

## Jan's Gems – December, 2017



### Oh, The Joys of the Holidays . . . And Keeping it simple . . .

With all the expectations of the holidays, it's so hard not to get carried away. In many families the traditions of decorating can almost get out of hand. Not to belittle the joy of a live tree, or the lovely outdoor twinkle lights, but there are ways to make it a little easier, especially on your back!

Here's how we made it easier. Years ago, when dining out, we spotted this fabulous 6' candelabra tree made of copper and white candle flame-like lights. It was unique, and something I thought we must have! We found the shop, and got our tree, and have used it ever since. I decorate with live garland and wreaths in other spots in the house bringing the wonderful fir and pine aromas that normally come with a tree, but I can truly say that the ease of having this candelabra tree makes my life a little less stressed. We don't have to water it, the needles don't get everywhere (I'm really not that fussy), and when we travel during the holidays . . . there are no worries that the tree will fall or burn. Ho, ho, ho. I guess this choice comes with a lifestyle change as well.

Since we have had this tree, I now realize how sentimental I get when I see the discarded trees on the street after Christmas. Of course, those trees brought joy, but it is sad for me to see them lying on the ground, stripped of all the trimmings awaiting its final wood chip fate. Sounds a little "Scroogy", but I guess, in the end, I'd rather sing "O Tannenbaum".