

Home / Lake Life / Lake Life

Christmas gifts in a word — books

- Story
- Discussion

Christmas gifts in a word — books

Diane La rue AuburnPub.com | Posted: Sunday, December 4, 2011 3:00 am | (0) Comments

Font Size:

Default font size

Larger font size

- 23 retweet



Christmas shopping season is now upon us, and books make wonderful gifts for all the people on your shopping list. You can join the popular “shop local” movement by purchasing books at independently owned bookstores (Downtown Books & Coffee in Auburn and Creekside Books & Coffee in Skaneateles are two great places), or buy them online from your favorite retailer.

If you give the gourmet cook on your list “The Cook’s Illustrated Cookbook: 2,000 Recipes From 20 Years of America’s Most Trusted Cooking Magazine,” they may reward you with something delicious from the book.

For the new cook or someone who wants to cook healthier for his/her family, Robin Miller’s “Robin Takes 5: 500 Recipes, 5 Ingredients or Less, 500 Calories or Less for 5 Nights/Week at 5PM” is just the ticket. The recipes are simple and quick, with ingredients everyone has on hand.

Linda Evans of TV’s “Dynasty” fame has written “Recipes for Life: My Memories,” a memoir of her Hollywood career, filled with recipes from her favorite chefs and friends, such as John Wayne and David Janssen.

Actor Rob Lowe’s well-written memoir, “Stories I Only Tell My Friends”, is about his life in Hollywood. He has been acting since he was a teen, and has been in many iconic movies and TV shows; anyone between 20 and 50 years of age will enjoy this interesting book.

If someone on your list needs a good laugh, Tina Fey’s smart memoir “Bossypants” shares how she went from the traveling troupe of Second City to head writer at “Saturday Night Live” to creator/writer/star of “30 Rock.” It is hilarious!

Your favorite sports fan may appreciate “The Last Icon: Tom Seaver and His Times” by Steven Travers, which will take them back to the glory days of the New York Mets.

“Wonder Girl: The Magnificent Sporting Life of Babe Didrikson Zaharias” by Don Van Natta Jr. tells the story of one of the greatest athletes ever. An All-American in basketball, Olympic track and field contender, she also won more consecutive golf tournaments than anyone ever.

Other nonfiction picks include “Lost in Shangri-La: The True Story of Survival, Adventure, and the Most Incredible Rescue Mission of WWII” by Mitchell Zuckoff, which tells the story of three soldiers (including a nurse from Owego) who survive a military plane crash and the efforts to save them.

“Fire on the Horizon: The Untold Story of the Gulf Oil Disaster” by John Konrad and Tom Shroder gives the reader a minute-by-minute account of the harrowing explosion of the rig that caused immense damage in the Gulf of Mexico from the people who were there.

The director of the British Museum, Neil MacGregor, authored “The History of the World in 100 Objects,” which tells how the human story can be told through the objects we have created. History buffs will spend hours combing through this book.

“Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy” is a beautiful book that also has eight CDs containing the actual audio recordings of these historic interviews. It is thrilling to hear her in her own words.

Her daughter Caroline Kennedy edited a lovely book of poetry, “She Walks in Beauty,” that tells the story of a woman’s life experiences through classic and modern poems.

On the fiction side, mystery lovers will savor “One Was a Soldier” by Julia Spencer-Fleming, which takes place in upstate New York and has a town filled with interesting characters, along with a crackling good mystery.

Scandinavian author Jo Nesbo’s “The Snowman” continues his police detective Harry Hole series, and will satisfy those who read and loved “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo.”

For the literary fiction fan on your list, Ann Patchett’s brilliant “State of Wonder” is an homage to Joseph Conrad’s “Heart of Darkness,” as it follows a female researcher on the trail of a rogue doctor in the Amazon jungle.

Lisa See’s “Dreams of Joy” continues the story of Chinese sisters May and Pearl, begun in “Shanghai Girls,” as May follows her

daughter Joy back to China during the Cultural Revolution of Mao Tse-Tung. This is a good one for fans of historical fiction.

For books with a local connection, Kim Edwards' novel "Lake of Dreams" is set on a lake very similar to Skaneateles, and tells the interesting story of a contemporary woman who comes home to find out the truth about her family. The Women's Rights Convention of Seneca Falls plays a fascinating key role.

Dorothy Wickenden's "Nothing Daunted" is the true story of two young women from prominent Auburn families who head west to Colorado in 1916 to teach school in a remote town. Their adventures are interesting, and the sections set in Auburn are enlightening.

For self-help readers, Dr. Marie Pasinski (nee Burke), who grew up in Auburn, wrote "Beautiful Brain, Beautiful You," filled with helpful tips on aging smart and keeping your brain and body healthy.

For the children on your list, toddlers will like "Little Blue Truck Leads the Way" by Alice Schertle, and "Charlie the Ranch Dog" by "Pioneer Woman Cooks" author Ree Drummond.

The classic "Mr. Popper's Penguins" by Richard and Florence Atwater found new life thanks to the release of the Jim Carrey movie. Jeff Kinney's latest "Wimpy Kid" book, "Cabin Fever," is great for kids who say they don't like to read; they'll like this.

Teens who enjoyed Brian Selznick's "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" (now a movie) will enjoy his magical new one, "Wonderstruck," which is getting rave reviews. Adriana Trigiani's "Viola in the Spotlight" continues the saga of Viola, back home in Brooklyn on summer break from her out-of-state school.

Enjoy the holidays, and remember, books make great gifts!

Diane La Rue is a member of the National Book Critics Circle. Her lifelong goal is to read one book per week; she submits reviews monthly for The Citizen. She can be reached at laruediane2000@yahoo.com

Copyright 2011 AuburnPub.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Posted in Lifestyles on *Sunday, December 4, 2011 3:00 am*

[Share This Story](#)

[Print Email ShareThis](#)

Other Stories

- [Medicine for a growing language barrier](#)
- [All you need to know about flu season](#)
- [Tips for staying sober during the holidays](#)
- [Merry mechanics](#)
- [More on safe schools/healthy students initiative](#)
- [Teen grateful for every moment of life](#)
- [Learning began in your mother's womb](#)
- [Winter brings Cookie College for Scouts](#)

Sponsored Links

[lifestyles](#)

Find Personal Lubricant Online. Free Shipping \$50 on 100,000 Items!
www.Target.com

[The Next Internet Boom](#)

Stock Investment With 1,000% Potential Gains
www.stockmauthority.com

[Mortgage Rates Hit 2.50%](#)

If you owe under \$729k you may qualify for 3.01% APR Govt Refi Plans.
www.MortgageRatesExperts.com

Ads by Yahoo!