

# WHAT TO GET WITHOUT GOING ONLINE Options abound for yourself, your loved ones and your community

## By TODD R. McADAM Managing Editor tmcadam@cortlandstandard.net

Some decades ago, my eventual motherin-law gave me one of my most treasured gifts: a set of cast iron pots and pans.

A couple of months later, she lamented to her daughter, that I wasn't wearing them in the manner in which she intended.

I think about that and smile every time I sear a steak in the pan, or braise short ribs in the Dutch oven. So, every year, my wife and I try to gift her something memorable in return.

Gift giving at the holidays doesn't have to be expensive, and with a bit of imagination, you don't need to travel far, or bookmark Amazon on your computer, to make a memorable gift. In fact, most of the best gifts are available in the greater Cortland area, in a bit of holiday spirit that helps your neighbor even as it tells your friends and family you love them.

#### THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

The mother-in-law sacrificed greatly as a single mother when my wife and her siblings were growing up. Three jobs, forever juggling bills and groceries, tuition and car repair. Today, she likes to be indulgent.

So for her, a gift basket of indulgence. She likes scented soaps, bath salts, lotions — that sort of thing. Daisy Hollow Farm in Harford offers some very nice soaps and they're available at Cinch Artspace in the old Cortland Corset building, or at the Local Store on Main Street. Cinch, in fact, offers ingredients to make your own, which could



be a fun activity on the way to a more olfactory holiday.

But indulgences aren't just for the skin — consumables are always welcome.

So maybe the basket will include some cheeses. Trinity Valley Dairy offers a number of flavored cheese curds, very good stocking stuffer. Northland Sheep Dairy in Marathon has serious, European, cheese aficionadolike cheeses. The Tripletree Tomme is routinely available, but personally, I like the Bergerino. I'll let out a sigh and get what the mother-in- law wants (and maybe something for me, anyhow.) Oooh, fermented products. Normally, the mother-in-law likes Finger Lakes wines, particularly Bully Hill, which reminds her of the lakeside cottage her parents had on Keuka Lake. But Dr. Konstantin Frank's estate is nearby, too. So perhaps that.

But the really cool fermented stuff? Food and Ferments of Truxton offers a variety of sauerkrauts, kimchee, tonics and pickles. Who said fermented had to get you tipsy?

#### THE SPOUSE

Every year, it's the same thing. Love, what do you want for Christmas?

How about a nice fuzzy sweater. I swear every sheep in Scotland resents the spouse, by now. But a sweater is what she wants, I've got some options. Homer Men and Boys has a large selection of casual women's clothes in the warm-as-toast category. A couple of doors down, Bev & Co. offers a more stylish selection; I suppose it depends on whether the wife wants something for around the house (which makes sense, with this whole pandemic thing) or for show. Maybe I should stop by Willow Lane Farmhouse in McGraw. Never been there; maybe it'll have something she'd like.

Or maybe dinner and a show. She took me to see William Shatner in Syracuse last winter; I took her to a Mark Cohn concert at the Homer Center for the Arts the year before. Tickets at the Cortland Repertory Theatre, or the Homer center, or anyplace else might be a good change of pace for people once this whole pandemic thing is over.

## THE KID

I know what he wants: a gaming laptop with so much RAM and such high-end graphics that it would set me back about six months worth of car payments.

He's a teenager now, so the game or toy is going to have to be pretty out there to make an impression. But what about something to do? Like virtually every other student in the greater Cortland area, he spends as much time staring at a screen for school — or carefully avoiding his friends on those days he can be in class in-person — that I don't think he knows what the real world is, anymore.

An experience, perhaps? He used to like going to the Cascade Indoor Water Park in Virgil, but I suspect he's a bit old for that now. Tubing, maybe? Greek Peak offers it, as do others ski centers. He's never been a

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skier or snow boarder, but maybe this is a good year for a day pass and some lessons.

### THE EXTENDED FAMILY

My Uncle Ollie — my grandfather's eldest brother — was the kind of guy to shake a 4-year-old's hand and wince at the pain. And he always showed respect for a person, no matter how young.

Every Christmas, Ollie would give each of his (adult) nieces and nephews a half-gallon jug of maple syrup, drawn from the taps in the forests surrounding the three grocery stores he owned north of Albany. He had 10 or 12 people to buy for, so it was no small investment for a touch of the sweet, and I think of him every time I buy a jug — almost always from a Cortland or Cayuga County source, for myself. Or honey: A five-pound jar is a good gift, and the local bees produce a much higher quality than the flavored stuff from China, which may or may not be honey.

