

## “Have Pots – Will Travel”

Bringing food to friends is a time honored tradition that can be dated back to the early settlers. What may have started out as bringing something to someone who was ill or had just had a child has now turned into the simple joy of bringing food to someone. Spending time together enjoying the dishes is the added extra bonus. All across this great country of ours folks are coming together at pot-luck parties or just neighbors getting together where everyone brings a dish to share. That’s what this class is all about.

One of the easiest ways to transport food is in the vessel in which it was cooked. Casseroles, for example, are easily carried covered, in the dish in which they were baked. Soups, however, are better cooled and poured into plastic containers with tight fitting lids suitable for reheating in the microwave or for transferring into pots upon arrival.

To transport food in its cooking vessel hot from your kitchen so that it can be eaten the moment it arrives, line a cardboard box with several layers of newspaper. Cover the vessel with a lid or aluminum foil, wrap it in a heavy towel, and place it in the box. This will keep any food fairly hot for up to an hour. You can also make many of the recipes included in this class ahead of time to reheat when you arrive at the neighbor’s home. Most prepared foods, hot or cold, including those containing meat, can be safely kept at room temperature for up to 2 hours.

If you want to make your gift of food extra special, wrap the food container in a beautiful kitchen towel or napkin, put it in a gift basket along with a serving plate or spoon. You can also tuck in a bouquet of flowers too. Be sure to include instructions for reheating, serving and perhaps freezing any leftovers so your host knows how to prepare, serve and safely store any leftovers.

The recipes have been divided into several categories, from Soups to Desserts. I have listed at least four separate recipes in each of the categories. I hope you enjoy them all and that you will prepare some for your next pot-luck get together.

Chef Cal