

Friends and Happiness
by Kenita Gibbins

As soon as all of the amenities are open in Windsor Gardens, we plan to invite friends for dinner. I love cooking, and George likes engaging in conversation with the outside world.

Before the cooking starts, we have finger food by the fireplace with glasses of wine. In the winter, we turn on the electric flaming stove, and it adds ambiance. Our condo has a real fireplace, but we don't burn real wood in it.

I've discovered our friends don't mind if I have them cooking their food. We warn them if they overcook their dinner it won't be our fault. I do turn on the timer. Before the guests arrive, I build the fish and sauce in the Raclette's special cooking tools. I usually cut the vegetables to be roasted on the grill's top. I invite one guest to stir the veggies.

We have glasses that have markers showing where each guest's musical notes are. When I use the music-making glassware that we fill with water and not wine, I know the guests well enough to know they have musical talents. I give out the music, and we play with a wet finger going round and round on the glass singing songs like "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." After wine and music, they probably don't care that I serve them a casserole, salad, plus a great dessert. Most people love my buttermilk pie with whipped cream if I don't mention buttermilk.

Sometimes we have a fondue evening. Then our guests cook their steak pieces, either partly undercooked or overcooked. I make three dips for the meat. Sometimes I use another fondue part after the main course for chocolate sauce and angel food cake or bananas for dipping

Depending on the mood, we get comfortable in the living room for more conversation, or I can show the movies I make with my pictures or videos. I make movies with my photographs. If a friend makes movies with their images, we invite them in advance to bring their DVD's to show and tell.

We don't plan to quit walking when we are free to do many things. I think we haven't felt like we are in jail during these tedious days. It has been good to talk with friends via telephone. My bridge friends and I have been playing on Trickster three times a week. My book club hooks up so we can see each other and continue with hearing about a distinctive book to the reviewer. The Denver Art Museum has kept us interested in the coming shows with the curators training us. The public will see an exhibition with Remington and Holmer's glorious paintings. Another new exhibit will also open with paintings by the unique Norman Rockwell.

Our book club also turns on a program that reaches each home. We can see and hear each other. Our Green Cheese Club has survived for 88 years. We don't read the book unless we decide it is so good we must read it for ourselves. Each member takes turns reviewing a book of his/her choice.

Each day I thank God that George and I have each other, our precious children, and great friends.