

# Betty Kaiser's Chatter Box:

## November? It must be pie time



Betty Kaiser

I'm a big fan of Indian Summers and I'm not yet in a winter frame of mind. So, it's always a shock to turn my calendar over and discover that it's November.

How can that be?

That means there's still patio furniture to put away, bushes to be trimmed and gardens to be winterized. Sigh.

It also means that I have to start thinking about Thanksgiving dinner. But most of us don't have to think very hard about that because our families are steeped in tradition.

Mine used to be but, things have changed. We've added new members. A couple of our grandsons are now married and we share them with their wives and their families.

Also, one of our sons and his wife are vegans.

Fortunately, our holiday meals are very similar. The basic menu for whoever comes to dinner is a feast of roast turkey with stuffing and cranberry sauce; mashed potatoes and gravy; green beans and rolls.

If I'm cooking, there is also a cranberry Jell-O salad

and sweet potato casserole. The vegans eat Tofurky with their veggies and a big green salad.

After turkey and dressing, dessert is the favorite part of the meal. Again, every family usually has their own traditional favorite pie. I say pie, because I've never heard anyone talk about their favorite Thanksgiving cake. There's probably lots of them out there but people I know mostly eat pie.

Let me know if you have a favorite cake.

We have two or three pies but one is always pumpkin. And we're not alone. A national survey by Delish editors revealed that pumpkin is the reigning champ of desserts by 36 percent of those polled — 46 percent on the West Coast.

Pecan was a distant second, followed by apple, sweet potato and cherry.

As the longtime pie baker at Kaiser's Country Diner in Ventura, I have made thousands of pies. Pumpkin was always a best seller and if it's your first pie you can't go wrong following the basic directions on a can of Libby's pumpkin.

I do change up the spices a bit but that is a personal preference. Every so often I would also make a pumpkin eggnog pie. So today, just for fun, I'm including that recipe instead of the regular pumpkin.

Another customer favorite was my chocolate pecan pie. It, too, is simple to make, using a variation on the classic Karo pecan recipe. Both of these recipes call for a

single, unbaked 9-inch pie shell and a whipped cream garnish.

Before you make the pie, you should make a pie crust. I don't have room in today's column for my recipe but the standard Betty Crocker recipe is also good. The trick is getting the right dough consistency and then rolling it out on a floured surface. You can do it! Try it! Or use store bought.

Enjoy!

### BETTY CROCKER PASTRY

- 1-1/2 cups flour
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup+2 tablespoons Crisco shortening
- 1/4 cup ice cold water

Sift flour and salt in mixing bowl. Cut in shortening with pastry blender until shortening pieces are the size of giant peas.

Sprinkle with ice water a little at a time. Mix lightly with a fork until all the flour is moist.

Add more if needed.

Gather dough together with fingers so it cleans the bowl.

Press firmly into a ball.

Then roll out on floured pastry cloth to desired size.

### PUMPKIN EGGNOG PIE

- 2 cups pumpkin (1 16-ounce can)
- 1 1/2 cups eggnog
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon cloves (or less)

- 1/4 teaspoon salt
  - 1 unbaked 9" pie shell
- Preheat oven to 425° F. Combine all ingredients in a large mixer bowl and mix well.

Pour into the unbaked pie shell.

Put in oven and bake 15 minutes.

Reduce heat to 350° F.

Bake another 40-45 minutes or until a knife inserted near the edge comes out clean.

Cool and refrigerate. Garnish with whipped cream. Serves 6-8.

### KARO PECAN PIE

- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 cup light or dark corn syrup
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1-1/2 cups pecans (more if needed)
- 1 unbaked pie shell

Preheat oven to 350° F.

In large bowl, stir together first five ingredients until well blended.

Gently stir in pecans.

Pour into pastry shell. If necessary, add more pecans so that the top is covered and there will be pecan in every bite!

Bake in oven 50-55 minutes or until knife inserted halfway between center and edge comes out clean.

Cool and garnish with whipped cream. Serves 6-8.

### CHOCOLATE PECAN PIE

- Melt 4 ounces melted semisweet chocolate.
- Decrease sugar to 1/3 cup.
- Prepare and bake as above.

