

# 2010 *Alternative* GIFT GIVING GUIDE

BY AARON PETTY

**H**appy holidays Boom! readers. We hope you enjoy the following compilation of items that have come across our desk over the past year. As our title suggest, we look for the slightly new, different, and typically *useful* items for gift giving. If you run across something that you found especially intriguing, send it to [Barbara@boomnc.com](mailto:Barbara@boomnc.com) and we will try to include it next year. Happy shopping!

In gratitude and, quite frankly because it's a great gift, I need to plug all of the PERFORMING ARTS ORGANIZATIONS in the area. Theatre or symphony tickets are thoughtful gift giving suggestions, plus it supports the arts in the community. When reading Boom! be sure to check out the special offers in their ads.

PS: Rockwell exhibit at the NC Museum of Art—a must see show. Give the art lover a couple of tickets.

Shopping at a pawn store for gifts? You bet, especially if it is as well run as NATIONAL PAWN. Their jewelry section looks like a high-end specialty store, and with amazing prices on quality diamonds you can find something “extra special” for your loved one this year. My mom just bought Dad a new computer there, a custom-built tower, super fast with a terabyte of storage for a ridiculous price. Several locations throughout the Triangle, visit [pawndeals.com](http://pawndeals.com).

Shop for the good of your favorite charity at GOODSHOP! If you shop online, you may be able to support a favorite charity by generating a small “commission” for them from your purchase at *hundreds* of big name stores. Simply go to and bookmark [GoodShop.com](http://GoodShop.com),



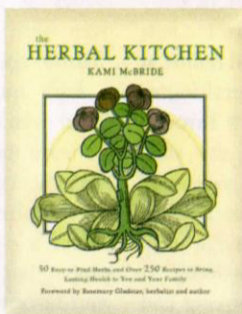
select a charity once (it will be remembered), and then select a store to shop at or a product you are looking for. If you complete your sale this way, your charity will receive a small commission, which, over time, can add up to big dollars. Simple, and it costs you nothing! You'll find major retailers such as Amazon, Target, Best Buy, Apple, Lands' End, and hundreds more.

**Boom!** supports Arts Access of Raleigh, whose mission is *Making the Arts Accessible to People With Disabilities*. Choose them or any other organization you find listed. (Only participating charities will be listed.)

Speaking of charitable giving, why not purchase a useful item for a child or family in need through the WORLD VISION GIFT CATALOG ([worldvisiongifts.org](http://worldvisiongifts.org))?

Purchase a share of a deep-water well or a food and care package for the people of Haiti. A gift of a goat and two chickens can provide a steady supply of eggs, milk and meat. Change a life!

Do you enjoy eating garlic bread? Does oregano always find its way into your spaghetti sauce? Do you garnish potato salad with paprika? Then you are participating in the ancient tradition of using herbs to enhance the health benefits and digestibility of your food. *The Herbal Kitchen, 50 Easy-to-Find Herbs and Over 250 Recipes to Bring Lasting Health to You and Your Family* (Conari Press/October 2010/\$16.95) by Kami McBride will help readers to recognize the extraordinary pharmacy that already exists in their own kitchen—one that will boost immunity, heal sickness, enhance energy, and ensure overall



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asure is PAULA (n). She sings,

Speaking of sustainability, locally-owned ORGANICALITY, INC., ([organicality.com](http://organicality.com)), is an Internet-based company focused on helping women make the connection between health and the environment. The site offers high-quality, organic clothing, products, and educational programs that are aligned with the company's mission: to transform consumers into eco-heroes by linking their spending with their personal values of health and fairness for people, animals, and the planet. My mom fell in love with their knit black dress, and the rouché-neck tee is perfect for my sister!



For an accessory to go with that new dress, or for a terrific assortment of gift ideas, all reasonably priced, visit CAROLINA SILVER COMPANY. The company's philosophy is to price the merchandise fairly so they don't have to have sales to move merchandise. All kinds of silver (of course) plus scarves, purses, even gifts for the guys. Two locations, Raleigh and Cary, or shop online, [carolinasilver.com](http://carolinasilver.com).

Being that we are Boom! Magazine, and in the spirit of *doing good* this holiday season, I had to share this gift idea with everyone. Boom Boom! Cards: The Boom Boom! Cards encourage people to reach out to each other with the spirit of generosity. For example—thanking a mentor, buying a stranger a cup of coffee, picking up litter—all of your good deeds are then played forward. The online social networking component builds a community with comments, shared stories, a global tracking map, video and photo posts and more. \$12.95 at [boomboomcards.com](http://boomboomcards.com).

It's the holiday season and no one should leave his or her pets out of the gift giving joy. DAZZLE DOG DELIGHT has some fun and affordable gifts for the dog in your life. They have stocking stuffers under ten dollars like the Eco-Friendly: Terrabone Edible Dental Chew Bone. Gifts ranging under \$50 include: Peppermint Shampoo and Between Bath Spritz Gift set, Peace Sign Sweater and Designer Travel Dog Food and Water Bowls. Big spenders looking to go over \$100 can buy gifts like: Luxury Dog Bed from the William Wegman Collection, or the Retractable Leash with Swarovski Crystals. All of these and more can be found at [DazzleDogDelight.com](http://DazzleDogDelight.com).

Eco-friendly companies like SIMPLY FIDO ([simplyfido.com](http://simplyfido.com)) provide toys and nap mats made with sustainability in mind. 100% non-toxic, their products help to create a safe and chemical free environment for your dog. We don't have a dog (cat people) but if we did, I would buy these products. The fabric is uber-soft (made in part from Bamboo!), the colors are luscious and the toys

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Shop with the end in mind—a thoughtful gift for the user, support sustainability and give freely to non-profits. Blessings to you this holiday season. ☺

