

**LIVING HERE
IN ALLENTOWN**

BEYOND THE RED DOORS

**Red Door Publications
Allentown, PA**

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

When in Allentown, do as Allentonians do. Need some help? We've assembled a fool-proof guide to get you started. Written by college students for college students, *Living Here in Allentown* picks up at the edge of campus—the world beyond the Red Doors. We show you around your new hometown, from its greasy spoons to its drive-in theatres.

The book was born out of frustration. Most Muhlenberg students confine themselves to campus. The brave make it as far as the strip malls off Cedar Crest Boulevard, but few of us ever leave the West End. Downtown Allentown, in particular, hardly registers in the Muhlenberg mind.

The guide is meant to change all this—to burst the infamous “Muhlenberg Bubble.”

The book took shape in a fall 2004 Muhlenberg College course, “Print Production.” You could say that this guide—*Living Here in Allentown*—is the 21 students' final project. Editors, researchers, graphic designers, food critics, publicists, ad salespeople—we were all of these over the course of a semester. We liked it enough that we've formed a group, Red Door Publications, to update the book and to work on new projects.

We wandered the city—tasted the soup at the Shanty, rode the Dorney Park roller-coasters—so that you, too, would venture beyond the Red Doors.

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MUHLENBERG PICKS

NIGHTLIFE

Banana Joe's
 Cannon's
 J.P. O'Malley's Pub
 Rookie's
 Stonewall
 Ye Olde Tavern

SHOPPING

Another Story
 California Gold
 C. Leslie Smith
 Dave Phillips Music &
 Sound
 The Good Buy Girls
 Mish Mash
 Technicolor Salon

OUT & ABOUT

The Banana Factory
 Bushkill Falls
 Cedar Beach Park
 Civic Theatre
 Dorney Park
 The Great Allentown Fair
 Jim Thorpe
 MusikFest
 State Theatre
 Shankweiler's Drive-In
 Trexler Memorial Park

DINING

Bellisimo
 Damascus
 Grille 3501
 La Mexicana Grill
 La Placita
 Lo Baido's
 Louie's
 Philosopher's Stone
 Syb's West End Deli
 Turkish Restaurant
 Wally's

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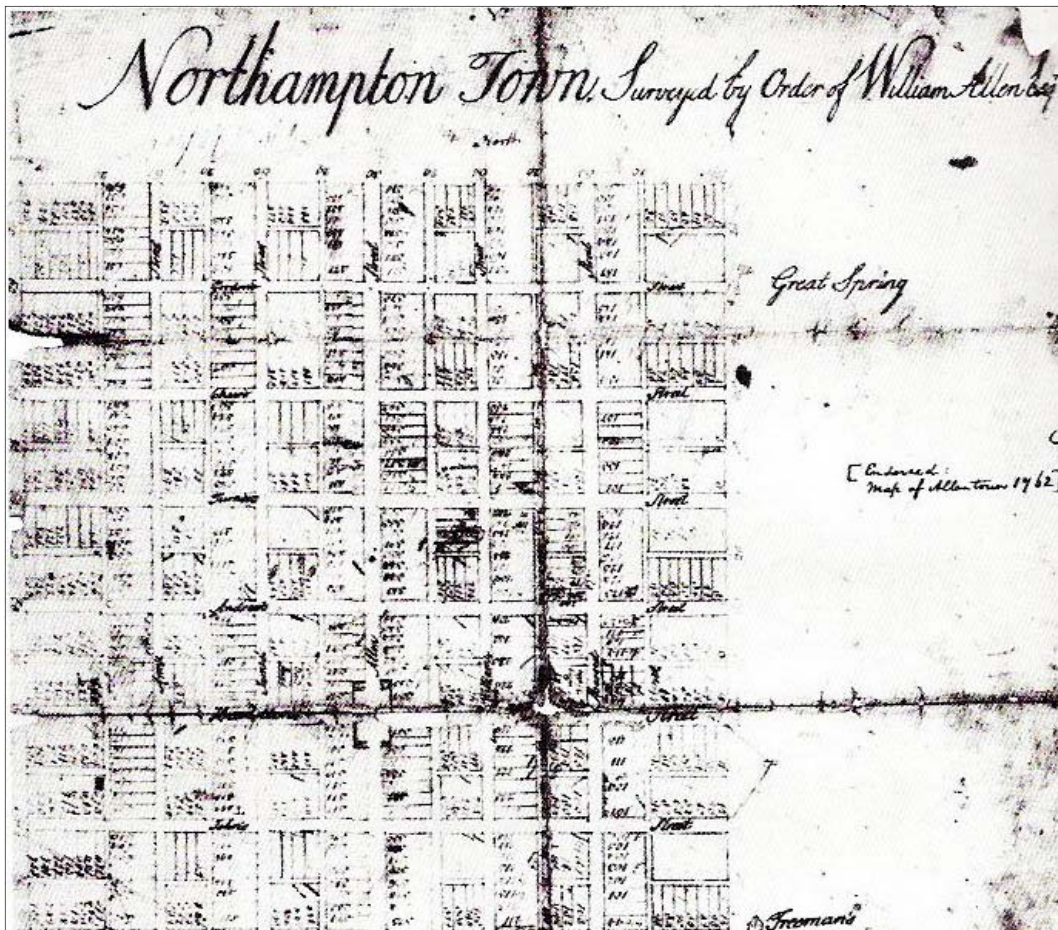
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LIVING HERE IN ALLENTOWN



Allentown, to an outsider, is all Billy Joel lyrics. But when you're *really* living here in Allentown, you forget about the Top 40 caricature. You can't help it, once you've ventured beyond 23rd and Chew.

True, the Allentown we found when we left campus has its closed-down factories. The city's riverside Bucky Boyle Park, for instance, sits in the shadow of the abandoned brick-and-copper Neuweiler Brewery—our own Tintern on the Lehigh. From the Eighth Street Bridge, we took in the impossibly vast Mack Truck assembly plant, now idle on the bank of the Little Lehigh. If this is post-industrial decay, it's pretty damn picturesque.

In Joel's "Allentown," it's not just the brick majesty that gets ignored. A couple of blocks up from the Eighth Street Bridge is the Old Allentown historic district. Here we walked along blocks of restored 19th century row-homes, stopped in for \$1 pastelillos at Brisas Del Caribe and then homemade gelato at Lo Baido's. Just down the block, we hung out with the smoking hipsters at Cannon's, a faux dive across from Iglesia Pentecostal de Betania.

Down on Hamilton—the city's main street—we watched the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus croon at Philosopher's Stone, an overlarge café wedged between a pawn shop and a discount jeweler. (No Starbucks here.)

We walked up and down Hamilton, refreshed by the mix of garish awnings and carved-stone facades—none of it market-tested nor climate-controlled. We paused at the fountains in front of the new, glass-and-chrome PPL building, adjacent to its older 22-story Art Deco sibling. A brewpub and lofts are going up across the street, we were told—though at the time the eclectic sidewalk traffic was life enough.

Some of the storefronts were empty, it's true. The department stores, including Hess's, were shuttered years ago. A moat of parking lots has cut off nearby, tired-but-resilient neighborhoods.

But we *liked* it on Hamilton—we liked the terra cotta gargoyles on the old Americus Hotel. We liked people-watching at the sidewalk tables of the Federal Grill. We even liked the Great War Store, martial kitsch and all.

There's no Best Buy on Hamilton Street, nor any other big box parasite. Wal-Mart and the rest—Chi Chi's and the Old Country Buffet included—laze supine along MacArthur Road in nearby Whitehall Township. MacArthur, for all its breath-stealing ugliness, could be anywhere, Phoenix or White Plains. The far West End of Allentown is the same blend of Office Depot and Friendly's.

None of this would matter—the screaming billboards, the half-off signs—if Sleepy's and Petsmart weren't cause to Hamilton Street's effect. There's a larger story here—the gutting of American cities for discount toaster ovens—but for now we're content to appreciate what's left. Forced to choose between MacArthur and Hamilton, we'd take post-industrial "decay" every time.

The Lehigh Valley wasn't always coke and steel. Long before Carbondale and Iron-ton got settled, a prominent colonial jurist named William Allen selected the bluff above the confluence of the Lehigh River and Jordan Creek as the site for his new town. The year was 1762.

The plateau had been an Indian hunting ground. ("Lehigh" itself is an Anglicization of the Indian *Lechawaxen*, which roughly translates to "free to roam." Ironies abound.) Ever since

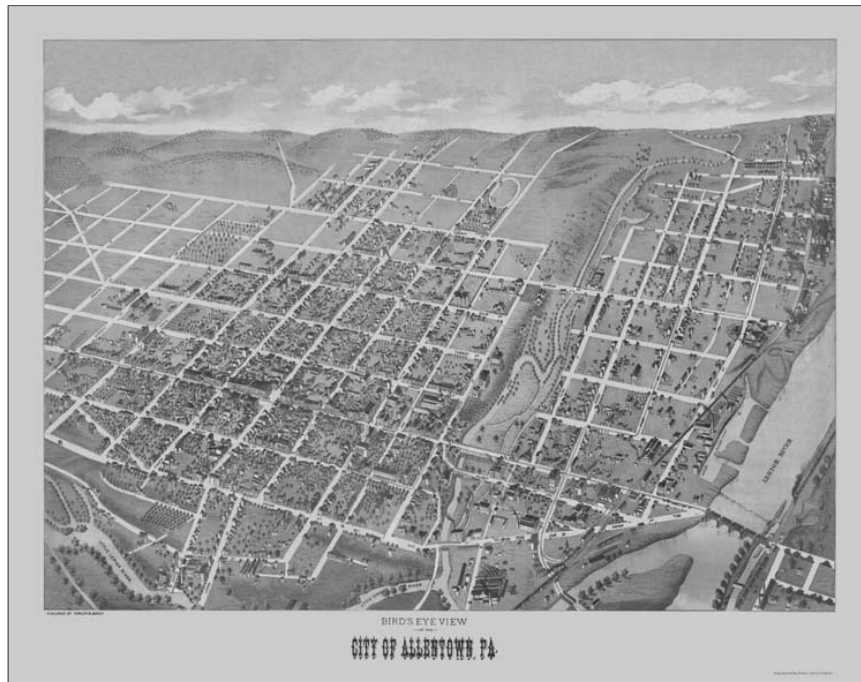
England's Charles II "deeded" the future state to the Penn family in the 17th century, the Native American claim to this corner of the "New World" was—to use a euphemism—disputed. One particularly loathsome footnote to the whole land heist happened here, around what would become Allentown.

In 1737, a couple of decades before Allen's town-hunting expedition, William Penn's sons decided that the lands to the north of Philadelphia should be opened for settlement. Their scheme to convince area Indians—the Lenni Lenape—gets remembered as the "Walking Purchase." Here's why: The Penn brothers found an old treaty giving settlers the land "as far as a man can walk in a day and a half." The brothers hired, for their "walk," famous athletes who "walked hard"—hard enough to reach all the way to the peak of the Blue Mountain, the northern boundary of what we

now know as the Lehigh Valley.

As recently as 1962, in a volume to commemorate the city's 200-year anniversary, the land grab was still being blamed on Native American naiveté: "The Indian had a feeling for common ownership of all the land, and it was very hard for him to understand the idea of private ownership. In fact, this was one of the basic problems which plagued the red men in their relations with the white man."

William Allen, then Pennsylvania's Chief Justice, named his brand-new village Northampton Town. ("Allentown" wasn't formally adopted until 1838.) In 1767, Allen gave his son James the town and the land around it as a wedding gift, and the younger Allen soon built a hunting lodge "retreat" on a height overlooking the Jordan, known as Trout Hall. (This same Trout Hall was sold, in 1848, to the Allentown Seminary, the



An 1879 bird's-eye view of Allentown



Collections of the Lehigh County Historical Society

An 1881 panoramic of Allentown

institutional precursor to Muhlenberg College. The College was housed on these grounds until it relocated to the current West End campus, in 1904.)

Allentonians seem especially proud of the Liberty Bell's brief Revolutionary War stopover, sheltered here from the British—though James Allen himself was suspected of Tory sympathies.

Where the swift Jordan rushed and rolled
In its never-ending race,
Where the leaves cast shadowy lace,
And the trout were big and bold,
The Lechawaxen loved to roam
Through his mountains, forest-clad

The lines come from “An Ode to Allentown,” a tribute in verse to the city’s Revolutionary role, published on that 1962 anniversary. The poem is 294 lines long. Like other cities, Allentown’s memory is more than a little airbrushed.

For much of its history, Allentown was overshadowed by its Moravian neighbor, Bethlehem. Both cities were mainly settled by Germans—the fabled Pennsylvania Dutch, though Dutch only in the *deutsch* sense. One 1783 visitor from Germany reported

that Allentonians “are mainly German who speak bad English and distressing German.”

Successive waves of other European immigrants would join the PA Dutch, especially in the early 20th century. But Allentown was still distinctively German enough that a 1939 guide to the state, published by the New Deal Writers Program, described the city as “peopled largely by Pennsylvania Germans.” Citing ground hog rituals and barnside hexes, the guide claimed that residents “cling as tenaciously to their old traditions as to their curious but expressive idiom.”

Allentown might have remained “Allen’s Little Town” were it not for the discovery, in 1792, of coal and iron ore in the mountains to the north—though there wasn’t much mining until the 46-mile Lehigh Canal was linked to the Delaware River in 1838. Less than twenty years later, one and a quarter *million* tons of anthracite coal were barged past Allentown and on to Philadelphia every year. And thanks to abundant limestone and sand, a cement industry rapidly formed in the second half of the 19th century. The Lehigh Valley became—is this an honor?—the cement capital of the world.

Allentown was the region's retail and banking center, though it also housed factories of its own. For a few decades the city boasted a thriving silk industry, second only to New Jersey's Paterson. (The beautiful and under-used Adelaide Silk Mill, at 3rd and Hamilton, is a hulking monument to all that fabric.)

Businesses with names like the Lehigh Portland Cement Company and the Lehigh Structural Steel Company were headquartered here—and made fortunes for the Trexlers and Traylors in the early decades of the 20th century. Trexler and the other industrialists ran the city, for better or worse. On the eve of the Depression, the Chamber of Commerce boasted, in its promotional literature, that Allentown is “singularly free from disturbances of any kind.”

All the new industry in and around Allentown attracted thousands of immigrants in these years, especially Slavs and Eastern European Jews. Syrians, too, were settling here—most from Syria's Christian Valley, where Pennsylvania German missionaries had thumped Bibles decades before. (Allentown's Syrian community remains vibrant, one of the largest in the world outside Syria.)

When Mack Trucks moved its headquarters here in the 1960s, the city had been booming for decades. Why

not the decades to come, too? A 1965 pamphlet, prepared for relocating Mack employees, captured the city's Jetsons-like optimism for the future: “Large passenger-carrying rockets are a definite possibility in the not too distant future...”

American cities didn't know what was coming. Post-war Levittowns and acres of three-bedroom ranches; the interstates and cheap Chevy's; mortgage tax breaks and *Leave it to Beaver*. Cities never had a chance.

It is a uniquely American barbarism that schools and social services get funded through local property tax. In the years after World War II, in Allentown and elsewhere, the white and wealthy got up and left—pooled their resources in the self-segregated enclaves we call suburbs. Cities were left with fewer resources and more burdens, with the working poor, in effect, bankrolling services for the truly poor. Higher taxes *and* underfunded schools set off a vicious cycle: More flight, more burdens, a weaker tax base, deteriorating schools, more flight, and so on. Call it the soft bigotry of low home values.

Pennsylvania's notoriously weak land use laws made things worse. (The laws are still feeble today, and the Valley's horizon-conquering clusters



A bird's eye view of Allentown in 1922

of cardboard McMansions are the predictable result.)

It didn't help that most, including Allentown, inflicted their own wounds in the form of "urban renewal." Whole blocks in and near downtown were torn down to make room for "some beautiful new structures" (their words, not ours)—brutalist concrete squat-heaps. Historic buildings were also razed for parking lots, in a doomed bid to compete with the Lehigh Valley Mall, which opened in 1976 on land—here's a bitter irony—sold by the city and annexed to Whitehall Township.

And then there was deindustrialization. From the 60s onward, the U.S.—and Northeastern cities in particular—were hemorrhaging manufacturing jobs. Bethlehem Steel, symbol of Valley industry, laid off 2,500 employees on "Black Friday" in 1977; the company would limp along for nearly two decades. Its flagship Bethlehem plant closed in 1995.

Allentown, like most cities in the post-war era, was under assault on multiple fronts. We often talk about cities as if they are people, down-on-their-luck sorts who can't get back on their feet. But the decline of U.S. cities—Philadelphia and Detroit, Reading and York, Hartford and Lowell—had nothing to do with luck. That decline had everything to do with policy—with conscious choices about transportation dollars, school funding and tax write-offs. Our abandoned cities stand, given these choices, as an indictment in brick and mortar.

Allentown eluded the fate of so many of its municipal peers, for a very long time. By some measures, it has even made *headway* against a strong current: The city's population is larger today than it was in 1950, in contrast to every other Pennsylvanian city. (Philadelphia, for example, has lost over 900,000 residents, or close to 40 percent of its population!) Allen-



Courtesy of the Morning Call

Allentonians celebrate the World War I victory on Hamilton Street in 1919

town's downtown residential neighborhoods remain healthy. Crime rates and vacancy are strikingly low.

But decline *did* happen here, only later and more suddenly than in other cities. And it happened on Hamilton Street, for so long the region's retail hub, in a very visible way: Hess's and Leh's, the legendary department stores downtown, closed within a year of one another, in 1996. A sinkhole destroyed the brand-new, glass-and-steel Corporate Center at 7th and Hamilton, in 1997. Within a single decade, the city's once bejeweled main street was largely emptied out. No wonder Bob Wittman, longtime journalist, titled essays on these years, "Bad Luck, Bad Times: Allentown 1993-1995" and "Ground Zero: Allentown 1995-1997."

Much of this was symbolic—a sinkhole had swallowed the city's flagship office building, after all—but all the more traumatic as a result. Native Allentonians, when you meet them, often come off as shell-shocked. The Hess's closing, in particular, has left a deep psychological scar, and always gets mentioned in "the city's gone to hell" declarations that newcomers routinely receive.

There's often a racist edge to these rants. The city's large Puerto Rican population is singled out, through innuendo and blunt accusation, as the cause of the decline. (In 1994, *The New York Times Magazine* ran a cover story on "The Latinization of Allentown.") The claim is absurd, as the steady migration of Puerto Rican residents *saved* the city from an almost certain population plunge. One of the depressing ironies is that Allentown has hosted a thriving Puerto Rican community since the 1950s, as Muhlenberg historian Anna Adams reminds us in her *Hidden From History*.

The city's Latinos—Puerto Ricans, yes,

but also Dominicans, Mexicans, Cubans, Salvadorans and others—now comprise about a quarter of the city's residents. And they *have* changed the face of the city. For the better: Allentown's downtown neighborhoods are healthy and alive as a result.

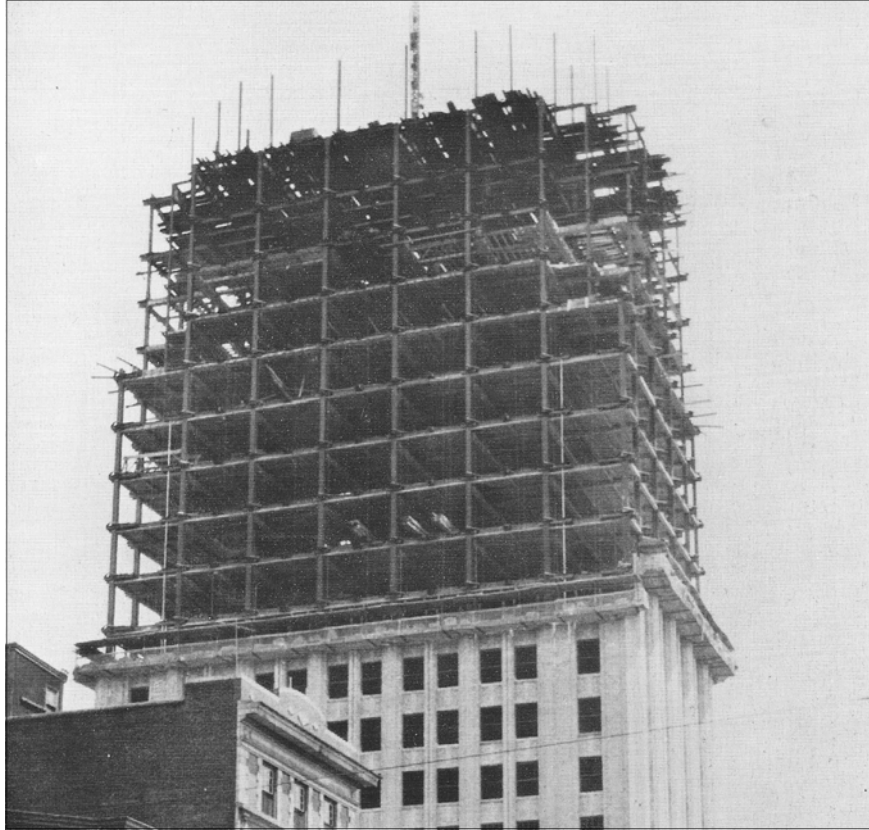
Traumatized and occasionally racist, many native Allentonians have waged a relentless whisper campaign against the city. Allentown-bashing is the stuff of countless private conversations, passed along from real estate agent to plumber to professor. New residents are marinated in this kind of talk.

The Allentown of the "whisper campaign" doesn't look like the Allentown we saw. But it's worrying all the same: There's something self-fulfilling about all the acidic self-description. A city's fate, in large part, hinges on perception. Today's talk—however distorted now—is tomorrow's reality. Hear "Don't go downtown; it's unsafe" enough and no one will go downtown. And then it *will* be unsafe.

Well, we're living here in Allentown, at least for the next four years. And we know what Allentown's not.

It's not Williamsburg; they're no cool-hunters nor shock-orange knit caps here, nor even Richard Florida's fabled "creative class." No cool martini bars, no properly dimmed lights. Allentown's not New York; the city often sleeps. It's not Philadelphia, Liberty Bell pride notwithstanding.

Allentown is part Pennsylv-tucky—Yocco's, bowling, gun shows, diners, the 25 *thousand*-seat high school football stadium. There's a lot of Brickote siding and bear-cub flags—and those massive, swaying blown-up Santas in winter. It's hard to find good Indian food here.



Courtesy of PPL

The PPL tower, under construction in 1927

But this cuts both ways: There's no exurban anomie, few professional smiles, no soul-emptying "Oakdale Ridge" developments. No cheesy Tex Mex, no neon signstorm.

In their place we found a *city*. And for all the battering cities have taken, they're still refuges from the market-tested banality of their surroundings. Ours, Allentown, is certainly not the product of any focus group research. Here, Syrian farmers markets hawk Turkish water pipes. You can pick up Dominican, Jamaican, Salvadoran, Cuban and Puerto Rican food within a five-block radius—all for under \$5.

You drive around this city, and you stumble upon a gorgeous, one thousand acre park. Graceful brick mills sit alongside postcard-worthy blocks of historic rowhomes. Allentown has its share of flag-draped ignorance, to be sure, but also a tough LGBT anti-discrimination ordinance.

We'll take the faded grandeur of Hary's over Outback Steakhouse any day. Even if this means beer in plastic cups.

So what are you waiting for? The red doors are wide open.

DINING

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20 DINING

THE first image that comes to mind when you hear “Allentown” is Billy Joel’s infamous song. The lyrics, unfortunately, don’t make “living here in Allentown” sound too enchanting. Joel aside, the factories haven’t all closed down—nor have the restaurants. In the mood for a classy meal? Want some take-out? Don’t know where to go? We’ve scoured the city for you—and stumbled across everything from mom-and-pop Mexican to four-star decadence. Thank God it’s not Friday’s.



AKITA JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE

6 *Japanese* \$\$\$\$ DWY ALC
2720 Walbert Ave.
MIN 610-432-5800
www.akitasteakhouse.com

As flaming filets or sizzling chicken fly from the Hibachi grill to your plate, Akita Japanese Steakhouse is as dramatic as it is tasty. If you prefer a little less flare with your fare, there’s a room away from the Iron Chef where you can order non-grill items. Sushi lovers, take note: \$25 on Wednesdays and Sundays will get you all the sushi you can eat. Plus don’t be shy about asking to build your own sushi roll if you don’t see the perfect combo on the menu. (The chef is always willing to accommodate unique taste buds.) The restaurant is not so flexible in the budget department: Portions are big enough to share but meals are pricy. (Open Tu-Th 11a-2:30p, 5p-10p; F 11a-2:30p, 5p-11p; Sa 4p-11p; Su 2p-9p.)

ALADDIN

9 *Middle Eastern* \$\$ DWY BYO
651 Union Blvd.
MIN 610-437-4023

Okay, so while it’s a little sketchy from the outside, Aladdin is amazing on the inside ... jaw-dropping really. The ceiling is low and the walls are covered in richly colored tapestries. While it’s a little pricy, the food is definitely worth every penny. Anyone

new to Middle Eastern food should start with the falafel—it’s a classic, and especially delicious here. If you plan on drinking, you’ll need to bring your own. And be sure you’ve got an extra \$2.50 on Saturdays (the cover charge for Belly Dancer night). (Open Tu-F 11a-2p, 5p-10p; Sa-Su 5p-10p.)

