

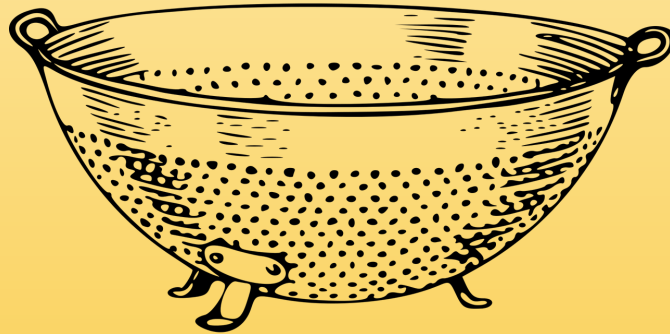
Feeling Potluck-y? Library Cookbook Clubs

Jenny Arch, Robbins Library/Winchester Public Library
Theresa Maturevich, Winchester Public Library
Lilly Sundell-Thomas, Somerville Public Library



Why library cookbook clubs?

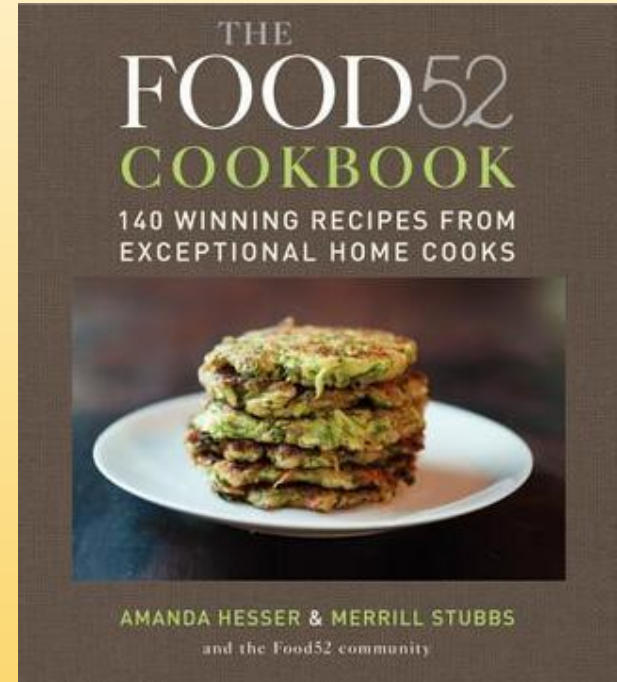
- Food brings people together to build community
- Highlight and promote library cookbook collections
- Cookbook clubs can be intergenerational
- Get to know new cookbooks by tasting a LOT of recipes at once
- Opportunity to promote Library of Things



Robbins Library Cookbook Club: Getting Started

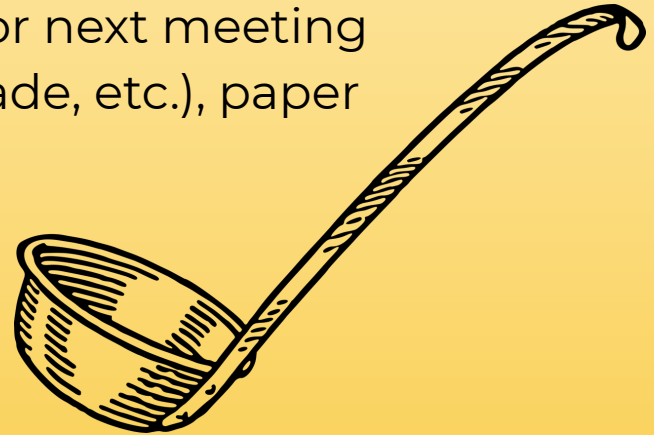
- First meeting October 2017
- Help and advice from other librarians who had run cookbook clubs and potlucks (h/t Meena Jain and Nathalie Harty!)
- Administrative support, pending Board of Health approval*

