



100 Potlucks: A Community Comes Together
A Collection of Recipes by The Friends of Ibrahim
(Topp Press)

Looking for a recipe for community? In July 2004, Ibrahim Parlak, a Turkish émigré who owns Café Gulistan in Harbert, Mich., was jailed by the FBI for allegedly lying on his 1992 visa application. Shocked and concerned, his friends gathered at Café Gulistan, to care for his garden, share information, plan a legal strategy and to share a meal. The Friends of Ibrahim was born. As interesting as the back story is, 100 Potlucks would be a welcome addition to any cook's collection. The eclectic, international recipes include Coconut Chutney, Finske Brod (a Scandinavian cookie), and Parsnip, Eggplant and Cashew Biryani. The recipes are clear, uncomplicated and good for a group. Ibrahim's daughter Livia contributed her recipe for a banana and almond butter sandwich. And the Friends' "Potluck Recipe for Community" includes two tons of generosity, 10,000 hugs and three heaps of kindness. Mix together weekly for two years. Form into a community.

BOTTOM LINE: A feel-good and taste-good cookbook. –Linda K. Strohl