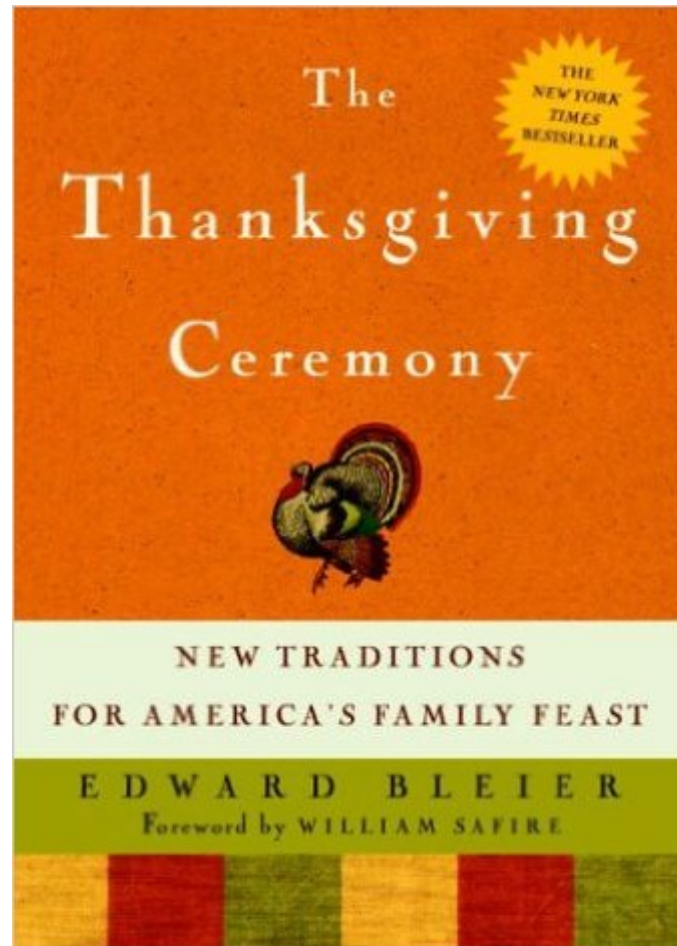


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# The Thanksgiving Ceremony: New Traditions For America's Family Feast



## Synopsis

When we think about Thanksgiving we contemplate history, the autumn harvest, and, of course, eating turkey and watching football. But most of all, we think about family, friends, and the bounty of our country. Edward Bleier's *The Thanksgiving Ceremony* introduces a brand-new tradition for the Thanksgiving table, offering a wonderful way for all Americans to give thanks and rejoice in the sense of togetherness and community this special holiday brings. The heart of the book is a participatory ceremony designed to be read aloud around the table. It recounts the story of the early settlers and the challenges they, and all subsequent immigrant generations, faced. The ceremony provides roles for guests of all ages and takes about twenty minutes. There is also a brief history of Thanksgiving, as well as a wide array of poems, hymns, songs, prayers, and readings that enable families to create and customize their own ceremony, including pieces by Maya Angelou, Irving Berlin, Woodie Guthrie, and Emily Dickinson. As William Safire writes in his foreword, "Getting together for a grand dinner party may be glorious fun, but a holiday should have a focus—one that reminds us why we celebrate it. This long-overdue book offers that focus in a short, elegant format that any gathering of family and friends can participate in, and enjoy, for many years to come. Praise for *The Thanksgiving Ceremony*: "The Thanksgiving Ceremony is a small gem—a book that brings to life the history, songs, and traditions, old and new, of the most widely celebrated holiday of the year. This is a buoyant book, full of hope and praise of all that makes us Americans." "Julie Nixon Eisenhower" There are times, like these, when it's important to count our blessings. Ed Bleier's delightful book lets us do the math." "Alan Alda and Arlene Alda" This great country has provided the 'music' and this book provides the eloquent 'lyrics' for the Thanksgiving tables of all Americans, regardless of race or religion. It's a joyous tribute to who we are, and can be, as Americans." "Quincy Jones" Over the years, I've had so many Thanksgiving dinners with Ed and Magda that when Ed Bleier talks turkey, all of us listen." "Steven Spielberg" The Thanksgiving Ceremony is a wonderful and moving idea. It is central to what we celebrate and a happy reminder of why America's principles endure as they do." "Peter Jennings and Kayce Freed

