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Can you believe 2026 is upon us and the 250th Birthday of our wonderful country is about to arrive?!

We hope to jump in and join the celebration.

In the meantime, you can learn about the place where Bucks County and Pennsylvania began...in our own backyard!!! Our resident historian, Carl LaVo takes us to *Graystones* in Bucks County to show us our roots this month. Turn to page 24 and see how Billy Penn put everything in order for us.

Wendi Rank thinks someone is trying to take down the staff of the *Uptight Suburbanite*...medically!! LOL! You can find her "accusatory" column on page 18. What do you think?!!

Out & About took me to some new stops this past month. *Jones'n Bagels* in Hatboro is the perfect breakfast and lunch spot. *Wonder* and *Crumbl Cookies* are both newish national chains that have hit the marketplace to quite a bit of noise. All tasty, but outside my usual dining-out-box. Read my thoughts on page 6.

A reminder, the *Warminster Symphony Orchestra* is holding its Annual Pops Fundraiser January 24. Dinner and concert, it's an event you don't want to miss. Check out page 20 for the details. Tickets are available NOW!!!

And as you read through our pages, you'll see many of our advertisers are ready for the BIG GAME. You'll want help feeding your crew so you, too, can enjoy the game. The *Uptight Suburbanite* has come to your assistance... Just remember to please tell our advertisers you found them on our pages. They'll appreciate hearing the referral.

So that's it for now. February's issue is already in the works. But let's enjoy January first. No need to rush the calendar. It will speed forward on its own! LOL!! See you then!

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Out & About with Linda

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This month took me out of my comfort zone. I visited three new places, two of which are among the most current and chic of national franchises. The third stop is locally owned and well worth a visit.

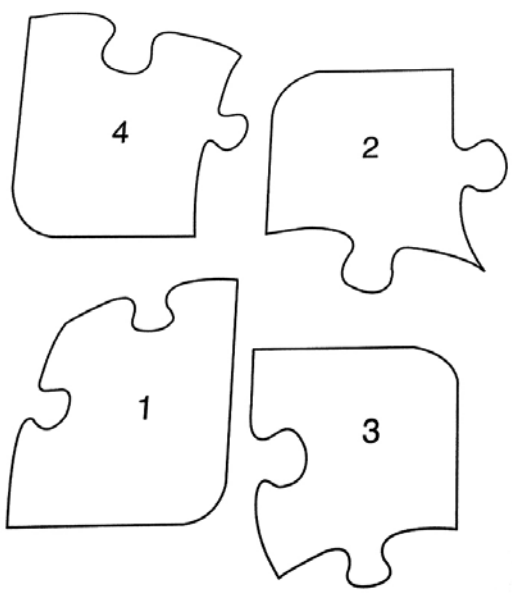
Jones'n Bagels is an airy breakfast and lunch spot on York Road in Hatboro. Open 6am through 2:30pm, its hours alone tell you this is a breakfast "joint" providing all the fixins'. I stopped in with my assistant, Judy, one early morning to the aroma of hot bagels and simmering coffee.

Approach the display case and you'll see a variety of freshly baked bagels. Sesame seed, poppy seed, blueberry, plain, pumpernickel, everything and more, your eyes will dance at the sight of these bagels and then dance some more when you see the "shmears" available.

Continued on page 8



Can you visually fit the 4 pieces below together to form a rounded square?



ANSWER: SEE PAGE 23

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Continued from page 6

Sure, the traditional cream cheese, lox spread and chive, but did you ever taste raspberry and chocolate spread? An original spread for the season, our attendant, Amber, suggested we give it a try. It was delicious. On my plain bagel, it was not too sweet, but just sweet enough to perk up my tastebuds. She shared that they introduce new flavors as the menu demands. I also checked out the lox spread and found it mild, with just enough lox...not salty. Judy got one of their many breakfast sandwiches: egg, ham and cheese. Our meal was accompanied by a toasty hash brown. Yum!

Coffee is a treat there. Courtesy self-serve refills make *Jones'n Bagels* a real breakfast spot. As do the terrific baked goods straight out of their ovens. I had read that their Jewish Apple Cake and Original Crumb Cake was something special. They are! And shouldn't be missed.

