

# 2010 Alternative GIFT GIVING GUIDE

BY AARON PETTY

Happy 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),



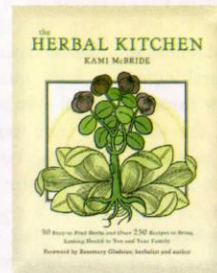
select a charity once (it will be remembered), and then select a store to shop at or a product you are looking for. If you complete your sale this way, your charity will receive a small commission, which, over time, can add up to big dollars. Simple, and it costs you nothing! You'll find major retailers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



continued on page 10

Gift Guide continues from page 10



cloths and similar products. And with a built-in GPS system, Mint knows where it's cleaned so it doesn't miss a spot. The Mint Automatic Floor Cleaner from Evolution Robotics is now available at Bed, Bath & Beyond for \$199. Also found online at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Even though I am officially a grown up, I still could not imagine a Christmas without Santa and his Reindeer. This holiday season, the world famous holiday special SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN' TO TOWN celebrates its 40th anniversary! The iconic special, which first debuted in 1970, tells the story of how Santa Claus and several honored Christmastime traditions came to be. The consistently highly rated special remains an enduring part of American culture. The box set contains four of the most beloved holiday TV specials of all time, including the Rankin/Bass classics "Frosty the Snowman," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town" and "Frosty Returns." It's the first time any of them are available on Blu-ray! THE ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS CLASSICS is available wherever Blu-rays are sold for \$44.99 SRP. FROSTY, RUDOLPH and SANTA are also available individually as DVD singles for \$14.98.

What are the holidays like without receiving a good book? If you answered "Not as much fun," then read on. Foodies and wine lovers will eat up *The Illustrated Step-by-Step Cookbook*, *The Illustrated Cook's*

*Book of Ingredients* and *Opus Vitis*, pop-culture buffs will expand their trivia knowledge with the *LOST Encyclopedia*, *Star Wars Year by Year* and *DC Comics Year by Year*, and armchair history fans will travel through the centuries with *Natural History*, *Commanders* and *Explorers*. Even the kids are covered with the *Disney Princess Encyclopedia* and *Look Now*. Books are available at local booksellers or online.

This holiday season, give your grandchildren something they can really use and benefit from: investments! For Young and Tween Grandchildren:

- MEET WARREN BUFFETT—What better way to start your kids' and grandkids' financial education than with their own share of Berkshire Hathaway stock? True one share ownership of this iconic company entitles the recipient to all class B shareholder rights including attending the annual shareholder meeting extravaganza to see the world's richest man. The authentic registered stock certificate with Warren Buffett's printed signature is custom framed with a personalized engraved plaque. Through [GiveAshare.com](http://GiveAshare.com) you can order Berkshire Hathaway and a variety of companies that your kids and grandkids love, including Disney, Starbucks, McDonalds and many more. Prices start at \$45.
- I'M A SHAREHOLDER KIT—Not only does it teach grandkids money management, it's fun and different than a savings bond. This is a National Parenting Publications Awards (NAPPA) Honors winner. In addition to the printed book, the *I'm a Shareholder Kit* includes a coupon for \$10 OFF their first share of stock—see examples at [GiveAshare.com](http://GiveAshare.com). For the hard-to-buy for teenager, I have a couple of really cool ideas:
- PERSONAL ICONS DRAWN FROM A PHOTO are fun and can be used on Facebook, Twitter and emails—see examples at [MyFacelcons.com](http://MyFacelcons.com).

Give 'em what they crave—their own name as a URL—PERSONAL DOMAIN NAME GIFT KIT (from \$19)—see examples at [GiveAurl.com](http://GiveAurl.com). All of these items are available for purchase at [Leading-EdgeGifts.com](http://Leading-EdgeGifts.com).

With technology getting more and more advanced everyone is having a hard time keeping up. How about something that lets you be a true master of the universe—well at least of your computers. NUANCE'S DRAGON NATURALLY SPEAKING lets you control virtually every aspect of your computer by speaking. And it's only \$99. Dragon lets you *speak* to write emails, draft memos, surf the Web, start and close programs, use menus, etc. Most people speak over 120 words per minute, but type less than 40. Dragon turns speech into commands three times faster than most people type. And, if your readers are Mac users, Dragon recently added Dragon Dictate 2.0 to their product line. Dictate uses the same best-in-class speech recognition as Dragon NaturallySpeaking. You can see more information at [nuance.com/naturallyspeaking/products/default.asp](http://nuance.com/naturallyspeaking/products/default.asp).

For the knitter and craft person in your life, KANGAROOM STORAGE has everything you need to tackle your holiday list. They have everything from Knitter's Notebooks, Crafty Cupcakes to Chalkboard bins. For the entire product line visit [kangaroomstorage.com](http://kangaroomstorage.com).

Not to forget the gardening enthusiast, THE TABLE TOP GARDENER PORTABLE POTTING TRAY is here to make your life easier. No longer will your knees hurt for days from kneeling down in the dirt as you tend to your garden. The Table Top Gardener allows you to work where you're comfortable, ideal for apartment tenants and older adults; this product will be your "go to" for all of your



gardening activities. Its patented design keeps soil, fertilizer and water contained which means no messy cleanup. The cut-away front creates a comfortable working angle and the easy grip handles on the sides don't restrict you to one location. The Table Top Gardener retails for \$13.95 with free shipping and is available at [argecorp.com](http://argecorp.com).

For the sports fanatic in your house, individual lessons for any ability are always appreciated. My parents like the folks at KNIGHT'S PLAY—the pros are very friendly and knowledgeable, and the course doesn't take four hours to play, [knightsplay.com](http://knightsplay.com). Tennis lessons are available, well, from me! See my ad in the Booming Business section. ☺

We are always on the go and may not have time to fill up on filtered water to maintain a hydrated, healthy lifestyle. Problem solved! CAMELBAK's newest bottle, the Groove, is a portable filtration system that gives consumers great-tasting, freshly filtered water in the only reusable bottles designed and proven to help people stay better hydrated; a bite valve proven to help you drink up to 24% more (recent Pepperdine University study); and comes in a sleek, durable .6 liter bottle made of BPA-free

