

# Spending the day with a good friend and a treasure trove of cookbooks

Mom and I had a true cook's adventure this week. A friend of ours is moving and was in need of either packing up or giving away her extensive cookbook collection. Well, she asked us if we would be interested in coming over to have a look and see if there was anything we'd want and of course, we both jumped at the opportunity!

We both love cookbooks (Mom is a bit more of a freak for them than I am—you should see the size of her collection!), and we were both quite curious to see what books this friend might have.

So, over we went and when we started digging through the shelves, here are some of the titles we found...

- *The Joy of Cooking*, 1931
- *Mrs. Bridges Upstairs, Downstairs* (based on the BBC television series), 1974
- *Modern French Culinary Art*, 1966
- *James Beard's American Cookery*, 1972
- *The Dinner Party Cookbook*, 1962
- *American Cooking, Southern Style*, 1971
- *The New Good Housekeeping Cookbook*, 1963
- *The Five Roses Complete Guide to Good Cooking* (26th edition), with illustrations from 1905, 1915, 1921
- *Women's Day Collector's Cookbook*, 1970, 1973
- *McCall's Cookie Collection*, 1965

And many more!

We had a fine old time, flipping pages and reminiscing about recipes from the past—I think I'll have to cook up a few French cuisine meals this winter with some ideas from my adopted books.

Once we were done sorting, laughing and flipping, we were treated to a pot of tea (perfect for a cool, rainy summer night) and a pan of homemade apricot squares. Now, if I were going to choose any dessert to eat, I would pick something with fruit in

Lori Gysel  
&  
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it every time. I'm not much of a chocolate girl (except for the odd Mars bar), but man, do I ever

love a cup of tea and a piece of fruit pie or fruit square.

We had a great visit with a friend that we don't see all that often and she was kind enough to share her apricot square recipe with us. So, that is the one that you see here today. Mom went home and immediately made another pan so that we could continue to enjoy them and we could have a photo for you to see in the paper.

Have fun and keep cooking!

(Lori and Gerry can be reached at [whatscookin@independentfreepress.com](mailto:whatscookin@independentfreepress.com))

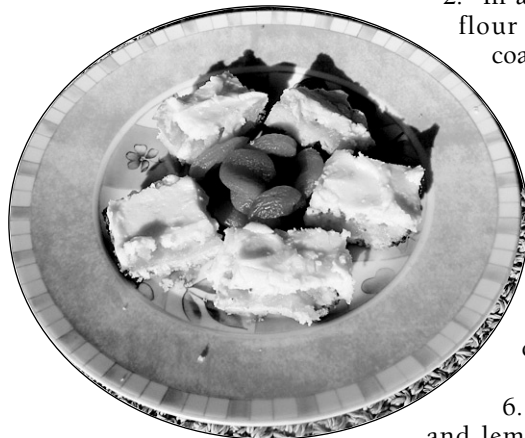
## Apricot Squares

### Ingredients

- boiling water
- 3/4 cup dried apricot halves
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 cup icing sugar
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp grated lemon rind
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup flour

### Icing

- 1 cup icing sugar
- 1 tbsp butter, softened
- 1 tsp lemon juice



### Method

1. Pour boiling water over apricots and let stand 10 minutes. Drain. Set aside.
2. In a food processor, combine butter, flour and icing sugar until it forms coarse crumbs.
3. Press flour mixture into a 9" square baking pan. Bake in a preheated 375 F degree oven for approximately 15 minutes.
4. Finely chop the apricots. Combine apricots, sugar, lemon rind, eggs, lemon juice, baking powder, salt and 1/4 cup flour. Spread over baked crust.
5. Bake for 25 minutes. Cool.
6. Mix together icing sugar, butter and lemon juice. If too stiff, add a bit more lemon juice. Spread on top of cooled squares. Cut and serve.

Makes a 9" x 9" square pan

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