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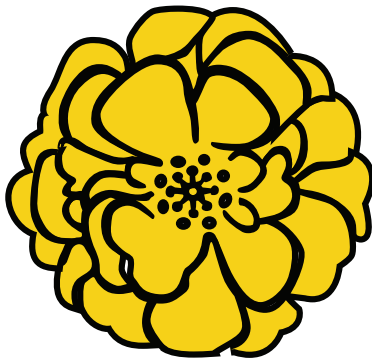


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Strike the right chord

Support Hudson Valley musicians this holiday season

by Karlie Flood

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON give the gift of local music. “Listening to music benefits us individually and collectively.” According to Healthline, “It can boost memory, build task endurance, lighten your mood, reduce anxiety and depression, stave off fatigue, improve your response to pain, and help you work



Aubrey Haddard.

out more effectively.” Already it seems like the perfect gift. However, most Hudson Valley musicians end up having a variety of jobs just to make ends meet. So this year don’t just give the gift of music but keep it local and thank a local musician for all the health and community they build around us.

Adriana Wong — a community organizer, one of the founders of community publication *GoodNeighbor* as well as one half of what she calls a “polyrhythmic collective” created with David Cruz, aka DJ Jams Bond — hosts dance parties throughout Kingston including Kingston Techno, Bon Bon, and Aw Di Body. “We, who make these parties and events hap-



Ginger Winn.



David Cruz aka DJ Jams Bond.

pen, don’t do it with the goal of making a lot of money. In fact, most of the time we don’t make any money at all.” Even for their big parties that are successful that have a lot of attendees (referencing Kingston Techno’s sold out Halloween party that reached a capacity of 500 at Assembly Kingston) they are still not paying themselves. Wong says of any profits: “It all goes to infrastructure,

taxes, future events. It’s about community. A lot of creators are doing this for the love of community and for the love of music. If there’s anything people can do to support, buy a ticket and come! If there’s multiple options for different priced tickets and you have the means, pay more if you can. If you don’t, you can reach out, and we will more than likely get you in. You can volunteer time. We

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Spero.

just really want people to come out and show up and dance.”

If you're not sure when or where to buy tickets for someone else then there



Colton Thorn.

are local musicians who offer merch to support them when they aren't on tour. Always check out websites and socials to find out whether your favorite artist has merch you can buy. Some artists even have locally made items. You end up supporting local on several fronts. For example, local singer-songwriter Al Olender has gorgeous merch designed locally and printed locally. One can find sweatshirts, tees, and hats online; or,



James Felice.

preorder her sophomore album “The Worrier” on either vinyl or CD, out February 13 with her annual Alentine's Day concert doubling as a release show at the Old Dutch Church in Kingston the same day. Grab a sweatshirt and tickets for your friend that needs to get out and dance.

Olender says, “Buying my merch means that I can support myself. It is truly just as important as coming to a show sometimes. It allows me to make more records.

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you can support me. It truly changed my entire year. And you are supporting the designers that create this merch too. Artist Portia Apple created this art, Darlings' Madi Taylor designed the layout, Lucy at

The Turning Mill printed it. Supporting an independent artist means buying their merch."

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music, support their other endeavors. Callie Mackenzie, a musician we featured in the magazine last month, also works as a social worker, a clay artist, a nonprofit organizer, a conflict navigator, and more. Support Callie by stopping by the market they organized full of BIPOC vendors called Blok Party, or by subscribing to her Patreon. Subscriptions range from \$5, \$10, or \$15 a month, and can help your favorite musicians sustain through slower times.

Besides attending events, one of the easiest ways to support your favorite musicians and creatives is simply sharing on social media:



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to a friend! Sign up for their newsletter or their broadcast channel. Many musicians post fun and interesting videos so you can get to know them. Ginger Winn, for example, posts snippets of new songs, behind the scenes content, and gives an inside look into her songwriting.

Here is a list of a few HV-based musicians to get you started on your search for tickets to local shows, merch to buy and just to support by following:

Spero @sperosounds

David Cruz/DJ Jams Bond @the-jamsbond

Al Olender @alolender

James Felice @cucumberguy

Maria and Mateo of @pulsodebarro_

Callie Mackenzie @musicalliemack

Ginger Winn @thegingerwinn

Frequency Collective @frequencycollective

Colton Thorn @ctthorn

Dead Unicorn @deadfuckingunicorn

Aubrey Haddard @aub.had

Support local this holiday season: your community will thank you.

