
KIWANIS CLUB LA CAÑADA LA CRESCENTA-AM

January 28, 2026



2025-2026 Officers

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Rosemary Hook (assistant)

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<https://www.lcfkiwanisam.org>

LCLCKiwanisAM@outlook.com

Fiscal Year Oct 1-Sep 30

PO Box 1255
La Cañada, CA 91012

Wednesdays at 7:30 am
LCIF Parish Hall or Zoom
1700 Foothill Boulevard
La Cañada, CA 91011

LCF Neighbors Magazine

Sky Sprowles, Founder

Jane Neely, Content Coordinator

Mike Thatcher, Publisher



NEXT MONTH AT A GLANCE...

ZOOM or IN-PERSON

Pledge/Flag Salutes:

02/04/26 – Jack Labrie

02/11/26 – Insook Park

02/18/26 – Brian Hummel

02/25/26 – Susan Johnson

Inspiration:

02/04/26 – Peter Hultine

02/11/26 – Salli Dokko

02/18/26 – Lynne Thompson

02/25/26 – Chuck Johnson

Song Leader & Pianist:

02/04/26 – Brian Hummel & Marie Hyland

02/11/26 – Brian Hummel & Marie Hyland

02/18/26 – Brian Hummel & Marie Hyland

02/25/26 – Brian Hummel & Marie Hyland



Zoom Problems: If you get booted out just go to
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81544355138?pwd=eDBvZmhMcng5NGV6dXBGQVN0NGhMZz09>
and log back on.

Calendar of Events:

Club Board Meeting-7:30 am, 1st Monday of the month (except on holidays then 2nd Monday) at small room near Parish Hall (once a quarter held at a board member's home)
Division 3 (DCM) Board Meeting-5:30 pm, 3rd Monday of the month at the Elks Lodge, 120 E Colorado St, Glendale

KEY CLUB/BUILDERS CLUB MEETINGS (During School Year) DARK during the holiday season and summer months

- **Clark Magnet HS Key Club** – even dated Wed @11:50am (room 1230 with Bassam Abisaab)
- **Crescenta Valley HS Key Club** – every other Wed. @ 12:50 pm (north gym) with Saul Sheridan
- **Franklin HS Key Club** - every other Tues. @ 12:15 pm (room 530) with Davy Mauremann
- **St. Francis HS Key Club** – schedule varies, with Patrick Davitt
- **Village Christian HS Key Club** – schedule varies, with Lilit Vartanian
- **Rosemont Builders Club** – 1st Wed. @ 12:30 pm (multi-purpose room) with Jessica Cole
- **St. Bede Builders Club** – 3rd Thur. @ 12:15 pm (parish center) with Patrice Fontes & Therese Louk

Programs/Speakers:

02/04/26 – Craft Talk-Member Salli Dokko

02/11/26 – City of LCF-Angela Cho

02/18/26 – Service Project: Snack Packs for Ascencia

02/25/26 – La Cañada High School Brass Quartet

Hospitality: Cindy Bradford & Barbie Eland-thanks for taking care of the coffee, tea, & pastries.

Newsletter: Zoom Operators: **Chris Ecker & Brian Hummel**, Editor: **Martha Burns**,
Photos: **Martha Burns**, Web: **Cindy Bradford**

THIS PAST WEEK...

Members in Attendance: 13 members in person and 4 guests, and 1 member on Zoom & 0 guests.

Guests: Our speakers, **Sky Sprowles, Jane Neely and Mike Thatcher** & noon Kiwanis President, **Alice Perez**.

Welcome Back: Insook Park

Birthdays: None

Anniversaries: None

Ribbon Cuttings: None

NEXT MEETING at Church Fellowship Hall & zoomed on February 4 at 8:00 am.

Zoom meeting ID is 81544355138 and passcode is 505812

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81544355138?pwd=eDBvZmhMcng5NGV6dXBGQVN0NGhMZz09>



NEWSLETTER EDITORS/PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED Editors will no longer need to write about the program unless they wish to do so. Just include the info on HAMS & announcements. You will send the info to either Martha Burns or substitute editor Cindy Bradford to finish it up & convert to PDF and then they will load on to our website.

