

Christmas Inspirations at the Library

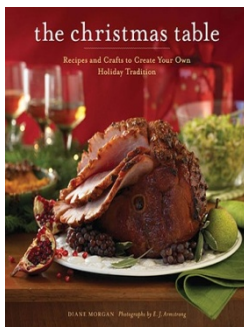
Apart from the harried shopping, frustrating strands of lights, and increasing triviality of the holiday season, time with family can represent a more genuine and meaningful tradition at this time of year. As families get together, the kids usually run off (or under foot) and play while the adults, all with covered dishes in hand, converge and eat and reminisce and enjoy a time that is set aside for just being together. In this article, I'm focusing in on those covered dishes. In every family, there is that one person who always brings in something new and yummy every year. Everybody raves about it, and that dish ends up being the talk of the family until it is outdone again next year. Thanks to these Christmas cookbooks, you can be that person this year!

Christmas Traditions



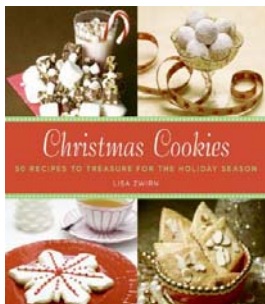
This book offers ideas for all manner of Christmas celebrations. It has a lot of information on decorating for the holidays, as well as planning for events and parties as well, all done with an eye toward a crafty, traditional look. The recipes in this book offer new twists on finger foods and snacks, though it does touch on more solid fare as well.

The Christmas Table by Diane Morgan



The Christmas Table serves up comfort and joy with helpful hints and recipes to plan an unforgettable holiday feast. On Christmas morning opening presents will be even sweeter with a breakfast of Cinnamon-Scented Bread Custard and delightful recipes like Roast Turkey and Whipped Yams topped with a Crunchy Praline Crust, sure to be instant yuletide classics. This comprehensive holiday guide also includes recipes for Christmas cookies candied nuts and other giftable goodies.

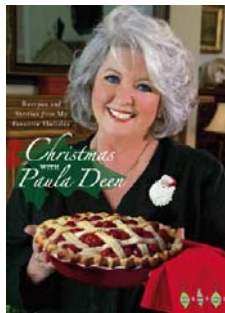
Christmas Cookies by Lisa Zwirn



Do you have a favorite Christmas cookie? Is it made of chocolate or spice? Is it an iced and decorated sugar cookie, a crisp, chocolate-covered toffee bar or a molasses ginger round? Christmas cookies are loved for their special shapes, cheery colors, and seasonal flavors. They bring joy to our gatherings, help preserve the magic and tradition of the holiday season, and make heart-warming gifts. Christmas Cookies offers fifty wonderful recipes for holiday treats, such as light-as-air Cocoa Meringue Kisses, Chocolate Peppermint

Cookies that perfectly complement a mug of hot chocolate, sweet-tart Iced Lemon Rounds, the much-beloved classic Pecan Sandies, Ginger Coins with the right amount of snap, and many, many more.

Christmas with Paula Deen by Paula Deen



Christmas, that time of good cheer and lapsed diets, is the perfect holiday to showcase the cooking of Deen who specializes in the kind of butter-and cheese-laden fare that epitomizes family-style comfort food. Sweets and snacks account for most of the recipes, since Deen happily admits to never varying from her Christmas dinner menu. Cooks will find the cookies and desserts familiar but richer, like eyebrow-raising but delicious Chocolate Cheese Fudge and creamy Chocolate Sandwich Cookies. Snacks and breakfast dishes are crowd pleasers, like gooey

Praline French Toast Casserole and Cheese-coated Bacon Wraps.

Dave Miller is Supervisor of Hope Branch Library – Bartholomew County Public Library