Hudson Valley Holiday

Gift & event guide

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ON THE COVER: Tinker Toys in
Woodstock holiday window display;
photo by Genia Wickwire

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Overlook Bakery's cookie box makes a perfect gift

Holiday goodies

Winter recipes from the your favorite bakeries

by Cloey Callahan

WITH THE COLD, crisp air outside, the kitchen becomes the natural gathering place for warmth.

A freshly baked treat makes the winter warmer. With family and memories all around, the smell of buttery, sugary treat baking in the oven signals that the holiday season has arrived.

To celebrate the flavors of this quieter, colder stretch, we reached out to bakers across the region and asked them their favorite recipes. What are their customers' most favorite winter treat?

Maple Cream Cookies by Kelly's Bakery

Ingredients:

Cookies:

Butter, soft 115 g
Maple Sugar 40 g
Sugar 25 g
Salt ¼ tsp
Maple Syrup ½ tsp
AP Flour 130 g
Orange Zest 1 tsp

Fillings:

Butter, soft 30 g
Powdered Sugar 170 g
Salt ½ tsp
Maple Syrup 45 g
Vanilla Extract ½ tsp
Milk 15 g

Method:

Cream all cookie ingredients except AP flour till fluffy

Add in flour and mix just till combined
Wrap dough in plastic and chill for 30 minutes

If it's sit overnight, let it sit at room temperature for 15 minutes before rolling

Roll dough to 1/8" thickness

Cut with fluted round cutter and place on parchment paper lined sheet tray

Bake at 300F for 20-25 minutes until they begin to brown on the side

Make filling by mixing all ingredients except milk till smooth. If the filling too thick, add milk to soften it

Assemble cookies, store in a tightly wrapped containers at room temperature or freeze

Keep this recipe close at home, because you won't always find it freshly baked at this Poughkeepsie-based bakery.

"Maple cookies are my guilty pleasure during this season," said Kevin Hamlin, owner of Kelly's Bakery. "I try not to make them. If we do, it would be a small batch enough just for the counter, or I will be

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snacking on it every day.”

This holiday season, Kelly's Bakery is offering its special chocolate sourdough filled with different dried or soaked fruits on weekends. It's one of those holiday specials that their regulars get excited about every year.

Cranberry Frangipane Tart by Overlook Bakery

Tart crust

Butter, melted and cooled, 115 g

Sugar, 90g

AP flour, 175 g

Salt, 1g

Preheat oven to 350F In a mixing bowl, add in flour, sugar, and salt. With



Bread Alone Bakery in Boiceville.





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Overlook Bakery in Woodstock (above) has a variety of tarts, cakes and cookies (below).



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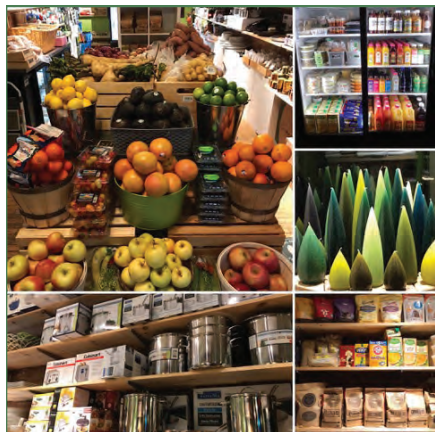
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the mixer on low speed, pour in melted butter and mix until combined. You can make the crust dough in a large bowl and a wooden spoon if you don't have a mixer. Press dough evenly into a 9" tart pan by hand, make sure the sides are filled in. Use a measuring cup to help you press in the sides firmly. Bake for 8 minutes. Once crust is out of the oven, use the measuring cup to reshape the sides and bottom of the crust. Set aside to cool completely. You can make the crust ahead and freeze it until you are ready to bake the tart.

Frangipane:

Butter at room temperature, 115g

Sugar, 100g

Eggs at room temperature, 100g (2 eggs)

Almond flour, 130g



Kelly's Bakery features traditional holiday goodies.



Vanilla extract, 8g
Almond extract, 1g
Salt, 1g

In a stand mixer with the paddle attachment (or an electric hand mixer), mix butter and sugar on high speed until pale yellow and fluffy. Reduce speed to low and add in eggs one at a time, then the extracts. Scrap down the sides and bottom of mixer. Add in almond flour and salt, mix on low then medium speed until just incorporated. Chill before using, or freeze until you're ready to bake the tart. Just make sure it is thawed and spreadable.

