

Better Homes and Gardens®



Season.
OF *joy*

45 EASY
DECORATING
IDEAS
INDOORS
AND OUT

WRAP IT UP
**PRESENTS WITH
PERSONALITY**

HOW-TO VIDEOS
**TURN OLD SWEATERS
INTO ORNAMENTS**

December 2014

COOKIE BREAK

Blogger and baker extraordinaire
Jocelyn Delk Adams
gathers her gal pals for a sweet
celebration of the season.

MIX & MINGLE

Put the chairs away for the day. A stand-up buffet at the dining table gives a party energy.

BY AMY PANOS
PHOTOS JENNIFER CAUSEY
STYLING ED GALLAGHER

SO EASY Wrapping paper plus parchment liners make basic white platters festive and fun.



sweet spot

Baking is Jocelyn's passion. So it's no surprise that this Chicago-based cookbook author and blogger (grandbaby-cakes.com) hosts a good old-fashioned cookie exchange each December. The price of admission: two dozen of your favorite cookies (homemade, of course) and a taste for fun. Jocelyn provides take-home boxes for the yummy leftovers and a decadent drink: white chocolate mudslides made with vanilla ice cream, Kahlúa, and Baileys. How's that for a grown-up take on milk and cookies?

Set out platters for guests to load with their creations, left. Stacked pedestals create the height a buffet always needs. For labeling the varieties of cookies, it doesn't get easier than gift tags. Gold Confetti Tags, \$16 for 10; sugarpaper.com. Glitter letters, a jar of ornaments, and winter greenery tucked into a vase get the sideboard party-ready, below.

CUTE & USEFUL

Shiny silver cookie cutters tied with ribbon make easy and affordable take-home gifts.



resources

a party for the books

A photo booth not only adds to the fun, but also helps Jocelyn chip away at her Christmas shopping list. After the event, she compiles all the portraits (the goofier, the better) and cookie recipes into a custom book, *below*, and gives one to each guest. It's a much-appreciated holiday gift and a keepsake of the day, all rolled into one. Done and done. 8×8-inch photo book, from \$19.99; shutterfly.com



PARTY PEOPLE *Right, clockwise from top:* hostess Jocelyn Delk Adams, food bloggers Alice Choi and Kit Graham, marketing exec Soo Eng, TV host Micae Brown, and writer Kim Bellware.



Free party packet

Get the recipes for the cookies featured in this party, plus expert tips for setting up a photo booth. BHG.com/CookieParty

