

# Kitchen togetherness keeps family smiling

By Richard Lech  
staff writer

The Patsalis family has found that running a cooking shop called Kitchen Glamor does indeed have its share of "kitchen glamour."

On one occasion, for instance, the Patsalises got to take home "leftovers" from a meal whipped up in their Redford store by famed chef Julia Child.

Another noted cooking authority, James Beard, selected Kitchen Glamor's unusual copper cookware, manufactured in an ancient French factory, for his "Cook's Catalogue."

A national cooking publication, *Entree Magazine*, recently published a feature story on the store.

A devotion to quality has earned Kitchen Glamor this sort of national attention, according to the Patsalises. Chris and Toula and daughter Julie Ann are West Bloomfield residents while son Harry lives in Novi.

"People want quality — even if they have to pay more for it," Chris Patsalis said.

KITCHEN GLAMOR has its main store in Redford and branches in Farmington, Rochester and Troy. The company offers cooking classes, ranging from beginning cake decorating to gourmet hors d'oeuvres, cooking utensils from the latest gadget to time-honored utensils, cookbooks — even cooking videotapes.

The Patsalises all are involved in the stores' operation. Chris handles the stores' finances. Harry left a career in metallurgy to help with the business, while Toula and Julie Ann take care of the cooking classes, promotional work and advertising. Toula also does food styling on the side for such firms as Libby Glass.

Too many cooks may spoil the broth, but the Patsalises have found that working together as a family is a sure recipe for success.

"We're not only family members, but also best friends," Julie Ann Patsalis



said. "It makes it that much more special. If we don't see each other during the day, we call each other."

"There's a real camaraderie," Toula Patsalis said. "I've been proud to watch them (her children) develop in a business sense."

FOUNDED IN 1949 in Detroit by Sidney and Gilda Krause, Kitchen Glamor is the "oldest" cookshop in the U.S., according to Toula Patsalis. Chris Patsalis joined the firm in 1967, after his graduation from the American Institute of Baking and Technology in Chicago.

The Krauses had established the business as strictly a cake-decorating company, but, as manager, Chris Patsalis started to move the firm into the gourmet field, he said.

The Patsalises bought out the Krauses in 1975 and started an expansion program. They added the Rochester store in 1978, the Troy store at Somerset Mall in 1980, and the Farmington store in 1981.

One of the first things someone entering the Redford store might notice is a gigantic library of cookbooks. The store stocks more than 1,000 titles, including such specialties as Vietnamese cooking, meals for persons with special diets, such as diabetics, and cookbooks for professional chefs.

New to the store are several cooking videotapes available for sale or rent. The tapes feature French chef Madeleine Kamman and Judith Olney, who demonstrates various recipes for chocolate.

"It's a new market, and a fun way to learn how to cook," Toula Patsalis said. "You can learn to cook in your kitchen or living room, depending on where your VCR is. And you can stop and go back if you miss something. You can't always do that in a cooking class."

BUT THE STORE still specializes in real, live cooking lessons, too. The classes have covered such subjects as bread making, microwave cooking, gingerbread house making and apple recipes. In Kitchen Glamor's chef se-

ries, local chefs have taught professional classes there.

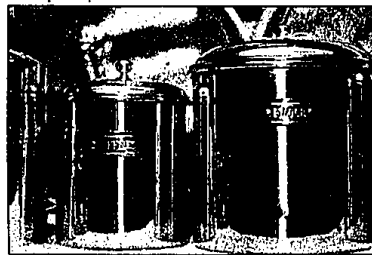
This fall, noted French chef Jacques Pepin will teach at the store. Pepin was the personal chef to three French presidents, including Charles de Gaulle.

A very special treat for the Patsalises was a 1975 visit from television chef Julia Child, who appeared at the store to give a cooking lesson and autograph copies of her cookbooks.

"She was so utterly shocked," Toula Patsalis recalled. "But she has a lot of humor and is a big sport and a very neat person. She handled the situation in the nicest way."

That night, at home, the Patsalises feasted on Child's paella, a South American dish made of rice, chicken and shrimp seasoned with saffron.

