

AMISH COOK

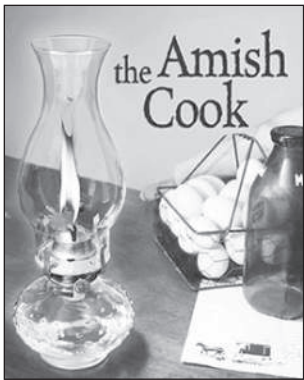
How to ‘Daniel-ize’ a recipe

By Gloria Yoder, the Amish Cook

I have made a few attempts in answering reader Mrs. Miller’s question, and for one reason or the other, it never did come together. So here we are again.

The question takes me to a portion of my heart that is now so different than what it used to be, yet I will never be the same because of that part of my journey on planet earth. Sometimes I wonder how I can be the same person I was when I was married to Daniel. Then I keep coming back to my starting point of the reason I was created in the first place - no, it has never changed! When God chose every one of us to be created, He did so with a plan and a purpose, no one but you will be able to change it. Even the hard things that really are not fair are used to reveal a depth of who God made us to be.

So taking a moment to come back to Mrs. Miller question, “What would you change in your marriage if you could?” Fair question, food for thought. My mind travels back over the years with Daniel,



and I realize that there are things I have learned and freedoms I’ve gained since his passing, so naturally there are things I’d be glad to do better if I could, nonetheless I was living then, not now. The reality stays the same, if we live in union and clearness with our fellow man, we will have no regrets if we would be separated at an instant. I praise God, because of that, there were no regrets when he passed. God’s grace had taken care of any failures and we were in love.

Still, as I step back and ponder over Mrs. Miller’s inquiry I know there is much this lass needed to learn over the past years as a single mother. While I still believe that marriage in the Lord is

one of the richest blessings known to mankind, I also see a new and shining reality that God alone deserves our primary love, our complete trust, and absolute dedication in all of life’s circumstances.

To me, something such as love, now looks more like a beautiful river flowing from God’s very throne. As He loves His own through the love of a spouse, it is a gift straight from the Father who made it. He in turn is the One to be thanked and honored for every dimension of this valuable gift. Daniel used to tell me I’m his gift from God and vice versa. I understand it in a new way.

Daniel was the type whose identity in our relationship was not set on how good he was or wasn’t in what he did. I, on the other hand, fought the identity thing that crippled who God made me to be. I am learning, a bit a time to let go of what used to be of importance to me. If I fumble a ball at the school picnic, who cares? I’m enjoying time with my children and their friends. Nothing will touch who I am in Jesus. He chooses our

identity, not the level of performance or effort.

On the other hand, let’s not fool ourselves into thinking that once we have reached a certain level, our relationships will all just click or fall into place. The best of relationships have been tried and seasoned, and come out sweeter than before.

I picture God by our side, waiting as we try our best for a while, then all at once we’ve had enough and hand it all over to Him. He deftly and simply takes it, turns it over, adjusts it, and leads us on, in ways we never knew He could.

It makes me excited to think that as long as we live we’ll be drawn ever closer to Him. We won’t stop learning until we see His shining face and thank Him for all He’s ever done for us.

Also, it’s okay to be real, I say this tenderly, as I know the pain of trying to be real in relationships, to have it come back and haunt you later. Take it in proportion of what works for you; as much as you are able, be real with what you feel. If you are scared that you’ll do

the wrong thing, speak it out, if at all possible, pray together. Oh, the beauty of people who can together, go to their Lord, and unburden at the cross. When our resources have ended, His everlasting reservoirs have just opened.

Now that there is no recipe that speaks on this subject so I’ll give you one that is a symbol of it. There were few things I enjoyed more than cooking what I knew Daniel would enjoy eating. Many times I would tweak the recipe to what I used to call ‘Daniel-ize’ it. Here is a Daniel-ized version of sticky buns that I renamed to Hubby’s Ultimate Sticky Buns.

Though you may not have a spouse, take a moment to show a gesture of kindness to someone somewhere in a way you know will make them feel loved. As one of my favorite speakers would say, “It is about loving another at your own expense.”

