

Follow-up

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Never take the last piece of chicken or turkey

It's the season, in many cultures, when large birds get "dressed" for dinner and so sometimes do we. When you sit down to that dinner in your "best clothes", do you operate under the rule of "family hold back"? You remember, it was always important not to take the last piece of anything, especially when company came to dinner. Oh, how you languished after that last scoop of mashed potatoes or that last piece of pie. Did you throw care to the wind, willing to put up with disapproval from other family members but savouring every delicious mouthful?

So many of these habits were so well taught that it takes us years to even recognise what we do,

let alone decide whether it still applies. Even if we feel we need to change, it is still difficult working through the process. The old habits stay with us. Like many of you, I grew up with "Clean up your plate," and "No dessert until you've eaten your vegetables." (You recall, the guilt about all those starving children in some far off place.) The fact that I rarely got to put the food on the plate in the first place never seemed to be part of the equation. *They* knew what I was to eat and, by golly, I was going to eat it.

At this time of year, we often do things we have done for years. Many of our traditions are wonderful and important. But

it is also critical to stand back and check that what we are doing is good for us as well as others. Remember my Royal Doulton figurine story¹ which is especially important around gift-giving time. A gift is only a gift when so perceived by the recipient.

In this edition, we profile the Charles Crane Memorial Library which serves blind, visually-impaired and reading-disabled people. So many acts of kindness and support are provided by people in our communities. As you think about giving, make sure that what you give is really of value to the recipient and not what you feel they need.

The last piece of turkey or pie is as good a metaphor as any—always leave something nice behind to remind people that you care about them.

¹ For the complete story, read Chapter 39, "Presents of Mine" in *Don't You Have Anything Better To Do?*, by Jane Durant.



Need the perfect gift for that person who has everything? It's here! *Don't You Have Anything Better To Do?* Get an autographed, gift-wrapped copy direct from Jane.

Also, plan ahead to order my new book, *Colors of Supervision*, an easy-to-use workbook that takes a look at the importance of "colorful" as opposed to "black and white" thinking about working with others. *Colors of Supervision* will be published by Kendall Hunt in early spring 1995.

