

Cake sculptor

WHAT: Custom cake sculpting/decorating and custom cookies

WHERE: sweetresults.blogspot.com or email laura@anesfamily.com



THE OWNER: Laura Anes can sculpt just about anything out of cake. One of her signature creations is a bucket filled with ice and bottles. It is entirely edible and has fooled veteran bartenders. Her customers are often so awed that they refuse to cut the cake. Aside from a cake-decorating course she took as a fifth grader, Anes is self-taught and surfs the Internet for inspiration.

THE INGREDIENTS: Starting with a mix, Anes adds in extras—her “secret recipe”—to ensure the cake is moist and tastes as good as it looks. She will adjust ingredients to address concerns about allergies and substitute Splenda for sugar. The frosting is fondant, a creamy mixture of sugar, water, and flavorings.

EXTRAS: Her candy beer bottles are individually cast out of a sugar-water mixture. The custom labels are printed on edible paper.

REPERTOIRE: Hockey players, children's blocks, waterfalls, shoes, sports equipment, castles, as well as traditional wedding cakes with delicate flowers or sugar butterflies.

OCCASIONS: Anes averages 50 cakes a year for events like birthdays, bridal and baby showers, weddings, and anniversaries. She has even done a sports hall of fame ceremony. She incorporates elements of the party decor and invitation into her design.

TO ORDER: Allow at least 3 weeks; the cost runs about \$4 per serving.

— Patty Hébert



Luv your hat

WHAT: Sparkle covered hats for women and girls.

WHERE: www.luvyourhat.com

THE OWNER: Sue O'Neill (below) of Wellesley lost her husband of 33 years, Tom, to pancreatic cancer in fall 2006, just four months after he was diagnosed. O'Neill, who had worked for 20 years as a decorator for Fabric Place in Framingham, launched a Web site in February to sell hats to benefit Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research (lustgarten.org). The disease is the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths, according to the American Cancer Society.

WHY HATS? “Every time I wore the hat, people would stop me and say ‘love your hat,’” says O'Neill.

So “an idea was born.”

SELECTION:

O'Neill buys the hats wholesale. They come in black, pink, and soon purple (the color associated with pancreatic cancer awareness). “I'm looking for a hat to sell to men, but they're very particular,” she says.

PRICE: Cowboys \$47 (children's \$40); baseball \$25; and visors \$25.

— Clara Silverstein

