by Green Day, and Against the Ropes spewing an excellent performance of "Carol of the Bells" by Mykola Leon-

The Friday performance of the Winter Showcase was broadcasted live at 3CTVLive.com, and was also recorded for anyone to later purchase it on DVD, available this week.

For more information on Rock and Roll After School or to sign up for their future band program, visit www.rockandrollafterschool.com or call 610-983-4650.



Staff Photo by Amy Strauss
Against the Ropes closed Rock and Roll After School's Winter Showcase concert, performing a four-song set of metal-infused ballads

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WILD & SCENIC ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL



AVON-DALE – On Thursday, February 11 the Stroud Water Research Center will host the nationally acclaimed Wild & Scenic™ Environmental Film Festival. This special evening is sponsored again by outdoor gear purveyor Trail Creek Outfitters, in addition to Talula's Table of Kennett Square, Chester County's Paradox Vineyard, and the Delaware Museum of Natural History. National sponsors include Clif Bar & Co., Osprey Packs, Inc., Patagonia, Inc., Sierra Nevada and Tom's of Maine. The evening of short, independent films, animations, and documentaries will cover the gamut of environmental issues and, in keeping with the Stroud Water Research Center's focus, will include several films based on the theme of fresh water.

"The films of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival are proof of the power of real people who choose to make a positive difference in the world," said Rob Robinson, Partnership Leader of Tom's of Maine, which has sponsored the Wild and Scenic On Tour for several years. "Tom's of Maine is proud to support this festival, and be a part of this community of education, inspiration, and action."

"As outdoor enthusiasts we look forward to sponsoring the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival

every year. It's a wonderful event which calls attention to the need to protect our outdoor spaces and the natural resources that sustain us both physically

and emotionally," said Ed Camelli, Cofounder of Trail Creek Outfitters. "Partnering with Stroud Water Research Center to bring the film festival here allows us to help spread the word about their freshwater research and education programs and their value to us all."

"We are proud to sponsor this ever-growing event, this being the third, and our goal is to increase awareness for the research done and also the funds needed to pursue their excellent work," added Brian Havertine, Cofounder of Trail Creek Outfitters.

"These films provide us with an important platform to show how water is at the heart of almost every environmental issue we face," said Bern Sweeney, Director of the Stroud Water Research Center. "Protecting our freshwater resources can only come with an understanding of how we are putting them at risk, and sharing how we each can be part of the solution to change this for our benefit and that of future generations."

Ticket Sales:
Kay Dixon, Stroud Water Research Center
 610-268-2153 x 247

kdixon@stroudcenter.org
http://www.stroudcenter.org/calendar.htm#WSEFF
 \$20 advance ticket sales only. Seats

are limited. Refreshments and cocktails will be served. All proceeds benefit the Stroud Water Research Center.



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Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 8 a.m., CC and Daily Local News readers and online fans can grab gift cards from your favorite restaurants for 35 percent off the regular price. You can buy \$50 gift cards for \$35; \$25 gift cards for \$18. And those prices include shipping and handling costs.

You must log on to www.dailylocal.com. Gift cards may only be purchased online -- no telephone calls please.

To buy cards, go to DailyLocal.com Wednesday (1/27) through noon Friday (1/29).

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Delaware Theatre Company 21st Annual Wine Feast & Auction

WILMINGTON -- Entertaining auction performances. Boundless energy. Witty style. Spirited bidding. That is what wine collectors can expect when Delaware Theatre Company (DTC) hosts Stage Cru, its premier live auction of fine wines, as part of the 21st Annual Wine Feast & Auction. The intimate event, sponsored by UBS Financial Services,

will be held Thursday, February 4, 2010 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Hotel du Pont's Gold Ballroom. Ensuring spirited bidding is one-man orchestra of auctioneering David Reynolds, America's premier charity wine auctioneer.

The Wine Feast's Stage Cru event will feature a live auction highlight-

ing a case of 2004 Clos du Val Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, along with lots featuring Opus One, Chateau Latour, Chateau Haut-Brion, Araujo, Harlan Estate and other top producers from the world's best wine regions, with bottle sizes ranging from 750ml to 12 liters (also known as a Balthazar). Additional unique and exclusive lots up for auc-

tion are a Grace Family Vineyards 1993 Etched Double Magnum in its original wooden case, as well as a chandelier crafted from 28 Grace Family bottles and designed by renowned artist Sue Whitney. And just in time for Valentine's Day, A.R. Morris Jewelers has generously donated for auction an elegant necklace of 8.5 carats of fine diamonds

set in 18k white gold, designed by internationally-renowned jewelry designer Gregg Ruth.