Consumables are always a good gift. Maybe a steak from Bean's Sunnybrook Farm of McGraw — they're available at Anderson's Farm Market in Homer. Or any number of other beef producers might have something; beef is one of the fastest-growing agriculture commodities in the region.

Beer. Beer is always popular. A growler of superior suds from one of the farm and microbrewers in the area. I had a good jug of a malty brown beer last summer from Summerhill Brewery, but Hopshire Farms has some good things, as does Cortland Beer Co. and Homer Hops. I've never tried ONCO Fermentations in Tully, but maybe now's the time.

Oh, wait. Gifts for other people. Yeah.

## For those who have everything: A GIFT OF COMPASSION

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The brother-in-law is generous to a fault. Loyal, thrifty, brave. An all-round stand-up guy.

And he has everything.

His toy car has more horsepower than my work car. He seems to collect boats — we call it the armada. Lakeside cottage; electronic toys. What do you get the loved one who has everything? Something for someone else.

There's no small amount of pain circulating through the greater Cortland area. Unemployment remains elevated; bills aren't getting paid. Hunger has tripled, and the stresses of a pandemic and recession make this a tough time for everyone, particularly the non-profits who take it upon themselves to try to help.

Here are some places where your gift-giving dollar might help. Maybe you package it in a card, or give in a loved one's honor:

■ Seven Valleys Health Coalition — This agency has been working for years to improve the food system in the greater Cortland area. It arranged for refrigerated space this summer so food pantries could distribute fresh food; it won grants to glean farm fields of their last crops to do the same. It has worked with the Food Bank of Central New York, which has nearly tripled the amount of food it sent to Cortland County since the pandemic began, to 823,000 pounds from 288,000 pounds. Money here helps keep people happy and fed: www.sevenvalleyshealth.org/.

■ Aid to Victims of Violence — The pandemic and recession have caused stress on families. Not all of them cope with it well. Domestic dispute calls to Cortland police have increased 30%. Calls to the Aid to Victims of Violence hotline, operated by the Cortland YWCA, have increased 40%. The program helps people get through it. Donate here: cortlandywca.org/index. php/donate-now.html

■ Toys for Tots — A logical, perennial favorite at this time of year. Actually, the Toys for Tots of Cortland operates year-round. Coordinator Norm Stitzel can buy toys wholesale, so a dollar of cash goes further than a dollar of toys. A gift for a child is a gift for the child's parents, too. Many benefit. Donate online: Specify Cortland at tinyurl.com/ yyk5wqum.

■ Pick your fitness nonprofit — Fitness facilities were among the last operations to reopen under the state's coronavirus guidelines. Several in the greater Cortland area have closed and will never reopen. The YMCA and the YWCA of Cortland both offer facilities, and had to maintain operational costs even as they were shut down. If your friend or loved one doesn't need a membership, maybe a donation can help someone who does.

— Todd R. McAdam

## Jewelry with hometown heart

Robinson Family Jewelers opened on Groton Avenue in July 2020. The store was the Robinson family's longtime dream, especially Jerry, who has been in the jewelry industry for over 28 years. He first started after getting out of the Marine Corps in 1992 and has worked in nearly every state since then, designing and selling jewelry.

This store is the culmination of all of Jerry's experience, passion, and determination and has allowed him to include his family in his dream. Robinson Family Jewelers is truly a family-run store. On any given day, you will see any number of the three generations of the family working at the store: Tina and Jerry, their children, Kenneth, Amanda, Joel and Ella, their grandchildren Camden and Ethan, or even their grand-dog Steel, the French bulldog. The Robinson family invites you to come to visit them anytime and see all of their fine jewelry.

Provided by Robinson Family Jewelers.

## A little history for the holidays

Let Cortland County Historical Society help you take care of your holiday shopping! Choose from various local history books, including our popular "A Journey Through Time: Cortland County 1958-2018," "Cortland County Serves," "Cortland County Remembers volumes 1-4," and classic "Cortland and Cortland County" by Mary Ann Kane. Explore assorted regional haunted history titles, "Cortland to the Adirondacks: A Fateful Journey in 1906" by Dr. Joseph Brownell, and brand new "On the Trail of

Sat., Nov. 21st

Coffin Man" by local author Mary Dexter. We are excited to offer a 2021 calendar for sale this year, featuring fabulous photos from "A Journey Through Time."

Please make your appointment to browse by calling us at 607-756-6071. Masks are required for entrance. We look forward to helping you choose the perfect gift for your history-loving family and friends!

Provided by Cortland County Historical Society.



