





# 120 GREAT GIFT IDEAS *for the Holidays*

By **Lee Ann Sandweiss** Photography by **Ben Weller**

It's that time of year again, Bloomingtonians, time for last-minute holiday shopping. For those few of you who are all done—well, feel smug if you must. For the rest of you—do not panic. We've done considerable legwork for you, scoping out the merchandise at more than 40 established businesses, new stores and boutiques, and museum gift shops. Here are the 120 fabulous gifts that caught our eye. Happy shopping!

A silk-screened framed fabric print makes a bold statement above a bed, sofa, or credenza, \$314.

Mahogany stain over cherry gives this classic bed and side tables warmth and depth, \$545-\$1,632.

Table lamps with intricate forged-iron bases are strong accent pieces in any room, \$364.

Throw pillows of sueded cotton feature Matisse-like patterns, \$69.

All available at Elements.

*(For "Where to Buy" information, turn to page 87.)*



# For Her

(right) A stunning one-of-a-kind necklace, bracelet, brooch, or earrings can transform the ordinary into the extraordinary and make an unforgettable fashion statement. \$50-\$100.

(bottom right) A unique, eye-popping topper—a meticulously tailored jacket of wool, velvet, or silk—will become the focal point of her whole look. \$150-\$300.

(below) Give her the boot(s)—beautiful, sexy, supple leather boots are always in vogue. \$160-\$200.

All available at Relish.



A luxurious **wrap or shawl** in cashmere or hand-painted silk will become her favorite accessory. à propos, \$80-\$200.

Poketo **wallets**, featuring the work of cutting-edge Japanese graphic artists, are trendy, durable, and incredibly lightweight. Cactus Flower, \$20.

Mod lucite and Bakelite-look **flower rings** are au courant fashion accessories that she'll love finding in her stocking. Cactus Flower, \$8-\$12.

Gianna Rose Atelier **French-milled soaps** come in cute animal shapes. Different Drummer, \$21.

Bloomington **jewelry** designer Katherine Stinson crafts striking and surprisingly affordable pieces in silver, gold, semi-precious gems, and freshwater pearls. Bella Donna, \$50-\$100.

Fun and funky patterned eco-coated **chef's aprons** by Mimi the Sardine are water and soil resistant and can be cleaned with a swipe of a sponge. Goods for Cooks, \$29.99.

**Mall Madness—The Game** has plenty of bells and whistles and is guaranteed to challenge the power shoppers on your list. The Game Preserve, \$39.95.



Under the Canopy organic, cotton **long-sleeved tees** are buttery soft and come in muted earth tones. Bloomingsfoods, \$15.49.

Luxurious and meticulously crafted Reuge **music boxes** from Switzerland are among the finest made. Gold Casters, \$699.

Handmade in Indiana, Formed in Flame **glass beads** can be mixed and matched, flipped and switched for customized accessorizing. Elements, \$5.

Does she love the American Southwest? Hand-carved from cottonwood and signed by the artist, a **Hopi Kachina** is a fascinating icon painted to represent a figure from Hopi mythology. Less expensive but also handmade, **Navajo dolls** are fashioned from wood, leather, feathers, and rabbit fur. Not Just Rugs, \$25-\$600.

Beautifully soft, **silky tops** in trendy styles make a pair of jeans party attire. b boutique, \$92.



BCBG's Nordic **sweater dress** hugs her dangerous curves and looks great over leggings and a turtleneck. Bella Donna, \$118.

Ooo la-la—Lacoste's **zippered hoodie** is made in France of comfy, cotton-rich fabric. Sullivan's, \$128.

Aid Through Trade roll-on **beaded bracelets** are colorful, sparkly, and fit all wrists. Elements, \$18.

Hardys Floral Reveries are pure and natural and contain no artificial colors or preservatives. The luxurious **gift set** includes bath essence, soap, hand lotion, pulse point oil, and more. Bella Donna, \$58.

Danish-designed Pandora jewelry allows her to mix and match sterling, gold, and semi-precious **stone charms** and become her own jewelry designer. Gold Casters, \$29.

Grrrr...vamp it up with a faux leopard **swing jacket**. b boutique, \$169

Bloomington has the only store in Indiana that carries the all-natural Zents line of **handmade perfumes, lotions, and candles** in heavenly scented blends like Water and Earth or Mandarin and Ore. Relish, \$10-\$54.



For the man who loves or needs to relax, nothing beats a Brazilian-crafted, boldly striped Amazonas **hammock**. J.L. Waters, \$68.95.