To assemble, preheat oven to 350F. Spread frangipane into cooled crust evenly, making a smooth surface. Add on fresh cranberries, press them down slightly, enough to cover the entire surface. Sprinkle cinnamon sugar generously over cranberries, then sprinkle raw almond slices along the edges of the tart to make a wreath shape. Bake for 25-30 minutes. Once tart is out of the oven and cooled completely, remove it from the mold and serve with powder sugar on top (or even better, a la mode!).

Overlook Bakery makes frangipane tarts all year with whatever fruits are in season, but the Cranberry has become a bakery favorite.

"We love this dessert because of the combination of sweet and tart flavors," said Rosie DeVito, owner of Overlook Bakery. "The almond filling and the cranberry topping are unexpected, but work so beautifully. The sweet earthiness

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of the almond and the delightful tartness of the cranberry on top is what keeps us coming back to this pairing."

DeVito suggests using fresh cranberries in winter baking. Because of their firm nature, they hold up well to long baking times and add a pop of tart yet sweet flavor to whatever you're baking.

"We even like to use sugared cranberries along with fresh rosemary as decoration on our special, seasonal gingerbread Christmas cakes on our holiday menu," said DeVito. "It looks so pretty, like a wreath on top of your cake."

Stop in if you don't want to make the frangipane tart at home, or pick up a different treat like their holiday cookie

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Continuing the holiday cheer

The season's shift invites chefs and bakers throughout the Hudson Valley to explore deeper, cozier flavors, and each kitchen has its own way of celebrating them. For example, executive pastry chef of Bread Alone in Boiceville and other locations Elizabeth Harrison says that "winter is a fun time to use root vegetables in baked goods like a sweet potato biscuit or a savory Yukon gold potato galette."

A goat cheesecake is one of her favorite winter desserts is actually a goat cheesecake.

"It definitely has more tanginess than a traditional New York style, but the goat cheese pairs so well with sweet jams, mulled fruit or a rich nut crust," explained Harrison. Other options from Bread Alone include limited-time offers for this holiday season include orange pecan biscotti, cranberry cheesecake and bouche de Noel.

Amanda Allen, co-owner of Meredith's Bread on Route 28 west of Kingston puts a special twist on a holiday favorite that you really can't go without during the holiday season. She spends a good deal of time right now making handmade gingerbread houses. That's in addition to the classic gingerbread men, of course. When she's not making that, she's working on holiday sugar cookies, made from all Hudson Valley ingredients with no preservatives.

"There's a very big connection between nostalgia and food," said Allen. "That's sort of where my approach is coming from in terms of creating new products. You really want that emotional connection to people. It's more than just making what you want and selling it. It's taking people's memories and making them into a product."

During the holiday season, that connection between nostalgia and food is heightened even more with family and friends gathering together. Frank Cordaro of La Deliziosa in Poughkeepsie sees customers come in year after year, watching them grow up right in front of his eyes. "I have a lot of people come in and share memories because it's been so long and is generational," said Cordaro. "You're helping customers from birth to death."

They make mustaccioli cookies, a Christmas recipe from the southern region of Italy with honey, spices and chocolate. It's similar to gingerbread, but not quite. They also sell Italian wedding cookies, Mexican wedding cookies and Russian tea cakes this time of year. But Cordaro says that the cannolis are by far a customer favorite. They offer both traditional cannolis and a cannoli dip, which has gained popularity over the year. "We've had people say to me that it's not a holiday unless La Deliziosa is on the table," said Cordaro. "It's so heartfelt. We're very happy we're a part of people's lives."



