

A Book About a Business or Two, With Recipes

No, this is not the title of the book, but it is a vague way of saying that the book now under way is more than just a collection of Manna recipes. Part history, part memoir, part lessons learned, part stories and lore, this book will encompass 35 years (plus a few) of two businesses that played a formative role in the Madison Community of hospitality and food, and the people - ourselves and our staff and customers, who made it happen.

This page will contain updates of the book's progress. Writing a cookbook is quite the undertaking, replete with narrative writing, recipe reworking (from industrial proportions to home kitchen size), recipe testing, artwork decisions, and so incredibly much minutiae.

If you'd like to be included on the cookbook mailing list, please send your e-mail address to barb@manna-cafe.com, or send a note with your e-mail to our Facebook page. From time to time we will post recipes, for the fun of it.

Thanks for continuing to follow us, as we move into this new chapter of our lives by revisiting and remembering the old ones.

Barb and Mike

August 31/September 1

September 1 would have been our 15th Anniversary. So we thought we would share with you a recipe that has been in use at Manna, and before that at Collins House, for 35 years. We want you to keep making it, and with it carry on traditions of early morning warmth and gratitude for the world of great food and the people who are nurtured by it. No, it is not the oatcakes. But it *is* the streusel coffeecake from the Breakfast in Bed Platter, and it *is* amazing. This recipe will appear in a final form in the cookbook as well. Go to back to the homepage for a link to the recipe.

Cookbook-wise: recipe writing is coming along; all recipes must be properly reformatted (from backs of napkins, or from pages containing four versions of a recipe, all handwritten), scaled, polished, and sent to testers. Just this part of the process involves over 120 recipes, some in parts,

some more challenging than others (both to write up, as well as to make) And that is just the tip of the Manna cookbook iceberg! Thank you again for your patience in helping to make this book a keeper!

Keep in touch. I will post more next month.

August 3, 2020 - First Real Progress Update

- The writing has begun with gusto. I have hit on the angle this story will take - a journey of sorts that began in 1970s Madison, when the modern food movement in this City was just awakening, and Mike and I discovered each other, and the way food influenced our lives together.
- Recipes have been selected and codified. Some are hand written, Some are crammed four to a page, and many many many are in portions that make hundreds of servings. Step one? Do the math, and make sure the directions are clear.
- A recipe format has been established, and typing has begun.
- Recipe testers are being selected to help ensure that these recipes work in the home. So there is that.
- Keep us posted with any stories, ideas, etc to help make this a book you will cherish.
- Return to the home page to open a recipe for Heirloom Pie, a childhood favorite. No, it is not a Manna recipe, but it should have been. I may start parsing out some Manna recipes soon, but this recipe is just a little bit of me.