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# YOUR HEAD AROUND THIS



WRAP

Cortland Standard file photo Joe Eric Behnkeadjusts the mood lighting for the Winter Wonderland festive scene last year in Cortland.



#### By KATIE KEYSER Living and Leisure Editor living@cortlandstandard.net

Forget the necktie as a gift for John Folmer this Christmas.

Give him the gift of an experience. The Cortlandville man's daughter gave him a ticket to see the musical, "The Book of Mormon," which he saw with her on a recent Sunday.

"I enjoyed it. The music and dancing was excellent," he said of the show staged in Rochester, near his daughter's home. "I'm not sure parts of it would appeal to everyone."

He, his daughter, Tiffany, and sonin-law, Dewey, go to the opera in Syracuse three times a year and attend shows at Cortland Repertory Theatre in the summer.

Experiential gifts are a regular occurrence in the Folmer family. And an idea for people in the greater Cortland area to consider this holiday season.

There is the nearby Center for the Arts of Homer, known for its live music and Center Players theater. There is Cortland Repertory Theatre Downtown, now providing comedy, music and live theater in fall, winter and spring. There are nearby ski centers: Greek Peek with an indoor water park, Labrador Mountain and plenty of eateries, from Melodyland to the Green Arch to the new Mangia Stattizitto.

"We do a lot of that," said Folmer, a retired attorney. "Our relationship is close ... I think it just adds to it."

"Two years ago, for Christmas, I gave them a weekend at Greek Peak," Folmer said of his daughter and her husband. And every year, he gives the family a season pass to Seabreeze and the Strong Museum of Play, both near Rochester, which they use all the time with their children.

Folmer gives his family "stuff" as well. But he likes the idea of the passes, which are not like a toy being used once and stuffed in a corner.

"If you are going to give me a gift,

## Gift ideas here, there, everywhere

There is plenty to do in Cortland County and beyond. Think about a gift of an experience this year.

- Center for the Arts of Homer, 72 S. Main St., Homer; www.center4art.org, 607-749-4900.
- CNY Living History Center, Route 11, Cortlandville, cnylivinghistory.org: Brockway Truck Museum, Homeville Museum, Tractors of Yesteryear. 607-299-4185.
- Corning Museum of Glass, One Museum Way, Corning, cmog.org, 607-937-5371.
- Cortland County Historical Society, 25 Homer Ave., Cortland, cortlandhistory.org, 607-756-6071.
- **Cortland Repertory Theatre**, 26 Port Watson St., Cortland, www.cortlandrep.org, 800-427-6160.
- 1890 House, 37 Tompkins St., Cortland, the 1890house. org, 607-756-7551.
- **Greek Peak**, Route 392, Virgil, Greekpeak.net
- Kitchen Theatre Co., 417 W. State St., Ithaca, www.kitchentheatre.org, 607-272-0403.
- **Labrador Mountain**, Route 91, Truxton, www.skicny.com, 607-842-6204.
- **Rosamond Gifford Zoo**, 1 Conservation Place, Syracuse, www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org, 315-435-8511.
- **Sciencenter**, 601 1st St., Ithaca, www.sciencenter.org, 607-272-0600.
- **Song Mountain Resort**, Tully, www.skicny.com, 315-696-5711.
- Syracuse Stage, 820 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, syracusestage.org, 315-443-3275.
- Toggenburg Mountain Ski Center, Fabius, www.skitog. com, 315-683-5842.

give me a book ... give me a ticket to a concert. I have my basic needs met ... I sure as hell don't need a necktie," Folmer said.

"I have not even been to Mangia out here ... You want to give me something? Take me to Mangia. That's an experience, as opposed to something else."

Ty Marshal, executive director at Center for the Arts of Homer, said a live show at the center is different for everybody.

But speaking generally: "The center presents a series of magical interac-

tions," he said.

"I think we are most known for our national concerts. We are grateful so many major artists choose to play here."

The center at 72 S. Main St., Homer, has brought Pat Metheny, Ricky Skaggs and Ani DiFranco in the past year.

"We have a vibrant theater program through the Center Players. We have a vibrant art gallery with different artist shows every month through 2021.



#### continued from page 2

And there's an array of classes, music, art and mind body classes available at the center, Marshal said.

"The people who give the best gifts are the people who know me the closest," Marshal said.

"On the other hand, I also enjoy experience: a trip somewhere. A food item."

Lynn Wang, who does a Chinese celebration at the center ever year, brought him a dish of authentic Chinese food.

"That's a special gift," he said. "It's not so much the gift itself, but the act of the gift giving."

He loves to listen hard to his loved ones to determining their needs and wants. And then surprise them with that special something.

"There are a lot of people that come in who buy gift certificates for friends and family that haven't been to the theater themselves," said Kerby Thompson, producing artistic director at Cortland Repertory Theatre. "They always meant to go but never have gone ... or they know a show or performance is coming up that a friend will want to see."

A live theater show is something they'll remember, he said. And it's something the giver and receiver can do together.

"We have people, husbands and wives who give to each other. It's date night, a trip to the show. A coworker, office assistant gets for their boss. They go together," Thompson said.

