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SWEET SOMETHINGS HANDMADE DESSERT SHOPPE



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TRAVEL

Savor your personal slice of world peace on Union Street

BY PATRICIA TALORICO
THE NEWS JOURNAL
02/10/2006

Never underestimate the power of an excellent chocolate cake. Just one slice can silence chatterboxes and smooth ruffled feathers

At a recent dinner gathering, I watched how the outrageously decadent chocolate silk torte from the Sweet Somethings dessert shop in Wilmington magically lightened the mood and made everything all better.

The night was going along swimmingly until the conversation zeroed on James Frey's fabricated, *ahem*, memoir "A Million Little Pieces" and his painful January appearance on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." The discussion heated up. Voices were raised, tempers were rising and the quick-thinking hostess, correctly sensing that a time-out was needed, walked into the kitchen.

A hush fell over the room when she returned with the breathtaking torte. Who can be angry in the presence of such a creamy, dreamy chocolatey mousse confection (\$27) and its piled-high layers of shaved white chocolate?

Smiles abounded as this spectacular creation was sliced and passed around. (Could chocolate silk torte be the answer to world peace?) No one could stop at just one bite.

And that's how it's been with all the confections I've tried at the wonderful Union Street wholesale and retail



THE NEWS JOURNAL/SUCHAT PEDERSON
Sweet Somethings Handmade Dessert Shoppe | Wilmington



Caramel apple cheesecake

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dessert shop owned by husband and wife team Lee and Pamela Slaninko.

If you've ever ordered a dessert from one of the Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurants, Six Paupers Tavern & Restaurant in Hockessin or Crazy Kat's restaurant in Montchanin, you've probably had a Sweet Somethings confection.

The Slaninkos moved into their Little Italy location in 2004 after running the business from their Kennett

If You Go

1006 N. Union St.,
Wilmington; 655-7211 or
www.sweetsomethingsdesserts.com.
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Mondays; 10 to 6 p.m.
Tuesdays through Fridays;
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturdays. Closed Sundays.

à la carte

Shop early on Saturdays.
Desserts in the display case start dwindling after 2 p.m.



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Square, Pa., home for nearly eight years. The shop supplies handmade desserts to restaurants in Wilmington and Pennsylvania and allows the Slaninkos - both graduates of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. -- to offer desserts to walk-in customers.

Sweet Somethings shouldn't be confused with a bakery. You can't buy loaves of bread there. (The Slaninkos will likely send you two blocks down the street to Black Labs Breads, which has moved into the former DiFonzo's Bakery.) Specialty cakes, pies, pastries and wedding cakes are more their style.

The sweet aroma of butter and sugar inside the shop tantalizes, and you can watch the staff mixing, baking and decorating various treats. The shop's open kitchen

was Lee's idea. He says he wanted to unveil some of the mysteries of the kitchen and show what really goes on behind closed doors.

Sweet Somethings has a wide-ranging menu that includes such appealing offerings as raspberry white chocolate mousse cake (another party crowd pleaser), ginger peach pie, brownie bottom cheesecake, limoncello torte, toffee brownies, sour cream coffee cake and lemon cream tart. Assorted mousses and flavored ganaches also are available by the pound.

While I'm partial to the white chocolate banana cream pie, (\$25) an ethereal treat for sure, and the not too sweet key lime pie (\$25), Pamela says the carrot cake (\$25) and the caramel apple cheesecake (\$28) have become customer favorites. Prices range from \$2 for the mini bundt cakes to \$32 for a chocolate flourless torte. The Slaninkos, passionate bakers, are always working on new ideas and enthusiastically welcome customer suggestions.

Confections are made to order -- it's best to place an order two days in advance -- but walk-in customers are welcome to cruise the offerings in the glass display case that glisten like sugary jewels. (Just try to leave without buying anything.) The inviting desserts available are always interesting, vary daily and include whimsical mini cakes for those looking for smaller bites.

Recently, I had surprisingly light and luscious cannoli (\$2.50), filled with a wonderfully creamy blend of white chocolate and blueberries. A mini molten chocolate cake (\$4), when briefly zapped in the microwave, was an ooey, gooey taste of chocolate heaven. And my day was made when I discovered a mini version of the knock-your-socks-off chocolate silk torte (\$8).

No arguments this time. Anyway, it's not polite to talk when your mouth is full.

Contact Patricia Talorico at 324-2861 or ptalorico@delawareonline.com. Watch her food segments on 90-second Weekend Thursdays-Sundays at www.delawareonline.com.

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