

# Roberta Spencer Family & Friends COOKBOOK

The Spencers

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

This is the Spencer Family & Friends Cookbook

dedicated to our mother Roberta Belle Spencer who taught us the joy of:

Cooking

Sharing

Eating

Left-overs

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Figure 1.1: My Flowchart

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Oh yea? Well the same back at you !



Figure 1.2: Diamonds

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / DISCLAIMERS

## Acknowledgments

Thank you to all that have participated providing recipes for this book. Recipes have been contributed by family and friends and by many that might not know that we sneaked their recipes, but good food is worth copying.

## Disclaimer

If there is something you didn't like, you must have made it wrong because we do not make mistakes and we certainly have great taste. Remember, follow the intent of the recipe, not the "letter of the law (or recipe)". Typing was done by Alvin Spencer who has no ability to spell, count, type or duplicate. All complaints must be directed to his email Trash Bin within 30 days from the date the recipe was typed.

**COOK and ENJOY**

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# NOTES {#notes}

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## What's the Difference Between Chop, Dice, and Mince?

### I don't know but try these comments

Sometimes the words chop and dice are used interchangeably, but technically the word dice is used for smaller pieces and the word chop is used for larger pieces. You seldom see the term large dice, but you will see large chop and small dice rather frequently. Dice can also refer to cutting vegetable into cubes of a specific size while chop is less precise. In general, chop is more casual and has more leeway while dice is more specific. The word mince means a very small dice.

### How Big is a Dice? How Small is a Mince?

How do you know how big or small something is supposed to be? If the recipe writer feels it matters, usually they will also include a measurement, like 3/4" dice. Again, we see the word dice here to indicate that this is a very specific direction. But if the sizing has some leeway, they will say either large, medium or small chop. Unfortunately, these sizes aren't standardized so it's hard to give measurements.

- Large chop – For me, when a recipe says large chop, I usually make it roughly the size of a nickel.
- 
- Medium Chop – Medium chop is about half the size of a nickel.
-

- Diced (Small Chop) – Small chop is about half of medium chop, perhaps a quarter inch to a side.
  - 
  - Minced – Mince is very fine, as small as I can get it.
-

## Chapter 2

# Appetizers and Beverages

### ARTICHOKE DIP

**Chef: Debbie Wescott**

#### Ingredients

- 2 8oz packages of cream cheese - softened
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 3 to 5 cloves of garlic - or 3 tablespoons of Minced garlic
- 14 oz can artichoke hearts drained and chopped - marinated
- 10 oz package of frozen spinach - softened
- 2 tablespoons of lemon juice
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 cup of mozzoretta cheese - grated

#### Directions

Cream the cream cheese, mayonnaise and garlic together and set aside. Mix remaining ingredients down the list to Parmesan cheese. Combine parts 1 and 2 and spread into a baking dish. Bake at 375 deg for 20 minutes then layer on Mozzoretta cheese, Bake 5 more minutes until light golden brown. Serve with fresh veggies or crackers. YUM!

## COWBOY CAVIAR

**Chef: Patricia Blair**

### Ingredients

- 15oz can black eyed peas - drained
- 15oz can shoepeg corn - drained
- 2/3 cup cilantro - chopped
- 2/3 cup green onion - chopped
- 1/4 cup olive oil dressing
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 2 cloves garlic - minced
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 2 large tomatoes - diced
- 2 avacados - diced

### Directions

Except the tomatoes and avacados marinate all other ingredients together for 6+ hours. Add diced tomatoes and avacados 30 minutes before serving.

---

## CREAM OF COCONUT FRUIT DIP

**Chef: Jennifer Gustin**

### Ingredients

- 1 package instant vanilla pudding (4.6 oz)
- 1 container cream of coconut (found in alcohol mix section)
- 16 oz whipped cream (Cool Whip)

### Directions

Combine all three ingredients together and chill for one hour so pudding dissolves completely. Serve with fruit. Great with sliced apple.

---

## CUCUMBER SANDWICHES

**Chef: Patricia Blair**

### Ingredients

- 8 oz cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 green onions - diced
- 1/2 teaspoon Bon Appetit seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon dill weed
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- cucumbers - peeled and sliced
- tomatoes - sliced
- bread - crust removed

### Directions

Combine together: cream cheese, mayonnaise, green onions, Bon Appetit, dill weed, and garlic salt. Spread mixture on bread and layer with sliced cucumber and tomato. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

---

## DAD'S SUNDAY EVENING POPCORN

**Chef: Alvin Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup of popcorn - uncooked
- 1 to 3 teaspoons of olive oil
- 1/4 cup of butter or margarine
- 1/4 teaspoon of popcorn salt

### Directions

Best cooked in a Whirley-pop popcorn popper. This requires only 1 teaspoon of oil.

