

LMA Holiday Potluck

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Sheenika Gandhi
Chief Marketing Officer
Greenberg Glusker
Region: West

What is your favorite holiday tradition and why?

My favorite holiday tradition is celebrating Diwali with my husband, son, parents, and brother. Diwali, the festival of lights, is a Hindu festival that celebrates the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. Over the five days of celebrations, our family makes sure our homes are clean, we light clay lamps (diyas) and place them in the front of our home, we create rangoli (designs and patterns) with chalk in front of our home, we hold a prayer, light some sparklers in the backyard, and then eat a homecooked Indian meal. We also celebrate the New Year during this time and we send several texts and WhatsApp messages to our family all over the world wishing them a successful year.

Please share a web link to your favorite holiday recipe and let us know why it is your favorite.

Diwali means there are a lot of sweets being shared! Traditional sweets are filled with a lot of milk, ghee and sugar, of course. However, because I'm vegan, I've had to get creative. [**This is a favorite blog of mine.**](#) My favorites are Kaju Katli (sweet) and Chickpea Flour Roll-Ups (savory).



LMA Holiday Potluck

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Jessica Haarsgaard
Client Relations Manager
Burr Forman
Region: Southeast

What is your favorite holiday tradition and why?

There are so many traditions I love during the holidays, but if I had to choose, I would say it is cooking with my mom, especially every Christmas Day. My love for cooking came from her and it is a really special time to help her in the kitchen while we all talk, laugh, and enjoy the day. I also love that our friend group makes time to get together, even with busy family schedules, during the holidays. I am extremely grateful for my family and friends, and an overarching tradition that I love is making an intentional effort to spend quality time with them all.



Please share a web link to your favorite holiday recipe and let us know why it is your favorite.

From my mom's Christmas Day garlic and herb-crusted prime rib to my mother-in-law's stuffing and gravy to my dad's mac and cheese to my father-in-law's turkey, I have no shortage of favorite holiday recipes! One of my all-time favorite side dishes would have to be this [wild rice, brussel sprout and mushroom pilaf](#). There are many different versions of this recipe and it's fun to try new takes on it!

LMA Holiday Potluck

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



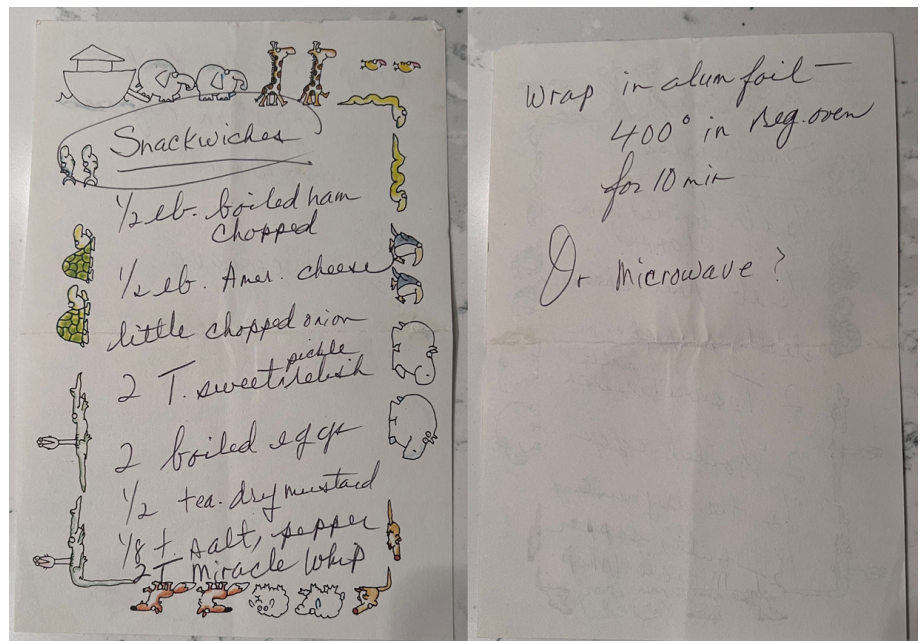
Roy Sexton
Director of Marketing
Clark Hill
Region: Midwest

What is your favorite holiday tradition and why?

My favorite tradition is a relatively recent one. My husband and I have spent more Christmases apart than together due to various family obligations. The last couple of years we reclaimed Christmas for ourselves, decorating our mammoth tree (a great At Home bargain) with every single ornament we've ever had, reveling in the memories each one reveals. We spend the day in our pajamas, chilling with our rescue dogs, and just enjoying the quiet of the day. And on New Year's we also stay in, often playing our once-a-year marathon canasta card game. I usually win the first hand, and then my engineer husband can't be beaten for the remaining hands!

Please share a web link to your favorite holiday recipe and let us know why it is your favorite.

As for recipes, I don't cook - much to everyone's relief - but I miss the good treats my mom Susie Sexton made every year - her legendary cheeseballs, fudge, and snackwiches. I don't have the snackwich recipe online but found it upstairs in one of our cookbooks. I'm a vegetarian now, so I'd need to modify even if I ever did make them again! [Here's an image - in her own handwriting no less!](#)



Note: Something funny after I looked at it again, she leaves out one crucial step. You have to put the mix in a hot dog bun and then wrap that in aluminum foil!

LMA Holiday Potluck

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Danielle Smith
Women's Initiative Manager
Baker Donelson
Region: Southeast

What is your favorite holiday tradition and why?

Presents on Christmas morning – there is just something about the whole experience of waking up and sitting around opening gifts as a family still in your PJs!



Please share a web link to your favorite holiday recipe and let us know why it is your favorite.

My great aunt (whom my daughter is named after) used to make this [Cornflake Candy](#) every year for the holidays and it's highly addictive.