

Homemade salsa the perfect color palate for Fourth of July festivities



Independence Day Salsa

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

I was trying to make a gluten-free chocolate cake, which would be great to share for Fourth of July gatherings, but it just wasn't coming together as planned. Sometimes this happens, and even though it can be

frustrating, it opens the door for other ideas. So, at the very last minute, I came up with this festive Independence Day Salsa! Made with garden fresh tomatoes, Kalamata olives, and feta cheese, it's super easy and so delicious. Simply chop cherry tomatoes or a couple of large tomatoes, cut up the

olives and crumble the feta over the top. Drizzle a little olive oil and red wine vinegar over it, and season with salt and pepper. Serve it with tortilla or pita chips — something sturdy for scooping. It's the perfect color scheme for Independence Day and it's also really, really delish. If you are so inclined, add some chopped

onions or shallots and a little bit of fresh basil. This salsa has plenty of zest with the olives, tangy feta and vinegar, but shallots and basil also add a nice flavor profile.

The nice thing about this recipe is that you can also use it as a salad, or as a topping over cream cheese or goat cheese, or a topper over grilled meats,

eggplant or fish. Oh the possibilities! But the simplicity of this as a salsa is so nice. I hope you all have a wonderful Fourth of July.

*Look for the chocolate cake in a future issue. I'm still working on it and hope to deliver a great gluten-free chocolate cake to you soon!

INGREDIENTS

- 2 large tomatoes, coarsely chopped, or 2 cups of chopped cherry tomatoes
- 1 cup Kalamata olives, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- Dash of salt and pepper
- Pita or tortilla chips
- Optional:
- 1 small red onion, chopped (or shallot)
- 1 tbsp. minced fresh basil

DIRECTIONS

Mix all ingredients and serve with chips (easy peasy). Keep refrigerated until ready to serve. If you do use onion or shallots, you can opt to add them raw or caramelized. It just depends if you're a raw onion fan or not. I always like to caramelize or roast them before adding them, since I'm one who can't handle raw onions.

Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>



Garden Club event underscores impact of butterflies in a community



From left: Julie Stagg, Mayor Steve Woehleke and Bobbie Preston



Photos Linda U Foley

Submitted by Linda U Foley

The eagerly awaited June 5 Monarch Garden Celebration dawned inhospitably to drizzle and rain. Undeterred, Bobbie Preston and Julie Stagg at the helm – co-founders of the “Moraga for Monarchs” project – fluttered about with last-minute decorations and instructions at Rancho Laguna Park.

The Garden was completed during the height of the pandemic and brought the town,

merchants, schools, scouts, and philanthropists together.

“But, where are the butterflies?” asked one little girl. Her mother, Breyana, wisely replied, “They are taking shelter from the rain, that’s why you don’t see them.”

The Garden is now in full resplendent display and several fragile tenants have been sighted already this season. Nonetheless, there were wings and butterflies everywhere: attached to little girls and adults, laminated cutouts swinging from branches, stenciled on

shirts, stamped on cheeks and visible in distinctive jewelry.

Andy Boggeri, president of the Moraga Lions that provided the food good-naturedly brandished man-sized wings. Police officers flanking Chief Jon King and Mayor Steve Woehleke were also into the swing with their wings. Firefighters, sans wings, enjoyed seeing everyone else’s.

Preston and Stagg practically floated in their gossamer attire. The uncontested star of the show was WINGS, the graceful Monarch butterfly sculpted by Patrick E and gifted to the

Monarch Habitat by Norman and Janet Pease, in honor of their family.

Bookending WINGS and stretching a red ribbon between themselves, Preston and Stagg addressed the audience and gave deserved kudos with flourish. Mayor Woehleke accepted the Garden from the Garden Club and cut the red ribbon. Then followed a small but chatty butterfly parade which circled the park including Bozley the dog who displayed a large butterfly on his curly back. Benches and tables filled

with folks including many town officials. Barbecuing aromas, music, vibrant conversations and laughter buoyed on the air.

Thanks to the herculean efforts by Preston and Stagg – in conjunction with artists and numerous unnamed supporters – the town is collectively privy to enjoy countless hours in a magical setting.

The Monarch Habitat is an ongoing project. To learn more about it, how to contribute, participate or join the Garden Club, go to: www.moragagardenclub.com.

