

Cucina Della Rosa offers the family style of Italian cooking

Mary Rose Hoover believes a family spending time at the dinner table sharing a good meal is important.

Hoover recently started a business designed to show others how to more easily make this happen.

Hoover operates Cucina Della Rosa Cooking School in Barrington, where she offers a variety of classes, including how to make pasta and preparing 30-minute meals (popular for the working person).

The classes are conducted at McCauley Design Kitchens, Tiles & Stone, 211 Park Ave.

Hoover, 47, is not a professional chef, but is passionate about food and has a great deal of experience in the industry.

After moving here from California, Hoover was the beer, wine, spirits and snacks buyer for 50 Sam's Clubs in Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois.

When her husband, Bob, started traveling more through his job selling Schick razors, Hoover tried to stay closer to



Kim Mikus
Lake County
business

home working for Sears, where she opened Sears Grand stores.

The couple has 13-year-old twins, Christopher and Catherine. Most recently, she worked for Trader Joe's in Lake Zurich, where she was able to write

recipes and prepare food.

"Food is my passion," she said, adding that she gained confidence at Trader Joe's to launch her school.

She also conducts classes in people's homes as well as private classes for ladies night out.

Much of her instruction focuses on Italian cooking. "My parents are from Italy." Participants may learn how to make breads of Southern Italy including pizza, focaccia and crusty country-style bread, pasta sauces and desserts. She also

holds classes on how to make appetizers or an entire meal when entertaining.

She holds summer camps for children at the Barrington shop. "It's very fulfilling," she said.

"I just want people to enjoy cooking and family," she said.

The name of her business means Kitchen of the Rose in Italian. "In Italy we express ourselves with food," she added.

For information, check out www.cookingclassesatcdr.com or call (847) 650-9463.

New menu: Lovells of Lake Forest recently made changes to its menu.

The well-known upscale eatery at 915 S. Waukegan Ave. switched from a gourmet cuisine to a steakhouse menu, said co-owner Darice Lovell, a resident of Mundelein.

The menu is still fine dining; however, featured are the dry aged meats the chef hand trims on site.

Darice and her husband, Jay, purchased the 7-year-old



DANIEL WHITE/DAILY HERALD

Mary Rose Hoover, owner of Cucina Della Rosa in Barrington, works with Eduardo Devora, center, and other students during a recent pasta-making class.

restaurant from Jay's father, James A. Lovell.

The elder Lovell served as an astronaut on several missions, including Apollo 13 in 1970. He was then a businessman while opening the Lake Forest restaurant.

Jay Lovell is the chef at the

restaurant. For more information, check it out online at www.lovellofflakeforest.com.

• *Kim Mikus' column appears Tuesdays and Fridays. She welcomes comments at (847) 680-5502 or at kmikus@dailyherald.com.*