

Death by Chocolate explains a contest our Library puts on every year in September along with the community chocolate celebration. The book describes how this contest works including all forms and description of this contest. It also include some of the winners in both Youth and Adults and their winner recipes.

Death By Chocolate

by Letta Meinen

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Death by Chocolate



Salado Public Library

Letta Meinen

Death by Chocolate Contest

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INTRODUCING

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE

CONTEST



How The Contest Got Its Start

I joined the Friends of the Salado Library in 2007 as their Secretary and in 2009 I became Program Chairman. Having this job meant it was my responsibility to plan programs for the Friends and organize food for meetings of Library events. The food donations were the easy part but planning programs for the Friends of the Library was more of a problem. I checked online with other Libraries as to their programs. I felt we needed something different to include all ages to become involved with the Library. My mind went to chocolate as it is one of my favorites and came up with the Death by Chocolate Contest. We had the first event in April of 2010.

After the first event, the Library heard from the Salado Tourist Group that they would like to include this event in their annual Chocolate and Wine Weekend held in September. After discussing it with the Librarian Marsha McGuire, I agreed to have the Contest in September along with the Chocolate and Wine Event on September 25, 2010. I was helped by Jeanie Lively who was the Adult and Youth Services Librarians.

The Death by Chocolate Contest has been held every year since that time, and I have made changes where I thought it was needed. It still includes both Adults and Youth, and it never ceases to amaze me how creative our people are with their chocolate samples and displays. We allow 10 entries in each division as our space is limited.

Each chocolate entry is given a number when they return their entry form to the Library. Sampling 20 pieces of chocolate in one afternoon seems to draw a good number of people. In 2018 we had 165 people voting for their favorite after sampling. To help cut the chocolate for our samplers I furnish spiced Ice Tea even though this is a Chocolate and Wine Celebration.

Friends of the Library Board furnish the prize money for all winners in both Adult and Youth divisions. We give two prizes in the Chef's awards, three prizes in Public voting and one each in display. I always feel so sorry for those that did not win, so in the 2019 event all those who enter but did not win will receive a thank-you prize.



Sharing the Death by Chocolate Contest

In a discussion with the Friends of the Library Board it was thought it would be good to share the workings of this contest. I offered to organize all instruction in book form plus including some of our past winners and their recipes. This book could help other libraries in a way to promote Youth and Adult activities in their area.

In the following few pages you will find instructions for how to organize your time before and during the contest, including all forms to copy or adjust to your own events. Instructions are included on the day of the contest as it goes from start to finish, including suggestions in using volunteers the day of the contest, important for keeping the day moving along.

I felt it was important to have a chef judge with awards given to their pick in both areas. This is separate from the public voting as I wanted a chef's prize to show excellent chocolate entries. If the entry wins both you know it was the best of the day.

I have included all forms used before the contest with suggestions on printing all material early for getting all items organized. Explanation of public voting and why I use the voting by number system, as a fast way to find the winners of your contest are also included.

The prize money is donated by the Friend's Library Board. It is divided up into proper envelopes and marked with award name and amount of winnings, fourteen envelopes are properly marked. After tabulation at end of the contest the volunteers write the winning name on the envelopes who won each prize. The tabulation sheets are made up with each person's name and their number in a way to quickly find the winners.



Death by Chocolate Contest

Saturday September 21, 2019

Salado Public Library

Adult and Youth are invited to enter this contest preparing a dish that includes Chocolate with enough samples for judging. When you turn in your entry it will be given a number and judging and voting will be by numbers only.

Limited to 10 Adults and 10 Youth

A Chef will judge entries at 12:00 p.m.

Open to the public for sampling and voting chocolates from
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Public gets two votes, one each in Youth and Adult that they find is their favorite. All votes tabulated to find the winners. Awarding prizes at 4:00 p.m.

\$40.00-\$30.00 for 1st & 2nd awarded by Chef

\$40-\$30-\$20 for 1st -2nd-3rd in popular vote

\$30.00 awarded in each group for best display

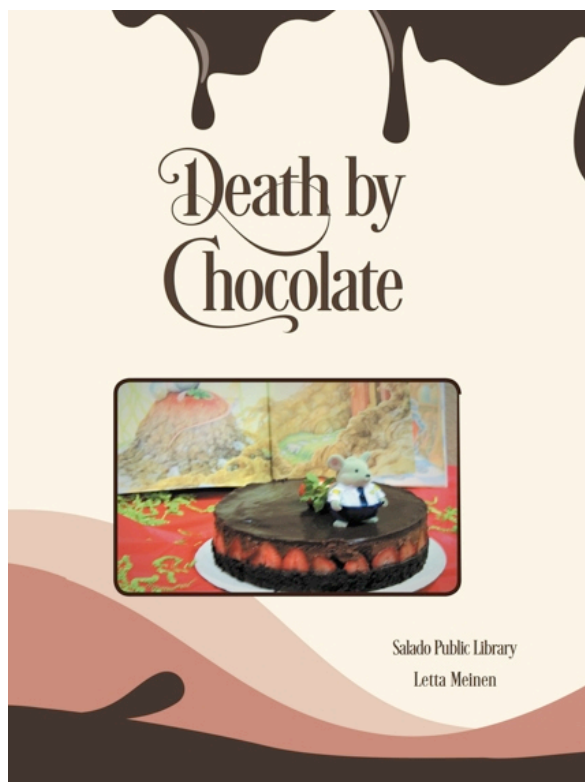
(Thank You prizes for those not winning)

Start creating those Chocolates

Entry blanks available at Library

Join us in celebrating

Salado Chocolate & Wine Weekend



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