THE STORE has a section devoted



Operating four Kitchen Glamor cooking shops is a family affair for Chris and Toula Patsalis, son Harry (left) and daughter Julie Ann. Kitchen Glamor's copperware, manufactured in France, won the praise of James Beard.

world of cooking, the Patsalises regularly attend trade shows and travel to Europe every few years. They import such items as cookware, bakeware, knives, crepe pans and tart tins from Germany, France, Italy, Sweden and the Orient.

THEIR PRIZE import is the French copper cookware that so impressed James Beard. The cookware is made completely out of copper — even the rivets — with tin lining.

"Copper is incomparable as far as heat conduction, which is why most professional chefs prefer it," Chris Patsalis said.

The cookware is produced in a tiny factory that Patsalis discovered in France. The utensils are made by hand in a dirt-floor building that dates back to 1300. As for the exact location of this little gem of a plant, Patsalis' lips are sealed, for professional reasons.

Among the new products Kitchen Glamor is testing this year are hamburger makers, silverstone-coated, non-stick broiling pans, and dumpling makers that can make six dumplings at a time.

This fall, the store will start offering computer programs for the high-tech cook. The program will give cooks such benefits as adapting a recipe that serves eight to four servings or less.

"It breaks down what you need of each ingredient, you take the printout to the store, and get exactly what you need," Harry Patsalis said.

From a pre-Industrial Revolution factory in France to the latest American computer know-how, Kitchen Glamor has found that getting the cream of the cooking world means taking the best of both old and new.

## medical briefs/helpline

### EXAMS AVAILABLE

Families with children and young people are invited to take advantage of St. Mary Hospital Family Medical Center's special discounted rates during the month of July for physicals which may be needed for camp, sports or school. The special rates also apply to immunization and completion of health forms. The health center is located at 10335 Merriam Road, one block north of Seven Mile Road in Livonia. For an appointment, call 474-2910 after 8 a.m. Monday through Friday.

### HEALTH TESTS, INFORMATION

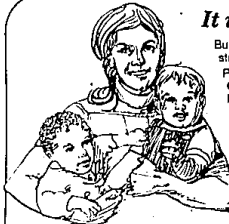
Annapolis Hospital will provide free health tests for persons 60 and older on July 31 at the Senior Citizen and Community Center, 12121 Remington, Redford Township. This free service will include cancer tests and health information on many subjects. For an appointment, call 467-4638.

### LAWAGE CLASSES

The Lamaze Childbirth Education Association of Livonia is offering several series of classes this summer. The list follows: Holy Cross Lutheran

Church 30550 Six Mile, Livonia, on Saturdays, July 13-Aug. 17 and on Thursdays, July 25-Aug. 29; Faith Lutheran Church, 30900 Five Mile Road, Livonia, on Wednesdays, Aug. 7-Sept. 11; Church of the Savior, 38100 Five Mile Road, Livonia, on Saturdays, Aug. 17-Sept. 28.

Weekday classes are from 7-9:30 p.m.; Saturday classes, 9-11:30 a.m. Classes should be started two to three months before the baby's due date. For information or to register, call 592-2818. Fee is \$38 per couple.



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You might enjoy a visit to a Christian Science Reading Room where you can study the Bible and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy.

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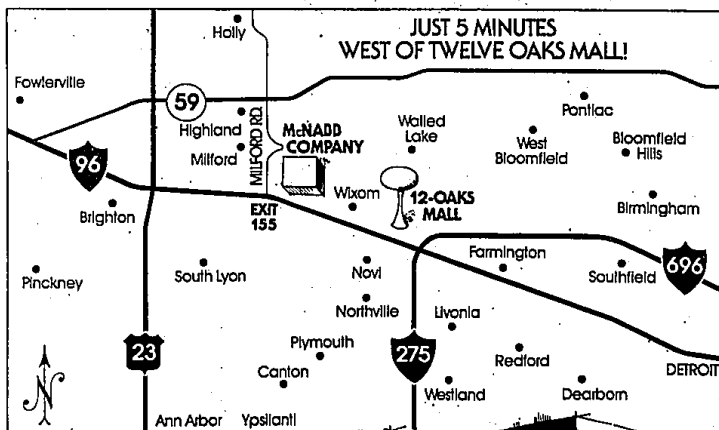
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