



the markoff group



YUM

BY JENNIFER HAYES



HALLOWEEN: THE SEQUEL

Feeling the post-Halloween blues? Keep the party going by celebrating Day of the Dead November 1–2,

says **chef Marcela Valladolid**, author of the cookbook *Fresh Mexico*. The Latin-American festival brings families together to remember lost loved ones—but it's no somber occasion. "It's a time for rejoicing and lots of food," says Valladolid.

- 1 DECORATE WITH BRIGHT COLORS AND PLENTY OF FLOWERS.** Traditionally, they're placed on the table and front door as a tribute to the departed. Valladolid loves reusable, handmade Mexican paper ones (\$14 for 6, directfrommexico.com).
- 2 GO FROM SWEET TO SPICY.** Celebrators believe the strong flavors and aromas entice spirits, Valladolid says. She nibbles on cooked chiles between bites of dinner: Squeeze a lime and some salt on a fresh poblano and grill it whole.
- 3 INVITE GUESTS OVER FOR A BIG, FAMILY-STYLE DINNER** with lots of different courses. Setting time aside to celebrate is an honorary gesture to those who have passed.



CENTERPIECE OF THE MONTH

at first light

After spending all day stuffing, mashing and roasting, the last thing you want to worry about on Thanksgiving is decorating. Thankfully, dressing a table can be easy with **this super-simple, one-step design from Rosanna Bowles**, founder and head designer of Rosanna Inc.



SOY WONDER

One whiff of Linnea's Lights candles and you'll be hooked. They're made with clean-burning soy wax and organic cotton wicks, and come in delicious essential-oil-enhanced scents like Pomander (orange and clove) and Winter (spruce, mint, and hints of cinnamon and cranberry). Even the container is made with recycled materials and soy-based ink. (\$28, linnealights.com for stores)



NOW YOU SEE IT... Consider this the next time you want to share a tidbit of gossip without it being traced back to you: Privnote.com lets you send notes that self-destruct after they're read by the intended recipient—or in 30 days, whichever comes first. Once it's read, the link disappears and is unrecoverable.

* rosanna's idea

Pile strings of white holiday lights into colored glass vessels and turn them upside down on the table. (No tinted vases? Place colored lights in clear containers instead.) After dinner, just uncoil the lights and hang them up as your first holiday decorations.

