

# Bennett returns to baking

By **CHRISTINA MITCHELL**

Courier-Post Staff 13739AH

**Robert Bennett** is making desserts again. The former owner of **Miel Patisserie** in Cherry Hill has been named executive chef at **American Harvest Baking (AHB)**, a national distributor of European and artisan breads based in Mount Laurel.

Bennett will develop a line of sweets for the company's commercial customers, including **Trattoria Barone** in Cherry Hill, **Coffee Works** in Voorhees and **Murphy's Markets** in Atco, Medford, Medford Lakes and Tabernacle. Products will include gelato, sorbet, ice cream and specialty wedding cakes. Bennett will also direct operations.

It's a far cry from owning his own pastry shop, which the **Willingboro** resident and father of four started in 2002 and left in the hands of partners six months ago.

"I just didn't want to be the owner anymore," says Bennett, 42, who got his start at **Le Bec-Fin**

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## SAVOR THIS

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in Philadelphia. "It was pulling me away from the kitchen. And I'm a pastry chef.

"Now I have weekends off. I can't believe it. I've never in my entire life had that luxury."

Bennett had more than a few offers, but AHB gave him the chance to continue his work as an ambassador for **Barry-Callebaut**, a worldwide chocolatier.

"It wasn't my first offer, and it wasn't my last," Bennett says of AHB. "In my opinion, it was the best."



**Light bites:** **Laura Kaplan** has given up the reins at **Emerald Fish** in Cherry Hill's **Barclay Square**, but she's left the place in the hands of longtime friends and co-workers **Mark** and **Ann Rowand**. The restaurant is now closed Sunday but open for lunch Saturday ... The swanky French bistro **Posh** recently opened on Route 38 in **Maple Shade** with a

full bar. Menu is French contemporary with lunches starting from \$9.50 and dinners from \$18.95. Call (856) 222-1128 ... A new chef is making menu changes at **Ventura's** on Route 73 in West Berlin. He's Costa Rica-born **Arturo Bermudz**. Look for new items in a couple of weeks at [www.venturasrestaurantandbar.com](http://www.venturasrestaurantandbar.com) ... **The Atlantic City Palm Restaurant** has begun Wednesday night **Martini Madness**. **Ketel One** drinks are half-price and free hors d'oeuvres are offered from 5 to 7 p.m. The **Palm** is in the Quarter at **Tropicana** ... **The Prime Rib** steakhouse at 17th and Locust streets in Philly will host a **Chairman's Select Wine Dinner** on Jan. 19. Dinner is at 7 p.m. Price is \$135, including tax and gratuities. Call (215) 772-1701.

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To share restaurant news, call Christina Mitchell at (856) 317-7905, mail to her c/o Courier-Post, P.O. Box 5300, Cherry Hill NJ 08034 or e-mail [cmitchell@courierpostonline.com](mailto:cmitchell@courierpostonline.com).