

# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Mary Greene

### Gifts with soul

The holiday season is here once again, and our world continues on its uncertain and troubling path. Now more than ever we need the sanctuary of home, family and friendship to provide comfort and respite from the storm—both literal and figurative. Now more than ever, we are watching our pocketbooks and budgeting carefully, while still wanting to connect with our special someones at this special time of year. Now more than ever, conscious shoppers are trending away from the big box stores and gravitating instead to our local main streets where we can buy gifts that please our loved ones and help the economy of the region—gifts that are sensual and personal, healthy and local, original and memorable—gifts with soul.

In this Holiday Gift Guide, we give a variety of creative and affordable ideas for local gift buying, including gifts of art, gifts of wellness and gifts of cheer. We offer tips for wrapping your gifts that will make the outside as special as what is inside. We provide recipes from the area's premier chefs to add that

magic gourmet touch to your holiday meal, and we offer recipes for homemade Italian holiday cookies and homemade eggnog, sure to knock the socks off of young and old. We also give a bit of history with the stories of two area musicians whose musical hits you are sure to know well. And finally, our Holiday Happenings will keep you informed of the celebrations and other events in the region.

Take a moment to give thanks for all you have, and for all you are sure to receive during this special season. Happy Holidays.

*Mary Greene*

Mary Greene  
Section Editor

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**Check out the digital edition of our Holiday Gift Guide online at [www.RiverReporter.com](http://www.RiverReporter.com) on December 2!**

## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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# HOLIDAY EVENT CALENDAR

**FRI., NOV. 25**

**Glass factory tour**

Port Jervis — Gillinder Glass celebrates 150 years making glass. Special factory tours & guest glass artists, 10am-3pm. 845/856-5375.

**Holiday craft fair**

Callicoon — Delaware Community Center, 9am-4pm, free admission. 845/887-5634.

**Honesdale for the Holidays**

Honesdale — Open houses, seasonal hospitality, live music (Fred Miller Pavilion), Santa Parade (11/25, 6pm), Xmas tree lighting (11/25), vendors (11/26), horse-drawn carriage rides (11/26, 12noon-5pm), luminaries & more throughout Main St., Fri.-Sun. 570/253-5492.



**Santa parade**

Honesdale — Line up in Top Notch parking area, 5pm; parade, 6pm. Participants wanted. Rain date: 11/26. 570/253-5492.

**SAT., NOV. 26**

**Holiday craft fair**

Callicoon — Delaware Community Center, 9am-4pm, free admission. 845/887-5634.

**Holiday open house**

Liberty — Handmade arts & crafts for sale at Catskill Artists Gallery, 4-8pm. Live music by Little Sparrow. 845/292-0310.

**Opening reception:**

**Holiday Show**

Liberty — Catskill Artists Gallery through 1/2012, Fri.-Sun. Opening reception: 11/26, 4-8pm. 845/292-0310.

**Opening reception: CAS**

**Members show & holiday fair**

Livingston Manor — Annual winter members show through 12/23 at CAS Arts Center. Opening reception: 11/26, 2-4pm. Members meeting: 11/26: 1-2pm. 845/436-4227.

**'The Nutcracker'**

Milford — Performed by The Delaware Valley Dance Co. at Delaware High School, 12noon & 7pm. In advance: adults \$12, children/seniors \$8; at the door: adults \$14, children/seniors \$10. 845/856-3373.

**SUN., NOV. 27**

**Pancake breakfast**

Pleasant Mount — Pleasant Mount Hall, 8am, adults \$8, under 12 \$4.

**MON., NOV. 28**

**NaNoWriMo open writing session**

Narrowsburg — Commit to writing everyday & join an international phenomenon. How many novels can Sullivan County/NEPA produce in a month? Find out at the library, 5:30-7:30pm. NaNoWriMo.org.

**Perspective**

White Lake — Learn basics of perspective theory & large-scale drawing techniques at Cobalt Studios through 12/2, \$600. RSVP: 845/583-7025.

**Photo restoration**

Port Jervis — Learn Corel Pain Shop Pro Photo X2 Ultimate to refurbish, preserve & protect your photos at Port Jervis Free Library, 1-2:30pm, free. Prerequisite to workshops in Nov. RSVP: 845/775-7586.

**TUES., NOV. 29**

**Meditation class**

Milford — Learn to overcome painful states of mind & experience joy w/ Buddhist teacher Larry Zampino at The Emerson House

(Hotel Fauchere), 7-8:30pm, \$10, seniors/students \$5. 845/856-9000.



**THURS., DEC. 1**

**Open call for 2013 exhibits**

Livingston Manor — CAS Arts Center accepting proposals for 2013, 12/1-2/1. Call for requirements: 845/436-4227.

**FRI., DEC. 2**

**Holiday parade & tree lighting ceremony**

Liberty — Enter a float, decorate a vehicle or march. Line up 5pm in municipal parking lots behind Elks Lodge, parade 6pm. Snow date: 12/3. Tree lighting follows parade at town hall & Main St. Stage, refreshments. 845/292-7690.

**Holiday traditions sing-a-long benefit**

Galilee — Featuring concert pianist Drew Beckel at Unity Grange Hall, 7pm. Refreshments, gifts for children. Help decorate the tree; bring an ornament & goodwill offering. 570/224-4059.

**'The Hungry Hour'**

Callicoon — One-act plays & poetry at the Delaware Youth Center, 8pm, \$15 suggested. RSVP: thirdpremisetheater@hotmail.com or 516/640-9389.

**SAT., DEC. 3**

**'Christmas in the Village'**

Bethany — Old-fashioned Christmas incl. Historical Society display, children's Christmas party (library), wreath sale, open houses (James Manning House,

E. Kellogg House & Mansion at Noble Lane), carol sing, art display & horse-drawn hayrides, 2-5pm. Living Nativity story at Presbyterian Church, 4:30-6:30pm.

**Glass factory tour**

Port Jervis — Gillinder Glass celebrates 150 years making glass. Special factory tours & guest glass artists, 10am-3pm. 845/856-5375.

**Holiday market**

Bethel — Local artisan craft & food vendors, Xmas tree & wreath sale, live music, hot drinks, children's arts & crafts & more at Bethel Woods, Event Gallery, 11am-4pm. BethelWoodsCenter.org.

**Holiday tricky tray**

Port Jervis — High school, doors open 11am, calling 1pm. Benefits Neversink Valley Museum. 845/856-6436.

**Introduction to snowshoeing**

Dingmans Ferry — Basics of using snow shoes at PEEC, 9-11am, adults \$10, children \$5. 570/828-2319.

