

# Kitchen Tour Offers Food, Decorating, Floral Ideas

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EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) —

Living space is the cherished possession of Ken and Deb Weaver in their 1833 farmhouse in Rothsville. It allows the family plenty of room for antique heirlooms, for a baseball field and four-wheeling for the kids, for bountiful floral and vegetable gardens, and a place for friends and family to gather.

Now the Weavers are opening their farmhouse for the seventh annual Kitchen Kapers Tulip Tour on April 25. Each of the seven homes open for the tour will be decorated by a florist and a chef from an area restaurant will prepare food specialties for guests to sample.

The homes on the tour are in a variety of styles, but the Weavers' is the only farm house included.

The original deed of the log house is framed in the Weavers'

family room, but the house has undergone many changes and additions since its 1833 beginnings. The most recent is the sunroom and master bath that the Weavers added in 1990.

After Deb's grandfather purchased the property, Deb's parents raised the family in it, then built an adjacent home, and turned the farmhouse into an upstairs and downstairs for Deb's grandmother and a great aunt.

Ten years ago, Deb and her husband moved into the farmhouse and changed it back to a one-unit house in which to raise their two children who are now 10 and 14 years old.

The Weavers removed the wall that had been installed to close in the stairway when the house was turned into apartments. They installed a new oak stairway that opens to the foyer, where a hand-crafted grandfather clock sets.

"The clock really belongs to my parents, but it was too tall to fit in their house," Deb said.

The home's furnishings are a reflection of the values upon which the Weavers pattern their lifestyle — family and church. It is from those two sources that most of the heirlooms and collectibles are derived. A treadle sewing machine and a collection of kitchen utensils from a grandmother, a quilt and a dining room table from a great aunt. There are many pieces, such as a hand-crafted cradle, a Zook doll, and original paintings purchased from the Church of the Brethren Relief Auction, an annual fundraiser to help those suffering from natural disaster.

Stories are handed down with many of these pieces. For example, Deb said of her great aunt's table, "The table is large enough to serve 13 guests, but my great aunt insisted that 13 must never sit at the table, for it would be unlucky."

Although there has been no effort to restore the home to its original decor, the Weavers inadvertently purchased a sideboard with a carved design from a neighborhood sale. When they brought it home, Deb's mother told her, "Grandma had one just like that."

Old glass was used in the windows of the family room that Deb and her husband redecorated. Her basket collection now hangs from the beams. Ken collects Coca-Cola memorabilia and Winross trucks that are displayed. Deb has a preference for cookie cutters.

A ladder hangs horizontally above the kitchen table. From it hangs dried perennials and herbs that Deb grows herself and dries from her many flower gardens. An antique church pew from the Germantown Church is placed in front of a large bay window, where cooking utensils and collectibles are artfully arranged. A quilted feedbag from Millport Roller Mills hangs on a door.

The sunroom is the perfect spot for Deb to begin seeds for her flower gardens. "I have so much invested in trays and seeds that I don't think I save any money but I love doing it," Deb said.

Since Deb's grandfather purchased the 19-acre farm in 1952, it has been subdivided. Two acres plus the ground surrounding the house remain with the Weavers' property.

On the day of the tour, the Weaver home will be decorated by



Dried perennials and herbs hang from the old church ladder the Weavers purchased.



On the sideboard is an arrangement by Carolyn Weaver who uses freeze-dried fruits, parchment, and dried materials in it.

floral arrangements by Ken's cousin's wife, Carolyn Weaver. She combines freeze-dried vegetables with dried, silk, parchment, and latex flowers and greens.

A chef from Bloomfield Square Restaurant in Lititz will serve refreshments in the kitchen.

The Ephrata Woman's Club holds the tour as a fund raiser for local charities. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$6 by sending a stamped business-size self-addressed envelope to Esther Minnich, 1141 Joann Ave., Ephrata, PA 17522. On the day of the tour tickets will be sold for \$7 at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Arts, crafts, and recipes will also be available for purchase at the church but not at individual homes. For more information, call Ms. Minnich at (717) 733-1075.

The following homes will also be open for the tour.

- Frederick and Peggy Schmidt 524 Ridge Ave. Ephrata. A Tudor Chalet built in 1978 has a parquet floor in foyer. The living room has a fireplace with an unusual carved mantel and an antique hand-carved organ. The room to the left is an office-sunroom with custom built cabinetry and a copper planter. The formal dining room extension lends an artist's view of the outside world. The double-paneled blue-gray patina kitchen has a full-length double door pantry. Downstairs is a cathedral ceiling in a completely enclosed glass room with a swimming pool. In the summer, the ceiling opens to let the outdoors in. Jim Hummel's plants,

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The sun room is the perfect spot for Deb to start plants and seedlings to transplant outdoors.



The family room is the place for many family heirlooms such as the treadle sewing machine, the wooden ironing board used as a coffee table, the crib quilt made by a great aunt, and baskets and other collectibles.

## Homestead Notes