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I truly love Edward Bleier's Thanksgiving Ceremony! As William Safire put it, "where has this book been all these Thanksgivings?" It is the perfect gift idea for the holiday season and I bought a copy for all of my family members this year. Bleier truly captures the essence of America's favorite holiday in this brilliant compilation of songs, poems, and readings. Thanksgiving will never be the same again thanks to Bleier's inspirational work. This book is indeed a holiday delight and definitely a keeper.

Edward Bleier has written a little book for the ages. With all the fanfare we give each year to Thanksgiving, it is amazing that we don't already have a guide through the meal like the one that Bleier has put together. No American holiday receives more attention in school and yet on Thanksgiving day, we tend to ignore the history and spirit behind the celebration. Bleier provides a concise history to go along with a Thanksgiving meal ceremony. There is also plenty of extra "inspirational material" to draw from. I think kids will take to this companion guide to the meal and the ceremony will reinforce what they have learned in school. Especially for kids (particularly those who have no interest in football), Bleier's book will surely add fun to the feast.

To read Edward Bleier's book, *The Thanksgiving Ceremony*, is to arrive at the pleasant conclusion that at last we have a way to be truly thankful - and celebrate the occasion with words and music as well as delicious food and wonderful family. This is a book for all ages, and a lovely addition to one's library --- truly a 'must' for everyone.

We highly recommend this Book! *The Thanksgiving Ceremony* is a welcome (and overdue) addition to the Thanksgiving Meal. The history, the thoughts and the ceremony that Ed Bleier has included in this book give us the opportunity to reflect upon the significance of this very special holiday. Our

family, like most, spends too many hours juggling too many activities. This, of course, always leaves us with too little time. What Mr. Bleier has thoughtfully reminded us is that Thanksgiving is a day to savor, and a day to remember our blessings--and to do this together at our festive meal! Thank you, Mr. Bleier, for adding the Thanksgiving Ceremony to our Turkey, Stuffing and Pumpkin Pie!

If you too are outside the US and are eager to re-create the Thanksgiving experience, this book will do for your heart and soul what Turkey, stuffing and cranberries will do for your tastebuds. I received this book on a recent visit home and how else am I ever going to convince my friends in Europe that we are NOT all superficial and ungrateful by nature. Ed Bleier gives us a great way to remember where we were raised, how it helped us grow and, well, what values it instilled in us. The Thanksgiving Ceremony is a touchdown as a gift for fellow expats and as food for the soul on this annual celebration of who we are. As they'd say here, Monsieur Bleier, Merci.

I have just discovered this very charming book *The Thanksgiving Ceremony*. In these extraordinary times "new traditions for America's Family Feast" is a glowing jewel. I am reminded that "it" is not about polished silver, starched linens, the right amount of sage in the stuffing, the side dishes, desserts or wine selections, who gets to carve, and whether or not you-know-who will embarrass everyone. "It" is about our past and our future, fellowship, commitment, joy, perseverance and progress. And about faithful thanksgiving - every day. Thank you - Ed Bleier - for writing this book. Our family will read it together on Thanksgiving Day.

This perfect little book has long been needed. *The Thanksgiving Ceremony* is truly the first of its kind to bring forth a more spiritual, family centered Thanksgiving celebration. Mr. Bleier serves us a very informative background of Thanksgiving and a beautifully structured ceremony which helps keep the family at the table. Also included are a variety of songs, poems and prayers relevant to the occasion which are reason enough to purchase the book. This book is great for all families on Thanksgiving, and gives us a more complete, in-depth look at all things turkey...

Memories of years gone by with treasured times shared with friends and family will flood back. It is a blessing to be able to reflect on the tradition of Thanksgiving in the pages of this endearing book. A keep sake for sure. I have purchased twenty plus to give to those nearest and dearest - a perfect gift for friends & family alike to start off the holidays. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

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