

Big Hellos!

Make space in your day for small tokens of affection by staging moments that bring your circle closer. Something as simple as a toast turns into a long-standing tradition, when a little front-door welcome becomes a special event.

THINGS YOU'LL NEED:

Decanters Or Pitchers
Ice Bucket
Glasses
Everybody's Favorite Beverage
Paper, Ribbon And Hole Punch
Tray
Simple Snacks

Don't you just love it when you come home to warm house, where everyone is excited to see you? An enthusiastic welcome feels fantastic. It really doesn't take much to make the mood: Fill a tray with decanters or pitchers of your group's favorite beverages. It might be Mom's pink lemonade, dad's scotch, your best friend's iced coffee, or the kids' chocolate milk. Just label the pitchers and decanters with what's inside.





Photograph by Julie Toy; www.JulieToy.com

Add a few bowls of snacks, but borrow from the French and think petite, with small little bites: nuts, a few potato chips, olives, mini-pretzels, and even edamame (those salty green soy beans they serve at sushi restaurants). This is a mini-celebration designed to spark interaction, not a heavy, appetite-ruining, happy-hour array. That said, do avoid over-editing your crew's favorite drinks or choice snacks. If you're worried about filling up before dinner, just use portion control - your only objective is to rally the gang.

Assemble the tray of sips and snacks just before the recipients of this new tradition are scheduled to walk through the door. Give a big hello (X and O!) as each person arrives. When you are all present, congregate in the living room – you know that place you never go, typically featuring the furniture you never sit on. Offer beverages while catching up on the day, and then make your toast to celebrate being all together!

**The Trick
Is To Make Your Recipe
For Putting This Event Together
A Quick
And Easy One.**

It's okay to feature the same drinks and snacks every time – favorites are favorites, and that's what makes for tradition!