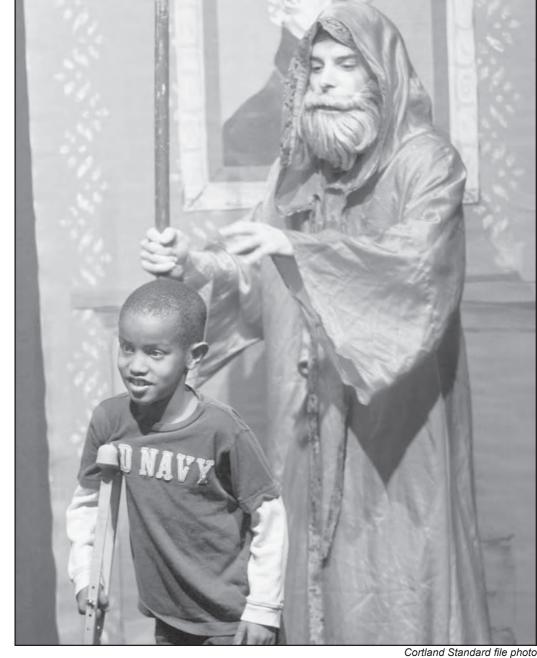
"If you give them the chance to have a laugh, that's the greatest thing you can give to a person," he said.

Paulette Fry of Cortlandville said the Friends of the Library in Syracuse has a speaker series every year, where they bring in authors who do hourlong talks.

Her loved one has given her tickets to these talks. In fact, she's received season tickets. "And they are outstanding," Fry said.

"They say gifts of an experience are so much more valuable then conventional gifts," said Fry, the church organist at United Presbyterian Church in Cortland.

It's something that can be relived: over and over and over, she said. "An experience lasts."



Jon Steige of New York City with Sitota Boring, of Marathon, Cortland Repertory Theatre production of "The Story of Ebenezer Scrooge" in 2016.







## A present for the earth? How to cut holiday waste

#### By KATHERINE ROTH Associated Press

While the holiday season is a time of giving and thoughtfulness, it can also be a time of excess and waste.

Americans throw away 25 percent more trash than usual between Thanksgiving and New Year's — about a million extra tons of garbage each week, according to the National Environmental Education Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit group devoted to helping people to be more environmentally responsible. There are plenty of ways to celebrate

the spirit of the holidays while giving a gift to the earth (and maybe your wallet) as well.

For starters, go with reusable gift wrap, and recycle wrapping paper and ribbon. "Gift wrap is top on the list of wasteful holiday traditions. An easy

Mens

Main St.

Homer

hack is to wrap gifts in unused maps, comics for kids or, for larger gifts, printed pillowcases. You probably have these things around your house already," says Rachel Sylvester, lifestyle editor for Real Simple.

"Save every bit of gift wrap and ribbon that comes your way, and try using fresh greenery instead of storebought bows," she adds.

Every year, Americans discard an estimated 38,000 miles of ribbon, enough to wrap around the planet with some left over to tie a bow, according to NEEF.

Sylvester says it's easy to save on gift tags by writing the names of recipients directly on the gift, or color-coding gifts by recipient. Let your friends and family know you're opting out of single-use wrapping paper and gift tags this year. Host gifts can also be more ecofriendly. For holiday dinners and parties, Sylvester recommends reusable drawstring pouches when bringing wine and other presents, and carrying homemade baked goods in mason jars or decorative, reusable boxes.

"They make great host gifts, do away with waste, and save money all at the same time," she says.

For greeting cards, "I would suggest going paperless for holiday cards, which generally get trashed after the holidays anyway," says Sylvester. "Your friends and family might rather have a card they can keep on their hard drive for the long haul instead of on their fridge for a week."

There's a huge array of companies offering elegant electronic cards, among

See WASTE, page 5

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Reakes Country Goods: Old-fashioned friendly service

The 1890s Truxton barn is filled to the rafters. Reakes Country Goods is open for their 25th holiday season.

With their long lasting fresh balsam kissing balls lining the front porch to welcome shoppers, one can step inside to see the produce barn transformed into an oldfashioned comforting Christmas experience for all ages.

Amish cupboards hosting kitchen servingware, buffalo plaid textiles, Adirondack ornaments, shiplap signs, galvanized Santa sleighs, toys for young at heart, candies, cheeses, pickles, preserves, pies and free cookies at the hot cider counter.

Within a few steps of the wreath and hickory-oak rocker lined porch, one can open the gift shop door and enjoy the beautiful ornament display, Willow Tree angels, jewelry, shawls and purse selections aplenty. USA candles, soy and timer included, soaps, goat milk and butters, and lotions. In the antique barn you can enjoy an assortment of memory filled cupboards, tables, the book nook, crocks, tools, and Pinterest possibilities.

This family operated market also enjoys sharing a variety of local artisans' work from pottery to woolens, jewelry, preserves, Food & Ferments, pasta sauce, honey, our own maple syrup products and much more. They also have fresh cut Christmas trees.

Take an easy drive to a rural treasure at 4107 Route 13, in Truxton.

Provided by Reakes Country Goods.



continued from page 4

them PaperlessPost.com , AmericanGreetings.com, GreenEnvelope.com or JacquieLawson.com.

For decorations, the Environmental Protection Agency recommends opting for a living tree that can be planted outdoors or eventually mulched, and using energy-saving LED holiday lights. LEDs use around 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs, and last longer, too, the EPA says.

Remember to reduce food waste and avoid single-use plastics.

Have recyclable to-go containers handy for guests to take leftovers home, and familiarize yourself with local compost centers ahead of time, so food waste doesn't end up in the landfill.

For gifts, think outside the store: homemade crafts or foods, or experiences instead of stuff. Give coupons for things like cooking a dinner or babysitting, Sylvester suggests. For example, look to knitting, sewing, baking or creating art as gifts.

"Homemade is king," Sylvester

**GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!** 

explains. "It's fun to shop, but the gifts that will mean the most are those that come from the heart. Cookies in mason jars are going to be way more memorable than something you pick up on the internet."