I decided to take out something for lunch and ordered a tuna sandwich on an "everything" bagel. Piled high with tuna, lettuce and tomato, a bag of chips and pickle, it was a wonderful treat for my usually dull lunch!! I really appreciated the white tuna fish.

Jones'n Bagels is a quiet little hub of breakfast and lunch activity. Plenty of seating, helpful attendants, an easy menu and good food. You can pick-up and take-out, or sit down over your hot cup of coffee or two. Take home their "shmears," or bagels, or baked goods... you won't break the bank. And they have some vegan options for those who prefer.

Check it out. Parking is easy and if you're an early bird, *Jones'n Bagels* could be your new breakfast stop. Just tell them you heard about them here, between the pages of the *Uptight Suburbanite*.

If you're like me, you've probably been bombarded with promotional postcards from *Wonder*, the hub of notable chefs and their menus. Restaurants represented are national, some regional. If you're a fan of the *Food Channel* and maybe *Bon Appetit* you will most likely have heard of some of these places....

I wanted to see what all the commotion was so I visited the location in Jenkintown at the Fairway. All locations are laid out the same. Convenience is what you're looking for and there are many locations conveniently locat-

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 8

ed in our reading area. You can check out the *Wonder* in Yardley and you'll find the same food options, layout and service.

First off, the pricing seems pretty fair. Remembering you're taking this food home, I think prices in general were not unexpected. Chef extraordinaire, Bobby Flay, has his steaks available and I thought the prices were not, again, unexpected. In his restaurant, prices for the same meal might be more. By the way, you can eat onsite. There are tables and chairs. It's a VERY simple arrangement. There were a few people eating onsite in Jenkintown, but, primarily, people were arriving to take home their meals.

Everything is ordered on computer or phone. If you're not a techie person, like me, you can ask for help. I did, and someone assisted me. I know there are a few other franchises that have turned to "screens" for ordering, but I'm still of the old school, or should I say the "older" school and don't find this a friendly dining option.

Anyway, after scrolling through the myriad of restaurant offerings you key in your selection, place your order and wait to get a "ping" on your phone indicating you can pick up your order at the front desk. My waiting time was about 15 or twenty minutes. Some people order ahead, some on-the-spot. But there's definitely a waiting period.

The back end of *Wonder* is a huge kitchen-like setup. Filled with microwaves and whatever kind of appliances are needed to heat the food. When you take a peek (as I did!) of the cooking-end of this operation, you can see almost cubicle-like layouts. I imagine these reflect the different restaurants. (i.e. There's an area specifically for Bobby Flay meals.) It's pretty neat.

I'm familiar with Chef Marcus Samuelsson so I ordered from his restaurant, *Street Bird*. His French Fries were among the most popular things ordered at *Wonder* as were his chicken fingers. I'm a lover of fries, and I will say his fries made the grade, mildly spicy. The chicken fingers were hefty, and when dipped in his proprietary sauce, yum. Another restaurant, *SriPraPhai*, was selling Pad Thai with tofu. As that's one of my favorites, I thought I would order this dish for comparison. And yes, it was good and compared well to the pad thai that I usually get. P.S. The portions of everything I ordered were very respectable... all could be shared.

Continued on page 10

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My experience at *Wonder* sort of reminded me of a modernized *Horn & Hardart*...except you couldn't see what you were ordering until your order was delivered to you. And I didn't feel the "fun" one felt with *Horn & Hardart*.

Wonder has a specific audience. I spoke with a woman who had been to the *Wonder* on Cottman Avenue who requires help with her ordering. She doesn't like to use the computer screen. (LOL!!) She's happy with the food and the service, and finds *Wonder* to be affordable and her go-to place for food. I found her interesting!

So, yes, I'm a bit ambivalent. The food was good. But the experience is not one that I prefer. I'm thinking I like entering a restaurant, sitting at a table, speaking to a server and then thanking that same server for their service. I said I'm from the "older" school... but maybe you're not. If you're in the neighborhood, check out *Wonder*. You might be able to "visit" a favorite chef on your home turf. It's a possibility worth considering with *Wonder*.

Outside *Wonder*, next door, I saw a promotional sign for *Crumbl Cookies*: Dubai Chocolate Brownie. If you're paying attention to what I would say is "pop culture," you would know Dubai Chocolate is the hottest thing around. I saw this as the perfect opportunity for me to check out the chocolate AND *Crumbl Cookies*. YUM!!

