

The Hobo Corner: Happy Anniversary!

By Jack Kauppila



Hey Everyone - It's Jack here, from the Hobo Bakery in Vernonia, my new home-

town.

It has officially been one year for Jack's Hobo Bakery and Bread Club! How on EARTH did that happen?!

Here's how: $(y + t) \times \pi = bhp \infty$

It's a tricky little algorithm by which I keep saying YES! to everything, and all these amazing, beautiful people just keep coming back and giving us a shot: YES plus Time times Pie (cuz we're a bakery) equals Beautiful Happy People for Infinity

My six sigma goes to 11...

Some of the best things I've said YES to so far:

- Anything my Sweet Sweet Mary ever suggested (we may have a different opinion on this)
- Buying a bakery
- "Sure we can pipe 'Happy Birthday' on a cake!"
- Donuts - it took a year but thanks to dear Kathy Larsen and her sweet potato donuts we had deep fried (real) donuts along with our yummy baked donuts.
- Jalapeno and cheese bread - a legacy patron used to get a weekly treat that morphed in my head into the Chupacabra - a spicy, south-of-the-border treat made with my Hobo White dough and sharp cheddar and jalapenos, topped with toasted pepitas
- Pecan pie and marionberry pie and Boston cream pie and monster cakes and pink nipple cakes (to avoid any HR vio-

lations please only ask me about this one) and wedding cakes and dark Russian rye and gluten free... Oh my

And the way I was able to say YES to everything, sometimes to the chagrin of the team of awesomeness working with me, is because of the very awesomeness of the team of awesomeness working with me:

- Sweet Sweet Mary - calms my racing brain and brings me back to the present moment and the truth of love and service that our bakery is built on, and her (my) whole family, including (but not limited to) Susan and Jonathan, Peter (dishpit of- ficianado), Annie, Riley, Karen, Marla and Rosie, Celeste and Max, Taylor, everyone...
- The Shanerator - my number-one son (of the sons who work for me) who continuously keeps me from going over the edge and warms my heart with his dear smile and gentle way of serving our guests
- Our Dear Sophia - with me from before the very first day, her maximum effort and yippee ki-yay spirit kept our cases full and kitchen clean (and for the nerds out there, yes - I did just compare her to Deadpool and John McClain)
- Baby James! - Jaime, our whirling dervish of customer service and kitchen management who showed up one day, had a brownie with cream cheese frosting, and never left... so we adopted her, and then we had to hire her because she just never stops working! And she comes along with her loving and gifted husband Jess who steps in whenever he can
- Johnny B - my best friend who has been constant in his love and support... he's

also spent enough volunteer hours in the dishpit to claim a piece of the bakery for himself

- Katie - incredible let's go spirit and (yay!) she has beautiful penmanship and knows her way around a piping bag! Our cakes just got soooooo good!
- Spencer, Elijah, and SaltyPeppers (Asisa) - our newest team members who have the Hobo Spirit and are finding a home (and their first job EVER for Elijah and SaltyPeppers) at the bakery... now I just need to find them hours to work!

I wasn't looking for any of this. I just wanted to make more bread, and with that I got to develop a whole, ever-evolving menu, a staff of dedicated workers who are all family to me, and a long list of new friends and patrons who I met on my first day, came back in all year, and were here to thank us and wish us well on our anniversary. We are so blessed.

Here's some of the people, in no particular order, whose names may or may not be correct (you know me by now, winkface) who keep ME coming back to bake:

Jerry and Hugh from the brain trust, our two favorite Shawns and their partners Tim and Laura respectively... our other dear Laura who brings abundance into our lives... Scott with the V-town Voice, Larry, Jerry, Debbie, Paula, Paula, Rhea and her sweet and shy little daughter, the Fishhawk Lake family, our weekly mission group, Richard, Anthony, Morgan and Marissa, JoJo the pig et al, Dozer and his parents, Eliot and his parents, apple fritter man, scone lady (I'm still so sorry), R&S Market, our Sunday after-church family, Kether and Rachel

our GF gurus, Rochelle, Raymond the barber, Lisa and Josh and the whole bank, Odin, Riot... the Hobo Bread Club...

If your name is not on the list just stop by and let me know - I'll make it up to you, I promise!

The Anniversary Party is rocking all through June on our little corner, so stop by and see what we've come up with. Thanks so much to our new hometown and our ever-extending family here in Vernonia. Keep letting me know what I can do for you, and I'll keep saying YES!

That's all I have from the Hobo Corner this month. Thank you all for your time and patience.

Peace and Happy Happy Toasting!



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