Kiwanis Officers and Directors: If you have a program/speaker, please give name/date to **Martha Burns or Cindy Bradford** as they will be the schedulers. Check out our website's calendar to schedule/view future programs. www.lcfkiwanisam.org Remember speakers can join us on Zoom, so anyone far or near might be good candidates.

President's Announcements:

- **Remember our meetings will be starting at 8:00am and NO LONGER at 7:30am.** You can sleep in an extra 30 minutes.
- **Scholarship Committee** meeting will be Feb. 18. We need to discuss dinner menu, decorations etc. for our April evening meeting.
- Super Bowl Party on Sunday, Feb. 8th @ 3:15 pm at Lynne Thompsons home ... game starts at 3:30. She is providing the meal. \$5pp. RSVP to Lynne.
- Super Bowl Pool (\$5 per square) If you want to participate, Martha is handling the sign-up sheet. You can sign up at meetings or email Martha ... she can bill you, so all members are welcome. There will be winners, and our club admin account earns a little profit too!
- San Antonio Winery Tour on Friday, Feb. 13th – We will meet at the church parking lot at 10:15 am, the tour starts at 11am. Go behind the scenes at the winery and learn about the 100-year Riboli family history of winemaking. After the 30-minute tour, we can walk through the amazing gift shop and then enjoy lunch at nearby Phillip's OR at Maddalena restaurant at the winery. Sign up at meetings OR contact Martha Burns to RSVP. All are welcome, and this is a great opportunity to invite a friend!
- Once a quarter, our monthly board meetings will be an evening dessert at a board member's home on the first Monday of the month. Otherwise at the small meeting room at the Church at 7:30 a.m.
- We need officers for Programs and Interclubs & a director for Community Service.

Kiwanis Announcements:

- **Brian Hummel** announced he attended a Builders Club meeting.
- **Martha Burns** reported on **Rosemary Hook**. She talked to her on the phone and she sounds great, but still is in rehab to get back to normal activity. She will be moving permanently to Sparr Heights Estates Senior Living in Montrose hopefully by this weekend. When she is settled in, she would love to have visitors.



Other Announcements:

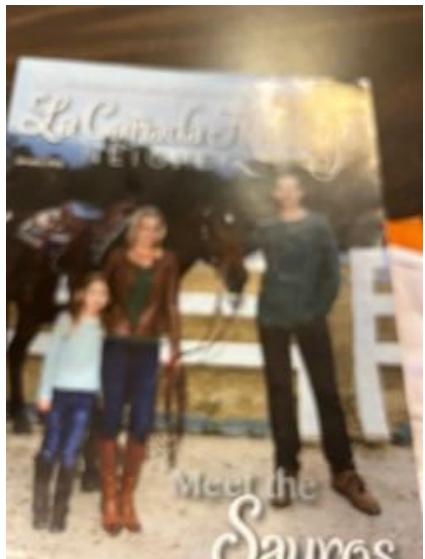
- Please let **Martha or Cindy** know if there are any changes in your personal info we have on file-like phone#, email or address change etc.

Upcoming InterClubs: Always check our newsletter calendar and the calendar on the website icfkiwanisam.org to see what is going on.

Health News: Contact **Insook Park** if you know of someone who needs a card or cheering up.

H.A.M.S.:

