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## Deck the halls

By: **CRISSA SHOEMAKER DEBREE**  
Bucks County Courier Times

TEXT SIZE

For the past 23 years, an Upper Bucks family has opened its Victorian home for a holiday decor shopping event.

Once a year, John and Jackie Fenstermacher turn their Telford home into a winter wonderland where almost everything - down to the decorative pillows in the master bedroom - is for sale.

Between 6,000 and 8,000 people will come through the Fenstermachers' historic home for the four-week Victorian Boutique, which begins Saturday and features handmade crafts from more than 40 artisans.

Over the past seven weeks, Jackie Fenstermacher and other family members and friends have decorated almost every room of the home, from the kitchen on up to the master bedroom.

"We painstakingly get everything detailed," Jackie Fenstermacher said. "People will go to that (display) and say, 'Oh my gosh, that's so cute!' The way you display it makes a big difference in how you sell."

Jackie Fenstermacher said she had been to other home boutiques in the past, both as a shopper and as a crafter. She and her husband thought their home - which has been in the Fenstermacher family since it was built in 1863 - would be a perfect place to stage a show. It also would be a great way for Jackie to make some extra money while staying at home with their three daughters.

The couple also has a two-week spring-themed boutique in March.

The first holiday show, held 23 years ago, drew about 700 shoppers, who browsed four rooms of merchandise. Today, there are 13 decorated rooms. And yes, the Fenstermachers still live in the home during the show, although most of their furniture has been removed or hidden behind display cases.

Each room has a different theme. The formal dining room is devoted to country Christmas crafts, with lots of snowmen. The breakfast nook contains cardinals and other red Christmas decorations. Jewelry is on display in the living room, and one daughter's former bedroom has been filled with items for children.

The centerpiece of the show is the Victorian parlor, which has been filled with white lights, angels and other decorations to match the show's overall theme, "Peace on Earth."

"I always put it as it has something for everyone," Jackie Fenstermacher said. "Although there's not much for men. Most men are looking at the architecture."

Art Gentile/Staff Photographer

Jackie Fenstermacher has opened her Telford home for the past 23 years to sell holiday items. This year's sale runs from Oct. 31-Nov. 29.

If you go:



Jackie Fenstermacher has opened her Telford home twice a year for the past 25 years to sell seasonal items. This year's fall sale runs from Oct 31-Nov.29. Art Gentile/Staff Photographer [Buy Intelligencer photos](#)

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The Victorian Boutique starts Saturday and runs through Nov. 29 at 53 N. Main St., Telford. Hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. The boutique is closed on Thanksgiving. There's a \$1 first-time admission fee; subsequent visits are free. More information: [www.victorianboutiquetelford.com](http://www.victorianboutiquetelford.com).

October 28, 2009 02:10 AM

RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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