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Sharing The Love Of Community

This month's theme of 'Love Local' is easy to gush about, because our region and surrounding neighborhoods give us safety, inspiration, pride and comfort to face life's challenges. If you're like me, we relish calling this place 'home.'

We so appreciate our readers and advertisers for being part of the journey in nurturing a luxury community publication. As we embark on our seventh year of publishing, we love bringing you news of interesting residents, community leaders, business developments, memorable photos, local nonprofits, heartwarming concepts, new products, helpful services and upcoming events.

Speaking of which, coming this month is a chance to 'Party Like It's 1776' during a fundraiser for Newtown Library Company on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 6-10 p.m. The event will be held in Newtown at Morell Smith VFW, 41 Linden Ave. Organizers have planned live music, dancing, a lottery tree, food, drinks and a wheelbarrow of cheer. Supporters are honoring the library's 266 years and 250 years of military service.

In the spirit of this love-filled edition, I'm making time this month to be fully present with my Valentine – no distractions, just connection. May your Valentine's Day be filled with all the elements that make your heart happy, from sweet treats to cherished moments. We're sending you warm wishes from all of us here at *Newtown City Lifestyle*.



DANA SLIPP, PUBLISHER
@NEWTOWNCITYLIFESTYLE

NEWTOWN

CITY LIFESTYLE™

February 2026

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Proverbs 3:5-6

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inside *the issue*

FEBRUARY 2026 | LOVE LOCAL



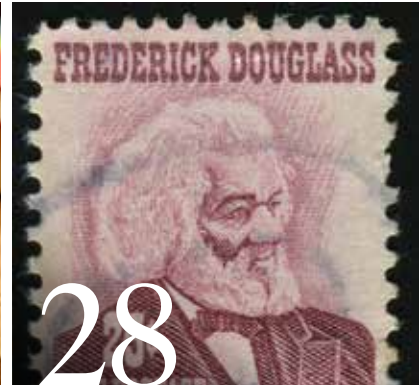
18



14



26



28

Featured

14 **Love To Ride In Style**
Advanced Limousine Services: Dependable, Private, On-Time Transportation

18 **San Valentino Recipes To Savor**
Ristorante LUCCA's Chef Andrea Esposito Shares Personal Suggestions For At-Home Valentine's Day Meal

26 **A Community Of Readers**
4 Monthly Book Clubs At Newtown Bookshop

28 **Gather Place Museum Series:**
Celebrating 250 Years Of American Resilience; Gather Place Museum At Old A.M.E. Church Of Yardley

On the Cover

Make your own savory, thematic Ravioli di Cuore [Heart-Shaped Ricotta Ravioli] for V-Day month, thanks to the classic and classy recipe shared by executive chef Andrea Esposito at Ristorante LUCCA & Piano Lounge.

Photography:
Iryn Agrygorii

Departments

- 6 Lifestyle Letter
- 10 City Scene
- 12 Business Monthly
- 14 Driver's Notebook AUTO + MARINE
- 18 Culinary Creations FOOD + BEVERAGE
- 22 Trend Setter HOME + DESIGN
- 26 Inspired By ARTS + CULTURE
- 28 Our Town LIFE + CULTURE
- 30 Expert Help PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
- 34 Events



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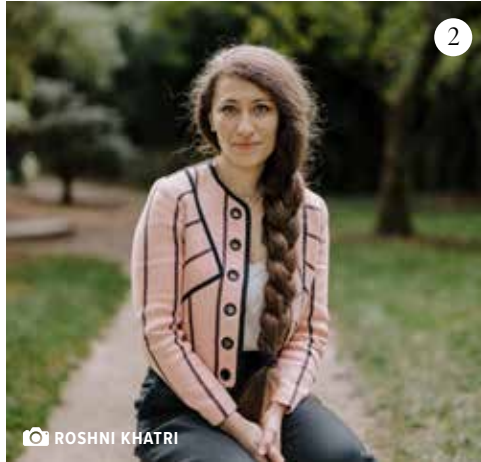
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FEBRUARY 2026

city scene

WHERE NEIGHBORS CAN SEE AND BE SEEN



1: Mark Byelich (left), Attleboro Wealth Management in Yardley, completed invitation-only training with Ed Slott Group. 2: Grace Yasumura was named curator at Grounds For Sculpture. She will focus on eye-catching exhibitions. 3: Margaret Johnson is the new managing director at Johnson Atelier, the sculpture fabrication/conservation facility.

