

Eye on Campus

'Tis the season

Filling your list, without going to the mall

By CARRIE GOLDSTEIN
Lion's Eye staff writer

One step outdoors and you can feel it. A chill in the air, fallen leaves crunch underfoot; fall is under way; and the holiday season is just around the corner.

It's time to decide who's been naughty and nice in your family and circle of friends and start shopping.

But can you do it without going to the mall? Can you do it without going online?

That was our mission, and this is what we learned:

Your shopping experience can be fun and stress free — if you go to the right places. Here are some suggestions for unique shops, where you can find something for everyone:

First, head to **Main Street in Manayunk**. It's a quaint street, lined with boutiques and specialty shops.

American Pie has one of its three locations at 4303 Main Street and is filled with contemporary crafts made by local artisans. They have the cutest mugs for your parents, with the labels "Mom" and "Dad" (\$36 for each). For that special girlfriend, a bud vase with the words "True Love" (\$32). Aunt Martha, the gardener that she is, would adore the "Ginkgo tree-to-be" where she can "grow a thousand-year-old memory;" it comes with Ginkgo biloba seeds, a seedling pot, germination bag, aluminum ID tag and reference guide for just \$26.

If Hanukkah Harry visits your house over the holidays, American Pie has a wide selection of menorahs — from the traditional to the ultra-modern. And who could forget about man's best friend? They sell hand-painted animal bowls and biscuit jars. But the best gift for Fido: A mood collar that changes color with your pup's mood; for \$44, it's a steep purchase, but he is your best friend, right? American Pie also sells jewelry, frames, furniture and unique cards.

Got a wine lover in your family? Chaddsford Winery and tasting room can be found at 4243 Main Street. The stylish shop houses a large selection of gifts, in addition to "sophisticated and elegant wines," as *Philadelphia Inquirer* writer Jim Quinn has written.

Cool wine racks range from as low as \$11.99 and go up to \$99. For your best gal pal, "Tie One On" wine charms are a

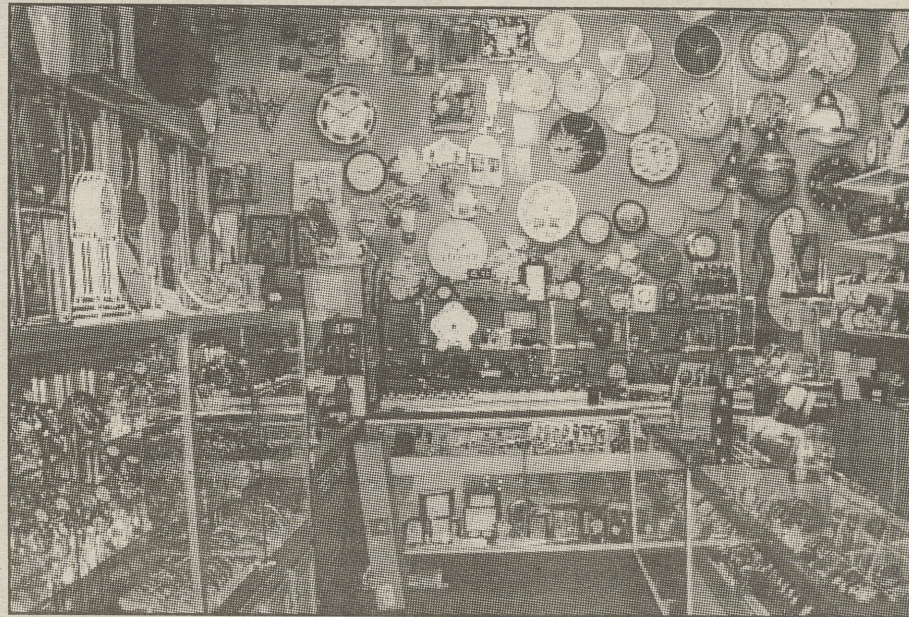


Photo by Carrie Goldstein

Time Works on Main Street in Manayunk has clocks in every shape and size for the people in your life who always run late.

perfect gift. Each has a different theme and one was available just for the holiday season. Charms included "tipsen," "smashen," and "loopen" and they are to be placed at the base of ones wine glass, so if someone puts their glass down at a party, they will be able to find it later. (with coasters, \$25.99)

Chaddsford makes a wine solely for the holidays and is selling last year's production at 50 percent. A good idea for \$12.50.

For your younger brother, head to Main Street Music, where you can find CDs ranging from the Rolling Stones "Forty Licks" and the Beatles "Anthology" to U2 and Jimmy Fallon of Saturday Night Live fame.

Grandma is always in the kitchen, so why not get her a gift to fit in this special room, so she'll remember to bake you cookies every time she looks at it? Time Works has just the thing: Clocks, in every shape and size, and many of them. The one for granny? A clock that, in lieu of numbers, has different kinds of lettuce for every hour. Can you smell the aroma of chocolate chips? (\$25)

Now that half of your presents are taken care of, it's time to visit the center of Wayne, an up-and-coming town with a

host of new stores.

Anthropologie, 201 W. Lancaster Ave, is a shoppers' paradise. The store is overstimulating; there is something in every nook and cranny. From body lotions, women's apparel, couches, lamps, cookbooks, embroidered pillows and blankets to gloves, scarves, hats and jewelry boxes, it was hard to narrow the selection, but here goes:

For your sister, they carry a beautiful frame decorated with painted flowers and rhinestones (\$36); a Soular Therapeutic aromatherapy gift set that includes a body soap (4 oz.), a candle (burns 25 hours), and body spray (.33 oz.), which is created to complement you based on your astrological sign; you just have to remember when she was born for this one! Also, Anthropologie has books like Hip Hotels and A Short Guide to a Happy Life, that will make your sister's day.