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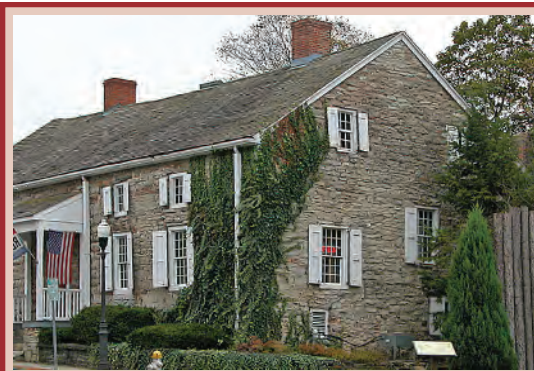
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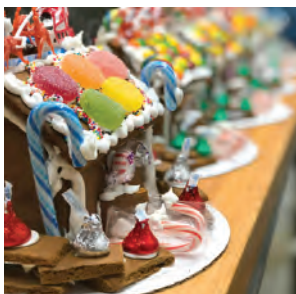
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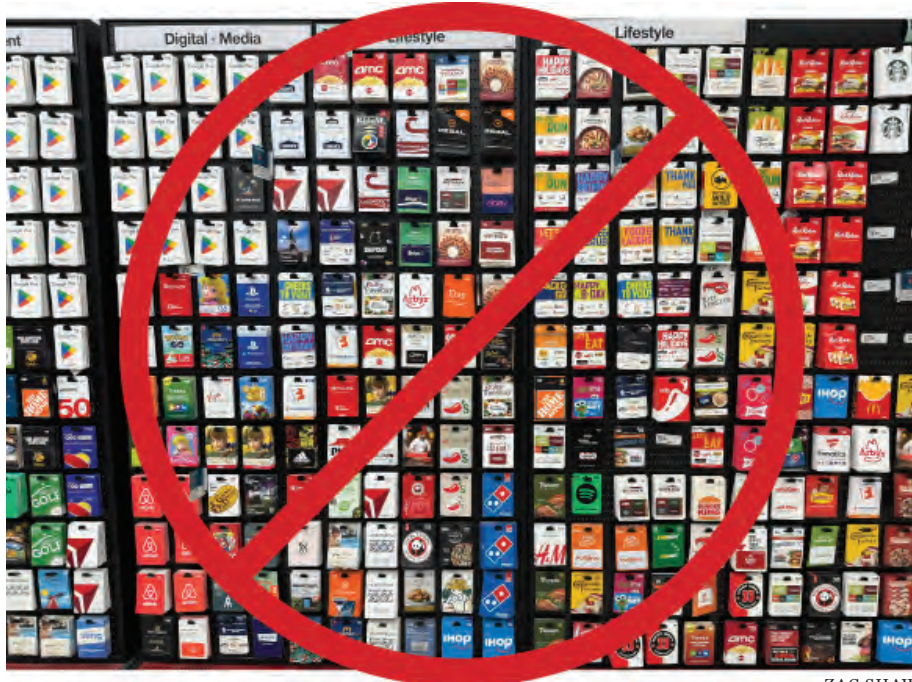
Why gift cards are the most popular present

by Zac Shaw

LET'S BE HONEST: a gift card is an apology in an envelope. It says, "I care about you deeply, but not enough to drive from store to store in holiday traffic or spend hours online searching for the perfect gift."

In 2025, that's fair. About two-thirds of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. Who has the time, money or emotional bandwidth to perfectly calibrate a scented candle to someone's vibe when the median rent in Ulster County is nearly 30% of average household income?

In 2024, Americans bought \$308 billion worth of gift cards, representing a 45% jump over four years. Surveys show around 55% of Americans give gift cards for the holidays. The most popular holiday gift is no longer gadgets or garments. It's store credit.



ZAC SHAW

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A gift card is really just cash in a costume, but socially, we pretend there is a meaningful difference. While few would ever be totally disappointed to receive cash, it feels blunt and transactional, like compensating someone for a relationship rendered. "Thank you for another year of emotional labor. Here's your year-end bonus."

Instead, a gift card says, "We're close enough that I have noticed your consumer behavior. Next swipe's on me."

There's no uncertainty to wade through when buying plastic IOUs as presents. It's not a wildly inaccurate guess about someone's personality in sweater form, a mass-manufactured, landfill-bound bauble from Amazon, or an object the gift recipient loves so much they already have it.