Satori Movement **hemp and cotton shirts** make a natural fashion statement and just get more comfortable with each washing. Natural Elements, \$36-\$52.

Lupe **belts** are sexy, "study," and affordable. InSeam, \$30-\$60.

William Henry **pocketknives** are recognized worldwide as being of superlative design, craftsmanship, and quality. Gold Casters, \$500 and up.



## For Him



(above) Handsewn on the Monterey peninsula, Robert Talbott ties are made of silk and available in vibrant contemporary designs as well as more traditional paisleys and foulards. \$125-\$225.

(top right) The Peter Millar line of menswear embraces classic, old-world style resplendent in detail and superb craftsmanship. Cashmere sweaters come in V-neck, crew, or cardigan styles, \$195-\$275. Long-sleeved sport shirts of superfine cotton have a preppy look in tattersall and gingham checks, \$98.50.

(right) Italian-made V.K. Nagrani socks come in the gutsiest, hippest designs imaginable and are made from natural, mixed, and synthetic yarns, \$32.

All available at Andrew Davis.

The perfect masculine accent for his home or office—an imported **freeform bowl** fashioned from buffalo horn. à propos, \$50.

John Allan's upscale **cosmetics, shaving supplies, and razors** are coveted by men of style everywhere. Andrew Davis, \$12-\$100.

Pendleton's classic Zephyr **cloth shirt** is made of ultra-light wool and comes in assorted plaids. Sullivan's, \$114.

Help him get in touch with his inner Hemingway with a stainless steel **flask** and funnel set. J.L. Waters, \$24-\$33.

Make it a breeze for him to read the fine print or between the lines with a Murano glass **magnifier**. Rebecca & Me, \$12.

Adidas' **running watch** is space-agey, hip, water resistant, and does up to 200 splits. Indiana Running Co., \$79-\$99.

Stuff his stocking with a bar or two of Grandpa's **vegetable-based soap**. It's mild, natural, and comes in non-froufrou scents like pine tar, witch hazel, and oatmeal. Bloomingfoods, \$2.99.

Let him test his wits with **The New Yorker Cartoon Caption Game**, based on the magazine's popular contest. The Game Preserve, \$29.95.

Jogging need not be a boring, solitary activity with a digital **talking pedometer** that announces steps, distance, and calories burned, and sports an FM radio. J.L. Waters, \$39.95.

Hot, hot, hot—**designer jeans** like the Hollywood heartthrobs wear are the ultimate hip gift. InSeam, \$150-\$180.

Made of heavy split leather, Flame X **fireplace and stove gloves** are insulated, lined, and a must when handling high-temp situations—from wood fires to bbq grills. J.L. Waters, \$22.95.



A **musical bottle opener**—one that plays his school fight song, Colts game calls, or Homer Simpson's endearing banter—makes a fun stocking stuffer. Bloomington Hardware, \$7.95.

Oakley **sunglasses** are the epitome of hip and offer maximum vision protection. Haley's, \$70-\$340.



# For the Family



(above and opposite page) Made by Peruvian artisans, Blabla fair trade designs are made of soft natural fibers. The line runs the gamut from toys, to clothing, to backpacks and blankets—all in bright, cheerful gender-neutral colors, \$27-\$74.

(right) Goo-goo! Ga-ga! IU!—For the littlest Hoosier fans in your circle, check out the complete line of IU wear for infants and toddlers. \$10-\$30.

All available at O'Child.

A professionally taken **family wall portrait** is something loved ones can enjoy throughout the year. Ball Spencer Photography, \$275 and up.

Give fido a touch of class with a Vera Bradley **collar and leash**. Different Drummer, \$15-\$17.

Fleurville and Petunia Picklebottom designer **diaper bags** are attention-getting favorites of new Hollywood celebrity moms. O'Child, \$150.

For a classic, durable toy that's destined to become a family heirloom, nothing beats a **Lionel train**. Treasure Chest Hobbies, \$50 and up.

Supper Solutions makes healthy, **delicious meals** a snap for working moms and busy families. Assemble your meal at the company's kitchen or get it to-go—a complete supper for a family of four starts at less than \$20. Gift certificates and packages are available. Supper Solutions, prices vary.

For the littlest darling on your list, a **sterling silver spoon, rattle, or cup** is the ultimate forever gift. Gold Casters, \$79 and up.

Wild Republic's **stuffed Audubon birds** come in several dozen species, are cute and fluffy, amazingly detailed, and emit convincing calls. Banana Junction, \$7.95.