Bea Johnson, author of Zero Waste Home, suggests homemade candles, soap or paper as other gift ideas. Museum memberships, magazine subscriptions or gift certificates to restaurants or concert halls all make great gifts, she says.



A Christmas tree farm near Starks Mountain in Fryeburg, Maine.





## Christmas without the cooking: how to hang your apron for the holidays

If the thought of creating a holiday spread from scratch doesn't excite you, then give yourself the gift of not cooking this year. Here's where you can get meals made by someone else.

#### RESTAURANTS

There are plenty of eateries that remain open over the holidays. Book a table at one nearby for your holiday feast. Or better yet, order some takeout and eat in the comfort of your own home.

#### CATERERS

If you're hosting a party, consider hiring a caterer. Not only will this professional work with you to come up with the perfect menu, but they'll also do all the work.

#### GROCERS

Many businesses, including grocery butcher stores, shops and local res-



For a real treat, hire a personal chef to come to your home and create an intimate meal for you and your loved ones. It's the perfect no-cook solution for a small gathering with friends or even a New Year's Eve party.

This year, simplify your holiday season by letting someone else do the cooking. Don't be surprised if you love this handsoff approach to the holidays so much that you do it again next Christmas.



### **3** games to play at the office holiday party

Are you looking for a way energize your holiday office party? If so, here are three fun games that virtually anyone can enjoy.

- 1. Office trivia. Before the day of the event, send a questionnaire to all employees asking them about their interests, pet peeves and preferred foods, books, movies and travel destinations. Collect the answers and use them to create an office trivia game.
- 2. Guess the word. Write words on individual strips of paper and then fold and place them in bowls. Each

team chooses a player who will have to guess the word based on clues from their teammates.

3. Gift wrap challenge. Put players in teams of two. Tie one person's right hand to the other's left and have them attempt to wrap a gift with their free hands. The pair that does the nicest job wins.

If you play your office games in teams, assemble the groups randomly. A fun way to do this is to cut up old Christmas cards and hand out the pieces. Teams can then be formed by those who have pieces from the same card.



## How to choose a host or hostess gift

If you get invited to someone's home over the holidays, it's best not to arrive empty handed. However, it can be hard to know what to bring, especially if the host or hostess is a relatively new friend or acquaintance.

Fortunately, there are number of things — wine, chocolate, coffee, tea, fancy hand soap and unscented candles, for example that make great gifts when you don't know the recipient very well.

However, if you do know them, you could offer your host or hostess something that you think they'll appreciate. If they love to cook, for instance, a cookbook or an inexpensive kitchen gadget would be ideal.

Whatever you bring, make sure it's not something that makes your host or hostess work. For example, if you choose to bring a bouquet of flowers, arrange them in a vase before arriving so they don't have to.

Remember, this gift is meant for the hosts to enjoy after the guests have gone home. They're not obliged to share it with you or anyone else, so don't expect them to.

## **Christmas checklist**

To avoid holiday mayhem, you need to remain organized in the days and weeks leading up to the main event. Here's a checklist that will help you keep track of everything that needs to be done before Christmas.

#### **ENTERTAINING**

- Choose a theme for your party if you're having
- Make reservations (caterer,

one

- event space, restaurant, cleaning crew, Santa Claus) · Send out invitations
- Decide on a menu (don't forget to
- consider your guests' allergies and dietary restrictions) Make separate grocery lists for what
- can be purchased weeks in advance and what must be bought in the days before
- Start cooking (make dishes in advance and freeze them)
- Make a seating plan and choose the table decorations
- · Obtain any extra dishes, napkins or chairs you need
- Choose the music and plan party games
- Clean the house from top to bottom
- Prepare a room for overnight guests · Make sure your driveway and walk-
- way are clear

#### **BUYING GIFTS**

 Organize a gift exchange Start shopping early to avoid crowds

- Make note of what to buy for each person on vour list
- Write Christmas cards and send them out early to ensure they arrive before the holiday
- Help your kids write their letters to Santa and send them off
- Buy wrapping paper, ribbons and hows
- Wrap gifts as you buy them to avoid doing it all at once, and hide them until the big day

#### **DECORATING THE HOUSE**

- Go through your decorations and throw out and replace anything that's bro-
- ken Hang outdoor decorations before the cold weather arrives
  - Decorate the inside of your house
- Don't set up your natural Christmas tree until a week or two before the day (or it will be dry by the time Santa arrives)

#### **GETTING YOURSELF READY**

- Make your appointments early (hair, esthetics, makeup, nails) to be sure you get the time slot you need
- Shop for your party clothes and visit the tailor if adjustments are needed

Keep this checklist handy to make sure you don't forget anything this season.







6

# From tools to books, gifts for young chefs

#### By KATIE WORKMAN Associated Press

Do you have a kid in your life who loves a good baking session? Who really wants to use your chef's knife? Who is addicted to the TV show MasterChef Junior, and who uses words like "umami" in regular conversation?

There are many terrific gifts to encourage the fledgling cooks in our lives.

#### **COOKING KITS**

An all-inclusive cooking kit (besides the ingredients) is often a great

catalyst for getting kids into the kitchen.

Handstand Kitchen makes a slew of them, including a Rainbows and Unicorns Ultimate Baking set, with cookies cutters, unicornshaped cupcake tray, spatula, frosting bag with three tips, and a recipe leaflet and sticker sheet. Other offerings here include the Out of This World space-themed baking kit; a 17-piece Intro to Baking kit; and several matching adult and child apron sets.

