# **TASTES**

**FLAVORS** 

**CUISINES** 

# Neisha's Kitchen

Chowmein
Chinese
Provisions
African
Jerk
Chicken
Jamaican
Stew Fish
Roti
Dhal



Pepperpot
Amerindian

Curry
Dishes
Indian

Ginger Beer
English
Channa
Masala
Apple pie

**RECIPES** by NEISHA

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# Neisha's Kitchen Recipes by Neisha

# **ETHNIC CUISINES**



Nazmoon Neisha Ally

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### **FOREWORD**



Nazmoon Neisha Ally

Neisha is commonly known as Naz. Her full name is Nazmoon Neisha Ally, and the correct pronunciation of her first name, Nazmoon, is Nasmun or Nasmin, as certain names are often misspelled and mispronounced in Guyana. Growing up in La Penitence, Georgetown, Guyana, South America, and having lived in many places across Guyana as her husband, Deen, had often relocate due to his job, Neisha was always busy cooking a variety of ethnic cuisines from Indian, Amerindian, African, Chinese, Portuguese and other dishes, as Guyana is a country developed by people of many ethnicities during the 1800s, and she had meet people from many ethnicities and appreciated the diverse cultures in Guyana. Her husband, Deen, had studied in Canada in 1966, and a few years later due to the political problems in Guyana, they had contemplated moving abroad, either to England, the United States, or Canada, and in 1972 they arrived in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and had also lived in Toronto. For many years while working fulltime jobs and a part time job at the same time, she still found time to make homemade dishes for her family, and when the Alberta Friends of Guyana Association began in 1978 very often she used to make dishes for the association, where one of the favorite desserts was pine tarts which is very popular in Guyana, and had also become popular during the Heritage Days Festival in Edmonton. Many enjoyed her cooking and decades later some still asks about her pine tarts.

Over the past few years, I have been collecting Neisha's recipes to share with my relatives and friends, while getting hands on experience in Neisha's Kitchen. This first book is a collection of some of her cooking made simple yet versatile.

### Using less salt, but gives you the option to add more salt and other spices

Today, many people are health conscious, yet many do not make homemade dishes as they did in the past; many prefers to eat out and indulge in fast foods or quick frozen dishes. Some people do not use salt or like their dishes hot or spicy, and thus this book brings a simple approach to Neisha's cooking where many of her recipes presented in this edition uses less salt and allows the user to add salt to taste along with other spices of their liking. Garlic and onions are often used in Neisha's recipes, however depending on your taste, Neisha welcomes you to add other spices such as ginger, curry leaves, cumin known as jeera, black pepper, hot peppers, sage, thyme and others, which she also uses in other cooking methods, as her cooking style is versatile and dynamic.



Pepperpot, an American Indian (Amerindian) dish



Roti, brought by the East Indian laborers to South America in 1838



Provisions, a dish often made during slavery by the enslaved Africans

If you prefer spicy cuisines then add more black pepper, jeera, and even a red hot pepper while cooking, or if you prefer less salt then add some thyme, black pepper and sage for more taste. For example add a 1/2 tsp. of jeera seeds to a pot of dhal (chick pea soup) for a slightly more spicy taste, and to make it a bit hotter add a half of a hot red pepper. Neisha has a thyme plant at home and use the leaves from the plant in some of her cooking.

Picture on the right: Okra dish made by Neisha, often served with roti or rice

### Roti and rice are often served with many of Neisha's dishes

The dishes in this book are often served with rice or roti by people that are familiar with them. For people who are new to these dishes and do not know how to make roti as yet or do not know where to purchase rotis from, then instead of roti, you can use pita bread as demonstrated with some of these dishes. Quinoa can be used instead of rice.



### Demonstrating some dishes with dhal purri and pita bread

The pita bread and dhal purri in some of the pictures in this book were not made by Neisha, but are only used for demonstration purposes and for the readers to se that if they do not have roti, which is already time consuming to make, that they can still enjoy these dishes and use substitutions such as pita bread instead of roti, and quinoa instead of rice. This book includes Neisha's recipe for making roti. In the near future, Neisha will present her recipes for dhal purri and other types of rotis and bread.

#### Oil used

Neisha often use canola oil, however other similar oil can be used for making these dishes.

### **Cooking time**

The cooking times in this book and your own cooking may vary depending on the size of pots and pans used, the stove and oven temperatures, and thus the time given in this book are approximate times for users to have an idea as to how long the dishes will take to cook.

#### **Abbreviations**

In this book, tablespoon is abbreviated as Tbsp. and teaspoon as tsp. The term 'curry paste' and 'curry sauce' are used interchangeably.

### Safety comes first

You will be handling hot pans, hot pots, hot spoons, and you will be near hot stove burners and a hot oven, and thus you MUST always use protective hand gloves and oven hand mitts, other safety requirements, and also an apron to help prevent stains from getting on your clothes.

### Neisha's recipes published in the Diverse City Magazine and Cariwave Magazine

Over the past few years, many of Neisha's recipes were published in the indie Diverse City Magazine and the Cariwave Magazine and shared with others. In this book many of the recipes were slightly modified in steps taken, time, or quantity of items used from the published version in the magazines.

### Neisha has been cooking for most of her life

Neisha has been cooking for most of her life and her cooking is versatile. She also cooks her dishes using other methods and adding other spices. This book contains the original cooking methods of Nazmoon Neisha Ally and were not borrowed from any books nor from the Internet. Neisha was taught to cook at a young age by her mother, Hamidan Haniff, her grandmother Marium Rossamond and other family members back in Guyana and she has developed her own cooking style. Countless pictures are taken while Neisha prepare these dishes and while I record the steps and methods used for her book. In an upcoming edition more recipes will be presented with other techniques, flavors and tastes.

I hope you enjoy some of these recipes, while I continue to spend time in Neisha's kitchen writing down the methods she use, taking pictures, and at the same time learning to make these delicious and tasty cuisines and beverages.

