

Poems and Essays

David D E Evans



I CAN'T WAIT

I can't wait
To get to Heaven
To sing with the Angels Choir.

Soaring cadenzas
Soft lullabies
Nuances bold and more....

Coming together
A million strong
A unity of song

I can't wait
To get to Heaven
To join the Royal Feast

Grapes and caviar
Liqueurs and wine
Apples and Dragon fruit

Tastings forever
Shared with others
In the heav'nly throng

I can't wait
To get to Heaven
And view it from on high
New worlds created
The Multiverse

Never ending
Never ending
Never ending
Never ending
Joy



photo Bing.com images

PLEASANT SURPRISE SECRET SOCIETY (PSS Society)

I have chosen the elves and the shoemaker as an emblem for our society.

As you know the aims of the society are to pleasantly surprise someone near to you, anonymously, and make them smile. It is very similar to achieving a good gift for a birthday but with the surprise element that it is not for a birthday.

However one of my own examples was related to a birthday. It concerns the magic chocolate box. Late at night I realised that I had not purchased a present for my wife's birthday, and the only available shop was a coffee shop that opens late but also sells chocolates. I knew that chocolate coated macadamia nuts would be very acceptable and this is what I bought.

The next day however I thought, that was okay but not really brilliant. So I bought a second box of chocolates and kept filling up the first box as they were being eaten one by one. Eventually my wife thought something funny is happening here. It didn't take her long to work it out.

So would you like to join the Pleasant Surprise Secret Society?

Membership requirements are nil, but a story of your own would let you in at senior ranking from the very beginning.

An ambitious idea for the group is that we might take orders to help someone else raise a smile.

Perhaps start your own.

David D E Evans
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Spirit of Equality

A rare commodity Can you find it?
The answer is nearby.
It's measured in time you have for each other
Seeing eye to eye.

Forget about money
Forget about fame
Treasure the moments Fleeting or long
When you see eye to eye.

It may be someone you hold in awe
Is travelling close by
Exchanges are made with a smile
As you look them in the eye.

You remember the smile You remember the day
The presence was so real
The moment was there Treasured forever
When you looked them in the eye.

David Evans February 2017

OTHER

No word for Other
Beyond my ken
Far far away
Yet by my side

Controls my mood
Teases my fancy
Visions of love
Peace and war

Momentary glances
Chance meetings
Focus the mind
Joy and sorrow

Inviting
To know more
And find
Goodness

David Evans 2026

Justice

Whose jurisdiction
Who writes the laws
The jury decides
Appeals follow
Highest court decides
No redress

Except

The issue has been raised
Support rallies
Authorities overthrown
New jurisdiction
The cycle goes on

However

There is peace in the mind
Being true to oneself
Representing the cause
Finding friends

Spices

Live Simply, that others may simply live.
Work for Peace with goodwill and with Integrity.
Your Community needs you with all your creativity.
Find Equality in the public domain.
S if for Stewardship, sustaining the world around you. And telling others

I'M GLAD

I'm glad that God
Made women and men
and others in between
I'm glad we had to till the land
And toil from morn till night
I'm glad that there are young and old
To celebrate our ways
I'm glad there comes a time at last
To rest and take our ease
It's time to make a Living Choice
And enjoy each day

I'm Sad

I'm sad that people fight in wars
Because they can't agree
I'm sad for those who die so young
With sights they've never seen
I'm sad for those who are betrayed
Never to be fulfilled
I'm sad for those who give up hope
Of what they might achieve

No answers come
Tis not the time
Wait a while
Grieve a while
Pick up the pieces
And start again.

NOW

In a moment of time
a flickering of an eye
the world
began

In a flickering of the eye
the now
becomes
history

Storytelling starts
reliving that now

Students are examined
on those moments of now.
they are our heritage
they are our history

A new find alters the story

What was it like?

That moment of now.

Indulging One's Pleasures.