- **Martha Burns** gave \$5 cause Lynne Thompson invited her to see the fabulous movie "Song, Sung, Blue" at a theater in Burbank. It does have Neil Diamond songs, but it is not about him, but a true story about a couple who performed his songs all over WI. Bring Kleenex. She also gave another \$5 for our 3 speakers-**Sky Sprowles**, whom she has known a very long time when he was with the Chamber and she was on the board. Also **Jane Neely** long ago in LCF Juniors, which Jane founded, and **Mike Thatcher**, who went to school with her daughter. She said two of the perks from being selected are they took about 40 photos, which she loves, and all the phone calls and emails she has gotten from friends who saw the article & reached out to her. Neighbors truly are special.
- **Joy Gibson** gave his usual story telling for \$1, which always gets a laugh.
- **Lynne Thompson** gave \$5 because her grandson and his wife are expecting their first baby and she is going to attend her first "gender reveal" party. We will be anxious to hear how it was Lynne! More happy bucks to come????
- **Brian Hummel** gave \$5 for his granddaughter and grandson who auditioned for these roles for the Secret Garden Production and performed at CVHS. The boy was a "doctor" and the girl was a "schrub." Seems his grandson is quite the entrepreneur as he gets baseball cards from his dad and then turns around and sells them. So far he has made \$300!
- **Christie Crahan paid** \$10 for several reasons. Next week she will not be here but instead attending the annual conference for girl scouts and girl guides in Mexico. She also will visit the World Heritage Monarch Butterfly sight. She told us about the "super monarch."
- While it takes three generations of monarchs to complete the journey south to north each spring and summer, super monarchs must complete the entire journey south, from the northern U.S. and southern Canada to their overwintering grounds in Mexico, all on their own. It is a butterfly orgy!
- Speaker **Mike Thatcher** donated a happy \$5 as the father of 3 children, he and his wife had a 4th baby in September & he is thrilled to just enjoy every minute.



Program/Speakers: "La Canada Flintridge Neighbors" Magazine- **Sky Sprowles, Jane Neely, & Mike Thatcher**

Today was a special treat with THREE speakers. **Sky Sprowles** spoke first and told a little bit about his work background in many different US states, including Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico and Texas. He always wanted to be a disc jockey. He has sold advertising, produced commercials, been on radio and even interviewed George W. Bush in Dallas. For a time, he even walked dogs for their owners.

When he and his wife eventually moved to LCF, he became the Chamber of Commerce Director, and actually was the one who brought in our "Farmers Market." He decided to start a monthly magazine for LCF in January of 2015, which he titled "LCF Neighbors." It took about 3 months to become a viable magazine, but still going strong today.

He said Judi Healey (member Ted Davis' daughter) came up to him at church one day and wanted to contribute to the community magazine. He said yes and she writes great articles on a variety of outdoor activities. There also have been articles by people like Tom Slaughter giving us info on computers to the priest Amy Pringle at St. Georges Church and Anderson Pet Store talking on "Pet Projects." There was a featured section titled "A Day Away," suggesting one day trips around the area. George Jacobs, who founded "Georgee's Pizza," finally got on the cover, but Sky never could get him to advertise in the magazine.

One of the most popular covers was when he featured coyotes, as they too are our neighbors. Another was veterinarian Woody Walker and the Pasadena Humane Society.

Jane Neely spoke next and she worked for the LC Valley Sun for 40 years & wrote a weekly column. When the paper closed down in 2020, she became the editor and "Family Feature" writer for the magazine. She so enjoys telling the "story" of families who live here in LCF. We truly do learn a lot about our neighbors.

Mike Thatcher is the youngest of the bunch and secures the advertising for the publication, which provides much of the funding of the magazine. He grew up in LCF & went to LCHS. A number of years ago he met Trevor Marca who had been inspired to get into publishing a community-centric magazine after recognizing that most media outlets focus on the negative aspects of communities, while ignoring the numerous community leaders and events that make these neighborhoods wonderful places to live. Additionally, Trevor noticed how in today's digital age, many neighborhoods have begun to drift apart and the camaraderie and closeness he experienced while growing up is largely lacking. Trevor was the first official publisher. He was looking for someone to take over his position and Mike fit the bill. How lucky we were he signed on. What a terrific young man. And even his wife is involved in the magazine too.

Thanks to all of you for joining us today for such a fun and entertaining program down memory lane. You are truly pillars of our community.

SEE MAGAZINE ARTICLE BELOW

An Exclusive Monthly Publication for La Cañada Flintridge

La Cañada Flintridge NEIGHBORS

February 2026



The Burns Family

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COVER PHOTO BY CAROLINE TRAN



(L-R) Layla, Keira, Jerry, and Lauren Shen, Tom, Martha, Kenny, Sheri, Bradley and Scotty Burns.

