

Cooking with Julia: Pumpkin Pecan Pie



Julia Hansen

President John F. Kennedy once said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

I thought this quote would fit nicely in this week's issue because it's the last paper before Thanksgiving Break. Sometimes during this holiday it is easy to focus

your attention on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the turkey in the oven or early-morning discounted shopping the day after Thanksgiving, but maybe it's time for a reminder that those things only supplement the holiday that makes stretchy pants a necessity. As a cook, I have been somewhat guilty of focusing on the food and neglecting thankful thoughts, so this year I'm making a point to note the countless things I am thankful for. I am thankful for my family, boyfriend, friends, opportunities I have been given and countless other things. This column could go on for pages, but I imagine no one has the slightest bit of interest in reading all of the things I'm thankful for. I've realized this year that it's easy to be thankful

Ingredients:

1 cup pumpkin	3 tablespoons butter
1/3 cup granulated sugar	1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 large egg	1 cup pecans
1 1/4 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice (OR the next four ingredients)	2/3 cup light corn syrup (also called Karo syrup)
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger	1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves	2 large eggs
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg	1 9-inch pie shell
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon	

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a medium bowl combine pumpkin, 1/3 cup sugar, one egg, pumpkin pie spice (or ground ginger, cloves, nutmeg and cinnamon). Dump mixture into pie shell.
3. In same bowl combine corn syrup, 1/2 cup granulated sugar, two eggs, butter, vanilla and pecans. Dump pecan mixture over pumpkin mixture.
4. Bake 50 to 60 minutes or until fork inserted in the center comes out clean.



for the big things like my family, but it's also fun to think about the small things that I am thankful for — like a friendly smile from a stranger, a

thought-provoking book, the first real snow or a good glass of wine. So this Thanksgiving when you are lying on the couch, suffering

from that second piece of pumpkin pecan pie, take a moment or two to remember what the day is all about: being thankful.

Guide to Mr. Right gets it wrong

In her book, "Seventeen Things To Do While Waiting for Mr. Right," Reverend Marcy Ann Cheek discusses her ideas of the essential actions of a young woman who is waiting to get married. After all, Cheek says that is what all young women want, and apparently they don't have any idea how to make it happen.

Cheek presents her ideas of love and marriage, and these have some merit. She describes people as individual flames seeking other flames with which to unite and says that in marriage, "you will be able to be yourself totally with the other person, to express yourself without fear, to say what you think about anything without ridicule." These are admirable notions of one of the most important relationships many people ultimately will have.

However, the Reverend's step-by-step process to happiness leaves something to be desired.

Her first crucial step is: "Get a big sheet of paper. I use HOT PINK PAPER for all of my lists, but any color will do. At the top of the paper, write: I WANT TO BE MARRIED!"

Thank goodness all the unmarried

ladies of the world have such knowledgeable guidance. How many of us would have skipped the first step and missed out on the rest of our lives?

For the rest of the book, she implements a workbook-style, fill-in-the-blank format so readers can respond to the prompts. She wants young women to not only realize their own life goals but also their specific desires regarding relationships and marriage. She invites readers to plan their weddings, in addition to identifying their own general tendencies and dreams in life.

In the same manner, she provides a model so that a woman can identify exactly what she wants in a man. Under the heading "My Perfect Life Partner" is a list with spaces to fill ranging from his physical appearance, including weight and eye color, his occupation and income, his abilities, his possessions and even attributes like whether or not he is

faithful in relationships.

First of all, if we base our standards on superficial qualities like a man's appearance and his paycheck, then we'll miss out on his most important part: his heart. Also, who would say she specifically wants to date someone who is unfaithful, irresponsible or broke? These aren't qualities anyone looks for. Rather, they are ones people deal with after discovering that the other desirable qualities are worth fighting for. Relationships are about compromise and hard work, not perfection.

Although this system has its issues, Cheek's plan is in her instruction: "Now, don't go out with ANYONE who does not have the characteristics on your list." Sorry, ladies — even if he seems like a great guy, if he isn't your ideal 6 feet 2 inches tall and doesn't make the six figures annually that you indicated on your sheet, you

can cancel your dinner plans. Actually, shame on you for making those plans in the first place. He's obviously not Mr. Right. Right?

Wrong. The wonder of the human race lies in the fact that you can't know everything about someone from a first meeting, and physical characteristics don't reflect a soul. You might be more attracted to the blonde with washboard abs than the skinny guy who sits next to you in your math class, but you can't judge their characters by their looks. Cheek seems to think that a woman's attraction to a man's body and lifestyle is more important than chemistry and shared ideas, and as a result she discourages getting to know someone who isn't the man on the Perfect Life Partner worksheet.

Aside from her fixation on superficial qualities, Cheek generally has over-idealistic thoughts on what a marriage is to begin with. She explains that in a marriage, "the other should please you in every way. There should be nothing about him that you want to change."

What she and all of us need to understand is that relationships can't be predicted. They are not always what

"The wonder of the human race lies in the fact that you can't know everything about someone from a first meeting."



Kelly Schute

We need to talk

we expect them to be, and that is what makes them beautiful. Connections aren't about physical qualities but spiritual qualities, and no worksheet can dictate whether someone will be the one you want to spend the rest of your life with.

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