

Talk to me!

# RACH'S NOTEBOOK

## I WANT TO KNOW!

Thanksgiving is all about family traditions—what are yours?

WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING THE FEAST, YOU'RE SPLIT:

**48%** OF YOU ARE POTLUCKERS

**51%** ARE DO IT (ALL) YOURSELVES

"We all sign the tablecloth after dinner and include what we're thankful for."  
—Shirley McCosh

"We make Thanksgiving breakfast for 90 of our closest family and friends and serve pumpkin pancakes and turkey bacon."  
—Jennifer Marx Hollander

AS FOR SERVING THE BIG MEAL...

**52%**

THINK BUFFET IS THE WAY TO GO

**47%**

SAY PASS THE TURKEY AND SIDES AROUND THE TABLE

"For the past few years, we've planted Brussels sprouts, which I harvest on the next year's Thanksgiving morning and roast with onions and bacon for our family feast."  
—Debra Gavin Neal

"We host an adult cocktail party on Thanksgiving Eve to kick off the holiday season."  
—Carol Hamill Sharp

DO YOU ASSIGN SEATS?

**89%**

LET GUESTS CHOOSE WHERE TO SIT

**39%**

SET UP A KIDS' TABLE

"After dessert, we put on holiday music, light the fire and put up the Christmas tree. It's been a tradition in our family since I was a little girl and I've carried it on with my own family."  
—Ali Cantella Cope

## Cookie jar heroes

Nothing satisfies a sweet tooth better than a cookie—especially when it's baked with love. One special ingredient all three of these cookies companies share? Talented and kindhearted bakers!



Grant Melton, from my show's test kitchen, is the cookie king! His salted bitter-chocolate cookies literally make me cry. I hope one day you'll be able to buy his treats, too!



### Dough darling

Loren Brill, 29, is our hero! First, she beat cancer. Then, when she couldn't find tasty desserts that fit within her new balanced diet, she started **Sweet Loren's**, a line of all-natural, ready-to-bake doughs. (\$7.99 for 12, [sweetlorens.com](http://sweetlorens.com))

### Sugar sprinter

You know what they say: The daddy-daughter duo that bakes together stays together! Olympic racewalker John Nunn started whipping up cookies with his daughter Ella, now 9, just for fun—he'd bake, she'd taste test. But after giving away more than 100 dozen, the pair decided to create **Ella's Cookie Co.** I think the Toffee-Chocolate Chunk is gold-medal-worthy. (\$30 for 30, [ellascookieco.com](http://ellascookieco.com))



### Tough cookies

When Gretchen and Larry Witt's son, Liam, was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a type of childhood cancer, they rounded up 250 volunteers for an epic bake sale that raised more than \$400,000. Now, **Cookies for Kids' Cancer** gives 100% of its cookie sales profits to pediatric cancer research. (\$29.99 for 1 dozen, [cookiesforkidscancer.org](http://cookiesforkidscancer.org))