Foreword by Fisal Ally

# VEGETARIAN



FRIED KARELA
FRIED BAIGAN (Eggplant)
BAJI (Spinach)
FRIED BORA (Yard Long Beans)
FRIED OKRA
PROVISIONS
RIPE PLANTAIN
DHAL
SHRIMP
CHOWMEIN













# FRIED KARELA (BITTER MELON)





Karela served with rice

Karela served with dhal purri

**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** 20 to 30 minutes

Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...

Serves 4

### *Ingredients*

4 to 6 fresh medium size karela, 3 cloves of garlic sliced, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 1/2 tps. salt or to taste, 3 Tbsp. canola oil or a similar oil



### Cooking instructions

Wash karela and cut down the middle with a knife, remove seeds and cut into slices Set stove to Medium and add approx. 3 Tbsp. oil to frying pan

Add karela, garlic and onion to frying pan and let it cook (you can also add 1/2 sliced up tomato a few minutes later)

Add 1/2 tsp. salt to or to taste

As karela becomes slightly brown or slightly burned, turn over with a spoon and repeat





Remove cooked slices and place in bowl Continue frying and removing the ones that are cooked until completed

# FRIED BAIGAN (EGGPLANT)



Baigan served with pita bread

**Preparation time**: 10 minutes. **Cooking time**: 20 to 30 minutes.

Serve with roti, rice, pita bread or other...

Serves 4 to 6

### *Ingredients*

2 medium size eggplant (also called baigan / bolanje), 3 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 1/2 tps. salt or to taste, 1 Tbsp. canola oil



### Cooking instructions

Wash eggplant and cut into eggplant with a knife about 2 inches deep and six inches long, and then place two cloves of garlic into the cut

Place eggplant on a plate and place in microwave, and microwave for approx. 3 minutes. The plate and the baigan will be steaming hot. Wear gloves. Turn over baigan using a spoon and microwave again for another 3 minutes, and then carefully take out from microwave Take a spoon and scoop out the inside of the baigan and place in a bowl. Discard the outside skin

Use a big spoon or a mashing tool to puree (mash) the eggplant Set stove to Medium and add approx. 1 Tbsp. oil to frying pan

Add garlic and onion to pan and let it cook

Let onions and garlic fry for about 30 seconds and then add baigan to frying pan and mix  $Add\ 1/2\ tps.$  salt or to taste

Stir every couple of minutes for approx. 15 minutes

# **BAJI (SPINACH / CALLALOO)**



**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** 20 to 30 minutes

Serve with rice, roti, pita bread or other...

Serves 4 to 6

### *Ingredients*

2 bundles of spinach (baji is also known as callaloo), 3 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 1/2 tps. salt or to taste, 1 Tbsp. canola oil





### Cooking instructions

Cut spinach into pieces, wash and place in bowl Add approx. 1 Tbsp. oil to pan and set stove to Hi Add spinach to pan and stir Add garlic and onion to pan, and cooking begins Add 1/2 tps. salt or to taste

Continue cooking on Hi for approx. 5 minutes, as liquid slowly dries down (liquid comes from the baji as it cooks)

Cover and continue cooking on Medium for approx. 10 minutes so liquid boils down Take cover off and cook on Hi for approx 5 minutes

# **BORA (YARD LONG BEANS)**



**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** approximately 1 hour Serve with rice, roti, pita bread or other... Serves 4

### Ingredients

1 bundle of yard long beans, 3 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 2 Tbsp. canola oil, 2 potatoes





### Cooking instructions

Cut yard long beans into pieces Peel and sliced up 2 potatoes and wash

Put yard long beans and potatoes into a pot and add approx. 2 cups of water Set stove to Hi and add contents to the pot and let the contents boil in the pot

Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste

Approx. 1/2 hour later, water should dry down

Set stove to Hi and add approx. 2 Tbsp. oil to frying pan

Add yard long beans and potatoes to frying pan and fry for approx. 20 minutes, stirring and turning over once in a while to cook both sides and to help prevent sticking to pan



# **FRIED OKRA**





Okra served with dhal purri and a hot red pepper

**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 50 minutes

Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...

Serves 3 t o 4

### **Ingredients**

2 packs frozen okra (1 pk is 300 grams) or use equivalent fresh okra, 3 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 1/2 tps. salt or to taste, approx. 5 and 1/2 Tbsp. canola oil

### **Cooking instructions**

If okra not already sliced up, then slice up okras
Add approx. 3 Tbsp. oil to frying pan and turn on stove to Hi
Add okra to pan and mix in, and cook on hi for approx. 5 minutes
Add 1/2 tps. salt or to taste
After approx. 2 minutes add garlic and onion and set stove to Medium







Add another 1 Tbsp. oil and mix After approx. 2 minutes add another Tbsp. oil and mix If okra gets a bit slimy, after about 15 minutes add another 1/2 to 1 Tbsp. oil and mix After another 10 minutes turn stove to Low and let okra cook for 2 to 3 minutes

# **PROVISIONS**



Root vegetables used are: plantain, dasheen, yam, Jicama and Rutabaga

**Preparation time:** approx. 20 minutes **Boiling time:** approx. 40 minutes **Frying time:** approx. 20 minutes

**Total cooking time:** approx.1 hr 30 minutes Can serve with dumplings instead of perogies

Serves 4 to 6

Vegetarians can leave out the salt fish/cod fish

### **Ingredients**

Approx. 12 pieces of frozen cheese perogies and 12 onion perogies, a bag of codfish or salt fish (Neisha used cod fish), 4 ripe plantains, 1 Jicama, approx. 10 dashdeen (also called eddo), 1 yam, 1 Rutabaga, 1/2 onion, 6 cloves garlic, 1/2 hot red pepper (other kind of hot pepper can be used or if you do not like it hot then omit the hot pepper), 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 6 Tbsp. oil

(other root vegetables can also be used)

### Cooking instructions

Peel and cut rutabaga, yam, dashdeen, Jicama and plantain into pieces and wash Wash cod or salt fish to remove some of the salt because it's already very salty.

