

Justin Carr Wants World Peace



POSTS

RECIPE FOR LIFE (SEDONA PART 3 2013) UPDATED 2014

DECEMBER 25, 2014 | SUSAN TOLER-CARR | [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

I wrote this last Christmas. Since I have writers block I decided to post this again tonight.

Subject: Recipe for life from SusanRecipe for Life... Our 2013 Christmas Dinner with Chef Lisa Dahl

After my beloved mother passed away, I found this poem tucked safely away in her drawer:

“A Recipe for Life”

2 heaping cups of patience

1 heart full of love

2 handfuls of generosity

1 headful of understanding

A dash of humor

Sprinkle generously with kindness
and plenty of faith

Mix well

Spread over a period of a life time

Serve to everyone you meet.

Author unknown

"Twas the Night before Christmas", I passionately wrote about meeting the chef/owner Lisa (earlier than expected) at her at Dahl & Deluca restaurant in Sedona, AZ. I had surprised Darrell for an early Christmas Eve dinner. As planned last week, we were expecting to meet her during our Christmas dinner at her Cucina Rustica restaurant. I learned while making the original reservations that we have the loss of our only children/sons in common, both named Justin. As I mentioned yesterday, I was taken aback when she told me that she was going to open up a 4th restaurant in Sedona called "Mariposa" which means "butterfly" in Spanish. My baby Justin loved the color turquoise and his favorite (and the hardest) stroke in swimming was the butterfly.

As we all know, getting through the holidays was going to be a struggle including, getting past this first "Christmas Day" without Justin; which is why we could not follow our traditional schedule as we once knew it. It would just be too painful without him by our side. So, instead we had to change plans completely, and that meant being away from our family and friends whom we love so dear. I know that our pain is felt outside of our walls and our hearts. We know this ripple stretches across the waterways. It is unimaginable and hits the core of so many of our friends, Justin's friends and those that he/we have not even met. Thanks go out to those who are walking by our sides.

I started out the morning by doing water aerobics. As I was moving in the water, I felt a bit a calm and peace come over me. Later, we went to get massages at a spa called "Eforea. Unbeknown to me, as we were checking in, I noticed that the spa logo was a turquoise butterfly. This is no joke!! Turquoise balls also graced the walls, and a lone raised embroidered turquoise butterfly decorated the robes and the signage throughout the space. The treatments were heavenly.



As we were driving back, I received a call from Lisa's Assistant asking us if we had time, to go visit the resting place of Lisa's son Justin. They all felt that we would find some peace and serenity there; which we did. The views were breathtaking. We looked out at the vistas which included sky high red-rock Mountains and desert landscape. A handsome picture of Justin graced his tombstone. As I read the inscription about this fine young Good Samaritan, my heart got heavy. We were silent as we honored him.

Later, upon arriving at Cucina Rustica, we were warmly greeted by the Host Ron who donned a festive red jacket. Ron is Lisa's brother. He handed me a gift and an envelope and said that Lisa would be arriving soon, but he wanted to get us situated at our reserved table. We walked into this beautiful circular room which gave you the instant impression that you were travelling back in time through the old world rustic Italy. You could tell that Ron was visibly emotional as he could barely get the words out of his mouth as he said: "Welcome to our home, you are family; this is our "Justino Room." You know what I did from there. I could barely breathe as he pulled the seat out for me to sit. He then hands me an envelope. To our surprise, it was a gift card from our dear friends Merle, Jeff and Taylor. I was lost for words. We also learned later that my brother Greg and sister-in-law Delana send a gift card too. Then, Ron gives me yet another package. I opened it up and it was from our HW Friends Nasreen and Helen. It was a musical Santa that played tunes with an electrical guitar. Shortly after opening the gift, the one- man band sitting adjacent to our table began to play our wedding song "Pachelbel Canon" on the electrical guitar. Oh Lord, you know I tried fighting back the tears. With all of the noise going on around us, I don't think that Darrell even heard it. But, I sure did. I listened without saying a word.

