

Putting the "Ch-" in "Chocolate"

David Goldstein is Boston's newest "Candy Man"

By Matt Robinson

Boston is known for many things: Education. Medicine. A strong Jewish community.

But chocolate?

While he may be no Montezuma, local entertainment guru David Goldstein is doing what he can to bring the goods to Boston.

For over a year now, Goldstein has been schlepping fellow chocolate lovers around town on a series of tours that take them through the history of chocolate and to some of Greater Boston's greatest purveyors. From Ben & Jerry's to Teusher's of Switzerland, Chocolee to Paradise Bakery, Goldstein has his sticky finger on the pulse of chocolate in Boston.

"November 7th, 2009 was the first tour," Goldstein recalls, noting how, despite the adage about too much of a good thing, the first tour ran "too long" and was cut a bit from the original plan. Since then however, Goldstein has been able to streamline the tour (if not the tourists) and keep it sweet.

"What a great way to spend a Saturday in Boston," says satisfied customer Jim Sambold, "learning, creating and of course eating chocolate!"

"[It] was the most fun I've had in a while," adds Stacey Lancaster. "And everyone loved the chocolates I brought home!"

The Boston Chocolate Tours (www.tasteofchocolate.com) started in Back Bay and the South End, but have since expanded to cover Beacon Hill and Harvard Square.

"Private tours are also in the works for Faneuil Hall, Brookline and Salem, MA," Goldstein adds.

For those who like the chocolate without the tour, Goldstein also offers chocolate-making seminars at the Elephant & Castle

Pub in the Financial District.

"Weekly truffle making workshops as classes and gifts have been around for a few years," Goldstein explains, noting that the idea for "a hands-on, fingers-in-the-bowl, smiles-smudged-with-chocolate" class came from a successful British model, "but we are the first to do this on a regular basis here."

In addition to these popular pedestrian and permanent programs, Goldstein also offers a Chocolate Company Challenge and a new chocolate team-building program called "Team Chocolatier."

"We offer these on our team-building sites as well," Goldstein explains, mentioning some of his other ventures, the corporate service programs Team Bonding and Recipe for Success (which, as the name implies, also has to do with food!).

As he continues to expand his menu of offerings, Goldstein is always keeping his roots in mind.

"We have been talking to a kosher chocolatier in Sharon," he says, suggesting a possible partnership in the future.

"We also recently did a Harvard Square Chocolate Tour for the Sharon BBYO chapter that was very successful!"

"What an outstanding event," says Seth Hunter Geoffrion. "We had such a great time making our own chocolate truffles, and have had an even better time eating them!...I now have a new appreciation for chocolate."

So whether you are a conservative Hershey fan or a more orthodox dark chocolate aficionado, Goldstein's many chocolate-based offerings are sure to satisfy!



David Goldstein and the famous cacao bean

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