Curious Chef's kits include a 17-piece prep set with bowls, measuring cups and spoons, and a timer. Made

for Me has kits for particular foods, such as a Beginner's Pasta and Pizza Making Set for Kids, as well as a macaron set, sushi set and pancake party set.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Here's a gift that leaves something to look forward to after the holidays are over. Options include:

**Raddish (think Rad Dish)**. Each month, a new kit arrives at your door filled with recipes, tools and activities that incorporate science, math, geography, language arts, nutrition and more. Comida Argentina and Family Date Night are two sample themes. The kits are designed by teachers and chefs for kids ages 4 to 14, and each includes three illustrated recipe guides, a cooking tool (such as a garlic mincer or kitchen timer), and other materials.

**Young Chef's Club**. From the folks at America's Test Kitchen, these monthly kits are also thematic. Kids ages 5 and up receive a box filled with family-friendly recipes, hands-on activities, and extras ranging from board games to tortilla warmers to special sprinkles.

**Culinary Adventure So**ciety. For kids who already know their way around a kitchen and are craving new ingredients and flavors to play with. Up to four times a year, Zingerman's specialty food store in Ann Arbor, Michigan, will send a big box of eight to 10 interesting and on-trend food surprises. A box might contain maffe, a peanut simmer sauce from West Africa: Lisbon lemon marmalade; or a tamarind date sauce inspired by Somali cuisine, for example. A collection of writing on the foods' history and culture is included.

#### EQUIPMENT

A new smart kitchen tool is exciting, even empowering. Examples:

**Immersion blender**. For a slightly older kid, it can be used to blend things like soups and sauces right in the pot. That save syou from having to transfer hot liquids into a regular blender or food processor, so it can be a safer way to puree things. Breville makes an All in One Immersion Blender that also transforms into a food processor, so kids can take on different levels of chopping as they get more skilled.

Ice cream maker. Just plain fun. Cuisinart makes one in a variety of colors, with a

See CHEFS, page 9



Cheyenne Cohen/Katie Workman via AP

A plethora of great gift

choices for young chefs.

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## Games to liven up your gift exchange

Are you tired of the same old holiday gift exchange? If so, here are some fun games to enliven this year's gift giving.

- **Dice**. Every number on the dice comes with an instruction (pass to the left or steal a gift). Take turns rolling the dice until everyone has a present.
- Hot potato. This childhood favourite is just as fun to play as an adult. Turn on a holiday song and pass a present from person to person until the music stops. The person left holding the gift is out of the game but keeps the gift.
- **Personal trivia**. Everyone writes a littleknown fact about themselves on the gift



they contributed. The others must guess who the information is about in order to win the right to open the present.

- **Cards**. Cut some regular playing cards in half and distribute card halves to all participants. Draw the other card halves from a bowl or hat to determine who gets to choose or steal a gift next.
- **Story**. Rewrite a well-known Christmas story to include the words right, left and across numerous times. To start the game, everyone holds the gift they brought as someone reads the story aloud. Every time an instruction word is said, the presents get passed in that direction.
  - To make sure that everyone receives a gift they'll enjoy, be sure to decide on a budget and theme beforehand.

## Amazing Christmas world records

Do you love Christmas? If so, you're not alone. In fact, every year, the spirit of the season drives holiday enthusiasts to perform impressive feats. Here are some particularly remarkable Guinness World Records that are on theme.

- Tallest chocolate Santa. Displayed in a mall in Cantù, Italy in 2011, this giant Santa was 5 metres tall, 2.5 metres in diameter and weighed just over 1,700 kilograms. That's a lot of chocolate!
- Most Christmas lights on a home. In 2014, the Gay family from LaGrangeville, New York decorated their home with over 600,000 individual lights. The display took two months to build and was set to more than 200 different songs, which passersby could hear when tuned in to a special AM radio station.
- Largest artificial Christmas tree. Built by the Arjuna Ranatunga Social Services in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2016, this tree measured more than 72 metres high. It was erected during a three-day Christmas carnival and was topped by a 6-metre star.
- Largest Christmas ornament. In 2018, a Christmas ornament more than 4.5 metres in diameter was displayed in Dubai Mall, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

If you're hoping to set your own holiday record this year, you better get started. Christmas will be here sooner than you think.

### Stairway to Christmas: how to decorate stairs for the holidays

The stairway in your house is the perfect place to show off your Christmas spirit. Here's how to dress up this oft overlooked part of your home.

#### **DECORATE THE HANDRAIL**

Wrap the handrail with evergreen garlands and decorate them with either berries, pinecones and burlap ribbons for a rustic look, or with Christmas



baubles for a more whimsical take. Wrap a string of white or coloured lights around the garlands to add some sparkle.

Alternatively, you can decorate the handrails with ribbons instead of greenery. Depending on the look you want, you can choose to use either one type of ribbon or a mix of different kinds in an assortment of colours and sizes.

#### **DECORATE THE STAIRS**

If they're wide enough, put decorations directly on the stairs. Pillar candles (batteryoperated ones are safest), wooden decorations and festive figurines can help create the holiday ambience you're after.

#### DECORATE THE WALLS AND CEILING

Ask the kids to make paper snowflakes and use them to decorate the wall along the stairway. You can also display holiday photos from Christmases past. As a final touch, consider suspending large ornaments from the ceiling. Make sure to hang them high enough so that no one bumps their head.

## Gifts for 5 types of enthusiast

Finding the perfect gift isn't always easy, especially when the person you're shopping for is passionate about things you don't know much about. Here are some gift ideas for five types of enthusiast.