The only way to really screw up giving a gift card is to buy it at the wrong place. Amazon, Target and Walmart do not need your help having a nice quarter. They are going to be fine. They have rockets and data centers. Your \$50 gift card to a big-box chain will vanish into



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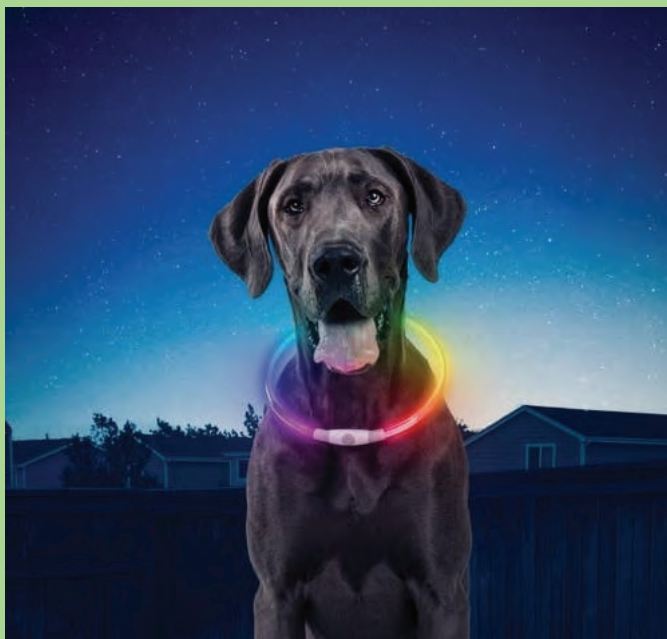
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a spreadsheet cell, eventually turning into share buybacks and a new self-checkout lane.

You only have one job: Buy gift cards from local businesses, many of which are struggling in one way or another in these uncertain economic times. Keep the money in the community. Help sustain the kinds of businesses you want to see survive for years and decades to come.

Luckily, pretty much everyone offers gift cards (or certificates) these days, so no need to go through a laundry list of ideas. Just pick a spot you know your gift recipient spends money at, and with almost zero effort, you've acquired a gift that will be appreciated on both ends of the transaction.

Gift certificates can be presented in beautiful and creative ways.



Keep in mind that between 10% and 19% of gift card balances go unredeemed at any given time, while 6% of cards are never used at all.

Americans currently sit on roughly \$23 billion in unused balances. Most of that is tied up in large corporations, but for a small business, that additional revenue could mean the difference between “barely hanging on” and “we can afford those repairs after all.”

Gift cards are pure profit on their own, and the tendency for consumers to spend a bit more than what's on the card only makes them more financially appealing to businesses. An estimated 61% of spenders go over the gifted budget by an average of about \$30.

Another key factor driving the popularity of gift cards: They are a way to give experiences that can't be wrapped. In our late-stage capitalist culture, consumer behavior continues to

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shift toward valuing experiences more than objects. The numbers are quite staggering — depending on the study, 60% to 90% of Americans say they'd rather receive an experience than a physical gift.

There is, however, one more pitfall to consider: the faux pas of treating the gift card as a recruitment tool for your own tastes. It's tempting to use gifting to nudge people toward your favorite new restaurant or your friend's artisanal boutique mercantile refillery cafe. In reality, you might be handing them homework unless they've specifically told you otherwise. It's

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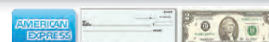
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narcissistic when you come at a recipi-
ent like, "Here's some money, but I get to
decide where you spend it."

Have we lost something as a culture and
society now that the hastily acquired gift
card has dominated the hand-wrapped
gift product in the market? Perhaps. In
traditional gift-giving, there's a narra-
tive, a story that says, "I pondered our
relationship and experiences together,
browsed many options and narrowed it
down, and packaged it to maximize the
thrill of surprise."

Ain't nobody got time for that. We may
have lost some of the ritual in the frenetic
pace of modern life, but the spirit and
meaning of giving persist.

One last tip: Keep the receipt. You can't
return it for store credit, but systems fail,
cards don't activate, stuff happens. The
card says, "I thought of you." The receipt
says, "And I can prove it, if customer
service tries to gaslight you."

Rather than being an act of minimum
viable thoughtfulness, giving a gift card
continues to grow as the most popular
holiday present option for a number
of really good reasons: It's one of the
best ways to support local businesses,

demonstrates your thoughtfulness and generosity, gives the recipient what they likely want more than a product — an experience — and gives you time to pursue your own wants and needs in a hectic society and challenging economy, i.e., binge-watching videos to forget another payment is due.

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HV1's DIY Holiday Gift Guide

A secondhand, local, crafty DIY gift giving guide

by Karlie Flood

EVERYTHING FEELS DIY these days. Between the economy and spending habits lessening, the seismic amount of textile waste, Gen Z's emphasis on sustainability, and both thrifting and crafting hobbies becoming popular, people are shifting to using what they have instead of adding something new.