SAVORY HAM STICKY BUNS

- 6 hamburger buns
- 1/2 pound ham
- 6 slices baby Swiss cheeses
- 1/2 can onion and chive cream cheese spread*
- SAUCE:
- 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
- 1 teaspoon dried onion flakes
- 1 1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 6 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese, optional

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Spread 1 tablespoon sauce mix on the bottom half of bun.

Top with ham and cheese slices.

Spread cream cheese on under side of the top bun and place on top of ham and cheese.

Spread remaining sauce on top of prepared buns.

Bake 10 minutes uncovered then 10 minutes covered or heated through.

Serve with plenty napkins!

* I made my own spread by adding chives and seasonings to softened cream cheese.

EMPTY NEST

‘A Monster in Mt. Pleasant’ by CJ Williams

By Curt Swarm, Empty Nest

I wasn’t going to read CJ Williams’ book about the horrendous murder of three women in Mt. Pleasant back in the late 70s. Why? To be honest, I was envious.

I wanted to be Mt. Pleasant’s Author-in-Residence. Petty, I know. But, needing another book to read, I caved and pulled up Williams’ book on Kindle. Also available on Amazon or Burlington by the Book.

I was immediately captivated by the book, like my eyes were in quicksand, and couldn’t put the book down until I turned the last page. I read the book in one day, and I’m not a fast reader. Then I read it a second time (the ultimate compliment to any author), and was glad I did. The

details of the prosecution of this murderer, that took over 20 years—the appeals and retrials—were fascinating.

I was impressed by the legal expertise of our Henry County Attorney, with the assistance of the state, and of Williams’ dogged research into the grizzly facts of this wanton murderer, and of Williams’ writing ability. After all, he is a federal judge, with a degree in Law, not a Writer’s Workshop graduate.

The book affected me for days. I would catch myself thinking about it at the oddest times, like church, or getting ready for bed and making sure the doors were locked, as if that would do any good. We are all so vulnerable, and the book made me aware of it. If someone targets us, or

even if it’s a random act, there is very little we can do to prevent it.

Having lived in Mt. Pleasant since 1995, I know a lot of the people mentioned in the book like retired school teachers Marilyn Vincent and Claudia Streeter, former Police Officer Bob Griffiths, Police Chief Lyle Murray, former County Attorney Mike Reipe, Historian Pat White and, of course, Retired State Representative and Restaurant Owner Dave Heaton and his wife Carmen.

I hope the book gains renown in places other than Mt. Pleasant and SE Iowa. It reminds me a lot of Truman Capote’s “In Cold Blood,” although, I might say, “The Monster in Mt. Pleasant” is better written. How’s that for a recommendation?

I hope CJ Williams reads this. He might. He grew up in Mt. Pleasant and now lives in Mt. Vernon and is a federal judge. He is a facts man. Contrary to Capote, who drifts into fictionalized prose to describe feelings of say the victims and perpetrator, Williams basically states what happened and leaves it at that, like Sergeant Friday, “Just the facts, Ma’am.” I find this writing style refreshing.

For example, when Dave Heaton, owner of the Iris Restaurant, discovers the female bartender dead in a pool of blood, the book describes what Heaton did: called an ambulance, called the police, directed the police. There is no talk about any mental anguish that Heaton no doubt put himself through in the days

following, like feeling responsible for the safety of his employees. Should he keep the restaurant open? Could this happen again?

Contrary to what we might like to believe, that we live in a sleepy town where not much happens, a similar book could be written about the high school Spanish teacher in Fairfield, Nohema Graber, being clubbed to death by two students. Then there’s the disappearance of Mt. Pleasant’s Elizabeth Syperda and subsequent trial of her estranged husband. Don’t forget the Bentler family of Benton sport—two parents and three children shot to death by the son in 2006.

Mayor Edward King was murdered during a Mt. Pleasant City Council meeting in 1986. There was also a strange

dynamite explosion at a Mt. Pleasant bank in 1975 that scattered body parts for blocks. Rumor had it that it was organized crime.

