Letter *from the* Editor

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



One of things that I have learned and subsequently accepted about myself over the years is this: I'm not the most domestic woman in the world. An aunt has referred to me since childhood as "the family gypsy." I was never the kid who had to be picked up early from a sleepover. It wasn't that I didn't love being home; I just loved being on the move more—it's a big world out there. I'm as comfortable (well, mostly) on a plane as I am in my own living room. My blood pressure doesn't automatically rise the second I walk into an airport. I can "be" anywhere and amuse myself.

The downside of that is that my domestic skillset is limited. If I love you, I'll knock myself out in the kitchen when the spirit moves me, but the results may be...spotty. My house is generally clean, but disorderly, if you get my drift. I love projects like painting a room, but my enthusiasm is often outshone by my incompetence.

People like Rebecca Boyd and Andrea Mason, who write our cooking and home décor columns, respectively, are a source of both admiration and inspiration to me. Add to that my chat with Adam Joseph, 6ABC meteorologist/WC Christmas Parade host/domestic god/renaissance man for this issue, and, if I let myself, I could come up feeling pretty inadequate in comparison. But I don't. After all, for every person who can whip up serious magic in the kitchen, there must be someone to appreciate and indulge in it. That's me. I'm that person. For every person who can grow a fully functional garden, there's someone like me, unable to keep even a potted succulent alive, who marvels at and benefits from it. We all have our strengths and weaknesses in this life; it's the acceptance that's key. I don't have to be a *domestic* goddess. I can just be a goddess elsewhere.

For a large part of my life, from infancy and through my early 20s, every new year began at the Mummers Parade, but simultaneously within a house filled with food and revelry. My great-aunt Jean lived on Shunk Street, just over a block off Broad—ground zero, Mummers wise. Although I'm not the type to attend every parade under the sun, all year long, there's something about holiday parades that do it for me. It feels like the joy that the season brings is spilling over and out into the very streets. West Chester's own Christmas parade has grown into one of those festivities that get a highlighted place in my calendar each year. And we are thrilled that it is back this year.

Finally, assemble your gift lists and keep our shopping guide handy when you start pounding the pavement here in town. Our annual showcase of the fabulous finds right here in the borough is a particular—and useful—source of pride to us. You have your roadmap; go forth and conquer.

Wherever you are, we hope your holiday season feels like home. Thank you for reading *The WC Press*, and best wishes from us for a healthy and peaceful new year. ***—kate@thewcpress.com***

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"Christmas Day will always be just as long as we have we." – Dr. Seuss

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