

# WELCOMING PRINCETON

Recognizing the contributions made by newcomers and immigrants

## THE LITTLE CHEF PASTRY SHOP



We had the great pleasure of being introduced to Haitian born Chef Edwige Fils-Aimé. From the moment we walked into his shop, his big smile welcomed us warmly. The gorgeous pastries on view made our mouths begin to water! Chef Fils-Aimé was 21 years old when he came to the United States. His first stop was in Brooklyn. A friend found him a job and he was trained in French pastry. He later moved to Chez Alice and finally opened the doors to The Little Chef Pastry Shop in 2004. This shop, tucked away on Tulane Street, gets its name and logo from his two adorable boys. When asked about his biggest challenges in coming to the United States, he reflected on the long wait to leave Haiti. Once he arrived, he received help from his parents who were here already. For immigrants seeking advice on finding the path to their American dream, Chef Fils Aimé says: "Know what you want and if you want it, put in the effort". Owning a pastry shop requires rising early in the morning and working long days. When asked how we as members of the Princeton community can help others who wish to make their home here, Chef Fils-Aimé told us that Princeton is a very welcoming and nice community and he feels lucky he landed here. While going through a difficult time, people from the Princeton community stepped in and were willing to help. Everything looked so delicious and we asked Chef Fils Aimé to name his favorite item. He could not do so and said he liked everything. However, he mentioned he had a hard time avoiding the macaroons! The highly regarded croissants sell out by the morning, so we were out of luck in sampling those, but plan to be back soon. We did go home with a bag full of other goodies including a tiramisu for our dad. It's his favorite dessert and he thought it was spectacular! Our grandparents particularly love the scones. We share the chef's thinking – we liked everything! Everyone will find an old favorite or a new favorite at this delightful shop. We are Spanish speakers and for our next visit, we plan to brush up on our French so that we can order like native pros! The Little Chef Pastry Shop c'est magnifique!

**Interview by Avelyn and Emerlee Simons**

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