Cook over medium high heat until kernels stop popping or until smoke fills the kitchen. Place in a large bowl and sprinkle melted butter lightly over popcorn

while stirring. Olive oil can be substituted for margarine. Sprinkle salt over popcorn and stir. Eat while warm and while watching a good movie with the family gathered around you.

---

## FIVE LAYER AVOCADO DIP

**Chef: Patricia Blair**

### Ingredients

- 1 can refried beans
- 1 can chip bean dip
- 2 large avocados - mashed
- 1 small can green chilies - diced
- 1/2 pint sour cream
- 1/4 jar favorite salsa
- garlic / onion salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup green onions - chopped
- 1 can sliced black olives
- 1 lb. favorite shredded cheese

### Directions

Layer in 9x13 pan. – First Layer: 1 can refried beans and 1 can chip bean dip. – Second Layer (Mix together) avocados, green chilies, sour cream, salsa, seasonings. – Third Layer: Green onions, – Fourth Layer: sliced olives. – Fifth Layer: cheese.

Serve with chips

---

## HOT BUTTERED ‘RUM’ DRINK

**Chef: Jennifer Gustin**

### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar

- 1 3/4 cups powdered sugar
- 2 pints vanilla ice-cream
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

### **Directions**

Soften ice-cream 30 minutes in refrigerator. Mix dry ingredients together. Cream together dry ingredients with softened ice-cream. Store in freezer. To serve, use 1 1/2 tsp of batter to a cup of hot water or milk. Add more to taste.

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## **HOT CHOCOLATE MIX**

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### **Ingredients**

- 1 25.6 oz package of instant nonfat dry milk (10 2/3 cups)
- 1 6 oz jar powdered non-dairy creamer
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 16 oz can instant chocolate drink mix

### **Directions**

Combine all ingredients, Mix well. Put in a large air tight container. Label. Store in cool, dry place. Use within 6 months. Makes about 17 cups of hot chocolate mix.

– For hot chocolate – add 3 tablespoons of mix to 1 cup hot water.

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## **JALAPENO POPPER DIP**

**Chef: Jennifer Gustin**

### **Ingredients**

- 2 packages light cream cheese

- 1 cup mahyonnaise
- 4 oz chopped green chillies
- 3 finely chopped jalepenos (The more seeds you use the spicier it is)
- 1 cup parmesan cheese
- 1 cup panko bread crumbs

### Directions

Stir together cream cheese and mayonnaise until smooth. Stir in green chilies and jalapenos. Pour mixture into oven-safe dish (8X8 works well) and sprinkle with parmesan cheese and bread crumbs.

---

## ORANGE JULIUS DRINK

**Chef: Lori Hilton**

### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup concentrated orange juice
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cups ice

### Directions

Put all ingredients in a blender and blend until ice is broken up smooth. Alter amount of ice to change consistency of the drink.

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## TORTILLA APPETIZER

**Chef: Patricia Blair**

### Ingredients

- 8 oz cream cheese



- 3 green onions - diced
- 4 oz can diced green chilies
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- Olives - cut (desired amount)
- Cheddar cheese - shredded (desired amount)
- Flour tortillas
- Toothpicks

### **Directions**

Combine all ingredients. Spread mixture on tortillas. Roll tortilla up and slice into desired thickness. hold together with a toothpick.

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## **WARM CREAMY BACON DIP**

**Chef: Debbie Wescott**

### **Ingredients**

- 1 16 oz sour cream
- 1 3 oz bacon bits (or make your own)
- 2 cups grated cheddar or cheddar jack cheese
- 1 cup diced green onions

### **Directions**

Heat oven to 400 deg. Combine all ingredients. Spread in a 1 quart baking dish. Heat 25 – 30 minutes until hot. Serve with veggies or crackers. Great served in a bread bowl. Easy to double recipe!

---

## **WEDDING PUNCH**

**Chef: Patricia Blair**

### **Ingredients**

- 1 can frozen orange juice - large

- 1 can frozen lemonade - large
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 gallon water
- 1 2 liter bottle 7-up

### Directions

Mix all the ingredients EXCEPT the 7-up. Freeze in freezer bags.

– To serve – soften slightly, put in punch bowl, add the bottle of 7-up.

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## Chapter 3

# Soups and Salads

### BLACK BEAN SOUP

**Chef: Patricia Blair**

#### Ingredients

- 2 16oz cans black beans - undrained
- 1 cup reduced sodium chicken broth
- 1 small onion - chopped
- 1 teaspoon garlic - minced
- 1 16oz jar salsa - thick and chunky
- 4 teaspoons lime juice
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper (optional)
- 1/3 cup plain yogurt (optional)
- fresh cilantro leaves - chopped (optional)
- nonstick cooking spray

#### Directions

Place 1 can of beans with liquid and chicken broth in blender or food processor, cover, blend until smooth. Coat large saucepan with cooking spray, heat over medium – high heat. Add onion and garlic: cook for 4 to 5 minutes or until onion is tender. Add blended bean mixture, remaining beans and liquid, salsa, lime juice, cumin, and crushed red pepper. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low and cover. Cook, stirring occasionally for 25 to 30 minutes. Serve topped with yogurt, garnish with cilantro.

