

Sanders from page 1B

Inspiration struck when she attended a wedding at which Sacher Torte, glazed in her beloved bittersweet chocolate, were served as part of the dessert buffet. "To me it seemed like there were 10 of them, although it could have been only three or four. I just knew I was going to make a pie version of Sacher Torte," she said. She did, and her "Sacher Torte Pie" took first prize in a baking competition.

Mellen serves her dessert — made with Sanders Bittersweet Fudge Topping, of course — only on special occasions or when someone begs her to bring it to a party. When asked about people's reaction to her special pie, Mellen said, "You don't ever bring this kind of pie to a party — unless they're all diabetics — and expect to have anything left!"

Wonderful pies seem to result when Sanders ice creams and toppings get together in a creative crust. Linda Talbert, a Beverly

Hills resident who is on the faculty at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, has produced some great "love at first bite" ice cream pies using Sanders toppings. When asked if she would consider using a substitute, she said, "not in our family!"

About once a month Talbert "sneaks into" the Sanders on Telegraph and Maple for two scoops of chocolate ice cream with a double dose of bittersweet chocolate topping. "No whipped cream, no cherry, no nuts. Nothing to adulterate the pure pleasure," she said.

For Barbara McKee of Livonia, the word pleasure begins with an "H," like in hot fudge cream puff. "I like the three distinct textures, the creamy smooth ice cream, the roughness of the cream puff, and how can I describe the hot fudge? Heavenly sounds good."

McKee, a full-time clerical worker for an automotive technology firm in Dearborn, likes her des-

serts simple, especially if she has to prepare them. Her Bittersweet Raspberry Ribbon Cake fits the bill. "It's easy to prepare and can be done ahead of time. I think a lot of people can appreciate that."

McKee said her family used to ship Sanders hot fudge to her grandfather in California. "It was the one thing he missed when he moved," she said. "When he came for a visit we'd have to go to Sanders for a hot fudge sundae."

Sanders has brought pleasure and a few extra pounds to millions since it opened its doors in 1975. Most of us know the story of the ice cream soda — how the cream spoiled one hot day in 1876 and Fred substituted ice cream in the popular soda drink. Later, the Sanders folk started Sweetest Day, and their candies have been popular ever since.

For the past few weeks, Sanders' shelves have been dotted with Valentine hearts of all sizes and filled

with some of the best chocolates in town. But long after the last heart has been sold, people keep coming in.

"It's like a little family here," said Karen Polkey, manager of the Sanders store at Six Mile and Newburgh in Livonia. "The grandmothers bring their children and then the grandchildren start bringing their children."

When asked what is Sanders best-selling item, Polkey, who has worked for the company for 32 years, didn't hesitate a minute. "The cream puff is first," she said.

Ahh, I know about a million other suburban sweet toothies who will agree. But whether our sweet tooth aches for a cream puff, a slice of Bumpy Cake, or a ladle full of bittersweet topping on a scoop of chocolate ice cream, we know where to satisfy that ache — Sanders.

Wine from page 1B

Then, adventurous winemakers and producers came along looking for less expensive vineyard land where they planted premium wine varieties. They also encouraged their neighbors to plant premium wine varieties and taught them how to be good grape growers.

New technology, exported principally from California, allows the grower to make better wine. "Today, there's an abundance of quality grape juice in the market," Master said. With the help of a broker, Master locates, samples and buys wines, blends them to his own taste, and sells them in the United States. He is a negotiator. This is what makes Les Jamelles wines different than the wine from a single cooperative. Master has at least 20 different sources for blending which allows him to produce wines with character — something that is frequently lost in the larger cooperatives.

"The art of blending is like the art of cooking," Master explains. "The trick is to balance the different components and flavors to make a wine which entices and excites the palate. That is precisely our aim with the Les Jamelles varieties."

Master is able to sell his wines at affordable prices for three important reasons — there's a sea of wine in France, the U.S. tax on imported wine is low, and he does

not spend money on expensive barrels. The wines of Les Jamelles are meant to taste like fruit, not wood.

"In today's wine market," Master admits, "it is essential to have a quality product, which comes in an attractive package and is offered at a truly competitive price."

The wines of Les Jamelles are made from six varieties and are priced at \$7.50 unless noted otherwise. Reds include merlot, syrah and mourvedre while the whites are vignerot, chardonnay and muscadine. Les Jamelles Merlot is a satisfying wine with coffee and cherry aromas and flavors. Les Jamelles Syrah is spicy with hints of black pepper. It is a solid wine with a generous finish. Les Jamelles Mourvedre is a Rhone varietal that has gained popularity in southern France as well as California. It is soft and supple with a big fruit impression. Les Jamelles Vignerot, a white Rhone varietal (\$13.50) is worth the extra money. Its floral aromas are reminiscent of gardenias and Asian spice with flavors of fresh pears.

Les Jamelles Chardonnay is all fruit, unadorned by oak. It has an attractive, fresh fruit aroma with good flavors and a crisp finish.

To leave a message on the Head's voice mail — dial (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1854. Be sure to include your name and hometown.

Order your paczki early

Don't waste time standing in line on Paczki Day, Tuesday, Feb. 15! Order your paczki early.

For a list of bakeries in your hometown, call 1-800-967-6904 from a Touch-Tone phone, request item number, 1216 to receive the list by fax. Have your

Mastercard or Visa ready for the \$2.95 charge.

To receive a copy by mail, send check for \$2.95 to Keely Wygonik, Taste/Entertainment editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., Livonia, MI 48150. For more information, call (313) 953-2105.

COOKING CALENDAR

To get your classes or events listed in this column, send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Taste Editor, the Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150. Or fax to 591-7279.

LOW-FAT CAKES

Mary Denning, owner of Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe in Westland, demonstrates cake decorating and recipe substitutions for lowering fat and sugar as part of a heart-healthy diet, 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8 at St. Mary's Hospital, 36476 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Cost \$8, call 591-2983, extension 2 to register.

ELEGANT DESSERTS

Schoolcraft College in Livonia is offering Desserts For Everyone, a four-week course 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays beginning Feb. 8. Pastry Chef Carol Calder-Delner will give demonstrations of elegant, yet simple desserts that can be made at home. The fee is \$100, call 462-4448 to register.

GROCERY TOUR

Garden City Hospital and Kroger are sponsoring heart healthy tours of the grocery aisle conducted by a registered dietitian, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 17. Tours will be 1½ hours long at the Kroger at 5866 Middlebelt Road, Garden City.

Kroger will be providing food samples for you to enjoy as you tour. The cost is \$5 per person. Call Garden City Hospital, Development and Community Services, (313) 458-4330 to register.

LES SAISONS

Winter Soups and Stews, featuring Master Chef Jeff Gabriel of Schoolcraft College, 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9. Les Saisons is on the corner of Fourth Street and Washington, downtown Royal Oak. Class \$25 per person or three classes for \$65. Recipes and textbooks included. Call (810) 845-3400 to make a reservation.

WEIGHT WATCHERS

Free cooking demonstration, 10

a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, Weight Watchers, Troy Commons, 816 E. Big Beaver, noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, Westland Meijer's, 37201 Warren Road.

LENORE'S NATURAL CUISINE

Healthy Cooking Classes in Farmington Hills. Soups 6-9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7, beginning cooking, 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9. Call 478-4455 to register, and learn about other upcoming classes.

KITCHEN GLAMOR

Nancy Jenkins, professional cooking instructor, takes you step by step into the wonderful world of Culinar products at Kitchen Glamor stores, Feb. 8 through Feb. 11. Call (313) 637-1300.

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