Christmas Order Deadline Sat., Dec. 19th





Cortland Standard Gift Guide – Thursday, November 19, 2020 / Celebrate! – Saturday, November 21, 2020



# Buy local: it's the best way to invoke holiday cheer!

## You don't have to go far for great holiday purchases

It's hard to enjoy the magic of the season if you're trying to navigate crowded stores or worried that your online purchases won't arrive in time. If holiday shopping has become a dreaded chore, consider buying everything you need from the stores in your region. Here are a few reasons

why.

## LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS **NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

For years there's been a growing interest in buying local goods, particularly during the holiday season. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, supporting local entrepreneurs is more important than ever. Small businesses rely on a loyal customer base to thrive, and your patronage during the holiday season is crucial

to their recovery from the current economic you'll be sure to get your money's worth. Plus, crisis.

## LOCAL SHOPPING BENEFITS EVERYONE

Buying local stimulates your region's economy. It helps create more jobs in your area and provides many families with a muchneeded financial boost during the holidays.

What's more, when you opt for locally made products, you're helping to protect the environment because fewer greenhouse gases are emitted when transporting the merchandise. You also spend less time on the road when you shop locally. This fur-



ther reduces your carbon footprint and allows vou to check numerous items off your holiday shopping list in just a few hours.

#### LOCAL SHOPS **OFFER QUALITY GOODS**

From unique gifts and chic outfits to fresh ingredients and handcrafted decorations, local stores are stocked with everything you need for a memorable holiday season. And since small business owners prioritize well-made products,

you'll benefit from the friendly, personal service offered by knowledgeable employees.

From gift recommendations to easy inperson returns, shopping at stores in your region can lighten your load during the holiday season. This year, make it a point to buy local.



BUSHY'S PRO SHINE AUTO DETAILING 607-758-9582

985 St. Rt. 13 (Tompkins St.), Cortland Email: bushysproshine@gmail.com

Corporate • Individual • Family • Couple • Junior Join as a couple and kids under 15 play for free.

**BLACK FRIDAY** and Small Business Saturday **HOLIDAY SPECIAL ADDITIONAL \$25.00 OFF** ALL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES And \$35.00 off Cart Cards for Members **PRO SHOP SPECIALS** 9am - 3pm Friday and Saturday **UP TO 50% OFF ENTIRE INVENTORY** See Marcus Bernardo PGA Head Professional for details.

3369 Walden Oaks Blvd, Cortland 607-753-9452 www.waldenoakscc.com

# Get festive with Plaza Discount Liquors

We are a family-owned, local wine and liquor store celebrating more than 30 years of doing business in Cortland. We feature one of the largest selections of New York state wines in Central New York, as well as your favorite spirits along with new and specialty customer requested products. We are conveniently located at 1112 Groton Ave. in the plaza behind Burger King. We are open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m Monday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For your holiday shopping convenience, we will be open Sunday, Dec. 20th and 27th from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

We offer a large selection of stocking stuffers such as pints and single serve miniature liquors along with prepared cocktails and a large selection of gift sets. For the holidays, we have over 30+ different gift sets to choose from for easy gift giving. Gift sets include Jagermeister, Johnnie Walker Black, Tanqueray, RumChata, Junior Johnson's Midnight Moon, 1800, Tequila Rose, Kraken, Belvedere Vodka and a variety of Jack Daniels gift sets just to name a few. New this year, we have Fireball, 99 Brand and also Pink Whitney minis that come wrapped in a candy cane gift package! These will make the perfect gift for sharing this holiday season.

In addition to the gift sets, we have plenty of holiday spirits and wines to choose from.

DISCOVER VISA



These include but are not limited to Evan Williams Eggnog, Zackariah Harris Eggnog, Evan Williams Kentucky Cider and Jack Daniel's Winter Jack.

Just in time for Thanksgiving, releasing on

November 19th Georges Duboeuf Beaujolais Nouveau will be available for your Thanksgiving meal. We would also like to suggest a New York state riesling from Glenora, or a pinot noir from Meiomi to go with your turkey dinner. We have spice wines and holiday wines from many New York State wineries including Hazlitt and Swedish Hill. We also suggest that you check out the sparkling wine section that includes a large variety of Champagne for every occasion.

Can't decide what to get? We got you covered! We also have gift certificates available in all denominations. We are proud of our loyal customer base and we show our thanks by offering discounts to the military and other local organizations. You can find discounts any day at Plaza Discount Liquors on our Facebook page! We have 15 percent off 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 ... we have everything you will need in one convenient location.

Make sure to follow us on Facebook to stay up to date as new products are arriving weekly to the store.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy holiday! Hope to see you soon!

Article provided by Plaza Discount Liquors.

Find us on



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