Cook's Corner Real men and women eat quiche!

BY BETTY KAISER For the Sentinel

Spring has sprung! The birds at our house are bustling about while feasting on the worms they pull out of the ground. The trees are producing enough pollen to make me sneeze, and we can sit out on the porch and watch the grass grow. It's a great time to live in Oregon. In fact, it kinda makes me want to sing!

But this is a cooking column, and springtime also brings a desire for lighter mealtime fare. Out with the heavy casseroles, soups and stews! Our appetites are craving bright, crisp, citrusy flavors. Fresh asparagus, artichokes and other once-ayear produce items are suddenly musthave menu choices.

And that brings me to the subject of quiche. Once upon a time everyone in my gal-pal circle of friends had springtime luncheons, and we all ate quiche. Not anymore. Maybe we overdid it, because quiche seems to have fallen out of favor. It certainly fell off my radar.

Quiche is basically a savory custard made with milk (or cream) and eggs mixed with bacon, vegetables or cheese. It is poured into an open-faced crust, baked and served either warm or at room temperature. You want just enough eggs to set the milk, but not too many or it will become rubbery. You want the custard to wobble a bit as it comes out of the oven. It will set as it cools

Today's first recipe is inspired by Martha Stewart. I happened upon her video of mini quiche making and thought, "What a great idea for an Easter appetizer." So if you're in charge of appetizers this year, give this one a try. I have included her "Pâte Brisée" recipe because the crust is as important as the filling. Store-bought won't do. The second recipe my friend Ruth Edens gave me back in the 1980s. It can be served for a lunch entree or a light dinner.

The saying used to be that "Real men don't eat quiche." Nonsense. Everyone loves a good quiche. Enjoy! And Happy Easter!

MINI SPRINGTIME **QUICHES**

Martha Stewart

1 bunch pencil asparagus Coarse salt Freshly ground pepper

1/2 cup milk 1/2 cup heavy cream

2 large eggs

1 large egg yolk

1 pinch freshly grated nutmeg

All-purpose flour 1/2 recipe Pâte Brisée (recipe follows)

3 oz. Gruyère cheese (can substitute Swiss)

2 oz. cooked ham

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bring a medium pot of water to a boil. Cut 3 inches from the tip-ends of the asparagus; reserving remaining stalks for another use. Generously add salt to boiling water. Add asparagus, and cook until just tender, about 2 minutes. Drain well. Cut into 1/2inch pieces; set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk together milk, heavy cream, eggs, yolk, and nutmeg. Season with salt and pepper. Strain through a sieve into a medium bowl; set

On a lightly floured surface, roll out pâte brisée to slightly less than 1/8 inch thick. Use a 2 3/4-inch round cutter to cut out 24 rounds. Fit rounds into a 24-cup nonstick mini muffin tin. If the dough becomes too soft to work with, place in refrigerator to chill for 15 minutes. Divide half of Gruyère evenly between the lined cups. Top with ham. Divide milk mixture evenly between cups. Top each with 3 to 4 pieces of asparagus. Sprinkle with remaining Gruyère.

Bake until puffed and golden brown, about 30 minutes. Remove from oven; immediately remove quiches from muffin tin, and transfer to a wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

PATE BRISEE

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. granulated sugar
- 2 sticks cold unsalted butter 1/4 cup ice water

Pulse flour, salt, and sugar in a food processor to combine. Add butter, and pulse until mixture resembles coarse meal, about 10 seconds. With machine running, add ice water in a slow, steady stream until dough just holds together (no longer than

30 seconds). Shape dough into a disk, and wrap in plastic. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour (or up to 2 days). Dough can be frozen for up to 1 month; thaw overnight in the refrigerator before using.

Note: Use this dough to make both sweet and savory pies

ZUCCHINI GREEN CHILI OUICHE

Pastry for 9" pie crust

3 cups coarsely grated, unpeeled zucchini

1 cup (7 ounces) green chilies 3/4 cup sliced green onions and tops

2 tablespoons butter

together and set aside.

1 tablespoon flour 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, grated

1 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese

1 1/2 cups evaporated milk (i.e. canned milk like Carnation) Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400° F. Mix cheeses

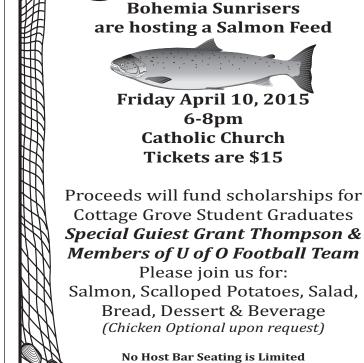
Crust: Roll pastry a little thicker than for a regular pie. Trim top as for a single pie crust.