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A ROUNDUP OF NEWS FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES



Bucks Beautiful Nonprofit Honors Its Community Members

Newtown resident Justin Braley was honored as the recipient of the Bucks Beautiful 2025 Leader Award for his instrumental role in the growth and success of the organization. Last fall he worked with RePlant Bucks Chair Dominic Zimmaro to help volunteers plant 550-plus native trees in the Bucks County park system. Pat Zema, of Doylestown, garnered the 2025 Laurel Award, given to a community member who has advanced the organization through exceptional service.

Photography by Courtesy of Bucks Beautiful



Cheers To A Different Local Beverage For Valentine's Day

Staffers at a family farm and cidery located in New Hope grow the apples used in their cider, also known as apple wine; every step from pressing to barrel aging happens at Manoff Market Cidery LLC. Their tasting room is open all year with outdoor seating available. They offer flights, glasses and bottles, with different varieties, both sparkling and still. Their ciders are mostly dry with wine complexity, but they offer semi-sweet, fruit-infused options seasonally.

Photography by Manoff Market Cidery



Women's Adventure Film Tour To Be Shown

On Feb. 19, The Newtown Theatre will host from 7:30-9 p.m. a thrilling selection of films that span extreme sports, personal journeys and boundary-pushing storytelling from across the globe. The program highlights resilience and creativity of individuals navigating challenges of both the outer world and their own inner landscapes. Through stories of courage, adventure and self-discovery, these films represent the spirit of perseverance and power of women to inspire, entertain and spark important conversations

Want to be featured?

GET IN TOUCH AT CITYLIFESTYLE.COM/NEWTOWN



Give Loved Ones A Gift That Keeps Giving

Newtown resident Andie Olson provides one-on-one art and drawing lessons that are custom tailored to each person's skill level and interests. Classes come in packs of five 1-hour sessions or five half-hour sessions. She says she has 15-plus years of art teaching experience, including 3 years of classroom experience. She currently teaches ages 8-plus in private or small group settings. To discuss session options, Andie can be reached at AndieOlsonArt@gmail.com or 215.359.5043.

