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ARCADIA NEWS

ARCADIA Home & design



Home's History Revealed • PAGE 8

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Arcadia News

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Phoenix AZ 85018
602-840-6379 • arcadiabd.com

Publisher

Greg A. Bruns
greg@arcadianews.com

Editor

Amanda Goossen
amanda@arcadianews.com

Design & Layout

Gabe Turner
gabe@arcadianews.com

Advertising

Roni Mier
roni@arcadianews.com



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Editor's Note

Arcadia holds an abundance of rich history. This month, *Arcadia Home & Design* focuses on two homes in our community that hold more than their share of great stories.



First we look at the Shemer Art Center. Positioned on Camelback Road with a gorgeous view of our mountain and a past that many know nothing about. Arcadia News writer Katie Mayer dug into the history books while also re-searching the present day art classes and programs being offered to our residents.

Our featured home also holds a fascinating history, only found through a chance meeting and a little chitchat over dinner. If this article proves anything, it is this: it pays off to make conversation with those around you.

In our office, we have a love for history, especially the days past of our little neighborhood. We have filing cabinets of old photos and newspaper clippings and deep archives of documents that show nearly everything that has happened in Arcadia. We would love to hear your stories and take a glimpse of your old photos, because as we know, there is always more to learn. Shoot us an email if you have anything you can share, editor@arcadianews.com.

See you soon, friends and neighbors!

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The Shemer Art Center is celebrating their 30th Anniversary this year. Learn about the home that is the Shemer Art Center and the woman who gave it to the city, Martha Shemer.

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A chance meeting with a complete stranger in Pinetop reveals the whole story behind this family's recently purchased Arcadia home, which was built in the 1930s.

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CHICKEN COOPS

One of the Valley's most unique home tours is coming soon. It's the Tour de Coops, a self-guided chicken coop tour, where you can learn all about the fowls' living quarters.

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IN THE KITCHEN

The food writers from Arcadia News put their creative minds together to come up with a three-course meal that aligns nicely with the fall season upon us.



The Shemer Art Center

ORIGINAL ARCADIA PROPERTY BRINGS ART AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER

By Katie Mayer

They call it “the gateway to Arcadia.” Tucked back from the street on the lush southeast corner of Camelback Road and Arcadia Lane, with a breathtaking view of Camelback Mountain, lies a property whose history dates back to the origin of Arcadia itself.

In the roughly 100 years since investors first purchased the property in the early 1900s, the now more than three-acre parcel of land has been home to a wealthy banker and the Suhr family, of the Pennzoil Company, and owned by local real estate investor Martha Shemer and the City of Phoenix.

Today, the property houses the Shemer Art Center – a cornerstone of the local arts community, supporting Arizona artists and engaging youth and adults with art classes and events.

But in its early days, the property was part of 640 acres purchased by real estate developers hoping to strike it rich.



Some of the first art lessons offered at the Shemer Art Center in 1985. PHOTO: ARCADIA NEWS ARCHIVES



Although their dreams never materialized, due to mounting expenses, The Great Depression and the fact that the property was located too far from town, their efforts led to the creation of Arcadia and the Arcadia Water Company.

“It’s kind of the symbol of Arcadia, like the Black Sphinx dates, and is so iconic to what makes Arcadia such a neat place,” said The Hip Historian and local artist Marshall Shore.

If the walls of the Santa Fe mission-style Shemer Art Center building could talk, they’d surely share happy memories of the prominent families who passed through their hallways. There is one person in particular, however, they’d likely speak the most about, and that is Martha Shemer.

A real estate investor and a woman called “ahead of her time,” Shemer recognized the unique value of the property where the home sits and purchased it in 1984 for the sole purpose of donating it back to the community.

Continued on page 6

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Continued from page 4

“My mom’s purpose from the get-go was to donate the property if the city would be interested,” said Barry Shemer, Martha’s son. “This was her way of giving back to her city.”

Barry added, “Her primary goal was to have a place where people could come and enjoy themselves.”

According to Barry, Martha Shemer was a bright and focused woman. She was co-valedictorian of Phoenix Union High School in 1937 and fell in love with Shemer’s father Jack – a sundown crooner on the radio – when she was just 18. In fact, she even announced during her graduation speech that she would marry him.

“She wrote him a fan letter and he contacted her,” Barry recalled of how the two first met.