AL DENTE

2 *Italian* \$\$\$ DWY ALC
1901 Hamilton St.
MIN 610-782-0900

Al Dente is a true Italian bistro, a far cry from the generic chains that claim to be. While the average entrée costs around \$17, it’s worth splurging here on a special occasion or with a date. The Tuscan-style food ranges from various pasta options—including homemade gnocchi—to seafood, chicken, and beef dishes—like the vitello sorrento for \$16 (a veal medallion topped with fried eggplant and prosciutto). Al Dente is an authentic slice of Italy, complete with classic Italian ballads playing in the background. When you’re here, you’re *really* family. Benvenuti! (Open M-F 4:30p-10p; Sa 5p-10p.)

ANYLISE’S HAVA JAVA

2 *Café* \$ WLK
526 N. 19th St.
MIN 610-432-3045

Tucked away in an old row house on 19th Street, this funky coffee shop is the soul of the emerging 19th Street

DINING 21

“bohemia.” Industrial beams hold hundreds of hanging mugs; the checkerboard, tiled floor makes you think you’re in a country cottage kitchen one second and an elegant ballroom the next. If you’re hungry for brunch or a light lunch, they’ve got homemade pies, muffins, bagels and scones to quell your appetite. Most important, though, are the brews. Harriet (the owner) knows her coffee, and she serves up an array of blends as well as fancier lattes and cappuccinos. (She’s got tea, too.) Time your visit so you’re not arriving with the crowd emerging from the neighboring Civic Theatre. You can bring a book, but the soothing classical music and dim lighting may be more conducive to catnapping than to getting that reading done. The menu proclaims that coffee’s “far better... than wine”—how true! (Open M-Th 8:30a-11p; F-Sa 8:30a-midnight; Su 10a-10p.)

THE BAY LEAF

5 Asian Fusion \$\$\$ FML ALC
 935 Hamilton St.
 MIN 610-433-4211

If the parents are paying, the Bay Leaf is a superb choice. If they’re not, you may want to deprive your taste buds until a special occasion, when expensive culinary decadence can be had guilt-free. Its foliage-filled elegance is worth a markup, if you’re out to impress a date, but it’s possible to find an equally good meal for less elsewhere in Allentown. The service isn’t impeccable, but the portions are consistently generous. The food itself—whether it’s seafood, Italian or Thai-inspired—is fresh and inventive, as you’d expect at these prices. The chicken satay and Thai spring roll, both \$8 appetizers, are especially delectable. Bay Leaf is *the* fine dining option in Allentown’s city center, and no one should leave the city without a visit. (Open M-F 11:30a-2p, 5p-10p; Sa 5p-10p.)



LEGEND



MUHLENBERG PICK

ALC ALCOHOL SERVED

BYO BRING YOUR OWN

DWY DATEWORTHY

WLK WALKABLE

FML FORMAL

DEL DELIVERY

\$ LESS THAN \$10 PER MEAL

\$\$ BETWEEN \$10 & \$15 PER MEAL

\$\$\$ BETWEEN \$15 & \$20 PER MEAL

\$\$\$\$ OVER \$20 PER MEAL

6
MIN

ESTIMATED DRIVING TIME FROM MUHLENBERG COLLEGE. (FOR DIRECTIONS, SEE YAHOO OR GOOGLE MAPS.)

22 DINING



Melanie Zachariades

The Bay Leaf



BELLISIMO

4 Italian \$\$\$ DWY DEL ALC
1243 Tilghman St.
MIN 610-770-7717

On one of the busiest streets in Allentown lies a quaint garden courtyard, filled with Roman statues and fountains. At Bellissimo, you reward your senses long before the food's brought out. (Inside, too: The dimly lit, tiled dining room is a long way from the chaos of Seeger's.) Each meal begins with Italian rolls dipped in hot garlic and oil. Don't skip the appetizers here: The hot antipasto, with Italian meats, cheeses and fish, is particularly good. The entrees are generously portioned, and rarely disappointing. Tuscan wine, elegant music, the soft gurgle of a fountain: It's easy to forget—and depressing to remember—that you're a few car lots away from campus. (Open Tu-Su 11a-10p.)

BRISAS DEL CARIBE

6 Puerto Rican \$
401 N. 8th St.
MIN 610-783-9247

Get a seat near the window: Brisas Del

Caribe, a modest Puerto Rican eatery, is set halfway along the prettiest two-block stretch in Allentown—the city's own (mini) Beacon Hill, along 8th Street between Chew and Liberty Streets. Like many of Allentown's other Latino restaurants, Brisas is mysteriously cheap. Alcapurrias (stuffed green bananas) are only a dollar, as are the steaming pastelillos (beef-stuffed pastries). Full meals, served with rice and beans, range from \$4 to \$7. The beef stew (\$6) is especially tasty. There's nothing flashy about the décor. A few guitars hang on the wall, across from an open, hissing kitchen and plastic counter seats. No matter: Get your pastelillos to go, and walk the gorgeous neighborhood. (Open M-Sa 10a-8p.)

BUCA DI BEPPO

10 Italian \$\$\$ ALC
714 Grape St., Whitehall
MIN 610-264-3389
www.bucadibeppe.com

With its gaudy, gold-framed photographs, its large, color-bulbed Christmas lights and oversized plastic cakes on the walls, this deliciously kitschy Italian restaurant is so tacky it's fun.

There is a Pope Room, complete with a bust of the pontiff in the middle of a round table, and music playing overhead from great Italian-American singers like Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. The bathrooms take the experience to the next level: You'll find pictures of naked people, and hear the opposite sex speaking Italian over the stereo system. For dates? Not so much. But Buca is perfect for large groups, because the dishes are served to be shared, family-style, right down to the desserts. When you're being seated, you're led through the kitchen and greeted by everyone—even the chef. Check your diet at the door, as the food here is high-calorie and high-carb, but every bite is worth it. You can't screw up your order here, but the macaroni rosa and chicken parmigiana are favorites. If, by some miracle, you have room, the bella festa is a cake-and-ice-cream masterpiece. (Open M-Th 4p-10p; F 4p-11p; Sa noon-11p; Su noon-9p.)

THE CAFÉ

17 Thai \$\$\$\$ DWY
221 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
MIN 610-866-1686

This restaurant is easy to miss in your quest for that romantic date-spot. Now you've got no excuse! The Café's setting—in a two-story, Victorian home—provides a lovely backdrop for any meal. And its kitchen cooks up a unique range of lunch and dinner

items, thanks to both American and Thai chefs. (Filet mignon and chicken curry are just two of the options.) Well-informed waiters regale you with an endless list of specials before you place your order. All this atmosphere comes at a price, but just hold out for a parental visit if you don't want to empty your own wallet. And don't forget to leave room for the homemade desserts! (Open Tu-Sa 11a-7p.)

CARIBBEAN DELIGHT

6 Jamaican \$ BYO
465 Washington St.
MIN 610-770-9832

There's south, and then there's *south*. The friendly chefs at Caribbean Delight fry up soul food and Jamaican fare—so you can get your curry goat (\$7) with a side of collard greens (\$2). The xeroxed menu divides straight down the middle, but it's all cheap. Frightfully cheap, actually: The delicious jerk chicken dinner is only \$8, and comes with salad and a steaming pile of rice and peas. Soul food, too: With the fried chicken platter (\$8)—greasy and proud—you get two sides (yams, for example, or mac & cheese) and cornbread. The place is definitely dress-down (when in Jamaica...), festooned with kitschy island decor. Tissue-paper palm trees crowd the ship-style wood panelling, as a giant, smiling Bob Marley mural overlooks the modest, plastic-topped tables. It's not spring break exactly, but it's as close as you'll get in



SCRAPPLE

With fans like Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, it has to be good... right? Concocted over 200 years ago in Pennsylvania's first settlement, Chester County, scrapple was praised for its fresh taste at a time when refrigerators were, well, 150 years off. You'd think that, by now, we'd have come to our senses: A typical recipe calls for a three-pound pork butt with bone (no, that's not a typo), water, ground "savory," cornmeal and every spice known to man. That's the *mild* version. Other recipes include flesh scraped off a hog's head, pork skin, pork heart, pork liver, pork tongue, and even pork brains. And while the rest of the nation might flinch if faced with the truth, scrapple remains a diner staple in Allentown. So dig in, and decide from there.

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Allentown. (Open M-W 11a-9p; Th-F 11a-11p; Sa noon-11p; Su 1p-9p.)

CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL

4 *Italian* \$\$\$ DWY ALC
510 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
MIN 610-439-6100
www.carrabbas.com



As any good Sicilian knows, a meal is better when it's made with a family recipe, lots of garlic and a touch of love. Carrabba's founders (Johnny Carrabba and Damian Mandola) used just that philosophy when they first set up shop in Houston. After the owners of the Outback Steakhouse chain stopped in for a meal, a new partnership quickly turned the small but hugely popular Italian restaurant into a national chain. They're regularly packing 'em into the Allentown outlet, a low-lit, comfortable space with Frank Sinatra singing in the background. The grill items are the highlight, but you'll need a healthy appetite whatever you choose: At Carrabba's, you eat the Italian way (which means a well-stocked bread basket, complimentary salads and generous portions). (Open M-Th 4p-10p; F 4p-11p; Sa 3p-11p; Su 2p-9:30p.)

EL CASTILLO DEL CARIBE

7 *Dominican* \$\$ BYO
346 Ridge Ave.
MIN 610-776-2014

This gleaming upstart on the city's Latino food scene specializes in Dominican seafood dishes. The service here is solicitous and friendly. The expansive, white dining area seems splashed in sun, it's so bright; the effect is surprisingly elegant. But it's the deep, delectable menu that won us over. If you stop by El Castillo only once, order the paella (\$15)—you will thank us. Some of the seafood can be pricey, however: Mashed fried green plantains with octopus are \$12; with chicken, the price is just \$4. Likewise,

the lobster soupy rice is \$22—though with Spanish sausage only \$6. (Open daily 7a-11p.)

CHARLIE BROWN'S

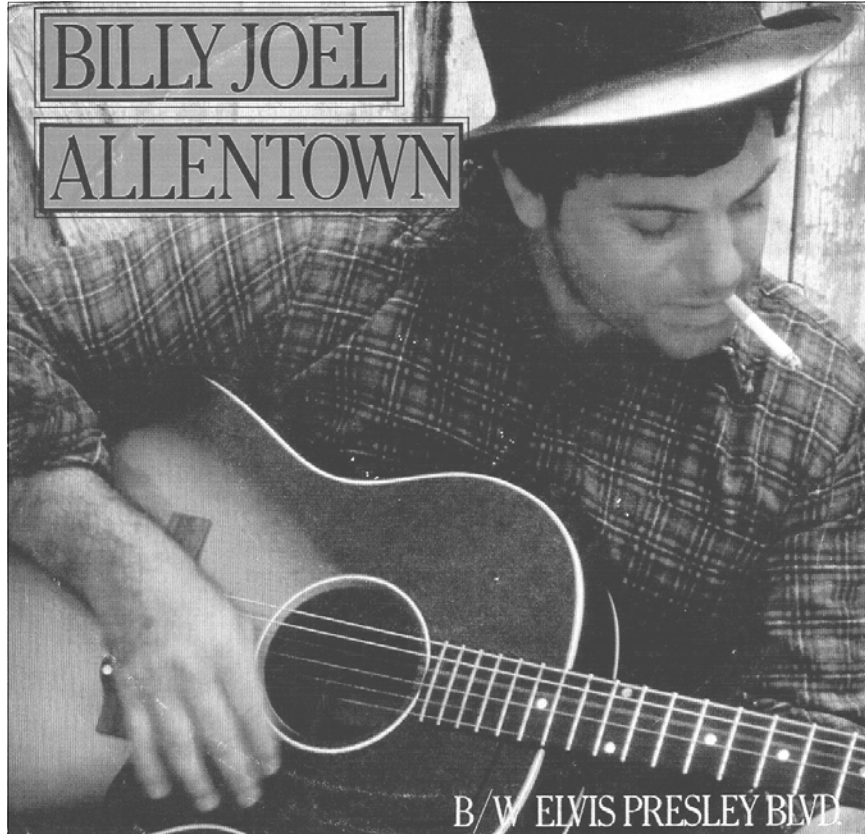
5 *Steakhouse* \$\$\$ ALC DWY
1908 Walbert Ave.
MIN 610-437-1070

Is your inner carnivore screaming for steak? For some of the best in Allentown, saddle up and head out to Charlie Brown's Steakhouse—part of the New Jersey-based chain. Prime rib's their specialty, but they also dish out chicken and seafood. (Vegetarians, you're limited to ravioli and the salad bar.) The space is almost as delectable as the meat—special rooms for larger parties, a bar and lounge area and a cozy fireplace. The main drawback are the crowds at this popular spot, so be sure to reserve a table in advance. (Open M-Sa 11:30a-10p.)

CHRISTOPHER'S

4 *Traditional American* \$\$
1519 W. Greenleaf St.
MIN 610-432-6333

Christopher's, the "open to the public" restaurant connected to the Columbian House (a Roman Catholic club and banquet facility), is the best of the worst in A-town. It's got a ridiculously cheesy atmosphere and lousy décor, salads made of cheap iceberg lettuce and bottled dressing and just four or five entrees (that change daily) to choose from. The service is less than mediocre—the waitresses are more attentive to club visitors than the few patrons in Christopher's. Though the restaurant claims no religious affiliation, the Christmas lights, paper placemats with instructions on how to become a Catholic "knight" and the large hanging cross on the wall at the main entrance suggest otherwise. (Open M-F 5p-9p.)



Billy Joel's Allentown (1983) album cover

CHURROS CAFÉ

5 Cuban \$
959 W. Turner St.
610-437-5511
MIN

Alas, Churros Café offers no churros. There's not even a menu. So be warned: Ordering is a bit of an adventure. The guy behind the counter rattles off your options and you decide what you want on the spot. (No pressure.) A thick Spanish accent can make the ordering process even more confusing. However, the food is superb and cheap. Try the Cuban sandwich—it's highly recommended. (Open daily 8a-9p.)



DAMASCUS

7 Middle Eastern \$ BYO
449 N. 2nd St.
MIN 610-432-2036

Sensational shwarma, mouthwatering hummus and don't even get us started on the fried eggplant... While the décor's a bit spare at this family operation, they've got some of the best Middle Eastern food in the area—a huge variety of Syrian specialties, including plenty of vegetarian options. (They also serve a few more conventional dishes—like chicken sandwiches and burgers—for less adventurous eaters.) Since entrees average \$8 and pitas less than \$4, you won't have to spend a fortune to

26 DINING

get a truly fantastic meal. Please, they make their own yogurt, people! (Open M-Sa 9a-9p.)

DOGSTARR CAFÉ

6 Café \$
29 N. 6th St.
MIN 610-821-1011



Don't be fooled by the name—this café's no place for pups. What it is, though, is a gift to caffeine addicts. Located by the Allentown Symphony Hall, the café has been serving local business people for over seven years. It's got an exceptional (and reasonably priced) menu of breakfast and lunch items, from bagels to salads and sandwiches. And who needs a mainstream Starbucks when the funkier Dogstarr has everything a coffee- or tea-lover could wish for? You'll be pleasantly surprised by the list of lattes and cappuccinos, flavored coffees and Chai and regular teas. It's the perfect place (hands-down) for your next fix. (Open M-Th 8a-4:30p; F 8a-4p.)

DUNDERBAK'S

8 German \$\$ ALC
Lehigh Valley Mall, Whitehall
MIN 610-264-4963
www.dunderbak.com

Attention hungry shoppers: Just beyond Macy's perfume counter in the Lehigh Valley Mall awaits the smell of ...*sauerkraut*? For the most part, Allentown seems to have forgotten its rich German heritage where dining is concerned. Dunderbak's is one of the very few exceptions. It's often overlooked since it's one of many options at the mall, and the dining area itself is hidden behind a gift shop (where you can choose between ten different kinds of sauerkraut) and quick-service counter (great for a sausage on the go). Your first impression once you wander back: Beer. It's responsible for most of the interior decorating—it lines the walls on shelves and in cool-

ers—and for filling out a very lengthy drink list. (Just try to name their more than 200 varieties.) Whether you're drinking or not, try the food for a real taste of *Deutschland*. The less adventurous can stick to familiar American favorites but are still obligated to try the German chocolate cake! The service is amazingly quick but don't look to the servers for much additional assistance. While it isn't stellar, Dunderbak's is a great reason to skip the food court during your next trip to the mall. (Open during mall hours.)

EDGE

18 Continental \$\$\$\$ DWY
74 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
MIN 610-814-0100
www.edgerestaurant.net

Flawless food, graceful service and a modish air. If that's what you're looking for—and if you're willing to leave Allentown for it—then Edge is your place. In historic downtown Bethlehem, Edge bills itself as a dash of New York in Pennsylvania, and not without reason. Start your cosmopolitan evening with, well, a cosmo, as the bar mixes some of the best. Not 21? Don't worry, you can still dine like it's Manhattan, with the prosciutto San Danielle (\$10), or the baby field greens with toasted walnuts, Roquefort and a roasted shallot vinaigrette (\$9). The New York strip steak (\$30) is just what you'd expect from Luger's, and the handmade cavatelli with rock shrimp (\$22) is divine. The Normandy apple tart (\$9) and Valrhona chocolate cake (\$9) are some of the best desserts you'll find this side of the Lincoln Tunnel. So hail a cab and enjoy big city dining in the country. (Open M-Th 5p-9p; F-Sa 5p-10p.)

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FEDERAL GRILL

6 *Trad'l American* \$\$\$\$ DWY
ALC
MIN 536 Hamilton St.
610-776-7600
www.federalgrill.com

This casual chic establishment is anything but an all-American eatery. The Grill is an oasis downtown—zebra-print bar stools, window-pane mirrors and understated twinkle lights give off a soothing, eclectic ambiance. The menu changes daily, featuring a refreshing twist on familiar cuisine: award-winning steaks, seafood and pastas. Downstairs you'll find a full smoking bar, complete with over three-dozen brands of cigars to choose from. If balancing a cigar with a martini glass isn't your skill, head upstairs to the dining room—great for a night on the (Allen)town. When it's available, order the deep yellow, richly flavored carrot soup, or the pepper crusted hay tuna, delectable if sushi-grade fish does it for you. The

lunch menu is lighter on your wallet, and includes burgers, salads, and a light alternative to French fries called "tobacco onions." (Open M-F 11a-4p, 5p-10p; Sa-Su 5p-11p.)

FUSION GRILL

3 *Asian Fusion* \$\$ FML
3104 Hamilton Blvd.
MIN 610-740-9667

The Fusion Grill cannot decide what type of restaurant it wants to be. The exterior looks like a shack with an energetic sign, but the inside resembles a mature banquet hall, complete with elevator music urging you to clink your glass with a knife and make a toast. The food, though, is delicious. The mouth-watering, home-made garlic rolls are superb, and prepare the way for surprisingly tasty entrees, including the seafarer's tortellini—shrimp with tortellini pasta—and the unique peachtree chicken, which drenches chicken and peaches



Phil Johnson

The Americus Hotel, at 6th and Hamilton Streets

28 DINING



Sara Rosoff

Grille 3501

in a rich peach sauce. The staff is friendly, the service prompt, but the atmosphere isn't, well, college student-friendly. The tacky and the formal are at war here, with a pig holding a chalkboard on one wall, and a beautiful painting on another. The folded cloth napkins, likewise, clash with the "Danger, men cooking" signs. The Fusion Grille doesn't fuse well. (Open M-F 11:30a-9p; Sa 5p-10p.)

THE GATE 9 GRILLE

3 Burgers \$\$ ALC WLK
448 N. 17th St.
MIN 610-43GATE9
www.gate9grille.com

If it weren't for the Hard Rock Café, Applebee's and their ilk, the Gate 9's self-consciously designed interior would be a lot fresher: Light pine booths, vaulted ceilings, white beams, bright blue walls, framed LP covers and hanging industrial lighting. As it is, there's a whiff of "theme restau-

rant" in the air; even the menu looks market-tested. So it was a relief to taste the food, which is much better than the average strip-mall fare. The waffle fries are perfectly crisp, and the salads sprawling. You can eat all the ribs you want on Mondays for \$15, and on Wednesday wings are only a quarter. All the other pub grub standbys are here, including burgers, wraps, wings and nachos. Stick with these, as more exotic items—like the Cuban sandwich (\$6.95)—don't resemble their namesakes. Gate 9 is attached to one of the Maingate bars, with a disappointing range of beers on tap. But in the summer, the attached bar's walls get removed, to reveal a sunny courtyard, partially boardwalked and filled with tables. Out here at least, the Gate 9 might just live up to its motto—"where friends and memories come together." (Open M-W 11a-9p; Th-Sa 11a-10p.)



GRILLE 3501

3 Asian Fusion \$\$\$\$ DWY ALC
FML
MIN 3501 Broadway
610-706-0100
www.grille3501.com

For a little high-end dining without the trek to New York City, try Grille 3501. The food's exceptional—from appetizers like the chicken shiitake dumplings (\$7.50) or the spicy pecan and goat cheese salad (\$6.50), to entrees like the pan-roasted free-range chicken (\$17.50), to the worth-the-guilt chocolate lava cake. Legal drinkers can wash it all down with something from the extensive martini bar (how about a Staten Island "Mar-Tony"? or classic cosmopolitan. It's a good thing the edible options are so delicious, though, because the service isn't—particularly for younger customers. And the prices might require a parent's credit card. (Open Tu-Sa 11:30a-closing time varies.)

HAMILTON FAMILY RESTAURANT

3 Diner \$
2027 Hamilton St.
MIN 610-433-6452

"HamFam" is a party—at two in the morning when the only test you have to worry about is a breathalyzer. So what if it's a table-lined trailer with peeling wallpaper, there's a long wait for food and you'll reek of cigarettes even if you sit in the "non-smoking" section... desperate times call for desperate measures. Skip the slimy browning fruit, be warned that the cheese fries are a bit oily (make that soaked in oil) and know that your large orange juice—though delicious—will be the size of the shot glass you used earlier. Focus instead on their breakfasts for a solid mid-night snack. It's an experience, but don't be surprised if your designated driver insists on staying behind the wheel. (Always open!)



LEAVE IT TO BIEBER

Coffee-stained chintz and cream-chipped beef on toast. These are the Holy Grail when in pursuit of the quintessential diner experience. This particular expedition (which requires a short car or taxi ride) has landed you in West-cosville at the **Charcoal Diner**. Go ahead: Bask in the florescent lights that reflect off the Formica countertops. But fear not. This diner doesn't have to be your final destination. It's only a stepping-stone towards a more epic quest. If you're observant, you'll notice the constant stream of customers who enter the diner, but never actually sit down. This should clue you into the Charcoal's second function. That is, if you happened to miss the large terminal and constant stream of Carl Bieber buses careening through the parking lot. These buses leave almost every hour, whisking travelers away on direct, relatively short routes to the brighter lights of Philadelphia and New York City. (Tickets to New York cost \$35; check www.biebertourways.com for schedules and other info.) You may want to pair breakfast at the Charcoal with a trip to the Big Apple or the City of Brotherly Love. If not, a trip to the diner may be thrilling enough—especially for Bill Clinton fans. An unwashed coffee cup and a used napkin encased in glass serve as a shrine to the diner's famous guest. If this place is good enough for Bill, it's good enough for us.

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HENRY'S SALT OF THE SEA

2 *Seafood* \$\$\$ WLK ALC
1926 W. Allen St.
MIN 610-434-2628



When the grandparents are in town and hungry, take them to Henry's (which hosts a slightly older crowd even after the early-bird specials). The restaurant's nautical look—complete with ship lanterns, portraits of captains and cork wreaths—not-so-subtly hints at Henry's specialty: seafood. The menu features scallops, shrimp, flounder, crab and lobster. But landlubbers aren't forgotten, and can pick between beef and chicken dishes. (If nothing strikes your fancy, they'll fix up a special request if they've got all the ingredients.) All entrées come with a trip to the salad bar, a potato dish and vegetables. While it sounds like a tremendous amount of food, moderately sized portions mean you'll be able to clean your plate before casting off... (Open M-Th 4:30p-10p; F-Sa 4:30p-11p.)

HUNAN SPRINGS

7 *Chinese* \$\$ DWY ALC
4939 Hamilton Blvd.
MIN 610-366-8338

Widow Brown (the building's last tenant) wouldn't know what hit her. While the décor hasn't changed much (it's still a mix of homey and ski lodge), the food certainly has, and all for the better. Hunan Springs serves up dishes a step or two (or three) above your typical Chinese restaurant. Whether you're taking out or eating in, you'll have your pick between an impressive array of seafood, pork, beef, duck and lamb options, not to mention several chef specials. Try the Bo Bo Platter appetizer for two (\$13)—a delicious assortment of egg rolls, BBQ ribs, shrimp toast, chicken wings, teriyaki beef and cheese puffs, served around a towering flame. This is not your father's Chinese. (Open M-Th 11:30a-10p; F-Sa noon-11p; Su noon-9:30p.)