## BROCOLI SALAD

**Chef: Jennifer Gustin**

### Ingredients

- 2 bunches broccoli
- 1/2/ red onion - chopped
- 1/4 lb bacon
- 3 oz sunflower seeds
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 cup light mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons white vinegar

### Directions

Cut broccoli into bite size pieces, Chop onion, Cook Bacon and crumble. Combine Broccoli, onion, bacon, and raisins in bowl. In separate bowl, mix mayonnaise, sugar, and vinegar. Toss with salad. Marinate in refrigerator for one hour. Mix in sunflower seeds before serving.

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## BROCOLI, CHEESE AND POTATO SOUP

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 4 medium potatoes - peeled and diced
- 4 carrots - peeled and sliced
- 1 stalk celery - diced
- 6 chicken bouillon cubes
- 6 cups water
- 3 stalks broccoli - cut in bite-sized pieces
- 1 quart half/half or milk
- 1 to 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 to 2 cups cheddar cheese grated

## Directions

In a large soup pan add potatoes, carrots, onions, celery, water and bouillon cubes. Bring to a boil, then simmer until vegetables are tender. Add the broccoli and simmer until tender.

White Sauce: In another pan add milk and melted butter. Add the flour, beat with wire whisk. Stir until it becomes thick. (Should be thick like paste). Add to vegetables. Stir until mixed well with vegetables. Add desired amount of cheese. If too thick add more milk.

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## BUTTERMILK RANCH DRESSING WITH BIBB LETTUCE

**Chef: Jennifer Gustin - by Barefoot Contessa**

## Ingredients

- 3 scallions white and green parts - chopped
- 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves - lightly packed, chopped
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice - freshly squeezed
- 1 1/2 Tablespoons dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon good olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves - chopped
- 2 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup good mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup Greek style yogurt
- 1/2 cup buttermilk - shaken

## Directions

Place the scallions, basil, lemon juice, mustard, olive oil, garlic, salt, And pepper in the bowl of a food processor fitted with the steel blade. Puree for 15 to 20 seconds to make a smooth mixture. Add the mayonnaise, Yogurt, and buttermilk and blend until smooth. Transfer the dressing to a container, cover, and refrigerate for 1 hour for the flavors to develop. Arrange the lettuce, tomatoes and onion artfully on salad plates and drizzle With the dressing. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and serve.

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## CARROT CHOWDER

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 1 lb ground beef - browned & drained
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup celery - chopped
- 1/2 cup green pepper - diced
- 1/2 cup onion - diced
- Add all above to ground beef cover & simmer on low for 10 minutes.
- Add beef mixture listed above to the combined soup base listed below.
- 4 cups tomato juice
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 2 cans cream of celery soup
- 2 1/2 cups carrots - grated
- 1/2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 tsp marjoram

### Directions

Bring all to a boil & simmer for 30 minutes

Serve by placing a slice or chopped Swiss or Monterey jack cheese in bowls and pour “hot” soup over the cheese.

Tastes much like a hearty tomato soup.

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## FRITO CORN CHIP SALAD

**Chef: Jennifer Gustin**

### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup purple onion - diced
- 1/2 cup green bell pepper - diced
- 1/2 cup red bell pepper - diced
- 1/4 cup celery - optional - diced
- 1 1/2 cup cheddar cheese - shredded

- 1 (15 oz) can whole kernel corn
- 1 (10 oz) bag chili chese Fritos
- 3 tablespoons Ranch dressing
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise

### Directions

In large bowl, mix all ingredients together except chips. Chill for 2 hours. Add chips before serving. Makes 10-12 servings

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## ITALIAN MEATBALL SOUP

**Chef: Patrica Blair**

### Ingredients

- 3/4 lb ground Beef
- 3/4 lb pork sausage
- 2 eggs - beaten
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese - binely grated
- 1/4 cup Italian bread crumbs
- 1 tablespoon garlic - finely chopped
- 1teaspoon Italian Essence
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 pinches crushed red pepper
- Mix the above together and roll into small balls
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 cup onion - chopped
- 1/4 cup celery - chopped
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 (14.5 oz) can crushed tomatoes
- 3 1/2 cup beef stock
- 3 cups water
- 1/2 cup ditalini or other small pasta
- 2 tablespoons fresh basil leaves - chopped

### Directions

In a 4 1/2 quart soup pot add 1 tablespoons olive oil. Brown the meatballs (about 4 minutes). Transfer to a plate and set aside. Add onion, celery, stirring

until vegetables are soft. Add tomato paste, crushed tomatoes, beef stock and water. Return the meatballs to the soup and bring to a boil. Simmer for 30 minutes. Using a spoon, carefully skim any fat that has accumulated on the top of the soup and discard. Add ditalini or other small pasta to the hot soup. Stir well and cook for 15 minutes or until the pasta is cooked through. Stir in basil and serve garnished with grated parmesan cheese.