Cal Shakes hosts summer performances at The Bruns



“Paper Moon” at The Bruns

Photo Susan J. Weiland

Submitted by Kevin Kopjak

California Shakespeare Theater will host a series of outdoor

performances this summer: AlterTheater’s “Pure Native” by Vickie Ramirez (July 15–24); the return of Jackie Keliiaa’s “Good Medicine: A Night of Live Native Stand-Up” (July 16); and Paper

Moon Presents’ second annual “Measure for Measure Music Series” (July 29–31).

AlterTheater’s “Pure Native” and Jackie Keliiaa’s “Good Medicine: A Night of Live Native Stand-Up” are part of California Shakespeare Theater’s Shared Light Initiative, which was created in response to systemic issues that Cal Shakes identified over the past several years as they evolve institutional priorities towards right relationships with the community.

In “Pure Native,” when a prodigal son returns to the reservation, his business proposal to bottle the tribe’s water sparks a heated debate in the community with his childhood sweetheart leading the opposition. Premiered by Native Voices at the Autry, the nation’s premiere Native American theater company, “Pure Native” received developmental support from Oregon Shakespeare Festi-

val’s Brown Swan Lab and from New York’s Eagle Project.

“Good Medicine: A Night of Live Native Stand-Up” is a one-night-only event featuring top Native American stand-up comedians. Keliiaa began producing “Good Medicine” virtually in May 2020 as a way to showcase Native comedians and fundraise for tribes impacted by COVID-19, raising over \$11,000 for charitable causes. Last summer sold out in just a couple weeks. For more information, visit calshakes.org/good-medicine/.

The “Measure For Measure Music Series” brings three nights of concerts back to the Bruns Amphitheater. Paper Moon Presents features Asian-American MC Lyrics Born, with support from singer Destani Wol on Friday, July 29 at 7 p.m.; folk/pop singer and songwriter Brett Dennen, with support from singer/songwriter Megan Jacobs on Satur-

day, July 30 at 7 p.m.; and an afternoon of bluegrass, folk, and other great string-band music, including Sam Bush, AJ Lee & Blue Summit, Tony Furtado, and Nat Keefe on Sunday, July 31 at 1 p.m. For more information, visit papermoonpresents.live/.

All performances will take place on the grounds at the Bruns (100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda). Tickets for “Good Medicine” are available now by visiting calshakes.org or by calling (510) 548-9666 (Tuesday to Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.). For tickets to “Pure Native,” visit altertheater.org/purenative or call (415) 454-2787. For more information on Cal Shakes’ Shared Light Initiative, visit: calshakes.org/shared-light-initiative/.

For information on Cal Shakes’ COVID safety policies, visit calshakes.org/cal-shakes-2021-covid-19-safety-precautions/

Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

Science Tutoring

Science Tutoring by Stanford Grad./ Credentialed Teacher/Prof., 15 yrs exp. MoragaAcademicConsulting.com

House Cleaning

www.totalclean.biz
Serving Lamorinda since 1985. Insured and bonded 376-1004.

Structural Repairs

Since 1989
Alameda Engineering
DRAINAGE SYSTEMS
RETAINING WALLS
FOUNDATIONS
UNDERPINNING
LANDSLIDE REPAIRS
510-537-6550
General Engineering Contractors
Lic. # 562641
alamedaengineering@comcast.net
alameda-engineering.com

Handyman

Quetzal Handyman
AC Service
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Electrical, plumbing,
concrete, driveways & more...
Please call Carlos Toledo
510-689-7490

Plumbing

WE HOP TO IT!
(925) 377-6600
LeapFrogPlumbing.com

Fencing and More

Java Fence (925) 957 1628
Decks, Hog Wire, Arbors,
Stairs, Trellis, Deer Fence,
Chicken coop, Green house
CCL 880556, Free Est

Rototilling

Ken's Rototilling
• 4 W/D Tractors
• Hillside Weed Cutting
• Mowing • Discing • Rototilling
• **Brush Removal Abatement**
To Fire Dept Regulations
Free estimates! **925-938-9836**
licensing, bonded & insured. CA#667491
www.kensrototilling.com

Rusty Nails Handyman Service
Repair • Restore • Revamp
Call Rusty- (925) 890-1581

\$15 per 1/2" classified ad height.
Email to: classified@lamorindaweekly.com