



# Real Food Kitchen News

Homemade Food Served Daily since 1999 February 2014

## Three Great Locations to serve you!

**The Original-**  
Dublin  
6058 Dougherty Road  
925-829-6200  
Since 1999

**Now Open!**  
Walnut Creek  
2280 Oak Grove Rd  
In Citrus Marketplace  
Off Ygnacio Valley Rd  
925-945-6200

**Now Open!**  
Livermore  
2259 Las Positas Rd  
Off N. Livermore Ave.  
925-447-9500

## The Month of Love!



Thank you Mike Kirwan Photography for this photo of James and I at our Ribbon Cutting in Walnut Creek!

Do you know our secret? The way we have been able to stay in love for over 17 years, through some SUPER stressful and trying times, and some AMAZING great times, is by always remembering that LOVE is first. We tell each other and our kids that we love them, multiple times a day even. And always remembering that no matter what is going on in our world, the most important thing to us is that we have each other, and that our kids are healthy. Everything else, no matter how urgent, is trivial.

Although James and I celebrate love all the time, with each other, our kids, and our business, February is an extra special month because of Valentine's Day. I am not one to buy into the whole commercialism of the day, ((disclaimer))...although I do love it when my honey brings me flowers! Last month I asked our Brownie Club members to share their love stories, and I am overwhelmed with mushiness and stars in my eyes at the outpouring of love I received!

It was so hard to pick our favorites, and I found myself loving my honey even more as I read all of your sweet stories.

Enjoy reading and we love you!

### Leslie McLain's Diamond Studded Waffle!

The morning after my boyfriend proposed to me, we walked to the Walnut Creek location for breakfast and took this picture - I love it!! The waffle was pretty amazing too!!



## Denica's Caters!

Can you imagine hosting a party or event, and actually ENJOYING yourself? If you're like most, you slave through, cooking, cleaning tables and dishes, and never even get a chance to take off your apron, visit with your guests and enjoy the food. At Denica's Real Food Kitchen we think it's time you start actually experiencing your own events, and that's why we're proud to offer our fantastic catering services. Whether you're putting together a corporate meeting, a baby shower, an after-wedding brunch, or a birthday party, our top-notch catering services will put you at ease, wow your guests, keep you in budget and make you look like a world-class host. Now THAT'S what its all aboutCatering@DenicasCafe.com  
[www.DenicasCafe.com/Menu/Catering](http://www.DenicasCafe.com/Menu/Catering)

## Denica's loves to give back! Here are some of the causes we are supporting lately-

Livermore Homeless Shelter - Cornerstone Fellowship  
Christensen Middle School - Oakland Children's Hospital  
Granada High School Grad Night - St. Michael's School  
Concord Police Association - Sycamore Valley Elementary  
San Ramon Valley Christian Academy - Foothill High Band  
Hidden Hills School Education fund

We love to support the community and give back! It is a small way we can say thank you to all of you that work hard for our schools, special needs, the environment, public safety and more. Let us know about YOUR special cause. We love to reach out, we live here too! We appreciate our guests and the effort they make to help our communities become even better places to live.

With Love, Denicas

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### Stuart and Bernie Revak

I met my wonderful wife on the third weekend of August at a restaurant that had a bar and large dance floor. We danced to Total Eclipse of the Night. At the end of the evening, she left with her best girl friend and was off to Hawaii the next day. I asked her to call me when she got back. Never heard from her. A year later, the third weekend in August, I saw this beautiful young woman and asked her to dance. It was Total Eclipse of the Night. We started a conversation and realized we had met a year ago, to the same song and had the very same conversation.



When I gave her my phone number and asked her to call me, she said she was going off to Hawaii again. I thought I would never hear from her again. She called five days later. I asked her to my house for dinner, and she asked if she could bring her daughter. I told her no problem because I had my son that weekend. Three weeks later I asked her to marry me. We got married on January 26th, 29 years ago. We now have two more children, all grown up and are still going strong.

