

2016 Holiday
Gift Guide



Supplement to The Mercury, Friday, December 16, 2016



GIFT GUIDE

Bird Enthusiasts flock to Birds and Beyond, Inc. for 17 years

In-the-know birding enthusiasts have been flocking to Birds & Beyond, Inc. since 1999.

Located on Gravel Pike (Route 29), just south of Route 113, in Collegeville, the retail birding store carries everything from bird feeders and seed to unusual garden supplies and gifts.

"We just have more unique products, like different styles of bird feeders and bird houses, a much larger selection," explained owner Harriet Nacarelli. "There aren't a whole lot of places you can

go to get that."

Harriet and her husband, Ron, were inspired to open the store after Ron sold his trash company in the late 1990s.

The couple then decided to convert the former company's garage into retail space.

Since Harriet had always been a bird lover, opening a birding store just seemed to make sense.

"I love feeding birds and just watching them, and I love merchandise with birds on it as well," said Harriet. "I kept thinking that there isn't a store that carries everything like that; other stores have just bird feeders and seed."

The store's website, www.birdsandbeyondinc.com, describes the establishment as being "a bird lover's paradise." In addition to having all of the usual birding supplies, such as seed, houses, baths and feeders, Birds & Beyond, Inc. also sells books, jewelry, stained glass, framed prints, kitchen towels, ornaments and even mugs.

The Nacarellis are committed to delivering not just a large quantity of products but also high quality.

Too often Harriet has found that mass merchandisers sell birding and garden supplies that fall apart or break quickly. At Birds and Beyond, Inc., they try to carry the best quality products, while also keeping in mind that people are more cost conscious these days.

"I try to carry quality items that last a long time, and I try to have prices



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Coupon Expires: Jan. 31, 2017.

vary, especially today because people don't want to spend a lot of money, so we offer some lower priced things, too," explained Harriet.

What keeps customers coming back to Birds & Beyond, Inc., in addition to the unique blend of products offered, is the personalized service they receive. Harriet and Ron, with the help of their

daughter, Jennifer, go above and beyond to make sure customers are happy.

The value-added services include gift wrap, carry-out (for seed orders or even just bagged purchases) and free advice and guidance. They also encourage people to join their mailing list, either online or at the store, to receive valuable coupons and specials.

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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Scott's Clock Repair has something to match everyone's taste

Scott's Clock Repair offers a wide selection of clocks from antique American manufactures, such as Seth Thomas and William Gilbert, to new wall, mantel and reproduction models recreating American Heritage in a 21st century fashion.

Whether it's genuine antique, contemporary or new "made to look old." There is something to match every taste. Scott's carries a

full-line of Howard Miller clocks, the "Cadillac" of today's clock manufacturers. You can also see a large selection of Black Forest cuckoo clocks and small world rhythm clocks.

The statelier traditional look is also represented by the 20 or so grandfather clocks that are always in stock.

Scott has been repairing clocks since 1975. He can make almost any clock

made in the last 150 years run as well as the day it was originally sold. Repairs are done on the premises in a fully equipped work shop. Free estimates and free appraisals are available before any work is done on your timepiece.

For more information, please call 610-327-6293 or visit us on the Web at www.scottsclocks.com. Scott's Clock Repair is located at 22 S. Charlotte St., Pottstown.

GIFT GUIDE

Be smart when shopping on your smartphone

Holiday shopping is an annual tradition for many people. But while it may be customary to exchange gifts with loved ones during the holiday season, how those gifts are purchased has changed dramatically over the last decade and a half.

Thanks to advancements in technology, many holiday shoppers get their shopping done without ever setting foot in malls or shopping centers. And data indicates more and more shoppers are using their smartphones to do their holiday shopping. According to Nielsen Mobile Measurement, the number of mobile shoppers in December 2014 rose to 138.1 million users, an increase of nearly 14 million users from the same period just a year earlier. And mobile shoppers averaged nearly a full hour more shopping on the web from their mobile phones in 2014 than in 2013.

Convenience often drives shoppers' decisions to use their mobile phones during the holiday season. But it's important that shoppers

not sacrifice security for the sake of convenience. Those who want the best of both worlds this holiday season can take several steps to protect their personal information while shopping on their smartphones.

- Only use shopping apps with which you're comfortable. Downloading an app only takes a few seconds, and some shoppers are so used to downloading apps they may not realize just what they're downloading. Before installing an app on your phone, familiarize yourself with the app and what it requests of its user. Some apps ask users for a considerable amount of personal information, even though there is no legitimate reason for them to have that information. If you're uncomfortable with apps that require you to allow access to your location and other potentially sensitive information, don't download the app.

- Sign out when you stop using an app. It may be convenient to stay signed

in to an app at all times, but that can leave you vulnerable to hackers and/or thieves. Many apps store users' credit card numbers so shoppers don't have to enter such information each time they make a purchase. If you stay signed in to an app at all times, hackers who access your smartphone can then access your credit card information, as can thieves should your phone be stolen. Signing out when you finish using an app provides an extra measure of protection.