Auction attendees will toast the evening with a glass of Dom Pérignon, will enjoy a three-course dinner paired with some of the finest wine from Napa Valley and Burgundy, and finish the night with Chateau Rieussec Sauternes.

The Wine Feast & Auction

The Wine Feast continues on Friday, February 5th in the Hotel du Pont's Gold Ballroom with an evening of fine food and wine tastings, and a silent auction. Wine merchants offering samples include Amphora Winery, Branmar Wine & Spirits, Camellia Cellars and Chaddsford Winery.

Tickets are \$250 and include dinner, valet parking, and a complimentary ticket to the Wine Feast & Auction the next evening. Tickets may be ordered by online at www.delawaretheatre.org, or by calling the DTC Box Office at 302.594.1100.



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Center Stage



BY
ROB
NAGY
SPECIAL
TO CC

LEGENDARY SMITHEREENS FRONT MAN PAT DiNIZIO PLAYS TO A PACKED AUCTION HOUSE

It has been three decades since New Jersey's Pat DiNizio first strapped on a guitar and grabbed a microphone for "The Smithereens. As the voice and principle songwriter for the band, DiNizio soon established himself as one of the most prolific vocalist and enduring performers of our time. The Smithereens first release 1980's EP "Girls About Town" showcased the bands talents as a solid rock outfit offering a taste of what was to come. For the next several years they became a fixture throughout the New York City and North Jersey bar scene. In 1983 they made their official full-length debut with "Beauty and Sadness", earning them heavy rotation on college radio and in demand performing on college campuses through-out the U.S. Frustrated by their lack of attention on a large scale the band caught the ear Enigma Records releasing their debut "Especially For You" in 1986. The albums single "Blood and Roses" gaining the band the notoriety and national attention they had worked tirelessly to achieve. Heavy rotation on MTV and FM radio catapulted the band into the spotlight. World tours soon followed, as they shared the stage with the likes of Squeeze, the Who and Cheap Trick just to name a few. The Smithereens had arrived on were on their way to establishing themselves as one of the great rock acts of the time. Over the next thirteen years the Smithereens released six albums, "Green Thoughts" (1988), "11" (1989), "Blow Up" (1991), "A Date With The Smithereens" (1994) and "God Save The Smithereens" (1999). Having spent years touring and recording at an exhaustive pace, the band took a much-needed hiatus. DiNizio, who had released his first album "Songs and Sounds" in 1997, once again channeled his efforts into his solo endeavors releasing the masterpiece "This Is Pat DiNizio" in 2006 followed by his self titled effort one year later. His current release "Buddy Holly" (2009) continues DiNizio's deep appreciation to his musical roots as he pays homage to the late great Buddy Holly. With DiNizio's solo career on solid ground the Smithereens regrouped in 2005 hitting the road to perform live while embarking on a fertile period releasing three albums paying tribute to

their rock hero's. In 2007 they produced "Meet The Smithereens", a remake of the Beatles first album followed by "B-Sides - The Beatles" (2008) and "The Smithereens Play Tommy" (2009). To say that DiNizio has endured numerous victories, trials and tribulations would be an understatement. He is a survivor and a musical troubador in every sense of the word. While the Smithereens continue to perform throughout the U.S. annually, DiNizio continues his solo work playing over hundred dates a year while treating us to a solo album every so often. DiNizio is one of the great songwriters and vocalist of our time. To see him in concert is an experience not to be missed.

On January 10, 2010 Pat DiNizio brought his one man solo show to the Auction House in Audubon, New Jersey. Appropriately billed as "Confessions of a Rock Star", DiNizio did not disappoint playing two and a half hours with a brief intermission. Dressed in his signature black wardrobe and bike racing cap with acoustic guitar in hand, DiNizio held court to a captivated audience sharing numerous stories from his childhood and his time as the leader of the Smithereens. From the start DiNizio exhibited sincere and deep appreciation for the near capacity crowd that braved the cold on a Sunday night.

