

MARKET BASKET

OFF THE SHELF
By Ronée Enns

Cookies for everybody



Batter up!

We love the retro appeal and 250-watt power of Sunbeam Heritage Series 5-speed hand mixer with power burst. A Rise System lets it stand upright and a storage case holds the beaters. Two downsides: The beater release is connected to the "on" switch, so play it safe, we would unplug it before removing the beaters. And the slowest setting wasn't slow enough for one reason: That said, the price is great. A chrome finish is \$25 at Target.com; orange.com also sells red and white models.



Can't or won't?

If dietary restrictions—or an aversion to baking—keep you from making the holiday cookies in this week's section, here are two solutions. Bob's Red Mill Gluten-Free Chocolate Chip Cookie Mix yields 24 wheat- and dairy-free cookies; a 25-ounce bag is \$8.79-\$9.70 at Whole Foods, Wild Oats, Jewel and Freshful Yield. For oatmeal-biscuit-made treats, The Bake Shop cookies fill the bill. A box of 12 chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin or white chocolate-macadamia nut cookies is \$8-\$9 at Olivia's Market, Southport Grocery and Fox & Obed in Chicago. Ask it in a Baked in Park Ridge and Cookies in Highland Park (chocolate chip only); by mail, visit bobsmix.com or 800-383-9830.



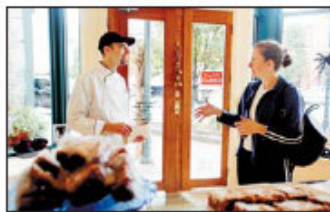
Tablet photos by Bob Fila and Chris Walker

Sweet sculptures

This eight-piece Holiday Cookie Cutters kit creates a winter scene with snowman, fir trees, reindeer and sleigh. A recipe for gingerbread cookies and "building" tips are included. It costs \$24 at Williams-Sonoma stores and by mail (williams-sonoma.com or 877-812-8235).



MARKETPLACE



Photos by the Tribune by Joel Moskowitz
Mark Seaman, owner of Marked for Dessert, The Neighborhood Bakeshop in Libertyville, chats with customer Jill Lee.

Tradition and innovation make a sweet combination

Marked for Dessert, The Neighborhood Bakeshop
216 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville
647-367-9800
markedfordessert.com

By Christina Biggs
Special to the Tribune

With the charming feel of an old-fashioned bakery, Marked for Dessert, The Neighborhood Bakeshop in Libertyville puts a twist on traditional goodies.

Since 2001, owner Mark Seaman has operated Marked for Dessert in Chicago, a by-appointment-only business that specializes in custom-designed cakes. This second retail shop will allow him to expand his repertoire, using his baker grandfather's recipes as a foundation for items such as white chocolate-pumpkin cheesecake (\$4-\$6.50 per slice), chocolate pecan cheesecake (\$5), dark chocolate with sugared pecans, \$24 per pound) and pear-naple pie (\$16/\$3.25 per slice).

"In the seasons," The items will change periodically based on what's fresh as well as seasonal themes," Seaman said. For the December holidays, the bakery is selling a chocolate tart with candied cranberries (6-inch round, \$24; other sizes available). At least six kinds of cookies (\$1 each) as well as cupcakes (\$2.50 each) are always available.

But Seaman's focus is, after all, customized cakes: "People ask what we can do and I tell them we can do anything, since we specialize in custom designs," Seaman said. (A week's notice is recommended.)

What's appealing to the store samples, like banana cake with chocolate bundt-cake frosting or chocolate almond cake with white chocolate ganache, are displayed on Seaman's own eclectic collection of silver, porcelain, painted, multicolored and glass cake stands. Also on display are his sumptuously realistic gum paste and pulled sugar flowers and decorations. These special-order creations, everything from trees to cake lilies, are designed for the custom cakes sold at the bakery.

Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tues.-Fri.; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat.

CALENDAR

Holiday gears Chris Nugent, executive chef of Les Normades, teaches a class of holiday favorites at Chicago's Green City Winter Market. *Nov. 13, 10 a.m. Saturday, North Branch Nissan Museum, North Gallery, 2430 N. Canfield Dr., Schaumburg, 647-604-2466 or chicagogreencitymarket.org.*

Holiday treats Banana Bakery executive chef/co-owner Steven Chiappetti, also executive chef of Viand, demonstrates his favorite snacks. *Nov. 13, 10 p.m. Saturday, Bloomingdale Home & Furniture Store, Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook, 630-974-4377.*

A sweet Christmas fairy chef Paul Saucido and Josh Johnson lead a demonstration class on Christmas desserts, including chocolate peppermint cream buns. *540 North Sunday, Cocoa Bean Fine Desserts, 11 E. 7th St., Geneva, Reservation, 630-945-2991.*

OUR BEST BET

Visions of chocolate

Dive on dazzling chocolate delights from 25 of Chicago's chocolatiers and restaurateurs at the 8th annual World of Chocolate, sponsored by The AEC Foundation of Chicago. \$60 advance, \$75 door. 5:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Grand Ballroom, 157 E. Wacker Dr. Tickets and information, 312-922-2322 or atchicago.org.



Photo from Regency Catering by Hippo

Hot. 5:15 p.m. Sunday 5:45 p.m. Clark
Regency, 773-292-5190.

Asian flair Chef Takashi Yaguchi demonstrates four new Asian recipes. 5:30-8 p.m. Monday, Macy's Culinary Studio, 111 N. State St., 7th Floor. Registration, 800-265-2665.

Pizza with Perry Perry Pollack, co-author of "Everybody Loves Pizza," teaches a pizza class with wine pairings, followed by a book signing. 5:45-8 p.m. Monday, The Park, 8020 S. Harlem Ave., Taylor Park Restaurants, 708-352-0200. —Compiled by Elizabeth Szele

Hanukkah favorites Wooden Spoon chef Sophie Johnson teaches a hands-on class featuring traditional Jewish holiday menu favorites.

8 p.m. event items one month before publication to cto-goodwin@trib.com

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The Convention Center is located on River Rd., just South of the Kennedy (I-90) in Rosemont.

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(Between Office Max & Subway)
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