The couple fell in love and married, giving birth to Barry and his brother Jack. His father continued singing onto radio station KOY-AM 550 and later founded Shemer Insurance Agency. Together his parents also invested in land – not to develop, but to hold and resell for a profit.

“My mother would read the paper and was very studious,” Barry said. “She would read the ads for land sales, then she’d do a lot of research before she’d ever select a piece of property.”

When the Arcadia property went up for sale in 1984, Shemer said his mom visited it and remembered it with “great fondness” from time spent enjoying picnics on the land. With her husband deceased and a sizeable bank account due to the successful sale of a property near Bell Road and 28th Street, Mary Shemer made a substantial offer to purchase the property.

“When my mother first called the city to give it to them, they thought it was a crank call,” Barry recalled with a chuckle.

Ultimately, then Mayor Terry Goddard and the City Council accepted the gift and agreed to operate and maintain the generous donation. Coinciding with the city’s creation of the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, the city decided to designate the donated land for the purpose of arts and name it after Martha Shemer.

This year, the Shemer Art Center is celebrating its 30th anniversary. While the city still owns the property, it faced the threat of closing in 2010 when the City of Phoenix announced it could no longer manage the day-to-day operations. Fortunately, the nonprofit Shemer Art Center and Museum Association (SACAMA) stepped in to not only maintain the center, but to grow it into a more exceptional art center.

Additional funding to operate the center comes from art classes, events, a gift shop and private donors.

One of these donors is Scottsdale resident and print maker Jim Lowman, who said he is happy with the way the Shemer Art Center has evolved over the years.

“Before, the center was kind of like a city park, but when SACAMA got involved, it truly became a community-driven kind of thing,” Lowman said. “The working artists and the students who came to the classes were really breaking new ground in terms of expression.”

Lowman said he initially started taking classes at the Shemer Art Center. After learning various techniques, he now gives his own private classes in his studio. In addition to his regular donations, he has also given money toward scholarships to help youths engage with the arts.

“Fine arts allows us to communicate the beauty in the world, and investing in anything like the Shemer is worthwhile,” Lowman said.

Another supporter of the Shemer Art Center is Sandra Whyman, of Phoenix, who is the president of the SACAMA board. Whyman is a retired art teacher and got involved with the center to give back to the profession she loves.

She chose the Shemer Art Center because of its unique and quaint feel coupled with its historic significance.

“The Shemer is such a small and beautiful house and has the character and feelings I always tried to create in my classroom for kids...It’s a place to come and a place to feel like you belong there,” Whyman said.

Like many of Phoenix’s old buildings, it’s hard to know what part of the Shemer Art Center house is the oldest. Each time the property changed hands, the owners made changes. In 1919, a small home was built for the workman in charge of the planned housing development project. Then in 1925, a banker from Kansas City acquired the property and acreage and added a kitchen, living room and two of the bedrooms. He named the place “Casa de Wanda.” Two of the original pillars marking the property can still be seen on Exeter Drive.

In 1928, the Suhr family, of the Pennzoil Company, purchased the 20 acres and made the house their winter home. They enlarged the garage, added two more bedrooms and a bathroom, enclosed the porch and

enlarged the kitchen. Finally, they finished the project with a coat of stucco to blend the different additions together.

“That’s very much the story of Phoenix,” said local historian, Marshall Shore “Everyone who got there put their thumb print on it.”

He added, “It’s hard to find anywhere in the Valley where someone didn’t make modifications.”

In addition to vintage light fixtures, drapes and an old stove, one interesting architectural element that remains at the Shemer Art Center sits above the fireplace across from the building’s front door. Carved in Latin, the words translated say, “Art is long. Life is brief.” A phrase so fitting, it’s as if the house was destined to become a home for the arts.

“It truly is a home,” said Jocelyn Hanson, executive director of the Shemer Art Center. “Everyone is a special kind of artist and we want them to feel safe and secure here.”

And Barry Shemer said that’s exactly what his mother had hoped for when she gave the property back to her community.

“She’d be very proud of SACAMA and what they’ve done to keep it going,” he said, “but I think she would want the city to step up to the plate.”

Still, even without the city’s funding, Hanson said the center will continue to enrich the local community, invest in Arizona

artists and be that local place of comfort for adults and kids alike. In fact, the center’s leadership is exploring plans to incorporate a coffee shop, add more sculptures to the property and increase funding through corporate partnerships.

“If we don’t support these types of institutions in our community, then we are going to be lesser because of it,” Lowman said. “The Shemer Art Center is great and I hope more people are going to stand up and give it support.”

