Tea cakes for Juneteenth celebrations

here's always time for tea, and there's always room for cake. Tea is the most consumed beverage globally. In the UK, afternoon tea time is still a common practice between lunch and dinner. While I was in Edinburgh, we walked the Royal Mile from the old historic castle to the palace of Holyrood House. We enjoyed a tour of Holyrood, the King's residence followed by a break for tea and cake. To be specific, we had a slice of Queen Victoria cake. The

namesake sponge cake was layered with whipped cream and jam. The top was dusted with sugar.

Another popular Scottish tea time treat is a chocolate-covered marshmallow perched on shortbread. Tunnock's Tea Cake started in a small town near Glasgow right before the turn of the 20th century. Thomas Tunnock opened a bakery and his grandson, Boyd Tunnock, came up with the iconic tea cake in 1956. It became a staple in the nation and in 2019 Boyd Tunnock was knighted by Queen Elizabeth, an ardent fan of the tea cake.

Tea cakes have historical significance for African Americans. According to historians, the American tea cake was created over 200 years ago by African slaves in the United States. The cakes were made with simple ingredients such as sugar, molasses, eggs and vanilla when available. Following emancipation, tea cakes became a staple of southern heritage.

Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation was declared in 1863, but slaves in Texas were not freed until June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston to enforce the proclamation. Celebrations on June 19 began the following year with church gatherings and family parties.

Juneteenth was declared an official state holiday in Texas in 1980. The 71st annual Juneteenth celebration in Georgetown is June 16-17. A Juneteenth photo exhibit will be on display at the Georgetown Public Library through June 18

It's easy to include tea cakes in Juneteenth celebrations. Cheryl Watts opened The Texas Tea Cake Company in 1997, featuring a tea cake recipe giv-



THE TOWN Linda Dwyer

en to her by her grandmother Louetta Moore. Tea cakes can be ordered online.

Children can learn the historical significance of tea cakes from the book Tea Cakes for Tosh by Kelly Starling Lyons. The touching family tale celebrates the important bond between grandchild and grandparent and the stories that make a family strong.

You can make your own tea cakes using this recipe from award winning author and chef Edna Lewis who was the granddaughter of enslaved people in Freetown, Virginia.

Juneteenth Tea Cakes

¹/₂ cup butter, room temperature 2 cups granulated sugar 2 large eggs, room temperature and

beaten 1/2 cup buttermilk, room temperature

1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest 4 cups all-purpose flour 4 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon Kosher salt

1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

Granulated sugar for sprinkling

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone mats.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy – about 3 minutes.

Add the eggs and mix until incorporated.

Pour in the buttermilk and lemon zest and mix until combined with the butter and egg mixture.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, salt and nutmeg.

Add the flour mixture to the wet ingredients and mix just until combined. You may need to mix the last of the flour in by hand because the dough will be quite thick.

Divide the dough into four portions.

Roll each portion on a lightly floured surface to ¹/₈-inch thickness.

Use a biscuit cutter to cut the dough into 2 ¹/₂-inch thick rounds.

Lightly sprinkle the top with granulated sugar.

Place on the prepared baking sheets ¹/₂-inch apart.

Bake in the preheated oven for 8-10 minutes or until the edges begin to turn golden.

Remove the cookies to a rack to cool completely.



Music on Main

Margaret Irving, with The School of Rock band in Round Rock, performs at Taylor's Music on Main, held at Heritage Square Park on Thursday. This was Taylor's last spring Music on Main, but the concerts, held on the third Thursday of the month, will resume in September.

— Photo by Andy Sharp

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n the past two years, e-book and e-audiobook circulations have increased significantly at the library. Libby app checkouts for the Georgetown Public Library

increased from 92,094 in 2021 to 104,566 in 2022, and it is on track to go even higher this vear!

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In May 2023, OverDrive ended service for their previous e-book app. If you are a former OverDrive user making the transition to Libby, we are here to help. Every Wednesday from 4-5 p.m. the library hosts our weekly tech assistance program, Wired Wednesday, on the second floor. Staff can help you download the Libby app and set it up for use. Unfortunately, reading history is not imported from OverDrive to Libby, but holds and loans will be moved to your Libby account. Kindle users will still be able to push a book to their device from the Libby app, although Kindle Fire users will need to take special steps to download the app from their Silk browser.

Ann Evans

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Those wishing to read on their desktop can visit catalog.georgetown.org and click on the Libby icon under the heading "Electronic Re-

sources" to get started.

You can find more information about the library's digital offerings at library.georgetown.org/digitalresources. There you will find a listing of our digital apps and resources on their use. If you still need help, you can visit library staff at Wired Wednesday or call the library at 512-930-3551. We'll help you download the app and get started reading or listening.

We hope to see everyone in the library soon!

Ann Evans is the Adult Services Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

What's going on in the library?

- June 18 September 15: Texas Society of Sculptors 15th Annual Show
- June 19: Library closed in observance of Juneteenth
- June 20-July 23: Shruti Mehta: Namaste India, café gallery
- June 20-July 23: LaWann Tull: It's All About the Lights, upstairs gallery
- June 23, 4-6 p.m.: Artist Receptions for Shruti Mehta and LaWann Tull
- June 24, 2-4 p.m.: Game Day for Adults, second floor
- June 28, 11 a.m.: Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide To Finance: Alzheimer's Association

For more information about Library events, visit library.georgetown.org/ events-calendar or call 512-930-3551.

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