**“Per Massachusetts state law we must inform you that the neither the food nor the facilities have been inspected by the state or by a local public health agency.” -MA Department of Public Health Potluck Events Advisory*



Robbins Library Cookbook Club: Planning

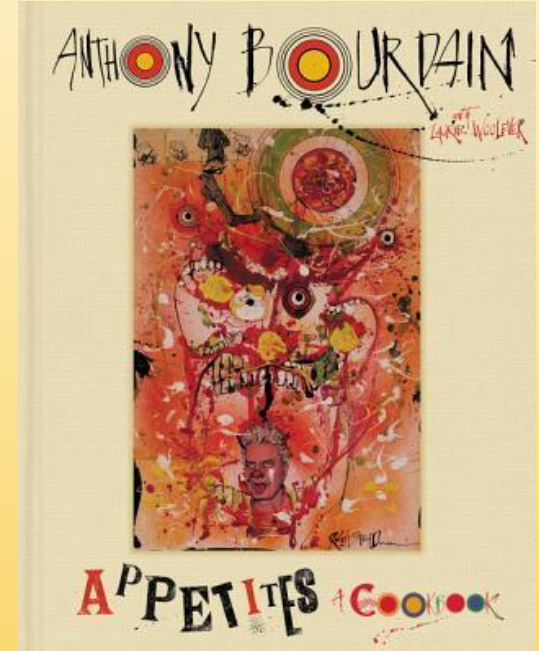
- Choosing a book, requesting copies through the network
- Choosing a time and date (Mondays, 6:30pm, every other month)
- Promotion: Flyers in library, blog post, library calendar
- Registration/sign-up process
 - EventBrite (library account) → E-mail → E-mail with recipe choice
- Room setup: Tables and chairs for attendees, extra tables for food and drink and a selection of cookbooks for next meeting
- Budget: Soft drinks (seltzer, cider, lemonade, etc.), paper plates/bowls/cups, plastic utensils



Robbins Library Cookbook Club: Book Choice

Considerations when choosing a book:

- Enough available copies (20+) in the network
- Includes recipes for appetizers, sides, main dishes, and desserts
 - Appetites by Anthony Bourdain has NO DESSERTS!
 - Pair a book without desserts with a book that's all desserts, e.g. Dinner by Melissa Clark with Sweet by Ottolenghi & Helen Goh
- Attractive/interesting to readers/cooks



Robbins Library Cookbook Club: Tips

What attendees need to know:

- It's a potluck! Make a dish to bring and share (one dish per person*).
- Register by e-mailing to claim a recipe.
- Bring your own serving utensils.
- No reheating on premises (oven, microwave), but we can plug in a slow cooker or instapot
- Bring containers for leftovers if you want - yum!
- No alcohol.