Tom & Martha Burns: A Love Story with Staying Power

By Jane Napier Neely | Photos by Caroline Tran

February arrives amid hearts, flowers, and the slightly breathless promise that love is all sparkle and sweeping gestures. It's the season that celebrates beginnings — before romance settles into something quieter, deeper, and far more interesting, like shared routines, inside jokes, and knowing where the hidden key is.

For Tom and Martha Burns, that first spark ignited more than 50 years ago at a work gathering in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Young love tends to move quickly, and theirs certainly did. Within a year of their first date, they were married — despite an early dinner that might have caused a less devoted suitor to reconsider.

Tom, a lifelong fan of culinary

experimentation, invited Martha over for a home-cooked meal and proudly served Hasenpfeffer. Martha, unfamiliar with the dish, was mildly startled to learn she was dining on rabbit stew. She ate it anyway — politely, bravely, and without complaint — offering early evidence that true love can survive a surprising number of tests.

More than five decades later, Tom and

Martha have built a life defined by laughter, a few inevitable tears, and a steady partnership that has carried them through “thick and thin.” Forty-five of their 52 married years have been spent in the same house nestled in the hills of La Cañada Flintridge — a reflection of both their devotion to one another and to the community they chose as home.

Martha's family story begins six weeks earlier than her mom or the doctor expected. Martha was sort of a bonus baby because she was preceded by her surprise identical twin sister by three minutes. The delivery room was all abuzz with excitement with this double delight. The timing had added drama because it was during World War II and her father was serving in the Navy in the South Pacific. A telegram soon informed him that he was the father of not just one daughter, but two. Granted special leave, he rushed home to meet his babies, both still in incubators tipping the scale at three pounds each.

Martha's twin is Kathy, and the family later welcomed two more daughters, Sandy and Judy. After the war, the

“
We treasure our sunny foothill community where neighbors wave, friendships deepen, and roots grow strong.
”

Stevensons settled in Duluth, Minnesota, where Martha's father opened a musical instrument store. Of her childhood there, Martha quips, “Duluth had nine months of winter and three months of bad sledding.”

Tragedy struck when Martha was 12, with the loss of her mother to breast cancer. Two years later, her father remarried a woman with a son, Page Whyte, the same age as Martha and her twin. Suddenly, four sisters had an instant stepbrother. “It was an adventure,” Martha recalls.

After the Stevenson twins and their

stepbrother graduated from high school, the family happily traded snow for sunshine, moving to Glendale, California, where Martha's father joined his brother's real estate firm, Stevenson Real Estate Services.

Martha attended Colorado College in Colorado Springs, earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics and pledging Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Years later, after settling in La Cañada Flintridge, she reconnected with that sisterhood through the local Theta alumnae group.

After college, Martha returned to Minneapolis, working for seven years as a computer programmer at General Mills. The job came with an enviable perk: access to the company jet. A flight-attendant friend would tip her off when the plane was headed to Los Angeles, allowing Martha to squeeze in whirlwind family visits. Still, even that first-class convenience couldn't soften the icy of Minnesota winters.

Eventually, Martha returned to Colorado Springs to accept a computer sales position at Burroughs — where she met a certain Tom Burns.

Continued on next page

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FAMILY FEATURE

Continued from page 5

A good way to begin Tom's origin story is — If Tom Burns had been born a bit closer to the Mississippi River, Mark Twain might have raised an eyebrow. Growing up in St. Louis with three younger sisters — Sue, Barb, and Pat — Tom spent his boyhood roaming riverbanks and getting into just enough mischief to keep life interesting.

His parents, recognizing his energetic spirit, enrolled him in Catholic boys' schools for all 12 years of his education. As an altar boy, Tom discovered that weddings and funerals came with a small but appreciated perk — tips.

Outside of school, Tom was endlessly industrious. He ran a paper route, taught swimming, worked as a lifeguard, and became an Eagle Scout. By the time he graduated cum laude from the University of Missouri with a degree in Economics, he had developed a strong sense of responsibility, leadership, and community.