Photography by Andie Olson

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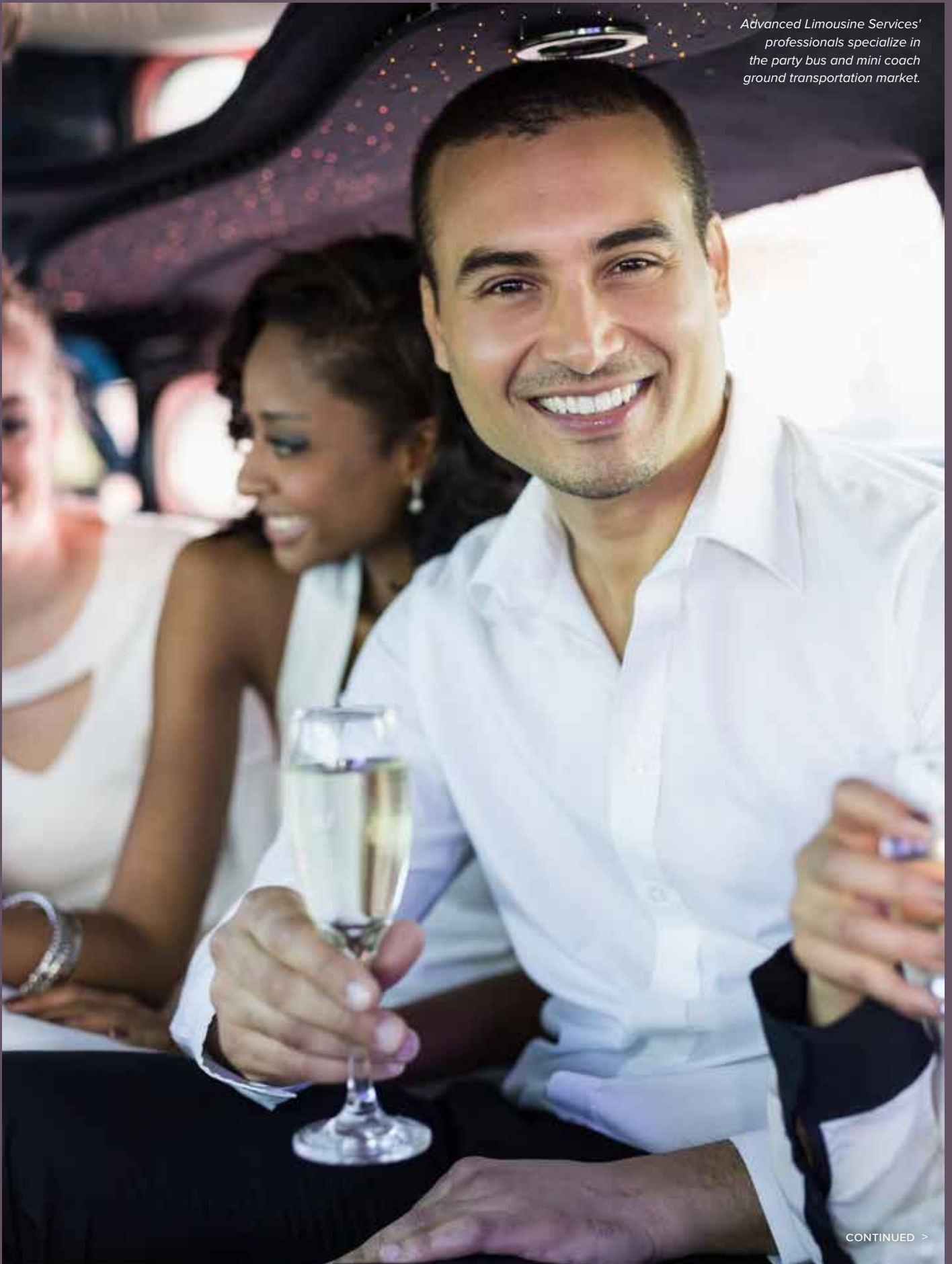
The team at Advanced Limousine Services lives by a mantra of quality over quantity.

“Quality, not size, is the hallmark upon which we built our company and in which we take great pride,” says Stacy Simpson, the company's executive assistant. “We at Advanced Limousine Services develop success by choosing and diligently training certain individuals who possess the special qualities that will guarantee clients' extreme confidence and satisfaction.”

ARTICLE BY MADELINE MARRIOTT



Advanced Limousine Services' professionals specialize in the party bus and mini coach ground transportation market.



CONTINUED >

The family-run business has served Bucks County and beyond for more than 25 years, striving to provide 24/7 trustworthy and local transportation. Their fleet of vehicles is based in Feasterville with dispatching offices in Newtown and Doylestown. They serve clients throughout the Tri-State area, as well as New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. Advanced Limousine Services take individual clients and families to airports throughout Bucks County, Montgomery County, Chester County and Lehigh Valley, as well as those traveling to business meetings in nearby cities.

They strive to ease the stress of air travel by making drop-offs and pick-ups run smoothly.

“Our dispatchers monitor all arrivals and departures to make sure clients are on time,” Stacy explains. “Our chauffeurs are well trained with all the airports and arrive before clients even get off the plane. We provide a meet and greet service, at no cost, which includes meeting clients inside terminals and helping with luggage back to the vehicle.”

This staff also regularly provides transportation to casinos, nights on the town or any occasion, such as birthday parties and corporate events. For larger groups like proms, weddings and bachelor or bachelorette parties, the team offers party buses and limousines at competitive prices.

“Your wedding day is a whirlwind of emotions, celebrations and countless moments that make it unforgettable,” Stacy says. “Between the ceremony, the photos and the reception, every detail plays a crucial role in creating the perfect day. One essential aspect that often gets overlooked in the rush of planning is transportation. The reliability of your limo service guarantees that no part of your wedding timeline is thrown off course. A wedding limo service provides the perfect respite from the busy day. Whether it’s during

the ride to your ceremony or between locations, the limo offers a private and comfortable environment where you and your bridal party can relax.”

Advanced Limousine Services offers a variety of classic cars, including their 1960 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud II and the 1972 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow, a white classic stretch.