Part of this mindset is fueled by social media trends. Crafts and DIY activities—and short-form hacks or tutorials that are often trending on social media—have become a larger, more regular part of our culture. The results from the 2025 Trend Report by *Michaels'* craft store demonstrate “a fundamental shift in how people are creating, coping and connecting as crafting moves from a niche hobby to an essential part of modern life.” Notable statistics from the 2025 report include: DIY decor searches (+146%) personalized gift searches (+719%) craft club searches +850%, beginner-friendly craft searches +99.5%, and guided



Second Wave Supplies in Beacon.

crafts kits searches have increased +69%.

Although Michael's might be a slightly biased source for all things crafting, the local market scene seems to also support the idea that crafting and DIY are becoming very popular. Here in the Hudson Valley area businesses are opening that support a secondhand and local crafting mentality. They are providing places to shop, craft and create for the holidays and beyond without having to shop at big box stores.

Here in our local communities these places have become a way to connect in person, to do something fun and to get away from social media and online shopping.

Here are some places to shop this season to help the planet, your wallet, and your community by sourcing materials from small businesses specializing in thrift, salvage, craft stores, and markets in the Hudson Valley. Whether it be for inspiration, accessories, or a statement piece to base your gift on, there's something for everyone. And if you aren't the crafty type, you can still support local artists by visiting one (or all!) of these shops.

Beacon

Second Wave Supplies

333 Fishkill Ave

Art/craft supply thrift store by an artist. Every craft you can imagine, used, and very affordable

Catskill

Little Art Supply Shop

444 Main Street

Art supply store owned by artist Rani Ban

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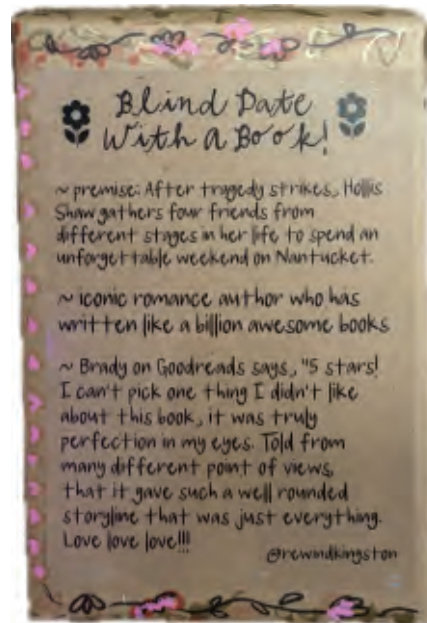
Architectural salvage gem

Rewind Kingston

612 Broadway

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Gift idea: You can cheat by getting a gift that is already DIY. Offerings from Rewind Kingston include this DIY Collage Journal Kit (\$10) and Blind Date with a Book (\$8).

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1032 Berme Rd, High Falls, NY

The new thrift store opened just a few days ago in Midtown Kingston with community minded areas such as free baby clothes section

Department of Things

115 Abeel Street

"A collection of useful and useless things." Art supplies, gifts, and screen-printing classes! Bring a shirt or sweater to screenprint something on! The owner Kristin can literally print anything you want onto anything cotton.

Westkill Supply

602 Broadway Unit 2

This is an event, not a store

Gift Idea: Vintage Board Game Night Wed. Dec 10. 100+ vintage board games to play (or buy). Get their favorite game and personalize it. Find a deck of cards and draw/paint/collage on them.

Chicory Naturalist

25 Broadway

Nature, education, gifts, books, and something for everyone

Maison Apres

101 Abeel Street

Sustainable and handmade pieces boutique, art gallery, community space and cafe

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Chicory Naturalist made this graphic about the benefits of shopping at small businesses.

Tivoli

Thrift 2 Fight

48 Broadway

Thrift + vintage that funds grass roots organizations

Fabulous Yarn

60 Broadway

The title says it all

Woodstock

Hedgehog and Moss

4 Deming Street, 2nd Floor

“A place for people who make things out of yarn.” Store, classes and gatherings

Two Holiday Markets to Check Out:

BLOK Party Market

CCE, 16 Cedar Street, Kingston

Dec. 13, 11-6pm

BIPOC musicians, artists and makers in the Hudson Valley to showcase their crafts in just environments that are inclusive and center those who are most marginalized presented by Blok Collective.