Then, the Chef of all Chefs' Lisa Dahl came over to our table to make sure that we were ok. She hands

me a copy of her book “ The Elixir of Life Cookbook”.



Her dedication page has a bird in flight with the words: “*To Justin, until we dance again*” The page reminded me of my son Justin’s last masterpiece that he created:” The Last words of the bird and the fish.” You know, my Justin and I also loved dancing in our kitchen, using the refrigerator as our mirror. I can’t wait to dance with my baby again...

In brief, Lisa’s Introduction in her book says: *“I believe that all people have a natural ability to create beauty and pleasure, and that if we simply get out of our own way and follow our divine guidance, we will encounter our inner creativity as chefs, artists, musicians, or whatever medium excites us. My beloved son Justin is my inspiration. Justin is no longer living on the physical plane but is alive in another realm. I know this, because when I need him, I feel his all-knowing presence. He was, when he was alive, an earth angel. He loved to dance, like his mother, he adored music. Justin sends me forza (strength in Italian) every day because I need a daily dose. I will be Justin’s mom forever and will try to make him proud until the day we meet again.”*

Inside, she wrote the following:

Dear Susan & Darrell,

May this book be a keepsake of our imminent friendship that has connected us beyond... “Our Justin’s” have surely brought us together. No one knows such sorrow as us, but their calling is out of our control. They want us to remain joyful in honor of them.

Merry Christmas 2013 and Blessings from Sedona,

Chef Linda Dahl

For those that know me, you know that my place in the kitchen and the grocery stores has been pretty much at a standstill since Justin left. I was known as Chef Susan or “Sarah Rawls” as some of my friends use to call me, cooking three hearty meals a day for my family was the norm. I also have a collection of about 200 cookbooks that have not been open either nor my oven turned on in 10 months. I guess I needed this inspiration.

Subsequently, we ordered our meal. Darrell had “ Filletto Justino (Filet Mignon) no doubt. I had the organic roasted turkey and garnet yam soup.. It was delectable. Lisa came back to sit down and she

begins to describes her son Justin to me. I grabbed her hand because she was also describing the main character traits of my Justin.

She said: " Justin was a kind exceptional young being who did not want to cause trouble, who wanted to help others and keep the peace. I also knew from his early years that he had gifts, gave the best hugs, and was considerate, helpful and was not like most kids his age. He stood out. I also believe that he was taken early to set the example for others who still live on. He will continue to touch lives even though his physical presence on this earth as we know is gone. Both of our Justin's gave their lives for in order to bring out the good in others. They were peacekeepers." Need I say any more?

