



APPLEFORD

Appleford
770 Mt. Moro Rd.
Villanova, PA 19085

Become a Friend of Appleford in 2025!

It's not too late to make an annual gift of support to Appleford this year
and receive an invitation to the

APPLEFORD


Holiday Party

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025



The house will be beautifully decorated for the holiday season and delicious food and drink will be generously provided by Perfect Setting Catering and members of the Appleford Committee. Come shop our silent auction and raise a glass with other Friends of Appleford!



APPLEFORD

The Apple Seed

APPLEFORD'S NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025



On September 28, a glorious fall day, the Appleford Committee hosted A Day of Wine and Roses at Appleford - a lovely event of wine, food, flowers, and music in the historic gardens. Happy guests availed themselves of a wine tasting curated by wine educator and expert

Michael Walsh, adorable floral-themed cupcakes by Baked Bouquet, music by Main Line Duo, bouquet-making lessons provided by Betsy Block of Serene and Green, tasty charcuterie from Karla's Kitchen, and the ever-popular guided house and garden tours by members of the Appleford Committee.

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A Message from the President



October is always a beautiful month in a garden, and Appleford is no exception. I enjoy the unexpected color combinations as gardens push out their last efforts of blooms and foliage. The newly renovated Rose Garden has had a glorious first season.

Visitors to the property and wedding guests alike have been enthusiastic in their praise. It has been gratifying to see this part of Appleford getting new use for events and photographs. If you notice on the brick exterior of the fountain we have installed a bronze plaque dedicating the new fountain to Libby Hill, one of the founding members of the Appleford Committee. Libby has been an active member for over fifty years, bringing insight and wisdom to our meetings and endeavors.

The only “drawback” to revitalizing one garden room is that now the adjacent Perennial Garden looks a bit sad and disheveled. The old brick walkways need to be redone to match the Rose Garden walks. This will be completed (without fanfare) over our quiet winter months.

On a less pretty but equally critical topic, Appleford plans to abandon the existing septic system and connect to the public sewer line on Mt. Moro Road. This is very, very long overdue and will have an enormous impact on our well-being. Chad Punchard, chair of the Grounds and Arboretum Committee, has been working for months with Resident Manager John McGinty and Lower Merion Township to prepare for this project in the coming months.

There is not enough gratitude and thanks that can be bestowed upon our staff - Lisa McBride and Sofia and John McGinty. As we wrap up another full season of weddings and events, typically three a week, this team ensures that each event is a success. Our bookings are already solid for next year and into 2027. We wish Lisa, Sofia, and John a well-deserved “quiet” season ahead with our deepest gratitude and appreciation.

To you our loyal supporters, if you have not made a gift this year, please remember Appleford in your end-of-year charitable giving. We rely on community support to enable us to maintain our historic buildings and grounds for all to enjoy. The Appleford Holiday Party will be here before we know it and I look forward to seeing you there!

Warm regards,
Bruce Long

The Appleford Committee

Bruce N. Long, President
Heather Adler
Bruce Belzak
Becky Best
Betsy Hastings Block
Susan P. Bloom
Nancy Bruechert
Carol M. Bryan
Wynrhys E. Coghlan
Lorraine Y. DeSimone
Samantha Wolfe Ehlinger
Pamela S. Fish
Marion Laffey Fox
Judi Garst
Bruce A. Gillespie
Bernadette W. Holroyde
Christine V. Kanter
William J. Kenny
Patricia Kolff
Christine Kuhinka
Anja Levitties
Killeen Kelly Loynd
Leonard F. Magargee, Jr.
Jordan Marinchak
Lyn Marinchak
Binney McCague
Colleen Holt McCauley
Mary Kate Miller
Chad Punchard
John H. Rice
Eileen Kelly Sandifer
Carroll McConnell Shields
Michele C. Spence
Margot Sullivan
Alicia Templeton
Mary Vaira

Sustaining Members

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

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

Go for the Green Award

Appleford was pleased to host the Lower Merion and Narberth Go for the Green Awards on May 12.

We were honored to receive one of the awards “Presented to a citizens group or organization... based in Lower Merion or Narberth that has made or is making a material contribution to the protection and enhancement of our natural resources or to the making of a more



sustainable community.” A special thank you to Appleford’s Immediate Past President Lyn Marinchak for pursuing this endeavor and working to preserve the beauty of Appleford for future generations.

Representing Appleford were John and Sofia McGinty, Resident Managers; Lyn

Marinchak; Bernadette Holroyde, Township Liaison; and Carol Bryan, Tours and PR Committee.

Appleford Welcomes Garden Club Tours

As a member organization of the America's Garden Capital Passport, Appleford is pleased to offer group tours to local garden clubs and other interested organizations.

On June 17, Appleford welcomed the Glen Valley Garden Club for tours of the house, the newly restored Rose Garden, and more. Despite the weather being grey and soggy, the participants were eager to view the gardens and they marveled at the restoration, while listening to the scope of this impressive project. The lush beauty of the plantings was enhanced by all the rain, so every plant was at its very



Glen Valley Garden Club

best. The gardeners were also eager to learn more about the famous Mrs. Parsons and her beautiful home. They loved the history as well as the décor. It was a delightful morning and we have a new fan club for both the property and the house.

More recently, Carol Bryan and Michele Spence welcomed the Norristown Garden Club on September 16 for both a house and garden tour. The weather was perfect and twenty members were given the opportunity to

savor the late summer garden and follow that with a peek into the life of Anabel Parsons.

We love to see the looks of delight on the faces of all who are experiencing Appleford for the first time. It was a pleasure to host Beth Bynon and her members, and we hope to see them again soon at our Main Line treasure.

