



Margaret Esposito

**Patisserie Lenox, located at 30A Church Street offers customers a taste of France.**

## Patisserie and cafe open in Lenox

By Margaret Esposito

**LENOX**—Desserts are plentiful in Berkshire County, but for all the sweet treats the Berkshires have to offer, fine French pastry was not one until Patisserie Lenox opened in April.

Patisserie Lenox offers a variety of specialty tarts, cakes, and pastries. The carefully crafted treats include miniature fruit tarts decorated with berries, cream puffs made to look like birds, chocolate mousse, and many other delicacies, both sweet and savory.

Patisserie Lenox owner/pastry chef Jean Yves started his baking career at 15 in Paris. Yves came to the United States in 1976 at 23 years old. He began working at as a pastry chef at La Granouille, a famous four-star French restaurant in New York City, where he remained for eight years.

Following his time at La Granouille, Yves moved to

Long Island, where he opened John Yves French Pastry. Over the years, John Yves French Pastry expanded to several locations across Long Island, including South Hampton, Huntington, and Merrick.

Last year, shortly after closing the Long Island stores, Yves rented a summerhouse in Lenox, where inspiration struck.

"I thought there was a need in the Berkshires for fine pastry," Yves said. "I didn't see anything like it in the area." Yves and his family moved from Long Island to the Berkshires and opened Patisserie Lenox.

Yves said that his previous summerhouse experience showed him that Lenox is extremely busy in the summer, and a great location for a new business. Even though he was aware of the high volume of visitors, Yves said, "The reception has been much greater than we expected."

Yves added that Patis-

serie Lenox will be open year-round, and that he hopes to open a second location in Great Barrington next year.

Yves also said that he would like to expand the business to wedding cakes and parties.

Although Yves specializes in fine pastry, Patisserie Lenox also serves as a café. It offers an extensive tea collection with a variety of teas from around the world, many of which can be served hot or cold. The drink menu also includes fair trade coffee, cappuccino, and fruit sodas.

Additionally, Patisserie Lenox also offers savory lunch items, including a variety of quiche, brioche sandwiches, and ham and Swiss cheese croissants.

Yves said that one of his favorite creations is a flourless chocolate cake that he began making at La Granouille 35 years ago, but no matter what he is making, he said, "I love what I do."