

WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



January 2019

Aunt Minerva's Kitchen

Fancy Persimmon Pudding

2 cups persimmon pulp
1 Tbsp butter
1 ¼ cup flour
1 tsp. baking soda
¼ cup milk
1 tsp. vanilla juice
1 cup sugar
1 well beaten egg
2 Tbsp hot water
rind of 1 lemon
Juice of 1 orange and 1 lemon

Sift flour and baking soda together. Stir into persimmon pulp. Add milk, butter, and vanilla and mix well. Pour into a well-greased mold. Cover and steam for 2 hours. In the top of a double boiler put the beaten egg, lemon, orange juice, lemon rind, hot water and sugar. Cook over boiling water until creamy. Pour sauce over the steaming pudding and serve immediately.



Happy New Year 2019!



Happy New Year to our Members, Friends, and Neighbors! It is a fresh new year and time to be thankful for all the blessings of the past year and to take stock of our achievements. Yes, New Year 2019 is a brand-spanking new year.

It is a time to start fresh, to start strong, and a chance to do all you want to do this year. The amazing thing about chances is that we get new ones every year.

Set positive goals and resolutions. Hang them where you can see them every hour and every minute of every day in the new year. Be excited for what you can achieve in 2019. We wish you all a special day with our best wishes for a wonderful year.

Quotes for The New Year



For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice. – T.S. Eliot

Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one. – Brad Paisley

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day. – Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties. – Helen Keller

The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals. – Melody Beattie

Character is the ability to carry out a good resolution long after the excitement of the moment has passed. – Cavett Robert

One resolution I have made, and try always to keep is this – To rise above the little things. – John Burroughs

A new year brings not only happiness, it makes us happy with a hope to fulfill our dreams or a new beginning of our life. So, a new year is very special to everyone. – Santonu Kumar Dhar

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January is National Soup Month



We LOVE soup in any shape, form or taste -- chunky, clear, creamy, low-fat, full of flavorful spices or naturally sweet, served hot, and sometimes cold. There are thousands of ways to enjoy soup, and now is the perfect time to do so as January is National Soup Month! Soup is nutritious and sipping a hot cup of deliciousness is the perfect way to drive away the chilly winter blues. So, go ahead indulge and get souped-up on soup this month. You might even want to try a couple of National Soup Month Activities:

- Invite family and friends to your home for a home-made soup supper. Begin with a soup made with hearty winter vegetables, chicken or beef, and other farm-fresh ingredients. You might include a crisp salad and crusty wheat bread. Be sure to end with a divine dessert consommé.
- Have some fun and begin a family tradition with a family soup. Ask everyone to pick their favorite spice, herb, meat and vegetables and maybe a pasta! Write down who contributed what ingredient to the soup. Add ingredient measurements and specific instructions. You now have your family soup recipe which you can hand down to future generations.
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen and feed the hungry.

1800's Visiting Etiquette



If invited to spend a few days at a friend's house, conform as much as possible to the habits of the family. When parting for the night, inquire respectfully the breakfast hour, and ascertain at what time the family meets for prayers. If this right custom prevails, be sure to be on time; and obtain any necessary information from the servant who waits upon you. Give as little trouble as possible; and never think of apologizing for the extra trouble which your visit occasions. Such an apology implies that your friend cannot conveniently entertain you. Your own good sense and delicacy will teach you the desirability of keeping your room tidy, and your articles of dress and toilet as much in order as possible. If there is a deficiency of servants a lady will certainly not hesitate to make her own bed and to do for herself as much as possible, and for the family all that is in her power. ~from CIVIL WAR ETIQUETTE, by Arthur Martine, 1888

GARDEN TOOLS

The winter months provide a perfect time to ready your garden tools for use in the spring. A good maintenance routine will prolong the life of the tools. Following are some tips for getting the tools in the best possible shape to take on the challenges of spring gardening.

Shovels, Spades and Hoes

Begin by cleaning all soil and residue off of the garden tools using a wire brush. Once the dirt is removed, wipe the tools with a wet cloth, and let dry. If there is rust on any of the metal tools, soak them in white vinegar for several hours to help release the rust, rinse and let dry. Next, wipe the tools with WD-40. Be sure to check the wooden handles. If the wood has splintered, give the handle a light sanding with sandpaper, then rub the wood with linseed oil.

Pruners and Shears

Pruners and shears will also need an inspection. Spray WD-40 at the joints and check the state of the blade. If the blades are sticky, use alcohol to clean them, but use extreme caution when cleaning the blades. Once the blades are clean, sharpen them with a whetstone or file. To ensure that you do not miss any part of the blade, use a dark marker to color the blade, and sharpen until all the color is gone.

Outdoor Power Equipment

To keep your lawn mower, edger, and garden tiller in top condition, a full tune-up should be performed once every year. A well-maintained machine will also reduce emissions and reduce fuel consumption. When tuning up your outdoor power equipment, be sure to clean the body of the machine; change the oil, spark plugs and air filters; lubricate the machine; and sharpen the blades. To make the results of your

spring tune-up last, be sure to clean the equipment after every use and continue to keep an eye on bolts or screws that may be loosened by the engine's vibrations.

Flowerpots and Seed Trays

Before you start new seeds and container gardens this spring, it is a good idea to clean your pots and seed trays. Doing so will get rid of last season's diseases and mold. If you did not empty the soil in the fall, begin by emptying the pots of any soil and plant remnants. Next, prepare a solution using nine parts hot water and one-part bleach. Use a stiff brush to clean the pots with the solution. If the containers are extremely dirty, consider letting them soak for 20 minutes in the solution. When you are finished scrubbing or soaking, rinse the pots well to remove the bleach.

~NUTS AND BOLTS OF GARDENING



Closed for the Season



The Mansion House is closed for the winter. We will reopen on March 8, 2019 at 1:00pm. Please plan to visit and view our new exhibits and Hattie's Flower Garden.

During January and February, we will be accepting reservations and giving group tours. Please call 913-648-0952 to schedule a date for your tour.

Book your next meeting or party in one of the two galleries in the Mansion House. In the spring, summer, and fall, the grounds and veranda are available, as well. Call 913-648-0952 for information or to make a reservation.

The Mansion House may also be booked for weddings and receptions. Please refer to our website for more information or call 913-648-0952.



Questions or Comments?

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