

Sweetie-licious™

Sweetie News – Winter / Valentines Day 2012



Good Food, Good Deeds, Good Lives... by Linda Hundt

Welcome, welcome, welcome to our Sweetie-licious newsletter. Our mission is to celebrate home-life through stories of good food, good deeds, and good lives. Each issue will also present a delicious and simple recipe. I am thrilled to share my treasured library of recipes, stories, and traditions with you all! Here is to making our lives meaningful, our homes happy, and our palates joyous!

One of my favorite things to do this time of year is to cuddle into my "thinking chair" and pile myself high with warm, heavy comforters. Looking out the window today, my mind wanders off to memories of outside fun as a kid.

I remember the smell of wet wool wafting from the pile of assorted boots, mittens and mufflers at the back door of our noisy, "bursting at the seams" little house. It was situated in a comfortable, old neighborhood with lots of other children. Oh what fun hours we spent sledding and making angels and forts in the snow.

One of my fondest memories is one particular day that Daddy took my brothers, sister and me ice skating. Mom stayed home with promises of hot chocolate and warm cookies for our welcome home. We could always count on Mommy for delicious treats to round out our big adventures. Back then, our magical rink was in a small park situated through a little wooded area a short ways from our house. Daddy led the way, forging a trail through the deep snow wearing his trusty rubber snow boots. We must have looked like an obedient line of fluffy ducklings, as we marched behind him, stuffed into our heavy snowsuits.

Upon arrival, Daddy swung the snow shovel from his shoulder, unloaded our skates that he had been toting, and cleared off a patch of ice just for us. I remember his big, red hands as he pulled the laces tight on my skates. I felt bad because I thought he might be cold, but when I looked at his face, he was looking right into my eyes and had a big, happy smile. I felt like I was the luckiest girl in the world that day. He would do anything for me. As I made my way around our tiny arena, arms swinging, straight legs spread and riding my inner arches, I felt like a ballerina. I am sure my father was encouraging to all of his children, but that day I felt like he was all mine, my personal audience. I was blessed to feel that love and encouragement his entire life.

Eat Pie and Make a Loved One Feel Special

Linda xoxoxo



Mommy's Date-Filled Cookies



I remember tumbling into the back door, cold and wet, struggling to get out of my soaked hand-knitted mittens. I was in a big hurry because I could smell the special cookies that my dear mother had made for our welcome home treat. I hope that you enjoy these as much as I did that day. Unforgettable.

1/4 C. shortening
1/4 C. butter
1 C. brown sugar
2 large eggs
2 C. flour
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla

Filling

1 C. finely chopped dates
1 tsp. baking soda
2 Tbsp. boiling water
1/2 tsp. salt

Combine all ingredients well by smashing with a fork

Blend shortening and sugar well, add egg and vanilla. Add flour gradually. Chill. Roll like sugar cookies, cut into circles using a glass that is about 3" across. Place 12 rounds on a cookie sheet, top with a rounded tsp. of date filling, then top with another cookie. Press edges gently to seal. Sprinkle with raw or granulated sugar. Bake for about 8-10 minutes at 375 degrees or until lightly browned.

News from the Shop



Monday, January 23rd was National Pie Day at the shop. We celebrated with lots of special pies to purchase and free tastes of pie. We'll also be celebrating National Pi Day on March 14th as well. Mark your calendars!

On Monday Jan. 16th Linda was one of the featured speakers at the National Retail Federation's Annual Conference, held in New York City. Her workshop was titled "How to be an Expert in Your Field". The NRF is one of the biggest conventions out there... with businesses large and small all across the country attending. President Clinton was the keynote speaker. At Linda's session there were over 300 folks in attendance. Her talk went really well and everyone in the audience got a cookie afterward. (Folks loved them, of course!)

Linda has been asked by the folks at WZZM TV (Grand Rapids) to appear every third Wednesday on the "Take 5 & Company" morning show to share her cooking and baking expertise. Linda is thrilled and looks forward to the opportunity to share baking and cooking tips with Grand Rapids viewers.

Martha Dixon Day at the shop is Tuesday February 7th. Martha Dixon is our own local Martha Stewart. Most of us grew up watching her show and most moms had a copy of her cookbook. We are partnering with WLNS TV (Channel 6) in Lansing and they will be broadcasting from the shop as we celebrate Martha, one of Linda's mentors. We will also be making and serving Martha's recipes that day at the shop. Don't miss this fun event!!



Love is the beginning, middle, and end of everything. – Lacordaire

About Linda Hundt ...



Linda resides in a century-old farmhouse with her sweet husband and two lovely daughters, when back from college. She is the owner of Sweetie-Licious Bakery Cafe in DeWitt MI. Linda was the "Crisco Innovation" Grand Prize winner in 2011 and won Best-in-Show in 2009...she has won 16 first places

at the National Pie Championships since 2007. Linda has appeared on the Food Network and on the Today Show with Willard Scott. Linda is the co-founder of the DeWitt Farmers Market, Board Member of the CMU Entrepreneurial School, a member of the msuENet board, and recipient of 2009 Athena Power-Link award.



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