

January 28, 2010

Thanks for tuning in to Pat Magee's CANDYMAIL ... Also please visit <http://www.patmagee.com/IndustryEvents.aspx>

Coming Events ... Chicago Section AACT hosts its annual Suppliers Nite, March 9, at a new venue, the DoubleTree Hotel, Oak Brook, IL. This year's event combines AACT with IFT-Chicago ... The exhibit is open from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m., and includes a chocolate demonstration at 4 p.m. IFT continues into the evening with dinner and a speaker. For more information, please contact Joni Stern, Stern Ingredients, at joni@sterningredients.com.

Ohio Chocolatier Celebrates 70 Years in Business ... Mitchell's Fine Candies of Cleveland Heights, OH, recently celebrated its 70th anniversary with a contest that awarded a two-pound box of assorted chocolates to the best response to the question: "What is your favorite Mitchell's memory?" The family-owned business also awarded a nostalgic gift basket containing chocolates in packaging that was reminiscent of the 1930s and a classic 1930s film to the best answer to the question: "What was your family doing in 1939?" Chris Mitchell, a Greek immigrant, established the chocolate shop that bears his name in 1939. Today it is operated by his widow Penelope and son Bill who continue to produce chocolates in small batches, which are also available for sale on the Internet at <http://www.mitchellscandies.com/>.

Equatorial Agriculture to Permeate PMCA Conference ... Visitors at the PMCA Production Conference will receive a unique opportunity to see a live cacao tree, an agricultural crop that is native to the equatorial regions, and taste fresh cacao fruit. This opportunity is courtesy of a special exhibit on April 26, the opening day of the Production Conference, in the Great American Hall of the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA. The tree featured



in the exhibit will be mature, displaying flowers and pods from which the fruit is extracted. In addition to the cacao tree, the exhibit will include a display of embryo and tree development, lab-generated cacao embryos and plantlets, and a young germinated cacao plant. More information about this display and the full conference program is available at www.pmca.com, conference@pmca.com, or 610.625.4655.

Industry Mourns Joe Blommer ... Condolences to the family and friends of Joseph William Blommer, Blommer Chocolate Company, Chicago, IL, who passed away January 20 at age 67, at home in River Hills, WI. A mass of Christian burial was celebrated January 23. Joe was born in Milwaukee, WI, on April 10, 1942, graduated from Georgetown University, in 1964, where he served on the Board of Regents. An on-line obituary states that “Joe was a dedicated and loyal leader of the Blommer Chocolate Company. He was a man with a vision of success and had an exceptional love for his job. Far exceeding that was his love for his family. His spirit will live forever in the hearts of his family and friends.” Memorials may be made to the National Brain Tumor Society, 124 Watertown St., Suite 2D, Watertown, MA 02472.

Fancy Candy ... At NASFT’s 35th Winter Fancy Food Show, San Francisco, January 17 – 19, Jelly Belly Candy Company debuted its 92nd flavor - **Honey Bean** Jelly Belly bean. The new, golden yellow Honey Bean tastes like real wildflower honey and offers a soothing, comforting flavor from chewy center to tender shell (www.JellyBelly.com) ... Also from the Bay Area, Bridge Brands Chocolates unwraps its **Choc-Tail Sipper** chocolate straw for drinks (www.bridgebrandschocolate.com).

Thanks Again for Tuning In to CANDYMAIL ... and please visit www.patmagee.com ... *Yours Truly, Pat Magee*, Editor/Publisher, *Susan Tiffany*, Contributing Editor.