

ating back to the time of William Penn, Appleford began as a humble stone farmhouse and grew to be one of the Main Line's most beautiful estates. Over the course of more than 300 years, the Villanova



property passed through the hands of many colorful owners, including a series of gentlemen farmers, a tanner, a surgeon, and even one claiming to

Anabel Parsons

be a Polish duke. In 1926, Philadelphians Anabel and Lewis Parsons bought Appleford as their

weekend country home and in the decades that followed, transformed it into a grand estate, filling the house with treasures from their travels around the world. To expand and restore the house, they hired the noted Colonial Revival architect Richardson Brognard Okie. At the same time, landscape architect Thomas Sears carved out the formal gardens, pathways, and pond with waterfall, surrounded by a 24-acre arboretum and bird sanctuary. In 1973, Anabel Parsons died and bequeathed Appleford, along with all of its antiques and artwork, to Lower Merion Township. But the Township was reluctant



Anabel Parsons and son

to take over the maintenance of the property, and its future appeared uncertain until a group of concerned neighbors and friends stepped forward to volunteer their help.

Working together, the **Appleford** Committee and Lower Merion forged a unique partnership that has lasted for 50 years. The Township owns the property, while the volunteers at



Anabel and Lewis Parsons

Appleford support and maintain the house and grounds with the help of rental income instead of using taxpayer dollars. This year, as we celebrate our Golden Anniversary, the Appleford Committee invites you to join us in our mission to preserve this beautiful example of Pennsylvania farmhouse architecture and the open space that surrounds it. Take a peek at our calendar, attend an event, or come take a tour to learn more about this special piece of the Main Line's storied past.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Message from the President

Appleford Committee **Appleford Events**

Appleford Gardens

Appleford **Holiday Party** **Calendar of Events** 2023

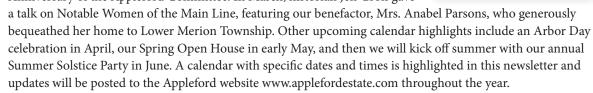
A Message from the President

Dear Appleford Family and Friends,

I hope you are well and giving thought to spring and all the beauty she brings each year.

Appleford is buzzing with activity as we prepare for another season of special events and memorable weddings. Our trees are being pruned, and garden beds cleaned and defined for a new season of wonder with blooming colors. As you walk the grounds, enjoy the majesty of 500 daffodil bulbs planted a few years back along the drive - what a treat!

We are excitedly planning our calendar of events in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Appleford Committee. In March, historian Jeff Groff gave



As part of our anniversary celebration, we will be sharing photos of Appleford through the years on our social media outlets. If you had a wedding or other event at Appleford and would care to share any photos, please send them to rsvpapplefordcommittee@gmail.com. We hope that you will follow us on Instagram @ applefordestate or Appleford on Facebook to join in the fun.

We are tremendously grateful to our loyal Friends of Appleford and ask you to please consider joining them at events and through your donations. Your generous support allows us to maintain the house and gardens at the highest possible level for the benefit of the local community. I hope you will enjoy this newsletter and share it with friends and family to inspire them to connect with Appleford as well.

Thank you in advance for your loyal support and dedication to our mission. And please join me in wishing the Appleford Committee a Happy 50th Anniversary.

Cheers! Lyn Marinchak President, The Appleford Committee



Celebrating 50 years as a committee

Come join in the celebrations for the Appleford Committee's 50th Anniversary! It is a wonderful year to become a member with a few additional events in the planning.

Summer Solstice, our annual garden party fundraiser, where our exclusive Appleford caterers donate a lush display of tastings, will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2023.



The Appleford Committee

Lvn Marinchak, President Bruce Belzak **Becky Best Betsy Hastings Block** Susan P. Bloom Nancy Bruechert Carol M. Bryan Carol Carlson Wynrhys E. Coghlan Patricia R. Cosgrave Lorraine Y. DeSimone Samantha Wolfe Ehlinger Pamela S. Fish Marion Laffey Fox Judi Garst Bruce A. Gillespie Bernadette W. Holroyde Karen Nagel Kamp Christine V. Kanter Patricia Kolff Christine Kuhinka **Anja Levitties** Bruce N. Long Leonard F. Magargee, Jr. Binney McCague Colleen Holt McCauley Mary Kate Miller John H. Rice Kimberly Rosen Eileen Kelly Sandifer Carroll McConnell Shields Michele C. Spence Margot Sullivan Alicia Templeton

Sustaining Members
Sally Castle
Cathy Decker
Lori M. Fell
Beth C. Hare
Kristin Hays
Libby Hill
Marylyn S. Jeffers
Lee McIlvaine Manonian
Joanna Phelan
Daniel Brainard Slack
Helen Weary
Julie Williams
Geraldine Zipf

Mary Vaira

Lisa McBride - Director of Marketing and Events Sofia & John McGinty Resident Managers

Appleford Holiday Party

ur Holiday Party is one of the most beloved traditions at Appleford. It was held on the evening of the first Friday of December 2022. It is a cherished party for Friends of Appleford who receive an invitation from the Appleford Committee in appreciation of their financial support.

