

WHAT DO WE PUT ON OUR Christmas Trees?

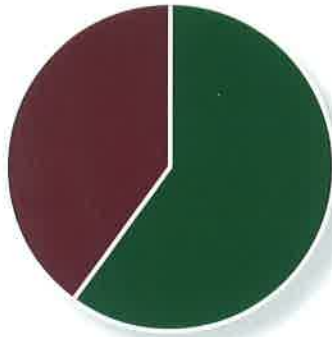
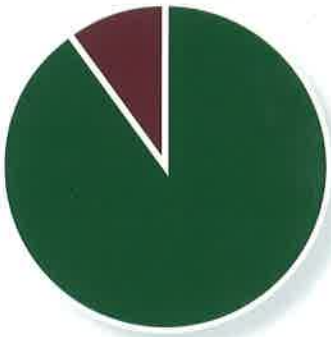


TINSEL OR NO TINSEL?

Tinsel: 10% No Tinsel: 90%

STAR OR ANGEL?

Star: 40% Angel: 60%



What's Inside

2013
YEAR REVIEW
A Remarkable Year for
Historic Restorations

HOME FOR THE
HOLIDAYS
Get To Know Our Staff's
Holiday Traditions

Betsy Wetsy

• Blows her Nose
• Sheds Tears
• Sleeps
• Drinks ... and
• Wets

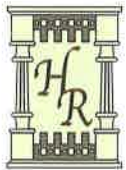


Do you remember
BETSY WETSY?