**Open house**

Milford — See decorations & listen to holiday music at Grey Towers, 1 & 3pm, fee applies. 570/296-9630.

**Pike County Choral Society concert**

Milford — "Let Heaven & Nature Sing" at Church of the Good Shepherd, 7:30pm, \$10. Snow date: 12/10, 7:30pm. 570/775-0963.

**Santa Express**

Honesdale — Stourbridge Line Rail Excursion w/ Santa, departs 11am & 2pm, age 12 & under \$15, age 13 & up \$20. Reservations recommended: 866/637-2457. Info: 570/253-1960.

**Shopping day extravaganza**

Monticello — Bus departs Monticello Casino & Raceway, 8am; travels to Roscoe (breakfast

& shopping) 8:30-10:15am; Livingston Manor (shopping) 10:30-11:45am; Jeffersonville (lunch & shopping) 12noon-2pm; Callicoon (shopping) 2:15-3:15pm; & Narrowsburg (coffee & shopping) 3:45-6pm. RSVP: 845/791-4200.



**'The Hungry Hour'**

Callicoon — One-act plays & poetry at the Delaware Youth Center, 8pm, \$15 suggested. RSVP: thirdpremisetheater@hotmail.com or 516/640-9389.

**Winter survival hike**

Dingmans Ferry — Hike, build shelter, fire-making & other outdoor skills at PEEC, 1-4pm, \$10. RSVP: 570/828-2319.

**SUN., DEC. 4**

**Holiday art show & sale: 'Come Paint With Me'**

Milford — Artists who paint outdoors on display at Grey Towers through 12/18, 1-4pm, \$4. 570/296-9630.

**Holiday market**

Bethel — Local artisan craft & food vendors, Xmas tree & wreath sale, live music, hot drinks, children's arts & crafts & more at Bethel Woods Event Gallery, 11am-4pm. BethelWoodsCenter.org.

**Ice skate sharpening**

Livingston Manor — Christopher Bartlett, double gold medalist in figure skating, sharpens skates or professionally fits you for skates at Morgan Outdoors, \$15/pair. RSVP: 845/439-5507.

*Continued on page 6*

**Open house**

Milford — See decorations & listen to holiday music at Grey Towers, 1 & 3pm, fee applies. 570/296-9630.

**Santa Express**

Honesdale — Stourbridge Line Rail Excursion w/ Santa, departs 11am & 2pm, age 12 & under \$15, age 13 & up \$20. Reservations recommended: 866/637-2457. Info: 570/253-1960.

**Soup & shop**

Wurtsboro — Enjoy homemade soups, breads & desserts while holiday gift shopping at 92 Pine St., 12noon-2pm. Sponsored by American Legion Post 1266 Women's Aux. 845/888-4910.



**TUES., DEC. 6**

**Christmas handicrafts workshop**

Port Jervis — Learn to use the Internet to identify & download handicraft ideas for your table or house at the library, 4-5pm, free. RSVP: 845/772-7586.

**Meditation class**

Milford — Learn to overcome painful states of mind & experience joy w/ Buddhist teacher Larry Zampino at The Emerson House (Hotel Fauchere), 7-8:30pm, \$10, seniors/students \$5. 845/856-9000.

**Rummage sale**

Port Jervis — First Presbyterian Church, 9am-12noon. 845/856-1231, ext. 10.

**WED., DEC. 7**

**Baked ham dinner**

Liberty — Elks Lodge #1545, 5-7pm, adults/take-outs \$10, age 11 & under \$5, under 5 free. Public welcome. 845/292-3434.

**Rummage sale**

Port Jervis — First Presbyterian Church, 4-6pm. 845/856-1231, ext. 10.

**THURS., DEC. 8**

**Rummage sale**

Port Jervis — Bag day at First Presbyterian Church, 9am-12noon. 845/856-1231, ext. 10.

**FRI., DEC. 9**

**Rummage sale**

Port Jervis — Leftover items from previous 3-day rummage sale is free at First Presbyterian Church, 9am-12noon. 845/856-1231, ext. 10.

**'The Hungry Hour'**

Jeffersonville — A night of one-act plays & poetry at The Janice Center, 8pm, \$15 suggested. RSVP: thirdpremisetheater@hotmail.com.

**Tree lighting & carol sing**

Shohola — Second Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing at the Caboose, 7pm.

**Winter wines by the lake**

Hawley — Music by Marc Von Em, wine samplings from local wineries, hors d'oeuvres & holiday basket raffles at Lake Wallenpaupack Visitors Center, 5-7:30pm, \$15 includes commemorative wine glass. Age 21 & over. 570/226-3191.

**Winterfest**

Hawley — Ice sculptures, demonstrations, live ice carvings & old-fashioned holiday events throughout Hawley. 570/226-6246.

**SAT., DEC. 10**

**Children's opera: 'Hansel & Gretel'**

Bethel — Holiday classic w/ audience participation & Q&A at Bethel Woods, 2pm. 866/781-2922.

**Holiday art workshop**

Jeffersonville — Ages 3-10 work on projects to take home with them at The Janice Center, 2pm, \$15 incl. supplies & snacks. RSVP: 845/482-3324.

**Holiday concert**

Milford — New York Polyphony presents "The Fab Four of Early Music" at Milford Theatre, 7:30pm, adults \$20, under 12 free. kindredspir@yahoo.com, 570/409-1269.

**Holiday craft fair**

Waymart — Hosted by Salvation Army at Ladore Pavilion, 10am-3pm, free admission & parking. 570488-6129, ext. 156.

**Holiday craft fair**

Narrowsburg — St. Francis Xavier Church. Vendors wanted. 570/224-0020.

**Holiday open house**

Honesdale — The Hanson Gallery. Artist & Santa reception 5-8pm, open house 11am-5pm. Refreshments. thehansongallery.com or 570/253-2525.

**Holiday tree lighting**

Barryville — Bonfire, Santa, live music, carols, baked goods, hot chocolate & a Christmas prayer at cul-de-sac, 6pm.

**Introduction to snowshoeing**

Dingmans Ferry — Basics of using snow shoes at PEEC, 12noon-3pm, adults \$10, children \$5. 570/828-2319.

**Moonrise walk**

Dingmans Ferry — Short hike to a scenic overlook to watch the moon rise at PEEC, 5-7pm, free. 570/828-2319.

**Open house**

Milford — See decorations & listen to holiday music at Grey Towers, 1 & 3pm, fee applies. 570/296-9630.