Again, another interesting concept where they're selling cookies but only a select few at a time. The display case was meager, indicating the finite selection of cookies available. I get the feeling people call in advance to place their order. Didn't seem like cookies are baked en masse.

The Dubai Chocolate Brownie was large, as are most of the cookies sold. It's my opinion, *Crumbl* can be compared or described as an elite baker; the cookies are baked almost on demand, as requested or ordered. They are delivered in a pretty pink box...even a single cookie. No bags! That's called MARKETING. The cookie/brownie was disappointing at first bite. However, the next day after I put it in the refrigerator it was much better. And even better it was after I froze it, defrosted it a bit and tasted it. Very dense, the chocolate was crunchy and the peanut butter filling creamy and the brownie, well, it was a brownie.

Continued on page 11



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Continued from page 10

I remember they had some kind of chocolate chip cookie that I should have tried. But I was caught up in the "Dubai Chocolate" conversation... If you're looking to impress company or loved ones with a different kind of cookie, you might turn to *Crumbl*. Their menu is pretty unique everyday. Just plan ahead by placing your order before you get there. You want to make sure your cookie of choice is ready and available.

So, that's it for this month. This "older consumer" is turning her attention to two established restaurants in our reading area next month. I'm looking forward to checking out something that's "in my box." LOL!! See you then.... ✦

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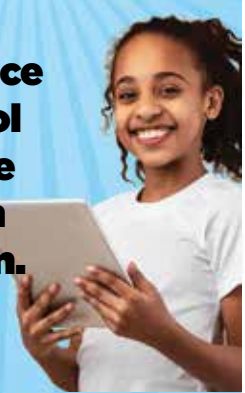
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22 Walking the Dog Day	23 National Tootsie Roll Day	24 National Tortilla Chip Day	25 National Clam Chowder Day	26 National Chili Day	27 Polar Bear Day	28 Open that Bottle Night

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Family Reunion

Here is a strange type of family reunion. The Brown family has decided that instead of reuniting as many members of the family as possible, they would try to represent as many family relations with as few people as they could. Therefore, when the time for the reunion comes around, few of them are present but there are nonetheless a father, a mother, a son, a daughter, a brother, a sister, a nephew, a niece, an aunt, an uncle, and a cousin of either sex.

All of them have a common ancestor, and there are no marriages where spouses are related. The number of people present is the exact minimum needed in order to represent those relations.

How many of them are there?

Answer: 4...One man and his sister. One of them has a son and one of them has a daughter. It doesn't matter which has which.

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The Bone Doctor

If you are a dedicated reader of *The Uptight Suburbanite*, you'll know owner Linda recently required hip surgery. Well, I also needed orthopedic surgery.

There is just one conclusion to be drawn here. Someone is trying to take down the staff of *The Uptight Suburbanite*. Obviously.



I don't know why, and it seems unnecessarily elaborate to eliminate us through our bones. But one time on *All My Children*, Erica Kane's husband paid a guy to kidnap him so he could double-cross him out of the ransom money. I feel like getting a job would have been so much easier. But he double-crossed that kidnapper he hired, which prompted the kidnapper to kidnap Erica Kane's daughter for revenge.

Continued on page 19

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Continued from page 18

When Erica Kane found out, she divorced that husband. And married his brother. So let that be a lesson to you, *Uptight Suburbanite* bone killer. Actually, I was done in by an unruly beagle and a well-placed stick. The duo conspired to induce an epic fall. I landed on my left wrist, fracturing one of the bones in my forearm.

This is my second fall in two years. It's taken me on a bit of a reckoning. "Have you fallen in the last five years?" queried the little iPad at my doctor's office. When I reluctantly indicated I had, twice, my answer was highlighted in a blinking red light. "I can explain!" I told my doctor. But when that doctor is an orthopedist, and he is your orthopedist, and you both realize you have an orthopedist because your bones have not been your friend of late, well. No one is interested in your explanation.

What they're interested in is your bone density, your calcium intake, and your equilibrium. You know, no one questioned Erica Kane when she divorced yet another husband. I mean, at all. The first time I fell, I was in a parking lot crisscrossed by school buses shuttling attendees to the fairgrounds of a World War II event. I fell into one of the bus lanes.