No time was lost arriving here
To go where one must go,
If GO there is awaiting you
Around the corner, so.

Not only GO, but music too
Abounds in this far shore,
And so one must indulge and trust
It leads to good in store.

To watch Real Tennis played as it
Cannot be better played,
Has real delight and gives insight
Of times there were before.

Friends House, Euston, a real mansion,
Invites both near and far,
To sit and let the mind unwind
And travel, as to a star.

A comely break in this time well spent
Was needed for reasons known,
She came and stayed and tarried
Till her duties called her home.

But duty was why we came at all
To further what needs to be,
And a pleasure it is to indulge therein,
For work is pleasure to me.

London Dec 1988.

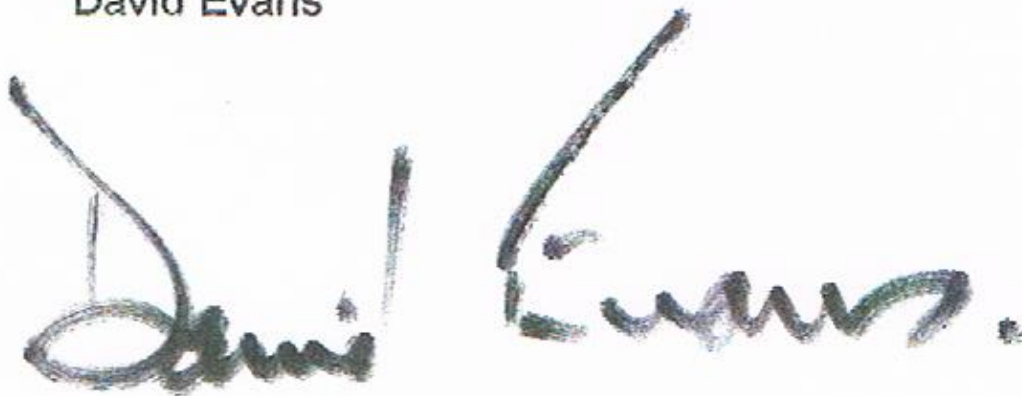
To Topsy Evans

Wanted In Hobart

Someone to bump into
Someone to huff
Someone to eat with
Someone to sleep with
Someone to irritate
Someone to please
Someone to tease
Someone to love

Please apply

David Evans

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David Evans." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'D' and a long, horizontal stroke for the 'E'.A handwritten date in dark ink that reads "26.2.93". The numbers are written in a simple, blocky style with dots as separators.

My wife frequently visited Cambodia for administrative reasons with the Quaker Service Organisation. I sent her a fax and recieved this reply. 'Send multiple application forms'.

TRUTH and TRUTH

David D E Evans

SANTRM (ESLM)

There is an Ocean of Darkness and an Ocean of Light. There is an Ocean of Knowledge and Understanding. Let's dip a toe in the water. Thinking about the wider world is fascinating. So much to be discovered letting your mind roam wild and free wondering what is out there and what might come.

The writer found George Ellis' 2008 Backhouse Lecture *Faith, hope and doubt in times of uncertainty Combining the realms of scientific and spiritual inquiry*, highly inspirational.¹ Ellis, a cosmologist, mathematician, and ethical philosopher, speaks of Moral Reality in the same way he speaks of Cosmological Reality and Mathematical Reality underlying the Universe. The concept of '*the other*' suggests we are bathed in '*realities*' hovering in the background affecting daily life whether we are conscious of them or not. Ellis rather beautifully describes his own prime specialty of Mathematics as Realism waiting to be appreciated by those who can, adding, Morality too, shallow or deep, is waiting to be engaged with by individuals and communities. Ellis says,

'Where do moral values arise? There is a standard of morality which exists which is valid in all times and places, and human moral life is a search to understand and implement that true nature of morality.'