### **BOILING PROVISIONS**

Fill 2 or 3 pots with approx. 6 cups of water in each pot, depending on how many pots are required and set stove to Hi

Boil perogies on Hi for approx. 20 minutes, dashdeen (eddo) for approx. 25 minutes, plantain for approx. 30 minutes, yam for approx. 40 minutes. You can boil in different pots. If using the same pot to boil for example 3 root vegetables, then start with the harder vegetable, which is that takes 40 minutes to boil, and after ten minutes add the plantain which takes 30 minutes to boil, and after another five minutes add the dashdeen and continue boiling these 3 root vegetables for another 25 minutes.

Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste in each pot

While boiling, for example after approx. 15 minutes, lower stove a notch or two to avoid liquid from spilling over

Test root vegetables for softness

If water gets low from boiling, add more water

### FRYING PROVISIONS

Use another pot and add 4Tbsp. oil and set stove to Hi

Place root vegetables, including plantain together in the pot. If everything cannot fit in one pot, then use more than one pot. For example, place dashdeen and yam in the same pot. Add about 3/4 of the spices to the pot (you will use the rest when frying the cod fish). Mix everything together. Cover and cook (fry) on Hi for about 5 to 10 minutes. Stir once in while to prevent sticking and burning

#### FRYING PEROGIES

Add approx. 1 and 1/2 Tbsp. oil to a frying pan and set stove to Medium Fry perogies for approx. 3 to 5 minutes and then place in bowl









#### FRYING COD OR SALT FISH

Vegetarians can omit this step

Add approx. 4 Tbsp. oil to a pot and set stove to Hi. Add fish and mix. Let it fry for about 5 minutes and then add the rest of the garlic and onion (see above) to the fish, and continue frying for another minute

*Serve by placing some of each item into the plates* 

# **RIPE PLANTAIN**



**Preparation time:** approx. 10 minutes

Cooking time: 30 minutes

Serves 4 to 6







Ingredients
5 ripe plantains, 4 to 6 Tbsp. oil

# Cooking instructions

Peel plantains, cut into slices and wash

Add approx. 2 Tbsp. oil to the frying pan, and set stove to Hi

All of the plantain will not fit into the pan. Placing slices of plantain in pan and let one side fry for a few minutes so it turns a bit brown and then turn over and do the other side. Becareful not to burn plantain. As the oil gets low, add more as needed. Add another batch of plantain that fits into the frying pan and repeat the process. Repeat until all slices of plantains are fried.

# **DHAL**





Dhal served with okra, smelt and rice





**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 50 minutes Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other... Serves 4 to 6

### **Ingredients**

2 cups chickpeas (for example purchase a 1.8 kg bag of chick peas and measure 2 cups, 6 cloves garlic sliced up, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 1 Tbsp. curry powder

### **Cooking instructions**

Add approx.. 10 cups of water to pot and set stove to Hi Bring water to boil Wash 2 cups chickpeas and add to the boiling water Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste Add garlic Add 1 Tbsp. curry powder Boil for 1 hour

Serve dhal in a bowl or serve dhal with other dishes such as rice, roti, okra, bora etc...For example you can pour a 1/2 bowl of dhal on top a plate of rice

# **SHRIMP**



**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 10 minutes

Serve with other dishes

Serves 3 t o 4

Vegetarians can skip this recipe. Shrimp is often served with dishes such as baji, okra, dhal, chowmein etc...

### **Ingredients**

1 pack of shrimp (300 grams), 3 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 1/2 tps. salt or to taste, 1 Tbsp. oil

### **Cooking instructions**

Remove shell from shrimp and wash (you can also cut shrimp in halves)
Set stove to Medium and add 1 Tbsp. coconut oil (or canola or other oil) to frying pan
Add onion and garlic to pan and fry for 30 seconds to a minute, and then add shrimp and cook
on Medium for approx. 5 minutes, and as one side of the shrimp becomes cooked, turn over to
prevent sticking to pan. Repeat process a few times

# **CHOWMEIN**







**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 50 minutes

Serves 8 to 12

Shrimp is optional. Vegetarians can leave out the steps for making and adding shrimps; it's placed here incase you want to add shrimp for the chowmein dish

### **Ingredients**

3 packs of noodle for making chowmein (e.g 1 pack of Flour Sticks Pancit Kanton is 227 g) other kinds of noodles for making chowmein are also used, 1/2 cup mixed vegetables, 2 Tbsp. butter, 1 pack of shrimp (300 grams), 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 1 Tbsp. oil

### **Cooking instructions**

Fill a pot with 1/3 water, add chowmein noodles and boil for approx. 20 minutes and then strain to remove water

Add approx. 2 Tbsp. butter to chowmein noodles and mix

Boil 1/2 cup of mixed vegetables in 4 cups of water for 10 minutes Strain water from vegetables

Remove shell from shrimp and wash Add 1 Tbsp. oil to frying pan and set stove to Hi Add shrimp to frying pan and fry for approx. 5 minutes

Add vegetables and shrimp to pot with chowmein and mix. Vegetarians can leave out the shrimps.

