Letter from the Editor

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



When I was a child, my love of animals was so great that I wanted to be a veterinarian when I grew up. I was on a first-name basis with every dog and cat in the neighborhood. I still am—can't tell you the first name of the guy who lives behind me, but his golden retriever is Blossom. I attempted to save every flailing bug or butterfly I encountered, and I regularly begged my parents for a horse, about as reasonable a proposition as asking them for a million dollars.

Two things happened when I was 10: the first dog in our family passed away (my grandparents' basset mix, Barry), and I read Little Women for the first time. Realizing that I couldn't literally keep all the animals alive forever and that I might be Jo March, the career goal changed to writer. After a few detours, here we are.

I went through a "wanting to be a dancer" phase, too; ballet consumed me from age seven to 15. A poster of Mikhail Baryshnikov and his thousand-yard stare hung in my room, I watched *The Nutcracker* year-round, took out library books on ballet and yes—I took lessons. I was a very good dancer, but not a great one. "I could do this for a living!" never once crossed my mind. We can all be grateful for that.

This wasn't the case with anyone I interviewed for our feature story on Brandywine Ballet. I spoke with the founder, a resident choreographer, and a dancer. Each of them knew at a very young age that this would be their path, and each wants to stay on it as long as they're able. There is something approaching the divine at work there—not only knowing that you have a gift, but to put sharing that gift above all else. It's what separates performer from audience.

Speaking of performances, mark your calendar for Porchfest! The borough will be alive with the sounds of music, with bands of all kinds playing on porches around town. "Live music outside" is one of my favorite harbingers of spring, and Kelly Murray breaks it all down for us.

Spring is also the season most associated with hope and new beginnings. To that end, Jesse Piersol takes us to visit two new businesses here in the borough, Pomp and Inspired Nails. She also introduces us to an impressive and compassionate WCU student organization that is raising funds for communities in South Africa. These kids today—they're alright.

This spring, take advantage of all this wonderful town has to offer. Do yourself a favor and go watch someone dance, or make plans to dance in the streets yourself. Or, if you're like me, take up ballet after a 40-year absence. As Brandywine Ballet's Tommy Gant told me, it's never too late.

Thank you for reading *The WC Press*. ***—kate@thewcpress.com***

"Spring is the time of plans and projects. – Leo Tolstoy

The Press

PUBLISHER
Dan Mathers
dan@thewcpress.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Kate Chadwick
kchadwick@thewcpress.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Nick Vecchio
nick@thewcpress.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Jesse Piersol
jpiersol@thewcpress.com
Danielle Davies
ddavies@thewcpress.com
Kelly Murray
kmurray@thewcpress.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Erik Weber
@westchesterviews

COVER PHOTO BY KEVIN SCHRAMM
View more of his work at thegracious.com

COLUMNISTS
Becca Boyd
bboyd@thewcpress.com
Andrea Mason
amason@thewcpress.com
DJ Romeo
romeo@thewcpress.com
Kate Chadwick
kchadwick@thewcpress.com

Published By...
Mathers Productions
1271 Phoenixville Pk
West Chester, PA 19380
mathersproductions.com
610-299-1100

The WC Press is a monthly magazine mailed to more than 3,000 homes throughout West Chester, as well as being dropped off to about 100 locations in and around the borough.

For a free subscription — digital or mailed — visit thewcpress.com.

Worth Noting

Our no-nonsense table of contents

7 @TASTEWC
Tag our instagram account with your best food pics

9 NEW IN TOWN
Profiling exciting & emerging businesses in the borough

17 DESIGN DILEMMAS
Our resident interior designer helps you upgrade your space

19 FRONT PORCH ROCKIN'
Porchfest returns to the borough's residential blocks

29 MARKET FORECAST
Your planetary predictions with a particularly local twist

31 MAKING A DIFFERENCE
WCU honors students raise awareness and funds for South Africa

39 HOME BECCANOMICS
Becca Boyd shares tips on life and cooking

41 SPRING HITS LIST
DJ Romeo curates a list of songs you'll be singing this season

43 EN POINTE
a visit with Brandywine Ballet

55 PHOTO HUNT
Spot the five differences and earn a Saloon 151 gift card