

lake norman

# WOMAN

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN

*lkn* HEROES  
TELL US ABOUT YOURS!

HOLIDAY COOKING  
WITH  
*food allergies*

# ATTITUDE

of *gratitude*

featuring  
THE WOMEN  
OF LANGTREE

+ WAYS TO SHOW YOUR ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE



# HOW TO BE A *great host*

BY: STARR MILLER

## THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING

like a freight train, and we'd best prepare for our guests to arrive. Over the years, we have put together a very detailed checklist for the guest room and the guest experience. We all want our guests to feel at home with our families, but we also know that a bit of autonomy and a well-designed place to get away is important when anyone is a visitor in your home. Here is a bit of my personal planning guide:

### *One month out*

Mark your calendar for the essential things to accomplish, such as: A deep clean around the house, and any yard work, dry cleaning, laundry, and grocery shopping that must be managed.

### *Two weeks out*

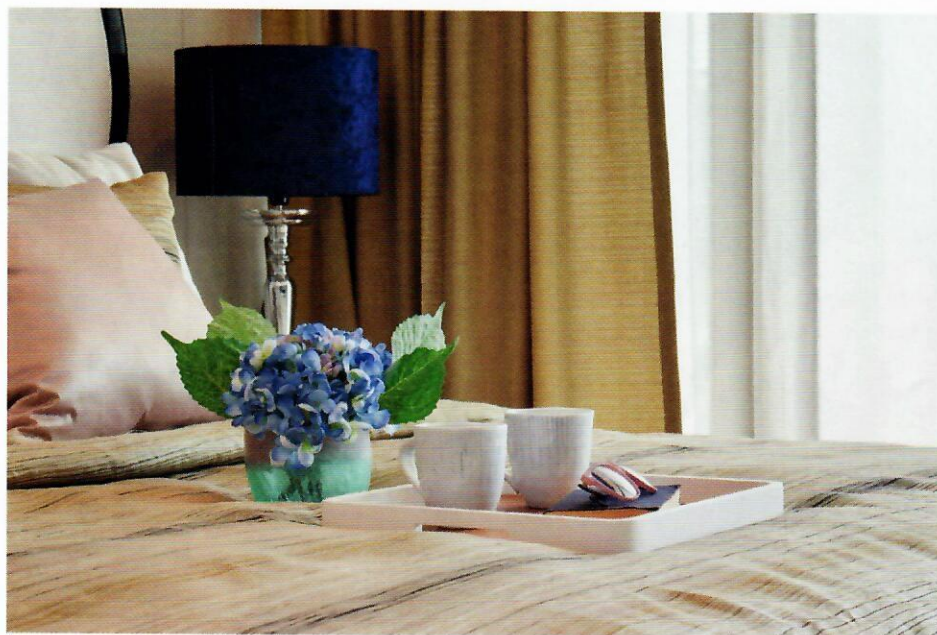
Call your guests and ask what they like to eat for breakfast and if they have any dietary restrictions or needs. Let them know if there are any special events to consider in their packing. Also, check if they have any allergies, if you need to remove the down pillow from their room.

### *One week out*

Email your address, home phone number, cell number, and any transportation information to the guests.

### *Two days out*

Get the grocery shopping done. Don't forget the fresh flowers!



### *One day out*

#### 1 PUT TOGETHER A WELCOME

**BASKET** to include: A calendar of any events happening, a list of local restaurants or coffee shops they may enjoy, house WiFi network and password information, slippers, a house key, a current magazine, the television remote for their room with a list of stations (and instructions for using the remote, if needed), and any house rules or inside information concerning alarms, animals, etc.

2 **BY THE BED**, place a bowl of fruit and small wrapped chocolates (This is the main reason my father-in-law and father like staying with us!). Also, a water carafe or small bottles of water always come in handy. Make sure there is a small bowl for them to place their jewelry or keys. Make sure the clock in the room is set for the correct time and that 6 a.m. alarm is off!

3 **ON THE BED**, make sure there is an assortment of pillow types and a throw. Not everyone likes the subarctic temperature that you may prefer.

4 **IN THE BATHROOM**, make sure there are plenty of fresh towels, a hair dryer, an unopened toothbrush, shampoo, hand cream, and a fresh bar of soap.

5 **IN THE KITCHEN**, set up the coffee maker, if you tend to sleep in and have early bird guests. Show them where the muffins, toaster, or other breakfast items are stored. That way they won't hide in their room until you come out.

### *Arrival day*

Don't forget to open the window shades in their room, and then relax and enjoy your guests!



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