

Stylish and Sustainable Holidays

Monday, November 14th

Welcome from your Hostesses:

Patty Cavanaugh, [Glen Ellyn Moms Village](#)

Jacquelyn Casazza, [Go Green Glen Ellyn](#)

Diana Laufenberg, [Celebrate in Style Events](#) and [Bubbly Lawn Party](#)

Designing the Gracious and Prepared Hostess Tool Kit

Reusable instead of plastic/disposable provides a nicer look, a more welcoming experience for guests, is easier to eat and drink from, saves money and helps the planet! Think about how your grandmother entertained - timeless and reusable pieces. It makes these occasions feel special and familiar at the same time!

Drinks and glasses

Dispensers – I like to use glass for most occasions on a stand – but if I am with kids or on a pool deck I choose plastic/plastic alternatives (see later!) and keep it for years – have three of each kind- water, ice tea and lemonade



Cuts down on individual containers and water bottles

Punch Bowls and Cups – vintage is collectible and sought after – [Jadeite is making a comeback!](#)

Coffee Urns – for Hot Chocolate, Cider, Coffee, etc.... Use it for cold drinks too





Drink stations are so fun and add an element of surprise and delight – especially if you have add ins – Mimosa bars, Cider Bar, Hot teas, Bloody Mary Brunches, etc....store ingredients and accouterments in small glass vases or jars

Have guests bring a reusable water bottle and offer water refill stations

Sets of Glasses

Stemless Wine – easy to wash in the dishwasher and store

Pint glasses if you have beer drinkers in the house

Water glasses that can serve many kinds of drinks

Coffee Mugs or insulated cups

Mason Jar glasses

Keep the designs basic so you can use and reuse for many occasions and if it breaks, is easily replaceable



Plastic alternatives:

Stainless steel & silicone cups are 100% dishwasher safe and better for you (and the planet) than plastic. [Silipint](#) makes a variety of silicone cups

Disposable option - aluminum cups! Available on Amazon. 100% recyclable, keeps drinks cold. Handwash and reuse.



Bottled water alternatives:

Boxed water, [“Liquid Death”](#) canned water, water bottle refill station.



Silverware and Serving ware

in Bulk- fill a plastic shoebox with all the same item – forks, knives, spoons, serving utensils – from Restaurant Depot or on-line or have fun collecting any patterns you like from Vintage stores – a fun collection of silverware (I got the Cubs silver)

Shop Estate Sales for entire collections of silverware that you can reuse

Plates

Large buffet, Bread plates that can double as dessert and bowls – think Chili, spaghetti suppers, cozy stews – items for a crowd

All White works great, and your food is always the star on a white plate

Get what you love – I have gotten some of my favorite dishes for .99 at Good Will and the Treasure House – doesn't need to be a complete set

Linens

Napkins – Cloth cocktail or dinner napkins to wash. If they get ruined at a party - now you have new cloth napkins for your kids! Use your stuff, don't keep it folded away to just use once a year!

Table linens – plastic table cloths – how long they would stay in a garbage dump – forever!! for a one time use -

-Consider using tablecloths you can wash in your washing machine, fold and pull out when you need it

– Marcel's, Amazon, even rental companies often sell their linens if there is something you like – I love the 90 x 156 size

Trays, Bowls, Platters, This and That

Little Silver Revere Silver Bowls or Ceramic or Glass dishes

Great for little gifts – finishing off a charcuterie platter, use for condiments, salad dressings – multiple use items



Glass vases

Use for flowers

Holding Silverware

On a Bar cart with all your cute drink accompaniments

Trays and white platters

Great for organizing your serving utensils, can be used to serve

Comfort Station

Have this ready for your guests- keep it stocked and you can always have it on hand whenever friends come over – tylenol, band aids, bug spray, sunscreen, hand sanitizer, tissues

Organize It

Have a dedicated spot in your home for your party supplies

Rolling Rack to store table cloths on hangers – can double as storing coats at your holiday party

Label and make it easy to find – and wash it – store it and it is ready for your next event. Your future self will thank you!



Where do I start if I want to celebrate sustainably?! - try one of these!

1. Don't try to do it all your first time around. Pick one thing and start there. I recommend something that is single use, is easily swapped, and can be reused in the future. Plastic cutlery and cups are great starting points.
2. Plastic cutlery and straws are not recyclable. Plastic recycling rates in the U.S. are so low (less than 5%), you should assume that just about every piece of plastic you use will be on the earth until the end of time. Eek! Plastic is often unavoidable, but ask yourself if there is one plastic item you could do without at your event. You'll be surprised how these changes add up!
3. Additionally keep in mind plastic is essentially fossil fuels and chemical additives molded into a shape. There are questions about the extent to which these chemicals can leach into our food - especially when heated. If you go the disposable route, paper plates are a safer alternative for serving and more friendly to the planet. Leftovers - use foil which is recyclable, or give a thrifted plate/glass dish to take home.
4. Make it easy for your guests to be green too! Have a station for trash, recycling and compost (Glen Ellyn has [curbside composting!](#)). Ask them to bring containers for leftovers or use aluminum pie pan/tin with beeswax wrap (bonus: aluminum makes for easy reheating!). Most of us struggle with waste and recycling correctly. Make the recycling bin the new "water cooler" conversation!
5. Be cautious of holiday "fragrances" in candles, hand soaps, room sprays, potpourri, etc. Fragrance (or "parfum") is a consumer products trade secret which means companies do not need to disclose the ingredients that make up fragrance. Questionable and potentially harmful ingredients can be in fragrance including allergens and endocrine disruptors. Read labels! Or go with fragrances derived from actual plants and flowers or those found in essential oils. [Read more](#) about fragrance. We love [a la main's products \(local to GE!\)](#)
6. Most gift wrap is not recyclable. Textured, glittery, or foil stamped must go in the trash; same with tissue paper and plastic ribbon. Buy fabric ribbon and reuse with kraft paper or paper bags, and reuse gift bags.
7. Candles - love them? Look for soy, coconut or beeswax (not paraffin or petroleum). Watch out for the fragrance. Avoid mass produced - we have wonderful local candle makers in our area!! ([Riley + Wheat](#), [Adam & Sons](#) to name a few!)
8. The most sustainable choice is to use what already exists in your home 😊

Favorite Places to find what you need for your next party...

