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Editor's Note

There's Something About Autumn!

October is my favorite month of the year. I have my birthday at the beginning of the month, as well as a lot of family members' birthdays, where, of course, everyone wants to celebrate with a dinner — so it's always a busy month. But, the main reason I love October is the fond memories I have of what a true fall looks and feels

like. When I was 3-5 years old, my family lived outside

Washington, D.C., where my dad was stationed at the Pentagon. Even though I was pretty young during our stay in the nation's capital, I have vivid memories of our heavily wooded backyard and the surrounding neighborhood's tall trees changing to deep reds, oranges and yellows. The colors were beautiful, especially against the backdrop of a clear, blue sky accompanied with an autumn breeze. Living in Texas for a little over 30 years, I can appreciate the fact that our winters are mild, but I will always miss those Northern falls.

Looking forward to telling your story!

Abby

Abby Rich

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A Game of



At 6:30 p.m., everything was quiet. The workers washed the horses, fed them and did all the routine things. The hot sun beat down on the lush, green fields as the wind blew gently across the grass. Suddenly, one-by-one, polo players began to arrive. The horses came alive as owners and riders started preparing them for the upcoming game. At 7:30 p.m., the horses were mounted and the participants in the evening game headed out to the field for a round of polo. With grace and elegance, the players and the horses became one as they maneuvered on the field.

This gem, right in the middle of the Red Oak area, is the Dallas Polo Club. The actual property is called The Bear Creek Polo Ranch. Over 20 horses are housed and kept on the property. Many of them are thoroughbreds off the race track. The beautiful, 35-acre spread has both a regulation open polo playing field and an arena polo field. The arena field is enclosed with a fence for boundaries. Active polo games have been played on this property for 25 years.

Bil Walton, president of the Dallas Polo Club, is known as one of the greatest arena polo players in the world. For over 50 years, he has played the sport he loves with passion and precision. Raised in Modesto, California, he played on the Pebble Beach Polo team as a high school student. Playing for University of California, Davis, his team beat Harvard and Yale to win two national titles. About 30 years ago, he was invited to come play polo in Dallas. "I came and never looked back," he said. Dallas was the place he wanted to call home.

The sport has taken Bil far and wide. "People who play polo know the players around the world and will invite good players to come and play for them," he explained. He has played in New Zealand, Mexico, Australia, Germany, Brunei, Singapore and Britain. He actually won the New Zealand

Kings

— By Debbie Durling



Open and the Open in Mexico. In Los Angeles, he was known as “Wild Bil” and was deemed one of the best arena polo players in the country.

It was in Britain that he played on Prince Charles’ Windsor team for three months. He recalls it being an honor to be called upon to play on such a great team. This, no doubt, speaks to his level of expertise. His only regret was he never spoke to Lady Di. “At times, she wasn’t more than 10 feet away,” he recalled, “but it wasn’t proper protocol to approach.”

He has also been privileged to play with one of Texas’ beloved actors, Tommy Lee Jones, at his ranch in San Saba. Tommy has also played, on occasion, at the Bear Creek Polo Ranch.

Riding a horse and playing polo are fun and exciting, but they can also be dangerous. A few years ago, Bil’s horse stumbled. He did a full summersault, but landed perfectly flat on his back with no injuries. Tammy, one of the members of the club, has also fallen off a horse. She said it was embarrassing because the other horses being ridden that day had names like

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Vengeance. She fell off of Freckles, who
got spooked at a standstill! She chipped
her elbow and popped her shoulder out
of place.

Polo has been called "the game of
kings." While the game, itself, dates back
to before history was even recorded, the
modern version of the game originated
from British soldiers stationed in India. It
is played with a white ball, polo stick and
a horse. When the ball is hit, it can travel
at speeds of up to 110 miles per hour.
Keeping the horse moving at a gallop
is important. The player must make
constant decisions on whether to pass
the ball or take it to the end of the field
to score a goal. Each game lasts about an
hour, which is divided into four checkers,
seven minutes each, or six checkers at
seven minutes each with short breaks in
between. They wrap the horses' legs for
added strength and to protect them from
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Lessons can be very expensive, rising
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game available to most. The club takes a stair-step approach to new players. The first step is polo school. In the course of those lessons, new players are taught the very basics of the game.

