Banish the Winter Blahs with This Wonderful Chicken Stew Recipe from the Newly Published Gustie Gourmet II Cookbook!

Aegean Chicken Stew

2 chicken breasts, skinned and boned

¼ c. flour
Olive oil and butter
4 oz. fresh mushrooms, quartered
1 – 14 oz. can whole tomatoes, undrained
¼ c. sherry
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. dried basil
½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
½ c. extra-large pitted black olives
1 – 6 oz. jar marinated artichoke hearts, drained
Cooked brown rice, if desired

Cut each chicken breast into at least 5 pieces. Dredge each piece in flour. Heat oil and sauté chicken. Remove chicken from pan and sauté mushroom in the same pan, adding butter as needed. Reserve mushrooms on another plate.

Blot up excess fat in the sauté pan carefully so that the flavor bits are not disturbed. Add tomatoes, sherry, garlic, and seasonings to the pan. Simmer for about 10 minutes.

Add chicken, olives, and artichoke hearts. Simmer another 15 minutes or so. Add more tomato or sherry if you like more sauce in the stew.

Serve over brown rice, if desired. Serves 4–6

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A few changes were notable: The venue was the new Radisson Blu Mall of America. The contemporary and chic hotel provided a dramatic change from our long tradition at the Radisson South. Guests bid on silent auction items using their smartphones or special electronic bidding devices. For those who needed technical support, a trained crew of students and College staff provided assistance. Also new this year were a “wine wall” and gift card “games,” as well as a fun Gustavus photo booth. Gus the Lion, sporting his new tuxedo, was eager to appear in many photos!

The Rev. Brian Fragodt (Class of 1981) served as the master of ceremonies. His humor and wit made the dinner program flow seamlessly. Our professional auctioneer was assisted by 2012 Gustavus grad Chloe Radcliffe, who demonstrated her speaking skills and sense of fun. Gustavus alumna (1983) Kim Beyer Fragodt and her quintet provided great vocal music, as well as tunes for dancing after the dinner. The dance floor was full until the end of the evening!

Special tributes were given to Lois Allen ’59 and Kelvin Miller ’73. With many years of service and dedication to...
From Your President . . .

Interpretation is a gift. We are fortunate to have opportunities to interpret. Yet, we are challenged and drawn to understand the meaning behind the written word—to be in sync with the author.

Recently, I was privileged to tour and view the remarkable Japanese art from the Clark Collections, “The Audacious Eye,” at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. The docent explained that one of the beautiful and intricate scrolls told stories from *The Tales of Genji*, thought by scholars to be one of the oldest historic novels in the world. The artistic interpretations were done years later, and now are being viewed (interpreted) centuries later. It is exciting. But it is humbling to think that there is so much more for me to understand contextually to justly learn about either the scrolls or this notable literature from the 11th century.

A related thought: My husband and I went to see *Saving Mr. Banks*, another study in interpretation between the author of *Mary Poppins* and Walt Disney. A delightful, yet profound take on what it means to interpret literature and respect the author’s intentions, especially in light of the film audience.

We look ahead to our Spring Author Day on April 16 with Minnesota author Sarah Stonich. And on May 2, 3, and 4, our fourth annual Books in Bloom will feature creative floral designers’ interpretations of books and other resources from the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library.

Gustavus Library Associates is celebrating a wonderfully successful and memorable *A Royal Affair* on Nov. 16, 2013. Thanks to all who attended and helped support the event in so many ways. A highlight of the evening was President Ohle’s exciting announcement that the College is developing plans to renovate the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library. You can read more about this, and many other interesting things, on the Gustavus website at gustavus.edu.

Thank you for your continued and valued support of Gustavus Library Associates. See you at an upcoming event!

Sincerely,

Sheryl Johnson, co-president

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This newsletter is published three times during the academic year by the Office of Marketing and Communication, Gustavus Adolphus College, under the supervision of Dean Wahlund, director of communication services and special events and executive director of GLA. For further information about Gustavus Library Associates membership and activities, contact Wahlund or Dana Lamb at 507-933-7560 or e-mail marketing@gustavus.edu.
COMING EVENTS

BUILDING BRIDGES CONFERENCE
“Disposable Communities? Demanding Environmental Justice”
Saturday, March 8, 2014 | 9:30 a.m.
Christ Chapel
Gustavus Adolphus College
Order tickets online at gustavustickets.com

GUSTAVUS MUSIC SHOWCASE
Sunday, March 16, 2014 | 3:30 p.m.
St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Mahomet
No ticket required; a freewill offering

Invitation to follow
Wednesday, April 16, 2014 | 9:30 a.m.

