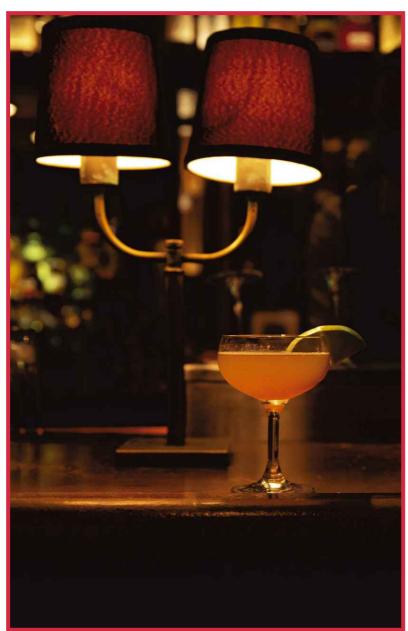
HOLIDAY Cheer



Bohlsen Restaurant Group

turn for more recipes and other holiday fun

By Valerie Kellogg valerie.kellogg@newsday.com

hether at a socially distanced table at your favorite eatery, or at home with family members around yours, a fancy cocktail might be on your holiday wish list – Long Island restaurants lent out their bartenders to share some of their favorite mixed drinks (and the recipes, too, if a meal out or to-go cup is not on the menu for you this season).

APPLE OF MY RYE

Prime in Huntington and Tellers in Islip will premiere this cocktail this month (\$14). "It combines the clean, classic spiciness of rye with the sweetness of apples and a hint of spice," says Sheila Haile, spokeswoman for the Bohlsen Restaurant Group.

INGREDIENTS

2 ounces Highwest Double Rye Cinnamon brown syrup (See syrup ingredients in steps)

½ ounce apple juice

STEPS

Add all ingredients into a pint glass (add ice last). Shake 25 times. Strain into a coupe glass. Garnish with an apple wheel. To prepare cinnamon brown syrup, combine ½ quart Sugar in the Raw and ½ quart hot water. Submerge eight cinnamon sticks for one hour. Remove cinnamon sticks. Keep syrup refrigerated (up to three weeks).

WINTER SMASH

This drink (\$14) brings out hints of toasted vanilla and dried fruit in the bourbon that combined with maple and blackberries create a seasonal flavor, says Fay Arolithianakis, owner/chef of me & you in Bethpage.

INGREDIENTS

2 ounces Straight Edge bourbon whiskey 1 ounce St-Germain ¼ ounce maple syrup ¼ ounce lemon juice

STEPS

Add maple syrup, lemon juice, St-Germain, bourbon whiskey, ice and shake. Pour over clean ice and serve with blackberries and lemon garnish.



Continuted from cover



HOLIDAY CHEER

Holiday Cheer (\$16) includes notes of brown sugar and toffee from the bourbon, says Leonardo Plaia, maitre 'd at Prime 1024 in Roslyn.

INGREDIENTS

1½ ounces Buffalo Trace Bourbon 1½ ounces cranberry juice 1 teaspoon lemon juice ½ ounce rosemary simple syrup (See syrup ingredients below) Sprig of rosemary Lemon twist

Fill a rocks glass with ice, then add bourbon, cranberry juice, rosemary simple syrup and lemon juice. Stir all ingredients and add rosemary and a lemon twist. To make rosemary simple syrup: Combine water, sugar and rosemary leaves in a small saucepan, then bring to a boil and stir until the sugar is completely dissolved. Once dissolved, strain the syrup to remove all the rosemary



INGREDIENTS

1.5 ounces coconut rum 2 ounces cranberry juice Splash of grenadine

STFPS

Pour over ice to chill. Strain into martini glass. Rim with toasted coconut flakes.

SANTA'S HAT MARTINI

inspiration for the Santa's Hat Martini (\$11) from other seasonal

drinks with a flavored rim -

coconut in the summer and

hit," she says. "Guests love it."

cinnamon in the fall, says manager

holiday June Duffy. "It was a huge

Paddy's Loft in Massapequa found



THE CARPENTER

This cocktail (\$14) incorporates notes of cinnamon with the warm winter flavors of the black walnut bitters, says Bitsy Donohue, beverage director at Blackbird Kitchen and Cocktails in Wantagh. "Our customers like it because it's a fun, cold-weather take on an old fashioned," she adds.

INGREDIENTS

2 ounces bourbon 1 teaspoon cinnamon syrup 2 dashes black walnut bitters Orange peel

STEPS

Stir ingredients over ice, and garnish with an orange peel.