Big Towel Holiday Market x Enoki

5 Palatine Street, Germantown

Dec. 14, 11-5pm

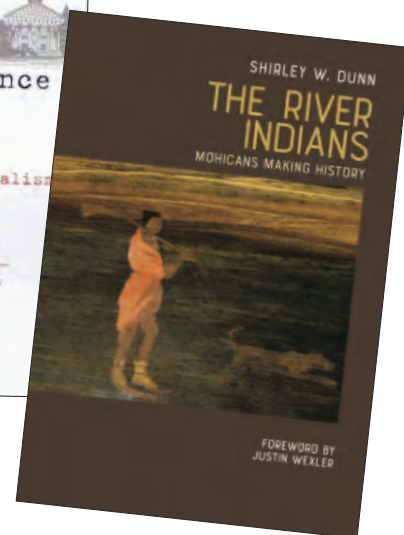
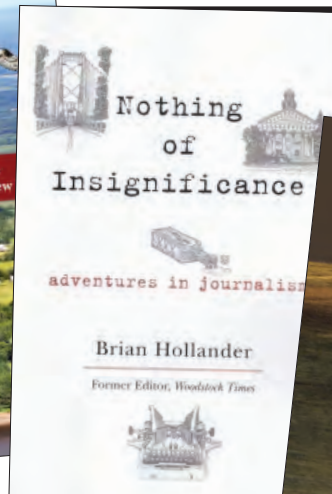
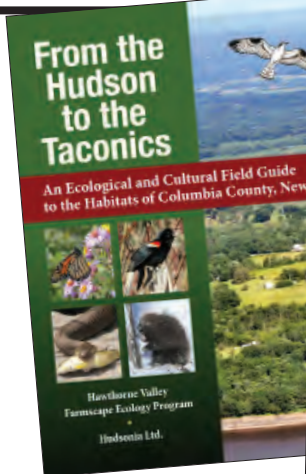
Public sauna, vendors, and food

The flyer states: “Local businesses. Keep the money in our world.”

Tag us on social media if you make a gift at @hudsonvalleyone.

Local stories matter

Gift the discovery of Hudson Valley's independent presses



by Cloey Callahan

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, when you're searching for that perfect gift, consider something written, designed and printed right here in the Hudson Valley. A book can be more than a story. It can be a keepsake of place, a record of the people who shaped it and a way to keep local creativity alive.

Independent presses across our region do just that. They take chances on local authors, preserve history that might otherwise fade and publish work that captures the Catskills and Hudson Valley in all their complexity. Buying from

them supports the storytellers, editors and designers who make our region's voice heard.

We talked to three local presses, each with deep roots and a gift-worthy title for this holiday season. Here's what they had to share.

Black Dome Press

Schenectady, NY

When Steve Hoare joined Black Dome Press in 1993, it wasn't because he knew the publishing industry. "I had no experience in publishing myself," he said. "My friend had started the press three years earlier, and when the work started piling up, she

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asked me to help. We learned together.”

Hoare eventually bought the business in 2011 and has worn every hat since: publisher, editor, packer, marketer and bookkeeper. “In a small press, there aren’t strict job titles,” he says. “One day I’m editing, the next I’m unloading books from a tractor-trailer.”

Black Dome, which was originally based in Windham, specializes in local history and outdoor guides, all centered within a 100-mile radius of Albany, including the Hudson Valley, Catskills, Berkshires, and beyond. “If you stretch the focus too far, you lose what makes these stories local,” said Hoare. “People want to read about the places they hike, the towns they live in, the histories they’ve heard about their whole lives.”

Among his proudest publications are “In Defiance,” which compiles runaway slave notices from 18th- and 19th-century New York, and “Legacies on the Land: Historic Houses, Hamlets and Landscapes of Southern Ulster County,” a richly illustrated book about historic homes in Ulster County. “We have an ethical responsibility to get the facts right,” Hoare says. “When people pick up a Black Dome book, they should be

able to trust that what they’re reading is well researched and true.”

As he prepares to scale back, turning 73 this December, Hoare says he’s as committed as ever to keeping local stories alive. “These authors put years, sometimes decades, into their books. The least I can do is make sure their work stays in print,” he said.