- 1. **Coffee lovers**. An insulated travel mug, beans from a local roaster, an espresso maker, a conical burr grinder, coffee flavoured chocolates, double-walled coffee glasses, travel coffee press or coffee-scented candles.
- 2. **Yarn crafters**. Books or magazines with knitting and crocheting patterns, a row counter, a yarn bowl, a set of needles or hooks, a project bag, a tool case, personalized stitch markers, high quality yarn or a gift certificate to a yarn store.
- 3. **Aspiring writers**. A mechanical keyboard, a laptop tray, noise-



cancelling headphones, a fountain pen, personalized notebooks, a Bluetooth keyboard for their tablet, an external hard drive, books about writing or a printer.

4. **Tabletop gamers**. A dice bag, a wooden card holder, plastic card protectors, a board game bag, custom game organizers, a play mat, a component organizer, new dice,

a custom character figurine or an expansion pack for their favourite game.

5. **Environmentalists**. Reusable stainless steel or silicone straws, reusable produce bags, silicone snack and sandwich bags, a reusable water bottle, jewelry made from recycled materials, beeswax food wraps for leftovers or a vegan cookbook.

Buying a gift that speaks to your loved one's interests will show them that you care.





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Rose Salt. Or try flavored salts, all featuring salt crystals from Oregon, and seasoned with ingredients like lemon zest, black garlic and ghost chilis.

Olive Oil and Vinegar: The worlds of olive oil and vinegar are both vast. For starters, you can make new and different salad dressings all week long. O-Med, a small company from Grenada, makes lots of varieties, including smoked olive oil, yuzu olive oil and olive oil from Arbequina olives. Encourage the

kids to mix and match those with cabernet vinegar, rose vinegar and cava vinegar. Your family's vinaigrettes with never be the same.

Honey: Bee Raw Honey has a beautiful nine-vial assortment of honeys ranging from floral and sweet to buttery to "barnyard." The honey comes from different flower sources across the country, and sales help support artisanal beekeepers.

**KID-FRIENDLY KNIVES** One of the coolest things you can get a budding chef is a knife that's safe for little fingers and that they can call their own. My son had one during the under-10 years that made him feel like a pro.

Curious Chefmakes nylon, serrated knifes with ergonomic handles for small hands and a very blunt tip. Kuhn Rikon's Kinderkitchen Essential Set contains two knives. one serrated, one not, and a pair of scissors for cutting herbs and vegetables.

## **Discover your history**

1 1/2-guart capacity and the ability

to get to a frozen treat in less than

half an hour. Get creative on fla-

vors. Maybe enhance this gift with

own cutting board makes them feel

as though they've arrived. You can

support Unicef.com by ordering

one of many hand-carved boards,

such as the teakwood Daily Grain

from Guatemala, or the Beautiful

Cutting Boards. Giving kids their

some sprinkles/jimmies.

Cortland County Historical Society is your hometown source for genealogy and local history. Visit the James Suggett House Museum to learn more about life in our Victorian home. Stop by the Kellogg Memorial Research Center to explore your family's roots. You never know what or who you will discover, from long lost relatives to new cousins and friends, early photos of your home, or so much more!

In September, the Historical Society released its largest publication in its history, A Journey Through Time: Cortland County, 1958-2018. The book is an update and companion to the popular Sesquicentennial Souvenir Yearbook: 1808-1958, enjoyed by generations of Cortland County families. Journey continues the Society's long history of telling Cortland County's stories through its publications and exhibits.

Visit our Gift Shop (1 to 5 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday, ) at 25 Homer Ave., Cortland to find the perfect gift!

— Provided by the Cortland County Historical Society.





**Cortland Repertory Theatre** Come Enjoy the Holiday Season in Downtown Cortland **DECEMBER AT CRT DOWNTOWN! 24 Port Watson Street, Cortland** Call 800-427-6160 or visit CortlandRep.org for more info

Holiday Photos in Santa's Winter Wonderland! Saturday, December 7: 10AM-12PM and 2PM-4PM • Sunday, December 8: 1-3PM

morialize a family recipe for a child

on a cutting board: Carver's Ridge

lets you send in a recipe, choose a

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gle ingredient in many forms.

It's fun to play around with a sin-

Salt: Jacobsen Salt Co. offers an

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offerings like Alaea Hawaiian Sea

tional work board.

\$10.00 per photo arrangement Santa's favorite photo spot returns with a beautiful winter wonderland display, complimentary refreshments and activities for the kids! Photos will be snapped and emailed for your holiday greeting!



A Buddy Holly Jolly Christmas! Starring Todd Meredith Friday, December 13 at 7:30 PM, Saturday, December 14 at 2 PM (SOLD OUT!) and 7:30 PM All Tickets: \$25

The star of CRT's "Million Dollar Quartet" and "Buddy!" returns with his tribute band "The Rave-Ons" to celebrate the holiday season! Includes special quests!

For the Family. A Holiday Dream By David Allan Kuester Friday, Dec. 20 at 7 PM, Saturday, Dec. 21 at 2 PM & 7 PM, Sunday, Dec. 22 at 2 PM Adults \$10, Children 2-18 \$5, Under 2 Free Peter Pixie, a holiday elf, uses a magic dream to help a modern Tiny Tim overcome his shyness and gain self-confidence!

The audience helps Tim guest star in his favorite fairy tales like Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk and Hansel and Gretel.







This holiday season, give the gift

for individual tickets, subscriptions, flex passes or a monetary value and are available for our summer season at the Little York Pavilion or winter events at CRT Downtown!