---

## MANDARIN SALAD

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 head iceberg lettuce
- 1/2 head romaine lettuce
- 1 cup celery - chopped
- 2 whole green onions - sliced
- 11 oz can mandarin oranges

### Directions

In a small pan over medium heat, heat almonds and sugar, stirring constantly. Until almonds are coated and sugar is dissolved. Watch carefully as they will burn easily. Cool and store in airtight container. Mix lettuces, celery and onions. Just before serving, add almonds and oranges. Toss with dressing. (Excellent with sesame seed dressing).

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## MEXICAN 2 BEAN CHILI

**Chef: Jennifer Gustin**

### Ingredients

- 1 can (15 oz) black beans - drained and rinsed



- 1 can (15 oz) pinto - drained and rinsed
- 1 can (8.5 oz) whole kernel corn - drained
- 1 can (16 oz) chunky salsa
- 1 can (8 oz) tomato sauce
- 3 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 2 - 3 garlic cloves - minced
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 cups chicken broth

### Directions

Drain and rinse beans and corn. Combine chicken broth, salsa, tomato sauce in large sauce pan. Add beans, corn chicken, garlic, chili powder and cumin. Bring to a boil, reduce heat And simmer 30 minutes to 1 hour. Serve.

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## ORIENTAL SALAD

**Chef: Patricia Blair**

### Ingredients

- 1 pound cole slaw
- 1 cup scallions - chopped
- 1 cup sunflower seeds - shelled
- 1 cup almond slivers
- 2 package origional Ramon noodles
- DRESSING:
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/3 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup sugar
- seasoning packets from noodles

### Directions

Toast almond slivers in a pan with a bit of oil.

Combine salad ingredients in a large bowel. In a separate bowel combine dressing Ingredients, whisk and chill. Add dressing to salad 2 minutes before serving

---

## SESAME SEED DRESSING

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 3/4 cup honey
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper (white is good)
- 1/2 cup oil
- 6 tablespoons vinegar
- 3 tablespoons sesame seeds - toasted

### Directions

Mix all ingredients with wire whisk until thickened. Very good on salads made with green onion, thinly sliced celery, slivered almonds, red grapes and mandarin oranges.

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## ZUPPA TOSCANA

**Chef: Jennifer Gustin**

### Ingredients

- 1 pound hot Italian sausage
- 3 pounds potatoes - cubed with skin
- 1 large onion - chopped
- 2 cans chicken broth
- 3 cloves garlic - minced
- 2 cups kale - chopped
- 1 quart water
- 1 bag real bacon pieces
- 1 cup heavy cream
- salt and pepper to taste

### Directions

Brown and drain sausage and set aside. In a large pot add water, broth, potatoes, onion, And garlic. Cook on medium heat until potatoes are don, add

sausage, bacon pieces, Salt and pepper, and simmer for 10 minutes. Turn heat to low, add kale and heavy cream. Heat through and serve.

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## MORE

**Chef:** Who

**Ingredients**

- 2 T

**Directions**

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## Chapter 4

# Vegetables & Side Dishes

### SEA SALT SWEEET POTATOES

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

#### Ingredients

- 2 pounds (3 medium) yams - diced 3/4" cubes
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse sea salt
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup maple syrurp
- 1/4 cup pecan pieces - chopped coarse

#### Directions

Preheat oven to 425 deg and coat 9 x 13 baking pan with cooking spray. In a separate bowel, mix all ingredients together except pecans. Arrange mixture in backing pan. Bake for 25-30 minutes, stirring halfway through. Remove from oven sprinkle with pecans. Finish with a pinch of sea salt. Serves 4 to 6.

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### BROCCOLI - CHEESE ALMONDINE

**Chef: Lori Hilton**

### Ingredients

- 2 to 3 cups broccoli florets and stem
- 2 tablespoon margarine
- 2 tablespoons onion - chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons rice flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup cheddar cheese - grated
- 1 cup sliced almonds

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 deg. Cook the broccoli until barely tender. Drain and place it in a buttered 1 1/2 quart casserole dish. In a medium saucepan, melt the margarine and saute the onion until clear. Stir in the salt and flour. Add the milk slowly, stirring continually. Turn heat to medium and cook until Sauce has thickened. Add the cheese and stir until cheese melts. Spoon the cheese Sauce overt the broccoli. Top with almonds. Bake for 30 minutes. Makes 3 or 4 servngs.