(written by Carol Bryan)



Norristown Garden Club

Appleford Committee Updates

In Memory of Patricia Cosgrave

The Appleford Committee mourns the passing of Patricia "Patti" Cosgrave in April of this year. Patti joined the Committee in 2012 and quickly became an active and devoted member. Chairing the House Committee for many, many years, she made sure that essential projects were identified and completed to keep the historic house and its beautiful antique furnishings and décor looking perfect and preserved for posterity. We miss her smile and quiet efficiency at our meetings and events and recognize the lasting impact that she had on Appleford.

Welcome to our New Appleford Committee members -Heather Adler and Killeen Loynd

The Appleford Committee welcomed two new members in October. Heather Adler lives in the surrounding neighborhood, spends time enjoying the natural beauty of Appleford daily, and is devoted to the preservation of this Lower Merion treasure. Killeen Kelly Loynd has fond memories of frequent childhood family visits to Appleford, where two dear family members lived and worked. As an adult, she has become a supporter and enjoys attending Summer Solstice and other Appleford Committee events. We look forward to working with them both over the coming years and thank them for bringing their enthusiasm and talents to the Committee.

Thank you to our Benefactors and Patrons!

Earlier this year, the Appleford Committee introduced a new membership level, with added benefits for the two highest levels. Benefactors (\$2,500 or more) and Patrons (\$1,000 to \$2,499) are entitled to the use of Appleford of an event of up to 50 people on Monday-Wednesday (excludes catering). In addition, both levels include complimentary tickets to Summer Solstice and the Holiday Party - Benefactors receive 4 tickets to each event, and Patrons receive 2 tickets to each.

Our supporters have responded positively, and we want to give special recognition to those who have already stepped up this year.

Please note there is still time to join them!

All gifts received before December 31, 2025 will be recognized in the Spring edition of The Apple Seed. For questions about supporting Appleford, you may contact Betsy Block at bhbblock@gmail.com.



Benefactors (\$2,500 or more)
Mr. Bruce Long and Mr. Mark Todaro
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Chad R. Punchard

Patrons (\$1,000 to \$2,499)
Mr. Bruce C. Belzak
Mr. Fred L. Bissinger, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Bloom
Ms. Lynne W. Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. S.M.V. Hamilton, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Simon Manonian
Dr. and Mrs. Roger Marinchak
Mr. and Mrs. Michael McCann
Mrs. Philip A. Sullivan

List reflects gifts received January 1 to September 30, 2025.



Images Courtesy of Joyful Moments by Victoria

Spring Open House

This year's Spring Open House, on May 7, was the occasion for the official ribbon cutting for the restored Rose Garden.

The Appleford Committee is grateful for our critical partnership with Lower Merion Township and for the hard work and

dedication of the professional firms that made this essential project possible – Robinson Anderson Summers Landscape Architects and Green Weaver Landscapes.

The ribbon cutters were: Greg Nichols, Green Weaver Landscapes; Bruce Long, President of the Appleford Committee; and Allan Summers

and Andrew Calderone of Robinson Anderson Summers Landscape Architects.

Guests at the event loved mixing, mingling and admiring the new and restored plantings and built elements in the Rose Garden. We hope that you will come by to see it too – now in its fall colors or in full bloom again next spring.

The Appleford Committee's Floral Design Team

For many years, the beautiful centerpieces displayed at the Summer Solstice Party and other Appleford Committee events were generously donated by local florists who wished to showcase their work. Four or five years ago, an ad hoc group of Appleford Committee members came together, under the inspirational direction of Michele Spence, to utilize the expertise and creativity of our own members in creating floral centerpieces. Michele has been an active committee member at Appleford for 30 years and during that time has held many positions on the Committee. She finds it a wonderful and unique place to volunteer and these days she favors working more quietly behind the scenes. She has enjoyed seeing the Committee grow and evolve from a

very small operation 30 years ago to a much more formal, professional business at present.

Michele formed the informal flower arranging troupe by inviting a handful of committee members to gather and organize centerpieces for the Solstice. She finds it enjoyable for the committee to bond while working on a shared project and this activity allows them to feel a part of Appleford in a unique way. Michele orders the flowers in bulk from Costco and then supplements these with greens and stems from her own lovely garden. The vases are gathered and donated by committee



members. She designs a sample centerpiece and then the team members work together to assemble the beautiful displays. Although there are still additional floral donations from generous local florists

for the big events, the committee takes the lead with the floral décor and has a wonderful time working together while doing so. It has been a great way to nurture teamwork and leverage the talents of our members!

(written by Eileen Kelly Sandifer)

Another Fabulous Summer Solstice Party

It is such a special time of year! The gardens were in full bloom on June 18 for our annual Summer Solstice Party. Our signature lantana plants lined the driveway. The Appleford Committee was very proud to show off the newly completed Rose Garden, where many guests happily took a stroll and posed for pictures.

It's a party where the food never fails. Guests were lured to the bustling tent area in anticipation of delicious tastings. Appleford's group of preferred caterers did not

disappoint. Sage Catering of Berwyn - being the most popular caterer of the year for events - coordinated all other participating caterers. Tastings were delicious, plentiful and included vegan and gluten free options, which were appreciated.

Margaux St. Ledger and Trillium generously donated exquisite flower arrangements. We were also fortunate to have Michele Spence, a talented member of the Appleford Committee, take the lead with volunteers arranging shades of roses for gorgeous pink centerpieces.

Two musical groups added to the festive ambiance of the night, both new to Summer Solstice.

First, we were treated to the sound of the famed Main Line Duo, a wonderful violinist and keyboard player. Only to be followed by the upbeat sound of Hepner's Rebellion. It made for a lively event enjoyed by 150 supporters of Appleford. Special thanks to Becky Best and her Events Committee for a most memorable night.

(written by Christine Kanter)



Images Courtesy of Pictures by Todd