

Food, Floral, Decorating Flair Dominates House Tour

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EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — The 11th annual Kitchen Kaper Tulip Tour offered something for every taste. From primitive to contemporary furnishings, from Shee crab soup to mushroom pizza, and from potted annuals to miniature floral arrangements, the recent tour was a showcase of ideas for decorating, gardening, and entertaining.

Each home had been decorated for the occasion by local florists. Local restaurateurs served food specialties to tour participants.

The 1795 Georgian-style sandstone house owned by Dave and Bonnie Harvey has had a complete makeover within the past year.

The hard work has produced a handsome, upscale bed and breakfast called the Kimmell House. The result is a tribute to the decorating skills of Bonnie, a former gift shop owner and interior designer. She sewed all the window treatments, dust ruffles, and pillow tops. She also removed the wallpaper, sanded and painted the walls of the expansive house, and selected the furnishings.

Each of the bedrooms has a unique charm. The Shaker room's walls have a rolled rag finish, the Colonial room has a fireplace with a seating area, and the English Country room offers twin poster beds, which can be pushed together to form a king-size bed if desired.

Touches reminiscent of the era remain, such as the iron latches on the doors, the large corner cupboard with "cross and Bible" doors, and built-in butterfly shelves.

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Bonnie makes her own potpourri and the wreaths.

Bonnie said the many and varied gifts of extended family members were utilized during the renovations. These included a landscaper and engineer to figure out the technical ends.

A gracious, soft-spoken hostess, Bonnie delights in selecting from one of the seven sets of dishes she has to serve a full breakfast. On the day of the tour, Esbenshade's Greenhouse had a floral centerpiece of irises, roses, lilacs, and trailing ivy set off with individual flower settings of violets, and fresh rose petals scattered across the tablecloth.

Bonnie said that overnight guests can dine in the former dining room or the patio. Guests are also served an afternoon tea in the keeping room by the fire during the wintertime or on the secluded brick patio during balmy weather.

Serving shee crab soup and a fettucine casserole to tour participants was the Black Horse Restaurant and Tavern.

Rates for the Kimmell House range from \$75-\$95. For more information or reservations, call Bonnie at (717) 738-3555.

The Farbo Home at 1156 W. Main St. is considered the oldest documented Amish house in the county. Serving as guides throughout the homes, members from the Ephrata Woman's Club pointed out the interesting features in each home.

Owned by James and Patty Farbo, the stone house has original woodwork throughout, random-width floor boards, thumb latches on all doors, and an Indian door in the kitchen.

In addition to the historical significance of the house, the extensive collection of artwork attracted great interest. Many primitive wood carvings, paintings by local artists, and "tramp art," which are drawings done by tramps in exchange for a meal, are displayed throughout the house.

An unattached summer kitchen in back of the Farbo House had a wonderful display of antiques and primitives.

Java 'n' Sweets provided an assortment of flavored coffees, cheeses, and crackers.



Each home is decorated for the occasion by local florists. The flowers in Jill Hartrant's home were arranged by Country Lane Florists.



Crowds of people line up in front of the Farbo House during the 11th annual Kitchen Kaper Tulip Tour. The tour sponsored by the Ephrata Women's Club is a showcase of ideas for decorating, gardening, and entertaining.



Bonnie Harvey, a former gift shop owner and interior designer, and her husband Dave, an engineer, did all the work on the 1795 Georgian sandstone house. Bonnie sewed all the window treatments, dust ruffles, and pillow tops to color coordinate with purchased quilts. This is the Colonial room, one of three bedrooms offered to guests.

A variety of decorating tastes were shown in newer homes such as that of the Barry and Nadinne Kreider, John and Gail Witwer, Reuben and Gail Horning, and Gerald and Jill Hartrant. Many of these homes demonstrated how antiques can be successfully combined with traditional and contem-

porary furnishings and touches. Ideas for landscaping and room additions prevailed.

Although decorating styles vary and food tastes are individualistic, the annual Tulip Tour holds universal appeal for those searching for new ideas and those who are

just curious to see how other people live. Mark your calendar for next year's tour, to be held the fourth Monday of April.



Representatives from Akron Restaurant serve samples of homemade cakes, a specialty of the restaurant, to tour participants.