# VEGETARIAN



# **CURRY DISHES**

PREPARE CURRY PASTE
PREPARE POTATOES
PREPARE RICE
CURRY BORA (Yard Long Beans)
CURRY BAIGAN (Eggplant)
CURRY OKRA
CHANNA MASALA
CURRY POTATO

# **CURRY PASTE**

# STEPS FOR PREPARING THE CURRY PASTE (CURRY SAUCE) WITH SPICES THAT'S USED FOR COOKING THE CURRY DISHES

### Ingredients

3 cloves of garlic 1/4 onionß thinly sliced, 1 Tbsp. oil, 1 Tbsp. curry powder

### **Cooking instructions**

Add 1 Tbsp. oil to the pot and set stove on Hi Add 1 Tbsp. curry powder to the pot and mix









Add onion and garlic to pot and stir Curry paste completed

### STEPS FOR PREPARING POTATOES and RICE

# **PREPARE POTATOES**

Peel 2 potatoes, cut into pieces and wash Fill 1/3 of a pot with water Set stove to Hi and boil for approx. 20 minutes

# **PREPARE RICE**

Set stove on Hi and bring 1/2 pot water to a boil Add 2 cups rice to water and continue boiling Approx. 30 minutes later, turn stove to Medium 5 minutes later, turn stove to Low Boil for another 7 minutes

# **CURRY BORA (Yard long beans)**



Curry bora served with rice

**Preparation time:** 20 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 40 minutes Serve with rice, roti, pita bread or other... Serves 4 to 6

### **Ingredients**

1 bundle of yard long beans as seen below in picture, 3 cloves of garlic, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 1 Tbsp. canola oil, 1 Tbsp. curry powder

### Cooking instructions







Peel 2 potatoes, cut up and wash
Wash and cut up yard long beans
Add 1 Tbsp. oil to a pot and set stove on Hi
Add 1 Tbsp. curry powder to the pot and mix
Add garlic and onion to pot and stir
Add half of the yard long beans to the pot and stir, cooking on Hi
Add the rest of the yard long beans and stir
Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste and stir
Add potatoes and stir
Approx. 5 minutes later, add 1 and 1/4 cup of water and stir
Cover and let it cook on Hi
Stir once in a while
Approx. 25 minutes later, use a spoon to crush garlic inside the pot
Approx. 10 minutes later, water should dry down, and cooking completed

# **CURRY BAIGAN**



Curry baigan served with rice

**Preparation time:** 20 minutes. **Cooking time:** 20 to 30 minutes.

Can serve with roti, rice, pita bread or other...

Serves 4 to 6

### *Ingredients*

2 eggplants (baigan also called bolanje), 3 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 2 potatoes, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 1 Tbsp. oil, 1 Tbsp. curry powder





Cut off stem from eggplants and cut in half and wash



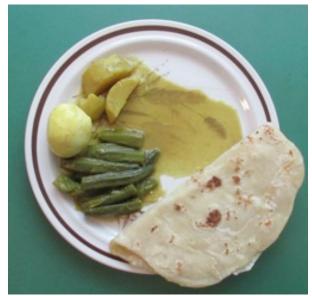
### Cooking instructions

Peel skin off eggplants and cut into slices Peel 2 potatoes, cut into small pieces and wash Add 1 Tbsp. oil to the pot and set stove on Hi Add 1 Tbsp. curry powder to the pot and mix Add onion and garlic to pot and stir Add 1/4 cup water and mix Set stove on Hi Add eggplant to pot with curry paste and mix Approx. 5 minutes later, add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste Cover and let it cook Approx. 20 minutes later, add another 1/4 cup water and stir Add potatoes and mix Cover and keep cooking on Hi Stir once in a while 15 minutes later turn stove to Medium Keep covered and let contents cook, drying down the liquid Cook for another 20 minutes, and once liquid dries down cooking completed

# **CURRY OKRA**



Curry okra with potatoes and boiled egg



Curry okra served with roti

Preparation time: 20 minutes Cooking time: approx. 1 hr Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other... Serves 3 Vegetarians can leave out the eggs





### Ingredients

1 pack frozen okra (1 pk. is 300 grams) thaw out or use equivalent fresh okra, 3 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 1 Tbsp. oil, 1 Tbsp. curry powder, 3 large eggs, 2 potatoes

### Cooking instructions

Cut off stems from the head of okra and wash

*Set stove on Hi and boil 3 eggs in 1/3 pot of water for approx. 12 minutes* 

Peel shell from eggs; Peel 2 potatoes and cut into pieces and wash

Add 1 Tbsp. oil to the pot and set stove on Hi

Add 1 Tbsp. curry powder to the pot with the oil and mix

Add onion and garlic to pot and stir

Add 1/2 cup water and mix

Add potatoes and mix

Add 1/4 cup water and mix (Potatoes boiling in the pot with curry paste)

Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste and mix

Add 1/4 cup water and let potatoes cook

8 minutes later, add okra to pot and set stove 1 notch lower and continue cooking

7 minutes later, add 1/4 cup water and continue cooking for approx. 40 minutes

Now have a good amount of curry sauce

Add eggs and mix for a minute

# **CHANNA MASALA**





**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 25 minutes
Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...
Serves 4 to 6

### *Ingredients*

1 can chick peas (796 ml/28 fl oz.), 3 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 3 Tbsp. oil, 2 Tbsp. curry powder

### **Cooking instructions**

Make curry paste as follows: Add 3 Tblsp. oil to pot and turn stove to Hi Add 2 Tblsp. curry powder to pot and mix Add garlic and onion Stir and add 1/4 cup water







Open 1 can of chickpeas (796 ml) and strain to remove liquid, and wash Add chick peas to pot with curry paste and mix Set stove to Hi Cover and let contents boil After 10 minutes, add another 1/4 cup water and stir Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste Cover and cook on Hi for approx. 15 minutes so the liquid dries down, or until the liquid dried down

# **CURRY POTATO**





**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 30 minutes

Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...

Serves 4 to 6

### *Ingredients*

3 cloves of garlic, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 1 Tbsp. oil, 1 Tbsp. curry powder, 2 potatoes

### Cooking instructions

Peel 2 potatoes, cut into pieces and wash Add 1 Tbsp. oil to the pot and set stove on Hi Add 1 Tbsp. curry powder to the pot with the oil and mix Add garlic and onion to pot and stir Add potatoes to curry paste



Add 1 cup water and let the potatoes cook in the curry paste
Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste
Set stove to Medium and continue cooking for 20 minutes and then crush the garlic with a spoon or leave as is
Cook for another 20 minutes

# **NON-VEGETARIAN**



# **CURRY DISHES**

CURRY FISH
CURRY CHICKEN
CURRY SHRIMP
CURRY HASSA
CURRY CABBAGE WITH SHRIMP
CURRY CABBAGE WITH CHICKEN
CURRY SMELT

# **CURRY FISH**



**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 1 hour

Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...

