

Librarian's Shelf by Kelli Keyes

### Kolaches!

Now that we have stuffed ourselves with turkey, let's talk about kolaches! Kolaches are popular in Nebraska because of our rich Czech heritage. You may have eaten a kolache before and not even known that was what you were eating. A kolache is a round, soft, sweet roll with a scoop of sweetened fruit, cream cheese or poppy seed mixture baked in the indentation on top of the roll. Perhaps you've heard the Polka "Kolache Song"? "We're eating kolaches, cheese, fruit and poppy seed...". Wikipedia defines kolache as a type of pastry that holds a dollop of fruit, rimmed by a puffy pillow of supple dough. The name originates from the Czech, an original Slavonic word "kolo" meaning circle.

Prague, Nebraska, a small village forty-seven miles from Columbus named after the capital of Bohemia is known for making the world's largest kolache that weighed in at 2,605 pounds and measured 15 feet in diameter. They even have a café called Kolache Korner that embraces the Czech heritage and, of course, serves kolaches!

Why am I going on about kolaches? Other than the fact that they are an awesome dessert that you need to try, the Columbus Public Library is having a kolache class! Mary Hruska will be coming December 9, Saturday, at 2 pm to the library auditorium and she will demonstrate the intricate process of creating these wonderful treats. She learned this recipe from her grandmother by making them together over the years. She told me her original recipe makes 8 – 9 dozen kolaches! That's enough for a large holiday gathering. Some families even serve kolaches at weddings. These treats are very colorful and festive looking when you make all the different varieties. Mary Hruska makes many flavors out of one batch of kolaches. She will make kolaches ahead of time for us all to taste with coffee. The kolaches she makes in class will be won in a drawing. So make sure you sign up for the drawing when you come to class. You will make lots of new friends if you win!!

Registration is not required and the class is free to all who would like to come. You do not need a library card to participate in this program. We would love to have you come and tell us your family's kolache stories. If you have any questions call 402-564-7116 and ask for Kelli.

Be sure to take advantage of our "Food 4 Fines" opportunity coming December 1<sup>st</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>. We will donate all canned foods received to the Platte County Food Panty. Three cans of food are required to wipe away the late fees on one account. This only clears the late fees acquired by not returning library books or DVD's on time. The "Food 4 Fines" opportunity does not cover bills owed for damaged or lost books and DVD's. The library needs to be reimbursed for lost and damaged books so we can replace them for other patrons to use. So if you have several accounts in your family that need late fees forgiven, now's the time. Clear those accounts so you can use them again because book reading weather has arrived!