



May Day!

REVIVING THIS RITE OF SPRING. BY KELLEY L. MOORE

May Day is a mood as much as an event. The sky is bluer; the scent of damp grass and flowers bursting open conjures auras of thaws gone by. Even the grass on our side of the fence appears greener. It also provides a grand opportunity to reconnect with neighbors, and to sing spring's praises.

You don't need a maypole to celebrate May Day, but generous splashes from the vernal color wheel help. The tradition of anonymously hanging a small basket of flowers on a neighbor's door rejuvenates child and adult alike. (Getting found out is not so bad either; tradition has it that the sighted gets cited with a kiss!)

If time is of the essence, there are many local talented floral designers who can assist you in your "good neighbor" mission. Nisha Kelen, of **Fleurish** (1308 E Union St.; 206.322.1602; www.fleurish.com), recommends a hand-tied bouquet wrapped in Japanese rice paper full

Above: Entertaining expert, Kelley L. Moore, on her way to spread the May Day spirit in her neighborhood.

Above left: For an unforgettable door nosegay (like ours of tulips, cala lilies and viburnum), make a vase from handmade papers in stripes, polka dots and bold prints that echo all the vibrant colors of spring.

PHOTOGRAPHY
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of wonderfully scented lilac, ranunculus and parrot tulips.

Or, if you want to express your creativity, purchase a paper cone at **Packaging Specialties** (\$1.50 each; 515 S Michigan St.; 206.762.0540; www.ps-stores.com) and cover it in fabulous handmade or designer paper from **Medici Ming Fine Paper** (1222 First Ave.; 206.624.1983) in the color palette of your favorite spring bouquet (hint: lavender and orange are hot this spring). After covering the cone in your favorite paper, poke two holes in the back of the cone to string a wide double-faced satin ribbon, tie a knot at the top for hanging and fill with dramatic spring flowers.

In lieu of flowers, deliver a dainty votive candle holder, such as the Parisian pieces we found at **Essenza** (\$28 each; 615 N. 35th St.; 206.547.4895), covered in vibrant colored paper and charming hand-painted flowers. Be sure to include a fragrant votive candle and matches inside the holder, and add a personal touch



with a note or a quote letting your neighbors know they can borrow a cup of sugar anytime.

For the neighbor who's really worthy, **Macrina Bakery** (615 W McGraw St., 206.283.5900; 2408 First Ave., 206.448.4032; macrinabakery.com) is unfurling its May Day cake. This lemon-sour cherry pound cake, which costs just \$5 during the week of May 1–7, is a trademark springtime delicacy; decked out in ribbon and flowers it is a sure-fire make-their-day adornment for any neighbor's welcome mat. +

Kelley L. Moore is president and creative director of her own event-planning company (kelleylmoore.com).



Clockwise from above:
A twist on the traditional May serpent cake, Macrina Bakery's tempting May Day lemon-sour cherry pound cake is available for a limited time only. A monotone palette of white ranunculus, tulips and scabiosa creates an elegant backdrop for a bright orange cone. Illuminate your neighbor's doorstep with these delicately hand-painted, French votive candle holders. The brightly colored votives will also add a romantic springtime glow to the dining room table too!