







Arthritics advised to minimize stress during holidays

Everyone knows the holidays outs a strain on the pocketbook. But persons with arthritis know that the season also places a strain on the joints.

In addition, it can drain energy and turn a festive season into a heetic, diffi-

turn a festive season into a nectic, duri-cult time.

The Michigan Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, through its director of pub-lic relations, has prepared a number of ways people with disabilities can adapt to the rigors of the season.

Margot Ott offers these suggestions about parties, shopping, ligit wrapping and other holiday activities.

• Plan a party well in advance, so

Plan a party well in advance, so you can do a little work each day in moderation. This will minimize stress and prevent fatigue. Get help from family and friends, so the season becomes one of sharing and togetherness.

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Don't make the party too complicated.

Serve buffet style, possibly with paper plates. Or try a potluck dinner so the guests help provide the food.

Shop during non-peak hours when stores are less crowded. Prepure a list in advance of gifts and supplies needed. Go to stores that are located close together, and gauge your strength carefully. If you don't want to leave home, try ordering by mail or telephone.

Pick ways to wrap gifts that will be easy on hunds with arthritis. Look for decorative tirs, stockings, jars, bors and bags that can serve as cheerful con-tainers. If you have lots of gifts to wrap, consider inviting friends to a wrapping party.

Also invite in friends and relatives to help decorate the house or tree. It will get the job done and give you a chance to be with the grandchildren and others to be with the grandchildren.

be with the grandchildren and others close to you.

Prepare food in advance and in quantity. Store it or freeze it in meal-size portions. Simply reheat as needed.

Try to look your best. The way you look will depends on how you have been handling rest, exercise, medication and look will depends on how you have been handling rest, exercise, medication and other portions of your trentment. On the day of a party or other important event, set aside a rest period to lie down and

relax.

Consider other ways to greet friends if your hands are affected with arthritis. For example, raise both arms to show other you wish to hug them rather than shock hands. As others extend their hand, you might want to grasp their thumb rather than their entire hand. This will prevent them source, grasp their thums rather than their en-tire hand. This will prevent them squeez-ing yourhand and hurting you acciden-



