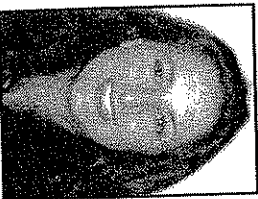


How to plan a stress-free Thanksgivings



Stephanie Goldberg Glazer ORGANIZATION EXPERT

What is it about certain holidays that makes you crazy? Is it the dried out turkey? The expectation that everything needs to be perfect?

Perhaps the pressure that this is your one-turkey-a-year chance to prove to family and friends that you are, indeed, as talented as Martha Stewart, is just overwhelming.

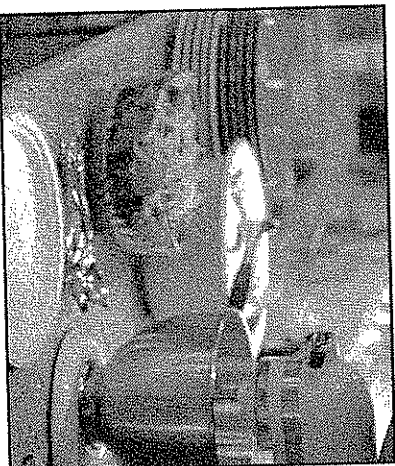
Spending a little bit of time early can give you enough time to relax and catch some of the football game before the meal. But how? Organize early. I recommend following these eight easy tips for a stress-free holiday and a great meal.

1. Reflect. You may be doing this holiday for the first time or the fortieth time. Either way, think about what you have done in the past that has been really great (sweet potato brulee, perhaps), as well as those

things that may have not been such a big hit. Think about what new traditions or foods you would like to try (start perusing those food magazines and websites now).

2. Decide on a menu and make a list. Grab a notepad and pen for this one. How many people are coming? What has each person or family committed to bringing? Do you have enough dishes (or paper goods) for everyone that is coming? This includes wine glasses, if needed, as well as items like soup bowls, silverware and napkins. Don't forget to make sure you have enough seating for everyone.

After you have narrowed down the items you are making, you can create your shopping list. Don't forget to add to the list those items you may need to borrow (like the chairs that you may need). Sort your list into different sections (grocery store, items to borrow, specialty store or party supply store) so that it is easy to find the items you need in one trip.



3. Delegate. If Aunt Mary is always bragging about how great her stuffing is, let her bring it. Likewise, assign dishes to various friends and family according to their strengths and likes. This way, the food is good, you have less work and you just saved several sweat-filled hours and some cash!

Assign duties to the whole family- the kids can help set the table, one person can make the turkey, one can be in charge of beverages.

4. Set it and forget it. Make sure that your table is set and serving dishes are out and cleaned early in the day. When your guests

arrive, you can simply take their dish and put it in the appropriate serving piece, and offer them a beverage.

5. Cherish family time. If you have a well-organized plan, there is no reason for you not to have a few hours to spend relaxing with your family (or in a hot bath!) before the guests arrive.

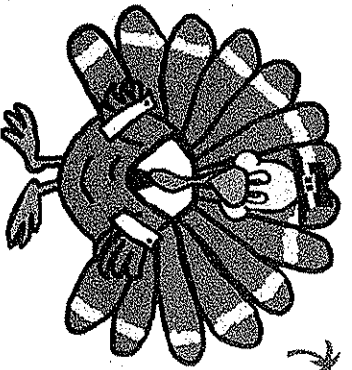
And when your favorite cousin laments never getting to see you and suggests getting together in the next few weeks, get out your calendar right then and there and make a plan. Don't put it off, or it may be next Thanksgiving before you see them again.

Preparation, organization and a dash of creativity, are key ingredients in a recipe for success this Thanksgiving.

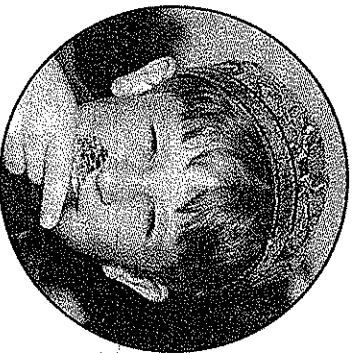
Stephanie Goldberg Glazer is the owner of Hollywood-based organizational, clutter clearing and concierge company, Your Personal Manager. For more information, call (954) 925-TIME (8463).



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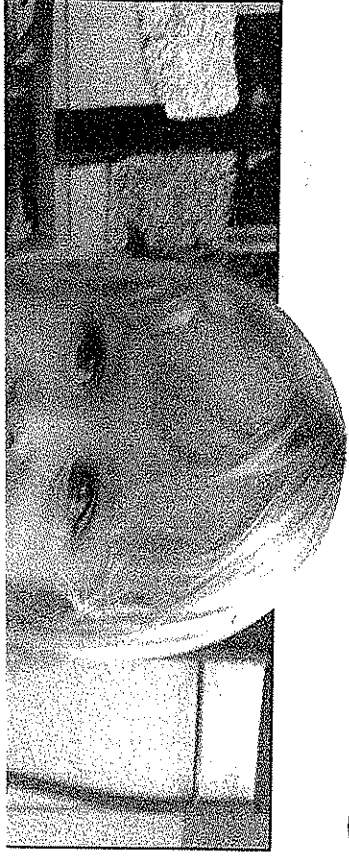
Member • 2006

Vol. VI • No. 3

Hollywood woman thankful on, mom-in-law recovering

Senior Staff Writer
Patricia Sandmir

Amy Carr of Hollywood has thanked her mother-in-law for which to be grateful this Thanksgiving, now that her 2½-year-old son is home recovering from injuries suffered at the hands of an alleged drunk driver. Carr said she intuitively knew



West Hollywood gets some R&R from train horns

by Paul Scott Abbott
Senior Correspondent

Residents of West Hollywood may now peacefully rest assured that they will no longer be disturbed by blaring train horns.