Lessons are held in the arena on DPC horses and are scheduled before and after other polo activities, so the student can meet other DPC members, as well as see the concepts they are learning about in action. The instruction is primarily related to the mechanics of riding the horse, hitting the ball and strategies of the game, although some time is spent on the concept of "the line."

Many times spectators will say, "Wow, that was the most exciting sports event I have ever seen! I wish I could do that." The reply from the club members is always very inclusive and invitational,





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“Great, come take a lesson this week!”

Most first-timers are surprised to learn that the majority of the Dallas Polo Club members started out with little or no riding experience, no knowledge of the game and had never considered polo as something in which “real” people could participate. One of the goals of this club is to change that perception. It is filled with members who all have one thing in common — their love of polo began with a single lesson.



New friends are made every day at the Dallas Polo Club.

The club meets to play every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 10:00 a.m. After a few rounds of polo, Bil fires up the grill. They enjoy the game, good food and fellowship, making them a close-knit bunch. Because many of them learned to play the game at DPC, they are eager to help new members, creating a great atmosphere for learners to relax and enjoy the first steps of beginning their new adventure. The players at the club are a fun and diverse group from all walks of life. This is a Texas club, and the existing players are friendly and welcoming to the new and old members alike. **NOW**

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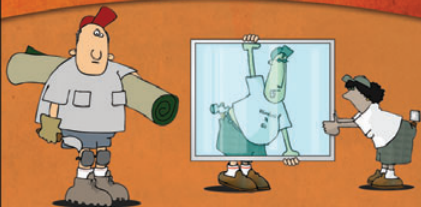
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A Wonderful Place to Be

— By Debbie Durling



Shades of taupe and an elegant mixture of brick and stone provide a sanctuary that the Abbott family fills with joy and tradition, cultivating a strong, happy family life. The arches and gentle curves accented by the brick and stone on the outside continue through the house. The fireplace, which extends from the floor to the top point of the cathedral ceiling, is detailed to match the many unique features on the outside, such as, brick that runs in different directions and an arch that encases a stone pattern rising above the solid stone mantel. Below, the fire pit is surrounded by a square pattern of brick, which sits atop an elegant hearth. On either side, a half-arch window rises from the floor to the slant of the cathedral ceiling. These are just a few of the many beautiful details reflecting this multifaceted family.

After growing up in Irving, Texas, Kevin Abbott found himself preparing for ministry in Lynchburg, Virginia, at Liberty University. He was only in ministry for a few years when 9/11 happened. Kevin felt a

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call to serve his country. He joined the Army and rose to the rank of captain, serving as a transportation officer. While in the Army, he met Mindy who had come from her home state of New York to Washington, D.C. Friends introduced them and would not leave them alone. Finally, Kevin decided to ask her on a date. He thought, *I'll take her to a historical site. If she likes history, she is a great girl.* Their first date was to Mount Vernon in the pouring rain, and she was a trooper, visiting Washington's grave in a park and loving the experience. Eventually, Kevin chose Potomac Falls, Maryland, to

propose. After giving away the surprise element by continually moving to another spot to get away from tourists, he asked this beautiful lady to be his wife.

After leaving the Army, they moved to the Red Oak area. He was employed at a business in Corsicana, but longed to return to the ministry. "I prayed that the Lord would open up an opportunity to go back to full-time work in the church," he remembered. Soon after praying that prayer, he was laid off from work, returned to seminary and became the spiritual formation pastor at First Baptist Church in Red Oak. Most recently,

he was voted in as the lead pastor of First Baptist.

Mindy grew up without a consistent church life, but renewed her faith as an adult before she met Kevin. She never dreamed she would marry a minister, but loves the life they share together. Because of her love for children, she serves in the children's ministry at church. She has worked in IT for CGI Federal for 17 years, and now works for them out of her elegant home office. The foyer and dining room sit opposite the office. A cherry wood, executive desk sits in the middle of the room, facing out toward the archway.