Ellis suggests that Sociological Schools teach that we invent Ethics and they are socially determined. He says, *This route ends up in total relativism, where it is impossible to say that any act is evil. All you can say then is that some people were differently brought up; you cannot judge any acts as being good or evil. He argues that we do not invent ethics, but find them.*

¹ Backhouse Lecture 2008 George Ellis <[https://www.quakersaustralia.info/sites/aym-members/files/pages/files/2008 Lecture.pdf](https://www.quakersaustralia.info/sites/aym-members/files/pages/files/2008%20Lecture.pdf)>

Gandhian Satyagraha

In her book *Gandhi's Pilgrimage Of Faith: From Darkness To Light*,² Uma Majmudar tells how Mahatma Gandhi (1869 to 1948)³ developed the concept of *Satyagraha* whilst working with the Indian movement in South Africa (p138-9). Gandhi arranged a contest and invited his colleagues to help find a meaningful name for the *Indian Movement* in South Africa. From more than a hundred entries Gandhi selected the suggestion of his cousin Maganlal Gandhi - *Sadagraha* (sada: good; graha: adherence) - amended to *Satyagraha* (satya: truth) the name that symbolises the quintessence of Gandhi's philosophy. The framework of *Satyagraha* is built upon three pillars - truth - nonviolence - and voluntary self-suffering. Majmudar states that until 1931 Gandhi used the terms God and Truth interchangeably to indicate one and the same Ultimate Reality. Later Gandhi found the very concept of God created a stumbling block in his encounters with atheists, but most did not object however to *Truth* as a goal. Gandhi believed in the ultimate triumph of *Truth* and in the innate Godliness of the human soul.

Truth and Truth.

We have two complementary Truth Realities.

Human Truth which is subject to human understanding together with good or bad representation. Human Truth leads to continual debate, such as happens in our parliament and in our law courts.

Godly Truth invites us to embark on the journey of discovery; a journey that never ends and continually gives us new directions. It points to more, no matter how old or young you might be. . It is your own Pilgrim's Progress,

² Majmudar, U 2005, *Gandhi's Pilgrimage Of Faith: From Darkness To Light*, Suny Press

³ bio. True Story 1996, *Mahatma Gandhi biography profile*. bio. True Story, viewed 9 May 2013, <http://www.biography.com/people/mahatma-gandhi-9305898>

QUAKERLY

I see it in the wider world
Looking for joy in times of sorrow
Moving forward ever onward
Picking up pieces
And starting again

No questions are asked
Assisting the needy
Help comes along with a smile
Grief is shared with patience to listen

An empathic mile

Enlightenment comes with meditation
From deep down in the soul
New worlds envisaged
Paradise with peace for all
And a spirit of goodwill,

QUAKERLY

Dip. G.U.M.

The twelve week course has come and gone
And if we had known before,
Its shape and content, and who
We would meet,
We might have gained much more.

No turning back
'Tis not the same.
The course has come and gone.
But the way ahead is clearer now
Let's start afresh once more.

London 1988.

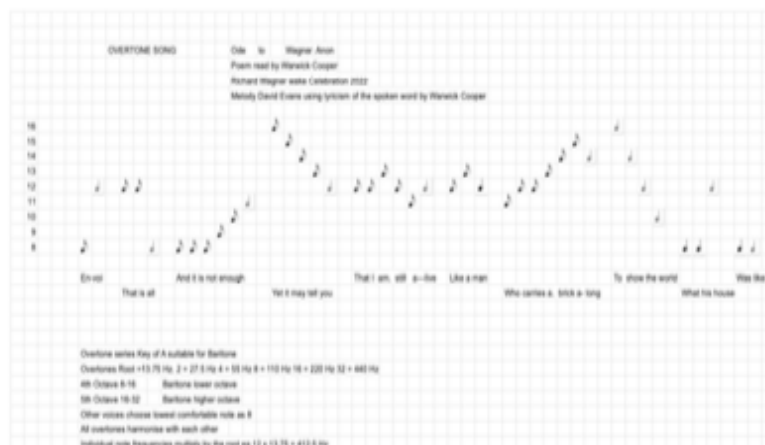
David Lewis.