Despite the sharp pains in my hands and knees and the nausea roiling my belly from said pain, I checked for an oncoming bus faster than Erica Kane says "I do." Assured of both the lack of buses and fractures, I stood and did the only thing I could think of. I drove to *Starbucks*. One of my bizarre, useless talents is knowing where to find a *Starbucks*. I can divine them as surely as Erica Kane can divine temporary spouses.

At *Starbucks*, I ducked into the bathroom to peel my torn jeans away from my bleeding knees. And wished I hadn't. My most recent fall also tore the knees of my jeans. I was grateful for two recent sentiments I shared with you. One, that I wasn't wearing my '90s jeans, and two, that I wasn't wearing shorts. This second fall did not bring thoughts of *Starbucks*. Rather, it brought thoughts of my dog. I managed to hold his leash throughout my fall. Impressive, I know.

Continued on page 21



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Continued from page 19

As I assessed the damage, I was concerned with just two things: The obviously broken arm, and my dog. OK, OK. I was only thinking of my dog. I mean, sure. I was in this predicament because of him.

But he's handsome, so that's OK. We were far from home but next to my car. I loaded him in, then hopped in myself. No. Not really. I climbed in as gingerly as Erica Kane approaches being a singleton. I drove my dog home, then held his leash as he did his business.

Then I texted my husband to let our dog out when he got home. No. I did not tell him I'd broken my arm. This was, remember, my second fall in two years. I wanted him to actually come home. Let our dog out. And not give me the Erica treatment. ✦

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IT'S ALL ABOUT SANDWICHES

Which sandwich does not contain ham?

a. Croque Monsieur
b. Cuban
c. Gerber
d. Reuben

Answer: Reubens are made with corned beef. All others are made with ham.

.....

Can you match each place to its name for a sandwich?

1. New Jersey	A. Hoagie
2. Philadelphia	B. Sub
3. New York City	C. Grinder
4. New England	D. Hero
5. Connecticut	E. Wedge

Answer: New Jersey Sub • Philadelphia Hoagie • New York City Hero • New England Grinder • Connecticut Wedge

.....

Can you match each state with its signature sandwich?

1. Louisiana	A. Cuban
2. Pennsylvania	B. Lobster Roll
3. Maine	C. Cheesesteak
4. Massachusetts	D. Chopped Cheese
5. New York	E. Fluffernutter
6. Florida	F. Po'boy

Answer: Louisiana Po'boy, Pennsylvania Cheesesteak, Maine Lobster Roll, Massachusetts Fluffernutter, New York Chopped Cheese, Florida Cuban

.....

Which of these chains was the first to offer a breakfast sandwich?

A. Starbucks B. McDonald's
C. Jack in the Box D. Carl's Jr.

Answer: McDonald's launched the Egg McMuffin in 1976, a decade earlier than most competitors.

.....

The submarine sandwich got its name because it was invented by a member of the US Navy. True or False.

Answer: The Submarine earned its name because of the bread's resemblance to a submarine. The term was first used by a Delaware restaurant.

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.....

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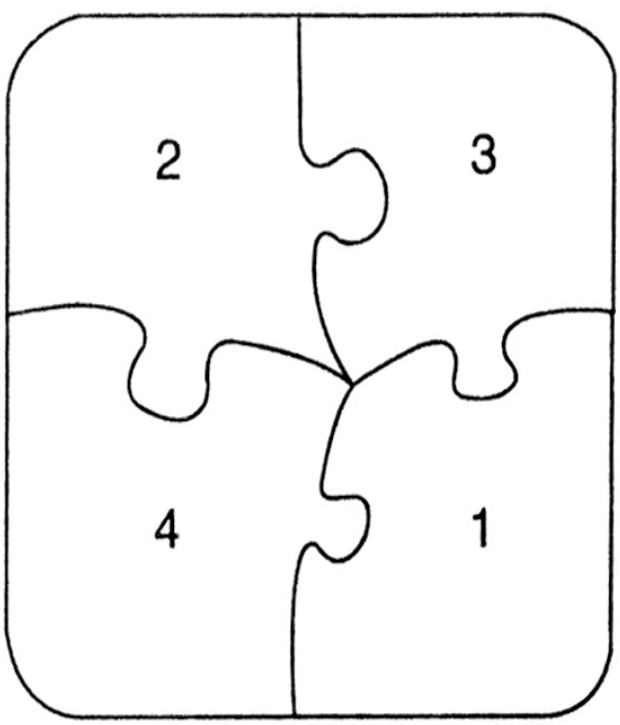
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A visit to Graystones is to be reminded of William Penn's foresight.