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Behind it stands three matching shelves that showcase Mindy's other passion — photography. Photographs of her family accent the shelves, as well as adorn the walls of the home.

Entertaining comes with the territory of pastoring. This large, open-concept home is perfect for their needs. A large, five-sided island sits in the middle with two-and-a-half feet of walking space separating it from the surrounding rich brown cabinetry. Mingled patterns and colors in the granite seem to dance on the countertops, adding texture and definition. This area also has a cathedral ceiling, which is angled in a different direction from the living room, but it has an area where the ceiling drops that adds interest and flare. Just off the kitchen bar is the back door and the breakfast room. While open and visible, the breakfast area extends and almost has a space of its own.

The formal dining room sits across from the office. A doorway and open wall connect it to the other living areas of the home. Housed in the china cabinet is a tea set Mindy used to ask her great-aunt to let her drink from and a "Willow" figurine of a man and woman embracing, which is a symbol of the love the two share. These open, yet separate spaces are perfect for entertaining multiple functions at the same time.

Entertaining guests in these rooms is a joy, but the greater joy is raising their children with traditional, time-honored values. The Abbotts eat most of their meals at the table, together. While eating, they have a tradition of asking each of the kids how their day went. "On a hectic day, if we forget, one of the kids will begin the conversation by asking us how *our* days went," Mindy said. "We like that



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we have built that habit in them.” A light spirit of play and peace pervades the home as the children talk freely and play creatively. “We don’t respond to things in anger in our family, we laugh and carry on, trying not to get bogged down in the negative,” Mindy explained.

Playing hide-and-seek with dad is a nightly ritual, as mom moves the family toward the four spacious bedrooms that give each family member personal space. Two full baths and a Jack-and-Jill bath keep the home a happy place, too. Interesting inset arches around doors, nooks in unexpected places, shades of taupe tile and dark metal/iron make the restrooms stand out from other homes. Every foot of space is a mixture of beauty and practicality.

“Our favorite place to laugh with our children and entertain guests is the backyard,” Kevin said. With a large back porch and patio, there is room for everyone and for various types of play. But, there is more. Walking to the left, a large, clean, fresh pool invites the family to come away from their cares for a while and recharge when the weather is warm enough. A double chair, rustic swing awaits those seeking retreat at the far end. At the back edge of the pool is a natural rock waterfall, with tropical plants to complete the oasis. Last but not least, is a wooden play gym and fort to provide outdoor fun and exercise. When there is no time to be at the pool, it is not forgotten, as it is strategically placed to be the view that fills the windows on the sides of the fireplace in the spacious living room.

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Sharing a Song

— By Sara Edgell

Singing has been a longtime hobby and big-time passion in Clint Woodward's life. Under the tutelage of a very influential elementary school music teacher, he began singing in his school's choir during third grade. However, it was in high school that Clint's interest in singing hit an "epiphanic" level. At a three-day clinic, he heard The Vocal Majority, a Dallas-based men's chorus, perform their signature song, "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho," for the very first time, and he was instantly smitten. As a young high school sophomore, he realized his desire to ultimately sing with the premier chorus group.

But why singing? Clint not only enjoys the harmonization and sound, but the experience as a whole. For him, singing is a form of connecting with himself and others through art. "Singing is a good outlet for anything, especially for guys because it's an activity where you can let your emotions go,"



"Singing in a quartet or a choir gives me a sense of camaraderie because I am involved in something bigger than myself."



Clint explained. "When you are singing and you really get into a piece of music, you tap into the emotions of the piece and the emotions in yourself. It's like a release."

Specifically, Clint enjoys the barbershop quartet style, which he first began singing in high school. "It's inclusive, but exclusive at the same time," he said. A traditional barbershop quartet is comprised of four male parts, who sing harmonized acapella, meaning there is heavy chord structure arranged to build off one another's overtones and absolutely no instruments are used. "In a quartet, you really build a strong camaraderie with the other guys, and you have the opportunity to truly fine-tune your craft," he said.