3.3.89.

Ode to Wagner David Evans/ Warwick Cooper

Ode to Wagner (courtesy Warwick Cooper) can be sung using the major scale, but sounds so much better using the 9 note fourth octave overtone scale of the natural trumpet transposed down into the singing range. Warwick's lyricism echoed with tonality. At the time I pulled out my phone and recorded it. The resulting sequence was Wagnerian. Wagner wrote his own librettos. He was a poet before composing his music. Start singing the overtone scale (8-16). There are five notes in the upper perfect fourth of the scale. Because all notes resonate with the root, duet singing and harmony are unmatched.

Envoi
That is all
And it is not enough
Yer it may tell you
That I am still alive
Like a man
Who carries a brick along
To show the world
What his house was like



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



have is some sadness and some anger.

If Cathy's emotions before and after her races were such that she needed to fly the Aboriginal flag, isn't that understandable considering the pride her relatives and Aboriginal friends would have felt in her and she in them? Australia has done many things it can be rightly proud of but its treatment of minority groups is not among those things.

All over the world indigenous people were conquered, not by a superior morality but by a superior firepower. The Union Jack in the corner of the Australian flag is a perpetual reminder of which country was responsible for most of those bloody conquests.

Our country is a nation growing in importance and in self-respect mainly as the result of the very large number of different nationalities which have gone into our population. Nationalities which eventually are happy to believe they are Australian nationals. We do not need to expect more than that from them after they have already given us their precious skills and cultures.

In my opinion the Aboriginal flag is very pleasing to the eye and speaks honestly and kindly to the emotions. It warmly shouts Australia! Australia! The Australian flag, on the other hand, has associations which make many, if not most, of us believe it is time to let go; it having served its purpose and done some good.

What a wonderful (if undeserved) honour it would be for this country if the Aboriginal flag was offered to us by the Aborigines, at the same time as we became a republic. I would see it as their gift of forgiveness, reconciliation and love.

Having already benefited from the gift of their valuable presence, can we be so lucky again

as to receive another tremendous gift from the First Australians?

PETER MAVROMATIS
Kingston

Right wing

We shouldn't be too hard on Alexander Downer. It is sadly understandable how, sitting in the midst of "an extreme right-wing group", he might take the League of Rights to be "a Christian meeting".

G. WALKER
Lutana

Jet skis

I believe that the majority of jet skiers are responsible people, undeserving of the abuse they are receiving. There is, however, an alarming increase in the number of incidents involving loutish-type behaviour. Nationally, complaints of jet ski riders being too close to bathers and board riders are on the rise. This foundation is working for strict limits to apply to all powered craft in the surf zone, the outcome being that everyone will have safe and fair use of beaches. It is a government responsibility to find and designate an area, away from bathers and houses, where jet ski users can enjoy their sport. In the interest of safety to both bathers and jet skiers, this can't happen soon enough.

BARRY SHARMAN
Surfrider Foundation
Iluka, NSW

Gay laws

In this International Year of the Family, it's good to open the paper and find Letters to the Editor from Tas Alert, upholding family values, and protesting the erosion of family life as we know it.

But wait! Do we see them combining forces to combat child abuse, domestic violence, exploitative sex?

Do we hear their voices raised in protest at the damaging effects of unemployment on marriage and family relationships, or against a social welfare system that actively discriminates against single income families?

Do we read of them throwing their full support behind programs and services that help couples to communicate better,

or address the problems of low self-esteem that force young people into degrading and promiscuous relationships?

Alas, no. Apparently the salvation of family life and values lies entirely in an obsessive interest in what a small proportion of the human family do with each other in their most intimate sexual relationships.