Bernie, I loved you then, I love you even more now.  
Stu



*Gail McNamara and John Leatherman*

We met at age 12. We continued our friendship into middle school and even went "steady" for a couple of years. She wore his I.D. bracelet emblazoned with his name indicating they were a couple. She wrote letters to him from her summer vacations when school and weekly bike rides kept them apart. As time went by-high school, college and life in general, they eventually each followed their own path leading in different directions and to different partners. Fifty plus years passed, then in 2008, both single again, they reconnected at a high school reunion. Gail and John have kept their reconnection going ever since! While he lives in Morgan Hill on a mountain ranch and she keeps her home in Pleasanton they see each other on a weekly basis.

She attributes their getting along well to a couple of things. One, they both are very family oriented and have a strong desire to be a part of their grown children's and grandchildren's lives. They enjoy sharing time together with each other's families.

And two, they can be together whenever they want- being retired allows them the freedom to take turns visiting each other, take occasional road trips, etc. It's the best of the best!

Little did they think at age 12, they would be back together still having such fun in their 70's!

### Danielle, Jeff and Emma



My husband and I have been together for ten years. He is my best friend. I can turn to him for anything. He deals with my bad days as

well as the happy and doesn't judge me for my flaws. We have a one-year-old daughter who is truly the light of our life. With that being said, our lives are crazy. To keep our love alive, we make it a priority to go on a date night at least every two weeks. Whether its dinner and a movie, a coffee date, or just shopping with our our daughter; it's just nice to have that time alone. And we make sure to not talk about Emma (our daughter) during our dates. We focus on us and each other's lives it works for us and keeps the spark alive. I am so happy and look forward to many more years to come!

## Recipe of the Month: Molten Chocolate Cakes

Most of you have figured out by now that I definitely have a sweet tooth, and for me the ultimate sweet is CHOCOLATE! These are easy and yumilicious, the perfect Valentines Day dessert. I like to serve them with fresh raspberries and vanilla ice cream for the ultimate decadent pleasure! They are almost foolproof, and the batter can be made several hours in advance. Fill the cups and refrigerate, just remember to bring to room temperature before you bake them.

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 8 oz semisweet or bittersweet chocolate, cut into small chunks (I have even used chocolate chips in a pinch)
- 5 large eggs
- ½ cup sugar
- pinch of salt
- 4 tsp flour

Melt butter and chocolate in a medium heatproof bowl over a saucepan of simmering water; remove from heat.

Beat eggs, sugar and salt with a hand mixer in a medium bowl until sugar dissolves. Beat egg mixture into chocolate until smooth. Beat in flour until just combined.

(Batter can be made a day ahead; return to room temperature an hour or so before baking.)

Before serving dinner, adjust oven rack to middle position; heat oven to 450 degrees. Brush 6 1-cup capacity soufflé cups or coffee cups with melted butter, and dust with granulated sugar to prevent sticking. Divide batter among the cups.

Place on a sheet pan and bake for 9-12 minutes, watching closely. The sides should be set but the center still dipped and slightly underdone.

Remove from the oven and let sit for 3-5 minutes, then immediately remove by placing a serving dish over each one and flipping over quickly and carefully. Serve with raspberries and ice cream.

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## It's a Month of Love!

Last month I asked to hear your stories, advice and anecdotes about love and relationships to help celebrate Valentines Day this month. I got a lot of heart warming and funny responses. Thank you to all who submitted! Here are some of our favorites:



### Frank and Jill Linhart

It seems like only yesterday, but it's been 40 years. Time flies you're your having fun. Through out our life we have always been there to love, laugh, smile and comfort each other through the tough times. We met at a Jack-in-the-box restaurant in Fremont, California, feel in love and decided to get married.



We didn't know where life would lead, but we felt the future was limitless. We've been fortunate to experience so many wonderful things; we've raised 3 fantastic children, have 5 beautiful grandchildren, started a successful business, and finally sold it, we've made great friends, enjoyed seeing our kids grow into adults, and enjoyed many nice trips. A lot of life goes by without noticing until we look back, but when we have someone we love to share it with it's so much better.