KING GEORGE INN

3 *Trad'l American* \$\$\$\$ DWY
3141 Hamilton Blvd.
MIN 610-435-1723
www.kinggeorgeinn.com

Rickety old chairs, 250-year-old walls and quaint, wooden beams etched with famous quotes fill the historic King George Inn. Everything is Ye Olde English at the Inn, down to the stone, 1756 building itself—oddly set between the Dorneyville strip malls. Keep your upper lip stiff as you try the no-nonsense seafood and steaks, and watch your wallet: The steep prices don't mean big portions or consistent food quality. You'll never go thirsty, though, as the wine list is exceptional. And the desserts will satisfy the sweetest tooth. So sit back, relax, and enjoy your expensive English meal, ol' chap! (Open M-Th 11:30a-10p; F-Sa 11:30a-11:30p; Su 4p-10p.)

KOW THAI TAKE OUT

4 *Thai* \$ DEL
1200 W. Linden St.
MIN 610-770-9100

Though billed as "Gourmet Thai Food Delivery," Kow Thai's takeout leaves something to be desired—the gourmet Thai food. The limited menu offers entrees "flavored" with curry, Thai dressing or sauce, but the dishes offer only a small portion of flavor. The tubs of meat and vegetables floating in water resemble a slimy soup; the best bit of each entrée is the classic gummy steamed rice. The (two) appetizers *are* tasty, but their meager portions make it hard to cobble them together as a meal. The chicken satay (\$3.25) is the only must: Not too spicy but flavored with a zippy peanut sauce, this chicken-on-a-stick is the closest that Kow Thai comes to "gourmet." (Open Tu-Sa 11a-9p.)



Michelle Hein



The 18th century Trout Hall, Muhlenberg College's first home

**LA FIESTA RESTAURANTE
SALVADOREÑO**

5 Salvadoran \$
958 Hamilton St.
MIN 610-351-5153

La Fiesta is certainly cause for celebration: The unassuming Salvadoran restaurant is kind on the stomach *and* the wallet. The empanadas are delicious (\$1-\$1.50), and the fried sweet plantain platter (\$5.50) is the best we've tasted. The light blue walls, the long Formica counter, the plastic folding chairs, the cheerful regulars—they come together, somehow. There's a warmth to La Fiesta—it's Cheers with a Salvadoran accent. (Open daily 10a-10p.)



LA MEXICANA GRILL

6 Mexican \$\$ BYO
407 N. 7th St.
MIN 610-776-1910

Nobody does "full" like La Mexicana Grill. This festive restaurant—with mango orange walls and year-round Christmas lights—serves up a ton... and it's all great. The fajitas (veggie, chicken, beef or shrimp) bring words like "mountainous" to mind; entrees like the chicken mole (\$13) are similarly huge and tasty. And did we mention that all dinners come with two sides—like fried plantains, refried beans or sweet potatoes? We'd say save room for the main course, but that would mean missing out on the city's best salsa (an on-the-house treat, along with chips) and homemade guacamole. So just be prepared to roll your way out—it's the kind of place that the "after dinner walk" was made for. (Open daily 11a-9p.)

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Michelle Hein

Cedar Beach Park



LA PLACITA

4 Mexican \$ BYO
158 N. 12th St.
MIN 610-821-4549

Who would have guessed that the best Mexican restaurant in Allentown is a cramped grocer? It's true, and we're not kidding about "cramped": La Placita squeezes in just three snug tables at the end of a narrow passage lined with hanging produce. (A sign, for the 8th Hole ("Par 4"), taunts the claustrophobic.) Prepare for sensory overload: Mexican music bounces off the flag-green walls, while tamales, sausages and baskets of avocado all compete for scarce counter space. The food makes it all OK. Trust us. The enchiladas verdes de pollo (\$6.75) are divino, and we've never tasted anything quite like the cecina con nopales (cactus with Mexican dried beef, \$7.50). The \$2 tacos—try the spicy pork—are blessedly affordable. La Placita put the hole in the

wall, and we're damn grateful. (Open M-W 11a-8p; Th-Sa 10a-9:30p; Su 10a-7p.)

LATIN FLAVA

7 Puerto Rican \$
502 Gordon St.
MIN 610-351-9793

Latin Flava has replaced the troubled nightspot Shorty's, and now the polished wood bar is one of the best places in town to enjoy pastellitos and alcapurria (both \$1). The walls are a rich blend of red and yellow, draped with streamers, lights and Caribbean flags. The menu varies daily—the friendly owner-chef is justly proud of his rotating Puerto Rican specialties, including boiled banana (75 cents) and "canoes" (long, open-faced sweet bananas packed with beef, \$1.50). All of the lunch and dinner platters, including beef stew, cost just \$5.50, and come with rice and beans. (Even the pig's feet and chicken gizzards are \$5.50!) The colorful, dimmed dining nook is a great place to set up with coffee or hot chocolate and your Intro to Democracy reading. Latin Flava is a long way from, say, Perkins—in many ways. That's what we like about it. (Open M-Sa 10a-7p.)

LITTLE SAIGON

7 Vietnamese \$ DEL
1033 N. 6th St.
MIN 610-821-5350

Turn your head for a second and you're bound to drive right by Little Saigon, so pay attention. And you're not at the wrong place, so don't lose faith once you enter. (The Formica tabletops and sea shell wallpaper are hardly typical Asian restaurant décor.) But the friendly service and outstanding Vietnamese and Chinese fare are as authentic as they come. The Vietnamese egg roll (a non-fried version of its Chinese cousin) is an excellent appetizer choice. With the

DINING 33

rest of the menu full of large-portioned entrées for about \$6, Little Saigon is bound to appeal to both your stomach and your budget. (Open W-M 9a-9p.)



LO BAIDO'S

6 Italian \$\$\$ DWY BYO
442 N. 8th St.
MIN 610-820-7570

If you aren't headed downtown, you should be. And while you're there, pay a visit to this family-owned local favorite. Though the romantic music and table candles clash with the pizzeria-style open kitchen, Lo Baido's redeems itself with its friendly service and delectable Italian cuisine. The food is freshly prepared with homemade sauces and salad dressings. Most entrees are served with a house salad—a mishmash of basic lettuce, ziti and raisins—and an intermezzo of homemade sorbet. The baked manicotti (\$13) is especially good, as is the penne ala vodka con gamberi (\$19). You won't have room, but loosen your belt and try some of the inexpensive-yet-fabulous ice cream, made fresh on site. (Open M 11a-8p; Tu-Th 11a-9p; F 11a-10p; Sa noon-10p.)



LOUIE'S

4 Italian \$\$\$ DWY DEL BYO
1207 Chew St.
MIN 610-434-2340
www.louiesrestaurant.com

Imagine the scene from the Disney classic *Lady and the Tramp*—two hound dogs sharing a strand of spaghetti with soft Italian music in the background—and you've got a perfect picture of the atmosphere at Louie's. Established by the Belletieri family in 1958, under the moniker of Gino's, Louie's is the quintessential Italian family restaurant. The modest décor consists of black and white family photos, which stare down at long tables covered with checkered tablecloths. The main attraction, by far, is the cuisine: The Belletieri's traditional home-style sauces set Louie's apart from all of its old country imitators. The sauces are so good that they sell them under the Belletieri product line. The desserts are frightfully tasty. The Italian rum cake, chocolate moose and chocolate peanut butter pie, in particular, should be illegal. (Open M-F 11a-10p; Sa 4p-10p; Su 4p-9p.)



MAGNOLIA'S VINEYARD

12 Trad'l American \$\$\$\$ DWY
2204 Village Rd., Orefield
MIN 610-395-1233

This secluded restaurant certainly lets you escape the chaos of campus. But while Magnolia's is a charming setting

CALLING ALL GHOSTS, GHOULS AND GOBLINS

It's no wonder that All Hallow's Eve is a children's favorite. Costume and candy give these trick-or-treaters a good excuse to stay up late. For 30 years, Allentown residents of all ages have participated in the annual Halloween Parade. Costumed marchers parade through two miles of Allentown, beginning at the Fairgrounds and ending in Center Square downtown. With floats, marching bands and music, the parade is quite the small-town spectacle, and attracts close to 35,000 spectators, more than 6,000 marchers and 65 floats. Ghosts, witches and pumpkins are everywhere... so beware!

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for an anniversary dinner (if you can get past the cheetah-print carpeting), the food leaves a bit to be desired; carnivores have far more options than vegetarians. For an added twist, legend has it that a young woman (waiting for her lover to return from war) haunts the building. That may explain the short wait time between your appetizer and main course—maybe the host wants to get you moving before you encounter any wandering spirits. (Open Tu-Sa 5p-10p; Su 3p-10pm.)

MANGOS

5 *Mediterranean* \$\$\$ DWY ALC
3750 Hamilton Blvd.
MIN 610-432-4420

The Mangos experience is hard to define—one-part Caribbean casual and two-parts Mediterranean chic. The building is unassuming and unfortunately placed, wedged between a McDonald's and a gas station, but once inside you might forget that you're in Allentown at all. The décor is eclectic and attractive, with painted stucco walls, low ceilings and tropical artwork. (Don't neglect the intimate courtyard in warm weather.) Mangos is best-known, as it should be, for its tapas (appetizers that, combined, can serve as a meal) and rum bar. Try the Mojito, the restaurant's most popular cocktail—it's exceptional. The food is inventive (though occasionally a bit too salty); the paella is particularly good. The waitstaff is friendly, if a bit inefficient. Good thing it's worth the wait. (Open daily 11a-11p.)

MARIO'S PIZZA CAFÉ

4 *Italian* \$ DWY
3335 Hamilton Blvd.
MIN 610-435-4484

Hidden in a plaza with chain giants like Subway, Friendly's and Carrabba's, this small Italian eatery is quite a find. The crackling brick-oven fire and warm orange walls create a

welcoming feeling, and small tables and smiling waitstaff add to the cozy atmosphere. The menu ranges from strombolis to large stuffed pizzas to Mario's specialty, hot panini sandwiches. Not to be outdone by the Starbucks of the world, Mario's even has a café with mochas and lattes. Whether you're taking out or eating in, Mario's is a great alternative to another evening meal at GQ. (Open M-Th; Su 10a-9:30p; F-Sa 10a-11p.)

MI BANDERA

6 *Dominican* \$ BYO
546 N. 7th St.
MIN 610-770-0661

Allentown is a burgeoning center of Latin American cuisine. Allentown? Yes, and Mi Bandera is the newest reason to venture downtown for cheap, delicious Latin fare. The Dominican newcomer sits in a stately 19th-century row house, the former home of the Century Cafe. This means that you get to savor your fried green plantains (\$2) in wood-paneled, stained-glass elegance. Take an old wood booth, or sit along the walnut, wrap-around bar (but bring your own beer). Mi Bandera's portions sprawl across the plate, and each dish gets served with steaming piles of rice and beans—for the price of a Happy Meal. The chicken stew (\$6) comes in tender, delicious shreds; try it with a beef-stuffed sweet plantain (\$3). We're told that the goat (\$6) and oxtail (\$6) stews are especially tasty. We'll take their words for it. (Open daily 8a-1a.)

MOM'S BAKE AT HOME PIZZA

2 *Pizza* \$ WLK
524 N. 19th St.
MIN 610-433-4311

Enter through the small wooden door at Mom's and it'll take you a moment to realize that you're in a pizza parlor

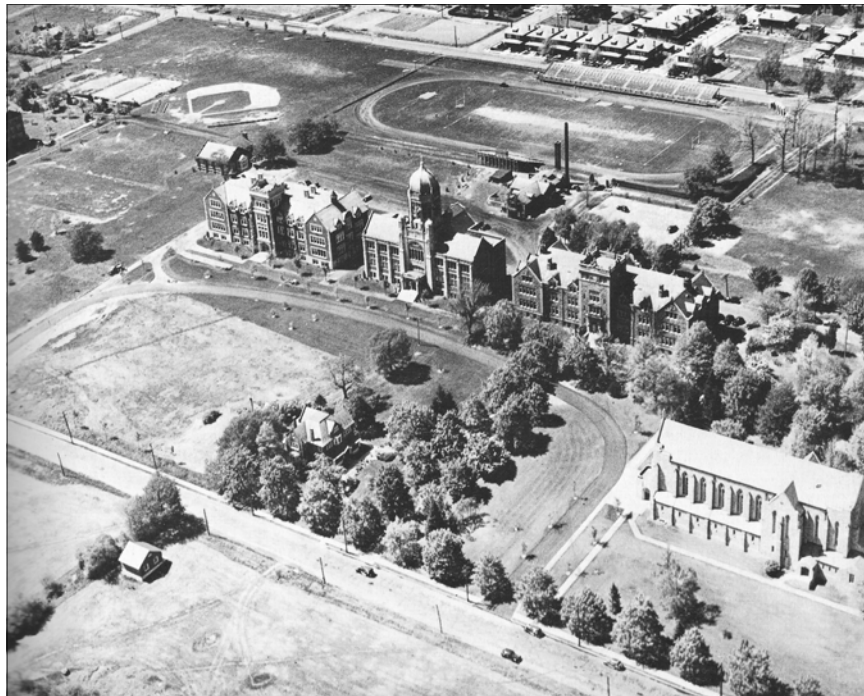
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and not a hip art gallery. The red-and-black floor clashes with neon yellow walls and colorful wall art, and eerily resembles a cartoon drawing. But don't let the look fool you: This place is serious about its pizza (and offers a range of salads and sandwiches, too). And when they say "create your own pizza," they're not kidding. Almost as strange as the décor, at Mom's you can choose to walk out with a raw pie (and cook your pizza at home instead). The cooking options, low prices (a small is \$6, a medium \$8 and a large \$9), and extensive menu, make Mom's a solid response to any rumbling, pizza-craving stomach. (Open Tu-Th 3p-8p; F-Sa noon-9p; Su 3p-7p.)

NAWAB

19 Indian \$\$ BYO
13 E. 4th St., Bethlehem
MIN 610-691-0388
www.nawabrestaurant.web.com

Close your eyes, imagine really cheesy restaurant décor, now give it a theme. The image you've conjured up is pretty close to what you'll find at Nawab. Thank goodness that their authentic Indian cuisine more than makes up for the lousy interior decorating. Nawab is a three-time winner (in 2000, 2001 and 2002) of *Lehigh Valley Magazine's* "Best in the Valley—Indian Restaurant Award." (Okay, it's not a Nobel Prize, but it's gotta count for something, right?) Start with samosas, then try lamb rogam josh for a spicy challenge (order plenty of nan—bread—to relieve your taste buds),



Courtesy of Muhlenberg College

Muhlenberg College in 1938-1939

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or the chicken tikka masala for something milder. Vegetarians, don't despair: There are plenty of meat-free meals, tasty enough even for carnivores. Just leave your cigarettes at home (the whole place is smoke-free) and bring your ID (students get 15% off lunches and dinners). (Open M-Th 11:30a-3p, 5p-10p; F 11:30a-3p, 5p-11p; Su 11:30a-9:30p.)



NICK'S DINER

2 Diner \$ WLK
1802 Tilghman St.
MIN 610-439-5070

Your mother should have taught you to never judge a book by its cover. Keep that lesson in mind during your next trip to Nick's Diner, which is small, dingy and crowded. The crowded part is easy—the place is popular and for good reason. Nick's has great food, an exceedingly friendly waitstaff and efficient service. The small and dingy part, well, that just adds to the character of this '50s-style metal-box diner, where the walls are adorned with paintings by local artists. Definitely don't miss Nick's all-day breakfast specialties, wraps and French fries, and save room for dessert. (There are over ten freshly baked pies and cakes to choose from.) Thanks to inexpensive prices and overflowing portions, you'll leave with a full stomach *and* a full wallet. (Open daily 6a-10p.)

9TH STREET LOOP CAFÉ

5 Café \$
33 N. 9th St.
MIN 610-437-9593

Why settle for Poland Springs when there's Perrier? If GQ was the "before" shot on a makeover reality series, the Loop would be the "after." It's like GQ on steroids sashaying down the red carpet of cafeteria-style eateries. This downtown lunchtime fixture attracts a white-collar crowd that prefers the

clattering of short-order cooks to the elevator music piped in at more traditional bistros. Patrons nosh on gourmet fast food—an assortment of pastas and sandwiches with liberal sides of coleslaw and potato salad. Sounds a bit better than yet another chicken patty melt, wouldn't you say? Is it necessary? No, but neither (technically) is Banana Republic when you have Old Navy... (Open M-F 6a-4p.)

PANERA BREAD

3 Café \$ WLK
3100 W. Tilghman St.
MIN 610-432-3221
www.panerabread.com

Panera is European café meets cozy ski lodge. There's a fireplace in the main dining area, toasty on a cool autumn evening. The bakery is old world too, with a vast assortment of pastries, breads and bagels lining the wooden shelves. The sandwiches, soups and salads are inexpensive, and sometimes inventive: Try the soup in a sourdough bread bowl (\$4.29) or the popular grilled panini sandwiches (around \$6). Just don't forget to order a café mocha and a caramel pecan brownie for dessert. We promise Dr. Atkins won't come after you. (Open M-Sa 6:30a-9p; Su 7a-7:30p.)

PARMA PIZZA

3 Italian \$ WLK DEL
3100 W. Tilghman St.
MIN 610-439-6940

There's a reason Parma Pizza is called Parma *Pizza* and not something a little more extravagant or inclusive. It's true that the restaurant's atmosphere leaves much to be desired. And while the menu has a decent number of options—ranging from traditional Italian favorites like pasta, calzones, strombolis, subs and steaks, as well as salads—few (if any) are as good as the pizza. The pizza, though, gets

high marks. There's a wide variety of toppings and specialty pizzas including taco or eggplant parmesan. Its wallet-friendly prices, close proximity to Muhlenberg (within walking distance for the car-less), and quick delivery make it convenient for students. In addition, the management is often happy to cooperate with on-campus organizations and programs. While not the choice for sit-down Italian fare, Parma Pizza is a reliable place to turn during any pizza craving. (Open Su-Th 9a-9:30p; F-Sa 9a-10p.)

PASTAFICIO

6 Italian \$
 602 W. Hamilton St.
 MIN 610-774-9500

You can't get a filling, steaming plate of fresh pasta for \$5 anywhere else—even if it's served on a tray that you carry yourself to bistro-style red tables. (We carried the parfalle with vodka sauce, and it was worth the walk.) Pastificio's is an upbeat, downtown lunch spot, where you mix and match the pasta and sauce. Despite the crowds of lunchtime downtown employees, the place maintains a minimalist elegance, with framed Italian museum posters and check-



Sara Rosoff

Salvatore Ruffino's Brick Oven Pizza

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ered curtains. Don't leave without trying the bruschetta with eggplant relish (\$3). (Open M-F 10a-4p.)

PHILLY'S STEAKS, SUBS AND PIZZA

4 *Fast Food* \$ DEL
1137 Hamilton St.
MIN 610-782-0373



If you're willing to travel for a quality cheesesteak, you may want to go a bit further than this shady joint. The seating is uncomfortable at best, featuring cushions (if you can call them that) with a tacky floral print. The atrociously dim lighting gives you the "this place used to be a pub" feel (which, in fact, it was). Even if the ambiance doesn't throw you, Philly's probably isn't your best bet for high-cholesterol fare. Take the "Philly Sampler," advertised as an appetizer of two pierogies, four onion rings, four chicken nuggets, two mozzarella sticks, five breaded mushrooms and French fries. Actually, ours came with zero pierogies, six onion rings, four chicken nuggets, two mozzarella sticks, three breaded mushrooms and French fries. But who's counting? Our final answer: Don't go out of your way for this place; they definitely won't go out of their way for you. (Open M-Th 11a-10p; F-Sa 11a-11p; Su 11a-10p.)

 **PHILOSOPHER'S STONE**
5 *Deli* \$ DWY
915 Hamilton St.
MIN 610-820-8414

The Philosopher's Stone is a small, family-owned taste of the Upper West Side mixed with Pennsylvania country flavor. Don't be misled by the cramped entrance, which signals cozy café. The veteran knows better. Its hall-like expanse contains all kinds of gifts and goodies, from photo albums to jewelry to birthday cards and stuffed animals—along

with an extensive menu of fresh deli foods. The friendly staff is more than willing to help you come up with your order. They're justly proud of their family-recipe sweets, which are baked on-site every morning. (Open M-Sa 11a-6p.)

PISTACHIO BAR & GRILLE

3 *Continental* \$\$ ALC
341 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
MIN 610-435-7007

www.pistachiobarandgrille.com

If you've been scouring the Lehigh Valley for a trendy restaurant where you and your friends can sip martinis and look hip, you may be in luck. But with pricey, mediocre fare and inefficient service, eating at Pistachio regularly would be...well, nuts. The décor is warehouse chic, complete with exposed pipes and art deco light fixtures. Echoing acoustics turn conversations into shouting matches. The menu is hefty but don't be fooled—the salads (which occupy almost a full page) are all over \$10 and a letdown. You're better off with a pasta dish or the eggplant shelbourne, which is yummy AND huge. Even if you don't have room for dessert, at least check out the tray. Worst-case scenario: You settle for a cup of Mexican hot chocolate. So if you're feeling more SoHo than Allentown, head to Pistachio with a full wallet, earplugs and patience. (Open Su-Th 11:30a-midnight; F-Sa 11:30a-2a.)

PLANET HOAGIE

3 *Sandwich* \$
1425 Chew St.
MIN 484-664-7070

Unique Hoagie is an out-of-this-world sandwich experience... kind of. Three generations of family recipes paired with high-quality meats and cheese certainly make these sandwiches better than the GQ's. And there are plenty of them—over sixty to choose from (so be prepared to spend some

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time contemplating your order). A tip to help you narrow things down: A few of the “Italian Classics” are less than stellar. Their party and luncheon trays, though, can save you if you’re stuck doing last-minute event-planning. And even if the sandwiches don’t grab you, Unique Hoagie shares space with the Unique Bread Bakery—the place for fresh bread. (Open M-Tu 9a-5pm; W-Sa 9a-6p; Su 10a-3p.)

RITA’S

2 *Ice Cream* \$ WLK
1918 W. Tilghman St.
MIN 610-435-4501
www.ritasice.com

Something cold and refreshing hit Pennsylvania in the summer of 1984: Italian ice! That year, the Tumulo family made PA a little sweeter when it founded Rita’s Italian Ice, which soon spread to cities up and down the East Coast, including Allentown. They claimed then to use the perfect recipe, and even today few could argue. In spring and summer, the overheated can’t wait to get their hands on a “wooter” ice (that’s “water” ice in Philadelphian), yogurt, custard or “misto.” You’ll pick from dozens of flavors, like passion fruit, peach and wild black cherry. A small will only set you back \$1.15 with tax—and just one dollar more for a large. That may seem like a lot for ice and syrup, but it’s worth every penny. More outdoor stand than ice cream parlor, Rita’s shuts down for the winter. But when it’s open, Rita’s provides a uniquely chilling experience. (Open seasonal.)

ROBATA OF TOKYO

6 *Japanese* \$\$\$\$ ALC
39 S. 9th St.
MIN 610-821-6900
www.robataoftokyo.com

Here’s a laid-back locale featuring authentic Japanese cuisine—along with a bit of flare. Robata of Tokyo specializes in a Japanese style of grill-

ing known as hibachi. And the chefs cook up more than just food, entertaining diners with their technique as they prepare entrees right before their eyes. (While it’s possible to spend a solid amount of money here, the chicken hibachi includes a heaping portion of chicken, fried rice and veggies, as well as soup and a salad, for just \$13.) If you’re in the mood for something else, check out Robata’s extensive selection of appetizers, entrees and sushi. Also, don’t forget to browse the drink menu. The banzi bomber—24 ounces of fruit-and-booze deliciousness—is a house favorite despite its \$10 price tag. (Open Tu-Su 5p; closing times vary.)



ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK CAFE

4 *Café* \$
1301 W. Hamilton St.
MIN 610-770-1588

Who says you can’t go back? This café makes time travel possible and worth the trip. The golden oldies on the radio and walls plastered with records and signed photographs make you nostalgic for the days when rock and roll was, well, rockin’. And if the ambiance doesn’t, the menu certainly will, with options like the “Mama Cass” hot ham sandwich, the “Sittin’ on the Dock of the Bay” crab patty and “You Ain’t Nothin’ But a Hot Dog” (Elvis sighting, anyone?). Unfortunately, this café certainly does *not* rock around the clock—it’s closed by 2pm. But, if you’re up early (they open at 7am) or looking for a new lunch spot, it’s a fun and tasty place to try. (Open daily 7a-2p.)

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Sara Rosoff

The Shanty

SALVATORE RUFFINO'S BRICK OVEN PIZZA

2 Italian \$\$ ALC DWY WLK
1840 Allen St.
MIN 610-437-3621

Ruffino's isn't shy about what it does best. The specialty here is brick oven pizza, and a whole lot of it. The restaurant serves Napolitano (thin crust), Sicilian (deep dish) and stuffed (where the ingredients are between two layers of dough). And it's all cooked in an actual brick oven visible from the dining room. (Just drag your eyes away from the desserts on display and you'll see it.) If pizza's not your thing, there's also a lengthy menu full of pasta, chicken and veal entrees, as well as calzones and other sandwiches. Plus, you can't help but enjoy the atmosphere—very "Italian village" with service like you'd find in the classiest places. It's a great date spot, especially on weekends when they've got live entertainment. (Open M-Th

10a-10p; F-Sa: 11a-11p; Su noon-10p.)