Contact Betty Kaiser's Chatterbox at 942-1317 or email [bchatty@bettykaiser.com](mailto:bchatty@bettykaiser.com)



## Pet tips 'N' tales

By Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

### Dr. Buttercup is in: Office Open

Jeanne entered a barn and a dozen sKIT-tish feral cats and kittens sCAT-tered. Amazingly, one kitten walked right up to her and telepathically said to Jeanne, "I belong with you. Adopt me and take me home."

Always one to oblige a talking kitten, Jeanne picked up the chatty feline and took it home.

"I am so glad that she adopted the fur-baby because that kitten transformed our house into a home with her 'presents'" said Dr. Carl.

Like most talking cats, Buttercup is unique.

"This is the most fantastic, intelligent and astute cat I have ever met," said Dr. Carl. "When she was little she must have been attacked by a small dog. Today, big dogs don't bother her, but look out if you are a small dog because this cat has an incredible memory. If she sees a small dog, it is like she detonates. She explodes and chases after the dog. Big dogs have no such worries because Buttercup loves them."

"One day, a rough-looking couple walked by our home with their massive pit bull. I had trepidation about the three of them but not our cat. Buttercup runs towards the dog and stops 10 feet from it. They looked each other in the eyes as if communicating. I was scared thinking that my cat was about to be the dog's breakfast. After the pets communicated, our crazy cat walked right up to the pit, they sniffed noses and bumped heads like long lost friends. The dog happily waved his tail and then Buttercup casually strolls off for the rest of her morning walk."

Three days a week, Dr. Carl, Jeanne and, of course, Buttercup head to work. The cat's jobs include holding the office's rug down to nap on and the official office greeter.

"Everyone benefits with a therapy cat," said Dr. Carl's office manager, Bobbie. "She helps anxious clients relax. Children



Dr. Carl and Dr. Buttercup love their patients

know instantly that having a cat in a doctor's office means that this is not the same kind of doctor they are used to visiting. She also helps clients pass time by opening them up, petting her and chatting and sharing cat stories amongst themselves.

"We have had no problems with anyone allergic to the cat. They just don't touch her. Actually, we have clients that won't book appointments if they know the cat is not 'working' that day. Buttercup is part of their social life and wonderful for those who no longer have a pet. She also makes my hectic days calmer."

At 6 p.m. the trio head home in Buttercup's Lexus. People are appalled that she has scratched the vehicle's upholstery. "I don't mind," confesses a proud Dr. Carl. "I love her. She is a hard-working cat and after all, it is her car."

The cat commuter knows her way home. When she sees that they are almost there, she meows and paces excitedly in recognition of their destination — and her dinner.

Like clockwork at 10 p.m., she announces that it is time for her 1/4 tsp. mayonnaise snack and time to head to bed. Like well-trained parents, they treat Buttercup to her favorite snack and head for bed — so she has someone to curl up next too.

On her days off work, Buttercup has a lengthy cat nap — until 4:45 p.m. She then springs awake up as if an alarm clock has sounded and goes outside where the squirrels are waiting for her. They are fully aware of her daily 'time to chase the squirrels' ritual as she joyfully chases the teasing, chatting rodents up a tree.

Thankfully, she has never caught one, it's just a game between them.

#### TIPS:

"Years ago, my new dog chewed off the Jeep's seat belts," said Sonja in North Carolina. "We enrolled in dog obedience and he learned to trust me and become obedient. People think 'obedience' is a class of dogs with humans yelling SIT! STAY! DOWN! Instead, these classes bond you and help you understand each other."

Adrienne in Connecticut adds, "Never get rid of a dog when obedience class is the solution."

Share your fun, amazing or crazing pet tips and tales at [angelscribe@msn.com](mailto:angelscribe@msn.com) or Follow Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales](http://www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales). Adopt loving pets online at [www.PetFinder.com](http://www.PetFinder.com). For spay or neutering, call the Humane Society at 541-942-2789.

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56° | 31°



Sunny

FRIDAY

58° | 36°



Sunny

SATURDAY

56° | 37°



Partly Cloudy

SUNDAY

57° | 36°



Partly Cloudy

MONDAY

59° | 37°



Partly Cloudy

TUESDAY

58° | 39°



Partly Cloudy

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The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3473 of Cottage Grove will hold a celebration honoring our Veterans, including those on active duty.

Sunday, November 11th at 11:00am

Lincoln Middle School Choir will be performing several numbers.

Speakers will include Mayor Jeff Gowing and Special Guest.

All are invited to enjoy this event!  
Dennis Twite

VFW Post 3473 Commander

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