BETH REES
Lauderdale

On behalf of the Tasmanian HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee I thank and applaud the Brighton Council for asking the Premier to bring to an end the debate over Criminal Code sections 122 and 123, and to repeal them.

There is a growing number of community groups which see the continuing argument as futile and harmful to Tasmania. These include various church groups and the Law Society. Psychiatrists have long taken homosexuality off their books as a medical disease and the AMA is not opposed to removal of the laws.

I wish to appeal to more community organisations to tell the Premier the same thing.

Regarding the need for a referendum, this would only lead to more and more referendums until the laws were repealed, and the first one might suggest that we need a different law for different parts of the state. We might also start with a referendum in the House of Assembly. The present Liberal Party "party vote" system prevents us from knowing who or how many members are actually in favour of retaining these embarrassing laws. One suspects that an open vote would see the matter passed in the Lower House.

Our committee wrote to The Mercury in 1989 stating its view that the laws should be repealed. The last three governments have been aware of these views.

We ask community organisations and individuals to let the Premier know that enough is enough and bring the matter to an end.

(Dr) D. EVANS
Chairman Tasmanian
HIV/AIDS Advisory
Committee

Today's Text

"When the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth," said Jesus. John 16:12 NIV.

Tues
Sept 6
1994
The Mercury
Hobart

RECIPES FOR MY WAKE and Chuck's Party

1/. Fried Rice

A fellow Malaysian medical student at the new Queen Elizabeth Maternity Hospital at Woodville in South Australia taught me his family recipe for fried rice. He used diced pork rather than bacon and prepared the rice by absorption method the day before. The recipe has lasted as a favourite dish for more than four decades, and been useful in impressing people at social occasions; notably, at a Real (Royal) Tennis tournament in Hobart when the World Champion, an Australian who was at the time professional at the Park Avenue Club in New York, affirmed it was the best fried rice he had ever tasted.

----- Recipe

Dice 4 or more onions and fry in oiled pan and place in a dish
Fry 3-400 gms of small bacon pieces and place in same dish
Fry 6 eggs scrambled in the fry pan until cooked (like an omelette).
Break into small pieces with stirring spoon and place in dish.
Cook 350gms long grain rice, for not too long so that the grains remain separate when fully cooked. Transfer rice to frypan and lightly fry with small amount of oil.
Dice 200gms of beans or 2 capsicums or other green vegetable.
Add onion-bacon-egg, mix with rice, and heat ready to serve.
Add green vegetable to heat but not cook.
Serve with suitable condiment, eg soya sauce.

----- 2/. Baklava and Spinach Pie

It was my visit to Jedda in Saudi Arabia that made me aware of Middle Eastern food, Kebabs, and all the rest. I was a little nervous there. One day, buying nice things in a Baker's shop, I dropped a bottle of lemonade on the way out and it smashed on the tile floor going everywhere. The shopowner fortunately did not seem too upset, and I felt that I would not be on the list of executions for the next Sunday. Safely back home, I decided to make Baklava and Spinach Pie for everyone.

Recipes Standard recipes on Filo Pastry Box.

3/. Spaghetti Amatriciana

Vincent was my number one mentor for pathology, and it was a pleasure to go and work in his department as part of my attempts to hurdle the specialist exams. He lived with a relative who kept house for him at King's Cross in Sydney and he entertained guests in the evening frequently. He would make you feel welcome, give you something tantalising to drink, and involve you in lively conversation as he prepared the meal. Then we would go to the dinner table for food and wine and more conversation. After dinner he would play the piano (it was one of his career choices), while you relaxed with more after dinner offerings. Terry (I think that was his name) would clear the dishes, etc. That night Vincent cooked Spaghetti Amatriciana and told us of how he had been taught by an Italian Mama whilst staying with a family in Italy. I had brought a bottle of Saltram's Metala Claret, which he looked at and said, 'This is a famous wine, what shall we contrast it with?' I had asked my brother-in-law for advice on what wine to take to a wine buff, and was way out of my depth.