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## CAULIFLOWER “MASH” POTATOES

**Chef: Lori Hilton**

### Ingredients

- 1/2 Large head of cauliflower - broken florets
- 1/2 cup nonfat buttermilk
- 1/2 to 1/3 cup low-fat milk
- 1 pound Yukon gold potatoes - cut to 1/2 inch cubes
- 2 scallions - chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

### Directions

Place the cauliflower in a steamer basket, set over boiling water, cover and steam for 15 minutes. Transfer to a food processor, add the buttermilk and 1/4 cup of milk and puree until very smooth, about 2 minutes. Place potatoes in

a saucepan, add cold salted water to cover by about 2 inches, bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer until tender, about 15 minutes Drain, return to the saucepan, and heat over medium heat for 1 to 2 minutes to dry, mash with a potato masher. Add the cauliflower puree,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk, 1 tsp salt and  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp pepper. Stir to blend and heat over medium low heat, adding more milk as needed for a creamy consistency. Stir in butter and scallions and serve.

---

## **“CROCK POT” GREEN CHILI BURRO SAUCE**

**Chef: Patricia Blair**

### **Ingredients**

- 1 medium onion - diced
- 2 pounds stew meat - cut into chunks
- 1 jar LaVictoria green taco sauce
- 1 jar LaVictoria green salsa
- 1 can green chilies - diced

### **Directions**

Mix all ingredients in crock pot and simmer

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## **GARLIC MASHED POTATOES**

**Chef: Patricia Blair**

### **Ingredients**

- 5 pounds potatoes
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup onion - grated
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 5 cloves garlic - minced
- 2 cups sour cream
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup butter - softened
- 2 teaspoons salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon pepper

**Directions**

Peel potatoes and cut in large chunks. Cover with water and boil until tender. Drain water. Mash well and set aside. Microwave onion and the 2 tablespoons butter for 2 minutes. Add minced garlic to butter and onion. Microwave for 1 minute, then add to potatoes. Stir in sour cream, the ¼ cup butter, salt, and pepper. Spoon into large casserole dish. Cover with foil, Bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes. Makes 8 – 10 servings.

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**GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE**

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

**Ingredients**

- 2 cans green beans or 2 pkg. 9 oz frozen green beans
- 1 can of cream of mushroom soup
- ¾ cup milk
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/3 cups Frenches Original French Fried Onions

**Directions**

In a 1 ½ quart casserole pan, mix all ingredients except 2/3 cups french fried onions. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees or until hot. Stir, top with 2/3 cups onions. Bake 5 minutes or until onions are golden. Serves 6

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**GREEN BEANS WITH LEMON AND PINE NUTS**

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

**Ingredients**

- 1 1/2 pounds green beans - fresh - trim and cut diagonally into 1/2" pieces
- 2 garlic cloves - finely minced



- 1/4 cup toasted pine nuts
- 2 tablespoons Italian parsley - fresh, finely chopped
- 1 large lemon - finely zest and juice
- 4 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil
- salt and peper to taste

### Directions

In a 4 quart sauce pan, boil in salted water, beans and minced garlic until just tender, about 5 minutes, drain. Transfer to a bowl and toss with nuts, parsley, zest, oil. Salt and pepper to taste. Makes 8 servings.

---

## MOM'S CURRIED RICE

**Chef: Patricia Blair / Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 1 cup white rice
- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 cup onion - chopped
- 1 cup celery - chopped
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper - or to taste
- 2 cups chicken broth
- salt and pepper to taste

### Directions

In a large frying pan, melt butter, onion, celery and sauté, stirring occasionally, until onion is translucent. Blend together the rice, curry powder, and cayenne pepper. Add to the onion mixture and stir while cooking until rice is coated, about 2 minutes. Pour in the broth. When it boils, cover the pan and reduce heat to low. Simmer until rice is tender and the broth is absorbed, 18 – 20 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

---

## OLD-FASHIONED CREAMED CABBAGE

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 1 medium-sized head green cabbage
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine - melted
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup cream or nondairy liquid - undiluted
- 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese, for topping - optional

### Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Wash, core, and shred the cabbage. In a saucepan cook until tender then drain. In a large bowl, combine the cabbage with the rest of the ingredients except the cheddar cheese. Pour mixture into a buttered 3 quart casserole or baking dish. Bake for about 15 minutes. Add the cheese topping, if desired, and return to oven for another 5 to 7 minutes. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

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## QUINOA WITH PINE NUTS AND APRICOTS