From the approach to the property through the gates to the outside entrance of the house, lush greens abounded.

Every sense is heightened once you enter the home, from the piano playing in the music room to the bursts of color adorning the front hall and throughout. There is a warmth that is unmatched once you experience the welcoming display of holiday decorations and see friends and neighbors.

Seedling and Sage, our new caterer, generously donated the food this year. They had a magnificent carving station and a dining room table full of tempting

hors d'oeuvres and side dishes. The desserts were donated by the Appleford Committee. Linda Child, the talented pianist of the night, kindly donated her time and her festive music created the most memorable holiday spirit filling the home.

A Silent Auction is also part of the tradition. This year it was highlighted by "Painter for the Day" donated by Nolan Painting, a dinner for 10 donated by Seedling and Sage, a New Years basket and 6 other popular items.



















Calendar of Events 2023

Created to preserve one of the Main Line's historic treasures, the Appleford Committee is celebrating its Golden Anniversary with a series of exciting special events.



9:00 am **Arbor Day Celebration**



6:30 - 9:00 pm **Appleford Holiday Party**



5:00 - 8:00 pm **Spring Open House**



5:00 - 7:00 pm Winter Open House



6:00 - 9:00 pm **Summer Solstice Party**

Please save the dates!

Stay tuned for more details by invitation, in the Apple Seed newsletters, and at www.applefordestate.com throughout the year.

Thank you for your generous support!

The Appleford Committee extends its gratitude to the following individuals and families who made a contribution to Appleford between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

Benefactors (\$1,000 and above) Mr. Bruce Long and Mr. Mark Todaro Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fell Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Miller

*Charlotte C. Weber and Virginia E. Moens Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Kamp

Patrons (\$500-\$999)

Mr. Bruce C. Belzak Mr. and Mrs. Jason Bloom Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Bloom Mr. and Mrs. William C. Buck * Linda Child Mrs. Edward C. Dearden Dr. and Mrs. James E. Fish Mr. and Mrs. S. M. V. Hamilton, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Hardon Mr. and Mrs. Scott Harrington Mr. and Mrs. Paul Heintz Mrs. Christine V. Kanter Dr. and Mrs. Jacob Kolff Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Robb. Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Stonberg Mr. and Mrs. Philip A. Sullivan Ms. Alicia Templeton and Howard

* Mr. and Mrs. Peter Thompson Mrs. Helen S. Weary Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Wiber Mrs. Thomas A. Williams

Supporters (\$300-\$499)

Mr. Fred L. Bissinger, Jr. Mrs. Patricia R. Cosgrave Mr. and Mrs. John D. Cunningham Mr. and Mrs Frank DeSimone

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Enslin Ms. Beth C. Hare

* Ann Strohacker and John Knetschmor Mrs. Libby Hill

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Madeja Mr. and Mrs. Leonard F. Magargee, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen W. Holt Mr. and Mrs. Simon Manonian Mr. and Mrs. Robert Powell Ms. Barbara W. Rawls

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Brainard Slack Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vaira Mrs. Ethel Benson Wister

Friends (\$150-\$299)

Mr. and Mrs. Luke Block Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Bruechert Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bryan Ms. Carol M. Bryan

* Ms. Carol Carlson Mr. and Mrs. John Clendenning, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Greg Clower Mrs. Wynrhys E. Coghlan

* Dr. and Mrs. Michael Cohen Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Coleman

* Matthew Cornelius Mrs. Craig Cullen Mr. and Mrs. Richard Decker Mrs. Edwin C. Donaghy, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. John Donaldson Mr. and Mrs. John Ehlinger Mr. James Franklin and Mr. Brett Samuels Mrs. Lucian B. Platt

* Ashlev and Steve Ganz Ms. Judi Garst

Each gift helps support our mission to maintain the historic house and its beautiful gardens and to continue the preservation of open space in Lower Merion Township.