Serves 4

### *Ingredients*

2 tilapia fish (other similar fish can be used), 3 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 1 Tbsp. oil, 2 potatoes, 1 Tbsp. curry powder

### **Cooking instructions**

Often frozen tilapia fish will already have the scales cleaned. If fish scales are not already removed, then scale fish and cut off fins and tail, and cut fish into 3 to 6 pieces. Make sure fish is not too soft, else it will become squishy and broken into pieces while cooking

Wash fish and season with spices such as black pepper, sage, ginger and thyme

*Peel 2 potatoes, cut into pieces and wash* 

Add 1 Tbsp. oil to a pot and set stove on Hi

Add 1 Tbsp. curry powder to the pot and mix

Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste

Add 1 cup water to the pot and let the potatoes cook in the curry paste for approx. 20 minutes so the potatoes does not get too soft

Add fish, and let potatoes continue cooking with the fish for approx. another twenty minutes and stir a few times

Let the potatoes and fish cook for another twenty minutes

After approximately 1 hour cooking is completed

# **CURRY CHICKEN**



**Preparation time:** 10 minutes

**Cooking time:** approx. 1 hr and 15 minutes Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...

Serves 4

### Ingredients

1 chicken, 5 cloves of garlic, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 3 Tbsp. oil, 1 Tbsp. curry powder

### Cooking instructions

Cut up chicken and season with ginger, black pepper, sage, basillic, bay leaves, thyme -. Although Neisha didn't for this batch of curry chicken, you can add more spices such as curry leaves and even some hot peppers for a more spicy taste

First make the curry paste as shown below

Set stove to Hi and add 3 Tbsp. oil to a pot

Add 1 Thsp. curry powder and mix

Add garlic

Add the seasoned chicken and mix into the curry paste

Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste and stir

Cover and let it cook







20 minutes later, add approx. 1 cup water and stir and let the contents in the pot cook 5 minutes later, add potatoes and cover

15 minutes later, add 1/4 cup water and let contents cook

15 minutes later, add another 1/4 cup water

Now you have a good amount of curry sauce, stir and continue cooking for approx. 2 to 4 minutes



# **CURRY SHRIMP**

**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 50 minutes

Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...

Serves 4

### *Ingredients*

1 pack of shrimp (300 grams), 5 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 1 Tbsp. oil, 1 Tbsp. curry powder, 4 potatoes

### **Cooking instructions**

Peel and wash shrimp. Cut shrimps in halves or leave as is

Peel and cut potatoes into pieces and wash

Add 1 Tbsp. oil to the pot and set stove on Hi

Add 1 Tbsp. curry powder to the pot and mix

Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste

Add 1 cup water to the curry paste, then add the potatoes and let the potatoes cook in the curry paste for approx. 25 minutes

During this time add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste

After the 25 minutes is up, then lower stove to Medium and cook for another 10 minutes so potatoes are almost finished cooking

Add shrimp to the pot and let the potatoes continue cooking with shrimp for approx. 8 minutes (since shrimps are much softer than fish, shrimp only has to be cooked in the curry paste for approx. 8 minutes)

# **CURRY HASSA**

**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 1 hr

*Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...* 

Serves 4

### *Ingredients*

6 hassa (shellfish), 5 cloves of garlic up, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 1 Tbsp. oil, 1 Tbsp. curry powder, 4 potatoes

### **Cooking instructions**

Wash 6 hassa (do not remove scales)

Peel, and cut potatoes into pieces and wash

Add 1 Tbsp. oil to the pot and set stove on Hi

Add 1 cup water to the curry paste and let the potatoes cook in the curry paste for approx. 25 minutes

During this time add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste

Lower stove to Medium and cook for another 10 minutes so potatoes almost finished cooking Add the hassa fish to the pot and let the potatoes continue cooking with hassa for approx. 12 minutes (hassa takes longer to cook than shrimp)

# **CURRY CABBAGE WITH SHRIMP**





**Preparation time:** 20 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 1 hour

Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...

Serves 4 to 6

### *Ingredients*

1 pack of shrimp (300 grams), 3 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 1 Tbsp. oil, 1 Tbsp. curry powder

### **Cooking instructions**

Wash 1 cabbage and cut up Peel 2 potatoes, cut into pieces and wash Set stove to Hi and add 1 Tbsp. oil to a pot Add 1 Tbsp. curry powder and mix Add 1/4 cup water to pot and stir

Add half of the cabbage to pot and mix
Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste
Add another 1/2 cup of water and mix
Add the other half of the cabbage and mix
Cover pot and cook on Medium for 30 minutes
Add shrimp, cover pot and cook for 20 minutes







# **CURRY CABBAGE WITH CHICKEN**

**Preparation time**: 20 minutes

**Cooking time:** approx. 1 and 1/2 hour Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...

Serves 3 t o 4

### **Ingredients**

1 chicken, 5 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 3 Tbsp. oil, 1 Tbsp. curry powder, 2 potatoes

### Cooking instructions

Cut up chicken and season with ginger, black pepper, sage, bay leaves, and thyme. (Although Neisha didn't with this batch but depending on your taste, you can add more spices such as curry leaves, and even some hot peppers for a more spicy taste)

Peel 2 potatoes, cut into pieces and wash

Make the curry paste as shown below

Set stove to Hi and add 3 Tbsp. oil to pot

Add 1 Tbsp. curry powder and mix

*Add 1/4 cup water to curry paste* 

Add the seasoned chicken and mix into the curry paste

Add garlic

Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste and stir

Cover and let it cook for approx. 30 minutes

Add 1/4 cup water to curry paste

Add potatoes and continue cooking for 15 minutes

Add half of the cabbage and mix, then add the rest of the cabbage and mix

*Cover and set stove to Medium and continue cooking for 25 minutes* 

Stir, cover and continue cooking between Medium and Low for another 40 minutes

# **CURRY SMELT**



Curry smelt served with dhal and roti

**Smelt preparation time:** 15 minutes **Cooking time for smelt:** approx. 50 minutes Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other... Serves 4 to 6

