

## PAUL E. KANDARIAN PEOPLE

### BUDDING CELEBRITY CHEF:

**John Silvia**, an eighth-grader at Bridgewater Middle School, knows his way around the kitchen — and in front of a camera. Combining these skills earned him a top culinary honor and a school visit from a TV chef to talk about his winning ways.

Silva was one of four students nationwide to win the “What’s Your Specialty?” recipe and video contest hosted by Chartwells School Dining Services.

“It was really awesome,” Silvia said by phone about winning the contest. “I play sports, so winning is nothing new to me, but this is really a great honor.”

He won for his recipe, “John’s Fruit Salad Minis,” which consists of fresh fruits and nuts, topped with a mixture of tahini and maple syrup. He concocted it all with ease on camera, filming in his grandparents’ kitchen, he said.

“I cook all the time, especially on weekends when my parents sleep late,” he said. “Both sides of my family have very skilled cooks. I learned a lot from them, I’m completely blessed by that.”

Among his rewards was a school visit from **Jet Tila**, who has appeared on cooking shows such as “Iron Chef” and “Chopped.”

“He’s laid back, a fun guy,” Silvia said of Tila. “He was like a guest star at our school, handing out prizes. He’s a really nice guy.”

And one the young man wouldn’t mind following into the culinary trades.

“Cooking is definitely in my future,” he said. “Obviously, I have to keep my grades up, and sports are a priority, but after

this, cooking bounced up to the top priority. I’d like to become a TV chef.”

“John did a fantastic job emulating a real cooking show like you see on TV,” said **Eric DeLisle**, food service director for the Bridgewater-Raynham School District, in a phone interview. “He did exactly what you’d expect a professional chef to do, he even had commercial breaks. He just did a great job.”

Silvia loves cooking with his grandmother, he said, “who taught me to make frittata, one of my specialties. She’s a native of Puerto Rico, and taught me the Spanish version.”

His winning video shows him in his grandparents’ kitchen, in black apron, all the ingredients apportioned on a cutting board. He sets about slicing them up, putting them in a bowl and stirring in the syrup and tahini, then doling it out into dessert glasses, all with aplomb. To see the video, visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), and search for “Hometown Specialty-Bridgewater MS-John Silva.”

The contest was his first cooking competition, but won’t be his last, he said, as he plans to enter all he can.

“I heard not many kids come out of our school winning something nationally,” he said. “I feel good being one of the first, and about representing my school.”

**BUSINESS BRIEFS: Christopher C. Della Valle** of Walpole was named director of the Newton office of BlumShapiro, a tax and business consulting firm. He has more than 18 years of tax experience with multinational corporations and national public accounting firms, including the last seven

as director in the tax department at Covidien. He’s also worked at Deloitte and Price-waterhouseCoopers.

**A. Alexander Weisheit** of Quincy has joined the law firm of Drohan Tocchio & Morgan PC in Hingham as an attorney. He has a background in business litigation and environmental law, and experience with all litigation in state and federal court. Before joining the firm, Weisheit was an associate at Smith & Brink PC in Braintree, and did a legal internship with the Environmental Protection Division for the Vermont attorney general and was an environmental lobbyist with the Virginia League of Conservation Voters.

**Patricia McAuliffe** of Hanson was named to the board of directors at the Norwood Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of Norwell and Hingham. She is an investment advisor at Merrill Lynch, and has also been active in fund-raising for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society as well as the NVNA and its hospice golf tournament.

**Marie Peeler**, CEO of Peeler Associates in Pembroke, was named “Ambassador of the Year” by the South Shore Chamber of Commerce. She also serves as cochairwoman of the chamber’s ambassador group. The award is given to a member selected for outstanding service “above and beyond expectations,” according to a chamber press release.

**Christina Galanis** of Whitman, continuing care program manager at Rose Court at Linden Ponds in Hingham, won a 2014 Leadership Award from Erickson Living, which developed and manages the retirement community. She was one of 22 nominated throughout the Erickson organization for the award. She began working



at Rose Court in 2010 as manager of the memory care program, which she still manages. Last year, she assumed the job of overseeing the activity department at Rose Court.

*Paul E. Kandarian can be reached at [pkandarian@aol.com](mailto:pkandarian@aol.com).*



**Chef Jet Tila with Bridgewater eighth-grader John Silvia, who won a recipe and video contest and a visit from Tila.**