- Turn off automatic connections. Many smartphones enable users to automatically connect to nearby Wi-Fi networks so they can seamlessly access the Internet regardless of where they are. However, some Wi-Fi networks are fraudulent, and you may unknowingly be transmitting sensitive data through such networks when you automatically log on. Disable automatic connections, only logging on to secure Wi-Fi networks when out in public.



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GIFT GUIDE

Silver Shoppe filled with holiday traditions



Silver Shoppe is located at 2452 E. High St. in Lower Pottsgrove.

The holiday season is filled with many traditions, including trimming the Christmas tree, lighting the candles of the menorah, spending precious time with family and friends — and shopping for the perfect gift for that special person in your life. The Silver Shoppe provides a holiday shopping tradition that is unique to the Pottstown area. Silver garland and colorful Christmas balls decorate the store, and a tiny wood-burning stove offers customers warmth from the wintry chill.

This year, continue the tradition by visiting The Silver Shoppe, where there is something special waiting for those on your holiday list.

For the entire year, owner Uwe Bauer, a silversmith since 1972, has been creating original designs with sterling silver and semi-precious stones. A collection of jewelry that is unique and distinctive to the Pottstown area now graces the shelves

and showcases of his Sana-toga store. It is not difficult to find the perfect gift at The Silver Shoppe. Beautiful bracelets, rings, necklaces and earrings are all made from sterling silver and designed with exciting swirls, scrolls flowers and sleek lines designed to catch the eye.

The look can be either rich with ornamentation or fashionably plain.

One of Mr. Bauer's favorite techniques is to drop molten pieces of silver into cold water and let the molten silver cool into a variety of unique and distinctive shapes, which are then used to create one-of-a-kind bracelets, necklaces, rings and earrings. The variety of shapes resulting from this process means that all the jewelry creations are one of a kind. Semi-precious stones add brilliant splashes of color to the jewelry. Bright turquoises, blood-red garnets, dark onyxes and lovely amethysts are among the many different stones available.

There is a multitude of agates, from blue lace to leopard to green Botswana, each with its own unique look. There are also many pieces made with synthetic rubies, emeralds and sapphires and various colored topazes — for that expensive look at an affordable price. View a 30-minute video on YouTube showcasing The Silver Shoppe. You can find it by searching for "The Silver Shoppe."

Regular business hours are Wednesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

During the holiday season, The Silver Shoppe is open seven days a week. The hours are Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. The Silver Shoppe is located at 2452 E. High St., Pottstown, PA 19464, between Cuttillo's Restaurant and Landis Supermarket. Phone: (610) 323-4994.

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GIFT GUIDE

Calhoun Jewelers share exciting night with their customers



How often have you attended the private screening of an award-winning documentary film with the director and the stars?

Well, Calhoun Jewelers customers had the unique opportunity to do just that! Its owner, Cathy Calhoun, had the connections to bring the never-before-seen movie, "Sharing the ROUGH," to her favorite movie house, The Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville.

The movie documents the never before captured process of the journey of a colored gemstone from mine to market while exploring the challenges of an emerging mining economy in East Africa. During the private screening, guests marveled at the way the filmmakers captured the emotion and passion of the process — how the miners themselves feel called to the work and won't give up,



even if they find nothing of value for years, how gem cutter Roger Dery allowed the gemstone take shape almost organically to reach it's full potential and how jewelry designer Mark Schneider brought his creative vision to fruition in the final stunning piece of jewelry!

And how thrilling it was for the necklace's ultimate owner to first glimpse the finished plan. The movie's director, Orin Mazzoni, flew in from Hollywood to attend a meet and greet for Calhoun Jewelers customers. Cathy's customers also got to meet the stars of the movie, Roger Dery, the world famous gem cutter, who breathed life into the impressive 49.08-ct. green grossular garnet from East Africa. They also got to see the real star of the movie, the gem in its finished product, a spectacular necklace, and its owner proudly wearing it!

"We all got to touch and feel this incredible gem! A once in a lifetime opportunity!" says Cathy Calhoun.



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GIFT GUIDE

Great gifts for seniors

Every holiday shopper ends up with at least one loved one on their shopping list who they can't seem to find anything for. Some people seem to have it all, while others may be less than forthcoming with regard to items they may need or want.

Many seniors tend to fall into the latter category. Shopping for holiday gifts for seniors can be difficult if shoppers don't know what seniors want. But the following are a handful of gift ideas that might make this holiday season that much more special for seniors.

Books

A 2015 survey from the Pew Research Center found that 69 percent of adults age 65 and over acknowledged reading at least one book in the previous 12 months. That makes books a good bet for shoppers who don't know what

to get their 65-and-over loved ones this holiday season. But shoppers might want to opt for more traditional print books rather than e-books, as the survey found that only 15 percent of readers age 65 and over had read an e-book in the previous 12 months.

