

shop talk

WHAT'S NEW AND NOTEWORTHY AROUND TOWN

Contributors: A.Y. Fails and Rachel Madel



BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS

1011 North Hancock St., Ste.103,
215-925-9300, beautifulblooms.com

Green thumb or not, you'll want to take a closer look at Donna O'Brien's new floral boutique in Northern Liberties. St. David's Michele Chupein Design created the charming space, with exposed brick walls and Rosie NYC crystal chandeliers that O'Brien will special order for you. The main attraction, though, is a lovely selection of live plants and stems creatively arranged for centerpieces, thank-you bouquets or just because, plus moss-covered pots and colored ceramics. Chances are, you won't leave empty-handed.

ALI'S WAGON

2017 Fairmount
Ave., 215-787-0611,
aliswagon.com

You'll be drawn to the mix of eclectic housewares and fun kids' items at this soon-to-be-neighborhood mainstay. Owner Jessie Menken caters to the blanket-and-binky set with an in-store parenting center and edgy-cute baby clothes by Zutano and Happygreenbee, but we love the mix of urban giftware and summer staples, including Tag napkins and place mats, bamboo cutting boards and interlocking Guzzini serving pieces, shown in orange, ABOVE. And we're totally won over by the selection of self-pampering items, from locally made ChuckSoap to Duross & Langel bath products.



NELSON BRIDGE

29 Race St., Frenchtown 908-996-6646,
nelsonbridge.com

In January, local furniture designer Jonathan Nelson went retail, opening the doors to a thoroughly hip boutique to showcase his own work alongside modern classics. Find furniture with a contemporary bent, plus Alessi bowls and Kikkerland clocks. "My furniture is modern with a little bit of a whimsical character," says Nelson, who has a background in architecture and studied furniture design in Milan. "It's not cold like some modern is thought to be." Design hounds get a bonus in the form of chic handbags and apparel, including one-of-a-kind dresses made from vintage clothing by Nelson's wife and co-owner, Denise.

Seen and Heard

Foster's Urban Homeware and Foster's Gourmet Cookware will no longer be separate; they're going one-stop-shopping this summer with **Foster's Homeware**, a new 11,000-square-foot location (399 Market St., 215-925-0950, shopfosters.com). They'll still carry the old favorites (Umbra, Mint, Roost), but will also stock furniture from brands including Gus. ... Stop in **South Moon Under's** new location in Center City (1731 Chestnut St., 215-563-2298, southmoonunder.com) to find homeware gems by Sugarboo Designs and

Two's Company. ... Chestnut Hill's **Host** opened a second location this past March (108 North 2nd St., 215-925-3377, hostinteriors.com), giving Old City shoppers a new place to find Robert Abbey lighting and Company C rugs. ... **Earth Mart** (235 Bridge St., Phoenixville 610-935-1793, earthmartonline.com), an all-green and fair-trade superstore, opened in April, stocking everything from recycled sinks by Eleek to Bambu bowls. Read more on page 15. ... Looking for a new headboard or armoire? Drop by interior designer Barbara Goodman Cresswell's **Drexel**

Heritage (3060 Brandywine Pkwy., Wilmington 302-225-4500, drexelheritage.com), which opened in December. ... **Avalon Carpet Tile and Flooring's** new 25,000-square-foot location (1100 Columbus Blvd., 267-236-1600, avaloncarpettile.com) stocks top brands such as Oceanside Glasstile and CustomWeave. ... Haddonfield welcomed **The Polished Plate** (101 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield 856-428-2696) in March, which carries all things posh for your tabletop, from Simon Pearce glassware to Bernardaud porcelain.