Capture happy moments of the season and all through the year with **Canon's PowerShot**

**TX**. With stylish vertical design in stainless steel, this ELPH-sized camera has a 10x optical zoom that not only captures 7.1 megapixel images, but HD movies, too! Roberts Photo, \$499.

The **Baby Jogger** helps mom and dad stay in shape while the small fry gets a sweet ride. All the models are lightweight, folding, and have a lifetime guarantee. Indiana Running Co., \$250-\$350.

A box of delectable melt-in-your-mouth **chocolates**—handpicked (by you), handpainted (by them), and almost too pretty to eat—is the perfect holiday treat for your loved ones, guests, or hosts. BLU Boy, \$1.30-\$1.50 a piece.

Make popcorn that's better than at the movies in the hand-cranked Whirley Pop **popcorn maker**. Goods for Cooks, \$29.95.

Let your loved ones go wild making their own greeting cards, stationery, and scrapbooks with

**rubber stamps** in more than 1,000 designs—and don't forget the ink pads! Bloomin' Scrapbooks & Stamps, 99¢ and up.

Adorable **chenille tams** for wee ones come in whimsical shapes and characters. Different Drummer, \$25.

The Radio Flyer "Town & Country" **wood wagon** has been an iconic childhood possession since 1917. Bloomington Hardware, \$124.99.

**The Artists of Brown County** by Lyn Letsinger-Miller is the classic book on the history of this remark-



able art colony (also available on DVD). IU Press, \$49.95, \$14.95 DVD.

**Pet pillows** in retro-print ultra suede or charming appliquéd wool show your best friend you care about his creature comfort and are cool enough to be displayed in any room of the house. London Dog, \$130-\$160.

Scrub Ups **nail brushes** are colorful, fun, and perfect to stick in the toe of anyone's stocking. Rebecca & Me, \$3.99.

The Jenga **wood block game** puts the skill of balance and dexterity to the test as players strive to build the tallest tower. The Game Preserve, \$14.95.

Bees, dinos, and frogs—Oh my! Kidorable **rubber boots and rain slickers** for tots are too cute. Rebecca & Me, \$26-\$32.



What's cozier than working a puzzle in front of the fire on a snowy night? Choose a favorite subject or **3D puzzle of an iconic building**—the Sears and Eiffel towers and Notre Dame Cathedral are but a few options. The Game Preserve, \$17.95-\$22.95.

Made of durable nylon, Premier **kites** come in a wide variety of designs—dolphins, pirates, triceratops, and more, with 300 yards of nylon line included. Banana Junction, \$14-\$20.

A timeless **Hudson Bay Blanket** will keep loved ones toasty this winter and become a family heirloom. J.L. Waters, \$369.95-\$455.

Let your favorite tyke take a crawl on the wild side in a fun, whimsical **onesie**. b boutique, \$22.

That unmistakable icon of comfort—the **Sock Monkey**—is given a hip new look by Bloomington fiber artist Betty Westhues. By Hand Gallery, \$56.

Durable and colorful **food play sets** by Melissa & Doug are detailed and sized for wee hands—choose from the 54-piece pizza party, sushi set, or groups from the food pyramid. Banana Junction, \$20.

Could there be a more perfect gift for the transplanted Bloomingtonian or IU grad than a **subscription to Bloom Magazine**? \$23.95 for one year, \$42.95 for two. A subscription card can be found between pages 32 and 33 or online at magbloom.com.

# 8 GREAT GIFT SHOPS

Bloomington's not-for-profit cultural organizations have an exciting and eclectic array of distinctive gifts for the impossible-to-buy-for people on your list. Whatever the passion or interest of your loved ones—from science, to world cultures, to fine art, to history—you can find something that says, "I chose this just for you!" at one of the following shops.



The IU Art Museum shop.

**Angles**, the IU Art Museum's gift shop, has a great selection of merchandise to complement the museum's permanent collection and special exhibitions—from jewelry inspired by pieces in the three main galleries, to triangular candles and vases that reflect the building's famed architecture. Perfect to give or keep: a striking Tang Dynasty ceramic horse (pictured, right) with a rich, multicolored glaze (\$90).

The Queen Anne-style main house of the **Hinkle-Garton Farmstead** now headquarters Bloomington Restoration, Inc. (BRI) and sells books on historic building restoration, clothing, note cards, and more, with proceeds supporting BRI's Affordable Housing Program. An especially popular item is the gentle green cotton tee, designed by local artist Jan Sorby, which features a rendering of the main farmstead house (\$18).