Staff Favorite
**HOLIDAY
RECIPES**

Did you ever
**NAIL THE
CHRISTMAS
TREE TO THE
FLOOR?**

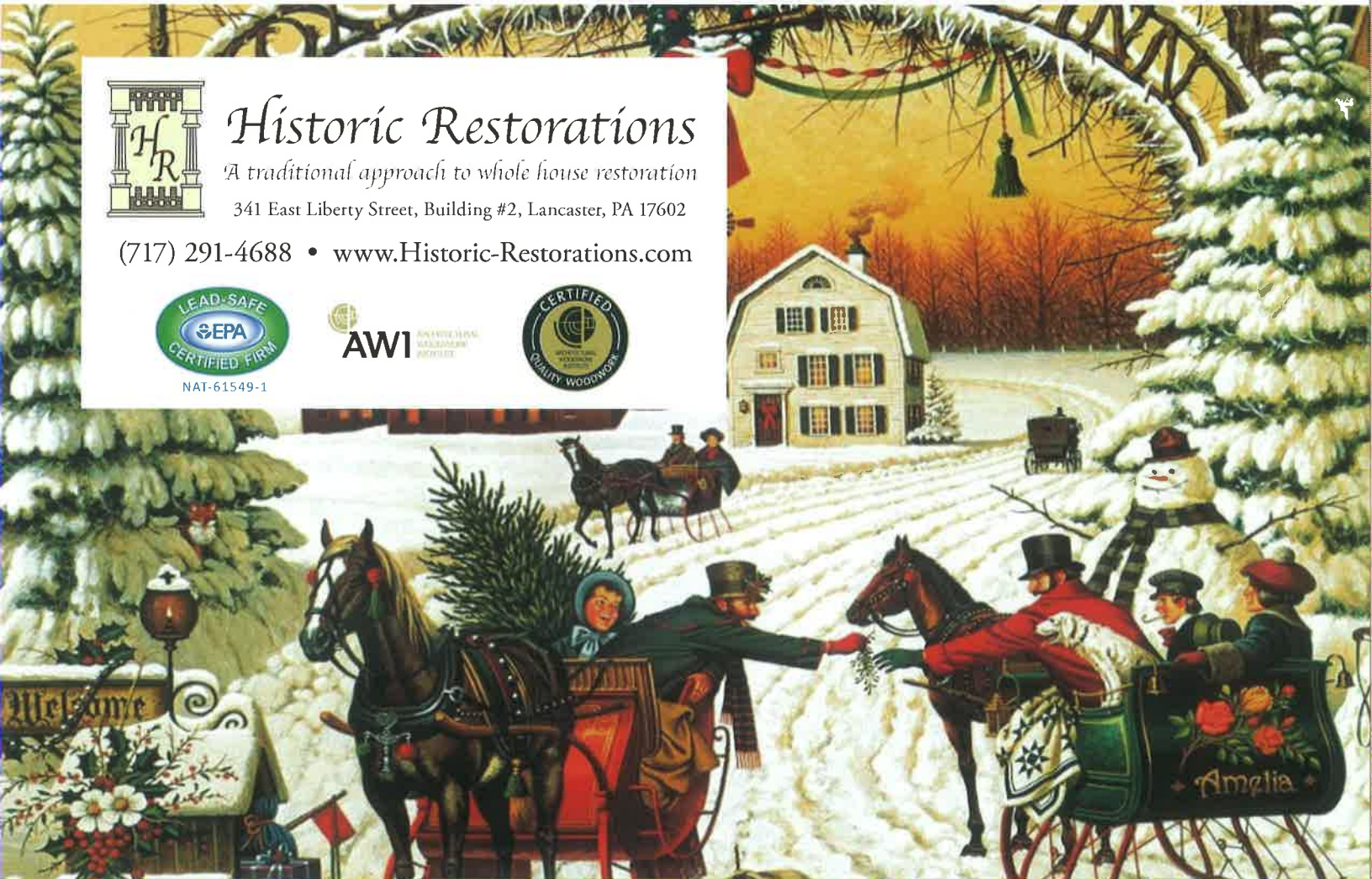


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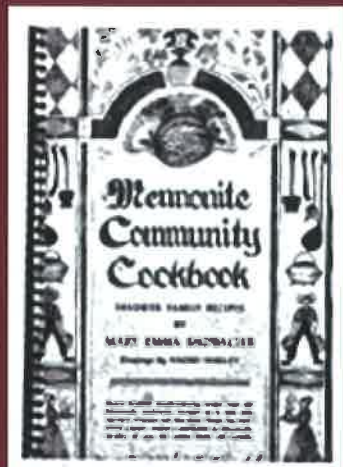
Greetings & News

One of the most festive times of the year has arrived and we are providing you a peek into how we celebrate the holidays. You will read about our favorite memories and traditions as well as what we look forward to most. We had a lot of fun learning how everyone celebrates and we even are sharing a few of our favorite recipes with you; I hope you'll try them!

Happy Holidays,
Danielle

Home For The Holidays... Danielle

When I married Jonathan over 13 years ago, I was given a Mennonite Cookbook by his Grandmother with the understanding that every "good" wife in Lancaster County has this cookbook in her kitchen. There is also a family connection with this cookbook's author — she was a friend with Jonathan's Great-Great Aunt and had even made Jonathan's Grandmother doll clothes when she would visit the farm. Since I am about as far removed from Lancaster County cuisine education as you can get (they don't teach that in culinary school), I needed that book to learn how to make brown butter noodles, pig's stomach (Jonathan's favorite), and the cookie recipes. Although I haven't used the food for barn raising guidelines... yet.



Christmas as a newly married couple involved some, sometimes tricky, negotiations. Jonathan was raised with a star on the top of his family's Christmas tree and I was raised with an Angel topping the tree. The Angel and the Star didn't have to duke it out though — we found a great compromise with a topper of an angel putting a star on the tree. That wasn't the only conflict, though. There was the question of "Tinsel or No Tinsel", "Prime Rib or Ham", "Presents under the tree before Christmas Eve or The Big Reveal".... Now that I think about it, we do most of those the way I did growing up. Apparently I am a master negotiator!



Jonathan

My favorite Christmas memory is when I gave Danielle a puppy just a few years after we were married. I chose a Jack Russell because she always wanted one like "Wish Bone". On Christmas morning I took the puppy upstairs and put her in our bed. Danielle was woken up by a wet puppy nose all over her face. Danielle and 'Delilah' played for a bit and then took a nap together.



Events

Come visit us at...

GREATER PHILADELPHIA HISTORIC HOME SHOW

www.HistoricHomeShows.com

LOCATION: Valley Forge Convention Center, Valley Forge

February 28 | 6-9 pm

March 1 | 10 am - 5 pm

March 2 | 11 am - 4 pm

For more events please visit
www.historic-restorations.com



Curt

Christmas is about being with family and great company. It's also about the good food and being warm in the house while it's snowy outside.

Caleb

The holidays represent a time to give thanks for what life has given, a time to remember traditions and a time to honor my ancestors.

Dan

When I was a child, Christmas was all about the toys. I loved getting bike parts and putting my bike together. Now, Christmas is about family gatherings, good food, the yummy desserts and the lights on that one crazy house that goes way overboard.

Lois

The very first doll I was ever given was gifted to me at Christmas. I named her Susie and she was a Betsy Wetsy doll. And just like the ads all said she would do, Susie did indeed blow her nose, cry, drink, and wet her diaper.



Growing up we were encouraged to write letters to Santa. We would get our Christmas tree just a day or two before Christmas and decorate it on Christmas Eve so Santa could leave his presents under the tree. Before going to bed we would always leave a thank-you note for Santa, along with cookies and milk.

After marrying and having Danielle, I continued this same tradition, although I would get our Christmas tree at the

beginning of the month and Danielle's Santa preferred hot buttered rum instead of milk.

The Christmas after Danielle turned one we gave her Bucky the Wonder Horse. She rode Bucky for several years straight until he faded into the



shadow of a new tricycle. I always enjoy shopping for Danielle, but I especially loved shopping for her when she was little because I loved buying all the toys!

Chuck

My Dad always picked a monochromatic theme for our Christmas tree — one year it was blue, another year it was red, etc. But every year, no matter the color, he

hosed the thing down with snow-in-a-can. He also nailed the tree stand to the floor. Because we had eleven kids in our family, the tree still went over a couple of times each year.