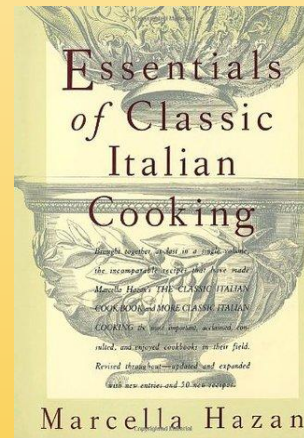
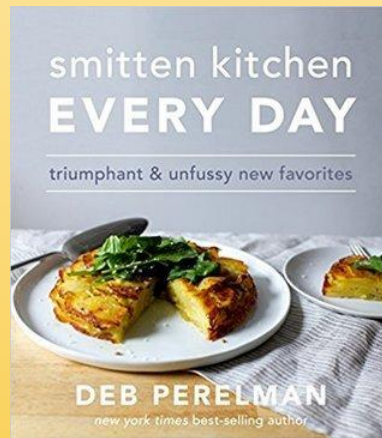
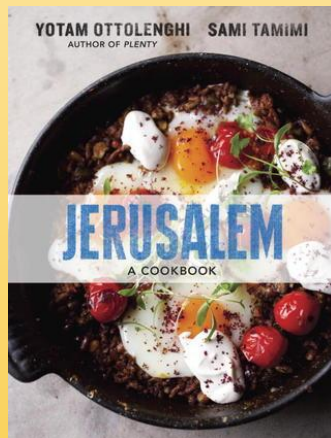
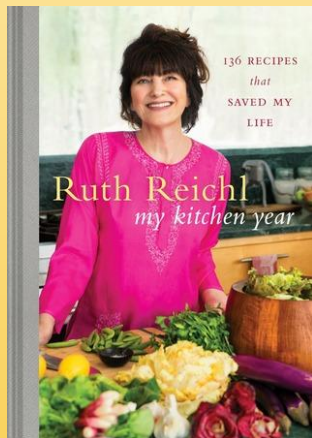
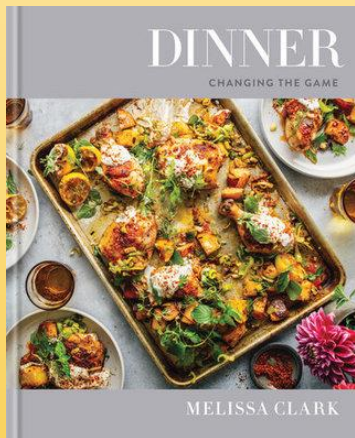
*Instituted this rule so that we weren't turning away participants willing to bring a dish, but you may decide differently.

Robbins Library Cookbook Club: The Potluck

- Allow time for setup and cleanup
- Nametags are nice; table tents for dishes are even better
- Welcome attendees and help placing dishes on the table, with flatware/silverware at the front and desserts and drinks at the end
- Allow time for stragglers; when most people have arrived, begin!
- Introductions and discussion: Each participant says their name, what dish they made, any substitutions, and anything they'd do differently next time.
- General discussion of the book (recipes, ingredients, layout) and options for next book

Robbins Library Cookbook Club: Success

- Registration is capped at 20 people, Each meeting usually fills up, but there are usually a few last-minute cancellations.
- Every-other-month meetings see a core group of regulars and some new faces each time.
- Still going strong two years later!



Robbins Library Cookbook Club: Resources

[Ipswich Public Library Cookbook Club Blog](#)

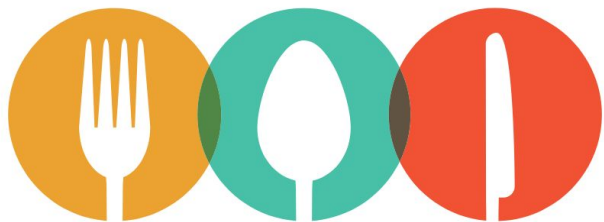
[Robbins Library Cookbook Club blog page](#)

[Robbins Library Goodreads bookshelf](#)

[Massachusetts "Potluck Events Advisory"](#)

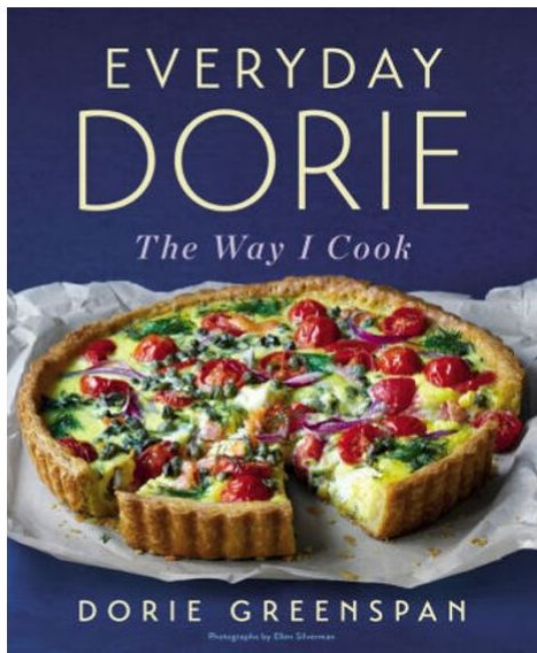
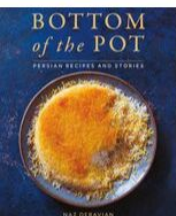


