

Kutztown Festival Makes Pennsylvania-Dutch Folklife Into Fun

KUTZTOWN (Berks Co.) — The annual Kutztown "Pennsylvania-German" Festival, July 1-9, on the Kutztown Fairgrounds, is a grass roots community event. It celebrates Pennsylvania-Dutch folklife particular to the region's "plain and fancy"

17th and 18th century settlers, predominantly of German and Swiss ancestry. It features the quilts, fine folk art, traditional American crafts, foods, folklore, farming, and lifestyle of Pennsylvania-Dutch culture.

More than 1,000 locally, hand-

made quilts are displayed for sale in the Quilt Barn throughout the Festival — one of the largest quilt shows and sales of its kind in the country. On opening day 24 prize-winning quilts in the categories of pieced patch, all quilted, applique and combination designs will be auctioned at noon. The auction attracts bidders from around the U.S. and the world. "Sold" prize quilts are displayed after the sale in the Quilt Barn throughout the Festival; so, those who don't attend the auction can still see these extraordinary prize quilts. Everyone can try a hand at quilting on the Festival Quilt. Area quilters teach and conduct daily demonstrations in the Quilt Barn.

The second annual auction of limited edition folk art prior to the quilt auction will include limited editions 8 x 12-inch hand-drawn and painted fraktur in a handcrafted frame by Harry Smith. A hex sign collaboration is offered by renowned hex artist Johnny Claypoole and son, Eric. Carol Heppe's 24 inch handsewn miniature quilt, patterned after

those made by young girls in earlier centuries, is in a feather painted wooden frame.

Two-hundred juried folk artists and traditional American craftsmen demonstrate and sell their works. Many wear period costumes. This is a rare occasion to see 200 of America's finest folk artists at one time.

Always fascinating are the Amish wedding, Mennonite Meeting House services and hymn sings. A historic area church presents Pennsylvania-Dutch dialect services, celebrates Harvest Home, and serves strawberries and ice cream at a Strawberry Festival next to the church building on the Festival grounds.

Folklife demonstrations like candle dipping, soap making, cow milking, antique farming, sheep shearing, dyeing, spinning and weaving, are a favorite with all ages. Folklife and folklore seminars are taught by university professors, teachers and local experts of Pennsylvania-Dutch dialect, herbal healing and folk medicine. Pennsylvania-Dutch spirituality, quilts, clothes and utilitarian arts and

crafts, and most aspects of the culture.

Children's activities surround the Children's Farmyard Theatre and play area. Old fashion pony rides and Noah's Ark farm animal petting zoo, games, sing-alongs and hands-on activities delight the kids. Jumping in the haystack, the hay maze and old fashion games introduce many urban and suburban children to an early way of life, previously unknown to them, that continues to this day in the "plain" communities of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania-Dutch cooks serve homestyle Church suppers, ox roast and chicken dinners, Pennsylvania-Dutch platters and snacking foods like sausage sandwiches, Dutch fries, corn pie, funnel cake, baked goods and more.

The Kutztown Fairgrounds, located in Kutztown, is easily accessible from Route 222 halfway between Reading and Allentown in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Admission: \$8 adult; children 12 & under - free; Senior Citizen \$7; Family Pass for 4-\$24. Toll free 888-674-6136 www.kutztownfestival.com

Drink Milk

(Continued from Page B12)

The program included an entertaining contest patterned after television's popular Millionaire show. Contestants were selected from the audience. Questions were dairy-related. Contestants could choose to answer questions themselves or request help from a person in the audience. Conducting the contest were last year's Dairy Princess Amanda Martin and alternates Amy Burkhart and Stacy Weidler, who awarded contestants with "got milk" mugs.

Another interesting aspect of competition was the Milk Moustache Contest. For this, people were required to send in a picture of themselves or others

wearing milk moustaches. Guests of the event were asked to vote for the photo they liked best. Selected were Marlin, 7, and Louise, 6, children of Tom and Shirley Krall, Lebanon.

Judges for the event were Rebecca Sonnen-Bube, former state dairy princess; Roxanne Kirst, former Pa. Cattleman's Queen; and Charles Hauck, dairy farmer.

The promotional committee includes Terry Shuey, chairperson; Connie Blauch, co-chairperson; Sheryl Horst, treasurer; Diane Hoover, secretary; Annette Buck, Sherry Bashore, and Alisha Risser, booking chairpersons, Jennifer Ebersole, pageant chairperson, and Tom Krall, Milkshake Barn coordinator.

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Dinner Theatre Features Amish And Pennsylvania Dutch Food

Blatt's Dinner Theatre is proud to present Plain and Fancy from June 29 through July 9 in Kutztown. The theatre has been presenting this show yearly for the past five years in conjunction with the Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival.

Visiting the theatre is like visiting a Pennsylvania Dutch family for dinner. Everyone is warmly greeted as they are seated. The meal is served family-style to the tables, a traditional Pennsylvania Dutch way of serving meals. Visitors may sample traditional Pennsylvania German foods, including chow-chow, apple butter and cottage cheese, and pepper cabbage. Dinner includes two main entrees, three vegetable dishes, salad, rolls and butter, and a scrumptious dessert.

After dinner, the curtain rises at Berks County's premier dinner theatre begins its performance of Plain and Fancy. Patrons are treated to top notch profes-

sional theatre performed with charming scenery, beautiful voices, and an all-live pit orchestra. The show portrays the Amish life, and the story that unfolds when a couple from New York City discovers the beautiful and rich heritage of the Pennsylvania Dutch. Visitors are sure to learn something new about this wondrous culture, as the producers not only spent years researching for the show to accurately portray the Amish, but they are also Pennsylvania Dutch themselves!

Blatt's Dinner Theatre presents Plain and Fancy, for two weeks only! The production runs from June 29 through July 9. Matinees are performed Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. and evening shows are performed Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to order tickets, call Blatt's Dinner Theatre toll-free at 1-877-866-1700.

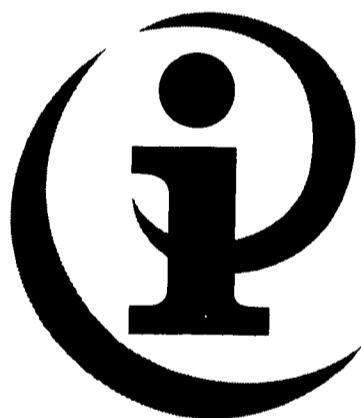
Coordinator Search

DAMASCUS, Md. — The Maryland Dairy Princess Committee is searching for an events coordinator for the state's dairy promotion program. The coordi-

nator position is part-time, with salary commensurate to experience. The deadline for application is Saturday, July 1.

Major responsibilities of the position include scheduling appearances of state royalty, assisting with major dairy princess training efforts, planning and executing special dairy promotions, and preparing news releases.

To apply, send a letter of interest with a resume and three references to the Maryland Dairy Princess Committee, P.O. Box 405, Damascus, Md. 20872.



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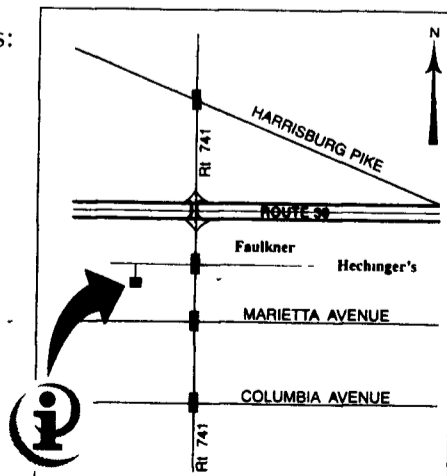
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