

FLORIDA WEEKLY CUISINE

Norman Love Confections pastry chef among top in nation

karenFELDMAN

cuisine@floridaweekly.com



Nathaniel Reid, pastry and baked good maestro at Norman Love Confections, has won an elite honor in the world of sweets. He's among the chosen few recognized this year by Dessert Professional magazine as one of the Top 10 Pastry Chefs in America.

The nation's leading publication for the pastry, ice cream and chocolate industries selected Mr. Reid along with top professionals from New York City, Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

"We set out to recognize outstanding chefs who elevate the industry as a whole with their contributions in talent, innovation and community services," says Jeff Dryfoos, publisher of the magazine.

Mr. Reid, who joined Norman Love Confections in 2010, oversees the pastry and bakery shop, including production of specialty cakes, desserts and bakery items. A graduate of Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, he was previously named U.S. Pastry Competition Pastry Chef of the Year 2010, the country's top pastry championship. He also holds a bachelor's degree in hotel and restaurant management from the University of Missouri, Columbia.

He'll be formally recognized at The Institute of Culinary Education in New York on Monday, June 4.

Cape Coral gets taste of '209'

Moretti's Italian Grill has a new owner and will soon have a new name.

Ines Josupeit, owner of the charming Table 209 in Punta Gorda and former co-owner of Delicious Things in Fort Myers, has purchased the restaurant at the corner of Vincennes Boule-

vard and 47th SE Terrace and will turn it into the second branch of Table 209 (so named because the Punta Gorda branch is at 209 West Olympia Ave.).

"(Executive Chef) James King will bring his stellar menu to the new restaurant," says Ms. Josupeit. "We'll have the same menu and the same wine list."

If you haven't tried Mr. King's noteworthy West Coast-style cuisine that

marries fresh, seasonal ingredients in creative ways, here's a sampling: Table 209 pate with bacon onion jam, caramelized apples and rosemary crostini; Panang-style ceviche (shrimp, scallop and whitefish) with coconut, mango, chili and lime; and rack of lamb with garlic and rosemary roasted goat cheese polenta, marinated roasted peppers and natural pan jus.

The Cape location will start by offering dinners sometime in mid-

June and will likely add lunch in the fall, says Ms. Josupeit. As at the original, Monday is German night, with an all-German menu, and Sunday brunch will be served as well.

Prix fixe dinners, including appetizer, entrée and dessert, will be available for \$25, and there will be live music some nights. The restaurant is at 4721 Vincennes Blvd., Cape Coral.

Civic mindedness, part I

To celebrate a decade of doing business in Southwest Florida, Jason's Deli owners Scott and Diana Willis are giving back to the community with "The Power of Ten," donating 10 percent of the Fort Myers restaurant's sales to a specific charity on Mondays between June 4 and Aug. 20. Customers can add \$1 donation as well to the charity of the week. Those who do will be entered in a drawing to win a catered event for 10 people.

Charities benefiting include: Island

Coast AIDS Network, Heights Foundation, Hope Clubhouse, Quality Life Center, 21st Century C.A.R.E., Community Cooperative Ministries, Pace Center for Girls (Lee County), Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Eden Autism and Women in Business Educational Scholarship.

The Fort Myers location is at 13550 Reflection Parkway at Cypress Lake Drive. The Willises also operate Jason's Delis in Naples, Cape Coral, Port Charlotte and Sarasota.

Civic mindedness, part II

Norman Love Confections has launched a year-round program to raise money for local charities called Sharing a Lil' Love. The company will donate \$1 from specially marked Lil' Love five-piece gift boxes (available online and in the Fort Myers and Naples stores), with a new charity selected each quarter.

Money raised from April through July benefits United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades counties, which helps fund 70 area charities. For details, visit www.normanloveconfections.com.



Reid