Building Bridges Conference

COmING EVENTS

GLA AUTHOR DAY
Sarah Stonich, Minnesota writer
Wednesday, April 16, 2014 | 9:50 a.m.
Edina Country Club
Invitation to follow
Order tickets online at gustavustickets.com

MAY DAY! PEACE CONFERENCE
“Tibet: Finding Hope in Exile”
Wednesday, April 16, 2014 | 10 a.m.
Christ Chapel
Gustavus Adolphus College
Full-day event: open to the public without charge

BOOKS IN BLOOM
Friday-Sunday, May 2–4, 2014
Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library
Gustavus Adolphus College
Open to the public without charge

Myths and Dreams and Plans
DAN MOLLNER, Head Librarian

Last summer, the library faculty spent some time with a team of architects from the Twin Cities and with other people on campus to discuss initial plans for a possible renovation and expansion to the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library. Our building opened in 1972 and, aside from a few tweaks made in the post-tornado clean-up, it looks largely as it did when it was built. It is a lovely building in many ways—with open floors and big windows that squeezed in just before the Energy Crisis. Yet, it does fall short of present day needs and designs.

Our building is lacking in group study spaces, in rooms for tutoring and for studying alone. That open floor plan allowed for flexibility in moving shelves of books and magazines around, but it comes at the expense of such collaborative spaces. We need comfortable furniture as we serve in part as the campus living room, and we expect our students to sit for long periods of time reading and writing. We need improved lighting and electrical outlets for everyone’s eyesight and the thousands of devices Gustavus Technology Services tells us are on campus—and that we see EVERYWHERE in the library. We need improved sleeping spaces and spaces for better traffic flow. We need improved archival storage and class space. It would be nice to have a 24-hour study space and somewhere to get a cookie and a cup of coffee or a can of pop.

Why? Why do I say we need these spaces? Nobody comes to the library anymore, do they? Well, OK, maybe the literature students still do, but no one in the sciences uses the library, do they? Everything is available online! Perhaps a few statistics will help debunk such myths: Last year more than 220,000 people walked into the Folke Bernadotte Library. Other buildings on campus may have more traffic, but those are classroom buildings with scheduled classes or places like the Dining Service. People chose to come here. We offered 137 library instruction sessions for 2,135 students, and there were many other classes using our rooms to watch films and meet on their own without library staff helping them directly. We support every discipline taught on campus. A significant amount of our budget supports the sciences, largely these days through very expensive databases and electronic journals, but we see many students in the building studying on the quiet floor, groups reviewing for biology exams, others going over chemistry problems and the like. We provide a place to meet, a place to study for all Gustavus students. More than 23,000 books, movies, music scores, and journals were checked out of the library by patrons. Hundreds of thousands of searches were conducted on the databases to which we subscribe—made available over the Internet to be sure, but paid for dearly with library budgets.

The fact is, a library is more than information infrastructure. Libraries have long been more than just a place to store, or manuscripts, or books, or computer bytes. Although data storage was certainly the genesis of the library, the FBML is far more than that. It is interaction with that gathered information, it is the quiet comfortable place to question, to read and think and write, and it is the chance to discover the unfamiliar and to work with others of similar and disparate interests that have all made the library an important center on campus.

It has always been the belief of those who work in the FBML that this is not just “our” library. It is the students’ library, it is the faculty’s library, and it belongs to the employees and alums of the College. Our small acquisitions budgets cause us creating ARAs in the past, these two have built a solid foundation for our organization. Elaine Brostrom received a tribute as the only charter member in attendance that evening. The BIGGEST surprise of the evening came in President Ohle’s remarks. He announced a plan for a campaign to renovate and update our library. GLA will be integral in helping raise money for this.

Among the many highlights of the evening was the first appearance of the newly printed GLA cookbook. And with the click of a button on the bidding device, guests were able to add copies to their purchase list.

Work has already begun on our next gala, to be held in mid-November 2015. Our motto for that event will be “A good time will be had by all!”

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Springtime is Books in Bloom Time
MARISA M. SCHLOER, Books in Bloom Chair

Books in Bloom will celebrate its fourth year at the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library on the Gustavus campus. It is a must-see literary event at which literature, media, and other library resource materials are interpreted in stunningly designed floral arrangements.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visually explore classic and modern literature and media. Via “bloom” sponsorships of $500 each, Gustavus Library Associates will direct funds to enable the library to expand its academic resources, helping prepare students for lives of leadership and service.

Last year’s crowd totaled nearly 750 attendees including community residents, Honors Day guests, students, faculty, and friends and family of GLA.