### Ingredients

1 lb smelt (use half of a 2 lb bag), 5 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, approx. 5 Tbsp. oil, 1 Tbsp. curry powder

### Cooking instructions

Put smelt in a bowl and add 1 Tbsp. curry powder to smelt and mix Add approx. 2 Tbsp. flour to the smelt and mix - this will form a batter around each smelt Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste and mix

Set stove on Medium

Add approx. 4 Tbsp. oil to frying pan

Add smelt to pan (if only half of the smelt fits, then fry the other half after)

About 4 minutes later, turn over smelt and let this side cook

Add more oil if required for frying, for example another Tbsp.

1st batch completed approx. 25 minutes later

Place a paper towel inside a bowl and put smelt into bowl - the paper towel will soak up some of the oil from the smelt

If all of smelt was not fried during the first batch then repeat frying process





## STEW



STEW FISH STEW BEEF PEPPERPOT

### **STEW FISH**



Stew fish served with rice



*Stew fish served with pita bread* 

**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Frying fish time:** 20 minutes

**Complete cooking time:** approx. 50 minutes Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...

Serves 4 to 6

### *Ingredients*

2 tilapia fish (can use other similar fish), 5 cloves garlic, 1/4 onion thinly sliced, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 6 Tbsp. oil, 2 potatoes, Ragu sauce

### Cooking instructions

Often frozen tilapia fish will already have the scales removed. If fish scales are not already removed, then scale fish and cut off fins and tail, and cut fish into 3 to 6 pieces. Make sure fish is not too soft, else it will become squishy and break into pieces while cooking Wash fish and season with spices such as black pepper, sage, ginger, garlic and thyme Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste and mix

Roll each piece of fish in baking powder to prevent fish from sticking to the pan while frying Add 4 to 6 Tbsp. oil to frying pan

Set stove to Medium

Add fish to frying pan one at a time and fry on Medium

After a few minutes, turn fish over so the other side gets cooked

Continue cooking fish

Removed pieces as they are cooked and placed on paper towel to soak up some of the oil









Approx. 20 minutes later, fried fish completed

Keep the oil that was used for frying the fish. You will reuse this oil when cooking the stew

Making the Ragu sauce:
Use 1/2 cup ragu sauce
Add onion and garlic to ragu sauce
Add oil from the frying of the fish to a pot
Add ragu sauce with spices to the pot and mix
The pot with the ragu sauce is now ready

Peel 2 potatoes, cut into pieces and wash Set stove to Hi and add potatoes to a pot and boil for approx. 15 minutes Remove potatoes from the pot Pour potato water into a cup and keep for later

Making the stew fish which will take approx. 30 minutes
Set stove on Hi
Add fried fish to the pot with the ragu sauce and stir
Add the water from boiling the potatoes to the pot
Add approx. another 1/2 cup water to the pot. Now there's a good amount of stew
Continue cooking on Hi
Ten minutes later, add potatoes to stew and stir and now cook on Medium
Test the stew by scooping some into a spoon and taste
Cover pot and continue cooking for another 15 minutes on Medium to let the stew dry down
and thicken to half way so the gravy becomes thick
Remove cover and crush the cloves of garlic in the pot using a big spoon
Continue cooking for 10 minutes with cover off and stir once in a while



### **STEW BEEF**

**Preparation time:** 20 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 1 hour

Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...

Serves 4

### *Ingredients*

1 lb beef, 1/2 onion thinly sliced, 5 cloves of garlic sliced up, 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 1 Tbsp. oil, 2 potatoes, 6 Tbsp., ragu sauce

### Cooking instructions

Peel 2 potatoes, cut into pieces and wash

Set stove to Hi

Boil potatoes in a pot for approx. 20 minutes

Boil 2 cups of water in a pot and add beef to this pot, mix and cover

Cook for approx. 15 minutes

Add onion and garlic to the pot

Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste

20 minutes later, add 6 Tbsp. of ragu sauce to pot

15 minutes after, add potatoes along with the water the potatoes had boiled in into pot with the beef and ragu sauce, and mix everything together

Now there's a goof amount of stew

1 minute later turn off stove

### **PEPPERPOT**



Pepperpot is a national dish from Guyana located in South America. Origin is Amerindian (American Indian)

In Guyana, pepperpot is often made with cow heel and is served with fresh homemade bread, where pieces of bread is dipped into the stew and ate

**Preparation time:** 15 minutes

Cooking time without a pressure cooker: approx. 1 hour and 45 minutes Cooking time using a pressure cooker is approx. 1hour (Neisha did not use a pressure cooker) Serves best with fresh home made bread, can also serve with rice Serves 6 to 10

### *Ingredients*

935 lb beef (.424kg), 1.615lb oxtail (.733 kg), 5 cloves of garlic, 1/2 onion thinly sliced, 5 Tbsp. casreep (this sauce is used for making the pepperpot stew), 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste, 1 cinnamon stick, 3 Tbsp. brown sugar (Neisha used Demerara brown sugar)

### Cooking instructions

Pour 1/2 cup of pure vinegar into a bowl and wash and rinse meat Fill 1/4 of a pot with water and let the water boil on Hi 10 minutes later, as water boil, add meat to pot Add 1 cinnamon stick, garlic and onion Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste Cover pot and let meat boil in the water Approx. 10 minutes later, add 2 Tbsp. sugar, stir, and then cover pot





10 minutes later, add approx. 4 Tbsp. of casreep

30 minutes later, remove cover and taste the pepperpot stew (this will indicate if you should add more sugar and casreep)

10 minutes later, add approx. one more tablespoon casreep, add another spoon sugar Put cover back on and cook for another 15 minutes
Stir and two minutes later, turn off stove. Pepperpot is completed

