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Table talk

By **Marty Meitus**, Rocky Mountain News ([Contact](#))

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Box of memories

Although recipe boxes have gone the way of the avocado fridge, there's still nothing like a box full of recipes in Mom's own hand. Recipe boxes are not that easy to find, but The Compleat Gourmet, 7592 S. University Blvd., Centennial (compleatgourmet.com), has a selection of boxes and files - even pretty recipe cards in various styles.

Moms and helping hands

Celebrity groupies, turn that starry-eyed gaze onto something other than the latest *People* magazine. The Pampered Chef has asked celebrity moms to sign pink kitchen gloves and pink aprons for auction to benefit the American Cancer Society. Bidding starts Thursday at pamperedchef.com and runs through May in the "Help Whip Cancer" campaign. The limited-edition merchandise is autographed by **Julia Louis-Dreyfus**, **Meredith Viera**, **Sharon Stone**, **Courtney Cox Arquette**, **Faith Hill**, **Jennifer Garner**, **Joy Behar**, **Elisabeth Hasselbeck**, **Olivia Newton-John** and other celebrity moms. Proceeds benefit breast-cancer education and early detection.

Good fortune

The Colorado Society of Professional Journalists will host a Chinese dinner with **Jennifer 8. Lee** at the Denver Press Club on Thursday. Lee (and yes, her middle name is really 8, a number that represents prosperity in Chinese), will talk about her book *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles*, No. 26 on *The New York Times* best-seller list. It takes a smart, funny look at the enduring appeal of Chinese restaurants in America. (FYI, there are more Chinese restaurants in this country than McDonald's, Burger King and Kentucky Fried Chicken combined.) Reception 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m., \$25; reservations required: spj.org/colorado.

Haute chocolate

You could take Mom out for tea for Mother's Day, or you could take her to the Colorado Chocolate Festival at the Denver Merchandise Mart.

Ummm, high tea, or 100 vendors passing out samples. Festivities include cooking demos, chocolate facials, and a chocolate children's station. Friday night, 7 to 10 p.m., is the preview gala with live music, \$10. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., \$5; kids, ages 5 to 12, \$2; under 5, free. Tickets, coloradochocolatefestival.eventbrite.com or info, www.chocolate-festival.org. A portion of ticket sales benefits Rocky Mountain PBS.

High-design tea

Mom might like three elegant glass pieces of littala design: a stackable pitcher and two bowls. Use the pitcher for cream, the bowls for sugar or snacks for coffee or tea. Or think outside the tea cart, and use the set for salad or crudites - dressings or oil in the pitcher and small vegetables in the bowls. \$73, csnstores.com.

Women helping women

Women Cook is a benefit set for Monday featuring top local female chefs: **Sheila Lucero** (Jax Fish House), **Jennifer Jasinski** (Rioja and Bistro Vendome), **Amy Vitale** (Tables), **Elise Wiggins** (Panzano), **Yasmin Lozado-Hissom** (Duo), **Kathleen Kenny Davia** (Gateaux), **Jean Stone** (The Palm), **Janiece Rivas** (Oceannaire Seafood Room), **Katherine Keeley** (Katherine's French Bakery), **Pat Perry** (Highland's Garden Cafe) and **Jane Berryman** (Work Options for Women). The walkaround dinner benefits Work Options for Women, a nonprofit organization working to teach food-service skills to women in poverty. Tickets are \$95; go to blacktie-colorado.com/rsvp (event code "womenscook08"), or call Jennifer Koeller, 720-944-1917.

Vintage Martha