

[Driftless Appetite](#)

Life & Food in the Driftless Area

<http://www.driftlessappetite.com/?p=5322>

The Walker House Bakery

Keith and I just paid a visit to the [Walker House](#) for the opening day of its bakery. For now, it will be open on Saturdays from 8 AM until noon but orders can be made and picked-up during the week. The place was abuzz. There were a lot of items to choose from: elephant ears, pasties, muffins, cookies, loaf breads, peanut cake bars, donuts, coffee cakes, blueberry pie, caramel apple rolls, cupcakes, sheet cakes, and many more. We enjoyed some coffee and a few bites of strawberry cream cheese cake. I ended up chatting with Brooke Garrison, who was filling up the shelves with more treats. It turns out she was the assistant baker. She invited me up to the kitchen to meet head baker, Lisa Govier.



Lisa was busy packaging up some pasties when I got in. She looked like a very happy woman. I liked her right away. Prior to working at the Walker House Bakery, Lisa ran and owned L & M Bake Shoppe in Darlington for eighteen and a half years. Before that, she had a lot of experience working as a cook at various restaurants in the area. She credits her switch from cooking to baking to a woman named Cora Rice (well known to a lot of people in Mineral Point) at the Redwood restaurant (now Zian's Chinese restaurant on Dodge St.). Cora baked at the Redwood while Lisa worked as a line cook. After Cora retired, Lisa was asked to take over the baking duties. After working as a baker at the Redwood for a couple of years, the opportunity in Darlington came up. Now she will be at the Walker House Bakery with the support of Dan and Kathy Vaillancourt.

Cream Cheese Coffee Cake



While we were talking, Lisa took out a peach bundt cake from the oven and poured on some glaze spiked with a few glugs of peach liqueur (her not so secret ingredient anymore). I asked if she had children and commented that they must have their favorite birthday or other occasion cakes that she has to make every year. Lisa said, "Yes, for the kids, aunts, uncles, friends, grandparents. Everyone!" with a big smile. Well, I said, please add me to your list for my birthday in April. Cheers to [The Walker House Bakery!](#)



About Us

Driftless Appetite

The blog name comes from the geological name for the region in which we live ([The Driftless Area](#)). Paleozoic Palate just didn't sound right...

Leslie

I came to Wisconsin via Illinois via the Philippines. Growing up on my grandparents' farm I was spoiled with tropical fruits, indigenous vegetables, and freshly caught fish from the nearby river. Southwest Wisconsin is special to me because just like where I grew up, there is a strong cultural identity and a passion for local foods. I am a music teacher, singer, photographer, fashionista, gardener, not quite a baker, and generally a lover of life!

Keith

I am not from Wisconsin, but as a native of the Upper Midwest (I have lived in Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Upstate NY, and Illinois), I have all the pasty northern European credentials you could ask for. I love good food, but bad food covered in melted cheese will do in a pinch. In my spare time I am a research scientist.

Raison d'être

We (Leslie, Keith) love our new home in southwest Wisconsin. We may not be on the cutting edge of any culinary trends, but we honestly believe there is not a better place to live on earth if you want fresh, diverse, locally produced food. We wanted to create a place where we could discuss food with others who care about where (and who) their food comes from, to provide information about food in southwest Wisconsin to those who are looking, and to learn more about what we eat.

- If you're a traveler coming to visit, don't hesitate to ask us anything.
- If you're a neighbor, we'd love to hear from you.
- If you couldn't find Wisconsin on a map, we still hope you find something here interesting, and I hope you join the conversation.

And so (saving all further ramblings until later) on with the show.

Let me recommend the best medicine in the world: a long journey, at a mild season, through a pleasant country, in easy stages. – James Madison