Our secret is always caring more about each other than about ourselves.

The most amazing thing is that even though we've done so many things and know so much about each other, we still surprise each other all the time.

*My wife Lillian and I will celebrate our 35th anniversary on February 14. Thirty-five years is a long time for anyone. How have we done it? Not a day goes by where we don't say to each other "I love you." February 14 is truly a magical day.*



### Bob and Mary

I am 60 and a widower from Vacaville. I went on the Internet dating site "Our Time" to see if I could find someone to make a connection with. I met a wonderful

lady named Mary from Livermore. We sent comical emails to each other and spent hours on the phone. After a few weeks, we agreed to meet. Mary, who loves breakfast, opted for an unconventional morning date over breakfast. I had hoped that Mary and I would have the same chemistry in person as over the phone. I thought I was too old to have jitters and a crush. A beautiful sun kissed woman entered the restaurant. Either the woman was coming to meet a lucky man or perhaps I would be the lucky man she approached. She walked past several tables. She made my heart flutter and brought a big smile to my face when she greeted me warmly. I kept with my native Hawaiian tradition of giving flowers and gave Mary a rose. I have given flowers to friends and family, but this rose was special. The rose was a token of promise for a future I hoped Mary would accept. We sat

down to breakfast, raised our juice glasses and made a toast (we still toast at

every meal to this day). We swapped life stories as we ate with incredible ease. While we talked, Mary expressed that she was looking for someone special and understanding because she has a son who has special needs. She said that I sounded like I was that special and understanding guy who she had awaited. After breakfast, we decided to take a walk along the parade route through Dublin. We stopped at Denicas Café to have some of Mary's favorite coffee. As we continued walking and talking (did I mention that Mary likes to talk with her hands) I finally grabbed Mary's left hand. Effortlessly we walked hand in hand from then on (I still hold her hand when we walk. After 2 1/2 hours of walking, talking and filling in the gaps of our past lives we had to say goodbye. In reality, we were saying hello to a life changing relationship. We are still together after 1 year and 4 months and counting. I call Mary every morning to wake her up (I am Mary's alarm clock). She makes me hot chocolate and I make her coffee. Her son and I became fast friends after bonding over The Simpsons and sports.



**Travis and Tandy Wilkinson** My husband Travis, and I met in 2000. He was the exchange student in my high school all the way from Tasmania, Australia. We had a couple classes together but didn't start dating until a couple months before he was due to return home. Not knowing just how serious it would be, we left things open ended. Well, turns out, I was completely in love and naturally heartbroken when he left. I rallied all my friends and family to help me raise enough money for him to come back and go to my Senior Prom with me. We got permission to have a bake sale every Friday morning to "BRING BACK THE AUSSIE!" We were successful and he came back for my prom. Over the next 4 years we wrote letters and had several very expensive phone calls. We were fortunate to have the support of our parents and were able to visit each other a few times. In 2004, I was living in Hawaii for school, and also to be as close as possible to him without leaving the US. He came to visit in January and while he was there, he proposed to me. We were married in August of 2004 on Makapu'u Beach in Hawaii, with our closest friends and family. A dream of mine as a little girl, never thought it would ever come true. Fast forward to now, we are happily married with a little girl Isla who is 3, and we are having twins.....TOMORROW! I love him now more than any other time in our lives.....the most attractive thing about him is that he is my true partner in life, we are equals. Not to mention he's the best father there is and he is as gorgeous as the day I first laid eyes on him. :)

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**Here is what you have replied to the question-  
"What do you love about Denica's?"**

"The quality of the food was outstanding. Even the food we saw at nearby tables looked very appealing." Phil Deland LIVERMORE CA

"The food is absolutely delicious and the service has been great. Everyone is very friendly :)" Candace Sarpalius Livermore CA

"Main reason I come is for the train table! I can eat in peace while my boys play. :)" Stella Ho Castro Valley