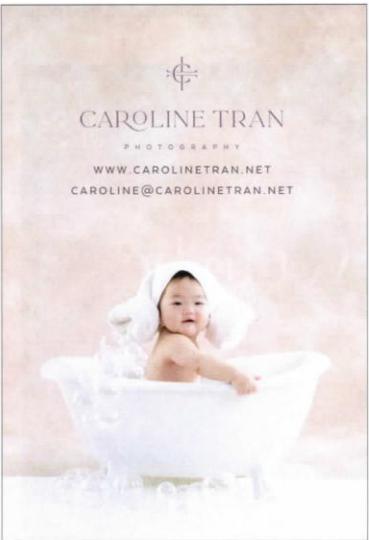
Drafted during the Vietnam War, Tom was stationed at an Air Force base in Colorado Springs, serving as a mathematical and statistical specialist working on computerized models for the



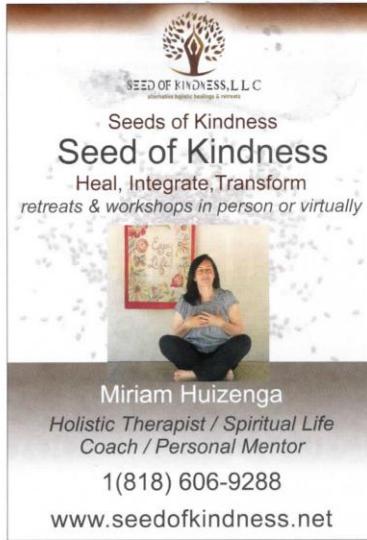
Safeguard ABM system. When his service ended, job offers followed — including one from the CIA — but Tom chose to remain in Colorado Springs and joined Burroughs

Corporation.

In 1981, Burroughs transferred Tom to California, that was when they discovered the charming community of La Cañada

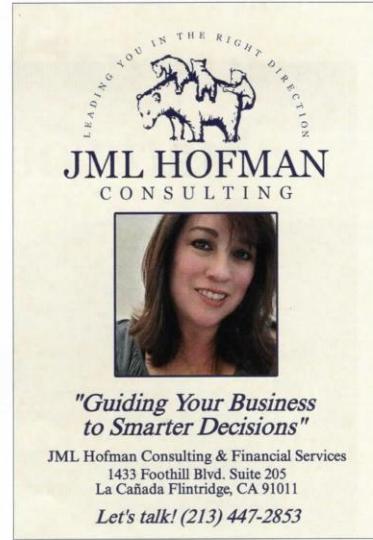


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FAMILY FEATURE

Flintridge. Their son Kenny was six, and daughter Lauren was four at the time of their move. When Tom was later asked to relocate again, this time to Michigan, the family held a vote. The decision was unanimous: La Cañada was home. Tom instead founded his own software company, Cornerstone Concepts, serving small banks throughout the Midwest.

From the time they moved to LCF the Burns family have adopted from one to three dogs at a time from Pasadena Humane Society where Martha volunteered for many years.

Both of their children, Kenny and Lauren, attended La Cañada Elementary School (LCE,) La Cañada 7-8, and La Cañada High School. Kenny, a 1992 LCHS graduate, excelled as a student-athlete at LCHS and was inducted into their Hall of Fame. Later at UC San Diego, where his soccer team won the NCAA National

Championship, he was named an All-American. He works at Stevenson Real Estate Company and serves as President of the LCHS Spartan Boosters. He and his wife, Sheri — a beloved first-grade teacher at La Cañada Elementary for the past twenty-four years — live in La Crescenta with their sons, Bradley and Scotty.

