

Librarian's Shelf by Library Board member Joie Taylor

'tis the Season for Cookbooks

Halloween is past and the big 2 loom ahead of us--Thanksgiving and Christmas. I don't know about your family, but mine has had the same menus for these holidays for the past 40 years. We are beginning to say, "It's okay if we do something different." I have been thinking I need a new cranberry salad recipe. Since my cookbook collection is small, I went looking in the library and was I surprised! There are shelves and shelves of cookbooks. There is everything from the standard favorite "Betty Crocker Cookbook" to specialty cookbooks. Today I'll share a few of them with you.

Church cookbooks have a reputation for having the best recipes, so you might want to check out "Church Socials." This book has a special section on recipes for holidays and special occasions which also includes a menu using these foods. It contains recipes such as Mother's Charleston Crab Dip, Orange Roasted Turkey Breast, and Pumpkin Nut Cake. You will also want to look in other sections for recipes such as Pecan Sticky Rolls and Escalloped Corn. There is even one on how to make mincemeat for pies.

"The Pioneer Women Cooks: A Year of Holidays" is just what it says; recipes for most of the holidays we celebrate. If this is your first time making a holiday dinner, try this cookbook. It covers most of the basic foods for Thanksgiving including how to prepare, cook, and carve the turkey. There are even pictures to illustrate the steps. The Christmas recipes include a section on foods to make and give away.

There are a number of cookbooks written by famous people including those who have cooking shows. One I picked out is "Debbie Macomber's Christmas Cookbook." Not only does she give you great recipes, she also includes information about her own family Christmases.

Another celebrity cookbook is "Christmas with Paula Deen." This book includes some of her favorite Christmas recipes as well as stories and pictures of her family. A recipe she said was great for children is called Salty Dogs and tastes like a Baby Ruth candy bar. For Christmas morning she suggests a breakfast casserole that is made the night before with eggs, sausage and cheese.

Some of you are thinking about Grandpa who has ulcer problems, the aunt who is gluten intolerant, or the nephew who has peanut allergies. There are several cookbooks for them. One is "Allergy-free Cookbook." There are not only recipes, but explanations of what the allergies are. Recipes include those for cakes, cookies, meats, breads, fish, salads, and pancakes.

For those hurried times or questions of what to do with the leftovers, try "Rachael Ray's Express Lane Meals." She even gives you a list of what you need. Another cookbook is "1001 Delicious Soups & Stews." This cookbook is organized according to type of soup, i.e., stocks, chowders, chili, seafood soups, vegetarian soups, meat stews, quick-and-easy stews, breads and accompaniments and menus with recipes.

Bon appetite.