“We can drive you to sample the local wineries in one of our luxury stretch limousines, or our very popular mini buses for larger groups,” Stacy says. “We can customize a wine tour to suit your choice, or recommend a planned route from one of the many tours we have conducted over the years.”

She says their goal is “to exceed clients’ expectations, to make their transportation experience outstanding, and to create lifelong unforgettable memories.”

People enjoy limousines for the ultimate luxury experience, making journeys feel exclusive, relaxing and memorable, while professional drivers handle traffic and parking. Additionally, limousine services add elegance to occasions while turning travel time into part of the fun.

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SAN VALENTINO RECIPES TO SAVOR

ARTICLE BY JULIE BROWN PATTON

For VIP experiences during special Valentine's Day meals, head to Ristorante LUCCA & Piano Lounge, nearby at 144 US-130, Bordentown, New Jersey. Guests indicate stepping into the Piano Lounge's cabaret dining ambiance means leaving the ordinary world behind. When guests aren't at the ristorante, LUCCA executive chef Andrea Esposito, recommends these two recipes to make an exceptional, comforting at-home meal. Enjoy!

RAVIOLI DI CUORE (HEART-SHAPED RICOTTA RAVIOLI) FEEDS 2 PERSONS

Ingredients

Pasta dough:

- 1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 eggs
- Salt to taste

Filling:

- 1 1/2 cups well-drained sheep's milk ricotta cheese (Ricotta di Pecora)
- Zest of 1 lemon
- Black pepper
- Salt
- 1 3/4 ounces Parmesan cheese

Sauce:

- Butter, about 6 tablespoons
- Fresh sage, chopped
- Crushed pink peppercorns

Directions

1. Knead flour and eggs; let rest for 30 minutes.
2. Roll out dough thinly, cut out heart shapes with a cookie cutter.
3. Mix ricotta with lemon zest, Parmesan cheese, salt and pepper.

4. Fill pasta shapes, seal well.
5. Cook for 2-3 minutes in salted water.
6. Dress with browned butter, sage and pink peppercorns. [How to Brown Butter: Heat butter in 10- or 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat until melted, about 2 minutes. Continue to cook, swirling skillet and stirring constantly with heatproof rubber spatula, until butter is dark golden brown and has nutty aroma, 1 to 3 minutes longer. Remove skillet from heat and transfer browned butter to large heatproof bowl.]

MOUSSE AL CIOCCOLATO E LAMPONE IN COPPA (CHOCOLATE AND RASPBERRY MOUSSE IN A GLASS)

Ingredients

- 150 grams or about 20 squares of baking, unsweetened dark

chocolate, depending on the bar's weight per square

- 1 cup cream
- 2 egg yolks
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- Fresh raspberries
- A pinch of salt

Directions

1. Melt chocolate in a bain-marie (culinary setup using indirect, gentle heat, as a stovetop double boiler for melting).
2. Lightly whip the cream.
3. Beat egg yolks and sugar together, then add to lukewarm chocolate.
4. Gently fold in cream.
5. Pour into individual serving glasses and refrigerate for 2 hours.
6. Garnish with raspberries and micro-zest of lime.

Chef's tip: Serve with cocoa crumble or a salty biscuit for contrast.

Ristorante LUCCA & Piano Lounge

Hailing from the charming coastal town of Monte di Procida in the province of Naples, Andrea Esposito serves as executive chef at Ristorante LUCCA in Bordentown, New Jersey. There, he blends authentic Neapolitan flavors with refined technique, offering guests a true taste of Italy. Here, he kindly shares personal recipes to enhance any February at-home meals, especially for Valentine's Day.

Right: Andrea Esposito, Ristorante LUCCA executive chef





Ravioli di Cuore

CONTINUED >



Ristorante LUCCA serves elevated Italian fare that marries regional delicacies with the exacting standards of global culinary excellence. The menu showcases premier dishes from across the Italian peninsula, in a modern, forward-thinking fashion.

During February, Chef Andrea assures they will offer Valentine-themed menu options using the finest in winter ingredients.

Wines available to accompany meals are curated by the restaurant's sommelier Daniel Bossi. The staff's collection of more than 300 bottles, nearly two dozen of which are exclusive to LUCCA, is known to be among the most enviable, robust wine cellar of any of the region's restaurants. At Ristorante LUCCA, every bottle of wine is ultimately hand-selected by Daniel as the wine director.