The Shemer Art Center will hold its Sunday @ Shemer art, food and entertainment festival on November 1. The event attracts more than 3,000 attendees and showcases over 40 booths. Admission is \$5 per person and children 12 and under are free. For more information on the Shemer Art Center, visit shemerartcenter.org.

PHOTO BY KATIE MAYER



Barry Shemer and Jocelyn Hanson in front of the Shemer Art Center.

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Home's history REVEALED

By Christina Surrano | PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE BAXTER, BAXTER IMAGING

When Russell and Bonnie Greey bought their 1932 estate home in 2004, they imagined it had a charming history of a very different Arcadia. What they did not imagine is how they might come to know the actual stories of those who lived there.

The Greeys were up in Pinetop, Arizona at a fundraiser, sharing a table with people they did not know, who were making polite conversation with them. It started with the general question of, "Where are you from?" The questions and answers narrowed from Phoenix, to Arcadia and eventually right down to the street and house number. According to Bonnie, one of their tablemates, Chuck Ensign, declared, "I think that's my grandparents' home!"

Indeed, in 1929, Chuck's grandfather, Herb Ensign bought what was then a 12-acre parcel and he and his fiancé, Jo Carmean, broke ground the following year on what would be their family home.

Herb was born in 1900 and grew up in central Phoenix. He studied electrical engineering at the University of Arizona and earned his master's degree at the California Institute of Technology. Jo was from Colorado and was educated at the Denver Arts Academy.



Herb and Jo Ensign with daughter Jackie in 1932.



“I think that’s my grandparents’ home!”

According to Herb’s daughter, Jackie Ensign McMillen, Herb’s grandfather’s company, New State Electric, was responsible for the first electric street lamps in Phoenix, and Herb, as a young man, got to help out with the project. After receiving his electrical engineering degree, Herb started his own company, Ensign Kempson Pumps, which specialized in large-scale, hydraulic turbine pumps.

During that time, there were just a few homes in Arcadia and Herb and Jo were ready for country living. They started a family and made a run at growing table grapes. Then the market for grapes went soft, so the grapes gave way to citrus.

Herb’s daughter, Jackie, paid the Greeys a personal visit and shared stories of her Arcadia childhood circa the 1930s. Dressed smartly and sporting perfectly coiffed hair and manicured nails, she affectionately told tales of herself and her sister Bobby, building dirt paths around the property, their stable, playing croquet, roller skating on the roof and messing around in the irrigation ditches. In fact, they learned to swim in the irrigation ditches.

Of course, back then, there was no air conditioning, so making use of the rooftop sleeping porch was their preferred way to drowse through warm nights. Jackie recalled being awakened by her father many times, because of an approaching thunder or dust storm. They would toss the cots and sleeping mats off the roof, head inside and make their way back up after the storm had passed.

According to Jackie, the interior of the home actually stayed fairly cool during the warm days. Herb had invested careful forethought into its

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4819 N 35TH ST 85018

3 bed / 2 bath / 2,288 sf

\$615,000



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The home circa 1932.

Continued from page 9

construction and decided that 14-inch exterior walls, constructed of rebar-enforced, poured concrete outside of gypsum block, was a good way to help with climate control.

With regard to meeting the property's water needs, it seems almost ironic that the irrigation canals surrounding the property have never served it. The Greeys tried to remedy this fact, but were unable to cut through the red tape that was set in place, even a couple generations ago. Originally the home, and the 12 acres it sat on, was served by a prolific well. According to Jackie, the water was soft but had an unpleasant taste and an excessive amount of fluoride, which actually caused staining of the teeth.

For a time, the irrigation canals surrounding the property provided more than just recreation and a way to cool off for Jackie and her sister. She remembered that German prisoners from Camp Papago, a POW prison camp located in Papago Park, less than 3 miles from the home, were utilized to work on maintaining the canals.

"My mother would say, 'The Germans are coming! Close the curtains!'" But Jackie confessed, "Well Bobby and I wanted to see the Germans!" Jackie was well into her teens at the time, and admitted, "Boy, I remember those blond, well-tanned, good-looking boys."

She and her sister couldn't resist peeking through the curtains in spite of being scolded by their mother.

Jackie also recalled an attempted escape from Camp Papago in 1944 (see sidebar), when about 25 of them made their way out of the camp through a secretly dug tunnel. Some brought planks for a raft with them, hoping to ride the river to Mexico. When they got to the river, it was dry.