THE SHANTY

2 Trad'l American \$\$\$ ALC WLK
617 N. 19th St.
MIN 610-437-5358
www.theshantyrest.com

The Shanty is Allentown—*old* Allentown, before all the factories closed down. Right in the middle of 19th Street "bohemia," the Shanty sits proudly, serving its traditional American cuisine. TGI Friday's, Houlihan's, and Chili's manufacture this look, but the Shanty's décor is the real thing: The walls are cluttered with Americana—kitschy old ads, sassy signage and dated movie posters. Time passes more slowly while feasting on the delicious Yeungling pot roast (\$17.45) among the exposed beams, brass rails and Tiffany-style light fixtures. All entrees come with fresh, "Shanty made" breads and a colorful

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salad bar, and the desserts—if you have room—are worth the pain. On Friday and Saturday nights (generally 9pm to 1am), the Shanty's full-service bar swings with big band and jazz. You get serenaded with live music, too, during the exquisite Sunday brunch—enjoy the cream chipped beef (\$8) to the croon of a sax. (Open M-Th 11:30a-9p; F-Sa 11:30a-10p; Su 11a-3p, 4p-8p.)

SUNLIGHT RESTAURANT

5 Latin American \$
801 Hamilton St.
MIN 610-770-0713

Hidden away beneath the busy streets of downtown Allentown is the Sunlight Restaurant, serving up traditional Caribbean cuisine. The inexpensive prices (breakfasts under \$4, sandwiches for \$3 and dinners mostly between \$6 and \$12) may lead you to believe that the helpings are small, but don't be fooled. The plates are piled high and every entree comes with at least one side. Make sure you try the yellow rice and finish up with flan for dessert. Just brush up on your Spanish before you go—so you can respond to the *buenos dias* you'll be greeted with when you arrive. (Opening hours vary; call for details.)



SYB'S WEST END DELI

1 Deli \$ WLK
2151 W. Liberty St.
MIN 610-434-3882

If you manage to make it out of bed before 3pm on Saturday, drag yourself out the door and down the street (to 22nd and Liberty) to Syb's West End Deli. This down-to-earth deli—think flowery vinyl table cloths, friendly staff, freshly brewed coffee and country music—is the ideal place to reflect on the paper you've been putting off (and continue to avoid). Syb's offers classic comfort food as well as a few breakfasts with a twist—like the superb challah French toast.

Lunches range from turkey sandwiches to Rubens to tabouleh and matzo ball soup. With a location that's literally right around the corner, Syb's is a great break from the Garden Room—one with a little more local flavor. (Open M-Th 8a-5p; F 8a-4p; Sa 8a-3p; Su 8a-1p.)

TU CASA

7 Dominican \$\$ BYO
223 Hamilton St.
MIN 610-433-2012

¿Habla español? No? Well, then, this might not be the place for you. This is not your ordinary taco and quesadilla hotspot; it's a Dominican restaurant with Spanish-speaking regulars. Tu Casa, as the name suggests, is a casual joint, with televisions (and even a giant projection screen) blaring Spanish-language music videos and soap operas. The Spanish-only menu is potentially crippling for the monolingualists among us, but pictures of each dish make point-and-smile ordering possible. Whole fish, shrimp, octopus, steak and chicken (all mostly fried) are the menu staples, with side choices including rice and fried plantains. If you like Chi Chi's, then stick to the strip malls. We're more at home at Tu Casa. (Open M-F 11a-11p; Sa 11a-10p; Su 11a-9p.)



TURKISH RESTAURANT

8 Turkish \$ BYO
34 N. 2nd St.
MIN 610-439-8782

This family-run establishment—half Turkish market, half Mediterranean restaurant—is definitely one of Allentown's buried treasures. Certainly not noted for decor—a few paintings, a hanging carpet and a TV showing the latest in Turkish entertainment—the place is charming thanks to the friendly chatter of regulars and staff. And then there's the food: so good it's worth the wait that's typical at this popular spot (so don't show up



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Sara Rosoff

Yocco's

starving), and *very* reasonably priced. (Entrees are all under \$16 and sandwiches range from \$1.35 for a burger to \$4 for a lamb pita.) Whet your appetite with a hummus platter, and be sure to try the kebabs (prepared with a secret and truly “special blend” of spices). (Open daily 11a-11p.)



WALLY'S DELI

3 Deli \$ WLK
11 N. 17th St.
MIN 610-435-7177
www.wallysdeli.com

Do you like sandwiches but haven't found a deli that makes the *perfect* one? Well, nobody's perfect, but Wally's sure comes close with its hogalicious sandwiches, great salads and famous “Wally's Chips”—their own take on waffle fries. You can mix and match ingredients to concoct your own sandwich or order one of the Specialty Hogs (try a “Texas Tommy,” a “Squealer” or a

“Surfin' Turkey”). Be careful: The deli is snuggled next to a seafood store and behind a Citgo, so it's easy to miss. Don't be turned off by its cramped quarters—its food portions are big enough to fill even the most demanding stomach. And besides—size doesn't matter anyway... (Open M-W 9a-6p; Th-F 9a-7p; Sa 9a-6p.)

WERT'S CAFE

2 Burgers \$
515 N. 18th St.
MIN 610-439-0957

From the outside, Wert's Cafe looks like a stucco-covered block plopped down in the middle of a parking lot. This less-than-promising exterior only makes the charm hidden inside more of a welcome surprise. Walk through the doors and you enter a country ski lodge, with wood-covered walls and small tables and booths. It's almost always crowded, but don't let that

deter you, since you'll be seated in no time. And the hordes are all there for good reasons. In addition to typical pub fare, Wert's also serves up plenty of appetizers, including unique creations like sweet potato fries, pretzerella sticks (pretzel-covered mozzarella sticks) and an ungodly mound of stringy onion "rings." The waitstaff is friendly and doesn't mind special requests or split bills. (Open daily 11a-10p.)

 **YOCO'S**
3 Hot Dog \$
 2128 W. Hamilton St.
 MIN 625 W. Liberty St.
 610-821-8488

Like a bad elementary school joke, Yocco's, the Lehigh Valley's "Hot Dog King," is serious about its wieners. And these aren't your ordinary wieners. Since 1922, Yocco's has been dishing up dogs—cooked Texas-style, served on a bed of chopped onions, and lathered in heavy-duty mustard and a liberal application of "secret" chili sauce—to adoring fans. The now-chain began as a single shop at 625 Liberty Street, and was founded by the brother of former Chrysler CEO Lee Iacocca. ("Yocco" is locals' mispronounced version of the family's last name.) Beyond its famous tubes of mystery meat—actually shipped worldwide—Yocco's also serves the standard fare of hamburgers, cheeseburgers and cheesesteaks, seven days a week. A truly decadent culinary experience... just don't forget to pack a roll of Tums for the car ride home. (Open M-Th 10a-10p; F-Sa 10a-11p; Su 11a-10p.)

YOUELL'S OYSTER HOUSE

3 Seafood \$\$\$ WLK
 2249 Walnut St.
 MIN 610-439-1203

Awkwardly named, yes. Hard to find—it's true. But we came for the seafood, and here we were impressed. The

"famous" clam chowder deserves its acclaim—it's some of the best we've tasted. The Maryland crab dishes, straight from the Chesapeake, are delectable. The place is named for its oysters, and they're also tasty (and especially slippery). Our servers were friendly and astoundingly knowledgeable about the menu. (Ask about the chowder, and you'll get a rapid-fire ingredient recitation.) Youell's has a nautical elegance to its dining room, and it should: The prices here, though fair, will stretch the college budget. Parents weekend? (Open M-Th 4p-9p; F-Sa 4p-10p.)



ZANDY'S STEAK SHOP

8 Burgers \$
 813 St. John St.
 MIN 610-434-7874

Zandy's doesn't have a website. Zandy's street-strangled orange stucco structure is flat-out ugly. Inside, Zandy's resembles a neglected, fifties banquet hall. The truth is, we wouldn't have it any other way; we like our Zandy's old school. Where else can you get a burger for \$2.35? (Be prepared to shell out another 15 cents for cheese!) A sprawling cheesesteak for \$3.85? A full plate of buffalo wings for \$3.60? When you crave no-nonsense grease for almost nothing, head to this family-owned South Allentown legend. You can't miss the orange stucco. (Open Tu-Sa 10a-10p; Su noon-9p.)

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CHAIN GANG

APPLEBEE'S

1500 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-530-2450

ARBY'S

Cedar Crest Blvd. & Tilghman St.
610-433-7220

BASKIN ROBBINS

345 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-439-7900

BOB EVANS

2805 Lehigh St.
610-798-9395

BOSTON MARKET

385 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-770-3324

BURGER KING

3105 Hamilton Blvd.
610-432-2614

CHINA KING

1901 Hamilton Blvd.
610-820-5831

DOMINO'S PIZZA

4229 Tilghman St.
610-395-1515

DUNKIN DONUTS

1427 Tilghman St.
610-433-0773

FRIENDLY'S

460 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-770-9883

MANHATTAN BAGEL

3100 Tilghman St.
610-433-8555

MCDONALD'S

721 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
1414 Tilghman St.

OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE

3100 Tilghman St.
610-437-7117

PAPA JOHN'S

706 N. 13th St.
610-434-7272

PERKIN'S

Cedar Crest & Hamilton Blvd.
610-820-5767

PIZZA HUT

1448-52 Chew St.
610-776-7900

SUBWAY

1537 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-434-0505
1313 Tilghman St.
610-434-5609

TACO BELL

3380 Lehigh St.
610-966-5144
2113 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall
610-437-0465

TCBY

3100 Tilghman St.
610-820-5922

TGI FRIDAY'S

395 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-776-8188

WENDY'S

410 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-432-3369

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Robata of Tokyo

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SYRIAN

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THAI

The Café
Kow Thai Take Out



TRADITIONAL AMERICAN

Charlie Brown's
Christopher's
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King George Inn
Magnolia's Vineyard
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THE great thing about Allentown? It's big enough to have a range of late-night activities but small enough so that all of them are just a short walk or drive away. If you're in the mood to sit down and watch the game, pay a visit to Rookies. If you want to dance the night away, head on down to Maingate. And, if you want a little bit of everything, Banana Joe's is a great choice, with karaoke, pool and live music. Whatever you choose, a good time in Allentown is always right around the corner.



BANANA JOE'S

8 Club \$\$ BFD DNC CVR
318 Hamilton St.
MIN 610-776-6476
www.bananajoespa.com



Is it a train stop or a tropical bar? Those in-the-know realize that Allentown's old depot now houses a Key West/Caribbean Islands-themed bar and nightclub. With two dance floors, pool tables, televisions, food and indoor and outdoor bars, Banana Joe's offers a bunch of entertainment. And a lot of deals, too, with nightly drink specials, Friday happy hour and a free Saturday buffet. Since there's no cover charge until Friday, it's a great mid-week destination for drinks or dinner, to play some pool or watch a game. The crew from *Wired* 96.5 FM helps liven things up on Thursday nights, and dancing continues all weekend long thanks to bands and karaoke. (Open Tu-Sa 4p-2a.)

BETHLEHEM BREW WORKS

18 Brewpub \$\$ BFD
569 Main St., Bethlehem
MIN 610-882-1300

This trendy brewpub and beer lounge is a rare find here in the Lehigh Valley. The industrial-chic upstairs bar and the dimly lit Steelgaarden downstairs (complete with votive candles, jazzy music and curvy couches) both incorporate a design element appropriate to the area's history: STEEL. The Brew Works is a brilliant mix of

cold, hard lines of steel, and soft, elegant décor. They brew six varieties of beer right on-site—including "Valley Golden Ale" and "Steelworker's Oatmeal Stout." If you can't decide, just order "the Sampler" for a taste of each. They also have all the old standbys (from Bud Light to mixed drinks) as well as over 100 Belgian beers on the menu downstairs. And did we mention the food and pool tables? So find a friendly designated driver and venture over to Bethlehem... and keep your eyes out for the day they move closer. (Renovations are underway for a second Brew Works in downtown Allentown.) (Open daily 4p-2a.)

CANDIDA'S

4 Gay bar \$\$ BFD LGBT
247 N. 12th St.
MIN 610-434-3071

It's that little gay bar down the street. But this neighborhood staple on the corner of 12th and Chew hardly sings queer—not the exposed brick walls, the calm lighting nor the lone pool table. Inexpensive drinks are served by amusingly opinionated bartenders who know the regulars by name. Candida's is loud and smoky on weekends, but the slow weekdays are low-decibel and conversation-friendly. Perks? Their fried food menu includes onion rings for just \$1 and a fenced-in patio is open when it's warm. (Open daily 2p-2a.)

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CANNON'S

6 Bar \$\$ BFD
448 N. 9th St.
MIN 610-820-9313

Stuff magazine calls Cannon's one of the best "hole-in-the-wall" bars in America. It's also quite likely the best bar in Allentown. It comes off, at first, as a typical dive, but the edgy tunes and hipster staff signal "dive" in only the East Village sense. (Ever used "Allentown" and "East Village" in the same sentence? We haven't either.) The beer selection is another tipoff. Cannon's stocks all the basics, but also exotics like Tabernash Oktoberfest, Brooklyn Brown and Speakeasy Prohibition. And then there's the food. Some swear it's the best in Allentown—and the prices certainly put Bay Leaf to shame. There's no pattern, though, to the offerings: Soft, chewy and freshly fried tortilla chips share space on the menu with the delicious "Thai thighs." Not too

many dives have two pages of rotating specials—from "mad Atkins" to "key lime crab quesadillas" on a recent visit. Don't leave without trying the butternut squash carbeñero soup. (Open M-Sa 11a-2a; kitchen Tu-F 6p-10p.)

CHICKEN LOUNGE

4 Bar \$\$ BFD
3245 Hamilton Blvd.
MIN 610-439-1707

Okay, so the exterior is a bit spare—windowless with a red neon sign and a mosaic chicken. And the interior features more chicken-themed artwork than should ever be stored, let alone displayed, in one place. Still, the Chicken Lounge is actually worth a visit. The tables and booths all circle around the center bar, giving the place a cozy feel. Flat-screen televisions take up any wall space not already spoken for by a chicken, and



LEGEND



MUHLENBERG PICK

BFD BAR FOOD

DNC DANCING

LVM LIVE MUSIC

WLK WALKABLE

LGBT GAY & LESBIAN

CVR COVER

\$ DRINKS LESS THAN \$3

\$\$ DRINKS BETWEEN \$3 & \$5

\$\$\$ DRINKS BETWEEN \$6 & \$10

\$\$\$\$ DRINKS MORE THAN \$10

6
MIN

ESTIMATED DRIVING TIME FROM MUHLENBERG COLLEGE. (FOR DIRECTIONS, SEE YAHOO OR GOOGLE MAPS.)

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are great for game days. (Sunday football beer specials and giveaways help, too.) The alcohol selection is average for a bar of this size, and the menu is quite extensive and less chicken-focused than you might think. You can get anything from salads to bison burgers. Definitely try the nachos... few people don't rave about the heaping plate of chips (actually Doritos) smothered with cheese, salsa, guacamole, sour cream and peppers. Service is fast and friendly, but feel free to linger in the lounge; customers go for the social atmosphere rather than the cozy dining experience. Don't be afraid to relax and get messy—you'll blend right in with the crowd. (Open daily 11a-2a.)



CROCODILE ROCK

7 Club \$\$ BFD DNC LVM CVR
520 Hamilton St.
MIN 610-434-4600
www.crocodilerockcafe.com

A hidden treasure for concertgoers, Crocodile Rock attracts a mix of nationally recognized big names and local bands. The slightly seedy vibe is fun, in a local color, I-like-because-I'm-in-college kind of way. Croc Rock offers the standard drinks, dancing and food, but the big attraction here is the music scene. And the concert tickets are as cheap as \$10. Brave patrons can even live out rock-star fantasies by showcasing their karaoke skills. But don't quit your day job. Wait! You have no job. Stay in school! (Open M-Sa 5p-2a.)

THE FAIRGROUNDS HOTEL

3 Bar \$ BFD WLK
448 N. 17th St.
MIN 610-433-7630

It's almost like MTV and VH1: The attached Gate 9 Grille (page 28) is clearly targeted at the college kid (and even her younger brother); the Fairgrounds Hotel, trust us, is not. In some ways, this comes as a relief.

There are no screaming posters, just a couple of smallish rooms in an old brick Victorian hotel. At the Fairgrounds, the bar's the thing—its polished wood, oval expanse puts *Cheers* to shame. A semicircle's worth is usually occupied by the bantering regulars, and you may receive a stare or two the moment you enter. The smoke's thinner in the adjacent room, which holds a pool table. (There's something strange—yet satisfying—in sinking the eight ball in a Victorian parlor.) In the warm months, the porch is an inviting place for a cold beer—even if the Gate 9 Grille's nearby courtyard has less traffic and a happier vibe. The Hotel's bar food is solid, though nothing compared to Stooze's or Cannon's. The Hotel is more like an escape—a change of scenes. But don't become a regular. (Open M-Sa noon-midnight.)

GODFREY DANIELS

19 Folk club \$\$\$ LVM BFD CVR
7 E. 4th St., Bethlehem
MIN 610-867-2390
www.godfreydaniels.org

Future music legends (tomorrow's Woody Guthrie or John Lee Hooker) may be glancing at you from a shady corner of the room. Called a "non-profit member supported listening club," this place sounds more like a support group for music addicts. In actuality, it resembles a folksy coffee house. The saloon-like lettering and worn wood panels in the front window are a good indication of Godfrey Daniels' warm and intimate atmosphere. Music lovers of all sorts can enjoy the entertainment here, where "folk" music means bluegrass, blues, country, jazz and even Celtic. With tickets pushing \$20, a show here is not always a bargain; then again, you never know when you may be paying \$12.50 to hear the next Muddy Waters. (Box office open daily 2p-6p.)

Sara Rosoff



The Chicken Lounge

HARY'S

3 Bar \$ BFD
 1428 Hamilton St.
 MIN 610-435-6631

Air hockey, Mega Touch and beer—what more is there to life? Hary's, a refreshing mix of grizzled locals and funky transplants, is the place for big people to play. In a warren-like series of rooms, pool players contort their cues to accommodate wide, hairline-cracked columns—the faded remains of a hotel ballroom. (Hary's is in the Traylor, once Allentown's most elegant hotel.) The drinks are cheap and served, as they should be, in plastic cups. While you wouldn't come for the food, Hary's sandwiches and ap-

petizers aren't pricey either, and you can enjoy your perogies and cheesesteak on the heated outdoor patio (open year-round). If Hary's is neglected by the college crowd, it seems to like it that way: The bar put the shabby in chic. (Open daily 11a-2a.)

JACK CALLAGHAN'S

2 Bar \$\$ BFD
 2027 Tilghman St.
 MIN 610-432-5797
www.jackcallaghans.com

With two hundred dollars and a taste for unique and exotic beers, you too can be a legend at this Allentown watering hole. Jack Callaghan's Ale

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House looks just like any old Irish pub, with its share of Guinness and Bass paraphernalia on the wall and Kelly green furniture, but this is a place of quiet challenge. Callaghan's is home to the infamous "Beer Mug Club," marked by the 400-plus pewter mugs hanging over the bar. To join, you have to drink each and every beer the place stocks (from Flying Fish to Hoegaarden) for the right to claim your own mug. Fear not if beer isn't your thirst quencher of choice: The bartenders have a steady hand with the typical swanky drinks like cosmopolitans and margaritas. The fact that the crowd is heavy on locals and lighter on students is part of the beauty of this establishment. If you want to escape the familiar faces, Callaghan's gives you the chance to try unusual beers without the threat of running into that sketchy guy from your math class. (Open daily 4p-2a.)



JELLY BEANS SOUTHSIDE JAM

14 Bar \$\$ DNC BFD
1996 S. 5th St.
MIN 610-797-2477
www.jellybeansouthjam.com

If it wasn't located so far (about a 15-minute drive) from campus, Jelly Beans could easily become a regular stop on the Muhlenberg bar scene. Even with the distance, it's a contender. Jelly Beans boasts a 50-seat bar, almost ten TVs (including a made-for-the-playoffs 60-inch Hitachi Ultravision) and a room for video games, pool and darts. There's a steady stream of classic rock from a DirectTV satellite music system, as well as 80s dance music every Friday. And menu items (like sandwiches, burgers, salads and a variety of "munchies") are all under \$10. There are so many reasons to venture to the "Southside" that it's well worth the



Sara Rosoff

Lupo's

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extra travel time. (Open M-Sa 7a-2a; Su 11a-2a.)

LUPO'S

3 Bar \$\$
2149 Reading Rd.
MIN 610-820-5570

If finding a youthful and hip watering hole is your mission, Lupo's will disappoint. But if you want \$4 pitchers and a night with middle-aged locals, you have found heaven. Despite its older "townie" feel, Muhlenberg has a tendency to take over Lupo's on the weekends. The bar features cheap drinks, pool tables, a digital jukebox and a good-sized deck to escape the smoke-filled interior. Forgive the lackluster décor and initial shadiness: Lupo's is fun with a big group of people. A word of advice: When ordering a mixed drink, be sure to specify a brand. Lupo's has a tendency to make you think you're drinking nail polish remover instead of rum or vodka. (Open daily 11a-2a.)

MAINGATE

3 Club \$\$ DNC CVR LVM
17th St. & Liberty St.
MIN 610-776-7711
www.maingatenightclub.com


A little club on the corner of the Allentown Fairgrounds, Maingate is not a night in the Village or a party with the crew in Philly. The tunes are monotonous and the dance floor's the size of your typical dorm room. Plus, your fake ID and Victoria's Secret lace "cami" (the one you insist is a shirt) won't guarantee you entrance—take it up with the bouncer. Still, it's fairly close to campus and, once in a blue moon, Maingate opens its doors to the 18- to 20-year-old crowd. So check the skies and watch for the flyers plastered to every door you see. Just be prepared to dish out the cash to get in. (Open Th 10p-2a; F 6p-11p; Sa 9a-2a.)

MONTANA WEST

26 Club \$\$ BFD DNC CVR
1030 N. West End Blvd.,
MIN Quakertown
215-529-6070
www.clubmontanawest.com

They say that Pennsylvania is Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, with Alabama in between. Well here's proof. Montana West offers some high-energy nighttime entertainment—and a healthy dose of the heartland. The club hosts Country Dance Parties three times a week, and even offers classes to help folks brush up on their line dancing. They mix it up with a little classic rock (thanks to cover bands—happy to kick back with fans after the show—and guest DJs) on Thursdays and Fridays. And College Party Nights start at 9pm on Wednesdays—complete with \$1 drafts. So saddle up for the trip out to Quakertown, and don't forget your cowboy hat (or a first aid kit if you're set on riding the mechanical bull). (Open W 6p-2a; Th 7p-2a; F 9p-2a; Sa 7p-2a; Su 5p-9p.)



 **J.P. O'MALLEY'S**
4 Bar \$\$ BFD
1528 Union St.
MIN 610-821-5556

O'Malley's takes happy hour to the next level. With \$3 domestic pitchers and \$6 imported pitchers on "college pub nights" (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5pm to midnight), think more along the lines of ecstatic. Mid-week you can also get a basket of wings for only \$2. (Disclaimer: They're not joking when they say "hot" wings. Don't think you're a tough guy; take the server's advice. But if you just can't help yourself, go for the kryptonite wings... just don't say we didn't warn you.) Whether or not you're focused on quantity, there's plenty of quality here, too. If you feel like introducing your taste buds to something more sophisticated than Bud Light, O'Malley's boasts an impressive 35 differ-

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ent beers on tap, 15 domestic bottles, 20 imported bottles and 28 microbrews. And did we mention that the food menu's delicious and cheap? (Open M-Sa noon-2a; Su noon-1a.)

P.J. WHELIHAN'S PUB

7 Bar \$\$ BFD
4595 Broadway
MIN 610-395-2532
www.pjwhelihanspub.com



It's no Dublin tavern, but P.J.'s is a wee bit of Ireland right down Broadway. There's no chance of feeling cramped or claustrophobic at P.J.'s—with its wrap-around, sit-down bar and three additional rooms with tables. A somewhat older crowd enjoys the pleasant atmosphere and friendly service, and its popularity can translate into a lengthy wait for seating. Still, this joint is ideal if you're in the mood for great bar food and more than a dozen domestic and international beers on tap. Whether you're here to kick back and watch a game on one of the many TVs, or to unwind with friends over a basket of their famous wings, at P.J.'s you're lucky and charmed. (Open M-Sa 11a-2a; Su noon-midnight.)