Prepare zucchini: Grate on a sheet of foil and sprinkle with salt. Let stand 30 minutes, then squeeze out moisture and blot dry. (This is an important step.) Rinse green chilies, drain and blot dry. Cook green onions slowly in melted butter about 1 minute. Stir in zucchini and heat only a few minutes, just until zucchini is glazed with fat. Blend in flour. Spread mixture in pie shell. Sprinkle with chilies and half the cheese.

Beat eggs with milk and season lightly with salt and pepper. Pour into pie shell and sprinkle with remaining cheese mixture. Bake at 400° for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350° and bake 20-25minutes longer until custard is set and slightly puffy. Cool at least 15 minutes before cutting.

Note: I like to serve this with sour cream and salsa on the side.

Keep it simple and keep it seasonal! Betty Kaiser's Cook's Corner is dedicated to sharing a variety of recipes that are delicious, family oriented and easy to prepare. Contact her at 942-1317 or email <u>bchatty@bettykaiser.com</u>



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Pastor: Aaron Earlywine Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey Services: 9am and 10:30am **Christian Education** Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church 77873 \$ 6th \$t • 541-942-4290

Pastor: Riley Hendricks Sunday School: 9:45am Worship: 11:00am The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove 522 E Whitaker • 541-942-6842

Pastor: Jeff Smith Two Services on Sun: 9am & 10:45am Wednesday Service 6:45 pm Child Care 10:45am Service Only Youth Group Bible Study: Wed. 6:45 pm & Sat. 6 pm www.cgcalvary.org

Center for Spiritual Living Cottage

700 Gibbs Ave (Community Center) Rev. Bobby Lee Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m. Info: 541-767-0182 (Mrs. "T")

Church of Christ

Grove

420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565 Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church 1200 East Quincy Avenue

VISA

541-942-4771 Pastor:Bob Singer Worship 8:30am, 11am Sunday School:9:45am YouthGroup Mondays 6:30pm AWANA age 3-8th Grade, Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center 33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851 Lead Pastor: Isaac Hovet www.cq4.tv Sunday Service: 9am and 11am

Full Children's Ministry available **Delight Valley** Church of Christ 33087 Saginaw Rd. East

541-942-7711 Pastor: Bob Friend

Two Services: 9am - Classic in the Chapel 10:30am - Contemporary in the **Auditorium**

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Pastor: Steve Johnson Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11:00am Come Worship with us

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Grove Community Church 77820 Mosby Creek Rd. Cottage Grove, OR 97424 541-942-0123 Pastor: Bryan Parsons

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Nursery: Infant - Pre-K Kid's Church: K to 5th grade

Hope Fellowship

United Pentecostal Church 100 S. Gateway Blvd. • 541-942-2061 Pastor: Dave Bragg Worship: 11:00am Sunday Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday www.hopefellowshipupc.com "FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"

Living Faith Assembly

467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612 **Pastor Rulon Combs** Sunday School All Ages 9am Worship & Children's Church 10:30 am

"The Bridge" Saturday Evening Service Youth ABLAZE: Wednesday 6:30pm Children's Breakout Class: Wednesday 6:30pm

Non-Denominational

Church of Christ 1041 Pennoyer Ave * 541-767-0447 Preachers: Tony Martin & Robert Evans Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm www.pennoyeravecoc.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship 103 S. 5th Street • 541-942-4999

Pastor: Herb Carson Sunday Service: 10:00am Sunday Bible Study: 6:00pm We sing the old time hymns.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches

1025 N. 19th St. 541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712 Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J. Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm Sun. 10:30am St. Philip Benizi, Creswell: 552 Holbrock Lane • 541-895-8686 Sunday: 8:30am

St. Andrews Episcopal Church 1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050 Rev. Lawrence Crumb "Church with the flags."

Worship: Sunday 10:30am

All Welcome Seventh-day Adventist Church 820 South 10th Street 541-942-5213 Pastor: Kevin Miller

Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 6:45 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church 6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373

5:00pm TLC Groups

Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am

Pastor: James L. Markus Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am Sunday Worship 10:30am Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur

trinitylutherancottagegrove.com

United Methodist Church 334 Washington • 541-942-3033 Pastor:Jerry Steele

Worship: 10:00am Adult & Sunday School: 9:00am Comm. Dinner (Adults \$3, Kids Free) Mon. 5-6:30pm cottagegroveumc.org

"VICTORY" Country Church 913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913

Pastor: Barbara Dockery Worship Service: 10:00am Message: 11:00am "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

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