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For Thanksgiving planning Ask April shares how you can save money and your sanity

November 26, 2013 By [NDG Staff Writer](#) [No Comments](#)



April Masini

Keeping Thanksgiving dinner costs to a minimum can help your wallet and your relationships with everyone at the table. Here's how:

By April Masini

Give up control. Delegate the side dishes. Delegate the deserts. Delegate the pricey wines and spirits.

Plus one invitations can add up. Make it clear that your plus one guest will have an assignment — even if it's two centerpieces.

Use money earned back from Costco to pay for holiday meal – Anyone who has a Costco membership that gives you 2% of your spending there, back at the end of the year, will receive their check in time for Thanksgiving dinner shopping. Buy what you can with that check and cut your spending real dollars.

Red wine and white tablecloths equal dry cleaning bills. Either use dark, print table cloths that you can reuse because red wine stains don't show up, or use recycled paper table cloths — or none. Yes, paper table cloths are not nearly as elegant as white ones, but you'll save on dry cleaning.

Thanksgivikah – If you celebrate Hanukah, and normally have a Hanukah dinner with brisket, latkes, etc., take advantage of the cosmos aligning this year when Hanukah and Thanksgiving fall on the same night — and double up for a Thanksgivikah celebration. That's one family gathering meal meal instead of two. Centerpieces are menorahs and mashed potatoes become latkes.

Consider a "dry" meal. One of the biggest costs, as well as the biggest causes of family fighting is too much alcohol consumption. Whether you're buzzed on inebriated, loose lips can lead to feuds and fisticuffs. Sparkling cider and Perrier are elegant, cheaper than wine and lead to fewer relationship gaffes.

Nicknamed "the new millennium's Dear Abby" by the media, April Masini writes the critically acclaimed 'Ask April' advice column and answers readers questions on the free Ask April advice forum. Author of four books, including Date Out Of Your League (TurnKey Press, 0-9746763-0-6) and Think & Date Like A Man (iUniverse, 0-595-37466-2), April has been interviewed for over 2,700 articles and opinion pieces, radio and television shows, including those on FOX, ABC, CBS, MSN, Telemundo and Univision — New York Times, New York Daily News, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Cosmopolitan, Maxim and USA Today

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