

On The Homefront

Each week a different business-person, artisan or professional who lives or works in Lansing will share some aspect about his or her occupation that may be useful to Lansing residents. Interested in sharing your skills? Call us at 533-7963.

Elegant Holiday Catering At Home

By Sherry Rosemann

Home for the Holidays! Chestnuts roasting! Walks in the snowy woods! Holidays feasts! These conjure up convivial images of family and friends, warmth and good cheer, and, if you are the host and hostess, a lot of work!

Hark, ye of little faith and time! Your holiday festivities need not spell drudgery and gloom. Certainly the days of the housewife working busily and happily for a week preparing pies and yams, plum puddings, and succulent fowl and the like, have altered for many families with working moms (and grandmoms), single parent families, etc.; However, it is still possible to host the family celebration, and enjoy yourself, given the proper advance planning and preparation.

Before becoming professional hosts at the Rose Inn, Charles and I use to entertain lavishly for family and friends alike. I would cook for days, impressing everyone with my considerable repertoire of delectables. At the end of the party, we were faced with the mess to clean up, working well into the night sometimes to put things back in order. The next day was a wipe out - necessarily a day of well deserved rest.

We are older and wiser now, and I doubt very much that we would have the stamina to accomplish such feasts any more, even if we wanted to. But we still love to host those wonderful gatherings. With time being the valuable commodity that it is, one just has to smarter and more efficiently. So I offer you, dear readers, the following secrets of entertaining, some keys to success, with the hopes that you may entertain and enjoy your own party!

* Planning ahead is essential: when planning the menu, keep it simple. You may have three vegetable dishes that you and your family just love, but one (maybe two, if you are really ambitious) will do just fine. The same holds true for the rest of your menu; i.e., simple hors d'oeuvres, a salad, one meat, one dessert. Of course, when you limit the items, each offering must be absolutely fabulous!

* The next consideration in planning the menu is to choose things that can be shopped for and prepared well in advance. A thorough grocery list is a must, unless you enjoy running out at the last minute to pick up the one item you forgot.

* Prepare a time line and make the dinner in advance. By preparing for your feast a little at a time you can work at your own pace as you have the time. The added benefit is that the clean-up is done incremen-

tally, so by the time that you have your party, you will have forgotten that you ever made the mess!

* Once the food has been prepared and stored for the big day, the table setting should be planned. Consider what your needs will be based on the menu, and if possible, set up a day or two in advance. This gives you the opportunity to iron the table cloth and to polish the silver pieces that haven't been used since the last holiday.

Center pieces with poinsettia and seasonal greens last for days, or make a more elaborate arrangement with cut flowers by using a base of evergreens in oasis with pine cones, statis and/or eucalyptus sprayed gold. Roses and lilies can be added the day of the party to ensure freshness.

So, what are we having at the Rose Inn for Christmas eve dinner and when do we prepare for the masses?

Rose Inn Christmas Eve Dinner

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Cocktails and Champagne served with spiced pecans (made one month ahead and stored in a tin) and an assortment of fine cheeses

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Sherried cream of chestnut soup (keeps for 5-6 days)

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Mesclun greens with Gorgonzola cheese raspberry vinaigrette (keeps for 2 weeks)

*

Choice of stuffed roast goose (prepared 3 days ahead or may be made 3 weeks ahead and frozen)

or

Chateaubriand grilled over charcoal (have the butcher trim it for you and marinate 24 hours)

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Butternut squash (made 1 week ahead)
Broccoli soufflés (made 3 days ahead)
Wild rice with pepper medley

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Cranberry relish (made 1 to 2 weeks ahead)

*

Choice of desserts
Chocolate and pumpkin mousse
Tangerine sorbet with fresh berries
Pears poached in port wine, with creme anglaise and candied ginger
(Desserts are all made in advance, and assembled as ordered.)

Bon appetit and warm seasons greeting from the Rose Inn.



ORGANIST Jen Struglia practices playing Handel's Messiah for last Sunday's worship service at Lansing United Methodist Church.

Free Stress Relief Workshop Dec. 17

Techniques to recognize and minimize its toll on overall health will be covered at a free stress relief workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 7 pm at the office of Dr. Robert Brown at 15 Auburn Road in South Lansing.

"Stress is widely recognized as a contributing factor in a number of serious health problems," said Dr. Brown, "so it is vitally important for everyone to know more about how to handle this silent health risk."

Brown will review the major signs of stress to enable participants to judge for themselves whether or not they're displaying symptoms of stress-related illnesses. He will also present techniques to minimize stress and participants will learn innovative ways to handle their stress.

There is no charge for the workshop, though reservations are required. For further information, contact Dr. Brown at 533-4231.

READER CLASSIFIEDS

CAR WASH POSITIONS AVAILABLE - at *Squeaky Clean Car Wash*. Full time manager and assistant manager. Part-time positions also available to assist with greeting customers, prepping cars, yardwork and other duties. If you are interested in learning and growing with a local business, complete an application at 2326 North Triphammer Road in front of Pyramid Mall. (12/5)

BRANCHES - New Lansing restaurant seeking applications for wait staff, salads/prep cook and dishwashers. Experience preferred. 277-4718 or stop in person at the old Golden Garter. (1/2)

I WILL WAIT FOR YOU! Can't be home when the repair person, plumber or electrician needs to get in? I will let them in and wait until the job is done. Marc's Waiting Service. 272-8329

6 SPINDLE-BACKED CAN CHAIRS - 4 in excellent condition. 533-7963. (12/26)

USED FURNITURE FOR SALE - Cayuga Mall Laundramat, 257-4922 (12/26)

DAYTIME DAYCARE IN SO. LANSING 5 days a week to fit your schedule. Call Margaret at 533-4699. (12/26)

NATURE'S CREATIONS GIFT SHOP is overflowing with holiday wreaths, arrangements and cornhusk dolls great for your home or for a unique gift. Fresh centerpieces and boxwood trees available. 59 Emmons Road (607) 533-7160. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am to 3:30 pm or by appointment. (12/26)

JOYSTICK WANTED - Also used US commemorative stamps. Call J-P @ 533-7963. (1/2)

TABLE SAW - Black & Decker 8-inch 1h.p. induction motor table saw. Not a professional carpenter's bread & butter saw, but just right for jobs around the house. \$125. 533-7963 (12/26)

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

Classifieds are \$4.00 for 10 words or less. Additional words are 20 cents. Call 533-7963 or mail your ad to the

Lansing Community News, 204 Wilson Road, Lansing, NY 14882-9065

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Your Name _____ Tel: _____
Address _____ ZIP Code _____

Community Business Directory

Help Needed
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If you'd like to work a regular schedule of 15-20 hours a week (that can be tailored to your other commitments) helping area businesses market their goods and services through the **Lansing Community News**, please call Matthew for an appointment.

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Ithaca, NY 14850
272-7402

Lansing
SPORTS-MINDED ?
Whether it's the Bobcats or senior swimming, the Rec. Dept. or women's softball, share your passion for Lansing sports in the Lansing Community News.
If you'd like to try your hand at writing and/or taking photos of Lansing sports, give Matthew a call at:
533-7963

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