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup dried apricots - chopped
- 1 bell pepper - chopped
- 1 bunch green onions - chopped
- 1 cup quinoa
- 1/2 cup pine nuts
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 

### Directions

Bring 2 cups water to a boil in medium saucepan. Stir in quinoa, Cover, and simmer 10 minutes. Turn off heat, and let quinoa remain Covered 10 minutes more to absorb water. Transfer quinoa to bowl And fluff every few minutes until grain cools. Toast pine nuts in dry skillet Over medium heat, stirring until nuts are golden brown (3 minutes). Add pine nuts, salt, lemon juice, cumin, coriander, oil, apricots, Green onions, and bell pepper to quinoa, and toss until coated. Serve warm or chill and serve cold.

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## RATATOUILLE

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 1 red onion
- 1 zucchini
- 1 yellow squash
- 1 bell pepper
- 10 button mushrooms
- 1 tablespoons garlic - diced
- Parsley - chopped
- extra-virgin olive oil
- salt and pepper to taste

### Directions

Wash and chop the vegetables into 1/2 to 3/4 inch pieces for even cooking. Do not peel the vegetables. Be sure to dry the mushrooms well after washing. Wet mushrooms turn mushy when cooked. Place the dice vegetables in a large mixing bowl. Cover lightly with extra-virgin olive oil. Mix well to make sure all

the pieces are covered in light oil, but avoid drenching. Too much oil leads to soggy vegetables. Season with salt, pepper, chopped parsley and diced garlic. Place a flat backing pan in a 500 degree oven. Allow the pan to roast in the oven until hot, about 5 minutes. Pour vegetables from the bowl onto the sizzling hot pan. The hot pan helps sear in the vegetables natural moisture. Bake at 500 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes, turning halfway through. The vegetables are done when the vegetables begin to turn brown on the edges. Ratatouille can be served hot as a vegetable entrée over rice or tossed with tomato sauce and served over pasta. It also can be served cold or at room temperature with bread or crackers.

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## SAVORY SPINACH SQUARES

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 2 packages spinach - chopped
- 1 cup shredded American cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/4 cup butter - melted
- 1/2 onion - minced
- 2 tablespoons dry parsley flakes
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
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## Directions

Cook the spinach and drain well. Beat eggs, add combined milk, butter, onion, parsley flakes and Worcestershire sauce, salt, thyme and nutmeg and mix well. Combine spinach and cheese, add egg mixture and mix all well. Pour into a greased shallow pan 9 x 13. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour. Let cool a minute and cut into squares and serve. 12 servings

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## MORE

**Chef: Who**

## Ingredients

- 2 T

## Directions

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## Chapter 5

# Main Dishes

### CREAMY SWISS CHICKEN BAKE

**Chef:** Roberta Spencer

#### Ingredients

- cooked rice
- 4 - 6 sliced chicken breast
- 6 - 8 slices swiss cheese
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 3/4 cup parmesan cheese - divided 1/2+1/4
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

#### Directions

Serve over cooked rice. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a bowl mix ingredients; mayonnaise, sour cream, parmesan cheese, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Spread over chicken and sprinkle with 1/2 cup parmesan cheese. Pat chicken dry and place in greased 9 x 13 pan. Spread mixture over chicken and sprinkle with parmesan cheese. Bake 1 hour at 375 deg. Serve over rice or serve alone.

## APRICOT CHIPOTLE CHICKEN

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 4 - 6 chicken breasts
- CHICKEN MARINADE
- 1 cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons garlic - minced
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- APRICOT CHIPOTLE SAUCE
- 1 1/2 oz jar of apricot preserves
- 2 1/4 cup chicken broth
- 3 chipotle peppers

### Directions

Trim chicken breast and put in marinade. Let marinate 2 - 24 hours. APRICOT CHIPOTLE SAUCE: Heat the apricot preserves until warm and add chicken broth and chipotle peppers. Blend with hand blender until peppers are integrated. Chipotle peppers will make the sauce spicier, so begin with one pepper and taste the sauce. Add more if needed. Pour over chicken, cover and bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours. May cook in crock pot on low for 6-8 hours. Delicious served over rice.

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## BAKED CHICKEN AND RICE CASSEROLE

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 6 - 8 pieces of chicken - drumsticks or thighs
- 1 cup white rice - uncooked
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 package Lipton onion soup
- 1 small onion - chopped
- 1 teaspoon granulated bouillon - or 1 cube



## Directions

Brown chicken in pan with enough oil to brown it. Remove chicken to a plate. Put 1 cup of rice in pan and add 2 cups chicken broth, 1 package Lipton onion soup, chopped onion and bullion. Put chicken on top of rice and cover with a lid. Simmer on low until rice and chicken are done. You can add extra liquid if it needs more.