Gym membership

According to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, more than 80 percent of adults do not meet the guidelines for aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities. That can be especially troubling for seniors, who are at greater risk for osteoporosis, a medical condition in which age-related tissue loss contributes to brittle, fragile bones. Physical activity, including muscle-strengthening activities like weight training, can help combat osteoporosis. Family members stuck on what to get aging loved

ones may want to consider gifting a membership to a local gym. Many gyms offer heavily discounted memberships to seniors, and such gyms may even offer senior fitness classes at no additional cost.

Travel gifts

Many retirees love to travel, but not every senior has the means to take off for parts unknown. A 2013 survey from the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies found that 25 percent of retirees admitted they wished they would have saved more for retirement travel. Holiday shoppers can light up seniors' smiles by gifting travel gifts this holiday season. One idea is to transfer airline miles to an elderly loved one so he or she can get a free or discounted flight. If that's not a possibility, some new luggage or a Global Hotel Card sponsored by Orbitz, a gift



PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE

card that can be redeemed at 70,000 hotels across the globe, is sure to please.

Family time

Shoppers who are especially stuck on what to get seniors for Christmas can

just resolve to spend more time with their elderly loved ones. Many seniors genuinely have everything they need, and such men and women may only want to spend more time with their children and grandchild-

dren. Make a New Year's resolution to spend more time with the special seniors in your life if the perfect gift is eluding you.

Article courtesy of Metro Creative

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GIFT GUIDE

Give gifts that add colorful zest to cooking, entertaining

Functional and practical, culinary gifts are always welcomed by cooks, bakers and frequent entertainers. Fortunately, for friends and family members who also covet great design and fashion trends, there's a plethora of quality kitchen products

available today with beautiful styling that's too fun and vibrant to hide away in cabinets. Here's a short list of colorful gift options to consider this season. Circulon Symmetry Chocolate Bakeware 5-Piece Set — Add a sophisticated pop of color when bak-

ing savory and sweet treats with durable steel bakeware enrobed in a decadently rich dark chocolate hue inside and out. The set includes a versatile cookie pan (can double as a sheet pan), two round cake pans, a loaf pan and a rectangular cake pan.

Anolon Vesta Cast Iron 12-inch Skillet — Crafted in new cobalt blue and holiday-ready Paprika Red, this hard-working skillet with double pouring spouts and a long handle for added stability when lifting features a matte black enamel interior that doesn't need seasoning and a gleaming porcelain enamel exterior that adds a punch of color and is easy to clean.

BonJour Ami Matin 8-Cup French Press — Sure to brighten up every coffee-lover's morning, this classic, bistro-style coffee brewer is now offered in mood-boosting lavender and aqua blue. Constructed from unbreakable BPA-free Tritan plastic, this durable French press boasts a patented shutoff control built into its plunger to lock in flavor and prevent over-brewing.

Farberware Purecook Ceramic Nonstick Cookware 12-Piece Set — Go stylish with lavender and aqua or classic with gray and blue with this well-designed, dishwasher safe collection offered in four attractive shades. The high-heat safe ceramic nonstick surface is white and contrasts beautifully with the glossy porcelain exterior. Rachael Ray Porcelain II Nonstick Cookware in Marine Blue — Reflecting the positive energy and refreshed feeling that's often experienced dur-

ing seaside vacations, marine blue is the newest hue in this colorful collection, which also offers six other choices crafted in a gradient style: Rachael's signature orange, red, blue, green, purple and dark green. Rachael Ray Cucina Stoneware Ramekins 4-Piece Set — For a softer color palette, this set of organically shaped, oven-to-table ramekins are glazed in four Tuscan-style hues: cranberry red, agave blue, mushroom brown and lavender. Offering endless possibilities for cooking, baking and serving, the oven-safe rame-

kins are also microwave-, dishwasher- and freezer-safe.

Paula Deen 3-Piece Striped Mixing Bowl Set — This charming, red-striped set of small, medium and large mixing bowls, made of lightweight and durable melamine, instantly brightens up spirits when prepping breakfast, lunch or dinner. Each bowl features a sturdy lip to ensure a secure grip and a rubberized base ring for stability. Circulon Ultimium Cookware 11-Piece Set — This new collection of dishwasher-safe and induction-ready gourmet cook-

ware features sophisticated brushed metal lids and handles, and a jet black exterior for timeless design appeal. The exceptionally durable non-stick cooking surface covers durable forged aluminum for a pro-style look and performance. The comprehensive set includes all the basic pots and pans needed to whip up countless dishes on the range or in the oven.

For more information on colorful holiday gifts, visit anolon.com, circulon.com, farberwarecookware.com, bonjourproducts.com and PotsandPans.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE

Clockwise from top left: Rachael Ray Porcelain II Nonstick Cookware in marine blue, Rachael Ray Cucina Stoneware Ramekins 4-Piece Set, BonJour Ami Matin 8-Cup French Press, Anolon Vesta Cast Iron 12-Inch Skillet, Farberware Purecook Ceramic Nonstick Cookware 12-Piece Set, Circulon Symmetry Chocolate Bakeware 5-Piece Set, Paula Deen 3-Piece Striped Mixing Bowl Set.



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