While the traditional four-man barbershop quartet structure is his favorite, Clint also enjoys singing in a barbershop-style chorus, specifically The Vocal Majority. In 2011, Clint fulfilled his dream of joining and performing with the 150-member chorus. In years past, he

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has performed on stage with his groups several times a year, singing traditional barbershop songs, such as the spiritual “Hush” and the classic oldie “Hello Mary Lou.” However, when the chorus performs their signature song that won his heart so many years ago, Clint is on cloud nine.

According to Clint, “Every piece has to be a giant production, a masterpiece really, so there is a lot of preparation that goes into it.” Therefore, they meet every week to practice, so they are fully prepared for local performances and international competitions alike. Every single time they sing, no matter who it is for or the reason for the performance, they give it their all. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, the 12-time gold medal winners of the Barbershop Harmony Society have brought home remarkable awards, such as the coveted International Chorus Championship in 2014. “We are the most decorated barbershop chorus in history,” Clint smiled. “It’s amazing to be a part of.”

Currently, there are about five active male barbershop chapters in the DFW area with a total of about 400 members citywide. Clint happens to be a lifetime member of the Southwestern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society, something he is extremely proud of. Despite his participation and enthusiasm for the art, the reality is that barbershop quartet singing is at somewhat of a crisis point. “The average member is 57 years old, and membership is not as high as it could be. Unfortunately, it’s an art form close to dying,” he stated. “If we can build it back up in the next generation, much like building a family, we can save it from disappearing.”



When Clint and his wife, Stephanie, moved to Texas from New Mexico for work and to be closer to Stephanie's family, Clint brought along his talent for singing. Together the couple has two children, as well as a desire to help others. Stephanie works for Red Oak ISD in the After the Bell program, an after-school program for students that focuses on enrichment activities in sports, arts and education. Clint joined the Red Oak ISD team just a year ago as the student nutrition coordinator. While he does not work directly with students, he fills a very important role in the district by providing well-rounded and nutritionally balanced meals.

But his love for reaching and helping the youth of the community does not stop at the end of his routine workday. Clint has found a way to incorporate his two passions — helping others and singing — by coordinating and hosting an annual singing camp at Red Oak High School. "Singing in a quartet or a choir gives me a sense of camaraderie because I am involved in something bigger than myself," he said.

That sense of belonging and camaraderie is exactly what he wanted to provide to the youth in the Red Oak ISD. To accomplish this, he joined forces with Mechelle Foster, the district's choir director, and built a plan for a camp that would create more interest in group singing, as well as draw in more males. The first year's event was a little bumpy, Clint admitted — however, it has greatly improved and grown. "We received the Harmony Foundation Outreach grant and brought in a big name quartet called Forefront, and the kids really got into it. They asked about the next

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camp whenever they would see me, so it was success despite the issues we faced," he said.

The second year was much better, even though there wasn't a grant to fund the event. Instead, they received full backing from the school, and took pride in seeing the number of attendees increase. Eighty-five students from a total of five different school districts were present, and the camp went off without a hitch. For the upcoming third annual camp, Clint and Mechelle anticipate the best turnout yet. "Our primary goal has always been to get more kids involved and to get music teachers teaching more variety," he explained. "There are teachers out there who are hungry for help and who want to reach their students in new and exciting ways. Those are the people I want to help because they are the ones that get others excited about singing."

Clearly, they have met their goal as the annual camp has grown in popularity and the district has seen an increase in the number of students joining choir. More importantly, Clint is fulfilling his dream of spreading his passion for and sharing his knowledge of barbershop quartet singing. "To be the best version of myself, I need my family and I need to sing," he smiled. "I need to help others through performing to show them the importance of being a part of something bigger than yourself." **NOW**

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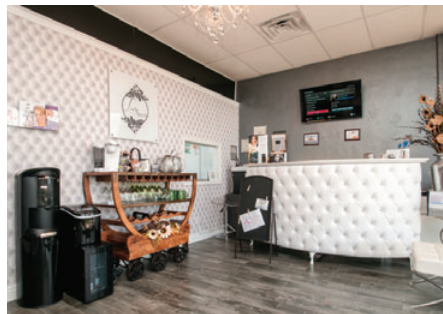


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clients and get an understanding of their needs and expectations, and then set reachable goals,” Kay explained. “We are ‘skin geeks,’ and love that we can make such a difference in our clients’ lives.”

