

EDITOR'S NOTE



For some people, especially kids, summer begins on the first day that school lets out. For others, it's when cherries appear in the local markets, or the first stone fruits ripen, or fresh basil is available in plenty.

On the solstice, when summer's beginning is official, people all over the world celebrate this special day in as many ways as there are cultures. Some celebrate with a party or parade, others howl at the moon or perform Druidic rituals, and many simply comment that, yes, today is the longest day of the year.

This solstice, my children and I took an evening stroll after dinner. We observed that the light on the mountains was especially beautiful, and the colors

on the Topa Topas seemed even more vibrant than usual. The solstices are about light—the more or the less of it—so this simple acknowledgement was our way of honoring it.

This issue of *Edible Ojai* celebrates summer with a diversity of voices—some new and some familiar. For the first time we are even including a poem and I hope it will be the first of many. We continue our youthquake with Odessa Runyon's offering about seasonality, and we travel to Istanbul without ever having to leave our hammocks through the evocative storytelling of Alev Lytle Croutier, who also shares a couple of her favorite Turkish recipes.

We do our homework on the significance of the Farm Bill with the help of a handy primer from Jim Churchill, and Marty Fujita fills us in on what makes Michael Pollan so compelling and why we should pay attention to what he says about food.

We are also reprinting Cheryl Beers' essay, *Eco Gastronomy: A Revolution in Cooking and Eating* because, in the last issue, the first page was printed twice and the final page somehow went missing altogether. So to all who were frustrated by this, and especially to Cheryl, we offer a humble apology.

Most people I know seem to be overextended in all that they try to accomplish in the course of any single day—myself included. So I'm reluctant to add anything to anyone's "to-do" list, least of all mine. But let's all take a moment to call or write to our representatives in government to give them our two cents' worth about what should be included in the Farm Bill. Let's try to conserve water in every way possible—something we should do whether it's an extreme drought year, which this one is, or not. And while we're multitasking, let's try to remember to breathe.

Have a delicious and healthy summer!

Jane Handel
Editor

EDIBLE OJAI

BY MAIL:

POST OFFICE BOX 184
OJAI, CA 93024

TELEPHONE: 805.646.6678
FAX: 805.646.6678

EMAIL/ONLINE:
info@edibleojai.com
www.edibleojai.com

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