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55	

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SANTA MARINA Pinot Grigio \$7 25

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TREATS

Compiled by Mariia Ebbets



The Meshugana (\$17.95) at Lido Kosher Deli in Lido Beach contains brisket in scooped-out garlic bread stuffed with mashed potatoes and served with a side of gravy. Owner Wally Goetz's sandwiches come together by "taking the best of everything, putting it together and hoping it works." 516-431-4411, lidokosherdeli.com

The pastrami in Ben's Delicatessen Restaurant & Caterers' Famous Pastrami on Rye (\$12.99 takeout and delivery; \$13.99 dine-in) is seasoned from the brine the meat is cured in and

then smoked and served on hot bread with a spicy deli mustard topping, says Al Olle, marketing manager for the chain, which has locations in Carle Place, Greenvale and Woodbury. bensdeli.net

The Brooklyn Dip (\$20.49) from Pastrami N Friends in Commack features brisket with fried onions on a toasted club roll and served with au jus French fries. Ronny Roman and Ernie Quartarone, co-owners, say they developed this "dip" and others as a homage to where they grew up. 631-499-9537, pastraminfriends.com





Russ Goetz

Joe Yamali, owner of Pastrami King in Merrick, credits his father, Abe, for creating the Square Knish Extravaganza (\$16.95). A knish is cut the long way and used as bread for this sandwich, which contains a choice of pastrami or corned beef and is topped with sauerkraut and melted Swiss cheese. 516-378-5464, pastramiking.com

The Tastemaster (\$22.99) from Zan's in Lake Grove is piled with pastrami, corned beef, roast beef, turkey and tongue on rye bread and served with Russian dressing and coleslaw. "The sandwich was created for customers who wanted a little bit of everything and didn't want to settle for just one meat," says owner Pat Ruggiero. 631-979-8770, zans-deli.com

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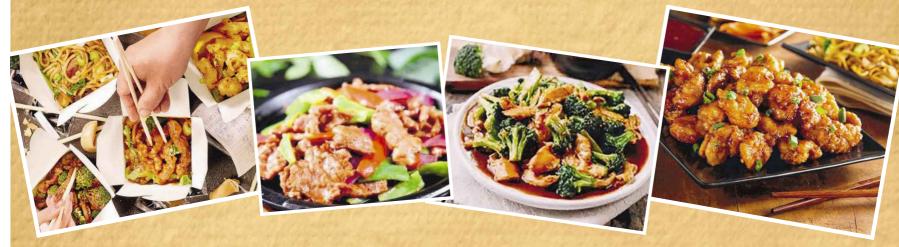


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Choose One Roasted Potatoes Mashed Potatoes Scalloped Potatoes

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Feast #2 Serves 15-20 people

APPETIZER Choose One

Antipasto Platter Mozzarella Caprese Platter

Full Trays - Choose One Meat Lasagna Cheese Lasagna Stuffed Shells Penne Alla Vodka

MEAT Choose One

6-8 lb. Sliced Roasted Turkey Breast 6 lb. Boar's Head Sweet Sliced Ham (cooked and includes 1 jar of Boar's Head Black Sugar Glaze)

VEGETABLES Choose Two Half Trays

Eggplant Rollatine Eggplant Parmigiana Medium Garden Salad Sautéed Broccoli String Bean Casserole

Choose One Half Tray Roasted Potatoes Mashed Potatoes Scalloped Potatoes

Includes Medium Garden Salad, 2 Dozen Dinner Rolls, 1 Qt. of Sauce & 1 Qt. of Gravy

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NEWSDAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

Struffoli are traditional Italian honey balls drizzled with

honey and confetti candy typically served during the

Gourmet Food Market in Oceanside (516-678-5999,

Christmas season and given as gifts, says MaryAnn

Piazza, social media manager at Seven Brothers

sevenbrothersgourmet.com). \$14.99 per tray

TO GO

Compiled by Maria Ebbets

Hot chocolate bombs are trending all over TikTok. Carousel Bake Shop at East Wind Shoppes in Wading River (631-886-2719, eastwindlongisland.com) makes it own with a homemade chocolate exterior filled with hot chocolate and marshmallows, says Vicki – Gergely, general manager and baker. \$6

Sugar-coated **fruit cookies** containing vanilla cream at Cream Espresso Bar and Bakery in Bellmore (516-636-5216, creambellmore.com) are made from a recipe by co-owner Elisa Hambartsoumian's Armenian grandmother. \$3.50 apiece for larger cookies filled with peach, pear, apple and apricot; \$2.50 apiece for smaller cookies filled with cherry and strawberry

