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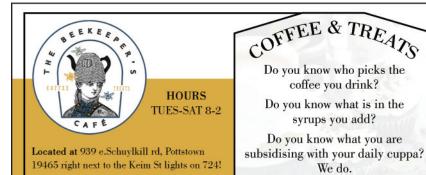


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## The Beekeeper's Cafe

Located on 724 in the historic village of Kenilworth, The Beekeeper's Cafe is a coffee shop that features freshly baked treats, local honey, and-most importantly-farm direct coffee that is roasted fresh weekly.

Once this coffee is picked, processed, imported, roasted and delivered to the cafe, it is paired with a variety of gluten free and vegan syrups and sauces made in house to complement its natural flavor profile. Using no artificial ingredients and making these ingredients weekly ensures all patrons leave feeling well and nourished.

While customers await their specialty beverages being made, there is a selection of local artisanal goods to peruse, fresh treats baked by local bakers to munch & games to play with companions.

Many have little awareness when it comes to the ethos of the coffee industry on the farm level being, shall we say subpar in general. Thanks to greenwashing and various propaganda most people believe "fair trade" on the label means that everyone involved is being paid fairly, the environment surrounding them is singing and the black box they are paying into is subsidizing good things.

Unfortunately, much like many other labels, "fair trade" is a label that businesses can buy into if they meet very rudimentary requirements. The

Beekeeper's Cafe holds the belief that fair trade should be the foundation, not the standard. Beyond farm-direct with those that grow the coffee they use in all their beverages help to ensure that that ethos is matched right down the line. In San Lazaro, Honduras, there is a farm that is owned and operated by Mission Lazarus. This farm invests in their employees, paying the women who work there salaries equivalent to 25 percent above the fair trade stipulations, providing them a chance to continue their education, and fostering a dignified work environment.

This is a farm frequently visited by Roasted Pearl, the small batch roaster who roasts weekly for the cafe. Most recently Pearl was accompanied by the owner of Beekeeper's, where they built latrines — three of which were funded by the beautiful community surrounding the cafe after months of fundraising — for local villagers with a group of likeminded missionaries.

If there is one thing to take away from a trip to Beekeeper's, it is that every small decision has a ripple effect, whether one sees it or not; every purchase is a vote for the type of world one wants to live in. Vote well.

The Beekeeper's Café is located at 939 E. Schuylkill Road, Pottstown 19465 next to the Keim Street traffic light on Route 724.

## 40th year

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