Winchester Public Library's Cookbook Club



- Cookbooks are one of our best circulating non-fiction subjects
- Successful Family Cooking Club program
- Launched with a food-themed series to gauge appeal
- Planned to hold quarterly meetings - now monthly except July & August
- 15 person cap - registration required - reminder emails 2 days ahead of program

MYERS+ CHANG AT HOME



Book Selection

- Google Forms: Regular attendees vote on upcoming titles
- Ingredient sources/sharing
- Try something new!
 - Multiple books (dinner & dessert)
 - Multiple books (on a theme)
 - Book plus website

Best Practices



- Talk to Board of Health (and Fire Department if you're cooking)
- Provide paper goods, utensils, drinks, tin foil to wrap up leftovers
- Set up near outlet for crockpot/Instant Pot
- Table tents for dishes & patrons
- Share publicity for upcoming cookbooks & other programs
- Social media



COOKBOOK CLUB

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 21
7:00 PM**

Register online to bring a dish from

**Vietnamese Food Any Day
by Andrea Nguyen**

to share with the group
as we discuss the book & recipes.

Community Kitchen

LEARN TOGETHER • FEAST TOGETHER



Hungry for More

- New quarterly series in 2020
- Trialing family & adults only formats
- Potential partnerships with public access TV and local organization
- Farmer's Market promotion

SPL Supper Club: A Community Partnership!

- Potluck dinner party at Remnant Brewing celebrating the cookbook of the month
- First meeting January 2019
- Meets on the last Monday of each month at 7pm



SPL Supper Club: Planning

- Coordinated timing and location with Remnant Brewing
- Branding matters
 - Flyers - made with Canva!
 - Facebook Event
 - Catchy name
- Event listings in local paper
- Picked our our first book
- Ordered copies from Minuteman Libraries
- Post-it note “registration”

smitten kitchen
EVERY DAY

triumphant & unfussy new favorites



SPL Supper Club: Delightful Chaos

The Good:

- Lots of positive press
- Remnant did the dishes!

The (not so) Bad:

- Too many people!
- Too much food!



Smart Bitches Trashy Books

all of the romance,
none of the bullshit

[BLOG](#)[REVIEWS](#)[PODCAST](#)[ABOUT](#)[SHOP](#)[COMMUNITY](#)[FAQ](#)

WELCOME

New to SBTB? Not sure where to start? We have a [page for you!](#) Make sure to check out the [podcast](#), too.

Unlocking Library Coolness: Calling All Foodies!

by [Amanda](#) · Feb 14, 2019 at 3:00 am · [View all 10 comments](#)

Welcome back to [Unlocking Library Coolness](#), where we discuss all the neat things you can do through your local public library system



You [can take a tour of the archives](#) if you want to see what Sarah has discovered previously!

This month: **Food!**

I'm taking over for Sarah this time because I recently started attending a pretty awesome club at my local library. If there's one thing I love more than reading, it's eating, and I was so pumped to see that [my library \(Somerville Public Library\) was starting a Supper Club.](#)



SCOUT SOMERVILLE



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BOOKS, EVENTS, FOOD & DRINK JANUARY 14, 2019

Library Launches An Edible Book Club

Part book club, part potluck, the latest event series from the Somerville Public Library promises to build community around cookbooks. Each meeting of the Supper Club will focus on a particular cookbook from the library's collection. Attendees will select recipes from it to cook, and together the club will get to eat its way through [...]

SPL Supper Club: More Planning...

