

Gerry is writing today

I realized as I prepared goodies for our annual Christmas open house last weekend that I used a great deal of years of knowledge that I wasn't even aware I had. It all just comes so naturally from years in the catering business, having a passion for baking and cooking all my life and basically, the desire to make people deliciously happy with some good food.

So, here's some simple, hopefully useful information as you prepare your holiday fare. Remember, don't be afraid of inviting friends over; a scaled-down simple party is better than having no party at all. It's all about the friends and the laughter, not what's on your table!

1. Sandwiches 101— It takes 1 1/4 eggs to make a two-slice sandwich, 50-60 grams of shaved deli meat, or one 170 gram can of tuna/salmon makes three two-slice sandwiches to cut in quarters, crusts on or off. Remember, sandwiches are substantial to go along with all the other little bites (especially for the guys).

2. When baking cookies, you can always just prepare the batter, then substitute chopped cherries, apricots, raisins, currants, any nuts or fruit

Lori Gysel & Gerry Kentner



peel for the chocolate chips to make them more seasonal. Or add some of everything to make a hermit cookie.

3. Mincemeat is a filling consisting of dried fruit, chopped nuts, often apple, suet and spices. Although called mince MEAT, nowadays, it contains no meat. Usually, this is made into small tarts, because the filling is so rich.

4. Marzipan or almond paste is a paste of crushed almonds and sugar (and one of my favorite confectionaries). Both the French and German cultures prepare their marzipan by different methods. Marzipan is traditionally used to "ice" Christmas fruit cake, but has many other uses in desserts, such as stuffing dates or adding coloring and flavoring to make miniature fruits. Five hundred grams of marzipan will "ice" a 10x10 cake. I spread warm apricot jam on my fruit cake, then top with a 1/4 layer of rolled-out marzipan (after I sample the trimmed edges), then frost with a butter cream icing.

5. When using chocolate in a recipe, any flavor of chipits can be substitutes, such as dark chocolate, milk chocolate, butter-scotch, or white chocolate. I often use a bar of milk or dark chocolate in baking if I don't have chocolate chips and just chop it up with a sharp knife into desired sizes and add to your recipe. Use any leftover chocolate and melt to drizzle over shortbread cookies for an extra touch.

Hope this inspires you to get in the kitchen for your enjoyment and everyone else's.

Have fun and keep cookin'.
Comments and questions can be sent to Lori and Gerry at whatscooking@theifp.ca

Rocky Road Fudge

(makes 40 squares)

Ingredients

- 350 grams semi sweet chocolate chips
- 1 (300 ml) can sweetened, condensed milk
- 2 tbsp butter
- 2 cups dry roasted peanuts
- 250 grams mini marshmallows



Method

Over low heat, melt chocolate with condensed milk and butter. Remove from heat. In a large bowl, combine nuts and marshmallows. Fold in chocolate mixture. Spread in a 9" x 13" baking pan lined with waxed paper. Chill 2 hours. Remove from pan. Peel off paper. Cut and serve.

Community Calendar

Continued from pg. 19

Monday, Dec. 12

Georgetown Skating Club registration: at Mold-Masters SportsPlex 4-8 p.m. Also on Dec. 14. Online registration: www.georgetownskatingclub.ca

Community Christmas Choral Concert Festival of Lessons and Carols: will be held 7 p.m. at St. John's United Church, 11 Guelph St. A free will collection will be shared with the local Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle Campaign.

Tuesday, Dec. 13

Free Resume Reviews: Learn how to develop a targeted and effective resume one on one with a Georgetown Employment Services Employment Advisor, 2-4 p.m. at the Georgetown Library, 224 Maple Ave. Book your appointment, 905-702-7311 ext 109.

Networking Thru the Holidays: free, 2 p.m. at Links2Care Employment Resource Centre, Acton. Learn the do's and don'ts, how to build and use your network, and make free business cards that will keep you on people's minds. Info: 519-853-5014.

Merry Christmas Storytime: will be held 7 p.m. at the Acton branch of the Halton Hills Library, 17 River St. Enjoy stories, hot chocolate and songs. Info: 519-853-0301.

Lego contest: Kids, bring your Lego creation to the Georgetown library, 224 Maple Ave. between Dec. 13-17. Then come in and vote for your favourites between Dec. 18 and Dec. 24.

Halton Hills "Colouring Outside the Lines" Youth Group for all LGBTTTTIQQAA youth, ages 14 to 24, 7-9 p.m. Please email HOPE, info@haltonpride.org for details. Info: www.haltonpride.org.



Come and Find the True Meaning of Christmas

You and your family are invited to join us in celebration and song and good cheer this Christmas. We are holding Christmas Services and Programs to meet your needs.

Sunday December 11 at 10:00 AM White Gift Worship Service.

Gifts of food and toys are received and given to local outreach.

Choir Cantata Concert at 7:00 PM, "Lead Me Back To Bethlehem"

Come and enjoy the delightful music of our Senior Choir.

Sunday December 18 at 10:00 AM Worship Service

Christmas Stories and Carols, Praise Team, Choir Singing

Saturday December 24 at 7:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Service

An informal and upbeat service with lots of music, specially designed for families.

Nativity Play, "The Innkeepers Story" Refreshments to Follow

9:00 PM Christmas Eve Traditional Service

Choir singing, readings, carols, candlelight and communion for those who like a more reflective and meditative experience.

December 25th at 10 AM Christmas Sunday

Lessons and Carols Service to Celebrate the Christmas Miracle

St. Andrew's United Church

89 Mountainview Rd. S, Georgetown, 905-877-4482 www.standrewsuc.ca

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