

TRIMMINGS

Holiday decorating for area residents is a tradition that grows through the years, one tree at a time.

BY ANDREA M. GALABINSKI



Charismatic best-selling author, popular online advice columnist and TV and film executive April Masini puts considerable creativity and energy into everything she does, including holiday decorating. “I like things that are creative, and I like to be challenged,” she says. “Every year I need to come up with a different theme; I can’t repeat the same one.”

She starts with the tree. About five years ago, she began making her own ornaments and bows. “I’d say it’s a mixture of silk flowers, silk bows, crystal, bells and lights,” she says. In 2007, her theme was leopard print and gold with the tree decorated accordingly, complete with a fur-trimmed silk tree skirt. “I have a matching tablecloth for Christmas dinner,” she says. “It’s a lot of fun.” She picks each year’s theme right after the holiday, scouring shops and boutiques for materials and inspiration.

The tree takes her about three days to finish, except in 2007, when she discovered after stringing nearly 1,000 lights that they

didn’t work. Being the perfectionist she is, she happily started again. After decorating the tree and the dining room, and sprinkling themed accents throughout the rest of her Mediterra home, she devotes numerous hours to wrapping presents, keeping with the year’s theme. “I want friends and loved ones to feel that they are special, because they are special to me,” she says.

Masini has added a new travel tradition with her mom, June Stride, an ovarian cancer survivor, and other family members. In 2007, they took a cruise. “We’d like to do something different each year around the holidays,” Masini says.

SUBLIME SIMPLICITY

In French and Spanish, the word “trianon” suggests a special place, pleasant surroundings, beauty and balance. Holiday decor at the Bonita Bay Trianon Hotel is designed to reflect that ambience, says Vice President of Hospitality Darren Robertshaw. “A pivotal