Letter *from the* Editor

Kate Chadwick shares some personal insight into this month's theme



There are some great quotes on the subject of aging. My favorite is probably, "Do not complain about growing older; it is a privilege denied to many," often attributed to Mark Twain. Then there's the late Tom Petty's pithy-but-painfully-accurate, "If you're not getting older, you're dead." And of course, the bullseye t-shirt wisdom of, "I may be old, but I got to see all the cool bands."

I have one to add, if I may: "I may be old[er], but I loved autumn before it was cool." [See what I did there?] Before Pumpkin Spice latte was dreamed up by Starbucks executive Peter Dukes and became *de rigueur* for every VSCO girl's Instagram post. Before VSCO and Instagram even existed, for that matter. Back before corn husk pumpkins and salted caramel apple-scented candles started lining the shelves at Michaels craft stores—before Michaels craft stores, even. Are you sensing a pattern here?

When I was a child, my father tolerated my mother's affinity for the seashore—where her parents had retired and which we visited year-round—in exchange for a jaunt or two each autumn from our Delco home to the Poconos, where his brother's family had a vacation house. (We were poor—we took all the free getaway options we could, including frequent Sunday drives through Chester County.) Always a fan of change and changing seasons, I loved fall most from the jump. Yes, we had changing leaves and temperature dips in Delco—hurray for open windows—but the grand-scale glory of fall foliage in the mountains—and on the drive there—knocked my socks off. Still does. The scent and crackle of a fireplace undoes me to this day. And although I was "old" by the time I started using Instagram, I'll argue with... well, anyone, that fall offers the best light for photos.

In this issue, we bring you a love letter to West Chester in the fall, a tribute in photos by our own Erik Weber, of @WestChesterViews fame. To borrow another favorite quote—song lyric, technically— "Every picture tells a story, don't it?" (Thank you, Rod Stewart).

As for words, we've got two other feature stories, both by the intrepid Danielle Davies: one about the Helicopter Museum, which you'll find not only enlightening, but a visit worthy of your family weekend activity calendar. And the other, a look at the annual Historic Preservation Awards, an homage of its own to the beauty of this town and to those who work to capture and preserve it. Both Andrea Mason and Becca Boyd's columns (*Design Dilemmas* and *Home Beccanomics*) jump into fall with both feet—and I plan to tackle that soup recipe in the latter column sooner than later.

My aunt and uncle have both passed away, but that Poconos house remains in our family. It's been almost eight years since I've visited. I intend to fix that sooner than later, too. Thanks for reading as we welcome fall to West Chester! —*kate@thewcpress.com*

The Press

"No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one autumnal face."
–John Donne

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