

New Years & the First Families

We held a fancy, best-dressed reception on New Years Day at the White House for 131 years until it was ended by President Herbert Hoover! "Yet, J.W. Hunefeld, a man who prided himself with being first in line for many years, waited forlornly at the White House gates in 1934, because "he wanted to make sure the president hadn't changed his mind." (The White House Historical Association)

On January 1, 1801, President Adams having been lost in the fog in November and riding around close to Baltimore finally found his way to the new home, the executive mansion. Built on a swamp with a river right in front of it the ridiculous city was the joke of Europe where many laughed about the naming of it after their first king. Much of the laughter also involved how broke the country was and the outlandish boasts of the Yankee Doodle Dandy's supposedly building grand streets, massive institutions, universities that would rival the world, and changing everything across the earth - since nothing was operating as it should. Americans always think they have new ideas when traditional ones have worked for 10,000 years already. Such was the case for an Emperor welcoming a shoeshine boy into the main palace to eat free food and drinks while meeting with the leader. It was considered idiocy, misunderstood management of state affairs, and poor leadership of any dignified or wealthy family.

John and Abigail Adams began the annual custom of welcoming few and far away from all walks of life and as many as 6,000 people would show up in years later. Never one to distribute tickets all the time, the affair was open to first-in-line country folk, city slickers, diplomats, military officers like Captains and Admirals as well as maids and handymen. The papers were always abuzz over "this year's theme," the decorations or flowers, who ate what - and who was wearing which dress (in particular dresses were heavily followed and never so much the suits men wore). In later years, all around the streets by the old State Department, War, and US Navy building (called the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB for slang)) the lines wound with tired, but well-dressed folks.

Our Menu and Shopping List for 4

1 Pork Loin to roast and slice or **Vegetarian Sausages** that can be roasted and sliced.

3 kinds of Fresh Leafy BIG BUNDLED Greens (or as many kinds you can find like **Collard, Mustard, & Turnip**) that will be cooked down and flavored with **Chicken Broth/Base**, **S&P**, fresh or dried **Garlic (or jarred)**, and **2 lbs of Expensive Thick Cut Bacon.** For better health, we use a Miso Paste broth instead of chicken broth/base.

1 pg of Cornbread made already or a box of Cornbread Mix (like Jiffy or your fave) and the Milk, Eggs, Butter, etc. demanded needed on the recipe box (check in the store). Healthier options can be Soy, Oat, Rice, Flax, or Almond Milk (Fat-Free is best) instead of using cow milk and there are much healthier fake margarine/butter to pick from.

2 cans of Black-eyed Peas and ham steak to dice up or vegetarian-based fake ham to slice up and add-in. **Italian Seasoning** & **Dried Garlic Powder**.

Small Peach Piesl.

2 cans Peach Pie Filling, **2 cans Peaches in Syrup** for the dessert of Small Peach Pies using Julia Child's Pie Crust: 1 1/2 C **Unbleached Flour**, 1/2 C **Cake Flour**, 6 oz cold **Salted Butter**, 4 T **Butter Flavored Shortening**, & 1/2 C **Ice Water**. We will roll it out and whip up our extra peachy pies!