Highlights included the time he snuck backstage, as a young teenager, to meet his idol Ozzy Osborne, recording with the Go's Go's Belinda Carlisle, crossing paths with numerous rock and roll icons and his childhood escapades. Between stories DiNizio performed memorable renditions of numerous Smithereen classic's, which included "Blood and

Roses", "A Girl Like You", "House and sharing more tales of life as a rock star. DiNizio returns to the area That We Use To Live In", Top of the Pops and Black Sabbath's "Paranoid". on January 24th when he and the rest of the Smithereens grace the stage at Philly's World Café Live for By night's end DiNizio clearly was having such a great time he didn't want to leave the stage. Following his performance he met with fans signing autographs, taking pictures

and sharing more tales of life as a rock star. DiNizio returns to the area on January 24th when he and the rest of the Smithereens grace the stage at Philly's World Café Live for tickets call 215-222-1400 or visit www.worldcafelive.com . For future shows at Auction House call 856-546-7755 or go to www.auction-house.com

Photos by Rob Nagy



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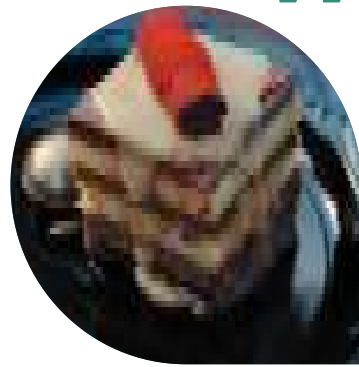
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What's the *Sweetest Thing* Someone has done for you?



Tell us in 50 words or less by February 28 and you may win the "Sweetest Thing" prize from the Chester County Community Foundation. Known for legacy philanthropy, the Community Foundation is holding its Sixth Annual Sweet Charity dessert tasting event on Tuesday evening, March 23, amidst the beautiful spring blossoms at Waterloo Gardens in Exton.

Enter the Sweet Charity Sweetest Thing Contest and you may win a pair of tickets to the March 23 Sweet

Charity dessert event—a \$200 value.

Sweet Charity is THE dessert event of the year, but don't take our word for it! check out the video from last year's event at www.chescocf.org. Tickets are available at www.chescocf.org or (610) 696-8211.

This year's delectable dessert entries are by chefs from Amani's, Brandywine Prime, Brickside Grille, Butterfish, Carlino's Market, Cupcakes Gourmet, General Warren Inne,

Hartefeld National Golf Club, Jimmy Duffy & Sons, Lincoln Room, New Street Catering, Pace One Restaurant & Country Inn, Spence Café, St. Peter's Bakery, Wegman's, and Whitford County Club.

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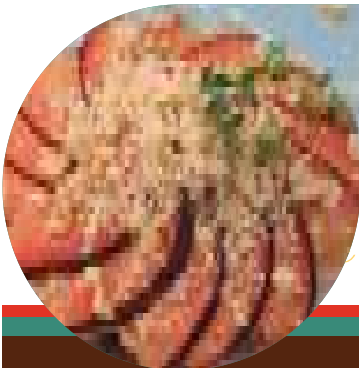
To enter the Sweet Charity Sweetest

Thing Contest, by February 28 tell us in 50 words or less, "The Sweetest Thing Someone Did For Me Was..."

e-mail info@chescocf.org or wcdish@gmail.com

or mail Sweetest Thing, CCCF, 28 W. Market Street, West Chester PA 19382.

Make sure to include your name and contact info, so we can get in touch with Sweet Charity ticket winners. Winners will be announced on Friday March 5 during the "Eat Drink & Meet Mary" segment on the JT Morgan Program on WCHE-1520 AM.



The Handprint Identity Project

WEST CHESTER -- In "The Handprint Identity Project," 10 artists and 10 poets from across the country united to create works that spoke to the concept of identity. This project was conceived and directed by Milt Friedly, an Elizabethtown College professor who will bring the exhibit to West Chester University. The opening reception for this and exhibits by Matthew Lawrence and Sally VanOrden is

Wednesday, Jan. 27, from 5 to 8 p.m. in McKinney and Long galleries in Mitchell Hall on South Church Street. There is also a poetry reading featuring poet Barbara Crooker and artist Claire Giblin from the Handprint Identity Project on Thursday, Jan. 28, at 4 p.m. in McKinney Gallery. The exhibits will run until Friday, Feb. 26.