While the **Kinsey Institute** at Indiana University is renowned for its groundbreaking research in human sexuality, its new gift shop has been somewhat of a secret—until now. Items such as T-shirts, totebags, mugs, and more are available. For a truly unique gift, consider making a tax-deductible donation on behalf of your favorite

art lover to cover the cost of framing a work in the KI's extensive art collection. The gift is acknowledged on a label when the work is exhibited.

**The Mathers Museum Store** offers a wide array of items that reflect the diversity of cultures represented in the rest of the museum: toys, books, masks, figurines, pottery, and jewelry from around the globe. The selection of Baltic amber jewelry is especially impressive (\$30 and up).

**Monroe County History Center's** store has a full selection of local and Indiana history-related books, music, and gift items. One of their current best sellers is *Hoosier Heart* by Luke and Jennifer Messer, a charming, 32-page picture book that answers the

question, "What is a Hoosier?" (\$16.95).

**The Friends of Art Bookshop** at IU's School of Fine Arts has a comprehensive art book inventory,

as well as a great variety of cards, posters, and jewelry, including pieces from locally based Bona Fide Creations (\$10-\$50). Profits from shop sales are used to fund scholarships for students in the Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts.

The **John Waldron Arts Center Gallery Shop**—a great place to see and buy work by regional artists year-round—will expand its inventory for its Holiday Art Mart from Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve, and all items are \$100 or less!

**WonderLab's** gift store has a superb selection of high-quality science toys, games, puzzles, equipment, activity kits, gemstones, plush animals, food specialties, and logo items. For the budding Nobel laureate in your family, check out the award-winning Thames & Kosmos chemistry sets (\$32-\$82).





Northern lights **candles** smell divine and come in reusable jewel-toned blown glass holders. Elements, \$20.

A sleek, futuristic chrome **coat rack** can hold guests' wraps or help keep a bedroom tidy. Relish, \$82.

A stunning, inlaid lacquered **serv-ing tray** will be proudly used for years and years to come. à propos, \$89.

Bloomington artist Ransom Haile's **multimedia digital creations** are arresting and available framed and unframed. Wandering Turtle, \$65-\$200.

A touch of Americana, genuine **pewter spoons and serving pieces** are great for holiday feasts. Different Drummer, \$12 and up.

Forget the poinsettia this season and pony up a little more for something really special—a **chocolate orchid** with a melt-in-your-mouth fragrance. White Orchid, prices vary; allow two weeks for special order.



Local artist Reza Pishgahi's **carved glass and steel sculptures** make a dramatic statement in any living space. Gallery North, \$150-\$500.

Any cook would love a kicky, enameled **colander** in his/her favorite color. Five quart with stainless handles, these by Reston-Lloyd come in 12 trendy colors. Inner Chef, \$21.99.

Oregon-made **blown glass salt and pepper shakers** are elegant, ethereal, and collectible. Elements, \$39-\$79.

Show your houseguest you care with a nifty "**Be My Guest**" kit that contains all the items someone needs for an overnight stay. b boutique, \$22.

The whole family will love the **CD of Wilderness Plots**, the stunning Bloomington-conceived musical show, \$15, and the book on which it is based by Scott Russell

## For the Home



Sanders, \$16.95, or both for a 15% discount. Wandering Turtle.

Small square **plates** of Egyptian alabaster have rich honey-colored tones, are elegant serving pieces, and are beautiful enough for decorative display. à propos, \$45-\$60.

Wrap up someone you love in a luxurious locally made **throw blanket**. Textillery, \$35-\$130.

Finely crafted **salad servers** with sculptural metal handles add a decorative touch to any buffet or dinner table. Relish, \$34.

A **home makeover** consultation is the perfect gift for someone who has just moved or wants a new look for his/her dwelling. Chameleon Interiors, \$350 and up.

(top left) A charming porcelain and pewter tea set sits atop a water-like glass tray—pieces priced separately, \$44-\$146.

(left) Frosted, swirled martini glasses in assorted colors and an etched polka dot shaker lend retro flair to holiday entertaining, \$12-\$28.

(above) Translucent porcelain lamps in a variety of motifs cast an ethereal glow, \$122.

All available at Elements.



Polly put the **kettle** on, but make sure it's a Joyce Chen two-quart stovetop ceramic tea kettle with a sleek bamboo handle. Sahara Mart, \$39.99.

Perfect for the newlywed or new homeowner, Bloomington artist Sandy Taylor's mixed-media **wall clocks** come in varied designs and color palettes. By Hand Gallery, \$82.

Embroidered **throw pillows** depict distinctive scenes from all 50 states in amazing detail. Different Drummer, \$130.

