



A Party a Month

January: *New Year's Day* is the most popular. Try an Open House style day. Start with snacks and hors d'oeuvres, anything that will keep well all day. Have sandwich platters to make it easy for you or submarine sandwiches just for fun. Finger style desserts to leave out will be easy as well.

February: *Valentine's Day* is a nice romantic day. How about a dinner for two? Make your favorite meal. Start with soup or salad; go directly to the main dish; then finish with dessert. A nice bottle of wine will compliment the evening.



March: *Academy Award Night*. Keep fun and casual. Maybe a spaghetti dinner with salad, garlic bread and cheesecake for dessert. Of course for entertainment everyone must select who they want for each award. Give prizes out to the one who gets the most correct.

April: *Passover* or *Easter* is a nice traditional family event. Invite guests to participate in your family's tradition. If you do a Passover Seder or Easter Feast, explain your Seder Plate and Easter Symbols and follow your normal dinner. Use traditional foods and discuss why it is important to keep family and dinner traditions alive.

May: *Mother's Day* is a day of appreciation for Mom. A family day for mom; maybe a nice outing, then a special dinner in your home. If away all day, start with salad, heat up the enchiladas you made ahead and ice cream sundaes for dessert. Don't forget whipped cream, nuts and cherries.

*Let's
Have
Company!*

June: *Father's Day* should be as special as Mother's Day. Maybe a barbeque. Start with snacks, then steak and baked potatoes with all the trimmings. How about apple pie for dessert; maybe even ala mode.

July: A *Get-Together* with friends should be just the ticket on this day. A backyard event that can even be potluck. Designate friends to bring side dishes and you supply the main part. Chicken and corn are always a crowd pleaser. Friends can bring chips and dip, salads, desserts and drinks. Then fireworks to end the evening at a nearby location.



August: *Summer is here.* How about a kids night? Serve chips and dip, a vegetable tray, salad, pizza, fruit and maybe make s'mores over a bonfire or chocolate chip cookies for dessert. Maybe swimming can be included or a movie on a big screen TV.

September: *Labor Day* is party day. Kids are ready to start school; this can be their end of the summer party. Swimming and Barbeque can be the right mix. Hot dogs and Hamburgers are always a great combination. Don't forget your favorite outside snack foods that are easy to prepare.



October: *Halloween Fun.* Costumes, bob for apples, piñata, popcorn, mini-size candy bars. Serve pizza and lasagne, garlic bread, veggie tray, fruit bowl, cheesecake snacks and assorted pies for dessert. Don't forget to have prizes for the best costume and who wins the apple contest.

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November: *Thanksgiving Dinner.* My most favorite family get-together. I love to get in the mood for the festivities by discovering new recipes for stuffing. I love to make sure I use my best everything for this dinner. Place cards set



the tone and using icebreakers to learn new things about your family that you didn't already know. End the evening with what is everyone thankful for this past year.

December: *Christmas* and *Hanukkah* are the most popular events of the month. However, let's plan a *New Year's Eve* party instead. Invite guests to dress for a cocktail party, serve elegant hors d'oeuvres like quiches, filo dough stuffed with spinach, etc. Maybe make it an Italian night with antipasto salad followed by eggplant parmesan, lasagne, spaghetti with sauce, garlic bread and a variety of desserts. Consider having a karaoke and casino night to keep the festivities going. They will stay all night.



Pick the events that seem the most fun for you to plan, then . . . **Bon Appetit!**