Brooklyn Delights' (516-586-8007, brooklyndelightsbakery.com) **red and green cookies** are peanut free and hand dipped with a mix of vanilla and chocolate. \$4.99 for family pack; \$10 for a dozen



The Solid Chocolate Decorated Foil Cups from Bon Bons Chocolatier in Huntington (631-549-1059, bonbonschocolatier.com) are filled with milk chocolate and dark chocolate and topped with an edible decoration. \$13 for a 16-piece box



Heidi Riegler, Vienna Cookie Company

DIY Gingerbread Man Kits

from Vienna Cookie Company are being sold at Taste NY at the

Long Island Welcome Center in Dix Hills (631-254-0414 taste.ny.gov/location/long-island-welcome-center; viennacookiecompany.com).

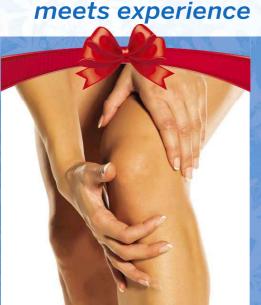
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That's a wrap



By Maria Ebbets

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n exquisitely presented gift can be a gift in itself, says Anna Aquino, a giftwrapping specialist at Bloomingdale's Roosevelt Field. Here are some of her out-of-the-box

SELECT A FLAT SURFACE.

"Choosing a clean and open surface like a kitchen table or countertop to wrap your gifts is best," says Aquino. A flat area provides the leverage needed to make crisp folds, she

SELECT HEAVYWEIGHT PAPER.

"It gives you the cleanest lines and holds its shape best, most especially if you are traveling with your gifts,' says Aquino.

USE CLEAR DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE.

This allows edges to be seamless, she says.

USE A SHARP PAIR OF SCISSORS.

This allows for making a straight edge by holding the paper down and slicing through it with the

blades, says Aquino.

USE WIRE RIBBON. "Wire ribbon is easier to work with as it keeps its shape," she says.

MEASURE YOUR PAPER. "Place the box on top of the paper, over-lap the paper by 2 inches, then cut and seal with double-sided tape," says Aquino. "To maintain smooth sides and corners of the package, cut excess paper from the ends.

PUT A BOW ON IT. "Bows can make your gifts look extra special," she says. To make a professional-looking bow, cut a piece of ribbon about 15- to 20 inches long, make four loops and then staple together, says Aquino.

PERSONALIZE. Attach miniature ornaments or favors to ribbons for a personal feel, says Aquino. Have a friend that is a dog lover? "Adding a miniature dog ornament and selecting pet-related wrapping paper will make certain to bring a smile to their face," says Aquino.









Burning questions about firewood-



By Valerie Kellogg

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o surprise that firewood-scented candles are a thing this year — burning wood is hot, say Long Island sellers. "Chimineas, fire pits and pizza ovens have helped entertain many homebound-people through COVID-19," says Giro Dilillo, one of the owners of Prianti Farms Nursery in Dix Hills.

Then there are many who prefer wood-burning stoves, wood boilers and fireplaces to heat their homes, says Tim Burr, owner of Mattituck-based Timmy's Timber. And it's not just to save money, he points out. "People like the fire ... it's therapeutic," he says.

Here's what homeowners need to know about keeping the embers burning in the cold months ahead.

There are three types of firewood – seasoned, unseasoned and semi-seasoned, says Burr. Each kind reflects the firewood's moisture content. Seasoned firewood burns the fastest, he says. Freshly cut wood takes the longest to burn, he says. Semi-seasoned wood is usually split two to three months prior to purchase, he adds. Depending on use, some buy a combination of firewood types, he says.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST

Generally, firewood is sold by the cord, which Burr says measures 4 feet high, 4 feet wide and 8 feet long. His company charges \$150 for a cord. Firewood also can be purchased at Timmy's Timber and The Wood Factory in half-cords. Some companies will deliver for an additional charge.

WHAT KIND OF WOOD DO YOU GET

The Wood Factory, based in Port Jefferson, sells white oak. Prianti sells oak, maple, ash and cherry wood. Timmy's Timber also sells cherry wood along with oak and black walnut.

HOW MUCH TO BUY

Many of The Wood Factory's customers purchase firewood twice a year – in



September and January, especially those who use a stove or fireplace to heat their homes, says owner Joe Loliscio.

HOW TO STORE

The best storage is a wood shed where the doors can be opened in good weather and closed in inclement weather, says Dilillo. Burr recommends keeping firewood in the garage. Loliscio suggests a wood rack with a cover. "You want to keep it outside on wood pallets to let air circulate," he says.