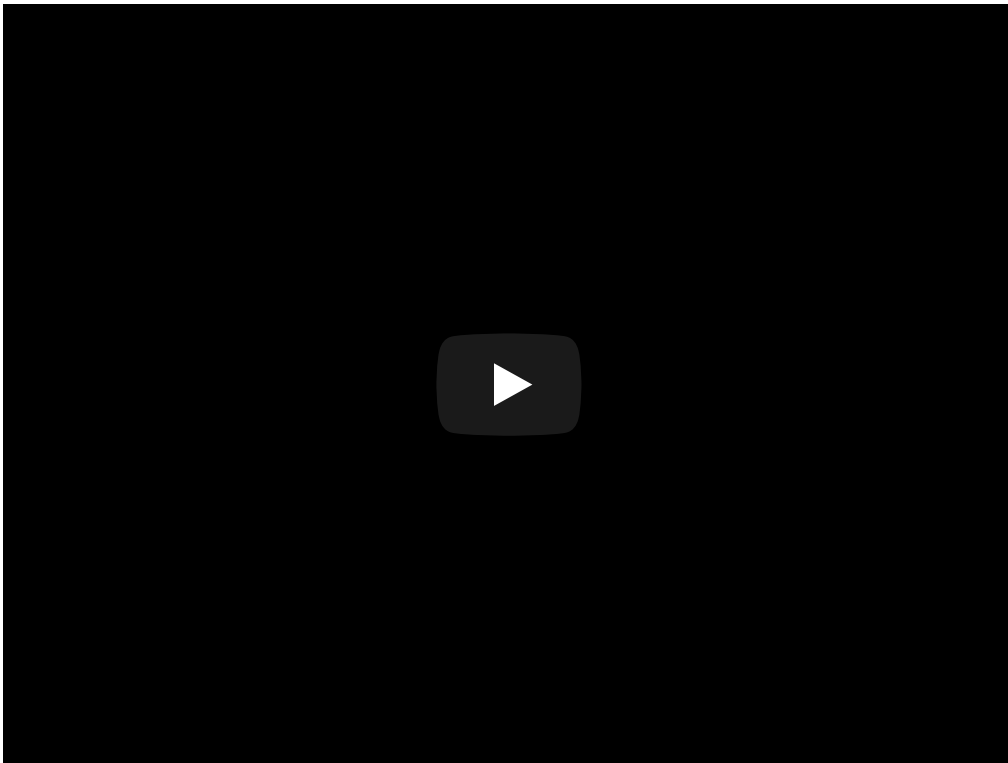


Since I was also curious to learn more about her new restaurant which is under construction called "Mariposa" I asked her more about it. She said that it will be an upscale Argentinian restaurant. Then, I asked her what the planned décor was. She began searching for a picture on her cell phone. She then

shows us a photo of a shoe that she took a picture of in Las Vegas. The main colors in the shoe are turquoise, silver with a hint of red” She smiles at me and says. “It will have the same colors as the Peruvian Butterfly, with turquoise being the prominent color!”



The gift that Lisa gave me tonight during our “Christmas Dinner” was a new “Recipe for Life” that I need to try soon. In honor of my beautiful son Justin, I need to be joyful, creative, skillful, observant, and helpful. He would want me to be. I will sure try. As we got ready to leave, Lisa instructs the musician to play “Tears from Heaven” We held hands and listened, and we did not cry. Instead we had to smile for our Justin’s.



Tears In Heaven

"Tears In Heaven"

Would you know my name
If I saw you in heaven?
Would it be the same
If I saw you in heaven?

I must be strong
And carry on,
'Cause I know I don't belong
Here in heaven.

Would you hold my hand
If I saw you in heaven?
Would you help me stand
If I saw you in heaven?

I'll find my way
Through night and day,
'Cause I know I just can't stay
Here in heaven.

Time can bring you down,
Time can bend your knees.
Time can break your heart,
Have you begging please, begging please.

Beyond the door,
There's peace I'm sure,
And I know there'll be no more
Tears in heaven.

Would you know my name
If I saw you in heaven?
Would it be the same
If I saw you in heaven?

I must be strong

And carry on,
'Cause I know I don't belong
Here in heaven.

Thank you to our secret Santa's: Merle, Taylor, Jeff, Delana, Greg, Noreen and Thierry. Thank you, Rhonda (our travelling buddy) who also got the opportunity to share some of these incredible events with us.

Justin followed his grandmother's Recipe for life and he was baked well through perfection. For the moment I can honestly say that yesterday was a good day.

I can't make this stuff up...

Love you Justin.

SEDONA 2014 UPDATE

We went back to Eforea, we ate at Cucina Rustica in the Justino Room and we celebrated Justin the best way we could. Darrell said hey they are playing your song again. As I listened the electric guitar was playing our wedding song "Pachelbel Canon" on the electrical guitar AGAIN.. The tears flowed down my face. I told Darrell: Do you remember me wanting to have a baby soon after we got married? He cried and said yes.. "I said we brought Justin into this world and this is one of are greatest gifts ever". Justin was with us as he will always be..





• LISA DAHL RESTAURANTS

• SEDONA