

Seasons Greetings!

'Tis the season for entertaining and decorating! My good friend Sherry Theimer graciously opened her home to us. Her dining room and fireplace mantle were the perfect backdrop to showcase new decorating ideas with items from Goodwill stores.

Sherry has a beautiful antique dining table and chairs. Without leaves, it's the perfect size for intimate gatherings.

Gilded Glory

To show you how easy it is to create a gorgeous table using only two colors, I concentrated on gold and white as I shopped the stores.

The rich wood finish of the table complemented the gold so beautifully that a table cloth wasn't necessary. To soften the place settings, I folded the napkin in thirds and laid it under the plate.

Special dessert sets were popular in the 1960's. The plates were usually oval or rectangular shaped and had an indentation for the coffee cup. I'm not sure why, but no one uses them anymore. They are really charming and are perfect for a brunch or luncheon. They would be great for a tapas party too.



These plates didn't have the original cups, but I did find cups and saucers in white with a matching gold rim. I set the plates on an angle and added a small votive candle in the cup "holder". You might want to advise your guests to extinguish the candle during the meal!



The diamond shaped dishes came in a set of four. They were originally used as relish or candy dishes, but are the right size for a salad or dessert.



Wide mouth champagne glasses are abundant. Experts agree that tall, narrow flutes are best when serving bubbly wine, but you can't fit an ornament in a tall flute! So serve orange juice in these glasses and make a real fashion statement. You could still give a special gold ornament to your guests as party favors.



The table wouldn't be complete without a gold centerpiece.



I used an elegant divided serving plate as the base and piled on lots of gold and clear ornaments. The gold Christmas tree candles add ambiance and the gold cord 'ties' it all together!



The entire table setting cost less than \$30.00!



Gilded Glory Mantle

No one said you have to coordinate your table with your mantle, but using color to create a holiday theme makes your decorating easier.



I gathered all sorts of candle holders in a variety of shapes and sizes for just under \$20.00. The only constant was the gold color. It doesn't matter if they don't 'match', you create the collection by concentrating on a single color.



I tucked in little sprigs of pine, but you could use a whole garland.



The same gold tree candles and gold ornaments were randomly placed to fill in the gaps.



Gold candles would have been appropriate, but I decided to make the mantle a bit more colorful with red tapers, pillars and votive.