Live, elite music sets the scene for dazzling evenings within the Piano Lounge, along with dim lighting, rich accents and luxe design.

Additionally, for special occasion gatherings, wedding receptions or corporate events, the ristorante's professional team of catering specialists and service staff can cater private events on-site. They offer sample lunch and dinner packages, or they can create customized menus that reflect preferences and themed events.

This staff likes to convey "service to excess is standard at Ristorante LUCCA." The group's typical dress code is considered to be smart casual. Reservations can be made via the online platform OpenTable or by calling the team directly at 609.262.0110 for availability.

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Building the *Perfect* Bouquet

Valentine's Day can be celebrated in many ways. Some people choose to go out for dinner and a movie, others hire a private chef for a romantic meal at home, some buy chocolates and find a fun activity in town, and some couples go out of town for an exciting getaway! One Valentine's Day staple is giving a bouquet of flowers to someone special. Flowers are the gift that say I love you and can be given to your spouse, children, and mom. As a child, my father always got me roses on Valentine's Day until I met my husband and he took over the tradition. A bouquet of flowers can say many things as each flower has a different meaning. If you're wanting to say something special to the ones you love this Valentine's Day, take a look at our list of three popular flowers, what they mean, and what flowers to pair them with.

USE THIS GUIDE WHEN ORDERING VALENTINE'S DAY BOUQUETS





Roses / LOVE & ROMANCE

Roses are by far the most popular flower to give on Valentine's Day. They are beautiful by themselves or you can add Baby's Breath to enhance the bouquet. These two make a romantic bouquet and are the perfect flowers to give to someone special.



Lilies / PURITY & FERTILITY

Lilies come in a variety of colors and are eye-catching! For a softer looking bouquet, pair your lilies with carnations. These two combined are fun and heartwarming and are a great gift for anyone.



Tulips / PERFECT FOR DEEP LOVE

A bouquet of tulips will brighten any space! Adding some Ranunculus, also known as buttercup, will complement the tulips wonderfully. These flowers have a refreshing look that will decorate any home beautifully in a crystal vase.

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A Community Of Readers

4 MONTHLY BOOK CLUBS
AT NEWTOWN BOOKSHOP



The Newtown Bookshop staff also hosts a monthly poetry group, run and organized by local poet Lynn Fanok.

The Newtown Bookshop is home to several book clubs and discussion groups that help members take reading to the next level.

“Book clubs are amazing,” says Bookshop owner Kathy Morrison. “A group of people can read the exact same book, and yet have very different interpretations from it. It’s a learning experience each month where community members gather and share in an open environment.”

Readers can join solo, or come with family members and friends to share new interests.

The daytime book discussion group meets in-store at 11 a.m. on the third Thursday of every month and reads fiction genres from historical to literary. The evening book discussion group meets on Zoom at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month and reads a similar variety of genres.

The newest addition to the store’s book club offerings is the non-fiction discussion group. They meet at 1 p.m. in-store on the second Wednesday monthly, reading historical non-fiction with the occasional foray into literary fiction.

One different gathering is the cookbook club. The group chooses a cookbook each month, and members make a dish for the meeting. At 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday monthly, the group discusses recipes and eats together.

“Food has such strong ties to memories and emotions, and some of our cookbook club members have been involved in this group for over 15 years, taking part in this community,” Kathy says.

Customers receive a 20% discount on each featured book leading up to the book club meetings.

ARTICLE BY MADELINE MARRIOTT



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ARTICLE BY JULIE BROWN PATTON



FEB. 6, FREDERICK DOUGLASS, 2 P.M., \$20:

Explore the extraordinary life of Frederick Douglass through a powerful multimedia lecture tracing his journey to global statesman. Dramatic visuals, historical narration and staged transitions illuminate his rise as America's leading champion for equality. A concluding Q&A invites thoughtful dialogue on his enduring message. The museum is located in Yardley at 188 South Canal St.



Photo courtesy of Gather Place

FEB. 21, ROSA PARKS, 2 P.M., \$20:

Honor the courage of Rosa Parks in this powerful visual lecture exploring her pivotal role in launching and shaping the Civil Rights Movement. Through engaging narration and archival images, audiences gain insight into Rosa's lifelong dedication to justice. Costume details enhance authenticity, and a Q&A encourages reflection on civic responsibility and community action. Each of these highlighted presentations is an hour long.



