



BHC Special Collections
Guide to the Community Cookbooks Collection
By Meg Rinn
November 2020

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Various Bridgeport organizations

Title: Community Cookbooks Collection

Dates: 1903

Quantity: 4 manuscript boxes

Abstract: Community cookbooks offer unique insights into groups and food trends, and enables a greater understanding of a community's sense of belonging to a given place. Many times cookbooks are used as fundraisers or outreach, helping to bring attention to a community or organization's work. The Community Cookbooks Collection reflects Bridgeport's diverse communities through food, and is ever expanding.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Administrative History:

Community cookbooks offer unique insights into groups and food trends, and enables a greater understanding of a community's sense of belonging to a given place. Many times, cookbooks are used as fundraisers or outreach, helping to bring attention to a community or organization's work.

Over the years, the Bridgeport Public Library has entered community-based cookbooks into its collections, and then turned the items over to the Bridgeport History Center upon removing the books from circulation. At the same time, the Bridgeport History Center has acquired cook books from various community organizations.

The Bridgeport History Center is actively soliciting donations of cookbooks from local groups in order to expand this collection and better capture the rich culinary diversity and heritage of Bridgeport and its residents.

Scope and Content note:

The scope of these cookbooks is varied, reflecting mostly religious organizations in Bridgeport who sold cookbooks as fundraisers. The same applies to community-based organization cookbooks, and the two complement each other well.

Of note in the general section are the two works by Judith Sulik. [An Adventure for your Palate: an international cookbook and restaurant guide to Bridgeport, Connecticut](#) features recipes from Bridgeport restaurants including Bloodroot's chocolate devastation cake, and her [No Counters, No Problem! 50 one pot meals to get you through kitchen remodeling](#) features illustrations by Michele Jacobson, a librarian in the Bridgeport Public Library system.

Arrangement Note:

At the moment, the collection is arranged into the following series: general cookbooks and guides, school produced cookbooks, commercial, community organization cookbooks, religious organization cookbooks, and other organization cookbooks. General cookbooks and guides refer mostly to Bridgeport's restaurant scene and larger, mass market texts. School produced cookbooks represent the work of Bridgeport schools, community organizations are often fundraisers for various groups, and the same goes for those of religious organizations. The other organizations series may be refined in the future.

Administrative information:

Provenance: Various

Preferred Citation:

Please cite the cookbook as an individual book according to the style guide you are using.

Detailed listing

General cookbooks and guides

Blanchard, Marjorie Page. What Cooks in Connecticut. 1979.

Norton, Mrs. L.H. Choices Receipts from Experienced Housewives. 1887.

Sulik, Judith. An Adventure for your Palate: an international cookbook and restaurant guide to Bridgeport, Connecticut. 1995.

Sulik, Judith. No Sink? No Counters, No Problem! 50 one pot meals to get you through kitchen remodeling. 1997.[Features illustration by Bridgeport Public Library librarian Michele Jacobson.]

School cookbooks

Central High School. A Taste of Central. 1999. [2 copies]

John Winthrop School. Recipes Compiled by John Winthrop School. C. 1990s

Commercial

D.M. Read Department Store. Read's: Our Very Own Cookbook. 1983

Community organization cookbooks

Anna Baum Skane Alumnae Association, Inc. A Little Bit of Everything. 1968

Bridgeport Healthcare Center Resident Council. Sharing our Best. 2002.

Bridgeport Public Library Staff Association. Novel Delights. 1986. [2 copies]

Greater Bridgeport Literacy Volunteers of America. Cooking for their ABCs. 1988.

LeBarca, John (WICC), JLB, and Friends. Italian House Party Heritage Cookbook. Undated.

Ladies Guild of the Italian Community Center. International Cook Book of Favorite Recipes from our Kitchens. 1975.

Manna House and Norwalk Emergency Shelter. Manna House of Hospitality Cookbook. 1999.

Newman, Paul. Hole-In-The-Wall-Gang Cookbook. 1998.

Remesa Adult Daycare of Bridgeport. Recipes and Memories. Undated. [English and Spanish.]

Rehabilitation Center of Eastern Fairfield County. Ed. Louise Thoman. Our Special Blend. 1984. [Contains forward by Craig Clairborne.]

St. Vincent's Hospital. Favorite Recipes from the Auxiliaries and Friends. 1979.

Vasa Order of America. Connecticut Cookery. 1981.

Religious Organizations

Calvary Episcopal Church. Let's Eat. 1950

Christ Church. [Rector's Guild.] Cook book. 1934.

Christ Episcopal Church. [Ladies Aid of...]. Household Cook Book. Undated.

First Baptist Church. [Ladies Sewing Society.] Choice recipes. 1903.

First United Church of Christ. Centennial Cookbook. 1994.

Nichols United Methodist Church. 50th Anniversary Cookbook. 1990.

Holy Rosary Church [Children of Mary Sodality.] Buon' Appetito. 1995.

Holy Rosary Church [St. Theresa Guild.] A Treasury of Favorite Italian Recipes. Undated. [2 copies]

Holy Trinity Greek Catholic Ladies Guild. Hungarian and American Cook Book. 1955.

Holy Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church. Let's Cook with the Dorcas Guild. Undated.

Park Street Congregational Church. [Young Adults Group.] Soup to Nuts. 1946

St. John's Episcopal Church. One Hundred Tested Recipes. 1926.

Other Organizations

Tesiha Capozzi O'Leary Memorial Foundation Inc. A Collection of Favorite Recipes. 1992.