Recipe

Lightly fry 300gms diced bacon. Keep separate.
Lightly fry 300gms diced cabana or more spicy processed meat.
Add 800gms of peeled tomatoes, and the bacon, and simmer until the consistency seems good.
Serve on your favourite pasta.

Recommended wine
Saltram's Metala Claret.

4/. Honey Crackles

As a preschooler I was invited to a birthday party soon after I met my lifelong friend John. His home became one I frequented often, and on this occasion it was his birthday party. Apparently I spotted a plate of honey crackles in the dining room before the feasting started, sat down in a corner, and scooped the lot. I don't remember the occasion, but it is true that I love honey crackles.

Recipe Standard recipe on the cornflakes package.

5/. Lamb Shanks

Beres kept us all in order at the Cairns Coral Coasters Barbershoppers in Cairns. Whilst visiting Beres and Pat recently, I said that the next thing I wanted to add to my repertoire, was lamb shanks. Here is Pat's recipe which has been acclaimed in two attempts so far.

Recipe

Coat 1.3kg of lambshanks with 2 tab. or more of Moroccan Spice.
Cover, and refrigerate for at least 2 hours.
Fry lamb shanks in oil in a fry pan until brown. Place in casserole dish.
Dice a medium onion and a medium carrot with a clove of garlic and fry in same fry pan until onion is brown.
Add 400 gms of crushed tomatoes and 400 gms of drained butterbeans.
Add 1 tbsp honey, 1/4 cup of dry white wine, and 1 cup of chicken stock.
Bring to boil and add to lamb shanks in casserole dish.
Bake covered in medium oven for 2 hours or until lamb is tender.
Spread 1 tspn chopped oregano on the surface and bake for a further 15 minutes.
Serve with boiled small potatoes with mint dressing, or on base of mashed potato, with salad.

6/. Bread and Dripping

It would be nice to bring this one out for nostalgic reasons. Mother would cook a roast and keep the dripping in a bowl. At the bottom of the dripping, once it is cold, is this layer of gravy, sought after by all of us kids, and especially good thickly spread on fresh bread.

Recipe

Enjoy your roast
Put aside the 'drainings' into a small bowl.
Hide, so that no-one else gets there first.
Buy your favourite bread absolutely fresh.
Spread thickly and taste till all gone.

7/. Mulled Claret.

As secretary of the monthly business meeting (AMA Tasmania), we had a problem encouraging people to attend. It was then that I started making Mulled Claret, and advertised 'today's special' on the Monthly Agenda posted to all members. I did not mind people coming for the wrong reason. Mulled Claret has to be the cheapest alcoholic drink available. A five litre cask of Soft Dry Red in 2005 then cost less than \$10.00, and you dilute it with water!

Recipe

Mix equal quantities of Ground Ginger, Nutmeg, Cloves, and Cinnamon together with an equal quantity (or more according to taste) of brown sugar.
Pour boiling water on to the mix in a coffee percolater, approximately one cup per tablespoon of mix. Allow to stand.
When cool or warm, mix with equal parts of red wine, in a Suitable drinking chalice.
Warm in the microwave to drinking temperature.

8/. Smoked Salmon with capers on toast

This one reminds me of our last night in Perugia in Italy after our beginners course in Italian at the Università per Stranieri. We went to an upmarket restaurant overlooking the valley towards Assisi. I was impressed how a favourite taste can be prepared so simply, and how romantic the atmosphere, after a period of hard work in a different place and time.

Recipe

Thin, lightly toasted grainy bread, with generous helping of smoked Salmon, topped with capers.

9/. Potato and Anchovy pie.

She was a striking 'Servas' Scandinavian traveller who came to stay with us for the 'normal' two night period, but stayed longer. She arrived with head shaven, and was a large frame lady, who said. 'I never have trouble with men who offer me a lift when I am hitch-hiking.' I do love her potato pie.