Not all of Arcadia's history is as intriguing as a prison break; however, a peek into the lives of people who helped plow and grow our beautiful community, can be as exciting – especially when you uncover it in your own backyard.





*‘The Germans are coming!
Close the curtains!’*



Camp Papago Park

By Greg Bruns

During World War II the most famous prisoner-of-war camp in America operated less than a half-mile south of Arcadia. Camp Papago Park property began a block south of Thomas Road and extended south to McDowell Road. The western-most border was 62nd Street and ran east to the Crosscut canal (roughly 66th Street, meandering southeast). With a capacity of about 3,000 prisoners, Camp Papago Park became famous after “The Great Papago Escape” in December of 1944.

The largest escape in history of Axis prisoners on American soil, the breakout was accomplished via a 178-foot tunnel that ranged from 8 to 14 feet under the camp, and was hollowed out over a period of three months. The prisoners had convinced their American captors to allow them to build a volleyball court in the compound, which was instrumental in the distribution of the hard desert soil brought up from below.

After the escape, the *Phoenix Gazette* front page was emblazoned with mug shots of the 25 escapees and information that triggered the largest manhunt in Arizona history. A reward of \$25 a head was offered for the capture of any fugitive. All of the prisoners eventually turned themselves in or were captured.

After the war, the park served as a Veterans Affairs hospital until 1951 and then an Army Reserve facility. While the buildings are all gone now, there’s some scant foundational evidence of structures that can still be found around the one-square-mile area that made up the camp. Today, baseball fields, an abandoned auto dealership and the Hyview Neighborhood mostly cover the area.



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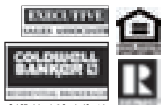
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Chicken Coops

RULE THE ROOST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By Kaley Kalil

Nobody knows which came first – the chicken or the egg – but Arcadia families are placing their bets on the chicken and counting their eggs. For years, household hens have been trending in Arcadia, with the occasional rooster cock-a-doodle-dooing in the neighborhood nests as well.

Kelly is an Arcadia mother of two with a “quaint little chicken coop in the backyard.” “We’re a family of four. We have three chickens, one dog and a garden. It’s a lot of fun,” Kelly said.

Whether it’s the idea of collecting fresh eggs for Sunday brunch, teaching their children how to care for animals, or learning about sustainable living, Arcadia families are finding plenty of reasons to rule the roost at their homesteads.

One Arcadia family of eight has had free-range chickens in their yard for five years.

“That’s why we do it a bit differently,” said this mother hen of six.

“We let our chickens free-range in the yard. We have seven that lay eggs and it’s not enough for our family. So, I still buy eggs from the grocery store and we can always tell a difference when you crack the eggs open. Our chickens’ yolks are a deeper yellow, and we really like the flavor of the eggs our chickens lay.”

Another reason why this Arcadia family allows their chickens to roam around their yard is to naturally work their manure into the soil.

“While they forage for food, they scratch around and dig up the dirt. When we do feed the [chickens], we’ll try to feed them underneath the orange trees so they’ll fertilize them,” she added.

City of Phoenix municipal code 8-7 identifies the zoning regulations related to having chickens in a residential area. The code includes limits on how many “head of poultry” homeowners can have, and how and where they are to be housed.

These regulations have been nothing to ruffle residents’ feathers about in family friendly, animal-loving Arcadia. The home chicken craze has adults as well as children feeling sunny side up and seems to be the best-hatched idea since backyard trampolines.

Interested in adding some feathered friends to your family? You may want to check out one of the Valley’s most unique home tours happening next month on November 14, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tour de Coops, a self-guided backyard chicken coop tour in Phoenix since 2009, is organized under the 501(c)(3) environmental education nonprofit organization, Valley Permaculture Alliance. Advance tickets can be purchased for \$20 per person (children 12 and under are free). Check out vpaaz.org/Tourde-Coops for more information.

Perhaps your family is ready to feather its nest with its very own one-of-a-kind henhouse.

Native Arcadian (and my twin brother), Michael Kalil, heard what all of the cluck was about and began building custom chicken coops by request.

“I wanted to find something I could do with my grandfather on our own time, outside of my work schedule,” Michael said.

“My grandpa’s been doing private contracting his whole life, and I thought this could be fun for us, as well as an additional source of income.”

