

Throwing an A-List Party in Style

By Christina Currie

The word “entertaining” can be petrifying to many people—so much so that they don’t even attempt to entertain. For some, it means taking the lead part on stage. Especially at the holidays, entertaining can be very stressful. But social event planners understand the pressure of entertaining, and they’re here to help.

But if you think of the word as *entertainment* rather than as *entertaining*, you realize that the host is supposed to enjoy being entertained right along with the guests—you’re supposed to have fun, too!

If you hire your own personal social event planner, you can throw an A-list party without spending heaps of time and money. And, you’ll have a great time at your own party!

Think outside the box

An experienced social event planner will also help you think outside the box. For example, you can make your next cocktail party unique by adding a martini bar with glow-in-the-dark martini glasses. Or, if your budget allows, you can have an ice luge or ice sculpture that is designed to chill alcoholic beverages while traveling on the ice.

To add bling to your next party, you can always add glow cocktail stirrers or swizzles. Adding fun novelties such as flashing ice cubes can definitely personalize a gathering.

Most Barrington residents don’t need an excuse to entertain, such as a milestone event. In fact, I have found that some of the most creative parties were the ones that celebrated the little things in life.

For example, I once coordinated a party for a Deer Park couple who were celebrating the fact that their kids were out of diapers! I have also designed an elegant barbeque dinner with a Mediterranean theme for a couple in the village. I hired a personal chef to carry out the perfect meal, and with small touches, I transformed their backyard into a Mediterranean

village with imitation grapevines and European lanterns. As the sun went down, I lit votive candles that sat inside European lanterns hung by ribbon in the trees.

Host the holiday parties at home

For the holidays, it has become very trendy to host your corporate party in your home.


I once designed a holiday party for a couple in Barrington Hills who had lots of holiday spirit but not a lot of time to deck the halls. They wanted a festive evening at home with their employees and their spouses, but they wanted to make it easy for their guests to relax without worrying about work.

So instead of the same old cider and appetizers, I designed a sparkling, modern “Crystal Christmas” dessert party that would appeal even to the overbooked. Guests could arrive after work or after other parties to find the sweet reward of relaxing with fellow employees.

To truly give this party a chic look, I used framed mirrors (which I found in my client’s basement) as the trays for the exquisite selection of red-and-white cookies, cupcakes, and peppermint sticks, which sat atop modern glass vases stocked with alternating layers of frosty rock candy and robust cranberries.

I also spilled rock candy onto smaller framed mirrors and silver trays. This simple flourish instantly re-created the glamorous effect of piles of uncut (and edible) diamonds. Peppermint candles were placed in the powder rooms, coat room, and foyer to keep a fresh perfume scent circulating.

As you know, entertaining is a refreshing undertaking. Whether you’re a first-time hostess or an accomplished party-giver with limited time, make your life easier by hiring a social event planner.

You deserve to relax this holiday season and relish in the accolades with your party—and enjoy yourself at your own gathering 



Christina Currie is a veteran event planner with more than 15 years organizing celebrations and activities for private entities as well as national and international organizations. Her company, Party Partner, Inc., is the premier full-service social event company in the northwest suburbs—in 2006, the company won a Chicago Excellence Award for best social event planner. Contact Christina at 224-558-1764 or Christina@partypartnerinc.com.



DECORATING IN STYLE

- As place cards, try sugar cookies. Write the names onto each cookie with an edible ink pen.
- Make centerpieces out of old, 1970s objects (like patent leather pink Go-Go boots) for theme parties.
- For matching vases, use individual drinking glasses. Just fill each glass with colorful marbles or rocks, then top it off with your favorite flowers.
- Get votive candles from the dollar store, then stripe the candle by brushing on egg whites and rolling in cinnamon or another favorite spice/herb.
- Toasting with champagne? Add edible gold or silver glitter to the drinks.