- Required registration
 - Google Form
- Limited number of cooks
- Added “eater” guests
- Started using Facebook poll to select monthly book
- Bought serving utensils
- Email confirmations
- Dish labels

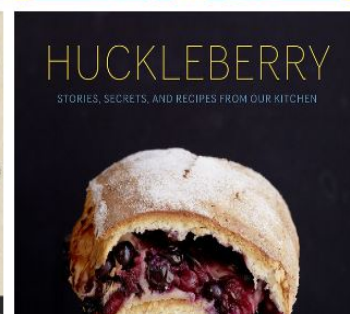
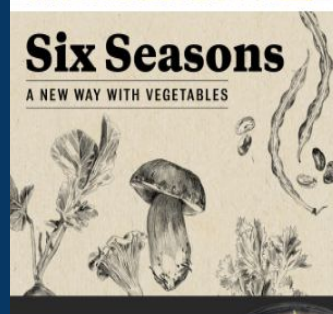
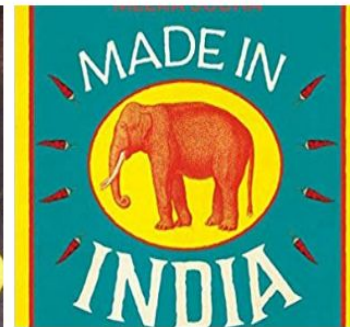
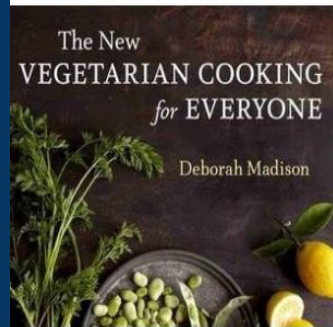
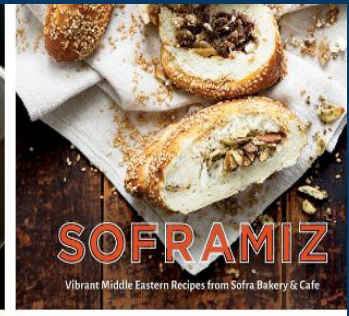
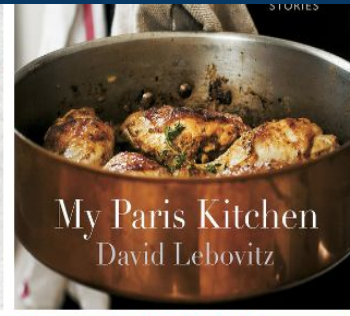
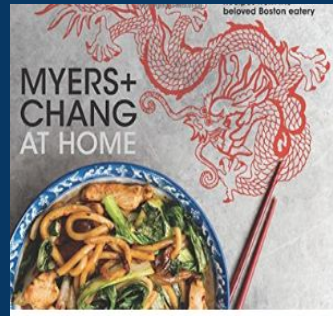


SPL Supper Club: Gets Better Every Time

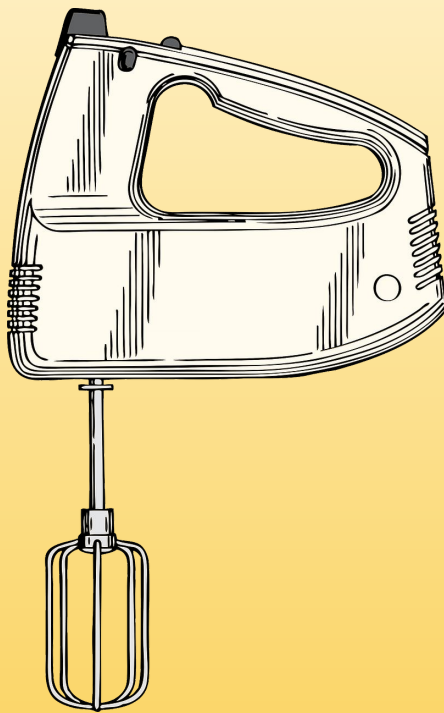
- Attendance ~ 35

Patrons Contributions:

- Menus with names
- Label veg/vegan
- BYO stuff
- Reaching out to local chefs



Questions?



Contact us

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