

Niagara Falls Culinary Institute hosts culinary competition to honor Monte Dolce

The Niagara Falls Culinary Institute will host the American Culinary Federation (ACF) Monte Dolce Spring Classic Competition from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 23-24. While most competitors are from NFCI, there are also participants from California, the Patterson Club in Connecticut, the Duquesne Club in Pittsburgh, and one competitor from Guatemala.

The faculty at NFCI is "eager to host the event" after it was postponed for two years due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"The professionalism and talent that surrounds this event is so very inspiring," said chef Scott Steiner, coordinator of culinary arts at NFCI.

Saturday features cold platter displays, specialty cakes, pastry tables and bread displays, and live ice carving on Old Falls Street in front of NFCI. Sunday will consist of live contemporary cooking for student and professional chefs and pastry chefs. Competitors will have a one-hour timeslot with a 10-minute window for plating to create and exhibit their best live-action skills as they are being closely watched by ACF-certified judges.



American Culinary Federation judges examine entry in 2019 culinary competition. (Photo courtesy of NCCC)

The competition has been named after Monte Dolce, who was a chef, educator, adjunct instructor at NFCI, and founding member of the ACF of Greater Buffalo. Following his death from cancer in 2021, the ACF of Greater Buffalo wanted to honor chef Dolce for the dedication he showed to the organization since 1968.

"Chef Monte was a very close friend of mine, and I want to keep his legacy alive," Steiner said.

The competition coincides with the spring open house at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute on Saturday, April 23, allowing the public to an opportunity to view the state-of-the-art culinary labs in action, as well as explore college programs and career opportunities. Both events are free to attend. More information can be found at <https://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/nfci/>.

Niagara Pride hosting first WNY LGBTQ+ Youth Vocational Conference

Niagara Pride will host the first WNY LGBTQ+ Youth Vocational Conference for LGBTQ+ youth ages 15 to 25 residing in Western New York.

The conference is set to run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 23. A boxed lunch will be provided to attendees free of charge. The free event is being held at Niagara Pride's offices, located inside St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 140 Rainbow Blvd., Niagara Falls.

Organizers said, "This unique biannual program has been created by Niagara Pride" and "will be offered yearly as a spring and fall conference."

Also, embraceWNY will sponsor this event. It has a mission of dedication to equality and fairness within WNY – and seeks to raise awareness, understanding and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community amongst all citizens.

A press release said, "Niagara

Pride believes that, for many, work is a fundamental aspect of one's identity. The quest to find employment that aligns with and enriches an individual's life can be a daunting and stressful task for anyone. This is particularly the case for young people who are LGBTQ+, who often face unique challenges in their search to find employment that best aligns with their goals and aspirations. Recognizing these unique considerations, Niagara Pride is committed to supporting LGBTQ+ youth in finding and fulfilling their lifelong passions, while also being able to express and live their authentic lives while part of the workforce."

To this end, Niagara Pride is hosting this conference, which features four presenters from various local agencies who specialize in employment services, providing information on topics such as, but not limited to:

- √ How to conduct a self-directed vocational search;
 - √ Effectively utilize career assessments, O*Net, and local community-based job seeking resources;
 - √ Resume writing, interview skills, and other job-seeking soft skills;
 - √ Employment laws, discrimination, and LGBTQ+ challenges when seeking employment; and
 - √ Diversity and inclusivity in the workforce.
- Preregistration is required. Youth interested in attending the conference need to complete an online registration form at <https://forms.office.com/r/j4PQHshtMW>. Attendees for the conference must be between the ages of 15 and 25; identify as LGBTQ+; and have transportation to and from the conference.

For more information, contact Ronald Piaseczny at info@niagara-pride.org.

Spring weekend retreat-workshop at Stella Niagara's Center of Renewal

"Valuing The Labyrinths Of Our Lives," an interactive yet reflective, values-based weekend retreat-workshop, will take place at Stella Niagara's Center of Renewal.

Organizers said, "After the past two years of ever-changing challenges in our world, now might be the perfect time to refocus by attending an enjoyable weekend retreat-workshop with others from our Western New York community."

They added, "This event will reflectively link the rebirth of springtime renewal with the revitalization and enlightenment possible from the many labyrinths in our lives, both real and symbolic.

Participants will enjoy discussions, music, reflective meditation, walking an actual labyrinth and time outdoors in nature, and other meaningful activities."

Space is limited, so early reservations are encouraged. The retreat will be held May 20-22, from Friday afternoon through Sunday lunch, with advance reservations by May 6 to avoid a late fee.

For everyone's mutual health and safety, current COVID-19 protocols will be expected and verified of all participants; see www.stellaniagararetreats.org for details. For additional information or to preregister, call the Center of Renewal at 716-754-7376, ext. 1

or ext. 2.

This retreat is designed and will be facilitated by Nancy P. Askins, Ph.D., who has served as executive director of Stella Niagara's Center of Renewal for more than 16 years. She has an advanced certificate in applied urban ministry from Niagara University, and is an experienced organizational development and performance excellence scholar-practitioner.

The Center of Renewal Retreat & Conference Center at Stella Niagara operates as an interfaith facility. It is sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, Holy Name Province.

The River Lea Quilters' Guild of Grand Island
presents
"Stars Over the River" Quilt Show
April 23, 10am-5pm
April 24, 10am-4pm
Gratwick Fire Hall, 110 Ward Road, N.T.
\$5.00 per person • 12 and under Free
Vendors, Raffle Quilt, Basket Raffle and much more

Sacred Heart Villa School
"Where Learning Begins"
Basket Auction Fundraiser
at Antonio's Banquet & Conference Center
7708 Niagara Falls Blvd.
Saturday, June 11, 2022
Doors Open: 10:00AM • Luncheon: 12:00PM

Tickets: \$40.00
Includes lunch and one sheet of tickets
Call Sr. Denise at 716-284-8273
Table of 10 are available

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Silent Auction
Lottery Tree
50/50

All Proceeds Benefit Sacred Heart Villa School
Tickets on sale until May 20th, 2022

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