

You're Invited

CLASSIC, ELEGANT ENTERTAINING



STEPHANIE BOOTH SHAFRAN

Foreword by Jeffrey Billhuber

RIZZOLI
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“Where we love is home—home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts.”

— Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS: TOGETHERNESS TIPS

THE MONTH OF DECEMBER is often a revolving door for me, so I decorate early—the day after Thanksgiving. The earlier, the merrier.

WHEN THE HOLIDAYS DESCEND, be prepared to welcome your children and their spouses, cousins, friends, grandparents, and anyone else who might cross your threshold. Always have a full fridge so you can pull together nibbles and assorted beverages for anyone who might drop by.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE to start new family traditions. One of the longstanding traditions in our house is that everyone gets matching fun pajamas every year. We've all donned PJs in prints from leopard to candy canes. This year, we did custom monogrammed ones in red flannel with white trim, a classic touch.

PLAN ONE OR TWO SEASONAL TRADITIONS in which guests can opt to participate if they like, such as cookie decorating or a secret Santa gift exchange.

HERE'S A FUN GIFT IDEA: Personalize a gingerbread house with your friends' or family members' names written on the rooftop in frosting.

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE a stocking with his or her name on it, even pets!

MAKE TIME TO CELEBRATE with your spouse, too, in private. Steve and I wake up a little early Christmas morning to sip coffee and exchange gifts.

I OFTEN PUT SOMETHING ON THE STOVE to fill the house with the spirit and scent of the season, such as mulled cider. It smells just like Christmas.

IF YOU HAVE HOUSEGUESTS, be sure to leave fresh flowers in their rooms, along with an abundance of towels, new toiletries, and good books by their bedsides.

Early on Christmas morning, Steve and I share a moment together in our master suite. We exchange gifts over cups of tea and freshly baked scones before joining our large blended family for a day of cheer. Blue and white is one of my go-to seasonal color palettes. It evokes the clear skies and fresh powder of the slopes in Sun Valley, Idaho.