



## Bakers and Artists

Get creative with any child's next birthday and schedule an artsy party that offers engrossing hands-on fun and results in a unique take-home favor that trumps any goody bag.

This spring, Arleen Scavone of Sweet Arleen's Cupcakes & Bread Puddings ([sweetarleens.com](http://sweetarleens.com)) in Westlake Village began offering **Bake Parties** in the bakery's kitchen. Designed for children ages 7 and up, these events are seriously hands-on: Participants learn to prepare one of Sweet Arleen's cupcake recipes, make icing, frost their cupcakes with the shop's signature swirl, and work with fondant to create edible decorations. The sweetest part: Each guest goes home with a four-pack of their own cupcakes.

Artist GeorgeAnn Winston's Thousand Oaks-based Blank Canvas ([gavisuals.com](http://gavisuals.com)) brings **Canvas & Cupcakes** painting or sculpture parties to your home. Accommodating children as young as age 4, Winston, a former school art educator, brings supplies for a fun two-hour party that includes art lessons and cupcake decorating (hosts supply the cupcakes; Winston brings edible decorations). The art instruction helps each child create something they can be proud of. "My favorite quote so far was 'Who knew I was an artist?'" says Winston of a young partygoer. Artistic themes have included rabbits, flowers, and robots—as well as making sculptures with found objects.

—Laura Samuel Meyn



Arleen Scavone (above) hosts Bake Parties in the kitchen at Sweet Arleen's Cupcakes & Bread Puddings. Partygoers (left) can have their (cup)cakes and eat them, too.

## Kids Ride Free

When a group of adults got together last year for the Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA; [corbamtb.com](http://corbamtb.com)) annual Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day, they thought, *Why don't we do this more often?* So they started the CORBA Kids Club to build kids' confidence, promote a healthful lifestyle, learn about the environment, and inspire a new generation of outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Children of all ages and abilities may attend; bike trailers are welcome. These fun rides are held at various locations around the Santa Monica Mountains each month and are free of charge. ■

—Mark Langton