**Santa Express**

Region — Santa arrives atop a 50' lighted musical sleigh at Eldred corner, 5pm. Santa Express then visits Glen Spey Circle Park, Barryville River Market, Yulan 4 corners & Narrowsburg school, ending approx. 8pm. Cookies, candy canes, sing-a-longs. facebook.com/santaexpress or 845/557-3321.

**Santa visit**

Shohola — Santa and his elves at the Caboose, 1-3pm, followed by carols with Santa at Twin Cedars.

**St. Nicholas Faire & Cookie Fest**

Honesdale — Learn about St. Nicholas, photos w/ St. Nicholas, holiday crafts, cookies, luncheon, & gifts at Grace Episcopal Church, 9am-2pm. 570/241-2684.

**'The Hungry Hour'**

Jeffersonville — A night of one-act plays & poetry at The Janice Center, 8pm, \$15 suggested. RSVP: thirdpremisetheater@hotmail.com.

**Winterfest**

Hawley — Ice sculptures, demonstrations, live ice carvings & old-fashioned holiday events throughout Hawley. 570/226-6246.

**SUN., DEC. 11**

**Open house**

Milford — See decorations & listen to holiday music at Grey Towers, 1 & 3pm, fee applies. 570/296-9630.

**Santa Express**

Honesdale — Stourbridge Line Rail Excursion w/ Santa, departs 11am & 2pm, age 12 & under \$15, age 13 & up \$20. Reservations recommended: 866/637-2457. Info: 570/253-1960.

**Winterfest**

Hawley — Ice sculptures, demonstrations, live ice carvings & old-fashioned holiday events throughout Hawley. 570/226-6246.

**TUES., DEC. 13**

**Christmas handicrafts workshop**

Port Jervis — Learn to use the Internet to identify & download handicraft ideas for your table or house at the library, 4-5pm, free. RSVP: 845/772-7586.

**Meditation class**

Milford — Learn to overcome painful states of mind & experience joy w/ Buddhist teacher Larry Zampino at The Emerson House (Hotel Fauchere), 7-8:30pm, \$10, seniors/students \$5. 845/856-9000.

**THURS., DEC. 15**

**'Deck the Doors' holiday decorating contest**

Hurleyville — Sullivan First tours roads in Hurleyville to pick a winner for prizes. All eligible. hurleyvillenyc.com.



**SAT., DEC. 17**

**Contra dance**

Galilee — Partnered folk dance at Galilee Grange, 7:30pm (pre-dance teaching 7pm), \$5/person, \$10/family. 570/224-4653.

**Hibernation hike**

Dingmans Ferry — Hike to learn how plants & animals survive the winter at PEEC, 10am-12noon, free. 570/828-2319.

**Open house**

Milford — See decorations & listen to holiday music at Grey Towers, 1 & 3pm, fee applies. 570/296-9630.

**Santa Express**

Region — Santa arrives atop a 50' lighted musical sleigh in Bethel, 5:30pm, and heads to Main St. in Liberty. Cookies, candy canes, sing-a-longs. facebook.com/santaexpress or 845/557-3321.

**SUN., DEC. 18**

**Open house**

Milford — See decorations & listen to holiday music at Grey Towers, 1 & 3pm, fee applies. 570/296-9630.

**SUN., JAN. 1**

**Christmas bird count**

Dingmans Ferry — Search for & identify birds for the National Audubon Society at PEEC, 8am, \$5 incl. potluck dinner. RSVP: 570/828-2319.



# Locally Made Gifts with an Artistic Flair

Text | Mary Greene

*“What art offers is space—a certain breathing room for the spirit.”*

—John Updike



*Contributed photo*

Honey Hill Pottery: Small Carved “Wood” Bowl Stoneware \$42



*Contributed photo*

Rosehaven Alpacas: Alpaca throw \$120.

There is a special category of gift that can be both functional and beautiful, or just beautiful, which has its own function. As you make your way through the shops this year, be on the lookout for those one-of-a-kind gifts created by your local artist.

The idea of buying “art” can be intimidating, until you rethink the concept and refocus your lens on what constitutes art. Artists are potters, weavers, jewelry makers, writers, furniture makers and creators of whimsy and fun. Crafts can include homemade candles, condiments, bird feeders, pillow cases, benches and holiday ornaments. Our area painters and sculptors are creating art that reflects our region and our times with color and shape, form and subject.

A gift with an artistic flair does not have to be expensive. Many of the shops in our region carry affordable artisan products. Paired with other simple gifts, you can create a theme gift pleasing in its simplicity, beauty and functionality. Picture pairing two pottery mugs with a pound of local coffee, and maybe a French press. Or a handcrafted cutting board with a wheel of artisan cheese. Or maybe a handmade lamp with a box of LED bulbs. Perhaps you will find some artisan quilted place mats to go with your gift of homemade or bakery cookies, or a baby quilt and a wooden rattle for the newest member of your family. Perhaps you will find a special pair of handcrafted candlestick holders to go with your beeswax candles.

In truth, the combinations are endless, but single items for those on a budget can also have more meaning than an impersonal gift from a box store. A small votive candle for a teenager, for example,

or a collection of poems for the literary member of your clan. Authors abound in this area, and you can take your pick among poetry, history, fiction, memoir and children’s books—all written by your neighbors and friends. Jewelry—all on its own or in combinations—makes a stunning and always welcome gift, and can be personalized to the occasion or to the tastes of the person you are buying for. A box of greeting cards or a calendar created by a local artist make a wonderfully useful and cheerful gift. A pair of handcrafted socks will be the ones your husband or daughter or friend reaches for all year. What about a roomy basket filled with pine cones that you have collected and dried, or a vase with a dried arrangement? Silk scarves, mittens, fine soaps, special foods—there really is no limit to what your imagination can invent for your gift list this year.

The purchase of an original piece of artwork, sculpture or photography does not have to break the bank, either. During the holidays, local art galleries often have shows that invite visitors to buy art for their loved ones at affordable prices. The Art in Sixes exhibit running at the Delaware Valley Arts Center offers a great array of artwork that is six inches by six inches, small in size and often in price, but not in punch.

And all of this buying that you do also serves to support our small towns as well as the artists in our midst, so that they can continue to create the breathing room for our spirits. And it also makes an artist out of you as you imagine and create your personalized, intimate and thoughtful presents. So gather up your lists and your “shop local” spirit and begin!

*Continued on page 8*

These is a selection of area shops and galleries that carry a wide array of local artist and artisan goods, with special displays and deals for the holidays.