Michael’s standard coop is relatively simple and comfortably holds three chickens. The upper half includes the coop and a separate area for a small herb garden. The bottom portion is a visible, enclosed area (using either 1/2 hardwire cloth or chicken wire) where the chickens can roam around and take the ladder back up to the homey coop.



A locally made chicken coop.

Finding your own Style

Scottsdale resident and longtime Phoenician Tom Simon has spent his career in men's fashion. As a buyer for The Clothier at Biltmore Fashion Park, Tom's natural instincts for style can be used whether approaching the perfect ensemble or a room of your home.

TOM'S PERSONAL STYLE TIPS

- Everybody has decade they can relate to. Let that be your guide. There is an old saying that "Fashion goes out of style but style doesn't go out of fashion." If you can find your style, you'll find what to wear for any occasion. The same goes for home décor, find your style and go with it.
- Be age sensitive but don't be confined.
- If price is an issue, buy less product but better product.
- Push it a little. Always go a little outside your comfort zone.
- Always get input from a trusted loved one. My wife has a better eye for things than I do. When we look at a wall or a space she always knows what to do.



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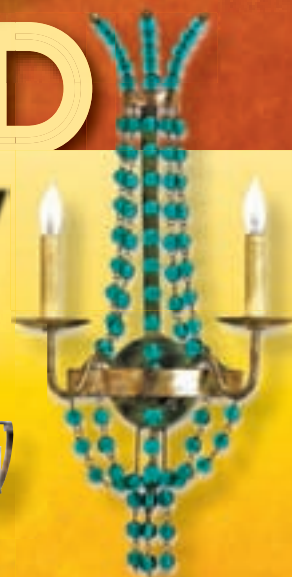
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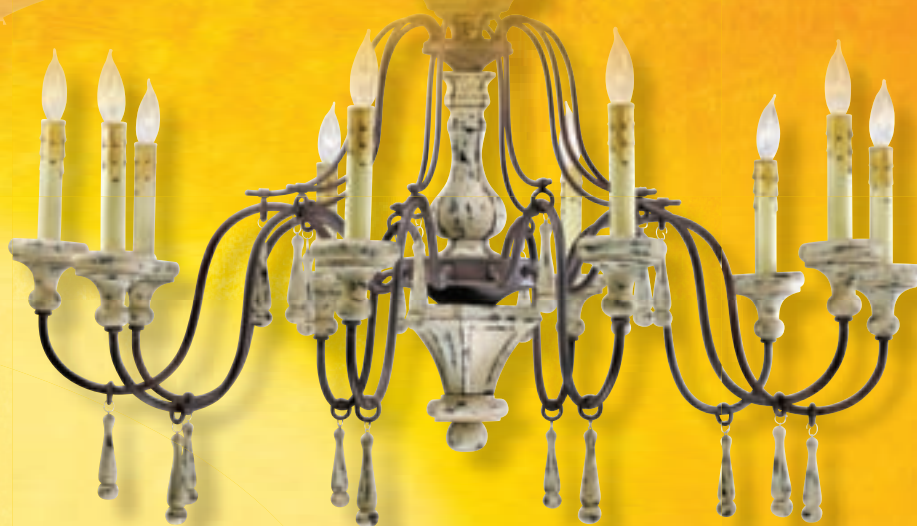


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In the Kitchen

.....with Arcadia News

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NTK PHOTOGRAPHY

Arcadia News food writers work together to create a three-course fall meal inspired by their monthly columns.

Appetizer



Korean-Style Baby Back Ribs

By Amanda Goossen

Places We Love Columnist

- two 2-pound long racks of ribs
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 1/4 cup hot chili garlic sauce
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger, minced
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch mixed with 1 tablespoon water
- 2 tablespoons (each) sesame seeds and chopped green onions, for garnish

1. Heat the oven to 250 F.
2. Line a sheet pan with atleast two inch sides, with foil.
3. Cut racks of ribs in half to fit in the sheet pan.
4. Place ribs in the sheet pan, sprinkle with salt and pepper.
5. Cover the pan tightly with foil.
6. Place the ribs in the oven and bake for 2 hours.
7. In a sauce pan, add sugars, soy sauce, sesame oil, hot chili sauce, onions, garlic, ginger, water and cornstarch mixture. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. When the sauce comes to a boil, turn the heat down to low and let simmer for 20 minutes. Remove from heat.
8. Remove ribs from oven.
9. Increase heat to 350 F.
10. Remove foil; brush both sides of ribs liberally with sauce. Recover the ribs with foil and seal around the edges.
11. Bake for 1 hour.
12. Uncover and brush ribs again with sauce.
13. Bake uncovered for another 30 minutes, spooning sauce from the pan over the ribs about every 10 minutes.
14. Remove ribs from the oven and rest for 10-15 minutes. Cut between each rib and place on a serving dish.
15. Bring the extra sauce to a boil. Remove from heat and pour into a serving bowl. Serve sauce on the side.
16. Sprinkle ribs with sesame seeds and chopped green onions.
17. Serve as an appetizer or main dish.