CJ Williams grew up in Mt. Pleasant and knew the perpetrator and victims. He is now the Chief District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa. He was always intrigued by the murders and wanted to root out the story. Being a Judge and former prosecutor, he knew where and how to find court documents and police reports, and who to talk to. His research and writing are stellar. I hope he has another book in him.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526 or email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com. Curt is available for public speaking.

CRAWFORDSVILLE NEWS

Baughman and McElhinney family of Swedesburg welcomes daughter Alissa Grace

By Billie Jo Rose

Jarid Baughman and Leah McElhinney of Swedesburg became the parents of a daughter, Alissa Grace Baughman on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 7:46 a.m. at Great River Medical Center in Burlington. She weighed in at 6 lbs.14 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.

She was welcomed home by big brother, Rylan, 2 years.

Grandparents are Terry and Jennifer McElhinney of Crawfordsville and JR and Lucy Baughman of Carman, IL. Hubert and Bev McElhinney of Crawfordsville, Lela Worley of Carman, IL. and Randy Lucas of West Burlington are Alissa’s great-grandparents and great-great grandmother, Jean Lucas of West Burlington.

Congratulations to all!!

SACHA CLUB MEETS

Eight members of the Sacha Club met Monday, April 28, 2025 at the Ainsworth Community Church.

President Brenda Bean called the meeting to order. The Secretary’s report given by Linda McNeil was approved with one correction, which dealt with fees purchased for the Exterior Bulletin Board. Karen Megchelson gave the treasurer’s report. Bills were presented for the Easter egg hunt supplies.

Old Business: Discussion was held concerning the exterior bulletin board which will be attached to the Ainsworth City Hall at a later date. Brenda gave a report on the Easter egg hunt.

New Business: It was voted to reimburse supplies for the evening’s program to Jenna Gerot.

The meeting closed with the Club Collect. Members created a piece of art with the help of Jenna giving in-

structions on painting. Refreshments were served by Jenna.

The Club’s next meeting will be Monday, May 19.

CRAWFORDSVILLE LIONS CLUB

The Crawfordsville Lions Club met Monday evening, April 28, 2025 at 7 p.m. at the Crawfordsville Community Room with ten members present.

President Scott Davis opened the meeting leading the Pledge to the Flag and also offered prayer.

The Secretary’s report of the April 14 meeting was given by Lion Rose and it was approved as read. Treasurer Finke gave his report.

Old Business: Lion Love brought to the club’s attention that at the District Convention an organization named Tori’s Angel Foundation, based in Panora, IA help those 18 and under with medi-

cal expenses and other needs. Lion Love also mentioned touring the Tyson Processing Plant in Columbus Junction and they are open to doing tours, which are two hours long. The plant employs 1400 persons in one ten hour shift per day. Approximately 10,000 hogs are slaughtered.

New Business: It was brought to the club’s attention that the second meeting date in May falls on Memorial Day. The group decided not to have a second meeting in May and made plans to finalize details for Crawfordsville Fun Days at the June meeting.

There being no further business, President Davis adjourned the meeting.

Refreshments were served by Lion Davis.

Tail Twister Finke and Lion Fletcher entertained with trivia about old T.V. shows and their stars.

St. Gabriel and All Angels Liberal Catholic Church of Fairfield announces new rector Steven Arndt

Courtesy of St. Gabriel and All Angels LCC

St. Gabriel and All Angels LCC of Fairfield has a new rector in charge of our parish as of April 14, 2025.

Fr. Steven Arndt was ordained to the priesthood in 2010 and is now our administrative and ecclesiastical leader under the auspices of Bishop William S. H. Downey, who is the presiding Archbishop of our Liberal Catholic Church worldwide, and is the presiding Bishop for the province of the US.

Fr. Steven replaces Fr. James Palmer now living in New Hampshire, who replaced Fr. Thomas Miller after he was consecrated a Bishop in 2017. Bishop Thomas Miller founded St. Gabriel and All



Father Steven Arndt

Angels in 1988 and remains a strong inspiration to our parish.

Fr. Steven has lived in Fairfield, Iowa since 1980 and holds both a certificate in business Management and a BA in political science. He has been working for Vintage Power Wagons

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