

ALWAYS TASTEFUL



WHAT'S IN HERE?



My niece makes beautiful cookies.

TREE DECORATING

TWO-TONE TREE



TABLE SETTING

JUST DO IT



LET'S EAT

RECIPE-LESS PARTY



PORCH CONTAINER

WITH DIANA PIERCE



CANDLE TRICK

THE BATTERY ONES



GO DO

LIGHT TOUR



GO DO

NORTHERN LIGHTS



WHAT'S IN HERE?



My mom has a different Christmas Tree every year. This one is fantastic.

GO DO

DAYTON'S



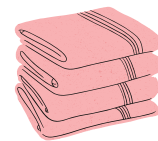
CHRONICLE: LIVING IN A LOVE STORY

FUN VISITS



CHRONICLE: LIVING IN A LOVE STORY

TOWELS



THE DOCTOR IS IN

THE PODCAST-SPEAK UP FOR YOUR HEALTH



BEHIND THE SCENE

WHAT YOU DON'T SEE



FINAL THOUGHT

DECEMBER

PAUL FOLGER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

December came fast this year. I think it's because Thanksgiving came later. This month, I've put together some really easy party planning tips and ideas for guests coming for the holidays.

I've also collaborated with Dr. Archelle Georgiou and News Anchor legend Diana Pierce. Her Substack page on Outdoor Planters for the holiday is something you don't want to miss. Dr. Georgiou has an informative discussion on Menopause.

Hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and remember it's not about the gifts, it's about the time you spend together.

Happy Holidays!



TREE DECORATING

"Two-Tone Tree"

Do What You Like!

I do like decorating a Christmas tree. The first thing I do is add more lights, even if it's a pre-lit tree, a heavily lit tree sparkles at night and during the day. This tree shines brightly even during daylight hours.

There are just two colors on it, gold and silver. They really do work well together. I also really filled the tree full of ornaments. I like the way it looks.

To me, the perfect tree is the one you decorate yourself with the things you love the most.



CHRISTMAS TABLE

"Terrific Table"

Setting The Scene

Skip the paper plates, set the table. You can wash a few dishes Christmas Dinner. You don't have to spend a bunch of money to make the table great either. Here, I am using a white tablecloth, stringing ornaments from the chandelier, and using branches from trees in my yard and few fresh twigs from the store. I combine that with artificial greenery, and I think it makes a great tablescape.



CHRISTMAS TABLE

Setting The Scene

"Terrific Table"



LET'S EAT

Recipe-Less Party

"Keep It Simple"

"If you're throwing a party this year, just make one or two things. Keep the rest simple. My party, this year, has just a couple of things I made by hand. I call it the recipe-less party.

You can see I've got cheese and crackers on the table, popcorn, potato chips, M&Ms and nuts. Simple, fast, easy."



LET'S EAT

Yum-Ness

"Easy Eating"

When was the last time that you had Sausage Cheddar Cheese Balls? This is a really old-school recipe that comes right out of the Bisquick recipe book. These have great nostalgia. It's feel-good food. Elevate it a little bit by putting it in a pretty silver tray lined with parchment paper with a simple pepper jelly in the middle.

You can also do something unexpected like putting grapes in a pretty cup. It's a fun twist that looks great.



OUTDOOR PORCH CONTAINERS

"Pretty Porch Containers"

From Our Friend Diana Pierce



Who doesn't love a great Porch Container for the holiday season? Have you ever tried to make one? They never seem to look "quite right" when I make them. But our friend Diana Pierce has perfected the art of the porch container. Recently, she hosted a class on making them with Gertens Manager, Cindy Wellman. Check out Diana's Substack page to see how it's done. She even has a list of things to buy for a beautiful holiday-themed Porch Container. [Diana Pierce's Substack](#)

CANDLE TRICK

Battery Operated

"Candle-Lit Nights"

I love the mood candles set in the house, but I don't really like burning candles. They concern me, I don't want to forget and leave one burning unattended. So this is an incredible option. They are battery-operated candles, I found on Amazon for about \$25 for 12. They glow like a real candle and look beautiful anywhere you put them.



GO DO

Best Light Tour

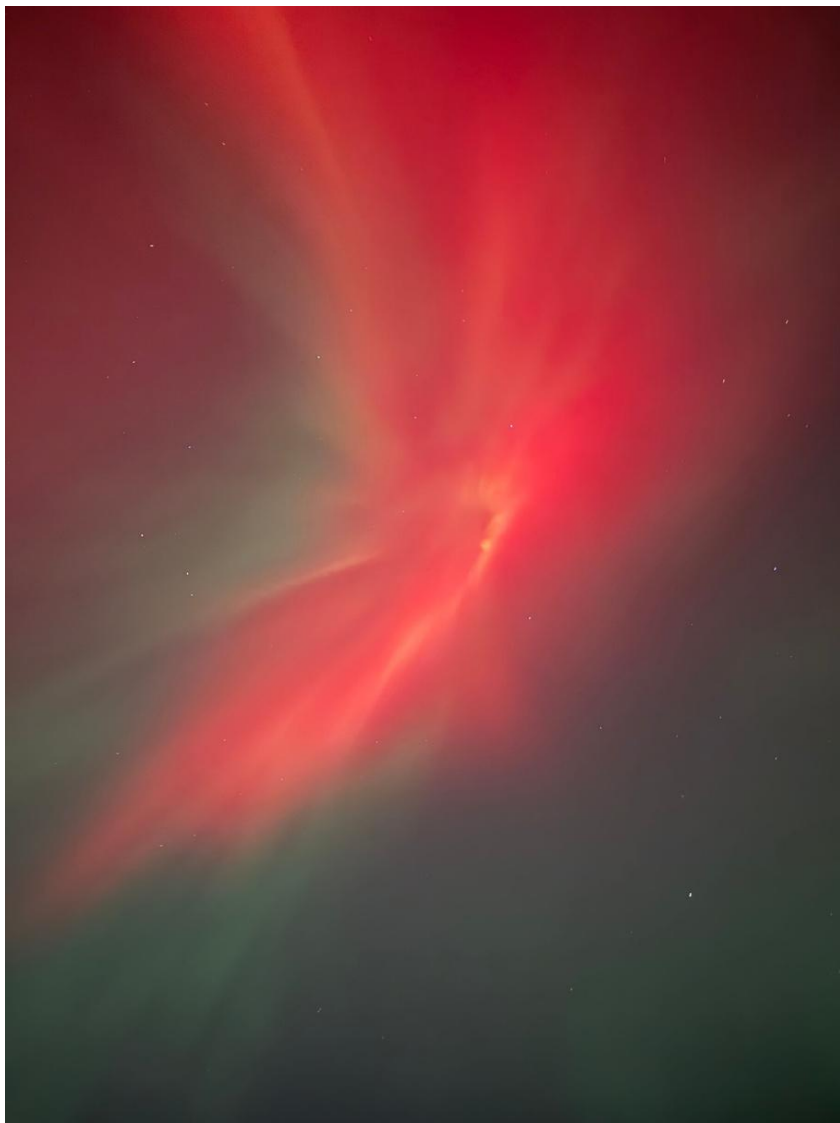
"Mike Approved!"

