



Eileen Weinberg serves it up at Good & Plenty To Go.



Party-girl extraordinaire: Susan Gage.

Nathalie Dupree, champion of the harassed home cook who wants to serve a good and diverting dinner even after a long day at a job. Unabashed about recommending shortcuts and quality convenience ingredients, she teaches millions to turn out satisfying, delicious food quickly and economically.

After years of teaching in Rich's department store in Atlanta, as well as cooking in the spacious, charmingly cluttered kitchen of her home, Dupree expanded her classroom via television with regular appearances on PBS, The Learning Channel, and the TV Food Network. Her straightforward, casual style demystifies cookery, giving viewers confidence. Her tips and techniques are collected in cookbooks such as *Nathalie Dupree's Great Meals for Busy Days*, although shortcuts are not the focus of her most beautiful and enticing, *Nathalie Dupree's Southern Memories*, which explains how it all began.

A generous and hospitable Southern hostess to the core, Dupree grew up in Virginia and began to cook in college, working in an international student residence. While preparing food for the 18 residents she decided cooking was for her, even though her mother warned, "Ladies don't cook, and cooks are not ladies." Married and in London, she attended the local Cordon Bleu. Upon returning to the States, this lady and her husband settled in a small town outside of Atlanta, where they combined their ambitions—he selling antiques, she running a cozy, 25-seat restaurant—all in one spot. Because a small bank loan was less than they needed, Dupree financed the rest by delivering newspapers to homes, starting before dawn. Tiring of that, she began the cooking school at Rich's.

She has worked as a syndicated columnist, a food editor, and a consultant. Despite her busy schedule, she never says no to charity causes and allows time for the grooming and power-walking that keep her trimly attractive on television.

Divorced and fearing that her biological clock was running out, Dupree parented two foster teenage daughters, with whom she is still close. Two years ago she married Jack Bass, a writer and journalism professor at the University of Mississippi. They divide their time between Atlanta and Oxford. They are rarely apart for more than a week, and Dupree always leaves food for him. "I usually roast a chicken, bake a sausage and apple quiche, or a casserole he can microwave. That way he won't forget me while I'm gone."

EILEEN WEINBERG 55
Good & Plenty To Go,
New York City

It took her mother's bankbook as collateral for this great and indomitable cook and a former partner, Christi Finch, to obtain a \$25,000