According to Friedly, the "Hand-

print Identity Project" found part of its genesis in the turmoil of Sept. 11. "After the twin towers collapsed, news reports began focusing on the process of identifying those lost," he explains. "They spoke of discerning life through the smallest of remnants—mere fragments of the whole person."

He enlisted 20 respected poets and artists from across the country to in-

terpret "identity," then, in a cross-genre collaboration, had each poet respond to an artist's work and each artist respond to a poet's work. Those from the Philadelphia region who participated include Leslie Kaufman (Philadelphia), founder of Philadelphia Sculptors and president since 1996; Carol Cole (Philadelphia), a professional artist for 25 years whose work is in many corporate and private collections; Carol Galligan (Lancaster), an award-winning artist who has taught at Lancaster-area colleges; and Julia Spicher Kasdorf, a poet who teaches at Penn State.

Friedly has printed both a full-color, glossy catalogue and a collection of poetry inspired by this project; both are available for purchase at the exhibition.

Two other artists' works are on display in the Mitchell Hall galleries in January and February.

Matthew Lawrence's paintings "tell stories about the need to escape to a better place when life gets too crass, too distant from the safe world we believed in as children." He utilizes glitter, toys, beads and glass in his art to tell those stories. In "We Are All Somebodies [sic] Dinner," Law-

rence studies the reestablishment of our connection to nature with an underlying sense of it collapsing.

A West Chester professor of art since 1997, Sally VanOrden has had more than 25 exhibitions. Her work in "Organic Forms: A Series Exploring Boundaries" is about "organic abstractions of structures that originate from Mother Earth. Whether it is the microscopic investigation or a larger visual field, the structure may be as large scale as a landscape or as small as an acorn."

Across campus, Shayma Kamel's work will be on display in Knauer Gallery in the Swope Music Building on High Street beginning Wednesday, Jan. 27. The major themes of her work are "perceptions of self and the flowing narratives of the woman in oriental society." Her opening reception is Thursday, Jan. 28, from 12 to 2 p.m.

The Mitchell Hall galleries are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 12 to 4 p.m. The Knauer Gallery is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, contact the Art Department: 610-436-2755.

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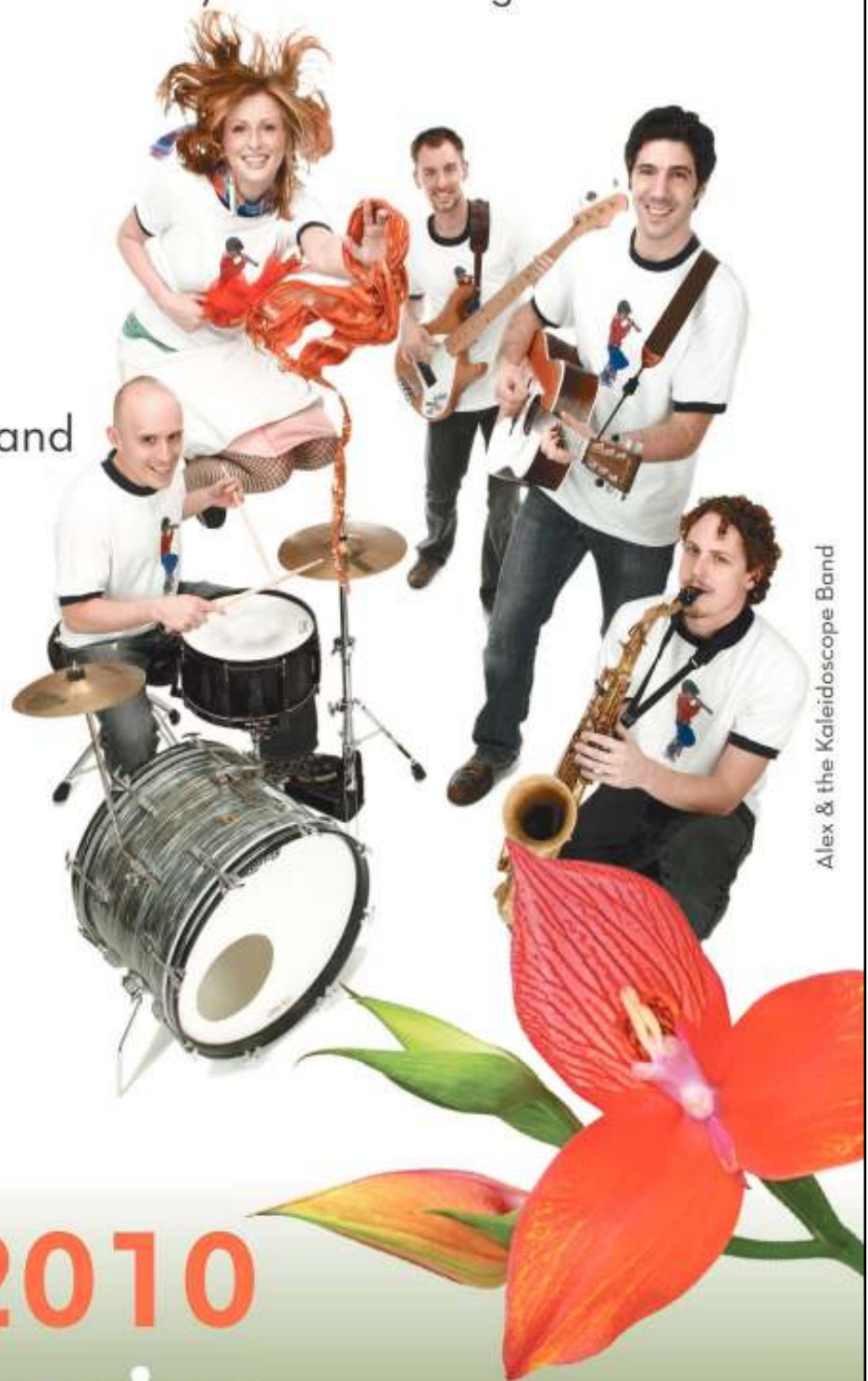
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Alex & the Kaleidoscope Band