Mr. and Mrs. James Gately Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gillespie Dr. and Mrs. Greg Harper Mrs. Kristin Hays

Dr. and Mrs. Christopher Holroyde

Liz and Tim Huston

* Ms. Emely Karandy Mr. and Mrs. Mark Keating Mrs. D. Scott Kellev Mr. and Mrs. William Kenny Mr. and Mrs. Justin P. Klein Dr. and Mrs. Peter Kowey Ms. Lee Ann Kress Ms. Christine Kuhinka Mr. and Mrs. Judson Laverell

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Levitties Mr. and Mrs. Victor Lidz

Mr. Steven Lindner

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Marchetto Dr. and Mrs. Roger Marinchak Lisa and Brian McBride

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony K. McCague Mr. and Mrs. Sean McCauley

Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Mecray III Mr. and Mrs. Howard Morgan Mrs. Amanda Barnes Muckle

*Mr. and Mrs. George Parsons Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Phelan Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pinola

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence S. Reichlin Mr. and Mrs. John H. Rice

- * Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Rosen
- * Amy Rubinoff Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Shaver Mr. and Mrs. David Shields Happy and Sam Shipley Dr. and Mrs. David H. Spence
- * Mr. and Mrs. William D. Sprague Mr. and Mrs. John H. Thacher Janice Gault and Jim Vander Mr. and Mrs. Sankey Williams Leslie Miller and Richard Worley Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence R. Zipf

Donors (\$75-149)

Dr. Shilpa Rao & Dr. Sahil Banka Mr. Gorel Bengtzon Mr. and Mrs. Dale Brookins Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Collings Ms. Susan Geyelin Mr. and Mrs. Martyn Greenacre Ms. Margaret S. Havens Lia Calhoun and Michael Homans Mrs. Judy Macgregor Mr. and Mrs. Richard Peterson Mr. and Mrs. Marc Ravfield Ms. Harriet Sullivan Mr. and Mrs. Peter Unruh

Gifts under \$75 Ms. Jean K. Wolf

* New Friends in 2022

Appleford Events

s the Appleford Committee celebrates 50 years, we can't help but be thankful for all of the bridal couples who have been married at Appleford over the years. I'm always thrilled when a couple returns for a visit with their children or grandchildren to show them where they were married. In June of 2020 I met Kate and Ian who were my first booking for 2022. I couldn't believe they were booking two years out, but soon found out why. Kate's parents, Jennifer and Dan were married at Appleford in May of 1993 and for sentimental reasons, it meant the world to Kate to get married where her parents were married. As luck would have it,

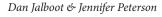
Kate and Ian were blessed with a beautiful May Saturday and had a fabulous time full of special memories. They even invited many of the same people who attended her parents' wedding. When I asked Kate's mom, Jennifer, what she remembers about her wedding almost 30 years ago and what she thought about her daughter getting married at Appleford she said, "What struck us the most was the sense of coming full circle. Dan and I began our "official" life together at Appleford surrounded by friends and family. Both of us have often said that our wedding day was one of the most fun days we've ever had -and it felt really special to see Kate and Ian begin their marriage at the same place and in

the same way. While there have been some changes (for the better!) at Appleford over the last 30 years, the constancy of the beautiful grounds and wonderful amenities make it a lovely place to create enduring memories and launch a new couple on the adventure of marriage. In truth, we hope that Kate's younger sisters decide to follow the same path!"

We would like to thank Jennifer and Dan, Kate and Ian, and all of our wonderful couples who have given us so many great memories over the years. We look forward to you visiting and creating more full-circle moments!

- Lisa McBride







Katherine Jalboot & Ian Herrighty



Kate & Ian's Wedding Photo

Appleford Gardens







We all know the adage, "When one door closes, another door opens." This is exactly what happened when we sadly had one of our important trees removed last December. A mighty oak in the boxwood garden had been diseased for years and pruning was no longer an option. John B. Ward & Co. did a superb job of removing the tree without any damage to the gardens. Although we mourn the loss of a very old tree, the aftermath is the new "open door" to the Memorial Garden. The entry to this delightful pocket-garden had always been hidden by

the oak tree. In fact, I think many visitors didn't know it existed! The brick walled garden is the Jean Sheperd Putnam Memorial Garden; honoring one of the founding members of the Appleford Committee. Jean was an avid gardener, interior designer, and active committee member. Another plaque gives thanks to Louis Hood for making this garden a reality. Louis was also a gardener and past president of The Appleford Committee.



Appleford 770 Mt. Moro Rd. Villanova, PA 19085