Kay, who lives in Ovilla with her husband, Michael, has assembled a team of aestheticians that she describes as “the best and brightest of today’s professionals.” Jessica Noble and Morgan Hornung serve as aestheticians and laser techs. Rhonda Edwards is the physician assistant/medical injector, and Dr. Ann Nolen, D.O., serves as the medical spa’s medical director. “The staff attends regular training sessions, so we can offer cutting-edge, beneficial treatments to clients,” Kay stated.

A special occasion or a gift certificate inspires some clients to book an appointment, while other clients join one of the spa’s

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"We love that we can make such a difference in our clients' lives."

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"I want people to get excited about their overall fitness and skin care," Kay said. "We love to see our clients gain confidence."

One such client is Wanda Albritton who has lost weight with nutritional planning and daily exercise. "This is the nicest group of people," Wanda said of the spa's team. "I tell everyone to come and see for themselves."

With her marketing and graphic design background, Kay was inspired to open her business by Michael who owns a laser repair company. "I became his customer," she quipped. While learning on the job by managing an Addison spa and training at the Texas Laser Institute, Kay decided to provide spa services to her friends and neighbors in Ellis County. "I love the people here and wanted to have a city-chic spa with Southern charm. The support from everyone has been overwhelming," she remarked. "We offer the best solutions to fit our clients' needs." **NOW**



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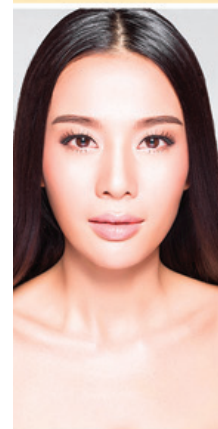
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October 6, 7

Red Oak ISD Homecoming festivities:

Thursday, bonfire, 8:00 p.m., field adjacent to Goodloe Stadium parking lot; **Friday**, parade and pep rally begins at ROHS, 2 p.m.; 5:30-6:30 p.m., ROHS alumni reception held in the Red Oak ISD Education Service Center; 7:30 p.m., game kick-off against Mansfield Lakeridge at Goodloe Stadium.

October 8

4th Annual Dentistry From the Heart: 7:30 a.m., official registration begins, Waxahachie Family Dentistry. For more information, call (972) 937-4370.

October 15

Red Oak Chamber of Commerce Annual Auction/Dinner: 6:00-10:00 p.m., Red Oak Municipal Center. For more information, email admin@redoakchamber.org.

October 18

Pink Out Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon and Advisory Board meeting: 11:00 a.m., Training Academy 4 U, LLC, 213 W. 6th St., Ferris. Healthcare, business professionals and the public are welcome. For more information, email lupec@ta4u.org.

October 22

Ovilla United Methodist Church's Lord's Acre Regional Fall Festival: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., corner of Ovilla and Westmoreland roads. There will be a free kids zone, vendors, live and silent auctions, raffles, hay rides and games.

October 24

First United Methodist Church of Red Oak's Party in the Patch: 2:00-4:00 p.m., 600 Daubitz Rd. Bounce house, trunk or treat, hay rides and games.

October 28 — 30

Waxahachie Community Theatre's Fall Musical *Fiddler on the Roof*: **Friday** and **Saturday**, 7:30 p.m., **Sunday**, 2:30 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park. Curtain times and tickets prices are available by calling (972) 646-1050 or by visiting www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com.

October 29

21st Annual Texas Country Reporter Festival: 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., historic downtown Waxahachie. Join Bob Phillips for a day of arts and music. Enjoy a free concert by Restless Heart as they take the main stage. Admission is free. For more information, call (469) 309-4040 or visit www.waxahachiecvb.com.