Gift pick: “From the Hudson to the Taconics: An Ecological and Cultural Field Guide to the Habitats of Columbia County” by Anna Duhon, Gretchen Stevens, Claudia Knab-Vispo & Conrad Vispo. With over 750 full-color photographs and detailed habitat descriptions, this book is perfect for nature lovers, hikers, or anyone curious about the landscapes that define our region.

Purple Mountain Press

Fleischmanns, NY

Purple Mountain Press began in 1973 when Wray and Loni Rominger opened a small print shop in Fleischmanns. “At first, they were just doing printing jobs for other people,” said Rebecca Barry, a current partner in the press, which recently entered a new chapter under fresh leadership. “But in 1985, they decided

to publish their first book, ‘The Last of the Handmade Dams’ by Bob Steuding, which ended up selling hundreds of copies in the first few days. The rest, as they say, is history.”

Over the decades, the Romingers built a catalog that reads like a love letter to upstate New York, consisting of books about natural history, military history, folklore and the environment. The new owners plan to keep that focus while adding a few modern touches.

“Trade publishers have gotten bigger and bigger over the years ... it has left very little space for books of local and regional interest,” said Barry. “We’re looking to keep this historic press going by reprinting the best of what Purple Mountain Press has already published and publishing new important work that complements that.”

This fall, Purple Mountain Press will release a new edition of “The River Indians: Mohicans Making History” by historian Shirley Dunn, a Catskills native who dedicated her life to documenting Indigenous and early Dutch histories of the region. The reissue includes a foreword by Justin Wexler, cofounder of Wild Hudson Valley. “Dunn, a Catskillian by birth, was a pioneer in the study of early Dutch and indigenous people of the Catskills,” said Barry.

Running a small press, however, isn’t without its challenges, such as having limited time for meeting new authors, editing manuscripts and publicizing new books.

“Some of the ways we hope to overcome this is by collaborating with local historical societies and museums on future projects; helping our authors set up readings and other promotional events; personally reaching out to indie booksellers in the region to sell our books; and keeping up a connection with our readers through our monthly newsletter and social media,” said Barry.

Gift Pick: “The River Indians: Mohicans Making History” by Shirley Dunn. A thoughtful gift for the local history lover. This reissued classic shines new light on the Mohican people of the Hudson Valley and the early settlers who shared their land.

Bushwhack Books

Woodstock, NY

“Bushwhack Books was born on a Sunday afternoon in early December 2009



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with our book launch at the Kleinert James gallery for 'Walking Woodstock: Journeys into the Wild Heart of America's Most Famous Small Town,' by myself and Michael Perkins," said cofounder Will Nixon.

They'd written a "Walking Woodstock" column for "Woodstock Times" for several years by then, but had no idea it had a following. Nixon described the gallery as a madhouse, feeling like Stephen King signing copy after copy. The book became the Golden Notebook's best-selling paperback that year, and Bushwhack Books was off and running.

Named after Nixon's off-trail hiking adventures in the Catskills since 1996, the press has gone on to publish many titles, including a mix of poetry, essays and local history, all marked by a sense of place and community. Their second release was "The Pocket Guide to Woodstock," which was updated in 2019 and "continues to sell and sell," said Nixon.


Most of the literary writings published were by Perkins. The loss of Perkins, Nixon's longtime collaborator and cofounder, in 2022 to Parkinson's, could have marked the end. "It was a project shared by the two of us," said Nixon. "But what did the good poet tell us? 'Rage, against the dying of the light.'"

Bushwhack Books entered a new phase. Recent releases include "Crossing Divides: My Journey to Standing Rock" by historian Vernon Benjamin and "Nothing of Insignificance: Adventures in Journalism" by longtime Woodstock Times editor Brian Hollander.

Gift Pick: Nothing of Insignificance: Adventures in Journalism by Brian Hollander. For the journalist, writer or lifelong Hudson Valley resident in your life, Hollander's collection of essays captures three decades of life, humor and change across our small towns.

FOR ALL THREE PUBLISHERS, THE MESSAGE is the same: local stories matter. "If I can make a book that helps someone see their own backyard differently," says Hoare, "then I've done my job."

Buying local this holiday season doesn't just support small businesses; it keeps our shared history and creativity alive. Whether it's a hiking guide tucked under the tree, a volume of regional history on the shelf, or a book of essays that feels like home, there's no better gift than one written from and for the Hudson Valley.



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