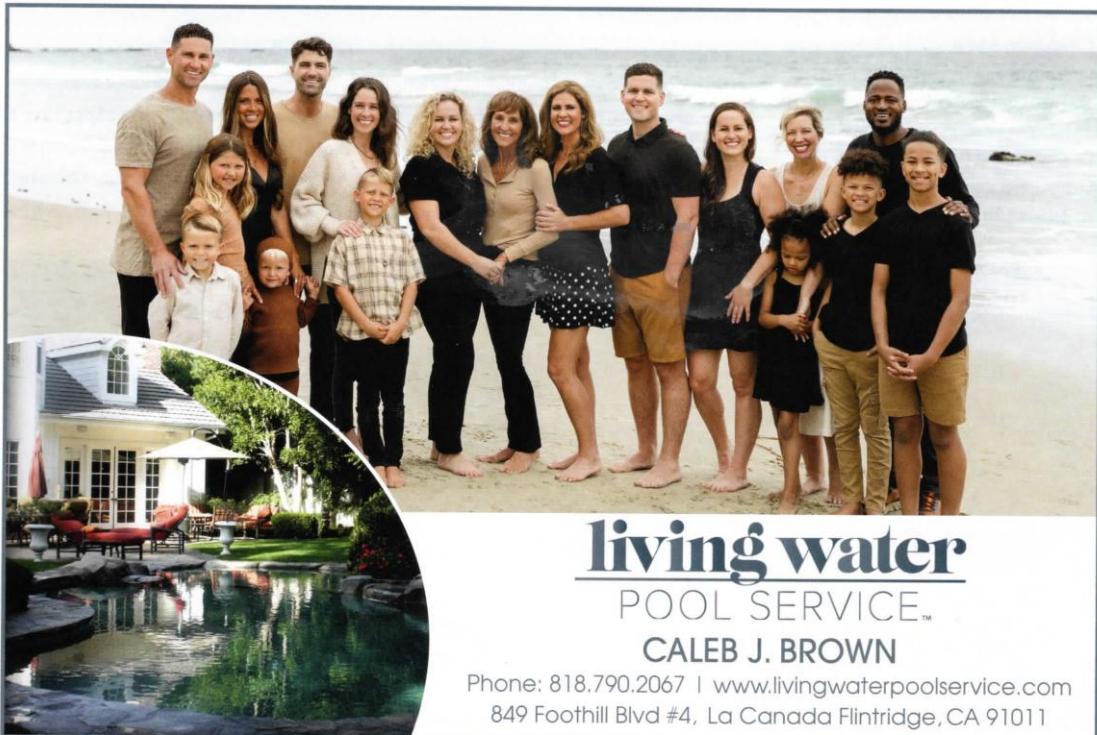
Bradley is a LCHS graduate where he played soccer and volleyball. He is a recipient of the Les Tupper Student Award. He is also an Eagle Scout and currently is finishing up at Pasadena City College and applying to colleges. He also holds a part time job at North Shore Burger. Scotty is a senior at LCHS and is looking forward to his third year on the varsity baseball team as pitcher. He is also a member of the Key Club.

Lauren, a 1995 LCHS graduate, played varsity soccer and was catcher on the varsity softball team that won the CIF

Division II championship. She earned a degree in Integrated Biology from UC Berkeley and has spent the past 17 years as a part-time office and finance manager for La Cañada Properties. She and her husband, Jerry Shen, live in San Marino with their high school daughters, Layla and Keira — both devoted dancers. Keira has appeared in The Nutcracker at the Alex Theatre for five years, while Layla has pursued advanced dance training in Austria and Switzerland. In honor of the grandmother she never knew, Lauren has spent 16 years supporting the Susan G. Komen 3-Day, 60-mile San Diego Walk, helping advance the fight against breast cancer. Like her mother, Lauren volunteers extensively at her girls' schools and dance programs.

Throughout their child-rearing years, the Burns family became deeply

Continued on next page



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FAMILY FEATURE

Continued from page 5

woven into the fabric of the La Cañada community. Tom led Cub Scouts, coached and refereed AYSO soccer, coached baseball and softball, and became known for his enthusiastic culinary discoveries. His passion for cooking remains strong. Martha jokes that friends envy her with a private "private chef," and she also relies on Tom as her in-house tech support — a priceless combo. Tom is also a voracious reader of books of all topics.