Books in Bloom is open to the general public the following hours:
Friday, May 2, 3 p.m.–6 p.m., Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., and Sunday, May 4, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Gustavus students and GLA members will provide guided tours. The event is free of charge.

In hosting Books in Bloom, GLA affirms its mission to promote literature, learning, and the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library.

“I felt both peaceful and proud designing with Marlys Johnson the simple example of the garden we believed fit the image of Gail Tsukiyama’s The Samurai’s Garden.”
– Kay Moline, designer

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Keeping Up

Spring 2007 Author Day guest Matthew Sanford and his Mind Body Solutions non-profit, which teaches breathing, moving, and balance to people with disabilities, were featured in the Star Tribune’s “Duets” on November 29, 2013. “Duets” is an occasional feature that celebrates unique relationships between two people—in this case Sanford and Bruce Kramer, former dean of St. Thomas’s College of Education, who was diagnosed with ALS in 2010.

Matt Rasmussen, former visiting assistant professor of English and a 1998 Gustavus grad, had his first volume of poetry, Black Aperture, short-listed for a National Book Award last November. It had previously won the 2012 Walt Whitman Award.

Chuck Logan, Fall 2006 Author Day guest, was featured in the Variety section of the November 24 Star Tribune as the movie based on his sixth and most recent “Broken” thriller, Homefront, was about to open in theaters nationwide.

Spring 1998 Author Day speaker Ann Patchett’s new book, This is the Story of a Happy Marriage, her ninth in the past two decades, is a collection of miscellaneous non-fiction pieces written over 20 years.

Celebrating Membership in GLA’s 37th Year!

We are often asked, “What are the benefits of being a GLA member?” Benefits include invitations to a variety of Gustavus Library Associates events and the Ex Libris newsletter, but the real benefit is that—whatever membership gift level you chose—the entire amount goes directly to the library’s acquisition budget to purchase books, films, technology, and other academic resources for Gustavus students and faculty. Your “membership gift” helps to further strengthen the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library at Gustavus. That’s a true benefit!

To date, there are 225 active memberships. We welcomed eight new members in the first two quarters of the 2013-14 year.

The 2014 membership year began on June 1, 2013. New and renewed memberships are welcomed until May 1, 2014, and you are invited to join online at gustavus.edu/gla.

Author Day Heads ‘Up North’ Once More

MIM SPONBERG KASSEL, Author Day Chair

After reading just one of her books, I knew I wanted Sarah Stonich on my bookshelves, so I immediately went out and bought the other three. It was money well spent, as I have read and reread them and passed them around among friends.

Now I get to share them—and the writer—with you. You can hear and meet this delightful speaker and graceful, thoughtful writer at GLA’s Spring Author Day on Wednesday, April 16, at Edina Country Club.

Ms. Stonich, a Minneapolis, Minn. writer who spent many childhood summers near Ely, first came to my attention after a photo and article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune last year persuaded me to get hold of Vacationland, her latest book. It’s a collection of stories either taking place in or orbiting around a rundown resort called Naledi, located in fictional Hatchet Inlet near the Canadian border. The owner, a taciturn Czech immigrant named Vaclav Machutova, finds himself guardian to his only grandchild, Meg. “His lone soft spot,” and the stories move separately yet seamlessly between her childhood summers at the resort and her adult life as a successful painter, living in Chicago but pulled irresistibly back to the waters of Hatchet Lake.

Each tale is a surprise, and yet feels like the perfect “next story,” and all work together to create not just Meg’s and Vaclav’s lives, but those of the people they live and work beside.

Stonich’s gift for making a cast of varied characters come to life and seem as real as your own family and neighbors (especially if you’re a Minnesotan Up-North) is astonishing. And her gifts for description are so subtle, wry, hilarious, and accurate you’ll find yourself looking up from the page and marveling, then looking around for someone to read them to. Vacationland makes you feel anew what a gift it is to be alive, being with other people and just moving around in the world.

In These Granite Islands, her first novel, Stonich tells the poignant story of a 99-year-old woman on her deathbed recalling the events of the summer of 1936, when she was an Iron Range wife and mother, and her husband bought land, specifically a five acre island, that they couldn’t afford. What happens when he and their young sons spend the next summer on the island, leaving Isobel and her daughter alone in town, would forever change the course of all their lives. Translated into nine languages, the book is, in its publisher’s words, “the gripping story of a friendship, a portrait of a marriage, and a meditation on the tragedy of loss.”

The Ice Chorus, her second novel, tells of a woman whose vacation love affair ended her 18-year marriage and sent her to relocate in a remote village on the west coast of Ireland. As Lise interacts with the members of this new community—again, Stonich’s gift for rendering charming and utterly authentic characters is on full

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