RINGER'S ROOST

2 Bar \$\$ BFD WLK
1801 Liberty St.
MIN 610-437-4941

This once fake-ID party spot has been transformed into a more mature yet unpretentious restaurant/bar. Top picks for hungrier patrons include \$5 cheeseburgers and classic munchies like potato skins or a heaping plate of nachos. The eclectic décor that lines the walls makes the whole place comfortable; no interior designer has ever set foot inside the Roost. While the Roost's three cramped rooms (a dining room and bar, and a third room somewhere in the middle) provide settings for just about any mood, this local destination may not be a place for wild

and crazy partying. Still, cheap drinks and quality bar food make Ringer's Roost a solid choice for a mid-week kick back. (Open M-Sa 11a-2a; Su noon-midnight.)

ROOKIE'S

4 Sports bar \$\$ BFD
1328 Tilghman St.
MIN 610-821-848

Rookie's—a laid-back bar with a distinctly “sporty” vibe—is a perennial favorite among both Muhlenberg students and area residents. On football Sundays, enjoy \$2 drafts and a game (shown on any one of the approximately 15 televisions). Not that the place is overwhelmingly sporty—it's just got a mock scoreboard marquee and lighting fixtures fashioned from football helmets. Still, there's room for the non-jock. They've got live entertainment, and excellent food and drink specials. Don't forget to sample Rookie's famous wings. (They're on special—all-you-can-eat for \$9—on Tuesdays.) (Open M-Th 11a-1a; F-Sa 11a-2a; Su 11a-11p.)

THE STERLING HOTEL

8 Club \$\$ BFD DNC CVR LVM
343 W. Hamilton St.
MIN 610-433-3480
www.thesterlinghotel.com

The dark and dingy atmosphere of the Sterling Hotel may put you off at first, but the broodiness eventually grows on you. It helps, too, that the Sterling has karaoke and live music, not to mention relatively cheap food and drinks, as well as nightly specials. The bar spans two levels, one of which includes a large dance floor, and spills onto a covered deck off of the second floor. (Call ahead and they'll accommodate your private party.) This nighttime spot also has a prime location directly across the street from Banana Joe's, fulfilling any bar-hopper's dream. (Open W-Sa 5p-2a.)

SPRACHEN SIE DEUTSCH?

Since you're now living in Pennsylvania, here's a primer on the native Pennsylvania "Dutch" dialect once widely spoken in the Lehigh Valley and throughout much of the state. (Holland, this isn't: "Dutch" is a bastardization of *Deutsch*, or German.)

- Es Maedel*: girl
- Der Bu*: boy
- Schwarz*: black
- Der Beesballe*: baseball
- Es Schtechle*: hide-and-go-seek
- Es Hinkel*: children

STONEWALL BAR

5 *Gay bar* \$\$\$ BFD LGBT
 28 N. 10th St.
 MIN 610-432-0706
 www.clubstonewall.com

If you're seeking a sophisticated queer-eye spot, take your fairy dust elsewhere—this neighborhood gay joint remains untouched by anything resembling the Fab Five. Named for the famed New York bar—birthplace of the modern gay rights movement—Allentown's version includes a club downstairs, with all the indispensable clubbing accoutrements: a respectable dance floor, two full bars, lights and lasers, all backed by a DJ spinning the best of Mariah/Toni/Whitney/Pink dance remixes. Upstairs in the "Moose Lounge," down-to-earth bartenders mix drinks whose flavors don't always fuse. The mounted Moose head, pool tables, wall TVs, a lit grand piano—it all makes for one big fengshui faux-pas. The live music runs from Barry Manilow to show tunes, and diners can choose from an array of deep-fried fare, sandwiches and salads. While Saturdays tend to draw an older crowd, College Thursdays (18 to party, 21 to drink)—complete with a drag show—are the most popular. Don't miss Halloween here: It's the club's biggest night of the year. (Open (Moose Lounge) Tu-Su 7p-2a; (Stonewall Bar) W-Th 10p-2a; F-Sa 9p-2a.)



STOOGES

1 *Bar* \$\$ BFD WLK
 2101 Liberty St.
 MIN 610-432-7553



It's a place where the bouncer always knows your name and the bartenders are always glad you came—especially on Wednesdays for "Yuengs and wings." A staple on the Muhlenberg party scene, Stooges attracts locals and students alike. A restaurant by day, this nighttime hot spot's also a great place to watch a game, listen to music and catch up with friends over a moderately priced pint. The front room is all bar, or almost (since the actual bar, a large rectangular pit, takes up more than half of the room). Two small steps—which become challenging after a pitcher or two—lead into the dining room where most of the college-aged patrons set up camp. The drink menu features all the standard beers as well as a few exotics thrown into the mix (Franziskaner, anyone?). If hops and barley aren't your bag, opt for a martini instead, made with a strong hand and in a stylish glass. Either way, Stooges is a great place to have that mid-week refreshment. (Open daily 11a-2a.)

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Kate Hullfish

Hamilton Street, from 7th Street



TK'S UPTOWN LOUNGE

4 Bar \$\$ DNC LVM
801 N. 15th St.
MIN 610-437-3970
www.tkslounge.com

Many patrons are so focused on the pins at the Rose Bowl that they miss the attached TK's Uptown Lounge. That's bad news for country music lovers or line dancing fans, since TK's is right up your...well...alley. Formerly TK's Corral, the bar features live country music on Fridays, and line dancing on Mondays and Wednesdays. (Brush up on your skills with lessons at 7:30pm.) They break from country for karaoke on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Rock/Blues Night on Saturdays. While Tuesday is "college night" (no cover charge and \$1.50 drafts), TK's usually draws an older crowd. For the average college-aged bar-hopper, it's likely that you'd only stop in to cap a night of bowling or if you're craving some good ol' country. (Open Su-Th 6p-midnight; F-Sa 6p-2a.)

VOLPE'S SPORTS BAR

2 Sports bar \$\$
1926 Tilghman St.
MIN 610-432-0146
www.volpessportsbar.com

Although situated just a few blocks from campus, most students use Volpe's for a liquor store rather than a nighttime hang-out. And this is probably a wise choice for several reasons. Among its detractors: Volpe's attracts an older crowd, its "entertainment" is limited to its drink list, and it just can't hold a candle to nearby competitors (like Stooges). In the end, this sports bar doesn't seem to be sporting anything other than a local buzz. (Open daily 11a-2a.)



YE OLDE TAVERN

1 Bar \$ BFD WLK
2246 Liberty St.
MIN 610-740-3888

While the name might change, the watering hole at the corner of 23rd and Liberty is consistently a favorite


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stop for beer-hopping 'Berg students. Stubbornly called "Woody's" by the faithful, Ye Olde Tavern—a small pizza and beer joint—packs 'em in like sardines on the weekends. Entertain yourself while you're guzzling down pitcher with three MegaTouch games, a pool table, a ring toss game and a juke box. Whether you're stopping by for a quick bite and a brew, or partying the night away, Ye Olde Tavern's the place where "everybody knows your name." (Open M-Th 11a-1a; F-Sa noon-2a; Su 11a-midnight.)

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64 OUT & ABOUT

LOOKING for something to do on a Saturday afternoon? Tired of hanging out in Seeger's? Out of procrastination ideas? You've come to the right place. Trust us when we say that there's more happening in the Lehigh Valley than you might think. Athletes, artists, movie buffs and naturalists—entertain your every whim without venturing too far off campus. Use the following listings to find out which destinations are worth your precious time—time, after all, which could otherwise be used for a nap.

EVENTS CALENDARS

MORNING CALL'S GO GUIDE

www.mcall.com/entertainment/events



LEHIGH VALLEY ARTS CALENDAR

www.lvartscouncil.org/calendar

LEHIGH VISITORS BUREAU CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.lehighvalleypa.org/default.aspx?pageid=2

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pollster.muhlenberg.edu/Calendar

CEDAR CREST COLLEGE CALENDAR

www.cedarcrest.edu/Redesign/calendarsofevents.asp

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

lehighcalendar.activedatax.com/LehighU

MORAVIAN COLLEGE CALENDAR

www.moravian.edu/events/index.htm

CITY OF ALLENTOWN CALENDAR

www.allentownpa.org/cal/maincal.asp

CITY OF BETHLEHEM CALENDAR

www.bethlehem-pa.gov/events/index.htm

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE CALENDAR

www.lafayette.edu/calendar

FESTIVALS

SEPTEMBER



THE GREAT ALLENTOWN FAIR

2 17th St. & Chew St.
610-433-7541
MIN www.allentownfairpa.org

Come one, come all to the Great Allentown Fair! For seven days only, during the first week of September, the 154-year-old Allentown Fair is in full effect. Lights, games, rides and funnel cake attract people of all ages, from across Pennsylvania. You can try your luck at a carnival game, enter a Yocco's hot dog eating contest, or buy a ticket to the grandstand for big-name musical acts. If you have a kid with you (or if you're the kid), stop by the petting zoo and let a sheep eat funnel cake out of your hands. Don't miss the Barnyard Olympics. When the Fair leaves town, though, make sure you stick around. The Fairgrounds are always hopping with the famous three-day-a-week indoor Farmers Market, complete with fresh local produce, specialty foods and a startling array of sausage products (see page 106). The adjacent Agricultural Hall hosts frequent themed shows, from

antiques to dog breeders. And the Fairgrounds' Grandstand hosts famed musicians (Lynyrd Skynird, ZZ Top and Kid Rock in 2004) all year round.

CHILI PEPPER FESTIVAL

36 Bowers
610-944-8417
MIN www.pepperfestival.com

Can you take the heat? Prove it at the annual Chili Pepper Food Festival—heaven for anyone with a taste for spicy food. Vendors from the greater Allentown area (like Bowers Hotel, Thai International Foods, Old Cider Mill Herbs and Vinegars, and the Fleetwood Pepper Company) display their fiery creations for taste-testing. (There's ice cream, too, to help your mouth cool off.) Believe it or not, you can even purchase pepper crafts and clothing. Those who are brave enough can participate in the pepper-eating contest, and true pepper fanatics can pick their own at nearby Meadow View Farm.



LEGEND



MUHLENBERG PICK

6
MIN

ESTIMATED DRIVING TIME FROM MUHLENBERG COLLEGE. (FOR DIRECTIONS, SEE YAHOO OR GOOGLE MAPS.)

66 OUT & ABOUT

FALL FESTIVAL & CORN MAZE

19 9941 Schantz Rd., Breinigsville
610-395-5655
MIN www.grimgreenhouse.com

Feel like getting lost? Try the four-acre corn maze, the highlight of Breinigsville Fall Festival. The elaborate maze (made of seven-foot-tall corn stalks) takes a different shape each year—from witches to flowers to barns. Directionally challenged individuals beware: It can take as long as two hours to navigate (although gifted folks make it through in about 30 minutes) and they *do* keep score (you'll get a time card when you start). If you're failing miserably, a man in a scout-post overlooking the maze will assist with a yell or two (only mildly embarrassing). If you're really brave, test your skills during flashlight maze nights, a spooky alternative to a daytime visit. Though the Fall Festival is mainly geared toward young children (think face painting, a tricycle course and wagon rides), the water balloon slingshot appeals to the older set, as do the maze and the food (fresh kettle corn, home-made jam, pumpkin cakes, and pies). If you're looking to get lost for the afternoon, this 15-minute ride is well worth the trip. (Open Sept.-Oct.; call for hours.)



OCTOBER

OLD ALLENTOWN HOUSE TOUR

5 www.allentownpa.org/lights/history.htm
MIN

Tour a series of restored 19th-century brick rowhomes in downtown Allentown. Local resident-preservationists open their carved wooden doors just once a year, so put this one on your calendar.

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM

17 www.bethlehempa.org/attractions/christmas.jsp
MIN

Follow the North Star to Bethlehem—or at least the “star” mock-up that sits atop South Mountain. Bethlehem is charming any time of the year, but the city puts on its tourist best to celebrate its erstwhile native son. Visit the website for an extensive listing of events—from historic walking tours to horse-drawn carriage rides to the Christkindlmarkt craft fair. There's even some religion: Bethlehem is home to the Moravian Church in America, and the Moravian Museum features the Church's Christmas traditions throughout December.

LIGHTS ON THE PARKWAY

6 www.allentownpa.org/lights/history.htm
MIN

Every night, from late November to early January, Allentown's Little Lehigh Parkway (see page 79) gets drenched in light. Christmas lights, actually. It's much more impressive than it sounds: For \$5-9 (depending on the night), you and your car gain access to a slow-moving caravan that winds its way past a startling number of lit forms. Your dorm-room Christmas bush can't compete.

MAY

MAYFAIR

1 Cedar Beach Park
610-437-6900
MIN www.mayfairfestival.org

Ah, May... the cold of winter is a distant memory; the stifling humidity still seems far off; seniors are prepping for and celebrating through



Michelle Hein

The brand-new Leigh Valley Heritage Center



graduation; and everyone's itching for summer vacation. For Allentonians, it's time for Mayfair. This arts festival showcases the work of area sculptors and painters, features musical and theatrical performances, and even includes a few science-related exhibits. But it's not all look-but-don't-touch. Get your hands dirty working on art projects or stuffing your face with foods (from you-name-it-on-a-stick to desserts to classic carnival favorites). So check out the art, use your creativity to make some of your own, and savor the fair foods.

JUNE

KUTZTOWN GERMAN FESTIVAL

30 Kutztown
888-674-6136
MIN www.kutztownfestival.com

Want to explore your German roots? Don't head to the airport; you'll get a crash course in all things German, served up Pennsylvania Dutch-style, at the Kutztown German Festival. The week-long event showcases Teutonic food, folklore and fun. Bring plenty of dough because you'll want to taste everything you see—from the sausage sandwiches and ox roasts, to the pies and pastries. While you're chomping away, you'll be traveling back in time for a first-hand glimpse at traditional PA Dutch living (the dialect, the farming techniques, the social gatherings). Music, comedians and dancers combine a bit of the past with the present. And over 200 craftsmen will tempt you with quilts, homemade soaps, jewelry, clothing and more. With all this tradition and culture, you'll feel like you've ended up in Germany after all.

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JULY

LEHIGH VALLEY BLUES FEST

9 *Whitehall*
610-261-2888
MIN www.lvbluesfest.com

Each July, some of the nation's hottest blues artists meet right here in the Lehigh Valley for a four-day musical celebration. Along with the major entertainers who headline each evening, locals can test their chops at the festival's popular open jam. And it's about more than the music: The Lehigh Valley Blues Fest is a non-profit entity, so any proceeds from ticket sales (admission is \$4 on Thursday to \$12 on Saturday in advance, \$7 to \$15 at the gate) not spent on the festival get donated to charity. One past benefactor was Dream Come True, a local organization that fulfills the wishes of terminally ill children. So let your love of the blues help lessen someone else's.



SPORTS FEST

1 *Cedar Beach Park*
610-439-8978
MIN www.sportsfest.org

Remember field day from elementary school? Now picture it lasting three days, including over 40 events (from staples like basketball and soccer, to more creative selections like ping pong, arm wrestling and yoga), and utilizing all of the city's recreational facilities. Tada! You've got Allentown's annual Sports Fest. Each July, thousands of Allentonians test their skills on the field, mat or court (sign up to participate on the website), or just use the festival as a great excuse to spend some time outdoors in one of the city's amazing parks. Whichever way you play it, we're all jocks at Sports Fest.



Melanie Zachariades

AUGUST



MUSIKFEST

17 *Bethlehem*
610-332-FEST
MIN www.musikfest.org

What has 600 bands and food from around the world, lasts for ten days, and is attended by over one million people? Bethlehem's MusikFest! The annual festival showcases up-and-comers and stars alike, belting out music of all types. Don't forget the visual artists and craftspeople, who sell their work alongside exotic food booths, where you can pick up a snack for your stroll through the Blumplatz, an 81- by 23-foot floral display. Save some energy for the Polka Jam Dance-Off. And bring a jacket: MusikFest is open rain or shine.

CULTURE

MUSEUMS & HISTORIC SITES

ALLENTOWN ART MUSEUM

6 31 N. 5th St.
610-432-4333
MIN www.allentownartmuseum.org

Just \$2 buys you access to over 11,000 works at the Allentown Art Museum, the Valley’s arts nerve center. The main floor holds an eclectic permanent collection spanning 700 years (from the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries), all in one majestic room. Modern works, a wall of gems and an underused auditorium are downstairs. The temporary exhibits are the real highlight: Recent shows include “Paths to Impressionism: French and American Landscape Paintings” and “A Different Touch: Women Printmakers from Three Centuries.” For the artistically challenged, museum staff provide guided tours of the exhibits every Sunday, and guest lecturers and artists host discussions on Wednesdays and Sundays. The Met this isn’t, but the museum deserves a visit at least once over your four years here. (Open Tu-Sa 11a-5p; Su 12p-5p.)

LEHIGH VALLEY HERITAGE CENTER

7 Penn St. & Walnut St.
610-435-9601
MIN www.lehighcountyhistoricalsociety.org

Here’s an indoor activity that won’t cost you a dime and just might teach you something. The Lehigh Valley Heritage Center provides visitors a glimpse into local history—including the area’s natural development, immigration patterns, and urbanization. Recent exhibits included the Lehigh Valley Black African Heritage History Project (spotlighting the contributions of the Valley’s African American community) and “Harry Clay Trexler: The Man, the Visionary Builder, and the Legacy” (a small shrine to Allentown’s legendary—and zealously worshiped—philanthropist). The museum is run by the Lehigh County Historical Society and housed in the brand new Heritage Center at Penn & Walnut (right next to Trout Hall, the place where Muhlenberg was born).



FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

Almost everyone is familiar with Philadelphia’s esteemed Liberty Bell, but who knew that it enjoyed a brief stay in Allentown? It all began in 1777, following the Battle of Brandywine, where the British defeated Washington. Fearing an invasion of Philadelphia, nervous patriots moved the Bell to the Lehigh Valley for its own protection. It wasn’t just the Liberty Bell: Bells from the State House, St. Peter’s Church and Christ Church were also sent for safekeeping. The Liberty Bell was concealed in a farmer’s wagon, where it found its way to Zion’s Reformed Church, on Hamilton in downtown Allentown. When all of the bells were accounted for, the pastor, Reverend Abraham Blumer, hid them under the church’s floorboards. The bells remained in this spot until 1778, when the British left Philadelphia. On Memorial Day in 1962, the Liberty Bell Shrine opened to commemorate this piece of Allentown history. The Shrine, located at 622 Hamilton Street, sits in the same place where the bells were concealed and even displays a realistic replica of the Liberty Bell. (See page 70).

70 OUT & ABOUT



Melanie Zacharides



The Civic Theatre, on 19th Street, also known as the Nineteenth Street Theatre

LIBERTY BELL SHRINE

6 622 Hamilton St.
610-435-4232
MIN

Hold on a minute. Isn't the Liberty Bell a Philadelphia thing? Brace yourselves, folks, here comes a little history lesson...The Liberty Bell did ring in Philly to celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence. However, things weren't so peachy for the new nation a year later, and the patriots worried that the Brits might ransack the Bell for ammunition. To protect it, they snuck it to Allentown and hid it under the floor of Zion's Reformed Church until Philadelphia was secure. That one-time hiding place is now a shrine, complete with a life-sized replica of the Bell, flags of the original thirteen colonies, and a wall mural depicting Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War. While the nation may have forgotten Allentown's pivotal role in its founding, Allentonians

certainly haven't—they even re-enacted the Bell's trek in honor of the country's 200th birthday in 1976. (Open M-Sa noon-4pm.)

TROUT HALL

7 414 W. Walnut St.
610-435-9601
MIN www.lehighcountyhistorical-society.org/trout.html

This is where it all began—Allentown and Muhlenberg both. The modest stone house, at 4th and Walnut Streets, was built in 1770 as a summer estate for James Allen, son of the city's founder. The house was sold, in 1848, to the Allentown Seminary, which became Muhlenberg. The College remained here, downtown, until 1904, when the present West End campus was occupied. There's nothing dorm-like about the current Trout Hall, which has been restored and elegantly furnished. (Open June-Aug. Tu-Su 1p-4p; April-May & Sept.-Nov. Sa-Su 1p-4p.)

THEATER

BAKER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

0 *Muhlenberg College!*
484-664-3333
MIN www.muhlenberg.edu/cultural/baker/baker.htm

 **CIVIC THEATRE (19TH ST THEATRE)**

2 527 N. 19th St.
610-432-8943
MIN www.civictheatre.com

There's just something about that Art Deco building on 19th Street that catches your eye. Maybe it's the shabby chic exterior or the carnivalesque elephant heads or the sparkling marquee... something is bound to draw you to the home (since 1957) of the Civic Theatre. Even if the facade doesn't grab you, the inside should—the walls cloaked in burnished fabric, all that gold and copper detailing and, of course, the entertainment. This 500-seat former Vaudeville theater performs overtime, offering an annual Main Stage season of five plays and musicals, the Theater for Young Audiences and the 19th Street Film Series (featuring independent art films as well as the occasional mainstream picture). The live shows may not be Broadway, but they're entertaining and reasonably priced,

with student tickets starting at just \$6. To round out a night "on the town" (and within walking distance of campus), wander across the street to Anylise's Hava Java café (page 20) before heading home.

MUNOPCO

5 514 N. Poplar St.
610-437-2441
MIN www.munopcomusictheatre.com

MunOpCo Music Theatre is the essence of community theater—family-friendly Broadway musicals without the Broadway budgets. The theater, which has been in around in one form or another since 1927, puts on three or four shows a year; recent productions include *Nunsense* and *Hello, Dolly!* MunOpCo performs at the imposing Scottish Rite Cathedral at 1533 Hamilton Street.

 **STATE THEATRE**
32 435 Northampton St., Easton
800-999-STATE
MIN www.statetheatre.org



Although it now looks like a grandiose Broadway theater, this Easton landmark has survived through decades of decline. The State Theatre is the great Lehigh Valley comeback kid. The 1920s Vaudeville hall, by the 60s and 70s, was limping along as a B-list concert venue. In the 90s, it took \$4 million to restore the theater back to its

WEST END STORY

The Broadway hit *Westside Story* lives on in Allentown—but forget the Sharks and the Jets. Instead, longstanding disputes between Muhlenberg students and the surrounding West End community play the leads. The players: College students—loud, energetic, looking for a good time. The neighbors—searching for peace and a parking space. The plot: Complaints from the community over noise, filth, and crowds, and fretting about the College's expansion plans. Resolution? Relations between the community and the College itself have improved in recent years. But students and neighbors continue to act out their traditional roles. Comedy or tragedy?

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original grandeur. Today, over 90 live performances appear on its gold-trimmed stage each year, yielding about 100,000 visitors. The elegant box seats on the side of the stage are especially coveted. But be warned: You may be accompanied by someone other than your date. Starting in the 70s, patrons have repeatedly sighted a ghost, since dubbed "Fred," the spirit of the late manager J. Fred Osterstock. In memory of Osterstock, the local high school music awards ceremony gives "Freddies" to victors. Hailed as the Lehigh Valley's best place for theater, the State is an exceptional piece of saved history that will make any visitor feel nostalgic.

THE THEATRE OUTLET

610-820-9270
www.theatreoutlet.org



Here's a weekend activity that may actually *increase* your brain power. For a thought-provoking, off-campus/"Off-Broadway" experience, take a look at what the Theatre Outlet has on stage. This "theater with an edge" showcases talented local professionals and amateurs (including Muhlenberg professors, students and alums) in a mix of provocative contemporary plays and neglected classics—all for about the price of a movie ticket. It's currently nomadic (as it awaits construction of a permanent downtown home), but well worth tracking down.

ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

20 420 East Packer Ave., Bethlehem
MIN 610-758-2787
www.lehigh.edu/zoellner

Lehigh University's Zoellner Arts Center is Bethlehem's shining star of cultural life, hosting over 100 performing and visual arts events every year. Eclectic doesn't even begin to describe the variety—past shows ran the gamut from Fiddler on the Roof, to

Cyndi Lauper, to Romeo and Juliet (by the St. Petersburg Ballet Theater). And patrons get more than just an evening's entertainment—the Center offers curtain warmers, backstage tours and *prix-fixe* dining specials at neighboring restaurants, among other "extras." Though it means venturing into enemy territory (go Mules!), it's definitely worth the trip. (Open M-F 11a-6p; Sa 11a-2p & 2 hours before curtain.)

PENNSYLVANIA PLAYHOUSE

16 Illicks Mill Rd., Bethlehem
610-865-6665
MIN www.paplayhouse.org

PENNSYLVANIA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

22 DeSales University
2755 Station Ave.,
MIN Center Valley
610-282-3192
pashakespeare.org

ROXY THEATRE

21 2004 Main St., Northampton
610-262-7699
MIN
www.roxytheaternorthampton.com

SELLERSVILLE THEATER

43 Main St. & Temple St., Sellersville
MIN 215-257-5808
www.st94.com

TOUCHSTONE THEATRE

19 321 E. 4th St., Bethlehem
610-867-1689
MIN www.touchstone.org

MUSIC

ALLENTOWN BAND

610-437-1116
www.allentownband.com

Put "Allentown" and "music" in the same sentence, and you expect "Billy" and "Joel" to follow. It turns out, however, that A-town's musical fame dates back before 1983. In fact, the Allentown Band, formed in 1828, is the oldest civic band still around in the U.S. The ensemble's 65 members range from high school students to senior citizens, and the troupe plays all over the place (including West Park; see page 81).

ALLENTOWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

6 23 N. 6th St.
610-432-6715
MIN www.allentownsymphony.org

The Allentown Symphony Hall, built in 1896 and known as the Lyric Theatre for most of its life, is arguably the musical nerve center of the Lehigh Valley. Its elegant facade, designed in part by the famed architect J.B. McElfatrick, has long been the public face of the Allentown Symphony Orchestra, which bought the Hall in 1959. The Orchestra itself, now in its 56th season, packs a surprisingly diverse range of music into its short, sporadic season. The Symphony Hall also hosts a jazz cabaret series and other special events.

BACH CHOIR

18 423 Heckewelder Pl.,
Bethlehem
MIN 610-866-4382
www.bach.org

The world-renowned Bach Choir of Bethlehem, the oldest such choir in America, has been belting Bach since 1898. The 95 volunteers who make



Melanie Zachariades

The 1922 bandshell in West Park

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Michelle Heim



Near Allentown's Symphony Hall, on 6th Street

up the Choir perform throughout the year (and around the world), culminating in the annual Bethlehem Bach Festival in May.

MAUCH CHUNK OPERA HOUSE

33 14 W. Broadway, Jim Thorpe
570-325-0249
MIN mauchchunkoperahouse.com

This musical venue in the beautiful mountain village of Jim Thorpe dates from the late 19th century—when citizens of the wealthy town built the “Opera House” to attract top Philadelphia talent north. It later became a Vaudeville hall, with Al Jolsen and Mae West among hundreds of well-known entertainers to pass through. After years of decline—the building even housed a pocketbook factory—the Opera House was restored in the 1970s, and live music was heard here once again. Today, an eclectic mix of

acts—from bona-fide opera troupes to bluegrass to ensemble comedy to folk—performs at the Hall for rock-bottom prices year-round.

ALLENTOWN FAIRGROUNDS

(See page 63)

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF BETHLEHEM

18 Bethlehem
610-435-7611
MIN www.cmsob.org

GODFREY DANIELS

(See page 52)

LEHIGH VALLEY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

0 Baker Center for the Arts
610-266-8555
MIN www.lvco.org

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LEHIGH VALLEY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

610-366-3320
www.lvgmc.org

LEHIGH VALLEY FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY

www.lvfolkmusicsociety.org

PENNSYLVANIA SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

3 1524 W. Linden St.
610-434-7811
MIN www.pasinfonia.org

STABLER ARENA

24 124 Goodman Dr., Bethlehem
610-758-3770
MIN www.stablerarena.com

ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

(See page 72)

DANCE

REPERTORY DANCE THEATRE

3 1402 Linden St.
610-434-5673
MIN www.lvartspage.org/dance.htm

ART

ALLENTOWN ART MUSEUM

(See page 69)

THE BANANA FACTORY

20 25 W. 3rd St., Bethlehem
610-332-1300
MIN www.bananafactory.org

Once a banana distribution warehouse, the Banana Factory is now the Lehigh Valley's largest and funkier arts center. Its mission is to "kindle, support and celebrate the artistic,

cultural, and creative spirit of the Lehigh Valley," and by all evidence it's working. With practicing singers and kids' art classes in the background, visitors can admire both nationally renowned and up-and-coming artists in the Binney & Smith and Banko Family Room Galleries, as well as startling digital photography in the adjacent Digital Imaging Center. Upstairs, artists busily create in a suite of studios, though they'll make time to talk to visitors. On "First Fridays"—the first Friday of every month (see below)—the Factory offers free public art classes and, the rest of the year, a range of art programming for a fee. (See www.bananafactory.org for an up-to-date schedule. Open M-Th 8:30a-9p; F 8:30a-7p; Sa 9a-5p; Su 11a-4p.)

BAUM SCHOOL OF ART

6 510 Linden St.
610-433-0032
MIN www.baumschool.org



The Baum, located across from the Art Museum on 5th Street downtown, is a thriving community art school. Its David E. Rodale Gallery hosts a rotating set of exhibits of local and regional art.

FIRST FRIDAYS BETHLEHEM

17 Bethlehem
www.bethlehempa.org
MIN

Bethlehem's South Side stays up late on the first Friday of every month. From 7pm to 10pm, everything is open: the Monsoon Gallery, the Banana Factory, craft stores, Tallarico's Chocolate shop (!) and others.

ARTISAN TOUCH CO-OP

13 922 Chestnut St., Emmaus
610-966-0991
MIN

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MONSOON GALLERY

20 11 E. 3rd St., Bethlehem
610-866-6600
MIN www.monsoongalleries.com

THE NORTH LIGHT LOFT

5 146 N. 10th St., 1st Floor
610-434-6850
MIN www.northlightloft.i8.com

MOVIES

AMC TILGHMAN SQUARE 8

7 4608 Broadway
610-391-0780
MIN www.amctheaters.com

For the latest movies without the sticky floor, try AMC Tilghman. It's easy to get to by car or Muhlenberg shuttle (which makes frequent trips there). And, at this nine-screen theater, you can catch the latest release for less, thanks to the student discount (just show your Muhlenberg ID). The snack bar, of course, is overpriced—and there's no student discount for popcorn.



SHANKWEILER'S DRIVE-IN THEATRE

16 4540 Shankweiler Rd., Orefield
610-481-0800
MIN www.shankweilers.com

Think drive-in movie theaters suffered extinction before you were born?

Think again. Fifteen minutes from Muhlenberg in Orefield is Shankweiler's, America's oldest operating drive-in theater. The second of its kind to open in the U.S., Shankweiler's combines the quintessential drive-in experience with today's technology: Movie soundtracks are broadcast over FM and AM radio. During spring and summer months, the theater offers a double feature for a mere \$6.50 a ticket—a steal on a college budget. No evening is complete without a trip to the fully stocked concession stand, with hot dogs and buttery popcorn. This one-of-a-kind, celestial cinema is a dating must. (Open weekends in April and May; daily June-August.)

BECKY'S DRIVE-IN

34 Rte. 248, Berlinsville
610-767-2249
MIN www.beckysdi.com

BOYD THEATRE

18 30 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
610-866-1521
MIN www.theboyd.com

CARMIKE 16

14 1700 Catasauqua Rd.
610-264-9694
MIN www.carmike.com

CIVIC THEATRE (19TH ST THEATRE)

(See page 71)

ATTENTION GHOST HUNTERS!

Allentown's Cemetery Park on 10th and Linden Streets contains some of the oldest graves in the area—the oldest dating back to 1765. Many of the graves belong to Allentown men who died in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. A large plaque nearby commemorates these fallen heroes. Constructed by William Allen during the early development of Allentown, this cemetery contains stones which display epitaphs engraved in elaborate German Gothic script. The cemetery boasts a famous grave, belonging to Peter Rhodes, Sr., an Allentown shopkeeper who served on the Committee for Public Safety during the Revolutionary era.

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Karen Poolley

The Baum School of Art, at 5th Street and Linden Street

EMMAUS THEATRE

14 19 S. 4th St., Emmaus
610-965-2878
MIN

FRANKLIN THEATRE

6 425 Tilghman St.
610-433-3640
MIN

ROXY THEATRE

(See page 72)



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SPORTS & RECREATION

BOWLING

ALLENTOWN ROSE BOWL

4 801 N. 15th St.
610-437-4606
MIN

JORDAN LANES

7 731 N. Jordan St., Whitehall
610-437-2695
MIN

MOUNTAINVILLE BOWLING CENTER

10 629 Brookdale St.
610-797-4377
MIN



CITY PARKS

ALLENTOWN ROSE GARDEN

1 Parkway Blvd. & N. Broad St.
MIN

It's easy to exercise in the gleaming new addition to the Life Sports Center, but sometimes you need a change of scenery. Literally. On a crisp, sunny day, there's no spot more serene than the Allentown Rose Garden, just a few minutes' walk from campus. The garden itself is meticulously tended, laid out in resplendent symmetry and dotted with vined trellises, statuary and a white gazebo. The garden overlooks a pair of lilly-padded ponds, shaded by willow trees and bound by the wandering Cedar Creek. The whole magnificent landscape rivals Central Park's manicured beauty, but here in Allentown you may well have the place to yourself.

BUCKY BOYLE PARK

8 Front St. & Gordon St.
MIN

Bucky Boyle is a well-kept secret, hidden behind the factory ruins and abandoned rail tracks along Front Street. Let the crowds assemble in Trexler Memorial: One of Bucky Boyle's virtues is its post-industrial serenity. The just-renovated park overlooks the Lehigh River, and hosts, strangely enough, Lehigh University's boat house. There's a kind of covered bandstand perched above Lehigh's docks that's begging for a spring barbecue.

CANAL PARK

13 E. Hickory St., off of E. Hamilton St.
MIN

Though it's hard to find—follow the signs once you cross the Lehigh River on Hamilton Street—Canal Park is a gorgeous, untrampled band of park on the Lehigh's northeast bank. (Follow the winding access road under a rusty rail bridge and get out to wander.) In the fall, South Mountain explodes in orange and red, rising across a sun-bleached river. Wander up and down the toepath, between the river and Lehigh Canal. You can hike or bike all the way to Easton; the round-trip to Bethlehem is only 14 miles. If you hear a rumble as you head east, it's the adjacent, sprawling freight yard; even Canal Park's tranquility has its limits.



Michelle Hein

Cedar Beach Park



CEDAR BEACH PARK

Ott St. & Hamilton Ave.

1
MIN

It's finals week. Stress levels are high enough to burst the infamous "Muhlenberg Bubble." Relax. A remedy is closer than you think. Check your stress at the "red doors," and head over to the nearby Cedar Beach Park. Just a block away from campus, this oasis of lakefront greenery feels a world away. Get distracted here by playing basketball or beach volleyball. Take a stroll through the nearby Rose Garden, or along the willow-lined Cedar Creek. Or if it's rest you seek, bring along a blanket for a quick, sun-drenched nap. Host a barbecue using the park's grills, or organize a game of frisbee. Don't shy away from the park in winter, either: Cedar Beach offers the closest outdoor ice skating.

LITTLE LEHIGH PARKWAY

Little Lehigh St., off Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

7
MIN

The Little Lehigh Parkway looks like a perfectly painted picture taken directly off the wall of a country cottage and brought to life. A paved pathway winds along the Little Lehigh River, across covered bridges, and through 999 acres of green space. This vast park provides plenty of room for bikers, joggers, dog-owners, fishermen and picnickers. The park is especially bright around Christmas time (see page 66). Although parking is available, it is limited and can fill up quickly on sunny days. So stake your claim early and enjoy a beautiful day at the Parkway.



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Michelle Hein



TREXLER MEMORIAL PARK

3 Cedar Crest Blvd. & Parkway Blvd.
MIN

Trexler Memorial Park—named for and donated by General Harry Trexler—is the perfect escape after a stressful week of classes and studying. Almost half of the park's 134 acres are landscaped, providing plenty of space to picnic, study or enjoy a game of frisbee with friends. Exercise fanatics can choose between two walking/jogging loops that wind (for about 1.5 miles) throughout the

Cedar Creek in Cedar Beach Park

park; they're open to bikers on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Nature lovers will revel in the wildlife, as the park attracts many species of waterfowl each year. With all the greenery, it's easy to overlook the Spring House, built in 1741 on what would become Trexler's estate, and recently restored to its original appearance. In a city where everything down to the dust is named after the General, Trexler Memorial reigns over Allentown's celebrated park system.

UNION TERRACE PARK

3 Walnut St. & St. Elmo St.
MIN

WEST PARK

3 15th St. & Turner St.
MIN

Whether you're planning a quiet picnic with a date or some outdoor fun with friends, West Park's your spot. More of a town square, this was the city's first park and today provides a breath of fresh air in the center of the West Park Historic District. While you're there, relax with a book near the fountain or wander past hundreds of native and exotic shrubs in the park's six-and-a-half acre arboretum. When spring rolls around, check out the beautiful displays at the annual Tulip Show. And the Allentown Band (see page 72), as well as local theater and religious groups, perform in the historic band shell throughout the summer. So the next time you need a break and some scenery, head straight to West Park—it's one more reason to love the miniature metropolis you now call home.

CLIMBING

CATHEDRAL ROCK CLIMBING GYM

27 226 S. First St., Lehighton
610-377-8822
MIN www.rockclimbing.com

RALPH STOVER STATE PARK

51 6011 State Park Rd., Pipersville
610-982-5560
MIN www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/Parks/ralphstover.aspx

CYCLING

BIKE LINE

3 1728 Tilghman St.
610-437-6100
MIN

BLUE MOUNTAIN SPORTS

33 34 Susquehanna St., Jim Thorpe
800-599-4421
MIN www.bikejimthorpe.com

LEHIGH VALLEY VELODROME

10 1151 Mosser Rd., Trexlertown
610-395-7000
MIN www.lvvelo.org

PEDAL PA

37 Harleysville
215-513-9577
MIN www.pedal-pa.com



DIVING

DUTCH SPRINGS DIVING

19 4733 Hanoverville Rd., Bethlehem
610-759-2270
MIN www.dutchsprings.com

FISHING

LITTLE LEHIGH FLY SHOP

8 2643 Fish Hatchery Rd.
610-797-5599
MIN www.littlelehighflyshop.com

A fully stocked fly shop in a gorgeous 19th century stone springhouse, alongside the Little Lehigh River—in whose currents swim the largest population of wild trout in Pennsylvania. The expert staff offers lessons and guide for fairly reasonable prices. (Open M-Tu 9a-5p; Th-Su 9a-5p.)

82 OUT & ABOUT

LEHIGH RIVER GUIDES

28 146 S. 8th St., Lehighton
610-379-5460
MIN www.lehighriverguides.com

ON THE FLY ADVENTURES

34 436 Coronet Dr., Blandon
610-944-4767
MIN www.ontheflyadventures.com

PA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION

Lehigh County Guide
www.fish.state.pa.us

GYMNASTICS

PARKETTES

7 410 Martin Luther King Blvd.
610-433-0011
MIN www.parkettes.com



Parkettes, the nationally famous breeding ground of gymnastics talent, trains future Olympians at its sprawling facility downtown, just off 4th Street. The gym, within its block-long warehouse-like complex, boasts an impressive alumni roll, with over 100 members who made the United States

National Team, six Pan-American Team Members and nine World Championship Team Members. Jodi Yocum (1976), Hope Spivey (1988) and Kim Kelley (1992) took Parkettes all the way to the Olympics. The gym doesn't just cultivate Olympic-caliber talent: Parkettes offers a range of classes to Lehigh Valley residents of all ages.

HIKING & JOGGING



BUSHKILL FALLS

66 Bushkill
570-588-6682
MIN www.bushkillfalls.com

Ever wanted to see Niagara Falls, but never quite made it to upstate New York? Well, the Bushkill Falls are only an hour away, in the Pocono Mountains to the north—and they're just as beautiful. Crisp, golden brown leaves crunching under your feet, cozy warmth shining from above and the rush of mountain snow water gushing below stimulate all your senses. Trails, bridges and paths lead to seven magnificent waterfalls snuggled deep in the woods. Make sure to bring a good pair of hiking boots, as well as a waterproof camera—for that misty Kodak moment.

GRAB YOUR BOOTS, WE'RE GOING HIKING

Don't even think about bringing your sneakers. The Appalachian Trail is not for cheaply made brands. Dig deep in your closet for those stiff, ankle-high hiking boots—you know, the ones you bought four years ago on your "I'm-going-to-be-more-nature-loving" kick. Only 30 minutes north on Route 309 is a hike on the good ol' A.T. Of the 2,158-mile stretch of trails, about 230 miles etches its way through the farm-infested Pennsylvania countryside. You may want a swimsuit if you come across one of the 22 waterfalls along the seven-mile stretch in the northeastern Ricketts Glen State Park. Beginning in the Delaware Water Gap to the north, and continuing south through Cumberland County and into Maryland, the AT hits its halfway mark at the Pine Grove Furnace State Park, just outside of Harrisburg. A tradition among hikers who travel the entire trail, known as thru-hikers, is to celebrate the halfway mark by eating a half-gallon of ice cream from the local general store. The closest access point from Allentown is about 15 miles north on Route 309, next to the Blue Mountain Summit Restaurant. (For more info, check out www.fallinpa.com, and follow the hiking and biking link.)

OUT & ABOUT 83



Michelle Hein

Trexler Memorial Park

ALLENTOWN HIKING CLUB
www.allentownhikingclub.org

APPALACHIAN TRAIL
22 *(See below)*
MIN

BELTZVILLE STATE PARK
31 *2950 Pohopoco Dr., Lehigh*
MIN *610-377-0045*
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/beltzville.aspx

BIG POCONO STATE PARK
52 *Tannersville*
MIN *570-894-8336*
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/bigpocono.aspx

DELAWARE CANAL TRAIL
26 www.delawareandlehigh.org
MIN

DELAWARE WATER GAP RECREATION AREA
65 www.nps.gov/dewa
MIN

HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY
43 *1700 Hawk Mountain Rd.,*
MIN *Kempton*
610-756-6000
www.hawkmountain.org

HICKORY RUN STATE PARK
42 *White Haven*
MIN *570-443-0400*
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/hickoryrun.aspx

IRONTON RAIL TRAIL
10 *3219 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall*
MIN *610-437-5524*
www.irontrail.org



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LEHIGH CANAL TRAIL

13 www.delawareandlehigh.org
(See "Canal Park" page 78)
MIN

LEHIGH GORGE TRAIL

34 *Near Jim Thorpe*
570-443-0400
MIN [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/
stateparks/parks/lehighgorge.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/lehighgorge.aspx)

Astonishingly beautiful. Breathtaking.
Trust us.

LEHIGH VALLEY ROAD RUNNERS

www.lvrr.org

NOCKAMIXON STATE PARK

33 *1542 Mountain View Dr.,
Quakertown*
MIN 215-529-7300
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/
parks/nockamixon.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/nockamixon.aspx)



NOR-BATH TRAIL

18 *Northampton, Bath*
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/railtrails/
oneTrail.asp?name=NOR%
2DBath+Trail](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/railtrails/oneTrail.asp?name=NOR%2DBath+Trail)

SWITCHBACK RAILROAD TRAIL

33 *Near Jim Thorpe*
570-443-0400
MIN [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/
railtrails/oneTrail.asp?
name=Switchback+Railroad+TRAIL](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/railtrails/oneTrail.asp?name=Switchback+Railroad+TRAIL)

TREXLER-LEHIGH COUNTY GAME PRESERVE

17 *5150 Game Preserve Rd.,
Schnecksville*
MIN 610-799-4171
www.gamepreserve.org



Aerial shot of the Great Allentown Fair (1972)

Courtesy of the Morning Call

NEW LIFE AMONG THE DEAD

From the outside, it may look like a field of stone where time and weeds have taken their toll. However, the graveyard on Chew Street between 10th and 12th Streets is home to the remains of over 600 Civil War soldiers, second in the state to Gettysburg. It is also the final resting place for five Revolutionary War soldiers and Allentown's first mayor, Samuel McHose. In 1986 the 11-acre Union Cemetery was merged with the nine-acre West End Cemetery to form the present-day Union & West End burying ground. The graveyard was operated by local business leaders for more than a century, but was abandoned in 1997 when funding for its upkeep ran out—leading to its decline, vandalism and deterioration. Finally, in 1999, the all-volunteer board of directors took over and began the cleanup with the help of local businesses who donated time and money. Recently, the 150th anniversary of the cemetery was celebrated with a mock Civil War funeral that incorporated a horse-drawn hearse and Civil War re-enactors. Services were held for the fictitious Major Frederick Kunkle, followed by a Victorian-style picnic.

ICE SKATING

LEHIGH VALLEY ICE ARENA

10 3323 7th St., Whitehall
610-434-6899
MIN www.lehighvalleyicearena.com

Whether you're an avid ice skater or just someone looking for a change of pace, the Lehigh Valley Ice Arena will have you gliding back for more. While home to area ice hockey, figure skating and speed skating teams, the arena graciously clears the ice of pros for the amateur—those of us who are a little less graceful on skates. Admission and skate rentals will put you back less than the price of a movie ticket—it's a great way to get more thrills and spills for less. (Opening hours vary; call for details.)

CEDAR BEACH PARK ICE SKATING

1 www.allentownpa.org/
cedarbeach_iceskating.htm
MIN

ICE PALACE

9 623 Hanover Ave.
610-435-3031
MIN

LASER TAG

PLANET TROG

12 3578 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall
610-776-8764
MIN www.planettrog.com/laser.html

MINIATURE GOLF

PUTT U MINIATURE GOLF

13 5200 Route 309, Center Valley
610-798-9800
MIN www.puttu.com

Putt U is a well-maintained two-course miniature golf venue—though not, as its name suggests, a school for the pros. The two courses mean that there's usually no wait, and both are lengthy and challenging. Though it's set on the edge of the highway, you feel like you're in a world of your own, safe as can be—except on Halloween. During October, Putt U blares



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tunes like "It's Raining Men!," but the courses are dressed with glow-in-the-dark balls, skeletons, skulls and witches. (Beware the employees: They too are costumed to scare.) With a reasonable admission and themed courses, Putt U is a gem for miniature golfers of all ages.

DORNEY SQUARE MINIATURE GOLF

3 3102 Hamilton Blvd.
610-432-8101
MIN

PAINTBALL

LEHIGH VALLEY PAINTBALL

11 405 S. 5th St., Emmaus
610-965-0377
MIN www.lehighvalleypaintball.com



POCONO MOUNTAIN PAINTBALL

34 Nesquehoning
800-876-0285
MIN www.playpaintballhere.com

SKIRMISH USA

33 Jim Thorpe
800-SKIRMISH
MIN www.skirmish.com

RAFTING & CANOEING

JIM THORPE RIVER ADVENTURES

33 Jim Thorpe
800-424-RAFT
MIN www.jtraft.com

LEHIGH RIVER WATER TRAIL

wildlandspa.org/lrwt

PECK'S POND OUTFITTERS

93 Pecks Pond
570-775-7237
MIN www.peckspond.com

POCONO WHITEWATER ADVENTURES

33 Jim Thorpe
800-WHITEWATER
MIN www.whitewaterrafting.com

ROLLER SKATING

SKATEAWAY ROLLER RINK

9 Lehigh St. & MacArthur Rd.,
Whitehall
MIN 610-432-5002

SKATEBOARDING

PENNSKATE

6 1000 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall
610-437-2452
MIN www.pennskate.com

SKIING & WINTERSPORTS

TERRY HILL WINTERPARKS

12 1000 Hamilton Blvd.,
Breinigsville
MIN 610-395-0222
www.terryhill.com

BEAR CREEK SKI RESORT

21 101 Doe Mountain Ln.,
Macungie
MIN 800-233-4131
www.skibearcreek.com

BLUE MOUNTAIN SKI AREA

28 1660 Blue Mountain Dr., Pal-
merton
MIN 610-826-7700
www.skiblueemt.com

CAMELBACK SKI AREA

54 Camelback Rd., Tannersville
800-233-8100
MIN www.skicamelback.com

PENNSYLVANIA SKI AREA ASSOCIATION

www.skipa.com

THEME PARKS

DORNEY PARK & WILDWATER KINGDOM

3 3830 Dorney Park Rd.
610-395-3724
MIN www.dorneypark.com

Looking for some “thrills and spills” within minutes from campus? Originally a trout fishing getaway established before the Civil War, Dorney Park (& Wildwater Kingdom)—as the ad screams—now offer “two great parks for the price of one!” With eight roller coasters, Dorney Park has enough to keep most thrill-seekers happy. Talon is the tallest and longest inverted roller coaster in the Northeast, and Steel Force was the first coaster in the East to reach heights over 205 feet. (But who’s counting?)

The newest addition, Hydra: The Revenge, opened in May 2005. This floorless coaster will yank riders through seven inversions, a zero gravity “experience,” and several drops below ground level. If you’re afraid of heights or ludicrous speed, try out Dorney Park’s other, closer-to-the-ground rides, or arcades, games, live shows and shopping. When it’s hot, cool off at the Wildwater Kingdom: wave pools, body slides, tube slides and a lazy river. Grab a few friends and a float and hit Aquablast—one of the longest elevated slides in the world. Prices fluctuate depending on the season, time of day, and group size; bargain hunters should wait for the cheaper autumn evening rates. (Opening hours vary wildly; check the website for details.)



Kathin MacCallum

Soldiers & Sailors Monument, 7th Street and Hamilton Street

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EVERYTHING ELSE

BALLOONATICS AND AERONUTS

29 *7 Harmony-Brass Castle Rd.,
Phillipsburg NJ*
MIN 877-4 FUN FLY
www.aeronuts.com

Attention all sightseers and thrill-seekers. Phillipsburg's own Balloonatics and Aeronauts is sure to get your heart racing and your eyes bulging, all at a couple hundred feet. Pilot Fred Grotenhuis—a 30-plus year veteran—hosts your sunrise or afternoon hot air balloon flight. You'll be airborne for about an hour, but leave at least three for your "flying adventure," which ends with a champagne picnic. Yet if the fun seems endless, so are the precautions and preliminary requirements, so be sure to start planning your outing far in advance. (Reservations are required.) The prices are as high as the hot air balloons, but group rates (and gift certificates) make it more affordable. So stand strong in the face of vertigo, dress comfortably, and start flying high.