Call 800-427-6160, visit cortlandrep.org, or stop in at CRT Downtown, 24 Port Watson St., Cortland.



Meal board from Thailand. Or me-Salt, French Sel Gris Salt and Bolivian

# OFFLINE shopping

## 7 reasons to do your holiday shopping in person



Are you tired of handing over your hard-earned dollars to online retailers? If so, offline shopping is a trend that's becoming increasingly popular.

The principle? Focus on in-person shopping experiences rather than anonymous exchanges on the internet. Here are seven great reasons to do all your holiday shopping offline.

#### **1. TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY**

Making purchases from your local merchants at this busy time of year is a concrete way of giving back to your community. Your money goes directly into your neighbours' hands and helps to create — and keep! — jobs in your region. In contrast, ordering a gift online from the other side of the world doesn't help the people closest to home.



#### 2. TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE

When you visit the businesses in your region, you get to interact directly with local merchants. Of course, shopping online (in your pajamas?) has its advantages but talking to salespeople and fellow shoppers is even better.

#### 3. TO STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECO-NOMY

The more people support local retailers, the longer their businesses can continue to thrive and serve the community, thereby creating a strong local economy. What's more, dynamic neighbourhoods are much more pleasant to live in than those whose shops have been forced to close and are accumulating dust, dirt and graffiti.

#### 4. TO STRENGTHEN YOUR SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Visiting businesses in your neighbourhood will increase your ties to the region. When you explore the area around you, you'll rub elbows with your neighbours and discover amazing goods and services a stone's throw from your home.

#### 5. TO BENEFIT FROM EXCELLENT SERVICE

Returns and exchanges are a breeze when the product you've purchased comes from a nearby store. And local merchants know they need your business to survive, so they'll do everything they can to ensure you're happy. Conversely, returning and exchanging items bought online is sometimes difficult.

#### 6. TO ENJOY A VARIETY OF PRODUCTS

Are you familiar with all of the goods and services available in your region? Probably not. In fact, there are likely more businesses in your area than you realize! Consider spending a day visiting them. You'll find that in just a few hours, you've completed all your holiday shopping and are still close to home.



Provided by Cortland Repertory Theatre

## A holiday wonderland at Cortland Repertory Theatre Downtown!

"CRT is the most magical place in Cortland for the holidays," says Kris Valentine Behnke, Youth Programs Manager at Cortland Repertory Theatre. She's referring to the 4th year of CRT Downtown's Day with Santa, the winter wonderland set up in the theatre space on Dec. 7 and 8 this year. With photos with Santa that are emailed to you for use in your holiday cards, ornament making, face painting, coloring pages with Mrs. Claus, chocolate milk, cookies, and self-take photo stations of all kinds, it's a visit full of holiday wonder for the little ones.

"Little children walk in and their eyes light up when they see the wonder of the room," says Ingrid Fox, who plays Mrs. Claus for the event. "It's our favorite time of the year!"

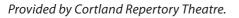
The decorations vary from year to year, inspired by a different theme each time: presents, trains, snow-for 2019, who knows? "We can't wait to reveal the surprise!" says Behnke. There is a \$10 charge for photos with Santa.

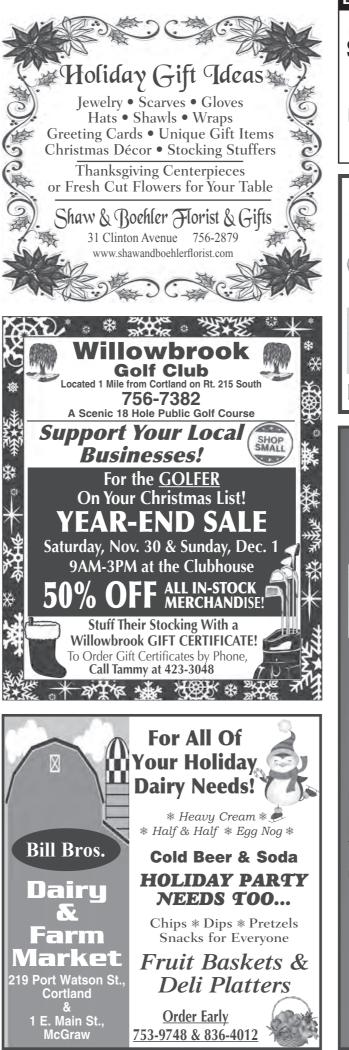
And Behnke wants Cortland to know that there are even more holiday offerings at CRT Downtown this year for the young ones. "We are thrilled to be presenting our first ever full-scale holiday show for kids, by kids," she says. Featuring local theatrical teens in grades 5-12, the performance is designed for CRT's youngest audience members ages 3-12 and their families.

CRT Downtown will be producing A Holiday Dream, by David Allan Kuester, on Dec. 20 at 7 p.m., Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. Pella Pixie, a holiday elf, uses a magic dream to help a modern Tiny Tim overcome his shyness and gain self-confidence! The audience helps Tim visit his favorite fairy tales, like Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Hansel and Gretel. Can the audience help Tim find the bravery in his heart to help his new friends and save the day?

"There were so many requests after Winnie the Pooh this year," Behnke says, referring to the CRT Kids summer show at the Pavilion at Little York Lake. "We knew it was time to offer our own, fully produced-professional set, costume, lights-show for kids for the holiday season."

Tickets are on sale now at CRT Downtown. \$10 for Adults, \$5 for children 2-18, under 2 free. Call 607-756-2627 to reserve tickets.







