

# Kent Cooking Class Geared for Children

By KATHRYN BOUGHTON

KENT—A group of eight children are cooking up a storm this winter under the tutelage of gifted amateur chef Rick Levy. The four-week class is meeting Saturday mornings at the new Kent Kitchen Works outlet operated by Jeff and Trish Namm at the entrance to Kent Green.

Mr. Levy loves to cook and he loves children, so, he says, "I combined the things I love" for this class. Interest in the class was strong and 13 children vied for spots. Those who could not be accommodated are asked to join in if any of the "regulars" cannot attend.

Mr. Levy said the idea first came up when his friends, the Namms, opened their store in October. The Namms had installed a working "dream kitchen" in the store, and he

approached them about the possibility of using the facility for a small class for children. The Namms, whom Mr. Levy said are looking for ways to give back to the community, embraced the idea and went so far as to go out and buy eight stools for the young chefs to use. They also provided each young culinary whiz with an apron and a placemat to work on.

The children bring "tool boxes" containing all their own cooking implements. Mr. Levy said one focus of the classes is the correct use of the implements. At the end of the class, the Namms will present a spoon as a prize.

Mr. Levy begins each session with a trip to the neighboring IGA where they learn about shopping for ingredients. "The

first trip they learned about unit pricing and how to compare different items. For instance we looked at two different boxes that had the same item and were priced the same—but I pointed out to them that one was 12 ounces and the other was only 9.5 ounces. This past week, we started to look at labels to determine how healthy the foods were."

During their first lesson, they learned about eggs before returning to Kent Kitchen Works to whip up all different kinds of breakfast eggs—soft and hard boiled, scrambled and sunny-side up. "What amazed me was that when I asked them the next time if they had made breakfast for their parents, they all said they had—some two or three times. The poor parents are probably getting too much cholesterol!"

This at-home cooking underscores the enthusiasm Mr. Levy sees in class. "Their minds are so open at this age. They are so eager to learn," he said.

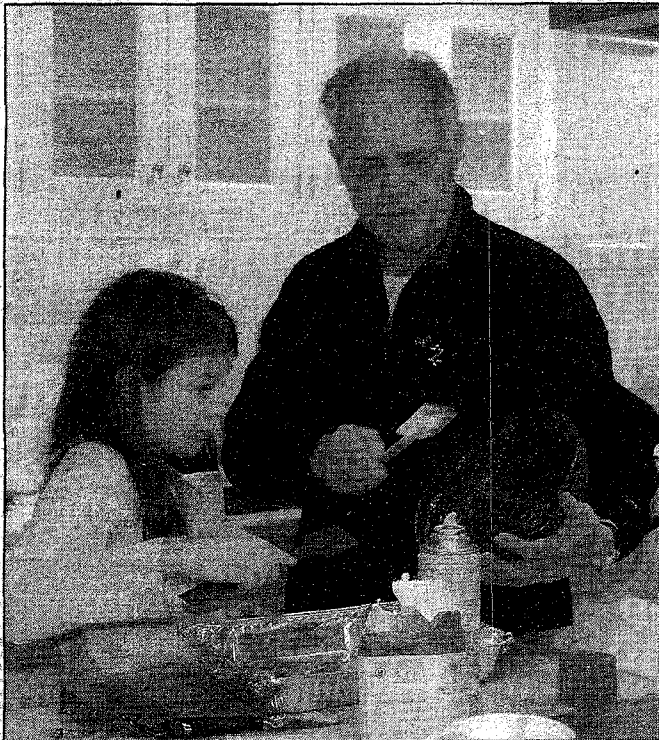
During the second session, the youngsters whipped up some brownies and, while they were baking, Mr. Levy showed them how to make chocolate mice from cherries dipped in melted chocolate and joined to Hershey kisses for the head. Slivered pecans became the ears.

Next week the class will be dedicated to pizza-making, with pepperoni being the preferred topping among the students. No final choice has been made for the fourth and final class topic.

Following the cooking, the students all enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Mr. Levy said the cooking class has been sponsored by the Kent Memorial Library and that students paid \$25 to cover the cost of the ingredients.

He says he will wait until the end of the current session to see if all parties are interested in repeating the experience. "I will see how I feel about it, how the kids feel about it and whether the Namms are interested in doing it again," he said. "If it works out, maybe we will have a class in the spring or summer on grilling."



Rick Levy cooking with Mollie Gallusha.

Kathryn Boughton

## CRIME

### Brothers Charged In Sexual Assault

LITCHFIELD—Two brothers accused of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl in November and December 2006.

Jose Laboy, 23, and Luis Laboy, 21, of Bel Air Dr., New Milford, were arrested by Litchfield Superior Court Feb. 20 on charges of first-degree sexual assault and injury to a minor.

The two men were already scheduled to appear in court last week on previous charges of burglaries that occurred in New Milford from May through June.

Judge Charles D. Gill set bond for the men at \$100,000 and ordered them to return to court next month.

"Two grown men having sex with a 12-year-old girl for the first time and showing her pornography is very serious," Judge Gill said. "It's much about being a man either. This is a predator."

The case against the Laboy brothers was initiated after New Milford police filed a complaint from the state Department of Children and Families indicating the incidents occurred between November and December 2006.

Judge Gill granted a request by State's Attorney Terri Sonnemann for arrest warrant affidavits for two weeks.

The judge rejected a request for bond made by Damian Tucker, attorney for both men. Mr. Tucker noted the men came to court as required for the charges pending against them.

"Certainly it shows they are willing to face the court's orders regardless of the charges facing them," Mr. Tucker said.

Ms. Sonnemann disagreed, arguing the charges were much more serious than the burglary cases.

Before the two brothers left the courtroom they turned and blew kisses to the girl who watched her sons being led away by judicial marshals.

### An Arrest After Friendly's Incident

LITCHFIELD—A local panhandler charged he tried to rob \$7 from a woman who was in a vehicle with her small child at Torrington Friendly's restaurant Feb. 20.

"All I did was ask her for a couple of dollars for the phone," Jeffrey Carroll told