THE DOWNS AT LEHIGH VALLEY

14 *1780 Airport Rd.*
610-266-6559
MIN www.pnotw.com/lehi.shtml

Off-track betting at its most depressing. We love it!

EDGEWOOD VALLEY FARMS BULL MADNESS RODEOS

34 *106 Edgewood Ln., Nazareth*
610-759-3340
MIN
www.edgewoodvalleyfarms.com

LEHIGH VALLEY SPORTING CLAYS

16 *2750 Limestone St., Coplay*
610-261-9616
MIN www.lvsclays.com

EXCURSIONS

DAY TRIPS

HISTORIC BETHLEHEM

17 Main St., Bethlehem
610-868-1513
MIN www.bethlehem.info

When picturing a “downtown,” charming rows of historical buildings with candle-lit windows don’t typically come to mind. But that’s just what you’ll find in historic Bethlehem. A mix of storefronts, offices and Moravian Church buildings transport visitors back 250 years—with plenty of up-to-date restaurants (try the popular Bethlehem Brew Works (see page 50) or the nearby Apollo Grill), boutiques and antique shops. It’s also a real-life example of urban revitalization (and a good lesson for other cities): Bethlehem officials and citizens

successfully reinvented this once run-down area into one of the most highly trampled streets in the Lehigh Valley. Try and time your next trip during a weekend fair (in the spring and fall) or summer’s MusikFest (see page 68). The city’s Southside is younger and edgier, with bars, galleries, tattoo parlors and the Banana Factory (see page 75)—all crowded between the Lehigh River, the derelict Bethlehem Steel Works and the steep-sloped Lehigh University.

 **JIM THORPE**
33 Jim Thorpe
MIN www.jimthorpe.com

Jim Thorpe, born Mauch Chunk but renamed for the great Olympian in a 1954 publicity stunt, bursts into fiery life in the fall. Tucked in a steep Po-



Collections of the Lehigh County Historical Society

Allentown’s Orpheum Theatre in 1891, two years before it was destroyed in a fire

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cono valley along a sharp bend in the Lehigh River, Jim Thorpe's breathtaking forest-peak beauty encircles a stately Victorian village—the setting for the 1970s classic *The Molly Maguires*. Jim Thorpe's mines closed down decades ago, sending the once booming coal town into a tailspin, but adventure-seeking tourists have long since replaced the grimy hands. Shops, B&Bs, galleries, swanky restaurants—even a restored opera house!—crowd its meandering, sloped streets. Before heading for the hills, be sure to tour the regal Asa Packer Mansion, a monument to Victorian excess once home to the fabulously wealthy coal magnate. But head for the hills you must: For all its gabled charm, Jim Thorpe's real draw is its stunning surroundings, with abundant hiking, biking, fishing, river rafting (see page 86), and even paintballing (see page 86). Take the narrow-gauge, aptly named Switchback Railroad up a steep slope for panoramic views of the mountain-squeezed village. (You'll understand why the town has earned its nickname, "The Switzerland of America.")



LEHIGH VALLEY WINE TRAIL

www.lehighvalleywinetrail.com

Here's another trail to add to Pennsylvania's long list of them...but this one's got treats! The Lehigh Valley Wine Trail promotes eight local family-owned wineries and organizes special events—like the Nouveau Weekend in late November, which celebrates the new harvest, and March Madness, a more refined all-day wine binge. While not quite like touring the famed Napa Valley or France's Bourdeaux, this trail is an excellent, upscale (but inexpensive) weekend outing. After sampling a glass or two (or three or four...), you'll feel like you're in California or France anyway. Cheers!

NEW HOPE

64 *New Hope*
MIN www.newhopepa.com

With everything from old-fashioned country crafts to live entertainment and the occasional sex shop, the Village of New Hope is a perfect weekend fieldtrip no matter what you're in the mood for. History buffs can tour a number of historical sites near

PRECIOUS PEEPS

At some point, everyone has enjoyed a marshmallow Peep. Some of us have even performed "scientific experiments" that involved an innocent little marshmallow chick, a microwave and a lot of scrubbing. You know what they taste like, how big they can inflate, and how long it takes for them to explode, but did you know that the company that makes them is in nearby Bethlehem? In 1932, Just Born, Inc., moved into an empty printing factory. It began making the now-famous Marshmallow Easter Peeps by hand in 1953, by squeezing marshmallow through a pastry tube. Thanks to advances in technology, Just Born now produces 4.2 million Peeps each day, and over one billion every year, in addition to other familiar candies like Mike & Ike, Hot Tamales and Teenee Beanee jelly beans. The Peeps remain the top-selling non-chocolate Easter candy, but are now available all year—in 35 countries! Sadly, the company offers no factory tour, but you *can* take a virtual tour at www.justborn.com.



None here

Hamilton Street at the turn of the century



“Washington’s Crossing” (where George traversed the Delaware River during the Revolutionary War). Carriage rides, ferry trips and walking tours are other ways to see the area. And there are more than enough opportunities to blow some cash on four main streets and cobblestone side-streets—in galleries, antique shops and boutiques. For some culture, this artistic hub has the Bucks County Play House (student tickets are just \$20) as well as drag shows, and an eclectic mix of cabaret, jazz and retro music. Whatever you do, you’re bound to work up an appetite; satisfy your cravings in a casual spot or one of the fancier restaurants overlooking the river.

SHORT-TERM

BEAR JUNCTION CORN MAZE

27 Rte. 309 & Mountain Rd., New Tripoli
 MIN 610-298-8887
www.bearrockjunction.com

This *four-mile-wide* corn maze, Pennsylvania’s largest, challenges visitors through twists and turns and into many dead-ends. Fear not: Numbered checkpoints along the way let you know that you’re headed in the right direction. You can carbo-load before venturing into the maze (in case it takes a while), or refuel when you return (in case it took a while) at the snack bar (which also serves lunch and dinner). Or purchase a s’mores kit and roast marshmallows right on-site. There’s also a Farmer’s Market, as well as activities—from pumpkin launching to tricycle racing—for the younger crowd. Haunted Nights (Fridays and Saturdays in October) are another great way to gear up for Halloween. (Open Sept.-Nov. Th-Su; call for specific hours.)

THE CRAYOLA FACTORY

25 30 Center Sq., Easton
 610-515-8000
 MIN www.crayola.com/factory

Don’t let the name fool you: The Cray-

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ola Factory isn't a factory at all. It's an excuse to let kids run wild and drain every last drop of their creative juices. The Factory occupies a brand-new building in Easton's lovely Center Square. Downstairs, though, is a *canal* museum—the actual Crayola “Factory” is up the stairs. At one station, guests observe how Crayola products are made—hence the “Factory,” we suppose. But the rest of the place is dedicated to kids, young kids, who get to test the latest Crayola products—which are conveniently on sale in the gift shop. To appreciate the place, you must be in touch with your inner child—to the point of battling it out for all the good crayons at the craft stations. Otherwise, wait until you have kids of your own. The best thing about the Factory, it turns out, is the drive to Easton, with its sweeping views of the Lehigh Valley and the mountains that cradle it. Why not just take the drive, and save yourself nine bucks?



CRYSTAL CAVE

29 963 Crystal Cave Rd.,
Kutztown
MIN 610-683-6765
www.crystalcavepa.com

In the mood for some quality time in Pennsylvania's wide-open spaces? Or maybe a little miniature golf? Then the Crystal Cave is just what the doctor ordered. And that's only what's above ground. The highlight of a visit is (at least) six feet under—caves that sparkle thanks to calcium crystals that nature's been working on for centuries. Guided tours run daily and have drawn millions since the caverns were discovered in 1871. So delve deep! (Opening hours vary seasonally; call for details.)

LOST RIVER CAVERNS

21 Durham St., Hellertown
610-838-8767
MIN www.lostcave.com

Stalagmites and stalactites galore—but, thankfully, no bats—fill a five-chambered cave (accidentally discov-

THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

“I ain't afraid of no ghost.” This all-too-familiar *Ghostbusters* refrain was written for Allentown. The area's abundance of spiritual folklore has local “ghost-hunters” buzzing. So if you feel the need to test your nerves, here are a few places to begin. Happy hunting.

Cedar Crest College—The ghost of a young women named Wanda resides in Butz Hall. She apparently committed suicide in 1956.

Muhlenberg College—Bernheim House is said to be haunted by its former owner.

Constitution Drive —A runner reportedly killed in a nearby railroad accident can be spotted walking his two dogs.

Hamilton Street—A woman killed in a car accident as she crossed Hamilton has been haunting this street late at night near the former Hess's building.

Magnolia's Vineyard Restaurant—Magnolia's was named after its ghostly resident. The story is that during the Civil War, Magnolia met a young soldier who she swore her love for, right there in the restaurant. They were meant to meet again at the same spot, but the soldier never returned. She's been waiting ever since.

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ered by a limestone quarrying crew in 1883) below Hellertown. Named after the mysterious “Lost River” (whose source is unknown) that flows through them, the caverns were made visitor-friendly thanks to handrails and lighting added in 1930. The crystal formations, fluorescent minerals and crystal-clear underground waterway are an incredible sight to see. But even if all that nature doesn’t grab you, the Caverns’ sordid history might: Bootleggers hid contraband alcohol here during Prohibition. More recently, it’s been a frequent pick for fraternity initiation ceremonies and the backdrop for over 80 weddings. If you go, bring a jacket (it’s always a cool 52 degrees underground) and don’t miss the gift shop (where you can design your own stone jewelry).

MACK TRUCK MUSEUM

11 997 Postal Rd.
610-266-6767
MIN [www.macktrucks.com/
default.aspx?pageid=40](http://www.macktrucks.com/default.aspx?pageid=40)

MACK TRUCK FACTORY TOUR

13 7000 Alburtis Rd., Macungie
610-709-3566
MIN [www.macktrucks.com/
default.aspx?pageid=45](http://www.macktrucks.com/default.aspx?pageid=45)

MARTIN GUITAR FACTORY

26 510 Sycamore St., Nazareth
610-759-2837
MIN [www.martinguitar.com/visit/
tour.html](http://www.martinguitar.com/visit/tour.html)

The phrase “all-in-one” comes to mind when visiting the Martin Guitar Factory. For the music (especially guitar) enthusiast, this tour is informative and enthralling: You get to watch the guitar- and string-making process on some of the finest crafted instruments in the world. For the rest of us, the tour may not be worth it, though the “1833 Shop” (aka gift shop) deserves its own visit. (Tours M-F at 1p;

1833 Shop open M-F 8:30a-5p.) Not far from the factory is the Guitar-maker’s Connection, 10 W. North St., in the old Martin factory building. This acoustic guitar supply shop stocks everything from tone woods, kits, parts, tools, glues, tuning machines, finishing supplies, pickups, amps, mics, instrument construction and repair books, and any other accessory you could ever possibly need for your guitar. (Open M-F 9a-4p.)

PEZ DISPENSER MUSEUM

25 15-19 S. Bank St., Easton
888-THE-PEZ1
MIN www.eastonmuseumofpez.com

Though Muhlenberg students are familiar with the Haas College Center—named for the fourth president of the College—they may not know the other Haas: Eduard Haas III, who invented PEZ candy in 1927 in Vienna. Twenty years later, he developed the PEZ dispenser, enabling the citizens of over 60 countries to have their PEZ and eat it too. This now-popular kid’s collectible was originally produced for adult smokers in Austria before migrating to the U.S. in the fifties. The first dispenser looked like cigarette lighters, on the assumption that the compressed peppermint breath mints might be used to curb smokers’ addictions. After researchers realized the dispensers’ appeal to kids and collectors, PEZ was redesigned to feature the fruity flavors and loveable candy popping heads we know today. In 2003, Kevin and Tim Coyle decided to pay tribute to this invention by opening the third PEZ museum in the country. Located in nearby Easton, the PEZ Dispenser Museum displays over 1500 dispensers in creative settings. You can see Disney dispensers housed in a ten-foot high castle or the members of the Beatles on their own stage. After scanning the display of 500 dispensers to discover “Where’s Waldo?,” you can move on to the gift shop that sells hundreds of PEZ products—all for \$5. (Curb your PEZ addic-



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tion Tu-Su 10a-5p.)

STRAWBERRY ACRES

19 5120 Overlook Rd., Coplay
610-261-2323
MIN www.strawberryacres.com

A pick-your-own fruit farm, from apples to pumpkins to raspberries.

WEYERBACHER BREWING COMPANY

34 905G Line St., Easton
610-559-5561
MIN www.weyerbacher.com

You won't find any Bud at the Weyerbacher Brewing Company. No, just Merry Monks' Ale and Blithering Idiot Barley Wine, among 13 other unconventional brews. That's reason enough to make the trip to Easton for a tour in and around the towering distillers and fermenters. And then there are the free samples: The Blithering Idiot—which, according to the brewery, should be enjoyed in a "brandy snifter or wine glass, preferably in front of the fire or accompanying a literary class"—is 11 percent alcohol. After the tour, you can assemble your own variety case, or even purchase a "Growler"—a one-half gallon jug waiting to be filled with your favorite. Who needs Natty Light? (Open for tours Sa noon-3pm.)



SHOPPING & RESOURCES



96 SHOPPING & RESOURCES

It's not worth it, Philly's King of Prussia Mall: You'll fight traffic for an hour and all you'll get is a lousy t-shirt ... or sweater. Why not skip the merchant monarch and empty your wallet in Allentown instead. You'll never find California Gold (see below) at the mall—or the Great War Store (page 104) for that matter. From beer to Bieber, we've gone on an Allentown shopping spree, so you can too.

ACCOMODATION

(See Hotels)

AIRPORT

(See Transportation)

ALCOHOL

(See Beer/Wine)

APPAREL



CALIFORNIA GOLD

228 W. Tilghman St.
610-435-5553

7
MIN



California Gold is, well, the gold standard for boutiques. Shoppers will immediately be drawn to California Gold's fancy, fully decorated window displays (lined with distinctive gifts, trinkets, and clothing). Be sure to leave time in your schedule to casually sift through the winding aisles of clothing and accessories and to chat with the owner—she'll send you five doors down, to sister store Nights at California Gold. There they've got that made-for-you dress just waiting. The place is filled with dresses of all styles, each hand-picked by the owner from private collections and literally one-of-a-kind (don't bother looking for one in a different size). If you're having trouble navigating the selection, the friendly staff is more than

willing to help. When you do fall head over heels, make sure you send in a photo of the two of you out on the town; the store owner has a wall covered with pictures of their dresses on customers. (Open M-F 11a-7p; Sa 10a-6p; Su noon-5p.)

LANCASTER DRESS COMPANY

4 3315 Hamilton Blvd.
610-776-6550

4
MIN

Stocking mostly formal wear and the requisite accessories, Lancaster is your one-stop-shop for a formal. The place is packed with dresses; once you've picked one out, take a look at the corresponding jewelry. (While their selection of accessories isn't massive, what they do have is elegant and moderately priced.) And no outfit's complete without a new pair of shoes, which they've got here, too. If all that glamour starts to get a little overwhelming, just take a deep breath and find a staff member—they're incredibly helpful. (Open M-F 10a-9p; Sa 10a-6p; Su noon-5p.)

MARILYN CUSTOM SHOP

4 1227 Hamilton St.
610-821-9620

4
MIN

So they may not have their finger on the pulse of college fashion. The clothes Marilyn brings in from Europe and New York City—to Trexler's old house on Hamilton Street—are certainly upscale, but possibly more age-appropriate for your grandmother and

SHOPPING & RESOURCES 97

definitely not in the college-budget price range (pants run about \$80; jackets around \$250). Still, the shop lets you flex your designer muscle with your own take on their limited styles—by changing the cut or length. And they give you plenty of browsing space, with multiple rooms and a well-laid-out floor plan. Plus, they carry jewelry and handbags. But look elsewhere for your Uggs, Juicy and Burberry. (Open M-F 10a-6p; Sa 10a-5p.)

SEE ALSO—THRIFT STORES

BAKERIES

UNIQUE BREAD BAKERY

3 1425 W. Chew St.
610-439-9001
MIN

SEE ALSO—ETHNIC GROCERIES & BAKERIES (PAGE 107)

BANKS

FIRSTTRUST BANK

5 1403 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-437-6815
MIN

WACHOVIA

5 1601 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-439-4221
MIN

WACHOVIA

2 19th St. & W. Liberty St.
610-439-4292
MIN

WACHOVIA

2 3100 W. Tilghman St.
610-439-4551
MIN

BEER/WINE

BUDGET BEVERAGE

2 3125 W. Tilghman St.
610-437-2272
MIN

CLOVER HILL VINEYARDS & WINERY

2 Allentown Fairgrounds
610-439-3969
MIN www.cloverhillwinery.com

LIBERTY BELL BEVERAGES

4 718 N. 13th St.
610-820-8020
MIN

PLAZA BEVERAGES

4 1520 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-395-2337
MIN



LEGEND



MUHLENBERG PICK

6
MIN

ESTIMATED DRIVING TIME FROM MUHLENBERG COLLEGE. (FOR DIRECTIONS, SEE YAHOO OR GOOGLE MAPS.)

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Karen Poolley

Hamilton Street storefronts, near 6th Street



STATE LIQUOR STORE

2 1918 W. Allen St.
610-821-6653
MIN

STATE LIQUOR STORE

3 333 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-821-6213
MIN

STATE LIQUOR STORE

5 1500 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-530-5702
MIN

BIG BOX

K-MART

7 4701 Tilghman St.
610-395-0314
MIN www.kmart.com

TARGET

5 1600 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-398-4006
MIN www.target.com

WALMART

11 2601 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall
610-530-1400
MIN www.walmart.com

BOOKS



ANOTHER STORY

5 100 N. 9th St.
610-435-4433
MIN

If your classes' required reading is not stimulating your brain in the way you might like, read on. Another Story is the ultimate used book store with

SHOPPING & RESOURCES 99

stacks upon stacks of, well, used books. This rickety old storefront has everything from an 1872 Algebra book to Barbara Bush's memoirs to a guide to women's shoes in over 40 sections. (Sorry Fabio, no romance novels.) If you're feeling a little lost, just ask the friendly owner. (You'll get stories and jokes as well as directions to whatever you're looking for.) So put down the Russian Government textbook and drive over for an inexpensive novel to open your mind. (Open M-W 10a-6p; Th-F 10a-8p; Sa 10a-5p.)

MORAVIAN BOOK SHOP

18 428 Main St., Bethlehem
610-865-3823
MIN www.moravianbookshop.com

Crowded with everything from food to stationery to home furnishings, you could get lost for hours in the Moravian Book Shop—the world's oldest bookseller. And if your visit spans a meal, you're in luck. Their deli serves up sandwiches, soups and salads, as well as changing daily specials and a selection of gourmet coffees, teas and hot chocolate. Ironically, the store's weakest section is its book department (just half the size of the area reserved for gifts). The verdict: Though it's a cute place to stop for presents as you tour downtown Bethlehem (see page 89), if you're search-

ing for your next reading adventure, look elsewhere. (Open M-W, Sa 11a-6p; Th-F 10a-8p; Su noon-5pm.)

NOW AND THEN BOOKS

11 2905 W. Emaus Ave.
610-797-1266
MIN

Just head down the stairs into this basement bookstore—where soft music and strategically placed comfy chairs invite you to curl up with a good book and stay a while. And you'll have plenty of options to choose from: The walls are lined with inexpensive novels and anthologies, a vast fiction collection, and even a selection of collectible books (some of which are signed). Although it's a bit of a drive, Now and Then Books is well worth the trip. (Open Tu-W, Sa 10a-5p; Th-F 10a-6p.)

ABERDEEN BOOKSHOP

32 4303 Lower Saucon Rd.,
Hellertown
MIN www.abebooks.com/home/melaniejoy

AGVENT RARE BOOKS

26 291 Linden Rd., Mertztown
610-682-4750
MIN www.users.erols.com/agvent



NAME THAT TUNE

*And we're living here in Allentown
But the restlessness was handed down
And it's getting very hard to stay...*

These few lines pretty much sum up Allentown... according to Billy Joel. Outside of Pennsylvania, say "Allentown" and you'll get Billy Joel's 1983 hit crooned back at you. Not exactly a theme song for the city, with its all-the-factories-closed-down gloominess. But the anthem for the betrayed blue-collar worker *does* praise the city's hardscrabble citizenry, and has, too, put the city on the musical map. Allentown leaders, on this logic, gave Joel a key to the city. Thanks to Joel, we're all a little prouder, living here in Allentown.

100 SHOPPING & RESOURCES

BARNES AND NOBLE

11 2590 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall
610-821-7732
MIN www.barnesandnoble.com

BETHLEHEM BOOK LOFT

20 521 E. 4th St., 3rd fl., Bethlehem
MIN 610-691-1973

BORDERS BOOKS

9 1937 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall
610-432-5520
MIN www.borders.com

NEW STREET BOOK SHOP

18 513 N. New St., Bethlehem
610-868-3411
MIN www.abebooks.com/home/newstreetbook

OLD LIBRARY BOOKSHOP

18 1419 Center St., Bethlehem
610-814-3434
MIN www.oldlib.com

QUADRANT BOOK MART



31 20 N. 3rd St., Easton
610-252-1188
MIN

RECYCLE BARN

23 2901 Oakland Rd., Bethlehem
610-865-5800
MIN

BUS

(See Transportation)

CAR RENTAL

(See Transportation)

CLOTHING

(See Apparel)

COMICS

BEACH HEAD COMICS

3 1601 Chew St.
610-437-6372
MIN www.beachheadcomics.com

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

ACORN

546 Hamilton St., # 313
610-433-3313
www.acorn.org

ACORN is a national nonprofit devoted to community organizing.

ALLENTOWN WEED & SEED

310 N. Second St.
610-437-7679

Weed & Seed is a federally sponsored program that “weeds” out crime and “seeds” neighborhood revitalization in downtown Allentown.

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE OF LV

1337 E. Fifth St., Bethlehem
610-691-5620
www.caclv.org

CACLV is an advocate for low-income residents of the Lehigh Valley.

CASA GUADALUPE CENTER

143 Linden St.
610-435-9902
www.casalv.org

Casa Guadalupe is a community-based Latino service organization.

SHOPPING & RESOURCES 101



Stencilwerks on Tilghman St.

CONGREGATIONS UNITED FOR NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION (CUNA)

317 N. 4th St.
610-434-1260

CUNA is a faith-based community organizer in downtown Allentown.

ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

1966 Creek Rd, Bethlehem
610-838-7666
www.sustainlv.org

The Alliance, a clearinghouse and coalition of progressive organizations in the Lehigh Valley, publishes a calendar and a directory of activist groups in the region.

LEHIGH COUNTY CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

534 Chew St.
610-433-6421
www.lcconfchurch.org

A consortium of churches that provide services to the homeless and needy in downtown Allentown.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

34 S. 10th St.
610-776-7737
www.habitatlehighvalley.com

Habitat for Humanity works with the community to build homes in partnership with low-income families.

LEPOCO PEACE CENTER

313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem
610-691-8730
www.lepoco.org

LEPOCO is a peace and justice activist organization.

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MILE HOUSE OF ILL REPUTE

According to Allentown code, it is illegal for 16 or more single, unrelated women to live in a house together. In the eyes of the law, the co-habiting women operate a brothel. (For the pure or innocent, a “brothel” is the sort of place where women sell themselves by the hour.) Ironically, it *is* legal for up to 130 men to live under the same roof. It’s not just the world’s oldest profession that gets regulated here: It’s also illegal in Pennsylvania to sing in the bath, or to sleep atop of a refrigerator *outdoors*. Don’t even think about shooting a gun or cannon at a wedding. And if you find yourself driving down a country road at night, remember to stop every mile to send a rocket signal to clear those livestock. Finally, a warning for men: Public arousal is outlawed in Allentown, so keep it under your single-sex-unrelated roof!

MUHLENBERG OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Valerie Lane
484-664-3158
www.muhlenberg.edu/studorgs/service

PRIDE OF THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY

610-770-6200
www.prideglv.org

Pride is a nonprofit LGBT advocacy organization.



CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

(See *Technology*)

CRAFTS

STENCILWERKS

3 1723 Tilghman St.
610-433-7776
MIN www.stencilwerks.com

Time to give your room a little face-lift? Stencilwerks can make a not-so-extreme makeover possible. The shop sells a variety of stencils—from main-

stays like flowers and wildlife, to odder picks like chess pieces and beetles—and all the other tools you’ll need. For all you amateurs out there, Stencilwerks offers on-site beginner classes on stenciling, basket weaving, and decorative painting. And if courses and paper-writing start to eat into your decorating time, Stencilwerks staff will make house visits and stencil any room, wall or cupboard for you. One note of caution: While they may sound innocently inexpensive, stencils range in price from \$7 to \$78. (Open Tu-Sa 10a-4p.)

DIRECTORY

CRAIGSLIST

allentown.craigslist.org

Craigslist in Allentown? It’s hard to believe, we know. But it’s here—the free, non-profit all-purpose community bulletin board, with personals to apartments to ride shares.