## Shops and Studios

Region General Store  
3344 Route 97  
Barryville, NY  
845/557-5000  
www.regiongeneralstore.com

Signature Gifts  
Delaware Arts Center  
37 Main Street  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764  
845/252-7576  
www.artsalliancesite.org

River Gallery- The Art of Living  
8 Main Street  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764  
845/252-3238

Bridgewater Mercantile  
4917 State Route 52  
Jeffersonville, NY 12748  
845/ 482-4044  
www.bridgewatermercantile.com

The Rustic Cottage  
4938 State Route 52  
Jeffersonville, NY 12748  
845/482-4123  
www.therusticcottage.com

Domesticities and The Cutting Garden  
4055 State Route 55  
Youngsville, NY  
845/482-3333  
www.thecuttinggarden.org

Morgan Outdoors  
46 Main Street  
Livingston Manor, NY 12758  
845/439-5507  
www.morgan-outdoors.com

Hillside Studios  
111 Hillside Road  
Barryville, NY 12719  
845/557-3640  
www.seepotsspun.com

Sunshine Pottery  
109 Stony Road  
Lake Huntington, NY 12752

earthgirl pottery  
92 Bayer Road  
Callicoon Center, NY 12724  
www.earthgirlpottery.com

Honey Hill Potter  
119 Diehl Road  
Callicoon, NY 12723  
845/482-5280  
www.honeyhillpottery.com

Duke Pottery  
855 County Road 93  
Roscoe, NY 12776  
607/498-5207  
www.dukepottery.com

The Mountain Quiltworks  
Route 652  
Indian Orchard, PA 18431  
570/253-9510  
www.themountainquiltworks.com

A Stitch in Time  
114 7th Street  
Honesdale, PA 18431  
570/ 253-6864  
www.astitchintimepa.com

The Gentle Arts  
1043 Main Street  
Honesdale, PA 18431  
570/352-3352  
www.thegentlearts.com

jilldeal, inc.  
200 Broad Street  
Milford, PA 18337  
570/409-YARN  
www.jilldealyarn.net

Nature's Reserve Alpacas  
408 River Road  
Callicoon, NY 12723  
845-887-2012  
www.naturesreservealpacas.com

Rosehaven Alpacas  
540 County Road 164  
Callicoon, New York 12723  
845/887-6801  
www.rosehavenalpacas.com

Tonjes Dairy Farm  
188 Tonjes Road  
Callicoon, NY 12723  
845/482-4514  
cowhill@warwick.net

Calkins Creamery  
288 Calkins Road  
Honesdale, PA 18431  
570/ 729-8103  
www.calkinscreamery.com

Anderson's Maple Farm  
534 Anderson Road  
Long Eddy, NY 12760  
845/ 887-4238

Java Love Coffee Roasting Company  
10 Horseshoe Lake Road  
Kauneonga Lake , NY 12749  
845/ 707-2589  
www.javaloveroasters.com

Catskill Harvest Market  
2758 State Route 52  
Liberty, NY 12754  
845/292-3838  
www.catskillharvest.com

## Galleries

Delaware Valley Arts Alliance  
37 Main Street, PO Box 1295  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764  
845/252-7576  
info@artsalliancesite.org

BrookHouse Gallery  
5 Austin Road  
Barryville, NY 12719  
845/456-0066  
www.brookhousegallery.com

Liberty Museum & Arts Center  
46 South Main Street  
Liberty, NY 12754  
845/292-2394  
libertymuseum.com

Catskill Art Society  
48 Main Street  
Livingston Manor, NY  
845/436-4227  
www.catskillartsociety.org

Wayne County Arts Alliance  
& Art Market  
8 Silk Mill Drive  
Hawley, PA 18428  
570/253-6850  
wcaa@waynecountyartsalliance.org

Willow Gallery  
118 Willow Ave  
Honesdale PA. 18431  
570/253-3013  
www.willowrivergallery.com

The Hansen Gallery & Decorium  
1037 Main Street  
Honesdale, PA 18431  
570/253-2525  
www.thehansongallery.com

Folk Art Gallery  
1323 Cochection Turnpike  
Tyler Hill, PA 18469  
www.artbypat.com

The ARTery Fine Art & Fine Craft Gallery  
210 Broad Street.  
Milford, PA 18337  
570/409-1234  
artery@arteryonline.com





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**ONE DAY ONLY!**  
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 Route 6, Lake Wallenpaupack • 570-390-4444  
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 www.AntlerRidgeWinery.com



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# The Gift of Good Cheers

Text | Lori Malone

One of the best and often most appreciated gifts during the holiday season is wine — it enhances most gatherings, always seems to be the right fit and, in my experience, is never returned. Fortunately, our region has several good wineries producing an assortment of delicious blends. Reasonably priced, most wines are less than \$20 per bottle (750 ml).

“The climate in our region produces really good white grapes,” said Jeff Hock, owner of The Barryville Bottle. He recommends Eminence’s Riesling for its crisp, dry flavor. Though white is the region’s best grower, our local wineries also offer an array of interesting blends, from full-bodied reds to sweet fruity flavors to specialty spiced wine — perfect for this time of year.

In addition to our wineries, the Upper Delaware region is home to The Cidery in Wurtsboro that processes hard cider from local apples, Catskill Distilling Company in Bethel NY, makers of Peace Vodka, and coming this spring to Livingston Manor, NY, The Catskill Brewery, which will be our area’s first brewery.

If you’re giving the gift of wine or spirits this holiday season, remember to keep it festive, fun and most of all local! Cheers.

## Area Liquor Stores & Wine Shops

**Barryville Bottle**  
3344 Route 97  
Barryville, NY 12719

**Narrowsburg Fine Wine & Spirits**  
44 Main Street  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

**Narrowsburg Liquor Pecks Shopping Plaza**  
106 Kirk Road  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

**Hancock Liquor**  
27 W. Main Street  
Hancock, NY 13783

**White Lake Wine and Spirits Shop**  
Route 17B  
White Lake, NY 12786

## Vodka & Cider

**Catskill Distilling Company**  
Route 17B  
Bethel NY 12720

**The Cidery**  
Route 209  
Wurtsboro, NY 12790

## Here are some offerings from area Wineries

**EMINENCE ROAD FARM WINERY**  
Long Eddy, NY 12760  
www.eminenceroad.com

### 2010 Riesling

Finger Lakes Dry White Wine. Naturally fermented, unfiltered and unfiltered. Aromas of lime zest, clean, dry, fruit flavor and a pleasant, slightly creamy finish. Excellent with shellfish of any kind and spicy food.