Longwood Gardens, **2010**
performance series

HOW TO FAKE IT FOR YOUR HUSBAND

BY
JAMIE
ROGERS
WC DISH

JAN. 27, 2010 / PAGE 21

After a few months of marriage, I have figured that the fastest way to my new husband's heart is through his stomach. But, the fastest way for me to freak out is the pressure to perform. In the kitchen, that is.

Here are some ways that I have learned to "fake" a meal of roasted chicken, savory carrots and pretty potatoes using your local grocery store and dirtying just a few dishes.

1. Equate everything to boiling water.

My favorite go-to vegetables are those delicious baby carrots. No cleaning, no peeling—they're ready to go right from the bag. To make them extra special, pour about a cup or so of orange juice into a saucepan

and bring it to a boil. Add the carrots and lower the heat.

Continue cooking until tender. Put them in a pretty bowl and sprinkle a little parsley on top for color.

2. Your supermarket. Your friend.

I often visit the refrigerated section and buy myself a Tyson whole roasted chicken. You can microwave it, but I recommend using your oven. You know... the big box in your

kitchen that gets hot when you turn the knobs. While it's cooking, baste it with a little bit of your favorite BBQ sauce. It only takes 40 minutes and makes your home smell delicious. Put it on a platter and carve it at the table. It will be so Norman Rockwell of you.

3. Don't ruin a good mani on peeling potatoes

I equate peeling potatoes with what restaurants make you do if you don't have enough

money to pay for your bill. That's why I love Alexia's Frozen Oven Potatoes. There are a variety of flavors, but my personal favorite is the Oven Reds with Olive Oil, Sun-Dried Tomatoes and Pesto. They have a really pretty color and, best of all you can cook them in the oven along with your roasted chicken.

That's it, kids. Three easy steps to a perfect meal to fool... err... please your new or old hubby. And, because you only used about six dishes, maybe he'll even do those.

← CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

(May 14 to 16, \$20 to \$70); "Avenue Q" (June 18 to 20); "Dreamgirls" (June 22 to 27). Visit www.kimmelcenter.org or call 215-893-1999.

WALNUT STREET SEASON

THE WALNUT STREET THEATRE, 825 Walnut St., Philadelphia (215-5574-3550 or www.WalnutStreetTheatre.org), presents the following shows this season: "Fallen Angels" by Noel Coward (March 16 to May 2); "Fiddler on the Roof" (May 18 to July 18). Call or visit online for ticket information.