A few years ago, I mentioned to family friend Wynne Wert of Levittown that the deed to her home traces back to a giant, upthrust boulder in Morrisville. Same for my house. In fact, the deed to every piece of Langhorne, Hulmeville and Penndel goes back to *Graystones*. Every townhouse in Middletown and Lower Makefield too. Plus, colonial homes in Yardley, new mansions in Upper Makefield, farms in Wrightstown, businesses in Newtown and the Oxford Valley Mall and satellite shopping centers.



(Lavo pix)

Wynne Wert of Levittown makes her way to the top of Graystones.

Wynne was intrigued so I suggested a mini adventure: Drive out to *Graystones*, climb it, imagine how the First Deed was consummated there in 1682. Cool! Off we went.

First stop was William Penn's mansion on the Delaware River in Falls five miles below Graystones. There we examined

Continued on page 25

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Continued from page 24

historical records including a copy of the first indenture. We also learned Penn created a footpath to *Graystones*. The founder loved a good stroll.

The gray bedrock speckled with silver mica is located at the intersection of Crown Street and Highland Avenue, a prime Morrisville locale of stately homes around a brownstone monument fronting the jagged singularity. The Bucks County Historical Society established the marker in 1929 to recognize Penn's first land purchase from Native Americans. *Graystones* overlooks a forested slope dropping precipitously 200 feet to River Road (Route 32) and Delaware River rapids. You must go back in time to understand what happened there in 1682.

Penn had secured title to Pennsylvania from England's King Charles II. The new colony embraced a massive territory of unbroken woodlands between New York and Maryland. Penn faced a formidable administrative task of creating harmony between Indians and soon-to-be immigrants from Europe. His aim was to codify peaceful co-existence between both sides. He added, "Be tender of offending the Indians...To soften them to me and the people, let them know you are come to sit down lovingly among them...Be grave, they like not to be smiled on."

Before sailing from London, Penn sent ahead his first cousin to get things started. William Markham, 47-year-old captain in the British Army, was designated acting governor until Penn's arrival the following year. On Aug. 3, 1681 Markham landed in the only town in the colony, Upland (today's city of Chester). One of his first tasks was to find a place on the river estuary to build the Penn family mansion, which he did in Falls. His orders also included buying from the indigenous Lenni Lenape tribe an 83,000-acre tract of land that would include Penn's home and 8,000-acre Pennsbury Manor. The rest would be sold to speculators, subdivided and sold off to immigrants. Markham and his uniformed aides met with tribal chiefs at *Graystones* to consummate the colony's first surveyed land purchase.

The resulting deed defined the boundary beginning at *Graystones* and proceeding upriver 9 miles to Knowles Creek (today's Jericho Creek). The confluence is just above where George Washington made his famous crossing of the Delaware in 1776. Markham's surveyors followed Knowles Creek west to Neshaminy Creek in Wrightstown, then down the Neshaminy to the Delaware. The line turned north following the river past Penns's manor back to the starting point at *Graystones*. The purchase enclosed 130 square miles to be called Buckingham Shire (later Bucks

Continued on page 26

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County). The deed defines where 180,000 citizens live in Upper and Lower Makefield, Wrightstown, Newtown Township and Borough, Langhorne, Langhorne Manor, Penndel, Hulmville, Middletown, Bristol Township and Borough, Tullytown, Morrisville and Falls.

The document guaranteed rights to Lenape Indians to live and move about freely, grow crops and hunt in the shire. Penn arranged payment: a liberal amount of cash, trading beads and merchandise believed to have included hairy wool coats, petticoats, knives, farming implements, hunting rifles, axe blades, fishhooks, pipes, tobacco tongs, combs, scissors, red paint, needles, gun powder and rum.

It took centuries before people realized the historical significance of *Graystones*. Yet nothing secured



(Lavo pix)
Marker established by the Bucks County Historical Society in 1926 notes the historic nature of the site.

preservation of the stone and its 6-acre cold growth forest. In the 1990s, a builder proposed turning the entire site into a condominium complex. Staff writer Patricia Wandling of the Bucks County Courier Times newspaper uncovered the plan and wrote about it. That propelled community action to obtain permanent protection for Graystones and its forest.