### 2010 Gewurztraminer

Finger Lakes Dry White Wine. Naturally fermented, unfiltered and unfiltered. Aromatic, textured, complex white wine. Serve cool but not cold as an apéritif. Ideal for Thanksgiving.

### 2010 Cuvée Acidalia

Finger Lakes Dry Red Wine. Naturally fermented, unfiltered and unfiltered. Chewy, rich red wine. A blend of mostly merlot, cabernet franc and a little cabernet sauvignon aged in stainless steel.

### 2010 Pinot Noir

Finger Lakes Dry Red Wine. Naturally fermented, unfiltered and unfiltered. Ripe pinot noir, quite fruity and full with a lovely mineral flavor and lightly tannic finish. Ideal for Thanksgiving.

**BASHAKILL WINERY**  
Wurtsboro, NY 12790  
www.bashakillvineyards.com

### 2010 White Wines

**White Tail:** A sweet Germanic-style white wine from Cayuga white grapes.

**Estate White Tail:** These vineyard grapes are all certified naturally grown.

**Wood Duck:** These hand picked Chardonnay grapes were fermented both in oak and steel and then blended together for a dry white wine.

### 2009 Red Wines

**Blue Heron:** Oak aged Chancellor, a heavy, full-bodied red that goes great with spicy or Italian foods.

**Coyote:** 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Cab Franc blend, full-bodied red aged in American oak.

### 2010 Red Wines

**Copperhead:** Our Copperhead is made from 100% Pinot Noir aged in medium toasted American oak barrels.

**Dragonfly:** 100% Lemberger grapes with a 5% blend of Chancellor, this wine has very soft tannins and smooth finish.

**Black Bear:** Scored a double Gold and best red wine in the Hudson Valley wine competition.

**ANTLER RIDGE WINERY**  
Rome, PA 18837  
www.antleridgewinery.com

**Chambourcin:** Aged in a mild French oak to finish the taste, this is a deep, purple-colored red wine. These Chambourcin grapes are rich in flavor.

**Naked Chardonnay:** A winemaker’s delight. One of the

finest of recent years. This one will make your palate dance!

### Red Wines

**Merlot:** Aged in oak barrels, this deep red colored dry wine has an outstanding finish.

**Cabernet Sauvignon:** Aged in hand-selected oak barrels for two years and then bottled.

### Special Reserve Collection

**Pino Gris:** New release—a light, refreshing white wine.

**Fireside Classic:** A delicate blend of white wines, our newest wine.

### Award Winning Semi-Dry Wines:

**White Merlot:** Merlot that has not been barrel aged, but bottled straight from the tank with a hint of sweetness.

**Vidal:** A crisp, semi-dry white wine.

**Fireside White.** A hint of sweetness will roll across your tongue as you taste the Riesling grape.

**Seasons Spiced Wine:** Due to popular demand, we offer it all year long!

### Award-Winning Semi-Sweet and Sweet Wines

**Creek Side White:** Made from the Delaware grape. Naturally sweet and delicious. Multiple Gold Medal winner.

**Diamond:** Crisp and clean, this is a great sweeter white wine.

2010 Pennsylvania Double Gold winner.

**Antler Ridge Blush:** A semi-sweet wine made from the Catawba grape.

**Niagara:** The sweet Niagara grape will capture your taste buds when you sip a glass of this wine.

**Red Vixen:** Made from the Concord grape, this sweet wine is just a little on the naughty side! Available in magnums as well. Multiple Gold Medal winner. 2007 FingerLakes Winner, 2009 Best American and Best Desert Wine.

**Vignoles:** A white wine with outstanding floral bouquets.

**Antler Ridge Red:** Made from the Steuben grape. This starts out sweet and finishes a little dryer, making you want another sip.

### Award Winning Fruit Wines

**Apple Infusion:** 17 years of perfection went into this one. It will make you a believer in apple wine.

**Big Buck Apple:** Ladies, this one is for the big buck hunter in your life—this is one accessory he needs and can use.

**Raspberry Bramble:** This one has it all, great aroma and great flavor. Just like fresh picked raspberries! 2008 PA Governors Cup winner and Best of Show.

**Blackberry:** Ahh, fresh picked black berries in a glass of wine. 2010 Double Gold Finger Lakes Winner.







Contributed photos

# A HOLIDAY MENU... *Local Chef Style*

Compiled by Mary Greene

Bookended by pear tarts, one savory and one sweet, area chefs have combined efforts to create new and classic recipe ideas for your holiday table. Experts from a local wine shop have offered wine pairing suggestions for each stage of the meal. We hope there will be something new to tempt you and treat your loved ones to during your holiday festivities. Bon appétit!

## Savory Pear and Onion Tart

*Appetizer contributed by Gerard's River Grill, Narrowsburg, NY*

Prepared dough for 1 9-inch pie crust

- 1 large or two medium onions
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 ripe pears, peeled, cored and sliced
- 2 to 4 ounces goat cheese
- ½ teaspoon fresh or dried thyme

Halve the onions and thinly slice. Place the butter in a sauté pan over medium heat, add sliced onions and sprinkle with thyme. Cook until caramelized, about 8 minutes.

Roll out the pie crust on a lightly floured surface. Spread the cooked onion on the pie crust, leaving a 2-inch border. Arrange the pear slices over the onion and dot liberally with goat cheese. Fold the edges of the dough over the filling (filling will not be completely covered). With a wide spatula, place the tart on a baking sheet. Bake in a 400° oven until golden brown, 20-30 minutes. Allow to cool. Cut into 6 or 8 triangles

Serve warm or at room temperature.

## Holiday Harvest Stuffed Chicken Breast

*An alternative to traditional Roast Turkey, contributed by The Alpine Restaurant, Honesdale, PA*

- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- 2 medium apples, coarsely chopped
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- 4 ounces Brie cheese

- 4 ounces Gruyere cheese
- 1 egg (for breading)

Flour

Bread crumbs

Mix apple, cranberries and both cheeses. Stuff chicken breast with mixture. Dip in flour, then egg, followed by bread crumbs. Bake in a 350° oven for 45 minutes to 1 hour. Serve with mashed sweet potatoes.

## Portobello and Wild Mushroom Lasagna

*A vegetarian main dish alternative, contributed by the Front Porch Café, White Lake, NY*

- Kosher salt
- Good olive oil
- ¾ pound dried lasagna noodles
- 4 cups whole milk
- 12 tablespoons (1½ sticks) unsalted butter, divided
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg

- 1½ pounds portobello mushrooms, and assorted wild mushrooms such as crimini and shitake
- 1 cup freshly ground Parmesan cheese

Bring a large pot of water to a boil with 1 tablespoon salt and a splash of oil. Add the lasagna noodles and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Drain, rinse and set aside.