## **FRIED**



**FRIED FISH** 

### **FRIED FISH**



**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** 20 to 30 minutes Serve with a salad and lemon slices...

Serves 3 to 4

### Ingredients

2 two tilapia (or other similar fish), 4 Tbsp. oil

### Cooking instructions

If fish not already scaled, then remove scales, and cut off fins and tail

Wash fish and season with spices such as black pepper, sage, ginger, garlic powder and thyme Add 1/2 tps. salt or salt to taste

Roll fish in flour to help prevent fish from sticking to pan when frying

Add 4 Tbsp. oil to the frying pan

*Set stove to Hi and add the two fish to the frying pan* 

Place a cover such as the one shown in the picture below to stop the oil from splashing around



Let fish fry on one side first and then turn over and fry the other side. If fish still looks a bit uncooked, then turn over again and continue frying until fish is fried

## **BAKE**



**JERK CHICKEN** 

### **JERK CHICKEN**



**Preparation time:** 10 minutes

Cooking time: approx. 50 To 60 minutes

Serve with rice

Serves 4

### **Ingredients**

1 chicken (approx. 7 pieces), use 1/2 bottle of Jamaican Jerk Seasoning (hot piquant) 312 g bottle, 1 Tbsp. oil

Safety: Use oven mitts when taking out and putting baking pan in oven. Also use a spatula with a long handle to prevent burning your skin

### Cooking instructions

Brush on a light layer of oil to baking pan to help prevent sticking while baking Cut up chicken, wash and place in a baking pan

Brush on jerk seasoning on pieces of chicken

The pan will also have jerk seasoning from spreading the sauce on the chicken

*Turn oven to 220 degree Celsius and bake chicken for approx. 20 minutes* 

After this first 20 minutes, take pan out from oven and take a spatula and scoop the jerk sauce from pan and place on top the chicken

Put pan back in the oven and continue baking for another 20 minutes

Take pan out from oven again and turn chicken over, and scoop jerk sauce from pan onto chicken

Put pan back into the oven and continue baking for another 10 to 15 minutes

## ROTI



**PARATHA ROTI** 

### **ROTI (PARATHA)**



**Preparation time:** 20 minutes **Cooking time:** approx. 1 hr

*Making approx.* 15 rotis (8 inches to 9 inches in diameter)

### *Ingredients*

1/2 bag of a 22 lb bag of white all-purpose flour (using approx. 11 lbs), baking powder, tawa (flat grid to cook on) or a big frying pan, belna (rolling pin), 2 Tbsp. baking powder, 6 Tbsp. oil

### Cooking instructions

Put some flour in a bowl and keep on the side to use for rubbing flour on top of the flour balls so they do not stick to your hand and to the pan









Add 1/2 bag flour to big bowl
Add 2 Tbsp. baking powder to flour
Add approx 4 cups of water slowly

Add approx. 4 cups of water slowly and mix flour into a paste (dough)
Add approx. 2 Tbsp. oil to flour and mix so the dough becomes softer
Add another Tbsp. oil and mix so the dough becomes a little softer
Take some flour from the side bowl into your palms to prevent the dough from sticking on your hand and continue mixing











Break dough into small pieces and make into round balls about 4 to 5 inches in diameter With your palms flatten dough ball a little and then dip into the side flour bowl so the dough balls does not stick

Place on table and use a belna (rolling pin) to roll and flatten out dough Fold ends of flattened dough into a big square shape

Rub some oil on square shape dough and then fold into a smaller square shape

Place on table and use belna to flatten out square to 8 to 9 inches in diameter

Set stove on Hi and place tawa or a big frying pan on stove burner, and then brush on a thin layer of oil on tawa or big frying pan

Place the 8 to 9 inches in diameter flat dough on tawa or pan; this will become your roti Let it cook and be careful not to burn roti

As roti cooks on tawa or pan, after about 30 seconds, rub some oil on top roti Use a spatula place under roti, and flip roti onto its other side, and after about 30 seconds rub some oil on top and flip again

Flip roti a few times











Roti completed

Safety: Use oven mitts when taking out and putting baking pan in oven. Also use a spatula with a long handle to prevent burning your skin

## **DESSERTS**



# SPONGE CAKE BLACK CAKE APPLE PIE WITH CRUST APPLE PIE WITHOUT CRUST



### **SPONGE CAKE**





Preparation time: 1 hour

**Baking time:** approx. 30 to 40 minutes

*Serves 10 to 14* 

Making two sponge cakes, a ten inch and a six inch in diameter

### **Ingredients**

9 large eggs, 1 lb. white sugar, 1 lb. flour, 1 lb. butter or margarine, 1 tsp. baking power, cherries, flour and butter

Will need a scale for weighing the sugar, an eggbeater for mixing or use a blender, 2 baking pans

Note that when adding cherries, they will sink into the cake mix. If you prefer to have some cherries at the top of the cake, then approx. 10 minutes into baking you will pull out the pans from the oven and then place cherries on top (use stove mitts)

#### **Baking instructions**

*Use scale to weigh ingredients* 

*In a bowl add sugar to butter* 

*Use an eggbeater or blender to mix the butter and sugar for 5 to 10 minutes* 

Add eggs to mix and blend

Add 1 tsp. baking power and mix

Add flour and mix and blend for a few minutes; check mix to make sure it's not too soft; if too soft then add a little more flour and mix

Rub some flour on the inside of the pans to prevent wax paper from sticking to paper Cut out non-sticky wax paper and place inside pan covering the sides also; add a layer of flour on wax paper to prevent cake sticking on wax paper

Add mix to the 2 pans

Turn stove to 200 degree Celsius and place the 2 pans inside oven and baking begins





Bake for approximately 30 to 40 minutes so the cake turns to a golden brownish color Use tooth pic to test firmness of cake while baking

