



Season's decorating

Create a festive interior

BY CHERYL CHENAULT | PHOTOS BY DAVID CALVERT



Cheryl Chenault

DRESSING YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS is a sure way to begin on a festive note. Holiday decorating is about a big picture idea as well as details. Establish colors and a theme for the season and weave those ideas through important rooms of your home. White, silver and gold are always a welcome complement to any palette. Small decisions have a big impact when

thoughtfully planned.

What kind of entertaining will you do this year and how will it be different from years past? Whether for family,

WELCOME HOME

A soft area rug, favorite painting and familiar collectibles are the first to greet you as you return home. A plant or cut flowers add living beauty.

friends or business associates consider the rooms you'll use for your parties and how and where people usually gather. Fresh winter green-boughs from the local florist paired with holly and winter bulbs pair well with decorative holiday items and add wonderful aroma. Clear a side table in the entry and welcome your guests with a lighted scene and holiday cheer.



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Figure out what you have and what you need. Maybe you have a new item to feature bought at last-year's-end. Retire broken pieces and repair the special ones. If there's a must have item on your list, shop early. Each year is an opportunity to evaluate, edit and layer with new elements.

Got family traditions or creating new ones? Make it the occasion of a party and have family and friends help with the decorating. The more the merrier. With the

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LIVE

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help of a friend, different arrangements will emerge than those you're used to. New eyes and hands make for a fresh approach when it comes to holiday décor. Pieces you've had for years seem new.

When it comes to trees, is one enough? Pick your favorite variety and size according to the room or area you want to fill. Consider providing a second smaller tree for the kids and fill it with ornaments they've made or ones that speak to their hobbies and interests.

Don't forget about outside. Lights make all the difference when people arrive. Pay attention to paths and walkways. Light shrubs and trees that guide people to the front door. There are new sizes, shapes, colors and types of decorative holiday lights. Do it yourself — or stay



off the roof and save time by using one of the many affordable seasonal lighting services.

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TELL

ROBIN'S WELL-HEELED GUIDE TO

LIFE & GOSSIP

PEOPLE, PLACES AND PARTIES

BY ROBIN MERCER | PHOTOS BY ALISHA FUNKHOUSER, LISA J. TOLDA



Robin Mercer

I SUFFER FROM A FEW SHORTCOMINGS: procrastination, overeating, and lack of will power (especially when it comes to house cleaning), but I realized after watching a documentary at a girlfriend's home that I suffer from another condition and never realized. (ITAL)God Save My Shoes(ITAL) is a clever documentary by Julie Benasra which interviews women, luxury shoe designers, historians and psychologists regarding a growing majority of females who have a passion for hoarding designer shoes — in particular, high heels. Most of the women in the show had a closet that would rival Imelda Marcos with well more than 500 pairs of shoes. These women are collectors of luxury footwear with some shoes that are physically impossible to wear due to their heel height. I watched in awe and thought, "At least I am not that bad" and laughed judgmentally at the television screen. That was until I returned home, walked into my closet and

started counting all the shoes I haven't even worn in the last 12 months. I decided to Google the word "Shoe-aholic" and realized I'm not the only one with this vice. The first website I found under my search was a website of confessions one can post in hopes of winning \$100 gift card to a shoe store (yes, I posted and followed with a little prayer in hopes of winning). I found a few you tube videos including one called "Fashion Friday" in which a shoe-aholic answers viewer's questions about heels, flats, boots, and wedges while standing in her immense shoe closet. I also discovered there are shoe-aholic themed birthday invitations, magazines, t-shirts and a pop song with an accompanying music video. The final link I opened was an urban dictionary definition: "Shoe-aholic, Noun: One who covets shoes and who owns more than they can wear inever." Okay, I'm no longer in denial so in case you haven't met me yet: Hello, my name is Robin and I am a shoe-aholic. And by the way, if you can't seem to reach me, it's because I'm out shoe shopping.

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Eric Bennet, Ken Early and Tom Baumbach



Don Stidham and Marc Sherril



Rib enthusiasts crowd the tables in the VIP area

BEST IN THE WEST

The annual Nugget Rib Cook-off is best described as a gastronomic feast in which teams from all across the country compete for the "Best in the West" rib competition title. Victorian Square was buzzing with music, crafts, food vendors and crowds as my husband and I made our way to the VIP Rib Village where we saw Reno's who's who enjoying slabs of ribs while listening to the music of The Fabulous Thunderbirds. Michonne Ascuaga was on hand greeting her VIP guests and I spotted Carrie Carano, the Past President of Jr. League of Reno Jane Patterson, AT&T

lobbyist Randy Brown, Assemblyman Mike Sprinkle, Justin Musgrove who is the owner of Flowing Tide restaurant and the former hubby of Erin Brockovich, Steve. The parking is the only downer of this fantastic event and I'd almost advise to stay home due to the aggravation. Good thing the ribs truly are the best in the west and the Nugget really knows how to transform the outdoor venue into one of the best in the area; otherwise, I would have ordered mine to be delivered!