

# How to Write a Family Cookbook

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**Welcome!** Writing your family cookbook is more than simply recording the recipes. It's a way to preserve family traditions and gives you a place to share stories, and photos. It also requires planning in advance, discipline and a doggedness to complete the project.

Here is an overview of the six-step process that I will cover in the class.

- **Class One: Review of Cookbook Styles:** Look at various options and decide on the best format that reflects the vision for your cookbook. Determine a theme and working title for the book, as well as the approx. number of recipes, personal stories and sidebars. Establish your working team.
- **Class Two: Set up a working calendar:** Determine publication date, and deadlines for recipe writing, testing, layout and printing. Then work back. Create a working calendar with a roughed out table of contents to determine number of recipes and where they are coming from, and assign tasks.
- **Class Three: Document the Recipe:** Learn how to properly document a recipe, listing ingredients in the right order. How to choose a recipe title and write a headnote. Practice writing a personal narrative and how to write about food and develop your voice for chapter intros, and sidebars.
- **Class Four: Typing and Organizing:** Establish a template to keep each recipe consistent. Make sure the recipes read easily and directions are clear. Learn how to copy, paste and file each recipe into a chapter folder. When ready to print, print as a full roll. Determine if recipe testers are required to make sure the recipes works.
- **Class Five: Chapters and Design:** Create a spread-sheet and adjust the recipes to be sure that each chapter contains a balanced mix of appetizer, salad, main course, dessert to create an interesting book. Begin to layout the whole book in a design format. Add art and photography.
- **Class Six: Proofing and Publishing:** Find a proof-reader to catch any typos or mistakes. Editing and proofreading may take several rounds in order to make sure it is 100% perfect. Talk to printers to get estimates. Make decisions on cover stock and paper, and binding. *Go to press!*