Recipe

ingredients

Chip size pieces of potato (could be preheated in the microwave).
Sour cream.
Lightly fried onions.
Strips of anchovies.
Grated cheese.

Layer sequentially, potatoes, sour cream, anchovies, and onions in a flat baking dish.

Coat with grated cheese, cover with alfoil, and bake long at low to medium heat for an hour or more.

Remove alfoil to brown the cheese just before serving.

10/. Anchovies on avocado on toast.

When staying away from home and feeding myself, I sometimes try to get over my insatiable appetite for anchovies. I buy a large pot and have anchovies for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I am reminded of the opening of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, 'If music be the food of love, play on, give me excess of it, that surfeiting, the appetite may sicken and so die'. It didn't work. I still buy large pots, and this has led to taking anchovy and avocado on toast, whenever I need 'to bring a plate'.

Recipe

Cape Seed or Gluten-free Bread thickly sliced, lightly toasted.
Spread toast with mashed avocado mixed with a little lemon juice.
Trim crusts from toast and cut into bite sized pieces.
Place a portion of anchovy (approx 1x1 cm) on each piece of toast.
Arrange in a suitable plate.

11/. Moonie Toast

This is in remembrance of all those breakfast engagements when there was no time left to go out to dinner, prior to departing for a new location. Peter Moonie and his lady entertained us with this one which we have adopted.

Recipe

Favourite toast buttered.
Slice fresh tomatoes and put on toast.
Sprinkle with garlic salt.
Cut into triangles or squares and enjoy

12/.Diced orange and date salad with coconut.

Dorothea, my mother-in-law, would make us diced orange (1cm cubes) coated with coconut and served with cream. I could not work out why diced orange tasted so much better than orange. My children poured scorn on my suggestion that dicing the oranges split the di-saccharides. I later tried it with the addition of small pieces of dry (not mushy) dates. With shredded coconut on top it is a marvellous combination. Whilst working temporarily in Alice Springs, there was a work party where someone anxious to show off his command of Spanish suggested that we have a Mexican Dinner Party. Being at a loss at what I could prepare I said I would bring a Mexican dessert. So after finding a Spanish speaking person, I labelled it, "La naranja y fecha ensalada", and took it along.

Recipe

Dice half a dozen oranges (1 cm cubes)
Cut 200gms of dry dates into small pieces. Mix together.
Take coconut with you to add just before serving.
Have a jug of cream for people to help themselves.

CHUCK'S PARTY

Chuck's party is one of three stories that stand out in my memory from being involved in HIV/AIDS education work in Tasmania. The documentary video showed a grand Gay party and told Chuck's story; of being Gay, having to leave home, and making a career for himself in the entertainment industry. After finding that he had AIDS, and knowing he had little time to live, he decided to have his wake before he died. The documentary showed an extraordinary lineup of Gay entertainers, who performed and told stories about Chuck in a 'This is your life' style. His parents came too and the party was the time of family re-union, an end to the estrangement from his parents, that had lasted since his late teens.

The two other stories that I cannot forget are, first, the AIDS Orphan generation in Africa where grandmothers look after a lot of grandchildren whose parents have died of AIDS; and second, of an Ugandan Pop Singer who, thin as a rake from AIDS, held a concert and sang to thousands of people in his home town, in aid of AIDS prevention, at a time when community awareness was minimal.

The reason I tell you about Chuck's party, is, of course, to suggest the idea of a wake before one dies. Perhaps I need to run family training courses for the recipes.

David Evans
South Australia. Australia 5064 February 2006

VISIONS AND STORIES OF POSITIVE PEACE

David D E Evans

<https://ddeevans1.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/pp-sun-21-st-sept-pdf-1.pdf>

David D E Evans Memoirs

web <ddeevans1.com>

60th Wedding Anniversary

<<https://amasahistoricalcommittee.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/60th-8th-jan-2020-10.pdf>>