## Going GLAM: Decor that gets the party started



**By KIM COOK Associated Press** 

Had enough of all that serene winter wonderland decor, the birch trees and reindeer and sleighs? Ready to change it up this year and boogie down?

Then consider digging out the legwarmers and Donna Summer CDs before you start decorating.

British retailer John Lewis , known for Christmas decor and evocative holiday commercials, has declared "Party" to be one of the big themes for 2019. Flamingo, cassette tape and balloon animal ornaments join holographic ribbon bows and sequined tassels in their collection.

Home Depot's trend and design director Sarah Fishburne sees the look as a twist on vintage holiday decor.

"Christmas is about embracing the over-thetop, and no other era says over the top like the '80s," she says. "We're seeing a resurgence of flocked trees and larger, multi-color light strands. To incorporate the iconic retro vibe, think about a bright, rainbow palette and layering metallics across ornaments, trees and tabletop decor."

Etsy's trend expert Dayna Isom Johnson echoes the call for color: "One of the biggest trends on the rise is using neon tones

See GLAM, page 13



West Elm via AP



## Action **Sports:**

Cortland's only bicycle and cross-country ski shop

Unto Us: A Christmas Poetry Book, written and illustrated by co-owner and local author Lisa Belknap, takes the reader on a poetic journey from Adam and Eve to today and beyond. Each poem highlights a person, past and present, in the amazing true events of God's lovely gift to us — the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. Lisa is offering book signings now until Christmas at Action Sports, 64 Pendleton Street in Cortland during store hours. Take time to meditate on the true meaning of Christmas. It makes a lovely gift! Only \$10. For more information, visit Lisa's blog at poemsandprayer. blogspot.com or call the store at 607-753-9612.

Action Sports, now in its 19th year of business, sells Specialized bicycles, Fischer and Alpina cross-country skis, Northern Lites snowshoes and accessories. Also, Action Sports continues to sharpen and wax downhill skis and snowboards. Stop in soon to be equipped and ready for your sport. Business hours are: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sundays and Tuesdays.

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to deck the halls, a bright look inspired by city lights and billboards."

What's great about the glam look is that you can have fun decorating with it regardless of how you celebrate the season. Just bear in mind that you're aiming for Dance Floor rather than North Pole, so forgo any rustic cabins or woodsy red-and-green plaids.

Home Depot's Twinkly 600-light, 7.5-foot-tall Swiss Mountain tree lets you use an app to program whatever colored-light gymnastics you'd like. And for the front of the house, there are multicolored laser lights that project eight holographic moving patterns like swirls, fireflies and starbursts.

Turn a traditional green tree into a playful decorative element by adding several strings of hot pink or purple lights; Walmart and Target have options in mini and regular sizes.

For a small living space or entryway, check out West Elm's slim pop-up cone tree, which is enrobed in silver tinsel and trimmed with multicolored metallic dots. If you've got a little more room, go with one of their bushy gold or blush pink tinsel trees. You'll find pretty glitter-encontinued from page 12

Lowe's Home Improvement via AP

crusted, mirrored glass, and gilded-beads ball ornaments here, as well as glass rainbow and confetti balls.

Target has mini champagne bottle and glass ornaments to set the festive tone. And there are boxed sets of mirrored glass disco-ball ornaments in loads of colors.

Feeling crafty? Consider making your own party tree by hot-gluing those shiny ornaments onto a tree-shaped wire frame, available at bigbox craft stores. Or make a jazzy wreath out of them, using a circular wire frame. String mini versions onto satin ribbons, or use sparkly black ornaments on hot pink, lime or candy-red ribbon.

Neon-bright paper, felt and crocheted ornaments and garlands can be found on Etsy.com.

At Pier 1, there are sparkly teal, champagne or pink glitter-encrusted curly picks and red fauxfur pompon picks — party favors for the tree. Also here, pretty pink flamingo ornaments with glitter-encrusted beaks and real feather wings. And at White Company, there are snowy, whitefeathered bauble ornaments.

Cassette tape and "80s cell phone ornaments can be found at the Ornament Shop, and personalized if desired.

Smoked-glass balls filled with dark sequins, inky wood garlands, cheetah- and leopard-print ornaments, and glass balls that look like black marble all add evening drama to CB2's holiday collection.

Dress up the base of your tree in Horchow's satiny pink faux-jewel-encrusted tree skirt, or perhaps a ruffled, multicolored one that seems to say, "You should be dancing."

See store for details.



See store for details

## How to enjoy the holidays without overindulging

Food plays an integral part in many holiday celebrations. But when you have many social obligations in a short period of time, it can feel like all you're doing is eating. Here's how to enjoy the season's festivities without overindulging.

#### **DON'T SKIP MEALS**

Eat regular meals throughout the holidays as this will make you less likely to overindulge at parties.



For breakfast, make some eggs or avocado on toast. These foods are full of protein and healthy fats that will keep you going all day.

At lunch, try a salad topped with a healthy protein like salmon, grilled chicken or legumes.

Have a light snack before heading out to the party to make sure you don't arrive hungry. Focus on protein-rich foods like

nuts or plain yogurt with fruit.

#### **STAY HYDRATED**

Be sure to drink plenty of water throughout the day and in between consuming alcoholic drinks. This will help you avoid becoming dehydrated and will also allow you to feel more satiated and therefore make you less likely to overeat.

#### **GET IN A WORKOUT**

On the day of the party, try to get in a workout. Not only does regular exercise help you metabolize your food quicker, but you'll also crave healthier foods, making it easier to pass on heavier fare.