## BACKED CHICKEN NUGGETS

**Chef: Patricia Blair**

### Ingredients

- 4 chicken breasts - boneless - skinless
- 1 1/2 cup Italian seasoned bread crumbs
- 2/3 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
- 3 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup butter, melted

### Directions

Preheat oven to 400 deg. Cut chicken breasts into 1 1/2 inch pieces. In a Medium bowl, mix together the bread crumb, cheese, salt, thyme and basil. Mix well. Put butter in a bowl for dipping. Dip chicken pieces into melted butter first, then coat with the breadcrumb mixture. Place well coated chicken pieces on a lightly greased cookie sheet in a single layer, and bake in the preheated oven for 20 minutes.

## BEEF AND BELL PEPPER SKILLET

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef

- 2 green peppers - diced
- 1 cup onion - chopped
- 1 cup rice - uncooked
- 1 beef bullion cube - crushed
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 1/2 cups water
- 1 small can of tomatoes - optional

### Directions

Brown the beef in skillet, drain. Stir in green pepper, onion, rice, bullion water, and soy sauce. Bring to boil, reduce heat, cover and cook over low heat until liquid is absorbed, about 20 – 25 minutes. Also, this recipe is good with a small can of tomatoes. Drain tomatoes and fold in at the end of cooking. Heat and serve.

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## BEEF AND BROCCOLI STIR-FRY

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 2 pounds top sirloin steaks - sliced 1/4" thick
- 1 medium onion - sliced thinly
- 2 medium heads broccoli
- 2 teaspoons ginger root - grated
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons corn starch
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar - firm packed
- 1 clove Garlic - minced
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil - divided

### Directions

In small bowl combine soy sauce, brown sugar, garlic and pepper. Set aside. Heat 1 tablespoon vegetable oil in large skillet over medium high heat. Add beef, and stir-fry sauce, cook until almost cooked through, about 2 minutes. Transfer beef to a plate and cover to keep warm. Heat remaining oil in skillet, add onion and stir-fry sauce, cook for 5 minutes. Cut broccoli into florets (about

4 cups), add to skillet with soy sauce mixture, add ginger. Bring to boil and cook, stirring constantly, until sauce thickens, about 2 minutes. Serve with, rice and serve warm.

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## BOUNTY RICE

**Chef: Patricia Blair**

### Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 can 14.5 oz diced tomato
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon basil leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 3 cups cooked rice
- 4 cups shredded cabbage
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 cup onion
- 1 cup green bell pepper
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese

### Directions

Sauté ground beef until lightly browned. Stir in tomatoes, seasonings, rice, and cabbage. Cover and cook 10 - 15 minutes or until cabbage is tender crisp. Stir in sour cream, onions, and gree peppers. Heat through. Spoon into 3 quart casserole dish and sprinkle with cheese. Bake in oven at 350 degrees until cheese is melted

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## CAFÉ RIO

**Chef: Debbie Wescott**

### THE PORK

- 1 pound pork tenderloin - up to 4-5 lbs

- 2 15 oz cans tomato sauce
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 1 can Coca-Cola
- 1 garlic clove - minced
- 1 /4 cilantro - diced

Place all ingredients in crock pot on medium for at least 4 hours. Shred cooked pork and put back in sauce. Drain excess sauce to desired consistency.

### THE CREAMY DRESSING

- 1 packet Hidden Valley Ranch mix
- 8 oz salsa verde green salsa - LaVictoria brand
- 1/2 bunch cilantro with stems - diced
- 2 cloves garlic - minced
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- 1/8 teaspoon hot sauce

Mix in blender. If needed, thin with buttermilk.

### THE RICE

- 4 cups rice - uncooked
- 8 cups water
- 8 cubes chicken bouillon - or 8 teaspoons
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 4 cloves garlic -minced
- 12 tablespoons butter - use 1/2 for healthier version
- 13 sprigs cilantro - chopped

Bring water with bouillon, cumin, and butter to boil. Add garlic, cilantro, and rice. Cook for about 20 minutes or until all water is absorbed. (I usually half the rice if I'm just cooking 1 pound of pork)

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Great served with warm tortillas. Add beans if you wish.