For the white sauce, bring the milk to a simmer in a saucepan. Meanwhile, melt 8 tablespoons (1 stick) of the butter in another large saucepan. Add the flour and cook for 1 minute over low heat. Add ½ cup Parmesan cheese, stirring constantly. Pour hot milk into the butter-flour mixture all at once. Add 1 tablespoon salt, the pepper and nutmeg and cook over medium-low heat, stirring first with a spoon and then with a whisk, for 3 to 5 minutes until thick. Set aside off the heat.

Separate the mushroom stems from the caps and discard the stems. Slice the caps ¼-inch thick. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil and 2 tablespoons butter in a large (12-inch) sauté pan. When the butter melts, add half the mushrooms, sprinkle with salt and cook over medium heat 5 minutes, until the mushrooms are tender and release some of their juices. If they become too dry, add a little more oil. Toss occasionally. Repeat with the remaining mushrooms.

To assemble the lasagna, spread some of the sauce in the bottom of an 8-by-12-by 2-inch baking dish. Arrange a layer of noodles, then more sauce, then 1/3 of the mushrooms, and 1/4 cup grated Parmesan. Repeat 2 more times. Top with a final layer of noodles and sauce and sprinkle with the remaining Parmesan.

Bake at 350° for 45 minutes, or until browned and bubbly. Allow to sit at room temperature 15 minutes before cutting. Serve hot.

## Roasted Garlic Stuffing

*An elaborate and succulent stuffing that can be vegetarian if desired, contributed by the Settlers Inn, Hawley, PA*

- 2 yellow onions
- 1 head celery
- 2 ½ cups roasted garlic
- ¼ cup chopped garlic
- 2 tablespoons chopped rosemary
- 1 tablespoon chopped thyme
- 1 tablespoon chopped tarragon
- 1 tablespoon chopped sage
- 1 pound butter
- 4 quarts dried bread cubes
- 4 eggs
- Chicken or vegetable stock
- Salt and pepper

In a large sauce pan, sweat the onions and celery until translucent over medium heat. Add the butter and herbs. Continue on medium heat until completely melted. Add the garlic and roasted garlic and cook for 1 or 2 minutes. Add the bread cubes and stir thoroughly. Slowly add stock while stirring until everything is very moist, and add salt and pepper as needed. Transfer into a casserole, add eggs and mix thoroughly.

Bake at 400° until top is golden brown, about 30 minutes.

Serves 12.

## Lemon Quinoa Side Dish

*Lemony and light, this quinoa dish features a healthy grain that is gluten free, high in protein and kosher for Passover; contributed by The Fat Lady Café, Kauneonga Lake, NY*

Place a few cups of dried quinoa into lots of boiling water (at least three times the amount of the grain) and boil for ten minutes.

Drain in sieve and fluff. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Chop finely: red pepper, medium sized red onion, cilantro, parsley. (You can chop any fresh herbs you can find in the market, such as chives, oregano, or even mint instead of cilantro.)

Toss with lots of fresh lemon juice and a bit of salad (not olive) oil.

This dish can be served cool as a salad, at room temperature, or hot as a side. Heating covered in the microwave is fine.

## Harvest Salad

*Contributed by The 1906 Restaurant, Callicoon, NY*

- ½ cup walnuts
- 1 bunch (or one bag) spinach or baby spinach, washed, rinsed and torn into smaller pieces
- 3 plum or 2 regular tomatoes, chopped
- 1 avocado, peeled and diced
- ½ red onion, sliced thinly
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- ½ cup crumbled blue cheese
- 2 tablespoons red raspberry jam (with or without seeds)
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1/3 cup walnut oil
- Ground black pepper and salt to taste

In a 375° oven, toast walnuts on baking sheet for 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Chop into smaller pieces as needed.

Toss together in a large bowl the spinach, toasted walnuts, tomatoes, avocado, red onion, cranberries and blue cheese.

In a small bowl, whisk together raspberry jam, vinegar, walnut oil, pepper and salt. Pour over salad just before serving and toss to coat.

## Cranberry Orange Relish

*Contributed by the Settler's Inn, Hawley, PA*

- 1 24-ounce bag of whole fresh cranberries
- 1 cup orange juice
- Zest and juice of 2 oranges
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1/8 cup lime juice
- Corn starch
- Bag of spices:

- 1 stick of cinnamon crushed
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 scant teaspoon allspice
- 2 cloves

In a large, thick bottomed soup pot, combine all the ingredients except the corn starch. Simmer over low heat until the cranberries are completely cooked through and broken down. Stir often to prevent scorching.

Thicken slightly with cornstarch and simmer until starch is cooked out.

## Almond Pear Tart

*Contributed by Flour Power Bakery, Livingston Manor, NY*

- 6 ounces sliced almonds
- ½ cup sugar, plus a little more
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs
- ¼ cup milk
- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) melted butter, plus a little more, unmelted
- 3 Bosc pears

In a food processor, combine almonds, sugar, flour and salt. Process until almonds are finely ground. Transfer to a bowl.

In another bowl, whisk together eggs. Add milk and butter.

Add the egg mixture to the almond mixture, stirring until well blended. Pour into a well buttered 9" tart pan (preferably with a removable bottom).

Peel, halve and core pears. Slice thinly lengthwise, keeping the stem ends intact. Lay the halves on top of the batter with stem ends to the center and fanning out the bottom ends, like the spokes of a wheel.

Sprinkle with a little additional sugar and dot with butter.

Bake 45 minutes at 350° until puffed and golden brown.

## What to drink...

*White Lake Wine & Spirits Shop in White Lake, NY makes the following wine pairing suggestions:*

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(Red): Cesari Mara Valpolicella Superior Ripasso – 2008

Dessert: Quady Essensia Orange Muscat - 2009



# Raise Up Your Glass...

## *A toast to eggnog*

Text | Emily Grillo

Seeing that carton of eggnog in the dairy case of your supermarket is a sure sign that the holidays are upon us. The rich, sweet drink was a favorite with the English aristocracy who could afford the ingredients, including the addition of alcohol. Eggnog made its way to the Americas in the 18th century and has long since delighted children and adults alike.

The addition of alcohol gives eggnog an adult twist, along with a hearty wallop, while offering a new flavor dimension of nuttiness. Classically, brandy is used to spike the drink, but less expensive liquors like rum and whiskey are fine alternatives.

