

# A simple twist for a sumptuous weekend breakfast



Reuben Scramble

Photo Susie Iventosch

## By Susie Iventosch

This is not so much a recipe as a great idea. We recently spent a couple of nights at the Minam River Lodge in Oregon. The lodge is perched on the banks of the Minam River and located in the Eagle Cap Wilderness of the Wallowa Mountains in northeastern Oregon. This is a place you can only access by hiking, horseback or small airplane, which makes it very special. Both the head chef, Carl Krause, and the assistant chef, Suzanne Ziegler, make some very interesting dishes, using fresh grown vegetables right out of their own greenhouse and garden. The property has its very own gardener too, and

Emily Garland does an amazing job of keeping fresh produce front and center as focal points for the breakfast and dinner menus. The greenhouse is approximately 25 feet by 40 feet, so she is able to grow much of the produce the lodge needs for feeding guests. Not only is there amazing hiking, fishing and huckleberry picking nearby, but the greenhouse is worthy of a tour all by itself.

One of the nights we were there, Carl made the most amazing polenta dish I've ever tasted. While he didn't give me an exact recipe, he did say that one of the keys is using evaporated milk. Because the lodge must have any ingredients they don't grow on the premises

flown in, he's found that using evaporated milk has been a great help for many of his recipes. I am a huge polenta fan and Carl's was truly remarkable.

The next morning, we had a delightful breakfast scramble of eggs, pastrami and Swiss cheese. I have to admit that I was immediately intrigued, because I love Reuben sandwiches. This scramble did not disappoint and I am definitely going to serve it as a weekend special. It's easy, because you don't have to cook bacon or sausage; instead you just toss some chopped pastrami into the beaten eggs along with a little grated Swiss or Gruyere cheese and that is it. Delicious and fantastically easy.

## Recipe per person

### INGREDIENTS

2-3 eggs per person  
1 slice of pastrami, chopped into bite-sized pieces  
¼ cup grated Swiss or Gruyere cheese, divided by retaining 1 tablespoon aside  
½ tablespoon butter or olive oil  
Salt and pepper to taste

### DIRECTIONS

Beat eggs into a bowl. Mix in pastrami and most of the grated cheese. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Heat butter or olive oil in skillet. Place egg mixture into pan and cook until desired doneness. Remove skillet from oven and sprinkle remaining cheese on top. Place under broiler for a few minutes until cheese is bubbly and beginning to brown. Serve with toast, biscuits, or English muffins and hash browns.

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.



You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website.

Food tab:  
[www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html)

## 'The Little Comrade' – a poignant Estonian movie presented at Orinda Theatre



Photos provided

## By Sophie Braccini

This month's showing of the International Film Showcase in Orinda is a remarkably touching tale set in communist dominated Estonia in the 1950s under the Stalinist regime. All the ingredients of a dark drama play out as the story unfolds: treason, betrayal, manipulation, and fear. What makes "The Little Comrade" so special is that it is all seen through the eyes of an innocent 6-year-old girl who her family tries to protect, but who still suffers in the middle of the drama, trying to make sense of the absurd adults' world with explanations relevant to the realm of childhood.

Leelo Tungal (Helena Maria Reisner) lives with her parents, Feliks (Tambet Tuisk), and Helmes (Eva Koldits), both teachers during the dangerous Stalinist period when Estonia, part of

the Eastern bloc, suffered oppression and deportations at the slightest sign of nationalism. One day, "the man in black" comes with soldiers and takes Leelo's mother away. As she leaves, Helmes asks her daughter to be a good girl and from then on the little girl tries her best to be good, thinking that if she does, her mother will come back.

The film depicts a country where people risk being reported and deported to Siberia for something as small as owning a flag or sports trophy. Every family has members who have been sent to the gulag. The Soviet power is abused by those who collaborate with it in ways and for reasons that seem so absurd today. At the center of all this darkness, little Leelo is a source of innocent light. The naive little girl with her childhood righteousness is full of

charm, but could also become a source of danger for her family. The young actress is directed with mastery by Moonika Siimets and her performance resonates with truthfulness.

Leelo dreams of becoming a pioneer and wants to be a good little comrade. She hears everything, sees everything, but does not always understand the extreme danger that faces her father. The father/daughter relationship is at the center of the story with a dad who desperately wants to protect his daughter and allow her to have a happy childhood. He and his family suffocate under the yoke of Stalinist tyranny and one can feel their strong spirit coming out in gusts of rebellion.

The movie also subtly shows the palpable cowardice of those who do not want to make waves, and the outright perversion of those who have taken side with the tyranny to gain personal ad-

vantages or to exert revenge.

One of the loveliest aspects of the movie is the restrained and sensitive way feelings and emotions are shown. A simple exchange of glances awakens in the mind of the audience the more complex layers of emotions than any outrageous and noisy display would have.

The film is an adaptation of the autobiographic novel "The Little Comrade" by Estonian poet and author Leelo Tungal. In an interview during the Arras Film Festival, Liina Vahtrik, who played one of the main characters in the film, explained that during that period of time 30,000 Estonians were deported to Siberia, which represented 3% of the population then. She added that the fears and trauma had seldom been explored in Estonian movies until very recently.

"The Little Comrade" will open at the Orinda Theatre on Aug. 9 for at least one full week.