Before you run to Amazon, Homegoods or Target.... Consider that someone else has done an event or party and you can purchase it at a discount – almost everything can be found.. You will have fun finding entertaining ware – there is a lot out there

- eBay
- Etsy
- Estatesales.net
- Treasure House
- Stars Resale
- Good Will
- Antiques of Winfield
- Warehouse 55 – Aurora
- La Grange has a lot of Antique Stores that are fun to shop
- Gather and Collect
- Gingham Tree – near Good Samaritan Hospital
- Ask your friends – I am delighted to have my items used and enjoyed by friends
- Rent it rather than buy it
- Jubilee furniture
- [Spots on the Fox](#)
- My number 1 – Facebook Marketplace – especially when you travel

Dressing Up Your Home for a Party

Candles – poured soy candles in glass

Look at the reviews – I have a set I am using right now that has gone through 3 parties and still look amazing

Tapers and lots of candlesticks at different heights



The Nora Ephron Effect

Twinkle Lights or Party Lighting – when they burn out – recycle the strings – I always buy a lot at Target after Christmas – dim your lights



Flowers

Get as local as you can

There are a lot of backyard farmers that grow and sell in bulk, along with Wheaton and Glen Ellyn Farmers Market – Green Garden Mama

New
Floral
Oasis
Product,
flower



frogs or the tape method of flower arranging



Shop your yard!

Plant what you love - Hydrangeas, Tulips, Daffodils, Flowering Trees like Forsythias, Crab Apples, Dahlias, Zinnias, use fruits - and vegetables as part of your flower décor too. In the fall a changing leaves branch. Make a plan in your garden to have something to grab at most times of the year – I love to plant herbs and use those in flower arrangements too.

Native options - coneflower, bergamot, asters, cardinal flower

Evergreens in the wintertime – if you have them – clip them to use in your wreaths, wrap a gift and tuck some greens in it.

Buy fake garland that you can reuse year after year. Tuck fresh greenery in each year, then compost after (or just put back outside!)

Seating Areas

Make little conversation areas that your guests can talk and visit – spread the food and drinks in various areas to help spread people out and keep discovering little treats or thoughtfully planned party spaces

Make use of the outside – even in the winter – embrace the seasons and extend your entertaining areas – even if you are not going outside – if there are views from inside – use white twinkle lights, candles, fire pit going if it can be seen from the inside. Get Cozy wool blankets and invite guests to be in those areas!



Hostess gifts

Be a delightful and sustainable guest with your hostess gifts

Experiences – gift a dinner out after a busy party

Glen Ellyn Chamber Gift Certificates

Consumables – Wine, Teas, Chocolates,

Vanilla - fresh vanilla beans and vodka!

Keep a gift closet or drawer when you find something you like, save it to give as a gift

Shopping local is one of the BEST ways to shop sustainably. It cuts down on transport emissions and shipping and packaging waste (did you know 44% of plastic pollution is single use packaging?). Plus for every \$1 you spend in our community, 67% of it stays in our community (vs. only 43% for a big box retailer). Support our local businesses!

See more ideas on the next page!



Focus on your guests

Do as much as you can ahead of time, you will set the tone and the mood of your party – it is about the people who are there – not making it perfect or spending a lot of money– setting up areas for guests to help themselves and bringing out different food items, desserts, etc... will surprise and delight your guests.

Most Importantly –

enjoy the holidays, do what makes you joyful, giving and a gracious and fun hostess.

We would love it if you would share how YOU used these ideas and created joyous holiday celebrations with us! Email us at gogreenglenellyn@gmail.com and diana.laufenberg@celebrateinstyleevents.com 😊

Clutter free gift ideas

52 CLUTTER-FREE GIFTS

Experiences

- Concert Tickets
- Sporting Tickets
- Movie Passes
- Theater Tickets
- Golf Passes
- Escape Room
- Symphony
- Community Theater
- Restaurant Gift Card
- Indoor Rock Climbing
- Bowling Passes
- Daddy-Daughter Date
- Summer Camp
- Hot Air Balloon Ride

Classes

- Cooking
- Dance
- Sports
- Swimming
- Music
- Internet Master Class
- Coding
- Painting/Art
- Home Brewing
- Scuba Diving
- Private Coaching
- Physical Trainer

Time

- Babysitter
- House Cleaner
- Professional Organizer
- Car Wash
- Massage
- Manicure/Pedicure
- Yard Service
- Date Night Out
- Oil Change

Memberships

- Children's Museum
- Zoo
- Theme Park
- Trampoline Park
- Art Museum
- Science Museum
- State Parks
- National Parks

Consumables

- Fruit Basket
- Flowers
- Chocolates
- Coffee Beans
- Coffee Gift Card
- Local Foods
- Wine
- Desserts
- Meat/Cheeses

