

Dining Scene

Celebrate Pi Day—Eat Pie!

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

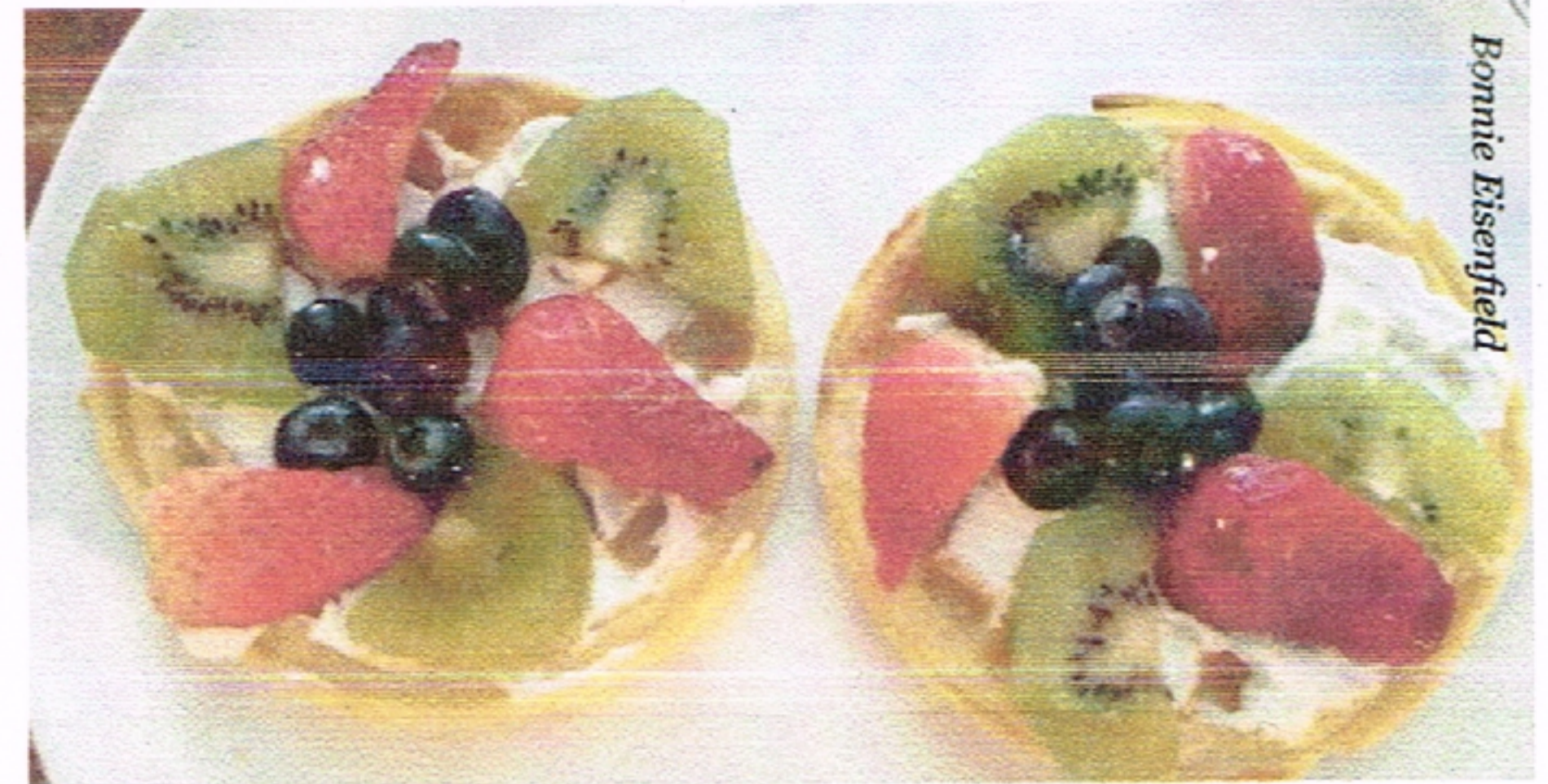
National Pi Day, March 14, has become a popular holiday, and we celebrate it by eating pie! Any kind of pie will do, as long as it's round.

The day commemorates the first three digits of the mathematical constant, *Pi* (Greek letter π), the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, expressed as 3.14. In plain English, this means that the outer boundary of a circle (circumference) is always approximately 3.14 times as long as the straight line across the middle of the circle (diameter.)

The reason 3.14 is approximate is that *Pi* is an "infinite decimal," meaning that after the decimal point, the digits go on forever. Mathematicians used to calculate *Pi* by hand. Then beginning in the 1900s, using computers, they have calculated trillions of digits after the decimal point. The record, set by Swiss scientists in 2021, is 62.8 trillion digits.

Physicist Larry Shaw came up with the idea of Pi Day in 1988 at the Exploratorium, a science museum in San Francisco, where

he was a longtime employee. It happened at a staff retreat following the death of Exploratorium founder and Nobel Prize nominee Frank Oppenheimer. (The date is also Albert Einstein's birthday.) In 2009, Pi Day, March 14, was officially recognized as a U.S. holiday, and is celebrated around the world.



Quick, easy, tasty, and healthful Pi Day tartlets: round toasted waffles topped with sliced fruit and yogurt.

Bonnie Eisenfeld

City Lit

Celebrate James Joyce's *Ulysses* on Bloomsday, June 16

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

James Joyce's fans around the world celebrate Bloomsday annually on June 16 to commemorate Irish writer James Joyce and his famous 1922 novel *Ulysses*, which follows a day in the life of Leopold Bloom on June 16, 1904. That day also happens to be when Joyce went on his first date with the woman who would become his wife, Nora Barnacle. First celebrated in 1924, Bloomsday continues to be observed internationally with festivals, readings, dramatizations, and pub crawls.

The Rosenbach, a rare-book museum and library at 2008-2010 Delancey Place, and founded in 1954 with a testamentary gift of the Rosenbach brothers' book collection, owns a first edition of *Ulysses*. Originally banned here, it was smuggled in by A.S.W. Rosenbach, who also purchased the manuscript of *Ulysses* at auction for \$1,975, sections of which are on display at the museum.

Now affiliated with the Free Library of Philadelphia, The Rosenbach has been commemorating Bloomsday annually with a daylong reading of *Ulysses* by various Philadelphia performing artists, writers, academics, dignitaries and denizens, outdoors on the 2000 block of Delancey, weather permitting.

The audience sits on folding chairs; people come and go during the readings. If you attend for a while, over the years, you will eventually hear the entire book, written in stream-of-consciousness style, so you can enjoy any part at any time. Check their [website](#) for the latest news of the 2022 event.



Courtesy of the Rosenbach