



Christina Currie Events team is (from left) Christina Currie, Olivia Zyzda, Nicole Tardif, and Masumi Jadia.

Home for the Holidays

WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR with the phrase ‘home for the holidays’, but it means something different for everyone. Some people associate the season with time honored traditions, while others look forward to celebrating current trends. What does ‘home for the holidays’ mean to you? My staff and I reflected on memorable moments from our holiday past. Three generations demonstrate the longstanding power of the season.

Masumi Jadia: When I think about the holidays, preparing for holidays was what I looked forward to most. As a young girl, I hand-painted our clay tealight holders to make sure each one was perfect. At our home, the holiday season begins with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, where we light almost every square inch of the house with candles and lights. The warm glow from all the candles and the bright shining string lights create a beautiful experience every year for all family and friends that come over.

Olivia Zyzda: My favorite memory from holiday parties always came from dinner time when

we all sat down to toast one another’s accomplishments and enjoy the company of our friends and family. It is tradition to have my grandpa’s homemade raviolis and meat sauce around the holidays, along with my mom’s peppermint pie for dessert. These signature dishes are a huge hit and always get me in the holiday spirit!

Nicole Tardif: My mom took extra care with decorating the grand staircase of our home. She spent hours carefully draping each landing with fresh garland, lights, and ribbon. The display made a strong statement as each guest entered the party, setting the tone for the joyous occasion!

I always have loved setting the table with my mom before her holiday parties. We would add a little sparkle to the mix with glitter grapes, plums, and handmade place cards. My mom always felt it was important to have guest names at their place setting, welcoming them to her dinner table. Music was very important to my mom’s holiday parties, as well. When I was a child, Elvis Presley’s Christmas album always took center stage during the holiday season.

Detailed decor, recognizable entertainment, and comforting fare are key components to a festive affair. CCE advises the host of a party to please guests throughout the evening. Create a signature drink that is sure to be a crowd-pleaser. Mix the cocktail into your decor by organizing glasses and a poured drink onto a small tray with signage; this will truly raise the bar for presentation.

Incorporate party favors into your room’s decor. For example, cleverly drape a Pashmina wrapped with a decorative ribbon and holiday motif (such as a sparkly snowflake) over each chair for guests to take home. This tip is both economical and fashion forward! Cue current trends with non-traditional color palettes. CCE is highlighting tablescapes with hues of champagne, black, charcoal gray, and silver this year. This elegant and refined look will impress your company. Also, adding a bit of sparkle to any piece will complete your party look.

Provide guests with engaging entertainment that includes nostalgic lyrics. Holiday hymns are most recognized among generations; sharing the same song with different musicians or a modern twist will get everyone talking! Whether it’s traveling carolers, a one-man musician, or a hit playlist via stereo, guests interact well with whimsical entertainment.



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Knowing your guest list will help you achieve that awe-factor among partygoers. Understand their likes and palettes to ensure a successful celebration.

Honor past relatives by making recipes with a long heritage attached to pass along to younger generations. I host an annual Ebelskiver Day with my daughters. Friends and family have the pleasure of making their own Dutch-like pancakes to the sounds of holiday music in the background.

Have an appreciation for modern takes on traditional dishes to respect new diet trends. Consider dietary restrictions and food preferences. Offering a variety of options is thoughtful and will fare well among close friends and family. Pay close attention to all details, as they won't go unnoticed. Incorporating dynamic elements into your holiday party will make the season memorable and bright! 🍷

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Christina Currie is the founder and owner of Christina Currie Events. To learn more, call 224-558-1764, or visit www.christinacurrieevents.com.



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