Bread Pudding

By Laura Albachten...inspired by several different recipes

8 cups of white bread cubes (I use hot dog buns, yes, really)

• Whisk well the following to make the custard:

4 eggs

2 cups whole milk

1 teaspoon vanilla

1½ sticks melted butter

½ teaspoon fine salt

½ teaspoon cinnamon

2 cups white sugar

- Place 6 of the cups of the bread cubes into a buttered 9x13 casserole baking dish.
- Pour the custard mixture over the bread.
- Let it sit about 30 minutes.
- Scatter the remaining 2 cups of bread cubes over the bread/custard and push down gently to partially submerge the dried cubes (you do this so that you will have a slightly crispy top over the bread/custard once baked).
- Brush with 1 Tablespoon melted butter.
- Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar (2T sugar mixed with ½ teaspoon cinnamon).
- Bake in a preheated 325 degree oven until it is deep golden brown and starts to rise. It should take about 1 hour and should jiggle very slightly when done.

OPTIONAL:

You can also add **raisins or currents** to the pudding by soaking about ½ cup raisins in about the same amount of **bourbon** for about 20 minutes, drain, then sprinkle over the soaked bread mixture before baking (the leftover bourbon and reuse in the whiskey sauce).

Serve warm with WHISKEY SAUCE:

- In a double boiler, melt 1 stick butter and 1 cup sugar.
- Gradually mix in 1 beaten egg, stirring all the while as not to scramble it.
- Take off the heat and add ¼ cup bourbon.