

IMPACT By Coaching



November 2009

G is For The Grateful Guest -

This is the time of the year when the holidays take on their yearly importance. Halloween is over, Thanksgiving is almost upon us. Our traditional Thanksgiving dinner is different now. When our parents were with us and our children were small, we went to my in-laws for Thanksgiving dinner. My mother-in-law grew up on a farm so some of our dishes were mainstays of her family's holiday dinner.

On the farm, Thanksgiving dinner included two meats - ham and turkey. Ours, thankfully, only had turkey. We had stuffing, or dressing as mom called it. Two kinds; one with sage and herbs, the other with sausage and chestnuts. Our table groaned with the dishes of sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, green beans, salads, cranberry sauce, rolls, butter, - and of course gravy! That ambrosiac smooth latte colored sauce that when ladled on slices of turkey and mounds of potatoes and dressing made my eyes glaze over and my waistband expand two inches.

Food makes celebrations special. The people, the table with the lace tablecloth and china reserved for special occasions, games that used to be Clue, Scrabble, or Concentration but are now Wii or something on the computer. Since our adult children live out of town and now hold their own holiday dinners, we join them as they create their traditions along with memorable dinners.

Which brings me to the Grateful Guest. Since I no longer cook the dinner, here are a few things that I found to be helpful and contribute to the celebration.

1. **Dessert.** Bring a fabulous cake or pie from the local bakery – or bake and bring your own! It's one less thing the hostess has to make or buy.

This article has 518 words and should take 4.0 minutes or less to read. A small price for knowledge!

2. **Cheese.** You can find specialty cheeses in almost every supermarket. The variety is more than you imagine – so live a little and bring something new and different.
3. **Flowers.** An old standby. Never goes out of style. Shows you care enough to stop and think about the work going into the dinner you are about to enjoy.
4. **Chocolate.** There are so many wonderful specialty chocolate stores that you won't have a difficult time finding one. Milk or dark. All will be appreciated. Just make it fancy.
5. **Drinks.** Bring a nice wine or a nice selection of fine coffees or teas. There are many options from specialty coffee houses to Arabica beans available online.
6. **You.** Help with the dishes, clear the table, help set out the dessert. Go the extra mile and offer to take out the trash. A helping guest is always appreciated.
7. **Tradition.** An old tradition is gold, a new tradition is silver. Ask everyone what they are thankful for or organize a walk after dinner.

Wishing you and your family a holiday filled with laughter, love and good eats!

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