DISCOUNT

(See *Big Box*)

SHOPPING & RESOURCES 103

DRUG STORES

CVS PHARMACY

2 3020 Tilghman St.
610-776-6551
MIN www.cvs.com

CVS PHARMACY

3 1601 W. Liberty St.
610-820-9737
MIN www.cvs.com

ECKERD

5 1650 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-395-3671
MIN www.eckerd.com

WALGREENS

4 1702 W. Tilghman St.
610-435-2361
MIN www.walgreens.com

DRYCLEANERS

AMERICAN DRYCLEANERS

4 1702 W. Allen St.
610-434-9469
MIN

VILLAGE WEST DRYCLEANERS

3 3100 W. Tilghman St.
610-820-6336
MIN

DVD/VIDEO RENTAL

BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO

3 3140 Cedar Crest Blvd., # D
610-433-2800
MIN

FITNESS

(See Gyms)



The Allentown Farmers Market, at the Fairgrounds



Melanie Zachariades

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GIFTS

THE ANGEL SHOP

4 3333 Hamilton Blvd.
610-433-9495
MIN

Searching for heavenly merchandise—for trinkets just out of this world? Look no further than the Angel Shop, a divine boutique specializing in a range of angel paraphernalia: from ornaments and jewelry, to wind chimes and sun-catchers. Fluttering dangerously close to tacky, classier carved and painted angels save the shop (somewhat) from the dark side. Still, a visit to the Angel Shop may leave you feeling a little saintly yourself—the store practices what it hocks by collecting donations for a local homeless shelter. (Open M-W 10a-5p; Th 10a-7p; F-Sa 10a-5p.)

BEE GEE'S GIFTS

8 111 Union Blvd.
610-432-0500
MIN



Forgot Mom's birthday present? Before you send that e-card to cover, swing by Bee Gee's Gifts. About ten minutes down Tilghman Street, this little store sells knickknacks, lotions, cards and locally made "Wax Works" candles (in a variety of sizes, shapes and scents). There's not too much to attract college-aged customers, and

most of the regular merchandise is a little overpriced. But they've got discount (mostly seasonal) items in back which make for great bargains. In the end, Bee Gee's lets you branch out from the typical Hallmark store for that special something that will make Grandma want to send cookies. (Open M-F 9a-6p; Sa 9a-4p.)



C. LESLIE SMITH

3 3100 Tilghman St.
610-439-8833
MIN

Searching for the perfect gift? Looking to add a new knick-knack to your collection? From greeting cards to bath products, beautiful gold and silver jewelry to pottery, C. Leslie Smith silversmith shop has just what you need (even if some items will stretch a small budget). Ask a sales assistant for help—they're polite and genuine—or wander aimlessly around the shop. Be sure to check out the humorous cards in the back of the store; you'll laugh so hard that you'll have to buy one. (Open M-Sa 10a-9p; Su noon-5p.)

THE GREAT WAR STORE

5 1019 W. Hamilton St.
610-437-5286
MIN

We've never seen anything like it—an army/navy store on crack. Egyptian mummies. Symmetrical, brightly

IT'S GOOD TO BE THE KING

Budweiser markets itself as the "King of Beers," Michael Jackson is (was?) the "King of Pop," and King of Prussia, ladies and gentleman, is certainly the "King of Malls." King of Prussia, or KOP, deserves its royal title. It boasts nine department stores that fit the low-budget to no-budget crowds alike, from Sears to Louis Vuitton. The sprawling complex harbors over 200 stores, restaurants and a movie theater—so much real estate that you won't be able to conquer it in a day. (There's an excuse to return.)

SHOPPING & RESOURCES 105



Sara Rosoff

Wegman's

painted mortar shells. Antique gas masks. A massive painted eagle-themed totem pole. Chain mail and swords. Dozens of swords. Shirts with slogans like "Once a Marine, always a Marine." D&D-style painted figurines. A model of the Hindenburg. Tiffany-style lamps. Still more Egyptian stuff. Scary but indeed Great. (Open M-W 9:30a-6p; Th-F 9:30a-7p; Sa 9:30-6p.)



MISH MASH
801 Hamilton St.
610-433-4396

Mish Mash...the name of this place says it all. Situated on the corner of Hamilton and 8th Streets, this charming boutique stocks everything from knick-knacks and candles to fashionable women's accessories (check out the handbags and jewelry). M&M's array of wrapping papers, packaging ideas and creative birthday cards are just as trendy—making a stylish gift even more impressive. And in case that's not enough, the owner just added a new shoe store (carrying the

latest styles in footwear) next door. High-quality merchandise for reasonable prices: What more could you ask for? (Open M-F 11:30a-5:30p; Sa noon-4p.)

LJ GIFT COMPANY

13 344 Main St., Emmaus
MIN 610-965-1880



SEE ALSO—THRIFT STORES

GOVERNMENT

ALLENTOWN CITY HALL

435 Hamilton St.
610-437-7546

ARLEN SPECTER

U.S. Senate
504 W. Hamilton St., #3814
610-434-1444
202-224-4254
specter.senate.gov

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Michelle Hehn

Sage, at Tilghman Street and 14th Street

RICK SANTORUM

U.S. Senate
504 W. Hamilton St., #3802
610-770-0142
202-224-6324
santorum.senate.gov



CHARLES W. DENT

U.S. House of Representatives
701 West Broad St., #200, Bethlehem
610-861-9734
www.house.gov/dent

PATRICK BROWNE

PA Senate
801 Hamilton St.
610-821-8468
717-787-1349
www.senatorbrown.com

JENNIFER MANN

PA House of Representatives
1227 Liberty St., #202
610-821-5577
717-705-1869

GROCERIES

ALLENTOWN FAIRGROUNDS FARMERS MARKET

2 *Allentown Fairgrounds*
www.fairgroundfarmersmkt.com
MIN

Three days each week (Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays), the Allentown Fairgrounds has one more attraction: the Farmers Market, a mini version of Philadelphia's Reading Terminal Market. The sixty-plus vendors who set up temporary shop here cover all the food groups and then some—there's pizza, Chinese and Mediterranean food, amazing BBQ chicken and ribs, pies and pastries, deli meats and fresh breads, cheeses, fresh fruits and vegetables. (New York Pickle and Faller's Pretzel and Snacks are favorite stands.) As if that weren't enough, there are also candles, flowers, gifts, wine and an on-site flea market. Here's how to make grocery shopping way more interesting. Get off your

SHOPPING & RESOURCES 107

ass and walk somewhere for once!
(Open Th 9a-8p; F 8a-8p; Sa 8a-6p.)

WEGMAN'S

5 3900 *Tilghman St.*
610-336-7900
MIN www.wegmans.com

To say that Wegman's is simply a grocery store would be like calling Niagara Falls just another waterfall. Searching for snacks for the dorm, cooking necessities for a family recipe or something new and different from around the world? Maybe you're eager to get that film from last weekend's

party developed or a prescription filled. Perhaps it's a card, gift or candy you're after. Look no further, because Wegman's has it all. It's even got ready-to-eat food for when you don't feel like cooking or facing the dining hall. (Think of a restaurant, only better: Where else can you get sushi while your friends chow down on wings or couscous?) Best of all, it's open 24 hours. (And any college student appreciates places that come through during a random late-night craving.) Although the store may seem overwhelming at first, think of it as a food shopping adventure. Come see what the cult following is all

ETHNIC GROCERIES & BAKERIES

CHINESE

Far East Grocery Market
734 *Park St., Whitehall*
610-266-8968

DOMINICAN

Dominguez Food Market
517 *Gordon St.*
610-437-1495

3 J's Bakery
619 *N. 7th St.*
610-351-9914

INDIAN

Abe Taj Grocery
1076 *Fullerton Ave.*
610-439-8906

ITALIAN

Stravino's
269 *5th St., Whitehall*
610-432-2551

MEXICAN

La Mexicana Groceries
407 *N. Seventh St.*
610-776-1910

La Placita Mexican Deli
158 *N. 12th St.*
610-821-4549

MIDDLE EASTERN

Elias Farmers and Fish Markets
101 *Tilghman St. (at Front St.)*
610-776-1030

Egypt Star Bakery
608 *N. Front St.*
610-434-8516

Soumaya & Sons Bakery
264 *Fullerton Ave., Whitehall*
610-432-0405

TURKISH/HALAL

Aci Halal
34 *N. 2nd St.*
610-439-8782

Lehigh Valley Halal Market
1902 *Allen St.*
610-820-9233

VIETNAMESE

Tiem A Dong
1202 *Walnut St.*
610-821-4559



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about! (Open daily 24 hours.)

GARDEN GATE NATURAL FOODS

5 17 S. 9th St.
610-433-8891
MIN

GIANT

3 3100 W. Tilghman St.
610-351-2091
MIN

KING'S

3 365 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-821-4560
MIN

O'BRIEN'S REALLY GOOD FOOD CO.

2 1922 Allen St.
610-435-3911
MIN

SEE ALSO—ETHNIC GROCERIES
& BAKERIES (PAGE 107)



GYMS

GOLD'S GYM

10 3300 Lehigh St.
610-797-6800
MIN www.goldsgym.com

LEHIGH VALLEY FITNESS CLUB

6 601 W. Union St.
610-821-1300
MIN www.lvfit.com

LA FITNESS

5 1515 Mauch Chunk Rd.
610-432-7330
MIN www.lafitness.com

HAIRCUT

(See Salons/Nails)

HOTELS

CROWNE PLAZA

5 904 Hamilton St.
610-433-2221
MIN

HOWARD JOHNSON

4 3220 Hamilton Blvd.
610-439-4000
MIN

COMFORT SUITES

5 3712 Hamilton Blvd.
610-437-9100
MIN

HOLIDAY INN

5 3620 Hamilton Blvd.
610-437-9255
MIN

HERITAGE HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST

14 500 Chestnut St., Emmaus
610-965-6100
MIN www.heritagehousepa.com

JEWELRY

LEHIGH JEWELERS

2 1746 W. Allen St.
610-434-8001
MIN www.lehighjewelers.com

Who'd guess that this unassuming, square building houses a whole lot of bling bling? Lehigh Jewelers carries classics (pearl necklaces, diamond earrings, engagement rings, Swiss watches, Waterford vases) and modern pieces (pendants and bangles).

SHOPPING & RESOURCES 109

They'll even help you design your own jewelry. Before you start getting intimidated, know that behind all the glitter and glamour, this shop's actually very down-to-earth. Dogs roam behind the counter, carrying stuffed animals and occasionally startling customers with a sudden bark. Though a bit pricy (hey, it's jewelry), Lehigh Jewelers is the place to splurge on something or someone special. (Open Tu-W 10a-6p; Th 10a-8p; F 10a-6p; Sa 10a-4p.)

SALOMON JEWELERS

6 606 Hamilton St.
610-433-1511
MIN

If you have trouble keeping time, Salomon has plenty of relief—in the form of clocks. Hundreds—grandfather clocks, cuckoo clocks, gigantic clock *tables*. Salomon is the real thing: Two sons of the German-immigrant founder Ernest Salomon, Erich (85) and Gerhard (79), have worked the quaint shop their entire adult lives, and remain steady back-

store horologists! The younger generation runs the floor with exceptional friendliness. They'll discuss the horologist's art, the family's Allentown history and the clock cornucopia. Did we mention the jewelry?

LIBRARIES

ALLENTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

4 1210 Hamilton St.
610-820-2400
MIN www.allentownpl.org

It happens to the best of us: You've been sexiled from your room for the third time in a week, the couches in Seeger's aren't that comfortable, and the library is way more social than academic. Sometimes a quiet place to study is as available as a table in the Garden Room at 6pm. Lucky for you, there's always the Allentown Public Library—a quiet, two-storied open space with leather arm chairs and plenty of available computers. The staff is helpful, the CD selection isn't



The painted wall of the Positively 19th Street music store



Melanie Zacharades

110 SHOPPING & RESOURCES



Courtesy of Lehigh County

An 1905 shot of the fabled (and closed) department store, Hess Bros.

awful and it's less than two miles from campus. Not bad when you just remembered your two papers due by 9pm... (Open M-Th 9a-9p; F 9a-6p.)



CEDAR CREST COLLEGE LIBRARY

2 100 College Dr.
610-437-4471
MIN library.cedarcrest.edu

MAIL

USPS MAIN OFFICE

6 422 W. Hamilton St.
800-ASK-USPS
MIN www.usps.gov

USPS BRANCH OFFICE

2 607 N. 19th St.
610-437-4371
MIN www.usps.gov

UPS STORE

6 1636 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-351-8371
MIN www.ups.com

FEDEX KINKOS

9 2030 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall
610-433-9312
MIN www.fedexkinkos.com

MALLS

LEHIGH VALLEY MALL

8 MacArthur Rd. & Grape St.,
Whitehall
MIN 610-264-5511

You know the drill—lots of stores (over 130 in this case), food court, recycled air...all just a few minutes from campus. So before driving to King of Prussia to blow some extra spending money at The Gap, Foot

SHOPPING & RESOURCES 111

Locker, Express or Macy's, swing by the Lehigh Valley Mall (in Whitehall). While by no means as big as the mega-malls, you'll still find everything you need. For a glimpse of local culture, stop by Dunderbak's (see page 26) for German treats if you need a break. (Open M-Th 10a-9p; F-Sa 10a-10p; Su 11a-7p.)

KING OF PRUSSIA MALL

(See page 104)

MEDIA GUIDE

NEWSPAPERS

THE MORNING CALL

101 N. 6th St.
610-820-650
www.mcall.com

Like most American newspapers, the *Call* is filled with wire stories and press releases. But the paper, owned by the conglomerate Tribune Company, has a few top-notch journalists on staff—like Daryl Nerl, Sam Kennedy, Frank Whelan and Kathleen Parrish—who carry the paper. The *Call* is distributed free on campus, in Seeger's.

MERGE

101 N. 6th St.
610-508-1555
www.mergedigital.com

Merge looks and feels like an alternative weekly, but it's a ruse: It's the *Morning Call*'s in-house effort to capture the youth demographic, introduced in late 2004. *Merge* is free, and distributed at Seeger's.

PULSE WEEKLY

930 N. 4th St., Suite 205
610-437-7867
www.pulseweekly.com

Pulse is the Lehigh Valley's authentic alternative weekly, with offices in the downtown Silkwerks building. *Pulse* is free, and available in most coffee shops and record stores.

ALLENTOWN TIMES

531 Main St., Bethlehem
610-868-4444
www.theallentowntimes.com

The *Allentown Times*—a one-reporter, community weekly—is distributed free to Allentown residents.

ALLENTOWN CHRONICLE

1245 Chestnut St., Emmaus
484-232-6802

The *Chronicle* is another community weekly—this one owned by the *Morning Call*.

MAGAZINES

GAYDAR

www.gaydarmagazine.com

Gaydar is the Lehigh Valley's brand-new LGBT lifestyle glossy: "... no straight boys were harmed during the making of this magazine..." The magazine is available in the Muhlenberg Bookstore.

LEHIGH VALLEY STYLE

3245 Freemansburg Ave., Palmer
610-923-0384
www.lehighvalleystyle.com

Rival to *Lehigh Valley Magazine*, *LV Style* markets itself as "the Valley's elegant lifestyle magazine."



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LEHIGH VALLEY MAGAZINE

910 13th Ave., Bethlehem
610-691-8833
www.lehighvalleymagazine.com

Lehigh Valley, which publishes the annual "Best of the Valley" readers' survey, is another lifestyle glossy.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

610-432-5449
www.padiversity.org/VGP.htm

This monthly, xeroxed newsletter is a refreshing contrast to the Valley's other magazines: It's filled with desk-top-published activist news nuggets, a helpful calendar and lively opinion pieces. The *Press* is available at the Pride House on campus, at the Civic Theatre and at Analyse's Hava Java coffee shop.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 69

610-797-4530
www.wfmz.com



Thanks to the Valley's proximity to Philly, most of our "local" stations broadcast from our neighbor to the south. Channel 69 is one of the few exceptions. It's a commercial station, with the same if-it-bleeds-it-leads-reporting style. But the station does come up with the occasional local story worth watching.

CHANNEL 39

123 Sesame St. (yes, Sesame Street),
Bethlehem
610-867-4677
www.wlvt.org

The local PBS affiliate, with a strong local affairs program, *Tempo!*

RADIO

WDIY

301 Broadway, Bethlehem
610-694-8100
www.wdiyfm.org
88.1 FM

The Valley's young and community-centered NPR affiliate, with a mix of "Morning Edition," "Lehigh Valley Discourse," classical, jazz, the blues and world music.

WMUH

484-664-3456
www.muhlenberg.edu/cultural/wmuh
91.7 FM

Our very own!

WXPB

3025 Walnut St., Philadelphia
215-898-6677
www.xpb.org
104.9 FM

WXPB, out of Philly, is a nationally recognized, nonprofit incubator of contemporary and roots music, from rock to folk to bluegrass and the blues. Their signature program, "World Café," is nationally syndicated. And they have a Lehigh Valley frequency, 104.9 FM.

MUSIC

DOUBLE DECKER RECORDS

6 803 St. John St.
610-439-3600
MIN www.firstpress.net/
doubledecker

Find your beat at Double Decker Records. A bit like a cramped grandma's attic, the store holds hundreds upon hundreds of used CDs and records—from The Constantines to Dropkick

SHOPPING & RESOURCES 113

Murphys; from Jimmy Eat World to Five Iron Frenzy. What the store lacks in organization (be prepared to dig through boxes), it makes up for with support—the employees know their stuff and are more than willing to help. So if you're searching for a hard-to-find CD, if you want more music for less (CDs start at just \$10), or if you need that perfect gift to help your dad relive his youth, this is your store—just make sure you leave yourself plenty of time to shop. (Open M-Sa 1p-9p.)

DAVE PHILLIPS MUSIC & SOUND

9 620 Union Blvd.
610-820-5600
MIN www.davephillipsmusic.com

Competitively priced instruments, and a lot of them, make Dave Phillips one of the Lehigh Valley's foremost music suppliers. Located across town on Union Boulevard, Dave Phillips is a haven for local bands and musicians. Whatever your musical need—a heavy metal axe or classical guitar, vintage pearl drums or bongos, a keyboard or hand piano—they're sure to have what you're looking for. They've even got lessons for beginners. So if you've broken a string, snapped a head or need help expressing your creative side, Dave Phillips is a perfect choice. (Open M-F 10a-6p; Sa 10-5p; Su noon-5p.)

POSITIVELY 19TH STREET MUSIC

2 522 N. 19th St.
610-435-4565
MIN

NAILS

(See Salons/Nails)

OFFICE SUPPLIES

OFFICE DEPOT

4 480 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
610-432-9900
MIN www.officedepot.com

STAPLES

7 4628 Broadway
610-530-7470
MIN www.staples.com

PHARMACY

(See Drug Stores)

POST OFFICE

(See Mail)

RECORD STORE

(See Music)

SALONS/NAILS

TECHNICOLOR

3 3017 Tilghman St.
610-821-8921
MIN www.technicolor.com



For those days when you need a pick-me-up, this salon is just the place. You'll start to relax as soon as you step inside—and get your first blast of the overwhelming smell of shampoo. It's pricy, but the service matches the cost. The elaborate pampering process begins with a hot cup of gourmet coffee. Every girl knows that the start of a haircut means an uncomfortable chair that reclines on a cold, hard, plastic sink—but not here. For the hair rinse, you're reclined on cushy chairs complete with foot rests.

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(Sorry: The sinks are still hard.) The stylists are very knowledgeable, not only about what's "in" but also about what's good for you. Don't be intimidated by their brightly colored hair; they know it's okay for them but not for you. So if you're up for a li'l pampering, set up an appointment and have a li'l faith. (Open M 10a-6p; Tu-Th 9a-9p; W 9a-8p; F 9a-7p; Sa 8a-3p; Su 10a-4p.)

LA NAILS

3 3100 Tilghman St.
610-439-7303
MIN

This cookie-cutter nail salon is a popular choice among Muhlenberg formal goers. The prices are a little steep—\$15 to \$20 for a manicure, \$32 for a pedicure—but their work typically lasts long after that last dance, even on the most temperamental nails. The big screen TV adds a modern touch and makes having your cuticles assaulted a little less tedious. Trust LA Nails with what it knows best—nails. Leave the salon's other beauty services (like tanning, waxing, and (no joke) permanent make-up) up to someone else. (Opening hours vary.)



AMERICAN HAIRLINES

2 1931 Tilghman St.
610-770-1055
MIN

DESIGNS OF MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER

3 602 N. 16th St.
610-770-0155
MIN

HAIR AFFAIR

2 2001 W. Allen St.
610-435-0588
MIN

15TH ST. SALON

3 304 N. 15th St.
610-776-7677
MIN

LORDS & LADIES

5 962 Hamilton St.
610-437-0227
MIN
www.lordsandladieshairdesign.com

MODERN DESIGN SALON

7 4668 Broadway
610-530-7553
MIN moderndesignsalon.com

20 MINUTE HAIRCUT

2 1901 W. Allen St.
610-435-0588
MIN

SHIPPING

(See Mail)

SUPERMARKETS

(See Groceries)

TAXI

(See Transportation)

TECHNOLOGY

BEST BUY

9 1504 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall
610-432-6956
MIN www.bestbuy.com

RADIO SHACK

7 4670 Broadway
610-395-2155
MIN www.radioshack.com

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THRIFT STORES

DOLLAR TREE

3 3100 Tilghman St.
610-437-9407
MIN

Want to spend \$15 and end up with 15 items? Need a place where you can almost always find those random products that you just need to have? Want to get more of them without stressing your college-student budget? Try the Dollar Tree, where everything's...you guessed it...\$1. It's the perfect place to pick up holiday decorations, party goods, candles, greeting cards (2 for \$1), small toys, candy or cleaning supplies. Though the quality of some items is questionable (please...they're \$1), most will survive a year in the dorms. So forget about laundry; take those quarters to one of the few places where spare change can actually come in handy. (Open M-Sa 9a-9p; Su 9a-6p.)



THE GOOD BUY GIRLS

2 1752 W. Allen St.
610-434-5868
MIN

Grandma-chic is in and Allentown has the store for your every vintage need. The Good Buy Girls is nothing short of a hidden treasure. Seventies-spawned polyester and disco-fever nightmares are nowhere to be found in this consignment shop—this stuff is classy. The store has hats, dresses, shoes, bags and jewelry from the thirties, forties and fifties, and most of it is gracefully feminine. Sorry guys, there isn't much of a selection for you, but you can browse the ties and suspenders while your lovely lady goes crazy. Best of all, this store lives up to its name; while the gear isn't cheap, it's affordable as vintage goes and it's worth the splurge. For your next formal event, check out the Good Buy Girls and get in touch with your inner Grace Kelly. (Open M-Sa 10a-5p.)



Karen Pooley

Dunkelberger's Sports Outfitters in Stroudsburg, near the Delaware Water Gap

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A-Z USED FURNITURE

7 811 N. 7th St.
610-820-9678
MIN

GOODWILL

7 4650 Broadway
610-391-9760
MIN www.yourgoodwill.org

REINA ISABEL THRIFT SHOP

7 526 N. 7th St.
610-770-1289
MIN

SALEM CITY MINISTRIES

6 628 W. Turner St.
610-820-4111
MIN

SALVATION ARMY THRIFT SHOP

7 1204 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall
610-434-9560
MIN

VIA THRIFT SHOP

4 1249 Liberty St.
610-437-1612
MIN



TRANSPORTATION

AIRPORT

LEHIGH VALLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

15 3311 Airport Rd.
610-266-6000
MIN

BUS

BIEBER TOURWAYS

6 NYC, Philly, Atlantic City
Charcoal Diner (see page 29)
MIN 4440 Hamilton Blvd.,
Wescoesville
800-BIEBER-4
www.biebertourways.com

GREYHOUND BUS LINES

8 Various
Allentown Bus Terminal
MIN 325 W. Hamilton St.
800-610-6188
www.greyhound.com

J & J LUXURY BUS & VAN SERVICE

Charter
445 Business Park Ln.
610-776-1580
www.jjtransportation.com

LANTA

Local public busing
610-776-7433
www.lantabus.com

SUSQUEHANNA TRAILWAYS

8 Philly
Allentown Bus Terminal
MIN 325 W. Hamilton St.
800-692-6314
www.susquehannabus.com

TRANS-BRIDGE LINES

8 Newark Airport, NYC
Allentown Bus Terminal
MIN 325 W. Hamilton St.
610-868-6001
www.transbridgebus.com

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CAR RENTAL

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL

4 1501 Sumner Ave.
610-820-6970
MIN www.nationalcar.com

ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR

4 728 N. 13th St.
610-820-6200
MIN www.enterprise.com

YOGA

LEHIGH VALLEY YOGA CENTER

7 930 N. 4th St.
610-776-2676
MIN

TAXI

AIRPORT TAXI

3311 Airport Rd.
610-231-2000

QUICK SERVICE TAXI

1101 W. Cedar St.
610-434-8132

LEHIGH VALLEY TAXI

130 W. Goepf St., Bethlehem
610-867-5855

QUICK SERVICE TAXI

610-434-8132

VIDEO RENTAL

(See DVD/Video Rental)

WINE

(See Beer/Wine)