

## Room for Design

## Some how-to ideas for a holiday bash

by  
Gloria  
Cohen

This is the time of year when thoughts turn to entertaining and decorating the home with festive lights, greens, and tinsel. So let's forget "furniture talk" for the moment and talk about partying.

During the Holiday season, we look forward to furnishing our homes with people and hospitality. I love parties in all shapes and sizes—big ones and intimate ones where you entertain just a few.

So many things contribute to insuring the pleasure of every guest. Part of the success of any party is the wonderful way the house looks before the guests arrive. The lights, the candles, the flowers and place cards, the way the table is set and the seating is arranged are all part and parcel of a happy time.

One of the most important decisions a hostess has to make is the guest list. The liveliest parties mix crowds, interests and professions. Holiday parties do not have to be elaborate and an informal get-together is usually the most comfortable.

You may serve on china plates or you may use paper. You might have a sit-down dinner or a buffet supper, or a sit-down cocktail party, or maybe a mixer—but whatever the case may be, it's the host and hostess who set the pace and style.

NO TWO HOSTESSES, or homes, are exactly alike. Any number of factors can determine your favorite way to entertain.

Do you like large groups or small ones? Would you rather be your own chef or let someone else do the cooking? Do you like bright lights or can-dies? Whatever your style is, you must do it with foresight.

If you have a small group, seating arrangements should be planned so each person can sit comfortably in a

conveniences grouping with access to a table top with ash trays and a place to set a glass.

Whether she intends it or not, a party reveals how its hostess feels about her guests. A carelessly organized party shows a lack of interest in the people you are entertaining.

WHEN YOU OPEN the door to your first guest, your house should be looking its very best—make a quick check just before the doors open.

There should be plenty of space on the coat racks, bathrooms should be stripped of all the personal items used by the family, and plenty of guest towels are a necessity.

In planning table settings, think first of color. Delicate colors go well with candlelight. Bright white cloths play up the strong or subtle color of flowers or a pretty centerpiece.

Place mats are lovely on a large table, but for small tables I prefer table cloths. Individual mats tend to cut the space and lead to the whole a cluttered, busy look.

If your cloth is plain white, colored napkins add gaiety to the table. Everything doesn't have to match. If you are using small tables, their settings don't need to be identical, but coordinate them with identical cloth, napkins and centerpieces.

A party will be a success if the hostess is confident that everything is in order. If she has done her homework, a good time will be had by all. Happy Holidays!

## Mitten tree is on display

Once again, the Mitten Tree adds its' festive touch to the narthex of Antioch Lutheran Church, 1313 Thirteen Mile and Farmington Road.

Each year the congregation of the church, with all Sunday School children participating, donate new mittens.

**Atlantic Drapery Shoppe**  
**DRAPERY SALE**  
Labor \$5.00 per panel  
Custom Spreads  
Labor Special  
on Custom Slipcovers  
Special prices available  
on Drapery, Slipcover  
and Upholstery fabrics.  
largest selection of fabrics,  
fringes, tassels and  
trims in Michigan.  
**Chair-\$42.90—Sofa-\$52.90**  
360 E. Maple, Birmingham  
647-2020 647-0721

YOU CAN save lots of water when you wash dishes with an electric washer. Before using make sure you have a full load rather than wash dishes one at a time. You can have plenty of storage space when you sell idle items with an Observer & Eccentric Classified Ad.

**Angie's**  
  
**Hair Fashions**  
Women's and Men's  
Precision Haircuts.  
Blows, Styling, Permanent,  
Coloring and Manicuring.  
25844 W. 9 Mile Road  
9 Beech Plaza, Southfield  
356-8171



## PORTFOLIO: A walking art gallery

By CORINNE ABATT

When they talked over ideas for an art business, Susan Hegenbarth of West Bloomfield and Margaret Sellgren of Birmingham quickly discarded the possibility of a gallery.

This area had enough galleries, they figured, and so they began searching for alternatives. That search led them to form "Portfolio," the name for which they refer to as simply Portfolio.

They call their new business "a walking gallery." In other words, it goes to the customer rather than the

other way around.

The two women brought a compatible combination of talents. Both are married and have children. Mrs. Hegenbarth, an artist, just finished a term as president of the Pontiac Art Center and was a local art reviewer for five years. She had lots of contacts with artists, a solid educational background in fine arts and practical experience in art management.

Mrs. Sellgren, on the other hand, is a former French teacher, who later sold real estate for seven years in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area. She's an

organizer and a businesswoman.

NOW, WITH a representation of about 25 artists who work in a variety of media and a 30 minute slide presentation to show the kind and quality of the work of each, the women are off-and-on the road.

"We like to go in and assess the needs and gear our presentation to the money the person has to spend and the size and style of art that would be appropriate," Mrs. Sellgren said.

"We've been calling on architects and designers as well as business organizations and individuals. We usually take a few actual samples, mostly to show texture and color.

About 75 percent of the artists they represent are from Michigan, the rest are from various parts of the world. There are some familiar names in the group—sculptors Derek Werhner, James Nani and Raymond Katz; fabric artists Carolyn Hall, Urban Jupena and Sharon LaPierre; and painters Dan Stubbs, Loraine McCartney, Sheldon Idon, Margaret Keller and John Gable, watercolors.

Outstate artists on the Portfolio roster are Colette Itkin of France, bronzes, and Ruth Wynn of Maine, watercolors.