Homemade eggnog is a far superior version of the supermarket kind. Preparation is somewhat involved, but much of it can be done ahead, and the payoff is a creamy, frothy concoction that will knock the socks off of everyone gathered for your holiday festivities. Enjoy!

### Traditional Eggnog

- 12 eggs, separated
- 6 cups milk
- 2 cups heavy/ thickened cream
- 1¼ cups bourbon
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 cup brandy
- 2 teaspoons ground nutmeg or cinnamon

In a large bowl and using a mixer, beat the egg yolks together with the sugar for approximately 10 minutes (you want the mixture to be firm and the color of butter). Very slowly, add in the bourbon and brandy. Allow the mixture to cool in the fridge.

30 minutes before your guests arrive, stir the milk into the chilled yolk mixture and add 1½ teaspoons nutmeg or cinnamon. In a separate bowl, beat the cream with a mixer on high speed until stiff peaks are formed. In a third bowl, beat the egg whites until stiff peaks form.

Gently fold the egg white mixture into the egg yolk mixture. Gently fold the cream into the egg mixture. Garnish with the remaining nutmeg, cinnamon and/or whip cream. Serves 8.

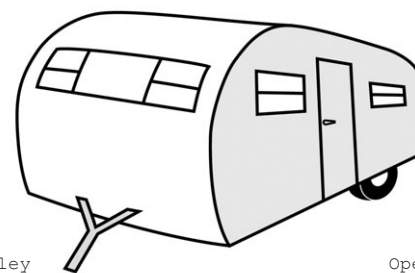
### Easy (Child Friendly) Eggnog

- 6 eggs
- 3 cups whole milk
- 8 tablespoons sugar
- 3 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg or cinnamon

In a large bowl, beat the eggs using an electric beater. By turns, add milk & sugar. Continue beating until mixture thickens slightly. Add in the vanilla extract and nutmeg or cinnamon. Cover and refrigerate until chilled (at least 3 hours). Serves 4.

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# Holiday Cookies, Italian Style

Text/Photographs Emily Grillo

I remember making Italian Christmas cookies with my mother each year, digging out the stained pieces of paper held in the old brown folder that held some of our favorite recipes. There were years when we made as many as 12 different kinds, but the really worn and butter-stained recipes were the seven cookies that my mother made each year. My mother got her prized cookie recipes from a friend, who received the recipes handed down from her mother.

When I began keeping my own house, old enough to do my own baking and start my own holiday traditions, these cookie recipes were passed down to me. I have tried on occasion to deviate from these recipes, believing that my own innovative baking skills could improve upon the tried and true, but they never have.

In case you are in the mood to try something new this year, I am passing a few of these Italian delicacy recipes on to you, so that you might share in a culture and cuisine steeped in tradition and taste. Manga!



## Pignoli Cookies (a sweet flourless cookie)

12 ounces almond paste  
½ cup white sugar  
1 cup confectioners' sugar  
4 egg whites  
1½ cups pine nuts

Mix almond paste and granulated sugar in food processor until smooth (this takes awhile). Add confectioners' sugar and 2 egg whites and process until smooth.

Whisk remaining 2 egg whites in a small bowl. Place pine nuts on a shallow plate. With lightly floured hands, roll the dough into 1-inch balls (dough is extremely sticky). Coat balls in egg whites, shaking off excess, then roll in pine nuts, pressing lightly to stick. Arrange balls on cookie sheets, and flatten slightly to form a 1 1/2 -inch round.

Bake at 325° on buttered cookie dish 15 to 18 minutes, or until lightly browned. Let stand on cookie sheet 1 minute. Transfer to wire rack to cool.

## Anginette (an iced citrus cookie)

5 cups all purpose flour  
1 cup granulated sugar  
5 teaspoons baking powder  
1 cup vegetable oil  
1 cup milk  
pinch of salt  
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice  
2 eggs

In a large bowl, sift dry ingredients together. In a separate bowl, combine sugar, oil and lemon juice and mix with a large fork until incorporated well. Add milk and eggs and stir well. Incorporate dry ingredients and the wet ingredients until blended. Do not overmix. The dough will be sticky. Drop cookies onto a greased cookie sheet and bake at 350° 10-12 minutes until cookies turn golden on the bottoms. Remove from oven and cool.

## Frosting

3 cups sifted confectioners' sugar  
4 tablespoons melted butter  
6 tablespoons orange juice  
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice  
2½ teaspoons pure vanilla extract  
Multi colored sprinkles (optional)

Mix the confectioners' sugar with the butter, lemon juice and vanilla until smooth. Frost the cooled cookies and add sprinkles if desired.



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# Up the River Road

## The musical legacy of Harry Woods and Dick Smith

Text/Mary Greene

The Catskill/Pocono region was home to two songwriters in the last century who are remembered more for their songs than for themselves. Both wrote songs that have become American standards.

### Harry M. Woods

Composer and lyricist Harry MacGregor Woods was born in 1896 in North Chelmsford, MA with a deformed left hand, which was missing all its fingers. In spite of or because of this handicap, his mother, a concert singer, encouraged Woods to learn the piano and while attending Harvard he supported himself singing in church choirs and giving piano recitals. During World War II, Woods honed his songwriting skills, and after his discharge from the Army he moved to New York to begin a songwriting career.

Woods found success on Tin Pan Alley with songs such as “When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bob, Bob Bobbin’ Along.” Other huge hits included “I’m Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover,” “Side by Side,” “What a Little Moonlight Can Do” and “Try a Little Tenderness.” His songs, many of which are now standards, have been recorded hundreds of times and were made famous by artists such as Frank Sinatra, Billie Holiday, Al Joplin and Paul Whiteman.

Woods discovered the bucolic hilly countryside of Sullivan County, NY, and began spending time in Callicoon. While there, he published some of his music under the label Callicoon Music. His drinking bouts were infamous around town, where he was known to habituate drinking establishments until dawn and then sleep all day. He also liked to climb aboard snowplows and accompany the drivers on their frosty routes. Woods was fond of the River Road that winds north from Callicoon along the Delaware, and he immortalized it in his song “Ridin’ Up the River Road.” He also sang about the imposing sycamore tree that still lives along River Road with his song “Under the Singing Sycamore Tree.” Other songs inspired by the Delaware include “Paddlin’ Madeline Home” and “River Stay Away from My Door” (which became Kate Smith’s signature radio song).

Woods moved to Arizona in 1945, where he lived until his death in 1970.