ARDEN SEASON

THE ARDEN THEATRE COMPANY, 40 N. Second St., Philadelphia (215-922-1122 or www.ardentheatre.org), presents the following shows this season: "Romeo and Juliet" (Feb. 25 to April 4); "Sunday in the Park With George" (May 27 to July 4). Call or visit online for ticket information.

WILMA SEASON

THE WILMA THEATER, 265 S. Broad St., Philadelphia (215-546-7824 or www.wilma-theater.org), presents the following shows this season: "Scorched" (Feb. 25 to March 29); "Hysteria" (May 13 to June 14). Call or visit online for ticket information.

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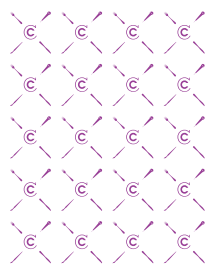
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WITH JESS MARGERERA

I DON'T THINK JESS MARGERERA NEEDS TO BE INTRODUCED,

BUT FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE COMPLETELY OUT OF TOUCH, HE IS THE DRUMMER AND FOUNDING MEMBER OF CKY, A PRODUCER, AN ACTOR AND THE BROTHER OF BAM MARGERERA.

IF YOU ARE STILL UNSURE OF WHO HE IS YOU SHOULD JUST PUT THE PAPER DOWN AND CRAWL BACK UNDER YOUR ROCK. JESS HAS A NEW MUSIC PROJECT, THE COMPANY BAND, WHICH INCLUDES MEMBERS OF CLUTCH, FIREBALL MINISTRY AND FU MANCHU.

Tell us how The Company Band came together.

The band came together after we (CKY) did about a year of touring with Fireball Ministry. Me and the Reverend Jim loved a lot of the same records and we became fast friends. It just made sense that we play together. They were at my house for Thanksgiving and I was like 'yo, let's jam!' He had written a bunch of songs with his buddy Dave Bone out in L.A., so we just traded files back and forth for a while and then we had this EP. Just for shits and giggles I asked Neil (Clutch) if he would sing on one of the songs and he was so into it he said do you mind if I sing on all of it? And I was like "hell yeah!" Clutch has been one of my favorite bands since like sophomore year of high school.

You're a busy guy. You play in three bands, do a lot of recording, and have three kids, how do you balance it all?

Three bands, three kids! It's crazy. Ya know, it's drastic. I'm out on tour for weeks, which can suck, and then I'm home for like a month and it's awesome cause I'm pretty much just chillin' in my pajama pants. (laughs) But the Internet really helps me be able to do all these projects, just send-



ing files back and forth. For this new record, we got together once!

What do you feel the state of the music industry is as far as illegal downloading?

Well, I make my money touring. But at the same time, bands have a lot of options now. There is a way to have successful bands and labels by selling ten thousand copies instead of a hundred thousand, it's just a different way of doing it. Downloading is sometimes cool if it gets you another fan who might not of heard the record, but it sucks cause then you don't get paid.

On the new record, in the song "Gin and Pentatonic" Neil sings about "the Singularity," is that a reference to inventor Ray Kurzweil's singularity?

(laughs) Man, with him probably. You're never gonna know what you're gonna get with Neil. Sometimes it's zombies, sometimes it's Hot Topic Girls. In the song "Love means never having to say your ugly" I had no idea where he got that from. Then I was at the video store and saw it was the tag line for some weird 70's movie.

You play a big Ludwig drum set similar to John Bonham's, is he an influence of yours?

Totally. I saw "The Song Remains the Same" when I was like eight. Robert Plant's doing his thing, John Paul Jones is there with his dutch boy haircut, and I'm like, eh, I don't wanna do that, Jimmy Page is on Angel Dust or something and then you see Bonzo just kickin' ass and takin' names. And I was like, yeah, I wanna

play drums. I also have two uncles that play drums. Also, JP from Clutch is insane, and Brain from Primus and Guns and Roses.

What's the best show you've seen recently?

Graveyard, from Sweden. They're like this late 60s early 70s rock band, man, those guys still think it's the 60s!

What's next for The Company Band?

Well, hopefully this coming summer we can put a tour together. It's hard when all the band members are in active touring bands, so we'll see.

