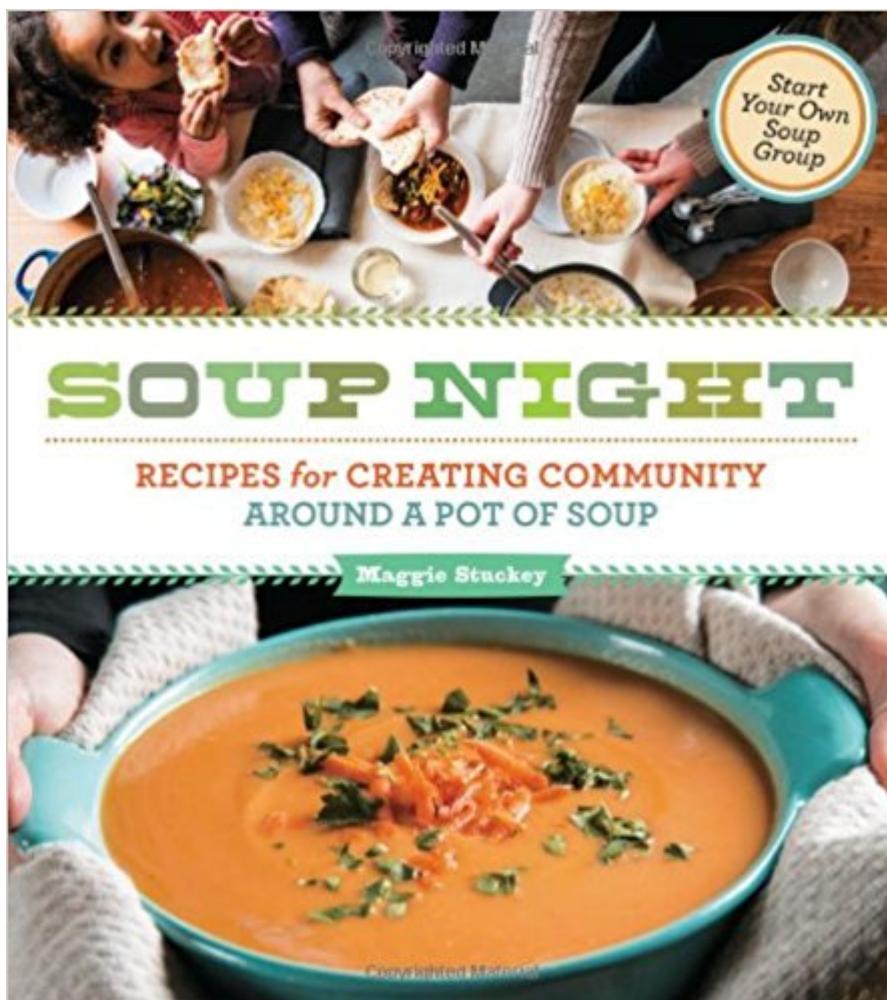


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# Soup Night: Recipes For Creating Community Around A Pot Of Soup



## **Synopsis**

Soup nights are a stress-free way to bring friends together. The host provides two or three pots of soup, while the guests bring their own dishes and silverware, and perhaps a salad or some bread. Neighbors get to know each other by name and people of all ages can connect and socialize. This practical guide encourages you to start your own soup group, with scores of recipes for soups and sides that your friends will be lining up to taste.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book contains many wonderful soup recipes. However, it is also a book about building community connections through soup. It has several essays about the use of soup in building community solidarity and helping people to connect with one another. The recipes are divided up by seasons of the year which I like. Winter soups are a lot different from summer soups. I especially like the cold soup selection for summer months and the hearty soup and stew recipes for the winter. This is a book that I know I'll use often and I found the narratives heart-warming and inspiring.

This book was a gift to me from a friend of the author, Maggie Stuckey. Unwrapped a few days after the 25th of December, I sat with it for most of the day, reading it as one would enjoy a great novel! But this commentary was about the real-deal, folks sharing a bowl or a cup of soup and a time of connecting with the community, a happening that seems to be lacking in our "so busy" society. I love being in the kitchen and prepare soup at least once a week. Tonight a carrot soup, last week

gumbo...enough possibilities to carry me through the whole of 2014....Most recipes are easy to enlarge or decrease...

At first glance, this appears to be a cookbook, but its main attraction for me is the stories of how sharing soup is bringing neighbors together. The basic premise of soup night is that the hostess provides a pot of soup and invites the neighbors to share, including the neighbors they haven't met or know well. Guests bring their own soup bowls and spoons, reducing clean-up for the hostess, and one or more may also bring a loaf of bread. There are variations of the basic idea. Some communities alternate host homes and others always meet at the same home. Some meet monthly year-round; some meet during winter months only. One community operates soup night like a restaurant and uses it as a fundraiser. One hostess buys soup bowls at yard sales so she always has a colorful assortment for her guests; others provide disposable bowls. The author visited soup nights across the country and interviewed founders, hostesses, and guests about how soup night impacted their lives. Most interesting are the interviews with now young adults who grew up protected by the entire neighborhood because they got to know all the adults through the soup nights of their childhood. I loved the stories. The recipes were just a nice bonus.

I will never look at a bowl of the soup the same, soup has power beyond the obvious. It touches the soul. It fosters community. Soup makes friends. Though the recipes look great, I was more interested in the stories and the possibilities of sharing soup. Life has become so busy that entertaining can be stressful but a soup supper has so many possibilities, book clubs, bunko groups, girls night, meetings of any sort. I have told everyone and anyone who will listen about this book and the great ideas and stories coupled with the soup and accompaniment recipes. Can't wait to try my first SOUP SUPPER!

This Soup cookbook was written with the intention of using a routine Soup Night to bring community together to share a good meal and enjoy each others company. The reipes are great. Will be using this cookbook for soup recipies on a regular basis. Liked the fact that there are numerous vegetarian options. Instructions on how to start your own neighborhood Soup Night. Thought this could also be used for Senior Citizen Centers, Church Ministries, and the ladies that supply a meal to shut ins, recovering from hospitalization friends and relatives, the couple with the new baby, and familes that have suffered the loss of a loved one. One young man started a Soup Day at work, which lead to his meeting new people from different departments and down the road, resulted in a

new and better job for him. Works equally well for large, community type meals and for meals that are homemade, cooked at home and delivered to another family. If your intention is to make soup at home for your own family, lots of options to double recipes and freeze extra servings for another meal. If you like Soup, you will love this cookbook.

I love the idea of Soup Night. The stories of how each contributor began Soup Nights in their own neighborhoods are very interesting. There are several recipes I might try. On a cold fall or winter night a bowl of hot soup is a comfort to drive the chill away and it is so satisfying to have made it yourself. Even if you are not a cook you will enjoy reading the stories and recipes, and who knows? You may be inspired to take the book into your kitchen and make something wonderful.

Our library bought a copy of this book.....I knew I had to take it back in 14 days and I whined a lot and then promptly came here to and bought my own copy. My appetite was in high gear, the book and the concept of Soup Nights in one's neighborhood and the good writing all made for a positive experience for me. Not that any one soup was unusual or so over the top, but many vegetarian soups and the good vibes of the cooks made me dive in. So far I have three solid successful recipes marked, and I'm only half way through the book. We grow a big garden for two people and enjoy soups both winter and summer. Yum. Maggie Stuckey rocks.

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