Martha's volunteerism was inspired by her parents and flourished once her children entered school. She cheerfully describes herself during those years as "the Energizer Bunny." Volunteering appealed to her practical side: "You can't really get fired, you set your own hours, and there's no worry about vacation time."

Over the years, she served two terms as President of La Cañada Elementary PTA; led La Cañada softball (now LCBSA), the AM Kiwanis Club, serving as president and treasurer. For many years she contributed to the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Library, and the Coordinating Council. She has been a volunteer at Descanso Gardens, and a member of the Daughters



of the American Revolution. As part of the Community Scholarship Foundation, she, along with her niece Wendy Wyatt, helped bring the Emmy-winning singing group, The Texas Tenors to the Lanterman Auditorium, raising nearly \$50,000 for

LCF scholarships.

Martha was honored in 2014 to be selected as "La Cañadan of the Year," and chosen by Representative Adam Schiff as the 28th Congressional District, "Woman of the Year."



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FAMILY FEATURE

- time with their children and four grandchildren.

At the end of the day, Tom and Martha treasure the same things many La Cañadans hold dear — a sunny foothill community where neighbors wave, friendships deepen, and roots grow strong. Forty-five years in the same home and a life built together. As they say, "What more could we ask for?"



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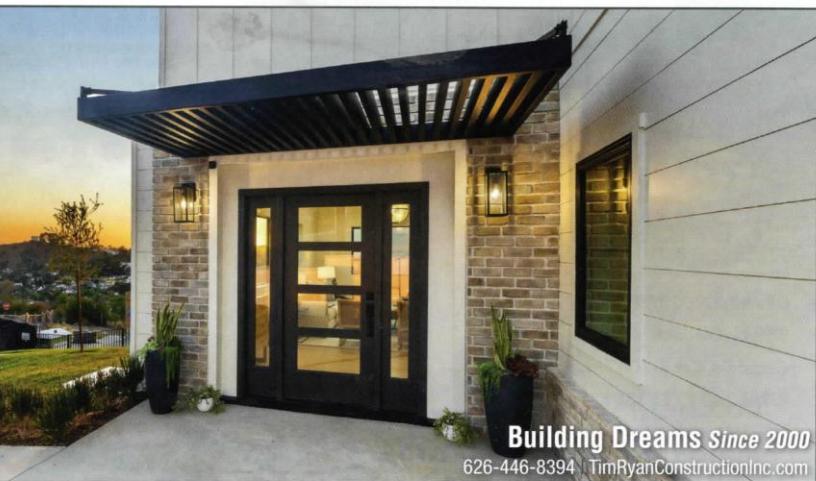
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Ozark Pudding

By Tom Burns

Having spent a lot of time in my youth fishing and hunting in the Ozarks, I'm partial to this dessert. It's kind of a cross between apple pie and a cake. Besides, it was Missouri native Harry Truman's favorite dessert.



INGREDIENTS:

3/4 cup all-purpose flour
 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon
 (I like cinnamon, the original recipe calls for a pinch)
 Pinch of salt
 1 large egg
 1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
 1/4 cup granulated sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 3/4 cup finely chopped peeled and cored apple
 3/4 cup finely chopped black walnuts, or walnuts, you can substitute almost any true nut here.

(Topping)

1 cup heavy cream, softly whipped with
 2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 Rum, Applejack, Brandy, or Whiskey
 (Optional)

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 350° F. Coat an 8 x 8 x 2-inch baking pan with nonstick spray and line with parchment paper, set aside.
- Sift the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt onto a piece of wax paper also set aside.
- Beat the egg, two sugars, and vanilla at high speed for about 2 minutes in a small electric mixer bowl or until very thick. By hand mix in the sifted dry ingredients, apples, and pecans.
- Scoop the batter into the pan, spreading to the corners, and bake on the middle oven shelf for about 30 minutes or until crusty brown on top.
- Remove the torte from the oven and cool in the upright pan on a wire rack for 30 minutes.
- Whip cream, add Vanilla and a splash of desired liquor (Optional, well not really optional for me)
- To serve, cut into large squares and drizzle each portion with some of the whipped cream topping.

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