These days, it's a joy for my grandchildren and friends like Wynne to visit *Graystones*. Wynne is impressed by the pristine setting where local residents, as she put it, "must be aware, watchful and protective about the rock of ages in their backyard. There is something about the site that demands respect and awe." Reading the tableau on the monument and climbing the metamorphic rock is to contemplate the very beginning of our beautiful state. ✦

Sources include the Pennsbury Manor museum, 400 Pennsbury Memorial Road, Falls township, and "Graystones: The Treaty of Pennsylvania" at https://buckscountyintime.wordpress.com/2012/03/26/ Carl

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July 15 - The Second Continental Congress creates the Continental Army and names George Washington its commander.

1776

January 10 - Colonial debate continues on seeking independence. Thomas Paine, a newly arrived English immigrant to Philadelphia, publishes a pamphlet called Common Sense, which makes the strong case for independence and sways the debate in its favor.

March 17 - Surrounded by American forces, the British army evacuates Boston and withdraws by ship to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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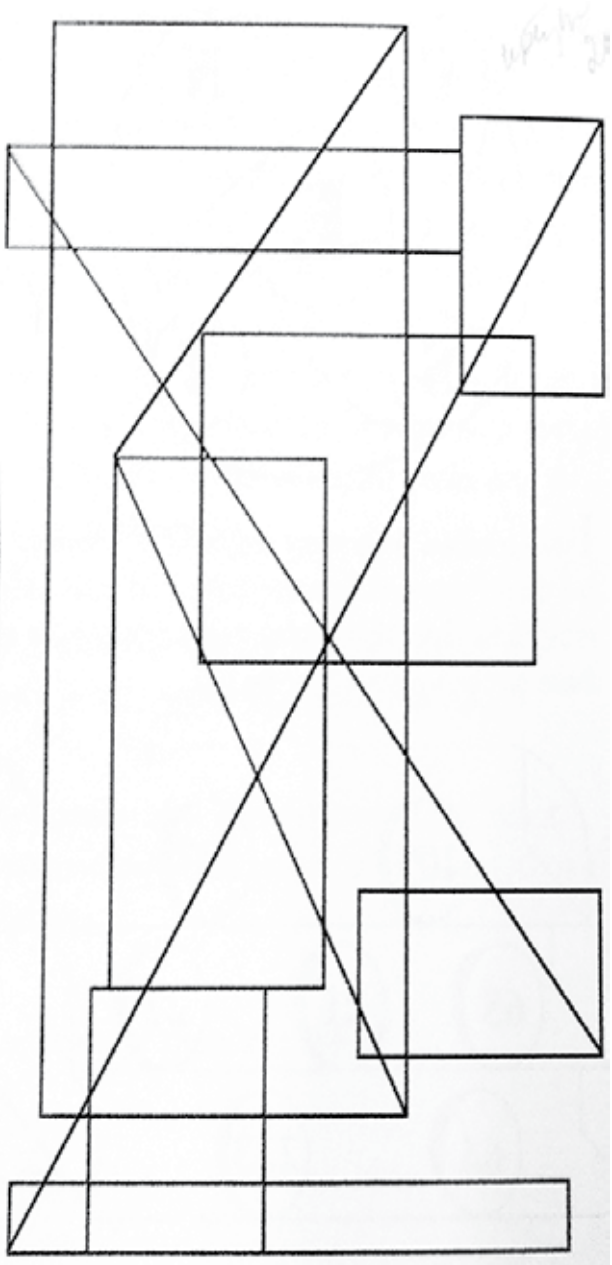
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ODB ONE DAY BATH Inc.

THE TUBCUT®

Your Walk In Shower Experts

BRINGING AFFORDABILITY TO ACCESSIBILITY

Walk In Shower Options









Do you Need Grab bars? Non skid surfaces?
Yes we do that! We install traditional & Modern Safety Grab bars for the Bathroom and other areas of your home, as well as ADA seat height Toilets. We have solutions for all your fall prevention safety needs around the home.

FREE EVALUATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS
Reduces the risk and falls around the home!

TubcuT (R) Options



TubCut with the Shower Door



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