If you didn't add cherries already, add cherries after about 10 minutes

### **BLACK CAKE**



**Preparation time:** 30 minutes **Baking time:** approx. 1 and 1/2 hr.
Serve with roti, rice, pita bread, or other...
Serves 8 to 12

### **Ingredients**

1 lb prunes, 1 lb raisins, 1 lb current, 1 lb butter or margarine, 1 lb flour, 1 dozen eggs, 2 Tbsp. brown sugar e.g Demerara brown sugar, browning Will need an eggbeater for mixing or use a blender, 2 baking pans, mill for grinding, scale for weighing

### **Baking instructions**

Cut prunes into quarters
Use a mill for grinding
Add prunes to mill and grind, then add raisins and grind, and then add current and grind
Mix butter in 1 cup of water





Blend eggs using blender, and mix eggs with butter Add grinded up prunes, raisin and current to the mix Add 2 Tbsp. brown sugar to mix Add 1 lb. flour and mix

Check mix to make sure it's not too soft; if too soft then add a little more flour and mix Rub some flour on the inside of the pans to prevent wax paper from sticking to paper Cut out non-sticky wax paper and place inside pan covering the sides also; add a layer of flour on the wax paper to prevent cake from sticking on the wax paper

Add browning to give it a darker brown color Add mix to the two pans and place inside oven Turn oven to 205 degree Celsius and baking begins After 40 minutes check cake (use oven mitts) Cake should now have a nice brown color, but still too soft Lower stove temperature to 175 degrees Celsius and continue baking for approx. 20 minutes Lower to 115 degrees Celsius and continue baking for another 35 minutes

Note: If you prefer the cake to be darker, then instead of adding browning to give the cake a darker color, you can burn brown sugar and then add it to the mix and this will give the cake a darker / blackish color. Molasses can also be added to make the cake darker / black. These steps were not carried out and thus the cakes does not have a darker / blackish color, but more of a dark brown color.



### APPLE PIE WITH CRUST



Preparation time: 1 and 1/2 hour Baking time: approx. 40 minutes Serve with ice cream Serves 8 to 14 Making 3 apple pies

### *Ingredients*

 $1\overline{5}$  apples (average of 5 per pies), 3 lbs of white flour, 1/2 to 1 Tbsp. cinnamon, 6 packs of margarine or butter, 4 to 5 spoons brown sugar e.g Demerara brown sugar used Rolling pin

### **Baking instructions**

Peel apples, cut into slices and wash Mix apple slices with approx. 1/2 to 1 Tbsp. cinnamon

Make dough, which will be used for making the crust Add white flour to butter and mix for approx. 10 minutes by hand Add 1 cup of water and mix Add some flour to pan to prevent sticking









Take a part of the dough and use a rolling pin to flatten out dough into a round shape and place inside of pan and then clean off the edges

Add some of the apple mix to the crusts

Take a part of the dough, and use the rolling pin to flatten out dough in a round shape, and place on top of apple mix to make the top of the crust, and then clean of the edges

Bake at approx. 210 degree Celsius for 40 to 50 minutes until have a light brown color





### APPLE PIE WITHOUT CRUST





**Preparation time:** 10 minutes

Baking time: approx. 40 to 50 minutes

Serves 4 to 6 Making 3 pies

### Ingredients

15 apples (average of 5 apples per pie), 1 Tbsp. brown sugar (Neisha uses Demerara brown sugar), 1/2 to 1 Tbsp. cinnamon Need oven mitts

### **Baking instructions**

Peel apples, cut into slices and wash Sprinkle approx. 1 Tbsp. brown sugar on apple slices and mix Sprinkle approx. 1/2 to 1 Tbsp. cinnamon on apple slices and mix Place apple slices in 3 pans or perplex bowls





Bake at approx. 210 degree Celsius for 40 to 50 minutes Note: You can also sprinkling a layer of topping made with oat meal on top the apple slices in the perplex bowls or pans and then bake (Neisha did not add this step)

## **BEVERAGES**



**GINGER BEER** 

### **GINGER BEER**



**Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Brewing time:** approx. 20 minutes

Making 3 jugs of finger beer Guyanese style, an English drink







### **Ingredients**

7 ginger sticks, 10 Tbsp. brown sugar e.g Demerara brown sugar Need a greater to grate ginger

### Cooking instructions

Grate 7 ginger sticks using a greater
Boil water for approximately 5 minutes on Hi
Add the grated ginger to the pot
Add approx. 7 Tbsp. of brown sugar
Lower heat to Medium and let it boil for approximately 10 minutes
Taste for a a gingery taste
If it's too strong then add more sugar; for example add 3 more Tbsp. of sugar if it's too bitter
Cover pot again and let it boil
Taste and add more sugar if required
Boil for another 5 minutes

Let pots of ginger beer sit outside for a day The following day strain ginger beer using a strainer Pour ginger beer into bottles and place in fridge

When serving, if you find that the ginger beer is too strong for someone, you can dilute by adding water, or add some sugar to sweeten





Jugs of ginger beer to enjoy

### Neisha's Kitchen Recipes by Neisha Nazmoon Neisha Ally

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With the digital age upon us, wide spread plagiarism and corruption are taking place. Since the year 2011, I have become weary and tired of the thefts and plagiarism taking place with my own work and the work of others, where hard working and dedicated individuals like myself are being set up and framed by some. These scammers and fraudsters are not always someone that's hidden in a room and is working alone, but there are groups of people that network to carry out unlawful acts against individuals that works hard and creates their work. It's important for everyone to stand up against such unlawful people and their illegal exploits, as they often gets away with their corruption and crimes.

As I type in cafes and in the mall there are cameras everywhere looking at us. It's pointless for me to say that we're all being track in everything we do, as many are already aware that this is happening. For example shoppers are tracked and identified and annoying and intrusive messages are sent to them. This is harassment. The real concern is who have access to these cameras and our work and information, and what they are doing with our information and our unique and original work? ...Fisal (Fizal) Ally

## Neisha's Kitchen





Recipes
by Neisha