WHAT ELSE TO KEEP IN MIND

"Make sure it's a true cord," says Loliscio, adding that he measures orders with a Bobcat Bucket. Adds Burr: "Ask questions and be a little vigilant and see what you're getting."

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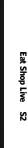
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Here, you start from the top of the tree, draping the garland from

Styling the faux tree-



By Valerie Kellogg valerie.kellogg@newsday.com



Getty Images

branch to branch or sometimes every

other branch and working down, says

any type of garland, whether beaded,

About three branches down from the

top of the tree, pinch the ribbon and

wrap a branch around it, Dweck says. Next, swing the ribbon into a loop

about 12 inches long and continually

repeat left or right until you reach the

bottom, he says. "Ideally, six vertical

runs of 2.5-inch-wide ribbon on a tree is ideal," he says.

are branches with flowers or petals, usually poinsettias, and are intended

to make the tree look even fuller, he

"Arrange your ornaments on the tree

5. TIME TO ADD FLOWERS Continue with floral picks, which

Dweck. The method is the same for

fabric, tinsel and floral, he says.

4. DON'T FORGET THE RIBBON

hether in the pride colors of the rainbow, Alexaenabled, or old standby green, artificial Christmas trees require a certain touch when decorating. Morris Dweck, Christmas designer and buyer at DII Deals & Discounts in North Bellmore and Elmont, offers some evergreen advice.

1. ZHUZH IT OUT

The goal is for the tree to look as full as possible, Dweck says. "The tree has to be opened properly. Most people don't know that. The more time you spend on it, the better it will look. It requires patience." And, he adds, "People should enjoy their time doing it." He suggests zig-zagging the tips on each branch in an X shape. "Fill it out by spending time spreading the tips on every branch,"

2. PUT YOUR LIGHTS ON

Spiral the lights up from the back of the bottom branches up to the top of the tree, then spiral back down on the outside of the branches to the bottom, Dweck says. "Positioning lights deep inside the tree gives it life and provides luminescent tone to the ornaments," he says.

3. NEXT COMES GARLAND

"Continue that through the entire tree until most of the larger ornaments are on." Always place heirloom decorations at the front of the tree so they are seen first, he says.

in a diamond shape," says Dweck.

Place balls on the tree to fill empty spots, he adds.

7. AND, OF COURSE ...

6. ORNAMENTS LAST

Don't forget the tree top and tree skirt, he says.





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Give the gift of clean

By Valerie Kellogg

valerie.kellogg@newsday.com

n this proverbial Year of the Clean, loved ones might appreciate a helping (but gloved) hand this very sanitary holiday season. Here are three gift ideas.

FOR TEACHERS

Huntington Station-based Migi Maid Services (516-695-8126, migimaids. com) is offering a teacher's gift special - two hours of cleaning, including disinfecting with an electrostatic spray gun, says Steven Karp, who owns the business with wife, Migi. \$120

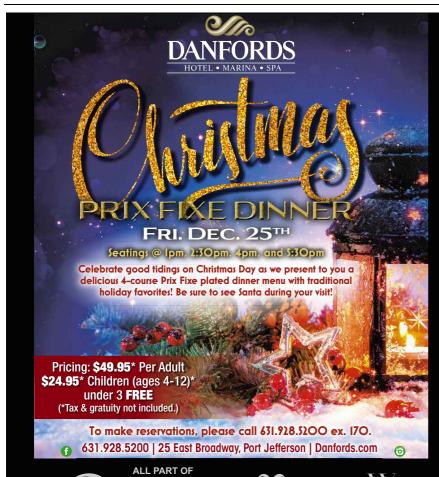
FOR DRIVERS

Merrick LI Services (516-868-1123) offers a mist service for cars. Bob Burling, service manager, says that a machine is placed inside the vehicle that creates a disinfecting fog that circulates through the air conditioner vents. The process eliminates dust mites, mold and mildew as well as makes the car smell fresher, says Burling. \$89.95

FOR ANYONE

PuroClean of Smithtown (631-652-6300, puroclean.com/ronkonkoma-ny-puroclean-smithtown) offers the Whole Home Sanitizing package where workers will fog the house with disinfectant and an anti-microbial system. "The fog provides complete coverage of all areas in the home, including walls, high-touch areas, cabinets, etc.," says Robert Corrado, owner/operator. "The fog will kill most bacteria and viruses upon contact. \$250-\$450, depending on the size of





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