

Susan  
Nye

Around  
the Table



## Back-to-School Traditions

End of Summer 2007/volume 51

### Cooking Parties & Classes

The New Fall-Holiday  
Schedule is on the Web!

#### September

- 12 French Country Cooking
- 26 Italian Country Kitchen

#### October

- 10 French Country Cooking
- 24 Italian Country Kitchen

#### November

- 7 French Country Cooking

#### December

- 5 Tapas & Finger Food

*Join me in the Kitchen &  
Around the Table for delicious  
seasonal food & fun*

*Details & Menus on the Web  
[www.susannye.com](http://www.susannye.com)*

Private classes also available

Girls' Night Out  
Cooking Couples  
Customer Appreciation  
and lots more....  
at your house or mine.

### Private Chef & Catering Services

Romantic Dinners or  
Celebrations for Family &  
Friends. At my house or yours.

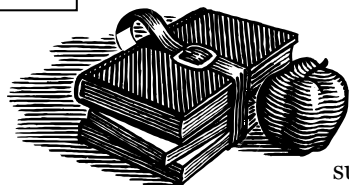
...too busy or too tired to cook  
- let me do it for you!

### Try Dinner To-Go!

For more information  
Visit the web at  
[www.susannye.com](http://www.susannye.com)

Contact Susan Nye at  
[susannye@tds.net](mailto:susannye@tds.net) or

603/526 7319



Yikes! What happened to summer? Labor Day has come and gone and yesterday I spotted the first few red leaves on a maple tree out on Route 11. When we were kids, the end of summer meant that it was time to go back to the reality of suburbia and back to school. We traded in the freedom of long lazy days on the beach, hikes in the woods and fresh air for stuffy classrooms filled with chalk dust.

When my sister and I started kindergarten we began an annual ritual with my Mom. She took us downtown for new dresses and shoes. We would visit Filene's and Stearn's in search of that perfect first day of school dress. It was an early lesson in dress for success. When I was 5 or 6 or even 7 it was pretty easy to find the perfect dress; my Mom just steered me to a rack of Polly Flinders. These were wonderful little cotton dresses with smocking across the front, puffed sleeves and full skirts that twirled beautifully. At Easter, the dresses came in soft flowery pastels. For back-to-school they came in darker, fall colors and tartans. I think that I must have had several over the years, and yes, I looked absolutely adorable.

If we were fast and didn't misbehave, my Mom took us to Bailey's for an ice cream sundae after shopping. Bailey's was part of a long standing back-to-school tradition. My Grandmother included trips to both Filene's and Bailey's when she outfitted my Mother for back-to-school. Bailey's was always cool on hot Indian Summer afternoons and the fudge on the sundaes was thick and devilishly rich. Bailey's was the town's premier ice cream emporium and reserved for special occasions. Starting school definitely merited a trip to Bailey's.

The first few days of school were always filled with just a touch of trepidation. There were new subjects to tackle, new kids to meet and of course a new teacher to face. Every couple of years Hollywood releases a new movie about a teacher who works miracles. These heroic men and women take over impossible classes filled with impossible students living in impossible circumstances. Under the care of these miracle workers, troubled and uninspired students are transformed into brilliant scientists and mathematicians, Rhodes Scholars and Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winners. I'm not sure how many of us have actually studied with a super hero. My teachers were all quite capable, but I don't think that any of them were able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.

As a little girl, I always found the young teachers terribly intriguing and at least one was very glamorous. My 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher was an enigma for the 11 and 12 year olds in her class. Miss Jones was tall, slim and had long red finger nails. She was glamorous in a big haired sort of way. The boys had crushes on her and the girls gossiped about her. We were sure that she lived a fascinating life outside of school and a few girls were even bold enough to ask her about her boyfriends.

Putting the glamour and intrigue of Miss Jones aside, most of us have been lucky enough to have at least one or two teachers who have made a difference in our lives. These teachers brought something special to the classroom. My 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Miss Gates, might not have inspired extraordinary greatness; but she did help each of her young students develop a love of learning (or at the very least a tolerance for reading, writing and arithmetic.) Probably more important, she encouraged and supported us as we developed the self confidence to navigate our way through school and life. Miss Gates didn't wear a cape, she didn't walk on water; she simply helped each of us feel capable and confident. Come to think of it, what more could we ask for?

September is a beautiful month; enjoy the change of seasons and celebrate your favorite back-to-school traditions,

Bon appétit! - Susan

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## Back-to-School Traditions

End of Summer 2007/volume 51

Wednesday Night  
Cooking Parties  
Learn & Laugh

Private Chef Services  
Like to entertain?  
Too busy to cook?  
Let me do it for you.

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### Hot Fudge Sauce

*Bailey's closed its doors many years ago; enjoy your own special back-to-school sundaes at home!*

Makes about 2 cups

1/4 cup sugar

1/4 cup water

8 ounces semi-sweet chocolate, cut in small chunks

2 tablespoons butter, cut in pieces

1 teaspoon instant espresso, optional

1 1/4 cup heavy cream

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Start by making a simple syrup. Combine the sugar and water in a heavy saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat; reduce heat and simmer for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat.
2. Add the butter and chocolate and let stand for a few minutes to melt; whisk until smooth. Stir in the instant espresso. Add the cream and vanilla; whisk until smooth and thoroughly combined. Serve warm on top of your favorite ice cream. Store any leftover sauce in the refrigerator. Reheat on low in a heavy saucepan.