Cocktail

Pineapple Pisco Sour

By Mat Snapp - Director of Beverage Fox Restaurant Concepts

- 1 1/2 ounces pineapple-infused Pisco Mistral
 - 1/2 ounce Snap ginger molasses liqueur
 - 3/4 ounce fresh squeezed lemon juice
 - 1/2 ounce simple syrup
 - 1/4 ounce Giffard Orgeat syrup
 - 1 egg white
 - ice
 - Peychaud's Bitters, Angostura Bitters and fine-ground cinnamon for garnish
1. Dry shake pisco, Snap liqueur, lemon juice, simple syrup, Giffard Orgeat syrup and egg white.
 2. Add ice and shake.
 3. Tight strain.
 4. Garnish with remaining ingredients.



Main Course

Pumpkin Chili

By Andrea Barkley - Food Wise Columnist

- 2 tablespoons coconut oil
 - 5 ounces diced onion
 - 2 pasilla peppers, seeded and diced
 - 3 pounds ground turkey (avoid 99-percent lean ground turkey)
 - 16 ounces turkey bone broth
 - 2 large cans diced tomatoes
 - 3 cans puréed pumpkin
 - 2 pounds cubed butternut squash
 - 2 tablespoons cumin
 - 4 tablespoons chili powder
 - salt and pepper to taste (Celtic or Himalayan salt is best)
 - 2 zucchini, diced
 - 16 ounces fresh spinach
1. **optional garnishes:** unsweetened Greek yogurt, diced green onion or cilantro, shredded raw cheddar cheese, diced tomato
 2. Using a large pan, warm coconut oil.
 3. On medium heat, cook onions and peppers for 5-10 minutes.
 4. Add ground turkey and cook through.
 5. Add broth through seasonings and simmer until butternut squash is very soft.
 6. Adjust seasonings to taste.
 7. Add zucchini and spinach at the end of cooking so that spinach wilts and zucchini stays firm.
 8. Serve into bowls and top with desired garnishes.

Dessert



Pumpkin Whoopie Pie Ice Cream Sandwiches

By Lisa Weisenburger - Kids Corner & Arcadia Cookbook Columnist

- 1 box spice cake mix
 - one 15-ounce can pumpkin puree
 - 2 eggs
 - 2 quarts vanilla ice cream
 - one 30-ounce can pumpkin pie filling
 - 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
 - chocolate chips, pecans or graham crackers, optional
1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
 2. In a bowl, add cake mix, pumpkin puree and eggs. Mix until just combined. Do not over mix. Batter will be very thick.
 3. Using a 2 tablespoon-sized scoop with release mechanism, drop batter by scoopfuls approximately 1 inch apart onto parchment-lined cookie sheet.
 4. Bake 18-20 minutes, or until the tops crack.
 5. Let cool while preparing the ice cream.
 6. Allow vanilla ice cream to soften.
 7. Using a bowl, scoop out the ice cream. Mix together with the pumpkin pie filling and spice.
 8. Return ice cream to the freezer for approximately 2 hours.
 9. Remove pies from cookie sheet onto a wire rack to assemble the whoopie pies
 10. Remove ice cream from freezer and place one scoop onto the bottom of one whoopie pie, covering the ice cream with a second whoopie pie. Press together until ice cream meets the edges of the pie.
 11. To add an optional garnish, roll edges of ice cream sandwich in mini chocolate chips, chopped pecans or crushed graham crackers.
 12. Wrap the pie in plastic wrap and return to the freezer.
 13. Freeze for at least 1 hour.

Fun packaging: Fold brown craft paper in thirds and hole punch the top and bottom. Tie twine through the holes on the bottom, securing the packet. Slide in the wrapped sandwich. Tie twine through the top holes and add a fun fall leaf or other decor. Bring these packets of goodness to your next fall gathering!

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