Making sure you take care of yourself over the holidays allows you treat yourself without to overindulging. You'll enjoy spending time with loved ones and set the right precedent for the new year.

### Gifts for the people who serve you all year long

The holidays are the perfect time to • Pretty hand soaps say thank you to the hairdressers, bus drivers, babysitters, baristas and many others who regularly serve you. If you're wondering what to get them, here are some ideas.

- · Holiday dish cloths
- Scented candles A scarf or shawl
- A soft blanket
- A tote bag
- Premium coffee or tea
- A to-go mug A bottle of wine
- A box of chocolates

If you know a little about their tastes, you can also consider something more personal like a book you think they might enjoy, a sweater or a decorative item for their home or workspace.

> The point of buying gifts for the people who serve you is to thank them for the positive difference the make in your life all year long. Don't forget to include a nice card with a handwritten message expressing your appreciation.

## Gifts teachers will love

Christmas is the perfect time of year to extend your thanks to your children's teachers. Instead of giving them another "world's best teacher" mug, choose one of the following gifts that's sure to please.

- Personalized pencils with their name printed right on them
- A tote bag that's roomy enough to carry all their work to and from school
- A personal laminator to neatly display student's work (don't forget extra laminating sheets)
- A gift card to a local coffee shop to keep them caffeinated while they're marking homework
- A membership to a local museum to inspire their lesson plans
- A scarf to keep them warm
- A gift basket filled with supplies like dry-erase markers, red correcting pencils, glue sticks, grade-appropriate books and even classroom decor
- A nice bottle of wine to help them relax over the vacation
- A box of artisanal chocolates, because everyone deserves a treat

In addition, few teachers can resist handmade gifts, so anything your kids make is sure to be appreciated. No matter what you choose, don't forget to have your child make a card that expresses thanks to the teacher for everything they do.



## 10 gifts outdoorsy types will love

Are you looking for a gift for the outdoor enthusiast in your life? If so, here are some ideas.

#### FOR THEIR NEXT ADVENTURE

- 1. A portable water filtration bottle or straw
- 2. Binoculars
- 3. A kit to turn the flashlight on their phone into a lamp
- 4. A military grade compass
- 5. A down jacket or rain coat
- 6. A wireless charger for their electronics - one that's solar powered is ideal
- 7. A portable camping stove and mess kit

#### **TO INSPIRE THEM**

- 8. A wilderness survival book
- 9. Novels and memoirs about outdoor adventures
  - 10. A birdfeeder to bring wildlife to their backyard

To really spoil your outdoor enthusiast, consider buying them a pass that will grant them access to the country's national parks for a year. No doubt, they'll love exploring the Canadian wilderness.

- 5 'WILD' BOOKS FOR WILDERNESS BUFFS
- By Jon Krakauer 2. Wild: From Lost to Found on The Pacific Crest Trail By Cheryl Strayed 3. The Call of the Wild

- By Jack London 4. *One Man's Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey* By Sam Keith
- 5. Lost on the Wild:
- Danger and Survival in the North Woods By Cary J. Griffith

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## **Get festive with Plaza Discount Liquors**

Plaza Discount Liquors is a family-owned, local wine and liquor store celebrating more than 25 years of doing business in Cortland. We feature one of the largest selections of New York state wines in Central New York, and an ever increasing inventory of spirits and other regional wines in a variety of sizes. We are conveniently located at 1112 Groton Ave. in the plaza behind Burger King. Plaza Discount Liquors is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Starting on December 1st, Plaza Discount Liquors will also be open from noon until 6 p.m. on Sundays for your shopping convenience.

Plaza Discount Liquors offers a large selection of pints and single serve miniature liquors along with prepared cocktails and a large selection of gift sets. For the holidays, we will have over 50 different gift sets to choose from for easy gift giving including Jagermeister, Jameson, Crown Royal, Jim Beam, di-Amore, Bailey's, Jack Daniel's, Tanqueray, RumChata, Junior Johnson's Midnight Moon, Knob Creek 8Year and Maker's Mark to name a few.

In addition to the gift sets, Plaza Discount Liquors has plenty of holiday spirits and wines to choose from, including Fulton's Harvest Pumpkin Pie Cream Liqueur, Evan Williams Eggnog or Kentucky Cider and Jack



Daniel's Winter Jack Tennessee Apple Whiskey Punch. Just in time for Thanksgiving, Georges Duboeuf Beaujolais Nouveau will be available for all of your family gatherings. We would also like to suggest a New York state riesling from Anyela's Vineyards or a dry riesling from Glenora Winery, to go with your turkey dinner. We also have spice wines and holiday wines from many New York State wineries including Glenora and Swedish Hill. We would also like to suggest that you check out the sparkling wine selections that include a wide variety of Champagne for every occasion.

Can't decide what to get? Plaza Discount Liquors has you covered! They also have gift certificates available in all denominations. Be sure to make time to stop in for our tastings on Friday and Saturday through Christmas, where we will be sampling a different assortment of fine wine or liquors every week.

Plaza Discount Liquors is proud of their loyal customer base and of the support that they show through discounts to the military and other local organizations. Discounts are also available all the time at Plaza Discount Liquors. We have 15 percent off bottle of wine coupons in the Cortland Standard every Thursday and 20 percent off cases of wine coupons in many of the special sections like this Gift Guide in the ad below. Manufacturers also have mail-in rebates on many products throughout the store.

From wine to spirits...for that quiet night together or for the grand celebration...Plaza Discount Liquors has everything you will need in one convenient location.

Happy holidays and hope to see you soon.

Article provided by Plaza Discount Liquors.