Photo courtesy of Gather Place

FEB. 28, FIRST-PERSON REENACTMENT HARRIET TUBMAN "HER LIFE, HER LEGACY, A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME," 2 P.M., \$20:

Rediscover the extraordinary life of Harriet Tubman in this immersive four-part reenactment. From her childhood as Minty Ross to her daring rescue missions, each scene reveals the courage and resilience that made her an icon of freedom. Historically accurate storytelling and subtle costume transitions deepen the experience. A Q&A closes the program. For questions about these presentations, call 215.595.2722 or email info@gatherplace.org.

AME Church of Yardley was established during 1877, founded by Quaker William Yeardley and shaped by his nephew Thomas Yardley. Organizers indicate these presentations are ideal for classrooms, libraries, museums, historical societies and community groups.

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BY BUCKS COUNTY
ASSOCIATION FOR BLIND/
VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Bucks County Association For Blind/Visually Impaired Bolsters Community Clients

From being launched in 1945, representatives of Bucks County Association For The Blind And Visually Impaired just observed the nonprofit's 80th anniversary of servicing local community citizens.

"We assist eligible Bucks County residents who are experiencing low vision or blindness. Low vision is a significant visual impairment that interferes with the ability to function in daily life and cannot be corrected with traditional visual aids," explains Anne Marie Hyer, MPA, MS, BCABVI's executive director.

Anne Marie states the 501(c)(3) organization's professionals help clients navigate vision loss journeys by providing individualized rehabilitation and support services. "In partnership with our clients, we identify the right combination of services, vision evaluations, assistive technology, education, resources and support needed for personal success."

Rande Whitham, BCABVI board president, says the group also educates and raises public awareness about vision loss. "We offer presentations that explain causes, symptoms and impacts of eye diseases, implications and prevention of vision loss, and teach best practices to support people with visual impairments."

Residents may receive BCABVI services if they have a visual acuity of 20/70 or worse in their better eye, or a visual field of less than 20 degrees that cannot be corrected with glasses, contact lenses, medicine or surgery.

The organization got its start by assisting men who returned from World War II with blindness or visual impairments. To

commemorate the nonprofit's 80th anniversary, the staff introduced a special ruby red logo, with ruby being the color that traditionally symbolizes passion and commitment.

This group now helps community residents in a variety of ways:

- At their Low Vision Clinic, comprehensive eye evaluations are offered that go beyond standard eye exams. Anne Marie says their optometrist takes the time to understand the daily challenges caused by one's vision loss, help identify personal goals and offer practical solutions that can help with daily living. "No one is refused service due to an inability to pay."
- Orientation and mobility training teaches skills and fosters confidence for safe and effective travel, including walking, crossing streets and navigating stairs; using technology-adapted devices; as well as creating home environments that promote independence and self-reliance.
- Specially trained doctors and therapists recommend and provide training on low vision devices and daily living aids to help clients perform everyday tasks more easily and improve quality of life. These adaptive devices include electronic magnifiers, proper lighting, closed-circuit televisions, smartphones and iPads.
- Resource assistance is provided through a technology lending library, plus basic and specialized eyeglasses at no or low cost for people who meet eligibility requirements. Anne Marie confirms they secure grants and work with other community groups.



- They provide group-based or individualized support through a vision services facilitator. Virtual and in-person programs connect clients and create a sense of community while sharing information and resources.
- Their Preschool Vision Screenings identify vision issues in children ages 3 to 6 years old. Additionally, BCABVI's Family Resource Guide shares helpful information about services, resources, technology and contacts throughout Bucks County.

Volunteer opportunities for those 18 years and older are offered to assist with projects throughout the agency, as well as in the group's Second Look Newtown Thrift Shop, located in Newtown at 400 Freedom Drive. Store hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fridays 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Second Look donation hours to the shop are Mondays through Saturdays only 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Items accepted at the shop span new and gently pre-loved clothing; high-end clothing; accessories; new and gently worn shoes; kids toys and games; jewelry; books (limited to three small boxes per donation); small, working electronics; housewares; and seasonal décor.