When Lois and I first married, we would go to our parents for Christmases. Lois' Mom made a really good eggnog with whipped cream on top, it was simply decadent.

When Danielle was young, Christmases were a lot more fun. I'll never forget the year we bought her a bike. I loved teaching her how to ride it without training wheels.

Lois and I don't serve turkey on Christmas. That's too traditional for us. Every year Lois makes angels on horseback (broiled bacon-wrapped oysters), and I make prime rib. My recipe is listed on the back!

Karri

My childhood Christmases were unique. My Father's family is Puerto Rican so we served empanadas, Spanish rice, and pork on Christmas Eve. My Mother's family is Mennonite so we served ham, mashed potatoes, browned-butter noodles, corn, and the whole nine-yards of Mennonite food on Christmas Day. I loved every bite of both meals.

The four things that make Christmas so special to me are Grace, wearing purple; Tucker, wearing camouflage; Mason, wearing stripes; and Sawyer, wearing sharks.



Andy

I look forward to watching all the old Christmas movies. The Christmas Story and any of the old Rankin/Bass claymation movies are what make the season for me.

I played the shepherd in the Christmas play when I was five years old, and I was quite proud of myself for not losing a single sheep to the wolves.

Glenn

My favorite Christmas memory is putting up our tree a week or two before Christmas and then setting up the train under it and building a Lincoln Log



town around it. My favorite thing about Christmas now is shopping on Christmas Eve — it is a fun night to be out. I love giving gifts, sledding, ice-skating, and being with family.

Justin

We always take the kids to pick out a douglas fir Christmas tree and cut it down ourselves with a hand saw. Then our family decorates the tree with a hodge-podge of ornaments that were hand-made or collected over the years.

Chad

The Christmas I was seven years old I got a puppy. It was a big deal to me because we had dogs, but this puppy was my very own. She was a friendly, cuddly cocker spaniel I named Candy.

Year Review

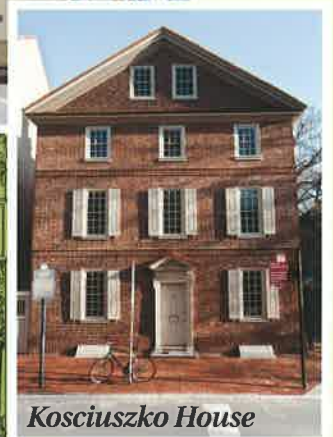
2013 — A REMARKABLE YEAR FOR HISTORIC RESTORATIONS

- Our project at the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Monument in Philadelphia won a Preservation Achievement Award from the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia
- We released our Preservation Primer, Volume #1: Avoid Common Mistakes That Cause Irreversible & Costly Damage to Your Historical Building's Architectural Integrity
- We restored the porch at the Cameron/Harris Mansion in Harrisburg
- Our project at the Franklin Street Train Station in Reading won the Architectural Woodwork Institute's "Award of Excellence" and was featured in their Fall 2013 issue of *Design Solutions*
- The Franklin Street Train Station also won the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation award from Preservation Pennsylvania
- We finished up our project at the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton restoring 124 clerestory windows

- Our project at the Mylin House in Willow Street received the C. Emlen Urban Preservation Leadership Award from the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County
- We completed several private projects in Society Hill, Philadelphia—a neighborhood we are truly beginning to love
- Danielle was awarded 2013 Nancy J. Haubert Award for "Outstanding Volunteer Service" from the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County



Franklin Street Station



Kosciuszko House

Recipes

To view Moira's favorite holiday recipe visit:
www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/cranberry-apple-pie

CHUCK'S PRIME RIB

DIRECTIONS:

1. Rub liberal amounts of kosher salt all over a standing rib roast
2. Decide whether you are going to roast it or put it on the BBQ
3. BBQ or roast it fat-side up, just until the outside is brown
4. Slice it thin and then return to the heat, just until the outside is brown again
5. Repeat step #4 as often as you like
6. Serve with Black Velvet Canadian whiskey, to taste, on the side

LOIS'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN TOFFEE BARS

INGREDIENTS:

1 C. butter or margarine; 1 C. brown sugar, firmly packed; 1 egg yolk; 1 t. vanilla; 2 C. all-purpose flour, sifted; ½ t. salt; 1 six-ounce pkg. chocolate bits; ground nuts

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350
2. Cream butter or margarine with brown sugar until fluffy
3. Beat in egg yolk; add vanilla
4. Sift flour once before measuring; mix and sift flour and salt together
5. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture a little at a time, mixing thoroughly after each addition.
6. Spread batter on greased cookie sheet to depth of ¼ inch
7. Bake at 350 for 15-20 minutes
8. Melt chocolate bits over simmering water
9. Remove baked toffee mixture from oven; spread top with melted chocolate bits and sprinkle with ground nuts
10. When cooled, cut in desired size squares