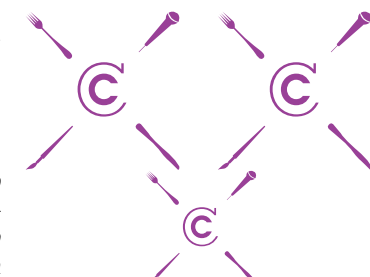
Sound check is brought to you every two weeks by Mike Bardzik – drummer, recording engineer, owner of Second Story Sound Studios in West Chester and an

all around good guy. Visit Mike at www.secondstorysoundstudios.com.

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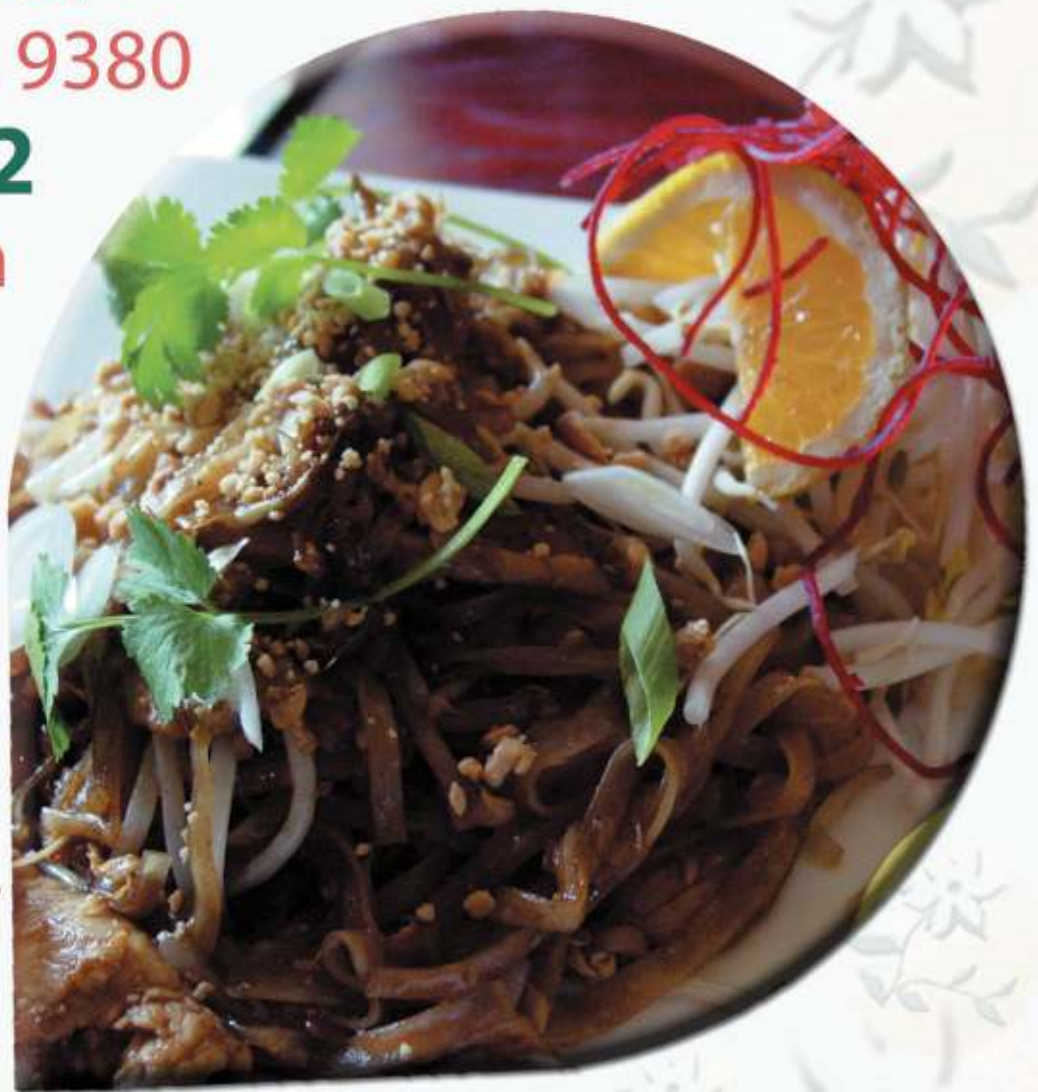


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