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## CHEESE MANICOTTE

**Chef: Lori Hilton**

### Ingredients

#### THE SAUCE

- 1 large onion - chopped
- 1 garlic clove - minced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 12 ounces tomato paste
- 24 ounces water
- 2 tablespoons oregano - fresh
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

#### THE FILLING

- 1 1/2 cup ricotta cheese - grated
- 6 eggs
- 4oz mozzarella cheese - grated
- 6oz parmesan cheese - grated
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons fresh basil - chopped

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. To make the sauce, gently sauté the onion and garlic in olive oil in saucepan over medium heat until onion is translucent. Add the tomato paste and stir. Slowly add the water and stir. Add the seasonings and allow the sauce to simmer while preparing the manicotti and filling. FOR MANICOTTI: Bring a large pot of water to a boil, add olive oil, and drop in manicotti. Cook al dente, about 12 minutes. Drain and refresh under cold running water. FOR FILLING: Beat the ricotta with the eggs until combined in the large bowl with an electric mixer. Add the grated cheeses and softened butter, beat until everything is combined. Gently fill the cooked manicotti with the cheese mixture and arrange in two greased 9x13 pans. Cover the pasta in each pan with half the sauce. Bake for 35 minutes until the cheese is thoroughly melded and the sauce is bubbling.

## CHEESY BUCKWHEAT WITH GREEN CHILES

**Chef: Jennifer Gustin**

### Ingredients

- 4 cup cooked Cream of Buckwheat
- 1 cup onion - chopped
- 1/4 cup buter
- 1 cup low fat sour cream
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 2 cup (8oz) sharp cheddar cheese - shredded
- 2 4oz cans green chilies - chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

### Directions

Prepare Cream of Buckwheat, using either milk or water. Sauté onion in butter then combine with buckwheat, sour cream, salt and pepper. In 2 quart casserole dish layer buckwheat mixture, cheddar cheese and chilies and repeat layers. Bake uncovered at 375° for 30 minutes, or until bubbly and golden. Let stand about 10 minutes before serving. Serves 6

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## CHICKEN ENCHILADA QUICHE

**Chef: Jennifer Gustin**

### Ingredients

- 1 pie crust
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup half-and-half or milk
- 1 can 12.5oz chunk chicken breast in water -drained = 1 1/2 cup
- 2 cup (8oz) monterey jack cheese - shredded

- 1 cup (4oz) cheddar cheese - shredded
- 1 cup Old El Paso Thick N' Chunky salsa
- 1 can (4.5oz) chopped green chilies
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 cup broken tortilla chips

### Directions

Heat oven to 350°. In medium bowl beat eggs with wire whisk. Beat in half-and-half. Stir in chicken, both cheeses, salsa, green chilies and salt. Fold in broken tortilla chips. Pour into pie crust, sprinkle pepper over top of filling. Bake 55 – 64 minutes or until crust is lightly golden brown and knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let stand 10 minutes. Serve

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## CHICKEN FAITA LETTUCE WRAPS

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

#### FOR FILLING:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pound chicken - cut in bite-size pieces
- 1 tablespoon fajita spice
- 1 cupsliced onions
- 1 cup sliced peppers
- 2 cloves of garlic - chopped
- 1 tablespoon cilantro - chopped
- 1 teaspoon cumin

Heat oil in the pan over medium heat and add chicken and fajita spice. Cook for 5 minutes, and then add the rest of the filling ingredients. Simmer until chicken pieces are fully cooked.

#### FOR LETTUCE WRAPS:

- 8 iceburg lettuce leaves

- 1 cup sliced cabbage
- 2 avocados, sliced
- 2 cups salsa

### Directions

Let each leaf from itself into a natural cup. Sprinkle sliced cabbage in the cups. Divide chicken filling among the cups and top each with avocado slices and salsa. Makes 4 servings of 2 fajitas each.

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## COCTAIL MEATBALLS

**Chef: Amanda Tunison**

### Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/2 cup dried bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 12oz tomato based chili sauce
- 1 1/4 cups grape jelly

### Directions

In large bowl, combine ground beef, bread crumbs, onion, milk, egg, Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper. Mix together and shape into meatballs. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add meatballs, in a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add meatballs, and cook until browned, about 5-7 minutes. Remove from skillet, and drain on paper towels. Add chili sauce and jelly to skillet, heat, stirring until jelly is melted. Return meatballs to skillet and stir until coated. Reduce heat to low. Simmer uncovered for 30 minutes. Serve. Also delicious on rice.

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## COLORFUL KIELBASA

**Chef: Roberta Spencer**

### Ingredients

- 1 can (10 3/4oz) condensed cream of celery soup
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 1 pound smoked kielbasa - cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 3/4 cup long grain rice - uncooked
- 1 package (10oz) frozen peas
- 1 jar (4 1/2) sliced mushrooms - drained
- 1 cup (4oz) cheddar cheese - shredded

### Directions

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**Chef: Who**

### ### Ingredients

### Directions

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## Chapter 6

# Literature

Here is a review of existing methods.



## Chapter 7

# Methods

We describe our methods in this chapter.



## Chapter 8

# Applications

Some *significant* applications are demonstrated in this chapter.

### 8.1 Example one

### 8.2 Example two





## Chapter 9

## Final Words

We have finished a nice book. What do you think?