You've probably said this to your family, "We're going to go look at Christmas Lights." Usually, I go to the Internet and end up just getting confused about where to go. Well, Mike Marcotte has done the work and made it easy for you. He has all the top picks, the best places to go, and the best deals. [Give Me The Mike!](#)



GO DO!

"Northern Lights!



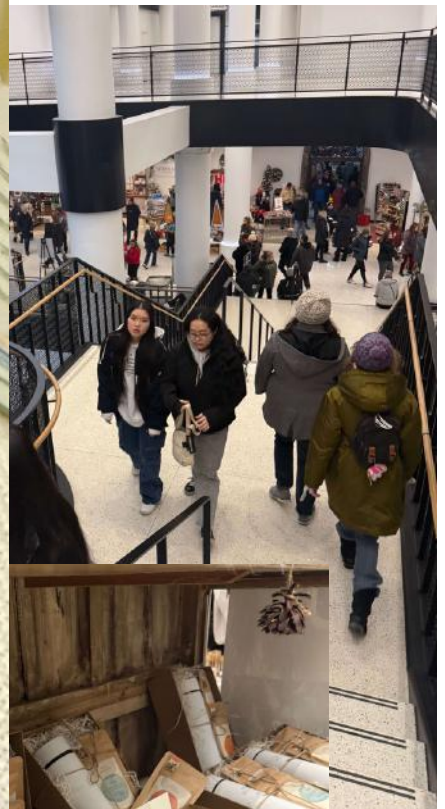
I finally saw the Northern Lights! One weeknight, our Meteorologist said it would be a perfect night to see them. They are elusive and hard to see. I've been out before trying to find them, but this night was just right. The camera makes them even more beautiful. It has the ability to take in much more than our eyes, and you can see the result is just beautiful green and red.

GO DO!

Daytons

"Christmas Fun!"

I didn't grow up in Minnesota, so I don't know the thrill of seeing the Dayton's Department Store window and going downtown to shop during Christmas. But in the last few years, they've opened up the old Dayton's building to local gift makers, and it's a great place to find gifts. Go and then take the Skyways to Cardigan Donuts. I think you'll be glad you came back to downtown Minneapolis!



CHRONICLE: LIVING IN A LOVE STORY

"A Fun Visit"

Guest Experience

When guests come to stay at my house, I try to make it inviting for them. Not everyone lives in a 100-year-old house, so I want the experience to feel interesting. I leave a couple of empty drawers pulled out, so they can put their things in the built-in cabinet. I also make sure the bed linens are soft and ready. Speaking of winter, I like to put the towels on the radiator in the room so when they grab a towel, it's good and warm.



CHRONICLE: LIVING IN A LOVE STORY

"Two-Towel Effect"

The Towels

When you have guests this holiday season, here's a little trick. Put out nice towels for them that are super fluffy and feel really good. But also add a towel for makeup removal—one that is not white, and your guests will know.



THE DOCTOR IS IN

Archelle Georgiou Talks Menopause

"Menopause Edition!"

Doctor Archelle Georgiou is our Doctor at KSTP, but did you know she also has a Podcast? I've had her here on "Always Tasteful" before, but this time she wanted me to share this podcast with you specifically. It's about Menopause and Hormone Replacement Therapy. Recently, the FDA moved to take the black label warning off Hormone Replacement Therapy products. Dr. Georgiou discusses Menopause with a News Anchor from Nashville, take a listen. [Speak Up For Your Health](#)



BEHIND THE SCENES

What You Don't See

"It's fun to show you what goes on behind the scenes. Here, Leah and I are at a promo shoot for the holidays. We are very close to the Como Zoo in a little wooded area. I can tell you that particular day, I was freezing. We were only out there for a few minutes, but I was chilled to the bone. But it was quick for Leah and me.

The lower pictures are of Fashion Fest, a benefit to raise money for M Health Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital. I'm there with Co-Worker Brandi Powell and friend Ahmed. you can also see Brittany and Kendall from 107.1 FM on the pink screen. It's a fun night that raises great funds.



Final Thought:

December

"December has arrived and I hope you make plans to do something fun. Look around and find something you enjoy around the holidays. The light displays, shopping in an unusual spot, or just setting up the tree to great music. Look for ways to make the holidays fun and you'll never forget them this year."



Til Next Time

Paul