

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING SURVIVAL TIPS

THESE TIPS WILL HELP YOU THROW THE PARTY OF THE SEASON.

**Hold "working" parties.** Get a group of friends together and tackle a fun holiday task like baking cookies or wrapping presents. Just go easy on the mulled wine.

**Spend more time planning.** You'll spend less time panicking. Make your cold items a couple days in advance. Prepare dessert, chop vegetables, make side dishes, and do your final shopping the day before.

**Let others help.** Have a list of non-cooking tasks handy like pouring drinks, opening the wine, and refilling hors d'oeuvre trays.

**Outsource the dirty work.** Hire a cleaning service to attend your party to help clean the kitchen and pick up after guests throughout the night. It's a small price to pay to not have to worry about the mess.

**Set to simmer.** Take advantage of the precise heat control of a natural gas cooktop. Dishes like soups can be slow simmered for hours before guests arrive. And a fragrant, slow boiling pot of potpourri is an easy way to enhance the mood for the party.

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## Contributors

### Viktor Koen

Victor Koen [cover design] holds a BFA from the Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design in Jerusalem and an MFA with honors from the School of Visual Arts in New York. He serves on the faculty of Parsons School of Design and the MFA program at SVA. His images are regularly published in *The New York Times*, *Time*,



*Newsweek*, and *Esquire*, among others, and his client list includes Penguin Putnam, Random House, Doubleday, Simon & Schuster, HarperCollins, Rizzoli, *National Geographic*, *Rolling Stone*, *Sports Illustrated*, and Delta Air Lines. Koen's award-winning prints are exhibited in galleries and museums in the United States, Europe, Japan, and Australia. His work is featured in numerous publications worldwide and is part of private and institutional collections. Koen lives and works in New York.

### Chandra Thomas

Staff writer Chandra Thomas ["The Middleman," page 68] was named 2007 Journalist of the Year by Region III of the National Association of Black Journalists for a body of work she produced in 2006, including the first in-depth account of the controversial Genarlow Wilson case—work that ultimately contributed to a change in Georgia law. Recently, Thomas was awarded a Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Journalism fellowship through the Carter Center.



She reports on Atlanta's nightlife scene in "The Morning After," the events blog she coauthors with assistant editor **Elizabeth Westby** at atlantamagazine.com. A Clark Atlanta University graduate, Thomas's freelance work has appeared in *Essence*, *Newsweek*, and *Upscale* magazines. Before joining *Atlanta* magazine she was an associate producer for Fox 5's *Good Day Atlanta*.

### Anna Knott

Chicago-based photographer Anna Knott ["A Nutcracker Suite," page 162] says of this month's fashion spread: "Working with the Atlanta Ballet dancers was a truly amazing experience. I could just watch them all day long do the most ordinary things—like read a book—and think, 'Wow, they look so graceful and beautiful.'" Knott became a photographer in high school, starting with disposable cameras. Today her clients include *Chicago* magazine and *Kiplinger Personal Finance*.



### Betsy Riley

This year's "Best of Atlanta" issue marks a milestone for Betsy Riley: after ten years' worth of contributions, this is her last. She isn't going far, though. Riley, who balanced her role as executive editor with editing *Atlanta Magazine's HOME*, will move to *HOME* full time when it goes bimonthly in 2008. "We went through some weird phases," she says of BOA. "Probably the oddest was the one built around themes of time before realizing that people just want to know the best steakhouse." Riley has written for *O*, *The Oprah Magazine*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Town & Country*, and coauthored, with fellow staffer **Elaine Hightower**, the award-winning *Our Family Meeting Book* (Free Spirit Press, 2002).



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