"We are planning on taking our Michigan artists to Chicago, Cleveland and other places, like New Mexico, for instance," Mrs. Hegenbarth said.

She added that she thought the quality of the Michigan art which they have available compares favorably with that in all other parts of the United States and deserves a wider audience.

So far, the reception to the Portfolio concept has been very encouraging.

"WE'VE HAD favorable comments on the quality and scope of art we have. People like the wide price range (starting at \$12) and that we are willing to work until we get just the right thing for the space," Mrs. Sellgren said.

She takes particular pride in handling the details like delivery, making sure it is done just right, on time and the condition of the art is perfect.

"I'm very artistic and practical-minded," she said adding that working with artists was relatively new for her and she was thoroughly enjoying it.

With their sites set on both the East Coast and West Coast and the territory in between, the woman have given themselves a broad canvas to cover.

## Down to earth

by  
ALICE  
WESSELS  
BURLINGAME

## Gift suggestions for the gardener

In many of your homes there is a dedicated gardener or two with perhaps one or two other holiday gift lists.

Last week's column looked at some of the gardening books that are available for problem solving. Here are some more suggestions to make that gardener happy.

**FLUORESCENT LIGHT installation:** This is a gift ideal for the gardener who enjoys collections of specific plants, the challenge of propagating plants or starting seedling for outdoor gardens.

It's also a good idea for a former gardener who lives in an apartment (my situation) or a restless one who finds it difficult to stay in one place.

You have a couple of choices. One is buying a setup with three tiers which is made of wood products and finished like living room furniture. Earthway Products (P.O. Box 547, Maple Street, Bristol, Inc., 46507) makes one that looks like an end table, with a lower level for lighted plants. The tiers take credit cards, and with the proper information they can ship it immediately.

Another type of fluorescent fixture has three levels of trays and is made of rugged aluminum tubing with leak-proof fiberglass trays. It is made by Home Grow Products, 1311 West 80th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44112.

**SHUFFLE HOE:** This is a tool that makes gardening easier, with less bending involved. Put a red bow on it, and your gardener will just purr. (Bell Greenhouse, 223 S. Woodward).

**PATIO TOWER GARDEN:** This balcony garden is two feet square and ideal for many apartment dwellers. The four sides are constructed of redwood slats, inserted at the corners of the frame. The bottom is treated to resist rot and insects. A reservoir in the middle holds a gallon of water and fertilizer and lets it seep through to the (Burpee Seed Co., Warminster, Pa., 18991).

**ROSS ROOT FEEDER:** Attach it to your hose, and you can feed all of your outdoor plants by inserting the end of the feeder in the soil, with a cartridge being diluted in the water.

## Classified Ads Work!

## AUTO SHOW CARPET SALE!

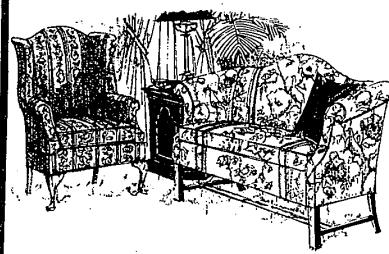
Ever wondered what happens to the carpet used in Auto Shows & Conventions around the country? It is sold on an "as is basis" following each event. This carpet is now available in a wide range of colors and styles.

**\$1.00 to \$2.50** per sq. yd.

Pad and Installation Available.  
Also New Roll Balances Available at Special Savings  
20,000 sq. yd. NOW AVAILABLE

**DONALD E. McNABB CO.**  
22150 W. 8 Mile Rd. (W. of Lahser)  
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9am-5pm, Fri till 9, Sat. 8am-11am  
**357-2626**

## UPHOLSTERED FLOOR SAMPLE CLEARANCE SALE!



**25%-40% OFF**

Save on fine quality furniture from famous makers.  
Floor samples and discontinued styles.

**ALL SALES FINAL NO LAYAWAYS**

**Colonial House**  
Michigan's Largest  
Pennsylvania House Dealer  
20292 Middlebell Rd.  
(South of Eight Mile)  
Livonia  
474-6900

Open Mon., Thurs. & Fri. 'till 9 p.m.

## Tappers Jewelry Simplifies Your Last Minute Holiday Shopping.

• Cross Pens  
• Colibri Lighters  
• Money Clips  
• Key Rings  
• Seiko Watches & Clocks  
**\$9.88**

14 Kt. Box Link Bracelets  
Reg. \$16.63  
At Tappers  
**\$1.60**

14Kt. Initial Stick Pins  
Reg. \$17.00  
At Tappers  
**\$1.60**

15" 14 Kt. Plaque Neck Chain  
Reg. \$32.00  
At Tappers  
**\$1.975**

14Kt. Diamond Stud Earrings  
.40ct. t.w.  
Reg. \$228.00  
**\$169.00**

• 14 Kt. Earrings  
• 14 Kt. Chains  
• Diamond Rings  
• Necklaces & Pendants

• Free Gift Wrapping • Cash Refunds • Largest Selection • Biggest Discounts

26400 Racquetime Mall • N.E. 12 Mile & Northwestern • 357-5578 • MasterCharge & Visa Welcome

Quantities Limited

Holiday Shopping Hours:  
Mon. thru Fri. 10-9,  
Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5

**tappers jewelry**

"See Why  
Everyone's  
Talking"