



Kitchen Chatter

by Nancy Winfrey

Real Easy Simple, Delicious Home Cooking

Baked Corn & Cheese

2 cups fresh corn, but from cob
1 cup grated sharp Cheddar cheese
1 cup soft bread crumbs
4 tablespoons butter or margarine
1/4 cup finely chopped green peppers
1/3 cup milk
3 or 4 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
1 tablespoon instant minced onions
1 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper

Combine all ingredients and blend well. Place in well buttered casserole, cover, and bake in 350 degree oven for 35 to 40 minutes or until corn is tender. Serves 4.

Great Corn Salad

6 or 7 ears fresh white corn
1 medium green pepper, finely chopped
1 medium onion, finely chopped
2 tablespoons diced pimiento
1/2 cup mayonnaise (not salad dressing)
1/2 teaspoon curry powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper

Shuck the corn and then drop corn in enough water to cover. Cook for 7 minutes. Drain, rinse in cold water and let cool. Cut corn from cob and set aside. Combine the green peppers, onions, pimiento, mayonnaise, curry powder, salt and pepper and blend well. Add the corn and toss lightly. Place in bowl, cover, and chill at least 1 hour before serving on a bed of lettuce. Serves 10.

Taco Beef & Noodle Bake

1 pound ground beef
1/2 cup finely chopped onion
1 can (15-oz.) can tomato sauce
1/2 cup water
1 package (1-1/4-oz.) package taco seasoning mix
2 packages (5-oz. each) medium egg noodles
2 cups cottage cheese
1/4 cup sour cream
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons beef-flavored bouillon granules
1/4 cup finely chopped green onions
1 cup grated mozzarella cheese

In a large skillet, cook the ground beef, stirring constantly to crumble beef, along with the onions until meat has browned. Drain drippings from pan. Add the tomato sauce, water and taco seasoning mix and bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Cook the noodles according to directions on package - drain. Combine the noodles, cottage cheese, sour cream, flour, bouillon granules and green onions and mix well. Spoon noodle mixture into a greased baking dish and top with meat mixture. Bake in 350 degree oven for 25 minutes and then sprinkle with mozzarella cheese, return to oven and bake 5 minutes longer or until cheese melts. Serves 8.

Spinach Salad

1 pound fresh spinach, torn
1/2 head iceberg lettuce, torn
5 or 6 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/4 cup cider vinegar
2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon onion juice
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon dry mustard
3/4 cup large-curd cottage cheese

Combine the spinach, lettuce and crumbled bacon in a large salad bowl and toss gently to blend. Combine the oil, vinegar, sugar, onion juice, salt and mustard, cover and shake vigorously. Stir in the cottage cheese, and pour dressing over the spinach mixture. Serves 10.

Famous Strawberry Pie

2 baked pie shells, cooled
1 quart strawberries, washed, caped and sliced
2 cups sugar
6 tablespoons strawberry jello
6 tablespoons cornstarch
2 cups water
Whipped cream

In a saucepan, bring the sugar, jello, cornstarch and water to a boil and boil 10 minutes. Cool. Place strawberry mixture in the pie shells and refrigerate. Serve topped with whipped cream or frozen whipped topping, thawed.

Great Marinated Asparagus

2 cans (14-1/2-oz. each) asparagus spears, well drained
1 green pepper, finely chopped
4 or 5 green onions, finely chopped
1 rib celery, finely chopped
3/4 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup red wine vinegar
1/2 cup sugar
1 small garlic clove, minced
1/4 teaspoon paprika

Place the asparagus in a 9x13x2-inch baking dish. Combine the remaining ingredients, blend, pour over the asparagus, cover, and chill at least 4 hours or overnight before serving. When ready to serve, drain and serve on a bed of shredded lettuce. Serves 8.

Dijon Chicken

6 whole chicken breasts, cut in half
Salt and pepper
Garlic powder
1-1/2 cups sour cream
1-1/2 cups Dijon mustard
1 package (8-oz.) package Italian style fine bread-crumbs

Sprinkle the chicken breasts with salt, pepper and a bit of garlic powder. Combine the sour cream and mustard in a shallow dish and blend well. Dip each piece of chicken into the mustard mixture and then dredge in breadcrumbs to coat well. Arrange chicken in a single layer in a baking pan and bake in 375 degree oven for 50 minutes or until tender. Serves 12.

Squash Fritters

1 pound zucchini, unpeeled and grated
1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley
1 tablespoon finely chopped green onion
1 cup buttermilk pancake mix
1 egg, beaten
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/2 cup vegetable oil (for deep frying)

Combine all above ingredients except the oil and blend well. In a skillet, heat the oil until very hot and drop mixture by tablespoonfuls into the hot oil. Cool until golden brown, then turn and brown other side. Drain on paper towels and serve immediately. Makes 1 dozen.

Fried Ripe Tomatoes

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
3 large ripe tomatoes
1/2 cup butter or margarine, plus 1 tablespoon
6 slices of toasted bread, crumbled
1 cup milk

In a bowl, combine the flour, sugar, salt and pepper and blend and set 2 tablespoons of the flour mixture aside. Cut tomatoes into about 1/2-inch slices and dredge in the bowl with the flour mixture. In a large skillet add the 1/2 cup butter or margarine and let heat. When hot, add the tomatoes and cook on each side until golden brown, turning only one time. Place the toasted bread slices in a dish, top each slice of bread with a fried tomato and place in warm oven to heat. Combine the remaining 1 tablespoon butter in the same pan the tomatoes were cooked in and combine with the pan drippings. Cook and stir and then gradually add the milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until thickened. Spoon sauce over the tomatoes and serve immediately. Serves 6.

Chile Con Queso

For great snacking, fix a bowl.

1 can (16-oz.) diced tomatoes
1 tablespoon bacon drippings
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 can (4-oz.) chopped green chilies, well drained
1 package (1-lb.) Velveeta cheese, cut into small cubes (1/2-inch)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper

Drain tomatoes, reserving juice - set aside. Heat the bacon drippings in a large skillet and then add the onions and sauté until tender. Add the tomatoes and chilies and cook over low heat, stirring frequently, and continue cooking for 15 minutes. Add reserved tomato juice, cheese cubes, salt and pepper and cook over low heat, stirring often, until cheese melts. Serve warm with tortilla chips. Makes 4 cups.

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Recipe: Easy Blender Salsa

Ingredients:

1 (14oz) can diced tomatoes	small to medium size handful of cilantro, washed
1 (10oz) can original Rotel	juice of 1 lime
1/2 small yellow onion, rough chop	1 to 1-1/2 teaspoon honey
1 clove garlic, peeled and smashed	1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 jalapeno, seeded (leave seeds for more heat)	salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Put all the ingredients in a blender and pulse to combine for 30 seconds or so until all the ingredients are finely chopped and salsa is desired consistency. Check for seasoning and add salt and black pepper to taste. Store in the refrigerator. Enjoy!

My Mom always made this for my Tacos. I like it HOT!

Mike Thigpen...