

Are You Dippy?

By Susie Iventosch

For "dippy" people like me, (that is to say those who love a nibble of dip on a chip before dinner), this is a fun rendition of the ubiquitous spinach and artichoke dips found at nearly every potluck. This recipe combines both of these vegetables in addition to goat cheese, cream cheese and just a sprinkling of Parmesan. For those who are particularly ambitious, the artichoke hearts can be prepared from scratch by cooking whole artichokes, but I find frozen artichoke hearts to be perfectly delicious and a huge time-saver for a recipe like this ... and, they're available year-round!

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.



These recipe is available on our web site 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.

Orinda Educator Named C-SPAN Senior Fellow

By Cathy Dausman



Cheryl Davis consults for Acalanes Union High School District as a Curriculum and Instruction Technology Specialist.

Photo Cathy Dausman

Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) employee Cheryl Davis was recently named as a C-SPAN Senior Teacher Fellow, an appointment Davis finds "thrilling." Davis is one of just two teachers nationwide to earn the fellowship in 2012.

Senior Fellows work eight to 10 hours a month online for the network and are chosen from among those who have earned a C-SPAN fellowship. Davis was named a C-SPAN Fellow in 2004. That appointment came with a month-long stay in Washington, D.C. where she helped create lesson plans and content at C-SPAN headquarters.

Davis says that trip was "the professional development experience of a lifetime," and what a long teaching lifetime it has been.

She began her career 40 years ago, having been with AUHSD for all but the first five. She started in district at Campolindo High School and moved to Miramonte High School, where among other subjects, she taught U.S. and World History and Journalism.

Davis became involved with Mira-

monte's school newspaper, learning to layout its pages on Mac computers. She taught photography in conjunction with the newspaper work, and when photography became digitized, Davis learned that too. Eventually she stopped teaching to become a technology specialist at MHS.

Currently Davis consults part time for the district as a Curriculum and Instruction Technology Specialist. "I'm nobody's boss," Davis says modestly, "I am a teacher." She is also a student of technology, which she says is "moving so fast."

From her post, Davis coordinates the professional development of district teachers throughout the year, working through the schools' on-site technology coordinators. The AUHSD is "really forward thinking," Davis says, and strives to give its students a 21st century education. While parents support the district and teachers are enthusiastic about technology advancements, Davis remains cautious "not to jump on everything [technology related]." She would like to see teaching more integrated with what she calls "one to one" technology, where the focus is on delivering a lesson with content-rich information and a global view. She cautions students and their parents to seek out reliable, unbiased sources of information, such as sites run by museums and universities.

The former history teacher finds her work as a C-SPAN Senior Fellow especially exciting in an election year filled with campaigns and conventions. The network "does a nice job of supporting its fellows," Davis says.

In addition to being a Senior Teacher Fellow, Davis is a Google Certified Teacher, an Apple Distinguished Educator (one of 1,500 internationally) and has presented at state-wide and national conferences for the International Society for Technology in Education. Recently she was selected to be a Teaching with Primary Sources Mentor Adviser for the Library of Congress. The other Senior Teacher Fellow is Tracey Van Dusen of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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Roasted Artichoke Heart-Spinach Dip

INGREDIENTS



- 1 package frozen artichoke hearts (about 9 ounces), thawed
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and quartered
- 1 shallot, peeled and quartered
- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
- 8 ounces Montrachet goat cheese (with or without herbs-your choice), softened to room temperature
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened to room temperature
- 1-2 tablespoons dry Sherry
- 1/4 cup feta cheese, crumbled
- 2 cups chopped fresh spinach
- 1/4 cup finely fresh grated Parmesan

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Toss artichoke hearts, garlic and shallots in olive oil and season with sea salt and white pepper. Roast on a baking sheet for about 10 minutes, or until artichoke hearts and shallots begin to brown on the edges. Remove from oven, cool, and coarsely chop in a mini processor or by hand. Meanwhile, beat goat cheese and cream cheese with a beater or by hand, until creamy and well blended. Stir in sherry. Add all remaining ingredients except Parmesan and mix well. Place in well-greased ramekin and sprinkle Parmesan over top. Bake at 425 until bubbly and cheese on top is beginning to brown, about 10 minutes. Remove and serve at once with sliced, toasted baguette or crackers.

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