The **Bloomington Sketchbook** by native writer Douglas Wissing is a collection of 112 original paintings by local artists portraying the beauty of our community. Gallery North, \$39.95.

Marquis Waterford **crystal champagne flutes** let anyone toast the new year with class and style. Gold Casters, \$49 each.

Sling hash or serve up some coq au vin—Lodge Logic **cast iron cookery** can handle it all. Goods for Cooks, \$10.99 and up.

No green thumb required to bring forth fragrant blooms this winter with the **amaryllis and paper-white bulb kit**—complete with ten bulbs, four copper-clad steel pots, soil, and a durable wooden crate. Bloomington Hardware, \$39.99.

With its signature hand-cut tissue paper design, bella bella's large oval **wall mirror** is a striking as well as functional work of art. Relish, \$900.

World of Good fair-trade **cutting boards** and serving pieces are exquisitely crafted, durable and "bamboolicious." Natural Elements, \$14.95-\$60.

Colorful, strong, and functional **welcome mats and magazine baskets** made from recycled flip-flops make great conversation starters while saving the planet. Elements, \$37-\$87. ✨

**Angles Cafe and Gift Shop**  
IU Art Museum  
1133 E. 7th St.  
855-5455

**à propos Gifts & Jewelry**  
113 N. College  
334-1330

**Ball Spencer Photography**  
Bloomfield, IN  
800-310-3460 (toll free)

**b boutique**  
601 N. College  
330-1840

**Bella Donna**  
236 N. Morton St.  
333-2610

**Bloomingfoods  
Market and Deli**  
3220 E. 3rd St. (336-5400)  
419 E. Kirkwood (336-5300)  
316 W. 6th St. (333-7312)

**Bloomin' Scrapbooks  
& Stamps**  
223 S. Pete Ellis Dr.  
333-2008

**Bloomington Hardware**  
2700 E. Covenanter Dr.  
339-7575

**BLU Boy Chocolate  
Café and Cakery**  
112 E. Kirkwood  
334-8460

**Cactus Flower**  
322 E. Kirkwood  
333-8279

**Chameleon Interiors  
and Furnishings**  
209 N. Washington St.  
330-0933

**Different Drummer**  
2664 E. 2nd St.  
337-1776

**Elements**  
2901 E. Covenanter Dr.  
331-9089

**Friends of Art Bookshop**  
Fine Arts 120  
Indiana University  
1201 E. 7th St.  
855-1333

**The Game Preserve**  
101 W. Kirkwood  
332-6602

**Gallery North**  
116 W 6th St.  
339-5729

**Gold Casters**  
430 S. Washington St.  
332-1071

**Goods for Cooks**  
117 N. College  
339-2200

**Haley's**  
205 N. College  
323-2181

**Hinkle-Garton Farmstead**  
Bloomington Restorations, Inc.  
2920 E. 10th St.  
336-0909

**Inner Chef**  
105 N. College  
323-8671

**IU Press**  
601 N. Morton St.  
800-842-6796 (toll free)

**InSeam Denim Supply**  
601 N. College, Suite 3  
961-3703

**J.L. Waters & Co.**  
109 N. College  
334-1845

**John Waldron Arts Center  
Gallery Shop**  
122 S. Walnut  
334-3100

**London Dog**  
120 S. College  
331-2364

**Mathers Museum Gift Shop**  
416 N. Indiana Ave.  
855-6873

**Monroe County History Center**  
202 E. 6th St.  
332-2517

**Natural Elements**  
122 N. Walnut  
339-6918

**Not Just Rugs Gallery  
of Native American Art**  
1117 N. College (lower level)  
332-6434

**O'Child**  
101 W. Kirkwood, Suite 112  
334-9005

**Rebecca & Me**  
2909 E. Covenanter Dr.  
334-7878

**Relish**  
204 N. Morton St.  
333-2773

**Roberts Photo**  
316 E. Kirkwood  
323-0888

**Sahara Mart**  
106 E. 2nd St.  
333-0502

**Sullivan's**  
115 N. Washington St.  
339-3444

**Supper Solutions**  
2616 Walnut  
333-8009

**Textillery Weavers**  
2361 Rappel Dr.  
334-1555

**Treasure Chest Hobbies**  
122 S. College  
332-8470

**Wandering Turtle  
Art Gallery & Gifts**  
224 N. College  
330-1990

**White Orchid Distinctive Floral**  
407 N. Walnut  
330-0540

**Wonder Lab Gift Store**  
308 W. 4th St.  
337-1337

# Where to Buy

