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Intergenerational Family Recipes Should Never Be Lost

Intergenerational family recipes should never be lost. Here is mine:

2 parts revolution, preferably Communist

1 flower-covered mountain – avoid over doing it

2 parts sugar – Chef's Note: try not to buy the sugar from a country whose fields are owned by foreign corporate interests – it upsets the Communists.

Several bouquets of flowers, any kind will do

Cooking Instructions:

1 part Revolution: My maternal grandmother, Faye Diener, was born in Kharkov, Russia in 1913 and lived in a town near a railroad station. During World War I Faye's mother, Sara, died of typhoid fever. Faye's father, Max, had gone to America in search of a better life for his family. Faye was in Russia during the Bolshevik Revolution of 1922 and lived in an orphanage run by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR). Faye's father eventually sent for her and she took a ship to America, later marrying George Blumberg.

1 Flower-covered mountain: George was the son of German Jews who immigrated to America. *Blum* in German means flower and *Berg* means mountain. His surname, translates into English as flowers on the mountain. George's father ultimately changed his name from Blumberg to Breck because of the anti-Semitic discrimination he experienced. Faye and George had one daughter, Sandra Blumberg.

Another part revolution & 1 part sugar: Sandra hated being Jewish because the kids in her Italian neighborhood called her Christ-killer. She eventually ran away from home, converted to Catholicism through a correspondence course and married a Cuban-immigrant, Magin, in a Catholic church. Magin had come to America in anticipation of the Cuban Revolution. As a boy he worked in the sugar cane fields of Cuba and, as an adult, shared memories of sucking the sweetness out of juicy stalks of cane.

Several bouquets of flowers: Magin's last name was Ramos. In Spanish, *ramo* means bouquet of flowers. Adding an "s" makes it plural. When I am born to Sandra and Magin, I receive a surname of floral delights – bouquets composed of flowers gathered from German mountain tops.

Another part sugar: My grandma Faye tells me that her earliest memory of her mother, Sara, is watching her take a doll, hollow it out and fill it with sugar. Sara then takes a train over the boarder during the war and secretly sells the sugar inside the doll. This is Sara's recipe for survival, which I live to share with my two sons.