



	<b>Round</b>	Team-oriented, helpful, good friend, fair, hesitant, caring, trusting, indecisive, flexible, adaptive, impractical, devoted, good listener, loyal and vulnerable
	<b>Marquise</b>	Practical, goal-oriented, ambitious, stubborn, organized, dependable, efficient, distant, traditional, by the book, critical and very direct
	<b>Princess cut</b>	Makes friends easily, open, likes change, outgoing, accessible, popular, socially skilled, energetic, inspiring, optimistic, impractical, peacemaker
	<b>Emerald cut</b>	Persuasive, confident, outgoing, aware, pushy, on time, risk-taker, open, energetic, enterprising, restless, care-free, competitive, direct, creative, spontaneous and intimidating
	<b>Pear shape</b>	Calm, reserved, data seeker, supports structure, passive, practical, high standards, conservative, shy, withdrawn, thorough, risk-avoider, dependable, perfectionist

**What Does "A Girl's Best Friend" Say About Her? The Diamond Personality Profile Has The Answers**

(NAPS)—What can you learn about a woman based on her diamond preference? Plenty, according to Zales, The Diamond Store. And Zales ought to know. They sell more diamonds than any other jeweler in the nation.

The Zales Diamond Personality profile, which was based on data from a national survey commissioned by Zales, provides a novel approach in matching personality traits to different diamond shapes—round, pear, emerald, marquise and princess.

Pick your favorite diamond shape and see if its personality traits are a crystal clear match with yours.

**Protecting Those Christmas Traditions Decorating Tips And Bits Of Tradition From Acclaimed Author And Designer E. M. Merck**

(NAPS)—The holiday season is a time for family, and many of its brightest moments are found in the celebration of heritage and traditions that have been passed down for generations.

One Spokane, Washington based company, the Merck Family's Old World Christmas—known to many as the "First Family of Holiday Traditions," is helping other families create traditions to cherish with its extensive collection of mouth-blown glass ornaments and hand-carved wooden collectibles. According to company co-founder and designer Beth Merck, a little patience, care and resourcefulness can bring joy and enchantment to any home and insure that beloved holiday traditions and decorations can be cherished for years to come.

In 1976, Tim and Beth Merck fell in love with the quality glass tree ornaments they discovered on an antiques buying trip to Germany. While travelling through the countryside, they met many glassblowers, wood craftsmen and storytellers who were eager to share their knowledge and heritage with the young couple. The Mercks formed a partnership with several of these families, and from this was born the Merck Family's Old World Christmas, which has become one of the world's largest distributors of traditional glass ornaments.

Beth, who is known to collectors as E.M. Merck, is the author of the book *Christmas Ornament Legends: A Collection of Stories, Traditions and Folklore from Old World Christmas* has become an expert on holiday legends and decorating. The book, co-written with her husband, reveals many of the legends and traditions that surround the company's most popular holiday decorations. Available at Barnes & Noble bookstores across the country, the book reveals, among other bits of heritage, that grapes are a symbol of friendship,

nutcrackers invoke the importance of hard work and bells represent the joy and merriment of the Christmas holiday season.

As the designer of all the company's products, Beth has over the years developed a number of easy and unique ways to care for and store delicate glass ornaments. According to Beth, "ornaments should not be exposed to fluorescent light or sunlight, as this can cause the colors to fade. And never immerse a tree ornament in water to remove dust and dirt; rather, use an artist's soft paintbrush so the finish will not become dull or damaged."

Beth also recommends individually wrapping fragile ornaments in tissue and packing them in shallow, sturdy boxes. Another idea, which involves more time and greater expense, but can pay off in the end by keeping ornaments exceptionally clean and dry, is to pack them individually inside air-filled ziplock bags and place them in the cubicles of commercial ornament storage boxes. The air not only cushions the ornament, but also protects it from temperature changes, dampness, mildew and accidental drops.

With a little ingenuity, those just starting their holiday ornament collections or those with space limitations can also enjoy the charm and cheer these decorations bring. "Trees are not the only way to display Christmas ornaments," Beth says. "Some of the most beautiful holiday displays are ornaments placed on wreaths or greenery swags. Starter collections look great showcased in this way, and this is the perfect solution to decorating small homes or apartments that lack the space for a traditional tree."

For more information about the Merck Family's Old World Christmas or for a retailer near you please call toll-free (800) 962-7669.

**Celebrate The Spirit Of The Season Responsibly**

(NAPS)—It's that time of year—friends, family, colleagues, neighbors—everyone seems to be hosting a holiday party!

Here are some holiday tips for being the ideal cocktail party host.


• **Designate a bartender.** Appoint yourself or someone in charge of the bar. Familiarize him or her with how to prepare and garnish drinks and the appropriate glassware to use. Remember only adult guests over the age of 21 may be offered beverage alcohol.

• **Consider adding at least one new product to your bar.** A special liqueur or new spirit on the bar that guests are not familiar with can be a good conversation starter.

• **Offer a variety of beverages.** Prepare drinks that reflect the cheer and festivity of the season and appeal to different tastes, such as hot buttered rum, mulled cider or eggnog. In addition, stock your bar for classic requests with good quality scotch, vodka, bourbon, gin, tequila and rum. And offer your guests appealing non-alcohol beverages including flavored sparkling water, sparkling cider or a festive punch.

• **Be socially responsible.** If your guests choose to drink, encourage moderation and make sure everyone has a safe ride home.

• **Remember the perfect party mix. Good Friends, Good Refreshments and Good Judgment.**



Happy Holidays from Republic Newspapers. Additional copies of the Last Minute Gift Guide are available at the Kings Mountain Herald Office for a cost of 25¢.



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