### Dick Smith

A contemporary of Woods, Richard B. Smith, better known as Dick Smith, was born in 1901 in Honesdale, PA, the youngest son of John and

Eliza Brunig Smith. He is best known for writing “Winter Wonderland” with composer Felix Bernard. Although this song does not have a holiday theme, it has become an American Christmas classic.

According to “The History of Wayne County” by Dr. Walter Barbe, Smith lived most of his life in Honesdale. His father was a partner in the Kranz and Smith Cut Glass Company, and the family lived in a house on Church Street. Smith graduated from Honesdale High School in 1920, where he was a member of the Honesdale Boys Band, and later from Penn State. The family attended services at Grace Episcopal Church.

He married Scranton native Jean Connor in 1930. Presumably Smith had a town wedding, but his familiar lines immortalize another custom of the day: “In the meadow we can build a snowman, then pretend that he is Parson Brown. He’ll say: Are you married? We’ll say: No man, but you can do the job when you’re in town.” It was common for roving preachers to perform weddings around the countryside.

In 1932, the Smiths, who never had children, moved from Pennsylvania to New York City. There Smith collaborated with Tony Sacco, a radio singer and announcer, on “The Breeze,” which began his professional music and songwriting career. Altogether, Smith collaborated on ten songs that were published in the 1930s, including “The Bluebirds Are Singing a Blue Song” and “Tumbling Tumbleweed.” Unfortunately, Smith’s songwriting talents were cut short when he was stricken with tuberculosis, then called consumption, and forced to spend time at West Mountain Sanatorium in Scranton. While confined, Smith continued to write, creating radio slogans for products like Maybelline and Old Gold cigarettes. Smith died of his disease in 1935.

According to legend, Woods wrote the lyrics for “Winter Wonderland,” published in 1934, while confined to the sanatorium, apparently nostalgic for the snowy hills of his childhood and, in particular, the snow covered trees of Honesdale’s Central Park, a snowball’s toss away from Smith’s Church Street bedroom window.

Contributed photo





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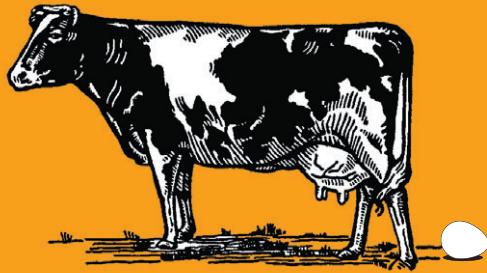
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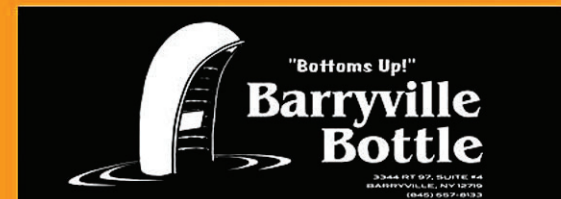
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## Eat, Drink and Be Well

Text | Mary Greene

At this time of year, it is easy to become stressed and fatigued as we try and prepare our houses for the holidays, plan meals, buy gifts and make travel plans. And right on the heels of the holidays comes January, when the lack of light and cold temperatures can keep us housebound and inactive. Giving gifts that promote wellness and beauty can be a welcome idea, especially as the season winds down and the “winter doldrums” appear just over the horizon.

A gift of wellness and beauty can include a range of ideas. A visit to the salon for a new haircut and pedicure might be just the thing for your mother in law or little sister. Everyone, men and women, will appreciate a massage, facial or reiki treatment at one of the local spas and centers. Someone on your list might need a bit of encouragement to try a new activity, such as yoga, pilates or an exercise dance class. A simple basket filled with essential oils, lotions and bubble bath is another way to let your loved one enjoy a little pampering. For those who really like to kick it, consider an introductory gym membership or a consult with a local trainer. A gift certificate for products at your local health food store is another idea.

Whatever you do, gifts promoting wellness and beauty reflect true consideration and caring. While you are at it, why not treat yourself to a feel-good present as well! You'll be glad you did.

This list, while by no means comprehensive, will get you started in the right direction.

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# *A well wrapped* GIFT

Text | Lori Malone

Wrapping a gift well does not have to be arduous or expensive. Incorporating found objects and cast-off materials from other projects is a great way to save money, lessen your carbon footprint and make your gift-wrap memorable.

Wallpaper, for instance, makes attractive gift-wrapping. Fabric lends a degree of flexibility when wrapping oddly shaped objects, and aluminum foil easily molds itself around smooth surfaces. Recycled newspapers, paper bags and even magazine pages work well for smaller gifts.

You can also buy rolls of regular gift-wrap and save the creative touches for ornamentation, which you can use to personalize a gift. Attach a photo of the recipient to the gift as an alternative to a traditional gift tag. If you have a computer, you can create strips of photos to use as ribbon, making one length long enough to wrap around the package and others to loop to make a matching bow.

- Make three loops, ten inch, eight inch and six, pinch the center of the loop down and secure with tape or a staple
- Stack the three loops and secure with a staple. Place a band around the center to cover staple. Use hot-glue or double-sided tape to secure to gift.

**Natural objects** are a lovely alternative to a bow. Try pine sprigs and pinecones clustered on top of craft-paper wrapping and tied off with jute twine. (Give gifts with fresh-cut sprigs or other fresh elements to the recipient the same day to prevent wilting.)

Silk or dried flowers will last longer. Secure them with hot glue. If giving several boxes to one recipient, stack them up, one atop the other, and secure in place with hot glue. Use tulle, ribbon or twine on all sides and tie into a knot on top. Cover the knot using the blooms of five silk flowers, hot glue in place, then hot glue petals cascading down the sides.

Whimsical elements like faux fur, buttons or fringe are fun to use. Try a pink feather boa tied around a black satin covered box for a provocative touch, or an assortment of white buttons, randomly hot-glued on pastel pink paper for something sweet.

Sometimes the gift accent can be part of the gift. Second-hand scarves and neckties secured with a vintage broach create a fashionable presentation and are useable by the recipient.

**Theme wrapping** incorporates useable accents too. Use butcher paper or a brown paper bag to wrap a cookbook. Tie jute twine and secure a wire whisk or wooden spoon for accent. Giving movies? Use old VHS tape (pulled out of it's casing) and tie like ribbon. 35mm film has the same effect for a gift of photographs or a camera.

Do not forget to get the kids involved. Give them a roll of craft paper or white matte paper and some markers or crayons and let them draw over every inch. You will have one-of-a-kind wrap that will be both heart warming and unique.

A well wrapped gift is simply one that allows your creative flair and personal style to shine through.

*Contributed photo*



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