

Chili Corn Hash hot off the grill



Chili Corn Hash

Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Grilled peppers and barbecued corn are two family favorites in our household. One day last week when my parents were in town, we had half the amount of each of these veggies we needed to serve as a side dish with tacos. In order to make our supply stretch for the number of people, I decided to mix them together along with some sautéed onion and melted cheese. The outcome

was outstanding. We enjoyed the dish so much, we proceeded to make it again the following two nights! Corn season is just around the corner and this is a fun way to combine these amazing flavors.



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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.

Chili Corn Hash

(Serves 6 as a side dish)

INGREDIENTS

6 ears of fresh corn
3 large poblano peppers, seeded, stems removed and cut in half lengthwise
¼ cup olive oil, divided
2-3 teaspoons Cajun seasoning
2-3 teaspoons Trader Joe's Lime Seasoning Blend (or similar)
1 large yellow onion, coarsely chopped
¾ cup grated mixed Mexican cheese
Salt and pepper to taste
6 lime wedges for garnish
¼ cup cilantro leaves, snipped into small pieces with herb scissors or kitchen shears

DIRECTIONS

Prepare Veggies:

1. Brush corn with olive oil and season all the way around with Cajun spice. (Can substitute chili lime seasoning if you don't like Cajun.)
2. Brush poblano pepper halves with olive oil and season with salt and pepper and place on a piece of foil.
3. Peel and coarsely chop onion.

Pre-cook the Veggies:

Heat barbecue to medium. Place corn cobs directly on the grill and cook for about 2 minutes per side, rotating four times to nicely brown all the way around. Remove from grill and cool. Once cooled enough to handle, cut corn off the cobs and set aside in a bowl.

Place the foil with the prepared peppers on the grill and cook until al dente, about 5-6 minutes. No need to turn the peppers. Remove from grill and cool. Once cooled, coarsely chop peppers and set aside.

Cook the onions in 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large skillet over medium-low heat for about 10-15 minutes, until translucent and beginning to caramelize. Add chopped peppers and corn and cook over medium heat until all is hot. Season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle cheese over the top and continue to cook until cheese is melted. Garnish with lime wedges and snipped cilantro.

*Note—we grill on a gas Weber, which runs hotter than some barbecues. Just be aware that cooking times can vary depending upon the barbecue you have.



Buy Nothing groups offer random acts of kindness

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Pink and purple happen to be her favorite colors." Or a post offering cumin and soy sauce was accompanied by an admission: "I don't even remember why I bought these. Tell me what you'll cook with them."

Leah Riggins and Carly Power Staublin started Moraga's Buy Nothing group last July. Riggins recruited Nancy Hu to be the admin for Buy Nothing Lafayette and Erin Brindley to administer the Buy Nothing Orinda group. There are currently about 300 members in both the Moraga and Lafayette groups and approximately 225 in the Orinda group. Riggins also is a regional administrator, where she serves as a resource and support for other Bay Area Buy Nothing administrators.

Hu took on the admin duties for Buy Nothing Lafayette because this group "combines two things I love: building community and reducing waste. It encourages face-to-face contact between the gifter and recipient. And," she

added, "there's nothing more satisfying than giving away something that's no longer useful in your life" and knowing it will find a new home with someone else who needs and wants it.

"I especially like that people ask for little things," Riggins said. "It's not just the bigger items like a used crib or kids' shoes. It's the request for one shoe lace because one was lost, or a single binder clip needed for one purpose because, after all, who wants to buy a package of 10 if only one is needed."

Of course, the Buy Nothing groups are also about reducing trash and the ever-growing landfills needed to accommodate all that garbage. As the Buy Nothing website proclaims, "There truly is no 'away' when you throw things away. It all goes somewhere. Let's buy less, throw away less and share more."

To join your local Buy Nothing group, go on Facebook and search for Buy Nothing (your city/town name).

An Earth Day push

Nancy Hu has taken her interest in both building community and reducing waste considerably further than simply serving as the administrator for Buy Nothing Lafayette and encouraging neighbors to recycle items they no longer need or want.

A strong proponent of zero waste, Hu, a dentist at the Department of Veterans Affairs, laughingly said that "during the day I save teeth, at night I try to save the world." Recycling, climate change, and environmental issues have always been important to Hu, but having her own children strengthened her passion and made her realize she wanted to do more.

"I love using Buy Nothing as a platform to promote more zero waste practices," she said. And that's what she'll be doing during Lafayette's 14th annual Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lafayette Library.

Joining forces with TerraCycle, an organization that's "eliminating the idea of waste by recycling the non-recyclable," Hu will be collecting a variety of hard-to-recycle items, including toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, electric toothbrushes/cords/heads, personal cosmetic packaging, baby food smoothie pouches, plastic bread-bag tags and even cigarette butts. She'll also be answering questions and offering suggestions on how we can all reduce waste.

For more information on items Hu will be collecting or for ideas on how you can do your part to practice zero waste, email Hu at nchsu514@gmail.com.



Photo provided

Nancy Hu, administrator for Buy Nothing Lafayette, with some of the hard-to-recycle items she'll continue collecting at Lafayette's Earth Day Festival on Apr. 28.

A day filled with promise for 200 middle school girls



Photo Lynda Leonard

A participant listens intently to a discussion about architecture at the 2019 AAUW-OML STEAM Conference hosted by Saint Mary's College during the workshop "Architecture: Drawings to Three Dimension Models."

Submitted by Lynda Leonard

The morning began with speaker Danielle Feinberg, the director of pho-

tography for lighting on Disney-Pixar's Academy Award-winning films "WALL•E," "Brave," and "Coco" who spoke to 200 middle school girls about

opportunities for them in STEAM-related careers (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) during the March 23 American Association of University Women Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch's annual STEAM Conference at Saint Mary's College. Feinberg's love of combining computers and art began when she was 8 years old and first programmed a Logo turtle to create images. This eventually led her to a degree in computer science at Harvard. The event was hosted by Saint Mary's College and its School of Science.

After listening to the keynote speaker, each girl then attended three hands-on workshops, which they chose from a list of 19 topics ranging from Affordable Housing for Gummy Bears to Veterinary Medicine, the Buzz About Bees, FBI CSI, Creative Coding, and Disassembling and Rebuilding a Computer, among others. The middle school girls, who come from all over the East Bay, encountered many role models – women working in STEAM fields, some representing careers the girls never heard of before.

The element of art was obvious in the workshop "Architecture: Drawings to 3D Models." Architect Kelli Franz of atelier-KS was the presenter. Twelve

girls arrived, led by a junior monitor, a high school volunteer – in this case, a junior from Acalanes. The girls were presented with a problem. Given a base and 10 LEGOs they were to create a sculpture. That was easy and fast. The next step took a bit more time. Using a piece of architectural grid paper, they were asked to create elevation drawings of each of the four sides, plus the plan – the view from the top. The room became quiet as each girl focused on visualizing a three-dimensional object and translating it into a two-dimensional rendering on a piece of paper. Once that was completed accurately, they were given colored pencils to replicate the color of each LEGO block on the drawings.

The girls were then encouraged to write notes to the "contractor" on the "plans" to help clarify the drawings, providing additional information about the trickier parts of the design. Then they were asked to disassemble their sculpture and pass the pieces and drawings to the "contractor" (another girl) who was then to reassemble the pieces. It was not always easy, but eventually it was a success for everyone!