



For a Fourth Of July celebration, Lynn Rossi prepares Red-White-And Blue Berry Salad.

## Ideas For July Fourth Entertaining

### Lunch With Lynn

If you are searching for ways to make your July 4th entertaining unique, try these ideas from Lynn Rossi of Lititz.

Lynn likes to cook and add those little finishing touches that make the meal — no matter how simple — classy. She especially likes to entertain guests in the summer cottage that she and her husband own.

To ease last minute preparations, Lynn stresses the need to plan early and make good use of the freezer and make-it-ahead recipes.

Of prime importance to her, is the need to use the freshest and best ingredients in all recipes. This makes even the most ordinary food taste better, she believes.

When planning a meal, Lynn considers the colors, textures, and variety of the food in order to chose dishes that complement each other. She also thinks about how to serve the food so that it looks attractive.

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, Lynn uses a red, white, and blue theme, which is especially suitable for July Fourth celebrations. The centerpiece is an arrangement of fresh flowers in a mug that coordinates with napkins and tablecloth.

For casual entertaining, Lynn has dishes, trays, and cups in bright red, which when set on a blue striped tablecloth and accessorized with napkins in a bold design of red, white, and blue is quite eye catching.

"Although cloth placemats or table coverings add to the visual effect, a plastic tablecloth in the right colors is not offensive," Lynn said. "But save paper table covers for kids' parties."

One of the final tasks that bring special pleasure to Lynn is folding napkins in unique ways.

"On a warm day, napkins folded in the shape of a fan provides the perfect finishing touch," she said.

Entertaining guests has its rewards Lynn believes. She enjoys the social interaction with guests, the opportunity to exercise her creativity, and, of course, guests' admiration for her efforts.

"But I cannot downplay the cost and the time required to prepare it," she said.

Nonetheless, entertaining builds relationships and offers social interchanges, which friends always enjoy. Take the initiative and invite guests. Your hospitality may inspire others to entertain, and the next time, you might be the guest.

A typical luncheon includes a stir fry and pasta, called Chicken in a Garden, accompanied with blueberry streusel muffins, homemade lemonade with fancy ice cubes, and a fruit tart.

Another luncheon included fruited chicken salad, poppy seed bread and lemon bread, cheese soup with homemade sesame crackers, cream puff swans, homemade lemonade and meadow tea with fancy ice cubes.

Here are some of Lynn's recipes.

#### Homemade Lemonade

12 lemons  
2 1/4 cups sugar  
12 cups water

Wash lemons and slice in 1/4" slices into a large bowl. Pour sugar over all and let sit for a couple of hours, stirring frequently to create juice. Add 2 cups boiling water and stir well to dissolve sugar.

Using new or very clean rubber gloves, squeeze juice from lemons and discard shells. Strain juice through a colander to strain seeds but keep pulp. Divide liquid equally into two pint and a half containers and freeze. Reconstitute by defrosting one container and adding to it 5 cups of water. Do the same with the other frozen container of concentrate and you have over three quarts of homemade lemonade. Serve with ice.

*After tasting homemade lemonade, I was spoiled. When I find a good buy on lemons, no matter what time of year, I make a concentrate and freeze it. There may be easier ways to make lemonade, but this recipe tastes better than any I've tried.*

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Guests enjoy Lynn's cottage luncheon in the red, white, and blue theme.

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