Letter *from the* Editor

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



Back in our December 2017 issue, I wrote a feature story about Baldwin's Book Barn. Soon after I submitted it, I received an email from our publisher, Dan Mathers. "You did a really great job with this story," he said. "It's very apparent that you love the subject matter." He's not real generous with the compliments, so this exchange really stuck in my mind; picture me pointing quizzically to my chest and looking over either shoulder for the Punk'd cameras. "Thank you," I said. "Why don't you buy the place, so I can live in it, and I'll work there for free?" Alas, that fiendish plot never came to fruition, but I continue to visit Baldwin's whenever I can. And these days, that cornerstone of West Chester bookstores has plenty of company.

The trope that print is dead is one that I've been hearing for the entirety of the 16 years I've been in this industry. People keep saying it, and other people just keep buying books, magazines, and newspapers. I recently attended a small business workshop. The instructor was giving a hypothetical situation. "Let's say I'm opening up a small business—maybe it's a bookstore." He hesitated for a second, and then said "Wait—that's a bad example," as a chuckle rippled through the room. "People aren't really opening bookstores anymore."

This guy may know a thing or two about business, but he's clearly not a book guy, and he's obviously never been to West Chester. I should have invited him to tag along with me as I bounced from one bookstore to another—five in total—for one of the features in this issue. Check it out and meet some of my fellow bibliophiles who managed to make their own dream of running a bookstore come true. Oh, and if anyone does want to buy Baldwin's for me, the offer to work there gratis still stands.

With cooler temperatures come warmer houses—literally but also figuratively and visually. We spent some time visiting your favorite home décor haunts (see what I did there?) to pick up inspiration for warming up your space. Some call it cuffing season; I call it pass me that faux fur blanket, light me a candle, pour me a cup of tea, and sit next to me while I curl up with my book season.

And while you can also buy clothes online, that doesn't seem to stop people from opening retail stores, either. In this issue we meet Courtney McGee and visit her ridiculously cool new clothing store on Gay Street, DRK MTTR. She's a ray of sunshine, dressed head-to-toe in black. And we visit with your friendly neighborhood mechanic, Glenn Lewis, and his crew over at Lewis Automotive, where they're celebrating six decades as a family-owned business this year.

So if you don't have a book handy, now you know where to buy one (or get to the library and borrow one). In the meantime, curl up under your favorite blanket with this issue. Welcome to autumn in West Chester, and we thank you for reading The WC Press. ***—kate@thewcpress.com***

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