For your roommate: Martini glasses with painted olives (\$10) and beaded coasters to set them on (\$6 each) make a great gift.

Mom is always there for you, so first, on Christmas morning, during Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, give her a big hug (free), then, a stainless steel tea pot (\$48) to go

with the mug you bought her at American Pie; and the Do Not Disturb Sole Warmer Kit, which includes microwavable sherpa fleece booties and lavender lotion (\$36).

The Uncle-With-Dragon-Breath is next on our list. The present for him: Uncle Joe's Mint Balls (\$10 for 7.05 oz.). Grandpa loves Grandma's pancakes, but Aunt Jemima is getting old. Buy him a gift set of Vermont Maple Syrup — four bottles of fancy grade, grade A medium, grade A dark and grade B. Breakfast will never be the same. (\$22)

For the one that holds you close at night: A heart-shaped frame; get this and put a special picture of the two of you in it. (\$50); a book titled "Love" (\$20) and a candle set which looks like Chinese take-out containers. The four candles are all different aromatherapy scents and are named "peace," "way stressed!," "desire" and "wake-up call." (each 3.6 oz.) For \$15 you can set a romantic mood.

For the cousin that always acts inappropriate at family gatherings, Tiffany's Table Manners (produced by the famous jewelry store) may just assist in making everyone's holidays sweeter. (\$17)

For you, pick up a set of holiday cards. Anthropologie has a huge selection to choose from. One set is hand-painted by J. Tanis (\$18 for eight cards), perfect for sending greetings to friends and family in far locales. And do you love the smell of Christmas trees, but your room or apartment is too small to house one? Tree-in-a-candle is just for you. For \$15, your environment can smell like an evergreen.

The ultimate store for the smallest tyke in the bunch is also located in the heart of Wayne: Robertson's Seedlings, 100 East Lancaster Ave. has everything for the most special baby or toddler, but a great gift idea is a "Stack of Gifts" for \$85. First, they start with an outfit, add a book, a bib, and a toy and top it all off with a stuffed teddy bear, who dons ribbons and bows. The entire family will be oohing and ahing. (610) 971-6582

That about wraps it up! With all these wonderful gift ideas, your holidays are sure to be merry and bright. Skip the mall, secure your credit history and shop at the numerous boutiques and specialty stores out there.

You won't be disappointed.

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Going begging for a bargain? Begin here

By JENNIFER RUFO
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Some Christmas shopping bargains (and ideas for Penn State Delco students) for those on a budget:

A great gift idea for a Penn State student can be found right here on the Delco campus. It's a Barnes & Noble gift certificate. The Penn State Bookstore on Delaware County's campus is the college bookstore division of Barnes & Noble. That means that Barnes & Noble gift certificates, which can be purchased at the bookstore, are good in the bookstore. So the Penn State student who gets this gift under the tree can buy his textbooks with less worrying about money.

If you have time, some of the best places to get Christmas shopping finished are the Tanger Outlets (www.tangeroutlet.com) and the Rockvale Square Outlets (www.rockvalesquareoutlets.com) in Lancaster. You will have to plan a whole day, even a weekend, for this trip because, especially now, it gets very crowded with holiday shoppers.

Like something you see in Deb, Fashion Bug, or a

department store? There is a new store in the Rockvale Square outlets called Dot's. It has most of the fashions that you could find in other stores at lower prices. For example, those lounge-around sporty pants that you find everywhere \$15-\$20 and at Wal-mart (www.walmart.com) for \$12 are at Dot's for \$10. They have a Web site (www.dots.com) so you can check out what's available. At the Timberland Outlet, I found \$90 purple Timberlands (truthfully what you would pay in the mall) for \$25.

If you are unable to get to the outlets, then there is a bargain spot right near Penn State Delco called Booth's Corner (www.boothscorner.com). Located off of Route 202 on Naaman's Creek Rd., Booth's Corner is open only Fridays until 10 p.m. and Saturdays until 9 p.m.

At Booth's Corner you will find Amish and Mennonites selling produce, meats, and other homemade goods, even quilts and furniture. You can also find other people selling used books, music, videos, records, candy, food, ice cream, unique gifts, and much more.

Do you remember the Bazaar of All Nations in Clifton Heights? Booth's Corner resembles it with its unique gifts, some new and used, including toys. You

can also find Beanie Babies and rare coins. It is a treasure trove!

Hit the Web site to get special coupons. There is one, for example, for Auntie Anne's. You'll also find directions, and more information. You won't be disappointed.

If you are the type of person who likes shopping at a mall because everything you need is in one stop, the best time to go, and you are going to think I'm crazy, is Black Friday. That's right, the day after Thanksgiving. All the best deals at the malls are on Black Friday. When else can you get a free elf hat with a purchase?

The best time to go is in the morning before 11, because some stores will run out of their giveaways, or end their giveaways by noon. If all else fails, you can go to the malls at regular times, but you can always find free coupons on the Internet at www.coolsavings.com.

If you are a procrastinator and give gifts after the holidays, you are still in luck because many stores are clearing out their Christmas stocks and can offer sales and deals at huge percentages off the normal cost.

But are you sure you want to wait that long? If all else fails, there is always the Internet, or buying in bulk.

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