"Great friendly and accommodating staff. Delicious food. Love the family environment. I really appreciated the staff going out of their way to ensure we left with full bellies!" Lisa Tilottson, Concord

"This was our first visit to your Walnut Creek location. It is bright and open - the train table room is lovely. Our food was the same high quality as the Dublin location." Christina Mantha Pleasanton CA

"I love your place. I always recommend it and am thankful for your service." Heather Culley Livermore CA

"My guests had never been to a Denica's before. They are here from Japan. They were very impressed with the food and the friendly staff. They kept mentioning how clean the restaurant was. You now have 2 more followers. They can't wait to have family and friends visit so that they can take them to Denica's!" Jennifer Cross Dublin CA

"I have been a fan of Denica's for nearly 10 years, so happy they are in my neighborhood of Livermore now! The food is always delicious. but it's the friendly staff and yummy cookies that keep me at the door saying. OPEN OPEN OPEN!!!!!" Susan Lopez, Livermore CA



6058 Dougherty Road  
Dublin, CA 94568  
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**How Do You Like Your Pancakes?**

Being a breakfast restaurant, naturally, we serve a lot of pancakes. Usually it's just butter and syrup, but often times we get asked for unusual pancake combos, and of course, if we have the ingredients, we are always willing to accommodate, and they always end up tasting good! We've added everything from bacon to peanut butter and everything in between! We asked our staff how they like their pancakes and here are some of their responses:

**Priscilla Esquibel:** plain with crispy edges

**Kandee Valdez** likes them with chocolate chips!

**Diane Nowlain** says "I like the cornmeal with blueberries"

With a lot of fruit on top is the best way according to **Eder Cervantes.**

**Fernanda Garcia** likes them with walnuts in the mix.

**Holly Calagna** likes them with all the berries and whipped cream...in her tummy!

**Sandra Vilchis** says well done with extra chocolate chips, yummy!

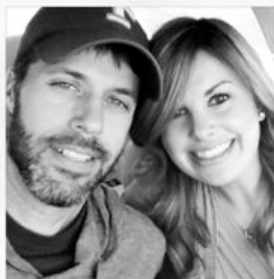
**Collin James:** with blueberries galore!

**Isabella Garcia** likes extra chocolate chips and whipped cream, no syrup

**Marlen Diaz** loves the strawberry pancakes, while

**Miros Sanchez** says mixed berries are the way to go!

**Jessica Babel** makes us smile because she likes her pancakes with a happy face on top ☺

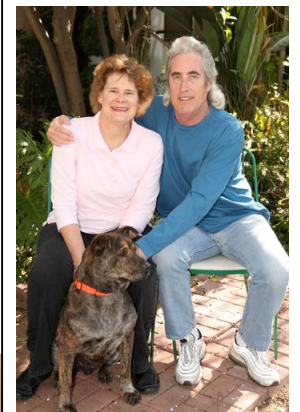


**Our secret?** Everyday we put each other's needs before our own and strive to serve the other before our self. This results in a selfless love and the ability to provide unconditional love to your spouse. Darren and Emily Hill

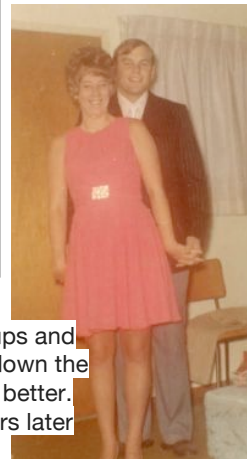
Rod and Joanie

We have had our share of ups and downs but if one of us was down the other could always make it better. So now here we are 42 years later and all is good.

I Loved Lacey Barberis' sweet story about her husband Brent who tracked down the park bench where they had their first kiss and brought it home to surprise her...So Romantic!



Lucky really is a lucky dog to have been rescued by the Burkes, they have poured their love and care into his recovery after his extreme neglect, and he has blossomed into a beautiful loving dog on the outside to match his sweet soul!



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