Judy Frank, BCABVI's client navigator, provides the agency's clients with a general overview of services and programs. She coordinates with clinic staffers and the vision services facilitator so clients can access available rehabilitation and support.

"People come to us in various emotional states, all acknowledging varying degrees of independence loss. Actively listening is essential in my role. People often just need to be heard to lower their anxiety or sadness. This helps them to feel hopeful. With hope, they're more inclined to genuinely want and participate in their rehabilitation and discover new ways to live a rich life," Judy says.

CONTINUED >

“As an independent nonprofit organization receiving less than 12% of funding from local, state or governmental funding sources, we rely on generous supporters to help fulfill our mission and create positive change for our clients.”



Anne Marie Hyer, BCABVI's
executive director



Judy Frank, BCABVI's
client navigator

"Imagine experiencing vision loss and you don't know where to turn," poses Anne Marie. "Our team understands that experiencing vision loss can be overwhelming. With the community working together, we change lives."

Throughout 2026, Anne Marie says one of their primary focus areas is assisting clients with successfully aging in place. "The senior population in Bucks County is projected to increase by 11% over the next five years. Our role in the aging in place process is continually evolving, and BCABVI is proactively evaluating our current services, resources and capacity to provide added support."

Main Number: 215.968.9400
Low Vision Clinic: 215.968.1035
BucksBlind.org



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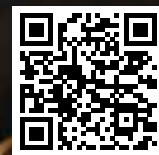


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FEBRUARY 2026

events

A SELECTION OF UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1ST

Midnight Sun Orchestra

Havana Restaurant & Bar / 1:00 PM

Join others for a great afternoon of music with The Midnight Sun Orchestra, which offer 17 pieces of swing music. There's no cover charge. This event will be hosted in New Hope at 105 South Main St. For questions, call 215.862.5501 or email entertainment@havananewhope.com.

FEBRUARY 7TH & 21ST

Yardley Winter Farmer's Market

Inside LMT Community Center, 1550 Oxford Valley Road / 9:00 AM

This indoor market promotes sustainability through locally grown and sourced items. It offers an array of fruits and vegetables (including organically grown produce, meats, poultry and eggs), roasted coffee, honey, fresh artisan breads and baked goods (including gluten-free and vegan options), prepared foods, Kombucha, fermented foods, natural body products, flowers, plants and gifts. There's free on-site parking.

FEBRUARY 11TH

Open Classroom Experience

French American School Of Princeton / 8:45 AM

The French American School of Princeton provides a nurturing, creative learning environment where students focus on academic excellence and development through an exemplary bilingual, multicultural education. Discover a school that cultivates children's curiosity and builds their confidence, leading to expanded opportunities to engage with the world and soar. This offering is for those interested in seeing teachers and students interacting.

FEBRUARY 13TH - 15TH

Hot Wheels Monster Trucks LIVE 'Glow-N-Fire'

CURE Insurance Arena / 7:30 PM

Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live Glow-N-Fire 2026 Tour brings fans' favorite Hot Wheels Monster Trucks to life, including Mega Wrex, Tiger Shark, HW 5-Alarm, Bone Shaker, Bigfoot and Skelesaurus, alongside FMX riders performing jaw-dropping stunts and a fire-breathing, car-crushing robot dinosaur. Plus, see the all-new truck to the tour Rhinomite, the dynamite Rhino-themed truck charging horn-first into the competition.

FEBRUARY 13TH

Latin And Ballroom Dance

New Hope Arts Inc. / 7:00 PM

Join a fun group for Latin and ballroom dance instruction from representatives of Fred Astaire Dance Studios, then stay for open dancing with partners or go solo. The event concludes at 10 p.m. This dance studio was established in 1947, and its teachers offer dance lessons, guest master classes and special events throughout the year, including wedding dance instructions.

FEBRUARY 19TH, 20TH, 21ST, 22ND, 24TH, 25TH, 26TH, 27TH & 28TH

Starstruck Musical

Bucks County Playhouse / 7:30 PM

"Starstruck" is a sharp, surprising new musical comedy set in the tiny mountain town of Sawtooth, Idaho, where the night sky is under threat and the stars have never felt closer. VIP show tickets available Feb. 20, 24, 25, 26: photo-op with writers; cash bar. Tickets range from \$37 to \$72 each.

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