Red Oak's Fall Festival: 4:00-8:00 p.m., Watkins Park, 101 Live Oak. There will be trunk or treat, bounce houses, a costume contest, hay rides and maze, vendors and the Little Miss & Mister Red Oak contest. For more information, call (469) 218-1202 or email kworthy@redoaktx.org.

October 30

Trunk or Treat festival: 5:00-7:00 p.m., First Baptist Church, Red Oak. This is a free event for kids.

Ongoing:

Wednesdays

The Oaks DivorceCare classes: 7:00-8:30 p.m., The Oaks Fellowship Church, Red Oak. Classes are held in the educational building in Room 203. The current session runs through **December 7**. Classes are co-ed and all are welcome.

Third Saturdays

Ferris Trades Day: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 101 S. Main St., Ferris. For more information, call Tina Miller at (817) 992-9204.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to abby.rich@nowmagazines.com.

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In the Kitchen With Blair Savage

— *By Rachel Smith*

To serve is one of the centerpieces of Blair Savage's life, whether for family, friends or strangers in need. "I enjoy cooking because there are so many people to serve — the elderly, the ill and the orphans," he said. While in elementary school, his mother's serving heart taught him different ways to help others, such as feeding them.

Through his service experiences, he's learned how to turn a bad culinary situation into a good one. "One day, I gave a few dollars to a man at a truck stop. He, in turn, gave me a box of Cajun-flavored peanuts. After having no idea what to do with them, I decided to grind them up and used them to coat pork chops," he said, laughing. "Man, that was delicious!" **NOW**

Cajun-flavored Pork Chops

Cajun-flavored peanuts
3 medium pork chops
1 cup milk
1 egg
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Grind enough peanuts to have enough for dredging.
2. Wash pork chops; pat dry.
3. Beat egg into milk; dip chops in milk mixture. Shake off excess. Dredge in peanuts. Salt and pepper to taste.
4. Bake at 350 F until internal temperature reaches 165 F.

Blair's Fantastic Fudge

1 1/2 cups sugar
2/3 cup PET milk
12 large marshmallows
1/2 cup margarine
Pinch of salt
1 6-oz. pkg. Nestlé chocolate chips
1 cup pecans
1 tsp. vanilla

1. In a saucepan, mix the first 5 ingredients together. Stir over medium heat, until boiling; stir 5 additional minutes.
2. Remove from skillet and add chocolate chips; mix until all chips are melted.

Add pecans and vanilla, stirring consistently.
3. Butter an 8-inch pan; spread mixture evenly until it covers the bottom of the pan. Let cool; cut into pieces and serve.

Savage Family Dressing

1 recipe cornbread, baked and crumbled
1 can (10-ct.) biscuits, baked and crumbled
1 pkg. Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned Stuffing Mix
1 large onion, chopped
1 pkg. green onions, chopped
1 medium apple, chopped
1/2 cup pecans, chopped
1 1/2 tsp. sage
2 tsp. salt, or to taste
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 cup Swanson chicken broth
1 stick butter or margarine, melted
2 eggs, slightly beaten
1 can Campbell's chicken and rice soup

1. In a large bowl, mix all ingredients together. When preferring a more moist dressing, add more broth.
2. Butter a 9x13-inch baking dish; pour in mixture and spread evenly. Bake at 350 F for one hour, or until brown. Cover for the first 30 minutes, then uncover.

Wassail Bowl

4 qt. apple cider or apple juice
1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
1 6-oz. can frozen lemon concentrate
1 6-oz. can frozen orange juice concentrate
1 6-oz. can pineapple juice
6 whole cloves
6 whole allspice
Cinnamon stick (optional)

1. In a kettle, combine cider, sugar, concentrates and juice.
2. Tie cloves and allspice in a cheesecloth bag. Add to kettle. Cover and simmer 20 minutes.
3. Remove spiced bag; serve hot with cinnamon stick, if desired.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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